

BLUE ISLAND BROWNFIELDS/LAND REVITALIZATION DRAFT 6-10-09

Community Issues	Redevelopment Approach	Health Benefit	Measurement (indicator)
ENVIRONMENT			
ISSUES RELATED TO BROWNFIELDS SITES			
There are increasing numbers of brownfields, including foreclosed homes, commercial properties, petroleum sites, and possible meth labs (?).	Create a site inventory and prioritize sites.	Potential to reduce exposures, improve communication between city and residents	Site Inventory.
There are concerns about exposures to contaminants at brownfields sites, such as a former manufactured gas plant site that has been scheduled for years for cleanup.	Include a subset of the inventory that has a map and type of contamination at sites. When sites are redeveloped, hazards need to be addressed. Work with health dept. re: risk comm issues, such as providing ATSDR Tox FAQs and other information.	Potential to reduce exposures, improved environmental quality, improved communication between city and residents	Site inventory; listing of contaminants at sites; risk communication activities.
Pollution from site runoff can impact streams and waterways (Cal Sag Channel, e.g.). Although there is posting along the Cal Sag, people fish there.	Inventory of local waterways and point sources in the area (map and locations). Water quality monitoring program (e.g., Stream Keepers, volunteer monitoring)	Cleaner water, healthier vegetation, and environmental protection; reduced exposures.	Map/inventory; water quality data; fish consumption postings and advisories.

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	Fish consumption advisories and outreach.		
There has been a loss of trees (along parkways) due to disease and damage.	<p>Inventory of trees that have been planted needs to be reinvigorated.</p> <p>Require developers to plant trees.</p> <p>Pass a city ordinance to require replanting of trees after removal.</p> <p>Revive the Forestry Board.</p> <p>Encourage participation in Arbor Day.</p> <p>The Park District and City (Mary P.) will work together (ON ORDINANCE? ARBOR DAY? – NOT SURE WHAT)</p>	Trees can improve the environment, improve aesthetics, reduce heat island effect, provide shade for people, trap pollutants, promote green space, and increase walkability.	<p>Tree inventory by number and types.</p> <p>Number and types of trees cut down.</p> <p>Number or programs in place (e.g., Arbor Day participation, Forestry Board, Ordinance)</p>
There are sewer problems, such as illicit connections to storm sewer system, in older housing.	<p>Fix infrastructure or encourage people to correct illicit connections. Issues with who pays (the homeowner).</p> <p>See if inspections are required prior to purchase</p>	Reducing the sewage load to the river can improve the environment and reduce exposures to fecal coliform and other contaminants. Help to prevent flooding (basements) and reduce	<p>Results of TV inspection (Gary, Water Dept.), including numbers of illicit connections found.</p> <p>Summarize City ordinances.</p>

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	Review Blue Island sewer system ordinances and programs.	associated contaminants and exposure, preserves housing.	

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There is a need for more community gardens.	Work with Park District and Growing Power to identify lots for community gardens. Soil test empty lots for lead (and possibly other metals).	Residents pride in the community can increase, provide access to healthy foods, mental health benefits of green space, increase in community capacity and interaction.	Number of vacant lots suited for gardens, number of gardens in place now.
Issues of lead in ground soil... Impact on gardens/ vegetation	Soil testing for empty lots before development (may not necessarily be a brownfield)	Less exposure to lead; reduced EBL	Soil sampling (RCM suggestion). Sample analysis is usually about \$10 for lead.

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COMMUNITY DESIGN/PLANNING			
<p>Transportation for seniors is split among four townships, making it difficult to get to appointments, grocery stores, and senior activities. Townships do not provide cross-township services (a tax issue)</p>	<p>Develop other modes of transportation (e.g., a local Blue Island cab service), encourage collaboration (e.g., an MOU) to share expenses</p>	<p>Services to seniors increase, mobility and access to services increase.</p>	<p>Number of programs that cross the four townships, key bus stops/locations, most traveled routes</p>
<p>The geographic barriers in Blue Island cut the town in half. It is hard to get from one side to the other without crossing a busy road (hwy). There are transportation issues. Community is four miles square but hard to get from one side to another.</p>	<p>Install walking paths and pedestrian-friendly areas. Bike path is in the works.</p> <p>Locals know how to work around barriers (Cal Sag, 4 RR crossings, RR yard)</p> <p>Map the circulation patterns (CMAP) and look for quick fixes. Develop a unified long range plan for transit.</p>	<p>Promotes healthy lifestyle by walking/biking to more places. Less reliance on autos reduces air pollution.</p>	<p># of people going across town for goods/services</p> <p># of cross-town connections for walking or biking</p> <p>Results of circulation pattern mapping.</p>
<p>Children do not walk to school. They are dropped off and then run in front of buses (dangerous).</p>	<p>Safe Routes to Schools program, walking school bus programs, public transportation stops near schools, need a pedestrian plan overall.</p>	<p>Increased physical activity for youth, community capacity increases by walking programs, reduced accidents (from running in front of buses), improved air quality from fewer cars in front of schools - exposures are reduced</p>	<p># of children walking to school, # of Safe Routes to Schools programs, # of cars in front of schools in mornings, # of public transportation stops near schools</p>

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COMMUNITY DESIGN/PLANNING			
<p>Older housing stock has lead paint issues.</p> <p>Children may have elevated blood lead levels (EBLs). Only are tested at kindergarten age, so could be missing early or later cases.</p> <p>During redevelopment, do not want to dissipate lead into the environment (e.g., during demolition)</p>	<p>NOTE: Blue Island does not have EBL issues, but this could be because kids aren't being screened.</p> <p>Require yearly testing/screening, hold a health fair in collaboration with UIC, local hospital, health department</p> <p>Health department will provide material on lead-safe work practices. Contractors are required to follow these practices (e.g., spray-wetting during demolition). Residents can report violations to city and health dept.</p> <p>Create a sustainability ordinance; include lead-safe practices and make it a necessity when getting a permit or through RFP/RFQ process for developers.</p>	<p>Reduced exposures and blood lead levels leading to more active, healthier children</p> <p>Reduced lead exposures, more sustainable housing in future.</p>	<p>EBL data - # children being tested at a younger age, # of kids screened, EBLs</p> <p># of programs/health fair(s)</p> <p># of demolition violations reported, EBLs (correlated to EBL measure under phys/mental health category)</p> <p># of demolitions (especially those using safe practices, if known)</p>
<p>Need to get residents involved in more activities</p>	<p>Create "welcome wagon" to provide things to do for new residents; "50+" card to offer discounts to older members of community (not that 50 is old!)</p>	<p>Residents stay local, become active in community</p>	<p># of programs – welcome wagon, discount card, etc. (Note: City and Parks/Rec are talking about now starting a Welcome Wagon program!)</p>

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COMMUNICATION/ RISK COMMUNICATION			
The local health dept. would like to be more involved in the community.	Involve CCHD in brownfields meetings, communication programs, data collection	Increased trust (mental health benefit)	# of partnership activities, activities related to BF redevelopment
<p>Trust issues? <i>(two participants STRONGLY agreed with this topic – hopefully they'll come to the next meeting)</i></p> <p>There needs to be more collaboration and communication. One positive is that this is starting to happen. But, there is a lack of labor and resources.</p>	<p>Continue workshops like this one.</p> <p>Provide more transparency e.g., using the web to increase communication. Perhaps involve students in web design.</p>	Increased trust and communication leads to mental health benefits.	As above.

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SAFETY/SECURITY			
<p>Crime is an issue. People are concerned about crime in particular areas.</p>	<p>Collect crime data, work with neighborhood watch groups, address abandoned lots and buildings</p> <p>City will inventory problem sites and work with local police department. The city is already redeveloping some of these properties.</p> <p>Try to pass “home rule” ordinance</p> <p>Redevelopment in general should address the problem, and the police will focus attention on redeveloping sites</p>	<p>People feel safer, may walk more, feel better</p>	<p>Crime rates, # of neighborhood watch groups, # of abandoned lots and buildings (see site inv.) - tag those that are problems.</p>
<p>Traffic congestion and traffic accidents are issues.</p>	<p>Increase accessibility by walking/biking. Get IDOT data re: traffic/accident statistics.</p>	<p>Healthier lifestyles, reduced injuries and deaths from accidents.</p>	<p>IDOT data (vehicle miles traveled – CMAP/Paul), walkability surveys (paths, etc.)</p>

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PHYSICAL/ MENTAL HEALTH			
There may be mental health issues within the community (and among youth) that need to be addressed.	Approach: YMCA and Eisenhower school may partner and discuss prevention/intervention		
Youth (and adults?) need more access to recreation	Work with Parks and Rec, Eisenhower to create a plan for more parks, linkages, trails	Increased physical activity leading to cardiovascular benefits, possibly reducing juvenile crime.	# of existing parks, acreage of green space, # of walking paths/ trails, # of linked paths/ trails
Are there enough services for the community, and do people know what is available? E.g., domestic violence is an issue.	Approach: list of all agencies and services: YMCA, Hospitals, Shelters, What if there are not enough services? - plan for more? Funding?	Provide services to community members, which can have an indirect or direct impact of physical and mental health improvements	Lists, fliers, programs, etc.
Asthma, diabetes and obesity are issues	Look at asthma rates. Look at access to recreation. Healthy eating intervention in schools, sr centers. Address ways master plan may eliminate sources of particulate/ other asthma triggers.	Reduced levels of asthma attacks; weight loss in obese children	Hospital discharge rates - asthma, other measures (self reporting? - survey?). Air pollution data, obesity data (?)

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PHYSICAL/ MENTAL HEALTH			
Assess health status in community: is lead an issue? seniors' health? contaminated sites and exposures? diabetes? cardiovascular disease?	Work with health dept., others - collect data	Identifying areas for attention (e.g., starting a walking program where cardiovascular disease rates are high) may improve overall health.	Vital statistics, EBL data, lead screening program, if needed
There is a lack of psychiatric hospital beds Patients that come in with acute mental illness often have no insurance or are under-insured.	Partner with YMCA (?), funding? New wing of hospital? Recruit interns?		NOTE: THIS WAS DETERMINED TO BE A STATE-WIDE ISSUE AND WILL BE PLACED IN THE APPENDIX.
Many people are uninsured and do not know what services are available.	Determine how many people are uninsured, how many have Medicaid (?) and conduct outreach re: services (links to above - re: services – creating a list of services)	Proving services to under- or uninsured may improve health status.	# of existing and new outreach efforts, materials, insurance statistics (from Fed Medicaid contact)

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PHYSICAL/ MENTAL HEALTH			
Homelessness is an issue. There are not a lot of resources for the homeless in the suburbs.	? Services? Shelters? (any BF sites could be good shelters?) <i>Create "emergency plan", apply to address homeless when shelters are full? Need cooling and heating shelters, work with YMCA and Salvation Army, also churches and schools involved for emergencies.</i>	Reduced exposures and other threats from living on street.	# of homeless, # of programs available (e.g., # of shelters)

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EMPLOYMENT/ ECONOMY/EDUCATION			
Schools are overcrowded. Not all students are residents of Blue Island.	<p>Establish a “residency check” of students.</p> <p>Create a new school through brownfields redevelopment (???)</p>	Smaller classrooms provide an opportunity to get more students involved in learning	<p># of schools, class sizes, third grade reading comprehension, test scores and GPA of school overall.</p> <p># of kids from Blue Island? # of kids from outside Blue Island?</p>
Need more businesses in general.	<p>Redevelopment plan and Corridor plan.</p> <p>Locally-owned business can have a symbol (shop local). Local restaurants can promote summer specials on dine-ins. Maybe the Local Chamber of Commerce can help with this.</p> <p>50+ cards (see Community). 10% discount on certain days of week.</p> <p>Welcome Wagon program can highlight businesses.</p>	Economic improvements, a healthy local market, attractive downtown; increased interaction amongst community; sales tax revenues.	<p>Inventory of businesses (City has and can update)</p> <p>Inventory of available commercial properties.</p>
Need job training for environmental fields to do field sampling, water, soil, and air monitoring, etc.	Use schools. Prairie State College and Moraine Valley College can provide training.	Reduce exposures.	Number of environmental programs, any monitoring data.