

From: [Debra St.Germain](#)
To: [Owen Deutsch](#); [Jim Boucher](#); [Jim Boucher](#)
Subject: Suggestions for SWBTR Neighborhood Plan
Date: Thursday, January 19, 2023 3:05:31 PM

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Hi Owen and Jim,
I finally had time to review and digest the neighborhood plan.
I am sending along my thoughts/suggestions.
I went page by page, so my suggestions have the page number, then my thoughts.
Thank you both so much for all your hard work on this. It shows!

Deb (St.Germain)

p.28

Additional partners:

Trinity (Jim, remember bird study?)

Job Corp (un-utilized/ underutilized - they have students, and students who reside there)

p.31

add Job Corp (as they too train youth for employment)

p.36

Compile a comprehensive list of neighborhood business (include daycare centers, barbershop, beauty shops etc.)

p.39

Under action items; include marketing for White St., Zion St. and Hillside Ave. as well.

Also include them in any "Taste of" events

Additional Partner suggestion:

The neighborhood sports leagues.

p.40

Action Items: work with Prince Tech to insure neighborhood homeowners have priority to 'on the job training' programs (where trades students work on site renovating homes to further learn building, plumbing, electricity etc. skills; which would also provide cost effective repairs to homes/homeowners.)

Partner: State of CT/Prince Tech

p.47

Action Items:

Include 'Domingo' and city dept. or program in charge of 'Domingo'

Include taste of Zion, Hillside and White St. as well

p.50

Partner: Job Corp/Fed Gov- become it's own block watch?

(much activity happens in the woods behind them)

p.51

Action Item: Develop and implement age appropriate school based anti-litter campaign.

(Hooker, Batchelder, McDonough, Moylan, Prince Tech, Job Corp)

Partners would then include:

Hartford Public Schools

State of CT Tech School System, Job Corp/Federal Gov.

p.55

Partners: lots and playgrounds

Add Htfd. Parks & Rec

Public art:

Action: coordinate with local schools & organizations; art programs& classes

Add'l Partners:

Trinity College

Boys and Girls Club

Neighborhood Schools/Hartford Public Schools

Prince Tech

Job Corp

p.59

Insure bikers feel safe: Action items

Would like to change wording of 3rd bullet to...

Implement speed calming initiatives...

p.60

Reduce traffic...

Add Partner: State DOT

Maintain traff. enhancement...

Add art partners:

Trinity College

Boys and Girls Club

Neighborhood Schools/Hartford Public Schools

Prince Tech

Job Corp

p.63

So. Branch Park River

add partners: Job Corp

Prince Tech

p.66

Master spelled wrong

p.68

Master spelled wrong

Under 'feeling connected'

Add Partner: Cedar Hill Cemetary

p. 70

Possibly add school governance councils and PTOs to advance the vision...

p.73

Community gathering spaces..

Possibly add partners: neighborhood schools, churches, Trinity College

p.75

Website:

Add partners: Office of Community Engagement & Hartford Next

p.76

Organize neighborhood events:

Add partners: SWBTR businesses

Please call with any questions.

Thank you!

L

From: [Kevin Rivera](#)
To: [Colin Billings](#)
Cc: [Owen Deutsch](#); [Ken Livingston](#)
Subject: RE: Plan
Date: Monday, January 23, 2023 9:29:39 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

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Colin,

Thanks for your feedback. Owen and I met late last week to discuss feedback from Tuesday's meeting, and I mentioned your note below. We are looking at ways to incorporate concerns around Walmart plaza as well as additional metrics surrounding goals and further outreach into Behind The Rocks.

Kevin



Kevin Rivera
Community Planner
krivera@fhistudio.com 860-256-4923
fhistudio.com

From: Colin Billings <cgbctvt@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2023 3:32 PM
To: Kevin Rivera <krivera@fhistudio.com>
Cc: jack.hale@comcast.net; jmhb2020@gmail.com
Subject: Plan

Hi Kevin,

A couple of thoughts after last night's meeting.

The Walmart Plaza has been a problem, almost since it opened. It's in our neighborhood and it's up to us to do something about it. I think we should make it a priority.

I see no reason why we can't set a goal for tree planting by number of trees each year in our neighborhoods. It can be in the parks, on city streets, or private property. It is measurable.

We need more involvement from our neighbors, especially Behind The Rocks neighbors.

Colin Billings

From: [Renato Mugerza](#)
To: [Owen Deutsch](#)
Subject: Behind the Rocks Neighborhood plan
Date: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 2:11:01 PM

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Hi Owen,

Reaching out today as a Behind the Rocks resident. Going to try to keep my input on the plan simple.

Move

1. I think [elevated crosswalks](#) are going to be crucial for making the area more walkable and also have the added benefit of placing a de facto speed bump on the road for traffic calming and reducing ATV's. We need these on Flatbush, Hillside, Fairfield(near goodwin), and New Britain Ave.
2. We have a major need for a protected bike lane on Flatbush ave at the intersection of the walmart parking lot, i-81, and the west hartford border. As of right now that area is completely unsafe to bike on and barely walkable, with no crosswalk in front of the parking lot to walmart. fixing this would also fix a major issue of connectivity to the fastrack station closest to many of us on Flatbush ave.
3. I would love to participate in the development of the river trail and the green network between parks, if possible.
4. I have pointed out to 311 that Brookfield's sidewalks are old, sunken in, and prone to flooding. Making the area completely unwalkable when it rains or after it snows. Is there a plan for that?
5. Why not protected bike lanes on New Britain Ave (and more)? The plan states that there are none, but the action items do not list "adding protected bike lanes." Road diet sounds great, but would like to be clear about that including protected lanes on New Britain Ave and beyond (Flatbush!).
6. I support the barriers and barricades part of the plan

Green

1. Planting more trees sounds good, is there a program where residents can request a tree from the commission or from Knox if they are open to having one on their property?
2. The solar action items feel as though they require further clarification, what does that mean?

Live

1. Will the anti-litter efforts include the installation of more public garbage bins? The Flatbush/Brookfield area desperately needs more
2. I recently moved from Yale St to Ellington, where I have several speed bumps around me, and differences in ATV's as a nuisance has been night and day. Road planning seems to be more effective at preventing ATV and dirtbike use than police have been
3. Love the idea of opening school grounds for community use during off hours. Breakthrough magnet school south has a massive field that could be easily turned into a soccer field for city residents. Would also love to see Prince Tech's tennis courts fixed and opened to the public

Play

1. Would love to have a tennis court at one of our parks

NRZ

1. I will try to do my part by attending more NRZ meetings, I support most of this plan as a start but hope that all of our input is taken into consideration

Thanks for all of your hard work,
Renato Muguerza Calle

From: [Martha Conneely](#)
To: [Owen Deutsch](#)
Subject: Northeast Neighborhood Plan
Date: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 2:44:53 PM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)

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Hi Owen,

Nice to see you at the NRZ meeting last night. I was very interested in the neighborhood strategic plan you are developing with the community. I was looking it over and saw that connecting with the Connecticut River is identified as an action item on page 75 of the draft. Is there an opportunity for Riverfront to be identified as a partner in that process? I am also wondering if there are any other intersections between the plan and our park project. I would be happy to jump on a call if that works better to discuss.

Thanks!

Martha

Martha Conneely
Park Development Manager
Riverfront Recapture
860.713.3131 ext 316 (office)
860.796.4513 (mobile)



From: [Kevin Rivera](#)
To: [tricia.g](#)
Cc: [Owen Deutsch](#); [Ken Livingston](#); [Zainab Kazmi](#)
Subject: RE: Final Comments - Southwest Behind the Rocks NRZ Strategic Plan
Date: Friday, January 27, 2023 2:29:32 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

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Tricia, thanks so much for your edits and feedback. This is really helpful.



Kevin Rivera
Community Planner
krivera@fhistudio.com 860-256-4923
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From: tricia.g <2triciag@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 11:50 AM
To: Kevin Rivera <krivera@fhistudio.com>
Subject: Final Comments - Southwest Behind the Rocks NRZ Strategic Plan

Hi Kevin - please see my comments below. I'm happy to answer any questions or clarify.

Thanks,

Tricia
117 Cumberland

p. 17 - typo in the homeownership. Graphic shows 92%, text says 98%.

P. 25 - graphic is cut off, can't see the whole legend.

P. 26 - tree canopy, can we also add the goal of producing local food?

p. 28 - copy edit, put a period: ...increased property values. Ensuring..."

p. 29 - Can we include people's yards in the pollinator effort?

p. 32 - the chart is blurry and unreadable.

p. 36 - unnecessary dash in "neigh-borhood"

p. 47 - unnecessary dash in “res-taurants”

p. 49 - “quality of life crime” is a problematic phrase that often refers to common behaviors of non-dominant groups. For instance, loitering - or the act of hanging out in a small group - would be a quality of life crime issue that’s basis is in oppression. Yes, HPD and the City use this wording, but that does not make it anti-racist or effective for dismantling white supremacy.

- Would like to see this language removed and adjusted to focus on identifying and providing for community members’ needs.

- Ensuring our neighbors have their basic needs met - like food, housing, access to healthcare, social connection - can drastically reduce real crime and violence.

- Rather than engaging police, we might engage social or medical service orgs, increase knowledge of available social or medical services, identify gaps in access to social or medical services and work to close them.

p. 50 - “Hot spots?” Like places where people hang out and do things that offend people who are different than them?

- Would love to see logical responses to stuff - like if Puerto Ricans want to party for one weekend per year on Franklin Ave, close it down and sanction it rather than punishing folks.

The point is that police do NOT prevent crime and they are NOT required to protect citizens. Involving police in neighborhood improvement activities will not reduce crime, protect citizens, or result in any of the promotive outcomes we hope for.

p. 52 - would love to see this goal take priority and be placed before addressing “crime” with the police, as these promotive goals are effective at reducing crime without punitive action.

p. 53 - is there a map of public spaces in our neighborhoods?

p. 59 -

- Improving the pedestrian environment could also include increasing the number of cross walks, installing bus shelters, and putting a well-marked school zone on both sides of batchelder school.

- ensure bikers feel safe has the same actions and partners as the the one above it but they are not relevant to bikes. I would like to see what the actual plan is - as this portion is particularly relevant to me.

p. 60

- Would like to see “implement complete streets” on New Britain ave.

p. 63

- Should our “Green Network” also include the City’s Parks & Rec department?

p. 64

- Engaging a partner isn’t really an action here - and if they are engaged with the rest of the city, our work will not be prioritized.

- Want to see clearly marked bike lanes, grade-separated bike lanes where needed, and signage. (No sharrows, and no signage without infrastructure)

- Again, feels like leaning on iQuilt is not strategic.

p. 66

- Rather than “consider” other opportunities for pocket parks, can we “identify” them?
- Misspelling - Parks “Master” Plan

p. 67

- Action items for pocket parks
 - Conduct community survey to identify potential spaces
 - Assess viability of suggested spaces
 - Establish neighborhood committee to prioritize and move projects forward
- Action items for Improve access points
 - Establish one annual keystone event in the neighborhood that occurs at a public space
 - Engage local artists and landscapers to beautify open space entrances
 - Engage local organizations to hold public education events within open spaces
 - Add an additional access point to the cemetery for south end residents to access its north side.

p. 68

- Typo - unnecessary dash in “synergy”
- If we’re going to highlight key historical events, we should ensure it is inclusive of indigenous people, their cultures and genocide. Please do not white wash our neighborhood’s history.
- Again - spelling error, “Parks MaSter Plan”
- Spelling error, ...”improvements”

p. 72

- Unlikely to benefit from engaging YSC in admin activities, BUT if we have YSC youth in our neighborhood they might could be paid to participate in the NRZ and one or more of its committees.
- Include:
 - Create set of key messages to promote NRZ and the neighborhood
 - Use messages on social media, in email updates, and other media opportunities
 - Design and implement neighborhood recruitment campaign
- Before we identify potential funders, we could have a committee of folks with the requisite skills to approach, apply to, negotiate with, or receive and manage funding from those groups.
- Would love to see the NRZ create their own CDC.

p. 77 + 78 - maps are basically unreadable.

From: [Casey Moran](#)
To: [Owen Deutsch](#)
Subject: Re: Southwest Behind the Rocks and Asylum Hill Neighborhood Plans
Date: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 2:37:02 PM

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Hey Owen,

Happy New Year - I'm going to guess this is about to make me the only Hartford resident to read all five of the plans. Comments are these overall look great.

- Asylum Hill - Love the TOD language, red light camera, and other related safety language. There are a lot of schools in the neighborhood, could there be a place to add language about "Creating safe routes to schools" explicitly? At the recent Asylum Ave Road Diet plan there was a resident who lives across from West Middle who spoke passionately about how dangerous it is for her kids to cross the street to get to school
- Behind The Rocks - Love the New Britain Road Diet language! Definitely needed. As are the increased safe pedestrian and bicycle connections. Potential areas to add:
 - Work with CTDOT to increase bus frequency and stop amenities - no language on % of neighborhood without a car. The 39W only runs every 30 minutes during peak and for all intents and purposes stops running at 7:30 and the 41 isn't much better
 - Allow for additional neighborhood retail uses along key corridors to reduce the need to drive out of the neighborhood for basis tasks
 - Would be great to get more specific on bike infrastructure. Like a two way protected cycle track on the west side of Brookfield street - no curb cuts = easy protection! And would connect three schools directly and a few more are not far off

Thanks for the hard work putting these together!
Casey

On Tue, Jan 24, 2023 at 12:54 PM Safe Streets Hartford <safestreeets@hartford.gov> wrote:

Hello Hartford Neighbors,

Draft plans for the Southwest/Behind the Rocks and Asylum Hill neighborhoods are now posted for public comment! The Planning

Division is seeking your input by **Wednesday, February 22nd**. There will also be initial presentations of these plans to the Planning & Zoning Commission tonight on Tuesday, January 24th.

In addition, the public comment period for the Northeast, Frog Hollow and Upper Albany neighborhood plans has been extended to **Friday, February 10th**.

Each plan has been developed by local residents to outline their neighborhood vision and priorities, and will be used as guidance for the City when considering neighborhood development.

The Northeast, Frog Hollow, Upper Albany, and Southwest/Behind the Rocks neighborhood plans are available at neighborhoodplanning.hartford.gov. The Asylum Hill Strategic Plan is available [on the Asylum Hill line](#) and accessible under the "Plans & Studies tab" at hartfordct.gov/pz.

Please send any questions or comments to Owen.Deutsch@hartford.gov or OnePlan@hartford.gov.

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From: [Kevin Rivera](#)
To: [Owen Deutsch](#); [Zainab Kazmi](#); [Ken Livingston](#)
Subject: FW: Plan
Date: Monday, March 6, 2023 11:58:15 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

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See below feedback from Colin Billings.



Kevin Rivera
Community Planner
krivera@fhistudio.com 860-256-4923
fhistudio.com

From: Colin Billings <cgbctvt@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 6, 2023 11:39 AM
To: Kevin Rivera <krivera@fhistudio.com>
Subject: Plan

Hello Kevin,

I have read the plan start to finish and it is excellent. You have described our NRZ very well and laid out our ideas for the future, as well as our challenges.

I'm pretty sure the things I am concerned about can't really be addressed by this plan.

We are a small group of people with good ideas. It will take a much larger number of people that are willing to get involved to accomplish these goals.

The plan emphasizes New Britain Ave as it should. However, we have other streets in desperate need of traffic calming, bicycle safe lanes, and pedestrian friendly use.

Hillside, Zion, Ansonia, and Fairfield all need attention. I honestly question that the city is prepared to support us in these areas.

We need strong support from HPD, which at this point I question. Bike lanes (example Zion Street) are regularly blocked by parked cars causing real danger to bike riders. Basic driving laws are rarely enforced. I understand that we are short staffed, but this becomes a big issue to the neighborhoods.

As you note The Free Center is a tremendous asset to our community. We need to figure out how that can become more a part of our NRZ.

Thank you for your great work on this plan.

Colin Billings

Jack Hale-3-14-2023

Suggested edits to SW/BTR Strategic Plan

There are numerous neighborhood maps that are labeled "Northeast Neighborhood." Pages 27, 45, 59, 82 and 83.

P.2 – The east boundary of the neighborhood is missing.

p.8 – There is reference to 10 Transformative projects, but no projects are listed.

P. 13 and 33 – The garden photo is not in our neighborhood. the only garden in the neighborhood is at Avery Heights. Years ago, there was one on land behind St. George, but it was closed.

P. 27 – The tree density map is not very representative of actual density. Not sure where you got it.

P. 29 – I would prefer that it were more clear that the NRZ would take an active role in promoting tree planting on private property.

P. 31 – The names of partners should be accurate:

City of Hartford Tree Advisory Commission

KNOX, Inc.

Job Corps

And please add DPW Forestry Division and City Forester

P. 35 – The resource map doesn't include a lot of resources that could be added:

- Non-park green spaces
- Goldfarb Park
- Package stores
- The stores in the Walmart plaza
- Auto repair shops
- Nursing homes and similar entities
- Boys & Girls Club
- Houses of worship
- Daycare centers
- Note that the Free Center is no longer a library.

P. 45 – Not sure whether the church on Oliver Street is still operational or vacant

P. 57 – add KNOX, Inc. as a partner for this.

P. 69 – The NRZ should consider forming a committee or committees to function as friends groups for our small parks. We once did this for Forster Park.

P. 80 – "Neighborhood" is misspelled in a heading.

P. 82 – It would be good to add a page that would characterize the various zones