



Lindsay Heights

Quality of Life Update

In 2009, Walnut Way Conservation Corp. in **Lindsay Heights** convened neighbors to plan for their community. The resulting Quality of Life Plan reflects the hopes and dreams of the people who live and work in the neighborhood. It also serves as a blueprint for improving the area's social, economic, and physical conditions. Since then, many people and partners have advanced the Plan's priorities; together, they have raised millions of dollars for local projects and activities. Now their collective commitment and hard work will carry the Plan's eight strategies forward.

Academic Achievement

- A CityYear team of volunteers is working with third-graders at Hopkins-Lloyd Community School to help them improve attendance, behavior, and course performance.
- A second high-performing charter school, Milwaukee College Prep, established a Lindsay Heights campus; an open-enrollment charter, MCP actively recruits in the neighborhood.
- Managed by WINS for Children, the Lindsay Heights Academic Olympics hosted a third year of spring training camp and afterschool practices leading up to game day, a math competition among neighborhood schools, with the winning school team taking home the five-foot trophy.
- North Division High School reopened as an MPS charter school in 2010, added AP classes and sports in 2012, and began to develop an accredited Health Careers Academy in 2013.

Youth and Families

- The Children's Success Coalition, made up of a Principals' Council and a Providers' Council, was formed to prepare children for school, improve educational outcomes, and support families.
- WINS for Children piloted a cohort approach to help local childcare providers increase their scores on Wisconsin's YoungStar rating system, created a professional support and training network for participating providers, and connected them to additional educational opportunities.
- The Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee and Discovery World revised their approaches to locate new and different programs in Lindsay Heights and broaden their access to local youth, while Walnut Way established an urban 4H program to introduce younger children to service.

Lifelong Learning

- The newly-formed Craftsmen's Restoration Guild and Blue Skies Landscaping have trained and hired more than 20 Lindsay Heights residents for jobs in landscaping, green construction, and solar system installation.
- The Milwaukee Community Business Collaborative, modeled on Cleveland's Evergreen Initiative, launched in 2012, has secured partnership commitments from five hospitals and universities with a combined purchasing power in excess of \$2 billion.
- Monthly "Neighbor Nights" bring people together to break bread, see friends, and celebrate community life, while semi-annual "Reports to the Community" discuss progress on priorities.

Public Safety

- With leadership from the Johnsons Park Neighborhood Association and assistance from LISC Milwaukee, area residents are developing safety plans, holding regular community meetings, and stimulating “eyes on the street” support to improve neighborhood safety.

Housing

- Over the past five years, more than 100 units of housing, representing millions of dollars in investment, have been built in Lindsay Heights.
- Walnut Way has rehabbed 24 foreclosed homes with energy efficient designs, bringing vacant properties back to life, hiring local contractors, and training residents for jobs.
- With Habitat for Humanity, home repairs valued at \$75,000 were completed on 28 homes.
- Walnut Way helped design and is now piloting an innovative City strategy to convert foreclosed properties into community assets that will improve public health and nutrition.

Commercial Corridors

- Walnut Way commissioned a market analysis documenting that the purchasing power of Lindsay Heights residents exceeds \$60 million per square mile.
- Business Improvement District #32 was the first urban neighborhood to be designated a State of Wisconsin “Main Street,” significantly enhancing its ability to deliver technical assistance to more than 30 local businesses in and around Lindsay Heights.
- Walnut Way has purchased two properties and plans to acquire additional properties to build an Innovations and Wellness Commons on North Avenue, a major commercial corridor catalyst.

Health and Wellness

- Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin located a clinic at the Northside YMCA, staffed by a family nurse practitioner, to improve access to primary care services in Lindsay Heights.
- The Community Health Network hosts quarterly networking meetings and tours of family service organizations to better connect families to neighborhood resources.
- Funded by the Wisconsin Partnership Program, the Men’s Wellness Initiative created a network of fathers and men to support each other and increase family and community engagement.
- Neu-Life Community Resource Center, the YMCA, and Milwaukee College Prep started a Girls on the Run program and involved 75 girls to train for and participate in a neighborhood 5K race.

Healthy Food

- The “Healthy Corner Store Initiative,” run by the Lindsay Heights Neighborhood Health Alliance, makes fresh fruit and vegetables readily available at four corner stores.
- Fondy Food Center sells upwards of \$500,000 in produce annually and is one of the top five farmers markets nationally for food stamp sales.
- Johnsons Park and Alice’s Garden have been partially restored, with community gardens for 100 families and an outdoor science classroom and new playground at Brown Street Academy.
- Walnut Way hired and trained three residents to support healthy food programs; grows over 2,500 pounds of fruit and vegetables annually; plants hundreds of fruit trees in local gardens; and repurposed ten vacant lots as orchards and gardens.

For more information or to get involved, visit www.walnutway.org