

BURTON

A rich history and a bright future.

Burton Street Neighborhood Newsletter

April 2020

Burton Street Neighborhood Plan Overview

The Burton Street Neighborhood Plan was created in 2018 by the Burton Street Community Association (BSCA), in partnership with NCDOT and the City of Asheville. This Plan addressed potential I-26 construction impacts and other community concerns. The goal of the plan is to enhance the quality of life and sense of community within the Burton Street community. The City of Asheville would adopt the plan, and NCDOT would assist with implementing it.

This plan was developed through open houses, a small group meeting, and a community meeting.

In January 2018, the first open house asked for resident feedback on priorities and concerns. Forty-one residents attended this open house. Thirty-one comments were received during the comment period. On the same day, the small group meeting asked local businesses and organizations about I-26 and other community concerns.

The second open house in March 2018 discussed comments from the previous meeting in January 2018. Residents also looked over draft neighborhood visions, themes, and goals. Twenty-eight residents attended this open house. Three comments were received during the comment period.

The feedback at these meetings provided the framework for drafting the Burton Street Neighborhood Plan.

In April 2018, a community meeting showcased the draft of the Plan. Thirty-four residents attended this meeting. Sixteen comments were received during the comment period. An additional 104 comments were submitted outside of the official collection process. These identified similar priorities as those received during the official process.



Neighborhood Plan Summary

The Neighborhood Plan includes:

- a project background
- the plan development process overview
- a neighborhood overview (history, existing conditions, resources, and demographics)
- two themes

Theme 1 is “creating a livable built environment.” This theme includes 6 goals and 15 strategies to address infrastructure needs. Theme 2 is “creating a healthy community.” This theme includes 6 goals and 12 strategies to address resource improvements, affordable housing, and community safety. Each goal details its compatibility with the Living Asheville Comprehensive Plan.

The Plan includes a section on NCDOT mitigation and plan implementation. This outlines community priorities and the agency responsible for implementing each strategy.

Theme 1: A Livable Built Environment

Goal 1.1

Encourage Responsible Growth and Development

- Strategy 1: Support designs to preserve and enhance neighborhood character
- Strategy 2: Engage residents and stakeholders in plans for future neighborhood development

Goal 1.2

Make Streets More Walkable and Comfortable

- Strategy 1: Improve existing sidewalks to meet ADA standards
- Strategy 2: Enforce no-parking regulations where appropriate
- Strategy 3: Expand and improve stormwater infrastructure
- Strategy 4: Maintain trees and vegetation along public rights-of-way

Goal 1.3

Increase Neighborhood Connectivity

- Strategy 1: Improve pedestrian connections through sidewalk installation on Downing Street
- Strategy 2: Improve sidewalk connections between commercial corridors; include a pedestrian path from Buffalo Street to Patton Avenue to connect to future greenways

Goal 1.4

Improve Access to Transit

- Strategy 1: Evaluate opportunities for new transit stops
- Strategy 2: Install a sidewalk along Patton Avenue to connect pedestrian paths and transit stops

Goal 1.5

Celebrate Burton Street’s Unique Identity

- Strategy 1: Take part in community dialogue; identify strategies to honor African American history and contributions in Burton Street Neighborhood
- Strategy 2: Install bus shelters and other improvements at transit stops

Goal 1.6

Preserve and Promote Burton Street’s History and Culture

- Strategy 1: Install community gateway signs at neighborhood entrances
- Strategy 2: Install historic markers throughout neighborhood
- Strategy 3: Install history mural on I-26 connector sound wall, if built

<p>6:00-7:00pm 3rd Monday of the month Burton Street Recreation Center 134 Burton Street Asheville, NC 28806</p> <p>All Burton Neighborhood residents are invited to attend!</p>	<h1>Join us at our Monthly Meeting!</h1>	<p>Each month a status update for the Plan implementation will be given at the meeting. Residents will have the opportunity to learn more about what is taking place. They can also ask questions and provide feedback on how some of the strategies are implemented.</p>
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Theme 2: A Healthy Environment

Goal 2.1

- Increase Neighborhood Housing Stability**
- Strategy 1: Establish and implement programs to reinvest in current residential properties
 - Strategy 2: Stabilize tax rates by utilizing affordability by design principles

Goal 2.2

- Enhance and Preserve Community Resources**
- Strategy 1: Improve community center with more parking, a computer lab, Wi-Fi, and community meeting spaces; improve the basketball courts and playground
 - Strategy 2: Expand community center programming with year-round programs for youth, and educational and vocational training for youth and adults
 - Strategy 3: Expand community center programming to include produce processing and preservation, nutrition education, and community farmers market/stand to enhance community garden program

Goal 2.3

- Improve Access to Parks and Greenspace**
- Strategy 1: Construct new park and gathering space at Smith Mill Creek; include access point to future greenway
 - Strategy 2: Conduct feasibility study for Smith Mill Creek greenway through Burton Street neighborhood

Goal 2.4

- Minimize Neighborhood Crime**
- Strategy 1: Establish neighborhood watch program
 - Strategy 2: Increase police presence and patrolling in neighborhood

Goal 2.5

- Increase Pedestrian Safety**
- Strategy 1: Install traffic calming measures on Burton Street and Florida Avenue; improve speed bumps and enforce consistent speed limits throughout the neighborhood.

Goal 2.6

- Enhance Safety of Public Realm**
- Strategy 1: Assess streetlight needs at intersections, dead-end streets, and cul-de-sacs
 - Strategy 2: Improve intersection at Florida Avenue and Patton Avenue with pedestrian markings and left turn signals

Plan Implementation Process Overview

Two different agencies, the City of Asheville and NCDOT, developed the Plan. Thus, coordination was necessary to determine which agency would fund and implement each strategy.

Each month, a working group meets to set plan goals and strategies into motion. This group consists of BSCA leaders, City of Asheville staff, and NCDOT staff.

Plan Implementation Status

Below are notes on the implementation progress to date:

Strategy Status	Implementation Details
1.2.2. - In Progress	Enforce no-parking regulations where appropriate. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - City of Asheville installed “No Parking” signs along approx. 400’ of Burton Street from Haywood Avenue. - Asheville Police will routinely check within the neighborhood to enforce the new “No Parking” signs. - The City of Asheville will install more signs as needed.
1.2.4. - In Progress	Maintain trees and vegetated areas along public rights-of-way. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - City of Asheville conducted a walkthrough of Burton Street and Buffalo Street to identify and mark trees in need of maintenance.
1.3.2. - In Progress	Improve sidewalk connections between commercial corridors. Include a pedestrian path from Buffalo Street to Patton Avenue to connect to future greenways. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NCDOT is developing design concepts for the proposed path.
1.4.2. - In Progress	Install a sidewalk along Patton Avenue to connect pedestrian paths and transit stops. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NCDOT has developed a design for a Multi-Use Path (MUP) along the south side of Patton Avenue.
2.2.1. - Completed	Improve community center with more parking, a computer lab, Wi-Fi, and community meeting spaces. Improve the basketball courts and playground. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - City of Asheville Capital Projects Dept. will determine infrastructure needs of community center. - City of Asheville is assessing the possibility of expanding the parking lot. - Computer Lab, Center Wi-Fi: The City of Asheville added Public WiFi in 2017. - Short-term basketball court and playground improvements are planned for Spring 2020. Major rebuild planned for Fiscal Year 2022.
2.2.2. - In Progress	Expand community center programming to include year-round programs for youth and educational and vocational training for youth and adults. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - City of Asheville is evaluating potential program options. - Existing youth development and job training program will be added to Burton Street Community Center programming.

Strategy Status	Implementation Details
2.4.1. - Completed	Establish a neighborhood watch program. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - City of Asheville mapped the neighborhood. - BSCA designated block captains. - The city will install new Neighborhood Watch signs in the neighborhood.
2.4.2. - In Progress	Increase police presence and patrolling throughout neighborhood. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - City of Asheville assigned a new Community Resource Officer to Burton Street.
2.5.1. - In Progress	Install traffic calming measures on Burton Street and Florida Avenue. Improve speed bumps and enforce consistent speed limits throughout the neighborhood. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - City of Asheville will remove and replace existing speed humps along Burton Street and Florida Avenue. They will add more where necessary in Spring 2020.

Burton Street Neighborhood Watch Program

In an effort to reduce neighborhood crime, the Burton Street Plan recommends that a Burton Street Neighborhood Watch program be established. During the February 3, 2020 working group meeting for the Burton Street Plan implementation, Burton Street residents expressed concerns about crime in the neighborhood. In response to these concerns, the BSCA led a discussion with residents at the working group meeting about their interest in starting and participating in a neighborhood watch program.

On February 26, the BSCA held the initial start-up meeting and ten residents attended. Residents mapped street areas of concern, and residents on each street volunteered to be Block Captains. Each Block Captain has two team members. The Block Captains will relay information to block members, make special effort to involve the elderly, and serve as liaisons between the neighborhood and City of Asheville police. The following streets have designated Block Captains: Buffalo Street, Burton Street, Downing Street, Fayetteville Street, Mardell Circle and Texas Street.

The next step includes a second meeting to introduce Block Captains and get residents more involved. This meeting is on hold due to COVID-19 and the stay-at-home order. Interested in becoming a Captain for your block? Please submit your request to the BSCA at bscaleadership@gmail.com.

BSCA Leadership

President	Vivian Conley
Vice President	Thomas Davidson
Treasurer	Zanie Davidson
Secretary	Margaret Fuller

Questions or concerns? Contact us at:
bscaleadership@gmail.com