



# Healthy Community Partnership

Mahoning Valley

## YEAR IN REVIEW 2019



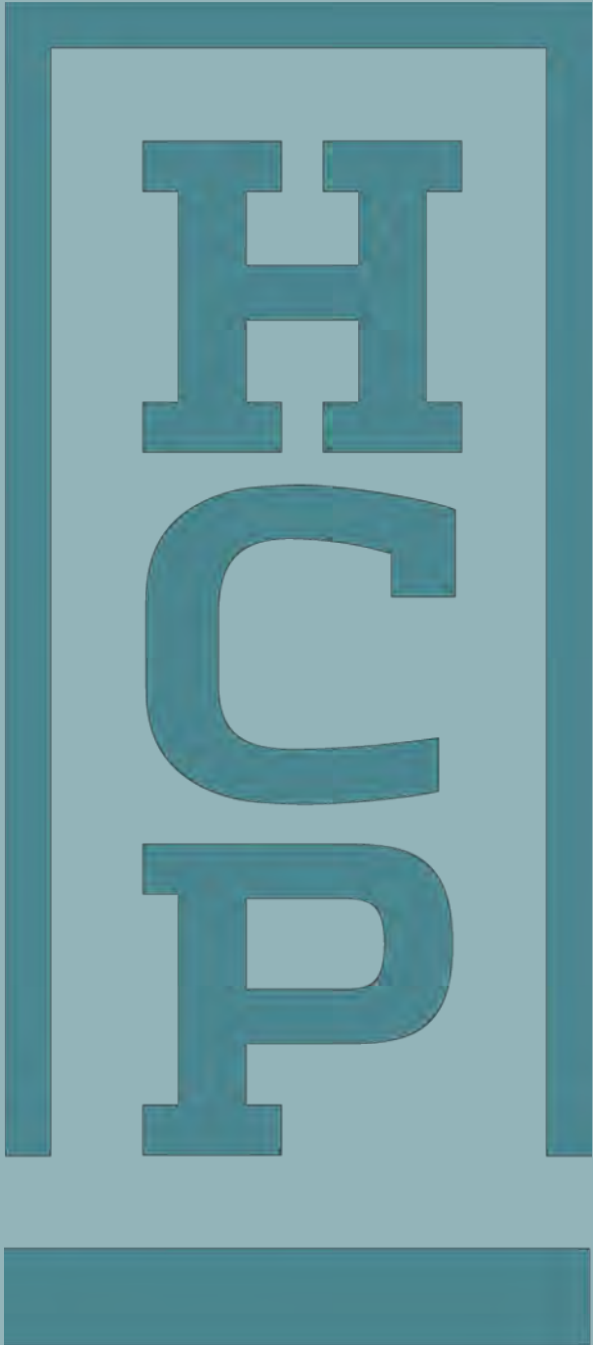
THE WILLIAM SWANSTON CHARITABLE FUND

**WRHF**  
western reserve health foundation

THE **TMH**  
FOUNDATION



**COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**  
— OF THE MAHONING VALLEY —



# What has changed?

*HCP—a different approach to creating and sustaining a healthier Mahoning Valley*

While the Healthy Community Partnership is not solely responsible for all of the accomplishments and activities listed in this year-end report, HCP partners have played important roles and supported each other in many ways. Increasingly, our partners are being included and represented across the Valley and coordinating with one another on projects that in the past had often been completed in isolation or confined within silos.

An outside evaluation of the Healthy Community Partnership by Civic Collaboration Consultants LLC completed in the summer of 2019, confirmed that the partners involved find value in the cross-sector collaborative. From networking and advocacy opportunities to project funding and learning summits, partners are building HCP into a resource for the region and a vehicle for our community to work together differently.

Together, HCP partners have effected changes across our community and in all areas of the Partnership. The following pages detail improvements in our neighborhoods, in HCP support, in awareness and understanding, and in Valley-wide coordination over the past year.





▼ **HCP Steering Committee 2019-2020**

▲ **HCP Steering Committee 2018**

**Jenna Amerine**, Trumbull County Combined Health District

**Erin Bishop**, Youngstown City Health Department

**Sophia Buggs**, Lady Buggs Farm

**Rev. Gayle Cantinella**, St. John's Episcopal Church

**Cassandra Clevenger**, Trumbull Neighborhood Partnership

**Marguerite Douglas**, Lincoln Knolls Community Watch

**Ellen Ford**, Mercy Health

**Pastor Todd Johnson**, Second Baptist Church of Warren

**Casey Krell**, Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley

**Danielle Lewis**, Youngstown State University

**Keland Logan**, The Colony Youngstown

**Bill McMahon**, Akron Children's Mahoning Valley

**Frank Migliozi**, Trumbull County Combined Health District

**Melissa Miller**, Lake to River Food Co-op

**Justin Mondok**, Eastgate Regional Council of Governments

**Dr. Nicolette Powe**, Youngstown State University

**Lisa Ramsey**, Trumbull Neighborhood Partnership

**Bobby Reynolds**, Northeast Homeowners and Concerned Citizens

**DeShawn Scott**, D5 Group

**Cheryl Strother**, Warren City Health Department

**Patricia Sweeney**, Mahoning County Public Health

**Deryck Toles**, Inspiring Minds

**Dawn Turnage**, City of Youngstown

**John Woods**, Insurance Navigators

# In who is engaged

*individuals • organizations • sectors*

The Healthy Community Partnership is driving collaboration across sectors, involving residents and community leaders in co-creating solutions to the issues impacting local health outcomes.

The Partnership is guided by a steering committee with actions teams that work in three specific areas—healthy food retail, parks and green spaces and active transportation.

*Between the steering committee and three action teams, more than **100** individuals and **70** organizations are now involved with the Healthy Community Partnership.*

## Sectors Engaged in HCP:

Resident Leader

Public Health

Healthcare

Media & Communications

Government

Business

Philanthropy

Religious

Youth Services

Education

Community Planning

# In our neighborhoods

*stores • parks • farmers markets • schools • health providers*

A primary objective of the Healthy Community Partnership is to encourage environmental, systems and policy level change to improve our neighborhoods. Over the past year, action team members have supported each other in multiple ways on several projects meant to further

this shared objective. These activities provide examples of feasible changes that can significantly impact neighborhoods, as well as demonstrate for local government the desire of community residents' for such improvements.



HCP partners hosted **3** community engagement events around **bike safety** for all ages:

- Warren/Trumbull County Bike Fest
- TNP Bike Training and community rides
- Bike and Brunch Sunday rides





## ◀ PARKS & GREEN SPACES

Project investments made in **three city neighborhoods**:

- Lincoln Knolls Community Park
- Boulevard Park Blueberry Patch
- Quinby Park

More than **30 residents** trained by ODNR Division of Urban Forestry.

Wick Park Tree Survey assessed over **650 trees** for safety and improvements.



## ◀ HEALTHY FOOD RETAIL

**Nine corner stores** in Warren added healthy food options to their inventory and **two new grocery stores** will begin offering Produce Perks nutrition incentives, expanding the current program supported by Mercy Health, YNDC, and TNP.

ACTION and Flying High Grow Urban Farm organized Pop-Up Farmers Markets in **seven locations** throughout the City of Youngstown.



## ◀ ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

Over **300 students** from three elementary schools in three school districts (Boardman, Youngstown, and Warren) participated in Mahoning Valley Walk and Bike to School Days.

**Six new WRTA routes** added in Warren.



# In awareness & understanding

media attention • events • community forums



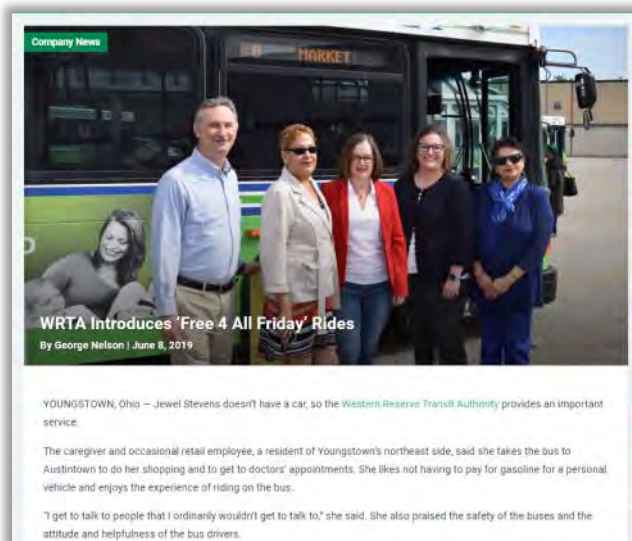
The screenshot shows a news article from 'The Business Journal' on the website of Eastern Gateway Community College. The article is titled 'New Playground for a Healthier Lincoln Knolls' and is dated July 19, 2019. The main image shows a group of people, including children and adults, gathered around a new playground. The article text discusses the project in Youngstown, Ohio, and mentions a survey conducted by Marguerite Douglas, a member of the Lincoln Knolls Block Watch. It also notes that the playground is situated on a parcel between Lincoln Square Apartments and Danridge's Burgundi Manor on Maranatha Drive. A ground-breaking ceremony was held on Thursday afternoon.

As the Partnership builds momentum, increased media and community exposure of the issues our community faces, along with partner spotlights and projects, introduces HCP to the public and demonstrates how working collaboratively can benefit the Mahoning Valley.

## Investing in Neighborhood Parks: Lincoln Knolls Community Park, Quinby Park, Warren Parks Study

These stories share why well-maintained, welcoming parks/greenspaces are critical neighborhood assets and why local government support is necessary for long-term benefit.

> <https://businessjournaldaily.com/new-playground-healthier-lincoln-knolls/>



The screenshot shows a 'Company News' article from 'The Business Journal' on the website of Eastern Gateway Community College. The article is titled 'WRTA Introduces Free 4 All Friday Rides' and is dated June 8, 2019. The main image shows a group of five people standing in front of a Western Reserve Transit Authority (WRTA) bus. The article text discusses the service in Youngstown, Ohio, and mentions Jewel Stevens, a resident of Youngstown's northeast side, who takes the bus to Austintown to do her shopping and to get to doctors' appointments. She likes not having to pay for gasoline for a personal vehicle and enjoys the experience of riding on the bus. Stevens also praised the safety of the buses and the attitude and helpfulness of the bus drivers.

## Improving Regional Public Transportation

Articles about WRTA's expansion into Warren demonstrated support for the project and highlighted the importance of connectivity and accessibility in our communities.

> <https://businessjournaldaily.com/wrta-introduces-free-4-all-friday-rides/>

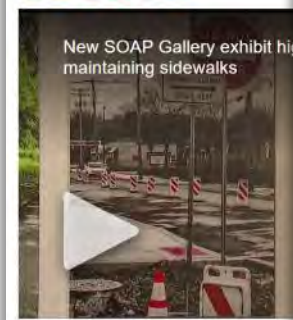


## Where Sidewalks End & Creating Walkable/ Bike Friendly Communities

Collaborations with City Club of the Mahoning Valley and Bike Cleveland offered educational forums, and coverage of pedestrian safety issues such as sidewalk conditions and pedestrian traffic crashes increased.

> <https://www.wkbn.com/news/local-news/new-soap-gallery-exhibit-highlights-importance-of-sidewalks/>

> <https://www.wkbn.com/news/walk-youngstown-uses-signs-to-encourage-people-to-walk-the-city/>



## Healthy Food Access

Media coverage increased and improved around access to healthy food, helping to provide a more comprehensive narrative of the complexity of food insecurity in our communities. Stories featured farmers markets, healthy corner stores, nutrition incentive programs and healthy food education initiatives.

> <https://www.wkbn.com/news/local-news/warren-convenient-stores-take-steps-to-alleviate-food-desert/>

## Additional Articles:

- > <https://www.wfmj.com/story/40613072/youngstown-farmers-market-season-starting-next-week>
- > <https://businessjournaldaily.com/a-walkable-downtown-is-a-thriving-downtown/>
- > <https://businessjournaldaily.com/foundations-advance-regions-quality-of-life/>
- > <https://www.wfmj.com/story/39434603/mahoning-county-issues-the-2018-mahoning-valley-community-health-needs-assessment-to-over-3500-residence>
- > <https://www.tribtoday.com/life/ticket/2019/08/where-sidewalks-end/>

**“We want to create a collective impact that builds sustainability for the farmers and farmers markets in the community. Most of us have seen a decline in sales and attendance, but if we come together and figure out a way to market it, and to share the different skills and knowledge of the individual markets, we can learn from one another and reach the customers. We know there are quite a few markets and there are hundreds of thousands of people between the two counties. There are enough customers to go around, we just need to ensure we reach them.”**

**-Cassandra Clevenger  
Trumbull Neighborhood Partnership**

# In HCP support

*financial commitments • participation and engagement*

In 2019, HCP partners leveraged the \$225,300 provided by the Community Foundation and its three supporting organizations to attract outside support to the Mahoning Valley. Below are details of specific financial investments for Partnership activities; however, the total assets attracted to the area through HCP projects is estimated to be significantly more than just those grants listed.

**Over \$200K  
in support  
for healthy  
food access  
projects**

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## \$198,452

to establish the Mahoning Valley Farmers Market Network. Awarded to Trumbull Neighborhood Partnership from USDA Farmers Market Promotion Program.

## \$5,000

from United Fresh Foundation for Trumbull Neighborhood Partnerships' youth voucher program, encouraging youth to buy healthy foods at corner stores.

## \$12,500



**COLLECTIVE  
IMPACT FORUM**



in support from the Kresge Foundation for HCP participation in Collective Impact Forum's Data Accelerator program, meant to facilitate the integration of data into decision making and recording and reporting processes.



# In Valley-wide coordination

*working together regionally • crossing county lines*

The Healthy Community Partnership focuses on aligning priorities and encouraging participants to work as regional partners. This focus strengthens Mahoning Valley organizations and their ability to influence and produce change in the community.

## > Worked on CHIP & CEDS

For the first time, planners took a regional collaborative approach to the Community Health Needs Assessment and Community Health

Improvement Plans (CHIP), working across county and city health departments, mental health and recovery boards and Mercy Health. The more inclusive planning process brought in diverse stakeholders from throughout the region to develop and implement strategies to improve health outcomes.

In research and development of the Mahoning and Trumbull CHIPs, there was intentional alignment between health and economic development planning efforts. Eastgate Regional Council of Government's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is another example of that alignment and of partners' broader efforts to work collaboratively.



## > Established the Mahoning Valley Farmers Market Network

This new network will provide technical assistance and support for farmers market managers, farmers/growers and customers throughout the Mahoning Valley.

## > Shared Neighborhood Infrastructure Strategies

Partners actively shared strategies for investment, support and maintenance of neighborhood infrastructure such as parks, greenspaces and safer streets.



# > Created Food Access Coordinators

The Mahoning and Trumbull County Food Access Coordinator positions add capacity for resident and business engagement to develop new approaches to improving access, affordability and consumption of healthy foods. They share resources, strategies and contacts to strengthen and reinforce regional food access efforts and activities.



Christian Bennett and Sophia Buggs, Trumbull and Mahoning Food Access Coordinators



**1 out of 4**  
residents do not  
have easy access  
to a grocery store

(source: USDA Food Environment Atlas)



**28%**  
of adults report  
no leisure time  
physical activity

(source: CDC Diabetes Interactive Atlas)



**1/3**  
of adults  
are obese

(source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention County Data Indicators)



An average of  
**80%**  
of adults report **NOT**  
meeting recommended  
levels of fruit and  
vegetable consumption

(source: Trumbull Co. and Mahoning Co. Community Health Assessments)

**“Children should not have to experience the injustice of not having access to affordable healthy foods within our neighborhoods. We have to continue to fight for behavioral and systematic changes, so our youth can reshape their mindsets on healthy eating and living.”**

**-Christian Bennett  
Trumbull County Food Access Coordinator**



## > Encouraged State Funding

HCP members encouraged state funding in the FY 2020-2021 budget for increased support for public transportation as well as new support for Produce Perks Midwest's nutrition incentive programs. These efforts proved successful with the below amounts approved for inclusion in the state's budget.

produce prescription program:

**\$350,000**

nutrition incentives:

**\$500,000**

public transportation:

**\$140,000,000**

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*Thank you to each and every partner and supporter of the Healthy Community Partnership. Making change and working together in a new way is never easy, but with the strength of a collective approach, anything is possible!*



***Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley***

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