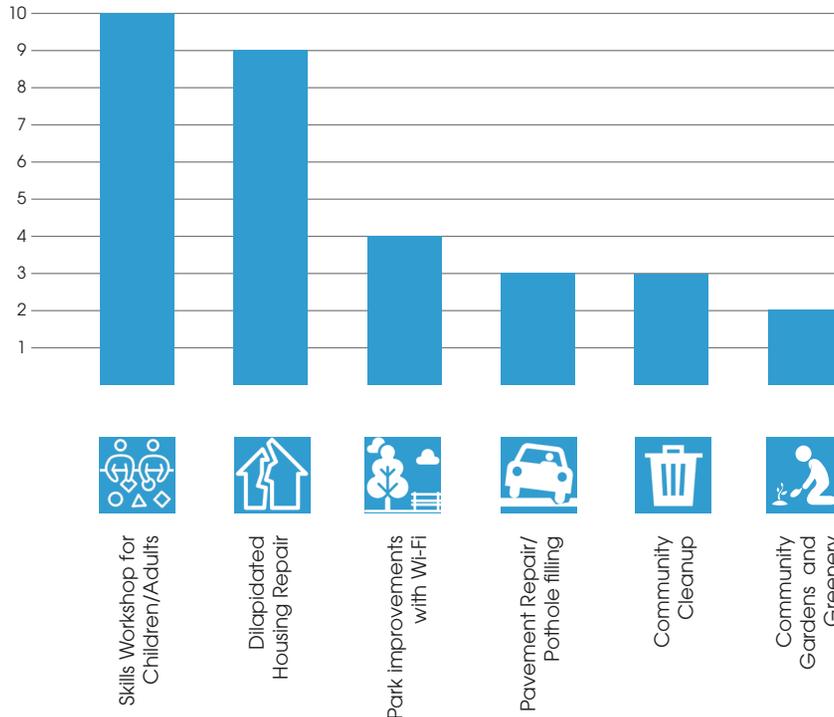


In August, 2018 Resident Ambassadors of the Chicago Heights Downtown / East Side Choice Neighborhood Plan conducted surveys of their neighbors on potential “Early Action Projects” for the plan.

Resident Proposed EAPs

In addition to responding to ideas for Early Action Projects that emerged from community meetings, residents were given the opportunity to write their own ideas for early action projects in the survey and several themes forms.



Potential EAPs Ranked

Residents were asked to numerically rank potential projects (that emerged from prior meetings) based on a their preference for implementation. With 1 being the best and 4 the worst, each project received an average score.

Avg. Rank / Project	Image	Project Name	Description
1.3		Pop-Up Grocery Store	A vacant storefront could be temporarily transformed into a grocery store offering fresh food and produce, similar to a Farmers Market
2.7		New Playground/Park	An existing, underutilized park could be improved to be made more useful to neighborhood children.
2.7		New Town Square	Underutilized space in the Downtown area could be temporarily converted into a “town square” for people to gather and socialize.
3.2		Temporary Bike Lane	A section of a road could be painted to act as a temporary bicycle lane to promote cycling in the community.
*		Tree Planting Program	The City of Chicago Heights applied for a grant from the Open Lands Project to fund the planting of up to 50 trees. The trees can be planted in more than one location if desired.

Residents showed great enthusiasm for this project with **20 out of 25** respondents saying it is a good idea (8 people even said they would be willing to help!)

In addition to offering their opinions on the Early Action Projects that emerged from community meetings,, Residents gave their own ideas on what they thought might work. They responded as follows:

“Define Your Top Early Action Projects”



- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <p>1. Programs to teach kids and teens technical skills to complete handy work</p> | <p>10. Fix up the houses in the community, Boys and Girls club, stem academy at Lincoln School, and sports for the children.</p> | <p>17. Fix the houses up</p> |
| <p>2. Something for the children. Cleanup the neighborhood.</p> | <p>11. Abandoned homes either fixed up or demoed. Fix the homes and put people in them.</p> | <p>18. Housing for homeless</p> |
| <p>3. Things for the kids</p> | <p>12. Take down abandoned homes</p> | <p>19. Build new houses and better landscaping</p> |
| <p>4. Inexpensive activities for kids, community cleanup</p> | <p>13. Close down some buildings</p> | <p>20. Some of these abandoned homes get fixed and maybe occupied.</p> |
| <p>5. Starting a youth group</p> | <p>14. Painting</p> | <p>21. Tree planting, walking paths with lights, clean the neighborhood, more activities for the families</p> |
| <p>6. More after school programs, more shelters</p> | <p>15. Painting the gates</p> | <p>22. Wifi in parks, stores</p> |
| <p>7. Kids doing good in school</p> | <p>16. Help seniors redo the outside of their homes</p> | <p>23. Wifi in a park, Family activities</p> |
| <p>8. Boys and girls club</p> | | <p>24. Trees, Shopping area</p> |
| <p>9. Projects for seniors/ workshops</p> | | |

After completing the survey, residents were asked if they had any additional thoughts on Early Action Projects in addition to the ones they identified at the beginning of the survey. They answered as follows:

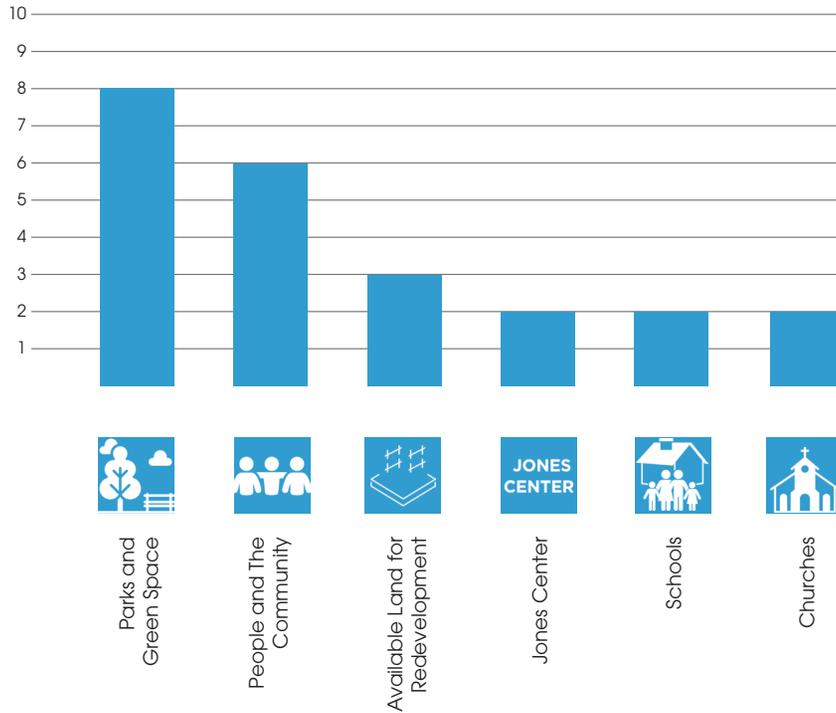
“ ”

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 25. 50 <u>fruit</u> trees planted, recreational activities | 31. Redo pavement | 39. Grocery store and health clinic |
| 26. Trees, water holes in the park | 32. New Pavement - a lot of potholes, rebuilding king park | 40. I'd like to see some black owned businesses return. |
| 27. Water sprinkler at king park | 33. Redo pavement | 41. Fairness to all residents |
| 28. Community gardens | 34. From State to Chicago rd. redo pavement. | 42. Health fair |
| 29. Better environment | 35. Auto malls | 43. Kick-off of early action |
| 30. Building an indoor swimming pool with slides and other attractions where ultra foods used to be | 36. More stores | 44. Getting to know each other in the neighborhood |
| | 37. A drug store | |
| | 38. Grocery store | |

In addition to asking residents about their opinions on potential Early Action Projects, the survey also asked them to consider any assets and challenges of the Downtown / East Side Neighborhood. A summary of how they responded follows:

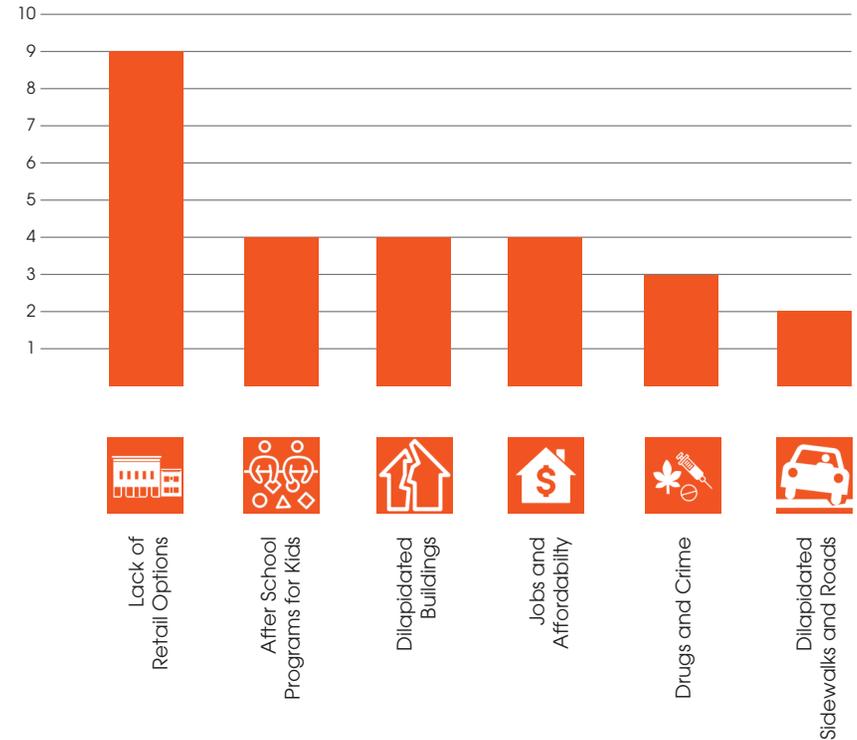
Assets

Residents were given the opportunity to write their thoughts on the assets of the neighborhood and several themes emerged.



Challenges

Residents were given the opportunity to write their thoughts on the challenges of the neighborhood and several themes emerged.





Reported Assets and Challenges

CHICAGO HEIGHTS DOWNTOWN / EAST SIDE CHOICE NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN

In addition to asking residents about their opinions on potential Early Action Projects, the survey also asked them to consider any assets and challenges of the Downtown / East Side Neighborhood. They responded as follows:

Assets “ ”

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Parks | 17. Life Long residents |
| 2. Local parks/ playgrounds | 18. A lot of land to rebuild |
| 3. Grocery stores | 19. Great land to Rebuild |
| 4. Recreational center | 20. Space for Affordable Housing |
| 5. Planted a garden | 21. Jones center |
| 6. Parks | 22. Jones Center, Memorial Center Schools are getting better |
| 7. People parks land | 23. School |
| 8. Lots of parks | 24. Schools |
| 9. Parks | 25. Lot of churches” |
| 10. Public parks | 26. Churches |
| 11. The grass is always cut | 27. Buses |
| 12. The neighborhood is connected. | |
| 13. Family | |
| 14. People | |
| 15. The people | |
| 16. Good neighborhood | |

Challenges “ ”

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Lack of resources, stores and businesses | 13. Nothing for the youths of ages 13 and up, jobs |
| 2. Nowhere to shop for food | 14. Abandoned buildings |
| 3. No Shopping area | 15. Abandoned lots |
| 4. No stores | 16. Boarded up houses |
| 5. No local shopping area, sidewalks | 17. Housing |
| 6. The stores, empty land, schools | 18. No affordable housing. |
| 7. No banking | 19. No jobs |
| 8. Lack of currency exchanges | 20. Too much drug activity and abandoned homes |
| 9. Lack of food chains and after school programs | 21. The police |
| 10. After school programs | 22. The police don't always do their job right |
| 11. Nothing for the kids to do | 23. Dirty |
| 12. No after school activities | 24. Light on center street |
| | 25. Sidewalks |