

**Disclaimer:**

As mandated by General Ordinance No. 48 of the City of Syracuse, the Eastwood TNT Area (Area 6) has completed its 5-Year Neighborhood Plan. The purpose of this plan is to act as a citizen driven 5-year neighborhood plan for the area designated as Tomorrow's Neighborhoods Today (TNT) Area 6 – Eastwood. The completion of this plan is mandated by General Ordinance No. 48 of the City of Syracuse. Section 48-2(a) states:

“Each TNT Neighborhood Planning Council will create an asset-driven, continuous 5-year plan for its area which will include a comprehensive vision for the diverse neighborhoods within the area, 5-year goals and objectives, prioritized action plans, resource requests, budgets, recommendations to operating city departments, and timelines for completion. These plans will be compiled by the Neighborhood Planning Office and submitted to each of the city’s operating departments for consideration in the creation of annual and capital workplans and budgets.”

This plan will fulfill the requirements of this General Ordinance, and will act as an advisory appendix document to the *City of Syracuse Comprehensive Plan 2025*. The content of this plan was generated by members of the herein stated neighborhood writing team and the City of Syracuse is in no way responsible for any omissions, inaccuracies, plans, or opinions found herein.



## **TNT Area 6 ~ Eastwood** **"A Village Within the City"**



### **5 – Year Neighborhood Plan 2007-2011**

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**Purpose:**

This is a citizen driven 5-year neighborhood plan for the area designated as Tomorrow’s Neighborhoods Today (TNT) Area 6 – Eastwood. This plan will act as an advisory document for all City staff and elected officials for helping the Eastwood neighborhood residents achieve their desired goals for the community. The completion of this plan is required by General Ordinance No. 48, section 48-2(a) of the City of Syracuse.

This plan fulfills the requirements of this General Ordinance, and will act as an advisory appendix document to the *City of Syracuse Comprehensive Plan 2025*. Through this dual role, this plan will inform the planning and development decision making processes for residents, businesses, developers, not-for-profit agencies, and City and County operating departments for the Eastwood Area.

“Each TNT Neighborhood Planning Council will create an asset-driven, continuous 5-year plan for its area which will include a comprehensive vision for the diverse neighborhoods within the area, 5-year goals and objectives, prioritized action plans, resource requests, budgets, recommendations to operating city departments, and timelines for completion. These plans will be compiled by the Neighborhood Planning Office and submitted to each of the city’s operating departments for consideration in the creation of annual and capital workplans and budgets.”  
*General Ordinance #48 of the City of Syracuse, Section 48-2(a)*

**Mission/Vision Statement:**

The established Mission Statement of the Eastwood TNT Area 6 is:

“A cohesive and diverse community where all are supportive and involved in fostering the well-being of each other. A place that is distinctive in character and aesthetic quality. One that is secure and offers a wide variety of opportunities for learning, working, recreating, resting, communicating and interacting with others. A place of spirit and pride shared by all.”

This mission/vision statement is a guiding precept for this 5-Year Neighborhood Plan.

**Introduction:**

The format of the TNT Area Planning Process was developed in the spring and summer of 2006 through a consultation and training process by a professional planning firm hired by the City’s Community Development Department.

The process for the Eastwood TNT Area 6 5-Year Neighborhood Plan for the Eastwood TNT Area (6) began in August of 2006 with the release and distribution of the *Eastwood TNT Neighborhood Resident Survey 2006*. The results of this survey served as a source of information regarding neighborhood sentiment. While this survey was not conducted scientifically, 261 surveys were completed and returned. This provided the neighborhood resident planning participants with certain knowledge of neighborhood feelings and attitudes and counters bias and group-think tendencies.

Beginning in September of 2006, three workshops were held in Eastwood. Led by Community Development Department staff, these workshops were designed to bring together members of the community to create a shared vision for Eastwood. Each workshop had a different purpose, as follows:

- Workshop #1: What is “working” and what is “not working” in Eastwood.
- Workshop #2: Goals and objectives for Eastwood’s future.
- Workshop #3: How to achieve the desired future vision for Eastwood.

These workshops and the processes to follow utilized 4 conceptual areas to organize group discussion, thinking, writing, and planning. These conceptual areas, or outcome areas, were: *Image*, *Market*, *Neighborhood Management*, and *Physical Conditions*. Following the conclusion of these workshops, the accumulated materials and information were compiled (see appendices), and a writing team was formed to conduct the report writing process. This writing team of approximately 12 individuals, including Eastwood TNT members, members of the Eastwood Neighborhood Association (ENA), facilitators, and Community Development Department staff, was formed in January of 2007 and was charged with assessing the information gathered in the Workshop process, determining a functional and effective report format, and editing the report to create a comprehensive and operational 5-Year Neighborhood Plan to be presented to the Eastwood TNT group for official approval in summer 2007, and implementation in the years 2008-2012. This plan was written by professional Neighborhood Planners and Coordinators within the Community Development Department using substantive and contextual input from the writing team members.

- **“Image:** The neighborhood will have a positive image that attracts investment – from homebuyers, homeowners, business, and government.”
- **“Market:** The residential and commercial real estate market will reflect the confidence people have in the future of the neighborhood.”
- **“Neighborhood Management:** Collective action by residents, institutions, and businesses will ensure the neighborhood will compete well with other neighborhoods for resources.”
- **“Physical Conditions:** Physical conditions, whether residential or business, will reflect pride of ownership and a high standard of maintenance.”

In conformance with the requirements of the ordinance, this document proposes actions to be undertaken by TNT Area 6. However, Eastwood has a variety of community organizations dedicated to neighborhood improvement, business growth, park development and other goals that are consistent with the goals and objectives herein. TNT Area 6 expects that many of these organizations will want to participate in the execution of this plan. Although these groups are not always specifically mentioned in this document, the authors invite their participation in any and all aspects of the TNT Area 6 Neighborhood Plan. Other groups not specifically included or excluded are welcome to participate as appropriate.

### **Issues Facing Eastwood**

This section is based primarily on information gathered at Eastwood Neighborhood Planning Workshop #1 which was held on Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006. This Workshop featured discussion regarding things that participating residents believed were either “working” or “not working” in the neighborhood. This section identifies the major issues that are at the forefront of residents’ minds in regards to Eastwood’s past and current conditions.

Workshop attendees were asked to identify issues in four outcome areas: Image, Market, Neighborhood Management, and Physical Conditions. Each of these outcome areas were used as a way to frame the thought process and issue categorization for the Workshop participants. As such, this section will be organized by those four outcome areas, and include both the positive and negative things that residents feel are happening in the neighborhood.

**A. Image Issues - Working:**

- Eastwood is a conveniently located neighborhood with access to work, shopping, and transportation.
  - Through the resident survey, participating residents made it clear that, in general, they had very positive feelings about the access to services and amenities in Eastwood.

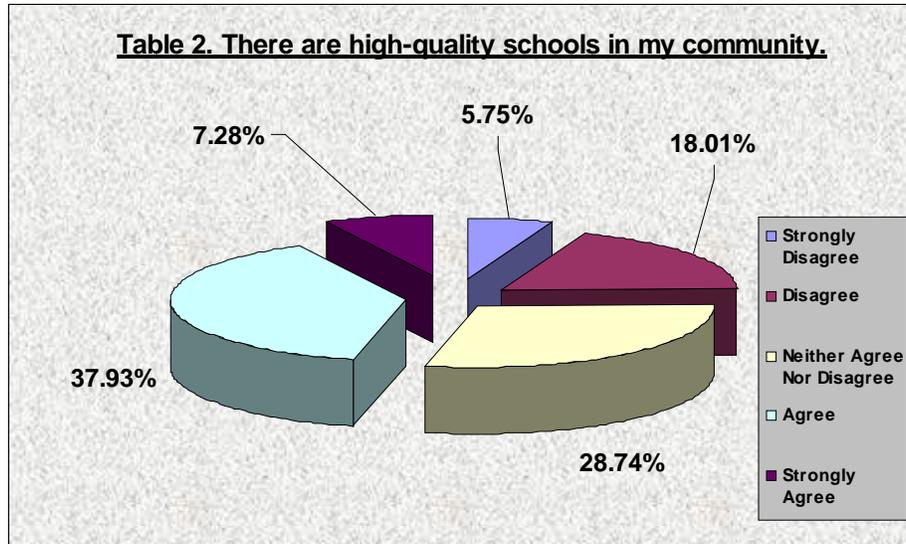
<b>Table 1. "The location of my home is convenient to..."</b>			
<b>Statement/Category</b>	<b>Work</b>	<b>Shopping</b>	<b>Public Transportation</b>
Strongly Agree	43%	46%	51%
Agree	26%	44%	36%
Neither Agree Nor Disagree	9%	6%	10%
Disagree	2%	3%	2%
Strongly Disagree	2%	1%	0%
No Answer	18%	0%	0%

- Table 1 shows statistics from the Neighborhood Resident Satisfaction Survey showing respondents' feelings on the convenience of their home to where they work, shop, and access public transportation. These numbers show a particularly strong feeling that Eastwood's land use pattern, density, and transportation planning have been fairly well developed over the years. Eastwood's business district and proximity to Downtown, the highways, and the Universities have made this neighborhood one of the most strategically located part of Central New York. This makes the neighborhood highly accessible to many modes of transportation including walking, biking, as well as motor vehicles.

There are a number of areas that are thriving neighborhoods.

- In Workshop #1 there were several different streets that were mentioned repeatedly as being particularly stable or perceived as strong parts of the neighborhood. These areas included Mosley Drive, Forest Hill Drive, Shotwell Park, Hickok Avenue, and Melrose Avenue. Each of these areas was mentioned more than once in regards to their beauty, housing stock, well kempt housing investment areas, safety, and neighborhood ownership.
- Areas where the City has made improvements in infrastructure are positive and improving.
  - There has been successful collaboration between the City and the residents to create successful streetscape areas such as on James Street, parts of Sunnycrest Road, and Hixson Avenue that create a positive image for the James Street business district and the Eastwood neighborhood in general. While this issue pertains mostly to a physical condition, curbs and sidewalks also play a role in the way that a neighborhood is perceived, both within the neighborhood as well as from the outside. Areas specifically mentioned regarding sidewalks and curbs were James Street business district and the Sunnycrest area. Residents participating in Workshop #1 expressed interest in having more improved streets in Eastwood.
- There is a mixed, but significantly positive, view of the schools in the community.
  - In the results of the survey that was conducted (Table 2), 45% of respondents said that they agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, "There are high-quality schools in my community." However, 24% of respondents said that they disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement.

- The remaining 31% of respondents said that they neither agreed nor disagreed with that statement. This indicates that the image of the local schools, while significantly positive, is still a



neighborhood concern. However, people feel that Eastwood’s schools are, to a certain extent, centers of the community and could be further utilized as community centers in the future.

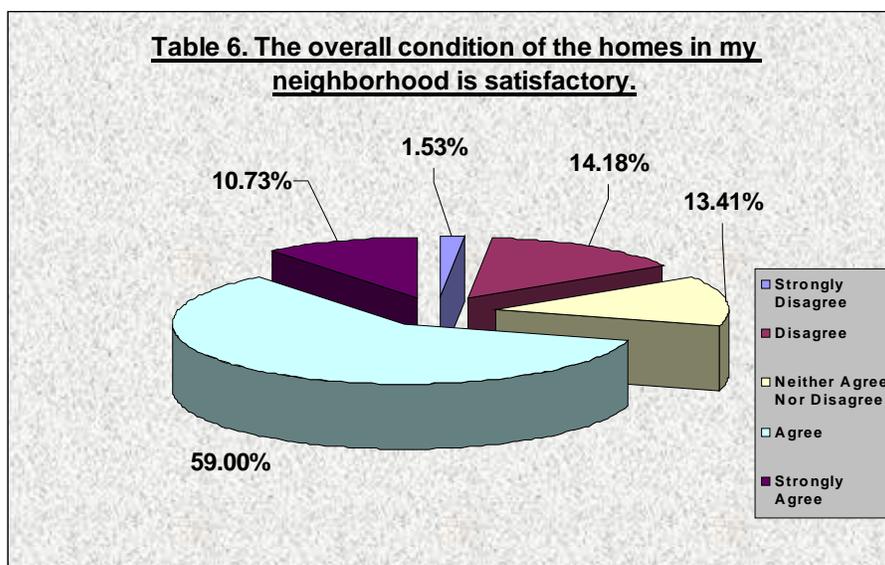
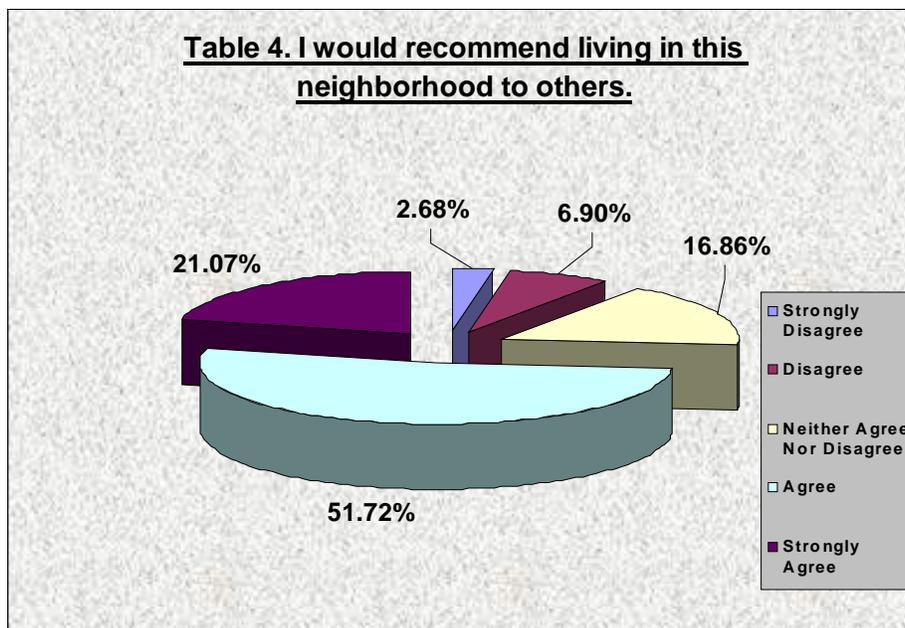
- On the whole, residents feel that the neighborhood is a good place to live.
  - The survey results helped provide some context for this issue. The two questions asking about respondents feelings of connection (Table 3) and if they would recommend living in the neighborhood (Table 4) may be applied to this. The data presented in Tables 3 and 4 show that there is a generally high level of overall satisfaction and confidence within the neighborhood.
  - Displaying a strong connection to the community and a willingness to recommend living in that community to others generally indicates a strong feeling that the neighborhood is a good place to live.
  - These questions provide some evidence for this general claim. Although there are many indicators that affect the way that people feel about their neighborhood, these questions could be interpreted as a good litmus test for this overall feeling.

**B. Image Issues – Not Working:**

- While there is no significant statistical difference in crime densities, the areas south of James Street are viewed more favorably than the areas north of James Street.

- In Workshop #1 the area north of James Street was mentioned repeatedly as a struggling area within the Eastwood neighborhood.

While other parts of the neighborhood were noted as problematic in certain categorical areas, the area north of James Street was especially troubling for many participating residents in several regards. The most negative comments about the area north of James Street came out in Workshop #1 under questions about housing stock and housing investment risk. People seemed to feel that the aging housing stock in Eastwood1 has begun to deteriorate, especially in this specific area.



- People felt that this area has seen an increase in rental occupancy as compared to the rest of the Eastwood neighborhood, and that making a housing investment in this zone was riskier than in

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1 More than 83% of the housing in Eastwood was built before 1960 (US Census Bureau).

other zones.<sup>2</sup> The fact that the area north of James Street was mentioned so consistently in Workshop #1 either indicates that this area is struggling a great deal in regards to its image, or this area was underrepresented in the Neighborhood Planning Workshop process.

- Loitering at bars and other businesses presents a negative image.
  - Loitering, as well as associated problems such as littering, suspected drug dealing, and excessive noise, was mentioned as a serious problem. People seemed to feel that these issues were most prominent on and around James Street. Crime density maps indicate that crime is much more prevalent on and around the James Street corridor (appendices A-C).
- There is a mixed opinion of the quality of the schools in the community.
  - As mentioned in the previous subsection (see Table 2), there is a variety of feelings regarding the quality of schools in the community. While it has been mentioned that the survey indicates a significantly positive view, the mere fact that there is such a mixed view indicates, at least, a perception problem regarding our schools. This problem may be more easily attributed to Eastwood's Syracuse City School District Schools, than to Eastwood's private school Blessed Sacrament.
- Parts of north and south Midler Avenue are viewed as unsightly and unsafe areas.
  - The Midler Avenue corridor was mentioned repeatedly in the Image portion of Workshop #1 as an area that is viewed as a higher crime area where residents do not feel completely comfortable and that is experiencing some level of physical deterioration. Vacant properties caused by businesses that have left certainly contribute to this situation. Along with parts of James Street, this is a corridor that is experiencing image problems, and as a main arterial and gateway street to the Eastwood neighborhood, this means that the image of the neighborhood will suffer – especially with visitors or newcomers to the area.

### **C. Market Issues – Working:**

- There are a number of areas where housing values and confidence are holding firm.
  - There was significant mention in Workshop #1 of specific areas within Eastwood where this confidence is high. Mosley Drive, Shotwell Park, Hickok Avenue, Forest Hill Drive, Rigi Avenue, Nichols Avenue, Homecroft Road, James Street and Walter (condos), and the south side of James Street were all mentioned repeatedly.
- Current residents' generally positive attitude toward housing conditions and the future of the neighborhood should fuel the local housing market.
  - This attitude was borne out both in the survey and during the Workshops. Survey respondents' feelings about recommending the neighborhood to others (Table 4) and the quality of the housing stock (Table 6) illustrates this. Many different areas were mentioned as having strength in the housing market. The perception that the housing market is strong in Eastwood is an important element of actual housing market success.
- A variety of businesses have settled in Eastwood and demonstrate the commercial viability of areas therein.
  - There was a great deal of discussion in Workshop #1 about how Eastwood's business corridors, including James Street and Burnet Avenue, reflect urban, neighborhood business districts with services and amenities appropriately serving the surrounding community. Obviously, these

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<sup>2</sup> The percentage of owner-occupied homes in Eastwood decreased from 51.56% in 1990 to 47.56% in 2000 (US Census Bureau).

corridors are not perfect and there are areas that many feel need improvement. However, business like Walgreen's, POMCO, (Books and Memories, Book's End, Café Kubal, Tony's Restaurant, Huffstir's, Brooklyn Pickle, Dominick's, Palace Theatre, and Casa DiCopani illustrate that Eastwood has real economic viability that translates to a more walkable community, jobs, and a more stable business community environment. The level of effort made by businesses such as POMCO shows that the strong community feeling felt among Eastwood's homes has translated to Eastwood's businesses. This effort on the part of business owners is key to creating a business- and neighbor-friendly and economically sustainable environment.

#### **D. Market Issues – Not Working:**

- While satisfaction with the appearance of local housing stock in Eastwood is generally strong, the conditions of certain rental dominated areas are causing concern.
  - While this concern was touched upon in the Image section, it is also a very valid market concern as well. The areas that were specifically mentioned in Workshop #1 as struggling areas were: areas north of James Street, areas off Teall including Boyden and El Dorado, Hixson, Midler, Burnet, Lillian, and specific blocks of Nichols, Norwood, Linwood, and Woodbine. High rentership is often associated with a lack of tenants' and absentee landlords' personal investment in the physical appearance of the house and the greater community. As a result, areas of high rentership are viewed with caution and disappointment by surrounding residents, especially when disinvestment is indeed evident. Such realities and perceptions can be very harmful to both the housing and commercial markets in a neighborhood.
  
- Vacant properties, single-room occupancy, and absentee landlords are a drain on the area.
  - Problems associated with high rentership and absentee landlords are mentioned above. Clearly, these issues combined with the challenges presented by vacant structures, present situations of blight in certain areas that make a vibrant and healthy residential and commercial market incredibly difficult to achieve. While the percentage of vacant housing units is relatively low in Eastwood, the percentage of vacant units increased from 4.92% in 1990 to 6.76% in 2000.<sup>3</sup> Obviously it is the trend, not the volume, that is concerning for the neighborhood's residents.
  
- Concern over the quality of area public schools is negatively affecting the local housing market.
  - While this report does not quantify student performance in Syracuse City Schools or the schools in the Eastwood neighborhood specifically, this report does touch upon local perception of these schools. Clearly, there are great differences in opinion regarding this topic. However, the quality of a local school district, either quantitatively or qualitatively determined, will greatly affect local property values as it is a generally accepted criterion for housing market rate evaluation. Therefore, this is a Market factor that should not be ignored.

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<sup>3</sup> Source: US Census Bureau.

### **E. Neighborhood Management Issues – Working:**

- Eastwood has a strong sense of community with many organizations working together. There is a great deal of confidence and strong participation in TNT, the Eastwood Neighborhood Association, school-based groups (PTO's, booster clubs, etc.), Sunnycrest Park Association, Sheridan Park Association, and neighborhood watch organizations.
  - In Workshop #1 there was discussion regarding the high level of volunteer citizen engagement in many of these different social groups and settings. Just by looking at all of the different active groups in the Eastwood neighborhood it is obvious that this is a population that cares deeply about playing in active role in shaping the neighborhood itself. There is great power and potential in this.
- Eastwood is a very walkable neighborhood.
  - With accessible parks, schools, libraries, dense structural development, and a centrally located, thriving business district, Eastwood's physical design is very conducive to convenient walking distances. While the James Street business district was mentioned previously, the walkability of the neighborhood is a strength of its own. The survey helped support what was heard clearly in Workshop #1. The information in Table 1 helps to illustrate this supporting evidence. Walkability contributes to the strength of the community fabric, the level of friendliness and neighborliness, and the overall sustainability of Eastwood.
- Eastwood is a safe neighborhood.
  - Actual and perceived safety is vitally important to the success of a neighborhood. 66% of respondents to the survey said that they agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, "Overall, I feel that I live in a safe neighborhood." If people feel safe in their neighborhood, then it is more likely that others from outside the neighborhood will begin to believe the neighborhood is safe. This feeling of safety from within and without the neighborhood fuels economic, social, and residential vivacity.
- Most areas of Eastwood, especially public spaces, display a strong level of upkeep and management.
  - In Workshop #1 people identified Eastwood's public spaces in particular as having a high level of upkeep. This both illustrates and fuels neighborhood pride. People cited James Street, the Post Office, the James Street Monument, flags, and median plantings as elements of the neighborhood that they were proud of. Active park associations are other forms of neighborhood management that have strengthened appearance and usefulness of Eastwood's public spaces.

### **F. Neighborhood Management Issues – Not Working:**

- The appearance of many properties, especially commercial and rental properties, is not adequately maintained.
  - Problems such as snow removal and lawn maintenance are evident. This is especially true in commercial areas and on vacant properties. Local business owners, homeowners, and landlords should be held accountable for code violations. Meeting code is a very basic, yet vital principle of effective Neighborhood Management.
- Some properties and areas surrounding James Street appear unkempt, unlandscaped, and seem to attract crime (loitering, noise, drugs, etc.).
  - James Street is the main commercial corridor in Eastwood. The majority of the commercially zoned properties in the Eastwood Neighborhood are located on James Street, and the corridor has a distinctly commercial, small business feel. Part of this corridor has been designated an Overlay District and Design Guidelines have been established for this area. Effectively managing the core

of this corridor is essential to the success of the neighborhood. While the James Street corridor has seen recent improvement (POMCO, The Palace Theatre, etc.) there are still a number of parcels that need to be addressed. There are vacant storefronts and ill-maintained buildings that are very visible in this corridor. Several properties as well as their adjacent alleys, parking lots, and sidewalks are in great need of cleanup, renovation, or redevelopment.

### **G. Physical Conditions Issues – Working:**

- Parks improvements that are proposed or in progress such as the Sunnycrest Ice Skating Rink update, the proposed Skateboard Park and improvements to Sheridan Park
  - An already strong neighborhood in terms of parks and public spaces, Eastwood residents and organizations continue to pursue improvements. This is a tribute to the efforts of people within the neighborhood, the City Department of Public Works, and the City Department of Parks, Recreation, and Youth Programs. Eastwood’s parks and public spaces are quintessential neighborhood assets.
- Most commercial buildings and areas are well maintained such as Casa DiCopani, Dominick’s, Palace Theatre, POMCO, Dunkin Donuts, Tony’s, and Brooklyn Pickle.
  - While this doesn’t go for all commercial areas, there are several businesses that stand out as successful and responsible members of Eastwood’s economic community. Having business that are both performing financially as well as exercising a neighborly attitude is a major asset.
- Residential areas such as Forest Hill Drive, Shotwell Park, Hickok, Rigi, Milford, Plymouth, and Mosley are well kempt.
- The schools such as Huntington and Henninger are positive features of the neighborhood from a community standpoint.
  - This point was made in Workshop #1. Schools as community centerpieces is a concept that has become desirable in many places. Making schools places that kids are comfortable going to is important for the neighborhood youth’s education, personal development, and safety. The DeFrancisco Community Center is an established neighborhood institution dedicated to this effort. Neighborhood schools might be used by the neighborhood in new and creative ways that build community. If people feel that Henninger and Huntington are positive features of the neighborhood, then this process has already begun.
- The James Street streetscape work has significantly improved the physical appearance of the neighborhood.
  - As the central corridor in the neighborhood it is important that James Street has a streetscape that is conducive to pedestrian and vehicular traffic, successful businesses, and community pride.

### **H. Physical Conditions Issues – Not Working:**

- Some areas of Eastwood do not have curbs and sidewalks.
  - There are many streets in Eastwood that are “unimproved streets.” These are streets that are lacking curbing and sidewalks. Properly installed and well maintained curbs and sidewalks, such as on James Street and Sunnycrest Road, promote walking by providing a more comfortable pedestrian environment where pedestrian space and vehicle space are clearly defined. Without curbs and sidewalks as demarcating infrastructure, it can be ambiguous, even dangerous for both pedestrians and motorists to navigate neighborhoods.

- Streetscape improvements have not yet been completed along the full length of James Street.
  - Compounding the problem of vacant and dilapidated properties on James Street is the issue of an aging streetscape on certain portions. While a great deal of work has been done in this regard, there is certainly more that could be done to create a more complete, uniform feel to the corridor. A poor streetscape is both an eyesore and a challenge to navigate especially for the elderly and people with disabilities.
  
- Poor, inappropriate lighting creates an environment that is not conducive pedestrian activity.
  - Poor lighting causes the evening business and social life of the neighborhood to suffer. This lighting is of a more suburban style which is designed to facilitate the street's motor vehicle traffic. Pedestrian commercial districts like James Street are in need pedestrian-scale lighting that will better facilitate safe, comfortable walkability for neighborhood residents and visitors. Concurrently, this poor lighting creates a barrier to private redevelopment of currently vacant, but potentially successful commercial parcels.
  
- A few areas are in need of improved drainage.
  - Some areas including parts of Nichols Avenue, Edwards Avenue, Collingwood Avenue, Sunnycrest Park, and James Street are in need of infrastructure upgrades to improve storm water drainage.

### **Goals and Objectives for the Eastwood Neighborhood**

This section is based primarily on information gathered at Eastwood Neighborhood Planning Workshop #2 and 3 which were held in October 2006. This Workshop featured discussion regarding goals and objectives that people envisioned for the Eastwood neighborhood. Workshop attendees were asked to identify issues in four outcome areas: Image, Market, Neighborhood Management, and Physical Conditions. Each of these outcome areas was used as a way to frame the thought process and issue categorization for the Workshop participants. As such, this section will be organized by those four outcome areas, will restate the main points of what is “working,” and “not working” for each outcome area, and will then include goals and measures of success for each.

In this document we will frequently refer to “Neighborhoods of Choice”. By this we mean distinct neighborhoods of rich texture, each defined by its residents, housing stock and unique focal points, where people want to invest their time, money and energy.

## A. Image – Goals, Actions and Measures for Success:

### Working

- Eastwood is a conveniently located neighborhood with access to work, shopping, recreation, and transportation.
- There are a number of areas that are thriving neighborhoods.
- Areas where the City has made improvements in infrastructure are positive and improving.
- There is a mixed, but significantly positive, view of the schools in the community.
- On the whole, residents feel that the neighborhood is a good place to live.

### Not Working

- While there is no significant statistical difference in crime densities, the areas south of James Street are viewed more favorably than the areas north of James Street.
- Loitering at bars and other businesses presents a negative image.
- There is a mixed opinion of the quality of the schools in the community.

- **Goal:** Maintain and promote Eastwood as a conveniently located neighborhood with access to work, shopping, recreation, and transportation. Located within 15 minutes of almost any Onondaga County destination, Eastwood maintains a village feel within the city limits. By promoting residential feel and city convenience, Eastwood can be showcased as a residential neighborhood of choice for the City of Syracuse.
  - **Actions**
    - Establish a committee of TNT members to work with City staff to create a brochure that highlights this aspect of the neighborhood as a “Village Within the City.”
  - **Measures**
    - Established “Village within the City” campaign by the city to promote Eastwood by the end of 2008.
    - Establish an Eastwood web page on the City of Syracuse website.
    - Increase the percentage of POMCO employees that live in Eastwood.
    - Increase the median household income in Eastwood by 5% over the 2000 census.
- **Goal:** Establish a campaign to promote the area north of James Street.
  - **Action**
    - Work with realtors to market homes in this area to young families, empty nesters, newlyweds, starter homes, and first time homebuyers by creating a targeted marketing strategy. The Mayor’s media center, real estate agencies, lenders, and other stakeholders will be brought in as resources.
  - **Measure**
    - Develop an effective campaign by 2008.

- **Goal:** Reduce loitering near bars and other businesses. Frequent loitering detracts from the neighborhoods appearance and makes it less comfortable for pedestrian traffic.
  - **Actions**
    - The TNT Quality of Life Committee will work with the Syracuse Police Department and business owners to curb this activity.
    - The City of Syracuse Common Council should pass an ordinance to require the creation of designated smoking areas behind properties rather than in or adjacent to the public right of way.
  - **Measure**
    - Established outdoor designated smoking areas for all Eastwood businesses, preferably behind structures, by 2009.
- **Goal:** Improve the reputation of Huntington and Henninger as quality community schools. Huntington, Henninger, and indeed all City schools, are suffering from both negative perception of safety and relatively low performance on some academic indicators. Both of these forces create a poor image of Eastwood's schools that has a rippling negative affect on the neighborhood and surrounding community. Improving relations between the schools and the community will help rectify this problem.
  - **Actions**
    - Create a booster or auxiliary organization that works alongside PTISO for volunteering, mentoring, etc. For example, the ENA Youth Development program, the Sunnycrest Park Association, the Big Brothers Big Sisters program, and others will be invited to participate.
    - Leverage the Syracuse City School District Public Relations department to reach out to Eastwood residents to promote school events.
    - Use websites maintained by ENA, Walkable Eastwood and other groups to create a comprehensive calendar of Eastwood wide events and a newsletter from SCSD quarterly to neighborhood residents.
  - **Measure**
    - Improved perception of Eastwood schools as measured by follow-up survey.
- **Goal:** Develop a comprehensive rehabilitation strategy for Midler Avenue. By creating a plan for development of the major intersections as well as providing for improvements to housing stock, Midler Avenue can be made a more attractive gateway to Eastwood.
  - **Actions**
    - Work with City of Syracuse's Department of Economic Development, Department of Community Development, and Home Headquarters, Inc. to create a plan that addresses economic development and housing.
    - Request that the City of Syracuse submit a request to the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTC) to conduct a Midler Avenue Corridor Study as part of the SMTC's Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) during the 2008 program year. Study to address issues such as traffic flow (particularly in light of anticipated development around the I-690 interchange), streetscaping, and pedestrian and bicycle accommodations.
    - Establish a TNT committee to monitor this corridor for improvement and work with City officials as needed to ensure that the recommendations are enacted.
  - **Measure**
    - Creation of a formal rehabilitation plan that includes housing, traffic, pedestrian environment, cleanup, police presence, etc. in place for Midler corridor by 2009.

## **B: Market – Goals and Measures for Success:**

### **Working**

- There are a number of areas where housing values and confidence are holding firm.
- Current residents' generally positive attitude toward housing conditions and the future of the neighborhood should fuel the local housing market.
- A variety of businesses have settled in Eastwood and demonstrate the commercial viability of areas therein.

### **Not Working**

- While satisfaction with the appearance of local housing stock in Eastwood is generally strong, the conditions of certain rental-dominated areas are causing concern.
- Vacant properties, single-room occupancy, and absentee landlords are a drain on the area.
- Concern over the quality of area public schools is negatively affecting the local housing market.

- **Goal:** Encourage owner occupancy by private residential investors in Eastwood. Owner occupancy promotes a more stable residential neighborhood and better-kept properties. This will increase overall property values and improve Eastwood's appearance.
  - **Actions**
    - Form a committee to conduct an annual Eastwood Homes Tour in cooperation with local Realtors. The purpose of the tour is to showcase the unique character of Eastwood real estate.
    - Work with local Realtors to establish a coordinated open house day during which many different houses for sale in Eastwood would be available for inspection.
    - Conduct first time homebuyer's seminars in Eastwood with Home Headquarters, Inc. highlighting the advantages of the Eastwood neighborhood. Seminars would be conducted on a bi-annual basis.
  - **Measures**
    - Increased private residential investment in Eastwood by 5% annually.
    - Increase the number of owner occupied properties in Eastwood by 5% by the end of 2008.
    -
- **Goal:** Foster a healthy and sustainable business atmosphere by establishing a marketing campaign that promotes Eastwood as a desirable place to locate a business
  - **Actions**
    - The TNT Economic Development committee will work with the City of Syracuse Economic Development Department and the Eastwood Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with the Greater Syracuse Chamber of Commerce, to identify Eastwood's market needs, pinpoint specific gaps in services and create a proactive strategy for attracting preferred business into the neighborhood.
  - **Measure**
    - Attract at least 5 new businesses to Eastwood by the end of 2008.
- **Goal:** Fill empty storefronts by attracting the development of new businesses. Eastwood has experienced high business turnover and an influx of undesirable businesses in the past 10 years.
  - **Action**

- TNT Economic Development will work with City Economic Development to aggressively attract and retain businesses in existing commercial space on James Street and Burnet Avenue. This joint effort to include the development of a marketing plan and promotional effort for the Eastwood area. We will invite other groups such as the Eastwood Chamber of Commerce who may wish to participate in this effort.
- Conduct a, cohesive market assessment to evaluate vacant commercial properties and develop a detailed strategy to attract development in these spaces. This plan should include an outreach program for those owners not currently seeking tenants for their parcels.
- **Measure**
  - At least 3 of the aforementioned new Eastwood businesses to occupy currently vacant properties.
- **Goal:** Revisit the James Street Business District design guidelines to explore how the guidelines affect business development and revise as required.
  - **Action**
    - Form a joint task force of TNT, the Zoning office, and the City Economic Development Department, Community Development Department and Planning Commission staff in conjunction with other neighborhood groups to review and revise Eastwood’s design guidelines to develop guidelines that meet residents’ concerns about the village character of Eastwood but are also economically feasible for potential business owners. The revised guidelines should identify specific zoning requirements. Further, visual elements that will enhance the village feel of Eastwood will be identified to guide developers in future projects.
  - **Measure**
    - Revised Eastwood zoning standards as well as guidelines for visual effects as part of the City of Syracuse Comprehensive Plan 2025, to be in place by 2009.
- **Goal:** Create a comprehensive neighborhood-parking plan to address increased demand for business parking. As part of a plan to fill empty storefronts, Eastwood must also have a viable strategy to address the parking needs of these new businesses.
  - **Action**
    - The City of Syracuse, on behalf of TNT Area 6, to submit a request to the SMTC or to the City’s designated engineers to conduct a parking study for the James Street business district including an inventory of available on- and off-street parking, an assessment of future needs that evaluates whether additional parking will allow Eastwood to attract business to its vacant properties, and a coordinated parking plan tied to future development within the corridor. Input from other community groups will be welcomed.
  - **Measure**
    - Have a comprehensive Eastwood parking plan in place by 2010.

### ***C. Neighborhood Management – Goals and Measures for Success:***

#### **Working**

- Eastwood has a strong sense of community with many organizations working together
- Eastwood is a very walkable neighborhood.
- Eastwood is a safe neighborhood
- Most areas of Eastwood, especially public spaces, display a strong level of upkeep and management.

#### **Not Working**

- The appearance of many properties, especially commercial and rental properties, is not adequately maintained.
- Some properties and areas surrounding James Street appear unkempt, unlandscaped, and seem to attract crime (loitering, noise, drugs, etc.).

- **Goal:** Encourage and assist homeowners in home maintenance and improvements. Providing homeowners with incentives to improve properties will enhance to overall viability of the Eastwood neighborhood.
  - **Actions**
    - Area 6 TNT Quality of Life committee will work with City Code Enforcement to strictly enforce all City codes within Eastwood.
    - City to assign a dedicated code enforcement officer to work within Eastwood, on a consistent basis.
    - Pursue a stronger policy granting Code Enforcement greater authority in compelling compliance with City Codes. Encourage the City of Syracuse to assign additional personnel in the Corporation Counsel’s office to aggressively prosecute code violators.
    - Place City officers (police, code enforcement, etc.) within the neighborhood in a “mini-city hall” style facility in a currently vacant storefront to encourage resident interaction with these agencies and allow officers better observe code violations and compliance
    - Work with local banks, Home Headquarters, Inc., and other not-for-profit organizations on mini-grant programs, etc. to continue the funding established in 2007 for homeowners through the Syracuse Neighborhood Initiative Phase (SNI).
  - **Measures**
    - Have a dedicated Code Enforcement officer for Eastwood in place by FY 2008-2009.
    - Continued Syracuse Neighborhood Initiative assistance for the Eastwood neighborhood beyond the 2007 programs.
- **Goal:** Promote a safe, walkable neighborhood. Improve code enforcement to ensure better sidewalk maintenance throughout the year to provide for better pedestrian access to Eastwood businesses and residential neighborhoods. More visible policing of Eastwood streets will deter crime and improve the perception of pedestrian safety.
  - **Actions**
    - A Neighborhood Management Committee of Area 6 TNT will work with the Syracuse Police Department to establish regular patrols during all hours. Bike, foot, GEM electric cars, and horse patrols are preferred during spring, summer, and autumn months.
    - Revitalize TNT Quality of Life committee to include members of Eastwood’s different neighborhood watch groups. Work with City Neighborhood Watch Coordinator to

promote starting new neighborhood watch groups in Eastwood. Mailings, flyers, and door-to-door campaigning will be utilized in this effort.

- Neighborhood Management Committee will work with Syracuse's Parks patrols to reduce malicious or illegal behavior in Eastwood parks. We invite Eastwood's park associations may want to participate in these patrols.

- **Measures**

- Established regular police patrols in Eastwood by 2009. Increase the number of uniformed officers dedicated to patrolling Eastwood by 3 officers by 2009.
- Increase the number of neighborhood watches in Eastwood by 50% by 2009.
- Establish a formal Neighborhood Management Committee in 2008.
- Establish regular watches by citizens and park patrols by City Park Patrol officers.

- **Goal:** Facilitate citizen ownership and beautification of the Eastwood area.

- **Actions**

- Expand Area 6 TNT beautification committee working in cooperation with the ENA Green Thumb Committee. This group should more actively recruit members from outside the TNT/ENA membership. Planned events with higher public visibility (media coverage) will enhance this committee growth.
- Establish Sunnycrest Park's Cross Country ski race as the signature winter event for the park.
- Encourage creation of public vegetable and floral gardens on public land in Eastwood. We anticipate that existing community organizations will take the lead in this effort and leverage Department of Parks, Recreation and Youth Programs resources in this regard.

- **Measures**

- 5% increase in participation in the Beautification committee by 2009.
- Establish the Cross Country Ski Race as the signature winter event in Sunnycrest Park by end of 2009.
- Establish 3 citizen gardens in Eastwood neighborhoods in 2008. Increase to 6 in 2009.

- **Goal:** Establish a Syracuse Parks Conservancy that controls operation, maintenance, and programming in Syracuse's parks in partnership with the City of Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation, and Youth Programs.

- **Actions**

- Work with the City government and Syracuse's many park associations to create a strong organization with professional management. This Conservancy would best function at the citywide level, but could also happen at the neighborhood level. Existing conservancies throughout New York State will be referenced as examples.
- Once established the Conservancy will seek to seek financing in cooperation with the City Parks Department.

- **Measure**

- Establish an exploratory committee to determine feasibility of a Syracuse Park Conservancy by end of 2008 with a goal of establishing a Parks Conservancy by 2012.

- **Goal:** Work with the City to market Eastwood’s parks and other Eastwood events.
  - **Actions**
    - Work with the City Department of Parks, Recreation, and Youth Programs and marketing groups to design and implement new events to take place during the four seasons of the calendar year.
    - Promote existing events, including the ski races and the 911 event at Sheridan Park, more effectively through the use of local media and internet outlets.
  - **Measures**
    - Development of 5-6 new events showcasing Eastwood parks, businesses and neighborhoods.
    - Produce an effective media campaign to promote new and existing events
  
- **Goal:** Ensure that Eastwood’s existing residential character is maintained by fostering better communication between Eastwood residents and those with decision making authority regarding planning, zoning, use, etc.
  - **Actions**
    - Expand the role of the TNT primary liaison to increase interaction between Area 6 TNT committees, and City departments such as Community Development, Economic Development Department, and the City of Syracuse Planning Commission to develop a stronger community/city relationship and address concerns in a proactive manner.
    - Establish a TNT committee to work with other Eastwood groups and to speak on behalf of Eastwood citizens presenting a unified voice in regard to City of Syracuse Planning Commission issues.
  - **Measures**
    - Establishment of a TNT committee to work with City agencies in 2008.
    - Enhance liaison position by end of 2007.
  
- **Goal:** Create districts within Eastwood that highlight the unique values of individual areas within Eastwood including the Park District, the James Street Business District, the Arlington District, James Terrace, and the Hill District to create Neighborhoods of Choice as defined at the beginning of this document.
  - **Action**
    - Define unique geographic areas within Eastwood and highlight their strengths and characteristics through a neighborhood planning process conducted by Area 6 TNT in cooperation with other neighborhood organizations.
  - **Measure**
    - Establishment of unique Neighborhoods of Choice by 2009.

## ***D: Physical Conditions – Goals and Measures for Success:***

### **Working**

- Parks improvements that are proposed or in progress such as the Sunnycrest Ice Skating Rink update, the proposed Skateboard Park and improvements to Sheridan Park
- Most commercial buildings and areas are well maintained
- Some areas of Eastwood have improved street infrastructure, including curbs, drainage, public gardens, adequate lighting, and street trees.
- The schools such as Huntington and Henninger are positive features of the neighborhood from a community standpoint.
- The James Street streetscape work has significantly improved the physical appearance of the neighborhood

### **Not Working**

- Some areas of Eastwood do not have curbs and sidewalks.
- Streetscape improvements have not yet been completed along the full length of James Street.
- Poor, inappropriate lighting creates an environment that is not conducive pedestrian activity.

- **Goal:** Reduce the number of “unimproved” streets by installing city-funded curbs, drainage, etc. Sidewalks and curbs are amenities expected in an urban environment. Their absence in some parts of Eastwood gives some of these streets an unacceptable, unfinished appearance.
  - **Actions**
    - Form an Area 6 TNT committee to encourage Eastwood neighbors who live on unimproved streets to become involved in the process of obtaining said street improvements.
    - Area 6 TNT Public Works Committee request that the City fund street improvements throughout Eastwood on targeted streets, possibly via available state and federal grants.
  - **Measure**
    - Reduce unimproved streets using city funding by 5% per year beginning in 2009.
- **Goal:** Continue and improve maintenance of improved streets. Routine maintenance preserves the feel of economic viability and a vibrant city neighborhood.
  - **Action**
    - Area 6 TNT Public Works Committee will work to identify such streets and work with City DPW to establish a published maintenance program.
  - **Measure**
    - The development of a comprehensive maintenance schedule for Eastwood “improved” streets.
- **Goal:** Continue streetscape improvements along James Street and Burnet Avenue, as well as on Sunnycrest Road. Partial completion of these projects leaves a bad impression that things are only half done and likely not to be completed. Neighborhood morale suffers as residents begin to believe projects are not a City priority.
  - **Actions**
    - City to establish a formal remediation plan with funding for Sunnycrest Road for the 2009 fiscal year.
      - Curbing
      - Drainage

- Repaving, as needed
  - Planting of trees, flowers and restoration of grass on City right of ways
  - Restoration of sidewalks utilizing public funding
- Area 6 TNT Public Works Committee will work with City and State representatives to secure authorization and funding for the completion of improvements on Burnet Avenue west of Midler Avenue to facilitate a walkable, attractive streetscape.
- Area 6 TNT Beautification Committee will work with the City to complete the James Street streetscape improvements.
- **Measures**
  - Improve the curbing, drainage, and I-690 entrance ramp on Burnet Avenue by 2010.
  - Improve the curbing, drainage, sidewalks, and streetscape improvements on Sunnycrest Road by 2010.
  - Complete streetscape improvements on James Street from Shotwell Park to Mosley Drive by 2009.
- **Goal:** Increase the level of City funding and staffing to support the size, character, amenities, and activities of Eastwood's City parks during the interim period before the creation of a Syracuse Parks Conservancy.
  - **Actions**
    - Area 6 TNT Parks Committee in conjunction with Park Associations and ENA will work with City Department of Parks, Recreation, and Youth Programs to provide funding for:
      - Field house (estimated \$4 Million)
      - Renovation of the Sunnycrest Park skating rink (estimated \$1Million)
      - East Woods Skate Plaza (\$1 Million)
      - Native educational trail at the north end of Sunnycrest Park
      - Completion of Sheridan Park
      - Renovations of the field at Norwood Park
      - Evaluate the need for and desirability of a children's playground for Eastwood Heights.
    - Evaluate the feasibility of a public outdoor pool in Eastwood.
    - Work with the City government to spend more resources on improving the infrastructure, facilities, and maintenance of Eastwood's parks.
  - **Measures**
    - Receive funding for the above-mentioned projects by 2010.
    - Formation of a committee to evaluate the feasibility of an outdoor pool in Eastwood by 2008.
    - City allocates improved funding for ongoing park maintenance allowing for additional personnel and equipment to augment current staff.

**Eastwood TNT 5-Year Neighborhood Plan 2007-2011**

**Action Plan**

**Image**

<b>Goal</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Measures for Success</b>	<b>Partners</b>
Maintain and promote Eastwood as a conveniently located neighborhood with access to work, shopping, recreation, and transportation.	Create a brochure that highlights the "Village Within the City."	"Village within the City" campaign by the city to promote Eastwood by the end of 2008.	TNT, City
		Eastwood webpage on the City of Syracuse website.	
		Increase in the percentage of POMCO employees that live in Eastwood.	
		Increase in the median household income in Eastwood by 5% over the 2000 census.	
Establish a campaign to promote the area north of James Street.	Create marketing campaign targetted to young families, empty nesters, newlyweds, and first time homebuyers.	Effective campaign in place by 2008.	TNT, local realtors
Reduce loitering near bars and other businesses.	The TNT Quality of Life Committee will work with the Syracuse Police Department and business owners to curb this activity.	Outdoor designated smoking areas for all Eastwood businesses, preferably behind structures, by 2009.	TNT (Quality of Life), Police Department
	The City of Syracuse Common Council should pass an ordinance to require the creation of designated smoking areas behind properties.		Common Council
Improve the reputation of Huntington and Henninger as quality community schools.	Create a booster or auxiliary organization that works alongside PTSO for volunteering, mentoring, etc.	Improved perception of Eastwood schools as measured by follow-up survey.	TNT, SCSD
	Leverage the Syracuse City School District Public Relations department to promote school events.		SCSD
	Use existing neighborhood websites to create a comprehensive calendar of Eastwood events.		TNT, other neighborhood groups
	Create and distribute a quarterly newsletter to all residents.		SCSD
Develop a comprehensive rehabilitation strategy for Midler Avenue.	Create a plan that addresses economic development and housing.	Formal rehabilitation plan addressing housing, traffic, pedestrian environment, cleanup, police presence, etc. in place for Midler Avenue corridor by 2009.	Economic Development, Community Development, Home Headquarters
	Submit a request to the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTC) to conduct a Midler Avenue Corridor Study.		City, SMTC
	Establish a TNT committee to monitor this corridor for improvement and ensure that the recommendations are enacted.		TNT

**Eastwood TNT 5-Year Neighborhood Plan 2007-2011**

**Action Plan**

**Market**

<b>Goal</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Measures for Success</b>	<b>Partners</b>
Encourage private residential investment in Eastwood.	Conduct an annual Eastwood Homes Tour.	Increase in private residential investment in Eastwood by 5% annually.	TNT, local realtors, other neighborhood groups
	Establish a coordinated open house day in Eastwood.		local realtors
	Conduct first time homebuyer's seminars in Eastwood highlighting advantages of the neighborhood.	Increase in the number of owner occupied properties in Eastwood by 5% by the end of 2008.	Home Headquarters
Foster a healthy and sustainable business atmosphere by establishing a marketing campaign that promotes Eastwood as a desirable place to locate a business	Identify Eastwood's market needs, pinpoint specific gaps in services and create a proactive strategy for attracting preferred business into the neighborhood.	Attract at least 5 new businesses to Eastwood by the end of 2008.	TNT, Economic Development, Eastwood Chamber, Syracuse Chamber
Fill empty storefronts by attracting the development of new businesses.	Aggressively attract and retain businesses in existing commercial space on James Street and Burnet Avenue.	At least 3 new Eastwood businesses to occupy currently vacant properties.	TNT, Economic Development
	Conduct a cohesive market assessment to evaluate vacant commercial properties and develop a detailed strategy to attract development in these spaces.		
Revisit the James Street Business District design guidelines to explore how the guidelines affect business development and revise as required.	Review and revise Eastwood's design guidelines to develop new guidelines that meet residents' concerns about the village character of Eastwood but are also economically feasible for potential business owners.	Revised Eastwood zoning standards and guidelines for visual effects as part of the City of Syracuse Comprehensive Plan 2025, to be in place by 2009.	TNT, City zoning, Economic Development, Community Development, Planning Commission, other neighborhood groups
Create a comprehensive neighborhood-parking plan to address increased demand for business parking.	Conduct a parking study for the James Street business district including an inventory of available on- and off-street parking, an assessment of future needs, and a coordinated parking plan tied to future development within the corridor.	Comprehensive Eastwood parking plan in place by 2010.	TNT, City, SMTC

**Eastwood TNT 5-Year Neighborhood Plan 2007-2011**

**Action Plan**

**Neighborhood Management**

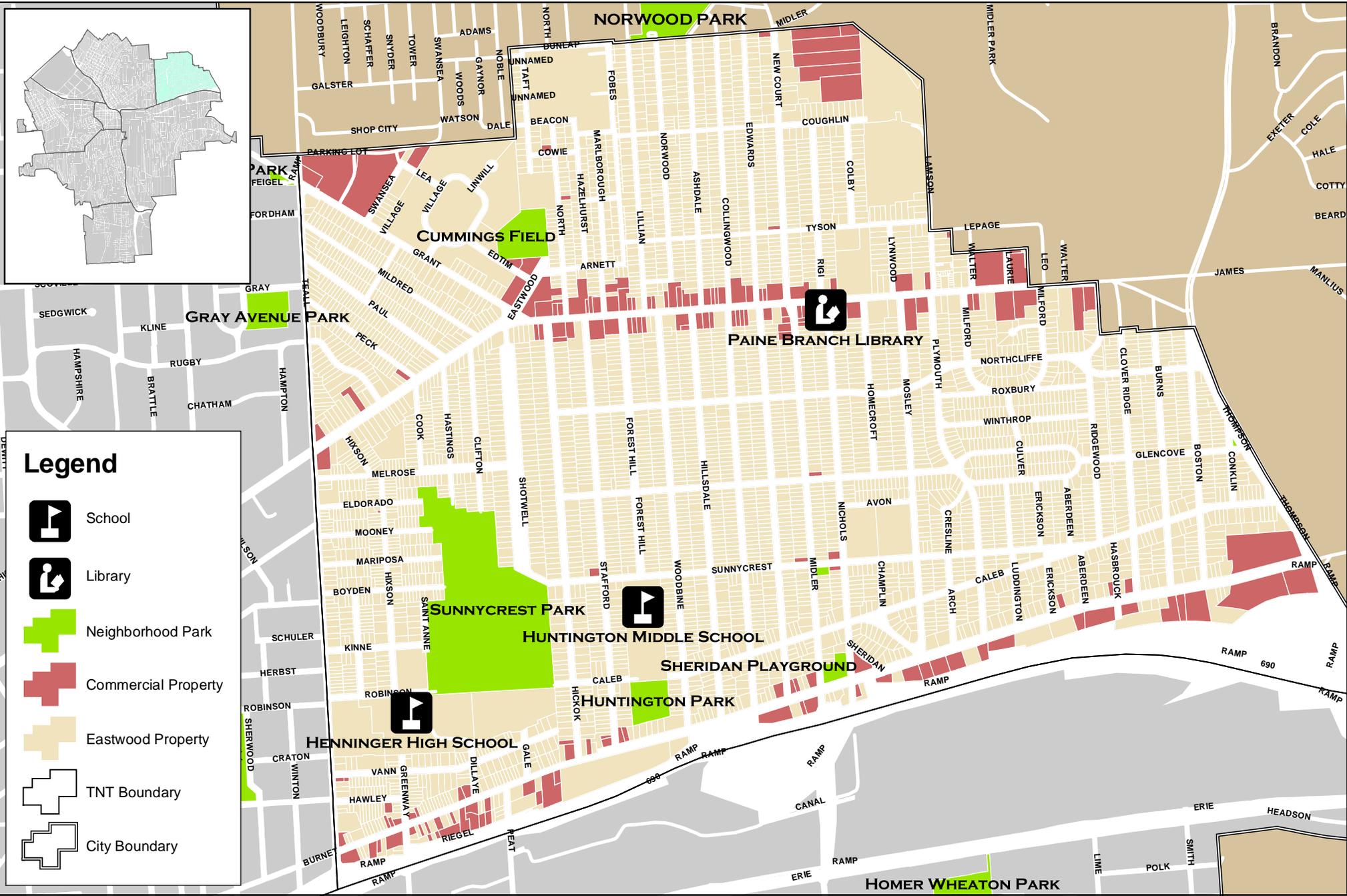
<b>Goal</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Measures for Success</b>	<b>Partners</b>
Encourage and assist homeowners in home maintenance and improvements.	Strictly enforce all City codes within Eastwood.	Dedicated Code Enforcement officer for Eastwood in place by FY 2008-2009.	TNT, Code Enforcement
	City to assign a dedicated code enforcement officer to work within Eastwood, on a consistent basis.		City
	Pursue a stronger policy granting Code Enforcement greater authority in compelling compliance with City Codes. Encourage the City of Syracuse to assign additional personnel in the Corporation Counsel's office to aggressively prosecute code violators.		City
	Place City officers in a "mini-city hall" style facility in a currently vacant storefront in Eastwood.		City
	Continue the funding established in 2007 for homeowners through the Syracuse Neighborhood Initiative Phase (SNI).	Continued Syracuse Neighborhood Initiative assistance for the Eastwood neighborhood beyond the 2007 programs.	local banks, Home Headquarters
Promote a safe, walkable neighborhood.	Establish regular police patrols during all hours.	Regular police patrols in Eastwood established by 2009. Increase in the number of uniformed officers dedicated to patrolling Eastwood by 3 officers by 2009.	TNT, Police Department
	Revitalize TNT Quality of Life committee and work with City Neighborhood Watch Coordinator to promote starting new neighborhood watch groups.	Increase in the number of neighborhood watches in Eastwood by 50% by 2009.	TNT, Neighborhood Watch
	Neighborhood Management Committee will work with Syracuse's Parks patrols to reduce malicious or illegal behavior in Eastwood parks.	Neighborhood Management Committee formed by 2008.	TNT
		Established watches by citizens and park patrols by City Park Patrol officers.	TNT, City Parks
Facilitate citizen ownership and beautification of the Eastwood area.	Expand TNT beautification committee working in cooperation with the ENA Green Thumb committee.	5% increase in participation on the Beautification committee by 2009.	TNT (Beautification), ENA
	Establish Sunnycrest Park's cross-country ski race as the signature winter event for the park.	Ski race established as signature event by the end of 2009.	Sunnycrest Park Association
	Encourage creation of public vegetable and floral gardens on public land in Eastwood.	3 citizen gardens in Eastwood neighborhoods in 2008. Increase to 6 in 2009.	neighborhood groups
Establish a Syracuse Parks Conservancy that controls operation, maintenance, and programming in Syracuse's parks in partnership with City departments.	Create a strong parks organization with professional management, preferably city-wide.	Committee to examine feasibility of a Syracuse Park Conservancy by end of 2008 with a goal of establishing a Parks Conservancy by 2012.	City, park associations
	After a Parks Conservancy is established, seek financing in cooperation with the City Parks Department.		City, Parks Conservancy
Work with the City to market Eastwood parks and other events	Design and implement events to take place during all four seasons.	5-6 new events showcasing Eastwood parks, businesses and neighborhoods.	Department of Parks, Recreation, and Youth
	Promote existing events more effectively through the use of local media and internet outlets.	Effective media campaign to promote new and existing events	park associations, local media
Foster better communication between Eastwood residents and those with decision making authority regarding planning, zoning, use, etc.	Expand the role of the TNT primary liaison to increase interaction between Area 6 TNT committees and City departments.	Enhanced liaison position by the end of 2007.	TNT, Economic Development, Community Development, Planning Commission
	Establish a TNT committee to work with other Eastwood groups and to speak on behalf of Eastwood citizens presenting a unified voice to the Planning Commission.	Established TNT committee to work with City departments in 2008.	TNT, other neighborhood groups
Create districts within Eastwood that highlight the unique values of individual areas.	Define unique geographic areas within Eastwood and highlight their strengths through a neighborhood planning process.	Establishment of unique Neighborhoods of Choice by 2009.	TNT, other neighborhood groups

**Eastwood TNT 5-Year Neighborhood Plan 2007-2011**

**Action Plan**

**Physical Conditions**

<b>Goal</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Measures for Success</b>	<b>Partners</b>
Reduce the number of "unimproved" streets by installing city-funded curbs, drainage, etc.	Form a TNT committee to involve residents in the process of obtaining improvements.	Reduction in unimproved streets using city funding by 5% per year beginning in 2009.	TNT
	Request that the City fund improvements on targeted streets, possibly via available state and federal grants.		TNT (Public Works)
Continue and improve maintenance of improved streets.	Identify target streets and work with City DPW to establish a published maintenance program.	Comprehensive maintenance schedule for Eastwood's "improved" streets.	TNT (Public Works), DPW
Continue streetscape improvements along James Street and Burnet Avenue, as well as on Sunnycrest Road.	Establish formal remediation plan, with funding, for Sunnycrest Road for the 2009 fiscal year.	Improved curbing, drainage, sidewalks, and streetscape amenities on Sunnycrest Road by 2010.	City
	Complete improvements on Burnet Avenue west of Midler Avenue to facilitate a walkable, attractive streetscape.	Improved curbing, drainage, and I-690 entrance ramp on Burnet Avenue by 2010.	TNT (Public Works), City, NYSDOT
	Complete the James Street streetscape improvements.	Streetscape improvements on James Street from Shotwell Park to Mosley Drive completed by 2009.	TNT (Beautification), City
Increase the level of City funding and staffing to support the size, character, amenities, and activities of Eastwood's City parks.	Provide funding for Eastwood parks projects: fieldhouse, ice rink renovation, East Woods Skate Plaza, educational trail, Sheridan Park, renovations at Norwood Park.	Receive funding for these projects by 2010.	TNT (Parks), park associations, ENA, Department of Parks, Recreation, and Youth
	Evaluate need/desire for playground at Eastwood Heights. Evaluate feasibility of a public outdoor pool.	Formation of a committee to evaluate the feasibility of an outdoor pool in Eastwood by 2008.	TNT
	Spend more resources on improving the infrastructure, facilities, and maintenance of Eastwood's parks.	Increased City funding for ongoing park maintenance that will allow for additional personnel and equipment to augment current staff.	City

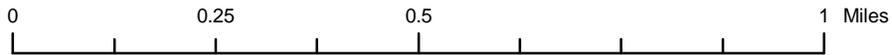


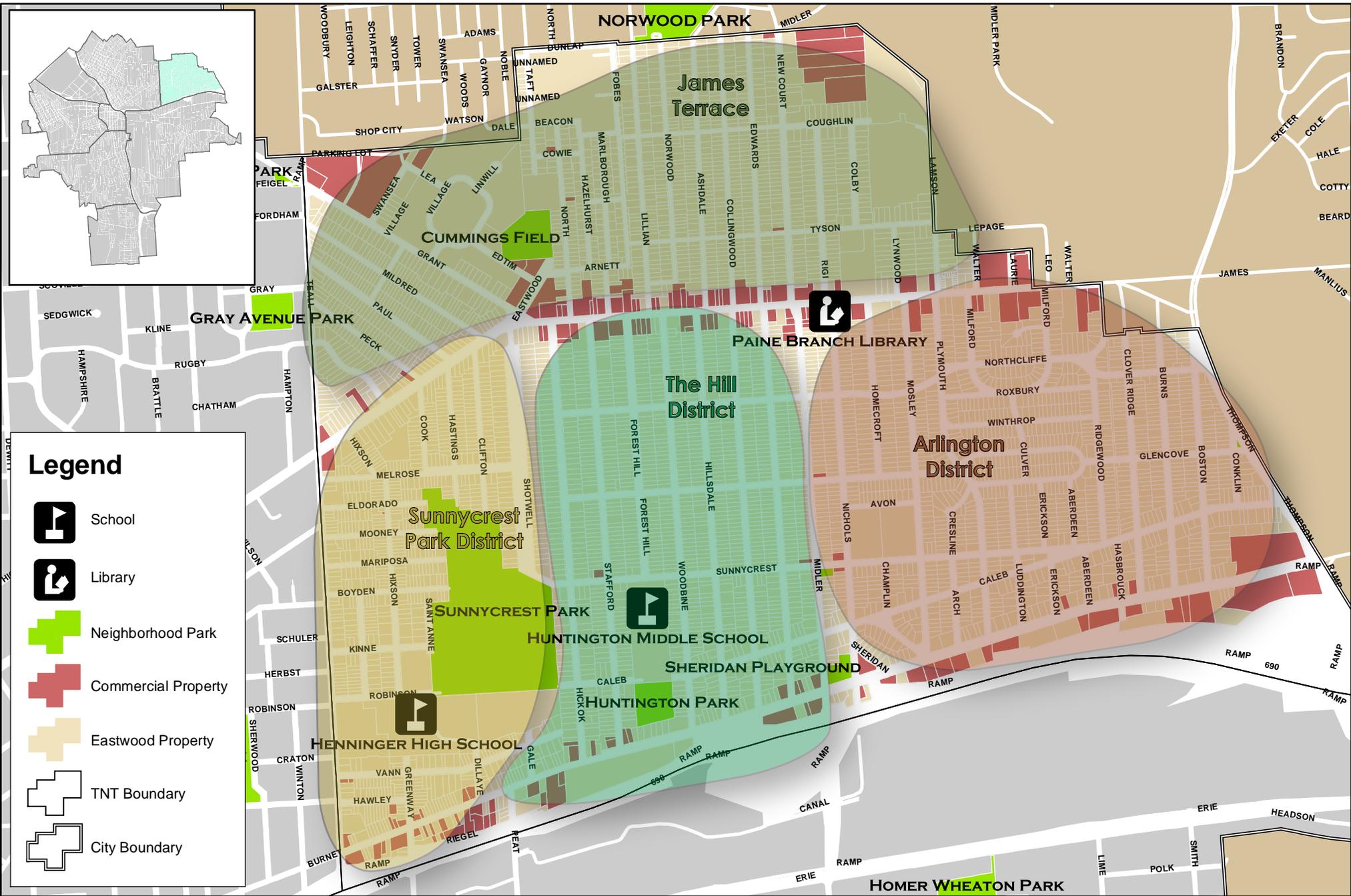
 Mayor Matthew J. Driscoll  
 City of Syracuse  
 Department of Community Development  
 Neighborhood Planning Division  
 201 East Washington Street, Suite 412  
 Syracuse, New York 13202  
 Phone: 315-448-8730  
 Fax: 315-448-8729  
 www.syracuse.ny.us  
 updated: 9/25/06

**Date:** September 2006  
**Project:** NM\_6\_A.mxd  
 Note: This map is for presentation purposes only.  
 The City does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of this map.

# Neighborhood Map

## The Eastwood Planning Area



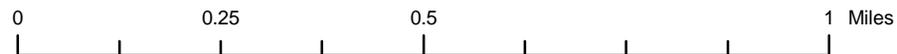


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# Neighborhood Map

## The Eastwood Planning Area



**Sample 1990 and 2000 Decennial Census Data for TNT-6 Census Tracts**

Red Type = Census Tracts that overlap TNT Areas

Blue coded cells = 1990 census data

Yellow coded cells = 2000 census data

TNT Area	Census Tract	Total Population (1990)	Total Population (2000)	Total Population Change (1990 - 2000)	Number of Households (1990)	Number of Households (2000)	Change in Number of Households (1990-2000)	Median Household Income (1989)	Median Household Income (1999)	Change in Median Household Income (1990-2000)
6	10	4099	3936	-163	2077	2075	-2	\$21,731	\$21,271	-\$460
6	17.02	2732	2661	-71	1167	1057	-110	\$31,069	\$40,085	\$9,016
6	18	2844	2731	-113	1301	1294	-7	\$29,946	\$34,167	\$4,221
6	19	4460	4083	-377	1962	1904	-58	\$29,342	\$34,224	\$4,882
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>14135</b>	<b>13411</b>	<b>-724</b>	<b>6507</b>	<b>6330</b>	<b>-177</b>	<b>\$28,022</b>	<b>\$32,437</b>	<b>\$4,415</b>

# Households Below Poverty Level (2000)	% Households Below Poverty Level (2000)	Number of Housing Units (1990)	Number of Housing Units (2000)	Change in Number of Housing Units (1990-2000)	# Vacant Housing Units (1990)	% Housing Units Vacant (1990)	# Vacant Housing Units (2000)	% Housing Units Vacant (2000)	Change in # of Vacant Housing Units (1990-2000)
491	23.66%	2231	2232	1	156	6.99%	159	7.12%	3
139	13.15%	1206	1233	27	53	4.39%	104	8.43%	51
146	11.28%	1375	1384	9	69	5.02%	98	7.08%	29
234	12.29%	2044	2012	-32	59	2.89%	103	5.12%	44
<b>1010</b>	<b>15.96%</b>	<b>6856</b>	<b>6861</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>4.92%</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>6.76%</b>	<b>127</b>

# of Owner-Occupied Housing Units (1990)	% of Owner-Occupied Housing Units (1990)	# of Owner-Occupied Housing Units (2000)	% of Owner-Occupied Housing Units (2000)	Change in # of Owner-Occupied Housing Units (1990-2000)	# of Renter-Occupied Housing Units (1990)	% of Renter-Occupied Housing Units (1990)	# of Renter-Occupied Housing Units (2000)	% of Renter-Occupied Housing Units (2000)	Change in # of Renter-Occupied Housing Units (1990-2000)
749	33.57%	693	31.05%	-56	1482	66.43%	1539	68.95%	57
688	57.05%	624	50.61%	-64	518	42.95%	609	49.39%	91
753	54.76%	674	48.70%	-79	622	45.24%	710	51.30%	88
1345	65.80%	1272	63.22%	-73	699	34.20%	740	36.78%	41
<b>3535</b>	<b>51.56%</b>	<b>3263</b>	<b>47.56%</b>	<b>-272</b>	<b>3321</b>	<b>48.44%</b>	<b>3598</b>	<b>52.44%</b>	<b>277</b>

Median Value of Owner-Occupied Housing Units (1990)	Median Value of Owner-Occupied Housing Units (2000)	Change in Median Value of Owner-Occupied Housing Units (1990-2000)	Median Gross Rent (1990)	Median Gross Rent (2000)	Change in Median Gross Rent (1990-2000)	Houses Built 1939 or Earlier	Houses Built 1940-1959	Houses Built 1960-1979	Houses Built 1980-March 2000
\$63,900	\$67,600	\$3,700	\$396	\$478	\$82	714	990	333	195
\$73,300	\$72,500	-\$800	\$448	\$587	\$139	894	248	80	11
\$67,700	\$72,400	\$4,700	\$416	\$535	\$119	797	397	169	21
\$70,400	\$73,000	\$2,600	\$408	\$527	\$119	903	776	316	17
<b>\$68,825</b>	<b>\$71,375</b>	<b>\$2,550</b>	<b>\$417</b>	<b>\$532</b>	<b>\$115</b>	<b>3308</b>	<b>2411</b>	<b>898</b>	<b>244</b>



## TNT Area 6 - Eastwood

Area Planning Process 2006

~ Workshop #1 ~

Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006, 7pm – Huntington School



## Welcome and Introductions

- Pete Kavanaugh, Facilitator
- Mike Behnke, Facilitator
- Lisa Matthews, Facilitator

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## Eastwood Neighborhood Planning 2006

- Description of Planning process
- Review of Agenda

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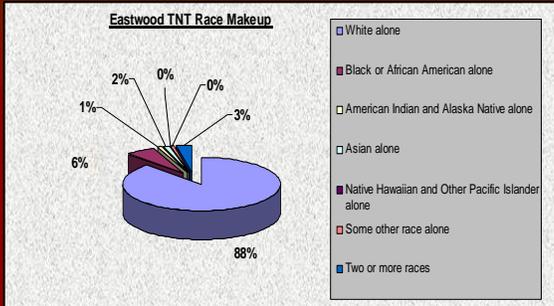
## 7:05 – 7:15

- Overview of Eastwood Statistics
- Overview of Eastwood Maps
- Description of the 4 Outcome Areas

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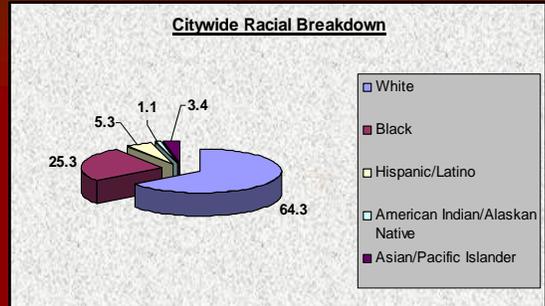
### Eastwood Racial Breakdown (2000 Census)



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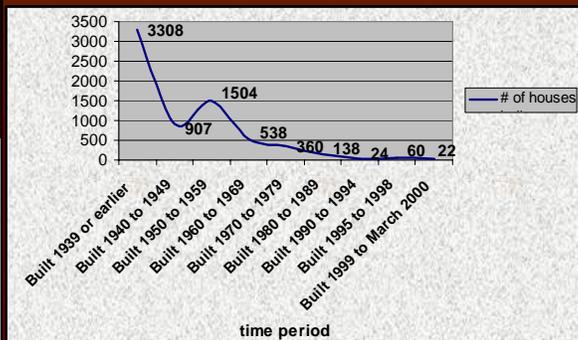
### City of Syracuse Racial Breakdown (2000 Census)



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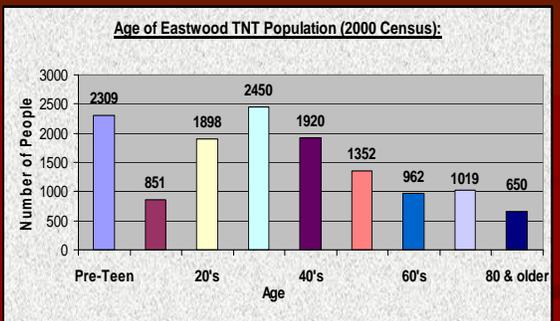
### Age of Housing Stock



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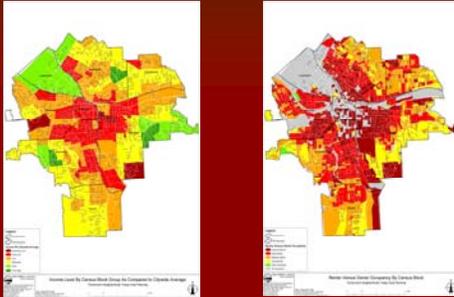
### Age of Population



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## Eastwood Census Information



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## Eastwood Crime Densities



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## 7:15-7:25 → TNT Image

- 1) What's Working?
  - - Overview of questions.
  - - Briefly discuss and answer questions within groups.
  - - Place combined (consensus) answers on yellow post-it notes. There should be one idea per post-it note.
- 2) What's Not Working?
  - - Overview of questions.
  - - Briefly discuss and answer questions within groups.
  - - Place combined (consensus) answers on pink post-it notes. There should be one idea per post-it note.

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## 7:25 – 7:35

- Map notes
- Brief discussion regarding observations on commonalities, differences, and important themes that are emerging for the TNT Area.

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## 7:35-7:45 → TNT Market

- **1) What's Working?**
  - - Overview of questions.
  - - Briefly discuss and answer questions within groups.
  - - Place combined (consensus) answers on yellow post-it notes. There should be one idea per post-it note.
- **2) What's Not Working?**
  - - Overview of questions.
  - - Briefly discuss and answer questions within groups.
  - - Place combined (consensus) answers on pink post-it notes. There should be one idea per post-it note.

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## 7:45 – 7:55

- Map notes
- Brief discussion regarding observations on commonalities, differences, and important themes that are emerging for the TNT Area.

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## 7:55-8:05 → TNT Neighborhood Management

- **1) What's Working?**
  - - Overview of questions.
  - - Briefly discuss and answer questions within groups.
  - - Place combined (consensus) answers on yellow post-it notes. There should be one idea per post-it note.
- **2) What's Not Working?**
  - - Overview of questions.
  - - Briefly discuss and answer questions within groups.
  - - Place combined (consensus) answers on pink post-it notes. There should be one idea per post-it note.

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## 8:05 – 8:15

- Map notes
- Brief discussion regarding observations on commonalities, differences, and important themes that are emerging for the TNT Area.

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## 8:15-8:25 → TNT Physical Conditions

- 1) What's Working?
  - - Overview of questions.
  - - Briefly discuss and answer questions within groups.
  - - Place combined (consensus) answers on yellow post-it notes. There should be one idea per post-it note.
- 2) What's Not Working?
  - - Overview of questions.
  - - Briefly discuss and answer questions within groups.
  - - Place combined (consensus) answers on pink post-it notes. There should be one idea per post-it note.



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## 8:25 – 8:35

- Map notes
- Brief discussion regarding observations on commonalities, differences, and important themes that are emerging for the TNT Area.



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## Conclusion

- Thank you for coming!



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## TNT Area 6 – Eastwood 5-Year Planning: Summary of Information for Workshop #2



The information presented in this document was derived from a Neighborhood Satisfaction Survey conducted in August and September of 2006, and from Area Planning Workshop #1 which was conducted the evening of Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006. The data from these two sources was compiled, analyzed, and summarized by members of the City of Syracuse's Community Development Department staff.

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### Image:

#### Working

- Eastwood is a convenient neighborhood with access to shopping, work and transportation.
  - Survey: 69% of respondents said that they agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, “The location of my home is convenient to where I work.”
  - Survey: 90% of respondents said that they agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, “The location of my home is convenient to where I like to do my shopping.”
  - Survey: 87% of respondents said that they agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, “The location of my home is convenient to public transportation.”
- There are a number of areas (Arlington, Forest Hill, Shotwell, Hickok, and Melrose) which are thriving neighborhoods.
  - Workshop #1: These three areas were mentioned at least a combined 26 times.
- Areas where the City has put in new curbs and sidewalks (James Street business district, Sunnycrest area) are positive and improving.
  - Workshop #1: Mentioned repeatedly.
- There is a mixed, but significantly positive, view of the schools in the community.
  - Survey: 45% of respondents said that they agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, “There are high-quality schools in my community.”
- On the whole, residents feel that the neighborhood is a good place to live.
  - Survey: 73% of respondents said that they agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, “I would recommend living in this neighborhood to others.”
  - Survey: 46% of respondents said that they agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, “All things considered, I feel this neighborhood is moving in the right direction.”
  - Survey: 73% of respondents said that they agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, “I feel connected to my neighbors and this community.”

#### Not Working

- General views of areas around and north of James Street are not as positive as those of areas south of James Street.
  - Workshop #1
- Some bars and other buildings where there is loitering do not present a positive image.
  - Workshop #1
- There is a mixed view of the schools in the community.
  - Survey: 24% of respondents said that they disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement, “There are high-quality schools in my community.”
- Parts of north and south Midler Avenue are viewed as being unsafe areas and risky investments.
  - Workshop #1: Mentioned repeatedly.

## **Market:**

### Working

- There are a number of areas where housing values and confidence are holding firm.
  - Workshop #1: Key areas mentioned – Arlington, Shotwell, Hickok, Forest Hills, Nichols, Homecroft, James and Walter (condos), south side of James.
- Current residents' generally positive attitude toward housing conditions and the future of the neighborhood should fuel the local housing market.
  - Survey: 73% of respondents said that they agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, "I would recommend living in this neighborhood to others."
  - Survey: 70% of respondents said that they agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, "The overall condition of the homes in my neighborhood is satisfactory."
- Varieties of businesses have settled in Eastwood and demonstrate the commercial viability of areas therein.
  - Workshop #1: Walgreen's, POMCO's, Tony's Restaurant, Pickled Pepper, Dominick's, Palace Theatre, Casa DiCopani, etc.

### Not Working

- While confidence in housing appearances in Eastwood is generally strong, the conditions of certain rental dominated areas are causing concern.
  - Workshop #1: Specific areas of concern include: areas north of James Street, areas off Teall including Boyden and El Dorado, Hixson, Midler, Burnet, Lillian, and specific blocks of Nichols, Norwood, Linwood, and Woodbine.
- Vacant properties, single-room occupancy, and absentee landlords are a drain on the area.
  - Workshop #1
- Concern over the quality of area schools may be negatively impacting the local housing market.
  - Survey: 24% of respondents said that they disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement, "There are high-quality schools in my community."

## **Neighborhood Management:**

### Working

- Eastwood has a strong sense of community with many organizations working together. There is a great deal of confidence and strong participation in TNT, the Eastwood Neighborhood Association, school based groups (PTO's, booster clubs, etc.), park associations, and neighborhood watch organizations.
  - Workshop #1
- Eastwood is a very walkable neighborhood.
  - Workshop #1: With accessible parks, schools, libraries, dense structural development, and a centrally located, thriving business district Eastwood's design is very conducive to convenient walking distances.
  - Survey: 69% of respondents said that they agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, "The location of my home is convenient to where I work."
  - Survey: 90% of respondents said that they agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, "The location of my home is convenient to where I like to do my shopping."
- Eastwood is a very safe neighborhood.
  - Survey: 66% of respondents said that they agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, "Overall, I feel that I live in a safe neighborhood."

- Workshop #1
- Most areas of Eastwood, especially public spaces, display a strong level of upkeep and management.
  - Workshop #1: James Street, the Post Office, James Street Monument, flags, median plantings, etc.

### Not Working

- Code enforcement in the Eastwood area, especially among rental properties, must improve.
  - Workshop #1
- Some properties and areas surrounding James Street appear unkempt, unlandscaped, and seem to attract crime (loitering, noise, drugs, etc.).
  - Workshop #1

### **Physical Conditions:**

#### Working

- Parks improvements are in progress such as the Sunnycrest Ice Skating Rink, the Skateboard Park and improvements to Sheridan Park. Public spaces and green spaces are well maintained (Sheridan Park, Cummings Field, Sunnycrest Park, etc.).
  - Workshop #1
- Most commercial buildings and areas are well maintained (Casa DiCopani, Dominick's, Palace Theatre, POMCO, Mobil station, Dunkin Donuts).
  - Workshop #1
- Residential areas such as Forest Hill, Shotwell, Hickok, Rigi, and Arlington are well kempt.
  - Workshop #1: These areas are well kempt and have a unique character that comes with an older housing stock.
- The schools such as Huntington and Henninger are positive features of the neighborhood from an aesthetic and community standpoint.
  - Survey: 45% of respondents said that they agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, "There are high-quality schools in my community."
- The James Street streetscape work has significantly improved the physical appearance of the neighborhood.
  - Workshop #1

#### Not Working

- Some areas of Eastwood do not have curbs and sidewalks.
  - Workshop #1: Some streets, such as Sunnycrest Road from Huntington School, need sidewalks for the safety of the children.
- Not yet renovated portions of the James Street business district need streetscape improvements.
  - Workshop #1: The work already done has had a positive effect, but there is still room for improvement in this district.
- A few areas are need of improved drainage.
  - Workshop #1: Nichols, James, etc.



## TNT Area 6 – Eastwood 5-Year Planning: Summary of Information for Workshop #3

The information presented in this document was derived from the goals and objectives generated by the TNT Area 6 Planning Council in Area Planning Workshop #2 which was held on Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2006. The data was compiled and summarized by members of the City of Syracuse's Community Development Department staff. The categories used in the workshops, and displayed below, have been guides for brainstorming and specificity of thought, but some overlap in the content of each outcome area is to be expected.

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### Image:

- Establish Eastwood as easily navigated, beautiful and unique neighborhood.
  - Highlight Eastwood's gateways: Midler Avenue and James Streets.
    - Create a special lighting district for James Street.
    - Improve the quality of lighting.
    - Improve corners along Midler Avenue.
  - Improve visibility of address numbers on properties.
  - Identify and brand sub-districts of Eastwood.
  - Promote the "Village within the City" neighborhood theme.
  - Establish detailed design guidelines for the Eastwood neighborhood.

### Market:

- Encourage investment in Eastwood.
  - Improve the housing stock.
    - Communicate available tax incentives and other programs for home improvements.
  - Support investment in the city schools.
  - Increase the number of owner-occupied homes.
    - Communicate available tax incentives and other programs for potential buyers.
    - Targeted marketing to younger individuals and families.
    - Promote the city school district.
  - Attract more public programs to Eastwood.
  - Implement public improvements that spur private property development / rehabilitation.
- Foster a healthy and sustainable business atmosphere.
  - Revive the Eastwood Business Association.
  - Promote patronage of businesses located in Eastwood.
  - Create business improvement district along James Street.
  - Encourage consistent snow removal in business areas.

## **Neighborhood Management:**

- Promote a safe, walkable neighborhood.
  - Create a stronger police presence.
    - Focus police efforts on Midler Avenue.
    - Recommend that the police substation fit in with the rest of the neighborhood and look like an active site in the community.
  - Encourage pedestrianism.
    - Develop design guidelines to encourage public activity and promote “eyes on the street.”
    - Install pedestrian level lighting on James Street.
    - Revise the snow removal ordinance to close loopholes and establish different rules for commercial and residential properties.
    - Implement odd/even parking on Sunnycrest Road.
- Facilitate citizen ownership and beautification of the Eastwood area.
  - Expand participation in Neighborhood Associations, Neighborhood Watches, and Park Associations.
  - Promote adherence to neighborhood expectations.
    - Improve communication to residents about civic laws and expectations (codes, debris pick up dates, etc).
    - Advocate for stricter zoning and code enforcement.
  - Propagate citizen gardening.
    - Institute bulb distribution system.
    - Initiate days for neighborhood planting celebrations.
    - Create recognition program for residents who improve properties.

## **Physical Conditions:**

- Maintain the residential feel of Eastwood.
  - Strengthen the condition of Eastwood’s corridors.
    - End the practice of widening unimproved streets during street repaving.
    - Continue installing sidewalks and new curbs on unimproved streets.
    - Partner with the City for building curbing / sidewalk / lighting improvement plans.
    - Communicate with National Grid to replace broken lights in a timely fashion.
  - Further enhance the neighborhood parks.
  - Increase neighborhood greenery (flowers, tree-lined streets, shrubbery, etc.).
  - Improve the drainage in Eastwood.
    - Practice creative drainage techniques (such as rain gardens, etc.).