

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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NEWARK'S MASTER PLAN

Weequahic & Dayton July 19, 2011

Housing:

- Improve housing in “Northeast Village” (east of Osborne Ter to Weequahic Park, north of Lyons Ave) and “Northwest Village” (west of Osborne Ter, north of Lyons Ave)
- Develop multifamily housing along park
- Improve housing along Bergen St and Osborne Ter (many abandoned homes)
- Build mixed-use housing near airport, park, and transit (housing near Rte 78)
- Lots of foreclosures / abandoned homes – demolish abandon homes
- Need historic preservation of some homes
- Preserve buildings on Meeker Ave and Caster Ave
- Many foreclosures around Beth Israel Medical Center
- Generally, no need / demand identified for new housing; City has just been improving the condition of the existing stock

Business & Industry:

- Bergen St could be developed with more retail – need fresh food stores
- Lack of access to fresh food
- Concerned about White Chemical plant groundwater contamination leaching into Weequahic Park and polluting its lake
- Concerned about air pollution from the airport, which “is legally considered a nuisance”
- Residents shop in Elizabeth
- Need big box discount stores
- Need more jobs at airport (Continental Airlines) and brewery
- More small businesses needed on Bergen St, Maple Ave, Chancellor Ave, and Springfield Ave
- Neighborhood is dense but needs more business, a supermarket, and banks
- Industrial buildings along Frelinghuysen Ave are vacant – not providing jobs

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- Difficult to enter city other than from Rte 78
- Need better lighting across neighborhood
- Flooding under bridge at Meeker Ave when it rains

Public, Cultural & Educational Resources:

- No Boys and Girls Club
- No youth activities
- Beth Israel Medical Center needs to be improved programmatically
- Library needs to be expanded; it is currently an asset for the community and young people as a gathering place
- George Washington Carver School Auditorium seen as good town hall meeting / community gathering place
- Need more community centers
- Chancellor Ave is lined with non-profits (e.g., churches), but they are not seen as assets because they do not pay taxes

Historic Resources:

- Neighborhood's 40+ churches are not seen as assets because they do not pay taxes

Open Space & Natural Resources:

- The "Central Park Conservancy Plan" was adopted in 1992 but stifled by the County
- Strong divide between east and west sides of Weequahic Park; consider shutting down traffic through the park either temporarily or permanently and / or create more pedestrian crossings
- Develop small parks via the Adopt-a-Lot Program
- More youth programs / activities needed in Weequahic Park
- Plant more trees

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- Many vacant buildings north of Rte 78 around Badger Ave
- Bodegas cause garbage to build up
- Diversification of retail needed – too many bodegas, liquor stores, and salons
- Need quality clothing and furniture stores
- Create airport opportunity zone in industrial area along Frelinghuysen Ave (many of these buildings are vacant)

Circulation & Mobility:

- There is a need for bus shelters generally
- The #60 Bus does not serve the area well; the route could be improved by making a turn east down Elizabeth Ave at Lincoln Park then south to Weequahic Park
- The #24 Bus is infrequent, over-crowded, and has a low level of service
- Extend light rail from the Airport Train Station to other parts of Newark
- Able to walk to hospital and library
- Neighborhood is close to airport
- Need pedestrian crossing over Rte 78 through Weequahic Park
- There are only two points of entry into Weequahic Park
- Less transit options as you head west on Bergen St
- No bus available that goes all the way down Chancellor Ave
- Need buses that go down Lyons Ave
- Truck traffic on Elizabeth Ave and Lehigh Ave contributes to noise pollution
- Dayton area is poorly served by buses
- Speeding on Foster St and Dayton St
- Dangerous intersection at Dayton St and Frelinghuysen Ave

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- County does not maintain Weequahic Park well; the park is in need of renovations
- Weequahic Park lake has sediment that prevents recreational activities on water – needs to be dredged
- There are only two points of entry into Weequahic Park
- Historic Indian Trail in Weequahic Park is an underutilized asset
- Take down the fence around Weequahic Park – or add more openings – to improve access
- Dog walks within the park would be welcomed
- Weequahic Park has the ability to become a tourist attractor: vast educational and environmental potential
- New community garden at Meeker Ave and Peshine Ave is an asset
- Build grand entrance to Weequahic Park
- First Tabernacle Community Garden as community center
- No recreational facilities aside from St. Peter's Recreational Center, which is well used
- Need more youth activities / programming at Weequahic Park
- Athletic equipment in Weequahic Park is outdated and obsolete

Utility Services & Infrastructure:

- Need waste baskets and dumpsters
- Flooding under bridge at Meeker Ave when it rains