Greene County Active Living Workshop Summary

The Greene County Active Living workshop was held on August 31, 2023 at the Greene County Public Health Offices. This event, the third in a series of PLAN4Health – Miami Valley workshops, brought planners, public health professionals, and other interested parties together to evaluate active living conditions in rural, suburban, and urban settings and to explore a range of interventions. MVRPC staff presented on the topic of active living and guided participants through an interactive environmental scan aimed at evaluating areas for active living deficiencies and identification of policy, program, or project level solutions. Below is a summary of the workshop.

I.   **Welcome and Warm up Activity – Active Living Showcase**
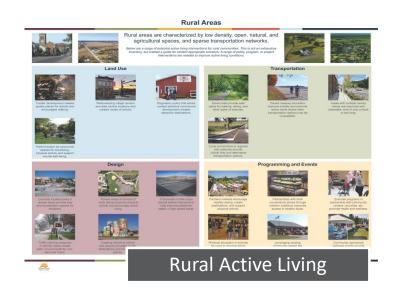   Participants were invited to review a series of posters on the topic of Active Living. To view larger versions of the posters, please visit the PLAN4Health – Miami Valley Information Hub at: https://plan4health-miamivalley-mvrpc.hub.arcgis.com/
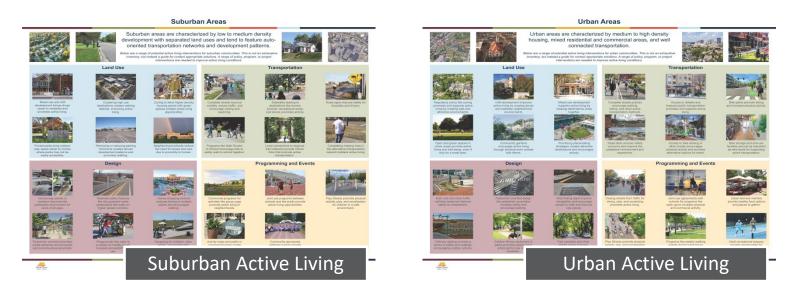
Active Living Showcase Posters

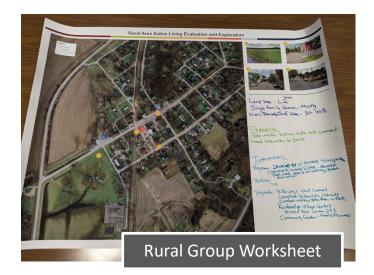II.   **Active Living Briefing – Active Living Assessment Presentation**

MVRPC staff provided an overview of active living, conditions in Greene County, and why it's important to create environments that support active living. Click here to view the presentation.
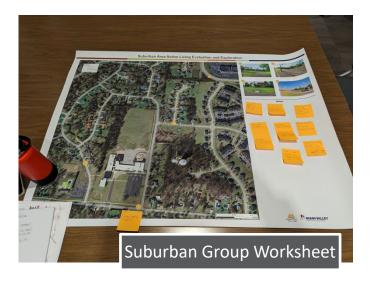
III.   **Small Group Activity and Discussion – Active Living Evaluation and Exploration**
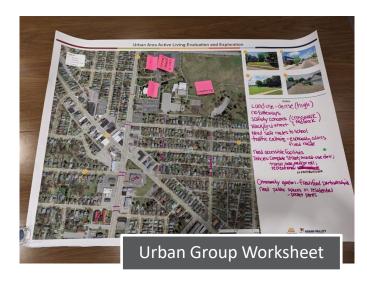
Working in small groups, participants were provided with a large worksheet featuring either a prototypical rural, suburban, or urban environment. Using elements of the Active Community Index, which focuses on land use, pedestrian friendly environment, and activity infrastructure, participants were guided through a process to scan their area for conditions that may encourage or discourage active living. Participants were asked to focus their evaluation on key concepts of presence vs. absence, sufficient vs. not sufficient, and density, diversity, and accessibility. Following the scan, participants were asked to identify solutions in the form of policies, programs, or projects that could advance or improve active living conditions for the prototypical area. Participants were provided with a set of handouts that included active living interventions for rural, suburban, and urban areas. See slides 30 – 56 of the above linked presentation for the guided activity details. Click here to view the active living handouts.

Rural Group Worksheet

Suburban Group Worksheet

Urban Group Worksheet

Small Group Activity Worksheets

IV. Wrap Up – Active Living Priority Location Identification

To conclude the workshop, participants were asked to think of specific places in Greene County that could benefit from active living interventions. In addition to identifying locations, participants were asked to share their ideas on the types of improvements that could be deployed in those areas.

Priority Locations for Active Living Interventions

Wrap Up Activity Results

Recommended interventions ranged from specific locational improvements like adding pedestrian crossing to larger policy level ideas like adopting and implementing a complete streets policy. There were a number of comments directed at improving walkability and expanding the bike network particularly in the more populated areas. From a land use standpoint there were recommendations for more mixed use development, better neighborhood serving retail near residential areas, and implementation of neighborhood parks. Lastly there were suggestions to leverage Greene County's robust park system by including more programming or events.