



Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Challenges (SWOC) Activity Responses

Each list is a combination of everything written down on a posted note and conversational points raised by meeting attendees within each small group.

Health and Wellness Group

Strengths

- Keep Food Safe – BCHD, Education, and Industry cooperative
- Park District
- Council on Aging Bus Service
- Extension Service
- Health Services
- 4-H Programs
- Conservation District
- Boone County Fair
- To Your Health – Series at Boone County Council on Aging
- YMCA
- RAMP
- Memory Café
- Crusader Clinic
- Health Department
- Fire Districts
- Council on Aging
- Proximity to Major Hospitals

Weaknesses

- No Major Hospital
- Transportation
- Mental Health Services
- Cultural Divide
- Regionalization of Agencies
- Safe Affordable Housing
- Little or No Hispanic Participation
- Assisted Living
- Bus system needs to be more accessible – fixed route options
- Little organized support for homeless



- Obesity up 7% since 2011, 7% higher than state and national levels
- Nutrition

Opportunities

- Conservation District
- Fund Mental Health
- Engagement
- Explore more partnerships with Rock Valley College
- 211 Program
- Assistance for dementia, aged, and disability residents while shopping

Challenges

- Funding
- Resistance to change
- Elected officials
- Not having contact people within government agencies
- Belvidere/Boone food pantry availability
- More community outreach and more hands on with Hispanic community

Livability and Recreation Group

Strengths

- Spencer Park
- Park facilities and open space
- Paint on state
- Poplar Grove airport
- Edwards Apple Orchard
- Boone County Historical Museum
- County needs vs. city needs
- Boone County Conservation District Pioneer Festival
- Boone County Arts Council
- 4-H groups
- Rural
- The grange
- Importance of Agriculture in Boone County
- High School sports program
- Rural beauty and agritourism
- Heritage Days
- YMCA



- Boone County Farm Stroll

Weaknesses

- Farmers Markets money – you can make more money in another area due to more publicity
- City center recreation
- Restaurants
- More senior recreation opportunities
- Tourism
- Lack of industrial base
- No cooperation between various governmental bodies
- Print and media coverage
- Comprehensive intergovernmental cooperation
- Private and public competition for similar services
- No cooperation between various governmental bodies
- Jobs
- Citizens continually have to fight to maintain rural character of the county
- Tourism
- Not enough activity for young people to keep out of trouble
- More families in poverty
- Parks are under utilized
- Parks need to be better maintained

Opportunities

- Highway 90, 20, 173, and 76
- Having Poplar Grove included in prices for recreation – park district and library
- Farmers market
- Houses in poplar grove
- Open areas available for holding/shaping any proposed change in directions (city/county agendas)
- Improvements to main street in Poplar Grove
- Outdoor recreation activities that are community wide
- Use festivals to celebrate different cultures – international festival
- Attract conferences or other similar events

Challenges

- Bring property values up
- Keep from being Chicago's utility closet?
- Need a library
- No library



- Better bike path, links within county and with neighboring counties
- Poverty – housing, resources, education beyond high school opportunities or help getting citizens there
- Circulation of communication
- No library district
- Disengaged planning department
- To market our agritourism
- Bring poverty level up
- Bringing new businesses into community
- What are we doing to create more awareness of all the available parks

Safety Group

Strengths

- Personnel
- Use volunteer help
- Communication – keeping public aware
- Great citizens
- Communications between department (county and city)
- Dedicated employees
- Location between Chicago and Madison
- Educational Institutions – RVC and Rockford University
- Coordinates with other departments and regions
- Excellent public safety services
- Expertise of sheriff's department
- Retain 911 by land-line for accuracy and immediate I.D. seniors especially
- Coordination between county and municipalities
- Staff
- Airport and museums

Weaknesses

- Transportation – truck routes and increased traffic
- Shrinking resources
- Lack of adequate staffing
- Limited resources/staff
- Communications
- Ability to finance sheriff's department properly
- High drug usage



Opportunities

- Expansion of drug court
- Continue to coordinate with departments in the region to address criminals i.e. drugs
- Increase presence in the community through neighborhood watch groups and education
- Integrated cultures

Challenges

- Rebuilding tax base
- Transformational change
- Public participation – involvement
- Increased criminal pressure from our borders
- Apathy
- Parent-school education – communication
- Negative news

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