



Mercer County: Better Together

Success Through Collaboration. #MCBT

KEITHSBURG

The city of Keithsburg is nestled along the Mississippi River in the southwestern corner of Mercer County. Home to 598 people, Keithsburg has long been a place county residents enjoy natural resource amenities such as camping, boating and fishing. The Mississippi River offers opportunity, employment and recreation for the Keithsburg area - each August hundreds of boat enthusiasts travel to Keithsburg for the annual Boat-In Breakfast. Currently twelve percent of Keithsburg residents are between 25-29 years of age, the largest group of that demographic in the county. Keithsburg is also home to one of Mercer County's most popular restaurants. The Keithsburg First Christian Church offers residents the opportunity to worship, hold local events and rally around local causes. Proximity to the Burlington, Iowa, Muscatine, Iowa and metro Quad Cities areas offer commerce and employment opportunities for Keithsburg residents.

Keithsburg Community Heart & Soul Statements

"We treasure our friendly community, which offers opportunities for recreation, development and employment through river access."

"We value our city park, campgrounds, ball diamond, river access, boating ramps and Big River State Park; all of which provide recreation opportunities and a connection to natural resources."

"We treasure our restaurant and local businesses, as they offer dining, employment and economic opportunities."

"We treasure our First Christian Church because it offers a place to worship, space for community events, maintains population and serves as a friendly beacon of the community."

"We envision investment in transportation and infrastructure upgrades, which will improve community access, tourism and economic opportunities."

"We envision a community where residents continue to feel safe with improved access to police and emergency services."

Keithsburg Area Community Representatives categorized each line of survey data on the following questions; then summarized survey responses into most common themes –

1) Why do you live here?

- Born here
- Raised here
- Job here

2) Why did you move or stay here?

- Natural resources
- Agriculture
- Friendly atmosphere

3) What do you especially love about your community?

- Close to the river
- Friendly people
- Safety/security

5) What do you think matters most to your neighbors?

- Roads
- Keeping up homes/property
- Friendliness
- Safety/security

6) Why is your community “home” to you?

- Been here all my life
- Friends/family
- Small town living

8) What are the most important places in your community? Why?

- Church; community events, retain population
- River
- School district
- Campground
- Ball diamond

10) What should stay the same in your community?

- Church
- Campground/boating ramps
- Gas station
- Emergency services

11) What should change in your community?

- More businesses
- Upgrading water & sewer systems
- More job opportunities
- More activities for kids
- Resident pride to take care of property
- Enforce city ordinances