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### **MAPPING the Future of Your Community**

Facilitated by:

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***“Vision without action is just a dream;  
Action without vision just passes the time;  
Vision with action can change the world.”***

*The MAPPING program was completed in partnership with the  
Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs Peace Corps Fellows program  
at Western Illinois University.*

## West Peoria MAPPING

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# West Peoria Action Plan

**MAPPING the Future: A Grassroots Plan of Action for Community and Economic Development**

## Community Meeting

**April 27, 2006**

### GET INVOLVED!

#### *Why is this meeting important?*

The community meeting is a time for all West Peoria-area residents to become active participants in the community's future. Local leaders will present ideas reached through the MAPPING the Future process and discuss strategies for community and economic development. Community members are encouraged to offer new ideas and identify ways they can work together to improve West Peoria over the next several years.

#### *Who should be there?*

**EVERYBODY!**

#### **West Peoria Community MAPPING Sponsors:**

City of West Peoria  
Calvin Coolidge School  
United Disciples of Christ  
Church  
Franciscan Center

### How Has West Peoria Been MAPPING Its Future?

Concerned citizens, along with the City of West Peoria, recently enlisted the help of the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs at Western Illinois University to conduct the MAPPING the Future of Your Community program ... a strategic visioning and planning process for community and economic development. More than 90 small Illinois communities have used this award-winning program since it began in 1991 with support from the Governor's Rural Affairs Council. Since 1995, Community MAPPING has been made possible with support from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

Long range visioning for community and economic development begins with a journey that only a few communities are willing to undertake. Approximately 50 local residents from West Peoria participated in 16 hours of visioning sessions facilitated by the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs between February and March 2006. The central themes for the West Peoria MAPPING journey were: Where are we now? Where do we want to be? How do we get there? And Making it Happen!

***“If you can dream it, you can do it.”***  
**Walt Disney**



# West Peoria Action Plan

<b>VISION</b>	<p><b>West Peoria aspires to be the city of choice in Central Illinois for ourselves and future generations-beautiful, clean and safe. Our Community is renowned for its unique balance between a hometown atmosphere and a progressive business environment. West Peoria with its high quality schools and extensive cultural opportunities truly is a city for the ages.</b></p>							
<b>HIGH PRIORITY TARGET AREAS</b>	West Peoria is a community for all ages providing services and opportunities from youth to seniors.	West Peoria has a diversified tax base and reputation as a business friendly community	West Peoria is known for its educational excellence with a strong, safe and achieving school system.	West Peoria will be the safest and most attractive community in Central Illinois. The community appearance conveys a family atmosphere. A litter free and blight free community is a source of pride for all residents.				
<b>HIGH PRIORITY STRATEGIES</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Explore more options for senior housing</li> <li>2) Expand and better utilize Franciscan Center. (FRC)</li> <li>3) Develop neighborhood activities, develop more youth activities</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Develop West Peoria's main business districts</li> <li>2) Promote West Peoria as a great place to do business</li> <li>3) Encourage communication and networking among West Peoria businesses</li> <li>4) Improve residential properties in West Peoria</li> <li>5) Improve code enforcement process</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Create K-8 in current building</li> <li>2) Develop strong parent involvement</li> <li>3) Promote high quality schools</li> </ol>	<p><b>The target area stated above was separated into the following two strategies:</b></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p><b>Crime and Safety</b></p> <p>Develop Comprehensive Lighting. Improve Sidewalks and Streets. Improve Drainage. Facilitate Neighborhood Interaction.</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p><b>Attractive Appearance</b></p> <p>Develop a Litter/Blight Free Program. Work on Beautification and Green Space for Entranceways Promote Community Cleanup.</p> </td> </tr> </table>			<p><b>Crime and Safety</b></p> <p>Develop Comprehensive Lighting. Improve Sidewalks and Streets. Improve Drainage. Facilitate Neighborhood Interaction.</p>	<p><b>Attractive Appearance</b></p> <p>Develop a Litter/Blight Free Program. Work on Beautification and Green Space for Entranceways Promote Community Cleanup.</p>
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<b>HIGH PRIORITY PROJECTS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work collectively with other groups to develop senior housing options</li> <li>• Making Greater Use of the Franciscan Center through more events: concerts, movies, art classes, specialty/gourmet cooking club, community athletic leagues, a cultural fair, a board game night/ family night</li> <li>• Neighborhood events include seed swaps, farmers market, tailgating swap meets</li> <li>• Establish a block captain system for the dissemination of information, the organization of block parties, emergency response, and homeowner mentoring</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look into rental registration and review codes. Consider starting rental grievance committee.</li> <li>• Review current conditions and complaint process.</li> <li>• Develop Marketing Plan. Revitalize West Peoria Business Association.</li> <li>• Identify properties and research creation of a database.</li> <li>• Identify current properties and what is needed for businesses and research expanding Tax Increment Financing District. Investigate flood plain.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educate about the current reality of "No Child Left Behind"</li> <li>• Evaluate problem: is Manual a good school or an underperforming school?</li> <li>• Evaluate options for improving education in West Peoria. How can schools be improved?</li> <li>• Evaluate options for restructuring/creating new district. Explore possibilities</li> <li>• Explore avenues for community to become involved in the local schools.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study sufficient lighting levels and implement outdoor lighting plan. Review Ordinances</li> <li>• Encourage property owners to remove unsafe sidewalks and revise city ordinances</li> <li>• Continue development of comprehensive plan concerning drainage issues</li> <li>• Plan, implement and publicize community events</li> <li>• Create opportunities for a more visible presence of law enforcement personnel</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create annual clean up day</li> <li>• Alley beautification project, make businesses responsible</li> <li>• Commercial planter project, events promotion, Gateways project, adopt an official flower logo, street lights with hanging baskets</li> <li>• Neighborhood motivation: all American beautiful and Ugly Awards</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Making it Clean! Making it Beautiful! Promoting It!</i></p>			
<b>ACTION TEAMS</b>	Amy Furguele Mary Toel Kristol Taylor Marge McGaughey John Venzon III Julie Maroon Brittany Carothers.	Beverly Beyer Mical McFarland Chris Stark Mike Powers Tim Keenan John and Jennifer Klohr Johanna Christiansen	Jeff Nelter Karen Cook Mark Wrhel Bark Kerns	Charlie Roy Nancy Carson Rich Bowles Kim Hanks Rich Hammond Nancy Meyers	John Brady Donna Hays John Venzon Patrick Jeschke Pat Sharp Terry Masters Todd Baker	Marilyn Anders Robin De Moss Robert De Sutter Marjorie Klise Carolyn McCarter Jim McCarter Jan Powers Jo Ann Thomas		