

CROSS COUNTY

Arkansas



Plan "Snapshot"

No community is an island. We are connected to those around us by ties that are sometimes intangible, sometimes invisible, yet they are there.

We're connected to our past. Our history and culture has shaped us, leading us up the path we're on today. We must do what is right to honor those who came before us, making sure that their investments – time, effort, resources and heart – do not go to waste. We are standing on the shoulders of giants who gave their all for the community. They have entrusted us to uphold that tradition, and we will make the most of the opportunity.

We're connected to our future. Every step we take sets the stage for those who will follow. Our endeavors must be well-thought-out and well-executed. We want our children and grandchildren to be proud to live here because of what we do today.

We are connected to this moment. Now is the time for action, and this strategic planning process gets us organized and motivated to do more than we ever imagined. We've been ambitious with our plans but that's not unusual for our county. We know that we have a lot to offer – our plan reflects that knowledge.

In Cross County, we're not strangers to leading the way – we have a deep bench of very skilled people throughout the county who have proven themselves again and again. It is through these leaders that we will move ahead, harnessing our energy to become even better. Yet, we also want to cultivate new leaders, encouraging our citizens of all ages to get involved. There is much to do – it will take a united effort to accomplish our goals.

We're connected to each other, to our neighbors in East Arkansas and to our country. This is a unique opportunity for Cross County, and we're thankful to be a part of it. What we learn we will gladly share with those around us, as we also learn from others. While our nation continues to climb out of the grips of recession, we will all have to consider new ways of doing what we've always done. By forging new partnerships, we can rise together. We are all connected: our people, our communities, our roots, our heritage and our possibilities.

PLAN DIRECTOR

Jack Cauble
County Judge
Cross County

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Joan Ball
Community Activist

Rusty McClain
Office of Emergency
Management

Chris Clifton
President/CEO
Wynne Economic
Development Council

Don O'Neal
General Manager
Wynne Water Utilities

Debbie Davis
Tax Collector
Cross County

Brenda Shempert
Cross County

Mike Davis
Energy

Joy Shepherd
Community Relations Manager
CrossRidge Community
Hospital

Richard Findley
Crowley's Ridge Technical
Institute

Fred Smith
Director
Boys' and Girls' Club

Kathy Lee
Assistant Superintendent
Wynne Public School District

Gary Sparks
CEO
CrossRidge Community Hos-
pital

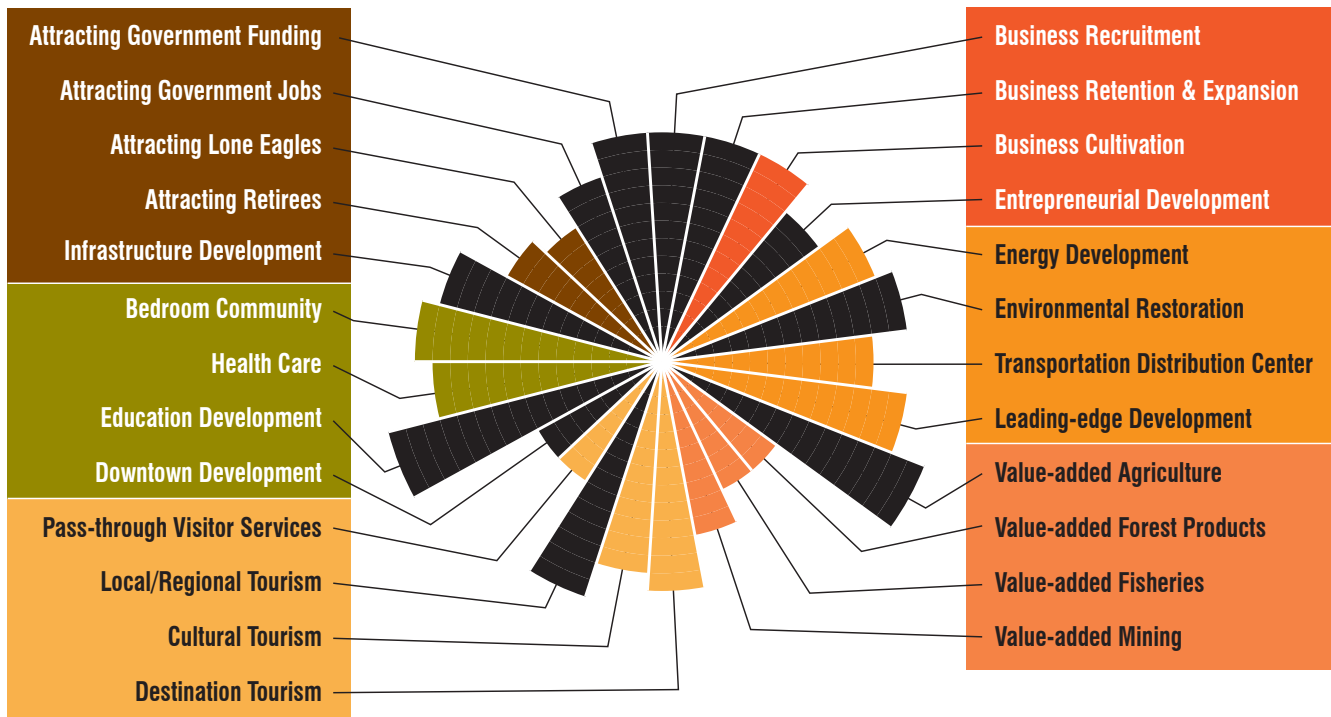
Charles L'Herault
Community Activist

Bob Stacey
Mayor
City of Wynne

Jennifer Lynch
NE Region
Arkansas Department of Health

CROSS COUNTY STRATEGY “THUMBPRINT”

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



SELECTED STRATEGIES & INITIATIVES

Attracting Funding	Collaboration among projects to find external sources of funding.
Attracting Government Jobs	Expansion of jobs at nearby federal prison facility.
Business Recruitment	Development of assets, such as local incentives and industrial parks.
Business Retention & Expansion	Continuation of business outreach and networking program.
Communications & Public Relations	Public relations campaign to share information with citizens.
Downtown Development	Development of downtown Wynne and other historic assets.
Drug-free Workplace & Schools	Drug-free program implemented in businesses and schools.
Education Development	Partnership between schools to increase skill levels of citizens.
Emergency Management	Provision of back-up fuel, first responders and needed equipment.
Entrepreneurial Development	Development of entrepreneurial mentoring program.
Environmental Restoration	Reuse of dilapidated and brownfield properties.
Infrastructure Development	Improvement of telecommunications and transportation networks.
Local, Healthy Foods	Expansion of local farmers’ market program.
Local/Regional Tourism	Identification and promotion of local tourism assets.
Parks & Recreation	Implementation of parks and recreation master plan.
Social Services Partnership	Collaboration of social services agencies to provide better service.
Value-added Agriculture	Development of value-added processes identified by local producers.

