



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Milltown Comprehensive Plan was initiated by the Town Council as a necessity to address any potential growth in the Milltown Area and to maintain the current quality of life for the residents of the community. They also considered that a plan should be updated every ten (10) years to ensure its validity and effectiveness for the community. Members of the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee, the Town Council, Town Staff, local business owners, and residents participated in the various public participation activities.

An opportunity for public participation was also offered in order to gather valuable information from the area residents and community leaders. Specific concerns and innovative ideas for the future of the community and the overall quality of life for its residents were gathered to help develop this plan.

A. Initial Milltown Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Meeting

The first meeting of the Milltown Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee was conducted on **September 30, 2009**, as an informational session to explain the intended use, reasons for, and components of a Comprehensive Plan. This meeting also established the best meeting place and time for future meetings, as well as dates for upcoming meetings. Further discussion was placed on the limited timeline because of the requirements set forth by the Community Focus Fund Grant used to fund the project. The remainder of the meeting focused upon the first major task of the group, to coordinate a Community Workshop including the location, date, time, expectations, intended outcomes, advertising, and involvement of the committee members in the event.

(A copy of the sign-in sheet for this meeting has been included in Appendix B of this document.)

B. Milltown Community Workshop

On **October 19, 2009**, a public meeting was held at the Milltown Elementary School to provide opportunity for the community to offer their input into the Comprehensive Planning Process. Those in attendance were asked to evaluate different aspects of their community. The meeting was publicized encouraging all members of the community to participate in the meeting activities.

Those in attendance were divided into eight (8) groups and then asked a series of questions relating to their community. These questions were developed as discussion progressed during each section of the analysis: Likes (*Strengths*), Dislikes (*Weaknesses*), Opportunities (*Assets*), and Threats.

(Copies of the sign-in sheets for the Community Workshop have been included in Appendix B of this document.)

The following lists are a synopsis of the comments that were made by the community. *Because the lists are composed of comments taken directly from the sheets from the meeting, duplication and limited formatting exists.*

Strengths

Blue Ribbon Schools
 Churches
 Community
 Family Ties
 Fraternal Organizations
 Employment
 Community Response
 Clean
 Rural Setting
 Community is one Big Happy Dysfunctional Family (4)
 Low Pollution
 Small Town
 Water Supply
 No Traffic Jams
 Civic-Minded
 Lack of Heavy Industry
 Vultures
 Safe – Low Crime Rate
 Pleasant
 Neighborly – Friendly
 Internet Access
 Art Gallery
 Blue River Café
 Shoe Tree
 Mini-Mart
 Maxine's
 River
 Caves

Munchkin Gardens
Good School
Pretty Setting
People are Friendly
Festival – Turn Out – Fun
Movies
School Well-Rounded
River = Asset
Heritage – History of Town
Canoe Place – Tourist
Local Kids Help Run
Good Food & Music in Town
Know People by Name
Proud of Heritage – History
Proud of School
Proud of Community Spirit
Independence
News Articles about Community
Advertising
Tourism
Churches – Diversity
Blue Heron – Art
Café
River Canoeing
Shoe Tree
Lime Kilns
Maxine's
Mini-Mart – Movies
Drive around Town – Scenic
Safe – Friendly – Healthy
Scenery
Clean
The Blue River
Businesses (Unique) – Blue River Café
Volunteerism
Loving & Kind Community
Community School
Few Restrictions
Services (Fire Department)
Churches
Festivals
Tourism (Caves, Shoe Tree, Quarries)
Family Ties
Independent Nature of the People
Determined & Resourceful People
Parks
Comfortable Living Style Area
Annual Spring Clean Up
The People
New Infrastructure (sidewalks)
Tourists & Customers
Atmosphere of Small Town (camaraderie)
Clean Air
Clean River
Slow Pace & Familiarity with Neighbors
Cleanliness
Street Improvements
The Mill Lot

Good School
 Art Gallery
 Restaurant
 Grocery Store
 Town Spirit (community disaster reaction)
 Blue River Café
 Maxine's
 The Blue Heron Art Market
 Canoeing
 Mini-Mart
 Thall River Cabins & Blue River Inn
 Blue River Valley Farm
 The River
 The People & their Commitment to Stay Dedicated to the Fire Department & Police
 Small
 Good School
 Low Crime
 Friendly
 River
 Art Center
 Scenic
 Close Commutes
 Blue River Café
 Family-Owned Businesses
 Clean
 Proud
 Variety of Worship Places
 People Help People
 Blue River Café
 Canoe
 Marengo Cave
 Patoka Lake
 People
 Businesses
 Schools
 Churches
 Shoe Tree
 Fire Department
 Slow Pace
 Quiet
 Friendliness
 Know Neighbors
 Progressive or Approachable Town Government
 Clean Town
 Emergency Services
 Visitors – Canoe Rental, Shoe Tree, Businesses, Local Parks
 School
 Churches
 Residents
 Festivals
 Community Spirit
 Determination
 Persistence
 Mutual Support during Times of Need (flood, fire, snow, wind, etc...)

Weaknesses

Gossip
 Lack of Pride by Some Residents
 Lack of Recycling Center
 Lack of Tax Revenue
 Lack of Youth Participation
 Bridge – Ambulance Service
 Lack of Water Supply for Fire Suppression
 (lack of) Library
 (lack of) Kids Activities
 (lack of) Sidewalks
 (lack of) Community Center
 Dump
 Sewer Plant
 Falling Down Old Green House
 Housing
 Money
 Reluctance to Change
 Lack of Interest/Knowledge
 Lack of Participation
 Lack of Entrepreneurial Spirit
 Feral Animals
 Gossip
 Potential of Polluting Industries
 Lack of Interest in Some Town Projects
 Not Enough for Tourists to Do
 Empty Lots Downtown
 Run Down Buildings
 Too Much Control by Local Officials
 Not Listening & Acting on Citizen's Input
 Lack of Street Park on Main
 Support (infrastructure) for Park Here
 No Animal Shelter
 Sidewalk to School from Town
 Community Center for Kids
 Corner of Broadway
 Main Street between Summer Land & East Streets
 Main Road by Lift Station
 Corner of East Hill
 (lack of) Money
 Lack of Involvement
 Community Pride & Self Esteem
 Lack of Activities – Especially for Youth
 Drugs
 Unwillingness to Change for the Better
 Empty Houses & Storefronts
 Subsidized Houses (rental property)
 Transition between Town Boards
 Ordinances to Protect the Culture & Scenery
 Not Enforcing Ordinances
 Potential Bio-Mass
 Lack of Jobs
 High Town Taxes
 Local Economy
 Lack of Sidewalks
 Distances to Jobs
 Modern Up-to-Date Infrastructure

Dump
 Depot/Oven Area
 Lack of Good Jobs
 School Drop-Out Rate
 Economy
 Lack of Enough People Pursuing Opportunities
 Fear of Expanding
 Attitude (negative)
 Distrust (politics – leadership)
 (lack of) Zoning
 Lack of Involvement
 Bridge Dilemma
 Lack of Zoning
 Lack of Industry
 Water Bill – Sewer Rates (high)
 Animal Control (lack of shelter)
 Lack of Restaurant/Variety Shopping
 Lack of Kid Entertainment
 (lack of) Ambulance
 (lack of) Library
 (lack of) Entertainment
 (lack of) Employment Opportunities
 (lack of) Low Income Housing
 (lack of) YMCA
 (lack of) Community Center
 (lack of) Arts
 Bio-Mass (undesirable businesses)
 Unkempt Appearances
 Zero Taxes Paid on Federal & State Property
 No Zoning
 Limited Resources
 No Dr. Clinics
 Not Enough Small Businesses
 No Library
 No Animal Shelter
 Limited (good) Resources
 Reluctance to Change
 P.R. Officials not Working with Public
 Narrow Roads
 Trash on the River
 Not Enough Property for Businesses
 Flood Zone
 High Taxes
 Water & Sewer Bills High
 Not Enough Sidewalks
 Old Ways are Disappearing
 No Hardware Store
 (no) Variety of Stores
 Local Shopping not Available
 Dump
 Sewer Plant (smell)
 Taxes
 Not Enough Employment
 Lack of Public Transportation
 Community Commitment
 Buy Local (support local businesses)
 No Farmers Market
 (no) Bicycle Trails

Opportunities

Rail Spur
 Parks
 Arts
 Theater (community)
 Music
 Under-Utilized Buildings
 Revitalization of Old Buildings
 Artist Community
 Utilize Natural Resources
 Bio-Mass Plant
 Blockwatch Program
 Diversity of Population – Skill Set
 Welcome Diversity (cultural)
 Tourism – River
 Good Schools
 Small Businesses
 Festival
 Art Gallery
 Schools
 Tourism (more shops)
 Blue River
 Ohio River
 Patoka Lake
 Weekend Music Festival
 4-H Building
 Clean Environment (Blue River)
 Scenic Views (Blue River)
 Natural Waterway
 Fertile Land
 Art Gallery
 Rock Quarry
 Vegetable Farmers (know how to work with the land)
 Mini-Mart – part-time help (kids in neighborhood)
 Neighborhood Movies for Kids & Families
 Community Spirit
 Local Talents, Skills, & Crafts
 Business Knowledge in Community not being Used
 Natural Resources
 Festival for Local Artists
 Location – Near Bigger Cities
 Cheap or Affordable Property
 Natural Resources & Tourism (Blue River, Hunting, & Fishing)
 Local Artists & Musicians
 Farmer’s Markets
 Canoeing
 Wildlife
 Common Sense Management
 Historical Areas (Blue River Dam - Caves)
 Niche Agriculture
 Blue River
 Talented Chefs
 Rural Atmosphere
 Tourism
 Arts & Music
 Beautification of the Town
 Blue River

Mill Lots & Empty Downtown
Young People
Good School
Lovely Terrain (hills, forests) – Scenery
Churches
Proximity to Tourist Spots & Urban Areas
Low Rent (cheaper to live here)
Recreation – Canoes, Hiking, Gardening, etc...
Space for Public Area (statues, murals, etc...)
Space Downtown for a Park
Space Downtown for an Amphitheatre (Bandshell) & Indigenous Trees & Shrubs
Space Downtown for Well-Lit Paths & Picnic Tables
Space Downtown for a Children’s Playground
Botanical Garden for Agritourism
Path along the River
Art Classes
Turn the Old Church Downtown into an Artist-in-Residence Shop & Apartment
Curbside Recycling
Trap, Neuter, & Release Program for Cats
Small Library
Bookstore
Art Shops
The River (canoeing)
Good Food
Low Crime
Clean Town
Good Vacation Spot & Lodging
Great School & Churches
River – Scenic Views – Tourism
Park/Recreation
Churches
Festival
School
Other Towns – Partnership
Available Grants
Crawford County Community Foundation (CCCF)
History – Historic Preservation
Beautification Committee
Infrastructure
Community Leaders – Participation
Canoeing
One Lane Bridge
Blue River Café

Threats

Bio-Mass (air, water, health, traffic, road destruction, tourism, loss of timber, wildlife)
 People Leaving & Not Coming Back
 Decline in Property Value (Bio-Mass) – No New Construction
 Decline in Small Farming
 Low or No Employment
 Hillbilly Syndrome
 Drugs
 No Zoning
 Health Insurance (high rates ref. Bio-Mass)
 Government Involvement (mismanagement)
 Flooding
 Too Much Town Council Taxes Spent on Studies
 Greed – Exploiting our Valuable Resources
 Shortage of Fresh Water
 Lip Service
 Lose or Losing Money for Education
 Electrical Grids
 Suburban Encroachment
 Pollution of River
 Bio-Mass Locations
 Crime Rate Up
 Bug Eaters
 Apathy
 Increase of Taxes (all taxes)
 Discrimination (racial, religious, youth, class, income- $\$$)
 Bridge Closures – Even Intermittent
 Closed-Mindedness (fear of unguarded growth)
 Lack of Opportunity for Youth
 Bio-Mass Plant
 Afraid of Change
 Dollars Not Staying in Community
 Business Closure
 Flood Control
 Dying Community
 Bio-Mass & Incinerator
 Stagnation
 Drugs & Crime
 Lazy Attitudes
 Price (lack of)
 People Moving Out of Community (transient nature of people)
 Younger Generation not Taking Responsibility for Next Generation of Community Involvement
 No Bridge
 Pollution from Bio-Mass Plant
 Elected Officials not Being Capable to Handle their Duties
 Trash, Junk (accumulation)
 Polluting Industries
 Lack of Employment Opportunities
 Lack of Small Businesses
 Lack of Inexpensive Housing
 Gossip
 Polluting Industries
 Crime
 Trash & Falling Down Buildings
 Broken Sidewalks, etc...
 Methamphetamine
 Over-reacting Police

Flood – Fire – Earthquake - Tornado
 Epidemics – Water Contamination
 Bridge Failure
 Railroad Disaster
 Loss of Power – Heat/Cold Emergencies
 Lack of Caring/Concern
 Employment
 Bridge Concerns
 Drugs
 Gossip
 Lack of Factual Information
 Blue River Commission
 DNR Restrictions
 Split by Two Counties
 Homeland Security
 Floods – Wind – Tornadoes, etc...
 Polluting Industries
 Methamphetamine
 Changing too Much from Small Town to Urban Environment
 Traffic
 Losing the Curved Bridge (or new one)
 Dry Wells
 Destroying Historical Assets

Once the eight (8) groups had compiled their lists of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats; each group was asked to make a “Top 10” List of the ten most important issues that their group had discussed overall. These lists were then posted on the wall and each person was given the opportunity to cast **five (5) votes** with dot stickers directly onto the “Top Ten” lists. The community members were informed that they could vote on any of the three lists using their one (1) “red dot” for the most important issue listed and then the four (4) “blue dots” for the other concerns that they deemed most important.

The next page shows a table with a compilation of these “Top Ten” Lists and their total number of red and blue dots. Both the red and blue dots have a weighted value: red = two (2) points and blue = one (1) point. The total column calculates the total weighted value of all dots for each “Top Ten” statement. The list is sorted by the total column, with the highest scores in each column highlighted.

Top Ten List Statements	Red	Blue	Total	Red	Blue	Total
	2 pts.	1 pt.		2 pts.	1 pt.	
Keep Polluting Industry Out	12	0	12	24	0	24
Oppose Bio-Mass	4	12	16	8	12	20
Concerns about Bio-Mass (health, property values, water, air)	4	5	9	8	5	13
Lack of Employment Opportunities (regional, local, long commute)	5	2	7	10	2	12
Animal Control - Safe Pets	0	10	10	0	10	10
Save & Preserve Our Natural Resources	0	9	9	0	9	9
Need Revenue from Federal & State Property	2	4	6	4	4	8
Give Young People Reason to Stay	1	6	7	2	6	8
Downtown Needs More Businesses	1	6	7	2	6	8
Expansion of Tourism (river, businesses, historic preservation/restoration)	1	5	6	2	5	7
Need for Youth Activities/Involvement (ball fields, community center, churches)	0	7	7	0	7	7
Improved Infrastructure	0	6	6	0	6	6
Rural Scenery - Blue River, Hills	0	6	6	0	6	6
Clean Up Trash & Vacant Buildings	0	6	6	0	6	6
Create Jobs	2	2	4	4	2	6
Downtown Looks Like an Empty Lot - Make a Park	1	3	4	2	3	5
Community Center (youth & adults)	1	2	3	2	2	4
More Businesses	0	4	4	0	4	4
High Utilities (water & in town sewer)	0	4	4	0	4	4
Arts & Crafts - Need More Emphasis	0	4	4	0	4	4
Four-Star School System	0	4	4	0	4	4
Promote Local Artists & Businesses (Blue Heron Art Gallery)	0	4	4	0	4	4
Opportunities to Get Younger People Involved	0	4	4	0	4	4
Police Force - Low Crime Rate, Rapid Response, Cerifications	1	2	3	2	2	4
Employment - Lack of Jobs (quality)	1	2	3	2	2	4
Youth - Lack of Entertainment - Lack of Opportunities	0	4	4	0	4	4
Library Need (internet access - elderly)	0	4	4	0	4	4
Library and/or Community Center for Youth	1	2	3	2	2	4
Housing (rehabilitate/new construction)	1	1	2	2	1	3
Disaster Preparedness - Community Action Plan	0	3	3	0	3	3
Increase Opportunities without Destroying our Natural Resources	0	3	3	0	3	3
Schools are a Good Selling Point in Community	1	1	2	2	1	3
Flooding - Puts Limitations/Controls What Businesses Come Into Town	0	3	3	0	3	3
Keep Small Town Atmosphere	0	3	3	0	3	3
Maintain Quality School - K-12 - Keep Kids in School	0	3	3	0	3	3
Tapping Current Resources - Manmade & Natural	0	3	3	0	3	3
Downtown Activities for Tourists & Local (kids & adults alike)	0	3	3	0	3	3
No Entertainment for Younger Generations	1	0	1	2	0	2
Preserve Historical Sites	0	2	2	0	2	2
Incentives for Small Businesses	0	2	2	0	2	2
Promote Tourism	0	2	2	0	2	2
Fear of Infrastructure Failures (sewer, water, roads, etc...) - Better Infrastructure	0	2	2	0	2	2
Attracting Tourists & Nice Visitors	1	0	1	2	0	2
Lack of Community Involvement - Same People Involved - Need New Faces	0	1	1	0	1	1
Town Split by Harrison County & Crawford County - Work Better with Both Counties	0	1	1	0	1	1
Reluctance to Change (zoning, refusal by some for change)	0	1	1	0	1	1
Tourism (Blue River, Natural Resources)	0	1	1	0	1	1
Enforce Local Ordinances	0	1	1	0	1	1

Top Ten List Statements	Red	Blue	Total Dots	Red	Blue	Total
				2 pts.	1 pt.	
Drugs - Enforce Laws & Start a Drug Treatment Program Locally	0	1	1	0	1	1
Regulated Revitalization	0	1	1	0	1	1
After Hours Care Facility - 24-Hour Center	0	1	1	0	1	1
Need Zoning (keep out undesirable businesses)	0	1	1	0	1	1
Lack of Infrastructure (water, bridges, flood wall)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Taxes - Expansion of Government	0	0	0	0	0	0
Community Spirit is Important to Us	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grow Wholesome, Healthy Farming Products	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fire Department - Quality Equipment, Fast Response	0	0	0	0	0	0
Utility Rates - Keep Opportunities Down	0	0	0	0	0	0
Promote Police & Fire Department	0	0	0	0	0	0
Keep Our River Clean	0	0	0	0	0	0

C. Milltown Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Meetings

The Milltown Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee continued to meet throughout the Comprehensive Planning Process. The second major task was to review the results from this meeting and develop a series of goals to be used as the foundation for the Milltown Comprehensive Plan. The third major task was to formulate specific objectives to be accomplished that will help the community move closer to each of the goals previously identified.

The Milltown Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee also met on the following dates:

- **October 21, 2009**
- **November 4, 2009**
- **November 18, 2009**

(Copies of the sign-in sheets for these meetings are included in Appendix B of this document.)

Throughout the process, the Milltown Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee provided informational support about the Milltown Area and gave direction for the development of the Comprehensive Plan. More specifically, the Committee assisted in the development of Goals and Objectives of the Plan and the development of the *Action Plan Matrix*. To develop the *Action Plan Matrix*, the *Top Ten Statements* were sorted into major focus areas that emerged, which included:

- Land Use
- Local Business
- Employment Opportunities
- Natural Resources
- Youth Services
- Community Safety
- Area Tourism
- Local Infrastructure
- Community Amenities
- Community Beautification
- Education
- Community Character
- Community Involvement
- Local Government
- Social Services

(A copy of the Sorted Top Ten Statements is included in Appendix B of this document.)

For each of these major focus areas, a goal statement was developed to represent the *Top Ten Statements* sorted under each area. These goals formed the foundation for the remainder of the Plan.

Utilizing the comments from the Community Workshop, they were sorted into the fifteen (15) major focus areas or goals and then sorted into subtopic areas. The subtopics that emerged were the specific areas that the public had identified as important concerns, issues, and assets for the community. Therefore, for each sub-topic area, an objective that was representative of all comments within that area was developed.

Once a final set of Goals and Objectives was developed, a single responsible party (existing or future) and potential partners was identified for each objective. These Goal Statements, more specific objectives, responsible parties, and potential partners formed the basis for the *Action Plan Matrix*.

(A copy of the Sorted Community Workshop Comments is included in Appendix B of this document.)

D. Plan Commission Public Hearing

A meeting was held on **March 10, 2010**, to act as the Public Hearing for the Comprehensive Plan in accordance with the Indiana State Statute (*IC 36-7-4-507* and *IC 36-7-4-509*). The meeting was advertised for at least ten (10) days prior in local newspapers and a copy of the Plan was placed at the Milltown Town Hall in accordance with Indiana State Statute (*IC 36-7-4-507*). Prior to the meeting, the Milltown Plan Commission had an opportunity to review the Final Draft of the Comprehensive Plan and provide comment for any necessary changes or corrections. No public comment was provided during the Public Hearing and the conclusion of the meeting resulted in the approval and certification of the Milltown Comprehensive Plan, as well as a formal resolution recommending the Plan for adoption by the Milltown Town Council.

(A copy of this formal resolution is included in Appendix D of this document.)

E. Town Council Public Hearing

A meeting was held on **March 29, 2010**, to act as an Official Public Hearing on the Comprehensive Plan to meet the requirements of the Community Focus Fund (CFF) Grant that funded the project. The meeting was advertised for at least ten (10) days prior in local newspapers and a copy of the Plan was placed for public viewing at the Milltown Town Hall. Prior to the meeting, the Milltown Town Council had an opportunity to review the Final Draft of the Milltown Comprehensive Plan and provide comment for any necessary changes or corrections. No public comment was provided during the Public Hearing and the conclusion of the meeting resulted in the formal adoption of the Milltown Comprehensive Plan.

At the meeting, a presentation about the general purpose of Planning for the future of a community was provided, stressing the importance of being “proactive” rather than “reactive” in regards to growth, significant change, loss of population, or loss of community identity. It was stressed that regardless of the community need, planning for the future needs of the community was important. The remedy to assist a community in this way is a Comprehensive Plan. During the meeting, it was also identified that a Plan is not solely for the purpose of land use planning but should be identified by all local leaders, organizations, and other entities as a guide for the future. It was also recommended that the Plan be reviewed at least annually to ensure that: (1) it is being used to guide local decision-making, (2) it is readily available and being used by community leaders and organizations, and (3) that it is applicable and consistent with any changes that may have happened since its last review or Plan update. Future updates to the Milltown Comprehensive Plan should also be conducted every ten (10) years or when any significant change or impact faces the community, such as rapid population growth, large industrial development, or local or regional changes in traffic patterns.

(A copy of this presentation can be found in Appendix C of this document.)