

April 17, 2008 Stakeholder Workshop – Session 1 RESULTS

Town of Bloomsburg Comprehensive Plan

Bloomsburg as a Place					
Assets	Priority	Issues	Priority	Opportunities	Priority
Walk-ability – safe, continuous sidewalks and crosswalks	5	Lack of flood protection	12	Sustainable community development – strive for efficiency, long term impacts	3
Natural landscape/natural beauty	2	Adequacy of parking	2	More pedestrian connections among daily destinations	1
“Greenness” (shade trees)	3	Empty lots and buildings	3	Become more bike-friendly	2
Located along Route 11				Growth through redevelopment (rehabilitation, reuse, upward expansion)	4
Located along the Susquehanna River	2				
County Seat					
Convenient to major highways	3				
Identity as the only Town in PA					

Sources

BTP - Bloomsburg Technology Partners (2005/6)

DBI – Downtown Bloomsburg Inc. Visioning (2007)

CCNA – Columbia County United Way Needs Assessment (2006)

GF – Gannett Fleming, Inc. (various)

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Living in Bloomsburg					
Assets	Priority	Issues	Priority	Opportunities	Priority
Wide range of community services	0	Off-campus student housing vs. resident housing conflicts	8		
Abundant formal and informal volunteerism	2	Inadequate property maintenance	1		
Low housing costs	0	Commercial uses spreading into residential areas – concern for use? design? other?	0		
Emergency preparedness and response	0	Fear of crime (intimidation of seniors by students from urban areas) – residents scared of students – don't go on campus	0		
Safety - Fire police well equipped -Paramedics/ambulance	4	Talented young people leaving the community	2		
Cleanliness	3	Inadequate access to health care may be related to transportation access esp. from rural areas	1		
Community Pride	0	Adequacy of services for those with disabilities and their caregivers	0		
Healthcare facilities	3	Lack of treatment programs for alcohol/drugs	0		
Recycling Center	3	Insufficient services for children with behavior problems	0		
Active local government	3	Underutilization	4		

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Working and Doing Business in Bloomsburg					
Assets	Priority	Issues	Priority	Opportunities	Priority
Well-maintained buildings (esp. downtown)	0	Keeping downtown storefronts occupied - need to afford rent	0	Better mix /variety of businesses	1
Airport – length of runway limits use – currently under expansion	9	Struggling downtown businesses	2	More convenient customer hours	2
Inviting storefronts – 3 major manufactures w/ 1000 employ.		Amusement tax Gross Receipts tax/also potential asset also - May be missing business	0	Share business success stories with new start-ups	0
Restaurant diversity	3	Limited number of desirable, family-sustaining jobs	4	Keystone Innovation Zone	0
Bloomsburg University programs and pre-professional clubs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Husky Research Corporation ▪ Institute for Interactive Technologies ▪ Bloomsburg University Corporate and Continuing Education 	0	Lack of affordable daycare	0	Target Industries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Manufacturing ▪ Health care ▪ Banking/Insurance 	8
University Community – students, faculty/staff, parents/families, alumni	0	Poor access to job training	0	Large scale venue for events	1
Garners funds from outside the commonwealth tax on events/certain businesses	0	Transportation to/from work	0	Downtown Bloomsburg	1
Health System	3	Design/character of commercial development along Route 11 (eastern gateway)	1		
Bloomsburg Technology Ctr.	3	Parking	1		
		Flood protection of businesses	10		

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Lifelong Learning in Bloomsburg					
Assets	Priority	Issues	Priority	Opportunities	Priority
Public schools (K-12)	1	Growth in student population and campus	2	Better relations between town and university-coordinate programs/events	7
Bloomsburg University	8	Gap in digital skills among low income	0	Draw students to downtown destinations	2
Children’s Museum	2			Partner the University with Businesses	2
Public Library	3			Hospital/University Relationship	2
University arts programs/ public performances	1			Alvina Krause/University Theatre Partnership	2
Working partnerships b/w University & businesses	1				

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Relaxing in and Visiting Bloomsburg

Assets	Priority	Issues	Priority	Opportunities	Priority
Abundant array of arts, cultural and special events	5	Lack of attention to gateway – Route 42		Better coordination among event organizers – university & town	4
Town park	7			More activities	
Value/appreciation for historic preservation	5			Places to sit and relax	1
Bloomsburg Fair	4			Greater vibrancy in evening	3
Adequate evening illumination				Recreational activities/places for children, teens and families	
Diversity of population				Fairgrounds	4
2 Listed National Register sites – 9 more eligible sites				Regional trails & others	2
7 local PA Historical Markers	2				
Airport – flying – parents; business people; other	8				
B&B's in town					
Community pool					

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