

**Livingston New Jersey
Vision 20/20
Committee**

What are Livingston's strengths & weaknesses? What is our vision of what we want our community to be in the year 20/20? How do we achieve this vision?

These three questions spawned a process that is called Vision 20/20.

The process was divided into 4 phases.

Phase I - Planning and Organizing. The committee identified 10 action areas to be studied. They were: Arts & Culture; Economic development; Transportation; Public Safety; Recreation & Parks; Government Volunteers; Education; Environmental & Open Space; Senior Citizens & Youth & Social Services. Sub-committees were then formed to study each of these areas. This took one year to achieve.

Phase II – Assessment. A shared vision of the future of our community depends on a shared vision of what really exists right now. The purpose of Vision 20/20 is to help us see clearly what our community truly looks like now.

The assessment phase has two parts. One part is to meet with those people in the community who are directly involved with each action area. An example of this is our Public Safety sub-committee who has met with the Police Department, Fire Department and First Aid Squad. The second part is to involve everyone in the community in assessing Livingston. This has been done by the use of questionnaires that were distributed throughout the community. Presentations were made personally by members of the Vision 20/20 Committee to many diverse organizations who are involved with Livingston. The questionnaires were filled out and returned. The responses were then graded and evaluated and a profile of the responses, by action area, was distributed to each of the sub-committees. The sub-committees are now completing their assessments and several sub-committees, the Environmental & Open Space, Transportation and Arts & Culture committees have already made their reports to the Vision 20/20 committee. The other action areas are following and this phase should be completed by March 2006.

Phase III – Visioning. We have started this phase. To come up with a vision of what we want Livingston to be in the year 2020. We want to enhance our strengths and fix our weaknesses. The sub-committees, once they have made their assessment reports, are now working on the visioning process.

Phase IV – Action. Once we have our vision then we will need to prepare action plans to make our visions a reality. This will need to be done with the involvement of the town administration.

We have discovered that there is an interesting interaction taking place within the Township and the Vision 20/20 committee. As we have shared our early reports with the appropriate township organizations, i.e. the Environmental & Open space report was given to the LEC and the Planning Board, the Transportation report was given to the Town Transportation Committee and the Arts & Culture report was given to the Arts Council, these organizations have taken our reports and have started to work on some of the issues that we identified. This has been very gratifying to our committee.

This report given to Township Council on 10/17/05