

DIAL/SELF AmeriCorps Team Service Project

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Our Group Members

The Franklin County Team Service Project (FCTSP) is made up of six members: Kellan Kent, Kathy Leone, Hannah Anderson, Dawn DiMaria, Alida Proctor, and D Lightman.

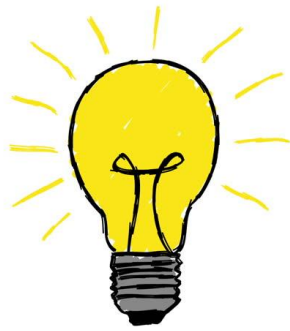


Overview of Project

- The FCTSP completed a 7-week-long CHII survey of each sidewalk within a roughly quarter-mile radius around Greenfield Middle School.
- Our goal is to advocate for accessibility and safety of these sidewalks so people can easily walk/roll to schools or any destination.
- We will compile this information into a report on the study area to be used by any department for improvements in the future.



Project Inspiration



- We started out the service term by thinking about what populations in our community we wanted to focus on. There were a lot of ideas, but we really wanted to do something with a focus on disability/accessibility!
- Rachel Stoler of Mass in Motion pointed us in the direction of the grant and helped us edit it
- Christy Moore let us know how we could best help her department with the grant
- Once we were awarded the grant, the project started moving pretty fast
- We're all happy about the results of the work and are thankful for everyone who helped along the way!

Connection between CHII and Mass in Motion

-Mass in Motion is a statewide movement that promotes opportunities for healthy eating and active living in the places people live, learn, work and play. We focus on increasing health equity—ensuring that we recognize when particular groups of people have inequitable access to these opportunities for health.

This year the Massachusetts Association of Health Boards (MAHB) teamed up with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Mass in Motion and the Office of Health Equity to offer mini-grants to existing Mass in Motion communities interested in using the Community Health Inclusion Index (CHII) to assess how inclusive their community's healthy living resources are to people with disabilities, particular those with mobility issues.

-Around the time these mini-grants were announced, the Dial/Self Americorps Team Service Project approached Rachel Stoler, who is the Mass in Motion Coordinator for Franklin County, to ask if she had any ideas of a project they could do to increase access to recreation for people with disabilities. Rachel had just learned about the mini-grant, and the rest is a match made in grant-writing history.

-Rachel invited Christy Moore (Greenfield Parks and Recreation Director) as well as other municipal staff to participate in the project, and Christy has been actively involved since the beginning, giving the guidelines for how the project would be most useful to the town.

Our Study Area



The Community Health Inclusion Index (CHII)

Walking/Rolling Around the Site 2

Instructions: Carefully observe the area around the site and note which features below are present.

15. Indicate if the following characteristics that make walking/rolling more appealing are present: none, some, many or all of the street ^{closest to the building entrance}. (check all that apply)

(as you're walking around the ^{street} ~~site~~, it may be easier to 'pencil-in' your response and then change it as you encounter additional features)

Mark only one circle per row.

	None	Some	Many	All
Buffer between sidewalk and street, such as landscaping or parking lane	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Benches or other seating	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trees or other shade	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Green space	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Clean and well maintained sidewalks/trails/paths	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Free of noise pollution	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Curb Cuts

20. For the curb cuts on the ^{intersection} ~~path~~, indicate whether the following characteristics are observed.

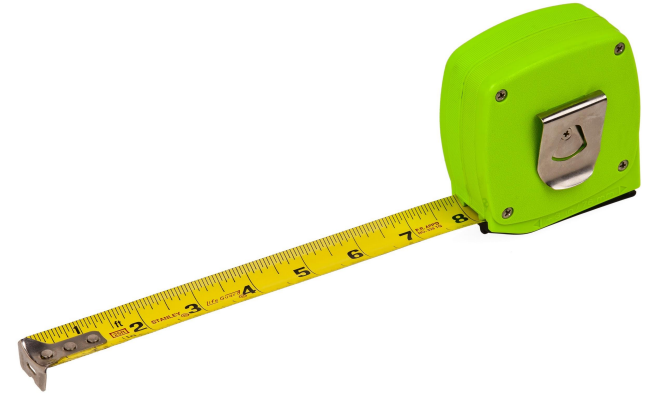
Instructions: Measure the slope of the curb cut using a smart level. It should be placed parallel to the path of travel. If no curb cuts choose N/A for all.

Mark only one circle per row.

	None	Some	Many	All
Slope less than 8.3% (4.7")	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Free of barriers or hazards that obstruct it	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Free of breaks in the surface	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A detectable warning in good working condition	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
No curb cuts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



Tape Measure



As part of the measurement section, we took note of how wide each sidewalk was at various points along the survey. It's easy to neglect having a sidewalk that is 5 ft across, but it's difficult for people in wheelchairs/motorized scooters to get around if the sidewalk isn't wide enough.

Digital Level



We also took the cross slope of each sidewalk into account, since a steep slope can be difficult for people in wheelchairs as well.

Digital Level



Our Data Collection

fx

Type: I=intersection, S=street, Site=Site																		
	A	B	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T
1	Type: I=interse ction, S=street, Site=Site	Name of intersection, street, or site	15a--Buf fer between sidewalk and street, such as landscap ing or parking lane	15b--ben ches or other seating	15c-- Trees or other shade	15d--Gre en space	15e--Cle an and well maintain ed sidewalk s/trails/ paths	15f-- Free of noise pollution	16a-- People loitering	16b-- Graffiti	16c-- Litter	16d-- Vacant Building s	16e-- Street Harassm ent	17a-- At least 5 feet wide	17b-- Free of obstacle s or hazards that are difficult to traverse	17c-- Cross slope no moe than 2% (1.1 degrees)	17d-- Surface smooth, firm (eg NOT gravel or dirt)	18-- Note any obstacles/hazards to walking/rolling
88	I	Federal/Garfield																
89	S	Federal (between Church and Pleasant)	All	None	Some	None	All	None	Some	None	Some	None	None	All	All	Many	All	
90	S	Federal (between Pleasant and Leonard)	All	None	Some	None	Many	None	None	None	Some	None	None	All	Many	Some	All	large sidewalk crack near elementary school, small hole in sidewalk by Providence Baptist Church
91	S	Federal (between Leonard and Garfield)	All	None	Many	None	All	None	None	None	Some	None	None	All	All	All	All	uneven sidewalk near Wendy's exit



**13 1/2 miles
surveyed!**





Beautiful trees in the Greenfield area

Acknowledgements



We found a number of well-kept sidewalks and are grateful for the hard work of the DPW.

Examples of very well-kept sidewalk include:

- Federal street
- Holly street
- Church/Union Intersection



Improvements

Sidewalks that could use improvement include:

- Riddell Street

- Maple Street

- Pond St

- Union St

Common features were: too narrow, dips and breakage, steep cross slope, tree root disruption



Focus Groups

We wanted to gather input from students in the community about what they thought of their daily walks to school! Alida and Kellan organized a couple of focus groups and collected a lot of responses.

- Majority of middle and high school students are comfortable walking/biking to school
- Students suggested improvements regarding transport to school were less buses and more bus routes
- Most students feel crosswalks near schools are placed well and safe to cross



Learning how to work together



SOLUTIONS:

-Splitting into teams

- Information Liasons
- Data Collection/Writing Team
- Focus Groupers

-Using the right medium to communicate

- texts better than email



CHALLENGES:

- large project load
- lots of moving pieces
- scheduling

Activity!

Survey the room! Use the CHII to decide if the room is safe to walk through.

What was it like working as a team?

What was it like working with a deadline?

What was it like coordinating schedules?



Thank you for your support!



We hope the data we collected will be used for improvements in the future and will benefit the community as a whole!