



Hart County Comprehensive Plan Update

Hart County Courthouse
Public Meeting

September 25, 2014
7:00 P.M.

What Makes Hart County Unique?

- Location – Particularly I-65 – 3 Exits
- Cave system
- Tourism attractions
- Great people
- Plentiful jobs
- Agricultural heritage
- Civil War history
- Amish community



What are our Strengths?



- Great young people
- Transportation system
- Industry/Jobs
- Tourism attractions
- Compassionate, generous and giving community
- Caves/Lakes/Recreation
- Safe community
- Good infrastructure

What Should We Work On?

- Empty downtown buildings
- Clean up the trash throughout the county
- Lack of skilled workers
- Better utilize the resources we have
- Communication throughout the county
- Lack of activities for young people
- More housing opportunities of all types
- Diversify the economy



What Are Our Opportunities?



- Develop Green River tourism
- Frenchman's Knob development
- Trails
- Nolin Lake
- Downtown development
- Education partnership development
- Caves
- Agri-development
- Develop interstate interchanges
- Small business support and development
- Unified marketing strategy

What are the Potential Threats?

- Lack of working capital for investment
- Apathy
- Lack of cooperation – we don't always work together
- People are afraid of change
- Lack of adequate workforce to support the jobs we have
- Aging population – lack of services
- Lack of vision for the future
- Downturn in the economy – impacts everything

Vision

Hart County and its communities have a thriving, broad, locally-based economy that utilizes local people and resources and is protective of quality of life and place.

Core Values

- People
- Caves and Natural Beauty
- Rich (Civil War) History and Culture
- Tourism
- Quality of Life



Strategy

Develop an integrated and mutually supporting economic development plan to leverage value from:

- Agriculture
- Natural resources
- Recreation
- Tourism
- Environmental protection
- Health care



Agriculture

Diversify agriculture in Hart County to supply more local food needs

- Wholesale
- Retail

Develop business to add value to crops grown

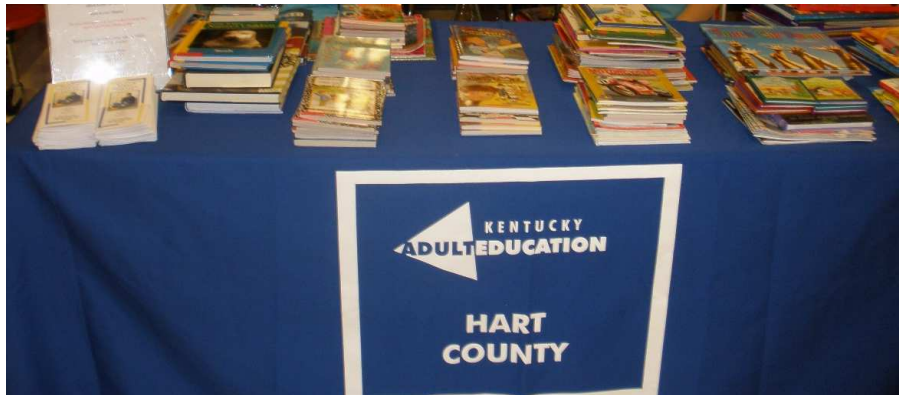
- Processing
- Canning
- Preserving

Develop points of sale (markets)

- Create a Local Food/Local Crafts Market – Storefront at I-65 Exit Bonnieville (like Berea)
- Wholesale
 - Kessinger
 - Dutweilers



Agriculture



- Collateral development:
 - Education (KCTC * Folk School * UK Extension * Amish)
 - Teaching farming
 - Teaching cooking/prep/preservation
 - Wine making
- Restaurant development centered in downtowns and rural settings
- Wine making and Distilleries
- Marketing value-added Hart County products to broader region

Natural Resources Development Plan

The story of the creation of the split white oak basket in Hart County is a cultural treasure. This unique craft is in danger because the craftsmen are aging, and there is no plan in place to insure the continued existence of this art. The split white oak basket is also an economic development opportunity.

The Mammoth Cave Basket Guild carries the torch for this art form. The community needs to assist in the effort to mentor new basket weavers. There are potential funding opportunities. But first, the target trainees must be identified. They could include students, community service workers, and therapy patients.



Natural Resource Development

- ID plants and minerals that can be used sustainably and to which value can be added
 - Examples – white oak baskets, barrels, pottery from local materials
- Collateral development:
 - Education (KCTC, Folk School, Craftsman Guild)
 - harvesting
 - crafting
- Marketing and Sales
 - Create a Local Food/Local Crafts Market – Storefront at I-65 Exit Bonnieville



Recreation Development

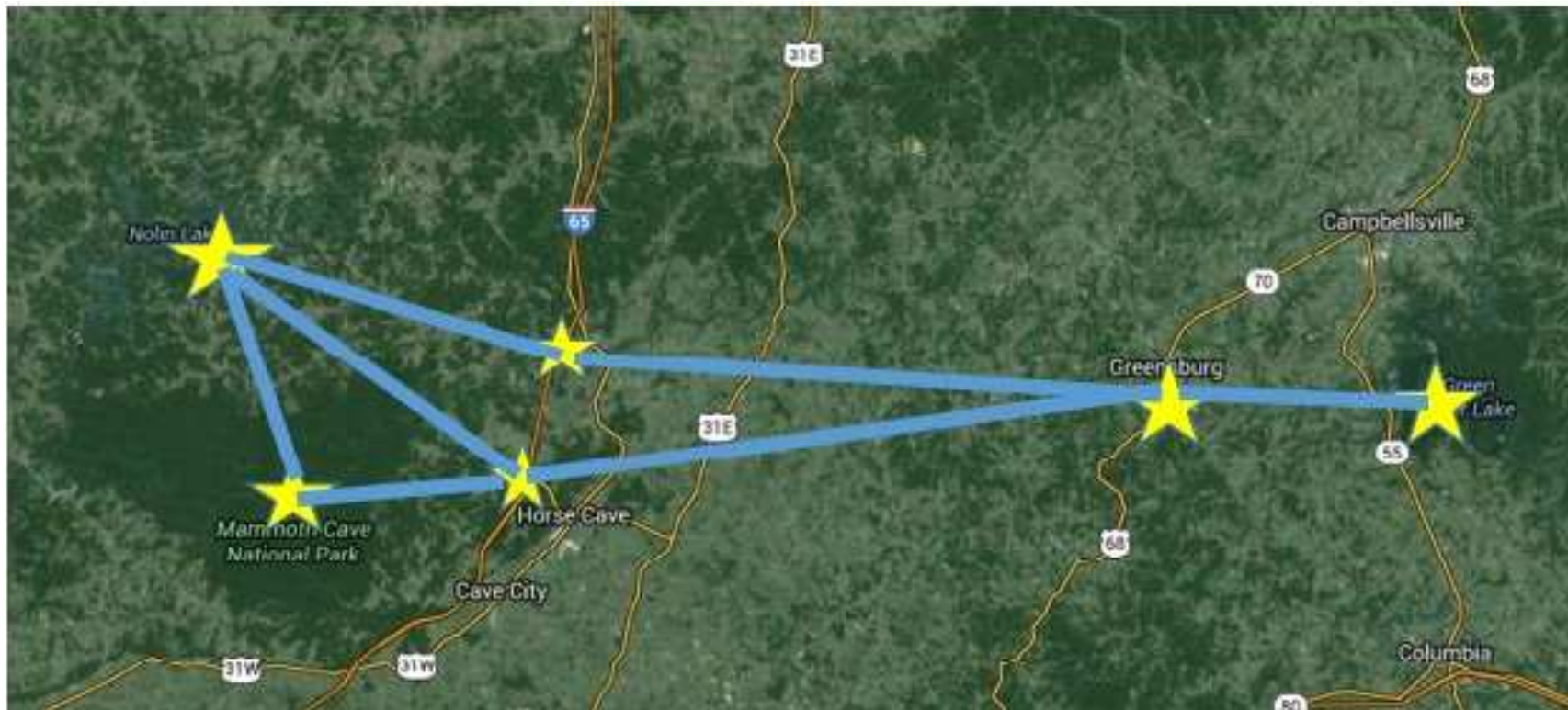
Recreation potential in Hart County

- **Bike**
- **Hike**
- **Paddle**
- **Ride**
- **Climb**
- **Cave**

Examples include

- **Cub Run**
- **Nolin Lake**
- **Re-imagine the cave area**
- **Nature Conservancy – WKU**
- **Build on Green River recreation area – connect to Greensburg**
- **ATV Trails – Adventure Tourism**
- **Frenchman’s Knob recreational area**

Connectors



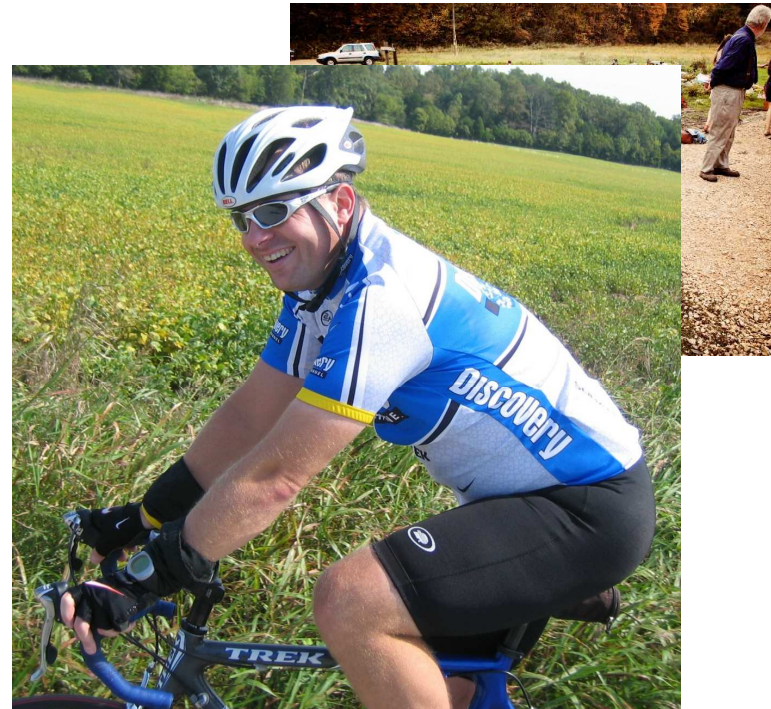
Connect Nolin Lake, Mammoth Cave and Green River State Park with Trails

Develop a Recreation Master Plan linking recreation activities



For example:

- Bike from a B&B to a cave
- Then to lunch at a rural store/restaurant
- Bike to an afternoon of canoeing on the Green River
- Then back to downtown for a music festival downtown



Collateral Development

- Supplies
- Rentals
- Lodging
- Food
- Entertainment
- Teaching
- Most of this should be located in downtowns
- Need renovated living spaces above storefronts for B&Bs, hotels
- Restaurants
- Artists
- Music
- Pocket parks and plazas

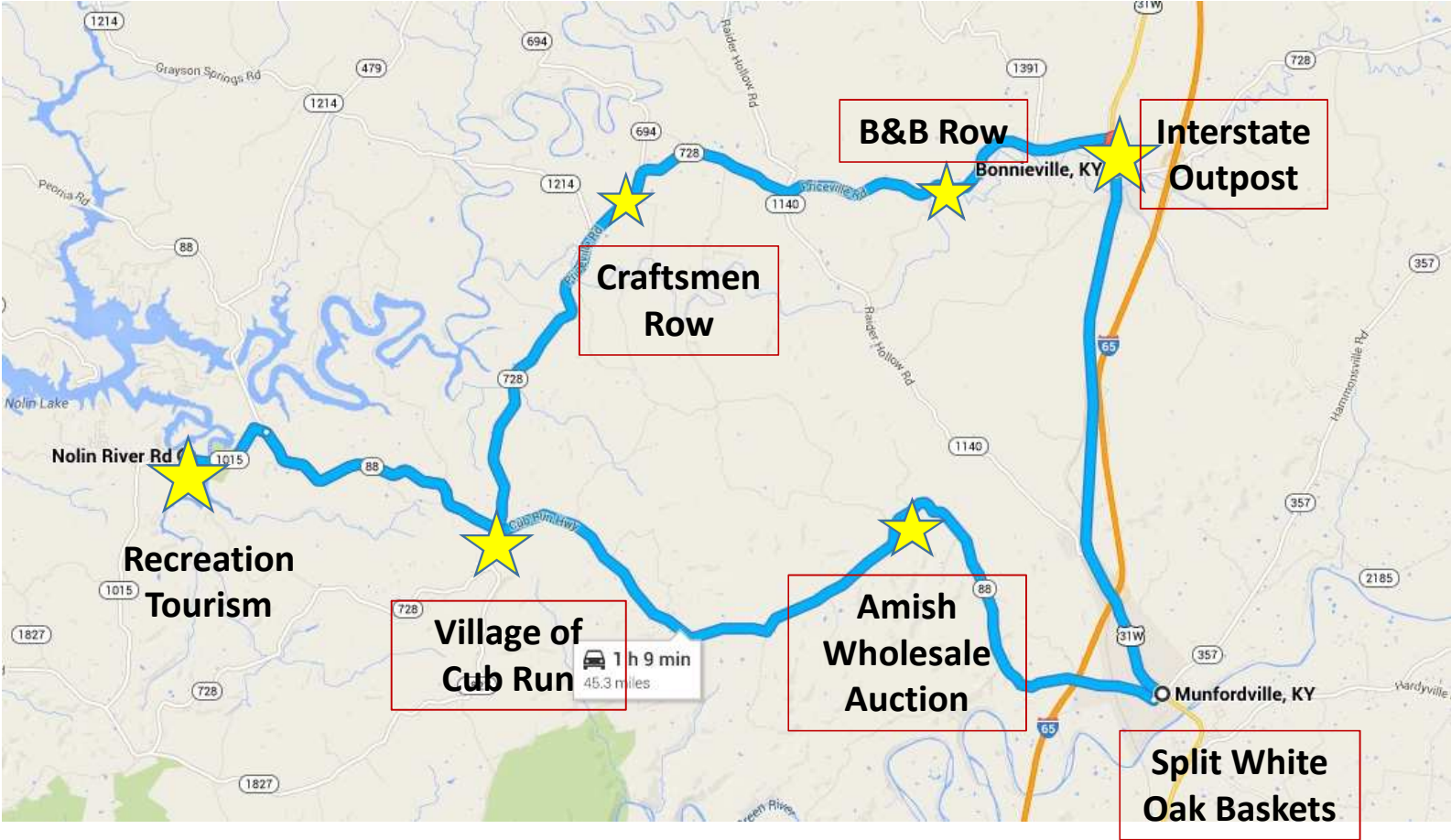


Tourism Development Plan as an Economic Development Strategy

- **Driving Tour**
 - ID key locations
 - Hwy 728 Loop tours/B&B/Amish
 - Wayfinding plan
 - Rest stops
- **Educational Tourism – host people from elsewhere to learn**
- **Collateral Development:**
 - Lodging
 - Restaurants
 - Arts and crafts
 - Entertainment



The Loop



Environmental Protection Plan



Preserve/protect karst formations

**Awareness of cave
area/sinkholes/groundwater/water
tables – does anything further
need to happen?**

**Riparian buffers – repair and
protect**

Protect Green River – clean up

**Monitor development in and
around Nolin Lake**

Collateral Development:

- **Education**
- **Regional environmental
protection work**

Conventional Economic Development Plan

Work-ready community – need to push for designation

Gap analysis: what job/skills needs are not being met with local people?

Vocational tech to teach building horse trailers, boat trailers

Master plan for I-65 Interchange at Bonnieville - public/private partnership

Strategies to leverage I-65/rail service



Strategies for Conventional Economic Development

- **Develop support system**
 - Hart County needs its own community and economic development director
 - Business mentors
 - Community funding models
 - Community Foundation – transfer of wealth study
 - Local banks
 - Entrepreneur fund created by local people
- **Communication**
 - Series of community/kitchen meetings
 - Outreach to young people through the schools
- **Engagement strategies**
 - How to rally people and keep them involved?
 - How best to include youth?

Economic Development - Housing

- Repair Affair
- Property Owner Recognition Initiative
- Neighborhood Clean-up Ongoing
- Codes and Ordinances
- Partner with Kentucky Housing
- Housing Inventory
- Establish Needs through Surveys – Seniors, Low-to-Moderate Income, Students, Young Adults

Healthcare – An Economic Development Strategy

Aging Population

- Assisted Living Facilities
- Medical Care
- Extended Care
- In-home Care
- Transport
- Healthcare professionals
- Certificate programs



Thank you!

This presentation and other documents are posted online at www.klc.org/ccs. Click “Hart County” on the right-side toolbar.

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