



Oakwood

Neighborhood Plan 2018



OAKWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION



THE CITY OF KALAMAZOO

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- Laura Huth-Rhoades, Do Good Consulting
- Christina Anderson, City of Kalamazoo CPED
- Deb Droppers, The Event Company

Oakwood Neighborhood Association Board

- Executive Director - Cheryl Lord
- President - Marcia Wallace
- Vice President - Alfonso Espinosa
- Treasurer - A.J. Srmek
- Secretary - Jan Sneddon
- Ellen Tober
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Oakwood Residents

Thank you to all of the residents who helped inform this plan.

City of Kalamazoo

- Kathleen Reilly, Neighborhood Activator
- Amanda Cockroft, Neighborhood Projects Coordinator, LISC AmeriCorps Member



Oakwood Neighborhood History

By Pat Henry

The Oakwood Neighborhood, located in the southwest corner of Kalamazoo, celebrated its 110 year anniversary in 2018. The Barnard and Stevens families originally settled the land around 1830 and the area grew into a thriving rural district. The Barnards donated land for schools and in 1884, an amusement park was established on farmland belonging to the Barnards bordering Woods Lake.

Marion Barnard purchased Isaac Stevens' farmland and in turn sold it to Samuel McCain in 1908. McCain divided the land into 50 foot lots which sold quickly given the established rural school and a trolley car that traveled to and from the city of Kalamazoo. After Marion's death the rest of her land became part of Oakwood.

Very community minded, a group of residents formed to help with things that the neighborhood and school would need, asking for taxes to improve the neighborhood and school and serving as the school board. In 1943, the group formalized to become Oakwood Youth Incorporated (OYI) and focused on benefiting the youth of the neighborhood. A beach area was established on the lake for use by Oakwood children and adults along with a memorial park at the top of the hill honoring service men and women of the two World Wars.

The Oakwood Neighborhood Association (ONA) was formed in 1947 and is still in existence today. In 1957, Oakwood voted to become a part of the city of Kalamazoo and the school board voted to join the Kalamazoo School District. school system also in the same year.

To support the community-oriented neighborhood, the ONA runs youth and senior programming, operates a food pantry, and hosts many annual neighborhood events including a Halloween Trunk or Treat, a Holiday Party, and an annual reunion picnic the last Sunday in June. A monthly newsletter is mailed out to about 900 businesses and residences.

Fun Fact

The Oakwood Neighborhood also contains the childhood homes of James McDivitt, Jack Moss and Don Seeyle.

Introduction

During the Imagine Kalamazoo 2025 (IK2025) planning process, neighborhood plans were identified as a need. Neighborhood plans allow the neighborhood to focus on their neighborhood vision and realize the community's Strategic Vision with small-scale or focused planning work. This resident driven process allows neighborhoods to take control of their future. The neighborhood planning process, as laid out in the 2025 Master Plan, does not have a required focus beyond aligning with the Strategic Vision and 2025 Master Plan goals. Through this process residents are encouraged to think about everything that impacts their daily wellbeing and futures. The resulting plans are comprehensive and leverage collaboration to achieve results.



Oakwood Demographics

Source: ACS 2016 5 year Estimates



1,533 Total Population



\$41,750

Median Household Income

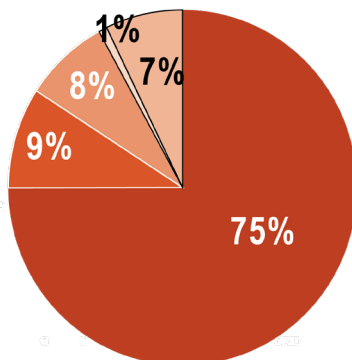


755

Total Housing Units

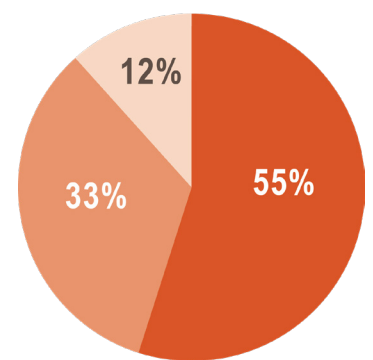
Racial Make-up

- White
- Asian
- Hispanic
- Black
- Other



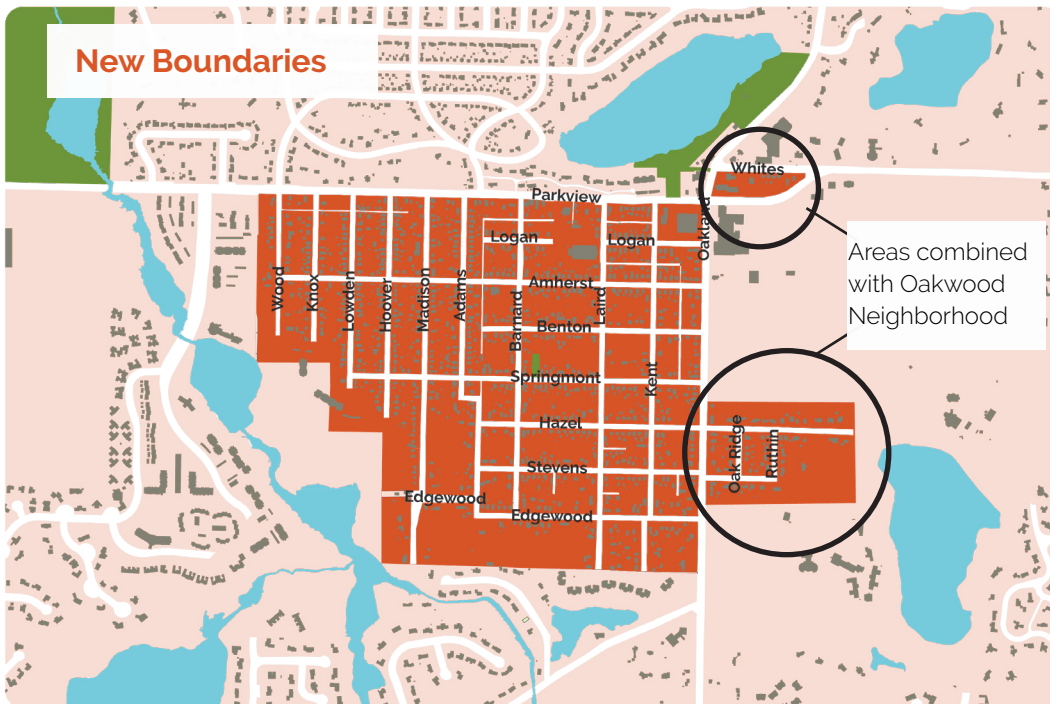
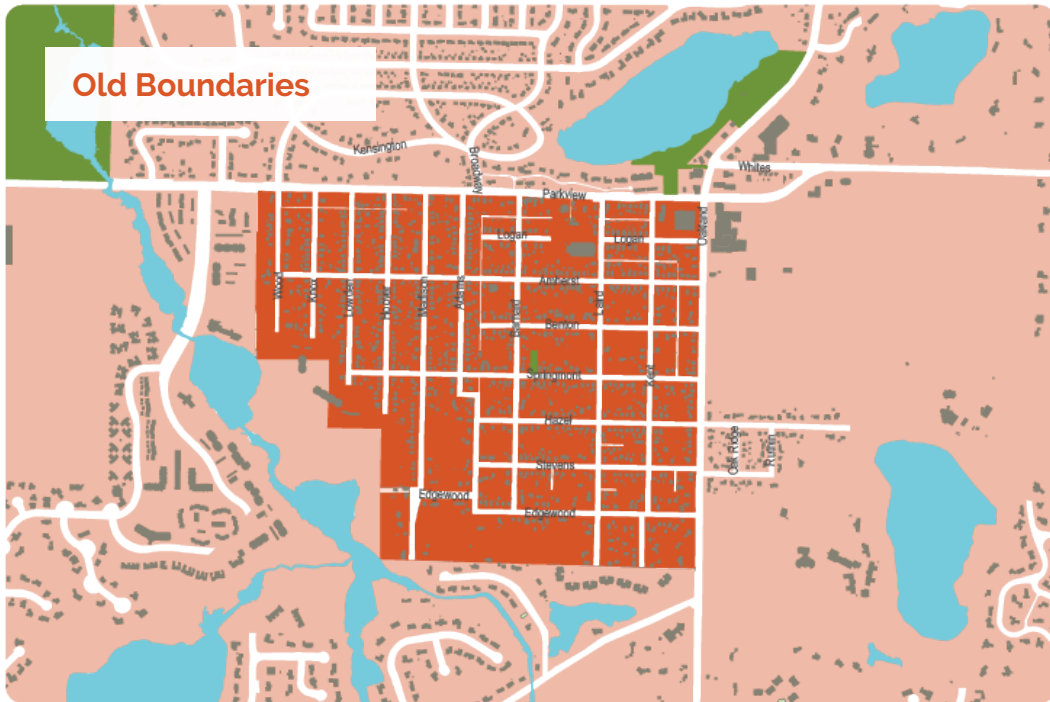
Housing Types

- Owner Occupied
- Renter Occupied
- Vacant



Oakwood Neighborhood Boundaries

Early on in the neighborhood planning process, Oakwood Neighborhood Association (ONA) noticed a discrepancy in the neighborhood boundary shown in City of Kalamazoo maps and their neighborhood boundary as defined by their bylaws. Through engagement, Oakwood Neighborhood Association confirmed that residents and businesses in the areas in question both currently felt they were part of the Oakwood Neighborhood, and wished to continue to be served by the Neighborhood Association. ONA also engaged the surrounding neighborhoods in this process to ensure everyone was in agreement. The map below shows the changes that will be made to all City of Kalamazoo maps moving forward.



Planning Process



1 Review previous plans & engagement

Oakwood Neighborhood began the planning process by reviewing feedback gathered during Imagine Kalamazoo 2025 engagement. The Oakwood Neighborhood Association strategic plan from 2006 was also referenced for additional background.

2 Engage community to create neighborhood vision

Engagement was kicked off by a survey that was distributed in the neighborhood newsletter and door-to-door. The results of that survey informed the creation of six focus groups to further discuss the recurring themes of Youth, Seniors, Housing, Parks, Streets, and the Neighborhood Association. Additional feedback was gathered through pop-up engagement at an Open House at Kazoo Books and at the Annual Neighborhood Reunion.

Oakwood Neighborhood Association
2018 Planning Survey

*Thank you in Advance for doing this survey.
Your answers will help the Oakwood Neighborhood Association develop a neighborhood plan for the newly updated Master Plan of the City of Kalamazoo.*

Please complete this survey to be eligible for a May 1st 2018 drawing for a \$25.00 D&W gift certificate.

Name: _____ email: _____

Address: _____

How long have you lived in our neighborhood? _____

Number of children in your home _____ and ages _____

Do you have children, who walk to an elementary school? Yes ___ No ___

Would you like to have your K-3 student attend school in our neighborhood? _____

1. What type of businesses or services would you like to see come to the Oakwood area?

2. What needs the most improvement in Oakwood? (Please list in order of priority 1-9)

___ Trees or bushes that need trimming ___ Sidewalks that need repair or where they do not exist and are needed ___ Poor lighting ___ Bike Lanes ___ Traffic/or speed control. ___ Streets flooding or roads in need of repair ___ Deer over population problems ___ Unsafe area or dilapidated housing ___ Other neighborhood concerns that need to be addressed?	Specific Location _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____
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3. Where do you take the Metro bus to?

What is one thing that would make it easier to take the bus?

4. Where do you bike to?

What is one thing that would make biking safer or easier?

3 Draft goals & neighborhood plan

Combining all past information and new input heard from residents during engagement, goals and actions were drafted. The goals were drafted to be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Timely (S.M.A.R.T.) and align with the Strategic Vision. The goals and actions were then structured into a draft of the neighborhood plan.



4 Confirm goals & neighborhood plan

The goals and actions of the plan were confirmed by residents at an Open House at the Neighborhood Association, during the Trunk or Treat event in late October, and at the November Oakwood Neighborhood Association Board meeting.



5 Neighborhood plan goes to Planning Commission

Once the Oakwood Neighborhood Plan 2018 is finalized by the neighborhood, the plan will go to the Planning Commission and City Commission to seek approval as an amendment to the Imagine Kalamazoo 2025 Master Plan.



6 Complete action steps to turn the vision into reality!

Upon approval the Oakwood Neighborhood Association, residents, the City, and other partners will get to work on carrying out the actions in the plan including a Quick Win Project.



Strategic Vision Alignment



Imagine Kalamazoo Strategic Vision Alignment

Strategic Vision Goal	Shared Prosperity	Connected City	Inviting Public Places	Environmental Responsibility	Safe Community	Youth Development	Complete Neighborhoods	Strength Through Diversity	Economic Vitality	Good Governance
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Oakwood Neighborhood Plan Goals

Connectivity

Improve Connections and Walking Conditions with in and outside of the Neighborhood		●	●		●		●		●	
Improve Street and Intersection Design to Promote Traffic Safety		●	●		●		●			
Make Bicycling Safer In and Around the Neighborhood		●	●		●		●			
Improve Existing Transit Infrastructure and Fill Gaps in Services	●	●		●	●		●			

Parks + Environment

Improve Existing Parks and Work Toward Everyone Being Within a 1/4 Mile of a Park or Green Space			●	●	●	●				
Address Flooding Issues in the Neighborhood				●	●					
Protect Natural Assets in the Neighborhood				●						
Maintain Deer Population at Safe Levels and Remediate Externalities From Deer Population in Neighborhood and Surrounding Area				●	●					

Development

Encourage Walkable Commercial Development and Uses that Meet Neighborhood Needs			●	●	●		●		●	●
Create a Vibrant Commercial Node through Supporting Local Entrepreneurs and Placemaking	●		●				●	●	●	



Strategic Vision Goal	Shared Prosperity	Connected City	Inviting Public Places	Environmental Responsibility	Safe Community	Youth Development	Complete Neighborhoods	Strength Through Diversity	Economic Vitality	Good Governance
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Community

Increase Access to Fresh, Affordable, and Healthy Food						●	●			
Create a Sustainable Organization and Center that Will Continue to Be An Asset for Years to Come	●		●		●	●	●			●
Promote Collaboration and Open Lines of Communication with Schools, Businesses, and Other Partners										●
Increase Access and Enjoyment of the Arts			●			●	●	●		
Support Affordable Housing in the Neighborhood	●			●	●		●	●	●	

Youth + Seniors

Create More Enrichment Opportunities for Youth	●				●	●				●
Support Seniors in the Neighborhood	●				●		●			●

Goal & Action Tables Legend

Costs

Costs follows the same breakdown as the master plan. Where possible, funding sources are listed.

\$ - Low Cost

\$\$ - Moderate Cost

\$\$\$ - Significant Project Cost

\$\$\$\$ - Significant Planning & Construction Cost

Timeline

Timeline is based on whether a project is in motion, planned, or not started. If it is in motion or planned a year for completion is listed (2019, 2020, etc.). If an action is new from this plan it may have Short, Mid, or Long instead of a date. The years reference how long the project is likely to take from start to finish. If something is a project that doesn't necessarily have an end date it is listed as ongoing

Short - approximately between 0-2 years

Mid - approximately between 3-5 years

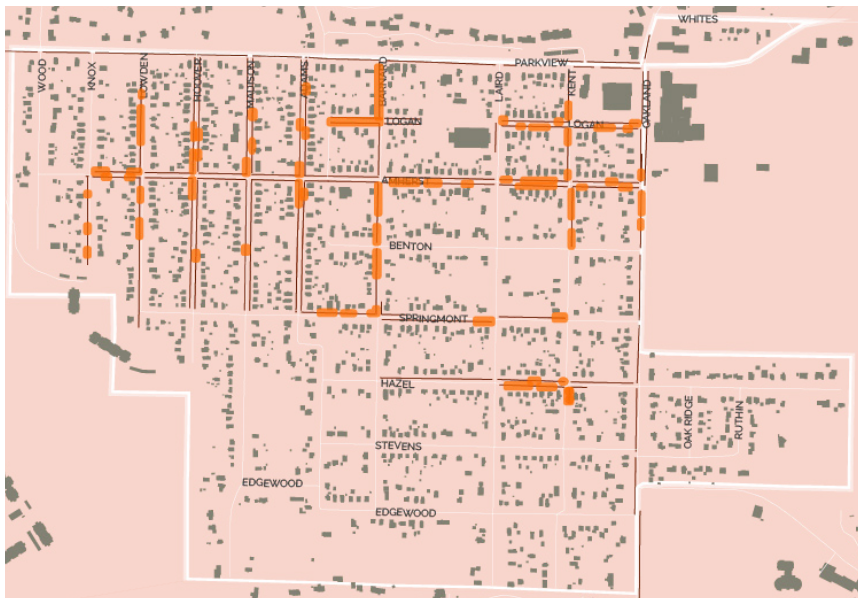
Long - approximately between 5+ years

Connectivity

Oakwood neighborhood became a part of the City of Kalamazoo in the 1950s. When the neighborhood was annexed, it had existing conditions that make sidewalk and other infrastructure projects challenging. One of these existing conditions is that the right-of-ways that are between 50-60', which is considerably smaller than the standard right-of-way size. The smaller right-of-way, paired with housing built closer to the road and topography, make infrastructure projects challenging in Oakwood neighborhood resulting in higher costs and longer project timelines.

This chapter puts forth goals and key connections the neighborhood would like to see addressed while recognizing that due to the unique circumstances of the neighborhood origins and lay out, it will take longer than average for projects to be completed.

Sidewalks in Need of Repair



1

Improve Walking Conditions in the Neighborhood

Being able to connect to neighborhood amenities, including James McDivitt Springmont Tot Lot and the Oakwood Neighborhood Center, is a top priority for residents as well as being able to safely access amenities outside of the neighborhood boundaries regardless of physical ability. In order to achieve this goal, residents identified where existing infrastructure needs improvement and where additional, new infrastructure needs built. See map on page 14 for more information.

Amenities Outside of Oakwood's Boundaries

- ONA Memorial Beach
- Woods Lake Beach
- Oakwood Plaza
- Woods Lake Elementary
- Oakland Drive Winchell Neighborhood
- Parkview Hills Neighborhood
- Asylum Lake
- Oakwood Bible Church

Complete Neighborhood Study

A study completed by Kalamazoo College students found that approximately **53%** of the neighborhood has sidewalks. Of the existing sidewalk, the study found that **65%** was damaged in some way.

2

Improve Street and Intersection Design to Promote Traffic Safety

Residents would like to see improvements to streets and intersections to be able to safely drive in and out of the neighborhood. They would also like to see designs to slow speeding traffic on key corridors. See map on page 15 for more information.

3

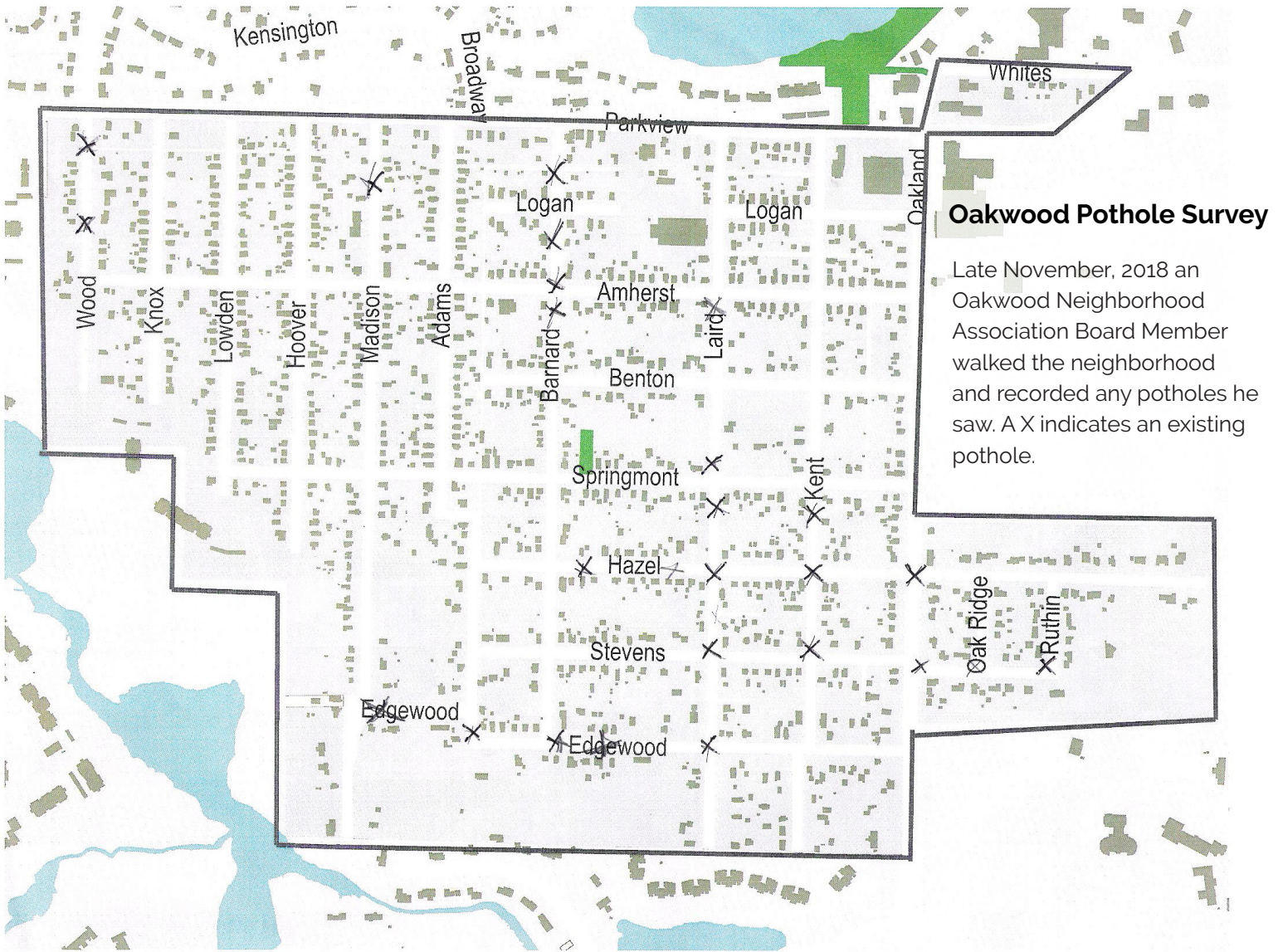
Make Bicycling Safer In and Around the Neighborhood

Many in the neighborhood will bike to nearby amenities such as Asylum Lake Preserve and other nearby trails.

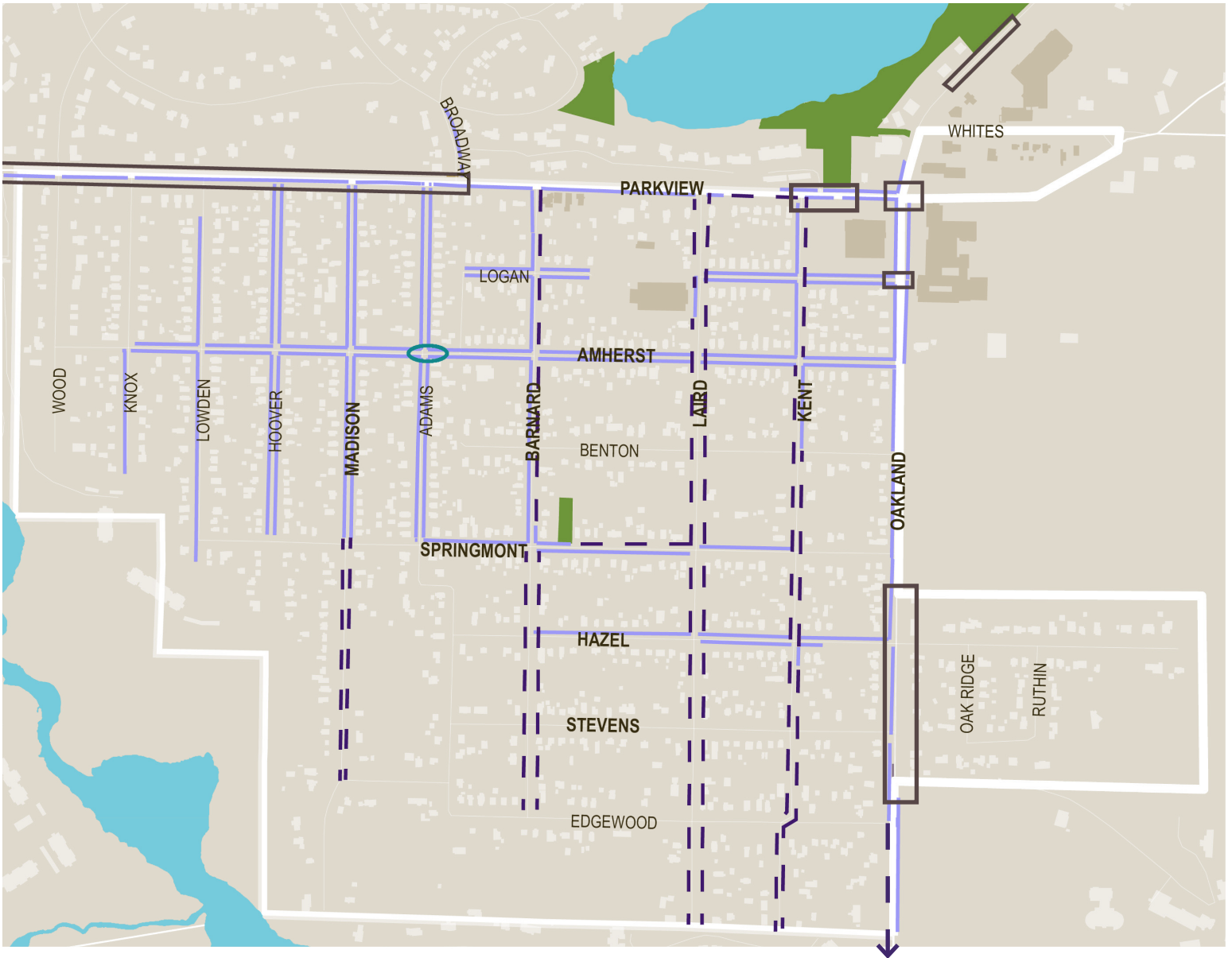
4

Improve Existing Transit Infrastructure and Fill Gaps in Service






Oakwood would like to ensure that all residents have mobility and access to affordable transportation options. In order to do this, residents identified improving existing stops, making sure there is sidewalk and crosswalk to access the existing system, and determining ways to expand or create new service into the neighborhood.



Oakwood Pedestrian Priorities



LEGEND

-  PRIORITY for NEW SIDEWALK
-  EXISTING SIDEWALK
-  CURB RAMPS NEED REPAIR
-  PRIORITY FOR NEW OR IMPROVED PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS
-  NEIGHBORHOOD AMENITY

The neighborhood would like to see safer pedestrian connections made to amenities to the south including the Nature Center's Stryker property and the Oakwood Bible Church. The Oakwood Bible Church also serves as the neighborhood's voting precinct increasing the need for safe access to the south.

Resident Input

Residents noted that sidewalks in the neighborhood are narrow causing many pedestrians to walk in the street even when sidewalks are present. Where ever possible, residents would like to see existing sidewalks updated to meet ADA standards.

Oakwood Traffic + Street Priorities



LEGEND

-  TRAFFIC SAFETY ISSUES
-  PRIORITY FOR RESURFACING
-  PRIORITY INTERSECTIONS
-  FLOODING ISSUES
-  NEIGHBORHOOD AMENITY

Resident Input

Residents have observed that visibility is often obstructed along roadways due to overgrown weeds and grass. Trimming trees, shrubs, and tall grass away from street lights and signage, particularly at the intersections identified above, would improve safety throughout the neighborhood.

Connectivity Goals & Actions

ACTION	NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION	PARTNERS	CITY	TIMELINE	COSTS
Improve Walking Conditions in the Neighborhood					
Close Gaps in Existing Sidewalk Network With Priority Given to Connections to the Oakwood Plaza, Memorial Beach, Woods Lake Elementary, James McDivitt Springmont Tot Lot, and Oakwood Neighborhood Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist City with resident outreach and discussions about easements, trees, fences, and sidewalk projects Support sidewalk projects and explore grants to fund sidewalk projects faster 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install sidewalks in identified areas including around amenities and sidewalks identified in priority map Keep and open line of communication with neighborhood on process and barriers to sidewalk projects As much as possible, work to install sidewalk with road projects 	Long	\$\$\$\$
Repair Sidewalk That is Heaved or Deteriorated	Report damaged sidewalks to the City		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repair sidewalks during road projects Work to repair the following sidewalks: Kent and curb cuts at Adams and Amherst 	Mid	\$\$\$
Keep Sidewalks Clear and Well Lit so Pedestrians of All Abilities Can Use Them Safely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist with outreach and education about property owners responsibility Organize volunteers to help clear sidewalks at season changes and throughout the winter Explore grants to help fund the work 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enforce sidewalk clearing ordinance Ensure all City sidewalks are cleared Trim trees blocking street lights throughout the neighborhood 	Short	\$
Create Safe, Dedicated Pedestrian Space in the Right-of-Way Throughout the Neighborhood			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine option available for sidewalk alternatives, such as a painted and buffered multi-use path, considering street size, right-of-way size, and existing conditions. Once option(s) are determined work with neighborhood to install 	Long	\$\$\$

ACTION	NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION	PARTNERS	CITY	TIMELINE	COSTS
Improve Walking Conditions in the Neighborhood Continued					
Ensure There are Safe Crossings to Major Neighborhood Amenities (Oakwood Plaza, Memorial Beach, Woods Lake Elementary)	Work with partners to create Safe Routes to School (SRTS) to Woods Lake - along with infrastructure improvements, SRTS programming includes things such as walking buses or crossing guards.	Work with partners to create Safe Routes to School (SRTS) to Woods Lake - KPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study SRTS to ensure students and parents can safely access Woods Lake Elementary. Consider implementations such as school zone signs, and crosswalks with signage • Study pedestrian crossings to place or enhance infrastructure in common crossing locations (ex. residents often cross Oakland in front of Oakwood Plaza near Woods Lake) 	Mid	\$\$\$
Improve Street and Intersection Design to Promote Traffic Safety					
Slow Traffic on Key Neighborhood Streets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep the conversation going with education and outreach about traffic and pedestrian safety • Work with partners to create lawn signs that promote safe driving 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create process to propose and install traffic calming measures on neighborhood streets • Study Amherst to determine design options to slow traffic and improve safety at intersections 	Mid	\$\$\$
Study Parkview and Oakland to Determine Ways to Slow Traffic			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study corridors to determine ways to slow traffic. Particular focus on intersection of Parkview and Oakland for traffic, bicycle, and pedestrian safety - Public Services • Determine ways to enforce speed limit in the short term - KDPS 	Long	\$\$\$\$

ACTION	NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION	PARTNERS	CITY	TIMELINE	COSTS
Improve Street and Intersection Design to Promote Traffic Safety					
Study Parkview and Broadway Intersection for Pedestrian, Bike, and Vehicle Travel			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study intersection for feasibility of a traffic light or develop alternatives for easier turning movements Study pedestrian movements along Parkview to determine feasibility and placement of a crossing between Oakland and Greenleaf 	Long	\$\$\$\$
Repave Neighborhood Streets With Priority on Barnard, Laird, Eastern Part of Amherst, Hazel, Madison, Woods, Hoover, and Stevens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report potholes or poor road conditions to the City Inform residents of different reporting options 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritize these streets for repaving and whenever possible install or repair sidewalk, or take steps to make sidewalk installation easier in the future Explore the potential of creating a "service area" around reported potholes in which other conditions issues would be addressed 	Mid	\$\$\$
Make Bicycling Safer In and Around the Neighborhood					
Provide Safety Training for Youth and Interested Community Members	Partner to organize and promote event	<i>Reach out to Open Roads to partner in event</i>	Partner in event to provide trainings and to help promote	Short	Time
Work to Provide Helmets to All Youth	Engage local groups for donations to purchase helmets	<i>Reach out to Bronson and Borgess to participate in activity</i>		Short	\$
Study Parkview and Oakland to Determine Ways to Increase Bike Lane Size	Partner with area neighborhood to advocate for improved infrastructure on those roads	Partner with area neighborhood to advocate for improved infrastructure on roads - ODWN, Parkview Hills, Woods Lake Association	Study roads to determine feasibility of wider or buffered bike lanes	Mid	\$\$\$

ACTION	NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION	PARTNERS	CITY	TIMELINE	COSTS
Imrpove Existing Transit Infrastructure and Fill Gaps in Services					
Ensure Existing Bus Stops are Accessible and Comfortable for Riders		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve bus stops with benches, lighting, and shelters where needed • Install signage with route and schedule information. • Work with City to ensure there are sidewalk connections to stops - Metro 	Continue to support ADA improvements to bus stops and work to close gaps in sidewalk network	Mid	\$\$\$
Provide Regular Rides to Key Destinations. Engage Seniors to Determine Demand for This Type of Service, Ideal Destinations, and What an Affordable Rate Would Be	Determine locations, volunteers to train, and what an affordable rate would be for the service with the goals of paying drivers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine locations, volunteers to train, and what an affordable rate would be for the service with the goals of paying drivers - Area Churches • Provide trainings and vehicles - Metro 		Long	\$\$\$
Continue to Communicate Interest in Having a Bus Route and Stop Within the Neighborhood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate with Metro for bus route • Continue to have conversation understanding funding is a limitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to communicate with neighborhood and seek ways to increase transportation for all residents - Metro 		Ongoing	Time

Parks + Sustainability

1

Improve Existing Parks and Work Toward Everyone Being Within a Quarter Mile of a Park or Open Space

Currently, Oakwood has one public park, James McDivitt Springmont Tot Lot. Oakwood Neighborhood Association also owns beach property open to the public just outside neighborhood boundaries along Woods Lake. Ensuring there are safe connections and appropriate amenities at these parks is important to residents as well as working to fill the gap leveraging relationships with the Land Bank or utilizing City property.

2

Address Flooding Issues in the Neighborhood

The southern half of Madison frequently floods and some areas in the southern part of the neighborhood experience flooding or their driveways and property is frequently washed out by storm water. Improving infrastructure and the water system will help to lessen the impact of these occurrences.

3

Protect the Natural Assets of the Neighborhood

A common response when asked what they like about the neighborhood most, second only to the people, is the nature. The neighborhood would like to work to become better stewards of their great natural assets and protect them for years to come.

4

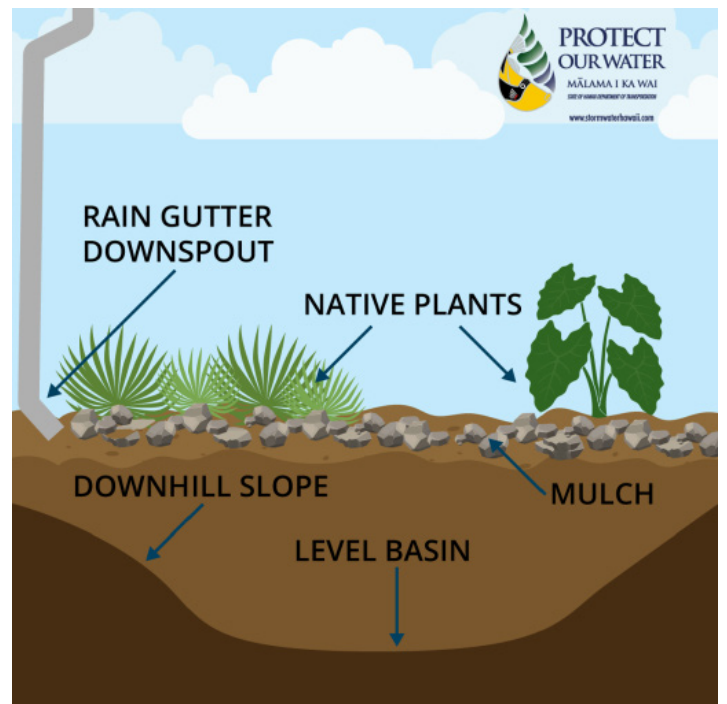
Maintain Deer Populations at Safe Levels and Remediate Rxternalities From High Populations in the Neighborhood

Oakwood and other area neighborhoods have been experiencing an increase in deer population. Residents are currently split on how they feel about deer with some loving their presence, and others feeling the negative impacts. While a long term solution is worked towards, the neighborhood would like pursue education to promote safety and help neighbors guard against some of the negative impacts of the deer.

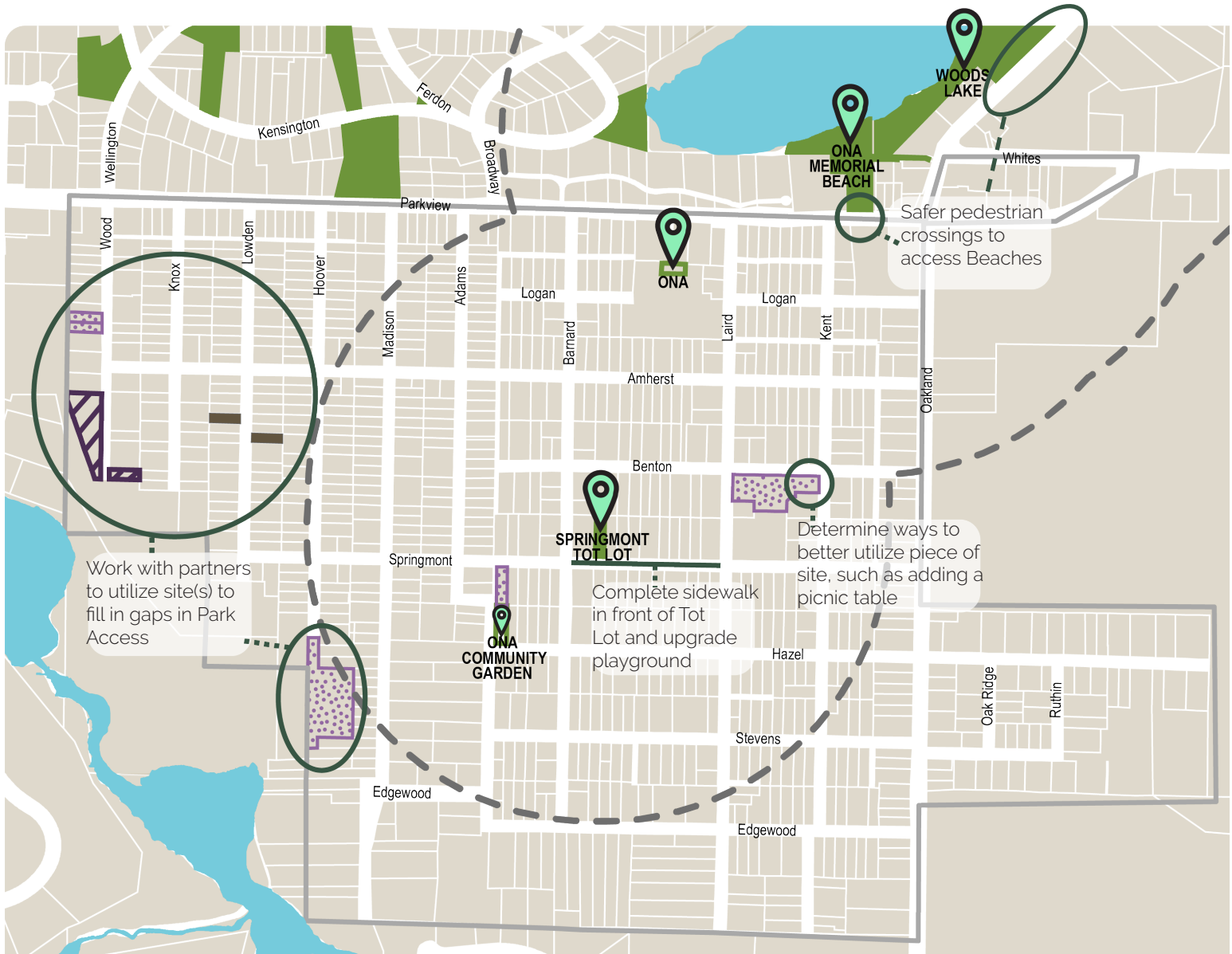
Rain Gardens

Rain gardens are an easy way to help divert stormwater from entering the City's system. They often use native plant species and can be paired with disconnecting downspouts, another way to divert water from the City's system. Detroit Future City's Field Guide to Working with Lots provides many examples of different uses of land to promote a healthier environment. The Field Guide can be found at dfc-lots.com.





Photo Source: <http://www.stormwaterhawaii.com/latest-news/tips/how-to-build-a-rain-garden/>



Oakwood Parks + Open Space Priorities

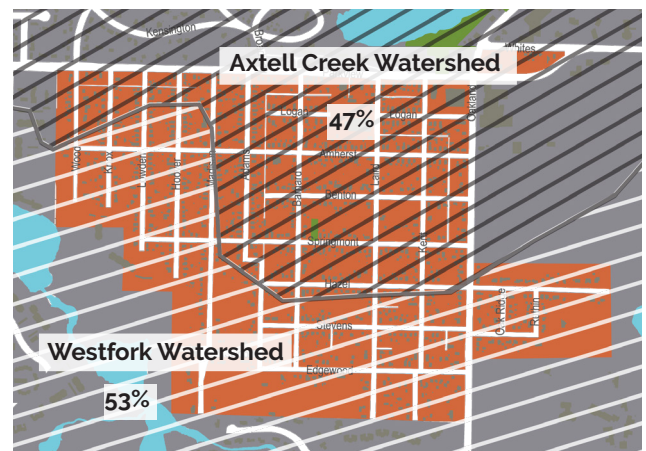


LEGEND

-  ONA Owned Property
-  City Owned Property
-  Land Bank Owned Property
-  1/4 Mile Park Access

Oakwood Watersheds

53 % of Oakwood neighborhood is in the Westfork Watershed which is associated with Asylum Lake. The remaining 47% is in the Axtell Creek Watershed.



Parks + Sustainability Goals and Actions

ACTION	NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION	PARTNERS	CITY	TIMELINE	COSTS
Improve Existing Parks and Work Toward Every Being Within a Quarter Mile of a Park or Open Space					
Create New Park(s) and Green Space in Oakwood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for the use of KCLBA property as parks get resident feedback to ensure park serves resident needs 	<i>Contact KCLBA to partner in using one or more of their properties for this need</i>	Work to create new park in the neighborhood	Long	\$\$-\$\$\$
Utilize Recharge Sites to Create Passive Park Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help reach out for volunteers to help plant gardens, Provide feedback on passive park ideas and needs 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create passive park uses at recharge sites such as a walking path with native or pollinator garden, picnic tables, or dog runs Include neighborhood in plantings or building benches/tables 	Mid	\$\$-\$\$\$
Address Flooding in the Neighborhood					
Install Curbs Where Flooding Regularly Occurs in Streets Causing Damage to Driveways and Homes			Re-install Kent Curb along Madison. If flooding continues to be an issue, study are for potential leeching basins	Mid	\$\$\$
Clean Gutters of Debris to Prevent Back-Ups	Organize volunteers to assist in proper disposal of lawn waste during season changes		Continue to clean and maintain gutters, continue to street sweep	Short	\$
Mitigate Flooding in Oakwood by Addressing Issues with Existing System			Repair the culvert at Angling to improve overall system flow and function	Long	\$\$\$\$
Protect the Natural Assets in the Neighborhood					
Join With Surrounding Neighborhoods to Develop Educational Campaign to Promote Sustainable Practices in the Area	Work with partners to develop priorities and joint programs to help neighbors be environmentally sustainable	Partner to develop educational materials and trainings - Parkview Hills, ODWNA, KNC, WMU, Woods Lake Association	Provide information on City policies and ordinances related to sustainability	Short	\$

ACTION	Neighborhood Association	Partners	CITY	TIMELINE	COSTS
Protect the Natural Assets in the Neighborhood (Continued)					
Detach Downspouts to Help Mitigate Stormwater Run-Off - Diverted Water Can be Captured in Rain Barrels or Directed to Rain Gardens	Partner to provide information and resources such as rain barrels	Partner to provide information and resources such as rain barrels - WMU		Short	\$\$-
Evaluate Benefit of Permeable Pavings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install permeable paving treatments in driveways and other surfaces to support the absorption of water into the soil Partner to educate residents on the benefits of permeable pavings 	<i>Reach out to WMU to have students support effort and create educational materials</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow permeable paving in zoning ordinance Assist with review process to transition paved non-permeable areas to permeable 	Long	\$\$\$
Plant Rain Gardens to Help Mitigate Stormwater Run-Off	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help to organize an event to build and plant rain gardens throughout the neighborhood including on ONA property Work with local groups to gather donations and volunteers 	Support rain garden plantings through donations, helping to organize volunteers and event, or providing how to trainings - Greenhouses, Master Gardeners, KNC, Parkview Hills, ODWNA, WMU, Building Blocks, Kalamazoo River Watershed Council, Woods Lake Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help navigate ordinances to make sure plantings are allowed and not considered nuisances Allow volunteers to plant in the curb lawn and other city owned property in the neighborhood as long as it doesn't create safety hazards 	Short	\$\$
Increase Knowledge and Awareness of Native and Invasive Plant Species and Work to Eliminate Native Species While Encouraging the Use of More Native Plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with partners to provide informational material and organize trainings Work with City to organize neighborhood walk through to identify areas with invasives and inform homeowners of ordinances and how to remove them 	Assist in developing informational materials and how to's on invasives - Master Gardeners, KNC, Parkview Hills, ODWNA, WMU, Woods Lake Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide information on invasive species and City policies Participate in neighborhood walk to let residents know if they have invasives, if they are in violation of City ordinances, and how to remove them 	Short	\$

ACTION	Neighborhood Association	Partners	CITY	TIMELINE	COSTS
Protect the Natural Assets in the Neighborhood (Continued)					
Advocate for Completion of the Natural Feature Protection Ordinance to Protect Neighborhood and City Natural Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide City with information on areas believed to be natural features in the neighborhood Participate in engagement around policy creation 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the Natural Feature Protection Ordinance Engage community to ensure all eligible natural features are protected 	Short	Time
Maintain Deer Population at Safe Levels and Remediate Externalities from High Populations in the Neighborhood					
Work With Surrounding Neighborhoods to Stop Residents From Feeding the Deer	Promote information on why feeding deer is exacerbating the issue and attracting more deer	Work with neighbors to halt the feeding of deer - Parkview Hills, ODWNA, Woods Lake Association	If issue continues evaluate the need for formal ordinance language about feeding wildlife	Short	\$
Provide Information on Deer Repellent Plantings and Other Treatments With a Focus on Native Plants	Work with partners to provide information, a training or meeting and potentially plants	Partner to provide information and to host a training or meeting, and potentially plants - KNC, Local Green Houses, Master Gardeners, Parkview Hills, ODWNA, Woods Lake Association	Publish information in a View from the Curb	Short	\$
Advocate for Regional Approach to Maintaining the Deer Population	Partner to advocate with MDNR to study urban deer population and develop plan for herd maintenance. Participate in any engagement	<i>These partners still need to be contacted to determine actions: MDNR, WMU, KNC, ODWNA, Parkview Hills, Woods Lake Association</i>	Advocate with MDNR to initiate study and regional effort to develop method for maintaining a healthy deer population	Long	Time



Separate Water Systems

The City of Kalamazoo has a Separate Sewer System meaning that sewage and stormwater are diverted into different pipes. According to the EPA benefits of a separate system include :

- Reduction of basement and street flooding
- Reduction or elimination of sanitary discharges to receiving waters
- Decreased impacts to aquatic species and habitat
- Decreased contact risk with pathogens and bacteria from domestic sewage in the receiving water

Development

1

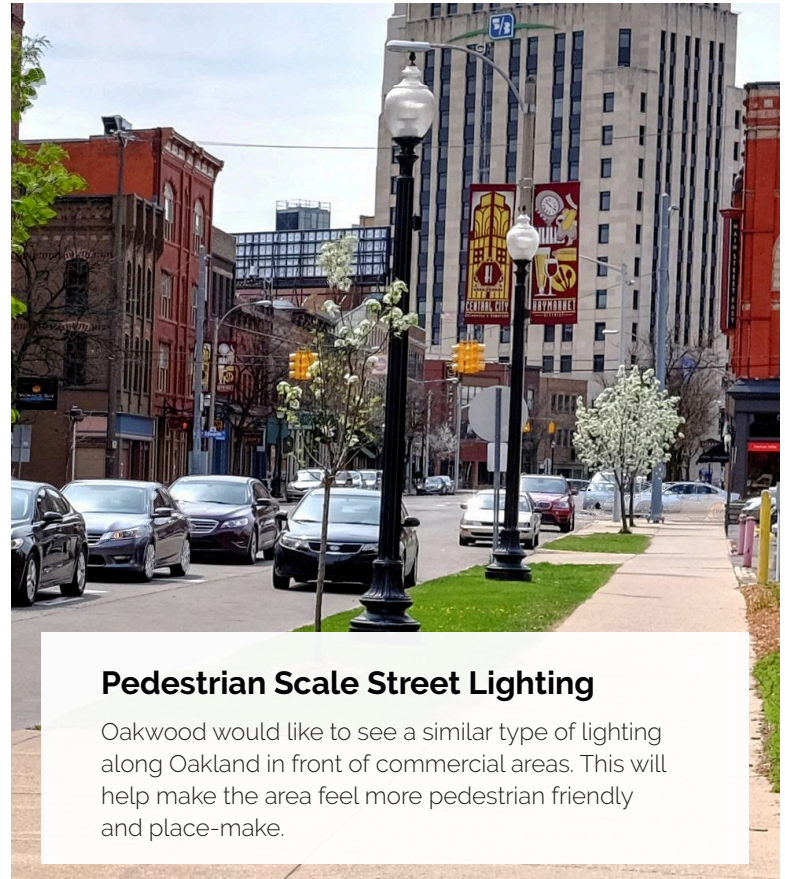
Encourage Walkable Commercial Development and Uses that Meet Neighborhood Needs

Oakwood would like to see the commercial areas enhanced to be more pedestrian friendly. While new development is encouraged, the neighborhood also wants to ensure that residents are kept up-to-date as development happens.

2

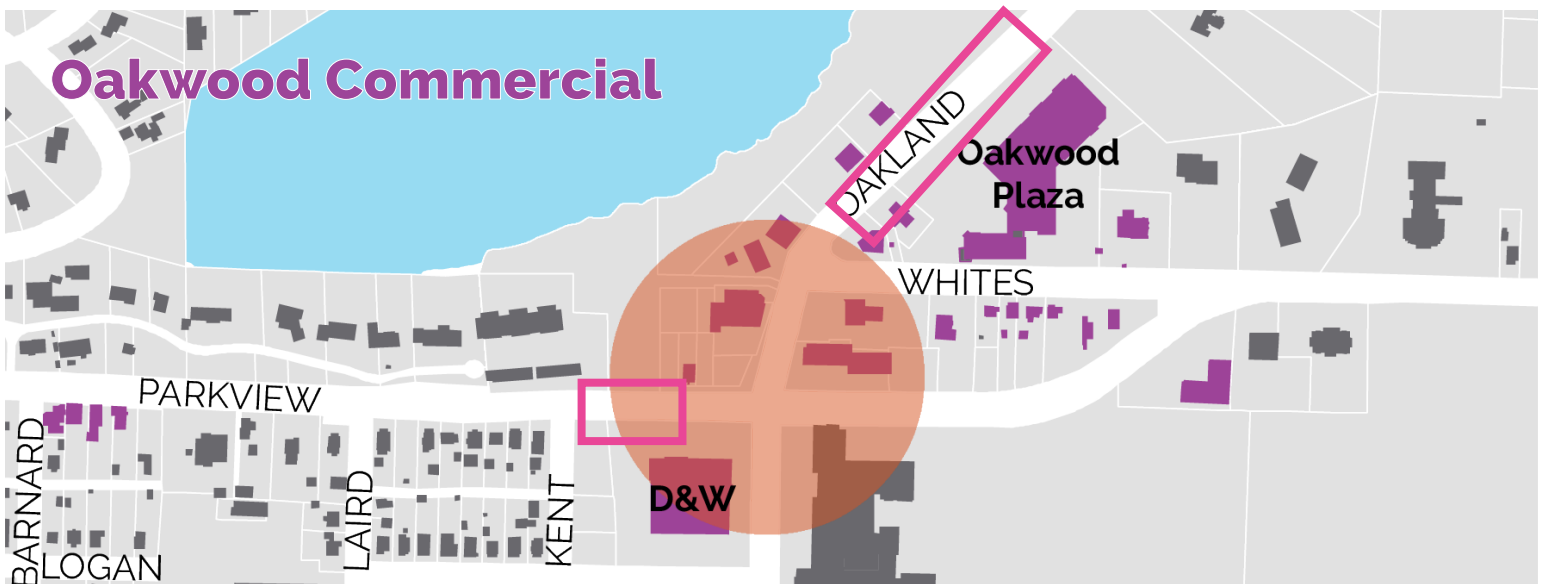
Create a Vibrant Commercial Node through Supporting Local Entrepreneurs and Placemaking

Oakwood would like to promote locally owned business and increase support for neighborhood entrepreneurs including artists. ONA hopes to help facilitate symbiotic relationships between businesses and artists to enhance the commercial node and further encourage development.




Pedestrian Scale Street Lighting

Oakwood would like to see a similar type of lighting along Oakland in front of commercial areas. This will help make the area feel more pedestrian friendly and place-make.



LEGEND

 Priority for improved or new crossings

 Commercial Use

 Neighborhood Node

Development

ACTION	Neighborhood Association	Partners	CITY	TIMELINE	COSTS
Encourage Walkable Commercial Development and Uses that Meet Neighborhood Needs					
Regularly Communicate with Nearby Neighborhoods to Discuss Developments in the Area	Work with partners to establish open lines of communication and set-up neighborhood meetings about developments when appropriate	Work with partners to establish open lines of communication and set-up neighborhood meetings about developments when appropriate - ODWNA, Parkview Hills, Woods lake Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to inform neighborhoods about developments and share site plans as they become available • Evaluate existing site plan review process and determine where and when in the process to require developer to engage the neighborhood 	Ongoing	Time
Work To Make Oakwood Plaza And Commercial Node More Pedestrian Friendly And Feel Like A Vibrant Business Destination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with partners to create safe pedestrian connections from sidewalk to the storefronts in Oakwood Plaza • Help connect businesses with the facade grant program - ONA, Oakwood Business Association 	Work collectively to advocate for safe pedestrian connections through the parking lot of Oakwood Plaza - ODWNA, Parkview Hills, Woods lake Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider streetscaping improvements on Oakland, Parkview and Whites • Install decorative street lighting along Oakland in the curb lawn in front of Oakwood Plaza and commercial node • Improve bus stop and crosswalk at Oakwood Plaza • Ensure zoning promotes pedestrian friendly development • Provide support for facade improvements in the commercial node 	Mid	\$\$- \$\$\$

ACTION	Neighborhood Association	Partners	CITY	TIMELINE	COSTS
Create a Vibrant Commercial Node through Supporting Local Entrepreneurs and Placemaking					
Support Businesses in the Neighborhood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite Economic Development staff to attend Oakwood Business Association meetings to hear ideas, needs, and/or concerns of local businesses • Explore ways to promote businesses • Invite small business service providers to attend Business Association Meetings 	Attend Oakwood Business Association Meetings- SCORE, SBDC, LISC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend Oakwood Business Association meetings to hear needs and ideas of neighborhood business owners • Help connect businesses to resources 	Short	\$
Utilize Local Talent to Create a Vibrant and Attractive Commercial Node	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with local artists and neighborhood businesses to create partnership to design projecting signs • Work with surrounding neighborhoods to determine best funding source • Explore ways to connect commercial spaces throughout the area with branding and signage 	Partner to explore way to fund projecting signs and promote wayfinding and commercial corridor branding - PVH, ODWNA, Kalamazoo Artists Collective, WMU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure zoning allows for projecting signs in the commercial node • Help shepherd signs through the review process • Provide guidance on any wayfinding signage requirements, assist in approval and installation 	Mid	\$-\$\$

Community

1

Increase Access to Fresh, Affordable, and Healthy Food

Oakwood Neighborhood Association currently runs a food bank and community garden. The Oakwood Neighborhood Garden is located at Adams and Springmont. Working with partners to determine ways to promote, grow, and maintain the garden as well as expand the food bank program, will help increase access to food for the neighborhood.

2

Create a Sustainable Organization and Center that Will Continue to Be an Asset for Years to Come

Many residents identify the Oakwood Neighborhood Center as an asset to the community. The Oakwood Neighborhood Association provides many different programs out of the Center. Oakwood Neighborhood Association will strive to make continuous improvements to the Center to be able to continue to effectively provide those programs and to grow its services. Long term, the Association would like to build a new center in the neighborhood.

3

Promote Collaboration and Open Lines of Communication

In order to achieve many of the goals and actions identified in the planning process, the neighborhood is going to need to build and maintain partnerships with residents, other neighborhoods, other organizations, and the City.

4

Increase Access and Enjoyment of the Arts

ONA has worked to bring art classes into the neighborhood for youth. The neighborhood would like to continue to build on these efforts and support local arts helping to promote local talent while also enhancing the public space in the neighborhood.

5

Support Affordable Housing in the Neighborhood

A majority of residents in Oakwood own their home. The neighborhood would like to continue to support homeownership and housing maintenance. The neighborhood has also prioritized housing options that allow seniors to age in place and continue to be a part of the community.



Oakwood Neighborhood Center



Oakwood Neighborhood Garden

Community

ACTION	NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION	PARTNERS	CITY	TIMELINE	COSTS
Increase Access to Fresh, Affordable, and Healthy Food					
Provide Classes on Nutrition and Cooking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade kitchen at ONA, consider renting kitchen space Partner to provide classes on nutrition and cooking 	Work with partners to provide classes - KVCC, WMU		Mid	\$\$\$
Expand ONA Capacity To Store Food And Food Pantry Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify grants and partners to assist in upgrading refrigeration systems and storage capacity Work with partners to determine options for expanding program 	Work with partners to determine best options for expanding food pantry - PFC/ Farmers Market, KVCC Food Innovation Center, Gibbs House		Long	\$\$\$
Bring More Fresh Affordable Food Options to the Neighborhood Using Tools Such as a Neighborhood CSA, Mobile Farmer's Market, and/or Expanding the Community Garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with partners determine best options, develop program, and execute the program Work with partners to implement best practice in community garden for outreach, maintenance, and potential expansion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with partners determine best options, develop program, and execute the program - PFC/ Farmers Market, KVCC Food Innovation Center, Gibbs House Work with partners to implement best practice in community garden for outreach, maintenance, and potential expansion - KVCC 		Mid	\$\$
Create a Sustainable Organization and Center That Will Continue to be an Asset for Years to Come					
Install Signage That Makes the Center More Visible to Visitors and Residents	Determine desired sign design and work with City to ensure design meets zoning regulations		Assist with review and permitting process	Short	\$
Renovate Center Including Accessibility, Kitchen, Bathrooms, Fixtures, and Windows	Identify grants to fund building upgrades and work to establish strong relationships with funders in Kalamazoo	Provide support through student work in research and grant writing - WMU	Assist with review and permitting process	Mid-Long	\$\$\$
Create Plan for a New Building Including Design, Site Selection, and Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with partners to identify site for new Center Develop site plan and fundraising plan 	<i>Reach out to KCLBA to discuss potential of using one of their sites in the neighborhood</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist with finding a site Help usher site plan through review process 	Short	\$

ACTION	NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION	PARTNERS	CITY	TIMELINE	COSTS
Create a Sustainable Organization and Center That Will Continue to be an Asset for Years to Come (Continued)					
Build Organization Capacity and Sustainability	Work to create plans and materials (marketing, fundraising, strategic, etc.) that will help to understand what is needed to become sustainable long term	Work with partners to develop needed plans and materials - WMU, ONE Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to provide funding support • Help connect to resources in the City that can assist in organizational capacity 	Ongoing	\$
Work to Have Additional Staff (part and/or full time)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with partners to have student volunteers work in the office • Work with partners to identify opportunities for low-cost staff (LISC Americorps) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with partners to have student volunteers work in the office - WMU, KVCC, K College • Work with partners to identify opportunities for low-cost staff- LISC 		Ongoing	\$
Understand What Data Resources are Available and How to Use Them	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with partners to train staff and board members on how to use data resources available, including Census data • Promote completing the 2020 Census survey with residents to try to attain the most accurate data possible 	Work with partners to train staff and board members on how to use data resources available, including Census data - WMU, ONE Place	Support efforts to increase participation in 2020 Census through informational materials and other outreach	Short	\$
Promote Collaboration and Open Lines of Communication					
Increase Opportunities to Meet With City Staff and Provide City Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite appropriate City staff to board meetings as needed • Work with partners to identify meeting locations, ideal meeting times, and to promote event 	Work with partners to identify meeting locations, ideal meeting times, and to promote event - ODWNA, Parkview Hills, Woods Lake Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage in ONA board meetings when invited • Establish a rotating town hall where staff from various departments will provide updates and speak with residents about any concerns or ideas they may have 	Short	\$
Promote "Coffee With a Commissioner" or Similar Event to Increase Access and Opportunities to Communicate with City Commissioners	Advocate with City Commission to establish an informal opportunity to connect with elected officials	Advocate with City Commission to establish an informal opportunity to connect with elected officials - ODWNA, Woods Lake Association	When appropriate, assist Commissioners in establishing event and advertising	Short	\$

ACTION	NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION	PARTNERS	CITY	TIMELINE	COSTS
Promote Collaboration and Open Lines of Communication (Continued)					
Work to Establish Open Lines of Communication Between Public Schools and the Neighborhood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain communication between ONA, Woods Lake, and Alternative Learning Program Encourage residents to participate in School Board Invite school representative to join Neighborhood Board 	Maintain communication between ONA and neighborhood schools - KPS (Woods Lake Elementary and Alternative Learning Program)		Short	Time
Create Clear and Effective Communication With Residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with partners to engage residents to understand best methods of outreach and communication. Work to update existing marketing and communication materials to meet needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with partners to engage residents to understand best methods of outreach and communication - WMU Work to update existing marketing and communication materials to meet needs - WMU 		Short	\$
Establish Relationships With Other Neighborhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reach out to other neighborhood groups in the City Maintain relationship and share information about what the organization is doing 	Maintain relationship and share information about what the organization is doing - ENA, ODWNA, Parkview Hills, Woods Lake Association, ANA, KENA, NACD, VNA, WMH, Parker Duke, WNA, MNW and Milwood Commons, SARA	Continue to host quarterly All Neighborhood meetings for neighborhoods to meet one another and hear updates from City staff	Short	Time
Increase Access and Enjoyment of the Arts					
Work with Local Artists to Create Public Art Installations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with artists and youth to create public art (sculptures, murals, and other installations) 	Collaborate to help artists and youth create public art installations - KIA, Kalamazoo Artists Collective	Provide information on relevant requirements, and help to identify spaces as necessary	Short	\$
Work to Bring Performances to the Area such as Plays or Instrumental Performances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with partners to identify performers Work with Parks and Rec to access Woods Lake Gazebo Work collaboratively to promote events Work with partners to develop opportunities to showcase talent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with partners to identify performers Work collaboratively to promote events Work with local businesses and churches to determine additional performance locations - WMU, Civic and other Theater Companies, PVHNA, ODWNA, Local Artists, Local Businesses 	Work with neighborhood to determine partnership to use space at Woods Lake Beach	Short	Time

ACTION	NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION	PARTNERS	CITY	TIMELINE	COSTS
Support Affordable Housing in the Neighborhood					
Change Zoning to Allow for More Housing Options While Still Maintaining the Neighborhood Character	Provide feedback on appropriate housing types and considerations, assist in outreach to residents for feedback		Work to allow for a mix of housing types in the neighborhood that will support all residents needs while still maintaining neighborhood character	Short	Time
Assist Residents with Home Repairs	Provide information about existing programs, help residents connect to the right service	Provide information on existing programming - Community Homeworks, Habitat	Assist neighborhood in identifying and connecting with service providers	Short	Time-\$
Promote Energy Saving Improvements and Programs that Assist in Installation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with partners to connect residents to programs that help make homes more energy efficient • Partner to distribute information on how energy efficiency is not only good for the environment but also helps reduce costs related to owning a home 	Partner to provide information on programs - Community Homeworks, Consumers	Explore ways to assist with energy efficient home improvements	Mid	\$\$
Promote Home Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with partners to provide classes on different home maintenance topics • Work with partners to plan block clean-up parties to assist with exterior property maintenance and build community 	<p>Work with partners to provide classes on different home maintenance topics - Habitat, Community Homeworks</p> <p>Work with partners to plan block clean-up parties to assist with exterior property maintenance and build community - Building Blocks</p>	Support creation of classes and block parties	Mid	\$\$

Youth + Seniors

1

Create More Enrichment Opportunities for Youth

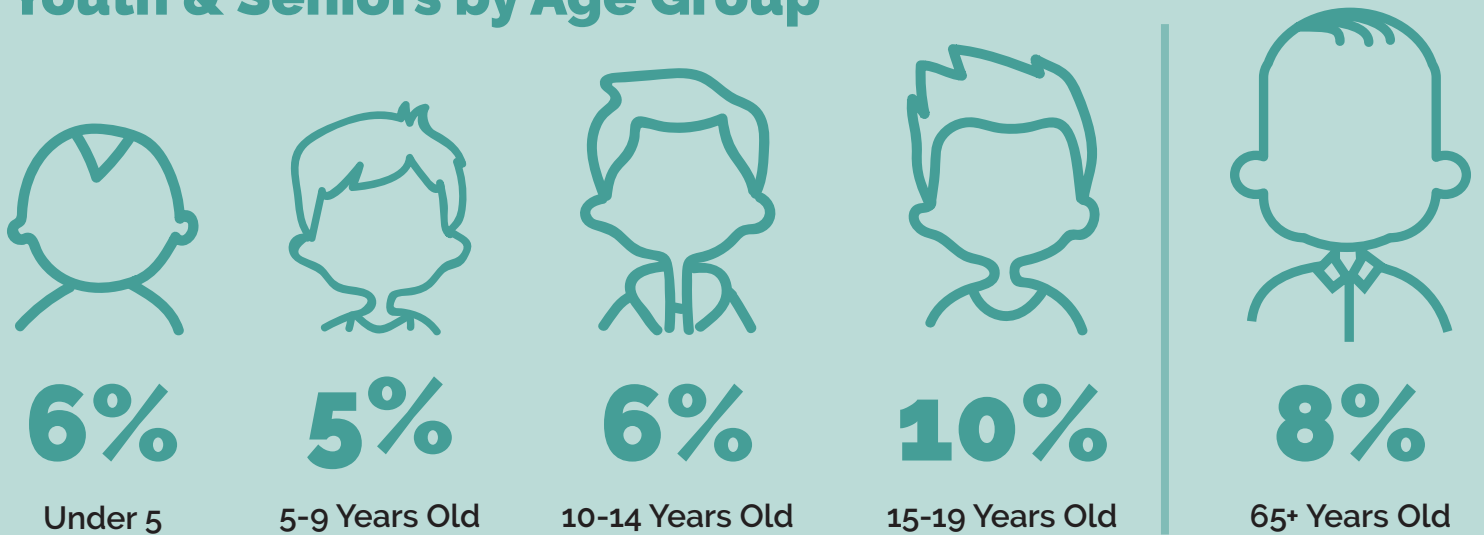
Approximately 27% of Oakwood's population is under 20 years old. The neighborhood would like to find ways to better promote existing and create new opportunities for youth to learn and engage with the community.

2

Support Seniors in the Neighborhood

As the population of Oakwood continues to age, the neighborhood wants to make sure there are opportunities for seniors to age in place and continue to engage with the community.

Percentage of Total Neighborhood Population of Youth & Seniors by Age Group



Oakwood Neighborhood Schools



Within Oakwood Neighborhood is KPS' Alternative Learning Program located near the Neighborhood Center. Just outside of Oakwood's boundaries is Woods Lake Elementary. Woods Lake is where a majority of youth in Oakwood go to school.

Legend
 Neighborhood School

Youth + Seniors Goals & Actions

ACTION	NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION	PARTNERS	CITY	TIMELINE	COSTS
Create More Enrichment Opportunities For Youth					
Create Leadership or Decision Making Opportunities for Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish two youth seats on the ONA Board or Establish an Oakwood Youth Advisory Board Support volunteer to attend and lead Youth Advisory Board activities 	Continue to provide trainings and support for the establishment and management of youth advisory boards - KYDNet	Consider establishing a Youth Advisory Board for Parks and Rec with youth representatives from all over the City	Short	Time
Increase Awareness of Existing Opportunities for Youth	Promote existing opportunities to residents through the newsletter, facebook, website, and next door	Work with partners to understand what programs or other opportunities are available - KYDNet, KNC	Work to create informational materials in formats easily shared on social media platforms	Short	Time
Understand and Develop Solutions to Oakwood Youth Participation in Programs and School	Work collaboratively to understand existing data, develop tools to fill in gaps in data, and address the barriers uncovered. This could include providing programming for all ages, transportation, food, etc	Work collaboratively to understand existing data, develop tools to fill in gaps in data, and address the barriers uncovered. This could include providing programming for all ages, transportation, food, etc. - KYDNet, Kalamazoo Public Schools, neighborhood Churches		Mid	\$
Create Safe Access to K-3 Programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage residents to participate in School Board Work collaboratively to provide Safe Routes to School for neighborhood youth Explore partnerships to utilize school spaces for additional programming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work collaboratively to provide Safe Routes to School for neighborhood youth Explore partnerships to utilize school spaces for additional programming - Kalamazoo Public Schools 	Support Safe Routes to School efforts	Mid	\$\$\$

ACTION	NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION	PARTNERS	CITY	TIMELINE	COSTS
Create More Enrichment Opportunities For Youth (Continued)					
Engage Oakwood Youth in Developing Programming for Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage the Oakwood youth board members to determine how to approach program development Engage partners in the process to develop joint programming whenever possible 	Partner to assist in discussions- WMU, KPS, KYD Net	Participate in programming discussions and development	Short	Time
Engage Teens and Young Adults In a High Quality Service Learning Project(s)	Provide space for teens to meet to develop and implement the project	Provide guidance on how to manage high quality service learning projects - KYDNet	Support project the youth develop as needed - this will vary based on project	Mid	\$
Develop Programming for Moms and Tots	Organize a monthly play date and encourage moms to take over management of the monthly meetings and any additional programming they may want to develop	Work with ONA to provide enrichment opportunities for Moms and Tots - Ready 4s, Great Start, WMU		Short	Time
Provide Free Tutoring at Times Accessible to Youth Who May Have Family Responsibilities	Partner to provide tutors	Partner to provide tutors - WMU, Area Churches		Short	Time
Provide Safe Activities and Lunch to Youth During Winter Break	Partner to develop programming and house activities	Partner to develop programming and house activities - WMU, K College, KPS, KYD Net	Support program development, if possible assist in staffing or identifying possible organizations that could help	Short	\$\$
Host a Neighborhood Event on a Yearly Basis Such as Movie in the Park	Work to identify partner to organize and run the event in off years for Parks and Rec	<i>TBD potential partners maybe local movie theaters, WMU, The Event Company</i>	Create a set schedule so neighborhoods know when they will get a Movie in the Park from Parks and Rec	Short	\$\$-\$

ACTION	NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION	PARTNERS	CITY	TIMELINE	COSTS
Support Seniors in the Neighborhood					
Pilot a Program Pairing WMU Geriatrics Students Wth Neighborhood Seniors	Jointly develop program to match seniors with students to help seniors stay in their homes and students find affordable housing and course credits	Jointly develop program to match seniors with students to help seniors stay in their homes and students find affordable housing and course credits - WMU	Assist with any permitting or other regulatory issues that arise in program development	Long	\$\$
Assist Seniors in Home Repairs and Modifications	Provide information about existing programs, help residents connect to the right service	Provide information on existing programming - Community Homeworks, Habitat	Create informational material to assist Neighborhood in connecting seniors to programs related to HUD dollars	Short	Time-\$
Provide Technological Trainings to Seniors and Take Steps to Make Using Computers Easier for Them	Work to program computers for Seniors so it is difficult to damage the software and easy to navigate	Partner to support efforts - Senior Services, WMU, Area Agency on Aging		Ongoing	Time
Create a Senior Social Calendar That Seniors Can Use to Know When Events, Classes, and Other Resources Will Be Available	Work with partners to develop calendar	Work with partners to develop calendar - Senior Services, Area Agency on Aging, WMU, KVCC, K College		Short	Time
Assist Seniors With Snow Removal	Work with partners to have volunteers help shovel driveways, sidewalks, and steps	Help organize volunteers to assist seniors with shoveling - WMU		Short	Time
Create More Senior Opportunities/ Programming	Engage seniors to understand what type of activities or programming they would like to see. Partner with WMU to have geriatrics students provide the programming	Partner to have geriatrics students provide the programming - WMU		Short	Time