

Town of Trenton Smart Growth Kickoff Meeting

S.W.O.T. Workshop Results

January 10, 2006

Residents attending the Town of Trenton 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 Trenton 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.

- Good level of services – snowplowing/trash pick-up
- Volunteerism – public participation
- Geographical features
- Police protection
- Location to Metro area and Lake Michigan
- Tax base/lack of debt
- Park land
- Natural resources: river, farmland
- Good sense of community
- Fiscally responsible
- Close to retail/financial services
- Close to employment opportunities
- Close to educational opportunities (MPTC, UWWC, etc.)
- Access to good roads
- Tax rate controlled
- Good local government
- Good services
- Good use of town funds
- Good/strong town board
- Good 2010 plan
- Listening to towns people – open forum
- Good town equipment (public works)
- Good snow plowing
- Good money managers
- Newsletter
- Town maintains low taxes
- Trenton home values maintain a good value

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

- No power against city of West Bend
- No power over Washington County tax assessment
- Taxation without representation – County stadium tax
- Lost – rural character
- Lack of sewer service
- Can’t control boundaries
- No power over city of West Bend
- Demand for public services in town due to increased population
- Victim of annexations
- Lack of level playing field with government agencies
- Lack of road maintenance funding
- Time – staffing hours of town

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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.

- Town independence (incorporation)
- Preservation “rural” atmosphere
- Economic development
- Recreate on the Milwaukee river
- Preserve park land
- Use land use efficiently
- Preserve open space/farmland
- Preserve rural environment
- Keep it simple – government
- Control growth to designated areas
- Communications – between government groups
- Establish or maintain environmental corridor – green space
- Industrial and commercial growth within proper areas
- More parks – organized activities
- More town hall meetings – communication
- Maintain town character

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

- Annexation – West Bend
- Airport expansion
- Pollution – water/air
- Growth
- Need more police and emergency services
- Airport - expansion
- West Bend expansion
- Crime
- Uncontrolled taxes
- City of West Bend – growth
- Public purchase of private property
- Growing population
- Commercial growth
- Washington County
- Airport expansion
- West Bend – jurisdiction
- Annexing – by West Bend
- SEWRPC – not town friendly
- Uncontrolled growth
- Taxes increasing