

Windshield Survey: Hoopeston Community Assessment

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The community of Hoopeston is clean-looking with a vintage feel. At first glance, the population appears to be older people. Different types of cultures and ethnic groups reside in this community. The majority of the community is Caucasian. The community generally felt safe but felt that there was a drug abuse problem. The community is immaculate, and the buildings are in good condition. During the time the students spent in the community, they felt it needed to thrive because there were many vacant buildings. When speaking to one of the community members, she stated, "Hoopeston needs businesses to feel the emptiness." Transportation is about the same as in any other community. The group saw the use of cars, trucks, and bikes. Something different about Hoopeston is seeing golf carts drive on the streets as if they were cars. McFerren Park is a massive place for children and families to enjoy many activities. It offers a swimming pool, mini golf, basketball court, fishing pond, tennis courts, baseball field, playground, and a civic center. The civic center hosts enormous community events, one being the sweetcorn festival that features the sweetheart pageant. The festival is a big Hoopeston attraction, and many people come from different towns to join the fun. They also have a coffee and wine shop that the group found interesting. It may even become a new study spot for some of us. The community feels that there is adequate health personnel and access to community health, with both Medicaid and a lack of mental health sources close by. The community feels that if there were more accessible access to mental health care, drug abuse would decrease within the population. Our group would change Hoopeston by continuing improvements to the city and adding improvements. Our group would also like to see a mental health behavior clinic added to the community to improve mental illness and decrease drug abuse. The group can learn so much about this community by going down to Hoopeston, driving around, and asking the community questions. This project was a huge task but also very informative.