

**Do you have any additional comments about opportunities for tourism that should be pursued in your community?**

<b>Theme</b>	<b>References</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>References</b>
<b>Planning</b>		<b>Anti-tourism</b>	
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Corridor H	2		
Internet	1		
<b>Asset opportunities</b>		<b>Organizational opportunities</b>	
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arts and music	5	handicap accessibility	1
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<b>Asset opportunities</b>		<b>Organizational opportunities</b>	
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swimming pool	2		
shoulder season activities	1		
movie theater	1		
windmills	1		
hunting	1		
damn Canaan Valley	1		
casino	1		

## **Accommodations**

- More motels/hotels – playgrounds/equipment for kids.
- There should be more inns/B&Bs in Thomas and restaurants, and definitely there should be a Starbucks! – Thomas
- Before tourism can really get started, there must be accommodations (hotel). – Parsons
- Except for Canaan Valley State Park, there is a gap between low end/middle quality lodging and restaurants, and unique lodging and restaurants.
- Need hotels, motels, and restaurants. – Hambleton

## **Adventure Activities**

- Need more adventure attractions i.e., zip line across Blackwater Canyon, off-road ATV trails opened up for public use. – Hendricks
- Kayaking, rafting, and cycling. – Parsons

## **Affordable Housing**

- No housing – government poor – no knowledge.
- Tourism is doing great – locals are not! No affordable housing, now where to work. – Davis
- Affordable housing for people working in Tucker County. – Canaan Valley

## **Agritourism**

- We truly need to utilize the agriculture in our area and support our local farmers year round. – St. George
- We should include more agricultural experiences for tourists. Red Creek

## **Arts and Music**

- Purple Fiddle should not be the only venue for live music. Mt. State Brewery has some live shows. We need more. – Canaan Valley

- Promoting Tucker County as an arts destination. – Canaan Valley
- Opportunities to showcase local performers and artists as well as host for groups like touring theater companies etc., HCA! Special instructions to make all venues **inclusive** especially for those with various disabilities.
- Performing arts. – Parsons
- Art district that is available to artists; not only the few owners. – Canaan Valley

### **ATV**

- Everyone has a space except ATV owners who are a large percentage of residents.
- 4 wheeler marked path instead of so wherever you want... - Parsons

### **Beautification**

- Highlander Motel needs torn down to create more usable space.
- Clean up the town. – Hambleton
- Update gas station in Thomas. At end of 219 at bridge tear down old building. Is an eyesore. Gas station is so antiquated! No Service for cleaning windows

### **Better Marketing**

- PR from State and Community leaders
- Planned ventures/adequate advertising! – Parsons
- advertisement. – Parsons
- This region has fantastic natural beauty. But often not enough information for people wanting day hikes or mid-level activity. More information on short basic hikes and bikes. – Thomas

### **Brewery Tour**

- “Alcohol tour” to all area breweries/distilleries/wineries.

### **Calendar of Events**

- A comprehensive calendar of events including regional events. – Thomas

### **Camping**

- People seem to like to camp to this area. We need appropriate camping facilities. We have campers all up and down the highways and it does not evoke a beautiful, wild area to visit. – St. George
- Camping. – Davis

### **Casino**

- Casino at Canaan Valley Resort, like Rocky Gap (Maryland) State Park. – Hambleton

### **Corridor H**

- Casino at Canaan Valley Resort, like Rocky Gap (Maryland) State Park. – Hambleton

### **Credit Cards**

- Have to pay cash before pumping. People are used to using credit cards. – Thomas

### **Dam Canaan Valley**

- Take Canaan Valley and put in a lake like Deep Creek. – Parsons

### **Eco-nature Based Tourism**

- Cross Country Skiing.
- Whitewater.

- When it comes to “nature tourism” it’s important to develop a “deep green” philosophy commensurate with the biosphere reserve value of the crucial eastern high country – rivers and forests. **Education**.
- Maximize use of natural resources as the basis for tourism.
- Personally, believe Canaan Valley should focus on the true beauty of the outdoors instead of a nightlife/shopping activities.
- fishing tournaments, snowman contest. – Thomas
- Fall leaf viewing. – Parsons
- nature tourisms – wonderful hiking, back packing in forest, abundant wildlife, rivers, biking, etc. – Parsons
- More hiking, biking, cross country skiing facilities, trails. – Red Creek
- Mountain biking, group rides and camps, guided treks or meet-ups, wine and jazz festival, blues festival, better season pass rates for locals for skiing, a taste of local eateries and breweries event. – St. George
- Cross country skiing. – Parsons
- More hiking and biking trails to access and enjoy the beautiful Mon Forest! - St. George
- The more we can focus on eco-tourism and highlight our natural areas the better. We **NEED** to maintain the identity of being small and locally owned! – Davis
- Thomas has excellent tourist attractions. Ours is a small community but more nature tours. We have a lot of historical value just unused. – Hendricks
- Our forest are our advantage with summer hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, and winter sports. – Canaan Valley
- Ecotourism, utilize Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge for interaction with birding tours, outdoor environmentalist education in TV presentation. – Canaan Valley
- We really need a public game farm/wildlife center

- We have lots of water (rivers – creeks) and open green space with a low population density that needs to be utilized with the proper promotion for tourism. - Parsons
- Hands-on discovery center for place-based and environmental learning.
- Perhaps more watershed related sports options (if possible) Canaan/Blackwater area canoes, kayaks. – Dryfork
- The well preserved, beautiful natural landscape defines the tourism opportunity here. Development should only proceed if it continues to strongly protect that. Otherwise tourism will fail. – Canaan Valley
- Ecotourism and hunting and fishing events, hiking and trail use events and festivals. – Canaan Valley

### Events-Festivals

- Event facilities to host destination weddings (state parks limit food and drink options to only what they provide).
- We need a convention center a **large** gathering place and **HOSPITAL**. – Parsons
- Heritage/nature/adventure/festivals are all things we could provide more of. Have a high level of good outcome if cooperation was present. – Ledmine
- Bigger name band outdoor concerts. – Parsons
- Large outdoor concerts and amusement park very important to create jobs. – Hambleton
- Mountain biking, group rides and camps, guided treks or meet-ups, wine and jazz festival, blues festival, better season pass rates for locals for skiing, a taste of local eateries and breweries event. – St. George
- events and festivals. – Canaan Valley
- Existing festivals should be more welcomed and treated as special by businesses. – St. George

### Family Activities

- More motels/hotels – playgrounds/equipment for kids.

- Keep family oriented opportunities.
- Local history themed mini golf or kids play area.
- More attractions for family friendly tourism. – Thomas

### **Grow and Support Tourism**

- Opportunities are wide open.
- County tourism revenues divested back into tourism and the areas from which the revenues originally came! – Canaan Valley
- More local business owners. – Davis
- I have been seeing improvement for some years now, going at a moderate pace for country people to adjust to the changes was a great idea, something hard for people to handle change! Doing good. – Thomas
- It is good to see a lot of people coming and going. – Parsons
- The county and city officials need to stop keeping our county stagnant, need to promote growth. – Davis
- I would model the different areas a lot like Gatlinburg, TN. (Mostly Thomas/Davis/Canaan). – Red Creek

### **Guided Tours**

- Guided bus tours; walk-on guide service.

### **Handicap Accessibility**

- Fix ADA issues, fix handicapped bathroom access and entrances with steps, and lack of handicapped parking. – Thomas

### **Heritage**

- I would like to see the battlefield developed more.



- Our heritage and events of the past history could be emphasized more with events such as civil war recognition and such.
- Yes, historical tourism should be looked into more.
- Play up Civil War –
- Lots of history – railroad, lumber, etc.,
- Thomas has excellent tourist attractions. Ours is a small community but more nature tours. We have a lot of historical value just unused. – Hendricks
- scenic railroad from Davis to Dolly Sods. Our most marketable asset for beauty. History (logging, nature, and military) is not accessible to only very few. It would perfectly complete. – Canaan Valley
- Also I think tourists would be interested to visit each small community if more history was emphasized (Parsons, St. George, etc.). – Parsons
- A short tourism activity related to history – Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, John Burroughs, Firestone, camping trip 1918 to Lead Mine...do something with that story in Tucker County...maybe even a living history demonstration and/or a “camping trip” for today following their path. – Those interested in Civilian Conservation Corps – Camp Horseshoe constructed 1938-39 may be the largest number of CCC build facilities for a youth camp still operating...plus 76 years of youth leadership development for those interested in youth development. – St. George
- Civil War – Corrick’s Ford. – Parsons

### **Hunting**

- Sunday hunting. – Parsons

### **Indoor Activities**

- Need indoor activities especially in bad weather. – Red Creek
- And, we need more indoor activities for tourists and locals. – Thomas
- Indoor bike-park and climbing wall.

- Youth Center and facilities/equipment, swim pool and wellness center – accessible and available for locals too! Opportunities to showcase local performers and artists as well as host for groups like touring theater companies etc., HCA! Special instructions to make all venues **inclusive** especially for those with various disabilities.
- Indoor tourism activities stressed due to winters in our mountain area

### **Internet**

- Better internet service is critical to get people to come back. I hear this all the time. – Canaan Valley

### **More Activities**

- Something for our children and grandchildren too. Keep them busy instead of drugs!
- Build more in Davis and Thomas.
- More things for young people to do.
- Tourism just doesn't provide opportunity for our youth to grow and reside in the County. Out of County or out of state people move in to retire.
- Tucker County needs more activities for the visitor. – Canaan Valley
- Anything would be nice – especially for teens! – Hambleton
- could make a Paint Ball Rally Area
- Bow Shooting Range
- Hunting, fishing, and kayaking are not what tourists are attracted to. – Parsons

### **More Parking**

- Parking not good on Main Street.

- No parking for tourists in Thomas.

### **Movie Theater**

- Movie theater, fishing tournaments, snowman contest. – Thomas

### **Need a Vision**

- More collaboration and vision.
- Before pursuing opportunities, leadership needs to listen to citizens, create a unified vision – a unified, thoughtful vision and **execute it completely.**

### **Need Better Jobs**

- Need less seasonal jobs more fulltime positions.
- We need less seasonal jobs, more full time positions.
- In an area such as Tucker County, with it being desolate yet rich in natural beauty, tourism is the heart and soul of the community. Though, tourism also needs to pay a livable wage. – Davis
- How can you pay \$8.25 an hour and pay \$1200 a month in rent? Don't work – we need higher paying jobs other than tourism! – Canaan Valley
- Anything new that would bring more jobs and opportunities for people who need it. We have one red light in all of Tucker County... 1 Stop light. – Hendricks
- Necessary, but we need to move beyond tourism is only economic driver. – Davis
- Better jobs. – Parsons
- More jobs. – Davis

### **Need Cooperation**

- More collaboration and vision.
- Cooperation is needed between state parks, national forest, National wildlife refuge, DNR (who took publicly purchased land from CVI and manages it too much for hunters).

Hey should be more open to hikers, mountain bikers, cross country skiers, naturalists, and maintain trails for them as well as build new ones. Years of neglect.

- My answers pertain to Mountain Top Davis/Thomas/Canaan. There is a division between upper Tucker County and lower Tucker County where tourism and county government are concerned. – Davis
- Co-operation – “Area Tickets” between all local ski areas, free shuttle between towns and ski areas. – Canaan Valley

### **Need County Gov’t Support**

- County government should not hold back future development. Wild wonderful – stagnant.

### **Need Jobs Not Tourism**

- No more tourism! Local people want and need good jobs! This is outsider playground – They don’t care for local people on that they have to survive.
- We need more than tourism for jobs.
- We need jobs – Skilled job – Not tourism. – St. George
- Corridor H is not the answer. We need infrastructure and jobs to support a life here. – Davis
- We need to make jobs for West Virginia instead of focusing always for tourism. The people come from other states with good paying jobs, there isn’t well paying jobs for the residents. – Parsons
- High paying jobs with a future and benefits. – Canaan Valley
- Jobs, factories. – St. George
- Tourism is ok, but we need big business in order for our families to stay. There is nothing here anymore, we need more full time jobs!!! – Parsons

### **Negative Comments**

- Keep it out. Born and raised here does not help.
- Clean up Thomas – Hippies need to have respect – Get rid of drug problems in Thomas – marijuana?
- Our communities are very small, our population of available workers is very limited. We are already stressed to the max with tourists we have. I would prefer our economy stew in areas not tourist oriented – more stable, less seasonal.
- We have enough.
- They use our resources for their playgrounds.
- We feel tourism should be icing on the cake. Historically tourism breeds poverty. An example the outer banks of North Carolina breeds poverty on the local people.
- We don't want tourists here! – Thomas
- Personally there is a lot of tourists coming and going – don't need more! – Canaan Valley
- It would be fine if idiot D.C. busy bodies would stay out of our business and go somewhere else! They're a bunch of delusional control freaks and they need to LEAVE!!! – Thomas
- Tourism is out of control. It's the community that needs help. Tourism has destroyed the housing market creating more crime, homelessness, and more need in the community than ever before. Tourism needs control. Assistance programs need 1<sup>st</sup> priority. – Davis
- Tourism is better somewhere else. – Red Creek
- Don't need it. – Parsons
- None. – Thomas
- Get us some tourists who don't stink. – St. George
- Tourism is ok for some business, but people who come here from D.C. and Baltimore think we are here as their slaves! We should do whatever it takes to make their life better. – Davis

- We prefer our country life! – Leadmine

## **Parsons**

- Parsons needs to stop treating the mountain area as a cash cow and support the creation of a well-managed zoned development area.
- Parsons need to become “a destination” for tourists prior to the opening of Corridor H. If we don’t accomplish that, there will be no need for tourists to exit into Parsons and we will begin to “die on the vine”, property values will drop, and we will be in trouble.
- Parsons needs an amphitheater, **indoor** and outdoor, to accommodate traveling and local performing groups, skilled crafters and musical performers, movies, motivational speakers from outside our community.
- Parsons needs more open minded leaders, microbrewery, promote rails/trails.
- Parsons is in need of any sort of tourism. All tourism in the county is in Davis, Thomas, and Canaan. – Parsons
- Parsons needs to do more! Hambleton
- My perception of Parsons is that they don’t **want** tourists to linger in Parsons. – Parsons
- Parsons went down after the flood of 1985 and we have not fully recovered. – Parsons
- Do more in the Parsons area! – Parsons
- I would like to see the riverbanks in downtown Parsons developed. – Parsons
- Need a welcome center in Parsons! – Parsons

## **Public Participation**

- More input from residents.
- Even when it’s tried – How do you get people to participate?
- More festivals, community interaction. – Thomas

## **Public Services**

- I think we are moving in the right direction but need to build up infrastructure some (i.e., law enforcement and emergency response). – Hendricks
- Need a local hospital. – Parsons
- We need a convention center a large gathering place and **HOSPITAL**. – Parsons
- Assisted living, retirement village. – Parsons

## **Public Transportation**

- Parsons needs public transportation and funding. – Parsons
- Public transportation. – Parsons
- We need public transportation i.e., buses, taxi. – Parsons
- Public transportation would definitely increase the utilization of all services/venues – This includes local residents. As well as generate additional dollars for the business communities and county. I live here as a creative performer yet due to no public transportation I do not get to enjoy these events and resources. – Thomas

## **Residents Before Tourists**

- Tucker County is WV best kept secret but it has a need to keep locals here. Need to have a happy medium.
- If residents aren't prosperous, tourists will not be attracted to our communities.
- Help for local citizens should come before tourists.
- Tourism is doing fine, the locals are not. – Davis
- Residents should be thought of first! – Hambleton

- Thomas is a place for us to live, create, congregate, and engage. It should not be a place for servitude to tourists. They can visit with us, that's great. But don't turn us into a service town! - Thomas

### **Restaurants**

- Except for Canaan Valley State Park, there is a gap between low end/middle quality lodging and restaurants, and unique lodging and restaurants.
- Need hotels, motels, and restaurants. – Hambleton
- More restaurants please. I am tired of cooking when I come to Tucker County. – Canaan Valley

### **Shopping**

- Downtown Davis needs more store fronts.
- Clothing stores – Need a local hospital. – Parsons
- Stores. – Hambleton

### **Shoulder Season Activities**

- Need more opportunities in “downtimes” spring, late fall.

### **Shuttle Service**

- Trail and bike shuttle services.
- shuttle transportation to support both CV, Thomas, and Davis locations is a must! – Thomas

### **Signage**

- Signage. – St. George



- Better signage = less lost tourists. – Thomas
- For any tourism available in Tucker County, signage informing the public of such activities/locations is quite imperative on main byways like Corridor H. Signage on smaller highways would surely help; people need to know in advance. – St. George

### **Ski Resort Opportunities**

- Better and safer ski resort attractions.
- Sell Timberline 4 Seasons Resort to somebody who could truly develop its potential.
- The number one thing holding back tourism in Canaan is Timberline and Heinz Family. They are criminals and horrible for tourism!!! – Canaan Valley
- Canaan facilities are wonderful/Timberline facilities are awful! – Canaan Valley
- Somebody with common sense and good intentions needs to buy Timberline Resort. It is a plague to our community. That said, the skiing is great there. – Canaan Valley
- Timberline and Canaan Valley ski resorts need to be upgraded to attract more visitors. – Davis

### **Small Businesses Support**

- Education for small businesses and help with opportunities.

### **State Park Improvements**

- Canaan Valley has two resorts with facilities to cover # 13-17 and 19 above that seem underutilized, under marketed, underfunded. Do not propose developing new resorts – just improving those have. – Canaan Valley
- The State Parks should be upgraded to provide facilities that are at a level expected by urban communities (tourists). (e.g., pools gyms, spas etc.). – Davis

### **Sustainable Growth and Development**

- Zoning! Don't let tourism take over.

- Keep new businesses small and local – chains take away from our uniqueness and allure.
- Stop the wholesale logging of our forests and ban shale gas fracking so there is some “Wild Wonderful” WV left for tourism!!!
- WV is supposed to be wild & wonderful so stop building and it may stay beautiful. – Thomas
- Tourists buy property in Thomas and Davis and let it run down (house next door and across the street, Cooper building, etc.). Zoning laws and codes are needed and must be enforced. – Thomas
- I think we have it all (what we need) it just could be developed better. – Thomas
- Tourism is happening. We do not need to “Develop” it. We need to understand it and use it to our advantage. – Davis
- Most people moved here to enjoy it too much development will ruin it. – Thomas
- Education of the benefits of a good tourism plan. – Parsons
- Planned ventures/adequate advertising! – Parsons
- It is difficult to build tourism and maintain the integrity of the community. Smart growth with planning. – Canaan Valley
- I don’t want to see this area overrun with people, strip malls, or chains. Keep the small town charm. – Davis
- There is a difficult balance that needs to be reached. Tourism is necessary but the whole reason we have tourists is because there’s not many of them. Classic Catch-22. – Davis
- Protection of resources. Thomas
- Your judgement boxes are confusing – your data may be faulty. What is **NOT NEEDED OR WANTED** is **FRANCHISE** tourism or junk entertainment. Now we have a wonderful friendly sharing culture, great entrepreneurs and rapid creative growth, We **DO NOT NEED OR WANT** the cheap cheat greed environment of Snowshoe, Deep Creek Lake or (worst) Cumberland Gap. There is danger in “development”. We are already

“developing” well and I prefer local be honored...like local business, art, and environmental people. – Davis

- All Tourism should focus on property already allocated for tourism such as Canaan
- Entrepreneurship yesterday and today. Experience the rebirth of Davis, WV – what was/is the spark, how to attract people, how to turn neglected buildings into new life...present a “how to” story to those looking to renew their communities – a teaching tool for others.
- Just well managed – Not thrown up and mismanaged. – Davis
- No thank you, please keep corporate America out of Tucker County. – Thomas
- I think that the towns of Thomas and Davis have all the key ingredients for positive tourism. I would like to see the “small town” and unique energies of these places preserved and the businesses that are here strengthened. – Thomas
- Tucker County has many breweries and festivals as well as local music and art. We should look into supporting that but also creating more audiences of what we already have. We do not need chains, big-box stores or large venues with low income jobs. – Thomas
- An economic plan on how we want our area and tourism demands to handle the growth. – Davis

### **Swimming Pool**

- Swimming pool would be great addition. Even better perhaps...develop a great public beach somewhere on a sunny riverbank.
- A public pool would be nice. – St. George

### **Theme Park**

- Believe a water theme park and amusement park with rides would greatly enhance our seasons here for tourists.
- Large outdoor concerts and amusement park very important to create jobs. – Hambleton

## Trail Development

- Bike rentals in Parsons. Shuttle people back and forth to Davis bike trail head. Cross country ski facility with rentals in nursery bottom area. Trails in Otter Creek.
- Reopening Blackwater Canyon Trail. Consolidation of public properties, USFS and Thomas.
- River, bike shuttles, not in Red Area.
- The trails in the National Forest need maintenance – Parsons
- Seneca Trail. – St. George
- A bike trail? If the county was so interested in tourism they should have thought a lot more about our rail system. They would have all they needed if they would have kept the train system in operation. What a boon (impact) this would have had. – Parsons
- More outdoor hiking trails

## Train Ride

- Tucker County should have developed a train ride like Durbin and Elkins
- scenic railroad from Davis to Dolly Sods. Our most marketable asset for beauty. History (logging, nature, and military) is not accessible to only very few. It would perfectly complete. – Canaan Valley
- Douglas Canyon should have a train ride through it. – Thomas
- Scenic railroad connecting the populated areas of the county. – Parsons

## Transplants

- I feel there is a “grassroots” kind of organic internal kind of effort that is developing in Tucker County – especially in Thomas and somewhat in Davis/Canaan Valley Area. A lot of this has to do with young people and people from other areas coming here because cost of living is affordable and it is a unique and beautiful area. They see possibilities here and have created an interesting kind of subculture related/invested in art and music and food. – Davis

- Outsiders integrating into the richness of local culture (e.g. participating in Run for It, Uncle Sam's birthday party, library fundraisers etc.). – Canaan Valley

### **Windmills**

- Windmills