

Northwest Neighborhood Action Plan Worksheet

Use your Meeting Toolkit to work through these worksheets. Answer the questions on this sheet first and then start with the topics that were assigned to your table. Feel free to work through additional topics if time allows it. Remember, there are no right or wrong answers, we want to understand your point of view and collect your ideas.

LET'S GET STARTED...

WHAT ARE THE NEIGHBORHOOD'S BIGGEST STRENGTHS?	WHAT ARE THE NEIGHBORHOOD'S GREATEST NEEDS?	WHAT'S YOUR BIG IDEA FOR THE NEIGHBORHOOD?
Affordability Open spaces - opportunities Familiarity People know each other Many individuals grew up in this area Opportunities Diversity Grocery store Hy-Vee (now)	Find ways to lean blighted Repair sidewalks new ones/repair old ones Need to have clean up days Continue to work on solving flood problems Community picnics Bike signage	Need to have local police person assigned to report on criminal activity Development of Ellis Park as an outdoor environmental park Pocket parks
Ellis Park Boat ramp Rec Center Accessibility from I-380 Riverfront trail Wildlife Ski show at Ellis	Floodwall Landscaping Businesses Grocery store (Aldi?)	Widen Ellis to acc. bike lane Streetscaping/landscaping/plantings Waterfront park (i.e. Des Moines Waterworks park). Connect to Ellis Park so areas flow together Walking bridge over river to connect to Cedar Lake area & Cedar River Trail (i.e. Des Moines suspension walking bridge)
Ellis Park Harrison & Roosevelt Schools NW Rec Center Churches Folks that live here and the diversity of the neighborhood Salvation Army Mother Mosque People's homes	Immediate needs for flood protection Abandoned houses and structures Shopping needs - grocery store, dining Parking needs Street improvement Sidewalks missing/repairs needed Committee to ensure architectural character integrity of new construction	Gateway to the neighborhood - archway Time Check Historical Center Development of the levee Ferry to Mohawk Park - Kappa Ann Greenway - mini Grant Park (Chicago style) Destination port of Cedar Rapids
Industrious people Northwest Neighbors Neighborhood Association Lowest crime rate in the city Location near the river and Ellis Park Community/neighborhood atmosphere Diversity Greenway New Rec Center	Protection from the river Revitalization of the neighborhood Opportunity for new businesses	Street/sidewalk/ and alley repair Neighborhood shops & small businesses Youth programs Low cost activities Increased involvement in Northwest Neighbors Neighborhood Association and programs and events they sponsor
		Excited about plans for dog park in greenway Flourishing activities for all ages Farmers market Flea market Activities on the river Our neighborhood becoming a DESTINATION Overlay District plans (widen sidewalks and small businesses with apartments upstairs DIVERSITY DAY PARADE

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DEFINE FUTURE SUCCESS IN THIS CATEGORY	WHAT ARE OBSTACLES TO THAT SUCCESS?	WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE TO BE SUCCESSFUL?
<p>Dog park for a unique plan Artwork Memorial to Time Check in the Time Check Park Churches Rec Center St. Pat's & St. James Market Ellis Park and amenities</p>	<p>Necessary flood control Age of neighborhood School demographics (lower-middle class living here)</p>	<p>Gateway to Ellis Park Focus on Ellis Park & public uses Place where people live and work Promote</p>
<p>Maintain residential character of neighborhood Mom & Pop grocery stores within walking distance, barbershop Neighborhood scale stores/commercial Ellis Blvd full of businesses/beauty shops Queen Anne Boathouse Paddle boats at the park and other activities</p>	<p>Trash concerns related to foot traffic near Rec Center</p>	<p>Maintenance Streets/sidewalks prior to putting new things in</p>
<p>Flood control - immediate areas of concern/risk Bridge from Ellis to Cedar Lake area Bigger boathouse area Public art More picnic/seating options. More seating in park. Grills.</p>	<p>Lack of sidewalk flow/coherence along riverfront Funding Security of public works/art</p>	<p>Recognizable name for area other than Time Check or Greenway Park Use local artists/schools to create/display art Funding for developers - tax incentives granted - ask that part of that amount is saved and invested into NW Area projects</p>
<p>Walking trail Dog park Display neighborhood history Riverboat Expand what already exists (river activities...)</p>	<p>Money</p>	<p>River needs to be dredged</p>

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CONNECTIVITY

vehicular, pedestrian, bicycle, transit, safety, access management

DEFINE FUTURE SUCCESS IN THIS CATEGORY	WHAT ARE OBSTACLES TO THAT SUCCESS?	WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE TO BE SUCCESSFUL?
<p>Walkable neighborhood Ability to bike safely Pedestrian traffic improving on Ellis Connect with water which is an asset Fishing spots Boat docks Eventually will through through to 6th Street Bus system again probably with the Rec Center opening</p>	<p>Fast traffic - lots of parking cars, street parking No wayfinding - need signs MidAmerica</p>	<p>Add property tax base Add signage to get bikes to ski show types of things Market the unique features (boat houses, boats, ski shows, Rec Center, golf course, horseshoes) Possibly host a senior center</p>
<p>Line markings on pavement</p>	<p>Conflicts between cars and bicycles 11th Street & J Avenue - flooding when it rains How does floodwall impact connectivity 11th Street & Harrison School to N Ave <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grass growing on sidewalk • Need to be trimmed • Aesthetics of neighborhood </p>	
<p>Street & sidewalk repairs Signage direction to NW rec areas</p>	<p>Lack of easy access from I-380 to Ellis area (requires U-turn on 1st St) Need better access to I-380 from park area (L Ave lights not synchronized)</p>	<p>Clean up abandoned buildings Better definition of what is a major road/arterial road for traffic flow (i.e. F Ave, O Ave, Ellis) Attract small businesses to the area (tax incentives) Suspension bridge from park to Cedar Lake</p>
<p>Open air market Lightscaping on Ellis Blvd Park fountain with sidewalks leading to it</p>	<p>Citizen involvement in decision making Government support in financing</p>	<p>Cooperative spirit Positive attitude Equal support</p>

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LAND USE

city services & utilities, schools, density & intensity, mix & integration of uses

DEFINE FUTURE SUCCESS IN THIS CATEGORY	WHAT ARE OBSTACLES TO THAT SUCCESS?	WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE TO BE SUCCESSFUL?
	Overhead lines unattractive Parking on both sides of the street - one side or the other Services are hampered by on street parking	
Outdoor activities Current land policies in place Establishment of a food store Having a library in the area	Money, people agreeing Find places to develop pocket parks (where, how, cost) Crossing gates on railroads get stuck	Meetings to set procedures to solve the problem Empty properties to be sold to individuals Contact grocery chains Book mobile
Single-family	Multi-family/condos could cause issues	
Attract small businesses to the area (tax incentives) Mix of single family homes and condos/townhomes with businesses integrated into construction (west of Ellis - single family, east of Ellis - mix residences)	Train delaying traffic on 1st & F Avenue Existing commercial/industrial businesses in residential area	HUD Zones Incentives to move industrial operations
Affordable housing Parks and rec Animal sanctuary Trails Businesses	Local government funding investment	Good planning and pay in it

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CHARACTER

building placement, location, height, quality, style, historical nature

DEFINE FUTURE SUCCESS IN THIS CATEGORY	WHAT ARE OBSTACLES TO THAT SUCCESS?	WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE TO BE SUCCESSFUL?
Houses are up to the requirements of area and fit in Establishment of setback for new construction	\$ landowners	Housing incentives Watch variances to new code (air conditions) Adequate parking on streets
Building into the neighborhood Homes Commercial Public facilities	Investment People Security	Commitment to making it work
Beautify Ellis Blvd (trees, flowers, etc.) Draw in talented craftsmen to our area Emphasize the beauty of the river and natural assets	Money City Cooperation	Attend/participate in Council Meetings City Cooperation

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STREETSCAPES

landscaping, lighting, amenities

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<p>Nice age of trees Ellis has the potential to be a beautiful street Keep Ellis as a "signature street" Figure out what to attract Proper lighting for Ellis & O and then more for neighborhoods Add commercial pockets at O, K, E & F and Q (no strip malls). Add mixed use</p>	<p>No curbs - curb appeal Sidewalks not appealing Not maintained due to no curbs City services are hampered Lighting awful in vacant areas</p>	<p>Parking issues Lamps Widen sidewalks Benches Maintain character (no pole buildings) City more responsive with bad properties Lighting is poor</p>
<p>Have adequate parking and setbacks (new) Adequate drainage Curb construction Street lighting Leds (cost) Preserve and add trees</p>	<p>Storm sewer construction costs Cost but cheap in end</p>	<p>Change in way people travel Change bulbs</p>
<p>Trees on Ellis Blvd Widened sidewalks Streetlights Additional parking</p>	<p>Funding</p>	<p>Promote to businesses to get involved</p>

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Bike path to east side Zero lot line Easement to back alley	Designated routes Social problems Need to have easement \$	Planning to use streets that have low volume Fencing causes problems with easement
<hr/>	<hr/>	Mowing catch basin - two different departments? Aesthetics Beautification Commercial limited to Ellis
Facility (multi-purpose) for flea market, bandstand, dance Boy Scout weekend	<hr/>	Northwest Neighbors Neighborhood Association meet with Ellis Harbor Neighborhood Association (Don Steichen) to share ideas and promotions
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