

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Mt. Adams Neighborhood Strategic Plan establishes a common vision for the future of Mt. Adams. It provides a practical roadmap for the community and policy direction for City of Cincinnati officials. Every facet of the Mt. Adams community has been involved in developing this collective vision for the neighborhood - including families, the elderly, young professionals, homeowners, renters, business owners, land owners, churches, arts organizations, and City departments.

To position Mt. Adams for future growth it was necessary to undertake a planning process that encourages a balanced community for homeowners, families, renters, businesses, retailers, taverns, restaurants, the arts, and more. This plan builds on the strengths of Mt. Adams and addresses challenges identified by the community. Achievement of any part of the vision and recommendations articulated in this plan will depend largely on the community for implementation.

To begin the community input phase of the planning process, the Steering Committee organized two well-attended Community Workshops in June of 2008 and collected more than 100 additional surveys. Steering Committee members also met with other community-based organizations, businesses, non-profits, and City departments to solicit their thoughts and ideas. The workshops, surveys, and collective community input provided a baseline for the plan and signaled the kick-off of the planning process. The input received provided a shared understanding of community issues and visions for the future. The plan focuses on seven primary community themes:

- Community Life
- Development & Preservation
- Views & Hillside
- Business District
- Parking
- Clean, Safe, & Attractive
- Infrastructure & Utilities

COMMUNITY LIFE

The strength and vibrancy of a neighborhood depends on its people. This plan establishes a vision of Mt. Adams as an attractive place to live for all generations and walks of life. The vision includes increasing opportunities for neighborhood support, communication, and collaboration. The plan also aims to attract and retain families while ensuring older residents can still call Mt. Adams home.



DEVELOPMENT & PRESERVATION

Residents and visitors alike recognize the unique character of Mt. Adams. Eclectic architecture, historic landmarks, inviting streets and sidewalks, a walkable neighborhood business district, Eden Park, arts attractions, and public scenic views are some of the attributes that make Mt. Adams a browsing community. This plan recognizes the importance of the quaint Mt. Adams neighborhood character and the need to preserve this asset in the face of new development. The plan also provides for the preservation of important historic landmarks.

VIEWS & HILLSIDES

Unparalleled views, dramatic hillsides, and abundant green spaces are among Mt. Adams' greatest assets. This plan calls for the preservation of public views so that they can continue to be shared and enjoyed by residents, businesses, and visitors. The plan also identifies means to ensure the stability of hillsides.

BUSINESS DISTRICT

While this plan does not constitute a business plan for the business district, it does acknowledge the important role that businesses play in the community and the current need to revitalize the business district. Recognizing that the Mt. Adams business district is both a local and regional attraction, the plan envisions Mt. Adams as a home for destination restaurants that offer distinctive dining experiences while maintaining the restaurants, shops, and offices that provide goods and services that meet the needs of local residents in a walkable, small business district setting.



PARKING

Parking is a necessity for both residences and businesses. Demand for parking grows on the weekend with the increased number of visitors to the business district. The plan outlines a combination of strategies to ensure convenient off-street parking for businesses and adequate parking for residences at all times.

CLEAN, SAFE, & ATTRACTIVE

Maintaining a clean, safe, and attractive atmosphere is essential to ensure that residents and visitors feel safe and secure moving throughout the neighborhood and parks. This plan addresses property and building maintenance issues, the cleanliness of the business district, public property maintenance, and lighting with the goal of providing a friendly and welcoming environment for residents, businesses, and visitors.

INFRASTRUCTURE & UTILITIES

Infrastructure – including streets, sidewalks, and stairways – and utilities are essential to the function and mobility throughout the neighborhood. This plan recognizes the importance of keeping stairways and sidewalks in good condition in a browsing community and calls for the strategic improvement of infrastructure. The plan also highlights a desire among residents to bury utility wires throughout the neighborhood.

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Two Community Open Houses were held in January of 2009 to collect input on plan recommendations. The feedback was tremendous and affirmed the plan's themes, visions, objectives, and strategies. A summary of the recommendations, including priorities identified by attendees at the Open Houses, can be found in the Action Plan. These recommendations represent the action-oriented steps necessary to achieve the plan objectives and in doing so, to achieve the visions stated in the plan.

At the beginning of the planning process, the Steering Committee stated that the community is too often left in a reactive stance. In the past, issues that presented themselves were handled on a case-by-case basis without the benefit of a comprehensive neighborhood vision. The common visions and corresponding objectives and strategies established in this plan, which have been supported by the community throughout the planning process, will help the community become more proactive in tackling issues and capitalizing on strengths.

The Mt. Adams community is already beginning to enjoy some of the benefits of this collaborative planning effort. The communication channels have improved with City departments, participation in the Mt. Adams Civic Association has improved, many participants in the planning process have volunteered to assist with implementation of the recommendations, and the community has a renewed energy for working together. This is just the beginning. The Mt. Adams Civic Association will continue to need everyone's participation to help Mt. Adams thrive and grow.