

## Downtown Niles, MI | 2022 Outdoor Hub Survey Results

Total Sample: **1,386** | Completion Rate: **73%** | Est. Average Time Spent: **10m: 47s**

### Q.1: How important are the following features or attributes when considering possible locations for an outdoor hub?

Response	EI %	Avg. Weight
Close to eating and drinking places	28.5%	3.670
Close to public restrooms	24.6%	3.561
Located within the social district	17.4%	3.253
Convenient to parking	13.1%	3.128
Centrally located in downtown	15.0%	3.013
Close to Shopping	7.5%	2.588

EI % = Percentage of respondents ranking Extremely Important

Average Weight based on cumulative responses for frequency range | Maximum weight = 5

Average Weight Scale: 1 = Not Important | 2 = Somewhat Important | 3 = Important | 4 = Very Important | 5 = Extremely Important

### Q.2: Would you prefer an outdoor hub located on a street, or in an off-street lot or open space?

Response	Count	Percentage
Located in an off-street lot or open space	763	55.7%
Located on a street	174	12.7%
No preference or unsure	412	30.1%
Neither	22	1.6%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,371</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### Q.3: Would you prefer an outdoor hub located in front of buildings, or behind or beside buildings?

Response	Count	Percentage
Located behind or beside buildings	381	28.0%
Located in front of buildings	275	20.2%
No preference or unsure	636	46.7%
Neither	70	5.1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,362</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### Q.4: Would you prefer an outdoor hub located in a larger space capable of accommodating larger events and performances, or in a smaller space capable of hosting smaller events and performances?

Response	Count	Percentage
In a larger space capable of accommodating larger events and performances	548	40.8%
In a smaller space capable of hosting smaller events and performances	379	28.2%
No preference or unsure	376	28.0%
Neither	41	3.1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,344</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

<b>Q.5: Would you prefer an outdoor hub installation that is temporary, or that is permanent?</b>		
<b>Response</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Permanent	861	64.3%
Temporary	149	11.1%
No preference or unsure	288	21.5%
Neither	42	3.1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,340</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

<b>Q.6: Would you prefer an outdoor hub that is open and programmed seasonally (Spring to Fall), or open and programmed year-round?</b>		
<b>Response</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Open and programmed year-round	743	55.7%
Open and programmed seasonally (Spring to Fall)	424	31.8%
No preference or unsure	128	9.6%
Neither	38	2.9%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,333</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

<b>Q.7: Would you prefer an outdoor hub restricted to downtown food and beverages, or open to food trucks and remotely located vendors?</b>		
<b>Response</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Open to food trucks and remotely located vendors	1,047	78.9%
Restricted to downtown food and beverages	113	8.5%
No preference or unsure	132	9.9%
Neither	35	2.6%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,327</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

<b>Q.8: Would you prefer an outdoor hub that is accommodating of pets, particularly dogs, or that is restricted to humans?</b>		
<b>Response</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Accommodating of pets, particularly dogs	647	49.0%
Restricted to humans	390	29.5%
No preference or unsure	254	19.2%
Neither	29	2.2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,320</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Q.9: Which of the following activities would make you more likely to visit and spend time at a downtown outdoor hub?**

*Select up to five (5)*

Response	Count	Percentage
Live programmed performances (e.g. musicians and bands, storytellers, comedians, magicians, etc.)	1,017	77.0%
Special food and drink events (e.g. guest chefs, wine tastings, etc.)	990	75.0%
Pop-up or temporary shops	730	55.3%
Adult activities (e.g. trivia events, DIY demonstrations, paint & sip events, etc.)	614	46.5%
Outdoor games (e.g. cornhole, giant checkers or Jenga, etc.)	558	42.3%
Kids activities (e.g. crafts, pavement chalk, storytelling, balloon art, etc.)	438	33.2%
Outdoor movies	417	31.6%
Buskers or street performers	336	25.5%
Fitness classes (e.g. yoga, Pilates, etc.)	154	11.7%
Club activities and classes (e.g. book or poetry club, songwriters group, painting or dance classes, etc.)	136	10.3%
Other (please specify) *	74	5.6%
None	15	1.1%
<b>NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS</b>	<b>1,320</b>	

*Note: Up to five responses per respondent allowed. Percentages based on 1,320 respondents.*

*\* See ATT-1 for detail of "Other" responses.*

**Q.10: Please rank the following possible downtown outdoor hub treatments or features in order of importance, with 1 being of highest importance, 2 being of next highest importance, etc.?**

Response	Top %	Total Score
Lighting for safety and security	41.5%	5,023
Shade or sun protection treatments	22.5%	4,509
Designated smoke-free area	23.6%	3,907
Wind screen fixtures or treatments	7.0%	3,451
Designated alcohol-free area	5.3%	2,220
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	

**Top %** = Percentage of respondents ranking as being of highest importance

**Total Score** shows inverted sum for ranking scale ranging from 1 (highest importance) to 5 (lowest importance).

**Q.11: Which of the following styles of seating would make you more likely to visit and spend time at a downtown outdoor hub? *Select up to two (2)***

Response	Count	Percentage
Movable tables and chairs	862	67.7%
Fixed table seating for up to 2, 4 or 6 persons	542	42.5%
Individual chair seating (e.g. rocking chairs, Adirondack chairs, etc.)	437	34.3%
Alternative seating (e.g. hammocks, swings, etc.)	141	11.1%
Communal table seating	104	8.2%
Other (please specify) *	30	2.4%
None	10	0.8%
<b>NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS</b>	<b>1,274</b>	

**Note:** Up to two responses per respondent allowed. Percentages based on 1,274 respondents.

\* **Other Responses:** Anchored picnic tables; Anything the city can provide; Bring back the fire pits; if trap house is so about the town how come they never hosted a fitness class at the node?; Bring your own seating; BYOC; Church pews; Do not want a HUB; If it is required to answer that why do you have a nine box. No to the node!; Last question' smoke free number 1 choice rest who cares, some shade areas too; Less Eddy St., more Howard park; Like the node had before; mix of B, D and E; No hub; No node at all; None (7); Office chairs; Round cement picnic tables similar to the ones at the used auto center at the corner of 9th and main would be perfect. I would prefer it look more like a courtyard, plants and a few umbrellas; Same place and seating as last year f\*\*\* trap house!!!; Space to bring your own seating along with B seating; Sturdy chairs for larger people, and please, please, please put a few taller chairs (not bar stools) for people who are handicap or have leg/knee problems so it is accessible to all; Waste of money for this; We already have areas that could be upgraded without alcohol and smoking; Why not find the location and let that set the seating?; You couldn't get me to go.

**Q.12: If an on-street location were considered for a Niles downtown outdoor hub, which of the following layout options would you prefer?**

Response	Count	Percentage
Full closure removing all vehicular traffic from a portion of a street	809	64.2%
Partial closure maintaining at least one lane of vehicular traffic on the street	191	15.2%
No preference or unsure	106	8.4%
None	154	12.2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,260</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Q.13: Which of the following surface options would you prefer?**

Response	Count	Percentage
Hard and even surface (fully accessible to all users)	756	60.5%
Soft and/or uneven surface (some components may not be accessible to all users)	241	19.3%
No preference or unsure	222	17.8%
None	30	2.4%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,249</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Q.14: Please rank the six categories based on your funding priorities, with 1 being of highest priority, 2 being the next highest priority, etc.**

Response	Highest %	Total Score
Screens or umbrellas for shade	49.1%	6,129
Lighting features	29.4%	5,900
Landscaping or planters	4.8%	3,735
Décor, including seasonal décor	3.4%	3,672
Fencing or railings	7.1%	3,398
Surface treatments	6.2%	2,555
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	

**Highest %** = Percentage of respondents ranking as being of highest priority

**Total Score** shows inverted sum for priority ranking scale ranging from 1 (highest priority) to 6 (lowest priority).

**Q.15: Which of the following types of winter amenities or activities would make you more likely to visit and spend time at an outdoor hub during the cold weather season? *Select up to three (3)***

Response	Count	Percentage
Fire pits	819	67.7%
Patio heaters or other heating devices	714	59.1%
Winter Vendors or Concessions (e.g. hot chocolate, ciders, s'mores, etc.)	464	38.4%
Igloos or similar enclosures	380	31.4%
Wind screen treatments	280	23.2%
Winter and holiday-themed events	278	23.0%
Winter games and activities	187	15.5%
Winter/Holidays decor	118	9.8%
Pergolas or similar covers	100	8.3%
Other (please specify) *	30	2.5%
None	20	1.7%
<b>NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS</b>	<b>1,209</b>	

**Note:** Up to three responses per respondent allowed. Percentages based on 1,209 respondents.

\* **Other Responses:** All the above; Closed in the winter; Do not care as long as it is not closing a portion of a street in front of long term businesses; Do not want a hub; I have no desire to utilize such a space in winter; Ice Rink; mix, of A,B,C,E (not plastic) and I; No node (2); No winter node; Nobody wants to be outside in the winter in the Midwest; None (8); none it should be seasonal closed in winter; Nothing; Other; Permanent ice skating/broom hockey rink; Santa; Should be closed in winter; Strip club be better; The previous question number order,adjusts puts numbers in order, not working; Tire fires; Trap house not being baby bitches about the node and calling gym members asking why they are drinking at the node and not working out, they are bullies and not good neighbors; We already have areas that could be upgraded without alcohol or smoking.

**Survey Demographics**

<b>Q.16: Where do you live?</b>		
<b>Response</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
I live in the Niles city limits.	614	51.6%
I do not live in the city limits, but I live within 20 miles of Niles.	549	46.1%
I live more than 20 miles from Niles.	27	2.3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,190</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

<b>Q.17: Do you work or own a business in Downtown Niles?</b>		
<b>Response</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	229	19.3%
No	960	80.7%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,189</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

<b>Q.18: What is your gender?</b>		
<b>Response</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Female	864	72.7%
Male	312	26.2%
Prefer to self-describe	13	1.1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,189</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

<b>Q.19: Which category includes your age?</b>		
<b>Response</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
19 or younger	10	0.8%
20 to 24	30	2.5%
25 to 34	192	16.2%
35 to 44	270	22.7%
45 to 54	266	22.4%
55 to 64	223	18.8%
65 to 74	161	13.6%
75 or older	36	3.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,188</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Something to add?**

<b>Q.30: We covered a lot of ground, but if you have something to add, enter your ideas or comments in the box appearing below. Otherwise, click "Next."</b>		
Number Commenting *		282

\* See Attachment 2 for detail of responses.

# ATTACHMENT 1

## ATTACHMENT 1 -- Q9: "Other" Hub Activities

Q9: Which of the following activities would make you more likely to visit and spend time at a downtown outdoor hub? --

### "Other" Responses

Q9 "Other" Responses (Verbatim)
A little bit of everything
A spot in a shaded area for the hot summer sun. Very important not to have a negative impact on any of our local businesses
Activities that are pet friendly seem to draw a lot of people. Pet costume nights and such, like Saint Joe
All of the above :)
All of these
All the above
Arts, craft vendors and farm market
Bands and food vendors some that have business in Niles, like Elkhart has
Bicycle and running club gathering area
Can't narrow it down. Any activities (and what you have listed are great) would be a potential draw.
Cannabis Club
Cannabis festivals
Church activities
Cigars fire pit
Craft/Artisan market
Dance
Depends on where it would be located. Nothing that blocks off a street.
Don't see any reason for this when we have the park to use.
Farmer's market
Farmer's Market, auto shows, family friendly without pot, smoke, alcohol advertising and distribution
Farmers Market (7)
Farmers Market, Artisans Market
Farmers Markets
Farmers markets are awesome! This is kind of like a temporary store take over. I really like comprehensive events that have vendors, a performer, something to get involved in, this brings the full community vibe. It would be great to host a bike ride that leaves from the NODE and ends at it so people can enjoy the entertainment/food available
Fitness challenges - team activities
Flea market
Food Truck days, farmer's market style pop ups, live local musicians. Food truck and local vendors, with a live band, families of all ages, and dogs welcome. Perfection!
Food trucks
Get rid of trap house they are the babies in this whole matter
Hear me out now, how about we just forget about the NODE and go on with our lives nobody will use it
Hunter ice festival
I don't think we really need an outdoor hub
I would be open to any depending on what the exact events are.
Just a cool place to hangout outside and have a drink
Just a quiet place to go with the grandkids and enjoy the wilderness without drunks and potheads yelling, swearing or getting high or intoxicated in public. My family has lived in Niles for 5 generations now and none of us will frequent downtown because of the negative activities that take place.
Live sporting events

# ATTACHMENT 1

## ATTACHMENT 1 -- Q9: "Other" Hub Activities

Q9: Which of the following activities would make you more likely to visit and spend time at a downtown outdoor hub? --

### "Other" Responses

Q9 "Other" Responses (Verbatim)
Local film fest
Marijuana
Markets
More live music!
Music but not magicians or story tellers.
Need ice skating, Christmas lights & hot chocolate
Needs to be handicap accessible & wheel chair accessible- per ADA.
Niles is a cesspool for durgs
No More NODE Crap
None (6)
None! Please stop closing roads
not interested
Nothing (2)
Open mic nights
Outdoor sports via projector
People let's go back to normal lives
Plentiful shade options during summer/hot season
Poetry readings
portable heaters and wind protection for winter seating
Possibility of Farmers market if we don't already have that at Riverfront Park. Similar to what Ludington does.
Singing events
Th is is a terrible idea
The next part of survey messes up the numbers, I do not want them in order
town-wide rummage sale downtown and homes/apartment buildings
We already have places for these without alcohol or marijuana
Youth bands, high school clubs/bands/choirs, local area events, martial arts demo, dance/yoga demo, pottery class, ehatever



# ATTACHMENT 2

## ATTACHMENT 2 -- Q20: Something to Add

We covered a lot of ground, but if you have something to add, enter your ideas or comments in the box appearing below.

### Q20 Comments (Verbatim)

420 friendly/themed events, local talent events, astrology gatherings.

A hub will do wonders for the downtown restaurants and stores as we saw over the past 2 years.

A type of high boardwalk, balcony, or deck built along & above the sidewalks would be unique and amazing! (With space for seating, of course).

Aesthetics are everything and can make people come to the NODE. I think it is very important to make it a space that is beneficial for all including businesses and spectators. Having food trucks and alcohol vendors would be a huge plus. Having an area where kids can run around would also be nice.

All investment and operation expenses should be the responsibility of the DDA. No general fund money should be used.

Also want to add to the winter question..some sort of coverings for rain or snow (and shade)

An area that is safe enough to have small kids running around also have fun but is also transitional to have pop up markets, bands etc. if you put everything on casters or think of it as moveable from the design then you will save money in the long run as it will be more versatile

Art events draw people- lets use the History center more.

As a life long resident of Niles I hope we are able to bring back something like that We had with the NODE. I just would like to feel safer then I did when I was there before. I didn't feel safe all the time . So my experience was not always a good one. I stopped going because of issues at times caused by some that were there.

As far as letting animals at the NODE, I think that's a great idea but there would need to be consequences if someone doesn't pick up after their animals. Plus since MI has a leash law, that needs to be enforced at the NODE as well. If that's not possible, then just make it no pets allowed so kids can enjoy without potential harm from a scared animal. Maybe no kids after 9p so adults can enjoy a time without kids.

As Niles doesn't have a ton of funding, I think that it's important that improvements be made with the most reasonably priced materials that require the least amount of maintenance. I'm not sure the taxpayers could handle constant maintenance of things such as igloos or powered outdoor heating elements at this time. Windbreaks using low maintenance trees, gravel and tables with seating might be a good start before over-investing. Although I would love to see a Saint Joe / New Buffalo Vibe here, I don't think anybody should put the "cart before the horse".

Best location is north east corner of 2nd and sycamore, its fenced, lots of parking, its lighted and doesn't block any streets.

Bike racks. Shops/food open later, not just bars.

Bring back the Node. We had family and friends out of town come just for the anode events.

Bring the NODE back.

Can we consider how to better utilize what we have for outdoor space rather than just adding more. The previous process seemed haphazard, tone deaf and foolish..

Clean Public bathrooms needed, fun for all ages, more downtown events

Closing a street in front of businesses should not be an option.

Closing down streets in front of businesses is not the answer.

Do not block off a street with businesses or a street that is used by residents. In Niles 3rd Street would be the only street that would not have a traffic issue.

Do not block any streets

Do not block any streets!

Do not block city streets. We already have a similar space at the amphitheater and that area could be improved.

Do not block off any downtown streets

Do not block roads.

Do not close any street. Should not be funded by the city's general fund. Should be funded 100% by DDA.

# ATTACHMENT 2

## ATTACHMENT 2 -- Q20: Something to Add

We covered a lot of ground, but if you have something to add, enter your ideas or comments in the box appearing below.

### Q20 Comments (Verbatim)

Do not close any streets in front of any business!

Do not hinder access to retail establishments

Do not put it in a street. It's a wonderful thing to have but disrupting traffic like the NODE did was very annoying.

Do not take away from the family's and children to put in an outside Bar and smoking area

Do not use a street.

Do not want it back on 2nd street. Needs a new location.

Don't close a street for a whole year again!

Don't block off streets

Don't block the flow or traffic

Don't close a road for a party area.

Don't listen to all the cry babies that are looking out for just the 1990 graduates. The comments made by those people comparing the Memphis location vs the Node location was insane. Memphis has restaurants, entertainment and bars. Niles has an antique shop, Brian's place. Need real food and drink choices

Don't worry about what Penny Myers says!!

Dont block roads . Its stupid

Dont put it on a street

Europeans have reformed their towns marvelously into pedestrian malls, highly walkable. We could learn much from them about quality of life, and towns.

Excellent idea, but dont agree with closing any part of a street, except under certain circumstances ie: temporary closures for large day or weekend events.

Fix the flowers and stuff we already have downtown so people can enjoy what Nile's has to offer

Get it done !

Getting live bands to perform at the outdoor space sounds be absolutely amazing. We do not have enough of that locally

Goal would be to ,Äöadd to' not pull from the River area activities - this area can handle live music best.

Great idea to do a survey! Keep up the good work (:

Great job

Handicap parking Handicap bathrooms

Having a family friendly social district brings a lot to the community. I have lived in Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids for the last 12 years of my life and the NODE was very similar to popular outdoor areas there. While I'm very Pro-Marijuana being legal, the non-smoking is a must for both tobacco and marijuana. There could be designated areas, but nobody wants to be surrounded by other peoples smoke. Our culture has shifted away from that.

I am a Niles native living elsewhere, but I visit frequently. I loved having the NODE to go to for meeting friends, having a beer, coffee, or snack, etc. Much better than sitting in a bar or restaurant!

I am all in favor of a NODE. I liked the idea of the "first draft"...but, as it turned out, I am glad Second Street is back open. The upper parking lot at 3rd Street (over the restrooms) would be a good location for an outdoor space that provides room for food trucks and other vendors.

I appreciate the beautiful flowers that line our street.

I believe if you bring people together with activities of any kind and have a spot where they can sit back and talk to each other it will turn out awesome

I believe it should be in the park or similar area. Don't believe blocking a street or using up valuable parking space is the right move for our downtown.

## ATTACHMENT 2

### ATTACHMENT 2 -- Q20: Something to Add

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We covered a lot of ground, but if you have something to add, enter your ideas or comments in the box appearing below.

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#### Q20 Comments (Verbatim)

I believe that the Node should be kept where it was, we already have the pavilion in the river front for larger performances and gatherings. When you see old photos of Nile's you can see many people walking about, crossing the street, only having to worry about the occasional horse drawn buggy or electric street car. But now, in the past 60 years, shopping centers moved from downtowns to malls, cities and even small towns like Nile's have become 100% vehicle centric. Those original stretch of downtown buildings were built to serve people, not just cars. My example of this being the stretch of buildings torn down in the 1970s to build the strip mall where the Secretary of State is located. Beautiful architectural brick buildings were torn down for a parking lot to house a strip mall. Nile's needs to focus on pedestrian oriented areas in the downtown. The node where it was originally is a perfect location for that purpose. It should include green space and pavement treatment so it no longer looks like a street for vehicular use. I also saw one of the options being a shared street for a Node application and a vehicle corridor, I do not like that idea. It's either all or nothing. A safe area for pedestrians and people to gather and support the local and other businesses.

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I didn't like the Node blocking off a street. The Node should have been in a parking lot.

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I didn't mind the Node where it was, but maybe there is a spot where it could be located and businesses could be more central to whats going on there? We go when its warm and i know we only frequent brass eye and the food trucks when we go. Seems like the empty store fronts would have been ideal for places like cafes, boba/ juice shops, sandwich shops, i feel like there were just some missed opportunities. We have too many empty store fronts that could really hold the interest of visitors (to the node and our town) if they were filled with shops geared towards an outdoor venue. Eh its hard. I know we have all the places to cater to the node but they are so spread a part i dont utilize them when im there. I dont want to leave the area to miss the social time or the entertainment to walk down the road.

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I do NOT want anything blocking our street

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I don't think it should of ever been removed

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I enjoyed the original NODE, would love to see its return.

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I feel like any and all of this could and should be done at the amphitheater

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I feel our river area could be used more. River walk like other cities have

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I find I have trouble finding parking downtown, so tying up a whole street is not favorable downtown businesses if parking is furthered strained. Nile's has a wonderful area down by the St Joseph River (with exception of the skate park- perhaps move skate park to another city park area- like Southside Park). A Splash Pad would be wonderful! I think having nice seating by the pavillon would be a optimal place to hold a wedding/reception. The city would secure funds from renting the area to assist in upkeep of the park area. Another option for the NODE would be at the where the old Nile's police station use to be.

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I have been a Fire Fighter for over 50 years and putting people out in the street is the worse thing that can be done. Fire egines can not get to buildings. And a vehicle could drive into a crowd of people. Put the NODE in a parking lot or down by the river with barricades around it.

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I haven't been to the NODE but thought it was an awesome idea & was disappointed when it was removed.

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I hope all the in-fighting comes to an end and we have our common area back for all to enjoy.

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I hope that you do NOT close down the streets downtown for something that is used rarely.

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I just want to clarify that I think it should be cigarette-free. Smoke-free is too broad ;)

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knee/leg issues from a motor vehicle accident. So railings, and easy seating options are important, as well as an even walking surface.

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I like the idea of a NODE but thought the previous location was horribly planned and purposely placed in front of the Brass Eye for selfish reasons

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I like the openness to meet people in the community

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I like when a town/city have gathering spots for freinds and family

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I liked the way it was, I do think a structured schedule for days of the week vs events would be extremely helpful forr knowing when certain crowds are going to want to attend the Node.

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## ATTACHMENT 2

### ATTACHMENT 2 -- Q20: Something to Add

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We covered a lot of ground, but if you have something to add, enter your ideas or comments in the box appearing below.

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#### Q20 Comments (Verbatim)

I liked where it was originally.

I love the idea of hubs in towns. Growing up in Germany I always wondered why this doesn't exist here

I love the idea of moveable tables/chairs for the area, but would worry about them being swiped.

I love the Node the way it was, something simple and elegant. I don't want to lose that. I also loved the fact that it was away from the river front playground and down in that area. So please anything in the middle like it was before or at least on the top of the hill. Thank you

i love the node!!! i played my first open mic in the area thete n i met hella fantastic ppl!!! hope it stays around!

I loved exactly where the node was. I thought it was PERFECT.

I loved Going down and hanging out with friends at the NODE when there where music events going on.

I loved the NODE. It was a great addition to downtown Niles and I hated to see it go away. I think the only reason it did was negative people bitching about it on Facebook. People that are so miserable they hated to see others having fun. I would love to see it put back right where it was. I would like to see some sort of covering on the street, like fake grass, and bring the fire pit back for sure. Niles downtown need this let's make it happen. I am reasonably sure all the people that complained about the loss of a half a block of 2nd street don't actually pay taxes anyway.

I loved the original location of the NODE.

I loved the previous location, 1 block from all downtown restaurants and iron shoe and front street pizza could arrange an easy pick up or delivery option. I'm more in favor of a special night for childrens activities or as suggested cigar night or special beer or spirit flights the vendors, etc! Would like to see regular farmers mkt! There or at Riverfront!

I loved the previous location. I was both a shopper and a vendor at the market. As a vendor I can say the previous location was perfect because it was located next to the parking lot which made transporting good easy.

I loved this I just think we need to find a better place for it. Maybe down by the river walk or something

I prefer a kids water pad/spray park over and outdoor hub

I really like the idea of the outdoor Node. It's preferred to not be put back on a main side road.

I should be fun for any age and have a lot more music downtown

I think a Halloween celebration would be fun. Block main street for the the event and do a pumpkin rolling race fown the hill. My husband has brought the idea up before. We could have food trucks, prizes, crafts etc

I think a permanent enclosed structure with a playground and open to food trucks and vendors for year-round use would be best

I think an area of Riverfront Park should be considered.

I think businesses that complain that an outdoor space hurts their business should provide proof. The proof should include variance that eliminates COVID restriction as the root cause of reduced sales

I think closing a street for a long period of time is a bad idea. You have parking lots and the Riverfront park to use.

I think if other communities have been able to make this work, than our great town can make something even greater than what already exists. I would also suggest installing some sort of ordering kiosk (or perhaps an app) where NODE participants can order food from downtown restaurants while yhey are enjoying the node. "Food pickup bays" could be installed in a small corner of the node, which would allow food deliveries to take place.

I think it is terrible that one bar (the brass eye) seemed to have a monopoly for alcohol purchases . This was certainly not inclusive of others in the area . There was also zero regard for the approval of the old location from ALL of the surrounding businesses. That was horrible to disregard their real concerns . A neutral location that does not block a city street is much more inclusive .

I think it should go back where it was -- there was still plenty of parking for local business, I don't see that it hindered anything community.

I think that the fact that Niles has become a drug cesspool says it all.

I think that the NODE was a great idea had it not blocked a public street. To me it seems that it only benefited the businesses nearby.

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# ATTACHMENT 2

## ATTACHMENT 2 -- Q20: Something to Add

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We covered a lot of ground, but if you have something to add, enter your ideas or comments in the box appearing below.

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### Q20 Comments (Verbatim)

I think the NODE should be in a parking lot or Riverfront Park area rather than closing a city street.

I thought the NODE was a great thing for Niles. I hope they bring it back or come up with a similar idea and place.

I used to live in downtown Niles for many years

I used to work in Nile's and have always enjoyed the town. I enjoy visiting now, the bands at the park are a favorite!

I want a designated smoking area, the rest smoke free!!!!

I would like the outdoor space to have an upscale appearance.

I would like to see you use the ampa theater more than it has been used. We all ready have a great space there. Use the money to up grade that area

I would love to find a way to utilize the riverscape for this. We already have an amphitheater for events and the river walk/lawn space is an extremely under utilized. Follow south bend or Mishawaka's lead for this. It'll work well if done correctly and will drive business to Nile's.

I would love to see the outdoor area family friendly on certain nights and then also have adult activities only on certain nights

I'd like to see the NODE in the corner of the parking lot of the License branch.

I'd love to see a seasonal space (or permanent space if it's kept up in the winter) that is located off road. One of the parking lots that gets less use would be ideal, I think. The one off of second street is almost always full, but there are others that rarely have more than one or two cars in them. The one right next to/above the one off of second street seems ideal. It's central, fairly visible, and rarely used to capacity. I love the idea of a regular gathering place, it just needed a better location a little more fair to all.

If Nile's chooses not to recruit and support unique stores and encourage them to be open more hours, (not everyone closed on Mondays and Tuesdays), Niles will continue to be nothing. Something besides more gyms, antique stores. The ones there are great, just need more variety of shops and places to visit.

If we were to get a grant, I would love to see that money go towards something out of the ordinary that we wouldn't already be spending on. So don't spend it on lights/fencing/etc., spend it on a bocce ball court or something fun.

In the park by our beautiful river, and the area needs to be kept clean the grounds, the seating tables etc. very important.

Indoor activity's. Food court.

Invest in areas that have established foundation, the River Front Square parking lot, the River Front Park, the old Police Station lot at 16 S Third St.

Is there a possibility for multiple small NODE's? And programmed activities/events can be planned at each of them to draw people all the way through downtown. One by the Iron Shoe/Gabrizio (there's a nice grassy area where the old police station used to be), one on Main Street (315 E Main has a nice grassy area out front) and another in the River Front area would take people right through all the downtown stores and restaurants.

It is so sad as a main street resident to see the lack of community in the evenings now that the NODE is gone. Unique, non-conforming spaces and ideas are what attracts people to come out and build community.

It is very important that the NODE does not block any streets

It needs to be attractive and offer access to good food and drinks. This will draw people to downtown. When people enjoy themselves they often want to move to the area for the ambience.

It needs to look "finished" & attractive with entertainment for all ages over a period of time. Wine & beer should be allowed in

It would be great to have the node closer to the riverside and park area. Perhaps the empty lot by wonderland and food truck accessible.

It would be best located in an area like where Majereks used to be.

It would be nice to have a permanent venue specifically for concerts

It would be really nice if it could be close to the river. Niles does not utilize it enough.

It's a public street. Needs to remain open to traffic

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# ATTACHMENT 2

## ATTACHMENT 2 -- Q20: Something to Add

We covered a lot of ground, but if you have something to add, enter your ideas or comments in the box appearing below.

### Q20 Comments (Verbatim)

Just be nice to people plez

Just don't block off a street!

Just want Niles downtown area to become more alive and have things to do. More shops would be nice as well.

Keep an updated calendar of events online.

Kid and dog activities

Kids games early afternoon adult evening

Knowing that you will never please everyone, I trust the powers that be will use survey results and research to choose a suitable place for the NODE. I had no problem with the previous location.

Let more food trucks come down to the park and you need more parking by Wonderland Cinema

Liked where & how the Node was set up before

Locate somewhere in riverfront park

Looking forward to something new and safe for families.

Lots of competitive events. Especially for kids, like a basketball shootout, etc..

Lots of shade

Love Niles!!

Love our town

Love the idea of the node I just Have no idea where to put it. Don't think it's fair to close a street in front of a business but I want The node back

Loved the NODE, hope the city can bring it back!

Loved the NODE, hope you find a way to bring it back

Loved the previous node!! Nestled between old brick buildings and street lights and the overhead party lights it is gave a cozy living room filling for a community space.

Make sure the space is large enough based on survey and ideas

More food options and drinks, not open in the winter

Most important would be comfort and convenience!

Move area to southwest corner of 2nd and Main Street in corner of parking lot nobody parks there anyways

cool.

My most adamant concern is that this new node does not block any of the streets downtown

N/a

Need stuff safe for teenagers

Needs to be in a visible parking lot so it does not look like an expansion of a private business

New to area and love the small town vibe, really looking forward to community activities now that the pandemic is somewhat under control.

Nice survey!

Niles has a wide open riverfront. It should be utilized to the fullest

Niles history-related events are interesting to me

Niles needs this. I hope it comes soon

Niles township resident. Dont let one person or business bully the decision, go off the data of what people are doing. Thanks for your work.

No

No hub blocking small businesses. I would honestly prefer there not even be one

No smoking at the NODE

# ATTACHMENT 2

## ATTACHMENT 2 -- Q20: Something to Add

We covered a lot of ground, but if you have something to add, enter your ideas or comments in the box appearing below.

### Q20 Comments (Verbatim)

NODE sounds like a medical problem,Ä¶ I'd vote for a name change

Nothing to add but glad you are still working on this.

Nothing to add, but thank you for seeking input.

Noticed the lights on the band shelter by Main on the river and said how nice it would be to have the NODE amenities right there and add some multi lights outlining the bridge

On areas where i was to put in order of importance it wouldn't let me

One of the Survey questions was worded to seemingly exclude one group or another - the question regarding Food Trucks/Outside Vendors vs Downtown Dining and Drinking Options. Does that choice need to be narrowed to being one or the other? I think that having rotating food trucks, in addition to participating downtown businesses, would be the best option. Thank you for the open text option that allowed me to elaborate. Keep up the great work! I know first-hand how thankless this all can feel, but my entire family does appreciate all of DDA's efforts!

Our community needs a social place. Our town needs this social place to beong us together.

People are shut up in their homes and thats not entirely bad, but the ways for us to pleasantly stand around and bump into each other tend to be limited to businesses. Lets create a space thats its own park, a place for co-existence, and inspiring to be co-created as a space adaptable to peoples needs and desires. A commonpoint where one can reasonably seek solace or company. Its a physical melting pot for no reason. Its an attraction that needs more presence than it does definition. Its kind of a magical thing to be able to turn to when you want, and when its not there, its sort of like being lost.

Please bring back the markets! It was great for us vendors

Please continue to keep the community involved and engaged with this project

Please DO NOT block off any main streets

Please do not block public roads. Make it accessible for handicapped & strollers and well lit. Winter closed and no pot or alcohol permits.

Please do not block street. Would love to see more activities downtown. Love all the decor during holiday's. Really enjoy all the new flowers and landscaping. Would love to see more music,pop up shops and holiday activities.

PLEASE DO NOT PUT IT IN THE/A ROAD AGAIN

Please don't block off a street again!

Please don't close the street again.

please don't block any streets downtown,Ä¶it made it difficult where it was located last time.

Please don't block any streets for this.

Please don't close a road for this!! It hurts businesses.

PLEASE don't close any more roads.

Please dont close down the road i feel it could be better in a parking lot or field ..

Please keep it off the road.

Please look into having a contract with some kind of taxi or public transportation service. If your going to put an open bar downtown with alcohol involved, you may get more business if people know they can call a taxi or Uber or trolley, to get too and from as opposed to worrying about drunk driving and being targeted by law enforcement because they were obviously downtown on a Main Street drinking and now need to go home.

Please make sure area is mobile chair accessible...no curbs

PLEASE MAKE THIS HAPPEN

Please put the NOD back where it was. So many people work downtown and this a great space for us to have lunch, network and spend our lunch break in a safe and clean environment. Also, I loved the cute little evens and pop up shops. It brought so much joy for many Niles residents.

PLEASE PUT THE NODE BACK WHERE IT WAS!!!! Loved it

## ATTACHMENT 2

### ATTACHMENT 2 -- Q20: Something to Add

We covered a lot of ground, but if you have something to add, enter your ideas or comments in the box appearing below.

#### Q20 Comments (Verbatim)

Please put the node in the old spot! That location was absolutely perfect!!!

Please state dates of events instead of 3rd Thursday

Please use our River Front Park!!!

Possibly a splash pad area

Posting of hours for heat elements in winter would be nice. Nothing more disappointing after a cold walk to downtown to find a cold fire pit and no info on when it is lit. Posting of continuing or upcoming events at site would be helpful. I liked the once a month market, but was hit or miss when I made it because I couldn't ever remember when exactly it was.

Preferably located in one of the parking lots and not a street closure.

Put it back where it was

Put the NODE back where it was!

Put the node back!

Real shopping downtown is non-existent, some food but need more options. Do we have a social district, need to fill empty buildings with something and events to get foot traffic downtown versus adding fast food on south 11th

safety first and security cameras and use lanyard ID for adult limited substances/drinks

Safety, first. Acquire space in the Riverfront Square. Open up the building in center section making it covered but open air so we can enjoy the river view and river walkway to access from all directions.

Seating and tables must be sturdy wood by choice must accommodate large people if seat is attached to table IE picnic style seat must give room for large bodies so belly isn't jammed into table.

Should consider an alley with string lights and seating....like they have in big cities

so glad the Node is no longer blocking Second Street.

So glad this is being considered again!

Some of your choices are impossible to differentiate from others in the same question. Fire pit IS a heat source and doesn't have to stand alone. Activities - bottom line, a plethora of planned, varied offerings.

Space should be surrounded by restaurants like a food court

Splash pad

Still need a splash pad in Niles. Nice to have the NOD next to one.

Stop doing all of these surveys - nothing ever happens anyway. Has to go through too many committees and takes WAY too long for any action to take place. If the committees had any guts to them the committee would make the decision in a timely manner

Streets in front of businesses should not be closed.

Strip club would make more money

Suggestion: mural on side of buildings similar to Ludington would make it attractive and inviting. Excited about the possibility.

Also gives a place to eat take out from local restaurants.

Survey is a great idea, thank you for the opportunity

Thanks

Thanks for including our feedback. It is greatly appreciated.

Thanks for the opportunity

Thanks for the survey and for everything you do!!

The biggest obstacle in the winter is staying warm. Nobody is going to visit the NODE in the winter if there is no way to get out of the cold. Even a giant non-flammable canopy over the fire pit would do wonders.

The concept of some outdoor space for use is not a bad idea & it always comes down to "location, location, location. "The NODE" that was constructed was not attractive, inconvenient & a complete eyesore for nearby long-term businesses.

The far side of riverfront park near the Amtrak bridge and the volleyball courts is an under-utilized and amazing place to build a permanent hub like this.



# ATTACHMENT 2

## ATTACHMENT 2 -- Q20: Something to Add

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We covered a lot of ground, but if you have something to add, enter your ideas or comments in the box appearing below.

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### Q20 Comments (Verbatim)

The fire pit was great. I hope some sort of fire is an option.

The idea is a good one but it shouldn't block any useable streets. It should be in a parking lot or open field

The last one was awesome. If you can make it at least that good we'll all win. Thanks

The NODE is a great place to gather and enjoy fellowship with family, friends and great way to support our downtown businesses.

The NODE is a path to restoring community in our downtown and needs to be in a visible spot or it will fail to thrive. Go NODE!

The node is stupid and should not even be a thought there are more important things than a stupid node that nobody used while on 2nd street

The node should be non-smoking including vaping and weed

the NODE should NOT block off a street. why not use the old massimo's? it offers parking, restrooms, and a patio without removing use of a road while still in the central location

location, but the bathrooms and parking were huge as well as the ability to walk freely to local shops. Love the live music. Thank you.

will never end and it needs to be brought back to the same place it was so all those friends and new friends can come and enjoy the city of Niles and all it has to offer. Please just bring it back take it away in winter if you have to but bring it back and let us have some awesome events this summer and fall!!! I had Cornhole tournament and the options are endless and all the money we can make for local businesses is what's it's all about and the community coming together. So yah that's my 2 cents on the place in Niles I loved most'

The nose was amazing and just beginning!! The home market was the best!!!

The outdoor space should encourage walking and shopping in our downtown area. It should draw people in like European city centers.

The parking lot on the corner of 3rd & Sycamore is an ideal location. It is very close to public restrooms, has surrounding street parking, and is adjacent to the parking lot on 2nd & Sycamore. This location is still centrally located and near downtown dining establishments. It will also provide great sunset views over the river and has some existing barriers. Because it is a corner location, food trucks could park along the perimeter.

Plymouth Michigan. They do a fantastic job with downtown development and community spaces. I would not have movable seating, it will get jumbled around and look sloppy. I also don't like the idea of soft surfaces for the ground, unless they are no/low maintenance and easy to clean. You need something the street sweeper can handle. <https://www.downtownnorthville.com/whats-happening/>

The right selection of plants can provide shade and windscreens while also creating an environment that is more nature friendly.

The street closure had decreased our business over 25% with supplemental advertising. Now we have limited advertising with much higher sales.

The strip mall on Main that houses the pharmacy, license bureau, rental place, etc. needs to come down. Especially Family Dollar- the building is a mess. This could be redeveloped to include an open space for concert gatherings.

The strip mall with the license branch needs to be torn down and a new building needs to be built that faces the river that could have restaurants and outdoor seating to enjoy a beautiful view of the river

The survey might as well asked if we want node on 2nd st or in Riverfront park. Survey questions were not objective

The temporary job was a great idea. Now make it look really nice. And ignore the complaints of the idiot business owner (location of the original NODE) that draws nobody downtown.

The upper parking lot close to 3rd & Main is an ideal location.

There are some very nice parks near downtown. I think the simple answer is move this area to a park and upgrade bathroom situations at the park. Example would be along the river walk.

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# ATTACHMENT 2

## ATTACHMENT 2 -- Q20: Something to Add

We covered a lot of ground, but if you have something to add, enter your ideas or comments in the box appearing below.

### Q20 Comments (Verbatim)

There needs to be more for the kids of this town to do. There is already enough drinking establishments for people to go hang out at. It should be family oriented and no alcohol at all. No city streets need to be shut down and rerouted to accommodate an outside bar. Because really that is all this is. Kids are bored watching parents drink, nowhere to go or nothing for them to do. Unless you include the kids and make it fun for THEM.....then the node is a waste of money.

There was horrible communication about the node from the beginning, to the horrible neighbor that trap house proved themselves to be, to cutting the just finished enclosure to allow the parade through, to the removal of the node, seems like many Resources were wasted

This hurts small businesses that have spent thousands of dollars on their outdoor seating!

To get me to visit this space in winter there must be ways to keep warm and fun activities

Use one of the parking lots downtown. Not one of the streets. or use the corner of the parking lot in the mini mall area.

Use the amphitheater and the area around it. Don't block any streets again, please and thank you!

Use the park not a street!

Use the parking lot on corner of Sycamore and Second. One by Electric Company.

use the parking lot on the corner of 2nd and Sycamore. Has a bathroom set up and people can park in the city hall parking lot that is hardly used.

Use the space where the former police/fire station was, connect the downtown experience along the river. Purchase the cowboy bar next to city hall and have it demolished, rid the city of that sore in the same way it did the Boarding House and is currently doing National Standard.

utilize the river also eliminate a lot of the ugly space and empty buildings at riverfront crossing

Vendors and event space is huge. I enjoyed the NODE for the markets last summer. We don't really have a lot of outdoor options, especially with seating, and think this is something Niles really lacks. (And please add ART!)

Walking club,

Waste of money

Waste of money, that money could go towards better things in this town, and fixing the roads, if i hit another pothole cause i cant swerve or i will hit a car and my muffle breaks off, im sending the city the bill, its time for a change we need someone in office that cares more about making this city more desirable with less crimes, less potholes, and i think we have enough pot stores, i mean come on, im tired of walking into any store in this town and all you can smell is very strong odor of pot, great job, we have outdoor eating for all the pot smokers who have the munchies, awesome.

We don't need anything like this in Niles

We don't need an outdoor space for alcoholics

We enjoyed the node as a family and look forward to its return. It is a treasure. We saw people from town and out of town there for markets and events. It was really special.

We enjoyed the NODE. We loved the live music and thought it was REALLY COOL that we could bring our kids there!!!!

We have a very nice 3rd st parking lot and 4 blank building walls that would protect and be able to support amazing murals on all 4 sides.

We love to see this. We absolutely love to see it.

We loved the NODE!!

We miss the ice rink by the theatre

We need a social place in Niles, but what bothers me is the theft. People these days are extremely rude, stealing, destroying things. I worry if you make something nice it may get destroyed.

We need to do whatever we can to make Nikes more attractive to visitors. A cool downtown vibe is essential. Buchanan has it but it stops there.

We should have someone that upkeeps the planters all year long like pulling weeds, picking up trash 3ect.

## ATTACHMENT 2

### ATTACHMENT 2 -- Q20: Something to Add

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We covered a lot of ground, but if you have something to add, enter your ideas or comments in the box appearing below.

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#### Q20 Comments (Verbatim)

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What about that parking lot on Third Street. Very few people park there, its still close to businesses and is paved.

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Wheelchair accessible

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Who cares what a couple people think. Put the NODE back where it was. People were using it and it was popular. How can people be against that!?

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Why not light both bridges with colored lights. Linda like South Bend has done.

---

Wireless internet available

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Wishing you the best of luck on getting this done. My business and three others are located on 9th and 10th streets so not considered downtown.

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Would be a great idea to have someone on a golf cart to make shuttle runs for people to and from parking lots, or to get food and drink orders from local businesses.

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Would like to include flowers on Main Street into the plan.

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Would love to see an indoor cafe and used book store with live music and meeting spaces

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Would prefer a venue that did not block a street.

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You don't need a survey. Use the river walk open spaces, keep the streets open. If Brian wants a patio, he should build one, like Howard did. The NODE was offensive to 4 out of 5 senses. This survey isn't much better lol

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You're not going to be able to please everyone but Niles could use something like this permanently

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