

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.

Community Workshop Notes



NEWARK'S MASTER PLAN

Upper & Lower Vailsburg, Ivy Hill July 26, 2011

Housing:

- Lower Vailsburg needs to rehab houses (lots of abandoned single-family homes)
- Sanford Ave needs to be rezoned for residential use (more residential uses needed)
- Abandoned houses on Boylan St by school
- A lot of abandoned houses on Columbia Ave and Whitney St
- Dilapidated houses on Brookdale Ave
- Need program to help fix homes (there is a mix of home conditions) and enforce codes on Fleetwood PI
- Homeowners in Upper Vailsburg versus renters in Lower Vailsburg (Sandford Ave is the divide)
- Quality of housing decreases around Stuyvesant Ave south of Underwood St

Business & Industry:

- “Good grocery stores” with fresh foods are needed (e.g., Pathmark and Trader Joe’s)
- Quality retail with more choice and diversity of shops is needed to smooth the transition from South Orange into Newark
- The best retail is currently in Ivy Hill
- S Orange Ave Business Improvement District (BID) is a good idea; businesses need to be unified somehow
- Too many chicken shacks, “Chinese” stores, fast food, hair and nail salons, and storefront churches
- Redevelop vacant buildings on 18th Ave
- Redevelop Mt Vernon PI strip mall (at Eastern Pkwy) – need new signage and a clothing store
- Need a farmers market at Ivy Hill Park
- Support Unified Vailsburg Services Organization (UVSO) to help stabilize S Orange Ave

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Circulation & Mobility:

- More bus shelters are needed (e.g., at Manor Dr); the bus stop on S Orange Ave and Dover St needs a “facelift;” and the bus station east of Dover St on Mt Vernon Pl needs cameras
- Bus stations need to be shifted due to congestion (e.g., on S Orange Ave)
- Springfield Ave is more pedestrian friendly than S Orange Ave
- Bus service is good but not to business area (e.g., #31 Bus needs an express route)
- Relocate parking around housing compounds; more parking needed, and parking restrictions need to be consistent with actual NJ Transit uses
- A lot of potholes on Alexander Annex
- Reduce speeding on Mt Vernon Pl, Norman Rd, and Kerrigan Blvd (especially near Mt Vernon Elementary School)
- Congestion on Clinton Ave, Sanford Ave, Smith St, and Boylan St during the day
- Sanford Ave and S Orange Ave need left turn signals (it is a dangerous intersection)
- Double parking is prevalent on S Orange Ave heading to downtown Newark
- Need traffic calming along 18th Ave and S Orange Ave
- Extend light rail connection from S Orange Ave to Ivy Hill
- #1 Bus service needs improvement along 18th Ave
- “Zoom! We’re Going Places” shuttle bus extension needed
- Dangerous intersections between Garden State Pkwy and Boylan St, along S Orange Ave, and in front of Mt Vernon Elementary School
- Need more traffic signals at Sanford Ave and Sanford Pl
- Beautify S Orange Ave and 18th Ave (with its various ethnic stores) – address streetscape
- Better lighting needed on streets (e.g., S Orange Ave and Sanford Ave)
- S Orange Ave streetscape improvements could use a “facelift”

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Public, Cultural & Educational Resources:

- Head start centers
- Upgrade facilities at Lincoln School, and construct new schools
- Not enough places for youth to go and be social
- Need a library open to adults – expand existing library
- Develop a movie theatre
- Create a children's museum
- Expand mural program to have businesses beautify their walls
- Celebrate ethnic diversity in Ivy Hill

Historic Resources:

- Possible historic buildings include: homes on Smith St, St. Mary's Villa, the firehouse at Palm St and Sanford St, and Sacred Heart Church
- Ukrainian church on Sanford Ave and Ivy St

Open Space & Natural Resources:

- Plant more trees (particularly on Midland Pl and S Orange Ave)
- Ivy Hill Park was recently renovated but needs playgrounds
- Replace trees cut down throughout neighborhood (e.g., area around Ivy St, Tuxedo Pkwy, Oakland Ter, and S Orange Ave)
- More landscaping is needed along east side of neighborhood
- More trees needed on Columbia Ave
- Vailsburg Park and Ivy Hill Park are unsafe (gangs and drugs)
- Community gardens
- Boylan St Recreation Center (pool and park) needs improvements

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- Bartlett St (?) recreation facility has a lot of potential to improve school
- Vailsburg Park has basketball, baseball, and pathways for bikes, but it needs more programs (e.g., music programming along the lines of Sound of the City)
- Redevelopment opportunity on 18th Ave and Alexander St identified as a good site for a community activity space
- Need bathrooms in Vailsburg Park and West Side Park

Utility Services & Infrastructure:

- Create a "Vailsburg Clean Energy Program" (draft a bill)
- Better garbage collection needed; trash is not being picked up (Smith St is bad, in particular)
- Need more wastebaskets on streets
- Illegal dumping in vacant buildings
- Pet owners need to curb dogs