



**Community Listening Session
May 7, 2012**

What do we value about Dawson Springs?

Independent School System
Safety
Appearance of Community
Small size
No stoplight
Friendly
Central location
Pennyrile and Lake Beshear
Natural resources
Sense of community
History
Riverside Park
City park with pool
Industrial park
Good people
4-H camp
City services
Local churches
Adequate water supply
Post office
Library
Museum
Local medical clinic

Strengths of Dawson Springs:

People
Volunteers
Local clubs
Cooperative city employees
Progressive leadership
School system
History museum
Local paper
Location
Hometown of the governor
Pennyrile Forest
Low cost electric

Airport
I-69
Hiking trails
Reasonable property tax
Tradewater River
Railroad access
Coal severance
Recycling
Farming
Downtown
Service businesses
Farmers market
Dollar Store
Swimming pool
Churches
Grocery
Community center
DAPS (food bank)
Nursing homes (employs a lot of people)

Weaknesses:

Eroding tax base
Loss of work force
Waste water treatment facility
No money for economic dev
Lack of major employer
Ordinances in regards to housing, abandoned cars, business, etc.
Marketing
Dying population
No mall
Prices and competitive businesses
One chain restaurant
Roads need to be repaired
Lack of entertainment
Poor housing
Lack of maintained housing
Employment situation
Shopping
Not enough interested citizens
Lack of parking
No room for expansion
Cosmetics of the city
Not enough civic mindedness
Flood plain

We are in the southwest corner of green river tourism group; need to be in one more similar to us.

More directional and informational signs

Not a county seat

People don't know what we have, see the exit but don't stop

Need off season opportunities

Government housing does not add to tax base

Lack of young families staying; give them something to stay for

Limited public access to Lake Beshear

Opportunities:

Motels

Develop tourism

Lower cost of living

Low housing cost

Opportunity to be regional infrastructure provider

Revitalize downtown

Industrial park

Real estate

Annual barbeque

Vacant warehouses

Youth center

Renovate outdoor pool to indoor

Adult vocational education

Need available good housing

Rental properties

Assisted living facility

More restaurants and shopping

Advertising

Great school system

Expand medical services

Adventure tourism

Threats:

Attitudes

Regulations, federal and state

Absentee ownership

Loss of business

Non action or failure to change

Abandoned properties

Losing younger citizens

School closing

I don't care

Losing state park

Availability of funding

Enthusiasm

Flood plain
Entitlement issues
Have to do whatever we do inside set guidelines
Lack of young people involved
Need unity
Transient community
Need to look at zoning problems

What is the most important thing that needs to be done right now?

Jobs, industry, small business
Clean up of properties.
Beautify city
Rental homes
Need housing
Flood plain issue
Concentrate on a priority, clear direction
Marketing. let people know we are here
Update city website

Future:

Walk through shopping district, small business, have necessities, make us self sufficient
Continued clean up.
Enforce ordinances
Site development
Look for investors to start new business,(motels, restaurants,

Next meeting date: Monday, June 4th 7:00 p.m.

We will use maps, pictures, colors, markers, etc. to draw and visualize what we want Dawson Springs to look like.

Invite families, groups, anyone interested in making Dawson Springs better.

What did you learn tonight?

We have a lot of needs.
Most of us agree on what needs to be done.
We have lots of opportunity.
Lots of people care.
Combine assets.