



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.