

WEST SIDE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

CORE PRINCIPLES

- 1: MAKE THE WEST SIDE A CHILD-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY
- 2: CREATE A LADDER OF OPPORTUNITY
- 3: ENGRAIN A CULTURE OF HEALTHY LIVING



PLAN FRAMEWORK

1: ORGANIZING TO EMPOWER THE COMMUNITY

The involvement of community members in the revitalization efforts of the West Side is critical. This chapter organizes the grassroots structure to empower residents and community groups to back the vision developed in the plan. The second half of the chapter presents tools to address a specific threat to the community—gentrification.

2: HOMEGROWN JOBS

Key challenges in connecting West Side residents to quality jobs are education, training, poor work history and personal backgrounds. Recommendations seek to address these challenges by strengthening access to existing training and placement programs, non-conventional job paths, small business support and incubation.

3: GROWING A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

Strategies for improving food access focus on attracting healthy food retailers to the West Side area, through both conventional channels and mobile markets, developing food growing skills and distributing food that is grown through an urban agriculture education center and community gardens.

4: TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

West Side residents indicated a need for transportation options that are safe and affordable. Recommendations include: retrofitting Academy Street, Pendleton Street, West Washington Street, and Pete Hollis Boulevard with wider sidewalks, bike lanes, and protected crossings with pedestrian refuge areas; bike and pedestrian network; improved crossings over and under the railroad tracks that divide and isolate neighborhoods; and increased availability and coverage of local transit routes.

5: PUBLIC SPACE & INFRASTRUCTURE

Recommendations focus on improvements that will: 1) ensure that all residents are within a quarter-mile of a park; and 2) protect the natural environment while improving stormwater and sewer services.

6: HOUSING FOR EVERYONE

Programs are proposed to stabilize West Side neighborhoods, prevent displacement of existing residents (renters and homeowners), preserve the character of the residential neighborhoods, and preserve the existing housing stock.

7: DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

Development strategies include key development opportunities and major catalyst sites that are expected to drive development over the next several decades, as well as land-use policies needed to support that development.