



TRUMBULL
NEIGHBORHOOD
PARTNERSHIP

Strategic Plan Update 2020



Visit

736 Mahoning Ave NW
Warren, OH 44483



Call

Phone: 330.647.6301



Connect

Email: info@tnpwarren.org
Website: tnpwarren.org

Introduction



Trumbull Neighborhood Partnership (TNP) was launched with the assistance of The Raymond John Wean Foundation in 2010 as an organization dedicated to helping the residents of Warren and its surrounding communities improve their neighborhoods and increase their quality of life. From the start, TNP resolved to carry out its mission by empowering residents as leaders in the initiative to craft a vision for Warren's future and a strategy for realizing that vision.





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Mission

TNP's mission is to empower residents through programming and projects that improve the quality of life in the neighborhoods of Warren, Ohio and surrounding communities.



Vision

TNP's vision is to transform communities into meaningful places where people invest time, money, and energy into their homes and neighborhoods; where residents have the capacity to manage day-to-day issues; and, where neighbors feel confident about the future of their neighborhoods.

Core Values

- An insistence on authentic, transparent, and equitable community engagement
- A conviction that the health of a community is rooted in the health of its citizens
- A belief that effectiveness is amplified exponentially through honest civic partnerships
- An abiding regard for a proud history and considerable cultural assets
- An unflinching commitment to racial, ethnic, gender and social diversity and inclusion
- A resolve to protect and preserve the environment now and for the future
- An outlook that encourages creativity and innovation





Key Achievements 2015-2019

- TNP released and implemented five strategic neighborhood plans in 2015 as a result of the 3-year HUD-funded Community Challenge Grant.
- TNP's contract to manage the Trumbull County Land Bank was renewed. In this role, TNP has facilitated the sale of more than 350 residential structures for rehabilitation, the sale of over 1100 vacant lots to residents for side yards, and the demolition of over 650 derelict structures.
- The successful administration of \$13.5 million dollars from the Ohio Housing Finance Agency for demolition of blighted residential structures has resulted in an additional \$10.7 million over 5 additional allocations.
- Leveraging the neighborhood plans and the demolition funding, TNP was awarded a \$225,000 Community Economic Development grant to launch the Building a Better Warren program which connects low-income residents to full-time employment doing the hands-on work of neighborhood revitalization.
- Through COCS, TNP has continued to offer a sentencing alternative resulting in over 16,500 hours of blight remediation in Warren neighborhoods.
- Over \$50,000 from Huntington and Home Savings has allowed TNP to continue to implement the Side Lot Incentive Program, through which purchasers of Land Bank lots receive Lowe's gift cards to help defray the cost of supplies and tools.
- TNP promoted home ownership through education and unique financing mechanisms utilized by over 130 owner occupants.
- Through \$31,551 in USDA funding, TNP conducted a yearlong Community Foods Needs Assessment and in fall of 2017 partnered with the city of Warren to release the Warren Community Food Security Strategic Plan, which identified barriers to food security and developed strategies to address these barriers.
- TNP's GROW program continues to support resident-led-and-managed community gardens. Over 200 resident gardeners participate each season. TNP was also awarded \$82,500 from the Trumbull Memorial Hospital Foundation to support it's GROW Program.





- TNP's community partnerships have resulted in the installation of six murals, three sculptures, and over two-dozen placemaking projects including two "Occupied Warren" exhibits with FACT
- In 2019, TNP secured nearly one million in additional resources to stabilizing housing from a variety of sources including the Federal Home Loan Bank, Warren-Trumbull HOME Consortium, the Trumbull County Commissioners and Ohio Development Services; this allows TNP to create homeownership opportunities through the renovation of vacant houses and to perform emergency repairs on owner occupied houses.
- TNP partnered with The Raymond John Wean Foundation to add organizing capacity in 2017.

- TNP received awards from the William Swanston Charitable Foundation of \$50,000 for playground equipment at the TMHA owned Highland Terrace and \$90,000 for infrastructure and programming improvements at the city-owned Quinby Park.
- In 2016 TNP released the Warren Farmers Market Strategic Plan to guide the future progress of the Warren Farmers Market and neighborhood markets. TNP offers free round-trip transportation and double-your-dollars SNAP programming.
- TNP joined forces with key Mahoning Valley stakeholders to form the Healthy Community Partnership Coalition with an eye toward a collaborative commitment to improving the health and quality of life of Mahoning Valley residents using an innovative, cross-sector approach.



- TNP and the HCP Healthy Retail Action Team applied for and was awarded funding through the Trumbull Memorial Health Foundation to hire a Retail Food Access Coordinator whose 18 month fellowship is focused on fostering relationships among local retailers in order to increase the availability of fresh, healthy food sold within the community.

Goal One: Return Vacant and Abandoned Property to Productive Use

- A. Nuisance Abatement:** TNP will continue to secure and revitalize vacant properties and adjacent lots throughout Warren and surrounding areas
- B. Return Land to Productive Use:** TNP will handle the demolition of hundreds of unsalvageable houses and manage the maintenance and disposition of the underlying land, plus other vacant lots acquired by the Trumbull County Land Reutilization Corporation (TCLRC). TNP's principal strategies for disposition of these lands will be:
- Sale of parcels to adjacent owners who wish to expand their yards. TNP will seek support from partner institutions to support purchasers and defray improvement costs
 - Organize residents and civic groups who undertake innovative land reuse projects, including community gardens, park spaces, and ecologically sustainable projects that mitigate the impacts of stormwater runoff and brownfield contamination
- C. Return Structures to Productive Use:** TNP will sell TCLRC properties resulting in the rehabilitation of these buildings and creating new homeownership opportunities. Strategies for returning properties to productive use will be:
- Sale of as-is properties to owner-occupants and investors who then complete rehabilitation
 - Rehabilitation of targeted homes prior to sale and expansion of renovation funding tools and resources
 - Partnerships with developers, contractors, local businesses, and non-profits that agree to purchase and renovate Land Bank properties
 - Commitments by financial institutions and the TCLRC to offer home purchase financing options for buyers who are at the margins of normal underwriting parameters



- D.** Work with TCLRC, neighborhood organizations, and regional/statewide organizations to pursue additional funding to address the effects of property abandonment on communities
- E.** Pursue additional contributions of vacant properties – to be demolished or rehabbed - from REO inventories, private parties, and others

Every Neighborhood Has A Future



Goal Two: Improve the Health of Warren Residents by Increasing Access to Nutritious Foods and the Elimination of Food Deserts in Warren Neighborhoods, While Supporting Local Food Producers and Benefiting the Local Economy.

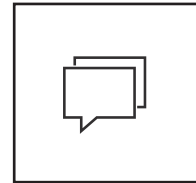
- A.** Continue GROW, an urban agriculture and local food effort that supports the transformation of vacant lots into community gardens capable of providing fresh produce, building community, reducing food insecurity, and providing accessible sources for healthy food
- B.** Continue to offer tools, supplies, outreach, and technical assistance to existing community gardens
- C.** Work with neighborhood residents and partners to start and support new community garden sites
- D.** Provide growers and producers training in sustainable agricultural techniques through educational classes, workshops, and hands-on training, often in collaboration with other organizations and agriculture experts
- E.** Maintain the Warren Farmers Market and explore ways to decentralize distribution of fresh foods in Warren neighborhoods
- F.** Renew voucher program with Mercy Health (while funding is available) and continue to encourage Warren Farmers Market vendors to accept vouchers at the market
- G.** Maintain a Warren Farmers Market website to provide market information, recipes, and information on participating producers
- H.** Maintain funding to develop and market a SNAP incentive program to encourage use of the Warren Farmers Market by SNAP recipients
- I.** Promote the purchase of locally-grown foods by area restaurants and institutions
- J.** Participate in local and regional food policy councils and related advocacy groups
- K.** Launch the Mahoning Valley Farmers Market Network to offer regional support for Farmers Markets
- L.** Continue to expand the corner store and local retail food sellers initiatives



Goal Three: Empower Resident-Driven Neighborhood Improvement Plans and Initiatives Through Community Organizing in the City of Warren



- A.** Conduct public outreach and develop an action plan to guide investment in municipal parks as funding permits, beginning with Quinby and Burbank Parks
- B.** Continue to develop partnerships and resources to support the development of infrastructure to increase health and well-being among residents
- C.** Support the development of youth led organizing efforts that align with TNP's overall mission and develop benchmarks to help measure the work towards building tomorrow's leaders
- D.** Provide support to the Neighborhood Leadership Council, Warren's Neighborhood Associations, and other resident-driven cohorts
- E.** Develop and maintain institutional relationships to foster policy and programming changes as informed by community outreach

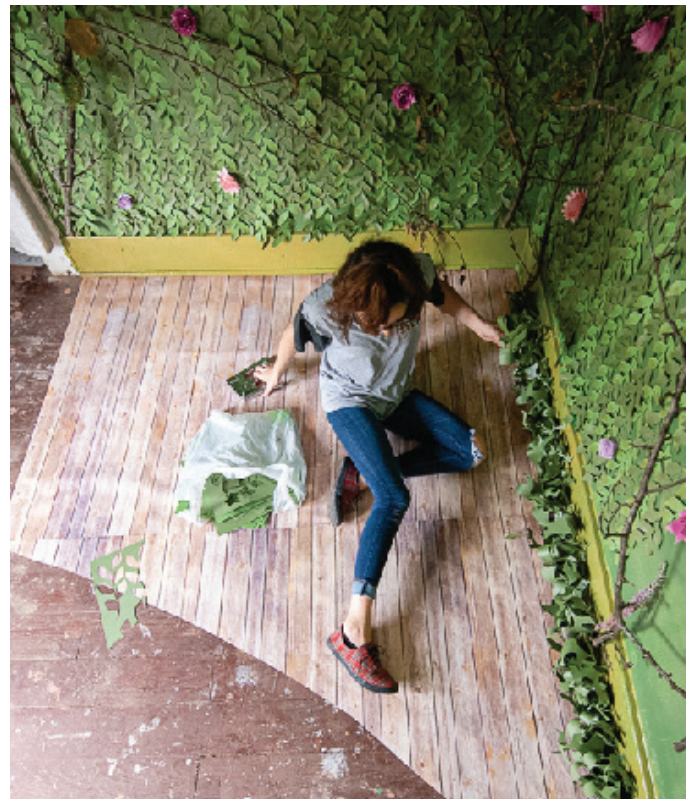


Warren residents were provided with paid door-to-door canvassing work to survey neighborhoods located near Warren parks to inform the development of the Warren Parks Action Plan. Over 2,000 surveys were collected by this team.

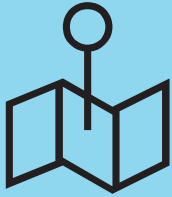


Goal Four: Engage Local Artists and Citizens in a Robust Public Arts Program to Bring Beauty and Build Community in Warren's Neighborhoods.

Continue program where local artists are selected to complete murals, sculptures, bike racks, and other forms of public art on vacant structures and vacant lots in coordination with property reuse initiatives



A two-day temporary art exhibit was held in a vacant house in Warren in October 2019. Occupied Warren featured the work of seventeen artists under the theme of fantasy and fairytale.





TNP staff and volunteers participated in Good Deeds Day improving three community sites and involving ninety volunteers across the community.



In 2018, TNP and Highland Terrace's project Play Partners collaborated with the William Swanston Charitable Foundation to install a playground in the housing complex.



Volunteers paint a map of the United States at Quinby Park further enlivening the neighborhood Park.

Goal Five: Fashion Partnerships with the Community and the Public Sector that Result in Positive Outcomes for Warren Residents.



- A. Continue working with the bicycling community to promote bike-friendly activities, events, and infrastructure
- B. Continue partnership with Warren Municipal Court, through which Court-Ordered Community Service clients maintain and secure properties, assist with neighborhood projects, and install public art
- C. Maintain TNP's working relationships with the City of Warren, Trumbull County, the Warren City Schools, and state and federal legislators
- D. Collaborate with other organizations in the region on policy issues of mutual concern

Goal Six: TNP's Governance, Administration, and Staffing Capabilities

- A. Expand on-site programming efforts at the organization's newly opened office
- B. Continue to work on diversification of funding, including ways to increase program income
- C. Invest in the professional growth of staff members
- D. Work to expand TNP's pipeline and networks to develop and build local talent for its programming positions and other opportunities

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Community Resource Coordinator

MATT HALLAS

BABW Team Member



JARROD MACCARTNEY

Design & Marketing Associate

JUAN MIRANDA

BABW Team Leader

JEREMY STARR

Land Bank Demolition Coordinator

JAKE CARRINO

BABW Team Leader

TERRENCE EDDINGTON

COCS Program Supervisor

GARY HONEYWOOD

BABW Team Leader

JESSICA KING

Land Bank Program Associate

MATT MARTIN

Executive Director

LISA RAMSEY

Deputy Director

SEV TRIPOULAS

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Special Thanks To Our Partners

R Residents of Warren and Trumbull County, Akron Children's Hospital of the Mahoning Valley, Akron Children's Hospital Safe Kids, AmeriCorps VISTA, Any Given Child, The Avenue & Main, Beautiful Whirl'd, Body Bliss Connection, Bookworms of Warren, Brite Energy Incubator, the Business Journal, Chemical Bank, Chess is Life, Christmas on the Square, Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley, Community Concerned Citizens II, Creating Healthy Communities—Trumbull County Combined Health District, D5 Group, Dave Grohl Alley Committee, Earth Angel Farms, Eastgate Regional Council of Governments, Farmers National Bank, Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati, Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis, Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh, Fine Arts Council of Trumbull County, First Place Foundation, For the Love of Bikes and Warren, Friendship Baptist Church, Fund for Warren's Future, Garfield Community Garden, Greater Ohio Policy Center, Habitat for Humanity of the Mahoning Valley, Healthy Community Partnership, Homes Savings Foundation, Independent Order of Odd Fellows: Mahoning Lodge, The Junior Organizers, Inspiring Minds, John F. Kennedy Catholic School, Historic Perkins Homestead Neighborhood Association, HPAC Warren G. Harding High School, Huntington National Bank, Kennedy Family Fund, Kenmore Neighborhood Association, Kent State University, Lady Buggs Farm, Lake to River Food Cooperative, Light up the Square, Lowes, Macaroni Kids, Mahoning Valley College Access Program, Mercy Health Foundation, National Fire and Water Repair, Na-

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County YWCA, Trumbull County Planning Commission, Trumbull Family Fitness, Trumbull Informed Care Committee, Trumbull Memorial Health Foundation, Trumbull 100, United Methodist Community Center, United Returning Citizens, United Way of Trumbull County, United States Department of Agriculture, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, United States Environmental Protection Agency, United States Department of Health and Human Services, Warren Bike to Work Committee, Warren City Council, Warren City Environmental Services, Warren City Mayor Doug Franklin, Warren City Police Department, Warren City Fire Department, Warren City Schools, Warren City Water Department, Warren Expressed, Warren Family Mission, Warren Greenhouse, Warren Heritage Center, Warren Municipal Court, Warren Paint and Glass, Warren - Trumbull CIC, Warren - Trumbull HOME Consortium, Warren Trumbull NAACP, Wells Fargo, Western Reserve Health Department, Western Reserve Land Conservancy, William Swanston Charitable Foundation, Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation, Youngstown / Warren Regional Chamber and 422 Corridor Project, YSU NEOMED, YSU Regional Economic Development Initiative