

McCarty Burlington Neighborhood Action Plan

Aurora Neighborhood Planning Initiative

City of Aurora, Illinois



Adopted November 2007



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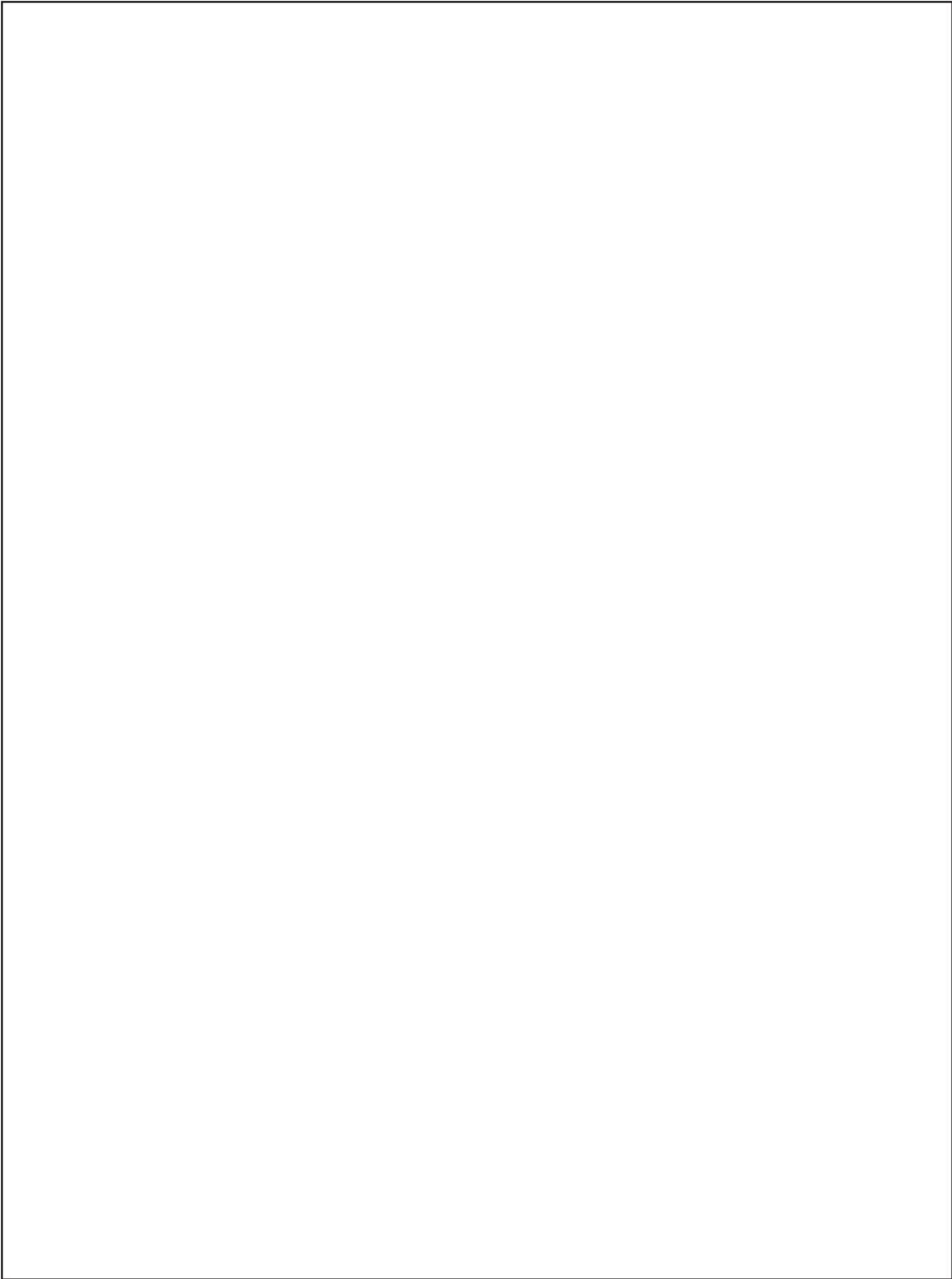
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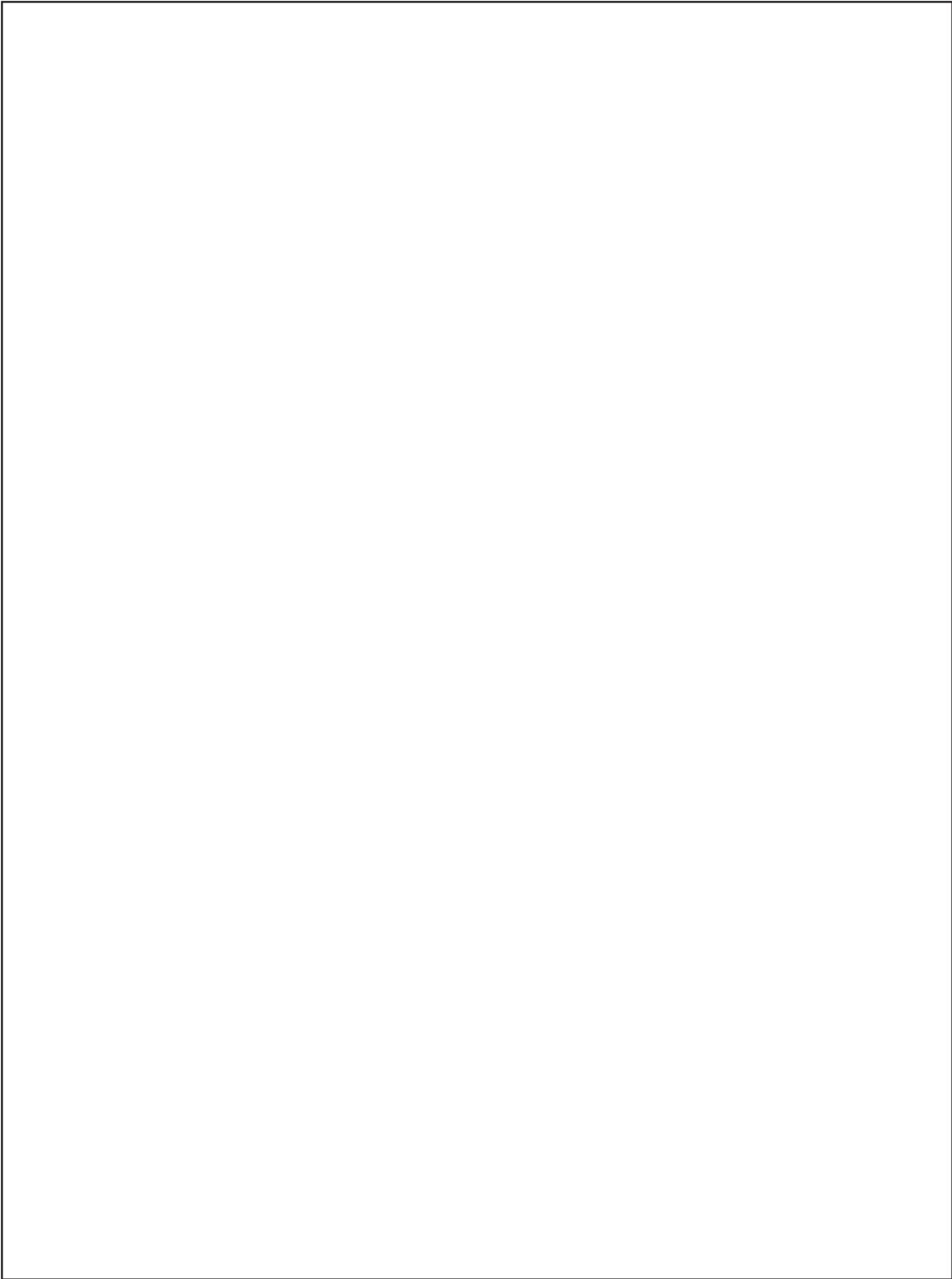
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The Aurora Neighborhood Planning Initiative (ANPI) is designed to help residents and other local stakeholders (e.g. business owners, employees of local businesses, faculty and staff at local schools, etc) shape the way their neighborhood will grow and change. Located east of Downtown Aurora in the City's historic core, the McCarty Burlington Neighborhood is the fifth neighborhood to complete the ANPI process.

The neighborhood's name takes root in its unique place in the City's geography as well as in Aurora's history. The original settlement of Aurora was established by Joseph McCarty and his brother Samuel in 1834. Originally named McCarty Mills after the founding brothers' grist mill and sawmill, the settlement became Aurora in 1837. McCarty Park, which is located within the neighborhood, is named after the famed brothers. In addition to being the historic settlement site for Aurora, the neighborhood was also a settlement for the families of railroad workers associated with the Burlington Railroad, which forms the northern boundary of the neighborhood study area. The McCarty Burlington Neighborhood is proudly named in homage to the history and geography of Aurora's original and past settlements.



The neighborhood is named after McCarty Park (top), which honors the McCarty brothers who established the original settlement that became Aurora in 1837, and the historic settlement of railroad workers associated with the Burlington Railroad (bottom), which forms the northern boundary of the neighborhood study area.

The neighborhood planning process was characterized by active community participation, without which the ANPI would not be successful. The McCarty Burlington Neighborhood Planning Team was comprised of City staff, the volunteer Leadership Team, consultants, and, most importantly, residents and local stakeholders who participated in the planning process. A series of neighborhood meetings was organized to gather input and ideas from residents and local stakeholders. Numerous Leadership Team meetings and planning activities also played integral roles in the planning process. Chapter 2 provides more detailed descriptions of the ANPI, Planning Team, and overall neighborhood planning process. Chapter 3 provides a neighborhood profile, including a demographic analysis and descriptions of neighborhood assets.

Figure 1 illustrates the general neighborhood planning process used to develop this plan. The initial phases of the planning process were designed to identify the key issues facing the neighborhood. Based on a series of exercises and various discussions with the community, the Planning Team identified the neighborhood's key issues, which are described in more detail in Chapter 4.

Figure 1: Objectives of the Aurora Neighborhood Planning Initiative



Participants at neighborhood meetings were instrumental in brainstorming ideas to help resolve the neighborhood's key issues, identifying existing methods and programs to assist in neighborhood improvement and suggesting new ones that could be created. Identifying methods and programs for neighborhood improvement helped es-

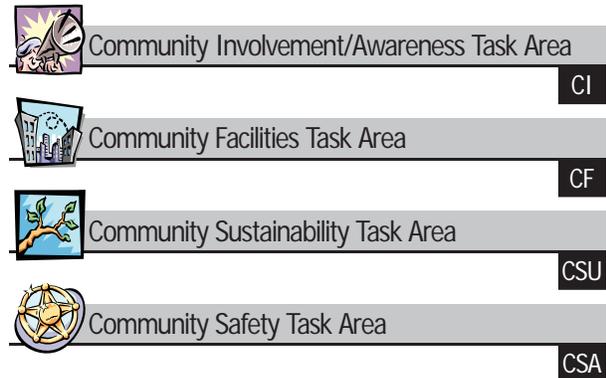
establish a Framework for Neighborhood Improvement, which is described in Chapter 5. The Framework for Neighborhood Improvement identifies an effective process designed to enact change. This process includes clearly defined Action Steps that address each of the neighborhood's high priority issues and a strategy to actively implement those Action Steps. The Organizational Framework primarily focuses on the Task Force(s) and their working relationship with the Aurora Neighborhood Council (ANC), City Council, City staff, and elected officials.

The central component of the Framework for Neighborhood Improvement is the Organizational Framework, which establishes the Task Force(s) that are responsible for addressing the neighborhood's key issues by implementing the Action Steps. The McCarty Burlington Neighborhood has four Task Areas which are summarized in Figure 2. This means that the neighborhood could have anywhere between one and four Task Forces. The neighborhood could choose to have four Task Forces, each addressing one of the Task Areas, or choose to have one, two, or three Task Forces which would address a combination of the Task Forces.

Implementation of the Action Steps and tracking progress of neighborhood improvement efforts are described in Chapters 6 and 7, respectively. By working with existing organizations and the City, the Task Force(s) will work towards achieving solutions to the neighborhood's key issues in a focused and managed manner to minimize repetitiveness, maximize effectiveness, and encourage the sharing of ideas and resources.

In addition, the Task Force(s) provide the McCarty Burlington Neighborhood with a unified voice with which the neighborhood can bring attention to neighborhood issues both at the City level and at higher levels of government. Constant communication of progress and finding practical solutions to the neighborhood issues will not only help foster a sense of community pride but also potentially encourage other residents and stakeholders to take part in the grassroots efforts of the Task Force(s).

Figure 2: Task Areas to implement the Action Plan



The Aurora Neighborhood Planning Initiative (ANPI) provided the general framework for the planning process for the McCarty Burlington Neighborhood. A general overview of the ANPI is provided below. This chapter also provides information on the study area, planning team, and neighborhood planning process for the McCarty Burlington Neighborhood.

Overview of the Aurora Neighborhood Planning Initiative (ANPI)

In 2002, the City of Aurora initiated one of the first comprehensive neighborhood planning efforts in the region. The Aurora Neighborhood Planning Initiative (ANPI) is being implemented to help residents, business owners, and other stakeholders shape the way their neighborhoods will evolve over the next 20 years and beyond.

Since February 2000, the City of Aurora has taken a proactive stance in working with its neighborhoods to identify common problems and develop solutions. The Neighborhood Revitalization Team (NRT), comprised of neighborhood representatives and City staff, spent several months identifying common issues confronting Aurora's established neighborhoods. At the conclusion of its work, the group formulated a number of recommendations that included sponsorship of two neighborhood-oriented programs:

- The first NRT program would allow ongoing dialogue between the City and its neighborhoods to address a variety of issues. The implementation of this recommendation was the formation of the Aurora Neighborhood Council (ANC), a type of "one-stop shop" for neighborhoods to access City services. The ANC is made up of neighborhood representatives and is served by representatives of each City department.
- The second NRT program was based on the acknowledgment that each of Aurora's neighborhoods has its own character, its own unique set of issues, and, perhaps, its own priorities for improving its quality of life. As such, the NRT proposed a process for ensuring long-term, neighborhood-by-neighborhood planning. The goal of this proposal was to ensure that the distinct needs of various neighborhoods are addressed and that revitalization is an ongoing, joint effort of both residents and City government. The ANPI was started to provide a forum for neighborhoods to collaborate with the City in addressing neighborhood issues through long-range planning.

The objectives of the ANPI program are listed below in Figure 3.

Figure 3: Objectives of the Aurora Neighborhood Planning Initiative

- 1 Identify and involve stakeholders;
- 2 Help community stakeholders identify key goals for their neighborhood;
- 3 Involve stakeholders in determining the best ways to achieve neighborhood AND City goals; and
- 4 Create a collaborative and inclusive environment that will foster community building in each neighborhood.



Formally initiated in 2002, the Aurora Neighborhood Planning Initiative is one of the first comprehensive neighborhood planning efforts in the region.



Neighborhood residents and local stakeholders actively participated in the planning process.

McCarty Burlington Neighborhood Planning Team

The McCarty Burlington Neighborhood Planning Team was comprised of City staff, consultants, and, most importantly, residents and other neighborhood stakeholders who participated in the process, including those on the volunteer Leadership Team. Stakeholders are those individuals who have a vested interest in the evolving conditions of the neighborhood, including property owners, business operators, employees, and residents. The diagram in Figure 5 depicts the members of the Planning Team and summarizes the general responsibilities of each team component. The primary objectives of the Planning Team were to:

- Identify key goals for the neighborhood;
- Determine the best ways to achieve neighborhood and City goals; and
- Create a collaborative and inclusive environment that fosters community building in the neighborhood.

The Leadership Team was comprised of a diverse group of local residents and stakeholders that focused on the outcomes of neighborhood meetings and input from residents. Working with City staff and consultants, the Leadership Team was instrumental in ensuring that the planning process reflected the community's needs and aspirations. Among its various assignments, the Leadership Team was responsible for the following:

- Promoted the ANPI and neighborhood meetings;
- Appropriately represented the McCarty Burlington Neighborhood residents;
- Developed and organized Action Steps to address the neighborhood's issues;
- Reviewed the Neighborhood Action Plan.

Figure 5: Neighborhood Planning Team

Neighborhood Plan Participants

- Attend/participate in meetings
- Communicate concerns, experiences & ideas
- Review consultant ideas in order to shape plan



Neighborhood Leadership Team

- Promote meetings
- Accept responsibility for assignments between meetings
- Make sure recommendations reflect neighborhood's desires



Consultants

- Facilitate discussions
- Design and advise on activities
- Translate meeting findings into planning document



City Staff

- Attend and help plan meetings
- Bring in additional resources and information as necessary
- Distribute information throughout the process



Neighborhood Planning Process

Throughout the planning process, a series of meetings was held to give residents, local business owners, and other local stakeholders the opportunity to participate in the planning of their neighborhood. The neighborhood planning process was primarily comprised of three phases, which are summarized in the diagram in Figure 6 below.



One of the major elements of the neighborhood planning process was a series of community-wide neighborhood meetings, which included a variety of public participation exercises, discussion groups, and presentations (above).

The McCarty Burlington Neighborhood Action Plan is intended to be a dynamic, living document that will require constant usage by the neighborhood to implement the strategies outlined. Periodic revisions will be needed as the neighborhood evolves and adapts to trends and other influences. In addition, the neighborhood planning efforts described within this plan are not intended to replace existing neighborhood associations or other community organizations. Rather, they are designed to unite the various neighborhood groups and provide them with a stronger unified voice to represent the entire McCarty Burlington Neighborhood.

Figure 6: Neighborhood Planning Process

The objective of the first Neighborhood Meeting was to give the Planning Team an idea of how residents not only perceive their neighborhood in its current state but also envision it in the future. A word association exercise and small group discussions helped identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats that characterize the neighborhood.

Objective of Neighborhood Meeting #1

Evaluate where the neighborhood is today & where the neighborhood would like to be

June 11, 2007

In order to attain the envisioned image and improve upon existing programs of the neighborhood, residents participated in an exercise entitled "How Can I Help My Neighborhood?" at the second Neighborhood Meeting. The exercise allowed residents to help identify strategies and action steps that would address the neighborhood's key issues.

Objective of Neighborhood Meeting #2

Identify strategies to address the neighborhood's key issues, including existing & potential programs, projects, or services

July 23, 2007

Based on the results from the "How Can I Help My Neighborhood?" exercise, a preliminary set of Action Steps for neighborhood improvements was developed. At the third Neighborhood Meeting, residents were provided with the opportunity to review and prioritize the Action Steps to help shape the Neighborhood Action Plan.

Objective of Neighborhood Meeting #3

Prioritize action steps that are designed to address the neighborhood's key issues

September 10, 2007

At the fourth and final Neighborhood Meeting, residents were provided with the opportunity to review the Neighborhood Action Plan before it is presented to the City for review and approval. Residents were also able to learn about the Task Areas and related Task Force(s) to help with the implementation process of the Action Plan. The final meeting was also a time to celebrate the community's efforts to this point.

Objective of Neighborhood Meeting #4

Present the Neighborhood Action Plan, begin formation of Task Force(s) & celebrate the community's efforts

October 22, 2007

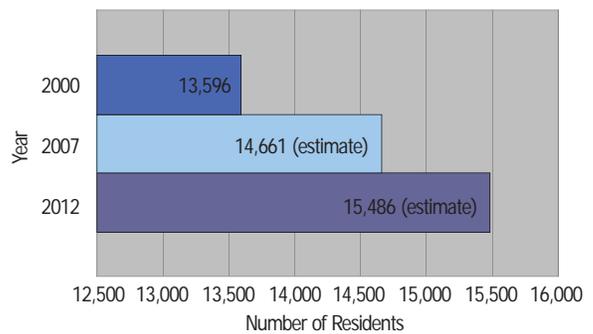


The neighborhood profile includes a quantitative analysis of the demographic composition and character of the McCarty Burlington Neighborhood. In particular, the neighborhood profile includes an analysis of U.S. Census data to provide insight into local demographic and economic trends, focusing on population, housing, and economic data. Data sets were provided by the Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc (ESRI), which is based on 2000 U.S. Census data and provides forecasts for 2007 and 2012. The neighborhood profile references 2007 estimates to provide a general overview of the demographic and economic composition of the community. The neighborhood profile also includes descriptions of neighborhood assets.

Population

The estimated 2007 total population of the McCarty Burlington Neighborhood is 14,661 residents, which comprises about 8.3% of the City of Aurora's estimated 2007 total population of 176,279 residents. Although the McCarty Burlington Neighborhood is one of Aurora's oldest, most established neighborhoods, its population is anticipated to continue increasing incrementally as the City's population also continues to grow.

Figure 7: Population



Source: U.S. Census & ESRI.

Also, despite the dense residential character of the McCarty Burlington Neighborhood, its composition of the City's overall population will likely continue to decrease since the neighborhood is mostly built out and Aurora's residential growth areas are generally located away from the central city on the west and east sides of town. More specifically, the neighborhood's population is anticipated to have a declining composition of the City's overall population from 9.5% in 2000, 8.3% (estimated) in 2007, and 7.9% (estimated) in 2012.

Population by Race

Based on race, white residents comprise almost half (46.4%) of the neighborhood's population, which is significantly less than the 64.6% composition for the entire City. The second largest composition is 41.8% of all neighborhood residents identify themselves as being "some other race" different from those specifically defined by the U.S. Census. Black and multi-racial residents comprise 6.6% and 4.3%, respectively, of the neighborhood's population. All other race categories have a composition of less than 1%. These neighborhood trends are generally similar to the City's population composition by race, except Asian residents comprise only 0.2% of the neighborhood's population but 4.0% of the City's total population.

Figure 8: Population by Race (2007)

Race	Neighborhood		City	
	Population (residents)	Percent of Total	Population (residents)	Percent of Total
White	6,804	46.4%	113,812	64.6%
Black	969	6.6%	19,141	10.9%
American Indian	85	0.6%	629	0.4%
Asian	28	0.2%	7,106	4.0%
Pacific Islander	4	0.03%	67	0.04%
Other Race	6,136	41.8%	29,859	16.9%
Two or More Races	635	4.3%	5,665	3.2%
TOTAL	14,661	100.0%	176,279	100.0%

Source: U.S. Census & ESRI.

Residents of Hispanic origin (any race) comprise 86.1% of the neighborhood's population, which is substantially higher than the 37.7% composition for the entire City. In other words, almost 9 out of 10 residents in the McCarty Burlington Neighborhood are of Hispanic origin. This is a major contrast from the Hispanic composition of the entire City where only 4 out of 10 residents are of Hispanic origin.

Furthermore, the Hispanic composition of the McCarty Burlington Neighborhood's population increased from 79.5% in 2000 to an estimated 86.1% in 2007; this upward trend is anticipated to continue with an estimated 89.0% composition by 2012. The City as a whole is experiencing a similar upward trend.

Population by Age

With 67.7% of neighborhood residents of age 34 years or younger, the McCarty Burlington Neighborhood is home to many young families. Although the age composition of the neighborhood follows fairly closely to the City's overall age composition, the neighborhood is generally younger than the entire City. This is accentuated by the neighborhood's median age of 26.5 years, which is about 4 years younger than the City's median age of 30.6 years.

A neighborhood with so many young families benefits from having a wide array of community amenities like schools, parks, and shopping opportunities located in close proximity. Located within Aurora's historic core that developed as a traditional neighborhood with a variety of amenities close to residential areas, the McCarty Burlington Neighborhood does include options for education, recreation, business, shopping, public transportation, and personal care. However, there is room for improvement, particularly for a neighborhood that has evolved significantly over time in both physical and demographic character. For example, the neighborhood does have a

Figure 9: Population by Hispanic Origin (2007)

Origin	Neighborhood		City	
	Population (residents)	Percent of Total	Population (residents)	Percent of Total
Hispanic Origin (any race)	12,628	86.1%	66,391	37.7%
No Hispanic Origin	2,033	13.9%	109,888	62.3%
TOTAL	14,661	100.0%	176,279	100.0%

Source: U.S. Census & ESRI.

Figure 10: Population by Age (2007)

Age	Neighborhood		City	
	Population (residents)	Percent of Total	Population (residents)	Percent of Total
0 to 4 years	1,758	12.0%	18,133	10.3%
5 to 19 years	3,810	26.0%	44,009	25.0%
20 to 34 years	4,359	29.7%	39,927	22.6%
35 to 44 years	1,946	13.3%	30,287	17.2%
45 to 54 years	1,256	8.6%	20,585	11.7%
55 to 64 years	798	5.4%	12,469	7.1%
65+ years	734	5.0%	10,869	6.2%
TOTAL	14,661	100.0%	176,279	100.0%
Median Age	26.5 years		30.6 years	

Source: U.S. Census & ESRI.



Image Courtesy: East Aurora School District #131.



While schools such as Waldo Middle School (left) offer educational and recreational opportunities for neighborhood children, the Aurora Community Center (right) offers a variety of educational, recreational, and personal growth opportunities for residents of different ages. A neighborhood should offer a variety of amenities and opportunities that cater to different age groups and meet varying needs and interests.





The McCarty Burlington Neighborhood is home to a handful of parks such as Penson Memorial Park (above). However, the distribution of parks throughout the neighborhood is an issue for some residents.

system of parks, but some residents feel that they aren't well distributed throughout the neighborhood. As another example, the neighborhood is served by Pace buses and located near the Aurora Transportation Center, which offers Metra train, Pace bus, and Greyhound bus services; however, families that have jobs that deviate from the traditional "9 to 5" work schedule do not always have bus or train schedules that match their non-traditional schedules.

Generally, as a neighborhood of young families that has evolved over time, it is important to ensure the McCarty Burlington Neighborhood provides adequate options for education, recreation, business, shopping, public

transportation, and personal care within close proximity to meet the diverse needs and interests of the community. For example, age-specific amenities such as playgrounds and daycare centers are appropriate for a community with young families like the McCarty Burlington Neighborhood; however, amenities such as athletic playing fields cater to sports leagues for different age groups. Striking the right balance is key to fostering a community that meets the needs and interests of all of its residents.

Households

The McCarty Burlington Neighborhood is one of the densest residential areas in all of Aurora. Physically, residential lots are generally smaller, creating smaller yards and shorter distances between homes in comparison to newer residential areas. In terms of demographics, the neighborhood's population can also be classified as "dense" in that the average household size is 4.33 residents per household. This is greater than the City's overall average household size of 3.07 residents per household. In fact, the average household in McCarty Burlington Neighborhood houses 1 more resident than the average household in the entire City.

Figure 11: Households (2007)

Households	Neighborhood	City
Number of Households	3,329	56,858
Average Household Size	4.33	3.07

Source: U.S. Census & ESRI.

While the higher average household size for the McCarty Burlington Neighborhood could be partially attributed to the physical density of the neighborhood's residential structures, another factor is overcrowding (too many people living in a single housing unit), which is a concern in the community. The neighborhood should work towards alleviating overcrowding to not only ensure residents properly follow the City's property standards for occupancy, but also help improve safety and public health conditions within housing units.

Housing Occupancy

About 92.1% of the neighborhood's 3,614 total housing units are occupied. The 285 unoccupied housing units translates to a 7.9% vacancy rate in the neighborhood. Despite having a vacancy rate that is one percentage point higher than the City's vacancy rate of 6.9%, any neighborhood, even one as densely populated as the McCarty Burlington Neighborhood, will likely face some vacancies. Moreover, when a neighborhood has an aging housing stock like the one in the

Figure 12: Housing Occupancy (2007)

Housing Unit	Neighborhood		City	
	Number of Housing Units	Percent of Total	Number of Housing Units	Percent of Total
Occupied Units	3,329	92.1%	56,858	93.1%
Vacant Units	285	7.9%	4,215	6.9%
TOTAL	3,614	100.0%	61,073	100.0%

Source: U.S. Census & ESRI.



Although the McCarty Burlington Neighborhood has a variety of non-residential community amenities such as businesses (left), schools, churches, and parks, the neighborhood is predominantly residential (right). A majority of the neighborhood's housing units are occupied. Of the occupied housing units, less than half (48.3%) are owner occupied. The majority are renter occupied.

McCarty Burlington Neighborhood, there is a strong possibility of vacant residential structures, particularly if they are dilapidated to the point of being difficult to sell or uninhabitable.

An occupancy rate of over 90% is still considered good, particularly for an older, more established neighborhood like the McCarty Burlington Neighborhood. With qualities like affordable homes, strong schools, proximity to downtown, and convenient access to public transportation options, the McCarty Burlington Neighborhood will likely maintain a high occupancy rate. Rehabilitation of aging and dilapidated residential structures could help lower the vacancy rate. General neighborhood improvements could also help by enriching the neighborhood's quality of life, which in turn would enhance the McCarty Burlington Neighborhood's stake as a desirable place to live.

Housing Tenure

Of all occupied housing units in the McCarty Burlington Neighborhood, less than half (48.3%) are owner occupied. Subsequently, the majority of the neighborhood's housing units are renter occupied. Rental units take different forms, including apartment buildings and converted single family homes accommodating multiple units. The neighborhood's virtual 50/50 split between owner and renter occupied housing units is significantly different than the City's overall composition, which is almost a 75/25 split (72.4% owner occupied and 27.6% renter occupied).

Figure 13: Housing Tenure (2007)

Housing Unit	Neighborhood		City	
	Number of Housing Units	Percent of Total	Number of Housing Units	Percent of Total
Owner Occupied	1,607	48.3%	41,144	72.4%
Renter Occupied	1,722	51.7%	15,714	27.6%
TOTAL	3,329	100.0%	56,858	100.0%

Source: U.S. Census & ESRI.

While the comparison of the neighborhood and City points to a wide disparity, it also indicates the unique character of the McCarty Burlington Neighborhood's housing stock. On one hand, the fact that many single family units were converted for multiple units illustrates that these units originally had the capacity for owner occupancy. On the other hand, a mix of owner and renter occupied housing units provides for a more diverse housing stock, particularly for a community of mixed incomes and housing needs. The key is to ensure the neighborhood's housing stock is truly reflective of the community's needs. Encouraging homeownership is also important to not only boost the neighborhood's owner occupied composition but also empower residents with the privileges and responsibilities that accompany homeownership.



Though not a traditional rental housing structure, the nursing home facilities at Fox River Pavilion (above) comprise part of the neighborhood's 51.7% renter occupied housing units.



Income

Average household income in the McCarty Burlington Neighborhood is \$43,814, which is significantly less than the overall City's average household income of \$70,489. Similarly, the neighborhood's per capita income (\$12,305) is less than half of the City's per capita income (\$30,299). This disparity is accentuated even more by the fact that the increase in the neighborhood's household income values from 2000 to 2007 lagged behind the increase for the entire City. Specifically, from 2000 to 2007, the neighborhood's median household income and per capita income increase by 22.1% and 21.1%, respectively, which were less than the City's increases of 28.5% and 36.9%, respectively.

The disparity between neighborhood and City income values indicates that low- to middle-income households have settled in Aurora's older, more established neighborhoods that offer greater affordability in housing options. On the other hand, higher income households are generally dispersed to other parts of the City, particularly into newer developments beyond the historic central city. Although general economic inflation will account for some of the increases in median household income and per capita income over time, the community can provide greater influence on its income values by boosting the neighborhood's quality of life to attract households covering a wider range of income levels to make their homes in the McCarty Burlington Neighborhood. Combined with its diverse community amenities, location adjacent to downtown, and proximity to the Aurora Transportation Center, neighborhood improvement efforts offer the potential to enhance the neighborhood's quality of life.

Figure 14: Income (2007)

Income	Neighborhood			City		
	2000	2007	% Change	2000	2007	% Change
Average Household Income	\$35,892	\$43,814	22.1%	\$54,861	\$70,489	28.5%
Per Capita Income	\$10,159	\$12,305	21.1%	\$22,131	\$30,299	36.9%

Source: U.S. Census & ESRI.



Located just outside of the neighborhood's western boundary, the Aurora Transportation Center and its convenient public transit options can be a major drawing card for any household looking for a place to live, regardless of income level.

Neighborhood Assets

Neighborhood assets are community resources that include local buildings, services, recreational areas, and other community-related uses that residents visit, use, or need on a regular basis. The McCarty Burlington Neighborhood is served by a variety of local assets, which are described below and illustrated on the Neighborhood Assets Map on page 19. Some assets are located within the study area while others are located outside but within close proximity to the neighborhood.

□ **Schools:** Four schools are located within the neighborhood study area, including three elementary schools (Romero Elementary School, Brady Elementary School, and St. Paul's Elementary School) and Waldo Middle School. Two other elementary schools, Rollins Elementary School and Beaupre Elementary School, are each located one block east of the study area along Ohio Street. The Aurora Education Center, which is located next to Sacred Heart Church, is another educational facility in the neighborhood. Though located outside the study area, East Aurora High School is located only three blocks south of the neighborhood. In addition, the Aurora campus for Waubensee Community College is located nearby on Stolp Island in the downtown area to the west.



Brady Elementary School is one of three elementary schools located within the neighborhood study area. Two others are each located one block outside the study area.

□ **Churches:** The community is served by multiple churches: St. Nicholas Church, Iglesia Bautista Emanuel, Sacred Heart Church, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, St. Mary's Church, First Methodist Church, First Presbyterian Church, and St. Paul's Church. A few other churches, including Trinity Church and Emmanuel Evangelical Church, are also located nearby but outside the study area. Wayside Cross Ministries operates its Lifespring Center adjacent to the Aurora Community Center.



St. Nicholas Church is one of the many churches located in and around the McCarty Burlington Neighborhood.

□ **Parks, Open Spaces & Recreational Facilities:** The McCarty Burlington Neighborhood is served by several parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities. Parks managed by the Aurora Department of Parks and Recreation include McCarty Park, Solfisburg Park, Penson Memorial Park, and two totland parks. The Fox Valley Park District manages the Lincoln Avenue Mini Park, Union Flagg Mini Park, Copley II Park, and Rollins Park (one block east of the study area). Some parks have playground equipment or ball fields while



Parks of varying size and type serve the McCarty Burlington Neighborhood. Some parks such as McCarty Park (left) and the baseball fields at Solfisburg Park (center) are managed by the Aurora Department of Parks and Recreation. Others such as Lincoln Avenue Mini Park (right) are managed by the Fox Valley Park District.



In addition to park space, the McCarty Burlington Neighborhood offers other spaces for recreation, education, or relaxation, including the Aurora Community Center (left) and a landscaped green space next to Sacred Heart Church (center). In addition to providing spaces for activities, general green spaces, such as the one adjacent to the East Aurora Flea Market (right), help soften the hardscapes of the built environment.

others are passive open spaces used for a variety activities. Schools and some churches also provide their own recreational spaces such as playgrounds, ball fields, and gymnasiums.

In addition to parks, the neighborhood also has other open spaces and recreational facilities which residents can use for active or passive recreation. For example, the Aurora Community Center provides a gymnasium for indoor recreation. A landscaped green space centered around a statue of the Virgin Mary near Sacred Heart Church provides a passive open area for personal reflection. Another landscaped green space, which is located across the street from McCarty Park, is maintained by the local historic district.

- **Aurora Community Center:** With its location near the center of the study area, the Aurora Community Center is located in the heart of the McCarty Burlington Neighborhood. With a gymnasium, meeting and classroom spaces, and a calendar of activities, the Aurora Community Center provides a variety of year-round recreational and educational opportunities and resources.



Located in the heart of the neighborhood, the Aurora Community Center provides a variety of opportunities to the community.

The Aurora Police Department's (APD) Area 2 Facility is currently part of the Aurora Community Center. However, it is important to note APD's plans to move out of this facility in the near future. While APD's vacating of its Area 2 Facility will create re-use opportunities for the community, the community is justly concerned about the impact on the police presence in the neighborhood. Not surprisingly, this was one of the neighborhood's major concerns during the planning process (see Chapter 4) and subsequently generated discussion about how to address the matter (see Chapter 6).

- **Historic District:** The northern portion of the Near Eastside Historic District extends into the McCarty Burlington Neighborhood. As the site of Aurora's first settlement by the McCarty brothers, the Near Eastside Historic District was established in 1981 as the City's first local historic district. Historic structures such as architecturally significant houses and the Masonic Temple are hallmarks of the district. Other physical elements such as historic light fixtures and the landscaped green space at the corner of Fourth Street and Galena Boulevard are prominent within the district as well. The Near Eastside Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.



In addition to historic structures, a landscaped green space along Galena Blvd distinguishes the Near Eastside Historic District.



Many of the neighborhood's retail businesses are located along its two primary road corridors, New York Street and Galena Boulevard. However, some businesses such as the Casa Blanca grocery store (left) and a laundromat (center) are located within primarily residential areas. The East Aurora Flea Market (left) is one of the neighborhood's most prominent retail businesses.

- **Retail Businesses:** The neighborhood is served by different types of retail businesses that provide goods and services to the community. While most retail businesses are located along the neighborhood's two primary road corridors (New York Street and Galena Boulevard), some businesses such as laundromats and contractor services are located within residential areas within stand-alone structures or as home-business operations. One of the most prominent retail businesses in the McCarty Burlington Neighborhood is the East Aurora Flea Market located along Claim Street. In addition, Downtown Aurora provides a substantial concentration of retail businesses and services.
- **Fox River Pavilion:** Although the senior citizen population in the neighborhood is not substantial, there are a few facilities that cater specifically to the senior population. Located across the street from McCarty Park, Fox River Pavilion provides nursing home facilities. Though located just outside the neighborhood study area, Jennings Terrace Retirement Home also provides nursing home facilities.
- **Public Transit:** With the Aurora Transportation Center located nearby along Broadway, the neighborhood has close access to public transit services. In addition to Metra commuter train and Greyhound passenger bus services, the neighborhood is served by multiple Pace bus routes.
- **Others:** The neighborhood also has other assets such as the Salvation Army, Family Life Center, and Lincoln Manor, which each provide distinct opportunities and services to the community. Other neighborhood assets are located nearby but outside the study area, including a U.S. Post Office facility, a Comfort Inn hotel, Walter Payton's Roundhouse, and the City's Central Fire Station. Also, with its location adjacent to Downtown Aurora, the McCarty Burlington Neighborhood has convenient access to City Hall, the main branch of the Aurora Public Library, the Aurora Fire Museum, SciTech Museum, and all the other downtown services and facilities.

The neighborhood is also served by three resident-based organizations that are dedicated to improving and enhancing the quality of life in the neighborhood: the Making A Difference (MAD), Near South East Neighbors (NSENA), and South East Neighbors (SENA) neighborhood associations. All three groups participated in the ANPI process. The Neighborhood Groups Map on page 21 illustrates the general coverage area of each group.

Figure 15: Local Neighborhood Organizations

- Making A Difference (MAD)
- Near South East Neighbors (NSENA)
- South East Neighbors (SENA)

The McCarty Burlington Neighborhood greatly benefits from the work and dedication of these three neighborhood organizations and other active residents. Continued active participation throughout the ANPI planning process will prove invaluable to the implementation of the Action Plan. Both places and people help define the character of the community, and they are all considered neighborhood assets. The strengths and benefits offered by these neighborhood assets are essential for the McCarty Burlington Neighborhood to maintain a high quality of life.





Before charting a path towards neighborhood improvement, it was necessary to evaluate existing conditions and perceptions of the McCarty Burlington Neighborhood, taking inventory of the positive and negative elements that shape the neighborhood. In addition to understanding the present state of the neighborhood, it was equally important to recognize how the community envisions itself in the future. Analysis of existing conditions and determination of desired conditions for neighborhood improvement both relied on a thorough understanding of the key issues facing the neighborhood and resolution of the most effective methods to address these issues.

During the First Neighborhood Meeting, meeting participants took part in a series of exercises to offer their initial thoughts and perceptions of the neighborhood. These exercises included a “one-word” exercise and a SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats). The exercise results provided the Planning Team with a thorough compilation of ideas and concerns from which a set of key neighborhood issues was derived. Exercise results are summarized below and on the following pages (complete results are provided in the Appendix).

**“One-Word” Exercise:
Understanding How the Neighborhood is Perceived Today & In the Future**

To help kick off the neighborhood planning process, participants at the First Neighborhood Meeting took part in a “one-word” exercise allowing them to use one word to identify how they perceive the McCarty Burlington Neighborhood “as it is today” and “as they want it to be”. The “one-word” exercise was designed to gain an understanding of how residents and local stakeholders perceived the neighborhood today and how they envision it in the future. The results from this two-part exercise are summarized in Figure 16 below.



The neighborhood is viewed as being multicultural, which is strongly indicated by the bilingual message board for Brady Elementary School.

Figure 16: Results from the “One-Word” Exercise



Each participant at the First Neighborhood Meeting was asked to provide one word to describe her/his perception of the McCarty Burlington Neighborhood “as it is today” and “as I want it to be” in the future.

The neighborhood as it is today . . .	The neighborhood I want it to be . . .
- Hardworking	- Participatory
- Isolated	- Crisp
- Unique	- Clean
- Young	- Communication
- Transient	- Stronger
- Short-sighted	- Proud
- Not perfect	- Improvement
- Diverse	- Improved
- Green	- Better stores
- Change	- Better
- Good	- More facilities (e.g. daycare)
- Deteriorated	- Welcoming
- Fragile	- Positive
- Families	- Safe
- Open space	- Better education
- Relational	- Crime-free
- Gentrified	- Outspoken
- Multicultural	- Fair
- Messy	- Development
- Under-represented	- Family-friendly
- Cool	

Notes: Responses are listed in no particular order. Responses to the “As It Is Today” part of the exercise reflect personal perceptions of individual meeting participants. Additional research and discussion were conducted to evaluate the validity of these responses.

**SWOT Analysis:
Identifying the Neighborhood's Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats**

After the "one-word" exercise, participants at the First Neighborhood Meeting then took part in small group discussions to compile identify the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) that characterize the McCarty Burlington Neighborhood. General definitions of a Strength, Weakness, Opportunity, and Threat are as follows:

- ▢ **Strength:** Anything that currently EXISTS and is a POSITIVE influence.
- ▢ **Weakness:** Anything that currently EXISTS and is a NEGATIVE influence.
- ▢ **Opportunity:** Anything that currently is NOT PRESENT but could be a POSITIVE influence.
- ▢ **Threat:** Anything that currently is NOT PRESENT but could be a NEGATIVE influence.

Since the SWOT Analysis was conducted in a series of small groups, the findings collected from each group were analyzed collectively to determine patterns and note any inconsistencies in order to gain an overall perspective of the issues facing the neighborhood. Based on patterns in the SWOT Analysis findings, the various comments were organized under 4 primary issue categories as defined in Figure 17.



As one of Aurora's oldest neighborhoods, being an established community with a sense of heritage are two major strengths for the McCarty Burlington Neighborhood.

At the end of the SWOT Analysis, meeting participants were given the opportunity to prioritize the various comments by placing 4 dot stickers next to her/his top 4 priority issues. Figures 18 through 21 provide summaries of each of the 4 issue categories, including their prioritized issues.

It is important to note that responses to the SWOT Analysis reflect personal perceptions of individual meeting participants. Additional research and discussion were conducted to evaluate the validity of these responses. Also, some of the issues listed in Figures 18 through 21 appear repetitive; this is due to the fact that the SWOT Analysis was conducted within three separate small groups. Repeated issues were later consolidated in preparation of the Second Neighborhood Meeting, at which meeting participants were given the opportunity to generate and discuss ideas about how the neighborhood can resolve its key issues (see page 27 for more detail).

Figure 17: Primary Issue Categories



Community Involvement/Awareness

See Figure 16 on page 25 for results from SWOT Analysis

CI

The Community Involvement/Awareness Issue Category includes issues relating to how the community interacts with each other and stays active in helping or improving the neighborhood.



Community Facilities

See Figure 17 on page 25 for results from SWOT Analysis

CF

The Community Facilities Issue Category includes issues relating to facilities such as schools, churches, parks and open space, businesses, parking, and other facilities that provide a service/use to the community.



Community Sustainability

See Figure 18 on page 26 for results from SWOT Analysis

CSU

The Community Sustainability Issue Category includes issues relating to neighborhood characteristics that effect the community's quality of life (characteristics relate to residential life, economics, property maintenance, jobs, shopping, education, recreation, etc).



Community Safety

See Figure 19 on page 26 for results from SWOT Analysis

CSA

The Community Safety Issue Category includes issues relating to safety and protection from crime.



Figure 18: Results from SWOT Analysis - Community Involvement/Awareness



Issue Category: Community Involvement/Awareness (CI)

Strengths		Weaknesses		Opportunities		Threats	
Issue	Votes	Issue	Votes	Issue	Votes	Issue	Votes
Sense of community/ heritage	3	Lack of participation/ volunteers	3	Large group = voice	1	Police presence at meetings	-
Active groups	2	Diversity (if not done well)	1	State representative lives in community	-		
Diversity	1	Lack of participation/ lack of involvement	1				
Architecture	1	Language barrier	1				
Sense of community	-	Under-representation	-				
Families	-	Un-neighborly (no small town feel)	-				
Historic district	-	Lack of Hispanic leadership	-				
Diversity (if done well)	-	Give individual a voice	-				
Established community	-	Inability to communicate	-				
Dedicated teachers	-	Negative neighborhood perception	-				
		Lack of marketing	-				

Figure 19: Results from SWOT Analysis - Community Facilities



Issue Category: Community Facilities (CF)

Strengths		Weaknesses		Opportunities		Threats	
Issue	Votes	Issue	Votes	Issue	Votes	Issue	Votes
Infrastructure (schools, transportation, etc)	2	Lack of parking (near train)	1	Masonic Temple	3	Inequitable distribution of parks/open space	-
River	1	Lack of daycare (TitleXX)	1	McCarty Park	2	Police substation leaving	-
Youth Services Dept	1	Lack of programs	-	Daycare	1	Lack of sufficient parking	-
Community facilities	1	Masonic Temple	-	Waubensee College	-		
Train station	-	Distribution of parks and recreation	-	Transportation	-		
Elementary schools	-	Park accessibility	-	River	-		
St. Nicholas Church	-	Too much on-street parking	-	Jobs/technical training facility	-		
Close proximity to shopping & transportation	-	Under-utilizing driveways for parking	-	Rehab/physical therapy center	-		
Parks	-			Sacred Heart Church	-		
Churches	-			Swimming pool	-		
Metra	-			Futbol (soccer) fields	-		
Schools	-			Baseball diamonds	-		
Fox Valley Park District	-			Youth activities	-		
				Child care	-		
				Baptist Church moving	-		

Figure 20: Results from SWOT Analysis - Community Sustainability



Issue Category: Community Sustainability (CSU)

Strengths		Weaknesses		Opportunities		Threats	
Issue	Votes	Issue	Votes	Issue	Votes	Issue	Votes
Stable employment	-	Lack of confidence in government process (lack of knowledge)	4	Untapped human resources	4	Too many little stores (need variety and well-maintained shopping ctr)	3
Historic district	-	Absentee landlords	4	better shopping	2	School funding	3
		Zoning issues (down-zoning and code enforcement)	2	School funding	1	Taxes	1
		Lack of owner-occupied housing	2	LEED (sustainable community building)	1	Teachers not teaching proper education	1
		Knowledge of programs/assistance	-	Down-zoning street overlay	-	Gas prices/Amount of disposable income	-
		Economic status	-	Small storefronts	-	Inflation	-
		Overcrowding	-	Retail	-	Inertia	-
		Homelessness	-	Nuisance violation listings	-	Overcrowding	-
		Lack of neighborhood stores	-	Development adjacent to the neighborhood	-	Housing bubble	-
		Lack of diversity of stores	-	Redevelopment opportunities	-	Unregulated gentrification	-
		Under-funded schools	-	Higher density developments near river	-	No preservation (trees, architecture, etc)	-
		Property maintenance	-	Green	-	School transportation	-
		Lack of equitable time schedules for transit (evening and night work hours)	-	Limit new rental units (max 10% of new developments)	-		
				Rental licensing program	-		

Figure 21: Results from SWOT Analysis - Community Safety



Issue Category: Community Safety (CSA)

Strengths		Weaknesses		Opportunities		Threats	
Issue	Votes	Issue	Votes	Issue	Votes	Issue	Votes
Police substation	-	Crime	8			Police station potentially moving out of neighborhood	3
Police presence	-	Liquor (location/clients)	1			Crime	2
Firefighters	-	Not safe	-			Gangs	1
						Perception of increase in crime	-



Summary of the Neighborhood's Key Issues

The results from the SWOT Analysis were consolidated and evaluated to determine patterns and connections between related issues. This process of consolidation and evaluation generated a more refined list of the neighborhood's key issues, which are summarized in Figure 22. The neighborhood's key issues were assembled to prepare for the Second Neighborhood Meeting, at which meeting participants were given the opportunity to participate in an exercise entitled "How Can I Help My Neighborhood?", which was designed to generate and discuss ideas about how the neighborhood can resolve its key issues.

Rather than wait for others to take action, residents and stakeholders can be proactive and take proper steps to resolve neighborhood issues. While residents and stakeholders are not expected to resolve issues by themselves, they are encouraged to partner with City departments, neighborhood groups, schools, churches, and other local organizations to identify and utilize tools and programs that most effectively address the issues at hand. Certain steps may seem small at first, but they help initiate activity and demonstrate to neighbors that the community cares about the state of the neighborhood. Also, enough small steps can add up to significant results. Rather than taking reactive approach where issues are resolved as they arise, residents and stakeholders are encouraged to take a proactive approach, which stimulates getting to the root of a concern and formulating solutions aimed at not only solving the current issue but also preventing others from arising in the future.

Figure 22: Summary of the Neighborhood's Key Issues



Issue Category: Community Involvement/Awareness



- There is a lack of participation in community activities.
- The neighborhood's diversity is positive but there needs to be caution to keep it from turning negative.
- A neighborhood that speaks both Spanish and English creates a language barrier.
- The neighborhood's Hispanic majority is under-represented at community activities.
- The neighborhood lacks Hispanic leadership.
- Individuals need a voice in the neighborhood.
- The neighborhood lacks a friendly and comfortable "small town" atmosphere.
- The neighborhood has an inability to communicate effectively.
- There is a negative perception of the neighborhood.



Issue Category: Community Facilities

- There is a lack of parking in the neighborhood.
- There is a lack of daycare facilities in the neighborhood.
- There is a lack of community programs in the neighborhood.
- The police station's future move out of the Community Center will provide opportunities to fill the vacant space with new uses or services.
- Facilities such as the Masonic Temple provide opportunities for revitalization in the neighborhood.
- Parks and recreational facilities are not well distributed in the neighborhood.
- Too many cars are parked on the street and not enough cars are parked on driveways or in garages.
- McCarty Park presents an opportunity to create an improved park facility for the neighborhood.
- The Fox River is a major asset providing opportunities for the neighborhood.
- There are a lack of athletic playing fields in the neighborhood, particularly for soccer/futbol and baseball.
- There is a lack of youth activities in the neighborhood.

Figure 22 (continued): Summary of the Neighborhood's Key Issues



Issue Category: Community Sustainability



- There is a lack of confidence in the City Government process.
- Absentee landlords are a problem in the neighborhood.
- There needs to be stronger enforcement of the City's property standards to regulate property maintenance.
- Down-zoning is an issue in the neighborhood.
- The neighborhood lacks an adequate amount of owner-occupied housing.
- The neighborhood's low median household income (below City average) raises concern.
- Overcrowding is a problem in the neighborhood.
- Homelessness is a problem in the neighborhood.
- The community lacks a diversity of small neighborhood-oriented stores.
- Local schools provide quality education but have insufficient funding.
- Bus and Metra train schedules do not always coordinate with residents' schedules.
- Community members have various skills/talents but do not have enough opportunities to use/nurture them.
- Gentrification may become a problem if it is not regulated properly.
- Preservation of the neighborhood's historic and grand qualities (such as mature trees and historic architecture) is important to the character of the neighborhood.



Issue Category: Community Safety

- The police station's future move out of the neighborhood might create the perception of decreased police presence.
- There is too much crime in the neighborhood (real and perceived).
- Gang activity is a problem in the neighborhood.
- The neighborhood lacks a feeling of safety.
- The sale of liquor has become a problem in the neighborhood.

Formulating Action Steps to Address the Neighborhood's Key Issues

The results from the "How Can I Help My Neighborhood?" exercise generated over 200 ideas of methods and programs that could help resolve the neighborhood's key issues listed in Figure 22 (complete results from the "How Can I Help My Neighborhood?" exercise are provided in the Appendix). The multitude of ideas is an indication that the neighborhood's key issues can be resolved in one way or another. While some methods or programs require more resources and effort than others, it was clear that the neighborhood believes that its issues are not insurmountable and can be resolved.

Similar to the evaluation of the SWOT Analysis results, the results from the "How Can I Help My Neighborhood?" exercise were evaluated to identify patterns and connections between related ideas to generate a consolidated set of Action Steps designed to address the neighborhood's key issues and provide greater focus to the Action Plan. As the consolidated set of Action Steps was generated, some Action Steps were designed to address one specific issue while others were designed to address multiple related issues. Chapter 6 provides a summary of the Action Steps, particularly describing how the Action Steps were prioritized by the neighborhood at the Third Neighborhood Meeting. Prioritizing the Action Steps helped guide the development of a series of Implementation Worksheets designed to guide neighborhood improvement efforts throughout the Action Plan's implementation process.



The Aurora Neighborhood Planning Initiative was designed to provide residents and other local stakeholders with a community-based planning approach to improving the City as a whole and its distinct neighborhoods. As a result, the neighborhood has been preparing itself to assume responsibility for certain aspects of developing and implementing the Neighborhood Action Plan.



Public participation was a major element of the neighborhood planning process (above) and will continue to play a significant role in implementation of the Neighborhood Action Plan.

Organizational Structure

To create a strong foundation for the McCarty Burlington Neighborhood Action Plan, an Organizational Framework has been developed to capitalize on existing human capital (i.e. the skills, knowledge, and expertise of residents, business owners, and other local stakeholders) to build upon the work of existing neighborhood organizations. These resources will be key participants in a new network of Task Force(s) that will be responsible for implementing the Action Steps designed to address the neighborhood's key issues (see next chapter for more information on the Action Steps and the implementation process). As illustrated in Figure 26 on page 31, the Task Force(s) collectively form the McCarty Burlington Neighborhood Board.

While the Organizational Framework builds upon the neighborhood's existing human capital, it also allows the neighborhood to cultivate untapped skills and collaborate with the City to more efficiently manage available resources. In addition to the ANPI planning efforts, the McCarty Burlington Neighborhood is currently served by three active neighborhood groups: Making A Difference (MAD), Near South East Neighbors (NSENA), and South East Neighbors (SENA). These organizations participated in the ANPI planning process and will prove to be valuable assets to the implementation of the Action Plan. The Aurora Neighborhood Council (ANC), a neighborhood-focused roundtable discussion group, will also play a significant role in the implementation process. City staff and the City Council will provide other valuable resources throughout the implementation process. Figure 23 provides a general description of the ANC and its functions.

Figure 23: General Overview of the Aurora Neighborhood Council (ANC)

Aurora Neighborhood Council



The Aurora Neighborhood Council (ANC) is a roundtable discussion group in which neighborhood related policies and issues can be evaluated in a mutually supportive setting to develop viable and comprehensive solutions.

As an important resource for neighborhoods participating in the ANPI process, the ANC provides a forum for neighborhoods to gain insight and guidance from each other, particularly on issues that may share common solutions.

Functions of the ANC include (but are not limited to):

- Receive and review input from neighborhood groups that may be directed to by City departments/officials
- Develop solutions within the multi-disciplinary group to ensure thorough evaluation and rationale
- Encourage active and regular input from neighborhood residents and organizations to ensure priorities, plans, and solutions are community-based
- Formulate comprehensive solutions for issues that are widespread and have frequent occurrences affecting multiple neighborhoods
- Make recommendations to the City Council on ANC-sponsored amendments to municipal codes or policies

* ANC Membership: 4 residents at-large + 1 representative from each ANPI neighborhood (1 selected individual or rotated)

Like any other physical or organizational structure, a neighborhood requires ongoing management and maintenance. Even though the City and the ANC can play a significant role in implementing many plan recommendations and monitoring their progress, ultimately it is the residents and other local stakeholders who must make a strong commitment to hold themselves and the City accountable.

Task Areas & Task Force(s)

Plan participants and the Leadership Team are sensitive to the resources offered by the City and existing neighborhood organizations. Rather than duplicate the work of these organizations, the hope is to gather interest from and recruit community-minded and resourceful residents and stakeholders to form a group of Task Force(s) that are designed to address the neighborhood's key issues identified during the planning process. The four Task Areas that provide focus to the implementation of the McCarty Burlington Neighborhood Action Plan are described in Figure 25. The duties of the Task Force(s) are listed in Figure 24.

Figure 24: Task Force Duties

- Initiate implementation steps to address priority issues as outlined in Chapter 4
- Report to neighborhood groups and the ANC regarding progress, obstacles, and activities
- Maintain a cooperative relationship with City staff that allows for collaborative work and successful lobbying to City leaders
- Explore all avenues for neighborhood improvement relative to the Task Force focus (i.e. employ an attitude of "thinking outside the box")
- Promote the work of the Task Force to recruit new members and expertise

Figure 25: General Overview of the Task Areas



Task Areas & Task Force(s)
To implement the Neighborhood Action Plan

The intent of the Task Force(s) is to maintain a system of community-led meetings to sustain the momentum from the ANPI process and translate the planning efforts into action. It is also important to continually attract new Task Force members and raise heightened awareness of the work and progress of the Task Forces.

The Task Force(s) can also collaborate with other neighborhood organizations to lobby the City and act as a "community watchdog" to track the work and progress of the City in addressing the neighborhood's issues.

The Task Force(s) work together to provide a stronger voice for the McCarty Burlington Neighborhood at all levels of government.

Figure 27 at the end of this chapter summarizes the Action Steps that pertain to each of the 4 Task Areas (see right for descriptions).



The **Community Involvement/Awareness (CI) Task Area** focuses on the implementation of Action Steps designed to ensure that neighbors interact with each other in a friendly environment, stay active in helping or improving the community, and have a unified voice within the community.



The **Community Facilities (CF) Task Area** focuses on the implementation of Action Steps designed to ensure that neighbors have adequate access to community facilities and programs that provide opportunities for education, recreation, business, parking, and social services.



The **Community Sustainability (CSU) Task Area** focuses on the implementation of Action Steps designed to ensure that the neighborhood maintains a high quality of life. While steps such as homeownership assistance and coordinated public transportation help enhance the neighborhood's quality of life, other steps such as appropriate property maintenance and regulated gentrification also help keep the neighborhood affordable and sustainable.



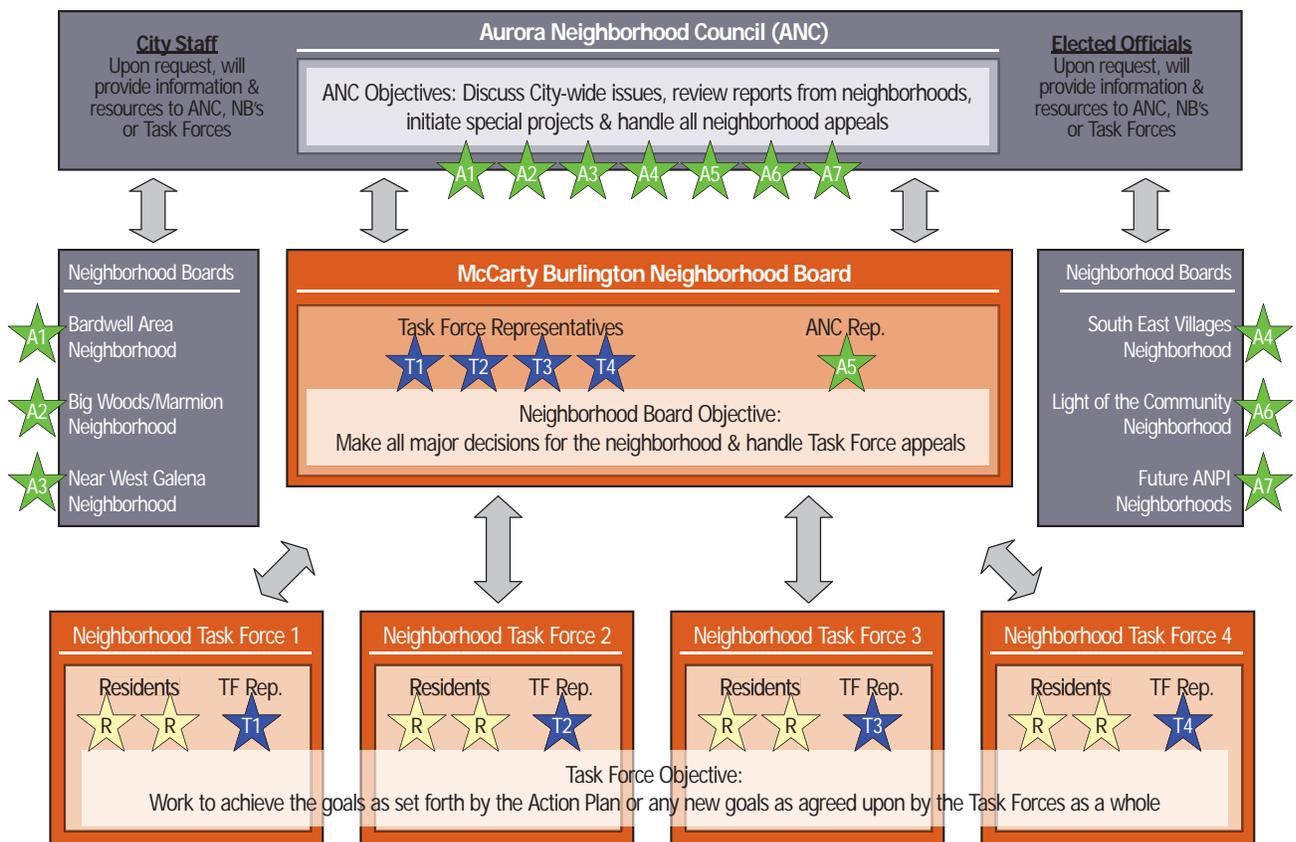
The **Community Safety (CSA) Task Area** focuses on the implementation of Action Steps designed to improve safety and address the perceptions and incidents of crime in the neighborhood.

While each Task Force will work independently on the Action Steps which it is charged to address, they should periodically meet as a common group to provide each other with insights and suggestions on their planning efforts. They should also coordinate efforts to communicate their progress to the at-large community, which is outlined in more detail in Chapter 7: Tracking Progress. Communication of progress on addressing the neighborhood issues will help foster a sense of pride and accomplishment in the McCarty Burlington Neighborhood and potentially encourage other residents and stakeholders to join a Task Force to assist with neighborhood improvement efforts.

Since the Task Force(s) represent everyone in the neighborhood, it is important to note that the Task Force(s) allow the neighborhood to speak as a unified voice that can call attention to its diverse set of issues at the City and at higher levels of government. Task Force(s) are not limited in membership. All interested residents are encouraged to participate and may join more than one Task Force. Initial Task Force members volunteered to participate at one of the neighborhood meetings. In the end, the City will be encouraged to act on an issue raised and supported by all residents instead of just a few residents.

Upon approval of the Action Plan, the City will accept responsibility for the continued support of certain activities as described throughout this document. Additionally, the ANC will play a primary role in assisting the planning efforts of the Task Force(s) as needed. Acting as a council of resources and expertise, the ANC will provide assistance to the Task Force(s) if they face obstacles or are unsure of the appropriate course of action to address a particular issue. The figure below illustrates the distinct roles of and the cooperative relationship between the Task Force(s) and ANC along with City staff and elected officials.

Figure 26: General Structure of the Organizational Framework



Abbreviations: NB (Neighborhood Board); R (Residents); TF or T (Task Force); ANC or A (Aurora Neighborhood Council)

Figure 27: Action Steps pertaining to each Task Area



Task Area: Community Involvement/Awareness (CI)

The **Community Involvement/Awareness (CI) Task Area** focuses on the implementation of Action Steps designed to ensure that neighbors interact with each other in a friendly environment, stay active in helping or improving the community, and have a unified voice within the community.

ID	Action Step	Priority*
CI1	Continue to develop neighborhood youth activities programs to build mentoring relationships between neighborhood adults and youths, encourage youth leadership, and provide safe spaces for youth activities	High
CI2	Create a network of "block captains" throughout the neighborhood to act as the liaisons between different neighborhood blocks, the Task Forces, and the City	High
CI3	Educate the neighborhood on the availability of City, County, State, and Federal programs and relevant application processes	High
CI4	Continue to develop neighborhood language programs to break down the language barrier and better prepare neighbors for multi-lingual interaction	Low
CI5	Identify ways to engage the neighborhood's diversity and foster open dialogue across cultures	Low
CI6	Identify leadership within the neighborhood to encourage greater community participation	Low
CI7	Develop a neighborhood continuing education program that provides vocational training and teaches important life skills (e.g. job interviewing, personal finances, home buying, home care, etc)	Low
CI8	Organize social and recreational activities to encourage interaction among neighbors and building community pride	Low



Task Area: Community Facilities (CF)

The **Community Facilities (CF) Task Area** focuses on the implementation of Action Steps designed to ensure that neighbors have adequate access to community facilities and programs that provide opportunities for education, recreation, business, parking, and social services.

ID	Action Step	Priority*
CF1	Work with the City and its Motor Vehicle Parking System Division to develop a neighborhood parking plan that evaluates current parking conditions and needs and identifies solutions to improve parking	High
CF2	Coordinate with the City and relevant property owners to identify potential opportunities for redevelopment or re-use	High
CF3	Develop an inventory of parks, recreation facilities, and recreation programs to evaluate distribution, site conditions, and needs and identify recommendations for improvement	High
CF4	Develop, continually update, and publicize a calendar of all community activities and venues offered by local schools, churches, the City, park districts, and other groups	High
CF5	Develop an inventory of existing daycare facilities/services in the neighborhood and evaluate potential locations and opportunities for new or expanded facilities/services	Low
CF6	Coordinate with City to determine potential re-uses of the Area 2 Police Facility after it is vacated by APD	Low
CF7	Coordinate with City and Department of Parks & Recreation to plan improvements to McCarty Park	Low

* See Chapter 6 for description of prioritization of Action Steps and detailed Implementation Worksheets for the High Priority Action Steps.



Figure 27 (continued): Action Steps pertaining to each Task Area



Task Area: Community Sustainability (CSU)

The **Community Sustainability (CSU) Task Area** focuses on the implementation of Action Steps designed to ensure that the neighborhood maintains a high quality of life. While steps such as homeownership assistance and coordinated public transportation help enhance the neighborhood's quality of life, other steps like appropriate property maintenance and regulated gentrification also help keep the neighborhood affordable and sustainable.

ID	Action Step	Priority*
CSU1	Coordinate with the City to educate the neighborhood about the City's property inspection program to ensure residents become familiar with property maintenance regulations and enforcement procedures	High
CSU2	Coordinate with local schools and East Aurora School District #131 to provide an open forum to better communicate the needs of students and their families	High
CSU3	Identify target property inspection areas and coordinate with the City to implement the property inspection program	High
CSU4	Coordinate with the City to educate the neighborhood about the City's rental property program and the Aurora Police Department's landlord training program to ensure residents and landlords become familiar with these programs, applicable regulations, and enforcement procedures	Low
CSU5	Coordinate with local realtors and other real estate-related organizations to develop a homeownership program that provides counseling and assistance	Low
CSU6	Work with the City to regulate gentrification in the neighborhood to foster a community with mixed income levels, diverse housing options, and a variety of businesses and services	Low
CSU7	Coordinate with the City to educate the neighborhood about down-zoning and its potential impacts	Low
CSU8	Coordinate with Pace and Metra to provide more public input into the development of routes & schedules	Low
CSU9	Work with the City to develop a neighborhood preservation program to offer incentives and recognition for preservation/restoration projects	Low



Task Area: Community Safety (CSA)

The **Community Safety (CSA) Task Area** focuses on the implementation of Action Steps designed to improve safety and address the perceptions and incidents of crime in the neighborhood.

ID	Action Step	Priority*
CSA1	Develop and maintain a lighting program to facilitate a well-lit and safer neighborhood	High
CSA2	Maintain regular contact between the neighborhood's block captains and the Aurora Police Department (APD) to encourage an open line of communication	High
CSA3	Coordinate with local social service organizations to provide information on assistance/rehabilitation programs for issues such as alcohol, drugs, domestic violence, etc	High
CSA4	Continue to implement nuisance abatement programs to resolve and deter crimes	High
CSA5	Develop a community safety information program to educate the community about crime prevention and mediation methods, particularly for gangs and drugs	High
CSA6	Coordinate with APD to maintain same frequency of police presence after it vacates the Area 2 Facility	Low
CSA7	Coordinate with APD to encourage potential for walking/biking patrols to enhance community interaction	Low
CSA8	Promote and utilize APD's community policing programs and the City's safety programs	Low



Throughout the planning process, the McCarty Burlington Neighborhood was represented by a diverse group of residents and other community members who participated in identifying the neighborhood's key issues, prioritizing those issues, and prioritizing a series of Action Steps to address the issues. As described in the previous chapter, community participation and collaboration with the City will need to continue for the Action Plan to succeed. The implementation process will utilize the Organizational Framework developed in the previous chapter. Specifically, significant community participation is imperative for the Task Force(s) to adequately address each set of Action Steps.

Action Steps

Based on the prioritization of issues and discussions with the Planning Team, a series of Action Steps was developed which the community can implement to address the neighborhood's key issues and forge a path towards ongoing neighborhood improvement. The Action Steps will be handled by the Task Force(s) outlined in the previous chapter. At the Third Neighborhood Meeting, the Action Steps were presented to the neighborhood for feedback and to outline a general idea of the amount of community participation and cooperation with the City and other entities necessary to make the Action Plan successful.



Coordination with local schools such as Brady Elementary School (above) is one of the neighborhood's highest priorities to ensure an open line of communication is maintained between the schools and students' families

The Third Neighborhood Meeting also provided the community with the opportunity to prioritize the Action Steps, keeping in mind some of the following matters:

- **"Quick wins"**: Some Action Steps are easier to achieve than others, requiring less time, effort, and/or resources for achievement. Sometimes a community likes to notch a "quick win" under its belt to demonstrate to the City and skeptical residents that the Action Plan is effective in addressing the neighborhood's issues. In turn, this may attract other residents to join a Task Force or assist in general neighborhood improvement efforts. The City will also recognize that the neighborhood is making progress and putting forth a concerted effort to address its issues.
- **Immediacy**: The timeliness of addressing certain issues is very important, particularly if delaying any action will exacerbate an issue or create new ones. As a result, certain Action Steps require immediate attention while others are not as sensitive to time and are not as likely to worsen if assigned a lower priority.
- **Availability of resources**: Some Action Steps may require extra time to collect information, conduct proper studies or research, or find available resources (e.g. funding, time, data, etc). The availability of resources may not necessarily place a certain Action Step at a lower priority, but it does demonstrate that it takes time to properly address certain issues.

Results from the prioritization of Action Steps are provided in Figure 28 on the next page (complete voting results from the prioritization exercise from the Third Neighborhood Meeting are provided in the Appendix). Although some Action Steps were assigned a higher priority than others, this does not disregard or diminish the importance of the lower priority Action Steps. Once the Task Force(s) have made progress on the high priority Action Steps, they are

encouraged to commence with the lower priority Action Steps. Also, new issues may arise over time. In the case that a new issue is not directly related to one of the Task Force focuses, the neighborhood can discuss the merits of either forming a new Task Force or pooling together the resources and expertise of the existing Task Force(s) to adequately address the new issue. It is imperative that the McCarty Burlington Neighborhood always stay organized and prepared to ensure that future issues do not escalate to a point where they are detrimental to the community's improvement efforts and quality of life in the neighborhood.

Figure 28: High Priority Action Steps to Address the Neighborhood's Key Issues

Priority	ID	Action Step	Votes	Worksheet Page #
1	CSA1 	Develop and maintain a lighting program to facilitate a well-lit & safer neighborhood	36	page 38
2	CF1 	Work with the City and its Motor Vehicle Parking System Division to develop a neighborhood parking plan that evaluates current parking conditions and needs and identifies solutions to improve parking	35	page 39
3	CI1 	Continue to develop neighborhood youth activities programs to build mentoring relationships between neighborhood adults and youths, encourage youth leadership, and provide safe spaces for youth activities	28	page 40
4	CSU1 	Coordinate with the City to educate the neighborhood about the City's property inspection program to ensure residents become familiar with property maintenance regulations and enforcement procedures	25	page 41
5	CSU2 	Coordinate with local school and East Aurora School District #131 to provide an open forum to better communicate the needs of students and their families	25	page 42
6	CI2 	Create a network of "block captains" throughout the neighborhood to act as the liaisons between different neighborhood blocks, the Task Forces, and the City	24	page 43
7	CSA2 	Maintain regular contact between the neighborhood's block captains and the Aurora Police Department to encourage an open line of communication	20	page 44
8	CF2 	Coordinate with the City and relevant property owners to identify potential opportunities for redevelopment or re-use	19	page 45
9	CSA3 	Coordinate with local social service organizations to provide information on assistance/rehabilitation programs for issues such as alcohol, drugs, domestic violence, etc	17	page 46
10	CSA4 	Continue to implement nuisance abatement programs to resolve & deter crimes	17	page 47
11	CI3 	Educate the neighborhood on the availability of City, County, State, and Federal programs and relevant application processes	15	page 48
12	CF3 	Develop an inventory of parks, recreation facilities, and recreation programs to evaluate distribution, site conditions, and needs and identify recommendations for improvement	15	page 49
13	CF4 	Develop, continually update, and publicize a calendar of all community activities and venues offered by local schools, churches, the City, park districts, and other groups	15	page 50
14	CSU3 	Identify target property inspection areas and coordinate with the City to implement the property inspection program	14	page 51
15	CSA5 	Develop a community safety information program to educate the community about crime prevention and mediation methods, particularly for gangs and drugs	13	page 52

Notes:

- Of the 32 total Action Steps, the 15 Action Steps receiving the most number of votes are regarded as the High Priority Action Steps.
- The other 17 Actions Steps receiving less number of votes are regarded as the Low Priority Action Steps.
- Complete voting results and the Low Priority Action Steps are summarized in the Appendix.
- Abbreviations: CI = Community Involvement; CF = Community Facilities; CSU = Community Sustainability; CSA = Community Safety.



Implementation Worksheets

Implementation worksheets have been created for the high priority Action Steps and are provided on the next several pages. The Task Force(s) can use the worksheets to guide neighborhood improvement efforts throughout the implementation process. Each worksheet describes the nature of each Action Step and indicates the party/parties responsible for initiating the work and maintaining progress of the work. Each worksheet also outlines a series of tasks that should be carried out to achieve the objective of each Action Item. Formulating each worksheet with a step-by-step process allows the Task Force to properly allocate resources, assign certain tasks to Task Force members (particularly to match tasks with available skills, knowledge, and expertise), and present progress reports to the ANC and other relevant community groups.

Each Action Step is also listed with recommended Task Force partners (indicated by the Task Force abbreviations) to encourage collaboration and pooling of resources. The worksheets are meant to be dynamic and flexible, allowing the Task Force(s) to add or revise tasks as necessary to achieve the objectives of the Action Steps. Space is provided on each worksheet for Task Force members to write in the scheduled initiation and completion dates to encourage work to progress in a timely manner.

As the Task Force(s) complete the Action Steps, it is important for them to use the relationships that have been formed to complete the remaining high priority Action Steps, address the low priority Action Steps, and respond to any new issues that may arise. City staff, the ANC, and other community development resources are available to provide assistance throughout the implementation process. A listing of various community development resources, including funding sources and incentive and assistance programs (as of Action Plan approval), is provided starting on page 57 (NOTE: to be provided in full draft of document).





Action Step CSA1

Issue Category: Community Safety (CSA)



Develop and maintain a lighting program to facilitate a well-lit and safer neighborhood

▶ #1 High Priority [8.3% of total votes]

Description: Certain streets and blocks were identified as needing better lighting. Improved lighting would brighten dark spots and create a sense of safety in the neighborhood. In some cases, lighting could also be used as a crime deterrent, perhaps incorporating motion sensed lights in places (e.g. parks, schools, etc) where loitering is unwanted. In addition to the installation of lights, a lighting program could also entail community activities that promote lighting of the neighborhood.		Who will be responsible for INITIATING this work?	Who will be responsible for MAINTAINING progress of this work?	Task Force Partner(s)
		Neighborhood	Neighborhood, City, Park Districts & Others	CI, CF
Tasks: What work will be done?		Who will do it?	Initiation Date	Completion Date
1	Walk through the neighborhood to identify dark spots, tree infringement, and broken, dim, or missing lights	Neighborhood		
2	Prepare a map identifying problem areas	Neighborhood		
3	Identify contacts with ComEd, park districts, and local businesses, schools, churches, and other facilities to maintain working relationships	Neighborhood		
4	Develop a step-by-step process for reporting lighting issues	Neighborhood		
5	Promote a "Bright Nights" program to encourage the use of porch lights in conjunction with neighborhood and City events and activities	Neighborhood		
6	Meet with the City to present the map of problem areas and discuss appropriate lighting improvement methods	Neighborhood & City		
7	Determine timing and availability of City funding for lighting improvements	City		
8	Research other funding sources (e.g. grants, Special Service Areas, Tax Increment Financing, etc)	Neighborhood & City		
9	Issue Request for Proposals (RFP's) for lighting installation or other lighting projects (as necessary)	Neighborhood, City, Park Districts & Others		





Action Step CF1

Issue Category: Community Facilities (CF)



Work with the City and its Motor Vehicle Parking System Division to develop a neighborhood parking plan that evaluates current parking conditions and needs and identifies solutions to improve parking

▶ #2 High Priority [8.0% of total votes]

Description:		Who will be responsible for INITIATING this work?	Who will be responsible for MAINTAINING progress of this work?	Task Force Partner(s)
		As one of the City's most densely populated neighborhoods, parking is a major issue. In particular, residents' views on parking in the neighborhood include too many cars parked on the street, insufficient parking near the train station, and use of garages and driveways for other than parking. Before identifying ways to improve parking in the neighborhood, it is important to evaluate current parking conditions to gain a better understanding of the issues and perceptions.		Neighborhood
Tasks: What work will be done?		Who will do it?	Initiation Date	Completion Date
1	Review the City's current parking standards for all land use types in the neighborhood	Neighborhood		
2	Walk/drive through the neighborhood at different times of day to identify areas that violate parking standards, lack adequate parking opportunities, or are overburdened by excessive parking	Neighborhood		
3	Meet with the City and Motor Vehicle Parking System Division to explain the map of trouble areas and to discuss appropriate parking improvement methods	Neighborhood, City & Motor Vehicle Parking System Division		
4	Determine timing and availability of City funding for parking improvements	City & Motor Vehicle Parking System Division		
5	Determine timing and opportunities for other parking management solutions that do not require major capital improvements/resources (e.g. parking zone stickers, parking restrictions, etc)	City & Motor Vehicle Parking System Division		
6	Research other funding sources (e.g. grants, Special Service Areas, Tax Increment Financing, etc)	Neighborhood, City & Motor Vehicle Parking System Division		
7	Implement parking improvement methods	City & Motor Vehicle Parking System Division		
8	Evaluate neighborhood parking conditions periodically to determine whether the improvement methods are effective or additional measures are needed	Neighborhood		



Action Step C11

Issue Category: Community Involvement/Awareness (CI)



Continue to develop neighborhood youth activities programs to build mentoring relationships between neighborhood adults and youths, encourage youth leadership, and provide safe spaces for youth activities

▶ #3 High Priority [6.4% of total votes]

Description: The neighborhood is encouraged to continue developing a variety of youth activities to build mentoring relationships between neighborhood adults and youths, encourage youth leadership, and provide safe spaces for youth activities. While local schools, churches, the community center, and other local organizations offer activities, the neighborhood should ensure that children of all ages and varying interests have options for extra-curricular activities to learn, play, and grow in a safe and wholesome environment.		Who will be responsible for INITIATING this work?	Who will be responsible for MAINTAINING progress of this work?	Task Force Partner(s)
		Neighborhood	Neighborhood, Schools, Churches & Other Local Organizations	CF
Tasks: What work will be done?		Who will do it?	Initiation Date	Completion Date
1	Coordinate with local schools, churches, and other local organizations to identify existing youth activities and any deficiencies, particularly relating to certain age groups or interests	Neighborhood, Schools, Churches & Other Local Organizations		
2	Research local and national youth programs that could be established in the neighborhood to diversify the current set of youth activities	Neighborhood		
3	Present research from Task 2 to local schools, churches, and other local organizations for feedback, particularly concerning feasibility and availability of resources (financial, physical, and human)	Neighborhood, Schools, Churches & Other Local Organizations		
4	Network with area businesses to identify potential sponsorship opportunities	Neighborhood		
5	Establish new youth activities (as necessary)	Neighborhood, Schools, Churches & Other Local Organizations		
6	Evaluate progress of youth activities periodically to determine whether they are successful and implement changes as needed	Neighborhood, Schools, Churches & Other Local Organizations		
7	Consider potential re-use of the APD Area 2 Facility as a neighborhood resource center providing opportunities for public education, skills training, community meetings, computer resources, etc Coordinate with Action Steps CSU1, CI2, CF2, CSA3, CI3, CF3, CF4, and CSA5	Neighborhood & City		

* Coordinate youth activity planning with Action Steps CF3 and CF4 to prevent duplication of efforts





Action Step CSU1

Issue Category: Community Sustainability (CSU)



Coordinate with the City to educate the neighborhood about the City's property inspection program to ensure residents become familiar with property maintenance regulations and enforcement procedures

► #4 High Priority [5.7% of total votes]

Description:		Who will be responsible for INITIATING this work?	Who will be responsible for MAINTAINING progress of this work?	Task Force Partner(s)
		Neighborhood & City	Neighborhood & City	CI
Tasks: What work will be done?		Who will do it?	Initiation Date	Completion Date
1	Review the City's existing property maintenance and inspection policies and resources to determine the characteristics that are the most influential in improving the physical conditions of the neighborhood	Neighborhood & City		
2	Meet with the City's Division of Property Standards (DPS) to evaluate and learn the property inspection process	Neighborhood & City		
3	Evaluate the property maintenance and inspection policies and resources from Task 1 to determine potential amendments to the City's property maintenance and inspection policies (as necessary)	Neighborhood & City		
4	Recommend and adopt amendments to the City's property maintenance and inspection policies (as necessary)	Neighborhood & City		
5	Develop a pamphlet or information packet summarizing the City's property maintenance policies, inspection policies, and the step-by-step inspection process	Neighborhood & City		
6	Provide the pamphlet or information packet to new and current residents, landlords, and property owners via mailings, postings on City and neighborhood websites, and information kiosks at the Aurora Community Center, churches, and schools	Neighborhood & Division of Property Standards		
7	Invite DPS officials to sponsor periodic seminars or presentations in the neighborhood to educate the community about property maintenance, inspections, code violations, and other related matters	Neighborhood & Division of Property Standards		



Action Step CSU2

Issue Category: Community Sustainability (CSU)



Coordinate with local schools and East Aurora School District #131 to provide an open forum to better communicate the needs of students and their families

▶ #5 High Priority [5.7% of total votes]

Description: The community generally feels that the schools in the neighborhood provide quality education. There are concerns, though, about insufficient funding and the need for improved communication channels for students and their families to inform school officials of their needs and concerns. Active coordination between the neighborhood and schools would help improve communication.		Who will be responsible for INITIATING this work?	Who will be responsible for MAINTAINING progress of this work?	Task Force Partner(s)
		Neighborhood & Schools	Neighborhood & Schools	CI
Tasks: What work will be done?		Who will do it?	Initiation Date	Completion Date
1	Identify the needs and concerns of local school students and their families, particularly relating to academic curricula, extra-curricular activities, facilities, and staffing	Neighborhood		
2	Identify a Task Force liaison(s) to meet with local schools and East Aurora School District #131	Neighborhood		
3	Meet with local schools and the school district to communicate the needs and concerns identified in Task 1 and recommend methods to address them	Neighborhood & Schools		
4	Assist the schools and school district to implement the recommendations from Task 3 and evaluate their effectiveness	Neighborhood & Schools		
5	Meet with local schools and the school district on a periodic basis to identify any needs for improvement and communicate any new needs or concerns	Neighborhood & Schools		





Action Step C12

Issue Category: Community Involvement/Awareness (CI)



Create a network of "block captains" throughout the neighborhood to act as the liasons between different neighborhood blocks, the Task Forces, and the City

▶ #6 High Priority [5.5% of total votes]

Description: While the neighborhood is served by two aldermen, three neighborhood groups, and the Task Forces established by this plan, residents expressed interest in establishing a network of "block captains" to represent smaller groups or "blocks" of homes and businesses. Working at a micro scale, a network of block captains would provide a liasion to a small group of residents and business owners to voice their concerns and ideas to the larger groups (i.e. aldermen, neighborhood groups, and Task Forces).		Who will be responsible for INITIATING this work?	Who will be responsible for MAINTAINING progress of this work?	Task Force Partner(s)
		Neighborhood	Neighborhood	CF, CSU, CSA
Tasks: What work will be done?		Who will do it?	Initiation Date	Completion Date
1	Establish a set of roles and responsibilities to be upheld by the block captains and determine the process for final appointments (i.e. what are the criteria for candidacy? who makes the final appointments? etc)	Neighborhood		
2	Create a map partitioning the neighborhood into a series of "blocks" [Note: A "block" may consist of a single block of homes or multiple blocks as long as it has an appropriate size that is manageable by a block captain.]	Neighborhood		
3	Identify and contact all potential leaders throughout the community to identify potential candidates for block captains, ensuring all blocks identified from Task 2 are represented	Neighborhood		
4	Meet with all block captain candidates to make final appointments, review the roles and responsibilities, and finalize the neighborhood's network of block captains (per the criteria & process established in Task 1)	Neighborhood		
5	Hold the first official block captain meeting to establish a meeting schedule, share initial thoughts and ideas, and determine how the block captains can help carry out any of the Action Steps in this plan	Neighborhood		
6	Hold periodic block captain meetings as established in Task 6	Neighborhood		



Action Step CSA2

Issue Category: Community Safety (CSA)



Maintain regular contact between the neighborhood's "block captains" and the Aurora Police Department to encourage an open line of communication

▶ #7 High Priority [4.6% of total votes]

Description:		Who will be responsible for INITIATING this work?	Who will be responsible for MAINTAINING progress of this work?	Task Force Partner(s)
		<p>Increased police presence and better communication between the neighborhood and the Aurora Police Department (APD) are important to the neighborhood. Although maintaining a more visible and frequent police presence in the neighborhood is one way to deter crime, it is also important for the neighborhood to maintain a working relationship with the APD to foster a sense of trust and understanding in the community. Coordination between the APD and the neighborhood's block captains provides a central group of residents with whom the APD can communicate.</p>		Neighborhood & Aurora Police Dept
Tasks: What work will be done?		Who will do it?	Initiation Date	Completion Date
1	Meet with the Aurora Police Dept (APD) to determine the frequency of police patrols in the neighborhood and evaluate the impact of the relocation of the APD Area 2 Facility	Neighborhood & Aurora Police Dept		
2	Form a rapport with APD officers by coordinating meetings between the neighborhood's block captains and APD officers who either have regular patrols in the neighborhood or live in/near the neighborhood	Neighborhood & Aurora Police Dept		
3	Draft and present a list or map of problem areas to APD to identify appropriate methods of policing	Neighborhood		
4	Maintain open lines of communication between the block captains and APD to keep the police informed of actual crimes and problem areas that have high potential for crimes	Neighborhood		
5	Invite APD officers to sponsor periodic seminars or presentations in the neighborhood to educate the community about crime prevention, community policing programs, and other safety-related matters (coordinate with Task 5 of Action Step CSA5)	Neighborhood & Aurora Police Dept		





Action Step CF2

Issue Category: Community Facilities (CF)



Coordinate with the City and relevant property owners to identify potential opportunities for redevelopment or re-use

► #8 High Priority [4.4% of total votes]

Description:		Who will be responsible for INITIATING this work?	Who will be responsible for MAINTAINING progress of this work?	Task Force Partner(s)
		As one of Aurora's oldest, most established neighborhoods, the McCarty Burlington Neighborhood is mostly built out and developed. However, like any neighborhood new or old, there are vacant or under-utilized properties that offer opportunities for redevelopment or re-use. The neighborhood should be proactive in identifying these redevelopment or re-use opportunities, particularly determining how they meet the community's needs and fit its character.		Neighborhood & City
Tasks: What work will be done?		Who will do it?	Initiation Date	Completion Date
1	Walk/drive through the neighborhood to identify properties that have the potential for redevelopment or re-use [Note: One particular re-use opportunity is the Aurora Police Department Area 2 Facility, which will be vacated in the near future and no longer serve as a police station; however, the existing building will remain and provide opportunities for other uses that serve the needs of the neighborhood.]	Neighborhood		
2	Identify draft recommendations for redevelopment or re-use, ensuring compatibility with the character and needs of the neighborhood	Neighborhood & City		
3	Collaborate with the City to identify and meet with property owners to propose recommendations for redevelopment or re-use	Neighborhood & City		
4	Evaluate availability and potential need for incentives to developers to help induce development	Neighborhood & City		
5	Collaborate with the City to participate in the RFP process to garner redevelopment/re-use proposals [Note: Only for property owners willing to participate in redevelopment efforts.]	Neighborhood, City & Property Owners		
6	Plan neighborhood "ribbon cutting" ceremony to celebrate the opening of new developments, particularly noting the neighborhood's efforts and involvement	Neighborhood, City & Developers		





Action Step CSA3

Issue Category: Community Safety (CSA)



Coordinate with local social service organizations to provide information on assistance/rehabilitation programs for issues such as alcohol, drugs, domestic violence, etc

▶ #9 High Priority [3.9% of total votes]

Description: While it is important to stop or prevent dangerous and criminal activities in the neighborhood, it is just as important to identify where troubled individuals can go to seek help. Informing the public about the availability of assistance/rehabilitation programs offered in the neighborhood is a key step towards helping troubled neighbors find information, assistance, or guidance to help mend their negative lifestyles/habits/choices.	Who will be responsible for INITIATING this work?	Who will be responsible for MAINTAINING progress of this work?	Task Force Partner(s)
	Neighborhood	Neighborhood & Local Social Service Organizations	CI
Tasks: What work will be done?	Who will do it?	Initiation Date	Completion Date
1	Identify existing assistance/rehabilitation programs offered by local social service organizations that address issues such as alcohol, drugs, domestic violence, etc	Neighborhood & Local Social Service Organizations	
2	Review and organize programs by categories (including alcohol, drugs, domestic violence, etc)	Neighborhood	
3	Create informational brochures that provide program summaries, tips, contacts, and other key information	Neighborhood	
4	Seek City assistance or sponsorship from private or non-profit groups to help fund the production and distribution of the brochures	Neighborhood	
5	Disseminate informational brochures throughout the neighborhood via coordination with local schools, churches, businesses, and other organizations	Neighborhood	
6	Invite representatives from local social service organizations to sponsor periodic seminars or presentations in the neighborhood to educate the community about their assistance/rehabilitation programs	Neighborhood & Local Social Service Organizations	
7	Revise brochures as programs and information are updated or new ones are established (as necessary)	Neighborhood	





Action Step CSA4

Issue Category: Community Safety (CSA)



Continue to implement nuisance abatement programs to deter crimes and resolve safety issues

▶ #10 High Priority [3.9% of total votes]

Description: Nuisance abatement programs can help deter crimes or resolve safety issues by levying fines or penalties on violations of municipal ordinances. For example, a noise abatement program would impose a fine to residents or property owners who violate the City's noise ordinance. While the City and its departments currently enforce certain nuisance abatement programs, it may be necessary to recommend new programs to meet the neighborhood's needs.		Who will be responsible for INITIATING this work?	Who will be responsible for MAINTAINING progress of this work?	Task Force Partner(s)
		Neighborhood, City & Aurora Police Dept	Neighborhood, City & Aurora Police Dept	CI, CSU
Tasks: What work will be done?		Who will do it?	Initiation Date	Completion Date
1	Identify all current nuisance abatement programs managed by the City and Aurora Police Dept (APD) and evaluate their effectiveness in the neighborhood	Neighborhood, City & Aurora Police Dept		
2	Research other nuisance abatement programs from other communities (local or national) that may be effective in the neighborhood	Neighborhood		
3	Collaborate with the City to suggest improvements to existing nuisance abatement programs and recommend establishment of new programs	Neighborhood, City & Aurora Police Dept		
4	Include information on nuisance abatement programs as part of the informational brochures described in Action Step C13	Neighborhood		
5	Evaluate the effectiveness of the nuisance abatement programs and report any suggested improvements to the City and APD	Neighborhood		

* Coordinate with Action Steps C13 to prevent duplication of efforts



Action Step C13

Issue Category: Community Involvement/Awareness (CI)



Educate the neighborhood on the availability of City, County, State, and Federal programs and relevant application processes

▶ #11 High Priority [3.4% of total votes]

Description: When a resident or business owner seeks information on assistance or incentive programs (some of which are listed in the "Community Development Resources" section at the end of this chapter), they first need to know what is available and then where to find the information. It is important to understand not only the function of each program but also any applicable prerequisites and application processes. As with many of the other Action Steps, this one relies on raising public awareness through public education and distribution of information.		Who will be responsible for INITIATING this work?	Who will be responsible for MAINTAINING progress of this work?	Task Force Partner(s)
		Neighborhood & City	Neighborhood & City	CF, CSU, CSA
Tasks: What work will be done?		Who will do it?	Initiation Date	Completion Date
1	Coordinate with the City to develop and maintain a database of all available City, County, State, and Federal incentive and assistance programs relevant to residential and business matters [Note: At a minimum, the database should include a description, information on applicable prerequisites and application processes, and pertinent contact information for each program.]	Neighborhood & City		
2	Create informational brochures that provide program summaries, tips, contacts, and other key information	Neighborhood		
3	Seek City assistance or sponsorship from private or non-profit groups to help fund the production and distribution of the brochures	Neighborhood		
4	Disseminate informational brochures throughout the neighborhood via coordination with local schools, churches, businesses, the community center, and other organizations	Neighborhood		
5	Invite representatives from relevant City, County, State, and Federal departments to sponsor a seminar or presentation in the neighborhood to educate the community about available assistance or incentive programs	Neighborhood & Relevant City, County, State, and Federal Departments		
6	Revise brochures as programs and information are updated or new ones are established (as necessary)	Neighborhood		





Action Step CF3

Issue Category: Community Facilities (CF)



Develop an inventory of parks, recreation facilities, and recreation programs to evaluate distribution, site conditions, and needs and identify recommendations for improvement

► #12 High Priority [3.4% of total votes]

Description:		Who will be responsible for INITIATING this work?	Who will be responsible for MAINTAINING progress of this work?	Task Force Partner(s)
		While the neighborhood is home to many recreation facilities in the form of parks, school and church spaces, and the Aurora Community Center, there are some concerns about the distribution and conditions of these facilities. There is also concern for a greater diversity in available recreation programs that cater to all ages and interests. Since the neighborhood is home to many young families, the community must ensure that residents of all ages have access to recreational spaces and opportunities that meet their needs and interests.		Neighborhood
Tasks: What work will be done?		Who will do it?	Initiation Date	Completion Date
1	Develop an inventory and map of existing and planned recreational facilities and programs offered by the City's Department of Parks and Recreation, the Fox Valley Park District, and local schools, churches, and other groups providing recreation facilities	Neighborhood		
2	Identify age groups and recreational interests that are currently underserved in the neighborhood	Neighborhood		
3	Research recreational programs from other communities (locally and nationally)	Neighborhood		
4	Present list of underserved age groups and recreational interests to the City's Department of Parks and Recreation, the Fox Valley Park District, and local schools, churches, and other relevant groups to identify appropriate programs and facilities to better serve the community	Neighborhood		
5	Identify and promote community-based programs to involve residents in forming their own recreational opportunities (e.g. resident sports leagues, neighborhood walks/bike rides, charity walk/run races, sports days, etc)	Neighborhood		
	Coordinate with the City's Department of Parks and Recreation and the Fox Valley Park District to provide neighborhood input into the planning and construction of new parks or recreation facilities and the improvement of existing facilities	Neighborhood, Aurora Dept of Parks and Recreation & Fox Valley Park District		
6	Monitor the implementation of new or updated recreational facilities and program	Neighborhood		
7	Maintain lines of communication with the City's Department of Parks and Recreation, the Fox Valley Park District, and local schools, churches, and other relevant groups to keep them informed of progress or the need for additional programs and facility needs	Neighborhood		

* Coordinate with Action Steps C11 and CF4 to prevent duplication of efforts



Action Step CF4

Issue Category: Community Facilities (CF)



Develop, continually update, and publicize a calendar of all community activities and venues offered by local schools, churches, the City, park districts, and other groups

▶ #13 High Priority [3.4% of total votes]

Description:		Who will be responsible for INITIATING this work?	Who will be responsible for MAINTAINING progress of this work?	Task Force Partner(s)
		<p>A neighborhood with multiple schools, churches, parks, neighborhood and community groups, and other organizations is bound to have a variety of activities serving the needs and interests of the community. For some residents, though, it can be difficult to determine when and where certain activities will be held. Also, some residents may not find any activities within the neighborhood that piques their interests or meets their needs. A master calendar of all community activities would provide a centralized place for residents to find information on when and where activities will be occurring and, if necessary, to propose new activities to meet unmet needs or untapped interests.</p>		Neighborhood
Tasks: What work will be done?		Who will do it?	Initiation Date	Completion Date
1	Develop an inventory of all planned community activities and programs offered by the local park districts, schools, churches, and other organizations	Neighborhood		
2	Organize the inventory from Task 1 into a calendar format, listing the name, day and time, and venue for each activity/program [Note: The calendar should be organized by month or season to ensure opportunities for periodic updates.]	Neighborhood		
3	Present draft calendar to the local park districts, schools, churches, and other organizations for review and to make final revisions	Neighborhood		
4	Seek assistance or sponsorship from the City, park districts, schools, churches, or private or non-profit groups to help fund the production and distribution of the calendars	Neighborhood		
5	Disseminate calendars throughout the neighborhood via coordination with local schools, churches, businesses, and other organizations	Neighborhood		
6	Update the calendar each month/season to ensure activities and programs stay current (see Task 2 to coordinate the frequency of updates)	Neighborhood		

* Coordinate with Action Steps C11 and CF3 to prevent duplication of efforts





Action Step CSU3

Issue Category: Community Sustainability (CSU)



Identify target property inspection areas and coordinate with the City to implement the property inspection program

▶ #14 High Priority [3.2% of total votes]

Description:		Who will be responsible for INITIATING this work?	Who will be responsible for MAINTAINING progress of this work?	Task Force Partner(s)
		<p>In some cases, inspections of properties in violation of the City's property maintenance standards are more effective when focused on a block or multi-block area instead of a case-by-case basis. A focused inspection/enforcement "sweep" would not only address multiple "problem" properties at a single time but also demonstrate to the rest of the neighborhood that the City and neighbors are serious about upholding property maintenance standards.</p>		Neighborhood
Tasks: What work will be done?		Who will do it?	Initiation Date	Completion Date
1	Walk/drive the neighborhood to identify locations of potential code violations	Neighborhood		
2	Map the locations from Task 1 and develop boundary lines around potential target inspection areas	Neighborhood		
3	Present map to City officials and discuss optimal size of target inspection areas to maximize the number of on-site inspections	Neighborhood & City		
4	Inspect the targeted areas by utilizing the property inspection program outlined in Action Step #4 (CSU1)	City		
5	Review the effectiveness of targeted inspection areas by tracking progress, obstacles, and accomplishments	Neighborhood & City		
6	Revise the map from Task 2 to identify successful inspection areas and unsuccessful or new inspection areas	Neighborhood		
7	Repeat Tasks 3 through 6 (as necessary)	Neighborhood & City		



Action Step CSA5

Issue Category: Community Safety (CSA)



Develop a community safety information program to educate the community about crime prevention and mediation methods, particularly for gangs and drugs

▶ #15 High Priority [3.0% of total votes]

Description:		Who will be responsible for INITIATING this work?	Who will be responsible for MAINTAINING progress of this work?	Task Force Partner(s)
		<p>While the police respond to crimes via their regular patrols and calls from the community, many crimes can be prevented before the potentially dangerous activities escalate to a real threat to the neighborhood. Educating the public about crime prevention and mediation methods is one way residents and business owners can take back their neighborhood. Knowing what to do, where to find information, and who to seek for help are all important in the crime prevention and mediation process.</p>		Neighborhood
Tasks: What work will be done?		Who will do it?	Initiation Date	Completion Date
1	Identify existing crime prevention and mediation programs offered by the Aurora Police Department (APD) and other local social service organizations	Neighborhood, Aurora Police Dept & Local Social Service Organizations		
2	Review and organize programs by categories (including gangs, drugs, domestic violence, etc)	Neighborhood		
3	Create informational brochures that provide program summaries, tips, contacts, and other key information	Neighborhood		
4	Seek City assistance or sponsorship from private or non-profit groups to help fund the production and distribution of the brochures	Neighborhood		
5	Disseminate informational brochures throughout the neighborhood via coordination with local schools, churches, businesses, and other organizations	Neighborhood		
6	Invite APD officers or representatives from local social service organizations to sponsor periodic seminars or presentations in the neighborhood to educate the community about crime prevention, community policing programs, and other safety-related matters (coordinate with Task 5 of Action Step CSA2)	Neighborhood, Aurora Police Dept & Local Social Service Organizations		
7	Revise brochures as programs and information are updated or new ones are established (as necessary)	Neighborhood		



Community Development Resources

In order to provide the Task Force(s) with a jump start to help them achieve their goals, the remaining pages in this chapter provide descriptions of a variety of community development resources, which are listed by category in Figure 29.

Many of the Action Steps within this Action Plan will require funding or financial support of some level in order to succeed. The type and amount of funding or financial resources available will vary and may only be available to certain qualified people, such as property owners, low-to-moderate income residents, etc.

In addition to funding or financial resources, the Task Force(s) may wish to consider participating in community development programs to address certain issues such as crime prevention and property maintenance. Descriptions, contacts, and meeting times for City and community programs are also provided for reference.

The resource listings below and in the following pages are not an exhaustive list; however, the Task Force(s) are encouraged to research and seek information or assistance from other programs and organizations as necessary. Also, some listings provide an “online resource” reference, indicating a website with additional information. Please note that website addresses were accurate at the time of final preparation of this document (website addresses occasionally change, so please be aware that web content may still be available but just at a different address).

Incentive & Assistance Programs

- **Landlord Training Program**: The Aurora Police Department conducts this program which provides information and assistance on leases, evictions, background checks, etc. The program is free and voluntary. Training is held 4 times per year and provides participants with a printed manual to use as a reference guide.
- **Re-conversion Incentive Program**: The City's Division of Neighborhood Redevelopment provides a grant incentive (up to \$28,000 per housing unit and \$75,000 per parcel) to encourage the restoration of multiple family dwelling units to their original single family or duplex residential uses. Priority is given to properties that can demonstrate a significant impact on the neighborhood by the re-conversion process. The grant program helps subsidize the costs associated with the re-conversion process and loss of rental income.
- **Assist Program**: The City's Division of Neighborhood Redevelopment provides lower-rate interest and monies for down payment and/or closing cost assistance to first time homebuyers. A list of participating lenders is available.
- **Mortgage Credit Certificate Program**: Through the Mortgage Credit Certificate Program (MCCP), the City's Division of Neighborhood Redevelopment provides first time homebuyers with an income tax credit equal to one-fourth of the annual interest paid for the life of the mortgage. Maximum annual credit is \$2,000. A list of participating lenders is available.
- **Real Estate Transfer Tax Rebate Program**: Offered to participants in the Assist or MCCP programs who purchase property in one of the City's targeted neighborhoods, the City's Division of Neighborhood Rede-

Figure 29: Community Development Resources

- Incentive & Assistance Programs
- Funding Sources & Grants
- Property Maintenance Programs
- Community Policing Programs
- Other Community Development Programs
- City Contact Information & Meeting Times

velopment will refund its portion of the real estate transfer tax to the buyer. This is a seller expense but a buyer's benefit, and it averages around \$200 after closing.

- Dead/Dying Tree Removal Program: The City's Division of Neighborhood Redevelopment will provide financial assistance for the cost of removing a dead or dying tree on private property. The level of financial assistance is based on household income. Property owned by an investor is also eligible but requires filing of a lien for the total amount of assistance. To qualify, the Division of Property Standards must identify the tree as a code violation and deem it an immediate threat to health and safety. To qualify under the owner-occupied benefits, the applicant must provide evidence that the property is their primary residence and proof of the total household income.
- CDBG Funding: Through the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, the City's Division of Neighborhood Redevelopment provides CDBG funding made available through a grant writing process for communities seeking to perform a variety of community development activities directed toward neighborhood revitalization, economic development, and the provision of improved community facilities and services. The City established its Block Grant Writing Committee to encourage citizen participation in the decision making and priority setting process for distribution of CDBG funding. Some CDBG programs include, but are not limited to, acquisition of real property, relocation and demolition, rehabilitation of residential and non-residential structures, and construction of public facilities and improvement

Funding Sources & Grants

- Capital Improvements Plan (CIP): The City's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) provides funds for long-term infrastructure and capital project needs. For a project to be included in the CIP, it must involve the creation or purchase of a tangible asset of at least \$25,000 and a useful life of at least one year.
- The Aurora Foundation: Serving Aurora, TriCities, Kendall County, and the Fox River Valley, the Aurora Foundation is comprised of individual funds and resources provided by local citizens to enhance and support the area's quality of life. As a tax-exempt public charity allowing individuals, businesses, and other non-profit organizations to establish permanent endowment and temporary funds within the confines of one large foundation, the Aurora Foundation provides grants to non-profit organizations and offers scholarship opportunities to local students.
- Fund for Illinois' Future Grant Program: The State of Illinois offers its Fund for Illinois' Future grant program, which provides for infrastructure improvements including, but not limited to, park and recreational projects, community facilities, bike paths, transportation infrastructure, and water and sewer systems costs.
- Other Resources: The State of Illinois, Kane County, and Federal government provide a variety of other grant programs and funding resources. Two online resources, The Foundation Center and Fundsnet Services, provide comprehensive online listings of community foundations at the national and state levels. They also provide tools and resources for communities seeking grant assistance.



Online Resources

Online listings of grant programs & other funding resources

- The Foundation Center
<http://foundationcenter.org/>

- Donors Forum of Chicago
<http://www.donorsforum.org>



Property Maintenance Programs

- “Be A Good Neighbor” Program: The City’s Division of Property Standards offers its “Be A Good Neighbor” program that provides helpful tips and guidelines for neighbors to properly maintain their yards, houses, and general property to preserve a healthy and clean neighborhood. Bilingual informational pamphlets are available for distribution.
- Rental Licensing Program: Through its Rental Licensing Program, the City’s Division of Property Standards offers annual inspections of rental apartment buildings having 2 or more units to assure code compliance. In addition to being proactive in ensuring rental properties comply with City’s codes, the licensing program also educates residents and landlords about the prevention of blight of their homes and properties. Rental dwelling units are inspected on an annual basis.
- Weed Abatement Program: The City’s Weed Abatement Program protects residential properties by mandating that grass and weeds may not exceed 8 inches in height. Violations and enforcement issues should be addressed to the City’s Division of Property Standards. For those properties that are in violation of this height mandate, the City is authorized to trim excessive grass and weeds and charge the cost of trimming and any escalating fines to the property owner.
- Junk & Trash Removal Program: The City’s Junk & Trash Removal Program monitors the proper disposal of junk and trash such as worn tires, cans, bottles, rotten wood, paper, and vehicle parts. Violations and enforcement issues should be addressed to the City’s Division of Property Standards. For those properties that are in violation of the City’s junk and trash removal regulations, the City is authorized to trim excessive grass and weeds and charge the cost of trimming and any escalating fines to the property owner.
- Occupancy Standards: The City’s Division of Property Standards maintains occupancy standards for residential structures to ensure the safety and well-being of housing occupants as well as protect the quality of life for the overall neighborhood. Occupancy standards are listed in the “Be A Good Neighbor” informational pamphlet and are available on the City’s website.
- Parking Standards: The City’s Division of Property Standards maintains parking standards to ensure residents properly and safely park their vehicles to protect residents’ safety and the neighborhood’s quality of life. Parking standards are referenced in the “Be A Good Neighbor” informational pamphlet and are available on the City’s website.
- Home Owner Maintenance Empowerment (HOME) Program: The City’s Division of Neighborhood Redevelopment offers a grant of up to \$5,000 to eligible Aurora residents for home maintenance improvements to help repair deficiencies in their homes. Repairs may include mechanical systems, electrical upgrades, plumbing improvements, roof repairs, and structural modifications to comply with ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) standards.
- Other Resources: The City’s Division of Property Standards provides additional information through a collection of forms and brochures available on the City’s website (see box to the right).



Online Resources

Online resources provided by the City of Aurora Division of Property Standards

http://www.aurora-il.org/neighborhood-standards/property_standards/forms.asp



Community Policing Programs

- APD Crime Prevention Programs: The Aurora Police Department (APD) provides a variety of crime prevention programs, many of which are geared towards community activism and neighborhood improvement. Please contact APD for information on any of these programs.
- Press Release of Nuisance Properties: The City posts press releases that identify possible nuisance properties whose owners have received notification of alleged illegal activities. Under State law, the State may seek civil action against the owners of houses, apartments, or buildings that qualify as a nuisance. The building may then be subject to a lien and sold to pay unsatisfied judgments.



Online Resources

Crime prevention programs offered by the Aurora Police Department (APD)

<http://www.aurora-il.org/policedepartment/crimeprevention/index.asp>

Other Community Development Programs

- Aurora Cares Corporation: The Aurora Cares Corporation is a broad-based community group working to reduce crime in the City. One of its accomplishments is the administration of a City youth initiative grant to prevent gang violence through a collaborative effort with the Fox Valley United Way.
- Association for Individual Development (AID): Aurora's Association for Individual Development (AID) is a partner of Chicago's CeaseFire program, which encourages strategic community-based efforts to stop violence through street-level outreach, public education, and community mobilization.
- Lights On Afterschool! Program: The Lights On Afterschool! Program is a national program designed by the After School Alliance which calls attention to the importance of afterschool programs for children, families, and communities. Afterschool programs keep kids safe, help working families, and inspire learning beyond the classroom. The website for the Lights On Afterschool! Program also provides a comprehensive listing of its supporting organizations, which may provide other resources for community development (see box to the right). Some schools in Aurora participate or have participated in the Lights On Afterschool! Program.
- Boys II Men: Sponsored by the East Aurora Weed & Seed Program through the U.S. Department of Justice, the Boys II Men program was founded by its director Clayton Muhammad to serve as a service fraternity for Latino and African-American teens who may be at risk with gang involvement. Emphasizing its five core principles (discipline, education, culture, brotherhood, and service), the Boys II Men program encourages teens to excel in their development through service, peer tutoring, and community involvement.
- Historic Preservation Award Program: The City's Mayor's office established a Historic Preservation Award program to honor the efforts of citizens efforts to preserve Aurora's older homes and structures. By recognizing citizens' excellence in restoration of Aurora's historic properties, the award honors property owners who make significant restorations while maintaining the historic character of their buildings. Award recipients receive a plaque and are formally recognized at the annual Mayor's Awards Ceremony in May.



Online Resources

Online listing of supporting organizations for the Lights On Afterschool! Program

http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/lights_on/sup_org.cfm



Qualifying properties should be at least 50 years old or designated as historic by the City of Aurora. The Aurora Preservation Commission oversees the nomination process.

- **Fox Valley United Way:** The mission of the Fox Valley United Way is to measurably improve lives in the communities in which it serves. By partnering with other local community organizations such as the Aurora Cares Corporation, the City of Aurora, and local schools, the Fox Valley United Way helps strengthen the community and provide adequate services and programs where needed. The Fox Valley United Way website provides a comprehensive listing of local community development and service organizations (see box to the right).



Online Resources

Online listing of local community service & community development organizations (compiled by the Fox Valley United Way)

http://www.uwfoxvalley.org/in_need_search_results.php?cname=Aurora&serve=1&id_community=1

- **Joseph Corporation:** As a community-based nonprofit organization funded by the United Way and serving the Aurora area, Joseph Corporation addresses affordable housing issues by focusing on homeownership, lending, and real estate development. Led by professional and bilingual staff, the mission of the Joseph Corporation is to empower individuals, stabilize families, and revitalize neighborhoods through a variety of economic and social initiatives. Through public education and counseling for first-time homebuyers, Joseph Corporation enhances opportunities for homeownership and provide quality, affordable housing through rehabilitation of distressed properties and by developing rental housing.

City Contact Information & Meeting Times

The listings below list general City contact information and meeting times for the City's various boards/committees. The City's website provides a calendar of board/committee meetings with times, locations, and contact information. Agendas and meeting minutes are also provided for certain boards/committees. Although the boards/committees try to keep a regular meeting schedule as listed below, please check the online calendar for any changes.



Contact the City

To contact the City on any issues, or to find out more about any of the aforementioned programs, call:

(630) 264-INFO

▶ City Information

City Hall 44 East Downer Place Aurora, IL 60507 phone: (630) 264-4636 fax: (630) 892-0741	Planning Division Neighborhood Redevelopment Division Division of Property Standards Police Department	(630) 844-3614 (630) 264-3060 (630) 897-4589 (630) 859-1700 (non-emergency) -or- 911 (emergency)
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▶ Meeting Times for City Boards/Committees

For more information, visit: www.aurora-il.org

Aurora Neighborhood Council	Meets first Thursday of month	5:30 pm @ 5th Floor Conf Room, City Hall
Planning Council	Meets every Tuesday	5:00 pm @ Aldermen's Office
Planning Commission	Meets every first & third Wed of month	7:00 pm @ Council Chambers, City Hall
Zoning Board of Appeals	Meets every first & third Wed of month	6:30 pm @ Council Chambers, City Hall
Planning & Development Committee	Meets on Thursday preceding COTW	4:00 pm @ 5th Floor, City Hall
Committee of the Whole (COTW)	Meets every first & third Tuesday of month	5:00 pm @ 5th Floor Conf Room, City Hall
City Council	Meets every second & fourth Tue of month	6:00 pm @ Council Chambers, City Hall





For the neighborhood planning process to sustain itself, the Task Force(s) must be part “cheerleader” and part “task master”. As “cheerleader”, Task Force(s) must keep the community informed and involved, even recruiting additional Task Force members as planning efforts progress and interest grows. As “task master”, Task Force(s) must monitor the progress of projects and programs to ensure that all parties are fulfilling their agreements. The Task Force(s) must establish a method to track progress on projects and programs and will be responsible for making quarterly reports to the ANC about current activities and progress in plan implementation.



Periodic updating and publicizing of a calendar of all community activities, such as church events (above), is one action item that should be continually monitored by the Task Forces to inform neighbors of what activities are available as well as when and where they will take place.

From time to time, Task Force members will want to ask each other the following questions to track progress:

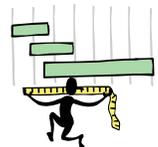
- Do we adequately represent the McCarty Burlington Neighborhood? Have conditions or the character of the neighborhood changed since we developed our Action Plan?
- Do we have correct information? Is our initial information current or out-of-date? If we need updated information, what sources should we consult?
- Have neighborhood improvements achieved via our planning efforts produced the results we hoped for? Why or why not?
- Do we need to re-negotiate our agreements within our community partnerships? Have political or economic conditions changed? If so, have they altered the nature of our partnerships?
- Are we taking appropriate actions? Are they having the desired effects?
- Are we engaging the neighborhood and receiving adequate community participation? Do we need to strengthen our leadership or add to our Task Force membership?
- Are our physical and financial resources adequate? If not, what other resources are available?

“State of the Neighborhood” Meetings

Answers to these questions (and others that will inevitably arise as neighborhood improvement efforts continue) should be communicated to the entire neighborhood at periodic “State of the Neighborhood” meetings. Whether it’s annual, semi-annual, or quarterly, the Task Force(s) shall determine the frequency of these meetings to ensure the entire neighborhood is kept up-to-date on the progress of Action Plan implementation. Figure 30 lists general objectives for these meetings.

Figure 30: “State of the Neighborhood” Meeting Objectives

- Celebrate accomplishments -- no matter how small -- that are serving to improve the quality of life in the McCarty Burlington Neighborhood.
- Enlist neighborhood stakeholders in assessing the relevance of the original Action Plan document and making adaptations as necessary.



A summary of the “State of the Neighborhood” meeting and any proposed actions or changes should be submitted to all of the original groups that approved the Action Plan: ANC, Planning Commission, and City Council.

Action Plan Updates

In addition to the periodic “State of the Neighborhood” meetings, the neighborhood should prepare an update to the original Action Plan approximately every three years. The frequency of updates may be higher as situations and issues warrant; however, updating the Action Plan every couple of years will ensure that the Task Force(s) are staying on task with the Action Step implementation worksheets and accomplishing the goals set forth in the Plan. Funding from City programs will be made available based on these periodic updates which should employ a collaborative and interactive approach similar to the process described in the ANPI Neighborhood Planning Handbook.

Depending on conditions in the neighborhood, the plan update process could be accomplished in one neighborhood-wide meeting or in several meetings scheduled for a specified time frame. A document describing the plan update process for the McCarty Burlington Neighborhood should be submitted to the ANC, Planning Commission, and City Council for review every three years (or each time the Action Plan is updated, depending on the frequency of updates). The document should address the elements listed in Figure 31.

Figure 31: Document Outlining the Action Plan Update Process

The document outlining the Action Plan update process should be submitted to the ANC, Planning Commission, and City Council for review. The document should address the following elements:

- Process and neighborhood involvement used to conduct the Action Plan update
- Accomplishments since the adoption of the Action Plan
- Items that were not accomplished and the reasons why
- Changes in the neighborhood that necessitate re-direction of activities, programs, and/or resources
- New initiatives including the explanation of need
- Updates to the implementation worksheets





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- Results from One-Word Exercise	62
- Results from S.W.O.T. Exercise	63
Complete Results from Neighborhood Meeting #2 (July 23, 2007)	65
- Results from "How Can I Help My Neighborhood?" Exercise	65
Complete Results from Neighborhood Meeting #3 (September 10, 2007)	75
- Results from Prioritization of Action Steps	75



McCarty Burlington Neighborhood Plan

Aurora Neighborhood Planning Initiative

Summary for Neighborhood Meeting #1

Monday, June 11, 2007

Results from One-Word Exercise (Large Group)

Describe the Neighborhood "As It Is Today" and "As I Want It To Be"

The Neighborhood "As It Is Today"

Each meeting participants was asked to provide one word to describe her/his perception of the McCarty Burlington Neighborhood "as it is today".

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------------|
| - Hardworking | - Green | - Open space |
| - Isolated | - Change | - Relational |
| - Unique | - Good | - Gentrified |
| - Young | - Bad shape | - Multicultural |
| - Transient | - Deteriorated | - Messy |
| - Short-sighted | - Fragile | - Under-represented |
| - Not perfect | - Families | - Cool |
| - Diverse | | |

The Neighborhood "As I Want It To Be"

Each meeting participants was asked to provide one word to describe her/his perception of the McCarty Burlington Neighborhood "as I want it to be" in the future.

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| - Participatory | - Improvement | - Better education |
| - Crisp | - Improved | - Crime-free |
| - Clean | - Better stores | - Outspoken |
| - Communication | - Better | - Fair |
| - Stronger | - Welcoming | - Development |
| - Proud | - Positive | - Family-friendly |
| - More facilities (e.g. daycare) | - Safe | |

Notes

Responses to both One-Word Exercises are listed in no particular order.

Responses to the "As It Is Today" One-Word Exercise reflect the personal perceptions of individual meeting participants and may not accurately reflect actual conditions or characteristics of the neighborhood. Additional research and discussion will be conducted to evaluate whether these perceptions truly reflect reality.



Results from SWOT Exercise (Small Groups)

Identify the neighborhood's Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats

SWOT Analysis

Meeting participants broke into 3 small groups to identify and discuss the neighborhood's Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats. After discussion, each group participant was asked to prioritize the issues resulting from their group's SWOT Analysis by placing 4 dot stickers next to her/his top 4 priority issues.

Issues are listed in order of priority as determined by each group (number of votes are indicated).

Strengths					
Group 1		Group 2		Group 3	
Sense of community/heritage	3	Active groups	2	Infrastructure (schools, good transportation, etc)	2
Community facilities	1	River	1	Architecture	1
Close proximity to shopping and transportation	-	Diversity	1	Youth Services Dept	1
Parks	-	Police substation	-	Sense of community	-
		Train station	-	Stable employment	-
		Elementary schools	-	Churches	-
		St. Nicholas Church	-	Families	-
				Historic district	-
				Metra	-
				Diversity (if done well)	-
				Schools	-
				Established community	-
				Dedicated teachers	-
				Police presence	-
				Firefighters	-
				Fox Valley Park District	-

Weaknesses					
Group 1		Group 2		Group 3	
Lack of confidence in gov't process (lack of knowledge)	4	Absentee landlords	4	Crime	7
Lack of participation/volunteers	3	Liquor (location/clients)	1	Zoning issues (down-zoning and code enforcement)	2
Crime	1	Masonic Temple	-	Lack of owner-occupied housing	2
Not safe	-	Inability to communicate	-	Lack of parking (near train)	1
Lack of Hispanic leadership	-	Overcrowding	-	Diversity (if not done well)	1
Lack of programs	-	Homelessness	-	Lack of participation/lack of community involvement	1
Economic status	-	Under-representation	-	Language barrier	1
Give individual a voice	-	Un-neighborly (no small town feel)	-	Lack of daycare (Title XX)	1
Knowledge of programs/assistance	-	Lack of neighborhood stores	-	Under-funded schools	-
		Lack of diversity of stores	-	Property maintenance	-
				Negative neighborhood perception	-
				Lack of equitable time schedules for transportation (evening/night work hours)	-
				Lack of marketing	-



Untapped human resources	4	Masonic Temple	3	Better shopping	2
Large group = voice	1	McCarty Park	2	Daycare	1
School funding	1	River	-	LEEDS (sustainable community building)	1
Waubensee College	-	Sacred Heart Church	-	Down-zoning street overlay	-
Transportation	-	Small storefronts	-	Nuisance violation listings	-
Retail	-			McCarty Park	-
State representative lives in community	-			Development adjacent to the neighborhood	-
				Redevelopment opportunities	-
				Limit new rental units (max 10% of new developments)	-
				High density development near river	-
				Swimming pool	-
				Green	-

Threats					
Group 1		Group 2		Group 3	
Too many little stores (need variety and well-maintained shopping center)	3	Crime	2	Police station potentially moving out of neighborhood	3
School funding	1	Overcrowding	-	Under-funded schools	2
Taxes	1	Housing bubble	-	Gangs	1
Inertia	-			Teachers not teaching proper education	1
Perception or increase in crime	-			Unregulated gentrification	-
Gas prices/Amount of disposable income	-			School transportation	-
Inflation	-			No preservation (architecture, trees, etc)	-

Note

Responses to the SWOT Analysis Exercise reflect the personal perceptions of individual meeting participants and may not accurately reflect actual conditions or characteristics of the neighborhood. Additional research and discussion will be conducted to evaluate whether these perceptions truly reflect reality.



Neighborhood Meeting #2 – Monday, July 23, 2007
 Meeting Summary – Small Group Exercise: “How Can I Help My Neighborhood?”

Community Involvement/Awareness

Includes issues relating to how the community interacts with each other and stays active in helping or improving the neighborhood

(1) There is a lack of participation in community activities.

- Central point for communications
- More funding for activities
- Block captains
- Reach out to tenants
- Need more bilingual speakers
- Building pride in the community
- Inspire young people
- Leadership programs for youth
- Education for both English and Spanish speakers
- Build sensitivity
- Open dialogue about culture
- Instill willingness to listen in schools and homes
- Information by mail
- Clear objectives for community volunteers
- Goals with clear deadlines
- Sometimes a small group dominates and makes others feel isolated

(2) The neighborhood's diversity is positive but there needs to be caution to keep it from turning negative.

(3) A neighborhood that speaks both Spanish and English creates a language barrier.

- Need classes to teach Spanish for English speakers and English for Spanish speakers
- Focus on basic words

(4) The neighborhood's Hispanic majority is under-represented at community activities.

- Block captains
- Churches
- Confidence in leadership
- More English classes
- Reminder note in water bill every two months
- Continue using strategies used to promote ANPI meetings
- More help from the City to develop Latino leadership in the community

(5) The neighborhood lacks Hispanic leadership.

- Lack of voting
- Losing leaders
- Need mentors, trainers, volunteers
- Build leadership regardless of language/culture
- Leadership is learned
- Participation first
- Mentors for young leaders

2

**Note: All responses listed within this summary reflect the personal viewpoints of individual meeting participants and may not accurately reflect the viewpoints of the entire neighborhood. Additional analysis of the meeting summary will be conducted to produce a consolidated list of recommendations (actions, programs, and activities) that will most effectively address the neighborhood's key issues.*



Neighborhood Meeting #2 – Monday, July 23, 2007
Meeting Summary – Small Group Exercise: “How Can I Help My Neighborhood?”

(6) Individuals need a voice in the neighborhood.

- People don't use their voice
- Voting
- More registration
- Captain/Liaison
- Helping hand/Neighborhood watch

(7) The neighborhood lacks a friendly and comfortable "small town" atmosphere.

- Neighborhood community centers
- More person to person
- Landlord responsibilities
- Need more ownership
- Promote more activities that foster positive interactions between neighbors
- Block parties sponsored by the City with no alcohol

(8) The neighborhood has an inability to communicate effectively.

- Through churches
- Bilingual announcements
- Promote a “welcoming” contact – “Just say ‘hi!’”
- City personnel need to say ‘hi!’
- Neighbors should meet neighbors – block parties, projects, cleanups, painting/repair
- Block captains – phone trees, phone numbers
- Pure communications

(9) There is a negative perception of the neighborhood.

- Advertising
- Pictures of East Side
- Promote positive news
- Cleanup
- Build pride locally then sell it
- “Keep the East Side beautiful”

**Note: All responses listed within this summary reflect the personal viewpoints of individual meeting participants and may not accurately reflect the viewpoints of the entire neighborhood. Additional analysis of the meeting summary will be conducted to produce a consolidated list of recommendations (actions, programs, and activities) that will most effectively address the neighborhood's key issues.*



Neighborhood Meeting #2 – Monday, July 23, 2007
Meeting Summary – Small Group Exercise: “How Can I Help My Neighborhood?”

Community Facilities

Includes issues relating to facilities such as schools, churches, parks and open space, businesses, parking, and other facilities that provide a service or use to the community

(1) There is a lack of parking in the neighborhood.

(2) There is a lack of daycare facilities in the neighborhood.

- Speak w/ existing facilities in area – looking to expand and are they at capacity
- Talk to Head Start
- First United Methodist Church daycare
- Problem: high cost of daycare
- Research grant and funding to offset costs
- YWCA
- Neighborhood co-ops
- Re-use of police station when they leave
- Gather and distribute info on at-home daycare; offer classes

(3) There is a lack of community programs in the neighborhood.

- Cooperation in community
- Partner w/ schools and churches to get lists of activities
- City youth services
- Park District
- Advertise/get word out on existing programs
- Wayside Cross activities
- Opportunities that are free or reduced cost

(4) The police station's future move out of the Community Center will provide opportunities to fill the vacant space with new uses or services.

- Daycare
- Youth center
- Move election commission and can then better use that site

(5) The Masonic Temple presents an opportunity for revitalization in the neighborhood.

(6) Parks and recreational facilities are not well distributed in the neighborhood.

- Work on schedule of parks (soccer) so one team doesn't dominate time
- Inform where to schedule
- Get input from community – is priority for youth to use fields? If so, reserve more times for youth; too many adult teams taking time slots
- Parks are for people who pay
- Free opportunities
- Use school playgrounds – times for different age groups

(7) Too many cars are parked on the street.

- Overcrowding contributes
- City should regulate street parking, especially for people who use the Metra
- People who own garages and driveways should be asked to use them

4

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Meeting Summary – Small Group Exercise: “How Can I Help My Neighborhood?”

(8) Not enough cars are parked on driveways or in garages.

(9) McCarty Park presents an opportunity to create an improved park facility for the neighborhood.

- Neighborhood meetings
- Festivals
- Art exhibition – work w/ City
- Increase police presence
- Decrease loitering time
- Keep it passive
- Need bathrooms
- Like current plan – stick to it, residents like and implement it

(10) The Fox River is a major asset providing opportunities for the neighborhood.

- Geese control
- Safety – more Park District enforcement of rules
- Increase lighting
- Portable restrooms
- Work with Park District – more recreational activities
- Work with City for recreational opportunities enforcement
- Summer camps; environmental education

(11) There are a lack of athletic playing fields in the neighborhood, particularly for football (soccer) and baseball.

- Turn dilapidated/vacant lots into recreation
- Provide transportation to parks in other areas of City
- The park on Lincoln and Spring is underutilized due to lack of police presence and games/activities for kids
- Area near boxing place on North and Union is a great place for a soccer field
- Area by Beach and Claim is a good place for a park

(12) There is a lack of youth activities in the neighborhood.

- Money – work with City to get funding
- More facilities
- Variety of activities – get community input
- Job training for youths and life skill training
- Give youth incentives
- Team youth w/ elderly
- Give wish list to schools, Park District
- Find facilities
- Outreach – use Sacred Heart, Aurora Township Youth Center, Bowling Alley, First Presbyterian Church – Harkness Center
- Utilize schools and churches
- Find grants – need money to fund
- Inspire youth
- Get people in leadership roles to inspire and spread/get word out
- Centralized information

5

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Community Sustainability

Includes issues relating to neighborhood characteristics that effect the community’s quality of life (characteristics relate to residential life, economics, property maintenance, jobs, shopping, education, recreation, etc)

(1) There is a lack of confidence in the City government process.

- Voting
- More info/education on City process
- Simplify process
- There should be more oversight of City-funded programs

(2) Absentee landlords are a problem in the neighborhood.

- Inspections
- Watching – management requirements
- Hotline to call in issues to City
- Tier complaints
- Required background checks
- More landlord training
- Aggressive w/ property and nuisance citations
- More regulation
- Determine responsibility
- Neighborhood community activism and ownership
- Encourage good landlords/discourage bad landlords

(3) There needs to be stronger enforcement of the City's property standards to regulate property maintenance.

- Block captain
- Organized cleanups – young people
- Christmas in July experience w/ residents
- Funding programs to help w/ residents’ fix ups
- Address sewer and flooding problems – sewer back-up engineering (739 and 749 Grove St) and flooding (along Ohio St)

(4) Down-zoning is an issue in the neighborhood.

- Down-zoning reducing number of needed units
- Down-zoning not bad

(5) The neighborhood lacks an adequate amount of owner-occupied housing.

- Identify issues associated w/ owner-occupied housing and address specific concerns
- Partisan communication in public meetings
- Identify issues and use advantages (incentives), funding, etc
- Mix is good in neighborhood – more elderly housing and housing for homeless
- Incentives to owner-occupied housing
- Tax credits, low interest loans
- Legal status and credit present difficulties for Latinos who want to buy homes
- We need more programs that teach residents how to apply for a home loan, provide financial counseling, etc

6

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 Meeting Summary – Small Group Exercise: “How Can I Help My Neighborhood?”

(6) The neighborhood's low median household income (below City average) raises concern.

- Encourage a more mixed income community
- More daycare
- More taxes
- Bus more involved

(7) Overcrowding is a problem in the neighborhood.

(8) Homelessness is a problem in the neighborhood.

(9) The community lacks a diversity of small neighborhood-oriented stores.

(10) Local schools provide quality education but have insufficient funding.

- Pass referendum – educate people referendums and why we need them
- Tax deferment programs
- Communication and organization to express issues
- More Federal funding

(11) Bus and Metra train schedules do not always coordinate well with my personal schedule.

- More input on routes
- Encourage CC ridership
- Less dependable schedule
- High elimination of routes

(12) Community members have various skills and talents but do not have enough opportunities to use or nurture them.

- Job training/education

(13) Gentrification may become a problem if it is not regulated properly.

- Gentrification - % of low-income housing; keep elderly housing
- Use tax deferment programs
- Preserve existing stock
- Encourage “rehab” of housing – market to mid to high income also providing affordable housing
- Recommend a property tax freeze for long-term residents

(14) Preservation of the neighborhood's historic and grand qualities (such as mature trees and historic architecture) is important to the character of the neighborhood.

- Incentives for restoration
- Talents rewards

7

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Neighborhood Meeting #2 – Monday, July 23, 2007
Meeting Summary – Small Group Exercise: “How Can I Help My Neighborhood?”

Community Safety

Includes issues relating to safety and protection from crime

(1) The police station's future move out of the neighborhood might create the perception of decreased police presence.

- Police response time is more an issue than police presence
- Physical location of station may not always deter crime
- Maintain same frequency of patrol cars
- Should be sufficient police as long as communication maintained w/ other stations
- Set up more security modules (residents should feel safe no matter where they are at)
- Neighbors and police work together
- Block chiefs – set relationship w/ local officers

(2) There is too much crime in the neighborhood (real and perceived).

- Crime has reduced – progress is slow but City's efforts are working
- Opportunities for sports and activities to keep residents busy (City should support more sports leagues, provide more fields)
- Provide facilities for sports
- Funding for community safety should be distributed equally to fight crime and provide activities/alternatives
- More support from City
- Sponsorship opportunities for sports/activities (sports equipment, Gatorade, etc)
- More police presence/more patrols
- Walking/bike patrols
- Police should live in area
- Need more neighborhood watch
- Form neighborhood watch once specific crime areas/houses are identified
- Build community courage – stand up to crime and take back neighborhood
- “No One Left Behind” drug prevention program (Ward 2)
- Need activities and places to keep people out of trouble – provides alternatives
- Nuisance abatement program (effective State program)
- Address absentee landlords
- Better background checks of tenants
- Rental licensing program
- Check inside and outside of homes during inspections (house may look fine from outside but inside may be source of problems)
- Nuisance and loitering crimes
- Education
- Provide opportunities for vocational training/incentives for children to work/learn
- Opportunities for police records to be expunged to help residents get jobs
- Sports and leadership as alternatives to crime
- Integrate community's diversity – can learn from and work with each other
- All stakeholders should communicate better
- There is a lack of knowledge about vigilance activities and prevention programs
- There should be more information available via TV; the Internet is not enough (many people do not have access to the Internet)
- Firearms are very accessible
- It is important to disintegrate known concentrations of gang members

8

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 Meeting Summary – Small Group Exercise: “How Can I Help My Neighborhood?”

(3) Gang activity is a problem in the neighborhood.

- Increased police presence
- Activities for kids at safe places
- More programs for parents (prevention workshops)
- Need a central places to do activities (can't always rely on schools, etc)
- Develop and promote more youth activities: “If kids have nothing to do, they will be more inclined to take part in gang activities”
- More focus on children: we need to target kids at a very early age
- More after-school programming
- More “neighbor-to-neighbor” vigilance in the community
- Partnership with the police to develop prevention programs
- Better promotion of existing programs

(4) The neighborhood lacks a feeling of safety.

- Lighted streets
- More lighting on High Street around St. Nicholas Church area
- Minor block parties w/ City reps, aldermen
- City officials to support neighborhood watch
- City work w/ local gang unit
- Too many robberies – police needs to be more vigilant
- No beers sales on Sunday
- Security on soccer fields
- Police drive around neighborhood
- Speeding – careful of bikers (sign example: “Give ‘em a break” – similar to road construction signs)
- There is more police presence near the Metra station than in the community
- Police must respond promptly to complaints
- There should be more lighting in the streets

(5) The sale of liquor has become a problem in the neighborhood.

- No control of who sells and buys (legal businesses that sell liquor)
- Tighten “blue laws”
- Tighten existing City ordinances
- Education efforts (bilingual mailings)
- DARE, school programs
- No rehab for uninsured
- Lifestyle changes
- No outlets/programs to address issues
- Need closer AA location
- Carding
- Open beverage containers – harsher penalties
- Educate parents – adult programs or education through children
- Community role models for children
- Quality of liquor stores
- Need stricter ordinances/penalties
- Police should target large groups of people that drink in public (drinking in the privacy of the home is OK)

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Neighborhood Meeting #2 – Monday, July 23, 2007
 Meeting Summary – Small Group Exercise: “How Can I Help My Neighborhood?”

General Feedback on the Neighborhood Planning Process

Five primary questions were asked to gather general feedback on the structure of the meeting and community outreach

(1) How did you hear about this meeting?

- “No One Left Behind” program
- Alderman Garza
- Mail letter
- Church
- Church (Bountiful Blessings)
- Previous meeting
- Word of mouth
- Latino engagement
- Citizenship class
- Aurora Flames soccer
- Future Stars Soccer Magazine
- Email
- Circle Studies
- Neighborhood groups
- Friends
- City letters

(2) Suggestions on other outreach methods to reach out more to community?

- Phillips Park (National Night Out)
- Door prizes – must be present
- Reach out to tenants (flyers)
- Your neighborhood, it's only going to be as good as you make it
- Flyers in church
- Radio station (107.9/105.1)
- More organizations
- Univision/Telemundo
- Centro Christo del Ray (Sacred Heart)
- Refleos
- La Raza
- Future Stars Soccer Magazine
- Family Focus
- Latino Engagement Council
- Hispanic Radio
- Bilingual school letters
- Promote during school enrollment activities
- Back to school parties
- Community In School (CIS)
- Flyers at meetings

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(3) Do you see familiar faces here tonight (friends, neighbors) or are there mostly new faces?

- Some
- Mostly not familiar
- Mostly familiar faces
- New faces mostly

(4) How do you feel about this facility? Location? Food provided? Children's activities?

- Children separate
- Good facility
- Sound – closeness
- Noise level
- Bigger places w/ more parking
- Children's activities
- Focus on event
- Better organization among tables
- Intro too long
- Mostly very good
- Good food
- Too much noise
- Need more separation between tables

(5) Do you feel this group of people tonight is a good representation of the community? How do you feel about the turnout?

- Earlier start time to compensate for tardiness
- More people
- Good turnout/good representation
- Lack of officials (more open ears)
- More police presence at meeting (more open ears)
- Acknowledge officials

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Implementation Worksheets

* Action Steps prioritized by total votes received.

* High Priority Action Steps shaded in white (priorities 1 through 15).

* Low Priority Action Steps shaded in gray (priorities 16 through 16).

ID	Action Step	Number of Votes		Total Votes	Percent of Votes
		Across All Categories	Individual Categories		
CSA1	Develop and maintain a lighting program to facilitate a well-lit and safer neighborhood	9	27	36	8.3%
CF1	Work with the City and its Motor Vehicle Parking System Division to develop a neighborhood parking plan that evaluates current parking conditions and needs and identifies solutions to improve parking	7	28	35	8.0%
CI1	Continue to develop neighborhood youth activities programs to build mentoring relationships between neighborhood adults and youths, encourage youth leadership, and provide safe spaces for youth activities	8	20	28	6.4%
CSU1	Coordinate with the City to educate the neighborhood about the City's property inspection program to ensure residents become familiar with property maintenance regulations and enforcement procedures	7	18	25	5.7%
CSU2	Coordinate with local school and East Aurora School District #131 to provide an open forum to better communicate the needs of students and their families	6	19	25	5.7%
CI2	Create a network of "block captains" throughout the neighborhood to act as the liaisons between different neighborhood blocks, the Task Forces, and the City	8	16	24	5.5%
CSA2	Maintain regular contact between the neighborhood's "block captains" and the Aurora Police Department to encourage an open line of communication	7	13	20	4.6%
CF2	Coordinate with the City and relevant property owners to identify potential opportunities for redevelopment or re-use	3	16	19	4.4%
CSA3	Coordinate with local social service organizations to provide information on assistance/ rehabilitation programs for issues such as alcohol, drugs, domestic violence, etc	2	15	17	3.9%
CSA4	Consider implementation of a nuisance abatement program to resolve and deter crimes	5	12	17	3.9%
CI3	Educate the neighborhood on the availability of City, County, State, and Federal programs and relevant application processes	1	14	15	3.4%
CF3	Develop an inventory of parks, recreation facilities, and recreation programs to evaluate distribution, site conditions, and needs and identify recommendations for improvement	3	12	15	3.4%
CF4	Develop, continually update, and publicize a calendar of all community activities and venues offered by local schools, churches, the City, park districts, and other groups	0	15	15	3.4%
CSU3	Identify target property inspection areas and coordinate with the City to implement the property inspection program	3	11	14	3.2%
CSA5	Develop a community safety information program to educate the community about crime prevention and mediation methods, particularly for gangs and drugs	3	10	13	3.0%
CI4	Continue to develop neighborhood Spanish/English language programs to break down the language barrier and better prepare neighbors for bilingual interaction	4	8	12	2.8%
CSU4	Coordinate with the City to educate the neighborhood about the City's rental property program and the Aurora Police Department's landlord training program to ensure residents and landlords become familiar with these rental programs, applicable regulations, and enforcement procedures	2	10	12	2.8%
CSA6	Coordinate with the Aurora Police Department to maintain same frequency of police presence after it moves out of the Police Area 2 Facility	4	8	12	2.8%
CI5	Identify ways to engage the neighborhood's diversity and foster open dialogue across cultures	1	10	11	2.5%
CSA7	Coordinate with the Aurora Police Department to encourage the potential for walking/biking patrols to enhance community interaction	3	8	11	2.5%
CF5	Develop an inventory of existing daycare facilities/services in the neighborhood and evaluate potential locations and opportunities for new or expanded facilities/services	0	8	8	1.8%
CF6	Coordinate with the City to determine potential re-uses of the Police Area 2 Facility after it is vacated by the Aurora Police Department	0	8	8	1.8%
CSU5	Coordinate with local realtors and other real estate-related organizations to develop a homeownership program that provides counseling and assistance	1	6	7	1.6%
CI6	Identify leadership within the neighborhood to encourage greater community participation	0	6	6	1.4%
CSU6	Work with the City to regulate gentrification in the neighborhood to foster a community with mixed income levels, diverse housing options, and a variety of businesses and services	1	5	6	1.4%
CSU7	Coordinate with the City to educate the neighborhood about down-zoning and its potential impacts on local properties	1	4	5	1.1%
CF7	Coordinate with the City and Department of Parks & Recreation to plan improvements to McCarty Park	1	3	4	0.9%
CSU8	Coordinate with Pace and Metra to provide more public input into the development of routes and schedules for buses and trains	0	4	4	0.9%
CSU9	Work with the City to develop a neighborhood preservation program to offer incentives and recognition for preservation/restoration projects	1	3	4	0.9%
CSA8	Promote and utilize the Aurora Police Department's community policing programs and the City's safety programs	0	4	4	0.9%
CI7	Develop a neighborhood continuing education program that provides vocational training and teaches important life skills (e.g. job interviewing, personal finances, home buying, home care, etc)	1	2	3	0.7%
CI8	Organize social and recreational activities to encourage interaction among neighbors and build community pride	0	1	1	0.2%
				436	100.0%

CI = Community Involvement/Awareness

CF = Community Facilities

CSU = Community Sustainability

CSA = Community Safety

