

SUSTAINABILITY PRIORITIES

Throughout the early stages of the planning process, the project team found a number of common themes related to Sustainability listed below:

1. The neighborhood has a huge portion of the City's vacant lots.
2. Air pollution mitigation is extremely important for both environmental health and the health of our children.
 - Tree planting can improve air quality.
 - Asthma rates for school children are impacted by poor air quality and our elementary school's proximity to the bus line could be part of the problem.
 - 50% of kids at hospital with asthma are from Homewood.
3. Community based organizations have prioritized this need and created programs based on ensuring a more sustainable neighborhood.
4. Lead contamination in soil is a concern especially how it relates to how dust travels during construction.
5. More green space is an important sustainability priority.
6. Green infrastructure and rainwater/stormwater capture are important sustainable design features for the future of Homewood.
7. Living machines/gray water reuse are sustainability options the community should explore further.

While not every detail of the core themes is able to be addressed within this section, the themes above directly influenced the existing conditions chapter outlined by top priorities.

AIR QUALITY

In a number of stakeholder conversations and during the first community meeting for the Homewood Comprehensive Community Plan, air quality was raised as one of the top concerns. The traffic on both Frankstown and Homewood Ave, in addition to the busway, all seem to be concerns for residents and stakeholders in regard to their contribution to poor air quality.

Operation Better Block has engaged in a community health study focused on cases of asthma in Homewood. Many stakeholders and community members feel residents, especially youth, are being impacted at a high rate by poor air quality.

Key questions that influenced recommendations:

- What are the biggest sources of air pollution in and around Homewood?
- Are there significant correlations between resident health and air pollution concentrations?
- Does the impact of air pollution have impacts on youth absenteeism in school?
- What key changes need to occur to minimize the output of air pollution in and around Homewood?
- What interventions can occur to mitigate air pollution, i.e. clean the air?

Figure 3.22

TREE CANOPY AND OPEN SPACE

Source: City of Pittsburgh GIS

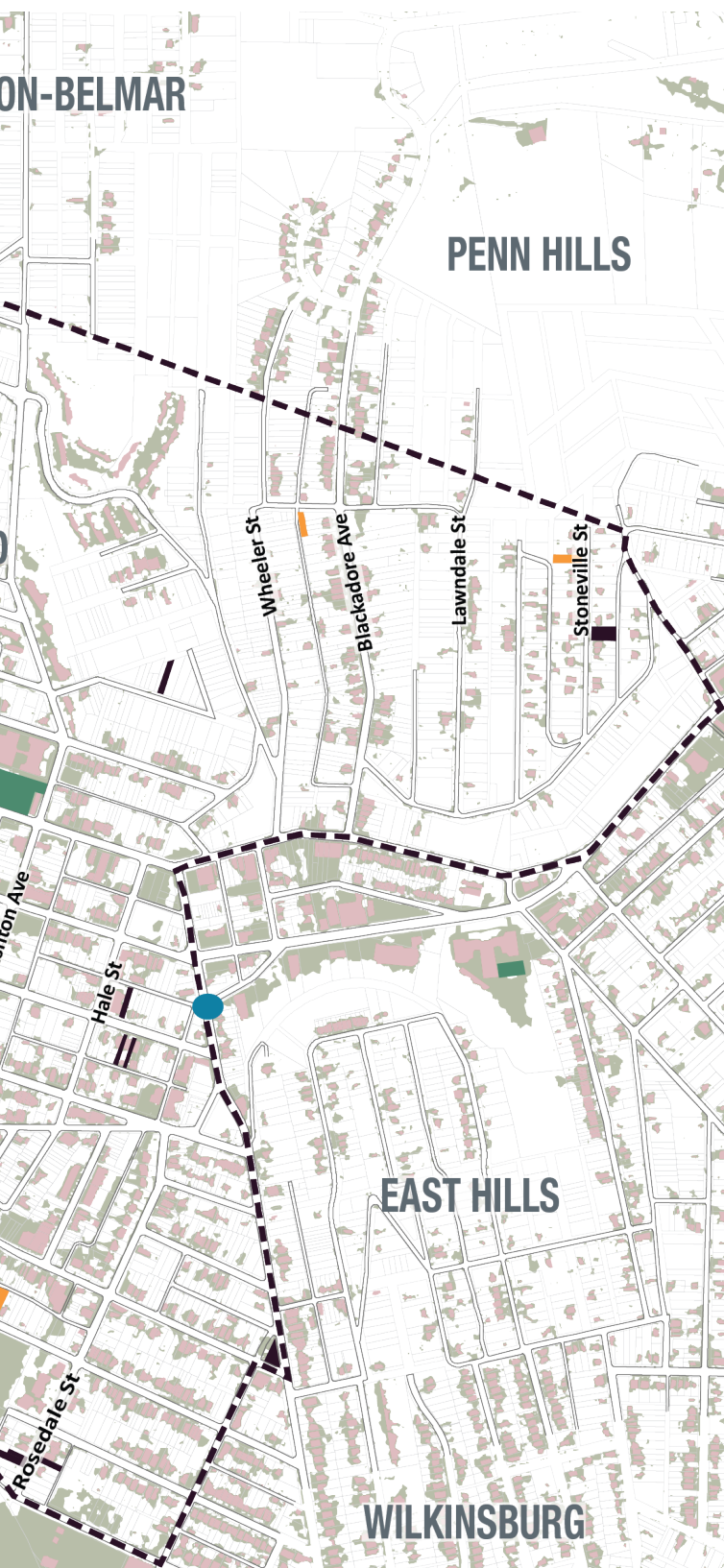


Figure 3.23

IMPERVIOUS COVER

Source: City of Pittsburgh GIS





STORMWATER

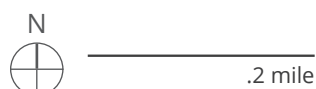
Homewood has a vast amount of impervious cover, which means much of the water that falls on Homewood is not able to filter through the ground naturally. Homewood is part of the A42/Negley Run sewershed and contributes significantly to the overall quantity of water that makes its way into the sewershed.

PSWA has identified A42 as a priority area for green infrastructure improvements and it is their hope to find opportunities in Homewood for major green stormwater interventions that also provide other key community benefits including streetscape improvements for both pedestrians and transit and improved aesthetics, among others.

Key questions that influenced recommendations:

- What are the best sites for green stormwater infrastructure?
- What types of green stormwater infrastructure are most appropriate for Homewood?
- What other benefits beyond stormwater should be built into the design of these interventions?
- What are the biggest barriers to green infrastructure implementation?
- Is community perception of green infrastructure a concern in regard to implementation?

- Project Boundary
- Green Space
- Developed (Medium, High Intensity)
- Barren (Rock, Sand, Clay)
- Public Transit
- Food Garden
- Flower Garden
- Green Infrastructure





1882

By 1872, maps show that George Finley had diverted the streams around Silver Lake to prevent regular flooding, and was using the lake to produce carp for resale. Later maps show evidence of some early sewers, probably installed by Finley.



1910

The City was busy building new sewers throughout the first decade of the 20th century, including much of the Negley Run valley as well as Larimer and Homewood. As early as 1887, Judge Thomas Mellon and other "Negley Runites" were active in trying to prevent planning of the sewer within the run proper. "This run in cases of heavy rains is turned into a raging torrent, which an 8½ foot sewer cannot carry off. If the run is improved at all it should be an open sewer."



1950s - TODAY

In 1949 the Silver Lake Drive-In opened for business. The lake had been filled in the 1930s to hide the pollution and accumulated rubbish that neglect had created. The Drive-In closed in 1968 and was replaced by light industry intended to create new jobs for African-American residents of Homewood.

CURRENT WATERSHED EFFORTS

Throughout the Pittsburgh region organizations are working to improve existing watersheds and call to light the history of ecological landmarks such as Negley Run. Living Waters of Larimer is a community development project of The Kingsley Association, Larimer Green Team, and Larimer Consensus Group. The project demonstrates how green infrastructure can be integrated into our urban spaces, cultural life, and economic infrastructure in an artful way.

Negley Run was historically connected to Squirrel Hill and to the Allegheny River. "Negley Run Was Here" is a notable effort that traces Negley Run and Silver Lake in the form of a walking tour and invites our community to understand how it shaped our urban space and community.

Figure 3.24

HISTORY OF SILVER LAKE'S DEVELOPMENT



Figure 3.25

LIVING WATERS OF LARIMER WALKING TOUR MAP

Images and Maps shown on this spread are products of the "Negley Run Was Here" pamphlet.

The pamphlet and walking tour help locate where Silver Lake would be located today and highlight locations and businesses that tie into the history of Silver Lake's development.

Figure 3.26

LIVING WATERS OF LARIMER MAP OF WATERSHEDS

WEATHERIZATION AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Most buildings and homes within Homewood were built before 1960 when building standards mandated a lower level of energy efficiency. Many buildings (57%) were built prior to 1939. Many homes have issue with basement flooding and busway underpasses flooding during heavy rain.

Key questions for consideration:

- Are mandatory or incentivized green building and landscape practices appropriate for Homewood?
- Should home repair, major building renovation, and new developments be subject to certain energy efficiency standards?
- What would sustainable building and landscape standards for Homewood look like?
- Is there a desire by the community to engage with sustainable certification programs like LEED and Sustainable SITES?
- Who are the key partners in furthering weatherization and energy efficiency goals?
- How can energy efficiency and weatherization decrease housing maintenance costs and improve affordability and quality of life for residents, improve affordability and quality of life for residents?

Figure 3.27
HOUSING AGE

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

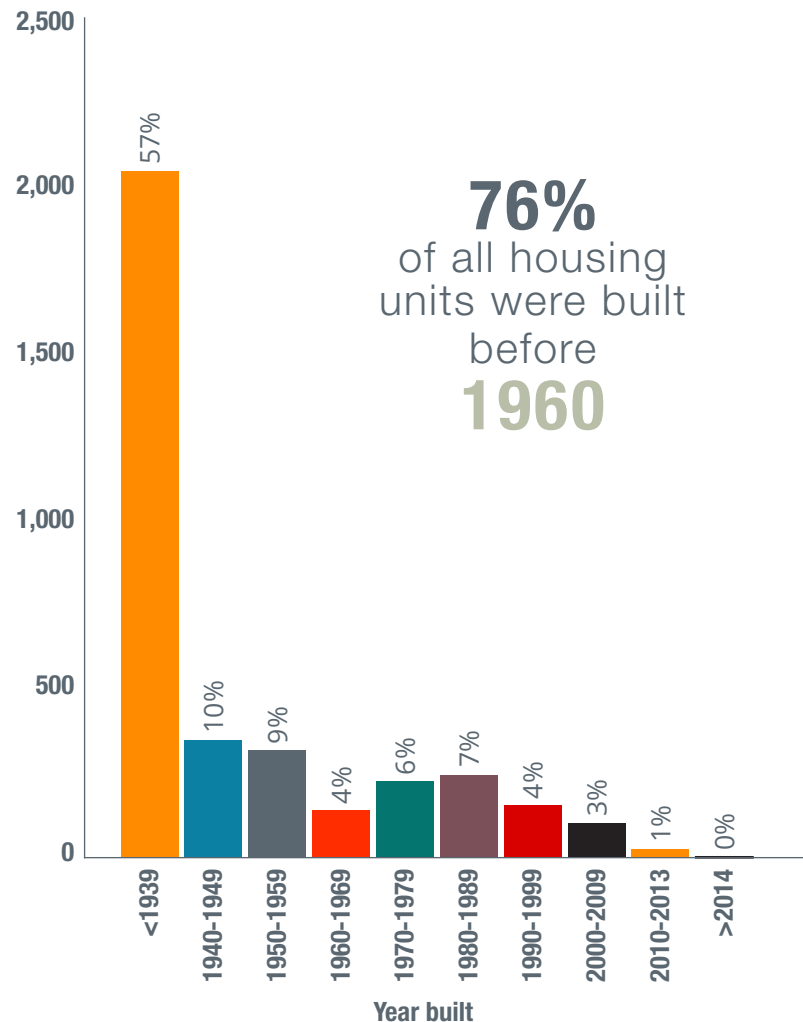


Figure 3.28 American Foursquare style homes throughout the area



Image Source: Google Maps

POTENTIAL SUSTAINABLE DESIGN RESOURCES

LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is a U.S. Green Building Council metric that measures the sustainability of a building's design, construction, operations and maintenance in terms of energy, water and resource use; waste and emissions reduction; indoor environmental quality; and innovative approaches to the development process.

The most comprehensive system for developing sustainable landscapes, the SITES v2 Rating System, has been released by the **Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES)** program for use by landscape architects, designers, engineers, architects, developers, policymakers and others who work in land design and development.

The SITES v2 Rating System and an accompanying Reference Guide provide a set of best practices, performance benchmarks and tools for creating and evaluating sustainable landscapes. Successful projects are recognized with certification.

CULTURE AND RECREATION PRIORITIES

Throughout the early stages of the planning process, the project team found a number of common themes related to Culture and Recreation listed below:

1. Homewood needs more affordable and available space for cultural and recreational activities.
2. The Homewood football stadium is a key cultural and recreational resource for the community.
3. The way the neighborhood is branded related to its culture is important to the future of Homewood.
4. Murals provide key insight into part of the cultural identity of Homewood.
5. Park space is important to Homewood residents but is currently limited.
6. The Wheelmill is a local recreational business operated by folks from outside of Homewood but is a good example of building good will with the Homewood community.
7. Vacant land is an opportunity for the addition of park space and gathering spaces.

While not every detail of the core themes is able to be addressed within this section, the themes above directly influenced the existing conditions chapter outlined by top priorities.

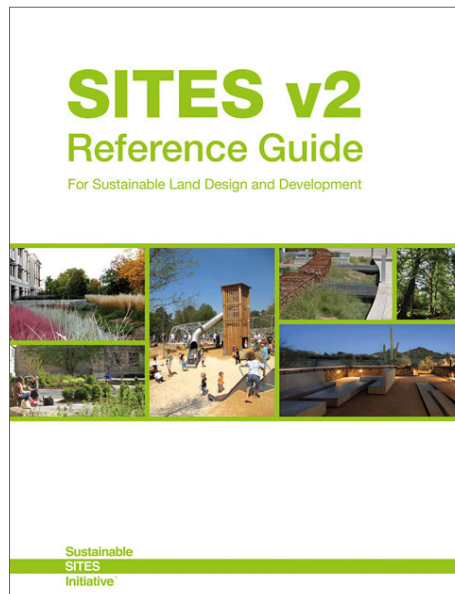
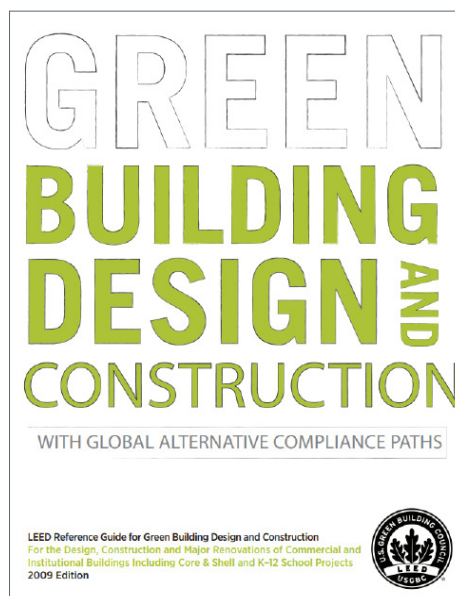


Figure 3.29 LEED Reference Guide for Green Building Design and Construction, 2009 Edition