Connecting communities to a greener and more equitable future

A project of the University District Community Development Association

The Northeast Greenway Initiative is made possible by The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Legacy Funds administered by the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo

Photo Credit: Jim Cielinski
The Northeast Greenway envisions connecting the North Buffalo Rail Trail, whose southern terminus is currently Main Street at the LaSalle Metro Station, to an existing multi-use path that runs parallel to William L. Gaiter Parkway between Kensington Avenue and East Delavan Avenue. This connection would see the conversion of an overgrown 1-mile stretch of DL&W/Erie Rail Road corridor between Main Street and Kensington Avenue into a multi-use greenway and walking and biking path – the first to be built on Buffalo’s East Side.
PROJECT GOALS

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
- Community Survey
- Community Meetings
- Project Committee

PLANNING IN ACTION
- Service Events
- Crossroads of Creativity

RESEARCH & DESIGN
- Graduate Planning Studio
- Greenspace Fellowship
- Regional Advocacy
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 157 residents have taken the online or text message survey
- Reaction to proposed extension of Rail Trail is overwhelmingly positive
- 81% of respondents have access to a bicycle
- 45% of respondents come from the 14214, 14215, or 14216 zip codes
- A majority of respondents walk, run, or bike as their primary form of physical activity
- Engaged more than 20 different community organizations or block clubs

96% of survey respondents were in favor of extending the North Buffalo Rail Trail

*n=157
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

"Commuting by bike would be easier if there was more connectivity."

"Infrastructure is best when accessible."

"We need better street space for walkers, runners, and bike riders."

"I enjoy the trails themselves, more than any particular destination."

"Why stop here? Other abandoned rail lines can be used for bike/walking paths."
Over 350 volunteers invested more than 1,300 hours of service worth $33,000 into the Greenway corridor.
UB’s Northeast Greenway Studio produced a comprehensive project document describing the project boundaries, the goals of the project, demographics, precedent studies for rail trails, design proposals, and recommendations.
NEXT STEPS
PHASE I

Perception Surveys

Community Meetings

University District Community Breakfast
Saturday, March 28, 2020 at 9:00am
at Gerard Place

Masten District Community Breakfast
Saturday, April 11, 2020 at 8:30am
at the Delavan Grider Community Center.

PHASE II

Neighborhood canvassing

Large scale community mapping exercises

Northeast Greenway Website
RETree Spring Planting
Saturday, April 11, 2020 at 9:00am

PHASE I
Service Events
ReTree Spring Planting
Saturday, April 11, 2020 at 9:00am

Community Bike Tours

PHASE II
Service Events
Community Bike Tours
PHASE I
UB Undergraduate Environmental Design Studio

PHASE II
Drone mapping and digital land survey of project area
GIS Graduate Fellowship
Beyond planning, engagement, and research around a future extension of the Rail Trail, the UDCDA is actively seeking funding to help maintain and activate existing spaces along the North Buffalo Rail Trail and William L. Gaiter Parkway through stewardship, active living, and youth planning programming.
STEWARDSHIP

- Hire AmeriCorps VISTA member in Summer 2020 as Stewardship Coordinator
- Supervise Mayor’s Summer Youth during Summer 2020 as part of stewardship pilot program
- Provide hands-on stewardship experiences along Northeast Greenway (tree pruning, watering, garbage removal, etc.)
- Organize and lead regular clean ups and plantings--between April and November--and work towards developing a sustainable community-driven stewardship program
ACTIVE LIVING PROGRAMMING

- Develop a series of healthy, active living programs around the proposed Northeast Greenway that will target seniors in the surrounding communities.
- Build on successful senior programming, like ‘Hustle for Health’ already run by the UDCDA out of the Gloria J. Parks Community Center
- Pilot other outdoor programming such as yoga, aerobics, and a walking club
YOUTH PLANNING

- Develop a youth-oriented urban planning education program
- Utilize the Gloria J. Parks Summer Camp and Buffalo Promise Neighborhood Saturday Academies
- Youth participants will learn about urban planning and the ways in which they can make positive community change. Youth will then be invited to participate in service events along the Greenway, where they can make a tangible impact by turning their ideas into actions.
THANK YOU!

TAKE OUR SURVEY

Text ‘UDCDA’ to 716-342-0401

(Text STOP to quit)

For more info or to get involved visit: www.udcda.org/ngi

#NORTHEASTGREENWAY