

Nature

We value a community with public access to natural resources and recreational amenities that add beauty and opportunities to for physical activity and recognize our responsibility to conserve our environment

Subthemes

- Healthy foods, locally sourced
- 4-season climate
- French Creek
- Ravines and forests
- Walking trails
- Public parks
- Playgrounds
- Gardens

What's Underway

In the last few years, we've seen...

- collaboration among local municipalities and the French Creek Valley Conservancy to start the Creek Towns Program, which seeks to create positive, sustainable economic growth based around the incredible value of French Creek
- the start of renovations and restorations to Meadville's oldest parks, Bicentennial Beers Park
- the revival of the beloved Summer Parks Program that staffs our public parks with attendants and provides summer programming and free lunches to local youth



Assembled by Rayshon Knight.

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Action 1 Establish Meadville Environmental Advisory Council

Overview

The City of Meadville has achieved Gold Standard Certification from the Pennsylvania Sustainable Communities Certification Program. This program helps communities to track their progress in becoming environmentally friendly places to live, work, and play. Meadville's Gold Certification supports the commitment to conserving our natural environment that folks have expressed in their stories. The next step in the the certification process will be to achieve Platinum Certification. In order to continue to improve Meadville's sustainability, the Meadville Environmental Advisory Council (MEAC) will be established. In this council, representatives of the Meadville community will propose, collaborate, and execute resolutions to make Meadville more socially and environmentally sustainable.

Lead Solution Partner

- City of Meadville

Supporting Partners

- French Creek Valley Conservancy
- Sustainable Pittsburgh
- Pennsylvania Munciple League

Existing Resources

- Gold Certification

Action 2 Increase public benches, trash cans, and pet waste stations

Overview

Residents have expressed a desire to increase the number of public benches, trash and recycling receptacles, and pet waste stations in town in order to see cleaner and more comfortable public spaces. One identified means of achieving this is to reactivate the City of Meadville's Beautification Committee and launch a fundraising campaign with the Committee at the helm.

Lead Solution Partner

- City of Meadville

Existing Resources

- Beautification Committee
- City of Meadville's Parks Plan
- Boy Scouts of America

Community Values

- ✓ Health & Safety
- ✓ Small Town
- ✓ Local Economy

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Action 3 Establish kayak and canoe rental on French Creek

Overview

According to residents, French Creek is a well-loved and highly valued community resource. Currently, there are no public opportunities that allow residents to play in and explore the river. Residents would like to see kayaks and canoes made available for use along French Creek, as well as a shuttle system to and from access points. These resources will allow our community to better engage with and enjoy French Creek - one of the most ecologically important waterways in the country and one of America's "Last Great Places," according to the Nature Conservancy.

Supporting Partners

- French Creek Valley Conservancy
- Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)
- City of Meadville

Existing Resources

- Development along French Creek

Community Values

- ✓ Small Town

Action 4 Establish a host and procedure for recreation equipment

Overview

To encourage active use of our parks and green spaces, the Going Places project generously purchased over-sized outdoor lawn games for public use. These games can be used at public events like Winterfest and the World's Largest Potluck...in Meadville as well as at neighborhood block parties (see page 11). The games need a home and an established and publicized rental procedure.

Lead Solution Partner

- Meadville Area Recreation Complex

Existing Resources

- Block Party Toolkit (draft)
- The games!

Community Values

- ✓ Small Town

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Action 5 Create a map of public parks

Overview

In an effort to make information about our parks more accessible, the City will create a digital map of all our public parks. Additionally, the City will also update the Parks and Recreation page on the City's website at (www.cityofmeadville.org). Making this requested information more readily available to the public may increase use of our public parks.

Lead Solution Partner

- City of Meadville

Existing Resources

- Bull Moose Progressive Marketing & Allegheny College digital mapping project
- Current capacity of the City to do this work

Community Values

- ✓ Small Town