



## SECTION 3



# COMMUNITY VISION

The City of Richmond Heights engaged in an extensive community visioning process to develop a consensus about the future it wants, and then to decide what steps are necessary to achieve that vision. The process included facilitated presentations and conversations with the Project Team, Steering Committee, and residents in Public Meetings, several Stakeholder Meetings, and a variety of workbooks and board exercises.

### HOW DO I USE THIS SECTION?

This section should be used as a foundation for articulating the City's Vision. Used in conjunction with the Goals & Actions Section, this section should be used to outline desired environments throughout the City, how residents want to interact with government, and what types of investments should be undertaken.

### WHAT'S IN THIS SECTION?

Reimagining Richmond Heights starts the conversation by interjecting big picture concepts and ideals about the type future the residents and their leaders want to see. It prescribes the look and feel of the City in ten years. The conversation covers a wide range of topics, and uncovers how the City wants to live, learn, work, receive services, shop, gather, travel, connect, and recreate, as well as identifies initial actions to achieve the City's desired future.

The process objective is to work toward common goals with collective input. Contributions are made through personal interaction, conversation, exercises, agreeing, collaborating, listening, and analyzing the current conditions, and the ideal circumstances that will produce the City's desired future. The resulting Vision Themes & Statements capture what the community members value most about their community, and a shared image of what they want their community to become.

# REIMAGINING RICHMOND HEIGHTS

## LIVE & LEARN

### CREATING WELCOMING & ATTRACTIVE NEIGHBORHOODS



There are a variety of housing styles in the City of Richmond Heights, from older Ranch and Tudor style single-family homes and mid-rise apartments to more recently built contemporary and modern style single-family homes and condominiums. Most of the housing stock in Richmond Heights was built in the 1970's making it at least 40 years old. Earlier this year, the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission in collaboration with Cleveland State University's Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs Center for Community Planning and Development conducted a Countywide Housing Study and found that in the City of Richmond Heights, there are 4,800 total housing units: 3,152 Single-Family; 1,089 Apartments, 12 Duplexes; and 365 Condominiums. In addition, the study found that new single-family structures were built between 2010 and 2013. The current median sales price listing is \$134,900, and the median monthly rent is \$1,300.

Therefore, the vision for housing and neighborhoods in Richmond Heights is to strengthen existing neighborhoods, by preserving, upgrading, and enhancing existing housing stock and creating new neighborhood identities by:

- Developing distinctive mixed-used environments and welcoming gateways;
- Resourcing major investments and incentive programs to help residents maintain and improve their homes and enhance the existing housing stock and neighborhoods;
- Partnering for the continued improvement of the Richmond Heights Local Schools and developing more neighborhood amenities to attract families;
- Developing multimodal neighborhood connections to major destinations such as the Municipal Center complex, community parks, Richmond Town Square, and neighborhood retail centers;
- Developing strategies to attract families; and
- Ensuring that new housing offers the diversity and types required to attract young families and professional millennials.

## WORK & SHOP

### CREATING ROBUST SPECIALTY BUSINESS AND RETAIL DISTRICTS



Today, there are at least four existing and potential economic centers in Richmond Heights: the University Hospitals Richmond Medical Center Area; the Business District at Chardon and Richmond Roads; the Corporate Center at the Cuyahoga County Airport; and Richmond Town Square Mall & Hilltop area. Currently each of these districts are in some form of decline and in need of an economic boost.

Therefore, the vision for the economic development and viability in Richmond Heights is to encourage economic development and viability by identifying innovative places to establish or re-establish small and large businesses; encourage local innovation; and engage commercial and institutional partners to create destination economic environments that build market identities by:

- Developing, where appropriate, low to medium mixed use activity centers within existing the business districts;
- Partnering with University Hospitals to develop and grow a medical healthcare and medical supportive services district with enhanced community connections, supports, and outreach;
- Strengthening and support the existing manufacturing and industrial sectors through infill development, marketing, and business outreach;
- Partnering with Cuyahoga County to create an aero industry and business and logistics center at the Cuyahoga County Airport that provides a hub for developing airport industry related businesses and supportive services as well as creating a commercial and business travelers' destination environment; and
- Working with Richmond Town Square mall and others in the redevelopment of the Mall and Hilltop area.

## PLAY & CONNECT

### CREATING A VIBRANT HEALTHY COMMUNITY DEDICATED TO ENHANCING AND SUSTAINING QUALITY OF LIFE



The Municipal Center, schools, places of worship, cultural institutions such as Greenwood Farm, social organizations, and community events create opportunities for enjoyment and fulfillment in residents' daily lives.

Therefore, the vision for creating a vibrant healthy community is to continue to support local organizations and institutions to provide spaces and opportunities for people to connect, and provide a high quality of life to keep Richmond Heights desirable to residents, visitors, and businesses by:

- Promoting vibrant community activities and amenities that act as attractors and enhance community pride;
- Developing coordinated events at the Mall and in other business Districts that can help activate neighborhood businesses;
- Continuing to partner with community groups to directly respond to unique local needs;
- Supporting the Strategic Plan of the Richmond Heights Local Schools; and
- Supporting and marketing strategic and business plans for Greenwood Farm.

### CREATING A FEELING OF COMMUNITY, SAFETY, AND PLACE



Expanding the bike and pedestrian network with dedicated lanes, trails, enhanced crosswalks, and public transit that effectively serves residents will provide safe connections to community parks, business districts, amenities, and institutions to promote healthy, active lifestyles. Therefore the vision for creating a feeling of community, safety, and place can be achieved by:

- Partnering with RTA to improve, support, encourage, and incentivize use of public transportation;
- Using the sidewalk inventory to develop a Citywide Connectivity Plan with enhanced multipurpose trails that are accessible for residents of all ages and abilities;
- Working with the County and State, along with any federal or regional agencies and task forces, to implement the capital improvement plan for the street networks; and
- Exploring streetscape, intersection, and signalization improvements.

# VISION STATEMENTS

Thoughtful vision statements are needed to form a forward looking strategic framework that gives councils or boards the long-term-comprehensive perspective necessary to make rational, disciplined, tactical, and incremental decisions on community issues as they arise.

## A WELCOMING CITY

Richmond Heights will be a City with a strong sense of place, safe and vibrant neighborhoods having a wide range of elegant, beautiful, and revitalized housing options, well-maintained yards and greenspaces, and active neighborhood associations.

## A CONNECTED CITY

Richmond Heights will be a multimodal City where one can easily commute to work, enjoy the outdoors, take an evening walk, meet friends for dinner, run errands, or shop by car, transit, bike, or foot on Complete Streets and all-purpose trails.

## A HEALTHY CITY

Richmond Heights will be a healthy community with access to optimal health care services and general well-being programs that promote healthy living, safe environments, access to healthy foods, and a robust park and recreation system.

## A GREEN CITY

Richmond Heights will be a green City that is environmentally sustainable, uses green infrastructure to capture and slow stormwater, and promotes best practices to preserve the environment.

## A BUSINESS-FRIENDLY CITY

Richmond Heights will provide a business-friendly environment that leverages its existing economic assets, City services, well-educated workforce, and solid infrastructure to attract new investments as well as retain and expand existing businesses.

## A CENTER FOR HISTORY, ARTS, & CULTURE

Richmond Heights will transform the historic Greenwood Farm into a treasured resource that enriches its identity, civic pride, and sense of community.

## A DIVERSE AND ENGAGED CITY

Richmond Heights will continue to be a diverse community of active and engaged citizens, and will pursue innovative partnerships that are critical for providing services and amenities to residents.