THE HOPE VILLAGE INITIATIVE INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT





Working Together to Make the HOPE Village Initiative Sustainable

What is the Integrated Assessment?

Starting in 2011, the Graham Sustainability Institute at the University of Michigan (U-M) partnered with Focus: HOPE on an Integrated Assessment that brings together U-M researchers, Focus: HOPE staff, community stakeholders , and others to support efforts to advance the HOPE Village Initiative.

This collaboration recognizes that the success of Focus: HOPE and the HOPE Village Initiative is tied to sustainability factors including the physical environment, economic development, community health, and education.

For the assessment, the Graham Institute and Focus: HOPE selected six unique projects led by U-M faculty. These projects were conducted in collaboration with Focus: HOPE and community members. Residents have offered valuable information to the projects, and in some cases, were part of the research teams. The outcomes of the projects include studies, plans, and interventions that help Focus: HOPE achieve the objectives of the HOPE Village Initiative.





Research teams worked closely with Focus: HOPE and area residents, including students.

What is the HOPE Village Initiative?



The HOPE Village Initiative focuses on the 100 blocks immediately surrounding the Focus: HOPE campus, which includes portions of Detroit and Highland Park.

Focus: HOPE launched the HOPE Village Initiative in 2009. Led by a broad partnership of residents, community leaders, businesses, and others, the HOPE Village Initiative is a long-term plan to revitalize the community surrounding Focus: HOPE's campus by offering opportunities and support with a focus on education.

The Initiative aims to ensure that, by the year 2031, 100% of neighborhood residents will be educationally well-prepared, economically self-sufficient, and living in a safe, supportive environment.

This ambitious goal includes:

- Supporting academic achievement in neighborhood schools, and creating a strong educational pipeline that begins at birth and allows children to succeed educationally through college.
- Creating a beautiful, safe, stable, and economically viable community.
- Generating a sense of pride in the community where community leaders and everyday citizens are empowered to take an active role in the revival of their neighborhood.

What is the Graham Sustainability Institute?

The Graham Sustainability Institute is a partnership of schools, colleges, and units across the University of Michigan that connects researchers, policy-makers, and communities to address challenging sustainability problems at home in Michigan and across the globe.





The Institute works with diverse stakeholders and brings together information from different perspectives to identify real-world sustainability solutions that protect the environment and enhance quality of life for present and future generations.

What is Focus: HOPE?

Focus: HOPE is a nationally recognized civil and human rights organization founded in 1968 to help overcome racism, poverty and injustice.

Focus: HOPE's achievements over the past 45 years are remarkable. These include opening career opportunities to nearly 12,000 men and women who have completed its job and education programs and providing food to hundreds of thousands of mothers, children, and senior citizens. Focus: HOPE works with the residential and business communities to revitalize the neighborhood surrounding its campus, and provides opportunities to get involved—and make a difference.



What is my role?

Input from community members has been important throughout the Integrated Assessment. Now it's your turn – we're interested in your ideas and hope you will share what you know with us. Take a look at the posters to learn more about the projects, then share your ideas using the post-it-notes.



THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMUNITY-BASED COALITION TO PROMOTE CAREER AND COLLEGE PREPARATION





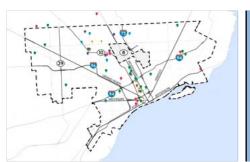
John Burkhardt Ph.D. | Betty Overton-Adkins Ph.D. | Esmeralda Hernandez | Silvena Chan | Sarah Erwin | Jacqueline Duarte

Introduction

HOPE Village is a community that is passionate about education as the key to success. The community also has assets in place that can help to build a vibrant college going culture. Many times, however, these resources are not accessible and there are no opportunities to talk about what can be done as a community to help raise the number of residents attaining post-secondary degrees. This project was an attempt to begin this conversation and give communities the agency to name the issue, and take steps toward making sustainable change.

Educational Opportunities Asset Map

One of the HOPE Village Initiative's values is empowerment – the Initiative seeks to inspire people and communities to acquire the knowledge, tools, and resources they need to achieve their full individual and collective academic potential. The Educational Opportunities Asset Map booklet we developed aims to empower HOPE Village residents by providing them with information about local and accessible educational services.



	Library Information
	minavingman
Detroit Public	Library
1766 Oakman	Boulevard Detroit, MI 48238(313) 305-6000
12929 McNich	hols Rd W, Detroit, M(313) 578-7585
5201 Woodwa	ard Ave, Detroit, MI(313) 481-1300
7117 W 7 Mile	e Rd, Detroit, MI(313) 578-7587
1221 E 7 Mile	Rd, Detroit, MI(313) 481-1780

LEFT: Image is a sample of the map which pinpoints each educational resource listed in the booklet. RIGHT: Image is an example of some of the resources that will be located in the booklet.

The Educational Opportunities Asset Map lists and maps out educational resources that are available to the residents of the HOPE Village Community. These resources are located all throughout Detroit.

The categories of educational opportunities include adult services, youth services, parks, libraries, and schools. The goal of putting these community resources together in one convenient booklet is to help HOPE Village residents easily identify and contact any services that may be of use to them. The booklet will provide information such as address, phone number, email, and contact person for each resource.

Community Dialogues

Using Participatory Action Research (PAR), researchers from The National Forum on Higher Education for the Public Good at the University of Michigan and HOPE Village Initiative community members formed a research team that planned and hosted four community dialogues. These discussions focused on barriers to access to higher education, the resources that already exist to overcome these barriers, and the resources that are still needed to improve the college going culture in this community.

We are currently working on the preliminary analysis of the dialogues, which involves identifying the major themes of the discussions. Our early results reveal that finances and economic security are among the most noted barriers for accessing higher education. Access to tutoring resources, after school programs, and other educational assets to assist students academically are cited as still needed. Community members at the dialogues also expressed needing to engage more of the community in building the college culture. The PAR Team will disseminate findings to the community as soon as they are finalized.









The research team consisting of university and community researchers at their training in April

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Dell Stubblefield, David Troupe, Brandon Love, Arlyssa Heard, and Kaiya Simon for all of their work and dedication to this project.

Pre-Service Training



We developed a pre-service training program for students or others who want to serve the HOPE Village Community. The training focuses on three main parts: information about the HOPE Village community, Asset-Based Community Development, and a set of service principles that all students should keep in mind when working in communities. The training will also include activities and video clips to accompany the material presented.

Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD)

ABCD is a form of engaging the community in ways that support the assets that they already have in place instead of focusing on the problems of a community.

Principles of Service

Respect
Integrity
Openness
Building Relationships
Awareness
Self Awareness
Awareness of Others
Community Empowerment

MAPPING COMMUNITY ECONOMIES

Building Capabilities in HOPE Village

Bruce Pietrykowski, Ph.D., University of Michigan-Dearborn | Roland Zullo, Ph.D., University of Michigan-Ann Arbor





Mapping the Neighborhood Economy: Beneath the Tip of the Iceberg



The Economy as an Iceberg Source: Adapted from Cameron, 2007

Project Design



Overview

Where is the local economy?

Is it only located in stores and workplaces?

That's only the tip of the iceberg.

What about inside homes, at church, in schools, community centers, food pantries, community gardens, and in block clubs?

The goal of this project is to discover the full range of economic activities that take place in the HOPE Village Initiative neighborhood.

So, we conducted a set of approximately 30 indepth interviews and surveys in order to uncover the hidden skills in the local economy. These are skills that may not be rewarded in the marketplace but may be of immense value to the community.

What's your role in this 'other' economy?

Project Design

The project team collected three types of data:

- (1) an inventory of 147 resident skills;
- (2) in-depth interviews focusing on residents' role in the economy; and
- (3) identification of key community assets.

The goal of the project is to make the information available to community members and Focus: HOPE staff in order to identify clusters of skills that are not currently located in the tip of the iceberg.

For example, in the results obtained so far (look to the charts at the right), we can begin to identify clusters of resident skills. These activities could be put to productive use in the local economy through the development of producer cooperatives, bartering systems, volunteer networks or non-profit community development initiatives.

Community members might then form interest groups in order to pool their shared skills, explore ways of providing services to the neighborhood, and develop funding initiatives to make it happen.

Community Research Team: Building Capabilities in the HVI Neighborhood

In this project, eight project community residents were hired and trained to conduct qualitative research. They successfully completed eight hours of training in research ethics and social science research methods. This is the same type of training that University of Michigan faculty and students undergo . So, the HOPE Village Initiative neighborhood now has eight residents trained to conduct survey and interview research. This is one of the ways that this project involves community-based participatory research .



Community Research Team Front row (I to r): Kisha Miles, Audrey Slaughter, Sonia Brown, Lisa Robinson, Jennifer Haynes

Back row (I to r): Tordario Wright, Aaron Hassel, Patrice Green, Bruce Pietrykowski, UM-Dearborn

Community-Based Participatory Research

Why Have Community Participation?

To include the knowledge and expertise of community members in the research process

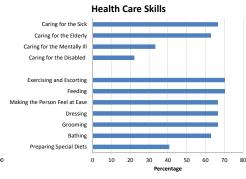
To voice local questions and concerns

To better represent the interests of participants

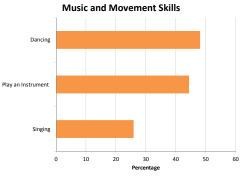
To promote research that benefits the community

Skills Inventory: Selected Preliminary Survey Results









STREET-LEVEL NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING

Planning for the Future of the HOPE Village Initiative, One Block at a Time

Eric Dueweke, Margaret Dewar, Eric Huntley, Steve Luongo (2012), Peter McGrath (2012)







Street-Level Planning Strategies

Active streets are the building blocks of successful neighborhoods. They connect residents and visitors to businesses while helping to deter crime and ensure pedestrian safety. This project uses two primary strategies as part of a longterm vision of a neighborhood filled with safe, vibrant streets.

First, by working with Focus: HOPE staff to develop a framework for neighborhood improvement, the project team hopes to attract both human and financial investment to the neighborhood. Second, by creating guidelines for "streetscape" improvements, we aim to positively shape the streets of the HOPE Village Initiative area, making them safer and more usable for residents.



Detail of a diagram illustrating road type (Blue - major road; Yellow - commercial; Green - residential)

Streetscape Improvements

A "streetscape" refers to a street and its surroundings: sidewalks, plantings, bike lanes, car travel lanes, parking spaces and building fronts. By approaching the design of a street by looking not only at its vehicle travel lanes but also at their context, we can plan for the safe and smooth movement of all users of the street.

As part of this project's efforts to plan for increased activity and improved safety in the HOPE Village Initiative area, the project team is working with Focus: HOPE staff and volunteers to develop strategies for future streetscape improvements. Through the careful design of streetscapes, we can create a network of streets that moves people seamlessly and safely throughout the neighborhood whether they walk, drive, or ride a bike.











Current streetscape conditions

Neighborhood Improvement Sites

To help create lasting vitality in the Hope Village Initiative neighborhood, the project team, with direction from Focus: HOPE staff is identifying specific locations that show potential for visible improvement.

These improvements could take many forms: public art or a small "park" on a previously vacant lot: refurbishing an empty apartment building; or providing information on the resources available to a resident trying to retain their home.

By identifying locations for neighborhood improvement, Focus: HOPE can attract further investment. These physical changes could lead to increased activity and resource availability in the HOPE Village Initiative area.

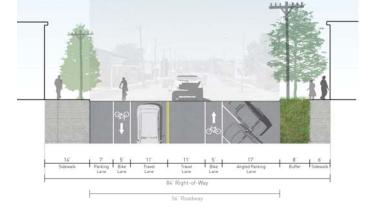


Map of potential locations for improvement



Map of potential multi-family housing improvements





Linwood Street with bike lanes

THE DETROIT INNER CIRCLE GREENWAY

Connecting – and Strengthening – Communities Alicia Alvarez and Priya Bakaran, University of Michigan Law School







The Detroit Inner Circle Greenway

When complete, the Detroit Inner Circle Greenway will be a continuous 26-mile pathway for walking and biking that connects the cities of Detroit, Highland Park, and Hamtramck to recreation, historic, cultural, and downtown destinations and the Detroit River. The project builds upon existing greenways, such as the Dequindre Cut and RiverWalk, extending their reach into more neighborhoods. By the end of 2014 about half of the entire Inner Circle Greenway will be built.

Closing the Gap & Bringing the Greenway to HOPE Village

One of the longest stretches of the Inner Circle Greenway, and the one that creates this opportunity, is the 8.3-mile abandoned Conrail railroad property that extends through the HOPE Village Initiative area and the surrounding neighborhoods (shown on the map in bright pink). A critical step in converting this railroad to a Greenway is gaining control of the property – and now we're one step closer to making it happen!

Faculty and students at the University of Michigan Law School helped put the HOPE Village Initiative area at the forefront of the plans developing for the Greenway. As a result, the Michigan Trails & Greenway Alliance worked with the City of Detroit to submit applications for State and Federal grant money to buy this missing segment. If approved, they will bring money into Detroit that would otherwise go to other communities and help fill the largest gap in the Greenway. This would bring the benefits of the Greenway to residents in the neighborhoods in the HOPE Village Initiative and would bring the entire Inner Circle vision closer to reality.

What's Next?

Completing the project will take some time, but the rewards will be worth it. There are missing bridges and other land issues along the railroad property that will need to be resolved before the rail bed is converted to trail. In the meantime, the addition of bike lanes along Oakman Boulevard could form part of the greenway loop. These lanes would have the additional benefit of making everyone on the road safer by reducing traffic speeds.

The Inner Circle Greenway partners plan to work collaboratively with residents along the rail corridor to make sure that the Greenway improves the quality of life in the neighborhood. For instance, Focus: HOPE may add programs to train residents in trail maintenance and construction. Areas for new retail opportunities may be available where the Greenway crosses existing roads like Linwood and Rosa Parks. Safety and security would be factored into the design. How would you like to use the Greenway?

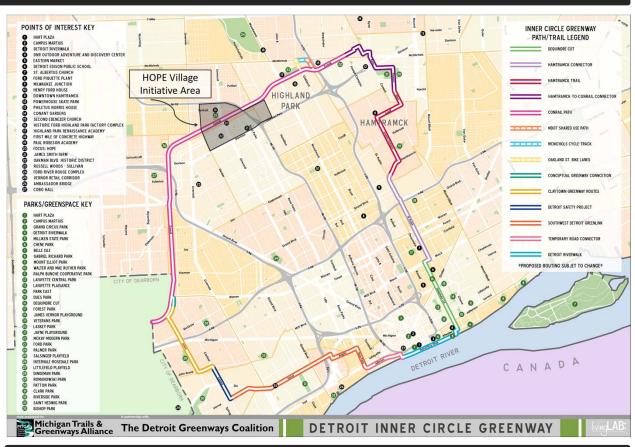




Two views of the railroad property near Focus: HOPE (Images from MTGA)



A view of the Dequindre Cut on the east side of Detroit offers an idea of what the trail could look like. (Image from Rex Roof Photostream)



What are Greenways? How Do They Benefit My Community?

Greenways are linear open spaces, including habitat and trails, that link neighborhoods, schools, commercial areas, parks, and cultural and historic sites. Greenways, trails, and bike lanes have many benefits:

- Transportation Greenways are a healthy, fun, and green alternative for getting to work, school, or a park.
- Safety Trails allow people to walk or bike safely away from street traffic. Painted bike lanes make streets look narrower, which reduces traffic speeds and increases safety.
- Jobs & Economy Trails provide a way for residents to get to work directly and to connect to public transportation. Trail-related businesses can spring up in communities with trails. New businesses often look to locate in cities where their employees can bike and walk, and beautiful greenways help attract tourism that can improve the overall economy. Trails may also improve nearby property
- **Health** Trails and greenways provide safe, inexpensive opportunities for regular exercise.
- **Recreation** Greenways are a nice, clean, and safe place to play, ride a bike, walk, or run.
- **Environment** With trees, plants, flowers, and other natural features, greenways are just as important to wildlife as they are to people. Trails and greenways also help improve air and water quality.

PLAY+GROUNDS AT THE HOPE VILLAGE: RECLAIMING OPEN SPACE

(1) Open Space Visioning Plan (2) Courses on Integrated Design-Research (3) Design-Build Initiatives J. Maigret, M. Arquero, and C.Borum - Taubman College | R.Grese - SNRE | L. Meadows and A. Cotel - College of Engineering







Open Space Visioning Plan

OPEN SPACE INVENTORY & REPORT

The team, led by Profs. Maigret and Arguero, created an Open Public Space Visioning Plan. This ongoing effort took a deep look at vacant property in the area, visioning how those properties could be used in the future for community engagement and environmental stewardship.



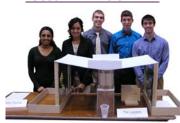
Open Space Typologies Visual Inventory





Proposals for Linwood and Ford Streetscapes

FOCUSED HANDS GARDEN



Undergraduate Course

Dr. Lorelle Meadows led 20 first year engineering students on a collaborative design project for the Focused Hands garden, leading to the design of four water catchment systems to provide water to the raised beds. Students visited the garden to better understand the site and the community and created four innovative concepts shared at a design expo in December.

LIQUID PLANNING

Graduate Interdisciplinary Seminar

Profs. Jen Maigret and Maria Arquero led a group of 24 students from the Architecture and Urban Planning graduate programs in the research of design strategies for the open space network in the HOPE Village.



Visualizations of the students' proposals

Courses on Integrated Design-Research

SCHOOLYARD AT GLAZER Landscape Architecture Graduate Design Studio. Prof. Bob Grese led 22 landscape architecture students who worked with the children and teachers at Glazer Academy to develop design ideas for revitalizing the schoolvard and playground. The UofM students led two workshops to identify changes children would like to see in the schoolvard and to explore ideas for food and flower gardens around the school. The UofM students developed designs for the schoolyard and shared



LEARNING FROM HOPE VILLAGE



Undergraduate Course

Dr. Lorelle Meadows led 15 students from engineering, program in the environment, and architecture in developing a deeper understanding of themselves, Detroit, and the HOPE Village Initiative area. The students developed an understanding and empathy for the city, community, community members and organization, and also developed communitycentered design skills.

FOCUS: HOPE SPRING-SUMMER INTERNSHIP

Two of the students from Dr. Meadows' winter course are currently interning at Focus: HOPE to identify design opportunities in collaboration with Focus: HOPE and community members. Dr. Meadows will bring back their ideas to student design teams in fall 2013.



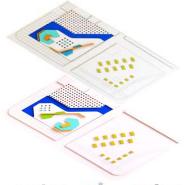
Design-Build Initiatives

COMMUNITY-BUILD AT GLAZER ACADEMY, SATURDAY AUGUST 24TH

With funding from Christ Church Cranbrook, one of the students from Prof. Grese's class-Robert Primeau—is working this summer with Focus: HOPE and Glazer to facilitate improvements in the schoolyard, incorporating many ideas generated in the workshops at Glazer. Join the team on August 24th for the construction.



COMMUNITY-BUILD AT NEW OAKMAN LINWOOD PARK, SEPTEMBER





Design Studies for the Oakman Linwood Park

The third part of the project, led by Profs. Maigret. Arguero and Craig Borum, involves constructing a small "proof of concept" that brings together an appreciation for water, play, and public space and serves as a catalyst for future initiatives.

The location capitalizes on the high visibility of the corner at Linwood Avenue and Oakman Boulevard, two main arterials in the Village, and a gateway to the Focus: HOPE campus.

The goal is to create a new, communal space on a currently vacant lot for children and adults that includes community gardens, a rain reservoir, and small play areas.

2012 Spring - Summer Fall **Spring** 2013 Winter Summer

BUILDING A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN DETROIT

Tracking the Impact of the HOPE Village Initiative on Residents' Daily Lives

Paul Draus and Juliette Roddy, the University of Michigan-Dearborn





What We Proposed

The HOPE Village Initiative is ambitious in its scope. It aims not only to have an impact on those who participate directly in Focus: HOPE programs, but to produce benefits for <u>other</u> residents by improving conditions in the neighborhood overall.

For our study, we proposed to gather baseline information about the current conditions of the neighborhood during this early part of the Initiative from a wide range of area residents. By listening to diverse voices, we will have a better idea of the challenges that residents are facing. We intend to continue our research activities in the future in order to understand the effects of the HOPE Village Initiative on residents' daily lives. In this way, we will be able to track the impact of the HOPE Village Initiative as it unfolds.

What We Are Doing

There is no better way to learn about a place than to walk through it and meet people face to face. That is how we have met most of our interview participants. It has also given us a much better sense of ground-level variation across the neighborhood.

We use the following methods in our study:

- Social history and daily routines interviews
- 2) Economic surveys
- 3) Environmental inventories
- 4) Focus groups
- 5) Photovoice projects

Each of these methods allows us to capture a different aspect of life in the neighborhood, from social histories and daily routines of individual residents to their monthly income and expenditures; from shared concerns, hopes and fears of groups such as homeowners to actual block-by-block physical conditions.



What We Have Learned

ECONOMIC DATA: 20 PEOPLE INTERVIEWED

	MEAN (MODE)	OVERALL		MEAN (MODE)
AGE	47 (44)		LEAVE CITY/WEEK	2X (0X)
HOUSEHOLD	2 ADULTS		WHY DO YOU	6 SHOP
	1 CHILD		LEAVE THE CITY?	7 VISIT
	(2 ADULTS)			
EDUCATION		3 COLLEGE	WHY DO YOU LIVE	14 HOUSING
		5 SOME COLLEGE	HERE?	5 HISTORY
		7 DIP/GED		
		5 11 TH GRADE+		
RACE		16 AA	WOULD YOU	16 YES
		3 WHITE 1 HISPANIC	RELOCATE?	
EMPLOYMENT	1 FULL TIME		WHERE?	6 DETROIT
	(0 FULL TIME)			4 SUBURBS
	O PART TIME			4 OUT OF STATE
	(O PART TIME)			
WAGE	\$15/HOUR			
LAST WORKED	4 YEARS AGO			
WAGE YOU WOULD ACCEPT \$10/HOUR			INCOME	
HEALTH INSURANCE	2 ADULTS		EMPLOYMENT	\$538 (\$0)
	(2 ADULTS)		FOOD STAMPS	\$182 (\$0)
	1 CHILD		OTHER SOURCE	\$107 (\$0)
	(1 CHILD)		TOTAL	\$1117 (\$900)
RENT OR OWN		12 RENT HOMES		
		4 OWN HOMES		
		4 NEITHER		
FORECLOSURE		5 FORECLOSURES		81181818181818181
TRANSPORTATION		11 OWN CARS		
PUBLIC	3 TIMES			
TRANSPORTATION/WK	(0 TIMES)			
TRAVEL TO WORK	2 MILES			
TRAVEL TO SCHOOL	0 MILES			
TRAVEL TO SHOP	7 MILES	1		

An African American man in his mid-50s commented on the interconnection between local economic and social challenges:

"What causes the mentality of the people to degenerate to the gutterbucket level? ...When a neighborhood declines, it's on a financial basis...more or less people who were NOT thieves BECOME thieves..."



ABOVE: Blight is a commonly voiced concern in our interviews, and the efforts of Focus: HOPE to address blight were noted by several residents.

LEFT: Students in Paul Draus's Fall 2102 Urban Sociology class divided the area into 8 different sectors. Working in teams of 4, they visually surveyed every block, noting broken sidewalks, accessibility of crosswalks, historic homes, and other features related to attractiveness and walkability.

QUOTES FROM INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS REVEAL DIFFERENT VIEWS OF NEIGHBORHOOD LIFE

"Honestly I'm—I'm proud of this neighborhood. I got a deep love. I gotta love, man, for the people that I know—that have been with me for the years I've been in this neighborhood. And the elderly people that I know the—that have—that were here and are still here. I know—a lot of the people that I hung with I know their kids. So, you know, I—I have a history with this neighborhood. And I'm comfortable with it, and I'm—I'm proud of it and at the same time, disappointed, because of the way that things are now. You know, when I came here you didn't have all these abandoned houses, and look like they dropped a bomb on—on a few of the streets."

African American man, mid-40s

"It used to be better than it is—like I say, when I was growing up, but now it's kind of wow, you know, people are sellin' drugs and shootin' and fightin', you know, and, and gettin' drunk all the time, but they don't, you know, they're peaceful. They don't bother anybody. They just go their way and, you know, it's just—it should be better than what it is. You know, people need to just either find them a job or do something constructive with their self. It's like a little, a lot of young boys, you know."

African American woman, early 50s



Divergent Views

While some of our interview participants have mentioned parks and open spaces as a community asset, others have said they specifically avoid them because of the other people and activities that they have seen there.

LEFT: These words reflect Oakman Manor residents' attempt to summarize their views of the neighborhood.



LEFT: Public spaces as Ford-LaSalle Park were seen as valuable community assets by some participants, but others stated that they choose to avoid it.

Social Themes

The most consistent theme in the social interviews is that of neighborhood decline, and the struggle to maintain living standards, either in terms of social values or economic livelihood, in the face of that decline. For example, one African American woman in her 40s stated:

"We moved here back in 1979 from the south—and um, it was more, um, family orientated when we moved here. And um, now due to the economy, due to, uh, a lot of the seniors are dying out. They're leaving their homes to their grandchildren, and they're not keepin' up the property, and it's a lot of drug activity goin' on- within their neighborhoods."





ABOVE: Visual contrasts like these illustrate both the challenges and the assets of HOPE Village. Residents of Oakman Manor were pleased and proud about positive improvements that they perceived. However, they also felt dismay at the number of overgrown lots and vacant houses. In the photo on the left, a house that appeared to be vacant literally overshadows a neighbor's garden; in the image on the right, their view of the newly renovated Bell Building is offset by a uncut grass and weeds. The photos were taken following a focus group.

What's Next

We are still conducting individual interviews, and we are looking for more people to participate in focus groups and Photovoice projects as well. If you are a HOPE Village resident and you are interested in participating as an individual or with a group of fellow residents, please call Julie @ 248-703-5628.