



Report & Action Plan



EASTSIDE GRASSROOTS COALITION

Buffalo Rd - Eastside Connector - McClelland - E 12th St

May 2017



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Acknowledgements

The development of the Eastside Grassroots Coalition has been a collaborative effort that has required the time and effort of a number of individuals and organizations to get it off the ground. We would like to first acknowledge the residents of the neighborhood, specifically those on the core committee, for giving up their time to have their voices heard and contribute to make this initiative more encompassing. Their effort and support has been the energy driving this project. We'd also like to thank Emily Miller Cook who has graciously volunteered her time and knowledge to this project. This initiative would not have been able to accomplish anywhere close to as much as it has without her expertise in neighborhood and community revitalization from her experience in Cleveland. Lastly, we want to thank the Erie Community Foundation and the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority for their financial support of the project through the Helping Today grant. We look forward to working more closely with all the individuals and organizations we've encountered so far in order to make this neighborhood a better place to live, work and recreate.

Introduction

The Eastside Grassroots Coalition is a collaborative effort started in late 2016 by the Urban Erie Community Development Corporation and the House of Mercy to revitalize the Buffalo Rd corridor and the neighborhood in the near vicinity of this thoroughfare. After an initial community forum meeting in January 2017, the core committee added three residents to the committee. The number of residents that comprise this core committee has expanded after each community forum meeting (see chart below for members of core team as of May 2017). This collaborative effort is based on the following guiding principles and vision statement that were discussed and revised by residents during the third and fourth community forum meetings that occurred in March and May 2017.

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Joe Kopkowski	817 Hess Ave.	814-217-7807	jkopkowski@gmail.com

Guiding Principles:

As residents and stakeholders of the East End Big 3, or EEB3, neighborhood, we are committed to:

Business and Jobs

- Foster business partnerships in the community to build career pathways toward entrepreneurial and employment training.
- Support existing locally run business and foster new small businesses.

Collaboration

- Promote community service to assist residents in need of support, connecting neighbors to each other.
- Promote and foster positive community spirit.

Diversity

- Welcome diverse viewpoints and perspectives to ensure all voices are heard.

Education

- Enhance the value of education through increased interaction between schools and the community.

Environment

- Promote environmental stewardship amongst residents and businesses.
- Champion passive and active green space into the neighborhood fabric. Increasing citizen engagement in gardens and beautification and place making.

Housing

- Encourage pride and care in ones' home and property.
- Promote affordable housing for single families in particular.

Safety

- Enhance physical space to improve resident safety through lighting and multi-modal street design.
- Create a positive, collaborative and integrated relationship between law enforcement and the residents of the community.

Transportation

- Create a safer, more accessible neighborhood infrastructure around public transportation, walking and biking.

Vision Statement

The East End Big 3, or EEB3, Neighborhood is a diverse and prosperous community with engaged residents, community-based organizations and businesses, investment in expanded employment and educational opportunities; where youth are mentored, valued, and rewarded for meaningful hard work.

Needs Section:

The neighborhood that the Eastside Grassroots Coalition works in has many assets, but faces a significant number of challenges. Many of these issues come from years, if not decades, of disinvestment in the area whether it be investment in infrastructure, schools, or basic social services. The data and feedback from residents shows the results of this long-standing neighborhood disinvestment. One of the challenges to the project comes from the total area that this project is trying to serve. It largely encompasses two different census tracts. Census tract 15, which encompasses the northern and western halves of the project, paints a very different picture from census tract 16, which encompasses the southern and eastern part of the project. Destination Erie Plan classifies the northern section of the project to be an area of racial or ethnic concentration of poverty with very low access to opportunity (Destination Erie 15). Finding a way to meet where there are shared interests like the Buffalo Rd. corridor is crucial to bind the two areas together. According to the Erie Comprehensive Plan, there is a high concentration of tax delinquent parcels and very unhealthy blocks concentrated along the western edge of the project area which is “contributing to areas with visible distress near Buffalo Road” (74). The initial concentrated focus on Buffalo Road can help alleviate this distress and allow for a more unified neighborhood effort in the areas directly to the north and south of the road.

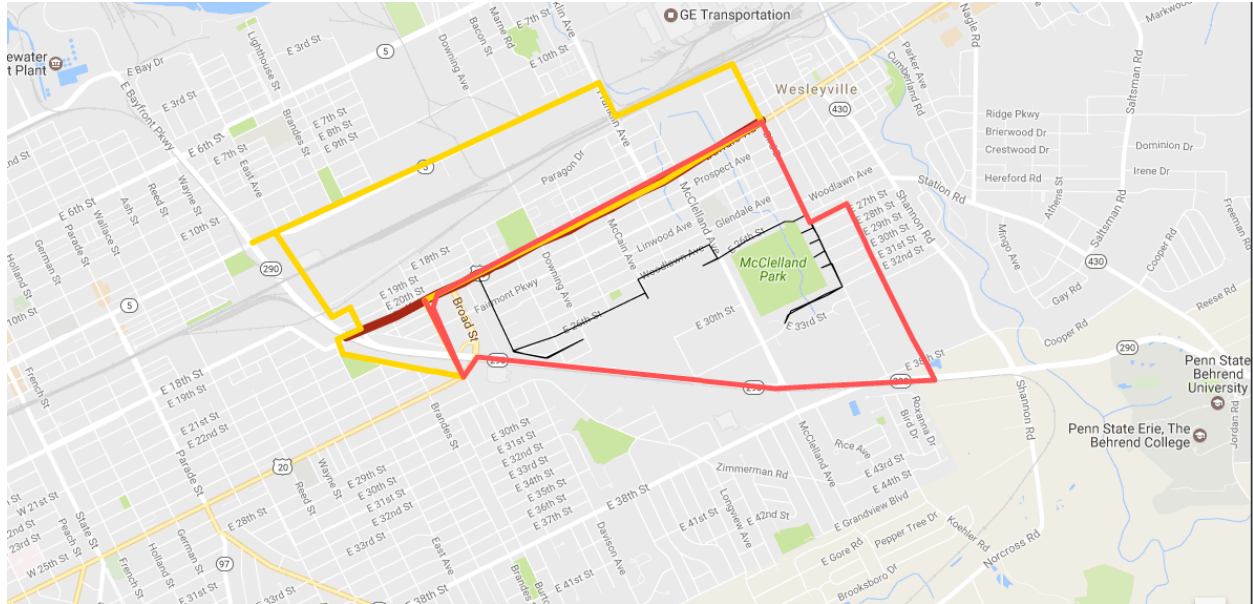
Due to the specific missions of the Urban Erie Community Development Corporation and the House of Mercy, it is imperative to focus on the development of youth in the area as a part of the goal of investment in the neighborhood. The youth in the neighborhood disproportionately face the brunt of the lack of investment in the area and are most hindered in their development. The poverty rate among residents under the age of 18 in census tract 16 is 38.8% and is 87.0% in census tract 15. Leading sociologist Robert Sampson points out that “prolonged exposure to concentrated disadvantage undermines early childhood development, which in turn predicts later critical outcomes like the formation of human capital skills, involvement in crime, and general health and well-being” (Sampson 1). The Eastside Grassroots Coalition should act as an extension of the work that both the Urban Erie Community Development Corporation and the House of Mercy are already doing. This collaborative effort should be used as a way to leverage funds to improve investment into the neighborhood to alleviate the distress and lack of opportunity that is affecting the youth in the neighborhood.

Census Tracts 15, 16 and Burton-Diehl Neighborhood Organization

Yellow= Census tract 15

Red =Census Tract 16

Black Line = Burton-Diehl Organization



Population & Poverty

	Census Tract 15	Census Tract 16
Total Population	2,675	4,174
Percent in Poverty	63.2%	23%
Population under 18	869	1,264
% under 18 in poverty	87.0%	38.8%

School Enrollment

School Enrollment (3 & over)	Census Tract 15	Census Tract 16
Nursery School/Preschool	10.7%	10.6%
Elementary School (grades K-8)	30.3%	54.1%
High School (grades 9-12)	8.0%	20.0%
College or graduate school	22.4%	15.4%

Educational Attainment (over 25 years old)

Educational Attainment	Census Tract 15	Census Tract 16
Less than high school graduate	25.2%	11.6%
High school graduate	39.8%	49.9%
Some college, or associate degree	24.7%	24.1%
Bachelor's degree	9.9%	8.1%
Graduate/professional degree	0.4%	6.3

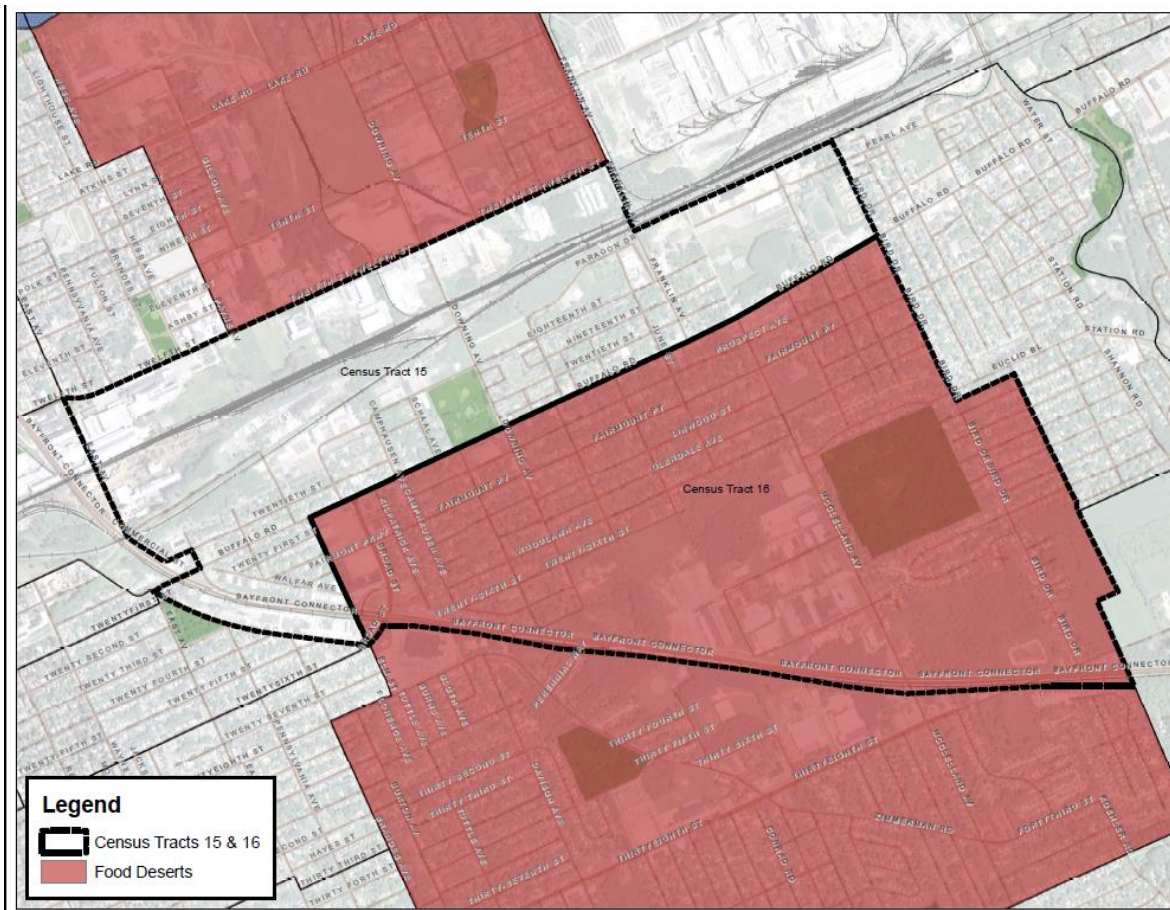
Demographics

	Census Tract 15	Census Tract 16
One Race	96.1%	97.3%
White	35%	65.7%
Black/African American	52.7%	26.5%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.0%	0.2%
Asian	2.8%	1.8%
Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%
Hispanic/Latino	20.9%	6.5%
Two or more races	3.9%	2.7%

Other relevant statistics:

	Census Tract 15	Census Tract 16
Snap Recipient (last 12 months)	59.2%	13.4%
In labor force:	48.9%	75.5%
Median Household Income	\$19,844	\$41,515
Mean Household Income	\$25,048	\$58,372
Owner Occupied Housing	32.9%	80.5%
Renter Occupied Housing	67.1%	19.5%

Food Desert



Information on Food Deserts from USDA website:

In the Food Access Research Atlas, *low access* to healthy food is defined as being far from a supermarket, supercenter, or large grocery store ("supermarket" for short). A census tract is considered to have low access if a significant number or share of individuals in the tract is far from a supermarket.

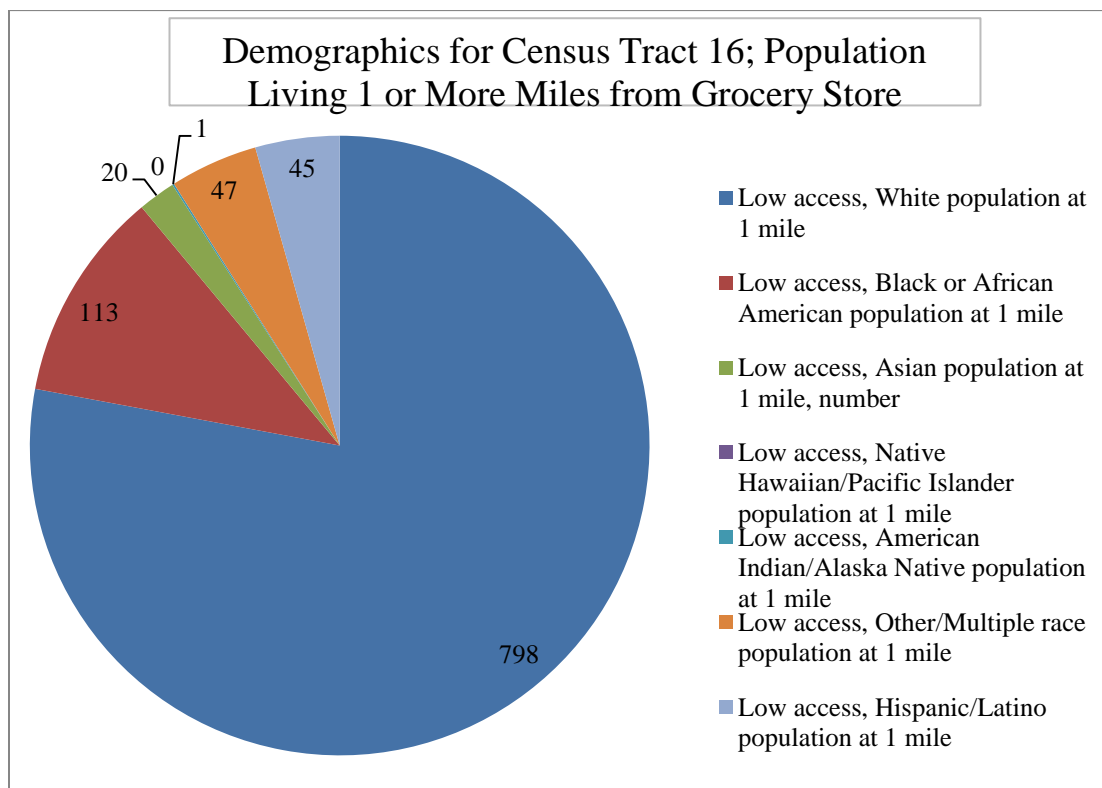
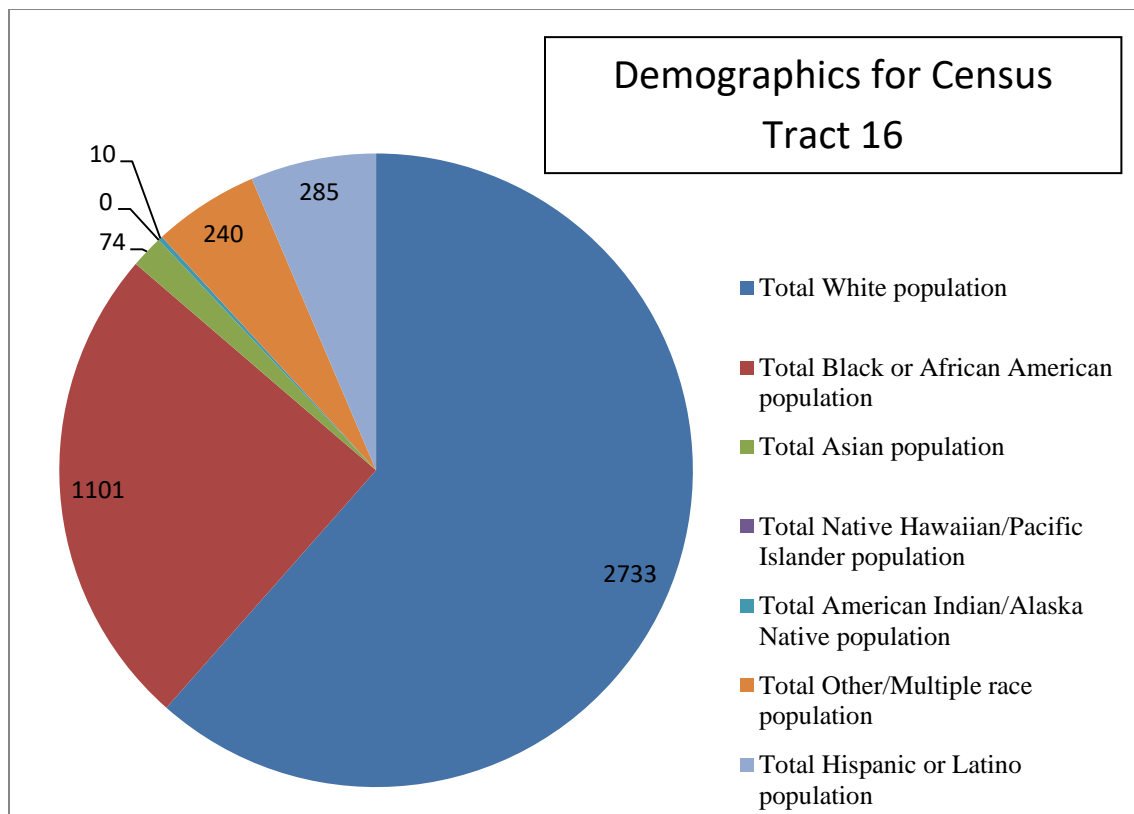
Three measures of food access based on distance to a supermarket are provided in the Atlas:

- Low-income census tracts where a significant number (at least 500 people) or share (at least 33 percent) of the population is greater than ½ mile from the nearest supermarket, supercenter, or large grocery store for an urban area or greater than 10 miles for a rural area. Using this measure, an estimated 54.4 million people, or 17.7 percent of the U.S. population, live in tracts that are low-income and low access and are more than ½ mile or 10 miles from the nearest supermarket.

- Low-income census tracts where a significant number (at least 500 people) or share (at least 33 percent) of the population is greater than 1.0 mile from the nearest supermarket, supercenter, or large grocery store for an urban area or greater than 10 miles for a rural area. This measure shows that an estimated 19 million people, or 6.2 percent of the U.S. population, live in low-income and low access tracts and are more than 1 mile or 10 miles from a supermarket.
- Low-income census tracts where a significant number (at least 500 people) or share (at least 33 percent) of the population is greater than 1.0 mile from the nearest supermarket, supercenter, or large grocery store for an urban area or greater than 20 miles for a rural area. Under this measure, an estimated 17.3 million people, or 5.6 percent of the U.S. population, live in low-income and low access tracts and are more than 1 mile or 20 miles from a supermarket.

Census Tract	Tract 16 ¹
Location	Erie City
Total Population	4,443
Low access; 1<miles	1,024
Total percentage of population 1 or more miles	23%
Poverty rate	17.40%
Average Income	\$47,917
SNAP Households	262
Total White Population	2,733
Total Black or African American Population	1,101
Total Asian Population	74
Total Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Population	0
Total American Indian/Alaska Native Population	10
Total Other/Multiple Race Population	240
Total Hispanic or Latino Population	285
Low access, White population at 1 mile	798
Low access, Black or African American population at 1 mile	113
Low Access, Asian population at 1 mile	20
Low access, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander population at 1 mile	0
Low access, American Indian/Alaska Native population at 1 mile	1
Low access, Other/Multiple Race population at 1 mile	47
Low access, Hispanic/Latino population at 1 mile	45

¹ Only Census Tract 16 statistics are available because Census Tract 15 is not considered a food desert.



Eastside Erie School Test Scores

School Name	Census Tract Location	Subject		Grade Level	Number of Students	% Advanced	% Proficient	% Basic	% Below Basic	% Advanced + Proficient	% Basic + Below Basic
DIEHL EL SCH	16 (close to 15)	English Language Arts	All Students	5	51	0.0	13.7	39.2	47.1	13.7	86.3
MCKINLEY EL SCH	Border of 17, 13, 14, 15	English Language Arts	All Students	5	66	0.0	27.3	34.8	37.9	27.3	72.7
PFEIFFER-BURLEIGH EL	Border of 1, 8, 13	English Language Arts	All Students	5	59	1.7	32.2	23.7	42.4	33.9	66.1
WAYNE MS	Border of 7, 5, 4	English Language Arts	All Students	5	48	0.0	16.7	25.0	58.3	16.7	83.3
CONNELL EL SCH	27	English Language Arts	All Students	5	63	15.9	38.1	38.1	7.9	54.0	46.0
EDISON EL SCH	6	English Language Arts	All Students	5	53	9.4	13.2	34.0	43.4	22.6	77.4
PSSA State Averages		English Language Arts	All Students	5	122662	16.2	45.3	24.4	14.1	61.5	38.5
School Name	Census Tract Location	Subject		Grade Level	Number of Students	% Advanced	% Proficient	% Basic	% Below Basic	% Advanced + Proficient	% Basic + Below Basic
DIEHL EL SCH	16 (close to 15)	Math	All Students	5	51	0.0	3.9	29.4	66.7	3.9	96.1
MCKINLEY EL SCH	Border of 17, 13, 14, 15	Math	All Students	5	69	0.0	8.7	33.3	58.0	8.7	91.3
PFEIFFER-BURLEIGH EL	Border of 1, 8, 13	Math	All Students	5	61	0.0	13.1	34.4	52.5	13.1	86.9
WAYNE MS	Border of 7, 5, 4	Math	All Students	5	49	0.0	6.1	18.4	75.5	6.1	93.9
CONNELL EL SCH	27	Math	All Students	5	63	7.9	34.9	46.0	11.1	42.8	57.1
EDISON EL SCH	6	Math	All Students	5	52	0.0	11.5	25.0	63.5	11.5	88.5
PSSA State Averages		Math	All Students	5	122776	18.5	25.9	27.6	28.0	44.4	55.6
School Name	Census Tract Location	Subject		Grade Level	Number of Students	% Advanced	% Proficient	% Basic	% Below Basic	% Advanced + Proficient	% Basic + Below Basic
DIEHL EL SCH	16 (close to 15)	Science	All Students	4	46	6.5	26.1	26.1	41.3	32.6	67.4
MCKINLEY EL SCH	Border of 17, 13, 14, 15	Science	All Students	4	66	6.1	27.3	30.3	36.4	33.4	66.7
PFEIFFER-BURLEIGH EL	Border of 1, 8, 13	Science	All Students	4	58	8.6	13.8	34.5	43.1	22.4	77.6
WAYNE MS	Border of 7, 5, 4	Science	All Students	4	52	1.9	13.5	17.3	67.3	15.4	84.6
CONNELL EL SCH	27	Science	All Students	4	63	23.8	46.0	17.5	12.7	69.8	30.2
EDISON EL SCH	6	Science	All Students	4	62	3.2	24.2	33.9	38.7	27.4	72.6
PSSA State Averages		Science	All Students	4	123527	39.5	36.7	12.1	11.6	76.2	23.8
School Name	Census Tract Location	Subject	All Students	Grade Level	Number of Students	% Advanced	% Proficient	% Basic	% Below Basic	% Advanced + Proficient	% Basic + Below Basic
DIEHL EL SCH	16 (close to 15)	English Language Arts	All Students	8	45	2.2	22.2	55.6	20.0	24.4	75.6
PFEIFFER-BURLEIGH EL	Border of 1, 8, 13	English Language Arts	All Students	8	59	1.7	10.2	54.2	33.9	11.9	88.1
WAYNE MS	Border of 7, 5, 4	English Language Arts	All Students	8	42	0.0	11.9	54.8	33.3	11.9	88.1
CONNELL EL SCH	27	English Language Arts	All Students	8	70	7.1	54.3	31.4	7.1	61.4	38.5
PSSA State Averages		English Language Arts	All Students	8	123100	17.5	40.9	30.4	11.3	58.4	41.7
School Name	Census Tract Location	Subject	All Students	Grade Level	Number of Students	% Advanced	% Proficient	% Basic	% Below Basic	% Advanced + Proficient	% Basic + Below Basic
DIEHL EL SCH	16 (close to 15)	Math	All Students	8	45	0.0	2.2	40.0	57.8	2.2	97.8
PFEIFFER-BURLEIGH EL	Border of 1, 8, 13	Math	All Students	8	59	0.0	10.2	13.6	76.3	10.2	89.9
WAYNE MS	Border of 7, 5, 4	Math	All Students	8	42	0.0	2.4	19.0	78.6	2.4	27.6
CONNELL EL SCH	27	Math	All Students	8	70	11.4	38.6	35.7	14.3	50.0	50.0
PSSA State Averages		Math	All Students	8	123003	10.5	20.8	28.6	40.2	31.2	68.8
School Name	Census Tract Location	Subject	All Students	Grade Level	Number of Students	% Advanced	% Proficient	% Basic	% Below Basic	% Advanced + Proficient	% Basic + Below Basic
DIEHL EL SCH	16 (close to 15)	Science	All Students	8	46	6.5	15.2	28.3	50.0	21.7	78.3
PFEIFFER-BURLEIGH EL	Border of 1, 8, 13	Science	All Students	8	59	3.4	5.1	22.0	69.5	8.5	91.5
WAYNE MS	Border of 7, 5, 4	Science	All Students	8	43	0.0	4.7	18.6	76.7	4.7	95.3
CONNELL EL SCH	27	Science	All Students	8	70	24.3	37.1	27.1	11.4	61.4	38.5
PSSA State Averages		Science	All Students	8	122782	27.3	30.4	16.8	25.5	57.7	42.3

Process Section:

Timeline of events:

- 10/22/17: Hosted Mercyhurst Students to conduct neighborhood survey
- 11/7/17: Initial meeting with Emily Miller Cook to discuss a consulting role for her on the project
- 11/10/17: Initial meeting between House of Mercy and UECDC to discuss collaborative project on neighborhood improvement
- 11/14/17: Meeting between House of Mercy and UECDC
- 12/5/17: Meeting with Dave Deter from NRO, Alva, Emily, Paul and Sr. Michele attended this meeting
- 12/6/17: Meeting between the two organizations and Chris Mong and Allison Schmidt to discuss NAP program and introduce them to our project
- 12/9/17: House of Mercy hosted a meeting with the Nepali families to discuss neighborhood; Meeting between UECDC and HOM
- 12/12/17: Meeting with Chris Mong and Allison Schmidt to drive them around the neighborhood to show key areas of focus for the project.
- 12/13/17: House of Mercy hosted a meeting with Arabic-speaking families
- 12/15/17: House of Mercy met with head of Burton-Diehl neighborhood organization to get support for the project
- 12/22/17: Sent out mailings for community forum meetings to residents
- 1/5/17: Planning meeting for January Community forum meeting
- 1/17/17: Meeting with JFK Center and John Villa to discuss Erie Greenways grant
- **1/19/17: First Community Forum Meeting**
- 1/23/17: Meeting between the EGC and the Erie Community Foundation to discuss Helping Today grant
- 2/2/17: Submitted Erie Community Foundation's Helping Today grant
- 2/6/17: Core team meeting to plan for February Community Forum Meeting
- 2/9/17: Meeting with Erie County Planning Department about Erie Greenways grant
- **2/21/17: Second Community Forum Meeting**
- 3/6/17: Core team meeting to plan for March Community Forum Meeting
- 3/8/17: Meeting with Brittany Prischak, Erie County's Sustainability Coordinator, to discuss possible cleanups and showed her prominent dumping sites in neighborhood
- 3/10/17: Meeting between core team and Anna Frantz and Erika Ramalho from Our West Bayfront
- **3/16/17: Third Community Forum Meeting**
- 3/21/17: Core committee meeting to review three initial meetings and discuss how to proceed
- 4/8/17: Cleanup efforts as a part of Gannon Service Day
- 4/22/17: Buffalo Rd. Cleanup Effort as a part of Global Youth Service Day
- 5/3/17: Core committee meeting to review events from last forum meeting and plan for May community forum meeting
- **5/11/17: Fourth Community Forum Meeting**
- 5/20/17: Roger Young Park Cleanup as a part of Keep Erie County Beautiful

Neighborhood Assessment Section

The Eastside Grassroots Coalition neighborhood has a great deal of assets with the combination of business parks, green space, non-profit organizations, religious institutions and the housing authority all playing a significant role in the neighborhood. The residents have shared throughout the forum meetings what they like best about the neighborhood including many of the assets listed above. Some additional things residents value most in their neighborhood include the amount of public transportation, the diversity of the neighborhood, their relationships with neighbors and the closeness to various stores (See appendix for notes on January 19 meeting). As Robert Sampson suggests, “The goal is to renew the existing but disinvested and often troubled neighborhoods in which they (the poor) live with an infusion of resources...what poor residents want is not to live near the rich but rather have the community resources of the better off” (Sampson 2). It is imperative to the project’s success to strengthen the assets that are both quantitatively and qualitatively apparent in the area that we are working.

Additionally, the project should look at properties that currently look like a liability but could be utilized as a future asset. This includes properties owned by the Redevelopment Authority as “Adopt-A-Lot” and what the Redevelopment Authority officially lists as blighted. The “Adopt-A-Lot” properties could have huge potential because of the concentration of them along Buffalo Rd. an area that the Grassroots Coalition already agrees as the areas of highest focus. The best way for the project to have success would be to hear out what residents would like to see these spaces turned into and then work with the Redevelopment Authority and businesses to figure out how best to utilize these areas.

Businesses within EGC’s Project Boundaries

Business	Address	Phone	Worth	Website
<u>Old Dominion Freight Line</u>	<u>1554 E 12th St, Erie, PA 16511</u>	<u>814-453-4039</u>	#####	www.odfl.com
Amthor Steel	1717 Gaskell Ave, Erie, PA 16503	814-452-4700	\$900,000,000.00	
C a Curtze Co	1717 E 12th St, Erie, PA 16511	814-452-2281	\$233,000,000.00	www.curtze.com
Alliance Plastics	2614 McClelland Ave, Erie, PA 16510	814-464-0259	\$100,000,000.00	
Accuride Erie	1015 E 12th St,	814-	\$64,000,000.00	www accuridecorp.com

	Erie, PA 16503	480-6400		
R. M. Kerner Co.	2208 E 33rd St, Erie, PA 16510	814-898-2000	\$55,900,000.00	www.rmko.com
Erie Bearings Company	1432 E 12th St, Erie, PA 16503	814-453-6871	\$51,400,000.00	www.eriebearings.com
Team Hardinger Transportation	3106 McCain Ave, Erie, PA 16510	814-899-6936	\$47,100,000.00	www.team-h.com
William T Spaeder Co Inc.	1602 E 18th St, Erie, PA 16510	814-456-7014	\$40,300,000.00	http://www.wmtspaeder.com
FMC Technologies	1602 Wagner Ave, Erie, PA 16510	814-898-5000	\$33,200,000.00	www.fmctechnologies.com
Engineered Plastics	1241 Camphausen Ave, Erie, PA 16511	814-452-6632	\$32,800,000.00	www.engineeredplastics.com
Custom Engineering Co	2800 McClelland Ave, Erie, PA 16510	814-898-2800	\$28,000,000.00	www.customeng.com
Meadow Brook Dairy Co	2365 Buffalo Rd, Erie, PA 16510	814-899-3191	\$26,600,000.00	www.meadowbrookdairy.com
JTM Foods Inc	2126 E 33rd St, Erie, PA 16510	814-899-0886	\$23,100,000.00	www.jjsbakery.net
Fralo Industries Inc	1651 E 12th St, Erie, PA 16511	814-454-7396	\$21,000,000.00	www.fralo.com
<u>Noco Distribution Llc</u>	<u>1522 E 12th St, Erie, PA 16511</u>	<u>814-454-9822</u>	\$16,100,000.00	
Erie Federal Credit Union	2436 Buffalo Rd, Erie, PA 16510	814-825-2436	\$13,500,000.00	www.eriefcu.org
Eriez Construction Inc	2218 E 30th St, Erie, PA 16510	814-898-4200	\$12,400,000.00	www.eriezconstruction.com
Seaway Manufacturing Corporation	2250 E 33rd St, Erie, PA 16510	814-898-	\$9,000,000.00	www.seawaymfg.com

		2255		
McCreary Roofing Co	1404 East Ave, Erie, PA 16503	814- 452- 2640	\$8,920,000.00	www.mccrearyroofing.com
Tool-All Inc	2053 E 30th St, Erie, PA 16510	814- 898- 3917	\$8,300,000.00	www.toolall.com
Penn Beer Co	1825 E 12th St, Erie, PA 16511	814- 454- 1578	\$5,760,000.00	pennbeercompany.com
Alex Roofing Co Inc	1644 E 12th St, Erie, PA 16511	814- 452- 2539	\$5,670,000.00	alexroofing.com
Paragon Print Systems Inc	2021 Paragon Dr, Erie, PA 16510	888- 237- 8525	\$4,770,000.00	www.printparagon.com
Spiral Stairs of America	2146 E 17th St, Erie, PA 16510	814- 898- 3700	\$4,680,000.00	www.spiralstairsofamerica.com
Lamjen Inc	2254 E 30th St, Erie, PA 16510	814- 459- 5277	\$4,000,000.00	www.lamjen.com
Braendel Painting & Services Inc	2325 Broad St, Erie, PA 16503	814- 459- 2856	\$3,900,000.00	www.braendelservices.com
Ace Viking Electric Motor Co	2222 E 30th St, Erie, PA 16510	814- 897- 9445	\$3,420,000.00	aceviking.com
Erie Hard Chrome Inc	1570 E 12th St, Erie, PA 16511	814- 459- 5114	\$2,680,000.00	
iuvo BioScience	2205 E 33rd St, Erie, PA 16510	814- 899- 4500	\$1,980,000.00	iuvobioscience.com
Leo's Pneumatics & Hydraulics	1821 Franklin Ave, Erie, PA 16510	814- 899- 0271	\$1,600,000.00	lph-inc.com
St. James Manor	2611 Pearl Ave, Erie, PA 16510	814- 899- 6714	\$1,500,000.00	www.altairre.com
Erie Wood Products	1835 E 12th St, Erie, PA 16511	814- 452- 4961	\$1,400,000.00	www.eriewoodproducts.com

Smock & Schonthal Industrial	2320 Warfel Ave, Erie, PA 16503	814-456-4222	\$1,100,000.00	www.sandsinsulation.com
Select-Tron Industries Inc	1946 E 12th St, Erie, PA 16511	814-459-0904	\$1,000,000.00	www.select-tron.com
Danser Collision Inc.	1824 E 12th St, Erie, PA 16511	814-459-4528	\$973,386.00	www.autobody-review.com
Kendall Auto Parts Inc	1561 E 12th St, Erie, PA 16511	814-456-7075	\$772,177.00	www.kendallautoparts.com
Durst Warehouse	1913 Commercial St, Erie, PA 16503	814-480-8166	\$591,994.00	dursttrucking.com
Sigma Tool & Machining Inc	2130 Warfel Ave, Erie, PA 16503	814-455-7500	\$535,759.00	
McInnes Rolled Rings	1533 E 12th St, Erie, PA 16511	814-459-4495	\$525,488.00	mcinnesrolledrings.com
Billyums Deli	1918 Buffalo Rd, Erie, PA 16510	814-899-6246	\$500,000.00	
Advantage Auto Stores	2629 Buffalo Rd, Erie, PA 16510	814-899-2265	\$400,000.00	www.hahnauto.com
H & L Supplies Inc	1043 E 20th St, Erie, PA 16503	814-459-7849	\$340,000.00	
Erie Discount Beer	1922 Buffalo Rd, Erie, PA 16510	814-456-2337	\$332,388.00	
Dusckas Funeral Home	2607 Buffalo Rd, Erie, PA 16510	814-899-7656	\$271,527.00	www.dusckasfuneralhome.com
Gary's Variety	2521 Buffalo Rd, Erie, PA 16510	814-899-4901	\$230,000.00	
Mike's Team Apparel	1917 Camphausen Ave, Erie, PA 16510	814-459-5923	\$220,000.00	
Buffalo Speed Check	2267 Buffalo Rd,	814-	\$172,013.00	

	Erie, PA 16510	899-1999		
Advance Custom Chrome	2011 E 30th St, Erie, PA 16510	814-899-1233	\$160,000.00	www.advancedcustomchrome.com
Baumann Brothers Carpetowne Flooring America	1404 E 12th St, Erie, PA 16503	844-757-0705	\$160,000.00	
A & W Garage	1458 E 19th St, Erie, PA 16503	814-455-4801	\$147,111.00	
FMC Measurement Solutions	1645 McClelland Ave, Erie, PA 16510	814-898-5000	\$146,000.00	fmctechnologies.com
Randy's Auto Repair	2206 Buffalo Rd, Erie, PA 16510	814-899-0611	\$120,000.00	
American Legion	1938 Buffalo Rd, Erie, PA 16510	814-898-0410	\$120,000.00	
Dawson Barber & Beauty	1318 Buffalo Rd, Erie, PA 16503	814-452-2545	\$90,580.00	
Daisy Buchanan Hair & Nail	1358 Buffalo Rd, Erie, PA 16503	814-452-4624	\$55,399.00	
Beautiful Nails	2519 Buffalo Rd, Erie, PA 16510	814-898-0485	\$49,009.00	
My Sister's Closet	2212 Broad St, Erie, PA 16503	814-455-5059	\$45,000.00	www.mysisterscloset.com
Bubble Boyz Car Wash LLC	1403 Fairmont Pkwy, Erie, PA 16503	814-456-8600	\$31,030.00	
Instyle Nails	2232 Broad St, Erie, PA 16503	814-454-1831	\$16,120.00	
Rose Beauty & Fashion	2240 Broad St, Erie, PA 16503	814-452-0882	\$0.00	
Independent Muffler & Brake	2223 Broad St, Erie, PA 16503	814-454-	\$0.00	

		2434		
Acme Restaurant	2301 Broad St, Erie, PA 16503	814- 455- 3129	\$0.00	
Erie Auto Sales	1505 Buffalo Rd, Erie, PA 16510	814- 459- 4309	\$0.00	
Star Club	2104 Warfel Ave, Erie, PA 16503	814- 459- 4305	\$0.00	
Rivera's Plumbing	2223 Warfel Ave, Erie, PA 16503		\$0.00	
Cutters Choice	2008 E 33rd St, Erie, PA 16510	814- 898- 1629	\$0.00	www.cutterschoice.com
Reddog Industries	2012 E 33rd St, Erie, PA 16510	814- 898- 4321	\$0.00	www.reddog-erie.com
YRC Freight	3111 McCain Ave, Erie, PA 16510	814- 898- 3100	\$0.00	yrc.com
Zeyon, Incorporated	3408 McClelland Ave, Erie, PA 16510	814- 899- 3311	\$0.00	www.zeyon.com
Filtrona Plastics, LLC	2614 McClelland Ave, Erie, PA 16510	814- 899- 7671	\$0.00	
Iglesia de Dios de la Profecia	2523 McClelland Ave, Erie, PA 16510	814- 899- 2160	\$0.00	
Alliance Express	2221 E 26th St, Erie, PA 16510	800- 899- 9440	\$0.00	www.alliance-express.com
New Concept Car Wash & East Erie Mini Storage	2522 McClelland Ave, Erie, PA 16510	814- 899- 7177	\$0.00	
Detail By Norm	2419 E 26th St, Erie, PA 16510	814- 899- 2174	\$0.00	
Community Marketing & Management	1854 E 26th St, Erie, PA 16510	814- 825- 7342	\$0.00	
Jack Frost Doughnut	2119 Buffalo Rd,	814-	\$0.00	

Shop	Erie, PA 16510	898-0403		
Long's School of Dance	2640 E 38th St, Erie, PA 16510	814-899-1722	\$0.00	
Harborcreek Family Physicians	2 Buffalo Rd, Erie, PA 16510	814-877-5100	\$0.00	www.upmc.com
Post Legion	1951 Buffalo Rd, Erie, PA 16510		\$0.00	
Henry Lee's	1825 Buffalo Rd, Erie, PA 16510	814-899-4149	\$0.00	
Ada Automotive Sales	1435 Buffalo Rd, Erie, PA 16503	814-528-5220	\$0.00	
Harborcreek Family Physicians	2 Buffalo Rd, Erie, PA 16510	814-877-5100	\$0.00	www.upmc.com
Liberty Iron and Metal Erie	1431 East Ave, Erie, PA 16503	814-452-4549	\$0.00	
BASF Corporation	1729 East Ave, Erie, PA 16503	814-453-7186	\$0.00	www.basf.com
Erie Mill & Press Co Inc	953 E 12th St, Erie, PA 16503	814-454-1581	\$0.00	www.empco-inc.com
Geosource	1631 East Ave, Erie, PA 16503	814-455-1700	\$0.00	www.recycleitnow.com
Cooper's Auto Body	1120 Buffalo Rd, Erie, PA 16503	814-452-2463	\$0.00	
Potratz Floral Shop & Greenhouses, Inc.	1418 Buffalo Rd, Erie, PA 16503	814-454-1549	\$0.00	www.potratz.com
Rainbow Connection Thrift Str	1516 Buffalo Rd, Erie, PA 16510	814-453-4080	\$0.00	
Bishops Institute Applied Science	1129 Pennsylvania Ave, Erie, PA 16503	814-874-3091	\$0.00	

T & M Automotive Services	1306 E 12th St, Erie, PA 16503	814-459-6717	\$0.00	
Airgas Store	1326 E 12th St, Erie, PA 16503	814-456-5311	\$0.00	locations.airgas.com
U-Pack	1815 E 12th St, Erie, PA 16511	844-611-4582	\$0.00	www.upack.com
WP\$E	Downing Ave, Erie, PA 16511		\$0.00	
NILCO - Erie	2001 E 12th St, Erie, PA 16511	800-333-9352	\$0.00	www.nilco.net
Erie Iron Works	1709 Franklin Ave, Erie, PA 16510	814-899-6320	\$0.00	erieironworks.com
Main Street Disocunts	2203 June St, Erie, PA 16510	814-490-9082	\$0.00	
ABC Supply Co., Inc.	1702 Wagner Ave, Erie, PA 16510	814-898-1672	\$0.00	www.abcsupply.com
Bogeys	2107 Buffalo Rd, Erie, PA 16510		\$0.00	
METROPLEX BAR	1843 Buffalo Rd, Erie, PA 16510		\$0.00	
C S X Transportation	1520 Downing Ave, Erie, PA 16511	814-456-0028	\$0.00	
Dean Transportation Inc	2315 Buffalo Rd, Erie, PA 16510	814-899-4972	\$0.00	
Bargain Outlet	2026 Broad St #300, Erie, PA 16503	814-456-0434	\$0.00	www.bargain-outlets.com
JKBB Inc	2036 Broad St, Erie, PA 16503	814-455-0500	\$0.00	
Perry Plaza	2202 Broad St, Erie, PA 16503		\$0.00	
San Juan United Methodist Church	1430 Buffalo Rd, Erie, PA 16503	814-455-	\$0.00	www.umc.org

		6326		
Ettwein Service Station	2505 Buffalo Rd, Erie, PA 16510	814- 899- 3291	\$0.00	
Barber National Institute - Club Erie East	1358 E 12th St, Erie, PA 16503	814- 878- 4121	\$0.00	www.barberinstitute.org
Executive Office Solutions	1744 Linwood Ave, Erie, PA 16510	972- 534- 7821	\$0.00	executiveoffice.webs.com
Little Caesars Pizza	2212 Broad St, Erie, PA 16503	814- 455- 0471	Chain	www.littlecaesars.com
Country Fair, Inc	2251 E 30th St, Erie, PA 16510	814- 898- 1111	Chain	www.countryfairstores.com
MetroPCS Authorized Dealer	2228 Broad St, Erie, PA 16503	814- 315- 9351	Chain	www.metropcs.com
Little Caesars Pizza	2212 Broad St, Erie, PA 16503	814- 455- 0471	Chain	www.littlecaesars.com
Mt Ebal Baptist Church	1617 E 26th St, Erie, PA 16510	814- 454- 7374	Faith	
Saint James Roman Catholic Church	2635 Buffalo Rd, Erie, PA 16510	814- 899- 6178	Faith	www.saintjamesrcc.org
Apostolic Church-Jesus Christ	1962 Buffalo Rd, Erie, PA 16510	814- 899- 7663	Faith	www.achurchojc.com
New Life & Spiritual Revival	2230 Broad St # I, Erie, PA 16503	814- 790- 4989	Faith	
First Born Apostolic Church	1221 E 19th St, Erie, PA 16503	814- 456- 5829	Faith	
Morning Star Baptist Church	1225 E 20th St, Erie, PA 16503	814- 455- 5261	Faith	
Henderson United Methodist Church	2004 Camphausen Ave, Erie, PA 16510	814- 453- 6041	Faith	www.hendersonunitedmethodistcl
Abundant Life Church of Erie	2247 E 19th St, Erie, PA 16510	814- 898- 2638	Faith	alcoe.org

St James Place	2622 Buffalo Rd, Erie, PA 16510	814- 898- 1182	Faith	www.saintjamesrcc.org
Mt Pleasant Baptist Church	1813 Schaal Ave, Erie, PA 16510	814- 459- 7493	Faith	
Church of Christ	2313 Bird Dr, Erie, PA 16510	814- 898- 3168	Faith	
Gary's Auto Services & Sales	1110 Buffalo Rd, Erie, PA 16503	814- 456- 6877	Faith	
Erie City Memorials	2515 Buffalo Rd, Erie, PA 16510	814- 898- 0709	Faith	www.ericsonmemorials.com
Citi Trends	2026 Broad St #200, Erie, PA 16503	814- 878- 5893	National	locations.cititrends.com
Save-A-Lot	2026 Broad St, Erie, PA 16503	814- 455- 1480	National	stores.save-a-lot.com
CVS	1407 Buffalo Rd, Erie, PA 16503	814- 451- 0937	National	www.cvs.com
AutoZone	2119 Broad St, Erie, PA 16503	814- 453- 2653	National	locations.autozone.com
FAMILY DOLLAR	2226 Broad St, Erie, PA 16503	814- 454- 4156	National	www.familydollar.com
Citi Trends	2026 Broad St #200, Erie, PA 16503	814- 878- 5893	National	locations.cititrends.com
H&R Block	2234-4 Broad St, Erie, PA 16510	814- 456- 8969	National	www.hrblock.com
KC International Foods	2122 Buffalo Rd, Erie, PA 16510	814- 616- 0168	New American	
RAJ FOOD MART	2036 Broad St, Erie, PA 16503	814- 454- 4114	New American	
St James School	2602 Buffalo Rd, Erie, PA 16510	814- 899- 3429	School	www.stjameserie.com
Diehl Elementary School	2327 Fairmont Pkwy, Erie, PA 16510	814- 874-	School	www.eriesd.org

		6585		
Wine & Spirits Stores	2208 Broad St, Erie, PA 16503	814- 871- 4824	State	www.finewineandgoodspirits.com

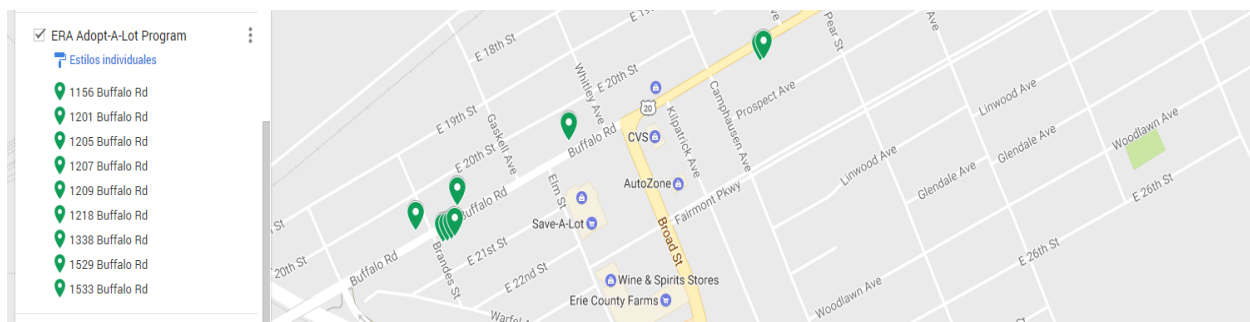
Public Housing in the neighborhood

The neighborhood that the Eastside Grassroots Coalition encompasses has a high number of public housing units. The types of housing units vary widely from the scattered public housing that is more apparent and concentrated south of Buffalo Rd. Much of this housing is located on Woodlawn Ave and Glendale Ave. North of Buffalo Rd, there is a large amount of public housing apartments. Below is a chart of the large public housing projects in the area.

Name	Location	Number of Units	Types of Units
Harbor Homes	Buffalo Rd & Downing Ave	224	One- to three-bedroom apartments
Harbor Homes Annex	E 18 th and Thompson St	121	One-, three-, four-, and five-bedroom apartments
Eastbrook	East 19 th St and Whitley Ave	50	Two- to six-bedroom apartments
Bird Drive	Bird Dr and Pearl St	50	Two to four-bedroom apartments

Maps

Adopt-A-Lot Program Lots



Properties (Left to right):

- 1156 Buffalo Rd.



○

- 1201, 1205, 1207, 1209 Buffalo Rd.



○



- 1218 Buffalo Rd.



-
- 1338 Buffalo Rd.



- 1529 Buffalo Rd.



○

- 1533 Buffalo Rd.



○

- 1356 Buffalo Rd.





-
- 1820 Schaal Ave.





-
- 1943 Buffalo Rd.





-
- 1945 Fairmont Parkway



○

Other Potential Streetscape Improvements

- Plaza near Buffalo Rd. & Broad St.



○



○



○

- Lot across from JFK Center on Buffalo Rd.



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○



○



○

- Former Harlin Day Care Center



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- Western edge of Buffalo Rd.



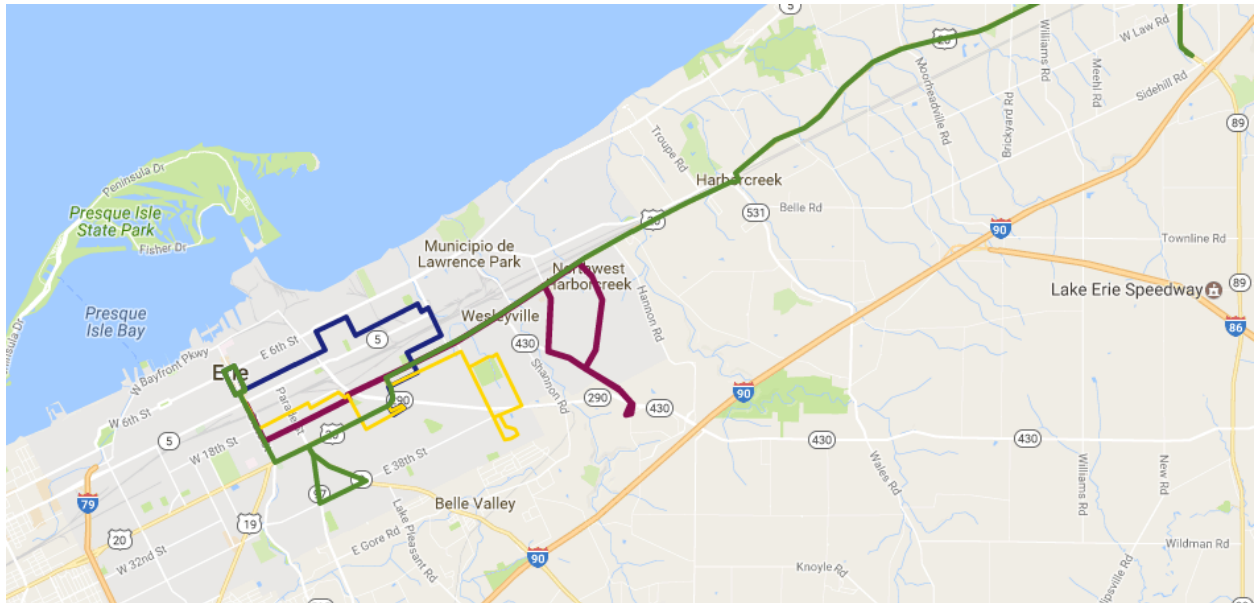
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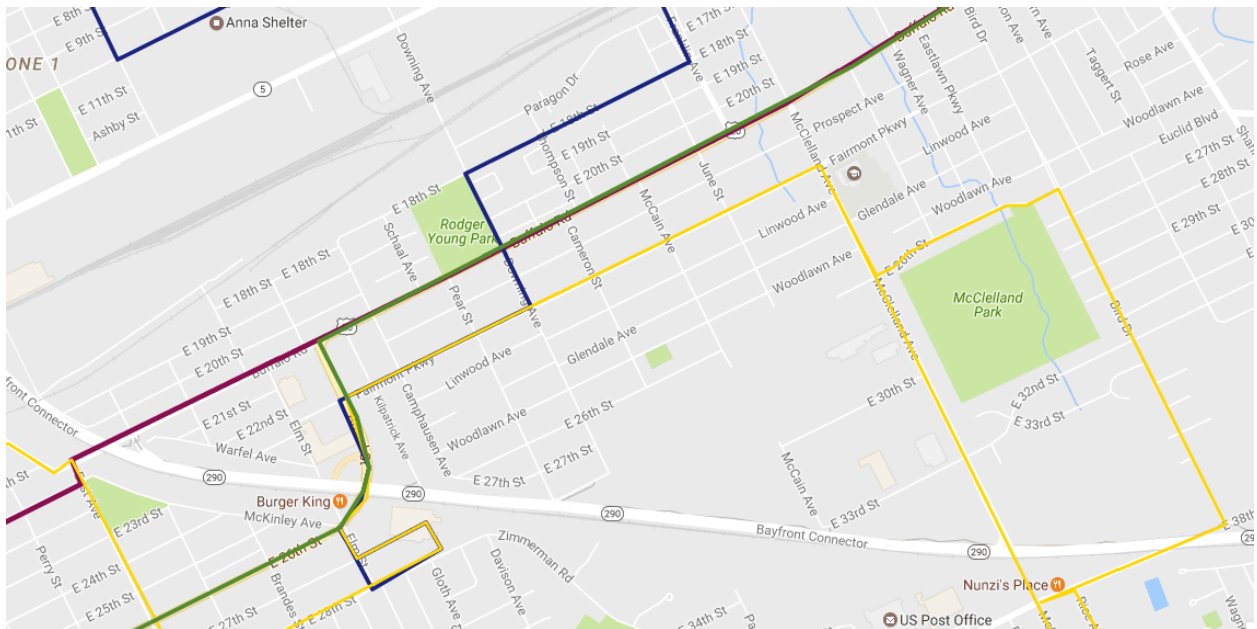
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EMTA Bus Routes

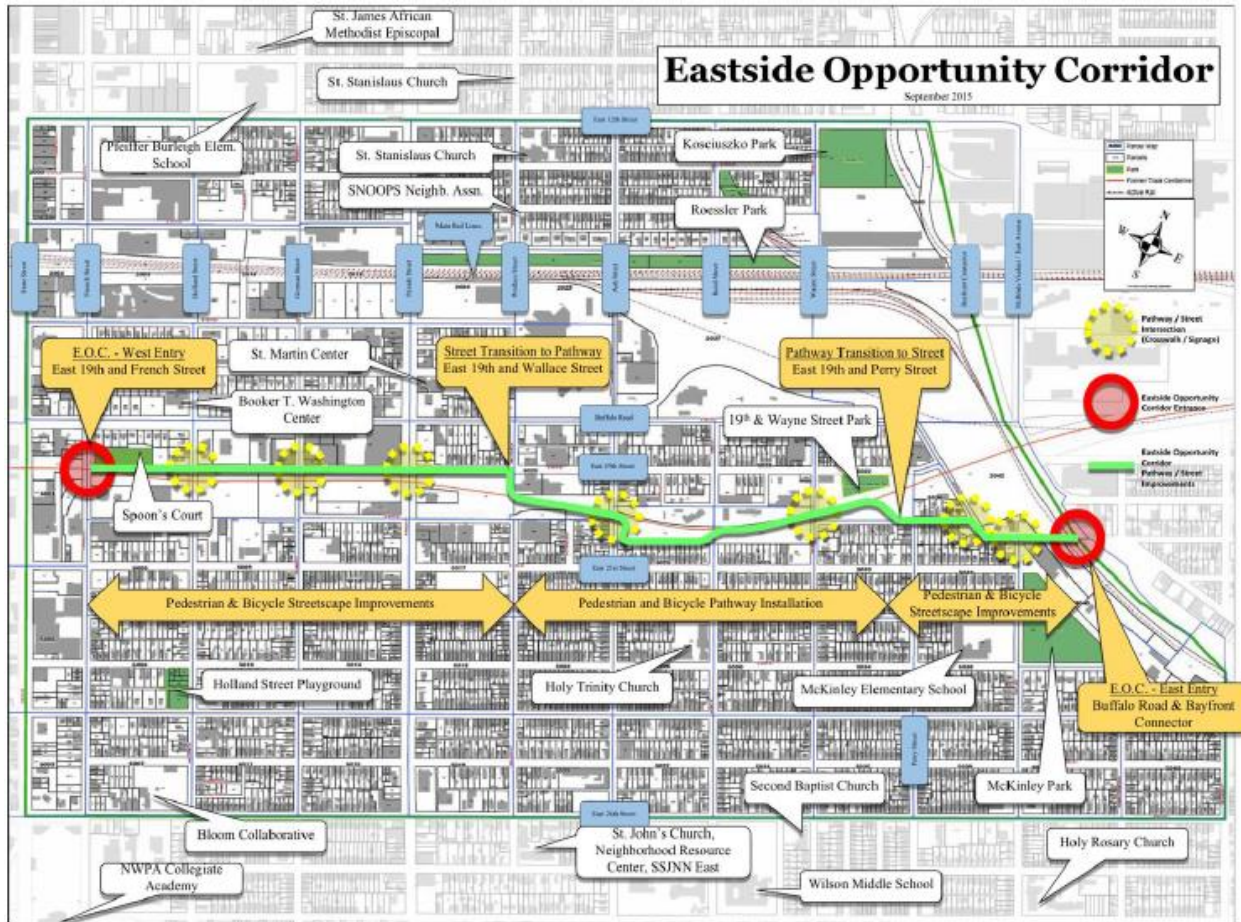
- Key:
 - Purple: Route 25
 - Blue: Route 22
 - Yellow: Route 24
 - Green: Route 16



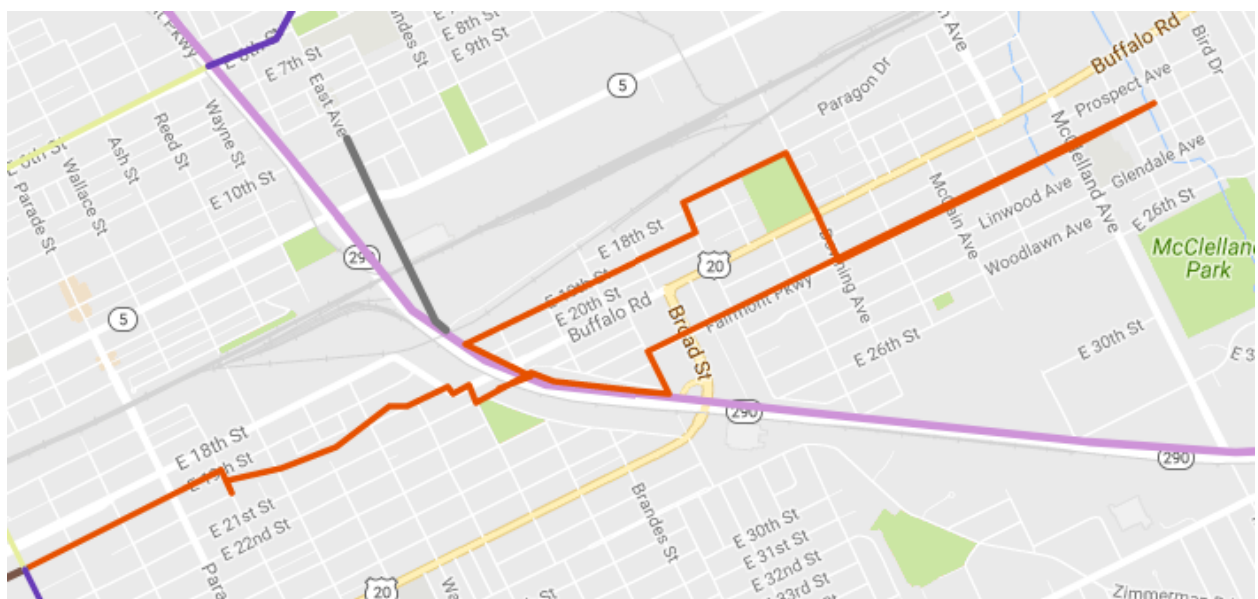
EMTA Bus Routes (Zoomed in)



Map of Eastside Opportunity Corridor

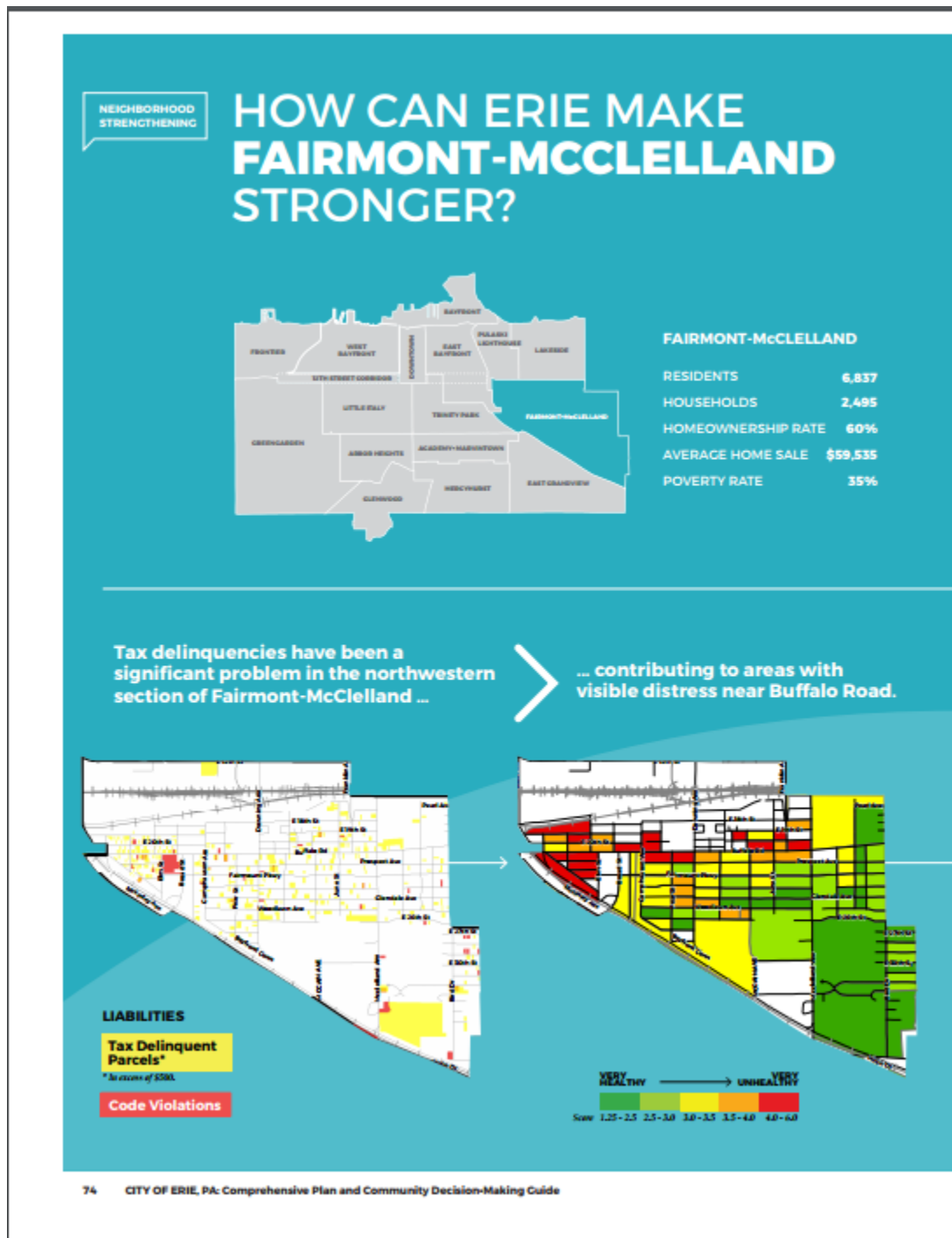


Potential for expansion of Eastside Opportunity Corridor into the neighborhood



Relevant Data from Recent Studies:

Erie Comprehensive Plan:



COST EFFECTIVELY INTERVENING IN THE FAIRMONT-MCCLELLAND PLANNING AREA

Use code enforcement and aggressive blight mitigation to reduce visible signs of distress in transitional areas between Buffalo Road and Fairmont Parkway.

Demolish blighted tax-foreclosed homes when opportunities arise.

Work with owners of commercial properties on Broad Street near Buffalo Road to update and beautify their highly visible properties.

Provide financial incentives and support for home improvements on blocks with high potential for return on investment and coordinate with improvements to streets, sidewalks, and trees.

Invest in further beautification of the median-lined Fairmont Parkway and engage residents in its upkeep.

Implement the 2010 master plan for improvements at McClelland Park.

WHERE TO START WORKING



But conditions improve to the south and west, with many blocks featuring market conditions that reward reinvestment ...



Blocks where investment yields higher value
See Appendix J, Data Notes, pg 105.



... and assets that can be leveraged to boost pride and confidence.



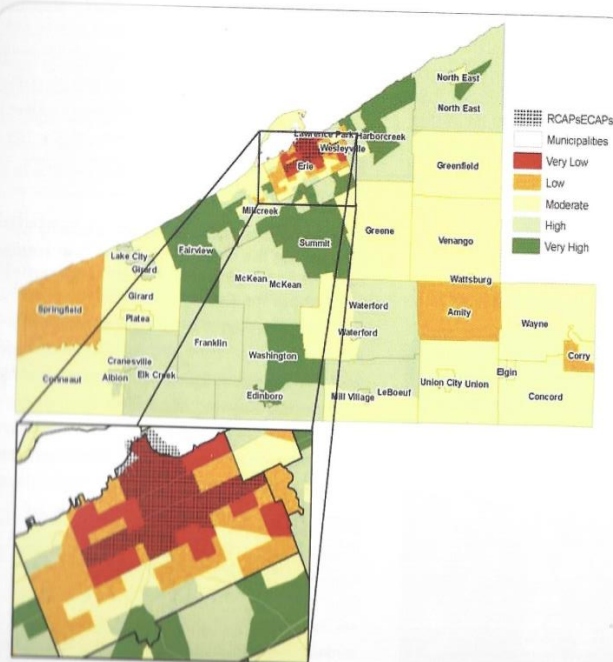
ASSETS

- Historic Assets
- Schools (Open)

Destination Erie Plan (2014)

Access to Opportunity

This map is a composite of the access to opportunity in Erie County. Access to opportunity is a fair housing and community development framework that assigns each neighborhood a score reflecting the degree to which its residents have access to factors that contribute to positive life outcomes, such as high-performing schools, employment rates, educational attainment, proximity to jobs, transit, and the absence health hazards. RCAPS and ECAPS are areas of racial or ethnic concentrations of poverty. Credit: Mullin & Lonergan Associates.



City of Erie
Neighborhood Initiatives

The map displays the following initiatives:

- Erie Downtown Partnership/ Main Street Program** (Red outline)
- Our West Bayfront** (Black outline)
- SSJ West Service Area** (Purple outline)
- SSJ West/ Elm Street Designation** (Purple outline)
- SSJ East** (Green outline)
- Shops/ Elm Street Designation** (Orange outline)
- BEST** (Blue outline)

Source: City of Erie

44

Action Plan

Actions taken by the Eastside Grassroots Coalition should be based on the guiding principles, vision statement, residents' priorities, data on the neighborhood, and available funds. Residents' priorities are street safety—lighting, sidewalk maintenance, biking, etc.--, neighborhood safety/crime, opportunity for young adults/jobs, and vacant lots/blight. These priorities come from the second meeting (see appendix for meeting notes) while the guiding principles, vision statement, and data on the neighborhood were presented in the introduction and needs sections. Available funds outside of the Erie Community Foundation grant are currently unknown. The recommendations in the following paragraphs are based on looking at what other neighborhood initiatives have been successful at, reviewing plans like Erie Refocused and Destination Erie, and other research on census data and community planning. This action plan and larger report should be a living document and act simply as a baseline for actions rather than a list of actions set in stone. Further research on the neighborhood and opinions on experts in the field of community development are a must for the success of the project. Plans for the project should change based on changing conditions and opportunities in the neighborhood. Any action taken will need community support and it is crucial that residents be involved both in the core committee and through future meetings both large forums and smaller, specific area meetings.

The decision of where to begin making concerted efforts is a crucial decision for the future of this project. The Erie Comprehensive Plan, despite common misconceptions, gives this neighborhood some reasonable steps to take to address the specific needs of this neighborhood while also recognizing ways to improve its assets. The ideal way to mix both what the comprehensive plan calls for and what residents want is to focus on the Buffalo Rd. corridor. There is significant potential that can be taken advantage of if a smart, concentrated effort is made to both invest in distressed properties and to also work with business areas to improve their properties. Any type of investment should also consider collaborative efforts with organizations that are not directly involved in the project. In the western part of the effort, the Eastside Grassroots Coalition should work with the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network and their effort in the Eastside Opportunity Corridor (see Eastside Opportunity Corridor map). In the eastern part of the effort on Buffalo Rd, the Coalition should work closely with the JFK Center as they look to improve their lot across from the center. Buffalo Rd. logistically makes the most sense for this project to concentrate early efforts and can expand anticipated successes to the blocks to the immediate north and south of the route.

The Erie Comprehensive Plan gives an excellent blueprint for how a neighborhood project should proceed in improving the neighborhood. The plan offers itself as a valuable tool that this project should not dismiss because it does not agree with the process of data

collection or what is perceived as a focus on other areas rather than this specific area. When actually going into detail on what the plan calls for with the work of not-for-profit organizations as well as neighborhood by neighborhood strategies, it is actually an excellent document that this project should refer back to as much as possible. Focusing on how this collaborative effort fit in with the larger Erie Comprehensive Plan was a key reason why the Helping Today grant was successful. This report is also much better served for having access to this analysis than if there was no such document. To disregard the suggested strategies given in the document would be a disservice to this project and this neighborhood. These strategies can be found on page 75 of the plan. The suggestions most relevant to this project are “use code enforcement and aggressive blight mitigation to reduce visible signs of distress in transitional areas between Buffalo Road and Fairmont Parkway”, “work with owners of commercial properties on Broad Street near Buffalo Road to update and beautify their highly visible properties”, and “provide financial incentives and support for home improvements on blocks with high potential for return on investment and coordinate with improvements to streets, sidewalks, and trees” (Erie Comprehensive Plan 75). This strategy falls in line with what residents list as a priority under street safety and the number of vacant lots and blight. A cohesive strategy that focuses on these areas while also advocating for greater opportunities for this neighborhood’s young adults is a winning strategy.

One way to combine some of the plan with what the residents want is to take advantage of the Adopt-A-Lot properties that the Erie Redevelopment Authority owns. The map of page 75 of the plan that includes “Blocks where investment yields higher value” should also be taken into consideration to find the right combination of lots that can be utilized from the Redevelopment Authority and proximity to Buffalo Rd. It is important to have any action that is taken align with a larger, cohesive plan of concentrated effort along the Buffalo Rd. corridor.

This then brings into account what the Erie Comprehensive plan says about the role of the not-for-profit sector in neighborhood revitalization. On page 35 of the plan, there is specific recognition of the work that the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network is doing in Erie as a model to be followed. The Comprehensive Plan notes, “The SSJNN, operating in Little Italy, focuses its housing revitalization activities in concentrated areas near citywide assets and prioritizes beautification and blight remediation efforts along high-visibility corridors” (35). The SSJNN has a concentrated effort on West 18th St. starting on Sassafras St. to the east up to about Liberty St. in the west. Much of the work that is done includes beautification including the planting of trees along the road and community gardens. They appear able to leverage work with other organizations along this road such as Arnone’s, International Bakery and Ruiz’s barber shop as well as non-profits like the Bethesda Community Place. There also appears to be a recent public housing development done by hands that greatly improves the aesthetics along West 18th St. Some of the work done includes murals that highlights the neighborhood’s history

as well as its current diversity (see appendix for photos). The Neighborhood Network mentions that they got the idea from the Philadelphia Mural Department projects (see “Philly Porch Light folder for more info). The SSJNN is one example in Erie that the Eastside Grassroots Coalition can learn from and apply to the unique assets and circumstances in our own neighborhood.

The SSJNN’s work in the Little Italy neighborhood shows why Buffalo Rd. can be the greatest asset to this project. The project should utilize the combination of the six Adopt-A-Lot sites, small businesses such as Potratz Floral shop and Erie County Farms, dilapidated properties such as Harlin Day Care Center, and various other properties as a way to show progress. Visible progress on the numerous empty lots and Harlin Day Care Center will create buy-in from residents that things are improving in their neighborhood. Increased promotion of businesses like Erie County Farms and Potratz Floral shop falls in line with the Eastside Grassroots Coalition’s guiding principles. The Eastside Grassroots Coalition could also attempt to levy funds to improve the business district in this area in a similar way that the East Mount Airy neighborhood in Philadelphia did to their Wadsworth Rd. district as a way to stabilize the neighborhood (Smith 13). A combination of tax credit funding from the Eastside Grassroots Coalition to the Adopt-A-Lot properties and home improvement funds to properties in the immediate vicinity in conjunction with funds from the city is the type of concentrated investment that could spark improvements that would reverberate throughout the greater neighborhood.

This plan should also emphasize the local small businesses, non-profits, and religious institutions that are located along Buffalo Rd. There is potential to create a network of these organizations that can create a mutually beneficial relationship. Some of these locations include Jack Frost Donuts, KC International Food store, Apostolic Church of Christ, JFK Center, United Methodist Alliance Ministries’ Thrift Shop, San Juan United Methodist Church, and Potratz Floral Shop. This would also include the larger businesses located just off of Buffalo Rd including the newly reopened Erie County Farms and Braendel’s Painting and Home Remodeling Services. While these organizations might not be large enough to provide funding through the Neighborhood Assistance Tax Credit Program, they offer vital assets to the community and their continued success falls in line with the guiding principles of the Coalition.

The project must also be able to incorporate the work being done by other neighborhood revitalization projects. By looking at the City of Erie’s neighborhood initiatives map, we can see that there are various projects going on just west of the Eastside Grassroots Coalition’s area of focus. The Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network east and the SNOOPS neighborhood are located very close to ours. Our project should explore initiatives that could potentially cross over the connector and benefit both neighborhoods. One of these initiatives is the Eastside Opportunity Corridor (see maps on pg. 31). According to the project’s plan, “The

EOC is a collaborative approach calling upon local governments, neighborhood residents, local businesses, and experts in the field of architecture and community development to transform the former rail line into a connector to area parks, neighborhoods, businesses, and community developments” (“EOC Strategic Plan” 10). The map of the corridor shows that the east entry is along the Bayfront Connector near Buffalo Rd. Therefore, there is an overlap in the interest of the two projects. In fact, the plan calls for “a future expansion eastward over the Bayfront Connector, along or near Buffalo Road” (“EOC Strategic Plan” 6). A collaborative effort could bike lanes/paths accessible to the area and allow residents easier access across the connector to various parks and the opportunity to get to various parts of the city without a vehicle, an issue of importance considering the number of residents in the neighborhood who do not have access to a car. This would also fall in line with the transportation guiding principle of creating multi-modal street design. The Eastside Opportunity Corridor along with the SSJNN East presents one potential area of direct collaboration on a project that would bring mutual benefit to the neighborhoods on either side of the Bayfront Connector.

Collaboration with other neighborhood initiatives happening in the city of Erie is critical to the success of the Eastside Grassroots Coalition. One of the avenues that can improve this collaboration is to utilize the AmeriCorps VISTAs at each neighborhood initiative site. In the coming year, there will be a VISTA at BEST, Our West Bayfront, Emerge 2040, UECD, and the House of Mercy. From personal experience, it is very easy for the VISTAs to be able to collaborate together. It should be possible for the VISTAs at these sites to meet at least once a month to give updates about how their respective neighborhood initiatives are going and be able to act as the middlemen between the site supervisors of these initiatives.

Lastly, the Eastside Grassroots Coalition should work as an advocacy group to work to advance the interests and needs of the residents. Advocacy work is a big avenue to be able to improve the opportunities for young adults and help them to find good paying jobs. This can include advocating for initiatives such as the effort to get a community college in Erie, fair funding for Erie’s public schools, bringing Youth Build to Erie, and working with local unions to get young adults employed. Two of the times where residents were most interested and engaged came when Markus Hollinsworth discussed the potential for jobs through the Steamfitters Union and when the Erie Public Schools board members discussed changes to the schools (see appendix for notes). Opportunities to bring leaders in the community like union leaders or school board members so that residents can listen and meet with them can be a way to continue community engagement. This work combined with efforts that show tangible, visible improvements to the neighborhood will get sustained and improved community engagement.

Advocacy efforts would also include working with the EMTA to get more bus shelters in the most heavily used bus stops in the neighborhood, advocating to PennDOT for bike lanes, and working with the city to improve street lighting. Some of this work is also occurring like the group meeting with Chris Mong and Allison Schmidt to discuss possible actions the city can take in the neighborhood like tearing down Harlin day care center. The group is also working with Sam Miller to advocate to the Department of Environmental Protection for better enforcement of air quality regulations against the Coke Plant and other industries to protect the health of residents. The EGC could also look to work with other advocacy groups like BikeErie and the Sierra Club to advance the work already being done in the neighborhood. Becoming a strong advocate and voice for the residents will continue to be an important part of the work of the EGC and will continuously need to get the input of the residents to make sure that the EGC is adequately working on behalf of the residents.

Works Cited

- “Eastside Opportunity Corridor Strategic Plan”. Eastside Opportunity Corridor. 20 June 2016. Web. 15 May 2017.
- “Erie Comprehensive Plan”. CZB Consulting Firm. Mar 2016. Web. 1 May 2017.
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Appendix

1-19-17 Neighborhood Meeting Timeline

6:15-6:40pm sign-in and handing out of pizza and drinks

6:40-6:55pm Welcome and Introduction by Gary Horton and Sr. Michele Schroeck

- ▶ Why Buffalo Rd. Community Vision? Why now?
 - We see a need
 - Erie Refocused Comprehensive Plan
 - focus on downtown and surrounding neighborhoods
 - Strong Community Agency Support
 - Erie Neighborhoods we can learn from

6:55-7:10pm Setting the context: explanation of project scope and timeline by Paul Cancilla and introduction to neighborhood vision and questions by Emily Miller Cook

- ▶ Explanation and geographic scope of other neighborhood initiatives
- ▶ Project timeline from January until July
- ▶ Vision:
 - What neighbors value most and the shared image of what they want their community to become
 - Inspiration
 - Planning
 - Resources
 - Action

7:10-7:40pm Small group discussions about the three questions about the neighborhood

- ▶ What do you value most about your neighborhood?
- ▶ What are the most important issues facing your neighborhood?
- ▶ Imagine the neighborhood 5-10 years from now... all of the important issues you mentioned have been addressed... What is different? What do you see, feel, hear, smell...
 - ▶ Meeting was broke into four smaller groups with between 10 to 15 people per group
 - ▶ Each group discussed each question for about 10 minutes but also discussed things as the pertained to the neighborhood in general

7:40-7:55pm Report back and review of discussion of each question with the group as a whole

- ▶ Each group discussed what they talked about for each question
- ▶ Group leader was chosen for each
- ▶ Groups asked the core committee to elaborate more about some of the topics
- ▶ Ideas were brought back and forth between the groups.

7:55-8:00pm Residents wrote down their reviews of the meeting and also three residents volunteered to join the sub-committee on the project.

1-19-17 Meeting Group Notes

Group 1

1. What do you value most in your neighborhood?
 - a. Diversity
 - b. Stores
 - c. Community Centers
 - d. Clubs
2. What are the most important issues facing your neighborhood?
 - a. Empty lots
 - b. Lack of opportunities
 - c. Residents need jobs, hobbies, and find things for people to do
 - i. There are a lot of things that need to be done, and there are a lot of kids that need something to do
 - d. High school dropout rate
 - e. Structure, busing services, drivers speeding, no lights, safety is an issue
 - f. Crime rate, noise pollution
 - g. Lack of opportunity for higher education and job training
 - h. Lack of hope
 - i. Can't stay inside with lights on because fear of getting shot
 - j. Littering, abandoned industrial properties, pollution, jobs, illegal dumping, tires, move security cameras, racism.
3. What does your neighborhood look like in 5 to 10 years?
 - a. Peaceful, beautiful, thriving and prosperous
 - b. Smells different
 - c. Bike lanes, soccer fields, recreational areas
 - d. Home ownership, more sidewalks
 - e. Restaurants with healthy food
 - f. Positive conversations with neighbors, laughter, functional democracy, more trees and success

Group 2

1. What do you value most in your neighborhood?
 - a. Community Centers
 - b. Accessible public transportation
 - c. Public housing
 - d. Parks and playgrounds
 - e. Pool
 - f. Faith-based institutions
 - g. Schools
 - h. Policing programs
 - i. Corner stores and shopping centers
 - j. Multi-generational
 - k. Few bars and liquor stores
 - l. Day care centers
 - m. Family doctors
 - n. Diversity and people of different nationalities
 - o. Friendships
2. What are the most important issues facing your neighborhood?
 - a. Safety concern: lack of streetlights
 - b. Access to jobs
 - c. Infrequent transportation outside of peak hours
 - d. Structural year-round activities for youth and young adults ages 18-25
 - e. Job training post-high school, service programs for drop-outs
 - f. Cars speeding on Buffalo Rd., lack of traffic lights and crosswalks
 - g. East Ave. bridge closing has detoured traffic
 - h. Closing of Burton elementary school
 - i. Crime rate
 - j. Housing and commercial zoning
 - k. Environmental concerns: factory emissions, towers, industrial land that is contaminated
 - l. Financial disinvestment
 - m. Lack of entertainment
 - n. Eastside access to peninsula
 - o. Higher Education institution/community college
 - p. Train noise
 - q. Illegal dumping
3. What does your neighborhood look in 5 to 10 years?
 - a. More people walking outside of all ages enjoying the neighborhood
 - b. Positive attitude and uplifting spirit
 - c. Fewer abandoned buildings
 - d. Less crime
 - e. More community involvement and support

- f. More youth employment
- g. Burton school refurbished and reopened for some community use
- h. More entrepreneurs and new businesses
- i. Clean, safe parks and recreational programs
- j. Clean environment with healthy air
- k. Clean streets
- l. More home ownership
- m. More restaurants serving healthy food
- n. Movie theater
- o. Reuse of abandoned industrial buildings
- p. Better relationships between neighbors

Group 3

1. What do you value most in your neighborhood?
 - a. People are friendly and helpful
 - b. Homes
 - c. Parks including Roger Young park, Woodlawn Ave Park
 - d. JFK Center
 - e. Access to stores and pharmacies
2. What are the most important issues facing your neighborhood?
 - a. Littering
 - b. Lack of sidewalks and upkeep of sidewalks
 - c. Lack of streetlights
 - d. Wal-mart and Save-A-Lot
 - e. Illegal dumping
 - f. Speeding drivers
 - g. Empty lots
 - h. Abandoned industrial properties
 - i. Crime
3. What does your neighborhood look like in 5 to 10 years?
 - a. Clean streets and parks
 - b. Houses are fixed up
 - c. Peaceful and beautiful
 - d. Tear down new parkway
 - e. Better curbs and sidewalks
 - f. Bike lanes
 - g. More food options
 - h. Hardware stores
 - i. More entertainment like bowling alleys or public pools
 - j. Library
 - k. More police

I. Better streetlights

Group 4

1. What do you value most in your neighborhood?
 - a. Diversity
 - b. Everyone getting along
 - c. Quiet on East 19th St.
 - d. Things are near by
 - e. Know all neighbors and communicate with one another
 - f. Close to other things
2. What are the most important issues facing the neighborhood?
 - a. Something for kids to do; something to do with their time
 - b. Property neglect and blight
 - c. Empty lots
 - d. Lack of opportunity
3. Where do you see your neighborhood in 5 to 10 years
 - a. Everyone owning home and keeping it up
 - b. More youth centers and churches
 - c. More jobs
 - d. More educational opportunity
 - e. Less blight

Group 5

1. What do you value most in your neighborhood?
 - a. Different age groups
 - b. Young people have good ideas
 - c. Homeowners working on homes as best as they can
 - d. Community centers
 - e. More lighting
 - f. Diversity and residents of different nationalities
 - g. Safer than 10 years ago
 - h. Children
 - i. Churches are trying to make changes
2. What are the most important issues facing the neighborhood?
 - a. Need a community college
 - b. Gun violence
 - c. Hard to find people to do handiwork
 - d. Increased noise pollution
 - e. Nowhere to go for help
 - f. Not inclusive
 - g. Nowhere to hide from bullets

- h. Can't sit in the front living room at night
 - i. Bars are dangerous
 - j. Cars in front of house
 - k. Lack of jobs
 - l. Lack of hope
 - m. People are moving out
 - n. Neighborhood behind the times
 - o. Peer pressure among teens
 - p. Drugs
 - q. Residents living in fear
3. Where do you see your neighborhood in 5 to 10 years?
- a. People reaching out and helping each other
 - b. Having a community college
 - c. People are educated
 - d. Community is proactive
 - e. Everybody is heard
 - f. Outreach programs
 - g. Grocery stores
 - h. Laundromat
 - i. Friendly
 - j. More jobs
 - k. Renovated homes
 - l. Neighborhood restored
 - m. Positive mindset
 - n. Cameras and lighting to curb crime
 - o. Safe
 - p. More people and families moving in
 - q. Quiet and peaceful
 - r. People getting along with each other

February 21 Meeting Notes

Issue rankings (based on sticker votes)

- Street Safety (lighting, bridge closure, sidewalk maintenance, biking, etc.) (18 votes)
- Neighborhood safety & crime (17 votes)
- Opportunities for Young Adults (9 votes)
- Vacant lots/blight (9 votes)
- Jobs (8 votes)
- Illegal dumping and litter (7 votes)
- Road conditions & pot holes (7 votes)

- Employment (6 votes)
- Education w/closing of Burton school plus lack of higher ed opportunities and community college (3 votes)
- Financial disinvestment (2 votes)
- Trees need to be trimmed (2 votes)
- Environmental concerns (2 votes)
- Peer pressure among teens (1 vote)
- Infrequent public transportation/bus shelters (1 vote)
- Not inclusive (1 vote)

Notes from Issue Group Discussions

Jobs Group

- Apprenticeships and trades
 - Steamfitters
 - Welders
 - Machining
 - Auto mechanic
 - Plumbers
 - Electricians
 - Carpentry
- Local union 449—Markus Hollingsworth 814-315-6838
- Career Street Erie
 - Job shadowing opportunities
- Community center car to borrow to get to job/apprenticeship

Neighborhood Safety and Crime

- Idea: Reduce Violence and Crime Prevention
- Who: Law enforcement, parents/youth, community members, schools, community centers/churches
- How: lights, cameras, neighborhood watch, build better relationships, get to know your neighbors, build trust, role models, anger management, conflict resolution programs, faster response times for violent incidents, identify where the weapons are coming from, an initiative to turn in guns without consequences.
- Where: block party/celebration, utilize schools/churches to hold classes and seminars on anger management and conflict resolution

- What can I do on my own?: make a point to introduce ourselves to neighbors we don't know; use positive lyrics and music to engage young people
- Take responsibility
 - Educate our families about community cautions and controlling our emotions
 - Positive attitudes

Blight and vacant lots

- House for rehabs needs
- Lights on June St
- Who owns property and building
- Dumping on empty lots
- Harlin Day Care Center needs to be torn down
- Across from Post #700 there is a house with no roof
- Habitat for humanity
- Better code enforcement
- Why isn't the health department involved?
- Neighborhood Resource Organization w/John Villa

Street Safety

- Traffic lights on Fairmont
- Better coordination between police, community leaders, neighborhood watch, and citizens/residents
- More stop signs?
- Fixing of potholes on Woodlawn, Glendale, Fairmont, and Buffalo Rd.
- More street lights on Fairmont and near JFK Center
- Litter with glass bottles and trash, especially on empty lots and Woodlawn Ave. park
- Better sidewalks
- Street cameras near JFK Center and Woodlawn park

Notes from March 16 Community Forum Meeting

Guiding Principles:

Group 1:

- Promote affordable housing for single families in particular
- Lighting needed to enhance safety

- Enhance the value of education through increased interaction between schools and the community
- More positive activities for community youth that enhance socialization skills and job skills
- Highlighting positive attitudes of the communities and accomplishments of youth to the public including awards and recognition

Group 2

- Peaceful and no crime
- Beautification
- Thriving business sections
- Improving neighborhood relations
- Promoting recreational opportunities in public parks
- Streetscape plan
- Aspirations for the future
- Entrepreneurial opportunities
- Include churches in neighborhoods

Group 3

- Create a positive, collaborative and integrated relationship between police force and the community
- Create a safer, more accessible public transportation system
- Encourage pride in home ownership and neighborhood and park beautification
- Promote community service to assist residents in need of support
 - Connect those who can help with those who need help
- Promote and foster positive community spirit
- Expand employment and entrepreneurial opportunities for local residents
- Welcome diverse viewpoints and perspectives to ensure all voices are heard
- Increase local shopping, entertainment, and recreation options
- Appreciate diversity of residents and embrace and share cultures

Youth Group

- Diversity
 - Culture fair
 - Neighborhood artwork
 - Community building
 - Music

- International markets/restaurants
- Traditional clothing
- Social clubs/halls

Vision Statements

Group 4

- We are a community committed to using local resources and support local business to help us revitalize our neighborhood.
- We seek to revitalize open spaces that have been abandoned, create a community garden, provide safe play areas and better street lighting
- We are a community committed to:
 - Use local resources
 - Habitat for Humanity
 - Bayfront Eastside Taskforce
 - Code enforcement
 - Revitalize
 - More lighting→bright community
 - Burton school turned into trade school
 - Community engagement
 - Using vacant lots→neighborhood revitalization
 - Be more hands on
 - Fixing roads/sidewalks
 - Safe environment
 - Making neighborhood look alive

Group 5

- Peaceful, thriving, uplifting, and fully functional democracy
- One-on-one with our neighbors
- Fellowship more; don't be fearful of one's neighbor
- Less crime
- Better curbs, sidewalks
- Cameras and lighting—very important
- More homeownership
- Grocery store
- More youth employment

- Policing programs
- A peaceful, thriving, watchful community that enables people to engage in their community and with their neighbors, their home owners, churches, parks, and police as well as jobs and businesses.

Group 6

- We see:
 - A positive and uplifting, prosperous community with more homeownership, expanded employment and educational opportunities, and where youth are mentored, valued, and rewarded for meaningful hard work.

Group 7

- The guiding vision to restore the collective attitude that together we can achieve a functional democracy in which residents have a voice and can be heard.
- To organize and educate all neighbors including residents, businesses, and churches
- Build morale and leverage resources
- Less competition; more cooperation—that is what collective attitude means

Group 8

- Neighborhood values diversity where people feel safe and have access to the resources they need to thrive
- Responsive police programs that reflect the diversity and values of the community
- Access to top quality education
- Employment and economy that puts people first
- Positive community engagement resources that includes community centers, churches, parks, and community held activities
- Community programs connecting various groups of positively engaged residents to the community

5-11-17 Community Meeting

Eastside Grassroots Coalition

JFK Center – 6:30 – 8:00pm

Set up – Large map of Eastside Grassroots Coalition was put on display for residents to see and to be referred back to throughout the meeting.

- Residents were given paper that included the Guiding Principles and Vision Statement

6:35-6:55 Welcome & What we have done to date- Sr. Michelle and Gary (Talking Points Attached)

- Gary welcomed the various speakers including Sam Miller from the Sierra Club and two employees of the Erie School District.
- Gary also talked about the energy that is being created from the grassroots effort specifically focusing on youth engagement.
- Sr. Michele presented the talking points that were written prior to the meeting:
 - Thank you for coming! We are excited to keep moving this community improvement process forward and your presence is what makes it possible.
 -
 - Excited to announce we received 12,000 from the Erie Community Foundation for this project, a portion will go to help pay for community mailings and food for our gathering, we will also be able to hire a consultant to help us apply for State physical improvement dollars and hire youth this summer to help map out the neighborhood
 - Since our last meeting we held 2 Community Clean ups
 - April 8 – Clean up around UECD and on Woodlawn with Gannon students and community volunteers
 - April 20 – Global Youth Service Day clean up along Buffalo Rd; youth and community members
 - At our last meeting we worked on identifying what we want our neighborhood to look like and what values will guide the work that we do. The committee took your work consolidated it and we need your feedback to move forward.

6:55-7:15 – Review Guiding Principles and Vision (Emily)

- Various community members spoke and gave their opinions during this section:
 - A suggestion supported by the attendees was to include a statement under “Business and Jobs” section to include “supporting existing business and fostering new businesses”
 - Also wanted to use the term patronage to local businesses
 - Another suggestion was to include specifically “residents” under the “Safety” section
 - For the vision statement, there was a suggestion to add “community-based organizations” as part of the statement.
 - A resident also wanted the saying “This is where we live not where we stay” to be included somewhere

7:15-7:30 – Identifying where we live (need flip charts to record names)

- Suggested names (with number of votes):
 - Eastside Big 3: Buffalo, Bird, Bayfront (1 vote)
 - North-South Buffalo Rd. District (4)
 - The East End Neighborhood (2)

- Roger Young 20 (1)
- East End Big 3, or EEB3 (9)

7:30-7:35 – Vote on Community Name (need stickers for voting)

- East End Big 3, or EEB3, was voted as the most popular with 9 votes in favor

7:35 – Speaker from the School Board

- 2 members from the school board talked to discuss how the elementary, middle, and high school realignments would affect the students in the neighborhood.
- They discussed what the thinking behind the changes was.
- Also discussed how residents could still give their input on things such as staggered start times for the different schools, ways of transporting youth to schools, etc.
 - More research can be done at the Erie School District's website.

7:50 - Next steps: (Paul Announces)

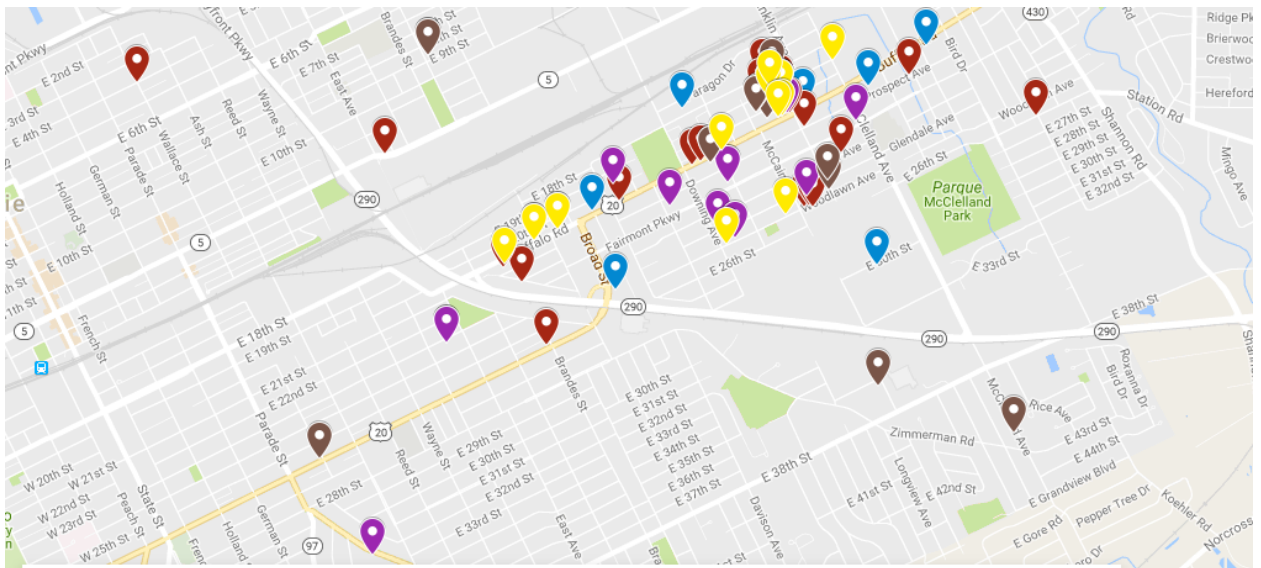
May 20 – Clean up at Roger Young Park

June 13 – Community meeting from 6:30-8pm

August 1 – National Night Out Against Crime at the JFK Center

- Gary also made the point to announce the Erie County Council's meeting on Monday May 15 at East High School. He is planning on taking a bus of students down there and asked residents to also attend the meeting.

- Forum Meeting Attendees (by residents)



Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network in Little Italy:

- Empty lot on 321 W. 18th St.



-
- North Coast Place Apartments (332 W. 18th St.)



- Bethesda Leadership Center (349 W 18th St.)



- • 18th and Chestnut St.—Eastern Side



- 18th and Chestnut—Western Side



-
- 19th & Cherry St.



○

- 18th & Poplar St.



- 18th & Cherry St.



- 540 West 18th St.



-
- Mural at SSJNN Garden & Garden



Examples of Murals from SNOOPS neighborhood:



