

Downtown Needs & Opportunities

April 2024

Staff documented several examples of opportunities for downtown improvements that have been identified by staff or brought to the City's attention by residents. Staff also compiled examples of enhancements that could be considered through a downtown master plan.

➤ **Hudson Existing Conditions**

- Amenities
- Signage
- Decorative Landscaping
- Greens
- Streetscapes

• **Enhancement Examples**

AMENITIES

- **Restrooms:** inadequate public restroom facilities, currently addressed with a temporary trailer rented and placed near the parking garage with minimal identification; the temporary yard sign placed outside Town Hall to direct visitors to restrooms is illegible from the greens. Staff has received feedback that most event attendees do not know there are restrooms in Town Hall, and that the trailer appears intended for construction crews rather than the public and detracts from downtown charm



- **Trash Receptacles:** inconsistent and informal receptacles detract from the downtown aesthetic. The dumpsters at the top of Lot 7 detract from the connection and walkability between Main Street and First and Main as it creates more of an alley feel than a connected walkway.





- **Varied Infrastructure:** opportunity to establish brand guidelines to determine which styles should be selected when purchasing small-scale infrastructure such as bike racks or benches, & where to place them



SIGNAGE

- **Branding:** no unified names or identifiers for public parking lots, no parking times posted, and no indication of public lots being free creates challenges for visitors to find parking during large events such as Biergarten, Chriskindlmarket, Hudson mART, etc



- **Clutter:** signs can appear cluttered with inconsistent placement and design elements



- **Visibility:** some signs are obscured or sized too small. Temporary event signage at 303/91 (Gazebo green) is inconsistent and can appear disorganized; often ineffective due to inability to read small sign text from the street.



DECORATIVE LANDSCAPING

- **Seasonal Plantings:** lack of all-season plantings, resulting in empty mulch beds for much of the year; rose bushes which have required a full replacement over the past 3 years to maintain acceptable health



(photo taken in May)

- **Decorative Planters:** Noticeable differences in the quality of landscaping between N Main St and First St; opportunity to elevate planters throughout downtown



GREENS

- **Tree Layout:** obscures views of downtown from 303/91 and does not offer any branding to identify entering downtown Hudson; also poses a hindrance to larger-scale event staging and turf growth. Memorial Tree Program was offered at greens but is now only offered at parks due to running out of space on the greens; existing trees were planted to accommodate requests, however, current number and layout impacts the ability to host community events and results in perpetual care of a tree in specific location.



- **Lines of Sight:** are inhibited for various activities on the greens (ex. at Veterans Day ceremony at flagpole, shrubbery restricts sight lines and pedestrian flow)



- **Public Art:** interest from the community but no uniform process to determine standards, selection process, maintenance responsibilities, or define start/end dates



STREETSCAPES (connecting the broader community to downtown)

- **Connections Between Points of Interest:** opportunity to add strong connections from Main St to First & Main in order to increase foot traffic traveling between the two. Branding and enhancements could be added in key pedestrian corridors to unify connections between downtown and additional commercial areas at Evaporator Works, South Main, Acme Plaza, and East Streetsboro.



- **Corridor Enhancements:** opportunity in the City-owned corridor adjacent to the parking deck and pedestrian corridors (ex. could be improved with painted walkway, other art installations)



- Similar to no names on parking lots, there are no names on bike routes that could connect more residents to downtown



ENHANCEMENT EXAMPLES

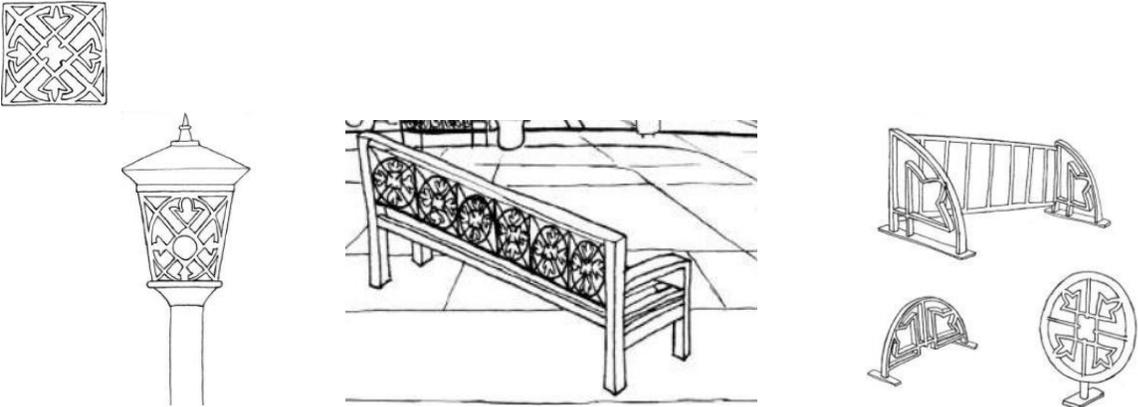
The following images are examples from other downtown master plans, demonstrating thoughtful improvements that can increase the usability and value of public spaces.

Pictures are from Downtown Sandusky Master Plan and Essence of Athens master plan.

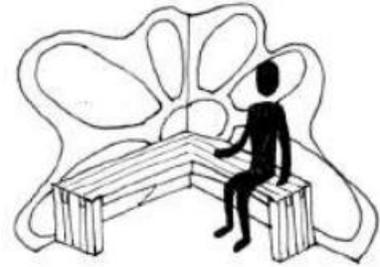
Enhanced Alleys and Corridors



Unified Branding of Amenities



Dynamic Seating



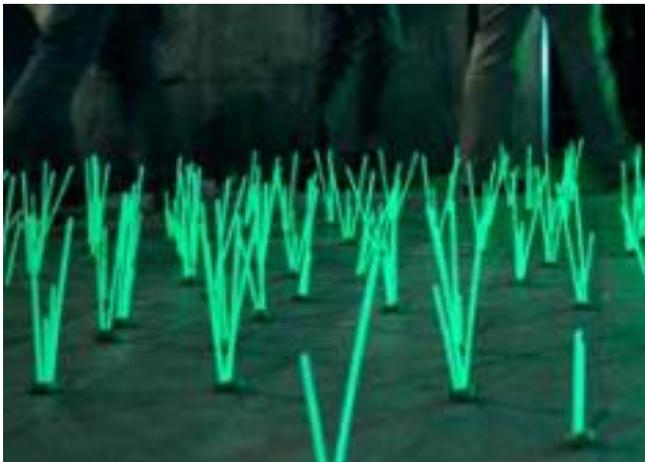
Functional Public Art



Sculpture functions as outdoor fire pit



Sculpture functions as seating



LED “grass” is used as walkway lighting



Painted stairs highlight walkway connections

Landscape Architecture/Interactive Landscapes

