New River Valley Livability Initiative

Livable Regions and Communities in Appalachia
Thursday, July 12
Kingsport, TN
NRV LIVABILITY INITIATIVE
What we’re trying to do...

- 9 topic areas
- today, trends, future vision
- regional and local approach
- innovative outreach
- scenarios - tradeoffs
- preferred regional plan
- build capacity to implement
Public

Why...How?

Kick-Off Summit

Why Participate?
The planning process needs your input. We lead differently, in our own way. We lead differently, in our own way.
Kick Off- Summit

Understanding Challenges...

- Aging population
- Rising energy costs
- Long commuting distance, high cost
- Changing economy, lack of job opportunities
- Loss of industry and manufacturing
- Balancing growth with rural character
- Lack of internet access

Building on Strengths...

- Cultural Assets
- Natural Resources, Scenic Beauty
SECONDARY SURVEY EFFORT

- Focus Groups
- Online Survey
- Spanish-language
- Accessibility for Lower Income & Lower-Literacy Groups
  - NRCA
  - Head Start Families
  - Literacy Volunteers
  - Emergency Services
BUILDING HOME- STORY CIRCLES

- Harder to reach groups
  - Women’s Shelter
  - Very Low Income
- Self-Identified communities
  - Wake Forest
- Service Groups or Agencies
  - RSVP
  - Agency on Aging
  - Friendship Cafe
Working Group Process

- Housing
- Arts and Culture
- Economic Development
- Natural Resources
- Energy
- Transportation
- Community Health
BUILT Game

Re-Imagining Expertise
BUILT Game:
Individual Perspective

FLEA MARKET
PHARMACY
LIBRARY
SLAUGHTER HOUSE

LIVE MUSIC VENUE
Carol D.
ASSISTED LIVING
BUILT Game

- Individual Priorities
- Collaboration – Neighborhood/Town
- Integration – Town/County
Lessons Learned

• Adaptive management- Don’t be afraid to change course and try something new.
• Meaningful engagement- Quality not quantity, it takes time to build trust.
• Create opportunities for citizens to talk with each other.
• Good partners are critical to opening doors to hard to reach groups.
• Don’t wait to long to think through a qualitative data management system!