

Community Asset Mapping

These are some of the tasks the steering committee may undertake to create a community asset map:

1. Define your community. Is it a region, a municipality, a neighborhood? Before you can embark on an asset mapping exercise, you have to know the area that will be included in the final map.
2. Identify groups of local residents—neighborhood associations, gardening clubs, book clubs, crafting circles, prayer groups, the Masons, Grange, or athletic clubs. You are interested in any group that meets formally or informally even if it cannot be easily classified. In Bowdoin, Maine, one of the assets identified was the “Cackle Club”. The group has a history that goes back almost 75 years. The purpose of a group isn’t as important as learning how the group is already working to make the community aging friendly and how the group can contribute to the age-friendly initiative. One important contribution of groups is that they provide a way to get the word out about an age-friendly initiative.
3. Identify institutions, such as your local hospital, library, social service providers, senior center, community center, and school.
4. Identify local businesses—restaurants, hardware stores.
5. Learn more about what municipal government is currently doing for older residents. Does your local police department have a “sand bucket” program to help older residents in the winter? Is your fire department willing to change smoke detector batteries for people who cannot safely climb a ladder? Does EMS have a questionnaire for residents to indicate special needs if EMS is called?
6. Another set of assets are the land and infrastructure already present in the community. Where are the parks and publicly maintained walking trails? Do older people use them? Are public buildings accessible to a person using a walker or wheelchair? Do you have sidewalks where people need and want them? Infrastructure includes access to telephones and internet service. Can people in all parts of your community access the internet? Is affordable phone service available in all areas?

Link from Assessment tab

Community Capacity Inventory—Groups, Organizations and Institutions

Note: Each community is unique. This chart is a sample worksheet. Each community will have a unique list of groups, organizations, and institutions included in the asset mapping exercise.

Group, Organization, Institution	Name of Group/Contact	How are older adults involved?	How is the organization aging friendly?
Groups: Crafting Circles, Neighborhood Associations, Book Clubs, Athletic Associations, Gardening Clubs, Prayer Groups...			
Institutions: Senior Center, Food Pantry, Community Center, Clinic, Churches, Hospital, Library, Schools, Social Service Providers...			
Local Businesses: Grocery, Legal Services, Hardware, Restaurants, Banks, Chamber of Commerce...			
Municipal Government: Recreation Department, Fire Station, EMS, Police, Planning Department, Economic Development....			

Link from Assessment tab

Community Capacity Inventory—Infrastructure and Public Spaces

Note: Each community is unique. This chart is a sample worksheet. Each community will have a unique list of places and spaces in the asset mapping exercise. Some communities, for example, have no sidewalks and residents don't want to have sidewalks. If that is the case, skip the "sidewalk" section of the worksheet.

Place	Name	Do older adults and residents with disabilities use regularly?	Fully Wheelchair accessible?	Special Customer Service arrangements are provided, such as special lines or lower service counters for people using a wheelchair?	Buildings are well signed outside and inside, with sufficient seating and toilets, ramps, railings and stairs and non-slip floors?	Public toilets outdoors and indoors are sufficient in number, clean, well-maintained, and accessible?
Municipal Buildings & Municipal Services: Town Offices, Town Hall, Fire Station, Police Station, Library, Schools, Community Center, Food Pantry...						
Privately Owned Buildings: Restaurants, Private Schools, Grocery and Hardware Stores, Banks, Art Center, Museum, Churches						

Adapted from World Health Organization (2012). *Checklist of Essential Features of Age-friendly Cities*. Online: www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/home-and-family/livable-communities/2013-12/3-age-friendly-cities-checklist.pdf

Link from Assessment tab

Parks and Walking Paths	Name	Do older adults and residents with disabilities use regularly?	Benches are sufficient in number to allow people to rest as needed?	Wide, even paths that will accommodate a wheelchair or walker	Public toilets are sufficient in number, clean, well-maintained and accessible
Sidewalks	Area	Pavement is well maintained, free of obstruction and reserved for pedestrians?	Pedestrian crossings are sufficient in number and safe for people with different levels and types of disabilities	Drivers give way to pedestrians at intersections and pedestrian crossings	Cycle paths are separate from pavement and other pedestrian walkways
Public and Private Recreational Opportunities open to people of all ages in the community	Program/Opportunity	Do older adults and people with disabilities use regularly?	Fully wheelchair accessible?	Available toilets are fully accessible?	Designated parking?

Adapted from World Health Organization (2012). *Checklist of Essential Features of Age-friendly Cities*. Online: www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/home-and-family/livable-communities/2013-12/3-age-friendly-cities-checklist.pdf