

GARRETT COUNTY HERITAGE AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN



ONLINE DISCUSSION – SAMPLE QUESTIONS

The following questions, listed below, are for public and private entities to assist in formatting specific comments for the *Garrett County Heritage Area Management Plan* and heritage planning process. These questions are designed to assess initial strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats for the proposed heritage area in relation to preservation, tourism, and economic development. Questions are generic and are intended to serve as a guide only:

Heritage Significance, Resources, and Preservation

- What are the most important elements/periods of Garrett County's history to highlight in the Plan?
- How does this history connect with the outside world and the nation (why is it unique)?
- What are the perceived key themes or threads that link this history?
- What are the County's most important heritage resources (includes historical, cultural, archeological, natural, and scenic resources)?
- What is the current state of heritage resources in Garrett County (poor, good, excellent, etc.)?
- What are the County's most promising untapped heritage resources that may further support economic development and tourism?
- What are the strengths, weaknesses, issues, and opportunities for the preservation of heritage resources?
- What is the desired level of policy and regulatory response for the preservation of heritage resources (your opinion on government's role in preserving and protecting these resources)?
- What is the desired level of private response for the preservation of heritage resources (your opinion on the public's role in preserving and protecting these resources)?

Economic Development & Tourism

- What are the strengths, weaknesses, issues, and opportunities in the economy?
- What role does tourism play in the overall economy?
- How does heritage preservation and tourism factor into the economic picture?
- What are the economic priorities and where should capital be provided and spent?
- What are the economic successes and challenges for Garrett County?

- What are the most promising vehicles for enhancing tourism and the overall economy in relation to heritage resources (such as eco-tourism, agro-tourism, local organic farming, wineries, specialty stores etc.)?
- How can government enhance and facilitate economic development and tourism initiatives with private businesses and individuals?
- What is the state of Garrett County's physical and digital infrastructure and how can this be improved to enhance economic development, tourism, and heritage preservation?

Land Use, Growth Management, & Inter-Jurisdictional Coordination

- What are the perceived public and private strengths, weaknesses, threats, and opportunities related to development in regards to heritage preservation, economic development, and tourism?
- What is the role of "green" energy and related initiatives for the future economic development of Garrett County and how does this change/impact heritage preservation and tourism (compatible, adversely affects etc.)?
- How does natural resource utilization change/impact heritage preservation and tourism and how can this be reconciled (coal, timber, etc.)?
- What are the major policy and regulatory hurdles to effective economic development, tourism enhancement, and heritage preservation?
- How is development affecting Garrett County in relation to heritage preservation and tourism?
- What are some ways to enhance and improve economic development, tourism, and heritage preservation through land use and growth management mechanisms?
- How can Garrett County and its jurisdictions better achieve stewardship in the heritage area?
- What is the current structure for inter-jurisdictional coordination and is it effective?
- How can inter-jurisdictional coordination be improved and how can public entities better coordinate with private entities?
- Have new state laws regarding planning for development provided for more effective coordination (Maryland House Bill 1141 – Municipal Growth/Water Resources Elements)?