Critical Topic: Parks, Recreation & Tourism

Smithville, Texas

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- Maximizing and protecting your natural resources
- Providing adequate green space for outdoor activities
- Tourism as an economic development driver

Critical Issue: Parks, Recreation & Tourism



- Local Citizens
- City of Smithville
- County
- Regional Schools
- Current Employers
- Current Employees
- Prospective Employers
- Potential Employees
- Potential Entrepreneurs



Stakeholders

- Inventory and Identify availability.
- What does it mean to the local citizens?
- What does it mean to potential tourism?
- What are some case studies to learn from (good & bad?)
- What are some marketing avenues that will highlight and feature your beautiful natural resources?
- What can you do to ensure that your natural resources remain an asset and not a liability?



Natural Resources

- What are the greatest benefits of vibrant green space, parks and recreational facilities?
- Inventory and Identify availability.
- What does it mean to the local citizens?
- What does it mean to potential tourism?
- What are some case studies to learn from (good & bad?)
- What are some marketing avenues that will highlight and feature your parks & recreational facilities?
- What can you do to ensure that your parks & recreational facilities remain an asset and not a liability?



Parks & Recreation

- What are your current tourism assets?
- Inventory and Identify your opportunities for tourism.
- What does it mean to the local citizens?
- What are the biggest tangible benefits of tourism?
- What are some case studies to learn from (good & bad?)
- What are some marketing avenues that will highlight and feature your tourism assets?
- What can you do to ensure that your tourism assets are maintained and nurtured



Tourism as an Economic Driver

Imagine a City with No Green Space



Imagine a City with No Visitors



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You have the puzzle pieces. They are just not connected yet.



Don't Be a Best Kept Secret.



Creating a Healthy Community

You have what people want.







RESOURCES



- Determine ACTUAL Needs
- Identify Potential Gaps
- A Plan to fill the Gaps
- Who foots the bill?
- Understand the market(s)
- Community Survey
- Regional Employer & Employee Survey
- Diverse Marketing Packages
- Study what other cities are doing with similar assets
- Adopt series of priority projects
- What Else?

NEXT STEPS?