



19th District – Haddington – Action Plan

Background & Summary

City government exists to improve the quality of life of Philadelphians. Safety and the sense of safety are core to a resident's quality of life and their desire to live and work in the City. All of Philadelphia's neighborhoods should be desirable and thriving places to live and work. The PhillyRising Collaborative does this by significantly altering the way the City delivers services to its residents, specifically in areas with chronic crime and disorder problems that require a coordinated multi-agency response.

The focus area for this phase is located in the 19th Police District in the vicinity of the Haddington Branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia. Over the course of several community meetings, residents outlined a series of hurdles that have prevented their community from returning to its once vibrant state. The primary hurdles that residents discussed were: poor infrastructure, a need for job training and ex-offender job placement, a lack of community cohesion, and a lack of youth programs. Once the issues were identified, community members outlined their suggestions to improve each concern. Those suggestions were analyzed, and strategies were created with the PhillyRising team members and community partners. Special credit must be given to ACHIEVEability and the Friends of the Haddington Library for all of their involvement in these efforts.

To improve the poor infrastructure and physical attributes of the neighborhood, the Dept. of Licenses and Inspections (L&I) has started work to abate blighted conditions at various properties. PhillyRising in the Haddington area got a boost on Comcast Cares Day on April 30th, 2011. 327 volunteers participated in eleven different projects including fence building and tree planting; work on the library's garden, a community cleanup, a new mural, and other neighborhood improvements. Furthermore, empty lots in the neighborhood have been cleaned, graffiti was removed and flowers and trees were planted. In response to the vacant space that was created following the demolition of the homes on the west side of Dagget Street, residents had expressed an interest in using these lots to benefit and beautify the community however, after careful consideration residents have instead decided to leave the lots as they are.

To combat the need for job training and ex-offender job placement, a series of training and coaching sessions were organized by local residents in a career boot camp. The sessions included information about employment opportunities and training sessions for critical job skills. Resources such as CareerLink will be available for residents at the Haddington Branch of the Free Library. The Career Boot Camp series ended on June 8, 2011 after a successful string of programs. A second series was held in August 2011 and the job fair was hosted by the office of Councilman Jones.

In order to foster a sense of community cohesion, residents had their first presentation from Tara E. Smith about Town Watch Integrated Services (TWIS) and are considering forming a local chapter to fight crime, strengthen the neighborhood, and improve the neighborhood's relationship with police department. Furthermore, in November 2011 officers from the 19th Police District were given a key to Granahan Recreation Center to be used as a centralized location which allows officers to directly respond to crimes and concerns that affect Haddington and the surrounding community.



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Youth programming such as the Teen Café (at the Library every Friday) provides local young people with a safe and positive atmosphere. The Café offers a variety of services and speakers and helps to foster a relationship with the police department. Furthermore, a homework help center is available for children that visit that visit the Haddington Library from 3:30 p.m. until 5 p.m. Monday's and Wednesdays, and 3:30 p.m. until 6 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Residents have expressed interest in coordinating a working papers instructional session, and a City youth program resource guide.

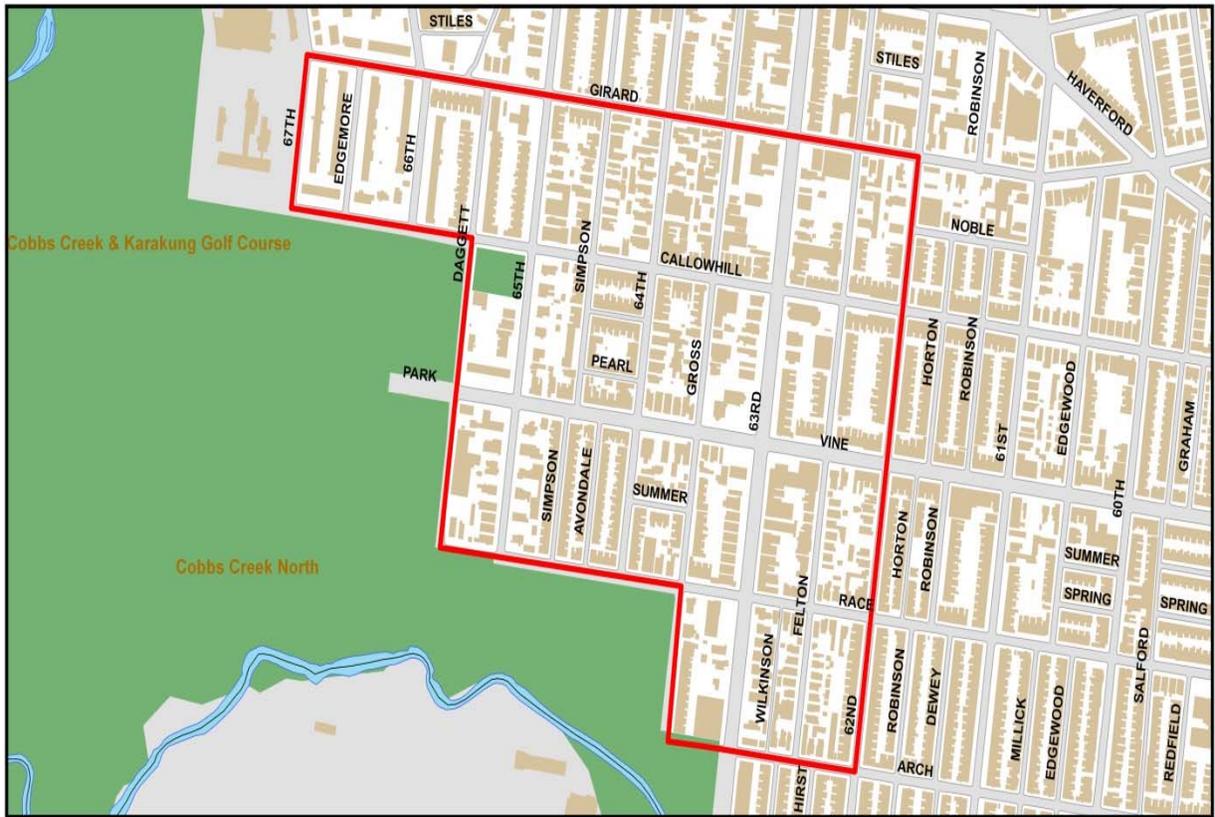
The remainder of this action plan outlines in greater detail how PhillyRising will function in this neighborhood. The plan begins with an analysis of the focus area, outlines issues identified by residents (and verified by data), describes a vision for the community, lists action items to achieve this vision, and lists the criteria that the project's success will be measured against.

Description of the Focus Area

- 19th Police District, Southwest Police Division, the area in the immediate vicinity of the Haddington Branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia, bordering Cobbs Creek Park.
- Borders:
 - North: Girard Avenue
 - South: Arch Street
 - East: 62nd Street
 - West: 67th Street
- Demographics (based on Census Data¹):
 - Children – Approximately 29% of population in focus area is under 18 years of age (2010 Census).
 - Median Family household income - \$27,799 (2000 Census).
 - The proportion of the population with income below the poverty line averages at 30%, ranging as high as 50% for single mother families (2000 Census).
 - Ethnic divisions 89% African American, 5% caucasian, 3% Latino, 3% other (2010 Census).

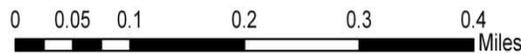
¹ Census data was estimated using the average of tracts 96, 100, and 101 where our target neighborhood is located.

PhillyRising Collaborative Haddington Neighborhood, 19th Police District



Legend

-  PhillyRising_Boundaries
-  Parks
-  PHA Developments
-  Police Districts





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Local Groups Involved in the Targeted Area

Friends of the Haddington Library
The Enterprise Center CDC
Women of Transformation
19th District Police Department Advisory Council
Friends of Cobbs Creek
Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Church
West Philadelphia Achievement Charter School

ACHIEVEability
Eritrean Community of Philly
Overbrook Monarchs
Town Watch Integrated Services
Granahan Playground Advisory Council
St. Donato's Church

Issues

- Physical/Infrastructure – The neighborhood has several properties that are vacant and/or in need of cleaning or repair, but they are disbursed throughout the targeted area. The central point of concern from an infrastructure perspective is on the 400 block of N Daggett Street, where structural instabilities have led to the demolition of several properties, with more coming. Not only did neighbors express a concern about the demolition, but also about the use of the area after the houses are gone.
- Job Training & Ex-offenders – Several residents cited a large number of individuals in the community who are either unemployed or underemployed. To complicate this matter further, there is also a significant ex-offender population in the area that is looking for work. Neighbors described the need for both job training, as well as knowledge about the services available to ex-offenders as they reintegrate to society.
- Lack of Community Cohesion – Many active community members described a need to pull the neighborhood together in an organized fashion. Several groups are actively pursuing specific interests, but there is no apparent organization that brings the community together on a regular basis. This has become a problem for participation in neighborhood events, as well as for education about resources that are already available to local residents.
- Lack of Youth Programming – Residents noted what appears to be a consistent problem of youth loitering through the community. Neighbors described the need for more activities for the area’s youth, as well as an active campaign to bring them into programs.
- Safety Concerns- On January 30th at a community update meeting residents expressed safety concerns due to the recent increase in burglaries and an increase of prostitution activity in the area. Neighbors described a need for a heavier police presence and extra lighting to minimize criminal activity in the community.



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Vision

- Physical improvements, such as the demolition of vacant properties and the cleaning of vacant lots and alleyways, will make a noticeable difference to the community's landscape;
- The empty parcels on Daggett Street will be used as positive, green community spaces;
- Town Watch Integrated Services will have a unifying presence in the area;
- Police are currently working on a plan to have a stronger presence in the area, and residents are discussing several ways in which they can assist with the installation of cameras and extra lighting in the neighborhood.
- Several more programs will be available for youth living in the targeted area as well as the enhancement of the Teen Café;
- Local organizations, as well as groups of local volunteers, will staff these programs within existing facilities; and
- Local organizations will work to improve residents' job skills through enhanced resources and training.

Cumulatively, these items will deter the presence of chronic crime and disorder issues in the neighborhood. They will help revitalize the community to become a thriving neighborhood where residents can engage in a high quality of Philadelphia City life.

Action Items

Physical/Infrastructure

- The Department of Licenses and Inspections (L&I) have demolished 10 properties along the east side of the 400 block of N Daggett Street.
 - Status – Complete
 - L&I has hired a professional engineer to notify the department about how to underpin the remaining buildings.
 - The engineering firm will analyze the next steps which may include additional demolition. In the interim the area has been fenced off to prevent trespass.
 - In the spring grass will be planted and a pressure treated fence will be installed along both front and rear. Due to poor soil conditions buildings will not be built at this location.



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- Villanova Day of Service was held on September 24, 2011. The work was coordinated by Sheila Washington and the Friends of the Haddington Library (FHL) and the Department of Parks and Recreation. 50 Volunteers worked with residents and completed the following projects:
 - The garden at the Haddington Library was mowed, bushes were trimmed, weeds were pulled
 - The trees at Cobbs Creek Park were trimmed, branches on the gate surrounding Granahan field were removed, weeds and rubbish surrounding the trees were removed.
- Status – Complete
- Comcast Cares Day was held on April 30, 2011. The work was coordinated by Sheila Washington of the Friends of the Haddington Library (FHL), MOCEVS, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, Philadelphia Job Corps Life Science Institute, the Department of Licenses & Inspections, and the Neighborhood Services Division. 327 volunteers completed the following projects:
 - The 9 lots on the west side of the 400 block of Daggett Street were cleaned, trees were planted, and a fence was built and painted;
 - Granahan Playground and sections of Cobbs Creek Park were cleaned;
 - The roller hockey rink in Granahan was cleaned and painted;
 - Playground equipment at Granahan was painted;
 - Graffiti was removed from the walls around the fields at Granahan, and fresh paint was applied;
 - Murals of the Overbrook Monarchs' logo and Granahan's name were painted on the recreation center;
 - Gardening work was done around the Haddington Library;
 - The basement at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Church was cleaned; and
 - Several streets and alleyways throughout the neighborhood were cleaned.

(Note: Map in Appendix- A)
- Status – Complete
- L&I has conducted several inspections, cleaned and sealed 28 properties, and written numerous violations.
 - Status – Complete.
- Sheila Washington, in conjunction with Ray Gant at Greater Philadelphia Cares and Joe Cesar from the Department of Parks & Recreation organized community cleanups in the neighborhood.
 - Status – Cleanups took place on March 19th and April 4th. On April 9th, the community also planted flowers around the Haddington Library.
- 311's Community Liaison program has been advertised to members of the neighborhood interested in being local 311 representatives. Sabrina Morgan will be the primary point of contact in the community for those interested.
 - Status – Training dates are being communicated to residents.



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- Joe Caesar and the Department of Parks & Recreation have invited local groups, including FHL, to participate in a series of events that will be happening in Cobbs Creek Park throughout the summer.
 - Status – Invitations extended, partnerships are being planned.

Job Training & Ex-offenders

- Sheila Washington and Nijah Famous (AchieveABILITY) organized a Career Boot Camp – a series of job training and coaching sessions for local residents. Each session included information about employment opportunities and training sessions for critical job skills. Each session had facilitators from various non-profit, private and city agencies that provided expertise and networking opportunities to participants. The events were held at ACHIEVEability's computer center at 59 N 60th St. The sessions included:
 - Kick-off event with Mayor Nutter at St. Donato's Church – March 5, 2011
 - Assessment & Goal Setting - April 6, 2011
 - Know Thy Resources and Thy Self – April 13, 2011
 - Resume & Cover Letter Writing – April 20, 2011
 - Interview Skills – April 27, 2011
 - Appropriate Dress & Professional Conduct – May 4, 2011
 - Job Fair & Resource Session – June 8, 2011
 - A second series for the Career Boot Camp was organized in August of 2011.
 - Assessment & Goal Setting - August 2, 2011
 - Know Thy Resources and Thy Self – August 4, 2011
 - Resume & Cover Letter Writing – August 9, 2011
 - Interview Skills – August 11, 2011
 - Job Fair & Resource Session – August 18, 2011
 - Status – More to come as organized by Community
 - Nicki Woods has helped CareerLink establish a local presence at AchieveABILITY and is working to bring their services to the Haddington Branch of the Free Library to augment the Library's existing resources.
 - Status – The work at ACHIEVEability is complete, the Library is still pending.

Lack of Community Cohesion

- Sheila Washington & Sabrina Morgan are leading the formation of a local Town Watch Integrated Services (TWIS) chapter to fight crime, build community cohesion, and improve the neighborhood's relationship with the Police Department. The TWIS group will serve as both a crime deterrent, as well as a mechanism for the community to improve its internal distribution of information.
 - Status – The first training for TWIS occurred with Tara E. Smith on April 7, 2011. More training will be scheduled as more residents express interest.



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- On January 30th at a community update meeting new residents expressed interest on a second training for TWIS. We are currently discussing a time and date for the training to take place.

Lack of Youth Programming

- The Teen Café, hosted by FHL at the Library every Friday afternoon, has welcomed a series of new presenters. Capt. Singleton, Commanding Officer of the 19th Police District, has agreed to have officers attend on a regular basis. This is intended to foster the relationship between the area's youth and the Police Department.
 - Status – The Police began attending sessions in March 2011.
- Jordan Harris, of the Philadelphia Youth Commission, held meetings with local youth on January 19 & 21, 2011, to ask their opinion on the status of current youth programming in the area. As a result of the youth meetings, PhillyRising Representatives will work with community members to develop:
 - A homework help center for students.
 - An instructional session on filling out working papers.
 - A list of programs available to youth in the area for distribution to local schools. Among these items will be a concerted effort to spread information about services offered by the Teen Café.
 - Status – In progress. As information is developed, community members will be asked to help distribute information.
- Kesho Watson is working to have a skate park built in place of the existing roller hockey rink at Granahan Playground.
 - Status – Ms. Watson has organized a plan, and is working on funding for construction.

Safety Concerns

- Brian Phillips of West Philadelphia Achievement Charter School is organizing a few companies to come out and show a display of cameras and house alarms for residents in the area.
 - Status- Still pending. We will have a follow up meeting to discuss progress.
- Lt. Kelley along with Community Relations Officer Guess will utilize the Granahan Recreation Center as a meeting place for residents to meet and discuss issues and concerns with police officers. This will help to create a sense of safety for the residents in the community.
 - Status- Still in the planning phase. A meeting will be scheduled in the coming weeks to discuss logistics.
- Community members, Stephanie G. Outen and her husband Darryl Outen have expressed their interest in TWIS training with Tara E. Smith.
 - Status- Availability is still being discussed.

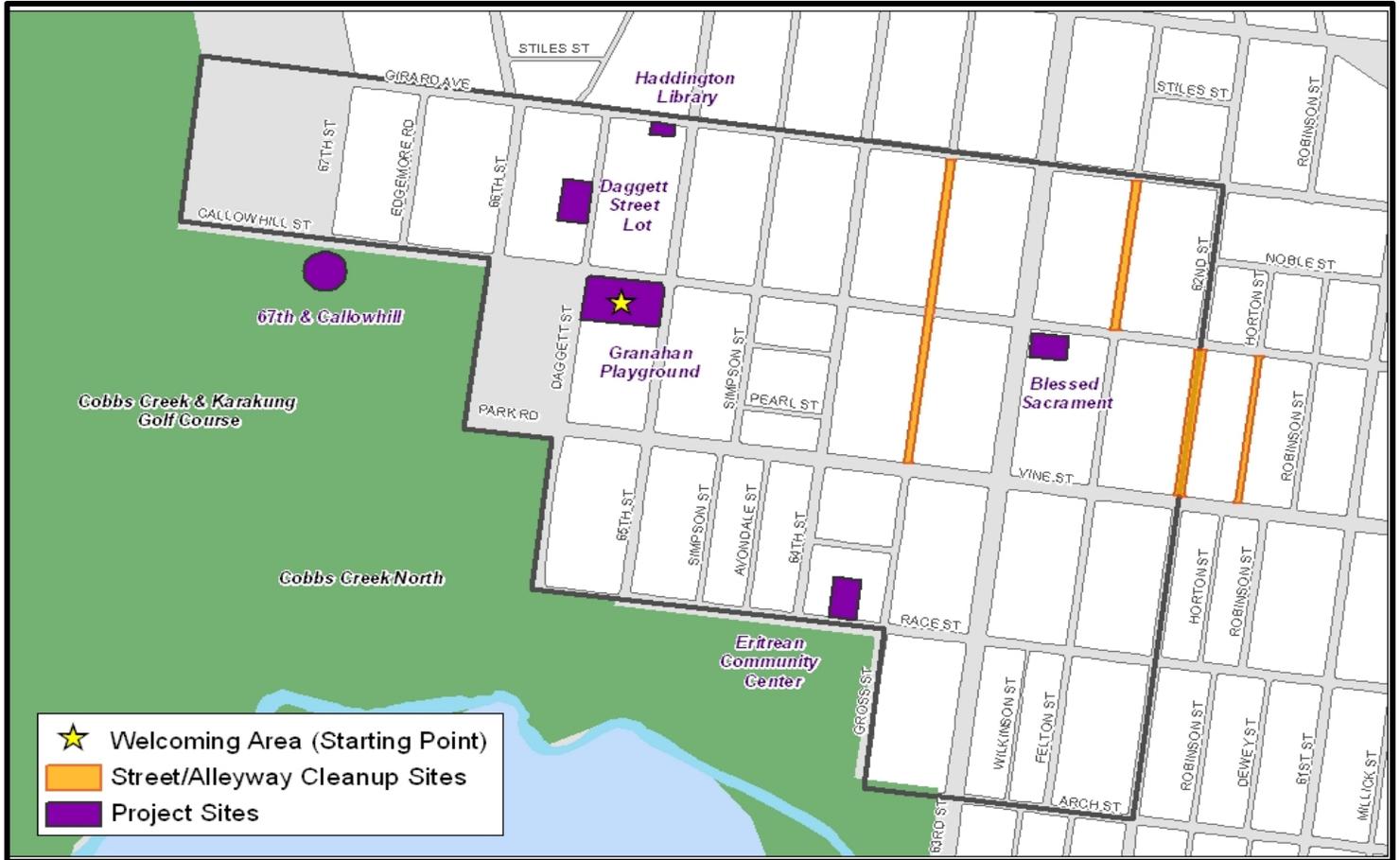
Measures of Success

The basic goal of PhillyRising is to lower crime, in both a real and perceived sense, and to increase residents' self-sufficiency and involvement in their community. Aside from a reduction in crime, success will also be measured by the differences in numbers of dangerous vacant properties, number of after-school programs available to children, number of residents involved in job training programs, and the increase in the capacity of community organizations to sustain positive change. These measures will be monitored and given quarterly progress reports at PhillyStat sessions after the majority of the action items have been completed.



Appendix - A

19th District Target Neighborhood





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Team Commitment

The signatures below represent a commitment from each department to contribute to the improvement of this neighborhood by fulfilling this plan’s vision through the action items listed above.

Friends of the Haddington Library	ACHIEVEability
The Enterprise Center CDC	Friends of Cobbs Creek
Overbrook Monarchs	Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Church
Eritrean Community of Philly	St. Donato’s Church
Granahan Playground Advisory Council	Office of Councilman Jones
Health Department	School District of Philadelphia
Managing Director’s Office	District Attorney’s Office
Police Department	Dept. of Licenses & Inspections
Parks & Recreations	Phila. Housing Authority
Town Watch Integrated Services	Neighborhood Services Division
311 Customer Contact Center	Department of Human Services