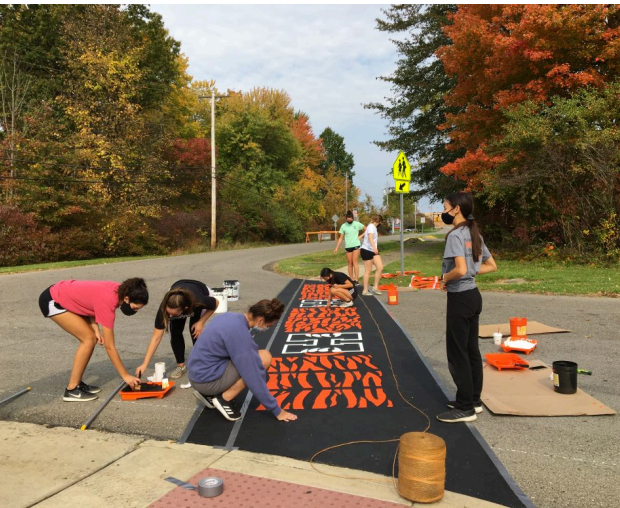


# Healthy Community Partnership

## Mahoning Valley



# YEAR IN REVIEW 2020



**HOW TO PLAY**

- 1. SMILE**  
DO SOMETHING OUTSIDE THAT MAKES YOU SMILE LIKE WALKING, JOGGING, GARDENING, READING, FISHING, DANCING, SHOPPING, RECREATING YOUR BLOCK, MEDITATING, ETC.
- 2. SNAP**  
TAKE A PHOTO OF YOU OR YOUR SURROUNDINGS WHILE YOU'RE OUTSIDE.
- 3. SHARE**  
SHARE YOUR PHOTOS TO GO INTO TO WIN GREAT PRIZES!

**SHARE YOUR SMILE NOT YOUR SPACE YOUNGSTOWN**

**PRIZES INCLUDE**

- 3 month membership pass to Espenosa Atkinson Recreation Center
- All day rental at Wick Park Pavilion
- Golf Passes
- Pool Passes

SEND YOUR SMILES TO [PARTEMP@YOUNGSTOWNOHIO.GOV](mailto:PARTEMP@YOUNGSTOWNOHIO.GOV)

SPONSORED BY:

**Warren City Parks Action Plan**



THE WILLIAM SWANSTON CHARITABLE FUND



**PHC**

# Change: The Only Constant

*2020 was a year when everything changed—except HCP’s commitment to our mission and each other.*

Introduction & Reflection  
from HCP-MV Director  
**Sarah Lowry**

The year started off with clever quips about 2020 being a year for vision, with promises of perfect sight, focus, and precision.

Goals were going to be crushed.

We’ve since found ourselves ending the year with a smoldering pile of tired, trying phrases like: “during these challenging/difficult/uncertain/unprecedented times;” we’ve had to pivot;” and “stay safe.”

Our souls have been crushed.

Many have lost so much these past twelve months that at once dragged on and flew by. Dear, precious things like the lives, the hugs, the touch of loved ones; much anticipated memories made during milestones like weddings or graduations; the sound of laughter of friends and family gathered around a table; and perhaps most tragic, the loss of hope.

Dozens of studies, statements, and stories have been written about how the virus has (re)exposed an even deeper, more sinister disease that has plagued our country for much longer than COVID-19: racism. In Ohio, this prompted Governor DeWine to convene a group, the Minority Health Strike Force, who developed a Blueprint which describes, “the immediate action necessary to address COVID-19 and its disproportionate impact on Ohioans of color.” Locally, institutions and organizations, the Partnership and many of our partners included among them, have been working diligently over the years to improve health outcomes and reduce health disparities caused by structural or institutional racism. This year, however, provided the necessary push to declare racism and racial health disparities as a public health emergency. This important first step has enabled organizations to assign resources to identify strategies that recognize racism as a root cause for health disparities and that will improve conditions, systems, and institutions to reduce those disparities.

During these darker days, I am reminded of Emily Dickinson, who said that “Hope is the thing with feathers”:

**“Hope” is the thing with feathers –  
That perches in the soul –  
And sings the tune without the words –  
And never stops – at all –  
And sweetest – in the Gale – is heard –  
And sore must be the storm –  
That could abash the little Bird  
That kept so many warm –  
I’ve heard it in the chilliest land –  
And on the strangest Sea –  
Yet – never – in Extremity,  
It asked a crumb – of me.**

As we leave behind a year that has been described as everything from a surging storm to a raging dumpster fire, I’d like to lift up the little Bird, or more accurately the little flock of Birds, that has kept so many warm and hopeful when both were hard to come by. That flock is the partners that are the Healthy Community Partnership.

Reflecting on the last 12 months, I’d like to join the choir singing the praises of Healthy Community Partnership members for their commitments to each other, to our shared mission, and to our community. Throughout the year, some of the incredible initiatives spearheaded or supported by Partnership members were captured as Moments of the Month and Collab-blogs on the Partnership’s website. Several Partnership members were recognized by the Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley’s Fund for Women and Girls as Women Warriors for their fearlessness in the face of uncertainty. Other Partners were recognized by the Association of Fundraising Professionals-Mahoning & Shenango Chapter as COVID-19 Heroes.

Now that we have closed out, wrapped up, and looked back, I'd like to share some of the celebrations, accomplishments, and memories made this year as expressed by the Partnership members themselves.

Though the year changed on January 1, much will be carried with us from 2020 to 2021, fortunately or unfortunately. I am hopeful for a new year with new opportunities, new challenges, and new relationships. And, I am hopeful that Hope, the thing with feathers, will continue to sing no matter how hard or cold the wind may blow. Change will keep coming, and it is our duty to make sure it is the kind of change that lifts us up rather than grinds us down.

With hope and determination,

*Sarah J. Lowry*

Sarah J. Lowry



# What Changed in 2020?

So much changed for the Healthy Community Partnership in 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic, civil unrest because of racial injustice, and a contentious national election set the scene for the entire year and pushed us to examine ourselves, our actions, and our priorities.

At the same time, much remained the same. We recommitted ourselves to our shared mission to improve health, wellbeing and health equity in the Mahoning Valley. We also set goals, progress indicators, and time to celebrate our partners, our partnerships, and our progress.

The 2020 Year in Review looks back at the accomplishments of HCP and our partners during a year of chaos and crisis. It also offers a look ahead at upcoming destinations on the roadmap to change we've been putting in place.

The following sections of this report answers the question: *What changed in 2020?*



# In Collaboration & Leadership

HCP Action Teams and Steering Committee elected new co-chairs and formalized leadership team

HCP Steering Committee representatives accepted into 2021 National Leadership Academy for Public Health program supported by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



Overview of NLAPH program and HCP's participants: Cassandra Clevenger, Michelle Edison, Sarah Lowry & Carmella Williams ([CLICK HERE](#) to read more)

HCP Steering Committee representatives completed Collective Impact Forum Data Accelerator program

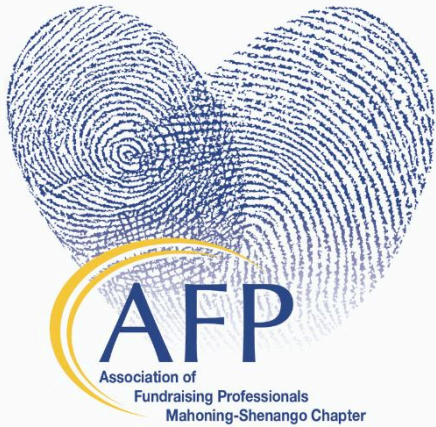


HCP Steering Committee and Action Team members cultivated new partnerships



Collab-blog featuring HCP partners collaborating to address food access needs during the pandemic: Mercy Health, Trumbull Neighborhood Partnership, Senior support Action Group, Scope Senior Center, ACTION, & Lake to River Co-Op/ Cultivate Café ([CLICK HERE](#) to read more)

# Women Warriors & Healthy Heroes



## 2020 Honorees

First row: Akron Children's Hospital Mahoning Valley; Zachary Barber; Cafaro Foundation; Community Foundation of Western PA & Eastern OH; Healthy Community Partnership  
 Second row: Mercy Health Foundation; Mercy Health Produce Box Program; Muransky Family; Rotary Club of Canfield; Pamela Russo  
 Third row: Second Harvest Food Bank of Mahoning Valley; Sight for All United; Summer Garden Food Manufacturing; Rajiv Taneja MD; United Returning Citizens  
 Fourth row: United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley; Kim Urig; Youngstown Area Jewish Federation; Youngstown Foundation; The Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley; The Raymond John Wean Foundation; Youngstown Promise Neighborhood





# Collaboration in Action



## PARKS & GREEN SPACES

Developed & launched “Share Your Smile Not Your Space” campaign

- ▶ Mahoning County Soil & Water donated billboard space for safe, healthy park promotion efforts

## HEALTHY FOOD RETAIL

Multiple partners worked together to provide over **11,000 meals** and **3500 boxes** of fresh produce for seniors, individuals vulnerable to the COVID-19 virus

- ▶ Mahoning & Trumbull County Food Access Coordinator positions renewed

Two new stores offering fresh produce in Warren & Niles, partnership developed with Flying High, Inc.

## ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

Three school districts installed Creative Crosswalks: Boardman, Howland, Warren

- ▶ Six new WRTA routes in Warren officially launched

U.S. Dept. of Transportation awarded Transit Oriented Design study for WRTA, Boardman Twp. and City of Youngstown

# In Communication & Engagement

HCP added communications support with D5 Group to manage digital communications

HCP launched HCP Website and Facebook Page

HCP hosted nationally recognized author, Angie Schmitt, in a virtual forum to discuss her work advocating for safer streets and mobility justice

HCP convened first HCP Collaborative Learning Summit



Over **75 HCP members** participated in the Collaborative Learning Summit for the following sessions

- Understanding Data & the Story It Tells
- Enhancing Leadership & Collaboration
- Interactive Policy Workshop with Toole Design
- Centering Equity in All Policies & Practices

## Where Sidewalks | End

Laying the groundwork to build more walkable, more equitable, and healthier communities



HCP created and shared *Where Sidewalks End Digital Digest*

HCP Network Coordinator developing Story Bank, Bulletin Board & Network News Updates, and Volunteer Opportunities Board

# HCP Members Making Their Marks

**March:** [WRTA Kicks Off 6 New Routes in Warren](#)  
**April:** [WRTA Enacts Changes, Maintains Free Service](#)  
**June:** [Boardman, Youngstown, WRTA Awarded Grant for Market St. Study](#)  
**July:** [Eastgate Releases Belmont Ave. Corridor Plan](#)  
**July:** [Warren Collecting Feedback for Active Transportation Plan](#)  
**August:** [Bike Rodeo Teaches Kids Bike Safety](#)  
**September:** [Pushing Pedestrian Protection](#)  
**September:** [Bike to Work Event Goes Virtual](#)  
**September:** [CycWard Bike Club Makes Working Out Fun](#)  
**October:** [Howland Volunteers Make Crosswalks Pop](#)  
**December:** [WRTA Seeks Input on Potential Service Plan for Trumbull County](#)



Improve traffic and personal safety to increase physical activity

**March:** [Neighbors Help Neighbors During Coronavirus Outbreak](#)  
**ACTION Leads Effort to Send Meals to Seniors during Pandemic**  
**June:** [Farmers Markets Kick Off 2020 Season— Austintown, Howland, Warren, Youngstown](#)  
**July:** [Fruit and Veggie Rx Program Provides Healthy Food to Families](#)  
**July:** [ACTION, Wick Park Neighborhood Association, and Cultivate Cafe Launched Snatch and Snack Program for Kids](#)  
**August:** [Fresh Produce to be Offered at Warren Store](#)  
**September:** [OSU Extension Mahoning County Launches Victory Garden Program](#)  
**October:** [TNP Awarded \\$25,000 Healthy Food for Ohio Grant](#)  
**TNP and TCCHD Bring Fresh Produce to Niles Cottage Market**  
**October:** [TNP Awarded USDA Community Food Projects Grant for Farm and Garden Education with OSU Extension Trumbull County](#)  
**November:** [Second Harvest & WRTA Team Up to Help Residents Living with Food Hardship](#)



Improve access, affordability and consumption of healthy food

**April:** [Warren Parks Study Complete, Recommendations Listed](#)  
**April:** [Social media campaign promotes being active while social distancing](#)  
**August:** [Land Bank Partners with Educator for “Ecoscaping”](#)  
**August:** [City of Warren Working with Nature Conservancy on Mahoning River Park Revitalization Efforts](#)  
**November:** [Youngstown CityScape Presented Beautification Awards in Virtual Ceremony](#)  
**November:** [Safety Improvements Installed at Quinby Park in Warren](#)  
**December:** [\\$1.1 Million Sale Puts McKelvey Lake on Path to New Park](#)



Improve and/or add recreational facilities to increase physical activity



# Banking on Our Stories

In late 2020, HCP Network Coordinator and AmeriCorps VISTA, Robin Perry, created and launched the [HCP Story Bank](#).

The purpose of the HCP Story Bank is to collect stories about the successful collaboration efforts among HCP members as well as to provide opportunities for community partners and residents to share their own stories, experiences, reflections about health and healthy communities.

Anyone, HCP members and community partners, can submit a story to be included in the searchable Story Bank database. These stories allow us to record and report progress, compare qualitative and quantitative datasets, and offer real-life evidence for advocacy initiatives.

**Story Bank** Home Upload Your Story Story Bank Database Resources for Story Telling

Story Date: 05/16/19 to 02/23/21 Partner/s County Topic of Story New entry

1 - 10 / 110

Title of Story	Description	Partner/s	County	Link
Trumbull County begins disbanding transit board, moving to WRTA service	Trumbull County commissioners moved today to disband the Trumbull County Transit Board following Tuesday's presentation about the services the Western Reserve Transit Board could provide in Trumbull County	WRTA	Trumbull	<a href="#">View Story</a>
HCP VISTA IST Presentation Recording	A recording of VISTA Robin Perry's IST Presentation on their VISTA Project	Healthy Community Partnership	Mahoning	<a href="#">View Story</a>
HCP VISTA IST Presentation Slides	Slides from VISTA Robin Perry's IST Presentataion on their VISTA Project	Healthy Community Partnership	Mahoning	<a href="#">View Story</a>
2020 Beautification Awards	CityScape's Awards Presentation for 2020	CityScape	Mahoning	<a href="#">View Story</a>
Healthy Community Partnership Director focuses on innovation to end disparities	Article celebrating Director Sarah Lowry for helping improve the physical and mental health outcomes of the region	HCP	Mahoning, Trumbull	<a href="#">View Story</a>

# In Policy & Advocacy

HCP Steering Committee approved MOU to partner with Community Legal Aid to provide support for Action Team policy development

HCP provided letters of support to the Cities of Youngstown and Warren's resolutions declaring racism a public health crisis

HCP and CFMV initiated a relationship with Bolder Advocacy to provide education and training for CFMV Boards of Directors and HCP Steering Committee members

HCP issued statement committing HCP to strengthening our intentions and actions to advance equity in our work



**Mahoning Valley Leaders Recognize Racism as a Public Health Crisis**



- > HCP Steering Committee Established Racial Equity Education Working Group
- > HCP Steering Committee members committed to ongoing Racial equity education
- > HCP Steering Committee committed to evaluating distribution of resources to ensure at least 50% awarded to local Black lead organizations or initiatives
- > HCP Steering Committee committed to evaluating organizational practices and policies to assess and adjust for impacts on health and equity

**HCP Steering Committee Racial Equity Commitments**

# In Capacity & Investment

HCP secured renewed operating support from CFMV Funding Partners

- > Western Reserve Health Foundation
- > Trumbull Memorial Health Foundations
- > Swanston Charitable Fund



THE WILLIAM SWANSTON CHARITABLE FUND



HCP added new funding partner for operating support— Mercy Health Foundation Mahoning Valley



Added additional staffing capacity through AmeriCorps VISTA program:

- ◀ **Robin Perry**  
HCP Network Coordinator

The **HCP Network Coordinator** supports the collaborative by enhancing communications, story collection and sharing, outreach and volunteer coordination, data management, policy research, and identifying fundraising opportunities.

Partners secured nearly

**\$5,000,000**

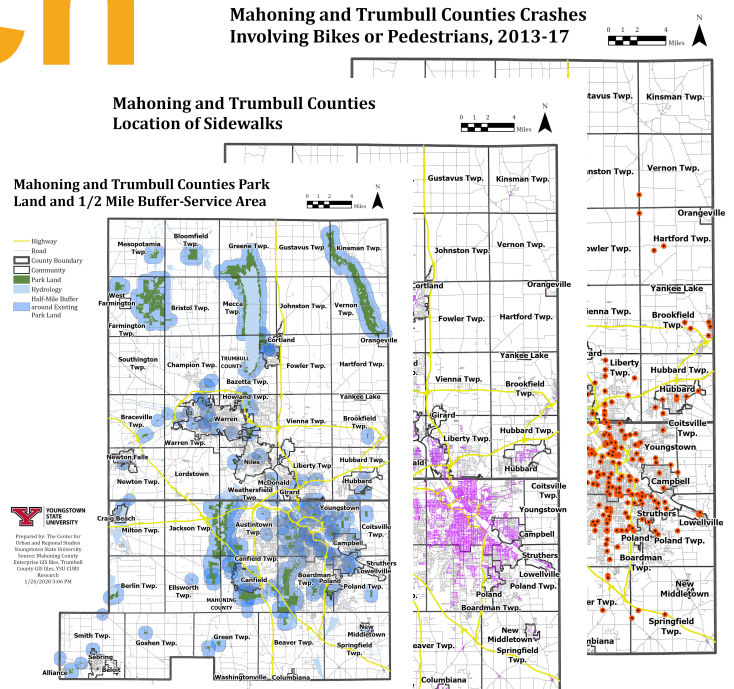
in state and federal resources

to support projects throughout the region

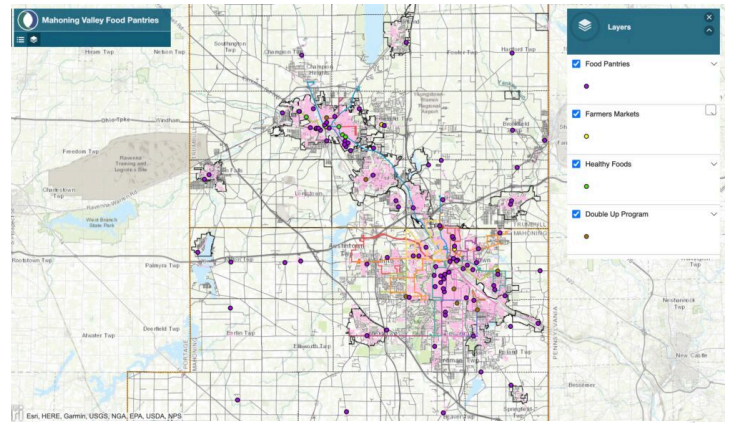
Organization	Project	Source	Amount
City of Youngstown Department of Parks and Recreation	Share Your Smile Not Your Space Youngstown	Ohio Department of Parks and Recreation	\$1,000
	McKelvey Lake Park	Ohio Department of Natural Resources	\$175,000
Western Reserve Transit Agency	Market Street Transportation Oriented Development Study	US Department of Transportation	\$250,000
	Expand Coordinated Transportation	Ohio Department of Transportation	\$17,071
	Autonomous Shuttle Development	Federal Transit Administration	\$2,300,000
	Expansion of Warren/ Trumbull County Service and Other Improvements	Ohio Department of Transportation	\$2,000,000
Trumbull Neighborhood Partnership	Community Food Projects	United States Department of Agriculture	\$48,918
	Healthy Community Store Expansion	Healthy Food for Ohio	\$25,000
		<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$4,816,989</b>

# In Data & Research

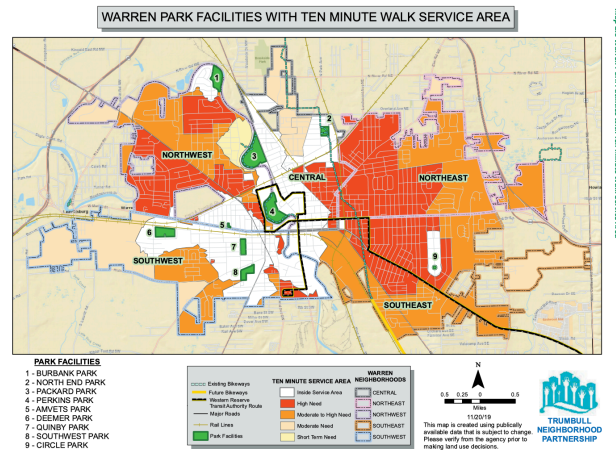
HCP worked with YSU Center for Urban and Regional Studies to create mapping tools



HCP collaborated with Eastgate Regional Council of Governments and Help Network of Northeast Ohio to develop the Mahoning Valley Food Access Resource Map (MV FARM), hosted in Help Network's food resources database



HCP partner Trumbull Neighborhood Partnership completed and released Warren City Parks Action Plan





# > Finalized & adopted BOLD GOALS

**By 2026, at least 75% of residents will be at a healthy weight.**

(Data Source: 2020-2022 Mahoning and Trumbull Community Health Needs Assessments)

**By 2026, at least 75% of residents will report overall health (both physical and mental) to be very good or excellent on 4 or more days in the past month.**

(Data Source: 2020-2022 Mahoning and Trumbull Community Health Needs Assessments)

**By 2026, the disparity related to race of residents who report a healthy weight will be reduced by 50%.**

**By 2026, the disparity related to race of residents who report overall health status as very good or excellent will be reduced by 50%.**

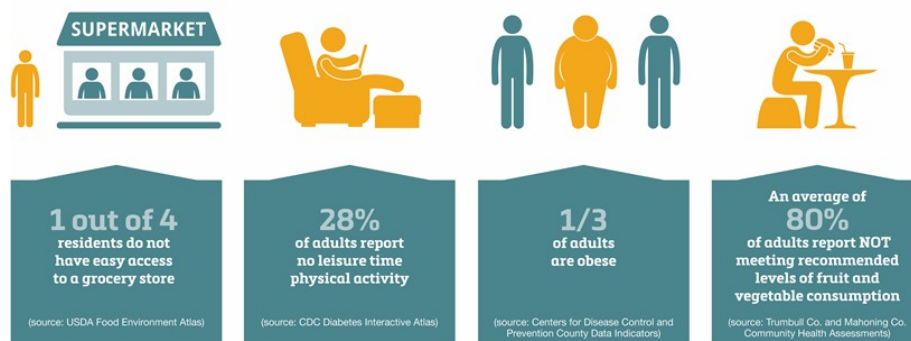
(Data Source: 2020-2022 Mahoning and Trumbull Community Health Needs Assessments)

HCP’s steering committee established four BOLD GOALS to guide the Partnership’s mission and the work to achieve that mission, which is to improve **health, wellbeing, and health equity** in the Mahoning Valley.

Partners know they must strike a balance between optimism, ambition, and realism when setting such goals, but the group recognized the importance of setting standards high given that the stakes are so high for residents, particularly when it comes to health equity.

Many factors are outside of the Partnership’s control and are beyond the social determinants of health, but there is a lot of power and opportunity within the HCP network to influence change and help make progress a reality. The identification of these BOLD GOALS is a critical first step towards creating and catalyzing long-term change.

The decision to co-create BOLD GOALS, rather than regular goals, came out of HCP members participation in the Collective Impact Forum’s Data Accelerator program, which helps collective impact initiatives, like HCP, become more effective in their approach to using and sharing data. Partners saw value in setting BOLD GOALS to be sure that HCP’s collective work advances shared goals across the three focus areas. Additionally, members wanted these goals to connect with the community, to inspire others to get involved in creating and sustaining solutions. Like our community, these goals are living and evolving and may change as we learn and grow.



## > Civic Collaboration Consultants, LLC, conducted HCP Collaboration Assessment

**94%** said they value HCP

**87%** said their time invested in HCP is worthwhile

**81%** said participating in HCP increased their understanding of public health outcomes in the Mahoning Valley

**79%** said participating in HCP increased their understanding of disparities within those outcomes

**1 in 3** partners said they changed their behaviors and/or beliefs as a result of HCP



*A Very Special*

# Thank You!

To Our Public Health & Health Care Partners for keeping us informed, safe, and healthy. And to all the volunteers who responded, without hesitation, to the call to be the helpers.



*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!*



# Healthy Community Partnership

Mahoning Valley

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

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