

The Village of

Brooklyn Heights

MASTER PLAN

ADOPTED October 4, 2022

Village of Brooklyn Heights
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Brooklyn Heights, Ohio 44131

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www.BrooklynHts.org



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



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Our mission is to inform and provide services in support of the short and long term comprehensive planning, quality of life, environment, and economic development of Cuyahoga County and its cities, villages, and townships.

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2022 VILLAGE COUNCIL MEMBERS

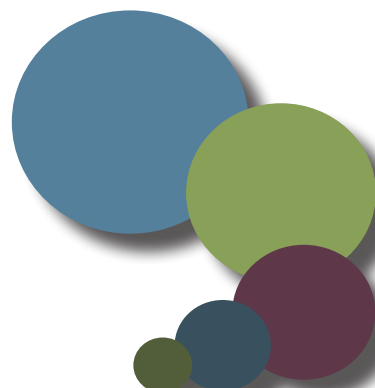
Jennifer Prescott, *Council President Pro Tem*
Raymond B. Berzins, *Councilmember*
Joseph Blados, *Councilmember*

Mark Lasky, *Councilmember*
Matt Walsh, *Councilmember*

PROJECT TEAM

Michael S. Procuk, *Mayor*
Kari S. Baciak, *Mayor's Secretary*
Jerome E. Dowling, *Law Director*
Aaron Frank, *Clerk/Treasurer*
Thea Guilfoye, *Community Services Director*
Ed Hatgas, *Service Director*
Micheal E. Henry, PE, *Village Engineer*
Dale Krzynowek, *Recreation Director*

Michael Lasky, *Assistant Fire Chief*
David Meade, *Police Chief*
Nino Monaco, *Chief Building Official*
Jennifer Presot, *Councilmember*
Joe Presot, *Special Projects Manager*
Narlin Shadd, *Soccer Commissioner*
Howard Sonenstein, *Building Official*
Joe Stefanko, *Fire Chief*



BROOKLYN HEIGHTS

ESTABLISHED
IN 1903
SITE OF
OHIO'S FIRST
COMMERCIAL
GREENHOUSE

OHIO
HISTORICAL
MARKER

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS

With its favorable seasons and fertile soils, the northern Ohio frontier attracted settlers to the Western Reserve from the beginning of the nineteenth century. With a well-established agricultural heritage, "truck farming" became popular as wagons hauled produce to the Central Market on Public Square in Cleveland. Martin Rustenik, who was inducted into the Ohio Agricultural Hall of Fame, introduced the concept of greenhouses growing by contract. In 1900, thirty years later, to extend the growing season, he built a 550-square foot greenhouse. Following his lead, other farmers along Schaeff Road became a greenhouse area in making of Brooklyn Heights one of the leading greenhouse areas in the United States. With its concentration of greenhouse farms, Brooklyn Heights became synonymous with fine, high quality greenhouse tomatoes.

OHIO BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION
THE LONGABECKER COMPANY
THE VILLAGE OF BROOKLYN HEIGHTS
THE OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2005

50-18

TUXEDO AVE

OLD BROOKPARK RD

TUXEDO AVENUE
BROOKPARK
ROAD
500 FEET AHEAD

OUR THANKS

A special thank you to all the residents, groups, public officials, and community representatives that participated in the Master Plan process. Your input at the virtual public meeting, online surveys, interviews, and one-on-one conversations ensured that this document included the thoughts, opinions, hopes, and goals of those who call Brooklyn Heights home.

Thank you especially to those members of Village Council and the Project Team that dedicated their time, energy, and expertise in crafting a Plan for the Village.

2022 VILLAGE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jennifer Prescott, *Council President Pro Tem*
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Joseph Blados, *Councilmember*

Mark Lasky, *Councilmember*
Matt Walsh, *Councilmember*

2020 VILLAGE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mark Lasky, *Council President Pro Tem*
Joseph Blados, *Councilmember*
Tom Lahiff, *Councilmember*

Jennifer Presot, *Councilmember*
Matt Walsh, *Councilmember*

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COMMUNITY VISION STATEMENT

The long-term aspirational goal of the community comprised of a series of Vision Objectives

PAGE 31

VISION OBJECTIVES

The broad ideas that form the foundation of the plan and provide structure to the recommendations

RECOMMENDATIONS

Goals and strategies to address the Vision Objectives both Villagewide and in location-based Focus Areas

VILLAGEWIDE

Recommended goals and strategies that apply throughout the Village

PAGE 35

FOCUS AREAS

Recommended goals and strategies that apply to specific areas where there are greater opportunities for new development

PAGE 79



1 Introduction

WELCOME TO THE MASTER PLAN

The Village of Brooklyn Heights Master Plan is a collection of community aspirations that aim to inspire and guide Village officials and residents as the community moves into the future. By writing down these aspirations, we memorialize the hopes of the Brooklyn Heights community and, importantly, we outline the steps necessary to achieve our goals.

The Village of Brooklyn Heights Master Plan examines the current conditions throughout the Village to develop a profile of demographic trends that are shaping the Village today. This helps to determine which trends should be fostered for the future and which need to change. These trends and the input of the public help determine the vision for the future that is outlined in the Master Plan. This vision is uniquely tailored to the community of Brooklyn Heights and residents' goals for the future.

Based on the current conditions, input, and vision for the future, the Master Plan outlines specific steps that can be taken Villagewide and in Focus Areas to deliver the changes residents wish to see. These ideas range from small changes that can improve daily life in Brooklyn Heights, to large changes that will take time to implement.

The Village of Brooklyn Heights Master Plan is the beginning of this process of transformation, and it is intended to guide changes over many years. Only with the dedicated work of residents, business owners, and Village staff can the Master Plan's goals be achieved. Together, we can work toward a greater Brooklyn Heights.

INTRODUCTION

- History of Brooklyn Heights, pages 10-11
- What is a Master Plan, pages 12-13
- Previous Plans, pages 14-17
- Planning Context, pages 18-19
- Public Involvement, pages 20-21



1.1 HISTORY OF BROOKLYN HEIGHTS

EARLY HISTORY & ESTABLISHMENT

What is today known as the Village of Brooklyn Heights was once part of the unincorporated areas of Brooklyn and Independence Townships. In 1902, taxpayers wanted to withdraw from Brooklyn Township during a tax dispute, but especially to establish their own school district. After a successful campaign, the Village was incorporated in February 1903.

During the 1920s, the population in Brooklyn Heights swelled to approximately 605 residents. In 1927, two-thirds of the community, an area west of Brookpark Road and nearly half the population, was annexed to the City of Cleveland. The remaining residents rebuilt their community under the mayoral leadership of George Thompson. The Village, after years of financial difficulty, grew to 1,600 people in 1958.

AGRICULTURAL PAST

The first Village Mayor Martin Ruetenik and Hamilton Richardson helped to create the Cleveland Growers Marketing Company. Over time, Brooklyn Heights developed into one of the leading vegetable greenhouse areas in the United States, with over 100 acres under glass. The motto “the Greenhouse Center of American” was adopted by the Village in 1932.

While the Village retained its status as a greenhouse center, land in Brooklyn Heights eventually gave way to industry. In 1984, Brooklyn Heights had 1,653 people, over 100 industries, 500 residences, and five greenhouses.

AN IDEAL LOCATION FOR A BEAUTIFUL PARK

During the first 50 years of the 20th Century, an area of parkland towards the southwest border of the Village served as an area of preservation and protection for the approximately one-mile span of the West Creek and its woodlands. However, the officials of the Village of Brooklyn Heights found that this location along the Seven Hills border was “simply a unique and beautiful public park in the middle of a highly urbanized and residential landscape.” As the Village moved away from its agricultural roots, Brooklyn Heights continued to recognize the importance of protecting West Creek and its much-needed floodplain by maintaining the vital streamside forest and riparian area as well as the surrounding area of upland forest.

Brooklyn Heights Park serves as a vital trail connection that will eventually link to the Cleveland Metroparks West Creek Reservation and Watershed Stewardship Center, the historic Henninger House, and the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail, as well surrounding neighborhoods, business districts, and points of interest along the West Creek and West Creek Greenway.

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS TODAY

Throughout the 20th Century, the Village of Brooklyn Heights evolved from a small agricultural town to a thriving village with approximately 1,500 residents and over 200 companies located within a 1.76 square mile radius. Bounded by the Cuyahoga River, the Village of Cuyahoga Heights, and the City of Independence to the east, the City of Parma to the West, and the City of Seven Hills to the south, Brooklyn Heights is centrally located ten miles south of Downtown Cleveland, and is the midway point between both east and west side communities.

In addition to providing many amenities and being an ideal place to grow a business, the Village of Brooklyn Heights has among the lowest property taxes in the state of Ohio, and provides exceptional safety and services to all residences and businesses.



Top left: Martin L. Ruetenik, owner, Ruetenik Gardens Greenhouse. March 1929.

Second from the left, center: Ruetenik Gardens, Brooklyn Heights, Ohio. Oldest vegetable greenhouse in the United States. April 1954.

Third from the center: Schaaf Road Greenhouse, lettuce packing for Central Food Terminal. November 1970.

Second from the bottom, left: Zurowski's Greenhouse, 468 Schaaf Road.

Bottom left: Heart of greenhouse belt on Schaaf Road, August 1970.

Images Source: Village of Brooklyn Heights

1.2 WHAT IS A MASTER PLAN

WHAT IS A MASTER PLAN

Facilitated by County Planning, this Master Plan is a policy guide created for the Village of Brooklyn Heights in collaboration with the Village's residents, business owners, stakeholders, and interested groups. It is a long-term plan for how the community wants to grow and develop in the future, and it is intended to serve the community for a five-to-ten-year span.

Generally, a Master Plan inventories what exists today, outlines a community's vision for the future, and describes concrete action steps to achieve that vision. Developing a plan provides the community an opportunity to give input on the general direction of the Village. It prepares residents and business owners for changes, shapes future development, and gives a competitive advantage when applying for grants and funding.

Residents are encouraged to use the Master Plan to see what changes may occur in their neighborhoods and assist implementation by developing community groups or volunteer organizations to support it. Business owners are encouraged to use the Master Plan to find where the Village is focusing business expansion efforts, and to see what land may be available. The Village is encouraged to use the Master Plan when deciding what infrastructure investments to make, or what grants to apply for. These are substantive ways that members of the community can use the Master Plan to guide their decisions.

MASTER PLAN AND ZONING

The Master Plan is particularly related to land development because it provides a guide for how the community would like to see new uses arranged and developed. While the Master Plan describes potential land use changes, it does not alter any zoning or regulations. Existing zoning remains the same until the Village or a property owner seeks to change zoning through a rezoning or an update to existing Village codes.

The graphic below showcases some of the key features that differentiate Master Plans from Zoning Ordinances.

MASTER PLAN

- A GENERAL POLICY FOR FUTURE GROWTH
- DESCRIBES RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WHAT SHOULD HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE
- INCLUDES BROAD RECOMMENDATIONS THAT CAN BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE VILLAGE, RESIDENTS, OR PARTNERS
- A FLEXIBLE DOCUMENT THAT IS INTENDED TO BE INTERPRETED AS CONDITIONS CHANGE

VS

ZONING ORDINANCE

- SPECIFIC RULES FOR DEVELOPMENT
- DESCRIBES WHAT IS AND WHAT IS NOT ALLOWED TODAY
- INCLUDES MANDATORY REGULATIONS ON DEVELOPMENT THAT ARE ENFORCED BY THE VILLAGE UNLESS SPECIFICALLY WAIVED
- RELATIVELY RIGID SET OF REGULATIONS THAT CAN ONLY BE CHANGED BY A LEGAL PROCESS

PHASES OF THE MASTER PLAN

The Village of Brooklyn Heights Master Plan was grouped into five phases, shown to the right. These phases are described in more depth below:

- **Current Conditions:** In this phase, we developed a demographic, land use, and housing overview of Brooklyn Heights
- **Community Vision:** In this phase, we outlined a vision for how the community wants to grow and develop in the coming decade
- **Recommendations:** In this phase, we outlined specific goals and the action steps that can be taken to achieve the community's desired future
- **Implementation:** In this phase, we attached priorities, timelines, and responsibilities to each action to show they can be accomplished
- **Master Plan Document:** In this final phase, all previous components were combined into this complete Master Plan document

PROCESS



CURRENT CONDITIONS



COMMUNITY VISION



RECOMMENDATIONS



IMPLEMENTATION



MASTER PLAN DOCUMENT



1.3 RELEVANT PLANS

2003 MASTER PLAN

The last Village of Brooklyn Heights Master Plan was completed by the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission in 2003. Through an analysis of data, visioning exercises, and a series of focused committees, the Master Plan outlined five Goals and three Strategic Focus Areas, which are listed here:

Economic Development

- Utilize the Village's central location and highway access
- Create an attractive commercial corridor that serves both residents and employees

Focus Area: Granger Road Corridor

Focus Area: North of Schaaf Road

Housing

- Create new construction housing options to serve specific segments of residents (families with children, empty-nesters, and senior citizens)

Focus Area: North of Schaaf Road

Environmentally Sensitive Areas

- Protect environmentally sensitive areas such as steep slopes, wetlands, watercourses, and floodplains

Focus Area: East of Van Epps Road

Focus Area: North of Schaaf Road

Infrastructure

- Provide a safe, efficient, and well-maintained street network that services residents and businesses

Focus Area: Granger Road Corridor

Focus Area: North of Schaaf Road

Quality of Life

- Transform West Creek Valley and the Cuyahoga River Valley into prime community assets
- Combine recreation and greenspace opportunities in the community
- Work with property owners to convert existing landfills to other uses
- Address the shared safety needs of vehicular traffic, pedestrians, and bicyclists
- Ensure that residential and business uses exist harmoniously

Focus Area: East of Van Epps Road

Focus Area: Granger Road Corridor

Focus Area: North of Schaaf Road

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS

To further define the five Villagewide Goals, the 2003 Master Plan identified three (3) Strategic Focus Areas that outlined key areas of the Village. Each Focus Area recommendation included a comprehensive look at land use and zoning, traffic counts, and potential development. The following summaries summarize recommendations outlined for each Strategic Focus Area.

East of Van Epps Road Focus Area

This Focus Area was proposed by the Cleveland Metroparks and endorsed by the Village of Brooklyn Heights' Council. It included parcels on the east side of Van Epps Road and extended from the northern boundary of the Village southward to the CSX Railroad embankment. A proposed project called for the Cleveland Metroparks to acquire a 17.4 acre conservation easement that would include wooded hillsides and the riparian wildlife habitat that extended approximately 1,500 linear feet along the valley.

The East of Van Epps Road Focus Area would emphasize the importance of viewsheds to and from areas of changing elevations, and the need to protect areas such as steep slopes from inappropriate alteration or development. Additionally, this Focus Area's aims included prioritizing the transformation of the Cuyahoga River Valley into a prime community asset, as well as blending recreation and greenspace opportunities in the Village.

Granger Road Corridor Focus Area

This Focus Area looked at three (3) specific areas located along Granger Road:

Area A – The area on the north side of Granger Road across from Lancaster Drive was identified as a site that could potentially support a 30,200 square foot retail development. Further, as this area developed, it could become part of a bikeway network for the Village with Lancaster Drive as a collector route. A pedestrian path could be built separated from the roadway.

Area B – The area on the south side of Granger Road located between Action Door and the Westbound exit ramp of Interstate 480. The land next to Action Door was privately-owned, with the land to the west part of the State of Ohio-owned right-of-way between Interstate 480 and Granger Road. The total land area was approximately 6.5 to 7.0 acres. The privately-owned land next to Action Door could be developed into a 60,000 square foot office building. The land owned by the State of Ohio could be developed into a 32,400 square foot office building.

Area C – The area on the north side of Granger Road that included the northeast corner of the intersection of Tuxedo

Avenue and extending eastward. The recommendations for this area were proposed in two (2) phases. Phase I looked at the western and middle parcels of land for a potential 100,500 square foot retail building. In Phase II, the eastern parcel could be developed for a 30,000 square foot office building.

North of Schaaf Road Focus Area

This Focus Area was bounded by the CSX Railroad embankment, the Cuyahoga River, the terminus of Valley Belt Road, and the rear lot lines of parcels fronting the north side of Schaaf Road totaling approximately 203 acres of land. The land area extending from the rear lot lines of the parcels fronting on Schaaf Road to the rim of the valley wall was about 112 acres of the total 203 acre land parcel. One of the parcels included in this focus area was owned by the Village of Brooklyn Heights and the remaining parcels in the focus area were privately-owned.

The potential development recommendations for this Strategic Focus Area evolved over several months of meetings with Village Council, the administration, property owners, and Village residents. The final recommendations were broken out into five (5) development alternatives with the following six (6) characteristics:

- Recommend future uses for the land located between the rear lot lines of the parcels fronting the north side of Schaaf Road and the rim of the valley.
- Recommend future uses for the construction and demolition debris landfills adjacent to the Cuyahoga River.
- Protect the hillside and remaining tree cover that forms the valley wall extending from the CSX overpass to Valley Belt Road.
- Utilize buffers to minimize the impact of light industrial uses on residential uses
- Link this area to the existing street network, without directing additional truck traffic to the residential portion of Schaaf Road located east of Schaaf Lane.
- Create a connection from this area to the Towpath Trail, located on the east side of the Cuyahoga River.

WEST CREEK GREENWAY TRAIL MASTER PLAN

The Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District is undergoing design of restoration measures along the lower reaches of the creek above its confluence with the Cuyahoga River. The West Creek Preservation Conservancy (WCPC) is seeking funds to restore the confluence's reach of the stream.

Restoration measures are also planned within the West Creek Reservation. All these measures, along with WCPC's efforts to have Brooklyn Heights, Parma, Seven Hills, and Independence, the four communities immediately within the West Creek Watershed, adopt riparian zone ordinances to protect the stream and improve water quality will eventually lead to improved stream conditions.

The concept for the West Creek Trail and Greenway system centers on community connections and greenway conservation. A series of trails are planned to connect the four communities with each other, their neighborhoods, and community resources, so that residents and visitors have an active transportation choice for traveling to work, school, shopping, or recreation. Due to the compact nature of community land uses, this is a practical possibility that does not require dramatic changes to the urban fabric.

Trails are planned to connect and expand the existing sidewalk system with off road routes that shorten normal travel times, avoid road congestion and improve travel safety.

The trail and greenway system is defined in the plan by segment, including: the West Creek Greenway Trail Segment, the Stearns Farm Connector Trail Segment, the West Creek Reservation Trail Segment and the West Creek Communities Trail Segment. These combined segments connect at both the northern and southern ends with the Ohio and Erie Canalway Towpath Trail to form a continuous nineteen-mile loop within the four communities. The Trail Plan also includes a series of suggested details for trail and trailhead construction.

PLAN TRAIL SEGMENTS

West Creek Greenway Trail Segment

The 6.9-mile West Creek Greenway Trail segment connects the Towpath trail near the Creek's confluence at the Cuyahoga River in Independence with the West Creek Reservation further south. The greenway takes advantage of the park lands in Brooklyn Heights and Parma that exist along the greenway to connect community resources with the neighborhoods. A substantial part of the trail's length is within the residential neighborhoods on a proposed widened sidewalk.



West Creek Reservation Trail Segment

The 1.9-mile West Creek Reservation Trail is the major all purpose trail through the developing West Creek Reservation, connecting at both the northern and southern ends of the park with the West Creek Greenway corridor. The trail gives Reservation visitors and Greenway users the opportunity to experience the West Creek Valley up close. Not only does the trail pass by the Reservation's many planned facilities but the experience of the trail through the West Creek valley is unmatched elsewhere in the Greenway.



Stearns Farm Connector Trail Segment

Just west of the Reservation off Ridge Road in Parma is a unique park facility that interprets a working farm for visitors. Community leaders have a strong desire to connect this special facility with the Reservation through a connector trail. The 3.6-mile route not only connects Stearns Farm Park with West Creek Reservation but it offers opportunities to connect western neighborhoods and major institutional facilities with both parks.



West Creek Communities Trail Segment

The 7.1-mile West Creek Communities Trail Segment connects the southern end of West Creek Reservation with the communities of Parma, Seven Hills and Independence and the Ohio and Erie Canalway Towpath Trail in Valley View. The route is continuous through neighborhoods and past civic facilities.



1.4 PLANNING CONTEXT

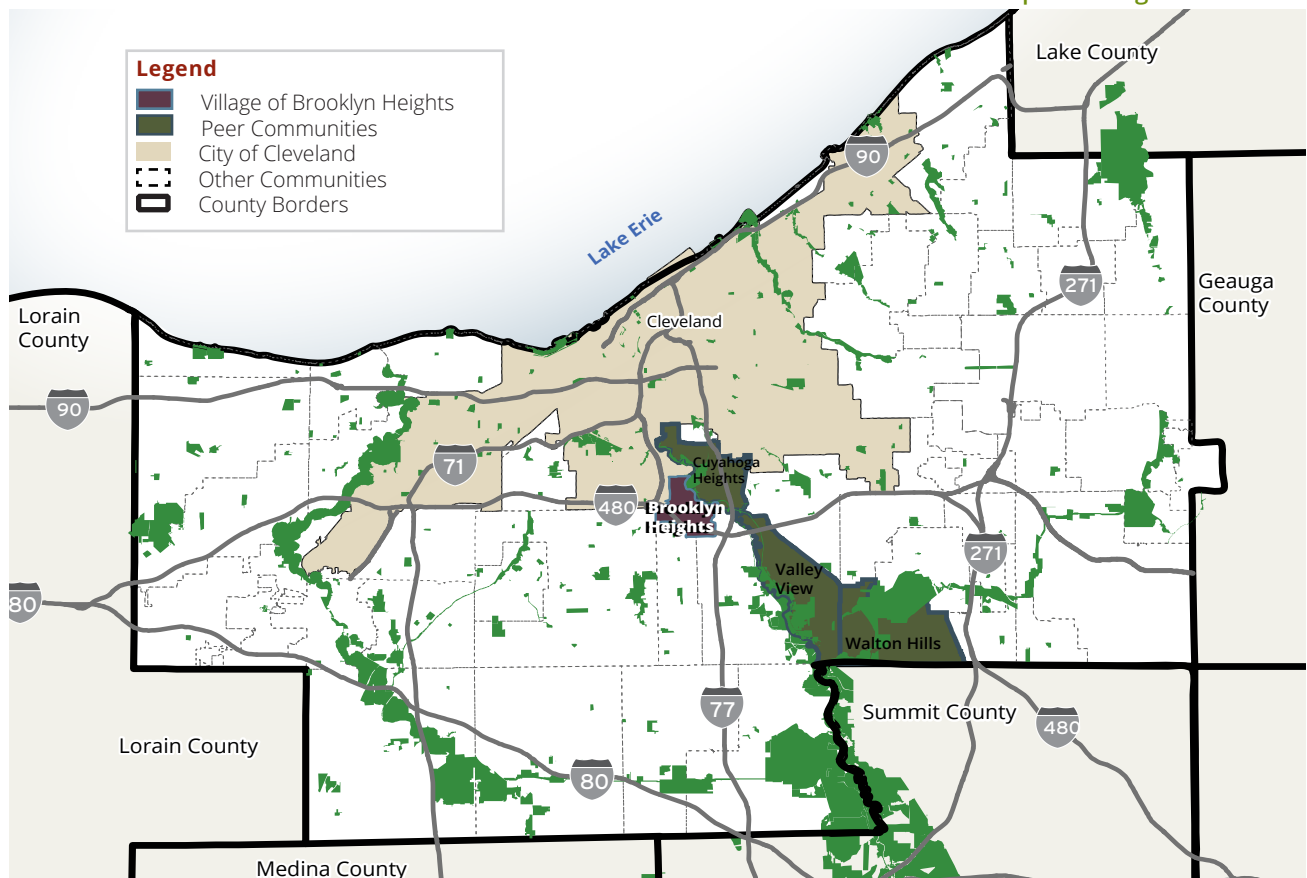
REGIONAL CONTEXT

The Village of Brooklyn Heights is shown in maroon on the map below. Brooklyn Heights is centrally located between the eastern and western suburbs of Cuyahoga County, and shares its borders with the Cities of Cleveland, Parma, Seven Hills, and Independence to the north, west and south, with the Cuyahoga River forming a portion of its northeastern border.

Regional destinations such as downtown Cleveland and Cleveland Hopkins International Airport are easily accessible via two major interchanges on Interstate 77 and 480, and at the interchange of Interstate 480 and State Route 176.

Within the Brooklyn Heights Master Plan, comparisons are made between Brooklyn Heights, several Peer Communities, and the County as a whole. These Peer Communities are Cuyahoga Heights, Valley View, and Walton Hills. They were chosen due to their location, size, and similar land use characteristics and transportation infrastructure.

Map 1 — Regional Context

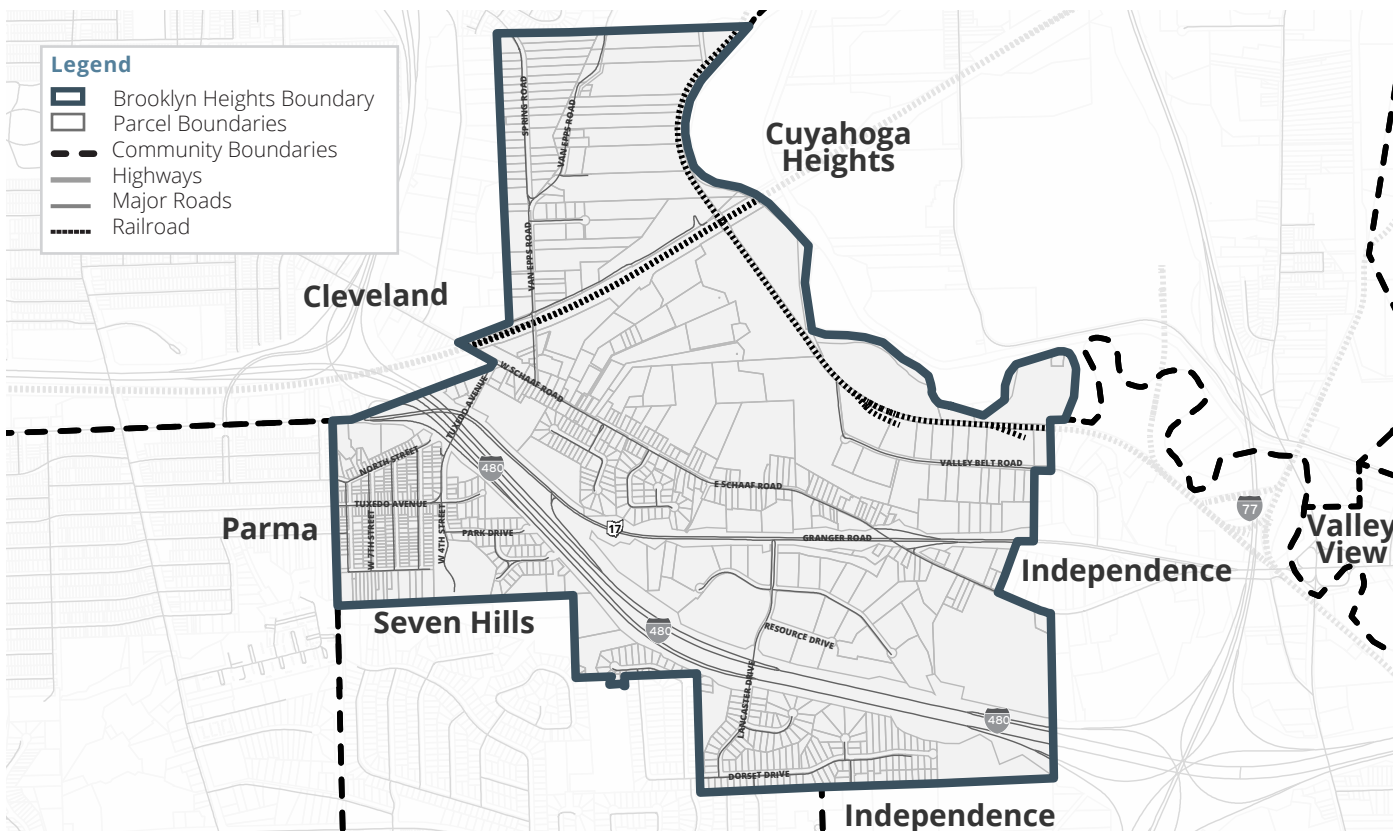


VILLAGE CONTEXT

The Village of Brooklyn Heights is shown in the map below. The Village encompasses approximately 1.7 square miles and is largely comprised of one-family residential areas with a concentrated industrial area along Spring and Van Epps Roads in the northwestern corner of the Village. The area north of West and East Schaaf Roads contains other industrial areas that include working greenhouses and several active or closed landfills. Just south of Granger Road, which bisects the Village, is Interstate 480, which cuts through the Village's southernmost region, and separates the residential areas from one another and the industrial areas.

Two CSX Railroad (CSX) lines run through the Village of Brooklyn Heights. The east-west track of the CSX rail line travels south of Van Epps Road before it crosses over the Cuyahoga River into Cuyahoga Heights at the Village's northeast border. The CSX Railroad's north-south track runs parallel to the Cuyahoga River along the Village's eastern border. Other environmental features include a portion of the West Creek that flows through the Village to the south.

Map 2 — Planning Context



1.5 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The Master Plan process included numerous opportunities for public involvement to ensure that the Plan reflected the concerns, ideas, and priorities of residents and stakeholders.

INVOLVED GROUPS

The planning process involved the input of three tiers of engagement: the Project Team, stakeholder interviews, and the public. This three-tiered approach allowed for more input at various phases to ensure the goals and recommendations in the Master Plan fit what the community would like to see.

The Project Team comprised of Village staff and public officials with an in-depth knowledge of the day-to-day operations of the Village. The stakeholder interviews were conducted to gain insight from regional entities and other key representatives. Finally, the public included any interested residents or parties that would like to be involved in the process.

VIRTUAL PRESENTATION AND ONLINE FEEDBACK

The Village of Brooklyn Heights Master Plan was conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic, and typical large-scale public meetings were not possible. County Planning worked with the Village of Brooklyn Heights to engage the community and facilitate ongoing discussion. Early on in the pandemic, community outreach was conducted via an online survey and virtual public presentation, which were made available to the public via the Village and County Planning websites. Notices about the survey, virtual presentation, and the opportunity for public input and comment were also made available via paper copies through a Villagewide mass mailing. In all methods of notification and at the end of the questionnaire itself, the public was made aware of the opportunity to convey their opinion and input in writing, beyond the limitation of the survey questionnaire, to an email address specific to this planning process.

The Village of Brooklyn Heights Master Plan Virtual Public Presentation and Community Vision Survey was presented, conducted, and made available from January 5, 2021 until February 7, 2021. There were 206 respondents (155 online, 51 paper) with approximately 506 written comments in total.

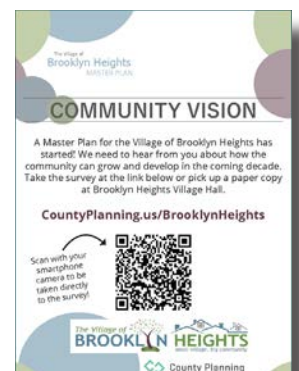
The Community Vision Survey findings and materials are available as an appendix.



Community Vision Survey
Village of Brooklyn Heights Master Plan



Community Vision Survey Results Report
Village of Brooklyn Heights Master Plan

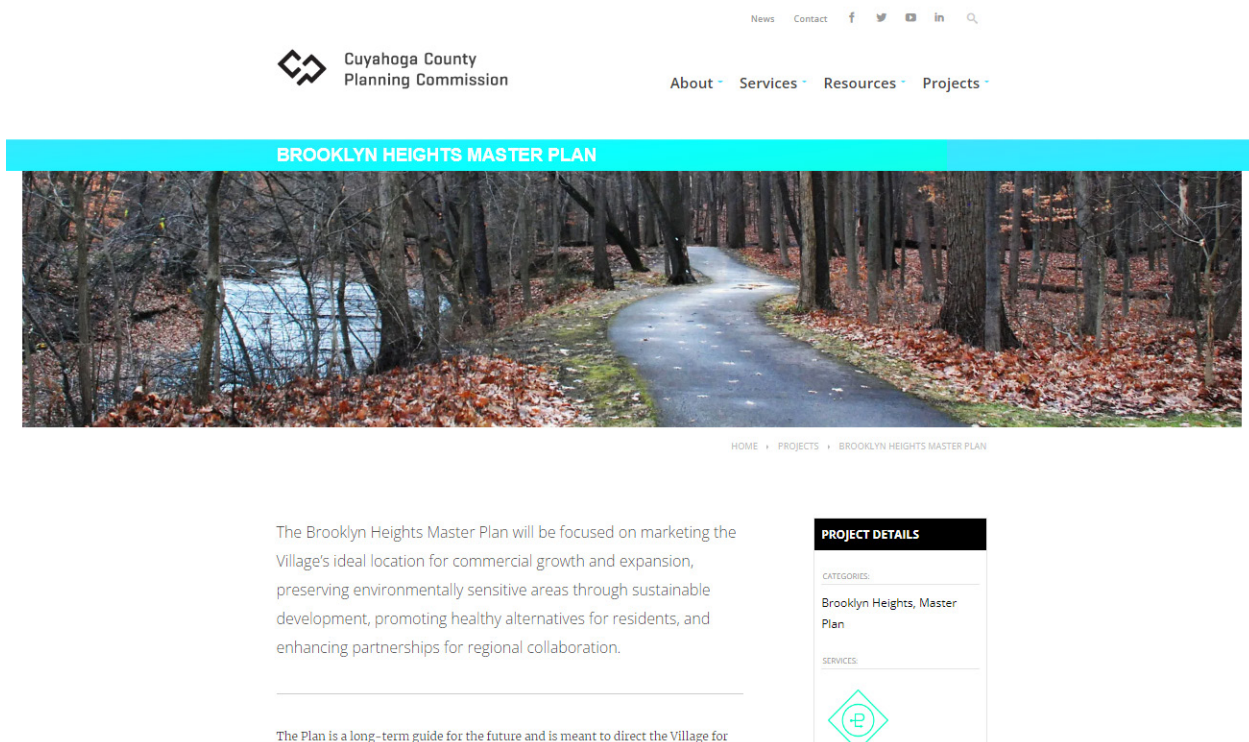


Community Vision Survey Flyer
Village of Brooklyn Heights Master Plan

PROJECT WEBSITE

Developing a plan provides the community an opportunity to give input, an integral component of the planning process. Multiple outlets were used to gather input from a diverse group of residents and stakeholders. One of the first and simplest methods to inform and reach residents was the launch of a project specific website: <https://www.countyplanning.us/projects/brooklyn-heights-master-plan/>

This website was updated to feature information about the plan, documents, links to online surveys, and presentation materials. It was designed to provide the tools necessary for community members to stay informed and provide feedback virtually. This proved critical as much of the Village of Brooklyn Heights Master Plan was developed during the COVID-19 pandemic and required socially-distant engagement.





2 Current Conditions

WHAT'S INSIDE

Many factors affect a community's future, including population and housing trends, income and tax receipts, proximity to transit, and natural features. These elements are important in establishing a baseline for what exists today, what challenges must be addressed, and what opportunities may arise.

County Planning completed an in-depth analysis of current conditions and an overall assessment of trends in Brooklyn Heights. The data in the Current Conditions section comes from numerous sources, including the U.S. Census' American Community Survey, Cuyahoga County, the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission, and the Village of Brooklyn Heights. The complete assessment is available in the appendix, but this section includes an overview of the most pertinent data and most significant trends in Brooklyn Heights.

HOW DO I USE IT?

The Current Conditions section gives a baseline understanding of the community. This data was used to inform the Master Plan's goals and actions. You can use this information to get a better understanding of community issues and opportunities.

CURRENT CONDITIONS

- Current Conditions Overview, pages 24-25
- Key Findings:
 - Community Profile, page 26
 - Transportation & Infrastructure Profile, page 27
 - Land Use Profile, page 28
 - Community Services Profile, page 29



2.1 CURRENT CONDITIONS OVERVIEW

The Current Conditions document covered more than three dozen topics including demographics, housing, land use, and transportation data, and proximity to natural features. Below is an overview of significant trends from the assessment.

COMMUNITY PROFILE

- Since 2000, the overall population of Brooklyn Heights has remained relatively stable.
- Between 2013 and 2018, Brooklyn Heights saw increases in population among children (+28.5%), young adults (+26.5%), and seniors (+12.6%).
- Nearly 50% of jobs in Brooklyn Heights are in wholesale trade, construction, and professional, scientific, and technical services industries.
- Brooklyn Heights' rental rate of 10.9% is lower than the peer communities and Cuyahoga County, indicating a higher owner-occupancy rate.

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE PROFILE

- The automobile is the primary means for residents to access their place of employment. Approximately, 94.9% of Brooklyn Heights residents commute to work by driving.
- Brooklyn Heights has very good sidewalk coverage in residential areas such as the neighborhoods to the west and south of I-480, and along East Schaaf Road. While some residential neighborhoods have well-defined grid patterns such as those in the Tuxedo Avenue neighborhoods, other areas do not lend themselves to walking such as the neighborhoods near Lancaster and Dorset Roads which are cul-de-sacs that lack connectivity to other neighborhoods.
- A portion of the completed West Creek Greenway Trail runs through Brooklyn Heights Village Park and includes a pedestrian bridge over the West Creek. The proposed trail system will ultimately connect to the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail via residential and commercial areas in the City of Parma and the Village of Brooklyn Heights.
- The Ohio Department of Transportation plans to address ongoing traffic congestion and safety issues at the SR-176 and I-480 interchange, which includes local access ramps for Granger road and Brookpark Road.

LAND USE PROFILE

- The Village of Brooklyn Heights is situated on the northern edge of the West Creek watershed, and the lower limits of the Lower Cuyahoga subwatershed at the northeastern border. The Cuyahoga River forms the northeast boundary of Brooklyn Heights and the West Creek flows along the southwest border of the Village.
- A healthy tree canopy provides environmental benefits and increases property values. Brooklyn Heights' existing tree canopy was measured at 24.6%, well below the County's average of 34.7% and of those of some peer communities.
- Industrial, Residential, and Vacant Land are the three largest land uses in Brooklyn Heights. Industrial land use, which comprises 27.87% of the land by type, is located near the rail lines in the northwest and eastern portions of the Village, creating two industrial cores around Van Epps Road and Valley Belt Road.
- Vacant Land, comprising 20.22% of the land by type, had been part of the agricultural uses in the Village's past and are either Village-owned or closed landfill.

COMMUNITY SERVICES PROFILE

- Brooklyn Heights Park, also known as Tuxedo Park, is the largest green and open space within the Village. The Park offers amenities, various walking trails, and two playgrounds.
- Brooklyn Heights' Community Services Department provides services and programs such as Village bus transportation, Meals on Wheels, social worker services, social activities, and other activities for residents. Over the past decade, the Village of Brooklyn Heights' Community Service Department has obtained over \$180,000 in grants for these and other community events and programs.
- Brooklyn Heights residents can use facilities through shared use agreements with neighboring communities such as Brooklyn, Cuyahoga Heights, Independence, Newburgh Heights, Seven Hills, and Valley View, and in the regional communities of Broadview Heights, Macedonia, Middleburg Heights, and Walton Hills.
- The Village of Brooklyn Heights Recreation Department offers a variety of sports including soccer, basketball, youth baseball & softball, and the Blue Wave Swim Team. In addition to overseeing the Community Center, the Recreation Department oversees all Village Park facilities, including three pavilions and playground equipment.

COMMUNITY PROFILE

KEY FINDINGS

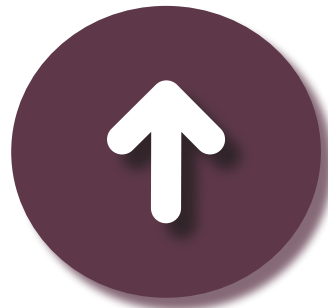
BROOKLYN HEIGHTS' POPULATION HAS BEEN STABLE FOR THE PAST FOUR DECADES

In 1980, the population in Brooklyn Heights was 1,653. Population declined by 12% between 1980 and 1990. By 2000, the population had rebounded to 1,558 residents and has remained relatively stable since that time with only slight population decreases.



THE FASTEST GROWING AGE GROUPS IN THE VILLAGE ARE CHILDREN, YOUNG ADULTS, AND SENIORS

The Village of Brooklyn Heights has a larger population of seniors and children, with a small population of young adults and working-age adults. Between 2013 and 2018, Brooklyn Heights saw population growth among children, young adults, and seniors.



WHOLESALE TRADE, CONSTRUCTION AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ARE THE LARGEST EMPLOYMENT SECTORS IN THE VILLAGE

The Wholesale Trade (21.9%); Construction (13.0%); and Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (12.7%) sectors comprise nearly 50% of employment in Brooklyn Heights.



BROOKLYN HEIGHTS HAS THE HIGHEST HOUSING OCCUPANCY RATE OF 96.8%

In Brooklyn Heights, 96.8% of units are occupied, which is a slightly higher rate than among peer communities (95.3%) and Cuyahoga County (87.0%). This indicates a low percentage of vacant housing units.



TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE PROFILE

KEY FINDINGS

THE VAST MAJORITY OF BROOKLYN HEIGHTS RESIDENTS COMMUTE TO WORK BY DRIVING

Approximately 94.9% of residents commute to work by driving, either by themselves or in a carpool. This is a slightly higher proportion of residents driving to work than peer communities (92.3%) or Cuyahoga County (87.7%).



THE VILLAGE HAS VERY GOOD SIDEWALK COVERAGE IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS, BUT LIMITED COVERAGE IN INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS PARK AREAS

Sidewalk coverage in the industrial and business park areas in Brooklyn Heights is limited, and often where there are sidewalks they are not of good quality due to physical deterioration, lack of safe separation from the roadway, or light posts and fire hydrants in the center of the sidewalk.



A PORTION OF THE WEST CREEK GREENWAY GOES THROUGH BROOKLYN HEIGHTS PARK

The West Creek Greenway, which goes through Brooklyn Heights Park approximately a half mile and includes a pedestrian bridge over the West Creek, connects residents to the West Creek Reservation.



THERE ARE ONGOING ROAD AND INFRASTRUCTURE STUDIES IN BROOKLYN HEIGHTS

ODOT is studying traffic flow improvement at the SR-176 and IR-480 interchange in Cleveland and Brooklyn Heights.

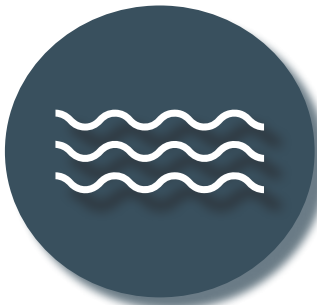


LAND USE PROFILE

KEY FINDINGS

NATURAL HABITATS WITHIN BROOKLYN HEIGHTS PROTECT WATERWAYS RUNNING THROUGH THE VILLAGE

Riparian zones hold water during periods of heavy or continuous rain that might otherwise flood residential or developed areas, and help protect the health of nearby rivers.



BROOKLYN HEIGHTS' TREE CANOPY COVERAGE IS LOWER THAN THE COUNTY AVERAGE

Tree canopy percentage in Brooklyn Heights was measured at 24.6%, below the County's average of 37.6%. To assist with a Public Tree Inventory & Management Planning Project, the Village was awarded \$11,636 in the 2019 Urban Tree Canopy Grant Program.



INDUSTRIAL, RESIDENTIAL, AND VACANT LAND COMPRISE THE LARGEST LAND USES IN THE VILLAGE

Industrial, Residential, and Vacant Land are the Village's three largest land uses, and together comprises nearly 69% of the total acreage. Industrial land provide major property tax and income tax revenue for the Village.



VACANT LAND IN THE VILLAGE IS VILLAGE-OWNED OR A CLOSED LANDFILL

The majority of vacant land is either Village-owned or closed landfill and could provide space for parks or other environmental sustainability and conservation efforts.



COMMUNITY SERVICES PROFILE

KEY FINDINGS

OVER THE LAST DECADE, BROOKLYN HEIGHTS COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS OBTAINED THOUSANDS IN GRANTS

The Community Services Department has obtained over \$180,000 in grants for various community events and programs such as Art in the Park/Concert in the Park, the Enhanced Mobility Van, and Harvest for Hunger.



YOUTH SPORTS LEAGUES ARE AVAILABLE TO BROOKLYN HEIGHTS RESIDENTS

The Village of Brooklyn Heights Recreation Department offers a variety of sports including soccer, basketball, youth baseball & softball, and the Blue Wave Swim Team.



VILLAGE RESIDENTS HAVE ACCESS TO NEIGHBORING FACILITIES AND AMENITIES THROUGH COLLABORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Brooklyn Heights residents have access to neighboring and regional recreation facilities through shared facilities agreements. This allows residents to purchase recreation center memberships at a discounted rate and have access to baseball fields, basketball courts, and soccer fields in the neighboring communities.



BROOKLYN HEIGHTS PARK IS THE LARGEST GREENSPACE IN THE VILLAGE

The park offers amenities such as a baseball diamond with concession stand, a sand volleyball court, soccer field, barbecue grills, three large pavilions with picnic tables, various walking trails, and two playgrounds with new equipment.





3 Community Vision

WHAT'S INSIDE

This section covers the five Vision Objectives identified through the Current Conditions analysis and input from the 2003 Brooklyn Heights Master Plan, Project Team, residents, and community stakeholders. The Vision Statement and Objectives cover a wide range of topics, describing how a community and its residents would like to get around, where they would like to recreate, how they would like to interact with government, and what types of new investments they would like to see. These objectives are described in broad, overarching descriptions to cover the general desires and needs of residents, and other aspects of the Village's growth over the next five to ten years.

HOW DO I USE IT?

The Community Vision Section describes the desired future for Brooklyn Heights. The Vision Statement and Objectives should be used as the basis for undertaking future actions and to evaluate where specific actions or projects meet the goals of the Master Plan.

The Vision Objectives are the foundation for all of the Recommendations that are proposed in the Plan.

COMMUNITY VISION

- Vision for the Future, pages 32-33



3.1 VISION STATEMENT

The Village of Brooklyn Heights is a small Village, but a big community that will employ the following objectives to guide future development:



REDEVELOPMENT

ATTRACT AND RETAIN STRONG BUSINESSES THROUGH A WELCOMING COMMUNITY.

Brooklyn Heights will be a community that aims to focus on the attraction and retention of high-quality jobs and businesses that support the economic vitality of the Village's existing commercial and industrial areas, and that will facilitate redevelopment in the Valley Belt and Spring Road industrial corridors.



CONNECTIVITY

DEVELOP AN INTERCONNECTED NETWORK TO NEIGHBORHOODS AND DISTRICTS WHILE PROMOTING AND PROVIDING HEALTHY ALTERNATIVES FOR RESIDENTS.

Brooklyn Heights will be a community that aims to improve the pedestrian and bicycle network by providing a strategic system of safe, all-purpose trails, sidewalks, and other facilities which emphasize local and regional connections while considering neighborhood impacts.



ENVIRONMENTAL

PRESERVE ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS.

Brooklyn Heights will be a community that prioritizes sustainable development that utilizes environmentally friendly design, green infrastructure, and development regulations to improve storm water management, develop sustainable landfill end uses, enhance park amenities and recreational facilities, expand recreational offerings, and elevate the environmental quality of the area.



REGIONALISM

ENHANCE REGIONAL COLLABORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS.

Brooklyn Heights will be a community that continues to build on its strong regional partnerships and collaborations with nearby government entities and local organizations to provide superior services to residents, visitors, and businesses while promoting the region.



HOUSING

MAINTAIN HIGH RESIDENTIAL STANDARDS THAT ACCOMMODATE A BROAD AND DIVERSE RANGE OF LIFESTYLES AND STAGES OF LIFE.

Brooklyn Heights will be a community of well-maintained neighborhoods that allow families to live and grow in the Village, while providing housing types that accommodate varied ages, income groups of different household sizes, and persons of all abilities.



4 Villagewide Recommendations

WHAT'S INSIDE

This section covers recommendations under each of the five Villagewide Vision Objectives.

The Villagewide Recommendations cover the wide range of topics the public and Project Team considered the most important for connecting existing Village neighborhoods and business districts, while providing a framework for maintaining the high quality of life in Brooklyn Heights.

HOW DO I USE IT?

The Villagewide Recommendations section covers changes to Village policy and actions that can be taken for the benefit of the Village as a whole. It should be used as a guide for the Village, residents, neighborhood groups, and others to decide on actions that can address identified issues.

The Villagewide Recommendations is the first half of the Plan's Recommendations.

VILLAGEWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Redevelopment, pages 36-43
- Connectivity, pages 44-57
- Environmental, pages 58-65
- Regionalism, pages 66-69
- Housing, pages 70-77





4.1 REDEVELOPMENT

ATTRACT AND RETAIN STRONG BUSINESSES THROUGH A WELCOMING COMMUNITY.

Brooklyn Heights will be a community that aims to focus on the attraction and retention of high-quality jobs and businesses that support the economic vitality of the Village's existing commercial and industrial areas, and that will facilitate redevelopment in the Valley Belt and Spring Road industrial corridors.

The economic redevelopment vision for the Village of Brooklyn Heights is to market its central location in Cuyahoga County to attract office, research, and light industrial business investments to the Village and Northeast Ohio. Focused economic development efforts can lead to a strong and diversified economy, resulting in quality jobs, strong neighborhoods, well-planned communities, adequate infrastructure, sufficient capital, a well-educated and highly trained labor force, and an expanded tax base. These recommendations outline the various ways to improve, attract, and retain businesses in the Village of Brooklyn Heights.

ECONOMIC REDEVELOPMENT & REVITALIZATION

Brooklyn Heights' main business areas are concentrated to the north along Van Epps Road, Spring Road, and Tuxedo Avenue at West and East Schaaf Road, and to the southeast along Lancaster Drive, Resource Drive, Keynote Circle, and Valley Belt Road. Each of these areas have a vital connection to the neighborhoods surrounding them. A welcoming and lively business district strengthens those neighborhoods by providing economic opportunities such as entry-level employment, on-the-job training opportunities, and specialized goods and services for residents and visitors.

RETAIN AND ATTRACT BUSINESSES

Existing businesses are the foundation of any economic growth strategy. Brooklyn Heights has a robust industrial and business base and by building on what already exists, the Village can support current businesses and create a strong foundation on which to attract new businesses, residents, and employment. Supporting existing businesses could include actions like adding or improving infrastructure, making streetscape improvements, and planning activities that bring people into Brooklyn Heights' business districts, all of which can help retain existing businesses by broadening their customer base.

As it is important to retain existing businesses, and support those businesses for sustained economic development, attracting new businesses could help increase local employment options and build the Village's tax base. Attracting new businesses is often most effective when the effort is tailored to the industries that are best suited to a community's assets and opportunities that can provide high-quality

employment options for local residents or other services and amenities desired by the community.

IMPROVE GATEWAYS AND ENTRANCES

Enhancing the primary gateways and entrances at major intersections in Brooklyn Heights will help to identify the Village as a destination. Targeted intersections are identified on the map on page 25.

The Village should strengthen these key gateways by enhancing crosswalks and improving signaling for a safer pedestrian experience. Adding signage and wayfinding to these gateways would help in identifying the businesses and enhance the feel of the Village overall.

GOAL 1: DEVELOP A BUSINESS ATTRACTION PROGRAM THAT TARGETS THOSE ECONOMIC SECTORS IN BROOKLYN HEIGHTS THAT CAN CREATE OR SUSTAIN ECONOMIC GROWTH AND JOB CREATION

Strategy 1.1

Partner with TeamNEO and Jobs Ohio to position Brooklyn Heights as an advantageous business location due to its highway access, industrially zoned land, proximity to regional airports, and central location.

Strategy 1.2

Continue to update the Village's website and TeamNEO's regional database with available properties and land.

Strategy 1.3

Support prospective businesses looking to relocate to the Village by providing a customer-focused site selection assistance service through an interactive GIS-based information platform.

Strategy 1.4

Target industries that provide jobs and complement existing land uses and industries in the Village, including technology, research & development, and advanced manufacturing.

Strategy 1.5

Consider an incentive strategy, such as a Community Reinvestment Area, to encourage hiring more workers and reinvesting in buildings.

Strategy 1.6

Work with the Ohio Environmental Protections Agency to proactively identify and remediate brownfields and bring them back to productive use.

GOAL 2: FOSTER THE RETENTION AND EXPANSION OF BROOKLYN HEIGHTS' EXISTING BUSINESSES THROUGH ONGOING ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION SHARING

Strategy 2.1

Ensure that businesses are aware of available financial assistance, including the Cuyahoga County Department of Development Economic Development Loan and Grow Cuyahoga County Fund.

Strategy 2.2

Partner with economic development agencies to provide local businesses with technical assistance in marketing.

Strategy 2.3

Partner with economic development agencies to assist with financial incentives to fund improvements for landscaping, signs, or building façades.

Strategy 2.4

Continue to partner with the Cuyahoga Valley Chamber of Commerce to increase communication between the business community and the Village which could include tours, open houses, and networking events.

Strategy 2.5

Evaluate the Village's economic programs by conducting an annual business climate and satisfaction survey.

CASE STUDY: PHILADELPHIA, PA - ANNUAL MAYORAL BUSINESS LUNCHEON

The Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce produces programs and events to connect its members and others to one another and to generate new ideas. Every year, the Mayor of Philadelphia introduces new economic development initiatives and shares a vision for the city.

More than 1,400 executives, elected officials, business owners, and civic leaders attend the annual luncheon, in which the mayor addresses the region's business community.

For information on this topic visit: <https://chamberphl.com/signature-events/mayoral-luncheon/>



Source: City of Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce



Image Source: County Planning & Village of Brooklyn Heights

CASE STUDY: CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, OH - COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA

In 2018, the City of Cleveland Heights created a citywide Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) to offer tax incentives and benefits to property owners. This CRA evolved into the Grow program, a tax savings plan that extends tax benefits to eligible residential and commercial properties that help support reinvestment in existing buildings and also encourage new construction.

Residential properties are eligible for property tax savings for new and remodeling construction. Based on the strength of the housing market at the census tract level, tax savings on residential properties start at 25% for five years and go as high as 100% for 15 years.

Commercial projects that meet certain criteria are also eligible for tax savings, and are subject to required terms of development incentive

agreements, that are negotiated on a case-by-case basis with the City of Cleveland Heights and the Cleveland Heights-University Heights School District.

For information on this topic visit: <https://www.clevelandheights.com/>



Source: City of Cleveland Heights

GOAL 3: DESIGN ATTRACTIVE SPACES TO CREATE A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT IN AND ADJACENT TO INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL AREAS

Strategy 3.1

Consider qualified design professionals to develop a consistent Village brand for gateway signs and decorative infrastructure.

Strategy 3.2

Work with local businesses to create a unique identity for industrial and business districts.

Strategy 3.3

Enhance gateways with appropriate signage to define entrances into Brooklyn Heights and Village Districts.

Strategy 3.4

Enhance landscape standards for new development in the Limited Industrial and General Industrial zoned areas of the Village in order to green industrial areas and reduce stormwater runoff.

Strategy 3.5

Update parking lot landscaping and setback standards to create visually attractive and green parking areas.

LANDSCAPING

Streetscape elements such as landscaping enliven districts and enhance the aesthetic appeal of the community.



SIGNAGE

Signage helps to identify businesses, gateways, and key destinations within the community.



CASE STUDY: COLUMBUS, OH - WHITTIER PENINSULA BROWNFIELD RENEWAL

Officials at the Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District (Metro Parks) in Columbus, Ohio were able to transform a 160-acre industrial brownfield site, along the Scioto River, into a recreational area. The Whittier Peninsula went neglected and underutilized for years and was transformed into the Scioto Audubon Metro Park with wetlands, walking trails, and new environmental education center.

In a public and private joint venture, City and County officials obtained 1.5 million in brownfield cleanup grants to fund the project, and Burgess & Niple provided guidance and assistance for defining the vision for the space and performed the necessary environmental services that included: Phase I and II Environmental Property Assessments, Human Health Risk Assessments, supervision of remedial activities on the site, and design of remediation plans including the creation of wetlands in areas where impacted soil was removed.

This brownfield renewal project transformed a blighted, crime-ridden property into a recreational destination for the community to enjoy fishing, biking, sand volleyball, a dog park, a playground, a picnic area, and the Midwest's largest outdoor public climbing wall.

For information on this topic visit:
<http://www.burgessniple.com/our-work/whittier-peninsula-brownfield-renewal/>



Source: Burgess & Niple

SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING

VILLAGE GATEWAY SIGNAGE

Brooklyn Heights should consider updating its current Villagewide branding and wayfinding systems. This community branding update could consist of various elements such as gateway enhancements, wayfinding signage, and decorative streetscape elements, and these improvements would be very impactful on the public realm. As gateways typically occur along community boundaries or along major roads, cooperation and coordination with state and regional governments or property owners will be necessary for implementation in some areas.

Consistent branding and signage defines and beautifies places, provides visitors with an enjoyable and memorable experience, and adds a level of predictability for users. Consistency in location, design, and content is key to creating an intuitive wayfinding system. Implementing consistent design and signage at major gateways into Brooklyn Heights, and along major corridors such as a gateway mast arm at Tuxedo Avenue at West and East Schaaf Roads, would help define the physical boundaries of the Village and provide an impressive welcome to residents and visitors.

PARK SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING

A cohesive and consistent signage and wayfinding system in the natural environment is just as important as in the built environment. An effective park and playgrounds signage and wayfinding system would improve navigation and connectivity throughout the Village's recreational areas, create a sense of arrival for residents and visitors, and highlight the many important features upon entry into the park such as the

location of trails, pavilions, soccer and baseball fields, and the waterfall near the pedestrian bridge of the West Creek.

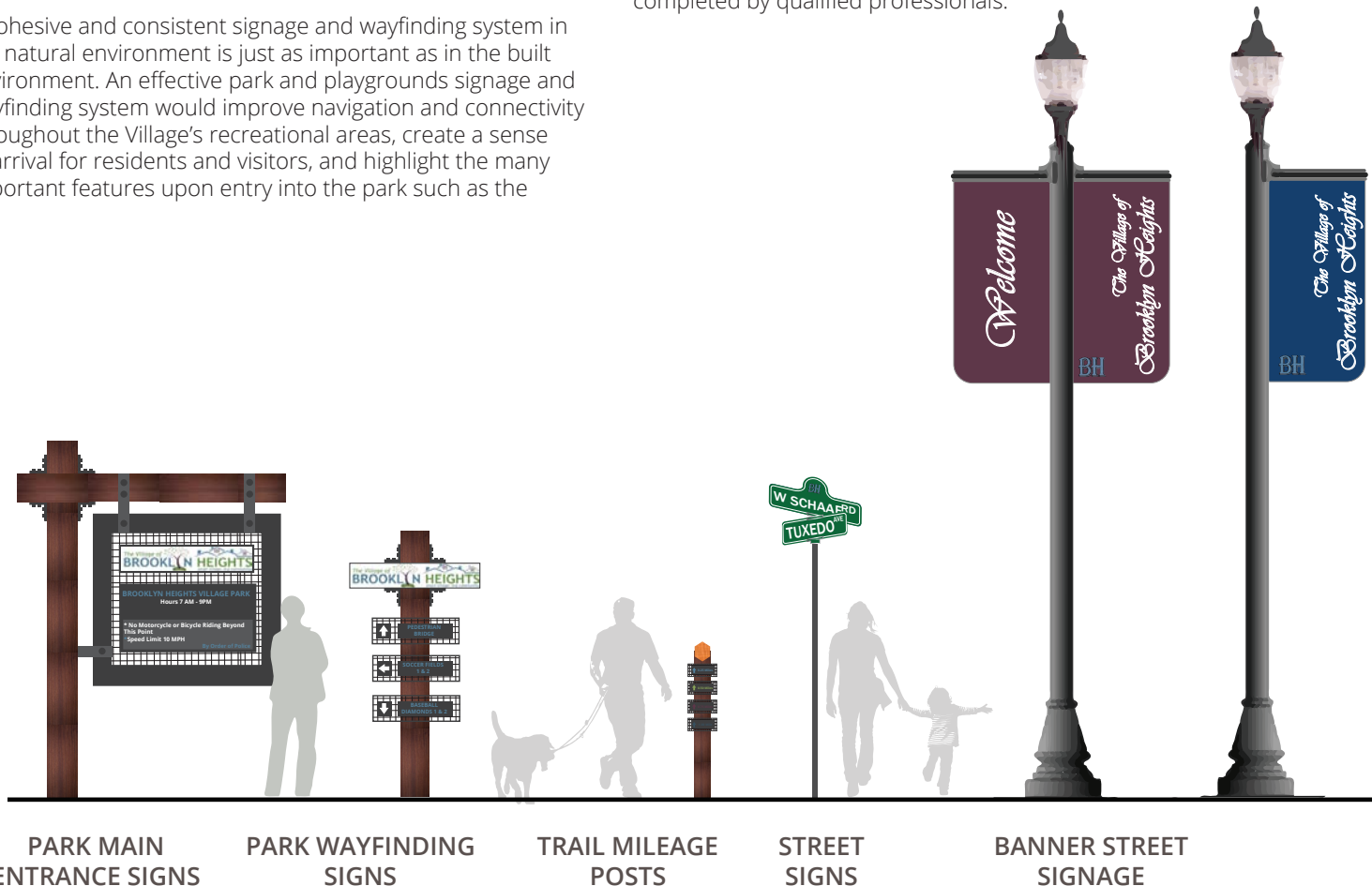
Additionally, a park signage and wayfinding system would be in keeping with the residents' desire to retain the Village's character and identify as a friendly and welcoming place, while enhancing and beautifying the parks and open spaces throughout Brooklyn Heights.

GATEWAY LOCATIONS

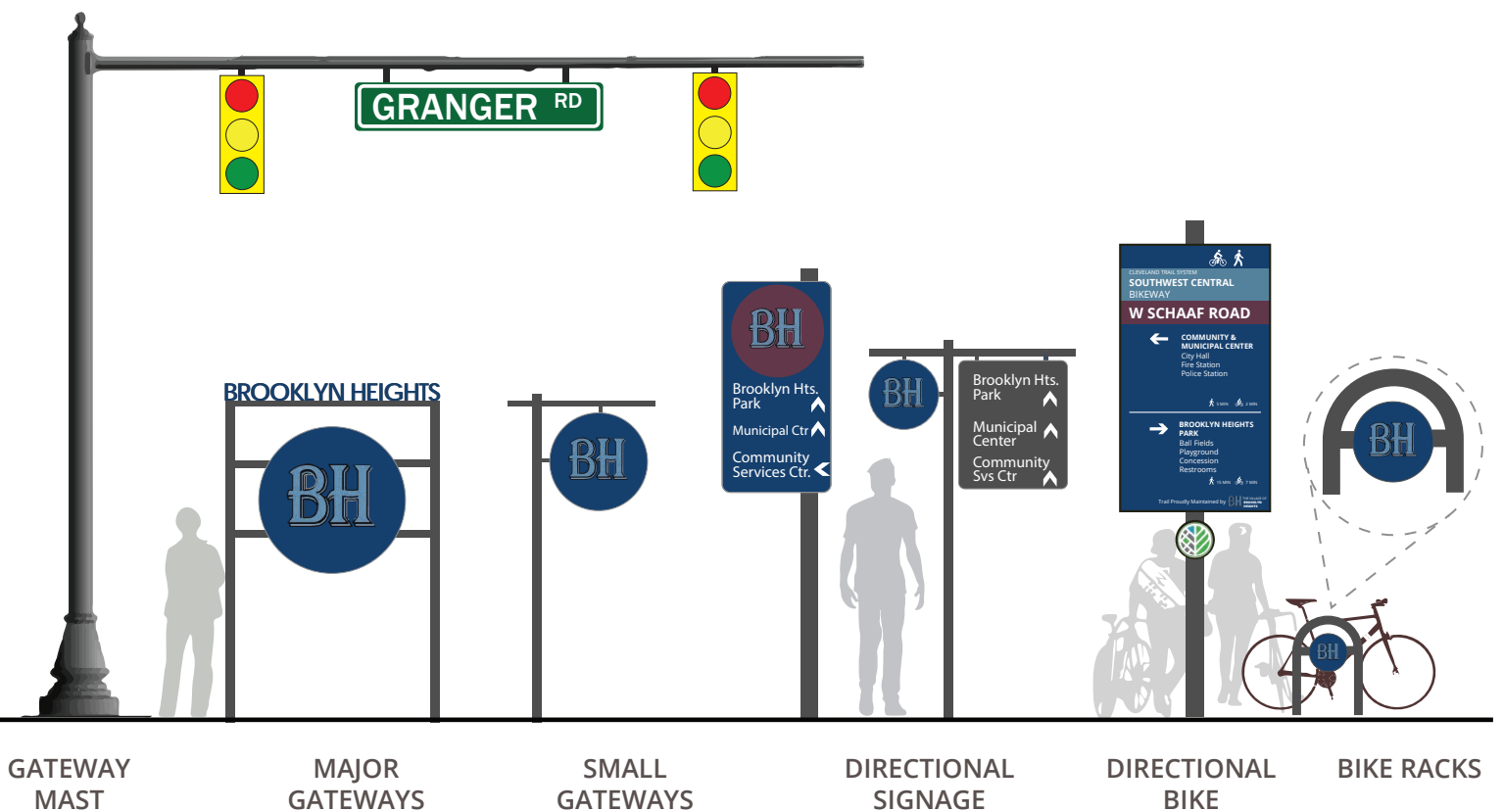
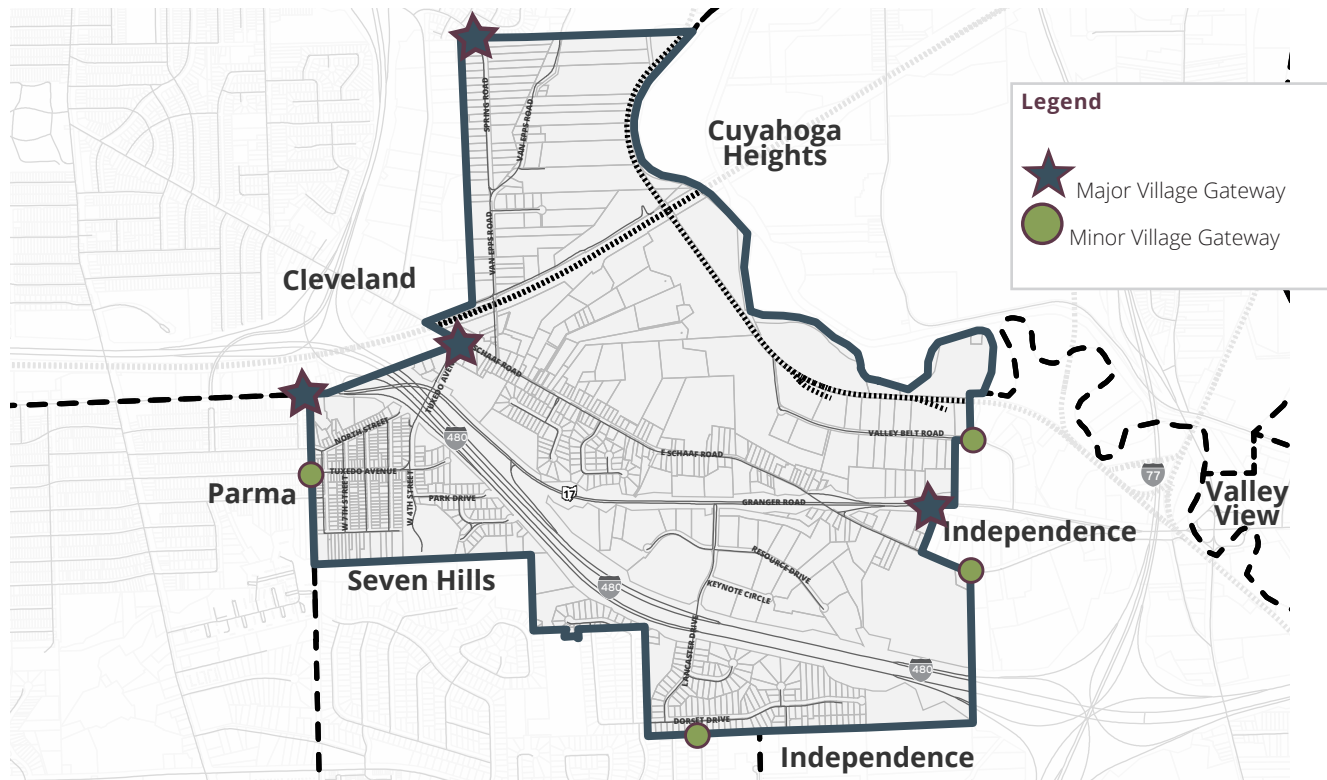
The Gateway Locations map displays two types of entrance points into Brooklyn Heights: major gateways and minor gateways. Major gateways are large entrances to the Village that may be along major roads. Minor gateways are smaller, neighborhood entrances such as side-streets or minor thoroughfares between the Village and surrounding cities.

When constructing signs at gateways, they should be tailored in size and complexity to the type of gateway as shown in Map 3 on Page 41.

The images below are examples of potential gateway signage to show what could be done, but any designs should be completed by qualified professionals.



Map 3 — Brooklyn Heights Gateway Locations



COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA

COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA DESIGNATION

Community Reinvestment Areas are designated areas in which property owners can receive tax incentives in the form of tax exemptions on eligible new investments. The designation allows local officials to encourage new investment and encourage historic preservation, residential rehabilitation, or new residential construction and/or as an economic development tool to encourage commercial and industrial renovation or expansion and new construction.

A municipality may designate an exemption of up to 100% of the assessed value of real property improvements for up to 15 years on new construction; up to twelve years on major renovation projects of at least \$5,000 for commercial, industrial, and residential properties of three or more units; and up to ten years on major renovation projects of at least \$2,500 for residential properties of one or two units. Under specific circumstances involving commercial and/or industrial properties, local board of education approval of the exemption is required and explained in Sections 3735.65-70 of the Ohio Revised Code.

The tax incentives involve only new investment in real property; existing taxable property remains taxable at the current level.

The State of Ohio's Community Reinvestment Area program is delineated into two distinct categories, those created prior to July 1994 ("pre-1994") and those created after the law changes went into effect after July 1994.

As a direct incentive tax exemption program benefiting property owners who renovate existing or construct new buildings, the Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) Program permits municipalities or counties to designate areas where investment has been discouraged as a CRA to encourage revitalization of existing structures and the development of new structures.

Criteria for Commercial or Industrial Projects

- Negotiated by tax review committee on case-by-case basis
- Maximum of a fifteen-year abatement and up to 100% abatement
- Minimum investment of \$5,000
- Agreement must be completed prior to construction
- State of Ohio charges \$750 for application

Criteria for Residential Projects

- Dwellings containing not more than two housing units
- Up to a fifteen-year tax abatement for new construction and up to 100% abatement (as specified in local legislation)
- Minimum investment of \$2,500
- Application submitted when work is completed
- No cost for application

Criteria for Residential New Construction or Multi-Family Projects

- Dwellings with more than two housing units or new construction
- Up to a fifteen-year tax abatement and up to 100% abatement (as specified in local legislation)
- Minimum investment of \$5,000
- Application submitted when work is completed
- No cost for application

Commercial and industrial projects involve a negotiated agreement that must be in place prior to starting a project. The incentive levels and terms of the agreement will be negotiated, and there is notification to the affected school district. A Tax Incentive Review Council is created by the legislative authority to review performance on all agreements and projects. The review is typically done annually. Annual reports on the status of the CRA are sent to the Ohio Department of Development.

For more about Community Reinvestment Areas, visit: https://development.ohio.gov/bs/bs_comreininvest.htm



Images Source: County Planning & Village of Brooklyn Heights

BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT

BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT

A brownfield is a property that could be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. Cleaning up and reinvesting in brownfield properties increases local tax bases, facilitates job growth, utilizes existing infrastructure, takes development pressures off of undeveloped, open land, and both improves and protects the environment.

The federal and state Environmental Protection Agencies provide a variety of loan and grant programs that assist with sustainable redevelopment approaches and cleanups. This includes a focus on environmental justice and equitable development. These partnerships across government and non-governmental organizations promotes the reuse of land.

The following are some examples of programs that provide grants and technical assistance to prevent, assess, clean, and sustainably reuse brownfield sites.

BROWNFIELD CLEANUP AND REDEVELOPMENT FUNDING

Brownfields Assessment Grants

Brownfields Assessment Grants provide funding for brownfield inventories, planning, environmental assessments, and community outreach.

- Eligible entities may apply for up to \$300,000 to assess sites contaminated by hazardous substances, pollutants, other contaminants or petroleum
- Three or more eligible entities may apply together as a coalition to assess a minimum of five sites for up to \$600,000

Targeted Brownfields Assessment

The EPA provides direct site assessment assistance for specific sites where assessment helps move the site forward toward redevelopment for a public purpose.

Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund Grants

Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund Grants provide funding to capitalize loans that are used to clean up brownfield sites. The fund “revolves” when entities lend funds to public and private borrowers to finance environmental cleanup activities at brownfield sites, and then use loan repayments and interest to provide new loans.

- Eligible entities, or two or more entities, may apply for up to \$1 million

Brownfields Cleanup Grants

Brownfields Cleanup Grants funds may be used to address sites contaminated by hazardous substances, petroleum, pollutants or other contaminants at brownfield sites owned by the applicant.

- Eligible entities must own the site at the time of application
- Eligible entities may apply for up to \$500,000 per application

Multipurpose Grants

Multipurpose Grants provide funding to conduct a range of eligible assessment and cleanup activities at one or more brownfield sites owned by the applicant; and development of reuse plans and/or an overall plan for revitalization in a target area.

- Eligible entities may apply for up to \$800,000 to address brownfield sites in a specified target area

Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grants

Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grants provide environmental recruitment and training for residents impacted by brownfield sites in their communities through training and certifications in solid and hazardous waste cleanup, water quality improvement, and/or environmental health and safety.

- Eligible entities may apply for up to \$200,000 to develop a program that provides

Technical Assistance, Training, and Research Grants

Technical Assistance, Training, and Research Grants provide funding to organizations to conduct research and to provide training and technical assistance to communities to help address their brownfields challenges.

For more about Brownfields and Land Revitalization, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields>



4.2 CONNECTIVITY

DEVELOP AN INTERCONNECTED NETWORK TO NEIGHBORHOODS AND DISTRICTS WHILE PROMOTING AND PROVIDING HEALTHY ALTERNATIVES FOR RESIDENTS.

Brooklyn Heights will be a community that aims to improve the pedestrian and bicycle network by providing a strategic system of safe, all-purpose trails, sidewalks, and other facilities which emphasize local and regional connections while considering neighborhood impacts.

The Village of Brooklyn Heights is uniquely positioned to support critical pedestrian and bicycle facilities that complete and improve the overall local and regional network connectivity.

Network connectivity involves filling gaps in sidewalks and bicycle facilities along regional trails (Cuyahoga Greenways Trails) and Ohio Route 17 (Granger Road), as well as enhancing local routes such as Tuxedo Road, Schaaf Road, Lancaster Drive, and others.

COMMUNITY NETWORKS AND REGIONAL TRAIL CONNECTIVITY

In a well-designed community, homes, parks and trails, retail stores, and community destinations are connected by safe walking and biking connections. Such connections allow residents and visitors to interact with the built environment and can allow residents to integrate physical activity into daily routines, connecting them to green spaces, and other neighborhoods and districts in the community.

Brooklyn Heights has four major roadways – Tuxedo Avenue, Granger Road, Schaaf Road, and Lancaster Drive – that connect to the interstates and freeways, and neighboring amenities and destinations. However, within the Village, many neighborhoods and districts are disconnected from one another, with limited access to nearby local and regional trails and paths. The Sidewalk Priority Framework Map on page 46 and the Bikeways and Trails Framework map on page 50 show possible bicycle and pedestrian connections that complete gaps and create linkages to other Village neighborhoods and destinations.

ENCOURAGING HEALTHY LIFESTYLES AND ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

In conjunction with developing the built environment, creating opportunities for healthy, sustainable, and safe travel options can have positive impacts on health outcomes in the community. There are numerous studies that show a relationship between the built environment, physical activity, and overall health. Having access to places for physical activity, such as parks and trails, encourages community members to participate in physical activity and do so more often. Through educational programs, improved and enhanced bicycle and

pedestrian facilities, residents can feel empowered to interact with the environment and utilize the varied and diverse amenities in and around Brooklyn Heights.

VIBRANT AND WELCOMING STREETSCAPES

High quality streetscapes are important amenities that influence travel choices for residents and can improve street aesthetics. This can enhance the well-being of residents and bolster community pride. Streetscape elements such as sidewalks, street trees, benches, lighting, and other decorative elements create attractive corridors and facilitate bicycle and pedestrian mobility.

Streetscape requirements can be implemented as part of codified Design Guidelines that define the standards for multi-modal accommodations and may create improved bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly streets.

Improved streetscapes, combined with diverse land use patterns, appropriate site design, and adequate pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure can foster attractive streets and bolster the creation of safe and healthy non-motorized transportation alternatives.

GOAL 1: IMPROVE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ACCESS TO NEIGHBORHOODS AND REGIONAL TRAILS

Strategy 1.1

Identify and eliminate gaps in the existing sidewalk and bicycle networks based on the Sidewalk Priority Framework Map on page 46 and the Bikeways and Trails Framework Map on page 50.

Strategy 1.2

Partner with neighboring communities and regional entities to develop an all-purpose trail connection between the West Creek Greenway and the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trails.

Strategy 1.3

Develop all-purpose trails on key routes throughout the Village, creating a neighborhood network that extends into the regional trail system with key linkages along Tuxedo Avenue/ West 4th Street, Schaaf Road, and Lancaster Drive.

Strategy 1.4

Pursue potential funding sources for bicycle and pedestrian enhancements.

GOAL 2: IMPROVE THE SAFETY OF TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS FOR USERS OF ALL AGES AND ABILITIES THROUGH IMPROVEMENTS AND EDUCATION

Strategy 2.1

Prioritize the safety of all users through evaluation, location, and design of enhanced intersections and crosswalk improvements, such as HAWK signals, brighter lighting, ADA compliance and access, and other elements. For recommended crossing improvements locations, see Sidewalk Priority Framework Map on page 46.

Strategy 2.2

Consider traffic calming measures in residential and business areas, such as speed limits, continued enforcement, speed bumps, speed tables, road narrowing with curb bumpouts, or other traffic calming treatments.

Strategy 2.3

Increase awareness of bicycle safety practices by supporting and encouraging bicycle education classes and bicycle repair workshops for adults and children.

Strategy 2.4

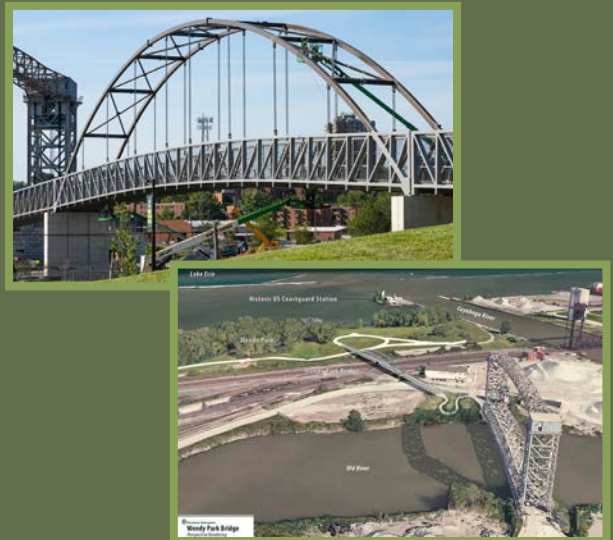
Partner with interested groups, including the Cuyahoga County Board of Health and the Cuyahoga Heights School District to develop and implement a Safe Routes to School program.

CASE STUDY: CLEVELAND, OH - WENDY PARK BRIDGE

The 500-foot-long Wendy Park bridge extends over the Norfolk-Southern railroad tracks and is a vital connection through the Flats and Cuyahoga River area. The 12-foot-wide bridge deck provides pedestrians and bicycles with a new trail connection for improved access to Wendy Park, Whiskey Island, the former historic coast guard station, and Edgewater Park.

Bridges like the Wendy Park Bridge are sometimes necessary to span critical gaps in a trail network, such as highways, rivers, railroads, or valleys.

For more information on this topic, visit <https://www.clevelandmetroparks.com/parks/visit/parks/lakefront-reservation/wendy-park-bridge>



Sources: Cleveland Metroparks, KS Associates, & Cleveland.com

SIDEWALK PRIORITY FRAMEWORK

The Sidewalk Priority Framework identifies existing sidewalks and trails as well as priority locations for potential sidewalks and crossing improvements.

DETERMINING PRIORITIES

Brooklyn Heights has a generally good sidewalk network with sidewalks on both sides of the street in most areas around the Village. Some areas, however, do not have complete sidewalks on both sides, making it difficult for residents and visitors to travel on foot. However, funding and constructing of sidewalks in areas where they were not originally built can be challenging. The Sidewalk Priority Framework identifies key missing connections in the sidewalk network that could be built to provide a connected network without prioritizing all locations.

The priorities identified in red on Map 4 were selected based on proximity to:

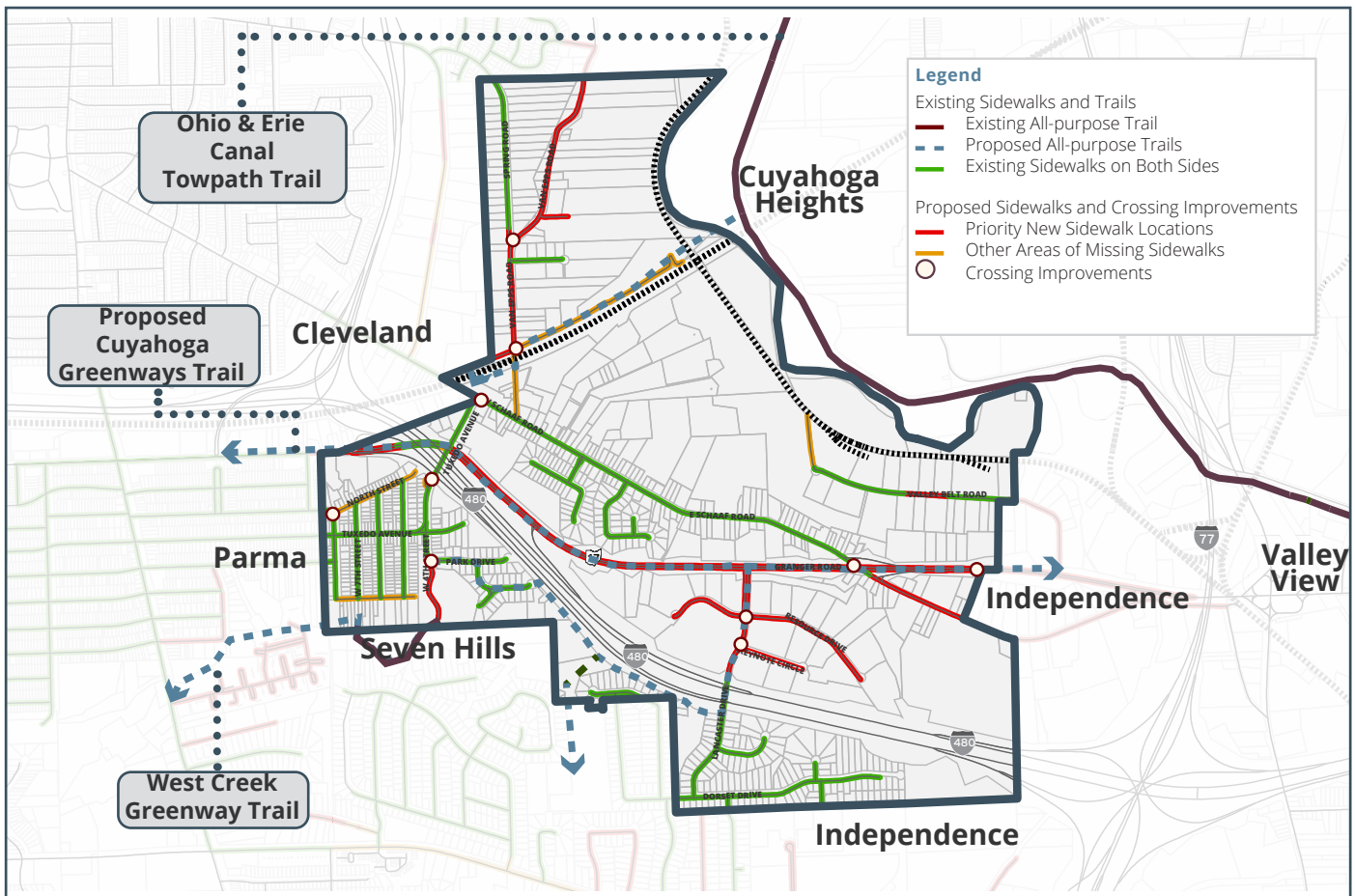
- A major street
- A residential street that connects other residential areas
- Proximity to a park
- Proximity to a business district

SIDEWALK CONNECTIONS & CROSSING IMPROVEMENTS

The streets highlighted in dark red on Map 4 indicate priority areas for new sidewalks that would complete vital connections. Existing trails are shown in maroon, and streets with sidewalks on both sides are shown in green. Streets identified in orange are areas of missing sidewalks but are not in proximity to the previously listed criteria and therefore are not high priority areas for sidewalk connections. In certain areas, trails have been identified that would take the place of a sidewalk. If a trail is not built as shown, sidewalks are favored in those locations.

Improved crosswalks are where pedestrians can safely cross the road and alert motorists of this action. Areas where crossings are needed or could be improved are identified by a red and white circle on Map 4.

Map 4 — Brooklyn Heights Sidewalk Priority Framework Map



CROSSING IMPROVEMENT TYPOLOGY

Walking is the most basic means of travel and is part of every trip. Pedestrians, including those using mobility devices, are perhaps the most vulnerable roadway users. Special care and attention needs to go into street design that provides safe, comfortable, and attractive walking environments.

The crossing improvement typologies show the types of improvements that could create safer pathways for pedestrians on targeted intersections in the Village of Brooklyn Heights.



HAWK SIGNAL

HAWK Signals make it easier and safer for people to cross busy streets through a pedestrian-activated red light

Image Source: City of Tacoma



MARKED CROSSWALKS

Marked Crosswalks clearly delineate pedestrian crossing to physically reinforce crosswalks and reduce vehicle speeds

Image Source: <https://www.pedbikeinfo.org>



TACTILE WARNING CURB

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires tactile markings installed along any accessible route, crossing where a 1/2" change in grade occurs, or street crossing

Image Source: <https://www.adatile.com>



PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ISLAND

Pedestrian Safety Islands provide a refuge to pedestrians by reducing the exposure time in an intersection

Image Source: <https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities>



MIDBLOCK CROSSING

Midblock Crossings facilitate safe crossing to places that people want to go but that are located in the middle of a block between two intersections

Image Source: <https://michigancompletestreets.wordpress.com>



Image Source: County Planning & Village of Brooklyn Heights

GOAL 3: ADD OR ENHANCE BICYCLE AMENITIES TO ENCOURAGE ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

Strategy 3.1

Develop Villagewide bicycle rack and location standards, as well as zoning requirements for including bike racks in new developments.

Strategy 3.2

Develop a Villagewide bike parking system by constructing bicycle parking at Village-owned facilities.

Strategy 3.3

Partner with regional bike organizations to establish a local bike advocacy chapter.

Strategy 3.4

Promote active transportation through organized rides, cycling events, bike parking at community events, and other efforts.

Strategy 3.5

Promote bicycling to work for residents and Village employees through events such as Bike to Work Day or Bike to Work Month.

GOAL 4: IMPROVE THE LOOK AND FEEL OF MAJOR STREETS, ESPECIALLY TUXEDO AVENUE AND SCHAAF ROAD

Strategy 4.1

Apply for TLCI funding from NOACA to conduct a TLCI plan for streetscape improvements on Tuxedo Avenue and Schaaf Road.

Strategy 4.2

Add sidewalk amenities such as benches, trash cans, planters, bike parking, lighting, and signage on targeted streets to enhance the visual aesthetic and offer a welcoming and comfortable environment for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Strategy 4.3

Adopt a Complete and Green Streets policy to ensure all modes of transportation and green elements are incorporated into street reconstruction.

Strategy 4.4

Continue to update the Village's Capital Improvement Plan to outline infrastructure investments.

Strategy 4.5

Coordinate street, sewer, and other infrastructure efforts to limit construction duplication.

SIDEWALK AMENITIES

Sidewalk amenities vary in scope, design, and size, and may include planters, lighting elements, benches, bike parking, trash cans, wayfinding signs, and decorative sidewalks and crosswalks to enliven an area, aide in traffic calming, and provide a welcoming and comfortable experience.

BICYCLE PARKING

Bicycle parking is critical to making bicycling an easy way of running errands. The types of parking and their location on the sidewalk are important to ensuring bicycle parking works for riders.



BIKEWAYS AND TRAILS FRAMEWORK

The Brooklyn Heights Bikeways and Trails Framework identifies existing and proposed bikeways and trails that will allow people to connect to important places on bike or on foot.

TYPES OF CONNECTIONS

Bikeways come in many forms, such as all-purpose trails, bike lanes, and on-street routes. When possible, bikeways should be completely separated from vehicular traffic to allow for a safer and more comfortable experience for users of all abilities and ages; however, that is not always possible. Often, there is not enough street right-of-way to accommodate separate bicycle facilities such as designated paths and trails.

In Brooklyn Heights, major roads are often not bicycle- or pedestrian-friendly because of restricted street right-of-way or heavy traffic volumes, thereby limiting the potential to connect residents to regional trail networks and Village destinations safely and comfortably. Map 6 below shows the locations of potential bike lanes and paths, and the bikeway treatments that could be applied to allow for better and safer connections.

①, ② and ③ Brooklyn Heights Park to Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail - Option A. This link shows a potential on-street route along West 4th Street from the West Creek Greenway

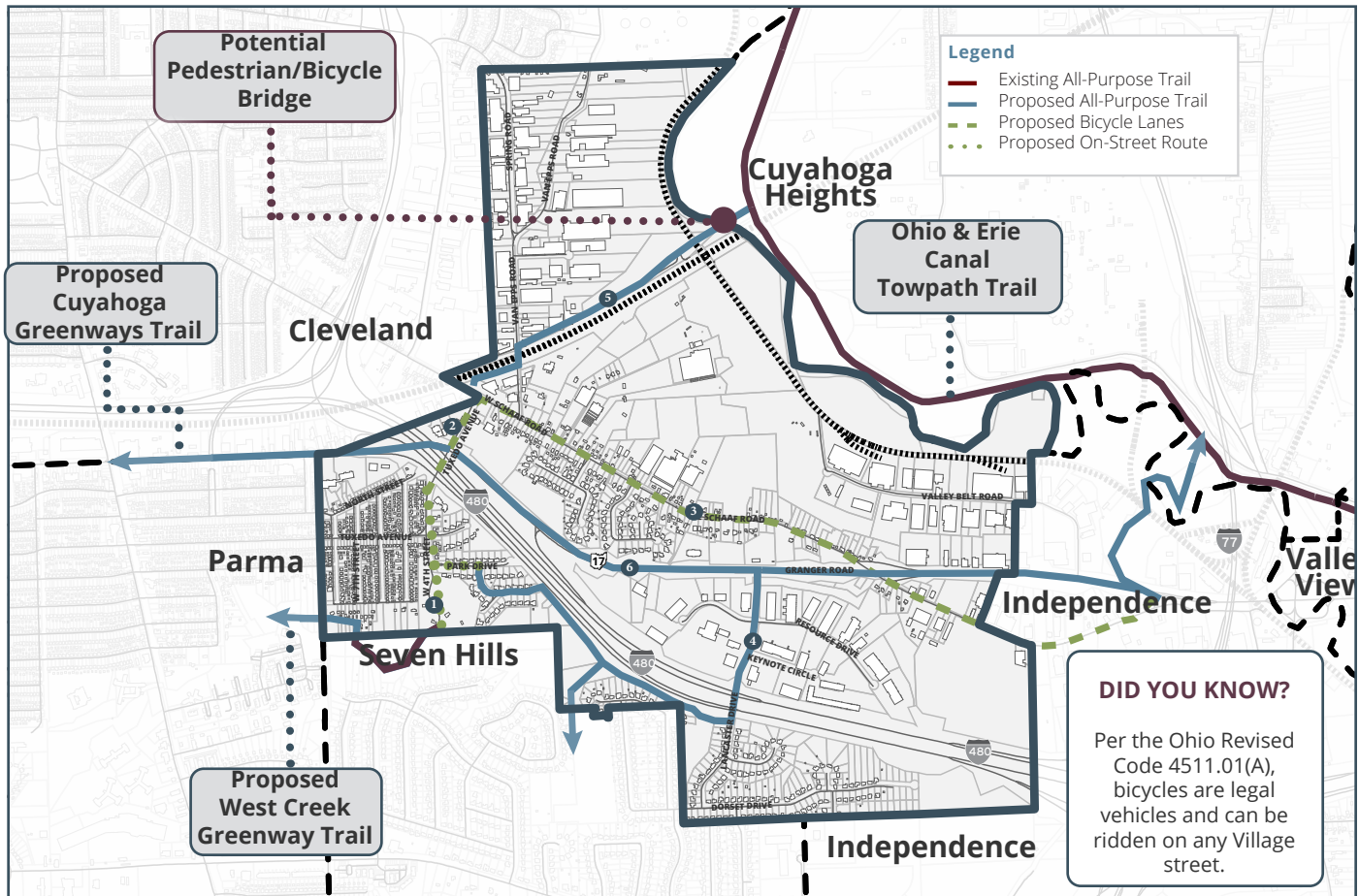
Trail through Brooklyn Heights Park to Tuxedo Avenue to potential bicycle lanes or widened sidewalk along Schaaf Road. This would connect users to the Village Municipal Center, the central neighborhood and businesses, and the Towpath Trail.

①, ② and ⑥ Brooklyn Heights Park to Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail - Option B. This link shows an alternate connection from the West Creek Greenway Trail through Brooklyn Heights Park along Tuxedo Avenue to potential all purpose trails along Granger Road, connecting users to the Towpath Trail via E. Schaaf Road near the Brooklyn Heights - Independence border.

④ Lancaster Drive Link shows potential all-purpose trails that connect the Lancaster, Dorset, and Galway Drive neighborhoods to the businesses near Granger Road in the north and to neighboring communities to the south of the Village.

⑤ Van Epps - Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail Link shows a potential all-purpose trail connection from West Schaaf Road parallel to the existing railroad tracks toward the Cuyahoga River. The trail would connect users to the Towpath Trail by way of a pedestrian bridge over the CSX railroad, spanning the Cuyahoga River.

Map 5 — Brooklyn Heights Bikeways and Trails Framework Map



BICYCLE FACILITIES TYPOLOGY

Expanding and enhancing bicycle infrastructure means ensuring that a network is in place to make bicycling a viable mode of travel. It also means ensuring that the facilities are safe and comfortable for all users.

The following bicycle facility typologies show the types of facilities that are being proposed in the Village of Brooklyn Heights.



ALL-PURPOSE TRAILS

Grade-separated, two-way facility for walking, biking, or running

Images Source: Cleveland Metroparks



BIKE LANES

Marked, on-street lanes, separate from car traffic and only for use by bicyclists

Images Source: PedBikeImages.org user Carl Sudstrom



ON-STREET ROUTES

Signed, marked routes on slow-speed roads for use by both cars and bicyclists

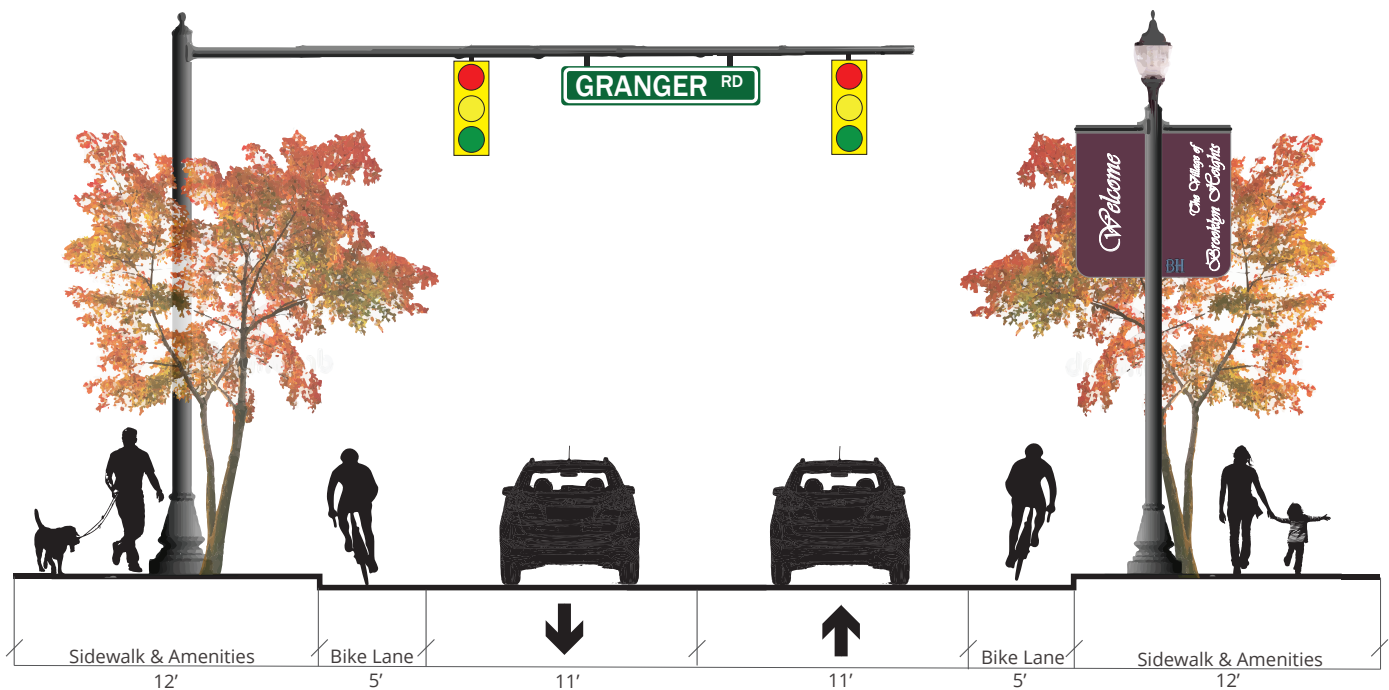
Images Source: Portland State University

TUXEDO AVENUE (FROM SCHAAF TO GRANGER)

TUXEDO AVENUE FROM SCHAAF ROAD TO GRANGER ROAD

The Tuxedo Avenue at Granger Road intersection is a major point of interest in Brooklyn Heights. It is situated in the downtown Brooklyn Heights where popular destinations such as the Village Municipal Center and the Community Services Center are located. This important intersection could be a focal point for the Village and would benefit from an enhanced gateway, wayfinding and streetscaping.

Adding 5-foot bike lanes to Tuxedo Avenue would help to enliven the downtown Brooklyn Heights area and improve bicycle connections to the West 4th Street neighborhoods and is an important connection to the West Creek Greenway Trail and the Cuyahoga Greenways.



Tuxedo Avenue at Granger Road

SCHAAF ROAD (FROM CLEVELAND TO GRANGER ROAD)

SCHAAF ROAD FROM THE CITY OF CLEVELAND BORDER TO GRANGER ROAD

Schaaf Road is an important arterial road through Brooklyn Heights. It serves as the main road for the central neighborhoods and businesses of the Village and serves as a vital connector through downtown Brooklyn Heights. Regionally, West Schaaf Road is shared by the City of Cleveland and is a critical connector between the Cuyahoga Greenways Trail, the West Creek Greenways Trail, and the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail.

Traffic counts from the Ohio Department of Transportation show that the annual average daily traffic counts for Schaaf Road were less than 5,000 vehicles. From curb to curb, the existing 68-foot right-of-way could accommodate a number of different bike lanes and paths options. However, these configurations may reduce road capacity or require moving the curb to accomplish. As the Village considers adding bikeways or trails, options have been identified for the future;

1. Narrowing the drive lanes to accommodate standard bike lanes;
2. Narrowing the drive lanes to accommodate narrow bike lanes;
3. Widening the road to accommodate the appropriate bike and buffer dimensions; and
4. Reconfiguring the roadway to accommodate a sidepath.

Those options are described on the following pages. The Village should consider consulting with the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency and an engineering firm for updated traffic, infrastructure, and cost studies.



SCHAAF ROAD AT TUXEDO AVENUE (EASTWARD)

Schaaf Road has a 58-foot street right-of-way. Depending on location along Schaaf Road, the north side sidewalk and tree buffer, which includes major electrical poles, street trees, and other street amenities, varies in width between 12-15 feet.



SCHAAF ROAD AT TUXEDO AVENUE (AERIAL)

The property north of Schaaf Road is privately-owned and would require the Village to assemble land to facilitate Option 4.

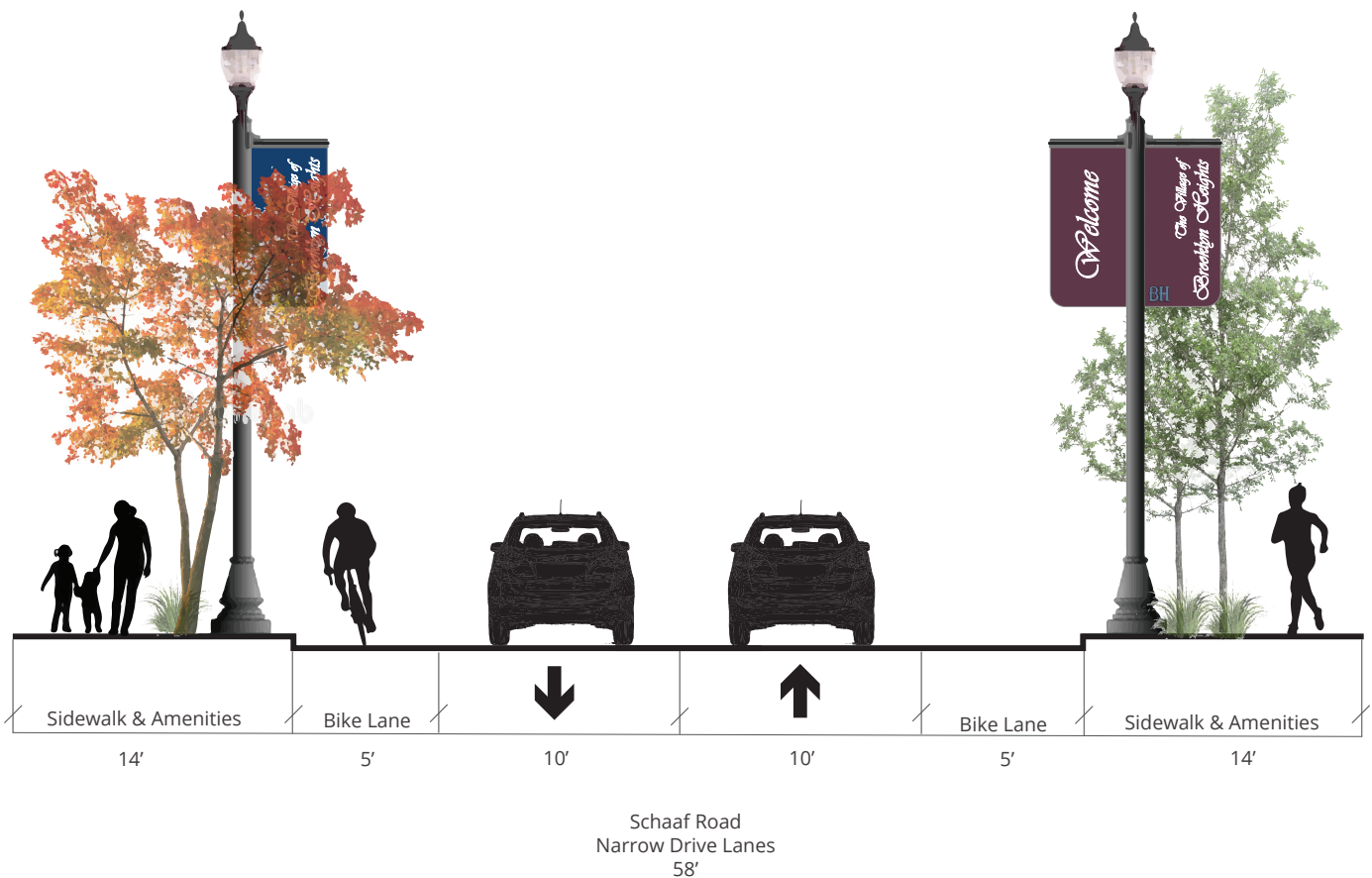
OPTION 1 - NARROW DRIVE LANES

NARROW DRIVE LANES ON SCHAAF ROAD

Adding a bike lane to Schaaf Road would allow users to ride at their preferred speed without interference from vehicular traffic. A traditional bike lane, as described by the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) is between 6 to 8 feet wide, running along the curb, with the flow of traffic.

In Option 1, the road could be striped to add 5-foot bike lanes in each direction of the road. This would require the road to be narrowed from the existing 15-foot drive lane to a 10-foot drive lane in both directions to accommodate the addition of the bicycle lanes. The sidewalks and tree buffer on the south side would remain its existing 14-foot width.

Option 1 would require minimal infrastructure changes and could be a cost-effective option for the Village.

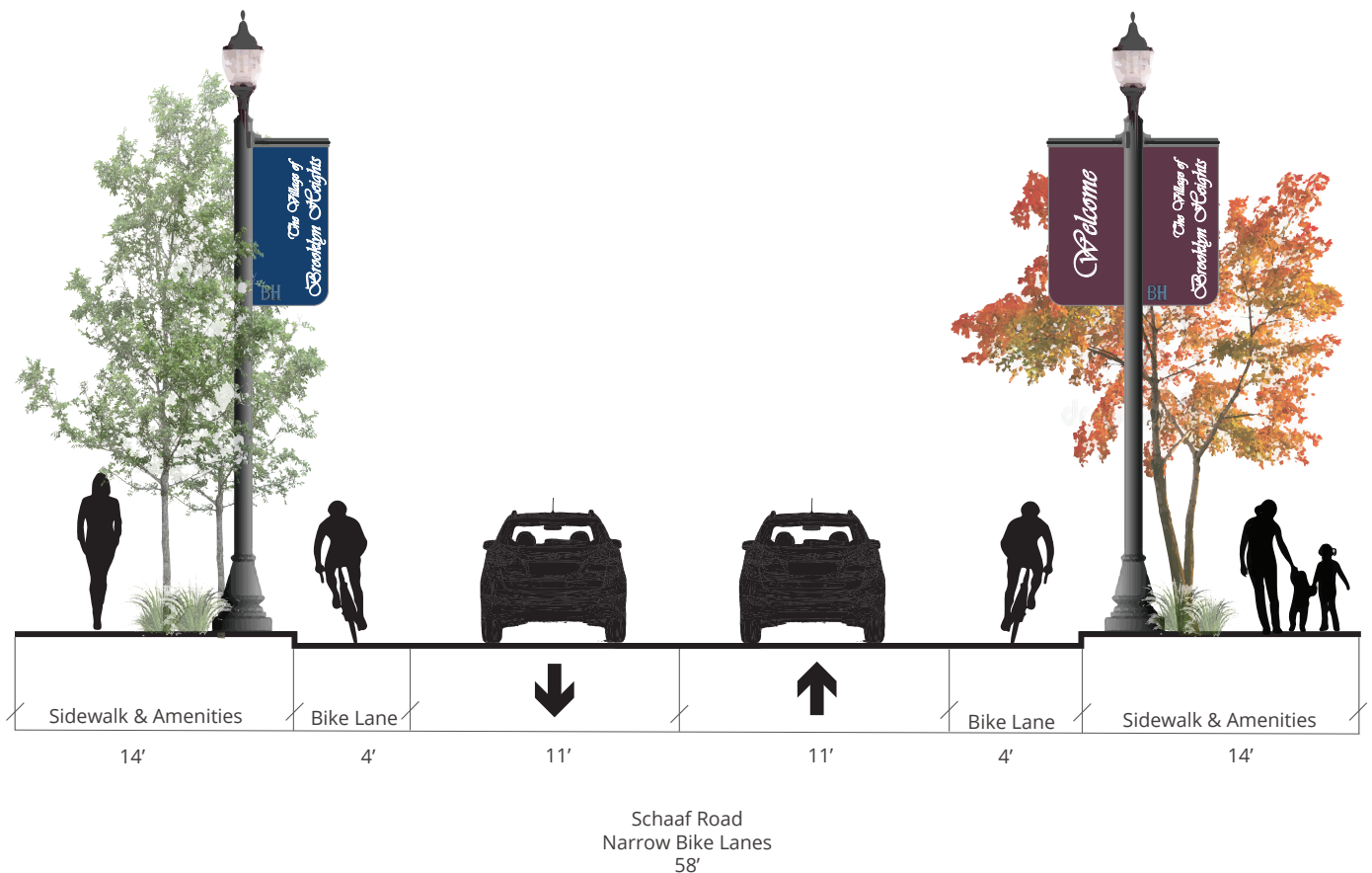


OPTION 2 - NARROW BIKE LANES

NARROW BIKE LANES ON SCHAAF ROAD

Option 2 presents a scenario for narrow bike lanes and wider drive lanes. In this option, there would be 4-foot-wide striped bike lanes in each direction of the road, the minimal width NACTO suggests for rider safety and comfort. The drive lanes would remain between 11 feet wide in each direction. The sidewalks and tree buffer on the north and south sides would remain its existing 14-foot width.

Option 2 would require minimal infrastructure changes and could be a cost-effective option for the Village.

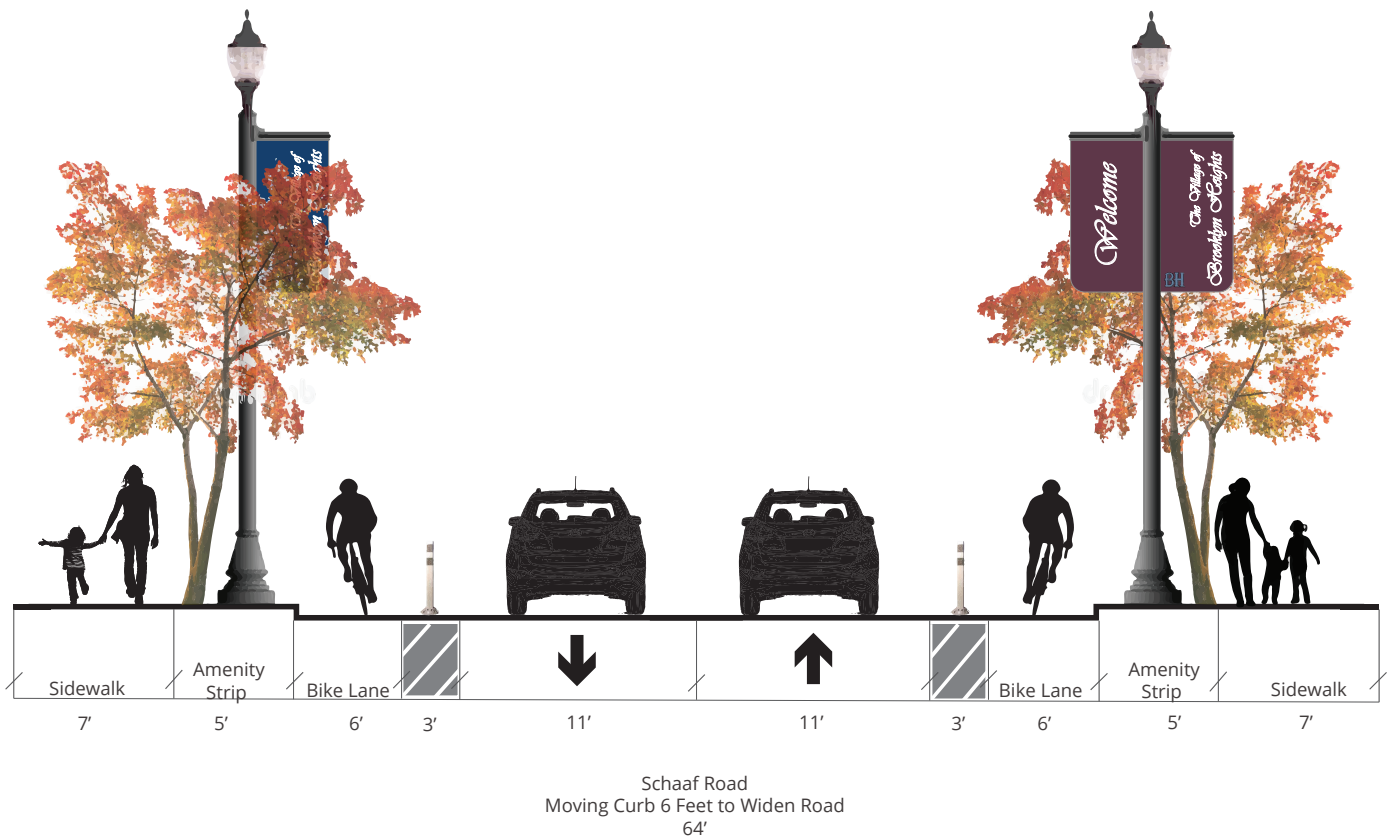


OPTION 3 - BUFFERED BIKE LANES

WIDENING SCHAAF ROAD FOR BUFFERED BIKE LANES

Complete Streets reduce motor vehicle-related crashes and pedestrian risk by providing through design, 3–5-foot buffers between vehicular traffic and bicyclists, 6–8-foot bike lanes, wide sidewalks, landscaped amenity strips and buffers, streetscaping, and modified drive lanes. Option 3 highlights many of these features by widening the right-of-way and moving the curb. This allows two full width 6-foot bike lanes and two 3-foot buffers in each direction to provide a safe and comfortable experience for users. The drive lanes would be reduced to 11-feet in each direction and the sidewalks and amenity strip/buffer would be approximately 12-feet on the north and south side.

This option has a high cost as it would require the Village to undergo a major road infrastructure improvement.



OPTION 4 - ALL-PURPOSE TRAIL

RECONSTRUCTING SCHAAF ROAD TO ACCOMMODATE AN ALL-PURPOSE TRAIL

A path that is physically separated from the road and can be used by both pedestrians and bicyclists is commonly called an all-purpose trail. Such a trail creates a safe and comfortable experience for users and is often found along waterways, abandoned or active railroad and utility rights-of-way, limited access highways, or within parks and open space areas.

Schaaf Road would accommodate two 11-foot drive lanes with the south side sidewalk and tree buffer remaining the same as existing conditions. The north sidewalk and tree buffer would be widened to 21 feet to accommodate a 12-foot sidepath for pedestrians and cyclists in both directions with a 6-foot amenity buffer next to the drive lane and a 3-foot buffer on the north side of the sidepath.

While this option has a high cost and would take a number of years for the Village to plan and implement, adding a sidepath would create the opportunity to provide a safe and comfortable bikeway for residents and close a critical gap in connecting Brooklyn Heights to the Cuyahoga Greenways Trail, and the West Creek Greenways Trail to the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail.





4.3 ENVIRONMENTAL

PRESERVE ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS.

Brooklyn Heights will be a community that prioritizes sustainable development that utilizes environmentally friendly design, green infrastructure, and development regulations to improve storm water management, develop sustainable landfill end uses, enhance park amenities and recreational facilities, expand recreational offerings, and elevate the environmental quality of the area.

The environmental section contains recommendations for a healthy and environmentally sustainable community. This includes the importance of maintaining Brooklyn Heights' natural geographic features, while thoughtfully creating opportunities for park and open space expansion and increasing the tree canopy. In addition, this section includes recommendations that could help improve the quality of life of residents by encouraging the use of clean, renewable energy resources such as wind and solar, as well as increasing the Village's role as an advocate for public health endeavors.

When surveyed, Brooklyn Heights residents were asked their vision for the Village. The results showed that residents desire to keep Brooklyn Heights a beautiful place to call home by protecting its natural features. Specifically, they desire stronger protections for trees and better environmental protection that may include protecting steep slopes, wetlands, watercourses, and floodplains from inappropriate development.

PROTECTING AND MAINTAINING THE VILLAGE'S NATURAL ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS

Brooklyn Heights has areas of open space that have been preserved through the efforts of the Village, West Creek Conservancy, and Cuyahoga County. Preserving the Village's natural features and areas helps to maintain Brooklyn Heights' identity and desirability as a place to work and live. The protection of natural resources is necessary for a healthy, sustainable environment.

Environmental preservation has many benefits. As the community grows, the natural landscape is preserved for the health and welfare of its citizens. Natural resources also provide aesthetic beauty. Their protection benefits property values and increases the livability of the Village. In addition to providing visual relief and a sense of well-being for citizens, these natural areas are essential parts of our local ecosystem and storm drainage system.

In this time of climate change, it is important to incorporate green infrastructure and practices that protect the environment. Green infrastructure such as rain barrels, bioswales, and permeable pavement can reduce stormwater, slow the flow of water entering the sewer system, and produce cleaner rivers.

Beyond the addition of green infrastructure in a community, protecting the existing patches of trees and increasing the urban tree canopy are important parts of environmental infrastructure. In Brooklyn Heights, the percent of land covered by trees is below the County average and those of its peer communities. Improving the urban tree canopy can have numerous benefits, including mitigating urban heat island effect, improving air quality, reducing storm water runoff, enhancing property values, providing a habitat for wildlife, adding to the Village's aesthetic quality, and improving the social ties among neighbors. A robust tree canopy can also attract businesses and residents.

INVESTING IN RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES

In recent years, the need to mitigate the impacts of climate change has sparked interest in renewable energy systems such as solar and wind power. Federal and local officials have committed to improving the quality of life of citizens by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and seeking more cost-effective and environmentally friendly alternatives to fossil fuels.

Many communities have leveraged their assets to develop underutilized spaces into solar installations. The use of municipal-owned building rooftops or closed and capped landfills for solar installations has helped communities to reduce carbon emissions and, in some cases, reduce municipal operating costs. The Village of Brooklyn Heights with a number of closed and capped landfills and large building footprints has many options for solar installation and power distribution that could be beneficial to residents for years to come.

GOAL 1: PROTECT AND MAINTAIN THE EXISTING PARK LAND, RIVER CORRIDORS, AND OPEN SPACES WITHIN BROOKLYN HEIGHTS

Strategy 1.1

Ensure existing natural areas along the river corridors are permanently protected through greenspace easements or other mechanisms.

Strategy 1.2

Continue to enforce the Village's existing riparian buffer setback regulations to protect river corridors.

Strategy 1.3

Continue partnering with conservation groups to improve waterway health through riparian buffer restoration projects.

Strategy 1.4

Incorporate green infrastructure as part of new and reconstructed streets to improve stormwater management, where feasible.

Strategy 1.5

Improve river quality by encouraging porous pavers in hard surface areas, allowing rain barrels on residential properties, and reviewing the Zoning Code for environmental regulations.

GOAL 2: CONTINUE TO INCREASE TREE CANOPY COVER THROUGH TREE PRESERVATION AND PLANTINGS

Strategy 2.1

Continue to apply for grant funding through the Healthy Urban Tree Canopy Grant Program as part of the Village's tree program.

Strategy 2.2

Seek grant funding to support community education and outreach such as a Village "Green Team!" to assist with park clean-ups, tree plantings, and reforestation projects.

Strategy 2.3

Enforce the Village's existing tree preservation ordinance, and consider strengthening its regulations with preservation, planting, removal fee, and replacement requirements.

Strategy 2.4

Update the Village Zoning Code to include parking lot landscaping and tree protection standards for new developments.

Strategy 2.5

Include tree planting plans on all new and major road construction projects within Brooklyn Heights.

Strategy 2.6

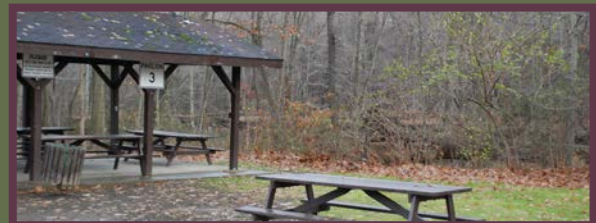
Partner with existing industrial properties and future developers to incorporate tree plantings in large-lot industrial areas.

CASE STUDY: CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OH - HEALTHY URBAN TREE CANOPY GRANT

In 2019, Cuyahoga County established a countywide sustainability goal to target, implement, and track actions in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions based on the Cuyahoga County Climate Change Action Plan. In that Plan, the importance of a healthy tree canopy was emphasized, and through an initiative of the County, the Healthy Urban Tree Canopy Grant Program was established.

The competitive grant program provides funding for tree plantings with the aim to lessen the impact of climate change by increasing tree canopy coverage. Since 2019, the grant program has been coordinated by the Cuyahoga County Department of Sustainability, the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission, and the Cuyahoga Soil & Water

Conservation District, with assistance from the Cuyahoga County Board of Health.



For more information on this topic, visit <https://www.countyplanning.us/services/grant-programs/healthy-urban-tree-canopy-grant-program/>

Sources: County Planning and the Village of Brooklyn Heights



Image Source: County Planning & Village of Brooklyn Heights

GOAL 3: INCREASE THE VILLAGE'S ROLE AS AN ADVOCATE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

Strategy 3.1

Work with the Cuyahoga County Board of Health to consider a health needs assessment using current health data to further evaluate future planning decisions and projects in Brooklyn Heights.

Strategy 3.2

Work with community partners to apply for grant funding to expand recreation and education programs that promote regular outdoor physical activity.

Strategy 3.3

Consider an employee wellness program that would encourage Village employees to walk or bike to work.

Strategy 3.4

Explore opportunities for community gardens and continue existing farmers' markets in order to provide greater access to healthy food.

Strategy 3.5

Partner with The Ohio State University Extension Service and Brooklyn Heights Community Center to teach educational courses about organic gardening, cooking with local vegetables, and raised bed and container gardening.

GOAL 4: IMPROVE THE VILLAGE'S EXISTING PARK FACILITIES, AMENITIES, AND ACCESS POINTS

Strategy 4.1

Eliminate gaps in the open space and greenways network and identify parcels appropriate for land acquisition, easements, land swaps, and cooperative agreements.

Strategy 4.2

Seek opportunities for passive recreation along the Cuyahoga River.

Strategy 4.3

Partner with the Cuyahoga River Water Trail to determine the feasibility of access points in Brooklyn Heights.

Strategy 4.4

Develop an education program that includes a series of informative and interpretive signs that provide directional information, wildlife and plant life information, and trail identification, per Brooklyn Heights Parks and Recreation standards.

Strategy 4.5

Upgrade the walks and paths in Brooklyn Heights Park to improve ADA compliance and access for residents and visitors of all ages and abilities.

Strategy 4.6

Consider adding an enclosed pavilion to the Lower Park as well as additional benches and shade structures where most appropriate in each of the Village's parks.

Strategy 4.7

Install new playground equipment in the Village's parks, as needed.

Strategy 4.8

Consider allowing dogs on leashes in the parks with Village-regulated guidelines.

Strategy 4.9

Work with residents to determine the need and location of a multipurpose indoor recreational center that could accommodate larger community meetings and other recreational activities.

GOAL 5: ENCOURAGE THE USE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES, SUCH AS SOLAR AND WIND, ESPECIALLY ON FORMER LANDFILLS

Strategy 5.1

Lobby the State of Ohio to allow local government controls over landfill development and expansion.

Strategy 5.2

Update the Village Zoning Code to expressly make landfills a non-conforming land use.

Strategy 5.3

Update the Village Zoning Code to include Solar and Wind Energy Production Systems regulations.

Strategy 5.4

Partner with the Cuyahoga County Department of Sustainability to explore the feasibility of using closed landfills for solar fields as part of a microgrid. See more information about Brooklyn Heights Solar Potential on pages 46-47.

Strategy 5.5

Provide information to the public regarding renewable energy resources available through the Cuyahoga County Department of Sustainability.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Renewable energy resources, such as rooftop solar makes homes and businesses more energy-efficient, while lowering energy costs and mitigating greenhouse gas emissions.



Image Source: Enerlogics

SOLAR POTENTIAL

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS SOLAR POTENTIAL

Renewable energy, also referred to as clean energy, comes from natural sources or processes that are constantly replenished, and have long been used for heating, transportation, lighting, and more. One such renewable resource is solar energy.

Closed and capped landfills offer communities an opportunity to explore new uses for those underutilized sites, including solar farms or fields, due to their topographical features. Closed and capped landfills generally occupy large tracts of land that are typically difficult to develop for active uses like housing or commercial development. Solar fields can be a beneficial way to use these vacant spaces because they tend to have several key characteristics in common:

- Mostly flat;
- Mostly unhindered by vegetation or trees;
- Minimal or no conflicts with tall buildings; and
- Optimal solar exposure.

The Village of Brooklyn Heights has two closed and capped landfill sites within the community that can be suitable for solar fields. One of the landfill sites is located north of Valley Belt Road near the Cuyahoga River valley, and the other is located between Granger Road and Interstate 480. These sites offer nearly 60 acres of flat and highly exposed land for exploring solar potential within the community. One of the landfill sites is Village-owned and is approximately 19 acres in area.

SOLAR OPTIONS

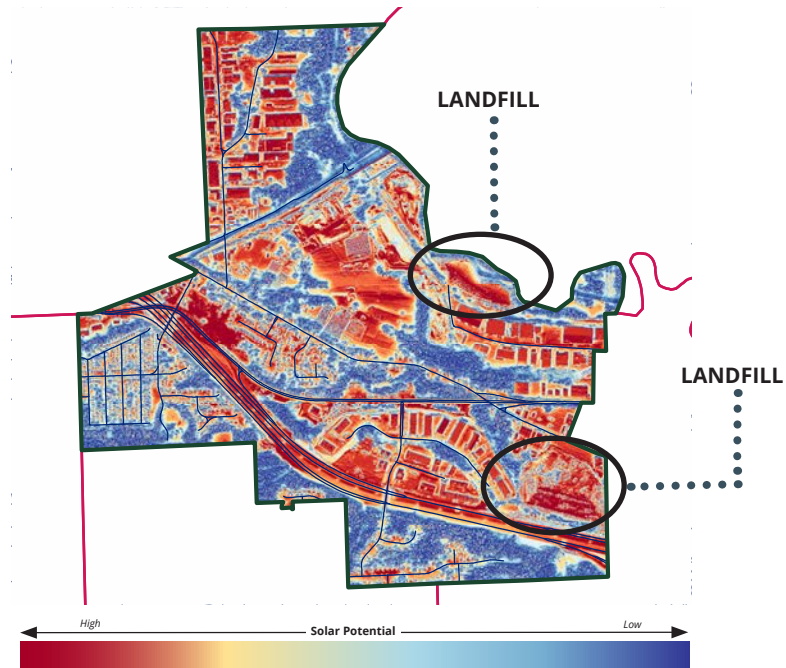
There are many options for solar installation and power distribution that the Village of Brooklyn Heights could consider. These might include the Village establishing its own electrical microgrid, creating a partnership with a private energy developer, or installing a community solar facility that utilizes rooftop solar.

Cuyahoga County recently established a Utility Department with the goal of developing microgrids that use renewable energy resources to support commercial and industrial districts with secure and green energy. This plan recommends the Village partner with Cuyahoga County to evaluate the future uses of its closed and capped landfill sites for solar potential. Solar potential maps for the entire Village and specific areas where rooftop and solar development could be feasible can be found on the following page.

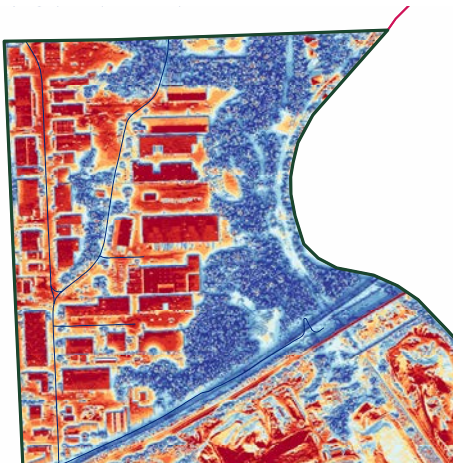
The solar potential maps on page 63 were created using a high-resolution 3D digital surface model of all features at or above ground. Using a GIS-based Area Solar Radiation tool, a measure of Kilowatt-hours per square meter was generated for the entire surface of Cuyahoga County. The measure is largely based on a surface's direction and slope, and accounts for shadows from nearby trees, buildings, and other tall features. More generally, the tool accounts for our region's latitude and sun angle throughout each day of the year.

Brighter and darker reds, oranges, and yellows show where there are areas that have greater solar potential. Darker blues and teals show areas that have less solar potential. The three Focus Area maps indicate that there is a high potential for solar development on rooftops in the Van Epps – Spring Road, Valley Belt Road, and Lancaster Road business corridors and on the landfill site in the Valley Belt Road site.

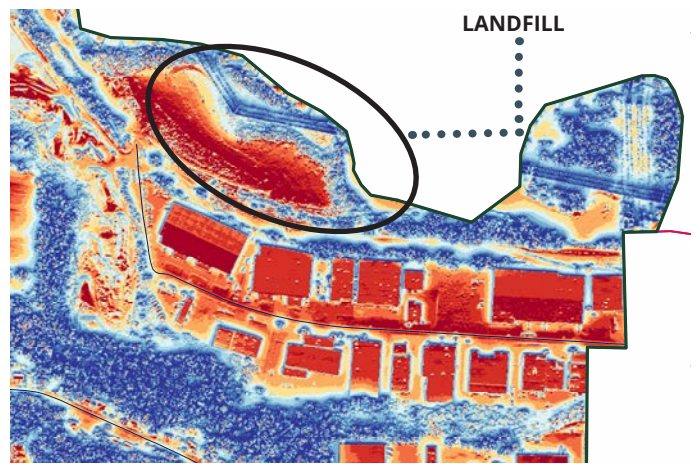
Map 6 — Brooklyn Hts Villagewide Solar Potential Map



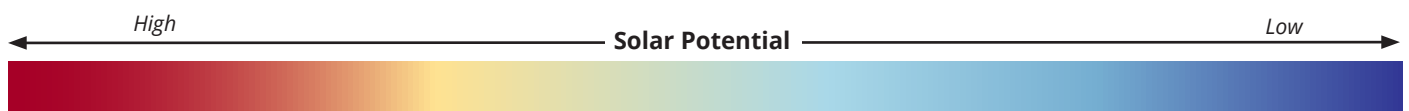
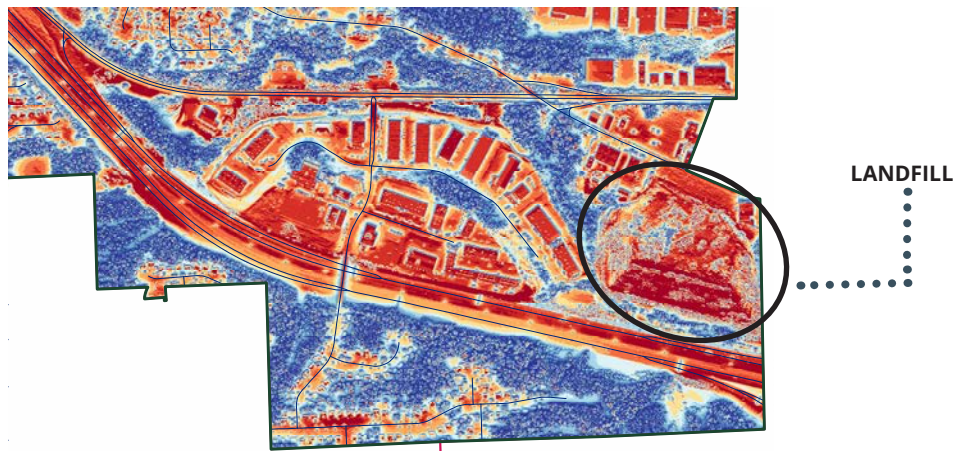
Map 7 — Van Epps - Spring Roads Solar Potential Map



Map 8 — Valley Belt Road Area Solar Potential Map



Map 9 — Lancaster Drive Solar Potential Map



CASE STUDY: BROOKLYN, OH - CUYAHOGA URBAN RENEWABLE POWER SOLAR

Construction on the Cuyahoga Urban Renewable Power Solar Project in Brooklyn started in April 2018. The project involved the redevelopment of a brownfield site in Brooklyn, Ohio. Cuyahoga County and the City enabled the redevelopment of brownfields, landfills, and other areas of large vacant land as possible sites for solar generation.

The Brooklyn Solar Project is a 4.0-megawatt solar array system that supplies approximately 5% of the electricity consumption for 16 County-owned buildings. Cuyahoga County purchases 100% of the power generated through a long-term Power Purchase Agreement with Cleveland Public Power.

For more information about Cuyahoga County Solar visit: <http://sustainability.cuyahogacounty.us/en-US/Brooklyn-Landfill-Solar-Farm.aspx>



Sources: CS Energy & Gus Chan /The Cleveland Plain Dealer (cleveland.com)

CASE STUDY: CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, OH - CITY-OWNED FACILITIES SOLAR PROJECT

The Cleveland Heights Solar Project is a collaboration with developer Enerlogics to construct a multi-site solar program with the City of Cleveland Heights. The initial rooftop sites include City Hall, the Community Center, and the Service Garage. The project enables Cleveland Heights to reduce operating costs through sustainable, locally generated onsite solar.

In the future, the City of Cleveland Heights officials are looking to add to the City's renewable energy portfolio with a proposed solar power purchase agreement to install rooftop panels on three more city buildings, thereby further reducing the City's overall greenhouse gas emissions.

For more information on this topic, visit <https://enerlogics.com/portfolio/city-of-cleveland-heights-solar/>



Source: Enerlogics

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SYSTEMS

MICROGRIDS

A microgrid is a local energy grid that can disconnect from the traditional power grid and operate autonomously. In this way, a microgrid works in tandem with the main power grid until a disruption, such as a storm, occurs. The microgrid can separate from the main grid automatically or manually, and can continue to use local energy generation to power homes, businesses, and other buildings without interruption.

A microgrid can be powered by distributed generators, batteries, and/or renewable resources like solar fields; however, a microgrid is not a simple back-up generator, which is employed in emergencies. The microgrid operates every day of the year, managing and supplying energy to customers. For example, a rooftop solar panel is not a microgrid because a microgrid will keep the power flowing when the central grid fails, while a solar panel alone will not. Depending on how it is fueled and how its requirements are managed, a microgrid might run indefinitely.

Cuyahoga County's recently established Utility Department is exploring microgrids locally. The goal is to develop a series of microgrids in established business districts to ensure reliable power without disruption. Furthermore, microgrids powered by solar energy will create green hubs for commercial and industrial tenants. In an era of climate change and powerful storms, a microgrid provides an economic development incentive to locating in an area because of its reliable, green power supply.

MICROGRID

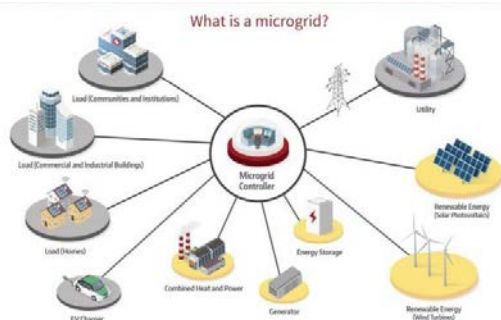


Image Source: <https://www.energy.gov/>

For more information about Microgrid Energy Systems, visit: <https://www.energy.gov/articles/how-microgrids-work> and <https://www.c2es.org/content/microgrids/>

SOLAR FARMS

A solar farm is a collection of solar arrays on vacant land that produces power from the sun's energy. The solar panels collect the sun's energy for storage, which in turn is used to supply power into the electrical grid. When compared to traditional power plants, solar farms use no water and have zero emissions and pollution.

The various types of solar farms are rated by type: photo voltaic sun panels and solar thermal energy arrays; and size: utility-scale solar and community solar farms.

A photo voltaic solar panel farm uses solar panels that convert sunlight immediately into electricity. A solar thermal energy farm uses solar troughs that gather, reflect, and concentrate the sun's energy to warm and heat transfer fluid which is the mechanism by which this exchange of fluid is pumped into a thermal engine that converts the heat generated into power. Solar thermal energy farms are less popular in use than PV solar farms.

SOLAR FARM



Image Source: YSG Solar

For more information about Solar visit: <https://www.energy.gov/solar>



4.4 REGIONAL COLLABORATION

ENHANCE REGIONAL COLLABORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS.

Brooklyn Heights will be a community that continues to build on its strong regional partnerships and collaborations with nearby government entities and local organizations to provide superior services to residents, visitors, and businesses while promoting the region.

The regional collaboration section contains recommendations for strategic partnerships that can address community-wide issues, such as Villagewide high speed Internet, or create alliances among entities that might not normally work together. The aim is to promote collaborations that can have positive impacts on the Village.

DEVELOP PROACTIVE PARTNERSHIPS WITH NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES AND ENTITIES

Brooklyn Heights should continue its existing partnerships with its neighboring communities, regional entities, and Cuyahoga County, and expand those partnerships in new ways. This should include taking a more proactive role in improving connections between neighboring cities and villages.

By establishing a set of protocols for informing neighboring communities of projects and collaborating on larger economic and community development efforts, the Village of Brooklyn Heights can provide access and opportunities for its residents and for visitors to the Village.

ADVOCATE FOR TRANSIT ACCESSIBILITY WITHIN THE VILLAGE

Enhanced public transit accessibility is tied to a community's well-being as well as a community's economic vitality. A successful public transportation system is essential to decreasing pollution and emissions from automobiles, while providing a safe, reliable alternative to driving.

A lack of accessible public transportation is a barrier to connecting people to work, school, healthcare, retail, and recreation. However, the perceptions that public transportation can be slow, uncomfortable, or unreliable is also a barrier.

While most Brooklyn Heights residents have access to a vehicle, some do not. Improving the convenience of public transportation can increase access and can encourage transit use, especially if public transit is readily available and accessible in one's neighborhood.

IMPROVE ONLINE COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS TO BETTER CONNECT THE VILLAGE

By setting policies that deliver quality public services to residents while implementing sound fiscal policies, the leadership of the Village has been able to position Brooklyn Heights as a premier community that places a high value on quality of life, community engagement, public service, economic development, education, sustainability, collaboration, and transparency. The Village can seek to grow its efforts to communicate aspirations and achievements consistently and clearly to residents and stakeholders. Clear and consistent communication between Village leaders and residents is vital to increasing awareness of Brooklyn Heights' and regional policies and programs.

Improving the Village's online communication systems would increase opportunities to share the Village's message, update the methods by which those messages are shared, while conducting the business of the Village in an open and inclusive manner.

Enhanced communication with Brooklyn Heights' residents and businesses would help strengthen community pride, increase awareness of community programs and activities, increase engagement, and enhance transparency, by making information about Village policies and operations available to all.



Image Source: Taylor Haggerty / ideastream

GOAL 3: IMPROVE ONLINE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS TO BETTER CONNECT THE VILLAGE TO REGIONAL ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES

Strategy 3.1

Consider publishing a Resident and Businesses Directory of Village residents and businesses.

Strategy 3.2

Expand the Village's communication technologies to provide high-speed broadband internet and Wi-Fi throughout municipal buildings and buildings.

Strategy 3.3

Leverage local and national funds to expand the Village's access to high-speed internet for residents, businesses, and within municipal buildings and facilities.

Strategy 3.4

Update and enhance the Village's website to include additional resources.

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4.5 HOUSING

MAINTAIN HIGH RESIDENTIAL STANDARDS THAT ACCOMMODATE A BROAD AND DIVERSE RANGE OF LIFESTYLES AND STAGES OF LIFE.

Brooklyn Heights will be a community of well-maintained neighborhoods that allow families to live and grow in the Village, while providing housing types that accommodate varied ages, income groups of different household sizes, and persons of all abilities.

The Village of Brooklyn Heights has a strong and stable housing market where the number of residential vacancies is comparably lower than other communities in Cuyahoga County. The Village has quaint neighborhoods with well-maintained housing stock.

Most houses in Brooklyn Heights are older, bungalow-style, detached single-family homes with two- or three-bedrooms. These homes do not always accommodate residents' need for space or accessibility within their own homes. Furthermore, the Village is largely built-out, with few additional opportunities for new housing developments.

Home improvement options that renovate, add space, improve facades, and add modern amenities should be encouraged. Improvements such as new doors, windows, and insulation could help lower energy costs for homeowners and help with overall housing maintenance costs in the long run. Leveraging local, regional, and other housing programs to implement improvements based on universal design can add modernizations to homes that serve residents of all ages and abilities. Requiring or encouraging universal design principles in updated development regulations can also help create a more modern and accessible housing stock. Together, these efforts will ensure the longevity of quality housing stock in the Village.

HOUSING STEWARDSHIP THROUGH PRESERVATION AND MAINTENANCE

Brooklyn Heights, like many other communities in Cuyahoga County, has a strong but aging housing stock, so it is important to continue investments in existing structures or quality infill housing as a way of maintaining a strong residential base. When necessary, new infill housing should be built to fit the character of its surroundings in order to have a positive impact on the neighborhood as a whole.

Home stewardship can continue to contribute to a positive image and open reinvestment opportunities, and the Village should track neighborhood investment and maintenance regularly.

AGING IN PLACE

Similar to the County as a whole, Brooklyn Heights has a growing senior population. Between 2013 and 2018, the number of seniors in Brooklyn Heights increased by nearly 13%. Considering housing needs of seniors is an important part of the commitment to provide appropriate housing choices for all residents. Viable housing options should include the ability for seniors to remain in their homes and is especially important to residents who want to stay in the neighborhoods, where they have access to friends, family, and a support network. Retrofitting existing homes to be accessible for seniors desiring to age in place could include installing ramps, widening doorways, and creating first floor bedrooms and accessible bathrooms. Where aging in place is not feasible, special facilities, such as senior independent living, assisted living, and congregate care facilities, are another important housing option to be provided within the community.

FOSTERING NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORKS

Beyond individual homes, strong neighborhoods with networks of neighbors yield strong social bonds that keep and attract residents. Block clubs can bring together residents in small areas or on specific streets to gather, organize, and have fun. They can connect neighbors who previously did not know each other, strengthen bonds, and host events. Brooklyn Heights should foster connections between neighbors through block group programs to connect existing neighbors, engage new residents, and improve neighborhood cohesion and engender a sense of community pride.

GOAL 1: CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN BROOKLYN HEIGHTS' HIGH-QUALITY HOUSING AND NEIGHBORHOODS

Strategy 1.1

Strengthen enforcement of property maintenance codes with proactive methods of identifying code violations.

Strategy 1.2

Consider developing an exterior home maintenance program or other grant or loan program for homeowners to modernize their existing homes.

Strategy 1.3

Evaluate establishing a Community Reinvestment Area to provide tax incentives to reinvesting in existing homes, especially bungalows.

Strategy 1.4

Work with property owners and developers to reinvest in post-war bungalows, based on the CUDC Home Modernization and Expansion plan described on page 59.

Strategy 1.5

Create an expanded housing resources webpage to highlight and promote local and regional housing improvement initiatives.

Strategy 1.6

Increase outreach and education on existing County and regional housing improvement programs that can assist owners in making home updates.

Strategy 1.7

Continue partnering with the Northeast Ohio First Suburbs Consortium to evaluate and update single-family zoning as part of the Single-Family Zoning Analysis project.

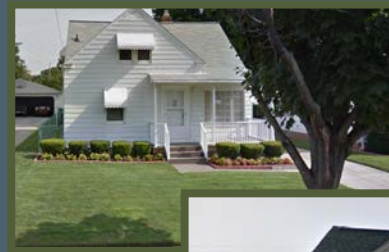
Strategy 1.8

Continue to track neighborhood investment and maintenance through building permits data.

CASE STUDY: BROOKLYN, OH - EXTERIOR PROPERTY MAINTENANCE GRANT

Through a partnership with the Cuyahoga County Department of Development, the City of Brooklyn launched its Exterior Property Maintenance Grant Program.

Funded through a \$50,000 Cuyahoga County Council grant with a matching contribution from the City, the program awards eligible applicants with up to \$3,000 to make exterior repairs to their homes. These repairs can be for landscaping, windows, siding, exterior steps, and driveways. Applicants must be a Brooklyn homeowner with up-to-date property taxes.



For more information on this topic, visit <https://www.brooklynohio.gov/269/Homeowner-Assistance-Resources>

Source: City of Brooklyn and Google 2021



Image Source: County Planning & Village of Brooklyn Heights

GOAL 2: ENABLE HOMEOWNERS TO AGE IN PLACE BY REMAINING IN THEIR HOMES SAFELY AND AFFORDABLY

Strategy 2.1

Consider the development of universal design standards, and encourage development of universally designed homes that make aging in place possible.

Strategy 2.2

Consider zoning amendments that would allow accessory dwelling units or in-law suites to provide options for multi-generational housing.

Strategy 2.3

Support the development of a high-quality senior living facility in Brooklyn Heights.

UNIVERSAL DESIGN PRINCIPLES

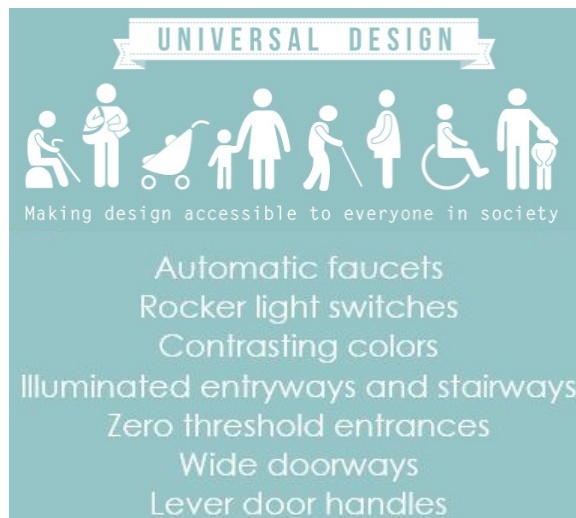
Universal design, often referred to as inclusive design or barrier-free design, is a framework of principles for the design of accessible living and working spaces and products for use by people of all ages and abilities.

The following is a list of the seven principals of universal design.

THE 7 PRINCIPLES OF UNIVERSAL DESIGN

1. Equitable Use – The design is useful and marketable to people with diverse abilities
2. Flexibility in Use – The design accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities
3. Simple and Intuitive Use – Use of the design is easy to understand, regardless of the user's experience, knowledge, language skills, or education level
4. Perceptible Information – The design communicates necessary information effectively to user, regardless of ambient condition or the user's sensory abilities
5. Tolerance for Error – The design minimizes hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions
6. Low Physical Effort – The design can be used efficiently and comfortably and with a minimum of fatigue
7. Size and Space for Approach and Use – Appropriate size and space is provided for approach, reach, manipulation, and use regardless of user's body size, posture, or mobility

EXAMPLES OF UNIVERSAL DESIGN ELEMENTS IN THE HOME:



GOAL 3: SUPPORT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK OPPORTUNITIES

Strategy 3.1

Develop and disseminate information on the formation and management of neighborhood block clubs, and work with residents to establish them.

Strategy 3.2

Identify and map residential neighborhoods, and consider neighborhood branding and signage.

Strategy 3.3

Continue to provide information to residents about events electronically and through mass mailings.

Strategy 3.4

Organize community groups about neighborhood beautification by working with non-profits, garden centers, and Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District to hold front yard landscaping and green infrastructure classes to educate property owners.

Strategy 3.5

Update the Resident Services Directory to include a map of the Village and a packet of information about the Village for current and new residents for distribution through Village offices.



Images Source: Village of Brooklyn Heights

BUILDING BLOCK CLUBS

Establishing a block club program can engage residents in meaningful ways and build social connections among neighbors. These connections encourage residents to remain in their homes and neighborhoods.



CASE STUDY: MAPLE HTS, OH - CUDC - HOME MODERNIZATION AND EXPANSION

The First Suburbs Consortium Housing Initiative is an effort to strengthen the marketability of inner-ring residential neighborhoods. The initiative attempts to reinvent two under-performing housing types, the post-war bungalow and the two-family home, and to improve neighborhoods with concentrations of these housing types.

Kent State University's Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative produced a document that showcases how suburban, single-family, bungalow-style homes could be renovated and expanded to add space, improve facades, and add modern amenities. The images below show one example of such a renovation that includes

an open kitchen, built-out second floor, and expanded front porch in a typical, single-family home in Maple Heights, one of the highlighted communities in the study.

By advertising these renovation ideas and updating the Zoning Code to allow them, the Village of Brooklyn Heights can work with property owners to facilitate meaningful home renovations.

For more information on this topic, visit <https://www.cudc.kent.edu/first-suburbs-consortium>

POTENTIAL FOR EXPANDING A BUNGALOWS

FROM THIS:



TO THIS:



Source: Kent State University Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative

HOME IMPROVEMENT RESOURCES

The following are financing and funding resources the Village of Brooklyn Heights can utilize in its continuing efforts to encourage home improvements that can help in neighborhood maintenance and continued stability.

FINANCING & FUNDING

The Village of Brooklyn Heights is a quaint, stable community that consists of older, owner-occupied housing units. According to the American Planning Association, these types of housing units are often the dominant building fabric and largest source of naturally occurring affordable housing for inner-ring neighborhoods. As cities and villages are limited in their ability to assist residents facing financial constraints for the improvement, maintenance, and upkeep of their homes, there are ways to continue to support and maintain neighborhood vibrancy and sustainability by leveraging housing assistance programs and investigating financial alternatives to provide the means for reinvestment in and the refurbishing of existing residential housing. Financial assistance could include loan and grant programs, home modification programs for people with disabilities, and weatherization and home energy assistance programs.

Following are a few examples of ways the Village of Brooklyn Heights could offer assistance to its residents.

Cuyahoga County Lead Safe Program

The Cuyahoga County Lead Safe Program provides grants for new windows, doors, painting, and other repair projects for eligible homeowners and renters, which includes families who live in a home built before 1978 and is located within any Cuyahoga County suburb outside the City of Cleveland, with a child age 6 or younger. Grants as high as \$9,500 are available for eligible projects.

<https://cuyahogacounty.us/development/residents/lead-safe-program>

Housing Enhancement Loan Program (HELP)

The Home Enhancement Loan Program (HELP) provides homeowners of occupied or investment properties in eligible Cuyahoga County communities home improvement loans, at three percentage points below normal bank rates, for home repair or remodeling projects. HELP has no restrictions on a borrower's income and few limitations on what improvement can be made to a property. Key Bank and Huntington Bank are the participating banks for this program.

Eligibility and Requirements:

To be eligible, applicants must be in an eligible community in Cuyahoga County (Bentleyville, Chagrin Falls Township, and Hunting Valley are not eligible communities at this time), and must have a single-family or two-family dwelling with a tax value of less than \$250,000; or a multi-family dwellings, which has no tax value limit.

The eligible types of home repairs include alterations, repairs, maintenance, or improvements. Loans may also be used for code violation compliance and property upgrades.

Luxury projects and improvements are not eligible (i.e. tennis courts, swimming pools, horse stable, etc.)

<https://cuyahogacounty.us/development/residents/home-repair-and-remodeling/housing-enhancement-loan-program>

Cuyahoga County Home Repair Loan Program

The Cuyahoga County Home Repair Loan Program helps Cuyahoga County homeowners with incomes at or below 120% AMI maintain HUD property standards of safe, sanitary, and decent housing. These homeowners can receive a loan up to \$20,000 for repairs that may include roofs, porches, gutters, HVAC, plumbing, electrical, walks and driveways.

<https://chnhousingcapital.org/homerepair/>

Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP)

The Home Weatherization Assistance Program provides free energy efficiency improvements to eligible homeowners and renters (those with household incomes at or below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines) in Cuyahoga County at no cost to the household. Potential installations/services include: home insulation, energy-efficient appliances, hot water tank, furnace, plumbing repairs, etc. Priority is given to residents older than the age of 60, with disabilities, who have children in the home, or with a high energy usage or burden.

<https://cuyahogacounty.us/development/residents/energy-efficiency-and-utility-assistance/home-weatherization-assistance-program>

Cuyahoga County Down Payment Assistance Program

The Cuyahoga County Down Payment Assistance Program provides eligible home buyers, whose income is at or below 80% of the area median income, down payment assistance in the amount of 10% of the qualifying home purchase price, up to \$13,395.

<https://chnhousingcapital.org/dpa/cuyahoga-county-down-payment-assistance-program/>

ESOP Senior Property Tax Loan

The ESOP Senior Property Tax Loan Program provides loans up to \$6500 to homeowners age 55 and older in Cuyahoga County to help them pay delinquent property taxes and avoid foreclosure.

<https://www.esop-cleveland.org/SeniorPrograms/Senior-Property-Tax-Loan.html>

Safe At Home Program

The Safe at Home (SAH) program provides assistance to homeowners over the age of 60 or homeowners with a disability. Potential repairs include: handrails, grab bars, smoke & CO detectors, doorknobs and deadbolts, door repairs, security lighting, and minor bathroom modifications.

<https://www.rebuildingtogetherneo.org/cuyahoga>



Images Source: County Planning & Village of Brooklyn Heights



5 Focus Areas Framework

WHAT'S INSIDE

The Focus Areas Framework section describes four main areas within which Brooklyn Heights can prioritize actions over the next few years. The section includes a map of the overall Focus Areas, specific descriptions of each Focus Area recommendation, and an analysis of development sites within three of the Focus Areas.

The Focus Areas recommendations are based on input from the Public and Project Team, which showed a desire to strengthen existing Village neighborhoods while bolstering industrial and business districts. It evolved from the Focus Areas that were displayed as part of the first virtual Public Presentation and Community Vision Survey as particular locations became more or less important to residents.

HOW DO I USE IT?

The Focus Areas Framework section outlines specific locations of focus for the Master Plan. It should be used as a guide for where to target investments and how those investments should be layered together to support a larger framework for neighborhood improvement.

The Focus Areas Recommendations is the second half of the Plan's Recommendations.

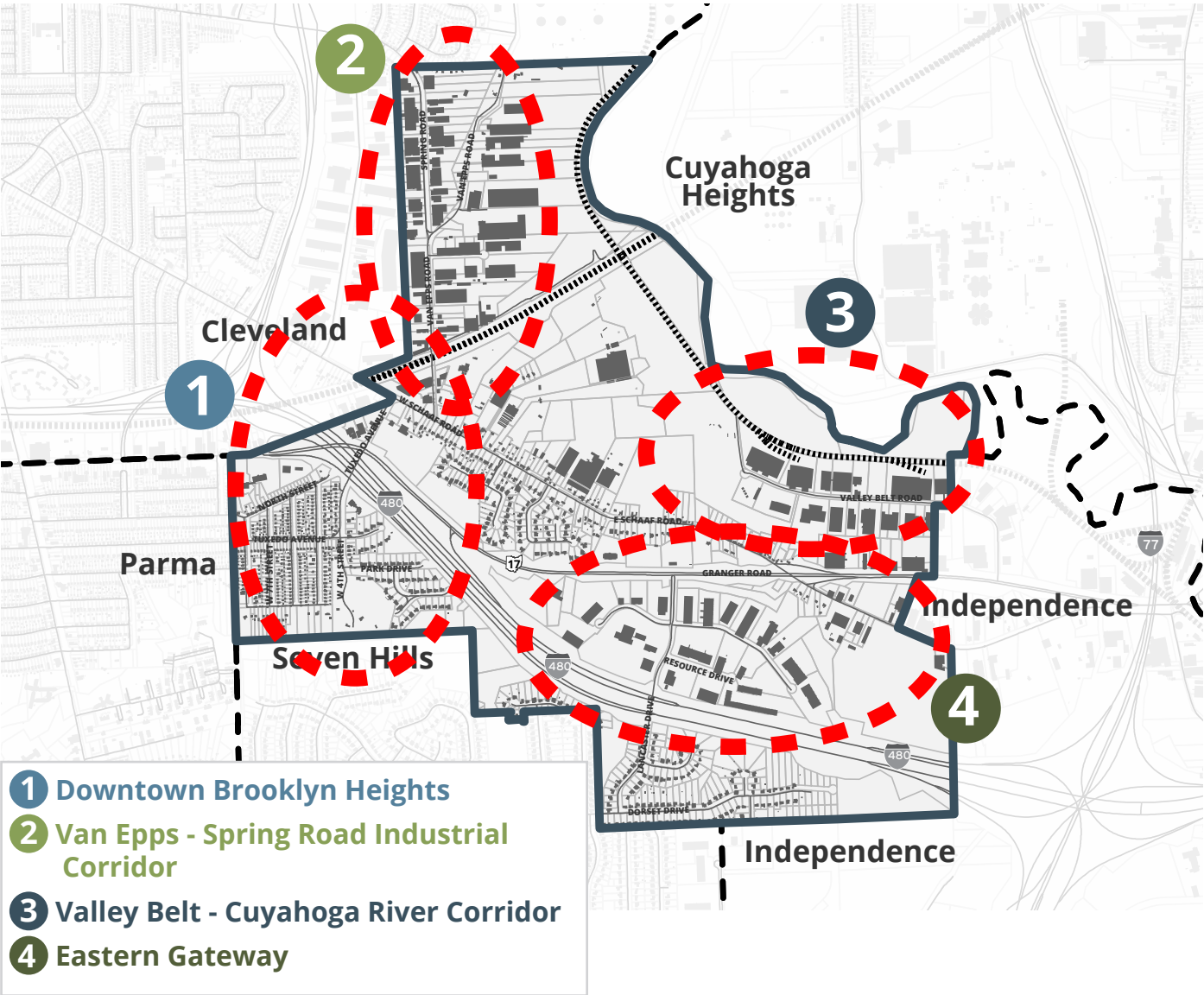
FOCUS AREAS FRAMEWORK

- Focus Areas Framework Overview, pages 80-83
- Downtown Brooklyn Heights, pages 84-89
- Van Epps - Spring Road Industrial Corridor, pages 90-91
- Valley Belt Road - Cuyahoga River Corridor, pages 92-95
- Eastern Gateway, pages 96-97
- Business District Analysis, pages 98-101

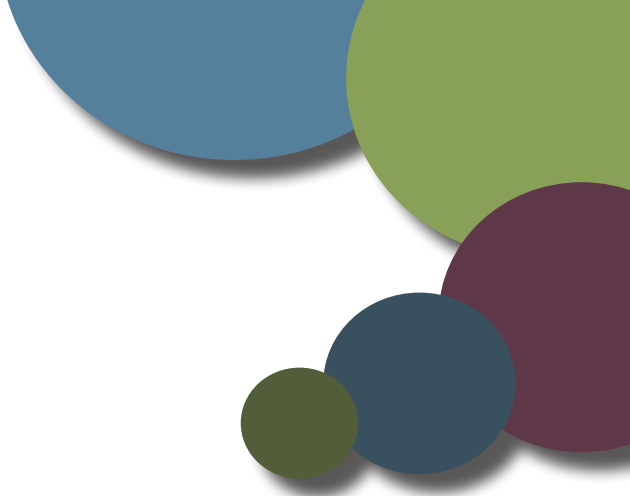


FOCUS AREAS FRAMEWORK OVERVIEW

Map 10 — Brooklyn Heights Focus Areas Framework Map



Images Source: County Planning & Village of Brooklyn Heights



FOCUS AREAS

At the first Project Team meeting, members were asked to identify areas or places of needs, opportunities, improvement, strength, and exception in Brooklyn Heights. Based on this input, information gathered by County Planning as part of the Current Conditions analysis, and the 2003 Master Plan, we identified areas that were of specific concern for the future. These were combined and named to identify four areas of focus for the Master Plan, which are presented here.

WHAT IS A FOCUS AREA?

The four Focus Areas are places where additional transportation and land use analysis and review have taken place as part of the Master Plan. They include such diverse areas as commercial corridors, industrial areas, and parks. Each Focus Area is a defined location within which specific strategies and policies are outlined to guide development.

THE FOUR FOCUS AREAS

The four Focus Areas are shown on Map 10. They include a variety of areas, within which are assets and opportunities. The details of each area are shown on the following pages.

The four Focus Areas are:

- Downtown Brooklyn Heights
- Van Epps – Spring Road Industrial Corridor
- Valley Belt Road - Cuyahoga River Corridor
- Eastern Gateway

NEXT STEPS

The Focus Areas are conceptual. Detailed engineering, traffic studies, and financial analysis are necessary before undertaking any proposed projects. The concepts should be used as a basis for beginning the process of reviewing, approving, and ultimately undertaking the construction of these projects.

Downtown Brooklyn Heights

The Downtown Brooklyn Heights Focus Area is centered around Tuxedo Avenue and Granger Road. It includes the Village Municipal Center, Community Center, Service Department, and a global headquarters and local businesses near the western Village border. The Plan recommends focusing efforts on enlivening and branding the corridor as the heart of Brooklyn Heights.

To enliven the Downtown Brooklyn Heights area, the Village should undertake the following:

- Enhance signage and wayfinding
- Improve streetscapes and gateway entrances
- Add public transportation routes
- Expand commercial and retail uses
- Develop connections to parks and open spaces
- Promote potential development areas

See “Downtown Brooklyn Heights” on page 84 for more information.



The Downtown Brooklyn Heights Focus Area, as seen from the aerial is situated north of I-480 and includes West Schaaf Road, Old Brookpark Road, and Tuxedo Avenue.

Van Epps - Spring Road Industrial Corridor

The Van Epps - Spring Road Industrial Corridor Focus Area encompasses the areas north of Van Epps to the northwestern border of the Village. This corridor is one of three industrial and business centers in Brooklyn Heights that provides many jobs. However, access to some of these jobs may be difficult to access because of incomplete sidewalk connections and a lack of public transit routes to the businesses. To improve these areas, efforts should be made to enhance the corridor to make it a more welcoming, accessible, and defined area.

Within this industrial-business corridor, the Village should undertake the following:

- Improve infrastructure and streetscapes
- Enhance signage and wayfinding
- Add public transportation routes and stops to businesses in the corridor
- Improve pedestrian and bicycle connections
- Promote and sustain economic development

See “Van Epps - Spring Road Industrial Corridor ” on page 90 for more information.



The Van Epps - Spring Road Corridor as seen from the aerial includes Spring Road, Hayes Drive, and the northeastern border of the Village adjacent to the Cuyahoga River.

Valley Belt Road - Cuyahoga River Corridor

The Valley Belt Road - Cuyahoga River Corridor Focus Area includes the Village-owned landfill and surrounding areas north of Granger Road, near Valley Belt Road to the Cuyahoga River valley along the northeastern Village border. This area is in close proximity to water and water features that include the Cuyahoga River, the lower Cuyahoga subwatershed, and adjacent riparian zones. Long-term sustainability strategies should be undertaken to address conservation of land and flood resiliency. While proximity to the Cuyahoga River may cause a flood risk, it also offers access to natural resources and community assets that allow water to drain more efficiently during and after storms and provides the Village with opportunities to redevelopment the landfill for recreational.

To redevelop this area, the following should be undertaken:

- Consider redeveloping the landfill into a park with trail for residents and employees
- Establish protection and conservation strategies for the Cuyahoga River's natural areas
- Promote sustainable watershed development
- Increase recreational opportunities
- Promote and sustain economic development

See "Valley Belt Road - Cuyahoga River Corridor" on page 92 for more information.



The aerial of the Valley Belt Road - Cuyahoga River Corridor Focus Area includes the Towpath Trail and possible connections to the businesses along Valley Belt Road.

Eastern Gateway

The Eastern Gateway Focus Area includes the landfill near the southeastern border, north of I-480 and the Resources Drive, Keynote Circle, and Lancaster Drive business areas.

To enhance the Eastern Gateway focus area, the following should be undertaken:

- Reuse the closed landfill for a solar power microgrid
- Enhance pedestrian and bicycle connections
- Promote potential development areas
- Increase environmental buffers through regulation, protection and conservation of environmentally sensitive areas

See "Eastern Gateway" on page 96 for more information.



The aerial of the Eastern Gateway Focus Area includes Lancaster Drive to the west, the City of Independence to the east, I-480 to the south, and East Schaaf and Granger Roads to the north.

Bottom: Aerial of landfill in the proposed Eastern Gateway Focus Area between East Schaaf Road and the West Creek.

DOWNTOWN BROOKLYN HEIGHTS

SCENARIO 1

The Granger Road/Tuxedo Avenue/Schaaf Road area is the central core of Brooklyn Heights. Its assets include a mix of community and civic amenities such as the Community Center, Service Department, and the Village Municipal Center; a commercial and retail area that is shared with the City of Cleveland and includes South Hills Hardware and the Lunch Box Deli; a community and regional gem in the Brooklyn Heights Park; and the global headquarters for Nidec Industries. This area provides a foundation that should be fostered and grown to become Downtown Brooklyn Heights.

The recommendations on this and the following pages outline three proposed scenarios that aim to enliven the Downtown Brooklyn Heights area through phased transportation improvements, new economic development opportunities, and an enhanced gathering area that will bolster a fresh, vibrant community public space in the heart of Brooklyn Heights. The scenarios are intended to build upon each other.

SCENARIO 1: TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC SPACE IMPROVEMENTS

Scenario 1 outlines a short-term transportation improvement to elevate the non-motorists' experience that would make biking and walking to Downtown Brooklyn Heights destinations easier and safer. It also includes upgrades and an expansion of public spaces.

IMPROVE PRIMARY STREETSCAPES

Streetscape improvements enable bicyclists, pedestrians, and motorists to use the road safely. Streetscape improvements can include increased street lighting, landscaping, street furniture, enhanced sidewalk/street crossing treatments, bicycle paths and trails, and traffic calming measures. Downtown Brooklyn Heights has civic and retail destinations that can be linked together through improved streetscapes that can connect residents and visitors to a livelier area.

UPGRADE NON-MOTORIZED CONNECTIONS

The three main roads in Downtown Brooklyn Heights: Tuxedo Avenue, Granger and Schaaf Roads form a gateway into the Village, but they can be uncomfortable and disconnected from other areas.

The first step in completing those connections and building a bikeway network would be to add bike sharrows to indicate a shared roadway. Tuxedo Avenue and Schaaf Road are slower-moving residential streets, and the addition of sharrows help to connect the southwest and northeast neighborhoods with Downtown Brooklyn Heights to become a more bikeable place.

CONSIDER TRANSFORMING UNDERUTILIZED SPACES

With improved streetscapes and upgraded non-motorized connections, Brooklyn Heights could enhance its sense of place by transforming its underutilized spaces into a community gathering area. At the corner of Tuxedo Avenue and Schaaf Road, the Village owns three lots that combine for approximately 70,000 square feet of land spanning a little under 1.7 acres that includes the Community Services Center, Service Department, and 25,480 square feet of parking lot space. Utilizing a part of the parking lot to create a greenspace plaza with seating areas and temporary commercial and retail stalls would build a gathering place in Downtown Brooklyn Heights. Within this space, Brooklyn Heights could highlight local foods and foster small businesses.




A graphic representation of the improvements outlined in Scenario 1 for the Downtown Brooklyn Heights Focus Area can be found on page 85.

Legend

Streets and Trails

-  Sharrow
-  Tactile Curb
-  Railroad

Development/Amenities

-  Seating
-  Moveable Retail/Food Stall
-  Municipal Border



Images Source: (lower left) BGSU Independent News, (upper right) Google Picasa User Pamela Rumancik

DOWNTOWN BROOKLYN HEIGHTS

SCENARIO 2

SCENARIO 2: NEW ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND ENHANCED TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

Scenario 2 outlines economic development strategies for creating new and expanding existing commercial and retail opportunities in Downtown Brooklyn Heights that builds on the community gathering space. This scenario also outlines further improvements to the transportation system to establish safer bicycle connections.

EXPAND COMMERCIAL AND RETAIL USES

Scenario 1 outlined how the Village could use some underutilized parking by creating a small open space plaza with moveable food and retail stalls.

In Scenario 2, the Village can build upon the new plaza's marketability as a showcase for local merchants by building a small, permanent retail structure. This could complement the existing retail and food establishments on the other side of Tuxedo Avenue, along Schaaf Road, thereby creating a hub of activity.

By approaching the development of Downtown Brooklyn Heights in phased, incremental steps, the Village can expand commercial, and retail uses in Downtown Brooklyn Heights slowly. A critical step to accomplishing this will be updating the Zoning Code to allow limited commercial and retail uses in areas of Downtown Brooklyn Heights.

IMPROVE BICYCLE CONNECTIONS

Scenario 1 recommended that the first step in creating easier and safer connections to the Village's civic buildings, retail and commercial areas, and regional trails is to install sharrows.

In Scenario 2, the sharrows on Tuxedo Avenue, north of Granger Road could be replaced. Through road reconstruction, dedicated bicycle lanes in each direction could be created thereby increasing the safety and comfort levels for riders. Bicycle lanes help to clearly define designated spaces for cyclists and improve connections and safety.

A graphic representation of the improvements outlined in Scenario 2 for the Downtown Brooklyn Heights Focus Area can be found on page 87.

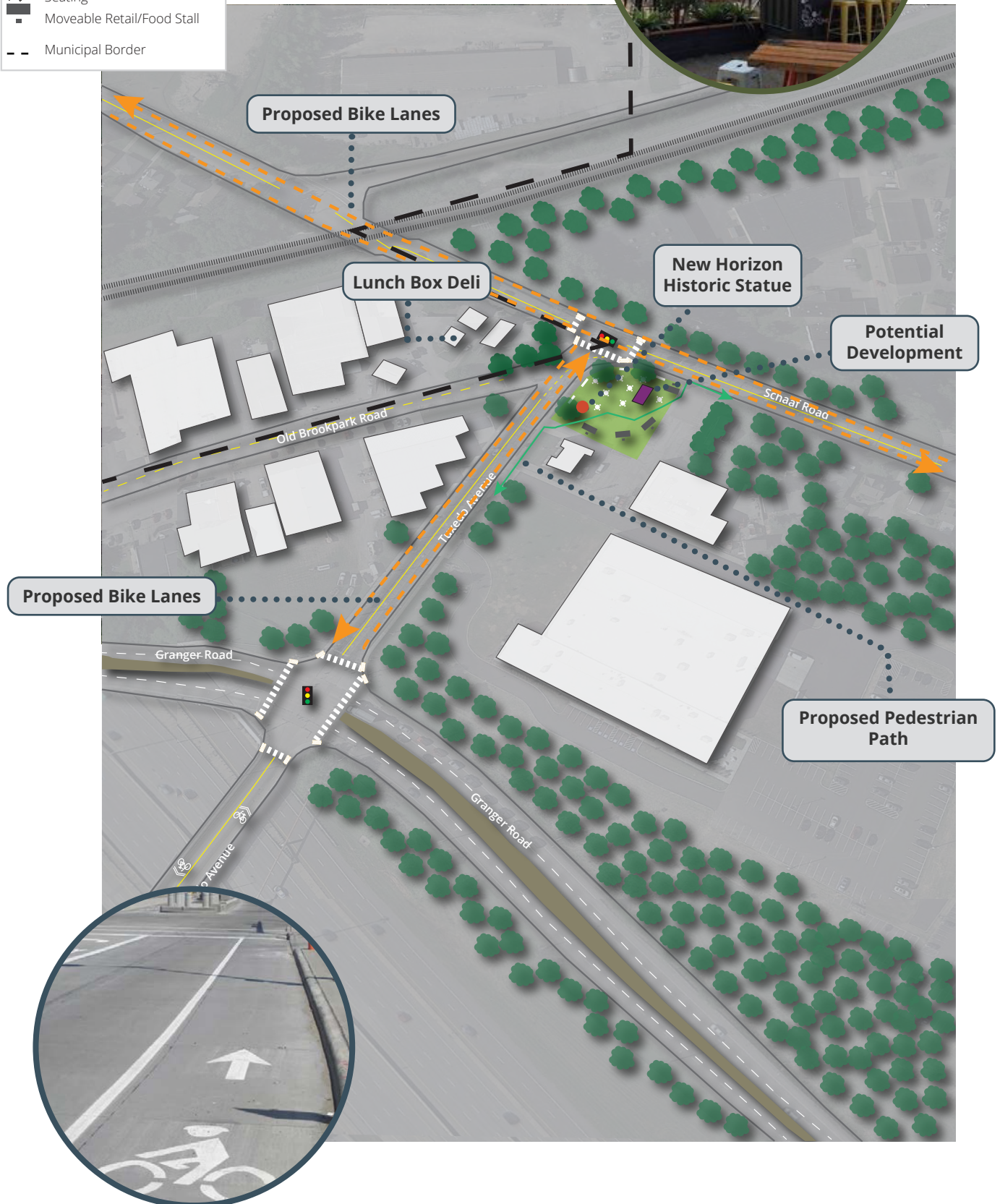
Legend

Streets and Trails

- Proposed Bike Lanes
- Pedestrian Path
- 🚲 Sharrow
- 🧱 Tactile Curb
- 🚂 Railroad

Development/Amenities

- 🏠 Potential Development
- 🪑 Seating
- 🍽️ Moveable Retail/Food Stall
- - Municipal Border



Images Source: (lower left) Bike Cleveland Bike Lane, (upper right) Pinterest Shipping Container Cafe

DOWNTOWN BROOKLYN HEIGHTS

SCENARIO 3

SCENARIO 3: COMPLETE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS AND ENHANCED GATHERING SPACE

Scenario 3 expands on the strategies from Scenarios 1 and 2 to create a lively space that is visible, active, and supportive of prospective activities and community groups such as farmers markets, pop-up shops, or other community-wide events.

Downtown Brooklyn Heights could become a place that supports businesses, connects the community to local and regional amenities, and develops an atmosphere where residents take a respite from walking and biking, relax and enjoy a meal, or buy goods or services from a local merchant.

RECONSTRUCT ROADS TO COMPLETE CONNECTIONS

To foster the enhanced Downtown Brooklyn Heights and community gathering space, the Village should consider a roundabout at Granger Road and Tuxedo Avenue. Roundabouts reduce conflicts, control speeds, and limit turning severity by providing uniform speeds throughout the roundabout. They can also safely accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians with refuge islands and enhanced crossing treatments. Adding a roundabout at the intersection of Granger Road and Tuxedo Avenue would create a safer and more comfortable experience for motorists, bikers, and pedestrians and could act as a gateway into the Village.

ENHANCE ENTRANCES WITH GATEWAYS

The entrance and gateways into Downtown Brooklyn Heights could be better defined to identify the district and improve its brand. This scenario identifies two gateways into the district: the Tuxedo Avenue overpass and the Schaaf Road and Tuxedo Avenue intersection.

Reconstruction of the Tuxedo Avenue overpass would lend itself to a gateway sign along the overpass fencing for cars on I-480.

The use of a monument, freestanding, or mast arm gateway sign at the proposed Granger Road roundabout or at the intersection of Tuxedo Avenue and Schaaf Road would further reinforce the identity of Downtown Brooklyn Heights.

INVEST IN GREEN ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES

Local governments have found a number of environmental and economic benefits to using renewable, often called “green” energy that includes: a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, a lessening reliance on fossil energy sources, and economic development opportunities through improved power quality and supply reliability.

Small scale solar techniques such as roof top solar on municipal buildings or the development of a solar microgrid on vacant properties are ways that Brooklyn Heights could start to invest in green energy technologies. The Solar Potential information and maps on pages 46-47 show where the best solar potential for development is located in Brooklyn Heights.

Additionally, property owners with larger rooftops in Downtown Brooklyn Heights could utilize a solar rooftop array to help lower their energy costs. The Village should consider updating the Zoning Code to allow small scale solar and wind developments in appropriate areas of Brooklyn Heights.

Another way the Village could invest in green energy technologies is to provide areas for electric cars and bikes with electric vehicle charging stations. These charging stations emit no direct emissions and reduce sound and air pollution. Dedicating an area of existing parking lots not only promotes the Village's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emission, but helps to support a cleaner, healthy environment for the residents of Brooklyn Heights.

DEVELOP NEW COMMERCIAL AND RETAIL SPACES

New development could further activate Downtown Brooklyn Heights by providing a permanent place for gathering and dining.

Scenario 2 showcased the addition of a small, permanent retail structure in the new plaza that could complement existing retail and food establishments and showcase local merchants. The Village could enhance the small-scale development by constructing a larger commercial and retail building.

A graphic representation of the improvements outlined in Scenario 3 for the Downtown Brooklyn Heights Focus Area can be found on page 89.

Legend

Streets and Trails

- Proposed Bike Lanes
- Pedestrian Path
- ▨ Tactile Curbs
- Gateway

Environmental Features

- Solar Panels
- ⚡ Electric Charging Station

Development/Amenities

- Potential Development
- ⊞ Seating
- Moveable Retail/Food Stall
- Municipal Border



Images Source: (Top Left) Village of Greendale, WI, patch.com, Bike Lanes, (Bottom Left) Ohio Dept. of Transportation, Fox 10 Phoenix, City of Tempe, Arizona, & Pleasant Hill Snyder Associates

VAN EPPS - SPRING ROAD INDUSTRIAL CORRIDOR

The Van Epps – Spring Road Industrial Corridor is one of three industrial business districts in Brooklyn Heights. Many of the businesses are construction and manufacturing based with little streetscaping, landscaping, and other beautification treatments within the corridor. Unattractive spaces in the built environment can be uninviting to employers and employees, leaving the area undefined and creating difficulties for business attraction and retention. To improve the Van Epps – Spring Road Industrial Corridor, efforts should be made to enhance the corridor and make it a more welcoming, accessible, and defined area for existing and future business.

IMPROVE STREETSCAPES

Streetscaping refers to designing streets with safe walking and biking connections, landscaping, lighting, and other features to improve the attractiveness of a corridor. In the Van Epps – Spring Road Corridor, the area lacks attractive streetscapes, and the sidewalks on Van Epps Road are missing or incomplete and should be improved to create a more comfortable and inviting district. The Village should invest in streetscape improvements that improve the look and feel of the area, and complete sidewalk connections on both sides of Van Epps Road.

Elements of an improved streetscape the Village should consider include enhanced street crossing treatments, street trees, and amenities such as trash receptacles, and other decorative elements.

DEVELOP A CONNECTION TO THE TOWPATH TRAIL

Brooklyn Heights should focus on developing a safe, clear bicycle connection to the Towpath Trail using the land parallel to the railroad tracks. The Village should consider studying the feasibility of constructing a bridge that would span active railroad tracks and the Cuyahoga River to connect a potential trail from Van Epps Road to the Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath Trail.

ENHANCE SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING

Signage can beautify places and provides visitors with a level of predictability that helps to define boundaries especially in major corridors such as the Van Epps – Spring Road Corridor.

The Village should develop a distinct district identity for each of its industrial-business corridors that uses consistent signage, street graphics, lighting and landscaping.

In the Van Epps - Spring Road Industrial Corridor, gateways and signage in the locations identified on the map can assist in branding the corridor and building an identity to market to new businesses.

PROMOTE AND SUSTAIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Retaining existing businesses and supporting those businesses are important for sustained economic development and growth. Brooklyn Heights has a strong and robust core of businesses in this corridor that should be retained and supported. The Village could achieve this through an inventory of existing businesses to update pertinent information and access their current needs through a district association.

Furthermore, the Village should work with TeamNEO and Jobs Ohio to attract new businesses to the corridor. Building on the Brooklyn Heights Business District Site Analysis on pages 82-85, the Village should tailor a marketing campaign to attract new businesses in targeted industries to underutilized sites in the corridor.

BOLSTER ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Environmental sustainability helps to conserve and protect natural resources and ecosystems that support health and wellbeing for current and future generations.

The Van Epps – Spring Road Industrial Corridor is adjacent to the Cuyahoga River and valley, where changes in land cover can have a negative impact on water quality and watershed health. The Village should continue to enforce existing riparian buffer setback regulations and establish protected zones or environmental buffers around sensitive or critical areas to reduce land disturbance and proximity of infrastructure.

In recent years, a major focus in environmental sustainability has been mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions through renewable energy sources like wind and solar power. Small scale solar techniques such as roof top solar on commercial buildings could lessen the reliance on fossil energy sources, a large contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. The Solar Potential information and maps on pages 46-47 show where the best solar potential for development is located in Brooklyn Heights.

A graphic representation of the improvements outlined in the Van Epps - Spring Road Industrial Corridor Focus Area can be found on page 91..

Legend

Streets and Trails

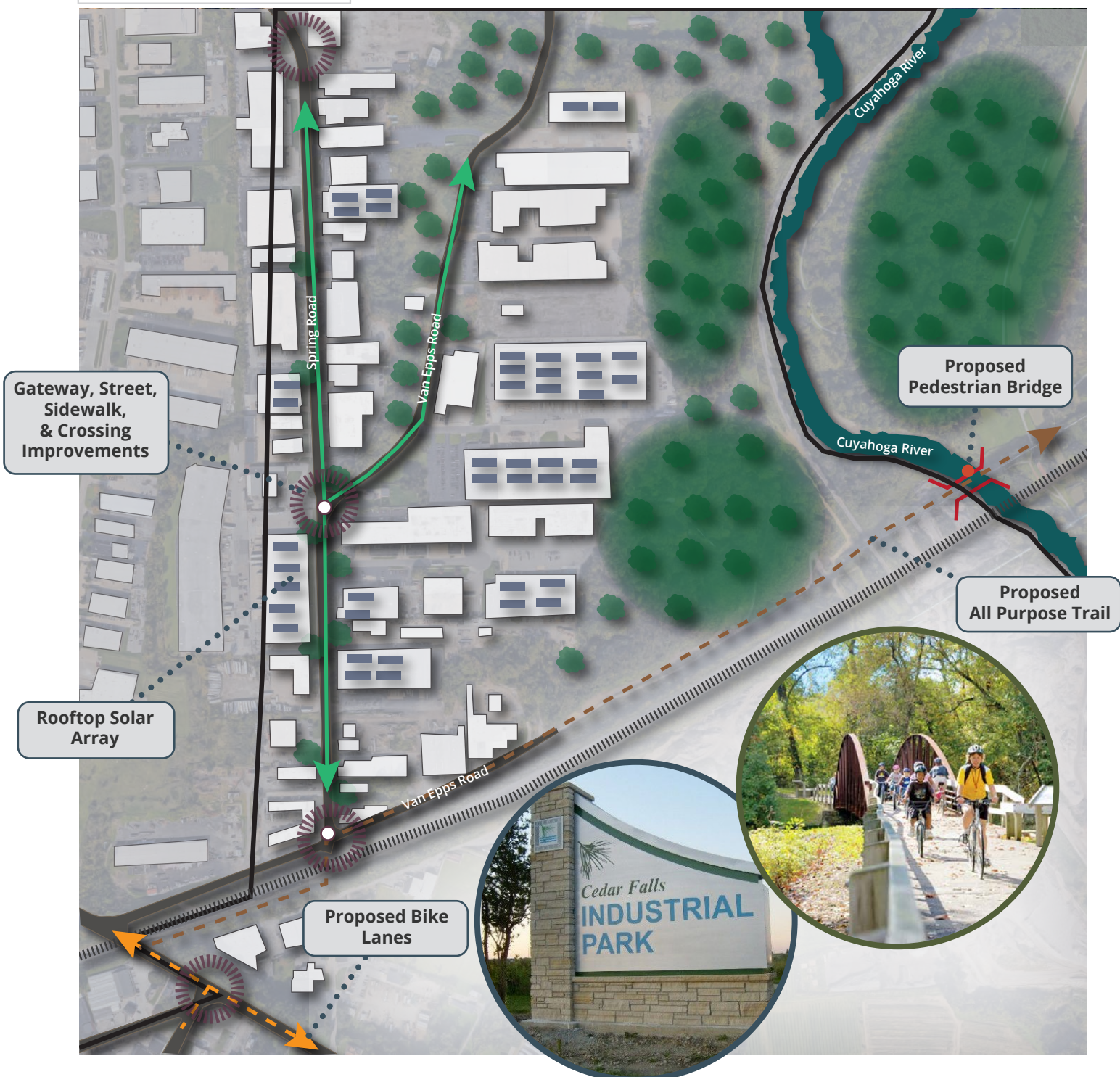
- Proposed All-Purpose Trails
- Proposed Bike Lanes
- Improved Streetscape and Sidewalks
- Crossing Improvements

Gateway

- Proposed Pedestrian Bridge

Environmental Features

- Solar Panels
- Environmental Buffer



Images Source: (left) Cedar Falls Tourism, (right) Cleveland Metroparks

VALLEY BELT ROAD - CUYAHOGA RIVER CORRIDOR

SCENARIO 1

The Valley Belt Road - Cuyahoga River Corridor Focus Area includes a Village-owned landfill that could be redeveloped as a passive park with trails for residents and district employees. This area is in close proximity to the Cuyahoga River and its riparian zones. The Valley Belt business district should be a focal point for sustainability strategies to address conservation of land and flood resiliency while increasing its role as a job hub for the Village.

The Focus Area recommendations outline two proposed scenarios that aim to stimulate the Valley Belt Road - Cuyahoga River Corridor Focus Area through redevelopment of the landfill for park space, environmentally sustainable strategies for the Cuyahoga River's natural and surrounding areas, and improvements to the business district.

SCENARIO 1: REDEVELOP THE LANDFILL AND ADD NEW DEVELOPMENT

Scenario 1 outlines redevelopment of the landfill into a park with trails accessible for residents and district employees, and potential new development opportunities.

REDEVELOP THE LANDFILL AS A PARK

The Village should aim to redevelop the existing Village-owned landfill as a passive park with trails and a river overlook. Redeveloping a capped and closed landfill requires extensive coordination and collaboration between many professionals such as environmental specialists, civil engineers, landscape architects, geologists, ecologists, soil scientists, and other development professionals to address complex soil concerns and permitting requirements.

To help with the design, the Village should coordinate redevelopment plans with local, county, and state experts. The Village should consider native species and green infrastructure treatments for surface drainage and mitigating stormwater.

ENHANCE SIGNAGE, GATEWAYS, AND WAYFINDING

Signage can beautify places and provides visitors with a level of predictability that helps to define boundaries. The Village should develop a distinct district identity for each of its industrial-business corridors that uses consistent signage, street graphics, lighting and landscaping.

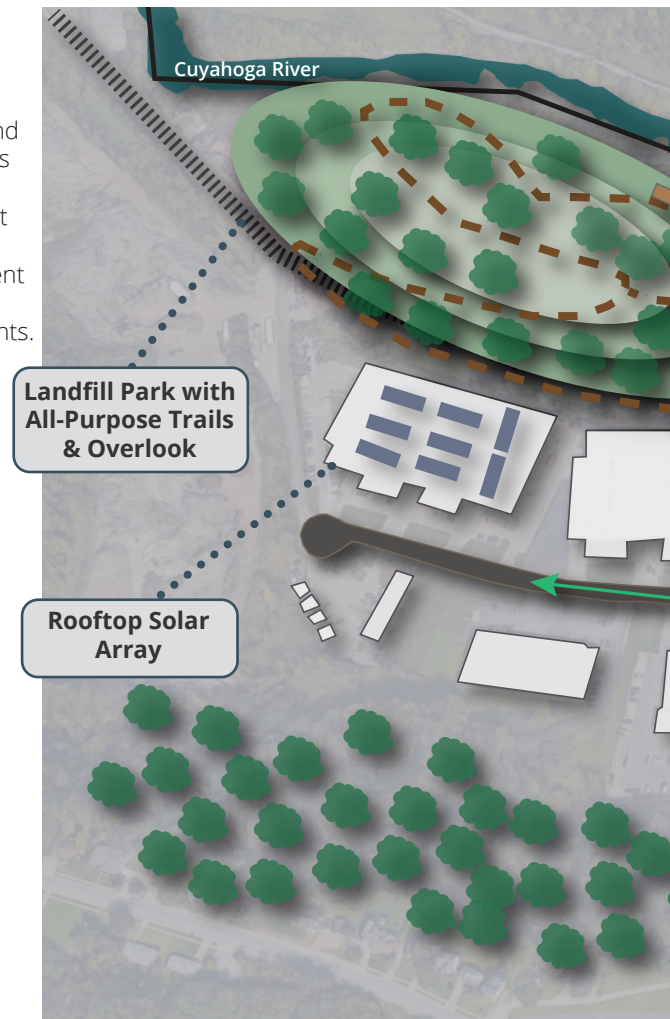
In the Valley Belt - Cuyahoga River Corridor, gateways and signage in the locations identified on the map can assist in

branding the corridor and building an identity to market to new businesses.

INVEST IN GREEN ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES

Brooklyn Heights and its businesses could start to invest in green energy technologies from wind and solar power. Property owners with larger rooftops in the Valley Belt Road - Cuyahoga River Corridor Focus Areas could utilize solar rooftop arrays to help lower their energy costs. The Village should consider updating the Zoning Code to allow small scale solar and wind developments in appropriate areas of Brooklyn Heights.

The Solar Potential information and maps on pages 62-63 show where the best solar potential for development is located in Brooklyn Heights.



IMPROVE PRIMARY STREETSCAPES AND CONNECTIONS

The Village should identify standard elements for streetscape improvements that include increased, lighting, signage, trees, bike paths, and walking trails, and implement those improvements in the Valley Belt Road business district. The improved streetscapes and connections should be extended to the redeveloped landfill park to allow public access for walking, cycling, and other outdoor recreational activities.

The Valley Belt businesses and employees along Granger Road and Valley Belt Drive would benefit from improved streetscapes and developed trails to make connections more comfortable through the Valley Belt – Cuyahoga River Corridor.

ADD NEW DEVELOPMENT

When there are vacant, undeveloped, or open space areas, those areas could be developed to create employment or other economic development opportunities in the Valley Belt Drive business district. See pages 82-85 for more information on the Brooklyn Heights Businesses Site Analysis.

A graphic representation of the improvements outlined in the Valley Belt Road - Cuyahoga River Corridor Focus Area can be found below.

Images Source: (left) Patrick Shepherd, Cleveland Metroparks Brighton Park, (center) Mierle Laderman Ukeles' Landing, Freshkills Park, The Freshkills Park Alliance, Staten Island, New York, (right) City of Minneapolis, Minnesota



VALLEY BELT ROAD - CUYAHOGA RIVER CORRIDOR

SCENARIO 2

SCENARIO 2: PROTECT THE RIVER AND EXPAND GREEN AND OPEN SPACES

Scenario 2 outlines improvements for the Cuyahoga River watershed protection and access to natural resources and community assets that allow water to drain more efficiently during and after storms and provides the Village with opportunities to expand green and open spaces for recreational opportunities.

WATERSHED PROTECTION

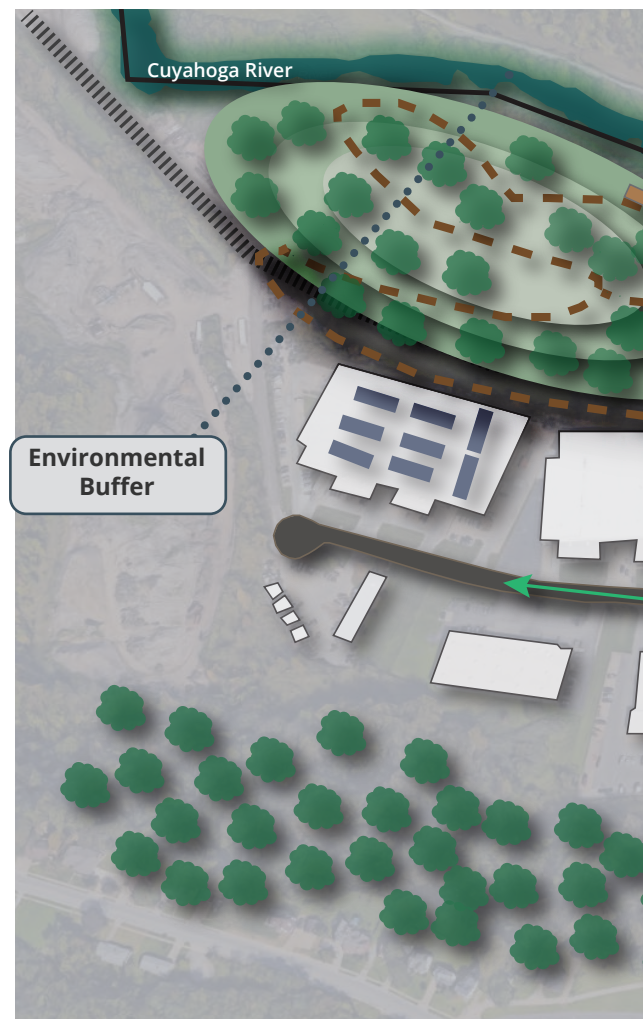
In order to keep the Cuyahoga River valley and banks clean, the Village should review and invest in improvements to both upstream and downstream areas. To protect the watershed from development encroachment that could cause pollutants to enter the river, the Village should continue to enforce and strengthen its 300-foot riparian setback regulations. This will ensure adequate green space to reduce the amount of stormwater entering the river.

EXPAND GREEN AND OPEN SPACES

Parks and green spaces offer recreational and aesthetic value to a community. The addition of parks can improve air quality and support mental health through improved mood and stress reduction. They can also provide the space necessary for green infrastructure such as bioswales that reduce and mitigate the amount of stormwater entering streams and rivers.

The Village could acquire or work with property owners to redevelop existing vacant lots into mini green and open spaces that can accommodate open turf areas, a picnic area, or half-court basketball court with sidewalks to support health for employees and residents. This can also act as a gateway to the proposed riverfront passive park.

A graphic representation of the improvements outlined in the Valley Belt Road - Cuyahoga River Corridor Focus Area can be found to the right.



Images Source: (left) Community Park, City of North Olmsted, Ohio, (center) Kiwanis Parking Lot Park, City of Bend, Oregon, (right) Hills Park, City of Elk Grove, California



EASTERN GATEWAY

The Eastern Gateway area includes a major business district as well as a privately-owned capped and closed landfill. The businesses in this district are geared towards Health Care, Social Services, and Professional Services-oriented industries, and is ideally situated within Brooklyn Heights. This area could be enhanced with sustainable landfill redevelopment through renewable energy technologies, improved streetscapes and connections, new development opportunities, and signage that would reinforce the identity and energize the Eastern Gateway.

REDEVELOP THE LANDFILL BY INVESTING IN RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES

The benefits to using renewable energy includes a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, a reduced reliance on fuels, and economic growth through lower electricity prices. One example of how Brooklyn Heights could achieve this recommendation is through the installation of a solar array.

Small roof top solar arrays or the development of a solar array on the former landfill are ways that Brooklyn Heights could start to invest in green energy technologies. The Solar Potential information and maps on pages 62-63 shows where the best solar potential for development is located in Brooklyn Heights. Given the availability for solar arrays on buildings and on the former landfill site, the Village should partner with Cuyahoga County to connect these solar arrays into a microgrid. A microgrid could provide uninterrupted, green power to this business district.

IMPROVE PRIMARY STREETSCAPES AND CONNECTIONS

The Village should identify standard elements for streetscape improvements that involve additions to the existing infrastructure to improve the look and feel of the street. These improvements include adding lighting, signage, trees, a bike path to connect users from the residential neighborhoods to Granger Road and the larger trail network, and completing a walking loop from West Resources Drive to Lancaster Road to Resources Drive to Keynote Circle.

ENHANCE SIGNAGE, GATEWAYS, AND WAYFINDING

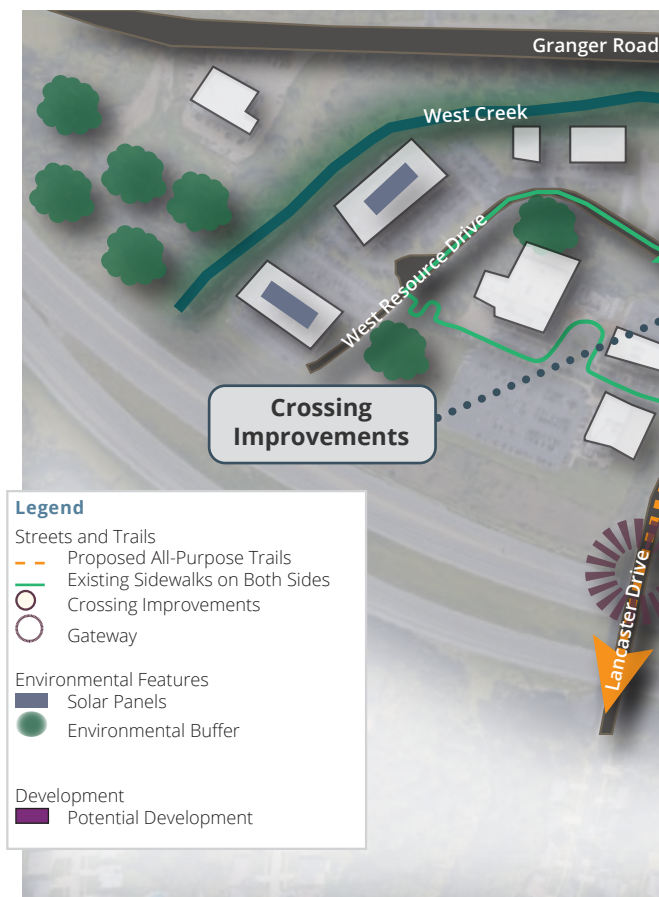
As one of the main business districts in Brooklyn Heights, the Village should consider adding entrance and gateway signage on the Lancaster Bridge to help identify the district, the Village from I-480, draw visitors to the district, and brand the business district.

ADD NEW DEVELOPMENT

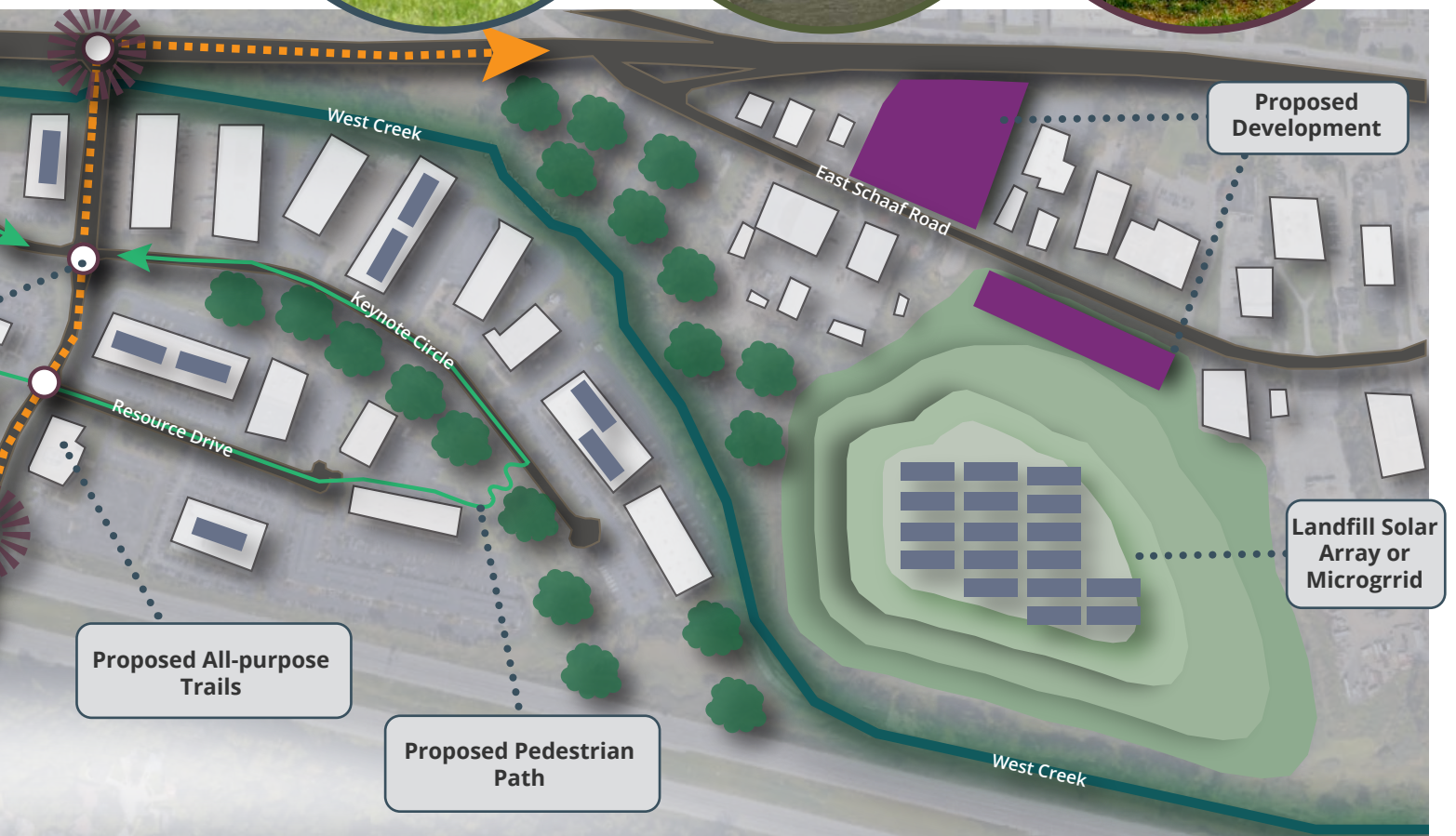
When there are vacant, undeveloped, or open space areas, those areas could be developed to create employment or other economic development opportunities for the Eastern Gateway business district. Two areas for development include property at the front of the landfill and on the north side of East Schaaf Road.

The Village should work with regional entities to tailor a marketing campaign to find and attract businesses that are best suited to the Eastern Gateway Focus Area. See pages 98-101 for more information on the Brooklyn Heights Businesses Site Analysis.

A graphic representation of the improvements outlined in the Eastern Gateway Focus Area can be found below.



Images Source: (left) Google Images, Village of Brooklyn Heights, Ohio, (center) West Creek, Google Images, Village of Brooklyn Heights, Ohio, (right) Cinnamonson Landfill Solar Array, CSEnergy.com



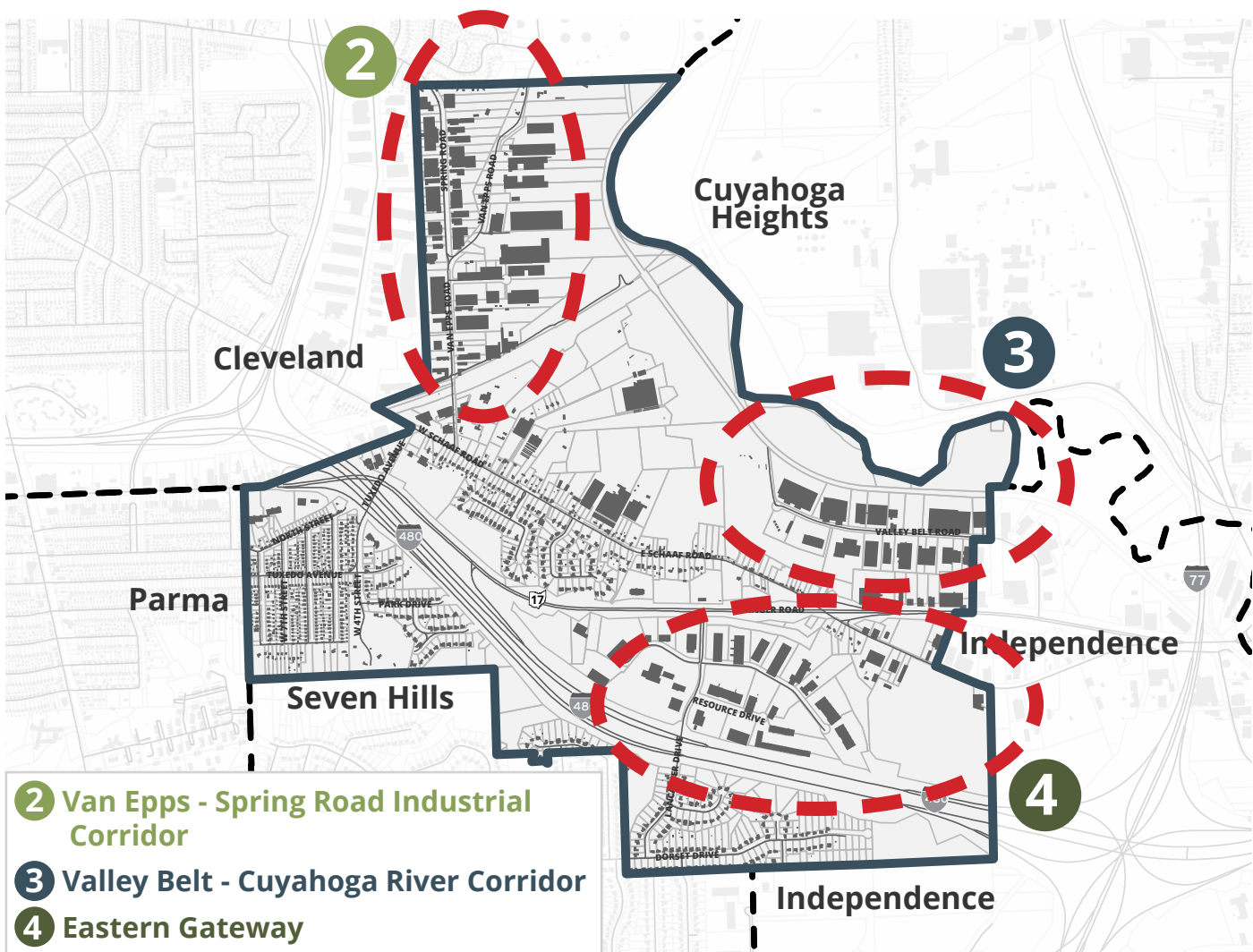
BUSINESS DISTRICTS SITE ANALYSIS

Three of the Brooklyn Heights Focus Areas are major business districts: Van Epps Road - Spring Road Corridor, Valley Belt Road - Cuyahoga River Corridor, and Eastern Gateway. To better understand these business districts, a site analysis was conducted.

For each Focus Area, we provide information on top industries (by share of businesses, sales and employees), building condition and age, and lastly level of vacancy. This is only a starting point; the Village should consider an in-depth analysis of each Focus Area and form a marketing strategy that can better attract targeted industries and identify opportunities for redevelopment. The Village should take this as an opportunity to update its Business Directory with additional information such as addresses and local contact information. The Village could also take this opportunity to reformat and update its list of leasable spaces to ensure information is kept up to date.

SITE ANALYSIS PROCESS

The types of industries and the number of businesses, sales, and employees per industry are gathered from Team NEO's Zoom Prospector tool, an application developed by GIS Planning and a service provided by Financial Times. This data is current as of 12/1/2021. Building condition and age were gathered from the Cuyahoga County Fiscal Office. The list of vacancies on the Village's website was used as a starting point for gathering the square footage of office and warehouse space available to lease in each Focus Area. Each property listed was checked to see if they were still available and additional properties were considered. Vacancy data is current as of 11/25/21.



VAN EPPS - SPRING ROAD INDUSTRIAL CORRIDOR FOCUS AREA

The Van Epps - Spring Road Industrial Corridor Focus Area is mainly an industrial area with Construction and Wholesalers as its top industries. It contains 72 businesses, employs 1,156 people, and has the most sales of \$ 261,318,000 compared to the other Focus Areas. This Focus Area varies greatly in terms of its building quality and building age; building quality ranges from “Fair” to “Very Good” and building age ranges from the 1950s to the early 2000s, with a median building age of 1972. This Focus Area has the smallest area of available space, with most of this available space as warehouse space.

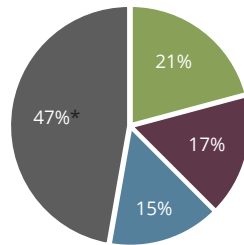
TOP INDUSTRIES

The top three industries are shown in terms of their share of businesses, sales, and employees in this Focus Area.

* The grey portion of the pie chart represents all other industries

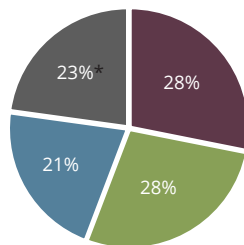
BY SHARE OF BUSINESSES

1. Construction
15 businesses (21%)
2. Wholesalers
12 businesses (17%)
3. Manufacturing
(Electronics, Furniture, Machinery, Metal, Transportation, misc.)
11 businesses (15%)



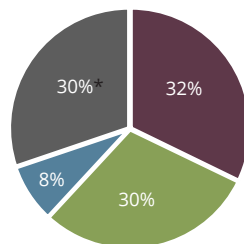
BY SHARE OF SALES

1. Wholesalers
\$73,512,000 (28%)
2. Construction
\$72,265,000 (28%)
3. Manufacturing
(Electronics, Furniture, Machinery, Metal, Transportation, misc.)
\$55,935,000 (21%)



BY SHARE OF EMPLOYEES

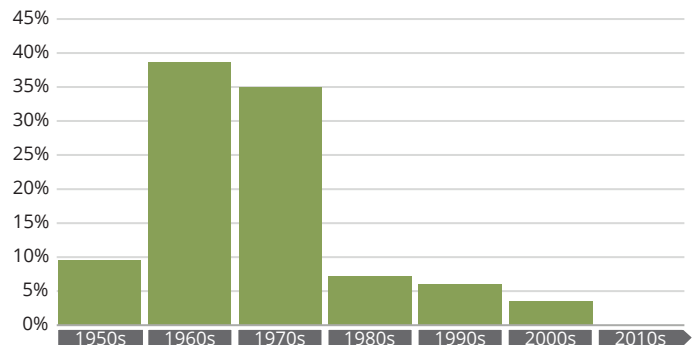
1. Wholesalers
372 employees (32%)
2. Construction
343 employees (30%)
3. Manufacturing
(Electronics, Furniture, Machinery, Metal, Transportation, misc.)
343 employees (8%)



*Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding

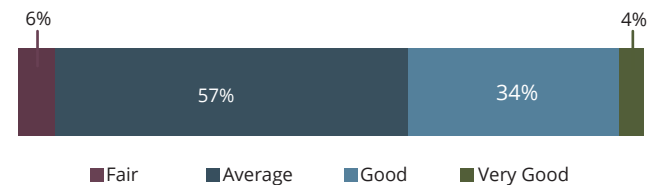
BUILDING AGE

Shown are the percentages of buildings built in each decade from the 1950s (1950-1959) to the 2010s (2010-2019).



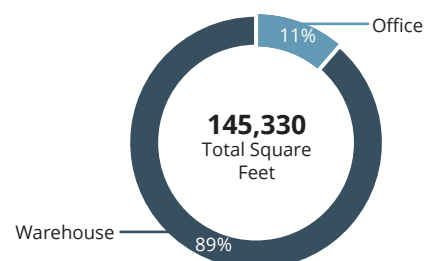
BUILDING CONDITION

Shown are the percentages of buildings that fall under each building condition rating (designated by the fiscal office) present in the Focus Area.



VACANCY

The total square feet of available leasable space is calculated and then broken down by space type — Warehouse or Office.



VALLEY BELT ROAD - CUYAHOGA RIVER CORRIDOR FOCUS AREA

This Focus Area overlaps with the City of Independence's Cloverleaf Business District. It is important for the Village of Brooklyn Heights to collaborate with the City of Independence to create an attractive and cohesive business district. This Focus Area contains 29 businesses and employs 799 people. The Valley Belt Road Focus Area is mainly industrial with Wholesalers being its top industry in terms of share of businesses, sales, and employees. This Focus Area is the smallest across the three categories, and has older buildings (the majority built in the 1960s and 1970s) with a majority (60%) ranked as "Average." These types of buildings are candidates for redevelopment and renovation.

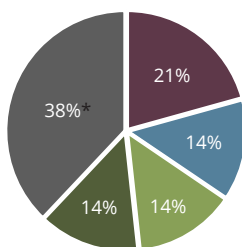
TOP INDUSTRIES

The top industries are shown in terms of their share of businesses, sales, and employees in this Focus Area.

* The grey portion of the pie chart represents all other industries

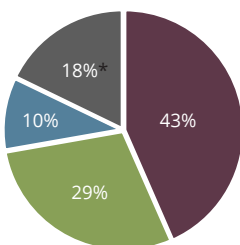
BY SHARE OF BUSINESSES

- 1. Wholesalers**
6 businesses (21%)
- 2. Construction**
4 businesses (14%)
- 3. Manufacturing**
(Electronics, Furniture, Machinery, Metal, Transportation, misc.)
4 businesses (14%)
- 4. Administrative & Support, Waste Management, Remediation Services**
4 businesses (14%)



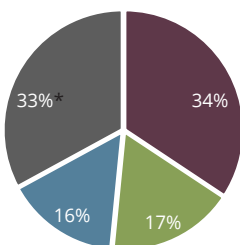
BY SHARE OF SALES

- 1. Wholesalers**
\$72,546,000 (43%)
- 2. Construction**
\$48,122,000 (29%)
- 3. Manufacturing**
(Electronics, Furniture, Machinery, Metal, Transportation, misc.)
\$16,667,000 (10%)



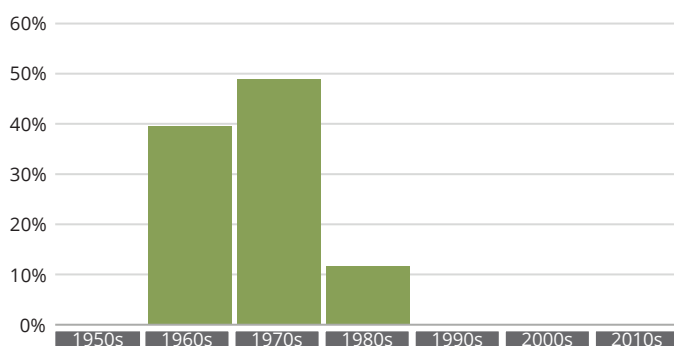
BY SHARE OF EMPLOYEES

- 1. Wholesalers**
274 employees (34%)
- 2. Construction**
138 employees (17%)
- 3. Manufacturing**
(Electronics, Furniture, Machinery, Metal, Transportation, misc.)
274 employees (16%)



BUILDING AGE

Shown are the percentages of buildings built in each decade from the 1950s (1950-1959) to the 2010s (2010-2019).



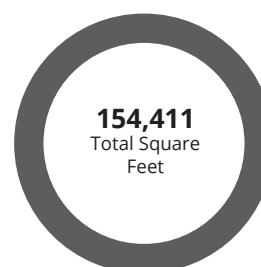
BUILDING CONDITION

Shown are the percentages of buildings that fall under each building condition rating (designated by the fiscal office) present in the Focus Area.



VACANCY

Only the total square feet of available leasable space is provided, as there was incomplete data on the space type.



*Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding

EASTERN GATEWAY FOCUS AREA

The Eastern Gateway Focus Area is less industrial than the other two business districts. Health Care & Social Services and Professional, Scientific & Technical Services, along with Wholesalers are the top industries. This Focus Area contains the most businesses (74 businesses), and employs the most people (2,436 people), compared to the other Focus Areas. The buildings in this Focus Area are generally newer with a median year built of 1991, and in slightly better condition with almost half of buildings in “Good” condition and some even in “Very Good” and “Excellent” condition. The Eastern Gateway Focus Area also has the most available leasable space. The available leasable spaces are in buildings categorized as “Good”, and a couple are in buildings categorized as “Very Good”. Thus, the Eastern Gateway Focus Area currently has the most opportunity to attract businesses and may be the easiest to market.

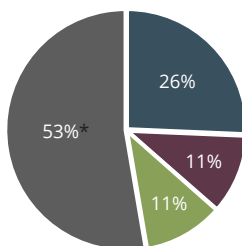
TOP INDUSTRIES

The top three industries are shown in terms of their share of businesses, sales, and employees in this Focus Area.

* The grey portion of the pie chart represents all other industries

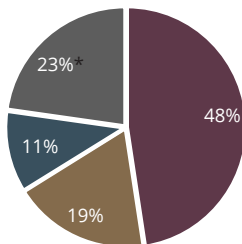
BY SHARE OF BUSINESSES

1. Health Care & Social Services
19 businesses (26%)
2. Wholesalers
8 businesses (11%)
3. Construction
8 businesses (11%)



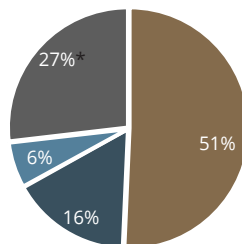
BY SHARE OF SALES

1. Wholesalers
\$104,749,000 (48%)
2. Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services
\$40,823,000 (19%)
3. Health Care & Social Services
\$24,491,000 (11%)



BY SHARE OF EMPLOYEES

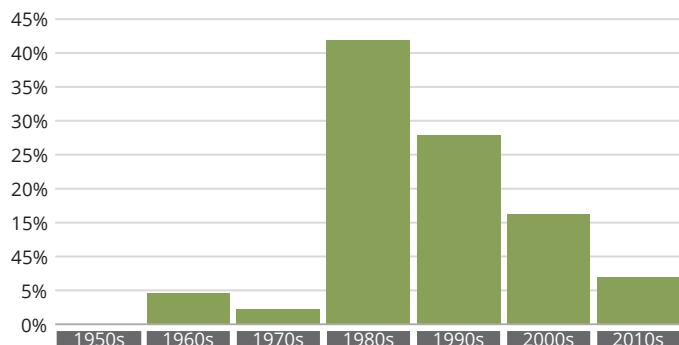
1. Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services
1235 employees (51%)
2. Manufacturing (Electronics, Furniture, Machinery, Metal, Transportation, misc.)
395 employees (16%)
3. Health Care & Social Services
152 employees (6%)



*Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding

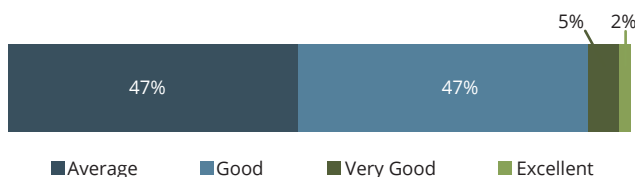
BUILDING AGE

Shown are the percentages of buildings built in each decade from the 1950s (1950-1959) to the 2010s (2010-2019).



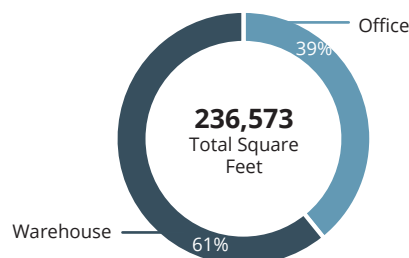
BUILDING CONDITION

Shown are the percentages of buildings that fall under each building condition rating (designated by the fiscal office) present in the Focus Area.



VACANCY

The total square feet of available leasable space is calculated and then broken down by space type — Warehouse or Office.





6 Implementation

Moving from vision to implementation requires commitments of time and resources. The Implementation section ties individual actions to partners, timeframes, and potential funding sources to ensure everyone is aware of how actions can be accomplished.

WHAT'S INSIDE

This section includes tables that correspond to each goal and strategy from the Recommendations. For the goals and strategies, detailed information is listed including a time frame identifying how long it could take to accomplish the action, parties that could assist in its implementation, and potential levels of funding. It also provides space to add notes for the status of a project and for the date an action is completed.

The implementation tables are meant to serve as a guide; however, priorities, funding streams, and partners can change over time. New resources should be evaluated against action items as they arise.

HOW DO I USE IT?

The Implementation section informs not only Village staff and administration of who is responsible for undertaking actions, but it also discusses partnerships with private property owners, other municipalities, and other levels of government to demonstrate that accomplishing the plan will take efforts from many groups.

IMPLEMENTATION

- Strategies and Collaborations, pages 104
- Reading the Tables, pages 105
- Focus Area Implementation Tables, pages 106-107
- Villagewide Implementation Tables, pages 108-119
- Potential Funding Sources, pages 120-125

6.1 STRATEGIES AND COLLABORATIONS

It is intended that this Master Plan will be used by the Village of Brooklyn Heights—as well as property owners and developers—when deciding where, when, and how to make investments. A viable implementation program—one that sets forth specific action items—is a valuable tool to ensure that recommendations are acted upon.

TYPES OF STRATEGIES

The strategy steps can be categorized in three ways:

- **Proactive Strategies** include recommendations for revising, expanding, promoting, or developing new programs or services. These are strategies that would not otherwise occur without new action undertaken by residents, groups, or the Village.
- In addition to proactive strategies, the plan recommends certain **Responsive Strategies**. These strategies are to be undertaken when certain conditions are met. For instance, supporting new senior housing investments would be triggered when a development proposal is submitted to the Village.
- Finally, the Master Plan recommends certain **Ongoing Strategies**. These actions are meant to underscore positive steps already undertaken and which are important to continue or to improve.

COLLABORATION

It is important to recognize that there are factors that impact the Village that are beyond its control. In such cases, it is important to forge and maintain supportive partnerships with those who can provide assistance. In addition, because cities across the County and State are facing financial challenges, it is becoming more important than ever to engage firms, institutions, and citizens to collaborate in the work of government.

The Master Plan identifies opportunities for engaging with other entities in developing mutually beneficial programs. With this in mind, the Village can serve as a champion and supporter to help spur collaborative actions.

6.2 READING THE TABLES

The implementation tables on the following pages link directly to the goals and strategies in the Recommendations document. The components of the Focus Areas Framework are expanded to include next steps, while tables covering the goals of the Villagewide Recommendations include details such as Projected Timeline, Responsible Parties & Partners, Estimated Cost, and Status/Date Complete. Potential Partners are identified through symbols as shown in the legend on the following page.

While Potential Partners, Estimated Timelines, and Estimated Cost are outlined, changing circumstances, priorities, and funding streams may require this action table to change. The last column—Status/Date Complete—provides the opportunity to track changes in the implementation of an action and to provide a public record of when a project or action is completed.

It is important to recognize the tables serve as guides; they are intended to be updated when circumstances warrant.

COST ESTIMATES

The implementation tables for the Villagewide framework contain three levels of cost estimates: High, Medium, and Low. Because of the ever-changing nature of projects, costs are variable; however, we have provided ranges to give a general understanding of the scope of a project.

For the purposes of this plan, High, Medium, and Low cost ranges can be understood as follows:

Estimated Cost Range	
High Cost	Over \$500,000
Medium Cost	\$100,000 to \$500,000
Low Cost	Up to \$100,000

Importantly, estimated costs are only supplied for the strategy as described. They do not take into account additional steps. For instance, the cost of the strategy “Partner with neighboring communities and regional entities to develop an all-purpose trail connection between the West Creek Greenway and the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail.” is only for the cost of partnering with neighboring communities and regional entities. The cost does not take into account further actions—such as traffic and environmental studies in those areas—that might be a necessary next step to developing those trail connections.

PRIORITIES

The priorities for Goals and Strategies will be identified by stars in the implementation tables. Those with three stars are the highest priority while fewer stars indicate lower priorities.

HELP! — WHERE DO WE START?

The first step to beginning implementation is often the most overwhelming. Where do we start? Who should do what? How do we stop the plan from sitting on a shelf? While every community's path to implementation is different, here are a few best practices to get started:

- Use the implementation table to **pick the top actions** that will be undertaken each year and **assign personnel responsible for those actions**

- Establish a **Plan Implementation Committee** that meets every quarter to review the actions that are underway
- Publish an **Annual Results Report** detailing what has been accomplished so far

Still lost? Contact County Planning and we can help you get started.

6.3 FOCUS AREAS IMPLEMENTATION TABLES

DOWNTOWN BROOKLYN HEIGHTS

Priority Level: ★★★

Strategies

Proactive Strategies

Enhance signage and wayfinding to define the boundaries of Downtown Brooklyn Heights

Improve primary streetscapes and gateway entrances around and in the Downtown Brooklyn Heights area

Update the Village's Zoning Code to expand and allow limited commercial and retail uses in Downtown Brooklyn Heights

Add bike sharrows along West 4th Street/Tuxedo Avenue, Granger and Schaaf Roads

Foster the development of dedicated bicycle lanes in each direction along Tuxedo Avenue and Schaaf Roads

Develop underutilized spaces into a community gathering space

Update the Zoning Code to allow small scale solar and wind developments

Responsive Strategies

Add public transportation routes as new development in Downtown Brooklyn Heights expands

Ongoing Strategies

Promote potential development areas in Downtown Brooklyn Heights

Villagewide Strategies

The following Villagewide goals and strategies are also applicable:

Redevelopment	Strategies 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 3.1, 3.3
Connectivity	Strategies 1.3, 4.1
Environmental	Strategies 4.5, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5
Regional Collaboration	Strategies 2.1, 2.2

VAN EPPS - SPRING ROAD INDUSTRIAL CORRIDOR

Priority Level: ★★★

Strategies

Proactive Strategies

Improve streetscapes to include enhanced street crossing treatments, street trees, and other amenities and decorative elements

Develop a connection to the Towpath Trail

Enhance the Van Epps - Spring Road Corridor with district distinct signage and wayfinding

Study the feasibility of constructing a bridge over the active railroad tracks and the Cuyahoga River to connect a trail from Van Epps Road to the Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath Trail

Responsive Strategies

Bolster environmental sustainability through protected zones or environmental buffers around sensitive or critical areas

Ongoing Strategies

Take an inventory of existing businesses to update pertinent information

Enforce existing riparian buffer setback regulations

Promote and sustain economic development through a marketing campaign to attract new businesses in targeted industries

Villagewide Strategies

The following Villagewide goals and strategies are also applicable:

Redevelopment	Strategies 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 3.1, 3.3
Connectivity	Strategies 1.3, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3
Environmental	Strategies 4.5, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5
Regional Collaboration	Strategies 2.1, 2.2

VALLEY BELT - CUYAHOGA RIVER CORRIDOR

Priority Level: ★★★

Action Steps

Proactive Strategies

- Redevelop the landfill into a park with trails for residents and employees
- Establish protection and conservation strategies for the Cuyahoga River's natural areas
- Promote sustainable watershed development
- Invest in green energy technologies such as wind and solar power

Responsive Strategies

- Increase recreational opportunities
- Enforce and strengthen 300-foot riparian setback regulations

Ongoing Strategies

- Promote, add, and sustain economic and new development opportunities
- Enhance signage, gateways, and wayfinding along Valley Belt and Granger Roads
- Improve primary streetscapes and connections

Villagewide Strategies

The following Villagewide goals and strategies are also applicable:

Redevelopment	Strategies 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.6, 2.1, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4
Connectivity	Strategies 1.2, 2.1, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3
Environmental	Strategies 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 2.4, 2.6, 4.1, 4.3, 4.5, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5
Regional Collaboration	Strategies 1.4, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1

EASTERN GATEWAY

Priority Level: ★★★

Action Steps

Proactive Strategies

- Install a solar array or microgrid on closed landfill
- Enhance pedestrian and bicycle connections with lighting, signage, and trees
- Work with regional entities to tailor a marketing campaign to find and attract businesses best suited to the Eastern Gateway area
- Add entrance and gateway signage on the Lancaster Bridge to identify the district
- Develop a bike path to connect residential neighborhoods to Granger Road and greater trail network

- Complete a walking loop from West Resources Drive to Lancaster Road to Resources Drive to Keynote Circle

Responsive Strategies

- Increase environmental buffers through regulation and protection

Ongoing Strategies

- Promote and market potential development areas
- Work with regional entities to tailor a marketing campaign to find and attract businesses best suited to the Eastern Gateway area

Villagewide Strategies

The following Villagewide goals and strategies are also applicable:

Redevelopment	Strategies 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.6, 2.1, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4
Connectivity	Strategies 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 4.2, 4.3
Environmental	Strategies 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 2.1, 2.4, 2.6, 4.1, 4.3, 4.5, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5
Regional Collaboration	Strategies 1.4, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1

6.4 VILLAGEWIDE IMPLEMENTATION TABLES

POTENTIAL PARTNERS LEGEND

Village of Brooklyn Heights



Brooklyn Heights Village Government



Cuyahoga Heights School District



Police and Fire

Private and Non-Profit Entities



Bicycling Advocates



Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative



Cuyahoga County Public Library



Cuyahoga River Restoration



Cuyahoga River Water Trail



Cuyahoga Valley Chamber of Commerce



Faith Community



Higher Education Institutions



Home Repair Resource Center



Jumpstart



Local Businesses



National Recreation and Park Association



Neighborhood Groups



Private Property Owners



Qualified Design Professionals



Qualified Non-Profits



Railroads



Regional Institutions



Transit Advocates



Trust for Public Land



West Creek Conservancy



Western Reserve Land Conservancy

Other Governmental Agencies



Cleveland Metroparks



County Planning



Cuyahoga Arts and Culture



Cuyahoga County Board of Health



Cuyahoga County Department of Development



Cuyahoga County Department of Sustainability



Cuyahoga County Land Bank



Cuyahoga County Public Works



Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District



Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority



Jobs Ohio



Neighboring Communities



Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency



Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District



Ohio Department of Development



Ohio Department of Health



Ohio Department of Natural Resources



Ohio Department of Transportation



Ohio Environmental Protection Agency



Ohio State Legislature



TeamNEO

Priority Level



Lowest Priority














Middle Priority








Highest Priority


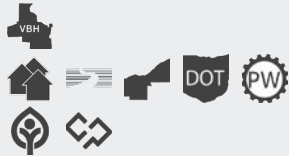




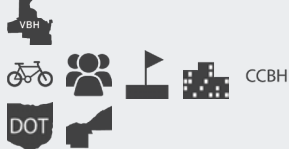
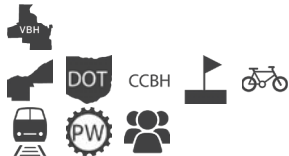
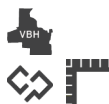
REDEVELOPMENT

Goals and Strategies	Years to Complete	Responsible Parties & Partners	Est. Cost	Status/Date Complete
GOAL 1: DEVELOP A BUSINESS ATTRACTION PROGRAM THAT TARGETS THOSE ECONOMIC SECTORS IN BROOKLYN HEIGHTS THAT CAN CREATE OR SUSTAIN ECONOMIC GROWTH AND JOB CREATION			Priority Level: ★★★	
Strategy 1.1 Partner with TeamNEO and JobsOhio to position Brooklyn Heights as an advantageous business location due to its highway access, industrially zoned land, proximity to regional airports, and central location.	Ongoing		Low	
Strategy 1.2 Continue to update the Village's website and TeamNEO's regional database with available properties and land.	Ongoing		Low	
Strategy 1.3 Support prospective businesses looking to relocate to the Village by providing a customer-focused site selection assistance service through an interactive GIS-based information platform.	Ongoing		Low	
Strategy 1.4 Target industries that provide jobs and complement existing land uses and industries in the Village, including technology, research & development, and advanced manufacturing.	Ongoing		Low	
Strategy 1.5 Consider an incentive strategy, such as a Community Reinvestment Areas, to encourage hiring more workers and reinvesting in buildings.	1-2 Yrs		Low	
Strategy 1.6 Work with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency to proactively identify and remediate brownfields and bring them back to productive use.	2-3 Yrs		Medium	
GOAL 2: FOSTER THE RETENTION AND EXPANSION OF BROOKLYN HEIGHTS' EXISTING BUSINESSES THROUGH ONGOING ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION SHARING			Priority Level: ★★	
Strategy 2.1 Ensure that businesses are aware of available financial assistance, including the Cuyahoga County Department of Development Economic Development Loan and Grow Cuyahoga County Fund.	Ongoing		Low	
Strategy 2.2 Partner with economic development agencies to provide local businesses with technical assistance in marketing.	Ongoing		Low	
Strategy 2.3 Partner with economic development agencies to assist with financial incentives to fund improvements for landscaping, signs, or building façades.	Ongoing		Low	
Strategy 2.4 Continue to partner with the Cuyahoga Valley Chamber of Commerce to increase communication between the business community and the Village which could include tours, open houses, and networking events.	Ongoing		Low	
Strategy 2.5 Evaluate the Village's economic programs by conducting an annual business climate and satisfaction survey.	Ongoing		Low	

REDEVELOPMENT (CONTINUED)

Goals and Strategies	Years to Complete	Responsible Parties & Partners	Est. Cost	Status/Date Complete
GOAL 3: DESIGN ATTRACTIVE SPACES TO CREATE A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT IN AND ADJACENT TO INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL AREAS			Priority Level: ★★	
Strategy 3.1 Consider qualified design professionals to develop a consistent Village brand for gateway signs and decorative infrastructure.	1-2 Yrs	 	Low	
Strategy 3.2 Work with local businesses to create a unique identity for industrial and business districts.	1-2 Yrs	   	Low	
Strategy 3.3 Enhance gateways with appropriate signage to define entrances into Brooklyn Heights and Village Districts.	2-3 Yrs	 	Medium-High	
Strategy 3.4 Enhance landscape standards for new development in the Limited Industrial and General Industrial zoned areas of the Village in order to green industrial areas and reduce stormwater runoff.	2-3 Yrs	   	Low	
Strategy 3.5 Update parking lot landscaping and setback standards to create visually attractive and green parking areas.	1-2 Yrs	  	Low	
















































CONNECTIVITY

Goals and Strategies	Years to Complete	Responsible Parties & Partners	Est. Cost	Status/Date Complete
GOAL 1: IMPROVE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ACCESS TO NEIGHBORHOODS AND REGIONAL TRAILS			Priority Level: ★★★	
Strategy 1.1 Identify and eliminate gaps in the existing sidewalk and bicycle networks based on the Sidewalk Priority Framework Map on page 30 and the Bikeways and Trails Framework Map on page 34.	1-2 Yrs		High	
Strategy 1.2 Partner with neighboring communities and regional entities to develop an all-purpose trail connection between the West Creek Greenway and the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trails.	2-3 Yrs		High	
Strategy 1.3 Develop all-purpose trails on key routes throughout the Village, creating a neighborhood network that extends into the regional trail system with key linkages along Tuxedo Avenue/ West 4th Street, Schaaf Road, and Lancaster Drive.	3-5 Yrs		High	
Strategy 1.4 Pursue potential funding sources for bicycle and pedestrian enhancements.	Ongoing		Low	
GOAL 2: IMPROVE THE SAFETY OF TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS FOR USERS OF ALL AGES AND ABILITIES THROUGH IMPROVEMENTS AND EDUCATION			Priority Level: ★★★	
Strategy 2.1 Prioritize the safety of all users through evaluation, location, and design of enhanced intersections and crosswalk improvements, such as HAWK signals, brighter lighting, ADA compliance and access, and other elements. For recommended crossing improvements locations, see Sidewalk Priority Framework Map on page 30.	2-3 Yrs		High	
Strategy 2.2 Consider traffic calming measures in residential and business areas, such as speed limits, continued enforcement, speed bumps, speed tables, road narrowing with curb bumpouts, or other traffic calming treatments.	1-2 Yrs		High	
Strategy 2.3 Increase awareness of bicycle safety practices by supporting and encouraging bicycle education classes and bicycle repair workshops for adults and children.	Ongoing		Low	
Strategy 2.4 Partner with interested groups, including the Cuyahoga County Board of Health and the Cuyahoga Heights School District to develop and implement a Safe Routes to School program.	Ongoing		Low	
GOAL 3: ADD OR ENHANCE BICYCLE AMENITIES TO ENCOURAGE ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION			Priority Level: ★★	
Strategy 3.1 Develop Villagewide bicycle rack and location standards, as well as zoning requirements for including bike racks in new developments.	1-2 Yrs		Low	


























































CONNECTIVITY (CONTINUED)

Goals and Strategies	Years to Complete	Responsible Parties & Partners	Est. Cost	Status/Date Complete
Strategy 3.2 Develop a Villagewide bike parking system by constructing bicycle parking at Village-owned facilities.	1-2 Yrs	 	Low	
Strategy 3.3 Partner with regional bike organizations to establish a local bike advocacy chapter.	1-2 Yrs	   	Low	
Strategy 3.4 Promote active transportation through organized rides, cycling events, bike parking at community events, and other efforts.	Ongoing	       	Low	
Strategy 3.5 Promote bicycling to work for residents and Village employees through events such as Bike to Work Day or Bike to Work Month.	Ongoing	    	Low	
GOAL 4: IMPROVE THE LOOK AND FEEL OF MAJOR STREETS, ESPECIALLY TUXEDO AVENUE AND SCHAAF ROAD				Priority Level: ★★★
Strategy 4.1 Apply for TLCI funding from NOACA to conduct a TLCI plan for streetscape improvements on Tuxedo Avenue and Schaaf Road.	Ongoing	 	Low	
Strategy 4.2 Add sidewalk amenities such as benches, trash cans, planters, bike parking, lighting, and signage on targeted streets to enhance the visual aesthetic and offer a welcoming and comfortable environment for pedestrians and bicyclists.	Ongoing	 	Medium	
Strategy 4.3 Adopt a Complete and Green Streets policy to ensure all modes of transportation and green elements are incorporated into street reconstruction.	Ongoing	        	Low	
Strategy 4.4 Continue to update the Village's Capital Improvement Plan to outline infrastructure investments.	Ongoing		Low	
Strategy 4.5 Coordinate street, sewer, and other infrastructure efforts to limit construction duplication.	Ongoing	    	Medium	





















ENVIRONMENTAL

Goals and Strategies	Years to Complete	Responsible Parties & Partners	Est. Cost	Status/Date Complete
GOAL 1: PROTECT AND MAINTAIN THE EXISTING PARK LAND, RIVER CORRIDORS, AND OPEN SPACES WITHIN BROOKLYN HEIGHTS Priority Level: ★★★				
Strategy 1.1 Ensure existing natural areas along the river corridors are permanently protected through greenspace easements or other mechanisms.	Ongoing	      	Low	
Strategy 1.2 Continue to enforce the Village's existing riparian buffer setback regulations to protect river corridors.	Ongoing		Low	
Strategy 1.3 Continue partnering with conservation groups to improve waterway health through riparian buffer restoration projects.	Ongoing	      	Low	
Strategy 1.4 Incorporate green infrastructure as part of new and reconstructed streets to improve stormwater management, where feasible.	2-3 Yrs	     	High	
Strategy 1.5 Improve river quality by encouraging porous pavers in hard surface areas, allowing rain barrels on residential properties, and reviewing the Zoning Code for environmental regulations.	1-2 Yrs	       	Low	
GOAL 2: CONTINUE TO INCREASE TREE CANOPY COVER THROUGH TREE PRESERVATION AND PLANTING Priority Level: ★★★				
Strategy 2.1 Continue to apply for grant funding through the Healthy Urban Tree Canopy Grant Program as part of the Village's tree program.	1-2 Yrs	 	High	
Strategy 2.2 Seek grant funding to support community education and outreach such as a Village "Green Team!" to assist with park clean-ups, tree plantings, and reforestation projects.	2-3 Yrs	   	Medium	
Strategy 2.3 Enforce the Village's existing tree preservation ordinance, and consider strengthening its regulations with preservation, planting, removal fee, and replacement requirements.	Ongoing		High	
Strategy 2.4 Update the Village Zoning Code to include parking lot landscaping and tree protection standards for new developments.	Ongoing	 	Medium	
Strategy 2.5 Include tree planting plans on all new and major road construction projects within Brooklyn Heights.	Ongoing	    	High	
Strategy 2.6 Partner with existing industrial properties and future developers to incorporate tree plantings in large-lot industrial areas.	1-2 Yrs	   	Medium	




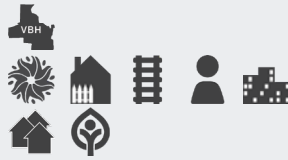






ENVIRONMENTAL (CONTINUED)

Goals and Strategies	Years to Complete	Responsible Parties & Partners	Est. Cost	Status/Date Complete
GOAL 3: INCREASE THE VILLAGE'S ROLE AS AN ADVOCATE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH			Priority Level: ★	
Strategy 3.1 Work with the Cuyahoga County Board of Health to consider a health needs assessment using current health data to further evaluate future planning decisions and projects in Brooklyn Heights.	1-2 Yrs	 CCBH   	Low	
Strategy 3.2 Work with community partners to apply for grant funding to expand recreation and education programs that promote regular outdoor physical activity.	Ongoing	 CCBH    	Low	
Strategy 3.3 Consider an employee wellness program that would encourage Village employees to walk or bike to work.	1-2 Yrs	 CCBH	Low	
Strategy 3.4 Explore opportunities for community gardens and continue existing farmers' markets in order to provide greater access to healthy food.	1-2 Yrs	     	Low	
Strategy 3.5 Partner with The Ohio State University Extension Service and Brooklyn Heights Community Center to teach educational courses about organic gardening, cooking with local vegetables, and raised bed and container gardening.	Ongoing	    	Low	
GOAL 4: IMPROVE THE VILLAGE'S EXISTING PARK FACILITIES, AMENITIES, AND ACCESS POINTS			Priority Level: ★	
Strategy 4.1 Eliminate gaps in the open space and greenways network and identify parcels appropriate for land acquisition, easements, land swaps, and cooperative agreements.	3-5 Yrs	           	High	
Strategy 4.2 Seek opportunities for passive recreation along the Cuyahoga River.	3-5 Yrs	     	High	
Strategy 4.3 Partner with the Cuyahoga River Water Trail to determine the feasibility of access points in Brooklyn Heights.	1-2 Yrs	     	Low	
Strategy 4.4 Develop an education program that includes a series of informative and interpretive signs that provide directional information, wildlife and plant life information, and trail identification, per Brooklyn Heights Parks and Recreation standards.	1-2 Yrs	    	Low	
Strategy 4.5 Upgrade the walks and paths in Brooklyn Heights Park to improve ADA compliance and access for residents and visitors of all ages and abilities.	1-2 Yrs	   	Medium	
Strategy 4.6 Consider adding an enclosed pavilion to the Lower Park as well as additional benches and shade structures where most appropriate in each of the Village's parks.	2-3 Yrs	  	Low	







ENVIRONMENTAL (CONTINUED)

Goals and Strategies	Years to Complete	Responsible Parties & Partners	Est. Cost	Status/Date Complete
Strategy 4.7 Install new playground equipment in the Village's parks, as needed.	2-3 Yrs	 	Low	
Strategy 4.8 Consider allowing dogs on leashes in the parks with Village-regulated guidelines.	1-2 Yrs		Low	
Strategy 4.9 Work with residents to determine the need and location of a multipurpose indoor recreational center that could accommodate larger community meetings and other recreational activities.	1-2 Yrs	 	Low	
GOAL 5: ENCOURAGE THE USE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES, SUCH AS SOLAR AND WIND, ESPECIALLY ON FORMER LANDFILLS				Priority Level: ★★★
Strategy 5.1 Lobby the State of Ohio to allow local government controls over landfill development and expansion.	Ongoing	 	Low	
Strategy 5.2 Update the Village Zoning Code to expressly make landfills a non-conforming land use.	1-2 Yrs	 	Low	
Strategy 5.3 Update the Village Zoning Code to include Solar and Wind Energy Production Systems regulations.	1-2 Yrs	 	Low	
Strategy 5.4 Partner with the Cuyahoga County Department of Sustainability to explore the feasibility of using closed landfills for solar fields as part of a microgrid. See more information about Brooklyn Heights Solar Potential on pages 46-47.	3-5 Yrs	  	Medium	
Strategy 5.5 Provide information to the public regarding renewable energy resources available through the Cuyahoga County Department of Sustainability.	Ongoing	     	Low	








































REGIONAL COLLABORATION

Goals and Strategies	Years to Complete	Responsible Parties & Partners	Est. Cost	Status/Date Complete
GOAL 1: PROMOTE A PROACTIVE RELATIONSHIP AMONG SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES AND REGIONAL ENTITIES			Priority Level: ★★	
Strategy 1.1 Continue efforts to convene the West Creek Conservancy and Cleveland Metroparks to expand trail access through Brooklyn Heights and connect regional parks.	5+ Yrs		High	
Strategy 1.2 Continue partnering with the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District to maintain and update stormwater management and green infrastructure systems particularly when upgrading road infrastructure.	Ongoing		High	
Strategy 1.3 Collaborate with the Village of Seven Hills and the Village of Parma to create linkages and access to neighboring green space and natural area corridors that are open to the public.	3-5 Yrs		Medium-High	
Strategy 1.4 Partner with the Western Reserve Land Conservancy to purchase and conserve natural areas, open spaces, and wildlife habitats, especially along the Cuyahoga River, when properties become available.	3-5 Yrs		High	
Strategy 1.5 Consider working with the local chamber of commerce, surrounding communities, and regional entities, including the Cuyahoga County Department of Development and Team NEO, to develop a micro-regional corporate marketing campaign to attract businesses to the Industrial Valley.	1-2 Years		Low	
Strategy 1.6 Explore shared services with surrounding municipalities to reduce costs and improve outcomes.	Ongoing		Low-Medium	
GOAL 2: PARTNER WITH THE GREATER CLEVELAND REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY TO INCREASE TRANSIT ACCESSIBILITY IN THE VILLAGE			Priority Level: ★	
Strategy 2.1 Collaborate with GCRTA to explore improved transit connections within Brooklyn Heights, including access to Village employment centers.	2-3 Yrs		Low	
Strategy 2.2 Work with regional transportation agencies, including the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency and GCRTA, to build sidewalks on priority routes within one mile of transit stops and to build bikeways on priority routes within three miles of transit stops.	2-3 Yrs		Medium	
GOAL 3: IMPROVE ONLINE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS TO BETTER CONNECT THE VILLAGE TO REGIONAL ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES			Priority Level: ★	
Strategy 3.1 Consider publishing a Resident and Businesses Directory of Village residents and businesses.	Ongoing		Low	
Strategy 3.2 Expand the Village's communication technologies to provide high-speed broadband internet and Wi-Fi throughout municipal buildings and buildings.	2-3 Yrs		High	




















REGIONAL COLLABORATION (CONTINUED)

Goals and Strategies	Years to Complete	Responsible Parties & Partners	Est. Cost	Status/Date Complete
Strategy 3.3 Leverage local and national funds to expand the Village's access to high-speed internet for residents, businesses, and within municipal buildings and facilities.	2-3 Yrs	    	Low	
Strategy 3.4 Update and enhance the Village's website to include additional resources.	Ongoing		Low	

HOUSING

Goals and Strategies	Years to Complete	Responsible Parties & Partners	Est. Cost	Status/Date Complete
GOAL 1: CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN BROOKLYN HEIGHTS' HIGH-QUALITY HOUSING AND NEIGHBORHOODS			Priority Level: ★★	
Strategy 1.1 Strengthen enforcement of property maintenance codes with proactive methods of identifying code violations.	Ongoing	  	Low	
Strategy 1.2 Consider developing an exterior home maintenance program or other grant or loan program for homeowners to modernize their existing homes.	Ongoing	  	Low	
Strategy 1.3 Evaluate establishing a Community Reinvestment Area to provide tax incentives to reinvesting in existing homes, especially bungalows.	1-2 Yrs	  	Low	
Strategy 1.4 Work with property owners and developers to reinvest in post-war bungalows, based on the CUDC Home Modernization and Expansion plan described on page 59.	Ongoing	    	Low	
Strategy 1.5 Create an expanded housing resources webpage to highlight and promote local and regional housing improvement initiatives.	1-2 Yrs	  	Low	
Strategy 1.6 Increase outreach and education on existing County and regional housing improvement programs that can assist owners in making home updates.	Ongoing	       	Low	
Strategy 1.7 Continue partnering with the Northeast Ohio First Suburbs Consortium to evaluate and update single-family zoning as part of the Single-Family Zoning Analysis project.	Ongoing	  	Low	
Strategy 1.8 Continue to track neighborhood investment and maintenance through building permits data.	Ongoing	  	Low	
GOAL 2: ENABLE HOMEOWNERS TO AGE IN PLACE BY REMAINING IN THEIR HOMES SAFELY AND AFFORDABLY			Priority Level: ★★	
Strategy 2.1 Consider the development of universal design standards, and encourage development of universally designed homes that make aging in place possible.	1-2 Yrs	  	Low	
Strategy 2.2 Consider zoning amendments that would allow accessory dwelling units or in-law suites to provide options for multi-generational housing.	2-3 Yrs	  	Low	
Strategy 2.3 Support the development of a high-quality senior living facility in Brooklyn Heights.	3-5 Yrs	 	Medium	

HOUSING (CONTINUED)

Goals and Strategies	Years to Complete	Responsible Parties & Partners	Est. Cost	Status/Date Complete
GOAL 3: SUPPORT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK OPPORTUNITIES			Priority Level: ★★	
Strategy 3.1 Develop and disseminate information on the formation and management of neighborhood block clubs, and work with residents to establish them.	Ongoing	  	Low	
Strategy 3.2 Identify and map residential neighborhoods, and consider neighborhood branding and signage.	1-2 Yrs	   	Low	
Strategy 3.3 Continue to provide information to residents about events electronically and through mass mailings.	Ongoing		Low	
Strategy 3.4 Organize community groups about neighborhood beautification by working with non-profits, garden centers, and Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District to hold front yard landscaping and green infrastructure classes to educate property owners.	Ongoing	       	Low	
Strategy 3.5 Update the Resident Services Directory to include a map of the Village and a packet of information about the Village for current and new residents for distribution through Village offices.	1-2 Yrs	  	Low	

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

A table and description of different grant programs, loan programs, and other funding sources to help pay for or reduce costs for communities to implement infrastructure and other programming is outlined in this table. For a comprehensive listing of funding available please see the **Funding and Resources for Communities Guidebook** at <https://www.countyplanning.us>

Each source includes a program name, the source of the funding, a brief description of the program or what projects are eligible, and the most recent web site.

Potential Funding Sources

ALTERNATIVE STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE LOAN PROGRAM OHIO WATER DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Below-market rate loans for the design and construction of green infrastructure as part of economic development projects in currently or previously developed areas.

Infrastructure, Environment
<https://development.ohio.gov/community/redevelopment/alternative-stormwater-infrastructure-loan-program>

BARK FOR YOUR PARK GRANT PETA SAFE

An annual grant program that awards eight communities with the funding to break ground on a new dog park, tailored to the needs and desires of the community. Additionally, the grant program awards five existing dog park communities with funding for maintenance and improvement of their current dog park.

Infrastructure, Recreation
<https://barkforyourpark.petsafe.com>

BUSINESS ATTRACTION INCENTIVES CUYAHOGA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT

Offers financial incentives to companies that move into Cuyahoga County and create jobs.

Economic Development, Job Creation
<https://www.cuyahogacounty.us/development/businesses/business-attraction-incentives>

BUSINESS LOGO SIGN AND TOURIST-ORIENTED DIRECTION SIGN PROGRAMS OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Ohio Logos is responsible for the administration and operation of the Ohio Business Logo Sign and Tourist-Oriented Direction Sign (TODS) Programs for the State of Ohio and the Ohio Department of Transportation.

Economic Development, Community Revitalization
<https://ohio.interstatelogos.com/state/>

CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS OHIO HISTORY CONNECTION

Provides grants to Certified Local Governments for projects such as training staff, developing design guidelines, restoring properties, or developing heritage tourism programs that strengthen community historic preservation, protect and preserve cultural resources, and promote economic development.

Community Development, Housing, Historic Preservation
www.ohiohistory.org/preserve/state-historic-preservation-office/clg/clggrants

CLEAN OHIO TRAILS FUND OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (ODNR)

Provides grant funding for outdoor recreational trails with a special focus on completing regional trail systems, linking population centers with recreation areas, repurposing rail lines, preserving natural corridors, and providing links in urban areas

Infrastructure, Recreation
<https://ohiodnr.gov/buy-and-apply/apply-for-grants/grants/clean-ohio-trails-fund>

Potential Funding Sources

CLEAN OHIO GREEN SPACE CONSERVATION PROGRAM NATURAL RESOURCE ASSISTANCE COUNCIL (NRAC)

Bond program created by the State of Ohio in 2000 and administered locally by NRAC to fund the preservation and protection of natural areas, farmland, streams, and wetlands

Environment, Recreation

<https://www.pwc.ohio.gov/Programs/Clean-Ohio-Application>

THE CLEVELAND FOUNDATION GRANTS THE CLEVELAND FOUNDATION

Provides grants to the Greater Cleveland community in six areas of focus: education & youth development, neighborhoods, health & human services, arts & culture, economic development, and purposeful aging

Infrastructure, Environment, Community Development, Economic Development, Recreation, Housing, Historic Preservation, Health

<https://www.clevelandfoundation.org/grants/apply-for-a-grant/>

COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA PROGRAM (CRA) OHIO DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AGENCY (ODSA)

Allows municipalities or counties to designate areas where investment has lagged as a CRA to encourage revitalization of the existing housing stock and the development of new structures by providing real property tax exemptions for property owners who renovate existing or construct new buildings

Community Development, Economic Development, Housing

<https://development.ohio.gov/business/state-incentives/ohio-community-reinvestment-area#:~:text=The%20Ohio%20Community%20Reinvestment%20Area%20program%20is%20an%20economic%20development,existing%20or%20construct%20new%20buildings.>

CONGESTION MITIGATION AND AIR QUALITY PROGRAM (CMAQ) NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY (NOACA)

Provides funding for transportation projects or programs including capital investments in transportation infrastructure, congestion relief efforts, vehicle acquisitions, or other capital projects that reduce transportation emissions in order to achieve air quality standards

Infrastructure

www.noaca.org/index.aspx?page=4430

CUYAHOGA ARTS AND CULTURE PROJECT SUPPORT GRANTS CUYAHOGA ARTS AND CULTURE (CAC)

Provides grant support to organizations such as community development corporations for arts and cultural projects that are open to the public and revolve around topics such as literature, theatre, music, motion pictures, and architecture

Community Development

www.cacgrants.org/grant-programs/

ENTERPRISE ZONE TAX INCENTIVES CUYAHOGA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT (DOD)

Serve as an additional economic development tool for communities attempting to retain and expand their economic base by providing tax incentives for eligible new investments

Economic Development

<https://development.ohio.gov/business/state-incentives/ohio-enterprise-zone-program>

THE GEORGE GUND FOUNDATION GRANTS THE GEORGE GUND FOUNDATION

Provides grants to the Greater Cleveland community in five areas of focus: arts, economic development & community revitalization, education, environment, and human services

Environment, Community Development, Economic Development, Recreation, Housing, Health

www.gundfoundation.org

GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)

Provides grant funding for urban watershed management implementation projects that reduce nonpoint source pollution in watersheds draining to the Great Lakes

Environment

www.epa.gov/great-lakes-funding/

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM NORTHEAST OHIO REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT (NEORS)

Provides grants for professional services such as design and engineering costs, structural analysis, and construction costs for stream restoration and innovative stormwater management practices in the combined sewer area

Infrastructure, Environment

www.neorsd.org/stormwater-2/green-infrastructure-grant-program/

Potential Funding Sources

GROW CUYAHOGA FUND **CUYAHOGA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT (DOD)**

Provides loans to small businesses for any legitimate business purpose including working capital, machinery and equipment, acquisition of land and building, construction, renovations, and tenant improvements

Community Development, Economic Development
<https://growcuyahoga.org/>

HERITAGE HOME PROGRAM **CLEVELAND RESTORATION SOCIETY AND AREA BANKS**

Low-interest, fixed-rate home equity loans and technical services for homeowners to maintain and improve older houses through historically appropriate projects that include roof repair and replacement, painting, insulation, window repair and replacement, basement waterproofing, masonry repair, kitchen and bath renovation, compatible additions, electrical, plumbing, and HVAC

Housing, Historic Preservation
www.heritagehomeprogram.org/

HOME DEPOT FOUNDATION GRANTS **HOME DEPOT FOUNDATION**

Provides grants to improve the homes of U.S. veterans, train residents in skilled trades, and support communities impacted by natural disasters

Community Development, Economic Development, Housing
<https://corporate.homedepot.com/community/home-depot-foundation-grants>

KEY BANK FOUNDATION GRANTS **KEY BANK FOUNDATION**

Provides grants to support neighborhoods through affordable housing, homeownership, economic inclusion, small business development, education, and workforce assistance

Community Development, Economic Development, Housing
www.key.com/about/community/key-foundation-philanthropy-banking.jsp

THE KRESGE FOUNDATION GRANTS **THE KRESGE FOUNDATION**

Provides national grants focus on arts & culture, education, environment, health, human services,

Environment, Community Development, Economic Development, Recreation, Health
www.kresge.org

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND **OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (ODNR)**

Grant program that provides reimbursement assistance for the acquisition, development, and rehabilitation of recreational areas

Environment, Recreation
<http://realestate.ohiodnr.gov/outdoor-recreation-facility-grants>

LOCAL MAJOR BRIDGE PROGRAM **OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

Provides federal funds to counties and municipalities for bridge replacement or major bridge rehabilitation projects. A Local Major Bridge is defined as a moveable bridge or a bridge having a deck area greater than 35,000 sq. ft. The project must be open to vehicular traffic and structurally deficient.

Transportation, Multimodal
<https://www.transportation.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odot/programs/local-funding-opportunities/resources/local-major-bridge>

LOCAL OPERATIONS RESURFACING PROGRAM **CUYAHOGA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

Funds the resurfacing of minor arterial and collector roads with an 80% county/20% municipality cost contribution for construction, and a 60% county/ 40% municipality cost contribution for the project design. Bicycle and pedestrian features can be incorporated in the roadway project.

Transportation, Multimodal
Erik Mack, Cuyahoga County Department of PublicWorks, at emack@cuyahogacounty.us.

LOCAL RESURFACING PROGRAM (50/50) **CUYAHOGA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

Funds the resurfacing of local county roads by sharing the cost equally with the municipality (50%/50%) up to a maximum of \$250,000 per project for construction. Design costs are paid 100% by the municipality. Bicycle and pedestrian projects can be coordinated with a roadway resurfacing project.

Transportation, Multimodal
June Gauss, Cuyahoga County Department of PublicWorks, at jgauss@cuyahogacounty.us

Potential Funding Sources

MICROENTERPRISE LOAN FUND PROGRAM (MLFP)

CUYAHOGA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT (DOD) & THE ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (ECDI)

Provides micro-loans and technical assistance to microenterprise businesses and entrepreneurs for the establishment of a new business, expansion of an existing business, purchase of equipment, startup operating costs, or other uses

Economic Development

<http://regionalcollaboration.cuyahogacounty.us/en-US/Microenterprise-Loan-Fund-Agreement.aspx>

NATUREWORKS PROGRAM

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (ODNR)

Grant program that provides reimbursement assistance for the acquisition, development, and rehabilitation of recreational areas

Recreation

<https://ohiodnr.gov/buy-and-apply/apply-for-grants/grants/natureworks>

OHIO HISTORIC PRESERVATION TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

OHIO DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AGENCY (ODSA)

Provides a tax credit to the owners of historic structures to assist in the renovation of buildings that are individually listed on the national register of historic places, located in and contributing to a registered historic district, or individually listed as a historic landmark by a certified local government

Economic Development, Historic Preservation

<https://development.ohio.gov/community/redevelopment/ohio-historic-preservation-tax-credit-program>

OHIO STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION HISTORY FUND

THE OHIO HISTORY CONNECTION

Provides grant funding to public or non-profit entities in three categories: organization development such as training for boards and staff, programs and collections projects such as the study and recording of historic information, and bricks & mortar projects such as the restoration of a historic site

Community Development, Economic Development, Historic Preservation

www.ohiohistory.org/preserve/local-history-services/history-fund/history-fund-guidelines

"OUR TOWN" GRANTS

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS (NEA)

Provides grant support for organizations that integrate arts and culture into community revitalization efforts that aim to enhance quality of life, increase creative activity, and create or preserve a distinct sense of place

Community Development, Economic Development

<https://www.arts.gov/grants/our-town/program-description>

PEOPLE FOR BIKES COMMUNITY GRANT

PEOPLE FOR BIKES AND BIKE INDUSTRY PARTNERS

Provides grants to non-profit organizations and governments with a focus on bicycling infrastructure, active transportation, or community development such as bike paths, bike racks, and open streets programs

Infrastructure, Community Development

<https://www.peopleforbikes.org/grant-guidelines>

RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (ODNR)

Grant program for projects such as urban trail linkages, trailhead & trailside facilities, acquisition of easements & property, development and construction of new trails

Infrastructure, Recreation

<https://ohiodnr.gov/buy-and-apply/apply-for-grants/grants/recreational-trails-program>

ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION GRANTS

ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION

Provides grants for projects that advance the Foundation's mission to improve the health and health care of all Americans through healthy communities that support parks and active transportation

Infrastructure, Community Development, Health

www.rwjf.org/en/grants/what-we-fund.html

ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION GRANTS

THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

Provides grants to promote the well-being of humanity throughout the world with a focus in the United States on transportation planning, infrastructure policy, and sustainability

Infrastructure, Environment, Community Development, Economic Development, Recreation, Health

www.rockefellerfoundation.org

Potential Funding Sources

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM (SRTS) OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ODOT)

Grant funding available for the development of a School Travel Plan that outlines infrastructure and programmatic changes to make walking and biking to school safer, as well as funding for the implementation of those changes such as bike lanes, sidewalks, crosswalks, and educational programs

Infrastructure, Health

<https://www.transportation.ohio.gov/programs/safe-routes-srts/safe-routes-to-school-srts#page=1>

SECTION 319 GRANTS OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (OEPA)

Provides grant funding to local governments, park districts, and other organizations for the implementation of projects to restore Ohio streams and reduce nonpoint source pollution

Environment

<https://epa.ohio.gov/divisions-and-offices/surface-water/financial-assistance/319-grants>

SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (SID) PROPERTY OWNERS

Areas of land within which property owners agree to pay an additional tax or fee that is used to provide specific services or improvements such as landscaping, streetscape improvements, or ambassador programs within that area

Infrastructure, Community Development, Economic Development

<https://www.countyplanning.us/resources/guidebooks/special-improvement-districts-guidebook/>

STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (SCIP) DISTRICT ONE PUBLIC WORKS INTEGRATING COMMITTEE

Provides grants and loans for local public infrastructure improvements including roads, bridges, water supply, wastewater treatment, stormwater collection, and solid waste disposal projects

Infrastructure

www.countyplanning.us/services/grant-programs/state-capital-improvement-program/

SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT PROGRAM CUYAHOGA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT (DOD)

Competitive grant program that provides funding for a variety of activities that match County and Federal priorities and objectives

Infrastructure, Environment, Community Development, Economic Development, Recreation, Housing, Health

<https://cuyahogacounty.us/development/municipalities/supplemental-grant-program>

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (TA) NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY (NOACA)

Provides funding for programs and projects that include pedestrian and bicycle facilities, safe routes for non-drivers, community improvement activities, and environmental mitigation

Infrastructure, Environment, Community Development, Economic Development, Recreation, Health

www.noaca.org/index.aspx?page=142

TRANSPORTATION FOR LIVABLE COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE (TLCI) PLANNING GRANTS NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY (NOACA)

Provides assistance to communities and public agencies for integrated transportation and land use planning studies that can lead to transportation system and neighborhood improvements such as complete bicycle networks or transit-oriented developments

Infrastructure, Environment, Community Development, Economic Development, Recreation, Health

<https://www.noaca.org/community-assistance-center/funding-programs/transportation-for-livable-communities-initiative-tlci>

TRANSPORTATION FOR LIVABLE COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE (TLCI) IMPLEMENTATION & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY (NOACA)

Provides grant awards to communities and public agencies to develop and install infrastructure that has been recommended as part of a previous TLCI Planning Study or Technical Assistance

Infrastructure, Environment, Community Development, Economic Development, Recreation, Health

<https://www.noaca.org/community-assistance-center/funding-programs/transportation-for-livable-communities-initiative-tlci>

TREE FUND GRANTS TREE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FUND

Provides grants to support the development of arboriculture education programs and materials that encourage children to learn about the environment as well as research into arboriculture and urban forestry

Infrastructure, Environment, Community Development

<https://treefund.org/>

Potential Funding Sources

WESTERN RESERVE LAND CONSERVANCY SUPPORT **WESTERN RESERVE LAND CONSERVANCY**

Provides assistance to government agencies in planning new parks, purchasing real property, and financing ongoing expenses

Environment, Recreation
<https://www.wrlandconservancy.org/>



County Planning

FOR OUR COMMUNITY
FOR OUR REGION
FOR OUR FUTURE