

LAWRENCE COUNTY

Arkansas



Plan "Snapshot"

Amazing natural beauty. Amazing scenic rivers. Amazing historic sites. Amazing fertile farmland. Amazing lush foothills. Amazing people. In one word, Lawrence County is amazing.

Your breath is taken away when you drive over the picturesque gorge and see the Black River below. In one instant, you've crossed from the verdant fields of soybeans, rice and cotton to the flourishing woods of the Ozark foothills. You can picture earlier residents crossing this majestic river on an old suspension bridge, the supports of which can still be seen along the Powhatan shoreline.

As you continue through towns like Strawberry and Black Rock, you're swept back in time to the days when the unique stones in the area were used to make buttons for garments around the world. A glimpse of the past still lingers at Old Davidsonville, where you can view one of the earliest settlements of the Arkansas Territory. History is still alive in the small towns of Lawrence County, where the 100-year-old tradition of annual picnic gatherings are the norm.

You're thrilled to see the musical heritage of the South is so prevalent. After all, the Beatles only known visit to Arkansas was right here in Walnut Ridge. The Rock'n Roll Highway winds its way through the county, letting you discover the up-and-coming talent of the Delta for yourself.

You can't believe how much pride people have in their local communities. New community centers, camping facilities, recently renovated historic buildings, beautiful neighborhoods, bike paths and thriving small businesses are everywhere. It's obvious that the folks who live here love this place and care about its future.

When you visit with the people, you're astounded at their friendliness. The people of Lawrence County are so warm and welcoming you feel you've come home. This is the place you've always belonged.

It's Lawrence County...and it's truly amazing.

PLAN DIRECTOR

John Veer
*Former Mayor
City of Strawberry*

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Kathy Bradley
Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce

Dale Freeman
*County Judge
Lawrence County*

Coty Powers
*City Councilor
City of Lynn*

Bonnie Ragsdale
*Mayor
City of Black Rock*

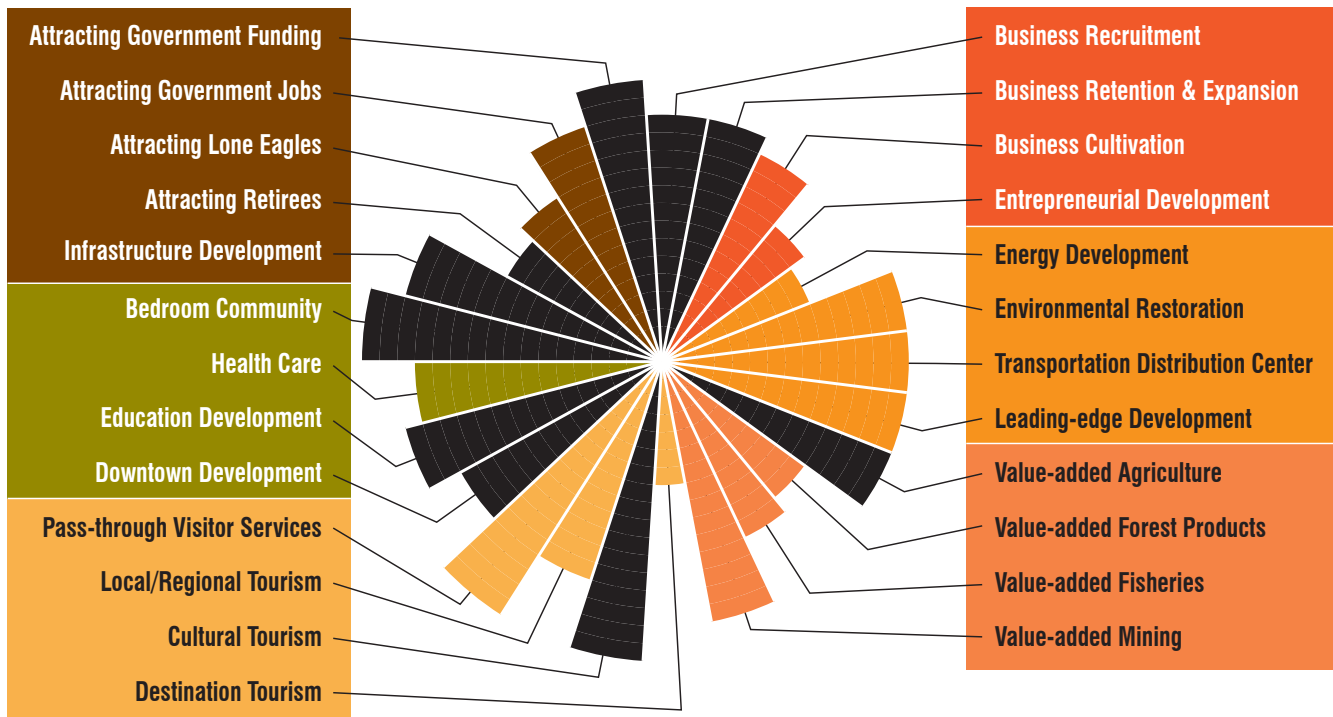
Vesta Smith
*City Councilor
City of Black Rock*

Tina Stowers
*County Clerk
Lawrence County*

Melba Verke
*Mayor
City of Alicia*

LAWRENCE COUNTY STRATEGY “THUMBPRINT”

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



SELECTED STRATEGIES & INITIATIVES	
Attracting Funding	Formation of a collaborative network to seek funding opportunities.
Bedroom Community Development	Improvement of housing options to encourage new residents.
Cultural Tourism	Development of a County Tourism Commission.
Downtown Development	Refurbishment of historic properties throughout county.
Emergency Services	Emergency preparedness and community shelters countywide.
Infrastructure Development	Improvements to local streets, water and highway infrastructure.
Parks & Recreation	Community centers, picnic areas and RV Parks along Black River.
Recycling	Expansion of recycling facilities throughout the county.

