

**MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION PROGRAM**



**HALE, PAGE, DIAMOND LAKE**

**NEIGHBORHOOD**

**PHASE II**

**ACTION PLAN**

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## NEIGHBORHOOD DESCRIPTION

The neighborhoods of Hale, Page and Diamond Lake (HPDL) represent an “unsung jewel” of South Minneapolis. The HPDL neighborhoods boast outstanding residential areas with easy access to commercial and recreational areas in the metro area. The boundaries are Highway 35W on the west, Minnehaha Creek on the north, Cedar Avenue on the east, and both Highway 62 and 62<sup>nd</sup> Street on the south.

The city of Minneapolis charter was signed under an elm tree on the Charles Hoag property on Clinton Avenue South and there are several other historic houses in the neighborhood, including the Foshay House that once looked out onto Pearl Lake, now Pearl Park.

Natural amenities grace our neighborhood with its many parks, green spaces and bodies of water, including Diamond Lake, Minnehaha Creek and Lake Nokomis. A healthy collection of home based businesses supplement our commercial nodes along Portland, Chicago and Bloomington avenues. Eight churches are housed within our community and HPDL has two excellent schools: one Minneapolis public elementary school (Hale) and one K-8 parochial school (Our Lady of Peace).

Since first embarking on the NRP Phase I plan in 1992, some changes have taken place in HPDL. Hale School remains paired with Field School in the adjacent Field-Regina-Northrop neighborhood, but Hale School is now grades K-4 and Field is grades 5-8. In 2004, Hale also became an Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) site, so children can receive educational services in our neighborhood or a nearby neighborhood from infancy through eighth grade.

Among the 4,303 households in HPDL, 94% are single-family homes. According to the 2000 census, 10,129 people live in our community. 89.2% of residents describe themselves as white, but racial and ethnic diversity has increased somewhat from 1990 to 2000 with the white population declining slightly and Latino, African-American and Asian populations increasing.

The housing stock remains strong with very few problem properties and virtually no empty lots. Residential turnover is still fairly high due to airport noise and the relatively small size of many of our homes, but new homeowners fill vacancies rapidly.

Many homes in HPDL have been insulated through the Metropolitan Airports Commission Part 150 soundproofing program since 1992. However, some obstacles remain in getting MAC to fulfill its initial promise of insulating homes in the 60-64 DNL zone and residents are actively involved. In addition, residents are participating in the planning process for reconstruction of highway 35W at the 62 Crosstown Commons, working to ensure that proper noise mitigation measures, public transportation and environmental integrity are taken into account.

Many environmental improvements have been made to areas around Diamond Lake (buckthorn removal and nature walk), Minnehaha Creek (path improvements and erosion control) and Lake Nokomis (drainage ponds) through partnerships with other neighborhoods, the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, Blue Water Association and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

## NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING PROCESS

Our participation process for developing a Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan under the Neighborhood Revitalization Program was organized under a Phase II Steering Committee. The committee consisted of volunteers recruited at neighborhood community meetings and via the HPDL Community Association newsletter. Efforts were made to increase the diversity of the committee by inviting diverse individuals from the community to participate in the steering committee, but we achieved only age diversity, not that of race or ethnicity.

Early activities of the steering committee included planning and implementing the neighborhood survey, soliciting goals and priorities from all of HPDL's committees, writing the Phase I review and creating a draft of the Phase II plan. Assisting the execution of the steering committee's tasks were the HPDL staff and Board of Directors. The committee was guided by the requirements of NRP including the stipulation that all viewpoints and resident perspectives be represented in the Phase II plan.

The Phase II Steering Committee communicated to the neighborhood through the newsletter mailed to each household, the neighborhood e-mail list and meetings advertised through flyers, posters and mailed postcards. Agendas and minutes were produced and made available upon request. Committee updates and solicitations for input were regularly published in the newsletter. One-to-one communication was used to encourage the participation of individuals who might not have otherwise been included in the process.

Results of data gathering for the Phase II Action Plan were presented to the neighborhood at a community meeting in January of 2004. At that meeting, further neighborhood input on priorities for the new plan was also solicited. After the committee agreed on a final version of the internal draft, it was submitted to the Board of Directors for their approval. Members of the Board of Directors and the steering committee updated that draft into an external draft.

Next, the draft was circulated to all households in the neighborhood via the newsletter. Copies of the plan were available from the HPDL office, Pearl Park Community Center, cooperating businesses, churches and via the internet at [www.hpdl.org](http://www.hpdl.org). Review and comment were encouraged via telephone, e-mail, letter or face-to-face discussion.

A community meeting was held to gain final resident approval. Voting procedures included mechanisms for absentee ballots. Procedures were instituted to ensure that committee members and Board members did not have the ability to access the ballots before the meeting. Elected officials were invited to tally the ballots. The approved Phase II plan was subsequently submitted to the Neighborhood Revitalization Program.

## PHASE II BUDGET

The proposed Phase II budget was developed from priorities set by residents in the neighborhood survey and at community meetings. The Phase II committee has attempted to adjudicate funds according to items deemed most urgent by neighbors, but strict adherence to neighborhood priorities was not always possible or pragmatic.

For example, although housing issues tended to rank fairly low as neighborhood concerns, the Neighborhood Revitalization Program has required that all neighborhood organizations spend 70% of their Phase II allocation on housing and housing-related issues. In addition, some oft-repeated concerns such as snow plowing really fall under the purview of city services. While HPDL can advocate

for neighbors in these instances, dedicating a lot of Phase II dollars to these categories is not necessarily efficacious. Overall, most of the categories fairly accurately reflect the concerns and priorities of our residents.

## **FUTURE STRATEGIES**

The Board and residents of HPDL recognize that NRP funding beyond Phase II is tenuous, especially due to our struggling economy and other priorities determined by elected officials. Currently, we are exploring new strategies that will help secure financial resources ensuring the future existence of the HPDL Community Association. We recognize the critical role that the neighborhood organization plays in centrally administering community activities such as those created and established during Phase I as well as those described in the following Phase II plan. Strategies reviewed to expand our revenue base have included the creation of community events with participation fees such as a Holiday Home Tour, advertising for local businesses and much more.

# I. HOUSING

**GOAL 1:**

*Provide a neighborhood of well-maintained properties that offer a full range of life cycle housing options for a diverse mix of individuals and families of all ages, incomes and levels of mobility.*

**OBJECTIVE A:**

*Improve and maintain the unique character of the neighborhoods' housing stock.*

**STRATEGY 1:**

*Continue to offer home improvement grant and loan programs.*

**Implementation**

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- Utilize NRP Housing Fund 1 (NRP/MHFA Home Improvement Program) for program delivery, and/or select a third party program administrator similar to implement program.
- In the development of “scopes of services” for contracting the NRP dollars, the HPDL Housing Committee will consider the following program allocations:
  - a. Home improvement loan and matching grant program. (\$250,000)
  - b. Offer a special accessibility section to the home improvement program to allow residents with decreased mobility to retrofit their homes so that they may live independently. (\$20,000)
  - c. Customize the home improvement program to allow noise insulation for houses not included in the MAC Part 150 Sound Insulation Program. (\$20,000)
  - d. Develop an architectural plan book to promote home improvements. (\$5,000)

NRP Allocation	\$295,000
Private Funds	P & I Payments & Matching Funds
Other Public Funds	TBD
Planning, monitoring, & citizen participation	HPDL Community Association
Program implementation: 1.A.1 (a), (b), (c)	Third Party Administrator
Program implementation: 1.A.1 (d)	HPDL Community Association
Contract Administration: 1.A.1 (a), (b), (c)	Development Finance Division (DFD)
Contract administration: 1.A.1 (d)	CPED Planning Division

**STRATEGY 2:**  
*Resolve Problem Properties.*

**Implementation**

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- Work with Housing Inspections Department, Third Precinct Sector Lieutenant and Crime Prevention Specialists, and neighborhood to identify and resolve problem property issues. (See Crime and Safety Strategy 1.A.2).
- Work with a developer or agency to buy up substandard, vacant or other properties to improve or develop.
- Explore opportunities to re-develop substandard housing utilizing the NRP Housing Fund 8: (Lot Redevelopment Program). The Lot Redevelopment Program is a tool designed to address redevelopment needs within and in partnership with neighborhoods. The City has committed up to \$1.2 million to match neighborhood NRP Funds.

NRP Allocation	\$5,000
Private Funds	TBD
Other Public Funds	\$5,000 – Lot Redevelopment Match
Planning, monitoring, & citizen participation	HPDL Community Association
Program implementation:	HPDL / Inspections / MPD / CPED
Contract administration:	CPED Housing Policy and Development

**STRATEGY 3:**  
*Plan and implement home improvement incentive programs.*

**Implementation**

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- In the development of “scopes of services” for contracting the NRP dollars, the HPDL Board will consider the following program allocations:
  - a. Sponsor a neighborhood home & garden fair to highlight home and landscape improvements. (\$1,000)
  - b. Provide workshops on home improvement and landscaping. (\$500)
  - c. Partner with public or private entities to offer workshops on improving the energy efficiency of housing structures. (\$500)
  - d. Sponsor an alley beautification competition between blocks. (\$500)
  - e. Provide program information to disenfranchised populations via targeted mailings, the newsletter or one-on-one contact. (\$2,000)

NRP Allocation	\$4,500
Planning, monitoring, & citizen participation	HPDL Community Association
Program implementation: 3 (a), (b), (c)	HPDL / Community Education
Program implementation: 3 (d), (e)	HPDL
Contract Administration: 3 (a), (b), (c), (d)	DFD
Contract administration: 3 (e)	NRP

**OBJECTIVE B:**

*Improve the availability of housing options.*

**STRATEGY 1:**

*Improve senior and affordable housing options in and around HPDL.*

**Implementation**

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- Determine whether to contribute all, some or none of these NRP dollars to NRP Housing Fund 7 (Affordable Housing Investment Fund)
- Investigate initiatives and new housing developments sponsored by housing agencies or organizations
- Develop a range of assisted living options and partner with nearby neighborhoods to maximize possibilities.
- Investigate the possibility of developing senior or affordable housing above small commercial strips such as those on Chicago Avenue and 54<sup>th</sup> Street South.
- Investigate redeveloping underused commercial property available for sale as mixed use sites.
- Partner with Trust Consortium, Habitat for Humanity or other organizations for programs ranging from senior painting assistance to building affordable housing.
- In the development of “scopes of services” for contracting the NRP dollars, the HPDL Board will consider the following program allocations:
  - a. Development of new multi-unit senior housing. (\$29,825)
  - b. Work with Nokomis Healthy Seniors (and/or other organizations, i.e. Angie’s List, Minneapolis Inspections Office) to create and implement a neighborhood referral program of local and/or trusted handymen and contractors so seniors and neighbors feel safer contracting larger jobs. (\$40,000)
  - c. Partner with Nokomis Healthy Seniors to get program information out to seniors via the newsletter, targeted mailings or one-on-one interaction. (\$500)
  - d. Provide workshops for seniors on retrofitting their homes and offer “safety audits.” (\$500)
  - e. Create a local support system within the neighborhood through a “barter board” to exchange services or an “adopt-a-senior” program so that seniors can get smaller plumbing and electrical jobs as well as seasonal chores accomplished. (\$1,000)

NRP Allocation	\$71,825
Private Funds	TBD
Other Public Funds	TBD
Planning, monitoring, & citizen participation	HPDL Community Association
Program implementation: 1.B.1 (a)	Private/Non-Profit Developers
Contract administration: 1.B.1 (a)	CPED Housing Policy and Development
Program implementation: 1.B.1 (b) (c)	Nokomis Healthy Seniors Program
Contract administration: 1.B.1 (b) (c)	DFD / Hennepin County
Program implementation: 1.B.1 (d) (e)	HPDL / Other
Contract administration: 1.B.1 (d) (e)	DFD / Hennepin County

**STRATEGY 2:**

*Maintain and improve rental housing and develop better relationships with rental housing landlords and residents.*

**Implementation**

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- Work with landlords to encourage them to keep up the safety and appearance of their properties. Inform them of availability of housing upkeep loan program.
- Serve as a link for tenants to communicate with landlords who are not maintaining their property.
- Develop a list of “problem” properties and work with landlord, tenants union, Third Precinct Sector Lieutenant and Crime Prevention Specialists, and inspections officials to clear up ongoing problems.
- Partner with GMHC or other agencies to purchase substandard, vacant or other rental properties to improve or develop when they go on the market.
- Offer workshops to train homeowners and renters how to meet financial and other responsibilities of their housing unit.
- Increase opportunities for renters to become property owners. Offer incentive programs or informational workshops on purchasing a home.

NRP Allocation	\$ 0
Planning, monitoring, & citizen participation	HPDL Community Association
Program implementation:	HPDL / MPD 3 <sup>rd</sup> Precinct / Inspections / Community Education

**Other Partners:** Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED), Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP), Hennepin County, Greater Metropolitan Housing Corporation (GMHC), Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA), Nokomis Healthy Seniors, Habitat for Humanity, Volunteers of America and TRUST Consortium, Home Ownership Center, Community Education, Minneapolis Inspections.

## II. COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

**GOAL 1:**

*Create a thriving business community that serves the needs of HPDL residents, provides opportunities for building community and offers business owners the opportunity to build and grow their businesses.*

**OBJECTIVE A:**

*Provide the community with leadership and resources for commercial development needs.*

**STRATEGY 1:**

*Support the HPDL Business Association as a conduit for on-going and action-oriented communication between business owners and the community and assist with new business development.*

**Implementation**

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The HPDL Business Association will work in partnership with the HPDL Board to promote commercial and economic development of the neighborhood. The Neighborhood Coordinator and HPDL volunteers will assist with the creation and distribution of business directories. Program implementation may consist of the following, or similar, activities:

- Conduct regular business roundtable meetings where community residents can share their thoughts, ideas and concerns with local business owners and the Business Association.
- Maintain an online business directory on the HPDL website that includes home-based businesses.
- Secure Neighborhood Economic Development Funds (NEDF) with support and guidance from the Community Planning and Economic Development Agency (CPED).
- Assess opportunities to promote new businesses in the community.

NRP Allocation	\$20,000
Private Funds	TBD
Other Public Funds	TBD / NEDF
Planning, monitoring, & citizen participation	HPDL Community Association
Program implementation:	HPDL / Business Association / CPED
Contract administration:	NRP / CPED

**STRATEGY 2:**

*Create a communication plan that encourages, attracts and retains a healthy and diverse commercial community in HPDL.*

**Implementation**

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The HPDL community is a neighborhood with many new business and commercial development opportunities. The HPDL Business Association will work in partnership with CPED, Women Venture, the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce and the HPDL Neighborhood Board to develop and communicate strategies and actions that attract new businesses to the neighborhood.

The HPDL Business Association will develop a communication plan to inform community residents and partnering organizations of desired businesses, available commercial properties and funding opportunities. The communication plan will incorporate best practices with a list of the resources available. A variety of approaches will be evaluated including:

- Requesting recent market analyses of HPDL and the surrounding area from neighborhood businesses to determine demographics. Identify what needs and desires new businesses might fill and then communicate broadly with partners.
- Actively market CPED loan and HPDL grant programs for businesses.
- Promote local businesses through the HPDL website. If the HPDL newsletter becomes self-funding, offer advertising opportunities to local businesses.
- Promote available resources for new business start up that provides information on financing options, developing business plans and marketing strategies.
- Inform and offer training opportunities for HPDL residents interested in opening a business within the HPDL neighborhood.
- Develop incentive programs with CPED to attract new businesses.
- Encourage aesthetic improvements in commercial nodes throughout the neighborhood.

NRP Allocation	\$26,400
Private Funds	TBD
Other Public Funds	TBD
Planning, monitoring, & citizen participation	HPDL Community Association
Program implementation:	HPDL / Business Association
Contract administration:	NRP

**Other Partners:** Minneapolis Community Planning and Economic Development Department (CPED), Women Venture, Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce, Kowalski’s Market, and The Turtle Bread Company.

# III. TRANSPORTATION

**GOAL 1:**

*Protect and improve neighborhood livability in the face of changing transportation conditions.*

**OBJECTIVE A:**

*Build and maintain a balanced transportation system that reconciles the inherent conflicts between moving vehicles and neighborhood livability.*

**STRATEGY 1:**

*Advocate HPDL’s community interests concerning the pending 35W/Crosstown Reconstruction project.*

**Implementation**

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The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) has proposed reconstruction of the 35W/ Crosstown corridor, as part of second phase of reconstruction of the 35W thoroughfare through south Minneapolis. The proposed area for reconstruction is 35W from 66<sup>th</sup> Street in Richfield to 42<sup>nd</sup> Street in Minneapolis, including Highway 62 from Portland Avenue to Penn Avenue. There is a significant impact on the HPDL community. Potential effects to HPDL residents include increases in air and noise pollution, increased traffic on residential streets, a loss of businesses and a decrease in housing stock.

Our strategy will be to participate actively in the planning and decision-making processes for the reconstruction plan, including but not limited to the following:

- Establish community dialogue with MnDOT and policy leaders through meetings and advocacy work, and explore additional options for other forms of mass transit including Light Rail and Bus Rapid Transit.
- Keep neighborhood residents informed through regularly scheduled, bi-monthly community meetings.
- Inform residents of recent developments through the HPDL newsletter and special mailings, and solicit input and feedback through focus group discussions.

NRP Allocation	\$ 0
Planning, monitoring, & citizen participation	HPDL Community Association
Program implementation:	HPDL Community Association

**STRATEGY 2:**

*Decrease the number of speeding vehicles on residential streets.*

**Implementation**

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The Transportation Committee will conduct focus groups with local residents, especially those located along main thoroughfares. The Neighborhood Coordinator will support all activities.

The Transportation Committee will evaluate the success of previous traffic-calming projects; choose new strategies that complement findings; make recommendations to the City and County Road departments; and determine which traffic-calming options can be implemented. Strategies for evaluation include but are not limited to the following:

- Resolving problem areas and other intersections with high volume or accidents (i.e. the Cedar/Edgewater intersection; 52<sup>nd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>; Bloomington and 54<sup>th</sup>; Minnehaha Parkway and 50<sup>th</sup>; Bloomington and Chateau).
- Installing speed bumps, stop signs, “slow down” signs at crosswalks and stoplight cameras.
- Altering traffic semaphore timing, if needed, to increase the smooth flow of traffic along major arteries.
- Adopting a “Slow down – we live here” community awareness program similar to the ones conducted in Southwest and Northeast Minneapolis.
- Installing speed wagons to encourage slower traffic.
- Recruiting neighborhood volunteers to monitor high traffic areas and bus-driving practices on Chicago Avenue.

NRP Allocation	\$38,000
Private Funds	TBD
Other Public Funds	TBD
Planning, monitoring, & citizen participation	HPDL Community Assoc
Program implementation:	HPDL / Minneapolis Public Works (PW)
Contract administration:	NRP / PW

**STRATEGY 3:**

*Improve availability and access to mass transit along 35W and throughout the HPDL neighborhood.*

**Implementation**

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The proposed 35W/Crosstown reconstruction project offers a unique opportunity to advocate for more effective methods of mass transit along 35W including Bus Rapid Transit lanes.

Additionally, it would serve as an opportunity to more broadly evaluate mass transit accessibility and efficiency throughout the neighborhood. HPDL residents will encourage MnDOT and elected officials to incorporate better means of mass transit affecting neighborhood residents.

Representatives from both the Transportation Committee and more generally within the neighborhood will participate in meetings organized by MnDOT, County and City officials and other elected parties to discuss mass transit options.

The Transportation Committee, with support from the Neighborhood Coordinator, will help lead residents in the following activities:

- Recruiting volunteers to review existing Metro Transit reports (and related third-party reports) concerning the utilization of established local bus routes.
- Convening a community meeting to discuss unmet transit needs in the HPDL neighborhood.
- Contacting Metro Transit and relevant policy leaders to discuss HPDL’s need for bus route changes and additions.
- Promoting the establishment of bus lines that feed into the LRT system, as appropriate.

NRP Allocation	\$ 0
Planning, monitoring, & citizen participation	HPDL Community Association
Program implementation:	HPDL Community Association

**Partners:** MNDOT, Hennepin County, City of Minneapolis- City Council Transportation and Public Works Committee, State and County officials and Metro Transit

**GOAL 2:**

*Reduce the impact of airport noise on HPDL residents.*

**OBJECTIVE A:**

*Advocate measures to reduce airport noise impact.*

**STRATEGY 1:**

*Encourage government officials (Legislators, County Commissioners, City Council Members) to develop, adopt and enforce policies that mitigate airport noise.*

**Implementation**

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For the last eight years, the Metropolitan Airport Council (MAC) has promised to provide noise mitigation out to the 60 DNL. Recently, they have proposed new policies that would reduce or eliminate critical home updates and have recommended that homeowners pay 50% of the costs for some improvements.

The Transportation Committee will continue to advocate and encourage the Metropolitan Airport Council (MAC) to approve a full 5 decibel home insulation package for all homes in the 64-60 DNL footprint, working in partnership with the South Metro Airport Action Council (SMAAC) and Residents Opposed to Airport Racket (ROAR).

NRP Allocation	\$ 0
Planning, monitoring, & citizen participation	HPDL Community Association
Program implementation:	HPDL / SMAAC / ROAR

**STRATEGY 2:**

*Persuade airlines to revise or assume new procedures that reduce airplane noise.*

**Implementation**

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The Transportation Committee will promote the re-routing of flights to non-residential areas and limitations on night flights. They will continue to encourage the airlines to phase out louder “hushkitted” Stage 2 ½ aircraft and replace them with quieter Stage 3 aircraft.

The Transportation Committee will work in partnership with SMAAC and ROAR to advocate the enforcement of airplane noise ordinances and/or fees for nighttime flights.

NRP Allocation	\$ 0
Planning, monitoring, & citizen participation	HPDL Community Association
Program implementation:	HPDL / SMAAC / ROAR

**Other Partners:** City of Minneapolis Transportation and Public Works Committee, Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC), and State and County officials.

# IV. PARKS AND RECREATION

**GOAL 1:**

*Improve parks to serve needs of all residents and increase neighborhood livability.*

**OBJECTIVE A:**

*Make parks secure, attractive places and ensure that these facilities are accessible, enjoyable and safe.*

**STRATEGY 1:**

*Upgrade appearance and safety of Pearl Park grounds and fields.*

**Implementation**

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The HPDL community will continue to work with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to develop and implement projects and programs that facilitate Pearl Park usage for a broad spectrum of neighborhood residents: walkers, sports enthusiasts, picnickers, bike riders, skaters, children, families, nature lovers and others. Project / program focus will include but is not limited to:

- Upgrading fields and grounds.
- Improving athletic fields to reduce injury.
- Working with MPRB to develop strategies to provide portable toilets in the north end of Pearl Park in the least aesthetically objectionable way. If supplying portables is outside of the MPRB funding ability, HPDL or other neighborhood affiliated groups could supply the funding as long as they get MPRB’s approval and meet the permitting requirements.
- Encouraging the use of portable toilet facilities when present and discouraging improper use of area when portables are not present.
- Advocating for a diverse range of recreational opportunities for all residents to ensure broad participation.

NRP Allocation	\$29,500
Private Funds	TBD
Other Public Funds	TBD
Planning, monitoring, & citizen participation	HPDL Community Association
Program implementation:	Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board
Contract administration:	MPRB

**STRATEGY 2:**

*Improve the safety and accessibility of other HPDL park areas, and create links between them.*

## Implementation

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The HPDL community will work with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and the City of Minneapolis to develop and implement appropriate projects and programs that foster usage of the other park areas in the neighborhoods. Project and program emphasis should include but is not limited to:

- Improving the lighting on Lake Nokomis, especially on the lagoon side from Cedar Avenue west to Edgewater Blvd.
- Creating a bike and pedestrian path under Cedar Avenue Bridge to cross to Lake Nokomis.
- Improving the safety and comfort of the Lake Nokomis bike/walking paths in all seasons.
- Working with MPRB to develop strategies to provide a portable toilet at Edgewater Tot Lot in the least aesthetically objectionable way. If supplying portables is outside of the MPRB funding ability, HPDL or other neighborhood affiliated groups could supply the funding as long as they get MPRB's approval and meet the permitting requirements.
- Improving bicycle and pedestrian connection between points of interest
  - a. Design a pedestrian and bicycle system throughout the neighborhood that is consistent with the City of Minneapolis Bikeways Master Plan, including:
    1. A bike connection along the north side of Edgewater Boulevard. (The Bikeways Master Plan proposes an on-street connection along this road. This will be explored further, and require approval by MPRB and the City of Minneapolis)
    2. A bike and pedestrian connection between the Parkway and Ed Solomon Park. (The Bikeways Master Plan proposes an on-street connection along this route. Approvals will be required from the City of Minneapolis and MPRB if an off-street connection is a component.)
    3. A bike connection (grand rounds) between neighborhood parks, including connecting the north sides of Pearl Park and Edgewater Boulevard. (HPDL will work with the City of Minneapolis and the MPRB to identify and implement routes.
  - b. Create a bike map for pedestrians and cyclists showing key destinations including green spaces.
- Ensuring that valued park services such as mowing, wading pools, and lifeguards for beaches are offered.
- Participating in the planning process for the use of Ed Solomon Park.
- Promoting the off-leash recreation area (OLRA) for the HPDL park district at Minnehaha Park.
- Developing additional off-leash areas on non-parkland in or around the HPDL area.
- Exploring the possibility of allowing an informal dog park at the new Ed Solomon Park site until formal plans have been drafted (see Community Building).
- Contacting Park Board to request that 17<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Avenues hill grass be mowed in the summer for sliding hill in the winter.

NRP Allocation	\$ 0
Other Public Funds	TBD
Planning, monitoring, & citizen participation	HPDL Community Association
Program implementation	MPRB / PW

# V. ENVIRONMENT

**GOAL 1:**

*Improve the natural environment and beautify the neighborhood.*

**OBJECTIVE A:**

*Encourage the planting and preservation of the urban forest, gardens, and wetlands.*

**STRATEGY 1:**

*Sponsor / support gardening and greening projects.*

**Implementation**

The HPDL community will work with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Minneapolis Public Works Department and property owners to develop and implement gardening and greening projects that may involve but are not limited to the following focus areas:

- Improve the aesthetics of entry points into the neighborhood.
- Increase planting sites for trees, flowers and shrubs along boulevards or within existing parks.
- Help the Greening Group conduct an inventory of green spaces in the neighborhood and studying possible uses for them in conjunction with the Park Board.
- Sponsor a neighborhood home & garden fair together with the Housing Committee.
- Create an annual plant swap program for neighborhood residents.
- Work out management plans for existing and new community garden areas.
- Organize a community vegetable garden.
- Implement recommendations from the Greening Group, working with residents in adjoining areas and Park Board staff where appropriate. Use "adopt a park" strategies or work with Park Board to come up with funding and maintenance plans and assist Park Board in performing maintenance tasks.
- Create corridors of historic street lighting.

NRP Allocation	\$7,300
Private Funds	TBD
Other Public Funds	TBD
Planning, monitoring, & citizen participation	HPDL Community Association
Program implementation:	HPDL / MPRB / Public Works
Contract administration:	NRP / MPRB / PW / DFD

**GOAL 2:**

*Sustain the natural environment and protect the health of HPDL residents*

**OBJECTIVE A:**

*Improve air and water quality*

**STRATEGY 1:**

*Reduce indoor and outdoor pollution.*

**Implementation**

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The natural amenities of our neighborhood make it a very desirable place to live. Residents have expressed a strong desire to keep the waters of Minnehaha Creek, Diamond Lake and Lake Nokomis clean and to ensure that both residential and commercial sources of air and water pollution are reduced.

Strategy implementation will focus on projects / programs involving but not limited to the following:

- Monitor, provide alerts and attempt to mitigate airport-related air and water pollution.
  - a. Publicize Minneapolis Health Air alert days on the HPDL website.
  - b. Rotate responsibility among community members to monitor prominent issues related to our environment.
- Provide workshops and use the HPDL website to educate neighbors on hazardous waste, the environmental impact of lawn and garden care, invasive species and the use of certain household chemicals. Link to the MPRB website for information on invasive species.
- Create incentive programs to encourage behaviors that help protect air and water quality. Examples of possible programs are:
  - a. Water Quality
    1. Encourage the development of rainwater gardens to reduce runoff of storm water into the lakes.
    2. Establish a neighborhood team to monitor the impact of 35W/Crosstown construction on water quality. Partner with Blue Water Association and other neighborhoods to centralize stewardship of neighboring bodies of water, including Diamond Lake, Lake Hiawatha, Lake Nokomis and Minnehaha Creek.
    3. Clean the areas around neighborhood water bodies and pick up trash along shorelines.

b. Air Quality

1. Partner with the City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County to promote the Commuter Challenge Event (formerly BBOP).
2. Promote neighborhood carpooling.
3. Provide subsidies for the purchase of bike racks for high traffic areas.

c. Garbage/Hazardous Waste

1. Continue to sponsor annual community Clean Sweep to pick up trash and improve alley appearance, and include other activities such as cleaning sewer drains and/ or helping residents unable to move items from their homes to alley for garbage collection.
  2. Establish hazardous waste collection site on Clean Sweep day.
  3. Partner with Hennepin County and the City of Minneapolis to inform the community about hazardous waste, including reduction efforts and proper disposal.
  4. Encourage recycling and inform the community about re-use centers.
- Actively seek funding for programs related to monitoring and improving air and water quality.

NRP Allocation	\$10,000
Private Funds	TBD
Other Public Funds	TBD
Planning, monitoring, & citizen participation	HPDL Community Association
Program implementation:	HPDL / Hennepin County / Blue Water Commission / Minneapolis Environmental Services / Minneapolis Solid Waste / MPRB
Contract administration:	NRP / County / MPRB / PW / DFD

**Other Partners:** Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Clean Air Minnesota, Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance, Minneapolis Air Quality Management Authority, Minneapolis-St. Paul Urban CO2 Project Plan, Metropolitan Airport Commission, Minnesota Department of Transportation, Neighborhood Revitalization Program, Women’s Cancer Center and other neighborhood associations.

# VI. CRIME AND SAFETY

**GOAL 1:**

*Improve safety and the perception of safety in our community.*

**OBJECTIVE A:**

*Build community relationships to promote effective law enforcement and prevent crimes.*

**STRATEGY 1:**

*Improve personal and property safety.*

**Implementation**

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- Support existing block clubs and McGruff Safe houses.
- Develop block club and McGruff house map and directory.
- Identify blocks in need of leaders and promote the establishment of block clubs and safe houses on those streets.
- Establish a Block Club incentive fund to support block club activities and recruit leaders at the annual HPDL picnic.
- Help maintain and promote block clubs by facilitating information with Third Precinct’s Sector Lieutenant and Crime Prevention Specialists, and communicating information and events via the HPDL newsletter.

NRP Allocation	\$13,000
Private Funds	TBD
Other Public Funds	TBD
Planning, monitoring, & citizen participation	HPDL Community Association
Program implementation:	HPDL / MPD Third Precinct
Contract administration:	NRP / MPD

**STRATEGY 2:**

*Increase community awareness of personal and property safety and strengthen the partnership with the Minneapolis Police Department and Minneapolis Park Police.*

**Implementation**

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- Conduct an annual crime and safety neighborhood community meeting.
- Maintain and strengthen volunteer walk patrol.
- Establish neighborhood bike patrol.

- Maintain crime & safety booth at annual HPDL picnic.
- Partner with law enforcement to educate the community on crime prevention strategies. Educate neighbors about proper reporting of nuisance crimes, such as theft, burglary, vandalism and graffiti.
- Use different modes to communicate Crime Alerts, increasing the number of informed residents.
- Collaborate with the Crime and Safety Committee to identify and define properties with crime-related issues.
- Work with Housing Inspections Department, the Third Precinct’s Sector Lieutenant and Crime Prevention Specialists, and neighborhood to identify and resolve problem property issues. (See Housing Strategy 1.A.2)
- Advocate for improved alley lighting to increase safety and perception of safety for residents.
- Partner with Minneapolis Park Police to improve park safety.

NRP Allocation	\$13,100
Private Funds	TBD
Other Public Funds	TBD
Planning, monitoring, & citizen participation	HPDL Community Association
Program implementation:	HPDL / MPD Third Precinct / Park Police
Contract administration:	NRP / MPD

# VII. EDUCATION

**GOAL 1:**

*Maintain and promote quality schools in our community.*

**OBJECTIVE A:**

*Encourage the development of community connections to schools.*

**STRATEGY 1:**

*Strengthen communication between schools, governmental bodies and community.*

**Implementation**

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- Work with Minneapolis School Board and Hale School to promote the quality and safety of our schools to HPDL residents.
- Appoint a liaison between the HPDL Community Association, Hale School and the Minneapolis School Board to encourage information sharing between the district and community. Consider creating a liaison with Our Lady of Peace School.
- Ensure that citizen concerns regarding class sizes, funding, quality and the challenges of serving a diverse community are heard.
- Include school issues in HPDL Board and community meeting agendas.
- Invite representatives of Our Lady of Peace School, Hale School and the Minneapolis School Board to participate in HPDL community meetings.
- Utilize HPDL Newsletter to update the community on successes and challenges of neighborhood schools.
- Provide a link to the Hale School website via the HPDL website.
- Promote the first Friday Forum meetings at Hale School in HPDL publications.

NRP Allocation	\$6,328
Private Funds	TBD
Other Public Funds	TBD
Planning, monitoring, & citizen participation	HPDL Community Association
Program implementation:	HPDL / Hale School Council
Contract administration:	NRP / Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS)

**STRATEGY 2:**

*Improve partnership between schools and the community. Increase neighborhood volunteerism in the schools.*

**Implementation**

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- Sponsor intergenerational activities to increase residents’ involvement in neighborhood schools by coordinating after school activities with neighborhood organizations (HPDL Quilters, HPDL Lecture Series -- Building Community section).
- Invite HPDL neighbors to participate in school events and volunteer activities that the schools deem appropriate for larger community involvement.
- Provide more community service opportunities for neighborhood schoolchildren and their families through creative partnerships between the School Board, Hale School, Our Lady of Peace School, Minneapolis Community Education, the Minneapolis Park Board, neighborhood churches and other organizations.
- Partner with the neighborhood schools on developing projects that monitor air and water quality in HPDL, educating families about environmental issues.
- Investigate supporting a parent volunteer liaison at the schools to increase neighborhood volunteerism.
- Support neighborhood and church tutoring programs for our students.

NRP Allocation	\$ 0
Planning, monitoring, & citizen participation	HPDL Community Association

**STRATEGY 3:**

*Assure that the neighborhood schools meet the educational and physical needs of the students and community. Increase access to schools and enhance the schools’ role as community gathering and focal point.*

**Implementation**

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- Develop procedures with Hale School for community use of common space (gym/art/conference room addition).
- Enhance the HPDL neighborhood, enrich school science curriculum and improve ties between neighborhood and schools by assisting Hale School in the Landscape Improvement Project. Advertise volunteer opportunities, help maintain the gardens and participate in the grand opening event.

NRP Allocation	\$ 0
Planning, monitoring, & citizen participation	HPDL Community Association

**Other Partners:** Our Lady of Peace, Community Education, Pearl Park.

## VIII. BUILDING COMMUNITY

### **GOAL 1:**

*Build stronger ties between neighbors to enhance the livability and perception of safety of HPDL.*

### **OBJECTIVE A:**

*Promote opportunities and activities that allow neighbors and residents to get to know each other better and that increases citizen participation in community-based activities.*

### **STRATEGY 1:**

*Create a stronger community through a diverse range of neighborhood events and information sharing. Organize activities that reflect and celebrate the generational, ethnic and racial diversity of the HPDL neighborhood.*

### **Implementation**

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#### **Events:**

- Continue to sponsor the annual Picnic in the Park and Frost Fest, the celebrations of our neighborhood.
- Redesign Frost Fest to make it a more inclusive and intergenerational event.
- Sponsor an arts & crafts fair in conjunction with the annual Picnic in the Park.
- Create a “Movies in the Park” program at Pearl Park during the summer months.
- Create a walk-for-fitness club in conjunction with Pearl Park and Hennepin County’s “Healthy Steps” program.
- Expand the annual 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue garage sale into a neighborhood wide event.
- Organize an HPDL lecture series, perhaps in conjunction with the schools.
- Explore possibility of allowing an informal dog park at the new Solomon Park site until formal plans have been drafted (see Parks and Recreation Strategy 1.A.2).
- Promote regular neighborhood/ block club meetings.

#### **Information sharing:**

- Continue to publish and distribute the HPDL newsletter to keep residents informed of neighborhood activities, upcoming meetings, and topics that might impact our neighborhood.
- Publish a community resource guide.
- Deliver welcome packets to all new neighbors.
- Create a resource network of volunteers willing to help other community residents with a variety of tasks.
- Set up a bulletin board on the HPDL website for “swap” ads.
- Update and revise website to be more interactive and informative for neighborhood news and events.

- Continue efforts to improve marketing of neighborhood events.
- Advocate for residents with the City of Minneapolis to improve the quality of city services, such as street sweeping, snow removal, zoning and inspections.

NRP Allocation	\$39,000
Private Funds	TBD
Other Public Funds	TBD
Planning, monitoring, & citizen participation	HPDL Community Association
Program implementation:	HPDL Community Association
Contract administration:	NRP

**STRATEGY 2:**

*Utilize NRP dollars to support Hale, Page, and Diamond Lake Association as the neighborhood-based vehicle for NRP planning, monitoring, and community outreach.*

**Implementation**

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The HPDL office will provide program and administrative support to planning and monitoring activities as described throughout this document, along with general oversight and community outreach efforts. This centralized effort to help manage all HPDL activities ensures a thriving neighborhood that benefits local residents and the city of Minneapolis at-large.

NRP Plan Development	\$106,190
NRP Allocation	\$150,000
Private Funds	TBD
Other Public Funds	TBD
Planning, monitoring, & citizen participation	HPDL Community Association
Program implementation:	HPDL Community Association
Contract administration:	NRP

# BUDGET

<u>Categories</u>	<u>NRP Funds</u>
Housing	\$376,325
Commercial Development	\$ 46,400
Transportation	\$ 38,000
Parks and Recreation	\$ 29,500
Environment	\$ 17,300
Crime and Safety	\$ 26,100
Education	\$ 6,328
Building Community	\$295,190
<b>TOTAL NRP ALLOCATION</b>	<b>\$835,143</b>