

Historic Preservation

Historic preservation can be associated with many values; the cultural, social, or aesthetic values may be the most commonly thought of. However, the environmental, economic, and educational values are also important aspects of historic preservation.

Observation: There have been significant steps taken to identify the individual community's history through heritage tourism.

Recommendation: Continue working with regional partners for planning and long range vision of your communities' identity through heritage tourism. This will support the overall personality of your community while promoting tourism.

Observation: There is a need for each community to establish a group committed to preservation efforts and educating their community.

Recommendations: Utilize the organizational recommendations to form a group to work on preservation efforts in your community.

- Publish a current list of historical buildings on the national, state, or community register in the local newspaper and encourage building owners to discover the age and history of their own properties. Provide contact information and support to those property owners seeking assistance registering their building.
- Distribute any new historical findings to the local schools and newspapers to educate the community on the group's progress and discoveries.
- Publish a bi-monthly report in the newspaper highlighting an existing historical site or a new discovery to promote community involvement in the preservation efforts.

Observation: There appears to be some buildings in the Cliffs' Commercial District that may qualify for a historical listing.

Recommendation: Access State Historical Fund money to conduct an inventory of historic buildings in the Cliffs' Commercial District. Involve property owners throughout the process to generate interest in a historic listing.

- Send out a list describing the benefits for being on a historic registry. There is often confusion between a National Register of Historic Places listing and a locally designated or zoned historic landmark or district.
- After an inventory has been made, incentives and support for property owners who seek a historic listing should be created.

Observation: There is a need to identify heritage tourism differences between each community through increased signage and appropriate marketing. This will promote the diverse history of each community.

Recommendations:

- Use heritage tourism and preservation as part of the economic development efforts because it improves your product!
- Make sure that all marketing resources available are promoting your communities unique heritage tourism opportunities.
- Keep residents and tourists interested year round by diversifying the activities and tours of each historic site.