

DSNI Historic Timeline

1984

- Riley Foundation focuses on Dudley Street area after visit; Dudley Advisory Group formed
- Nearly one-third of Dudley land lies vacant after years of disinvestment, abandonment, arson

1985: Together, We Find the Way

- Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative named
- First Community meetings: resident control established and key issues identified
- First board elected

1986: Don't Dump On Us

- First staff hired and office opened
- DSNI organizes neighborhood with "Don't Dump On Us!" campaign to clean up vacant lots
- First annual Neighborhood Clean-Up
- First Multi-Cultural Festival

1987: Bottom-Up Planning

- Innovative, participatory community planning with DAC consultants to produce The Dudley Street Neighborhood Comprehensive Revitalization Plan
- Plan adopted by the City of Boston
- "Don't Dump On Us" campaign closes illegal trash transfer stations
- Commuter rail service restored

1988: Take a Stand, Own the Land

- Made history as the only community group in the nation to win eminent domain power; for acquiring vacant land in central "Triangle" area
- Dudley Neighbors, Inc. (DNI) community land trust created for Dudley Triangle
- First "inner-city" neighborhood to win State grant to create a Town Common

1989: The Triangle Plan

- Dudley Triangle build-out plan completed
- DSNI joins anti-redlining Community Investment Coalition (CIC)

1990: Building Houses and People Too

- "Building Houses and People Too" campaign around human development concerns

- Young Architects and Planners Project designs models for community centers
- Agency Collaborative founded
- CIC community reinvestment agreement signed with banks
- Tenant organizing to improve conditions at 147-unit Cottage Brook Apartments

1991: Dudley PRIDE: People and Resources Investing in Dudley's Environment

- "Dudley PRIDE" campaign begins around health, safety and environmental concerns, including de-leading, hazardous waste clean-up and neighborhood clean-up
- Nubian Roots Youth Committee established and first youth elected to DSNI Board
- Community Summerfest held at Mary Hannon Park, youth recreation program begins
- Project Hope opens Magnolia Cooperative Housing
- Family Daycare Providers Network formed
- College mentoring project begins

1992: Growing Resources

- \$2 million Ford Foundation low-interest PRI loan to buy private vacant land
- Community Facilities Planning Group formed
- Homebuyer classes started
- Neighborhood Scholarship Fund founded
- Dacia-Woodcliff Community Garden opens
- Best Kept Neighborhood Civic Award from City

1993: Breaking Ground

- Declaration of Community Rights
- Break ground on Winthrop Estates, first new housing in Dudley Triangle
- Mary Hannon Park rehabilitated
- Youth design and paint "Unity Through Diversity" Mural
- "Economic\$ with People in Mind" Summit with residents, labor, business, government, lenders
- Dorchester Bay EDC completes Alexander/Magnolia Cooperatives; buys and renovates Cottage Brook Apartments
- Coalition organized to fight proposed asphalt plant in neighborhood
- Casey Foundation chooses DSNI for multi-year Rebuilding Communities Initiative (RCI)

1994: Streets of Hope

- Streets of Hope, acclaimed book about DSNI published
- Orchard Gardens Community Center opens

- Stafford Heights limited equity cooperative project begun by Nuestra Comunidad CDC
- 17 hazardous waste sites included in State public involvement process
- City commits funds to renovate Vine Street/Cape Verdean Community House

1995: Food for Thought

- DSNI is a case study in US General Accounting Office report to Congress on comprehensive Community Development
- Orchard Park public housing development granted funds for major renovations
- Soil Safety Initiative tests 70 gardens and provides compost to 50 gardens
- Food Project begins Farmers Market

1996: Buck\$ Stop Here

- “Holding Ground,” award-winning documentary about DSNI premieres
- Grand opening of Dudley Town Common
- “Buck\$ Stop Here” economic power campaign is launched
- Major street and sidewalk improvements on Dudley St. and Blue Hill Ave.
- Dudley Business Directory produced
- Community Urban Visioning process updates revitalization plan
- Food Project begins reclamation of Dudley land for food production

1997: Sustainable Development

- Urban agriculture plans include construction of a community greenhouse on rehabilitated brownfield site
- Welfare reform Community Response Network formed
- Youth Entrepreneurship Program launched
- “What if...?” scenarios planning uncover lasting approaches for community economic power
- DSNI receives prestigious American Planning Association Award for housing planning
- 504 Dudley St, formerly Dudley Mill Works, renovated and opened as offices for DSNI, YouthBuild Boston and Children’s Services of Roxbury

1998: New Beginnings

- Dennis Street Park, once vacant lots, designated an official Boston City Park
- Brook Avenue Cooperatives developed by Gatehouse Group/Veterans Benefit Clearinghouse
- Construction begins for 126 units of Orchard Commons (off-site) housing

- Neighborhood Human Services Directory published
- Co-authors Reclaiming Lost Ground: A resource guide for community based brownfields development in Massachusetts
- Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) education and tax assistance campaign launched
- RCI neighborhood grants program begins
- Planning begins with Bird Street Community Center for a new Uphams–Dudley community center
- Resident Development Institute established
- Memorandum of Understanding with the City over disposition of vacant land in the core area

1999: Education and Economic Development

- Break ground for Vine Street Community Center
- DSNI and DNI establish The Stalk Exchange and Dudley Investment for Neighborhood Enterprises (DINE) to engage in economic development activities
- We Need to Stand Together, report on welfare reform produced
- Community planning for core area housing
- Low Income Women’s Organizing Committee formed
- Cape Verdean Community Task Force founded
- Participating in multi-year Boston Parent Organizing Network to improve educational outcomes

2000: Village Jamboree

- Fannie Mae Foundation selects Dudley Triangle as one of 10 “Just Right” emerging neighborhoods nationwide for affordable home ownership with growing capital investment
- New City licensing requirements for solid waste and recycling businesses
- Planning for mixed-use (commercial, residential and open space) on Dudley Street with new state-of-art planning tools developed with MIT, Boston Advisors and Abt Associates
- DSNI hires resident Executive Director

2001: Resident Leadership

- DSNI receives Independent Sector’s 2001 Leadership IS Award
- Emerson Schoolyard playground completed
- Solid Waste Industry Best Practices Report
- Deleading existing homes and yards
- Rebuilding Communities Initiative (RCI) finishes
- DNI staffed by DSNI
- 65 units of affordable housing break ground
- Education e-News started

2002: Investing in the Community

- Vine Street Community Center opens!
- City's White Fund commits \$3.4 million to the new Uphams/Dudley Community Center
- Tax Assistance Program recaptures \$393,000 in the neighborhood
- Resident Development Institute pilots leadership series
- Neighborhood-Based Team joins DSNi to form the Urban Village Work Group
- Julian Judson Playground completed in partnership with DNI, Computer Associates, KaBOOM! and neighborhood residents
- Secondary area residents ask for greater inclusion
- Center for Community Builders launched
- REAL takes Nubian Roots place

2003: Strategic Focus

- 3 Strategic focus areas identified for greater impact – economic power, resident leadership, youth opportunities and development
- Planning for mixed use on Dudley & East Cottage St. land
- DNI turns 15!
- Howard Dacia Townhouses Coop (25 units) by Nuestra Comunidad
- Sargent St. Homes 10 homeownership units by Nuestra
- Julian Judson Gayland Park gets major plantings
- DSNi Board includes secondary area residents
- Resident Development Institute offers leadership series facilitated by residents
- Orchard Gardens K-8 Pilot School opens
- Youth News started
- REAL Talent Shows
- New Majority Coalition launched
- Participation in Student Assignment Task Force
- Partnership with Young Achievers Math & Science Pilot School & Antioch New England Institute
- REAL College Bound

2004: Celebrating 20 Years of Transformation

- Woodville Julian 11 homeownership & 2 rental units (New Boston Housing)
- Project Hope (commercial space) & Dorchester Bay EDC (50 rental units & commercial) designated for Dudley & East Cottage St land
- Blue Hill Commons 10 homeownership units break ground (RLFJB Corp)
- Community Greenhouse built
- Dennis & Huckins St. Garden & Lewis Place Orchard under construction
- Youth leadership development
- "Race, Racism, & Power" dialogues
- Voter Participation

- GOTCHA collaborative captures 153 youth summer jobs in 24 non-profit agencies
- Wireless Zone
- Computer Loan Fund

2005

- Sister Clara Muhammed Coopertive – 46 units, Sargent Street Homes – 11 homes, Howard/Dacia – 8 units and Woodville Julian Housing – 17 homes completed.

2006

- Kroc Community Center/The Salvation Army breaks ground on Dudley Street
- Annual Walk for Dudley started
- Project Hope opens new office building on Dudley Street as the first certified "green" building in Roxbury with Silver Status and recognized for showing Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design by the US Green Building Council

2008

- Newly renovated Dennis Street Park is opened
- 400 new voters registered
- Dudley Village with 50 units of affordable rental housing and commercial space on Dudley Street is completed
- Dudley Youth Council launches radio show on local Radio Nha Terra 107.1FM

2009

- Brookford–Dalín–Dean 18 units of housing completed
- Participated in Dudley Foreclosure Roundtable to coordinate efforts to help homeowners and renters to keep their homes

2010

- One of 21 neighborhoods in the country awarded a US Department of Education Promise Neighborhoods planning grant
- One of 5 hub agencies in the Boston Thrive in 5 Initiative
- DSNI partners with Orchard Gardens School, Dearborn Middle School and Burke High School to turnaround their schools
- Community Greenhouse is leased to The Food Project supporting over 25 families growing food in the greenhouse
- Dearborn Middle School partners with DSNI and Roxbury Presyterian Church to launch the Dearborn Saturday School
- Raised response rate for the US Census by 9%

2011

- Co-host a Lift Up Voices from the Field conference with two MA Promise Neighborhood with University of Massachusetts/Boston Center for Community Democracy and Democratic Literacy
- 90,000sq ft Kroc Community Center/The Salvation Army opens on Dudley Street
- Dudley Workforce Initiative gets precedent setting compliance in hiring standards for residents, workers of color and women in the construction trades at the Kroc Community Center
- Dudley Youth Council created an award winning film entitled "Live Up or Give It Up: A Story of a Dropout" recognized by the Roxbury Film Festival and completes a short film "Teenage Fire" on teen relationships

2012

- One of 7 neighborhoods in the country to receive a US Department of Education Promise Neighborhoods implementation grant
- In partnership with Boston Plan for Excellence, the Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School is awarded a charter and opens with 132 students in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and 1st grade
- Dudley Learning Center launches as a resource for the community building field
- Over 450 families join Dudley Children Thrive
- "For the People By The People: Best Practices for Maximizing Resident, Minority and Female Participation on Construction Projects" is published

Our Urban Village-In-Progress

- More than 3,600 DSNI members and counting
 - Over half of 1,300 vacant lots rehabilitated for homes, gardens, parks, orchard, playgrounds, schools, community centers and a Town Common
 - Over 400 new homes built and over 500 housing units rehabbed since DSNI formed
 - Business and investment are growing
 - Visitors come from around the world
- Residents who were children when DSNI began have become leaders throughout the community