

Community for all to make a difference

d. "A City where all feel welcomed and want to take an active role."

Third Leg - Recreational Tourism

The third leg of the stool focuses on providing new recreational activities to encourage "Recreational Tourism." We need to draw travelers from Dallas to Atlanta/St. Louis to New Orleans, to Clinton. We must make Clinton the place to stop on I-20 by growing our recreational opportunities for participation and viewing.

"Recreational Tourism" means more outdoor opportunities such as the creation of new parks (greenspace), both small and large. The City is identifying a number of areas for small parks and in February of 2018 opened the first, Towne Springs Park. Plans for the new Lion's Club Park are almost complete, with a projected opening date in October 2019.

A great need in our community is a space for a large park offering a multitude of outdoor activities. The design of a large park would incorporate short-term RV parking to encourage Natchez Trace travelers to stop in Clinton and stay for a few days. A large park would include trails for hiking, causal biking, a mountain biking course and other endurance courses. And we would construct inclusive playground options for various ages. While we do not have a location, I think we need to "find a way to get there."

We already have a good start with the Girls Jr. College National Softball Championship and a professional bike race. We need to build on these events and develop new ones - something different that makes us different.

Fourth Leg - Economic Opportunity

The fourth leg, Economic Opportunity, begins with raising the income of the disadvantaged within our community, increasing their ability to buy and save. A number of churches and individuals are already working with youth to encourage a "career" path instead of a "job to job" path. Working

with Mississippi College, Hinds Community College, public/private high schools, and distance learning opportunities, we can provide resources to educate others on available careers in specific areas of interest.

Recruiting businesses with higher wages requires a better-educated work force focused on technological skills and entrepreneurial opportunity. This would include incubators for startup companies and support for their efforts from successful business owners.

Annexation along I-20 west would fall in this category and must be discussed in the future. An I-20 economic corridor would allow locations for high paying industries to hire and grow Clinton.

Conclusion:

As you review this information, I encourage you to determine the ways you can contribute. Are you an entrepreneur, an enthusiast, an organizer, or a volunteer? Use the ideas of "Clinton Next" as a starting point, and let your imagination take over. There is room for everyone to make the ideas of "Clinton Next" a reality in the years leading to 2050. Together, we can do anything.

CLINTON NEXT SUGGESTIONS

suggestions were made by citizens at previous Clinton Next meetings

FIRST LEG

Education

1. A school such as the Math and Science School (Education),
2. Making people aware of Drone Training, Industrial Management, Megatronics, and other technological opportunities of the future via youth influencers (Education/Public/Private),
3. Combining City, CPSD, and MC resources for a large multi-use facility to house Attaché, volleyball, graduations, plays, dance, and cheer competitions. This will require a 50,000 sq. ft. building plus parking (Education/Public), and
4. Let the experts keep doing the successful things our community has enjoyed for years (in other words, keep government out of education).

SECOND LEG

Community

1. Increased musical entertainment in a small, family-driven atmosphere (Public/Private),
2. Remain family-oriented, a place to hang out, with family-driven events,
3. Construct walking and biking trails connecting the city. Plans are underway for an eight-mile walking/biking trail stretching from north to south. Volunteers are welcome, contact City Hall. (Public)
4. Improved lighting to promote security and evening outdoor activities (Public),
5. Construct affordable homes in the 1,500-, 1,600-, 1,700-sq. ft. range to encourage young singles and couples to live in Clinton (Private),
6. Stronger codes on rental units to "clean up" offending properties and better regulate out-of-town owners (Public),
7. Organize private Clinton citizen investor groups to buy rental property from outsiders and then sell, not rent (Private),
8. Work with the lending institutions to develop resources encouraging homebuyers to purchase pre-1975 homes and requiring they upgrade the home - breathing new life to older parts of Clinton (Private),
9. Build recreational activities within a development to encourage exercise and neighborhood interaction. Add sidewalks in all neighborhoods (Private),
10. A Teen Red Brick Road for teenagers to enjoy music in a non-alcohol atmosphere (Public/Private),
11. Increase beautification efforts on major thoroughfares, especially at all city entrances (Public/Private),
12. A place where all are accepted and valued - Everyone Belongs Here.

THIRD LEG

Recreational Tourism

1. Overnight RV Park for Natchez Trace visitors (see above) (Public),
2. Promote the Nature Center to encourage "nature lovers" to visit this unique space (Public),
3. A horse arena (Private),
4. Kids Towne Park - we need to expand this park's capability with a Pet Park, Frisbee Golf, Pickle Ball, and asphalt the walking trail (Public),
5. MS Tennis Association Tournaments would accelerate the need for more tennis courts, but would also bring players throughout the region and state to Clinton hotels and restaurants.
6. Additional parks, large and small (see above) (Public),
7. A modern archery facility to allow hunters a place to practice and let families enjoy a different activity. This facility would also serve as a location for high school and college tournaments (Education/Public),
8. A virtual golf facility (Private),
9. An indoor track facility to draw regional high school and college track meets (Private),
10. Becoming a "play-up tournament" location for the Little League World Series (Public).

FOURTH LEG

Economic Opportunity

1. Jump on the Continental wagon,
2. Additional grocery stores (Public/Private),
3. A wedding event location (Private),
4. Industrial Park growth to increase jobs and rooftops (Public),
5. A business Incubator to help get new businesses on their feet (Education/Public/Private),
6. Retail developments, and more retail developments (Public/Private),
7. Restaurants, and more restaurants (Public/Private),
8. Laser tag, trampoline and paint ball facilities to give teenagers a place to go (Private),
9. Face lifts and increase landscaping for businesses along Highway 80 and Clinton Blvd. (Private),
10. Promote the city's history and parks to drive tourism (Public),
11. Increase the arts community, giving tourists a taste of Clinton's artistic talents (Public/Private),
12. A Bed and Breakfast (Private),
13. Plan/construct all infrastructure for an I-20 economic corridor if a decision is made to move forward (Public).



\$25 OFF
YOUR SPRING
TUNE-UP*



Clinton Refrigeration Service

(601) 924-5676

www.lennoxdealer.com/ClintonRefrigeration
Quality Service Since 1980

*See your local dealer for details. Must present coupon at time of service. Valid 5/1/19-5/31/19. © 2019 Lennox Industries Inc. Lennox Dealers are independently owned and operated businesses.