

Town of Farmington Smart Growth Kickoff Meeting

S.W.O.T. Workshop Results

February 15, 2006

Residents attending the Town of Farmington 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.

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

- *People
- *Community schools and churches
- *Historic character
- *Small number of commercial/industry
- *Still low-density (population)
- *Still agricultural community
- *Natural beauty of town and variety of terrain
- *Peaceful community and safe
- *Basically good, hard working people
- Rural atmosphere
- Little fireman’s picnics and festivities
- Prime farmland
- Jay Rd. swamp and north branch
- Strong farm heritage
- No light pollution
- Quiet
- Low crime rate
- Livestock and wild animals
- Friendly people and neighbors
- Good grade school
- Historic Turner Hall
- Beautiful terrain
- Personnel safety
- Farms
- Parks/Farmington Athletic Club
- Less traffic
- Historical feed mill and saw mill
- Strong community involvement
- Forest lands
- 2 expanded fire depts.
- Great recreation areas
- Green space/open areas
- Landscape

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

- *Over-emphasis on short term personal money vs. common good
- *Hesitate to enforce town ordinances
- *Too much land for sale... hence possibility of overdevelopment
- *Lack of participation by citizens in dev. a plan and town govt.
- *Inability to manage change
- *Youthful population cannot afford to live here
- *Roads – rough Hwy H
- *Enforcing town ordinances – unlicensed cars, junk
- *Lack of bike trails
- *Lack of public access to natural resources (North Branch Milwaukee River)
- *Lack of emergency radio communication in areas
- Lack of public participation
- Landowner rights need to be addressed
- Inadequate ability to stop chopping up farmland
- Not being incorporated
- Lack of support for PDR’s
- No place for people to walk safely

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

- *Develop a plan now
- *Enhance parks we have
- *Encourage expansion of current towns (Fillmore and Boltonville) so they and rest of community could support grocery, etc. or other small community opportunities
- *Preserve farmland i.e. with easements, etc.
- *To preserve farmland and rural community for future generation
- *Opportunity to enlarge lot sizes...especially for prime farmland
- Improve law enforcement
- To initiate a plan of resident's choice
- Control growth
- Preserve green space, natural areas, farmland
- Local input on town plans
- Closer shopping opportunities
- Preserve farmland
- Preserve natural resources
- Two highways that can be used for development and recreation without added expense to town
- Outdoor recreation i.e. bike trails, hiking trails, etc.
- Developers to contribute large sums to fire, police, and public services
- Promote rural heritage (preserve)

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

- *Losing local character
- *Individuals losing power and their voices not being heard
- *Too many subdivisions
- *Subdivisions
- *Loss of farmland
- *Loss of natural resources – wildlife – habitat
- *High density – subdivisions – too many subdivisions, overdevelopment
- *Loss of farmland and natural areas
- *Threat of increasing road traffic to accommodate industry rate
- Illegal burning of garbage
- Urban sprawl
- Crime
- No plan at all
- 'Ma and Pa' Junkyards
- Lower water table
- Schools – larger population
- Services
- Loss of rural character
- Air quality
- Higher taxes because of too much growth
- Not enough growth provide services, i.e. fire, roads, schools
- Not enough affordable housing
- Not enough industry in area
- Increased transportation expense