



Lindsay Heights

Quality of Life Plan Update | Spring 2017*

Walnut Way sets a vision of possibility and abundance where neglect and disinvestment once took hold. By integrating employment and training, land stewardship, and neighborhood revitalization, we strengthen families and build sustainable communities. Since 2009, we have welcomed over 700 visitors from around the world to learn about environmental stewardship and community building. **Momentum is growing.** Collectively we are rekindling the spirit of self-sufficiency in our central city neighborhoods, creating sustainable solutions to social and environmental challenges, and building bridges for the common good.

Academic Achievement

- Engineering For Kids brought science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) to kids ages 4 to 14 in a fun and challenging way through classes, camps, clubs and parties, and held a two-week summer camp at the Walnut Way Neighborhood Center.
- A financial literacy course was taught for 25 students at North Division High School in Lindsay Heights.
- Milwaukee College Prep: Lloyd Street and Milwaukee College Prep: Lola Rowe North campuses educate more than 1,000 children in Lindsay Heights annually. On average, Milwaukee College Prep scholars had 140% growth across all subject areas on the Measures of Academic Progress assessment.

Youth and Families

- Neu-Life Community Development completed \$600,000 in renovations at their headquarters at 2014 W. North Ave. The contractor employed three Neu-Life alumni as interns, giving them the opportunity to be immersed in the renovation process.
- Running Rebels hired a new community organizer, which has allowed the organization to expand youth outreach and engagement services in the neighborhood.
- More than 125 youth participated in the YMCA's *Black Achievers Academy*, which is located at the Northside YMCA, and are on track to graduate high school and attend a two- or four-year college. Annually, more than 6,000 adults and 2,300 youth use the Northside Y's facilities and services.

Lifelong Learning & Workforce Development

- Blue Skies trained and employed a total of 14 previously under-employed city residents in landscape maintenance, orchard care, and green infrastructure installation and maintenance over the past two years. The crew beautified neighborhoods, secured City contracts, planted over 300 trees in boulevards and parks, and maintained major hospital properties.
- Blue Skies completed its first green infrastructure installations, which included a green roof, a rainwater permeable patio, and a rainwater storage system.
- Opened in November 2016, The Tandem, a sit-down restaurant on Fond du Lac Avenue, employs more than 15 local residents, providing on-the-job training for new food service recruits.

Housing

- Revitalize Milwaukee hosted its first *Block Build MKE* event in Lindsay Heights. More than 700 volunteers renovated 35 homes on 17th and 18th streets from North Avenue to Lloyd Street. Renovations included landscaping, painting, beautification projects, and electrical repairs.
- The Lindsay Heights Housing Committee meets monthly to establish strong partnerships in housing and support homeownership in the neighborhood.

Commercial Corridors

- The Innovations and Wellness Commons Phase I successfully created healthy food, economic development, and education and training opportunities for the neighborhood.
- Phase II of the Innovations and Wellness Commons will build on Phase I's economic, educational, and training opportunities by creating space for new and existing local businesses and organizations.
- Reached 100% occupancy in The Historic Walter Schmidt Tavern Development, a historic property located on W. Fond du Lac Avenue redeveloped in 2016. The Tandem occupies the first floor.
- Johnsons Park was restored, thanks to almost \$1.2 million dollars in private funding and \$878,000 in public investment. The 11.5-acre park includes a tee-ball field, new lighting, bathrooms, park benches, an open-air picnic area, and a performance stage.

Public Safety & Neighborhood Beautification

- Formerly vacant properties are now an urban agriculture campus of production gardens, fruit orchards, apiaries, rainwater cisterns, and a hoop house.

Health and Wellness

- Grew Walnut Way's *Men's Wellness Network* to connect with and support more than 100 men and their families. Walnut Way and Cross Lutheran Church hosted two monthly Men's Wellness peer groups attended by over 30 men.
- Four Healing Circles involved 35 women. Each Healing Circle offers a six-session series where women are exposed to a variety of healing practices including yoga, deep breathing, aroma therapy, healthy eating, and most importantly, storytelling.
- Embody Yoga continued to rent the second floor of the Walnut Way Neighborhood Center. In 2016, Embody Yoga had 306 individual clients who together made 871 visits.
- Zen DragonFly offered yoga, Reiki, and sewing classes at the Walnut Way Neighborhood Center for more than 150 participants in 2016.

Healthy Food

- Hosted three *Neighbor Nights*, where more than 30 neighbors, staff, and friends worked to can and preserve 325 pounds of fresh produce.
- Four additional *Neighbor Nights* hosted in collaboration with Jennifer Bartolotta of Bartolotta Restaurants and Mannaan Sabir of The Juice Kitchen. More than 25 people attended each *Neighbor Night*, which featured lessons in healthy cooking and juicing demonstrations.
- More than 5,000 fresh and healthy meals for local schools prepared daily by Milwaukee Center for Independence at its commercial kitchen at the Innovations and Wellness Commons.
- Planted, harvested, and sold more than 3,500 pounds of fresh produce through the urban agriculture program during the last growing season.

**For more information or to get involved,
visit www.walnutway.org or call 414.264.2326**