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### “What Would I Do To Improve Downtown Highland” Essay

Imagine walking through Downtown Highland, where famous landmarks rival those in big cities. Think of the Leaning Tower of Pisa or the Giant Bean in Chicago, but right here in the Midwest. Highland may not have a famous landmark, but we can create one. Imagine having a large statue of a Trojan or the Trojan horse since we are Trojans at the High School. It adds an allusion to Greek mythology that no other city has. Downtown Highland has the potential to become a lively center that not only serves the local community but also attracts visitors to take pictures and visit our town.

To make Downtown Highland better, we need to do a few things. First, we should improve the buildings. Fixing up old buildings, like the library or the fish store, while keeping their history, can make the area more exciting. We already have lots of stores, but they look run down. Look at the paint store for example. Right now it is very uninviting. Another way to improve Highland is to had a historical building worth admiring. Highland has a lot of history that we don't know about. If we made a museum about our history, people will visit. Also, we could make more walking trails that lead to outdoor parks! Everyone loves parks, and adding more greenery, like beautiful flowers and trees, would make it even nicer, such as adding more scenery

Another way is to support local businesses. Helping small businesses, such as The Sip or The Counter, and creating more venues that attract our youth as well as helping people starting new businesses with programs and rewards can make our economy better. Many people from Highland High School can also have the opportunity to get a job. Having a mix of shops, restaurants, and fun things to do can make downtown a cool place for everyone and keep the town busy.

Besides fixing things up, we should also focus on art and culture. Having events, festivals, and art shows can show off local talent and bring people from nearby areas. Putting up art in public places and supporting places for plays and concerts can make our town more exciting. Just like Chicago has Lollapalooza, we could have festivals by the bike trails or meet and greets with famous people, like David Tennant or Michael Sheen? In conclusion, making Downtown Highland better needs a whole plan that looks at buildings, businesses, culture, and getting everyone involved. By using what makes our town special and trying new things, Downtown Highland can become a great place that people love to visit and live in for years to come.