

HEALTHY COMMUNITY PLAN

Team Name: Benton County 2014

Geographic Area: Benton County

HCP Round/Years: Round 13, September 2003 to September 2005

Priorities:

- Development of an updated Comprehensive Plan through the utilization of volunteer citizen groups, staff, consultants and considerable public hearings and review throughout the county.

Project Focus:

- The new comprehensive plan will integrate the input of the public received through the surveys, open houses, brainstorming session and the work of citizen task forces. County staff and consultants will be utilized to draft the plan which will then be presented to the public for review and adjustment before being voted on by the county commissioners.
- The priority areas to be reviewed are;
 1. Transportation
 2. Economic Development and Commercial/Industrial
 3. Rural Residential/Service Centers
 4. Agriculture
 5. Natural Resources/Environment/Parks and Trails
 6. Urban Transition

Follow Up Grants and Loans:

- \$1,500 for student interns to assist with the Comprehensive Plan update.
- \$5,000 to assist in Economic Development Strategies (Initiative Foundation)

Key Accomplishments:

- Conducted a community survey with a total of 277 being completed by residents
- Held multiple open houses where citizens could get information and share their ideas and concerns.
- Held a “Brainstorming Benton” event with 125 in attendance to identify assets, challenges and future goals.
- Organized 6 citizen task forces to review citizen input to identify issues review the current comprehensive plan and make recommendations of areas that need improvement in the plan. Recommendations to be complete as of September 15, 2004.
- Hired a consultant to compile and draft comprehensive plan based on the input from the six focus groups. Comprehensive Plan and map were approved (January 2006)
- Criteria- based zoning being developed.
- Grant to assist with three economic development strategies
 1. application for the Get BroadBand program
 2. Completion of a Retail Trade Analysis. The analysis will be presented in three or four cities within Benton County as well as the Small Store Success Strategies

presentation that compliments the analysis. A retail marketing plan will be developed afterwards.

3. The county is considering additional efforts to “Energize Entrepreneurs.”

Date Updated: July 7, 2006