

Mantua Downtown Revitalization Project

Downtown Mantua has many assets including its status as the traditional center for local commerce and government, its stock of historic buildings, its location along the Cuyahoga River and Headwaters Trail, and its convenient access to Akron and Cleveland via the nearby Ohio Turnpike and Route 422.

These assets and others make Mantua an attractive community in which to live and work. However, the deteriorating condition and worn-out appearance of Mantua's downtown district communicate a negative image of the village and adversely affect the community's economic development potential and quality of life.

The Mantua Downtown Revitalization Project addresses the need for comprehensive capital improvements that will establish a stronger and more-positive downtown district image, attract new business investment, support property values, re-create an environment conducive to economic development, and enhance quality of life for the entire community.



Existing Conditions

Years of intense use and spot repairs have left the majority of sidewalk, step, ramp, and curb pavements in aged, worn, and deteriorating condition. A comprehensive program of new sidewalk, step, ramp, and curb pavements is needed throughout the project area to provide uniformly safe and stable surfaces, control storm drainage, comply with regulatory standards, and establish attractive pedestrian-oriented street corridors. Consider using decorative historic-style brick paving in key areas to enhance the overall historic character and appearance. Street pavements should be milled and resurfaced to help re-establish proper curb height.

The majority of streets are cluttered with pole-mounted overhead utilities including electric, telephone, cable, street light, and traffic signal service. Overhead utilities should be relocated or installed underground in conduits as part of a comprehensive street corridor improvement project to improve service and emergency access to buildings and to enhance the appearance of the area.

Although the sanitary sewer and the storm sewer systems are in good working order, with the exception of some older catch basins that need replacement, the water system is aged, undersized, and needs replacement as part of a comprehensive street improvement project.

Existing streetlights are highway-type “cobra-head” units mounted on utility poles and served by overhead wires. The system is aged, inadequate, and detracts from the historic architectural character of the area. A new system of street lights having modern optics and underground service should be installed to improve the quality of lighting and eliminate the visual clutter of overhead wires. The new system should include electric service outlets to facilitate downtown festival and holiday displays. The use of decorative historic-style street lights is recommended to enhance the overall historic character and appearance.

Landscaping and green space in the downtown project area is sparse. A coordinated program of new street trees and planting areas, as well as new street furnishings (i.e., benches and waste receptacles), is needed throughout the project area to establish attractive pedestrian-oriented street corridors, to screen parking areas, and to improve the appearance of the downtown district.





Main Street - entering commercial district from South

- bury utility lines
- use landscaping to separate road from parking and control ingress/egress
- plant trees to shield buildings
- coordinate business signage



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Main Street at Cuyahoga River crossing

- bury utility lines
- install decorative lighting and arch to welcome visitors to historical district
- identify river with decorative sign
- continue line of trees along road
- maintain coordinating signage
- add access to river?



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Main Street from SW corner of Prospect Street

- bury utility lines
- repair sidewalks; use brick pavers
- add curb extensions at intersections and delineate cross-walks
- install decorative lighting, landscaping with slow-growth trees
- add awnings to buildings



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E. Prospect Street from Main Street

- bury utility lines
- keep head-in parking along Pelletiere Block
- install curb & landscaping opposite side of street (allow access to Main Street businesses' back parking lots along First Street)
- add outdoor seating to Livery & Mill when reoccupied?
- decorative lighting and brick walkway to river/trailhead at foot of hill
- extend hike/bike trail from river bridge into town



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Main Street - entering commercial district from North

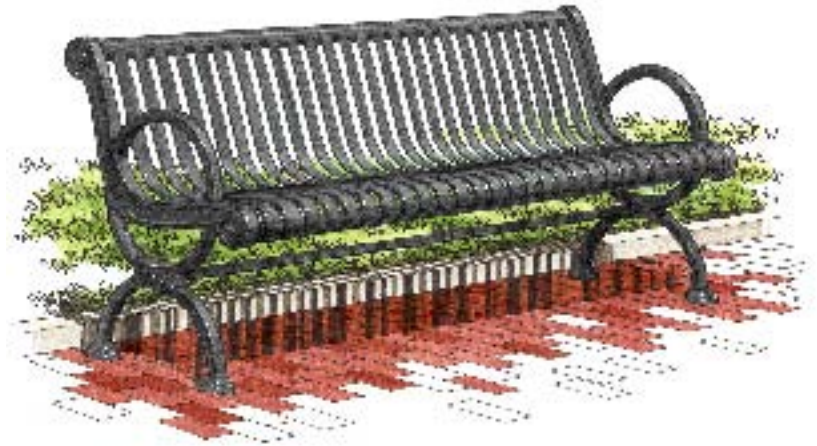
- bury utility lines
- install curbs, trees, decorative lighting
- repair sidewalks and keep pedestrian-friendly



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Street Furnishings

- use durable materials; metal, concrete
- include wayfinding signage
- ensure pedestrian and bicycle friendly
- add clock tower to pocket park?



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