

# GREATER FULTON'S FULTURE

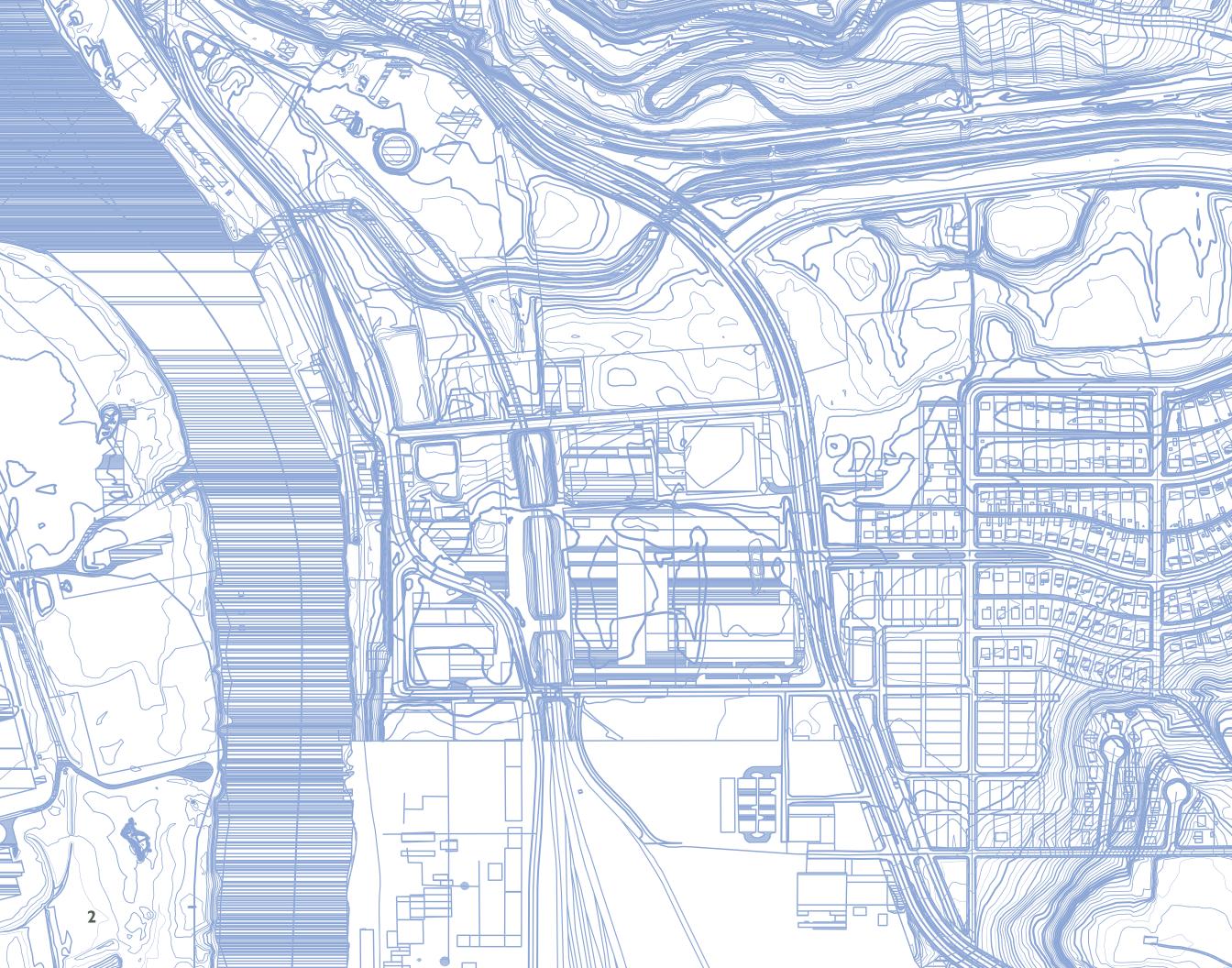
COMMUNITY VISION & AGREEMENT

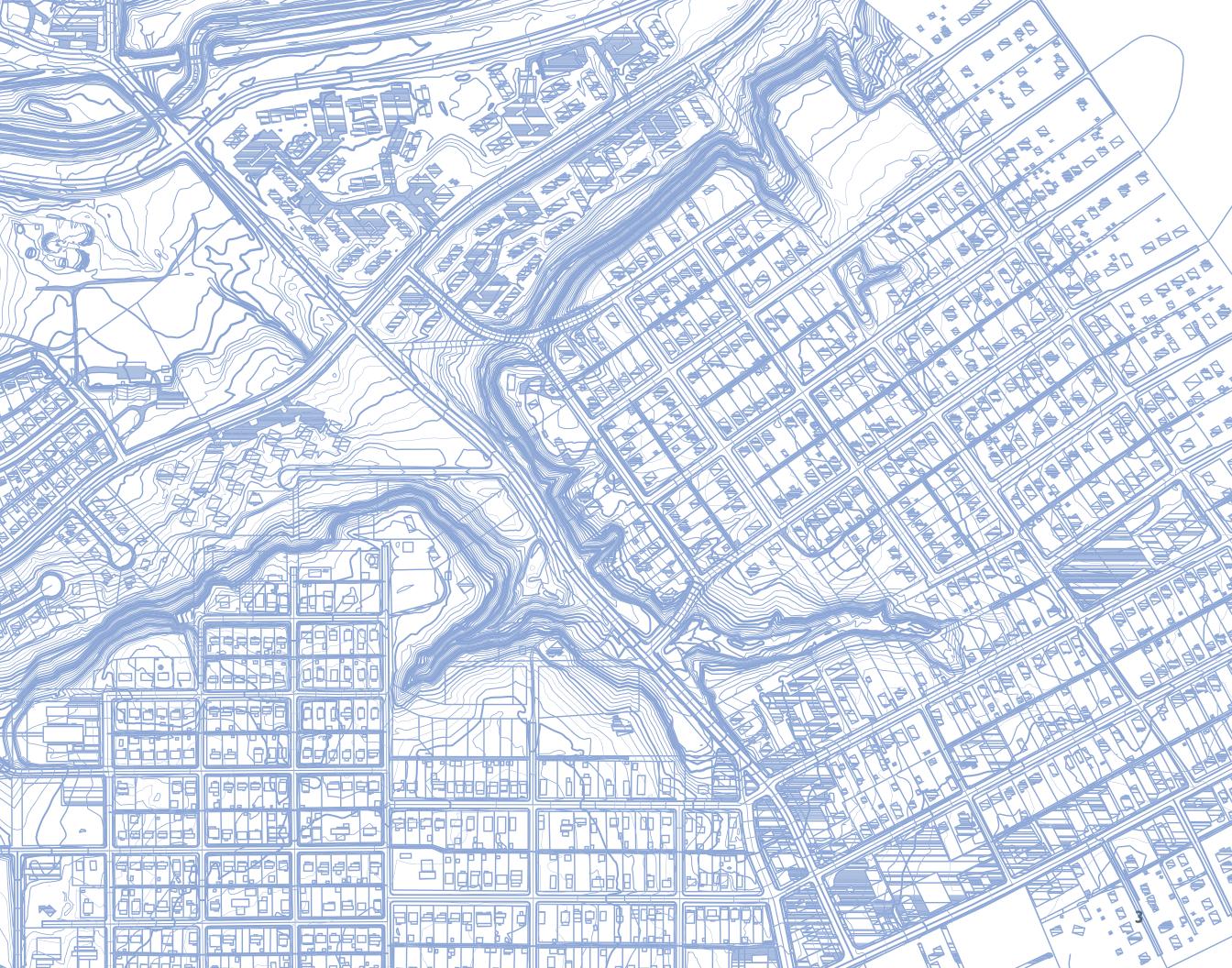
June 2011



Helping neighbors build communities







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## PROJECT OVERVIEW AND TIMELINE

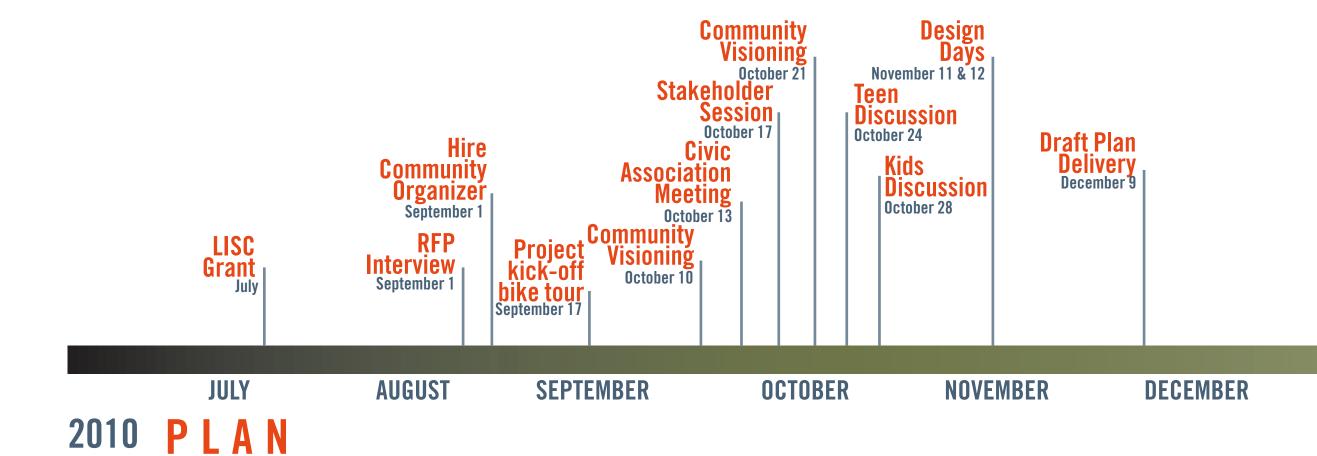
The Greater Fulton Community Vision and Agreement emerged from a partnership between Virginia Local Initiatives Support Corporation (Virginia LISC), the Neighborhood Resource Center of Greater Fulton (NRC) and the residents of the Greater Fulton community, which includes the neighborhoods of Fulton, Fulton Hill and Montrose Heights.

In the summer of 2010, Virginia LISC and the NRC agreed to initiate the creation of a Community Vision for the three East End neighborhoods comprising Greater Fulton. During the late summer and fall of 2010, residents of the Greater Fulton community and external stakeholders representing various city agencies and nonprofit organizations in Richmond worked together to craft an initial vision document.

The Community Vision describes existing and desired future conditions for the Greater Fulton community in Richmond's East End. It was created through a community engagement process which helped to uncover and build upon the ideas

and desires of residents and other local stakeholders. The Community Vision is intended to be a catalyst for continued community engagement — and to provide a new starting point for the community, the City of Richmond and other partners to strengthen Greater Fulton.

As a starting point, the Community Vision is designed to be a working document that is reviewed and revised as community leaders from Greater Fulton move forward and begin work on the initiatives, programs and activities outlined in this document. As more residents are engaged in the implementation of this Community Vision, and progress is made on specific elements of the document, it is anticipated that new ideas and opportunities will be identified for future action.





Final Draft Report January

Secured Commercial Corridor grant

Work Teams Meetings

**February** 

Retained Commerical Corridor consultants April

Commercial Corridor clean up day April

Steering Committee Formed May

Field of Dreams May

Fulton Memorial Park Planning May

Final Report & Community Celebration June

**JANUARY** 

**FEBRUARY** 

**MARCH** 

**APRIL** 

**MAY** 

JUNE

IMPLEMENTATION

#### COMMUNITY PARTICIPANTS

Three organizations — Virginia LISC, the Neighborhood Resource Center of Greater Fulton and Floricane LLC — collaborated closely to support the creation of a Greater Fulton Community Vision. To better capture the spirit and the voices of the community in the visioning process, a variety of approaches were taken to reach out to every corner of the Greater Fulton community.

Dozens of one-on-one interviews; community sessions for the general public, for teens and for children; stakeholder discussions with government and nonprofit partners; and public design and discussion workshops were all designed to give a wide spectrum of Greater Fulton an opportunity to shape the emerging vision.

The objective was to give as many residents of Greater Fulton a voice in the process, to build community buy-in and to encourage long-term engagement in the process from the community.

#### **ORGANIZING AGENTS**

#### Virginia Local Initiatives Support Corporation (funding entity)

Candice Street Veronica Jemmott Frances Stanley

Neighborhood Resource Center of Greater Fulton (convening entity)

Annette Cousins Mary Lou Decossaux Penny Ferris Jason Sawyer Lafayette Harris Blue Clements

Floricane LLC

John Sarvay Peter Fraser Lauren Stewart Beth Coakley

#### PARTICIPATING GREATER FULTON ORGANIZATIONS

Greater Fulton Hill Civic Association Fulton Hill Community Business Association Fulton Hill Neighborhood Watch **Fulton Family Reunion Committee** Neighborhood Resource Center of Greater Fulton **Powhatan Community Center** Youth With A Mission Carlisle Avenue Baptist Church Mount Calvary Baptist Church

Communities in Schools Calvary United Methodist Church Richmond Redevelopment and Christian Tabernacle Church **Housing Authority** Richmond Department of Planning Catholic Charities **Fulton Foundation** Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation

> **Better Housing Coalition Habitat for Humanity** Virginia Supportive Housing

#### PARTICIPATING COMMUNITY PARTNERS

**Richmond City Council** 

Richmond School Board

**Fulton Hill Properties** 

School PTA

Chimborazo Elementary

Councilwoman Cynthia Newbille

City of Richmond Police Department

Representative Don Coleman

Housing Opportunities Made Equal ACORN/The Alliance Historic Richmond Foundation Valentine Richmond History Center **Rocketts Landing** Wachovia/Wells Fargo Bank of America **Bon Secours Richmond** The Community Foundation Federal Reserve Bank Richmond Pro Cycling

Richmond Association of Realtors **GRTC/Ride Finders Flderhomes** Capital Area Health Network Storefront for Community Design

**Robins Foundation** 



#### **PARTICIPATING RESIDENTS**

**Bruce Abbott** Barbara Adams Daisy Adams Valerie Adams Tim Adkins Bernika Allen Martha Allen J. Anderson Celia Andrews Ira Anthony Jon Arceneaux Ben Arnette N. Arrington Ben Arnette Jacob Bachman Chezare Baker Greta Banister **Zack Banister** Carnetti Banks Diane Banks Jarmeaka Barnes Odessa Battle Lucille Becker Theresa Beckett Janine Berry Esterene Bell Willy Benjamin, Jr. **Crystal Bennett** George Bennett Ray Berkley Joyce Bland Wayne Bland Nanette Bloxom Diane Bowden Octavia Banks Amy Bracken

Carol Bradley Lakeisha Bradley James Brady Linda Braxton Keith Beverly\* Betty Booker\* Ben Boyd Iris Brown\* Patricia Brown William Brown Svondai Brown George Brooks Tina Bujno\* Todd Bruce Donvel Burrell Teresa Burrell Dewayne Burnett Van Burnett George Butler Cynthia Burton Latia Bush Elaine Calloway Rebecca Campbell Samika Eaton Kirk Carico Vivian Carmon Cornelius Carrington Earl Eecoke Ronald Carter Gloria Carter Natalie Case Polly Chamberlain B.T. Clark Kirby Clayton Noah Cleveland Liz Coggins Ann Coleman Ken Coleman

Rosa Coleman **Bernard Conner** Annette Cooper **Andrew Cousar** Teona Cousar **Pippin Covington Charles Crawley** Norbinette Crews Monique R. Currie Meoshia Daniels James Danner Tonisha Darson Al Davis Doug Davis N. Davis Oscar Delgado Andrew Dielhof Cynthia Diggs Yvonnda Dunn Marquis Durant Julia Easley McCoy Eaton James Edwards Robert Edwards, Jr. Erma Hargrove Terry Eise Lisa Elliot **Donald Ellis** LaVerne Ellis Brandon Ellison E.L. Epps **Chris Farmer** Catherine Faulkner LaVerne Harris Fay Fellows Tina Fellows

Penny Ferris Percy Fields Nina Fleming Wade Fleming Rebecca Fralin Yovonda Fuller Bill Garnett Rose M. Gary Rodney Gayle Julianne Genis Jasen Glasbrenner Chris Gillespie Dru Gillie Lawrence Goode John Goude Alecia Guy Keith Grady Mary Grant Daniela Gregory Phyllis Griffin Van Fervey Charles Hall Lucas Hall Regma Halstead Mary Harrington **Amanda Harris** Barbara E. Harris **Evelyn Harris** Jackie Harris Jaquan Harris Jennifer Harris Lafayette Harris Leon W. Harris Shawn Harris

**Vincent Harris** Will Harris Barbara Hunter **Charles Hunter** Phil Jackson Brandon Javcox Brett Jaycox Angela Jenkins Aceya Johnson Alexus Johnson Clara Johnson Corliss Johnson **Evelyn Johnson** L. Johnson Larcenia Johnson Marvin Johnson Shalonda Johnson Bertha Jones Erik Jones **Eric Jones** LaShaye Johnson Katherine Jones Spencer E. Jones III **Ronnie Jones** Rose Johnson Virginia Johnson **Wyatt Kingston Greg Kontos** Greg Kelley Emma Kenney Raymond Kenney Jeff Kilmon **Nancy King** Sarah Krumbein Claudia Lathan Shanta Lawrence

C. Lawson Arthur Lee Ariyanna Lewis Carrie Lewis Ladonna Lewis Ralph Lewis James Lindell\* Theodore Lindsay Roger Littley Mildred Lofton James Logan Robert Logan Gwen Logan-Jones Darren Lopez Jeff Maier CeCe Manns Debra Martin Thelma Martin Phyllis Marrow Charles Mars D. May John Mayo Raymond McCray Willy McCall O. McCluney Reginald Mebane Norman Meekins Allen Melton Tiara Melton Tyriek Melton Celestine Miles Marlene Mills Shanketha Minns Maurice Morgan Morrell Morgan

Tiara Mosby

Olivia Moulds Chris Neighbors Jerry Neville Mary Neville **Brenda Nichols** Ms. Night Fave Norman Colleen Patten Geraldine Patterson Kathy Robertson Joseph Perkinson Mary Perez Luke Petrev Rebecca Petrey Stacy Phillips Rose Pollard **Daniel Ponder** Michael Ponder Angel O'Neil Carl Otto Mary Ellen Otto Steve Otto **James Patterson Larry Patterson** Lawanda Patterson Lamont Scott **Betty Perera** Mary Perez **Raymond Perrier** Jonathan Pilldroe Henry Phillips Janice Poole Mike Ponder Keon Powell Beulah Prestipino Allyson Rainer **Estelle Rainey** Rosa Rearius

Quanija Redd Kristen Reed **Emily Reid** Tom Reid Annette Richardson Linda Sutton Juan Rivas Miriam Rivas Jaquan Rivers Mike Robinson William Robinson Pamela Rodgers Rotita Rodgers Paula Rose Rita Rogers James Ross Xavier Ross Gary Rudd John Rush Sonya Rymaruk Juliellen Sarver Inga Sassnick Al Schaub Tom Seward John Simmons M. Sinkler Andrea Smith **Brian Smith Grayson Smith** Joseph T. Smith Joyce Smith Julian Smith **Sharon Smith** Stuart Smith DiMon Solomon

**Breana Sowell** D.J. Sparr Kimberly Sparr Jeffery Stark Jeremiah Sweenev Loretta Swigert Sandra Tapper **Trevor Tapper** Jason Taylor Marie Taylor Terrance Taylor Mario Tedder **Katherine Terry** Calvin Thomas **Emma Thomas Rotita Thomas** Sarah Thomas A.P. Thompson Stephan Thompson Helen Wilson William Thompson Carolyn Toomer Brad Tucker Johnny Turner Vernon Turner Cindy Tyler John Tyler Kenyon Valentine Tammie Valverse Janice Venson **Brenda Vickers Bobby Vickers** Alisha Victorine James Wacker **Nadine Ward** Phil Ward

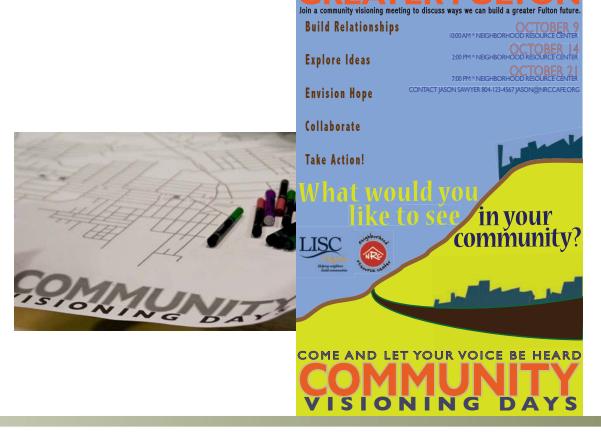
Brenda Watson **Quincy Watson** Patrick Wells **Deborah White** Jerson White Jonquill White **Justin White** Ron White Wendall White Mona Whitehead Jamia Whittaker Jaqueline Wilkinson Africa Williams Altovise Williams **Christopher Williams Darlene Williams Dorothy Williams Howard Williams** Stephen Williams Nannie Wilson Twanna Winn Lloyd Winsham **Roland Winston Curtis Wright** Arnesto Younger Chris Zinchuck Kara Zinchuck

#### THE VISION PROCESS

#### **Bike Tour**

The Floricane team's first formal exposure to Greater Fulton came in the form of a two-hour bicycle ride through two of Greater Fulton's three neighborhoods. Starting at the Neighborhood Resource Center, six Floricane and NRC staffers cycled through the northern streets of Fulton Hill; down Goddin Street to Williamsburg Avenue; through Gillies Creek Park and sections of the new Fulton housing development, the RRHA apartments ("Rainbow") and Ashley Oaks/Woodcroft; before pedaling up Government Road and back to the NRC.

The bike tour was informal — guided by NRC's Annette Cousins — and gave the Floricane team a closer inspection of the architecture and geography that makes Greater Fulton a unique community.





#### **Door-to-Door Interviews**

A significant portion of LISC's investment in this process has come in the form of a community organizer hired by NRC. Jason Sawyer, a graduate student in social work at VCU, took his initial charge seriously — developing an interview process with targeted questions that captured the views, perspectives and concerns of close to 100 Greater Fulton residents. These interviews were conducted door-to-door and included residents of Fulton Hill, Montrose Heights and Fulton, as well as residents of Rainbow and Ashley Oaks.

A summary of the interviews conducted can be found in the appendix of this document.





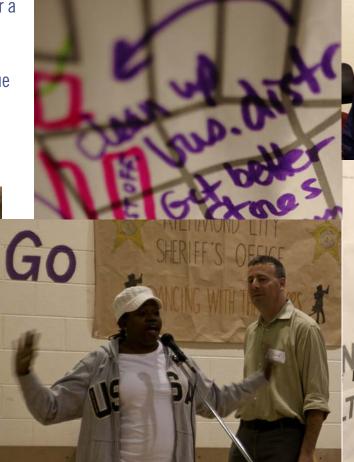
#### **Community Vision Sessions**

On October 10, approximately 40 Greater Fulton residents gathered for a morning vision session facilitated by Floricane at the Powhatan Community Center. During the evening of October 18, close to 100 Greater Fulton residents came together for a similar session — also held at the Powhatan Community Center.

During both three-hour sessions, residents discussed their history in Greater Fulton — as well as Greater Fulton's history — and began to identify both the unique characteristics of their community and opportunities to improve it. In addition to generating five large physical maps — marked up with individual notes and observations about specific Greater Fulton landmarks and places — the groups generated hundreds of individual Post-It Notes and questionnaires with ideas, challenges and initiatives important to individual community members.











#### **Teen & Kid Interviews**

was on hand to discuss current zoning in the area.

On October 22, approximately a dozen young teens gathered at the NRC to discuss their thoughts about and aspirations for Greater Fulton. The predominant concerns were safety and neighborhood integrity, but we got helpful insight into the underlying connectivity within the community.

## Fulton Hill Community Business Association On October 25, a handful of business owners from the Greater Fulton community met to discuss their thoughts about and aspirations for the commercial area extending along Williamsburg Road from the Henrico County line to Government and Darbytown DESIGN DAYS roads. A representative from the City of Richmond

1 NORTH







Open Design Studio Days
On November 8 and 9, several preliminary maps with high level ideas were posted at the NRC for a two-day Open Design Studio. Dozens of residents, business owners and community stakeholders dropped by for casual conversation and intense ink-to-paper brainstorm discussions that helped to clarify key elements of the emerging Community Vision, and began to bring real definition to opportunities within Greater Fulton.



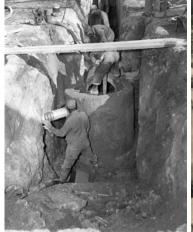
On November 16, several dozen residents/community leaders met at Calvary United Methodist Church in Fulton Hill to review and discuss preliminary drawings and concepts from the emerging Community Vision.



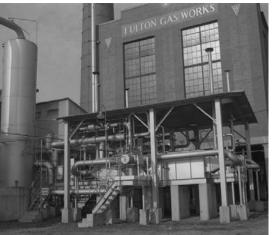


# GREATER FULTON

## **PERSPECTIVE**









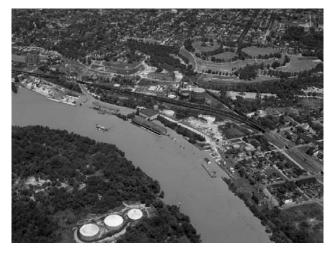










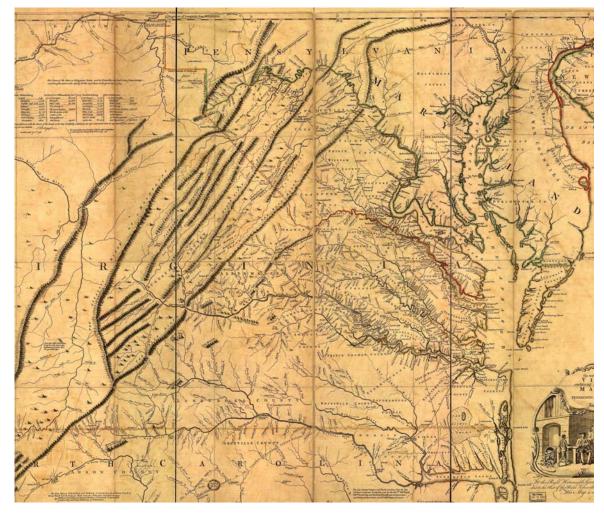








Images Courtesy of the Valentine Richmond History Center





The Frye Map

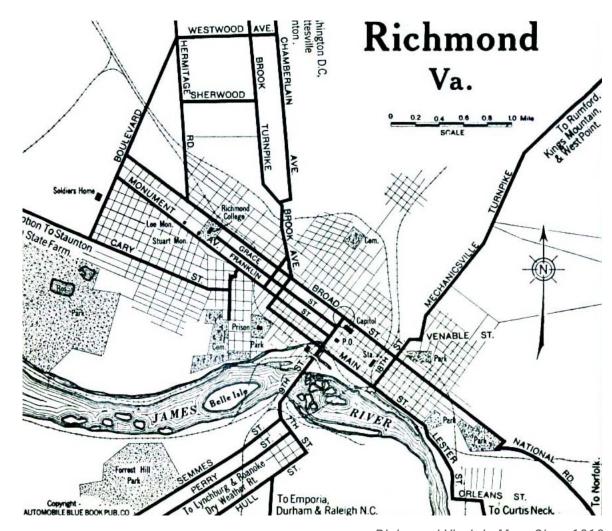
The Wilkins Map of Richmond

Tucked in a corner of the East End of the City of Richmond, Greater Fulton is a diverse and growing community of some 5,000 people with a pronounced geography and a rich history.

Long before Richmond existed, Captains Christopher Newport and John Smith probed the James River by boat from Williamsburg to the falls line. In May of 1607, they met with leaders of the Powhatan tribe at the Indian settlement on what is now known as Powhatan Hill in Greater Fulton.

By the time the first houses were being constructed upriver in Richmond, the area between Powhatan Hill and the James River was a bustling port area where ships docked and unloaded goods for the residents of the new city. The community surrounding the docks came to be known as Rocketts — after several of the early landowners, including one member of the Rocketts family who was running a ferry across the James.

The area later became known as Fulton after Alexander Fulton established a residence near Powhatan Hill.



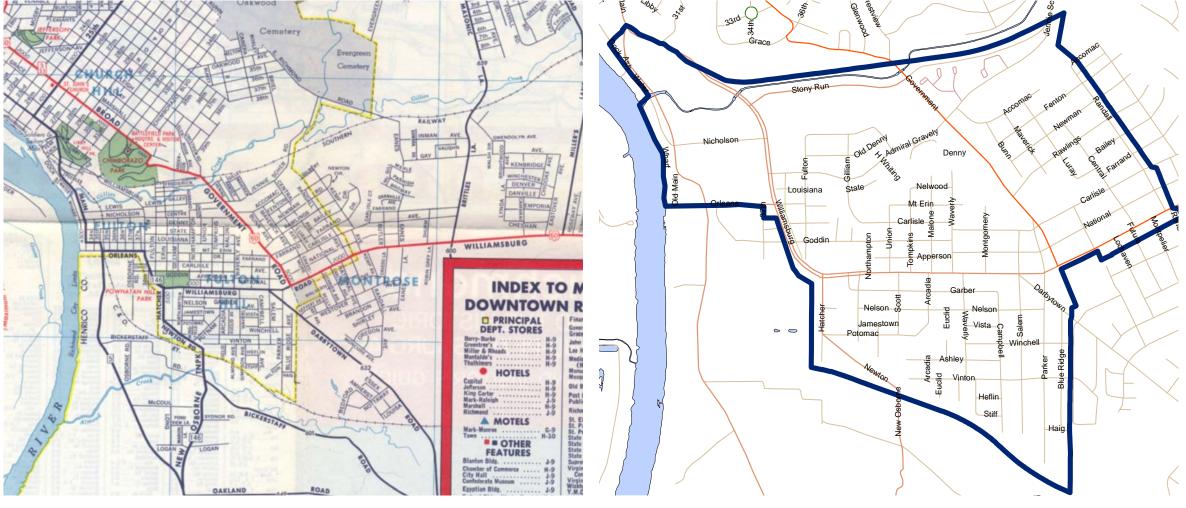


Richmond Virginia Map, Circa 1919

Richmond Vicinity Map

Greater Fulton once was a well-populated area — annexed from Henrico County by the City of Richmond in 1905. The skeleton of the industrial, commercial and residential community that once filled a neat gridline from the James River, across Williamsburg Avenue and along Gillies Creek is still visible.

In the late 1960s, the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority (RRHA) made plans for the redevelopment of the Fulton area. Following damaging floods from the James River in the early 1970s, the City of Richmond demolished hundreds of homes in Fulton. The promised redevelopment of Fulton never materialized, and it took three decades for the construction of moderate-income housing in the area to begin.



Greater Fulton Map, Circa 1955

Current Greater Fulton Area

This map delineates the three areas that comprise Greater Fulton- Fulton, Fulton Hill and Montrose. The original urban streetgrid for Fulton is reflected.

The entire Greater Fulton area is thick with recreational and green space, and the community remains among the most diverse in the city — in age, race and socioeconomic status.

Greater Fulton's largest landowner is the City of Richmond. From the site of the former Fulton Gas Works to the valley enveloping Gillies Creek Park to hillsides and urban parks on Powhatan Hill and Montrose Heights, the Department of Parks and Recreation and RRHA own large tracts of intact — and largely undeveloped — property in Greater Fulton.

The time is now for Greater Fulton to map out its future with an emphasis initially on connecting the three Greater Fulton neighborhoods more tightly together, and then linking Greater Fulton more closely to its neighbors.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

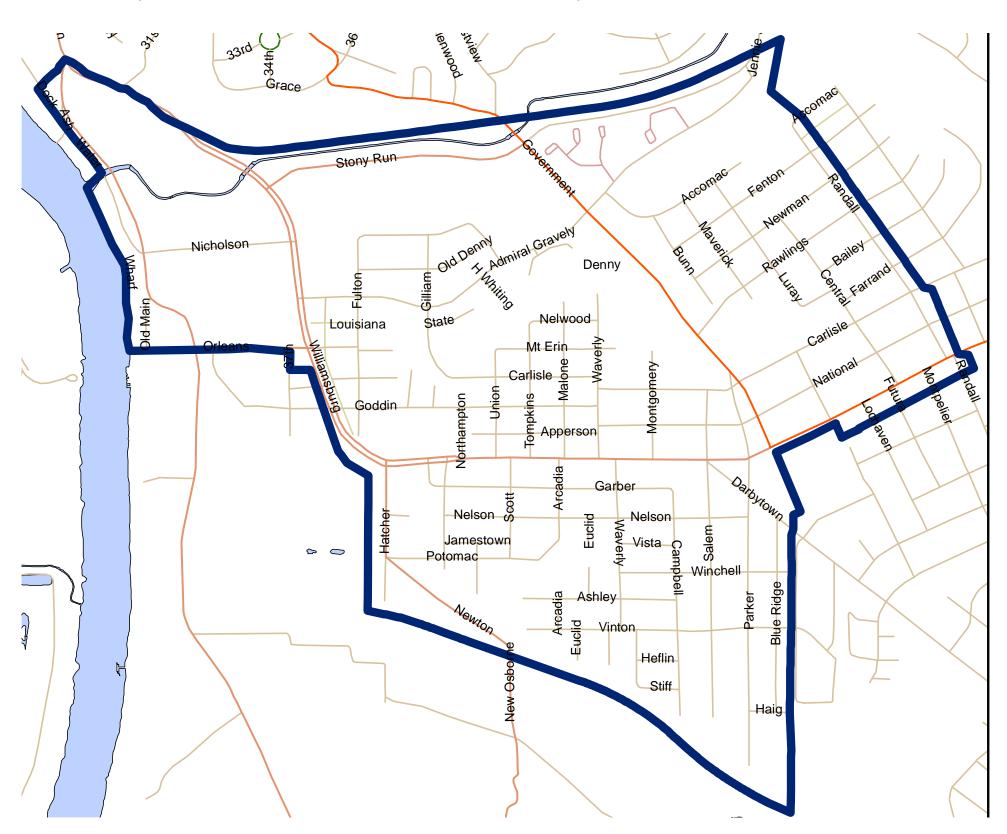
	1990 Census Number	Percent	2000 Number	Percent	1990-2000 Annual Rate	2010 Census Number Estimate
Total Population	4,309		4,639		0.74%	4,068
Total Households	1,665	100.0%	1,720	100.0%	0.33%	1,552
Average Household Size	2.58		2.70		0.46%	*
Total Families	1,116	67.0%	1,174	68.3%	0.51%	1,116
Average Family Size	3.16		3.19		0.09%	3.16
Per Capita Income	\$9,342		\$14,362		4.39%	*
Total Housing Units	1,816		1,851		0.19%	1,807





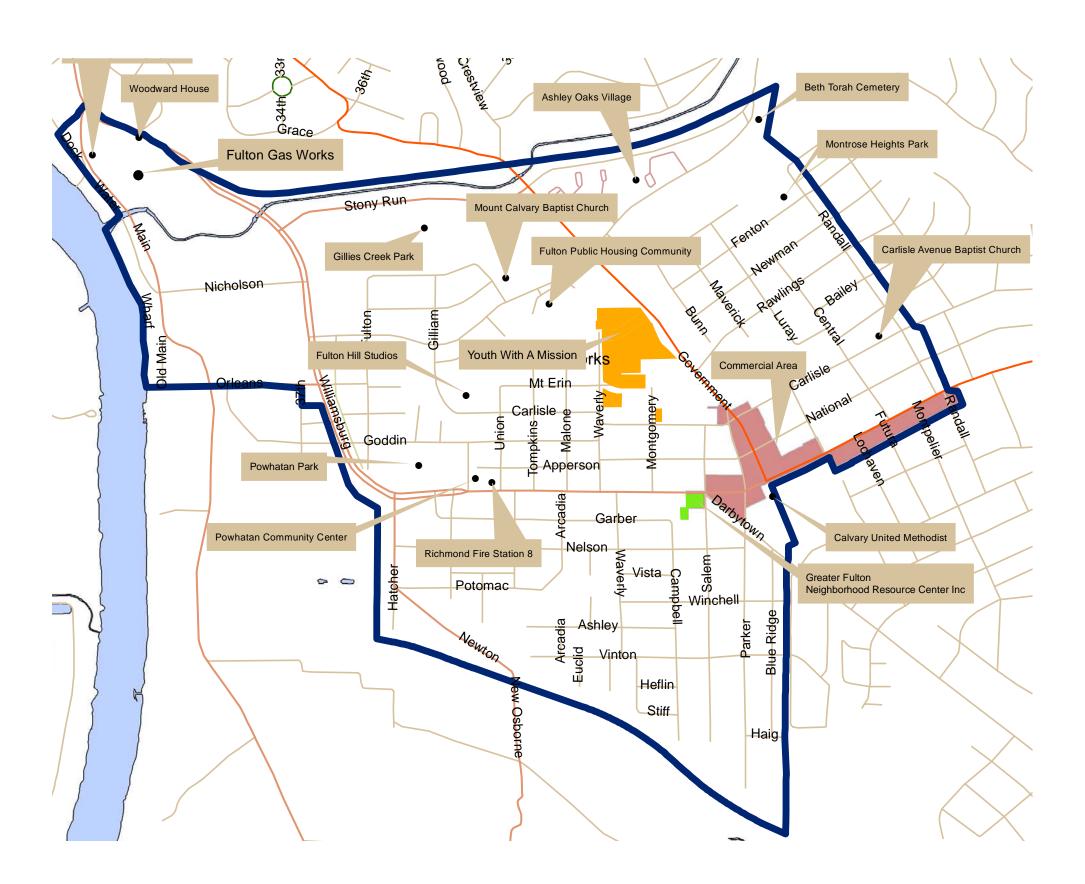
## **GEOGRAPHY-STUDY AREA**

The study area defined by Virginia LISC includes three primary neighborhoods — Fulton, Fulton Hill and Montrose Heights — and is loosely bounded to the east by the James River, Williamsburg Avenue and the Henrico/Richmond line; to the north by Chimborazo Park and Church Hill; and to the west and south by the Henrico/Richmond line.



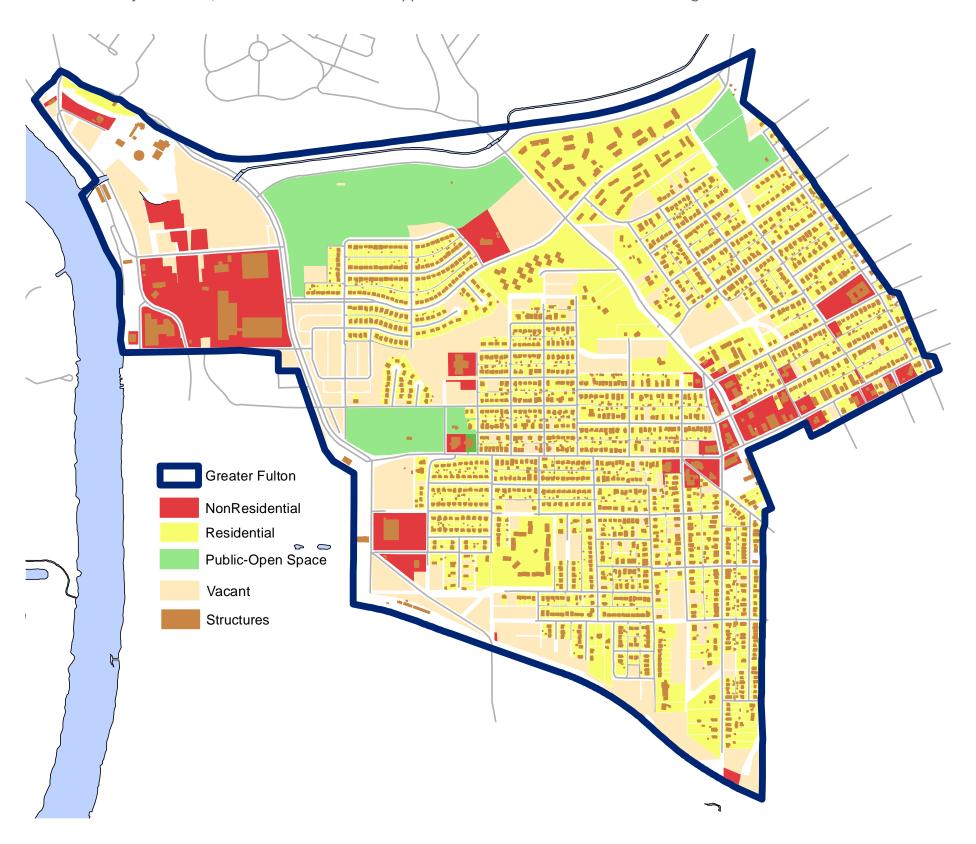
## **AREA FEATURES**

Many of the key physical features and landmarks in Greater Fulton are identified below.



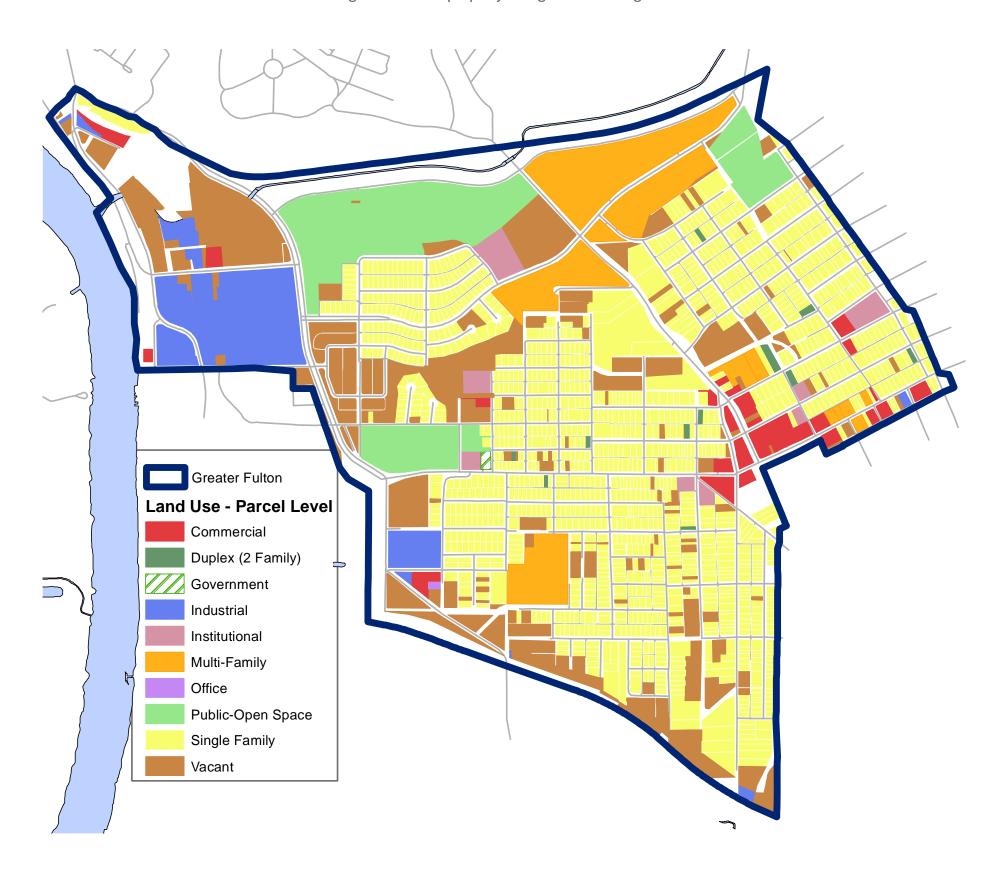
## **BUILDINGS AND PARCELS**

While Fulton Hill and Montrose Heights both have maintained their historical street grids, large sections of Fulton's grid have been replaced by new residential construction. While Greater Fulton has generally high residential density at its core, there are numerous infill opportunities in all three Greater Fulton neighborhoods.



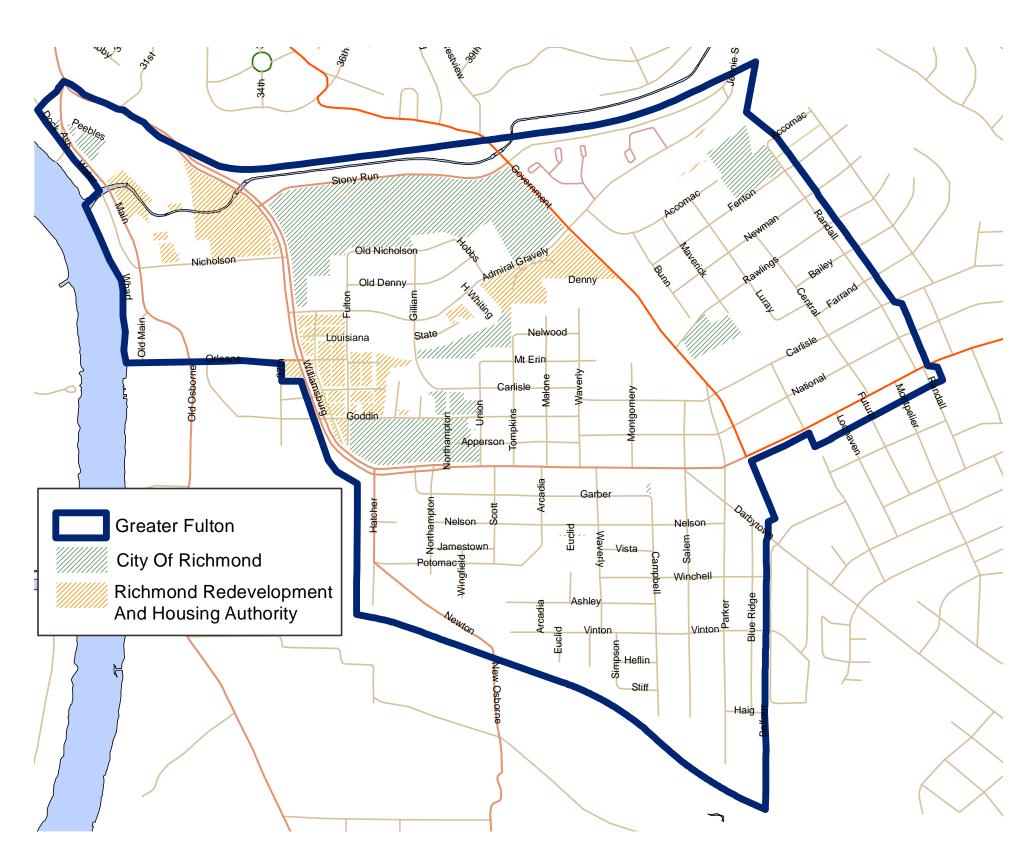
## LAND USE

Land use in Greater Fulton falls primarily into four categories: single-family residential, multi-family residential, public and commercial with a swath of industrial/light industrial property along Williamsburg Avenue.



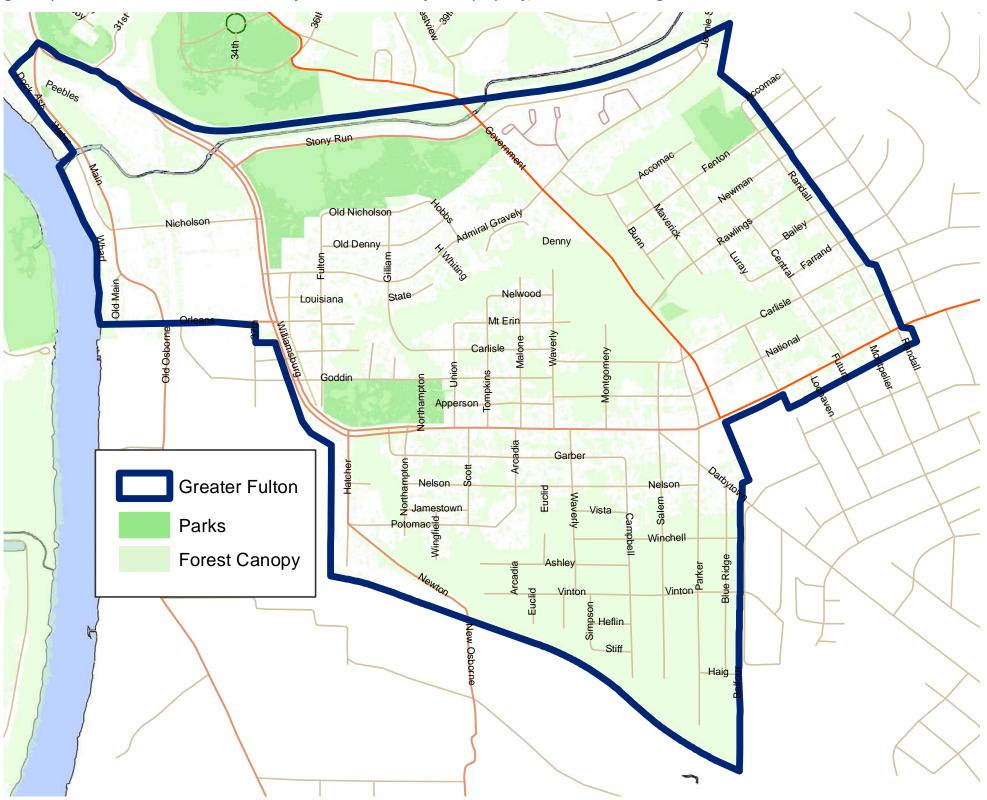
## CITY OWNED PROPERTY

A significant portion of land across Greater Fulton is owned and controlled by Richmond's Department of Parks and Recreation or the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority.



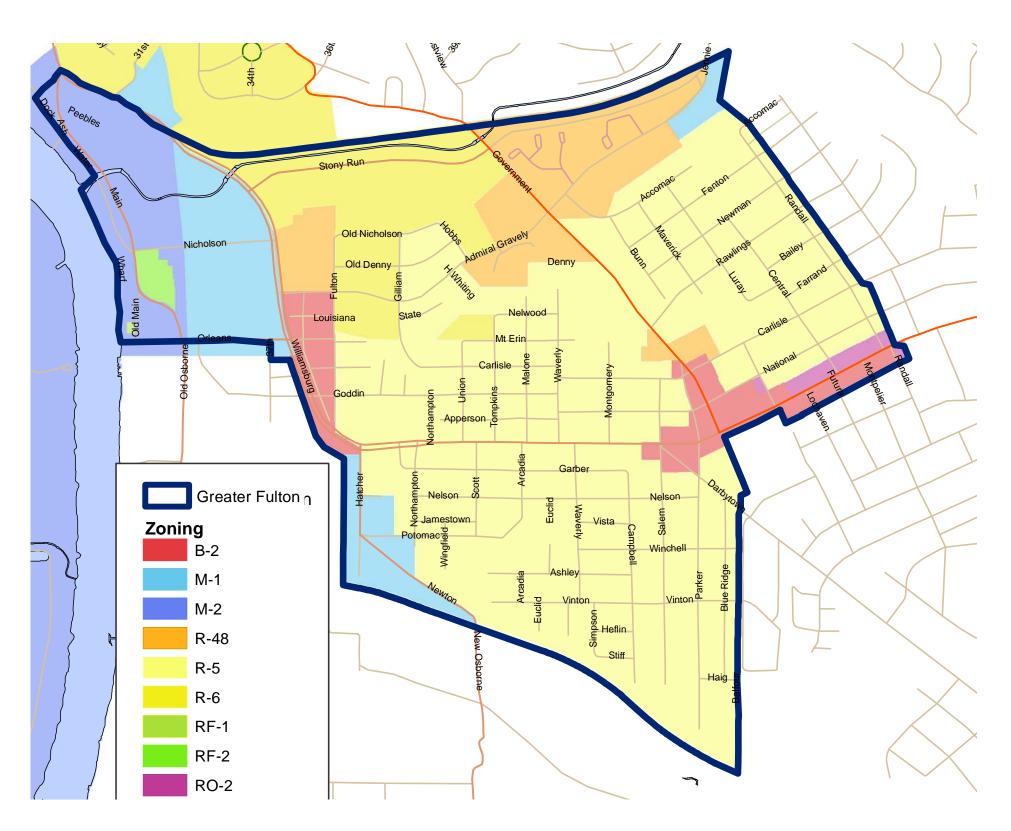
## **GREENSPACES**

Greater Fulton has a significant amount of greenspace, relative to other residential communities in the city. Undeveloped and moderately developed space includes the hillsides and ravines of Fulton Hill and Montrose Heights, as well as the land surrounding Gillies Creek and the old Fulton Gas Works. Other, more developed greenspace includes Powhatan Community Center and its adjacent property, and Montrose Heights Park.



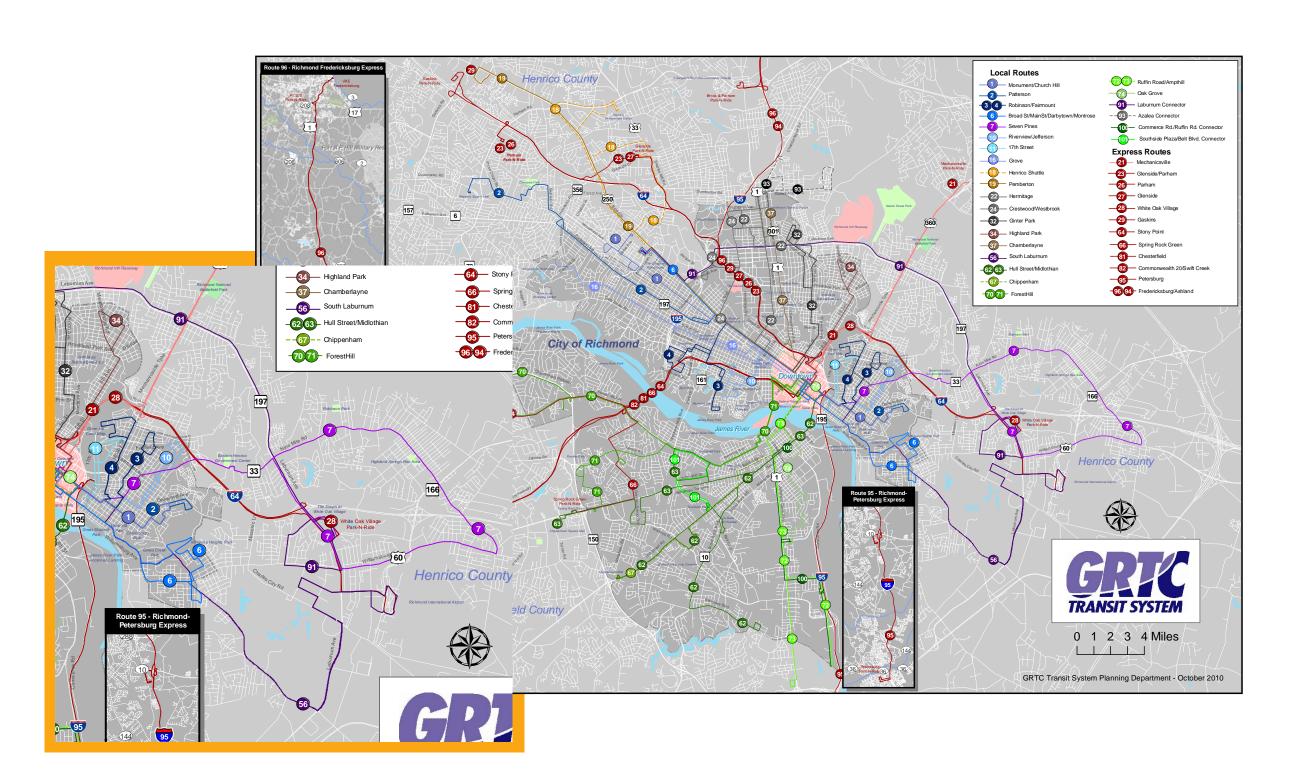
## **ZONING DISTRICTS**

Zoning in Greater Fulton is primarily a variety of residential classifications, varying in density and type. There are two distinct Community Business districts and areas of light and heavy industrial zoning (primarily adjacent to the river).



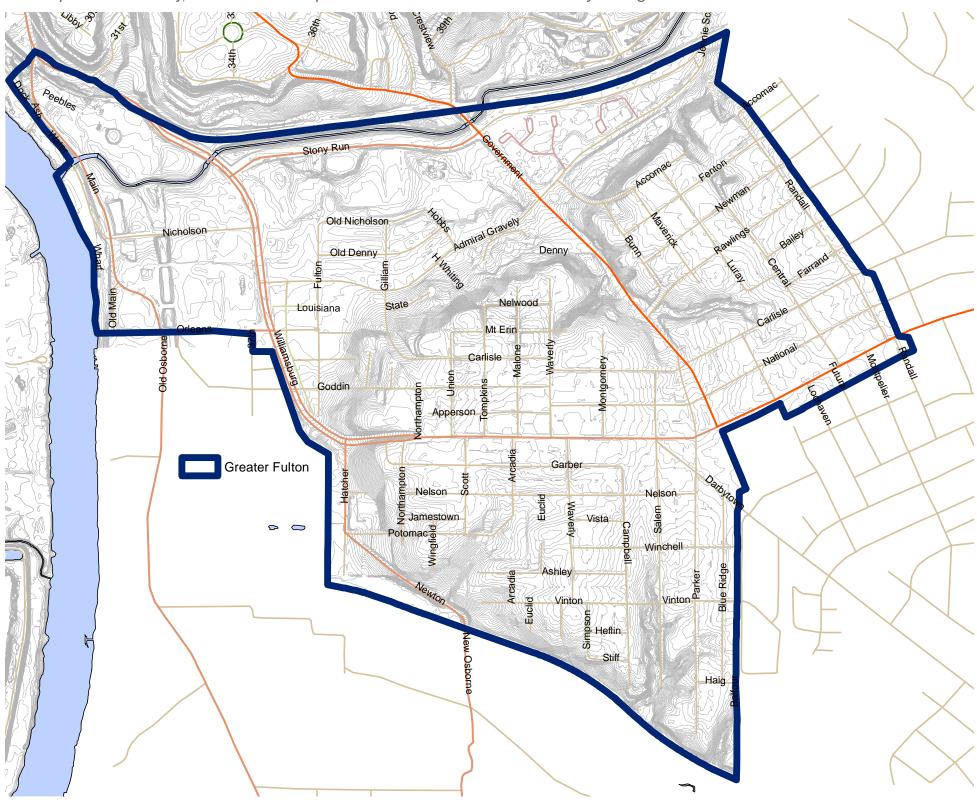
## **PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**

Public Transportation: The current GRTC Transit System map for the East End of Richmond and Henrico shows a community whose connection to emergent retail and development (jobs and services) is challenging, at best. Residents without cars are dependent on GRTC, which provides no direct service down Williamsburg Road's Eastern commercial corridor to The Shops at White Oak Village. The primary bus line utilized by residents of Greater Fulton is the Number 6 (with frequent transfers to the Number 7).



## **TOPOGRAPHY**

The topography of the area is a strong feature and creates a natural canvas that has given Greater Fulton its physical shape and identity. The geography of Greater Fulton is defined by three primary features — the James River, Gillies Creek and the series of hills and ravines. This geography simultaneously gives Greater Fulton a sense of place and identity, and creates a unique canvas around which the community must grow.



## **NEIGHBORING INFLUENCES**

Greater Fulton is an important anchor community in the East End, which includes neighborhoods both in the City of Richmond and Henrico County. A number of new initiatives and developments emerging in close proximity to Greater Fulton will have a significant impact on the community in the future. Awareness of these developments — and creating opportunities to collaborate more fully with these emergent partners — is paramount.

#### ROCKETTS LANDING www.rockettsvillage.com

The new community of Rocketts Landing occupies land directly east of Greater Fulton — including much of the land and waterfront that gave rise to Fulton's industrial, commercial and residential foundations. Rocketts Landing is a mixed use development with a phased master plan targeting affluent urban dwellers and businesses. Its riverfront siting and proximity to Downtown Richmond are significant assets.

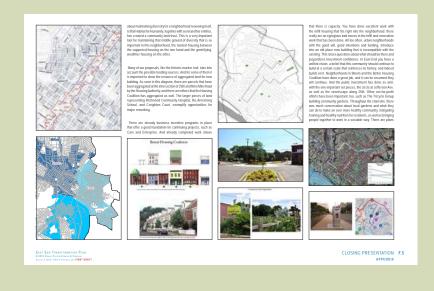
The Greater Fulton community should continue to explore future possibilities with the owners, developers and residents of Rocketts Landing as they relate to future commercial and residential development, especially along the western edge of Rocketts Landing toward Williamsburg Avenue; future green space development and riverfront access; transportation opportunities; and the history of the old Fulton neighborhood.



#### **EAST END VISION** www.eastendvision.org

While the East End Initiative — launched in 2010 by the City of Richmond and Bon Secours Richmond Health System — does not include Greater Fulton, it does represent a significant investment of time, attention and resources to Richmond's East End. With an eye toward strengthening the 25th Street and Nine Mile Road corridors, the initiative will have a dramatic impact on the health and stability of the East End.

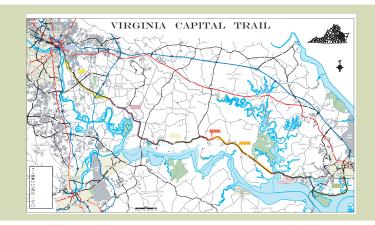
The Greater Fulton community should continue to stay up-to-date with progress on the East End Initiative, and to keep their City Council representative, the City of Richmond and Bon Secours Richmond updated on progress of the Greater Fulton Community Vision and Agreement.



#### VIRGINIA CAPITAL TRAIL www.virginiacapitaltrail.org

Although it will be several years before the entire Virginia Capital Trail is complete, and bicyclists are pedaling a complete circuit from Richmond to Williamsburg, four significant portions of the multi-use trail are complete — including a half-mile stretch running west in the city starting at Dock and Pear streets.

The Greater Fulton community should introduce the Virginia Capital Trail Foundation to its Community Vision, and engage in conversation about shared opportunities.



#### **TREE HILL FARM & WILTON** www.treehillva.com www.designforuminc.com/projects/project.php?id=5

While neither development abuts Greater Fulton, the New Urbanism Regional Town concept of Tree Hill Farm and the suburban bedroom community of Wilton just south of Greater Fulton in Henrico County will have a significant impact on the economics of the East End. Both communities sit on the Route 5 corridor, and will impact traffic and services throughout the East End.

The Greater Fulton community should introduce Henrico County and the developers of both the Tree Hill Farm and Wilton communities to its Community Vision.





#### RT 5 CORRIDOR STUDY www.route5corridor.com



A multi-modal, multi-jurisdictional transportation study of the Route 5 corridor through Henrico County into the City of Richmond is expected to be completed later in 2011. A conceptual plan will be delivered in the spring of 2011. While no public decisions have been made at this time, any recommendation that impacts traffic along Route 5 — particularly as it affects Williamsburg Avenue/Road — bear serious attention on the part of the Greater Fulton community.

The Greater Fulton community should attend planned public meetings of the Route 5 Corridor Study team in the spring of 2011, and schedule time with Tim White of Kimley- Horn and Associates to discuss the status of the study.

## COMMUNITY VISION

## **EDUCATION**



#### COMMUNITY- DRIVEN INITIATIVES:

Organize opportunities for Richmond Public School representatives, Communities in Schools and PTA leaders from Chimborazo, MLK and Armstrong to meet with Greater Fulton parents and students.

Schedule regular PTA meetings each academic year at locations in Greater Fulton.

Encourage local churches and other organizations with academic and mentoring programs to coordinate schedules and services.

Provide transportation services for Greater Fulton parents and families at all schools during significant school events (such as assemblies or school holiday performances).

Improve reliability, consistency and safety of RPS bus transportation.

Recruit additional adult tutors from Greater Fulton to support both in-school tutoring activities offered by Communities In Schools and after-school tutoring at NRC.

Establish a neighborhood tutoring and academic support center in Greater Fulton for students, parents and tutors.

Establish a neighborhood charter school, academy or independent school in Greater Fulton.

Expand the existing Montessori Preschool program.

Explore the long-term possibility of a new Richmond Public School physically located in Greater Fulton.

# A Fully developed educational outreach program with empowered citizens of a healthy, sustainable, urban community.

#### Short Term Goals

Create a central list of all local programs.

PTA meeting and cookout in our community.

Build relationships between our community and local schools.

#### Medium Term Goals:

**Expand Tutoring and Afterschool Programs** 

# Long Term Goals:

Create a Charter School

#### **Partners**

Neighborhood Resource Center of Greater Fulton
Powhatan Community Center
Cheryl Burke- Chimborazo Elementary School
Rev. Amy Beth Hougland -Calvary United Methodist Church
Antione Green
Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)

# HOUSING



### COMMUNITY-DRIVEN INITIATIVES:

Conduct a full inventory of all housing in Greater Fulton — identifying type, condition, architectural/historical significance and other attributes.

Strengthen existing housing inventory with a plan that includes specific tactics to address abandoned or vacant homes and buildings.

Organize an intensive home and yard improvement effort targeting and supporting elderly and disadvantaged homeowners.

Actively promote Greater Fulton as an affordable, attractive community for families and young professionals.

Work with community stakeholders to purchase, renovate and sell dilapidated or run-down property throughout Greater Fulton.

Organize architectural tours of Greater Fulton to increase public awareness of Greater Fulton's unique housing stock.

Put in place innovative zoning protections that will ensure the long-term integrity of Greater Fulton's residential and architectural character.

Identify a long-term plan for the existing subsidized and lower-income housing in the Greater Fulton community that meets the long-term needs of existing residents.

Work with community stakeholders to identify, fund and build infill and development solutions that strengthen Greater Fulton's residential and commercial fabric.

# Homes for all.

#### Short Term Goals:

Organize a series of clean up days in Greater Fulton to increase neighborhood beautification.

# **Medium Term Goals:**

Conduct a full inventory of all housing in Greater Fulton- identifying type, condition, architectural/historical significance and other attributes.

# Long Term Goals:

Organize intensive home and yard improvement effort targeting and supporting elderly and disadvantaged home owners.

Work with the city and the Economic Development work team to develop innovative zoning strategies to allow and encourage in fill development and housing alternatives.

Development of a senior housing strategy.

## **Partners**

Greater Fulton Hill Civic Association

David Herring and Lyn McAteer, Better Housing Coalition

Meghan Gough, VCU School of Urban Planning

Lee Householder, Elderhomes

Peter Fraser, Storefront for Community Design

Dexter Goode, Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority

LISC

# PHYSICAL INFASTRUCTURE



#### COMMUNITY-DRIVEN INITIATIVES:

Develop a plan to address public works and public utility needs throughout Greater Fulton, including sidewalk installation and repairs, sidewalk cut outs for wheelchairs, street lighting, street repair and maintenance.

Clean streets, alleys, overlooks and city-owned land of trash, debris, overgrowth and brush.

Replace dead city trees throughout Greater Fulton, particularly in the business/commercial corridor at Government and Williamsburg roads.

Address storm water and drainage issues throughout the community, particularly along the west side of Government Road.

Implement the community's proposed plan for a pedestrian/wheelchair corridor on Williamsburg Road between Northampton Street and Creedmore Street, connecting the Business District, the Neighborhood Resource Center of Greater Fulton and the Powhatan Community Center with a "Main Street" type corridor.

Explore the redesign of the intersection of Williamsburg Road, Darbytown Road and Salem Street to improve safety and reinforce the proposed "Main Street" corridor.

Explore the redesign of Government Road from Williamsburg Road to Broad Street to move truck traffic off the western stretch of Williamsburg Road, and to improve pedestrian safety and access from Chimborazo Park to the Business District with sidewalks, lighting and pedestrian crossings. This should include new stoplights at Nicholson Street at Williamsburg Avenue, Goddin Street at Williamsburg Avenue, and Government Road at Admiral Gravely Boulevard.

Explore the redesign of the commercial triangle between Parker Street, Government Road and Williamsburg Road with an eye toward creating a pedestrian-friendly commercial district; routing westbound truck traffic onto Government Road and Stoney Run; and strengthening the proposed "Main Street" corridor.

Study and report on the potential impact of new construction and development in Henrico County along the Williamsburg Road and Route 5 corridors (including Rocketts Landing).

# Serving the infrastructure and operational needs of the Greater Fulton community.

#### Short Term Goals

Develop an ongoing infrastructure inventory of improvements to be made to the neighborhood.

# Medium Term Goals:

Work alongside Culture, Parks, and Programming work team as well as Economic Development to plant more trees to beautify the neighborhood.

Improve sidewalks to make walkways more clear.

# Long Term Goals:

Explore the redesign of the commercial triangle between Parker St, Government Rd., and Williamsburg Rd with an eye toward creating a pedestrian friendly commercial district; routing westbound truck traffic onto Government Rd and Stony Run; and strengthening the proposed "Main Street" corridor.

Address and develop solutions to drainage problems in the community

## **Partners**

Norman Brown-City Arborist

Sheila Anderson, and Hope Cousins- Mayor's MPACT program

Peter Fraser, Storefront for Community Design

Cynthia Newbille and Chris Beschler- City of Richmond

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



#### COMMUNITY-DRIVEN INITIATIVES:

Develop and revitalize the commercial triangle between Parker Street, Government Road and Williamsburg Road as the primary retail/service amenity for the Greater Fulton community.

Conduct an accelerated parking overlay study of the commercial district on Williamsburg Avenue.

Conduct an accelerated zoning overlay of the commercial district on Williamsburg Avenue.

Create additional opportunities to strengthen the commercial triangle and create a sense of a "Town Center" at the intersection of Government and Williamsburg roads - with the addition of non-commercial services, such as a community clinic or library.

Identify and target 3-8 new/additional retail services or providers that meet the needs of the residential community of Greater Fulton — for instance, a pharmacy, coffee shop or take-out restaurant.

# Ensure the economic future of Greater Fulton within the larger context of the metro City of Richmond.

#### Short Term Goals:

Conduct an assessment of the businesses and buildings in the business area

Create a streetscape/beautification plan for the business district.

## Medium Term Goals:

Create a "town center" at Government and Williamsburg Rd.

Bring in non-commercial services such as a clinic or a library

Attract commercial services like a coffee shop

# Long Term Goals:

Create a Greater Fulton zoning study, traffic pattern, pedestrian and bike plan, as well as parking overlay to bring the zoning up to date and ensure that the community is preserved and not isolated.

## **Partners**

Peter Fraser, Storefront for Community Design

Joel Bookman & Helen Dunlap, Institute for Comprehensive Community Development

Jeannie Welliver- City of Richmond Office of Economic Development,

Cynthia Newbille- City of Richmond

LISC

John Taylor- City of Richmond

# CULTURE, PARKS & PROGRAMS



#### COMMUNITY-DRIVEN INITIATIVES:

Expand of Gillies Creek Park to create a community park that connects Powhatan Hill Park, Libbie Hill Park, the East Richmond Road landfill, Great Shiplock Park and the Virginia Capital Trail.

Implement improvements to Gillies Creek Park that includes restrooms/comfort station, shelters, lighting, improvements to existing fields, etc.

Increase programs offered at the Powhatan Community Center with an emphasis on activities for young children, families and senior citizens.

Construct a new and expanded Powhatan Community Center with an enclosed, year-round swimming pool and additional indoor programming space.

Develop a comprehensive bike route system along Williamsburg Road/Avenue (from the Henrico County line to Main Street), along Government Road (from Board Street to Williamsburg Road) and along Stoney Run (from Government Road to Williamsburg Avenue) with a direct link to the Virginia Capital Trail. This system should include signage, as well as bicycle lanes on all streets

Create a comprehensive hiking and walking trail for the area, which includes a VITA (walking and exercise) course in Gillies Creek Park.

Strengthen connectivity between parks and within the community by building or opening physical pathways between Fulton, Fulton Hill and Montrose Heights — specifically, the path from Fulton to Montrose park, trails from Fulton Hill to Fulton, a bridge over Gillies Creek between the park and Chimborazo Park, a pedestrian bridge over Williamsburg Avenue between Chimborazo Park and the Fulton Gas Works.

Explore partnership opportunities for outside recreational services — for instance, Richmond Pro Cycling or U-TURN Sports Performance Academy.

Strengthen relationships and better align services and schedules between the Powhatan Community Center, the Neighborhood Resource Center and other culture and parks programming organizations.

Develop a long-term plan for the use of Montrose Park that maintains it as a neighborhood park for Montrose Heights but strengthens its connection to the Powhatan Community Center's programming, maintenance and staffing plans.

# Connecting the communities by building relationships and opening walkways within our community.

#### Short Term Goals:

Investigate increasing programs offered at Powhatan Community Center, such as young children, seniors, and families.

Develop hiking trail in area including vita course, exercise stations, and benches.

Investigate improving partnership among Powhatan Recreation Center, Neighborhood Resource Center, Gillies Creek Park volunteer organizations at BMX bike track, Disk golf course, River city sports and social club and Horseshoe club.

Investigate improvement of Montrose Heights Playground including programs, staffing, and facilities.

Expand Gillies Creek Park to connect to Powhatan Hill Park and Virginia Capital Trail.

Make improvements to Gillies Creek Park (Existing Trails)

### Medium Term Goals

Improvements to Gillies Creek Park (Complete Basic Trail)

# Long Term Goals:

Improve Powhatan Park facilities, such as expanding existing center, adding to indoor programming space, and adding bleachers to the gymnasium.

## **Partners**

Larry Miller, Roslyn Johnson, Wyatt Kingston, Jay Williams and Mary Louis Mitchum- Department of Parks and Recreation

Neighborhood Resource Center of Greater Fulton

Jay Epstein-Health E Communities

Gillies Creek Park Foundation

Cynthia Newbille- City of Richmond

# **SERVICES**



#### **COMMUNITY-DRIVEN INITIATIVES:**

Expand the Fulton Hill Neighborhood Watch to include movement toward regular car and bike patrols, citizen police training and regular communication with residents through community newsletters, church bulletins and other modes.

Meet with GRTC and Rocketts Landing representatives to discuss the possibility of an additional terminus at Williamsburg Road for the proposed Rapid Transit Bus line from Rocketts Landing to Willow Lawn.

Meet with GRTC, Rocketts Landing, The Shops at White Oak Village and Henrico County officials to discuss the creation of a regular bus line along Williamsburg Road to connect Richmond's East End more directly to the Williamsburg Road/The Shops at White Oak Village retail community.

Increase regular police presence throughout the community, and explore the possibility of a police desk or mini-precinct located in the commercial triangle/town center at Government and Williamsburg roads.

Establish additional services to be provided in the commercial triangle/town center at Government and Williamsburg roads, such as library services or basic medical services/workshops.

# To establish or enhance services that exist in a thriving community, specifically services in the areas of transportation, safety and healthcare.

#### Short Term Goals

Expand the Fulton Hill Neighborhood Watch to include movement toward regular citizen car and bike patrols, citizen police training, and regular communication with residents through community newsletters, church bulletins, and other modes.

### Medium Term Goals

Work with GRTC to add additional amenities to bus stops within the Greater Fulton Community.

Work towards the creation of a regular bus line along Williamsburg Rd to connect Richmond's East End more directly to Williamsburg Rd/the Shops at White Oak Village.

# Long Term Goals

Establish additional services to be provided within the commercial triangle/ town center at Government and Williamsburg roads, such as library services, with particular interest in bringing medical services to Greater Fulton.

## **Partners**

Lt. Laino, Richmond Police Department

Neighborhood Resource Center

**Greater Fulton Civic Association** 

LISC Community Safety Initiative

Larry Hagin, GRTC Head of Planning and Government Relations

Cynthia Newbille, City of Richmond

Nicole Diamond and Tracy Causey, Capital Area Health Network

Stephanie Ruffin, Richmond Police Department

# LEGACY



#### **COMMUNITY-DRIVEN INITIATIVES:**

Restore the original street grid where possible in old Fulton (e.g. in future phases of the Rocketts Landing development).

Uncover and restore portions of the original cobblestone surfacing of old Nicholson Street between Hobbs Street and East Main Street.

Identify the appropriate commemoration of Admiral Samuel L. Gravely Jr. - an African-American Navy pioneer and former Fulton resident.

Organize historic tours of Greater Fulton to increase public awareness of Greater Fulton's unique place in Richmond — and American — history.

Compile oral histories of Greater Fulton residents, particularly those with strong ties to the old Fulton community.

Strengthen signage and explore other commemorative opportunities to tell Greater Fulton's unique stories — especially the Powhatan/John Smith meeting, its commercial importance (both as a dock and a popular commuter corridor), as an example of both the African-American experience in Richmond and the urban renewal programs of the last century.

# To raise awareness of the birthplace of Richmond and perserve the history of Fulton, Fulton Hill and Montrose Heights.

#### Short Term Goals

Organize historic tours of Greater Fulton to increase public awareness of Greater Fulton's unique place in Richmond and American History.

### Medium Term Goals

Compile Oral Histories of Greater Fulton residents, particularly those with strong ties to the old Fulton community, produce a documentary.

# Long Term Goals

Create a Fulton Memorial Park.

Identify the appropriate commemoration of Admiral Samuel Gravely Jr. an African American Navy Pioneer and former Fulton Resident.

Improve and add to historic markers.

# **Partners**

Jeff Majer, Segway Tours

Suzanne Savery, Valentine Richmond History Center

Melissa Ooten, University of Richmond

Shawn Utsey, VCU Department of African American Studies

Virgil Hockaday, Old Fulton Resident

Giles Harnsberger, Storefront for Community Design

City Parks and Recreation

Amy Swartz, Historic Richmond Foundation

Tawya Petiford-Wates & Trey Hartt, The Conciliation Project

# NEXT STEPS

# WORK TEAMS & COMMUNITY PARTNERS

# Culture, Parks, and Programs

Carl Otto Roslyn Johnson, Richmond Parks and Recreation Bruce Abbott

Julian Jones, Xpekt Program Ben Arnette D.J. Sparr Zackary Banister Kimberly Sparr Betsy Kelly, ART 180

Greta Banister Jason Taylor Wyatt Kingston, Parks and Recreation Daniela Gregory Wendall White Mary Lois Mitchum, Parks and Recreation Lafayette Harris Jay Williams Craig Dodson, Richmond Cycling Corps

Wyatt Kingston **Bobby Vickers** Thelma Martin

**Economic Development** 

Crystal Bennett Rachel Flynn, City of Richmond Sarah Krembein

George Bennett Raymond McCray Dexter Goode, RRHA Dru Gillie Mary Ellen Otto Brooke Hardin, City of Richmond

Allyson Rainer Dianna Herndon, Southside Community Development Corporation Brandon Jaycox

Cynthia Newbille, City Council Representative

John Taylor, Planning and Preservation Division- City of Richmond Jeannie Welliver, Dept. of Economic Development- City of Richmond

**Education Work Team** 

Cheryl Burke, Principal Chimborazo Elementary School **Grace Rainey** Annie M. Coleman

Don Coleman, City of Richmond School Board Oscar A. Delgado Patrick Wells

Jasen Glasbrenner **Roland Winston** Antione Green

**Greg Kelley** Amanda Harris Shanee Harmon, Empower Richmond

Carrie Lewis Sandra Tapper

# Housing

Rosa Coleman B.T. Clark Robin Gahan Keith Grady Reginald Mebane Rose Pollard Colleen Patten Juliellen Sarver Inga Sassnick

# Legacy

Octavia Banks
Keith Beverly
Norbinette Crews
Donald Ellis
Nina Fleming
Rebecca Fralin
Virgil Hockaday

Corliss Johnson Larcenia Johnson Spencer Jones III Jeff Majer Mary Perez Linda Sutton

# **Physical Infastructure**

Tim Adkins
James Lindell
Kara Zinchuck
Chris Zinchuck
Lola White
Roland Winston

Peter Fraser, Storefront for Community Design Brooke Hardin, Deputy Director of Planning- City of Richmond Cynthia Newbille, Richmond City Council John Sarvay, Floricane Chris Beschler, City of Richmond

#### Services

Odessa Battle
Betty Booker
Iris Brown
Catherine Faulkner
Penny Ferris

Amy Beth Hougland CeCe Manns Estelle Rainey James Ross Trevor Tapper Robin Gahan, VA Coalition for the Homeless
David Herring, Better Housing Coalition
Lee Householder, Elderhomes
Amy King, Rebuilding Together
Leisha LaRiveire, Richmond Habitat
Reginald Mebane, Southside Community Development Corporation

Lamont Crawley, Center for Creative Community Development Tanya Pettiford-Wates & Trey Hartt, The Conciliation Project Giles Harnsberger, Storefront for Community Design Suzanne Savery, Richmond History Center Amy Swartz, Historic Richmond Foundation Jeff Majer, Segway Richmond Shawn Utsey, VCU Department of African American Studies

Tracy Causey & Nicole Diamond, Capital Area Health Network
Larry Hagin, Director of Planning and Government Relations, GRTC
James Laino, Richmond Police Department
Officer Stephanie Ruffin, Richmond Police Department
Jamison Manion, Richmond City- Director of Workforce Development

# **EARLY ACTION GRANTS**

# **Economic Development Work Team**

Business district beautification and clean up day.

## **Education Work Team**

Expand Neighborhoods Resource Center tutoring program to additional sites.

# **Housing Work Team**

Housing inventory.

Provide a baseline of housing condition, style, ownership, and needs for use in efforts to improve housing.

# **Housing Work Team**

Clean up days (4).

Trash pick-up and beautification.

# **Legacy Work Team**

Oral history project and documentary.

# **Legacy Work Team**

Fulton Memorial Park planning workshop at Storefront for Community Design.

# **Services Work Team**

Expand Community Newsletter with a focus on neighborhood safety.

## **Entire Initiative**

Improving the Greater Fulton News blog.

# **IMPLEMENTATION**

Education work team is working in partnership with Calvary United Methodist Church to expand programs at the Neighborhood Resource Center as well as beginning steps to bring a school to Greater Fulton.

Legacy is partnering with Storefront for Community Design and other partners to establish a Fulton Memorial Park, and is beginning a oral history project throughout the summer.

Economic Development is hosting one clean up day a month as well as a mural project. They are also working with consultants to put together a market analysis to find ways to beautify the business district and make it more attractive to local business.

Physical Infrastructure has been working with the city to address issues related to sidewalks, roads, trees, et cetera.

Services is working with GRTC to increase amenities at the bus stops. They have also been working alongside Capital Area Health Network to bring a Health Center to Greater Fulton.

Housing is planning four clean up days during the summer and into the fall.

Culture, Parks and Programming is working with Health E Communities to develop a linear park & walking trail along Williamsburg Avenue to connect Gillies Creek Park and Powhatan Hill.

# **APPENDIX**

# **COMMUNITY INTERVIEWS**

#### **Executive Summary: Interview Analysis**

As a vital part of the organizing, outreach and building of a community vision, residenta came together to interview their fellow community members to gauge expressed community strengths and needs. The research project was participatory in its design. Community members were engaged in the outreach, relationship building, data collection and the overall shaping of the project. This project could not have been designed and implemented as quickly as it was without full participation from community residents.

## **Research Design**

The research design was collaborative in that community members and organizers shaped the questions to be asked. All participants were asked 6 open ended questions that were shaped to answer three more broad research questions. Those broad questions were: what is the lived experience of the residents of Greater Fulton, what are the strengths within the community that can be built upon, and what are the expressed needs within the community? The word data was analyzed using the themes that emerged throughout the inquiry. The scope of the analysis was meant to capture both breadth and depth; the breadth of perceived needs for the critical purpose of problem deconstruction, and the depth of community experience for the purpose of capturing the lived experience of the residents of Greater Fulton.

# **Emerging Themes**

Emerging themes that arose from discussions with residents were Jobs, Business, Safety, Community Involvement, Housing, Infrastructure, and Development, Playgrounds and Programs and Education and Schools, with the broader theme of history weaving its way through all of the interviews. Community members weaved history in and out of all of their stories, their experiences, and their proposed solutions to community problems. The graph below shows an overview of prevalent themes in the analysis.

# COMMUNITY INTERVIEW QUOTES

#### **Analysis of Themes**

#### History

"Fulton has been treated like a red headed step child..."

#### Jobs

"Economic sensitivity is needed to providing jobs to the community first..."

"Jobs are on the outskirts of Fulton..."

#### Safety

"A beat cop to walk the neighborhood who knows the neighbors. . ."

"All in all, Fulton is one of the best places that you can be. Compared to ten years ago, the police are doing a good job..."

## Community Involvement

"It used to be if someone died, people knew it."

# Housing, Infrastructure, and Development

"Intelligent sustainable development..."

"I see so many of my neighbors going up the hill to catch a bus, walk a dog, pushing strollers, getting exercise. It feels like the city is saying, "you people can't come up here", for those of us east of Chimborazo park."

## Programs and Playgrounds

"We need more programs"...

#### Education and Schools

"We have extreme education problems. We need a source for education, community health, and community organizing..."

# NOTES FROM THE SESSIONS During a series of public visioning sessions, we gathered input from a wide range

During a series of public visioning sessions, we gathered input from a wide range of Greater Fulton residents on things the process needed to deliver to be successful, as well as specific actions or tactics they'd like to see emerge.

# Things we can do/implement to improve Greater Fulton?

- More police patrols after 12 midnight
- Have a neighborhood watch and involve more neighbors in the process
- Make sure there aren't vacant houses available to drug dealers and users
- Cut down bushes and trees so that you can see
- Stop bringing in consultants from the outside to say what we need
- Have the City and RRHA work with the community on what residents really need and want, rather than what they think people need
- Be productive stop making promises and act
- Improve the commercial corridor
- Strengthen the links to the river
- Bus punctuality they're never on time
- Safety of woods behind the houses, especially down in Ashley Park/Woodcroft
- Kids need more to do especially in Fulton near Ashley Park/Woodcroft and Rainbow
- Build shelters and gazebos in Gillies Park
- Build a road in Gillies Park where people set up card tables
- We need a school
- Places to eat besides fast food
- More clean up
- Better transportation services
- Library
- Stop signs
- Better sidewalks
- Trash cans in the neighborhoods
- Grocery store or better food market
- Bike lanes
- Address problem with feral cats
- Bike lanes and sidewalks to Chimborazo Park

- Slower traffic on Government Road so people can cross to Gillies Creek Park
- Coffee shop
- Clean the streets
- A new community center
- Open the gym more often
- Real businesses in commercial district
- Community events to bring people together
- A music/arts program for kids in the community
- More activities for single parents
- More activities for senior citizens
- Improve safety
- Increase police response/presence
- Better community stores with better variety/selection of items
- Improve house maintenance and upkeep
- Development in the industrial space along Williamsburg Avenue (at bottom of the hill)
- Neighbors helping each other more
- Improve building exteriors along commercial district
- Better landscaping
- Street beautification project
- A private or charter school
- A new elementary school
- Better lighting
- Enforce traffic regulations speeding, truck traffic, etc.
- Better bus transportation
- A new community center
- Address blight
- More parents at the park
- Community trash pick-up

- A nice restaurant
- Enforce truck traffic on Route 60
- Enforce noise ordinances
- Community garden project
- Daily activities for senior citizens
- A walking path or exercise course
- People need to take care of their property
- Less trash in the streets
- More grass and flowers, especially around Rainbow
- Better and more playgrounds, especially near Rainbow and Woodcroft
- A community art center
- More programs for families
- A thrift store
- Clean up the business district
- We need a store, a senior facility and a youth facility in Fulton
- Curbs, sidewalks, trees, stop signs
- Benches in the parks
- The area around Powhatan Community Center need to be better maintained, cleaned
- We need a shopping outlet
- Safer area for walking
- Grocery shop
- Media center
- Ice cream shop
- Movie theater
- Another recreation center
- Barber shop
- Library/community café
- Cleaner streets
- A more inviting convenience store

- Block parties
- Fast food restaurant
- A place for neighbors to come together and talk
- A senior facility
- More opportunity for youth to be involved outside of the park and the Hut
- A community school
- Wider sidewalks on all the main streets
- Proper street lights on all the main streets
- Extensive community gardens
- Renewable energy sources for neighborhood homes
- Potholes repaired on our streets
- Clean up Fulton business district
- Start a "Junior" Neighborhood Watch
- Indoor pool
- A place for young people to hang out that is safe and fun
- Stop signs
- More flowers/plants in public places and medians
- A community garden
- Encourage the use of rain barrels
- Chickens and goats
- A sandwich shop
- Speed bumps where children live/play
- Traffic relief on Williamsburg Road
- Affordable daycare
- Trees for shade at bus stops
- Replace dead trees
- Expand the Powhatan Community Center for more year-round use
- A nail shop/salon
- More gardens in the community and in backyards

# My Greater Fulton

- Fix the drainage on Government Road at Denny Road
- Bicycle and jogging path connected to the Capital Trail
- Sidewalks and lighting on Government Road from Rainbow to the business district
- A flower shop
- A homeless food shelter
- More talent shows
- More teen parties
- More equipment/game rooms for Powhatan Community Center
- A drugstore/pharmacy
- Powhatan Community Center open on weekends
- Movie theater
- Weight room at Powhatan Community Center
- Need crosswalks on Government Road
- Improve physical access
- Clear trails and paths between Fulton Hill and Fulton
- Clear trail/build stairway between Fulton (Woodcroft) and Montrose Park
- Revamp GRTC #6 bus route
- New bus line to connect Fulton/East End to White Oaks Mall
- Dog park at or near old Fulton School
- Transportation for parents for special events at schools serving Fulton community (in Church Hill)
- Add extra terminus to GRTC's planned Rapid Transit Bus service on Williamsburg Road
- Working wheelchair lifts on all buses

# For you, what is the most important place/location in Greater Fulton?

- Powhatan Community Center \*\*\*\*\*\*\*
- Neighborhood Resource Center \*\*\*\*\*
- Powhatan swimming pool \*\*
- My home/street
- The Fulton sign
- Carlisle Avenue Baptist Church \*\*
- The view from Powhatan Hill \*\*
- Gillies Creek Park \*\*\*
- Art studios in the former elementary school
- Bunn Avenue in Montrose Heights
- YWAM \*\*

\* indicates # of responses

# What is the place where you believe the "heart" of Greater Fulton can be found?

- Williamsburg Road between the Powhatan Community Center and Government Road
- The commercial district at Williamsburg and Government roads \*\*
- Where the Fulton sign is on Admiral Gravely Boulevard
- Neighborhood Resource Center \*\*\*
- Powhatan Community Center \*\*
- The playground near Powhatan Community Center
- Christian Tabernacle Baptist Church

\* indicates # of responses

During a series of public visioning sessions, we asked residents to answer several questions about their experiences in the Greater Fulton community. Here are some of their answers.

# One place you would want a visitor to see/experience in Greater Fulton?

- Gillies Creek Park \*\*
- Mt. Calvary Baptist Church \*
- Calvary UMC
- The Powhatan marker in the park on the hill
- Powhatan Hill \*\*\*
- Old Fulton school \*
- Neighborhood Resource Center \*\*
- Krispie's Chicken \*
- The "copper house" in Montrose Heights \*
- The Jewish cemetery on Jennie Scher
- Rocketts Landing
- The sculpture in my side yard
- Ms. Thelma's house

\* indicates # of responses

# Where in Greater Fulton do people spend their time?

- The parks
- Neighborhood Resource Center \*\*\*\*
- Powhatan swimming pool \*
- Powhatan Community Center/The Hut \*
- There is no place to spend time
- Gillies Creek Park \*

\* indicates # of responses

# GILLIES CREEK FOUNDATION PROPOSAL

rom:

# Some Of The Proposed Features Of The Gillies Creek Park System

HORSE STABLES: New stables are planned for an area adjacent to the old land fill. These would be the primary stables for the Richmond Mounted Patrol and provide a ready means for mounted policing within the park system. Civilian boarding/lease facilities are also planned.

**MATURAL AREAS:** Part of the original Gillies Creek still exists in its natural state and location. It is planned that this old creek bed be the basis for a pond area with natural surroundings.

**OUTDOOR ENTERTAINMENT AREAS:** A plateau area in Fulton Park has been cleared and grassed and is suitable for outdoor entertainment. The City mobile stage can be used to provide entertainment away from residences, yet accessible to adjoining neighborhoods.

**DISC GOLF COURSE:** Adjacent to Williamsburg Avenue, a 9-hole disc golf course with a winding nature trail is planned. This type of course is inexpensive to build, low-maintenance, and free for all to use.

HORSESHOE PIT AREA: 12 lighted horseshoe pits with certified dimensions are planned for regular and regulation tournament play. No such pits presently exist within the city park system.

**LITTLE LEAGLE FELD:** The Fulton Park ball field is to be upgraded and dedicated as a 12-year-old-and-under little league field. While there are numerous little league fields in the nearby counties, there are none in the city park system, and none available to children in the Church Hill and Fulton areas.

**SOCCE FILLS:** A number of dedicated soccer fields are planned. At present, most soccer fields are part of softball fields. By dedicating the soccer fields, there is no seasonal limit due to sports interference demands on the same area.

**OUTDOOR ART EXHERTON AREA:** The area adjacent to Stoney Run Parkway is an unimproved roadbed extending about 1 mile through the Gillies Creek Park System. Along this parkway and backing up to the creek, artists would be encouraged to set up displays such as "Arts in the Park" booths for use year-round, managed and maintained by the users.

**SMALL BOAT ACCESS:** The boat landing at Ash Street on the James is scheduled for repair. A canoe landing with concession stand could then be operated as weather permits. Portable structures would eliminate damage due to flooding.

**Gillies Creek Park Foundation** 

Post Office Box 11347 Richmond, Virginia 23230

Cilies Creek Park Foundation Post Office Box 11347 Richmond, VA 23230

# The Gillies Creek Park Foundation



A Natural Proposal For One of Richmond's Most Unique & Historic Land Areas

Stamp



The Gillies Creek Park System is planned to be an interconnecting series of new and existing parks for Richmond's east end, and will be part of the urban greenway system linking surrounding neighborhoods to Richmond's riverfront, Tobacco Row and Interstate-64.

The properties being developed by the foundation will support many public outdoor activities including athletic fields, picnic areas, playgrounds, an ampitheatre, public gardens, skateboarding and more.

Additionally, there will be connecting trails between historic neighborhoods bordering the park system. The trail system will accommodate cyclists, joggers and walkers, horseback riding, and in some areas rollerblading.

The Gillies Creek Park Foundation is working with the City of Richmond to consolidate these properties and make them accessible for public use. Existing properties will be faithfully maintained or minimally modified, as necessary—each retaining its present identity and features.

Gillies Creek Park System also includes many areas rich in local and national historical significance, such as Bloody Run—the site of an Indian battle in 1656, Chimborazo Park—site of the world's largest hospital during the Civil War, Rockets—the original seaport for the Richmond area, and Powhatan Park-summer camp site for Chief Powhatan and location of the famous scene between Capt John Smith and Pocohontas.

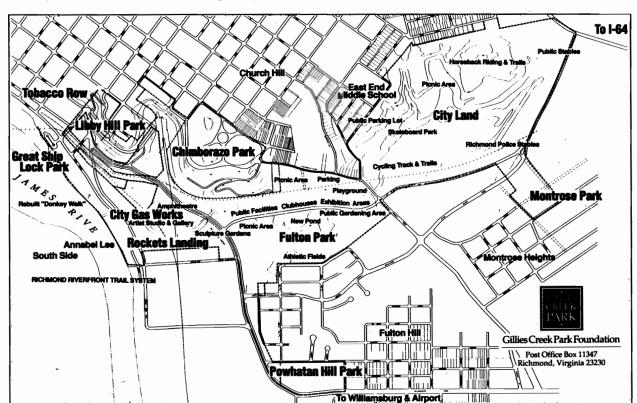
A new neighborhood park will be improved in Fulton. Plans are to complete Fulton Park and provide a central connector along old Fulton Street through the center of both Fulton Park and Chimborazo Park using the old cobblestone street as a basis.

A pedestrian overpass will connect Chimborazo Park to a new park area west of Williamsburg Avenue built on the old CSX railroad bridge supports. The abandoned railroad will be used to provide a trail/path around the lower perimeter of Chimborazo Park and an access to the east end of the collapsed railroad tunnel under Church Hill that was sealed in 1925.

An overpass is planned at the junction of Chimborazo and Fulton Parks at Government Road to get park users across Government Road and into the old land-fill area of the park system. A connecter will to go between the land fill area and Montrose Playground. The old land fill will be made more park-like and steps will be taken to limit further erosion of the cap over the actual

The Foundation invites all interested individuals, businesses and community groups to participate in the planning and funding to revitalize and maintain these and other related areas. But we need your help to accomplish these and other goals in a timely fashion.

Fill out and mail in the attached Membership Application today so that we may all have a hand in putting Gillies Creek Park on the map where it belongs.



Gillies Creek Park will be a neighborhood connector for Fulton Hill, Montrose Heights, Church Hill, Tobacco Row, Rockets and future riverfront development projects. Parks which will be connected by the system include Libby Hill Park, Chimborazo Park, Fulton Park, East End Middle School, Montrose Park, Great Ship Lock Park, Chapel Island, Chimbarazo Playground and Powhatan Hill Park.

Areas scheduled for improvement include Fulton Park, the city landfill, areas around and including the city gas works, Rockets Landing, abandoned railroad properties, riverfront trails and public areas (including a public boat launching area, a canoe landing and a rebuilt donkey walk—which previously connected Rockets Landing to Great Ship Lock Park and the canal).

# WILLIAMSBURG ROAD INFASTRUCTURE PROPOSAL

# Proposed Plan for Pedestrian / Wheelchair Corridor: Trees and Sidewalks on Williamsburg Rd.

## Northampton St. to Salem St.

With planning, some initial work, and future improvements folded into the plan, the Civic Association has an opportunity to:

- Establish a pedestrian- and wheelchair-accessible corridor along Williamsburg Rd., effectively joining the Business District, the Neighborhood Resource Center, and the city's Community Center
- Move toward a long-term solution for the planting of appropriate trees along this route

# North Side of Williamsburg Rd.

Goal 1 Establish a pedestrian- and wheelchair-accessible corridor from the Business District to the Community Center and Powhatan Park on the north side of Williamsburg Rd.

Goal 2 Improve the area's visual appeal with appropriate tree plantings.

In the affected area, the sidewalk on the north side of Williamsburg Rd. currently features 16 tree wells (13 planted, 3 empty). The tree wells are cut halfway into the existing sidewalk, obstructing wheelchair use of the sidewalk. Additional sidewalk obstructions result from overgrown vegetation (e.g., private hedges), mud and grass that has grown onto the sidewalk, misaligned sidewalk sections that have been heaved up by the existing tree plantings, and several bus benches whose positioning obstructs wheelchair passage.

# **Proposed Actions**

- 1. Seek agreement from Public Works with neighborhood plan to restore the sidewalk
- Request that Public Works concrete over empty tree wells
- Civic Association volunteers remove vegetation and mud/grass from sidewalk
- Reposition bus benches as needed to allow wheelchair passage

- 2. As funds and circumstances allow:
- Remove existing, unsightly trees
- Persuade Public Works to fix sidewalk sections and concrete over empty tree wells
- With commitment from house owners, replant appropriate trees on private properties to improve visual appeal

## South Side of Williamsburg Rd.

Goal 1 Improve the area's visual appeal with appropriate tree plantings.

In the affected area, the sidewalk on the south side of Williamsburg Rd. currently features 23 tree wells (10 planted, 13 empty).

# **Proposed Actions**

- 1. Replant the empty tree wells with appropriate tree selections
- Prepare a list of appropriate tree selections
- Seek donated trees and/or buy trees using Civic Association funds
- Request assistance from Urban Forestry in preparing the tree wells for planting
- Request stakes and ties from Urban Forestry to support new plantings
- Appoint volunteer group from Civic Association as tree caretakers (2 yrs.)
- 2. As funds and circumstances allow:
- Remove existing, unsightly trees
- Replant with appropriate tree selections

