A New Day is Dawning in Idora.
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.

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

ATTORNEY

CITY CLERK

APPROVED: THIS 3 DAY OF MAY, 2008.

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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Frank Huntley
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Denise H. Johnson
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Neighborhood Meetings Participants:

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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.
# Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION................................................................. page 8

BACKGROUND CHAPTER........................................ page 11
Youngstown 2010 Vision................................................ page 12
Regional Context......................................................... page 13
Neighborhood Boundary............................................. page 14
History........................................................................ page 16
Demographics............................................................... page 18
Current Land Use......................................................... page 22
Vacancy....................................................................... page 26
Mobility........................................................................ page 30
Urban Form................................................................... page 32
Environmental Conditions............................................ page 34
Crime.......................................................................... page 40

GOALS AND STRATEGIES........................................ page 43
Challenges and Opportunities ....................................... page 44
How to Use this Plan.................................................... page 45
Goal A - Increase Safety............................................... page 46
Goal B - Neighborhood Pride....................................... page 52
Goal C - Glenwood Corridor......................................... page 60
Goal D - Housing........................................................ page 78
Goal E - Address Vacancy............................................ page 84
Goal F - Clean and Green............................................. page 96
Street Tree Planting Strategy......................................... page 98

A BOLD VISION FOR THE FUTURE.......................... page 105
Grey to Green Transformation......................................... page 106
Future Land Use Plan.................................................... page 108
Neighborhood Design Plan........................................ page 110
Street Typologies........................................................ page 112

STRATEGIES AND IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX........ page 121
Implementation and INA Organization ........................ page 122
Goal A - Increase Safety............................................... page 124
Goal B - Neighborhood Pride....................................... page 126
Goal C - Glenwood Corridor......................................... page 130
Goal D - Housing........................................................ page 132
Goal E - Address Vacancy............................................ page 136
Goal F - Clean and Green............................................. page 140

APPENDIX I................................................................ page 143
Stakeholder Meeting.................................................... page 144
Neighborhood Kickoff Meeting..................................... page 150
Neighborhood Meeting #2.......................................... page 164

APPENDIX II................................................................. page 175
Neighborhood Meetings Outreach Materials............. page 176