

Community Workshop Notes



**NEWARK'S
MASTER PLAN**

Round 1 Community Workshops July 12 - July 27, 2011

This document contains notes from the Round I Newark Master Plan Community Workshops that were held between July 12 and July 27, 2011.

In order to maintain the integrity of the original content, the notes have been edited and formatted only minimally. Notes differ in style and format because they were transcribed by a number of different note takers and facilitators at each of the workshops.

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Housing:

- Need more mixed-use housing around McCarter Hwy and Taylor St
- Site at 8th Ave and Grant St is underdeveloped
- Need housing complexes with good facades and good curb appeal
- Need senior housing
- Possible student housing opportunities in area
- “Restoration Center” facility needs to be redeveloped
- 7th Ave could become a target for housing

Business & Industry:

- Encourage business development along lower Broadway with long-term parking
- Consider Burger King lot (at State St and Broad St) for a new supermarket – it is a long vacant lot
- Huge site for supermarket at Clay St and McCarter Hwy, as well as on Bloomfield Pl
- Residents take cabs to Kearny but cannot find cabs back to Newark
- Lots of empty, dangerous lots and buildings on 7th Ave (e.g., at 7th Ave and Summer Ave)
- Sites around Passaic St and Clay St need development
- Need more local grocery stores
- Chemical plants by McCarter Hwy are empty; waterfront industrial uses should not be there
- Brand Broadway center as “health nook”
- Hardware store needed
- More quality retail needed
- Lower Broadway is a transit hub and a great opportunity for better mixed-use development

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Circulation & Mobility:

- Make Broadway more walkable
- More bus shelters needed (e.g., at 7th Ave and Wicker Ct)
- Bus schedules are inaccurate
- Park Ave Light Rail Station needs improvements
- Potholes are prevalent
- Need stop signs at Webster St and 7th Ave; Crane St and MLK Blvd; Cutter Ave and Victoria Ave; Mt Prospect Ave and Park Ave; and Bloomfield Ave and Mt Prospect Ave
- Install more zebra crossings
- Reconfigure left-hand turning lane at 4th Ave and Lake St, and create a left-hand turning lane at Park Ave and Mt Prospect Ave
- Need more traffic signals to slow traffic from I-280 (e.g., at Colonnade and 7th Ave)
- Lots of double parking on 7th Ave and Bloomfield Pl
- Need more long-term parking instead of meters
- Too much traffic around parks (e.g., on Lake St, Bloomfield Ave, Park Ave)
- More parking needed on Burnet St near old Lincoln Motel site
- Do not expand McCarter Hwy into six lanes
- Build bridge to waterfront
- Build pedestrian bridges
- Sidewalks are cracked
- Too much traffic on major streets (e.g., Mt. Pleasant Ave, Broad St)
- More transit to Penn Station needed
- Build street islands for pedestrians
- More street lighting needed

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- Highland Ave needs to be cleaned up
- Too much traffic around parks (e.g., at Lake St, Bloomfield Ave, and Park Ave)

Public, Cultural & Educational Resources:

- Connect Barringer High School to nearby pool, skating rink, and Branch Brook Park (all operated by different entities)
- Barringer High School is a foundation for the area
- Need better marketing of community / student centers to residents
- More free programming for youth activities needed (e.g., summer and after school)
- Develop school sites on MLK Blvd (as a health clinic?): currently two blighted blocks
- More public art needed (e.g., at Bloomfield Ave and Mt Prospect Ave, and at Bloomfield Ave and Broadway)
- More health clinics and urgent care centers needed
- Connect neighborhood to UMDNJ
- Spanish-speaking facilities needed
- English / Spanish night classes

Historic Resources:

- Cathedral – people come together
- Landmarks
- Library
- Synagogue

Open Space & Natural Resources:

- More access to parks
- More playgrounds needed (potentially at Victoria Ave and Cutler St)

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- Empty space not being utilized at Summer Ave and 7th Ave – possible school or park opportunity
- Connect Branch Brook Park to neighborhood with better access
- Branch Brook Park needs more benches
- Beautify entrance to Branch Brook Park
- Make Branch Brook Park safer for basketball tournament
- Connect Barringer High School to nearby pool, skating rink, and Branch Brook Park (all operated by different entities)
- Park footpaths not well lit (e.g., around 8th Ave and Bloomfield Ave)
- Too much asphalt
- Not enough benches
- More tree planting needed
- Playgrounds located next to busy streets
- Plant more cherry blossoms within park and neighborhood
- More small-scale parks needed (e.g., lot at Cutler St and Victoria Ave)
- More lighting needed around Park Ave entrance to Branch Brook Park
- Access to waterfront should be better and could include a recreation center instead of existing industry
- Make Branch Brook Park safer for basketball tournament
- Renovate rotunda pool / skating rink