

# ***Town of Erin Smart Growth Kickoff Meeting***

## ***S.W.O.T. Workshop Results***

### ***March 28, 2006***

Residents attending the Town of Erin Smart Growth Kickoff meeting had an opportunity to participate in a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (S.W.O.T.) assessment of their community. Residents worked in groups of 6-10 people brainstorming issues on each component of the S.W.O.T. workshop. After each component, groups were asked to “\*” three issues that were of most importance that they would like to share with the entire group of participants. The following is the result of that workshop. Town of Erin participants indicated that all identified issues were of importance and that all issues should be considered to have an “\*”.

**Strengths:** Something that makes a community stand out when compared to other communities; Resources or capabilities that help a community be successful/strong.

- Topography
- Wildlife (other than deer)
- Holy Hill
- Erin Hills Golf Course
- Rural Character
- Identity/History Ethnic
- Small Town
- Land still used for active farming
- Holy Hill
- Natural Beauty
- Quiet
- Lakes
- Woods
- Wildlife
- Close enough to cultural/city amenities
- Friendly
- Heritage
- Charming
- Rustic Roads
- Farms
- People take care of the rural quality
- Beautiful, scenic
- generations of families
- good school system
- Holy Hill, Ski Hill, Ice Age Trail, golf course
- Good youth programs

**Weaknesses:** Deficiencies in resources for a community to be successful.

- Lack of strategy to fight annexation – state law
- Lack of an effective land use vision to fight annexation
- Public apathy
- Special interests
- Lack of affordable housing
- minimal provisions for the elderly
- Limited home ownership opportunities for young families
- Lack of ground water data
- Lack of affordable housing
- Lack of elderly housing
- Lack of social services

**Opportunities:** Something that could be done to improve a community; Factors or situations that can affect a community in a favorable way.

- Attract future single-family homeowners with a vested interest in preserving rural character.
- Keep it rural
- Sense of identity
- Controlled growth
- Bicycle trails
- Keep Holy Hill
- Community involvement
- Holy Hill (land legacy)
- Mobilized homeowners
- More hobby farms, horse farms
- Ramp up quality of life to attract wealthy homeowners (hiking trails, bike paths)
- Good future road planning
- Preserve and enhance current lands in conservancy, Holy Hill area, Lowe’s Lake, Ice Age Trail

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**Threats:** Anything that could jeopardize the future success of a community; Factors or situations that can affect a community in a negative way.

- Loss of land owner rights
- Population growth
- Adequacy of future roads
- Accessibility for emergency services
- Misuse of development rights
- Strip malls
- Traffic
- Loss of Farms (rural character)
- Annexation
- “Big Box” mentality
- Loss of affordable housing
- Airports
- Wildlife (Loss of)
- Poor transportation plan – Hwy 60 bypass
- Loss of rural character (high density housing; commercial development)
- Loss of agrarian economy
- City of Hartford (annexation)
- Sewer and Water (City of Hartford)