



Town of Craigsville Community Strong Program

Project Summary & Action Plan

Prepared by the Craigsville Community Strong Project Team and
the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission

December 2017

**Craigsville Community Strong
Project Summary & Action Plan
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I. Introduction

The Craigsville Community Strong initiative began in April 2017 with a partnership between the Town of Craigsville and the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission (CSPDC), to provide professional assistance to the Town for its community and economic development needs. The Town assembled a committee, the Craigsville Community Strong Project Team, which is composed of stakeholders representing a cross-section of life in Town. Members of the Project Team include elected officials, Town employees, and representatives from the business, education and faith community. A list of Project Team members can be found in Attachment A. Over the course of the year, the Project Team met to identify priorities and strategically plan short-term strategies that would set the Town on the path to achieving its long-term vision. This planning initiative was supported by a Rural Community Development Initiative grant made to the CSPDC by the United States Department of Agriculture, and received approval from the Craigsville Town Council to proceed before it was initiated.

II. Planning Process

The CSPDC facilitated a series of meetings that culminated in the development of the Action Plan, found below. The purpose of the meetings was to lead the Project Team through a process that would enhance the Town's capacity to undertake community and economic development activities, ensuring the vitality of the Town, now and in the future. Initial meetings focused on the process logistics, and identifying and assessing current priorities that are most important to the Town's future.

According to American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2011-2015, the Town population is estimated to be 1,123 individuals. A community profile in Attachment B provides an overview of demographic information for the Town. The Project Team conducted a survey to obtain input from the broader community on priority initiatives. Survey participation was high, with 136 surveys submitted. Survey participation was also available for those who are not Town residents, but work or own a business, land or other property in Town. A summary of community survey results can be found in Attachment C.

The three main priorities identified by the Craigsville Community Strong Project Team include **community revitalization, jobs, and youth activities and recreation**. Information about the Community Strong initiative and the established priorities was shared with the community through a flyer, which can be found in Attachment D. After the priority issues were identified, the Project

Team assessed the vision, potential solutions and strategies, and the background or history for each priority. A summary of the priority assessments can be found in Attachment E.

Next, the CSPDC facilitated meetings in which Project Team members were presented with resources, such as funding options, partnerships options, and technical resources that were applicable to the priority issues identified. An outline of the topics covered in these meetings can be found in Attachment F. Finally, the Project Team participated in the development of the Action Plan, and discussed the implementation process.

III. Action Plan

Below is a three-year work plan that was developed by the Community Strong Project Team to identify strategies and steps that would put the Town on the path to achieving its long-term vision. Rather than an exhaustive list of strategies, the Project Team was asked to develop a short-term action plan that would generate momentum for community development projects that could be built upon in future years. See Attachment G for a map of the Town boundary and a map of recreational and community facilities.

A. Community Revitalization

Priority Focus Area: Community Revitalization				
WHAT: Activity/Task	WHO: Lead role	WHEN:		
		2018	2019	2020
Goal: Develop efforts to revitalize structures, encourage community pride, enhance the appearance of Main Street (Route 42) and manage floodplain areas.				
Strategy A: Focus on enhancing the appearance of Main Street (Route 42) to provide a welcoming and inviting atmosphere.				
a. Discuss opportunities to work with property owners and tenants to revitalize structures and clean-up properties.	Town Council, Town Mayor	x	x	x
b. Encourage the implementation of design components of the Main Street Approach. Consider applying to be a DHCD Main Street Commercial District Affiliate Community.	Town Mayor, Town staff			x
c. Enforce existing Town ordinances and appropriate penalties for violations of code.	Town Mayor, Town Zoning Administrator, Legal Counsel	x	x	x

Priority Focus Area: Community Revitalization				
WHAT: Activity/Task	WHO: Lead role	WHEN:		
		2018	2019	2020
d. Consult with CSPDC to explore funding opportunities.	Town Mayor	x	x	x
Strategy B: Encourage pride in the community by focusing on clean-up and beautification efforts.				
a. Improve existing town entrance/welcome signs and install landscaping such as shrubbery, trees or flowers.	Town Mayor, Town staff, Citizens, Civic or Faith-Based Groups	x		
b. Host annual town clean-up events, create and coordinate a volunteer program, or seek donations for beautification efforts.	Town Mayor, Town staff, Citizens, Civic or Faith-Based Groups	x	x	x
c. Enforce existing Town ordinances and appropriate penalties for violations of the code.	Town Mayor, Town Zoning Administrator, Legal Counsel	x	x	x
d. Consult with CSPDC to explore funding opportunities.	Town Mayor	x	x	x
Strategy C: Focus on revitalizing housing within the community by improving the appearance and condition of owner-occupied and renter-occupied properties.				
a. Conduct a housing needs assessment to determine current conditions and needs in Town.	Town Mayor, Town staff, CSPDC is available to assist	x		
b. Connect with non-profit organizations, such as Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro Habitat for Humanity, Renewing Homes of Greater Augusta, or Community Housing Partners, to explore opportunities for partnerships or direct client services.	Town Mayor, Town staff	x	x	x
c. Consult with CSPDC to discuss next steps and explore funding opportunities.	Town Mayor	x	x	x
Strategy D: Reevaluate floodplain areas to manage flooding and erosion issues.				
a. Participate in CSPDC planning process to update Central Shenandoah Valley All Hazards Mitigation Plan.	Town Mayor, Town staff	x		
b. Conduct assessment of structures within floodplain area.	Town Mayor, Town staff, CSPDC is available to assist		x	

Priority Focus Area: Community Revitalization				
WHAT: Activity/Task	WHO: Lead role	WHEN:		
		2018	2019	2020
c. Review and update the floodplain ordinance.	Town Council, Town staff, CSPDC is available to assist			x
d. Consult with CSPDC to explore funding opportunities.	Town Mayor	x	x	x

B. Jobs

Priority Focus Area: Jobs				
WHAT: Activity/Task	WHO: Lead role	WHEN:		
		2018	2019	2020
Goal: Encourage opportunities for business attraction and retention, small business development and workforce development.				
Strategy A: Provide opportunities for business growth and new job opportunities by focusing on business attraction and retention.				
a. Develop a town brand and logo for marketing and to attract people to visit Craigsville.	Town staff, Businesses, Citizens	x		
b. Encourage the implementation of economic vitality, promotion and organization components of the Main Street Approach. Consider applying to be a DHCD Main Street Commercial District Affiliate Community.	Town Mayor, Town Staff			x
c. Review comprehensive plan and zoning ordinances to discuss vision for encouraging opportunities to attract small manufacturers for light industry or new businesses to provide goods and services such as retail stores, laundromat, lodging, or senior retirement living.	Planning Commission, Zoning Administrator, Town Council		x	
d. Consult with CSPDC to explore funding opportunities.	Town Mayor	x	x	x
Strategy B: Encourage small business owners to thrive by connecting them to small business development opportunities.				
a. Develop a business group to collaborate on promotional events, outreach, business hours, or connect to existing business networks.	Businesses	x		

Priority Focus Area: Jobs				
WHAT: Activity/Task	WHO: Lead role	WHEN:		
		2018	2019	2020
b. Create a new business owner’s orientation kit to assist small business owners in connecting to resources available through Augusta County Economic Development, Staunton Creative Community Fund, Shenandoah Valley Small Business Development Center, Shenandoah Valley SCORE, and Augusta County Chamber of Commerce.	Town Staff	x		
c. Consult with CSPDC to explore funding opportunities.	Town Mayor	x	x	x
Strategy C: Partner with agencies, organizations and businesses to connect area residents with workforce development opportunities.				
a. Continue to work with the Adult Learning Center at Augusta County Public Schools for opportunities to hold GED courses in Town. Engage and encourage area residents to participate in courses.	Town Mayor, Town Staff	x	x	x
b. Collaborate with the Valley Workforce Center and Shenandoah Valley Workforce Development Board (SVWDB) to host a workshop for businesses interested in working with SVWDB and the workforce center, as well as provide the opportunity for one-on-one assistance for individuals.	Town Mayor, Town staff	x		
c. Partner with Craigsville Elementary School, Augusta County, the Valley Workforce Center, and the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry to host a workshop event for parents and the overall community to learn about apprenticeship opportunities.	Town Mayor, Town staff, Craigsville Elementary School Principal	x		
d. Coordinate with existing businesses to advertise or announce job vacancies.	Town staff, Businesses	x	x	x

Priority Focus Area: Jobs				
WHAT: Activity/Task	WHO: Lead role	WHEN:		
		2018	2019	2020
e. Consult with CSPDC to explore funding opportunities.	Town Mayor	x	x	x

C. Youth Activities and Recreation

Priority Focus Area: Youth Activities and Recreation				
WHAT: Activity/Task	WHO: Lead role	WHEN:		
		2018	2019	2020
Goal: Develop and promote opportunities for community events, recreation, youth activities and support for parents and guardians.				
Strategy A: Encourage pride and enhance relationships in the community by hosting special events.				
a. Encourage special events to be hosted and collaboration to occur between groups for scheduling, volunteers, and advertisements.	Town staff, Businesses, Civic and Faith-Based Groups, Craigsville Elementary School	x	x	x
Strategy B: Explore opportunities to expand or enhance recreational activities.				
a. Review comprehensive plan and zoning ordinances to discuss vision and encourage opportunities for new businesses to provide services such as a campground, off-road vehicle park, or tourism lodging.	Planning Commission, Zoning Administrator, Town Council		x	
b. Discuss opportunities with Craigsville Elementary School and Augusta County Public Schools to use recreational facilities (softball field and gymnasium) at elementary school for adult and youth recreational league.	Town Mayor, Craigsville Elementary School Principal	x		
c. Connect with the North River Ranger District of the U.S. Forest Service, Jefferson and George Washington National Forest, to discuss the opportunity to collaborate or provide input on recreational uses in the Craigsville area.	Town Mayor			x
d. Consult with CSPDC to explore funding opportunities.	Town Mayor	x	x	x

Priority Focus Area: Youth Activities and Recreation				
WHAT: Activity/Task	WHO: Lead role	WHEN:		
		2018	2019	2020
Strategy C: Develop opportunities to expand current youth activities or create new youth activities.				
a. Assist with efforts to replace playground equipment at Craigsville Elementary School through fundraising or donations.	Citizens, Civic or Faith-Based Groups	x	x	x
b. Encourage the development of after-school youth programs or mentoring programs, and discuss opportunities for partnerships with organizations such as the Staunton-Augusta YMCA Youth Development Program, the Staunton-Augusta YMCA Reach and Rise Program or the Augusta County Parks and Recreation Department.	Town Mayor, Craigsville Elementary School Principal	x	x	
Strategy D: Partner with agencies, organizations or civic groups to provide support opportunities for parents and guardians.				
a. Host annual workshop or educational opportunities to learn about financial management, parenting or CPR courses.	Craigsville Elementary School Principal, Civic or Faith-Based Groups	x	x	x

IV. Action Plan Implementation & Evaluation

The Action Plan will be presented to Town Council for adoption. Moving forward, it is recommended that the Community Strong Project Team continue as a standing Committee in Town that is chaired by the Town Mayor, a Town Council member, or an individual that is dedicated to serving the Town and has good communication with the Town Council. The Committee can be reformulated with a representative cross-section of five to ten community members that can commit to participate for the three-year period of the plan timeframe. Members of the original Project Team that served to formulate the plan should be invited to continue to serve on the Committee. Membership of the Committee can be assessed at the end of the three-year period to solicit new members if any members wish to step down.

The Committee should have regularly scheduled meetings, such as monthly or quarterly, depending on the activities underway at the time. The Committee may choose to create task-oriented subcommittees that may dissolve after the completion of a task or project. The Committee should report to Town Council and the public, at appropriate times, to keep the Town leadership

and citizens informed of major actions and progress, seek approval from Town leadership when necessary, and solicit public input, as a top priority.

Most of the strategies included in this Plan will require some level of funding to implement. The CSPDC is the Town's resource for federal and state grant programs. The CSPDC can assist with applying for and managing these funds and projects, at the Town's request. Private funds may also be appropriate and helpful for some tasks. In many cases, this would mean fundraising by the community, which will require leadership from the Committee. Finally, local funds provided by the Town are indispensable in implementing the strategies identified in the plan. In many cases, local funds can be leveraged to obtain other public and private funding.

The Committee should revisit this Action Plan in the third year to assess progress, setbacks, barriers, and next steps. The Committee, in consultation with the Town Council and the public, should determine whether the priority issues and strategies are still relevant, and undergo a process to repopulate the work plan with the most logical next steps at that time. The CSPDC is available to provide facilitation services to renew the Plan, when the time comes.

V. Conclusion

Although this Plan will be presented to the Craigsville Town Council for adoption, no action identified in this Plan shall be construed as mandatory, nor does it obligate the Town Council to commit any funds to its implementation. The Plan is a guide for future actions, and the Council may consider allocation of funds for individual projects and activities, at its discretion.

The Community Strong Project Team worked diligently to develop this Plan because its members are motivated to increase the vibrancy of their Town. The planning process was a success, due in large part to the cooperative nature of the relations between the Project Team, Town staff, Town Council, and the public; qualities that will also be vital to the movement, as it progresses into implementation. The priority issues identified in the Plan are interconnected, in that achieving community revitalization, youth activities and recreation goals will create conditions more favorable for economic and workforce development related to jobs. Likewise, developing the local economy will provide more resources to the Town for community revitalization, youth activities and recreation. Thus, progress made on one issue, can be seen as progress made on all of them.

Attachment A
Project Team Membership



TOWN OF CRAIGSVILLE VIRGINIA INCORPORATED 1960

P.O. BOX 237
18 HIDY ST.
CRAIGSVILLE, VIRGINIA 24430
PHONE: (540) 997-5935
FAX: (540) 997-1120

Community Strong Program

Craigsville Project Team

Crystal Coffman	Principal, Craigsville Elementary School
Jack Dawson	Manager, Dollar General Store
Sandra Dill	Town Clerk, Town of Craigsville
Sarah Downey	Owner, Sarah's Burgers and Shakes
Richard Fox	Mayor, Town of Craigsville
Glenna Lawhorn	Manager, F&M Bank
Vickie Moran	Town Council Member, Town of Craigsville and Employee, Augusta Correctional Center
John Temple	Public Works Superintendent, Town of Craigsville
Garey Wilson	Pastor, Craigsville Holiness Church

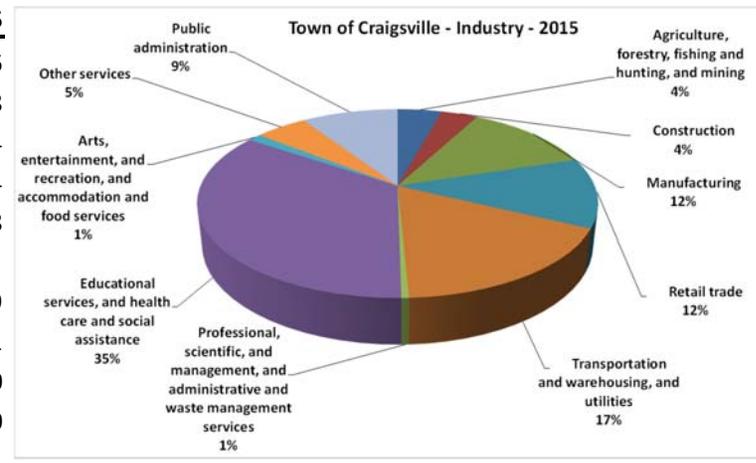
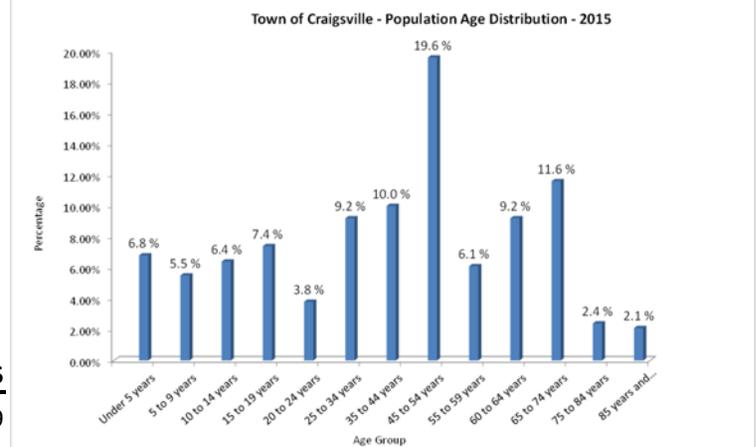
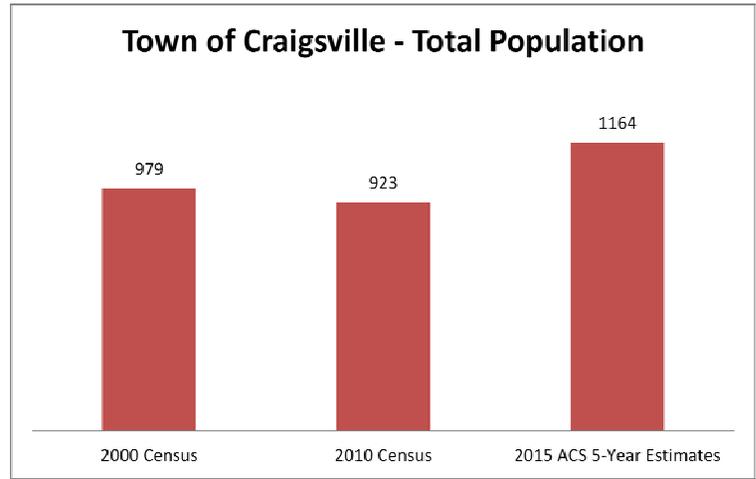
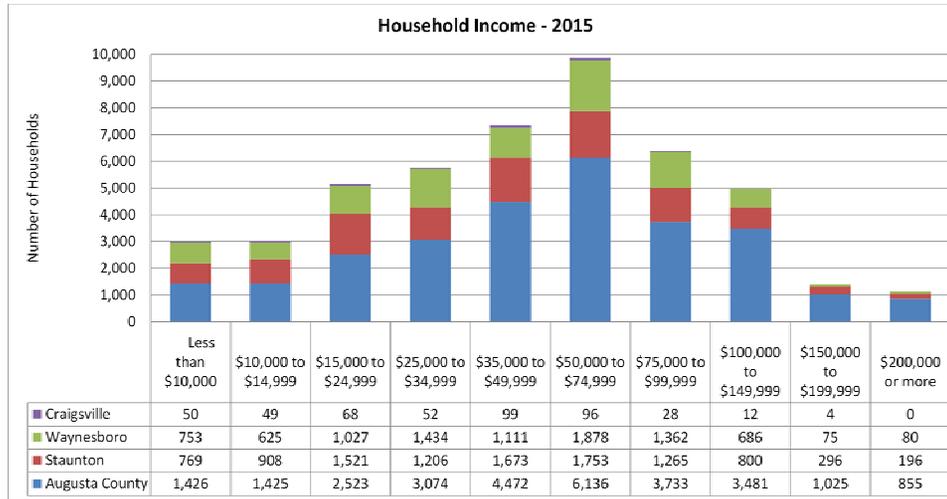
CSPDC Staff Support:

Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission
Tracy Hibbitts, Regional Planner
112 MacTanly Place
Staunton, VA 24401
Phone: 540-885-5174
Fax: 540-885-2687
tracy@cspdc.org

Attachment B
Community Profile



Town of Craigsville Community Profile



Population by Race	2015
White	98.4%
White and American Indian and Alaska Native	0.4%
Some other race	1.6%

Income and Age	2015
Median Household Income	\$35,676
Median Family Income	\$45,703
Median Age	46.4

Education (population 25 years and older)	2015
Less than 9th grade	14.9%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	16.4%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	43.0%
Some college, no degree	16.0%
Associate's degree	4.0%
Bachelor's degree	3.3%
Graduate or professional degree	2.3%

Civilian Labor Force	2015
Civilian Labor Force	427
Employed	398
Number Unemployed	29
Unemployment Rate	6.8%

Commuting To Work	2015
Mean Travel Time To Work (minutes)	34.9

Housing	2015
Total Housing Units	526
Occupied Housing Units	458
Owner-Occupied	274
Renter-Occupied	184
Vacant Housing Units	68
Average Household Size	
Owner-Occupied	2.9
Renter-Occupied	2.01
Median House Value (dollars)	\$110,200
Median Gross Rent (dollars)	\$510

Data Source: U.S. Census, 2000; U.S. Census 2010; American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2011-2015. All data sources ACS 5-Year Estimates, 2011-2015 unless otherwise noted.

Attachment C

Summary of Community Survey Results



TOWN OF CRAIGSVILLE COMMUNITY STRONG SURVEY

(136 surveys submitted)

Tell us your opinions about the Town of Craigsville! Help shape the direction of the Town of Craigsville and the future of our community. All responses are confidential. Please complete this survey and place it in the box, return it to Town Hall or mail to the following address by June 5, 2017:

Town of Craigsville P.O. Box 237 – 18 Hidy Street, Craigsville VA 24430

1. Overall, how would you rate the quality of life in Craigsville? *(please circle one)*

- A. Excellent (13)
- B. Very good (24)
- C. Good (49)
- D. Fair (39)
- E. Poor (5)
- F. Very Poor (7)

Community Strengths & Assets

2. What do you like most about Craigsville? Please list two things: *(see survey appendix)*

1. _____
2. _____

Community Challenges

3. What do you like least about Craigsville? Please list two things: *(see survey appendix)*

1. _____
2. _____

Opportunities

4. What should be focused on in Craigsville's neighborhoods? *(please circle two)*

- A. Improve/repair existing housing (70)
- B. Provide a variety of housing choices for all income levels (37)
- C. Neighborhood appearance (60)
- D. Access to parks, recreation and open space (30)
- E. Improve infrastructure (sidewalks, water/wastewater, drainage structures, streetlights, etc.) (64) *(comments: roads, sidewalk, streetlights)*

5. What is most important to Craigsville's future? *(please circle three)*

- A. Citizen involvement (38)
- B. Grow in population (15)
- C. Improve community appearance (34)
- D. More youth activities/programs (40)
- E. Increase law enforcement presence (50)
- F. Access to healthcare/wellness center (36)
- G. Preserve its history (18)
- H. Protect the natural environment (15)
- I. Provide/enhance recreational opportunities (15)
- J. Promote tourism/increase visitors to the Town (3)
- K. Attract/develop new business and industry (55)
- L. Increase local job opportunities (48)
- M. Revitalize existing structures (13)
- N. Provide a variety of housing options (18)
- O. Improve infrastructure (sidewalks, water/wastewater, drainage structures, streetlights, etc.) (27)
- P. Promote alternatives to automobile transportation (bicycling, walking, public transit) (11) *(comments: to the city to work)*
- Q. Other (please print): (19) *(see survey appendix)*

Survey continued on back page



Survey Appendix: Town of Craigsville Community Strong Survey Results

I. Question 2. What do you like most about Craigsville? Please list two things:

Individuals submitted written comments. The individual survey results were grouped together into categories as shown below. Written responses that included information for several categories were divided and separated into the different categories. The full survey results document is available from Town Hall.

1. Citizen Involvement; Community Characteristics/Atmosphere (96)
2. Existing Businesses/Industry/Jobs (40)
3. Population Size/Location (37)
4. Education (35)
5. Community Facilities (21)
6. Access to parks, recreation and open space/Natural Environment (15)
7. Other (4)
8. Infrastructure (3)
9. Housing (1)
10. Law Enforcement Presence (1)
11. Traffic (1)

II. Question 3. What do you like least about Craigsville? Please list two things:

Individuals submitted written comments. The individual survey results were grouped together into categories as shown below. Written responses that included information for several categories were divided and separated into the different categories. The full survey results document is available from Town Hall.

1. Substance Abuse Issues (70)
2. Improve Neighborhood/Community Appearance (39)
3. Community Characteristics/Atmosphere and Citizen Involvement (36)
4. Limited Law Enforcement Presence (24)
5. Limited Businesses/Industry/Jobs (18)
6. Condition of Infrastructure (14)
7. Limited Youth Activities (13)
8. Limited Recreational Opportunities (9)
9. Lack of Healthcare (6)
10. Community Services/ Social Issues (5)
11. Condition and Availability of Housing (4)
12. Transportation (4)
13. Other (3)
14. Population Size (1)

III. Question 5- What is most important to Craigsville's future?

Q. Other (Please Print):

Results are available in the full survey results document available from Town Hall.

IV. Public Input Question- Please use the space below to share any additional comments to help shape the direction of the Town of Craigsville and the future of our community.

Results are available in the full survey results document available from Town Hall.

Attachment D

Sharing Results with the Community



Town of Craigsville Community Strong Survey Results

Thank you for participating in the recent community survey for the Town of Craigsville. A Committee composed of elected officials, Town employees, and representatives from the business, education and faith community have been working towards developing an action plan to implement community and economic development goals in Town.

After reviewing the community survey results, the top three priorities that will be focused on in the action plan include:

- Community Revitalization**
- Jobs**
- Youth Activities and Recreation**

For more information, further questions, or to get involved in community development initiatives, please contact:

**Town of Craigsville
P.O. Box 237 - 18 Hidy Street, Craigsville, VA 24430
Phone: (540) 997-5935**

Attachment E
Priority Assessment

**Town of Craigsville – Community Strong Program
Priority Assessment**

Priority: Community Revitalization	
Vision, Potential Solutions and Strategies	<p><i>Revitalize Structures</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Revitalize structures with focus on housing ▪ Improve rental properties ▪ Improve appearance of structures on Main Street ▪ Structures need work; improve appearance; painting <p><i>Main Street Appearance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Welcoming/inviting atmosphere; install Town entrance signs with landscaping ▪ Improve appearance of Rt. 42, Main Street structures ▪ Sidewalks <p><i>Community Pride</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clean-up trash and junk on properties ▪ Big Trash Pick-up Day organized by Town ▪ Encourage pride in Town <p><i>Floodplain Management</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reevaluate floodplain areas
Background	<p><i>Revitalize Structures</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Concern about impact on low-income tenants not being able to afford rent in the future if rental properties are improved and rental prices increase. ▪ There are rental properties and homes that need work and are not in good condition. ▪ Some structures have been condemned and the owner must tear down. There has been difficulty with enforcement. <p><i>Main Street Appearance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Some houses are run-down. ▪ Previously worked with VDOT on idea for Route 42 sidewalks; not possible due to available land and money. ▪ There are boards posted with the civic group signs; but there has never been a Town entrance sign. Interested in Town entrance signs with landscaping (shrubbery, trees, flowers). Concern about finding available land for posting signs. <p><i>Community Pride</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Town has a junk and trash ordinance. ▪ Clean-up is needed on some private properties (houses and lots). ▪ Generational differences with pride concerning maintenance and clean-up of properties. <p><i>Floodplain Management</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Buildings flood on Railroad Ave and Rt. 42, Main Street. ▪ Historically, streams were dredged to increase flood capacity; that no longer occurs. ▪ Town is meeting with DCR Floodplains Program Planner, August 2017 to discuss floodplain areas.

**Town of Craigsville – Community Strong Program
Priority Assessment**

Priority: Jobs

<p>Vision, Potential Solutions and Strategies</p>	<p><i>Business Growth/New Job Opportunities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Interested in new jobs. ▪ Like small-town atmosphere. Would like new businesses or small-scale industry, but not interested in large industry or franchises. Suggestions for new businesses include: laundromat; tourist attraction (history tour); bed-and-breakfast, small inn or hotel; nursing home/assisted living. <p><i>Small Business Development</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Want good business atmosphere. ▪ New business owners need help. ▪ Promotions/advertising. <p><i>Workforce Development</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Current job vacancies available. ▪ Educational opportunities (GED courses).
<p>Background</p>	<p><i>Business Growth/New Job Opportunities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An existing building is the Stillwater Worsted Mills site. There is vacant land available for new industry owned by Town (110 acres). Working with Augusta County. Issues concerning proximity to interstate. ▪ People in the area commute to work in Staunton and other areas where pay is better. A number are factory workers at Target, Hershey and Little Debbie. Some work in the medical field or for the state (VDOT). ▪ New daycare and hardware store opening. Garage is opening back up. <p><i>Small Business Development</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No current business group/association in Town. Issue of businesses working together on events. Some businesses do work together, but others do not. Need workable solutions. <p><i>Workforce Development</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Existing vacancies at Augusta Correctional Center (60); Sarah’s Burgers and Shakes (2); Craigsville Elementary School (2); Blue Ridge Lumber; Bells Valley; Stella-Jones (Goshen), but lack of applicants. Positions are hourly. Requirements include no criminal background/drug use, and need to have high school diploma/GED. ▪ There are many people without high school diploma/GED in the area. GED classes have been held before, but previously low participation. Would be interested in having GED courses available, with Craigsville Elementary School a potential location. ▪ There were 17 students from Craigsville that graduated from Buffalo Gap High School this past year. ▪ There are people in the area that receive disability and do not work.

**Town of Craigsville – Community Strong Program
Priority Assessment**

Priority: Youth Activities and Recreation	
Vision, Potential Solutions and Strategies	<p>Community Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Host Community Day in the Craigsville Elementary School (CES) area by the Town park with foods, games, and items for sale. ▪ Host Fall Festival with kid’s activities. ▪ Carnival <p>Youth Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Explore opportunities for kid’s activities ▪ Explore opportunities for after-school activities <p>Recreation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ATV Trail ▪ Community Pool ▪ Create adult league (softball) and youth league (basketball) opportunities <p>Parent/Guardian Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consider hosting parenting and CPR courses at alternative locations, like apartment complexes to increase attendance.
Background	<p>Community Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Events hosted by CES, businesses, civic groups, churches and Town. Need to improve relationships between groups. Need volunteers to work and host events. Advertise for events with flyers and Facebook, but low attendance. Town has new website and will get getting new digital sign. ▪ Existing events: Trunk or Treat (CES/businesses); Vacation Bible School and fellowship meetings (churches); Haunted House and Christmas Parade (fire dept.); Fourth of July fireworks (Sarah’s Burgers and Shakes); Community Day and Memorial Day Celebration (Town). Used to have carnival at the fire dept. and block party at the rescue squad (rescue squad now paid staff). <p>Youth Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Library hosts youth activities (Read and Feed; low attendance). CES has existing after-school program and pre-school program for at-risk students who meet eligibility requirements. After-school program is transitioning from 4 days to 2 days this year. The pre-school program is through the Virginia Preschool Initiative. There are no current after-school programs for other students who do not meet eligibility requirements. <p>Recreation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ATV trail like those in West Virginia. ▪ Youth baseball league currently available in Town; No community pool in Town, people travel to Millboro to use pool. <p>Parent/Guardian Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New day care opening. ▪ Previous opportunities provided for free parenting and CPR courses for pre-school parents (low attendance). Previous events hosted at CES with educational/counseling opportunities provided by United Way and F&M Bank. Low interest in educational opportunities, but high interest in social events with food by those attending.

Attachment F
Meeting Schedule and Topics



Town of Craigsville Community Strong Program 2017-2018 Schedule

Goal: Engage citizens and leaders in community and economic development to advance Town goals.

March	Identify and appoint Project Team.
April	Project Team Meeting – April 12, 2017 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial kickoff meeting.
May	Project Team Meeting – May 3, 2017 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visioning and identification of program priorities. • Launch community survey (open May 5, 2017 to June 5, 2017).
June	Project Team Meeting – June 14, 2017 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of community survey results. • Establish program priorities.
July	Project Team Meeting – July 12, 2017 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess program priorities: background, causes and potential solutions.
August	Project Team Meeting – August 9, 2017 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on Community Revitalization Priority with guest speakers: Leslie Tate, Augusta County Planner and Lance Barton, Executive Director; Tom DuMontier, Outreach Coordinator; and Anthony Whitehead, Family Partnership Director from Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro Habitat for Humanity. • Share program priorities with Community (flyer distributed August 24, 2017).
September	Project Team Meeting – September 13, 2017 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on Jobs Priority with guest speakers: Amanda Glover, Augusta County Director of Economic Development and Debby Hopkins, Workforce Officer and Project Director of Valley OJT, Shenandoah Valley Workforce Development Board. Project Team Meeting – September 27, 2017 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on Youth Activities and Recreation Priority with guest speakers: Josh Umar, Youth and Community Outreach Coordinator, the Highland Center; Windsor Vaughn, Director of Youth Programs, Staunton-Augusta YMCA; and Christa Fye, Reach and Rise Program Director, Staunton-Augusta YMCA.
October	Project Team Meeting – October 11, 2017 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of Action Plan goals and strategies.
November	Project Team Meeting – November 1, 2017 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of Action Plan strategies.
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete development of Action Plan and distribute to Project Team for final review and approval.
January	Project Team Meeting – January 17, 2018 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referral of Action Plan by Project Team to Town Council for adoption and discuss next steps.

Attachment G

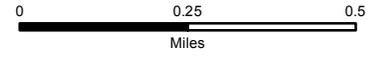
Town of Craigsville Boundary Map

Town of Craigsville – Recreational & Community Facilities Map

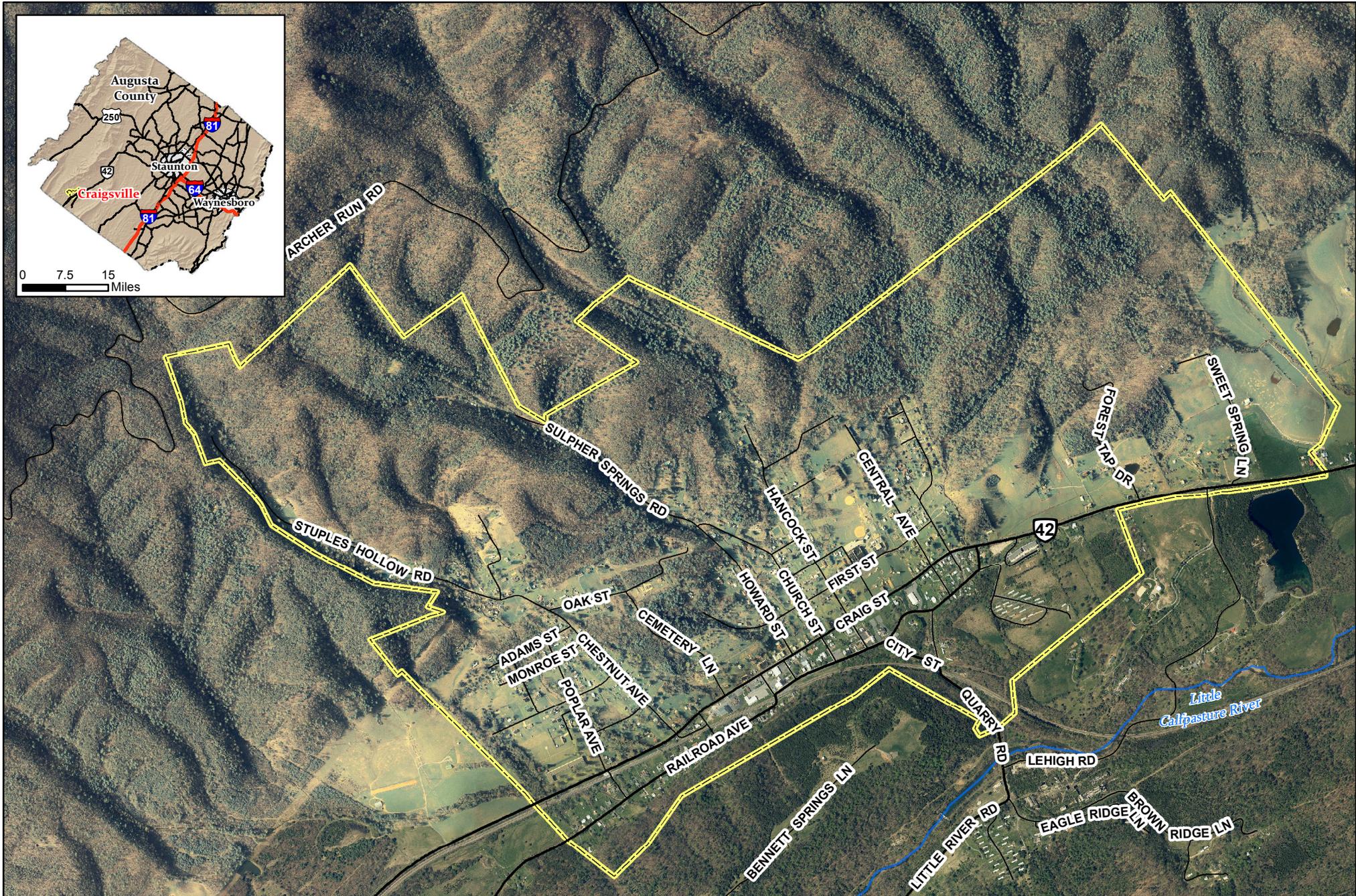
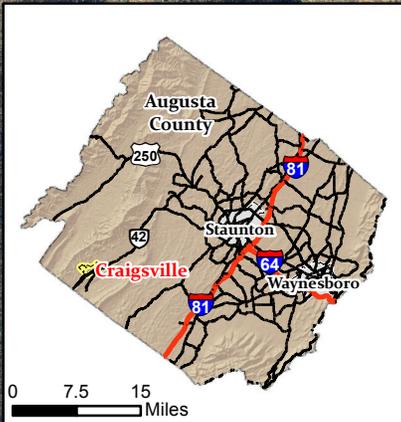
Town of Craigsville

Reference

-  Town Boundary
-  River
-  Major Roads
-  Local Roads



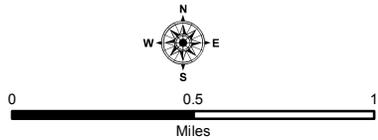
Map produced by CSPDC
For Planning Purposes Only
Sources:
VGIN, VDOT, NHD, Town of Craigsville, Augusta County
April 10, 2017



Town of Craigsville

Recreational & Community Facilities

-  Town Boundary
-  River
-  Major Roads
-  Local Roads
-  Trails
-  Birding & Wildlife Trail
-  State Wildlife Management Area
-  National Forest



Map produced by CSPDC
For Planning Purposes Only
Sources: VGIN, DCR, NHD, USFS, DGIF,
Town of Craigsville, Augusta County
June 23, 2017

