

THE WEDGE

LOWRY HILL EAST

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Hennepin

Lyndale

Lake

NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION PROGRAM

PHASE I EVALUATION

December 2006

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Acknowledgements:

The Lowry Hill East Neighborhood Association and the LHENA NRP Steering Committee thank all the volunteers who have contributed to the success of Phase I. Through countless meetings, thoughtful planning, and many hours spent working on projects, your efforts have helped to shape Lowry Hill East. Thank you for devoting your time and energy to making this neighborhood a better place.

History:

NRP has changed the neighborhood in which we live. With the advent of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) in 1990, neighborhoods were offered a unique opportunity to participate in the planning for improvements to their individual neighborhoods supported through public funding. Volunteers were to evaluate issues, develop priorities, and implement strategies to enhance neighborhoods for years to come.

Neighborhood volunteers started NRP in Lowry Hill East in 1994, when the neighborhood's NRP participation agreement with the City was made. The neighborhood was allotted \$3,799,394 in NRP funds for the first decade of NRP. Due to some signs of decline, the neighborhood decided to designate itself as a "revitalization" neighborhood, which is the "middle" type of neighborhood in NRP's classification system.

The first Lowry Hill East NRP Steering Committee was elected in October 1994 to help the neighborhood effectively participate in NRP and to be the neighborhood's NRP decision-making body. The committee was reelected in 1996 and 1997, and again in February 1999. Since then, the committee has been elected every year at the Lowry Hill East Neighborhood Association (LHENA) annual meeting.

Through surveys conducted in 1995 of residents, rental property owners, and businesses, the Steering Committee identified five areas of concern: Arts & Commerce, Crime & Safety, Housing, Infrastructure, and Youth & Education. Volunteer task forces then formed to plan strategies or projects to address each category. The Steering Committee met twice a month in Mueller Park. Each task force met between Committee meetings to develop proposals.

Overall, those involved in the early stages of LHENA-NRP wanted the chance to improve the neighborhood and make a difference in the quality of life. And although NRP funds provided the means to implement big changes, the focus was on what the Committee should do for the neighborhood, and not merely on how it could spend the money. Their goal was to be frugal with the planning costs as they realized that NRP money is a limited and finite resource and wanted to avoid relying too heavily on money that might not be available in the future.

The First Step:

NRP required neighborhoods to develop a First Step Plan which was designed to help the neighborhood learn the NRP process and provide an early success. The strategies developed by each of the five task forces were compiled into LHENA-NRP's First Step Plan, for an initial \$350,000 of the neighborhood's total funds. There was some advice that LHENA-NRP should pare down its First Step Plan from a wide variety of projects to just one, two, or three, but the Committee would have none of it. They wanted to create a variety of projects to see what worked and what didn't, and more importantly to hope that within the

wide variety of activities, that there was something for everyone. The First Step Plan was approved by neighborhood vote and by city officials in 1996. Most of the plan's 25 strategies were implemented, among them, home and business improvement grants, security lights and locks rebates, a contribution to the Midtown Greenway bike path, and new neighborhood entrance signs.

However, it wasn't all simple and fun. Part of the process involved developing a Conflict of Interest policy. A grievance was filed that was found not to have merit. After a strenuous first year, many on the Steering Committee chose not to return.

In June 1997, the neighborhood hired a part-time staff person to assist in NRP implementation and Full Action Plan development. LHENA had an office in the Calhoun Square Building, making use of free empty space. The neighborhood is currently supported by a full-time Coordinator who supports both the NRP Steering Committee and the LHENA Board. Our office is located in Jefferson Community School, building on our partnership developed through several projects.

Early Access and the Full Action Plan:

From 1996 through 1998, LHENA-NRP Steering Committees organized task forces again for each of the five pinpointed areas, collected and debated funding proposals, reviewed proposals generated from the 1995 surveys, and conducted straw polls of residents to prioritize proposals for the neighborhood's Full Action Plan, the successor to its First Step. All neighborhood residents and property owners were welcome to join in the process. Meetings, contact names and phone numbers were published in *The Wedge* neighborhood newspaper each month, and publicized in mailings and at special events.

The neighborhood and City approved spending \$383,673.50 in 1997 and 1998 for "Early Access" projects, including expanding Intermedia Arts and Jungle Theater at \$100,000 each, as well as the pARTs Photo Gallery at \$10,000. Funds also supported the enhancements of the new playground at Jefferson Elementary School at \$80,000, and upgrading the renovation of Mueller Park at \$93,674.

The Steering Committee then decided to review the First Step strategies. They found six which were unnecessary or for which costs were less than expected, reaching a total savings of \$52,161. The Steering Committee voted to move the funds saved from these six projects into the Full Action Plan budget for 4% home improvement loans, bringing the total Full Plan budget to \$3,117,850.

The original 42 proposals submitted for the Full Action Plan were presented at special meetings in June and July 1998 for neighborhood feedback. Proposals and revisions were published in *The Wedge* in July, September and November of 1998. Original proposals had costs exceeding the approximate \$3.1 million Full Action Plan budget by more than \$2 million. The task forces and Steering Committee then prioritized further, honing the Full Action Plan down to 22 final proposals which met the budget.

In October 1998, the Steering Committee and Lowry Hill East Neighborhood Association Board approved the proposed Full Action Plan. Following a special neighborhood meeting, ballots were mailed to neighborhood households and to those who own property or a business in the neighborhood. The ballots resulted in neighborhood approval of 18 of the 22 plan strategies. The four strategies not approved, leaving \$552,850 unallocated, were:

- \$485,000 – Ornamental sidewalk lights; toward 25% of the cost for lights throughout the neighborhood
- \$ 19,000 - Replacing a deteriorating retaining wall on private property near 22nd Street and Aldrich Avenue South
- \$ 44,000 – Speed humps; toward costs of sets of two on 19 blocks
- \$ 4,850 – Neighborhood entrance signs; additional funds to this First Step project

In a subsequent neighborhood vote in June 1999 and decisions of the Steering Committee and Board, the remaining \$552,850 was allocated as follows: \$540,000 toward a portion of the cost for new pedestrian level sidewalk lights throughout the residential part of the neighborhood (the remaining cost to be paid by property assessment), and \$12,850 for further improvements to Mueller Park.

Phase I Review Process:

As Phase I of LHENA-NRP draws to a close, we are required to take stock and evaluate the successes and failures of the programs which were implemented. In order to gauge the effectiveness of Phase I, we broke down the review into several components. First, we reviewed all historical documentation on file which provided great detail and insight into the many projects completed during the first phase. This included the First Step Plan, the Full Action Plan, ballots, a grievance, plan modifications, photographs, flyers, and meeting minutes. We then asked NRP Steering Committee and task force members, past and present, to fill out program evaluation forms based on their experiences as well as our historical documentation. We conducted a survey of the neighborhood, asking residents to assess the effectiveness of LHENA-NRP strategies with funding greater than \$5000. This survey was distributed to every address in the neighborhood through its inclusion in *The Wedge*, our neighborhood newspaper. We also distributed it at neighborhood meetings, National Night Out events, and through emails to past meeting attendees and interested persons.

This evaluation is a compilation of the findings from the review process. The Project Evaluation Reports tell the story of LHENA-NRP Phase I through the eyes of LHENA-NRP volunteers and staff. Please refer to Appendices A-F, beginning on page 40, for supporting information, including a detailed funding spreadsheet, the survey plus its results, and more.

Project Evaluation Reports

CRIME AND SAFETY:

Project/Program Name: Security Lighting

Strategy Number: 1.1

Ballot Wording/Full Plan Wording: Encourage the installation of motion-detector lights, photocell lights, timer lights, yard lights, lights in parking lots, and lights in apartment common areas (such as laundry rooms and entry vestibules) by providing partial rebates for the materials and installation costs.

Date Passed: September 1996, First Step Action Plan

NRP Original Funding Allocation:	\$27,000.00
Amount Spent to Date:	\$ 8,524.27
Amount Reallocated to Other Strategies:	\$18,475.73

Plan Modification #6: Unspent balance of \$18,475.73 reallocated to Strategy 31.1.

How was the project/program implemented?

This strategy was developed by the Crime and Safety sub committee of the NRP Steering Committee in January and February of 1998.

The program was to rebate up to 50% of costs for the following lights and related work:

- Exterior lights including closely grouped accent lights, motion detector lights, flood lights or other free standing or mounted lights that increase security
- Common area building lights including fixtures that increase security in entrances, common hallways, laundry rooms or other common areas
- Leased spot lights obtained through the NSP (Northern States Power) program for residential and commercial buildings
- Trencher rental for installing fixtures in yards, unpowered garages and parking lots and any labor by a Minnesota-licensed electrician for installing the above.

A before and after inspection by neighborhood representative was required for each rebate. An application form was filled out to apply.

There were some monetary limitations on the total amount allowed per household:

- A maximum of \$300 rebate per household or per commercial unit
- A maximum of \$500 rebate per multi-unit building for common area fixtures
- A maximum of \$500 rebate per parking lot fixtures (residential or commercial)

What were the outcomes? Was it a successful project/program? What worked and what didn't?

Between 1/18/1998 and 7/11/2000 there were 19 participants that received lighting grants. The amounts ranged from \$23.21 to \$1,010 with an average rebate of \$264.50. Generally it was successful. Most of the rebate recipients were individual property owners. Only a few rental or commercial owners applied for rebates. This was due to the limits on the grants or lack of publicity. The limits were a contributing factor to the success of the program. Had they been higher, we probably could have spent the entire amount. Another problem was the required "pre-installation" and "post-installation" visits. Since all the inspections were by volunteers, it was not easy to schedule them at a time when it was convenient to both parties. It would have been better to have hired a contractor to do the inspections.

Prepared by: Jim Henderson

Project/Program Name: Security Grants

Strategy Number: 1.2

Ballot Wording/Full Plan Wording: Provide partial rebates for permanent home or apartment security measures, such as "partial open" window locks, dead bolt locks, locks on vestibule doors and security glass.

Date Passed: September 1996, First Step Action Plan

NRP Original Funding Allocation:	\$10,000.00
Amount Spent to Date:	\$ 2,158.07
Amount Reallocated to Other Strategies:	\$ 7,841.93

Plan Modification #6: Unspent balance of \$7,841.93 reallocated to Strategy 31.1.

How was the project/program implemented?

The Security Grant strategy (also known as the "Locks Rebate") was developed by the Crime & Safety sub committee of the NRP Steering Committee in January and February of 1998.

The program was to rebate up to 50% of costs for the following security hardware:

- Window locks including closed or partial-open type
- Deadbolt door locks
- Door locks for main entrance, vestibule or common apartment building hallway doors that lead to basement
- Door closers on common doors without deadbolt locks
- Peek holes in doors leading to common areas
- Building entrance security glass (wired) or thick plastic

Note: No labor rebate was available for installation of locks and hardware.

A before and after inspection by neighborhood representative was required for each rebate. An application form was filled out to apply.

There were some monetary limitations on the total amount allowed per household:

- A maximum of \$300 rebate per household or per commercial unit
- A maximum of \$500 rebate per multi-unit building for common area fixtures
- A maximum of \$500 rebate per parking lot fixtures (residential or commercial)

What were the outcomes? Was it a successful project/program? What worked and what didn't?

Generally it was successful. Between 9/11/1997 and 5/18/2000 there were 12 participants that received security grants for locks. The amounts ranged from \$10.00 to \$500.00 with an average rebate of \$112.68. Most of the rebate recipients were individual property owners. Only a few rental or commercial owners applied for rebates. I am not sure if this was due to the limits on the grants or lack of publicity. The limits on the hardware and that no labor was available for rebate was a contributing factor to the success of the program. It was difficult on some of the invoices to separate out the labor after the locks had been installed. Several of the Security Grant recipients also received grants under Program Strategy 1.1 Security Lighting. Some money was spent on publicity for both programs which totaled \$2,296.76. This was not broken down between Strategies 1.1 and 1.2.

Prepared by: Jim Henderson

Project/Program Name: Promote Crime-Fighting Programs

Strategy Number: 1.3

Ballot Wording/Full Plan Wording: Door-knock in an effort to identify the residences of block club leaders who volunteer to provide a safe haven in time of danger, encourage apartment managers to be block club leaders in their buildings, hold informational meetings, and develop additional materials on personal safety.

Date Passed: September 1996, First Step Action Plan

NRP Original Funding Allocation:	\$3,000.00
Amount Spent to Date:	\$1,200.00
Amount Reallocated to Other Strategies:	\$1,800.00

Plan Modification #1: Unspent balance of \$1,800.00 reallocated to the Full Action Plan.

How was the project/program implemented?

A consultant was hired for \$1,200 to recruit block leaders as part of volunteer recruitment for Jefferson playground building project.

What were the outcomes? Was it a successful project/program? What worked and what didn't?

The Community Crime Prevention division of Police Department indicated their intention to focus on block leader recruitment in Lowry Hill East, which lessened the need for LHENA-NRP involvement. The adoption of the 1998 LHENA NRP Full Action Plan modified this strategy and reallocated the funds to other programs.

Prepared by: Caroline Griepentrog

Project/Program Name: Graffiti Removal Team

Strategy Number: 2.1

Ballot Wording/Full Plan Wording: Volunteers will work with Housing Inspections to remove graffiti from public spaces with graffiti removal kits or a rented sandblaster, repaint problem areas with graffiti resistant paint, and encourage continuing graffiti removal effort.

Date Passed: September 1996, First Step Action Plan

NRP Original Funding Allocation:	\$5,000.00
Amount Spent to Date:	\$ 0.00
Amount Reallocated to Other Strategies:	\$5,000.00

Plan Modification #1: Unspent balance of \$5,000.00 reallocated to the Full Action Plan.

How was the project/program implemented?

This program was not implemented, due to the fact that the City offers free graffiti removal materials for private property owners (at fire stations) and removal service for public property. The adoption of the 1998 LHENA NRP Full Action Plan modified this strategy and reallocated the funds to other programs.

Prepared by: Caroline Griepentrog

Project/Program Name: Police Bike Patrol

Strategy Number: 3.1

Ballot Wording: To hire bike patrol police officers to serve the neighborhood for approximately seven years. A neighborhood committee would develop a contract with the Fifth Precinct of the Minneapolis

Police Department to arrange the hours and routes of the officers, who would incorporate the bike patrol into their on-duty assignments. Modeled after other neighborhood programs including Lyndale and Kenwood bike patrols.

Full Plan Wording: Neighborhood committee to develop contract with Minneapolis Police Department, Fifth Precinct, for the neighborhood to receive “buy back” police bike patrol service in Lowry Hill East for approximately seven years. Committee will propose the police will match the service time with the time paid for by NRP funds.

Date Passed: December 1998, Full Action Plan

NRP Original Funding Allocation: \$141,000.00
Amount Spent to Date: \$ 75,809.00
Funds Remaining: \$ 65,191.00

How was the project/program implemented?

This strategy was developed by the Crime and Safety subcommittee of the NRP Steering Committee.

This strategy was to fund a team of “Bike Patrol Officers” to patrol the Wedge on a regular basis for seven years. The team would consist of two officers per patrol. The hours and stops would be random throughout the Wedge/ Lowry Hill East Neighborhood.



Officer John Murzyn and Sergeant Barry Nelson patrolling the new “Wedge Wave” bike bridge.

The NRP funds were intended to cover the initial capital equipment, bike patrol officers’ basic pay, including breaks and time for meals, a set-aside account for repairs and contingencies, and 1% for administrative costs. Liability, health coverage, etc. will be covered by the Minneapolis Police Department. As it turned out, the funding was applied in a different way.

The Crime and Safety Task Force was to take an active role in interviewing the officers, talking to supervisors and promoting a “positive” influence on the neighborhood. This also turned out to not be feasible. The NRP recruited officers through a “Buy Back” fund. Also, the Crime and Safety Task Force was short lived, and most of the review ended up being done by the NRP Steering Committee.

The initial estimated total cost was \$135,000 for seven years on a sliding scale with more money spent during the first 2-3 years and less in the final 2-3 years. The strategy has very high support in the community. Of three surveys taken during the implementation phase, between 68% and 75% of the residents supported the idea of a Bike Patrol.

In order to measure success, the Bike Patrol Officers were encouraged to keep a daily log of incidents within the guidelines set by the City Attorneys office regarding privacy and evidence. Crime statistics before and after can be compiled, surveys of residents to see if they perceive a greater police patrol impact will supplement the public relations aspect of the Bike Patrols.

What were the outcomes? Was it a successful project/program? What worked and what didn’t?

The Bike Patrol Officers tried to keep a daily log of incidents within the guidelines set by the City Attorney’s office regarding privacy and evidence. Crime statistics before and after can be compiled and reviewed, but city wide swings in certain types of crime (e.g. robbery) tend to overwhelm localized statistics. We also envisioned surveys of residents to see if they perceive a greater police patrol impact will supplement the public relations aspect of the Bike Patrols.

This program is ongoing and will most likely continue until funds have been depleted.

Prepared by: Jim Henderson

Project/Program Name: Business Security Lighting

Strategy Number: 4.1

Ballot Wording: To assist businesses for purchase of exterior lights to be used for all-night security. A neighborhood committee would develop criteria for applicants and oversee distribution of funds.

Full Plan Wording: Provide partial rebates to businesses for all-night lighting over public sidewalks outside commercial buildings, using decorative "look down" fixtures. Neighborhood committee of LHENA to set criteria; committee and LHENA staff to implement applications and distribution of funds.

Date Passed: December 1998, Full Action Plan

NRP Original Funding Allocation:	\$19,000.00
Amount Spent to Date:	\$ 0.00
Amount Reallocated to Other Strategies:	\$19,000.00

Plan Modification #6: Unspent balance of \$19,000.00 reallocated to Strategy 31.1

How was the project/program implemented?

Residents would visit area businesses who had applied for the grants, did a pre-installation review which allowed the owners to do the work. This was followed up by a post installation review to determine if the work that was originally set out to be done was done.

What were the outcomes? Was it a successful project/program? What worked and what didn't?

This program ran for three years before it was closed. The number of businesses that were interested was reduced to the point of not being needed anymore.

Prepared by: Michael Nelson

Project/Program Name: Volunteer Patrol

Strategy Number: 5.1

Ballot Wording: For costs to organize volunteer patrol of residents to walk or bike in small groups. Volunteers would be identified by bright colored jackets and caps, and would carry cameras and donated cell phones for calls to police. A neighborhood committee would arrange program details. Modeled after a Lyndale neighborhood program.

Full Plan Wording: Establish volunteer patrol of residents to walk or bike in small groups, wearing bright, easily recognized clothing, and carrying cameras and cell phones to make reports to police. Neighborhood committee to organize. NRP Funds will be used for materials such as clothing, cameras, and cell phones if needed.

Date Passed: December 1998, Full Action Plan

NRP Original Funding Allocation:	\$1,500.00
Amount Spent to Date:	\$ 692.59
Amount Reallocated to Other Strategies:	\$ 807.41

Plan Modification#6: Unspent balance of \$807.41 reallocated to Strategy 31.1.

How was the project/program implemented?

This strategy was developed by the Crime and Safety Sub Committee of the NRP Steering Committee.

The "Volunteer Patrol" strategy was implemented to provide for citizen anti-crime patrolling of select areas of the neighborhood.

The Crime and Safety Committee would provide equipment to volunteers willing to make random patrols of areas near their houses. The Minneapolis Police Department would be notified of any suspicious behavior. The estimated total cost (over a five year period) was \$1,500 for cellular phones, flashlights, and clothing to identify patrol members. We felt that some funds would be set aside for maintenance and replacement of equipment and 10% would be allotted for administration. Some volunteers may choose to use bicycle transportation, but bicycle purchase was not intended to be in the strategy.

We felt that the entire Wedge/Lowry Hill East neighborhood would benefit, even in the patrols were in very small areas of the Wedge. Those who participate will gain a better knowledge of at least their portion of the neighborhood. Residents near properties that have had problems in the past would benefit the most. Of the three surveys taken during the implementation phase, between 42% and 57% supported the idea of a volunteer patrol.

What were the outcomes? Was it a successful project/program? What worked and what didn't?

The program got off to a good start, but there were some problems with getting cell phones that more than one person could use. There were also some problems in determining how would we measure success? Crime statistics can be compared, but they are difficult to break down into smaller areas than the neighborhood as a whole. The volunteer patrol would not be able to cover the entire neighborhood on a regular basis. We felt that the volunteer patrol would be used to extend the "eyes and ears" of the Minneapolis Police Department into the neighborhood, particularly to the areas that need that type of surveillance.

Prepared by: Jim Henderson

INFRASTRUCTURE:

Project/Program Name: Traffic Counts

Strategy Number: 6.1

Ballot Wording/Full Plan Wording: Work with Minneapolis Public Works to conduct traffic counts to determine traffic calming approaches.

Date Passed: September 1996, First Step Action Plan

NRP Original Funding Allocation:	\$12,000.00
Amount Spent to Date:	\$ 4,639.74
Amount Reallocated to Other Strategies:	\$ 7,360.26

Plan Modification #1: Unspent balance of \$3,360.00 reallocated to the Full Action Plan.

Plan Modification #7: Unspent balance of \$4,000.26 reallocated to Strategy 31.1.

How was the project/program implemented?

The program was implemented by the City of Minneapolis Public Works department. The study was prepared by Barton/Aschman and Associates.

What were the outcomes? Was it a successful project/program? What worked and what didn't?

LHENA received a report titled, "Traffic Count Program Summary" from Barton/Aschman. The outcomes included throttling, speed bumps, stop sign realignment, and additional signage. It was very successful.

Prepared by: Steve Benson

Project/Program Name: Bikeway Planning

Strategy Number: 6.2

Ballot Wording/Full Plan Wording: Provide neighborhood representative in Midtown Greenway and Loring Park bike bridge design process and related biking concerns.

Date Passed: September 1996, First Step Action Plan

NRP Original Funding Allocation:	\$0.00
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How was the project/program implemented?

The City of Minneapolis Transportation and Public Works Department held city-wide meetings in all neighborhoods for public input and shared current plans including parkways, and plans already approved by NRP for adjacent neighborhoods.



Looking westward down the Midtown Greenway from Emerson Avenue South

What were the outcomes? Was it a successful project/program? What worked and what didn't?

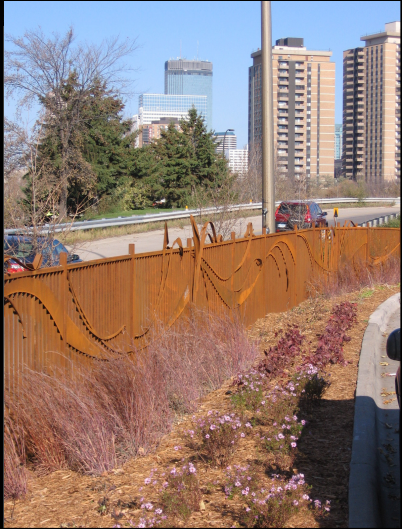
A city-wide system of paths and roadways was created, including the Midtown Greenway, which provides a linkage for bikes and leisure activities through our city. Most of the cost of this plan was covered by the City in the early phases.

Prepared by: Carol Wilson

The "Wedge Wave" or Loring Bike Bridge, created through leveraging NRP funding for federal transportation funds. The bridge is located at the tip of the Lowry Hill East neighborhood.



Before



After – The adjoining ornamental railing created with an Art in Public Spaces Grant through the City of Minneapolis.

After

Project/Program Name: Street Lights for 24th Street

Strategy Number: 6.3

Ballot Wording/Full Plan Wording: Advocate lighting funds from City Council for 24th Street, a "short blocks" corridor, a particularly dark street in Lowry Hill East and a significant bus route.

September 1996, First Step Action Plan

NRP Original Funding Allocation: \$0.00

How was the project/program implemented?

This project was included into the larger LHENA-NRP Strategy 6.6 for Pedestrian Lighting.

What were the outcomes? Was it a successful project/program? What worked and what didn't?

Please refer to Strategy 6.6, page 10.

Prepared by: Carol Wilson

Project/Program Name: Evaluate throating experiment north of 26th Street

Strategy Number: 6.4

Ballot Wording/Full Plan Wording: Consider throating or other traffic calming measures for south half of neighborhood.

September 1996, First Step Action Plan

NRP Original Funding Allocation: \$ 0.00

How was the project/program implemented? What were the outcomes? Was it a successful project/program? What worked and what didn't?

This program was voted down twice through neighborhood ballots.

Prepared by: Carol Wilson

Project/Program Name: Address Lyn-Lake parking

Strategy Number: 6.5

Ballot Wording/Full Plan Wording: Evaluate request from Lyn-Lake Association for \$50,000 to help pay for a 128 stall parking lot at Lake and Aldrich. Total cost of the lot is expected to be between \$500,000 and \$600,000. Each of the four neighborhoods surrounding Lyn-Lake is being asked to contribute \$50,000.

September 1996, First Step Action Plan

NRP Original Funding Allocation: \$ 0.00

How was the project/program implemented? What were the outcomes? Was it a successful project/program? What worked and what didn't?

Customer parking lots were built on-site by the Lyn-Lake Business Association, which secured funding elsewhere. The site is now owned by the Village Green Apartments, who have constructed an underground parking ramp which remains open to the public.

Prepared by: Carol Wilson

Project/Program Name: Sidewalk Lights

Strategy Number: 6.6

Ballot Wording:

December 1998 Ballot: Toward approximately 25 percent of cost for ornamental sidewalk lights, approximately 12 feet tall, throughout the neighborhood (six lights per long block, two per intersection). The new lights would replace existing street lights. Property owners must sign petitions approving the lights and agreeing to pay the remaining approximately 75 percent. The assessment to property owners would be about \$1050 to \$2700 per property based on size, payments for which may be spread over 20 years (approximately \$52 to \$135 per year). Based on need, the homes of the elderly and disabled

may be exempt until their home is sold. Petition signatures will be collected in four-block sections, and lights installed as each section obtains signatures from 75% of property owners in the four-block areas.

June 1999 Ballot: \$500,000 for sidewalk lights on blocks with future petition approval. These funds would pay a minimum 40% subsidy of the total cost of the sidewalk lights, which would replace existing street lights. The new lights would be on shorter, 12-foot poles to create a safer environment for pedestrians, bicyclists and cars. The plan calls for six lights per avenue block (north-south) and two lights per street block (east-west). The light fixtures would be lantern shaped. APPROVAL OF THIS BALLOT ITEM DOES NOT MANDATE LIGHTS OR ASSESSMENTS. If this item is approved by this neighborhood ballot, residents then will have the option to sign petitions approving the balance of the cost to be paid by property assessment. Before the lights would be installed and property assessed, petition signatures from residents or property owners representing 75% of the neighborhood's property must be collected. (If a property owner declines to sign petition, tenants of that property would have the option to sign petitions allowing assessment for the property). The assessment per property owner would be approximately \$1152 or \$58 per year over a 20-year period, for those owning standard 4800-square-foot lots. (Larger lots would be assessed more at a proportional rate.) Deferment of assessment may be available to those 65+ in financial need. Sidewalk lighting was one of the four items in the December 1998 NRP ballot that did not receive the 60% required voter approval (it received 59% approval). This item is being proposed again primarily because the city now allows NRP funds to pay a higher subsidy toward lights, meaning less assessment to property owners. In the previous ballot, the subsidy was only for 25% of the cost; the subsidy this time would be a minimum of 40%.

Full Plan Wording: The NRP funds allocated will be used as a subsidy of the total cost of pedestrian level, lantern-shaped, sidewalk lights throughout the residential portion of the neighborhood (approximately six lights per north-south block and two lights per east-west block). This allocation is contingent upon the city-required number of petition signatures collected from neighborhood property owners or residents, agreeing to be assessed the balance of the cost. Assessment amounts to be determined by Minneapolis Public Works. Neighborhood volunteers with staff assistance will organize and collect petition signatures. City of Minneapolis will install and maintain lights, including bearing the cost of maintenance.

Date Passed: 1999, Full Plan Amendment

NRP Original Funding Allocation: \$540,000.00
Amount Spent to Date: \$540,000.00

How was the project/program implemented?

Volunteers canvassed each address in the neighborhood to sign a petition indicating financial willingness to pay a portion for the new street lights. Approximately 70% of the property owners in the neighborhood signed the petition. The project was funded 100% by assessments made on the property owners as well as NRP funds. Minneapolis Public Works installed and will maintain the lights in the future.

What were the outcomes? Was it a successful project/program? What worked and what didn't?

The outcomes are a neighborhood that has lighting that provides an increased and better distribution of light for pedestrians, motorists, and bicyclists. They also present a more attractive streetscape and improve safety. It was a very successful program. The most difficult aspect of this project that didn't work was the uncertainty surrounding the percentage and makeup of those needed to sign the petition.

The neighborhood south of 28th Street was not included in this strategy, as developers of the Urban Village were understood to be responsible for installing pedestrian scale lighting with new housing



Lowry Hill East Streetlight at the corner of 28th Street and Colfax Avenue South

developments. The neighborhood is working to include this provision with every development approved south of 28th Street.

Prepared by: Steve Benson

Project/Program Name: Provide funds for Midtown Greenway

Strategy Number: 7.1

Ballot Wording/Full Plan Wording: The City indicated in August 1995 that unless the Lowry Hill East and East Isles neighborhoods each committed \$27,000 in NRP First Step funds to the Greenway project, a large amount of Federal matching funds would be lost and the Greenway project would be delayed or canceled.

September 1996, First Step Action Plan

NRP Original Funding Allocation: \$27,000.00
Amount Spent to Date: \$27,000.00



The Midtown Greenway

How was the project/program implemented?

\$27,000 to be used for Greenway construction.

What were the outcomes? Was it a successful project/program? What worked and what didn't?

The outcome was that the Greenway was built and opened in 2000. The Greenway project has been incredibly successful. It has provided a commuter/leisure bike route that links our neighborhood with the rest of the City. It has also been a catalyst for a large amount of development in our neighborhood.

Prepared by: Steve Benson



Celebrating the opening of the Wedge Wave Bike Park.

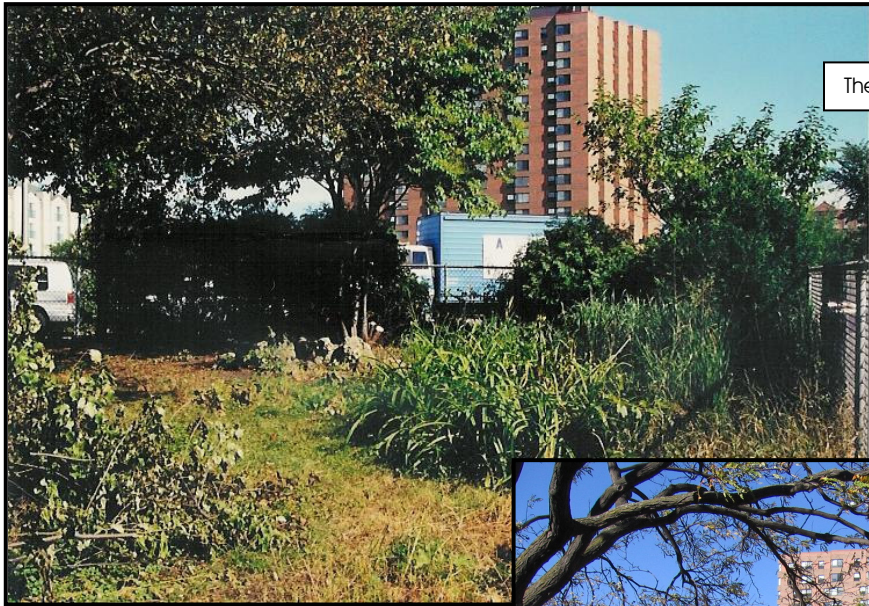
Project/Program Name: New Park

Strategy Number: 8.1

Ballot Wording: Toward costs for a new park just south of I-94 between Lyndale and Hennepin Avenues, north of Franklin (north of the Vision Loss Resources building and adjacent apartment buildings.) The park would be a neighborhood gateway and landing point for the future bike bridge from Loring Park, slated for the year 2000. The project would involve closing off the street section between Aldrich and Bryant Avenues and converting pavement to additional green space. Total project costs are estimated at \$3.2 million. Other government sources would contribute remaining costs. The project would include signs

directing bikers along Bryant Avenue to link to the future Midtown Greenway bike path along 29th Street, and bike rules and map booklets.

Full Plan Wording: Create green space on south side of I-94, between Lyndale and Hennepin avenues, to serve as neighborhood gateway and landing point for future bike bridge from Loring Park. Also create bicyclist booklets including maps and biking rules, and install signs directing bicyclists onto Bryant Avenue leading to Midtown Greenway. Funds will be used for design, booklets, regrading and landscaping.



The Park, before the redesign. (Left)



The Park, after reconstruction and installation of the ornamental railing, *The Stream of Trailing Reeds*. (Right)

Date Passed: December 1998, Full Action Plan

NRP Original Funding Allocation: \$131,000.00
Amount Spent to Date: \$131,000.00

How was the project/program implemented?

A number of meetings were held with representatives from the Public Works department and community members. Designs were presented and voted upon. Because of the potential loss of parking, it was decided that the street would remain open.

What were the outcomes? Was it a successful project/program? What worked and what didn't? The outcome is a fantastic new park which welcomes bicyclists traveling through the neighborhood along Bryant Avenue and the Loring "Wedge Wave" Bike Bridge. With increased signage and publicity, we believe that more riders will frequent the bridge and park. Signage and markings along Bryant are planned to provide a link to the Greenway, but have not yet been installed.

Funding through the Minneapolis Public Arts Commission was also secured and an artistic railing was installed south of the bike bridge. This piece serves as a gateway of sorts and welcomes people entering the neighborhood.

Prepared By: Caroline Griepentrog

Project/Program Name: Hennepin Avenue Trees and Lights

Strategy Number: 9.1

Ballot Wording: Toward approximately 2/3 of costs for trees and sidewalk lights on the east side of Hennepin Avenue from Franklin to 28th Street. Commercial property owners, if 75% per block agree by petition signature, would be assessed for remaining costs. The South Hennepin Business Association would help oversee implementation. This project was recommended in the Hennepin Avenue Strategic Plan, a publication funded in part y our NRP First Step Plan.

Full Plan Wording: Contribute to expenses for an estimated 81 lights and 81 trees to be installed alternating every 20 feet along east side of Hennepin from Franklin Avenue to 28th Street. NRP funds to be supplemented with property owner assessments.

Date Passed: December 1998, Full Action Plan

NRP Original Funding Allocation:	\$218,000.00
Amount Spent to Date:	\$207,100.00
Amount Reallocated to Other Strategies:	\$ 10,900.00

Plan Modification #7: Unspent balance of \$10,900.00 reallocated to Strategy 31.1.

How was the project/program implemented?

The program was implemented by the City of Minneapolis via Public Works and the Park Board.

What were the outcomes? Was it a successful project/program? What worked and what didn't?

The outcome was pedestrian lighting, trees, and streetscape elements were added to Hennepin Avenue. The project was very successful. The increased aesthetics created a more pleasant pedestrian environment and enhanced the retail, commercial, and entertainment properties along the Avenue. What didn't work: not as many trees were planted as initially planned for and also too many lights were installed, which may convey an airport runway feeling.

Prepared by: Steve Benson

YOUTH AND EDUCATION:

Project/Program Name: Jefferson School Playground

Strategy Number: 10.1

Ballot/Full Plan Wording: Rehabilitate playground and install fencing and landscaping involving volunteers from Lowry Hill East and East Isles and parent-teacher association.



Kids at play on the new equipment.



Playground at Jefferson Community School. Tiles shown on fenceposts were designed by the school's students.

Date Passed: October 1996, Early Access Funding

NRP Original Funding Allocation: \$146,000.00
Amount Spent to Date: \$146,000.00

How was the project/program implemented?

LHENA was part of a coalition of neighbors, volunteers, and organizations that comprised the planning council. Volunteers were organized.

What were the outcomes? Was it a successful project/program? What worked and what didn't?

The project was a huge volunteer endeavor and the success of the coalition remains evident today – the playground has weathered very well.

Prepared by: John Jensen

Project/Program Name: Youth Center Evaluation

Strategy Number: 11.1

Ballot Wording/Full Plan Wording: Evaluate establishing youth center and youth coordinator with adjacent neighborhoods, especially Whittier.

September 1996, First Step Action Plan

NRP Original Funding Allocation: \$ 0.00

How was the project/program implemented? What were the outcomes? Was it a successful project/program? What worked and what didn't?

Youth Committee discussed options with Whittier and youth program provider representatives. They found many existing programs and ultimately recommended school-community computer center (Strategy 12.1) and interior improvements at Jefferson School (Strategy 13.1).

Prepared by: Caroline Griepentrog

Project/Program Name: Mueller Park Renovation

Strategy Number: 11.2

Ballot Wording: These funds would go toward a proposal from the Mueller committee, which asked for four additional ornamental benches, an additional 750 square feet of perennial plants, 40 shrubs and trees, and an informational "graffiti proof" kiosk to post neighborhood events. Last year, the neighborhood approved approximately \$94,000 in "Early Access" NRP funds toward the overall Mueller renovation, including upgraded children's play equipment, landscaping, benches, pergola, fencing, pathways, and picnic tables.

Full Plan Wording: Use Early Access funds to supplement the Park Board's renovations of Mueller Park. The funds paid for additional trees, plantings, ornamental columns and fencing around the wading pool, more pathways, three new picnic tables (replacing two older ones), more security lights, and additional children's play equipment. Use additional funds (\$12,850) for four additional ornamental benches, 750 square feet of perennial plants, approximately 40 shrubs and trees, and an informational "graffiti proof" kiosk to post neighborhood events. Neighborhood volunteer committee to advise; installation and maintenance by Minneapolis Park Board.

Date Passed: 1996, Early Access Funding

NRP Original Funding Allocation:	\$ 93,674.00
Funds Added to Strategy:	\$ 12,850.00
Amount Spent to Date:	\$100,799.00
Amount Reallocated to Other Strategies:	\$ 5,725.00

Plan Modification #2: \$12,850.00 added from funds reallocated to full Action Plan.

Plan Modification #7: Unspent balance of \$5,725.00 reallocated to Strategy 31.1.

How was the project/program implemented?

Neighborhood studied park needs from 1995-1998 working with the Minneapolis Park Board. Early Access funds enabled the Park Board to complete its full renovation plan. Everything from the original proposal was implemented, except the informational kiosk, which was determined to be a graffiti magnet.

What were the outcomes? Was it a successful project/program? What worked and what didn't?

This program illustrates the importance of partnering with other organizations and municipal offices. The park continues to attract families and residents throughout the Wedge and provides additional community event space for neighborhood organizations.

Prepared by: John Jensen



Playground equipment installed in Mueller Park through LHENA NRP funding. Pathway in the foreground also part of the park's redesign.



Sign at the entrance to Mueller Park, located in Lowry Hill East on West 25th Street between Bryant and Colfax Avenues.

Project/Program Name: Jefferson School Computer Resources

Strategy Number: 12.1

Ballot Wording: For approximately 1/3 of costs for classroom computers and a community computer center at Jefferson Elementary School, which would be available to the neighborhood, such as for evening use. These funds also would support community computer education classes.

Full Plan Wording: Contribute to expenses of new computer resources at Jefferson School including lab with community access, classroom computers and community education.

Date Passed: December 1998, Full Action Plan

NRP Original Funding Allocation: \$291,000.00
Amount Spent to Date: \$281,038.21
Funds Remaining: \$ 9,961.79

How was the project/program implemented?

A subcommittee was formed to identify the technology needs of the school and community. This technology committee developed a mission statement and guidelines for the use and operation of this resource.



Community members admire the new computer lab at Jefferson Community School.

What were the outcomes? Was it a successful project/program? What worked and what didn't?

This program remains ongoing with residual funds going toward technology purchases. Having a clear set of guidelines helped to maintain the focus of this resource.

Prepared by: John Jensen

Project/Program Name: Jefferson Interior Improvements

Strategy Number: 13.1

Ballot Wording: For an initial portion ("seed money") of costs to Jefferson School building improvements, including wall paintings, floor tiling, murals, fabric hanging art, display cases and gallery walls for student work, improved lighting and sound in auditorium.

Full Plan Wording: Contribute to expenses of Jefferson interior improvements:
a) renovation including floor tiling and improved lighting and sound in auditorium; and
b) educational esthetic projects involving students and families including wall paintings, murals, fabric hanging art, display cases and gallery walls for students' work.

Date Passed: December 1998, Full Action Plan

NRP Original Funding Allocation: \$87,000.00
Amount Spent to Date: \$87,000.00



"Thomas Jefferson Seen Through the Eyes of Children"
This mural stands in the main hallway of Jefferson Community School and greets students daily.

How was the project/program implemented?

This holistic program was focused on improving the overall educational experience of the Jefferson School community. Multiple committees were formed to address different aspects of the project, from artist selection to overall scope of work.

What were the outcomes? Was it a successful project/program? What worked and what didn't?

The mural project was a huge success – artists were involved with the students of Jefferson School and allowed them to contribute to the final project.

Improvements to the auditorium, including replacement of the sound and lighting systems will be implemented in December 2006 and January 2007. This will have a huge impact on all events held in the auditorium, including community forums where sound quality has been an issue.

Prepared by: John Jensen

ARTS AND COMMERCE:

Project/Program Name: Neighborhood Identification Signs

Strategy Number: 14.1

Ballot Wording/Full Plan Wording: Utilize neighborhood artists and their skills to create new signs for the neighborhood, to replace existing Lowry Hill East Neighborhood signs. The signs would be installed by Public Works along the neighborhood perimeter and along major interior arteries.

September 1996, First Step Action Plan

NRP Original Funding Allocation:	\$15,000.00
Amount Spent to Date:	\$13,980.40
Funds Remaining:	\$ 1,019.60



One of the many neighborhood identification signs throughout Lowry Hill East.

How was the project/program implemented?

A competition was held to select an artist to create a design for the signage which reflects the character of the neighborhood. Artist Linda Strand Koutsky was selected to design and construct the signs. Graphic icons representing different aspects of the Lowry Hill East neighborhood were designed by students at Jefferson Community School during a visiting artist residency. These icons were the product of brainstorming and drawing sessions held with the students and were later refined by the artist.

What were the outcomes? Was it a successful project/program? What worked and what didn't?

Signs were installed along the perimeter of Lowry Hill East (Hennepin and Lyndale Avenues and Lake Street) and at key locations, such as Mueller Park, within the neighborhood. The project was successful in providing neighborhood identification, although maintenance of the signs has been a challenge. One aspect of the project's success was the ability to involve both Jefferson Community School and Intermedia Arts, two important institutions in the neighborhood.

Prepared by: Caroline Griepentrog

Project/Program Name: Artist Housing Evaluation

Strategy Number: 15.1

Ballot Wording/Full Plan Wording: Develop study for creation of artist housing on Greenway with Artspace, neighborhood representatives, city agencies.

September 1996, First Step Action Plan

NRP Original Funding Allocation:	\$25,000.00
Amount Spent to Date:	\$ 0.00
Amount Reallocated to Other Strategies:	\$25,000.00

Plan Modification #1: Unspent balance of \$25,000 reallocated to the Full Action Plan.

How was the project/program implemented?

What were the outcomes? Was it a successful project/program? What worked and what didn't?

Artist housing evaluation was part of the Urban Village Planning, and artist housing units were to be included in the Urban Village on Greenway.

Prepared by: Caroline Griepentrog

Project/Program Name: Hennepin Streetscape Plan

Strategy Number: 16.1

Ballot Wording: Support development of the Hennepin Avenue Strategic Plan by reimbursing Lowry Hill for a portion of the total cost of developing the Hennepin Avenue study.

Full Plan Wording: Support development of the Hennepin Avenue Strategic Plan by reimbursing Lowry Hill for a portion of the total cost of developing the Hennepin Avenue study.

September 1996, First Step Action Plan

NRP Original Funding Allocation:	\$5,000.00
Amount Spent to Date:	\$5,000.00

How was the project/program implemented?

A plan was prepared by Martin & Pitz Associates, Inc., Landscape Research, Edwards and Kelcey, Inc., and Mary Vogel in conjunction with neighborhood representatives. A number of meetings and visioning sessions were held to develop the plan.

What were the outcomes? Was it a successful project/program? What worked and what didn't?

Some of the recommendations of the strategic plan helped form the basis for Strategy 9.1, Hennepin Avenue Trees and Lights. A number of the recommendations have yet to be implemented formally, and could be reevaluated to assess their current relevance, as it has been eleven years since the plan was drafted.

Prepared By: Caroline Griepentrog

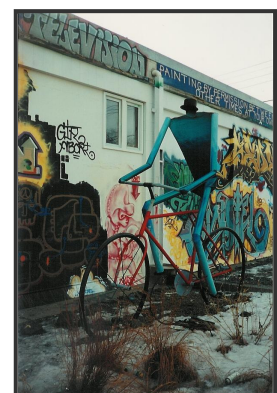
Project/Program Name: Intermedia Arts, Jungle Theater, pARTs

Strategy Number: 17.1

Ballot Wording: Renovations of the three important arts facilities which involve and stimulate the community, youth and adults, will continue to revitalize the Lyn-Lake area and are hoped to spark future development. With Early Access funds approval, the arts organizations will sign agreements with commitments to remain in the community at least 20 years and use the funds as agreed upon, or return the funds with interest.

Intermedia Arts: Intermedia Arts will use LHE NRP funds toward building renovations at 2822 Lyndale and expansion including a stairway, reception area, information kiosk, skylight vestibule storefront, conference table, wall caps and trim, much of which will be designed and constructed by local artists. The building's former use was as an auto repair shop. The renovations will allow Intermedia Arts to expand its programs for youth and emerging and alternative arts in the area.

Jungle Theater: The theater will use LHE NRP funds for the purchase and redevelopment of three properties at the Lake and Lyndale intersection, for a main stage facility (at the site of the former Knickers bar on Lyndale), community outreach, and educational programs.



Sculpture outside Intermedia Arts.

pARTs: The photography gallery in the lower level of the Calhoun Building at 711 W. Lake Street will use LHE NRP funds for expanding and beautifying its display and work space, allowing it to improve its youth and community arts programs.

Full Plan Wording: Renovations of the three important arts facilities which involve and stimulate the community, youth and adults, will continue to revitalize the Lyn-Lake area and are hoped to spark future development. With Early Access funds approval, the arts organizations will sign agreements with commitments to remain in the community at least 20 years and use the funds as agreed upon, or return the funds with interest.

Date Passed: 1996, Early Access Funding

Original NRP Funding Allocation:

Intermedia - \$100,000
Jungle - \$100,000
pARTs - \$10,000

Amount Spent to Date:

Intermedia - \$100,000
Jungle - \$100,000
pARTs - \$10,000

How was the project/program implemented?

Several neighborhoods which share the Lyn-Lake intersection, including Whittier and CARAG contributed to the funding for the renovation for these facilities, along with other supporters.



The Jungle Theater, located on Lyndale Avenue South, between 29th and Lake Streets.

What were the outcomes?

Intermedia Arts is a lively center of activity in the neighborhood including such activities as the Art Car Parade. The neighborhood organization continues a close relationship which includes Intermedia sharing its space for neighborhood meetings when Jefferson School, our regular meeting location, is closed on occasion.

Jungle Theater is a successful contemporary theater and serves as a magnet for a wide variety of people to visit our neighborhood, hopefully enjoying area restaurants as part of their visit. pARTs Photography Gallery (formerly pARTs Alternative Art Space) improved the space it rented on West Lake, and even expanded their gallery space and facilities. In 2004 pARTs reorganized as the Minnesota Center for Photography (MCP) and moved to northeast Minneapolis. The 2004 move to a larger space allowed MCP to continue to serve its mission statement. MCP has distinguished itself over the last 16 years by presenting impressive and innovative photography exhibits and by reaching out to the community by providing insightful and rewarding public programs and educational offerings. Moved that allowed additional space

Was it a successful project/program?

All three arts organizations continue as successful leaders in their area. Both Intermedia Arts and the Jungle Theater, as property owners received larger support to help with site-controlled property improvements which was secured as best possible through an agreement that the organizations would remain active at their current address for 20 years. As a renter, pARTs was awarded smaller grant which was released after four years.

What worked and what didn't?

Multi-neighborhood support for our shared intersection of Lyn-Lake helped to advance the culture and activity of the area. The expansions of new rental and condo spaces within the immediate area could perhaps be in part attributed to the successful "scene" of the intersection. As guardians of the neighborhoods NRP funds, the NRP Steering Committee took great care to see the neighborhood's NRP resources would indeed stay with the current location.

Prepared by: Judy Schwartz

Project/Program Name: Business Grants

Strategy Number: 18.1

Ballot Wording: For matching 2-1 grants to businesses (\$2 matched by business for each \$1 in grants) for exterior property improvements, extending the \$35,000 NRP First Step program, which provided grants of approximately \$500 to \$5000 per property to 15 businesses. Neighborhood committee would oversee distribution of funds.

Full Plan Wording: Establish a fund that matches one dollar for every two dollars invested by the business in exterior improvements.

September 1996, First Step Action Plan

Original NRP Funding Allocation:	\$83,500.00
Amount Spent to Date:	\$83,500.00

How was the project/program implemented?

Business owners completed a participation agreement detailing the scope of work to be paid with the grant. Business owners met with LHENA NRP representatives at the property to be improved both before and following completion of improvements to verify work. Only scopes including visible exterior improvements were approved.

What were the outcomes? Was it a successful project/program? What worked and what didn't?

A successful program. Funds were distributed and matched by 34 businesses in the neighborhood. Projects ranged from tuckpointing, to new signage, painting, new awnings, windows, doors, and more.

Prepared by: Caroline Griepentrog

Project/Program Name: Lake of the Isles restoration

Strategy Number: 19.1

Ballot Wording: Toward renovation costs of Lake of the Isles, including flood control, shoreline stabilizing, tree planting and landscaping, and repaving paths. Total costs estimated at \$9 million, based on Park Board advisory committee research. Besides NRP contribution, fund raising from other government and private sources would be conducted. A multi-neighborhood effort.

Full Plan Wording: Make a contribution for renovation of Lake of the Isles, including flood control, shoreline stabilizing, tree planting and landscaping, and repaving paths.

Date Passed: December 1998, Full Action Plan

Original NRP Funding Allocation:	\$175,000.00
Amount Spent to Date:	\$175,000.00

How was the project/program implemented?

Multi-neighborhood, regional and state funding was secured.

What were the outcomes? Was it a successful project/program? What worked and what didn't?

LHENA's contribution went toward an early part of the improvement plan to create an improved gravity flow system in the Chain of Lakes to decrease, but not eliminate, flooding at Lake of the Isles and other chain lakes.

Other improvements in this phase included: stabilized shoreline, reconstructed walking paths, creation of new wetlands and a lagoon, trees and shrubs planted, canoe racks relocated.

Prepared by: Caroline Griepentrog

Project/Program Name: Vision Loss Renovation

Strategy Number: 20.1

Ballot Wording: Toward \$300,000 costs for restoration of Vision Loss Resources, at Franklin and Lyndale, including exterior brick, large windows, parapet walls, painting, awnings and signage.

Full Plan Wording: Provide a grant for exterior renovation of Vision Loss Resources building, at Franklin and Lyndale avenues, a prominent gateway in the northern tip of the neighborhood. VLR is a 50-year-old nonprofit helping people adapt to vision loss.

Date Passed: December 1998, Full Action Plan

Original NRP Funding Allocation:	\$17,000.00
Amount Spent to Date:	\$ 0.00
Amount Reallocated to Other Strategies:	\$17,000.00

Plan Modification #7: Unspent balance of \$17,000.00 reallocated to Strategy 31.1.

How was the project/program implemented?

Several proposals for improvements were submitted; however, none came to fruition. The funds sat dormant for many years.

What were the outcomes? Was it a successful project/program? What worked and what didn't?

In 2006, the funds were reallocated to Strategy 31.1 through Plan Modification #7.

Prepared by: Caroline Griepentrog

Project/Program Name: Corner Gardens

Strategy Number: 21.1

Ballot Wording: To supplement existing program of volunteers to plant and maintain 10 to 15 gardens on neighborhood corners, particularly where street has "throated" curb at the intersection.

Full Plan Wording: Contribute to expenses for 10-15 new gardens on neighborhood corners in public space, especially in throated curb areas. This program was started in 1997 by neighborhood volunteers who created gardens between Aldrich and Colfax Avenues and 22nd and 25th Streets. The volunteer group would like to expand in the south end of the neighborhood, with NRP funds to be an incentive for new garden sponsors. The volunteer committee will find resident sponsors to "adopt" a corner for a garden and help with obtaining supplies



One of the many "Corner Garden" projects throughout Lowry Hill East.

and planting. Garden sponsors will be responsible for weeding, watering, and general maintenance. Funds will be used to purchase bricks and plants (approximately \$200/garden). Sand and storage of supplies will be provided in kind by Minneapolis Public Works.

Date Passed: December 1998, Full Action Plan

Original NRP Funding Allocation:	\$2,000.00
Amount Spent to Date:	\$ 748.88
Funds Remaining:	\$1,251.12

How was the project/program implemented?

Neighbors created new gardens on their corner boulevards and submitted receipts to the volunteer committee leader for reimbursement by LHENA-NRP.

What were the outcomes? Was it a successful project/program? What worked and what didn't?

New gardens were created on corners throughout the neighborhood, thus improving aesthetic appeal. More than 15 gardens were created and maintained. The program is ongoing.

Prepared by: Caroline Griepentrog

HOUSING:

Project/Program Name: Affordable Housing Needs Study

Strategy Number: 22.1

Ballot Wording/Full Plan Wording: Evaluate, in conjunction with an outside research group/consultant, the causes of the current shortage of affordable housing, stimulate public discussion on possible solutions, and make recommendations for incorporation into future steps of the NRP process.

September 1996, First Step Action Plan

NRP Original Funding Allocation:	\$12,000.00
Amount Spent to Date:	\$ 0.00
Amount Reallocated to Other Strategies:	\$12,000.00

Plan Modification #1: Unspent balance of \$12,000.00 reallocated to the Full Action Plan.

How was the project/program implemented?

What were the outcomes? Was it a successful project/program? What worked and what didn't?

This program was lofty in ideals, but perhaps not practical for a neighborhood with ever-rising property values and property taxes escalating even more dramatically. There are many other organizations that specialize in this topic. Rather than "study," our neighborhood applied to have several units of the Urban Village development subsidized by NRP funding to keep it those units at an affordable level into the future. However, our neighborhood was not successful in achieving this funding due to a lack of support from the former MCDA.

Prepared by: Judy Schwartz

Project/Program Name: Truth-in-Renting program

Strategy Number: 23.1

Ballot Wording/Full Plan Wording: Develop, in conjunction with existing public agencies, a voluntary pilot "truth-in-renting" program to provide potential renters with information on a unit's base rent, rental history, confirmation that appliances and services are in working order, and a statement of the security features present or not present (locking exterior doors, dead bolt locks, etc.).

September 1996, First Step Action Plan

NRP Original Funding Allocation:	\$5,000.00
Amount Spent to Date:	\$ 0.00
Amount Reallocated to Other Strategies:	\$5,000.00

Plan Modification #1: Unspent balance of \$5000.00 reallocated to the Full Action Plan.

How was the project/program implemented?

This plan was implemented as a report prepared by the U of M Neighborhood Network, but the report was neither timely nor helpful.

What were the outcomes? Was it a successful project/program? What worked and what didn't?

This program was unrealistic as landlords are not going to respond to such requests for information that can change day-to-day due to shifting market forces or wear and tear to a property. To compile such data originally, let alone to maintain its up-to-date accuracy, would be a logistical nightmare as well as a legal liability.

Prepared by: Judy Schwartau

Project/Program Name: Landlord/Tenant Relations program

Strategy Number: 23.2

Ballot Wording/Full Plan Wording: Contract with Minneapolis Mediation Services to provide mediation services and educational forums to Lowry Hill East landlords and tenants.

September 1996, First Step Action Plan

NRP Original Funding Allocation:	\$4,400.00
Amount Spent to Date:	\$ 0.00
Funds Remaining:	\$4,400.00

How was the project/program implemented?

This plan was implemented through a contract with Minneapolis Mediation Services to provide mediation as requested by members of the neighborhood.

What were the outcomes? Was it a successful project/program? What worked and what didn't?

After a period of time, this contract was cancelled due to lack of participation. The program was "advertised" and several articles in the neighborhood paper promoted it.

This program was successful in that we were happy to know that the need was small.

Prepared by: Judy Schwartau

Project/Program Name: Encourage Affordable Housing

Strategy Number: 23.3

Ballot/Full Plan Wording: Encourage, through zoning and other strategies, construction of affordable housing along the northern edge of the 29th Street Greenway corridor and mixed land use along its southern edge.

September 1996, First Step Action Plan

NRP Original Funding Allocation:	\$0.00
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How was the project/program implemented? What were the outcomes? Was it a successful project/program? What worked and what didn't?

The topic of affordable housing often is discussed as a part of many projects coming before the Zoning & Planning Committee of the LHENA Board.

Real estate development which can be produced entirely through private efforts might not be as responsive to including "affordable" units as the project may not be seeking public funding which may be tied to such requirements.

Prepared by: Judy Schwartau

Project/Program Name: Residential Improvement Grants

Strategy Number: 24.1

Ballot Wording/Full Plan Wording: Establish a lottery-based matching grant program (providing one dollar for every two dollars invested by the owner) for exterior renovation of houses, duplexes and apartment buildings.

September 1996, First Step Action Plan

NRP Original Funding Allocation:	\$39,653.88
Funds Added to Strategy:	\$ 4,500.00
Amount Spent to Date:	\$43,500.00
Amount Reallocated to Other Strategies:	\$ 3,846.12

Plan Modification #3: Unspent balance of \$3,846.12 reallocated to Strategy 25.1.

How was the project/program implemented?

This program was implemented as part of the First Step Plan to help promote NRP throughout the neighborhood. This program was amended to include funding which had originally be specified for "sweat equity" (Strategy 24.2) as it was determined that they were both quite similar in nature, and if someone knows well enough to hire a professional to do work that they shouldn't do themselves, that insight should be rewarded and not discriminated against.

What were the outcomes? Was it a successful project/program? What worked and what didn't?

The funds were almost fully spent. The remaining funds were reallocated to the 4% Loan Program. So it was successful in that the money was used to improve the exteriors of residential properties of the neighborhood. It was also successful as it yielded a two for one match by the property owner, so at least triple the amount was actually invested in improvements. However, it did not have the desired outcome of increasing participation in the NRP process or the neighborhood itself.

Prepared by: Judy Schwartau

Project/Program Name: Sweat Equity Grants

Strategy Number: 24.2

Ballot Wording/Full Plan Wording: Provide grants for costs of materials (not labor) for property improvements.

September 1996, First Step Action Plan

NRP Original Funding Allocation:	\$4,500.00
Amount Spent to Date:	\$4,500.00

How was the project/program implemented? What were the outcomes? Was it a successful project/program? What worked and what didn't?

This program ended up being amended and included in Strategy 24.1.

Prepared by: Judy Schwartau

Project/Program Name: Housing Improvement Education

Strategy Number: 24.3

Ballot Wording/Full Plan Wording: Provide home improvement educational program and maintain informational materials.

September 1996, First Step Action Plan

NRP Original Funding Allocation: \$0.00

How was the project/program implemented?

This program was originally implemented by producing a Home Improvement Housing Fair which included vendors with tables and information. I must say that it was a "very humble" version of the Southside Housing Fair. The drawing for the "one-for-two" exterior housing improvement grants was conducted during the fair so that the programs could support each other.

What were the outcomes? Was it a successful project/program? What worked and what didn't?

Since then, our neighborhood has amply promoted the Southside Housing Fair as a reliable resource. In the future we might also find the new Southwest Housing Fair to be of similar value.

Prepared by: Judy Schwartau

Project/Program Name: Below Market Improvement Loans

Strategy Number: 25.1

Ballot Wording: For below-market-interest loans for residential property improvements. Criteria for loan applicants would be planned by neighborhood committee. This program would be self-sustaining; the interest on each loan would go toward administration costs by a professional agency and repaid loans would be recycled for future loans.

Full Plan Wording: Establish a revolving, below-market-interest loan program for residential property improvements. Eligible applicants and improvements would be determined annually by: Ownership status (owner-occupied and absentee) and occupancy (single-family, multi-family up to five units, and six or more units). Income limits would be open and need-based. Eligible expenses will include exterior improvements (and common interior spaces for rental units), and could be expanded to include interior renovation. Interest repaid on loans will go toward administration costs and repaid loans will be recycled for future use. Neighborhood committee will select a professional outside agency to administer program.



An example of the housing stock LHENA hopes to protect.

Date Passed: December 1998, Full Action Plan

NRP Original Funding Allocation:	\$436,500.00
Funds Added to Strategy:	\$488,846.12
Amount Spent to Date:	\$628,657.69
Program Income:	\$201,606.38
Funds Remaining:	\$498,294.81

Plan Modification #3: \$3,846.12 added from Matching Grant Program, Strategy 24.1.

Plan Modification #4: \$485,000.00 added from Urban Village Loan, Strategy 29.1.

How was the project/program implemented?

This program has been implemented and continues. We have changed loan vendors due to lack of responsive nature and a revolving staff situation which led to multiple problems. Originally there were three funds: owner-occupied low income, owner occupied no maximum income, and absentee landlords. Annual drawings were conducted in the first several years and the loan limit was \$15,000. Due to lack of aggressive competition and for simplicity of administration, the program is now one large pool with a limit of \$25,000.

What were the outcomes? Was it a successful project/program? What worked and what didn't

Loans have been made that have helped our neighborhood make home improvements that might not otherwise have been done with that timing or of that quality of work. Perhaps the money isn't flying out the door as we had expected. None the less, we are proud to be frugal stewards of the limited NRP resources which contributes to improving housing as well as protecting funding that will be a resource to the neighborhood in the future.

Prepared by: Judy Schwartz

Project/Program Name: Home Renovations for Elderly and Disabled

Strategy Number: 26.1

Ballot Wording: For assistance to the elderly and handicapped for small residential repairs. Criteria for applicants would be planned by neighborhood committee. Funds distribution may be administered by a professional agency.

Full Plan Wording: Offer or partner with an existing agency to help elderly or disabled residents with small housing improvements. Possible partner agency: Project for Pride in Living, Block Nurse Program, Southside Housing, Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP).

Date Passed: December 1998, Full Action Plan

NRP Original Funding Allocation:	\$29,000.00
Amount Spent to Date:	\$ 4,812.00
Funds Remaining:	\$24,188.00

How was the project/program implemented?

This program was implemented through a contract with the Neighborhood Involvement Program, known as "NIP" and located in our neighborhood.

What were the outcomes? Was it a successful project/program? What worked and what didn't?

This program was promoted by NIP and also through the Wedge, our neighborhood newspaper. After response was low, with few applying for assistance, the program was discontinued at the request of NIP. Perhaps it was successful in establishing that there is minimal need for such a program in our neighborhood.

Prepared by: Judy Schwartz

Project/Program Name: Historic Preservation Loans

Strategy Number: 27.1

Ballot Wording: For below-market-interest loans to preserve historic buildings and homes. Criteria for loan applicants would be planned by neighborhood committee. This program would be self-sustaining; the interest on each loan would go toward administration costs by a professional agency and repaid loans would be recycled for future loans.

Full Plan Wording: Establish a revolving, below-market-interest loan program for historic preservation of homes and buildings. This program will be reviewed annually and be reallocated in accordance with neighborhood need and NRP guidelines if there is no further need. Guidelines for eligible applicants and improvements would be determined annually by: Ownership status (owner-occupied and absentee) and occupancy (single-family, multi-family up to five units, and six or more units). Income limits would be open and need-based. Eligible expenses will include exterior improvements, and could be expanded to

include interior renovation. The program will begin with oldest homes, and could be expanded to newer units in successive years. Interest repaid on loans will go toward administration costs and repaid loans will be recycled for future use. Neighborhood committee will select a professional outside agency to administer program.

Date Passed: December 1998, Full Action Plan

NRP Original Funding Allocation:	\$291,000.00
Amount Spent to Date:	\$ 52,850.00
Funds Remaining:	\$238,150.00

How was the project/program implemented?

This program was amended from a 4% loan to a forgivable loan due to the expensive nature of historic restoration and to increase participation. To establish criteria for the grants, two studies were conducted: an overall neighborhood history, "The Wedge Neighborhood of Minneapolis: Lowry Hill East Historic Context Study," produced by Carole Zellie and also an inventory of historical homes of the neighborhood titled, "Lowry Hill East Neighborhood of Minneapolis: Historic Resources Inventory," by Mead & Hunt. These neutral documents produced by outside resources provide the informative background for conducting this program. A "first tier" of the 21 most historic properties have begun the process. A "second tier" of 141 historic properties will begin the process in late 2006.

What were the outcomes? Was it a successful project/program? What worked and what didn't?

During the "first tier" implementation Robert Roscoe held two informational meetings for the group and visited each site to provide advice. The deadline for the applications has now passed, and loans are beginning to close so that work can begin. The "second tier" will be eligible for funds not used by the "first tier."

Prepared by: Judy Schwartau

Project/Program Name: Architecture Contest

Strategy Number: Strategy 27.2

Ballot Wording: For costs of contest for architects or architecture students to redesign 1960s apartment building facades to better blend with surrounding vintage buildings.

Full Plan Wording: Hold contest for area architects or architecture students to redesign 1960s 2-1/2 story walk-up building facades to blend with surrounding vintage buildings. Winning designs to be shared with building owners and publicly displayed.

Date Passed: December 1998, Full Action Plan

NRP Original Funding Allocation:	\$2,200.00
Amount Spent to Date:	\$ 0.00
Funds Remaining:	\$2,200.00

How was the project/program implemented?

What were the outcomes? Was it a successful project/program? What worked and what didn't?

MN: The contest was abandoned after it was determined that the purse was too small to have any real work done by anyone. At the time, the housing market was very strong and it was thought that there would not be anyone who would participate in the contest. It was also thought that the owners of the buildings would not implement any of the proposed ideas as they would be too expensive. It was also thought that the owners of the buildings would not implement any of the changes because their apartments are renting already. If the apartments were not renting, there would be an incentive for them to implement the modifications.

JS: This program was not implemented. As a compromise during the Full Phase I Plan development, this program was kept in out of respect for a hard-working absentee landlord who thought it was a wonderful idea. When he sold his last property in the neighborhood, it fell to one of his hard-working renters to attempt to carry out the dream. This energetic architecture student explored the possibilities several ways, but it was not realistic.

Prepared by: Michael Nelson and Judy Schwartz

Project/Program Name: Landlord/Tenant Network

Strategy Number: 28.1

Ballot Wording: For costs to establish a landlord/renter organization to promote rights and responsibilities of property owners and tenants, to encourage owner-occupancy of rental property, and to increase advertising of Lowry Hill East rental property for sale and rental vacancies in area publications.

Full Plan Wording: Create a network for sharing information and educating landlord and renters about their respective rights and responsibilities. An initial contact with all other neighborhood organizations of the Calhoun-Isles Planning District will be the basis for planning perhaps a public forum and determining future need and interest. Funds will be used for mailing and promotion of meetings. If need and interest continue, it is hoped that other neighborhood organizations would share in future expenses.

Date Passed: December 1998, Full Action Plan

NRP Original Funding Allocation:	\$2,200.00
Amount Spent to Date:	\$ 0.00
Funds Remaining:	\$2,200.00

How was the project/program implemented?

This program implemented by contacting the neighborhoods of the Calhoun-Isles Community Planning District. Volunteers of several neighborhoods participated in planning an informational program title "Renters & Landlord: Rights & Responsibilities" which included representatives from City of Minneapolis Housing Mediation Service, Rental Licensing, Section 8 Housing. The meeting was conducted on an extremely hot summer night at Bryant Square Park to a semi-full room.

What were the outcomes? Was it a successful project/program? What worked and what didn't?

This program had such a wealth of information from the variety of speakers that it should have been taped for Minneapolis Cable.

Prepared by: Judy Schwartz

Project/Program Name: Urban Village Loan

Strategy Number: 29.1

Ballot Wording: No-interest loan toward land purchase and business relocation costs for the "Urban Village" housing development for the future Midtown Greenway along 29th Street. The development will offer 200 owner-occupied residences between 28th and 29th Streets, and Aldrich and Dupont Avenues, including artists housing, and low, "affordable" and upper income level units. Objectives include providing security "eyes on the Greenway" and preventing "big box" commercial development. Loan to be repaid by 2001 and transferred to general loans.

Full Plan Wording: Provide no-interest loan toward land purchase and business relocation for the Urban Village housing development along 29th Street, which will include about 200 units of artists housing, and low, "affordable" and upper-income units. Loan to be repaid by Dec. 31, 2000 and funds to be

reallocated to Strategy 25.1, "Below-Market Improvement Loans." Loan security agreement to be established.

Date Passed: December 1998, Full Action Plan

NRP Original Funding Allocation:	\$485,000.00
Amount Spent to Date:	\$ 0.00
Amount Reallocated to Other Strategies:	\$485,000.00

Plan Modification #4: Unspent balance of \$485,000.00 reallocated to Strategy 25.1.

How was the project/program implemented? What were the outcomes? Was it a successful project/program? What worked and what didn't?

The Urban Village was built without this loan as there were problems confirming security of the loan. Also, the development seemed to be subject to various conflicts between MCDA and everyone else. In fact, during the neighborhood-wide balloting, the only calls I received with questions about any housing issues were about this project: Why did individuals have to pay 4% on loans when this development would pay zero percent? At some point it seemed that loan security was guaranteed, but rather than do that, the MCDA decided it could make it happen without us.

Prepared by: Judy Schwartau

ADMINISTRATION:

Project/Program Name: Office and Staff

Strategy Number: 30.1

Ballot Wording:

Full Plan Wording: Secure office space and hire staff, determine reporting and oversight responsibilities.

September 1996, First Step Action Plan

NRP Original Funding Allocation:	\$50,600.00
Amount Spent to Date:	\$50,600.00

How was the project/program implemented?

Office Space: Office sharing was implemented first with free use of space in Calhoun Square. This provided a good starting-off point, but other area neighborhood groups did not join in the opportunity. When it became apparent that repeated moves within the building would be expensive per move, and also with a concern for the overly isolated for a single person to be working in the office during evening hours, a new approach was explored. We sought out a partnership with a neighborhood partner - Jefferson Elementary School. As our neighborhood elementary school, the neighborhood school and neighborhood organization have enjoyed a mutually supportive relationship. Annual meetings had long been held in the school, and now our office is conveniently next to the Auditorium of the school. The neighborhoods Phase I Program supported the school projects including: a playground, computer lab, art project mural to improve the hallways and electrical work to improve the stage facilities of the Auditorium. The neighborhood organization invested funds to remodel our portion of the office space, and received in-kind support by use of the space. Our current office has been in Jefferson School since 1999.

Funding has been through NRP dollars. The LHENA Boards income currently consists of City CDBG grants, funds raised through a multi-neighborhood wine taster and by volunteers working a pop booth at the Uptown Art Fair, and personal contributions. These LHENA funds have been dedicated to projects other than staff and office expenses. In the future, a Fundraising Committee must be established with the entire neighborhood organization accepting responsibility for funding of staff and office that they see as necessary.

Staff: Wedge NRP had some very part-time support during the late part of the First Step Planning. A part-time neighborhood assistant was hired to support the neighborhood in planning Phase 1. The part-time assistant also served as the Editor of the Wedge newspaper for about one year. The neighborhood currently continues to enjoy staff support, and currently has had the same full-time Neighborhood Coordinator for 3.5 years.

What were the outcomes? Was it a successful project/program?

The neighborhood office space has become a reliable center for meetings except during the school summer or vacation time when other neighborhood partners are supportive with space. It feels appropriate to have a neighborhood office within a government building, with everyone working together in these tight budget times. The sheer magnitude of stuff (phone, computer, files for reference and to be audited) requires a physical space under neighborhood control. Our neighborhood has successfully established this space while strengthening our relationship with a neighborhood partner.

Prepared by: Judy Schwartz

Project/Program Name: Explore office sharing and other funding sources

Strategy Number: 30.2

Ballot/Full Plan Wording: Seek office support/funding sources.

September 1996, First Step Action Plan

NRP Original Funding Allocation: \$0.00

How was the project/program implemented?

Office space: The original office space was "secured" as free available space in Calhoun Square, technically across the street from the neighborhood. After moving once within the building, and then facing the possibility of an additional move, an agreement was made for Wedge NRP to return to within its neighborhood boundaries and share office space in Jefferson School.

Staff: Wedge NRP had some very part-time support during the late part of the First Step Planning. A part-time neighborhood assistant was hired to support the neighborhood in planning Phase 1. The part-time assistant at one time also served as the Editor of the Wedge newspaper for about one year. The neighborhood has continued to enjoy staff support, and currently has had the same Neighborhood Coordinator for 3.5 years.

Reporting and oversight responsibilities: As NRP staff is funded by NRP dollars, the oversight began with the NRP Committee. A Personnel Committee was established that is Chaired by the NRP Committee Chair with membership including the NRP Treasurer and the LHENA Board Chair and Treasurer. The Chairs of the NRP Committee and the LHENA Board, along with both Treasurers, provide the majority of the regular contact with staff on a day-to-day basis. An annual review is conducted by the Personnel Committee.

What were the outcomes? Was it a successful project/program?

Through the support of a Neighborhood Coordinator, the NRP Program was created and implemented in a shorter period of time than if it had been entirely volunteer-driven. Neighborhood volunteer leadership has the luxury of staff support in fielding daily phone calls from the public as well as working with various government agencies during day office hours that would have been impossible in that volume by an entire volunteer group. Over time, the Neighborhood Coordinator has become a valuable resource to the volunteer committee which is now viewed by many as a necessity rather than a luxury.

Prepared by: Judy Schwartau

Project/Program Name: Part-time staff, office, communications.

Strategy Number: 31.1

Ballot Wording: For one part-time staff position, and all office supplies and publicity costs for approximately five years. This amount is approximately 6% of the Full Plan budget, based on the city's recommendation of 6 to 10% for neighborhood NRP administration. Staff would coordinate implementation of all projects, by recruiting and supporting volunteers, providing information to those wishing to apply for or get involved in NRP projects, serving as liaison between the neighborhood and city and other agencies, and helping to develop NRP scopes of service and contracts required for expenditures. Neighborhood leaders committee would supervise. This would extend the current staff position and office started in 1997 to implement the First Step Plan and help develop the Full Plan.

Full Plan Wording: Continue current part-time staff and cover costs for office expenses and written communications for approximately five years. Staff will coordinate implementation of all projects by recruiting volunteers, organizing meetings, providing written documents needed by volunteers to execute projects; organizing application processes for specific NRP projects; serving as liaison between

the neighborhood and the city and other agencies; helping to develop scopes of service and contracts; managing office duties including phone, mail and email contacts, files, and assisting treasurer with documentation; and creating and organizing distribution of written communications to neighborhood at large, including newspaper articles, newsletters, fliers and postcards.

Date Passed: December 1998, Full Action Plan

NRP Original Funding Allocation:	\$188,100.00
Funds Added to Strategy:	\$ 83,750.33
Amount Spent to Date:	\$236,143.90
Funds Remaining:	\$ 35,706.43

Plan Modification #6: \$46,125.07 added from the following strategies: (1) \$18,475.73 from Security Lighting (Strategy 1.1.); (2) \$7,841.93 from Security Grants (Crime and Safety 1.2.); (3) \$19,000 from Business Security Lighting (Crime and Safety 4.1.) and (4) \$807.41 from Volunteer Patrol (Crime and Safety 5.1.).

Plan Modification #7: \$37,625.26 added from the following strategies: (1) \$4,000.26 from Traffic Counts (Infrastructure 6.1); (2) \$10,900.00 from Hennepin Ave. Trees and Lights (Infrastructure 9.1); \$5,725.00 from Mueller Park (Youth and Education 11.2); and \$17,000.00 from Vision Loss Resources (Arts and Commerce 20.1).

How was the project/program implemented?

Part-time staff: Staff support has evolved from a part-time to the full-time position of Neighborhood Coordinator. Also, NRP requirements have included the hiring of a part-time accountant. The personnel expenses also include health insurance for the Neighborhood Coordinator and a service to write the check for the one full-time employee that seems to be an NRP requirement as well as provides an experienced financial service to calculate the payment and tax withholding.

Office: After using “free” un-rented space at nearby Calhoun Square, we moved our neighborhood offices to Jefferson Elementary School. Our neighborhood organization enjoys a mutually supportive relationship with our neighborhood school. With NRP funds, the neighborhood funded some office expenses to design and furnish the space in harmony with school guidelines. The office space is in-kind and we pay a nominal fee for utilities, mail, janitorial and security expenses.

Gone are the days of a neighborhood organization being capable of operating out of the spare desk space of the rotating volunteer leadership of a neighborhood. Our space achieves the requirement of being a regular, predictable meeting place as well as the office space for doing the business of a neighborhood organization where the public can regularly find a connection.

Communications: The Neighborhood Coordinator assures a regular distribution of a vast amount of information circulated by government partners as well facilitates communication within the various volunteer committees. The Neighborhood Coordinator also supports the Wedge Newspaper as the broader neighborhood-wide communication by attending its monthly planning meetings. The Wedge Newspaper is produced by a separate Editor with volunteer support.

Including two plan modifications which reallocated unspent funds from other strategies, at the conclusion of Phase I, the neighborhood will have spent approximately 7% of the Full Plan budget on administration, which falls within the city’s recommendation of 6 to 10% for neighborhood NRP administration.

What were the outcomes? Was it a successful project/program?

The volunteer leadership of the neighborhood organization has evolved to depend substantially on neighborhood staff, and office and the communications generated by staff. In times when the vast majority of neighborhood volunteers have fulltime careers as well as other responsibilities, it is easy for volunteers to grow dependent on staff to conduct the many day-to-day tasks of a neighborhood organization. This support provides opportunity for volunteers to view the larger picture, and to put their energies into areas that require volunteer leadership.

Office space due to NRP now seems to be a requirement due to the sheer magnitude of stuff required to do business: a regular meeting space, central storage and public availability of neighborhood materials, and a regular neutral contact point for the general public.

Healthy communications among the public connecting with the neighborhood, government partners communicating with the organization, and communication among volunteer leadership is a result of the investment in staff and office as assets of the neighborhood.

Prepared by: Judy Schwartau

Appendix A: NRP Strategy Spreadsheet

Lowry Hill East

	Total NRP Allocations	Program Income	Allocation plus Program Income	Contract Amt for this Strategy	Current Expenditures	Unspent Funds	Current Appropriation Remaining	Total Available
39 Lowry Hill East								
01 CRIME AND SAFETY								
1.1 Security Lighting	27,000.00		27,000.00	27,000.00	8,524.27			
1.2 Security Grants	10,000.00		10,000.00	10,000.00	2,158.07			
1.3 Promote Crime-Fighting Programs	1,200.00		1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00			
3.1 Police Bike Patrol	141,000.00		141,000.00	118,975.00	75,809.00	43,166.00	22,025.00	65,191.00
4.1 Business Security Lighting	19,000.00		19,000.00	19,000.00				
5.1 Volunteer Patrol	1,500.00		1,500.00	1,500.00	692.59			
02 INFRASTRUCTURE								
6.1 Traffic Counts	8,640.00		8,640.00	4,639.74	4,639.74			
6.6 Install Pedestrian Lighting	540,000.00		540,000.00	540,000.00	540,000.00			
7.1 Midtown Greenway	27,000.00		27,000.00	27,000.00	27,000.00			
8.1 New Park - Bicycling Information	131,000.00		131,000.00	131,000.00				
9.1 Hennepin Avenue Trees/Lights	218,000.00		218,000.00	207,100.00	207,100.00			
03 YOUTH AND EDUCATION								
10.1 Jefferson School Playground	146,000.00		146,000.00	146,000.00	146,000.00			
11.2 Mueller Park	106,524.00		106,524.00	100,799.00	100,799.00			
12.1 Jefferson School Computer Center	291,000.00		291,000.00	291,000.00	281,038.21	9,961.79		9,961.79
13.1 Jefferson Interior Improvements	87,000.00		87,000.00	87,000.00	15,000.00	72,000.00		72,000.00
04 ARTS AND COMMERCE								
14.1 Neighborhood Signs	15,000.00		15,000.00	15,000.00	13,980.40	1,019.60		1,019.60
15.1 Artists Live - Work Space Study	5,000.00		5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00			
16.1 Hennepin Avenue Strategic Plan	100,000.00		100,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00			
17.1a Intermedia Arts	100,000.00		100,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00			
17.1b Jungle Theater	10,000.00		10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00			
17.1c PARTS Gallery	10,000.00		10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00			
18.1 Business Matching Grant	83,500.00		83,500.00	83,500.00	83,500.00			
19.1 Lake of the Isles Restoration	175,000.00		175,000.00	175,000.00	175,000.00			
20.1 Vision Loss Building Renovation	17,000.00		17,000.00	2,000.00	748.88	1,251.12		1,251.12
21.1 Corner Gardens	2,000.00		2,000.00	2,000.00				
05 HOUSING								
23.2 Tenant/Landlord Relations	4,400.00		4,400.00	4,400.00	43,500.00	4,400.00		4,400.00
24.1 Matching Grant Program	39,653.88	3,846.12	43,500.00	43,500.00	4,500.00			
24.2 Sweet Equity Program	4,500.00		4,500.00	4,500.00	4,500.00			
25.1 Below-Market Improvement Loans	925,346.12	\$201,606.38	1,126,952.50	705,000.00	206,705.19	498,294.81	24,188.00	498,294.81
26.1 Housing Repairs for Elderly/Disabled	29,000.00		29,000.00	29,000.00	4,812.00	24,188.00	2,200.00	24,188.00
27.1 Historic Preservation Loans	291,000.00		291,000.00	291,000.00	25,000.00	266,000.00		266,000.00
27.2 Architecture Contest	2,200.00		2,200.00	2,200.00			2,200.00	2,200.00
28.1 Landlord/Tenant Organization	2,200.00		2,200.00	2,200.00			2,200.00	2,200.00
29.1 Urban Village Loan								
06 ADMINISTRATION								
30.1 Staff/Office	50,600.00		50,600.00	50,600.00	50,600.00	35,706.43		35,706.43
31.1 Part-time Staff/Office/Communications	271,850.33		271,850.33	271,850.33	236,143.90	955,987.75	26,425.00	982,412.75
TOTAL	3,799,394.00	205,452.50	4,020,766.24	4,020,766.24	2,991,403.75	955,987.75	26,425.00	982,412.75
Percentage of Neighborhood's Allocation that has been contracted/expended: 106% 76%								



Appendix C: LHENA NRP Phase I Evaluation Survey

**Lowry Hill East Neighborhood Association (LHENA) -
Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) Phase I Strategy Survey**

In order to help LHENA gain neighborhood perspective on Phase I of its NRP strategies, please complete the following survey. Please return it to a LHENA Board or Committee member, or mail/drop off at the LHENA office located in Jefferson Community School, Room 107, 1200 West 26th Street, Minneapolis, MN, 55405. Call 612-377-5023 with any questions.

Please rate the effectiveness of each LHENA-NRP strategy in terms of positive impact on the neighborhood: (5=Most effective, positive impact; 1=Least effective, negative impact; Please circle one)

CRIME AND SAFETY:

Partial rebates for installation of security lighting:

(motion detector lights, photocell lights, timer lights, yard lights, lights in parking lots and apartment common areas)

1 2 3 4 5

Partial rebates for permanent home/apartment security measures (window locks, deadbolts, etc.)

1 2 3 4 5

Extra police patrolling the neighborhood on bike and foot (ONGOING)

1 2 3 4 5

INFRASTRUCTURE:

Traffic counts to determine traffic calming approaches

1 2 3 4 5

Installation of pedestrian-level streetlighting throughout neighborhood north of 28th Street

1 2 3 4 5

Contribution to funding of the Midtown Greenway planning and construction

1 2 3 4 5

Contribution to construction of Loring Bike Bridge as a safe connection for bicyclists and pedestrians between downtown and Lowry Hill East as well as bicycle park which sits at landing (ONGOING)

1 2 3 4 5

Contribution to improvements along Hennepin Avenue with streetlighting and tree planting:

81 lights and 81 trees installed from 28th Street to Franklin Avenue

1 2 3 4 5

YOUTH AND EDUCATION:

Improvements to Jefferson Community School playground: new equipment, fencing, landscaping

1 2 3 4 5

Improvements made to Mueller Park:

Landscaping, fencing around wading pool, pathways, picnic tables, security lighting, new playground equipment

1 2 3 4 5

Providing computer resources to Jefferson Community School computer center with community access, classroom computers, and community education

1 2 3 4 5

Mural located in main hallway of Jefferson Community School as well as corresponding educational program for students involved in design and installation of mural with local artists

1 2 3 4 5

ARTS AND COMMERCE:

Neighborhood signs which serve as identification of place along neighborhood perimeter and Mueller Park
1 2 3 4 5

Hennepin Avenue Strategic Plan: funding for key planning efforts along Hennepin Avenue which preceded installation of lights and trees
1 2 3 4 5

Contribution of funds to three local arts organizations (Intermedia Arts, Jungle Theater, pARTs Gallery) for renovations
1 2 3 4 5

Matching grants to businesses for exterior improvements
1 2 3 4 5

Contribution to Lake of the Isles for renovation, including flood control, shoreline stabilizing, tree planting and landscaping, repaving paths
1 2 3 4 5

HOUSING:

Residential matching grants for exterior renovations of houses, duplexes, apartment buildings
1 2 3 4 5

4% home improvement loan program offered to all home/property owners in neighborhood (ONGOING)
1 2 3 4 5

Partnership with Neighborhood Involvement Program (NIP) to help elderly and/or disabled residents with small housing improvements
1 2 3 4 5

Matching-forgivable loans to eligible properties for exterior home improvements done in keeping with established historic preservation guidelines (ONGOING)
1 2 3 4 5

ADMINISTRATION:

Part-time/Full-time staff coordinator to support LHENA-NRP and LHENA Board (ONGOING)
1 2 3 4 5

PHASE II: How do you think Lowry Hill East could most effectively use the funding allocation for Phase II of NRP? What issues would you like to see addressed? What projects would you like to see accomplished?

How familiar are you with NRP?

I've volunteered for committees I've participated in programs I've heard of it What's NRP?

How long have you lived in Lowry Hill East?

0-6 months 6 months-1 year 1-5 years 5-10 years 10-20 years 20+ years

Do you rent or own your property? Rent Own

Age: 18-25 26-34 35-44 45-54 55-64 65-74 75+

Appendix D: Survey Results

(1=Least effective, negative impact; 5=Most effective, positive impact)

	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	Total Responses	Average
CRIME AND SAFETY:								
Security Lighting	2	3	12	25	6	2	48	3.6
Lock Rebates	1	8	17	15	7	2	48	3.4
Police Bike Patrol	2	3	4	19	20	2	48	4.1
INFRASTRUCTURE:								
Traffic Counts	4	11	15	13	4	2	47	3.0
Pedestrian Lighting	4	1	4	12	29	0	50	4.2
Midtown Greenway	0	4	5	14	25	2	48	4.3
Bike Bridge/Park	4	6	9	15	14	2	48	3.6
Henn. Ave. Lights/Trees	1	2	6	25	16	0	50	4.1
YOUTH AND ED:								
Jefferson Playground	0	4	8	19	16	3	47	4
Mueller Park	0	2	9	12	24	3	47	4.1
Jefferson Computers	1	7	8	17	13	4	46	3.7
Jefferson Mural	2	6	14	13	11	3	47	3.5
ARTS AND COMMERCE:								
Neighborhood Signs	3	11	15	12	6	3	47	3.2
Henn. Ave. Strategic Plan	2	6	11	19	10	2	48	3.6
Intermedia, Jungle, pARTs	1	11	7	17	13	1	49	3.6
Business Matching Grants	0	8	11	19	9	2	47	3.6
Lake of the Isles	0	5	10	17	15	3	47	3.9
HOUSING:								
Residential Matching Grants	1	4	6	16	21	2	48	4.1
4% Revolving Loan	0	3	5	16	22	3	47	4.2
N.I.P./Elderly	1	5	6	18	16	4	46	3.9
Historic Preservation	0	3	9	20	17	1	49	4
ADMIN:								
Staff	1	2	11	16	17	2	47	4
Accountant (Q only in paper)			1	4	2	1	29	3.6

Familiarity with NRP:	
Volunteered for Committees	10
Participated in Programs	18
Heard of It	24
What's NRP?	3
n/a	1
Total Responses	56
(Respondents could choose more than one option)	
Length of Time in Neighborhood:	
0-6 mos. (8%)	4
6mos-1 year (4%)	2
1-5 years (24%)	12
5-10 years (12%)	6
10-20 years (30%)	15
20+ years (22%)	11
Total Responses	50
Rent/Own:	
Rent (12%)	6
Own (84%)	42
n/a (4%)	2
Total Responses	50
Age:	
18-25 (4%)	2
26-34 (8%)	4
35-44 (24%)	12
45-54 (30%)	15
55-64 (16%)	8
65-74 (2%)	1
75+ (0%)	0
n/a (2%)	1
Paper Survey w/o question (14%)	7
Total Responses	50

Appendix E: Survey Comments

PHASE II: How do you think Lowry Hill East could most effectively use the funding allocation for Phase II of NRP? What issues would you like to see addressed? What projects would you like to see accomplished?

- "Encouragement/help with organizing local residents to do trash clean up (like periodic trash collection days) or like walk around, spotting issues, helping eyes be on the street (cuts crime, sees if people need help, etc.)"
- "A left turn signal at 28th Street and Lyndale Ave. S. for southbound traffic. Less traffic on Lyndale Ave. S."
- "Petty crime, vandalism, graffiti."
- "P.R./billboard, etc. Campaign to reduce RUDENESS, RUDE behavior, RECKLESS driving, arrogant bicyclists and pedestrians, at grocery store aisles, etc."
- "Continue funding home renovation, increase police presence, matching grants, lights to areas south of 28th St."
- "Safety cameras to deter graffiti criminals, more cops around to deter criminals of increasingly violent crimes, signage asking parties NOT to throw their trash and bring their noise to our neighborhoods, possible PERMIT PARKING only."
- "More funding for home improvement/renovation. Contribution to public transportation, esp. Greenway streetcar."
- "I'm concerned about crime."
- "Future zoning is key to keep the established neighborhood."
- "More summer programs for the children of this neighborhood. More after school programs for 7th grade and up. Busy kids stay out of trouble."
- "Growth planning. Concerned about traffic and density with too many condo buildings."
- "Any efforts to study and promote mass transit in greenway. Anything to make it happen."
- "Light rail impact study along 29th Street corridor from downtown and then out to the 'burbs. Affordable housing availability. Crime and safety issues."
- "Crime prevention, graffiti removal, noise control."
- "Graffiti reduction, panhandling, robberies, vandalism, other petty crime. More summer programs in parks or schools to give youth an outlet/stake in the neighborhood."
- "Lights!!! Add streetlights to Lyndale Avenue between Franklin and Lake, similar to Hennepin Ave. I feel safe at night on Hennepin, but not on Lyndale. Also, on the side streets. Trees could be trimmed to prevent the dark streets."
- "Maintenance of trees and grass. Maybe raingardens or some lower maintenance grasses/landscaping."
- "I would like to see more lighting, especially along Lyndale. I would like to have more go towards youth and education as well as crime and safety and of course the improvement of the beautiful old houses so they do not get torn down. I think residential parking/traffic problems would decrease if Uptown had Free Parking lots."

- "Amounts for apt. blg. should be raised for each loan."
- "1) Better painting of PEDESTRIAN stripes in Lyndale/Franklin/I-94 intersection area. (Hennepin and Franklin, too.)
2) Any ideas regarding street parking improvements.
3) SIDEWALK tree and bushes trimming along Lyndale (tough to walk on sidewalk).
4) Programs for older residents."
- "Patrolling; parking."
- "More traffic calming and safety."
- "Crime – first and foremost violent crime encroaching on the Uptown area followed by property crimes and graffiti. Housing stock."
- "Education and encouragement to respect city ordinances and neighbor comfort. Encouragement to keep a clean city free from trash, garbage and graffiti."
- "More speed bumps. More youth services at Mueller Park. A Lyndale Avenue Strategic Plan."
- "Crime. Home exterior improvements grants based on financial need. Source for color consulting on exteriors. Alley cleanup and improvement. Sidewalk repair."
- "Boulevard restoration. Many boulevards are paved or cemented over. Especially at commercial corners (i.e., 22nd and Lyndale, 24th and Hennepin, 27th and Hennepin, etc.)"
- "Youth programming at Mueller Park during the summer. Alley cleanup. More policing. Crime prevention, police presence. School – upgrade computers, fix fence, community sign at the school."
- "Transit planning in neighborhood – trolley on Greenway? Affordable housing initiatives. Corner gardens. More community-wide activity like National Night Out."
- "I'm not sure."
- "Make our Lowry Hill East into an historic preservation district. Protect the Victorian look of our neighborhood."

Other Comments:

Contribution to funding of the Midtown Greenway planning and construction

"OK."

Improvements to Jefferson Community School playground: new equipment, fencing, landscaping

"Good for kids."

Matching grants to businesses for exterior improvements

"How did they get chosen? How do we know?"

Residential matching grants for exterior renovations of houses, duplexes, apartment buildings

"Great idea."

Part-time/Full-time staff coordinator to support LHENA-NRP and LHENA Board (ONGOING)

"Great idea."

Partnership with Neighborhood Involvement Program (NIP) to help elderly and/or disabled residents with small housing improvements

"I do not know about this so I cannot rate its effectiveness."

Partial rebates for installation of security lighting:

(motion detector lights, photocell lights, timer lights, yard lights, lights in parking lots and apartment common areas)/ Partial rebates for permanent home/apartment security measures (window locks, deadbolts, etc.)

- "I think these are great ideas, but my landlord has not taken advantage of them recently. We still have a broken light in the back."
- "Intuitive guess, pre-screening many people took advantage of...did they?"

Contribution to improvements along Hennepin Avenue with streetlighting and tree planting: 81 lights and 81 trees installed from 28th Street to Franklin Avenue

"This is great. Do it on Lyndale!!!"

Mural located in main hallway of Jefferson Community School as well as corresponding educational program for students involved in design and installation of mural with local artists

"It's a great mural!"

Hennepin Avenue Strategic Plan: funding for key planning efforts along Hennepin Avenue which preceded installation of lights and trees

"Planning first is good!"

Traffic counts to determine traffic calming approaches

"Were the results positive? I can't tell."

Contribution to construction of Loring Bike Bridge as a safe connection for bicyclists and pedestrians between downtown and Lowry Hill East as well as bicycle park which sits at landing (ONGOING)

- "Big huge waste of money. Unused and in a poor location. This Loring Bike Bridge was misrepresented when it was proposed to us. I think it was a huge waste of time, money, and resources. Furthermore, I've only ever seen one person on the bridge, and I think they were graffiti artists!"
- "No one uses it."
- "I never see anyone use it. Hopefully it will get used in the future."

Installation of pedestrian-level streetlighting throughout neighborhood north of 28th Street

- "Wish we didn't have to pay on our taxes!"
- "Need more."
- "!!! and a star."

Extra police patrolling the neighborhood on bike and foot (ONGOING)

- "Probably comforting to area residents; MPD MUST have DATA on effectiveness of bike cops reducing crime or not – don't put \$\$ in if proven not effective."
- "Never see them."
- "We should cease immediately the extra police bike and foot patrols unless the police can prove that those extra patrols have substantially reduced crime here versus prior to the patrols and in comparison to adjacent neighborhoods that didn't have "extra" protection. (By the way, I promoted this strategy originally).

I have two ideas:

Fire current councilmember and mayor, condemn past councilmembers and mayor, fire immediately future councilmembers and mayor if they cannot reduce crime to 1980-90s levels.

Practical idea:

Install cheap camera boxes in all alleys (i.e. two or more per block) and ever tastefully facing street. House and building owners could donate space on their garage, posts, walls, etc. Buy 25 digital-flashers game cameras and rotate them monthly. Have volunteers view camera data for adjacent crimes. Label boxes with big letters, "CRIME CAMERA # ____." Boxes can be $\frac{3}{4}$ " boards and a $\frac{1}{4}$ " lexan window, hinges and optional cheap padlock."

Appendix F: Plan Modifications

PLAN MODIFICATIONS			
No.	Plan Step Modified	Approved	Description
1	First Step	00/00/00	Adoption of the full Action Plan modified the First Step Plan by reallocating a total of \$52,160 in 1996 from six First Step strategies. The specific changes are as follows: (1) \$1,800 from Promote Crime Fighting Activities (Crime and Safety 1.3.); (2)\$5,000 from Graffiti Removal (Crime and Safety 2.1.); (3) \$3,360 from Traffic Counts (Infrastructure 6.1.); (4) \$25,000 from Artists Live-Work Space (Arts and Commerce 15.1.); (5) \$12,000 from Affordable Housing Study (Housing 22.1.); and (6) \$5,000 from "Truth-in-Renting" Program (Housing 23.1.). These funds are reallocated to the full Action Plan.
2	Full Action Plan	11/29/99	The NRP Director, based on Policy Board and City Council approval, approved a modification to the plan to allocate an additional \$552,850 in 1999 in the following manner: (1) \$540,000 to a new strategy, Install Pedestrian Lighting (Infrastructure 6.6.); and (2) \$12,850 to Mueller Park (Youth and Education 11.2.), including language changes to this strategy.
3	Full Action Plan	12/13/99	The NRP Director approved a modification to the plan to reallocate \$3,846.12 in 1996 from Matching Grant Program (Housing 24.1.) to Below-market Improvement Loans (Housing 25.1.).
4	Full Action Plan	05/28/02	The NRP Director approved a modification to the plan to revise the wording of Urban Village Loan (Housing 29.1.) to allow for the reallocation of these funds to Below-market Improvement Loans (Housing 25.1.) in the event that the funds are uncontracted. The original wording allowed for this transfer only upon the repayment of the loan.
5	Full Action Plan	05/28/02	The NRP Director approved a modification to the plan to revise the wording of Business Security Lighting (Crime and Safety 4.1.) to allow for the funds to be used for additional types of security equipment.
6	Full Action Plan	10/19/05	The NRP Director approved a modification to the plan to reallocate \$46,125.07 (\$26,317.66 in 1996; \$19,000 in 1999; and \$807.41 in 2000) to Part-time Staff, Office and Communications (Administration 31.1.) from the following strategies: (1) \$18,475.73 in 1996 from Security Lighting (Crime and Safety 1.1.); (2) \$7,841.93 in 1996 from Security Grants (Crime and Safety 1.2.); (3) \$19,000 in 1999 from Business Security Lighting (Crime and Safety 4.1.) and (4) \$807.41 in 2000 from Volunteer Patrol (Crime and Safety 5.1.). The modification also revises the wording of Historic Preservation Loans (Housing 27.1.) to allow for the funds to be used as matching grants.
7	Full Action Plan	12/18/06	The NRP Director approved a modification to the plan to reallocate \$37,625.26 to Part-time Staff, Office and Communications (Administration 31.1) from the following strategies: (1) \$4,000.26 from Traffic Counts (Infrastructure 6.1); (2) \$10,900.00 from Hennepin Ave. Trees and Lights (Infrastructure 9.1); \$5,725.00 from Mueller Park (Youth and Education 11.2); and \$17,000.00 from Vision Loss Resources (Arts and Commerce 20.1.)