

CHAPTER V



THE BLUEPRINT BINGHAMTON MINI-PLAN ON
COMMUNITY BUILDING

A PLAN FOR NEIGHBORS AND
NEIGHBORHOODS

BLUEPRINT
BINGHAMTON

COMMUNITY BUILDING A PLAN FOR NEIGHBORS AND NEIGHBORHOODS

G

The community building chapter or **BLUEPRINT BINGHAMTON MINI-PLAN ON COMMUNITY BUILDING** stems from the energy and momentum built during the planning process with strategies that seek to harness the community's interests and ideas with tools that foster actions for change - at the block level, the community level, the neighborhood level. With ideas that pertain to your backyard, your streetscape, your children, and your health, these quality of life recommendations establish a common ground that will bring each part of the Binghamton community to the implementation table to help make **BLUEPRINT BINGHAMTON: FORWARD TOGETHER** a reality.



Residents share their ideas at the Blueprint Binghamton Pop-Up Gallery

EXISTING CONDITIONS

NEIGHBORHOODS AND CIVIC INFRASTRUCTURE

Binghamton's neighborhoods vary widely. While some neighborhoods are strong and thriving, others are affected by vacancy, physical deterioration, transiency and other issues that negatively impact residents' quality of life.

The City's neighborhoods are home to daily life as well as civic life, and Binghamton's civic infrastructure is in flux, evolving along with the citizen-driven **BLUEPRINT BINGHAMTON** planning process. As the planning process has underscored, interested residents, when actively involved, can make a powerful collective impact. As the resident experts who know a neighborhood best, Binghamton's citizens are uniquely poised to share ideas for neighborhood improvement and equally poised to help effect positive change. The neighborhoods and civic organizations described below are among Binghamton's most unique assets. Local leadership - existing and emerging - must be empowered as key partners in making **BLUEPRINT BINGHAMTON'S** vision a reality at the neighborhood level and throughout the City. The Neighborhood Assemblies, convened across the City in 2006 and granted allotments of CDBG monies to implement resident-supported community development projects, are still active in some neighborhoods, while new groups have emerged and taken up new issues in other parts of the City.

DOWNTOWN is a mixed use district with retail, hotels, restaurants, offices, commercial and service establishments, institutional and entertainment uses, parking, parks, and - increasingly - housing. In the dense, urban core of Downtown, the residential community is largely comprised of student renters and households in subsidized affordable units. But along its eastern edge, Downtown hosts a less-dense residential fabric that shows signs of distress and deferred maintenance. Downtown residents share a desire to improve mobility and livability in their neighborhood, and as Downtown becomes more of a destination with new bars, restaurants, and cultural locales, support for continued investment in physical and social infrastructure is expected to be widespread.

In Downtown, the **GORGEOUS WASHINGTON STREET ASSOCIATION** and its First Fridays Arts Walk have made huge strides in organizing and showcasing Binghamton's arts scene, activating the evening hours with new energy and foot-traffic for all to enjoy. The collection of restaurants and small businesses behind Downtown's growing **RESTAURANT WEEK** have created an event that showcases the City's quickly evolving food and drink scene. The **DOWNTOWN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION** advocates for businesses within the urban core, and tenant groups within the Binghamton Housing Authority's Downtown developments weigh in on some residential

issues. As **BLUEPRINT BINGHAMTON** seeks to encourage additional households to locate in Downtown and stabilize Downtown's eastern residential fabric, there is perhaps a need to cultivate a broader civic voice among neighbors who call Downtown, "Home."

The **NORTH SIDE** extends north from Downtown and is bisected by the Interstate 81/86, which travels east/west across the neighborhood. South of the Interstate, the neighborhood's residential pockets are a mix of large-scale multi-family mixed-income rental properties in generally good condition, newer townhouses, as well as older homes, some of which are among the most distressed in the City. North of the Interstate, the neighborhood fabric is predominantly single-family residential. Among all neighborhoods in the City, the North Side community faces the gravest issues related to poverty and inequity, but its civic infrastructure is expanding to meet the challenge.

In the North Side, the **NORTH SIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSEMBLY** has been recently re-energized and now meets monthly at the Centenary Chenango Street United Methodist Church. The **LEE BARTA COMMUNITY CENTER** on Liberty Street has also been reactivated, with new programming made possible by the Healthy Lifestyles Coalition that includes nutrition and cooking classes and bicycle repair. The Cheri A. Lindsey **BARK PARK**,

NEIGHBORHOODS

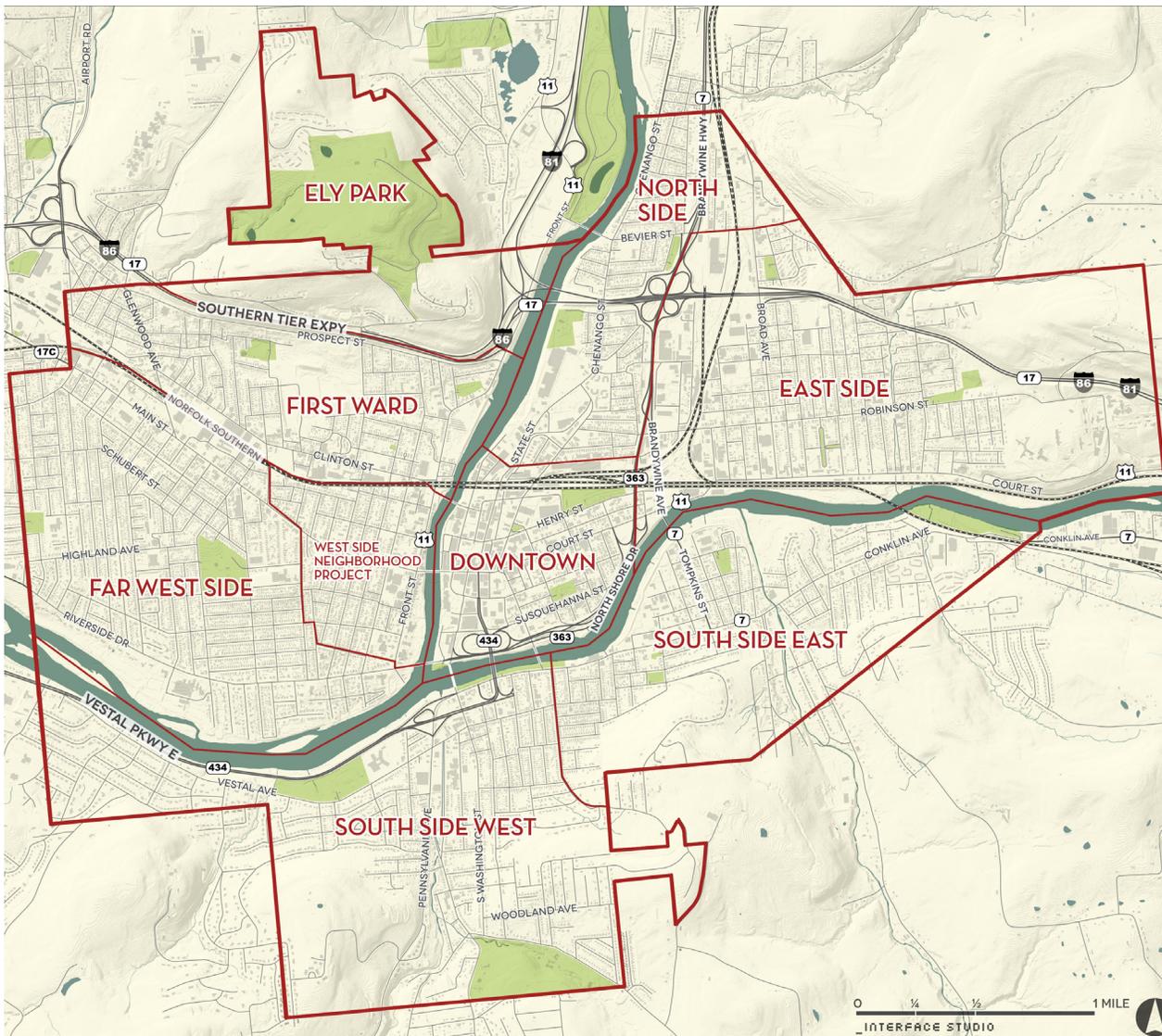


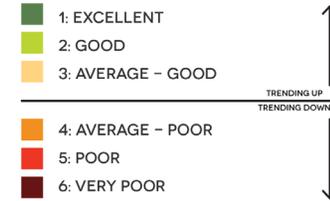
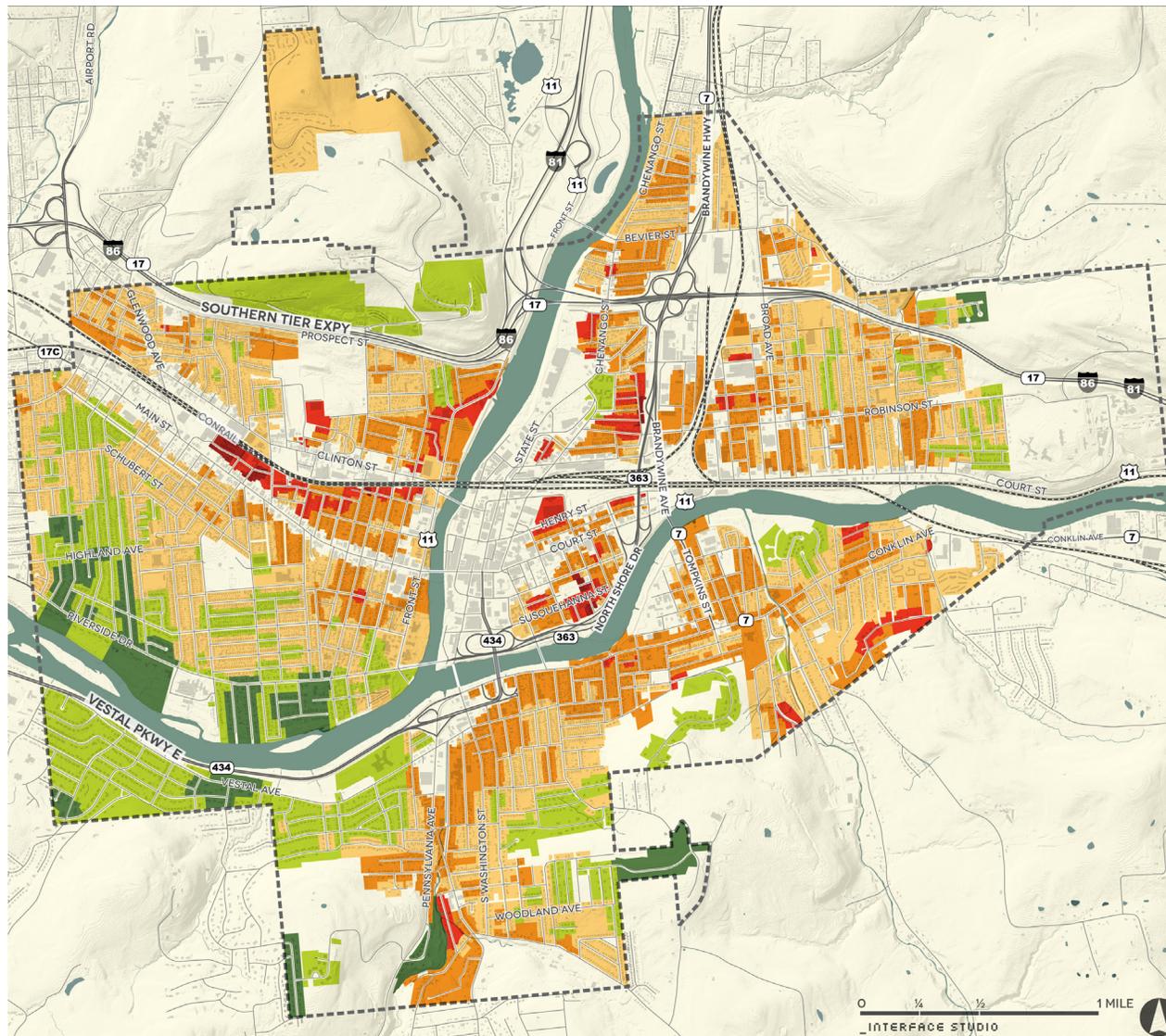
FIGURE 71: Neighborhoods - MAP

built through the Design Your Own Park program and located behind Binghamton Plaza along the Riverwalk, has become a community hub on the North Side, as well.

The **EAST SIDE** borders Downtown to the east, encompassing the area north of the Susquehanna River and east of the New York Susquehanna and Western (NYSW) rail line. The East Side is largely residential, combined with commercial uses located on Robinson Street and Court Street. With a Weis grocery store and a CVS Pharmacy, the East Side neighborhood is fairly self-sufficient, and many blocks are quite stable, though flooding during Tropical Storm Lee has resulted in some deterioration along the neighborhood's southern edge. The area is home to two senior living developments, and thus the median age is the highest of all Binghamton neighborhoods at 42.5 years.

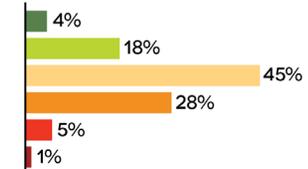
The South Side is divided into two halves, east and west, and both areas have been home to stable communities over time. **SOUTH SIDE EAST** encompasses the eastern portion of the City's South Side. Conklin Avenue is the major roadway and commercial corridor through the neighborhood. The blocks north and south of Conklin accommodate a varied residential fabric with a mix of single-family homes, smaller multi-family structures, and a large multi-family complex at Binghamton Housing Authority's Saratoga Apartments at the eastern edge of the City.

RESIDENTIAL BLOCK RATING

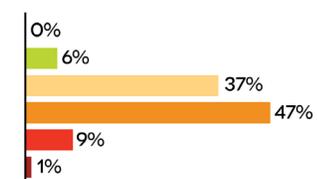


BLOCK RATING BREAKDOWN

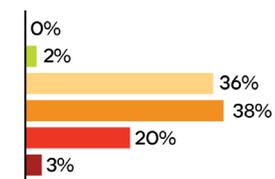
ALL RESIDENTIAL BLOCKS



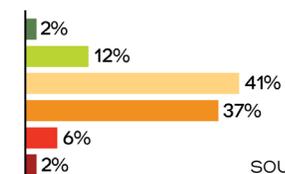
WITHIN 0.125 MILES OF COMMERCIAL CORRIDOR



WITHIN 0.125 MILES OF RAILWAY



WITHIN 0.125 MILES OF HIGHWAY



SOURCE: INTERFACE STUDIO FIELD SURVEY

FIGURE 72: Residential block ratings - MAP

SOUTH SIDE WEST is home to the South Side's main commercial districts along Pennsylvania Avenue and South Washington Street, both of which border UHS Binghamton General Hospital. The area near the hospital features a concentration of small two-story multi-family rental units, but the larger part of the neighborhood is comprised of single-family residential blocks. From Pennsylvania Avenue westward to the City limit at the Town of Vestal, the lots and the homes are larger and more suburban in style.



West Side



First Ward

On Binghamton's South Side, the **SOUTH SIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSEMBLY**, formerly the South Side West Neighborhood Assembly, is still active. They tackle issues from flooding and the rebuilding of MacArthur School to traffic and circulation at the intersection of the Vestal Parkway and South Washington Street, from housing renovation to support for the South Side's business district.

Binghamton's **WEST SIDE** is the most varied area of the City, with sub-communities emerging in response to different issues. **SAFE STREETS**, established in 1995, targets the area north of Main Street between Front and Jarvis, which is home to a deteriorated housing stock, quality of life issues including crime and drug dealing, as well as associated public perception challenges. Safe Streets has initiated block parties, public art, and a Design Your Own Park on Walnut Street,

all with a mission of engaging youth, beautifying the public realm, keeping the neighborhood clean, and preventing crime.

The **WEST SIDE NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECT (WSNP)** focuses on the "Tree Streets" west of Front extending over to Chestnut with a goal of integrating homeowners and the large student renter population to make the neighborhood safer and more welcoming for all residents and businesses. The group has initiated service projects and events, as well as public safety efforts. The **WEST SIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (WSNA)** takes a broad view of the West Side, encompassing the area from rivers to rail, all the way to the City's western limit, but the historic Abel Bennett Tract is at its heart. WSNA's efforts have focused on code enforcement and zoning to stabilize the neighborhood and protect homeowners and homeownership on the West

Side from Riverside Drive north to Main Street and beyond.

The **FIRST WARD** derives its name from the original City Council District boundaries which divided the City in separate Wards. Sandwiched between the Conrail lines and the Southern Tier Expressway, the First Ward's commercial districts are along Clinton Street and Glenwood Avenue. Otherwise, the residential blocks are interrupted by the Charles Street Business Park and Spring Forest Cemetery. Part of the area was flooded during Tropical Storm Lee in 2011, though the majority of blocks are in stable condition.

The First Ward Neighborhood Assembly has redirected its efforts, with leadership shifting in more recent years to spearhead **SUNFLOWER PARK** on Murray Street, which received public art

SOCIAL SERVICES & SPECIAL NEEDS POPULATIONS

PUBLIC SAFETY & QUALITY OF LIFE

and facilities improvements through the Design Your Own Park program. The First Ward also hosts the **FIRST WARD SENIOR CENTER**, a City-operated community center on Clinton Street with activities, health and wellness classes, and gathering space for older residents. The **FIRST WARD ACTION COUNCIL** is a community-based non-profit organization that also supports the neighborhood's civic infrastructure through its housing and housing-related services for families, seniors, and the disabled.

ELY PARK is a small and somewhat isolated neighborhood, set apart from the rest of the City by Ely Park itself. Beyond the golf course, the Ely Park neighborhood is home to a large and stable market-rate rental complex as well as larger "estate" homes just north of Prospect Street and overlooking the City in the valley below.

In different neighborhoods throughout the City, Binghamton's **RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS** remain centers of community, both religious and otherwise, with St. Michael's Greek Catholic Church in the First Ward home to the famous Pirohi during Lent, and the Seton Catholic Central High home to the Saint Patrick's Day Parade After Party, to name a few. **SECULAR INSTITUTIONS** too, among them VINES (Volunteers Improving Neighborhood Environments) and the Department of Public Art (DPA) are active throughout the City, embracing key roles in transforming the City while cultivating community.

Local and regional social service providers cover the spectrum of care from health care to mental health services, but availability and barriers to services are challenges to access. National trends in public health have shifted the focus from infectious disease to chronic disease prevention and greater emphasis on the broader environment and basic needs such as housing, transportation and safer neighborhoods that address these barriers. Many of the providers in the City are at capacity, and delayed service is a common concern. There is a need for a continuum of care to ensure that patients are aware of and can access services. Several mental health group homes and family care homes for the mentally ill have been closed in recent years with no replacements built, resulting in a shortage of housing for special needs populations. Equally important, however, is the need to locate these homes in areas with good access to transportation services. Members of marginal communities, who are seeking treatment, face multiple barriers, including cost of service, insurance coverage, and child care, the effects of which are compounded by time-consuming and unnecessarily complicated travel arrangements.

Crime in Binghamton has inhibited revitalization efforts and diminished the quality of life of residents who must contend with criminal behavior in their neighborhoods. An analysis of 2012 crime data shows that disputes and disturbances accounted for the greatest percentage (28%) of violent crimes. These include disturbances at bars and restaurants which can be seen at the hotspot around State Street Downtown. The second most common form of violent crime consisted of abuse and harassment cases (19%), mainly domestic abuse and harassment. Alarms (24%) and larceny (22%) make up the largest proportion of property crimes. Areas with high incidents of property crimes tend to be commercial areas such as Downtown and shopping centers, or areas along or adjacent to commercial corridors.

PROPERTY CRIME: 2012

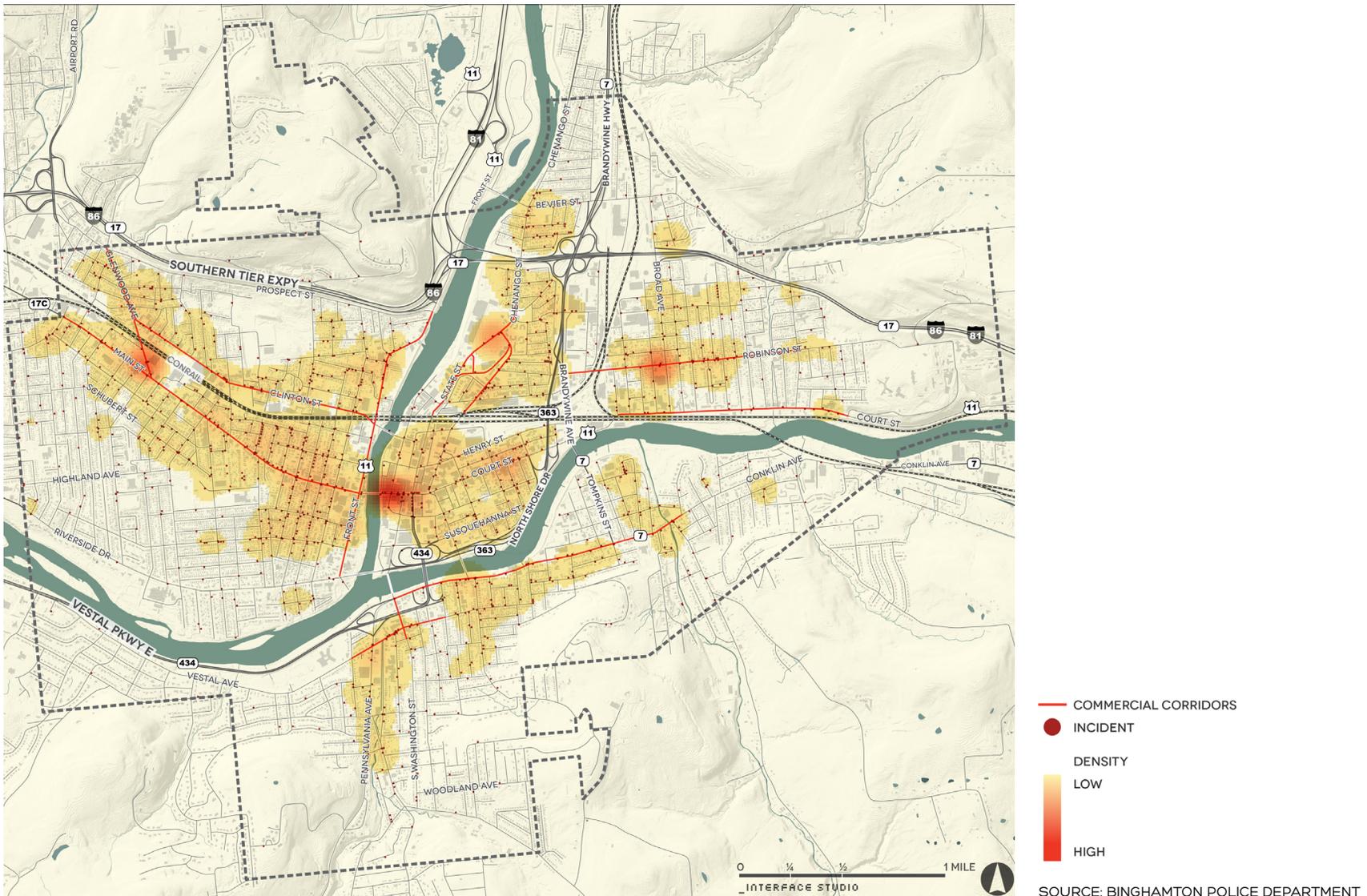


FIGURE 73: Property Crime: 2012 - MAP

VIOLENT CRIME: 2012

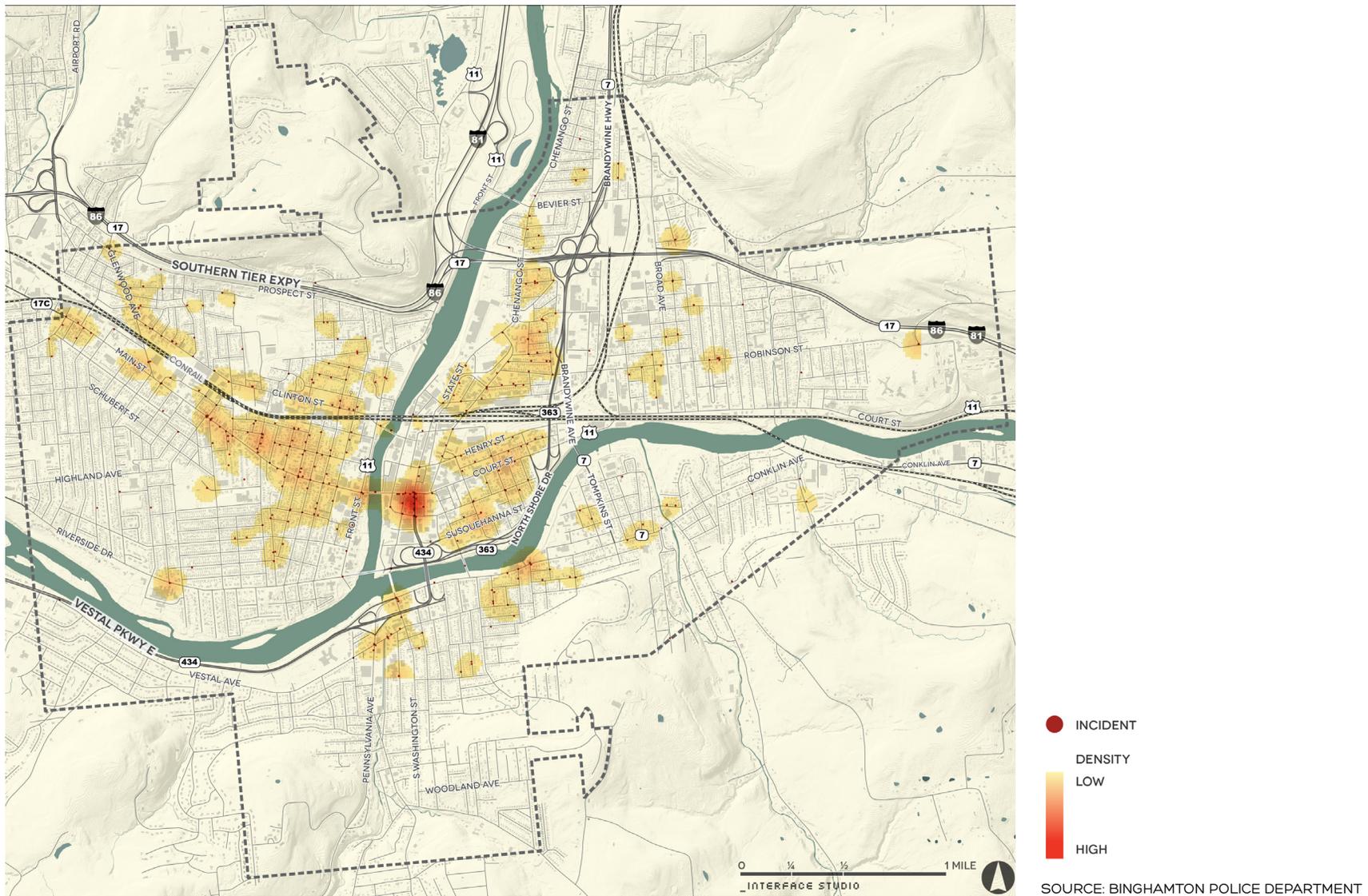


FIGURE 74: Violent Crime: 2012 - MAP

SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES & OPPORTUNITIES

Community building is vital for the success of Binghamton's future. A strong healthy community and network of active civic groups that are self-motivated and engaged can serve as important partners with the City to bring about the changes needed to improve each neighborhood and Binghamton as a whole.

All of **BLUEPRINT BINGHAMTON'S** community building recommendations address one or more of the objectives listed below:

- Ensure that **POSITIVE CHANGE** is **DISTRIBUTED** throughout the entire City
- **EMPOWER RESIDENTS** to guide the revitalization of their own neighborhoods
- Support **HEALTH** and **SAFETY** in all neighborhoods
- Promote the **EQUITABLE REVITALIZATION** of all neighborhoods for a mix of incomes and families

COMMUNITY VOICE

BLUEPRINT BINGHAMTON asked YOU for your thoughts and ideas, concerns and priorities related to community building. Your ideas recognize that one of Binghamton's greatest assets is its people and more needs to be done to get everyone working together to fulfill the common vision of a clean, safe, friendly and engaged City.

COLLABORATIVE MAP COMMENTS

Your ideas for the **COLLABORATIVE MAP** addressed the need to come together as a community to create change and improve the quality of life in the City:

LET'S BE BRAVE AND DO THINGS WE HAVE NEVER DONE BEFORE AND FACE THE UNKNOWN TOGETHER!

COLLABORATIVE MAP

IDEAS. INSIGHTS. BARRIERS

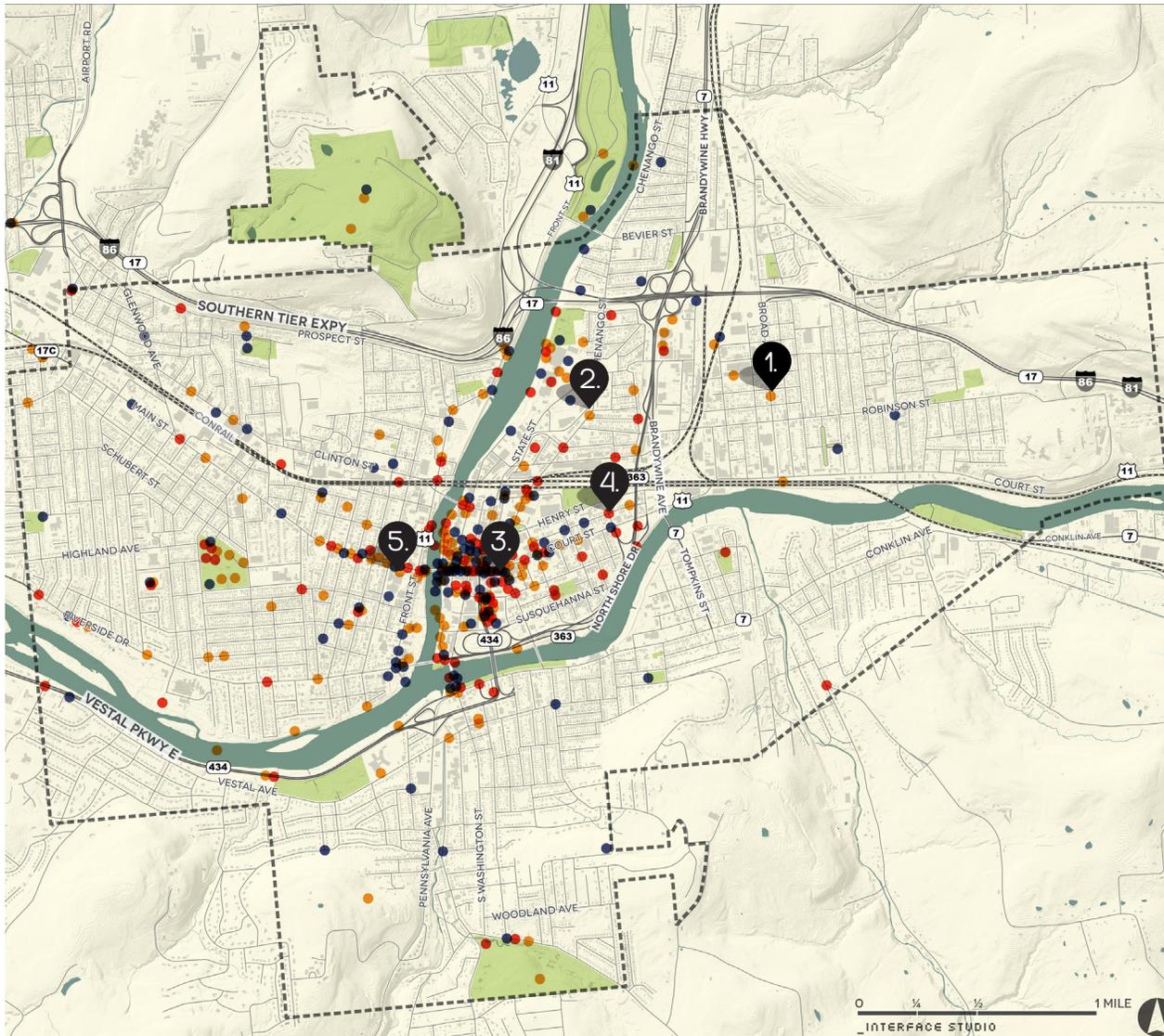


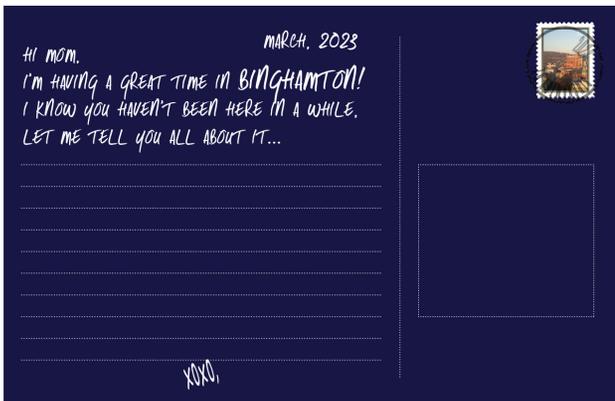
FIGURE 75: Collaborative Map Comments Locations

1. “ HAVING NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN UP AND FIX UP DAYS WITH INCENTIVES (PRIZES); HAVING MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR DAY ”
2. “ DESIGNATION TO BRING FRESH PRODUCE TO AREAS WHERE THE ONLY MARKET IS A CONVENIENCE STORE. ”
3. “ MORE PUBLIC MEETING SPACES GEARED TO TARGET GROUPS - YOUNG PROFESSIONALS, HIGH SCHOOL KIDS, SENIORS. ”
4. “ DRUGS, CRIME, EYE SORES; IE. VACANT BUILDINGS, RUN DOWN STREETS, NOT ENOUGH STREET LIGHTS. ”
5. “ FOCUS ON YOUTH - INVEST IN THEIR FUTURE/OUR FUTURE. BRING THE YOUTH IN TO VALUE THEIR INSIGHTS. ”

- IDEA
- INSIGHT
- BARRIER

POSTCARDS FROM THE FUTURE

Your **POSTCARDS FROM THE FUTURE** describe a vision for a beautiful, safe City that residents are proud to call home:



When **5TH GRADERS** in the Binghamton City School District imagined their **DREAM NEIGHBORHOOD**, they imagined a safe, welcoming and fun place to live:

IT'S GETTING RE-ENERGIZED & IT'S LOVELY TO PARTICIPATE IN ITS REGROWTH. YOU SHOULD VISIT SOME TIME!

THE SIDEWALKS WOULD BE COLORFUL AND WOULD SAY "WELCOME TO MY NEIGHBORHOOD!" EVERYONE WOULD BE SO HAPPY.

IT LOOKS BEAUTIFUL AND SAFE. EVERYONE THAT LIVES HERE IS PROUD OF IT.

MY DREAM NEIGHBORHOOD WOULD BE SAFE. I COULD HAVE FUN ALL DAY. IT WOULD MUCH MORE FUN TO LIVE THERE.

THERE'S A SPIRIT ABOUT THIS COMMUNITY THAT IS ALIVE, FRIENDLY, AND PROSPERING! [...] THE CITIZENS ARE INVOLVED AND TAKE PRIDE IN THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS.

I FEEL SAFE! THE STREETS ARE CLEAN. PEOPLE SAY HI AND SMILE.

BIG IDEAS

Your **BIG IDEAS** inform the recommendations for improving community building in Binghamton:



Images from the "Photo Suggestion Booth"

CITYWIDE SURVEY

And your responses on the **CITYWIDE SURVEY** highlight areas of improvement for community building in the City:

- Things you like about Binghamton: neighbors, parks

36% Your neighbors, but there's room better opportunities to connect with neighbors

67% Parks

- Things you don't like about Binghamton:

66% Crime

66% Blight



Recreation Park

COMMUNITY BUILDING GOALS:

The recommendations that comprise **BLUEPRINT BINGHAMTON'S MINI-PLAN ON COMMUNITY BUILDING** [a plan for neighbors and neighborhoods] are organized into five goal areas, each titled by a key community building goal:

01

EXPAND THE CIVIC INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE CITY

02

MAINTAIN A CONTINUUM OF CARE FOR RESIDENTS AND FAMILIES IN NEED

03

INTEGRATE RESIDENT HEALTH INTO NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING AND REINVESTMENT

04

ACTIVELY ENGAGE YOUTH IN CITY INITIATIVES

05

ENSURE SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS FOR ALL RESIDENTS

Taken together, the Community Building Goals and their related objectives and strategies support the following themes of **BLUEPRINT BINGHAMTON'S** vision for the future of our City:

- **HEALTHY** - with a continuum of care that serves residents in need and a holistic approach to public health that addresses the City's built form as well as its policies and programs to support safe and healthy neighborhoods and healthy habits among its citizens
- **PROUD** - with a strong network of engaged residents and active civic organizations ready to partner with the City to effect meaningful change and celebrate a renewed self-image
- **ALIVE** - young and old, long-term residents and newcomers, college students and homeowners, people of all races, ethnicities, and incomes - Binghamton is your City, and this is our blueprint for a future of grassroots activism and a vibrant sense of community, safe, open, and accessible to all

**FOR FULL VISION STATEMENT,
SEE PAGE 40.**

GOAL:

01

EXPAND THE CIVIC INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE CITY

Tackling the issues facing Binghamton's neighborhoods will require the input and cooperation of stakeholders and decision-makers across different sectors, but also the active participation of neighbors. Social connectivity was a key component of the **BLUEPRINT BINGHAMTON** planning process, providing an opportunity for these various stakeholders to meet and share their thoughts and ideas for how to improve the City. The momentum of the planning process should be built on strengthening the City's civic infrastructure and the partnership between the City and community organizations to address needs as the planning process moves forward into implementation and action. The following community building recommendations support Goal 1:

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF A **CDC?** COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

- ASSIST
RESIDENTS
- HOUSING COUNSELING
 - LOANS + FINANCING
 - WORKSHOPS + TRAININGS
 - EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

- SUPPORT
BUSINESSES
- FINANCING
 - SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT
 - BUSINESS DIRECTORY
 - PROPERTY LISTINGS

- IMPROVE
PHYSICAL CONDITIONS
- NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING
 - VACANT LAND MANAGEMENT
 - GREENING + GARDENS
 - HOUSING REPAIR + DEVELOPMENT

- ENGAGE
THE COMMUNITY
- EVENTS
 - NEWSLETTERS
 - LIASON WITH PARTNERS
 - PROMOTION AND IMAGE

Potential programs of a community development corporation

EXPLORE THE CREATION OF A BINGHAMTON NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

1.1

A Binghamton Neighborhood Development Corporation, to function as a sizable and unified, citywide community development corporation, is needed to oversee neighborhood infill and redevelopment as well as fundraising across Binghamton's neighborhoods. By coordinating with neighborhoods and existing CHODOs to identify priority projects and by thinking strategically across the entire City, this umbrella entity can serve to connect the dots between community-level and city-level planning and can push forward catalytic investments that

attract additional public/private investment to improve neighborhood housing, businesses and overall quality of life. The Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation (<http://www.yndc.org/>) is a helpful model. The YNDC revitalizes neighborhoods through programs that include housing, a Community Loan fund, vacant land reuse, Model Blocks to target physical improvements where conditions are deteriorated, home repair, community gardens, and neighborhood outreach, workshops and trainings.

1.2
FORM COMMUNITY ACTION TEAMS THAT MEET QUARTERLY TO BRING TOGETHER CITY DEPARTMENTS AND HEALTH / SERVICE PROVIDERS TO DISCUSS THE ISSUES AND SOLUTIONS REQUIRED IN EACH NEIGHBORHOOD

Complex social issues and neighborhood dynamics require a multifaceted approach of collaboration across sectors to address shifting community concerns. Basic needs such as adequate housing, safe streets, transportation, jobs, and food access are all intertwined to affect the health and quality of life of City residents. Each neighborhood has its own assets and challenges, and therefore, a place-based approach to forming solutions is recommended. A Community Action Team that assembles representatives from relevant City departments

including law enforcement, health and service providers, and key community leaders for each of the neighborhoods should meet quarterly to track needs, identify possibilities for collaborative action and evaluate progress. Rochester, New York can serve as a precedent example, with its Quadrant teams organized to field complaints, take immediate actions, support small-scale community improvement projects driven by residents, and undertake strategic planning for sustained and longer-term change at the neighborhood (or quadrant) scale.

“ YOU WILL BE AMAZED OVER A DECADE AT HOW THE HARD WORK, PERSEVERANCE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATION, THE COUNTY, ACADEMIA, AND SO MANY INDIVIDUALS & ADVOCATES BELIEVE IN THIS CITY SO MUCH IT HAS COME BACK!...WISH I HAD MORE TIME, SO MUCH TO DO HERE. ”

Source: Postcard from the Future Comment

1.3 ENCOURAGE ISSUE-BASED GROUPS TO CONTINUE THE WORK OF THE COMMUNITY DISCUSSIONS

1.3 The success of the Community Discussions throughout the **BLUEPRINT BINGHAMTON** planning process (442 attendees at seven sessions!) suggests an opportunity to continue the dialog by making the Community Discussions a regular occurrence and hub for issue-based discussion and action. The City should prompt meet-ups as follow up to the various Discussion topics. Interest groups that evolve out of the Community Discussions can take on Do-It-Yourself projects like Park(ing) Day, or organize events such as lectures or networking and social events, such as the “Green Drinks” monthly gatherings organized by the Business Alliance for Local Living Economies.



Blueprint Binghamton Community Discussion

1.4 CULTIVATE PRIDE THROUGH BRANDING AND IMPROVEMENTS AT THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND BLOCK LEVEL

1.4 Each neighborhood has its own distinctive history, characteristics and appeal, including pedestrian-scale blocks, attractive housing stock (though some may be in need of rehab and renovation), strong institutions, parks, and local businesses. Neighborhoods should rally around these attributes to make improvements that amplify the good and instill a sense of positive change and pride. These assets are the building blocks to start branding neighborhoods and broadcasting a positive image throughout the City and region.

“THE COMMUNITY IS GREAT, THERE’S INTERESTING HISTORY; PEOPLE ARE PROUD OF THEIR CITY; IT’S SOOOO PRETTY; COME VISIT!! YOU’LL LOVE IT!!”

Source: Postcard from the Future Comment

1.5
**DEVELOP MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION PLAN TO
KEEP THE COMMUNITY ENGAGED AND UPDATED**

Transparency and communication are essential to building and maintaining a relationship between the City of Binghamton and the public. Traditional forms of media are being supplemented with a wealth of new media that offer instant and wide-ranging communication options. A media and communication plan should be developed to serve two goals: 1) disseminate information and 2) create a platform for dialog. The plan should include traditional media such as TV, radio and newspaper, but also fold in web and social media technology that offers enhanced opportunities for real-time information and dialog. The City's recently updated website is an important stop for information about City services, such as snow

removal and street paving, but social media should also be incorporated into the media and communication plan to engage the community in dialog. Facebook can serve as an extension of the City's website by offering a way for the community to comment on and share information, while Textizen has been used by cities for crowdsourcing ideas. Many cities have found Twitter a valuable tool for disseminating real-time information regarding weather alerts, transit updates, or police incidents. **BLUEPRINT BINGHAMTON** has already built a social network presence and following on both facebook and twitter, and those feeds should remain current as planning efforts shift to focus on implementation.



Blueprint Binghamton Facebook page

1.6
**INCORPORATE BLUEPRINT BINGHAMTON
IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2015-2020
CONSOLIDATED PLAN**

The City of Binghamton submits a Consolidated Plan to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development every 5 years. The next plan will cover the years 2015 to 2020. The Consolidated Plan serves as a framework for community-wide dialogue to identify housing and community development priorities, which combined with an assessment of market conditions helps the City make decisions on place-based investments. The extensive and diverse community outreach conducted for Blueprint Binghamton reached thousands of people and included a citywide survey administered by the Binghamton Neighborhood Project, interviews and focus groups with resident experts, portable community “Meetings

in a Box”, youth engagement both in and out of the classroom, and interactive open houses in the Project Design Studio. Additionally, social media and a project website were developed as online bases for information and discussion. (See Chapter 3: Planning Process and Public Engagement for more details.) Through this process, community needs and priorities were identified that forms the basis for the recommendations of this Comprehensive Plan. Therefore, this Blueprint Binghamton Mini-Plan on Community Building should be used to frame the programmatic goals and budgetary planning in the City’s upcoming development of the 2015-2020 Consolidated Plan.

GOAL:

02

MAINTAIN A CONTINUUM OF CARE FOR RESIDENTS AND FAMILIES IN NEED

Basic needs such as housing and transportation are critical aspects to ensuring residents in need are able to access the services they require. Service gaps coupled with lack of information and awareness of prevention also contribute to an overburdened health care system. The following community building recommendations support Goal 2:

2.1 STRENGTHEN AND SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT OF SUPPORTIVE HOUSING FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ADDICTION RECOVERY WITH ACCESS TO TRANSPORTATION AND SERVICE PROVIDERS

Binghamton has a need for supportive housing, as several group homes have been closed due to flood damage and regulatory changes. The 2011 flood exposed the shortage of quality affordable housing as hundreds of elderly and low-income residents of the three major housing complexes in Downtown Binghamton (Woodburn Court I and II and the Binghamton Housing Authority North Shore Towers and Village) were displaced without safe, secure housing. Furthermore, New York State has been closing developmental disability centers. As a result, there is an increase of people in need, and hospitals and psychiatric services are being burdened by cases that are not psychiatric in nature. Land should be assembled for supportive housing developments in areas that have good access to services and public transportation.



Lourdes Hospital

2.2
**SUPPORT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES
TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO PREVENTIVE CARE AND
CHRONIC DISEASE MANAGEMENT FOR HIGH-
UTILIZING PATIENTS**

Residents and families in need who encounter barriers to health care often end up at the hospital for treatment of issues that could be better managed through preventive care, education and chronic disease management. Community initiatives that target these cases will improve community health and decrease the load on hospitals. These initiatives should include strengthened prevention, family health and wellness education; better marketing of services to communities in need; and mobile health teams to offset challenges such as transportation or child care that prevent patients from seeking health care. The Youth Success Initiative will work with health service agencies in the region to improve the delivery of youth service, particularly mental health care.

The Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers Care Management Program is a national model for providing care to “super-utilizers” of health care services; “super-utilizers” are those patients who are frequently admitted to the hospital for avoidable complications of chronic diseases. The Care Management Program targets patients who often suffer from chronic illness, mental illness, and substance abuse and lack consistent primary care. The program uses an outreach team that includes a social worker, a health outreach worker/medical assistant, and a nurse practitioner to help patients coordinate care and find a primary care provider. The Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers offers technical assistance and resources for communities seeking to develop similar programs (<http://www.camdenhealth.org/cross-site-learning/>).

2.3
**ENSURE SENIORS HAVE ACCESS TO SERVICES AND
INFORMATION**

Growth is projected for the population 65 and older, particularly for low-income households. This is a diverse population with a broad spectrum of needs; housing, transportation, mental health, wellness, and health services. A Senior Citizen Advisory Committee should be established to provide guidance on this recommendation. Existing services such as those provided by the First Ward Senior Center and Broome County Office of Aging should be advertised so that seniors know how to access them. One of the biggest challenges facing the senior population is the transition from living independently to

developing higher needs. Housing will require retrofitting so residents can age in place and for cases where aging in place is not an option, new senior housing should be built in close proximity to transportation, services and amenities (see Housing Recommendations 1.4, 1.5, 2.1 and 4.3). For people accustomed to driving, utilizing alternative transportation options, such as BC Transit, BC Lift, or Medi-van, is intimidating and frustrating. The Broome Mobility Project can help improve the transit experience through one-on-one travel training.

GOAL:

03

INTEGRATE RESIDENT HEALTH INTO NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING AND REINVESTMENT

According to the New York State Department of Health, chronic diseases are the cause of 73% of deaths in New York State annually and affect the quality of life of six million of the State's residents. Many chronic diseases are preventable and linked to lifestyle choices and the built environment. The New England Healthcare Institute estimates that access to care accounts for only 10% of the determinants of health outcomes while environmental factors account for 20%, and healthy behavior and habits account for a significant 50%. Improving these areas by encouraging healthy changes in our daily lives and the way our neighborhoods are built can impact public health through prevention. The following community building recommendations support Goal 3:

**“CREATE ENVIRONMENTS
TO MAKE THE HEALTHY
CHOICE THE EASY CHOICE
TO MAKE.”**

Source: Postcard from the Future Comment

3.1 ENCOURAGE PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH SECTORS TO FOSTER HEALTHIER NEIGHBORHOODS

The community development sector and health sector work in the same neighborhoods, serving at-risk populations and often tackling the same issues, but they do not always coordinate or communicate. The relation between poor health outcomes and community development target issues such as inadequate housing, lack of access to healthy food, and lack of safe places for physical activity, has become a primary focus for public health, spurring increased cooperation between public health leaders and other agencies. Community development organizations, such as the proposed Binghamton Neighborhood Development Corporation, should work with public health leaders and health care providers to determine how community development interventions, both physical and programmatic, can drive positive health outcomes. Binghamton is home to several major health institutions such as Binghamton General Hospital, Lourdes Hospital, and the Greater Binghamton Health Center, all of which have large impacts on the City's economy as well as strong physical presences in their surrounding communities. Partnering with the community development sector will afford these institutions the chance to strengthen their ties with host communities through better engagement to identify areas of cooperation for healthier, safer neighborhoods.

ENSURE EACH NEIGHBORHOOD HAS ACCESS TO HEALTHY, FRESH FOOD

“Community gardens growing in demand - great use for unused space.”

Source: Collaborative Map Comment

3.2

Healthy eating is one of the most important elements of maintaining a healthy lifestyle but a complicated one with significant barriers, especially for low-income households. Time, money, and habit are all factors that determine food choices. Improving access to healthy, fresh food is one important step toward improving eating habits and resident health outcomes in communities across the country. In Binghamton, a grocery store along Chenango Street has been identified as a critical need in the North Side neighborhood and should be supported.

Additionally, accessibility can be increased through healthy corner store initiatives that incentivize fresh food distribution in smaller markets and corner stores, allowing mobile farmer's markets and farm share programs that deliver produce to underserved neighborhoods, and encouraging vendors to accept food stamps and vouchers. But as access is just one piece of the puzzle, it must be paired with holistic education about nutrition as described in Recommendation 3.5.

ENCOURAGE COMMUNITY GARDENING AND URBAN AGRICULTURE IN EACH NEIGHBORHOOD

3.3

Community gardens and urban agriculture serve multiple community building goals. They function as community hubs where neighbors meet and work together, building stronger relationships and stronger muscles. They also provide access to healthy and affordable fresh

food, and offer residents the opportunity to grow culturally appropriate foods that may not be available otherwise. Furthermore, urban agriculture businesses can provide educational and economic development benefits to a community.



New York City prohibits smoking in outdoor public places.



Los Angeles prohibits smoking near outdoor dining areas.

3.4

PROMOTE TOBACCO AND SMOKE FREE LIVING THROUGH BETTER PROTECTIONS FOR NON-SMOKERS AND YOUTH

Tobacco use causes about 480,000 deaths a year in the US, according to the Food and Drug Administration, and complicates other chronic conditions. The impacts of active and passive smoking exact a terrible toll not only on health but on health care costs. The public health impacts of smoking have led to sweeping changes in both the public and private sectors. State and local laws across the country restrict smoking and the sale and marketing of tobacco products, particularly to children. In a precedent-setting move, CVS, the second largest drugstore chain in the country, will cease selling tobacco products beginning October 2014, an action that may have a ripple effect on other retailers. The City should create an environment that promotes tobacco and smoke free living through a multifaceted approach. The City should consider creating additional tobacco/smoke free outdoor areas to reduce exposure to passive smoke, restrict marketing and sales of tobacco products near schools and youth centers, and ramp up an education campaign to prevent smoking and promote smoking cessation. Binghamton can look to other places across the country, such as Rochester and Cayuga County in New York, Peoria, IL and Benbrook, TX that have implemented policies to restrict the location of tobacco retailers.

3.5
PROMOTE HEALTHY AND ACTIVE LIVING THROUGH
EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES TO MAKE
THE HEALTHY CHOICE THE EASY CHOICE

Since healthy behavior is the most significant determinant of public health outcomes, a prevention-based public health initiative should be developed to help residents make healthy changes in their daily lives. These changes should address the physical, social and mental aspects of health with initiatives that complement the other recommendations in this plan, such as improving bike and pedestrian infrastructure, creating safe recreational spaces, and ensuring access to healthy food. A healthy and active living campaign should tie all these things together and show residents how to make healthy choices whether it be through physical activity, social connections, or eating habits. Programs may include an educational

campaign outlining simple (and fun) things to do such as dancing more, taking the stairs, saying hello to neighbors, reaching out to friends, or planting a garden, that can jumpstart residents' journey to physical and mental wellness. Other activities may include organized walking, running or biking clubs, community gatherings to strengthen social networks, pushing for healthy food in stores and restaurants, and workshops on nutrition and healthy eating tips, mental health and wellness. A good example of such a community "health makeover" is the Blue Zones Vitality Project, a 10-month pilot project in Albert Lea, MN that was sponsored by the AARP and United Health to improve the personal, social and community health of the entire town.



GOAL:

04

ACTIVELY ENGAGE YOUTH IN CITY INITIATIVES

Implementing the recommendations in this plan will depend upon the combined efforts of the City, its residents and businesses, and importantly its youth who represent the future of our City and who have been active planning partners, making their voices heard through **BLUEPRINT BINGHAMTON**. Cultivating healthy habits, community stewardship and an entrepreneurial spirit at a young age will form the base for these qualities to flourish as adults. The following community building recommendations support Goal 4:



Youth weigh in on Blueprint Binghamton

4.1

SUPPORT YOUTH SUCCESS INITIATIVE AS KEY YOUTH SERVICES LIAISON AND PROVIDER

The initiative is a direct educational cooperative partnership between the Binghamton City School District and the Office of the Mayor. Aiming to create safer schools, the Initiative has provided two new school Security Resource Officers at both east and west middle schools and will work closely with law enforcement and Binghamton Housing Authority's Gang Prevention Unit to steer youth away from gangs. The Initiative will also expand existing athletic, recreational, and extracurricular opportunities offered by City Parks; expand mentoring and college-career readiness, promote civic instruction, and work to improve youth health services.

“THERE ARE A NUMBER OF EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES HERE, MOST ENTICING IS THE WAY THEY EMBRACE THE YOUTH & SUPPORT THE “MORE MATURE” (OK - OLDER!!) ADULTS. THERE ARE ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES - CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL, & ATHLETIC.”

Source: Postcard from the Future Comment

4.2
COORDINATE WITH NON-PROFIT YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS TO MAINTAIN AN INVENTORY OF PROGRAMMING AND ADDRESS GAPS

The Youth Bureau and its Board of volunteers have made important progress over the past year in convening and coordinating among the City's loose network of youth-serving non-profits to better understand the existing network of youth programs and identify duplication among services, service gaps, and opportunities for partnership and collaboration in grant applications and program provision. The service gap analysis identified needs for youth services from the cradle, through a program like parent college that works to develop parenting skills among young parents, through the teenage and early adult years, through mentoring and exposure to job opportunities and higher education.

The Youth Bureau Board and BCSD fostered a mentoring program called Mentoring Now which Youth Success has expanded by recruiting more than 50 new adult volunteers to improve school completion rates and promote increased youth

involvement. The City should pilot a public-sector internship program and tap connections within the business community to identify private-sector opportunities as well. Such a program should explore the ways in which area youth can help the city and local businesses achieve shared goals, for example greater vibrancy along commercial corridors through storefront window re-design that brings a youthful eye to refresh the presence of long-term businesses. Other ideas for a more robust palette of after-school and summer youth programs include culturally relevant arts and technology programs that foster skills, dedication, and creative entrepreneurship among urban youth. As a precedent example, Philadelphia has three nationally recognized programs hosted through and outside of schools that offer opportunities for teens with a range of interests: West Philly Auto Club, Students Run Philly Style, CRED Philly magazine.

**GREATER COLLABORATION
BETWEEN INDUSTRY/
BUSINESSES & PUBLIC
EDUCATION - MENTORING/
SHADOWING**

Source: Collaborative Map Comment

4.3 FORMALIZE PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT, THE CITY, AND AREA INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

The Binghamton University Center for Civic Engagement has brought a Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) Youth Community Action Signature Program to Binghamton; CITIZEN University (CITIZEN U) invites teens ages 14 through 18 to shape and participate in civic engagement and workforce preparation projects in the city. CITIZEN U applicants explore topics from business and entrepreneurship to environmental studies, technology and media performing arts, food and nutrition to community development, all the while building leadership skills and interacting with college professors and other role models. This program highlights

the potential to tap Binghamton University and Broome Community College, exploring partnership opportunities for mentoring, service learning, and other programs that help strengthen the bridge between high school and college for Binghamton's teens and young adults. The Youth Success Initiative will promote civic instruction in social studies classes to provide students with an understanding of City Government and is establishing a Career Guest Speaker Bureau of area professionals in response to school district request for greater college and career readiness assistance.



Youth Outreach at the Juneteenth Celebration



4.4
INVITE THE YOUTH VOICE TO BE HEARD BY THE CITY

Throughout the **BLUEPRINT BINGHAMTON** planning process, the City has actively sought input from local youth and teens, and the cities young people responded with creative ideas and thoughtful assessments of local issues in their communities. To cultivate community stewardship and a sense of empowerment tied to the future of Binghamton, the City should take steps to continue the dialog with the next generation of leaders. Opportunities to invite the youth voice to be heard include establishing non-

voting positions on City Council and soliciting youth candidates to serve on municipal advisory board/commissions for City youth to weigh in on topics and offer a younger perspective in the City's decision making process, quarterly opportunities for CITIZEN U teens to present to the Mayor, City Council, or City agencies on CITIZEN University projects, and rotating exhibits of civic-minded arts and writing projects in City Hall, as occurred during **BLUEPRINT BINGHAMTON**.



Graphic from a Youth Themed Event



Photo from the Pop Up Gallery

4.5 WORK WITH BCSD TO TRANSFORM SCHOOLS INTO HUBS OF NEIGHBORHOOD ACTIVITY AND PRIDE

“Each neighborhood has a neighbor center that helps each neighborhood focus on its own issues and everyone takes care of each other in the neighborhood.”

Source: Postcard from the Future Comment

4.5

The Binghamton schools are centrally located and integral to their neighborhoods, but they could become an even more active part of their communities by functioning as neighborhood hubs that embrace not just students but everyone in the community. The City and neighborhoods should work with the Binghamton City School District (BCSD) and the City's private schools to develop on-site activities that get residents to reconnect with area schools and help strengthen neighborhoods, such as

neighborhood health clinic services, pick-up spots for farm shares, neighborhood watch meetings, financial literacy training, and tenant rights workshops. By advertising such programs as well as School District concerts, sports events, and other happenings on the City website, the City can remind its citizens of all ages that the public and private schools are a community resource and important asset in which to take pride and support.

4.6 IMPROVE AWARENESS OF AND ACCESS TO CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS THE ROBERSON MUSEUM, DISCOVERY CENTER, ZOO AT ROSS PARK, TECHWORKS! AND THE BUNDY MUSEUM

4.6

Binghamton's cultural institutions are great regional assets that should play an important role in the educational and cultural life (also see Economic Development Recommendation 7.6) of the City's youth. While school trips are one way of discovering these places, students should have the opportunity to take advantage of these places on their own. To this end, the City's cultural institutions should step up their marketing to students and parents. Free or discounted days or passes for students could be introduced to increase access, particularly for low-income youth for whom entrance fees

are a barrier. In Philadelphia, STAMP (Students at Museums in Philly) offer high school students a one-year free pass to a selection of 12 of the City's museums and attractions through a partnership between the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance, museums and attractions, sponsors and community organizations (<http://phillystamp.org/>). The program is guided by a Teen Council that connects their peers with the latest updates from STAMP museums and provides a voice for how to get teens interested in culture and arts.

4.7
FORMALIZE PARTNERSHIP WITH BOCES
VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS TO COMPLETE SMALL
NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

The Broome-Tioga Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) vocational programs can be tapped to provide the knowledge and skill set needed to accomplish projects identified through neighborhood quality of life plans (Recommendation 5.1) and crowdsourcing (Recommendation 4.8). A formal partnership should be established to allow students to gain hands-on experience while providing communities an extra boost to successfully complete projects and build confidence and momentum in neighborhood improvement.

4.8
CROWDSOURCE YOUTH PILOT PROJECTS (ONE
PER NEIGHBORHOOD) AND OFFER SEED GRANTS
TO IMPLEMENT

Neighborhood-specific ideas can be generated and crowdsourced from our cadre of creative young citizens, tapped to dream up and select one transformative, cost effective, and achievable project for each neighborhood. These early action pilot projects should be highly visible and actionable to signal that positive change is afoot and rally the community - and youth in particular - around a common cause. The City should explore the use of Textizen to make it easy and fun for youth to submit and weigh in on ideas. Groups such as Citizen U and BU are working on similar initiatives to engage local youth, and should be engaged as partners in ongoing efforts to cultivate youth as future leaders and activists in Binghamton.

The graphic is a promotional poster for a Textizen campaign. On the left, a black vertical bar contains the CTA logo and the text 'CPS Educational Facilities Plan' and 'Please take this 4-question survey on your phone.' Below this, travel information is provided: 'transchicago.com', '312-836-7000', and 'TTY: 312-836-4949'. The main body of the poster is light blue with a decorative border. In the center, a white cloud contains the text 'CPS schools should be safe, warm, and dry. What's next on your list?'. To the right, there are sections for 'How does this work?', 'Why does this matter?', and 'Tell us more!'. At the bottom, a list of options is provided: A Parks or green spaces, B Security cameras, C Science labs, D Libraries, E Air conditioning, F Playgrounds, G Media Centers & Computer Labs, H Wireless. A large text box says 'Text the letters of your top 3 picks to: 773-270-0839'. An illustration of a hand holding a smartphone with '773-270-0839 ADF' on the screen is on the right.

Textizen campaign for Chicago Public Schools

GOAL:

05

ENSURE SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS FOR ALL RESIDENTS

Safety is a primary concern for all residents. Two-thirds of residents surveyed cited crime and blight as the worst things about the City. The impact on residents' quality of life is substantial and also reinforces a negative image of the City in the region. The following community building recommendations support Goal 5:

“PEOPLE NEED A COMMUNITY FEEL, A NICE PLACE TO RAISE CHILDREN.”

Source: Collaborative Map Comment

“THERE ARE MANY PUBLIC MEETING SPACES WHERE PEOPLE MIX AND MINGLE. WE FEEL SAFE WALKING DOWN THE STREET AT ANY TIME OF DAY BECAUSE THERE IS BUSTLING ACTIVITY AND PLENTY TO DO.”

Source: Postcard from the Future Comment

5.1 INITIATE QUALITY OF LIFE ACTION PLANS FOR EACH COMMUNITY

Each community should work with the Planning Department, law enforcement, and Community Action Teams (Recommendation 1.2) to develop quality of life plans that identify and address the most pressing needs. These plans should yield detailed action steps that can be taken by both residents and the City to identify and address nuisance properties, clean up illegal dumping, upgrade lighting, and target spaces that attract crime. Quality of life plans should also point to areas of potential collaboration between residents, community organizations, law enforcement, and the City; the Curb and Sidewalk Assistance Program which offers a price per square foot rebate for property owners to reconstruct their sidewalks is a good example. To give merit to the plans and incentivize community involvement, seed grants should be offered for the implementation of one early action pilot project in each neighborhood, as envisioned by the community and vetted by the Community Action Team.

“THERE IS NOT ANY USELESS SPACE AND THE COMMUNITY IS WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE IT TO THE VERY FULLEST IT CAN BE IMPROVED.”

Source: Postcard from the Future Comment

Safe Streets Binghamton's Edwards Street mural



5.2
EDUCATE RESIDENTS ON CODE ENFORCEMENT

Code enforcement ranked very high among the concerns that surfaced through the planning process, but there is not enough clarity within the community about how the City conducts enforcement and what a property owners' role is in the process. The City can illuminate this process by developing an easy to use brochure explaining how code enforcement works and what residents can do if they encounter code enforcement problems in their neighborhood. These brochures should be distributed widely through community groups and at events as well as online to ensure everyone understands the City's code enforcement tools and processes.

5.3
**INITIATE A "DUMPSTER DAY" PROGRAM FOR
LARGE, BULKY ITEMS; ELECTRONICS RECYCLING;
CLOTHING DRIVE**

Large items and electronics that cannot be disposed of easily are often the types of items that are dumped illegally in vacant lots or left in front yards. The City can help residents dispose of these items safely and easily by initiating a "Dumpster Day" program where a dumpster is delivered to a block for one day. An electronics recycling van or clothing drive can be paired with this initiative as part of a spring cleaning effort.



Examples of anti-litter campaigns

5.4 LAUNCH CITY-WIDE CLEAN STREETS CAMPAIGN

5.4

Trash and litter is a major concern for residents throughout the City. The accumulation of trash on the streets not only presents the City in an unattractive light, it contributes to the impression by some in the region that the city is not safe. During storm events, this debris is also washed into the rivers and streams diminishing the water quality. A citywide Clean Streets campaign should have two main components: an anti-litter graphic marketing campaign and an educational one that explains why the movement is important to neighborhoods, the city and the environment. An attention-getting graphic campaign should be developed that can be deployed throughout the City: on billboards, buses and bus shelters, on trash cans, in business windows, and even on storm drains. The educational component should include outreach to community groups, schools and youth programs.



Image from the Photo Suggestion Booth

5.5
**STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY RESILIENCY TO CRIME
AND DRUGS WITH COMMUNITY POLICING**

Addressing crime in the City requires residents and police working together; mutual trust and communication is essential. The Police and Neighborhood Partnership for a Safer Binghamton Initiative builds relationships between the Police Department and residents, particularly underrepresented communities in neighborhoods that confront criminal activity and may be more vulnerable and isolated. It helps these communities strengthen resiliency to crime and encourage crime reporting by breaking down communication barriers and increasing positive interactions with the police. In addition grassroots neighborhood

organizations such as Safe Streets, which is dedicated to improving safety and the quality of life for residents in the neighborhood north of Main Street, and neighborhood watch groups should be key community policing partners. Social media can also be incorporated as a way to share information. Many community groups use Facebook as a forum for residents to update each other on all that is going on in their neighborhoods and feel more connected. Twitter has also been effectively used by police departments in other cities to send real-time alerts to residents.

“
**GIVE INCENTIVES TO CRIME WATCH GROUPS
BESIDES SAFETY; MAYBE CREATE JOB TRAINING
FOR ADULTS AND TEENAGERS, VOCATION
SCHOOLS.**”

Source: Collaborative Map Comment



Walnut Street Park is an example of grassroots efforts led by Safe Streets Binghamton



5.6
**CREATE ROTATING SCHEDULE FOR YOUTH/POLICE
FIELD DAY IN EACH NEIGHBORHOOD**

Building a sense of trust with the police should start at a young age. The more opportunities to interact with the police in a friendly, social way the better to enhance relationships and promote lasting resiliency to crime. The City's first Youth/Police Field Day was held in 2012 at Recreation Park and introduced children to aspects of police work through the K-9 unit and a glimpse inside a police car. The Police Department should continue these outreach events, creating a rotating schedule to ensure each neighborhood is covered, and bringing programming to parks that enhance public perception of safety and community.



Youth/Police Field Day at Recreation Park

5.7
TRAIN COMMUNITY LEADERS IN CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) encourages the (re)design of the physical environment to help prevent crime by making it more difficult to engage in criminal behavior without being detected. This means eliminating the physical conditions and places that attract crime by signaling that spaces are defensible and watched over. The goal is to create a sense of ownership and natural surveillance of the space, so that it is not perceived as neglected and therefore unmonitored, and by designating different levels of access to the space from public to private. CPTED measures include making sure vacant lots are clean and have clear

lines of sight into them, sealing vacant buildings, providing good lighting, trimming foliage, and removing obstacles that obscure sight lines and provide places to hide. These basic principles and measures should be spread throughout the community by holding workshops to educate residents, businesses, and institutions and helping to implement such strategies. The Local Initiatives Support Corporation's Community Safety Initiative offers technical assistance, trainings and resources in CPTED principles (http://www.lisc.org/csi/strategies_&_solutions/crime_prevention_through_environmental_design/index.php).

5.8
IMPROVE NEIGHBORHOOD LIGHTING FOR VISIBILITY AND SAFETY

Improving visibility is at the crux of CPTED. The City should improve lighting in areas where there is a deficiency and work with neighborhoods for fast response time to repair street lights or prune overgrown trees that obstruct lighting and sight lines. In addition, residents and businesses should be encouraged to provide good lighting on their properties. Those that already have porch or exterior lighting should be encouraged to keep them on at night or install photo sensors

that automatically turn on and off at dusk and dawn. A program can be developed to provide free or low cost photo sensor porch lights for residents who do not have lights or cannot afford them. Similarly, a commercial program can help businesses and institutions install exterior commercial lighting. These combined tactics will improve the security of individual homes and businesses as well as improve public safety by adding more light to Binghamton's blocks.

BLUEPRINT BINGHAMTON
HAS 7 MAIN CHAPTERS

A ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

B HOUSING

C TRANSPORTATION

D INFRASTRUCTURE

E ENVIRONMENT &
OPEN SPACE

F LAND USE &
ZONING

G COMMUNITY
BUILDING

