

E.I.R.A.

MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION PROGRAM

EAST ISLES NEIGHBORHOOD PHASE I NRP PLAN REVIEW

January 2010

East Isles Neighborhood Description

The East Isles Neighborhood is located between 22nd Street and Lake Street, and between East Isles Parkway and Hennepin Avenue. It lies directly east of Lake of the Isles.

A mixture of housing is offered in the neighborhood, ranging from 19th century homes to modern apartment buildings, and more recently, new condominium developments. According to the 2000 Census, there were 673 owner-occupied housing units and 1,311 renter-occupied housing units. As of 1994 distribution of structures was as follows: residential structures built before 1920 accounted for 63%, those built between 1920 and 1960 accounted for 6.4%, and those built after 1960 accounted for 30.6 percent.

The total population of the neighborhood was 3,340, as of the US Census in 2000. This represented a decrease of 4.5% from the 3496 total population found in the 1990 Census. Population distribution by race in the 2000 census was as follows: 93.2% were White, 1.6% were African American or African, 0.3% were Native American, 2.2% were Asian-American, Native Hawaiian or other. Ethnicity count included 2.1% Hispanic or Latino individuals.

The majority of East Isles population in 2000 was between 20 and 34 years of age, representing 37% of neighborhood residents. The age group between 55 and 59 showed the largest increase from 1990 to 2000, with a 117.2% jump from 64 (1.9%) to 139 (4%) residents. The remainder of the population is comprised of those under 5 years, who make up 2.7%; 5 to 14 years, 3.9%; 15 to 19 years, 2.6%; 35 to 44 years, 14.7%; 45 to 54 years, 12.2%; 55 to 64 years, 6.0%; 65 years and over, 8.0%.



Methodology

Data for this review was collected through two primary methods. A random sample survey was conducted in early 2005 with a total of 209 responses. In addition to the survey, a strategy-by-strategy assessment was created in 2009.

Overview

In a 2005 resident survey, 59% of respondents reported that they were familiar with the Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program (74% of homeowners, 21% of renters). While 34% indicated that NRP had a “positive” or “very positive” impact on the neighborhood, 62% indicated that NRP had no impact at all. 50% of homeowners who rated NRP as having no impact on the neighborhood, 91% of renters responding to the survey indicated NRP had no impact at all.

However, this is in contrast with the fairly positive response residents have to individual NRP projects in the neighborhood. For example, 81% of homeowners and 75% of renters indicated the pedestrian lighting in the neighborhood as either “Very Good” or “Somewhat Good.” At the same time, 82% of homeowners and 70% of renters use the trails and parks around Lake of the Isles on a daily or weekly basis. Homeowners and renters also indicated equally frequent use of local businesses on South Hennepin Avenue and Lake Street.

According to the survey, residents are attracted to the neighborhood because of nearby shopping and restaurants (97%), appearance of the neighborhood (85%), proximity to friends and relatives (70%), and proximity to downtown (63%) and parks and lakes (61%). 13% of residents indicated they had been living in the neighborhood for less than a year, with 32% of renters indicating they were new to the neighborhood within the last year. Although most renters (97%) rated the neighborhood as either a good or very good place to live, less than 25% indicated they would still be living in the neighborhood 5 years from now.

The 2005 resident survey also identified issues that residents most wanted to see accomplished at that time. Residents were roughly split regarding whether to maintain or improve multi-unit housing or existing single-family housing (homeowners preferred maintaining or improving single-family housing, while renters strongly preferred maintaining and improving multi-unit housing). 60% of residents preferred maintaining the urban and historic integrity of existing commercial properties to attracting new businesses or providing small business support. Renters showed a stronger preference for the addition of light rail or trolley, although overall residents were split between light rail, developing pedestrian and bicycle friendly routes, or calming traffic in residential areas. Both renters and homeowners showed a strong preference (74% overall) for improving water quality in parks, over improving children’s recreation facilities. 49% of renters and 42% of homeowners wanted better information about neighborhood issues, compared to maintaining and improving library services (28% overall), providing services for seniors (11%) and enhancing services for children and teens (19%). 44% overall chose improving residential and personal safety over improving safety on public spaces (24%) and fostering a sense of community (33%).

PLAN SECTION: CRIME AND SAFETY

Description: We envision a neighborhood where people feel safe and secure with a sense of belonging to the community. Residents would have an increased awareness of crime and safety issues for the East Isles area. In this atmosphere of functioning block clubs, crime would be at a minimum. To create a sense of safety for persons and property in the East Isles Neighborhood by citizen participation, awareness, and crime reduction.

Strategy A.1. Block Club Organizer

Identify unorganized blocks and promote benefits of involvement.

Action: EIRA will hire a part-time organizer to provide organization, coordination, training, technical support and materials to support volunteers in organizing Block Clubs.

Resources: \$4,000 NRP (First Step) Funds for salary, mailings, signs; CCP/SAFE staff assistance

Results: A part time temporary block club organizer was hired in 1998 and organized some of the blocks with designated "captains". In the 2005 resident survey, 14% of respondents indicated that their block had an organized block club, 24% indicated they had no block club, while 62% indicated they did not know if their block had an organized block club or not. In 2008, EIRA hired a part-time temporary organizer who canvassed throughout the neighborhood, covering every block. As a result, the neighborhood increased the number of block captains from approximately 6 to 28 out of 42 blocks. This strategy was overspent by \$1,125.00.

Strategy A.2. Crime Prevention Committee

Establish a permanent crime prevention committee.

Action: EIRA will establish a committee to act as a liaison to CCP/SAFE and Block Club leaders and to organize activities such as National Night Out in August and promote appreciation of crime prevention volunteers.

Resources: \$1,800 NRP (First Step) Funds

Results: National Night Out has been promoted and continues to be an annual event in the neighborhood. A team of neighbors has also patrolled the area to keep physical presence on the streets.

Strategy A.3. Welcome Packets

Establish a "Welcome to the Neighborhood" Committee.

Action: Block Club leaders would make welcome packets and deliver to new residents on their block.

Resources: \$1,200 NRP (First Step) Funds for organizer's salary and packet materials; CCP/SAFE staff assistance

Results: Plastic bags have been printed with the East Isles logo and filled with neighborhood information and given to new residents by block club organizers and block captains as welcome packages.

Strategy B.1. Install 911 Blue Phones

Increase communication between police and East Isles residents through the EIRA Crime Committee.

Actions: Publish crime statistics, attend 5 PAC meetings, do ride-alongs, invite CCP/SAFE staff to EIRA meetings, distribute fliers and posting signs for information about crimes, install 911 phones.

Resources: \$5,500 NRP funding.

Results: Emergency 911 blue phones have been installed on the Midtown Greenway within the EIRA neighborhood.

Strategy B.2. Pedestrian Lighting

Increase lighting to decrease crime.

Action: EIRA Crime and Safety Committee in conjunction with the Park Board will do an inventory of all blocks for lighting needs and identify tree trimming needed to maximize lighting effectiveness.

Resources: \$2,000 NRP (First Step) Funds for lighting survey.

Results: Lighting survey was initiated but has not been completed.

Action 2: Install pedestrian level (12-15 feet high) lantern style lighting throughout the non-parkway residential streets of the East Isles neighborhood. Petition property owners for approval.

Resources: \$255,000 NRP (Action Plan) Funds to supplement approximately 25% of the estimated property assessment.

Results: Lighting throughout the EIRA neighborhood has been improved. New pedestrian level street lighting has been installed paid for partially by the NRP and property assessments. According to a 2005 resident survey, 78% of residents rated the appearance of the new lighting as either “good” or “very good,” while 81% rated the light levels as “good” or “very good.”

Strategy B.3. Eliminate Graffiti

Action: EIRA will establish a Graffiti Committee to survey the neighborhood for graffiti, receive phone calls about graffiti, and work with teenagers to remove graffiti.

Resources: \$200 NRP (First Step) Funds; Hennepin County Work Squad for teenagers to remove graffiti; CCP/SAFE staff assistance.

Results: Residents have received materials from the Fire Department. Money is set aside for special materials that may be needed to clean surfaces that cannot be cleaned with the Fire Department supplies. The money has not been spent at this point.

Strategy C.1. Crime Prevention Flyers

Improve the physical environment of East Isles so that it is less inviting to crime.

Action: EIRA Crime Committee working with Block Club leaders would implement and promote (through fliers, etc.) the following activities: - survey physical conditions, encourage property clean-up, promote locking home and garage doors, promote installing motion-detector lights, promote clean-up days.

Resources: \$1,500 NRP (First Step) Funds for the creation and distribution of fliers; CCP/SAFE staff assistance.

Results: This money is used to alert residents of any recent crime issues in the neighborhood and to notify block captains of an "alley walk" with the CCP/SAFE officers, etc.

PLAN SECTION: TRAFFIC & PARKING

Description: To create a pedestrian-friendly, urban environment and encourage the use of alternate forms of transportation (including walking, mass transit, and bicycling). To implement ideas that will reduce and calm existing motorized traffic through our neighborhood and reduce non-residential parking to make it a more safe, livable, desirable, and sustainable place for our residents.

Strategy B.1. Traffic Study

Work with the Minneapolis Public Works to study traffic patterns in the neighborhood to get a handle on volumes and routes of traffic travelling through the neighborhood. Determine specific areas where excess traffic occurs. Compare before and after traffic counts and other data to evaluate success.

Action: The EIRA Traffic Committee will target the study for May of 1996. Prepare proposal for the study with Public Works and analyze results to determine where traffic control measures need to be tested.

Resources: Original allocation in the First Step Plan was \$35,000. Plan modification #3 reduced allocation by \$6,000 to \$29,000. NRP Funds are used to conduct the study; staff assistance from Public Works; EIRA staff to assist Committee.

Results: This study identified streets with high volume and high-speed traffic in East Isles. It helped to determine where to focus traffic calming efforts. There is \$500 remaining that remains un-contracted.

Strategy B.2. Test Traffic Controls

EIRA Committee and staff will work with the Public Works to conduct "modeling" or testing of various traffic control devices and approaches such as bollards, speed humps, center islands, throating, 2-way streets, barriers, crossings, cul-de-sacs, one-way streets and alleys, diverters, landscaping, dead-ends, bikeways, traffic law enforcement, and other traffic calming measures.

Action: EIRA Committee and staff would work with Public Works to identify areas and approaches to be tested. Also to inform neighborhood residents of "models" to be tried via newspaper articles, newsletter, and fliers so that it is not a surprise to the neighborhood. The Traffic Study results and a Traffic Calming Test Plan were presented at a special neighborhood wide meeting on November 13, 1997. Neighbors voted on traffic calming tests and the use of NRP funds. After this meeting a petition to the city requesting speed tables was signed by 75% of the residents in the 26th-27th Streets block of Irving Ave, S. Utilize survey, phone mail, and/or meetings to obtain feed back from

neighborhood. Analyze results and neighborhood feedback to determine if "models" should be made permanent.

Resources: Original allocation in the First Step was \$0. Plan Modification #3 increased allocation to \$6,000. Plan Modification #4 increased allocation by \$20,500 to \$26,500 NRP Early Access funds. NRP Funds are used for police buy-back hours to increase traffic law enforcement and testing traffic control methods; funding for models is part of Public Works budget; staff assistance from Public Works Funds. \$5,000 NRP (Action Plan) funds to promote a Drive 25mph Campaign in the neighborhood with bumper stickers and signs as traffic calming measure.

Results: Two Speed Tables were installed on Irving Avenue between 26th and 27th Streets to slow traffic, using \$10,000 of NRP funds. Other methods being tested are: 1) police patrol buy-back, and 2) a raised crosswalk and a flashing amber light at 28th and Humboldt for safer pedestrian crossing. An un-contracted amount for \$7,303.51 remains in this fund. 60% of homeowners and 59% of renters indicated that the speed tables have helped to reduce traffic speed in the neighborhood, according to the 2005 survey. 46% of homeowners and 35% of renters indicated that the flashing amber light at 28th and Humboldt have made that intersection safer (however, 50% of homeowners and 75% of renters indicated they don't use the crosswalk).

Strategy C.1. Traffic Plan Outreach

Conduct special outreach to entire neighborhood to get their involvement and solutions for traffic problems there and ensure involvement upfront by neighborhood to ensure neighborhood needs are addressed

Action: Obtain input through surveys, newspaper publicity, feedback, flyers, notices, face-to-face contact, meetings, phone voicemail, and other methods. Get information to the neighborhood about the "flow" of the NRP process.

Resources: Original allocation in the First Step Plan was \$7,000. Plan Modification #2 reduced allocation by \$2,000 to \$5,000. NRP funds are used for staff to support objectives A, B, & C.

Results: Communication has been established and traffic problems are a continuing problem in the neighborhood. Additional work needs to be done and will be ongoing. There is \$2,529.00 remaining in funding for this effort.

Strategy D.1. Traffic Island at 28th and Hennepin

Change traffic "island" at this location per previous plan presented to EIRA.

Action: Review plan with Public Works and present plan to neighborhood for approval.

Resources: \$15,000 NRP (First Step) Funds; Public Works budget. Timeline: 1996

Results: A project in collaboration with Public Works at the corner of 28th and Hennepin Ave. was modified and planters installed at the cut through to provide a safer pedestrian crossing and corner.

PLAN SECTION: HOUSING

Description: Determine and clarify the housing needs indicated in survey results and in meetings.

Strategy A.1. Housing Intern

Conduct a study to determine the housing needs of the East Isles neighborhood.

Action: Hire an intern to work with EIRA to devise and implement housing study.

Resources: \$2,000 NRP (First Step) Funds to hire an intern through the NPCR or another institution.

Results: An intern was hired to survey the housing stock. At the time of the survey, only two blighted houses were noted. Since then, both have been purchased and completely renovated. The funds allocated for this effort were not used and the balance remains at \$2,000.00.

Strategy B.1. Design Guidelines Book

Create and produce an EIRA Design Guidelines booklet that details good urban design guidelines for residential and commercial property. This booklet will be made available to prospective developers, current and prospective homeowners through EIRA. Guidelines would incorporate current zoning, pedestrian overlay district information, historic designation.

Action: Hire an urban planning consultant, plan and produce book.

Resources: \$20,000 NRP (Action Plan) Funds for consultant and actual production costs.

Contract Administrator: Minneapolis Planning Department

Results: A committee is currently looking at the costs of publishing the booklet and distributing it to the neighborhood. The \$20,000 in funds remains on the books.

Strategy B.2. Good Design Incentive Program

Develop an incentive program for homeowners/landlords for creating and maintaining good urban design elements.

Action: No action was taken on this strategy.

Strategy B.3. Historic Designation Status for Houses

Encourage homeowners to obtain historic designation status for their houses.

Action: Provide rebate as an incentive for up to \$250 per homeowner for fees associated with obtaining a historic home designation.

Resources: \$10,000 NRP (Action Plan) Funds for the homeowner grants.

Contract Administrator: MCDA

Results: A booklet on the Historic nature of the neighborhood was commissioned and will be printed and distributed with funds from the B.1 Strategy.

Strategy C.1. Bridge for Runaway Youth

Contribute to the general fund for The Bridge for Runaway Youths for the improvement and expansion of their program that operates in the EIRA neighborhood.

Action: Provide a grant of \$65,000 to the general fund.

Resources: \$65,000 NRP

Result: The Bridge successfully renovated an underutilized structure and replaced an older building with a new facility. East Isles' NRP investment of \$65,000 was matched by \$500,000 from the NRP Affordable Housing Trust Fund; \$45,000 of Kenwood neighborhood NRP funds; and \$26,000 of Lowry Hill neighborhood NRP funds.

PLAN SECTION: WATER QUALITY

Description: Increase residents' sense of pride in the East Isles neighborhood and preserve a Minneapolis treasure by enhancing the quality of "Lake of the Isles" as a recreational opportunity. Improve the water quality in Lake of the Isles.

Strategy A.1. Grit Chamber Signage

Create tasteful signage informing residents that - That which one pours directly into the street will go directly into Lake of the Isles.

Resources: \$1,000.00

Results: Funds were reallocated to other strategies in 2003.

Strategy A.2. Discourage Wildlife Feeding Signage

Install signage discouraging the feeding of geese and other wildlife.

Resources: \$2,000.00

Results: Funds were reallocated to other strategies in 2003.

Strategy A.3. Fertilizer/Pesticide Education

Develop and send informational literature to all residents explaining the impact of over use of pesticides and fertilizers on our Lake's water quality

Resources: \$4,000 NRP (First Step) Funds.

Results: A multi-neighborhood task force worked for several years to develop a reference book for all residents living in the chain-of-lakes watershed. In 2005, 18% of homeowners reported that they still have the "Recipes for Clean Water" guide, while only 2% of renters had the guide. 34% of homeowners reported that they needed another copy of the guide, as did 38% of renters.

Strategy A.4. Lawn/Gutter Care Education

Develop and send informational literature to all residents encouraging them to keep the street in front of their house clean of organic materials. These materials contribute to the Lake's high phosphorous problem, which in turn result in large Algae bloom, pond scum, and foul odor.

Resources: \$4,000 NRP (First Step) Funds. Timeline: 1996

Results: This project was completed and distributed in association with the welcome packets provided in 1.1.A.3.

Strategy A.5. Storm Water Catch Basin Sign

Mark or sign area storm water catch basins to inform residents and visitors that everything that goes into the inlet goes directly into our Lake.

Resources: \$20,000 NRP (First Step) Funds.

Results: This project was completed at no cost: the supplies were donated and the labor provided by volunteers (Boy Scouts from Jefferson School). Funds were reallocated with approval of the Full Action Plan.

Strategy A.6. Watershed Reclamation Signs

Develop and place signage at the north end of Lake of the Isles to explain the purpose of vegetation being planted and the wetland being created.

Resources: \$1,000 NRP (First Step) Funds.

Results: Funds were reallocated with approval of the Full Action Plan.

PLAN SECTION: RECREATION & AMENITIES

Description: Help facilitate the development of a bicycle path greenway on the 29th Street railway corridor. Provide recreational opportunities and encourage alternate methods of transit.

Strategy 1.A.1. Develop Greenway

Assist in the Development of the Greenway between Hennepin Avenue and East Lake of the Isles Parkway.

Action: In 1995 EIRA allocated \$27,200 of first step money toward enhancements and beautification for the portion of the Midtown Greenway running through the East Isles neighborhood. Public works money was not planned for this effort due to a tight city budget (only for initial paving, fencing and lighting). In 1998 EIRA presented a vision for the greenway enhancements at the West Lake Street Design Charrette. The neighborhood then decided to wait until the Greenway was actually created before making specific plans, as the project was delayed for several years. In 2000 \$2,200 of NRP funds were approved for a trolley transit system feasibility study, which was conducted by the Midtown Greenway Coalition. In 2002 \$10,250 of unspent EIRA funds were reallocated towards the prairie plantings project on the Greenway and the plantings were done in fall 2002.

Selection of amenities placed within the specified area will be done by neighborhood residents and the East Isles Resident Association Board in coordination with the architect and City project manager.

Resources: \$27,200 NRP (First Step) Funds and reallocation of \$10,250.

Results: the Midtown Greenway has become a vital pedestrian and bicycle corridor through our neighborhood. It has successfully connected all the neighborhoods along the vacated rail corridor on county property. Residents have contributed labor and plantings to enhancements at various places along the Greenway. An EIRA board member serves as a representative to the Midtown Greenway Coalition Board.

Strategy 2.A.1. Widen/Repair/Replace Trails

Work with other neighborhoods and the Park Board to address trail maintenance issues and develop a plan for improvements. Widen narrow stretches of East Isles' section of the Lake of the Isles path and submerged areas, and repair cracks and ridges. Improve recreational opportunities and neighborhood appearance.

Action: Review the plan with the neighborhood and target the worst sections first and replace with boardwalks where appropriate, and ensure sealcoat for paving is not contributing to pollution through runoff.

Resources: Original allocation in the First Step Plan was \$43,600. Plan Modification #1 increased allocation by \$10,000 to \$53,600.

Results: The paths along the east side of Lake of the Isles were repaired and repaved during the spring of 1997.

Strategy 2.B.1. Lake of the Isles Restoration

Implement flood control measures, shoreline stabilization, tree planting, landscaping, pathway relocation/re-paving, and wildlife habitat improvements. Restore/renovate Lake of the Isles - the lake and the park.

Action: Up to 50% of the NRP funds allocated may be used planning and design. An estimated \$4.0 million needed for these basic improvements (total estimated cost for complete project is \$9 million). These NRP funds will be used to leverage matching funds from the Minnesota DNR Flood Damage Reduction Grant Assistance Program and to make the physical improvements (listed above) at Lake of the Isles Regional Park. Lowry Hill East and LCMR funds from legislature are also other partners that are part of this project. Timeline for completion and administrative funds subject to approval of the EIRA Board.

Resources: \$375,000 NRP (Action Plan) Funds, subject to the above conditions.
Timeline: 1999

Results: Construction was begun in 2002, and the east side of the lake construction began in 2003. Estimated completion was 2004 and actual completion was about 2007. It has been a very lengthy process but the area around Lake of the Isles has been greatly improved. New planting and flood control prevention has been installed and the lake is a focal point for the enjoyment of our neighborhood and the entire city.

Strategy 2.C.1. Jefferson School Playground

In conjunction with a diverse group of community leaders, participate in an effort to design a Jefferson School Playground Redevelopment Plan, and implement this in a manner which improves the highly visible Hennepin Avenue Corridor; contributes to the well-being of the school children. and respects the interests of the business community, East Isles and Wedge residents. and school faculty.

Resources: Original allocation in the First Step Plan was \$66,000. Plan Modification #1 increased allocation by \$10,000 to \$76,000. Additional funding sources include: at least \$66,000 NRP Funds from the Lowry Hill East neighborhood; at least \$50,000 School NRP funds; corporate donations solicited by the Jefferson PTA; landscape architects.

Results: A new handicap-accessible, community-built playground made from 95% recycled materials was built in 1997 and now serves nearly 750 elementary students and at least 10 nearby neighborhoods. More than 225 resident volunteers helped to build the facility. Jefferson School has installed a brick and iron fence around the perimeter of the newly enhanced playground. The investment of \$76,000 of East Isles NRP funds was matched by \$146,000 of Lowry Hill East neighborhood NRP funds.

PLAN SECTION: HENNEPIN AVENUE

Description: Support the Hennepin Avenue Task Force Study. Enhance the appearance and economic viability of Hennepin Avenue South.

Strategy A.1. Hennepin Avenue Task Force Study

Contribute funds to the Hennepin Avenue Task Force Study.

Action: Reimburse the Hennepin Avenue Task Force for expenses incurred during the creation of the Hennepin Avenue Corridor Study.

Resources: \$8,000 NRP (First Step) Funds. Timeline: 1996

Contract Administrator: MCDA

Results: Developed a Hennepin Avenue Strategic Plan that provides a long-range vision as well as specific guidelines for current changes. Additional NRP funds were committed by Lowry Hill neighborhood (\$28,000) and Lowry Hill East neighborhood (\$5,000).

Strategy B.1. Install Lights and Trees on Hennepin

Make improvements on Hennepin Avenue following the guidelines in the Hennepin Avenue Strategic Plan. Install pedestrian level (12-15 feet high) lantern style lights and additional boulevard trees along the west side of Hennepin Avenue from 22nd Street to 28th Street.

Action: Petition Hennepin Avenue property owners in designated section for approval as required by the city of Minneapolis

Resources: \$118,750 NRP (Action Plan) funds to supplement approximately 25% of the estimated assessment. Timeline: 1999-2000

Results: The work has been completed and the area along Hennepin Avenue is greatly improved. Total NRP commitments to Hennepin Avenue from several neighborhoods totaled \$549,000.

IMPLEMENTATION

Description: Increase and sustain the ability of EIRA to mobilize the human and financial resources, information, and technical assistance necessary to effectively implement the East Isles Neighborhood Action Plan. Increase EIRA's ability to be a vehicle for citizen participation in the implementation of the Neighborhood Action Plan.

Strategy A.1. Action Plan Implementation

Engage personnel and cover other costs related to Neighborhood Action Plan implementation activities.

Action: Develop a "scope of services and budget" covering the activities EIRA will perform related to NAP implementation responsibilities and activities.

Resources: \$5,353 **Timeline:** 1999

Results: The action plan has worked and there remains \$2,273.00 in the contract balance.

SUMMARY:

The East Isles neighborhood has changed since the adoption of NRP Phase I program. More condominiums have been proposed and several have been built; rental housing has been added to several blocks. The Uptown Small Area Plan, completed in 2007, recognized the mixed income and mixed-use nature of Uptown and involved a number of East Isles residents in the plan that evolved. Calhoun Square, adjacent to EIRA, is still undergoing redevelopment, and several projects, including the Mosaic, have not come to fruition. That and other controversial projects are on hold, and the economy has affected our neighborhood with a loss of some retail stores and restaurants, a decline in daytime population, and increased commuter through-traffic.

A number of positive changes are the result of our NRP projects: increased pedestrian lighting, support of the bicycle and pedestrian friendly Midtown Greenway and landscaping of the Greenway in EIRA, traffic calming measures and changing traffic patterns on Hennepin Avenue, improvement and expansion of the buildings and facilities for The Bridge for Runaway Youth, signs discouraging leaves and pesticides in the street gutters and wildlife feeding in order to protect the lake, Lake of the Isles Restoration, and installing lantern style lights and additional boulevard trees along the west side of Hennepin Avenue.

EIRA is beginning its Phase II planning and will build on its experiences from Phase I. An informal group and the Board is developing a Participation Agreement and advertising in the neighborhood for volunteers. It is hoped that through strong neighbor involvement and participation, our efforts will reflect the priorities of this diverse and vibrant neighborhood.