

2019 *Norwood*

Community Agreement



Working Together for Norwood's Future



What is the Norwood Community Agreement?

In the fall of 2017, a group of Norwood residents started thinking about what the city could be in 10 years. Norwood is an enclave of Cincinnati, a small town ideally situated near both major highways within the Greater Cincinnati region and surrounded by developing neighborhoods. To create a plan for Norwood's future, the resident-led steering committee began by asking the community: *What are the strengths and weaknesses of our city; what are the opportunities and threats?* From interviews with 70 residents, businesses owners and other community leaders, common concerns and priorities emerged.

That was the start of a community conversation about Norwood's future. Over the next year, residents met to brainstorm, plan and strategize. New connections were made and projects began to take shape. Working together, residents created a plan for the city.

The Process



Vision & Priorities

Through resident interviews and community meetings, a common vision for Norwood emerged. Residents wanted to work together to make Norwood a diverse and thriving community that:

- » Provides spaces and activities to support and welcome all residents and encourage people to connect with their neighbors;
- » Maintains roads, parks and other community assets through innovation and collaboration; and
- » Encourages entrepreneurs and the revitalization of the Montgomery Road corridor.





City of Norwood Background

Founded in 1888, Norwood is laid out in three square miles of walkable neighborhoods around a central thoroughfare, Montgomery Road. Interstates 71 and 75 combine with an east-west highway, the Norwood Lateral, to make Norwood close to every place in the region. Downtown, East Side, West Side – nearly any place is within a 20-minute drive of Norwood. Surrounding neighborhoods such as Hyde Park, Oakley and North Avondale have seen housing prices rise, making Norwood’s comparable housing stock of mostly 100-year-old, character-filled homes highly affordable. The city has a dozen neighborhood parks, a library, a grocery store, three neighborhood elementary schools, as well as a middle school and high school, Xavier University, a community garden and farmer’s market. There are a variety of zoned commercial areas and newer businesses that have created community gathering spots in recent years. The physical bones of Norwood are solid, and the community is tight-knit.

Our Population & Housing Figures



19,611 People in
8,810 Households



33
Median Age



Median Household Income



\$42,820
Norwood



\$36,429
Cincinnati



\$52,389
Hamilton County

Median Home Value



\$122,200
Norwood



\$124,200
Cincinnati



\$145,800
Hamilton County

43% of Renters are cost burdened

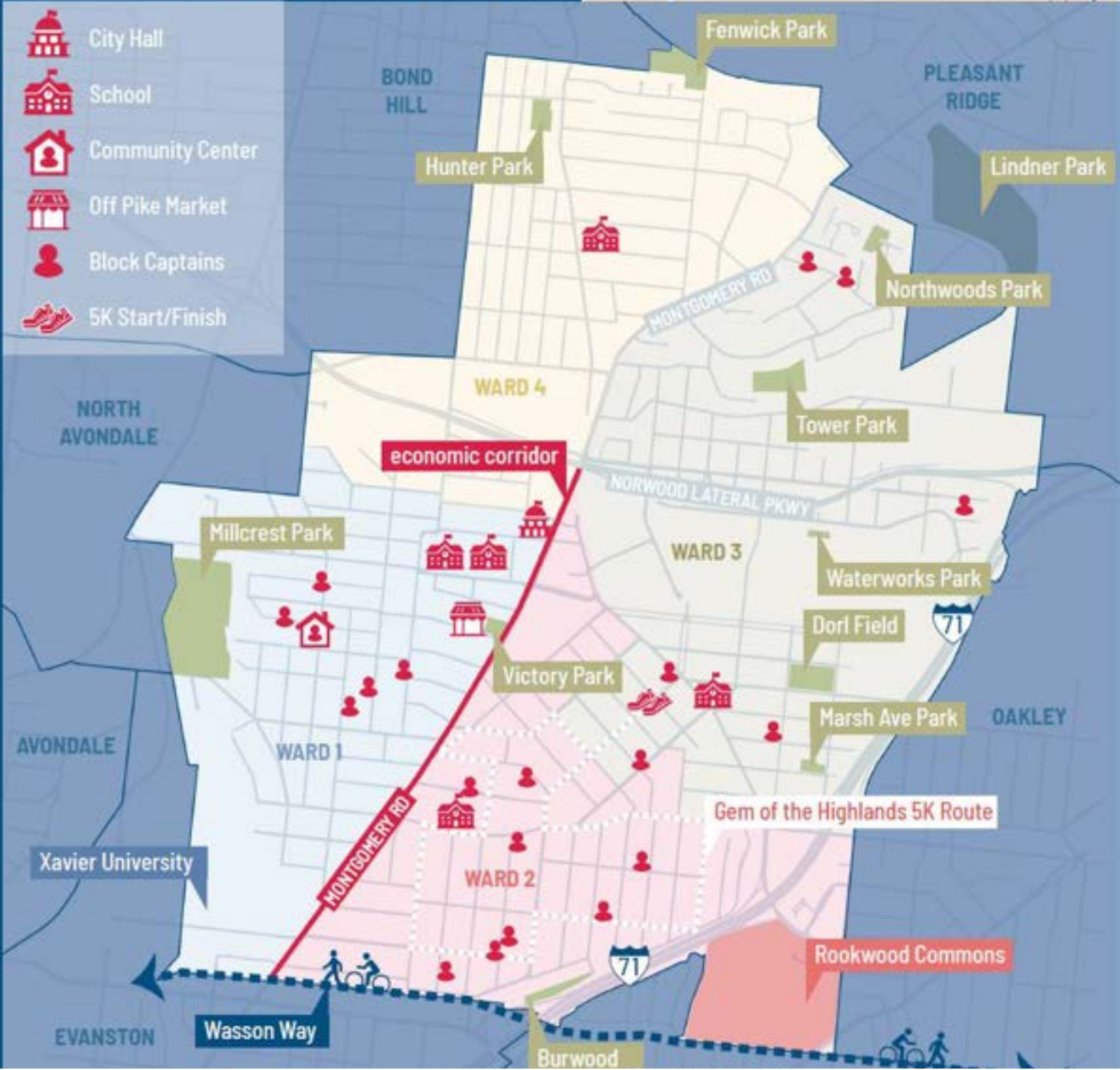
17% of Owners are cost burdened





Norwood Community Map

-  City Hall
-  School
-  Community Center
-  Off Pike Market
-  Block Captains
-  5K Start/Finish



Goals & Strategies

During the community meetings, teams of residents created goals for each priority area and considered long- and short-term strategies and projects to achieve the vision.



Community Engagement

- 1 Create opportunities and spaces for residents to connect through programming such as pop-up art galleries and community gardens
- 2 Strengthen avenues of communication across Norwood and improve government relations with residents



Economic Development

- 1 Support new and current businesses by leveraging public and private resources
- 2 Increase awareness and visibility of local businesses and events such as Off Pike Market and Gem of the Highlands 5K



Housing

- 1 Increase the homeownership rate to the national average of 64 percent
- 2 Maintain a diverse and high-quality rental stock
- 3 Create a comprehensive urban plan for Norwood and develop a community development corporation to focus on real estate issues
- 4 Decrease the percentage of vacant properties



Community Perception

- 1 Build a network of street captains to welcome new residents and engage existing community members
- 2 Promote Norwood Public Schools and community programming
- 3 Beautify public spaces with murals, public art, and updated and well-maintained place signs & plantings



Inclusion

- 1 Host meet-and-greet events that bring together Norwood residents, actively reaching out to engage residents of color and ethnicity
- 2 Create a multicultural event that celebrates the diversity of Norwood



Infrastructure

- 1 Improve and revitalize Norwood's parks and community center, prioritizing Victory Park because of its central, highly visible location
- 2 Make Norwood's roads safer, finding new funding sources for street repairs and maintenance and prioritizing Montgomery Road
- 3 Empower people to "polish the Gem of the Highlands" through education, outreach and community clean-up events
- 4 Encourage walking and biking so people take advantage of Norwood's infrastructure



Leadership

Executive Team

Angela Pancella
Mary C Miller

Action Team Support

Alison Taylor, LISC
Emma Shirey, CBI
Valerie Daley, CBI

Action Team Co-chairs

Ben Eilerman *Housing*
Jennifer McGillis *Housing*
Dyah Miller *Community Engagement*
Sara Lehew *Community Engagement*
Alice Rericha *Perception*
Alisha Loch *Perception*

Dave Spatholt *Economic Development*
Lonny Elfenbein *Economic Development*
Lupe Hoyt *Inclusion*
Brent Leon *Infrastructure*
Hillary Canan *Infrastructure*

Partners & Organizations We Would Like to Thank

American Legion
Gem of the Highlands 5K
Hamilton County Development Corporation
Keep Norwood Cool
Lydia's House
New City Presbyterian Church
Norwood City Council Members and committees:
James Bonsall
Andrew Clark
Leslie Stevenson
Eric Thompson
The Economic Development and Community Engagement Committee
The Parks, Recreation, Streets, and Infrastructure

Committee
Greg Orosz - Norwood Planning Commission
Tim Garry Jr. - Norwood Assistant Law Director
Norwood Branch - Cincinnati Public Library
Norwood Business and Professional Women's Club
Norwood Community Coalition
Norwood First
Norwood Historical Society
Norwood Neighborhood Services
Off Pike Market
SNC Norwood
Vineyard Central
Wasson Way
Woven Oak Initiatives

Learn more and stay up to date on *Norwood Community Agreement* progress at:
www.woven oak.org/quality-of-life-plan.html, or for questions contact norwoodqualityoflife@gmail.com

Supported by 
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Community Building
Institute


INTERACT
FOR HEALTH

Photos by Juli Thompson, Gem of the Highlands 5k & Jeanne Sickinger

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Designed by Daniella Beltran
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