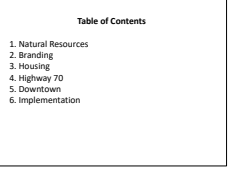








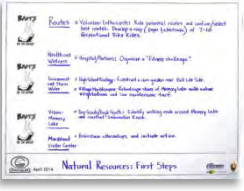

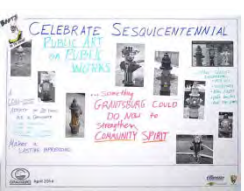
Grantsburg Community Design Team (CDT)

Summary Report

Overview

On April 10 -13, 2014, a team of (19) volunteer planners, design professionals, and community development educators volunteered their time and expertise to assist the community of Grantsburg, Wisconsin in discovering their vision for the future. This pilot program was done in collaboration with the University of Wisconsin Extension Community Vitality & Placemaking Team, the National Park Service, the University of Minnesota Center for Rural Design, and the Minnesota Chapter of the American Institute of Architects' Minnesota Design Team. The following text summarizes that vision.

 <p>Table of Contents</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Natural Resources2. Branding3. Housing4. Highway 705. Downtown6. Implementation	<h3>Table of Contents</h3> <p>The information gained from the community was synthesized into (6) primary areas: natural resources, branding, youth center, housing, highway 70, downtown, and implementation.</p>
 <p>NATURAL RESOURCE CONNECTIONS</p>	<h3>Natural Resources Connections</h3> <p>Grantsburg is surrounded by outdoor recreation resources that are enjoyed by many local residents and tourists. It is strategically located at the midpoint of the St. Croix River watershed and is within a few minutes travel of significant protected wildlife areas.</p>
 <p>LOCAL WELLNESS, OH & RECREATIONAL USE ROUTES</p> <p>TRAILS and RECREATIONAL ROUTES</p>	<h3>Trails & Recreational Routes</h3> <p>This illustrates the intense network of trail activity that circulates in and around Grantsburg. The community is strategically positioned to leverage trails as a significant economic and community resource.</p>
 <p>LOCAL TRAIL CONNECTIONS</p>	<h3>Local Trail Connections</h3> <p>Connections to significant places of interest need to be emphasized and expressed in a variety of ways to promote the community's assets while developing a stronger connection to the natural environment.</p>

	<h3>Community Health Challenge</h3> <p>The abundance of natural areas and trails provides an exciting opportunity for outdoor health and wellness activities. This illustration provides several simple ideas in which residents can engage in fun activities that encourage physical activity.</p>
	<h3>A Vision for Memory Lake Area</h3> <p>Memory Lake is an important natural and cultural asset. A complete trail system that encompasses the lake along with a new park and beach could make Memory Lake would provide residents and visitors</p>
	<h3>Stormwater Management Best Practices</h3> <p>In order to protect the water quality of Memory Lake, efforts must be made to reduce the amount of untreated storm water. The "Roll-Lite" site offers an opportunity to showcase "best practices" using rain gardens to minimize water runoff.</p>
	<h3>Natural Resources: First Steps</h3> <p>The design team suggests taking some initial "first steps" in addressing issues concerning natural resources. These include: establishing trail routes, organizing a "fitness challenge", building a rain garden, creating a Memory Lake trail and kiosk, and brainstorming alternatives for the Marshland Visitor Center.</p>
	<h3>Community Branding</h3> <p>Grantsburg has several opportunities in which it can communicate its values and identity. This illustration identifies some possible ideas for which the community could concentrate its efforts. Many other communities promote themselves as the "Gateway to the Northwoods". Because of Grantsburg's proximity to natural resources, we might suggest thinking of the community as "Base Camp of the Northwoods".</p>
	<h3>Celebrate Sesquicentennial</h3> <p>Grantsburg's sesquicentennial is a great opportunity to celebrate the community to build community spirit and pride and attract visitors. Public art might be a cost-effective strategy that may include: fire hydrants, murals, sculptures, bike racks, park benches, or trail sign posts.</p>

	<p>Youth Center Options</p> <p>In order to meet the current and future needs of Grantsburg’s youth, the community may want to consider developing more spaces for youth activities and leisure. This illustration identifies the reuse of the fire station or the old hardware store as possible locations for a youth center as well as additional activities at the school campus.</p>
	<p>Repurposed Fire Station</p> <p>The current fire station may be an excellent location for a youth center. Its concrete construction and garage bays would provide a sturdy structure with enough open space to accommodate a variety of activities. During the summer, the doors could be opened to allow increase visibility and allow activities to spill out into the outdoors.</p>
	<p>Housing Opportunities</p> <p>Currently, Grantsburg has more jobs than people. Many of the higher paying jobs are taken by those who commute to work. In order to strengthen the economic and social elements of the community, it is important that Grantsburg be able to house residents with a suite of housing opportunities. This illustration identifies possible locations for a variety of housing options.</p>
	<p>Single Family Housing</p> <p>Attractive affordable housing is hard to find in many rural communities. The “Expander” house is designed to be added onto when needed, bring the initial costs down for a new home buyer. The “Grantsburg” house has a smaller footprint and can fit onto very small lots.</p>
	<p>Pocket Neighborhood</p> <p>Another method for providing attractive affordable housing is to consolidate construction into small “pocket neighborhoods”. These smaller cottages (for sale or rental) are arranged around a common open space.</p>
	<p>Market Rate Apartments</p> <p>Apartment buildings are significant structures that have a strong visual impact on the community. Extra effort should be made in assuring that these much-needed facilities are positioned appropriately on the site so as to address the street with a formal entry and landscaping with parking located behind.</p>

	<h3>Housing "To-Do" List</h3> <p>There are some initial "first steps" that can help improve the quality of housing include: helping seniors with yard work, forming a neighborhood paint day, and planting and installing flowers and hanging baskets. For longer range housing needs, the community must engage in planning activities that include: identify housing gaps, develop a vision for housing, identify a plan for financing, and design/construction.</p>
	<h3>Industrial Park Expansion & Truck Access</h3> <p>The potential expansion of industrial parks may have significant impacts on the local transportation system. This illustration identifies a possible truck route along Benson and Larson that bypasses the downtown. Some initial "first steps" would include consultation with the DOT and developing "Industrial Directional Signage".</p>
	<h3>Highway 70</h3> <p>Signage along highway 70 should make it simple for travelers to find information they need. To entice visitors to the downtown, signage and other way-finding elements should escalate in design as it approaches the downtown. Businesses along highway 70 may want to consider consolidating their signage and parking to slow traffic, maximize visibility, increase visitor stops, and minimize unsafe curb cuts.</p>
	<h3>Grantsburg Corridors: Existing Conditions</h3> <p>The local transportation system is an opportunity to celebrate the unique character of the community. This illustration identifies the primary corridors and their current conditions.</p>
	<h3>Opportunities for Corridors</h3> <p>This illustration provides suggestions as to how lighting, plantings, and banners can enhance the corridors and celebrate the local character.</p>



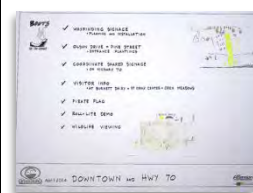
Downtown

Downtown Grantsburg offers many opportunities for redevelopment that would complement existing uses. The downtown could be a focus for entertainment, arts, youth, culture, food, housing, services, and hospitality. Existing industries are encouraged to “adopt the downtown” as the ideal location for expansion and investment. Key proposals include: a trailhead for the Memory Lake trail system; café and bird viewing at the waterfront; “Railroad Flats” mixed-use development (existing business expansion project); “Pirate’s Cove” youth center and multi-media studio (expansion project from charter school); and improved streetscape (lighting, signage, plantings, and street furniture).



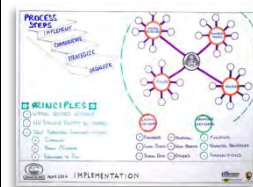
Downtown Anchors

This illustration features the proposed “Railroad Flats” mixed-use development (existing business expansion project); “Pirate’s Cove” youth center and multi-media studio (expansion project from charter school); and improved waterfront (at location of current campground site). These significant projects become a focus, or “anchors”, of the downtown to contribute to the unique character of Grantsburg.



Downtown & Highway 70: Boots on the Ground

This illustration identifies initial “first steps” in making improvements to the downtown and highway 70. This includes: way-finding signage, plantings, coordinated signage, visitor information, pirate flag, “Roll-Lite” demolition, and constructing a wildlife viewing area.



Implementation

Successful implementation takes place when there are capable people who are passionate and ready to act. It is often self-directed and involves multiple stakeholders taking on leadership roles. The primary steps in the implementation process include: organize, strategize, communicate, and implement.



Sign-Up Sheet

Who’s capable? Who’s passionate? Who’s ready?