



THE WEDGE DEVELOPMENT VISION

CONTEXT

We acknowledge that the community we refer to as Lowry Hill East was built on the seized state of indigenous people. We honor the Anishinaabeg and Dakota people as custodians of this land, past and present. We acknowledge the deep inequity in power relationships between indigenous interests and other planning bodies. We defend Treaties and support the Sovereignty of Tribal Nations and their citizens. It is on this foundation that we commit to establishing a community where all peoples can thrive.

The Lowry Hill East Neighborhood is named after Thomas Lowry, a leader in the development of rapid mass transit who installed the horse-drawn street cars that first ran along the neighborhood in the 1880s. The neighborhood is most often referred to as The Wedge because of its boundaries – Lyndale, Hennepin, and Lake – forming the shape of a wedge.

The Wedge began as one of the first suburbs for the expanding downtown in the 1880s and 1890s. Many of these original Victorian homes and brownstones still exist as both single and multi-family homes. Renters and homeowners alike cherish the beauty and history of these original buildings – the Lowry Hill East historic district provides a glimpse into the enduring legacy of famed architect T.P. Healy. As in many neighborhoods, some buildings have changed over time; most recently, there has been a transition away from light industrial spaces to combined residential and small business. At the heart of the neighborhood is Mueller Park, named after brothers Robert and Herbert, residents and environmental stewards who served as natural historians of the neighborhood. The park was the result of the dedicated efforts of residents organized through LHENA who moved into the neighborhood in the 1970s to restore the aging, though still beautiful, housing stock and who raised their children alongside college students, artists, and musicians (most famously, The Replacements).

In keeping with its roots, the neighborhood remains a hub for mass transit options, including the Bryant Ave Bicycling Boulevard, the Greenway that runs along the southern border, and the Uptown transit hub. The Wedge is among the most densely populated neighborhoods in the city of Minneapolis with over 7,000 residents living inside one square kilometer, and business-lined corridors along its borders. This densely compact built environment makes the neighborhood a magnet for people who value the ability to walk or bike to businesses, schools, the lakes, grocery stores (including the iconic Wedge Co-op, which was started in this neighborhood), medical and veterinary services, restaurants, art institutions, and nightlife.

The Wedge is Minneapolis' front door to Uptown--where the urban walkability of Minneapolis' downtown core layers over the neighborhood feel of its thriving south side. These qualities have meant that the Wedge has historically been home to a rich diversity of residents: from the struggling artist to the corporate CEO, from young renters to second and third generation homeowners. It is this diversity that keeps our neighborhood thriving; one that creates a safe environment where parents bring their

children to swim at Mueller Park; and where local businesses who have been serving clientele for decades support the new start-up next door. This is the Wedge we love. This is the Wedge we will fight to maintain.

VISION AND PRIOTIES

While the Wedge's residents come from all walks of life, there is one thing we can all agree on, and that is the importance of our sustainable future. The Wedge strives to be the most sustainable urban neighborhood in America. We come from a long line of outdoor lovers and activists. There is no community more prepared for this challenge. As such, we are committed to bringing carbon-neutrality to all new and existing buildings in the Wedge by 2030. We will continue to prioritize new development that balances density with green space. And provide ongoing support for the mixed mobility opportunities that makes the Wedge such a great neighborhood for residents seeking to reduce their own carbon footprints.

We know that the key to maintaining this diversity of residents rests in our ability to provide a mix of housing options, including - and most importantly - housing that is affordable to residents at the lowest of income levels. We recognize that these low-cost housing opportunities require the protection of existing building stock, in addition to the inclusion of affordable units within new development. We will fight to ensure city officials support us in this endeavor because we know that housing is the key to providing safe neighborhoods and equal access to a successful future for all.

LHENA commits to work closely and in collaboration with community residents, property owners, developers, architects, city planners, and elected officials to meet these goals. We see the benefit achieved in these goals reaching communities far beyond our own, and it is this connection to our broader humanity that drives us to succeed. To that end, Lowry Hill East Neighborhood Association and its development partners commit to the following priorities:

Priority One

Support access to housing for our diverse community. This includes existing structures as well as future developments. We will prioritize low income, limited mobility, and alternative household make-up until our neighborhood diversity more accurately reflects the make-up of our City at large.

Priority Two

Aggressively confront climate change by committing to carbon-neutrality for all new and existing buildings in the Wedge by 2030. This includes reducing the use of fossil fuels in the construction of new structures, the elimination of fossil fuel dependance to power new and existing structures, and the support and development of carbon-positive green spaces.

Priority Three

Apply a comprehensive approach to transportation infrastructure. All new development will enhance the current walkability of the Wedge, but also incentivize public transit and support multi-modal - and carbon neutral -mobility.

Priority Four

Engage our community. It is fundamental to the vitality of our neighborhood that those seeking to develop within the Wedge engage community members during the design and development process.