

B. Public Input Summaries

Public input was a key factor in establishing the future vision for parks and recreation in Muhlenberg County. The community was offered a wide variety of methods to provide their input including:

1. Public Workshops
2. Stakeholder meeting
3. Random household survey
4. On-line and handout surveys available to all
5. Suggestions and comments through e-mail
6. Presentations of draft documents

This appendix provides the summaries of the public input meetings and stakeholder group interviews. In addition to these, e-mails were submitted by individuals with comments and suggestions.

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**PUBLIC WORKSHOP SUMMARY
MUHLENBERG COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN
GREENVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
PROJECT NO. 09105**

Met with: **Members of the Community (70)
Lindsey Ransdell, Felix E. Martin, Jr. Foundation
Wayne Bain**

By: **Patrick D. Hoagland, ASLA**

**BRANDSTETTER CARROLL INC.
ARCHITECTS ENGINEERS PLANNERS**

April 20, 2010

The meeting started with an introduction by Master Plan Steering Committee Chair, Lee Freeman who is also the Principal at Greenville Elementary School. This was followed by discussion led by Wayne Bain and Patrick Hoagland, which included the following questions:

1. Where do you currently go for parks and recreation activities and what do you do?

- Paradise Park for Picnic in the Park
- Land Between the Lakes and the Wrangler area for horse riding
- YMCA in Owensboro
- Central City Wellness Center
- Lake Malone for boating, fishing, and hiking
- Agriculture Center
- Central City and Greenville Park playgrounds
- Swim at the city parks in both Greenville and Central City
- Skateboarding in Louisville, Bowling Green, and Owensboro
- Henderson Waterfront Park
- Bryan Lake for horse riding and camping
- Elementary school playgrounds, gyms, and tennis courts
- Rail Trail for walking and biking
- Churches throughout the County and the Upward Athletic Programs
- Country clubs in Greenville and Central City for golf, swimming and tennis
- Parks in Drakesboro
- Gish Park in Central City
- Disc golf in Bowling Green
- Beech Bend Park in Bowling Green
- Mammoth Cave for horse riding
- Pennyrile and Barren River State Parks for horse riding
- Ohio County for horse shows
- Owensboro at the indoor playseum for indoor play
- Owensboro ice rink
- Tradewater for kayaking
- Waterpark in Eddyville
- Baseball fields throughout the county
- Soccer fields behind Longest Elementary School

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2. What do you like about parks and recreation opportunities throughout the area?

- Agricultural Center, which is large enough and safe for activities
- Wranglers for the trails, which is family oriented, provides for diverse age groups, nice restrooms and shower buildings
- Playseum in Owensboro, which is a good activity in inclement weather
- Parks that are drug free
- Most parks are well lit, supervised, and maintained in other communities
- The Rail Trail is well used
- The nature and beauty of the county
- The variety of activities
- The convenience and social atmosphere of parks
- Paradise Park for the music history, coal history, playgrounds, and the fact that there are no neighbors
- The Fun Shows in Ohio County, which allows the horse drill teams to practice and have fun
- Kentucky Dam Village for various activities and camping

3. What is missing from parks and recreation opportunities in Muhlenberg County?

- The drill team practice facility and family riding area at the Agriculture Center limits them to only one practice a week and they are often pushed out by other events and activities held there. The same is true for the therapeutic riding program for the handicapped.
- The old playgrounds are unsafe and lack of safety surface
- Park conditions. There are a lot of old facilities that are not maintained.
- There is nothing for children with special needs to do
- Activities for gifted children are needed
- Accessibility– kids cannot get to the parks very easily
- Need convenient parks throughout the County
- Lack of transportation is a problem
- 14 facilities on the list of where people currently go are outside of the County and this is true for many of the activities
- Need a park in the Drakesboro area that provides for all of the needs
- Need a park in the Ennis area
- Need swim lessons
- In Gish Park, the ditch is a problem, and the old swings and facilities need to be upgraded
- Need the parks in the county listed on the web site. Most parks identified for the county are the state parks or outside of the county
- Need trails
- Need skateparks
- Need large multipurpose parks
- Need an ATV trail park
- Need an area for 16-18 year olds with horse shoes, corn hole, volleyball, dancing, arcade, karaoke, ladder golf, laser tag, paint ball, and archery. These items were identified in a survey of the youth.
- Need baseball and sports complex.
- Need a driving range
- Need a shooting sports range

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4. What is your vision for the future of parks and recreation in Muhlenberg County? This should pertain to facilities, activities, parks and recreation department, etc.
- A covered arena and meeting space for horse shows, this could also provide income to the county. Therapeutic riding could also be held there.
 - Horse trails
 - Affordable fees for programs and activities
 - One park for all in the Drakesboro area or a more centralized park that has easier access to all residents.
 - Park in the Cleaton area
 - The playgrounds are all accessible and safe
 - Keep the money from the activities in the county rather than having to drive outside of the county all of the time.
 - Continue the strong bond with the Board of Education
 - Provide transportation to activities, possibly pool vehicle resources from the schools, churches, and other organizations to provide access to facilities
 - Need a coordinated and efficient approach to develop a parks and recreation program and system.
 - 3-4 park complexes in the county
 - A park system that is sustainable
 - Need a parks director to coordinate the programs, facilities, maintenance, and activities.
 - Need to develop a facility similar to Wranglers that has horse trails, ATV trails, and camping. This would provide revenue and jobs in the county.
 - Provide jobs for young people and mentoring
 - Quality volunteers for programs and activities
 - Programs should be geared towards building character and values in the youth.
 - Expand the Rail Trail and also provide some trails along roads to connect the cities. Should extend the trail into Drakesboro and Dunmor.
 - Provide better lighting, parking, restrooms, and picnic facilities throughout the county.
 - Develop an amphitheater for outdoor activities
 - Provide teen activities in Paradise Park
 - Provide continuing opportunities for feed back, such as this meeting, beyond the master plan process.
 - Develop a skatepark
 - Develop spraygrounds
 - Develop a bowling alley
 - A dog park should be developed
 - Shooting and archery park
 - The parks are well built, well lighted, have easy access, and are well maintained. They are convenient, county-wide, and all are handicap accessible.

It was then discussed that this process will be used as one of the many forms of public participation and input. Another public meeting will be held after the completion of the surveys and the overall input process to see if there are any additional items that need to be included before the Project Team starts to develop potential solutions and recommendations.

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STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING SUMMARIES MUHLENBERG COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN PROJECT NO. 09105

By: Patrick D. Hoagland, ASLA & Wayne Bain, CPRP

**BRANDSTETTER CARROLL INC.
ARCHITECTS ENGINEERS PLANNERS**

March 17, 2010

The following stakeholder groups and discussions were held on March 17, April 19 and 20, and June 28, 2010. They were facilitated by Patrick D. Hoagland and Wayne Bain. Lindsey Ransdell of the Flex E. Martin Jr. Foundation attended most of the sessions. Many sessions were conducted with all three present, and in some cases two sessions were held at the same time, in which case Mr. Hoagland and Mr. Bain split up. The following are the summaries of each individual group and those that were in attendance.

Tae Kwon Do

Met with: Ron Poole, Jim Johnson, Gail Johnson, Brandon Edwards, Shannon Jackson, Robbie Davis, Kristie Jenkins

Discussion Items:

1. This organization has been active since 1973 with a current studio located in downtown Central City, down the street from City Hall.
2. The age range is from 6-55 years old and there are currently 35 students.
3. The fees are \$40 per month, which is much less than other studios in this part of the state.
4. The members are really one large family.
5. They hold the students accountable for their activities and actions outside of the studio.
6. The program teaches strictly self defense.
7. This follows a 2,400 year old creed that guides their activities.
8. They teach restraint in any kind of altercation
9. The overall program builds confidence.
10. They currently have one room for a little over 30 students in about a 50'X100' space and they have five classes per week now.
11. The Pennyroyal Center refers some students to this program as a youth development activity. There are also references to this included in the parenting classes as a resource.
12. Bullying is a problem in the schools.

Vision for the Future:

1. All kids in the county would try Tae Kwon Do as a program that would be through the schools.
2. They need more advertising to get more people involved in the program.
3. Transportation is an issue for them and would be ideal if some type of transportation could be provided.
4. A bigger facility would allow them to hold more classes.
5. They need several other good programs throughout the county which provide good role models for the youth.
6. All coaches in all activities throughout the county need training to be accountable for their activities and to serve as positive role models. They think that if this is the case, then more people would coach.
7. "Honor Above Victory" programs would be ideal.

Basketball

Representing Junior Pro Basketball and Intramural Basketball

Met with: Tim Carver, Greenville Junior Pro Basketball
 Tommy Drury, Longest Junior Pro Basketball
 Shannon Combs, Central City Junior Pro Basketball
 Brian McElwain, Bremen County Junior Pro Basketball
 Sam Sparks, Muhlenberg County High School (East Campus)
 Bruce and Wanda Cornelius, Muhlenberg County High School (East Campus)
 Seth Cornelius, Muhlenberg County High School (East Campus)
 Jacob Cornelius, Muhlenberg County High School (East Campus)

Discussion Items:

1. Junior Pro Basketball

- a. Junior Pro Basketball uses the five elementary schools throughout the county. The following is the table which identifies the location, number of participants.

School	Basketball Players	Cheerleaders	Fee
Greenville Elementary	150	35	\$45
Longest Elementary	180	20	\$25
Central City Elementary	130	30	\$35
Bremen Elementary	120	0	\$30
Muhlenberg County South	150	35	\$25-\$30

- b. The groups have teams for four year olds through fifth and sixth grade, and most of them use the gyms four nights per week and on Saturdays.
- c. The fees range from \$25 - \$45.

2. Intramural Program

- a. The Intramural Program is for sixth grades through high school seniors with leagues for sixth to eighth graders, and ninth to twelfth graders. They have approximately 82 youth involved in the program and it is growing.
- b. The School Board has been very helpful in funding for some of their activities.
- c. The Intramural Program charges \$1 for spectators to attend each session. Player fees are \$35.
- d. They primarily use the Muhlenberg South Middle School on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. It is difficult to use the high school.
- e. The program started seven years ago.
- f. They will be going to all Saturdays in the future.

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- g. Additional gym time would be ideal for practices.
3. It costs \$200 to rent the Central City Convention Center gym.
4. There is also a need for adult facilities and a facility similar to Hoops in Louisville would be ideal, but this is very costly to operate and the owners are currently having financial problems.
5. There is also a need for an indoor training facility.
6. There is currently no place for potential AAU teams to play in the area.
7. Basketball camp locations are also needed.
8. The groups need funding for their future activities.
9. With limited practice times, once the season starts, there is no time for practices.

Vision for the Future:

1. An overall park similar to Mike Miller Park in Marshall County, which provides for multiple activities.
2. They need more coaches and quality volunteers.
3. They need an indoor facility for youth programs, church programs, bands, and other activities.
4. If additional gym space is built it would eliminate issues, especially since schools can cancel the use of a gym for school functions.

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Swimming

Met with: Brad Sparks, High School Swimming Coach; Donna Bilboro, High School Head Coach; Mitch Clark, SKY Swimming of Southern Kentucky of Bowling Green

Discussion Items:

1. The High School has about 27 swimmers. At one time, the high school had approximately 40 swimmers. They have swim practice during the season four days a week right after school at the Central City Convention Center. They try to limit their use to three of the six lanes. A bus brings the students from schools to the center for practice, but parents pick them up.
2. SKY Swimming has about 30 swimmers and they use the Central City Convention Center for their practices after the high school finishes four days a week. There is some overlap in the two groups. At times there is no one else in the pool and they expand into more than the three lanes.
3. The high school pays \$8,000 per year to use the pool. When they were going to Ohio County they were charged \$3.00 per head. SKY Swimming pays about \$5,100 per year for rental of the pool. These rates are higher than in other communities.
4. The Greenville Country Club had a swim team.
5. Currently, they do not know of any swim lessons being held at the Central City Convention Center, but believe they are planning on developing some.
6. It was noted that if there is no outdoor pool in Central City then it would be difficult for a lot of the kids that walk to the pool to swim. This was mentioned in the discussion of a potential aquatic center that would be centrally located. The same situation applies to Greenville for the kids that walk to that pool as well.
7. The seniors and others that use the Central City indoor pool would like the temperatures warmer than allowed for high school competitions with a maximum of eighty two degrees. This is sometimes an issue and a problem for the swimmers that are exerting a lot of energy. There have also been problems with the mixture of chemicals in the pool that have not been solved since it is a fairly new facility. They also need to empty the small warm water pool about once a week because it turns green and have not gotten the chemicals right in that area yet.
8. There is not much for the kids in the community to do. There is no bowling alley that is open regularly and a roller skating rink that is open sometimes. There is a theater in Central City, but they do not have any discounts for students making it difficult for people to afford it.
9. There is a problem with children without parents attending the indoor pool, which are not allowed, so this would not ever take the place of the Central City outdoor pool.
10. Parking is a problem at peak times at the Central City Convention Center. It becomes very full and the parking near the Convention Center side of the facility is far from the entrance making it difficult to access the fitness area.

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11. There were discussions of possible YMCA program after school in the pool and this could be a problem because the high schools need it right after school for their practices.

Vision for the future:

1. Use the theater in Greenville when it is not used for productions for the kids.
2. Provide summer volleyball programs.
3. Develop a skatepark.
4. Develop a rock climbing wall.
5. Provide scholarships for SKY swimming because they pay about \$70 per year to USA Swimming for insurance.

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Baseball and Softball

Met with: **Eddie Louis, Bremen Little League**
 Mark Stone, Central City Little League
 Tracy Hope, Beechmont Little League

Discussion Items:

1. There are four little leagues in the county including Bremen, Central City, Beechmont, and Greenville.

Each group had the following number of teams:

Central City	11-12 year old team	(1)	Bremen	11-12 year old	(2)
	9-10 year old team	(2)		9-10 year old team	(1)
Greenville	11-12 year old team	(4)		T-ball	(6)
	9-10 year old team	(2)		Rookie League	(4)
	T-ball	(10)	Beechmont	11-12 year old	(1)
	Rookie League	(1)		9-10 year old team	(1)
				T-ball	(5)
				Rookie League	(3)

2. T-ball is for 4-6 year olds and Rookie League is for 6-8 year olds with a pitching machine.
3. There have been no Babe Ruth teams in the county since 2003, which is when the Greenville field was stopped being used.
4. Currently, there are seven 9-10 year old teams and six 11-12 year old teams for a total of thirteen teams. Twenty years ago there were 35-40 teams.
5. There are also three other Little League age traveling teams that have recently been started in the county.
6. Bremen will lose its fields when they develop a new school on the site, and will probably be without fields for approximately four years.
7. Beechmont plays at Southern Elementary School and the field behind the Fire Department, which was rebuilt approximately four years ago. There is a terrible sun problem at Beechmont, which they have to take a half hour break when it is sundown.
8. Bremen has two Little League fields and one t-ball field, which are not in great shape.
9. The church leagues handle all of the adult softball leagues in the county, which is mostly co-ed.
10. The leagues maintain all of the fields.
11. All of the fields that are currently being used are dirt infields.
12. There are co-ed slow pitch teams through the churches for kids and adults with about 17 teams.

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Vision for the future:

1. A complex with at least four fields for 9-12 year olds and one Babe Ruth sized field. The field should plan for the lengthening of the fences to 225'. The complex would also have batting cages.
2. Ideally, there would be an indoor batting and pitching area build, which would be about 60'x80' with four batting cages and four pitching mounds.
3. These groups have already discussed the possibility of merging into one Little League within the last year. They are already combining there All-Star teams into one group for tournament play.

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Tennis

Discussion Items:

1. There is currently not a tennis organization and there needs to be one.
2. There are four courts in Greenville and eight at the high school, but there are none in Central City with the exception of the two old courts at Central City Park that are in very poor condition.
3. There is no central location for tennis.
4. There are no indoor courts available and need to travel one hour to Bowling Green, Clarksville, or Hopkinsville for indoor tennis.
5. Need indoor courts to help the middle and high school programs.
6. An indoor facility could have a multi-use surface.
7. Need restrooms near the tennis courts.
8. Ideally, there would be a facility adjacent to the Central City Convention Center with indoor courts to compliment uses inside the building.
9. A twelve court complex would be ideal with six courts being indoor so they could host USTA tournaments.
10. Tennis courts could help draw industry into the community.
11. With a quantity of courts, especially some indoor courts, you could host camps and help fill the hotels.
12. There are tennis leagues in the summer.
13. There is one racquet ball court at the Central City Wellness Center and it is very hard to get a racquet ball court.
14. Volleyball is rising very quickly in the community.

Vision for the future:

1. Develop an indoor facility with multiple use courts, which would be a draw to the community.
2. A bubble over tennis courts could also be developed as a way to have some indoor courts.
3. A skatepark is needed in the community.
4. More nature areas are needed.
5. A dog park is needed.
6. Fifteen acres near the airport could be used for the development of some of these facilities.
7. Twin Oakes, an abandoned 18 hole golf course located at the end of the Bypass, could potentially be used for parks

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Soccer

Met with: Reverend Ray England, Josh Smith, Robert Schmidt, Steve Wells, Wayne Bain

Discussion Items:

1. The Second Baptist Church runs the Upward Sports Soccer Program that includes 100 youth from the ages of five years old to the fifth grade.
2. The Muhlenberg County Youth Soccer Program averages 280-380 youth from the ages of five to fourteen years of age on an annual basis.
3. Both organizations use the property (soccer fields) behind the Board of Education building.
4. The current fields are good, however, they do have drainage issues.
5. They conduct their programs currently on five fields, however, there is room for seven fields.
6. The Church hosts a spring program and the Muhlenberg County teams conduct a fall program (mid August – October 1).
7. The current fields do not have lights.
8. They re-sod or seed areas that have been stripped of grass due to extensive use or drainage problems.
9. The Muhlenberg Soccer Program built a building on the property they use as a concession and storage facility. There is room for restrooms, but they do not currently exist.
10. Both teams use the portable toilets.
11. Hopkins County is building new soccer fields.
12. There is a concern how long the property behind the school administration building will be available. It may be used in the future for expansion of the schools.
13. There is a Bremen League that has 180 youth playing.

Vision for the future:

1. Number one priority for the current fields is a PA system.
2. If a new complex was built in a centralized location, 6-7 fields would be needed at most. They would consist of a minimum of two large U-14 fields, 2 U-11 fields, and 2 U-8 fields.
3. There would be a need for a centralized snack bar and restroom building to be used by the two soccer organizations.
4. This would still allow them to use the current fields as practice as long as they are available and save the new fields primarily for games and tournaments.
5. The new fields would create an economic value to the County when hosting tournaments to outside groups.
6. There is a future need for flag football fields for the upward program.

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Muhlenberg County Junior Pro Football Coordinator

Met with: Charles (Chuck) Chaney, Coordinator
Lindsey Ransdell, Felix Martin Foundation
Wayne Bain, Brandstetter Carroll, Inc.

Discussion Items:

1. Youth football started in the year 2000 with 16 kids. One side of the community versus the other side.
2. In 2006-2007 the two High School coaches got together to develop one youth football (sports) program to eliminate north versus south.
3. Chuck began working in the program 4 years ago and has been in charge of the Junior Pro Group the last 2 years.
4. In 2008 – 100 kids
In 2009 – 140 kids
In 2010 – Expect 140-180 kids
5. Ages 6-7-8 year olds – Flag Football
Ages 9-10 year olds – Junior Varsity
Ages 11-12 year olds – Varsity
6. The season: August 10th begin practice, play 8 games per season, play 2 tournament games.
7. The teams practice and play on the North Middle School Football Field. The Middle School also uses the field for practice with 45-50 kids and plays their home games at the South Middle School.
8. The High School practices at the East Campus but play games at the South Middle School.
9. Fees: Organization has only charged \$35 per player prior to 2010. In 2010 fees may be \$45 per player. This includes uniforms, pads, helmets, etc. It costs \$150 per child to outfit them.
10. Extra revenue comes in from fence advertising and some fund raising.
11. If numbers continue to grow they will eventually need two fields.
12. Received a \$10,000.00 grant from The Felix Martin Foundation to purchase a football sled and a storage building.

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Vision for the Future:

1. Would like to see a building designed with locker rooms, restrooms and laundry rooms (to wash and dry uniforms).
2. Would like to develop one good youth football field to play games on only and develop practice fields.
3. Develop a synthetic turf multipurpose field.
4. Community needs a major Family Aquatics Facility.

Muhlenberg County NAACP

Group One

Met with: Annie Bard, George Baker, Reverend Samuel Harris

Discussion Items:

1. They would like to see updated play equipment at the parks.
2. Better maintenance of the parks is needed.
3. Restrooms are needed in the parks.
4. Gish Park in Central City had a drinking fountain at one time, but it has been removed. The NAACP used to host basketball games at Gish Park and would bring portable restrooms for this activity.
5. Their organization meets monthly at the Wesley Chapel Church. They have approximately 55 members.
6. Another need for the kids in the County is a recreation center that would provide a place for kids Friday nights and weekends.
7. There is a need for senior activities, especially since there are active seniors in the community.
8. Programs for life skills for children such as cooking, sewing, and similar activities are needed.
9. More activities for kids to do after school are needed.
10. J. Reynolds ran the basketball program at Gish Park.
11. Smaller parks and facilities are needed throughout the County to provide easy access.
12. There will need to be at least two large parks to adequately serve the County if the small parks are not developed.
13. They liked the idea of one central park, which would help bring the County together.

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Group Two

Met with: James Hawkins, outgoing President
Archie Johnson, Jr., First Vice President

Discussion Items:

1. Gish Park is used since this park is close to their neighborhood. This park needs to be upgraded. More activities are needed for the kids. The park could possibly expand into the adjacent lot. There have been problems with drugs in the park, and snakes in the ditch. Therefore, they would like to see the ditch piped if possible. The playground needs to be expanded at this park.
2. Jobs are another major need for the community. People have been moving out of the community because they cannot find jobs in this area.
3. A recreation center is needed.
4. More senior activities are needed to provide social opportunities.
5. Outdoor concerts are provided in the area at the Veterans Plaza in Greenville, but residents feel the venue for the concerts is too small and sometime were turned away by the large crowds and have a difficult time finding a place to park. Therefore, a larger amphitheater venue would be ideal.

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Rotary and Lions Club

Met with: **Approximately 23 people from the combined Clubs
Lindsey Ransdell, Martin Foundation**

Discussion Items:

1. Many of the participants use the following parks:
 - Rails to Trails
 - Central City Park
 - Gish Park
 - Morgan Park
 - State Parks
2. Maintaining parks and recreation facilities is a major issue with the groups. If we build a facility, we must be able to sustain and maintain it.
3. The County has run out of coal severance money to build facilities.
4. The Jimmy Rogers Park never happened after the Wellness Center was built. It was to be between Central City and Powderly fronting on the bypass.
5. The Rogers property is centrally located in the community next to the bypass. This would be an excellent location for a county facility. Mr. Rogers may be generous if contacted about the property and its use.
6. Hunting and fishing has been popular in the community. We should promote this for additional tourism in our County.
7. The fitness room and gym have been used to their maximum since the Fitness Center was built.
8. An area for smaller kids to play basketball is wanted.
9. The Martin Foundation will put funds into recreation. However, will not be the sole funder of facilities.

Vision for the future:

1. Need a baseball complex in one location with trails and picnic area. This would be good for tourism.
2. Increase the diversity in the parks. Develop a central location with numerous activities. Do not duplicate services.
3. Need to develop trails for ATV's and trails for horses.
4. We have a need for a skatepark. We are raising funds to build a skatepark, however, we would like to see how this study goes and a recommended location.
5. A basketball sports complex is needed.

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6. We like golf and there is a course available in the community.
7. We could use covered grandstands at the ballparks. It would be a positive addition.
8. We are a coal mining county. We could provide a place that could stimulate the days of coal mining with hazards, water, and the feeling of being deep in a mountain. This could be an attraction like Disney and provide tourism in the County.

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Senior Citizens

Met with: Nine individuals including Carolyn Fleming, Mary Rainwaters, Dorothy Swain, Deborah Boyd, Jeannette Tinsley, Ken Mayhugh, Delilah Bush

Discussion Items:

1. The representatives were from the Fun Over Forty group, which is a group that is a Drakesboro based social club. About 20 members attend each meeting where they provide entertainment and food.
2. This group uses Four Legends Park or also called Mose Rager Park in Drakeboro.
3. There is also another park in Drakesboro behind the City building at Frazer Street and Simmons and Buffalo Streets across from the Baptist Church.
4. An individual stated that they use Gish Park.
5. A representative from the Senior Citizen's Center and the RSVP program was also present. The Senior Citizens Center is operated by the Pennyrile Allied and Community Services (PACS). The programming includes the Meals on Wheels, and other RSVP programs, such as tax assistance programs and others. They have over 55 volunteers that help with some of their programs. They would like to give more funding for mileage for the volunteers. Other needs include: computers for the tax program and funding to provide opportunities for more people to take advantage of the Meals on Wheels programs.
6. The organizations provide senior games, dances, karaoke, bingo, gospel, bible study. They need an enlarged center to provide more activities.
7. Another major need for the community is transportation for seniors. Many of them cannot drive and need better access.
8. For many seniors, loneliness is an issue and they need some companionship and others to spend time with.
9. Some of the Meals on Wheels volunteers check on seniors.
10. Seniors are more active in the community than before.
11. A wellness center in the Drakesboro area would be ideal.
12. Merle Travis Center should be more user friendly.
13. The Fun Over Forty group pays to use the Community Center.

Vision for the future:

1. A place for concerts, gospel music and other activities is needed.
2. Need a trail near the Senior Center.
3. Need an indoor walking track.

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4. Need an outside walking track in the Drakesboro area that would connect to wider sidewalks.
5. The Fun Over Forty group has to pay to use the Community Center.
6. More parks are needed for kids in Drakesboro. They have parks, but there is not a lot of equipment for the kids.
7. Need a trail to connect the Everly Brother sites, Senior Citizens Center, and Paradise Park.

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Girl Scouts

Met with: Irma Goff, Co-Service Manager and Media Aid
Debbie Melton, Service Unit Manager

Discussion Items:

1. Girl Scouts have programs for girls from kindergarten through high school seniors.
2. Their numbers have ranged between 160 – 200 girls, and there are currently 176 in the program.
3. There are 65 adult volunteers involved in the program.
4. There are 21 troops in the County including a troop in every school.
5. This is the only county that does a "Silver Tea" program.
6. There is concern that there are not enough volunteers or transportation available for activities.
7. Because of the need for transportation, they have had to turn away about 75 girls.
8. A lot of the children in the area are raised by single parents or grandparents.
9. Many people cannot walk to school which also makes it difficult.
10. They had grants to pay for some of the girls to pay their dues and activity fees.
11. Funding comes from Family and Community Partnership.
12. The girls currently go to camps on the Ohio/Daviess County line, which is Camp Pennyrile, located on Highway 231.
13. All camps would have to meet Council criteria.
14. They meet in the schools, churches, and homes.
15. The program for kids in the summer, such as day camps.

Vision for the Future:

1. Need more nature trails with interpretive markers.
2. Need covered shelters with electricity.
3. Need a bridge for the bridging ceremony.
4. A centrally located flag pole for practice raising the flag.
5. Need canoeing and fishing locations.

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6. Need more than one park throughout the county.
7. Need an area for family and church picnics, trails, etc,
8. Need spray parks
9. Need areas with concession stands to make an ideal park

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Boy Scouts

Met with: Todd Stiles, Troop 40
John Rogers, Troop 40
Johnathan Rogers, Troop 40
Brent Lear, Pack 40
Ron Dozier and Tammy Dozier, Troop 241

Discussion Items:

1. Troop 40 has about 25 Boy Scouts, Pack 40 has about 36 Cub Scouts, Troop 241 has about 12-15 Boy Scouts, and Cub Scout Pack 281 has about 25 scouts.
2. Troop 241 and Pack 281 are in Central City and Troop/Pack 40 are in Greenville.
3. Troops in Central City and Greenville each have a scout house, which is very rare especially for both of them to have one. It takes a major effort on both of their parts to raise the funds for the maintenance and operation of utilities for these building.
4. It was noted that any programs that help youth would help kids in general and the scouts, since so many scouts are involved in other activities.
5. One of the things that is needed in the community is a soccer complex.
6. The Boy Scouts will begin to require that the leaders be in shape to provide a good example for the youth to maintain a healthy lifestyle.
7. The Greenville Scout House was built in the late 1940's.
8. Camp Tomama is a camp where they go on the weekends sometimes.
9. It was noted that they do not get much support from the Shawnee Trails Council for recruiting or other activities.
10. Wildcat Hollow Camp of the Shawnee Trails Council has had a lot of the timber removed and is degrading. They prefer to go to Camp Boxwell in the Nashville area, which is a much better camp and provides more opportunities for badges.
11. The Brizendine Nature Park is a source of Eagle projects and will be for several years. Several trails need to be cut, benches need to be installed, etc. This is approximately 11 acres. The area needs to be cleared out beneath the trees that are down.
12. Cub scouts are only allowed to have one long term camp for one week and one weekend camp per year. The weekend camp can last no longer than 72 hours.
13. They do not need approval for facilities for the shorter duration camps, but would need tents. The longer term camps need Council approval.
14. There are two Troops and three to four Packs in the county with a possible new troop being formed in the Bremen area. The pack in Beechmont has about 40 members.
15. The cost is about \$450 - \$500 per year per scouts for the various equipment, books, and supplies that are needed by the organization.

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16. It was noted that John Rogers was in attendance who is a Land Agent for Rogers Brothers and it may be possible to discuss a development of some of the land that Rogers Brothers owns that is reclaimed coal mined land for some of these activities, such as ATV trails, horse trails, etc.

17. The community needs more help and wellness oriented programs and facilities.

Vision for the Future:

1. Ideally, they would be able to get about four acres somewhere in the county including possibly at the Wendell Ford Center, so they could have camping at that site when needed.
2. An orienteering area is needed, which would be a consistent location.
3. Ideally, they would be able to get scholarships for some of their scouts attending summer camps.

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City of Central City

Met with: David Rhoades, Central City City Manager

Discussion Items:

1. The existing swimming pool has about a \$21,500 operating cost and about \$8,500 in income. They charge \$2 per person for attendance to the pool. It is \$50 to join the Morning Club.
2. They probably will not open the pool this summer due to the poor condition of the pool and the leaks.
3. The pool was built in 1936 through the WPA program.
4. They felt that if only a swimming pool is provided in the Powderly area that it may not work for Central City residents since they have a hard time getting there. We did talk about the possibility of providing a sprayground in Central City and this may appease some of the residents if a larger family aquatic center was built between Central City and Greenville.
5. The pool gets about 75-100 people per day and it was open from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
6. The maintenance of the park is performed by their Street Department, and there is no separate budget for the parks.
7. Gish Park has nine year old play equipment that has been there for a while.
8. The City previously had a philosophy that no city tax dollars would go towards improvements in the parks, and only grant money and outside sources would be used.
9. The City owns a lot of the land around the Community College, which could be made available for parks and recreation activities and programs.
10. The City does own the former building location which is now the stage area in downtown Central City, but not all of the land around it.
11. The larger programs which bring people to the community include Cruising and Gospel Weekend, which bring thousands of people to the area. These events require a lot of overtime by City workers.
12. A fire in 2001 demolished a whole block of buildings and that is why there is an open space in the downtown area.
13. The Wellness Center is doing very well and they had about 12,000 users in the month of February, which is beyond their earlier expectations.
14. The City is in the process of purchasing land adjacent to the Wellness Center for expansion of parking, and access from Fourth Street over to the current parking lot behind the Center. They are also buying the land across Sixth Street. This will extend all the way back to the Bypass. They are also considering the possibility of extending Fourth Street to the Bypass area, but it would require bridging and going through some rough terrain.

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15. Part of the idea of developing additional facilities around the Convention Center is that the tourism fund can be used at this location. The City takes in about \$32,000 per month for the restaurant tax and about \$25,000 of that goes towards the mortgage on the Convention Center.
16. Some council members may be against the idea of consolidating parks and recreation throughout the county.
17. The 3% restaurant tax generates about \$409,000 per year, and the alcohol sales, which is used for public safety, generates about \$161,000 per year.
18. We discussed the need for additional indoor gymnasium space in the community. Mr. Rhoades stated that if this could be placed at the Convention Center site then further support for activities are possible and could possibly allow the use of some of the restaurant tax funds for the development.

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County Judge Executive

Met with: Rick Newman, County Judge Executive

Discussion Items:

1. The Dunmor Trail was completed yesterday with asphalt paving. There are also some additional improvements to be done at this site.
2. The Wier ballfield area is about 75% complete with new improvements including black top trails, refurbishing the field, fencing on the field, redoing the restrooms, pavilion with picnic tables, and the new basketball courts. The pavilion will go on the location of the old tennis courts, which there is not a need for new tennis courts. Lindsey Ransdell and Pat Hoagland visited the site afterwards and noted that the fencing on the ballfields is in place, the black top for the parking lot and basketball court is accomplished, and the aggregate base for the trail is in place. The residents in the area stated that they would help take care of this facility.
3. In Bremen, they plan to develop a half mile paved trail around the Community Center and the playground area.
4. They are using coal severance funds for these activities and improvements.
5. They will be adding a toddler's play area at Powderly Park.
6. At the Ennis Community Center, they will be doing some repair work on the building, which is an old church.
7. At the Dunmor ball field, they will be improving the building.
8. In the South Carrollton area, they will be developing sidewalks on Route 431.
9. I asked about the Midland ball field and it was stated that there was no interest in doing additional work at this field.
10. In the South Carrollton area, Judge Newman hopes to develop an additional boat ramp and parking lot area.
11. The County currently spends about \$80,000 - \$100,000 per year for youth services, plus coal severance funds. They currently get about \$800,000 per year to \$1 million in these funds and could double that next year and for the next several years.
12. \$750,000 goes to pay for debt retirement for the courthouse and 911 centers, which will be paid off in about eight years. After the debt retirement, additional funds could be allocated to parks and recreation.

Vision for the Future:

1. Provide a long term commitment from the Fiscal Court to develop a county-wide parks and recreation agency along with providing a board, which has input from the six incorporated communities.
2. The two major players in the management of the new parks and recreation department will be the county and the Martin Foundation, however, there must be ties to the six incorporated communities.

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School Principals

Met with: Brent Hardison, Longest Elementary School
Rick Carver, Bremen Elementary School
Matt Perkins, Muhlenberg County High School
Lee Freeman, Greenville Elementary School
Mary Ann Payton, Central City Elementary School
Debbie Houghland, Assistant Superintendent

Discussion Items:

1. They often see walkers and people riding bikes in the parking lot at the East Campus.
2. The playgrounds are heavily used.
3. There is very little negative use at the playgrounds, but there has been some vandalism.
4. The Rail Trail is heavily used, especially in the more visible areas.
5. At Longest Elementary, a walking trail is needed around the athletic fields with picnic shelters, which could be used as an outdoor classroom area.
6. It was suggested to have the fourth graders involved in a Learn to Swim Program at the Central City Wellness Center.
7. It is difficult to get quality volunteers with the Little Leagues, and the quality of some of their maintenance varies due to the change with the volunteer leaders.
8. Do not compete with the Central City Wellness Center.
9. Some of the school gyms are used by AAU, Special Olympics, and Junior Pro Basketball. They prefer not to rent them out to groups that just want to have open basketball, but would be willing to open it up for use by a recreation department that had organized use of the facility. They would also be willing to open up the computer labs to use by the community.
10. Three of the schools have daycare activities at the schools with 75-80 kids in each program, which goes all the way down to three and four year olds.
11. Go kart track near the Convention and Ag Center is needed.
12. Horse and four wheel ATV trails are needed around the County. There are several horses within the County that could utilize the facility.
13. More places are needed for programs, such as the Taste of Muhlenberg, the Relay for Life, car shows and others. Some of these programs are using gyms, which is not an appropriate space.
14. A venue for events for people is needed.
15. Rock climbing is growing and they would like to see more of that available in the County.

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Vision for the future:

1. Develop the land along the bypass near the Rail Trail on some of the reclaimed mine land with a skatepark, aquatic center, sports complex with four fields, and other activities.
2. A recreation center with classrooms is developed.
3. A youth football field for the community is developed.
4. Provide some YMCA type programming in the parks, as well as summer camps.
5. Soft gravel trails for running that is better on your legs is needed.
6. Combine the Little Leagues into one organization, so it can have better oversight.
7. Develop the land near the Rural King by the airport.
8. Connect the proposed recreation center with other activities and facilities throughout the County.

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Muhlenberg County High School West Campus Students

Principal Perkins arranged for the Consultants to meet with several students to discuss potential improvements of the parks and recreation system.

The following are some of the items that were mentioned by the individuals:

- Swings and playground areas
- Soccer fields
- ATV trails
- Indoor and outdoor basketball courts
- Tennis courts
- Driving range
- Trees and landscaping in the parks
- Grass areas to run and walk on instead of just paved trails
- Teen area to hang out
- Large open field for multipurpose activities, not just scheduled games
- Skate park
- Large rock climbing wall
- Splash park
- Baseball complex
- Waterslide
- Fitness trails
- Trails
- Pirate ship playground
- Artificial turf field
- Indoor sports practice facility
- Real restrooms at the parks
- Paintball and laser tag area
- Arcade
- Drive-in theater
- Bumper cars
- Karaoke
- Snack bar
- Expanded library with space for teens
- Stage
- Coffee house
- Batting cages
- Water parks
- Bowling ally
- Skating rink
- Rock climbing
- Zoo
- Park like Panther Creek in Daviess County
- Expand and improve the Rail Trail
- Studio for dance

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YMCA and Programming

Met with: Rod Tompkins, Gail Johnson, Kevin Brown (Task Force Members)
Kathy Steward Jacobi, Lindsey Ransdell

Discussion Items:

1. The YMCA is a good brand, which people recognize for outstanding programming.
2. A model for Muhlenberg County would be an affiliate of the Hopkins County or Owensboro YMCA.
3. They do not want to compete with the Wellness Center in Central City.
4. A good example would be the McPherson Family YMCA located in McPherson, Kansas.
5. The YMCA would contract out programs on a case by case basis.
6. It was discussed that the group members would provide some program background and fee information to Mr. Bain for review.
7. One of the aspects of the YMCA, which is very important, is character building.
8. Access and transportation to programs would be an essential element, as well.

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4H Horse and Drill Team

Met with: Janie Groves, Nathan Ward, Melissa Calloway, Morgan Calloway, Megan Calloway, Mark Calloway, Michelle Conkwright, Shawn Conkwright,

Discussion Items:

1. The drill team has approximately 50 youth in the program and several parents and volunteers. Ages range from 9-18.
2. They use the indoor ring at the Ag Center in the colder months and the outdoor ring in the summer months. They have a constant problem with access to the facility when there are other events, such as horse sales and other activities at the Ag Center.
3. There is also a handicap riding program on Mondays that uses the ring and they also get bumped from the use of the facility on a regular basis.
4. Some of these groups go to Land Between The Lakes for trail riding and also to Bryan Lake. Four wheelers also use these areas.
5. Typically, a trail ride would be about a five hour ride and between 10-15 miles long.
6. A location which would be able to host recreational riding trails would be ideal, but also have an area for horse drawn wagons.

Vision for the future:

1. Their main vision is for an indoor and outdoor arena facility that could be used along with riding and other programs in the county, which they could use on a regular basis and call their own. The arena would be 150' by 200' and covered for year round use. Ideally, there would also be a classroom area for 50 people and a banquet/kitchen area.
2. The group provided access to videos of their activities, practices, and competitions, as well as scrapbooks of their past competitions and events. The drill team won the state last year with a very impressive performance that they showed to us.

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4H Shooting Sports Club

Met with: Joe Reed, Vaughn Reed, Steve Reed, Wade Walters, Trent Arnold, Jeff Arnold, Tommy Harrison

Discussion Items:

1. There had been 12 members in the club and there are now 20-36 members. The range is typically about 25 people. They range in age from 10-15 for the state shooting event.
2. They are also involved in the State Trap Shooting Competition.
3. There are 1,000 kids at the State Trap Shoot.
4. They practice one time a month together and have individual practices and use a private gun club for these practices.
5. They have had some state champs for black powder shooting from the area.
6. The overall 4H has about 2,500 youth involved and 60 clubs.
7. The age groups range from 9-11 year olds, 12-14 year olds, and 15-18 year olds in the program.

Vision for the Future:

1. Build a range that is large enough to hold small events.
2. Need a safe area to teach classes on safety, how to clean a gun, how to handle weapons and other aspects of gun safety and shooting.
3. Need a place to call their own to benefit the community.
4. Be part of a much larger 4H recreation complex.
5. Need a new trap thrower

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National Wild Turkey Federation – 3 Rivers Chapter

Met with: Joanna McDonald, Don McDonald, Lee Fautleroy, Ernie Ison, Jackie L. Lyons, Chris Jarvis, Wayne Bain, Brandstetter Carroll, Inc.

Discussion Items:

1. This group represents active outdoorsmen in the community.
2. They focus primarily on hunting and fishing.
3. In conjunction with the Commonwealth of Kentucky this group was instrumental in the restoration of the turkey population in the community.
4. There are now approximately 300,000 turkeys in the community.
5. Kentucky Fish and Wildlife limit hunters to 2 turkeys in the spring and 2 turkeys in the fall.
6. The group provides free seed for the turkey population.
7. The primary area for public hunting and fishing in the area is the Peabody property that is monitored by the State Fish and Wildlife controls hunting and fishing on the property.
8. The Peabody property is approximately 50,000 acres.
9. 75% of the county population hunts and fish according to this group.
10. Some local farmers allow small game hunting, however there is not sufficient property available to the public.
11. The State Fish and Wildlife Department helps the community with small game hunting by helping with the release of farmers' property.
12. The area attracts hunters from outside the state due to good white tail deer and the large water fowl hunting.
13. Issues of past Parks and Recreation facilities constructed:
 - a. Coal severance dollars thrown at the community to build playgrounds, community centers, etc. however no funds for maintaining it and upkeep.
 - b. If a recreation facility is constructed, it must have additional funding for future upkeep and programs.

Vision for the Future:

1. Begin an Archery Program in the schools.
2. Turn old parks into a skate park or spray park.
3. Develop an archery area with a 3D range.

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4. Need more property available to the community for hunting and fishing.
5. State lease property from farmers for hunters use.
6. Access to waterways on the Muhlenberg side of the river.
7. Develop a shooting range that would allow sporting clays and a rifle range.
8. A handicap accessible fishing pier.
9. Would support a large park with a variety of activities for the community to have access to.

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Arts and Culture

Met with: Cora Hughes, Mary Rainwaters, Marilyn Kirtley

Discussion Items:

1. This conversation focused primarily on Paradise Park and thumb picker's activities at that unique facility.
2. It was noted that Muhlenberg County is primarily a coal town and they moved the Merle Travis birth house to Paradise Park along with a shotgun house and the old Springridge two-room schoolhouse. This was donated by the Coon Hunters Association Club. They added a shot gun house, and a picnic shelter and playground to the facility. The park has been neglected and needs additional work. A lot of volunteer time has been provided.
3. One of the programs they have is Picnic in the Park on Friday nights in the summer at the stage.
4. The County should maintain the park more.
5. There is going to be a school reunion of people that used the old schoolhouse, but it needs a new roof before this will take place.
6. Another goal would be to furnish the Merle Travis house to its 1917 appearance. They also need to catalog some of the furniture and items that are in the building. They may need some help with this.
7. They want to make more use of the stage.
8. They would like to move the Thumb Picker Hall of Fame into the Shotgun House.
9. The last weekend in September is the thumb pickers weekend.
10. They have had some tables and chairs stolen from the storage shed in the area.
11. There is a log house that was also installed by the 4H Club.
12. Every second Saturday night there is a jamboree in Drakesboro.

Vision for the future:

1. They want a church and company store to be included in this development.
2. They think it would be ideal for the youth bands to play on Saturday nights at the stage to provide something for teens to do.
3. They need a roof for the schoolhouse and they have requested a grant for this.
4. They would like various groups to adopt a building and part of the park to help improve it.

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Special Needs

Met with: **Bonnie Warman, retired Special Education Teacher and a parent of a child with Down Syndrome**
Wendy West, Preschool Development Coordinator and Research Teacher
Julie Pendley, School Psychologist
Shelby Cotton, Physical Therapist through the hospital and is contracted with the schools

Discussion Items:

1. There is a good therapeutic riding program currently available at the Ag Center, but it is only one night per week, and they are sometimes bumped out due to other activities.
2. There is a strong need for handicapped playground equipment in the area similar to that in Legion Park in Owensboro. This park has handicapped accessible swings with the 5 point harness.
3. There are 775 students from ages 3-21 in the school program. The number of students with disabilities has been up to 889 in the past. This is approximately 15% - 17% of the school population, which is on the high end of counties in Kentucky.
4. The County recently started a Special Olympics program with Rodney Lear starting it. He is a volunteer only at this time.
5. Residents must go to Owensboro for baseball and golf activities for the handicapped
6. The Wendell Foster Center in Owensboro is a good facility.
7. The Cliff Hagan facility in Owensboro is also good for baseball.
8. The volunteers are coordinated through the family resource centers at the schools
9. They feel that if there were more programs, then they could get the volunteers to run them.
10. They have a difficult time getting a basketball place for Special Olympics and Lee Freeman at Greenville Elementary School has provided some time for them in the gym.
11. There are no resources for kids after graduation from high school. They really need a job coach.
12. The Greenville Park is the only one in the area except for the schools that they would take kids to, but it is still not very accessible and the site is relatively steep.

Vision for the Future:

1. Access to accessible facilities in more than one location.
2. Expand the Rail Trail.
3. Provide transportation to the parks and recreation facilities and programs.
4. More church incorporated volunteers for one-on-one programs.

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Rails to Trails and Tennis

These two groups decided to combine together since they all have mutual interests.

Met with: Jerry Barker, Peggy Keith, Larry Devine, Ralph Paxton, Ryland Tuohy, Joanna Freeman, Bau Sparks, Phil Latham, Ricky Smith, Thomas Backhaus, Ann Sparks, Greg Sparks

Rails to Trails

Discussion Items:

1. The trail was planned since 1995 and built in about 2000. Originally, it was supposed to be twelve miles long, but there was not enough money available. The other six miles would have extended the trail over to the east campus of the high school. The old rail bed is still there, but has been reverted to private ownership.
2. Parts of the trail that are currently developed between Greenville through Powderly to Central City are fairly remote, and some people do not feel comfortable being alone there.
3. Some of the adjacent neighbors have been concerned about four wheelers accessing their properties and causing damage.
4. Some of the bridges on the trail need rails on the side for safety purposes.
5. There are lights at the end of the trail, but it is dark in the center. More lights would be ideal.
6. A fund with about \$130,000 is available to provide additional improvements for the trail.
7. There have been discussions with the adjacent counties for linking the Rail Trail to McLean County and then to the City of Livermore and then to the trail in Owensboro.
8. The existing trail is only 6' wide and needs to be widened.
9. There is very good use on this trail.

Vision for the future:

1. Widen the trail by 3- 4' and make repairs where needed.
2. Light the center section of the trail, so the entire trail is well lit.
3. Extend the trail into Greenville, into the center of Central City, and over to the loop of both campuses of the high school and other schools.
4. Develop BMX trails throughout the county.

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ATV Trails

Met with: Danny Byars, DeWight Rickard, Mark Winstead, Judge Rick Newman, Wayne Bain

Discussion Items:

1. The ATV population in Muhlenberg County is very high.
2. There currently is no legal place to ride in Muhlenberg County.
3. Most ATV owners take vacations on weekends and go other states such as Tennessee, West Virginia, etc, to ride.
4. Many facilities throughout the country offer three day passes, annual passes for the ATV population to ride on the trails.
5. Most times on the trips, they stay at the local hotels or camp sites.
6. Every Monday night, the outdoor TV channel has a program regarding ATV's and places to go throughout the U.S.
7. Many of the local ATV owners ride on the numerous mining areas in the county even though it is illegal.
8. The average ATV rider will drive 70-100 miles a day on the trails.
9. West Virginia passed a law to hold harmless a landowner treat allows ATV trails on their property.
10. If the county would consider ATV trails, there would be a need for a minimum of 5,000 acres with a preference of 10,000 acres.
11. Parks and Recreation in Muhlenberg County could operate and sell daily, weekly, and annual passes.
12. There are a sufficient number of ATV riders in this county to help police the trails.
13. A club could be formed in the community that would help with the policing, as well as cut the trails using a small dozer.

Vision for the future:

1. Form a Muhlenberg County ATV Club to help determine the interest in the community, work with the Martin Foundation to help get the process started.
2. The key is to find someone in Muhlenberg County with the land and understands the opportunities the ATV trails could bring to the County with people coming from all over the U.S. to ride the trails, eat in our restaurants, and stay at our hotels and camp grounds.
3. Develop a Muhlenberg County, Hopkins County, and Ohio County trail system.
4. There are two concrete plants that have waste we could get for free, and could be used on the trails for areas that are eroding.
5. The land must be accessible to electric and water.

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