Reinvigorating the Historic East Bayfront
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Introduction

• In 2016, the City of Erie, PA passed its first comprehensive plan which called to stabilize the city’s core and neighborhoods surrounding downtown.

• The East Bayfront neighborhood sits east of downtown and has been historically disinvested in, having the lowest property values in the city, a high renter population, and high unemployment.

• During the summer of 2018 the City conducted a large community engagement initiative to ascertain the needs and values of the community to inform a strategic plan for the area.

• Based off of community input, this plan aims to:
  • Stabilize property values
  • Provide more greenspace for community’s youth and events
  • Support local businesses and welcome new ones

Place Profile

Renter Occupied Housing Increasing Yearly

High Density of Distressed Properties in Neighborhood Core

East Bayfront Substantially more Diverse than City

Community Survey Findings

Top Neighborhood Priority: 29% Less Crime 20% More activities for the youth

Top Street Priority: 20% Make area safer 17% Neighborhood Cleanups & Litter

Safety: 76% Feel safe 39% More foot and bike patrols

Plan Recommendations

Short Term

Low Cost
  • Neighborhood Cleanups
  • Tree Maintenance

High Cost
  • Enhance Street Lighting
  • Porch Lights-On

Long Term

East Bayfront Long Term Goals

Home Improvement
  • Identify homes that have most potential for rehabilitation
  • Research community land trust model
  • Acquire grants for home owner improvements

Enhance Parade Street Business Corridor
  • Begin business outreach to assess needs
  • Acquire funding for facade and street improvements
  • Create cultural trail on history of neighborhood

Park and Trail Network

• Targeted demolition of properties exhibiting highest levels of distress
• Connect existing parks on the north and south sides to create safe pathways to school

Source: US Census Bureau (2000, 2010); American Community Survey (2016)