
Ypsilanti 2020 Task Force

A Vision for Our Future

Members of the Ypsilanti 2020 Task Force

- Gary Clark, Chair
- Lisa Bashert
- Kent Baumkel
- Nat Edmunds
- Kevin Hill
- Linda Horne
- Karen Maurer
- Mark Maynard
- Sean Stidd
- Deborah Strong

Charge and Approach

Areas to Address from

Resolution #2007-025: at a minimum,

- Supplementing state funding;
- Spurring business development, especially downtown;
- Encouraging affordable transportation options;
- Partnering with local educational institutions;
- Sustaining and expanding affordable regional recreation.

The Divisions of our Report:

- Heritage Preservation
- Places to Live
- Greenspaces
- Commercial Districts
- Economic Development through the Arts
- Food, Festivals, and Fun
- Transportation
- Life Cycles

Major Assets

Ypsilanti has:

- a distinctive history and it's own identity
- a large downtown district of independent businesses
- a National Register historic district
- a walkable urban environment N,S,E,W
- colorful, vibrant neighborhoods
- easy access to freeways, airports, and larger urban areas
- a beautiful river and park system
- farmland nearby
- the compact size to be a sustainable community

The Vision

IN THE YEAR 2020, Ypsilanti has become one of the most beautiful, vibrant, and self-sufficient small cities in Michigan. Through careful observation of current economic and social factors Ypsilanti has instituted policies consistent with a changing world.

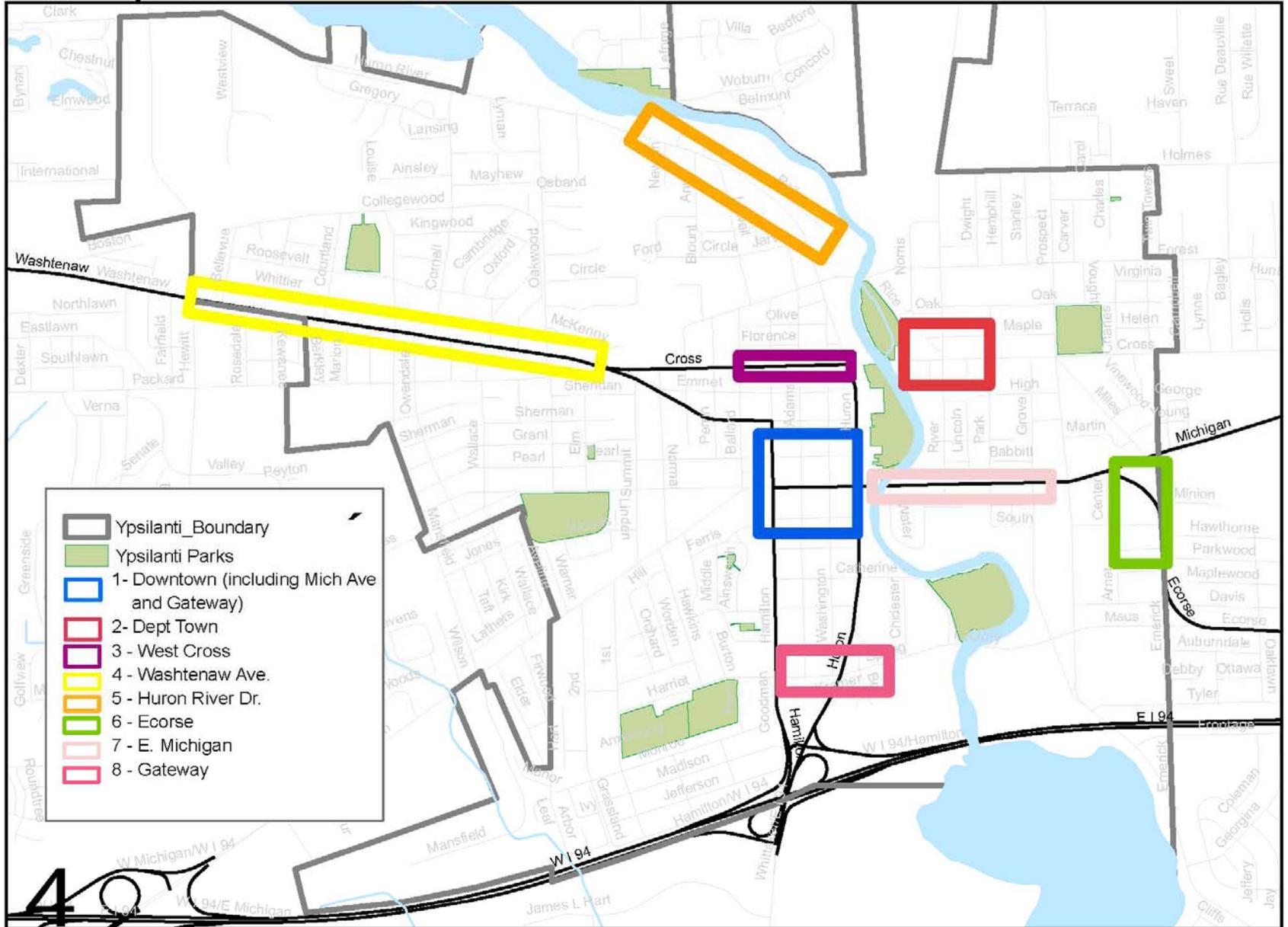
Our progress has been guided by a city-wide energy policy, the availability of more local food, and a thriving entertainment and cultural life as well as a “Live in Place” philosophy. Ypsilanti is a leader in marrying green technology and historic preservation.

The Vision, Continued

- Heritage preservation
- Neighborhoods
- Districts
- Free wireless internet
- EMU is a partner
- Arts and culture
- Connected green spaces
- Light rail connections
- Intra-urban public transportation (“Ypsi Trolley”)
- County-wide transportation, recreation and first responders

How do we get from here to there?

Ypsilanti Business Districts - 2020 Task Force



Source: Ypsilanti 2020 Task Force. Map produced by MSU Extension Fall 2008.

Heritage Preservation



"Communities...have a history - in an important sense, they are constituted by their past - and for this reason we can speak of a real community as a 'community of memory', one that does not forget its past." - Robert Bellah, "The Good Society"

Heritage Assets

Ypsilanti's constellation of heritage assets provide the city with its distinctive and unique sense of place. Properly preserved, developed and managed, these assets have the potential to become the _____ centerpiece of Ypsilanti's renaissance, providing multiple opportunities for economic development to fuel economic prosperity. Heritage assets include:

- A long, multi-faceted history;
- Settlement by diverse groups (and a diverse population today);
- Historic homes, neighborhoods and business districts on the National Register of Historic Places;
- Historic parks along the Huron River;
- Multiple museums; and
- Eastern Michigan University's historic campus.



“For the 21st Century, only the foolish community will make the choice between historic preservation and economic development.

The wise community will effectively utilize its historic built environment to meet the economic, social and cultural needs of its citizens well into the future.”

***– Donovan Rypkema,
The Economic Power of
Historic Preservation***



Bottom Photo © Downtown Association of Ypsilanti. Top two photos © Kate de Fuccio • Permissions for this presentation only.

Ypsilanti Mayor's 2020 Task Force - Final Report, January 27, 2009

Vision for 2020



© Corrine Sikorski, Ypsi Food Coop

- Ypsilanti celebrates its rich cultural, architectural heritage - Native American, European American, African American settlement history.
- Comprehensive approach to heritage preservation has been successful. City retains unique sense of place, heritage assets used to fuel economic prosperity.
- Historic District Ordinance & Commission established in perpetuity.
- EMU, UM, WCC, MI-SBTDC, YHF are active partners in heritage movement.
- City thrives - splendidly renovated historic buildings, homes, neighborhoods, parks. Downtown districts contain a vibrant mix of retail, restaurant, business, professional, commercial & specialty preservation enterprises.
- Heritage tourism a significant draw - walking, trolley, biking tours of city focus on architectural, cultural, natural features. Interactive exhibits, hands-on experiences and docent story-tellers bring the city's dynamic heritage to life, engaging residents and visitors.

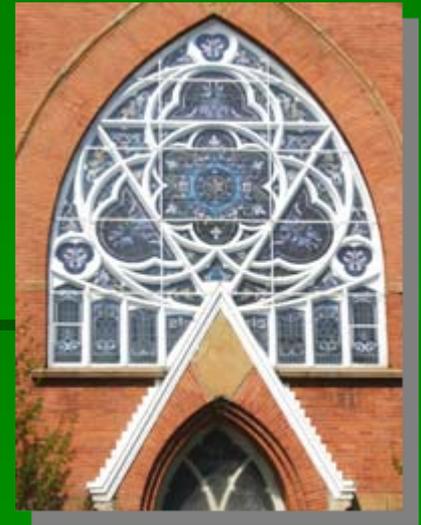


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Heritage Preservation Goals

Five Heritage Preservation Goals for 2020

- 1 – Create an integrated, comprehensive heritage preservation strategy.
- 2 – Seek and achieve greater funding for heritage preservation, marketing and tourism, and encourage development of heritage-based businesses.
- 3 – Partner with Eastern Michigan University, the University of Michigan and Washtenaw Community College on heritage projects.
- 4 – Increase public knowledge, pride and respect for Ypsilanti history, heritage assets and the benefits of heritage preservation.
- 5 – Build alliances with diverse groups to encourage participation in Ypsilanti's heritage movement.



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Goal 1 Create an integrated, comprehensive heritage preservation strategy.

- **Adopt Main Street, Preserve America, Shore to Shore models.**
- **Historic District Ordinance, Commission established in perpetuity - expanded charge.**
- **Commission promotes economic development, sustainable energy practices, public education.**
- **Align, streamline City processes for planning, renovation, construction.**
- **City Website is comprehensive information portal:**

- **Government**
- **Business**
- **Community Life**



© Ypsilanti DDA



Bottom photos © Kent Baumkel



Goal 2 Pursue greater funding for heritage preservation, marketing & tourism. Encourage development of heritage-based businesses.

- **City becomes a Preserve America Community.**
- **City website lists info, hyperlinks to tax credit and grant programs.**
- **City actively supports the pursuit of grant funding for heritage preservation, development, marketing and tourism.**
- **SPARK East, EMU, UM, WCC, MI-SBTDC & Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation help entrepreneurs develop a heritage-based business sector.**
- **Ypsilanti becomes “the” place for businesses expert in preservation.**



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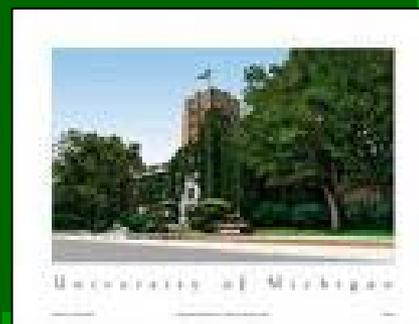
Goal 3 Partner with Eastern Michigan University, University of Michigan and Washtenaw Community College on heritage projects.

- **Develop comprehensive demonstration projects, seek funding.**
- **Deepen town/gown relationships.**
- **More fully document historic sites, resources, properties.**
- **Establish collaborative museum and heritage tourism programs.**
- **Promote heritage assets widely as community treasures.**
- **Develop, participate in the “Online Museum, Cultural History & Library Links Project.”**



WCC

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UM

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EMU

© www.emich.edu



© www.earlycollegealliance.org

Goal 4 Increase public knowledge, pride and respect for Ypsilanti history, heritage assets & benefits of heritage preservation.

- **Widely promote our Native American, African American & European American history, culture.**
- **Partner with K-12 schools - use heritage resources in applied learning.**
- **Establish City-sponsored corps of ambassadors, docent story-tellers.**
- **City Hall features rotating displays of Ypsilanti history and successful renovation projects.**
- **Develop biking, walking, trolley city tours.**
- **Neighborhood associations research their history, offer tours & programs.**
- **Place historical markers, signs throughout the city.**
- **Ypsilanti becomes a Michigan Heritage Route and National Scenic Byways Community.**



Two left photos © Kate de Fuccio • For use in this presentation only

Goal 5 Build alliances with diverse groups to encourage participation in Ypsilanti's heritage movement.

- **Develop supportive relationships with minority groups around heritage preservation.**
- **Foster, support local historic preservation efforts & strengthen collaborations.**
- **The Ypsilanti Historical Museum & Archives takes the lead:**
 - **Becomes the Ypsilanti Historical Museum, Archives & Cultural Center.**
 - **Displays multi-cultural time line of Ypsilanti history.**
 - **Recruits residents for multi-cultural programs & activities.**

- **Actively partners with other organizations on interpretive history projects, family learning & cultural events.**
- **Participates in the “Online Museum, Cultural History & Library Links Project.”**



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The economic power of heritage preservation & tourism:



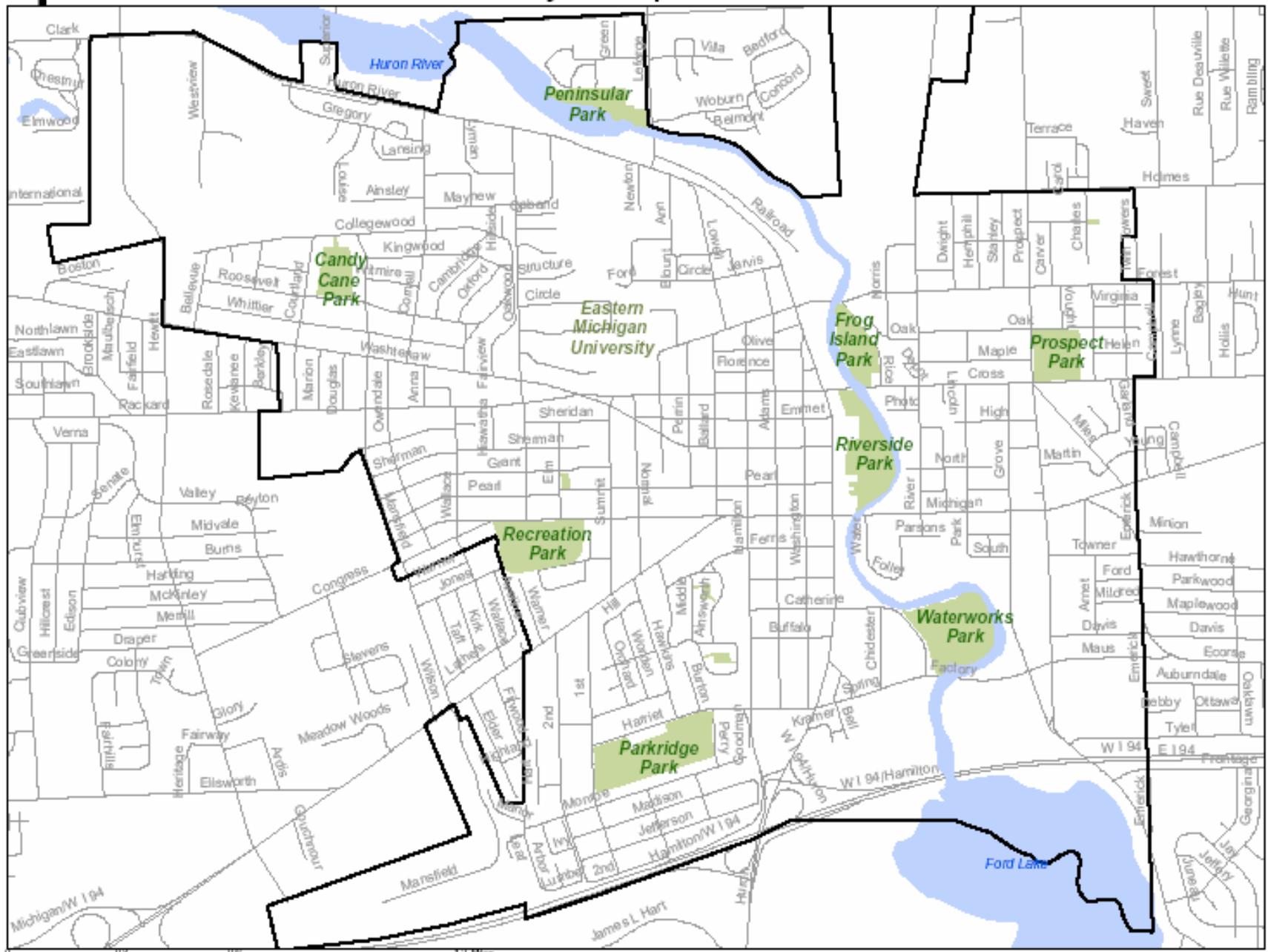
August 15.16.17'08 www.YpsilantiHeritageFestival.com

Poster © Patti Harrington

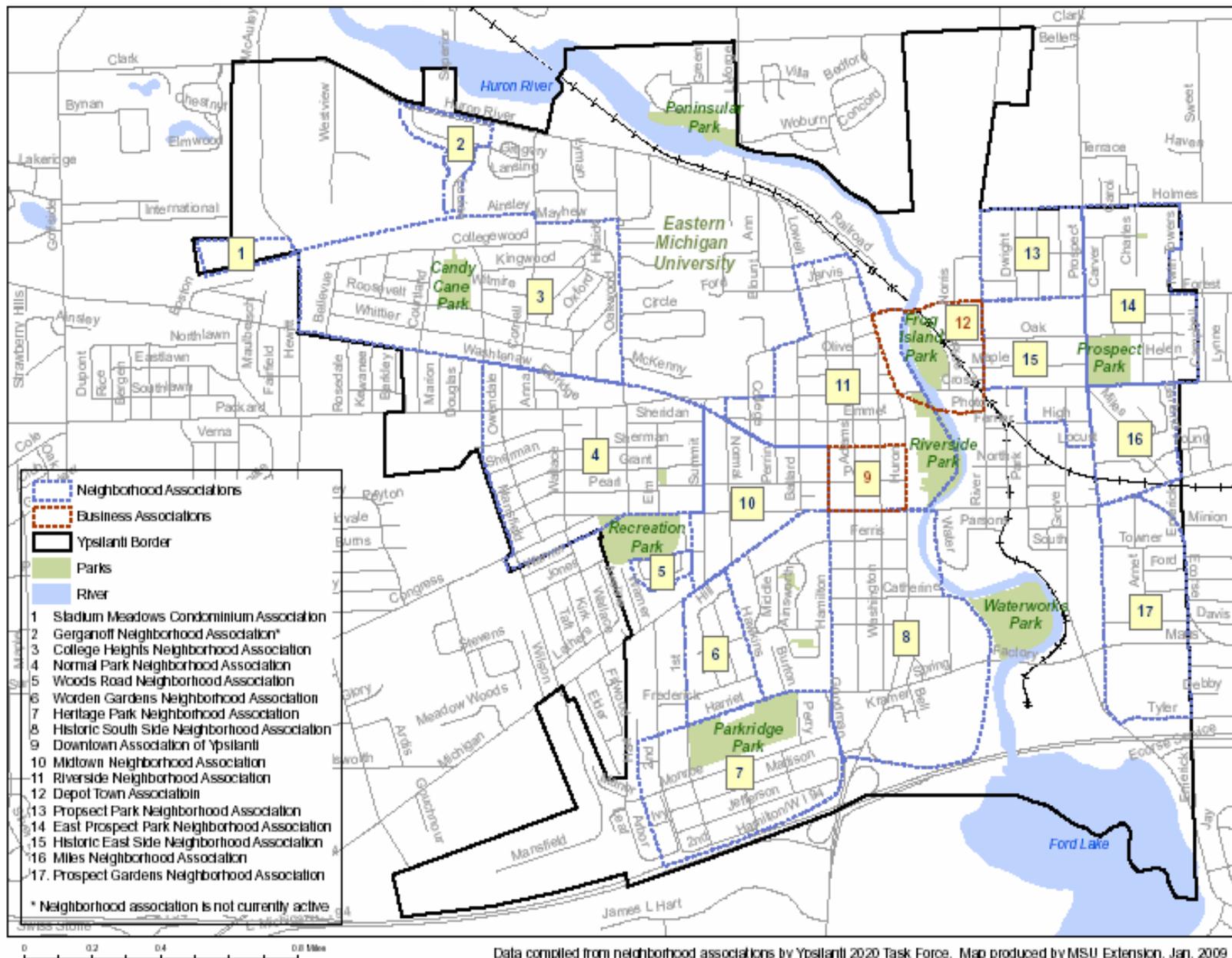
Presentation notebook contains detailed narrative,
best practices and funding information.

Places to Live

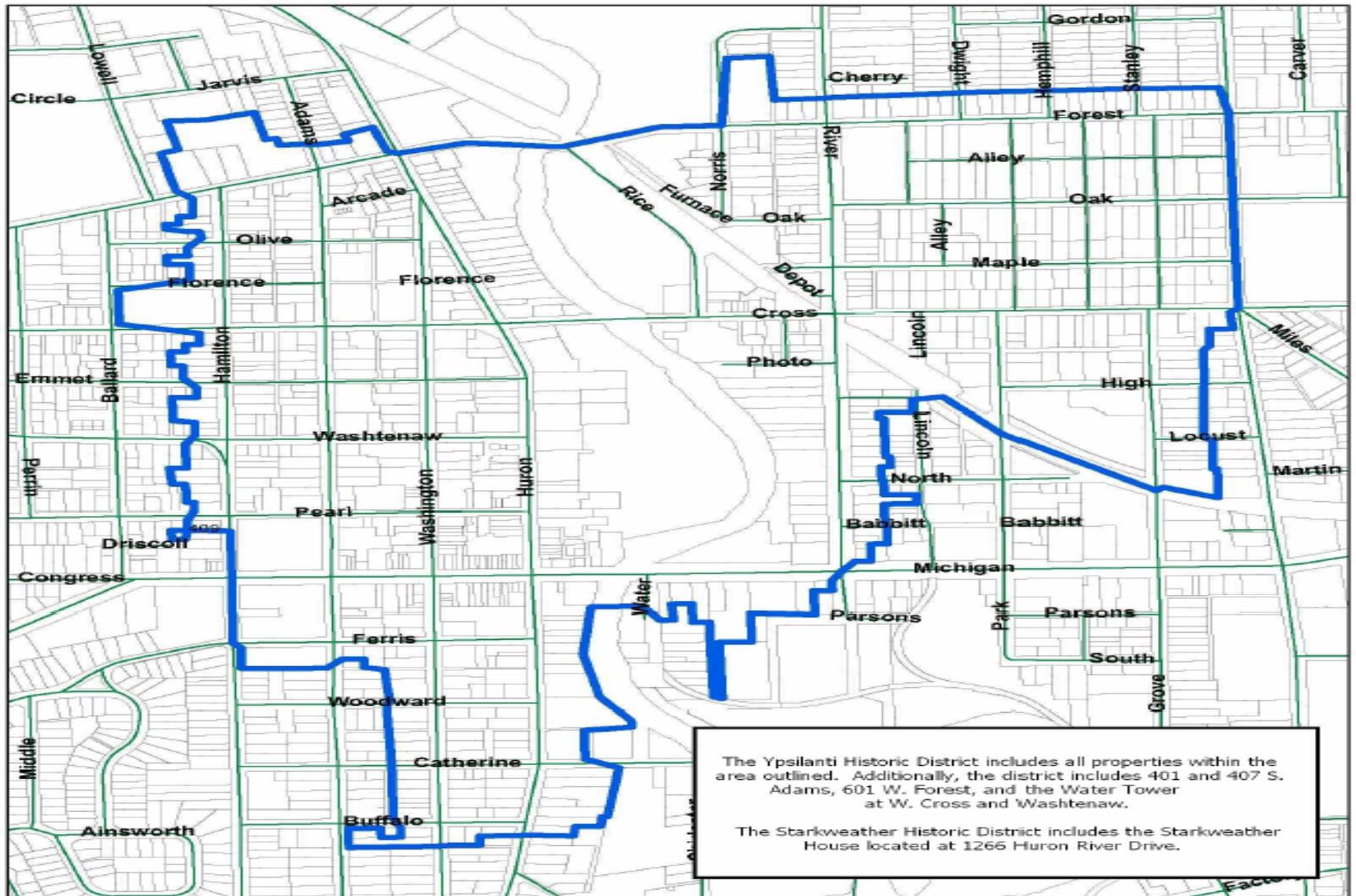
City of Ypsilanti



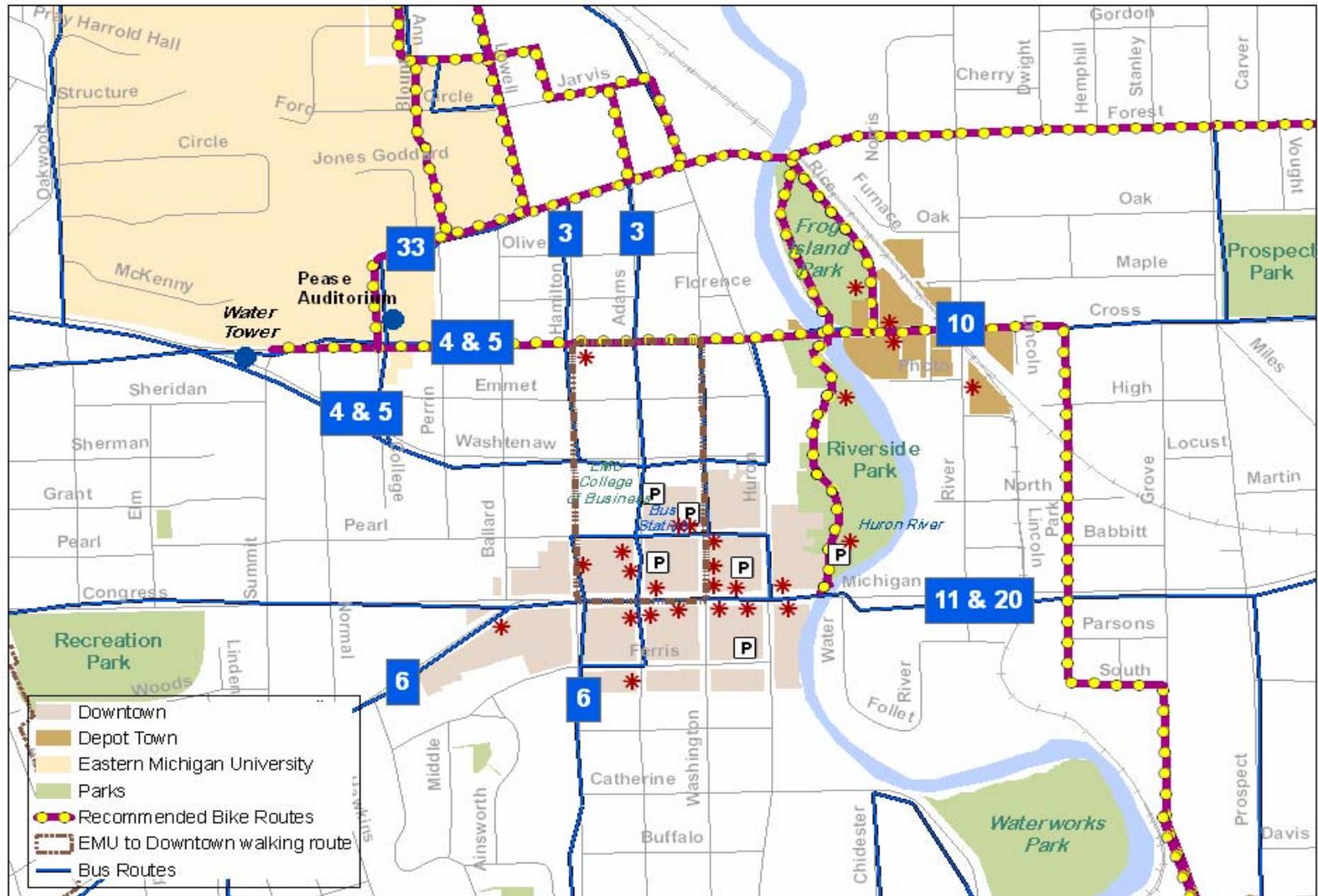
Ypsilanti Neighborhood & Business Associations



Ypsilanti Historic District



Alternative Transportation Options Downtown



0 0.1 0.2 0.4 Miles

Data provided by AATA, Washtenaw County, City of Ypsilanti and to Downtown committee. Map produced by MSU Extension. Nov. 2008.

Places to Live

List of Neighborhood Associations

- Stadium Meadows (#1 on the map)
- Gerganoff (#2 on the map)
- College Heights East (#3 on the map)
- Normal Park (#4 on the map)
- Woods Road (#5 on the map)
- Worden Gardens (#6 on the map)
- Heritage Park (#7 on the map)
- Historic South Side (#8 on the map)
- Downtown Association of Ypsilanti (#9 on the map)
- Midtown (#10 on the map)
- Riverside (#11 on the map)
- Depot Town (#12 on map)
- Prospect Park (#13 on the map)
- East Prospect Park (#14 on the map)
- Historic East Side (#15 on the map)
- Miles (#16 on the map)
- Prospect Gardens (#17 on the map)



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CONTACT LIST

Neighborhood Organizations	Contact	E-mail	Phone	Website
College Heights	Allen Morgan	allen_morgan@comast.net		
Depot Town	Gary McKeever	gmckeeve@aol.com		www.depottown.org
Downtown Assn of Ypsilanti	Denise Cutlip	ddcutlip@yahoo.com	734-717-7305	www.daypsi.org
Gerganoff	Peter Hubbard	peterhubbard@comcast.net	734-483-1675	
Heritage Park	Juanita House		734-485-5128	
Historic East Side	Brian Robb	brobb@yahoo.com	734-485-9122	www.hesna.org
Historic South Side	Chris Mason	parishinn@aol.com	734-480-4800	www.hssna.org
Midtown	Karen Maurer	reneemaurer@yahoo.com	734-487-7182	www.midtown.ypsi.com
Miles Area	Amanda Edmonds	amanda@growinghope.net		
Normal Park	Sean Stidd	sstidd@gmail.com	734-483-8301	www.normalpark.org
Prospect Gardens	Ruth Halsey	bandrhalsey@juno.com	734-483-2485	
Prospect Park	Kurt Anschuetz	kdasmoot@comcast.net		ppna.wordpress.com
Riverside	Linda French	ladyfrench@aol.com	734-358-6956	www.riversideypsi.org
Stadium Meadows				
Woods Road	Tisha Moore	mortisha@umich.edu	734-483-3749	www.home.comcast.net/~paulschreiber
East Prospect Park				
Worden Gardens	Janice Thompson	janicethompson@yahoo.com	734-482-5278	

Dated November 3, 2008



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Current State of Neighborhood Associations

- Associations are active in the community, reporting directly to their residents, to the Police Department and to the City of Ypsilanti.
- The Associations handle problems that arise in their neighborhood directly by working toward solutions with their board, or if the need arises, contacting the agency within the City that would be most helpful to the situation
- The majority of neighborhood groups meet regularly and more frequently when problems in the neighborhood arise. Currently the neighborhood associations work with the residents to insure quality of life for their neighborhood.



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Fostering Growth in Places to Live

Recommendations to the City of Ypsilanti to Foster Growth in Places to Live :

- Protect the character of the historic residential neighborhoods.
- Recreate and invigorate existing organizations such as COPAC to increase cross-neighborhood interaction.
- Provide incentives to property owners, both rental and single family, that allow properties to be maintained in excellent condition.
- Continue to support neighborhood organizations and activities that enhance neighborhood and community pride.
- Assist the community to become a place where residents continue to learn, work and play in safety and comfort.
- Establish partnerships between the city and neighborhood associations that will allow taxes to be stabilized and lowered.
- Invest in human capital that will enable Ypsilanti to continue to become a premier Michigan community and a model of a post-industrial place
- Improve walking connections and bike routes between city areas. Continue to develop streetscapes and sidewalks that are user-friendly, ADA compliant and practical.
- Encourage actions which allow property-owners to convert to renewable energy sources as part of a comprehensive, city-wide energy policy.



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Neighborhood Associations in 2020

The Places to Live are those areas in the City where people reside. Our community nurtures strong, diverse neighborhoods.

The proliferation of Neighborhood Associations and community organizations is evidence of the vibrancy and spirit of self-reliance in Ypsilanti. The existence of these groups bodes well for the future.

In order to stabilize and lower property taxes, the neighborhood associations will take an even more active role in developing creative partnership arrangements with the City. This will include assuming increased responsibility for grass cutting, parks maintenance, operating sustainable gardens, snow removal, and recycling.

These partnerships with the City will enable Ypsilanti to become a premier Michigan community.



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Greenspaces



Ypsilanti: A Sustainable City by 2020

- **Ypsilanti's assets:** a long history, a beautiful riverfront, classic architecture, and a distinct sense of place.
- **Ypsilanti's past:** a river ford, a pioneer stake, a farming community, a small college town, and a labor community.
- **In 2020, Ypsilanti has become:** a bounteous small city with an intact infrastructure, a sustainable local food system, a focus on renewable energy, and a unique character grounded in its past identities, making it a self-sufficient, resilient community where people want to live.

A Re-localized Food System

- Ypsilanti supports **all efforts** to engage in food production, formally and informally. 50% of food consumed is grown nearby.
- City of Ypsilanti partners with nearby farms and CSAs.
- Encourages urban agriculture. Helps connect owners of vacant land with gardeners.
- Rewards & support businesses, restaurants and markets that offer local produce, dairy products, and meat.
- Farmer's markets have multiplied and are key sites for food procurement.
- Due to creative tax incentives, more locally-owned grocery and food stores have opened (like a butcher shop / specialty food grocer).
- Community gardens and Growing Hope are tremendous assets. A majority of homes have kitchen gardens.
- Co-op gardens and micro farms are permitted and encouraged in the city.



More Renewable Energy in 2020

- Ypsilanti completed an energy assessment that resulted in a city-wide energy plan.
- Signed the Mayor's Pledge for Climate Protection and joined ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability.
- Created jobs thru adopting ICLEI's best practices.
- Encouraged community groups towards energy independence.
- Took steps / set an example: solar City Hall – goal of all city buildings became energy independent
- Offered city-sponsored DIY nights that helped people install solar / geothermal in their own homes.
- Produced more local energy: Installed wind turbines along I-94 entry corridor.

Short-term examples:

Government – Purchased only ENERGY STAR equipment for City use;
Community groups – Promoted energy conservation thru campaigns targeted at residents and businesses

Long-term examples:

Government - Installed building/office occupancy sensors to save energy
Community groups – Implemented a low-income weatherization program (like WARM Training Center in Detroit/ partnered with EnHouse in Ann Arbor).

A River Runs Through It

Ypsilanti created trail system connecting city parks.

Service cleanup projects for abandoned sites. Committed to retain undeveloped land.

Planted sunflowers to remediate brown fields.

In the wake of the Dutch Elm Disease and Emerald Ash Borer, prioritized native species in city landscaping.

In parks, focused on food producing species, like walnuts, paw-paws, beach plums, hazelnuts etc.

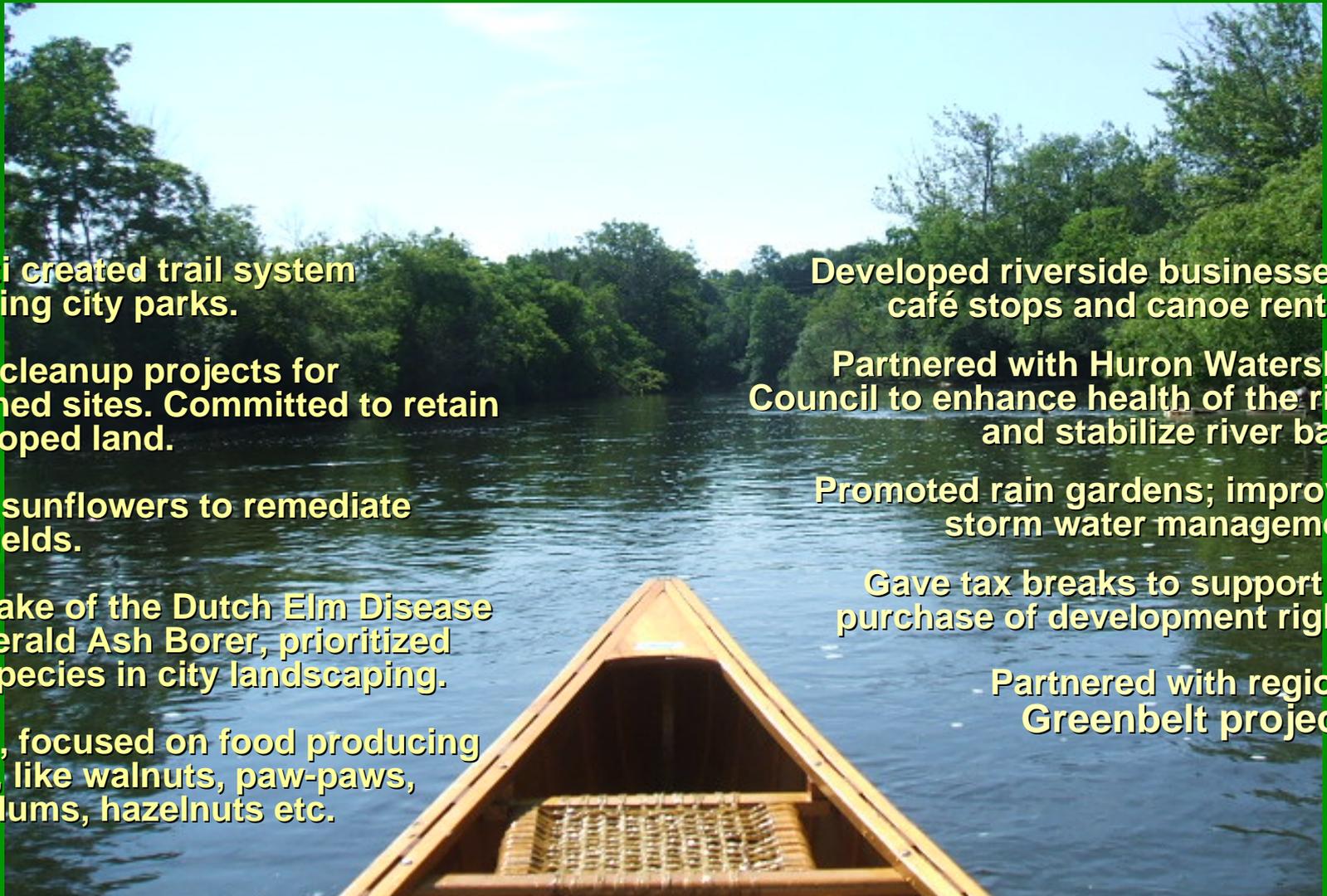
Developed riverside businesses -- café stops and canoe rentals.

Partnered with Huron Watershed Council to enhance health of the river and stabilize river bank.

Promoted rain gardens; improved storm water management.

Gave tax breaks to support the purchase of development rights.

Partnered with regional Greenbelt projects.

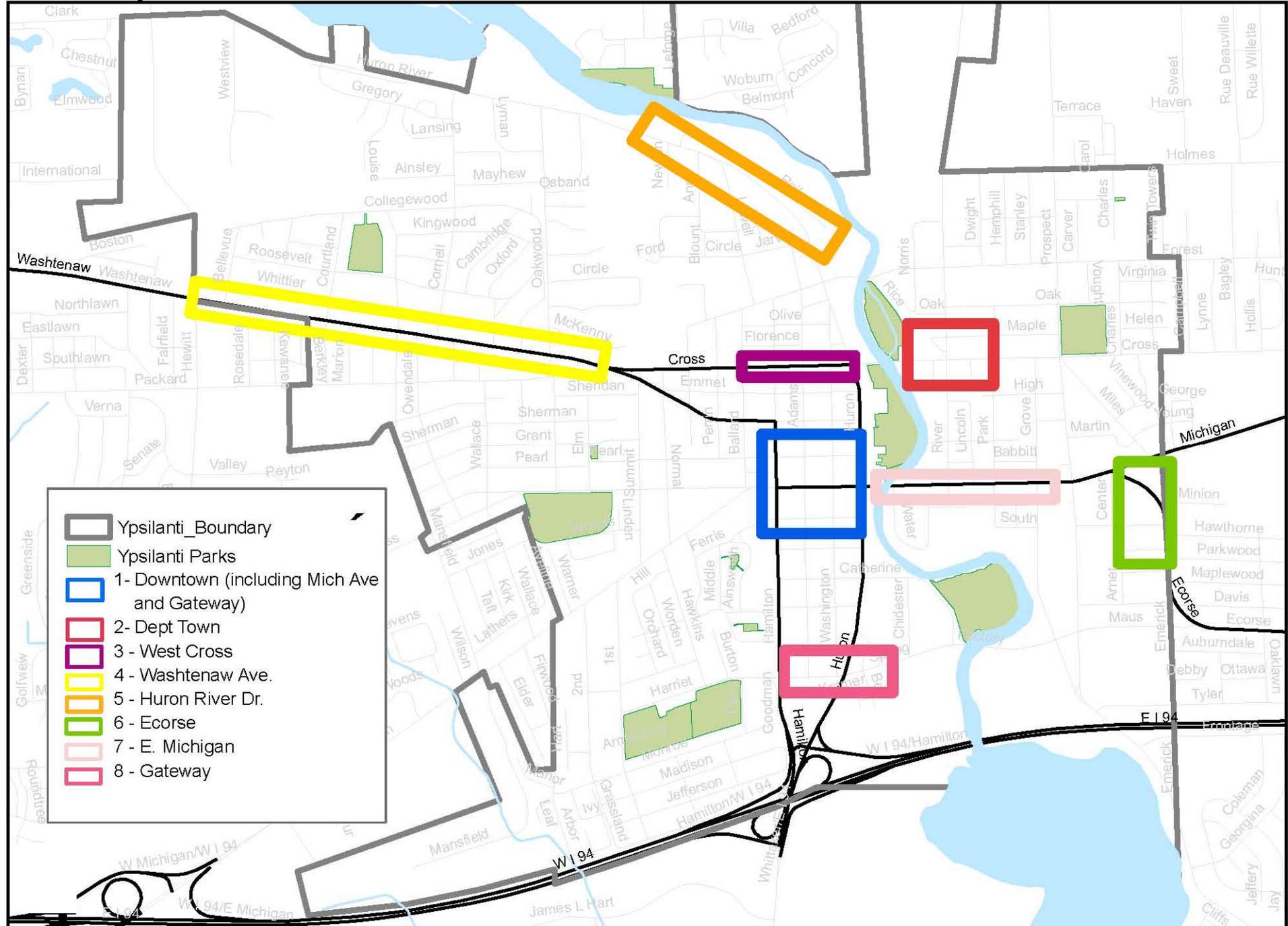


Five Green Goals for 2020

1. Relocalize the food system: urban agriculture and husbandry; gardening; partner with nearby farmers; farmers markets; specialty food businesses
2. Preserve and enhance green spaces within and surrounding the city: parks & farm lands; retain city ownership of undeveloped land
3. Prioritize renewable energy & sustainable transportation: city buildings; community organizations; businesses; residences; bikes, buses & trolleys
4. Improve the health of our Huron River: connect parks; wayfinding; create corridors; stabilize river bank
5. Favor plans that restore local resilience and self-sufficiency

Commercial Districts

Ypsilanti Business Districts - 2020 Task Force



The Districts

- "The Districts" are those areas of the city where commercial business activity occurs. There are 8 distinct business districts in Ypsilanti (see map). They are the Western Washtenaw Avenue District from Hewitt road to the Water Tower, West Cross street south of the EMU campus from the Water tower to Depot Town, the Huron River Drive District, north of the Eastern Michigan University campus, Depot Town including Forest Avenue, the Michigan Avenue Downtown District, East Michigan Avenue from the bridge to Ecorse Road, the Gateway District (Harriet and Spring Streets), and Ecorse Road south and east of Michigan Avenue.
- The 2020 Task Force encourages collaboration with Washtenaw County leaders in organizing a long term strategy which advocates attracting and retaining a skilled workforce, increasing the number of knowledge-based companies and jobs, and more closely aligning the efforts of the existing business, education, non-profit and government sectors in the county. To that end, Ypsilanti city officials have collaborated with Washtenaw County initiatives such as the Eastern Leaders Group and the efforts of the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners to enhance business development. These efforts and those of Spark East began in 2009 and have continued through the year 2020.

The Districts, Continued

- Accomplishments related to these relationships include the light rail project which was finished in the year 2011. There is a stop in Ypsilanti, connecting our city to other cities and airports. Light rail related activity has increased density and traffic in all areas of Ypsilanti. The existing Freighthouse has been expanded and updated to serve as a light rail passenger station and houses the Depot Town Farmers Market. Light rail traffic has stimulated activity in the cities residential, commercial and entertainment districts. Our transportation grid moves outward from Depot Town hub to the other districts. In the year 2020 there are pedestrian and bike paths connecting all the parks along the river. Natural gas powered buses (AATA) connect Ypsilanti to other cities, and an inexpensive intra-city "trolley" (YATA) provides continuous, hybrid motor transportation between Ypsilanti's various districts.
- The old Motor Wheel site has been redeveloped as an eco-friendly business park through consultation with AMEC Earth and Environmental, a brownfields redevelopment firm. Water Street retail and condo development has been completed. This development is an important unifying element by connecting the areas to the north and south of Michigan Avenue. Mixed residential housing is located on the western side of the Water Street site flanking a restored waterfront along the river and businesses line the Michigan Avenue side of the development. A stadium sits on the Water Street site as well. Harriet and Spring Streets house corporate offices which serve the new stadium and the new convention center and hotel located on the renovated and redeveloped ACH site. New and/or remodeled mixed income housing sits on the west side of Huron Street as one enters the city. The "Ypsi-trolley" free ride system connects the 8 districts of the city.

Getting There

- Mayor, Lobbyist and City Manager lobby Lansing for options for the ACH site;
- Planning Department looks for Brownfields redevelopment grants and developers, not just for the Water Street project, but for the Motor Wheel site as well;
- City officials or representatives join with Eastern Leaders and other inter-governmental groups and commit county-wide to regional mass transit;
- Re-establish police or security force patrols through grant funding, in cooperation with local development authorities, and with cooperation from EMU;
- Allow left hand turns in downtown business districts at specific times of day, and facilitate use of the EMU parking structure on specific days and at specific times;
- Insure the successful completion of the "Blueprints" and "Main Street" projects;
- Highlight the historic character of our community and realize our economic potential, as described in Donovan Rypkema's article "The Economic Power of Historic Restoration;"
- Institute the Ypsilanti "Park and Plug Program;"
- Initiate the "Ypsi Trolley" intra-urban free ride program to connect the 8 districts.

*Take the **Free** Ride*

Small yellow text on the green panel, possibly a phone number or website.



Recommendations

- 1. City Council sponsors initiative intended to foster economic development in each councilperson's district by establishing an Ypsilanti Business Association which insures cohesive design standards, way-finding and cooperation in grant funding, event planning and attracting viable businesses to our community.**
- 2. Convene a task force of community and business leaders to complete an inventory of existing business related programs and funding sources intended to create business opportunities in all eight districts of the city. Recommend elimination or improvements for those efforts that are not working and/or encourage other options that will work better.**
- 3. Initiate the "Ypsi Trolley" Pilot Program.**
- 4. Enforce existing ordinances to minimize blight.**
- 5. Invest in the purchase and implementation of the eCivis Grant Locator which would help in efforts to secure grants city-wide, both public and private.**

Economic Development through the Arts

Vision Statement

Unified Civic Arts – City, University,
Schools and History

DEFINITION

“Art” is defined as a creative expression inclusive of visual arts (drawing, painting, sculpture), literary arts (writers, poets, etc), performing arts (dance, music, opera, theatre, film), design (architecture, etc.), festivals and art fairs.

Develop a Strong, Vibrant and Unified Arts/Cultural Community

- Bring together the university, city, museums, schools and artists
- “Ring of Fire” ...establish ongoing communication connections among artists, institutions and the community.

Develop a Strong, Vibrant and Unified Arts/Cultural Community

- Ypsilanti Arts & Culture Council
- Cultural Awakening, Awareness & Sensitivity
- Strong University Presence in Cultural Development
- Cultural Assets Inventory
- Web Site/Portal
- Centralized Registry for Artists

Develop a Strong, Vibrant and Unified Arts/Cultural Community

- Attractive Kiosks
- Art Salons & Other Creative Connections
- Annual Gallery Crawl
- Architecture and Museum Tours
- Artist in Residence, Master Classes & Apprenticeships
- Art “in” Community

Establish Art as an Economic Tool

- Art as an economic tool is central to Ypsilanti's renaissance
- The growing of this asset has a positive ripple effect on the community's growth, quality of life, tourism, revenue and tax generated, business incubation and start-ups , and more.
- Art/culture a rich community return on investment (ROI).

Establish Art as an Economic Tool

- S/E Michigan Children's Film Festival
- Designated Cultural Zones
- Art "Factory"
- Performing Arts Facilities
- Art and the Environment
- Artist Mentoring and Business Support Services

Develop A Thriving Film Industry in Ypsilanti

- Utilizes the assets and resources of this community
- Capitalizes on the state legislative incentives, professional relationships, and timing
- Establishes an aggressive PA campaign that puts Ypsilanti on the radar of every major television and film studio
- Grows jobs in the community through this industry

Develop A Thriving Film Industry in Ypsilanti

- Establish EMU Motion Picture Institute or School of Film-making
- EMU Partners With Film Industry
- Marketing Ypsilanti for Film-making
- State and Local Incentives
- Offer film related in-services and other training
- Promote jobs in the film industry

Proposed Action Steps

- Ypsilanti Arts & Culture Council
- Cultural Awakening, Awareness & Sensitivity
- Strong University Presence in Cultural Development
- Cultural Assets Inventory
- Web Site/Portal
- Centralized Registry for Artists

Food, Festivals, and Fun

2020 Nights

Ypsilanti's economic development corporations will attract innovation and opportunity for more restaurants, recreation and entertainment. These entities will need to collaborate and receive some subsidies from the city. They will need to aggressively pursue stronger partnerships in the Ypsilanti Area.

Recommendations:

- Developed partnerships with the various ethnic groups in the city to host festivals and events to showcase the history and diversity of cultures.
- During the summer months, the Riverside, Frog Island, and Crossroads Festivals will host local and national musicians.
- Developed venues (e.g. Parkridge Community Center and Recreation Park) for teens that offer talent shows, an arcade, roller rink, go-carts, skate boarding, martial arts, yoga, boxing classes, and self-defense.
- Downtown and Depot Town have nightlife for everyone. There are teen clubs in both areas that offer teen bands, music and dancing. After work events are happening in both areas, including a piano bar and live music.
- Ozone House Drop In Center has a bigger building that offers opportunities for teens to be more creative in music, art, radio, television and film.
- EMU students can easily access various parts of the city's nightlife via trolley or bus.
- Events are offered in a new park near the Convention Center on the former ACH site. A hotel, apparel shops, coffee shop, jewelry store and various retail shops within the center are thriving.
- There are various types of family restaurants, where families can go for different types of ethnic food.

Transportation

The ongoing need to develop, maintain, and improve both motorized and non-motorized transportation in Ypsilanti.

The importance of maintaining and improving current transportation infrastructure:

- Good Roads
- Policies Which Support Viable, Affordable Parking

The significance of developing and maintaining efficient public transportations options:

- Automobiles
- Segways
- Motorcycles
- Motor Scooters
- Bus
- Light Rail
- Biking
- Walking
- Taxi Cabs
- Trolley

- Public initiatives should include development of practical walking and biking routes throughout the city which would result in:

- Cost Savings
- Reduced Congestion
- Improved Air Quality
- Economic Vitality
- Improved Health



Establishment of defined demand-response/ lifeline transportations services:_____

Accessibility to:

- Doctors
- Pharmacies
- Grocers/ Food Vendors
- Educational Facilities
- Recreation
- Employment

The need to continue working with local and regional partners to develop a cohesive transportation plan:

- Eastern Michigan University
- Ann Arbor Transit Authority (AATA)
- Washtenaw Area Transportation Study (WATS)
- Washtenaw Department of Public Health
- Downtown Association of Ypsilanti
- Depot Town Association
- Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority
- Depot Town Development Authority
- Depot Town Community Development Corporation
- Bike Ypsilanti
- All other Organizations and Interested Groups.

Light Rail Passenger Service

- Light rail passenger service is an exciting topic
- A stop in Ypsilanti
- The Freighthouse could serve as an important transportation hub
- A Detroit to Ann Arbor or Lansing Route
 - Extends access for Ypsilanti residents, visitors and commuters to:
 - ▶ Metropolitan Airport
 - ▶ Work Destination
 - ▶ Educational Opportunities
 - ▶ Local Shopping and Night Life
 - ▶ Regional Recreation

The Future

- A Place for Non-Fossil Fuel Vehicles to Recharge
 - Park and Plug Program – Hybrid and Electric Vehicles recharge for a city-collected fee in selected locations throughout the city.
 - Policies which encourage use of new wave sustainable vehicles.
 - City purchases fuel-efficient and cost-effective alternative energy vehicles whenever prudent

The Future (cont.)

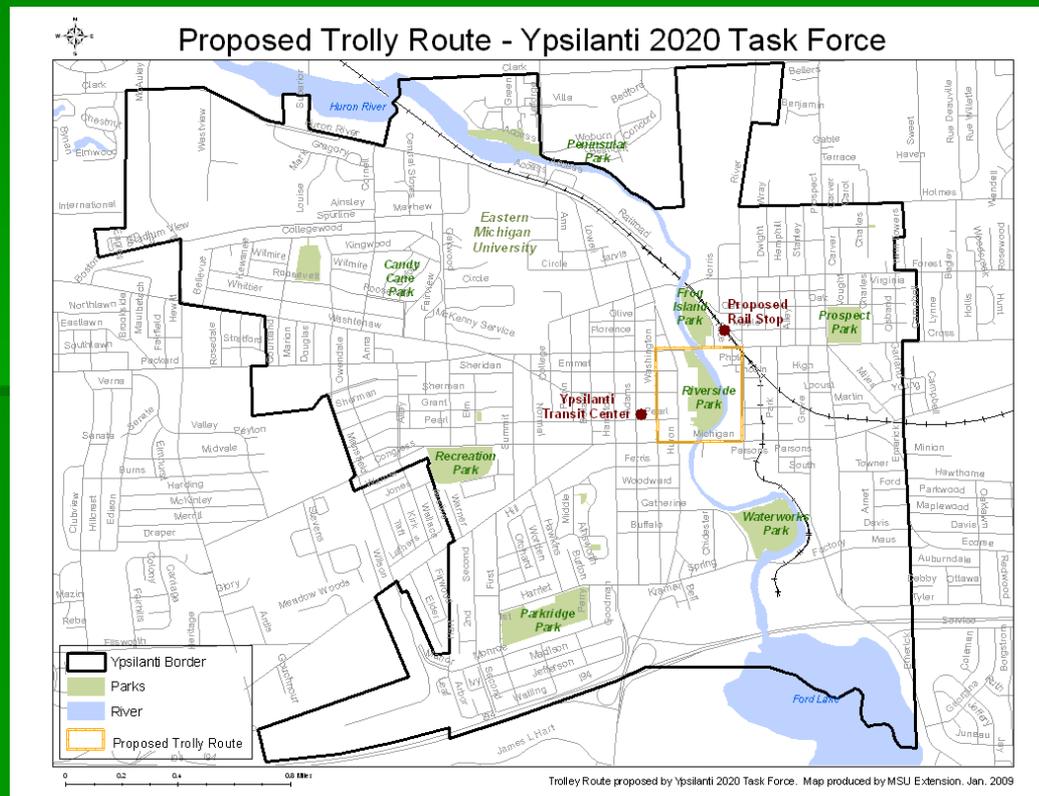
- Expansion and improvement of the Ypsilanti DDA-Washtenaw Department of Public Health Walking and Biking route from Eastern Michigan University to Downtown
- Completion of the Washtenaw County Border to Border Trail
- Reallocation of Available YDDA Funds to Maintain Existing Downtown Parking Lots.
(Fewer studies – more repairs and maintenance)

The Future (cont.)

- Active participatory role in the Washtenaw Area Transportation Study (WATS)
- Maintenance and Repairs for Roads and Bridges
- Policies that encourage local land use decisions supporting existing and future transit service
- Concentrate development near transportation

The Future (cont.)

- A Trolley Connecting Downtown, Water Street and Depot Town



The Future (cont.)

- Provide non-motorized facilities that link to transit
- Re-establish left-hand turns off Michigan Avenue in the Downtown District
- Partner with Eastern Michigan University for shared use of the College of Business Downtown Parking Structure
- Develop a reliable, affordable transportation system which directly links all the city's districts

2020 Task Force Transportation Recommendations

- 1. City Council Resolution to Develop and Implement a Comprehensive Ypsilanti Transportation Plan**
- 2. Pursue Funding Sources Which Address Non-Motorized Improvements Such As:**
 - **Surface Transportation Program Urban and Rural Funds**
 - **Congestion Mitigation / Air Quality (CMAQ)**
 - **Safe Routes to Schools**
 - **Private Funding**

2020 Task Force Transportation Recommendations

3. Support a County-Wide Transportation Millage
4. Develop Policies Which Support a Reliable, Affordable Inter- and Intra-City Transportation System
5. Complete Border-to-Border Trail

Lifecycles

Lifecycles: Overview

Ypsilanti is a city with diverse people, places and spaces for community growth and development. Our community needs are unique because we acknowledge our diversity and hope to serve all these groups. We have identified several categories for consideration. They are:

- Ethnic groups and multiculturalism
- Birth and early childhood
- Teenagers
- Young adults
- Families with children
- Working adults and young professionals
- The GLBTQ population
- Older singles
- Senior living
- End of life care

We hope that Ypsilanti can support intergenerational and multicultural mentorship programs to help facilitate our goals.

Overview, Continued

One theme of our approach has been to support aging in place, meaning you can be born and not have to leave the community to grow old and live your life fully and be supported by community collaborative activities. A major thrust of Ypsilanti's Life Cycles Initiative is to insure continuous education and programs integrated into our community life and located in designated community centers in various neighborhoods. These efforts will include Eastern Michigan University, Washtenaw Community College, the University of Michigan and the Riverside Arts Center.

Our Suggestions...

- A city government- and community organization- sponsored printed & online newspaper that advertises and promotes community events, activities and news for each lifecycles category.
- Utilization of neighborhood locations for educational sites and meetings for local community groups.
- Community locations for all regional healthcare providers (like the SJMH Haab Building) and interaction between the city of Ypsilanti, the Ypsilanti Health Coalition, Corner Health Center, and other area health care providers (e.g. U of M & St. Joseph Mercy).
- Wireless internet is a community supported service to allow for growth and provide access for all citizens without barriers.
- Greater integration with educational institutions to provide lifelong learning experiences for citizens in and outside the formal education system. This will include, but is not limited to: early childhood education, prison re-entry programs, older adult learning experiences and in- home or adult care facility initiatives.

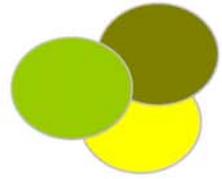
Further Suggestions...

- Create a handicapped accessible environment while maintaining the goal of a walkable community within city limits.
- Maintain sustainable environmental practices by incorporating recreational activities at no cost by utilizing our natural resources.
 - a. Riverwalk
 - b. Bike paths
 - c. Soccer and baseball fields and outdoor tracks
 - d. Boat dock and refreshment stand in Riverside Park
- Create neighborhood support systems to keep local parks clean and safe. Encourage strong neighborhood associations and encourage membership in and support of COPAC. In order to make this happen city council members need to be actively involved in the neighborhood associations located in their wards.
- Create and support a multicultural center in the downtown library that offers diverse educational, entertainment and experiential educational opportunities for Ypsilanti residents.

2020 Taskforce Life Span Committee

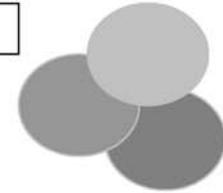
Young adult singles

- Initiate a Children's Film Festival
- Provide social networking opportunities
- Cooperative education program for young adults

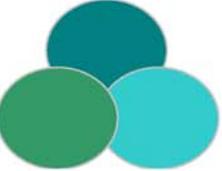


GLBTQ

- Intergenerational activities for the GLBTQ population
- Assisted living and supportive senior care/housing for GLBTQ individuals



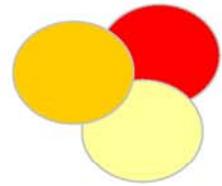
End of life care, death



- Supportive counseling for family members and loved ones
- Assisted living and continuous care

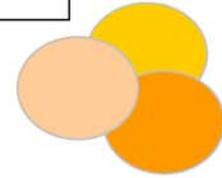
Ethnic Groups and Multiculturalism

- Integration of our five business districts through public transportation initiatives
- Support local ethnic and cultural businesses and organizations
- Initiate cultural recognition festivals



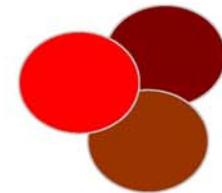
Children Ages 6-12

- Initiate a Children's Film Festival
- Educational opportunities outside of school (ex: Computer technology)



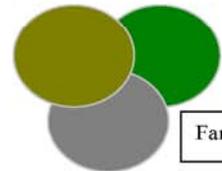
Older Singles

- Entertainment options for older singles
- Recreational activities geared towards older single interests
- Focus group to determine what the interests and needs are for the older single population in Ypsilanti

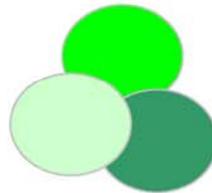


Families with children

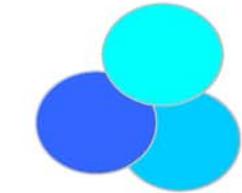
- Accessible and cheap child care
- Access to health care services
- Family and Intramural recreational activities
- Job and Resource exploration support



- Available urban/downtown housing
- Entertainment venues in downtown area



Senior Living



- Job re-training and career exploration assistance
- Senior living for singles
- Continuous and assistive care for singles

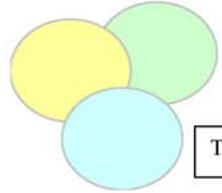
Birth and early childhood

- Educational support on childrearing for new mothers
- Support comprehensive sex education initiatives



Teenagers

- Expanded job opportunities for teenagers by creating a business incubator for youth entrepreneurship to promote job growth for the 14-19 year old population
- A Neutral Zone East for Ypsilanti

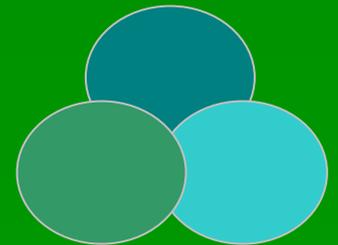


Working Adults, Young Professionals

- Job re-training and career exploration assistance
- Senior living for singles
- Continuous and assistive care for singles

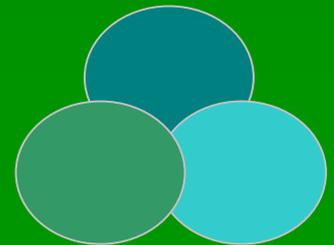
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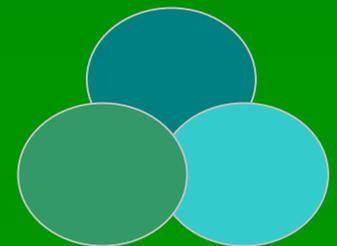
Families with children

- Access to affordable child care and health care services
- Family and intramural recreational activities
- Job and career exploration support



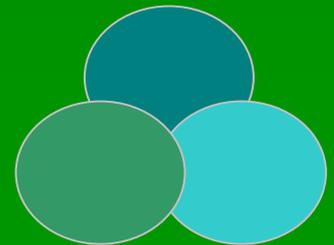
Children Ages 6-12

- Initiate a children's film festival
- Educational opportunities outside of school (e.g. computer technology)



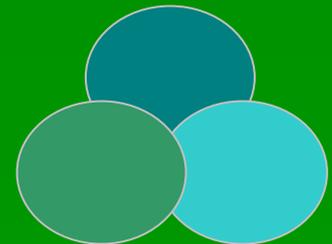
Teenagers

- Expanded job opportunities for teenagers by creating a business incubator for youth entrepreneurship to promote job growth for the 14-19 year old population
- A teen center in Ypsilanti based on the Neutral Zone model



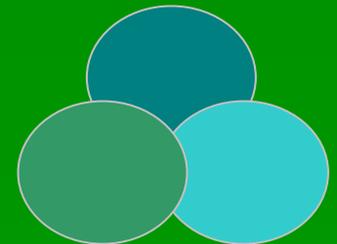
Ethnic Groups and Multiculturalism

- Integration of our eight business districts through public transportation initiatives
- Support local ethnic and cultural businesses and organizations
- Initiate cultural recognition festivals



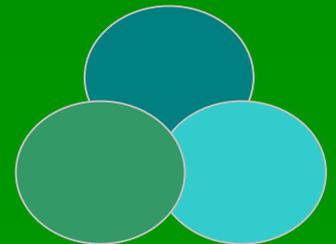
Young adult singles

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- Cooperative education program for young adults



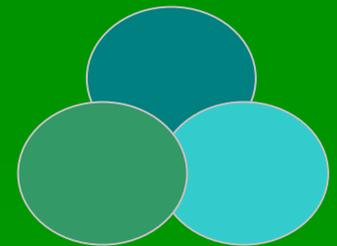
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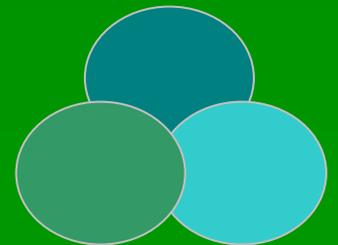
Working Adults, Young Professionals

- Available urban/downtown housing
- Entertainment venues in downtown area



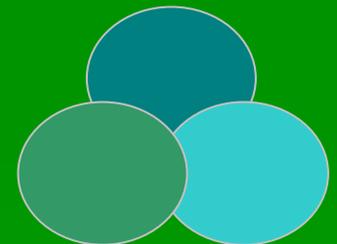
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Senior Living

- Job re-training and career exploration assistance
- Senior living for singles
- Continuous and assistive care for singles



End of life care, death

- Supportive counseling for family members and loved ones
- Assisted living and continuous care, including hospice care



Recommendations

1. Hold a History of Ypsilanti storytelling festival presented by older adults.
2. Convene a focus group of Ypsilanti based organizations and local health care providers to assess and meet Ypsilanti's specific health care goals.
3. Launch a multicultural center in the downtown library.
4. Convene a focus group to determine the needs of older singles.
5. Create a film festival/seminar in collaboration with EMU and U of M for children, teens, and young adults to exhibit films and teach film-making skills.
6. Launch a pilot program called "Spark for Kids" at the Spark East location.
7. City council must follow through on transportation goals.
8. Follow through on ideas for printed and online newspaper and information-bearing kiosks.

Conclusion

- Questions
- Discussion
- Action Steps

