

Implementation Priorities

SHORT-TERM PRIORITIES (1 to 3 years)

1. Establish a Residents' Council to engage with and serve as a forum for community residents; and to serve as a liaison between residents and the City of St. Louis.
2. Establish a certified Community-Based Development Organization (CBDO; also known as a CDC) to lead implementation of the Plan; secure CDBG grant funding; and access other sources of funding, including dues, donations, grants, and assessments.
3. Establish a community-based, volunteer organization to regularly clean up alleys and vacant lots; mow vacant lots; and other community beautification activities.
4. Provide free or very low-cost community-wide internet access in North Central through neighborhood Wi-Fi hotspots.
5. Create a Community Safety Committee to improve public safety in North Central.
6. Establish a Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO)—that is accountable to the community—and ongoing funding source to purchase land-bank vacant lots and derelict buildings.
7. Building upon the City's Emergency Home Repair grant program, secure and deploy resources to North Central residents for emergency home repairs and small home improvement projects (under \$5,000); resources can be deployed as grants for emergency repairs and a low-interest or no-interest loans for qualifying low- to medium-income households.

MEDIUM-TERM PRIORITIES (4 to 10 years)

8. Facilitate rehab of existing buildings by connecting qualified local developers with rehab opportunities
9. Facilitate development of new infill housing by acquiring vacant property and issuing Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for developers.
10. Work with neighboring institutions (like Ranken Tech) and local incubators (like TRex and Launch-code) to build job skills and entrepreneurship capacity among North Central residents.
11. Develop a community history project to discover and preserve the cultural history—especially African-American history—of Delmar Boulevard; North Central neighborhoods and churches; Grand Center; and other assets and utilize this history in neighborhood revitalization efforts.

LONG-TERM PRIORITIES (More than 10 years)

12. Improve the greening and walkability of North Central through the Brickline Greenway and Hodiamont Greenways linear parks, in partnership with Great Rivers Greenway.
13. Provide a diversity of housing types in North Central, including apartments for young adults and couples; homes for families; and accessible, easy-to-maintain houses for seniors aging in place.
14. Support the development of high-quality community retail and services businesses within the local commercial nodes of MLK Plaza and Lindell Marketplace.
15. Create a health and wellness district around Cochrane VA Medical Center and other existing health-care facilities.
16. Support creation of a commercially-viable and vibrant mixed-use corridors along Dr. MLK Jr. Drive.