

MEMORANDUM

To: Policy Board Members and Alternates

From: Robert D. Miller, Director

Date: April 23, 2007

Subject: Lowry Hill NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan

The Lowry Hill Residents, Inc. (LHRI) is submitting their NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan on behalf of the Lowry Hill neighborhood for your approval.

The Lowry Hill NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan requests a total NRP appropriation of \$448,754. A draft of this plan was circulated electronically to public staff, and their comments and suggestions have been received and incorporated.

The Lowry Hill NRP Phase I Neighborhood Action Plan was approved in August of 1995. Lowry Hill used its Phase I funds to coordinate planning and improvements along Hennepin Avenue in conjunction with nearby neighborhoods, catalyze the installation of new pedestrian-scale lighting through the neighborhood, test and install traffic calming improvements in targeted locations, provide funding to the Bridge for Youth, carry out a study of the historic character of homes in the neighborhood, and improve facilities, equipment and plantings at its local parks.

The Lowry Hill NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan devotes 72% of its allocation to housing. In addition to funding for home improvements and other housing projects, the neighborhood hopes to enhance livability through additional park improvements, neighborhood safety initiatives and, if funds become available, a range of other livability enhancements. This plan was approved by Lowry Hill residents at the neighborhood's annual meeting and formally submitted to NRP by the Lowry Hill Residents, Inc. Board on April 3, 2007.

Based upon the actions of the neighborhood, the results of the distribution to public staff and the request of the neighborhood, I recommend that the Policy Board adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: On April 19, 2004 the Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) Policy Board ("Board") approved a Phase II allocation for the Northeast Park neighborhood of \$448,754, based on the Phase II revenues projected for NRP;

WHEREAS: The neighborhood conducted a Phase II neighborhood planning process that began in 2005 and has submitted a Lowry Hill NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan that requests a Phase II allocation of \$448,754;

WHEREAS: The Lowry Hill neighborhood has allocated at least 70% of their Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan to housing programs, projects, services and activities;

RESOLVED: That the Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program Policy Board (Board) hereby accepts and adopts the Lowry Hill NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan;

RESOLVED FURTHER: That the Board hereby authorizes the Director to request that the City Council and Mayor [a] approve the Lowry Hill NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan, and specifically those parts of the Plan that fall under City jurisdiction, for their Phase II allocation of up to \$448,754; [b] amend the 2007 General Appropriation Resolution to increase the Fund CNR0 (NRP Fund) by \$157,064 from existing fund balance for implementation of the approved Plan; [c] and authorize the appropriate City officers to reserve the remaining \$291,690 for Plan implementation in a reserve account within Fund CNR0 for future years expenditures on the approved Plan provided that no more than 70% (\$314,128) of the amount approved for the Plan shall be obligated in the first three (3) years after approval of the Plan; and [d] authorize the appropriate City officers to enter into any contracts or agreements necessary to implement the activities above.



Lowry Hill

NRP Phase II Plan

Proposed - April 2007

Neighborhood Description

The Lowry Hill neighborhood is bounded to the north by I-394, to the east by Hennepin Avenue, to the south by 22nd Street, and to the west by Kenwood Park.

Named for Thomas Lowry, one of the original residents and developers of the area, the neighborhood is home to the Walker Art Center, the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden, and Thomas Lowry Park, a peaceful retreat in the middle of the city.

The neighborhood is also home to many historic and architecturally significant residential structures. Lowry Hill Residents, Inc. (originally Lowry Hill Homeowners, Inc.) was formed in 1946 with the primary purpose of preserving these structures and maintaining the residential character of the neighborhood.

Planning Process

The NRP Phase II Subcommittee designed and circulated a survey to the neighborhood's approximately 2200 households (See Attachments B and C). It posed a series of questions to residents about the Lowry Hill neighborhood, NRP generally, Lowry Hill Residents, Inc., NRP Phase I projects in Lowry Hill, priorities for NRP Phase II money, and demographic information.

Approximately 2200 postcards were mailed to the residents of Lowry Hill requesting their participation in the web-based survey. The survey was made available to all Lowry Hill residents via unique access codes included with the initial postcard. A follow-up mailing was done for all those residents who had not yet completed the survey, and a paper survey format was made available to anyone who request one.

The NRP Subcommittee made specific efforts to ensure that renters in Lowry Hill were included in mailings about the survey. And they collected demographic information from respondents to help ensure that they were reaching a reasonable cross-section of the neighborhood.

The neighborhood received 290 responses to the survey. At the time that residents completed the survey, they were informed that they could return to the web site upon the conclusion of the survey period to view the results compiled for the whole neighborhood.

Using the information from this survey and the neighborhood's Phase I Review (see Attachment A) as a key guide, the NRP Phase II Subcommittee developed draft Phase II strategies and the proposed allocation of funds to each of those strategies. During their work, the committee 1) determined what if any needs remained from Phase 1 projects, and 2) examined first broad then more specific questions on the survey about respondents' usage of the neighborhood, concerns & desires about the neighborhood, and finally there reasons for moving into and staying in the neighborhood.

They packaged these strategies into a draft plan and distributed the draft to all residents prior to the Lowry Hill Residents Inc. annual meeting for approval by the neighborhood. After a period of discussion and questions, the proposal was voted on and approved by those present at the meeting.

Section 1: Parks and Recreation

Strategy 1: **Park Improvements**

Strategy Description:

Work with nearby neighborhoods to make improvements to parks that serve Lowry Hill.

Examples of parks which would be targeted include: Kenwood Park which contains both green space which residents use for events both formal and informal and also includes recreational facilities such as tennis courts, ball fields, and a playground; Thomas Lowry Park which contains green spaces used for gathering for formal and informal events; Spring Lake Park which contains natural spaces which may be enjoyed on walking and biking trails; and Triangle Park which has playground facilities. Capital improvements are needed both at the parks that contain recreational facilities and the parks that contain just green spaces. For example, Spring Lake Park needs restoration work including removal of non-native plant species.

\$10,000	Improvements to Thomas Lowry Park
\$50,000	Improvements to tennis courts at Kenwood Park
\$40,000	Improvements to other parks resources: Kenwood Park/Recreation center, Spring Lake, Triangle Park, etc.

Strategy Implementor: Park Board

Public Partner(s): Minneapolis Public Works Department

Contract Manager: Minneapolis Finance Department DFD

NRP Phase II funds: \$100,000

Section 2: Community Improvements and Safety

Strategy 1: **Neighborhood Safety**

Strategy Description:

Provide support to efforts designed to enhance the safety of the neighborhood.
Among the more common safety issues that occur in the neighborhood are theft from autos, auto theft, and burglary. The types of crimes can be reduced through education of and communication with neighborhood residents. Support will be provided to activities such as Neighborhood Watch, lighting projects and other projects enhancing neighborhood safety when the situation warrants it.

Strategy Implementor: to be determined

Public Partner(s): Minneapolis Police and Public Works Departments

Contract Manager: DFD

NRP Phase II funds: \$20,000

Strategy 2: **Neighborhood Livability**

Strategy Description:

Support efforts designed to enhance the character and livability of the neighborhood.

Lowry Hill is one of the older more established neighborhoods in Minneapolis. The combination of attractive historic homes, and well-kept yards along relatively quiet streets that are lined with a mature tree canopy makes the neighborhood very livable and attractive to residents. There are a variety of issues that potentially threaten the character and livability of Lowry Hill. Dutch elm disease is an example of a threat that could wipe out a significant amount of the mature tree canopy along streets. Increased traffic problems as the result of commuters cutting through neighborhood streets, and parking on neighborhood streets to ride the bus into downtown are also examples of livability concerns.

Activities to be supported may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Elm tree program
- Streetscape improvements
- Traffic and parking mitigation

Strategy Implementor: to be determined

Public Partner(s): Park Board and Minneapolis Public Works Department

Contract Manager: DFD

NRP Phase II funds: to be determined

Section 3: Housing

Strategy 1: **Housing Projects**

Strategy Description:

Provide financial assistance to support housing projects in or near Lowry Hill.

Lowry Hill has some of the oldest housing stock in the city. Housing in the neighborhood is a blend of single-family residences, duplexes, triplexes, and, to a lesser extent, higher density housing.

Activities to be supported may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Structural or exterior improvements to homes and apartment buildings
- Incentives to encourage energy improvements to homes and apartment buildings
- Assistance to non-profit housing projects (e.g. The Bridge for Youth)

Strategy Implementor: to be determined

Contract Manager: DFD or CPED Housing Policy and Development Division

NRP Phase II funds: \$315,000

Section 4: History & Preservation

Strategy 1: **History and Preservation Efforts**

Strategy Description:

Support efforts to study, document, and promote the historic character of the neighborhood.

An historic context study of Lowry Hill is being conducted by professional consultants with Phase 1 NRP funds. Phase 2 projects would build on this work and might include an inventory of historic properties in the neighborhood and/or a publication that communicates the information gathered from these professional studies. One of the overarching goals of this strategy is to educate residents about the historic nature of the neighborhood, so that it is valued and protected by residents.

Strategy Implementor: to be determined

Contract Manager: DFD, NRP or CPED Planning Division

NRP Phase II funds: to be determined

Section 5: Administrative Support

Strategy 1: **Implementation Support**

Strategy Description:

Provide support for administration and costs associated with communicating with neighborhood residents.

Strategy Implementor: Lowry Hill Residents, Inc.

Contract Manager: NRP

NRP Phase II funds: \$13,754



**LOWRY HILL
PHASE I NRP PLAN REVIEW**

PLAN SECTION: **[HOUSING AND SAFETY](#)**

PROJECT: **[Motion Detector Lights](#)**

DESCRIPTION:

Encourage residents to install security lighting by providing up to \$100 per household for the costs of replacing or improving outdoor lighting.

STRATEGY FUNDS:

Motion Detector Lights	\$2,206
TOTAL LOWRY HILL NRP FUNDS:	\$2,206
TOTAL PROJECT FUNDS:	\$2,206

START - END DATES: 01/01/01 - 12/31/03

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION: Lowry Hill Residents, Inc.

HIGHLIGHTS:

This program was created to improve crime prevention in the neighborhood by encouraging residents to install lights controlled by motion detectors. The program had limited success because a limited number of residents (22) participated in the program. At the time the program was created, it was given an end date two years hence. The program was discontinued once that period of time had elapsed.

PLAN SECTION: [HENNEPIN AVENUE](#)

PROJECT: [Hennepin Avenue Plan](#)

DESCRIPTION:

Conduct a strategic planning process to develop urban design guidelines and recommend corridor improvements for the stretch of Hennepin Ave. from the edge of downtown starting at the Basilica of St. Mary to 36th St. at Lakewood Cemetery.

STRATEGY FUNDS:

Create Hennepin Ave. Plan	\$28,000
TOTAL LOWRY HILL NRP FUNDS:	\$28,000
TOTAL PROJECT FUNDS:	\$41,000

START - END DATES: 10/31/94 - 03/07/95

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION: Martin/Pitz Associates Inc.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The architectural firm Martin & Pitz worked with the Hennepin Avenue Task Force to develop a plan that identified 5 distinct geographic districts along the corridor and analyzed 5 key planning issues for each district -- land use and zoning, traffic and parking, transit, streetscape, and open space.

The plan was awarded a Minneapolis Committee on Urban Environment (CUE) award in 1995. Since then, several components of the plan have been implemented, including new streetlights and trees, a reconfiguration of the Hennepin Ave./Lyndale Ave. interchange, a new transit hub at 29th Street, installation of bike lanes and some new businesses constructed in accordance with the plan's design principles.

PROJECT: [Hennepin Avenue Lighting and Streetscape Project](#)

DESCRIPTION:

Install pedestrian scale street lighting and other infrastructure improvements along Hennepin Ave. from Douglas to 28th Street.

STRATEGY FUNDS:

Implement Hennepin Ave. Plan	\$161,490
TOTAL LOWRY HILL NRP FUNDS:	\$161,490
TOTAL PROJECT FUNDS:	\$487,340

START - END DATES: 01/01/00 - 06/30/03

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION: Minneapolis Public Works Department

HIGHLIGHTS:

Hennepin Avenue is a defining street in the City of Minneapolis. Its angular corridor links the northern edge of downtown and the Mississippi River with the chain of lakes. The avenue represents the cutting edge of urbanity as its cultural richness provides an economic model of diverse vitality.

Sustaining and enhancing the spirit of Hennepin Avenue was a major priority for several neighborhoods participating in the NRP. So much so in fact that Lowry Hill Residents, Inc. organized a seven neighborhood planning process and spearheaded implementation efforts that resulted in more than \$480,000 of NRP investments along Hennepin Avenue from Douglas Avenue to 28th Street.

Improvements included new street infrastructure such as pedestrian-level lighting, tree grates, benches, sidewalk improvements, and reconfigured entry points to the avenue. More importantly, the Hennepin Avenue Strategic Plan provides a detailed vision for the corridor that will guide development in the future. When the plan is completely implemented, its impact will be felt from the edge of downtown starting at the Basilica of St. Mary to 36th Street at Lakewood Cemetery.

PLAN SECTION: [HISTORY AND PRESERVATION](#)

PROJECT: [Identify Historic Areas](#)

DESCRIPTION:

Research and produce a historic context study for use by the neighborhood in future preservation planning efforts.

STRATEGY FUNDS:

Identify Historic Areas	\$12,500
TOTAL LOWRY HILL NRP FUNDS:	\$12,500
TOTAL PROJECT FUNDS:	\$22,500

START - END DATES: 30/20/06 – 09/30/06

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION: CPED Planning Division

HIGHLIGHTS:

The historic context study provides a readable narrative of the history of Lowry Hill. Historic contexts are defined by the Secretary of the Interior as “an organizational format that groups historic properties that share similarities of time, theme, and/or geography.” While fulfilling this requirement, the study will also be of interest to the general reader, and especially to

neighborhood residents. The context study will describe the pattern of each area's urban, architectural, and demographic growth, beginning with nineteenth-century agriculture and streetcar route development. The study timeframe extends from approximately 1850 to the present, including the 1960s rezoning and highway construction era and recent examples of rehabilitation as razing and replacement.

PLAN SECTION: PARKING

PROJECT: Parking Ramp Study

DESCRIPTION:

Conduct a feasibility study of a parking ramp in the Walker/Guthrie area to estimate potential sites, costs, demand and funding strategies.

STRATEGY FUNDS:

Parking Ramp Study	\$21,263
TOTAL LOWRY HILL NRP FUNDS:	\$21,263
TOTAL PROJECT FUNDS:	\$21,263

START - END DATES: 06/18/96 – 12/31/02

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION: Minneapolis Public Works Department

HIGHLIGHTS:

To create more parking space for the neighborhood, the committee conducted a study for a parking ramp in the vicinity of the Walker Art Center and the Guthrie Theater. The parking ramp reduces the number of cars parking in the neighborhood and contributes to the success of the two cultural institutions. Ultimately, an underground parking ramp was constructed at the time of the Walker Art Center expansion. This ramp has noticeably reduced the amount of overflow parking into the neighborhood.

PROJECT: Parade Master Plan

DESCRIPTION:

Support the development of the transportation portion of the Parade Master Plan.

STRATEGY FUNDS:

Parking Ramp Study	\$5,000
TOTAL LOWRY HILL NRP FUNDS:	\$5,000
TOTAL PROJECT FUNDS:	\$25,000

START - END DATES: 10/01/98 – 10/31/01

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION: Minneapolis Park Board

HIGHLIGHTS:

Lowry Hill Residents, Inc. participated in this study because any potential usage of the Parade area is likely to impact the neighborhood. At the time, Lowry Hill Residents, Inc. was specifically interested in the possibility of the Guthrie Theater moving to the Parade site and the potential parking problems that could arise. The Guthrie Theater eventually relocated outside of the neighborhood.

PLAN SECTION: [PARKS, RECREATION AND LIBRARIES](#)

PROJECT: [Thomas Lowry Park Improvements](#)

DESCRIPTION:

Develop and implement a master plan for Thomas Lowry Park to preserve the park's historic character and meet the practical needs of residents in the area.

STRATEGY FUNDS:

Lowry Park Master Plan	\$295,795
TOTAL LOWRY HILL NRP FUNDS:	\$295,795
TOTAL PROJECT FUNDS:	\$295,795

START - END DATES: 06/30/97 - 08/24/06

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION: Park Board

HIGHLIGHTS:

Thomas Lowry Park is a historic park created in 1917 and serves as the gateway to the neighborhood. The neighborhood used NRP funds to develop an overall master plan consistent with the park's historic character while meeting the needs of residents. The plan outlined the following improvements: appropriate landscape design and plantings; vacation of Bryant Avenue South and incorporation of this land and the small utility triangle into the park; identification of the park on maps and brochures, and; installation of small plaques to identify the park's role in the neighborhood life.

Since development of the plan, the neighborhood has benefited from approximately \$270,000 in improvements to the pathways, perennial flowerbeds, general landscaping (including an underground sprinkler system), and upgrades to the "Seven Pools" fountain. It also facilitated the relocation of a power company transformer away from the primary gateway to the park.

PROJECT: Douglas School Park Management Plan

DESCRIPTION:

Carry out design work and needed improvements to facilitate long term management of the Douglas School Park site. Transfer ownership of the site to the town homes association to maintain it as passive green space.

STRATEGY FUNDS:

Douglas School Park Dev.	\$11,146
TOTAL LOWRY HILL NRP FUNDS:	\$11,146
TOTAL PROJECT FUNDS:	\$11,146

START - END DATES: 06/01/94 - 04/30/95

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION: Minneapolis Public Works Department

HIGHLIGHTS:

In order to strengthen the heritage of neighborhood parks and to assure access to parks and park services by neighborhood residents, the neighborhood designed an overall park master plan. The plan included landscape design, plantings, brochures of the park, increased lighting and safety of the park area, and opening spaces for unstructured activities.

In addition to the plan, the neighborhood covered costs associated with the transfer of the property to Lowry Hill Townhomes, Inc. By transferring this property to Lowry Hill Townhomes, Inc, Lowry Hill Residents, Inc. shed the financial responsibility of maintaining the property. Because of certain deed restrictions, residents continued to enjoy this green space without any of the associated maintenance costs.

PROJECT: Kenwood Park Playground

DESCRIPTION:

Install playground equipment at Kenwood Park for children, ages 5 through 12.

STRATEGY FUNDS:

Kenwood Park Improvements	\$41,202
TOTAL LOWRY HILL NRP FUNDS:	\$41,202
TOTAL PROJECT FUNDS:	\$41,202

START - END DATES: 11/01/05 - 12/11/06

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION: Park Board

HIGHLIGHTS:

The existing playground in Kenwood Park at the corner of Franklin Ave. and Oliver Ave. addresses the needs of 2-5 year old children. As a result, older children tend to use the existing equipment inappropriately which causes safety concerns. This project resulted in the installation of three pieces of play equipment which is targeted at 5-12 year old kids. This project successfully improved the playground so that families with children in both age groups could use the playground without any safety concerns arising.

PROJECT: [Kenwood Park Improvements](#)

DESCRIPTION:

Upgrade Kenwood Park playground equipment for the safety and accessibility of the community. Renovate the play area. Install a tot lot for children ages 2-5 and install benches, picnic tables, grills and a sidewalk.

STRATEGY FUNDS:

Kenwood Park Improvements	\$30,000
TOTAL LOWRY HILL NRP FUNDS:	\$30,000
TOTAL PROJECT FUNDS:	\$160,000

START - END DATES: 04/01/96 - 12/31/96

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION: Park Board

HIGHLIGHTS:

The project's aim is to identify Kenwood Park as a mixed-use park with both active and passive areas, and as the primary play area for local children. Renovation plans were developed in cooperation with East Isles, Kenwood and Cedar-Isles-Dean. The park was successfully improved so that all users of the park, residents and others could enjoy it. Improvements included: renovation of the playground, installation of sidewalks leading to the playground area, installation of picnic tables and grills, and improvements to several of the baseball fields.

PROJECT: [Kenwood School/Kenwood Recreation Center](#)

DESCRIPTION:

Support installation of air conditioning at Kenwood Recreation Center.

STRATEGY FUNDS:

Kenwood School/Kenwood Recreation Center	\$4,509
TOTAL LOWRY HILL NRP FUNDS:	\$4,509
TOTAL PROJECT FUNDS:	\$4,509

START - END DATES: 04/01/04 - 10/01/04

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION: Park Board

HIGHLIGHTS:

This project was jointly funded by the Lowry Hill Residents, Inc. and the Kenwood Isles Area Association. The project resulted in the successful installation of air conditioning in the Rec Center. This is a facility which is used year round, including heavy usage during the warm summer months as a result of all the activities and programs for children during the summer.

PLAN SECTION: STREET LIGHTING

PROJECT: Street Lighting Improvements

DESCRIPTION:

Install more lights in large contiguous areas of the neighborhood, especially on Douglas, Franklin Ave and 22nd Street.

STRATEGY FUNDS:

Douglas School Park Dev.	\$6,631
Street Lighting Improvements	\$250,000
TOTAL LOWRY HILL NRP FUNDS:	\$256,631
TOTAL PROJECT FUNDS:	\$256,631

START - END DATES: 09/01/98 - 12/31/00

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION: Minneapolis Public Works Department

HIGHLIGHTS:

The NRP Steering committee canvassed residents to assess support for a new lighting program, to replace cobra-head pole-mounted lights installed in the 1960s with a greater number of pedestrian-scale lights (about 15 feet in height). The program was successfully completed with the installation of approximately 350 lights covering the entire neighborhood. The lights are attractive and fit the historic character of the neighborhood while still being functional.

PLAN SECTION: TRAFFIC

PROJECT: Traffic Counts

DESCRIPTION:

Work with the Minneapolis Public Works Department to conduct a neighborhood traffic study.

STRATEGY FUNDS:

Traffic Counts	\$27,290
TOTAL LOWRY HILL NRP FUNDS:	\$27,290
TOTAL PROJECT FUNDS:	\$27,290

START - END DATES: 08/01/94 - 12/31/97

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION: Minneapolis Public Works Department

HIGHLIGHTS:

The traffic counts were used to determine the best methods for traffic calming in the neighborhood. Among the data gleaned from these counts was a 5 m.p.h. reduction in the speed of traffic where traffic tables/humps were installed.

PROJECT: Speed Table and Humps

DESCRIPTION:

Provide funding to allow residents to request installation of speed tables/speed humps on neighborhood streets where necessary and desired.

STRATEGY FUNDS:

Traffic Calming Measures	\$7,500
TOTAL LOWRY HILL NRP FUNDS:	\$7,500
TOTAL PROJECT FUNDS:	\$7,500

START - END DATES: 06/01/01 - 06/24/03

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION: Minneapolis Public Works Department

HIGHLIGHTS:

Several streets throughout the neighborhood successfully had speed tables/speed humps installed. All of the speed tables and humps which were installed are still in place. It was determined that traffic speeds slowed by an average of 5 m.p.h. as a result of these devices.

PROJECT: Traffic Calming

DESCRIPTION:

Conduct traffic counts and install traffic calming tests to determine ways to enhance traffic safety.

STRATEGY FUNDS:

Traffic Calming Measures	\$48,324
TOTAL LOWRY HILL NRP FUNDS:	\$48,324
TOTAL PROJECT FUNDS:	\$48,324

START - END DATES: 10/01/96 - 07/23/97

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION: Minneapolis Public Works Department

HIGHLIGHTS:

Three traffic-calming zones were created by designating all Lowry Hill Streets, except for Kenwood, Douglas, and Franklin, as local streets. A neighborhood-wide traffic count was conducted at 48 sites to keep shortcutting commuter traffic off the residential streets. As a result of resident opposition, the traffic calming devices were removed after the tests and the project was terminated.

PLAN SECTION: ADMINISTRATION/STAFF SUPPORT

PROJECT: Implementation

DESCRIPTION:

Establish an NRP subcommittee to coordinate NRP plan implementation and the neighborhood's function with MCDA and other government agencies.

STRATEGY FUNDS:

Implementation	\$15,500
TOTAL LOWRY HILL NRP FUNDS:	\$15,500
TOTAL PROJECT FUNDS:	\$15,500

START - END DATES: 04/01/95 - present

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION: Lowry Hill Residents, Inc.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Lowry Hill Residents, Inc. has provided the required infrastructure to support the NRP planning, coordination and implementation of the Lowry Hill Phase I plan.

Lowry Hill Neighborhood Survey

Welcome,

Thank you for taking the time to take this survey. Your answers will provide valuable input into future activities of our neighborhood organization – Lowry Hill Residents, Inc. It is run entirely by members of our community who volunteer their time and talents. We represent our community by working with elected officials and in city processes related to planning and zoning issues. We also represent the community in all aspects of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) which is a twenty year state program to improve communities by funding and supporting a process where community organizations set their own goals and strategies. To begin with, we would like to present a high level overview of what the NRP has meant to our community.

Lowry Hill Neighborhood Action Plan (NRP) Phase I

Lowry Hill began participating in the Neighborhood Revitalization Program in 1991. The initial process focused on informing neighborhood residents about the NRP process and eliciting their concerns. Issues and potential solutions were discussed; community members met in neighborhood meetings and presentations with city staff and conducted independent research.

This process resulted in completion of a draft action plan in 1993. A copy of the final plan is available at:

<http://www.nrp.org/R2/Neighborhoods/Plans/LowryHillPhaseIPlan.pdf>

\$1,139,824 was allocated to specific goals and objectives. Over time, projects were redefined or eliminated. Approximately \$170,000 of Phase I funds are not yet spent. The categories of the plan and the dollars spent to date include:

1. Crime and Safety

Spent: \$2,206

Crime levels in Lowry Hill are lower than in the city as a whole. The most common crimes are burglaries, auto theft, theft from autos, and property damage. Funds in this category went to support the installation of motion detector lights on homes.

2. Hennepin Avenue

Spent: \$189,491

Residents in the Calhoun/Isles area have been concerned about the "suburbanization" of the avenue through the growth of strip malls and franchises, often with large parking lots in front. Lowry Hill provided the initial seed money for a task force of all the neighborhoods impacted to examine land use, traffic, and urban design along the avenue between the Basilica and Lakewood Cemetery to assure that this important public place remains a vibrant, economically successful, diverse and attractive focal point for the city. After the other neighborhoods finished their NRP planning, we were reimbursed pro-rata for our initial investment. The money spent above reflects improvements to the section of Hennepin between 22nd Street and Douglas.

3. History and Preservation Spent: \$0

Goals included: 1) collect and summarize the neighborhood's historic resources; 2) enhance the neighborhood's awareness of its heritage by completing a neighborhood architectural features and streetscapes survey; and 3) create a gateway in Thomas Lowry Park which creates a sense of neighborhood identity and celebrates Thomas Lowry, founder and designer of the neighborhood.

4. Parking Spent: \$26,263

A shortage of parking is endemic in Lowry Hill resulting from the parking demands of spillover commercial parking into residential neighborhoods, and the many multi-family buildings that were built without any off-street parking. Two studies were funded analyzing parking for the Walker, Guthrie and Allianz which contributed to the decisions made by Allianz and the Guthrie to move from our neighborhood.

5. Parks and Recreation Spent: \$331,382

Improvements to Thomas Lowry Park, Douglas School Park, and Kenwood Park were undertaken. We worked with the Park Board and landscape architects to update Thomas Lowry Park to make it an attractive center of our neighborhood and create a gateway into our neighborhood.

6. Street Lighting Spent: \$250,000

The Lowry Hill neighborhood has elected to participate in improving its residential lighting, using a portion of NRP funds to help offset the cost to property owners.

7. Traffic Spent: \$83,115

Increase the safety of residential streets for children and other pedestrians. Goals included keeping shortcutting commuter traffic off residential streets and managing traffic to reduce speed and increase pedestrian safety. Strategies included: traffic study and traffic calming measures.

8. Zoning Spent: \$0

Encourage master planning that is sensitive to the unique characteristics of each block along Hennepin Avenue, and use the plan to ensure that redevelopment achieves compatibility between new and existing uses in terms of parking, circulation, and design.

Encourage responsible and appropriate home office uses, in keeping with the current trend. Encourage use of design guidelines in historically significant areas of Lowry Hill, to ensure that new uses complement existing ones and to discourage removal of, and/or changes to exterior materials without design review.

9. Bridge for Youth Spent: \$26,000

NRP guidelines require that 52% of all funds (city-wide) be spent on housing. Less than 1% of LHRI funds from Phase I supported housing. This excellent program at the edge of our neighborhood helps teens and their families through tough periods. Currently, this is a large issue for Phase II. All neighborhoods are being requested to set aside 70% of Phase II allocations for housing.

If you have any questions, please contact Ed Newman at (612)377-2154.

I. GENERAL NEIGHBORHOOD ISSUES

Lowry Hill is bounded on the north by Kenwood Parkway, on the west by Kenwood Park, on the south by West 22nd Street and on the east by Hennepin Avenue.

1. How would you rate Lowry Hill in terms of:

	Poor			Excellent	
	1	2	3	4	5
a. Overall personal safety No Opinion					
b. Sense of community and friendliness No Opinion	1	2	3	4	5
c. Well-kept houses & apartments No Opinion	1	2	3	4	5
d. Adequate range of prices of homes and rental units No Opinion	1	2	3	4	5
e. Adequate affordable housing for low income people No Opinion	1	2	3	4	5
f. Proximity to shopping and business services No Opinion	1	2	3	4	5
g. Parking in commercial areas No Opinion	1	2	3	4	5
h. Activities for children/families No Opinion	1	2	3	4	5
i. Cleanliness No Opinion	1	2	3	4	5
j. Beauty/aesthetics No Opinion	1	2	3	4	5

k. Pedestrian safety	1	2	3	4	5
No Opinion					
<hr/>					
m. Services and activities for seniors	1	2	3	4	5
No Opinion					
<hr/>					
o. A good environment in which to raise children	1	2	3	4	5
No Opinion					
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2. Which of the following recreational activities do you participate in? (circle all that apply)

- Walking
- Jogging
- Bicycling
- Rollerblading
- Canoeing
- Ice Skating
- Ball games
- Playground activities with children
- Tennis
- Other_____

3. Where do you spend time on these activities? (Circle up to three)

- Around Lowry Hill
- Lake of the Isles
- Cedar Lake
- Kenwood Park
- Thomas Lowry Park
- Triangle Park
- Kenwood Recreation Center
- Your own block or home
- Other_____

4. Do you consider traffic congestion, speeding, parking violations or other traffic violations to be problems in Lowry Hill?

- Yes
- No

5. Please circle the three primary reasons you live or conduct your business in Lowry Hill.

- Convenient Location
- Friendly people
- Proximity to family and friends
- Diversity of Lifestyles
- Ethnic diversity
- Cultural attractions

Affordable housing
Historic homes
Attractive houses
Proximity to lakes and recreation
Safe neighborhood
Shopping availability
Public transit availability
Size of homes

6. How do you think Lowry Hill today compares with Lowry Hill 5 years ago?

Much Worse Much Better
1 2 3 4 5 No Opinion/Recent Resident

II. NRP AND LHRI

1. Before this survey, what was your general level of knowledge about the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) and what it does?

This is the first I have heard of it
 I have heard of it but didn't know any details
 I knew a little about it
 I was quite familiar with it

2. Before this survey, what was your general level of knowledge about the Lowry Hill Residents Inc (LHRI) Board and what it does?

This is the first I have heard of it
 I have heard of it but didn't know any details
 I knew a little about it
 I was quite familiar with it

3. Before this survey, what was your general level of knowledge of NRP projects that have been implemented in Lowry Hill?

This is the first I have heard of it
 I have heard of it but didn't know any details
 I knew a little about it
 I was quite familiar with it

4. LHRI sought and used community input in selecting projects.

Strongly Disagree Strongly Agree
1 2 3 4 5 No Opinion

5. Lowry Hill's NRP projects have made Lowry Hill a better place to live.

Strongly Disagree Strongly Agree
1 2 3 4 5 No Opinion

6. **In general, Lowry Hill's NRP funds have been spent wisely.**
- | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---|---|----------------|------------|
| Strongly Disagree | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Strongly Agree | No Opinion |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---|---|----------------|------------|

III. NRP PHASE 2

Please rate how important the following NRP Phase 2 proposals are to the Lowry Hill Neighborhood.

1. **More funding designated for improving safety in the neighborhood**

Very important	1	2	3	4	5	Not Very Important	No Opinion
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2. **Historic designation for the Lowry Hill neighborhood**

Very important	1	2	3	4	5	Not Very Important	No Opinion
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3. **Dutch elm disease treatments for boulevard trees**

Very important	1	2	3	4	5	Not Very Important	No Opinion
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4. **Loan program for residents to encourage maintenance of homes**

Very important	1	2	3	4	5	Not Very Important	No Opinion
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5. **LHRI newsletter to facilitate communication between LHRI Board and residents**

Very important	1	2	3	4	5	Not Very Important	No Opinion
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6. **Funds for improving Thomas Lowry Park**

Very important	1	2	3	4	5	Not Very Important	No Opinion
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7. **Funds for improving Kenwood Park tennis courts**

Very important	1	2	3	4	5	Not Very Important	No Opinion
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8. Funds for improving Triangle park playground at Irving and 26th St. in East Isles

Very important								Not Very Important
	1	2	3	4	5			No Opinion

9. Funds for The Bridge at 22nd and Emerson in East Isles for its youth housing program

Very important								Not Very Important
	1	2	3	4	5			No Opinion

10. Affordable housing initiatives in Lowry Hill

Very important								Not Very Important
	1	2	3	4	5			No Opinion

11. Affordable housing or other housing initiatives in Minneapolis, but not specifically in Lowry Hill

Very important								Not Very Important
	1	2	3	4	5			No Opinion

Please list other priorities _____

IV. NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNICATION

1. Please rank how you would prefer to receive information about neighborhood events and NRP projects (1=first choice):

- _____ a. Paper newsletter (delivered to my home)
- _____ b. E-mail newsletter or list-serve that sends me information automatically
- _____ c. Hill and Lake Press
- _____ d. Other _____

2. I have been informed about NRP projects that have been conducted in Lowry Hill by LHRI and its committees.

Strongly Disagree								Strongly Agree
	1	2	3	4	5			No Opinion

3. Please rate Lowry Hill Resident's Inc.'s effectiveness in each of the following:

a. Informing residents of neighborhood activities, projects and issues

Poor Excellent
1 2 3 4 5 No Opinion

b. Communicating meeting locations and times

Poor Excellent
1 2 3 4 5 No Opinion

c. Making meetings convenient and inviting

Poor Excellent
1 2 3 4 5 No Opinion

4. How many times have you volunteered at LHRI-sponsored events in the past three years? (Circle One)

- 1 Never
- 2 1-2 times in the last 5 years
- 3 3-4 times in the last 5 years
- 4 5-10 times in the last 5 years
- 5 11 or more times in the last 5 years

5. LHRI is interested in recruiting residents to help with neighborhood events. Which would be most likely to persuade you to volunteer? (Circle one)

- 1 More publicity and information about volunteer opportunities
- 2 Ability to sign up for short commitments (1/2 day or less)
- 3 Personal phone calls inviting me to volunteer
- 4 Free food or other incentives
- 5 Others (please list): _____

V. DEMOGRAPHICS: This information will help ensure that we've surveyed a wide variety of residents and will allow us to compare opinions of homeowners to renters, seniors to young parents, etc. Information gathered in this survey is anonymous and not associated with your identity.

1. How long have you lived or maintained your business in Lowry Hill? (Circle one)

- 1 less than a year
- 2 more than 1 year, but less than 2 years
- 3 more than 2 years, but less than 5 years
- 4 more than 5 years, but less than 10 years
- 5 more than 10 years, but less than 20 years
- 6 more than 20 years

2. Do you expect to continue to live or conduct your business in Lowry Hill?

Yes No

3. If no, why not? _____
4. Do you own or rent your current residence or place of business? (Circle one)
- | | | | |
|---|-----|---|------|
| 1 | Own | 2 | Rent |
|---|-----|---|------|
5. What type of home or property do you live in/occupy? (Circle one)
- Single family
 - Townhouse
 - Duplex
 - Triplex
 - Condominium
 - Apartment (1-5 units)
 - Apartment (5-20 units)
 - Apartment (more than 20 units)
 - Lease commercial space for business
 - Own commercial space for business
6. How many children ages 12 or under, if any, live in your home? _____
7. How many children ages 13-18, if any, live in your home? _____
8. Including yourself, how many adults 18 and over live in your home? _____
9. Are you a single parent? (Circle one)
- Yes
 - No
10. How old are you? (Circle one)
- | | | | |
|---|----------|---|-------------|
| 1 | 18 to 24 | 5 | 55 to 64 |
| 2 | 25 to 34 | 6 | 65 to 74 |
| 3 | 35 to 44 | 7 | 75 or older |
| 4 | 45 to 54 | | |
11. What is your gender?
- Male
 - Female
12. Which of the following best identifies your race? (Circle one)
- 1 White
 - 2 Black
 - 3 Hispanic or Latin American
 - 4 American Indian or Alaskan Native
 - 5 Asian or Pacific Islander
 - 6 Other

13. For statistical purposes only, which of the following categories comes closest to your 2004 annual household income before taxes?

- under 20,000
 - 20,001 to 50,000
 - 50,001 to 100,000
 - 100,001 to 200,000
 - 200,001 to 300,000
 - above 300,000
- Not applicable – neighborhood business

—
Please add any comments about past or future neighborhood projects, NRP, LHRI, or this survey:

If you would like to be added to an email distribution list for notices about development issues, please provide your email address.

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RELATING TO NRP PHASE II PRIORITIES

Please rate how important the following NRP Phase 2 proposals are to the Lowry Hill	Not Very Important				Very Important	No Opinion				# of Responses
	5	4	3	2	1		4,3,2,1	3,2,1	2,1	
Dutch Elm disease treatment for boulevard trees	2% (7)	5% (14)	8% (22)	40% (116)	43% (126)	2% (5)	96%	91%	83%	290
More funding designated for improving safety in the neighborhood	7% (21)	17% (50)	15% (42)	38% (108)	22% (63)	1% (4)	92%	75%	60%	288
LHRI newsletter to facilitate communication between LHRI Board and residents	9% (27)	18% (52)	17% (48)	39% (111)	16% (45)	2% (5)	90%	72%	55%	288
Historic designation for the Lowry Hill neighborhood	10% (29)	13% (37)	19% (56)	33% (95)	24% (70)	1% (3)	89%	76%	57%	290
Funds for improving Thomas Lowry Park	12% (36)	17% (50)	29% (83)	30% (86)	10% (28)	2% (5)	86%	69%	40%	288
Affordable housing or other housing initiatives in Minneapolis, but not specifically in Lowry Hill	13% (37)	13% (38)	16% (47)	29% (83)	26% (74)	2% (7)	84%	71%	55%	286
Funds for improving Triangle Park playground at Irving and 26th Street in East Isles	15% (42)	20% (59)	28% (80)	26% (76)	8% (22)	3% (10)	82%	62%	34%	289
Funds for improving Kenwood Park Tennis Courts	16% (47)	16% (47)	26% (76)	28% (81)	10% (30)	3% (8)	80%	64%	38%	289
Funds for The Bridge at Emerson and 22nd in East Isles for its youth housing program	14% (42)	12% (36)	26% (74)	31% (89)	11% (31)	6% (18)	80%	68%	42%	290
Affordable housing initiatives in Lowry Hill	26% (75)	15% (44)	22% (65)	19% (56)	15% (44)	2% (5)	71%	56%	34%	289
Loan program for residents to encourage maintenance of homes	21% (61)	11% (33)	24% (70)	30% (86)	11% (32)	2% (5)	67%	56%	41%	287

LOWRY HILL NEIGHBORHOOD PHASE II ACTION PLAN

ACTIVITY	ACTION PLAN		NRP	PROGRAM INCOME	CHANGES
	NRP HOUSING	NRP OTHER	PHASE II TOTAL		
<u>PARKS AND RECREATION (page 2)</u>					
1. Park Improvements		100,000	100,000		
<u>COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS AND SAFETY (page 3):</u>					
1. Neighborhood Safety		20,000	20,000		
<u>HOUSING (page 4)</u>					
1. Housing Projects	315,000		315,000		
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT (page 5)</u>					
1. Implementation Support		13,754	13,754		
TOTAL	315,000	133,754	448,754	0.00	
TOTAL ACTION PLAN REQUEST	448,754		448,754		
ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDS IN PLAN	13,754		13,754	3.06%	
ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDS FOR HOUSING			9,960		
TOTAL HOUSING ALLOCATION			324,960	72.41%	
2007 APPROPRIATION NEEDED	157,064		157,064		
2008 APPROPRIATION NEEDED	78,532		78,532		
2009 APPROPRIATION NEEDED	78,532		78,532		
AMOUNT AVAILABLE (70%) IN 1ST 3 YEARS*	314,128		314,128		

* - On March 22, 2004, the NRP Policy Board adopted a policy that requires each neighborhood to limit its Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan obligations to no more than 70% of their neighborhood allocation during the first three years following approval of its action plan.

LOWRY HILL NEIGHBORHOOD PHASE II ACTION PLAN

ACTIVITY	Contract Administrator	Comments
<u>PARKS AND RECREATION (page 2)</u>		
1. Park Improvements	MPRB, Public Works	\$10,000 identified for Thomas Lowry Park; \$50,000 identified for tennis courts at Kenwood Park; and \$40,000 identified for other park resources
<u>COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS AND SAFETY (page 3):</u>		
1. Neighborhood Safety	DFD	
<u>HOUSING (page 4)</u>		
1. Housing Projects	CPED/DFD	
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT (page 5)</u>		
1. Implementation Support	NRP	

Lowry Hill Neighborhood Phase II Action Plan (Lowry Hill 2.xls)
 Date Prepared: April 5, 2007
 Last Revision: April 5, 2007
 Prepared By: Robert Cooper, Finance 673-5239