

Quality of Life Plan Update

2009-2014

St. Peter/Waterway Community

St. Peter/Waterway is a neighborhood in transformation. Its residents are changing and its priorities under NeighborhoodsNOW are changing in response. The neighborhood has gone from 9% Hispanic and 48% Caucasian in 1990 to 37% Hispanic and 24% Caucasian in 2000, a trend suggesting a predominately Hispanic/Latino neighborhood in the next 10 years. Its physical characteristics, thanks to the steady work of organizations like Community Housing of Wyandotte County, have changed dramatically. Gone are the empty blocks of weeds and litter and in their place new homes have been built and existing ones rehabbed and occupied. Waterway Park, once a center for drugs and prostitution, has been filled and is being landscaped. Currently, only about 20% of the neighborhood remains to be rebuilt with new homes. In many ways the promise of NeighborhoodsNOW has been fulfilled and the neighborhood has much to celebrate.

During the recent Quality of Life Planning, however, it became clear that many new residents, especially new immigrant populations, are not yet engaged in the community's revitalization and are unaware of how they can become involved. The community has experienced an increase in gang-related activity that residents attribute to a lack of



activities for young people and weak connections between the police, the neighborhood, and nonprofit groups. Crime and safety concerns are a top priority in this plan as well as building stronger relationships with new residents.

Another issue for residents is that the community lacks a place for activities and programs. There was much discussion about the need for job training, high-speed computer access, health and wellness programs, education and tutoring programs for youth, and classes for immigrant populations, but no place to hold them. Some partners such as Bishop Ward High School have facilities in the area but no programming aimed at engaging or serving residents. For all these reasons, a community center, either new or acquired, is high on the neighborhood's list of priorities.

St. Peter/Waterway Community

Only 20% of the neighborhood remains to be rebuilt with new homes.



Residents are also aware that the current economic conditions have adversely impacted the ability of low-income families to own a home. It's not surprising therefore, that resident priorities have shifted from new construction to building the market for homes currently for sale and rehabilitating homes in foreclosure. Augmenting this with

minor home repair and weatherization will assist the neighborhood's ability to maintain its appearance and attract new families.

The NeighborhoodsNOW Quality of Life Plan, as envisioned by residents, provides strategies for the neighborhood to employ to make each of these priorities a reality.



Waterway Park was transformed into one of the neighborhood's most attractive features. Residents hope to open a community center to offer additional recreation and health-related activities.

The Quality of Life Plan Priorities: St. Peter/Waterway

CRIME AND SAFETY/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

WHAT: Increase resident participation in crime reduction programs and increase neighborhood police officer presence. Increase youth activities with an emphasis on reducing gang membership and gang-related violence. Explore opening a community center.

WHO: Cathedral Point Neighborhood Association, CHWC, Kansas City, Kan., Police Department, A Better KCK, Parks and Recreation, the Unified Government of Wyandotte County (UG), Bishop Ward High School, residents

WHEN: By 12/31/2011

WHERE: St. Peter/Waterway

HOW:

- Engage a community organizer and target ten blocks to have visible crime watches.
- Increase policing efforts with an emphasis on ending gang violence and drive-by shootings.
- Provide neighborhood crime and safety training to community developers, residents and police.
- Form a coalition of faith-based partners to join in neighborhood community organizing.
- Work with UG to explore re-use of an existing building as a community center or partner with another neighborhood to build and open a center.
- Work with Bishop Ward High School on gang-awareness programs.

OUTCOME:

- Fewer drive-by shootings are reported in St. Peter/Waterway in 2010 and 2011.
- Provide a Safe Routes to School program
- 10 neighborhood youth become involved in gang-awareness programs.
- Three crime and safety trainings held.
- Five Latino residents join the Cathedral Point Neighborhood Association.
- A steady yearly increase (15% is target) in attendance at neighborhood association meetings.
- Six blocks will be formally organized.
- A youth center is open and operational.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

WHAT: The St. Peter/Waterway real estate market will be stabilized through the sale of existing new and rehabilitated homes. In addition, five new homes will be built and ready for sale. Affordable rental housing will be available. The neighborhood will have an active minor home repair and weatherization program.

WHO: CHWC, Cathedral Point Neighborhood Association

WHEN: By 12/31/2011

WHERE: St. Peter/Waterway

HOW:

- Sell CHWC's existing home inventory.
- Build an additional five new homes.
- Hold annual neighborhood clean-ups.

OUTCOME:

- Four vacant properties acquired.
- Eight new homes and six rehabilitated homes sold.
- Five new homes built.
- Four homes weatherized and/or provided minor home repair.

EDUCATION

WHAT: Provide a place, such as a new community center, where youth can go before and after school to be mentored/tutored, attend art and creativity classes, receive computer training, and participate in English as a Second Language classes.

WHO: Bishop Ward High School, Community Housing of Wyandotte County, El Centro

WHEN: By 12/31/2011

HOW:

- Research existing community youth-oriented programs and investigate outcomes.
- Provide local schools with a list of existing youth-oriented activities.
- Where gaps exist, find new partners or create new programs that benefit youth.
- Build a new community center (or utilize an existing building) and hold programs for youth and adults.

OUTCOME:

- A new community center opens in 2011 and operates from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. daily offering school tutoring, classes in computers, arts, etc.
- On average, 120 youth use the existing center monthly.
- Youth have attractive alternatives to joining gangs resulting in reduced gang activity and violence.
- 10 teachers receive service-learning training each year.
- One service-learning project undertaken with 10 students participating each year.
- 60 youth per year enroll in high quality after school and summer education programs.
- 20 youth each year increase academic, athletic, or social skills.
- Two neighborhood-based youth development programs initiated with 50 youth participants.

The Quality of Life Plan Priorities: St. Peter/Waterway cont.

HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS

WHAT: Provide a safe biking trail to local parks, community centers and schools. Provide free or reduced-cost preventative health care to low-income residents at the new community center. Provide space and equipment for physical fitness at the new community center. Explore green development such as wind-generated electricity. The neighborhood will be clean.

WHO: CHWC, Unified Government of Wyandotte County, Kansas University Medical Center, Greater Kansas City LISC, Cathedral Point Neighborhood Association, Metropolitan Energy Center, Board of Public Utilities

WHEN: By 12/31/2014

WHERE: St. Peter/Waterway

HOW:

- Design a biking trail and advocate for infrastructure improvements.
- Complete a study of current access to health care, especially for immigrant populations.
- Assuming a community center opens, obtain needed exercise equipment.
- Identify a health care provider to open a clinic in the neighborhood.
- Partner with energy companies and energy-efficiency groups to explore smart-grid technology or other environmentally conscious energy choices for the neighborhood.

OUTCOME:

- A wellness clinic, with physician or nurse practitioner, is open two days each week.
- 50 people per month access health care and/or utilize exercise equipment at community center.
- One innovative green energy program is operating in the neighborhood.
- One neighborhood clean-up held each year.
- One major park renovation completed.
- One neighborhood health project implemented and maintained annually.

- A biking trail is completed.
- A Community Garden is developed.

FAMILY INCOME AND WEALTH

WHAT: Provide access to job search engines, resume assistance, and job training at a new community center or existing facility as needed.

WHO: CHWC, Unified Government of Wyandotte County, Greater Kansas City LISC, Cathedral Point Neighborhood Association, Catholic Charities, Kansas City Kansas Public Library

WHEN: By 12/31/2012

WHERE: St. Peter/Waterway

HOW:

- Assuming a new community center will open, obtain necessary equipment to provide free high-speed internet service to residents.
- Partner with employment agencies to provide job training.
- In partnership with agencies such as Catholic Charities, provide on-site resume assistance.
- Prior to community center opening, provide programming for resume assistance and job placement through community partners.

OUTCOME:

- One Neighborhood-based workforce development program initiated at the community center with 60 participants.
- 20 individuals placed in jobs.
- 50 residents per month use the center for high-speed computer access.
- 10 first-time homebuyers receive down-payment assistance.
- 10 mortgages made to low/moderate-income families.
- 10 households participate in Asset Development Programs.
- 16 individuals open an IDA or other savings account.



For information on how you can invest in St. Peter/Waterway's rebirth, contact us today:

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