

# City of Lebanon Junction, Bullitt County, Kentucky

## Small Area Study

October 31, 2024



### INTRODUCTION

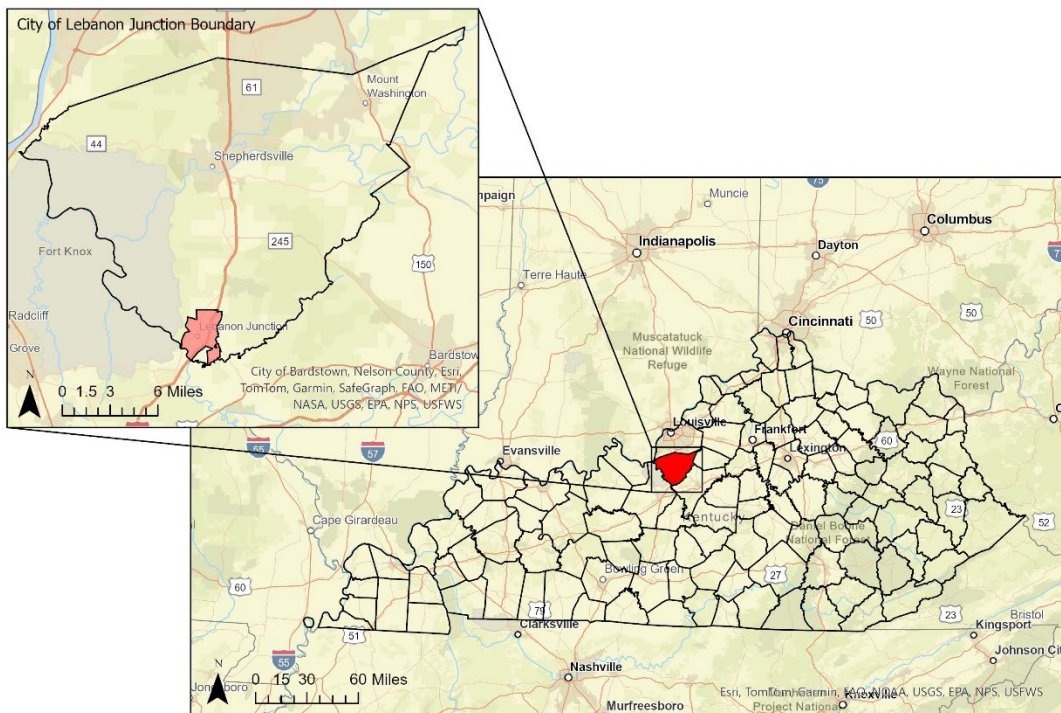
Kentuckiana Regional Planning and Development Agency (KIPDA) staff has prepared this informal small area study of the **City of Lebanon Junction** to provide a current snapshot of the community and identify current and upcoming challenges that could be addressed effectively by advance planning.

### SUMMARY

Lebanon Junction is facing unprecedented growth in **population** and **industry**, posing challenges related to construction activity, housing shortages, and traffic. These challenges present opportunities to guide and control new infrastructure and development so that the city can retain the friendly small-town character valued by its residents.

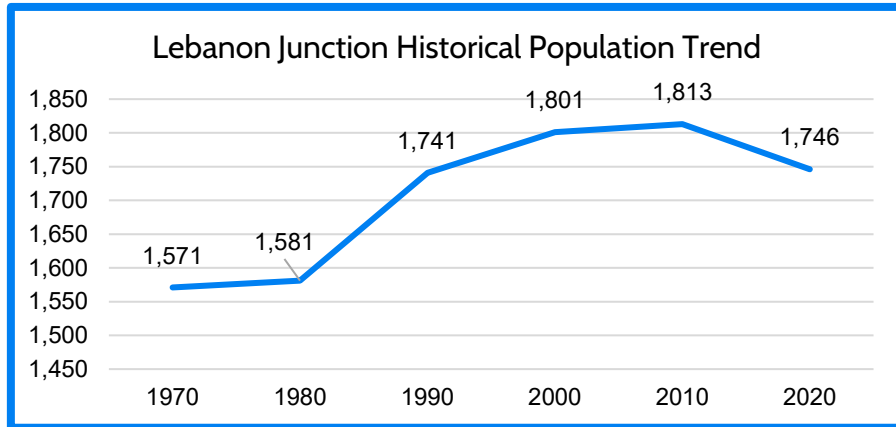
### COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

**Location.** Lebanon Junction is located in southern **Bullitt County**, Kentucky. It lies 13 miles south of Shepherdsville, the county seat, and is on the southeastern edge of the **Fort Knox** U.S. Army installation, just two miles from the largest weapons range.



**History.** Lebanon Junction originated as a **railroad** switching point that split L&N Railroad traffic off the main line to Lebanon, Kentucky in the mid-1800s. The city was incorporated in **1895**. It grew despite a fire in 1912 and several floods, but railway activity declined by around 1949 after the centralization of railroad operations in Louisville and the introduction of automated switching and traffic control. It was the county's most populous city until 1970.

**Population.**

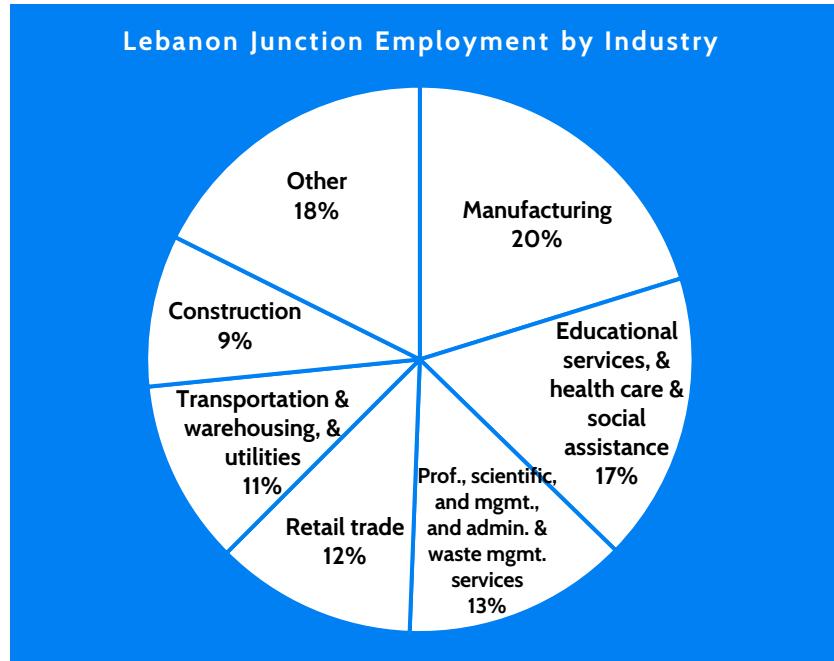


Households	869
Median Age	42.7
65+ Years	21.3%
Poverty	15.3%
Bachelor's degree+	9.0%

**Economy and Workforce.**

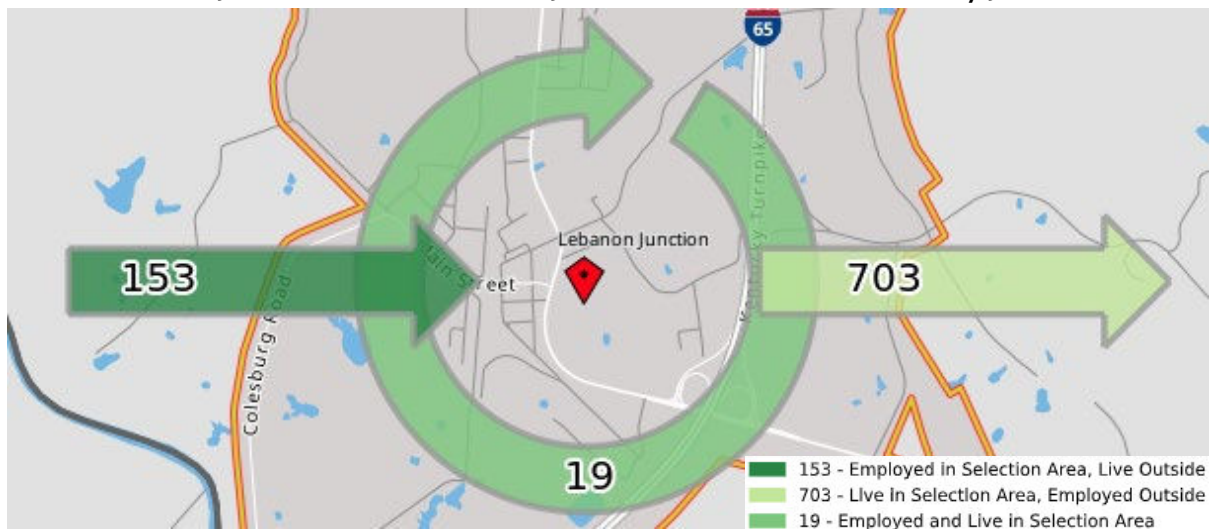
Median household income	\$49,509
Unemployment rate (civilian labor force)	11.7%

Local industry includes **Mac Manufacturing** (material handling equipment) and **LSC Communications** (commercial printing).



## Commuting.

Lebanon Junction Inflow-Outflow Job Counts, All Workers, Primary Jobs, 2021



## Housing.

Total Housing Units	782	Vacancy Rate – Homeowner Rental	1.5 0.0
Occupied Housing Units	722	Median Gross Rent	\$809
Vacant Housing Units	60	Homeownership Rate	69.5%
Median Value of Owner-Occupied Units	\$122,500	Median Monthly Owner Costs with Mortgage	\$1,104

**Natural Resources.** Lebanon Junction has a total area of 5.740 m<sup>2</sup> (5.642 land and 0.098 water). The **Rolling Fork River** serves as both the county line and the southwest boundary of the city. Throughout its history, the city has experienced **flooding** along the Rolling Fork River, particularly during the Great Flood of 1937 and again in 1961, 1964, 1978, 1989, and 1997. The southern part of the city south of KY-61 lies in a FEMA special flood hazard area and the area east of Wall Street is classified as 0.1%-0.2% annual chance flood hazard. The 2021 KIPDA Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan shows that 36.1% of the land in Lebanon Junction is in the **floodplain**. Since 1997, new levee work has been completed.

**City Government.** Lebanon Junction is a home rule class city with a **mayor/council** form of government. City revenues include occupational license taxes in addition to property taxes,

insurance premium taxes, and municipal road aid. Planning and zoning is managed at the county level.

**Safety and Health.** The city operates a 4-member **Police** Department and a 26-member **Fire** Department that responds to high priority medical calls as well as fires. Bullitt County recently opened a two-bay **EMS** facility with 24-hour ambulance service and a UofL Health office behind the fire station. A pharmacy, Beeler’s Drug Store, is located at 11715 Preston Highway.

**Utilities.** The city operates a **Water and Sewer** Department. It has begun to install digital water meters. A wastewater treatment plant is located at 1130 Railroad Avenue. The city also handles **waste management**.

Drinking Water	Lebanon Junction Water Works	950 service connections
Wastewater	Lebanon Junction Wastewater System	584 service connections

**Electric** service is provided by KU and LG&E and **natural gas** service is provided to a portion of the city by LG&E.

**Parks and Recreation.** The **City Park** located on Wall Street has a water spray park, picnic gazebo, and playground equipment. There is also a **splash park** located behind the elementary school. The city operates a **softball field** with recently installed new lighting and made electrical improvements.

**Education.** The only school is **Lebanon Junction Elementary School**, which had 341 students in the 2022-23 school year. The designated middle school is Bernheim Middle School north of the city and the designated high school is Bullitt Central High School in Shepherdsville. There is also a branch of the **Bullitt County Public Library** in the city.

**Transportation.** Lebanon Junction is located on a major north-south route — it is just west of I-65 S off Exit 105 for KY-61 N, and the CSX **railroad** runs through town along Railroad Avenue and Wall Street. Citizens have complained about the rough railroad crossing downtown.

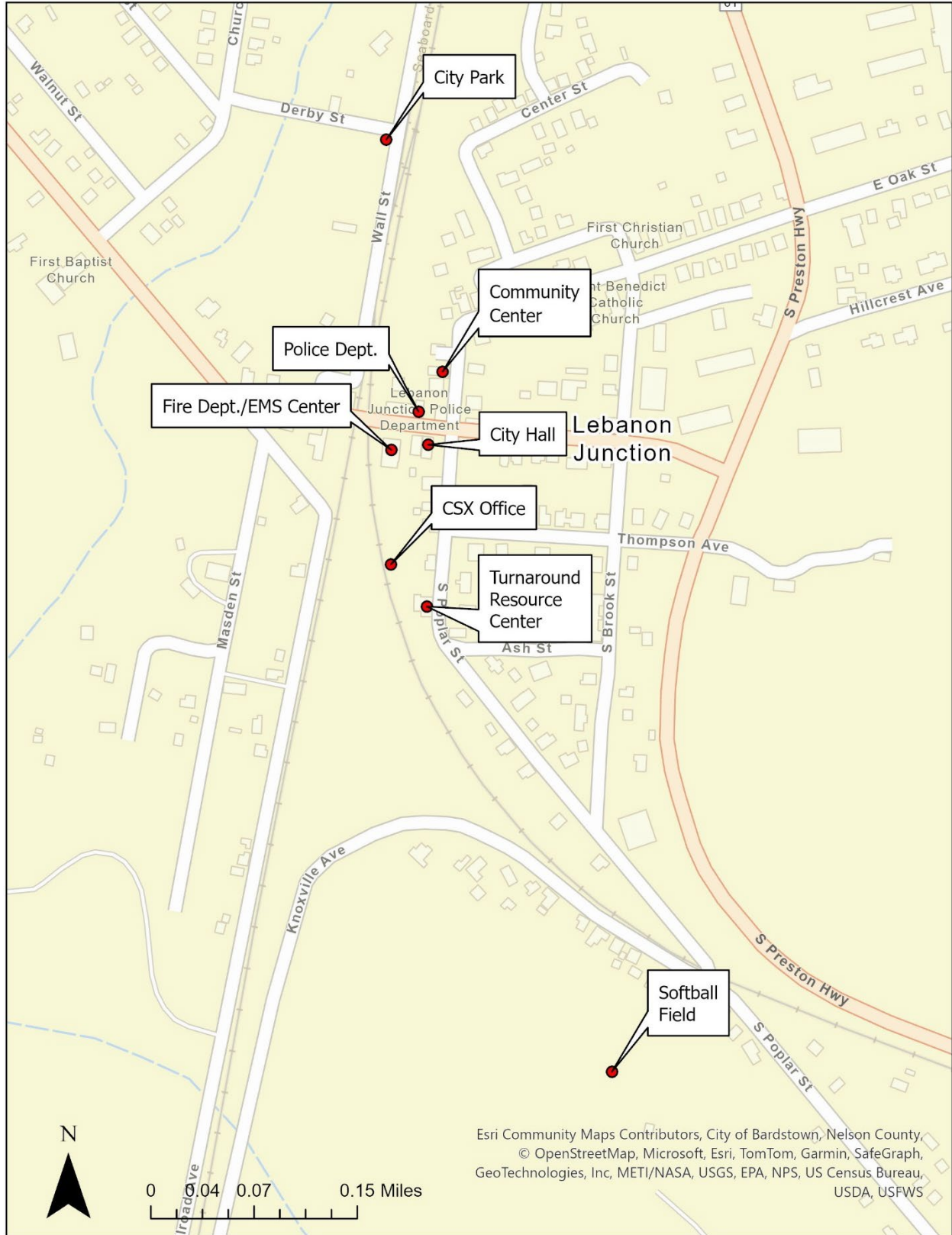
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**Data.** The information in this small area study comes from the following sources:

- [Bullitt County 2015 Comprehensive Plan.](#)
- [City of Lebanon Junction website.](#)
- [FEMA Flood Maps.](#)
- [Kentucky Water Resource Information System.](#)
- [KyGovMaps Open Data Portal.](#)
- [The Pioneer News.](#)
- [United States Census Bureau](#) 2020 Census and 2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates; OnTheMap 2021 data.



## City Downtown Features.



City Hall – 271 Main St



Police Department – 276 Main St



Fire Department – 291 Main St



EMS/UofL Health – 291 Main St



City Park – Derby St and Wall St



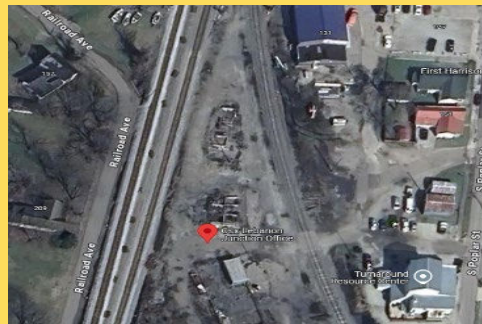
Community Center – 123 North Poplar St



Turnaround Resource Center – 191 S Poplar St



CSX Lebanon Junction Office – Railroad Ave





## UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Project to install connection to increase water flow to **Jim Beam Booker Noe Distillery** in nearby Boston



**Summit Construction's Park South Business Park Infrastructure & Building #2** 426,300 ft<sup>2</sup> multi-warehouse project



**BlueOval SK Battery Park** 1,500-acre campus that will produce batteries for Ford and Lincoln, anticipated to employ 5,000, in Glendale, 22 miles south of Lebanon Junction (officials anticipate Hardin County population will increase by 22,000+)

**BlueOval SK**

**Synthica Lebanon Junction** in the permitting and design stage for a food waste renewable natural gas facility



The Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development website currently lists one available shovel-ready site: Hudson Farms, a 50-acre parcel of industrial/agricultural land.



[Multimillion-dollar interstate projects in Louisville, Bullitt County nearly complete](#)

Updated October 22, 2024



The multi-million dollar rehabilitation project for safety and better traffic flow on Interstate 65 in Bullitt County, which has been going on for more than a year, is almost complete. Local residents witnessed many wrecks, standstill traffic, and endless construction. The construction caused lane closures resulting in major backups, but as of October 2024 all three lanes are now open.



Bullitt County is participating in KIPDA’s U.S. Department of Transportation Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant program that advances a comprehensive “Vision Zero” approach to reduce fatalities and serious injuries from crashes.

CHALLENGES	STRATEGIES TO PURSUE/ENCOURAGE
Population increase	Create a city plan to guide development
Housing and rental unit shortage	Construct new homes and rental units
Construction increase	Develop utilities and infrastructure and continue to require developers to pay
Increase in traffic and accidents	Implement traffic calming and safety measures on roads and railway crossing
Fort Knox-related issues such as noise from the range and low-altitude flights	Include noise buffer requirements in plans; limit development in high-decibel zone
	Attract health care, groceries, and other retail
	Continue removal of dilapidated structures
	Beautify downtown for community cohesion