



WELCOME!

**Community Listening and Design Session
City of Manchester
Monday, September 30, 2013
5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

What are the things that set Manchester apart from other cities or places?

- **The people**
- **Lots of green space**
- **Lots of growing space**
- **Beautiful nature**
- **Talented people**
- **Peaceful**
- **Safe community**
- **Great schools**
- **Lots of history**
- **Education of our kids – need to keep them here**
- **Its home**
- **We are poor/object of a lot of generosity with the right plan**
- **Great, hard workers, but a lot work out of town**
- **Blank slate with common purpose**

Strengths

- **Our park system**
- **Our belief in God – our faith is strong**
- **Safe communities**
- **When there is a disaster, we help each other, come together**
- **We don't have homeless, have somewhere to call home**

- Every school came up to the new standards, number 57 in state, great increase
- Education with HS, guidance councilors doing a great job
- We have lots of social events, get together often
- Passionate people
- Caring people, determined – don't bet against us

Weaknesses

- Lack of employment/jobs
- Absence of development in the downtown/social appeal/curb appeal
- Drugs
- Too many drug stores
- Lack of restaurants
- Under-utilized resources (no different than Pigeon Forge)
- Need stuff to do – recreation
- Not enough career opportunities
- Not enough volunteers for community work
- Poverty
- Community labeled as crooks/drug dealers
- Nothing for young people to do
- Ways and means for each person being able to contribute to the community
- Dilapidated houses
- Lack of water supply – need a new lake
- Lack of venture capital
- Good ol' boy network

Opportunities

- Kudzu – alternative heat source/business opportunity
- Rock – 7 civilizations represented – historic significance
- Use Appalachian culture to advantage/products/heritage/crafts/canning
- Parkway toward Big Creek-potential
- Promoting tourism – www.claycountykentucky.com - swinging bridge
- Trail town – hikers/bikers/horses/ATVs
- New folk life play – Monkey Dumplin'
- Old Langsford
- Salt Works – Civil War Battle Site – Col. Garrard buried in Clay County
- Made in Clay – 2nd Annual Showcase of local arts and crafts this Friday and Saturday
- What holds this community back? Critical mass/Start a reaction that renews itself
- Y-Hollow – hiking trails
- Need a BIGGEST and BEST! That would bring people to Manchester/Clay County
- 1100 undeveloped industrial park – What can we do to make that site reach critical mass? Build the biggest something on that road. Let's build the biggest monument in the world to something. 1000 foot tall statue of Jesus.
- Build a replica of the Ark/Dinosaur museum/Titanic museum

- **Sand at Bert T. Combs Lake. Make a beach.**
- **Carnivals at same time as Clay County Days**
- **Renovate factories/houses – like Lewisville**
- **Dinner train from Manchester to Barbourville**
- **Camp for Pioneers. Recreate history**
- **Rock with Christian/Greek/Hebrew inscriptions**
- **Clean up the old building that burned down in the downtown/maybe a picnic place**
- **Build a cross instead of Jesus**
- **Thursday Night Market – downtown shops open late/farmers bring in produce**

Threats

- **Lot of apathy and naysayers**
- **Naysayers**
- **Lack of organization**
- **Drugs**
- **Lack of economic diversity**
- **Too few people, charging too many**
- **Complacency**
- **When help is needed, can't find help**
- **Drinking and driving**
- **Lack of funding for great projects**
- **Great ideas in the past, but nothing happens...weakens our resolve**
- **Rumors that there are limits to new things – preventing/hindering the dream**

Design Session

Table #2

- **Building on Trail Town idea – focus on tourism**
- **Tourism focus**
- **Gateway signage**
- **Trails/challenge parks**
- **Build the local economy**
- **Surface water protection**
- **Public art/local crafts**

Table #7

- **Farmers Market – central location**
- **Attention to details in town – cleanup**
- **Putt-putt golf course**
- **Crafts**

Table #8

- **Local crafts and arts in downtown area**

- **Wildlife at Y Holler**
- **Bike trails**
- **Fix the swimming pool at the park**
- **Dog Run or Dog Park at one of the parks**
- **Improve Bridge Street**
- **Challenge Park**

Table #9

- **Develop Pioneer Village along the river/festival**
- **Trails/horseback riding/wildlife – incorporate salt works cabins and festival**
- **Farmers markets, bike lanes, fire pit at park for storytelling**
- **Virtual bulletin board for online conversations**
- **Involve high school students on boards and coalitions**
- **Shrubs/flowers/benches**
- **Teach crafts/trades to young people and visitors**
- **Swinging bridge tour**
- **Downtown – paint buildings, repair sidewalks, landscaping, lights**
- **Athletic fields on 1000 acres – Elk Hill project – 3 or 4 sports complexes**

Table #5 –

- **Challenge Park at Beach Creek**
- **Fresh food/Farmers market in Manchester Square**
- **Surface water protection**
- **Focus on young people**
- **Develop entrepreneurs/small businesses**
- **More activities for everyone**
- **Museum**

Table #6

- **Support local businesses – incorporate them in Clay County Days/Keep them open during festivals**
- **Public art/local crafts**
- **Focus on young people/kid-friendly parks/challenge parks**
- **Re-imagine downtown**

Table #10/12

- **Accentuate guided tours – listing markets, swinging bridge, promote businesses, promote nature, photo opportunities**
- **Gateway signage**
- **Surface water protection**
- **Public Market**
- **Small businesses/Entrepreneurship**
- **Arts**
- **Organized athletics – more opportunities**

Table # 11

- **Public market where people can buy goods, flowers, produce**
- **Keep improving the downtown**
- **Gateway entrances/signage**
- **Public art**
- **Tourist industry – fun things to do/good places to stay**

Table #4

- **Beautification of the downtown area**
- **Pick up litter**
- **Support Scott's big idea**
- **Active living/trails/outdoor activities/challenge park**
- **Local food/local business**
- **Tourism/crafts/art**
- **Small businesses**
- **Gateway signage**
- **Monument Park – 1100 acres – Statue of Jesus (or an iconic figure or symbol)**

Table #3

- **Renovate downtown Manchester**
- **Need parking downtown**
- **Want the entire county to benefit – Y Hollar opportunities**
- **Develop commercial properties**
- **Public market/local food**
- **Trails**
- **More housing/development**

Table #1

- **Assisted living facility – one of our #1 needs**
- **Renovate downtown**
- **Tourism economy**
- **Grocery store for North End**
- **Outdoor activities – Horseback riding, trails, wildlife**
- **Address the litter problem**