



East
Harriet
Farmstead
Phase I
Nrp plan
review

EAST HARRIET FARMSTEAD NRP PHASE I PLAN REVIEW

Part I: Overview of the Plan

The East Harriet Neighborhood Association (EHFNA) was one of the first Minneapolis neighborhoods to implement NRP Phase I activities in 1994. The EHFNA Phase I Action Plan was approved by the NRP Policy Board and the Minneapolis City Council in May 1993. Since then, countless hours of volunteer work and \$1.63 million in NRP funds have been committed to ensuring the long-term vitality of the neighborhood.

a. Action Plan Focus

EHFNA's Phase I Action Plan focused on eight key areas of importance to the neighborhood: Housing, Business, Transportation, Environment, Parks, Communications/Outreach, Schools, and Safety. Significant achievements were realized in each area of focus during Phase I, which are detailed in this report.

b. Most Significant Achievement

The neighborhood consensus is the improvements of Lyndale Farmstead Park has been the single most successful project of NRP Phase I. This work includes the conversion of the park building from a day-care center to a fully functioning park, with on-site staff, community programs and services, and a complete upgrade of the outdoor playground equipment and tennis courts.

c. Plan Review:

Plan Review Process included a mix of qualitative and quantitative research was enlisted to evaluate the success of Phase I and look to needs identified as priorities by EHFNA neighbors and businesses for Phase II. A 25 question quantitative survey was distributed with EHFNA's quarterly newsletter and also posted electronically on a web site for completion. The survey was designed to assess residents' wants and needs for the neighborhood. In addition, the survey helped identify the strengths and weaknesses of the neighborhood as perceived by the respondents.

Of the 1500 paper surveys mailed to residents and the on-line survey resulted in 150 surveys being completed, for a 10% response rate, making the response rate statistically significant.

In addition, EHNFA held three qualitative focus groups with neighbors and business owners in order to discuss the future of the neighborhood and brainstorm ideas for Phase II of NRP planning. All the participants in the groups provided excellent fodder for past evaluation as well as future planning.

PROGRESS REPORT

Phase I Project Descriptions and Highlights

Housing

Description: To assist homeowners to maintain and improve housing through a revolving home loan fund.

Outcome:

EHFNA provided 62 revolving housing loans and grants totaling \$659,191 enabling residents to make structural improvements that improved the neighborhood's housing stock.

NRP and other funding invested:

\$931,437 NRP funds allocated

\$18,000 rent-to-own stipend (six \$3,000 grants to first-time homeowners)

\$200,000 home-improvement grant program (approx. 90 grants to home-owners)

\$416,437 old home-improvement loan program

\$227,000 new home-improvement loan program

\$75,000 administrative funds for loan program

Business

Description: To assist businesses in exterior façade improvements through a matching grant program.

Outcome:

EHFNA provided 15 matching grants, of up to \$4,000 per business, to businesses that made aesthetic and or functional improvements to neighborhood storefronts.

NRP and other funding invested:

\$40,000 NRP Funds allocated

Business façade & streetscape grant program

Environment

Description: Goal to insure the quality of the urban forest over time.

Outcome:

Over 300 trees were planted throughout the East Harriet Farmstead neighborhood and 30 trees at Lake Calhoun.

NRP and other funding invested:

Description: Goal to educate residents on ways to improve the lake's water quality over time.

Outcome:

The Clean Water Cookbook was developed in partnership with other neighborhoods surrounding Lake Harriet to educate residents on ways to improve the lake's water quality over time.

NRP and other funding invested:

Description: Goal to educate residents on ways to improve the lake's water quality over time.

Outcome:

The Robert's Sanctuary Bird book was developed in partnership with the Minneapolis Park Board to educate residents on the birds which frequent Roberts' Bird Sanctuary. Printing date is pending final edit.

NRP and other funding invested:

\$53,810 NRP Funds allocated

\$38,394 tree plantings throughout neighborhood and Bird Sanctuary (\$416 remains)

\$15,000 for environmental education (\$4,800 remains—Bryant/BEAT funding??)

-\$5,000 Clean Water Cookbook

-\$3,750 Roberts Bird Sanctuary guidebook (in process)

-\$1,450 Rose Garden/Peace Garden information sheets (in process??)

Traffic/Noise

Description: To address concerns of Airpane noise, other noise ordinances, traffic calming measures, and address traffic and parking plans for entire neighborhood.

Outcome:

Completed the Eastern most section of the 40th Street Greenway, traffic calming on Kings Highway, Crosswalks at 43rd and Bryant and , Bush Shelter at 38th and Bryant, flashing red light at 39th and Bryant.

NRP and other funding invested:

\$106,568 NRP funds allocated

\$85,000 40th Street River-Lake Greenway project

\$16,593 traffic calming projects

-Kings Highway striping

-flashing stoplights/crosswalk at 39th/Bryant

-crosswalks at 42nd/Bryant

\$3,000 bike racks for businesses program

\$1,975 bus shelter at 38th/Bryant

Parks

Description: To re-develop the Lyndale Farmstead Park as an active community resource, providing staff, educational programming, and community events.

Outcome:

EHFNA funded a full-time staff person. Activities were re-introduced to Lyndale Farmstead Park and include: youth soccer, ice skating, educational programming, special events to name a few. The Tennis courts were resurfaced and new playground equipment was purchased.

NRP and other funding invested:

\$192,045 NRP Funds allocated

\$95,490 Park outreach worker (Ann Lynch)

\$39,597 Lyndale Farmstead tennis courts/fencing

\$30,000 Park programming/supplies (\$14,250 remains)

\$20,403 new Park playground

\$5,000 "Spiff the Biff" restroom restoration at Lake Harriet

\$1,555 senior citizens fitness program

Communications/Outreach

Description: Create an ongoing means for communication with the neighborhood.

Outcome: “News from the Farm,” EHFNA’s quarterly newsletter, was developed to unite neighbors by communicating information about neighborhood events and programs, neighborhood history, NRP efforts and residents. It is distributed to residents, business and landowners.

NRP and other funding invested:

\$207,000 NRP Funds allocated

\$151,000 -Implementation coordinator (EHFNA staff-person and office expenses)

\$ 20,000 -newsletter

\$19,000 -neighborhood notebooks (newsletter)

\$12,500 youth-based distribution

\$4,500 neighborhood packets (neighborhood info mailed to every resident at beginning of EHFNA)

Community Events

Description: To promote community connectedness, establish a ‘pride in place’, a sense of community, and opportunities for smaller community events.

Outcome: Created and implemented Bi-annual Kite Festival, established a six year tradition of ‘Garden Tour’, Halloween parties, skating parties, Summer and Winter festivals, and much, much more.

NRP and other funding invested:

\$40,500 NRP Funds allocated

Schools

Description: To insure the vitality of Barton Open School facilities.

Outcome:

Clara Barton Open School’s playground was improved with landscaping, lighting, window and façade upgrades, fencing and underground irrigation.

NRP and other funding invested:

\$75,000 NRP Funds allocated

-Barton School exterior improvements

Crime and Safety

Description:

Outcome:

Lighting to deter crime and vandalism was installed at Lyndale Farmstead Park, along Roseway Road and in the Bird Sanctuary parking lot.

NRP and other funding invested:

Outcome: Two safety flashers were installed on a stop sign at the intersection of 39th Street and Bryant Avenue to calm traffic around the busy Lyndale Farmstead Park. This effort resulted in the protection of adults and children crossing Bryant to the Park facilities. Lighting at 46th and Bryant. 10 residents took advantage of motion detector rebate program.

NRP and other funding invested:

\$106,619 NRP Funds allocated

\$64,000 lighting at Lyndale Farmstead Park, along Roseway Road, at Bird Sanctuary

\$32,625 residential/business node lighting along 46th/Bryant

\$100 motion detector rebate program

CONCLUSION

East Harriet Neighborhood Association has remained a vital and vibrant community through thousands of hours of work by neighborhood residents, community business partners, the Minneapolis Parks Department and other Minneapolis City staff, and funding from NRP and others.

Since the Phase I plan, the neighborhood has seen a vibrant growth at its business nodes and a dramatic increase in housing values.

The consensus of the neighborhood is that quality of housing and the proximity to the park system make East Harriet Farmstead a unique and desirable place to live.

Based on this feedback, we plan to continue many of the programs started in Phase I, including the revolving home loan program, business façade matching grants, parks and environmental education and development efforts, and community events programming. All of these programs are desired by the community and provide opportunities for purposeful social interaction and community improvement activities.

Following are the remaining NRP Funds from Phase I.

Our plan is to carry over some of these funds, spend down others, and re-allocate the remaining. See the notes below:

- \$43,785 in HOUSING (loan admin funds)
- \$11,300 in BUSINESS (business façade/streetscape improvement grants)
- \$2,216 in TRAFFIC/NOISE (bike rack program)
- \$416 in ENVIRONMENT (tree planting)
- \$4,800 in ENVIRONMENT (environmental education—Bryant/BEAT funding
- ??)
- \$14,250 in PARKS (park programming supplies—Ann Lynch’s wishlist??)
- \$2,994 in CRIME/SAFETY (residential/bus. node lighting)
- \$5,000 in CRIME/SAFETY (Wirth House fireplace restoration??)
- \$1,900 in CRIME/SAFETY (motion detector rebate program)
- \$7,714 in COMMUNITY EVENTS (funds kite festivals, etc)