Whittier Neighborhood Plan

Jim L. Raughton, Ph.D.
“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world: indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

—Margaret Mead
June 15, 2000

Dear Friends,

As the elected representative of Council District 8, I am proud to submit this letter of support for the Whittier Neighborhood Association Neighborhood Plan.

The neighborhood plan is a dream come true for many residents, because residents are committed for Whittier to provide a wonderful living environment for everyone.

It is very important for residents to share in the growth and resources of our various community programs, business, churches, libraries, schools, city agencies, etc.

The Whittier Neighborhood Plan is the road map to their future development. I give this plan my full support.

Sincerely,

Councilwoman Elbra Wedgeworth
District 8
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• Ms. Moya Hansen, Curator of Decorative and Fine Art
This neighborhood plan was developed to serve as the basis for public discussion and citizen input concerning the future of the Whittier neighborhood. It is not intended to be final or complete in every detail. Future plans covering additional details will evolve from the process as more information becomes available and citizen comments are heard.

Whittier’s first subdivision, the Case Addition, was filed just after the Civil War in 1868, making the neighborhood 132 years old. It is a neighborhood that has been racially mixed for over 100 years. Yet the history of the neighborhood and its importance within the city remains largely undocumented and unrecognized. If history is the light that we shine into the darkness of the past, then Denver’s history and its preoccupation with Anglo-American contributions is distorted by the lack of recognition of African-American contributions. Numerous recommendations during the past 15 years by professional historians to recognize the history of the Whittier neighborhood have gone unheeded.

In his novel 1984, George Orwell asserted: “Who controls the past controls the future.” This neighborhood plan uses the past in order to shape the future. In so doing, it helps preserve a significant part of the history of Denver’s first century. At the same time, it should be regarded as the beginning of a continuing effort to reach decisions and resolve difficulties that remain a part of the neighborhood today.

This plan reflects on problems that are elusive and will require time and leadership at all levels, from citizens to public officials. The neighborhood plan is a partnership that unites the City of Denver and the Whittier neighborhood in establishing goals, identifying issues, and testing alternative means of achieving objectives. This plan has created forums in which people have been able to initiate rather than react to change.

The accomplishments of the planning process have been many. In addition to the specific goals and objectives identified in the plan, many specific programs are currently underway based on the identified goals. At the same time, participation in neighborhood meetings has increased, and paid membership in the Whittier Neighborhood Association has doubled.

Jim L. Raughton, Ph.D.
June 28, 2000
Inside the Whittier Neighborhood
The people of Whittier should expect that planning for their neighborhood will be three-dimensional—that it will consider not only the functional requirements of a city’s agencies, but also the social costs of meeting those needs and the environmental impacts on the quality of life within their neighborhood. There cannot be a single document that fully outlines both the needs of the residents and those of city agencies. However, in order to contribute to both the health and welfare of Whittier residents, this plan serves as an outline to promote desired patterns of neighborhood design, traffic, housing, and public services, and other priorities as expressed by the neighborhood.

While residents in any neighborhood find it easy to identify an aspect of their community that needs improvement, and these concerns may serve an important purpose in establishing a consensus among that neighborhood’s residents, this plan intends to go beyond concerns to address specific positive actions in which the residents can participate. To this end, the plan includes a series of “Action Charts” that are intended to be a continuing resource for the community to identify and act upon emerging opportunities in the Whittier neighborhood.

One of the many challenges of developing a plan for the Whittier neighborhood is that many of its characteristics are similar to those in contiguous neighborhoods, including education, transportation, code enforcement, and city park development. As in the example of City Park and City Park Golf Course planning and redevelopment, all the neighborhoods surrounding this open space share a common interest in the intensity of use planned for this city-wide facility. In some cases it is appropriate that Whittier coordinate its planning with these adjacent neighborhoods.

There are no easy or quick answers to issues confronting the Whittier neighborhood. At the same time, there is no reason to believe that the full constructive potential of the neighborhood cannot be achieved. Residents, community-based organizations, and city representatives who contributed to this plan see tremendous potential as the Whittier neighborhood pursues its vision for the future.

When asked “What do you like about Whittier neighborhood?” neighbors identified human scale; vitality; location; mass transit; diversity; cosmopolitan small-town atmosphere; pedestrian orientation; history; architecture; friendly people; and access to City Park, the Zoo, and downtown.

To the question “What do you dislike about Whittier?” neighbor responses included: lack of planning, lack of security, lack of educational opportunity, speeding traffic, noise, poor alley sanitation, and inadequate street lighting.

Conflicting opinions and goals within the neighborhood are part of the tension that makes Whittier a dynamic community. For Whittier to achieve its full potential as a model neighborhood, these varied attitudes must be blended into a harmonious whole. Although every need cannot be met, there are several areas that can be translated from ideas into opportunities for the entire neighborhood.

Inside the Whittier Neighborhood
Planning Process

Beginning in November 1999, residents and neighborhood leaders met to identify elements of the plan and issues to be addressed, outline goals, and create a common vision for Whittier's future. In cooperation with community leadership, a series of community meetings were hosted by the Whittier Neighborhood Association. Each neighborhood meeting focused on specific issues of concern. After each meeting, a revised draft was presented to neighborhood leaders and individuals who expressed interest in the expanding topics. A total of 16 drafts were presented to the neighborhood.

Priority Issues for Whittier

- Diversity
- Land Use & Zoning
- Urban Design & Historic Preservation
- Education
- Public Safety
- Community Services
- Parks & Open Space
- Economic Development–Employment
- Traffic and Transportation
- Environment
- Community Coordination

These meetings allowed individuals to share their hopes and concerns about the neighborhood in a comfortable environment conducive to problem solving. Revisions were made based on comments from Whittier residents and City of Denver representatives. The highest priorities within the plan were identified by the Whittier Neighborhood Association at their June 21, 2000 meeting. These highest priorities are summarized on pages 21-23.
Use of the Plan

This plan is a product of neighborhood leadership and funding provided by the Denver Foundation. It has been prepared in the belief that an effective planning process can both increase participation in the neighborhood and influence the continuing planning programs of private, municipal, non-profit, and regional organizations. It is intended to give the strongest possible voice to the existing residents of the neighborhood, in the belief that their interests may be congruent with the enlightened interests of city and regional agencies.

It is understood the plan is an advisory document designed to facilitate effective decision-making processes. It is intended to advise decision-makers including the Mayor, City Council, the Denver Planning Board, various city departments, private investors, and business leaders on the values and views of the residents of Whittier.

While this plan was prepared in cooperation with the Denver Planning Office and is consistent with the form suggested by that office and the new Denver Comprehensive Plan 2000, it will not become an official document until it is adopted by the City Council as part of the city’s comprehensive plan. It is the responsibility of the Whittier Neighborhood Association and its residents to prioritize goals and work to create an optimum future for the neighborhood.

Location and Description

Whittier is bound by Downing Street on the west, Martin Luther King Boulevard on the north, York Street on the east, and 23rd Avenue on the south. It is often depicted on maps of the city as square, although its actual dimensions are rectangular. Arterial streets and parks create strong boundary edges on the north, east, and west sides. Along its south edge, Whittier merges with City Park West, separated only by 23rd Avenue (see map on p. 29).

The neighborhood, primarily residential, is comprised of single-family dwellings and low-density multi-family units. Whittier’s housing stock and residential character are two of the neighborhood’s many assets. Much of the housing represents examples of Denver’s finest architectural development, with the average age of homes approaching 100 years. The area contains 99 residential blocks, approximately 359 acres, 4,350 residents and 2,163 housing units. Property owners and long-term residents, in an act of faith in the future of the community, continue to make tremendous efforts to maintain their houses and upgrade the neighborhood. Evidence of this pride can be seen in the attractive, well-kept lawns and many large mature trees that make this neighborhood one of the most visually appealing in the city. All of the recommendations in this study support the community vision of maintaining the quality of residential living and diversity of people residing in the neighborhood.
Downing Street is lined by residential and business structures. This narrow strip along the western edge of the neighborhood also includes several vacant, developable parcels of land that will be significant in determining the eventual character of that portion of the neighborhood.

Nonconforming business uses are scattered in nodes throughout the residential brick bungalows, Denver Squares, and Victorian homes. These commercial uses will be key to the quality of life in the near future in that they can be attractive corner stores accessible by foot or bicycle, supplementing the residential character of the neighborhood.

Among the most distinctive features of the neighborhood are its churches, public schools, and parks. These uses contribute significantly to the overall quality of the residential environment and are a key factor for the future of the neighborhood.

**Demographic Analyses**

Most of the information in this section is derived from the 1990 U.S. Census and *Neighborhood Facts 1999*, a report compiled by the Piton Foundation. Specific data for neighborhood demographics based on the 2000 census will be available in 2002; that information will be used to update the Denver Neighborhood Profiles (www.piton.org/db). The current Piton profile is attached as the Appendix to this report.

The Whittier neighborhood is a prime example of a community that has experienced dramatic change in its ethnic makeup. Over the past decade, Whittier’s demographics have undergone a transition with Latino and Anglo residents growing in number while the African-American population figure declines. The influx of ethnic groups has not been evenly distributed throughout the neighborhood. The Latino population has increased most dramatically in the northernmost section, occupying many rental units available in that portion of the neighborhood. The central and southern portions of the neighborhood have seen substantial Anglo in-migration.

The City of Denver has enjoyed steady economic growth over the past decade. Job growth, personal income, and housing costs are all increasing and are considered key measures of the Denver economy. Denver stands out nationally in terms of job growth and reduction of welfare rolls, a remarkable accomplishment given the fact that the nation’s economy is also prospering. These positive factors are reflected in the increasing housing prices and higher average incomes of the Whittier neighborhood, but there are areas of concern.

While recent job growth is good news for the city, the Whittier neighborhood has had a net loss of jobs, declining from 897 jobs to 689, a 23.2% loss. This is a direct product of the increasing reinforcement of the residential
character of the neighborhood. Entry-level jobs are also in short supply. Of the 689 jobs within the Whittier neighborhood, 32.1% (220 jobs) are classified as entry-level. Entry-level positions are needed to provide access to employment for residents. (1) Efforts to involve the small businesses within the neighborhood in the planning process and the Whittier Neighborhood Association were not successful. Several goals of this plan focus on including these employers in the neighborhood.

Shortage of Child Care

Another growing problem in the neighborhood is a shortage of child care. The Piton Foundation reports 388 State of Colorado-licensed child care slots in Whittier. While it is impossible to report the exact number of preschool-age children in the neighborhood, there are some indicators.

In 1998 there were reported to be 1,672 children under the age of 18 living in Whittier. That same year, 1,063 Whittier children were enrolled in Denver Public Schools, leaving a difference of 609 children. The total number of births in Whittier in 1997 was 105, a number that appears to be steadily increasing. The number of children receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) in Whittier was reported as 348 in 1998. Families throughout the neighborhood report the need for child care, especially for their youngest children. (2)

Increasing Cost of Housing

The selling price of an average home in Whittier has increased from $96,303 in 1997 to $165,882 in May 2000. The strong housing market has threatened many older residents as their property taxes have increased significantly.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Multiple Listing Source Data on Average Selling Prices and Average Listing Price in the Whittier Neighborhood</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Selling Price</td>
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<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Listing Price</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As housing prices soar, pressure on property owners of Section 8 housing and rentals in general to sell their rental units is increasing. This has significantly increased rents in the neighborhood. Denver was reported to have a 40.4% increase in average rents from 1993 to 1999. (3)
Population

While Denver has increased in population, Whittier has experienced a decline in population over the last fifty years. There are currently 4,350 individuals living in Whittier compared to 9,160 in 1950, a 52% decline.

During the past ten years, the population has stabilized at a level slightly above 4,300 residents. Children currently represent a significant number of residents (1,672), with 36% of the population being under the age of 18. (4)

Housing

The number of housing units in Whittier is 2,163; that number has declined by 22% since 1950, from 2,792 units.

It should be noted that the number of housing units has stabilized over the past twenty years.

A review of the population and housing statistics indicates that Whittier's average household size is 2.0, compared to 2.2 for Denver.
Shortage of Affordable Housing

While the increase in housing values in Whittier has been a source of pride for many homeowners, it has come with a down side. The elderly and the poor have felt the already serious shortage of affordable housing.

Maintaining a fair share of affordable housing for people who work in the city is a priority in order to promote diversity within the neighborhood. The Center for Affordable Housing at the University of Colorado at Denver has reported that many low-income families are paying more than 50% of their income for rent in Denver. There are currently 310 housing units within Whittier (representing 14% of Whittier’s total housing units) supported by “Section 8.” Residents typically pay rent at a fixed 30% of their incomes, with the federal department of Housing and Urban Development paying the owners the difference between that and market value. (5)

The Whittier neighborhood supports the City and County of Denver’s efforts to include low-income housing in all major residential developments including Stapleton, Lowry, the Central Platte Valley, and the Golden Triangle.

The Denver Comprehensive Plan 2000 suggests there are “threshold preconditions” to support residential vitality of the city. Among these conditions is creating a clean and safe environment where home buyers can be confident that their property values are secure. Whittier seeks to create these conditions to enhance its residential character. Affordable housing also supports residential vitality by encouraging public employees—including firefighters, police, and teachers—to purchase homes in Whittier.
Crime Rates

Residents have expressed concerns about issues such as illegal-drug sales and alcohol-related offenses. Neighborhood crime statistics show Whittier at 117.3 crimes per 1,000 residents, with a 9.8% decline in the crime rate from 1990 to 1999. Whittier has the 16th highest overall crime rate out of 72 Denver neighborhoods.

The "Total Offenses" table on the right shows the crimes by type. The majority of crimes committed in Whittier are burglaries, larcenies, and auto thefts. The chart below indicates the continuing decline in overall reported offenses between 1995 and 1999. (6)

DENVER POLICE DEPARTMENT
1999 STATISTICAL REPORT
(per 1,000 population)

TOTAL OFFENSES - Whittier Neighborhood

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homicides</td>
<td>.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Assaults</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggravated Assaults</td>
<td>8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty and Grand Larceny</td>
<td>21.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto Theft</td>
<td>15.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arson</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Other</td>
<td>42.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Denver Department of Safety
These rates are based on 1998 crimes and 1990 census population figures.

Source: Denver Department of Safety

Inside the Whittier Neighborhood
Since 1991, the Piton Foundation has compiled data that depict Denver neighborhoods' well-being, including Whittier. Attached as the Appendix are the key statistics about Whittier. A review of these charts shows Whittier as a neighborhood in which conditions have markedly improved over the past decade. Population is stable, average household income is up, and property values have increased. The number of people on welfare has decreased, the crime rate has dropped, and births to teens are down.

In January of 2000, the Denver Health Benchmark Project released a report establishing a neighborhood-based profile of health-related indicators for 11 neighborhoods including Whittier. The Benchmark Project was the first City-sponsored initiative to identify health issues in the aggregate of the Empowerment Zone neighborhoods. Specific data are not available on individual neighborhoods; however, the aggregate data do provide insight into health needs of inner city neighborhoods and are attached as an appendix.

While the statistics present an overall picture of improving conditions within Whittier, they do not portray the full picture. There remain negative influences on the neighborhood like abandoned houses, non-conforming commercial uses, liquor stores, and community correction facilities. The Piton Foundation describes many of these elements as “risk factors” for neighborhoods.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHITTIER LAND USE CHART</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Streets and Alleys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Usable Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residential Uses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single Family Uses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi Family Uses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Schools and related uses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Inside the Whittier Neighborhood
Existing Land Use and Zoning

More than 76% of the Whittier neighborhood is residential. Fifty-four percent of the residential acreage contains single-family homes; 22% of the area is duplex and low-density residential. Nineteen percent of the neighborhood is comprised primarily of public schools and parks. The combination of residential uses and complementary public uses represent 95% of the neighborhood.

The Whittier neighborhood is a distinct area within the region that surrounds City Park on the eastern edge of downtown Denver. It is of walkable size, with the majority of its community facilities within 10 to 15 minutes walking distance for the residents. Land use and zoning issues are closely related to maintaining the residential character of the neighborhood. The maintenance of a strong, diverse, low-density residential neighborhood is the central concern of many issues raised by residents.

The western edge of the Whittier neighborhood is bordered by B4 zoning, allowing an extensive mix of commercial uses. The majority of business uses exist on the Downing frontage north of 27th Avenue. Downing, as well as the other transportation corridors delineating Whittier, not only defines the edge of the neighborhood but also gives it a distinct character. The residential character, the pedestrian orientation, and the historic quality of the neighborhood must be reflected in the redevelopment of Downing Street (see map on p. 29).

Commercial buildings are also scattered throughout the neighborhood, particularly along the three streetcar lines that once extended through the area on 23rd, 25th and 28th avenues. These uses were concentrated around historic trolley stops rather than extending the length of streets. Most of them were originally small groceries, pharmacies, and candy stores that served neighborhood residents. In most cases, they continue to operate as marginal retail establishments.

Whittier is bound by major streets, connecting it to other residential communities, employment, commercial centers, and community facilities. Within the geographic center of the neighborhood, there is a core of public-use facilities including Manual High School, Ford-Warren Library, Red Shield Community Center, Thunderbolt Community Park, and Fuller Park. These public and quasi-public spaces are complemented by a number of additional uses that serve the residential neighborhood including: Whittier Elementary School, Loyola Parochial School, George Morrison Park, Williams Park, and Douglas Park.
Contiguous to the Whittier neighborhood, but not included within its boundaries, are a number of public and quasi-public facilities including Cole Middle School, Mitchell Elementary School, Community College of Denver Tech Center, Wyatt Edison Charter School, and Annunciation Parochial School.

Regional facilities contiguous to the Whittier neighborhood include City Park Golf Course and City Park (including the Denver Zoo and Denver Museum of Nature and Science). The Gilliam Juvenile Hall (the city’s juvenile detention facility), located at 2844 Downing Street, provides aid, assistance, and encouragement to youth ages 6 to 18 in protective custody.

Churches

There are ten churches located in the Whittier neighborhood. They are among the most distinctive features in the neighborhood. Many of these institutions extend their mission to include community services enhancing the neighborhood. They are:

**Antioch Baptist Church**
2500 Lafayette Street
Activities: Men’s brotherhood, women’s mission programs, youth activities.

**Church of the Holy Redeemer**
2552 Williams Street
Adult education.

**Jubilee Community Church / Neighborhood Ministries**
2959 Franklin Street
After-school programs for children ages 9 to 18 for homework help and educational games; Mothers of Preschoolers program.

**Mt. Carmel Community Baptist Church**
2575 Vine Street
Bible Study, after-school tutoring program.

**New Hope Church of God in Christ**
1710 East 25th Street

**New Life in Christ Family Worship Center**
3037 Williams Street

**St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church**
2305 Gaylord Street
Loyola Parochial School, youth activities.
St. Stephens Missionary Baptist Church
3125 Humboldt Street    Tutorial program for youth.

The Salvation Army, Red Shield Corps, Community Center
2915 High Street    Senior Program: exercise programs, health clinic, shopping, and movies.
    After School Program for Youth: recreation center activities, homework help, performing arts, field trips, and games.

The Unified Body of Christ
3010 High Street

Schools

While there are three schools within the neighborhood (Manual High School, Whittier Elementary School, and Loyola Elementary Parochial School), Whittier is adversely affected by DPS-assigned attendance boundaries. Whittier children are assigned to four elementary schools, three middle schools, and two high schools (see maps on pp. 40-41). This arbitrary division of the neighborhood requires even the youngest students to cross high traffic volume streets and reduces opportunities for neighbors to work together to strengthen the relationship of the neighborhood to their schools.

The Middle schools that serve Whittier include:
Cole Middle School...located at 3240 Humboldt Street.
Gove Middle School ....located at 4050 E. 14th Avenue.
Morey Middle School ....located at 840 E. 14th Avenue.

The Elementary Schools that serve Whittier include:
Whittier Elementary School ....located at 2480 Downing Street.
Gilpin Elementary School ....located at 2949 California Street.
Columbine Elementary School ....located at 2925 W. 40th Avenue.
Mitchell Elementary School ....located at 1350 E. 33rd Avenue.
Loyola Elementary School ....located at 24th and Gaylord is within Whittier and is a parochial school supported by the St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church.
History of Whittier Neighborhood

Several independent consultants and historians have recognized Whittier as a historically significant portion of Denver's past:

- In June 1974, the Colorado Historical Society identified homes and structures of architectural significance constructed in early Denver throughout the city, including Whittier.

- In 1983, historian Barbara Norgren identified 190 neighborhood features including buildings that might qualify the Whittier neighborhood as eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Fourteen structures were identified in the report as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. In 1995, the report was revised by the Colorado Historical Society deleting several northern blocks of the neighborhood.

- In January 1995, the City of Denver Landmark Preservation Commission and the Office of Planning and Community Development issued a report on Whittier prepared by R. Laurie Simmons and Thomas H. Simmons, Front Range Research Associates. This report offered a comprehensive history of the neighborhood and recommended a High-Williams Street Historic District (see map on p. 17).

John Greenleaf Whittier

Whittier School, and later the Whittier neighborhood, were named after John Greenleaf Whittier (1807–1892), the abolitionist Civil War poet. Among his poems are:

- "Voices of Freedom" - 1846
- "Songs of Labor" - 1850
- "In War Times" - 1864
- "The Moral Warfare" - 1838
- "Massachusetts to Virginia" - 1843

His poems attacked the injustices of slavery while condemning the hypocrisy of a nation that was founded on ideals of freedom but allowed slavery.

Born in Massachusetts and largely self-educated, as a young poet Whittier contributed to the abolitionist newspaper *The Free Press*. As a religious man of the Quaker faith, he was deeply concerned about social welfare. For more than 30 years, he devoted himself to the abolition of slavery in the United States. He served in the Massachusetts legislature and was a founder of both the Liberty Party in 1839 and the Republican Party in 1854. The values and example of John Greenleaf Whittier have lived on in this community.
1983 Proposed National Register of Historic Places
Source: Colorado Historical Society

1995 Revised National Register of Historic Places Recommendation
Source: Colorado Historical Society

1995 Proposed Denver Landmark District
Source: Denver Neighborhood History Project

Denver Landmarks
2330 Downing Street
2501 High Street
2932 Lafayette Street
Source: Denver Landmark Commission

Historic Designation

Inside the Whittier Neighborhood
Whittier Early Development

The Whittier neighborhood subdivisions were developed in the period after the Civil War. In the 1870s, a real-estate boom occurred in anticipation of the city's connection with the transcontinental railroad. This boom was heightened by the discovery of silver. As anticipated by the developers of the early subdivisions, the railroad extensions to Denver included the Kansas Pacific Railroad on the 40th Avenue alignment north of Whittier.

Development of homes in Whittier followed in the 1880s and 1890s. The majority of homes were built for middle-income Anglo-American citizens. Many of the large Victorian homes were built by Denver business owners. Residents included carpenters, bricklayers, and metal workers, artisans who contributed to many of the architectural details found in the smaller homes. By 1893, the Whittier neighborhood housed 24 African-American families close to the rail line. Their primary occupation was as porters working for the Kansas Pacific. (8)

Whittier: A History of Racism, Segregation, and Integration

Whittier has not been adequately recognized for its unique history of race relations within the City of Denver. While portions of that history are infamous, they should not be forgotten.

Beginning with the integration of the neighborhood over 100 years ago, the history of segregation and integration has played out decade by decade. In the 1920s, Denver's Mayor Ben Stapleton, Denver City Attorney Rice Means, and Colorado Governor Clarence McRae were supported by the Ku Klux Klan. Denver's chapter of the Klan boasted 17,000 members. The Denver Klan chapter nicknamed itself the "Denver Doers Club" in order to mask its true racism. It supported the establishment of a color line limiting African-American citizens to an area north of 23rd Avenue. The color line moved from west to east year after year, standing for an extended period between High and Race streets. When Walter Chapman, a African-American postman, challenged the color line by moving to 2112 Gilpin, a bomb exploded in his front yard. He moved out. Another brave African-American, Charles Starr, moved in—only to have the house bombed again. Claude DePriest, a black fireman, purchased a home at 2649 Gaylord. He was warned, "If you continue at your present address, you do so at your own peril." After that and other confrontations, DePriest moved. (9) This significant history of race relations should be preserved for generations to come in order not to lose sight of the reality of residential segregation in our city's history.

More than a hundred years have passed since the first African-Americans moved into the northwest corner of Whittier. They confronted systematic racism as they pursued their lives in Denver. Yet today these individual heroics are hardly recognized. Despite a hundred years of individual integrity by both African- and Anglo-Americans, the history has become almost lost; the issues of integration worked through in the Whittier neighborhood are more
remote today because it is a neighborhood that is open to all. Individuals and families of diverse backgrounds work and live together, creating a healthy residential environment.

This would not be a matter for regret if the battle of integration had been won—if the individual heroism of the last century had established, once and for all, that respect for individuals was based on their character rather than the color of their skin. As late as March 22, 1950, a Japanese-American war veteran and his family were barred from moving into their Denver home at 2718 Gaylord by a restrictive covenant (10). What has happened is that much of the history of racism, segregation, and integration has been unrecorded by our common history. Those residents of Whittier who recall the early history in Denver are rapidly being lost as they enter the eighth and ninth decades of their lives. It is the business of the Whittier neighborhood to persuade the city that the history left in individual hearts and minds is not enough. What is required is a recognition of the historic role Whittier has played in a century of segregation and integration.
The Whittier Vision for the Future

The Whittier neighborhood is unique. A mix of single-family and low-density multi-family housing complemented by parks, schools, and churches makes Whittier a model low-density neighborhood in Denver. Located between downtown Denver and City Park Golf Course, the neighborhood is the home of one of the city’s most diverse set of lifestyles and populations. The neighborhood houses elderly, young, single, married, African-American, Asian, Hispanic, Anglo, gay, and lesbian. As the site of many significant events in the history of integration of the community, Whittier is a truly historic neighborhood.

Whittier residents’ overall vision for the future is to reinforce an inviting, well-maintained, safe, and comfortable residential environment for families.

The following positive qualities guide the Whittier Neighborhood vision of the future:

1. **Diversity** – The rich mixture of ethnicity, age, and lifestyle will be encouraged and supported as a valued characteristic of the Whittier neighborhood.

2. **Cultural History** – It is important that the history of segregation and integration not be forgotten. Whittier represents a potential living history of the City of Denver.

3. **Historic Character** – Historically and architecturally significant homes, churches, businesses, and streetscapes will be preserved. In creating a healthy model for an integrated community, the historic nature of the neighborhood will be highlighted. The design of new development and remodeling will be encouraged to be compatible with the existing historic fabric of the neighborhood as a low-density residential community.

4. **Education** – The importance of education to the future of the Whittier neighborhood cannot be overstated. With 36% of the residents under 18 years of age, education is key to their future. Creating partnerships that involve residents, businesses, community-based organizations, Denver city government, and Denver Public Schools will be indispensable to this future.

5. **Public Safety** – Universal safety builds a sense of pride, communication, and cooperation among neighbors. The Denver Police and Denver Fire Department will be central features in all planning decisions.

6. **City Agencies** – The Whittier Neighborhood Association must work cooperatively with city government to re-assess standards of service including park maintenance, neighborhood and alley inspection, and trash collection.
The plan was developed as a product of the leadership of Councilperson Elbra Wedgeworth and the Whittier Neighborhood Association Board of Directors with the participation of the residents of Whittier. The plan incorporated work developed in meetings and individual efforts of many citizens and public officials. In total, 85 individuals provided written input and comments to the draft documents. In addition to the written input, in excess of 200 individuals participated in meetings focused on the plan. These meetings culminated on June 21, 2000 with over 80 individuals in attendance prioritizing the “Action Projects” from the Priority Issues. The highest priorities were selected as first steps for implementing the plan.

The specific priorities selected in each category were:

1. **Land Use and Zoning**
   
   LZ2—Encourage and support residential development of vacant land that reflects existing design of the neighborhood.
   
   L26—Encourage the designation of historic districts and individual structures.
   
   L29—Support a variety of housing types, including low-income housing, that are compatible with residential character of the neighborhood.

2. **Urban Design and Historic Preservation**
   
   UD2—Rename Whittier Neighborhood Association “Historic Whittier Square.”
   
   UD6—Encourage the redevelopment of commercial sites to compatible retail services.
   
   UD11—Encourage infill development that reflects New Urbanism design including front porches, Denver Square scale, and high level of craftsmanship.

3. **Education**
   
   ED1—Encourage the development of a Learning Center at Manual High School including Community College of Denver.
   
   ED3—Encourage all residents—including those who are not parents—to participate in school issues.
   
   ED8—Establish mentorship programs to create contact with youth in the neighborhood throughout their academic careers.
4. Public Safety and Health

PS1—Establish Neighborhood Watch programs on majority of blocks.

PS6—Work with the Denver Police Department District 2 to establish an effective police-community relations program.

PS8—Inventory risk factors such as apartment buildings, businesses, and alleys for frequent crime reports.

5. Community Service

CS1—Identify site of Neighborhood Center, secure funding from City of Denver.

CS3—Develop human services, e.g., job training, language classes, and recreation.

CS6—Establish planning steering committee for Neighborhood Plan implementation.

CS7—Work with City Council representative to track the implementation of the Neighborhood Plan.

6. Parks and Open Space

P1—Improve Fuller Park to enhance.

P5—Expand use Glenarm Recreation Faculty by Whittier residents.

P9—Monitor conditions of parks, reporting regularly to the Denver Parks Department.

P11—Develop visual and pedestrian linkages between parks and historic walks.

7. Economic Development

E1—Inventory and evaluate vacant properties in order to recruit neighborhood businesses.

E2—Encourage joint development of an education center at Manual High School in cooperation with Community College of Denver.

E5—Cooperate in youth employment programs an business incubators for entry-level employment.

E6—Encourage businesses to participate in the Whittier Neighborhood Association to promote local use of businesses.
8. **Traffic and Transportation**
   
   T1—Encourage walking, bicycling, and mass-transit use.
   
   T5—Notify police of speeding traffic; support reduced speed.
   
   T6—Evaluate existing traffic signage for more stop signs to discourage cut-through traffic.

9. **Environment**
   
   E2—Identify up to 10 problem properties each month to bring into code compliance.
   
   E4—Encourage residents to participate in recycling and conservation programs.
   
   E5—Apply for grants to obtain trees.

10. **Community Coordination**
    
    CC2—Create committee activities focused on the Neighborhood Plan Action Charts.
    
    CC5—Create block activities through grants and city cooperation.

In addition to selecting highest priorities, all action recommendations have been designated ongoing, immediate, short-term, or long-term. Ongoing recommendations may be started immediately and can continue on. Immediate recommendations should be started now. Short-term recommendations can be started with little or no money. Long-term recommendations will take longer to accomplish and will require coordination with funding agencies.
Introduction to Priorities

The process used in developing this plan included interviews with residents and community leaders from the neighborhood and planning forums on a number of topics. In all of the meetings there existed a sincere sense of hope and optimism about the future of the neighborhood. It is clear that living in Whittier is special, and it is obvious that residents are looking for ways to strengthen and support the lives of all who live in the neighborhood.

The issues related to diversity permeated every meeting of the planning process. There exists within the neighborhood a profound desire for improved opportunity for every resident. It springs from a hope that Whittier can move toward a culture where individuals are what matter and ethnicity is not the priority. The concerns about maintaining a diverse community are reflected in subtle ways in the priority sets related to education, land use and zoning, public safety, historic preservation, and parks.

The purpose of this neighborhood plan has grown beyond the simple listing of “assets and issues” to a frank discussion of issues related to diversity as a priority, a subject that is seldom discussed in neighborhood plans. Virtually every priority issue list of “actions” includes the implied, if not explicit, question of how much does the City of Denver seek to join Whittier in supporting neighborhood diversity. The plan, because it originated in the neighborhood, enjoys sufficient editorial independence to include goals that call attention to some dissident issues. This process of goal-setting, in itself, is a hopeful sign of what may be possible in future neighborhood plans. It will, however, not succeed if the dialogue is not joined by the city’s leadership.

Today, Whittier is a neighborhood in which residents take enormous pride, precisely because of its history of inclusion, tolerance, and pluralism. Obviously, Whittier has not found the solutions to all the issues of racism that have divided our society. The truth remains that the multiple races living together in Whittier have conflicting memories of the past, but at the same time they have, through this planning process, expressed common goals and actions for their shared future.

It is appropriate that the northern edge of Whittier is defined by Martin Luther King Boulevard. Dr. King’s crusade to extend America’s constitutional covenant to all citizens is alive in Whittier today. The fabric of our cultural history should not be woven from a single-colored thread; a truer history will be written as a rich blend of colors. In fact, much of our city’s history reflects a subtle—if not invisible—neglect of the African-American contributions to our shared history. Whittier is a significant part of that history and should be seen as a living classroom. Many of the actions suggested would move Whittier—and the City of Denver—to the recognition of that history.
Priority Issue: Land Use and Zoning

Neighborhood land use and zoning issues are closely related to maintaining Whittier’s residential character. The maintenance of a strong, diverse, low-density residential neighborhood is the central goal raised by residents. More than 76% of the Whittier neighborhood is residential. The balance of the neighborhood is primarily schools and parks. The combination of residential uses and complementary public use represents 95% of the neighborhood’s land use.

The western edge of the Whittier neighborhood is bordered by B4 zoning. This allows an extensive mix of commercial and high-density residential uses. The majority of business uses exist on the Downing frontage north of 27th Avenue. The urban design character of Downing is viewed by residents as in need of improvement. Expansions of streetscaping projects, design of buildings and facades, landscaping, and parking are mentioned as specific concerns and requiring attention and improvement. Downing and the other transportation corridors defining Whittier should be viewed as gateways to the neighborhood. They not only define the edge of the neighborhood, but also give definition to the character of Whittier. The values of the community must be expressed at its gateways. The residential character, the pedestrian orientation, and historic quality of the neighborhood must be reflected in the redevelopment along Downing. The gateway design concept is of special note in the light-rail access that extends to the existing station at 30th and Downing. Not only does this station provide direct light-rail access to downtown, it also defines the character of the Whittier neighborhood for all who ride the light rail through this station. In the foreseeable future, the station will be a stop on the connection of light rail to the proposed “air train” that will run to Denver International Airport. Downing will increasingly define the view of the Whittier neighborhood in the years to come. Other gateways to the Whittier Neighborhood include 23rd and Downing, Martin Luther King and Downing, Martin Luther King and York, 26th and York, and 23rd and York.

Commercial buildings are also scattered throughout the neighborhood, particularly along the three streetcar lines that once extended through Whittier. These uses are concentrated around historic trolley stops rather than extending the length of streets. Most of them were small groceries, pharmacies, and candy stores that served the neighborhood residents. In most cases, they continue to operate as marginal retail establishments. Residents note a lack of compatibility between existing businesses and residential uses. In particular, a lack of concern for appearance and maintenance, as well as lack of buffering landscaping, were noted problems.

Adjacent to Whittier are a number of sites of concern to neighbors. Chief among these are the service station at 26th and York; City Park Golf Course Club House at 25th and York; and the 23rd and York access to City Park and the Zoo. Proposed design and zoning changes of these locations are a concern to the Whittier neighborhood.
As one looks in all directions from the Whittier neighborhood, there are major development and redevelopment plans. The renewal of the Cole neighborhood, the extension of the light rail on Downing to the proposed air train, the redevelopment of Curtis Park neighborhood, the major investments in the Uptown neighborhood, and the redevelopment of the City Park Golf Course Club House are but a few examples. In order to maintain a quality residential environment within Whittier, the neighborhood must be vigilant to the unintended effect of the massive public and private investments that are occurring around Whittier. The elimination of low-cost housing in Uptown and Curtis Park could create pressure on the housing available in Whittier. Park design could either encourage bicycle use or discourage it. The placement of group homes in Whittier and adjacent neighborhoods has altered the residential character of several blocks. The opportunity exists in Whittier to become a primary advocate for residential lifestyle within the inner city.
Goals: Land Use and Zoning

The Whittier Neighborhood is almost fully developed with the exception of several vacant lots. As changes occur, it is important that additions to the neighborhood complement the existing neighborhood character. The existing residential integrity includes an inviting, safe, and comfortable low-density living environment for all residents.

1. To maintain the existing residential integrity of the Whittier neighborhood, building an inviting, safe, comfortable low-density environment for all residents.

2. To emphasize the potential of Whittier to provide a residential environment for a wide variety of people.

3. To maintain the historic character of the neighborhood and encourage the development of housing that provides a cohesive visual image of the history.

4. To preserve areas of historical significance through historic districts, individual landmark designation, and voluntary design standards. (see "Urban Design and Historic Preservation")

5. To mitigate the impacts of non-conforming commercial uses to their adjacent residential neighbors by encouraging renovation.

6. To oppose proposed rezoning and changes in use that convert existing residential use to high density residential or commercial uses.

7. To encourage home ownership by expanding use of Mortgage Bond Programs for first-time homeowners and current renters.

8. To encourage neighborhood design review of all new developments, both public and private.

9. To support placing group homes and facilities throughout the city through the City of Denver review process.

10. To establish ongoing relationships between existing group homes and the neighborhood organization.

11. To establish ongoing relationships with business uses within Whittier and encourage their participation in the Whittier Neighborhood Association.
# Action Chart: Land Use and Zoning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>ACTIONS</th>
<th>TIME</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>PROJECTS</strong></td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Immediately</td>
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<tr>
<td>LZ1</td>
<td>Retain R2 zoning and land use as residential</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*LZ2</td>
<td>Encourage and support residential development of vacant land that reflects existing design of the neighborhood</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LZ3</td>
<td>Encourage effective use and redevelopment of underutilized commercial facilities</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>LZ4</td>
<td>Oppose the expansion of commercial zones into existing residential zones</td>
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<tr>
<td>LZ5</td>
<td>Encourage the city-wide dispersal of group homes</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*LZ6</td>
<td>Pursue the designation of historic districts and individual structures</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LZ7</td>
<td>Encourage development of commercial zoning north of 26th and Downing as neighborhood retail</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LZ8</td>
<td>Support programs that encourage home ownership</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>*LZ9</td>
<td>Support a variety of housing types, including low-income housing, that are compatible with the residential character of the neighborhood</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>LZ10</td>
<td>Support the city's policy of an equitable distribution of low-income housing in all Denver neighborhoods</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>LZ11</td>
<td>Support enforcement of absentee landlords to have agents registered with the Assessment Office</td>
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*Selected as the neighborhood's highest priorities on June 21, 2000

Priority Issues: LAND USE AND ZONING
Priority Issue: Urban Design and Historic Preservation

The name Whittier is historic. It was selected to honor the nineteenth-century abolitionist poet John Greenleaf Whittier. The name was first used for the Whittier School in the southwest corner of the neighborhood. Given the fact that this neighborhood has been racially integrated since 1895, it makes the name most appropriate as indicative of the role the neighborhood has played in the history of the City of Denver.

The Whittier street pattern follows a historic design of nearly square blocks typical of the 1860s and 1870s subdivisions. These blocks compose the relatively square area of the Whittier neighborhood. Whittier is one of Denver’s oldest residential neighborhoods and includes the first annexation to the original City of Denver in 1874.

The developers of Whittier were among Denver’s earliest citizens. These pioneers played vigorous roles during the formation of the city as leaders in agriculture, mining, railroading, education, manufacturing, retailing, and government. Among these leaders were:

- **A.B. Case**, one of the first settlers in Denver in 1859, was a founder of the University of Denver and a prominent figure in the reform movement in city government. The Case Addition, filed in 1868, was the first subdivision platted in Whittier.

- **Jacob W. Downing** came to Colorado in 1860 to practice law in Denver. During the Civil War, Downing was a captain in the Colorado Union Volunteers that defeated the confederacy at the Battle of Glorieta Pass, New Mexico. Downing was known as a “father of the city park system,” promoting the development of City Park. The Downing Addition, platted in 1869, is the largest subdivision in Whittier.

- **Adolph Schinner** was a Prussian immigrant who came to Denver in 1860. He annexed the first addition to the new City of Denver. He also opened the city’s first bakery. He was a member of the State Legislature, founder of The Colorado Herald newspaper, and member of the first school board.

- **George McCullough** came to Denver in 1872. He had previously been in the wholesale grocery business and had unsuccessfully explored for oil in Ohio.
• Archie C. Fisk moved to Denver after serving in the Union army fighting at Bull Run, Antietam, and Vicksburg, among others.

• Robert H. McMann relocated to Denver in 1876. He operated an insurance and brokerage firm before establishing a loan company.

• William Clayton came to Denver in 1860. In 1868, he was elected Mayor of Denver. George W. Clayton was an early member of the Denver City Council, as well as the Union Water Company and First National Bank.

In 1872 the McCullough Addition added eight acres to the Whittier neighborhood. An advertisement described the neighborhood as “beautifully located overlooking the city with glorious view of the mountains.” In an 1880 description of Denver, W.H. Vickers described the McCullough’s Addition to Whittier as “one of the most attractive and desirable portions of the city for residences, lying high, dry and commanding an extensive and enchanting view of the Rocky Mountains.” (11)

While many early residents were Anglo-Americans of middle and upper-middle class, African-American residents integrated the neighborhood in the 1890s while working for the Kansas Pacific Railroad, which ran north of the Whittier neighborhood. By 1893, two dozen African-American families lived in northwest Whittier. (12)

Whittier’s historic qualities and residential character are cornerstones to the sense of community within the neighborhood. The older homes, higher level of craftsmanship, common areas, front-porch designs, mature street trees, and city services combine to make Whittier a potential model of “New Urbanism” in Denver.

The Denver Comprehensive Plan 2000 comments on the importance of neighborhood:

Our homes are our refuge. For many residents, our home lives extend onto the front porch, down the street, and around the corner. Many residents feel a much stronger bond with their neighborhoods than with the city. (13)

The Whittier neighborhood embraces this value and encourages residents to participate in block activities.

For most Denverites, the residential neighborhood provides the major environmental experience. Many older Whittier residents recall vividly and often nostalgically the Whittier of their childhood. Despite the history of segregation and the color line that divided Whittier, their childhoods were associated with early experiences of friendship, marriage, and all the intimate community activities that lend deep emotional significance to the neighborhood.
The *Denver Comprehensive Plan 2000* acknowledges

Denver's identity as a city is shaped largely by the diversity and evolution of its architectural and landscape styles. Fortunately, some of the architectural heritage of every era remains as part of our civic treasury. But historic preservation has not always been a guiding principle in the city’s development. (14)

As previously noted, on three occasions the historic significance of Whittier has been acknowledged with little response from the city:

- In June 1974, the Colorado Historical Society identified structures in Whittier as historically significant.
- In 1983, the Colorado Historical Society identified 190 neighborhood features that qualify the Whittier neighborhood as eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.
- In January 1995, the City of Denver Landmark Preservation Commission and the Office of Planning and Community Development issued a report prepared by Front Range Associates identifying a potential historic district on High and Williams streets.

Unmentioned in the Front Range Associates report was the significant history of race relations. The creation of a historic district on High Street and adjacent streets would preserve the unique residential quality of the neighborhood and also preserve for generations to come the reality of segregation in our city’s history. The High Street alley was the color line that separated the city into black and white neighborhoods. (15)

To date, Denver has failed to recognize and designate many significant historical and cultural sites in Whittier. An urgent need exists to preserve that portion of Denver’s history as it relates to segregation and integration of the city. Our city, which has always looked toward the future, also has a valuable heritage, which should be protected for future generations. It is a primary goal of this plan to coordinate neighborhood and community leadership in designating eligible districts and structures in the Whittier neighborhood.
Potential Denver Landmarks

See list of potential individually eligible Denver landmarks, page 31
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STREET ADDRESS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E 23rd Avenue and York Street</td>
<td>St. Ignatius Loyola Church</td>
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<td>Atkins, Samuel W.</td>
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<td>1917  E 23rd Avenue</td>
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<td>2316  Franklin Street</td>
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<td>2329  Gaylord Street</td>
<td>Webb, Wellington and Wilma, House</td>
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<td>Fowler, Addison J., House</td>
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<td>Benton House</td>
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<td>Ingalls House</td>
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<td>2311  High Street</td>
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<td>Ryan House</td>
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<td>2448  Lafayette Street</td>
<td>Everett House</td>
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<td>2610  Lafayette Street</td>
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<td>2652  Lafayette Street</td>
<td>Lamb House</td>
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<td>2829  Lafayette Street</td>
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Denver Neighborhood History Project 1993-94
Potential Denver Landmarks - Whittier Neighborhood

(continued)

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<td>2538 Marion Street</td>
<td>Goodnow Double House</td>
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<tr>
<td>2323-29 Race Street</td>
<td>McCloud, Burnis, House</td>
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<td>2330-32 Race Street</td>
<td>Double House</td>
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<td>2401 Race Street</td>
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<td>2337 Vine Street</td>
<td>Sechrist House</td>
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<tr>
<td>2300 Williams Street</td>
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<td>2426 Williams Street</td>
<td>Holy Redeemer Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>2552 Williams Street</td>
<td>Timpte House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2732 Williams Street</td>
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</table>
Recommendations for neighborhood and city cooperation to preserve the historic character of Whittier:

- The historic "Color Line" that stood longest on High Street should be designated by establishing the High Street Historic District and placing a marker in Thunderbolt Park, where High Street terminates at 30th Avenue.

- Oral histories should be conducted by the Whittier Neighborhood Association and preserved about the neighborhood and its role in the city's history at Ford-Warren Library, which is located at 28th Avenue and High Street.

- Individual houses should be designated, recognizing their historic residents including artisans, political leaders, jazz performers, and community leaders.

- Pursue the designation of the Whittier neighborhood on the National Register of Historic Places.  
  (see map, page 17)

- Pursue the recommendation that the High and Williams area should be designated a Denver Landmark District.  
  (see map, page 17)

- Establish historic walks through the Whittier neighborhood marking and describing historic sites.

Urban Design

The Whittier neighborhood offers a unique design opportunity. The character of the homes, the neighborhood feeling, and the proximity of parks contribute to increasing property values as individuals renovate their homes. The goal of the neighborhood should be to support the Denver Planning Office brochure to encourage voluntary standards for home renovation. These guidelines provide a means of protecting Whittier's historic character while allowing investment in the neighborhood.

Ensuring high standards for the residential environment is the purpose of the following urban design recommendations. Through effective design, the existing neighborhood character and sense of community can be enhanced. While the Whittier neighborhood is fully developed (with the exception of several isolated residential lots and the commercial sites facing Downing), substantial renovation of homes is occurring throughout the neighborhood.

The Denver Planning Office has pointed out that a well-designed renovation that respects the original design of the house and takes advantage of relationships with neighboring housing can substantially enhance the neighborhood.
The primary residential zone in Whittier, R2, includes requirements for property line setbacks, open space, height of structures, and the bulk plane. These requirements define the size, shape, and limit of construction on each home.

Other design considerations should include:

- **Materials**: The original exterior materials should be used whenever possible. Repair should be done wherever possible rather than covering with a new finish material.

- **Roof Form**: The shape and slope of a structure’s roof is an important element in defining the architectural statement. Maintaining the pitch of a roof on all additions will enhance the value of the property.

- **Mass**: The shape of a structure should be added to in such a way as to ensure a complementary mass to the existing structure.

- **Windows and Doors**: The size, shape, and placement of windows and doors should be similar to the original in all additions. Avoid placing horizontal windows in a building that has vertical openings.

- **Details and Ornamentation**: Original ornamentation on a structure should be reproduced on additions to the structure.

Whittier provides amenities and character that are increasingly understood and valued. Thorough respect for the unique qualities of the neighborhood remodeling can contribute to Whittier’s already exceptional qualities.
Goals: Urban Design and Historic Preservation

Through neighborhood advocacy and adoption of this plan, the Whittier Neighborhood Association intends to provide guidance to residents and private and public sector developments. Encouraging residents, public agencies, and businesses to enhance their physical facilities is a key of this plan.

1. To advocate for historic preservation of the existing neighborhood character.
2. To preserve the historic sense of the community for future generations.
3. To establish high standards for parks and streetscaping, as they pertain to the neighborhood urban design.
4. To encourage the designation of individual historic structures within the neighborhood. (see pp. 36-37)
5. To encourage the designation of a historic district within the neighborhood. (see p. 17)
6. To pursue the listing of the neighborhood on the National Register of Historic Places. (see p. 17)
7. To pursue voluntary standards and guidelines for home renovation. (see p. 39)
8. To rename neighborhood association “Historic Whittier Square.”
### Action Chart: Urban Design and Historic Preservation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>ACTIONS</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>Implementers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>PROJECTS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UD1</td>
<td>Support efforts to educate Whittier residents on the importance of local history</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Neighborhood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*UD2</td>
<td>Rename Whittier Neighborhood Association “Historic Whittier Square”</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Neighborhood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UD3</td>
<td>Apply for registration of the entire neighborhood on the National Register of Historic Places</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Neighborhood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UD4</td>
<td>Apply for Landmark District for a portion of the neighborhood</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Neighborhood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UD5</td>
<td>Encourage eligible individual property owners to pursue Denver Landmark Designation</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Neighborhood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*UD6</td>
<td>Encourage the redevelopment of commercial sites to compatible retail services</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Neighborhood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UD7</td>
<td>Pursue recognition of the historic role of colorline in city's history (Whittier as a living classroom)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Neighborhood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UD8</td>
<td>Preserve sandstone sidewalks. Encourage street lighting for pedestrians</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Neighborhood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UD9</td>
<td>Commemorate historic events and individuals through history projects (including oral histories)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Neighborhood, Colorado Historical Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UD10</td>
<td>Identify innovative ways to reflect and celebrate Whittier history in parks design and use</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Neighborhood, Denver Parks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*UD11</td>
<td>Encourage infill development that reflects New Urbanism design including front porches, Denver Square scale, and high level of craftsmanship</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Neighborhood, Denver Planning Office</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Selected as the neighborhood's highest priorities on June 21, 2000

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**Priority Issues: URBAN DESIGN AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION**
Priority Issue: Education

Whittier neighborhood's concerns and hopes turn on the education of its children. Over 1,400 residents—36% of Whittier's total population—are under 18 years old. People are concerned about their schools but have difficulty communicating their concerns as a neighborhood due to attendance boundaries dividing the area between four elementary schools and three middle schools. The process of drawing attendance boundaries has also required children to cross high-volume streets to attend their assigned elementary schools.

While all of the schools serving Whittier have developed strategies to improve the educational achievement of their students, specifically to improve literacy as a basic structure for future education, they are all confronting substantial challenges. The best hope for the future is the direct involvement of parents in the education of children of the neighborhood.

In the 1997-98 school year Denver schools were released from the court-ordered bussing of 25 years. In the process of drawing attendance areas, the Denver School Board elected to concentrate the most serious education issues in the Manual High School attendance area. The combination of neighborhoods that compose the attendance area form a wedge shape beginning at 23rd Avenue on the south, extending to a line a mile west of I-25; to Colorado Boulevard on the east; and to the Denver city limit (52nd Avenue) on the north.

Manual High School is going through a dramatic change in an attempt to address an entirely new set of student needs. Manual recognizes that the success of its restructuring will be dependent on the degree to which it involves the Whittier neighborhood as well as all the other neighborhoods that make up its new attendance area. To address this, Manual has an extensive bilingual program intended to reach students from immigrant families (Mexico and Central America) who are just learning the English language.

There were 209 students from Whittier attending Manual High School, constituting 20% of the student body in the 1999-2000 school year. All Manual juniors choose one of four Programs of Excellence as their focus for their junior and senior years. In addition to required core classes, students focus on either Math, Science & Medicine; Arts, Humanities & Communication; Cultural Studies, Law & Government Systems; or Business & Entrepreneurship. These programs are supported by Employer Advisory Councils as well as a School Advisory Council made up of parents from the Manual attendance area.
All Manual students, starting with the Class of 2001, will be involved in at least 60 hours of volunteer work in the community (service learning) in order to graduate. Manual’s Night School offers an alternative evening schedule for dropouts 16 to 21 years old to earn their high school diplomas and find jobs.

The conversion of Manual High School to a neighborhood school could create a stronger sense of community. It will serve to remind all residents of their common goals of rearing and educating children while creating a gathering place for neighbors and friends. Manual can become the neighborhood facility used by the greatest number of residents for the widest variety of purposes. In addition to its high-school education function, Manual could become a year-round activity center for sporting events, recreation, meetings, child care, and adult education.

The Denver Public Schools administration proposal to allow Manual High School and three feeder schools to convert to charters may accomplish many of these goals. At the same time, it is difficult to envision the transition without substantial resources to match the issues confronted within the attendance area created by the Denver School Board. The opportunity to develop a magnet program or charter school is an option that should be considered for the future of education in Whittier.

Neighborhood Schools

Denver’s elementary and middle schools have considerable flexibility to shape their learning environment to best meet the needs of each of their student bodies. They pride themselves in being built on a “collection of dynamic opportunities for parents, the community, and most of all the students.” (16)

Whittier neighborhood elementary and middle schools are well into the process of redefining themselves as schools that meet the needs of their students. This process is guided by the Denver School Board, Denver Public Schools Administration, and school-based collaborative decision-making teams. The shaping of safe “walking zones” for children and the creation of programs that sharpen focus by bearing down on areas of academic concern are appropriate concerns of Whittier residents. Parents and residents must be involved in the future of the neighborhood through involvement with its schools.

Parents need not accept the district’s fragmentation of the Whittier neighborhood by attendance areas. It is clear in the district’s policies that parents may change schools to match their children’s needs with appropriate programming within the school. It is also advisable to look at the distances traveled and high-volume streets crossed by children in some attendance areas. Special care should be taken for elementary school students required to cross
Downing Street on the west and York Street on the east. The district’s open enrollment period is in January and February of each year.

Denver has also authorized four charter schools, one of which is located immediately north of Whittier: Wyatt-Edison Charter, at 3620 Franklin Street. Wyatt-Edison has a comprehensive academic program for kindergarten through seventh grade. Students focus on fundamentals of reading and mathematics. The program features an eight-hour school day with support of computer technology.

Whittier’s parents have significant responsibility to identify the appropriate school within Denver Public Schools. While the assigned neighborhood school may have appropriate programming, optional schools should be considered that help children avoid crossing high-volume streets and utilize focused programs and extended days.

The Middle schools that serve Whittier include:
Cole Middle School...located at 3240 Humboldt Street.
Gove Middle School .....located at 4050 E. 14th Avenue.
Morey Middle School .....located at 840 E. 14th Avenue.

The Elementary Schools that serve Whittier include:
Whittier Elementary School ....located at 2480 Downing Street.
Gilpin Elementary School ....located at 2949 California Street.
Columbine Elementary School ....located at 2925 W. 40th Avenue.
Mitchell Elementary School ....located at 1350 E. 33rd Avenue.
Loyola Elementary School ....located at 24th and Gaylord is within Whittier and is a parochial school supported by the St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church.

The Whittier neighborhood is a crossroads of educational options at the elementary and middle-school grades. The attendance areas that divide Whittier among two high schools, three middle schools and four elementary schools do not provide optimum service to Whittier families. Many elementary school students are required to cross high-volume streets with traffic exceeding 18,000 cars per day. By working with the school district, the number of students served by schools in closer proximity or within the neighborhood can be increased.

Priority Issues: EDUCATION
Elementary School Attendance Areas

Elementary School Attendance Areas

Source: Denver Public Schools

Priority Issues: EDUCATION
Goals: Education

In implementing this plan, establish communication with public and private schools to improve the quality of education available to all children of Whittier. The following specific goals and action items are intended to ensure a neighborhood distribution to a future of quality education.

1. To provide a neighborhood educational environment where academic achievement is the highest priority.

2. To encourage the Denver School Board to review the current attendance areas and revise the boundary lines, reducing the number of children required to cross high traffic-volume streets.

3. To encourage the Denver School Board to create a community school facility at Manual High School, including adult education, recreation, and day care programs.

4. To encourage Denver School Board to develop joint programs with local colleges and universities for college-bound students at Manual High School.

5. To establish mentorship program with Whittier Elementary.

6. To support individual students with academic scholarships funded by the neighborhood.
# Action Chart: Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>ACTIONS</th>
<th>#</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>Implementers</th>
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<tr>
<td>#</td>
<td>PROJETS</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Immediately</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ED1</td>
<td>Encourage the development of a Learning Center at Manual High School including Community College of Denver</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ED2</td>
<td>Encourage the development of technical education options at Manual High School</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ED3</td>
<td>Encourage all residents—including those who are not parents—to participate in school issues</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ED4</td>
<td>Encourage school district to provide funding at schools appropriate to education issues within the attendance area</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ED5</td>
<td>Open school facilities for greater community use. Expand the community school concept for all schools</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ED6</td>
<td>Explore charter school and magnet school options at all Whittier Neighborhood Schools</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ED7</td>
<td>Encourage community service and outreach programs to connect students, parents and schools to the Whittier neighborhood</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ED8</td>
<td>Establish mentorship programs to create contact with youth in the neighborhood throughout their academic careers</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Selected as the neighborhood’s highest priorities on June 21, 2000*
Priority Issue: Public Safety and Health

Police Protection

The issue of crime in the neighborhood and the public’s perception of crime reflects the community’s attitude towards Whittier. While the neighborhood and the District 2 office of the police department have a good working relationship, crime prevention would benefit from a stronger police presence in the neighborhood. The most effective step to curb and reduce crime in Whittier has been the establishment of programs encouraging effective police/neighborhood relations. Neighborhood Watch programs have been successful in parts of Whittier. Additional blocks are urged to work with the District 2 police department to establish active programs.

Whittier is located in Police District 2, which includes northeast Denver. The District 2 police station is located east of Whittier at 3555 Colorado Blvd. According to the Denver Police Department, the 1999 rate of crimes against persons and property for each 1,000 people in Whittier was 75.25. This number is down by 7.9% as compared to 1990.

The Denver Department of Public Safety, which includes the Denver Police, Fire, and Sheriffs departments, is committed to neighborhood safety through partnership, prevention, and problem-solving. The recommendations in this plan emphasize building positive relationships with the Department of Public Safety to partner against crime and improve the quality of life for the citizens of the Whittier neighborhood. The plan envisions neighbors and officials of the City working together to identify problems of mutual concern. The focus of the relationship between the neighborhood and the Department of Public Safety must emphasize youth in many of the partnerships. Existing programs such as Weed and Seed, Safe Havens, Victim Assistance Unit, Domestic Violence Unit, HUD Drug Elimination Project, Citizen Academy, and Volunteers in Policing are programs designed to create a sense of safety for the Whittier neighborhood. The Denver Department of Public Safety has provided substantial support to the Whittier Neighborhood Plan, including providing Mission Statements and programs available to the neighborhood (see Appendix C).

Physical Health

Because of the paucity of health data and indicators at the neighborhood level, in 1998 Denver Health Medical Center established an advisory committee to develop health profiles and indicators for the Denver Enterprise...

Because the number of events reported on public health documents for each neighborhood can be very small, a clearer picture emerges of the health differences between the Enterprise Community and the rest of Denver when all of the EC neighborhoods are grouped together for analysis.

Residents from the Enterprise Community have a higher percentage of their deaths occurring due to certain causes than is true for the rest of Denver. The EC has a higher percentage of deaths than the remainder of Denver due to homicide (3.1% vs. 1.2%), infant mortality (2.9% vs. 1.3%), liver disease (1.2% vs. 0.6%), child mortality (0.8% vs. 0.5%), diabetes (2.7% vs. 1.7%), motor vehicle accidents (2.1% vs. 1.6%), and firearms (2.7% vs. 1.9%). Conversely, the EC neighborhoods have a lower percentage of their total deaths compared to the rest of Denver due to heart disease (20.9% vs. 23.4%), stroke (5.2% vs. 5.9%), suicide (1.4% vs. 2.2%), and HIV (1.9% vs. 3.4%).

Between 1993 and 1997, residents of the EC neighborhoods had a greater percentage of their births associated with problems than did the residents of the remaining Denver neighborhoods. During this time period, an average of 23% of all births in the EC were to teens and 51% to unmarried women compared to 14% to teens and 35% to unmarried women in the rest of Denver. In addition, 12% of the EC babies were low birth-weight compared to 10% low birth-weight babies in the rest of Denver.

Two other measures using birth and death data are good indicators of the health of a community: leading causes of death and average age of death. Heart disease, cancer, and stroke are the leading causes of death (greatest frequency) in the EC and the remainder of Denver. The average age of death from all causes and for the leading causes is younger in the EC than in the rest of Denver. Between 1993-1997, the average age of death in the EC from all causes was 64.2 years compared to 70.1 years in the remainder of Denver.

The Mayor recently received and endorsed the recommendations in the report, Healthy Communities, Healthy Denver, of the Denver Health Benchmarking Project in the summer of 2000. The second phase of that project got underway in late October. The specific action steps need to be determined but may include expanding the project citywide from the Enterprise Community neighborhoods, working with the EC neighborhoods to address priority health needs, expanding data collection and analysis efforts, identifying additional benchmarks and indicators, and institutionalizing the health benchmarking project within the city government.

Priority Issues: PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH
Fire Protection

The Whittier neighborhood is served by Fire Station #3, located at 2500 Washington in the adjacent neighborhood west of Downing. Elderly and low-income residents can receive smoke alarms by applying to the fire station at no cost by contacting the Fire Department Education program at 303-286-4966.
Goals: Public Safety and Health

Public safety is the desired effect of a good quality of life in our neighborhood. Improving the quality of life for the whole neighborhood through building connections with public safety agencies will be achieved through the following:

1. Continue to reduce crime and perception of crime to a level where residents feel safe in their homes, parks, and on the streets.
2. Improve security for residents in their homes through information and education provided in Whittier Neighborhood Association meetings.
3. Improve pedestrian lighting in parks, near schools, and on neighborhood streets.
4. Provide a regular forum on safety for the more vulnerable members of the community: disabled, elderly, and children.
5. Support efforts to establish Neighborhood Watch programs.
6. Support efforts to identify problem addresses.
7. Support a stronger police presence, including bicycle patrols and extended tours of duty to promote officers' familiarity with residents.
8. Support improved communication among youths, parents, schools, and police in the neighborhood.
9. Support Denver Health Medican Center's efforts to provide health information within the neighborhood.
### Action Chart: Public Safety and Health

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Immediately</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PS1</strong></td>
<td>Establish Neighborhood Watch programs on majority of blocks</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PS2</td>
<td>Report problem addresses to District 2 police</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PS3</td>
<td>Improve street lighting; encourage neighbors to keep porch lights on every evening</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PS4</td>
<td>Design and maintain parks to optimize security</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PS5</td>
<td>Encourage organized activities in parks</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PS6</strong></td>
<td>Work with the Denver Police Department District 2 to establish an effective police/community relations program</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PS7</td>
<td>Control criminal activity in all locations including alleys</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PS8</strong></td>
<td>Inventory risk factors such as apartment buildings, businesses, and alleys with frequent crime reports</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PS9</td>
<td>Develop effective programs to cooperate with Denver Partners Against Graffiti</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Selected as the neighborhood's highest priorities on June 21, 2000*
Priority Issue: Community Services

With its unique location, demographics, and history, the neighborhood has developed a distinctive set of conditions and issues that contribute to the definition of community needs in Whittier.

Whittier is home to several social services facilities, including Gilliam Juvenile Hall and group homes. The concentration of facilities focused on delinquency may become a self-fulfilling prophecy; the more facilities of this type provided within the neighborhood, the more the neighborhood is associated with the underlying issues. The concern of residents is that group home facilities will be over-concentrated in Whittier based on the proximity to the Gilliam Juvenile Hall.

The Ford-Warren Branch Library located at 28th Avenue and High Street has 38,000 volumes with a circulation approaching 100,000 books annually. The library’s location near Manual High School, Red Shield Center, and Fuller Park make it an ideal facility for civic and neighborhood meetings. It provides free access to the Internet and could be the center of neighborhood activities in conjunction with the proposed community center.

The Whittier Neighborhood Association has been awarded $318,000 by the City of Denver for a neighborhood community center. Its design and location will be a key element in the future of the neighborhood. By placing this new facility in the complex defined by Manual High School, Fuller Park, Ford-Warren Library, Red Shield Community Center, and Thunderbolt Park, a “campus” of recreational, cultural, and educational facilities could be created.

A number of community services are provided by nonprofit organizations and churches in the neighborhood. These services represent a significant resource that has not been fully utilized due to a lack of information regarding the support provided. Identification and listing of these services are key to their expanded use. Several methods have been suggested for the listing of these services, including a neighborhood Web site.

In January 2000, the Center for Human Investment Policy, University of Colorado at Denver, completed the “Healthy Communities” Denver Health Benchmarking Project. This report included the Whittier neighborhood. The report’s summary is attached as Appendix B.
Goals: Community Services

To improve communication within the neighborhood while enhancing the quality of life for the whole community through services, establish a Web site for continuing outreach and information about services.

1. To improve the quality of life for all who live in Whittier by filling gaps in services and building effective partnerships.
2. To implement the Neighborhood Center currently budgeted at $318,000.
3. To implement the Whittier Neighborhood Plan and support city projects that support the plan.
4. To develop a neighborhood Web site to enhance communication.
### Action Chart: Community Services

<table>
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<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>ACTIONS</th>
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<th>Implementers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>PROJECTS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*CS1</td>
<td>Identify site for Neighborhood Center; secure funding from City of Denver</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Neighborhood, City of Denver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*CS2</td>
<td>Create contact list for emergency services—food, shelter, and medical care—and make available on Web site</td>
<td>Immediately</td>
<td>Neighborhood, Nonprofit Organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*CS3</td>
<td>Develop human services—e.g., job training, language classes, and recreation</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Neighborhood, Denver Public Schools, CCD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS4</td>
<td>Work with churches to identify community services provided</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Neighborhood, Churches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS5</td>
<td>Develop memorandum of understanding with other neighborhood groups and community-based organizations</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Neighborhood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*CS6</td>
<td>Establish Planning Steering Committee for Neighborhood Plan implementation</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Neighborhood, Denver Planning Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*CS7</td>
<td>Work with City Council representative to track the implementation of the Neighborhood Plan</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Neighborhood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS8</td>
<td>Support process of project reviews with city agencies</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Neighborhood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS9</td>
<td>Work with tenants to assist in making multifamily housing a more active part members of the Whittier Neighborhood Association</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Neighborhood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS10</td>
<td>Develop a neighborhood Web site listing services</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Neighborhood</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Selected as the neighborhood's highest priorities on June 21, 2000

**Priority Issues: COMMUNITY SERVICES**
Priority Issue: Parks and Open Space

The Whittier neighborhood is fortunate to have five parks within its boundary and City Park and the City Park Golf Course along its eastern border. The greenspace, along with the large number of mature trees, enriches the historic qualities of the neighborhood. Both Fuller Park and City Park, two of the oldest parks in the city, reflect the legacy of Denver’s early leaders and builders who left the city a system of well-designed parks and parkways, as well as a tradition of excellence in urban design and architecture. The intention of this plan is to sustain this legacy and rehabilitate Whittier’s parks into places that celebrate its history. The focus of these efforts is to reflect Whittier’s history and the diversity of its residents and provide functional, safe, attractive recreational features through quality park designs.

The neighborhood planning process revealed the area’s cultural values and suggested steps to honor their significance. These values and historical associations such as the commemoration of historical events or significant people are the unifying theme for the parks in the neighborhood. Reflecting the historic connections in the parks would establish a distinctive identity for each park. Each park would also complement the others in the community with a diverse range of activities and facilities.

All but one of the parks were named after a person who contributed significantly to the history of the city or the history relevant to the cultural themes represented in the neighborhood. Each park should, in future development, include educational exhibits to explain the significance of the person the park was named after.

Fuller Park

29th & Williams - The planning process identified Fuller Park as an important potential focal point in neighborhood that should be upgraded to reflect its key role in the community.

_The Denver Comprehensive Plan 2000 identifies a focal point as any easily recognized amenity that helps create and define a neighborhood’s image._

The park is the second oldest park in the city, donated on November 8th, 1879, by Horace Fuller. The Denver Urban Renewal Authority expanded the park in the 1970s with the acquisition of three acres. Today, Fuller Park has fallen in disrepair and generally compares unfavorably to other Denver parks. Maintenance funding has not kept up with the park’s needs and has been a continuing source of concern for residents.
Currently, plans are underway by the Denver Department of Parks and Recreation to redesign and upgrade Fuller Park. The vision for the park’s future is to create a community square for neighborhood events and activities and develop high quality recreational facilities that meet the needs of the neighborhood. A park shelter and outdoor event area, restrooms, picnic areas, and play structures will be incorporated in the design. A strong architectural theme for the new park structures will create a distinctive park identity. The park structures would reflect the architectural detailing of the historic houses surrounding the park. A kiosk structure would be included in the park redevelopment for community postings and maps, and could also contain information on the history of the neighborhood.

To strengthen the relationship of the park to the community, connections could be created between Manual High School and the neighborhood through formal and informal programs and facilities. Opportunities such as developing outdoor classrooms, summer recreation programs, outdoor performance areas for school bands, and other activities could be planned to establish a stronger connection to the park. Projects such as an “Adopt-a-Park” program could be developed to involve the community in park clean-up and planting improvements. “Arts in the Parks” is another program that could be developed to offer cultural opportunities for Whittier residents.

**Williams Park**

30th & Lafayette - Williams Park was developed in the 1970s by the Denver Urban Renewal program. It was named after Dr. Daniel Hale Williams (1856-1931).

Dr. Daniel Hale Williams was a pioneer surgeon who in 1893 performed the first open-heart surgery. In 1891 he founded the Provident Hospital and Medical Center in Chicago, the oldest freestanding African-American owned hospital in the United States. Dr. Williams was the only African-American in a group of 100 charter members of the American College of Surgeons in 1913. He founded and became the first vice-president of the National Medical Association.

The park offers a playground, basketball courts, and picnic sites. Current park improvements include upgrading the asphalt basketball court with concrete paving and eliminating an asphalt-paved area to convert more of the park into greenspace. Also, while the playground is relatively new and serves children 4 to 10 years old, it does not meet current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. The playground should be upgraded to meet these standards. To commemorate Dr. Williams, an outdoor educational exhibit should be installed with biographical information on his historical significance.
Douglass Park

30th & Franklin - Douglass Park was developed in the same era as Williams Park and provides another playground within two blocks of Williams and Thunderbolt parks. The playground is over 20 years old, and most of the equipment is unsafe by today's standards. The park was named for abolitionist orator Frederick Douglass.

Frederick Douglass has been called the father of the civil rights movement. He rose through determination, brilliance, and eloquence to shape the American nation. He was an abolitionist, human rights and women's rights activist, orator, author, journalist, publisher, and social reformer. Committed to freedom, Douglass dedicated his life to achieving justice for all Americans, in particular African-Americans, women, and minority groups. He envisioned America as an inclusive nation strengthened by diversity and free of discrimination.

Two of Douglass' sons lived in Denver and helped promote education for African-Americans. To connect the park to its historical associations to Douglass, African-American themes would be integrated in the redevelopment plans. The goal for upgrading the park is to develop a tot play area for children six years of age and under. This age group is not well served by the existing playgrounds in the community. Images from African-American folk tales could be integrated into the playground to reflect the oral traditions of African-American cultural heritage. In addition, outdoor educational exhibits could be situated in the park to inform residents of the historic themes Douglass represents.

Thunderbolt Park

30th and High - The infrastructure of Thunderbolt is fairly elaborate and in good condition with concrete walks, brick seatwalls, and ornamental fencing. Existing play equipment is outdated, however, and should be replaced to bring the park up to quality design standards. The park offers opportunities for developing an area for educational displays. It is ideally located to interpret the history of racial integration in the neighborhood. High Street, which terminates at the park, was historically known as the "color line" in the community.

There is interest in renaming the park after a significant historic figure to be consistent with the other park names in the neighborhood. One idea is to name the park after Dr. Clarence Holmes Jr. Dr. Holmes, a dentist, lived in the neighborhood at 2330 Downing. He became known as the "father of integration in Colorado" because of his leadership and contributions to the civil rights movement.
Morrison Park

Morrison Park extends along five blocks of Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd between High and Lafayette streets. The park was named after George Morrison Sr., (1891-1974) an early pioneer in jazz music who lived in Denver.

Morrison played violin in vaudeville, wrote music published by W.C. Handy, made recordings for Columbia Records, and did a command performance for the King and Queen of England with his orchestra. Even though Morrison was internationally recognized for his outstanding talent (Fritz Kreisler, the famed violinist, praised Morrison’s musicianship and promoted his career), he couldn’t play for the Denver Symphony Orchestra because he was black. However, he formed his own orchestra performing popular music and played with such notables as Duke Ellington and Count Basie. He also taught violin in his Whittier home to children who could not afford music lessons. He also helped launch the careers of other notable jazz musicians such as Paul White.

The linear park is connected with a meandering pedestrian path through its lawns and trees. Several picnic sites are scattered along the way. There are no other formal recreational facilities in the park. Humboldt, Franklin, Gilpin, and Williams end in cul-de-sacs at the park. One concept for this park is to incorporate sculptures or educational exhibits at the terminus of the cul-de-sacs representing neighborhood cultural themes. An exhibit commemorating George Morrison Sr. and his contributions to the city would be appropriate. Flower beds would also be included as part of the commemorative display. This would be particularly appropriate at Gilpin, where a focal feature could be visually connected with the architectural features proposed for Fuller Park. The entire length of the walkway is in very poor condition and needs replacement. An idea for the new walkway is to incorporate quotes from Martin Luther King Jr. and/or quotes from George Morrison’s songs in the pavement.

Recreation Centers

The Red Shield Community Center, located at 2915 High Street and operated by the Salvation Army, is the only community recreation facility in the Whittier neighborhood. It offers recreational programs for residents ages 7 and older. While this facility is centrally located within Whittier, utilization is limited by hours of operation and funding.

Two city recreation centers are located in adjacent neighborhoods: St. Charles is located at 3777 Lafayette Street, and Glenarm Recreation Center is located at 2800 Glenarm Place. The Glenarm Place center houses a weight room and an indoor pool.

Priority Issues: PARKS AND OPEN SPACE
WHITTIER PARKS MAP

GEORGE MORRISON, SR. PARK
- Commemorate George Morrison and jazz music
- Replace asphalt walks with concrete
- Add public art feature at Gilpin terminus

WILLIAMS PARK
- Commemorate Dr. Daniel Hale Williams
- Replace Basketball Court
- Upgrade playground to meet ADA standards

DOUGLASS PARK
- Commemorate Frederick Douglass
- Playground upgrade for tots (6 years and under) to address needs of surrounding daycare centers
- GILPIN STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS*
  - Trees, benches, new curbs, street lighting

FULLER PARK
- Rehabilitate playground for older children (65 years old)
- Neighborhood Amenities: "town square" plaza and shelter, kiosk, paths
- Replace Basketball Court
- Replace Restrooms

THUNDERBOLT PARK
- Needs play equipment
- Commemorate Neighborhood history
- Interpret the "color line" with educational exhibits

* Not on park land

Priority Issues: PARKS AND OPEN SPACE
Goals: Parks and Open Space

Improve and maintain parks in the neighborhood to meet the needs of residents and to support enhanced recreation opportunities. To provide improved bike and pedestrian links between existing parks and schools.

1. Design programs that will enhance the neighborhood’s use of its parks.
2. Work with the Parks and Recreation Department to re-assess design and connections between existing landmarks.
3. Improve public awareness of recreational facilities.
4. Connect bicycle access, parks, schools, recreation, and the libraries in an integrated parks and open space plan.
5. Monitor condition of parks and open space and take action to improve facilities.
6. Cooperate in the redesign of Fuller Park to a true neighborhood facility and town square.
7. Adopt Fuller Park as the Whittier Town Square, providing annual improvements from the neighborhood.
8. Institute appropriate land use control for all parks and cultural institutions to assure parking requirements associated with use.
9. Highlight Whittier’s history through historic signage and markers in parks.
## Action Chart: Parks and Open Space

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>ACTIONS</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>Implementers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Immediately</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#</td>
<td>PROJECTS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*P1</td>
<td>Improve Fuller Park to enhance its ability to serve as a neighborhood park</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P2</td>
<td>Improve the linkage between Fuller Park and nearby small parks</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P3</td>
<td>Explore joint use agreement for parks with Whittier Elementary and Manual High School</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P4</td>
<td>Explore expanded use of Red Shield Center recreation programs</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*P5</td>
<td>Expand use of Glenarm Recreation Facility by Whittier residents</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P6</td>
<td>Improve signage for parks and bike routes</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P7</td>
<td>Prepare brochure on parks and recreation facilities</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P8</td>
<td>Encourage shared use of school grounds and parks</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*P9</td>
<td>Monitor condition of parks, reporting regularly to the Denver Parks Department</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*P10</td>
<td>Develop visual and pedestrian linkages between parks and historic walks</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Selected as the neighborhood’s highest priorities on June 21, 2000
Priority Issue: Economic Development - Employment

Although the 2000 U.S. Census has not been completed, it will undoubtedly show the employment picture for Whittier has changed dramatically. As the neighborhood’s residential character has stabilized, the number of jobs within the neighborhood have fallen by 23% from 1990 to 1996. This trend will likely continue through the year 2000. At the same time, the Denver economy has prospered at an unprecedented rate. (16)

In the new economy based on information and technology, the Whittier neighborhood has an economic interest in assisting all of its residents in refining their technical and computer skills. As the Denver economy continues to prosper, one irrefutable rule appears clear: The future workplace will require workers ready with technical skills.

Whittier must continue to work with Manual High School, the Community College of Denver, and the City of Denver in removing obstacles for careers in technical fields. This includes persuading students and the community that well-paying careers are available for those who focus their talents on programs that can be made available in the neighborhood. The booming economy and desperate need among Denver employers for skilled workers should be the driving force pushing Whittier’s youth, unemployed, and under-employed toward training for rewarding careers.

The City of Denver, represented by the Career Service Authority, has expressed a willingness to partner with the Whittier neighborhood to address the need for an increased number of job candidates. The Career Service Authority has several programs that are now underutilized. The city’s Apprenticeship Program, Career Service Training Program, and Intern Program all have potential for helping the city meet its labor needs while providing opportunities for city agencies to reach out to residents. These targeted programs could be utilized as follows:

- **Apprenticeship Program**: This program provides an opportunity for employees to attend school part time while working in a trade such as carpentry, electrical, plumbing, and related trades work. Denver’s Education Refund program provides up to $2,000 annually for employees completing course requirements for journey-level completion and certification in one of the trade areas. In addition to the educational assistance provided to our apprentice population, the city anticipates growth in all trade job categories over the next few years. Participants in this program increase their opportunity for permanent appointments.

- **Internship Program**: This program has achieved success over the years, yet it is not utilized to its highest potential. Internships provide college-level students part-time work opportunities, usually in the same career discipline that the student is preparing for through training.
• **Career Service Training Program**: This program was a model in the late 1970s for increasing participation in the city workforce on a noncompetitive basis. Although there are specific program guidelines, Whittier residents may meet the requirements for entry into city employment via this training program.

Through these programs and cooperation with Manual High School and the Neighborhood Association, the Career Service Authority can create employment opportunities closer to the neighborhood.

A number of vacant commercial properties and non-conforming commercial properties are located within the Whittier neighborhood. Development and expansion of these properties could enhance the retail services provided to residents while improving entry-level employment opportunities.

**Goals: Economic Development – Employment**

The major goals of economic development is to sustain the Whittier neighborhood by stimulating employment opportunities for neighborhood residents. The purpose of the following objectives is to create model programs for employment.

1. Pursue cooperative agreements with the City of Denver Career Service Authority to encourage employment opportunities for Whittier residents.

2. Pursue cooperation between Manual High School and Whittier for community service employment for students.

3. Encourage existing businesses to employ local residents.

4. Encourage retail services in existing non-conforming commercial buildings.

5. Support the development of education and training programs of Whittier residents to qualify them for employment.
### Action Chart: Economic Development—Employment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>ACTIONS</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>Implementers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PROJECTS</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Immediately</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*E1</td>
<td>Inventory and evaluate vacant properties in order to recruit neighborhood businesses</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*E2</td>
<td>Encourage joint development of an education center at Manual High School in cooperation with Community College of Denver</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E3</td>
<td>Encourage cooperative development of a City of Denver Career Service Center in the neighborhood</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E4</td>
<td>Pursue grants to provide educational training programs and employment opportunities in the neighborhood</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*E5</td>
<td>Cooperate in youth employment programs and business incubators for entry-level employment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*E6</td>
<td>Encourage businesses to participate in Whittier Neighborhood Association to promote local use of businesses</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Selected as the neighborhood’s highest priorities on June 21, 2000
Priority Issue: Traffic and Transportation

Streets are our most comprehensive system of transportation and the city's most land-intensive and expensive public investment. It is reasonable to expect them to be safe, convenient, and attractive for pedestrians and bicyclists, as well as motorists. Our streets should be designed to encourage alternatives to driving including walking, biking, and bus service. This means controlling traffic speed and adding stop signs, bike lanes, cross walks, pedestrian lighting, and signage.

Traffic speed is a safety issue for all citizens in Whittier, especially for children walking and playing in the neighborhood. Speeding cars are a threat that diminishes the residential character of the neighborhood. The number of children required to cross the high-volume streets of York, Downing, and Martin Luther King to attend their assigned elementary schools is an ongoing concern for Whittier families. (See maps on p. 45 and p. 70.)

From an overall transportation planning aspect, the Whittier neighborhood has a fairly desirable street system, since the major traffic carriers are on the periphery of the neighborhood, namely Downing on the West, York on the east, Martin Luther King/31st Avenue on the north and 23rd on the south. Only 29th Avenue introduces traffic into the neighborhood due to its connection to Welton Street ending the downtown grid. There are no major north-south roadways channelling traffic into the interior of the neighborhood. Capacity limitations on Downing and 23rd and the lack of continuity for York to the north and 23rd to the west limit traffic volumes both adjacent to and entering the neighborhood. From an overall traffic perspective, Whittier is protected from the normal impacts of traffic, particularly one located fairly close to the central business district.

Mass Transit (see map on p. 68)

Whittier is served by bus routes and has access on its western edge to light rail at Downing Street and 30th Avenue. This service is eventually planned to extend north on Downing and connect to the "air train," which will run to D.I.A. Bus service includes two north-south routes, #12 on Downing Street and #24 on York Street. East-West routes include #43 on Martin Luther King Boulevard; #32 on 23rd Avenue; and #28 extending east from Downing to Williams, south to 28th and then east. The Cultural Connection trolley links downtown and City Park arts facilities with a stop at 23rd and York. The neighborhood is not well served by mass transit on the south side. Currently Route 28 has been suggested for cancellation by RTD.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Traffic Volume</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8,200</td>
<td>1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8,050</td>
<td>1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7,355</td>
<td>1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11,600</td>
<td>1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14,694</td>
<td>1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6,400</td>
<td>1979</td>
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<tr>
<td>7,500</td>
<td>1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15,100</td>
<td>1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17,333</td>
<td>1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,600</td>
<td>1979</td>
</tr>
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<td>6,750</td>
<td>1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,700</td>
<td>1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,200</td>
<td>1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,050</td>
<td>1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,597</td>
<td>1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,824</td>
<td>1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,650</td>
<td>1996</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Whittier Traffic Volumes

Priority Issues: TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION

Source: Denver Public Works
Bike Routes (see map on p. 69)

Whittier is included in the city-wide bikeway system. The present bike routes include D6 on 29th Avenue east and west, D8 on 22nd Avenue from Downing to High Street, then south to 21st running east and west, and D11 on Franklin and Lafayette north and south.

As a whole, Whittier lacks a completely interconnected network of designated bicycle paths and lanes. The Traffic and Transportation recommendations suggest an improved network including connections to schools, parks, and other adjacent bike routes in City Park. Additional bike routes could include Martin Luther King Blvd. from High Street to Lafayette within Morrison Park; High Street south to 24th then east to Loyola school at Gaylord; Lafayette to 28th Avenue.

In many locations, bicycle paths could be included in the design of the neighborhood parks, thereby increasing park usage. Bike racks should be installed at all all schools, parks, public buildings, and commercial buildings.

Traffic Volumes (see map on p. 70)

Automobile traffic volumes have remained relatively stable over the past decade. This stability is due in part to the neighborhood’s stable population and increasing utilization of mass transit. The primary concern is speeding traffic in and around the neighborhood. Every effort must be made by the residents to secure the cooperation of the Police and Traffic Engineering departments in slowing traffic throughout the neighborhood. Areas where cut-through traffic and speeding traffic is an issue should be identified for monitoring efforts by the Traffic Engineers or Police Department. Additional stop signs may not be the best solution to slow traffic.

Pedestrian

As a whole, the neighborhood enjoys an interconnected network of pedestrian walks. This network could be improved by enhancing the crosswalks adjacent to schools, libraries, and parks. Crosswalk design should include redesigned intersections restricting the street cross section and shortening the crosswalks. Clear pedestrian walkways connect the neighborhood’s five parks. This pedestrian loop could include historic markers and exercise facilities within the parks. Ramps at every corner will improve handicap access and encourage parents with strollers to use sidewalks. Ramps at all arterial and collector street intersections should be prioritized. Local residential street intersections should be installed where there are individuals with disabilities or services provided for individuals with disabilities.
Goals: Traffic and Transportation

To improve traffic control to create a safe and efficient transportation system that encourages pedestrian and bicycle usage while supporting mass transit options.

1. Encourage walking, biking, and mass-transit use by providing clearly marked, safe, convenient pedestrian and bicycle connections.

2. Reduce traffic speeds on neighborhood streets to posted speed limits.

3. Increase safe and efficient bicycle connections throughout the neighborhood with an emphasis on access to mass transit, schools, libraries, and parks.
### Action Chart: Traffic and Transportation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>ACTIONS</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>Implementers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>PROJECTS</strong></td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Immediately</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*T1</td>
<td>Encourage walking, bicycling and mass-transit use</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T2</td>
<td>Work with schools to encourage programs for walking and bicycling to schools</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T3</td>
<td>Expand neighborhood bike route system</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T4</td>
<td>Create designated walkways connecting parks and historic sites</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*T5</td>
<td>Notify police of speeding traffic; support reduced speed</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*T6</td>
<td>Evaluate existing traffic signage for more stop signs to discourage cut-through traffic</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T7</td>
<td>Develop crosswalks and 4-way stops</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T8</td>
<td>Street by Street recommendations:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. Sidewalk ramps at intersections on major arterial streets and collector streets and at special-needs intersections.</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. 4-way stops recommended for intersections where grade changes in street shorten line of sight, e.g., 25th at High to 25th at Gaylord and 26th to 29th and Williams to Humboldt.</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Create safe school zones in cooperation with Traffic Engineering Department to slow traffic:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a. MLK Blvd. from High to Lafayette</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. Downing, 24th Ave. to 25th Ave.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>c. 25th Ave., Lafayette to Downing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>d. 25th Ave. and York to Gaylord</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4. Cooperate with City and County of Denver on the Martin Luther King Beautification Project</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5. Allow left turns from York St. at MLK Blvd.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Selected as the neighborhood's highest priorities on June 21, 2000

Priority Issues: TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION
Priority Issue: Neighborhood Environment

The overall residential neighborhood environment in Whittier is good, although conditions vary widely from block to block. There are many architecturally interesting homes (including potential Denver Landmarks). The lawns are well maintained with many mature street trees that enhance the appearance of the neighborhood. This plan recognizes the need for continued improvements in the residential environment. Park improvements are needed along with an expansion of designated bike routes. The replacement of aging trees, along with aggressive code enforcement and improved trash collection, are essential to supporting the residential environment.

Through neighborhood vigilance, the quality of the residential environment can be improved. The process of education, self-help activities, and the application of existing ordinances will maintain and protect Whittier's environment. Current residents are able and willing to identify issues related to Section 8 housing neglect and code enforcement issues. Regular identification of these issues is the key to improving code compliance.

Describing Whittier's unique situation relative to an environmental issue is difficult. It is appropriate to recognize that Whittier shares environmental issues with other neighborhoods. Whittier residents must take advantage of services and programs that are available to the city at large.

A recent example of environmental issues are the 70 homes targeted for renovation in the Whittier and Cole neighborhoods that contain lead-based paint. The Northeast Denver Housing Center's Healthy Homes Initiative has secured a $1 million HUD grant to assist families in removing lead-based paint. The Whittier neighborhood's cooperation in city and federal programs of this type will support low-income residents who want to remain in the neighborhood.

Through advocacy and identification of problem areas, the residents of Whittier wish to maintain and protect the neighborhood's natural features including trees, parks, and open space.
Goals: Neighborhood Environment

Through neighborhood advocacy, encourage residents and businesses to maintain and enhance the environment of the Whittier neighborhood. The following specific activities by the Whittier Neighborhood Association are intended to initiate improvements to the physical environment.

1. Participate in city programs in recycling, conservation, and environmental abatement
2. Encourage tree planting by residents, businesses, and city agencies.
3. Improve the physical appearance of the neighborhood by supporting code enforcement including clean-up of alleys, non-conforming commercial uses, and vacant lots.
4. Improve and maintain schools and parks within the neighborhood.
5. Develop a mechanism for regularly reporting to city agencies about environmental issues within the neighborhood, including Section 8 housing complaints.
6. Establish a neighborhood Environment and Beautification Task Force to implement the Whittier Neighborhood Plan.
### Action Chart: Neighborhood Environment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>ACTIONS</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>Implementers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PROJECTS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E1</td>
<td>Enforce existing codes and ordinances by identifying locations of violators and reporting to the City</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Neighborhood Zoning Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*E2</td>
<td>Identify top 10 problem properties each month to bring into code compliance</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Neighborhood, Neighborhood Inspection Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E3</td>
<td>Conduct clean-up in neighborhood twice a year</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Neighborhood, Public Works</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*E4</td>
<td>Encourage residents to participate in recycling and conservation programs</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Neighborhood, Public Works</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*E5</td>
<td>Apply for grants to obtain trees</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Neighborhood, Denver Digs Trees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E6</td>
<td>Create Web site indicating resources for environmental clean-up</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Neighborhood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E7</td>
<td>Track federal clean-up of lead paint, contaminated soil, and Section 8 housing complaints</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Neighborhood, HUD, EPA, Denver Housing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Selected as the neighborhood's highest priorities on June 21, 2000

Priority Issues: NEIGHBORHOOD ENVIRONMENT
Priority Issue: Community Coordination
(Call to Action)

The Whittier Neighborhood Plan is intended to be a document used to identify evolving issues. Its implementation will be a joint effort by the neighborhood in cooperation with the appropriate agencies and organizations. Realizing the opportunities that are ahead, it will require active participation by the residents of the community.

Increasingly, Whittier has the opportunity to become an even better place to live and raise a family. The Community Resource Center, which was part of the 1998 bond issue, is but one step toward that future.

The work of planners, public agencies, and political leaders can help lay the foundations for improvement, but ultimately a neighborhood’s quality depends on the activities and attitudes of its residents. Pride in Whittier is evident in its trees, lawns, and homes. It is a predominant purpose of this plan to foster pride of residents in Whittier and responsibility for its maintenance and enhancement.

The planning process to date has resulted in a significant increase in membership in the Whittier Neighborhood Association. The implementation of the planning “Action Charts” can be a catalyst for increasing membership as others become aware of the activity.

Many of the neighborhood issues of concern have focused on non-conforming uses, multi-family complexes, and illegal activities. Improving communication with local businesses and the multi-family property owners can enhance services while improving the quality of the neighborhood.

Several current initiatives have shown the potential of projects that enhance the quality of the residential environment. Chief among these have been the Community Day activities, arts programs, and coordination at the block level.

Awareness of the effectiveness of the neighborhood association will grow through the use of press conferences, marketing plans, and the development of a neighborhood Web site.
Goals: Community Coordination (Call to Action)

While implementing this plan, enhance membership, communication, and participation of all residents and businesses within the Whittier neighborhood.

1. To implement the elements of this plan by enhancing communication and participation in the Whittier Neighborhood Association.

2. To tell the story of the neighborhood through the use of a marketing plan, press conferences, and a Web site.

3. To enhance membership and participation in the Whittier Neighborhood Association by focusing on support of elderly residents, youth, and action items identified in the Whittier Neighborhood Plan.
## Action Chart: Community Coordination: Call to Action

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>ACTIONS</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>Implementers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>PROJECTS</strong></td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Immediately</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CC1</td>
<td>Expand membership of and participation in the Whittier Neighborhood Association</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*CC2</td>
<td>Create committee activities focused on the Neighborhood Plan Action Charts</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CC3</td>
<td>Create opportunities for businesses to be members of the Whittier Neighborhood Association</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CC4</td>
<td>Expand Community Day to include entertainment, arts projects, and neighborhood history</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*CC5</td>
<td>Create block activities through grants and city cooperation</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CC6</td>
<td>Identify block and area captains within the neighborhood to coordinate neighborhood participation</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CC7</td>
<td>Cooperate in community nights at public schools</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CC8</td>
<td>Develop a marketing plan and funding strategy</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CC9</td>
<td>Develop a neighborhood Web site with information on all committee projects</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CC10</td>
<td>Coordinate action items in the neighborhood plan with committees within the WWA</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Selected as the neighborhood's highest priorities on June 21, 2000*
Sources

The following end notes correspond to numbered notes in the text.

1 “Neighborhood Facts 1999: The Status of Denver Neighborhoods,” a report by the Piton Foundation
2 ibid
3 “Housing in Denver: Problems, Needs and Opportunities,” Center for Affordable Housing and Educational Opportunity 2000
5 “Housing in Denver: Problems, Needs and Opportunities,” Center for Affordable Housing and Educational Opportunity 2000
6 “Reported Offenses and Calls for Services in the Whittier Neighborhood,” 4/28/00, City and County of Denver, Department of Safety
7 Funk & Wagnall’s New Encyclopedia, Volume 27
8 Denver Neighborhood History Project, Simmons and Simmons, 1993-94
9 Age of Jim Crow, Atkins
10 The Denver Post, March 22, 2000
11 Denver Neighborhood History Project, Simmons and Simmons, 1993-94
12 ibid
14 ibid
15 “Oral History: Interviews with Mr. Zelle Berenbaum,” Colorado Historical Society
16 “Choices Neighborhood Schools,” Denver Public Schools Public Information Office
Neighborhood Summary for Whittier

from “Neighborhood Facts 1999: The Status of Denver Neighborhoods,” a report by the Piton Foundation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INDICATOR</th>
<th>WHITTIER</th>
<th>DENVER</th>
<th>YEAR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Demographic</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>4601.0</td>
<td>501700.0</td>
<td>1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># children &lt;18</td>
<td>1672.3</td>
<td>136995.0</td>
<td>1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># elderly 65+</td>
<td>567.3</td>
<td>62188.0</td>
<td>1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% births African-American</td>
<td>32.4</td>
<td>11.0</td>
<td>1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% births Latino</td>
<td>60.0</td>
<td>45.8</td>
<td>1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% births non-Latino White</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>38.9</td>
<td>1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teen (15-19) birth rate</td>
<td>201.5</td>
<td>95.1</td>
<td>1997</td>
</tr>
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<td>% of births to unwed mothers</td>
<td>54.3</td>
<td>36.3</td>
<td>1997</td>
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<td>% children living with single parents</td>
<td>40.1</td>
<td>30.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>% population African American</td>
<td>75.9</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% population American Indian</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% population Pacific Islander</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% population Latino</td>
<td>14.9</td>
<td>22.8</td>
<td>1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% population non-Latino White</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>61.6</td>
<td>1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households</td>
<td>1771.0</td>
<td>225025.0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total births</td>
<td>105.0</td>
<td>8651.0</td>
<td>1997</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td># housing units</td>
<td>2212.0</td>
<td>253240.0</td>
<td>1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% households living at current address &lt;1 year</td>
<td>21.1</td>
<td>29.1</td>
<td>1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% housing units built before 1940</td>
<td>68.7</td>
<td>25.7</td>
<td>1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% owner-occupied housing units</td>
<td>51.2</td>
<td>49.2</td>
<td>1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% renters paying more than 30% of income on housing</td>
<td>58.2</td>
<td>38.6</td>
<td>1990</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average home sale price</td>
<td>106414.1</td>
<td>172730.8</td>
<td>1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; housing publicly subsidized</td>
<td>14.6</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>1999</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Neighborhood Summary for Whittier

*from* "Neighborhood Facts 1999: The Status of Denver Neighborhoods," a report by the Piton Foundation

<table>
<thead>
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<th>INDICATOR</th>
<th>WHITTIER</th>
<th>DENVER</th>
<th>YEAR</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Economic</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% persons on public assistance</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% children (&lt; 18) on TANF</td>
<td>20.8</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># licensed child care slots</td>
<td>388.0</td>
<td>23451.0</td>
<td>1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% children &lt; 12 in subsidized child care</td>
<td>17.4</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% DPS children receiving free school lunch</td>
<td>73.7</td>
<td>56.5</td>
<td>1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% children (&lt; 18) in poverty</td>
<td>61.4</td>
<td>27.4</td>
<td>1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% persons in poverty</td>
<td>42.1</td>
<td>17.1</td>
<td>1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% service jobs</td>
<td>79.1</td>
<td>41.1</td>
<td>1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total jobs</td>
<td>689.0</td>
<td>426778.0</td>
<td>1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average annual wage</td>
<td>22927.0</td>
<td>31449.0</td>
<td>1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average household income</td>
<td>31135.0</td>
<td>42426.0</td>
<td>1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Education</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Denver Public School enrollment</td>
<td>1063.0</td>
<td>58118.0</td>
<td>1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% DPS African-American students</td>
<td>61.3</td>
<td>21.3</td>
<td>1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% DPS Latino students</td>
<td>30.2</td>
<td>49.4</td>
<td>1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% DPS non-Latino White students</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>24.5</td>
<td>1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% births to women w/ &lt; 12th grade education</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% students not English proficient</td>
<td>16.0</td>
<td>19.1</td>
<td>1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% students reading in lowest quartile on ITBS (score &lt; 25)</td>
<td>48.8</td>
<td>38.1</td>
<td>1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% students reading in top quartile on ITBS (score 75+)</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% 9-12 graders who graduated</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>15.1</td>
<td>1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drop-outs as %9-12 graders</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>1997</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Appendix A
Neighborhood Summary for Whittier

*from* "Neighborhood Facts 1999: The Status of Denver Neighborhoods," a report by the Piton Foundation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INDICATOR</th>
<th>WHITTIER</th>
<th>DENVER</th>
<th>YEAR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% births to women entering prenatal care in 1st trimester</td>
<td>70.5</td>
<td>75.6</td>
<td>1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% children (&lt;18) on Medicaid</td>
<td>43.2</td>
<td>17.9</td>
<td>1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low birthweight rate</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Safety</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% property crimes</td>
<td>48.6</td>
<td>58.6</td>
<td>1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime rate per 1,000 persons</td>
<td>108.7</td>
<td>82.3</td>
<td>1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary crime rate per 1,000 households</td>
<td>45.2</td>
<td>26.1</td>
<td>1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violent crime rate per 1,000 persons</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmed child abuse &amp; neglect rate</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>1998</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Technical and Source Notes**

1. No data are provided for any indicator with fewer than 3 events except for data provided by the Colorado Department of Human Services (child abuse & neglect rate, public assistance, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and Medicaid), for which no data are provided if fewer than 5 events.

2. All 1990 data are from the U.S. Census.

3. With the exception of the 1990 data, the number of children and elderly are based on a formula using population estimates from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG), and the U.S. Census. Most recent population data are from DRCOG.

4. All birth data are provided by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, which specifically disclaims responsibility for any analyses, interpretations, or conclusions it has not provided. The teen birth rate is computed as the number of births to females ages 15-19 per 1,000 females of the same age in the general population. Low birth weight is calculated as the number of babies born at less than 5.5 pounds per 100 live births. The total number of births for Denver differs from that reported as the county of residence. Births are included only if the home address is physically located in Denver.
Neighborhood Summary for Whittier

from "Neighborhood Facts 1999: The Status of Denver Neighborhoods," a report by the Piton Foundation

Technical and Source Notes (continued)

5. Average home sales price is calculated by the Denver Planning Office from data provided by the Denver Assessor's Office.

6. Publicly subsidized housing is provided by the Denver Housing Authority (DHA), U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and Colorado Housing Finance Authority and includes all DHA, HUD, Section 8 and Low Income Housing Tax Credit assisted units.

7. Average household income (except 1990), total jobs and average annual wage are provided by DRCOG. Total jobs represent jobs located in the neighborhood regardless of whether the jobs are held by residents of the same neighborhood. Average annual wage represents total wages in those jobs divided by the total number of employees.

8. Licensed child care slots, subsidized child care, and confirmed incidents of child abuse and neglect are provided by the Colorado Department of Human Services. Subsidized child care represents the number of children whose child care is partially or wholly publicly subsidized as a percent of all children 0-12 years of age. The child abuse and neglect rate is the number of confirmed child victims of abuse or neglect per 1,000 children (<18).

9. Persons on public assistance, children and adults on TANF and children on Medicaid are provided by the Denver Department of Social Services through 1997. Beginning in 1998, these data are provided by the Colorado Department of Human Services. Public assistance includes cash assistance such as TANF (changed from AFDC in 1997), Old Age Pension, and Aid to Needy Disabled.

10. All public education data are provided by the Denver Public Schools. Both drop-outs and graduates are computed as the number of drop-outs or graduates divided into the total number of students grades 9-12 residing in the same neighborhood. Drop-out and graduation rates reported by the school district are not calculated in the same way and should not be used for comparison. Students taking the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) are compared to tested students nationally. Scores above or below the national mean of 50 reflect the percentage of students who tested better or worse than the national average. The percent of students receiving free school lunches is calculated by dividing the number of students grades K-12 receiving free lunches in total student enrollment grades 1-12 (note: because some kindergartners receive free lunches but are not included in the enrollment data for grades 1-12, the percent of students receiving free school lunches may exceed 100% in some neighborhoods). To qualify for the federal Free School Lunch Program, family income cannot exceed 130% of federal poverty guidelines.

11. Crime data are provided by the Denver Department of Safety. Violent crimes include all homicides, aggravated assaults, rapes and robberies (thefts against a person by force or threat of force).
IV. Reviewing the Facts: Demographics, Deaths, Births, and Health

EC and Denver: Demographic Differences
In 1998, the total population of the EC was 61,598 or 12 percent of the population of the City and County of Denver; the child population of the EC was 10 percent of the City's total. However, children make up over half (55.5%) of the EC's population compared to only 27 percent of Denver's total population. (Figure 1)

According to The Piton Foundation, the ethnic makeup of the EC neighborhoods is becoming increasingly Latino. Changes in demographics such as these have an impact on the way human services are delivered.

Individual EC neighborhoods differed from each other and from Denver on a variety of well-being indicators, from economic to educational to safety. Although Denver's economic base has boosted family income over the last decade, the eleven EC neighborhoods - Auraria/Lincoln Park, Clayton, Cole, Five Points, Globeville, Highlands, Sun Valley, Skyland, Valley, Westwood, and Whittier - remain among Denver's poorest neighborhoods" (Figures 2, 3, 4)

In the EC, from 66 to 95 percent of all DPS students participated in the free lunch program - an important indicator of poverty - as

Appendix B
Healthy Communities, Healthy Denver
A Report by the Denver Health Benchmarking Project
Prepared by the Center for Human Investment Policy, Graduate School of Public Affairs/University of Colorado at Denver, January 2000

Compared to the citywide 56 percent,

- Average household income in the EC ($23,394) is much lower than the average household income in Denver. The average household income for the EC neighborhoods ranged from $12,879 (Sun Valley) to $31,335 (Whittier), as compared to $42,426 for Denver.

- Although only one in eight (12.5%) of the City's residents lived in the EC, one in three (33.3%) of Denver's children and adults on TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) were EC residents.

- While jobs expanded in Denver from 1990 to 1996 (there was an 8.4% positive change in total jobs), in the EC total jobs dropped (-6.1% change in total jobs).

---

Appendix B
Healthy Communities, Healthy Denver
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EC and Denver: Death Comes Differently
While the three leading causes of death - heart disease, cancer, and stroke - (table 1) were the same in the EC, the rest of Denver, and in Colorado from 1993 to 1997, there were notable differences between the EC, Denver, and Colorado as to the average age of death (table 1), both for the leading cause or any cause.

Table 1: Leading Causes of Death: Denver EC, Remaining Denver, Colorado 1993-1997

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Enterprise Community</th>
<th>Denver Remaining</th>
<th>Colorado</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>90</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart Disease</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Untended Injuries (non-motor vehicle)</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lung Disease</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant Mortality</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firearms</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicle</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suicide</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liver Disease</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Mortality</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: Source: Vital Statistics Division

Appendix B
Healthy Communities, Healthy Denver
A Report by the Denver Health Benchmarking Project
Prepared by the Center for Human Investment Policy, Graduate School of Public Affairs/University of Colorado at Denver. January 2000

EC residents had a greater percentage of deaths occurring due to homicide, infant mortality, liver disease, child mortality, diabetes, motor vehicle accidents, and firearms than was true in the rest of Denver.

Another way to display this information is in Figure 5. While the EC made up only ten percent of Denver's population, the amount of deaths in the EC from homicides was more than twenty percent of all homicides that occurred in Denver from 1993 to 1997.

Comparison of EC & Denver: Population & Homicides
1993-1997

![Figure 5: EC & Denver Population vs. Homicides](image-url)
Healthy Communities, Healthy Denver
A Report by the Denver Health Benchmarking Project
Prepared by the Center for Human Investment Policy, Graduate School of Public Affairs/University of Colorado at Denver. January 2000

Conversely, the EC neighborhoods had a lower percentage of their deaths due to heart disease, stroke, suicide and HIV than was true for the rest of Denver. Homicides and deaths from HIV represent a greater percentage of all deaths in the rest of Denver from 1993 to 1997 than was true for the state of Colorado (Table 2).

Table 2: Health Profile - Denver Enterprise Community Five-Year Averages 1993-1997

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Range</th>
<th>Enterprise Community</th>
<th>Denver Remaining</th>
<th>Colorado **</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td># of events</td>
<td>%</td>
<td># of events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL DEATHS *</td>
<td>all</td>
<td>483</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>15 - 15</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant Mortality</td>
<td>&lt;1</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liver Disease</td>
<td>55 - 6</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Mortality</td>
<td>1 - 14</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>55 - 7</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicle</td>
<td>15 - 21</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firearm</td>
<td>15 - 7</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cardiovascular (Heart) Disease</td>
<td>55 - 70</td>
<td>20.9</td>
<td>1075</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cerebrovascular Disease - Stroke</td>
<td>55 - 70</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>256</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suicide</td>
<td>15 - 70</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV</td>
<td>25 - 54</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>160</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Table 2 Notes: CHIEF, Vital Statistics Division
* The figures for Death as percentage of total are based on the number of deaths in the geographic area combined for
significant causes, comparing Denver to the state in those age groups, with the state of Colorado and all of Colorado excluding Denver.
** These figures are actual 1993-1997 Denver averages.
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Table 3a and 3b: Average Age of Death, EC and Denver, All Causes: 1993 - 1997

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Average Age of Death</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EC Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Deaths</td>
<td>2413</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Causes*</td>
<td>64.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3b Leading Causes of Death

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Average Age of Death</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heart Disease</td>
<td>72.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer</td>
<td>69.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stroke</td>
<td>75.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EC residents generally died at younger ages (Table 3a). The disparity between the EC neighborhoods and remaining Denver becomes even more apparent looking at the average age of death overall and for the three leading causes of death (Table 3b). When all deaths were considered (including infant deaths which occur disproportionately in the EC neighborhoods), EC residents did not live as long (on average) as residents in other Denver neighborhoods. While the three leading causes of death occurred predominately in older persons, EC residents who died of heart attack, cancer or strokes were younger on average than the Denver residents who died of these causes (Figure 6). While some of these differences amounted to only four or five years, those early deaths translate into missing a wedding anniversary, crying at a grandchild's wedding, or tickling a great-grandchild.

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EC and Denver: Different Circumstances of Birth

Residents of the EC had a greater percentage of their births associated with health or social issues than did residents of the remaining Denver neighborhoods. In each of these indicators, the remaining Denver neighborhoods had a higher percentage of births associated with these concerns than did Colorado as a whole. These issues included births to teens, births to unmarried women, and babies born at 5½ pounds or less (low birthweight). For these data there were sufficient events to compare the individual EC neighborhoods.

During 1993-1997, about one out of every four births in the EC (an average of 23%) was to a teenage girl less than 19 years old, contrasted with one in seven (14%) in the rest of Denver, and one in eight births in Colorado (Table 4 and Figure 7)

| Births to Teens as Percent of All Births:  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>304</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>402</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90</td>
<td>323</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>68</td>
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<td>50</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Table 4. Health Profile - Denver Enterprise Community Five Year Averages 1993-1997

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Enterprise Community</th>
<th>Denver Region</th>
<th>Colorado **</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td># of events</td>
<td># of events</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL BIRTHS</td>
<td>as was</td>
<td>3757</td>
<td>2209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teen Birth</td>
<td># under 15</td>
<td>318</td>
<td>229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Births to Unmarried Women</td>
<td>under 15</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Birth Weight (under 5 lbs)</td>
<td>under 15</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Every other birth (50.6%) in the EC from 1993-1997 was to an unmarried mother, as contrasted with one in three births (34.3%) in the remaining Denver neighborhoods, and one in four (24.9%) in Colrado. (Table 4 and Figure 4)

Children of single mothers are 3 times as likely to be poor than children living in 2-parent families.

Figure 1. Source: Data from CHIP, Vital Statistics Bureau, and Denver Health.

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Low birth weight occurred disproportionately in the EC as compared to the rest of Denver, Colorado, and national health goals (Figure 10). Eleven percent (11.6%) of babies born in the EC from 1993-1997 weighed less than 5.5 pounds, while in the remaining Denver neighborhoods, 9.9 percent were born of low birth weight. Since Colorado's low birthweight rate is one of the highest in the country, the rate in the EC is particularly troublesome.

While this report was not able to analyze data concerning racial and ethnic disparities in health for the EC neighborhoods, it is important to realize that such disparities exist. Low birthweight rates are a perfect example. In 1998 in Denver county 15.3 percent of births to African American women were low weight (under 2500 grams) and 8.2 percent of births to white/Hispanic women were...
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Low birth weight. These disparities offer unique opportunities for health planning at neighborhood levels.

The EC birthweight data only tells part of the picture. Again, each EC neighborhood looked slightly different, and there are undoubtedly differences by race and ethnicity. (Figure 11)

Low Birth Weight Rates: EC and Denver: 1997

![Graph showing low birth weight rates]

Low Birth Weight Trends
Selected EC Neighborhood & Denver 1988-1997

![Graph showing low birth weight trends]

The low birth weight trends in the individual EC neighborhoods also often looked different from Denver, as shown in Figure 12.

These data, by themselves, explain the discrepancies between the EC neighborhoods and remaining Denver. These life and death events are only a part of the conversation about the health status of the EC. The key informant interviews and surveys amplified the statistics and added depth to the discussion.

Figure 11 Source: CDPP, Vital Statistics Division, people: Center for Human Investment Policy, UCD/CSPIA

Figure 12 Source: CDPP, Vital Statistics Division, people: Center for Human Investment Policy, UCD/CSPIA

Appendix B
Goals: Public Safety
Police Department

Mission Statement: The mission of the Denver Police Department is to apply its knowledge, skills, and resources to foster an environment where all people live safely and without fear.

The following programs implemented by the DPD to build positive relationships with the community are available to the citizens of the Cole/Whittier neighborhood:

Partnerships
- Triad
- Citizens Academy
- Citizens Alumni Group
- Volunteers in Policing
- Cadet Program
- Christmas Crusade for Children
- Traffic Safety Program
- Weed and Seed Partnership Teams
- Safe Havens
- Drug Elimination
- Victim’s Assistance Unit
- Domestic Violence Unit

Prevention
- Community Resource Officers
- Officers in High Schools
- Neighborhood Watch
- Crime Stoppers
- Weapons Watch
- Youth Boxing Program
- Front Rangers Cycle Club
- Photo Radar
- Speed Monitoring Trailers
- Denver Junior Police Band
- Youth Academy
- P.A.L.

Problem Solving
- Neighborhood Police Officers
- Landlord/Tenant Training
- Victim Assistant Unit
- Horticultural Horizons
- Day Camp
- Drug Court
- “The Blue and You”
- Hot Spots
- Impact Teams

For more specific information on services provided by the DPD, contact your Police District Two Community Resources Officers at 303-331-4070.
Goals: Public Safety
Fire Department

Mission Statement: Our goal is to limit loss of life, injury, and property damage by providing the best public education on fire safety educational services, fire protection, and other fire department services in the most cost effective manner.

The following public education programs designed to meet the fire department goal are available to the Whittier neighborhood community:

School-Based Programs
- Puppets and Clown Shows (geared toward pre-school through grade-school children)
- Learn Not to Burn (geared toward pre-school through 2nd-grade children)
- Fire Safety Trailer (all ages)

Businesses
- Extinguisher Classes
- Fire Warden
- Fire Drills
- Care Businesses

General Fire Safety
- Seniors and People with Disabilities
- Neighborhood/Denver Housing Authority/Home Owners Assoc.
- Parent and Adult
- Juvenile Firesetters
- Career Days
- Safety Booths
- Alternative Learning Centers

Miscellaneous Programs
- Special Events
- Smoke Detector Program

Please contact Lt. Levi Ortiz, District Representative for Whittier Statistical Neighborhood, at 303-286-4930 for further information.
Goals: Public Safety
Sheriff Department

The Denver Sheriff Department is committed to Restorative Justice and Community Service. The listed projects are highlights of efforts where offenders give back to the community under the supervision and guidance by the Denver Sheriff Department.

**Juvenile Offender and Graffiti Removal Program**
- Cleanup of city streets and property
- Community projects—urban gardens
- Graffiti removal and cleanup

**Mountain Parks Program (Community Service)**
- Cleaning and maintenance of Denver City & Mountain Parks
- State Highways Cleanup
- Food Bank of the Rockies
- Weed and Seed Program
- Snow removal and lawn care for handicapped and elderly
- State Truancy Program

**Weekend Work Program**
- Denver Drug and County Court Community Service
  - Cherry Creek Cleanup
  - Plate River Cleanup
- Cleanup of public buildings throughout Denver
- Cleanup of parks and city buildings

**Victim Information System**
- When an inmate is transferred or released, the VINE® system schedules a list of registered victims and automatically places calls to the telephone numbers that are registered for that particular inmate.

**Denver Sheriff Employee Volunteer Programs**
- Denver Sheriff Department Mounted Unit
- Christmas Crusade
- Community Event Day
- Speaker's Forum
- Safe Kids Coalition
- Community Halloween Haunted House and Breakfast with Santa Cop

Please contact Mr. Fred Oliva, Director of Corrections/Undersheriff, at 720-913-3873 for further information.