

# Focus2030 Comprehensive Plan

## Community Forums - February 2008

### Summary

Strengths	Votes	Percent
<b>Community Character:</b> small town atmosphere and feel; "hometown feel"; "small big town;" something for everyone (e.g. living, entertainment); self-sufficient (can get all needs covered within the community); local "mom 'n pops;" scale and size of community, moderate size, balance of activities; room to grow; friendly atmosphere; citizen retention; retain WKU grads quality of life; great people, heritage, "home;" close-knit community/compactness; family roots; family-oriented community, community in which people want to raise a family; community pride; social networking opportunities; spiritual values; strong religious community; option for isolation from neighbors, private areas (rural lifestyles); parks and recreation, low crime, feeling of safety, healthcare, cultural opportunities, historic preservation, large city amenities with small town feel; the arts opportunities - music, theater, accessible fine arts; strong visual and performing arts; cultural diversity; strong cultural base - good farmland; restaurants; "mini version of Nashville;" less traffic than larger cities; highways and city kept clean; beautification, aesthetics; beautiful landscape; rural and urban proximity; historical areas; historic properties; historical buildings, architectural heritage; Smith's Grove historic district, homes and cemetery; preservation of historic farms; low density neighborhoods; small community identities; strong and unique neighborhoods; support structure for neighborhood associations (e.g. Bowling Green coalition of neighborhoods); strong community organizations to assist in various demographics; University town; diversity and affordability of housing; rural-green space; preservation of green space, less urban sprawl; quality of life (e.g. churches); unique downtown; access to public officials because small town; relatively low cost of living	239	28%
<b>Education:</b> City and County public and private school systems; "University town" – WKU, BGTC vocational school; libraries; youth programs; strong relationship between University and public school system; good teachers and test scores	142	16%
<b>Economy:</b> diverse industrial base; comparatively low unemployment, job opportunities; wide variety of business services; strong agribusiness; locally owned businesses; business climate, Chamber of Commerce; tourism; low regulatory environment; Transpark; self-sufficient-can get needs covered within the community; lots of stores and shopping centers; good housing market - get good value for money	137	16%
<b>Parks and Recreation:</b> recreational activities - greenway system, City and County parks systems, access to state parks	62	7%
<b>Public Health and Safety:</b> outstanding City police; medical facilities, availability of health care; fire protection from County volunteers and BGFD	54	6%
<b>Location:</b> proximity to Louisville and Nashville; climate; room to grow; rural and urban proximity; regional hub; regional market; proximity to hospitals, shopping, accessible goods and services	51	6%
<b>Infrastructure and Public Facilities:</b> water, sewer, stormwater systems; roads - 4 laning of Scottsville Road, highways and facilities kept clean, good rural roads, I-66, if handled well; railroad; Smiths Grove Community Center	47	5%
<b>People:</b> community involvement, work ethic, "can do" attitude; multi-cultural community, diverse population, international diversity; community volunteerism (e.g. VFD); citizenry's cooperative attitude; rural/community spirit and pride; Christian religious base; wide diversity of faiths; good moral base, demonstrate love for each other ; good people, strong values, friendly	41	5%
<b>Government:</b> planning and zoning; City/County development attitude; governments' (Cities and County) cooperation; "minimum planning/maximum liberty;" progressive city programs and delivery of services; leadership listens to the community; good comprehensive plan upon which to build; maintain independent cities rather than metro government; responsible pet ownership ordinance	36	4%

<b>Agriculture:</b> local farmer's market; beautiful farms; farming industry, strong cultural base	27	3%
<b>Natural Features and Open Space:</b> river and creek system, lakes; karst – unique geological make-up; efforts to protect groundwater	21	2%
<b>Green Movement:</b> recycling program; green power program; progressive stormwater management; green infrastructure	5	1%
<b>Downtown:</b> downtown revitalization activities; City gateways; DRA	3	0%

<b>Weaknesses</b>	<b>Votes</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Government:</b> lack of good communication by and among elected officials; too many taxes; poor fiscal management (budget cuts, misuse of public funds for private developments e.g. Ballpark, lack of funding for community organizations, not getting greater share of state tax money); poor government follow through and oversight; unfunded mandates; pervasive "good ol' boy network;" top down attitude by leadership; leadership doesn't have clear priorities; "metro government;" part time mayor to handle a full time City; building regulations too lax; too little planning for aging population; low voter participation, perception that "our voice is not heard"	175	20%
<b>Transportation Network:</b> poor flow on major roads such as US 231 and KY 234; lack of mass transit; transportation for elderly and children; parking downtown and near WKU needs better management; incomplete pedestrian facilities; uncertainty regarding future of airport when Transpark is complete; same roads have different names; in poor condition; too narrow; secondary road connectivity; control of roads around University; airport has outgrown location and restricts growth	171	20%
<b>Infrastructure and Public Services:</b> spotty broadband coverage, lack of competition between cable providers; spotty recycling services; ugly TVA poles; County EMS - lack of financial support for services (e.g. volunteer fire departments); inadequate water supply for firefighting; limited sewer service coverage in County; lack of air service; regional waste management; duplication of services; excessive tree trimming by utilities; uncooperative/unresponsive utilities; too few emergency centers; ISO ratings system impractical	146	17%
<b>Growth/Development/Lack of Planning:</b> planning and zoning's lack of foresight; too many or too few regulations, inconsistent application and enforcement of development regulations; karst's constraints; city's unwillingness to use eminent domain for projects; reactive versus proactive mentality; lack of preservation-development out of context, inadequate neighborhood protection; lack of review board training; lack of redevelopment in older areas; poor government control over new development (make-up of boards too developer-heavy); NIMBYism; sprawl; approved developments are too dense; need more development where infrastructure exists; too little planning for aging population	145	17%
<b>Environmental Problems:</b> water contamination related to karst geology; loss of farmland and open space; pollution from industry waste; radon; air quality; dirtiness of Barren River; illegal dumping; litter; light and noise pollution; lack of recycling in County for business and industry	61	7%
<b>Housing:</b> too many apartments and rental properties; inflated property values; poor property maintenance enforcement; WKU students living in single family neighborhoods; lack of tenant/landlord ordinance, lack of tenant rights, excessive regulation for affordable housing	40	5%
<b>Economy:</b> lack of high paying jobs; lack of knowledge-based jobs; lack of quality labor force; industrial employers lack diversity; lack of respect for agricultural community; need more consumer financial education; loss of active farmland	35	4%
<b>Social Fabric:</b> crime; illicit drugs; social issues; lack of awareness of problems in ethnic communities; cultural differences; apathy within community	31	4%
<b>General Appearance:</b> visual clutter - overhead utilities, poor upkeep, too many billboards; inadequate sign ordinance; conflict between aesthetics and utilities; loss of historic buildings; inadequate architectural standards; WKU expansion – tearing down historic older properties; downtown conditions	28	3%
<b>Lack of Amenities/Facilities/Services:</b> lack of cultural opportunities, lack of animal control; no public smoking policy; lack of restaurants outside Bowling Green; weak media outlets; poor access to organic foods or co-op; need more activities – at night, non-alcoholic; not enough public golf courses; lack of amenities in rural areas; County package alcohol sales (optional for each store)	22	3%
<b>Youth and Education:</b> high student to teacher ratio; not enough youth activities; excessive University growth; changing school district boundaries too frequently; WKU is a "suitcase college"; difference in education between schools	17	2%

<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Votes</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Economy:</b> develop and grow existing business, industries, and educational institutions; tourism; agribusiness; continue to make attractive to new industry-Transpark; seek higher paying jobs, knowledge based economy, invest in human capital; get casino; foster local entrepreneurship; embrace globalization; draw larger corporate headquarters/technology; plan to retain agriculture; encourage corporate responsibility	143	20%
<b>Transportation network:</b> widening of I-65; fix road network; expand public transportation - mass transit system, complete streets (sidewalks, bike paths); relocate/improve air transportation; create major transportation loop; add traffic arteries; improve gateways; 626 Interchange on Parkway	112	15%
<b>Natural Resources, Environment, and Outdoor Recreation:</b> promote more "green"/alternative resources - create incentives; sustainability; offer incentives to conserve and preserve farmland and natural beauty; increase recreational opportunities (e.g. more trails at Mammoth Cave, river recreation, expand greenways and parks); offer County-wide recycling programs; expand river access (e.g. improve Mitch McConnell Park)	95	13%
<b>Growth-related opportunities:</b> managed and self sustaining development; differentiate rural and urban growth patterns; guide growth to areas with infrastructure, centralized location (e.g. I-65); use zoning to protect certain areas and uses; offer incentives to keep youth in area; learn from other communities experiencing growth; larger local grocery (Hadley) ; allow redevelopment of non-conforming lots; allow selective growth of commercial and residential	93	13%
<b>Youth and Education:</b> combine City and County schools systems; involve youth in decision process; activities for youth and elderly via better use of school facilities; reestablish family-oriented community organizations such as the YMCA; plan/build schools in anticipation of growth; continue integration of WKU and community – ideas and resources; offer music programs in schools; organized youth athletics; Build school in Hadley	91	13%
<b>Culture and Social Fabric:</b> maximize WKU cultural benefits; restaurants; expand arts community, museum; preserve heritage; become a destination for retirees; build more retirement communities; retain youth and young adult populations; preservation of local community	71	10%
<b>Government:</b> continuing citizen involvement and transparency in government; improve communication through web technology; privatize services; utilize regional financial resources; combine services to eliminate unnecessary redundancies; initiate training for review boards; improve code enforcement; metro government; put in place protections from eminent domain/encroachments	54	7%
<b>Infrastructure and Public Services:</b> expansion of public/private utilities-cable, internet, etc; increased financial support for volunteer fire departments, rebuild dams; upgrade water lines	31	4%
<b>Downtown development:</b> downtown TIF project; infill development to encourage better land utilization (compact development); better utilization of existing structures (vacant buildings); preserving downtown architecture; incentive programs for historic preservation	19	3%
<b>Housing:</b> increase affordable housing; continue to offer diverse types of housing	19	3%

<b>Threats</b>	<b>Votes</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Government:</b> high taxation; City/County budgetary mismanagement - massive debt, lack of revenue to afford improvements, financial burden of downtown redevelopment, loss of public program funding; lack of responsive leadership; good ol' boy system; statewide overregulation; loss of influence in congressional and state politics; lack of full time government leadership; lack of cooperation; losing 5th and 6th class cities (threat of metro government); use of eminent domain; not implementing the comprehensive plan; lack of thorough research on major expenditures (e.g. Transpark)	157	21%
<b>Climate for Development and Planning for Growth:</b> inconsistent application of zoning regulations from project to project; making zoning regulations more restrictive; big city ideas and expectations; resistance to change; not promoting redevelopment of property in City limits; mandatory green building; commercial sprawl limiting official travel time; cost of inefficient patterns of development; lack of population retention; poorly planned future annexations; "amoeba growth" (i.e. sprawl)	134	18%
<b>Infrastructure and Public Facilities:</b> limited ability to finance schools and infrastructure; only one water source; inadequate roadways, influx of visitors on weekends creates traffic problems; lack of stormwater management; destruction of trees by utilities; energy: quantity, type and cost; solid waste management; reactive versus proactive infrastructure planning; uncertainty regarding future of airport	102	14%
<b>Public Safety:</b> crime, especially related to drugs and gangs; inadequate community warning systems; inadequate EMS, cost of health care; lack of good fire service protection; understaffed County Sheriff's Department; hazardous materials; bad drivers; underpaying emergency service providers	88	12%
<b>Natural Resources and Environment:</b> global warming; depletion of natural resources; loss of farmland and public green space; litter; loss of public green space; pollution, including sound and light; located in "natural disaster corridor"	72	10%
<b>Loss of Community:</b> lack of volunteer support; lack of community involvement in the political process; poverty; drop out rates; unwholesome entertainment; every person for him or herself attitude; not blending cultural diversity, ethnic segregation; loss of community; loss of small town feeling	49	7%
<b>Economy:</b> attracting low-end employment; attracting a casino; being unprepared for globalization, burden from multi-nationals; too dependent on manufacturing jobs; growing segment of workforce underskilled and undereducated; inflationary pressures (e.g. gas money); increased unemployment, outsourcing; excessive incentives for corporations	43	6%
<b>Education:</b> loss of state funding to WKU; lack of improvement to education system; lack of youth involvement; wasted human resources; undereducated population; excessive University growth; limited library resources - inequitable distribution throughout County; overcrowding of schools; underpaying teachers	34	5%
<b>Immigration:</b> Illegal immigrants; language barriers; not planning for cultural diversity	33	4%
<b>Housing:</b> lack of adequate building codes; subdivision of houses into apartments; student housing posing safety and aesthetic problems; lack of affordable housing for young professionals and low income households; decline of older neighborhoods and lack of incentives to do so; oversized houses	27	4%

# Focus2030 Comprehensive Plan

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Alvaton Elementary School - 2/25/08

### Group 1

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Historic preservation	2
City/County positive development attitude	3
Minimum planning/maximum liberty	1
Rural-green space	4
Community volunteerism (e.g. VFD); citizenry's cooperative attitude; rural/community spirit	3
Government's cooperation	0
Infrastructure; Transpark and 4-laning of Scottsville Road; railroad; transportation	5
Multi-cultural community	0
Location and proximity in regional context; mild climate; low pollution/good air quality; good water source	7
Relatively low cost of living	7
Multitude of recreational activities	3
Diverse industrial base	1
WKU	2

<b>Weaknesses</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Lack of good communication by elected officials	4
Transportation; infrastructure not keeping pace with development	5
Population growth not managed	3
Encroaching government (e.g. 7 new taxes last year)	4
Light pollution	0
Planning for future water sources	1
Lack of broadband coverage; cable's lack of competition	5
High student to teacher ratio	2
Poor public fiscal management	6

<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Managed growth	5
Transpark development	1
Develop and grow existing business, industries, and educational institutions	5
Web and technology; improving communication	5
Widening of I-65	2
Tourism	4
Daily transparency and citizen involvement in government; elections	3
Downtown TIF	0
Agribusiness	2

<b>Threats</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Disregarding current zoning regulations	6
Increased zoning regulations	3
Commercial sprawl limiting efficient travel	2
Increased EPA standards	0
Natural disaster corridor	1
Secrecy in government	4
Drugs	5
Global warming	0

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Alvaton Elementary School - 2/25/08

### Group 2

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Small town atmosphere; friendly atmosphere	2
Major college; free activities related to WKU	7
Option for isolation from neighbors	1
Green spaces; rivers and creek system; natural resources; City and County parks systems	3
Strategic location (Nashville, Louisville); close to other metro destinations	4
Good access to Interstate; transportation network	3
Reasonable cost of living	1
Recycling program; green power program; stormwater management	4
Local farmers' market	4
Outstanding city police	1
Downtown revitalization activities	1
Progressive city programs; delivery of services	0
Feeling of safety	0
Responsible pet ownership ordinance	1
Highways and city kept clean	0
Comparatively low unemployment; lots of industry	3
Beautiful farms; farming industry	4
Public and private schools systems	3
Medical facilities	2

<b>Weaknesses</b>	<b>Votes</b>
High city income tax (not sales tax); overtaxation	4
Lack of dependable and clean water supply; water pollution	4
Poor traffic flow; broken infrastructure	9
Government follow through; unfunded mandates	2
Loss of farmland to development	7
Karst's constraints on development	1
Spotty recycling services; spotty high speed internet services	1
City/County funding; government overspending	4
Lack of smoking ban	2
Good ol' boy network	6
Pollution from industry waste	0
Lack of City/County oversight	1
City/County don't listen	0
Transpark; uncertainty regarding future of airport when Transpark is complete	0
No County pet ordinance	1
Too much government control	2
Baseball stadium is monetary drain	1
Poor access to organic "whole" foods, no food co-op	0
Ugly TVA poles	0
Planning and zoning's lack of foresight	6

<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Continue to make attractive to industry	6
Green movement buy-in	5
Seek higher paying industry; jobs	7
WKU benefits	4
less taxation for private enterprise	5

Fix road network (e.g. service roads) to improve access to businesses	8
Get casino	1
Expand public transportation	3
Private enterprise providing services instead of government	2
Local entrepreneurship	1
Upcoming election	0
Self-sustaining development; development pays for infrastructure and its impacts on surrounding area	7

<b>Threats</b>	<i>Votes</i>
Illegal aliens	8
Lack of planning for growth (e.g. roads)	6
Conflict between attracting industry and getting higher paying jobs	0
Big city ideas and expectations	1
Loss of state funding to WKU	2
Attracting a casino	2
Illegal drugs	9
Good ol' boys	8
High taxation	6
Resistance to change	2
Loss of small town feeling	3

**Focus2030 Comprehensive Plan**  
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*Alvaton Elementary School - 2/25/08*

**Group 3**

<b>Strengths</b>	<i>Votes</i>
People; citizens; community pride; quality of life	1
Diverse employment	2
Moderate size; room to grow; geographic location	0
Tax rates; utility costs; cost of living	4
School systems; college	2
Regional location	3

<b>Weaknesses</b>	<i>Votes</i>
Lack of long range planning - implementation and execution; infrastructure-roads and utilities	4
County protective ordinance - enforcement	2
Government infrastructure-reactive versus proactive; County government communication, not accessible; politics; good ole' boy politics	10
County emergency services-police fire, EMS, financial accountability	4

<b>Opportunities</b>	<i>Votes</i>
Control growth - differentiate rural and urban growth patterns	5
Plan traffic growth	5
Combine school systems	0
Utilize regional financial resources	0
Promote more "green" resources - create incentives	0
Expansion of public/private utilities - cable, internet, etc	0
Control industrial growth - proper locations; infrastructure	0
Relocate air transportation	0
Create accountability of government-more communication with public	0

<b>Threats</b>	<i>Votes</i>
Only one water source	2
Uncontrolled growth-irresponsible growth	5
County/City financial/fiscal depletion	4
Inadequate community warning systems; lack of mitigation efforts for EMS; problem solving resources	6
Increase in international population	4
Depletion of natural resources; loss of farmland	4

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Alvaton Elementary School - 2/25/08

#### Group 4

<b>Strengths</b>	<i>Votes</i>
The arts opportunities - music, theater	1
Location - between Louisville and Nashville	4
Cultural diversity	2
People - sense of community, community involvement, work ethic, "can do" attitude	6
Economic diversification - strong economy	5
County school system	0
Parks and recreation	0
Leadership listens to the community	1
WKU - BGTCS - higher education	4
Access to state parks	1
Small town feel	2
Fire protection - volunteer and BGFED / emergency services	6
Medical treatment facilities	2
Natural resources	2

<b>Weaknesses</b>	<i>Votes</i>
Top-down attitude by leadership, poor / one-way communication (gov't vs. community)	6
Traffic - major roads - US 231, KY 234	6
Lack of mass transit (bus, train) - local and regional	2
Overregulation / inconsistent enforcement	3
Lack of planning ahead for the future	6
Loss of open space	4
Leadership doesn't have clear priorities	2
Lack of financial support for services (volunteer fire depts.)	6
Lack of long-term plan for natural resources	3
Lack of financial resources for worthy projects	5
Limited sewer service coverage in the County	2
Inadequate water supply for fire fighting	6

<b>Opportunities</b>	<i>Votes</i>
Industrial growth / diversification	6
Possibility of combining services / eliminate duplication, unnecessary redundancies	4
Globalization	1
Sustainability	4
Private investment in economy / community	3
Casino	1
Develop county-wide plan / process	6
Financial support - volunteer fire departments	6
Youth involvement - planning for the future (include high school student input)	6
Strong economy	5

<b>Threats</b>	<i>Votes</i>
Unprepared for globalization	2
Loss of natural resources	5
Lack of good fire service protection	6
Lack of responsiveness by leadership	6
Stop growing education system / outdated	6
Lack of youth involvement	6
Lack of volunteer support	4
Statewide overregulation - unfunded mandates	6
Lack of community involvement - all socio-economic classes	5
Lack of plans for the future	5
Lack of citizen involvement in political process	6

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### Group 5

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Restaurants / fast food	0
Geographical location - proximity	5
Landscape / appearance, natural beauty	2
Greenways, parks - lake (Barren River), Air (Heritage) Park, Downtown Park	5
Proximity to hospitals, shopping	1
WKU, educational facilities & programs, libraries - educational opportunities	5
Strong economy	0
Safety and security, emergency services	4
Low cost of utility services	4
Friendly community attitude	1
Wide variety of business services	0

<b>Weaknesses</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Traffic	5
Karst - drainage, sinkholes	0
Illicit drugs, crime	3
Lack of air service	5
Lack of public transportation	3
Lack of cable / internet service in rural areas	4
Lack of finer restaurants	0
Public housing (codes)	2
Lack of trauma center	4

<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Growth of community with local young people	3
Italian restaurants	0
Draw larger corporate headquarters / technology	5
Expand arts community, museum, cultural growth	5
Major transportation loop (construction), improve traffic flow countywide	5
Improve air transportation	3
Conservation of farmland & natural beauty	4

<b>Threats</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Baseball park	1
Increased crime	5
Illegal immigrants	1
Not addressing/planning/preparing for cultural diversity	5
Lack of adequate building codes	3

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*Alvaton Elementary School - 2/25/08*

**Group 6**

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Small town atmosphere, scale and size of the community	4
Self-sufficient (can get all needs covered within the community)	2
Good infrastructure	2
School system	3
Parks	1
Diversified economy	1
Volunteerism	1
Diverse population	0
Comparatively low tax rates	2
Low unemployment	1

<b>Weaknesses</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Traffic congestion, safety (running red lights)	4
Lack of law enforcement, drug activity (limited law enforcement resources in the County)	4
Lack of higher paying jobs	2
Ballpark (use of public funds for private developments)	0
Impact of City decisions on County residents (lack of representation / voice)	1
City's unwillingness to use eminent domain for public projects	2
Apathy / widespread misinformation	0

<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Guide growth to areas with infrastructure, centralized locations (e.g. I-65), expand infrastructure - including Countywide high-speed internet	5
Smaller marketplace areas (commercial)	3
Transpark / adequate land for industrial growth	3
Use zoning to protect certain areas and uses	5
Chamber attracting a corporate headquarters	3
Educational system	4

<b>Threats</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Lack of adequate funding (infrastructure, education)	0
Inadequate roadways (unsafe)	6
Illegal immigration	3
Rule of law and order (not following)	2
Cost of health care	1
Inadequate water supply/water quality	1
Casino	2
Lack of support by elected officials	1

# Focus2030 Comprehensive Plan

Community Forums - February 2008

Richardsville Elementary- 2/25/08

## Group 1

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Diversity	1
Family roots	3
Employment opportunities	7
Planning and zoning	2
Regional draw	1
Roads and infrastructure; water supply	10
Close to I-65	0
WKU	0
Strong agribusiness	8
Fire protection	5
School system	2
Nice weather	0
Park system	1

<b>Weaknesses</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Forced growth - storm water	4
Debt	7
Specialized employment; change in market	1
Taxes	8
Roads and bridges	4
Loss of land	7
Population increase	2
Lack of planning and zoning enforcement	1
Lack of parity regarding development costs	0
Inflated property values	6
Overextending public projects	5
"Big brother is watching"	4
Urban regulations don't always apply in rural areas	0
Privatization of public programs	2
Lack of adequate fire protection (outside five mile circle)	4
Metro government	8
Available sewer lines	1
Reduce corporate incentives	1
Regional waste management	1

<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Incentives to preserve farmland	10
Preserve heritage	0
Involve youth in decision process	4
Christian values	8
River recreation	1
Tourism	6
Bridges and roads; cut down travel time	9
Educational opportunities; technical schools	4
Communication (two way)	4
Incentives to keep children in area	2

<b>Threats</b>	<i>Votes</i>
Overpopulation	2
Metro	9
Burden from multi-nationals	8
Moral values	6
Litter-eye sore	2
Illegal drugs	3
Massive debt	4
Taxes	6
Loss of farmland	8
Loss of employment opportunities	0

## Focus2030 Comprehensive Plan

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Richardsville Elementary- 2/25/08

### Group 2

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Economy, diverse industry, agricultural sector, locally-owned business	9
Good rural roads	2
Close-knit community / compactness	2
Strong parks / recreation	2
Family-oriented community, strong religious community	7
Educational resources, WKU and the diversity it brings	10
Beautification	3
Community arts / music	1
Public safety	3
Good recycling program	1

<b>Weaknesses</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Too many apartments	1
Not enough youth activity	4
Transportation for elderly and children (safety)	0
Outdated infrastructure, traffic problems	8
Poor property maintenance enforcement	3
Poorly located waste collection facilities and inadequate systems	3
County budget cuts	1

<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Economic diversification, commercial development in North/West Warren County	7
Affordable housing	3
Available land for development	1
Activities for youth / elderly, better school facility use	5
Expand transit system	2

<b>Threats</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Ability / how to finance schools and infrastructure	4
Wasted human resources / under-educated population	3
Urban sprawl	1
Property owners losing their rights	2
Drug problems / crime rate	9
Pollution	2
Stormwater management	2
Loss of prime farmland	7

## Focus2030 Comprehensive Plan

Community Forums - February 2008

Bowling Green Junior High - 2/26/08

### Group 1

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Votes</b>
People; friendly atmosphere; "hometown feel"; retain WKU grads; family oriented	6
Good infrastructure; paved roads in rural areas	0
Ideal size-balance of activities; small town feel	3
Location "crossroads"; Louisville, Nashville	3
Diversity of economy: industry, WKU, agriculture; employment opportunities	7
Lots of stores and shopping centers	2
Less traffic than larger cities	0
Lots of cultural opportunities e.g. arts, "mini version of Nashville", sports	3
Lakes, excellent park system, outstanding greenways	3
Vocational school; WKU; post-secondary education; public school system	5
Major regional hospitals	4

<b>Weaknesses</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Management of traffic, especially Scottsville Road; traffic flow; grid lock because of attractions; need for more traffic arteries; narrow roads	7
Infrastructure - sewer, water, storm water drainage, road system, spotty cable and high speed internet service in rural areas	5
Fire protection, public safety, crime	2
Inconsistent planning for growth; CCPC doesn't enforce development rules and regulations or planning and zoning	7
Parking downtown and near WKU needs better management	3
No public transit	4
Employee stock; lack of quality labor force; lower pay scale	3
Industrial employers lack diversity	4

<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Diversity of industry	3
Outdoor activities, recreational opportunities, e.g. more trails at Mammoth Cave	2
Add traffic arteries; affect or change density and other planning regulations; improve infrastructure; diversity cable providers; improve planning for growth	6
Combine City and County governments; "consolidated local government; more cooperation between all agencies (e.g. utilities, governments)	5
Reestablish family-oriented community organizations such as the YMCA	1
Increase cultural opportunities through WKU	2

<b>Threats</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Crime; illegal drugs	3
Language barriers	4
Increased traffic flow	0
Population growth exceeds infrastructure capacity (roads, water, sewer, cable, solid waste)	7

Too few doctors in certain areas of practice (e.g. Dermatology)	3
Influx of population on weekends - people coming to Bowling Green to shop, lack of "trade center" planning	2
Lack of planning, in general	4
Loss of influence in congressional and state politics	0
County sheriff's department has too few deputies	5
Destruction of trees by utilities	2
Light and sound pollution	0
Subdivision of houses into apartments/student housing poses safety and aesthetic problems	2
Lack of affordable housing for young professionals	0
Too few high paying jobs	0
Too dependent on manufacturing jobs	0
Lack of revenue to afford improvements	1

**Focus2030 Comprehensive Plan**  
**Community Forums - February 2008**  
*Bowling Green Junior High - 2/26/08*

**Group 2**

<b>Strengths</b>	<i>Votes</i>
Quality of life: strong neighborhoods, parks and recreation, low crime, healthcare, cultural opportunities, historic preservation, large city amenities with "small town feel"	4
Business climate: Chamber of Commerce, development opportunities, diverse economy, shopping	4
Transportation - good road system, rail system	4
Public services: good government, police and fire protection	0
Educational opportunities / WKU	4
Cost of living: taxes, utilities, housing	0

<b>Weaknesses</b>	<i>Votes</i>
Overregulation, not enough planning but too much zoning, urban sprawl	3
Traffic congestion, cut-through traffic	4
Insufficient public transportation	3
WKU students living in single family neighborhoods, Code enforcement	1
City-County government NOT working together	2
Incomplete pedestrian facilities	1
Reactive vs. proactive mentality	1

<b>Opportunities</b>	<i>Votes</i>
Location; Transportation	4
Education, knowledge-based economy, investment in human capital	5
Availability of alternate resources	0
Tourism, economic development	4
Industrial development, Transpark	2
Development of natural resources / beauty	3

<b>Threats</b>	<i>Votes</i>
Energy: quantity, type, cost	4
Environment: pollution, accident rates as we grow	2
Unplanned growth	4
Global change	2
Society problems: poverty, drugs, dropout rates	3
Not enough knowledge-based jobs	4

**Focus2030 Comprehensive Plan**  
**Community Forums - February 2008**  
*Bowling Green Junior High - 2/26/08*

**Group 3**

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Aesthetics	2
Community character: family-oriented place; historic neighborhoods; small town feel; social networking opportunities; neighborhood associations	7
Higher education	4
Diversity - cultural; diverse ethnicities; church diversity	2
Economy - diverse economy; skilled labor pool; strong industrial base; downtown redevelopment; a part of TVA system	6
Karst	0
Location - related to Louisville and Nashville; transportation facilities	1
Climate	0
Medical facilities	1
Shopping facilities	0
Green infrastructure	5
Safety - low crime rate; police and fire departments, community involvement in government	3

<b>Weaknesses</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Environment: karst (development costs)	1
Traffic, lack of robust mass transit	10
Lack of codes enforcement	5
Visual clutter: overhead utilities, poor upkeep	12
Lack of cultural opportunities	0
Lack of animal control	1
Excess rental properties	1
Noise pollution	2
Excessive University growth	1
Preservation - development out of context; inadequate neighborhood protection, lack of review board training	3

<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Streamline government; focus on the fundamentals	1
WKU (education, culture for community)	1
Expand greenways and parks	2
Improve gateways	5
Support use of downtown	3
Initiate training for review boards	1
Mass transit system	4
Improve code enforcement	3
Preserve rural characters	2

<b>Threats</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Development; loss of community identity; unmanaged growth; urban sprawl; leap frog development; loss of agricultural land	12

Casino; gambling influence; unwholesome entertainment	2
Taxes	2
Financial burden of downtown redevelopment	2
Public program funding	1
Excessive University growth	2
Lack of full-time government leadership	2

**Focus2030 Comprehensive Plan**  
**Community Forums - February 2008**  
*Bowling Green Junior High - 2/26/08*

**Group 4**

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Environmental resources, parks and recreation / greenways, proximity to State and national parks	7
WKU, educated workforce, technical / community education, City / County school system,	7
Scale and size of community	5
Proximity to metro areas	0
Ethnic diversity	2
Rural and urban proximity	1
Historical areas	2
Downtown redevelopment	1
City gateways (Cemetery Road)	0
Community and economic support	1
Strong cultural community	2
Diverse religions	1
Strong economic base; growth; diversity	2
Low density neighborhoods	1
Strong community volunteerism	0
Planning and zoning	0
Healthcare	0
Favorable climate	0
Manageable congestion	0

<b>Weaknesses</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Poorly managed growth, lack of planning for development - growth exceeding capacity of infrastructure, congestion (Scottsville Rd.),	5
Non-responsive leadership (City / County) , over-influence of large organizations	3
Duplication of services	3
Lack of tenant / landlord ordinance: property standards, tenant rights	5
Lack of robust public transportation, lack of infrastructure for alternative transportation modes, high ozone / air pollution	6
Lack of awareness and support for building to conserve resources ("not building for the future")	2

<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Expand public transit, complete streets (sidewalks, bike paths)	7
Metro government	6
Infill development to encourage better land utilization (compact dev.), downtown redev., better utilization of existing structures (vacant bldgs.)	7
Eco-tourism, agribusiness	0
Becoming a destination for retirees	0
Capitalize on human talent	0
Develop local food systems	3
Managed industrial growth	7

Put in place protections from eminent domain / encroachments	1
Grow greenways program / open space	3
Mixed-use patterns	2
Eco-friendly building / green building, use of renewable resources (WKU - training), more comprehensive / Countywide recycling program	7

<b>Threats</b>	<i>Votes</i>
Lack of flexibility among leaders (lack of cooperation / coordination b/w City and County), delaying implementation of Metro government	6
Not upgrading road system / public transportation, inability to keep up with growth (infrastructure)	6
Lack of adequate planning and zoning, over-building of commercial development, cost of inefficient development patterns (investment in infrastructure)	5
"Every man for himself" / "me, me, me" mentality - shortsightedness	3
Failure to upgrade / grow life safety services	4
Depletion of natural resources	5
Lack of representation and integration of WC/BG diverse communities	1
Eminent domain	1
Declining budgets	0
Bankrupt population (increasing taxes)	0

**Focus2030 Comprehensive Plan**  
**Community Forums - February 2008**  
*Hadley Community Center - 2/26/08*

**Group 1**

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Christian religious base and community / volunteer spirit	9
Educational opportunities - proposed new school	6
Great place to live; great people, heritage, "home"	7
Employment opportunities	0
Good community size	4
Safe community: low crime rate, neighborhood watch	2

<b>Weaknesses</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Low voter participation, perception that "our voice is not heard"	3
Lack of infrastructure: public water and sewer service / underground utilities, no internet or cable	8
Lax law enforcement	1
Lack of community events and involvement / participation	0
Overlooked - lack of opportunities for parks and recreation, "don't get share of funding"	5
Co. package alcohol sales (optional for each store)	3
Limitations of Karst for development and infrastructure	2
Inconsistent application of standards (buildings and placement of homes)	0
Inconsistency of assessments, taxes raised too high all at one time (political?)	6
ISO ratings system impractical	4

<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Votes</b>
626 Interchange on Parkway	10
Build school in Hadley	6
Upgrade water lines	7
Larger local grocery (current location cannot expand)	3
Allow redevelopment of non-conforming lots	1
Space available for park development locally	1
Allow selective growth of commercial and residential	5

<b>Threats</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Lack of law enforcement patrols - safety threat	6
Lack of infrastructure inhibiting growth	9
Small community size - limits voice in ability to get good development	1
Narrow and unsafe roads	5
Too few fire substations	6
Overdevelopment	2
Lack of agricultural opportunities to replace tobacco	1
Lack of communication of available benefits	0

**Focus2030 Comprehensive Plan**  
**Community Forums - February 2008**  
*Hadley Community Center - 2/26/08*

**Group 2**

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Diversity of cultures, business (e.g., farms, stores)	10
Location on Interstate	2
Small town feeling with large town amenities	10
Bio-diversity: habitats, animals, plants, water resources	9
Good industrial base	1
Private areas (rural lifestyles)	4
Small community personalities	3
Productive farms	7
Good road planning and maintenance	1
Parks and recreation broad based	1
Good law enforcement	2
Good communications with local leaders ("Peanuts")	0
Good school systems; educational opportunities	6
Good moral base, demonstrates love for each other	3
Good volunteer fire departments	3
Economic stability	4
Good cultural opportunities, performing arts	0
Beautiful landscape	1
Deep family heritage	0

<b>Weaknesses</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Lack of fire hydrants in rural areas	6
Forgetfulness of Hadley community ("stepchild of Warren Co."), lack of communication with gov't. leaders	10
Roadside litter	0
Traffic in general	6
Lack of green space in the City, lack of alternate transp. for people, bikes (safety)	3
Lack of internet service	4
County, Fiscal Court spending on City projects	8
Not enough County deputies	6
Water quality (drinking water)	2
River navigation (recreation, fishing, boating)	5
Loss of farmland (urban sprawl)	3
Location of elementary schools	1
Productivity of small farms (5 to 10 acre farms)	1
Loss of industrial jobs to out of state, too high taxes	4

<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Improve farm productivity and marketing	4
Improve education, skills and access to local jobs	6
Expand retail outlets and schools to Hadley area	3
Expand greenway systems	1
One school system - Metro government	6

Promote small business	3
Capitalize on beautiful landscape and outdoor recreational activities (hunting, fishing)	6
Maintain low cost of living	2
Improve code enforcement to make area desirable	3
Rebuild dams	5

Loss of jobs, lack of new industrial opportunities, lack of incentives by local government	4
Tax structure, both for personal and business taxes	5
High cost of education	5
Loss of 5th and 6th class cities	6
Lack of road plans, improvements	6
Lack of foresight (plans) for engineering services	5
Loss of City/County airport	1
Lack of research on new projects (e.g., Transpark)	5

**Focus2030 Comprehensive Plan**  
**Community Forums - February 2008**  
*Lighthouse Academy - 2/27/08*

**Group 1**

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Small big town; downtown uniqueness; local "mom 'n pops" businesses; access to public officials because small town	3
Diversity; developing cultural scene; growth potential of Bowling Green; community in which people want to raise a family	3
Community support for schools	0
Service organizations	0
Rural areas	3
I-66, if handled well (potential for growing economic base)	0

<b>Weaknesses</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Disappearance of rural areas; poor development/poor zoning (e.g. industrial areas are both on Scottsville Road; greenfield development versus redevelopment of older industrial; sprawl	3
Lack of adequate infrastructure; transportation-traffic patterns; lack of public transportation; infrastructure for sidewalks and bike paths; insufficient parking	2
Problems with equal opportunity housing-especially in immigrant communities; tenants rights; disregard for low income families	2
"Part-time mayor" to handle full-time city; city government structure (mayor versus manager)	1

<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Cultural enrichment	2
Integration of diverse communities	1
Business expansion/growth (corporate versus homegrown)	1
Parks system expansion (greenways)	1
New I-66 corridor	0
Better public transportation; integrate WKU and City transit?	3
More structured zoning; protection of rural areas from 1/4 acre lots	2
Revitalize Bowling Green	0
Integrate City, County, and State traffic management (e.g. synchronized lights)	1

<b>Threats</b>	<b>Votes</b>
becoming a bedroom community to Nashville	0
overdevelopment (both residential and non-residential); sprawl development	3
lack of continuity on zoning	0
poverty-concentration within City (unskilled versus uneducated workforce); lack of access to technical training	2
use of eminent domain by City	1
continued deterioration of historic districts (e.g. Shake Rag); lack of resources to maintain	2
limited library resources - inequitable distribution throughout County; lack of infrastructure-capacity to serve growth	0

**Focus2030 Comprehensive Plan**  
**Community Forums - February 2008**  
*BGMU Annex - 2/27/08*

**Group 1**

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Small town feel; city in county	5
University town	3
Tourism	4
Central location in USA (I-65); transportation hub	5
Good climate	0
International diversity	1
Historic properties	1
Access to strong healthcare	2
Reasonable property taxes	0
Attempt to protect groundwater	2
Parks and recreational opportunities; located on river	4
Excellent police and fire protection; EMS	2
Diverse and strong economy	5
Good schools	3

<b>Weaknesses</b>	
Concentration of jobs in automotive industry	1
Too much demolition of existing properties	1
Lack of enforceable tree trimming policies	1
Uncooperative/unresponsive utilities	2
Karst topography; radon	3
Physical environment	0
Traffic; lack of pedestrian walkways; lack of public transit	5
Road maintenance-pot holes	1
Planning and zoning; code enforcement; loss of farmland; urban sprawl	5
Low home ownership	1
No public smoking policies	1
Sign ordinance; community aesthetics	2
Conflict between aesthetics and utilities	2
Ineffective communication between elected officials and community leaders; small town politics; misplaced fiscal priorities	4
Ball park turmoil and accountability	3
Lack of knowledge based jobs	1
Lack of affordable housing	0
Need more consumer financial education	1
Air quality	2
Crime; drugs; social issues	4

<b>Opportunities</b>	
More interaction between WKU and City/community	3
Regional healthcare services	1
Good businesses/restaurants	1

Sustainable community; zoning ordinance to prevent sprawl; quality growth; infill	6
Preserving downtown architecture	3
Increasing cultural events	0
Ethnic diversity	1
Enhance aesthetics/bury utilities	2
River utilizations; developing natural resources; greenways development	7
Location of airport/commercial service	2
Utilize financial resources	1

<b>Threats</b>	
Concentration of jobs in automotive industry	2
Lack of sanitary and stormwater, sewers	2
Cost of energy sources	2
Urban sprawl (uncontrolled)	3
Inability to effectively deal with population growth	5
Small town politics	3
Uncertainty of economy	0

**Focus2030 Comprehensive Plan**  
**Community Forums - February 2008**  
*BGMU Annex - 2/27/08*

**Group 2**

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Green space; good public parks; good greenway program; clean community	7
Diversity and affordability of housing; reasonable cost of living; support structure for neighborhood associations (Bowling Green coalition of neighborhoods) unique neighborhoods	3
Diverse population; community pride	0
Community partnerships; good community support groups and non-profits; strong government support services	6
WKU; strong primary education	6
Community size; safe and friendly community (hospitality, values)	4
Historical buildings	1
Good job market; good economic development and leadership; strong Chamber of Commerce; desire for growth; good industrial infrastructure	3
Availability of arts/cultural events	1
Good comprehensive plan to build upon; vision for future	3
Downtown revitalization/ DRA	1
Medical facilities	3
Location in region of US (transportation)	3

<b>Weaknesses</b>	
Lack of redevelopment of older areas, urban sprawl	5
Too many restrictions on development; too much influence from public beyond regulations; excessive regulation for affordable housing	3
Infrastructure (e.g. roads, utilities); stormwater control	7
Too many billboards; visual clutter	3
Dirtiness of Barren River; illegal dumping	5
Poor government control over new development (make up of boards too developer-heavy , etc.)	2
Bicycle and pedestrian unfriendly, traffic congestion and flow	6

<b>Opportunities</b>	
New job opportunities; aggressive economic development; Transpark; maximize economic potential	4
Improve/expand greenways, encourage clean community; expand green space; strengthen environmental conditions	4
Revise Comprehensive Plan; enforce/fine tune current regulations to be more stringent	4
Utilize WKU students; community and WKU partnership	4
Encourage continued utilization of diversity; building volunteerism	2
Image in state/federal government	5
Image of Bowling Green as living destination; quality of life; tourism	6

<b>Threats</b>	
Solid waste management	6
Lack of population retention	2
Overspending on public projects	7
Not blending cultural diversity (should require English as official language)	2
More traffic; unsynchronized traffic lights; reactive versus proactive infrastructure planning; poor traffic flow	7
Overregulation affecting quality of life	4
Inflationary pressures (gas \$)	2
Drugs and gangs	3
Limiting tax base; not promoting redevelopment of property in City limits (insufficient land for development in City limits); inability for private sector to redevelop inside City limits	7

**Focus2030 Comprehensive Plan**  
**Community Forums - February 2008**  
*BGMU Annex - 2/27/08*

**Group 3**

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Vibrant economy	3
Low taxes	3
Rural/small town	1
Small town feel/larger town amenities	3
Affordable housing	2
Infrastructure for growth	2
Strong neighborhoods	2
Park system	3
Low regulatory environment	3
Good government services	1
University	4
Interstate	1
Libraries	0
Regional hub	0
Something for everyone (e.g. living, entertainment)	3

<b>Weaknesses</b>	
NIMBYism	4
Too restrictive on residential building (i.e. binding elements, lack of consistency)	2
Inadequate County roads for development	2
Lack of public transportation	2
Too much credence given to negativity; politically claustrophobic	2
Building regulation too lax (residential)	2
Traffic/inadequate fire protection in County; lack of "Green" building incentives; inadequate state highway system	5
Lack of walkability	1
"No growth" attitude; growth resident	4
Lack of sustainable growth; wise growth	2
Not getting greater share of state tax money	3
Loss of rural landscape	2

<b>Opportunities</b>	
"Jobs, jobs, jobs"	4
Local governments open to growth opportunities	3
Continuing park improvements	2
Abundant space/land for growth	2
Opportunity to apply smart growth	1
Low tax balancing demand for services	3
Structured opportunities for community participation in governing	1
Incentives for voluntary "green" building	2
University as attraction for educated workforce	3
Stronger neighborhoods; home ownership	2

Improvement of transportation system/public transportation	2
Public educational system	2
Regulatory environment that attracts newer businesses	2
Competitive economy; stay competitive and viable	3

<b>Threats</b>	
Regulatory barriers to development; mandatory "green" building	2
Overdevelopment of congested areas	3
Lack of sustainable growth	2
Change in economy and inability to respond appropriately	3
NIMBY-ism	2
Stormwater management for builders and consumers	1
Need to respond positively to change	4
Low home ownership/high rental rate	4
Decaying rental properties/slum and blight	2
Loss of community; development that doesn't respect context	3
Failure to preserve historic essence of Bowling Green	1
Infrastructure/strain on services with growth	2
Loss of public green space	1

## Focus2030 Comprehensive Plan

Community Forums - February 2008

BGMU Annex - 2/27/08

### Group 4

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Architectural heritage	1
Cultural/arts and entertainment opportunities	6
Geographic location/proximity to other assets	1
Parks systems; greenways system	6
Strong economic development/base	4
Hometown feel/assets of a large community but with a small town atmosphere	4
Strong community organizations to assist various demographics (e.g. low income)	3
Tourism	0
Not over-regulated; does not stifle growth	1
Neighborhood identities/city neighborhood action office	2
WKU and school systems	3
Excellent law enforcement; fire protection services	0

<b>Weaknesses</b>	
Overabundance of residential investment property in single family neighborhoods	4
Aging housing stock/verge of dilapidations	4
Lack of funding for community organizations	2
Too little planning for aging population (jobs, housing, activities, transportation)	2
Lack of infrastructure/aging infrastructure; problems with traffic flow and road maintenance	6
Weak policy regarding sustainable development; pro-development without regard to impact	4
Interaction weak between police and youth	1
Weak landlord/tenant relationships	5
Lack of positive youth activities	2
Limited transportation resources/public transit	0

<b>Opportunities</b>	
Constructive landlord/tenant policies	3
Outreach to international community; recognize opportunity for community organization to address diverse needs of population	3
Strengthen proactive property maintenance; code enforcement on existing properties	5
Sustainable development; responsible development; smart growth; higher densities in appropriate areas	5
Strengthen/maintain identity and integrity of existing neighborhoods (grants, neighborhood action office)	5
Potential heritage restoration projects (historic preservation/structural restoration); develop awareness; teach youth about Bowling Green and Warren County	4
Market community internally and externally for economic development; tagline; film industry; tourism; community pride	4
Development of new comprehensive plan to actually be used by planning commission	0

Maintain existing resources (e.g. parks, downtown)	2
Urban/county government; merge school systems	3

<b>Threats</b>	
Effect of overregulation of development; policies that inhibit sustainability/growth	1
Keeping up with changes in economy; threat of economic loss; loss of economic diversity	4
Public investment in private development	5
Encroachment of rental into single family neighborhoods	3
Lack of funding for community resources	3
Lack of community involvement	2
Making sure local governments maintain financial reserves to weather an economic downturn	4
City-density of infill development	1
Lack of restoration/maintenance of older neighborhoods; lack of incentives	5
Growth/expansion of WKU into neighborhoods	2

**Focus2030 Comprehensive Plan**  
**Community Forums - February 2008**  
*Smiths Grove- 2/28/08*

**Group 1**

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Votes</b>
WKU; educational systems	9
Diversity of industry; strong economy	8
Location - Interstate	4
Good people; strong values; friendly	5
Transportation	4
Strong agricultural base	3
Size - small	1
Lakes; recreational availability; park system; greenways	7
Community center	1
Tourism	2
Diversity of people	2
Retail mall; places to eat	3
Cost of living	1
Transit system	1

<b>Weaknesses</b>	
Not enough bike and pedestrian paths	1
Lack of commercial air service	2
Drug related crime	7
Lack of restaurants outside of Bowling Green	2
Infrastructure; poor public transit	6
Losing industry	3
Lack of universal high speed internet in rural areas	6
Underfunded and understaffed volunteer fire departments	5
Projects put on taxpayers	5
Weak media outlets; newspaper	4
Emergency response time	1
Development of prime farmland; implementation of zoning	5
Litter	2
Not enough libraries	1
lack of opportunity for residential development	1

<b>Opportunities</b>	
Transportation system; I-66	6
Tourism	1
Opportunity to worship	2
WKU; access to education system	5
Agriculture	2
Improved medical services	4
Diversification of the economy; economic development; growth	4

<b>Threats</b>	
Energy costs	2
Special interests	2
Pollution	3
Loss of farmland	3
Traffic	2
Tax burdens	8
Hazardous materials	1
Cost of living	2
Drug problem	2
Metro government	2
Lack of adequate water supply	3
Foreign competition	3
Bad drivers	1

# Focus2030 Comprehensive Plan

## Community Forums - February 2008

Smiths Grove- 2/28/08

### Group 2

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Preservation of green space; less urban sprawl; park space	0
Health resources - availability	2
Local libraries	6
Smith's Grove historic district, homes, and cemetery	5
Quality of life (e.g. churches)	5
Independence of Smith's Grove; maintain independent cities rather than metro government	8
Strong agricultural base	7
WKU and technical schools; public school system	3
Keep open space and farms; preservation of historic farms	6

<b>Weaknesses</b>	
Taxes; liberal spending	4
Lack of respect for agricultural community	7
Sprawl (e.g. Plano); emphasis on Interstate growth; threat to rural villages; too many "bedroom communities" - have to drive a long way for shopping and services	6
Transportation	8
Traffic management	5
Infrastructure (i.e. utilities)	6
Funding and staffing for volunteer fire department	2
Trash/litter and recycling - weak pick-up	1
Lack of adequate library services and buildings in rural Warren County	5

<b>Opportunities</b>	
Preserve green space because once it's gone, it's too late; development of County parks	3
Plan infrastructure before development comes to prevent sprawl	9
Local food supply; promote green energy; initiate recycling; mindful of water supply	8
Improve library system	6
Teach youth work ethic	3
Vocational agriculture training in schools; educational system	7
Save historic sites (e.g. homes, farms, churches, cemeteries); enhance viability of rural villages	7

<b>Threats</b>	
Metro government; lack of citizen input in major projects such as the ball field, Transpark	6
Increased population - poor air quality and water supply contaminated by large plants	0
Loss of local business	0
Interstate growth without planning - the loss of farms and land resources is expensive	3
Loss of viable farmland	10
High taxes	7
Lack of adequate planning and public participation in airport plans	10
Use of eminent domain and individual's property rights	0
Illegal alien population	1

# Focus2030 Comprehensive Plan

## Community Forums - February 2008

Rich Pond - 2/28/08

### Group 1

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Low density community	3
Diverse population/ethnicities	3
Low crime, safe place	3
University influence	7
Countywide public school system	2
Job opportunities	1
Historic preservation	2
Economic/agricultural base	5
Close knit community	5
Accessible goods and services	5
Youth program	3
Utility services	1
Recreation facilities countywide	3
Citizen retention	2
Strong, Christian-based religion	1
Healthcare availability	2
Accessible fine arts	1
Unique geological make-up	0
County fire department	1
Utility maintenance	1
Low cost of living	3
Great community for raising children	5
City/County cooperation	0
Strong relationship between University and public school system	7
Major highway systems	5

<b>Weaknesses</b>	
Loss of historic buildings	1
Traffic	8
Loss of active farmland	6
Water pollution due to unique geological make-up	1
Over capacity for schools	0
Approved developments are too dense	4
Lack of sewer in County	4
Zoning is too flexible	2
Amendable restrictions to development	10
Too much latitude with interpreting comprehensive plan	10
Road conditions	8
Changing school district boundaries too often	1
"Good ol' boy" network	10
Signage and architectural standards	0
Public spending	10

## Opportunities

Comprehensive plan to not allow growth beyond infrastructure's capacity	5
Plan to not disrupt agricultural activities	6
Extracurricular opportunities for youth participation in schools	2
promote local agricultural base	4
Promote incentive programs for local rural conservation	2
Incentive programs for historic preservation	1
Access to full postal centers	0
Plan to prevent eminent domain for active farmlands and develop low use areas	6
Incentives to grow green	3

## Threats

Loss of agricultural grounds	5
Language barriers	1
Not implementing the comprehensive plan	10
Inflation of land cost	1
Disorderly annexation	2
Amoeba growth (urban sprawl)	4
Lack of technological forecasting for growth	1
Not enough fresh drinking water available in community	3
Traffic gridlock	3
Lack of adequate affordable, low-income housing	0

## Focus2030 Comprehensive Plan

### Community Forums - February 2008

Rich Pond - 2/28/08

#### Group 2

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Strong cultural base, good farmland	0
WKU	9
Friendliness of people; unique downtown; small town feel with large city amenities	9
Diverse activities; acceptance of diverse activities; sports activities; strong visual and performance arts	6
Balance of old and new	0
Job opportunities	2
Wide diversity of faiths	4
Diverse types of industries - one closure doesn't wipe out entire community	4
Good weather; attractive topography	2
Low crime rate; safety; good police and fire	3
Parks and recreation; bike-friendly; greenways	3
Good housing market/value	2
Trustworthy trades; workers in service industry	1
Reasonable tax rate	2
Business support of students	1
good schools, teachers, and test scores	4
Regional shopping and business hub	2

<b>Weaknesses</b>	<b>Votes</b>
WKU "suitcase college"	1
Roads; Traffic lights; surface condition; width; control of roads around University; secondary road connectivity; same roads have different names	9
WKU expansion - tearing down historic older properties	5
Affordable housing; overregulation drives up development costs; too many restrictions on same developments	5
Scottsville Road - traffic, frontage roads too much of a focal point, not diverse	3
Need more infill development where infrastructure exists like roads	2
Developers should bear costs of infrastructure needs	3
Lack of awareness of problems in ethnic communities	2
Growth outpaces infrastructure, needs better planning	6
Airport - outgrown location, location restricts growth	2
How to safety and effectively integrate people with different ideas	2
Trade identity for unplanned growth	1
No competition in media formats (e.g. newspaper, tv news)	3
No combining of solid waste and recycling services	0
Need more activities, evening activities; need more non-alcoholic places to go	6
Lack of commercial river traffic	3
Lack of aesthetic controls for signs, buildings	3

<b>Opportunities</b>	
Better infrastructure (e.g. roads) planning; follow through with planned roads	7
Plan/build schools for growth	5
Continue integration of WKU and community - ideas and resources	4
Continue to offer diverse types of housing	1
Adopt building standards for weather related issues such as wind	0
Grow public transportation	7
Learn from other communities experiencing growth	4
Grow/build more retirement communities (but NOT nursing homes); retain youth and young adult population	6
Move airport	1
Grow river access	2
Grow riverfront - Mitch McConnell Park	0

<b>Threats</b>	
Immigration, illegal immigrants in County	7
Lack of conservation of natural resources	4
Government overspending	2
Lack of community involvement in political process; decisions	6
Lack of funding	2
Balance of low taxes with love of amenities and services	3
Overgrowth of WKU	2
Uncontrolled growth and development	3
Overcrowding of schools and hospitals	1
Underpaying teachers	3
Unemployment - growth of unemployment, may not keep up with business growth	1
Underpaying emergency services sector	3
Loss of farmland	3
Substandard housing	0
Loss of developable land	2

## Focus2030 Comprehensive Plan

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#### Group 3

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Family; friendliest people; small town atmosphere; spiritual values	6
Good economy	8
Healthcare - health department	1
Relationship with City/County, WKU; joint City/County planning; good leadership in government	6
Geographic location	2
Agriculture	2
WKU - national university	4
Diverse culture	1
Regional market	1
Safety; low crime; police/fire	2
Good education system (K-12)	1

#### **Weaknesses**

Roads and traffic	6
Difference in education between schools	5
Lack of recycling in County for business and industry	3
Downtown conditions	0
Cultural differences	4
Not enough public golf courses	1
Lack of ample emergency centers	1
Lack of alternative forms of transportation	5
More amenities in rural areas	1
Loss of farmland	4
A lack of accountability of all government officials	7

#### **Opportunities**

Downtown redevelopment	2
Music programs in schools - especially "string" programs	2
Planned roads in Rich Pond	2
Economic development	3
"Green" new developments	4
Outdoor recreation growth	4
preservation of local community with growth	6
Encourage corporate responsibility	4
Increase quality of workforce; higher paying jobs	1
Tourism	6
Performing arts	2
Historic preservation	3
WKU expansion	4
Organized youth athletics	3

<b>Threats</b>	
Illegal immigrants in workforce	2
Drugs; crime	6
Present day infrastructure	7
Disregard for the environment	6
Unemployment; outsourcing of jobs	1
Excessive tax incentives for corporations	2
Inflation of land property	0
Lack of affordable housing	4
Urban sprawl	6
Ethnic segregation	4
Oversized homes	1