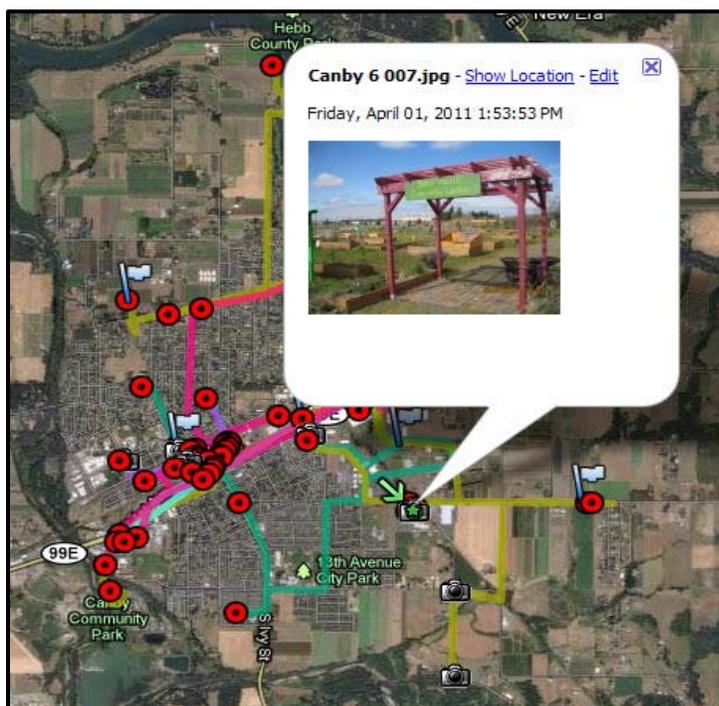




## Canby *engAGE* in Community MAPPS Report

Canby, Oregon's Garden Spot, is located in Clackamas County on Oregon Route 99E, which bisects the city from east to west, about 18.0 miles from Portland. Canby is the home of the Clackamas County Fairgrounds, located on the north side of 99E. The annual Clackamas County Fair and Rodeo is held in August; other events year round. The Union Pacific freight and passenger rail line runs through the center of downtown Canby; there is no Amtrak passenger train stop. The city's bus system, Canby Area Transit (CAT), is free and does not run on weekends or major holidays. Connections are available to TriMet and the commuter rail system in Wilsonville, Woodburn, and Oregon City's bus connections. The historic Canby Ferry provides year round transportation across the Willamette river (conditions permitting) between Canby and Wilsonville.<sup>1</sup>

Canby has a population 15,371; 7,329 (48%) male and 8,042 (52%) female. Over 35 percent (36.6%) of the population are 45 years or older; 12 percent are 65 years or older. Twenty-two percent of the total population report being Hispanic or Latino, which is considerably higher than both Oregon (10.6%) and U.S. (15.1%) percentages. Among people at least five years old living in Canby city in 2005-2009, 23 percent spoke a language other than English at home. Of those speaking a language other than English at home, 87 percent spoke Spanish; 57 percent reported that they did not speak English "very well."<sup>2</sup>



### ***engAGE* in Community**

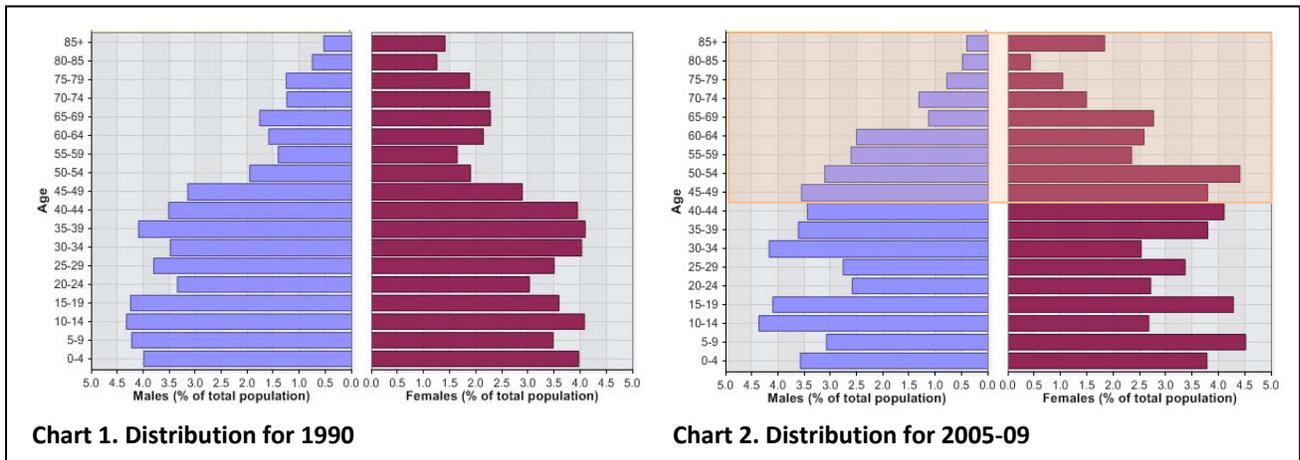
Clackamas County Social Services and Extension Family and Community Health have partnered with communities across the County to assess resources and residents' perceptions of current and future resources required to improve the livability or 'age-friendliness' of communities within Clackamas County. Information gathered from and by local residents will be used to develop an *engAGE* in Community strategic plan. Within local communities, the project objectives are to (1) provide data to inform 'age-friendly' multi-sector planning

efforts, (2) assess and increase community capacity, resources, and relevance for evidence-based 'age-friendly' practices, (3) provide basis for current and future actions, and (4) share results with community audiences. This report is a brief summary of Wilsonville's *engAGE* in Community MAPPS (Mapping Attributes: Participatory Photographic Surveys) activities.

## Relevance for Canby Community

Clackamas County and County communities are aging, which may burden the current individual, family, and community resources and affect the ability of County residents to age actively and successfully in their residence and/or community of choice. In Canby it is no different; since 1990 the percent of residents, both women and men, between 40 and 64 years of age who live in the community has increased significantly. Estimates are that by 2015 more than 40 percent of adults living Clackamas County and County communities will be over the age of 50, a trend that for Canby is no different (see chart 2, page 2). Even more, as with many rural communities, Canby has experienced a cultural and economic shift from a farm-based economy, “majority, 80 percent, of population were farmers when it [the fairgrounds] was first open; today it is only 3 percent.” Planning for an older population in the future requires local input with an understanding the current community supports and barriers to place-based aging as well as a commitment to progress – increasing supports and removing barriers so that all community residents have the choice to live well and age in their residence and community of choice.

## Population Distribution by Age and Gender for Canby for 1990 vs. 2005-09



Source: Oregon Communities Reporter<sup>3</sup>

## Methods and Preliminary Themes

An *engAGE MAPPS* team (n=22) comprised of local residents with an interest creating a more ‘age-friendly’ Canby community volunteered to individually photograph and map the features of the area that they perceived as either opportunities for or obstacles to place-based aging for Canby residents. Over 120 photographs were taken. Together, the Canby *engAGE MAPPS* team discussed the photographs during a focus group meeting and the most relevant 50 photographs were mapped and included in the presentation for the larger community conversation. Over 35 local residents attended and participated in a community conversation held at the Canby Adult Center in April 2011 on the Thursday before Easter, which reportedly affected attendance. Never the less, a lively conversation was facilitated by Dr. Deborah John, OSU Extension faculty in Clackamas County. During the 2.5 hour dinner and dialogue, each of the photographs were

displayed; participants discussed the community feature in terms of its 'age-friendliness,' that is as supporting or hindering one's capacity to live and thrive in the community regardless of age or ability.

### **Physical Environment – 65 references**

The physical environment is rich with natural and built amenities providing supports for and challenges to age-friendliness. The most obvious features of the physical environment, the location of the community along Route 99E and the rail line that runs through the center of downtown Canby affect residents' perceptions of age friendliness and their experience of the community across all physical environment topic areas (i.e. transportation, housing, and outdoor spaces and buildings) as well as the social and service environments (see Figure 1-6, p. 6-7).

#### **Supports**

- Lovely natural environment with many green spaces, waterways, and built environment resources (i.e. parks, picnic areas) for active recreation.
- Downtown improvement plan that supports features such as sidewalks, crosswalks, and benches.
- Walk/bicycle pathway
- Fairgrounds
- Influx of new commercial buildings and locally owned business ventures
- Free public transit with reasonable schedules and accommodations for seniors and cyclists
- Unique historic features, such as historic buildings and ferry
- Community gardens
- Recycling center
- Alzheimer long term care facility
- Well resourced adult center and community swim center
- Publically supported library, art center, and parks
- Urgent and health care center
- Numerous local and large chain grocery markets and restaurants

#### **Barriers**

- Automobile and pedestrian transportation routes intersect with rail lines affecting transportation safety and emergency response time
- Absence of adequate roadway signage, traffic calming, and pedestrian supports make navigating the community difficult for drivers and pedestrians
- Sidewalks/pathways absent, discontinuous, and/or in need of repair affect walk/bikeability
- Limited availability of affordable, adequate housing, including low income, assisted living and long term care facilities

- Local transit system not easily or broadly connected with regional system encourages reliance on automobile
- Limited resources for implementing downtown improvement plan delays progress
- [In]accessibility of outdoor spaces and building

### **Social Environment – 69 references**

The social environment emerged a strong supporting attribute for the age-friendliness of Canby. Respectful and inclusive social and cultural participation and civic engagement opportunities were frequently discussed within the context of areas for improvement.

### **Supports**

- Pride in the community and its history; sense of “home town pride”
- Organizations, natural and built environment features that support social and cultural activities, such as parks, playgrounds, and camp grounds; visual and performing arts; adult community and swim centers, library, movie theater, commercial gathering places (i.e. restaurants, coffee shops)
- Adult center offers intergenerational events and activities, senior/community meal support, and outings
- Various civic engagement supports, such as committees, volunteer, and faith groups
- Strong sense of traditional community supported through historic features and acts, such as grocery delivery, postal drop boxes, murals, aesthetically pleasing historic preservation, and downtown improvement plan
- Culture of gardens and gardening
- Event center with “probably something happening every weekend” and home to the Clackamas County Fair
- Small, locally owned businesses support community life

### **Barriers**

- Absence of supports for Hispanic/Latino residents
- Commercial vacancies and “at times, the downtown streets are like a ghost town”
- Some policies, rules, and costs that limit inclusion and/or create barriers to volunteerism, like fishing license requirements for pond fishing preventing intergenerational participation and paperwork required for volunteering
- (In)accessibility of some environmental features prevents participation across demographic groups
- Slow pace of rural progress
- Perceived community safety/criminal activity in public places, “there has been trouble at this park but it seems to be under control”

## **Service Environment – 47 references**

Canby seems to be well resourced in the area of health and healthy lifestyle services; communication networks are supported via traditional and new information technologies.

### **Supports**

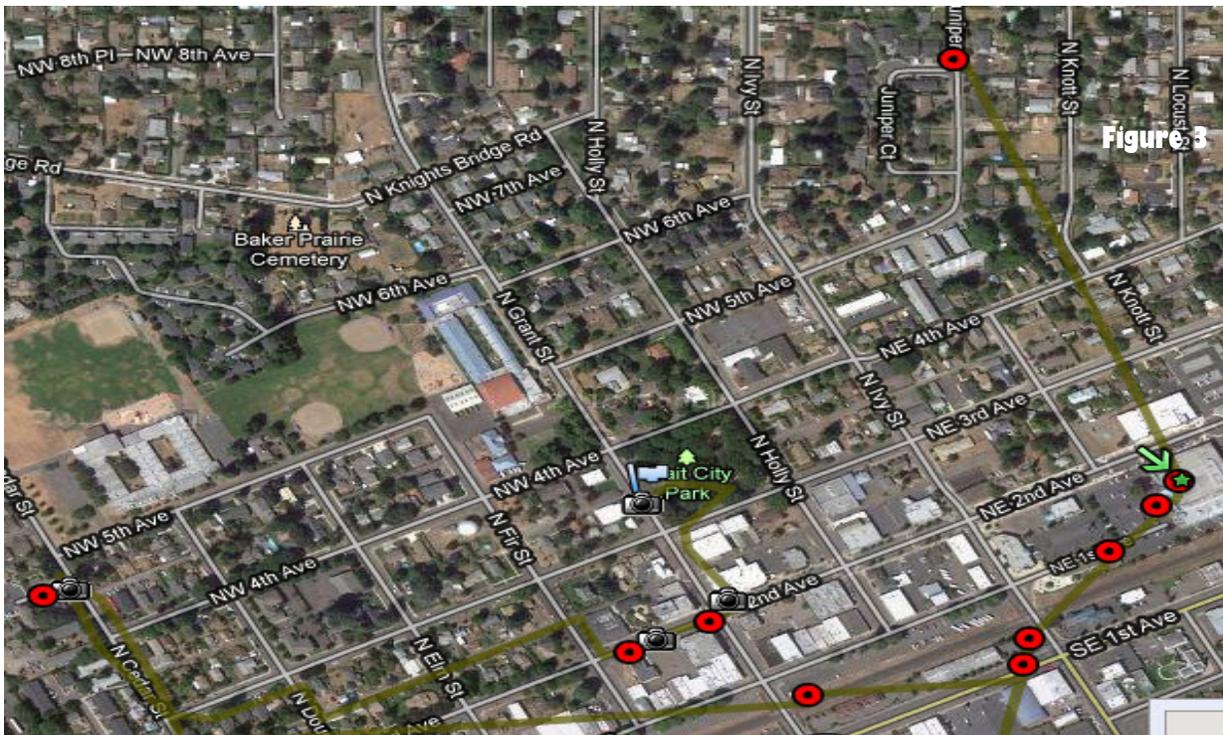
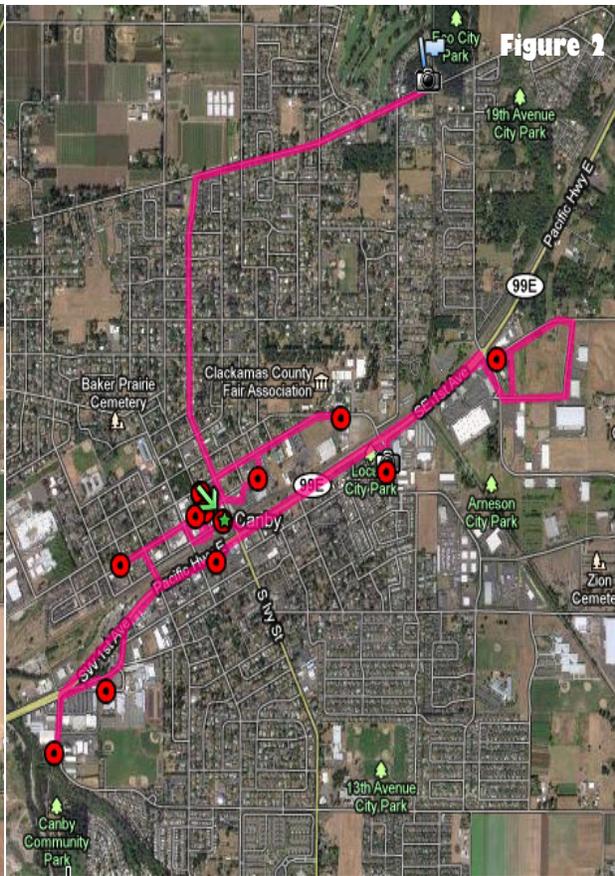
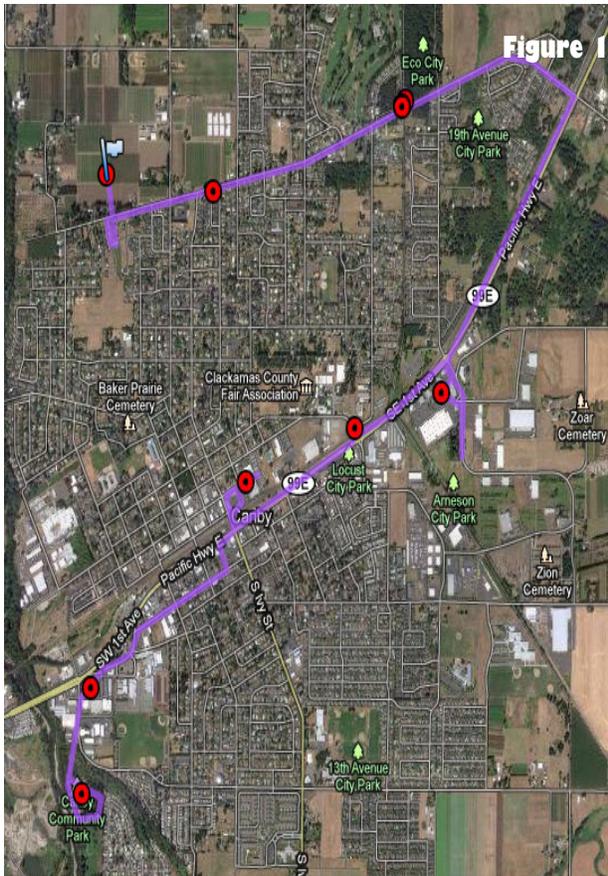
- Health care facility providing urgent care and health care services
- Local health care providers, allied health services, and pharmacies
- Emergency response system (fire department/EMT) with good response record
- Various communication supports, including traditional (postal drop boxes, post office, newspaper/news letters, bulletin boards, library) and new information technologies (WIFI, computer stations, email/listserv)
- Long term/Alzheimer care facilities, including adult day care
- Community education
- Meals on Wheels, emergency food and community meals programs, local ODHS office

### **Barriers**

- Communications often require people to “know where it is or who to ask to try and find it”
- Limited/targeted community input on important issues/decisions “people should attend these meetings and give their input”
- Inadequate attention to research, planning, informed decision-making, and implementation of plans - “Plan! Learn from other cities. Address in the planning meeting– research what other communities have done so that after 3 or 4 years we don’t regret what money and time was spent.”
- Increasing costs of necessary goods and services amidst economic hardship, “seventy people in line for food yesterday”
- Absence of formal and informal bi-directional communications between residents and key public/private decision-makers/stakeholders
- Advances in technologies that require acquisition of new skills

### **References**

1. Wikipedia, retrieved on May 27, 2011
2. U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey
3. Oregon Communities Reporter, retrieved on May 30, 2011 from <http://oe.oregonexplorer.info/rural/OregonCommunitiesReporter>



Figures 1-6 represent the routes navigated by local residents as they mapped the attributes of the Canby Community using participatory photographic survey methods. Circles and cameras identify the location of photographed points of interest related to the physical, social, and service environments.

