

In the Plan Update under the Berrien County 2025-2029 Community Work Program, it lists the projects and the estimated costs that are needed for the county. I've included a few of the projects on the list that currently need to be done within this area of the county and the county as a whole that have been ongoing since the previous comprehensive plan.

Updated 2025 Comprehensive Plan for Berrien County (Source: Pages: 90-106)

- **South Berrien County** area totals at least **\$14,666,500.00** (Excluding: "Staff Time." This total only accounts for the estimated cost once (1) for projects with estimated costs per project.)
- **Berrien County** totals at least **\$44,676,500.00** (Excluding: "Staff Time." This total only accounts for the estimated cost once (1) for projects with estimated costs per project.)

Berrien County Fiscal Year Budgets:

- **Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget**
 - **General Fund - \$ 13,247,609.00**
 - **Other Fund: Total City Budget - \$ 22,083,518.00**
 - **Total Fund: \$35,331,127.00**

These are just some of the ongoing needs like services, transportation, and roadways for the existing population of Berrien County. The bigger the population the bigger and more expensive the needs are to maintain the citizenry and the land. The costs of irresponsible development will pass to all citizens in the cities and counties. The existing county citizens and new residents will not be able to compensate financially for developments of this nature, so this will be absorbed through other taxpayers in the county with increased taxes.

In a 2015 report, the total cost of suburban sprawl in the United States was estimated at the topline figure of **\$1 trillion per year**.

- On average the annual, per capita cost of sprawl is "approximately **\$4,556**, of which **\$2,568** is internal (borne directly by sprawl location residents) and **\$1,988** is external (borne by other people)."
 - **Source:** [Sprawl Costs the U.S. \\$1 Trillion Every Year](#)

Back in 2007, Lowndes County paid a University of Georgia professor to do a study that shows negative returns for residential land use for five Georgia counties. Even after