

BLUE ISLAND BROWNFIELDS/LAND REVITALIZATION ACTION MODEL MARCH 2010

Community Issues	Redevelopment Approach	Health Benefit	Measurement (indicator)	COMMENT/ SOURCE OF DATA
ENVIRONMENT				
ISSUES RELATED TO POTENTIAL REDEVELOPMENT SITES				
There are increasing numbers of brownfields, including foreclosed homes, commercial properties, petroleum sites, and possible meth labs.	Create a site inventory and prioritize sites. These sites should be viewed as opportunities. Use GIS to plot sites.	Potential to reduce exposures, improve communication between city and residents	Site inventory (with GIS plots maps).	142 sites were entered in 2007 - 2009 (?) and 150-200 additional sites will be entered (2010?)
There are concerns about exposures to contaminants at land reuse sites.	Include a subset of the inventory that has a map and type of contamination at sites. When sites are redeveloped, hazards need to be addressed. Work with the health department re: risk communication.	Potential to reduce exposures, improved environmental quality, improved communication between city and residents	Site inventory with map; listing of contaminants at sites; risk communication activities.	Success: risk communication efforts around MGP site issues. Latrice/Cook Co. HD has been involved, along with IDPH, IEPA, others. A combined effort – conf call with city, ATSDR, IDPH, CCHD, EPA – to address site contamination and cleanup issues.
Pollution from site runoff can impact streams and waterways (Cal Sag Channel, e.g.). Although there is posting along the Cal Sag, people fish there.	Inventory of local waterways and point sources in the area (map and locations). Water quality monitoring program (e.g., Stream Keepers, IL Natural History Survey, IEPA WATER, Great Lakes	Cleaner water, healthier vegetation, and environmental protection; reduced exposures.	Map/inventory of local waterways and point sources (Cal Sag, Little Cal Sag, Stony Creek (borders MGP)); water quality data; fish consumption postings and advisories.	Include high school/ college students for summer employment Contact person for more information: Tim Johnson- Eisenhower High School 708-597-6300 x4040.

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	<p>Federation, volunteer monitoring).</p> <p>Fish consumption advisories and outreach.</p> <p>Include high school/ college students for summer employment.</p>			Can use EnviroMapper (Laurel)
<p>There is a need for more community gardens, but issues of lead in ground soil and potential impact on gardens/vegetation need to be addressed.</p>	<p>Work with Park District and others, e.g., Growing Power to identify lots for community gardens. Reestablish Forestry Board.</p> <p>Soil test empty lots for lead (and possibly other metals).</p>	<p>Increase in community pride; decreased exposures to lead with reduction in elevated blood lead levels in children' increased access to healthy foods; increase in mental health benefits from proximity to green space; and increase in community capacity and interaction.</p>	<p>Number of vacant lots suitable for gardens, number of gardens in place now; soils sampling.</p>	<p>Soil sampling is RCM suggestion. Sample analysis is usually about \$10 for lead.</p> <p>Any plots available at Eisenhower or local universities?</p>

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COMMUNITY DESIGN/ PLANNING				
Transportation for seniors is split among four townships, making it difficult to get to appointments, grocery stores, and senior activities. Townships do not provide cross-township services (a tax issue)	Salvation Army has a plan to work with PACE.	Services to seniors increase, mobility and access to services increase (e.g., getting to physician or hospital appointments).	Number of programs that cross the four townships; key bus stops/locations; most traveled routes; PACE ridership information.	PACE – provide insurance and driver, which is an affordable form of transportation. Salvation Army is working on this. Jodi can get ridership info and a summary from Salvation Army.
The geographic barriers in Blue Island cut the town in half. It is hard to get from one side to the other without crossing a busy road (hwy). There are transportation issues. Community is four miles square but hard to get from one side to another.	Install walking paths and pedestrian-friendly areas. Bike path is in the works. Map the circulation patterns (CMAP) and look for quick fixes. Develop a unified long range plan for transit.	Promotes healthy lifestyle by walking/biking to more places. Less reliance on autos reduces air pollution.	# of people going across town for goods/services (use Survey Monkey or City Web?) # of cross-town connections for walking or biking – City Pamphlet. Results of circulation pattern mapping.	NOTE: This is not a huge issue. The locals know how to work around barriers (Cal Sag, 4 RR crossings, RR yard). CMAP can do circulation pattern mapping (?) ON CITY WEB – SURVEY WITH SURVEY MONKEY?
Older housing stock has lead paint issues. (See Environmental Issues, above) Children may have elevated blood lead levels (EBLs). Only are tested at kindergarten age, so could be missing early or later cases. During redevelopment, do not want to dissipate lead into the environment (e.g.,	Require yearly testing/screening, hold a health fair in collaboration with Metro South, schools, local hospital, health department Health department will provide material on lead-safe work practices. Contractors are required to follow these practices (e.g., spray-wetting during demolition). Residents can report violations to city and	Reduced exposures and blood lead levels leading to more active, healthier children Reduced lead exposures, more sustainable housing in future.	EBL data - # children being tested at a younger age, # of kids screened, EBLs # of programs/health fair(s) # of demolition violations reported, EBLs (correlated to EBL measure under phys/mental health category) # of demolitions (especially those using safe practices, if known)	NOTE: Blue Island does not have EBL issues, but this could be because kids aren't being screened. NOTE: ALSO COVERED UNDER HEALTH Laurel, Latrice, Raeann Z. – discuss health fair – May?? (Laurel/ Latrice: LeadCare Analyzer?) EPA – Edward Master/ Tammy Moore – can do

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during demolition)	<p>health dept.</p> <p>Create a sustainability ordinance; include lead-safe practices and make it a necessity when getting a permit or through RFP/RFQ process for developers.</p>			Lead 101 training and lead safe cleaning practices, weatherization for Building Department. ATSDR can film – put on local cable or City web site.
There has been a loss of trees (along parkways) due to disease and damage.	<p>Inventory of trees that have been planted needs to be reinvigorated.</p> <p>Require developers to plant trees.</p> <p>Summarize and upgrade a city ordinance re: planting of trees.</p> <p>Revive the Forestry Board.</p> <p>Encourage participation in Arbor Day.</p>	Trees can improve the environment, improve aesthetics, reduce heat island effect, provide shade for people, trap pollutants, promote green space, and increase walkability.	<p>Tree inventory by number and types (a tree list, maintained by City, including description of trees and plants, e.g. what are good trees).</p> <p>Number and types of trees cut down.</p> <p>Number or programs in place (e.g., Arbor Day participation, Forestry Board, Ordinance).</p> <p>Grassroots efforts in place (Landscape Ordinance, Christy Webber projects).</p>	<p>Planning and Public Works issue.</p> <p>City (via Jodi) adopted Arbor Day Proclamation and is hoping to apply for Tree City Designation. Also, city streetscaping is planned.</p>
There are sewer problems, such as illicit connections to storm sewer system in older housing. This is due to older infrastructure.	<p>Fix infrastructure or encourage people to correct illicit connections. Issues with who pays (the homeowner).</p> <p>See if inspections are required prior to purchase</p> <p>Review Blue Island sewer system ordinances and programs, such as</p>	Reducing the sewage load to the river can improve the environment and reduce exposures to fecal coliform and other contaminants. Help to prevent flooding (basements) and reduce associated contaminants and exposure, preserves housing.	<p>Results of TV inspection (Gary, Water Dept.), including numbers of illicit connections found.</p> <p>Summarize City ordinances, best management practices, and programs (e.g., Metropolitan Water Reclamation District – rain barrels)</p>	Jason is teaching class at library with CNT re: rain barrels – get info from him. MWRD on 131 st Ave. is promoting a rain barrel program. Can combine with Health Fari.

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	<p>stormwater management efforts.</p> <p>Encourage the City to conduct education/ outreach re: stormwater management.</p>			
<p>Need Zoning and Building Ordinances for good community design and to increase development in the Downtown area.</p>	<p>This is part of the Blue Island Plan, which covers the downtown district. Summarize this plan.</p> <p>Involve community volunteers. Codify results. Publish the existing Ordinance, but map the steps and make It clearer. Access to information increases involvement.</p>	<p>A better-designed community increases opportunities for recreation, jobs. Overall, increases the Health of the City (the city as a living organism).</p>	<p>Number of community meetings. Summaries of ordinances. IDOT plan summary; Brownfields plan summary; site inventory.</p>	<p>Blue Island Plan and Brownfields plan is on website. IDOT plan summary??</p>

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COMMUNICATION/ RISK COMMUNICATION				
The local health dept. would like to be more involved in the community.	Involve CCHD in brownfields meetings, communication programs, data collection	Increased trust (mental health benefit)	# of partnership activities, activities related to BF redevelopment	
Trust issues, likely due to a general lack of communication. There needs to be more collaboration and communication. One positive is that this is starting to happen. But, there is a lack of labor and resources.	<p>Continue workshops like this one.</p> <p>Provide more transparency e.g., using the web to increase communication. Perhaps involve students in web design.</p> <p>Develop a communications committee to focus on what needs to be done, e.g., e-mail blasts, monthly newsletter (in Spanish and English)</p>	Increased trust, awareness, and communication leads to mental health benefits.	As above. Also, number of newsletters, number of people at events (sign-in sheets). Use hit counter to track people reading city updates/ web/ newsletters	City started a newsletter. City goes to events (get info from Jodi).
Need to get residents involved in more activities	Create “welcome wagon” to provide things to do for new residents; “50+” card to offer discounts to older members of community (not that 50 is old!)	Residents stay local, become active in community	# of programs – welcome wagon, discount card, etc. (Note: City and Parks/Rec started a Welcome Wagon program!)	Rita started this for seniors. Expand to all new residents in Blue Island – include general information about the city, such as when the sirens go off and what this means.

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PHYSICAL/ MENTAL HEALTH				
<p>There may be mental health issues within the community (and among youth) that need to be addressed. Teenagers and young adults need direction to manage stress, instead of turning to gangs and drugs. There are self-esteem problems among youth.</p>	<p>Approach: YMCA and Eisenhower school may partner and discuss prevention/intervention. Try to outreach to young children through after school and teen programs. Need to get the Park District more involved with programming. E.g., get a health class or girls nite at the Park District.</p>	<p>Improve mental health.</p>	<p># of existing programs, # of interventions (e.g., reports from educators).</p>	<p>Raeann Z. can get info for Middle School (one of the two in B.Island)</p>
<p>Youth (and adults?) need more access to recreation. Kids are not playing outside. Need more programming at Park District.</p>	<p>Work with Parks and Rec, Eisenhower to create a plan for more parks, linkages, trails.</p>	<p>Increased physical activity leading to cardiovascular benefits, possibly reducing juvenile crime.</p>	<p># of existing parks, acreage of green space, # of walking paths/ trails, # of linked paths/ trails, # of Park District programs and participation rates</p>	<p>Jodi put in for a grant, Dec. 2009. Get summary.</p>
<p>Are there enough services for the community, and do people know what is available? E.g., domestic violence is an issue.</p>	<p>Approach: list of all agencies and services: YMCA, Hospitals, Shelters, What if there are not enough services? - plan for more? Funding? Advertise in Daily Southtown, The Forum. Put fliers in mailboxes, with water bill, and at library. Develop a community newsletter. As block rep or Aldermen to send newsletters.</p>	<p>Provide services to community members, which can have an indirect or direct impact of physical and mental health improvements</p>	<p>Lists, fliers, programs, etc. (There are zero shelters)</p>	<p>Jill and Cecelia from MetroSouth can help with this.</p> <p>Patti will list programs (including Healing Touch)</p> <p>Patti and Colleen – may do a community service day once a month (massage).</p>

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Asthma, diabetes and obesity are issues. Assess overall health status in community: is lead an issue? Seniors' health? Contaminated sites and exposures? Diabetes? Cardiovascular disease?	Look at asthma rates. Look at access to recreation. Healthy eating intervention in schools, sr centers. Address ways master plan may eliminate sources of particulate/ other asthma triggers. Work with health dept. and others to collect data. Work with Park District, schools (e.g., healthy schools campaign)	Reduced levels of asthma attacks; weight loss in obese children. Identification of areas that need attention (e.g., starting a walking program where cardiovascular disease rates are high – all may improve overall health.	Hospital discharge rates - asthma, other measures (self reporting? - survey?). Air pollution data, obesity data (?). Vital statistics, EBL data, lead screening program, if needed. Include school program data re: fitness (see comments), school lunch program statistics (is it healthy? – how many kids (%) are on subsidized lunch?)	Latrice (health data) and Laurel (air quality data) Raeann Zylman -- \$1000 grant for a garden – has some before and after info; also \$30,000 grant for fresh fruit and veg program. Raeann: Fitness lab – kids lost 950#, bronze medal from Pres. Clinton (get summary updates from Raeann)
There is a lack of psychiatric hospital beds Patients that come in with acute mental illness often have no insurance or are under-insured.	Partner with YMCA (?), funding? New wing of hospital? Recruit interns?	Improved mental health status and outcomes.	NOTE: THIS WAS DETERMINED TO BE A STATE-WIDE ISSUE AND WILL BE PLACED IN THE APPENDIX.	Approach: encourage Metro South to apply for grants for mental health facilities. Can partner with others – Salvation Army? YMCA?
Many people are uninsured and do not know what services are available.	Determine how many people are uninsured, how many have Medicaid (?) and conduct outreach re: services (links to above - re: services – creating a list of services).	Proving services to under- or uninsured may improve health status.	# of existing and new outreach efforts, resource list, insurance statistics	Ask Metro South who comes in w/o insurance. Get data from Latrice/ Cook Co. Health and Laurel (from Fed Medicaid contact) Illinois Hospital Association data (go to website)

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<p>Homelessness is an issue. People sleep in parks and in cars. There are not a lot of resources for the homeless in the suburbs. When there are emergencies, homeless people need alternatives other than the hospitals.</p>	<p>? Services? Shelters? (any BF sites could be good shelters?) Create “emergency plan”, apply to address homeless when shelters are full? Need cooling and heating shelters, work with YMCA and Salvation Army, also churches and schools involved for emergencies.</p>	<p>Reduced exposures and other threats from living on street.</p>	<p># of homeless, # of programs available (e.g., # of shelters) (there are zero shelters). List emergency programs in Blue Island, e.g. cooling shelters (Salvation Army)</p>	<p>Salavation Army is building a new building. They also can ID where homeless are (don’t always want to come to shelter but good to know where they are)</p>
<p>Older housing stock has lead paint issues.</p> <p>Children may have elevated blood lead levels (EBLs). Only are tested at kindergarten age, so could be missing early or later cases.</p> <p>Blood lead screening rates are low in Blue Island (want 3 tests before age 3)</p> <p>During redevelopment, do not want to dissipate lead into the environment (e.g., during demolition)</p>	<p>Require yearly testing/screening, hold a health fair in collaboration with UIC, local hospital, health department</p> <p>Health department will provide material on lead-safe work practices. Contractors are required to follow these practices (e.g., spray-wetting during demolition). Residents can report violations to city and health dept.</p> <p>Create a sustainability ordinance; include lead-safe practices and make it a necessity when getting a permit or through RFP/RFQ process for developers.</p>	<p>Reduced exposures and blood lead levels leading to more active, healthier children</p> <p>Reduced lead exposures, more sustainable housing in future.</p>	<p>EBL data - # children being tested at a younger age, # of kids screened, EBLs</p> <p># of programs/health fair(s)</p> <p># of demolition violations reported, EBLs (correlated to EBL measure under phys/mental health category)</p> <p># of demolitions (especially those using safe practices, if known)</p>	<p>** SEE ALSO ENVIRONMENTAL AND PLANNING SECTION</p> <p>Latrice will help with this. Cook Co. Health Depts. Has pamphlets re: EBLs and also remediation – can give to City.</p> <p>PEHSU lecture?</p> <p>Get literature to Metro South re: lead outreach – go to private physicians offices, family practice and peds, also clinics.</p> <p>Get duplicate information, including re: asbestos, to Bldg Dept.</p>

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Increase access to healthy foods	Encourage more farmers markets. Start a community gardens program. Encourage full-service grocery stores in walking distance of residential areas.	Improved physical and mental health.	# of mercardos, # stores with full range of produce, # and types of restaurants downtown,	Need to map all grocery stores and restaurants throughout the redevelopment area – City has done already.

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SAFETY/SECURITY				
Crime is an issue. People are concerned about crime in particular areas.	<p>Collect crime data, work with neighborhood watch groups, address abandoned lots and buildings</p> <p>City will inventory problem sites and work with local police department. The city is already redeveloping some of these properties.</p> <p>Redevelopment in general should address the problem, and the police will focus attention on redeveloping sites. Streetscaping and lighting are one approach as part of redevelopment.</p>	People feel safer, may walk more, feel better	Crime rates, # of neighborhood watch groups, # of abandoned lots and buildings (see site inv.) - tag those that are problems.	Get community data from police. (Jodi has done some of this ?)

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SAFETY/SECURITY				
Traffic congestion and traffic accidents are issues.	Increase accessibility by walking/biking. Get IDOT data re: traffic/accident statistics.	Healthier lifestyles, reduced injuries and deaths from accidents.	IDOT data (vehicle miles traveled – CMAP), walkability surveys (paths, etc.), pedestrian counts	City data/ police CMAP data – Deb Orr, ask Bola (?) The city has pedestrian counts for the downtown area
Children do not walk to school. They are dropped off and then run in front of buses (dangerous).	Safe Routes to Schools program, walking school bus programs, public transportation stops near schools, need a pedestrian plan overall.	Increased physical activity for youth, community capacity increases by walking programs, reduced accidents (from running in front of buses), improved air quality from fewer cars in front of schools - exposures are reduced.	# of children walking to school, # of Safe Routes to Schools programs, # of cars in front of schools in mornings, # of public transportation stops near schools, # of accidents near schools	Jane Hearly (sp) School District. Police City has data already (?) Bike Day stats? Paul Revere School (?)

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EMPLOYMENT/ ECONOMY/EDUCATION				
Schools are overcrowded. Not all students are residents of Blue Island. Quality of schools is low/low test scores.	Create a new school through brownfields redevelopment (???)	Smaller classrooms provide an opportunity to get more students involved in learning	# of schools by school district, class sizes, third grade reading comprehension, test scores, attendance rate, and GPA of school overall. # of kids from Blue Island? # of kids from outside	Raeann Zylman has some info. Also, new superintendent Ray Lauk District 130.org

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EMPLOYMENT/ ECONOMY/EDUCATION				
			Blue Island?	
Need more businesses in general	<p>Redevelopment plan and Corridor plan.</p> <p>Locally-owned business can have a symbol (shop local). Local restaurants can promote summer specials on dine-ins. Maybe the Local Chamber of Commerce can help with this.</p> <p>50+ cards (see COMMUNITY). 10% discount on certain days of week.</p> <p>Welcome Wagon program can highlight businesses.</p>	Economic improvements, a healthy local market, attractive downtown; increased interaction amongst community; sales tax revenues.	<p>Inventory of businesses</p> <p>Inventory of available commercial properties.</p> <p>Sales tax, property tax</p>	<p>City has business inventory and can update</p> <p>Jodi – you have notes on sales and property tax (??)</p>
Need job training for environmental fields to do field sampling, water, soil, and air monitoring, etc.	Use schools. Prairie State College and Moraine Valley College can provide training. Hold a job fair.	Reduce exposures.	Number of environmental programs, any monitoring data, # of new trainees	Start capstones with e.g., UIC grad students (have posted); Eisenhower. Moraine Valley has an environmental institute (Env Tech Institute, ETI) and may serve as consultants.