

MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION PROGRAM

WAITE PARK

NRP PHASE II

NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION PLAN

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**Waite Park
Neighborhood Action Plan
Phase II**

Neighborhood October 17, 2007

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Waite Park

Waite Park Vision Statement

The neighbors of Waite Park Community envision a friendly and safe neighborhood, with a strong sense of community, and cooperation within the neighborhood, the school and neighborhood parks, and a strong sense of pride in the physical appearance of our homes and neighborhood.

Location and general characteristics

Waite Park neighborhood, a residential neighborhood in the city's northeast corner, is bound on the north by 37th Avenue Northeast, on the east by Stinson Boulevard, on the south by Saint Anthony Parkway and on the west by Central Avenue Northeast. The neighborhood is named for Edward Foote Waite, judge of the District Court of Hennepin County from 1911 to 1941. In 1887 the city incorporated most of the land in the neighborhood. By that time the railroad had built a large repair facility, the Shoreham Yards. The facility is still in use, while the land it's on is expected to be redeveloped.

Waite Park, as well as being a beautiful modern park, it is also the site of the Waite Park School and Community Center. The school opened in 1950 and was the first joint effort by a School and Park Board in the nation. In 1996 Waite Park School became a community school with Kindergarten to 6th grade students. Cavell Park and Demings Heights (also known as "Norway Hill") are also located within the Waite Park neighborhood.

Waite Park is a quiet neighborhood where residences and yards are well maintained. It is one of the youngest Minneapolis neighborhoods with most of the housing built between 1920 & 1960. Public transportation is convenient and three major bus routes serve the neighborhood.

Waite Park is an active and viable community with a neighborhood organization (the Waite Park Community Council (WPCC) that was incorporated in 1954.

The residents have a fairly high educational level and voter participation is high. The neighborhood has been home to two or three generations of hardworking people who owned their homes, raised families and are active in community affairs. Waite Park residents respect the stability of the past and look forward to the opportunities of the future. As long-time residents age and move out of their homes, young couples are moving into the neighborhood and starting families.

NRP Process

ORGANIZATION OF THE PLAN DEVELOPMENT EFFORT

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee for the NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan development process was organized and operated by neighborhood residents and volunteers who are members of the WPCC. The Steering Committee was charged with managing the NRP Phase II development process and drafting the Neighborhood Action Plan. The Steering Committee will continue to exist until the NAP receives all necessary approvals. Meetings, activities, and actions of the Steering Committee have been publicized in the WPCC newsletter.

The Steering Committee is responsible for promoting involvement and presenting the draft Phase II NAP to the Waite Park Community Council (WPCC) Board for review and approval of its efforts.

Outreach

The WPCC did out-reach to residents for input in the plan development process to attract underrepresented groups with a survey delivered to every home and business. WPCC regularly produces the Waite Park Voice and notices of Phase II planning meetings were prominently placed in the newsletter and distributed throughout the neighborhood.

Plan Development

The NAP Phase II development process included analyzing the neighborhood survey responses and considering written submissions from the Parks, Community Education and the results from the previous Phase I NAP of Waite Park. Government and other partners were asked for support, guidance, and feedback during the process.

Action Plan Draft

The WPCC Steering Committee drafted the Waite Park NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan on March 3, 2007. It was approved by the neighborhood (after 30-day notification period) at a Waite Park Community Council meeting on April 4, 2007. The WPCC Board reviewed the draft plan endorsed the adopted plan, and transmitted the Plan to NRP for approval.

Waite Park NRP Phase II Plan

Community & Education

Goal 1: Promote Waite Park as a Caring & Sharing Community

Objective 1: Enhance the neighborhood's community infrastructure

Relates to the following City Goals:

- Promote public, community, and private partnerships to address disparities and to support strong, healthy families and communities.
- Preserve and enhance our natural and historic environment and promote a clean, sustainable Minneapolis.

Strategy A. Provide funding to neighborhood schools to expand services to students and community.

- \$40,260 for Waite Park Community School, Northeast Middle School, Edison High School

Funding: NRP \$23,156 total for years 1,2,3. The remaining \$17,104 will be added in year 4.

Partners: Minneapolis School Board, residents, WPCC

Contract Manager: Minneapolis Public Schools

Strategy B. Provide funds to Waite Park Recreation Center

- \$38,257 Park equipment and supplies

Funding: NRP, \$21,155 total for years 1,2,3. The remaining \$17,102 will be added in year 4.

Partners: WPCC, Park & Recreation Board, neighborhood residents

Contract Manager: Minneapolis Park Board

Strategy C. Provide funds for community education program at Waite Park

- \$10,000 for sports & arts supplies and after school program
 1. Sports/Arts program \$5,500
 2. After school programs \$4,500

Funding: NRP \$10,000

Partners: Community Education, Minneapolis Public Schools, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board, and WPCC
Contract Manager: Minneapolis Public Schools

Strategy D. Provide funds to the Waite Park Community Garden

- \$5,500 to rehabilitate the raised bed borders with long life plastic wood.

Funding: NRP \$5,500

Partners: NRP, WPCC, Residents

Contract Manager: DFD

Housing

Goal 1: Maintain the Housing Stock Of Waite Park

Objective1: Provide assistance for residential property owners to maintain and enhance their property.

Relates to the following City Goals:

- Maintain the physical infrastructure to ensure a healthy, vital, and safe City.
- Create an environment that maximizes economic development opportunities within Minneapolis by focusing on the City's physical and human assets.
- Foster the development and preservation of a mix of quality housing types that is available, affordable, meets current needs, and promotes future growth.
- Promote public, community, and private partnerships to address disparities and to support strong, healthy families and communities.

Strategy A. Establish a revolving loans program dedicated to emergency and City code-ordered work.

Loans will be made to eligible single-family and other owner-occupied (i.e. condos) homeowners with a sliding scale of interest rates based on need. A lottery will be used to select recipients. Individual loans will be capped at \$5,000.

Emergency loans may be approved for emergencies such as furnace repair or replacement, roof repairs or replacements, etc. City inspector ordered work is the other eligible purpose.

Funding: NRP \$139,670 total for years 1,2,3. The remaining \$59,859 will be added in year 4

Partners: WPCC, Third Party Administrator

Contract Manager: DFD

Strategy B. Establish a revolving loan program for general home improvement.

- Loans will be made to single-family and other owner-occupied (i.e. condos) homeowners with a sliding scale of interest rates based on need. A lottery will be used to select recipients. Individual loans will be capped at \$5,000.

Funding: NRP \$46,557 total for years 1,2,3. The remaining \$19,953 will be added in year 4

Partners: WPCC, Third Party Administrator

Contract Manager: DFD

Safety

Goal 1: Promote Waite Park as a Safe & Caring Community

Objective 1: Enhance the neighborhood's community relationships.

Relates to the following City Goal:

- Build communities where all people feel safe and trust the City's public safety professionals and systems.

Strategy A. Provide funds for block clubs and residential security grants

- \$10,000 will be allocated for mini-grants of up to \$100 to organized block clubs in Waite Park for non-food purposes such as copying expenses, block club signs, etc. and for crime prevention training seminars through community education.
- \$10,000 will be allocated for mini-grants for residential security and safety items up to \$50 per household (i.e. motion detector lights, window/door locks, etc.). Both owner-occupied and rental housing will be eligible.

Funding: NRP \$20,000

Partners: WPCC, Block Clubs, Residents

Contract Manager: DFD

Strategy B. Partner with Minneapolis Police Department and Northeast neighborhoods: Audubon Park, Bottineau, Holland, Nicollet Island/East Bank, Northeast Park, St Anthony East, and Windom Park to add directed patrols in high crime spots of the Lowry/Central Ave. area, with a major focus on property crime suppression.

Funding: NRP \$58,575 (Waite Park contribution \$7,321.88)

Administration

Goal 1. Community building through a strong community organization.

Objective 1: Create an NRP Steering Committee to conduct outreach and determine what residents would like to see in the Waite Park neighborhood.

City goal:

Deliver consistently high quality City services at a good value to our taxpayers.

Strategy A. Solicit volunteers to create a neighborhood survey, request feedback from people and businesses and assist in the development of the written Phase II neighborhood action plan.

Funding: NRP \$10,000

Timeline: Phase II Plan Development Funds

Partners: WPCC

Contract manager: NRP

Objective 2: Continue to provide information and community engagement services to the Waite Park residents.

Strategy A. Provide Funds for community information

1. Office supplies, phone, copying, membership to NE organizations, childcare, insurance, accounting, computer etc.
2. Newsletter, website and other communication expenses
3. Public Education Northeast (PEN) \$1,000

Funding: NRP \$36,948 total for years 1,2,3. The remaining \$20,120 will be added in year 4

Partners: WPCC, Residents, PEN

Contract Manager: NRP