

BUILDING LIVABLE COMMUNITIES FOR ALL AGES



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LIVABILITY FROM AN AGING LENS

- What is a livable community
- How to identify a livable community
- Tools to help you make your community more livable

WHAT IS A LIVABLE COMMUNITY?

**If a community works for
kids and elderly, it will
work for everyone.....**

*Scott Ball,
Urban Planner*



HOW DO YOU MEASURE A COMMUNITY'S LIVABILITY?

- AARP Livability Index
- Milken Institutes Best Cities for Successful Aging
- Metlife Mature Market Institute and Stanford University Center on Longevity
- World Health Organization's (WHO) Age-Friendly Cities and Communities

Walkability Scores, Cost of Living, Poverty Rates, Crime Rates



WHY LIVABILITY IS IMPORTANT

- Making Communities “Elder Friendly” is a key element of Smart Growth Planning
- Helping Communities Become Good Places for People to Grow Up and to Grow Old
- Preparing for Aging in Place Results in *Better Communities for All Ages*

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT TOOL

- The Illinois Association of Area Agencies on Aging (IAA) acknowledges our sources including:
 - “Livable Communities: An Evaluation Guide” developed by the AARP Public Policy Institute

TEN KEY AREAS OF COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT

- Health and Human Services
- Land Use
- Housing
- Transportation
- Public Safety
- Workforce/Economic Development
- Recreation
- Lifelong Education
- Civic Engagement
- Emergency Preparedness

SECTION I: HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES



Does the community have social services in place to benefit older residents?

How aware are communities of aging services that are available?

Does the community have a health system that is elder-friendly and accessible to various populations?





SECTION II: LAND USE

Is there a comprehensive land use plan? What does it look like?

Are there parks and recreation facilities in the community? What kind of amenities are there? Do seniors utilize them?

Are there zoning ordinances that restrict options available to older adults?

Are buildings and structures designed with older adults in mind?



SECTION III: HOUSING

What types of housing are currently available?

Are there programs (such as tax assistance and home modification funds) to help seniors age in place?

Is housing affordable?
Is housing for older adults available?



SECTION IV: TRANSPORTATION

How do older persons get around in the community?

Are roads safe for older drivers?

Are there adequate public transit options for seniors in the community?

Are mobility options, (e.g., transit, para transit, assisted transportation, volunteer drivers, etc.) present in the community?





SECTION VI: WORKFORCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Are stores
designed with
older
customers in
mind?**

**Are there easy
ways for older
consumers to
obtain goods
and services?**

**Do seniors find
“elder friendly”
employers in
their
community?**



SECTION VII: RECREATION

What kind of exercise and wellness activities exist in the community?

What kind of recreational options exist for older adults?



SECTION VIII: LIFELONG EDUCATION

Are there opportunities for lifelong learning?

Are there schools that offer courses geared towards older adults?

Do libraries provide options for older residents?

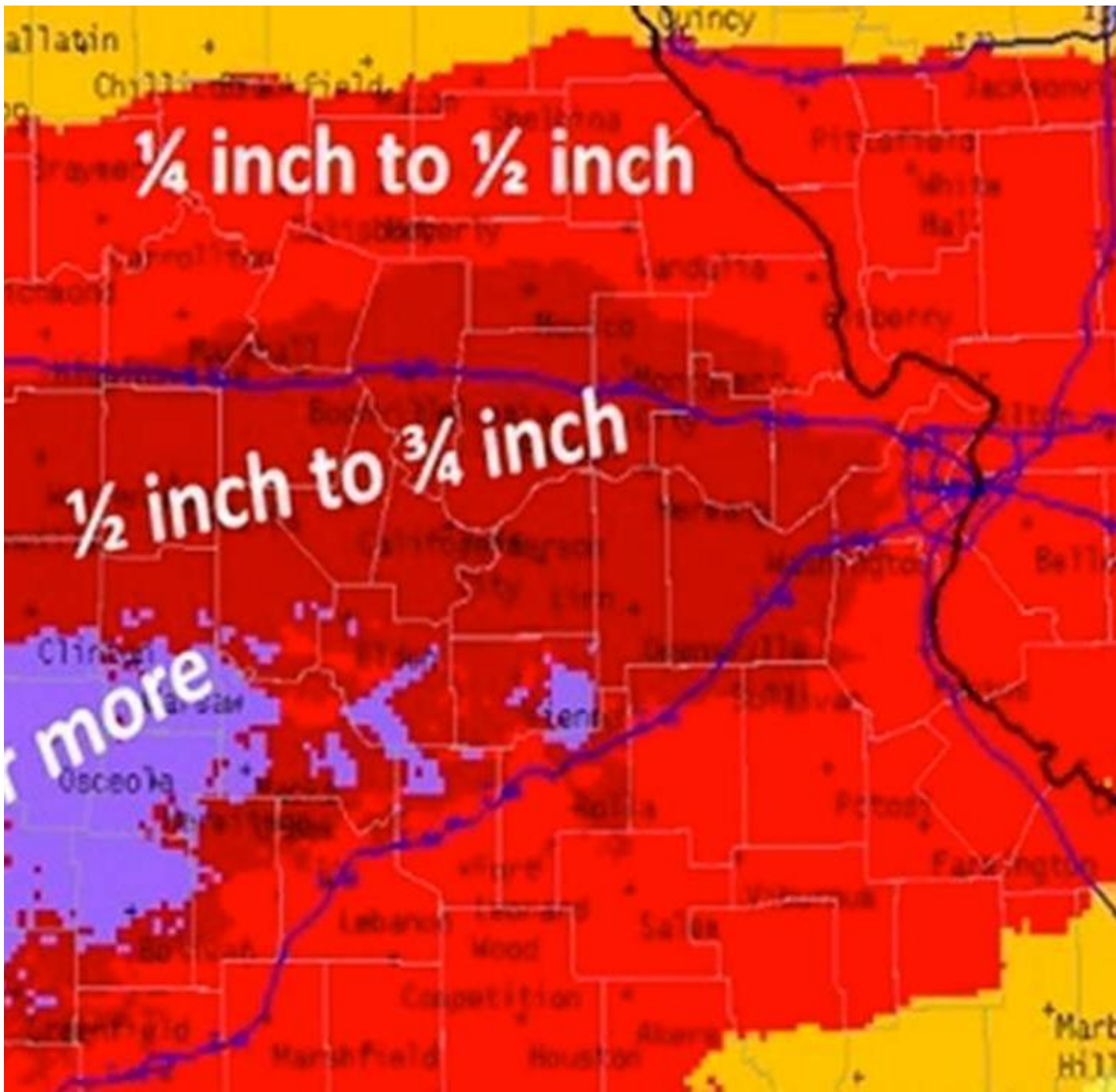


SECTION IX: CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Are the meaningful volunteer opportunities in the community?

Do these opportunities capitalize on the expertise of an aging population?

Are there ways to get involved with intergenerational volunteer programs?



SECTION X: EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Is there an emergency preparedness plan in the community?

How does the community respond to natural disasters, etc.?

Are there technological resources in the community that can be utilized?

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**"AGING IS NOT LOST
YOUTH BUT A NEW
STAGE OF OPPORTUNITY
AND STRENGTH."**

BETTY FRIEDAN (1921-2006)

Joy Paeth, CEO
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