

How Age Friendly is Ottoville, Ohio?

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ABSTRACT

People are living longer which means our population is becoming older. As people begin to get older, we need to look at this concern and be able to see if we have access to age-friendly environments in our community or around/near us. A way our community can take care of their elders are by helping and preparing them for a place of good health and well-being. According to the World Health Organization, an age friendly environment consists of six components: housing, outdoor spaces and built environment, transportation, social environment, community support, and health and wellness services. The purpose of this study is to see if my hometown (Ottoville, OH) is considered a suitable environment to be an age-friendly community or not. I will evaluate the positive and negative aspects about Ottoville and address ways to make the community better suited for elders.

HOUSING

Criteria for age-friendly housing:

- Accessibility to retail, transportation, social services, groceries, etc.
- Affordability
- Safety (home & neighborhood)
- Appropriate design, maintenance, & modifications

Housing options in Ottoville Ohio for older adults only includes the resident's home. In Ottoville there are no other housing options for older adults, but within a short distance there are different housing options in surrounding communities. Around the area there are nursing homes, assisted living, senior living communities, apartments, and villas, and home health services.

OUTDOOR SPACE/ ENVIRONMENT

Ottoville has a few outdoor spaces and built environments. There is a community park with public restrooms, shelter houses, playground, baseball/softball diamonds, soccer field, sand volleyball and basketball courts. As well as a walking path, trails along the Little Auglaize river, and being able to walk or bike around neighborhoods. There is also a golf course out in the country that may be something older adults would like to do. Ottoville is also golfcart friendly town. The town is very small, so everything is mostly walkable depending where you may live in Ottoville.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation available in Ottoville, Ohio would be Gohio Commute which is a public transportation system that comes from Lima, Ohio. There is also a few private transportation systems near Ottoville that would help transport older adults and those are Clymer Medical Transportation, K&P Medical Transport, and Destination Care Medical Transport LLC.

There is also transportation systems that can come from ambulette care such as Ottoville EMS, Putnam County of Public Safety, and Integrity Ambulance.

Also, a lot of older adults in my area use the means of transportation from family members and/or family friends.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Community services offered in Ottoville are seldom. There is a post office and two local banks, as well as clubs and organizations in the community There is also a VFW where older adults can socialize and connect with one another.

In the surrounding area, there are YMCA's and a Senior Center that older adults may go to.

HEALTH & WELLNESS SERVICES

Ottoville only allows very few health and wellness services, but there can be more found in surrounding communities.

Ottoville:

- Chiropractor
- Dentist
- Van Wert Health Center (offsite)

Kalida:

- Family doctor

Ottawa:

- Urgent care, homecare & hospice, and mental health

Delphos:

- Ambulatory care

The closest hospitals are in Van Wert, OH and Lima, OH which take a little bit of time to get to if an emergency.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Ottoville, Ohio is a small town surrounded by other larger communities with amenities needed to help support and care for older adults. Ottoville allows older adults to be able to live in a safe community that allows transportation services to get to where they need to go. Although Ottoville does not have lots of services in town, the surrounding communities have so much within such a short distance that if transportation is available to those who need it, they could get anywhere. I believe that Ottoville is not a completely age-friendly town, but it has some perks to living in such a small community with good company.

REFERENCES

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*reference list available upon request