

# Community Think Tank #1: Character & Culture; Natural Resources

Natural Resources – small group work	
Challenges/Issues/Obstacles:	Opportunities/Ideas:
Strip Mining	Discussions with county on strip mining ordinances
Levee issues – maintenance	Brownfields mitigation
Aquifer – threats from underground storage tanks	Events: nature walks, rock talks, use county conservation – education, combats apathy
Flooding – dike preservation	Community Garden
Apathy – public discussions, signage, education	
Industry pollution – regulations, no dumping	Ponds – Harter and Herman – develop (ice skating, sidewalks, beach, boat rental, concessions, clean up, deepen) <i>could use mud for Mudfest!</i>
Invasive species – education (DNR)	Native prairie gardens – on levee south of dam, near new marina (school, master gardeners)
Geese – repellant?	River Ride

Character and Culture – small group work	
Challenges/Issues/Obstacles:	Opportunities/Ideas:
Deterioration – architecture	More school involvement in arts (combine with other schools?)
No performing arts facility	Historic museum
Marketing	More architectural control
Funding	More architectural incentives
Space – multi-stories, move water underground west of hwy?	Historic walking tour
Remoteness – be attractive, promote wisely	River experiences: trails, a “Volksmarch”
\$\$	Bike trails, skateboard
Facilities – reorganize industry (location), use empty buildings?	Christmas Market
Preservation – conscious awareness, public discussion	Unique or large attraction: casino, music fest (blue grass?)
Volunteers – incentives? Club involvement?	Town history – German and Native American – Walking tour of historic buildings, monthly “art in the park” (local artists have booths for a small fee) with themes – could be a Friday night with market (creativity center)
	River, natural beauty, bluffs, woods – bikers? Ice skating (city clears pond!); cross country skiing @ golf course (winter membership?); public beach south of south landing by new marina center or on ponds; expand trails – Bussey Lake area, walking and biking trails from bluffs to town, trail around lake, boat, bike rentals, concessions
	Diverse interests – marina/event center, yoga in park
	More creative events – Mississippi Mud Fest! Volkswach; Native Americans, clever event ideas – walks, runs, carp drop, Cajun fest, etc. Country western, capitalize on town quirks – cemetery/ghost walks. Have diverse involvement in planning – all demographics, businesses

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Biggest Challenges – Natural Resources – Full group
Potential of nearby “frac” sand mining
Emerald Ash Borer
Maintaining the flood wall
Aquifer – threatened by pollution and leaking underground storage tanks
Building on the bluff – too much leads to runoff, erosion, mudslides, etc.
Bussey Lake algae situation
Industrial pollution of recreational waterways
Invasive species (plant, animal, aquatic and insect)

Biggest Challenges – Character and Culture – Full group
Space – landlocked if new facility is needed
Volunteers – limited
Diverse interests – only certain people show up at certain events – according to their interests
Preservation – of natural resources and historical buildings
No performing arts facility
Need proper marketing – externally
Funding limited
Need more information sharing – internally
Lack of park usage
Locals need to be more involved
Resistance to change

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Best Ideas – Natural Resources – Full Group	
# Votes	Idea:
3	Develop regional partnerships and relationships to protect and utilize natural resources – including the county, neighboring communities, conservation, DNR, the Corps, Mississippi River Groups, US Fish and Wildlife... <i>(city could identify contacts and begin the conversations)</i>
0	Encourage the County Conservation Board to host more events in Guttenberg <i>(city could organize)</i>
4	River Excursion Rides – would require landing upgrades (ADA accessible, etc.) <i>(city could be lead agency – or private entity – or a partnership between the two)</i>
1	Community Garden <i>(could be organized by city with Extension and Food &amp; Fitness)</i>
0	Brownfields mitigation (clean up) <i>(would be a public-private effort – city and property owner)</i>
7	Natural Prairie plantings on dike by the new marina and several other locations <i>(master gardeners or Extension as lead groups?)</i>
9	Development and clean-up of the ponds for recreational purposes <i>(city to take lead)</i>

Best Ideas – Character and Culture – Full Group	
# Votes	Idea:
4	Celebrate our history each weekend – period costumes (think Williamsburg, Galena, McGregor), maybe a historic walking tour and recruit our young people as actors. <i>(Could be organized by Historic Preservation Commission, Lockmaster group, Chamber)</i>
0	Set up (or promote) a small “market” in the park (think McGregor’s Triangle Park). <i>(Could be organized by Chamber)</i>
2	Encourage restaurants to develop healthier – or “different, diverse” menus. <i>(Citizens would need to organize this effort)</i>
0	Provide policy samples to school district to ensure <u>continued</u> involvement in the arts at school. <i>(anyone could do this – but best if parents)</i>
0	Need a proper facility – at school <i>(would be organized by school board, parents)</i>
6	Implementing some type of architectural “control” to promote the preservation of historic buildings – maybe through incentives, design guidelines, historic preservation rules... <i>(could be led by HPC and city)</i>
1	Volksmarch, Volkswalk – popular German activity – along the river. <i>(Implementation Committee could find lead for this)</i>
6	Identify and create some type of major attraction – ideas included a casino, annual music fest, a sculpture “zoo”, an ice sculpture contest – something that is creative and quirky – and is Guttenberg’s own “thing.” <i>(Implementation Committee could find lead for this)</i>
4	Mississippi Mud Fest – this might be the major attraction? <i>(Implementation Committee could find lead for this)</i>
5	Host a Traditional German Christmas Market – is this the major attraction? <i>(Implementation Committee could find lead for this)</i>
3	Celebrate our Native American history through events <i>(Implementation Committee could find lead for this)</i>
2	Cross Country skiing at Golf Course <i>(golf course board would need to organize)</i>
3	Public Beach (pond or river) <i>(would be a city-led effort)</i>