

Hart County Listening and Design Session
Hart County High School
April 10, 2014
6:00 p.m.

What is the one thing you think of that you value the most, or that makes this county unique?

- Location
- Great water supply
- Cave system
- Family
- Natural beauty
- Low taxes
- Green River
- Civil War trails
- Rich history
- Tourism attractions
- People are great
- Jobs
- Industry
- School system
- Medical center

What are the strengths of this community?

- Great young people
- Transportation system
- Location
- Industry/jobs
- Infrastructure in place
- Tourism attractions
- Visitors
- Diversification in agriculture
- I-65
- Railroad
- Compassionate, generous and giving community

Weaknesses – what should we work on?

- Empty buildings downtown
- Run down properties
- Trash
- Need more restaurants
- Even with jobs, median income is still very low

- Can't retain young people
- Need more tourism
- Need entrepreneurs
- Need jobs with higher skill level
- Need more skilled workers
- Development at the interstate could be better
- Being a dry community limits our tourism and restaurant opportunities
- Wet issue is debatable – Amish moved here because we're dry
- Lack of volunteers, getting help for special events from volunteers or to raise money
- Under utilizing available resources we already have
- Investment funding for potential projects –

Opportunities – what is possible?

- Green River
- Frenchman's Knob
- Civil War Preserve
- Mammoth Cave
- Empty Theatre Buildings in Horse Cave
- Housing Need
- Partnership with WKU
- Develop interchange area
- Should be able to get more industry and more jobs
- Upscale hotel, indoor water park
- Expand our appeal to the outside and expand our season
- Agri-tourism opportunities
- Nolin Lake, retirement community
- Attracting customers at Cave City and Mammoth Cave, bring them to Hart County
- Trails – Bonnieville take 728 to Cub Run and 88 to Nolin
- Billboards along the way to promote what we offer
- Revamp the Mini-mall
- Move the outlet concept of businesses into the city limits – bring shopping back downtown
- Land donation for future restaurant
- Need a kick start or angel funding
- Look at ED group to concentrate on attracting small businesses
- Working together as a county rather than in factions

Threats –what will keep us from success

- Adult Bookstore
- Lack of high paying jobs
- Retaining young, skilled workers
- Big box shops running off small business
- Businesses need capital, borrowing power
- Lack of involvement

- Economy in general has changed attitudes on how people spend their money
- Aging housing stock
- Low rental rates
- Not planning for distant future

Design Session

Table #3

- Think of better uses of Thelma Stovall Park
- New development at interchanges
- Need work at Battle for the Bridge Civil War Preserve – develop trails
- Clean up northern entrance Munfordville – Pine Ridge Hill down into town
- Small business – restore downtown Munfordville
- Dog Creek Rec Area – more development – infrastructure for retirement – make a community

Table #2

- Visitors center at Dog Creek
- Cater to retirees – Nolin Lake
- Wildlife WKU preserve
- Motorized trails – events
- Locate a large Kiddie Park next to KY Down Under
- Close Adult Bookstore
- Wal Mart – none / Advertise Dollar Stores (3) on signs on interstate
- Horse Cave – more restaurants
- New downtown – Horse Cave
- Shop LOCAL first – we have more stuff than people realize
- Local business growth in Bonnieville

Table #4

- Agri-tourism opportunities
- Stronger farmers market
- Growth of vineyards
- More single family/duplexes housing
- More businesses – Local (Opportunity)
- Tech School – Work ready community – need access to education opportunities
- A lot of local artists/crafters – websites, co-ops
- Development of 3 interchanges
- New development around Nolin Lake

Table #5

- Development in downtown areas- green space

- Development of interchanges
- Nolin Lake – visitors and retirees
- Protect viewsheds out in counties – strengthen protection
- Growth of business
- High-tech business start-ups
- Low-tech – authentic rural areas – crafters, artisans

Table #6

- Bonnieville – New development at interchange
- Frenchman’s Knob
- Horseback riding
- Local crafts – needs promotion
- Multi-family duplexes in all 3 cities
- Protect surface water
- Develop fun things at Nolin Lake
- Horse Cave – Wi-fi downtown
- Develop upper-story for living – downtown Horse Cave
- Rose Garden – coordination with Civil War activities

Most important

- All 3 cities working together
- Clean up entrances to the county
- More skilled labor – work with schools
- Figure out how to save downtowns – stores to support housing
- Housing – can’t find a place to rent with 2 bedrooms (have had at least 30 calls recently)

What is one thing we could do that would have positive long-term impact?

- Everybody working together
- Need more tourism
- Need solid action steps and timeframe (IMPLEMENT)
- Talk to high school students
- Fall Festival – work to recruit volunteers at this event for other things that happen in the community