



Antioch

— DOWNTOWN BEAUTIFICATION PLAN —

State of Downtown Antioch
August 17, 2021

Acknowledgments



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SECTION ONE

Introduction

Antioch Plan

OVERVIEW

Upon first arrival along Main Street, with the iconic view of the United Methodist Church to the north, historic facades lining the sidewalks, and leafy street trees shading the way, it is apparent that Downtown Antioch has a charm and appeal all its own. While the primary “visual” for Downtown may be Main Street, the unique combination of streets, alleyway pass throughs, historic buildings and markers, and public spaces throughout the Downtown area defines a Downtown district that is more than Main Street.

An evolving vision for Downtown is the focus of the Antioch Downtown Beautification Plan, a design and planning process initiated in February 2021 by the Village of Antioch to inspire a new chapter in the life of this historic Downtown. As the Village of Antioch continues to change and grow, a healthy and vital Downtown will transform alongside it. With the goal of charting a path for a thriving, connected, and sustainable future that caters to residents and businesses, both old and new, the process will explore strategies to enhance Downtown and improve the quality of life for residents and visitors. The plan will focus on streetscapes, open spaces, pedestrian areas, parking lots, and the newly acquired Downtown property.

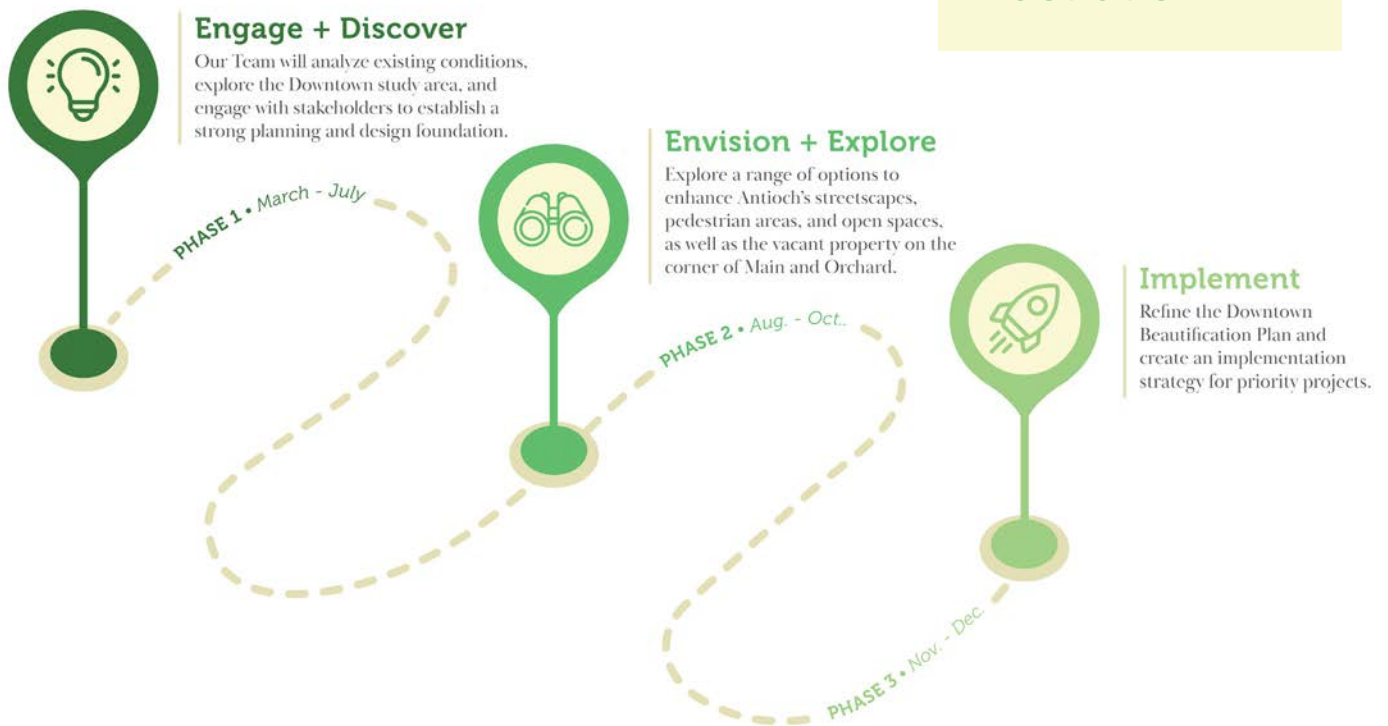
As part of this initiative, the Village of Antioch is undertaking an all-inclusive public participation program that engages community members, residents, and property owners, among other interested stakeholders. An open and transparent public engagement effort will help gather input and feedback throughout the process to envision the future of Downtown Antioch.

This report summarizes existing conditions and identifies key takeaways from analyses and community input that will be built upon in the following phases of this planning effort.

PLAN MISSION

The ultimate goal of the Plan is to establish a compelling vision for specific improvements that will enhance, and build upon, the character that is uniquely Antioch throughout the study area. Outlining revitalization priorities, the Plan will be a realizable roadmap to guide local actions, partnerships, and implementation phasing. For the Village of Antioch, the Plan will guide decision-making on allocating resources for development and initiatives aimed at supporting a vital Downtown now and into the future. For the broader community — local businesses, property owners, residents, and local stakeholders — the Plan will help stimulate new ideas and collaborations that build upon the

Project timeline illustration



Village framework to evolve a true community partnership that activates a vibrant Downtown district.

The community commitment in Downtown Antioch is strong, and this Plan strives to spark imagination and creativity to harness that vital force. The Final Downtown Beautification Plan will identify priority investments and outline the steps necessary to achieve Plan initiatives, investments, and implementation action steps.

PLAN PROCESS

Phase 1: Engage and Analyze

March 2021 – July 2021

The first phase focuses on analyzing existing conditions, understanding opportunities and constraints, and engaging with local stakeholders. The goal is to establish a dynamic process that provides a sound foundation for urban design, placemaking, and streetscape concepts to come in subsequent phases.

Phase 2: Envision and Synthesize

August 2021 – October 2021

The second phase will explore a range of options to enhance Antioch's streetscapes, Downtown development, and the public realm. Phase 2 will synthesize initial findings and develop alternative concepts for improvements, resulting in a tool kit for evaluating and prioritizing preferred concepts.

Phase 3: Implement

November 2021 - December 2021

The last phase of the planning process focuses on refining the Downtown Beautification Plan and implementation strategies to prioritize improvements to the Village's physical realm. Phase 3 will highlight action steps to achieve the different improvements initiatives, as well as define potential partners.



Emphasize the old town charm and find what is unique that will bring people to Antioch – visitors as well as new residents.

CONTEXT & BRIEF HISTORY

Located in Lake County, Antioch is midway between Milwaukee and Chicago, directly south of the Wisconsin border, and several miles west of Lake Michigan. It is the gateway to the Chain of Lakes region, a series of interconnected lakes offering fishing, boating, and water recreation opportunities.

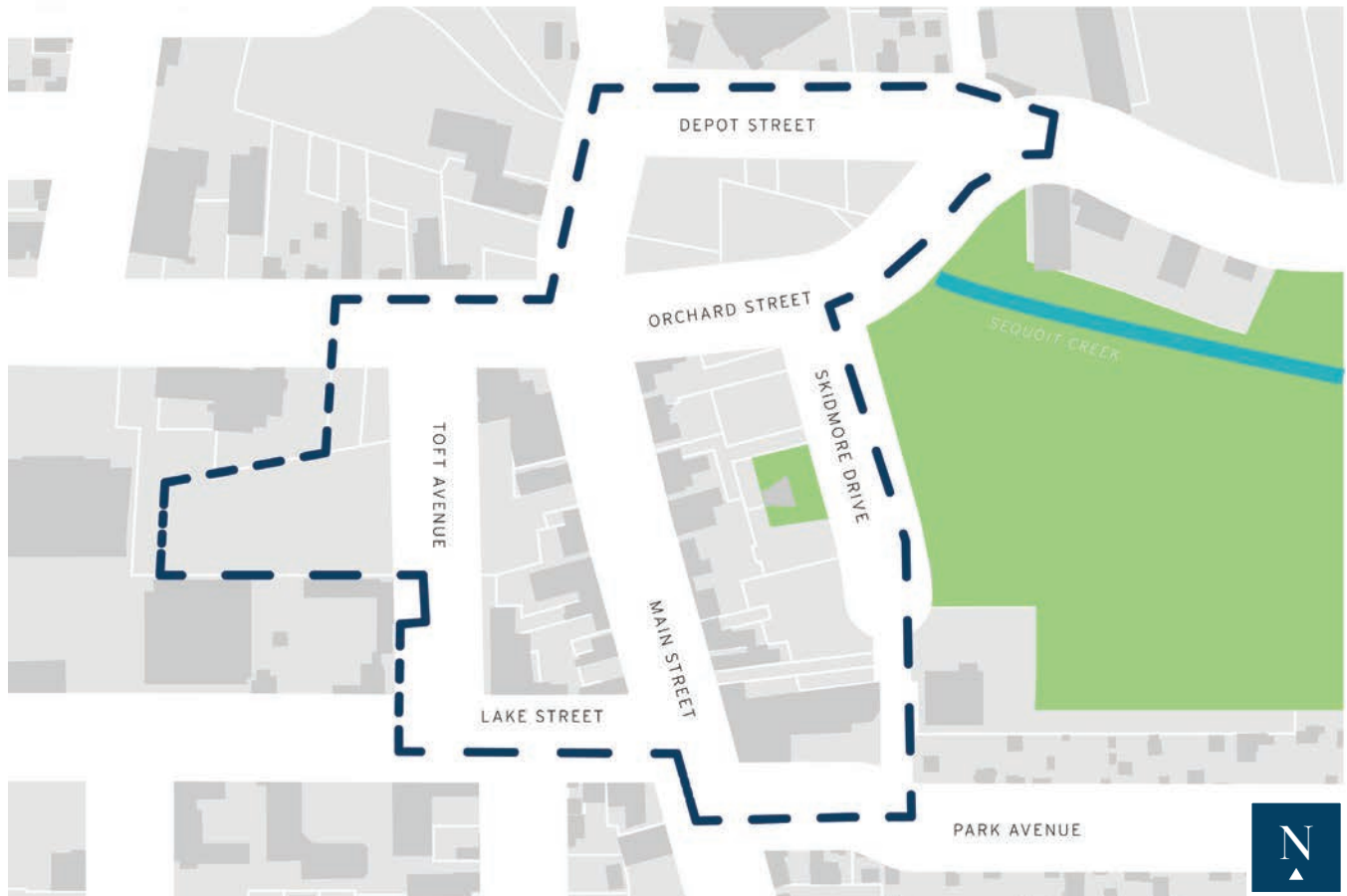
The first permanent settlement in Antioch was built on Sequoit Creek in 1836. Prior to that, the area was inhabited by the nomadic Pottawatomi Tribe, who named Sequoit, or “wandering,” Creek. In 1839, Hiram Buttrick built a sawmill along the creek, establishing Antioch as a center of commerce. A replica of the mill stands today just downstream from the original site. The town was named in 1843, with new settlers, primarily of English and German descent, establishing farms and businesses. By the late 1800’s, the rail line to Chicago was laid and Antioch became a popular vacation spot for Chicagoans. While three fires destroyed much of Downtown in the late 1800’s and early 1900’s,

the town rebuilt in 1905 and much of Antioch’s existing historic character dates to that era.

Today, the Village of Antioch has over 14,500 residents and a variety of industries, retail and service businesses, churches, schools, organizations, and neighborhoods. Downtown, particularly Main Street, is noted for its quaint, historic charm. The Heritage Museum and thriving community theater provide a cultural underpinning to Downtown, augmented by a transitioning mix of service businesses, local eateries, and specialty, art, and antique shops. Special events programmed throughout the year, including summer festivals and concerts, juried arts and craft fairs, art walks and garden tours, and holiday fairs and parades, set the stage for a thriving Downtown.

The overarching goal of this Plan is to build on the current physical, programming, and community capital “bones” already in place to enhance Downtown Antioch as a vibrant local and regional destination.

Map 1: Downtown Antioch Study Area







SECTION TWO

Downtown Antioch

Downtown Antioch

OVERVIEW

The study area for the Downtown Beautification Plan includes a variety of spaces that constitute Downtown as it exists today as well as new places that may become part of the Downtown district in the future. Specific areas include the Main, Toft, and Lake Street business district; the Orchard Street border that currently marks the north edge of Downtown; the Bandshell, Skidmore Drive, and east of Main Street parking lot; and the newly acquired Village property bordered by Main, Orchard and Depot streets.

The map to the right illustrates initial analysis of the Downtown area, further elaborated on in the next few pages.



[illegible]

Downtown Antioch Sub-Areas



Main Street



Lake Street

MAIN STREET

The Main Street corridor, with its traditional, historic facades and an established streetscape, is often seen as the “heart of Downtown.” Main Street is lined up with a healthy, mature tree canopy that brings charm to the streetscape, however some streetscape elements feel dated, and heaving pavement at some tree locations is in need of replacement. Business retention along Main Street is good, with few vacancies. Main Street is also Illinois Route 83 and subject to IDOT jurisdiction and roadway requirements.

There are several alleyways that connect the Main Street corridor to parking lots behind Main Street businesses on both the east and west sides of the street, creating an interesting sense of connection and permeability to the district. Many of the alleyways are narrow and undeveloped, posing an opportunity for improvement, while several are wider and incorporate plantings, sculptures, and other amenities. There is also a once vacant lot that has been developed into a strolling pocket

park connection to Toft Avenue, created and maintained by the Antioch Garden Club. Other user-friendly elements include a pedestrian mid-block crossing between Lake Street and Orchard Street, as well as two wayfinding signage locations to help orient pedestrians.

LAKE STREET

A combination of historic and updated traditional/historic façades gives Lake Street a slightly different character from Main Street. It also has a well-defined streetscape, similar in character to Main Street. There is a diverse mix of businesses with good business retention and few vacancies. The historic theater and variety of cafes draw people, but there are some congestion and car stacking issues at the theater during drop off times. Directly west of Main Street, on both sides of the theater, is a significant natural grade change. This is currently modulated by steps in the public right-of-way, posing ADA accessibility issues along this stretch.



Toft Avenue

TOFT AVENUE

Toft Avenue is characterized by an excessive amount of existing pavement, including the roadway itself, street parking, a parking lot, and walkways. The street is very wide, encouraging car traffic to move fast, and one paved area merges into the next. With the backs of the Main Street businesses creating an unattractive backdrop to the streetscape view, there is little streetscape character. Currently more of a barrier or edge, Toft Avenue feels separate from the rest of Downtown.

In its favor, Toft has a wealth of space that is ripe for a variety of redevelopment directions and opportunities. There are also several historic elements near Orchard Street, including the Sheridan Tank memorial and the site of the original well house. With the tank memorial directly at the corner, redesign could be considered to create a welcoming entry at this important intersection. One mid-block pedestrian crossing, as well as the charming pocket park connecting Toft to Main Street, facilitate safe passage along Toft, but those do



Orchard Street

not connect well through the surface parking lot. Additionally, several ADA issues should be taken into consideration as the area is re-envisioned.

ORCHARD STREET

Currently more of a border than part of the Downtown streetscape, Orchard Street feels separate and has little streetscape character. However, Orchard Street has a number of assets that can be built upon. There are several garden club planting areas east of Main, the vintage clock tower is located at Main and Orchard, and the vacated mid-century modern post office building near Toft has potential to be repurposed or redeveloped. With the transformation of the newly acquired property bounded by Depot, Main, and Orchard, the role

Downtown Antioch Sub-Areas



Band Shell &
Skidmore Drive



of Orchard Street has the potential to change in character and function. Rather than a barrier, it has potential to become a cohesive connector between the new use on the currently vacant property and the Main Street area.

BAND SHELL AND SKIDMORE DRIVE

The band shell hosts several special events throughout the year, especially during the summer. Despite its prominence in the life of Downtown, the band shell is surrounded by a large parking lot - accessed from Skidmore Drive - and the unattractive rear facades of east Main Street buildings. Many “banks” of utilities, separated by functional bollards throughout the parking area, add to the dissonant context for this important public event space. Isolated from other areas of Downtown street life, the band

shell feels separate, unwelcoming, and a little unsafe. Open drainage culverts along Skidmore and cattle barrier fencing along the parking lot entries add to the “back of the house” feeling of the space.

Locally known as a short cut through Downtown, Skidmore Drive is temporarily closed during large events, exponentially expanding the area usable for band shell events.

Additional uses that augment this space include the public restroom across Skidmore Drive and an intermittent sledding hill on the east side of Skidmore Drive. The formal entry



Newly Acquired Property

for the William Brook Memorial Wetland activates the intersection of Orchard Street and Skidmore Drive, with a secondary wetland entry connecting along the east side of Skidmore Drive.

NEWLY ACQUIRED PROPERTY

The newly acquired property bounded by Depot Street, Orchard Street, and Main Street offers a unique opportunity to expand the footprint and vision of Downtown Antioch, as well as highlight the broader historic and natural resources of the district.

Sequoit Creek runs through the 3.5 acre site, which offers a wealth of community open space, recreational, and development potential. Although the creek was historically piped underground, undermining over the years has exposed sections of the open water, inspiring new visions of a potentially open creek that flows through the site as a natural feature and amenity. The site is directly adjacent to the Historical Society Museum, District 34 Early



Learning, and a community garden. Sequoit Creek physically connects the site to the wetlands on the southeast and the historic mill to the northwest. Set just north of Downtown, consolidating Depot Street and Orchard Street, and with close proximity to the Metra Station, the site has potential to become a major gateway and anchor to the Downtown district and an important new hub of Village life.

With the countless options this site opens up for the future of Antioch, an important part of this master planning process is to identify a comprehensive vision for this space, beginning with a vigorous engagement process to identify key community visions and priorities. Section 3: Antioch Speaks, delves further into specific community input. Important overarching qualities included a flexible, safe, multi-generational, open/green space that highlights the creek and provides places for gathering, recreation, special events, and programming. Potential small scale commercial uses were also mentioned by several community stakeholders.





SECTION 3

Antioch Speaks

Antioch Speaks

OVERVIEW

The public visioning and outreach program of the Antioch Downtown Beautification Plan included significant engagement of community residents, business and property owners, Village staff and leadership, and local arts and gardening clubs, among other stakeholders. From the beginning, stakeholders were engaged in a dialogue about Downtown Antioch's key assets, areas for improvement, and what its future could be. During the late spring and early summer, stakeholders were engaged in a variety of ways including focus group discussions, and interactive engagement at the Summer Wine Walk, as well as an on-line survey.

LISTENING SESSIONS

The engagement portion of the Antioch Downtown Beautification Project is a crucial element of this design and planning process and provides residents and leadership a sense of ownership in the Plan.

Participants raised a wide range of issues regarding the historical character of Downtown, what makes Antioch unique, activation ideas, and specific physical characteristics to improve Downtown and make it more engaging. Comments focused on the variety of Downtown spaces, including the Main, Toft, and Lake Street business district; pass through alleyways unique to Downtown; surface parking lots; the band shell and back sides of Main Street businesses; and the newly acquired property at Main and Orchard.

Key comments are summarized in the next few pages.

Key Thoughts

Streetscape improvements are crucial to the survival of Downtown Antioch

Better define entrances to Downtown

Band Shell location and layout is not ideal

Vacant lots hold a lot of potential

Natural restoration of the Creek

Parking is an issue in Downtown Antioch

Facade improvements are essential

Better crosswalks can improve safety

Stakeholder Groups





Antioch is largely intact which gives it a sense of authenticity. It has a charming, historic fabric and great bones. While it feels a little tired, it has great core assets.

Antioch Character

- Antioch is largely intact which gives it a sense of authenticity. It has a charming, historic fabric and great bones. While it feels a little tired, it has great core assets.
- Antioch's historic feel and character is an asset and the history of the town should be emphasized. We do not want over-the-top designs, but something timeless. A classic look will speak to the historic essence of Downtown.
- What makes Antioch unique is the people more than the physical space. It is a good mix of families and older populations. While it is multi-generational and family-oriented, there are no places for families in Downtown.
- Invite everyone Downtown for a more diverse community and a mix of businesses.
- There is little street life and no nightlife. Antioch dies after 5pm with few events and little open at night other than bars. Downtown is missing a mix of business that will activate the district overall.
- Antioch has a strong Downtown with active stores, two theaters, and many artists. There is a strong base of volunteer groups and businesses with a good sense of ownership: no shortage of human capital.
- Downtown is there, but what is lacking is a reason to go there.



The more trees and landscaping, the better."

MAIN STREET STREETSCAPE / BUSINESS DISTRICT CHARACTER

- The Main Street tree canopy is lovely, but street lights are dated.
- A better mid-block crossing is needed.
- Would be nice to have more integration of elements like benches and planters into the sidewalk instead of against buildings. Could eliminate some parallel parking for this.
- The more trees and landscaping, the better. Maintenance is also important.
- Ample lighting is necessary for ambiance and safety. Currently feels unsafe.
- Shops have low visibility from cars driving on the street.
- Beautify rear sides of buildings as they are highly visible from parallel streets.
- Façade improvement grant is bringing Downtown back to what it looked like. While maintaining the historic vibe is important, it is also crucial to design a district that speaks to today's age.
- Unify signage and awnings.



Toft should be cohesive with the rest of Downtown."

TOFT AVENUE

- Main Street is the historic Downtown. Perhaps Toft could be more trendy or contemporary for an interesting mix.
- Toft should be cohesive with the rest of Downtown.
- Toft is bland and unattractive, very wide with lots of pavement. Cars race through while pedestrians try to cross. There is a big opportunity to have additional circulation through Downtown as a supplement to Main Street, perhaps incorporating a small park space.
- Make something out of the historic well house.
- Bury utility lines around Downtown.
- Main Street restaurants and retailers could have some space behind them on Toft.

BAND SHELL AND SKIDMORE DRIVE

- Relocate the band shell to the newly acquired property or the parking lot north of the post office.
- Treat the band shell area and the newly acquired property as one space.
- Improve the backs of the buildings as well as parking lots to create a unique backdrop for the band shell space.
- Improve the area around the band shell. Create a sense of arrival and incorporate more green space, reduce parking, and increase overall visibility.
- Investigate modifying Skidmore to connect the band shell to the wetlands and the newly acquired property.
- Feels like a vacant lot and doesn't feel completely safe. It should only be used for parking and as a space connector, rather than home to an eventful band shell.
- Light poles are unattractive and there are electrical lines everywhere.
- Vacate Orchard to open up band shell without compromising newly acquired property - however this might pose a challenge to traffic flow and management.
- Existing band shell could be the host location with other stages incorporated on Toft Street and in the Village Center.

ALLEYWAYS

- Alleyways add a charming and unique vibe to Downtown.
- Archways could be artful and highly visual.
- Incorporate seating, planters, dining, art, and music.
- Signage, lighting, trees, landscaping, and hanging baskets can be added to the alleyways.
- Overhead string lighting would provide an inviting ambiance.
- Temporary or seasonal art could be incorporated. Potential to rent out for seasonal activations as well.
- Create a consist look and feel among all of the alleyways.
- Consider ADA access.

WAYFINDING AND SIGNAGE

- Signage, gateways, and other wayfinding elements are important throughout Downtown.
- Signage for businesses should be updated and made more consistent. Use signage to signal that there are businesses south of Downtown.
- Better signage can better direct pedestrians and vehicles to parking lots.



Develop as an interactive focal point to bring people Downtown. Should easily connect and cater to existing businesses.

NEWLY ACQUIRED PROPERTY

- Create a flexible, multi-seasonal, open/green space. Incorporate places for families and kids including a splash pad (that can become a skating rink), places for seating and gathering, and small garden spaces.
- There is an interest in creating an open creek, creek walk, and community open space, however this is not fully supported by the community due to safety concerns.
- Link to adjacent areas with gateways and pathways. Connect to the saw mill, school, museum, wetlands, and band shell.
- Develop as an interactive focal point for bringing people Downtown. Should easily connect and cater to Downtown businesses. Incorporate parking along the edges.
- Should be open and visible: think about traffic and safety, especially for teens and kids
- Provide a barrier along Route 83 for safety.
- Opportunity for public space but also needs a programmed use that will generate revenue.
- Need revenue-producing uses, rather than condos or strip malls. Small-scale retail or kiosks would be adequate.
- This space does not need to be developed with buildings.
- Small-scale mixed-use development could work and would help offset the cost of creek cleanup and restoration.
- Specific elements noted were:
 1. Special event space
 2. Public Town Square
 3. Water Feature or Splash Pad
 4. Playgrounds, Places for Kids
 5. Creek Walk with Bridges
 6. Fire Pits
 7. Tents for Pop-ups
 8. Variety of Seating, Dining, Picnicking, and Gathering Spaces

POP-UP WORKSHOP & ONLINE SURVEY

The Village of Antioch hosted a pop-up workshop in conjunction with the Summer Wine Walk event on Saturday June 5th, and 50 + participants stopped by to share their thoughts. In addition, 363 people participated in the online survey, starting in June of 2021, sharing their vision and inspiring ideas for Downtown Antioch. The online survey echoed the survey's interactive exercises, aimed at understanding the community's priorities and preferences, as well as providing them with the right tools to visualize the future of the study area. Categorized into six sections, the Wine Walk and the online survey focused on:

- Placemaking
- Public Spaces
- Streetscape Character
- Safety Improvements
- Wayfinding & Signage
- Vacant Property at Main & Orchard

WHO PARTICIPATED?

During the Summer Wine Walk, participants of all ages were engaged, the majority of which were Village residents. Out of the 363 participants who took the survey, 52% live in Antioch but not in Downtown, 24% live in Antioch and visit Downtown regularly, and 21% live Downtown. The remaining 3% of respondents work in Downtown Antioch. 97% of respondents were 30 years of age, or older.

The results of the pop-up workshop and survey are summarized in the following section.



VISUAL PREFERENCE

The goal of the Visual Preference Survey is to gauge the community's attitude towards Downtown's potential character. Participants were asked to rank imagery related to the streetscape, physical realm, and placemaking opportunities, among others. Each of the six sections outlined above included a visual preference exercise.



CLICK MAPS

Five of the six sections, apart from the newly acquired vacant property at the intersection of Main Street and Orchard Street, included a Click Map feature that allowed participants to mark locations of issues and opportunities and prioritize areas of improvement.



VISIONING STATEMENTS

Crafting a vision statement that illustrates the future of Downtown is a collaborative community effort. Participants were asked to describe their idealistic version of Downtown Antioch. These vision statements, along with the results of the previously mentioned exercises, will set the foundation for the planning, design direction, and character of Downtown.

PLACEMAKING

VISUAL PREFERENCE

Alleyway activation as well as pop-up events, including an outdoor cinema were the most favored placemaking initiatives, followed by food trucks and interactive art. Overall, participants expressed an interest in expanding the arts and culture aspect of Downtown. Participants voiced the need for active family-friendly outdoor areas to provide for the multi-generational make-up of Antioch's population. They also voiced interest in introducing murals by local artists.

CLICK MAP

Participants noted placemaking opportunities throughout Downtown, with a focus on the band shell, existing parking lots, and the newly acquired vacant property. Participants specifically highlighted main corridors including Main Street and Toft Avenue for potential placemaking improvements.





A village square that includes green space, shaded areas and a small entertainment space could bring people Downtown!"



There are so many young families in Antioch, a family friendly outdoor space for hosting events would be wonderful for Downtown"



It is important to encourage murals and other public art by local artists"

PUBLIC SPACES

VISUAL PREFERENCE

While the majority of the public space character images ranked high, converting alleyways into small-scale activity nodes ranked the highest. Active plazas and open spaces with seating pockets, bosques of trees, and dedicated pathways were also favored by the community. Creating community gathering spaces can further support Downtown businesses as mentioned by survey participants.

CLICK MAP

Existing parking lots were identified as the primary areas of interest for new public space opportunities. Participants also noted the newly acquired vacant lot on Main Street and Orchard Street as a potential location for a large-scale open space. Additional areas highlighted by participants included the southwest corner of Toft Avenue and Orchard Street. Participants also expressed an interest in revamping the band shell area, to better accommodate the facility's program offerings.





Anchor the intersections at Main Street and Orchard Street with public spaces as the heart of Downtown Antioch!"



Sequoit Creek nature walk and the Band Shell area could use some love!"



Blocking off Toft Avenue monthly for a vendor weekend and/or farmers market in the summer"

STREETSCAPE CHARACTER

VISUAL PREFERENCE

Most streetscape layout images scored high with an average of 3.4/5. Participants indicated a preference for traditional streetscape designs that complement Downtown's unique urban fabric. Visual and character consistency that aims at unifying the Downtown area was an overwhelmingly expressed need by participants. Streetscape elements that ranked highest in priority included seating pockets, as well as branded planters, tree grates, and lighting. Participants also mentioned the need to enhance street frontages, especially along Toft Avenue, to provide for a better pedestrian experience.

CLICK MAP

Participants prioritized Toft Avenue for streetscape improvements, focusing on enhancing pedestrian accessibility and overall character. Mid-block crossings were also emphasized as a need for Toft Avenue, as well as Main Street. Participants also expressed the need to screen parking along major streets through streetscape interventions. Extending streetscape improvements to frame the newly acquired vacant property, regardless of intended use, was also expressed as a priority.





Create the feeling of an entrance to the Downtown for residents and visitors coming into Antioch"



Main Street in Downtown has potential to be so unique and beautiful, I would love to see the overall streetscape improved!"



Visually connect the different areas of Downtown and draw people from one space to the next"

SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

VISUAL PREFERENCE

The community expressed a great interest in a shared street concept to enhance pedestrian safety and reduce vehicular speed. In general, shared streets can improve pedestrian safety by eliminating traditional street treatments, such as curbs, integrating the street and sidewalk spaces, and prioritizing pedestrians over vehicles. The community also prioritized painted crosswalks and intersections, as well as bump-outs to provide additional safety for pedestrians. Participants also highly ranked designated bike routes, to encourage alternative modes of transportation.

CLICK MAP

Most intersections in Downtown Antioch were selected as requiring safety improvements. Participants noted the desire for mid-block crossing along Toft, as well as Main Street, to provide for a safer crossing environment. Other intersections that were identified as priorities included Lake and Toft, Lake and Main, and Main and Orchard.





“It is important that there is a safe crossing between the Pittman property and the Band Shell area and improved pedestrian crossings on all streets”



Mid-block crossings can help reduce traffic and prioritize pedestrian flow on Toft and Main Streets”



The traffic on Main Street is too fast to allow pedestrians to feel safe and comfortable around Downtown”

WAYFINDING & SIGNAGE

VISUAL PREFERENCE

Participants indicated a need to improve overall signage and wayfinding throughout Downtown Antioch. Gateway signage that would highlight entrances to the Downtown area was expressed as a need by multiple stakeholders. Participants expressed interest in directional signage to guide residents and visitors in and around Downtown Antioch, highlighting landmarks such as the Sawmill and wetlands, among other areas. The community sees great value in utilizing signage to tell the Antioch story and celebrate the Village's unique heritage and history. In terms of design aesthetic, traditional signage with subtle color accents was the preferred direction.

CLICK MAP

Intersections that mark the entrance to Downtown Antioch, including Toft Avenue and Lake Street, Lake Street and Main Street, and Orchard Street and Main Street, were prioritized by the community for potential gateway signage. Gateway signage came up as a priority to establish more formal entrances to Downtown at the north and south ends of Main, on Lake, and other key intersections.





A comprehensive sign plan to get people from the highways to the Downtown area and navigate through Antioch's attractions."



Antioch has such an interesting history, I would love to see signage that highlights some of the history of the buildings or spaces. The Historical Society does a great job of sharing fun history that can be exhibited"



Destination signage - there are a lot of cool things right near the Downtown area that are unique to Antioch, like the sawmill and the wetlands walking path area"

VACANT PROPERTY

The newly acquired vacant property, situated in the heart of Downtown, holds great potential for the Antioch community. Participants expressed interest in a variety of active and passive open space uses. The community sees great value in highlighting the creek that passes through the property and creating a creek walk to activate the water frontage. Additional open space ideas included nature-based play elements, water features, pocket plazas, among others. Participants also mentioned the opportunity to replace the existing band shell with a new amphitheater within this newly acquired property. This 3.5-acre site can support multiple complementary uses, connected through pathways.



4
out of 5



3.9



3.7



3.7



3.6



3.5

STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

STRENGTHS

Antioch is a small-town community with a charming and generally walkable Downtown that thrives on supporting local businesses. Additional strengths of Downtown Antioch, as highlighted by participants, include its unique shops and boutiques, community events, and proximity to the Metra station. Antioch is a tight knit community with a compact urban feel that is exhibited through its quaint character and historic architecture. Overall, Downtown Antioch has a variety of assets that can provide a strong base to a vibrant future.

WEAKNESSES

While Downtown Antioch has a lot to offer, there is a lack of active community gathering spaces. Family-friendly open spaces that cater to young households were expressed as a need by many stakeholders. Diversifying the business mix along major streets and creating a day-time community was a common theme in participants' responses. Maintaining Downtown's charm and historic character through façade enhancements is key to the Antioch community. There is an overwhelming need for a variety of signage types, especially directional signage that better indicate parking lot locations within Downtown.



