

Is Mineral Ridge, OH an Age-Friendly Community?

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ABSTRACT

The ever-growing geriatric population is an increasing and pressing issue around the world. In the United States alone, the geriatric population is expected to be 83.7 million by 2050, which practically doubles itself from 43.1 million in 2012. Some states have taken the initiative to effectively address the need for care within the geriatric population within their communities. This evaluation of comparative analyses examines how age-friendly the community of Mineral Ridge, Ohio is to its residents. This analysis evaluates housing, outdoor spaces, environment, transportation services, social availability, community support, health, and wellness services available to the geriatric population.

HOUSING

Jeste et. al. (2016) recommended the following guidelines for older adults seeking housing:

- Accessibility to needs (i.e. retail, healthcare, transportation, & social services)
- Safety (i.e. Home & Neighborhood)
- Home Maintenance (i.e. needed modifications or repairs)
- Affordability

Housing options for older adults within Mineral Ridge, Ohio includes only one nursing home/assisted living facility. However, research on that facility turned out to reveal many problems and dangers for residents. Despite this, the surrounding communities of Mineral Ridge have a plethora of nursing homes, assisted living, senior citizen apartments, and companies willing to build accessory dwelling units onto current family homes.

The typical home that can be purchased in Mineral Ridge is usually a single-story ranch or a two-story colonial. The median household income in Mineral Ridge falls within the middle-class at \$55,117 (CityData, 2017). Mineral Ridge has 4 registered sex offenders (CityData 2017). The most common type of crime in Trumbull County is theft & burglaries (RecordsPedia, 2009).

OUTDOOR SPACES & BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Mineral Ridge by itself has few outdoor spaces or built environments. The Metroparks Bike Trail runs through Mineral Ridge & the local high school track is open to the public, but the surrounding communities have many:

- Austintown Park & Mill Creek Park
 - Free concerts
 - Farmer's markets
 - Multitude of sporting areas/water sports
 - Pavilions & gazebos/flower gardens
 - Hiking & biking trails
- Local malls & senior centers

TRANSPORTATION

Available transportation services in Mineral Ridge may come from Western Reserve Transit Authority (WRTA), Trumbull County Transit, & Comfort Care A Van.

WRTA & Trumbull County Transit only charge \$2 to travel anywhere within the county.

Although these are generous services, they serve the community on a first-come-first-served basis, and they require a one-week request of service in advance (Trumbull County Transit, 2018; WRTA, 2020).

Comfort Care A Van offers services in the tri-county area. Their vans are equipped with wheelchair adaptations and are specialized for needed non-emergency medical transport in addition to traditional transport services (Comfort Care A Van, 2020).



SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

Social services available to older adults are not readily available in Mineral Ridge, but the surrounding communities have a few services to offer.

- Warren City Council
 - General concerns, there is no committee dedicated to the older population (City of Warren, 2020).
- Senior Centers in nearby towns have lots of information on social services available to older adults.
 - Austintown Senior Center
 - Niles Senior Center
 - Youngstown YMCA
- Adult Daycare
 - Easter Seals of Youngstown
 - Grace Woods Adult Daycare
 - Family First Adult Daycare

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Mineral Ridge alone does not have a lot of community support to offer the geriatric population, but the surrounding communities have a lot to offer.

- Austintown & Youngstown Library
 - Chair Yoga, BINGO, & Educational Seminars
- Austintown Senior Center
 - Crafts, Karaoke, Dancing, Exercise, Bible Study, Music Classes, Educational Seminars, & Group Games
- Nile Senior Center (identical activities to Austintown)
- Youngstown State University
 - Programming that supports the aged-60+ population in going to college classes

HEALTH & WELLNESS SERVICES

Although Mineral Ridge does not offer a lot of health & wellness services, there are many options available in the surrounding communities.

- Austintown
 - Primary & Emergency Care
 - Senior Center Wellness Classes
 - Gardening Club
 - Hospice Care
- Youngstown
 - Main Hospital & Emergency Care
 - Jewish Community Center
 - Clinic for Geriatric Medicine
 - Generations Behavioral Health/Mental Health Services
 - Hospice Care
 - Home Care/Assisted Living
 - Second Harvest Food Bank

CONCLUSION

Mineral Ridge, OH is a small community that is in a central location between surrounding towns' resources. The greatest risk to older adults that live in Mineral Ridge is theft and burglary, but flexible transport services allow residents to traverse to essential social, community, health, & wellness support centers. As long as older adults have the appropriate means of transportation, Mineral Ridge and the surrounding area could meet geriatric living needs.

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