

**IDORA NEIGHBORHOOD**

**COMPREHENSIVE NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN**

Prepared by City of Youngstown, Planning Department  
and The Ohio State University  
March 2008

**A New Day is  
Dawning in Idora.**

# A Publicly Adopted Document

*Jo J. Bufacella*  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW

**RES-08 13**  
**A RESOLUTION**

**RECOGNITION OF THE  
IDORA COMPREHENSIVE NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN**

\* \* \*

**WHEREAS,** the Youngstown Planning department with assistance from The Ohio State University has developed a neighborhood plan with the residents, business and institutions of Idora Neighborhood; and

**WHEREAS,** the Idora Neighborhood boundaries are Glenwood Avenue to the east, Mill Creek MetroParks to the north, south and west (see attached map); and

**WHEREAS,** said plan accurately reflects the Youngstown 2010 Citywide Comprehensive Plan and input received from the Idora Neighborhood planning process; and

**WHEREAS,** The Youngstown City Planning Commission has reviewed and recommends the Idora Comprehensive Neighborhood Plan as the guiding document for the future development of the neighborhood.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YOUNGSTOWN, STATE OF OHIO:**

**SECTION 1**

That the Council of the City of Youngstown does hereby recognize the benefits of a neighborhood plan in the City of Youngstown and is committed to adhere to the Idora Comprehensive Neighborhood Plan.

**SECTION 2**

That the Council of the City of Youngstown will support the Idora Comprehensive Neighborhood Plan by supporting projects consistent with the neighborhood plan and implementing any policies necessary to achieve the goals of the neighborhood plan.

**SECTION 3**

That the Clerk of Council is hereby instructed to forward a copy of this resolution to individuals as designated by Council.

PASSED IN COUNCIL THIS 3 DAY OF March, 2008.

*Chal J. Jimma*  
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

ATTEST:  
*Valencia Morrow*  
CITY CLERK

APPROVED: THIS 4<sup>th</sup> DAY OF March, 2008.

*[Signature]*  
MAYOR

# Neighborhood Participants

## A SPECIAL THANKS

A special thanks to all of the Idora Neighborhood residents that participated in the Neighborhood Meetings. The development of this document would not have been possible without them.

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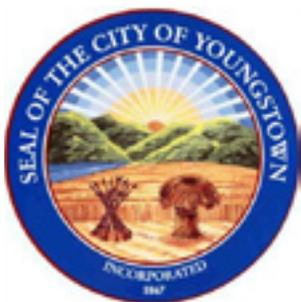
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# Acknowledgments

The Project Team would like to thank:

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# Introduction

## Purpose

The purpose of the Idora Neighborhood Comprehensive Neighborhood Plan is to develop an implementation framework for the revitalization of the Idora Neighborhood. The plan builds on the assets of the neighborhood by creating new opportunities through the identification and prioritization of goals and strategies necessary to realize the vision for the neighborhood. The plan is grounded in the *Youngstown 2010 Citywide Comprehensive Plan* and the voice of the residents, who have participated in the planning process to address concerns, exchange ideas, and imagine a better future for their neighborhood.

The plan is a tool for neighborhood residents, local non-profit and private organizations, and the City of Youngstown to create positive visible change throughout the neighborhood.

## Neighborhood Description

The neighborhood began around a streetcar line that traveled down Parkview Avenue in the early twentieth century. Once a thriving residential area with a bustling commercial district located on Glenwood Avenue, the neighborhood was home to regionally famous Idora Park located in the southwest corner of the neighborhood. Idora Park was a regional amusement park located at the end of the streetcar line. The park provided entertainment and recreation activities for the entire Mahoning Valley. Despite its history, the park experienced a devastating fire in 1984 and has been closed ever since.

The loss of Idora Park however was not the only major event to have an effect on the neighborhood. The closing of steel mills in the late 1970s and early 1980s resulted in the loss of thousands of jobs and a shrinking Youngstown population. Many people left the city to find work in other regions of the country. Other factors including suburban sprawl and “white flight” also impacted many of the city’s neighborhoods including Idora. To this day the City of Youngstown has an overabundance of housing and the Idora Neighborhood is a prime example.

The neighborhood has deteriorated over the last twenty years in a manner similar to the Idora Park site. There are many serious issues that must be addressed including public safety, vacancy, disinvestment, absentee landlords, and a blighted commercial corridor.

Idora is primarily a residential neighborhood with commercial businesses concentrated on Glenwood Avenue. The neighborhood borders the eastern boundary of Mill Creek Park - the second largest urban park system in the United States. The park provides beautiful views along many of the neighborhood’s streets. Three residential areas with different qualities characterize the neighborhood. The northern portion is characterized by large estate homes on curving drives that border the park. These homes are generally kept in good repair. Middle class housing on a traditional urban grid characterizes the central portion of the neighborhood. Vacancy in many forms is concentrated here including vacant land, vacant structures, and the vacant Idora Park site. Crime is also concentrated within this area. Middle class housing is characteristic of the southern portion of the neighborhood. This portion is generally well kept and has experienced a minimal amount of vacancy.

## The Time is Now

Building on the momentum of the *Youngstown 2010 Citywide Comprehensive Plan*, the City of Youngstown has initiated neighborhood planning. The Idora Neighborhood Comprehensive Plan is the first step in implementing Youngstown 2010 at the neighborhood level. The residents of Idora are ready for change and the planning process is the means through which that change may become attainable. All neighborhood plans will build off the 2010 Vision formed in the Youngstown 2010 planning process.

The four elements of the vision include the following:

- 1. Accepting that Youngstown is a smaller city.**
- 2. Defining Youngstown’s role in the new regional economy.**
- 3. Improving Youngstown’s image and enhancing quality of life.**
- 4. A call to action.**

The planning process builds off these principles in addition to a strong commitment to public participation.



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