

HEALTHY COMMUNITY PLAN

Community/Team Name: ACT, Annandale Area Community Team

Geographic Area: City of Annandale and surrounding area

HCP Round/Years: Round 12, Feb. 2003 – Feb. 2005

Vision/Purpose Statement: Annandale, a great community getting better.

Project Focus:

ACT was formed for the sole purpose of positively impacting the Annandale area community by completing community improvement projects identified through community dialogue around make a great community better.

Priorities:

- To create a community center and other recreational facilities serving the needs of all ages. Completed a information brochure. Work with school facilities group on possible joint effort.
- To create new and improve existing trails throughout the community. Resubmitted grant to both federal transportation (TEA 3) and the DNR.
- To bring more cultural and artistic opportunities to the community. The Portable Performance Stage has been delivered to Annandale. A summer concert series is planned.
- Skateboard Location has been secured.

Follow Up Grants and Loans:

- MNDOT awarded them \$176,386 to develop a biking and walking trail along Hwy. 38 (2006)
- Received a grant for \$229,600 for the creation of the trail near Southbrook (April 2006)
- Secured Marketing and Planning Grant through the Initiative Foundation (Jan. 2005)
- Secured \$10,000 donation for the Portable Performance Stage from local family (Dec. 2004)
- Secured \$1,000 from local family to finalize our 501c3. (Dec. 2004)
- Secured \$1,000 from the Annandale Firefighters for the Heart of the Lakes Trails Committee

Key Accomplishments:

- Hosted community visioning session with over 150 citizens in attendance (Aug. 2003)
- Recruited, formed and trained task forces totaling 30 people to work on our priority areas.
- Raised funds and visually improved the business district by selling and displaying 59 decorative banners sponsored by local businesses.
- The new “Snooty Fox” Gallery opened (May 2004)
- Draft of a 501c3 complete (April 2005)
- Draft of Articles of Incorporation complete (April, 2005)
- Completed Community Center Brochure and Implemented large plant sale (April, 2005)
- Performance Stage arrive and Celebration of its arrival was held (March 2005)
- Secured location for Skateboard Park the Annandale School District. The City of Annandale has agreed to some funding for the Skateboard Equipment.
- Fund raising continues in all four areas (Skateboard Board Park, Community Center, Arts & Culture and Heart of the Lakes Trails). Held several fundraisers including Petals and Pallets Garden Crawl and Holiday Home Tours.
- Heart of the Lakes Trails plan completed. (Spring 2005)
- Plans to raise money to pay the \$44,000 local matching portions of the grant plus expansion costs (2006)
- Will raise another \$115,000 to help lengthen the path and build a rest stop (2006)
- The trail idea emerged from a visioning session conducted three years ago by the Annandale Area Community Team (2006)
- Hosted three years of Concerts in the Parks
- Created a plan for the community center through community surveying. Also hired an architect to develop a center design and worked with government officials on potential sites.

- Completed 501c3 and became independent in 2007.
- Explore Downtown, a new committee of ACT, has created a farmers market running every Saturday through October.
- New visioning session to take place on August 21, 2008.
- Working with city to secure land for trail; developed several “clubs” (biking, hiking, walking, skiing) to get people active.

Date Updated: September 19, 2008