

How would you define the culture of Tucker County?

Theme	References	Theme	References	Theme	References
Positive		Positive		Negative	
diverse	52	beauty	1	negative-poor-needing improvement	45
rural	48	undiscovered	1	locals vs transplants	21
good	33	isolated	1	top of mtn vs bottom	21
outdoor recreation	10	music and food	1	lacks diversity	6
heritage	9	Appalachian	1	backward	4
hardworking	9	creative	1	so-so	4
evolving	8	active	1	locals vs tourists	3
laid back	7	hunting	1	divided	3
slowly developing	6	state parks	1	narrow minded	2
religious	6	wild	1	uncooperative	1
family	6	dark skies	1	destructive	1
friendly	6	low-key	1	odd	1
arts	5	agriculture	1	frayed	1
improving	4	conservative	1	derided	1
kind	4	helpful	1	flat	1
rich	4	underutilized	1	declining	1
mountains	4	undefined	1		
unique	4	proud	1		

Theme	References	Theme	References		
Positive		Positive			
heritage and nature	3	hopeful	1		
people oriented	3	down to earth	1		
small town	3	genuine	1		
ethnic	2	sincere	1		
honest	2	tolerant	1		
tight-knit	2				
accepting	2				
eclectic	2				
community	2				
working together	2				
independent	2				
patriotic	2				
elderly	1				

Art

- We love art.
- Developing well around the arts and music. – Davis
- Limited to symphony at Canaan Valley State Park once a year, artists, and a few unique shops.
- Artists.
- Rural and artsy, full of quaint character.

Backward

- Backward –which is just fine with me.
- Backward. – Parsons
- Backward. – Thomas
- Backward.

Diverse

- Varied and awesome but lacking diversity (especially ethnically).
- Very diverse.
- Varied cultures from different countries.
- Widely diverse.
- Mixed because of geography.
- various socio-economic groups.
- Supportive with young and old.
- Diverse – All three towns have a different nature.
- Diverse. (2)
- Appalachian heritage with Bohemian culture.
- Mixed. (2)
- Complicated roots intertwined with mud.
- Mixed.
- Old hippies, new hippies and a blend of others.
- A mixed bag.

- Mixed with local culture and new people. Local culture is country people.
- Variety of different cultures. – Parsons
- Old and new working together. – Canaan Valley
- Diverse. – Canaan Valley
- There are many different types of people. – Canaan Valley
- Mixed. – Davis
- Mixed. – Thomas
- It's a unique blend of Southern/Eastern European influences in Thomas and mountain pioneer influences in the rest of the county. – Thomas
- Not like the rest of WV. – Thomas
- A healthy mix of curmudgeon and hipster – young and old – a good mix of change and tradition, laid back but act on change. – Thomas
- Melting pot of physical labors and art community geared toward nature tourism and winter snow sports. – Thomas
- Mixed. We are all descended from immigrants from mostly Western and Eastern Europe. – Parsons
- Culture in parts of Tucker County is very rich and diverse. – Parsons
- Art and diversity. – Davis
- Mixed now – locals are interacting with newcomers. – Davis
- Appalachian melting pot of people with similar interests and hobbies. – Davis
- Back country adventures, developing art community.
- Eclectic. - Canaan Valley

- Appreciation of family, beautiful environment, and other people.
- Our culture is diversified with farming, local residents and part-time residents. – Parsons
- Mixed bag. – Canaan Valley
- Proud, hard-working people who value the environment and have been such good stewards of the land that many others have also chosen to make it their home too. Independent people, patriotic hunters and fishermen/women with great love and respect for nature.
- Very diverse with the people on the mountain (Thomas, Davis, and Canaan) and the people in Hendricks, Hambleton, St. George, and Parsons. – Parsons
- Tucker County has an outdoor/adventurous culture mixed with a strong arts scene. The people and the community really make this area special.
- A real mix of rural working class, traditional, independent, isolated residents born here and suburban/resort living, retired professionals, connected wealthy, part-time new residents who came here and some of us in the middle – professionals, artists, country loving seeking the community, the towns, here offer and fun opportunities and nature. – Canaan Valley
- Mixed. – Canaan Valley
- Tucker County is a wonderful mix of good ole boys, real hippies, hipster millennials, professional generation Xers and retired boomers and aging traditionalists.
- It is an interesting fusion of people who have been here for generations and people who are new implants – and people who are here part-time 2nd home owners.
- A mixed bag of outdoor enthusiasts, artists, musicians, hillbillies and families coexisting in a gorgeous mountain environment.
- Nature tourism and art and small business communities.
- Mixed. Lifelong residents with new residents that have fresh ideas and innovative ideas
RE: Growth and diversity of resources.
- Diverse – a mix of old and new.

- Mixed.
- Rooted in strong traditions of self-sufficiency – trades, craftsmanship agriculture with room for expressions, variety arts and a cautious eye towards any big changes.
- There are a lot of different types of arts and religions, but most of all they respect each other.
- Half local tourism/half environmentalist – Do not agree with the environmentalist faction
- Art/nature.
- It is a unique blend of typical WV and Western US attitude with its outdoor lifestyle, strong small business culture, and year round tourism. – Thomas
- Good hearted people with down home values.
- A mix of outdoor oriented adventure be it hunting and fishing or skiing and mountain biking combined with a social fabric ranging from liberal hippy to conservative redneck.
- Mixed. –
- A real mixture: professionals to rednecks.

Divided

- Divided. – Canaan Valley
- Split.
- happy vs. jaded

Evolving

- Changing fast –
- Evolving.
- It is now hippieville. – Thomas

- Traditional America, but changing to embrace new ideas and people. We are opening up in many ways (at least in Davis and Thomas – hopefully that will spread). – Hendricks
- early stages of new beginning,
- Seriously coming along, impressive start. – Thomas
- Goods, arts and music developing
- Changing to tourist as we speak.

Family

- Family.
- Appreciation of family, beautiful environment, and other people. - Canaan Valley
- Family oriented. – Parsons
- Mountain living, family oriented. – Parsons
- Family, sports, religion. – Thomas
- family oriented

Friendly

- So-so friendly.
- Open to tourism, yet still some resistance to “outsiders”.
- we are very friendly to visitors
- Very friendly. – St. George
- friendly
- Friendly,

Good

- Varied and awesome
- Good. (2)
- Okay/OK. (4)
- Best ever, leave it alone.
- Strong with a desire to succeed in life.
- Good.
- Fine.
- A wonderful place to live and raise a family. The flood of 1985 damaged Tucker County, Parsons, Hendricks, and Hambleton.
- Average. – Thomas
- We have some culture. – Davis
- Near perfect. – Canaan Valley
- Normal. – Thomas
- All right. – Parsons
- It's ok. – Parsons
- Good. – Parsons
- Very good we have good people. – Parsons
- Friendly, intelligent, happy. – Parsons
- Not bad. – Parsons
- Very important. – Hambleton
- Very good. – Parsons

- Good. – Parsons
- Good. – Thomas
- Good. – Hambleton
- Good.
- Ok.
- Good.
- Ok.
- Good place to live.
- Good.
- I like it
- Good.
- Good
- A nice place.

Hardworking

- Hardworking, honest introverted people. Not wanting change.
- Antiquated, close knit, hard-working salt of the earth. – Davis
- Honest, hard-working quiet people not wanting change. – Parsons
- Proud, hard-working people who value the environment and have been such good stewards of the land that many others have also chosen to make it their home too. Independent people, patriotic hunters and fishermen/women with great love and respect for nature. – Canaan Valley
- Hardworking, tolerant, unmotivated for change. – Parsons

- We are a tough hard working people with many things to offer the tourist and/or business world. – Parsons
- hard working.
- hardworking
- hard-working

Heritage + Nature

- Post Industrial meet natural resources.
- Strictly mountaineering and pride of their heritage. – Red Creek
- Traditional values and pride in past history – Wanting to share the beauty of natural resources and pass on heritage of lifestyle based on simple living.

Heritage

- Not enough history for tourists to be aware of.
- Clean and safe with emphasis on heritage.
- but we should celebrate the past – coal mining – timber industry.
- Appalachian...
- Knowledge of our older folks, their various experiences, accomplishments.
- Peaceful, historic, agriculture. – Red Creek
- We remember our roots. – Parsons
- rich history but needs refined.
- Historic, creative, active, outdoors. – Canaan Valley
- Historical

- Ethnic heritage, Christian. – Canaan Valley

Improving

- Fair but growing, improving.
- Evolving.
- Pockets of people doing the right thing others need to move in that direction. – Parsons
- Growing at a good rate,

Kind

- People are kind and caring.
- Loving, sharing, deep rooted,
- Mostly quiet and humble about the great things many people do for others.
- Love thy neighbor and everyone else too. – Parsons

Lacks Diversity

- Varied and awesome but lacking diversity (especially ethnically).
- Strong Christian beliefs, very low percentage of different races,
- Quirky, sometimes grumpy, “Balkanized”, cliquish,
- Typical Celtic, closed to outsiders.
- It is lacking.
- Old farts. – Canaan Valley

Laid Back

- Very laid back
- Laid back

- laid back
- Laid back. –
- Laid back
- Laid back.
- Laid back.

Locals vs Tourists

- Sharp divides between those living/working tourism and those not. “Townies” vs. “Tourist” phenomenon.
- A mix of local residents needing good jobs and folks like me who don’t want additional tourism to put stress on the roads and the tranquil nature of the area. – Canaan Valley
- Two complete opposites!! Wow, it’s a culture of indifference and entitlement in one way my coworkers are oftentimes quite ungrateful for all the tourists and even resent them. Like they’re trying to change everything or treat everyone like servants?? But then there’s this other culture of complete adoration and commitment to the greater good of the community via tourism and real estate.

Locals vs Transplants

- 2 cultures: the locals born and raised here and the transplants - moved here, locals often uneducated, don’t value the land, ATV and trash, scar land, pro coal and gas. Transplants - value natural resources and beauty more, anti-coal and gas – anything that destroys land.
- Not wanting change.
- old school.
- Two sided – progressive/backward. As people in Parsons define it granola and redneck, top of the mountain/bottom of the mountain, guns/naturalists, 4 wheelers pickups vs. Subaru, running vs sitting in a chair.

- Folks whose family lived here for generations and people who moved here for the outdoor recreation, art, abundance of wildlife and beauty.
- Some exclusion by those born here to “outsiders”. Attitude that “outsiders” are to be “ripped off”.
- Multi generation “locals” that are typically redneck and hipsters that live off of trust funds. – Davis
- Redneck and “hippy”. – Davis
- Very rural, early stages of new beginning, old timers and new folks interact poorly. – Thomas
- Idiots from D.C. are trying to Co-opt and usurp Tucker County Culture! They are oppressive tax happy, anti-2nd Amendment liberal trash and they can go straight to hell. Do not pass go! Do not collect \$200! – Thomas
- Redneck (longtime residents) or hippy (new residents). – Davis
- Split between neo-hippies and locals. – Canaan Valley
- Old vs New. – Canaan Valley
- Definitely a little difference between people who move here and people raised here although it is changing. – Thomas
- Rural, not particularly “enlightened”, very suspicious of outsiders. – Canaan Valley
- Born and raised residents and people who moved here. – Thomas
- Somewhat insular. – Parsons
- unmotivated for change. – Parsons
- Somewhat resentful of “outsiders”. Some disdain for education, some “artificial” dialect for this area.
- native-loving
- Two groups need to work together for the common good.

- Split: Haves vs Have Nots, Valley vs Mountain, Transplant vs Local.

Mountains

- Mountain living, family oriented. – Parsons
- Mountain Culture – Mountain Highlands Culture.
- Quiet, mountain, secluded.
- Mountain proud,

Negative-Poor-Needing Improvement

- Drugs, laziness, welfare.
- Needs improvement. Still too much stereotyping of “WV Hillbilly”.
- None visible.
- Folks are poor with no hope.
- Lacking. (2)
- No good.
- Failing. Young, motivated people move away with mostly welfare type and sovereigns moving into the area.
- Bad.
- Poor. (2)
- I don't feel there is any.
- Very poor.
- None.
- Deprived. – Thomas

- Lousy – slow to grow into the 21st century. – Red Creek
- At one time it was exceptional but now I see too many selling and doing drugs. – Parsons
- Disconnected – liberal. Local government continues wasting and raising taxes from tourism/2nd home owners and developers...reinvest in areas where the money comes from. – Canaan Valley
- Waning – Needs a boost. – St. George
- Almost non-existent. – Parsons
- Low. – Parsons
- Poor. – Hambleton
- No Good. – Canaan Valley
- None. Hambleton
- Needs improved. – Thomas
- Low. – Parsons
- We could use some help in this area; we do have some events that are good, but we need more. – Parsons
- Stuck, no vision for the future. The seniors want it to stay the same so the young struggle for a future. No inspiration. A lot of “what not to do” instead of “what to do”. - Canaan Valley
- Lacking. – Parsons
- Too noisy at times/not willing to accept others of other cultures/races. – Hambleton
- Nothing. – Parsons

- A wonderful place to live but a very bad place to live because of low paying jobs. We need jobs that pay a good wage so people with a family can afford to work and stay in this county. - St. George
- Not too good. – Hambleton
- Poor. – Parsons
- Not important. – Canaan Valley
- Thomas – I don't go there anymore and I used to live there. Now it is being transplanted hippies threat, aim to bring their city culture and pot here – The art and shops are overpriced and not connected to WV. – Hendricks
- Needs progress.
- Horrible, poor, uneducated.
- Nothing good.
- Poor.
- Sub-standard.
- Non-development.
- Stale.
- Old.
- 75 years behind time.
- Bad too many city people.
- Very limited.
- racist, desperate

Outdoor Recreation

- Outdoor nature lovers. – Canaan Valley
- Great natural resources.
- Recreation and tourism. – Parsons
- outdoors.
- Serious ski (resort and back country) mountain bike venue. – Canaan Valley
- Canaan Valley – Outdoor oriented.
- Adventurous, outdoors.
- Outdoor
- It is based on hard work, skiing, wildlife, nature and reliance. It all relies on the other.
- outdoorsy

People Oriented

- The people and the community really make this area special. – Davis
- people helping people.
- Very people oriented.

Religious

- God believers.
- In Parsons it's church or no church.
- Very rural and for the most part free from any criminal activity. Many churches provide for spiritual health of the citizens. – Parsons
- God/faith, volunteering/helping others in need. Close knit. – St. George
- Ethnic heritage, Christian. – Canaan Valley

- Family, sports, religion. – Thomas

Rich

- rich in resources.
- Rich for those interested in learning about it.
- It's very rich in history and culture, a beautiful place to live. – St. George
- Rich.

Rural

- Rural community not big city residents.
- Low key. (2)
- Laid back, rural.
- Small town.
- Laid back –
- Laid back,
- Rural.
- small town with its good and bad aspects.
- The culture of Tucker County to me is a laid back community concerned more with the well-being of others rather than the accumulation of things.
- The tourists see how we live the slower, laid back lifestyle.
- Small towns, rural.
- Rural – Small town values.

- A mountain culture that is vibrant and self-sustaining due to its relative isolation – make your own fun cause it ain't comin' from outside.
- Largely agrarian and extractive, very traditional.
- Technology is a part of life, but individuals don't walk around looking at phones. People are of the land and are award of the moment.
- Country values, faith and helping each other. – Parsons
- Laid back – Canaan Valley
- We are a quiet, peaceful people who enjoy good times that leave our area intact when visitors leave. – Davis
- Antiquated, close knit, hard-working salt of the earth. – Davis
- Peaceful, historic, agriculture. – Red Creek
- Laid back, trying to get by, many local artists and outdoor lovers, bluegrass festival. – Parsons
- Very rural, early stages of new beginning, old timers and new folks interact poorly. – Thomas
- Laid back. – Thomas
- Simple. – Ledmine
- Laid back – Red neck – Church going people. – Parsons
- The culture is like old days hunting, fishing, gardening, outdoor activities, cutting firewood preparing for winter. – Hendricks
- Laid back, semi disconnected. – Parsons
- Slow paced, laid back, friendly, appreciative of our blessings, family, friends, etc., sports oriented. – Parsons
- Very rural and for the most part free from any criminal activity. Many churches provide for spiritual health of the citizens. – Parsons

- God/faith, volunteering/helping others in need. Close knit. – St. George
- Rural, not particularly “enlightened”, very suspicious of outsiders. – Canaan Valley
- Old established community who love county, God and family. Most love music of various kinds. Known to help each other in a crisis or as needed. – Canaan Valley
- We love art. We have that hometown feeling and we are very friendly to visitors. Very laid back. – Parsons
- Laid back. – Hendricks
- Country. - St. George
- Rural, part-time farming, sports, hunting and fishing, Canaan Valley area – service industry. – Thomas
- Take care of your own, live and let live, conservative non-progressive. – Davis
- Simple, county sophistication, a step back in time, a laid back society with old world values. – Davis
- It is very rural. – Unknown
- Small town that needs a shot in the arm. – Canaan Valley
- Proud, hard-working people who value the environment and have been such good stewards of the land that many others have also chosen to make it their home too. Independent people, patriotic hunters and fishermen/women with great love and respect for nature. – Canaan Valley
- Law abiding citizens that want to live without government interference. – St. George
- Small hometown feeling. – Canaan Valley
- Don’t spoil this!! As above, I am delighted by the many friends I have here on both sides of the income-education lines. I love the general openness, the way people are relaxed and solve problems calmly and often with ease. – Davis
- Rural,

- Country folks trying to survive.
- Kindness, concern for others, value history, struggle economically, hope.
- Stable, caring, healthy, independent, hardworking, “salt of the earth”
- Just simple small town country living.
- rural
- slow paced
- Quiet, mountain, secluded.
- Rural and artsy, full of quaint character.
- Celebration of our lifeways, past and present.

Slowly Developing

- Slow development.
- Slow in moving forward, unequipped to handle tourism.
- slow to move forward – “we’ve always done it this way” – needs persuading to change.
- Growing.
- The growth here is slow – not much has changed in the last 3 years.
- Slow to make improvements but well intended. – Thomas

Small Town

- We have that hometown feeling and we are very friendly to visitors.
- small town.
- Small town community with growing urban influences.

So-so

- 50-50.
- Medium
- So-so
- Adequate.

Top of Mountain vs Bottom

- Davis, Thomas, Canaan Valley developed and definite mission to offer experiences for tourists. Parsons, St. George, Hambleton, and Hendricks, insular and unwelcoming.
- Too pasted...The more progressive people of the higher-elevation communities and the more conservative almost backwards people of the Parsons area.
- Two sided – progressive/backward. As people in Parsons define it granola and redneck, top of the mountain/bottom of the mountain, guns/naturalists, 4 wheelers pickups vs. Subaru, running vs sitting in a chair.
- Depends on location in county.
- There are several district cultures in Tucker County depending on what part of the county one lives in. The mountain top is new age, progressive thinking “hippieish”. Parsons and the other valley towns are more local, Hometown thinkers (local yocals).
- Awesome in Thomas, sucks in Parsons.
- Off the mountain – close knit family oriented. On the mountain – more open to new comers.
- Split, Davis, Thomas, Canaan Valley looking to the future. Many young entrepreneurs. Parsons and surroundings stuck and not advancing. – Parsons
- It is communal to redneck in the Parsons area to quirky and snooty in the Thomas-Davis area. Compared to other areas in WV, I find the locals to be happier and friendlier here. – St. George
- Most things are on the mountain. – Parsons

- In Thomas and Davis it is wonderfully eclectic. Parsons says “get gasoline and food and move along”. – Parsons
- most events are for Canaan Valley the more rich side of the county. We rarely get anything. – Hendricks
- Very diverse with the people on the mountain (Thomas, Davis, and Canaan) and the people in Hendricks, Hambleton, St. George, and Parsons. – Parsons
- Getting better especially in Thomas. Parsons has nothing. – St. George
- Good on the mountain (Thomas, Davis). Lots of attractions and things to attend.
- There are two cultures Canaan Valley (Mountain) and the lower part. Hopefully as time goes on it will end.
- Fragmented: mountain (Tourism) vs. valley (Parsons)
- Diverse – Great divide between Parson’s area and Mountain.
- Split between a mountain and a valley culture.
- Far too cliquish + at arms’ length.
- Split: Haves vs Have Nots, Valley vs Mountain, Transplant vs Local.

Unique

- Unique. – Thomas
- Unique.
- The culture is very unique
- Unique