

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATES IN IDEA GATHERING MEETINGS

January 2007 - Nearly one hundred people attended the Plan It Piqua "idea gathering" public meetings. With volunteers facilitating the meetings, after a brief project overview was provided, the meeting participants broke into small groups and were lead through brainstorming exercises. Those in attendance were asked to imagine their version of an "ideal" Piqua in the future. In total, the meeting participants generated 291 ideas for the future, with community services and facilities being the most frequently mentioned topic.

The facilitators also used a "Strong Places, Weak Places" mapping exercise designed to elicit the participant's feelings about what they like and dislike about the community. In considering the strong places, participants were asked to consider the concepts discussed during the "Imagining the Future" activity. Then they were asked to identify the places that are desirable to visit, represent the conditions they would like to see more often in the community, and reflect well on the community. For weak places, participants were asked to consider those places that are undesirable to visit, are unsightly, or that generally reflect poorly on the community. The most often mentioned strong places included the public parks system and the downtown historic area. The weak places receiving the most discussion included the entrances to the City and the old hospital.

At the end of the meeting participants were asked to complete an exit questionnaire. This served as a way to document who attended the meetings to determine if the event was an inclusive community process. The Plan It Piqua meeting participation was as expected for a community of Piqua's size and demographics.

Visit <http://www.planitpiqua.org/calendar.html> and click on the link to the Public Meetings Summary Report to learn more about the results of the "idea gathering" public meetings.

### PUBLIC MEETINGS



Above - A community volunteer facilitates a small group brainstorming exercise.

Below - Meeting participants brainstorm ideas at one of the four public meetings held in January.



### UP NEXT

The *Plan It Piqua* Steering Committee will turn their attention to translating the public's ideas into the preliminary goals and strategies that define the community's vision and form the backbone of the Plan.

Project Phases	% Complete									
	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100
1 - Initial Steps	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
2 - Technical Analysis	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
3 - Visioning	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
4 - Integration of Data	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
5 - Develop Plan	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
6 - Adopt Plan	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█