

10 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO IMPROVE YOUR COMMUNITY

1 Get Involved

Become active in your community by either joining something or starting something. Volunteer for a municipal board. Attend a PTA meeting. Don't wait for others: get involved now in shaping your community's future.

2 Get others involved

Make sure everyone in your community has a voice in shaping its future, especially the youth. Sponsor a town meeting. Actively promote efforts to improve your community.

3 Inventory your community

With your friends and neighbors, write down the things that make your community special. Identify both the good and the bad. Collect old photographs showing changes that have occurred in your community.

4 Understand trends affecting your community

Collect and analyze data on economic and demographic trends affecting your region. Develop three scenarios for the future of your community. Ask residents, business, leaders, youth groups, and others which future scenario they prefer and why.

5 Develop a vision

With as much input as possible, write down a statement on what your community should look and function like in the next 10 to 15 years. Specify what you would like to see changed as well as to be preserved.

6 Plan for the future

Using the vision statement, develop a concrete action plan. Identify tasks, assign responsibilities and develop a time frame for achieving the results.

7 Look beyond your borders

No municipality is an island. Consider issues on a regional basis, such as planning and zoning, sewer and water systems, and transportations needs.

8 promote home-grown leaders

Don't wait for federal or state government; develop local solutions to local problems. Involve youth by giving them responsibility.

9 Celebrate successes

Have fun! Celebrate your community's past and future by organizing public activities such as picnic, street fair or recreational activity.

10 Take action

Change will occur; it is up to you to guide it according to the collective vision of your community. Work with your local leaders to ensure that the future of your community is one that benefit everyone.

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