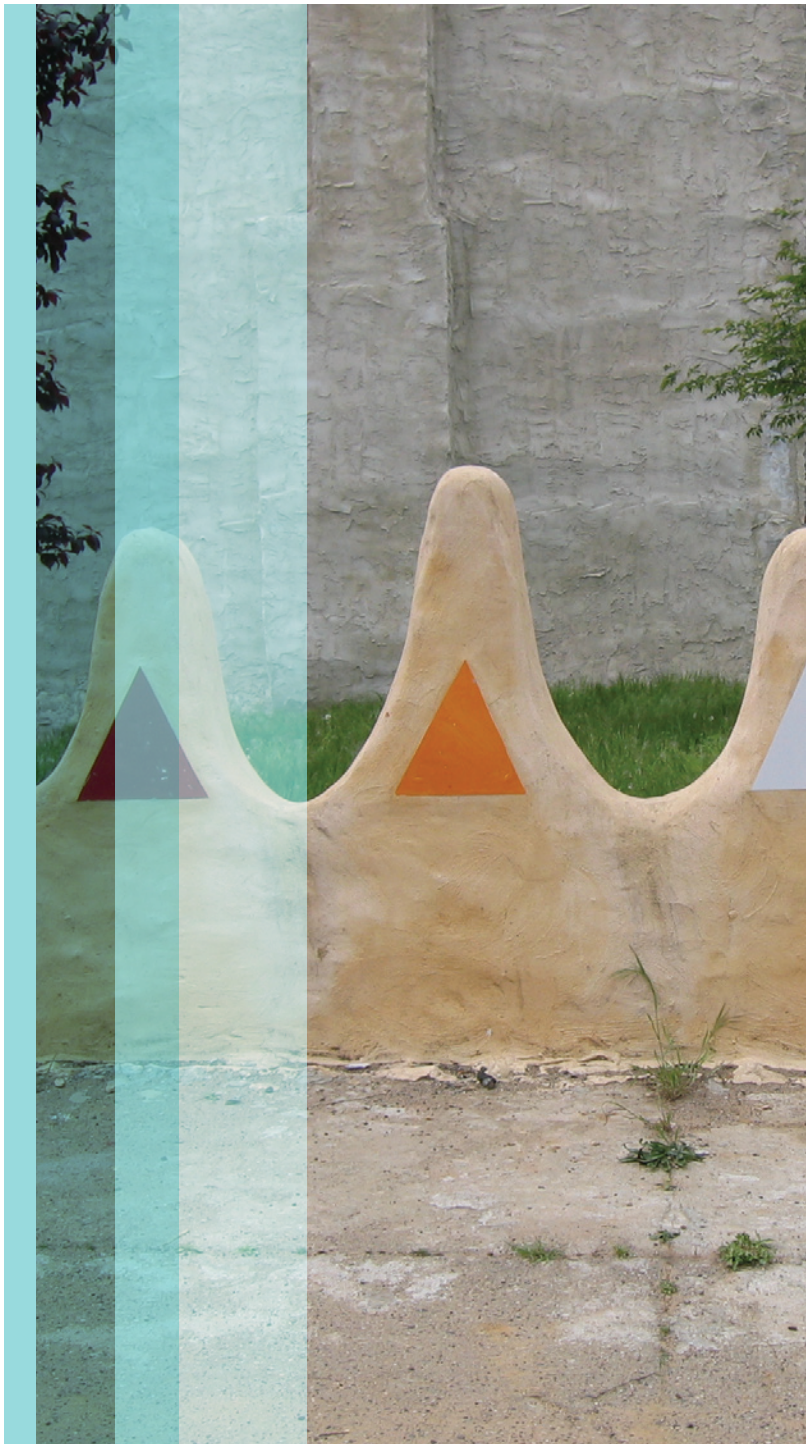


Project Partners

The 2010 update of the Brewerytown Neighborhood Plan[1] is the result of an effort led by a **Community Advisory Committee** organized by the **Greater Brewerytown Community Development Corporation** (**GBCDC**) and a partnership between GBCDC and **Fairmount Community Development Corporation** (**FCDC**). **Wachovia Regional Foundation** funded the plan update, allowing community leadership, neighborhood residents and business owners, local investors, City representatives, and other stakeholders to revisit and revise the original plan after four years of marked change in the local and national economy, in neighborhood and City leadership, and, in turn, in the context of planning for and implementing positive change in Brewerytown.

The Greater Brewerytown CDC was formed to succeed the Brewerytown CDC (BCDC) in facilitating neighborhood improvement and revitalization through community and economic development programs. The BCDC was incorporated in 1998, and the GBCDC was incorporated in 2007 in response to redevelopment efforts of private developers and the City of Philadelphia, which lacked community participation and input. The GBCDC continues to serve in this capacity, inviting stakeholder participation, negotiating with developers to guarantee that new projects meet the needs of existing residents, and working tirelessly to raise funds and build capacity for the implementation of this plan. The GBCDC operates the Brewerytown Technology Center a organizes sports programs and youth activities for the community.

Collaborating closely with the GBCDC is the Fairmount CDC. The mission of the FCDC, a 501(c)3 organization, is to foster the improvement of the residential, commercial and social fabric of the Fairmount neighborhood, while preserving its character & diversity. They are active in planning initiatives, greening, public art, community events and business development. In the past three years, the FCDC has forged a partnership with GBCDC, the Girard Coalition and the West Girard Merchants Association to bring resources and revitalization activity to West Girard Avenue.

_INTERFACE STUDIO LLC, an urban design and planning practice based in Philadelphia, led the planning processes for both the original draft and the update of the Brewerytown Neighborhood Plan.

For the 2010 update, Lamar Wilson of **Wilson Associates, Inc.** provided an assessment of the core organizational strengths of GBCDC and FCDC and offered recommendations for collaboration between the two neighborhood-based non-profits as plan implementation moves forward.

1 The original draft of the Brewerytown Neighborhood Plan was written in 2006 following a community planning process led at that time by the Brewerytown CDC.

Purpose of the Plan

The neighborhood planning process is a forum for neighbors, business owners, investors, and civic leaders to learn and to exchange ideas, to imagine – together – the future of Brewerytown.

The neighborhood plan is a tool for local organizations, residents and business owners to prioritize their goals, coordinate their efforts, increase resident involvement, and, ultimately, to raise funds and implement change. Created by, and for, the community, the key goals of this plan are to:

- Preserve and enhance the diversity of Brewerytown's people, buildings, and land uses;
- Create clear expectations for equitable new development;
- Identify strategic reinvestment opportunities that link new housing to local amenities;
- Improve the network of local services;
- Enhance the sense of community by expanding volunteer outreach and activism;
- Promote community pride, awareness, and communication;
- Reinforce West Girard Avenue as a commercial district;
- Build partnerships between community residents and the public and private sectors;
- Develop local arts programs and cultural amenities; and
- Address key quality of life issues such as crime and illegal dumping.

Methodology

Study Area for the Brewerytown Neighborhood Plan

Study Area[2]

Primarily, the study area encompasses the area between Poplar Street to the south, 32nd Street to the west, Oxford Street to the north and 25th Street to the east. The triangular shaped area north of Oxford Street between 29th Street and Glenwood Avenue completes the study area.

2 Girard Avenue was the southern boundary for the 2006 planning process. The study area was extended down to Poplar Street for the Plan Update.

The majority of data was collected for the blocks within the study area. However, to ensure that Brewerytown was placed in the appropriate context, Interface Studio collected socio-economic data from sources such as the U.S. Census for an area extending far beyond the identified community boundaries. The consultant, the GBCDC, and FCDC also coordinated regularly with neighboring community organizations including the Sharswood Civic Association, West Girard Community Council, West Girard Business Association, Girard Coalition, and East Park Revitalization Alliance to ensure that all recommendations are compatible across community lines.

Indeed, neighborhood survey results confirm that, in fact, neighborhood boundaries can be blurry. When asked the name of their neighborhood, survey respondents replied:

"Brewerytown, Fairmount, Brewerytown/Fairmount, Sharswood, NoPo, Art Museum, Cabot, North Philly"

Planning Process

The planning process for the Brewerytown Neighborhood Plan update began in Fall 2009. Led by Interface Studio, the primary components of the planning process included:

- A comprehensive survey of the neighborhood to create an up-to-date land use map and determine the conditions of each structure;
- A review of Census information from 2000 and, where available, estimates from 2007 to compare the socio-economic characteristics of Brewerytown vis-à-vis adjacent neighborhoods;
- An assessment of sales information from the Board of Revision of Taxes from 2005 through 2009 to determine a picture of market forces in the area;
- New mapping for key variables such as publicly-owned land and crime patterns;
- An assessment of the organizational strengths of the GBCDC and FCDC, as well as potential opportunities for collaboration, resource sharing, and technical assistance; and
- A public outreach campaign that utilized a community survey, interviews, and public presentations to describe findings and collaboratively revise the recommendations.
- Regular meetings with a Steering Committee that guided the Plan update. The Steering Committee includes a diverse mix of residents, business owners, developers, City representatives and community organizations (both within Brewerytown and adjacent).

Regular meetings were held with members of the Advisory Committee to discuss specific issues and opportunities throughout the process. Additional information was collected as needed, and meetings were held with key partners and adjacent community organizations to discuss mutually-relevant components of the plan. The process culminated with a final plan update in May 2010.

Public Outreach

As a community plan, an effective public outreach campaign was critical in building neighborhood support for the effort. The public outreach campaign included a community questionnaire, interviews, meetings, and public presentations to garner the feedback and ideas that are included in this document. Specifically, consensus for the planning effort was derived through the following:

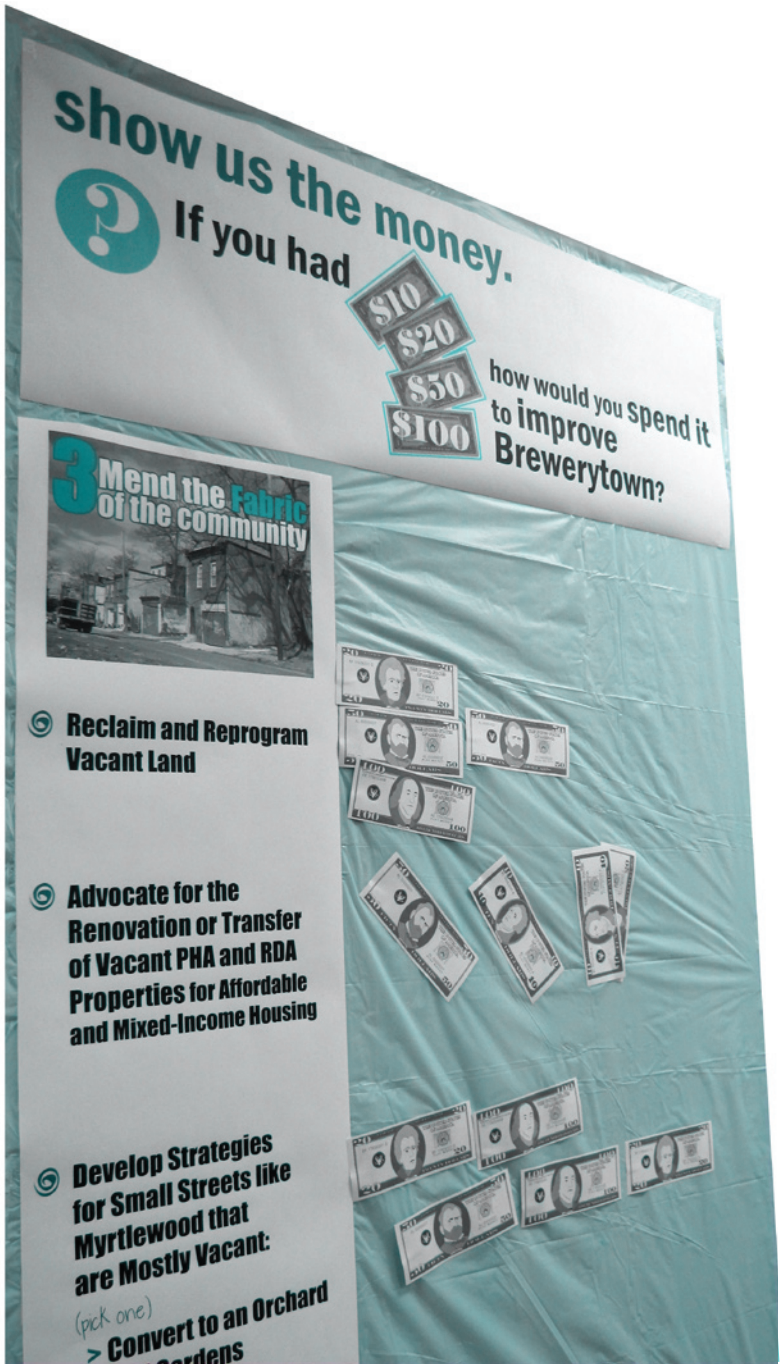
- For the original draft plan and the plan update, Interface Studio conducted close to 20 total interviews with members of the community identified by the GBCDC. These interviews were invaluable in giving the planning team an understanding of the issues of the community as felt by long-time residents and those involved in revitalization activities.

- For the original draft plan, three focus groups were held with different segments of the community. The intent was to thoroughly review specific portions of the analysis with those in the community most involved and familiar with local issues and challenges. One focus group was held with business owners and two with residents from different portions of the neighborhood. For the plan update, the Advisory Committee met three times to guide the process.

- A community questionnaire was distributed at the outset of both the original process and the plan update to garner an understanding of community preferences. For the plan update, 319 responses were received and tabulated! The responses guided the recommendations developed in this plan.

- For the original plan, a postage-paid postcard was created, asking residents to describe their vision of Brewerytown in 10 years. Interface Studio has used these vision statements as direct guidance in creating recommendations.

- For the original draft plan, two public presentations were conducted, reaching approximately 100 people. Residents, representatives of local organizations, City officials, and other stakeholders were in attendance. The presentations discussed both the analysis and preliminary recommendations and reserved time for discussion after the presentation. For the plan update, a final community meeting was hosted to share the results of the questionnaire and present the revised recommendations, after which community members participated in an activity designed to measure priorities for plan implementation by spending limited (play) money on recommendations that mattered most to them.



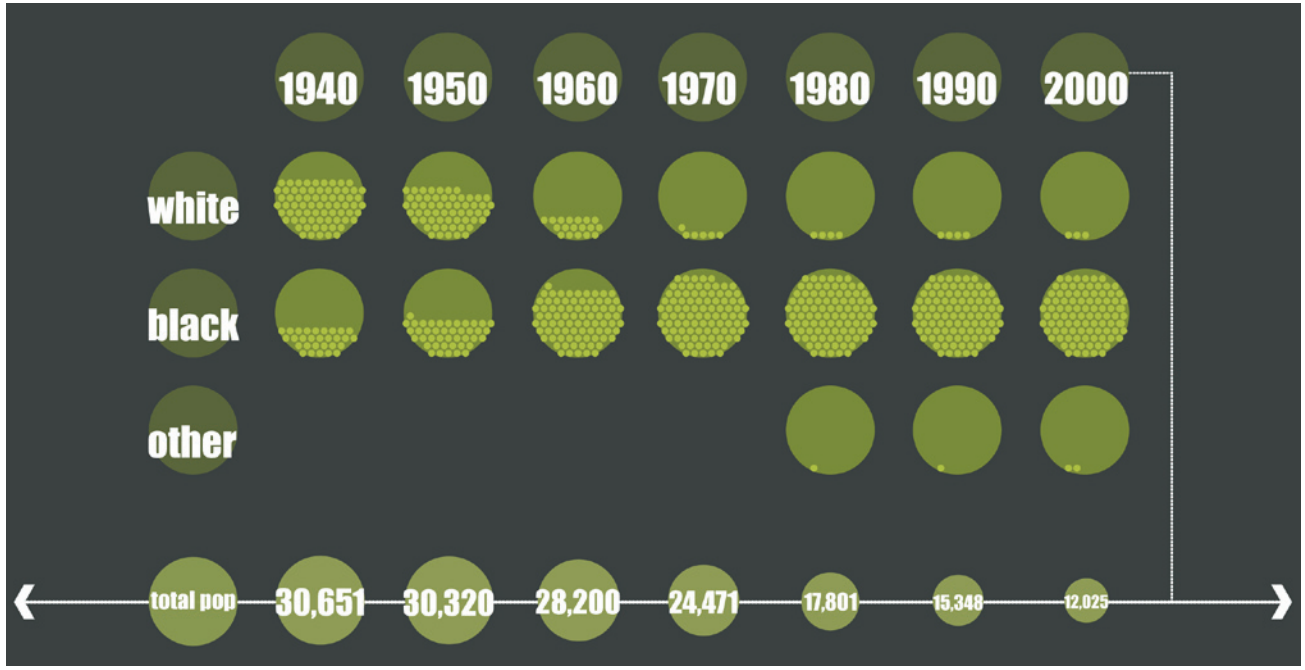
One of five boards on which residents voted for the recommendations they deemed most important.

Analysis

Past

The Brewerytown neighborhood, located in Lower North Philadelphia between Girard Avenue and Oxford Street and adjacent to Fairmount Park's eastern edge, takes its name from the multiple breweries operating in the neighborhood in the late 19th Century. While Philadelphia experienced massive growth as "The Workshop of the World," so too did Brewerytown's breweries. German immigrants who worked at the plants comprised most of the population, inhabiting the rows of homes lining Brewerytown's streets. Growth in the area continued until 1920 when Prohibition brought a close to all large-scale brewing activity. When Prohibition was repealed in 1933, not one brewery in Brewerytown reopened its doors.

Two major social trends spanning the next four decades are largely responsible for shaping Brewerytown's current demographic composition. The Great Migration of black workers from the south to northern cities, coupled with the massive suburbanization of America and subsequent flight of the white and middle class to outlying regions, drastically altered Brewerytown. Over time, as the neighborhood's population began to shift from white to black, the size of the population as a whole began to dwindle as well. The industrial jobs that were the backbone of this once thriving neighborhood disappeared, and from the 1970s through the 1990s, Brewerytown transformed again, becoming a distressed and impoverished post-industrial, urban neighborhood. Crime, drugs, and unemployment took root, and the neighborhood continued in a downward spiral until just after the turn of the 21st Century.

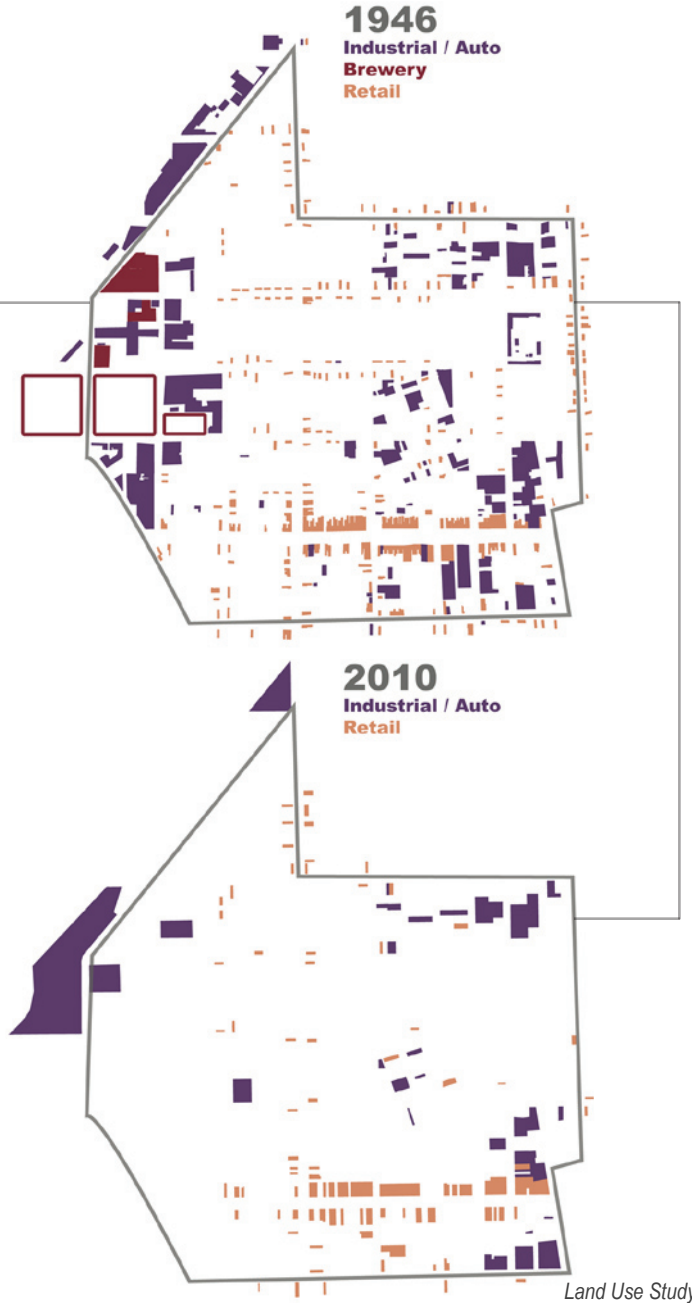


Population by Race over Time
Source: U.S. Census

Bergner and Engel Brewery on 32nd Street between Thompson and Jefferson
Source: Brewerytown - Philadelphia Circa 1885-1895, R. Dochter

Theis Brewery Crest, 32nd Street and Pennsylvania Avenue
Source: Brewerytown - Philadelphia Circa 1885-1895, R. Dochter

Historic Land Use Study
Source: Sanborn Map



Land Use Study
Source: Sanborn Map, Field Survey

Years of population loss and the neglect and decline that followed has taken a dramatic toll on the physical character of Brewerytown. In 1947, the western edge of the neighborhood as well as other scattered sites in the community were dedicated to industrial and commercial businesses. The remainder of the neighborhood was built to capacity, housing the local laborers in row after row of Philadelphia townhouses. Today the industrial masses that etched the skyline of Brewerytown's western edge are almost completely gone, and the scattered industries in the neighborhood have left. Similarly the retail density of Girard Avenue has dissipated immensely; the number of street corners in the neighborhood with active retail today is a fraction of what is was in 1947.

Present

However, change is underway in Brewerytown. Though the pace has slowed since 2006, in some pockets of Brewerytown -- particularly along West Girard Avenue, the community continues to repopulate and rediversify, and the neighborhood's physical fabric remains on the mend. With City assistance between 1999 and 2006, various public-private partnerships yielded 144 new market-rate townhouses, 68 affordable loft apartments, a new community technology center, plans for a supermarket, and restored real estate values. Brewerytown's community witnessed huge amounts of investment in just a half decade, and, prior to the housing crash, more than 700 additional housing units had been proposed for development in the area over the next 10 years. The supermarket has yet to come to fruition, though, and despite reinvestment and stabilization efforts, vacancy and abandonment have taken hold in new reaches of the neighborhood.

Recent investment in Brewerytown: L-R Westrum's Brewerytown Square, Pennrose's ACME Building (2), individual rehab

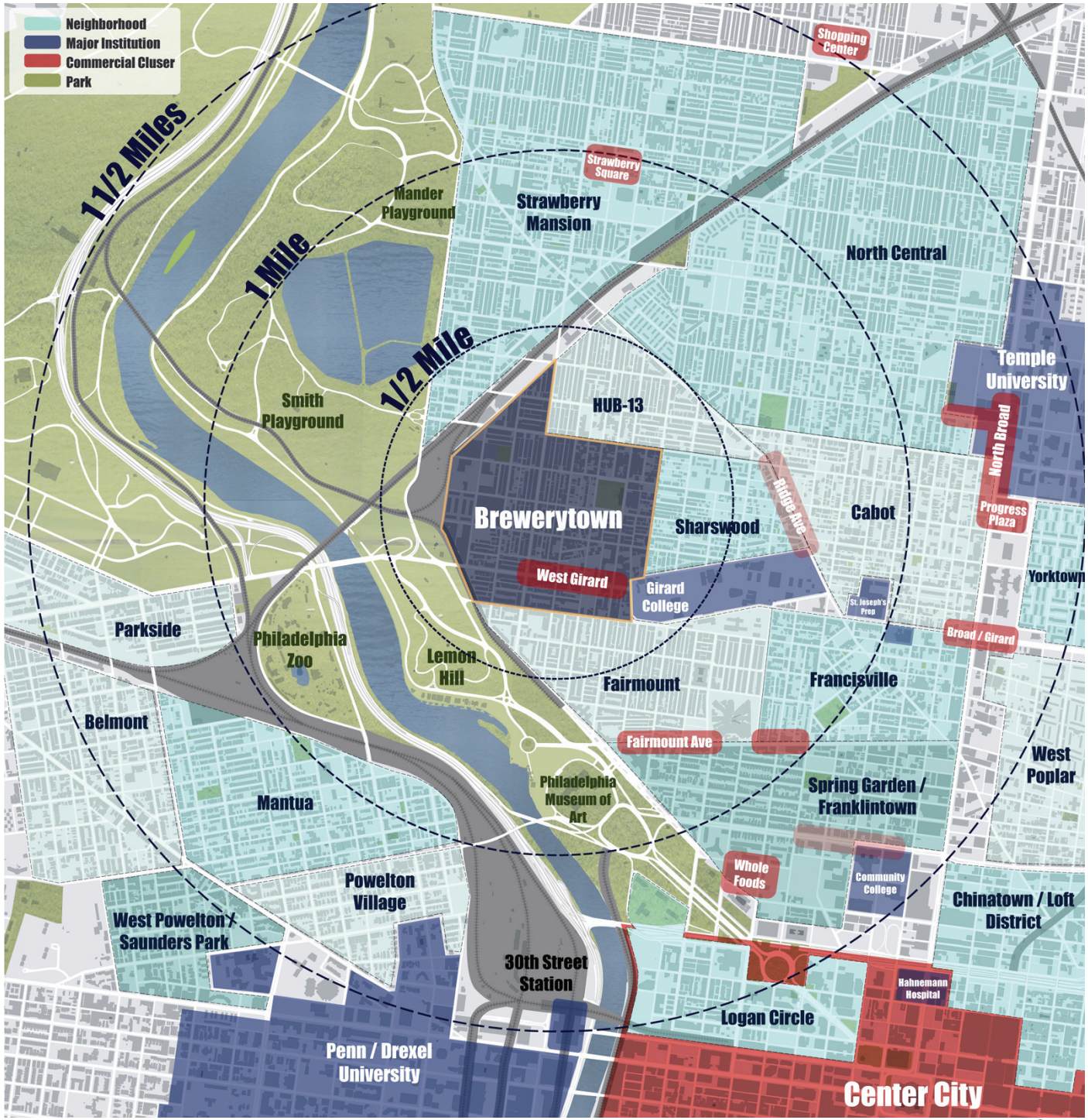
Surviving years of decline and abandonment, and championed as partially responsible for the potential for growth embodied by the neighborhood's real estate market, Brewerytown's physical fabric remains imprinted by the area's historic legacy. The ornamental residential architecture and gritty remnants of the community's industrial past are, in their own ways, both beautiful and valuable, seen as unique assets by long-term community members as well as by many of the neighborhood's new residents.

Brewerytown's surviving historic fabric

Beyond the varied historic building stock and relative affordability of property in the neighborhood, recent interest in Brewerytown is largely attributable to the neighborhood's geographic location. Its proximity to some of the City's greatest features, coupled with the converging market forces of nearby neighborhoods has created a strengthening market in the area that will help sustain further redevelopment efforts. The Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Eastern Fairmount Park, the Philadelphia Zoo, the Eastern State Penitentiary, Temple University and access to Route 76/ Schuylkill Expressway all exist within a mile and a half of Brewerytown.

Local Context

The strength of the real estate market in the Fairmount neighborhood to the south, the improving market of nearby Francisville, and the growing reach of Temple University render Brewerytown well situated with regard to neighborhood rebuilding.



Context

+ 16% Other

Media Coverage 2000-2005

Sources: Philadelphia Inquirer, Daily News, Philadelphia Weekly, CityPaper, Philadelphia Magazine

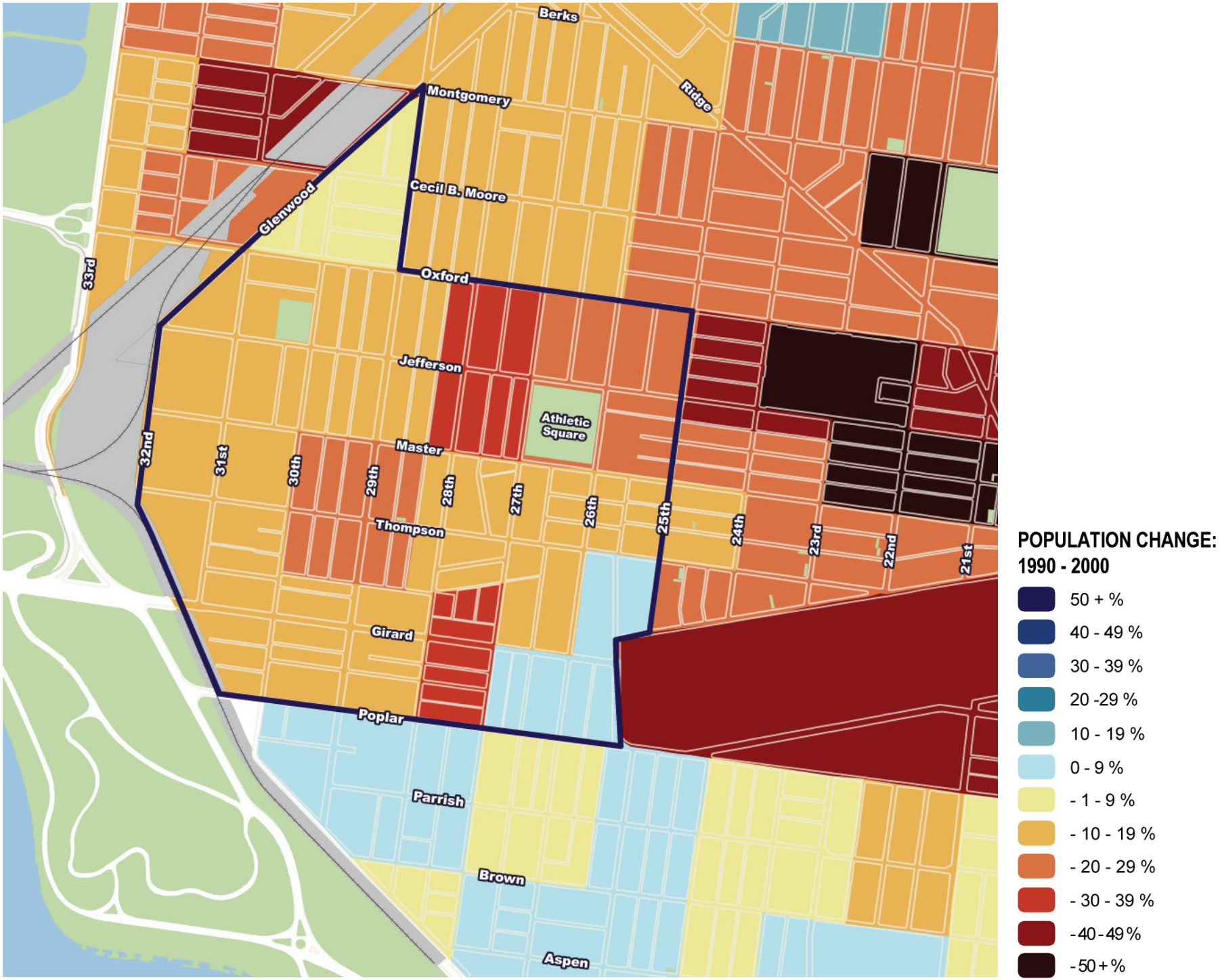
"It's time to talk up the neighborhood!"

Despite such assets and positive trends, local media coverage of Brewerytown at the time of the original planning process in 2006 was focused mainly on issues of crime and gentrification. Many articles cited concerns that the recent market rate developments in the neighborhood would cause property values to rise and force out long-time residents. Violent crime in the community was also found frequently in print and on the nightly news. Though Brewerytown was attempting to market itself as an "up-and-coming neighborhood," the media's slant had a profound effect on neighborhood morale, neighborhood leadership and organization, as well as public perception of the community. Indeed, most Philadelphians who are not residents of Brewerytown associate the neighborhood with crime and violence.

As the housing market cooled off within Brewerytown and across the City, so too did press coverage of Brewerytown's development environment and related neighborhood controversies. With the recent incremental reinvestment along West Girard and the subsequent opening of new businesses, Brewerytown is finding its way back into the news, but this time to a much different tune. Residents, business owners, and investors are glad -- emphasizing the need to solicit more media coverage about the positive change at work in the area.

"The epicenter of soul food in Philly is Brewerytown."
- philadelphia weekly

"Mugshots Coffee House is planning to expand into Brewerytown... a slice of town that seems to be ripe for growth."



Population Change, 1990 - 2000 Source: U.S. Census

Population Change & Trends

Since 1950, Brewerytown's population has decreased by over 60%, a rate of population loss far greater than that of the City overall during the same time period, approximately 31%. While neighboring Fairmount began to see slight increases in population from 1990 to 2000, Brewerytown continued to hemorrhage residents. The most significant losses were on the blocks of small side streets, such as Hollywood, Myrtlewood, Newkirk, Dover and "the Backstreets," which now host the highest vacancy rates. PolicyMap estimates of population change since 2000 suggest that the neighborhood shrunk by 2.8% between 2000 and 2007 and will continue to shrink an additional estimated 2.1% between 2007 and 2012, losing roughly 580 residents or 48 people per year.

Race

The racial makeup of the neighborhood in 1940 was 71% white, 29% black. By 1950 the shift in demographics had begun, and the neighborhood was 58% white, 42% black. By 1960, the makeup had shifted completely to 82% black, 18% white. For the next four decades the racial composition remained steady at 95% black, 3-4% white, with a small, growing population that the Census describes as "other."

Though only estimates are available after the 2000 Census, the construction of the Westrum homes and the recent in-migration of artists and other new residents has Brewerytown on track to once again become a diverse community, both racially and economically.

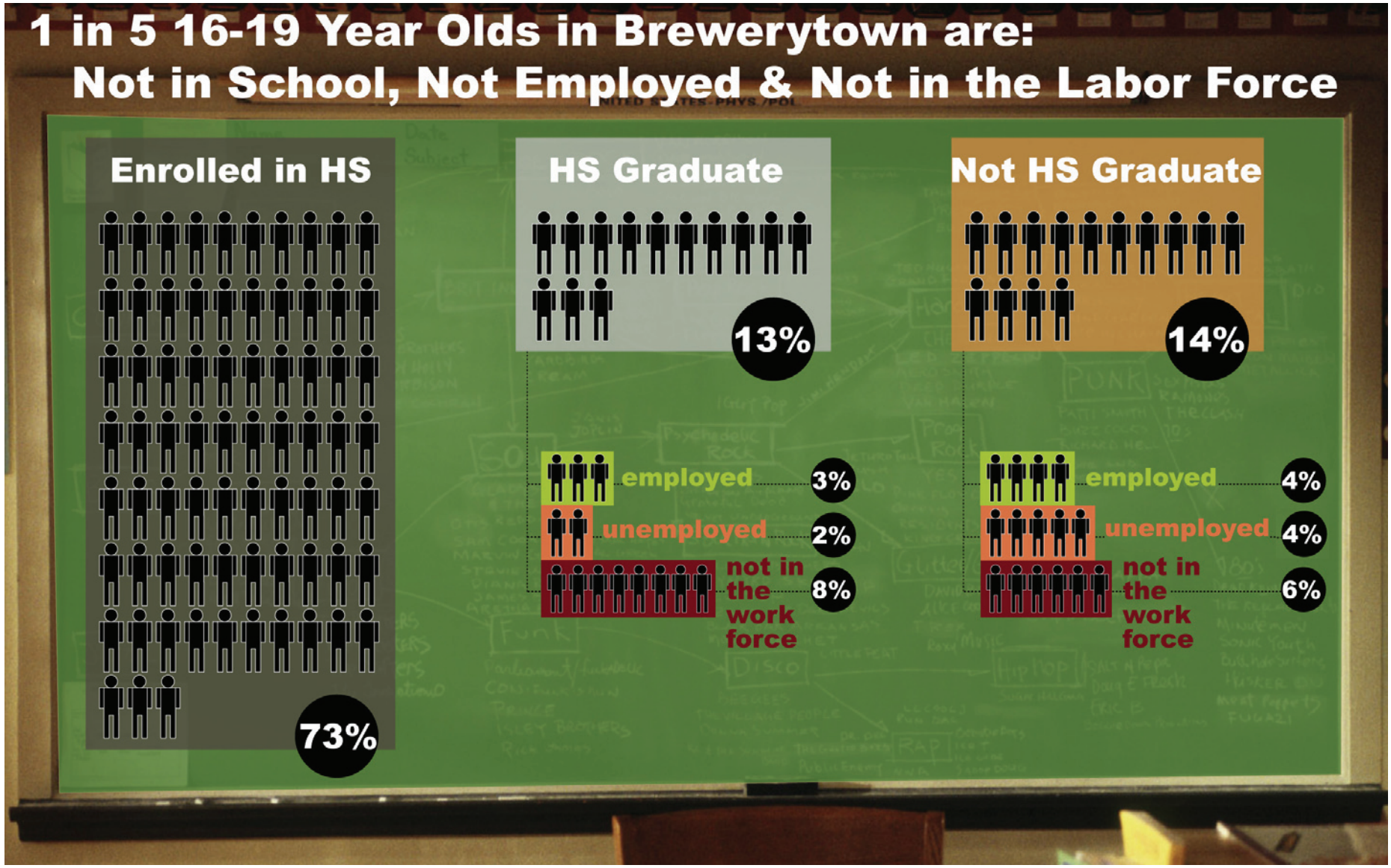
"The neighborhood has many long-standing family and community ties. Families have lived in Brewerytown for generations and have developed a very strong sense of community, people work together. I hope that as newcomers move into the neighborhood, old and new residents will welcome each other as part of one community and continue to work together and socialize together."

"New residents feel welcome, but they need to get out and meet their neighbors. They'll look out for you and help you, and you can help them, they'll welcome you as part of the family. The neighborhood looks rough, but it's a gem, you just need to scratch below the surface to see it and feel it."

Age Composition

The age composition of the neighborhood is not significantly different than that of Philadelphia, except that the neighborhood has a slightly higher percentage children, adolescents, and teens. Thirty percent (30%) of neighborhood residents are under the age of 18. Thirty one percent (31%) of families in Brewerytown are composed of single mothers with children. Both of these statistics have serious implications for the neighborhood – now and in the future. Such special needs populations require tailored support services and programming, especially when so many neighborhood youth are "at risk" and so many neighborhood parents are still youth themselves.

Neighborhood play spaces



At-Risk Youth
Source: 2000 U.S. Census

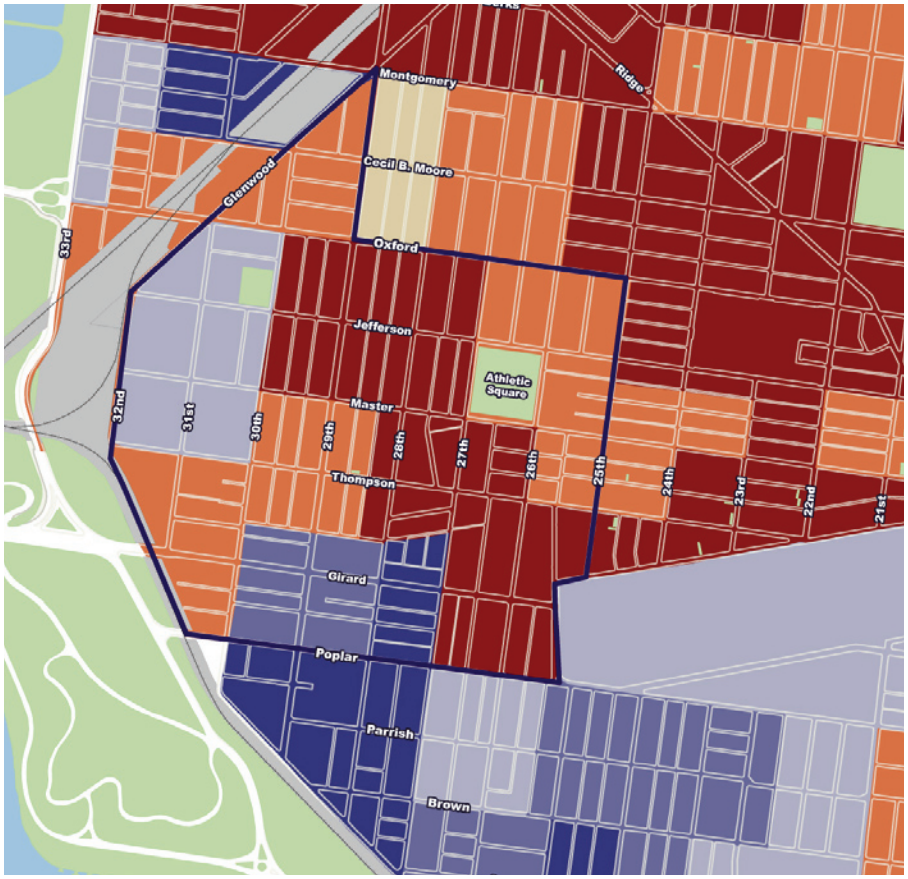
Of the 16-19 year olds in the neighborhood, 14% are neither in school, nor high school graduates. Six percent (6%) of dropouts plus 8% of these older teens with degrees, are not in the workforce. While some of the 18-19 year olds who have high school diplomas may not be in the work force because they are attending college, between 8% and 14% of 16-19 year olds in Brewerytown are deemed at-risk: unemployed, not in school, and not looking for work. These teens represent the future of the neighborhood; the neighborhood needs them – off the corners and into the trenches. Their numbers and talents are great, given the chance, they can effect great change.

In 2000, 15% of the people in Brewerytown were over 65. Seniors aging in place, either by choice or by circumstance represent a third category of special needs populations. As these people's mobility lessens, the neighborhood, local services, and the housing

Automatic lift improves residential accessibility.

Dangerous and challenging sidewalk conditions for those with limited mobility.

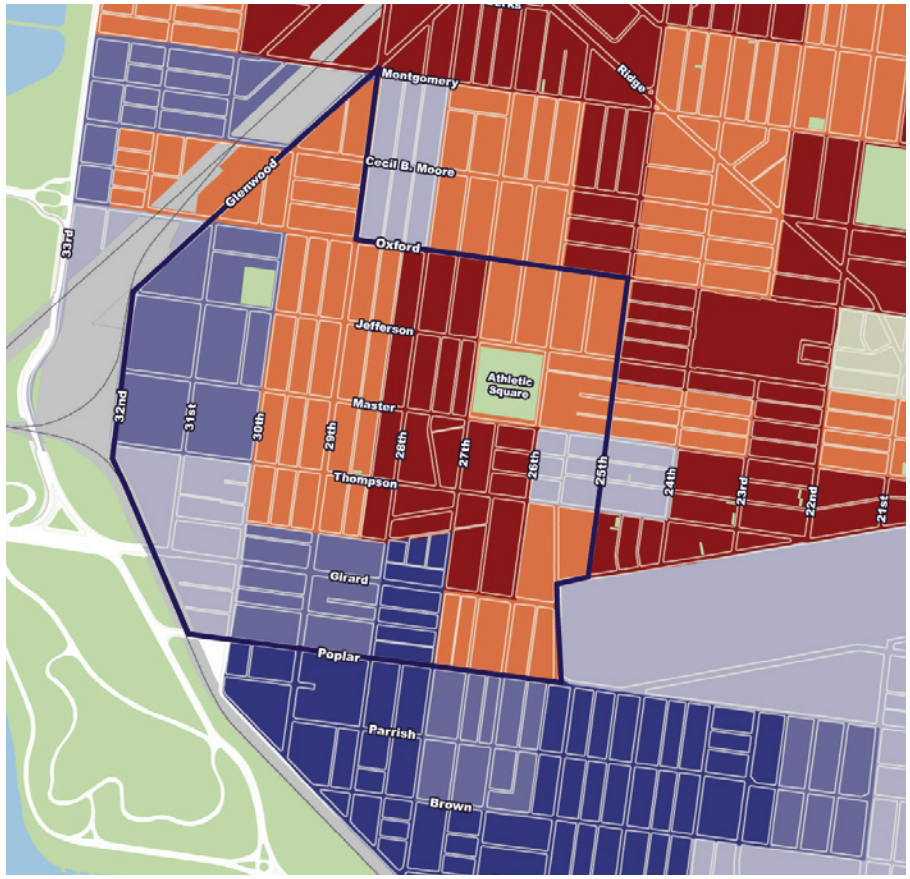
stock must adapt to meet their needs. Deteriorated sidewalks, front steps, and lack of access to public transportation all pose significant physical challenges to the elderly and disabled populations. Crime and violence pose real psychological challenges. The growing number of automated lifts appearing at front stoops throughout the neighborhood hints that the needs of Brewerytown's seniors and disabled are real.



Median Income
Source: 2000 U.S. Census

AVERAGE MEDIAN INCOME
2000
Source: U.S. Census

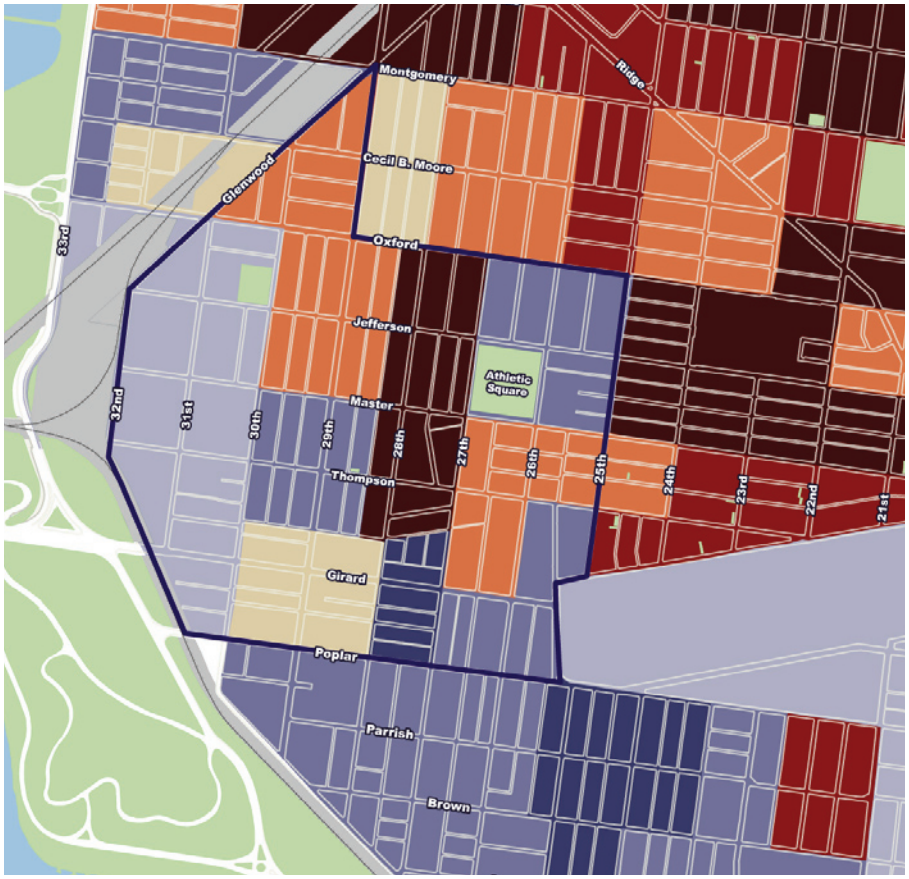
- $50,001 or More
- $40,001-$50,000
- $30,001-$40,000
- $20,001-$30,000
- $20,000 or Less



Estimated Median Income
Source: TRF PolicyMap

ESTIMATED MEDIAN INCOME
2007
Source: TRF Policy Map

- $50,001 +
- $40,001-$50,000
- $30,001-$40,000
- $20,001-$30,000
- $20,000 -



Population Living Below Poverty
Source: 2000 U.S. Census

POPULATION BELOW POVERTY LEVEL 2000

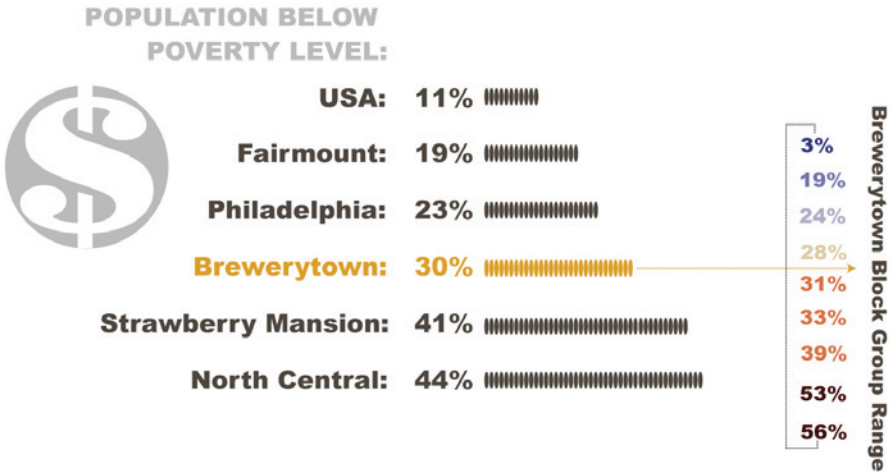
- 0-10%
- 11-20%
- 21-25% (CITY AVERAGE)
- 26-30%
- 31-40%
- 41-50%
- + 50%

Income & Poverty

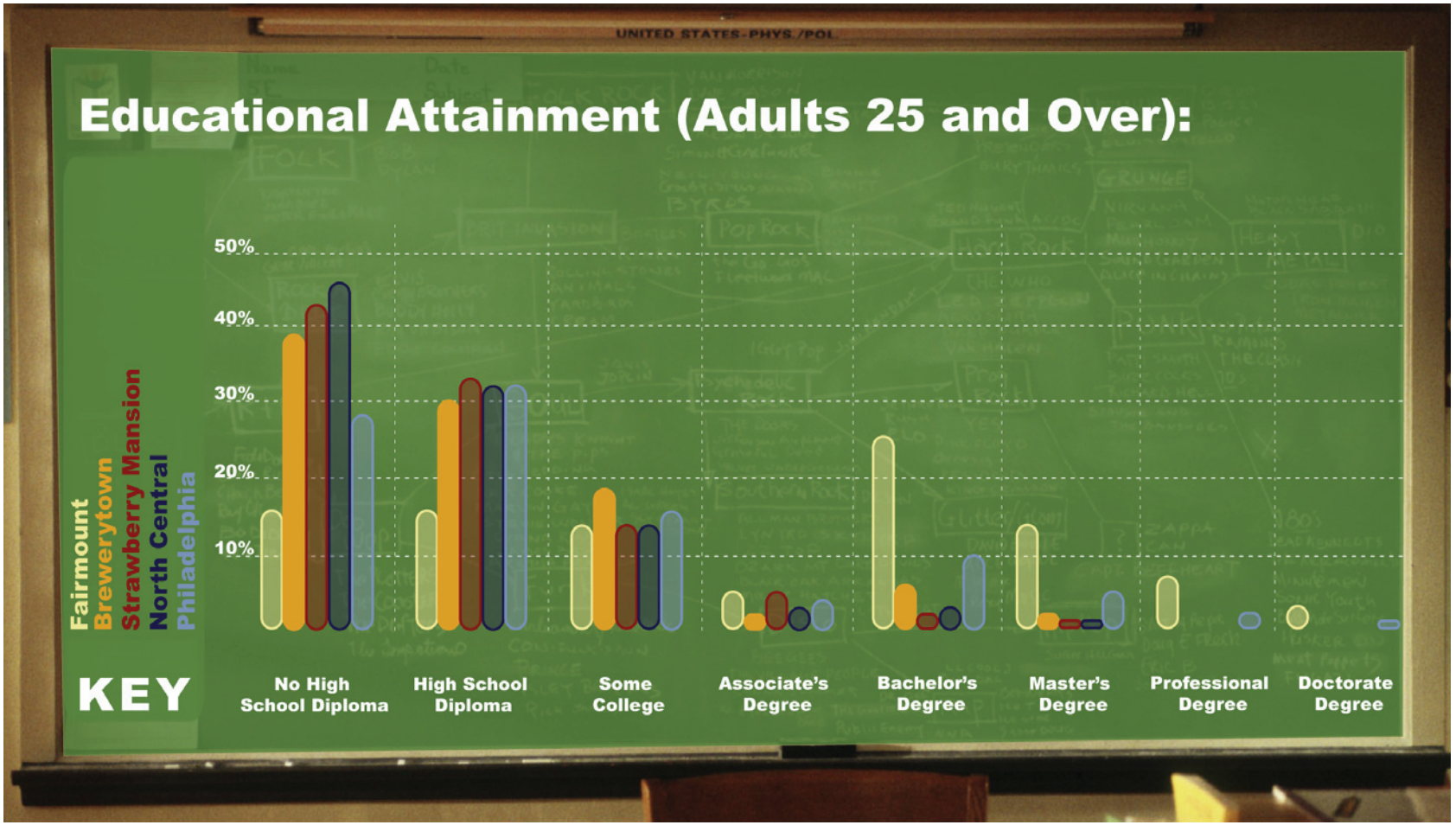
In 1999, the median household income in Brewerytown was $25,100, lower than the City average of $29,500. Most of the blocks in the neighborhood with high vacancy and high population loss contained households with incomes of less than $20,000 a year. Above average incomes were concentrated in the western-most block group, composed of vacant industrial sites and strong residential blocks, and in the southern-most block groups which border on the Fairmount neighborhood to the south.

While more recent Census data is not yet available, The Reinvestment Fund's (TRF) PolicyMaps[3] offer an estimate of median incomes for 2007. The estimates show the incomes in Fairmount and along the western southern edges of Brewerytown increasing further still with some income growth occurring at the center of the neighborhood as well. Girard Avenue remains a clear dividing line between neighborhood and economic conditions.

Inextricably linked to below average household incomes, the neighborhood's poverty rate is high: in 2000, just over 30% of households in the community lived in poverty. At the heart of the neighborhood, some of the small blocks on the deteriorated side streets reported alarming poverty rates of over 50%.



3 http://www.policymap.com/

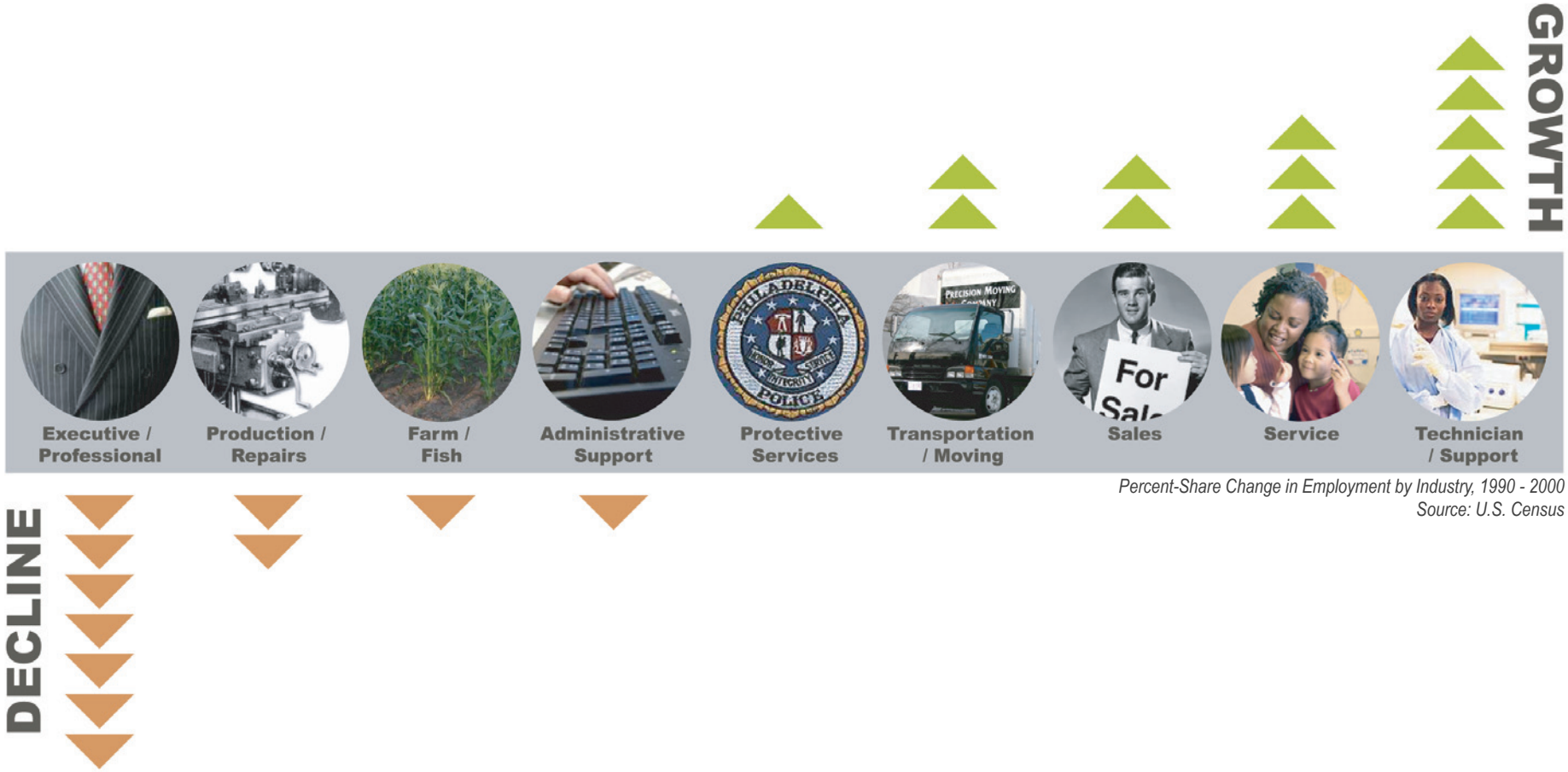


Educational Attainment
Source: 2000 U.S. Census

Educational Attainment / Employment

Schools in the community perform at varying levels. Testing in the 3rd and 5th grades at Robert Morris and William D. Kelley (both K-8) reveals a distinct pattern: better than average rates of math proficiency and below average rates of reading proficiency (except for a below average math level at Kelley). The patterns of proficiency at these two schools are very different than those found at other nearby educational establishments. At most schools, the levels math and reading proficiency are similar, whether they are above or below average. Kelley and the local Boone School for teens with disciplinary challenges on the other hand have some of the most dramatic gaps between math and reading levels. For instance 5th graders at Kelley performed 44% better in math exams than in reading.

Indicators such as these testing gaps and the high school drop out rate in the neighborhood underscore the need for improvement in local schools. Give children and adolescents a reason to go to school – interesting classes, challenging material, safe spaces, and a real link between school and work, studying and getting a good job – and they will go, gladly. Indeed, in a job market that is increasingly competitive, educational attainment becomes ever more important. Educational attainment in Brewerytown is slightly better than similar nearby neighborhoods, though well below that of Fairmount, and mixed when compared to City averages. The rate of persons with bachelor degrees in the community is higher than that in Strawberry Mansion and North Central, but it is still only half of the City-wide rate. Similarly, Brewerytown's rate of persons without a high school degree is 10% higher than the City average.



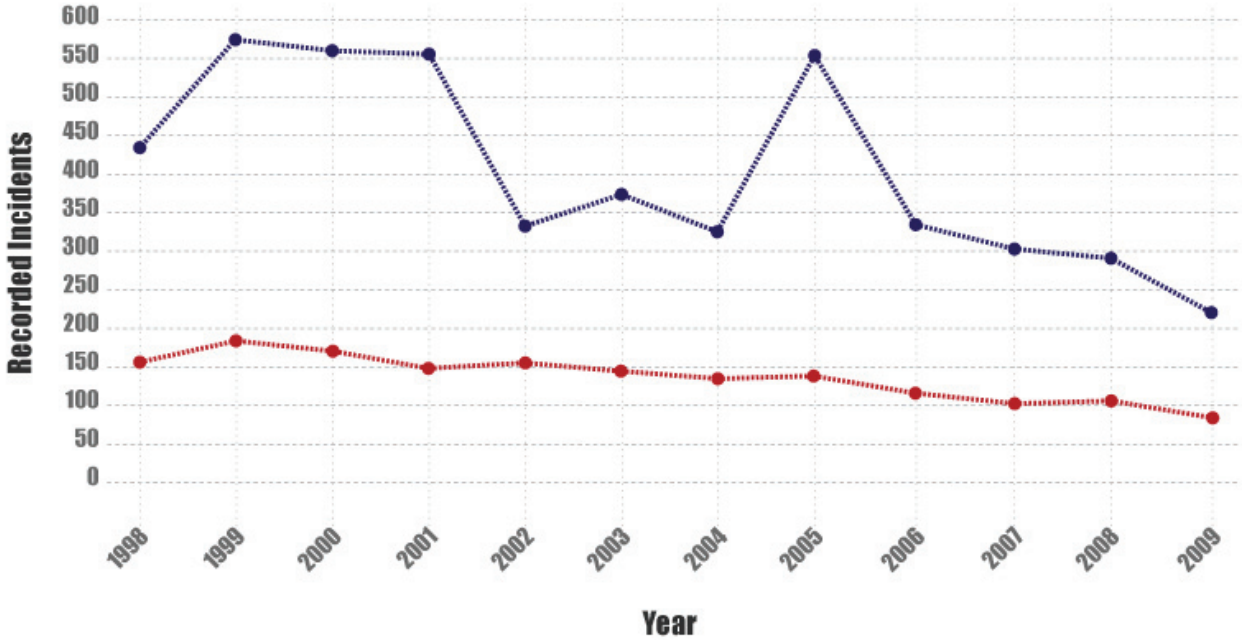
Percent-Share Change in Employment by Industry, 1990 - 2000
Source: U.S. Census

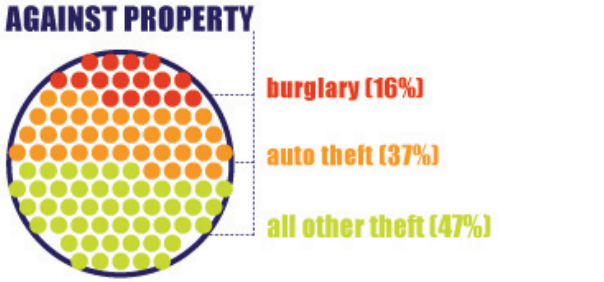
Changes in the percent share of employment by industry sector reflect the low educational attainment in Brewerytown and confirm the perception shared by many in the community that during the 1990s, Brewerytown lost many of its residents working in high-paying managerial or professional jobs (this population decreased by 7% between 1990 and 2000). The percent of the local population working in the technical, social service, and sales sectors, all grew during the same time period.

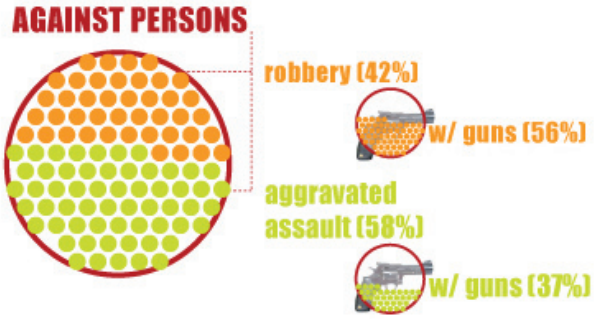
SERIOUS crime

source:
1998-2006: CML
2007-2009: Philadelphia PD

1998 - 2009







Serious Crime in Brewerytown, 1998 - 2009
Source: 1998-2006 University of Pennsylvania Cartographic Modeling Lab (CML), 2007-2009 Philadelphia Police Department

"I do not sit on my stoop, nor do I let my 16 year old son sit on the stoop for fear of violence. I used to not sit in my front living room for fear of stray bullets."

Quality of Life

Crime

Crime, both real and perceived, is one of the most pressing issues Brewerytown faces.

- **69% of survey respondents said that crime is the worst or second-worst thing about the neighborhood**
- **45% said they would not buy a home in the neighborhood because of crime**
- **43% said they do not feel safe walking in Brewerytown at night**

Crime, or the perception and fear of crime, detracts from the local quality of life as well as from the public's image of Brewerytown, which hurts the local housing market and business environment by deterring potential buyers and visitors. While crime - both against property and against people - is a real problem and legitimate concern, the crime statistics for the neighborhood show improvement over time. Violent crime against persons has been on a slow but steady decline since 1998. The trajectory of property crime has been more erratic, but it too has showed marked improvement.

Community resistance to violence and dumping *Vandalism* *Littered alleyway*

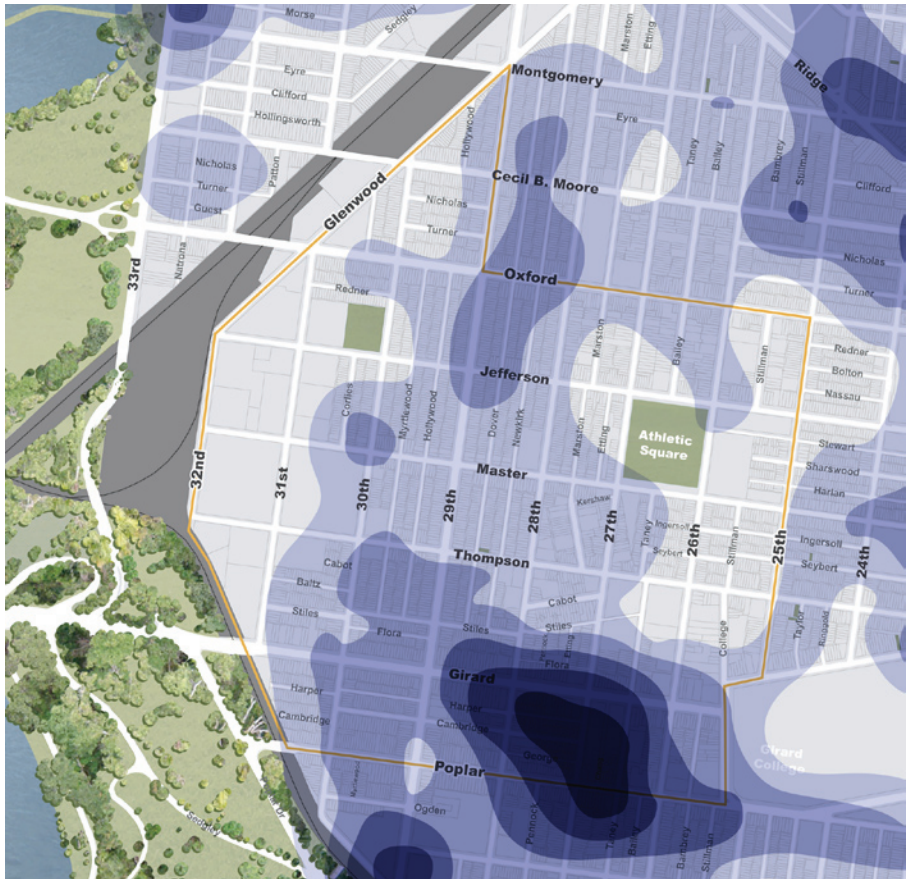
The "Backstreets"

"Alleys are a real issue – kids throw bottles at my dog from the alley. Drug dealers and prostitutes enter vacant homes from alleys. Just the other day, I caught some young kids playing with matches in the alley."

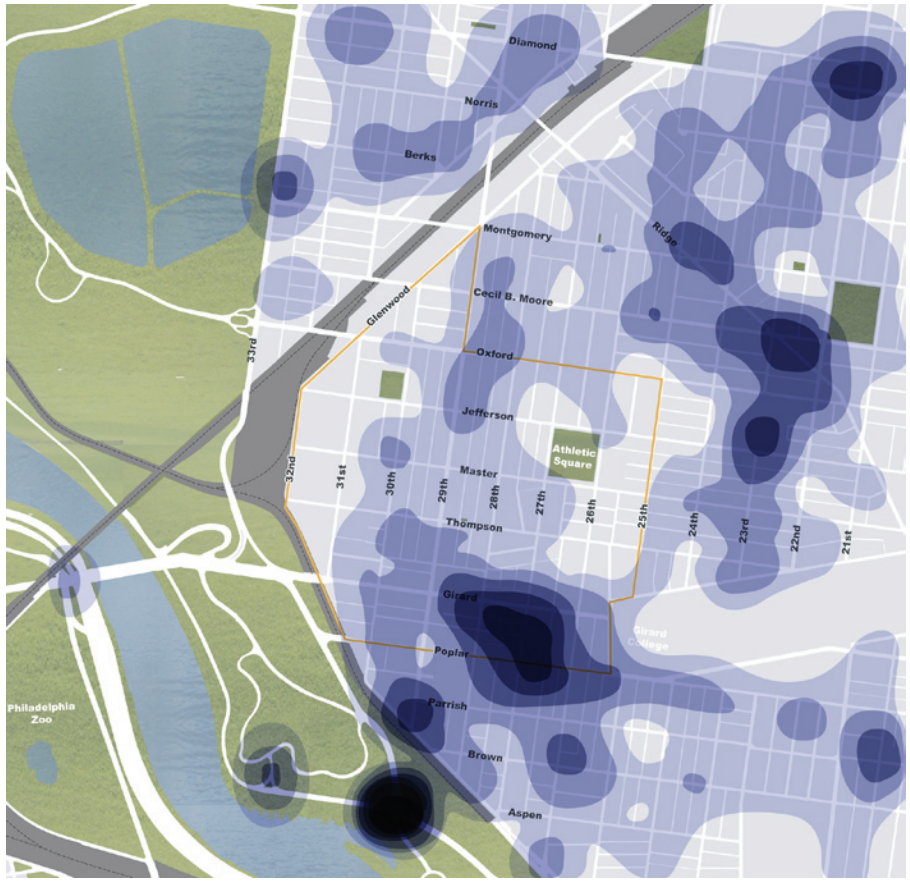
Though some serious criminal activity, such as drug dealing, is easily observed on the small "side streets" and many corners, it is primarily nuisance crimes like trash and illegal dumping that are everyday realities in the community. With one of the highest rates of illegal dumping in the City in 2006, the neighborhood's back alleyways are littered with trash, as are the vacant lots that have yet to be reclaimed. Residents note that building contractors are among the worst offenders, dropping piles of debris on untended lots.

Until recently, efforts were underway to stabilize some of the vacant lots, installing fences and trees to prevent dumping and providing monthly cleaning. Citywide budget cuts have halted these land stabilization efforts. The street cleaning program on Girard Avenue at 29th Street is still active, though, and has had a major impact, but much work remains. Many residents point to the trash-strewn lots as a major concern and representation that few care about the community's future.

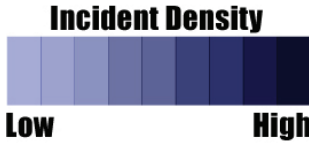
Perhaps the one of the most striking physical expressions of the multiple and compounding issues facing Brewerytown is a cluster of blocks at the southern edge of the neighborhood. The area, just north of Girard between 27th and 28th Streets is known in the community as "the Backstreets" or "Beirut," where small blocks see massive vacancy, drug infestation and crime. The community is well aware of how these deteriorating blocks exacerbate surrounding conditions and perceptions of community. Some demolition of vacant and deteriorated structures has occurred since the first planning process in Brewerytown, vastly improving the area's appearance. Short-dumping appears to be somewhat more controlled here now too, but until the area is reclaimed, it is a scary reality with which residents and business owners are forced to live.



2009 Crime Against Property in Brewerytown (burglary, theft, auto theft)
Source: Philadelphia Police Department



2009 Crime Against Property in Brewerytown and Surrounding Neighborhoods (burglary, theft, auto theft)
Source: Philadelphia Police Department



Since the time of the original Brewerytown Neighborhood Plan planning process, the Philadelphia Police Department has made spatial crime data accessible online, enabling a more in-depth analysis of crime patterns. 2009 data for property crime (burglary, theft, and auto theft) in Brewerytown records a hot spot for crime between Poplar and Girard, 26th and 28th. Residents note that car break-ins, in particular, continue to be a major issue, especially in this area. Residents also reported issues with several nuisance businesses within or near the hot spot, citing drug dealing activity, violence, and loud music in the vicinity of Non Stop Deli at 29th and Girard and Playmakers/28th Street Lounge on 28th between Cambridge and Girard.

Zooming out to look at a broader view, the data suggests two larger trends. First, property crime appears concentrated near commercial corridors such as Girard and Ridge, and 29th Street to a lesser degree. Second, the shared boundary between Fairmount and Brewerytown seems to be a target for this kind of criminal activity. Only the Art Museum surpasses the Poplar/Girard area in property crime intensity.

2009 Crime Against Persons in Brewerytown (murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault)
Source: Philadelphia Police Department

2009 Crime Against Persons in Brewerytown and Surrounding Neighborhoods (murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault)
Source: Philadelphia Police Department

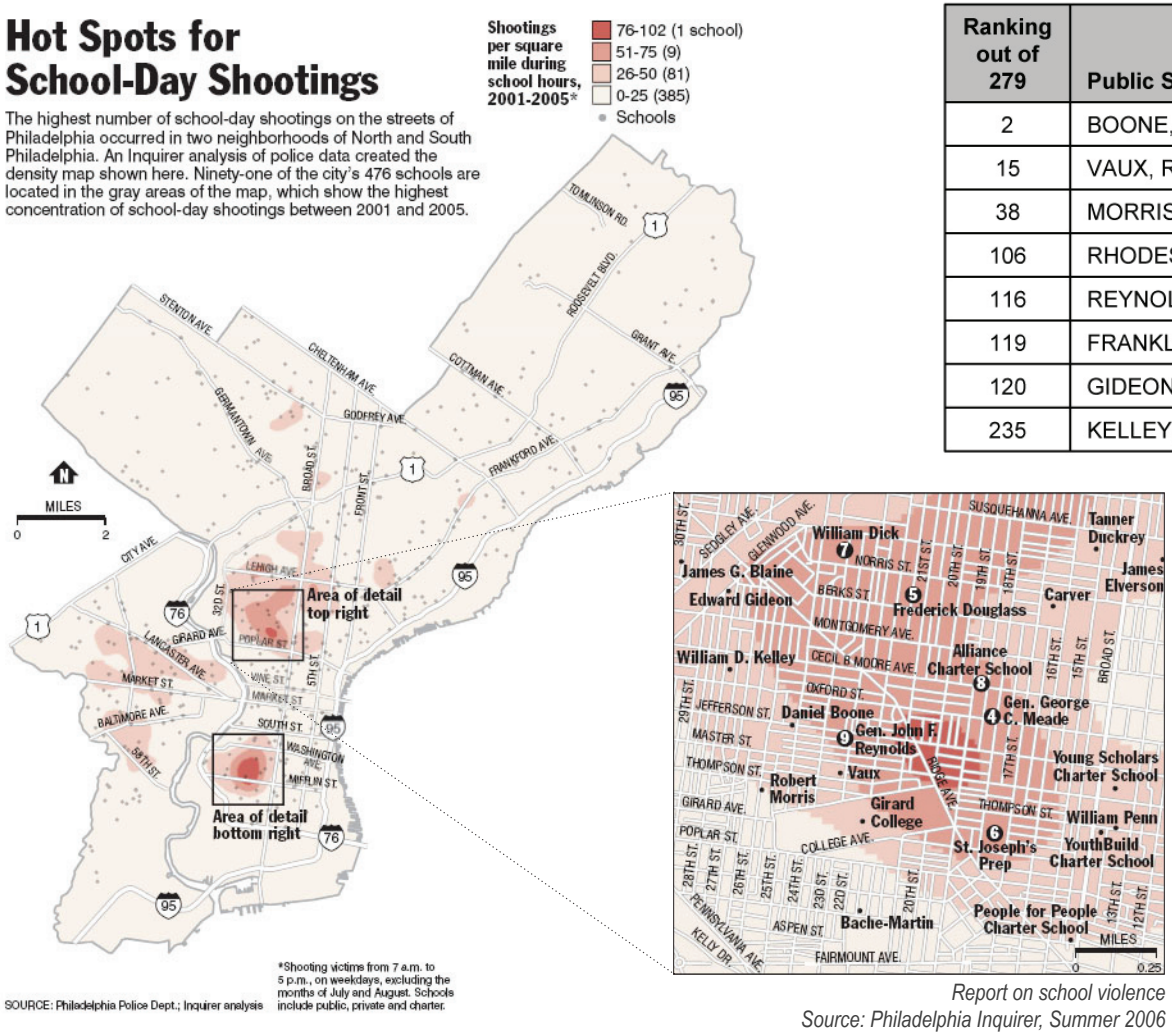
By comparison, and as illustrated in the graph on page 21, crimes against persons are much less frequent in Brewerytown than crimes against property. Nonetheless, violent crime, including murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault), is a much graver problem, and the community rightly refuses to become desensitized to it. 2009 Philadelphia Police Department data highlight a relative hotspot ranging from 28th and Girard to 29th and Stiles; this hot spot also reaches toward Brewerytown Square at 30th and Thompson and encompasses the notorious “Backstreets” between 27th and 28th north of Girard. As in the property crime map, 29th Street above Master also registers as a hot spot.

The broader view of violent crime in 2009 shows that the clusters of violence in Brewerytown are relatively contained. Fairmount had much less violent crime in the past year, and the violence at the Blumberg Apartment public housing towers in Sharswood largely account for the violence in that neighborhood.

School Violence

At the time of the first planning process, violence originating from the community's schools was a pressing issue. The Daniel Boone School, located just east of Athletic Square on 26th Street, is a school for boys and girls ages 10-17 with disciplinary problems. The school receives students who caused problems resulting in expulsion at other City schools. Boone has the second highest rate of violent incidents in the whole City, and officers are stationed on nearby blocks everyday when classes let out. Some in the community see the school as a pariah, bringing some of the City's most troubled youth to the area and contributing to the already high levels of violence.

Though the Boone School's violent crime statistics are striking, the school is not entirely to blame for the school-related crime in the neighborhood. The violent crime incident rates of three of the schools serving the neighborhood were among the 40 worst in the city in 2005-2006 , and in 2006, The Philadelphia Inquirer highlighted an area encompassing the eastern edge of the neighborhood as one of the two worst hot spots in the City for school-day shootings.



Report on school violence
Source: Philadelphia Inquirer, Summer 2006

Ranking out of 279	Public School	Grades	2005-06 Incident Rate
2	BOONE, DANIEL SCHOOL	5-12	11.1
15	VAUX, ROBERTS MIDDLE	9-11	7.4
38	MORRIS, ROBERT SCHOOL	K-8	5.4
106	RHODES, E. WASHINGTON MID. SCH	6-11	2.8
116	REYNOLDS, GEN. JOHN F. SCHOOL	K-8	2.5
119	FRANKLIN BENJAMIN HIGH SCHOOL	9-12	2.4
120	GIDEON, EDWARD SCHOOL	K-8	2.4
235	KELLEY, WILLIAM D. SCHOOL	K-8	0.7

'violent crime incident' defined by school district as:
- abduction, arson, assault (including homicide), drug / alcohol offense, robbery, or weapon offense

According to community leadership, however, a Boone School Advisory Council was recently convened and structured to included representatives of the Brewerytown and Sharswood communities. The biggest update regarding transformations of local schools, however, is that in Spring 2010, Vaux, the public high school serving Brewerytown teens, was designated as a Promise Academy within the School District of Philadelphia's Renaissance Schools Initiative. The Initiative looks to turn around chronically underperforming schools; its Promise Academy model provides School Advisory Councils with the opportunity to work in conjunction with the District to drastically improve performance while remaining a District-managed school.[4]

4 http://www.phila.k12.pa.us/announcements/rel_renaissance.pdf