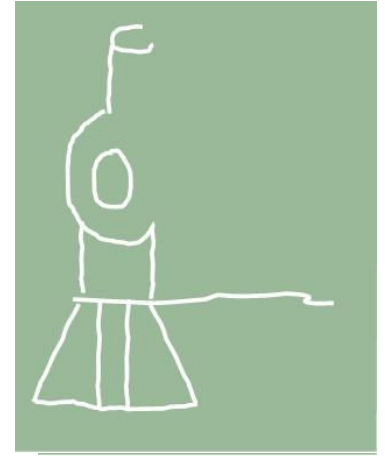


# Chapter 5: The Character of Hattiesburg



*All Aboard!*

# The Character of Hattiesburg

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Figure 7. A Timeline of Hattiesburg’s Early History

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1882	Hattiesburg founded by Captain William H. Hardy
1884	Hattiesburg incorporated with a population of approximately 400
1884	Southern Railway System built from Meridian through Hattiesburg to New Orleans
1890	Hattiesburg petitioned Mississippi legislature for a city charter <sup>10</sup>
1894	J.J. Newman Lumber Company Founded
1897	Gulf and Ship Island Railroad completed from Gulfport to Jackson
1908	Forrest County created from Perry County <sup>10</sup>
1910	Hattiesburg Depot Constructed

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## Overview

Hattiesburg, the “Hub City,” can be described in many ways: a college town, a railroad town, a retirement community, a Tree City. The strength of Hattiesburg lies in its diversity. The city is home to a strong medical community; two universities; a community college; a municipal zoo; a healthy, historic downtown; successful businesses and industries; quality housing; and a friendly, civic-minded community. Because of its success and diversity, it is difficult to describe all the special details that define Hattiesburg without the risk of omission. The following is a snapshot of those elements that make Hattiesburg a great place to call home.

## The Hub City—History and Culture

Hattiesburg has a rich history as a Southern lumber and railroad town. A settlement called Twin Forks was established by early French explorers at the fork of the Leaf and Bouie rivers. The settlement was later named Gordonville, then renamed Hattiesburg by Captain William H. Hardy. Captain Hardy was a pioneer lumberman and civil engineer; he named the town in honor of his wife, Hattie. The city still maintains a major thoroughfare called Hardy Street and three collector streets—Mamie, Adeline, and Corinne—that are named after Hardy’s three daughters.

Important dates in Hattiesburg’s early history are displayed in Figure 7. Since its founding, Hattiesburg has continued to grow and prosper, capitalizing on its strengths in rail and water transportation, natural resources, higher education, and a diverse range of industries. The city survived and was strengthened by experiences during the turbulent Civil Rights era, now celebrating events such as the 1964 Freedom Summer campaign to register African-Americans residents to vote. Hattiesburg strives to preserve and protect its historic and cultural resources through public and private investments and an active historic conservation program.

Hattiesburg is also strengthened by the diversity of its citizenry, drawing university and college students, young professionals, families, and retirees. As shown in Figure 9, the age groups of Hattiesburg’s residents are evenly balanced. Truly, it is diversity—economic, social, racial—that makes Hattiesburg a great city.

## Conservation of Historic Resources

Hattiesburg is home to a large number of historic sites, structures and districts that reflect its period of early development from the 1880s through 1930s. More than 1,000 historic structures or sites in Hattiesburg have been surveyed and designated as individual listings or as part of historic districts. These resources were shaped by the topography of the area and its natural resources, i.e., abundance of Southern pine, as well as early settlers and economic activity such as railroad development and the harvesting of the timber. The architecture and materials of the commercial and residential structures give the city its unique “face.”

In the late 1970s, the first efforts were made to preserve and protect the community’s valuable resources. Through the identification, survey, and official historic designation, the number and scope of these resources began to emerge. In the late 1970s, the first Federal Building, ca. 1910, 200 West Pine Street, and the Saenger Theater, ca. 1929, 200 Forrest Street, were listed in the National Register of Historic Places. In response to requests from civic leaders and residents, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History assigned a field surveyor to identify and describe other resources and also districts for nomination. Two districts were nominated and listed in 1980 in the National Register—Hattiesburg Historic Neighborhood (one of the first residential neighborhoods) and Hub City Historic District (downtown commercial).

In 1985, the City Commissioners passed a local historic conservation ordinance that established the Historic Conservation Commission, followed by establishment in 1986 of the city’s first local historic conservation district. The district—Hattiesburg Historic Neighborhood District—was thus protected by the local ordinance from inappropriate changes to its structures. During the same period, the City sought and received designation as one of the first six “Main Street” communities in the state. The Main Street program seeks to promote and revitalize the downtown and its historic resources. Started as a City program, Main Street continues to improve and revitalize Downtown Hattiesburg through the operation of Historic Hattiesburg Downtown Association, affiliated with Mississippi Main Street Association.

## The Character of Hattiesburg

### Conservation of Historic Resources



Photo: Hattiesburg Bottling Company.

# The Character of Hattiesburg

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*Photo: Old Hattiesburg High School prior to May 2007 fire. Reconstruction plans are underway.*

In 1989 the City received Certified Local Government status. This is a federal program of the National Park Service that operates through the state historic preservation offices (SHPOs). Hattiesburg was the seventh such designated city in the state. In addition, more local historic districts were designated for protection: North Main Street Historic District, 1994; Oaks Historic District, 1997; and Newman-Buschman Railroad Historic Neighborhood District, 1999.

The Mobile Street District was surveyed, but ruled not eligible for national listing in the early 1990s and again in 2000). However, the East 6th Street USO Club was individually-nominated and listed in the National Register. Following its rehabilitation, now under way, that facility will be considered for designation as a National Historic Landmark as it is one of only two surviving facilities constructed to serve as USO clubs for African-American military personnel. The city has a number of other structures, including the ones noted above, listed individually in the National Register.

Parkhaven Neighborhood and an additional portion of Historic Downtown were surveyed in 2002 with the result that both were listed in the National Register. Parkhaven is now seeking local historic designation. Also in 2002, the City was designated a Preserve America City. Hattiesburg was among the first five in the state and first 25 in the nation so designated.

The city has a number of buildings that have been designated as Mississippi Landmarks under the protection of the Mississippi Antiquities Act. These structures are of notable architectural as well as historic significance to the city and the state. Examples include the Hattiesburg Depot, Saenger Theater, City Hall, Forrest County Courthouse, Masonic Temple, Hattiesburg Cultural Center, Jefferson Davis School, Old Hattiesburg High School, Eureka School, East 6th Street USO Club and more.

While many of the city's historic buildings have been continuously used and maintained, others, both public and private, have been rehabilitated for future use and enjoyment by the generations of residents and visitors to come. A number of these projects have received statewide awards from Mississippi Main Street Association and Mississippi Heritage Trust.

The true significance of the city's extensive collection of historic resources, however, is that their preservation and protection places the city in its place and time of development. In addition, the maintenance of the historic structures not only gives the city its identity, but conserves the natural resources used in their construction. The wooden houses of the historic residential neighborhoods are a showcase for the increasingly rare heart pine cut from the virgin timber found in the region. The clusters of shops and cottages built alongside the railroad tracks show how and where early entrepreneurs and workers lived their lives.

And last, but not least, historic preservation is the prime tool for sustainability. To conserve, protect and re-use resources—instead of using them up or throwing them away—is to make it possible to sustain the community and its people into the future.<sup>1</sup>

## Population and Economy

Today, Hattiesburg is a growing city that offers a high quality of life to its residents. With an estimated population of around 50,000, Hattiesburg has seen many changes in recent years.

From the mid-20th century to 2000, Hattiesburg saw a modest but steady increase in population growth, with a population gain of only 6,681 persons from 1970 to 2000. Between 2000 and 2005, Hattiesburg's annual growth rate was around 1%.<sup>2</sup>

The event that had the greatest influence on Hattiesburg's population in recent years was Hurricane Katrina. The storm occurred in August 2005. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Hattiesburg saw a brief population boom as contractors and temporary relief workers used the city as a staging area for recovery efforts in Hattiesburg and on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

The storm may not have had a significant permanent impact on Hattiesburg's population, but the economic impact to Hattiesburg was tremendous. Figure 13 shows the city's sales tax diversions from 2005 to 2007.

Following Hurricane Katrina, retail sales peaked in January 2006 with a diversion in the amount of \$2,813,162.98. In 2007, retail sales were below the

**Figure 8. Hattiesburg Population by Race**

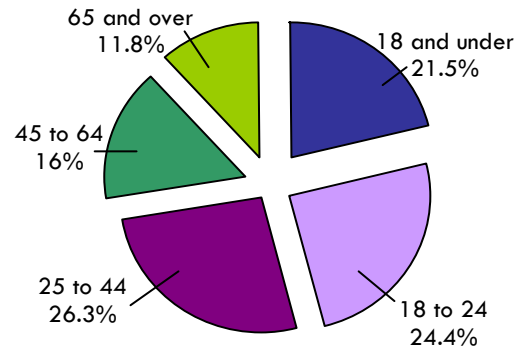
Source: Census 2000, www.census.gov

### Race Categories:

White	22,365	49.9%
African American	21,200	47.3%
Native American	68	0.2%
Asian	547	1.2%
Other	240	0.5%
Two or More Races	359	0.8%
Hispanic/Latino (any race)	630	1.4%

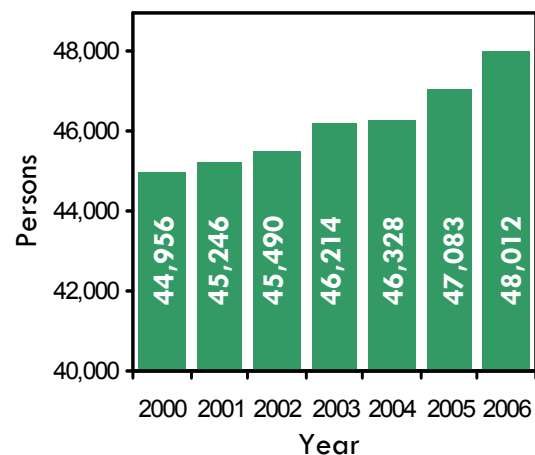
**Figure 9. Hattiesburg Population by Age**

Source: Census 2000, www.census.gov



**Figure 10. Population Estimates from 2000 to 2006.**

Source: <http://www.census.gov/popest/cities/tables/SUB-EST2006-04-28.xls>



# The Character of Hattiesburg

prior year, but were still 20-30% above pre-Katrina levels.<sup>2</sup> According to the U. S. Census Bureau, building permits from 2001 through 2007 peaked during 2004.<sup>2</sup>

## Growth in the Region

The city of Hattiesburg is located within Forrest and Lamar counties in Southeast Mississippi. The Hattiesburg Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) consists of three counties: Forrest, Lamar, and Perry.

**Figure 11. Population Estimates 2001 to 2006.**

Source: [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)

Year	City of Hattiesburg	Hattiesburg MSA	Forrest County	Lamar County
2001	45,246	125,434	73,065	40,158
2002	45,490	126,686	73,309	41,125
2003	46,214	128,124	74,051	41,857
2004	46,328	129,629	74,269	43,166
2005	47,083	131,402	74,915	44,429
2006	48,012	134,744	76,372	46,240

All jurisdictions in the Hattiesburg MSA were experiencing steady population growth prior to 2005. It is projected that the population growth trends that were in place prior to Hurricane Katrina will be accelerated.<sup>2</sup> Figure 11 compares Census Bureau's

**Figure 12. Hattiesburg Metropolitan Area 2030 Planning Data Forecast—Population**

Year	Forrest Co.	Lamar Co.	Totals
2000	67,470	23,655	91,125
2030	88,427	39,298	127,725
Change	20,957	15,643	36,600
% Change	31.1	66.1	40.2
% of Total	57.3	42.7	100

Source: *Hattiesburg Metropolitan Transportation Plan 2030*.

annual population estimates for the years between 2001 and 2006 for the city of Hattiesburg, the Hattiesburg MSA, Forrest County and Lamar County.

Population growth continues north of the city limits along U.S. Highway 49.<sup>2</sup> It is projected that the greatest population increases will continue to occur at the western fringes of the city limits and within the Oak Grove area of Lamar County.<sup>2</sup>

Figure 12 provides a population forecast from the MPO Hattiesburg Metropolitan Transportation Plan 2030. See a summary of this plan in Appendix C.

### Economic Trends

One of Hattiesburg's greatest strengths is the diversity of its economy. With two universities, two hospitals, a range of medical specialists, an expanding retail sector, and a healthy mix of small businesses and large industries, Hattiesburg's economy provides an effective buffer to market changes and outside influences.

The economy of Hattiesburg and the surrounding region does not experience the highs and lows that can cause significant problems for other cities. Diversity is the reason that Hattiesburg is a great city.<sup>3</sup>

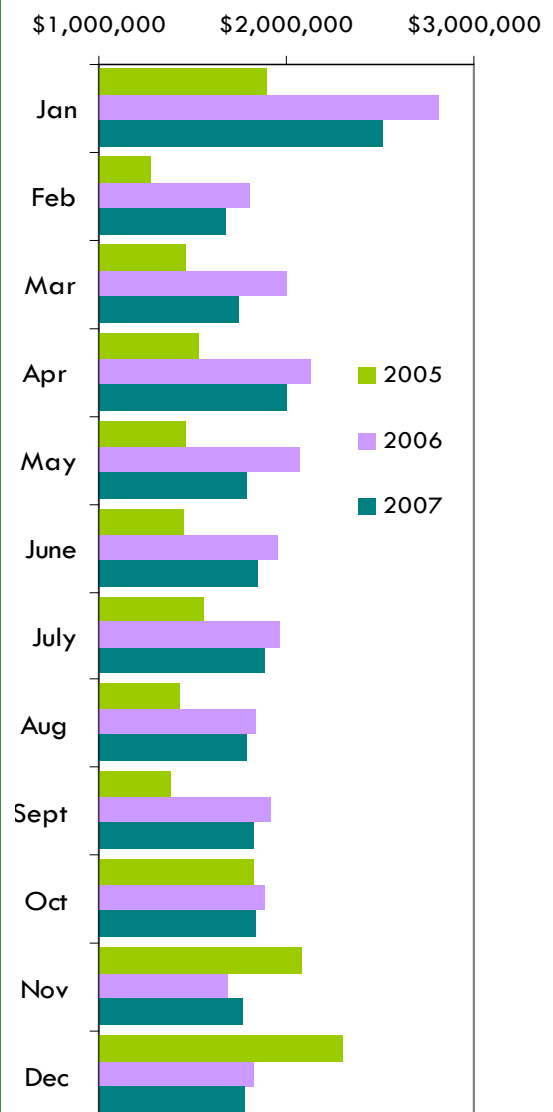
The area's primary employers fall within one of four categories: health care, education, military, and manufacturing/distribution. Some of Hattiesburg's top employers include the following: Forrest General Hospital, the University of Southern Mississippi, Camp Shelby, Wesley Medical Center, Koch Cellulose, Hattiesburg Paper Company, and Kohler Company.<sup>4</sup>

The Area Development Partnership—the area's regional economic development agency—is another asset to Hattiesburg's economy. The agency is charged with promoting, recruiting and supporting new and existing businesses and industries at a regional level. The Area Development Partnership provides a forum for all jurisdictions in the Hattiesburg MSA to collaborate on economic development opportunities.

According to the Area Development Partnership, Hattiesburg is a strong competitor in a global economy. The partnership works hard to market the strengths of the Pine Belt and attract new industries and employers to the area.<sup>3</sup>

Figure 13. Sales Tax Diversions from 2005 to 2007.

Source: Mississippi State Tax Commission



# The Character of Hattiesburg

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Hattiesburg's economic outlook for the coming 20 years is very positive. The city has an ideal geographic position with excellent highway and rail access. Also, with continued investments in areas such as downtown revitalization, infrastructure, parks, recreation, and education, the city will maintain its competitive edge over other communities in the state and region.

## Education

### Hattiesburg Public School District

#### Overview

A majority of the land area in Hattiesburg is within the Hattiesburg Public School District. Detailed information on the district's school buildings is included under Chapter 9 (Community Facilities and Services) of this plan.

#### Issues and Challenges

Priorities for the school district include improving test scores and increasing student attendance and graduation rates. Issues with student attendance and drop-out rates are not unique to Hattiesburg's schools.<sup>5</sup>

A recent statewide dropout prevention awareness campaign—“On The Bus”—has been launched to provide information to students, families and communities about the drop-out problem in Mississippi.<sup>6</sup> The program is funded by State Farm in cooperation with the Public Education Forum of Mississippi and the Mississippi Department of Education.<sup>7</sup>

According to the campaign, Mississippi's drop-out rate is 26%. The goal of the “On the Bus” campaign is to reduce drop-out rates by 50% by the year 2012.<sup>6</sup>

In Hattiesburg, administrators noted that there is a decline in enrollment between the ninth and tenth grades, due either to drop-outs or transfers to other schools. The district notes that boys are more likely to drop-out than girls.

Additionally, there has been a steady district-wide enrollment decline of almost 400 students between the 2002/2003 and 2006/2007 school years. This could be attributed to increasing enrollment in private schools.<sup>5</sup>

Average daily attendance (ADA) dropped by 568.<sup>7</sup>



between the 2002-2003 and 2007-2008 school years.<sup>5</sup> The district is funded based on this figure and loses money when ADA drops.

The district has identified the following issues that should be addressed in partnership with the community to improve the environment of public education:

- › Increase enrollment in public schools; make public schools more competitive with area private schools;
- › Address issues such as attendance and discipline through community partnerships; it is not possible for the district, alone, to resolve these issues;
- › Ensure that the housing supply in Hattiesburg is competitive with housing options outside the district. The school district cannot expand its boundaries, so it is dependent upon the stability and growth of the population of Hattiesburg to provide students;
- › Educate the public about issues in the school district. There is a perception that problems, such as discipline, are greater than they are; and
- › Provide children with the skills and resources to break the cycle of poverty.<sup>5</sup>

### Adept Diversity in Education and Program Technology (ADEPT) Corporation

The non-profit ADEPT Corporation was created in Hattiesburg in April 2006. The organization established a trade and technology school for high school drop-outs and at-risk youth. The school officially opened February 26, 2008. Students range in age from 16 to 20.<sup>8</sup>

ADEPT seeks to develop a more effective education and training model for the youth of Forrest County who do not attend school regularly, have failed more than one year, or who are no longer in school. Students will work toward earning a high school diploma/GED and/or earn certified construction training.<sup>8</sup>

During discussions on education, Hattiesburg's Vision Advisory Team expressed concerns about the city's drop-out prevention programs and strongly supported vocational/technical opportunities (see Goal 4, Strategies A and B, page 29). The ADEPT program has a great potential to effectively provide a needed service in Hattiesburg/Forrest County. Every effort

## The Character of Hattiesburg

### Colleges and Universities

# The Character of Hattiesburg



Photos: Graphics from USM's Master Plan PowerPoint Presentation

*“The Hattiesburg campus Master Plan will address comprehensive facility and landscape needs and guide us through the next ten to twenty years and beyond.”*

*Dr. Martha D. Saunders  
President*

should be made to ensure the program's success and establish strong partnerships with other education and social service providers.

## Colleges and Universities

### University of Southern Mississippi

#### Location

118 College Drive, Hattiesburg, Mississippi

#### President

Dr. Martha D. Saunders

#### History

The University of Southern Mississippi, formerly known as Mississippi Normal College, was founded by a Legislative Act on March 30, 1910. The college was Mississippi's first state-supported teacher training school. In 1962, Gov. Ross Barnett signed the bill that made Mississippi Southern College a university: The University of Southern Mississippi. <sup>9</sup>

#### Enrollment

12,000 students (Hattiesburg Campus)

#### Campus Plans

The USM campus Master Plan was completed in May 2007. The plan was prepared by a professional consulting firm in collaboration with the university's steering committee, faculty and staff, city and county officials, and focus groups. The Master Plan promotes walkability, sustainability, greenspaces for student interaction and leisure, construction of new buildings with elements reflecting existing historic structures, and improving overall general circulation for pedestrians and vehicular traffic. Additional information on the campus master plan is included under Appendix B.

### William Carey University

#### Location

498 Tuscan Avenue, Hattiesburg, Mississippi

#### President

Dr. R. Tommy King

#### History

The university was founded in 1906 as Mississippi Woman's College. In 1954, the school was renamed William Carey College, in honor of the founder of modern missions, and became coeducational. The college was renamed William Carey University in 2006 and operates as a private university.<sup>10</sup>

### Enrollment

2,700 students (Hattiesburg campus)

### Campus Plans

William Carey University is currently involved in the strategic planning process. Preliminary information on the plan, including proposals for academic programs and facility improvements, are included under Appendix B.

## Pearl River Community College

### Location

5448 Highway 49 South, Hattiesburg, Mississippi

### President

Dr. William A. Lewis

### History

Pearl River Community College began offering freshman college courses in 1921, becoming Mississippi's first publicly-funded two-year college in 1923.<sup>12</sup> The college's main campus is in Poplarville, Mississippi. The construction on the Hattiesburg campus—a vocational-technical center—began in 1969.

### Campus Plans

The campus recently completed building expansions on its Hattiesburg campus.

## Antonelli College

### Location

1500 North 31st Avenue, Hattiesburg, Mississippi

### Campus Director

Karen Gautreau

### History

Antonelli College opened in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1947. Branches in Hattiesburg and Jackson, Mississippi, opened in January 1996. The school offers programs

## The Character of Hattiesburg Neighborhoods



Photos: Pearl River Community College

# The Character of Hattiesburg

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in business and information technology and training for careers in the medical industry.<sup>13</sup>

## Neighborhoods

Hattiesburg's neighborhood planning efforts began in 1999. Details about the history of the *Neighborhoods Building Hattiesburg's Future* program may be found under Chapter 3, page 17.

Today, there are a total of 37 organized neighborhood associations in the city. Of the total number of associations, 25 groups actively meet to pursue neighborhood improvement strategies.

The City of Hattiesburg employs a Neighborhood Planner to act as a liaison between city government and the neighborhood associations. The planner provides associations with information on proposed zoning changes, planned infrastructure improvements, and other issues that will affect the neighborhood.

The Neighborhood Planner also partners with neighborhood associations on several annual activities, including the annual Night Out Against Crime (see full description on page 22) and quarterly meetings of the Council of Neighborhoods.

The Vision Advisory Team favored a strong neighborhood focus in developing the comprehensive plan's goals and strategies. The team realized that by strengthening and stabilizing neighborhoods, the overall health of the city would be improved.

Through the comprehensive planning process, information was gathered on each participating neighborhood in Hattiesburg. Neighborhood surveys were distributed to residents and the information was analyzed for each neighborhood. *Neighborhood profiles* containing this information appear under Appendix D of this plan.

To strengthen all neighborhoods in Hattiesburg, city officials should place great importance on the opinions and desires expressed in each *neighborhood profile*.

## Implementation Actions

- › Adopt neighborhood plans as public policies; make public decisions that are consistent with neighborhood plans and that advance neighborhood visions and goals.

- › Work with neighborhood associations to identify and evaluate the need for zoning changes; facilitate the submittal of amendments to the Planning Commission, where appropriate.
- › Encourage the development of high-quality infill housing to replace houses that have been demolished.
- › Make public investments in neighborhoods—sidewalks, curbs and gutters, street resurfacing—to encourage investments in private properties.
- › Partner with neighborhoods to address problems with illegal dumping and littering.
- › Continue efforts to protect neighborhoods from the conversion of single-family homes to university student rental housing; continue to strengthen city codes, ordinances, and enforcement efforts to eliminate the negative impacts of university student rental housing in neighborhoods.
- › Aggressively enforce property maintenance codes and give neighborhood associations the tools—information, training and public support—to persuade neighborhood residents to respect their neighborhoods by maintaining clean, attractive properties.
- › Make every effort to work with owners of dilapidated historic properties to restore and rehabilitate properties instead of allowing them to be demolished through neglect or public action.

## Public Health

A Health Care Roundtable was held September 28, 2007, to discuss local health care issues and the Comprehensive Plan. Additional information about the meeting is provided under Chapter 3, page 18; full details of the roundtable discussion appear under Appendix B.

The issues listed below are the recommendations agreed upon by participants at the meeting. These items should be addressed by health care providers, in partnership with the City of Hattiesburg, to enhance the quality of life for all residents:

- › Continue to enhance existing programs, such as the Southeast Mississippi Rural Healthcare Initiative (SeMRHI) and identify new opportunities to serve those residents who are insured, under-insured, or uninsured;

## The Character of Hattiesburg Public Health

# The Character of Hattiesburg

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**Figure 14. Keep Hattiesburg Beautiful Activities.**

Below is a list of many of KHB's regular programs, services and events.

- › *Drop-off Recycling Program*—The City of Hattiesburg operates three drop-off recycling facilities. Cardboard, paper, plastic, and aluminum are accepted. The facilities are open to the public seven days per week.
- › *Elementary Environmental Education Program*—KHB conducts an environmental education program in Hattiesburg's elementary schools that focuses on anti-litter, recycling and environmental awareness.
- › *Anti-Litter Radio Campaign*—KHB has recorded public service announcements that are aired on seven local radio stations. These messages focus on litter prevention and the consequences and fines if you do litter.
- › *Litter Line*—KHB, in conjunction with the Hattiesburg Police Department, has established a "litter line"—a phone number citizens can call when they see someone littering. The number is (601) 545-4913.
- › *Keep Hattiesburg Beautiful Award Incentives Program*—Each month, KHB commission nominates a business, citizen, civic group, school group or other organization that has in some way enhanced their community. The winner is presented a plaque at a City Council meeting and a sign is placed in the recipient's yard.
- › *"Great American Clean-Up" Program*—The Great American Clean-Up is a national program through Keep America Beautiful that designates the time period between March 1 and May 31 for communities to hold clean-up and beautification projects.
- › *Christmas Tree Recycling Program*—KHB and the City's urban forestry division provide drop-off sites across the city for citizens to bring Christmas trees after the season ends. The trees are used in area lakes as wildlife and fish habitat and chipped to make mulch that is available to the citizens of Hattiesburg.

- › Identify affordable non-emergency health care options to reduce the number of visits to local hospital emergency rooms for primary care;
- › Expand partnerships with local media to increase awareness of the many health-related events such as community walks, runs and bicycle races;
- › Partner to coordinate a semi-annual meeting of representatives from local health care providers and city officials to discuss current issues, trends and challenges;
- › Create a link on the City's website, entitled "Health Care," to list all of the local institutions that can assist university students, military personnel, newcomers, and visitors in locating service providers;
- › Create and distribute a health care brochure to local businesses, university campuses, eating establishments, churches, public buildings, and government agencies.
- › Provide information for the non-English speaking population.

## Civic Pride and Beautification

Civic pride simply refers to a pride in one's city or community. Civic pride can be expressed in the care we take in maintaining our properties, in designing attractive public spaces for the use and inspiration of the community residents, and in holding public events that celebrate the pride we feel in our community.

The residents of Hattiesburg desire to live in a beautiful, clean and well-maintained city. This can be achieved through designing public events and programs, investing public and private funds, and by promoting the special qualities of Hattiesburg to fellow residents and visitors.

## Civic Events

Civic and cultural events can serve not only to express the residents' pride in a community, but also to educate citizens, forge relationships across social and geographic boundaries, enhance economic activity, and provide activities for residents.

A number of successful civic events are held in Hattiesburg each year. The following is a list of annual and seasonal events:

- › HUBfest —HUBfest is held annually in the Spring in Downtown Hattiesburg and focuses on fine art, crafts, local cuisine and entertainment.
- › Hub City Farmer’s Market—seasonal market in Downtown Hattiesburg.
- › Victorian Candlelit Christmas—Hattiesburg Historic Neighborhood.
- › Historic Mobile Street Renaissance Festival— Festival designed to celebrate the rich musical and cultural heritage of Mobile Street—the historic black business and entertainment district.

### Keep Hattiesburg Beautiful

Hattiesburg is very fortunate to have an active and well-established affiliate chapter of Keep America Beautiful. The Keep Hattiesburg Beautiful (KHB) program is facilitated through the Parks and Recreation Department. Department staff work with an appointed committee on a number of projects that promote civic pride and beautification. Figure 12 contains a list of the organization’s annual activities.

### Arts and Entertainment

Hattiesburg has a growing number of cultural and entertainment offerings for residents and visitors. The Historic Hattiesburg Downtown Association presents three annual Art Walks featuring original works by local and regional artists. In addition, the Hattiesburg Arts Council presents the “Fall Brown Bag Concert” series each October. In addition, the list of live music and performing arts venues is growing. Figure 13 shows a list of performing arts opportunities.

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2. Brian Richard, Economic Development Resource Center Director, University of Southern Mississippi. Presentation to the Vision Advisory Team. June 14, 2007.
3. Angeline Godwin, Ph.D., Area Development Partnership. Personal Interview. February 25, 2008.
4. Employment information. [www.TheADP.com](http://www.TheADP.com)
5. Alan Oubre, Hattiesburg Public School District.

### Figure 15. Arts and Entertainment Opportunities in Hattiesburg.

Below is a list of the organizations that provide visual and performing arts, music, and other entertainment opportunities to city residents and visitors:

- › Hattiesburg Civic Light Opera  
<http://www.hclo.org/>  
Performs at the Saenger Theater, Downtown Hattiesburg
- › Southern Miss Symphony Orchestra  
<http://www.usm.edu/symphony/>  
University of Southern Mississippi
- › Southern Miss Theatre  
<http://www.usm.edu/theatre/>  
University of Southern Mississippi
- › Roots Reunion  
Southern Mississippi Oral History Department  
Stage show and live radio broadcast on WUSM 88.5 FM Traditional forms of Mississippi music played by South Mississippi artists. For information call 601.266.5606
- › Meistersingers  
<http://www.hccca.org/home.html>  
Performances held at the Saenger Theater, Downtown Hattiesburg.

# The Character of Hattiesburg

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  13. Antonelli College—Hattiesburg Campus. [http://www.antonellicollege.edu/hattiesburg\\_campus.html](http://www.antonellicollege.edu/hattiesburg_campus.html). Website accessed April 28, 2008.