



Building a city for:

# THRIVING NEIGHBORHOODS + PEOPLE

Over the next four years, the City will continue to focus on ensuring an equitable, safe and high-quality of life for its residents. With new population growth and economic prosperity comes the risk of changing existing neighborhood dynamics, potentially displacing low- and moderate-income and minority households from their communities. To prevent this displacement and guarantee that all neighborhoods benefit from Buffalo's renewed prosperity, the City is focusing on access to a complete housing ladder with affordable options, and economic and learning opportunities for everyone. By investing in our neighborhoods equitably and creating economic opportunity for all Buffalonians, the City will make progress towards bridging the racial wealth gap and ensure that our neighborhoods remain affordable and accessible to households of all incomes.

## Goal: Ensure access to well-maintained parks, open space, and cultural institutions

### Action Steps

- Prioritize parks investments in neighborhoods identified in the Buffalo Parks Master Plan (2020) to achieve equitable access
- Redouble improving and investing in Buffalo's cultural institutions in neighborhoods that have experienced cultural shifts in order to promote strong and vibrant communities
- Plan and implement placemaking strategies citywide to enhance public spaces and community assets
- Preserve open space through strategic plan for reuse of City-owned vacant lots

### Indicators

- Increase % of residents within walking distance of parks and playgrounds in high need areas
- Increase in # of partnerships and projects that include reuse of vacant lots for public benefit
- Identify vacant lots to be reused for new parks and amenities
- Completion of East Buffalo park upgrades including Johnnie B. Wiley / Masten Park, McCarthy Park, John F. Kennedy Recreation Center, and other city-wide parks such as Cazenovia Park and Houghton Park
- Investments in cultural institutions that serve as neighborhood anchors such as Hispanic Heritage Cultural Institute, African American Cultural Center, Michigan Street, and New American anchors

## Goal: Increase quality, affordable housing citywide

### Action Steps

- Support development of affordable housing units in every neighborhood to achieve a more even distribution of affordable units throughout the City and avoid concentrated areas of poverty
- Focus development in areas with multi-modal transportation
- Expand support of low- and moderate-income households through coordinated relief and assistance strategies
- Invest in programs and organizations that work to reduce chronic homelessness and increase housing stability
- Strategically reuse City-owned vacant land for affordable housing
- Increase the number of homes eligible for historic tax credits
- Continue to work collaboratively with municipal housing agencies, landlords, and developers to ease transition of New Americans in finding housing

### Indicators

- Increased # of new affordable units created
- Collaborate with BMHA for redevelopment of affordable housing units including Shaffer Village, Marine Drive, and Commodore-Perry
- Decrease in % of rent-burdened households
- Increase # of projects that include reuse of city-owned vacant land, including completing Laurel Street and Adams Street infill housing initiatives
- Complete neighborhood historic resource surveys and National Register Nominations

## Goal: Increase knowledge of and access to City services and programs

### Action Steps

- Enhance city website to increase transparency and language access to the broad range of City resources, services, and programs
- Upgrade 311 system to increase readily available information both on the phone and online, and decrease response times for requests
- Launch Neighborhood Improvement Corps to beautify our neighborhoods and public spaces, and provide a pathway to careers for low-income residents
- Support New Americans by enhancing the services of the Office of New Americans under the Office of Diversity, Opportunity, and Inclusion
- Coordinate efforts to continue to offer support, training, and consultation to create inclusion and access to city services and opportunities that promote a good quality of life for New Americans
- Continue to innovate Clean Sweep initiative and meet community needs with health, housing and other various resources

### Indicators

- Increase in use of multilingual translation services
- Decrease in response times for 311 requests
- # of residents employed and supported via Neighborhood Improvement Corps
- # of public spaces improved via Neighborhood Improvement Corps

## Goal: Enhance and promote community, safety, and well being

### Action Steps

- Continue to engage residents and strengthen community partnerships to identify ongoing concerns and ensure that progress reflects community values
- Prioritize disinvested communities for targeted small area plans
- Investment in community centers citywide to strengthen neighborhoods and provide safe spaces for residents to engage, while empowering our vulnerable populations such as youth and seniors
- Prioritize street tree plantings per resident requests in historically disinvested communities, restoring health benefits and aesthetics
- Increase access to quality foods, daycare, and healthcare to bolster active and healthy communities
- Educate community members on the Buffalo Reform agenda, which aims to improve community and police relations

### Indicators

- Increase in # of residents engaging in Envision Neighborhoods planning efforts annually
- Implementation of targeted small area plans such as the River Rock Connections project
- # of restorative practices taken through planning efforts
- Increase in % of tree canopy coverage
- Decrease in % of food insecure households
- # of engaged residents through Buffalo Police Department survey