

HOPE VI Focus Area

Action Plan

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ACTION	WHO	WHEN	OUTCOME
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A. Subsidized Housing

1	Final Removal of Champion Park	WCHA	2007	Space available for Washington Park Improvements
2	Washington Park Expansion and Improvements	RPD; WCHA	2007-8	Expanded open space, community center facilities, and connection to greenways eventually connecting area to Dennis School and Ingersoll golf course
3	Concord Commons Redevelopment	RHA	2008	Revitalized and financially healthy subsidized housing that complements neighborhood's renewal character
	a) Integrate Concord Commons Redevelopment into agency Strategic Planning Process	RHA	2007	
	b) Create action steps based on implementable redevelopment activities	RHA	depends on progress of (a)	

B. Public Improvements

1	Street Lighting Improvements		Annually	Improved security and community openness
	a) Inventory What Exists	Community Development	2007	
	b) Create an improvement plan in concert with DPW, the aldermen, and County officials	City Staff	2007-8	
	c) Implement Planned Improvements	Department of Public Works	2008-12	

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2	Completion of the street network with fully improved streets	City Public Works Department	2007-13	Improved mobility; encourage orderly development of new housing
	a) Coordinate street improvements to allow minimal interference with Concord Commons redevelopment plans	DPW, RHA	2007-8	
	b) Complete street grid in areas of focus area outside HOPE VI TIF project	City Public Works Department	2008-2010	
	c) In concert with West State Corridor Plan, implement West State Street improvements, including northern frontage road and curb cut elimination	City Public Works Department	2011-2013	
3	Improvement of substandard streets (such as Concord Ave.) with Curb and Gutter, Storm Sewer, City Water, and sidewalks	City Public Works Department (Neighborhood Improvements Program)	Annually	New sidewalks, resurfaced streets, and an attractive gateway to Washington Park and Hope VI new construction
4	Completion of Sanitary Sewer System to serve the entire area	RRWRD	2008-12	Completion of network to serve development North and South of focus area (see attached map)
5	Improvements to Rockford Mass Transit System	RMTD, RATS	2008-10	More frequent service and convenient outbound dropoff location

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C. Private Property Improvements

1	Removal of dense undergrowth, brush and weed trees from vacant lots; including the former Lincolnwood shopping center site	Recruit Volunteers, City CD, Public Works, RHA, Comprehensive Community Solutions	2007-8	Creative more positive image signifying community renewal; prepare lots for new construction
2	Creation of new lots ready for development	Current Planning, CD	2007-8	Prepare and maintain all vacant lots within focus area for sale and redevelopment
3	Utilize WCHA's Single-Family Housing program	WCHA		Encourage and assist first-time homebuyers to take advantage of the newly constructed and rehabbed homes in area
4	Market programs to improve existing owner-occupied housing stock through the City's Rehab programs	CD/Housing, WCHA	2008-10	All housing listed as "deteriorated" (according to City windshield survey) given information on CD department's rehab programs; 5 homes given rehab funds per year
5	Remove dilapidated housing	City CD; Building Department; CCS	2008-12	Demolition, through CDBG program and TIF funds, of housing with conditions beyond repair, opening up lots for new construction.

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6	Rehabilitation of neighborhood housing in poor condition	CCS/WCHA, City CD, Building Department	2008-12	Approximately 52 rehabbed homes through Phase V and VI of the Hope 6 project
7	Approve and Implement the Tax Incentive Program (TIP)	CD	2007-12	Put vacant derelict properties in HOPE 6 TIF into productive use.
8	Combine lots to facilitate construction of new homes	HFH, CCS, City CD	2007-12	Build 20 new residential structures using remaining funding programs over the next 5 years
9	Establish a neighborhood cleanup program	Neighborhood Organizations, Community Foundation of Northern Illinois	2007-9	At least one organized annual cleanup

D. Neighborhood Sustainability

1	Ensure construction and rehabs improve visibility and remove thick grass, vegetation, and other indefensible spaces	Rockford Police Department, CD, Non-profit organizations, for-profit developers, housing authorities	2007-9	Open up neighborhood space and create a discouraging environment for criminal activities such as vandalism, drug trafficking, etc.
2	Confront crime issues at various locations along West State Street and at Concord Commons	Rockford Police Department, Residents	2007-ongoing	Reduced arrests and crime incidents

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3	Implement the West State St. Corridor plan elements that contribute to the improvement of the focus area	CD, Public Works	2009-	Blighted properties will be replaced with an open space / pathway corridor in advance of the roadway improvements resulting in a safer neighborhood
4	Establish Neighborhood Organizations to assist the Police Department in efforts to prevent crime and create a stronger cohesive identity within the community	Rockford Police Department, Neighborhood Network	2007-8	Active and involved neighborhood organizations to assist in the neighborhood plan's implementation
5	Enhance the use of the Washington Park Community Center for Additional Teen Programs	Rockford Park District, City of Rockford, WCHA	2007-9	More services, extended hours, programs throughout the year

E. Marketing the Area to New Businesses and Residents

1	Refine the West State Street Corridor Plan to create additional planned commercial areas in and near the Hope VI area	CD, Economic Development	2007	In <i>Springfield to Pierpont</i> portion of West State Corridor plan, show that market share can support grocery store, drugstore, and additional commercial uses with Springfield/State intersection as hub
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2 Create a new TIF or expand the existing TIF to include the newly designated commercial areas and the residential areas around Concord Commons at the appropriate time	CD, Economic Development	2008-12	Create a reliable funding source and financial incentives to provide commercial services and additional housing for area after Hope VI improvements result in more stable neighborhood.
3 Encourage residential development in vacant and underutilized areas in and near the Hope VI area to promote interest in retail development	CD	2007-10	Utilize any available non-TIF programs to encourage investment and residential development in the short-term
4 Using TIF incentives and market studies, attract the development of a new grocery store on West State Street in or near the Hope VI Focus Area	CD, Economic Development	2008-10	Siting of mid to large sized grocery in Springfield Corners Redevelopment TIF or new, expanded HOPE VI TIF district
5 Using TIF Incentives and market studies, attract additional new retail including a pharmacy, sit-down and fast-food restaurants, general retail and department stores, clothing stores, banks, home improvement/hardware stores, movie theaters and other retail stores and services in or near the Hope VI Focus Area	CD, Economic Development	2008-10	Collect case studies of TIF developments in region and across country and implement ambitious strategy for attracting these services

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6	Attract Jobs to the Area through the development of new retail and service businesses as well as small industrial shops	CD / Economic Development / Rock River Training	2008-12	Reduce local unemployment rates and make area a job center for West Rockford
7	Use marketing strategies to display rehab efforts	CD / Mayor's Office	2007-9	Bring attention to rehab efforts in focus area and highlight market potential for needed businesses
8	Create a roadway sign with a reverse thermometer or similar graphic showing decline in vacant properties	CD / Other departments	2007	Encourage users on State street to drive through Washington Park area to view improvements
9	Work with local media to highlight success stories in neighborhood	CD / Mayor's Office	2007-ongoing	Make Washington Park neighborhood a centerpiece of West Side's revitalization
10	Create Website to promote neighborhood improvements	Consultants, Washington Park Technology Center participants	2008	Provide well-designed site for city and county to highlight positive development in area

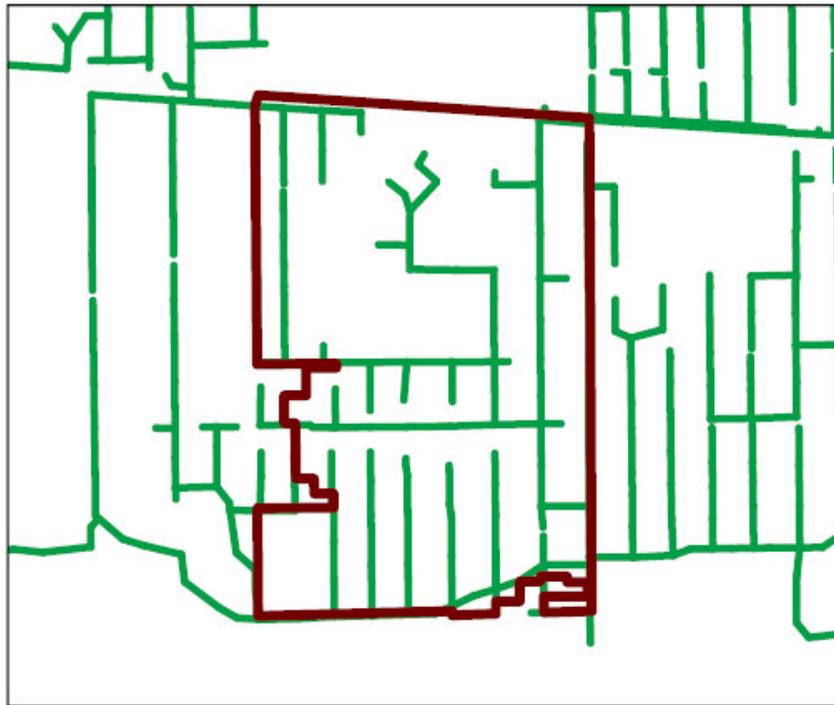
F. Improving the Neighborhood Fabric

1	Bring programs to neighborhood for treatment of substance abuse, mental health issues	Human Services Department, County Health Department, other providers	2008-10	Bring a well-respected institution to provide social services and improve safety and health of neighborhood residents
2	Assess availability of child and day care services and provide assistance to households wanting to start providing these services	CD, Dept. of Human Services	2007-2009	Establishment of a conveniently-located day care facility to allow working parents to safely drop off their kids

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3 Discuss opportunities to continue use of Washington Park facility (or other community buildings) for community programs	WCHA, RPD, Rock River Training	2007-2009	Give opportunities for residents to get GEDs, build computer and other career skills, and expand the use of WPCRC to serve educational needs of the community
4 Expand types of Adult Education Programs to area residents	WCHA, RPD, Rock River Training, Rock Valley College	2008-2012	Provide a variety of programs, including AA, Relationship Course, Family Credit Counseling, Literacy Programs
5 Establish Healthy Neighborhood program	Residents, RPD, City CD, Human Services, others	2008-2010	Bring a service-oriented community program to area

Sewer Network in HOPE VI Neighborhood

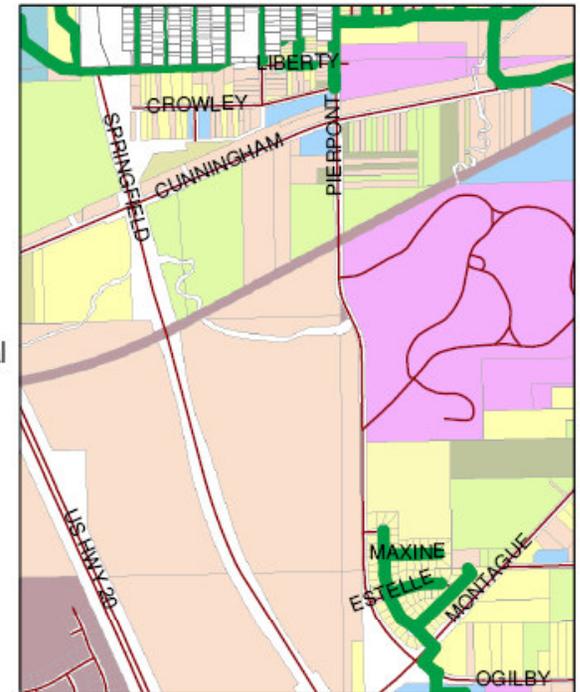
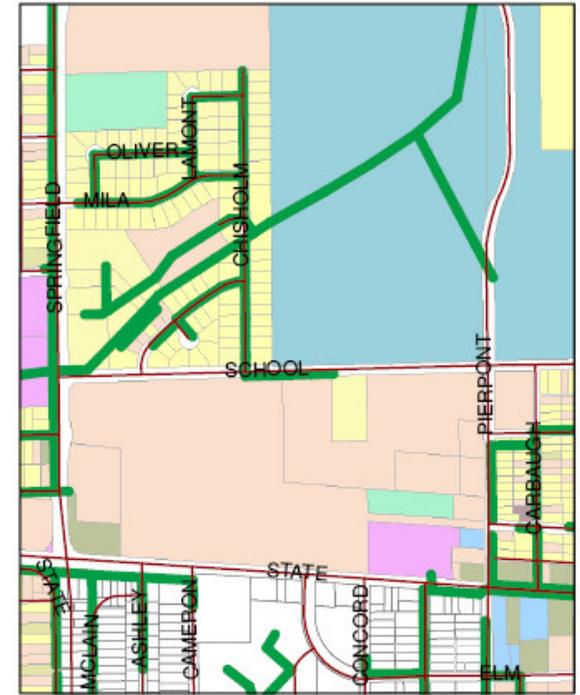


Legend

— Existing Sewer Lines

Property Type

- Unknown
- Commercial / Business
- Educational
- Government
- Industrial
- Religious
- Vacant
- Rural
- Single Family Residence
- Two Family Residence
- Other Residential
- Social/Charitable/Fraternal



Legend

- Hope VI boundary
- Existing Sewer Lines



City of Rockford
Community Development Department
Prepared by Jonah Katz
July 31, 2007