

Downtown Streetscape Audit

What's a streetscape audit?

A **streetscape audit** is a valuable tool used to assess the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats within a downtown streetscape. By evaluating the conditions that affect pedestrian safety, enhance vibrancy, and promote social connectivity, streetscape audits recognize the importance of local identity and character, while evaluating creative opportunities to enhance the public realm.

Why Conduct a Streetscape Audit?

In the Village of Ortonville, residents value walkability, the small town atmosphere, social connectivity, and the historic Village center. While the downtown is well-distinguished from the rest of the community, this project looks for opportunities to strengthen and enhance the character of the Village's core area. To determine priorities, we're asking members of the community to participate in a streetscape audit.

This collaborative effort will involve walking through different parts of the village to evaluate what is working and what needs work, considering artwork, landscaping, sidewalks, gathering spaces, lighting, signs and other downtown elements. Your observations and feedback will be crucial in pinpointing specific challenges and opportunities for enhancement. By working together, we can create a vibrant, accessible, and enjoyable streetscape = for everyone in our community.

What to Look for During a Streetscape Audit

By focusing on both the aesthetic appeal and functionality of the streetscape, this audit can help evaluate how the design, layout, and maintenance of various elements impact the overall pedestrian experience in a downtown or community space.

1. **Sidewalk Conditions:**
 - a. Assess the quality, width, and continuity of sidewalks. Are all of the places you need to go well-connected?
 - b. Consider visual appeal of sidewalks- are there brick pavers, patterns, or other materials that complement the streetscape?
2. **Public art and murals:**
 - a. Are murals, sculptures, and other forms of public art easy to see/access?
 - b. Is public art well-maintained?
 - c. Are historical markers and plaques well-maintained and easily accessible?
3. **Landscaping:**
 - a. Is there adequate shade for pedestrians? Are trees/ plants well-maintained?
 - b. How does landscaping improve/enhance visual appeal/aesthetic?
4. **Gathering Spaces:**
 - a. Are gathering spaces clearly defined? (Parks, plazas, parklets, etc). Do they encourage social interaction? Are they inviting and appropriately sized?
 - b. Are gathering spaces comfortable and accessible to all (even those with strollers, wheelchairs, etc)?
 - c. What visual/ aesthetic appeals distinguish public gathering spaces?
5. **Street Furniture (benches, bike racks, trash bins)**

- a. Are benches, bike racks, trash bins, and other street furniture well-designed and well-placed?
 - b. Are there enough benches and seating options? Are these seats accessible for all age groups and people with disabilities?
6. **Street lighting:**
- a. Is street lighting adequate, especially in high-traffic pedestrian areas? Is the lighting distributed evenly to avoid dark spots that could make people feel unsafe?
 - b. Are the light fixtures themselves visually appealing? Do they enhance the design of the streetscape or feature artistic lighting elements?
7. **Signage:**
- a. Are there any artistic elements in the signs, such as creative street names or themed markers that reflect local culture or history? What signs stand out to you?

How to Conduct a Streetscape Audit

For this audit, we are asking people to walk or bike from Village Hall throughout the Downtown.

1. **Download the App or Grab your Checklist:**

- Download the app here and follow the attached directions to login.



2. **Document Findings:** Use the app or take notes and photographs to record observations and support recommendations.

- **Use the App** following the directions above.
- **Or Use a Checklist:** Make your observations on the included checklist.

3. **Share your observations!**

- App: If you use the app, your feedback will be automatically shared to our map. Remember to answer the questions at the end of the map.
- Checklist: Please return your checklist to the Village of Ortonville offices. Answer the questions at the bottom of the list.:
- If you have additional feedback or comments, please return them with your results.

Streetscape Audit Notes (Note: if using the app, you do not need to fill this out)

Note on the paper map your areas of concern and number each one. On this sheet, tell us what you see (there is more room on the back)

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