

9. NEIGHBORHOOD-WIDE INITIATIVES

The most comprehensive layer of the MyGlenville Plan is the set of initiatives that pertain to the entire Glenville area. The overarching goal of these initiatives is to make measurable quality-of-life improvements that benefit all Glenville households.

Responding to the issues and opportunities that emerged during the planning process, these Neighborhood-Wide Initiatives are organized in the following five sections:

1. Maintain/Grow Housing Diversity
2. Strengthen Education
3. Expand Employment & Business Opportunity
4. Improve Quality of Life/Strengthen Community Identification & Engagement/Community Safety
5. Promote Sustainability, Environmental Stewardship, & Greenspace Improvements

1. Maintain/Grow Housing Diversity

A major goal identified in the Glenville-Wade Park Strategic Investment Initiative was maintaining the Wade Park area as a strong residential neighborhood that offers a variety of housing choices—including homeownership and rental, as well as income restricted and market-rate. Since 2012, Famicos Foundation has completed the following projects:

- Construction of 203 units of affordable senior rentals (University Tower Apartments [**Figure 43**], Doan Classroom Apartments);
- Preservation of 73 units of affordable senior rentals that were set to expire their income restriction period (Notre Dame Apartments);
- Rehabilitation of 13 historic single-family homes and construction of six townhomes (Heritage Lane Historic Homes and Town Homes); and
- Assistance of more than 80 homeowners in completing health/safety repairs.



Figure 43: The 158-unit University Tower Apartments, developed by Famicos Foundation.

The implementation of the MyGlenville Plan will expand these and other housing initiatives throughout Glenville, with Famicos Foundation serving as the lead coordinating agency. The objective of these strategies is to continue supporting existing residents of Glenville, both homeowners and renters, particularly in low income households, while attracting new residents with high quality housing stock. The initiatives described in this section are aimed at supporting the existing residents and preserving long-term housing affordability (detailed plans for new housing development in specific locations is described in the Housing Improvement Nodes section of the plan).

A. Homeowner Assistance Programs

Home repair program — This initiative aims to facilitate the connection of Glenville homeowners to a range of programs that help these households maintain and improve their homes. One key resource is the Cleveland Housing Network's Energy Conservation & Weatherization cluster of programs available to income-qualifying homeowners (currently, \$48,500 for a 4-person household, adjusted by \$8,320 per person for other household sizes). Other resources include: the Heritage Home Program by the Cleveland Restoration Society, and the Senior Homeownership Assistance Program from the City of Cleveland.



Advocacy Agenda Item:

Despite the tremendous need for home repair programs for low-income households in communities like Glenville, the public resources to fund these programs are extremely scarce. Advocacy efforts should focus on identifying long-term funding streams for home repair programs from various private and public sources.

- **Action Strategy:** Publicize the availability of these programs, assist homeowners in applying for support, and monitor approvals and services; identify reputable, local tradespersons for homeowners to consider; offer free (or reduced price) home maintenance workshops facilitated by the Home Repair Resource Center based in Cleveland Heights.
- **Action Strategy:** Create a pool of flexible funds that can support home repair grants and low-interest loans for households that do not qualify under the income ceilings for various repair programs. Identify and coordinate with lending institutions and other for-profit corporate entities to create and maintain the monetary pool. Present the Youth Corps (see below) as an option when choosing a construction contractor.

Youth Corps for home repairs — This program aims to provide façade and porch repairs for Glenville property owners, while at the same time providing work experience and skills development for Glenville youth.

Operating similarly to the Cleveland Youth Landscaping Program (CYLP) that Famicos Foundation currently manages, this program will employ young adults between the ages of 18-24. Unlike CYLP, this program will be self-funded and services offered year round.

- **Action Strategy:** Conduct a feasibility study to investigate the idea of expanding the Cleveland Youth Landscaping Program to include other exterior home repairs (e.g., façade and porch repairs); employ young adults between the ages of 18-24. Explore potential partnership opportunities with Cuyahoga Community College's construction program. Explore contracting opportunity to complete repairs on behalf of the City.



Advocacy Agenda Item:

Many cities in the U.S. have adopted policies that aim to minimize the potential for low-income households being displaced from their homes due to skyrocketing tax bills. For example, the Longtime Owner Occupants Program (LOOP) in Philadelphia offers a 10-year tax abatement for income-eligible households. Qualified households have their tax payments frozen for 10 years.

Advocacy efforts should focus on identifying long-term real estate tax abatements for low income households in Cuyahoga County. The Homestead Exemption offered currently is a partial exemption that does not protect against a rapid, short-term increase in tax assessments.

Real estate tax relief and energy cost savings programs — Cuyahoga County's Homestead Exemption allows low-income, as well as permanently/totally disabled, senior citizens to reduce their property tax burden by shielding some of the market value of their home from taxation. The exemption, which takes the form of a credit on property tax bills, allows qualifying homeowners to exempt \$25,000 of the market value of their home from all local property taxes. With the Homestead Exemption, a home with a market value of \$100,000 would be billed as if it is worth \$75,000. In the City of Cleveland in 2016, a \$25,000 exemption on a home with an assessment value of \$100,000 translates roughly into an annual savings of \$700.⁶

Additionally, the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District offers several cost savings programs to assist seniors, disabled individuals, and other individuals affected by a major life event (e.g., job loss, divorce, etc.).

- **Action Strategy:** The initial phase of this strategy will involve publicizing the availability of this exemption and energy cost savings programs to low-income or disabled senior citizens in Glenville. A subsequent phase will involve targeted outreach to potentially eligible households and helping to prepare applications.

Homebuyer assistance — This initiative aims to connect prospective Glenville homebuyers to a variety of resources that can help in the home purchasing process. These resources include homebuyer education services, downpayment grants, and developer capital assistance.

- **Action Strategy:** Publicize the Cleveland CityLIFT program in coordination with Neighborhood Housing Services of Greater Cleveland (NHS). CityLIFT is a downpayment assistance program for homebuyers earning less than 120% of the Area Median Income. Qualified individuals receive homebuyer education and up to a \$15,000 grant to be used toward downpayment. Additionally, publicize the Afford A Home program to developers engaged in for-sale home renovations in Glenville.

⁶ As of Jan. 1, 2014, senior applicants for the Homestead Exemption must earn less than \$30,500 to qualify for the exemption. All seniors who qualified for the exemption prior to 2014 are allowed to maintain their eligibility even if they earn over the income ceiling.

Home selling assistance — This initiative seeks to assist homeowners in selling their homes, preferably to other owner-occupant households. One of the issues that plague Glenville's housing stock are tangled titles, which is a broad category of problems with legal ownership of real estate properties. For example, if someone lives in a home and considers him/herself the homeowner, but his/her name is not listed on the deed, there may be a tangled title associated with this home. Tangled title problems often lead to abandonment of homes or transfer of properties to absentee landlords.

- **Action Strategy:** Publicize the availability of legal assistance on real estate matters (such as tangled titles) through Famicos CARES (see Page 62). Additionally, strengthen partnerships with Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, as well as the Kramer Law Clinic Center at the Case Western Reserve University School of Law that also offer free legal assistance.

Housing counseling services — For those preparing to purchase their first home or others experiencing financial hardships that may lead to foreclosure, obtaining housing counseling services is of utmost importance. In Cuyahoga County, NHS is a leading agency that provides "programs and services to help residents achieve, preserve, and, sustain the American Dream of homeownership."

- **Action Strategy:** Partner with NHS on marketing the housing counseling services to Glenville and assist in establishing contact with NHS staff coordinating these programs. Potential ideas include "NHS Day in Glenville" when NHS and Famicos partner to offer services for a full day in Glenville.

B. Rental Housing Programs

Preservation of existing income-restricted rental housing — The federal government mandates that properties benefitting from Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) remain income-restricted for 15-30 years. When this compliance period expires, these properties become eligible for conversion to market-rate apartments.

This initiative seeks to preserve existing income-restricted rental homes in Glenville by identifying additional resources to keep rents at affordable prices—at least for another 15 years in the case with additional LIHTC investments.

- **Action Strategy:** Monitor the compliance period expiration dates for the income restricted rental homes located in Glenville; work with equity partners such as Enterprise Community Partners, Cleveland Neighborhood Progress, and other institutions to secure reinvestment capital for expiring LIHTC properties.

Increase permanently affordable rentals — There are approximately 2,000 households residing in income-restricted housing units, subjecting at least 3,600 renter households that earn less than \$25,000 a year to market-rate pricing. In order to shield these households from potential displacement if housing prices continue to increase in Glenville, a substantial number of additional income-restricted apartments need to be constructed.

Currently, Famicos Foundation is seeking LIHTC funding to support approximately 40 units of scattered-site, single-family rental homes in the Circle North neighborhood of Glenville (bounded by E. 105th Street, E. 123rd Street, Wade Park Avenue, and Superior Avenue). The proposed plan at the end of the 15- year LIHTC compliance period is to sell these homes to the residents as part of a lease-purchase agreement.



Figure 44: Boardwalk Apartments on E. 105th Street. Compliance period will expire in February 2025.

Another opportunity is to partner with the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) in leveraging the non-competitive 4% tax credits and tax-exempt bond financing to develop up to 350 scattered-site affordable rental units throughout Glenville. In this scenario, existing buildings (mostly two- and three-unit structures) will be acquired at current market prices.

- ➡ **Action Strategy:** Continue to pursue LIHTC funding for the lease-purchase project in Circle North, while continuing discussions with CMHA regarding a joint development project in greater Glenville area.

Tenant rights assistance — The majority of households in Glenville are renters, and therefore, tenant advocacy and education is an important component of a balanced housing strategy. The leading agency involved in this work is the Cleveland Tenants Organization, which exists to preserve and expand “the supply of safe, decent, fair, affordable, and accessible rental housing in the Greater Cleveland area.”

- ➡ **Action Strategy:** Make strategic partnership with Cleveland Tenants Organization to: i) disseminate detailed information on tenant rights and responsibilities; ii) provide tenant support programs including eviction diversion services; and iii) advocate for housing policy reform.

Code enforcement — The older housing stock in Glenville necessitates a diligent enforcement of code violations, and due to additional funding made available through the 2017 tax rate increase, the City is on the verge of hiring additional inspectors and enforcement officers.

- ➡ **Action Strategy:** Encourage vigilant code enforcement in all three Wards in Glenville. Work closely with City’s Code Enforcement department to report potential violations.

2. Strengthen Education

The challenges faced by Glenville public schools is well documented on Page 22 and in the Existing Conditions Report (**Appendix A**), but Glenville has dedicated educators, administrators, and other committed stakeholders to help usher in a new era of quality public education in the neighborhood. The community also benefits from the programs available through the highest concentration of arts, culture, and educational institutions in the region.

Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) has partnered with the United Way of Greater Cleveland to provide “Wraparound” services to the under-performing schools, also known as “Investment Schools.” Each Investment School is staffed with a full-time Wrap Around Coordinator that identifies socio-economic detractors to student achievement and provides access to resources in the community to address them. Famicos Foundation has been working closely with each of the Wrap Around Coordinators at Glenville schools since the program’s inception in 2013. Additionally, University Circle Inc. (UCI) has been coordinating the education programs on behalf of University Circle institutions since 1973. Currently, UCI manages educational four programs that have direct implications for Glenville area public schools:

- **Early Learning Initiative (ELI)** - creates a vital link between preschool teachers, students, and families, and the collections and live performance resources of University Circle institutions. Its primary mission is to provide young children with cultural experiences that increase cultural awareness, build background knowledge and develop school readiness concepts and skills, with a primary focus of vocabulary proficiency. In Glenville, UCI works closely with Wade Early Learning Center.
- **Linking Education and Discovery (LEAD)** - works with ten University Circle institutions to coordinate regular field trips. In addition to



Figure 45: Students from Mary Bethune School during a field trip to the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.



Figure 46: University Circle Learning Link bus that provide free transportation for field trips.

guided tours and educational programming by the hosting institution, UCI provides free transportation to students and their teachers during the trips. In Glenville, UCI works closely with Michael R. White School and Mary Bethune School.

- **Future Connections** - is an eight-week, summer internship program for rising seniors in high school. Approximately 70 students each summer engage in project based internships, under the guidance and mentorship of professionals in a variety of career fields, for four weeks in a University Circle institution and four weeks in a local business. Students are paid a \$1,000 stipend for the summer.
- **After-School Pilot Program** - is a new program currently in the planning stages as of this report. UCI, Famicos Foundation, and Mary Bethune School are collaborating on the notion of creating an after-school program operated out of the Bethune School facility, leveraging the partnership opportunity with the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and the Cleveland History Center. The program will likely target students in 4th and 5th grades.

The implementation of the MyGlenville Plan will highlight the educational assets that already exist in Glenville and to identify and secure new resources for the improvement of neighborhood public schools. Famicos Foundation will serve as the lead convening agency and will call upon various stakeholders in Glenville and throughout the city to participate. The objective of these strategies is to encourage pragmatic support that will enrich the educational experience of Glenville's youth.

A. Convene the stakeholders for collaborative initiatives

The main purpose of this initiative is gather the educators, administrators, parents, and other community stakeholders in order to collaborate on pragmatic educational initiatives.

- **Action Strategy:** Convene a Glenville educational summit on a regular basis to discuss potential ideas to assist existing public schools. Seek philanthropic and/or corporate funding support for these initiatives, as required.

B. Strengthen local schools through strategic partnerships and targeted marketing

The main purpose of this initiative is to: i) widely publicize the availability of educational enrichment programs offered by University Circle institutions (managed primarily by UCI) and ii) help prepare a strategic marketing strategy for the schools in Glenville.

- **Action Strategy:** Strengthen the connections between each of the public schools in Glenville to University Circle institutions through UCI. Leverage grant support from Cleveland Neighborhood Progress to prepare a strategic marketing strategy for Glenville schools.

3. Expand Employment & Business Opportunities

Glenville is located immediately adjacent to one of the largest employment centers in the region. As of 2013, the U.S. Census Bureau estimates that there are 61,500 jobs located in Glenville and the area just south—which includes Case Western Reserve University, the VA Medical Center, Cleveland Clinic, and University Hospitals. Examining the commuting patterns in this expanded area, we can deduce that of the 10,000 working residents of Glenville, approximately 1,400 are employed locally (representing 2.3% of the overall workforce).

As highlighted in the Cleveland Foundation's *Greater University Circle Initiative (GUCI)*, anchor institutions have enormous buying power and employment potential that can translate into positive impacts for adjacent urban communities. Throughout the public engagement process, Glenville residents strongly affirmed the GUCI principles of “community wealth building” which calls for anchor institutions to purchase goods and services from community-owned businesses (BUY LOCAL) and to implement workforce strategies to maximize local employment opportunities (HIRE LOCAL).

A. Target/re-energize University Circle hiring

Currently, University Hospitals and Cleveland Clinic have local hiring programs targeted to residents of Glenville and other neighborhoods surrounding University Circle.

- **Step Up to University Hospitals** is a jobs pipeline program that offers two weeks of job training and job placement services in three employment categories at UH. Coordinated by Neighborhood Connections and Towards Employment.
- **Cleveland Clinic's Hire Local Program** hosts orientations for prospective employees, and establishes connection with the Human Resources department. Through this particular program, applicants can pursue 14 different categories of jobs at the Clinic. Coordinated by Fairfax Renaissance Development Corporation.

➡ **Action Strategy:** work with Neighborhood Connections, FRDC, University Hospitals, Cleveland Clinic, and other University Circle institutions to widely publicize the Hire Local programs.



Figure 47: Step Up to UH program graduates.

B. Target/re-energize University Circle contracting

The three-pronged strategy for HIRE LOCAL, as detailed in the GUCI report, is as follows: i) support vendors already based in Northeast Ohio; ii) attract and retain existing businesses that will hire locally; and iii) catalyze new businesses to provide goods and services not already available from local vendors.

A GUCI project that has drawn national attention as “the Cleveland Model” is the Evergreen Cooperative Initiative, established to meet the purchasing needs of local anchor institutions, while at the same time provide valuable employment and business ownership opportunities to local residents. Currently, there are three businesses operating under the Evergreen Cooperative umbrella: Evergreen Energy Solutions, Green City Growers and Evergreen Cooperative Laundry (operating in the Glenville Enterprise Center on E. 105th Street).

- ➔ **Action Strategy:** Continue support of the Evergreen Cooperatives and other BUY LOCAL initiatives currently spearheaded by Neighborhood Connections and Cleveland Foundation.



Figure 48: Employee Owner of the Evergreen Cooperative Laundry.

C. Strengthen partnership with job training opportunities

Some residents who are searching for employment may be in need of workforce training to prepare them for these opportunities. There are a number of institutions and organizations that offer these services in Cleveland. Famicos Foundation will facilitate partnerships with these entities.

- **Action Strategy:** Strengthen partnerships with local organizations that prepare and/or train people for employment such as El Barrio, Job Corps, Towards Employment, FRDC, TRI-C. Promote these programs to Glenville residents through social media, newsletters, career days etc



Advocacy Agenda Item:

Much of the vacant industrial land in urban neighborhoods like Glenville are environmentally contaminated. If state brownfields remediation funding can be restored, parcels in the Eddy Road Industrial District and other brownfield sites may attract over time new industrial employers that will bring higher wage jobs to the community.

D. Expand employment on underutilized industrial land

The industrial land in Ward 8 bounded by Eddy Road, Taft Avenue, E. 131st Street, and I-90 (also known as the Eddy Road Industrial District) is severely underutilized. With superior access to I-90 as well as the rail lines, the Eddy Road Industrial District may represent a potential target area for new industrial business.

- **Action Strategy:** Subject to state brownfields remediation funding, reclaim currently vacant industrial parcels in the Eddy Road Industrial District and market to new industrial employers.



Figure 49: Sign for the Eddy Road Industrial District (at the corner of St. Clair Avenue and Arbor Road).

4. Improve Quality of Life, Community Engagement, and Public Safety

In order to promote lasting change and progress, MyGlenville initiatives must extend beyond bricks and mortar developments and address the everyday experience of Glenville residents. During the public engagement process, long-time residents recalled a community where neighbors looked out for each other, where the community embraced a collective responsibility to raise its children, and where people from different backgrounds lived next to each other. Promoting the sense of unity and inclusiveness—and to improve the human potential of all Glenville residents—are important elements of the MyGlenville Plan.

A. Health programming

As outlined previously, Glenville's Neonatal Mortality Rate and the incidences of elevated blood lead levels drastically outpace the rate reported for the state as a whole and the nation. In 2016-17, Neighborhood Connections—as part of a multi-year effort to increase awareness of these public health issues—is launching a lead based paint outreach program in Glenville⁷. The initial outreach will be targeting specific census block groups in Glenville with the highest rates of elevated blood lead levels.



Figure 50: Fresh produce stand at Gateway 105.

Additionally, there are a number of programs managed by Famicos Foundation and its partners that are designed to address health and wellness issues that plague low-income, African-American residents (e.g., obesity, hypertension, diabetes, access to fresh food):

- **Community Gardening** educates individuals on the importance of growing food in their own community whether it's in their own backyard or in one of the community garden maintained by Famicos Foundation (e.g. Park Village, Doan, Michael R. White School). Backyard gardening as well (kids oriented program – Patrick Henry School started).
- **Gateway 105** is a farmers market offering locally grown produce, arts, crafts, music and more to Glenville and surrounding neighborhoods since 2011.
- **Eastside Market** is in the predevelopment stages of reopening as a fresh food grocery store. Once reopened, the Eastside Market will tremendously help alleviate the food desert conditions currently faced by Glenville residents.
- **Mobile Market:** Bridgeport Mobile Market is a 16-foot refrigerated box truck that carries fresh produce on a weekly basis to sites throughout the eastside of Cleveland. the Mobile Market services Famicos Managed multi-family properties, including Notre Dame Academy and Park Village.

⁷ The outreach program focusing on infant mortality will be launched in Hough at the same time.

- **Glenville vs Hough Challenge** is a collaborative effort between Cleveland Clinic and community partners to promote optimal health and wellness in those two neighboring communities. Based on the community health needs assessment and utilizing Healthy Community Initiative programs will be customized around three core areas: education, nutrition and physical activity.
- Partner with the **Glenville Recreation Center** to offer a variety of active living activities such as Zumba, Yoga, Bootcamp, Line Dancing, Glenville at the Tennis Courts, and others.
- **Promoting bicycling** through Fix-A-Thons and neighborhood social rides.
- Promoting healthy cooking and exercise classes.

Created out of Famicos Foundation's NeighborWorks America's County Health Rankings and Road Maps effort identify critical health issues in Glenville, the MyGlenville Plan proposes to develop a comprehensive Health and Wellness Program in the neighborhood. Key partners are the President's Council and the Cleveland Clinic, and other members of the Action team will include: CWRU, Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods, Cleveland Clinic, Neighborhood Connections, YMCA, and residents.

- **Action Strategy:** Work with local medical institutions to increase the presence and programming in the Glenville neighborhood. These institutions include including Northeast Ohio Neighborhood Health Services, Cleveland Clinic, Metro Health, University Hospitals, CWRU School of Medicine, and Free Medical Clinic of Greater Cleveland.

Additionally, a "Wellness Bus" is being proposed to provide a door-to-door transportation service to low-income senior citizens on routine wellness visits.

- **Action Strategy:** Work with local partners to analyze the feasibility of the Wellness Bus.

B. Youth programming

Famicos Foundation is the fiscal agent and the managing entity for the Cleveland Youth Landscaping Program, which employs youth from 14 to 18 years-of-age to provide landscaping services in the Greater Cleveland area. In addition to offering a summer job that pays \$9 per hour, this program empowers youth toward developing critical life skills such as entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and community service. As part of the Home Repair Program of this plan, Famicos Foundation is proposing to expand the Cleveland Youth Landscaping Program to include façade and porch repairs in Glenville, utilizing a corps of 18 to 24 year-old young adults.



Figure 51: Student participating in an activity at the 2016 Glenville Youth Wellness and Leadership Summit.

Other youth initiatives currently managed by Famicos Foundation include:

- The **Michael R. White Gardening Club** (which is part of a Boys and Girls Club summer program at the school).
- **Sustainability Week at Glenville High School.**

In 2016, Glenville was designated a MyCom Neighborhood, bringing a resources of a citywide network of youth agencies. The Glenville MyCom program will be managed out of Glenville High School and will be built out of the school wraparound model. As part of initial steps of launching this program in Glenville, a comprehensive Youth Engagement Plan will be prepared. Famicos Foundation will coordinate the completion of this plan, working alongside other community partners and local youth leaders.

- ➡ **Action Strategy:** Continue to support existing youth programs targeting Glenville youth under 18 years-of-age, as well as young adults from the ages of 18 to 24. Complete the Comprehensive Youth Engagement Plan as part of the MyCom initiation process.

C. Strengthening community connections

Regularly scheduled community gatherings — *Gather in Glenville* is a Famicos Foundation initiative to fill summer Sunday afternoons on E. 105th Street with food, music, family-friendly movies, and shopping. Scheduled for three Sundays in the summer of 2016, this series will serve as the lead gathering event for Glenville residents and engage the church-going crowd and provide them with food, fun, and different ways to spend their dollars in Glenville.

Each event will be held at various vacant lots between Ashbury Avenue and Superior Avenue and will feature food/entertainment, as well as health and wellness activities in church parking lots. *Gather in Glenville* is supported in part by a grant from Cleveland Neighborhood Progress.

Other on-going ways for residents to connect with each other include regularly scheduled ward meetings and Neighborhood Connections (which hosts regular neighborhood meetings and extends small grants to fund resident-led neighborhood projects).

- ➡ **Action Strategy:** fundraise for *Gather in Glenville* and host three Sunday events in the summer of 2016. Continue to promote regularly scheduled meetings for the ward and Neighborhood Connections.



Figure 52: *Gather in Glenville* will be held on three Sundays in the summer of 2016 (July 10, August 14, and September 11).

Neighborhood branding and marketing — Glenville is a neighborhood that possesses unrivaled assets, rich diversity, and ample new investment opportunities. Yet, the negative mainstream media coverage tend to present an unbalanced view of the neighborhood that focus primarily on crime, poverty, and disinvestment. The MyGlenville Plan recommends launching a neighborhood branding and marketing campaign to highlight these assets and opportunities in Glenville.

- ➡ **Action Strategy:** Work with a branding/marketing expert to produce a customized campaign for Glenville. Involve residents and stakeholders in crafting the core messages and key words.

Oral history project — The main objective of this initiative is to collect and organize stories about Glenville's past from the perspectives of individuals who might not otherwise make it to the history books. Potential partners for this initiative include the Western Reserve Historical Society which is located in University Circle and the Center for Public History + Digital Humanities at Cleveland State University which maintains the Cleveland Regional Oral History Collection online.

- ➡ **Action Strategy:** Work with the Western Reserve Historical Society and the Center for Public History + Digital Humanities at Cleveland State University to launch a Glenville Oral History Project.

D. Support for ex-offenders

In order to increase access to affordable legal assistance for ex-offenders residing in the Glenville area, Famicos Foundation launched a community legal service in 2014. Housed in the Notre Dame Apartments, the Famicos CARES (Community Access to Resolution & Expungement Services) Legal Works provides free legal assistance and counseling to qualifying individuals for cases involving:

- Expungement of criminal records
- Resolving outstanding warrants & probation violations
- Preparation of simple wills
- Other legal issues

Other agencies involved in providing care for the ex-offender community include the Cleveland Eastside Ex-Offender Coalition, Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry, and Towards Employment.

- ➡ **Action Strategy:** Continue providing services through Famicos CARES legal Works. Produce an inventory of reentry services for ex-offenders in Cleveland, conduct a gap analysis to find out where additional services are needed. Work with partnering organizations to fill gaps.

E. Strengthening community policing activities

Community safety has been an on-going concern for the residents of Glenville. The approach taken by the MyGlenville Plan is to promote a cooperative relationship between police and residents in the effort to reduce crime. Under the leadership of resident leaders and Commander Dennis Hill of the Fifth District, Glenville residents and police officers are involved in a series of events and programs designed to promote community policing principles. They include: Coffee with the Cops, neighborhood walks with residents and police officers, National Night Out, and regular meetings to communicate information and crime incidence reports.

In addition to working with the Cleveland Police District, there must be on-going communication occurring between residents/businesses and various other police departments and public safety departments operating in the area. They include the public safety departments at the VA Medical Center and Case Western University, as well as police departments for University Circle and Cleveland Clinic.

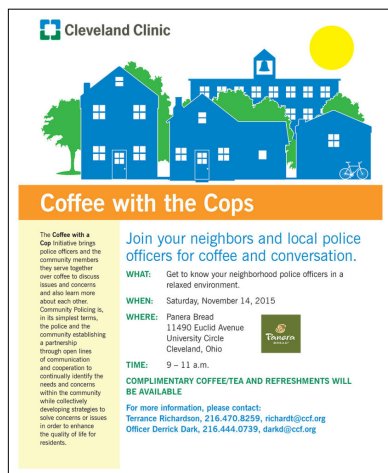


Figure 53: Flyer for recent Coffee with the Cops event.

- **Action Strategy:** expand current community policing activities and programs to include other police departments and public safety officials operating in the area. Work with the Cleveland Police District to regularly post crime incidence reports and public safety bulletins to the wider community.

5. Sustainability, Environmental Stewardship, & Greenspace Improvements

Glenville is home to various parks and greenspaces, but inefficient connections from the neighborhood to these greenspace assets—as well as an overall lack of programming—has led to their underutilization. MyGlenville Plan aims to better highlight physical connections to promote healthier lifestyles, and offers recommendations to program spaces and places where neighbors can recreate and relax.

Additionally, as an important component of the holistic revitalization of Glenville, Famicos Foundation has been implementing various sustainability and environmental initiatives for several years. These strategies aim to achieve a multi-pronged set of objectives, including the reduction of the carbon footprint generated by the Glenville community and the stewardship of the environmental assets located in the neighborhood. Other important objectives are the positive utilization of vacant parcels that may otherwise contribute to neighborhood blight, promotion of community health and wellness, reduction of household utility costs, and incubation of local entrepreneurs operating eco-friendly businesses.

A. Greenspace and Park Connectivity

The planning area includes 14 City of Cleveland parks, including four primary green spaces: Rockefeller Park, Forest Hills Park, the Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve and Gordon Park. The 14 parks offer approximately 300 acres of greenspace, tennis courts (Rockefeller Park's 7 lighted tennis courts are one of only three lighted locations in the City of Cleveland), playgrounds, splash pads and basketball courts. The Glenville Recreation Center offers an indoor pool and recreational/fitness equipment. However, its amenities need to be improved and some components' conditions are challenged. This sentiment was substantiated by residents and participants of the community process.

Rockefeller Park

➡ **Action Strategy:** Complete a series of improvements at Rockefeller Park.

- Utilize Rockefeller Park as a major north-south link to Lake Erie's shores. The park's existing infrastructure (playgrounds, cultural gardens, multi-purpose paths, bicycle lanes, splash pad, lagoon, tennis courts, and overall natural settings) can be leveraged for neighborhood use. Currently, the parkway serves as a connector, and recent efforts have attempted (with success) to calm traffic and rebalance the parkway towards pedestrians and cyclists. One of the major elements lacking from the Rockefeller Park experience are strong, safe and accessible east-west connections between the Park and the surrounding neighborhoods.

- Create a new connection at the Lee/Ashbury/E. 105th intersection: This connection can provide a direct park access to the entire Wade Park area and the CID area. It also provides opportunities to activate the park area adjacent to East Boulevard, in close proximity to the Veteran's Administration Campus and Park Place Apartments. Similarly, a stronger connection at the intersection of Superior and E. 105th could emphasize the park's location and extend its reach into this critical intersection. Where existing connections into the park exist (Ansel, Parkgate, St. Clair, Broad and E. 88th) wayfinding signage and gateways should be established. Where pedestrian only access points exist, signage as well as upgrades to the paths to provide accessible routes, where possible, would greatly increase residents' abilities to access the greenway.

- Similarly, create a stronger connection at the intersection of Superior and E. 105th to emphasize the park's location and extend its reach into this critical intersection. Where existing connections into the park exist (Ansel, Parkgate, St. Clair, Broad and E. 88th) wayfinding signage and gateways should be established. Where pedestrian only access points exist, signage as well as upgrades to the paths to provide accessible routes, where possible, would greatly increase residents' abilities to access the greenway.

Gordon Park, Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve



Figure 54: View of Lake Erie near Gordon Park.

At the northern terminus of Rockefeller Park, Gordon Park and the Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve offer direct access to Lake Erie's shoreline. Recreational amenities include tennis courts and baseball diamonds, along with walking trails and a link to the northern pathway that continues west, connecting to the E. 55th Street Marina and Park.

➡ **Action Strategy:** Complete a series of improvements at Gordon Park and the Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve.

- Increase lighting and security patrols: While the physical conditions of Gordon Park are acceptable, its sense of isolation should be addressed. Tucked between railroad tracks and the Shoreway, views into and out of the park are challenged. These measures, along with physical improvements to the park can better position the spaces for resident and visitor uses.

- Increase programming at the Nature Preserve: These expanded programs could include guided walks, tours and bicycle "loops" that begin in the neighborhood, utilize Rockefeller Park, tour the preserve, link to E. 55th and return. A more challenging loop/route could integrate connections to Sam Miller Park and

head east along Carr Avenue, making a connection to Forest Hills Park via Dupont/Glenview Avenues on the eastern side of E. 105th. Additional mileage could be added by remaining north of the Shoreway, taking advantage of the picturesque Bratenahl community, along Lakeshore Drive (identified as a “bike route” by NOACA’s Cuyahoga County Bicycle Map).



Figure 55: View of Downtown from the Nature Preserve Overlook.

Forest Hills Park

Utilizing Forest Hills Park as a paired north-south connection (with Rockefeller Park) creates an opportunity to “loop in” the Glenville Recreation Center and, further south, Patrick Henry School. Linking into the park also provides off-street access to Lake Erie/waterfront for the blocks defined by Lakeview, St. Clair and the railroad tracks parallel to E. 131st. Neighborhood connections can be enhanced and gateways created.

➡ **Action Strategy:** Complete a series of improvements at Forest Hills Park.

- Establish Phillips Avenue as a primary east-west connector: Provide a link at the southern portions of Forest Hills Park to Lakeview Road. In meetings with Bike Cleveland, representatives suggested that Lakeview Road (identified as a “connector street” by NOACA’s Cuyahoga County Bicycle Map) serve as a major north-south connector through the neighborhood, in lieu of E. 105th Street. E. 105th Street’s narrow right-of-way, combined with a relative high count of curb cuts and driveways, creates challenge for cyclists and pedestrians. The City of Cleveland’s Thrive 105 initiative studies this important corridor and will culminate into recommendations for reconfiguration and enhancements.

Neighborhood Greenways & Parks

In addition to improvements to above listed primary green spaces, the following strategies are also recommended to neighborhood gateways and smaller scale open spaces.

- ➡ **Action Strategy:** Complete upgrades to the E. 105th underpass on the northern end of Glenville to ensure safe multi-modal connections. Repurpose the two sidewalks as bicycle lanes and reconfigure the 19' width vehicular traffic lanes to 11' lanes while consolidating and providing a protected bike lane on the road.
- ➡ **Action Strategy:** Create neighborhood park "ambassadors" or representatives to help maintain smaller scale neighborhood parks. These individuals can organize neighborhood events such as picnics in the park, family days or other relatively simple activities that could begin re-activating the spaces and improve the perception of the City's park spaces.
- ➡ **Action Strategy:** Partner with Famícos Foundation's Youth Corps and other organizations to schedule ongoing volunteer opportunities and organized clean-up efforts. Perhaps, these park days could begin with clean-up activities, supported by the City of Cleveland (materials and trash pick-up) and culminate in a park celebration day, cookouts, games/activities, small concerts and other activities to demonstrate the value of neighborhood gathering spaces.

B. Land stewardship & interim open space

The Glenville neighborhood has suffered from a long-lasting trend of disinvestment, exacerbated by the nationwide foreclosure crisis that severely impacted Glenville starting in 2006. As a result, one out of three parcels located in the Study Area is currently vacant. The City of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County each operate land bank programs that acquire vacant properties and market them for redevelopment. In the interim period-in other words, prior to the stage when these properties are transferred to redevelopment entities-there are ample opportunities to utilize these parcels for positive community use. Examples include pocket parks, solar farms, community gardens, and urban farms (**Figure 56** shown on the following page).

- ➡ **Action Strategy:** work with the City and County land banks to program interim land uses. Creating temporary community gardens and parklets must be employed strategically, ensuring that expectations are clearly defined if open/green spaces are intended to be an "interim" use. Caution should be exercised when creating a series of "parks" that, when timing and market conditions are appropriate, turn out to be challenging to redevelop as building sites.

Figure 56: Examples of Interim Land Use



Green alleys for the mid-block shortcuts.



Urban agriculture.



Community gardens



Solar farms.

Figure 57: Examples of Sustainability Initiatives



Stormwater management with a rain garden.



Locally supported urban agriculture.

C. Sustainability initiatives

Recognizing that the negative impacts of climate change such as heat waves and inland flooding disproportionately affect low-income communities, Cleveland Neighborhood Progress has been facilitating a “climate resiliency program” in Glenville and three other neighborhoods in the city. Staff members from Famicos Foundation are serving as Climate Ambassadors for Glenville, coordinating a planning process that will result in a Climate Action Plan for the neighborhood. Projects that will likely be included in the Climate Action Plan are home weatherization, elimination of impervious surfaces, tree planting program, and others.

Other sustainability programs currently coordinated by Famicos Foundation include: Gateway 105 Farmers Market, free rain barrel program, neighborhood clean up events (especially targeting vacant lots), and sustainability outreach/education at Glenville High School (see **Figure 57** on Page 68).

- ➡ **Action Strategy:** complete the Climate Action Plan through a resident engagement process and work with community partners on a variety of sustainability programs.



Figure 58: The Rain Barrel program administered by Famicos Foundation has been hugely successful in the community.