

# Northside Neighborhood

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2012 Plan Update

*Final Recommendations*

# Plan Goal

Redevelopment and revitalization  
of the  
North Side Neighborhood

# The Next Phase – Plan Update

- 2000 Plan – Phase 1
  - Crime
  - Dilapidated/Dangerous homes
  - Un-kept, overgrown vacant lots
- 2012 Update – Phase 2
  - Increase housing and commercial stock
  - Decrease number of vacant lots and properties
    - (50% Vacancy)
  - Enhance sense of community for all community members
  - Establish community as a destination

\* Total of 48 Recommendations\*

# Summary of Last Meeting

- Highlighted Missing Community Elements
  - Land Development
  - Infrastructure
  - Transportation
  - Urban Design
  - Community Engagement



- Reviewed and Ranked 48 Recommendations



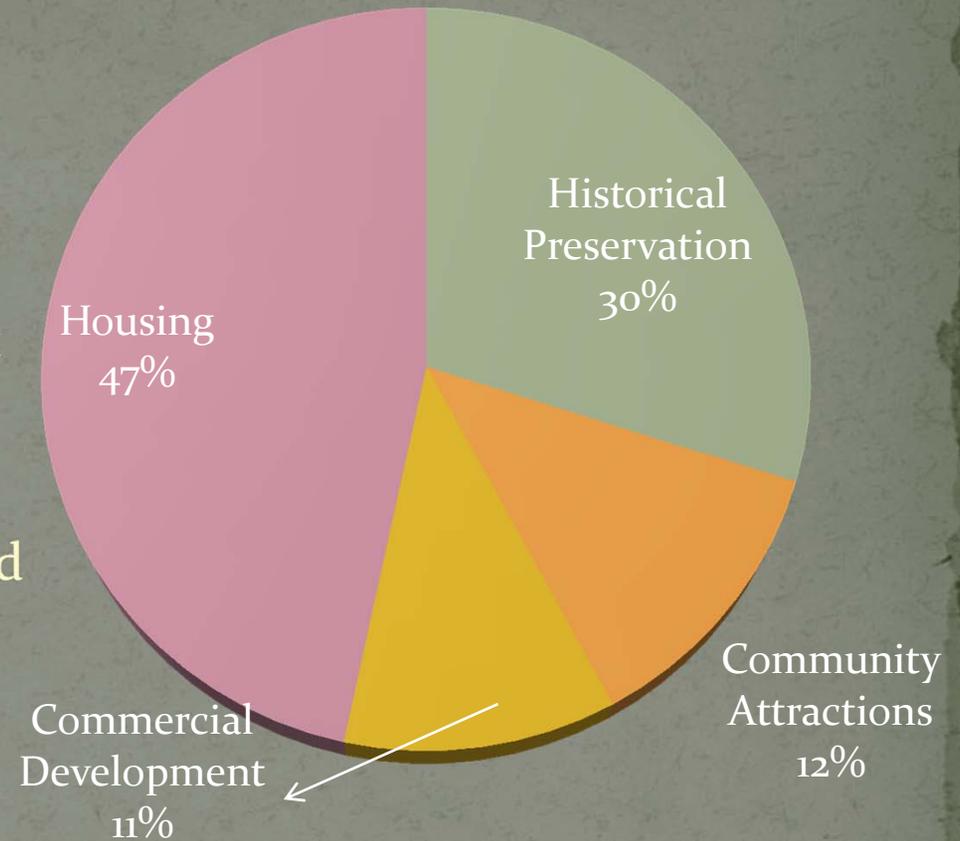
# The Results Are In!

- Goals
  - Understand importance of 48 listed recommendations
  - Evaluate and Rank recommendations based on Community Feedback
- Process
  - Initial Neighborhood Meeting – November 10<sup>th</sup>
  - Recommendations Presented - January 24<sup>th</sup>
  - Priority List Distribution
    - 9 Collected on January 24<sup>th</sup>
    - 70 Printed and Distributed to Neighborhood Residents
    - Additional copies made available through City Website.
  - Deadline for Submission – March 5<sup>th</sup>

The image shows a printed document, likely a survey or report, with a table structure. The table has several columns, including 'Action Recommendation', 'Link Description', 'Results', 'Priority', and 'Status'. The document is tilted and partially obscured by the text on the left.

# Land Development - Responses

- Total of 90 Responses
  - 4 Sub-categories
  - Historical Preservation
  - Community Attractions
  - Commercial Development
  - Housing
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- Sub-categories all represented in prioritized elements



# Land Development - Redevelopment

## Top 5 Ranked Priorities *continued*

1. **Community Attraction:** Conduct feasibility study for Splash Pad Development (Rec. #4)
2. **Historic Preservation:** Incorporate historic African American School as a part of the proposed brochure to be produced by the La Porte Heritage Society and distributed at the Old Depot Museum and other locations around town (Rec. # 2)
3. **Housing:** Continue to Market Northside Community for affordable single-family residential development to responsible builders (Rec. #6)



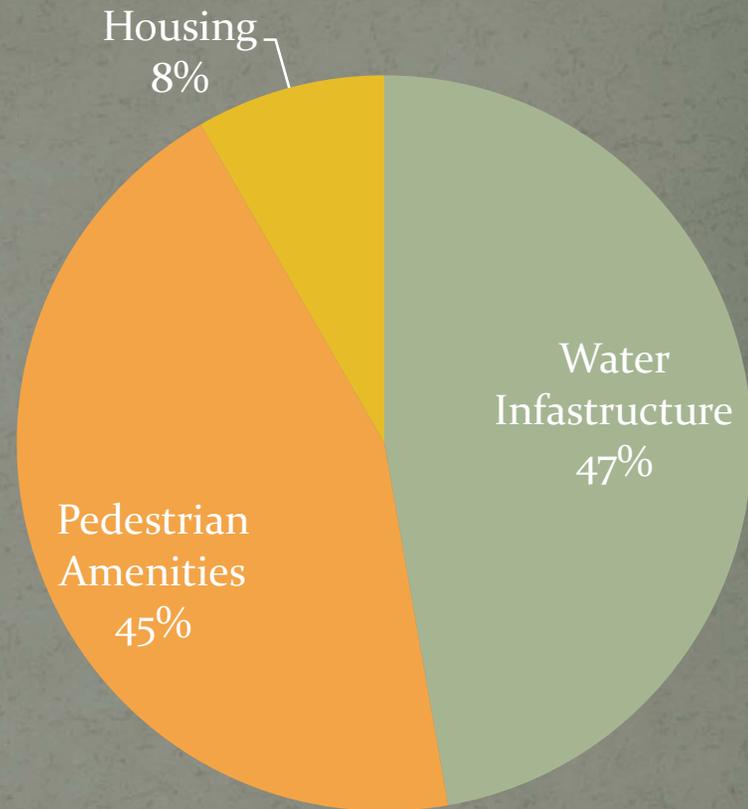
# Land Development - *continued*

## Top 5 Ranked Priorities

- 4. Commercial Development:** Investigate the possibility of incorporating a keystone commercial business at the corner of 4th and Main to continue reinforcement of Main Street redevelopment efforts (Rec. #5)
- 5. Historic Preservation:** Work with La Porte Heritage Society and the Order of Eastern Light to renovate and reestablish the historical significance of La Porte's first African American School (Rec. #1)

# Infrastructure - Responses

- Total of 36 Responses
- 3 Sub-categories
  - Water Infrastructure/Drainage
  - Pedestrian Amenities  
(*Bike Lanes/Sidewalks*)
  - Housing



# Infrastructure

## Top 2 Ranked Priorities

1. **Drainage:** Continue to maintain ditches and culverts on an as-needed basis (Rec. #19)

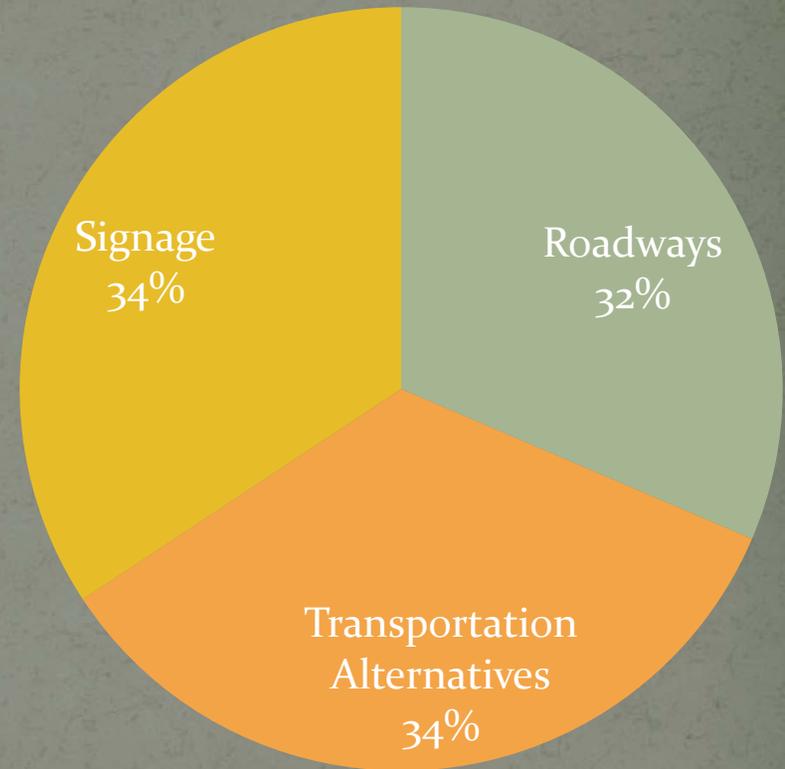


## Tie – 2<sup>nd</sup> Ranked Priority:

1. **Bike Lanes:** Extend San Jacinto Trail via a shared use path along 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> St incorporating two-way bike traffic to and from the community center (Rec. # 18)
1. **Sidewalks:** Complete Sidewalk network on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street between Tyler and Madison Streets; continue sidewalk connections on 4<sup>th</sup> Street where appropriate on Tyler St for increased east-west connection (Rec. # 17)

# Transportation- Responses

- Total of 35 Responses
- 3 Sub-categories
  - Roadways  
*(Primary Corridors/Barbours Cut)*
  - Transportation Alternatives  
*(Bus and Biking Options)*
  - Signage



# Transportation

## Top 2 Ranked Priorities

- **Wayfinding:** Establish wayfinding signs at key locations which indicate locations of the linear park (and associated parking), community center, Historical Landmark (1st African American School) and future area attraction (splash pad or other). Recommended locations include: Jennie Riley Community Center and primary corridor entrances along Main Street (Rec. #20)

## Tie – 2<sup>nd</sup> Ranked Priority:

- **Bus Shelters:** Construct bus shelters at current bus stop locations (Rec. # 21)
- **Barbours Cut:** Beautify median and right-of-way on Barbours Cut Blvd Cut Blvd with assistance from the Houston Port Authority and Harris County (Rec. #25)

# Transportation - *continued*

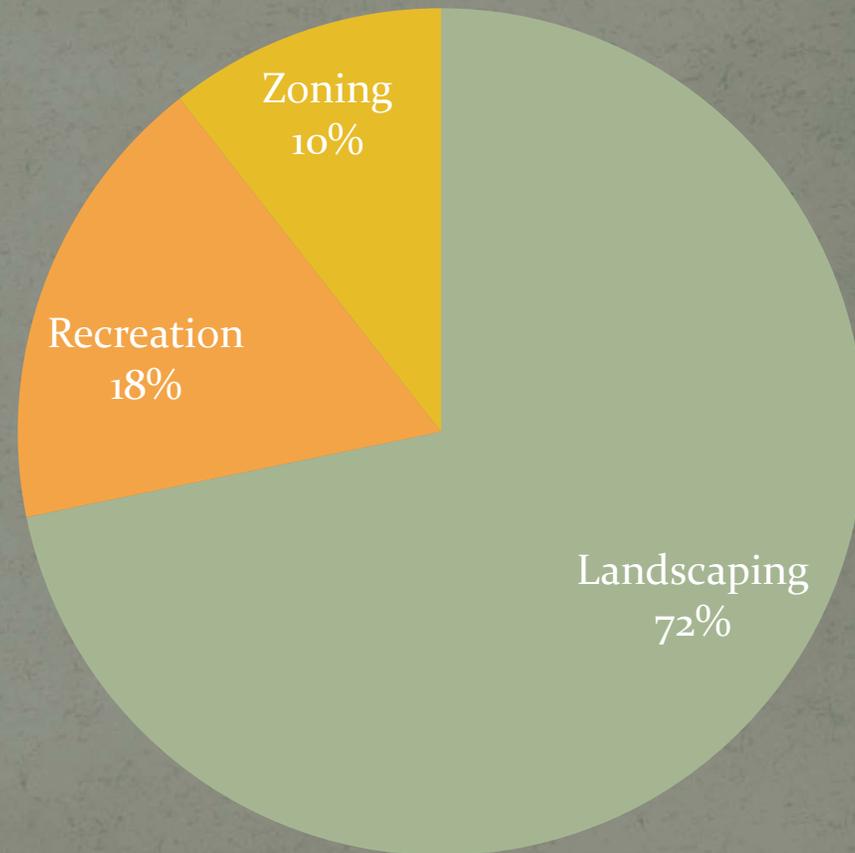
\*Pending One (1) Vote!\*

- **Primary Corridors:** Recognize 4th streets as primary corridor off of Main Street and 1st and 8th Streets as the primary corridors off of Barbour's Cut



# Urban Design- Responses

- Total of 85 Responses
- 3 Sub-categories
  - Aesthetics/Landscaping
  - Recreation
  - Zoning



# Urban Design

## Top 5 Ranked Priorities

- 1. Landscaping:** Eliminate the use of barbed wire fencing (i.e. La Porte ISD Properties & Industry) (Rec. #30)
- 2. Landscaping:** Continue to clear underbrush and debris from vacant lots (Rec. #31)
- 3. Landscaping:** Extend vegetative buffer at children's park at the corner of Tyler and 4th Street to incorporate park space leading up to Tyler and 5th St. Vegetative buffer to mimic event center parking which is located across the street from the park. (Rec. #27)



# Urban Design – Continued

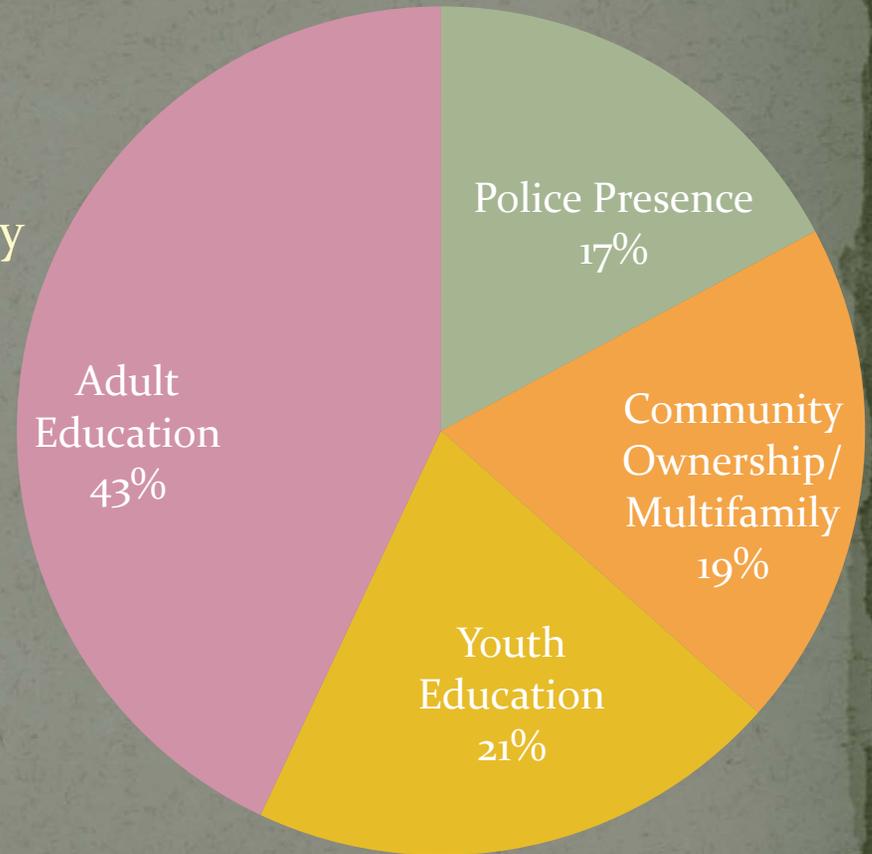
## Top 5 Ranked Priorities

4. **Rezone:** Rezone residential properties to less dense R1 developments; allow for R2 demonstration projects for continued diversity of housing stock. Based on outcome of demonstration projects, re-evaluate future the potential of R2 developments (Rec. #34)
  
5. **Landscaping:** Incorporate minimum landscaping requirements in business industrial, general commercial and residential properties. (Rec. #26)



# Community Engagement - Responses

- Total of 93 Responses
- 4 Sub-categories
  - Police Presence
  - Community Ownership/Multifamily
  - Youth Education/Programs
  - Adult Education/Programs/Housing



# Community Engagement

## Top 6 Ranked Priorities

- 1. Youth Program:** Encourage the establishment of a Child Safety/Dare Summer Camp to be institutionalized as a yearly program in joint cooperation between the La Porte Police & Parks and recreation department (Rec. #41)
- 2. Continued Police Presence:** Support the establishment of a "Police Drop-in Center" at the Jennie Riley Community Center as currently under development by the City of La Porte Police Department (Rec. #40)

# Community Engagement - *Continued*

## Top 6 Ranked Priorities

3. **Community Development Corporation:** Expand Community Development Corporation to include the development of businesses, jobs and enhanced economic and development into the Northside Neighborhood (Rec. #45)
4. **Workforce Training Program:** Utilize the Three Track Training program offered by Harris County for Target Area Non-Profit Organizations (Rec. #46)
5. **Community Outreach:** Encourage community ownership and sense of responsibility for continued success and revitalization via a continuous "Adopt a Street Program" utilizing participation of local churches (Rec. #36)

# Community Engagement - Continued

## Tie – 6<sup>th</sup> Ranked Priority:

- **Code Enforcement:** Initiate a Code Enforcement Amnesty Program which help to alleviate the penalty fees associated with prior code violations. Where properties meet all City Codes and Ordinances and where property is not subject to foreclosure, eligible property owners will be required to pay only a percent of the total fee owed (Rec. #47)
- **Continued Police Presence:** Recognize past commitment of law enforcement within Community. Continue to grow relationship between community residents and the Police Department concerning the nature of crimes when they occur, the steps/actions police officers can and cannot lawfully take in response to crimes, and possible creative cooperative solutions to prevention and eradication impasses (Rec. 39)
- **Multifamily Improvements:** Investigate the possibility of assisting apartment residents to organize a tenants association to work cooperatively with the owner/manager to improve living conditions and reduce crime (Rec. #38)

# Implementation Timeline

## Short Term: (Prioritized)

- Implementation goals that can be met within one (1) to five years (5).
- Amenable with expected budget constraints
- Provide for greatest impact (aka – biggest bang for your buck!)

## Medium Term (Prioritized)

- Implementation goals that can be met within five (5) to ten years (10).
- More in depth planning/resources/coordination required
- High community backing/non controversial

## Long Term

- Implementation goals to be reached in 10+ years
- To be reevaluated with next plan update

## Continuous

- Should be in implementation today and continued throughout.

# Implementation – Short Term

- Historic Preservation of School House
  - La Porte Heritage Society Brochure (Rec. #2)
  - Update Historical Marker as managed by Society (Rec. #3)
- Housing
  - Diversify Housing Stock; Rezone (Rec. #6, Rec. #34)
- Youth Programs
  - Child Safety/DARE Summer Camp (Rec. # 41)
- Adult Programs
  - Work Force Training Program – Three Track Training (Rec. #45)
  - Code Enforcement Volunteer Officers (Rec. #47)

# Implementation – Short Term

- Police Presence
  - Police Drop Box Center (Rec. #40)
  - Grow police and community interaction (Rec. # 39)
- Bike Lanes
  - Extension of San Jacinto Trail (Rec. #18)
- Primary Corridors
  - Recognize 4<sup>th</sup> St & 5<sup>th</sup> Streets (off of Main) and 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> (off Barbours Cut)
- Pedestrian Amenities
  - Bus Shelters (Rec. #21)
  - Sidewalk east-west connections (Rec. # 19)

# Implementation – Short Term

- Multifamily Improvements:
  - Organize tenant association  
(Rec. #38)
- Landscaping:
  - Extend vegetative buffer at children's park at the corner of Tyler and 4th Street to incorporate park space leading up to Tyler and 5th St. Vegetative buffer to mimic event center parking which is located across the street from the park.  
(Rec. #27)
- Community Outreach:
  - Encourage community ownership with an “Adopt the Street Program”

# Implementation – Medium Term

- Community Attraction
  - Splash Pad/Community Attraction Development (Rec. #4)
- Pedestrian Amenities
  - Way Finding Signage (Rec. # 20)
- Commercial Development
  - Reinforce Main Street redevelopment efforts and encourage incorporation of key stone commercial property at 4<sup>th</sup> and Main Street (Rec #5)
  - Expand Community Development Corporation to include Northside
- Code Enforcement:
  - Initiate Enforcement Code Amnesty Program

# Implementation – Long Term

- Roadways
  - Barbours Cut build and design (Rec. #25)



In partnership with  
TXDOT



# Implementation – Continuous

- Roadways

- Housing: Continue to market Northside as an affordable, single-family community (Rec. # 6)
- Drainage: Continue to maintain ditches and culverts on an as-needed-basis (Rec. # 19)
- Landscaping: Continue to clear brush and debris from vacant lots
- Police Presence: Continued police presence (Rec. 39)

# Findings

- A lot of what the Community wants is implementable!
  - Short and Medium Term time frame
- However, success of recommendation depends on:
  - Your Commitment
  - Your Support
  - Continued Motivation
- Pending
  - Recommendations that did not make the prioritization list will still be put forward within the plan, and ranked for short, medium and long-term consideration.
  - Final report to be presented to Council in April

# Thank you!

*To accomplish great things, we must not only act but  
also dream. Not only plan but also believe.*

*-- Anatole France (1844-1924)*