

Heart and Soul statements can serve as a guide for government and civic organizations when making decisions and setting goals. The statements incorporate the diverse perspectives of those who live and work in Madison County and express the shared vision of *what matters most* to the citizens. The Community Conversations and Connections Heart & Soul county statement expresses the vision and goal of county and community initiatives:

*We recognize the independent spirit and individuality of each community and understand the need for improved two-way communication and cooperation among all the governing bodies and residents to improve the quality of life across the county.*

The table below illustrates how an organization’s initiatives or projects can be aligned with the County Heart and Soul statements; furthermore, projects can be aligned with more than one statement. *Each community may also connect with their community’s Heart & Soul statements as they consider projects specific to their town.* See you community’s page for these statements.

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| **Organization**  **Or Group** | **Project**  **or Initiative** | **Corresponding County**  **Heart & Soul Statement OR**  **Insert your Community H&S Statement** |
| Community Betterment Group, Local Schools, Local Churches | City clean up | Small-town Feel in our Communities  We value the small-town feel in all our communities - towns, townships, rural neighborhoods, and subdivisions - which together contribute to a sense of identity, pride, and togetherness that is Madison County. |
| City Libraries within the County | Madison County Reads Together | Arts and Culture in our County  We treasure the arts and culture represented throughout the county as we gather in local venues that welcome participation in live entertainment, fine arts education, artisan craftwork and activities, and vibrant social networking that strengthen our sense of place. |
| Soil and Water Conservation Commission | Public messaging | Agriculture in our County  We value our agricultural heritage and recognize the diversity of today’s agriculture, which preserve a rural lifestyle and contribute to the local and global food chain. |

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| Service Organization  Community H&S Statements? | Handicapped Accessible Playground | Community Recreation  We embrace the variety of both individual and group recreational opportunities provided through our parks and playgrounds, athletic fields, and outdoor spaces which encourage an active and healthy lifestyle. |
| Garden Club | County or city beautification | Scenic Beauty of our County  We treasure our scenic countryside and its natural beauty – open spaces, farm land, rolling hills, timber land, vibrant skies, waterways and wetlands – which all contribute to our tranquil environment and peaceful interaction with nature. |
| County-wide civic groups | County-wide festival | Events and Attractions in our County  We endorse and support the unique community and county-based festivals and celebrations, both traditional and innovative, that connect people, instill community pride, and promote tourism and economic opportunities. |
| County and city government agencies and civic groups | County-wide bike trail | Community Recreation  We embrace the variety of both individual and group recreational opportunities provided through our parks and playgrounds, athletic fields, and outdoor spaces which encourage an active and healthy lifestyle. |
| County government agencies, townships, and civic groups | Restore and maintain county cemeteries | Historic Vibe in our County  We honor the stories of Madison County told through our museums, architecture, parks, covered bridges, and famous landmarks, where anyone can go any time and be excited about these places where history was made. |

