



New Haven Avenue Conceptual Streetscape Plan Online Interactive Map Comments



September 13, 2023

On June 2, 2023, Inspire Placemaking Collective launched the Melbourne New Haven Avenue Streetscape Conceptual Design Interactive Map on the project website. The map was available online until August 31, 2023. Participants were asked to share their ideas regarding the following categories:



Street Trees



Sidewalks



Lighting



Bike Lanes



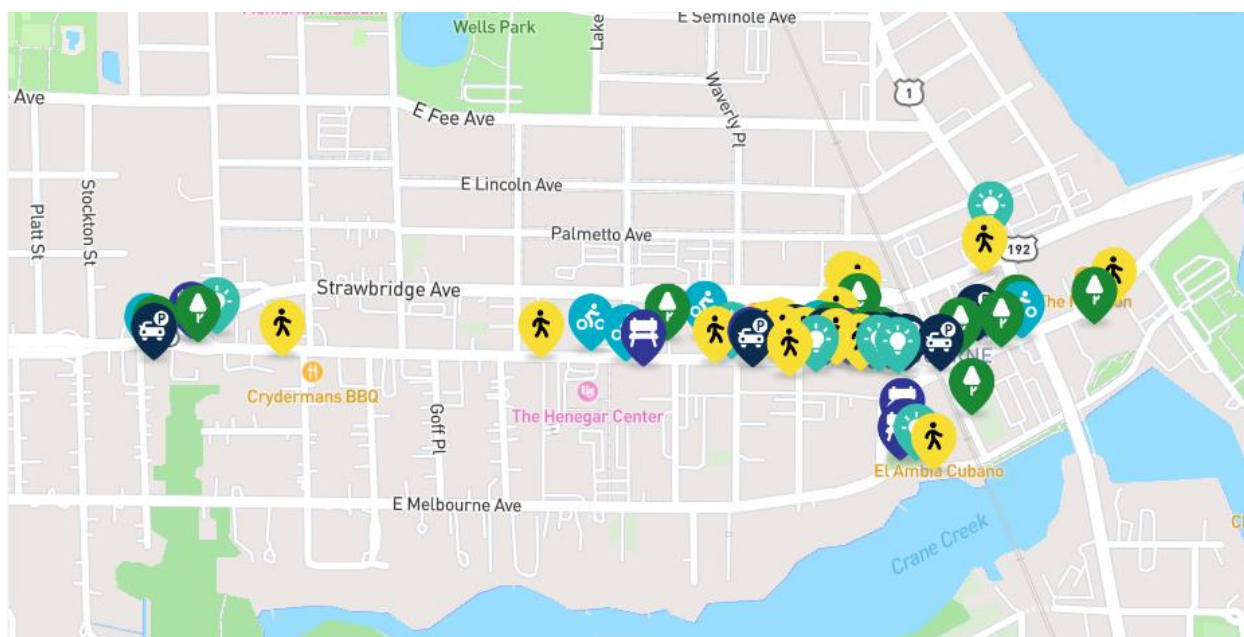
On-Street Parking



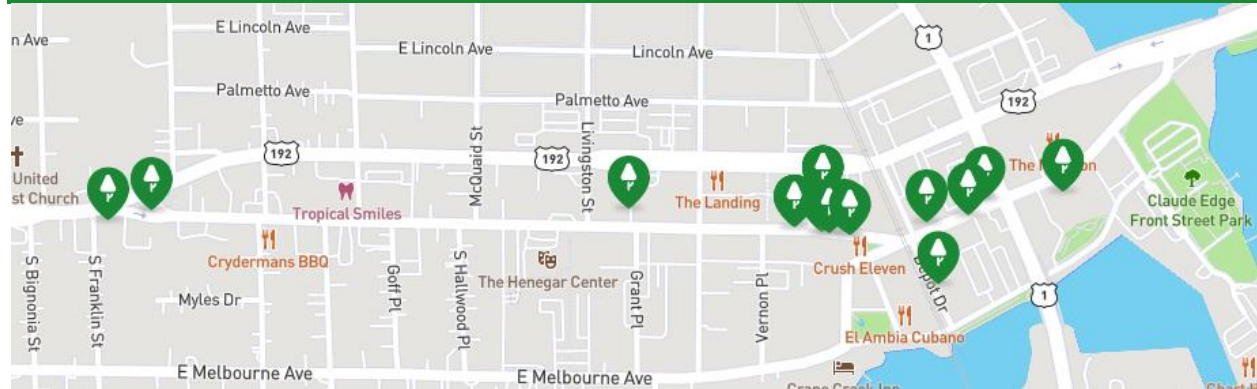
Street Furniture

(benches, trash receptacles, etc.)

Participants could select a location to add a comment regarding one or more categories. There were 62 total responses by 28 individual contributors. The image below shows all the comments combined. The following pages contain maps showing the location of the comments for each of the categories (comments organized from west to east).



STREET TREES



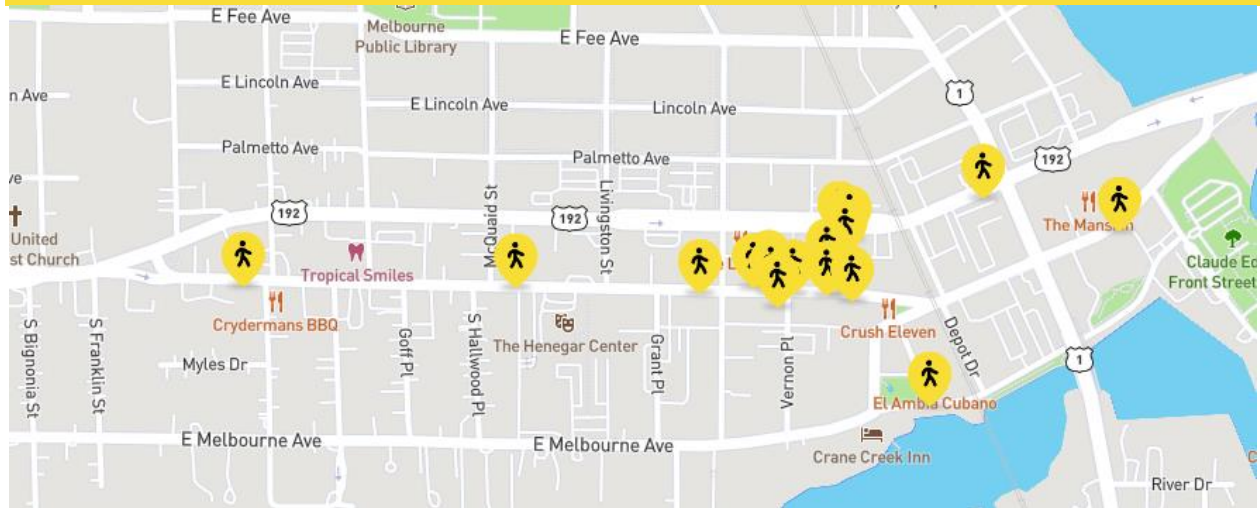
- Where an easement exists plus (getting private property approvals to access a few additional feet), accent lighting upon small shrubs to draw attention to "enter the Downtown retail dining core" would be ideal.
- Benches could also be added to the triangle peninsula at the Western Entrance (not conducive to laying prone), along with more lighting (it still very dark at the Western Entrance).
- The city needs much better-informed NATIVE tree selection to provide shade and be the right plant for this place. Use smaller oaks and other understory trees. Think about Bolly trees, Black Ironwood, the native Stoppers and others. Of course, people are always complaining about fruits. For Pete's sake, get your exercise with a broom.
- Don't plant any additional Palmetto Palms. They are harder to maintain. I would look at elevating the landscaping. Add a Florida friendly palm that adds height and does not need trimming.
- Please keep the Oak trees - they provide shade and beauty in the downtown area.
- "Sabal palms are not harder to maintain -- they almost never require any maintenance. Unfortunately, some people don't understand that. Trimming of fronds should be done only when the fronds interfere with visibility or touch buildings/awnings or wires.
- The problem with using any palms that fruit downtown is that because of human trash, which cannot be avoided, we will always have a problem with unwanted critters like rats. Don't even think about planting date palms.
- Agree with comments on oak trees, but generally we should not be planting canopy trees in narrow sidewalks. We should look for understory trees or shrubs that do not have the same massive root systems.
- Downtown is becoming denser and more urban, which is great, but which also negatively impacts surrounding wildlife which need habitat = PLANTS. We should be using Florida native plants, the MOST Florida-friendly option possible, for our plantings downtown, to support butterflies and birds.
- Oak Trees are majestic trees. However, having them in the core of downtown causes several issues. They raise the sidewalks almost yearly creating a dangerous and sometimes inaccessible path for pedestrians. They stain buildings creating a hassle for tenants and property owners as pressure washing is expensive and has to be done regularly; leaves and acorns fall and create slippery sidewalks, and leaves end up in the drains. Other landscaping alternatives could be explored.
- Ignore the tree haters. Do not remove any of the large shade trees. In fact, you need to plant more oak and other shade trees. These really add to the quality and beauty of the downtown area... not to mention they make visiting downtown more pleasant on a hot, sunny afternoon. Add tree lighting

for visual interest at night. A tree root bursting through a sidewalk adds interest and tells a story. If people want perfect sidewalks with no trees, they can visit sterile, bland Viera. Don't turn downtown Melbourne into a worn out Viera wannabe.

- Please do all you can to preserve the native trees in the corridor.
- Add trees along depot street. This is a nice route to front street park with a lot less traffic.
- More trees for shade
- This area to the west of the 1900 building is hot and uninviting. Large shade trees and improved sidewalks would help.
- This side of the street is very hot and uninviting. If you want to attract people to walk or ride their bikes down to the Front Street park, the sidewalks could be widened, and large shade trees put in. Suggest oaks or poincianas...
- Please keep the beautiful Oak trees - they bring shade and beauty to the Downtown. Meehans paid for the trees in front of the store.



SIDEWALKS

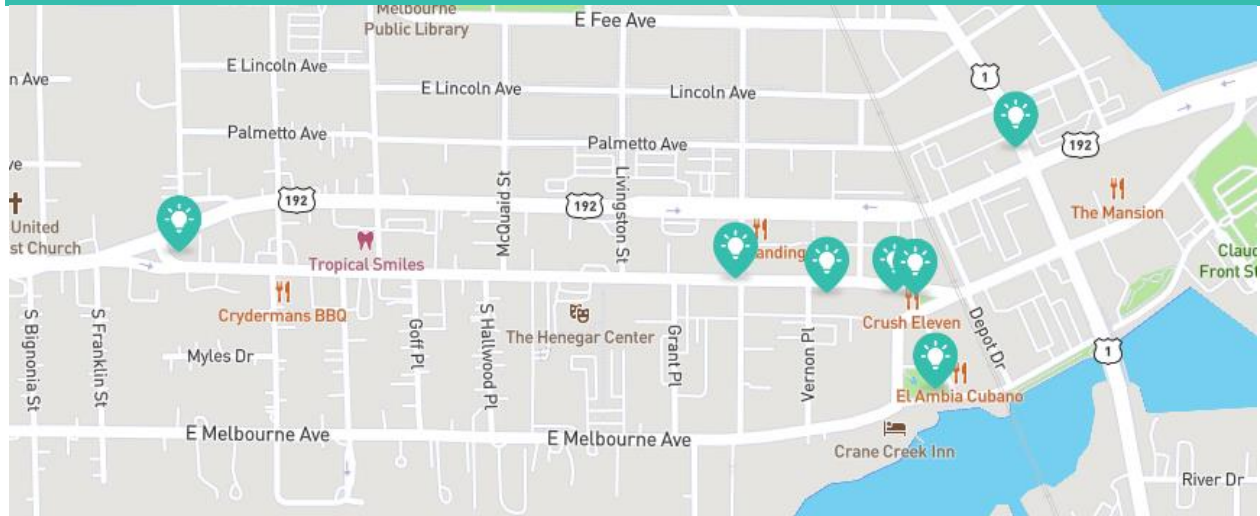


- For the most part, the sidewalks have to have pressure washing ALL thru the entire CRA, especially New Haven Avenue. Downtown is a destination place not just any other place in the City.
- I think the east end of the New Haven has more trees and feels more inviting than the west end. I think more uniform tree planting, flowers and landscaping could bring a more uniform and inviting feeling from West to East.
- To be honest it feels like two different New Havens: West & East where it picks up at. Maybe some murals on the street pavement a la Cocoa Village Playhouse.
- Those big curbs for drainage are a menace! I've seen people trip over them when not watching where they are.
- The giant oak tree here is fantastic for shade and visual appeal, but has ripped up the nearby portions of sidewalk making them uneven tripping hazards. And nearby shop likes to put out a clothing rack for people to browse through. Between the browsing people and the large tree, it's single file only on the sidewalk. People have to step off to the side to let others pass. Hope there is some way to give the tree, window shoppers, and pedestrians some extra space here.
- There needs to be better sidewalks in this area -wider and cleared from tree roots.
- Some shop owners show effort in maintaining their storefront image, some - not so much. There should be requirements for pressure washing and painting. The city should be cleaning the sidewalks, crosswalks, and curbs quarterly as well as refreshing what landscaping exists...
- Hanging baskets of blooming and trailing plants on lamp posts have proven to be effective with creating a welcoming atmosphere on many trending main streets... Daily watering does become a key issue...
- It would be nice to have cold water fountains - for humans and pets.
- There needs to be a better stop sign/crosswalk (New Haven/Municipal). Almost every single person driving down here speeds and almost runs over a pedestrian, many people don't stop at the sign like they're supposed to.
- Outdoor Dining - please look at the buildings that accomplished updating their building structure so they do not impede onto the public sidewalk: The Burger Place; Hurricane Creek; Executive Cigar Shop; Matt's Casbah (now owned by Meg O'Mallyes); Main Street Pub. Also, pressure wash the sidewalk twice a year.

- There needs to be a crosswalk from the Mansion side of the street over to the businesses and connecting sidewalks on the other side. Traffic here is really bad and you can wait a very long time to get across.
- This whole area of sidewalk should be made wider, safer, better lit, and open to outdoor dining. Space for permanent outdoor art and temporary exhibits. More shade trees. Improved stormwater infrastructure. Easy-to-care-for but attractive materials. Improved visuals at street crossings.
- There are no trash cans around the entire perimeter of the 1900 Building creating daily piles of trash that need to be picked up.
- If there were public bathrooms in the parking garage, it would be a huge attraction for people to use the garage.
- Municipal lane would be the ideal location for an outdoor community area. Located close to parking garage, impacting the least number of existing parking and possibly the only side street closing that would not impact traffic flow.
- Difficult as it may be we really need some sort of public restroom facilities.
- Henley court could be better lit and used as a pedestrian pathway connecting the creek to Downtown. this would be a great spot to host events along Henley and Melbourne Ave. add electric and lighting and avoid business' closures.
- An overhead walkway connecting one side to the other (Strawbridge at Municipal). Traffic and congestion will only increase and pedestrian safety should be incorporated wherever possible.



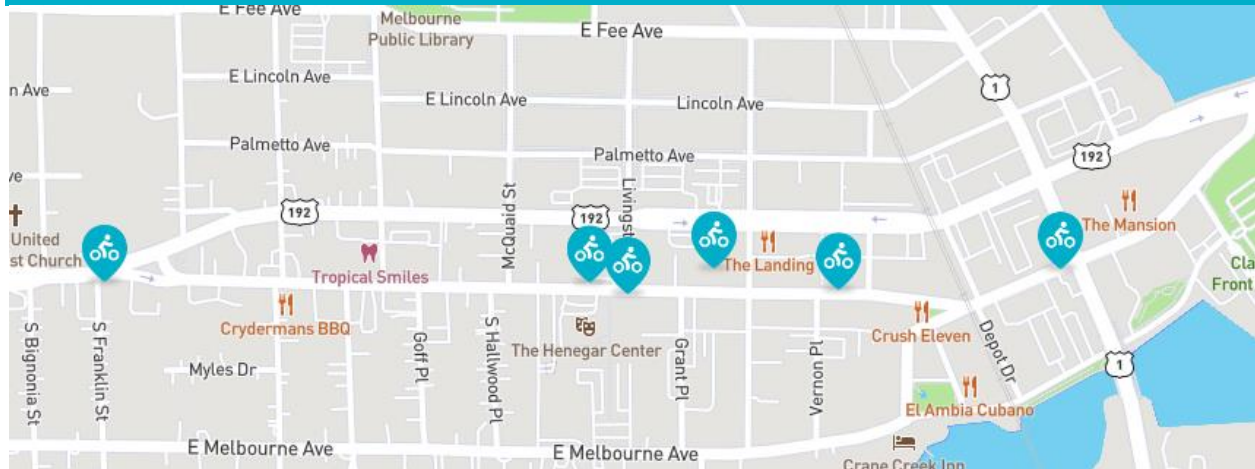
LIGHTING



- There needs to be ground lighting around and @ the native planter concrete box.
- The entire downtown area has poor lighting at night. It needs to convert to LED lighting. I bet the unique decorative lighting fixtures could be retrofitted.
- Improve the street lighting.
- These two blocks of New Haven would look great with better/unique lighting.
- Better lighting all over downtown and in the parks. this would make a nice spot for a small pet area. We need a couple of pet areas strategically placed downtown and especially with the new residential units planned.
- We need more lighting. I would like to see more white lighting around the trees - similar to St. Augustine. Also, change the light poles to accommodate banners everyday and Christmas lights during the holidays.
- Illuminate trees from the ground up. Also install outlets close to trees so that they can be illuminated for the holidays. Especially at the entrance of downtown.
- Re-Creations Ladies Consignment



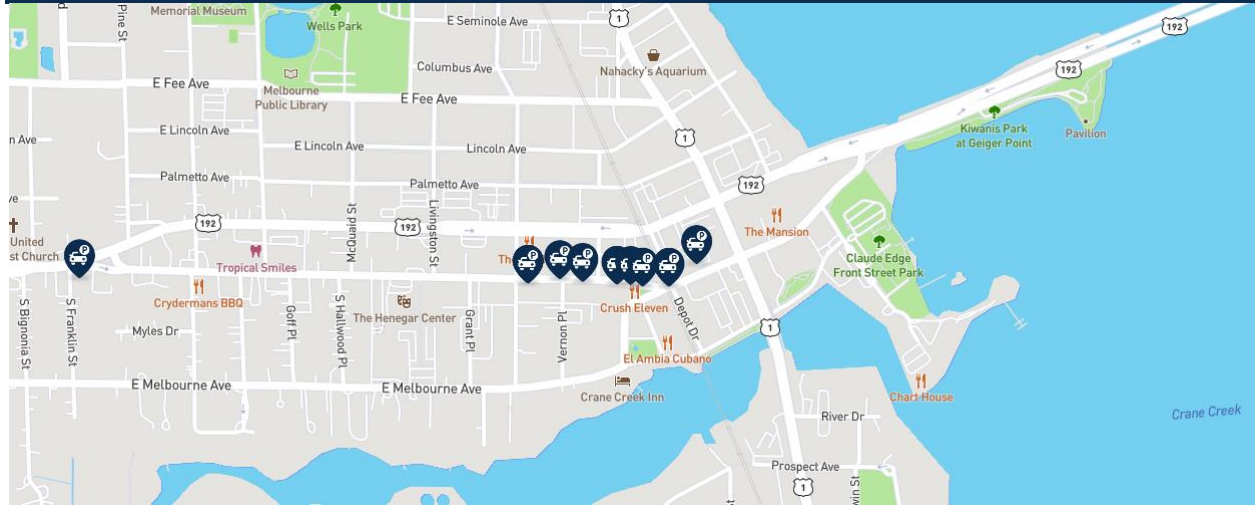
BIKE LANES



- Along with bike lanes/signage, adding "Slow Speed Entering Downtown" signs would be helpful.
- "Hitting this bump out caused me to fall off my bike. There should be a clear bike lane, and the bump should be reflective."
- Totally close E. New Haven to traffic, make the entire street only pedestrians and bicycles, plant more for shade while walking, add a parking structure to accommodate visitors.
- New Haven Ave should be share the road with bicycles. Share the Road signs and road paint place the entire distance of New Haven Ave.
- Cycling through downtown is dangerous because vehicles back out of parking spots and may not see a cyclist. There is not a bike lane which leads to walking the bike on the sidewalk.
- This intersection is very dangerous for cars and pedestrians. Crossing US1 is hot, noisy, and uninviting. I have no idea how to suggest a fix.



ON-STREET PARKING



- Please study the Main Street design that changed Main Street Hendersonville, NC into one of the best downtowns in America. I realize we do not have the distance between each side of the buildings, but the overall concept is quite good. Provides less parking (shop owners should not park on street) and provides much more open outdoor dining and gathering space. The serpentine design slowed traffic, created sidewalk/dining space, and an overall pedestrian friendly environment.



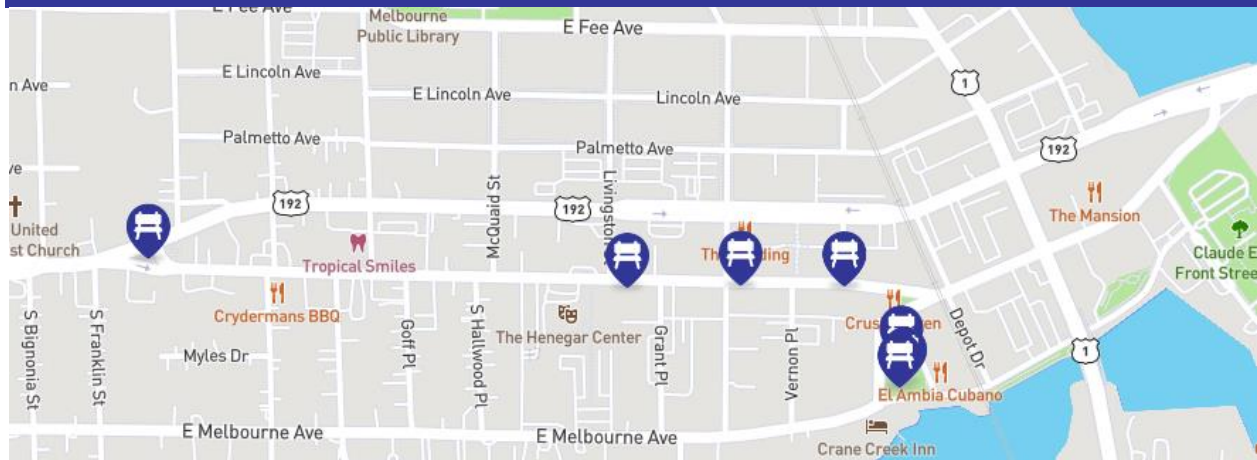
https://www.pedbikeinfo.org/examples/example_details.cfm?id=4840

- I think parking should be reduced to tandem parking or remove parking all together and make the entire street 100% pedestrian.
- parking is such a problem. the public garage and the public parking behind highline are nice. maybe more parking behind the businesses?
- "Please do NOT close the STREET along NEW HAVEN AVE. Also, do Not make it ONE WAY. KEEP the parking! Here's why:
 - 1) It will displace the parking on the side streets in the neighborhoods.
 - 2) The delivery trucks need access to deliver. The Downtown has limited access to Alleyways.
 - 3) Customers want access to the businesses along New Haven. Some want to shop for an item and leave; some stay to eat, shop and use the services."
- These diagonal street parking spaces are dangerous with big cars and trucks sticking out into the street, and westbound traffic has to swerve into oncoming traffic.
- Need better parking options than the diagonal street parking. Larger vehicles are constantly parked there and pop out into the street, making it difficult for through-traffic.
- safety directionals oncoming East-West traffic is NOT clear (enough). Head-on collisions are inevitable at New Haven/Melbourne Court intersection at RR tracks.

- It would be nice if a section of the parking lot for the 1900 building was public. During peak business hours the parking lot is barely half full, and they have 4 sections of parking lot. It would be a lot easier for those with disabilities to park and get to their destination without the threat of getting their car towed.
- PLEASE engage and implore Council to act (quickly) on the consultant information and please make sure that is based on best practices nationwide as well as locally in in Florida based on small markets. Far too often decisions are paced too slow, Council changes and good plans are never engaged.



STREET FURNITURE



- Bench seating that is not difficult to lay prone on is needed, along with more up lighting on trees. Sidewalks need to be pressure washed at least twice a year.
- Not the right category but we need to add some wayfinding western end of downtown or look at incorporating that area into the CRA footprint. Or at the end of the existing footprint place signs that show what is also located outside of the exact boundary area. We also need better access to wayfinding. Maybe scan a QR code if we don't have that already. the survey asked about wayfinding

but it is not a subject listed here so may not even be part of the infrastructure plan but wanted to have it noted.

- We need to bring benches back but research a bench that will not encourage sleeping. we also could use nicer trash receptacles and some outdoor plant pots that are seasonally changed.
- Furniture groupings for people to gather and visit. Police presence to keep homeless out of the area. Keep it inviting for residents and visitors. Make a 3-block area on E New Haven pedestrian only. Keep parking on Strawbridge and the block to the south.
- Need some (sleep-free/prevent) street benches for older visitors who need to rest/eat ice cream/people watch. Locate throughout old downtown. Keep trees trimmed and avoid acorns, pine oaks (leaves clog the auto intake filters) and foliage that blocks the retail signage. This is why people come downtown - as a destination b'fast/lunch/shop/event. Always include electrical outlets at street poles/trees for seasonal lighting. Allow for downtown to create seasonal lighting themes - Christmas/Halloween/Memorial/July4/Thanksgiving, etc. Make this a destination niche to draw new retailers to enhance the downtown theme. Include large LED Flat Screen entry monument boards for advertising events. Charge retailers a nominal fee for X-amount of screen time monthly. Make this a must-see element for a WOW experience. The entire downtown street needs to invite stroll/window-shopping activities and therefore needs select shade elements on the sunny side of the street.
- Also support the idea for a bandstand at this park ... stage at the south end and facing north, then take advantage of the naturally terraced land at the park for seating overlooking the beautiful creek! this is the most under-utilized park in town! It is beautiful with trees and a view of the water, big enough for a band stand, a water spout play area, a dog park, so many things!!
- Create an area of open public space to host events, and a place for downtown employees to enjoy their lunch breaks in the outdoors. Similar to Eau Gallie Square.



SUMMARY

Respondents shared their ideas for improvements, including planting more native street trees and landscaping, maintaining shade while being mindful of the impacts of large trees on pedestrian access and sidewalk infrastructure, increasing general maintenance by individual business owners, and improving street lighting, bike and pedestrian infrastructure, street furniture, safety, and wayfinding and signage. Respondents had varying views on the different improvements, and while the responses provided great ideas, there is a lack of consensus on several issues such as making New Haven Avenue a pedestrian and bike-only street, on-street parking, and landscaping.