

Executive Summary

Wyandotte, MI is an exciting downriver community with many great assets. This project focused on promoting growth and expanding opportunity in the Downtown. Conveniently located near the Detroit River, Downtown Wyandotte already hosts a unique experience to both residents and visitors by offering a variety of local restaurants and shops, easy access to the riverfront and adjacent green space, and holding special community events every month. By utilizing tools such as a Complete Streets analysis and a healthy city model, the Practicum Team has created a report which emphasizes the relationship between the built environment and community health in the Downtown.

The overall goal of planning and development efforts are to promote a healthy community by increasing access to fresh local food, improving connectivity and safety for non-motorized transportation, utilizing placemaking techniques, and increasing the partnerships between the local schools and Henry Ford Wyandotte Hospital.

In order to reach these goals, the Practicum Team completed and analyzed the existing conditions in the Greater Downtown Wyandotte area. This established the current state and was the basis of the recommendations to create a healthy community that is attractive and accommodating to all.

Based on the assessment and analysis of Downtown Wyandotte, the following conditions were realized:

Assets

- Downtown is attractive with nice landscaping, public art, and a variety of businesses.
- There are several areas that provide a place for recreation in proximity of downtown.
- The existing assets can be expanded upon to meet the community's goals, such as the community garden, farmers market, and access to recreation.

Places for Improvement

- There lacks infrastructure to promote other means of transportation, such as walking, riding a bicycle, or utilizing public transportation.
- Some of the infrastructure that exists requires improvements or needs to be fixed, including the street lights and crosswalks.
- There is potentially too much space dedicated to parking.
- Access to fresh, healthy food is difficult in the Downtown.

Recommendations

Downtown Wyandotte has great potential to become a healthy community that is attractive and accessible to all. The following recommendations have been established based on the existing conditions of the community:

Goal One: Improve the built environment in such a way that promotes physical activity, recreation, and increases connectivity.

- Improve safety and safety perceptions by fixing or adding pedestrian infrastructure and implement traffic calming measures.
- Make multi-modes of transportation accessible for travel and encourage alternative modes of transportation by conducting an audit for bicycle infrastructure and adding other infrastructure to bus stops.
- Activate the alleyways by installing lights and utilizing placemaking techniques to make them more attractive to pedestrians.
- Improve access to recreation by gathering community input and promoting the existing green spaces.

Goal Two: Increase health overall, health awareness, and education through outreach, partnerships, and programming in the community.

- Address aging housing through education and community programs, as well as providing more housing options in the Downtown area.
- Improve Wyandotte's health in regarding smoking and drinking through education efforts and creating partnerships that facilitate community programs to support those trying to stop using tobacco or alcohol.
- Reduce food insecurity by making the farmers market year round and establishing partnerships between the market, the schools, and Henry Ford Wyandotte Hospital.

Decrease obesity and increase physical activity through partnerships and providing spaces for recreation and physical activity.