AARP/WHO Network of Age Friendly Communities

2019 Action Plan – Progress Report

for Town of Jackson and Teton County, Wyoming
April 2022



The mission of **Age Friendly Jackson Hole** is to ensure and enhance accessibility and inclusivity of older adults and people of all ages and abilities in all aspects of life in Jackson Hole.



Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
Executive Summary	4
Next Steps	5
Community Profile Update	6
Action Plan – Outcomes	8

Introduction

Age Friendly Jackson Hole (AFJH) began in 2014 as a grass roots effort to discuss and study our community's seniors/all-age friendliness. AFJH obtained the commitment and endorsement of the Jackson Town Council and Teton County Commissioners to become more age friendly through applying for membership in the AARP and World Health Organization (WHO) Network of Age Friendly Communities. The Town of Jackson and Teton County, Wyoming, received designation as a member of the AARP Network of Age Friendly Communities in May of 2017, followed by membership in the WHO Global Network for Age Friendly Cities and Communities in July 2018. This started the five-year action plan and reporting cycle required for members of the network of livable communities. Since this designation, AFJH has been working on a variety of projects to help make our community more age friendly.

An Action Plan was submitted in April of 2019 outlining the age friendly goals for the following 36 months. This document details progress made on the 2019 Action Plan according to the outcome metrics.

The 2019 Action Plan was broken into three time blocks, rather than by project: 6 months; 6-24 months; and 24-36 months. We have kept to that format for consistency in reporting.

The work to make the Town of Jackson and Teton County, Wyoming more age friendly is truly a "grass roots" effort. AFJH takes the lead in bringing age friendly issues to the Jackson Town Council and Teton County Commissioners. We are grateful to the many people who have given generously of their time, talent, and wisdom to further this work. We look forward to developing our next Action Plan to make our unique community more accessible and inclusive for older adults and people of all ages and abilities.

Executive Summary

Over the past three years Age Friendly Jackson Hole (AFJH) has been working towards the goals set in the April 2019 Action Plan. Substantial progress has been made towards these goals and making the Town of Jackson and Teton County, Wyoming, a more age friendly place to live.

Most notable is the impact that Age Friendly Jackson Hole has had in instilling age friendly concepts as standard considerations in community projects. We have seen this consistently through the work of the Town of Jackson, Teton County, and several other local organizations. AFJH is frequently sought out for input on projects which is a significant step in the right direction. We also have AFJH representation on the newly formed Town of Jackson Equity Task Force.

Pedestrian safety has been greatly improved by the efforts of AFJH. The Town of Jackson has committed to continuing implementation of Town-wide "complete street" improvements identified in its Community Streets Plan. Numerous streets now have continuous pedestrian friendly sidewalks with curb cuts, and more are planned over the next several years. Our "safe crossings" project has increased pedestrian safety in winter at more intersections by providing ski poles for pedestrian use in crossing icy streets.

We successfully completed conceptual plans for the Wellness Garden at May Park and provided them to Parks and Rec. We also completed initial fundraising to advance the project into final design and construction. The Wellness Garden is now included in the May Park Master Plan.

The impact of the COVID pandemic changed the focus and momentum of some of our projects. But it also offered the opportunity to connect with the community in different ways. We were able to offer more options for virtual

participation in community events. We helped to get vital health and safety information out to the community, and we identified new areas of need that will help inform our next Action Plan.

Next Steps

There is still much to do, and we are anxious to get started on the next five-year cycle as an Age Friendly Community. Over the next nine months, we will develop an Action Plan for 2023 through 2027. The activities involved in this process are:

- review the results of recent community surveys such as the updated
 Community Health Needs Assessment and the Behavioral Health Needs
 Assessment,
- meet with elected officials of the Town of Jackson and Teton County Commissioners for their input on priorities for increasing access and inclusiveness in our community,
- seek input from the senior community and other stakeholder organizations, and
- re-invigorate our base and collaborators (post-COVID) around advocacy for seniors.

The 2023-2027 Action Plan will identify the goals and projects that our membership decides are the most beneficial and feasible to implement. It will also establish a new role of advocacy, where the membership again will contribute to determining what age and ability groups are in greatest need of advocacy, and what topics are most important and appropriate for the group to address. The specific actions selected will depend on the outcome of the process described above, as the number and character of our membership will directly impact what the group can achieve.

Community Profile Update

Teton County and the Town of Jackson are the heart of an area commonly referred to as "Jackson Hole." "Hole" is a term first used by early explorers to describe the high elevation valley nearly surrounded by mountains: the Gros Ventre Range and the Tetons. The valley is rimmed on all sides by canyons and mountain passes. The highest point, the Grand Teton is 13,770 feet above sea level.

Teton County, Wyoming is a small county compared to Wyoming standards, located in western Wyoming. The County has a population of 23,464 according to the 2020 United States Census. Teton County is comprised of the Town of Jackson as the county seat, and several smaller towns such as Wilson and Teton Village among others. Teton County is approximately 60 miles long and 20 miles wide, including 4,214 square miles. National Forest, National Parks and other federal & state properties make up 97% of the county's 2.7 million acres. The remaining 3% is held by private landowners, of which 1% is under conservation easements, restricting development to a very limited area. The closest city is Idaho Falls, Idaho, 90 miles away.

The climate is typical for the Rocky Mountains, snowy and cold much of the year (Nov-May) with the highest snow fall of 558 inches during the 2010-2011 season and a record low temperature of -63 degrees in 1979. Typical high temperatures are in the 20's for winter and 70's for summer. Low temperatures (below 0) are common in winter and freezing temperatures can be experienced even during the summer months.

Jackson Hole's proximity to wilderness and acclaimed recreational opportunities makes it an attractive tourist destination for all ages and abilities. Summer weather is ideal for National Park tourism, backpacking, hiking, paddling, biking, wildlife viewing, and other outdoor activities. Winter weather is ideal for all types of skiing, snowshoeing, sledding, wildlife viewing, and other winter

activities. The region also has a rich history and strong artist base comprised of and appealing to all ages. These myriad tourism opportunities are the central driver of the local economy.

Although remote, Teton County attracts residents of great wealth. Wealthy residents and tourism create the need for a large working class, some of whom reside in the Jackson area, while others travel from nearby communities in Idaho or further south in Wyoming to Alpine and Star Valley. This creates substantial socio-economic disparities. According to income inequality research regularly conducted by the Economic Policy Institute, Teton County, WY is the most unequal county in the United States and the Jackson, WY-ID metro area is the most unequal metro area in the United States.

As an affluent community, Teton County prides itself on the aesthetics of the community as well as providing philanthropic services to the arts, the environment, and persons classified as "in poverty". There is not a great deal of cultural diversity in the population of the Town of Jackson and Teton County, with 80.4% of residents identifying as non-Hispanic/white and 14.1% Hispanic (according to 2020 Census data). There is, however, increasing diversity in ethnicity of our residents, eastern European, Russian, Asian, etc., including residents from most every state in the United States and many countries of the world which brings diversity of opinions and thought from multiple backgrounds.

Teton County is also considered the healthiest county in the state of Wyoming and scores better than the nation on some of the most critical indicators for overall health. However, recent assessments have shown the impact of the COVID pandemic on mental health of the community, as we struggle with high alcohol consumption rates and higher than average suicide rates. Wyoming's population is also aging at a rapid rate, causing an increase in need for services for seniors. In Teton County, the 2020 percentage of people age 60+ was 22.3%,

compared to a mere 10% in 2000. As the nation's baby boomers age, we anticipate these numbers to continue to increase significantly until 2030. However, with many youths coming to the area for the sports and outdoor activities, the median age of Teton County residents is 39.3 (2019 data).

The Town of Jackson historically scored 70 on the AARP Livability Index, and Teton County 66. The Town and County both scored highest on engagement, health, and opportunity (in that order). Both the Town and County scored lowest on neighborhood (Town 52, County 39) and housing (Town 54, County 49). Teton County also scored lower on Transportation (52).

The COVID pandemic from March 2020-March 2022 had a significant impact on our community. Second homeowners became permanent residents, home prices skyrocketed, and many long-time members of the community sold their properties and moved. This has had a destabilizing impact on the community as a whole. Workforce housing is critically unavailable and over-priced, staffing shortages abound and, as a result, many projects have been put on hold. Our community is struggling to overcome these new obstacles.

At the same time, new opportunities have arisen. There is new recognition of the vulnerability of seniors and people with disabilities. The Town of Jackson has formed a new Equity Task Force, where AFJH has representation. We look forward to other new opportunities to improve our community to continue becoming more accessible, inclusive, and age friendly.

(Sources: 2018 Community Health Needs Assessment; 2020 US Census Data; AARP Livability Index; 2018 Economic Policy Institute report)

Action Plan – Outcomes

The Action Plan has four focus areas that were broken down into action items. Focus areas were as follows:

1. Transportation – Vehicular focus

The work of the Transportation Committee is to ensure adequate and accessible parking and transportation in the Jackson/Teton County area.

2. Pedestrian

The work of the Pedestrian Committee is to ensure safe pathways for multiple uses, safe pedestrian crossings, and seating on pathways and in public areas.

3. May Park - Wellness Garden

The May Park Wellness Garden Committee is working with Jackson/Teton County Parks & Rec in the concept, design, access, funding, and development of a Wellness Garden. The Wellness Garden is planned by AFJH to be a quiet, relaxed space within a small park in East Jackson.

4. Community Relations

The Community Relations Committee is focused on engaging Jackson/Teton County residents, businesses, and organizations in awareness, assistance, and support of age friendly initiatives.

The Action Plan focused on these four areas over the past 36 months, as shown in the time blocks below.

Category	Strategy	Timeline	Dates
A	Sustain & Maintain	Actions to be completed in the next 6 months	June-Nov 2019
В	Short Term Plan	Actions to be completed in the next 6-24 months	Nov 2019 - May 2021

С	Long Term Plan	Actions to be	May 2021-May 2022		
		completed in the next			
		24-36 months			
Future					
Project	Possibilities for work at the completion of this action plan				
Horizon					

Specific projects for the four focus areas are listed in the tables that follow, along with the goals and outcomes for each.

Action Item & AFJH Focus Area	Domain(s) Addressed	Goal of Project	Community Partners	Metrics	Outcome
A.1 Pedestrian	Outdoor Spaces	Addressing elderly and ADA mobility needs through the Complete Streets Plan	Town of Jackson Planning, Public Works Departments		ADA Sidewalks: Hansen Street and Simpson Street completed 2021. Rancher St., Pearl Ave scheduled for 2022. N King St, Vine St planned for 2024. Center St. input given, 2025. Gregory Lane, Snow King/Maple Way intersection 2025. E Broadway 2027.

Action Item & AFJH Focus Area	Domain(s) Addressed	Goal of Project	Community Partners	Metrics	Outcome
A.2 Pedestrian	Outdoor Spaces, Health	Provide locations of rest (benches) for pedestrians	Town of Jackson Planning, Public Works Departments	Increased number of benches placed per year	7 installed from 2019-2021. Elk design benches placed - 10. Three benches at The Block installed and scheduled for Spring 2022. Added protective bollards to existing bench.
A.3 Pedestrian	Outdoor Spaces	Safe Crossings: Provide ski poles at town intersections to assist with safe crossings during inclement weather	St. John's Living Center (residents), Community Entry Services (clients)	Increased number of crossings with ski poles during winter/spring seasons	Increased locations from 6 to 11. Holders for poles installed where there were none.

Action Item & AFJH Focus Area	Domain(s) Addressed	Goal of Project	Community Partners	Metrics	Outcome
A.4 Community Relations	Community Support & Health	Distribute File of Life cards to post on fridge to elderly & people with disabilities	Teton County Health Department, Senior Center of Jackson Hole, Community Entry Services	Number of 'file of life' cards distributed	5,000 File of Life packets ordered and most distributed.
A.5 Community Relations	Communication & Information	Elder Resource Guide update: Onestop place for obtaining information on aging resources.	Elder Care Advisors, Senior Center of Jackson Hole	Update completed annually	Ongoing

Action Item & AFJH Focus Area	Domain(s) Addressed	Goal of Project	Community Partners	Metrics	Outcome
A.6 Community Relations	Respect & Social Inclusion, others?	Recognition of age friendly initiatives by other organizations	Chamber of Commerce	# of organizations recognized in 36-month period	Placed on hold due to COVID (Focus has been on elected officials.)
A.7 Transportation	Transportation	Mapping of ADA parking spaces; spaces accessible and available	Town of Jackson, Public Works	Mapping complete	ADA parking spaces complete in Town of Jackson, Teton Village & Wilson. ADA parking spaces surveyed at community parks.
A.8 Transportation	Transportation	ADA parking spaces displayed on visitor maps	Chamber of Commerce	Fold and tear-off maps updated annually	Completed & ongoing.

Action Item & AFJH Focus Area	Domain(s) Addressed	Goal of Project	Community Partners	Metrics	Outcome
A.9 May Park	Outdoor Spaces, Social Participation, Community Support & Health Services	Finalize plans for Wellness Garden at May Park	Parks & Rec, Town of Jackson	Site plan of Wellness Garden Complete	Site plan complete and turned over to Parks and Rec. Wellness Garden is in May Park master plan.
A.10 May Park	Outdoor Spaces, Social Participation, Community Support & Health Services, Communication & information	Community awareness of Wellness Garden at May Park	Parks & Rec, Town of Jackson, Teton County Library, Senior Center of Jackson Hole, Community Foundation of Jackson Hole	Public displays & info sessions on Wellness Garden	Public display at Library; publicity and fundraising events held at public venues; events planned but put on hold due to COVID.

Category B — Short Term Projects (6 to 24 months: Nov 2019 thru May 2021)

The short-term plan is to take the foundation laid above and take further action along the same four focus areas.

AFJH Action Item	Domain(s) Addressed	Goal of Project	AFJH Lead & Community Partners	Metrics	Outcome
B.1 Pedestrian	Outdoor Spaces	ADA Sidewalk ramps placed at intersections	Town of Jackson Public Works	Increased number of ramps placed annually	40 completed 2019- 2022.
B.2 Transportation	Transportation	Additional ADA parking spaces, particularly in the downtown core	Town of Jackson Planning and Public Works Departments	Percentage of desired ADA spaces in place	30% of recommended ADA spaces installed
B.3 Community Relations	Respect and Social Inclusion, others?	Establish criteria for organization to be designated as "age friendly"	Chamber of Commerce, St John's Medical Center, Systems of Care	Completion of designation criteria; # of organizations seeking & receiving designation	Put on hold due to COVID

	Respect & Social	Community	local	Number of media	COVID presented
	Inclusion	awareness of	newspaper,	announcements,	new opportunities:
		ageism & age	radio, Systems	presentations & outreach	SCJH Newsletter,
		friendly concepts	of Care, Town	events; number of	Newspaper articles,
			of Jackson,	established, social media	flyers, volunteer
B.4			Teton County,	outlets	section of
			Chamber of		newspaper,
Community			Commerce,		community safety
Relations			Senior Center,		calendar,
			MD & PT		community forums,
			offices, Sage		and public events.
			Living, Legacy		AFJH representation
			Lodge		on newly formed
					Equity Task Force.
	Outdoor Spaces	Fund raising to	Community	Funding secured to build	Funds raised in
		make Wellness	Foundation of	May Park Wellness Garden	amount of \$24,332
		Garden a reality	Jackson Hole,		that will be directly
			Town of		donated to
B.5			Jackson, Parks		Jackson/Teton Parks
			& Rec, St John's		& Rec to construct.
May Park			Hospital		Further fundraising
			Foundation		placed on hold due
					to COVID. Wellness
					Garden on May
					Park Master Plan.

B.6 May Park	Outdoor Spaces	Street enhancements around May Park	Town of Jackson, Public Works, Parks & Rec	Improved access to May Park	Attended design and Town workshops; provided AFJH recommendations; Access construction updates are awaiting scheduling and funding. Intersection at Hansen/Rancher will be constructed with ADA access in
B.7 Transportation	Transportation	Expand ADA Parking mapping to Wilson & Teton Village	Teton County	ADA Parking Mapping Complete of Wilson & Teton Village	2022. Field inventory completed; mapping is pending
B.8 Transportation	Transportation	Creation of additional accessible parking spaces	Teton County	Number of additional spaces added	30% of recommended ADA spaced installed in Town. No known progress outside Town limits.

	Transportation	Well maintained	Chamber of	Increased percentage of	Annual Town
	•	accessible spaces	Commerce,	spaces in good condition	improvements
		_	Town of	_	include painting,
			Jackson, Teton		striping and signage
B.9			County, private		of ADA spaces.
			businesses		Some private
Transportation					businesses have
					become complacent
					during COVID due
					to lack of funds and
					personnel.
	Outdoor Spaces	Safe places to cross	Town of Jackson	# of additional safe	Town increased the
				crossing locations added	number of crossings;
B.10					AFJH increased
Pedestrian					number of ski poles
					placed at
					intersections.
	Outdoor Spaces,	Age friendly	Friends of	# of hours of participation	Pathway
B.11	Respect & Social	representation as	Pathways,	in Pathways ambassador	Ambassador
Pedestrian	Inclusion	pathways	Town/County	program	program placed on
		ambassador			hold during COVID
	Outdoor Spaces	Approval through	Town of	Green light to begin project	Parks & Rec has
		all	Jackson, Public		completed May Park
		agencies/departme	Works, Parks &		master plan &
B.12 May Park		nts for May Park	Rec		continues to realign
		Wellness Garden			project workload
					with funding and
					personnel capacity.

AFJH Action Item	Domain(s) Addressed	Goal of Project	AFJH Lead & Community Partners	Metrics	Outcome
C.1 Community Relations	Respect & Social Inclusion	Establish an age friendly training program for organizations	Systems of Care; Chamber of Commerce	Number of organizations who receive training.	No action.
C.2 Transportation	Transportation	ADA space proposal to the Town/County	Town of Jackson, Teton County	AFJH annual letter to Town/County	AFJH provided letter to Town with recommended ADA needs; Town has been active in response and actual installation commensurate with funding and personnel; still need more.

AFJH Action Item	Domain(s) Addressed	Goal of Project	AFJH Lead & Community Partners	Metrics	Outcome
	Transportation	Rural	Senior Center of	1	Pending. Senior
		transportation -	Jackson Hole,	transportation outside of	Center Board has
		Improved access to	Teton County	town limits	commissioned a
		transportation			Transportation
		outside of Jackson			Committee to
		town limits			explore needs and
					wants; Town has
C.3					significantly
Transportation					changed public
					transport with bus-
					on-demand service
					in E. Jackson &
					increased commuter
					service between
					Jackson and other
					County locations.

AFJH Action Item	Domain(s) Addressed	Goal of Project	AFJH Lead & Community Partners	Metrics	Outcome
C.4 Pedestrian	Outdoor spaces	Mapping of bench locations	Town/County, Pathways, Friends of Pathways	Completion of bench mapping & condition status	Town is in the process of creating and updating infrastructure system GIS maps. Bench locations will be included but have not begun compilation yet.
C.5 Pedestrian	Outdoor Spaces	Additional benches	Town/County, Pathways, Friends of Pathways	# of additional benches	10 benches installed.

AFJH Action Item	Domain(s) Addressed	Goal of Project	AFJH Lead & Community Partners	Metrics	Outcome
C.6 Community Relations	Communication & Information	Access to information about age friendly concepts	Town of Jackson, Teton County, St John's Medical Center, Senior Center of Jackson Hole	Number of web site hits	AFJH has tab on the Senior Center website but unable to measure number of AFJH hits at present. Wellness Garden web site also established.
C.7 May Park	Outdoor Spaces	Turn over plans for May Park Wellness Garden to Parks & Rec for building	Parks & Rec	Handoff complete	Plans turned over to Parks & Rec and Wellness Garden is on the May Park master plan. Placed on hold; awaiting Parks & Rec funding and project approval by Town Council/Commissio ners.

AFJH Action Item	Domain(s) Addressed	Goal of Project	AFJH Lead & Community Partners	Metrics	Outcome
C.8 May Park	Outdoor Spaces, Social Participation	Celebration of May Park Wellness Garden	Parks & Rec, St John's Medical Center	Event to celebrate Wellness Garden	Event planned but cancelled due to COVID