

1. *How do you feel about your community?*

a. *What is wonderful about this community?*

- Wilson Lake in the downtown
- Good restaurant
- Kineowatha Park, outdoor sports for kids, swimming, children have opportunities to play sports
- Great Recreation Department
- Recently started weekly local music series (outdoors) overlooking the lake
- Wonderful library with programs for all ages
- Wildlife is abundant, frequently see eagles; great blue herons; call of pileated woodpecker; black bear; snowy owl; wild turkeys; fox
- Trails on the north end of Wilson Lake - Foothills Land Trust
- Open farmland is an asset
- Farmer's market started this summer in Wilton
- Children's Play Museum will soon be open, great asset
- Hardware store in Wilton; Food City grocery store in town; Post Office; Coffee Shop; local businesses; everybody is excited
- As a business owner, it's amazing to see how much the community cares about each other
- A lot of active churches in town, they play an active role in the community
- Recreation Department provides several playgrounds
- Poetry group and writer's group at library as well as children's activities
- Main Street, Wilton, improved dramatically in recent years, something in nearly every store; amazing what you can buy if you know where it is, you don't really have to go to Farmington if you know where to look
- Pumpkin Festival; Blueberry Festival
- All the communities are very tight-knit but also open-minded; recently met a group of vegans just down the road; hidden gems
- Blueberry Festival is a voluntary effort

b. *What needs to improve?*

- Looks of the place, vacant buildings; trash in lawns; takes away from the value of the place
- Part of what creates the problem is the attitude that people should be able to do whatever they want if they own property, vacuum in working together
- A while ago an abandoned property ordinance was passed but is not enforced; fire hazards; sanitary concerns; aesthetics; discouraging for people looking for housing or considering relocating; neglected properties
- Is the problem connected to population decline? Many neglected properties aren't for sale
- Lack of jobs; lack of income; Fosters closed; people living here as a bedroom community; people commute to work; like the lifestyle but can't find good paying jobs
- Some properties were taken to court and are in court, enforcement is happening but not always seen
- Calendar of positive events, currently things are a little disjointed; working to pull together promotion of events
- Worst properties on main street are owned by corporation or individuals from out of town
- Need for something geared toward health and wellness
- Blueberry Festival is an amazing thing for Wilton, would be nice to build on that, brings people back to the area
- A lot of things going on but there is no leadership to bring it all together, lack of leadership effects sense of community
- County support is needed

c. *What role, if any, do you think arts and culture could play in addressing the needs identified earlier?*

- More concerts/events geared toward teenagers, need for venue for concerts? Events in general?
- More events geared toward adults (not college age), music
- Town committee representing alternative offerings/music/arts?
- Excellent restaurant in town, draws people from all over, hosts various groups, real asset, would be worth it to concentrate on that building, we are not Farmington and don't want to be Farmington, we're Wilton

- Build on Blueberry Festival as a draw to highlight other assets
- Partnering with bordering towns, more networking on events, supporting each other on offerings
- Bridging the gaps in regard to promotion of offerings, community Facebook groups, amazing way to get the word out (are people using the chambers?)
- People want stuff to do in the evenings, Life's Perks hosts workshops (painting) and they're packed, people need a gathering place
- Third Thursdays, restaurants were selling food outside, music... changed hands and stopped, needs somebody to re-organize
- Part-time paid events person, focusing on events, not enough people to volunteer to do it all

2. *Please tell us about this community's leisure time offerings: entertainment, recreation, arts, historic or cultural offerings.*

a. *Please tell us about the events or programs available in the region.*

- Wilson Lake used to have lots of activities along the lake during the summer
- Fishing derby
- Book club at the library (weekly)
- Library, children's activities, public readings, book sales, summer reading programs
- Recreation programs, outdoor sports, skating rink, youth sports, adult offerings, summer and winter, disc golf
- Community theater in Industry called Sparrows Nest, available 5 months out of the year
- Ukulele band
- Library has regular art exhibits
- UMF
- North Church Concerts
- Sandy River Players
- Sandy River Journal
- Chesterville has concerts in Church

- Fiddlehead Fest, local food, music, arts and crafts
- Farmington Summer Festival
- Farmington Fair
- Chester Greenwood Day
- Monthly Yoga Festival
- Wilton loons (public art)
- Many craft fairs in Farmington, Chester Greenwood days offers many crafts

3. *Imagine it is five years from now. Imagine there are arts and cultural activities for everyone who wants them.*

a. *What kinds of activities would you like to see?*

- Downtown music venue/event space (indoor)
- Open mic nights
- Would be nice to see arts on trails, changing it every season, would be selling point if publicized
- Otis Mill, potential cultural center, most of it is being torn down
- Activities for youth and adults
- Films, opportunities for young film makers to show films; monthly films and discussions at regular venue
- Grange halls have great acoustics, could be used as music venues
- Grange considered doing suppers for seniors, lack of people power
- A Saturday market (like in Eugene Oregon), crafts, demonstrations, kiosks, instrument makers, etc., bring in variety of makers, food, dancing, happy times
- Indoor market
- Street dances
- Wilton Farmer's Market is in East Wilton, could potentially grow, located on 15 acres

- Inventory creative resources and venues
- Farmington Farmer's Market has music
- Things that help the community to be healthier, could address better life, healthier life to enjoy everything else, workshops
- Make the lake more central, bring back the races
- Local food, rich history of river; rich with art; University; Industry has Clearwater lake; scenic beauty; if we can honor, promote local history, community, etc.
- Fostering programs that inform and help promote communities
- Programs that help people help themselves; programs that help people address/encourage property clean up
- Whatever is done needs to be sustainable, financially sustainable, paid, sustainable leadership