



# Downtown Ayden Development



**Vision/Mission:** In Ayden, “*Que marks the spot*” for the first stop on the BBQ Trail. Known for its whole hog, wood-fired, Eastern NC style BBQ, Ayden is the third largest municipality in ever-growing Pitt County, nestled between the capitol and the coast. Our community is the place where people choose to eat, live, work and play. The downtown area offers a walkable, picturesque, inclusive atmosphere bursting with unique destinations and growth opportunities.

*The downtown area offers a walkable, picturesque atmosphere.*



**Goal:** Downtown Ayden is working on improving the walkability and quality of life in downtown to encourage healthy activity.

- Conduct a walkability assessment and host at least one event in partnership with the Arts and Recreation Dept. downtown.
- Work with Pitt County Health Department to obtain a grant to conduct walkability assessment.
- Create a map that shows how far locations are (.25-mile, .5-mile, 1 mile) from downtown.
- Collaborate with the Pitt County Health conduct the walkability assessment for the downtown area of Ayden and share results with the broader community.
- The purpose of the walkability assessment is to determine immediate and future needs for the downtown area to encourage safe and secure walking and biking for business and pleasure.
- We are also trying to determine any upgrades or needs for accessibility to be ADA compliant.

**Walkability Checklist**

**How walkable is your community?**

**Take a walk with a child and decide for yourselves.**

Everyone benefits from walking. There's benefits include improved fitness, clearer air, reduced rates of certain health problems—and a greater sense of community. But walking needs to be safe and easy. Take a walk with your child and see how walkable is really in your neighborhood in a friendly place to walk. Take a list of your child's questions, then see how you can make things better.

**Getting started:**

First, you'll need to pick a place to walk. Ask the owner or school, a teacher, leader or just someone else to go.

The second step involves the checklist. Read over the checklist before you go, and as you walk, note the locations of things you would like to change. At the end of your walk, give each question a rating. Check off the answers to you have yourself your walk report.

After you've used your walk and identified any problems, then the next step is to figure out what you can do to improve your community's walkability. Find local businesses, owners and long-term solutions online. "Empowering Women's Leadership's" team... on the third page.

Logos at the bottom include:
 

- Partnership for a Walkable America
- Department of Health and Human Services
- U.S. Department of Transportation
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

<https://www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.gov/files/walkingchecklist.pdf>

**About us:** **Downtown Ayden, Inc.** is a local, community driven organization that is striving to make our historic downtown the center of social, economic, and cultural life in Ayden. Through annual events, infrastructure projects, and economic opportunities, Downtown Ayden, Inc. brings the community together to make Ayden a "Hallmark town" welcome to everyone. The Town of Ayden is a North Carolina Main Street Community, designated by the NC Department of Commerce and Main Street & Rural Planning Center.