

Oakland Dr. - Winchell Neighborhood Plan – Environmental Responsibility Committee
10-09-18 DRAFT

GOAL #1:

Eliminate Flooding of Public Roads due to Storm Drain Backups

Actions:

- 1) Repair/upgrade/maintain and monitor areas of known or newly reported flooding.
- 2) Identify and map public street storm water catchment area boundaries giving priority to the storm water catchments areas of Neighborhood lake and stream systems.
- 3) Create an educational program for Neighborhood property owners and those living and working in the Neighborhood on how to report flooding and storm drain backups to the City, the importance of storm drain maintenance, and their role in the process.
- 4) Work with City Public Services staff to establish a regular street and storm drain maintenance schedule.
- 5) Identify, map, and prioritize storm drains whose locations are less than optimal, and work with Public Services staff to prioritize in future City budgets to update the storm water system so that the system is more effective.

Partners:

- City of Kalamazoo – Public Services Department
- Intra-neighborhood residential associations
 - Woods Lake Association
 - Parkwyn Hills Neighborhood Association
 - Condo and apartment associations
- Adjacent neighborhood associations
 - Oakwood Neighborhood Association
 - Parkview Hills Neighborhood Association
- Intra-neighborhood environmental organizations:
 - Friends of Woods Lake
 - Stewards of Kleinstuck
 - Asylum Lake Preservation Association (ALPA)
 - Asylum Lake Preserve Management Council
- Property owners whose property is being damaged or where access to their property becomes limited from storm drain backups and flooding
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources
- Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
- State of Michigan Geological Survey
- Western Michigan University
- Chamber of Commerce
- Southwest Michigan First
- Young Professional's Network of Kalamazoo

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GOAL #2:

Minimize / Eliminate Storm Water Runoff from Private Properties and City Owned Land

Actions:

- 1) Develop a “Zero Runoff” (as feasible) storm water management plan, and integrate this plan as feasible with similar plans for the Oakwood and Parkview Hills Neighborhoods.
- 2) Implement an educational program to encourage property owners and occupants to implement the Zero Runoff Plan.
- 3) Integrate the existing Portage & Arcadia Creeks Watershed Management Plan into the Neighborhood Zero Runoff plan as feasible and appropriate.
- 4) Enact fees on real estate owners for pollution in storm water drainage from impervious surface runoff (also known as a rain tax). In order to; a) help fund storm water infrastructure and recommended approaches for better storm water management practices, and b) to encourage increased on-site and other storm water mitigation techniques.

Partners:

- (see Goal #1)
- Kalamazoo Watershed Council
- The Nature Center

GOAL #3:

Minimize / Eliminate Pollutants Entering Neighborhood Lakes and Streams

Actions:

- 1) Work with City Public Services staff to establish a timeline to have regular street sweeping in the areas within the storm water catchment areas of Neighborhood lake and stream systems.
- 2) Map and place a plaque or notice by all storm water drains on public streets informing the public that liquids and items placed into the drain will discharge directly into a specific lake or stream.
- 3) Create an educational program to advise property owners and those living and working in the Neighborhood on: the locations and functions of the City storm water drains and storm water drain outfalls; the effect of storm water discharge into neighborhood lakes, streams, and groundwater; and what they can do to help mitigate the adverse impacts.
- 4) Work with the City to use less sodium-based de-icing material, and find cost-effective alternatives with similar effectiveness.

Partners:

- (see Goal #2)

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GOAL #4:

Develop a Network of Urban Nature Routes (aka Nature Walking Trails, Paths, and Routes)

Actions:

- 1) Design multiple Neighborhood urban nature routes, that are easily accessible by foot and bicycle, and that provide options for those with more limited mobility. Priority routes include: a) improving and linking the currently undeveloped City-owned “pocket” parks on Kensington Dr.; b) linking Woods Lake Park to the Asylum Lake Preserve via the “pocket” parks as feasible; c) linking Kleinstuck reserve with Woods Lake; and d) others. Route would utilize a combination of Park trails and paths, and sidewalks/streets as appropriate.
- 2) Link Neighborhood urban nature routes with those in adjacent neighborhoods as feasible.
- 3) Create guides for the urban nature routes within the Neighborhood(s) that identifies specific natural features of note (e.g., good examples of mature trees, yards planted with a diversity of plant species, geologic features, water features, etc.).
- 4) Create and enact an educational program that seeks to disseminate information on the urban nature routes, and promotes resident and public awareness.
- 5) Install signage and/or street markings to identify the City Parks and urban nature routes, including signs that identify and explain the various natural features.

Partners:

- City of Kalamazoo – Department of Parks and Recreation
- Asylum Lake Preservation Association (ALPA)
- Asylum Lake Preserve Management Council
- Stewards of Kleinstuck
- Woods Lake Association

GOAL #5

Preserve and/or Actively Manage Neighborhood Natural Features

Actions:

- 1) Define, identify and map Neighborhood natural features.
- 2) Develop a Neighborhood Natural Features Protection and Management Plan.
- 3) Design and implement an educational program to advise property owners and those living and working in the Neighborhood on: the locations and importance of the various Neighborhood Natural Features; and what they can do to facilitate their protection and sustainable management.
- 4) Work with the appropriate City staff and elected City officials to have the Neighborhood Natural Features incorporated into the City-wide Natural Features Protection Overlay.

Partners:

- (see Goal #2)

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GOAL #6

Promote the Sustainable Management of Existing Neighborhood Green Spaces and the Creation of Additional Green Spaces

Actions:

- 1) Identify and map public and private property green spaces, and work with the City to update or correct their maps as needed. For example, Woods Lake Park not listed on City maps.
- 2) Identify areas for future City acquisition for use as public parks, undeveloped green space, buffer zones along Neighborhood edges, or areas that would help “unify Neighborhood green way plans across the City for connectivity”.
- 3) Work with the City so that existing City-owned property is maintained, and free of litter, overgrown brush, and dead tree limbs overhanging roads and paths.
- 4) Work with the City to develop a management plan for the City-owned “pocket” parks on Kensington Dr.
- 5) Continue to work with the City on the management of Woods Lake Park, and with the Oakwood Neighborhood Association on their property located on Woods Lake.
- 6) Have City-owned property, such as that located along the south side of Howard St. (between Oakland Dr. and Waite Ave.), maintained and enhanced as vegetative buffers to traffic and noise.
- 7) Increase the number and width of buffer zones between single-family residential property and other property types/uses through sustainable management of vegetation, particularly trees.
- 8) Seek to preserve woodlands and slopes where Neighborhood edge areas abut established residential areas.
- 9) Encourage property owners to manage their property so that wildlife corridors and sustainable ecosystems are maintained. As feasible, integrate Neighborhood wildlife corridors and ecosystem preservation/enhancement work with similar programs in the adjoining neighborhoods.
- 10) Involve as many local pro-business groups as possible for initial proactive works.

Partners:

- City of Kalamazoo – Department of Parks and Recreation
- City of Kalamazoo – Community Planning and Development
- Oakwood and Parkview Hills Neighborhood Associations
- Nature Center
- Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Kalamazoo Business Resource Group
- Southwest Michigan First
- Young Professional’s Network of Kalamazoo

GOAL # 7

Promote Bio-Sustainability and Bio-Diversity

Actions:

- 1) Seek to prevent the spread of, and reduce and eliminate invasive plants and diseases, including but not limited to: Oak Wilt Disease; Garlic Mustard; and Japanese Knotweed. This includes educating the public and publicizing: how to identify undesirable/desirable plants; and the signs and symptoms to neighborhood to stop spread and what not to plant

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- 2) Encourage sponsorships for neighborhood invasive species removal events (Scouts, Business Volunteers, Religious affiliations, and community groups).
- 3) Encourage bio-diversity of plant species.
- 4) Encourage the planting of plant species that will be more tolerant of predicted climate change.
- 5) Preserve and enhance the existing tree canopy and plant for the next generation of tree canopy. This includes publicizing the issue and educating the Neighborhood on topics such as: proper tree maintenance; and how to report damage to trees in public right-of-ways.
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Partners:

- City of Kalamazoo – Department of Parks and Recreation; Public Services
- Kalamazoo Nature Center
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources
- Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
- Kalamazoo Nature Center
- Extension Service

GOAL #8

Align the Neighborhood Environmental Actions with the City Climate Plan and the Environmentally-related Plans of Adjoining Neighborhoods as Practical.

Actions:

- 1) Review and as appropriate use the City Climate Plan to help guide the Neighborhood Environmental Goal actions.
- 2) Review and as appropriate use the WMU Climate Action Plan to help guide the Neighborhood Environmental Goal actions.
- 3) Review and as appropriate use environmentally-related plans for the Oakwood and Parkview Hills neighborhoods to help guide the Neighborhood Environmental Goal actions.

Partners:

- WMU
- KVCC
- Kalamazoo College
- Neighborhood Associations

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Goal #9

The city of Kalamazoo pledges to take possession of and manage the Asylum Lake Preserve and the Kleinstuck Preserve, should WMU ever divest itself of either/both of these properties. Or find another local governmental unit who will. The properties would remain preserves with current restrictions on their use.

Actions:

- 1) Advocate for, work with - City Commission, WMU, city staff, and other relevant governmental units

Partners:

- City Commission
- City Staff
- WMU
- State of Michigan
- Kalamazoo County