Powderhorn Park West Lake Street Initiative Project

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The Minneapolis Neighborhood Information System (MNIS) is a collaborative capacity-building effort intended to meet the needs of community-based organizations by providing access to property data that can inform community revitalization efforts and housing intervention and investment strategies. Partners in this project include the City of Minneapolis, the Neighborhood Revitalization Program, select Minneapolis neighborhood organizations, and CURA. Participating neighborhood groups receive training, project assistance, GIS expertise, and access to property information, as well as opportunities to share ideas about GIS projects and housing strategies with other neighborhoods.

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Neighborhood: Powderhorn Park

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Project Description: A section of East Lake Street from 11th-15th Avenues had no defined planning process in place. The community wanted to identify opportunities for new mixed use development and other improvements, as well as establishing a set of urban design guidelines.

Process: Maps of the project area that illustrate possible development opportunities were created for community meetings and as part of an application for a Corridor Housing Initiative grant from the Neighborhood Revitalization Program. Also included with this project were a set of urban design guidelines and marketing strategies.

Results: The maps show that much of the frontage of Lake Street that does not contain a commercial or mixed use building is simply used for surface parking. A number of these surface parking lots are not used to capacity. Therefore, several opportunities exist adjacent to existing business for redevelopment. The neighborhood feels there are a number of short term/low cost improvements that can be made to existing businesses. Also, the area needs to incorporate traffic calming strategies to improve pedestrian safety.

Outcomes: The results of this project will hopefully guide and inform future development efforts, including the reconstruction of Lake Street.

Future: Next steps in the project include creating a zoning and pedestrian overlay district. The maps can and will be revised as improvements are made to the area. The feasibility of locating housing on Lake Street will also be explored.

Data Sources: Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association, City of Minneapolis, Met Council.