

Lindsay Heights

Quality of Life Plan





For many visitors to **Lindsay Heights**, the point of entry is a renovated Victorian home that serves as the headquarters of the Walnut Way Conservation Corp. Those who arrive in this historic city neighborhood during the summer may be surprised to see trees laden with peaches, tender vegetables, and colorful fresh flowers growing in the large adjacent garden. Tended by volunteers and neighborhood young people, the urban garden is an apt metaphor for the new growth, opportunity, and “neighboring” that defines Lindsay Heights.

Housed in a building once slated for demolition, Walnut Way sponsors a host of community activities, ranging from providing educational opportunities for local youth to installing 40 rain gardens to manage storm water. Walnut Way also is the lead agency in Lindsay Heights for the Zilber Neighborhood Initiative, which brings together the people who live, work or serve in the area to improve the quality of life for residents. Lindsay Heights is one of two pilot neighborhoods chosen by the Zilber Family Foundation, which has committed \$50 million to the initiative in 10 Milwaukee neighborhoods.

Sharon and Larry Adams, who co-founded Walnut Way with their neighbors in 2002, are the driving force behind the Lindsay Heights Neighborhood Initiative. Sharon Adams returned to the community in 1997, acting on a desire to reclaim her family home and reconnect with the neighborhood in which she grew up. Adams remembers the neighborhood of her childhood as a diverse community of German immigrants, Russian-Polish Jews, and African Americans. Small businesses, including doctors’ and lawyers’ offices, jammed commercial streets such as North Avenue and Fond Du Lac. People sat on their porches, visited, and watched out for one another.

By the late 1950s, that neighborhood had disappeared. With the construction of I-43 between Milwaukee and Green Bay, many homes in Lindsay Heights were torn down. The community was the target of redlining, resources stopped coming in, and poverty, crime, prostitution, and drugs began to take hold.

The revitalization of Lindsay Heights has come about slowly and quietly. Inspired by a few residents who had the courage to stand up to drug dealers and criminals and to invest their time and money in the community, people began looking at the area differently. In addition to Walnut Way, institutions such as Legacy Bank, Columbia Savings and Loan, the Community Planning Council, YMCA, Lindsay Heights Health Alliance, Fondy Food Market, and Beckum-Stapleton Little League anchor the community. Hundreds of homes built or rehabbed in the past decade are visible signs of rebirth.

Although blessed with many assets — referred to as “jewels” — many challenges remain in Lindsay Heights. About 40 percent of residents live in poverty, compared to 21 percent in Milwaukee as a whole. The median income is about half of that in the city; about 45 percent of residents have no high school diploma. Only one of the neighborhood’s elementary schools meets proficiency standards set by the state.

To tackle these issues and others, community members put in hundreds of hours of hard work to develop a comprehensive Quality of Life Plan, which the community approved in August 2009. Much work lies ahead to implement the plan, but the Lindsay Heights neighbors have already demonstrated that by drawing on the strengths of the community, they can create the place that they envision — or remember.

Lindsay Heights



CLARENCE AND CLEOPATRA JOHNSON



HOME RENOVATION



MEETING AT WALNUT WAY

History

Like all Milwaukee neighborhoods, Lindsay Heights has a unique story to tell. But unlike most neighborhoods, its story dates to the late 18th Century, making it one of the oldest neighborhoods in the city.

Lindsay Heights was first settled by German immigrants in the late 1800s. By the early 1900s, a large concentration of Russian-Polish Jews had settled along North Avenue, where businesses such as Jake's Deli are still physical reminders of the community's diverse cultural heritage. A little-known fact is that Carl Sandburg, the poet and Abraham Lincoln biographer, once resided here, near 24th and Wright.

However, long before, Lindsay Heights served as a stop on the Underground Railroad. Perhaps this explains why, by the 1920s, Lindsay Heights and the neighboring Bronzeville community had become a vibrant hub of Milwaukee's African-American life and culture. It continued to attract and house black people from the South, who assimilated into the ways of the North at "settlement houses."

During the 1950s and '60s, Milwaukee planned several highway projects, including the Park West Freeway, which would have made the neighborhood more accessible to commerce. By 1969, the plans had been scrapped and the once-vital community began to deteriorate. More than 1,500 homes were demolished in preparation for the construction that never came.

Johnsons Park — named after Clarence Johnson, a prominent, early 20th century African-American businessman, and his wife Cleopatra Johnson — was built during the 1980s on the site where many of the razed homes had been buried. By the early 1990s, the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA), the City of Milwaukee, several banks and other investors launched a pilot project to jump-start housing development and utilize the available land. Since the project's inception, WHEDA has built 165 new houses in Lindsay Heights, and 221 more have been rehabilitated.

The 110-block area was renamed Lindsay Heights in 1997, after community activist Bernice Lindsay, sometimes called "the mother of the black community."

While the neighborhood's rich cultural offerings are visible

today in its architecture, street names, schools, businesses, and churches, nowhere is it more honored and alive than in the oral and written accounts of past and present residents. Their testimonies give shape to the enduring spirit of enterprise and hard work that has long been a hallmark of Lindsay Heights.

As neighborhood resident Willie Adams, who passed away in 2002, puts it, "Yesterday is gone. And tomorrow is not promised to you. You can't live in tomorrow, but you sure in hell can prepare for it."

Planning Process

Comprehensive. Collaborative. Cohesive.

From the beginning, we have understood that the way we work together matters. The Lindsay Heights Neighborhood Initiative has brought together residents, young people, business owners, non-profits, and a range of other stakeholders to create a vision of what Lindsay Heights can be. By working deliberately and systematically to "connect the dots," we hope to revitalize our community for the benefit of all our neighbors.

The LHNI Steering Committee, comprising Lindsay Heights residents, neighborhood group leaders, businesspeople, educators, funders, and local officials, helped guide the planning process and approved the final plan. A Project Facilitation Team, including representatives of Walnut Way, LISC Milwaukee, and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Center for Urban Initiatives and Research, met weekly to ensure that the planning process was on track and to supervise writing and production of a strategic plan for the community. United Neighborhood Centers of Milwaukee will develop performance management systems and help attract private and public investment going forward.

A series of public visioning sessions on community aspirations and concerns took place in February and March 2009. These sessions led to the creation of eight work groups focused on specific areas of interest and led by a facilitator. In April, the steering committee members worked to synchronize the strategies and goals and in August, the plan was adopted after two community viewing sessions.

Lindsay Heights Catalytic Projects

The following catalytic projects will strengthen the community's infrastructure through new construction and renovation. Maranatha Community Corp., a for-profit entity owned by local stakeholders, will be the vehicle through which capital is raised for the projects.

1 **Alsco Mixed-Use Development**

The 2.5 acre former site of the Alsco commercial laundry service at 1003 W. North Ave. will be redeveloped into a mixed-use development that accommodates for-profit and non-profit ventures in the green economy. The project, which will anchor the east end of the North Avenue commercial corridor, is in the predevelopment stage.

2 **Beauchamp Townhomes**

Twenty-four of 48 rental units owned by the Inner City Redevelopment Corp. near the former Lee School would be converted to owner-occupied units and sold, when possible, to current occupants. The duplexes were developed using Low Income Housing Tax Credits and are eligible to be sold beginning in 2010.

3 **Bread of Healing Free Health Clinic**

A capital campaign will be initiated to expand the organization's medical clinic and increase services for uninsured workers.

4 **Center for Neighborhood Innovation**

A new building shepherded by Residential Living Services and Walnut Way Conservation Corp. will house a business incubator, after-school programs and adult training.

5 **Coffee Makes You Black**

The locally-owned coffee shop intends to add a commercial kitchen to enable it to serve freshly prepared food.

6 **Bloomberg Ice Cream Building**

Lindsay Heights sponsored a design competition for the North Avenue Corridor, focused on a vacant warehouse building, which would be an ideal location for the Green Jobs Training Institute or Community Warehouse.

7 **Fondy Food Center**

This expansion of the historic open-air Fondy Market will anchor the west end of the North Avenue commercial corridor. Plans for the new center include a greenhouse, fresh fish shop, cooking pavilion, and office space. The project will meet the community's needs by extending the growing season for locally-grown fresh produce and enhancing the market through the addition of a healthy protein source.

8 **Franklin Square**

This mixed-use development will comprise two buildings with 37 apartments for individuals and families. Built by Maures Development Group, LLC in partnership with Brinshore Development, LLC Franklin Square will incorporate meeting space, public art, and green space to encourage community interaction.

9 **Fresh/Culinary School**

A new restaurant focusing on locally grown food will provide culinary training, with a particular emphasis on people who are reentering the workforce.

10 **Johnsons Park**

The city, county, and multiple private businesses and foundations have joined forces to redevelop the 13-acre park, which was built in the 1980s where 14,000 homes were leveled for a failed highway project. It will include sports fields, a children's play space, a pavilion and stage, and a historical walkway that will tell the story of the area, which was part of the Underground Railroad during the Civil War. The improvement plans extend across the street to Alice's Garden, a community garden, and Brown Street Academy, which will house an outdoor nature classroom.

11 **Running Rebels**

Interior renovation of the century-old building that houses the non-profit youth organization will include creating and upgrading program space, offices for youth workers, classrooms, a computer lab, and infrastructure such as an elevator, plumbing, and electrical.

12 **Senior Cooperative Housing**

This project, in pre-development, would create 12-30 units, depending on the number of seniors who join the co-op. It would adjoin Josey Heights, a new housing development of 37 single-family homes and 16 town homes.

13 **Home Renovation**

Single and multi-family housing in Lindsay Heights will be acquired and renovated to upgrade energy efficiency and attract owner-occupants.

Lindsay Heights





YOUNG LEADERS ACADEMY



STUDENTS GATHER OUTSIDE BEFORE SCHOOL



STUDENTS IN THE CLASSROOM

Strategic Plan

A year-long planning process involving a wide swath of community residents culminated in the adoption of a strategic plan intended to improve the quality of life in Lindsay Heights. Early action projects in spring and summer 2009 included a youth talent showcase, academic school fairs, baseball and football summer camps, and the Lindsay Heights Treasure Walk at Johnsons Park, originated by the Lindsay Heights Health Alliance, which brings neighbors together to learn about local assets.

1: Academic Achievement

Enable high academic performance and civic character for the purpose of sustaining personal well-being and a healthy community

The Lindsay Heights community recently has taken several important steps to improve academic performance at its local schools. Beginning in spring 2009, the principals at nine schools that serve the area came together to form the nucleus of a first-ever Principals' Council focused on improving academic achievement. At about the same time, the YMCA Young Leaders Academy, a public charter school with a record of exemplary achievement, decided to accept only local students beginning in fall 2009, ending the busing program in effect since the school's inception in 2002. And representatives of Lindsay Heights have been named to an advisory council formed by the Milwaukee Public Schools to work on reorganizing North Division High School, with the goal of improving achievement.

These efforts are critical. With the exception of Young Leaders Academy, all the elementary schools in the community have a lower percentage of students scoring "proficient" or "advanced" than the Milwaukee Public Schools as a whole. The percentage of students meeting standards in the neighborhood schools in 2008 was 19 points below MPS schools in reading, and 17 points below in math. The small high schools now on the campus of North Division High School also are struggling academically. For example, in 2008 only 12 percent of 10th-graders in the Genesis School achieved proficiency in math, although Genesis students outperformed their MPS peers in reading and social studies.

1.1 Achieve high academic performance by focusing on neighborhood schools

Imagine a school in which high academic performance is the norm, and all students understand the value of good citizenship and community participation. The graduates of such a school would possess the compassion, skills and abilities to succeed in life and to help others reach their potential. That is the vision for our schools.

At our K-8 schools, we are committed to foster a culture of high expectations; ensure teacher proficiency; bring adequate resources to the schools to keep class sizes small; encourage early childhood education by connecting parents to appropriate programs; and identify creative and robust ways to monitor student progress.

North Division High School, which serves the vast majority of Lindsay Heights students, is struggling academically despite various efforts during the past 30 years, including adoption of a "schools within a school" model beginning in 2004-2005. While the school boasts a state-of-the-art facility, over the years students have come to the high school unprepared, attendance has been low, the dropout rate high, and a relatively small percent of graduates attended college or vocational training programs. We will work to reconfigure North Division into a single comprehensive high school, based on proven models across the country.

1.2 Foster social and emotional development in students

Social and emotional learning (SEL) is a process that helps children develop the fundamental skills they need to handle

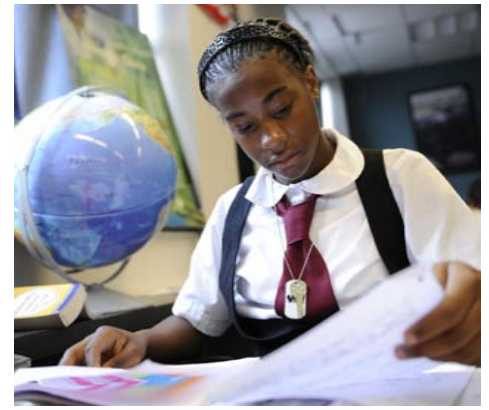
Lindsay Heights



YOUNG LEADERS ACADEMY



STUDENTS ENGAGED IN A LESSON



STUDENT STUDYING IN CLASS

themselves and their relationships effectively and ethically. Among the necessary skills are the ability to manage emotions, develop concern for others and make responsible decisions. They also include the capacity to make friends, resolve conflicts, and make good choices. Research has shown that schools are a highly effective setting for teaching SEL skills. We will identify successful, research-based social and emotional learning programs to incorporate in our local schools.

1.3 Encourage parental engagement

For many parents, just stepping into a school building is a daunting thought. Research shows, however, that parental involvement is a key factor both in student success and school success. Understanding this, we will advocate for a parent involvement requirement in our schools and for increased parent-learning opportunities. By creating a Parent Advocacy Network, the Lindsay Heights community will advocate for change and support principals' improvement efforts. We will encourage parents to communicate with elected officials and others on issues that affect their children, schools and communities.

1.4 Increase student stability within neighborhood schools

A large number of students from our community attend schools outside of Lindsay Heights. For example, approximately 650 children who live in the Wheatley school area are bused outside the neighborhood. We will determine why parents send their children outside our community so that we can devise more effective approaches to draw them back to local schools. Lindsay Heights will investigate becoming a pilot neighborhood to develop best practices for returning residents to the neighborhood schools.

Parents who feel a connection to their children's school are less likely to send them outside the neighborhood. By establishing "community schools," which invite residents of all ages into the building for adult programming, access to health and social services, and other activities, we plan to foster connections between residents and schools that otherwise might not exist.

1.5 Foster active civic participation and civic engagement

Before young people will engage in the civic life of their community, they need to believe that their participation matters. By providing service-learning opportunities and requiring youths to complete a service requirement as part of their school curriculum, the community can encourage involvement. We will include youth in leadership and decision-making roles and community-building opportunities through paid internships and apprenticeships; provide the training, education and awareness needed for them to develop leadership and interpersonal skills; and foster dialogue between adults and youth on youth concerns. We will encourage our young people to make their voices heard.

1.6 Improve the quality of after-school programs and forge complementary links between school and after-school programs

Many people are affected when parents cannot find a safe, fun, and rewarding activity for their children to participate in when they are not in school. Employers face decreasing productivity when employees call home every hour to make sure that their children are safe and well occupied. Teachers have a greater challenge when a child who could have spent time getting help with homework or engaging in other enriching activities instead watches television.

Studies show that being unsupervised during out-of-school hours puts children and youth at greater risk of truancy, performing poorly in school, depression, and substance abuse. The dangers facing youth when they are unsupervised can range from experimenting with drugs or alcohol to becoming a victim of violent crime. Lindsay Heights is committed to after-school programs that increase students' cognitive and social skills and provide opportunities for community service.



RUNNING REBELS YOUTH PROGRAMS



RUNNING REBELS YOUTH ATHLETIC ROOM



TITANS, LINDSAY HEIGHTS FOOTBALL

2: Youth and Families

Develop positive character traits in youth by promoting constructive activities and effective parenting

Lindsay Heights is a young neighborhood when it comes to the age of our residents: 40.6 percent are under 18 years old, compared with 28.7 percent of Milwaukee's population. Providing these young people with positive and engaging activities is critical to our community. Well-established institutions, such as the 45-year-old Beckum-Stapleton Little League, Running Rebels, the YMCA, and the LaVarnway Boys and Girls Club, work to enrich the lives of youth. We envision additional programs and activities that will accommodate a wide range of children's interests, but will share the goal of building character.

2.1 Connect parents to existing resources that promote effective parenting

To help parents take a more active role in their children's development, we plan to create a clearinghouse for parenting information and activities that reflect best practices. Having Involved Parents (HIP), which started in 2005, has successfully engaged parents in their children's school activities and could serve as a model for school-based parenting programs.

2.2 Strengthen youth self-esteem and sense of achievement by ensuring access to opportunities that develop skills necessary for success

We will call upon the YMCA, Boys and Girls Clubs, and the Running Rebels, among others, to help achieve this goal. The Running Rebels youth entrepreneurship program, for example, helps develop youths' vocational skills, introduces them to the job world, and enables them to earn money while going to school.

2.3 Improve relationships among neighborhood organizations serving the Lindsay Heights area

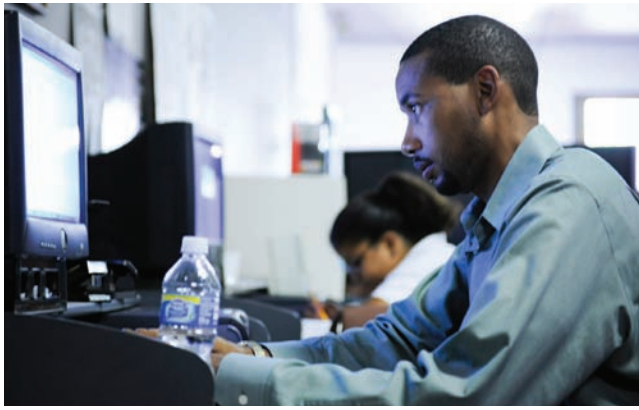
We will develop a calendar of activities and programs available for youth and families. By establishing monthly meetings for organizations to share information and promote events we expect to increase their impact.

2.4 Encourage youth to participate in structured activities that engage them and bring them together as a community

Participating in organized sports creates strong bonds among young people and channels their energy in a productive way. Playing sports develops physical fitness, promotes goal-setting and encourages teamwork. As James Beckum, founder of the Beckum-Stapleton Little League, observed, "I wanted to get the baseball going because I knew the positive things that baseball taught: respect, sharing, and obedience." Since many adults are sports fans, they are likely to support their own children and other neighborhood youth who play on local teams.

We will promote participation in the Beckum-Stapleton Little League and on the new football team playing in the Journey House League. We are also working to form a football league in Lindsay Heights. We offered a free player development summer camp, which served as a recruitment tool for the football leagues.

By encouraging youths to participate in programs such as the Boys and Girls Clubs, Neu-Life, community learning centers, faith centers, Walnut Way, and the YMCA we can foster civic leadership. Lindsay Heights also will encourage youth to participate in arts activities such as theatre, visual arts, and music. These activities appeal to many young people with creative or performing talents, and are correlated with academic achievement.



EDUCATION PROGRAMS



FRESH/ CULINARY SCHOOL



TRAINING IN THE HEALTH FIELD

3: Lifelong Learning

Engage adults in lifelong learning to support self-sufficiency

Completing high school, enrolling in technical school, or going to college do not guarantee self-sufficiency. But providing people with access to educational opportunities can put them on the path to success. In Lindsay Heights, 45 percent of residents 25 and older do not have a high school diploma, compared to 25 percent for Milwaukee as a whole. One-quarter of people living in the neighborhood were unemployed as of the 2000 census, compared to 9.4 percent in the city. By providing education and career pathways, Lindsay Heights plans to work to close these gaps.

3.1 Residents will achieve proficiency and learn skills to allow them to earn family-supporting wages

To achieve this goal, we will identify, promote and foster programs that enable residents to complete their GEDs, acquire training leading to certification, and enroll in higher education courses. This will boost individual wealth and the overall economy of the neighborhood, making it more attractive to businesses, investors, and developers.

A building trades training institute, the True Green Home Contractor Training Program, will offer certification in green construction, linked to reclaiming foreclosed or abandoned properties for community ownership.

Career pathways also will be developed in culinary arts, as well as in health care for certified nursing assistants, nurses, and physicians.

3.2 Residents will have opportunities to engage in programs that broaden their horizons, including arts, travel, and “green living,” boosting their quality of life



HOUSING CONSTRUCTION



HARRIET DORSEY, RESIDENT



ALSCO MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT

Lindsay Heights

4: Housing

Expand high-quality housing options within Lindsay Heights to establish the neighborhood as a destination for economically diverse individuals and families

While 400 homes have been built or rehabilitated in the last dozen years, Lindsay Heights faces a serious foreclosure problem. The severe economic downturn that began in 2008 brought a wave of property foreclosures in urban neighborhoods — especially those that were the victims of subprime mortgage lending. In 2008, foreclosures were filed on 6.1 percent of the one- and two-family homes in Lindsay Heights — about one of every 16 homes. That’s more than 2 percentage points higher than the city of Milwaukee, and far higher than the U.S. as a whole, where about one in 54 housing units was subject to a foreclosure filing during 2008.

4.1 Stabilize neighborhood housing

Lindsay Heights will participate in the City of Milwaukee’s Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative (NSI). In our neighborhood, the NSI will include community volunteers and be staffed by a Housing Coordinator. It will focus on blocks with a high concentration of foreclosed homes and/or proximity to neighborhood schools. Through partnerships with private institutions, foundations, and other organizations, we plan to acquire these properties, rehab them with a focus on energy-efficient features and return them to use through a number of purchase options.

4.2 Promote Lindsay Heights as a unique and special place to live, work, worship, educate, serve, and play

A marketing committee will establish a unified “brand” for Lindsay Heights to help promote the community.

4.3 Provide support services for potential and current homeowners

We will establish a referral network for services, including homebuyer counseling, homebuyer pre-qualification, credit and budget counseling, and general maintenance/improvement programs. In addition, we will investigate providing incentives for teachers in Lindsay Heights schools to move into the neighborhood, thus becoming more active community members.

4.4 Promote diverse housing options, from affordable to market-rate, to accommodate a range of household incomes

Currently, housing in the neighborhood consists of single-family homes, two-flats, apartments, and assisted-living developments. The Lindsay Heights initiative will secure funding to rehab foreclosed properties; purchase and renovate up to 10 foreclosed homes in the neighborhood; collaborate with Pragmatic Construction, the City of Milwaukee, and others to identify at least three properties for deconstruction (dismantling a building while preserving materials for reuse in new construction); and establish a design standard for residential new construction and rehabilitation.

4.5 Provide workforce development training focused on green construction

The process will include developing an on-the-job training (OJT) program, in conjunction with the renovation of foreclosed and abandoned homes in Lindsay Heights; and establishing the True Green Home Contractor Training Program that leads to certification. Local candidates will be recruited and selected for these programs, which are designed to increase the capacity of the residential construction industry.

4.6 Reduce energy costs by increasing energy efficiency

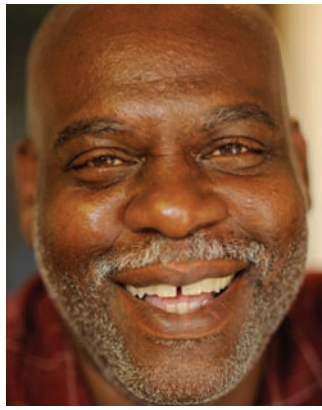
We will work to increase community awareness about “green” construction and building renovation. Through the Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative, we will rehab housing using energy-efficient practices.

4.7 Establish a for-profit community investment corporation to manage and sell real estate properties in collaboration with the Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative

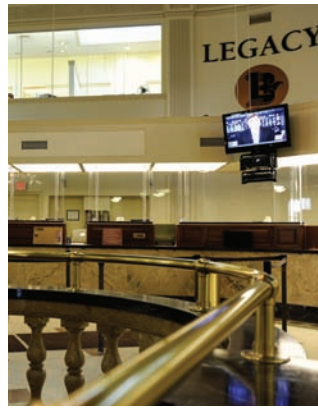
The company, Maranatha Community Corp., will raise funds to acquire local property. Profits from sales will return to local investors, improving their economic and social status. We will organize workshops to inform residents about this program and opportunities to build wealth by investing in it.



JAKE'S DELI



BRADLEY THURMAN, COFFEE MAKES YOU BLACK



LEGACY BANK, FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMAN-OWNED BANK IN THE COUNTRY



FONDY FOOD CENTER

5: Commercial Corridors

Develop commercial corridors by supporting existing businesses and attracting new businesses, emphasizing local ownership

Lindsay Heights is a community of small businesses. Of the approximately 365 employers, 70 percent have fewer than 10 employees, and 55 percent fewer than five. No companies employ 250 or more people. The only sectors with a critical mass of businesses are health care/social assistance (27 percent) and retail trade (17 percent). Other sectors each represent fewer than 15 percent of all the businesses. Consequently, enhancing existing businesses and improving the mix of both size and type of companies — with a focus on local ownership — would play an important role in building wealth and satisfying local demand for products and services.

While vacant lots and empty buildings are scattered along the main commercial corridor, North Avenue, it also boasts established businesses such as Jake's Deli and new developments such as Omni Medical Center, the YMCA, Legacy Bank, and Prince Hall Apartments. Two catalytic projects at opposite ends of North Avenue — the Fondy Food Center at Fond du Lac and the Alsco mixed-use development at 10th Street — will lend new vitality to the corridor and boost the green economy in Lindsay Heights.

We also will concentrate on developing Fond du Lac Avenue, the other historic retail corridor in the neighborhood, as well as Teutonia Avenue and Central Street, and commercial nodes at Fond du Lac and North avenues, Teutonia and North avenues and the Teutonia Avenue Togetherness (TAT) commercial node.

5.1 Improve existing businesses

Lindsay Heights will create a business association comprised of local business owners to help improve and expand existing businesses. In addition, we will work with BID staff and other stakeholders to conduct an inventory of current businesses and determine what they need to improve their operations.

The city of Milwaukee has embraced the “Main Street” approach to revitalizing business districts, a systematic, proven redevelopment method that creates new businesses and jobs by leveraging local assets. Lindsay Heights plans to use this approach to accomplish our redevelopment goals along each of the commercial corridors and nodes we have targeted for attention.

A unified and attractive commercial corridor requires a consistent look. Lindsay Heights will establish a facade and streetscape improvement program that incorporates design standards for existing and new businesses along the commercial streets. We also will develop a marketing program that includes creating and distributing information about the trade area and promotional events.

5.2 Improve mix of businesses

Residents of Lindsay Heights require goods and services that are not currently available locally. We will identify local demand that is not being captured and develop a business attraction strategy, identifying available sites and preparing design standards. New enterprises, including “green” businesses, retail, and light manufacturing will create wealth in our community.



NEIGHBORS TALKING ON 17TH STREET



JOHNSONS PARK



STUDENTS ON THEIR WAY TO SCHOOL

6: Public Safety

Create a peaceful, clean, and well cared for place where everyone feels good about the neighborhood

It's all about building a sense of community. "Home" should be a place where people help one another and take pride in their surroundings. It should be a place where they can walk down the street and be greeted by name and where they feel safe going out after dark. Many people are committed to making Lindsay Heights such a place, and we have come a long way.

Nevertheless, public safety remains an issue in our community. The neighborhood's crime rate is higher than the average for the city of Milwaukee, for both property crimes and violent crimes. In 2008, for example, the total crime rate in Lindsay Heights was 174 per 1,000 residents, more than double the rate citywide. We intend to work together to prevent criminal activity and enhance public safety.

6.1 Encourage all residents and business and property owners in Lindsay Heights to take ownership of their physical environment to improve personal safety

At regular "Get to Know Your Neighbor" gatherings, residents will receive information that contribute to safer neighborhoods. They will be encouraged to connect with others by taking part in activities that appeal to their common interests, such as animal rescue or gardening. This may involve partnering with organizations from outside the neighborhood — the Humane Society, for example. We also will develop a plan for hosting youth listening sessions to identify safety challenges and solutions for young people in Lindsay Heights.

We plan to create safe places for physical activity and relaxation, including winter fitness facilities and walking paths. We will establish a program for residents to learn tactics for safe property management from fellow residents who have expertise. And by bringing the Neighborhood Ambassador Program to Lindsay Heights, we will increase public safety while providing jobs for our residents.

6.2 Establish a clear line of communication between Lindsay Heights and the Milwaukee Police Department in District 3

We will determine residents' level of interest for participating in community safety initiatives and provide incentives for more people to go through Block Watch training. In addition, we will provide residents with crime prevention and reporting tools from the Milwaukee Police Department and provide access to a community liaison officer from Districts 3.

Guidelines for physical improvements to the built environment that help prevent criminal activity will be created and distributed to real estate developers, business owners, property owners and residents. In addition, we will use public safety forums to engage community members in neighborhood transformation.

6.3 Create a community resource to help ex-offenders who return to Lindsay Heights feel included and to encourage them to invest in the neighborhood

This will begin with research into Neighborhood Justice Centers, which work to reduce the caseload of the criminal justice system by resolving disputes out of court and by offering offenders education, treatment and opportunities for community service rather than incarceration. It also will involve determining the needs of families with relatives in prison.



BREAD OF HEALING FREE HEALTH CLINIC



HOT MEAL SERVED AT CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH



OMNI FAMILY MEDICAL CLINIC

Lindsay Heights

7: Health and Wellness

Improve access to comprehensive health and wellness services including primary care, dental care, and mental health services

The preeminent resource among Lindsay Heights health and wellness services is the Lindsay Heights Neighborhood Health Alliance — a partnership of more than 20 neighborhood associations, community-based organizations, and academic representatives working to “reduce health disparities and create a deep and sustained culture of health and community sufficiency in our families and in our neighborhoods.”

Despite the presence of a variety of providers, including Bread of Healing, Aurora Sinai, Shafi, and MLK Heritage Health Center, Lindsay Heights is designated as a “shortage area” in medical, mental and dental health, according to the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services. A recent study conducted by The Center for Urban Population Health in Milwaukee found that Lindsay Heights is among the communities with the lowest socio-economic status (SES) in the city. Together, the zip codes in the lowest SES group have more than three times the infant mortality rate of the zip codes with the highest SES. Infant mortality is an important measure of a population’s health.

7.1 Help residents connect to health resources available both within and outside the neighborhood

Many residents, particularly minorities and the elderly, are not aware of the neighborhood health and wellness resources available to them. By developing a program under the auspices of the Lindsay Heights Neighborhood Health Alliance that will hire and train residents to provide health education and connect their neighbors to health care resources, we can improve the overall health status of the community. In addition, we plan to create a Lindsay Heights Health Care Provider Network, which would result in a cohesive health referral system.

7.2 Expand mental health and alcohol and other drug addiction (AODA) services and provide support services for families that are coping with mental health and addiction issues

Addictions to substances such as nicotine, alcohol, and drugs are on the rise, and often are found in people with

mental illnesses, including anxiety disorders, depression, schizophrenia, and personality disorders. Recognizing the devastating effects that addiction and mental illness can have on families and neighborhoods, Lindsay Heights will strive to educate the community about mental health issues, expand mental health and AODA services, engage in the Milwaukee County Mental Health Plan strategic planning process, and support prevention programs for families under stress.

7.3 Expand the availability of comprehensive dental health services, including education, prevention, and dental care

Untreated dental disease can lead to serious health consequences such as tooth loss, infection, and damage to bone or nerve. Pain from untreated dental decay results in lost school and work hours. However, dental disease is almost entirely preventable and access to adequate dental health services can lead to improved overall health. Our community will create and staff a dental health care task force and work to identify opportunities to bring low-cost and free dental health care services to the neighborhood. We will promote dental education and prevention through neighborhood-based and school-based programs.

7.4 Customize physical activity programs for elders, youth, and families

In older adults, muscle-strengthening exercises can reduce the risk of falling and fracturing bones and can improve the ability to live independently. In children, physical activity can alleviate the growing obesity epidemic. Parents can help their children stay fit by modeling an active lifestyle. We will identify and build upon the community-based programs that provide recreational activities for families, as well as develop physical activity programs for older residents at community centers, churches, and other neighborhood facilities.



HARVESTING HONEY AT WALNUT WAY



ALICE'S GARDEN



FONDY FOOD CENTER

Lindsay Heights

8: Healthy Food

Increase consumption of healthy food

Like other communities comprised largely of people of color and low-income residents, Lindsay Heights has a disproportionate number of fast-food and convenience store outlets in relation to healthy food retailers. The rates of obesity-related disorders such as diabetes and heart disease have risen most dramatically among people of color. Studies indicate that because of the rapid rise in obesity rates, today's youth may live shorter lives than their parents. These facts highlight the urgent need to expand the availability of healthy food outlets and to teach healthy eating habits to children.

8.1 Expand the availability of healthy food

When healthy food outlets are available, people are more likely to eat the fruits, vegetables, and whole-grain foods that are recommended for good health. Providing the community with places to access nutritious food and the knowledge necessary to make healthy food choices will begin to turn the tide.

Lindsay Heights will create a "Healthy Corner Stores" campaign, which will work with small business owners to sell and promote healthier food options, while luring stores and restaurants that provide a broad range of nutritious foods to our commercial corridors. We will build the capacity of Fondy Farmers Market to sell fresh food year-round and explore opportunities for residents to produce and sell healthy foods. Following the lead of schools around the country, the community will advocate for healthier food choices at our local schools.

8.2 Engage families and youth in growing and cooking food

The health and environmental benefits of locally-raised foods have been well-documented, as have the long-term advantages of consistent family activities such as cooking. By enhancing programs that teach people how to shop for and prepare fresh food and increasing the number of community and school gardens, we will provide healthier food options for our residents. At the same time we will encourage entrepreneurship tied to gardening and cooking.



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