BONNIEVILLE



The Next Step on the Road to Independence

City of Bonnieville Strategic Plan 2013



"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead



Overview

In the spring of 2010, the citizens of Bonnieville came together to respond to the question:

What can Bonnieville do to build a sustainable future?

More than 100 residents of Bonnieville participated in this community dialogue, and together, crafted a strategy focused on the future success of the community. Over the course of the next two years, volunteers, city leaders and community partners have worked together to implement the strategies recommended within the plan. The list of accomplishments is incredible. See page 24 for a summary of accomplishments.

With the 2010 Strategic Plan almost fully implemented, the city's leaders and residents decided it was time to revise, review and invigorate. A new plan has been developed. This is the miraculous story and vision of Bonnieville – The Update!

Bonnieville – The Next Step on the Road to Independence - 2013 Strategic Plan Update

As the 2010 Bonnieville Opportunity and Advancement Zone: A Path to Independence continues to be implemented, local leadership once more began the intentional process of planning for the next phase of strategic planning.

In February 2013, the Bonnieville Mayor and City Council set aside training and work sessions facilitated by staff from the Kentucky League of Cities Community Consulting Services. During this time officials discussed their proudest moments of accomplishment over the past few years. They were instructed by staff on effective policy development and how to look and act like a city. The group also discussed the city's capacity to accomplish its goals in terms of staff and budgeting, as well as the community's volunteer leadership capacity.



The results of the work session provided the Council with insight as to what local elected leaders believe to be the priorities for the governing body to work towards:

Capacity Building - How much something will hold

- Training others to take a leadership role
- Plan
- Defined instruction
- Expected outcomes
- Facilitation furnish tools
- Participate
- Positive facilitation and feedback
- Establish/create process
- Tell your success story
- Partnership

Overview

What are Bonnieville's current commitments and how much capacity remains?

Needed to build capacity:

- Socializing/bonding with citizens
- Office space
- Budgeting process need actual versus budgeted
- Project management developing and implementing
- Funding

City priorities beyond strategic planning:

- Establish ordinances, i.e.; façade, water, nuisance, business license or gross income tax, etc.
- Community Center/city hall/Jameson House
- Enforcement of ordinances
- Revenue generation

Next Steps

- Training teach community how to interact
- Legal training for council as a sixth class city
- Opportunity for residents to get involved with specific activities
- Establish a dialogue with all community organizations

Building Capacity

With the assistance of a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and Brushy Fork Institute, city leaders began a series of workshops aimed at building capacity within the volunteer leaders of the community. The first set of training was led by facilitator Angie Woodward. Four workshops were conducted including:

- Understanding and Working with Personality Styles
- Conflict Resolution
- How to Create New Ideas
- Playing to Win How to Use Strategy for Your Organization

The second round of training was organized by KLC CCS staff and featured:

- Project Implementation Bert May, Former Mayor of Mt. Sterling, Presenter
- Leadership Development Angie Woodward, Leadership Specialist, Presenter
- Economic Development Hal Goode (KAED) and KY Cabinet for Economic Development, Presenters

Over the past three years, Bonnieville has expanded its own capacity to identify projects, extend city boundaries, raise funds and implement strategies. Members of the community have attended Brushy Fork Annual Institute to learn about community development. With this ARC grant, Bonnieville will expand the number of citizens who are involved and capable of tackling larger and more complex projects. A summary of accomplishments may be found on pages 24 to 31.

What We Heard



Seeking Ideas from the Community

The city next turned its attention to the desires of the residents, seeking their input on what they believe should be the priorities for the community. The following pages reflect the input from two public meetings and a high school listening session. The recommendations for the strategic plan update will be built upon citizen input.

Nearly 40 citizens of Bonnieville met on April 15, 2013 to celebrate their successes of the past three years and to renew and reconfirm the community's vision for the future. This is what they said:

Jobs

What kind of businesses are needed

- We need another factory small one, something to get started here
- Small businesses, like lawn mower repair, barber shop, photography
- Continue Frenchman's Knob Land Preserve
- Need a bank
- Factory
- More businesses like a hardware store
- Doctor's office

- Drug store
- Apartments
- Vocational training is needed for young people
- Help for start-up businesses

Things that have come in:

- Old Stone Mill Restaurant
- Antique Mall
- CNA School
- Bonnieville Mini Mart
- Country Corner Market (voluntary annexation into city)
- Bacon Creek Café (voluntary annexation into city)

Appearance – Our Community's Image

What hasn't been done to improve the community?

How can you tell the story to other people – marketing your community – to whom?

- Focus on public recreation
- Public restrooms
- Older homes need to be repaired or torn down
- Need more homes increase the population
- Have some homes apply for Repair Affair
- Apply for housing money
- Pull people off I-65, we're the entrance to the cave area – the first stop to explore this county
- Home Sweet Home Crafts

Strategic Plan 2013

What We Heard

- Signage like gateway to Mammoth Cave
- Welcome Center
- Nolin Lake
- Sidewalks
- Wi-fi
- Bring KET/NPR here to document/show what we're doing
- Get rid of old buildings
- Roundstone Native Seed
- Clean up the bad places
- Clean up Part 2
- Giant push-pin in front of city hall: YOU ARE HERE. Have the latitude/longitude listed, putting Bonnieville on the map
- Parks

Activities

Include how to involve young people

- Adults must be involved to get the younger folks. Make it interesting for them. We need to show the youth that they can help the community by volunteering and it can be fun.
- Get them out of the house.
- We're lucky to work with the school, getting the ball field ready to play. We'll be using the kids to help us prepare the field –giving them something to do.
- Need bleachers for the ball field
- Host a summer camp for kids? This could perhaps be a host community for Community

Action Agency, providing free meals for students during the summer.

- Creek Clean-up, the kids were great to help.
- Continue Frenchman's Knob Land Preserve development – we need to be supportive of those efforts.
- Bonn Theater redevelopment.

Infrastructure

- Sidewalks
- Wi-fi is already available in the restaurants and city hall
- Outdoor movies for kids during the summer
- Additional voluntary annexation
- Law enforcement in town
- 112 acres off the interstate acquisition and development
- Sign on interstate telling what we do have



Youth Listening Session

Eight students at Hart County High School who reside in Bonnieville conducted their own listening session led by Jacob Edwards. The student participants were Austin Priddy, Clay Bryant, Cody Underwood, Dayton Carby, Johnetta West, Michael McFadden and T.J. Lucas.

Their ideas about the future community and economic needs included:

- Truck stop
- Car wash
- Police Department (night patrol)
- Movie theater
- Park
- Community center
- Better education
- Pay lake
- Grocery store
- Yard maintenance
- Bank
- Sidewalks
- Railroad crossing
- Gym
- Pharmacy
- Doctor's office
- Ambulance
- Parts store

In addition, a second youth listening session was held at city hall. The participants made the following comments:

Likes

- Small town feel
- Everyone knows one another
- Can talk to anyone
- Easy to get around
- Strength of our community we cooperate well
- Everyone does their part
- History strong Civil War history
- People care about you

Changes I'd Like

- Make it bigger in size and more businesses
- Add good shopping so we don't have to leave town
- Law enforcement close by
- Something else to do rather than going to E-town/Glasgow/Bowling Green

Potential

- We underutilize I-65
- We should have more attractions to pull people in – gas, fast food, rest stop (but not like others), park, a place to play, B&B, and motel
- Tourist attraction, Civil War, our history, and pay lake

Why people don't do business with Bonneville

- Equipment & software expensive
- Not having enough qualified help

Youth Listening Session

- Not enough capital
- May suffer from credit score deficit
- Insurance costs
- Harder to get education due to available student funds

Potential Store Idea

- Condor's Paintball
- We had a paintball but no more
- Have to drive 45 minutes to get air tank filled up, small handguns, air assault weapons permits and license to sell
- Hill of Terror opened about six weeks
- Volunteer labor 50-60 largest haunted attraction in KY – covers 1½ miles walking distance
- Tractor drivers
- Security/EMS/Rescue Squad
- Food vendors/concessions
- Ticket sales
- Equipment
- Actors (volunteers)
- Dollar Store
- Computer/software sales, services
- Diesel mechanic pilot type
- Restaurants
- Movies
- Multi-purpose gym, workout room, fitness, ball court, stuff for kids

- Skating rink
- Bowling ally
- Hardware store
- Supply store
- Bank
- Pharmacy

Jobs

- Mechanic, more robotics, also need old fashioned mechanic to work on older models
- Medical nursing, personal care, physical labor, pharmacist, family doctor
- Analysis of data
- Nutrition, food service
- Farming tobacco, family oriented



Community Design Charette

A community design session was conducted on May 13, 2013. Residents were asked to take up maps, crayons, Post-it notes and pictures to create their "next generation" vision of Bonnieville. Many creative ideas were put forward that will make Bonnieville more beautiful, prosperous and economically sustainable for years to come. Some of the ideas can be easily implemented immediately. Others will take considerable time, resources and commitment. This is a bold new vision for Bonnieville!

Some of the themes that emerged included:

- Parks for children to play
- Trail development throughout the city and surrounding community
- Be good stewards of Bacon Creek
- Little house on Jameson property will be info center
- Dollar Store
- Local crafts behind Old Mill Restaurant
- Bank little house between city hall and Dollar General
- Farmers Market Jameson property w/shade trees
- Implement the plan A.M.E.R.I.C.A. strategies
- Sidewalks
- Charging stations for automobiles
- Visitors on I-65 hotel, B&B, ball park
- Small museum at the Waldek property
- Movies under the trees on the Mason building/Jameson property

- Preserve wildlife on Frenchman's Knob Land Preserve
- Housing and apartment development
- New downtown revitalize Old Bonnieville on Campground Road/We need housing
- I-65 sports complex
- High-tech business park
- Computer repair shop
- Renovate city hall/community center/multi-use facility
- Public art
- Veterans Purple Heart Byway



Community Design Charette



Frenchman's Knob Land Preserve



What We Recommend

Our basic recommendation from the 2010 Bonnieville Strategic Plan was for the citizens to blaze a trail down the road to being an independent city, that is, one that possesses the willpower to take charge of their own destiny as a community and move forward regardless of the challenges and obstacles.

Many of the lessons learned from that process hold true today. The Core Values of the community have remained constant. Those values include:

- Caring and Generous People
- A Rich History
- Pride in our Community
- Agricultural Roots
- Our Image How we see ourselves and how others see us

This plan upholds those values and remains true to the identity of Bonnieville. The approach, however, is slightly different this time. We will focus more on projects, development, tactics and leadership. You will see more attention on shortterm and long-term strategies. The community has already proven that it knows how to mobilize volunteers and commit to taking action. They're just asking "what's next?" This is what we recommend for the future.

As the next phase of community development begins, the city of Bonnieville should focus on the following areas:

- Community Amenities
- Community Jobs and Workforce Development
- Community Growth and Revenue Generation
- Community Leadership and Youth Development



Community Amenities



Bonnieville has several unique opportunities to create parks, trails, recreation and historic tourism facilities for its citizens and regional visitors. The city has built a firm foundation to move these efforts forward.

Some of the ideas that we heard from the citizens included:

- Move forward with the development of Frenchman's Knob Land Preserve
- Creation and development of Fort Jefferson Park, connector trails among Frenchman's Knob Land Preserve
- Proceed with the acquisition and development of the Athletic Complex, Bacon Creek and the downtown

Several of these initiatives are underway. We refer you to the A.M.E.R.I.C.A development plan and the summary of community accomplishments for more details.

We recommend:

Short-Term Steps

- The development of the small creek side park at Camp Jefferson near the Bacon Creek trestle bridge.
- The creation of a trail plan for the community through a small planning grant.
- Work with Kentucky Trail Town at the Kentucky Office for Adventure Tourism and work toward designation as a trail town "in progress." Guidelines and application are available at www.kentuckytourism.com.
- Create an entrance sign for the entrance to Frenchman's Knob Land Preserve.

Long-Term Steps

- Develop a creek walk along Bacon Creek.
- Purchase or obtain option to purchase the 112-acre development site near Interstate 65.
- Acquire 100 acres at the site of Camp Jefferson for development as a park and battlefield historic site.
- Construct a Nature Interpretive Center and hiking trails within Frenchman's Knob Land Preserve.
- Implement the A.M.E.R.I.C.A. development plan.

Community Amenities



Camp Jefferson Park



Community Growth and Revenue Generation

The population of the city has decreased over the past 50 years due to changes in the mobility of the population, the interstate highway system and the relocation of businesses. During the past two years, however, Bonnieville has managed to reverse that trend through voluntary annexation. The city has grown in land mass by approximately 46 percent. This growth is remarkable in the present-day political climate. People in the community recognize that Bonnieville is important to their quality of life, and city leaders have demonstrated that they are working hard on behalf of the citizens. In addition, residents want the modern conveniences that are found in other towns, and they don't want to drive out of their way for those services.

They city has several options to raise needed revenue that will prepare the community for future growth. These include:

- Taxes
- Grants
- Fees
- Sale of surplus property and equipment
- Donations

During the Implementation Training Session led by former mayor of Mt. Sterling, Bert May, several ideas were suggested to continue this trend and prepare for the future.



We recommend:

- Extend the city's boundaries to include the interchange at Interstate 65 Exit 71.
- Create a Small Area Plan or adopt city ordinances to control the development of the interchange into Bonnieville.
- Enter into discussions with the Hart County Fiscal Court concerning the idea of sharing tax revenues related to job growth, business development and tourism. Prepare for growth NOW.
- Utilize land on the west side of the interstate for tourism, recreation, parks and as a gateway to drive visitors, tourists and shoppers into the downtown area.
- Utilize land on the northeast side of the interstate for any commercial development such as service stations or truck stops. Be sure that this area is incorporated into the city and included in the Small Area Plan.
- Utilize the land on the south side of the interstate for the development of Frenchman's Knob Land Preserve and Bomber Field Recreation Complex.
- Create connectors (bike trails, hiking trails or cart paths to connect Bomber Field, Frenchman's Knob Land Preserve and the downtown. Additional trails should be developed to make getting around downtown easy.
- Incorporate and implement the ideas proposed within the A.M.E.R.I.C.A project plan including the athletic complex, museum and equestrian agricultural center.

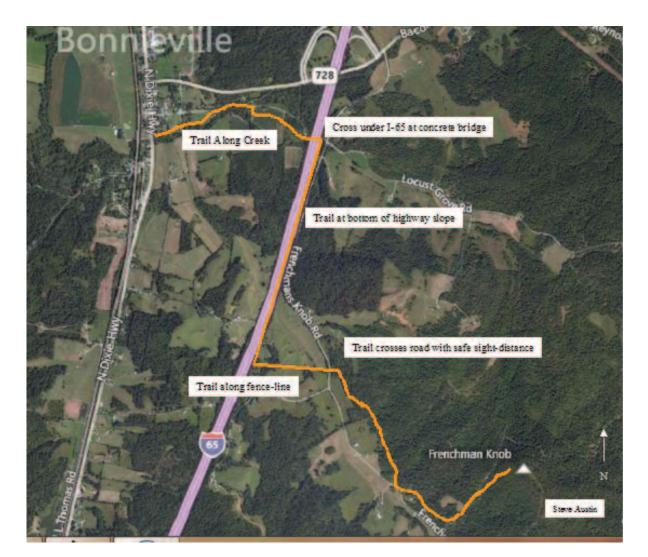
Community Growth and Revenue Generation

- Engage expertise from other successful communities. Invite them to your town and listen to their ideas. Bonnieville needs to be a magnet for entrepreneurs and business development experts who can see the potential the community has to offer and have the experience to move the efforts forward.
- Work with the Kentucky Trail Town initiative through the Kentucky Tourism, Arts and Heritage, Office of Adventure Tourism (www.kentuckytourism.com). Funding is available to qualifying applicants.



Bonnieville Entrance From I-65





Community Jobs and Workforce Development

One of the most critical connections for the City of Bonnieville throughout the development of the strategic plan update was a training session by the Kentucky Association for Economic Development and the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development. A team of six specialists described the critical steps in preparing Bonnieville for future development. They provided a description of the programs, training and development expertise available to the community and took questions from the attendees.

Bonnieville should embrace the partnership opportunities that these experts offered to the community. Some of the programs that Bonnieville can access are:

- The Kentucky Small Business Credit Initiative to access capital for small companies. A list of financial institutions from Hart County is provided in the handouts from the session.
- The Kentucky Small Business Tax Credit for employers with fewer than 50 employees. A list of business resources has been provided to the city.
- The Kentucky Business Clearinghouse.
- The Kentucky Commission on Small Business Advocacy.
- Government Procurement Assistance.
- Export Assistance.

We recommend:

Initial Steps for Bonnieville

- Obtain in writing a first right of refusal for the 112 acres that the city desires to purchase.
- Using the A.M.E.R.I.C.A. business plan, identify specific businesses you would like to recruit. Seek assistance from the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development to locate possible businesses and/or a developer. Communicate the city's readiness, available properties, and workforce preparedness.
- Create or update codes and ordinances to address chronic property maintenance issues.
- Adjust zoning codes to specify what type of economic development and where development should occur. This step is vital in order to keep the type of businesses you want in the locations where you want them. For example, keep retail and certain types of service businesses along the main thoroughfare and the residential area in other locations. Consider what, if any business, will be allowed to develop along the artery to the A.M.E.R.I.C.A. project.
- Implement business license fee immediately.
- Negotiate interlocal agreements and/or occupational tax agreement with Hart County Fiscal Court for new businesses and/or services that locate in Bonnieville city limits.

Community Jobs and Workforce Development

- Take a comprehensive look at the entire community for possible annexation.
- Determine if there are additional areas that should be considered for annexation including the area north of Bonnieville on Highway 31 W. Several young adults discussed the desire to have efficiency apartments located nearer to the Upton interchange exit. They want to live in Bonnieville's city limits and closer to Elizabethtown for their work or school commute.
- Review existing situation and map out a three, five, and ten-year plan for city expansion.
- Assess the pros and cons of taking on additional areas and determine what the city's capacity really is. This requires the city to evaluate the property taxes and occupational license taxes that would likely be collected.
- If appropriate, discuss phasing in additional sections over time.
- Continue to educate the residents about the purpose of annexation.
- Continue seeking grant funds for further development.

Infrastructure

- Determine what needs may exist for infrastructure development related to the A.M.E.R.I.C.A. project.
- Assess water capacity for purposes of annexation.

- In the downtown, evaluate the condition of existing sidewalks, curbs, paving and sewers.
 - Build a list of needs and prioritize.
 - Utilize the free KLC Sidewalk Maintenance Toolkit for assistance.
- Make sure the broadband capacity of the city is able to support 21st century industry/businesses. This may be an opportunity for the city to develop its own cable infrastructure. Explore USDA's Rural Utility Service grants/loans for this specific need.
- Acquire access to natural gas for the City of Bonnieville and the industrial park.

Recommendations for Volunteers and Private Enterprise

Identify which buildings are available for development within Bonnieville. Build an inventory page on each property to include a photo, property and building measurements, parking availability, selling price, property owner contact information, if listed, and the realtors contact information.

Once you have the building inventory, add the demographic and related economic data for the city and create a marketing packet.

Using the list of desired businesses created during the public meetings, identify potential existing businesses to fill the voids. Look at surrounding communities and list businesses which might be willing to open a secondary location. For example, the youth discussed Conder's Paintball store in Elizabethtown.

Determine who to contact at the potential business and make an appointment. Using the

Community Jobs and Workforce Development

inventory and demographic data, ask if they would like to visit Bonnieville and see if a branch location would be an option.

Determine if any of the available property would be appropriate for a micro-enterprise location. This would be a facility offering small spaces to start-up businesses. An example of this economic development strategy may be found in Greensburg.

Major Key for Economic Development

Bonnieville and Hart County share an economic development director with other cities and counties. The efforts of the region are

substantive and valuable for everyone that is served. We recommend, however, that Hart County, Bonnieville, Munfordville and Horse Cave collaboratively or jointly explore the possibility of having a person totally focused on economic development in Hart County and its cities. The potential for development is tremendous if the county and cities will consolidate their efforts through cooperation. This recommendation is not intended to diminish the efforts that have been and are continuing to be made on your behalf regionally. It would be, however, an affirmative statement that Hart County means "business."



Hal Goode - Kentucky Association for Economic Development Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development -Corky Peek, Jamie Bundren, Megan Roe, Shawn Rogers

Housing

Many citizens – especially young people – mentioned housing and efficiency apartments as a critical need for the community. Bonnieville's income profile and housing stock make it a prime candidate for assistance from several state and federal agencies. Grant funds and development loans are available for home fix-up, remodeling, weatherization as well as new construction of permanent housing. Housing is both a short-term and long-term endeavor.

We recommend:

Short-Term Recommendations

- Recognize property owners for taking care of their properties – find a way to publicly acknowledge residential improvements such as painting or fixing up homes and yards. Consider recognizing a homeowner each month or quarterly that makes improvements or just does a good job in keeping their property in a well-kept condition.
- Work with local newspapers to show before/after photos of areas that have been cleaned up.
- If there are any city-owned properties, evaluate their condition, and determine if the city is setting a good example.
- Work with students, church and civic groups to conduct neighborhood cleanup events. Offer refreshments, provide trash bags and gloves. Make it a fun event, perhaps a competition between neighborhoods.
- Evaluate existing codes and ordinances; adjust as needed to encourage compliance.

Long-term Recommendations

- Invite representatives from Kentucky Housing Corporation and Kentucky Department for Local Government to the community to help assess the current housing situation and provide information and recommendations to address Bonnieville's needs. They may also be able to direct you to developers and development agencies that can provide expertise and funding at little or no cost to the city or property owners.
- Seek a planning grant to pay for the preparation of a housing study to evaluate the housing market in the community and assess its housing needs, particularly related to market-rate housing.
- Work with the Kentucky Housing Corporation or the Barren River Area Development District to conduct a housing inventory to:
 - Identify properties that need attention and devise a step-by-step plan on how to proceed.
 - Work with local realtors to determine current needs and what future opportunities may exist for additional housing.
 - Identify potential properties for market-rate housing opportunities.
 - Determine if senior housing, apartments or patio homes may be needed.
- Evaluate annexation opportunities that provide additional areas within the community that are conducive for new home construction.

Housing

- Work with community partners (such as Garden Club, Homemakers, and the Chamber of Commerce) to address chronic maintenance concerns. Inform these groups of the city's efforts to address these concerns and solicit their assistance.
- Investigate the use of the Repair Affair concept and the use of volunteers to assist property owners, particularly the elderly and disabled, who are unable to care for their own properties. See examples of Repair Affair activities in other Kentucky cities by typing in Repair Affair in the Internet search engine.
- Partner with local banks and/or KCTCS or University of Louisville to offer free training on homeownership and maintenance.
- Content may include information about loans, ٠ home maintenance, understanding a real estate contract, and homeowners insurance.
- Benefits include building activity that people "can see" and improves the quality of life for those able to take advantage of the opportunity. In addition, residents will recognize that the city is bringing resources directly to the community that is making a positive impact on their daily lives. Remember that one of the Core Values of Bonnieville is that it is, above all else, a CARING community.



Old Motel Demolition



Community Leadership & Youth

Over the course of time, community volunteers become project-weary and drift away after months of labor and commitment to a specific project. Bonnieville is experiencing this tendency after three long years of tremendous success. It's natural and it's okay. New initiatives energize different folks, and the city must seek out new volunteers to assist as it moves forward. Never forget to thank those who have served.

The challenge then is to identify who will lead the next charge toward progress. Angie Woodward, who is an incredibly talented instructor and mentor on all things related to leadership, conducted several leadership workshops as a part of this initiative. She has been a community supporter even before the initial plan was created in 2010. Continue to draw upon her expertise as you seek to develop new leaders and volunteers.

What can young people do?

Several young people in the community stepped forward to take a leading role in the creation of this plan. Initially, Jacob Edwards sought out the consulting team and offered to organize a listening session for his peers. About 10 youth brought forward several ideas for education, jobs, and community improvement on behalf of the young people of Bonnieville and Hart County.

Leadership training is critical to the future of Bonnieville. In addition, it is equally important that adult leaders within the community foster and mentor the young people through one-on-one shadowing programs as well as individual dialogue about what it takes to implement an idea. Many adults have said that their goal is turn over a "better Bonnieville" to the young people that will follow.

We recommend:

 A group of adult community leaders should schedule a time to sit down with these young people and discuss their ideas in more detail.

- Integration of the Workforce Readiness initiative that is being led by Virginia Davis with the University of Kentucky's Cooperative Extension Service.
- The community leaders need to volunteer to spend one-on-one time discussing, explaining and mentoring these young people by example. Let them see what a mayor, council member, and community volunteer does.
- Invite them to spend time with you as you go about the tasks of writing a plan, creating an idea, conducting a meeting, and building consensus.
- Provide the youth with an opportunity to lead. You coach them just as you would in an athletic sport.

This takes time and dedication, of course. Can you think of a better investment of your time than developing your young people into the leaders of tomorrow?

Activities for Youth

The community of Bonnieville could make a powerful and lasting impression if it developed some signature events geared toward all of the young people of Hart County. Many youth have never been to Bonnieville. Give them an opportunity to come to your city, participate in an event and feel your appreciation for what they contribute to the community at-large.

We recommend:

- Hosting a community potluck for various Hart County school clubs such as the sports teams, academic teams as well as all of the students.
- Utilize your youth leaders in Bonnieville to brainstorm about activities that would interest the young people and invite them for a fun activity.

Community Leadership & Youth

• Work with your local churches and businesses to provide space and funding for the activity.

Signature Event for Youth of Hart County

By inviting all young adults from Hart County to a planned activity, Bonnieville will showcase its efforts to improve the community, while reflecting the importance of local youth. One of the activities discussed by the youth included an outdoor movie night. This would entail:

- Locating a blank wall on a building downtown and obtaining property owner permission.
- Securing a projector with speakers, and obtaining the rights to show a film. Greenville and Lexington have organized similar events and may be able to give you additional guidance.
- Organizing seating and parking.
- Providing popcorn and beverages, either free or for a fee through a vendor.
- Having the Bonnieville youth extend the invitation to other young adults across the county.
- Marketing and promoting the event, particularly through social media.
- Having a backup plan or rain date in the event of inclement weather.
- Preparing a small gift bag for each person with something to remind them of the great time they had in Bonnieville.

As an example, this event might be considered as a kick-off to the Hill of Terror entertainment venue which begins mid-September. Perhaps the owners of the Hill of Terror would consider backing a zombie contest (or something like that) and the city would show a family-oriented scary movie.

Mentoring Program for Youth Entrepreneurship

Following the Governor's School for Entrepreneurs, (http://gse.kstc.com/) work with partners such as the community college, Chamber of Commerce, Industrial Authority, and the local high school to establish a youth entrepreneurship mentoring program to teach young people how to start, manage, and grow a business. Work with these groups to establish a scholarship fund to start a work-study internship for high school and college students. Over time, the entrepreneurial talent pool will broaden, and the community will begin to reap the rewards. Creating your own opportunities also gives young people a reason and opportunity to stay/return to Bonnieville.



A Big Idea!

Build a City Hall and Community Center

For the past three years, the citizens of Bonnieville have discussed the need for a community center for the city. Representatives from the city have visited several other communities including Inez, Ky., to gather information and ideas to make this dream a reality. Here's the reality: A stand-alone community center is, in many cases, a money pit that is unsustainable even in larger cities. How does the City of Bonnieville address this need and create a sustainable business model? You need a "smart and strategic" approach!

We recommend:

- Develop a plan that incorporates a publicprivate partnership model.
- Build the facility to accomplish three things:
 - Expand city hall
 - Assess the public space needs of the community
 - Identify private businesses that need space and will pay rent

The building should

- Be an anchor for downtown Bonnieville
- Incorporate services related to city hall
- Provide public meeting space
- Provide public restrooms
- Provide tourism information
- Be handicap accessible

Steps to Implement

 Retain the present-day city hall building. Seek funding through USDA Rural Development or ARC to upgrade the improvements that are required. Develop a plan to incorporate offices for the mayor, city council, city clerk, and an information center/small museum/display center.

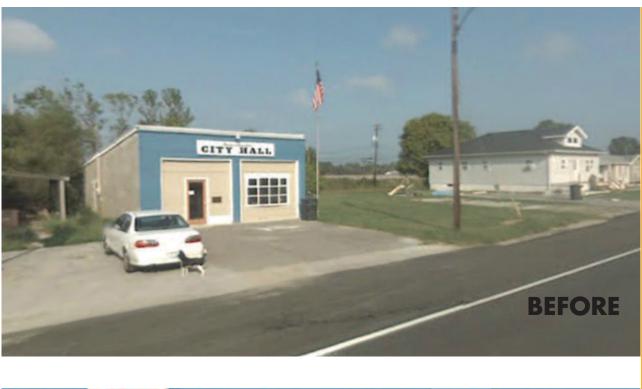
- Acquire the building lot on the north side directly adjacent to city hall.
- Construct a two-story multi-purpose facility of modest size that complements the scope and scale of city hall. Utilize the new building for:
 - City council chambers on either the first or second floor.
 - A large public meeting space with room dividers that can also be used for trainings, classes or conference meetings.
 - Designate the remaining first story for businesses such as a branch bank, community daycare center, crafts store, small display area for historic museum or art exhibit.
 - Utilize the second floor as an educational center in partnership with the community college, WKU or other government agency branch offices.
 - Another idea would be to focus on healthcare providers as a possible tenant. Urgent treatment care, clinics or physicians/medical complexes are potential tenants for this kind of space. Education and healthcare are the growth "industries" for the foreseeable future.

In this scenario, cash flow is KING! The city government and community would have the space that is required to care for the citizens, and private or quasi-governmental agencies would provide the cash flow to pay the expenses for operating and maintaining the facility through long-term leases.

Conclusion

Bonnieville is on an incredible journey! Perhaps more than any other small city in Kentucky, Bonnieville's citizens and leaders have demonstrated that even the smallest group can accomplish big things when they unite, create a plan and take action.

A Big Idea!





Appendix Accomplishments of the City of Bonnieville since 2010

Review of BOAZ 'A Path to Independence' "AN INNOVATIVE PATH TO INDEPENDENCE" Sherman Bowman/Linda Watts

Update on Community Weaknesses

- Nothing represents history in our community
 - > ACTIONS:
 - Enhanced recognition of the Bacon Creek Historical Society (BCHS).
 - On the Line at Bacon Creek is a book about Bonnieville's Civil War history.
 - BCHS has made two presentations at WKU on the history of Bonnieville.
 - A Civil War presentation was made to the citizens of the Bonnieville community by National Historian, Brad Quinlin.
 - Frenchman's Knob Land Preserve is under development.
 - Historic mural created on ACME Lodge wall.
- Lack of recreation activity
 - > ACTIONS:
 - Special events are now organized to recognize local activity.
 - Annual gospel singing "Under the Gingko Tree" held the weekend before homecoming.
 - Frenchman's Knob Land Preserve hiking and walking trails under development.
 - Annual commemoration events held for important historical dates and events for honoring veterans.

- Lack of stores, variety of products and work to get a grocery store, gas station and restaurant
 - > ACTIONS:
 - Volunteers have worked to create a business development plan and keep the website current.
 - Working to promote existing businesses, as well as new businesses opening in city limits.
 - New businesses have opened including Country Corner Deli/Gas Station, Bacon Creek Café, and the Olde Mill Stone Restaurant, now in city limits.
 - An additional store is slated to open soon.
- Lack of long-term commitment
 - > ACTIONS:
 - Volunteers and local leaders continue to actively pursue goals established by residents of Bonnieville.
 - BOAZ Foundation, Bonnieville Volunteer Fire Department, Community Friends Club and the City of Bonnieville hold regular meetings and host community events and fundraisers.
 - Countywide agencies are continuing to work with city council and BOAZ Foundation.
- Rundown buildings
 - > ACTIONS:
 - A number of buildings have been painted by volunteers.
 - Private homeowners have renovated their homes at their own expense.

- Residents and business owners are showing pride by landscaping and keeping lawns mowed.
- Beautification is a work in progress.
- Natural resources not developed
 - > ACTIONS:
 - Elected leaders and BOAZ Foundation volunteers work closely with the Bacon Creek Water Shed Council on events, including dredging the creek channel and "Clean up the Creek" events.
 - BRADD is providing data on companies that create development plans for the "Creek Walk" project.
 - The city is engaged currently in a flooding mitigation project.
 - Natural gas options are being researched.
- Unemployment
 - ➤ ACTIONS:
 - Job openings are posted at city hall.
 - Working with Hart County Chamber on the "Work Ready in Progress" program.
- Lack of appreciation of what is here
 - ➤ ACTIONS:
 - This issue is being addressed by several history projects, and I-65 interchange projects.
 - The Hart County Chamber and Tourism Commissions are regularly promoting Bonnieville events.
 - City and BOAZ leaders are working with county and state agencies to promote economic development in the community.

- City council has received various requests from people outside the city to be annexed by the city, and the first phase of a friendly annexation is now complete.
- The city is renovating and seeking funds to update the city's infrastructure: sidewalks, water lines, utilities and expansion of lines and services to the annexed areas.
- No community building
 - > ACTIONS:
 - Possibilities are being explored to either renovate an existing building or construct a new community center.
 - A delegation from Bonnieville visited Inez, Ky., collecting information and ideas on their self-sustaining community center.
- Lack of diverse opportunities for all ages
 - ➤ ACTIONS:
 - City is developing a city park with a children's area, hiking and biking trails, a Bacon Creek walk.
 - Creation of annual public civic events such as Memorial Day Veterans Ceremony, Wreaths Across America, July 4th Homecoming Celebration and Civil War Remembrance weekends in October.
 - Events commemorating important historic dates celebrating the history of the city, (such as March 18, 1880 when Bacon Creek became Bonnieville) help to keep the community informed and engaged.

- Lack of pride in property ownership
 - > ACTIONS:
 - A beautiful pocket garden was created behind city hall.
 - City hall has been partially renovated with a second phase planned for later in the year.
 - Many private residences have renovated their homes, cleared brush and mowed their property at their own expense.

Community Opportunities

Of 23 items listed in the original plan, the city has worked on the following:

- Rich in History Book, BCHS Annual Event, Annual Veterans Memorial Day Ceremony, Annual Wreaths Across America Ceremony and annual BOAZ sponsored events. The Frenchman's Knob Land Preserve is being developed.
- Government Housing Applying for Community Renovation Grants.
- Walking Trail Working on Bacon Creek Walk and Frenchman's Knob Land Preserve walking, hiking and biking trails.
- Ball Park Moving forward The city is working with Bonnieville Elementary on renovation of a softball field. Additional information and letter of intent for 112 acres for purchasing land for the A.M.E.R.I.C.A. exchange project expected soon.
- Bonnieville Elementary School has been totally renovated including two new additional wings.
- Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) School has located in the City of Bonnieville.

- Industry Working with the county on recruiting industry. Upgrade of the railroad spur has been completed by CSX with no cost to the city.
- Park in Town Camp Jefferson Park under development. Seeking funding from the Civil War Preservation and KY Heritage for additional park property.
- Ag Expo Center Continuing to develop a master plan for the 112-acre A.M.E.R.I.C.A. project. Plans for a Bonnieville Agriculture/Equestrian Center are included in the development.
- Dollar General Store New store construction begins in May of 2013, and the store will open in August.
- Community Center Both the city and Community Friends are working on pursuing a community center. A downtown store, Home Sweet Home, is working on developing a community room to offer for rent at a nominal fee to local citizens.
- After School Activities Campground Methodist Church and Bonnieville Elementary are now providing after school activities.
- Home Sweet Home Craft and antique store is now open in the city.
- Country Corner Deli/Gas Station now in city limits.
- Bacon Creek Café now in city limits.
- Olde Mill Stone Restaurant opened in city limits.
- Hardware store opened in city limits.
- Sidewalks Reapplying for a "Safe Routes to School" grant (second submission).

- Museum Exploring possibilities for museum development.
- The city has successfully completed the first phase of a friendly annexation.
- Working on natural gas availability for industrial prospects.

Community Threats

Of 10 items the city has worked on the following:

- Parking plan for downtown currently under development.
- Lack of long-term commitment City leaders, civic clubs, volunteers and organizations come together and complete projects.
- Lack of community drawing power The city has improved its economic development viability by locating new businesses within city limits.
- First impression of the town Bonnieville has a more positive first impression due to recent cleanup improvements and new businesses that have opened.
- Lack of community volunteers BOAZ, BCHS, Community Friends, churches and PTOs are thriving.
- Denial that problems exist City leaders and local residents have identified projects and are working on them.
- People fear change People want change.
- Reluctance to change Groups are pushing change!
- Loss of control due to growth Growth has been controlled in a planned manner.

Community Design Charette

- Facelift of downtown Volunteers led town cleanup, buildings were painted and new businesses opened in five buildings!
- Beautifying downtown Trees have been planted and gateways mowed, new gateway fencing is planned. Seasonal banners have been purchased and are placed on telephone poles throughout town. Planters and new signage have been installed.
- Beautiful one of a kind historic mural created on the side of ACME Lodge.
- Old motel to be razed for a new Dollar General Store.
- Brick welcome signs at the entrances to town. Directional signs placed near both I-65 off ramps, and state highway 728.
- Parks Two park areas have been identified. One specifically for children. A small playground area possibly located in Camp Jefferson Park is under consideration.
- Community Center Working on several possibilities. City hall renovation with possible expansion for center, Community Friends researching properties and building, and a new structure may be included in the A.M.E.R.I.C.A. project.
- Doctor's Office Contacted the Governor and Lt. Governor's offices for information. Certified Nursing Assistant School located in the city.
- Bank BOAZ has been meeting with multiple banks and will revisit this issue after Dollar General breaks ground.

- Renovate the Bonn Theater Current owner does not wish to sell.
- Skating Rink No action at this time.
- Grocery Country Corner is now located in city limits. A new grocery store/gas station has been recruited to open this summer.
- Gas station off I-65 One station is currently open and another is under development. A gas station is also proposed in the A.M.E.R.I.C.A. project.
- Civil War Museum Possible buildings are being investigated.
- Community Housing Locations being considered and funding researched.

The Project Teams - Possibly Reactivated for Upcoming Meetings

- The Community Jobs Team
- The Community Image Team
- The Community Activities Team
- The Community Infrastructure and Development Team

Community Image Team (CIT) Projects and Recommendations

- Planters, greenery, roses and trees placed along the roadways. Currently maintained by volunteers.
- Walkways and trails throughout the community are in the planning stage.
- A small pocket park was created behind city hall. Other park areas are under consideration.

 Seasonal banners purchased by funds from Community Friends, city, BCHS and ARC/Brushy Fork grants.

CIT Recommendations

- Establish regular schedule for community annual cleanups.
- Enlist the support of community groups to prevent burnout of volunteers.
- In 2011, a small group of college students from Shenandoah University of Virginia cleaned up problem areas in the city. One of the areas is now the pocket garden behind city hall. In March 2013, a group of college students from University of Illinois began cemetery cleanup at the Frenchman's Knob Land Preserve.
- The City Council has provided assistance in the large item drop-off county project.

These projects have raised the awareness of the citizens for what is needed to make a viable city.

 During the 2010 strategy session BRADD Director, Rodney Kirtley, offered two great suggestions that can be used for future projects. 1. Establish a community room, place photographs of every street and every building on the wall (current condition). Place a property/street condition sheet under each photo. 2. As an improvement is made, place updated pictures underneath the original picture and from time-to-time, create a PowerPoint presentation of before/after to post to the city's website and to use as a presentation at local meetings so that the citizens can see the visual impact of the project.

- Coordinate additional projects with Angela Woodward, Bluegrass Leadership. Angie has assisted BOAZ in training and helped to identify potential resources for use in developing projects. Angie is now on the BOAZ Board of Directors.
- BOAZ volunteers created a proposed logo for Bonnieville. City Council utilized a local business in design completion of the City of Bonnieville's official logo.
- Schedule exchange visits with other communities. The City Council working with Kentucky League of Cities participated in KLC's very first exchange visit. Four Bonnieville council members and a BOAZ officer met with the City Council of Inez, Ky. Inez is similar in size with Bonnieville.
- BOAZ volunteers visited Greensburg, Ky., to tour a working "business incubator" and informative roundtable discussion with city officials. Volunteers also went on fact-finding visits to Bowling Green, Ky., WKU Equestrian Center, the Kentucky AG Dept. and Farmers Market Workshop in Louisville.

Community Activities Team (CAT) supports a city park and community center park project.

• The city is currently developing a plan for a city park.

CAT Recommendations

 The city should begin to make the town walkable by constructing sidewalks through the city. Currently the city has reapplied for a Safe Routes to School grant for the first phase of the sidewalk project.

- City should create bike lanes. The city is working to identify a funding source.
- Creation of a trial development program.
 Frenchman's Knob Land Preserve, now under development, will have walking and hiking trails.
- Develop trails from the proposed A.M.E.R.I.C.A. complex along Bacon Creek into town - start small. Once the city has retained a company to assist with this project and funding is acquired, the project can begin.

Community Infrastructure and Development (CI and D) Team Recommendations

This team recommends the development of several big projects and they recognize that patience and methodical planning are required to achieve success.

- The construction of a multi-functional community center similar to that of Inez is recommended. The Inez building cost \$6 million and was built with funding provided by a local millionaire. The city is exploring funding sources that can be used and what kind of community center can be built.
- Visit the community center in Inez, Ky. Leaders from Bonnieville visited this facility and are working to develop an overall building plan and a workable budget, seeking potential funding sources and attempting to set reasonable expectations.

 Include the public at every opportunity to keep them informed, motivated, and engaged. Once the city has data to share, then the city will hold public hearings to keep everyone informed. BOAZ is utilizing social media through a community Facebook page and keeps current project boards set up at city hall to ask for public opinions and ideas, to post photos of current and proposed projects and share information.

CI and D Team Big Ideas

The team identified several other Big Idea Projects.

- Restore the Bonn Theater current property owner doesn't wish to sell.
- Informational marquee at city hall researching possibilities.
- Archery range researching.
- Full service grocery store Hester's Market has been purchased and is currently being renovated. This will be a full-service grocery store opening soon.
- Billboard signage at the interchange. Signage has been placed at the junction of both I-65 ramps with KY 728, and on 728 at the junction with US 31W in downtown.
- Branch bank currently BOAZ volunteers have made contact with various banks, yet this continues to be a work in progress.
- Assisted living facility this project is currently under study.
- Recruit a Dollar General Store Dollar General will begin construction in May and the tentative opening date is in August 2013.

CI and D Team's Closing Advice

"Pick a project and complete the project." A community wants to see something completed before undertaking another project. This remains a guiding principal of the city and BOAZ.

Community Jobs Team (CJT) Action Steps

- Identify property owners and begin discussions about impact and acquisition.
- Hold informational meetings to keep the community apprised of the status of potential employees interested in the community. This remains a work in progress.
- Collaborating with all county agencies, i.e. judge/executive, tourism commissions, chamber of commerce and state agencies; BRADD, UK Extension Service, Kentucky Economic and Development Cabinet.

CJT Recommendations

- Create an inventory of local citizens who possess talents, trades, and traditional arts that are becoming lost or extinct for much of rural America. Work in progress.
- Establish local "teaching" opportunities or schools that focus on these trades and market the classes to other small and rural communities creating a unique economic opportunity for local citizens.
- Visit the City of Liberty which has created a unique economic model for their downtown.
- Visit the City of Sparta (pop. 200) the home of the Kentucky Speedway. Sparta officials have had to address numerous challenges associated with the speedway. An exchange of information would serve the community well.

CJT Big Idea Recommendations Big idea: Create a sustainable and independent community!

- The current motel property is the future site of the Dollar General Store.
- Need to identify a new site for Farmers Market.
- Home Sweet Home, a new local business opened in the city. The store offers small booths to local citizens for showcasing artisans, selling local hand crafted goods, antiques and collectibles.
- "Market the Market" to attract customers from the region, state and country. Also develop an outdoor classroom to promote the Bonnieville success story!
- Collaborate with regional, state and educational institutions to bring free or lowcost resources in developing the concept.
- Seek other national nonprofit partners for funding planning and development.
- Equal parts local production and global marketing.

CJT Last Section

This section identifies their view of what a sustainable and independent economic development strategy can accomplish. The first impression of Bonnieville is the entranceways. We need to reflect in a future grant the necessity of a decorative fence to be located on 728 E. In addition to directional signage, we have planted roses, flowering trees and the area is mowed regularly to create a pleasant entrance into the city.

 Development continues on creating a tourism market, using Bonnieville's unique cultural diversity.

The Legacy of the Interchange

This section outlines the advantages of developing the interchange in a way that will direct I-65 travelers not only off the interstate, but to our downtown area.

BOAZ has been working closely with Frank Cogswell, SCORE Counselor and Assistant District Director since December 2010. A multi-purpose land use plan has been created titled, A.M.E.R.I.C.A. This is an acronym for Athletic Complex, Museums, Equestrian Agriculture Center, Rejuvenation of Downtown, Industrial Enterprise, Civic Center, and Accommodations. The intent of this development is to offer a full service restaurant, motel and fuel station at the interchange.

We must continue to develop and rejuvenate the downtown area as well, as the other economic development projects move forward.



Acknowledgements

We want to thank all of those who participated, assisted and supported the creation of the Bonnieville Strategic Plan Update. We thank Mayor Edwards, each council member, City Clerk Bonita Hendren and the citizens of Bonnieville. Your warmth, hospitality and commitment are the embodiment of small town Kentucky. We appreciate every contribution and act of kindness shown to us throughout our journey together.

Bonnieville Mayor Dennis Edwards

City Council Members: Sherman Bowman, Fran Bowsher, Shirley Dye, Wanda Gregory and Freida Watkins

City Clerk/Treasurer: Bonita Hendren

The professional experts and trainers: Angie Woodward (Bluegrass Leadership); Bert May (Former Mayor of Mt. Sterling, Ky.); Hal Goode (Kentucky Association for Economic Development); Jamie Bundren, Megan Roe, Corky Peek, and Shawn Rogers (Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development)

We want to express our appreciation for the work and dedication of Linda Watts and Suellyn White for their countless hours of labor on creating the A.M.E.R.I.C.A. plan as well as writing grant applications and attending trainings and meetings on behalf of the city and BOAZ.

We also acknowledge with gratitude the pioneering work of Kimmy Cook whose love and dedication of the history of Bacon Creek has inspired all that have come afterward.

United States Congressman Brett Guthrie

Kentucky State Representative Michael Lee Meredith

Kentucky State Senator Carroll Gibson

The BOAZ Foundation

The Bacon Creek Historical Society

The Appalachian Regional Commission

Kentucky Department for Local Government – Tony Wilder, Commissioner

The Brushy Fork Institute – Donna Morgan, Director; Jane Higgins, Program Associate

Bonnieville Elementary School – Lori Chapman, Principal Hart County High School – Debbie Fowler, Principal; Burke Chenoweth, Assistant Principal

Virginia Davis, UK Cooperative Extension Service Barren River Area Development District

Attendees:

Floyd Ash	Rose Bostic
John Bourne	Clay Bryant
Jamie Bundren	Greg Burkott
Dayton Carby	Kenny Choate
Will Clauson	Kimmy Cook
Brenda Cottrell	Norman Cottrell
Paul W. Crafton	Virginia Davis
Elaine Digges	Jacob Edwards
Samantha Ervin	Chris Garmon
Renata Glass	Sharon Goldsmith
U.S. Rep. Brett Guthrie	Robin Hendren
Todd Hodges	Belinda Hodges
Jessica Hogan	Charles Jackson
Bryan Johnson	Don Johnson
Cindy Johnson	Vickie Johnson
Herb Key	Dewayne Kidd
Mark Lord	T. J. Lucas
Michael McFadden	Austin Priddy
Leo Reams	Megan Roe
Shawn Rogers	Brandy Rothgerber
Coni Shepperd	Brian D. Smith
Colby Smith	Jason Srygler
Annette L. Taylor	Cody Underwood
Lisa Upton	Jeffrey Walters
Theresa Walters	Linda Watts
Johnetta West	Duke White
Suellyn White	Sandra Wilson





The Life & Times of the People of Bonnieville













The Next Step on the Road to Independence City of Bonnieville Strategic Plan 2013

Created by the residents of Bonnieville, Kentucky with assistance from the Kentucky League of Cities