



Dear Friend,

On behalf of Vandalia Civic Advancement Association and the City of Vandalia, we would like to personally invite you to participate in MAPPING the Future of Your Community, a community-driven strategic visioning and planning initiative facilitated by the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs at Western Illinois University.

This process will bring together approximately 100 residents, business owners, educators, elected officials, civic organizations, community leaders, and other stakeholders to consider an important question:

What do we want our community to become in the future?

Our area already possesses many valuable community assets. Our challenge is to determine how we can strengthen those assets, better connect them, and create new opportunities that support long-term economic growth, population growth, quality of life, and regional development.

The program consists of five interactive working sessions located at the **Family YMCA of Fayette County:**

Session 1 – Where Are We Now?

October 7 | 5:30–8:30 p.m.

Session 2 – Where Do We Want to Be?

October 14 | 5:30–8:30 p.m.

Session 3 – How Do We Get There?

October 21 | 5:30–8:30 p.m.

Session 4 – Making It Happen

October 28 | 5:30–8:30 p.m.

Session 5 – Planning with Resource Partners

November 4 | 5:30–8:30 p.m.

Participants will help evaluate Vandalia's current strengths and challenges, identify a shared vision for the future, establish priority goals, develop strategies, and begin forming action teams around the projects selected through the process.

Potential discussion areas may include:

- Housing and residential growth
- Economic and workforce development
- Recreation and quality-of-life assets
- Tourism and regional promotion
- Infrastructure and community connectivity
- Regional competitiveness and long-term growth

Your perspective, experience, and connection to the community would add meaningful value to these discussions. We hope you will commit to participating in all five sessions, or as many as your schedule permits.

Please confirm your participation by contacting:

Amy Zimmerman
618-283-4525 ext. 1100
azimmerman@vandals203.org

Thank you for considering this invitation and for your continued investment in the future of our community.

Sincerely,

Vandalia Civic Advancement Association