



Flint, MI: Master Plan for a Sustainable Flint

Repositioning Flint for the Future

In 1960, Flint, MI, drafted a master plan that was in many ways ahead of its time. The plan outlined strategies for dealing with issues like overcrowded schools and traffic congestion, problems akin to those that most metropolitan areas face today. Reaping the benefits of being a company town, Flint enjoyed prosperity during the twentieth century. Now losing population and adapting to changes in the global economy, Flint needs another innovative plan that will negotiate a new identity for the twenty-first century.

The city's first master plan since 1960, the *Master Plan for a Sustainable Flint* is charged with repositioning Flint for the future. The city's industrial past has left an indelible legacy. With over 10,800 vacant housing units, Flint is second only to Detroit in number of empty homes. The city has over 365 acres of abandoned property related to automobile factories.

Global Economy, Local Solutions

With the right planning, Flint can harness its assets to meet these challenges head on. Building upon the work of the Genesee County Land Bank, Habitat for Humanity, and others, Flint's planning process is taking stock of the city's housing supply and developing strategies to decontaminate, stabilize and add value to Flint's neighborhoods. Flint's strategy relies on its best asset, its people. Through community engagement, the Flint team will find how best to "upcycle" the land, whether through community gardens, new schools, or similar projects. Innovative, local solutions like these are at the heart of the plan.

Flint Mayor Dayne Walling put it best. Reflecting upon the plan, he has stated:

"I believe that our community has a lot to offer and we can make major contributions to a changing 21st century economy. Nobody can deny the city's population is smaller than it used to be, but that doesn't mean that our community is less valuable to the region and the state.... The core of our challenge in 2012 is to find new value in our community that we can utilize for another round of prosperity."

Bolstered by its federal partners at HUD, Flint is meeting contemporary challenges to build an economy to last.

Description

Flint is using a HUD Community Challenge grant to replace its fifty-year-old master plan with an integrated plan for sustainable development. The city is holding neighborhood-level discussions that will serve as the guiding principles for a city-wide strategic planning framework. Planning teams will create area plans that include affordable housing, economic competitiveness, land recycling, and neighborhood revitalization, the building blocks of the *Master Plan for a Sustainable Flint*.

Funding

- 2010 HUD Community Challenge Grant: \$1,570,233
- Charles Stewart Mott Foundation: \$263,804
- Center for Community Progress: \$25,000-\$50,000
- Genesee County Land Bank: \$164,988
- Genesee County Chamber of Commerce: \$56,890
- Ruth Mott Foundation: \$50,000

Partners

Genesee Regional Chamber of Commerce, The Land Bank, Flint Area Reinvestment Office, Flint Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, Local Initiative Support Corporation, Center for Community Progress, University of Michigan - Flint, the Community Foundation of Greater Flint, Ruth Mott Foundation, and C.S. Mott Foundation.

Achievements

- Developing a flexible set of land use regulations not beholden on expected population growth, Flint is rethinking planning norms, serving as a model for other "legacy cities."
- The Flint team is organizing an engaged populace, drawing up to 1,800 citizens to one event.

For more information visit:

hud.gov/sustainability



