



EAST LAWRENCE NEIGHBORHOOD



REVITALIZATION PLAN



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

East Lawrence Neighborhood Revitalization Plan

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East Lawrence is a special place. (See map on page 2 for East Lawrence Neighborhood Boundaries) It is diverse, complex, eclectic and even a little eccentric. Through the East Lawrence Neighborhood revitalization planning process, this extraordinary diversity of people came together to set a course of action to preserve the important features of their neighborhood and to set goals to improve it over time.



Neighborhood revitalization is no accident. To retain the character of an existing neighborhood takes commitment. The homeowners, property owners, business owners, and tenants clearly demonstrated their commitment through the development of this plan and associated action steps. The East Lawrence Neighborhood Revitalization Plan includes initiatives in virtually every area of neighborhood life. This neighborhood revitalization plan is not a land use plan but a preservation and social action strategy to maintain features that are most important to the homeowners, property owners, business owners, and tenants. The neighborhood identified six major goals that became the foundation of the action strategies set out in the plan.

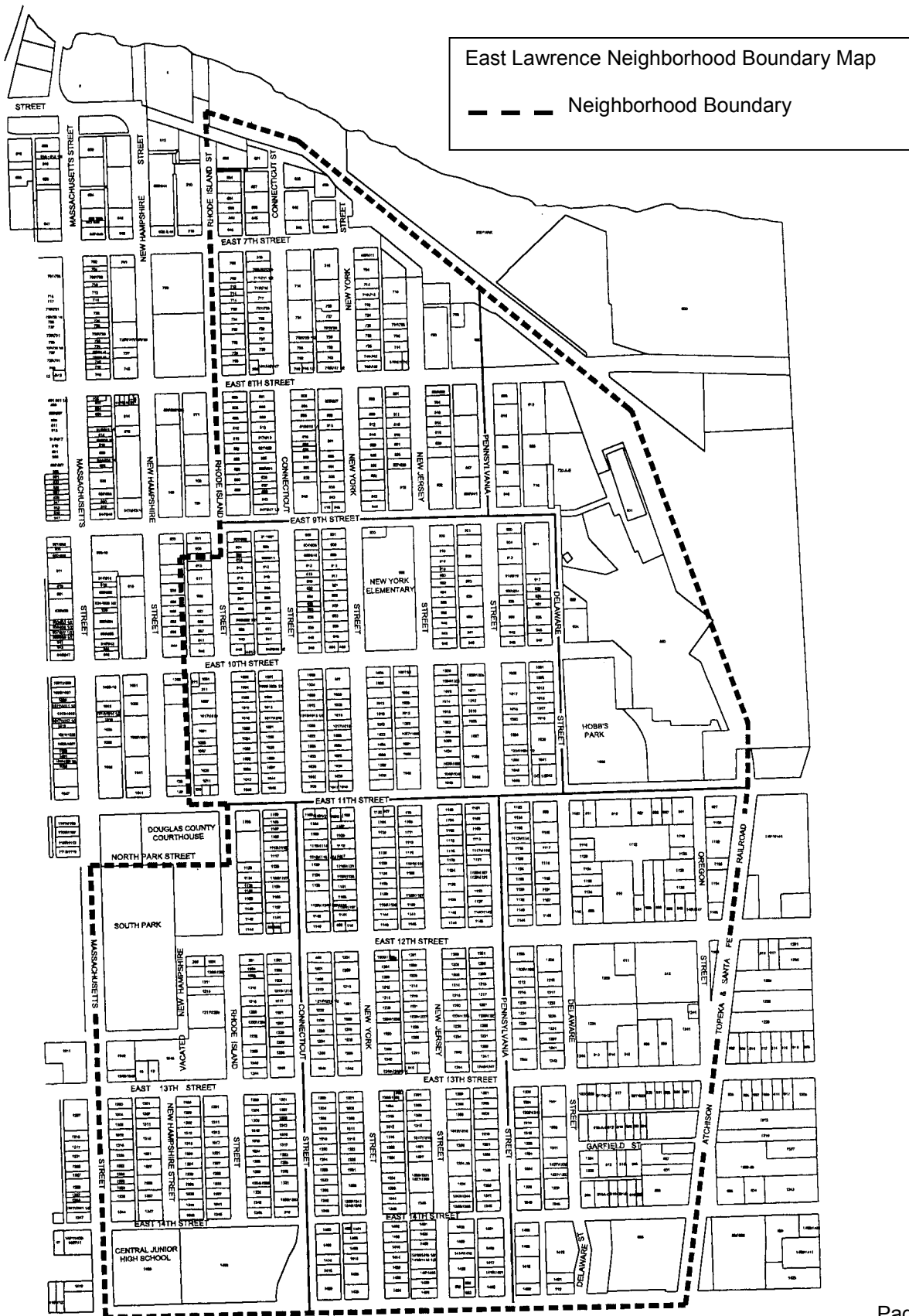


1. Encourage effective code enforcement, maintain appropriate land use and zoning and develop a true sensitivity to housing issues.
2. Preserve and conserve existing physical neighborhood landmarks.
3. Protect and enhance neighborhood greenspace, streetscapes and other physical assets.
4. Support neighborhood institutions and programs, and preserve, retain and improve existing activity centers.
5. Enhance pedestrian and automobile safety. Clearly demarcate commercial truck routes.
6. Protect and strengthen the viability of neighborhood businesses.



The organization of the plan document, as outlined in the Table of Contents, focuses on the findings related to Community Perceptions, Vision Statement and Primary Neighborhood Goals, Implementation Strategies and an Action Plan & Timeline. The Appendix section of the document contains additional information including the methodology process and the design guidelines study for the neighborhood. A companion document titled "Background Studies" includes more detailed information on the decision making process and a History of East Lawrence Neighborhood.





THE EAST LAWRENCE NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION PLAN AND THE PLANNING PROCESS

This East Lawrence Neighborhood Revitalization Plan, adopted by the City Commission on November 21, 2000, provides the neighborhood and the City with a guide to direct available human energy and financial resources to protect and enhance the qualities that make the East Lawrence Neighborhood unique.



The City of Lawrence currently uses Horizon 2020, the adopted comprehensive plan, as the foundation and framework for making physical development and policy decisions. It is the primary tool to assist the community's decision makers in evaluating the appropriateness of land development proposals. It is not the intention of this neighborhood revitalization plan to replace, amend, or supplement Horizon 2020, the current zoning designations within the East Lawrence Neighborhood, or the existing City ordinances that govern development; until or unless, the recommended changes in existing City ordinances have been approved through the legal processes and adopted by the City Commission. A document, used in the review of land use and zoning decisions that might affect the East Lawrence Neighborhood, is the East Lawrence Neighborhood Plan, adopted December 19, 1979.



One of the main qualities that makes the East Lawrence Neighborhood unique among Lawrence's neighborhoods is the variety of land uses contained within the neighborhood. It is not uncommon to find a flower shop or a printing shop operating next to a single-family residence. This interconnectivity between commercial uses and residential uses can be found throughout the neighborhood. The commercial/residential relationship is important not only for maintaining economic viability, but for defining the physical character of the neighborhood.



The East Lawrence Neighborhood also contains a number of industrial land uses that are important to the long-term viability of the neighborhood. The relationship of the industrial uses to the residential uses is different than the interwoven commercial uses found in the neighborhood. Industrial uses are typically found along the east boundary of the neighborhood adjacent to the railroad. For the most part, there is a separation between residential and industrial uses. For this reason, the focus of the majority of the East Lawrence Neighborhood Revitalization Plan is on the residential/commercial portions of the neighborhood.



While some of the elements of the plan, such as public facilities improvements, are relevant to both the residential/commercial portions and the industrial areas of the neighborhood, elements of the plan such as development of a conservation district are relevant only to the residential/commercial portions of the neighborhood.



PREFACE

Although the Community Capacity Building Grant Planning Standards recommend the development of strategies for the removal of heavy industrial/commercial areas, the neighborhood believes that these areas are integral to the character of the neighborhood and should be maintained and preserved. Finally, while the planning process identified the importance of the residential character of the neighborhood, this document does not recommend any changes in current zoning.

