

## **HEALTHY COMMUNITY PLAN**

**Team Name:** Benton County 2014  
**Geographic Area:** Benton County  
**HCP Round/Years:** Round 13, September 2003 – September 2005

### **Vision/Purpose Statement:**

Benton County is a growing balanced community of rural and urban residential environments. It is a healthy vibrant place to live that welcomes diversity, supports cultural activities, protects the natural environment, provides proactive human services and promotes responsible agricultural business practices. We have an integrated system, an excellent educational system and affordable housing opportunities. Government has listened to the people, respected the rights of individuals and implemented a comprehensive plan that has created the quality of life we all wanted for Benton County.

### **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:

- Transportation
- Economic Development and Commercial/Industrial
- Rural Residential/Service Centers
- Agriculture
- Natural Resources/Environment/Parks and Trails
- 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)
- \$1,500 - Shoreland Restoration at Bend in the River Park (HCP) (2006)

### **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 six 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:
  - Application for the Get BroadBand program.
  - 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.
  - The county is considering additional efforts to “Energize Entrepreneurs.”

**Date Updated:** September 18, 2008