

CRAIGHEAD COUNTY

Arkansas



Plan "Snapshot"

There's no place like home. In Craighead County, this is not just something people say – it's something we feel. We have the best of both worlds, with a booming urban area in Jonesboro and the high quality rural life in our smaller communities of Bay, Black Oak, Bono, Brookland, Caraway, Cash, Egypt, Lake City and Monette. Yet, our identities are more than simply our community names. We are bound to the land that has nurtured us, to our families that have planted deep roots, and to the future that we continue to help shape.

To us, home means that there is always a place where anyone is welcome. Growth is steady here, bringing people from around the country to be our new neighbors and friends. It's important that we embrace them with the spirit and hospitality of the South, which is not taken lightly here. Generosity is a matter of fact in Craighead County that is demonstrated by our citizens with every celebration, every crisis and every need. Our success will be measured by how well we take care of our citizens of all ages.

Instilling hometown values is done, in part, by having a well-supported school system. To that end, education plays an immense role in everything we do. We are proud to be able to offer premier quality educational services from kindergarten to a PhD, right here in Craighead County. Planning for the future of our schools will ensure that they maintain the standards of excellence that have made them some of the best in the state.

Every community in Craighead County has something special to offer to anyone who calls this area home, whether he or she is a long-time resident or a visitor. We know that by working collaboratively we can enrich the experience for everyone. Well-planned neighborhoods, transportation networks, open spaces, schools, business districts, recreational facilities, tourism destinations – all are critical to keeping our quality of life at the highest of levels. We're working for the future, and what we do today will impact future generations for years to come.

We have done many things well, yet there is still much to do. This strategic planning process has enabled us all to voice our concerns and our hopes. It has brought us together in a way that we haven't seen in recent history. We must continue to build partnerships, both internally and externally, to realize all that we dare to dream. After all, there's no place like Craighead County. Our home.

PLAN DIRECTOR

Tony Thomas
Assistant to the County Judge
Craighead County

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Chief Operations Officer
Ritter Communications

Fred Bowers
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Craighead County

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Citizen

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Mark Young

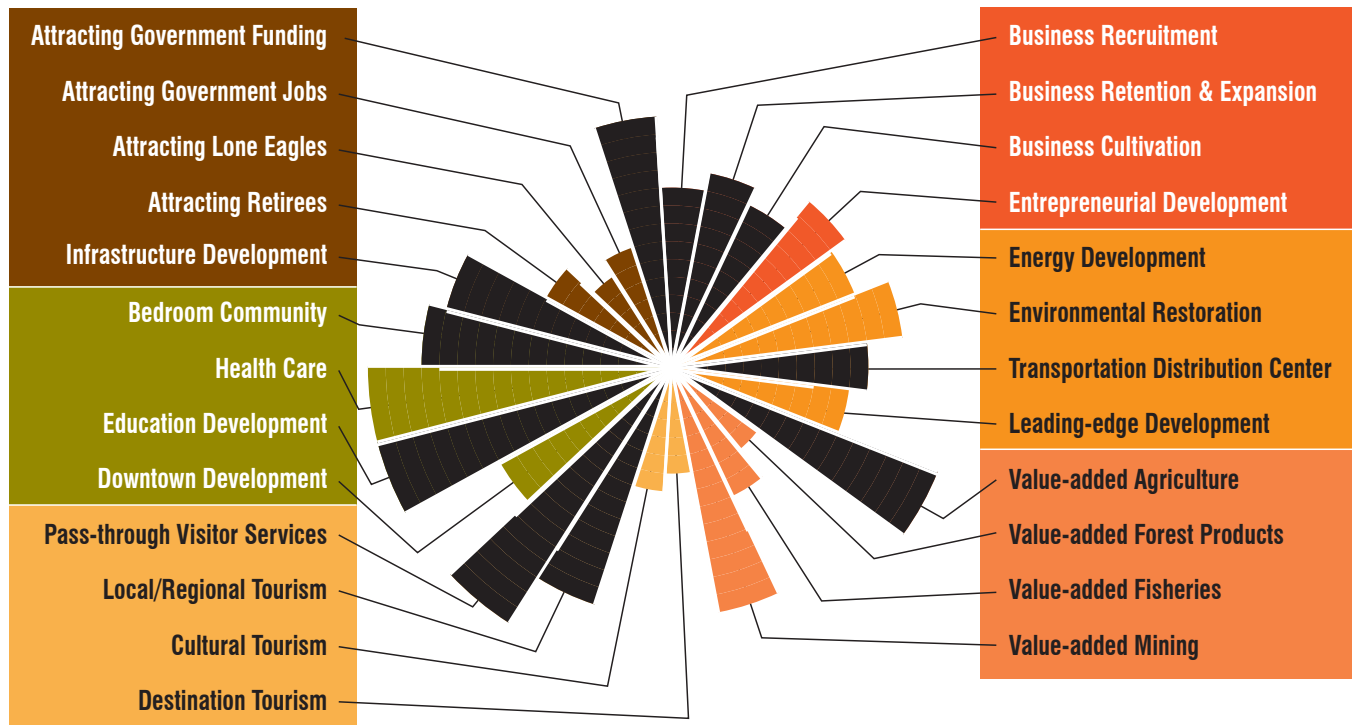
President
Jonesboro Regional
Chamber of Commerce

Plan Director

Judge Charles Nix
Craighead County

CRAIGHEAD COUNTY STRATEGY “THUMBPRINT”

The strategy “thumbprint” depicts twenty-five community and economic development strategies in terms of Craighead County’s potential to successfully implement each of the strategies. The longer the “spoke,” the greater the likelihood that Craighead County could see success in pursuing that strategy. Black spokes indicate strategies that have been selected for implementation by the Craighead County Steering Committee.



SELECTED STRATEGIES & INITIATIVES

Attracting Funding	Coordination and collaboration of local funding requests.
Bedroom Community	Promotion of small communities as the best places to live.
Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities	Extension of bike/ped system from Jonesboro to rest of county.
Business Cultivation	Identification of goods and services that can be produced locally.
Business Recruitment	Preparation of industrial areas to accommodate new businesses.
Business Retention & Expansion	Expansion of business outreach program to all communities.
Communications	Campaign to educate and involve our citizens in public processes.
Education Development	Maintaining and growing our excellent educational system.
Infrastructure Development	Improvements to infrastructure, especially related to transportation.
Local, Healthy Foods	Expansion of access to healthy food options for our residents.
Pass-through Visitor Services	Bono Lake, RV park and tourism amenities development.
Sports Complex	Development of a sports complex in Brookland.
Value-added Agriculture	Continued expansion of the value-added agriculture industry.

