

IMAGINE FLINT 2016 UPDATE

Master Plan Update and Steering Committee Celebration

Since the adoption of the Master Plan, the community commitment towards implementation continues to be truly amazing. Likewise, the City is fully embracing the Plan by relying on it to fulfill its 5-year strategic plan objectives; utilizing it to develop annual operating budgets; and developing two Capital Improvement Plans.

From the creation of a Planning and Development Department (DPD) in 2014, staff has worked to collaborate and operate more efficiently. 2015 marked a substantial year in which DPD personnel partnered on a number of initiatives aimed at implementing the master plan and working more efficiently.

This document is an outline highlighting master planning work across all City departments in 2015 and provides updates on the

substantial implementation projects that are underway. Furthermore, this document serves to fulfill the Master Plan guiding principle of Civic Life and promote a culture of transparency.

2015 witnessed staff partnering with residents, community organizations, and local entities to work on over 100 Master Plan strategies.

Major 2015 accomplishments include:

- HUD Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant recipient.
- Release of the draft zoning code.
- Recipient of a multi-year neighborhood planning grant.
- Adoption of the data-driven 5-year Blight Elimination Framework.
- Recipient of 1 national and 3 state planning awards for the Imagine Flint Master Plan.



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT: MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE RECOGNITION

2016 marks the end of the Flint Master Plan Steering Committee. Formed in 2011, the Committee has provided invaluable support to the planning process over the past four years. Created through a joint memorandum-of-understanding agreement (MOU) between the City Council, Mayor's Office, and Planning Commission, the Committee's role was to ensure community resources were channeled to the planning process and that the broadest community ownership was incorporated into the final document.

The Committee was composed of 21-members that included representatives of community residents, the business community, neighborhood and faith-based organizations, Master Plan partners and stakeholders, two members of the City Council, and two members of the Planning Commission. In total, 25 individuals served at one point-or-another as a Committee member, with each member selected representing the diverse makeup of the community and all nine city wards represented.

Steering Committee members displayed a tremendous amount of dedication and ultimately volunteered thousands of hours of their personal time while serving in this role. The group is directly responsible for working with staff to establish six Master Plan Advisory Groups based on topic areas in the Plan, a process that involved over 162 community members and residents meeting monthly to develop strategies and objectives that were incorporated into the adopted plan.

In all, the Committee met 51 times since 2011 and through these monthly meetings staff was able to connect with approximately 1,275 Flint residents and community members.

The impact of the Master Plan Steering Committee will be felt indefinitely throughout the future of planning processes in Flint. The dedication, support, and commitment of the members have truly been amazing to witness. This process, and this body, has become a *Best Practice* in the planning profession for how to engage residents, the community and its citizens, in an inclusive and participatory process.

Thank you Master Plan Steering Committee Members!



Master Plan Steering Committee Meeting

HOUSING & NEIGHBORHOODS

Work in Flint's housing and neighborhoods over the past year has focused significantly on neighborhood planning and blight elimination. The City currently has two major neighborhood planning projects underway and continues to partner with the Land Bank on securing federal resources for neighborhood blight elimination. In February 2015, the 5-year Blight Elimination Framework was formally adopted as a master plan implementation document.

Chapter Highlights:

- Development of a neighborhood planning prep-kit to aid community groups in neighborhood planning processes and familiarize them with the Imagine Flint Master Plan.
- Received a combined \$820,000 in planning grants from HUD and the Ruth Mott Foundation.
- Major cleanups of CBC Recycling and American Trailer Park sites. Removed nearly 600 tons of debris and 120 scrapped and blighted trailers respectively.
- Continued partnership with the Land Bank on demolitions, securing an additional \$20+ million in 2015. Since 2013 the Land Bank has received nearly \$35 million in Hardest Hit Funds for demolition, with master plan data input driving successful the requests.
- Partnered with the Flint & Genesee Chamber of Commerce on the Summer Youth Initiative, which connected hundreds of youth with cleanups on the north and east sides of Flint.
- Staff supported 96 neighborhood cleanups, removed 99 tons of trash and helped board 125 homes. Staff also responded to 300 blight incidents per month.



Choice Neighborhoods YouthQuest Workshop



The City faced an unprecedented water crisis in 2015, leading to significant public health issues and infrastructure failures. A combined Capital Improvements Plan was adopted by the City Council in January 2015 with an updated version approved by the Planning Commission in January 2016. Even with these planning documents in place, significant challenges and hurdles remain. The Master Plan understands the importance of rebuilding Flint the right way through a sustainable, modern, and safe network of public infrastructure. As work continues in 2016 to identify and fully determine the extent of the water crisis, some progress was made in 2015 to improve Flint's infrastructure.

Chapter Highlights:

- Completed 11 projects in the 2015 CIP, including \$3.9 million in work on water and sewer projects.
- Completion of the Genesee Valley non-motorized trail.
- Construction of a rain garden on public park space to capture and treat rainwater naturally.
- Received a \$220,000 grant to transform Harrison St. into a "complete street".



Throughout the course of 2015, the Flint arts and cultural scene continues to embrace the Master Plan. Staff has strengthened partnerships with the Flint Public Art Project, as well as UofM-Flint faculty and students to incorporate art into planning implementation projects.

Chapter Highlights:

- Partnership with UofM-Flint Art Students and Friends of Max Brandon Park to develop historical and environmental

interpretive signage for the Max Brandon Eco-Park Project.

- Creation of the #ArtsFlint program to highlight and brand the Flint arts and culture opportunities.
- Continued partnership with the Flint Public Art Project that focused on sub-area plan implementation (Welch and Chevrolet) through the design and construction of public art located at high-trafficked areas in the city.



Hashtag branding for arts in Flint



Over the past year the city has focused on the objectives of strengthening the educational attainment of youth and increasing the efficiency of Flint's business-related services. The City continues to fund literacy initiatives and remains active in partnering with numerous organizations on ED&ED grant opportunities.

Chapter Highlights:

- Partnership with the Crim and United Way on an AmeriCorps grant that places 30 VISTA members in Flint Community schools.
- A new, user-friendly and flexible city website went live in January.
- City completed a MSHDA-approved housing target market analysis, giving city leaders and developers better information on the demand for new multi-family housing in Flint.
- Release of a new draft zoning code that works to implement the City's land use plan and was developed to be easier to administer and logical for potential developers.
- Partnership with MEDC on the Redevelopment Ready Communities designation. Flint has submitted its checklist and is completing the last steps for RRC certification.



The City remains committed to utilizing the strategies laid out in the master plan to combating crime and promoting healthy living. FPD staff continue to promote community-based policing initiatives, while the City remains dedicated to improving and enhancing its youth recreation facilities to improve the health and welfare of its residents.

Chapter Highlights:

- The Flint Police Foundation was awarded a \$1.08 million grant for its North End Community Crime Strategy program. The program will help police utilize real-time data and expand the Blue Badge Volunteer Corps and the Citizens Radio Patrol program.
- The City is partnering with UofM-Flint, University Avenue Corridor Coalition and the United Way on the Urban Safety Corps Program. The program deploys 10 service members to help eliminate blight and reduce crime along University Avenue.
- FPD established two additional service centers (mini-stations) and now operates 4 FPD service centers throughout the City.
- Staff worked with volunteers to implement CPTED measures on the Atherton East footbridge, to improve the safety of the surrounding neighborhood and address crime at the Evergreen Regency Apartments.



The Flint community continues to work together and improve the numerous open spaces and public parks in the City. These partnerships maximize the department's limited resources and provide Flint residents with healthy recreation opportunities while protecting our environment. 2015 marked a significant year in regards to Flint parks improvements and the work will continue into 2016 and beyond.

Chapter Highlights:

- Staff has formalized community partnerships in 51 parks to assist with basic maintenance and beautification efforts.
- Boardwalk construction in the wetlands at Max Brandon Park with support from the Ruth Mott Foundation.
- 650 white pine seedlings and 100 shrubs/hardwoods planted by local students at Longway Park as part of National Arbor Day celebration.
- Renovation of Riverbank Park, including a new canoe/kayak launch, safety improvements and an ADA accessible ramp thanks to a \$400,000 grant from the DNR with matching support from the Ruth Mott Foundation.
- Construction of a new, community built playground in Brennan Park. 130 volunteers from the city, local universities, Flint and Genesee Job Corps and community worked side-by-side to erect the \$50,000 structure, which is part of \$87,500 in total improvements to the park.
- Expanded partnership with Genesee County Parks Commission to include an additional 12 parks totaling nearly 300 mowed and 500 total acres.

Community Built October 24 at Brennan Park



Thank You Volunteers

