



Top: The Millwork District Complete Streets project included locally designed street furniture. Photo by the City of Dubuque.
Bottom: The Complete Streets project transformed the historic neighborhood. Drawing by the City of Dubuque.

Millwork District Complete Streets Project

Dubuque, IA

City of Dubuque, IA

The Millwork District Complete Streets Project redesigned the historic neighborhood to facilitate safe, accessible street use.

CONTEXT

- Completed in 2012.
- Midwest.
- Rural setting.
- \$7.7 million for the Complete Streets Project.

COMPLETING THE STREET

- The project greatly improved the functionality of the area's sidewalks, added new safety features to streets, and encouraged economic development in the area.

WHAT WAS THE PROJECT DRIVER?

The Millwork District Complete Streets project addressed the isolation of the District in comparison to the rest of the City of Dubuque. The Millwork District is located between downtown Dubuque and the city's port; however, U.S. Highway 151 and train tracks separate the Millwork District from the port area. Heavy traffic on some streets presented barriers to safe pedestrian access between the Millwork District and the downtown area.

The City of Dubuque sought to design **Complete Streets** and **expand access to transit** facilities that are convenient and safe for

transportation users of all ages and abilities, especially pedestrians, cyclists, residents without access to automobiles, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities.



New features, like bump-outs and signage, improve the safety and visibility of pedestrian crossings. Photo by City of Dubuque.

This project is part of the City of Dubuque's Historic Millwork District Master Plan, which was the result of a public-private partnership with Cunningham Group Architecture. The Master Plan sought to add mixed-use commercial and residential developments that capitalize on the District's history and unique industrial aesthetic. At the turn of the 20th century, the Millwork District flourished with artisans practicing woodwork and metalwork. In the past decade, Dubuque's artists have re-discovered these lost art forms and have reclaimed the neighborhood as a home for craftspeople while creating cultural exhibits. Most of the District is a National Register Historic District, with many buildings being eligible for State and Federal historic tax credits.

HOW DID THIS CONNECT THE COMMUNITY?

Numerous safety and connectivity features were added to the District's streetscape to improve mobility throughout the neighborhood and accessibility to the adjacent port and downtown areas. This included new pedestrian crossings with highly-visible signage, bus shelters, and curb bump-outs to improve pedestrian safety. The city converted several one-way streets into two-way streets and implemented alternative truck routes to calm traffic and improve **freight first-mile, last-mile connections**. Additionally, an extension of the Heritage Trail was also integrated into the District's pedestrian network to encourage outdoor recreation and mobility throughout the eight towns in Dubuque County.

WHAT WERE THE BENEFITS?



RENEW

In addition to the improved mobility throughout the area, the Millwork District's sense of place was preserved and enhanced with **Context Sensitive Solutions**. The streetscape's features were constructed to blend in with the District's aesthetic. In addition, the District's older buildings were used to create artist studios, mixed-income residential units, a museum, office space for entrepreneurs, and a community commerce center.

A sustainable planning framework was the basis for the entire Millwork District revitalization effort. This framework covers water use and treatment, energy, buildings, environment, and culture. The sustainability framework aims to create space that is livable and equitable for the district's residents. The framework is also expected to reduce environmental impacts as residents utilize transit, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities. Other benefits include improved air and water quality, and more green space for wildlife and native vegetation.

For more information: <https://www.cityofdubuque.org/2351/Complete-Streets-Project>