



**Vision 2025**  
**Quality of Life Plan**  
**Newport, Kentucky**

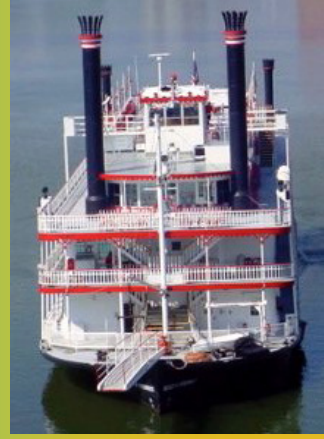








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# Thank You From ReNewport

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Linda Adams  
Fire Chief Gary Auffart  
Jason Ayers  
Chris Bednar  
Mike Buescher  
Leo Calderon  
James Camp  
Emily Carabello  
Justin Carabello  
Melanie Cole  
Gary Collins  
Michelle Corbett  
Liz Cowans  
Rose Curtin  
Eddy Davis  
Virinda Doddy  
Kevin Donnelly  
Ben Etchtenkamp  
Becky Etchtenkamp  
Chris Evans  
Whitney Evans  
City Manager Tom Fromme  
Carol Freytag  
Daylin Garland  
Lauren Glockner Goff  
Scott Goff  
Tom Guidugli Sr.  
Diane Hatfield  
Bev Holiday

Kirk Hunter  
Rep. Dennis Keene  
Joe Klare  
Nancy Knauf  
Ian Maloney  
Steve Mathisen  
Robert McCray  
Kate McElwain  
Micky McElwain  
Kristy McNally  
Superintendent Kelly Middleton  
Jack Moreland  
Mark Neikirk  
David Nero  
Nadine Parris  
Mayor Jerry Peluso  
Arvil Pennington  
Kyle Randall  
Monica Remmy  
Jason Reser  
John Robson  
Elizabeth Robson  
Marlene Romer  
Joe Rowe  
Lynn Schaber  
Sandy Schweitzer  
Tom Scott  
Angela Siddall  
Corey Siddall

Sarah Siegrist  
Joshua Snapp  
Don Spaulding  
Sherri Spaulding  
Jeanetta Stacy  
Aimee Stubbeman  
Don Stubbeman  
Bobbie Stubbeman  
Kevin Surface  
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In the summer of 2014, Newport, KY embarked on an endeavor to engage residents, business owners, and political leaders in the creation of a Quality of Life Plan for the city. With funding from Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC) of Greater Cincinnati, Brighton Center kicked off the process by establishing a broad base of support among community leaders. From this kickoff, a core team of community members conducted nearly 200 interviews with their neighbors across Newport, including business owners, residents, and public figures.

These one-on-one meetings provided an opportunity for people to share their struggles as well as their hopes and dreams. After compiling the interview responses, ReNewport held a public meeting at the Newport Fire House to report on the results and to frame ReNewport's next steps. With over 200 people in attendance, the community came together to hear their neighbor's stories and aspirations. Everyone present broke into small groups and spoke frankly about what was most important to them as well as the best ways to improve their community.

Each group put together a vision for what Newport, as an organized committed community, would have to celebrate ten years from now. Building on the core essence of these

visions, six community members agreed to serve as Task Force chair persons devoted to developing strategies to achieve the visions laid out by the broader community. Each Task Force focused their efforts on one of six areas: Housing; Education; Parks, Recreation and Beautification; Economic Development; Health, Wellness and Safety; and Community Engagement. Meeting regularly over many months, these groups researched issues, brainstormed possibilities, brought in partners and developed the strategies presented in this Quality of Life Plan.

By October 2015, the Task Forces had vetted enough ideas, and were ready to seek even more input. An Open House was held at the Carnegie Library, and residents and community leaders were asked to give their opinions relative to priorities and pitfalls of the plan's drafted goals and objectives. In an effort to reach all residents, fliers were translated into Spanish and delivered to businesses serving the local Latino community. Based on feedback, revisions were made, partnerships were solidified, and final drafting of the Quality of Life Plan began.

**This Quality of Life Plan document is in many ways simply a new chapter in the ongoing work of this unique community to reach for a brighter future. Much remains to be done and we join together with great excitement to make it all happen.**

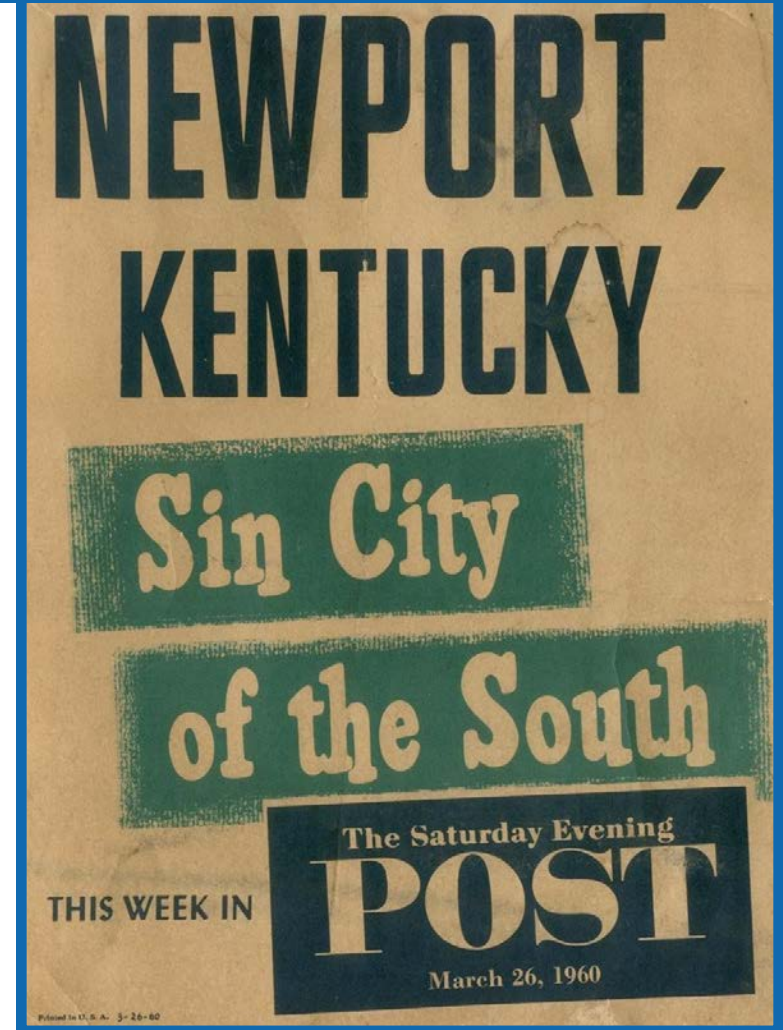
# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Newport is a city of contrasts. It is both a small Kentucky town, yet it's part of the Greater Cincinnati urban core. You can find yourself walking some of its quiet, tree-lined streets, but then turn a corner and be facing the Cincinnati skyline. Newport is both urban and provincial, sometimes simultaneously. It is this eclectic spirit that made so many of its residents fall in love and make it their home.



Founded at the confluence of the Licking and Ohio rivers in 1791, Newport grew from a small frontier outpost to a vibrant streetcar suburb of Cincinnati in the early 20th century. Things began to change with the enactment of prohibition in 1920 bringing loss of employment at the Wiedemann Brewery and Newport's Distilleries. In 1921, long and violent strikes at the Andrews Steel Mill and the Newport Rolling Mill Company put 2,000 employees out of work. After these events, Newport began "a long period of poor government and lax law enforcement" that led to a boom in bootlegging, gambling, and prostitution and sealing Newport's reputation as "Sin City."



During the 1930s, Newport was home to 44 gambling clubs or other criminal establishments. As organized crime took increasing control of Newport, committed residents recognized that its status as a center for gambling, vice and political corruption would only end with the clear opposition of ordinary residents. There were many efforts for reform, but it wasn't until the late 1950s that Newport started to change.



Christian Seifried, a local postman, had seen enough of the damage that vice and violence was doing to Newport. Mr. Seifried led the creation of the Social Action Committee, a group of residents that took up the challenge of breaking the Mob's grip over Newport. Over several years and through many colorful trials, illegal gambling was waning by the 1960s.

The end of gambling in Newport didn't lead to a renaissance. Many of the former casinos were converted to strip clubs and adult entertainment establishments. In the 1980s, Newport's economy was again in severe decline with the closing of the Weidemann Brewery and Interlake Steel. Despite the efforts of the 1960s, corruption at Newport City Hall persisted. A former mayor was sent to federal prison, a city commissioner pled guilty to bribery, a public works director was sentenced to two years for extortion and the chief of police was indicted on six counts of forgery and theft. Residents and business people again came together and formed the Newport Political Action Committee (NEWPAC) to endorse, finance, and support reform candidates in the 1981 election. In a celebrated victory, all of the NEWPAC candidates

won. After the election, the new city government worked to eliminate the strip clubs and X-rated cinemas in the city, and started to chart a course for economic revitalization.

The history of efforts like the Social Action Committee and NEWPAC show that when the residents of Newport work together they can accomplish the impossible. There are many smaller stories of residents working together to improve Newport, for no better reason than their love of home. ReNewport continues this tradition to address the challenges and embrace the opportunities for a new century.



# OUR HISTORY



# INITIATIVES



Newport is home to a diverse populace of involved residents working in conjunction with local government and regional partners to preserve, protect, and sustain our communal and cultural assets. Building on our track record of engagement and progress, we are working to leverage new ideas and community action to sustain and make Newport a great place to live, play, and work. Projects have taken off: improving our built environment; reinvigorating our parks and public spaces; preparing students for kindergarten; and increasing our opportunities to engage as a community. Many more initiatives are planned.

Investments in the renovation of historical architectural features, by both residents and business owners, established a real estate market known for the beauty of a remembered era. Beginning approximately 30 years ago with the initiative commonly referred to as Rehab-o-Rama, the City of Newport's East Row Historic District, once identified as the roughest part of Sin City, transformed into attractive streets and a booming housing market with a robust social calendar. Now, thanks to partnerships between residents in the famed East Row and the up-and-coming West End, expansions of the federal and local historic district designations are underway. Efforts are aimed at an upswing in residential real estate opportunities, long awaited in Newport's urban center. Participants of Newport's Westside Citizen Coalition continue to organize and uplift the West End with educational presentations on pathways to home ownership, drug abuse prevention, historic preservation, and brownfield revitalization.



**The Clifton neighborhood on the south hill of Newport recently installed community garden beds to promote healthy eating and encourage community involvement.**

The Cote Brilliante neighborhood is advocating for improvements to the area's walkability and creation of a neighborhood park. Home to a vibrant community of urban outdoor enthusiasts, Newport attracts runners, walkers, and bikers to the south shore of the Ohio River with a clear walking and biking path along the levee, skyline views, and interesting and diverse neighborhoods to explore. Red Bike stations dot our city, thanks in part to the generosity and persuasion of our residents and businesses. Residents from across the city regularly join forces to make beautification initiatives a smashing success. Attracting support from residents of all neighborhoods, the Newport Parks Renaissance Commission recently installed the Buena Vista walking path and held several Movie in the Park events, activating our public lands and increasing the use of green space for community events and family outings.



In September 2015, thanks to the East Row Historic Foundation's Beautification Committee, the Trash Bash Challenge engaged 100 residents to compete for prizes and boasting rights, picking up 1,000 lbs of litter throughout the city in under an hour. A bevy of committed neighbors planted over 120 trees in the spring of 2015 throughout Newport's West End. These efforts will significantly increase tree canopy cover; lowering the urban heat island effect, and contributing to community and economic development.

The City of Newport boasts the area's most comprehensive business and retail shopping districts; including Newport on the Levee, the Newport Pavilion, Newport Shopping Center, and the Central Business District along Monmouth and York Streets. Area residents from downtown Cincinnati and the neighboring south shore cities flock to Newport for shopping and entertainment.

Newport on the Levee, with its restaurants, shopping opportunities, aquarium, movie theatre, and community event spaces, will soon be joined by an adjacent hotel and apartment complex, giving visitors and new residents the opportunity to stay and play on the banks of the Ohio River.

With so many existing retail assets, there are immediate opportunities to infill the Central Business District along Monmouth and York Streets with new restaurants, businesses, and retail operations. Forthcoming development along the new Kentucky Route 9 corridor is expected to create jobs and provide living wage employment opportunities for local residents. Thanks to initiatives like Footsteps2Brilliance sponsored by the Newport Independent School District and City Commissioners, students will be better prepared for school, leading to future opportunities.

For decades Newport has been a city comprised of collaborative individuals, from active residents, to inspired business owners, and compassionate, engaged community leaders. At this point in our history, our community has reached a tipping point, a pinnacle moment, and an apex of collaboration leading to the next big evolution. As we leave the Great Recession, we can offer a hand up to our fellow residents that may need assistance and bring all of our neighbors along.

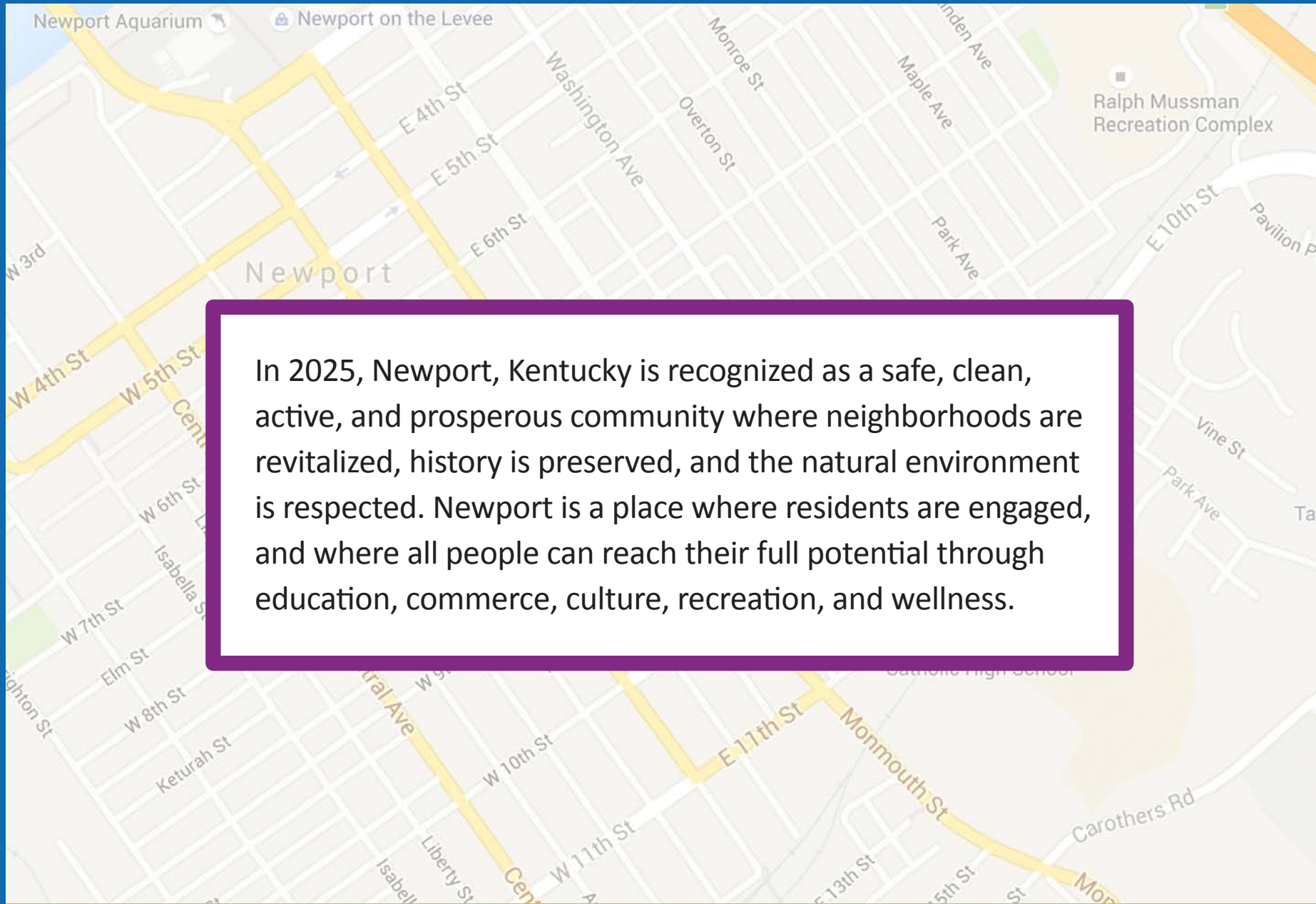
Our community led ReNewport initiative, built on hundreds of donated hours from caring and responsible residents, created a plan rooted in positive momentum for the continued improvement of our quality of life. We are certain that this plan will illuminate a pathway to a bright future, and we are dedicated to the initiatives and planned outcomes herein. We are grateful for your commitment with a shared vision of continued community development and a high standard of living. We welcome you to join us with your sleeves rolled up!



# INITIATIVES



# OUR VISION



In 2025, Newport, Kentucky is recognized as a safe, clean, active, and prosperous community where neighborhoods are revitalized, history is preserved, and the natural environment is respected. Newport is a place where residents are engaged, and where all people can reach their full potential through education, commerce, culture, recreation, and wellness.





# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

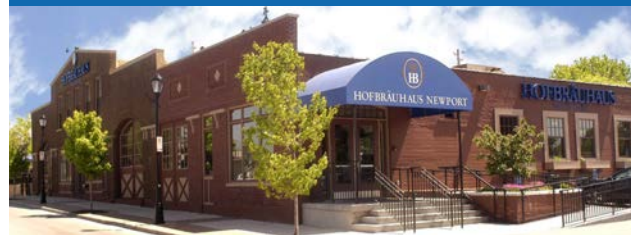
In 1990, after years of civic activity to clean up Newport, poverty was higher than it had been during the Great Depression. This can be attributed to the flight of middle class residents to the suburbs and the closure of major employers like Interlake Steel and the Wiedemann Brewery. Over the past 25 years, with good local government and community involvement, Newport has undergone a renaissance.

Progress has been made, but it has been uneven. Million dollar riverfront condos stand only a few blocks from some of the poorest census blocks in Northern Kentucky. A close look reveals that in a part of Newport's west side, 35% of families live in poverty with a median household income of only \$22,604. By contrast, a part of the east side boasts a household poverty rate of under 7% and median household income of \$63,828, almost three times more. Because of this gap in socioeconomic conditions, the Newport basin is often described as two separate cities, the east side and the west side.

The construction of the new routing for KY 9 and renewed interest in the Ovation development site provides the unique opportunity to bring redevelopment and economic revitalization to Newport's Westside neighborhoods. The ReNewport Economic Development Task Force focused on how these projects and other current economic development initiatives in Newport could address these disparities by attracting new businesses and living wage jobs, growing existing businesses and improving the quality of life for all Newport residents.

## OUR VISION:

The City of Newport is home to thriving business, entertainment, and shopping districts, providing local employment opportunities offering livable wages. Government officials and residents collaborate to activate public spaces. The community works together to create demand for private sector investment for redevelopment by addressing brownfields for beneficial reuse, renovating infrastructure, and reusing historical buildings/sites. Key to this community driven urban redevelopment is fostering efficient public transportation and creating a walkable, bike friendly community, furthering increased accessibility to Newport's business districts, neighborhoods, and the entire region.





TASK

PERFORMANCE MEASURES



Focus on creating high tech, light manufacturing, pharmaceutical, high end office jobs, and other living wage employment opportunities along the KY 9 corridor.

Stronger tax base to support community services.

Support job training programs for Newport residents.

Increased average income of Newport residents.

Increase resident accessibility to living wage employment opportunities.

Increased average income of Newport residents.



Increase options for quality, affordable child care for parents in the workforce.

Increased formal day care options.

Increase transportation options and routes.

Alternate options are developed and accessible for residents.

Collaborate with TANK to provide additional and more efficient route services based on frequency.

Increased routes within Newport and to work place destinations outside of the city.

Ensure bus stops are safe and pedestrian friendly.

All bus stops/Southbank Shuttle stops are pedestrian friendly and safe.



Develop partnerships to endorse ride share platform.

Increased car pooling.

Create safe and efficient bike lanes that connect Newport with the region, providing alternative transportation to jobs and other locations.

Bike lanes created.

TASK

PERFORMANCE MEASURES



Invest in the core of the Monmouth Street Business District.

Renovated buildings, new construction, replace sub-standard buildings/uses with positive development.

Foster unique entrepreneurial ideas, 'now' destination businesses, retail shops and maker's spaces.

New and 'Now' dining and retail options calling Newport home. Prioritize investment in commercial space along major thoroughfares. Commit financial resources to encourage investment.

Create concentrated parking investments, such as parking garages and alley lots that create development opportunities in parking lots fronting Monmouth and York Streets.

Increase parking options for Monmouth and York Streets.

Create infrastructure improvement funding mechanism – Westside TIF District. Task Force suggests boundaries of Saratoga to the Licking Flood Wall, and 3rd St to 6th Street.

50% of incremental taxes (resultant of tax revenue increase due to development) would be put into fund for facade gap financing. TIF District established.

Install traffic calming measures creating pedestrian protections, and space for beautification/street scape and business expansion.

New bike lanes and bump outs, two way traffic patterns on Monmouth and York Streets. Increased patronage of local businesses. Continued tree planting activities.

Organize business owners to create a Newport Improvement Business District.

Redevelopment initiatives throughout various Newport Business Districts.



## OBJECTIVE

Invest in blighted properties and reuse historic buildings



### TASK

### PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Sustain an effective Brownfield Revitalization Program to inventory, prioritize, assess, remediate and plan for highest and best reuse relative to community interest, economic development, and future development.

Development of City Brownfield Task Force. List of prioritized brownfield sites and assessment data used to address priority, based on risk. Increased tax revenue from redeveloped properties, new jobs, new real estate developments.

Identify forgotten alley ways, prioritize them for beautification and efficiency. Rename alley way behind old Southgate School to honor the contributions of African American teachers.

Fewer complaints from residents regarding the status of alley ways.

Encourage the effective reuse of historic buildings ensuring their preservation for future generations.

Continued to work with developers to find an adaptive reuse of historic structures.

Develop a White Box Initiative to renovate blighted properties to a marketable status.

White box initiative funded.

## OBJECTIVE

Maintain active and engaging riverfront area and make continual infrastructure improvements



Make the Riverfront more walkable and bikeable.

Attainment of KY Trail Town Status. Continue progress on Riverfront Commons.

Beautify and stabilize the Riverfront Areas.

Funds raised and beautification completed.

## OBJECTIVE

Create, promote and support Newport as a destination. Attract customers, visitors, and investment to Newport



Economic Development Visioning Bus Tour.

Successful bus tour held.

Create a visible Newport Brand, posted at the six main entrances to the city on billboards. Create a simultaneous campaign with commercials showing recent developments and attractions.

A visible and recognizable Newport brand and advertising campaign.

Increase Tourism by activating historical sites, entertainment venues, tourism destinations, dining options, the Aquarium and new attractions.

Increased tourism revenue.

# HOUSING



The history of Newport is written in its housing. From simple Shotgun Cottages to Colonial Revival, Victorian, Italianate, and Craftsman styles, Newport's eclectic housing reflects our diverse and culturally rich community. As renters and homeowners we recognize the need for housing options that meet the tastes and finances of the entire community.

Newport is a short bike ride or walk to Cincinnati, Covington and Bellevue. It is at the center of the Northern Kentucky riverfront, attracting many people looking for a personable community that is both walkable and has direct accessibility to several major interstate highways.

Following in the footsteps of the East Row Historic Foundation's 30 plus years of revitalization efforts, Newport's west basin and hill areas are ripe for revitalization. With "million dollar views" from Newport's basin, and panoramic vistas from the hilltop neighborhoods of Clifton and Cote Brillante, there is much to offer visitors and residents. Newport's historic architecture deserves to be saved and offers a unique opportunity for those with a little grit and imagination. Establishing or expanding national and local historic status on Newport's west side will support revitalization efforts.

Like all urban communities, Newport faces housing challenges from blight, foreclosed homes, poverty, and homelessness. These are complex problems that require a collaborative effort between the residents of Newport, city leadership, and community organizations. Whether we live on the East Side, West Side, or the Hill and beyond, we are one community and we share a vision for the best possible Newport.

## OUR VISION:

Housing options in Newport are attractive and cultivate a vibrant and economically diverse community. There has been development focused on market rate homeownership, rehabilitation and renovation. Our historic housing stock is recognized and valued. Property owners have access to public, private market, and community resources to facilitate improvement and maintenance. Landlords and renters understand their rights and responsibilities and are partners in community improvement. Creation and enforcement of transparent and equitable city zoning, building codes, and landlord licensure. Newport will end homelessness through community and regional collaboration.







TASK	PERFORMANCE MEASURES
Community coffee walks.	Number of attendees.
Create marketing campaign to promote Newport and collaborate with Realtors.	Materials developed to raise awareness of Newport's housing and shared survey of Realtors on impact of perception of Newport.
Newport Home and Garden tour focusing on the basin and hill areas of Newport.	Tour is held and attended.
Create and distribute welcome packets for new residents (rental and ownership).	Materials developed and distributed.
Create and expand local and national historic status for homes in west Newport.	Historic status is granted in west Newport.
Advocate for housing renovation enterprise area designations along the Central Avenue corridor.	Designation achieved.
Create regular reports with current data for Newport including demographics, current housing market, land supply, and policy environments.	Report released to public.
Identify gaps in housing market. Develop some recommendations/observations from data. Develop a list and description of current funding and financing options.	Recommendations developed and released such as what planning processes are in place or should be. Proper balance of house production vs. preservation determined.
Promote homeownership education, incentive assistance, and retention programs.	Increased attendance at programs.
Promote home maintenance/assistance and facade programs.	Number of classes and number of attendees.
Utilize vocational students, volunteers, and service learning students for help with basic upkeep projects for homeowners who request help.	Number of strong relationships developed between education provider and neighborhood group.
Identify and acquire funding dollars for residential beautification as micro-grants.	Funding distributed.
Create access to quality market rate housing through non-profits and the private market, focused on the Newport basin and hill areas.	25% increase in housing sold at market rate.



TASK	PERFORMANCE MEASURES
Update vacant housing map. Seek legal opinion on creation, use distribution of housing map.	Map Update with revolving schedule.
Established blight prevention/code enforcement support task force.	Blight prevention/code enforcement support task force created.
Disseminate information on reporting blight.	Resident survey shows increase in knowledge year over year.
Arrange quarterly trash clean up across Newport.	Events held.
Formally recognize homes and businesses that keep their perimeters clean and beautiful.	Minimum three properties nominated annually.
Recruit CET, vocational students, interns, and service learning students to assist neighborhood beautification and clean up.	Number of agencies and students engaged for projects.
Produce regular reports on number and types of blighted properties.	Report produced.
Produce and distribute tenant’s responsibilities and rights guidelines.	Materials produced and distributed.
Convene tenant/landlord community discussions.	Number of sessions held and number of attendees.
Hold zoning education presentations.	Number of sessions held and number of attendees.
Increase number of code enforcement officers and agents.	Staff increased to 3-5 full time equivalent.
Produce a “Can I build this?” easy reference guide based on existing zoning.	Materials produced and distributed.
Make recommendations to zoning board for future use/designations.	Recommendations delivered.





TASK	PERFORMANCE MEASURES
Send Veterans advocates to participate in K-Count (Homelessness) and offer services.	Decrease number of Veterans identified in annual homeless count.
Reopen family homeless shelter program.	Program reopened.
Support a regional task force on homelessness to seek regional solutions.	State of Homelessness report released to the public.
Increase access to services.	Client pre and post survey indicating increased access and awareness to support services.
Explore and make recommendation on transitional housing solutions e.g. tiny houses.	Recommendations delivered.
Advocate for public incentives to restore multi-unit dwellings to single and dual family usage.	Number of dwellings incentivized to be restored. Affordable housing rehabilitation encouraged.

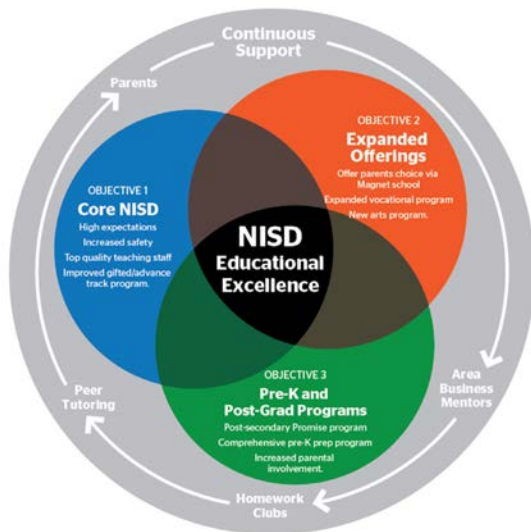






# EDUCATION

Successful and thriving schools are critical to Newport's future. Recent improvements have been energizing, and the strategic plan outlined below will provide the needed acceleration to this progress and act as the catalyst for further change. This plan, built out of collaboration between community residents and the Newport Independent School District (NISD), will result in education being a key strength for the city.



- 1. Core NISD:** Focus on core district improvements to achieve recognition of NISD as a high performing school system offering a quality education.
- 2. Expanded Offerings:** Increase the educational choices in Newport to meet the needs of all Newport kids.
- 3. Pre-K and Post-Grad Programs:** Expand support beyond the in-school K-12 experience through Pre-K prep, parental involvement, and Post-Grad financial support to maximize the success of all students.

## OUR VISION:

Education in Newport empowers all children to achieve excellence in the classroom and make positive contributions to our world. The top-notch quality of education offered is a draw for residents and businesses to the city, and students are rewarded with desirable post-secondary options and employment opportunities. This is possible because the well-being and success of our students are at the forefront of our educational approach, taking into account the city's demographics and diversity. We leverage the strengths of our public/private schools, residents, and innovative programs to create an environment where all students love learning and teachers love teaching. Our families are active, engaged and welcomed partners in their child's education. Education is a point of pride for Newport.





## OBJECTIVE

Students are inspired and there are high expectations at NISD



TASK	PERFORMANCE MEASURES
Develop Speakers' Bureau of inspirational leaders to give monthly talks after school.	Monthly inspirational talks occurring.
Establish a committee to define/communicate what high expectations mean in NISD.	Committee formed and holds regular meeting, High Expectations communication rolled out.
Ambitious goals are established for what students will accomplish; students convinced they are possible.	Lesson plans reflect ambitious goals. 1:1 Goal setting sessions w/students occurring.
Teachers work purposefully and relentlessly to help their students achieve their ambitious goal.	Data tracking sheets/Notebooks are maintained, principals and teachers review.
Bi-annually, implement 3rd party independent reviews of NISD classroom practices.	ELEOT Reviews completed. Ongoing Internal Teachscape reviews.

## OBJECTIVE

Increase safety measures at each school



A Safety Committee is established to develop and oversee Safety/PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Support) Programs.	Committees established and meeting regularly.
Assess current Safety/PBIS efforts, include feedback from educators, parents, and students.	Assessment completed.
Research Safety/PBIS programs that have been successful in other school systems.	Research Completed.
Develop and communicate an action plan and training that engages all stakeholders.	Plan communicated.
Develop a "Safe City" marketing plan to reinforce that Newport Schools support positive behavior.	Marketing plan communicated to city.

## OBJECTIVE

An outstanding gifted program is available to qualifying students



School administrators, and parent volunteers will establish a Gifted Program Committee.	Committee established.
Agree on the vision for gifted education. Consider International Baccalaureate.	Vision is clear and agreed with parents and community.
Define teacher training plan to support program.	Training program is defined and agreed.
Implement gifted program.	Increased K-Prep and AP test scores.

## OBJECTIVE

NISD offers school arts programs which lead to enhanced interest in the arts, improved scores in school, and post-grad employment opportunities



### TASK

### PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Agree to priority program for arts expansion.

Program agreed by key stakeholders.

Identify partner organization and pilot program.

Interest by parent and students is sufficient.

Meet with arts education partner to develop plan.

No tax increase.

Develop performance series at NISD.

Student retention and job placement. Parent satisfaction rates.

## OBJECTIVE

Establish a K-12 magnet program that raises student achievement in Newport



Develop a research plan to determine the most appealing and sustainable education theme that will draw a diverse range of families and top teachers.

Theme results in necessary critical mass of students.

Cultivate community resources to ensure commitment and involvement.

All ideas are vetted with parents and community.

Set the Vision, Mission, "Attendance Zone", enrollment criteria, tuition and facilities plan to ensure student diversity and critical mass are achieved. Engage outside experts.

Enrollment size and balance. Transparent enrollment criteria to all. Vision is clear and agreed with key partners. Thorough SWOT analysis completed.

Set budget and determine internal/external funding. Include transportation, staffing, facilities and tuition plan.

No tax increase. Enables SES balance. Parent satisfaction rates.

Magnet established.

Percentage of Newport families educated in Newport. 'Young Family' population growing in Newport.

## OBJECTIVE

NISD offers excellent vocational training which keeps more kids in school and leads to more post-grad employment opportunities



SWOT Analysis of current vocational training programs and student outcomes at NISD.

Objective review document agreed.

Agree on the vision for vocational training – including district participants and facilities needed.

Vision is clear and agreed with parents and community.

Meet and align to plan with target NKY districts and partners.

Clear list of gaps and ideas is agreed by the districts and partner organizations.

Agree to vocational plan, budget, implementation plan.

No tax increase. Increase in the vocational options for students. At least three internships established.

Expanded, Multi-District Vocational program launched.

Student Retention and Job Placement. Parent satisfaction rates.



## OBJECTIVE

Implement NewPromise Program to provide qualifying students free tuition to any accredited post-secondary program



TASK	PERFORMANCE MEASURES
Identify sustainable funding sources through a balance of cost reductions and fund raising/grants.	100% funded.
Hire K-12 consultant to audit current curriculum. Work with teachers to ensure graduate college readiness.	New curriculum focused on college and career readiness. College readiness % > National Averages.
Seek external help through sessions on other cities' Promise programs and sponsor host speakers.	Full understanding of how to initiate and implement a Promise program.
Create a list of qualifying criteria that students must meet to qualify for the funds.	Development of detailed requirements.
Create external support system. Partner with Upward Bound programs at local universities to provide instruction, tutoring, and mentoring.	External support system created. Student success at Post Secondary institutions.
Implement program, monitor progress of students.	Graduation rates, college readiness.

## OBJECTIVE

Teachers are retained within the district and love to teach in Newport



Teachers have a voice in school decision making.	TELL Survey, ValEd, Plan communicated.
Teachers given learning and leadership opportunity.	TELL Survey, ValEd, Professional Learning Survey.
Teachers are well compensated vs. other districts.	Benchmark Analysis confirms.
Exit surveys to understand why a teacher leaves.	Exit surveys conducted.

## OBJECTIVE

Provide a comprehensive Pre-K preparation program



Explore expansion of existing preschool programs, to include a component for tuition based students.	Increased percentage of kindergarten ready students.
Increase partnerships for extended preschool learning day with community involvement.	Partnerships increased, solidified, and expanded.
Explore Summer Montessori and Toddler School.	Research completed and considered.

## OBJECTIVE

Increase parental involvement in the school



Parental involvement committee established, fielding survey to ask parents how to best engage them.	Committee established. Survey fielded.
Host events that bring families into the school.	Percentage of Parental involvement and engagement.
Increase frequency and variety of communication w/ parents.	Percentage of Parental involvement and engagement.
Increase flexibility for accommodating family situations.	Percentage of Parental involvement and engagement.



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Improving any community requires the involvement of the residents, local businesses, and stakeholders in the process. People are the driving force for change and development within all cities, and Newport is no different. Newport is bursting with residents and groups that are already engaged and are ready to continue their effort into the future.

The City, neighborhood associations, and a thriving base of non-governmental organizations including business, social, and issue centered action groups are already working toward many of the goals of ReNewport. It is vital that all these groups join forces and share ideas and resources if ReNewport is to succeed in its strategies.

Observable gaps exist between the citizen populations of Newport created by commercial district barriers, socioeconomic classes, and racial/ethnic divides that must be bridged to achieve unity of purpose in our populace. Increases in voter registration/turnout, involvement in government/education, and expansion of foreign language and specialized education programs will begin to break down barriers for under involved populations leading to a community that is more diverse, more active, and more engaged in the process of improving our city.

## OUR STRATEGIES:

1. Uniting the residents of Newport through leadership cooperation, the coordination of events and projects, and increasing membership and participation in existing entities.
2. Promotion of diversity and inclusion of minority residents in our community events, groups, and projects.
3. Establish an active and fluid web presence that is a hub for all information and groups in the City of Newport.

## OUR VISION:

Ownership and unified pride are central to the community identity. Residents, neighborhood associations, public officials, businesses, and local stakeholders communicate, collaborate, and interact transparently with one another, nurturing an involved community.





TASK

PERFORMANCE MEASURES



Increase citizen participation at Neighborhood Associations meetings and in community social Non-Governmental Organizations.

Increased participation and active members in the four Neighborhood Associations and various local Non-Governmental Organizations.

Establish a mentoring program for new Neighborhood Associations leadership, block leader program, and ReNewport Leadership training.

Program established by Neighborhood Associations leading to longer term participation and succession plan/options for Neighborhood Associations - creation of written training document/information.

Encourage Neighborhood Associations members to create additional independent issue specific action committees (i.e. Newport Park Renaissance Committee).

Action committees formed.



Increase cross sharing of information and relationships between the Neighborhood Associations working toward a more united Newport citizen base.

Cross attendance and invitations by representatives from the four Neighborhood Associations in at least 1/3 to 1/2 of other Association's monthly meetings and noted in minutes of the respective Association.

Establish a semiannual or annual cross Neighborhood Association summit meeting for potential planning of joint events and sharing of issues and ideas between the four Neighborhood Associations.

Chair and Vice Chair from each Neighborhood Association communicate to establish a cross sharing summit meeting schedule for the future and attend the meetings.

Establish annual/biennial city-wide meeting with broadest invitation of residents; City of Newport officials, educational leaders, ReNewport representatives, Brighton representatives, business representatives, and Neighborhood Associations.

Meeting held at regular intervals with presentations to residents of current events and opportunities for citizen feedback and ideas to be presented - high citizen involvement.



Neighborhood Associations leadership participates in the annual summit of regional Neighborhood Associations groups.

Attendees gain knowledge and strategies related to growth of the Newport Neighborhood Associations that results in increased community engagement at the Neighborhood Associations level locally and regionally.

Identify micro-neighborhoods.

Micro-neighborhoods identified.

OBJECTIVE

Increase community involvement, pride, and ownership

TASK

PERFORMANCE MEASURES



Block leaders coordinate localized potluck block parties and events and promote camaraderie and familiarity among neighbors.

Increased relationships and trust between immediate neighbors.

Promote unity amongst all residents of Newport through joint block parties, fundraisers, and events (organized by Neighborhood Associations summit leadership).

Multiple joint events per year that are organized with the purpose of bringing together all residents of Newport for shared fundraising and/or fostering unified community relationships.

Encourage involvement and participation of Newport residents in the government and board of education decision making process.

Increase in attendance of residents at board of education public meetings and city government public sessions. Increased access to agendas and minutes of government meetings.



Increase of voter registration and election participation in the City of Newport.

Increase % of residents registered and voting in each local, state, and federal election process.

Establish an early action micro grant program supporting small citizen driven neighborhood improvement/events.

Residents applying for micro grants for community projects/events and funds being properly granted and utilized.

OBJECTIVE

Provide a unified web and social media presence promoting events and information related to all things Newport



Establish a web and social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) presence for ReNewport Inc.

Full website creation and an active non-static ongoing ReNewport social media presence.

ReNewport website unifies and becomes a hub for information from websites/social media of city government, Neighborhood Associations, local schools, media, and businesses.

Visitors to ReNewport.com can link to most/all of the relevant content for City of Newport citizen, social, and government organizations under one web presence.



# OBJECTIVE

Eliminate barriers, increase community diversity, and engage minority populations in Newport citizen activities, government, and volunteering

## TASK

## PERFORMANCE MEASURES



Identify leaders of the under involved minority populations in Newport and integrate them into the current community engagement objectives.

Inclusion of minority populations in ongoing relationship building occurring within the city through Neighborhood Associations, ReNewport, and other social engagement groups.

Promote inclusion and employment of bi/multilingual employees in government and education positions.

Increase in the bi/multilingual employees working for the city and schools.

Hire, contract, or consult a diversity promotion manager for City of Newport employment.

Increase in diversity in the employment throughout the City of Newport.



Expand current city-wide events to include cultural elements of minority populations (e.g. world-fest).

Inclusion of a broader variety of cultural and ethnic elements in events occurring within the city of Newport. Increase in minority participation and attendance.

Improve early education readiness of minority children through programs targeting pre-K children.

Improvement of minority student/children preparation for early elementary education resulting in longer term academic success.

Improve language skills of adult non-English speaking residents through English as a second language courses.

Course offered to non-English speaking residents of Newport resulting in increased participation in community and government activities.

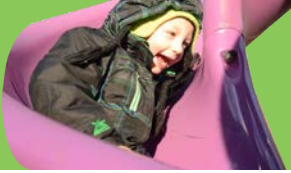


Provide a student-mentor program to Newport children through the languages department at local high schools or universities to break down language barriers.

Program created that matches bilingual students with minority non-English speaking Newport children resulting in increased academic achievement and social skills.

Expand Newport informational documents, government documents, ReNewport web information, Newport library services, to offer translated non-English materials.

Increase in materials and information offered to residents in various translated languages.



# PARKS & RECREATION

Some of the first things you notice when entering Newport are murals on the side of buildings, green space mixed in with historic architecture, and the hustle and bustle of active streets. Art, green space, and recreation opportunities are some of the qualities that truly make a city stand out and some of the top reasons why people want to call that city home.

## **OUR STRATEGIES:**

In Newport, there are currently several small neighborhood parks. Thanks to resident led organizations like the Newport Parks Renaissance Commission, these parks have been improved with new infrastructure, landscaping and event planning that created resurgence in park use and interest. This resurgence increased conversation about how to create a central park in the city, an attraction many residents desire.

There are also many individuals hoping to further increase the beauty of the city. Many talented artists call Newport home and approach our city as a potential canvas. Whether by planting more trees in our streetscape, or showcasing more art in our public spaces, or even the creation of a community arts center, there are enormous opportunities to integrate beauty into the fabric of our city. In addition, one of the best ways to have a happy and healthy community is through positive recreation. There are abundant opportunities for recreation in Newport. Events are featured at our parks; art showcases, biking, and hiking along the riverfront.

With the amount of energy and passion the community is showing; Newport will continue to be one of the top destinations for parks, arts, and recreation in Northern Kentucky.

## **OUR VISION:**

Newport is a cleaner, greener, more accessible, walkable, and beautiful city. Public officials encourage regular neighborhood cleanups and provide citywide recycling. Every resident resides within five blocks of green space, regularly frequenting parks, gardens, bike routes, and other recreational spaces. Neighborhoods, businesses, and public officials work together to sponsor flower and tree planting, as well as garden installation. The community and city work together to create programming for parks, vacant spaces and the riverfront to encourage an active and healthy community.





OBJECTIVE

Increase and maintain the quality of neighborhood parks throughout Newport



TASK	PERFORMANCE MEASURES
Engage residents, students, and greater community in improving parks.	Volunteer hours spent in park improvements and planning.
Create a Newport Central Park.	Creation of park.
Create a Cote Brillant Park.	Creation of park.
Create new Westside Park to replace Bernadette Watkins Park.	Creation of park.
Create a Skate Park or expand on current DIY Park.	Creation of park or expansion of current one.
Create a Bicycle Park.	Creation of park.

OBJECTIVE

Increase the variety of features and amenities at parks



Exercise equipment, wi-fi, running tracks, basketball courts, handicap features, batting cages, swimming pools, water features, skate park, and pump track.	Attainment of KY Trail Town Status. Continue Progress on Riverfront Commons.
Increase bike and dog friendliness at parks.	Installation of dog waste bags and bike racks in parks.
Add functional city lights and water fountains in parks.	Parks are well lit and have a working public water fountain.

OBJECTIVE

Increase awareness of parks



Create and display public signage and directions to the various parks in the city.	Directions and signage to each park.
Promote parks on social media and various websites.	Parks are promoted.

## OBJECTIVE

Create programming in Newport Parks, Monmouth Street, Blocks, Schools and general public places



### TASK

### PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Strategically program specific areas that are suffering from blight/neglect to bring awareness and community interest to them.

Amount of programming in blighted areas in a given year.

Use Place Making and Better Block Strategies when designing and executing programming.

Programming has specific and strategic outcomes.

Create an efficient means of advertising programming events.

Number of residents aware of programming and events.

Create locations and methods of electronic advertising around the city.

Amount of electronic “billboards” throughout the city.

Create monthly newsletter advertising local events.

Resident attendance at local events increased.

## OBJECTIVE

Increase bike-friendliness throughout the community



Establish bike lanes/trails throughout community.

Implement bike lanes in the city and create recreational trails.

Increase access to bikes.

Increased use and access to biking.

Add Red Bike locations that fall in line with the communities Red Bike Master Plan.

Number of Red Bike Stations increased

Safe Routes to School.

Establish a walkable/bikeable “safe route to school.”

Community bike rides.

Recurring community bike rides.

Community bicycle safety classes.

Recurring community classes that teach bicycle safety.

Increase amount of bike racks throughout the city.

Amount of bike racks in the city.



## OBJECTIVE

### Foster a cleaner community



#### TASK

#### PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Coordinate community clean-up dates.

Number of volunteer hours.

Provide additional public trash cans and recycling bins throughout the city.

Number of public trash cans within five block radius.

Establish free citywide curbside recycling.

Citywide curbside recycling started.

## OBJECTIVE

### Promote greener community



Plant more trees, flowers, and gardens.

Number of newly planted trees and gardens.

Continue to support and expand annual tree planting program.

The amount of new trees and/or gardens planted per year.

Continue community outreach for possible locations of new community gardens in the city.

Neighborhood associations participation.

Capitalize on public space and vacant lots.

Number of previously empty lots converted to public space.

Create green space, community gardens and pop-up space in vacant lots through place making.

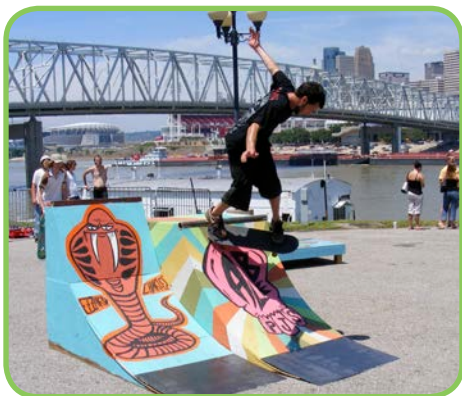
Turn at least one vacant lot into public space or beautify through “place making” a year.

Use vacant lots for tiny living.

Number of tiny homes on previously vacant lots.

## OBJECTIVE

### Increase artistic and cultural beauty of the community



Create murals, sculptures, and fountains throughout the city.

Increased public art throughout the city.

Quarterly/Annual Public Art Event.

Number of public art events held annually.

Creation of a Community Arts Center.

The creation and use of an Arts Center.

Create a Newport Art Campaign or Committee to promote the arts within the city.

Art campaign committee created.



# HEALTH, WELLNESS & SAFETY

By increasing our health, wellness, and safety we can make Newport a more desirable home for all of its residents. Newport is generally an active community, and it hosts a number of fitness-based businesses that focus on improving citizen wellness. Our accessible parks are well suited for our residents to host their own fun healthy activities and family events.

This section focuses on creating catalyst conditions to help build the community organically and empower our residents to contribute to other components of the plan. Items like bike lanes don't just increase health and safety, they also allow new economic development corridors and business models to be formed within our city.

The City of Newport, area health partners, and residents themselves will all play key roles in our shared goals, as we move forward with this plan. A healthier and safer Newport is coming and we can all shape what that looks like.

Where there wasn't an existing program, we sought to create one. If there is an existing program, we pursued ways to improve community support for these shared goals. City government and residents will need to continue to partner on many tasks to achieve our objectives on a healthier and safer city, for all of Newport.

Ensuring the overall health and safety of residents can establish a permanent culture of wellness for the entire City of Newport. Find out how to get involved in a variety of health and safety programs that will truly change the future of Newport and its residents. A healthy community is a happy community!

## OUR VISION:

Community access to healthy activities and health services are increased to meet all of our residents' needs. The physical environment encourages healthier choices and helps reduce overall health burdens for the region. By fostering a healthier community we aid the establishment of safer routes to school and encourage healthier habits at an earlier age in our children. Health networks and organizations work in concert to create greater regional impact as a model for cooperative services. First responders and police continue to receive tools and support needed to counter every emergency effectively and efficiently. Rehabilitation, treatment, and reentry are available to help people establish safer living environments for themselves and their families. Community, public officials, and local businesses act as partners to create effective programs that address the needs of every resident.





# OBJECTIVE

## Community members support and assist First Responders



TASK	PERFORMANCE MEASURES
Establish Community Fire Safety Day at Firehouse with Fire Department/EMS.	Number of participants.
Increase compression only training at event.	Increase number of compression only training certificates.
Establish coupon for Free CPR training from compression only certification program.	Increase number of residents certified in CPR.
City wide fire detector blitz.	Number of fire detectors installed with increase in areas surveyed for need.
Establish CERT (Community Emergency Response Team).	Create trained volunteer coordination team to assist first responders in assisting any potential evacuation and emergency shelters response needs.
Establish Youth Ambassador Program.	Number of youth participants in program. Focus on business experience and community service like safer sidewalks initiative.
Services List for residents, organizations, first responders and police department.	Completed, up to date list each year.
Establish Community Paramedic Program.	Paramedic for assisting First Responders with follow up health and wellness support for residents.

OBJECTIVE

Increase safety, health services, and physical activity



TASK	PERFORMANCE MEASURES
Establish Yoga, Tai-Chi, or self-defense class at local parks.	Activities created for community members without access to traditional gyms and highlights our parks.
Increase community networking and foster a night community of safe, active residents traveling our city streets.	Number of late night events.
Facilitate safer routes to school and other programmatic support to create a safer network of multi-use path and bike lanes near our schools.	Multi-use paths process improved and safe routes established.
Create a health day focused on improving health and wellness of residents by bringing in mobile health screening services to a central location, health insurance sign up assistance, and prescription assistance programs for residents.	Establish Community Health Day.
Increase drug treatment program access and job support. Information on drug treatment programs is available to all residents.	Reduction in drug rates with increased rate of success for area drug rehabilitation programs. Increase local job support for returning community members.
Identify and assist grant writing process for unsafe sidewalks and roadways.	Reduction in pedestrian accidents by improving infrastructure around currently unsafe intersections and walkways.
Expand West Side Health Clinic.	Expansion of times, dates, and services offered.



# OBJECTIVE

## Increase healthy food access



### TASK

### PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Increase EBT/SNAP access for Farmers Market with Double Benefit Program.

Card readers at Farmers Market and double benefits program created and funded.

Increase community gardens across the city.

Number of community gardens.

Establish private garden building.

Number of private gardens.

Establish West Side Produce Market.

Mobile markets or produce markets established on West Side.







ReNewport began and continues as a citizen driven volunteer project. Anyone interested in seeing improvements in the City of Newport is invited to lend a hand or donate resources to the organization. The ReNewport task forces worked hard to plan objectives for our next 10 years and implementation will rely on the continued effort of volunteers and the support of the community it serves. Your contribution is what will make ReNewport's vision a reality for our city. Please contact us to see how you can get involved and help enhance the Quality of Life in Newport!

**Photo Credits:** Bob Yoder, Kim Phillips, Clint Copenhaver, Roy Davis and Audrey Ann Photography- [rdaaphotos@gmail.com](mailto:rdaaphotos@gmail.com)

**Design by:** Idea Incubator- [ideas@hatchsomethingnew.com](mailto:ideas@hatchsomethingnew.com)

**GET INVOLVED**





# ReNewport



Rooted • Resilient • Reenergized

## Contact Information

ReNewportky.com  
info@renewportky.com

PO Box 72366  
Newport, KY 41072