

The Green Rocktown Initiative



Harrisonburg speaks tree.

Tree Canopy

- What is it?
- Benefits
 - Decreases: air pollution and peak temperatures
 - Increases: property value and positive social ties



The Problem

- Harrisonburg has a LOW tree canopy
 - 26.6 % according to the case study *Trees to Offset Stormwater*



684 Ash Trees
Removed

Westover Park Ash Removal Project



The Solution!

1. Increase the number of trees on private property
2. Create tree campuses on HCPS K-12 school campuses



Harrisonburg Conservation Assistance Program

- Provides Harrisonburg property owners with the (soon to be free) trees
- Administered by Shenandoah Valley Soil and Water Conservation District and Harrisonburg City Public Works Department

<https://www.harrisonburgva.gov/hcap>



Planting Plan Form



HCAP Tree Planting Plan

Site Visit Date

Planting Season (To be filled out by the SVSWCD)

Recommended Start Date (To be filled out by the SVSWCD)

Section 1 – Parcel Information

Parcel #

Parcel Address

Section 2 – Applicant Information

Name

Mailing Address

Phone

Email

Section 3 – Management Objectives and Information

Applicant's Objectives

Description of Existing Conditions

Section 4 – Planting Recommendations

Tree Planting: At a minimum, hardwood seedlings must be ¼ inch diameter or 18 inches tall

Site Preparation **Refer to Planting Guide for additional details*

Tree Species

# of Trees	Minimum Tree Spacing
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Required Amenities (if any)

Shelters: 4' 5' None Other (Describe below):

Bird Nets: Yes No

Fence and Stakes: Yes No

City to Stake Tree Location: Yes No

Known Site Constraints

REMEMBER APPLICANT SHOULD CALL MISS UTILITY PRIOR TO DIGGING

Planting Instructions and General Timeline **Refer to Planting Guide for additional details*

Attach map of property with new tree locations

Section 5 – City of Harrisonburg Arborist Plan Approval and Contact Information

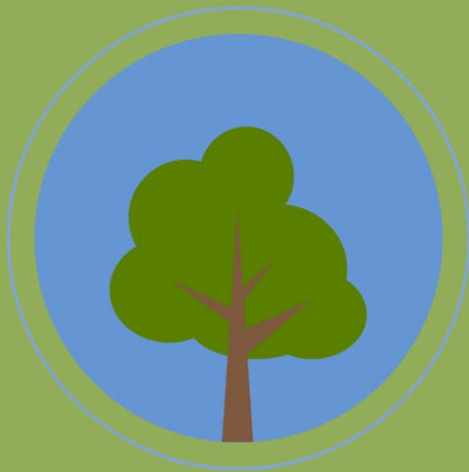
City Arborist Name (printed) _____ City Arborist Signature _____ Date _____

City Arborist Phone

City Arborist Email

Recent HCAP Promotion

Plant a Tree



Our Mission



Together, we want to restore Harrisonburg's forestry and create a **clean, positive** environment around us.



We want **you** to help give back to our environment.



The **Green Valley Initiative**

Harrisonburg Speaks ree



Greener Harrisonburg

<https://www.harrisonburgva.gov/urban-forestry-program>

stormwater@harrisonburgva.gov

Recent HCAP Promotion

Tree Canopy

The layer of the leaves, branches, and stems of trees that cover the ground when viewed from above and that can be measured as a percentage of a land area shaded by trees.



How we can Improve Tree Canopy In Harrisonburg



HCAP is a city program whose goal is to encourage and aid property owners in planting more trees on their own land.



Planting more trees on private property
= More Tree Canopy.

Harrisonburg Conservation Assistance Program

The HCAP program provides cost share to approved applicants on a rolling basis contingent on available funding. Interested property owners are encouraged to submit applications to the Shenandoah Valley Soil and Water Conservation District throughout the year.

We are willing to give trees to property owners in order to increase tree canopy in Harrisonburg.

Who is Eligible?

- Private, non-profit, and commercial property owners within the City of Harrisonburg.
- Property owners desiring to treat on-site stormwater drainage.

Costs

75% eligible cost share at a cap of **\$3500**.

Soon **FREE** with limited promotional funding.

<https://www.harrisonburgva.gov/hcap>

Benefits of Higher Tree Canopy

- Lowers Electricity Costs
- Lower Stress Levels
- Lowers in home temperatures due to shade provided
- Contributes to better physical and mental health
- Slows down rain from becoming polluted stormwater



Tree Campuses for HCPS

Tree campus requirements:

- Maintain a tree campus team.
- Have a tree education plan.
- Provide hands-on experience.
- Observe Arbor Day.



<https://www.arborday.org/programs/tree-campus-k-12/>

Benefits of Tree Campuses

- Reduction in cost of operation for schools
- Helps increase property value and oxygen levels across HCPS campuses
- Helps to lower stress levels and increase healthy social ties for students
- Higher tree canopy is linked to various health benefits for students as well



Tree Campus Support in Schools

- Harrisonburg High School Earth Club willing to take part in tree campus teams throughout HCPS
- Principals Don Vale and Daniel Kirwin willing to take part in the initiative to make K-12 campuses tree campuses



Actions of Other Cities

- Many other cities have tree canopy programs to increase the tree coverage over the next decades
- Charlottesville, Richmond and Roanoke created programs to encourage citizens to plant and maintain trees on their private properties.
- Additionally, the Charlottesville tree commission visits schools to teach about the importance of trees.



Photo by Sophie Roehse

<https://www.cavalierdaily.com/article/2022/04/charlottesville-experiences-a-dramatic-loss-in-tree-canopy>

Conclusions and Appeal for funding

- Tree Canopy in Harrisonburg has decreased rapidly over the past few years.
- In order to help solve this problem, Harrisonburg needs to increase our tree coverage.
- The Harrisonburg Public Works Department is asking for \$10,000 in funding for the canopy initiative.





OPERATION PROM DOWNTOWN

Government Field Exploration Project
Collaboration with HDR



Midnight dreams!

To build connections between high school students and local businesses.



#1

Communication

Meeting with HDR and choosing and emailing
businesses

Businesses





clementine





#2

PHOTO STATION

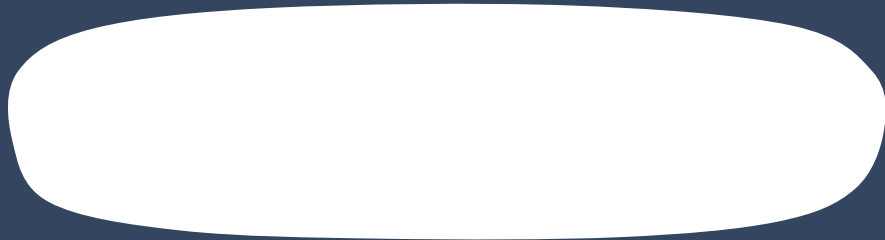


PHOTO STATION PROCESS



Choosing the right spot

Communicating with
Prom Committee

Sketching ideas

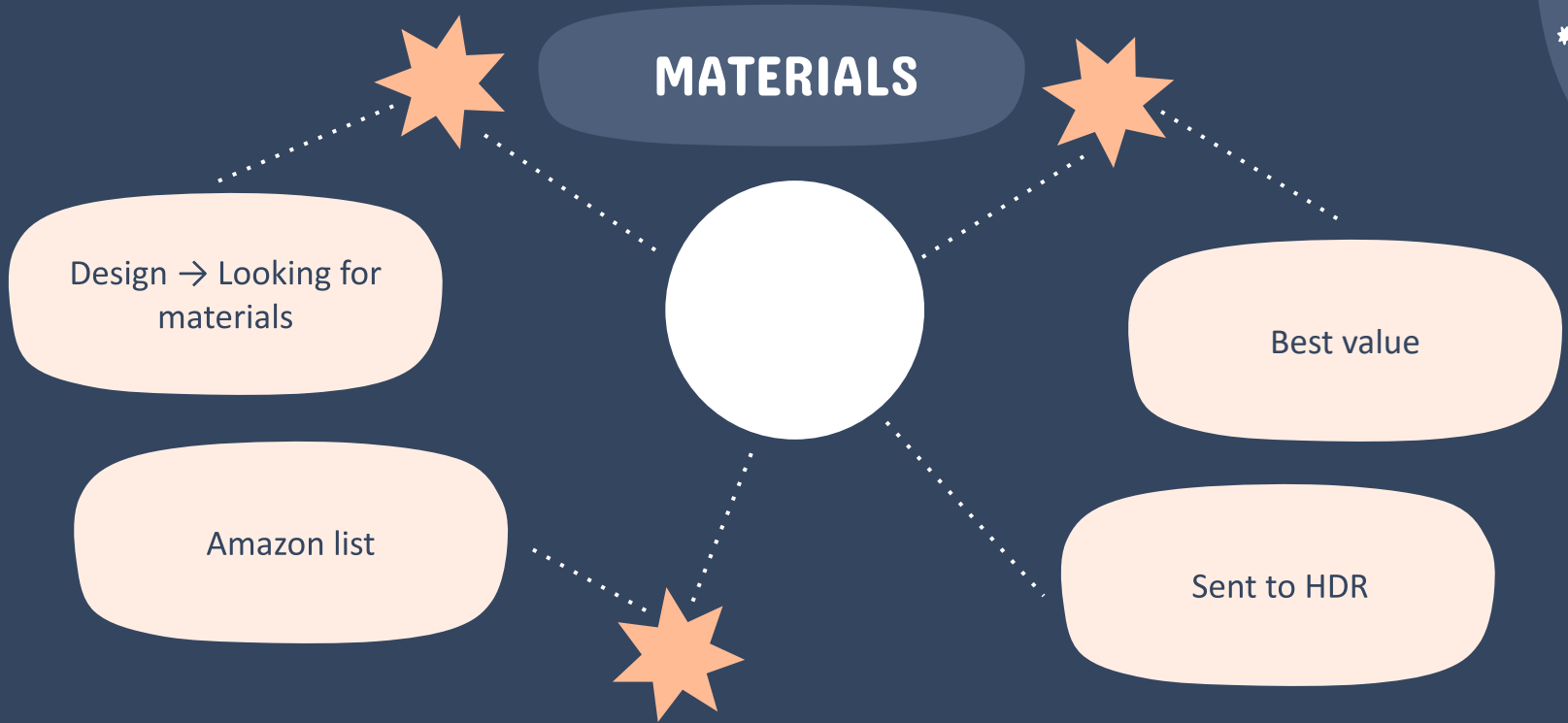
MATERIALS

Design → Looking for materials

Best value

Amazon list

Sent to HDR



ASSEMBLING





WEBSITE

#3

Designed website for students to access more information

We each took a task to complete:

Olivia

Revision

Abby

Paragraphs

Laura

Food Options

Sophia

Other Options

HHS Downtown Prom Guide

Your guide to bringing your prom preparations downtown!

A group of students from Harrisonburg High School's Government Service Learning Class partnered with Harrisonburg Downtown Renaissance to bring students' pre-prom plans to Downtown Harrisonburg. As part of the project, there will be a prom photo area on Court Square complete with decorations and props. The students also worked with downtown businesses to offer HHS students special discounts for their pre-prom dinner and getting ready plans. Below are all the businesses for you to choose from. If your business of choice requires a reservation, don't forget to make it and we hope you enjoy!



QR Code



Creating posters and posts

ADVERTISING

#4



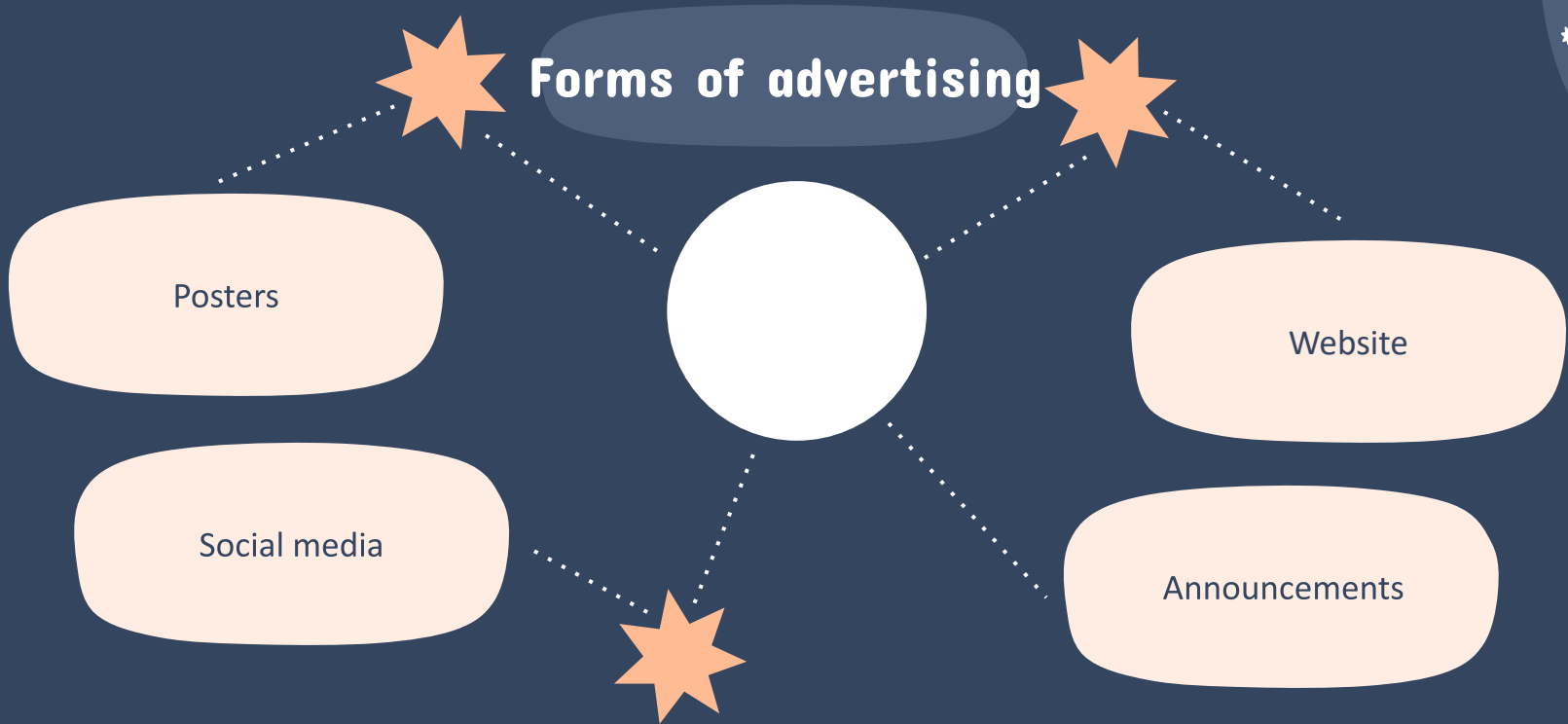
Forms of advertising

Posters

Social media

Website

Announcements



POSTER ADVERTISING

Printing out fliers and getting them

Putting the posters up around the school



SOCIAL MEDIA ADV

Send out social media posts and spread awareness

Communicating with DNR about publishing an article for the public





Outcome



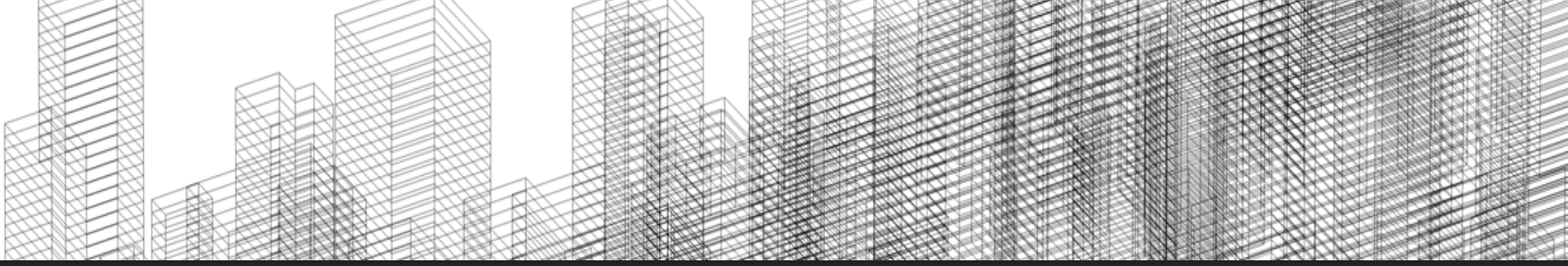




Special thanks to Jennifer Bayes, and all the downtown
businesses!

Accessibility in Hotels in Harrisonburg

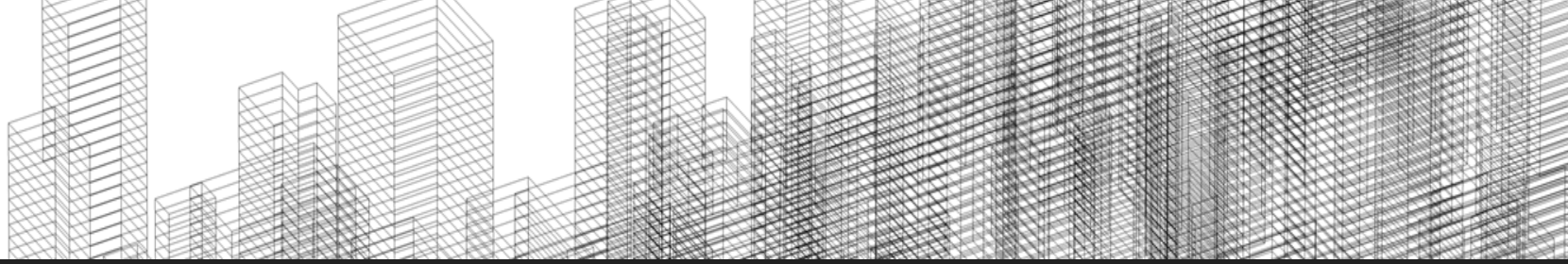
**Project with Harrisonburg Tourism and Visitor
Services**



Project Purpose

- We worked with Harrisonburg Tourism and Visitor Services, tasked with laying down the groundwork of researching accessible accommodations that would end up on their website.
- For people to have access to information regarding accessibility in Harrisonburg City hotel

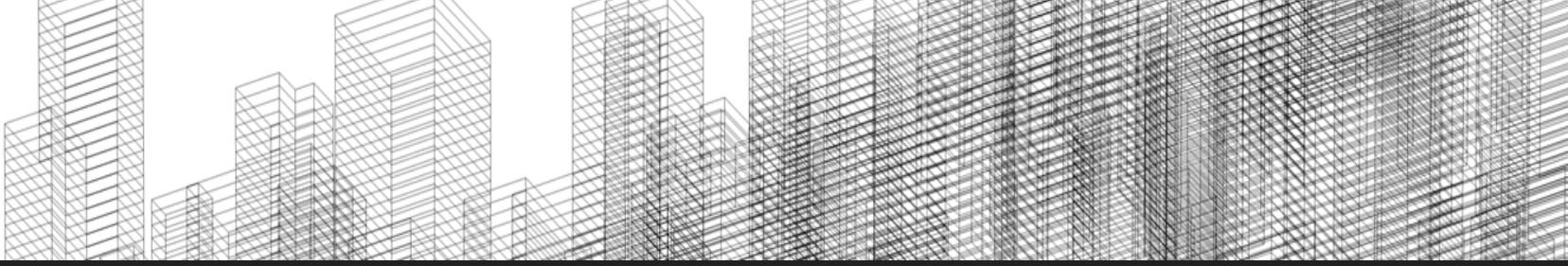




Why is it Important?

- When you go on vacation you don't want to spend the whole time worrying about limitations.

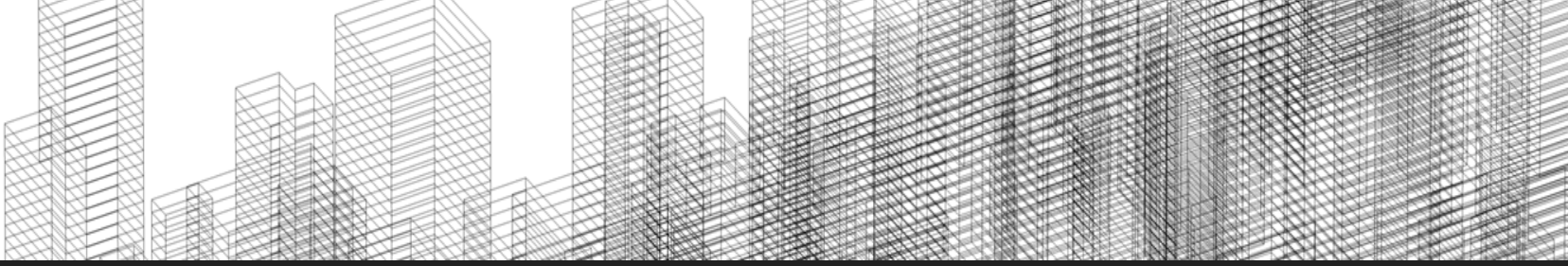




What We Did

- Research
- Emails
- Phone calls
- Hotel Visit

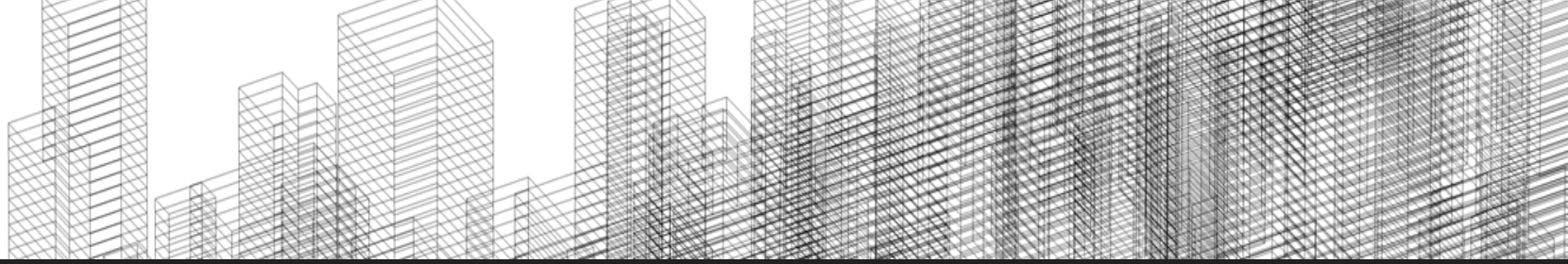




Thank You To:

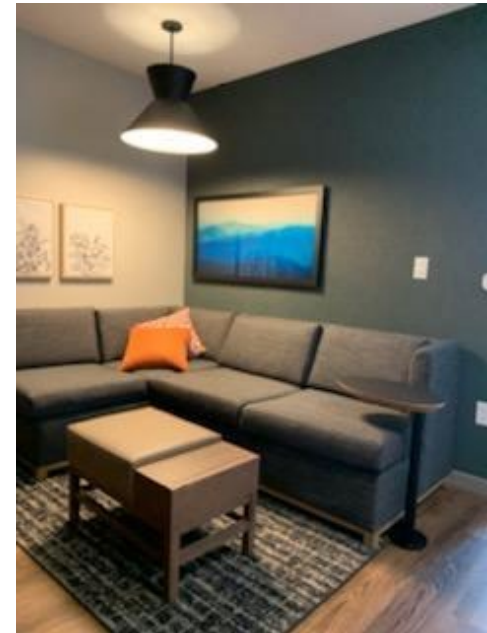
- Clarion Pointe
- Valley Suites Extended Stay Hotel
- Residence by Marriott Harrisonburg
- Fairfield Inn and Suites
- Hyatt Place





What We Observed

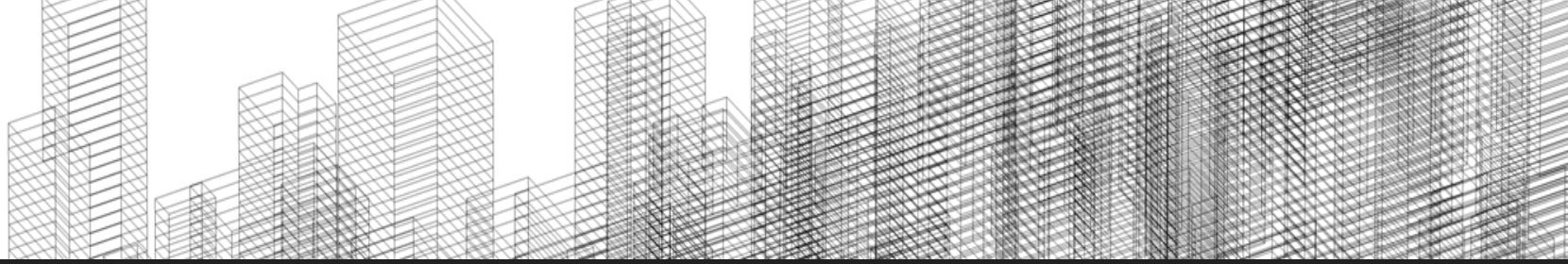
- Most of the hotels we were able to make contact with seem to have great accessible rooms. They have...
 - Open spaces
 - Easy to reach places
 - Good roll-in showers and grab bars
 - Hardwood floors



Other observations...

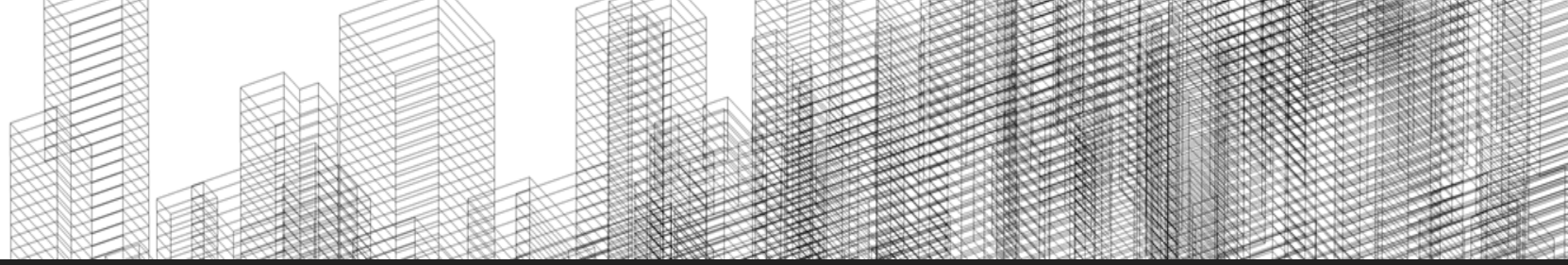
- Door Buzzer
- Visual Doorbell
- Flashing fire alarm
- Braille





Results/Conclusion

- Spreadsheet that will be used to update Tourism website with helpful information.
- Able to be used for future Tourism guides.
- That can further promote Harrisonburg City as a friendly city to all.



Questions?

“**HFD** C.A.R.E.S.”

about

Autism...





Introduction – Hello & Thanks...

Who we are...

Our project: To *improve* the Fire Department's capability to communicate with the **Autism Spectrum Disorder Community**.

- What we have done:
 - ✓ Helped HFD with its 1st “Sensory-Friendly Open-House”
 - ✓ Created “Sensory Kits” for firefighters
 - ✓ Created a “Storyboard” for emergency interactions
 - ✓ Helped with creating a training program for HFD on these tools



ASD – It’s a disorder, not a disease.

- CDC in 2021- **1** in **44** children diagnosed with Autism
- Estimated **2,166 Harrisonburg** residents with Autism
- Is a social disorder that can be **minor or major**.
- **Autism affects everyone.** All races, nationalities, genders, income levels, social status, etc.
- 40% of Autism population is **non-verbal**



Challenges for the Fire Department

- HFD responds to over **5,700 emergencies** annually.
- HFD also participates in **non-emergency** activities.
- All of these involve the Autism Community.
- During emergencies, its important for HFD to communicate with those in need of help.
- It is also important for HFD assure the **safety and well being** of all who are involved in emergencies.



First, we did some homework...

- Completed “ride-alongs” with HFD to learn about their responsibilities.
- We met with several **City School Behavioral Health Specialists** to learn about Autism.
- We did some online research to see what **sensory tools** are effective.
- We took our sensory kit back to the School Behavioral Health Specialist for more advice.



HFD Sensory Friendly Open House

- Held April 2nd (National Autism Awareness Day).
- In excess of 100 people participated.
- Helped HFD develop future events like this.





HFD Sensory Bags: C.A.R.E.S

- Communal Autism Redirection in Emergencies
- Tool for Firefighters to use help calm/comfort someone who may be uneasy, upset, and/or otherwise need comforted.

We designed this logo for **HFD CARES**





HFD Sensory Bags: C.A.R.E.S

Contents:

- Sunglasses
- Headphones
- Fidget Spinner
- Rubik's cube
- Lego set
- Stretch band
- Dry erase board
- Story board
- Egg shakers
- Stress ball
- Glitter tubes





HFD Sensory Bags: C.A.R.E.S

How the C.A.R.E.S Kit Works:

1. In a clear bag so the person can see the contents & not unknown what's in there.
2. There is a pictogram of the contents the person may point to which ones they want.
3. The Firefighters may also show and offer each item to the person.
4. There is something for everyone in C.A.R.E.S!!!

Here is the C.A.R.E.S Storyboard

When There's An
Emergency...



Created by Service Learning
Group 2022

Sometimes
when there is
an emergency,
the firefighters
come to me



When the
firefighters
come to me
they will give
me a bag



In the bag is a
list of items,
which I can
choose from to
help me stay
calm



HFD is being trained on **C.A.R.E.S**

- Training program on Autism and the **C.A.R.E.S** Kit.
- These will go on the fire trucks in the days after our presentation tonight.

Here is the cover of the training program for the **CARES Resources**.



Thank you, City Council...



...for the opportunity to help a valuable population.
Harrisonburg High School - Service Learning Class of 2022

