

Planning NEXT – Planning Intern

Sam Rice – Environment, Economy, Development, Sustainability



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Planning NEXT: What do they do?

- Regional planning consulting firm working with mostly rural or urban jurisdictions (county, city, township)
- Based in Columbus, Ohio
- Offer services including strategic and comprehensive planning, visioning, pre-planning, social media communication, community engagement, and more

planning
NEXT

Move toward what's NEXT.

“We’re passionate about helping teams, staff, committees and stakeholders share a sense of purpose and place. From comprehensive planning to integrated visioning to facilitating complex, multi-jurisdictional efforts, we help create more enduring, prosperous and livable communities.” –Planning NEXT’s mission

- Work experience in Columbus, Indiana, Alabama, Hawaii, Dubai...
- Mainly help jurisdictions create **comprehensive** plans which are all encompassing, multi-faceted plans considering future land use, economic growth, population growth, development projects, and more
- Planning NEXT helps establish a brand and identity for the place, then assists in creation, adoption, and implementation of various ‘actions’ made for the communities

My Role as a Planning Intern

- Assist project managers by inputting and interpreting data from surveys in excel, creating social media outreach graphics, emails and other materials, updating project websites, and more!
- Travelled to Elkhart, Indiana, Chillicothe, Ohio, and Hilliard, Ohio to help with in-person community engagement events



Engaging community members in an outreach activity during the City of Chillicothe’s First Thursday concert on August 2022.

- Learned how to use an array of Adobe software like InDesign and Photoshop
- Had the opportunity to attend coworker led workshops, retreats, and conferences to learn more about the discipline of planning



A rendering for the Elkhart County Vibrant Communities project (downtown).

Key Takeaways

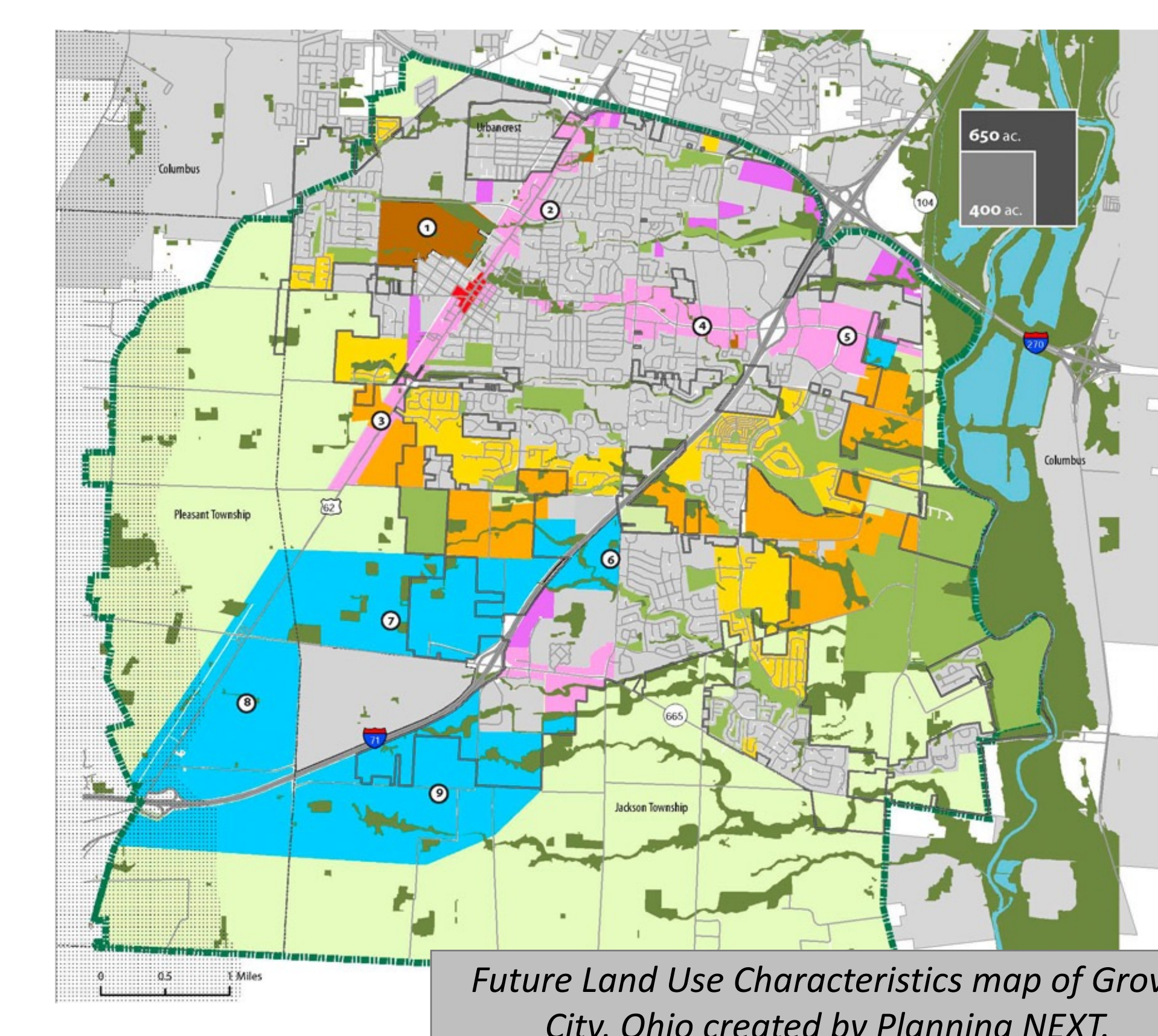
- This experience helped me narrow my decision on the path I want to pursue post-graduation – a career in regional planning!
- I hope to find an internship working within the public sector of planning to see how it differs from a private perspective
- Reach out to local firms if you’re interested in planning! They often do tours of their offices, which could be a good way to get your foot in the door
- Stay in touch with professors – I found out about this position from a professor whose colleague was a project manager at the company!



The City of Lebanon’s comprehensive plan, put together with the help of planning NEXT.



Conducting outreach activities at the Elkhart County Jazz Festival, June 2022.



Future Land Use Characteristics map of Grove City, Ohio created by Planning NEXT.