



TRUMBULL  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
PARTNERSHIP

# Strategic Plan Update 2023



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# 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

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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

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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

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- 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



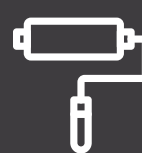






# Key Achievements 2015-2023

- TNP released and implemented five strategic neighborhood plans in 2015 as a result of the 3 year HUD-funded Community Challenge Grant.
- 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.
- The successful administration of \$13.5 million dollars from the Ohio Housing Finance Agency for demolition of blighted residential structures has resulted in the strategic demolition of nearly 1,100 properties that were blighted and abandoned.
- 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 has created 9 full time jobs and provided skills training to staff including lead abatement certifications.
- Through COCS, TNP has continued to offer a sentencing alternative resulting in over 25,000 hours of blight remediation in Warren neighborhoods.
- Secured over \$7MM from the Ohio Department of Development's Demolition and Brownfield Remediation Program for the remediation of over 100 sites throughout the county
- TNP promoted home ownership through education and unique financing mechanisms utilized by over 350 owner occupants.
- Secured over \$2 million in additional resources to stabilize 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.
- Over 150 home repair projects have been completed for low-income households including emergency roof, furnace and hot water replacements, accessibility modifications including ramps and bathroom modifications, and electrical and plumbing repairs.







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- In 2020 TNP released a Warren Parks Action Plan after a 12 month study including inventory and outreach.
- TNP received awards from the William Swanston Charitable Foundation of \$50,000 for playground equipment at the TMHA owned Highland Terrace and \$90,000 and \$50,000 for infrastructure and programming improvements at the city-owned Quinby Park and Burbank Park respectively.
- TNP's community partnerships have resulted in the installation of seven murals, three sculptures, and over two-dozen placemaking projects including two Occupied Warren exhibits with Fine Arts Council of Trumbull (FACT).
- Through the USDA National Institute for Food & Agriculture Community Food Project Planning Grant, 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.
- 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 SNAP Produce Perks and other non cash payment options at the Warren Farmers Market.
- TNP received \$277,921 in funding from both the United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service and National Institute for Food and Agriculture to promote local foods and local food education in Trumbull County.
- TNP continues to work with small retail businesses in Trumbull County to create a healthy community store program where entrepreneurs are encouraged to sell fresh and local produce.
- 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 its GROW Program.





# Goal One: Return Vacant and Abandoned Property to Productive Use

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- A. Nuisance Abatement:** TNP will continue to secure and revitalize vacant properties and adjacent lots throughout Warren and surrounding areas, partnering with the city and other stakeholders to remediate blight in the community
- 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, tree planting, and ecologically sustainable projects that mitigate the impacts of stormwater runoff and environmental contamination
  - In partnership with the Trumbull County Land Bank, seek funding and resources to remediate brownfields and perform community outreach to inform citizens about the process
- C. Return Structures to Productive use:** TNP will facilitate the sale of 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



- 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

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- A. Continue to offer tools, supplies, outreach and technical assistance to existing community gardens through TNP's GROW Program.
- B. Work with neighborhood residents and partners to start and support new community garden sites.
- C. 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.
- D. Continue to operate and manage the Warren Farmers Market with a mission to bring local farmers together to sell their produce along with other locally crafted foods, crafts, etc. including the Warren Farmers Market website and social media channels.
- E. Maintain funding to continue to provide and market a SNAP incentive program to encourage use of the Warren Farmers Market by SNAP recipients.
- F. Continue to expand other non-cash payment methods at the Warren Farmers Market while also working with other direct-to-consumer farmers markets in the Mahoning Valley to expand and promote their non-cash payment options.
- G. Continue to expand the community store and local retail food sellers initiatives.
- H. Support local community stores, working to shift the negative stereotypes that are associated with these retail spaces while also providing support and resources to these local small businesses that have decided to sell fresh and healthy foods.
- I. Promote the purchase of locally-grown foods by area restaurants and institutions.
- J. Support and work to build collective community capacity to solve food insecurity through networks and coalitions, including but not limited to the Creating Healthy Communities Coalition Trumbull County, the Healthy Community Partnership of the Mahoning Valley, and the Mahoning Valley Farmers Market Network.





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

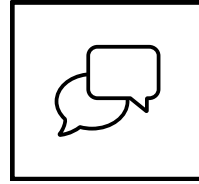
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- A. Conduct public outreach and update action plans to guide investment in neighborhoods as funding permits.
- B. Continue to develop partnerships and resources to support the development of infrastructure to increase health and well-being among residents.



- C. Support civic engagement programs such as voter registration and participation, local government participation, and local policy initiatives.
- D. 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.
- E. Provide the support to Warren's Neighborhood Associations, and other resident-driven cohorts.
- F. Develop and maintain institutional relationships to foster policy and programming changes as informed by community outreach.

*BUILD, an organizing effort to build youth leaders in the community, partnered with Warren City Schools (Lincoln, Jefferson, Willard, and Monroe Center) along with STEAM Academy, Rivergate, and Youth Build on civic engagement training. BUILD promotes civic engagement opportunities in education by providing an intellectual, challenging, fun, and creative learning environment that will assist with strategy and building everyday life skills. Below are students from STEAM Academy that participated.*





# Goal Four: Engage Local Artists and Citizens in Beautification Efforts to Improve Aesthetics and Build Community in Warren's Neighborhoods.

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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



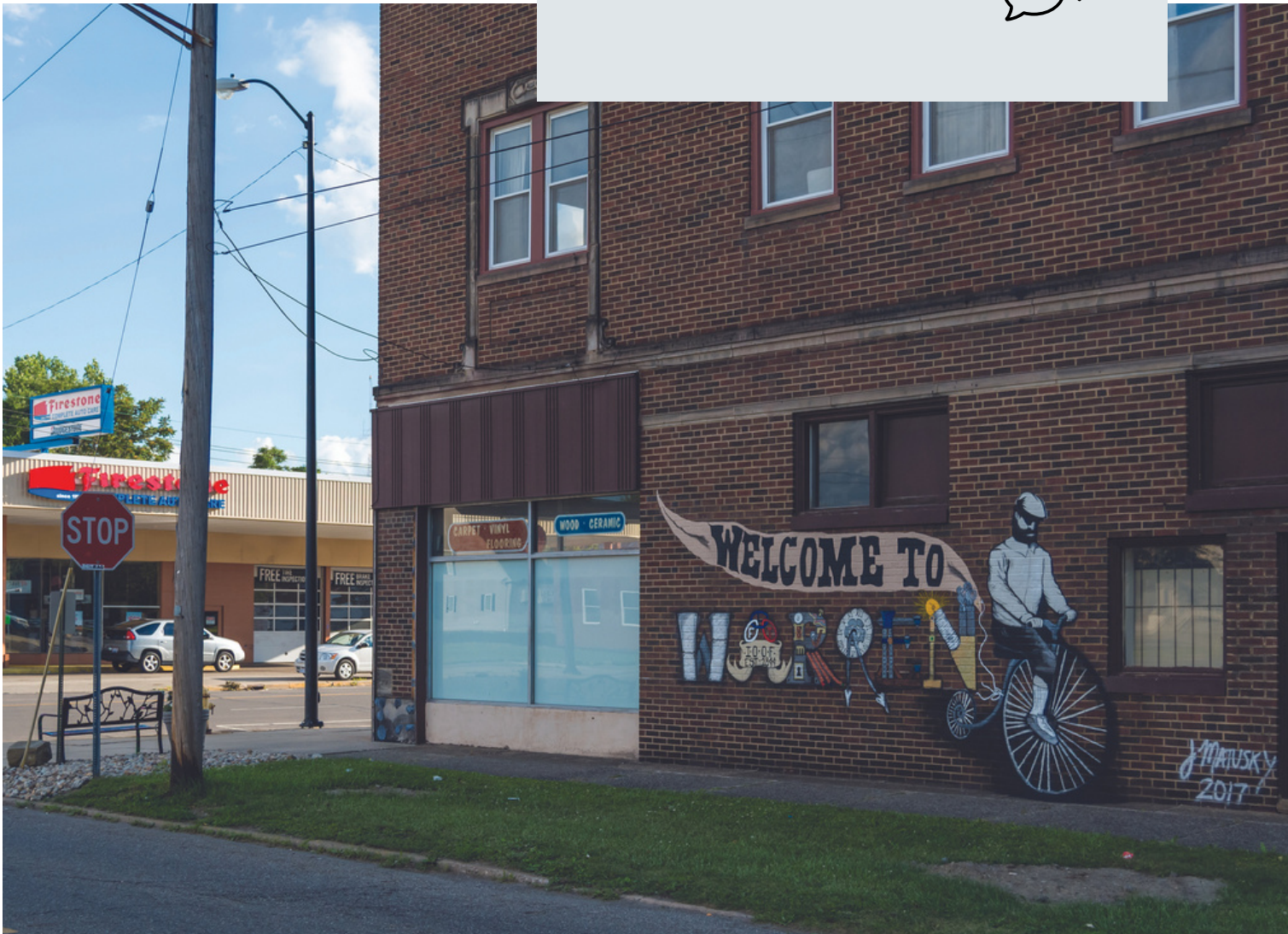
Local artist Tony Armeni installed a metal work sculpture bird bath in Quinby Park as part of an Ohio Arts Council Grant



Students from Kent Summer Stock Theatre perform a neighborhood play at the Willard Pocket Park.



*Murals like the one installed in the Garden District by Jessica Matusky serve to beautify the community and bolster civic pride*





## Goal Five: 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

# Board

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**Lydia Walls**  
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**Ashley Yuhasz**  
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# Special Thanks To Our Partners

Residents of Warren and Trumbull County, Akron Children's Hospital of the Mahoning Valley, Akron Children's Hospital Safe Kids, AmeriCorps VISTAS & National Civilian Community Corps, Any Given Child, The Avenue & Main, Beautiful Whirl'd, Benjamin Family Foundation, Body Bliss Connection, Bookworms of Warren, the Business Journal, Chase Bank, Chemical Bank, Chess is Life, Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley, Community Concerned Citizens II, Creating Healthy Communities —Trumbull County Combined Health District, D5 Group, Dave Grohl Alley Committee, Davey Tree Service, Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation, Earth Angel Farms, Eastern Ohio Education Partnership, Eastgate Regional Council of Governments, Farmers National Bank, Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis, Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh, Fine Arts Council of Trumbull County, First Place Foundation, The Food Trust, 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, 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, Huntington National Bank, Kennedy Family Fund, Kenmore Neighborhood Association, Kent State University, Lady Buggs Farm, Lake to River Food Cooperative, Light up the Square, Macaroni Kids, Mahoning Valley College Access Program, Mahoning Valley Dream Center, Mercy Health Foundation, National Fire and Water Repair, National Safe Kids USA and Corporate Sponsors, Northeast Ohio Community Alternative Program, NorthMar SERVE, Northwest

Neighborhood Association, Northwood Realtors, Ohio Arts Council, Ohio CDC Association, Ohio EPA, Ohio Housing Finance Agency, Ohio Land Bank Association, Ohio State University Extension (Mahoning and Trumbull County), Old Fields Baptist Church Old Fields West Virginia, Parsons School of Design, PNC Foundation, Policy Link, Policy Matters, Power of the Arts, Project H.O.P.E., The Raymond John Wean Foundation, Regeneration Church, Revitalize Home Mortgage, Roosevelt Area Neighborhood Watch Group, Rotary Club of Warren, Second Baptist Church of Warren, SCOPE, SMARTS, Spruce Décor, South Eastside Community Association, St. Paul Lutheran Church, St. Vincent De Paul, Inc. Northeast Ohio, State Senator Sean O'Brien, STEAM Academy of Warren, The Loop Group/Circle Park, Thriving Communities Institute, Tribune Chronicle, Trumbull Art Gallery, Trumbull Career and Technical Center, Trumbull County Commissioners, Trumbull County Dog Warden, Trumbull County Farm Bureau, Trumbull County Herb Society, Trumbull County Historical Society, Trumbull County Job and Family Services, Trumbull County Youth Build, Trumbull Metropolitan Housing Authority, Team Sanders Inc., Trumbull County WIC, Tech Belt Energy Innovation Center, Trumbull County Land Reutilization Corporation, Trumbull County Prosecutor's Office, Trumbull County Recorder's Office, Trumbull County SWCD, Trumbull County Sheriff's Office, Trumbull County Tourism Bureau, Trumbull County Treasurer Sam Lamancusa and Staff, Trumbull 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,

University of Cincinnati, School of Planning, 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 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 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, & Youngstown State University