Neighborhood Task Force
September 16, 2021
Welcome!

Today’s Agenda

- Choice Neighborhoods activities update
- Land Use activities update
- Review of workshop input
- Review of survey results
- Next steps
Schedule

- **LAND USE**
  - Assessment
  - Preliminary Ideas
  - Final Plan
  - Engagement

- **CHOICE, NEIGHBORHOODS**
  - Assessment
  - Visioning
  - Preliminary Ideas
  - Final Plan
  - Engagement

- **AKRON-CIVIC COMMONS**
  - Engagement & Design (Continuing Work)

- **Task Force Meeting #4**
- **Plan Complete**
- **Plan Complete**

- Spring | Summer | Fall | Winter | Spring | Summer | Fall | Winter | Spring | Summer | Fall
Choice Activities to Date

- Review of Neighborhood Conditions
- Surveys Completed: 132 Summit Lake Apartment Residents
- Interviews: 22 Apartment residents, 21 Service providers, 7 Stakeholders
- Website: https://www.akronciviccommons.org/choice-neighborhood
- First Round of Community Workshops: 68 Participants signed in
Land Use Plan Activities to Date

Overview of Our Summit Lake

Engagement Actions Timeline

- **FEB**: Site Conditions & Demographics Research
- **MAR**: Ethnographic Analysis
- **APR**: Joint Neighborhood Task Force Mtg 1 & 2
- **MAY**: Resident Advisory Board Mtg 1.0
- **JUN**: Individual Resident Interviews
- **JUL**: Community Event 1.0: Neighborhood Walks
- **AUG**: Create & Promote Survey 1.0
- **SEP**: Small Group Listening Session
- **OCT**: Community Event 2.0: Workshop
- **NOV**: Resident Advisory Board Mtg 2.0
- **DEC**: Intergenerational Focus Group

**IN-PERSON STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS**

- **PHASE 1**: Assessing Existing Conditions
- **PHASE 2**: Understanding Options
- **PHASE 3**: Refining the Plan

**TODAY**
Land Use Plan Upcoming Event

Our Summit Lake
COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

Tuesday, September 28, 2021 • 6:00-7:30 p.m.

The REACH Center, 390 West Crosier Street

RSVP at: OurSummitLake.com
WE HAD A GREAT TIME AT OUR FIRST SUMMIT LAKE COMMUNITY WORKSHOP!
A SPECIAL SHOUT OUT
to our resident volunteers and Y on the Fly!

and to Akron Civic Commons
for the raffle!
Summit Lake on July 20
Front Porch Fellowship on July 21
Neighborhood history and background
Neighborhood history and background

[58 cards]

A PEOPLE'S HISTORY OF SUMMIT LAKE

The City of Akron is embarking on a resident-led process to determine how to use city-owned vacant land in Summit Lake. At the same time, the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority and the City are beginning a resident-led planning process that looks at the whole neighborhood and the needs of neighborhood residents by identifying areas for improvement and investment, like housing, businesses, parks, streets, services, and safety.

These plans are a chance for you to write your own story for the future but we also want to hear your stories about Summit Lake yesterday and today. We need YOU to create a personal history of the neighborhood.

Let's go back in time together to visit Summit Lake. Here's something to get you started or feel free to turn the card over and share whatever memories (good or bad) you'd like!

THE PAST

"I remember back in the 90's, the Summit Lake Neighborhood was very active. We used to play night baseball in the Park. My fondest memory from that time is playing under the lights."

2009, the Summit Lake Neighborhood was very active. We used to ride bikes around the neighborhood. My fondest memory from that time is going to play in the woods by the creek, playing with the rocks.

Let's go back in time together to visit Summit Lake. Here's something to get you started or feel free to turn the card over and share whatever memories (good or bad) you'd like!

THE PAST

"I remember back in 2018, the Summit Lake Neighborhood was cool. I started building forts. We used to build huge forts in the corner of the Summit Lake community center."

2018, the Summit Lake Neighborhood was cool. I started building forts. We used to build huge forts in the corner of the Summit Lake community center.

Let's go back in time together to visit Summit Lake. Here's something to get you started or feel free to turn the card over and share whatever memories (good or bad) you'd like!

THE PAST

"I remember back in 1990, the Summit Lake Neighborhood was very quiet. We used to go fishing in the lake."

1990, the Summit Lake Neighborhood was very quiet. We used to go fishing in the lake.

Let's go back in time together to visit Summit Lake. Here's something to get you started or feel free to turn the card over and share whatever memories (good or bad) you'd like!

THE PAST

"I remember back in 1985, the Summit Lake Neighborhood was very active. We used to play soccer in the park. My fondest memory from that time is going to play in the woods by the creek, playing with the rocks."

1985, the Summit Lake Neighborhood was very active. We used to play soccer in the park. My fondest memory from that time is going to play in the woods by the creek, playing with the rocks.

Let's go back in time together to visit Summit Lake. Here's something to get you started or feel free to turn the card over and share whatever memories (good or bad) you'd like!
Neighborhood history and background

IN THE PAST

“The Summit Lake neighborhood was....”

1980s
- VIBRANT, ALIVE, FUN

1990s
- UNSAFE, DANGEROUS, LOUD
- FULL OF PEOPLE, HOUSES, BUSINESSES, FUN, GREAT, ACTIVE

2000s
- SCARY
- SAFE, VERY ACTIVE

2010s - today
- SCARY, DEPRESSING, INTIMIDATING
- GOOD, CLEAN, DIFFERENT, FUN, TRANSFORMING, FRIENDLY, BOOMING
Neighborhood history and background

IN THE PAST

“We used to....”

FISH  PARK  EVENTS  LAUGH  LAKE  BALL
CHURCH  GARDENS  FAMILY
LIVE  HANGOUT  FRIENDS
KIDS  RIDE BIKES  WALK  BASEBALL
FOOTBALL  RUNNING AROUND

“My fondest memory is....”

“NEIGHBORS HELPING MOVE OUR FAMILY BELONGINGS INTO OUR NEW HOME”
“WATCHING THE DUCKS SWIM”
“MY GRANDPARENTS WENT TO THE DANCEHALL ON A DATE”
“EVERY OTHER FRIDAY WE WENT SWIMMING AT LINCOLN ELEMENTARY”
“BUILDING TWO HUGE CHAIRS WITH THE BUILD CORPS AND LEO”
“RIDING BIKES WITH ALL THE KIDS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND GOING TO ALL THE CORNER STORES GETTING CANDY”
Neighborhood history and background

**IN THE PRESENT**

"My favorite thing in the neighborhood is...."

- **Community**
  - Friends, family, "borrow a cup of sugar" neighbors, organizations

- **Open space**
  - Lake, trails, parks, fire pit, grills

- **Activities**
  - Gardening, farmers market, biking, fishing, fireworks

- **Convenience**

- **Positive change**
Collaborative map
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What is an issue you would like to see this neighborhood plan solve?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Place one sticker on the map and the matching one below with your answer.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- I think we need more playgrounds (like community parks)
- More public art
- More learning opportunities/Summer Camps
- We need a dog park
- Some sort of Lake Events
- More Swing sets
- Tear down vacant houses
- Get rid of old vacant houses
- Consolidated gym needs new roof (private buyer?)
- No one stop at the 4 way stop sign
- Community garden or sewage lot
- Need more green spaces
- More Programs, More Outings, More events
- There is few opportunities for children to be creative
- We need more places just for kids to hang out.
- New Side Street in wonder (overbuilt?)
- They need to stop problems in kenmore
- More boats
- More restaurants
- New side streets
- New Housing!
- Build a swimming pool.
Collaborative map

- where you live [52 stickers]
- a place you love [104 stickers]
Collaborative map

What is an issue you would like to see this plan solve?
[115 comments]
Collaborative map

- **New and Affordable Housing**
- **A Park or Playground**
- **Get Rid of Old Vacant Houses**
- **Businesses**
- **Need a Stop Sign**
- **Intersection Floods When It Rains**

Tags:
- **Commercial**
- **Housing**
- **Open Space**
- **Safer Streets**
- **Vacancy**
Spin wheel
[73 comments]
Spin wheel

What about the neighborhood makes you feel...
Spin wheel

What about the neighborhood makes you feel...

[20 comments]
What about the neighborhood makes you feel...

[20 comments]

- Litter: Lots of trash everywhere
- Streets: Traffic, speeding
- Safety: Crime, shootings
- Noise: Loud music, sirens in the middle of the night
- Community: A lot of bullying
Spin wheel

Your neighborhood won the LOTTERY!

You have been ELECTED Mayor for a day!

I would give it to poor people to have them get huge.

Help people give them food if they don't have any.

Get all the abandoned houses torn down.

Have people pick up all the trash.

Stop signs, street lights.

New house, closed and fixed up.

Fix up the house.
Spin wheel

What would you do to improve your community?

[21 comments]

Your neighborhood won the LOTTERY!

You have been Elected Mayor for a day!

Housing
- Fix up houses, update apartments, give poor people $ for housing
- Other
- Pick up trash, tear down abandoned houses, ask people what they need

Streets
- Make it safer, stop signs, fix streets, make it easier to bike

Public space
- Swimming pool, a place just for kids

Basic needs
- Give money to poor people, help people, give them food
Community
There is a lot of pride in Summit Lake with committed residents and organizations looking to improve the community.

“There has always been a strong sense of community here.”
Open space

The Civic Commons has brought the community to the water - the programming and activities on Summit Lake are invaluable.

However, what is happening on the lake often feels separate from the rest of the community.

There are great park spaces around Summit Lake but fewer opportunities on the hill.

"Summit Lake feels so far away. If you don’t live a block away it feels so far away. You aren’t connected. It’s just far."
Streets

Streets and sidewalks are in poor condition and cars move too fast!

“People fly up and down the streets (speeding) on IRA. You can hear it at night. I watch people blow right through the stop signs.”
Summary: what we’ve most frequently heard

Quality of life
The overgrown lots, unsealed buildings and trash are major quality of life issues for neighbors.

Property owners need help to maintain houses.

The neighborhood safer now but there is still work to do and there’s still a perception of Summit Lake as a dangerous place.

“The neighborhood has gotten better, the drug activity has gone down but homeless camps are tucked away in the community.”
Basic needs

There are not enough retail amenities in Summit Lake. You have to leave the community to take care of basic shopping and needs.

It’s difficult to get a loan or land for housing in the neighborhood.

Basic needs must be met first, people are in survival mode.

“There are no amenities around here. If you want a cup a coffee you’re out of luck. To get lunch, you have to Uber or Door Dash.”

“There used to be a pharmacy where the Save A Lot is inside the store. We don’t have a pharmacy, we have two senior citizens buildings, we need a brick and mortar pharmacy.”
Summit Lake Apartments Resident Survey Results

Summit Lake Community Workshop

Summit Lake Apartment pop-ups
What THREE things do you like MOST about the neighborhood?
[127 responses]

Housing is affordable

Parks and recreational spaces

Access to public transportation

Close to family/friends

Access to neighborhood social services

Location

Access to youth and early learning programs like Head Start
High crime/I don’t feel safe here

Lack of shopping/retail store option

Poor street lighting

Number of vacant/abandoned properties

Too few school options

Nothing - I like everything about this neighborhood

"I don’t feel safe after dark, and people throw their trash on the ground and the dumpster area is filthy"
How do you rate the following public services in the neighborhood?

[132 responses]

**GOOD SERVICES**

Public transportation options

Ambulance/EMS response

Quality of parks and recreational spaces

**POOR SERVICES**

Trash, recycling, and yard waste collection

Street cleaning / Snow removal

Street and sidewalk conditions
How safe do you feel in the following situations?

[132 responses]

**VERY SAFE**

*Inside your apartment/home*

*Walking to and from the Reach Opportunity Center and/or Summit Lake Community Center*

*In the neighborhood during the day*

**VERY UNSAFE**

*Walking around the lake at night*

*In the neighborhood at night*

*Walking to and from the Save A Lot or Aldi*
Have you personally seen or been a victim of any of the following crimes while living in the neighborhood?

[127 responses]

**Gunshots**

**Domestic violence/Fighting between family members**

**Assault/Physical Attack**

**Vandalism**

**Drug Activity (buying, selling, using)**

**Burglary/Theft**

**Car break-ins**

**Teenage violence**
10. Do you allow your child(ren) to play outside your home? [86 responses]

- Yes: 19%
- No: 30%
- Yes but only if I am outside with them: 51%

11. How often do you feel crime occurs in the neighborhood? [97 responses]

- Daily: 16%
- Frequently: 36%
- Sometimes: 25%
- Rarely: 20%
- Never: 3%
The following questions are about police and community relations (mark one answer in each row)
[132 responses]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Respondents Who Said “Yes”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do you see the police as someone to call when you need help?</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you feel safe providing information and evidence to the police?</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have you had a negative interaction with the police?</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have you ever felt threatened by the police?</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What is the main way you get around? [129 responses]

- Own vehicle: 47%
- Public transport: 15%
- Ride from someone else: 25%
- Walk: 5%
- Bike: 3%
- Taxi: 4%

How much of a problem is transportation when trying to get to work, school, appointments, shopping, etc.? [132 responses]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RESPONSE</th>
<th>RESPONSE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No problem - I always have access to transportation</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not very big - I usually have access to transportation</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat big - I have unreliable access to transportation</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very big – I have no access to transportation</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
53% of the respondents have **no difficulty** in getting the services they need.

For those who do have difficulty, these are the top reasons why:

- **I do not know what services are available** (42%)
- **Services are offered at times that do not work for me** (34%)
- **I don’t have transportation or don’t know how to get to the services I need** (31%)
- **There are too many expectations and tasks to follow up on when I get services** (21%)
- **It takes too long to get services; there is a waitlist** (19%)
If you are working or looking for work, what makes it hard to keep or find work? [128 responses]

38% of the respondents have no difficulty in finding/keeping a job.

For those who do have difficulty, these are the top reasons why:

**Affordable childcare / childcare in general** 42%

Lack of transportation 34%

Disability, medical / health limitations 31%

Lack of job skills/training / job experience 21%

Lack of a high school diploma / ged 19%
Do your children participate in any organized after school programs (e.g. sports, dance, art, music, or other after school program)?

[37 responses]

87% of children do not participate in any organized after school programs

Why don’t your children participate in afterschool programs? (check all that apply)

[32 responses]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I don’t know what programs are available</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No reliable transportation to get to and from programs</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program hours don’t work with my schedule</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Available programs don’t address my child’s interests</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programs cost too much</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am concerned about gangs and/or neighborhood violence</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have no need for or interest in activities for my children</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
39. How do you rate the healthcare you receive? [129 responses]

- Excellent: 43%
- Good: 40%
- Fair: 15%
- Do not receive healthcare services: 2%

40. What makes it hard for you to get quality healthcare? [129 responses]

64% of the respondents have no difficulty in accessing quality healthcare.

For those who do have a difficulty, these are the top reasons why:

- **Lack of transportation**: 43%
- **Long waiting room times**: 33%
- **Waitlist for services / too long to get an appointment**: 30%
- **Finding doctors that accept my health plan**: 28%
- **Offices are not open when I need them**: 15%
## 46. During the past week, how many times did you eat fruits and/or vegetables? [127 responses]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>Once most days</th>
<th>Once every day</th>
<th>2 times/day</th>
<th>3-4 times/day</th>
<th>5+ times/day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Self/Head of household</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children in household</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## 47. If you are not eating as many fruits and vegetables as you would like, what are the reasons? (check all that apply) [122 responses]

73% of the respondents gave no specific reason, for the rest, these are the top reasons why:

- Fruits and vegetables in local stores are of low quality 48%
- Cost of fruits and vegetables 39%
- Do not like fruits or vegetables 12%

## 48. Where do you do most of your grocery shopping? (check only one) [128 responses - hard copy surveys had multiple responses]

- Save a lot
  - Acme 38%
  - Walmart 29%
  - Aldi 17%
  - Giant Eagle 17%
### What are the top FIVE improvements that you want to see at Summit Lake Apartments? (select 5)

[125 responses]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Features</th>
<th>RESPONSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Features like front porches, balconies, outdoor lighting, or fences</td>
<td>64% 80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apartment features that are good for the environment</td>
<td>42% 52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More parking</td>
<td>37% 46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More recreational/exercise areas (indoor &amp; outdoor)</td>
<td>34% 43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apartments that are affordable at different income levels</td>
<td>26% 33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More trees, bushes, grass, and flower/outdoor space</td>
<td>23% 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apartments specifically for seniors</td>
<td>19% 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taller buildings (4 stories tall or more with an elevator)</td>
<td>14% 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More indoor community space (community room, community center)</td>
<td>14% 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public art (e.g. murals and sculptures)</td>
<td>14% 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smaller buildings (3 stories or less)</td>
<td>7% 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td>23% 30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Washers & dryers in our units
Better security & management
Private outdoor spaces for relaxing or grilling
Air conditioning
Updated appliances
Carpets

"CARPETS IN UNITS. MY DEAR DAUGHTER FELL AND HIT HER HEAD WHEN SHE WAS ABOUT 6 MONTHS OLD AND HAD A CRACKED HER SKULL WITH A SMALL BRAIN BLEED."

52. If Summit Lake Apartments is improved, would you be interested in returning to a new and improved unit? [127 responses]

- Yes: 51%
- No: 12%
- Need more information: 37%

53. Are you interested in purchasing a home or condominium in the future? [126 responses]

- Yes: 55%
Are you involved with the following associations/organizations in the community? (check all that apply)

[127 responses]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Association</th>
<th>Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summit Lake Apartments Resident Meetings</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church group/faith-based organization (specify below)</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summit Lake Neighborhood Association</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent Teacher Association (PTA) at your child’s school</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Watch</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summit Lake Community Council</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summit Lake Community Development Corporation (CDC)</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior or Social Club</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercise group</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

26% of residents indicate they are involved with an organization or association in their community.
### 55. How do you get information about what is happening in the neighborhood? (check all that apply)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMHA meetings/newsletters/fliers</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word of mouth (family/friends/neighbors)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet/e-mail</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facebook</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TV</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Text Messages from an organization/group</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulletin Board in front of the Community Center</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summit Lake Community Council</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Next Door</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newspaper</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radio</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twitter</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instagram</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 56. What is your preferred way to get information about what is happening in the community? (select one)

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Facebook</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
13 How do you MOST OFTEN access the internet? [132 responses]

14 What device(s) do you use to access the internet? [130 responses]

- **Smartphone** - 85%
- **Laptop Computer** - 41%
- **Tablet / ipad** - 28%
- **Other** - 12%
- **No Access** - 15%
- **Own Connection** - 73%
What is the one thing you like and one thing you dislike the MOST about the neighborhood?

[119 responses]

**LIKE**
- clean
- quiet
- neighborhood
- transportation
- stores
- management
- my unit
- location
- safe
- people
- services
- activities
- affordable
- everything
- lake/path/open space

**DISLIKE**
- vacant lots & homes
- nature
- amenities
- lighting
- traffic
- my unit
- nothing
- not child friendly
- noisy
- trash
- parking
- everything
- people
- crime
Emerging themes for a neighborhood vision of the future

Summit Lake will be a **safe** and **desirable** place to live.

There will be a **strong sense of community** where people look out for each other.

Residents will have what they need to be **healthy** and **independent**.

**Natural assets** will be an integral part of the community and will help make it unique.
Next Steps

- Workshop #2 for Land Use planned for September 28 at Reach Opportunity Center
- Round 2 Choice workshops planned for late October
- Services focus groups with residents and providers in the Fall/Winter