



Layton Boulevard West

Quality of Life Update

In 2011, hundreds of neighbors and partners came together to create a vision for the **Layton Boulevard West** neighborhoods of Layton Park, Burnham Park and Silver City. The result was a Quality of Life Plan, with seven strategies and eleven catalytic projects that reflect local priorities. As the lead agency, Layton Boulevard West Neighbors helps carry out the Plan, organizing the contributions of many people and organizations dedicated to building resilient neighborhoods. Their collective commitment has resulted in significant progress on QLP strategies; it also has leveraged millions of dollars in local investment.

Neighborhood Appearance

- 163 property owners invested more than \$1.2 million in neighborhood beautification and property improvements.
- Dozens of neighbors invested over \$100,000 to compete in the Most Improved Home Contest, beautifying their homes and cementing social connections.
- Installed raised-bed gardens, pocket parks, and public art, transforming two vacant lots into green, open spaces where children play and people come together.
- Worked with nonprofit and private sector partners to complete 27 home sales, helping to arrange approximately \$2 million in mortgages.
- Renovated and sold nine vacant, foreclosed homes to owner-occupants, in the process stabilizing nearby properties.
- Acquired and renovated 22 foreclosed homes and two commercial properties, providing rent-to-own opportunities to limited-income householders and entrepreneurs.

Community Identity

- Installed neighborhood signs on Layton Boulevard and in Layton Park, with plans for Silver City signage in 2014.
- Created a mobile kiosk to provide information about news and events in the neighborhood to potential visitors, particularly those enjoying the Hank Aaron State Trail and the new Three Bridges Park.

Community Safety Network

- Engaged residents and concerned neighbors by facilitating more than 50 block meetings.
- Designed and hosted two Leadership Academy sessions for 26 neighbors to support resident leaders and build a network of committed neighbors.

Social Engagement

- More than 5,600 people have attended 161 neighborhood events.
- New homeowners are greeted with LBWN Welcome Committee packets, filled with practical information about neighborhood assets, local businesses, and ways to get involved.
- Raised the money for and built a new band shell for concerts in Arlington Heights Park.

Youth Education and Leadership

- Created the School Garden Alliance and provided training, tools, and plants to teachers and students to create, maintain and learn from raised-bed gardens at their schools.
- Organized volunteer events to improve Doerfler School's appearance and playground, which involved neighbors in painting playground walls, building new benches and planters, and painting interior spaces in the school.

Healthy Living

- Installed eight new artistic bike racks in Burnham Park and Layton Park, capitalizing on and encouraging growing interest in bicycling for transportation as well as fun.
- Created the first-of-its-kind Mobile Bike Hub, a bicycle shop on wheels that offers bicycle education, offers repairs on the road, and promotes healthy living and bike safety throughout the neighborhoods.
- Partnered with Safe Routes to Schools and three neighborhood schools to help students navigate safe bicycle and pedestrian routes.
- Hosted a farmers' market at the Sounds of Summer Concert Series, making fresh fruits and vegetables available locally at affordable prices.

Economic Development

- Commissioned a Market Analysis and Economic Development Plan to deliver accurate data on local consumer purchasing power, traffic counts and market trends, and attract new businesses to the area's commercial corridors.
- Organized the innovative Silver City Business Plan Competition to repurpose a vacant storefront on National Avenue, support local entrepreneurship, and supply the winner with \$12,000 worth of business coaching, startup rental assistance, and other resources.

**For more information or to get involved,
visit www.lbwn.org, email info@lbwn.org
or call 414.383.9038**