

AMBRIDGE



This Streetscape Project, located on Merchant Street between 4th and 8th Streets, has been designed to restore Ambridge's rich history while also addressing current and future needs. Much needed upgrades to the streetlighting, sidewalks, curbs, wheelchair accessible curb-cuts, and street trees will be performed as well as providing amenities such as benches, bicycle racks, and a park plaza. State-of-the-art lighting with low glare fixtures will provide improved visibility while highlighting seasonal displays and landscaping.



Borough officials and residents placed a high priority on making the streetscape friendly for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists alike. The architects responded by designing traffic calming measures, in the form of raised and clearly marked crosswalks, to help slow motorists and thereby improve safety and accessibility for all groups. Additionally, bicycle racks, curb ramps, and handicap accessible public parking is also being provided while most of the parking meters have been converted to encourage patronage at the main street businesses.



Merchant Street has long been the setting for large public festivals and gatherings. In order to continue this tradition a handicap accessible plaza has been designed utilizing existing vacant lots. This plaza is in the center of the district and will include special lighting, security fencing, and electrical outlets for use by the Borough, performance artists, and vendors.



The new Streetscape frames the entrance to the business district and has design elements that can be easily replicated for future projects in the Borough. Of note, the light poles are uniquely branded as "Old Economy" as they were custom designed originally for the Old Economy Historic District. The trees along the project area frame the main street buildings allowing for high visibility of storefronts and business signage. This pattern can be easily used elsewhere on the central business district.



Merchant Street Streetscape Artist's Rendering

Merchant Street Update

With the input of Ambridge Citizens and Business Owners, plans were developed in 2017 to revitalize Downtown Ambridge between 4th and 8th Streets. The Borough's design team, led by the firm Hancock Architecture created the necessary survey, construction drawings and bid documents to make construction possible this year.

Also in 2017, the Borough Council was able to secure, with the support of the County Commissioners, \$1,514,000 in grant funds for this project. It is planned for this project be constructed in 2018, with construction to last approximately six months. A construction manager will be on site to help manage the project and coordinate the work with the contractor and affected property owners. A letter will be delivered soon to each property owner giving these details and introducing them to the project's construction manager from Hancock Architecture.

To review the Merchant St. Streetscape Project, it will improve the atmosphere on Merchant Street by completing sidewalk and curb replacements, removal of the current utility poles and existing overhead electrical wiring, new ornamental street lanterns that will have electrical outlets, electric connections in strategic locations to energize holiday displays and community events, new street trees, tree pits and landscaping, improved ADA sidewalk ramps, new street amenities such as benches, trash cans, bicycle racks, planters, and decorative crosswalks.

The project is also planning to create a new public park in the vacant lots in the mid-500 block. Total project budgets \$2.5 million. There will be possibilities for additional public partnership of the project with the sale of commemorative plaques that will be on light poles, benches and trees. The sale of these plaques will help fund the purchase of the street amenities.

Once the streetscape project is completed, the street and public parking lots will be resurfaced and paved. Strategic efforts by the Downtown Development Council continue to attract new business to available properties within this area, and Code Enforcement is actively bringing blighted properties into code compliance. Commercial demolition and mitigation projects are also underway and will continue for many years to follow.

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What's New in the Historic District?



MLPM Studio, 273 14th Street is always offering interesting classes and exhibits from soap making, painting to jewelry design. Need a sophisticated space for an intimate event? Rent the gallery! Full kitchen and sound system available for a few hours or a weekend. Check out upcoming events at FaceBook: MLPM Studio Gallery



David's Barber Shop & Salon, newly opened at 317 14th Street. Offering full-service hair services for men, women, and children. Plus manicure, pedicure and wax services. David Sabol has been a barber for 10 years, and Lorie Jeskey has 30 years of stylist experience. "I couldn't be happier being in the Historic District," says David. Visit "David's Barbershop" Facebook page.



Rivertown Antiques, 1307 Merchant Street, is a massive shop with something for everyone. Unique collectibles and vintage items. Be sure to see how they transformed the former Economy Bowling Lanes into a special shopping experience. Open daily and often later than posted hours. Stop by or call ahead to inquire for extended hours. (412) 337-5796. Facebook: Rivertown Antiques



Old Economy Village offers Ambridge Borough Resident Passes to any Ambridge resident with a valid, current form of ID for FREE. Passes provide unlimited admission to the Old Economy grounds.

Current Borough Initiatives

- Received a \$174,000 grant to fund borough parks projects.
- New playground equipment including handicap accessible equipment, as well as a new picnic shelter will be installed at 8th Street Park.
- Rehabilitation of basketball courts at Walter Panek Park.
- Since 2015 the Borough of Ambridge has received in excess of \$2.48 million in grant funding that is being invested in community revitalization efforts throughout the community.
- Emphasizing the presence of Old Economy Village State Historic Site as an asset for the community; Old Economy has become a launching pad for revitalization projects and new business in the Ambridge Historic District.
- In 2017 Go Net Speed brought high speed fiber internet service to Ambridge.