



# Engaging Partners: Volunteers

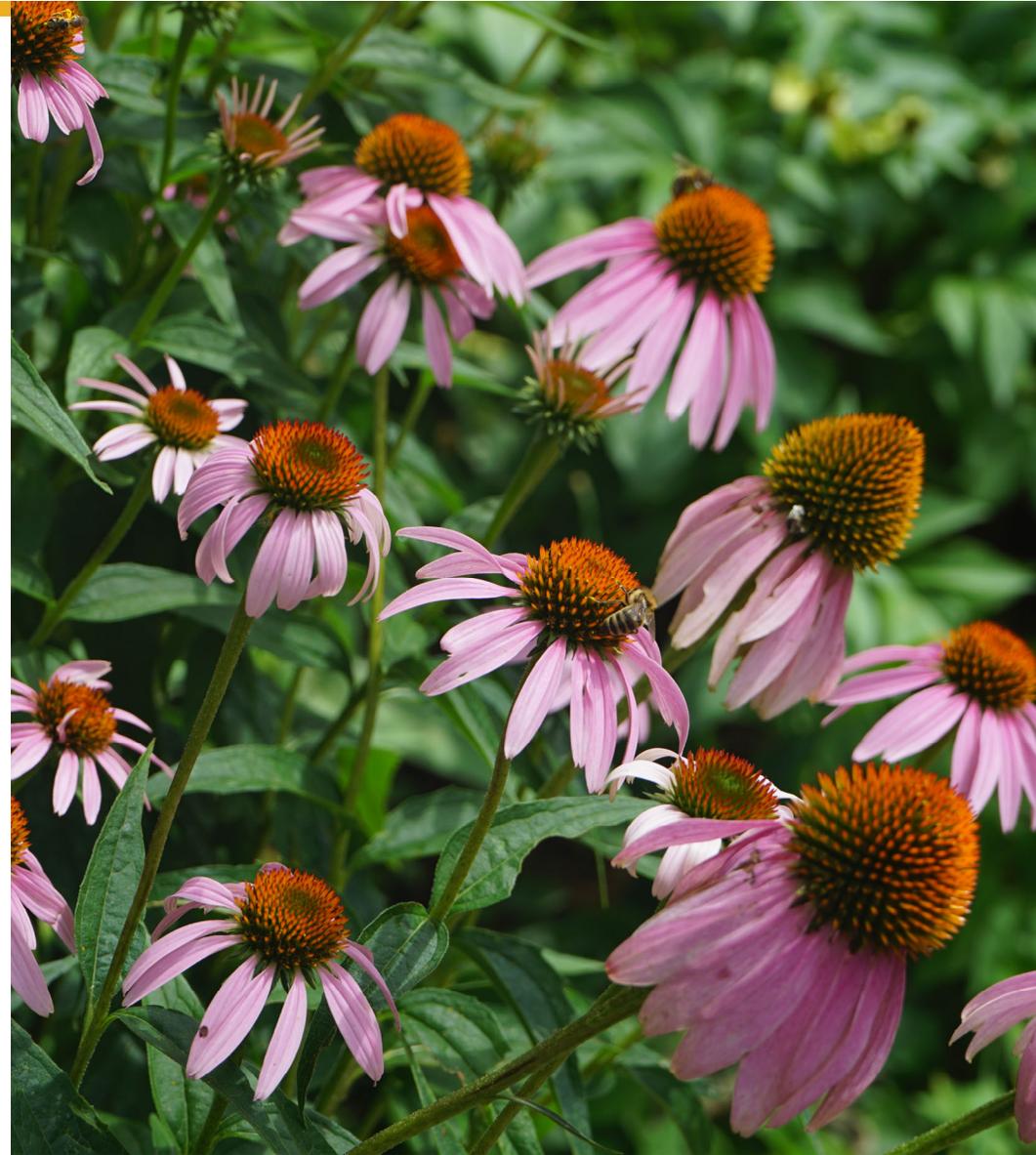
Planning Office



NEIGHBORHOOD  
ACADEMY

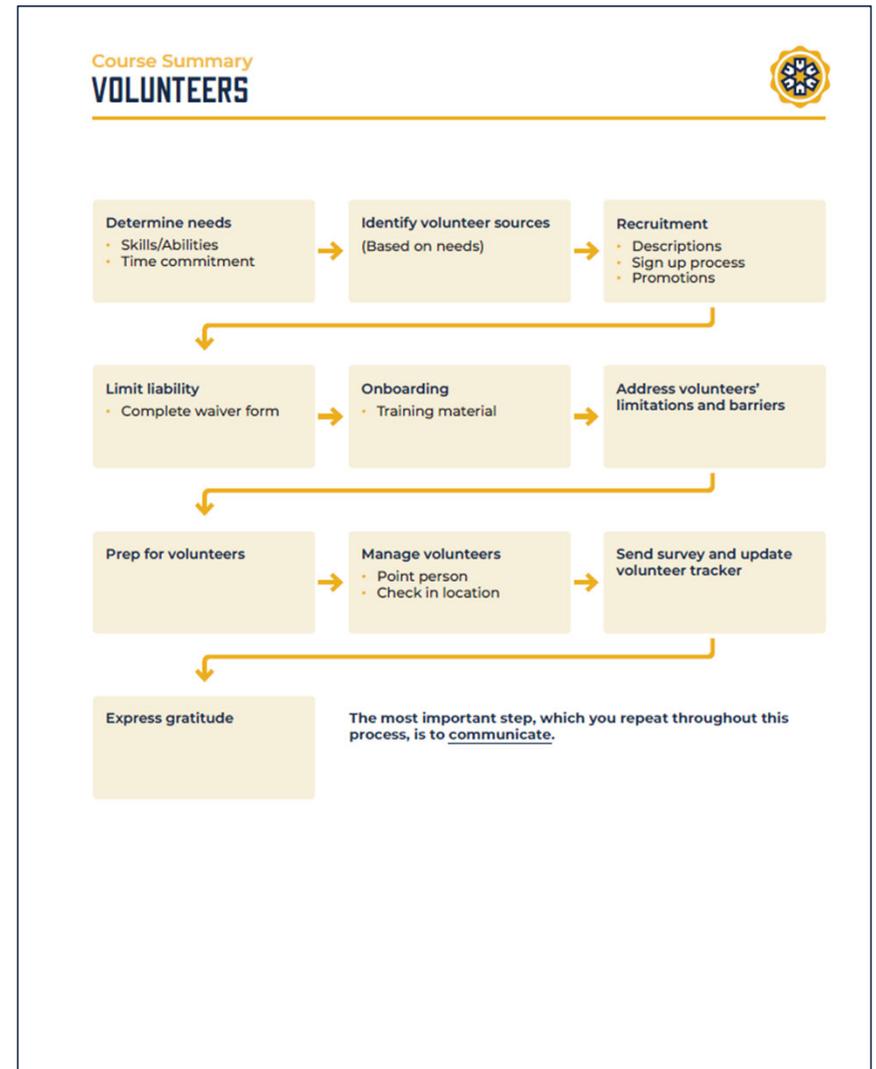
# Topics to Cover :

- Importance of Volunteers
- Identifying Volunteer Sources
- Understanding Limitations of Volunteers
- Recruiting & Retaining Volunteers
- Onboarding & Managing Volunteers



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**Why are volunteers  
important to your  
neighborhood association?**



# Volunteers

- Empowerment
- Positive change
- Broadens impact
- Board recruitment & retention



# How to Determine Your Volunteer Needs



# Volunteers

## Create volunteer opportunities based on:

- Organizational needs
- Events
- Projects
- Gaps in expertise, skill, or ability



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# Volunteers

Create volunteer opportunities based on your neighborhood association's capacity.



# Volunteers

- Provide oversight and support.
- Events or projects should not be solely staffed by volunteers.



# Volunteers

## When considering volunteer needs:

Think of –

- Skills, expertise, or abilities needed
- Consistency
- Total Time Commitment



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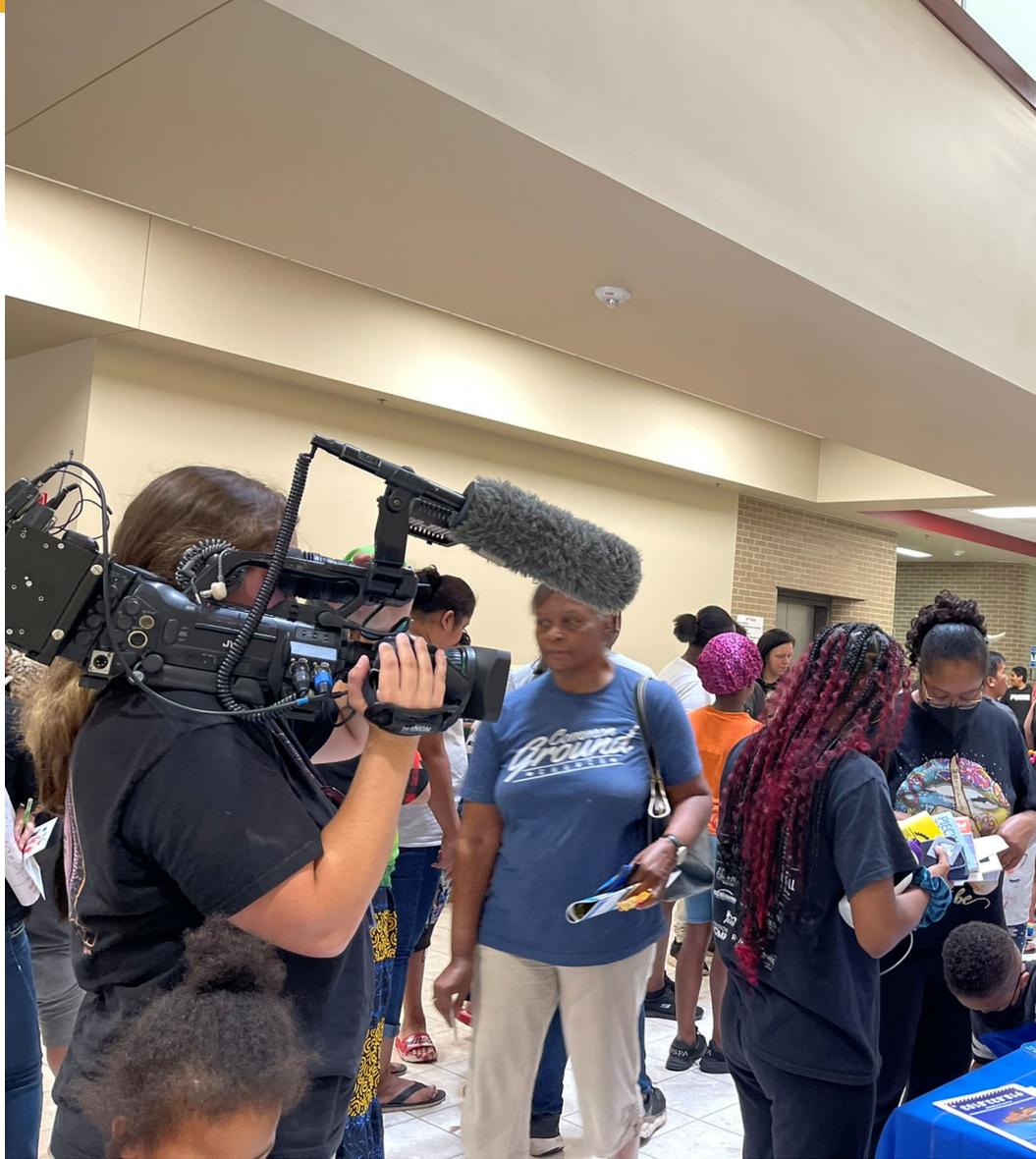
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**Are there any responsibilities  
you shouldn't assign to a  
volunteer?**



# Volunteers



# Volunteers

## Shouldn't Assign Volunteers to:

- Fulfill board member responsibilities
- Act as a spokesperson
- Handle money
- Enter into contracts or agreements



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# Identifying Sources for Volunteers



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## Place-Based Recruitment:

- Use your asset map
- Connect with nearby businesses
- Recruit your neighbors



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# Volunteers

## Reach Beyond your Neighborhood:

- Schools / Universities / Colleges / Sororities / Fraternities
- Retirees
- Professional Organizations
- Large Corporations & Businesses
- Adjacent Neighborhood Associations



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## Reach Beyond your Neighborhood:

- Business Associations
- Churches / Synagogues / Mosques / Religious Institutions
- Athletic Organizations / Leagues
- Refugees / Refugee Organizations



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# Understanding Your Volunteer's Limitations



# Volunteers

## Understanding Barriers

Can you solve any of these?

- Language Barriers
- Transportation Barriers
- Childcare Barriers
- Ability Barriers



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## Understanding Limitations

- **School / University Calendars**
- Event & Sports Schedules
- Holidays
- Guardrails for Volunteers Under the age of 18
- Other Causes
- Senior Citizens
- Refugees & Immigrants



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# Recruiting Volunteers



# Volunteers

## Recruitment Prep:

Once you determine your volunteer needs –

- Write a brief description of each volunteer role.
- Determine the time commitment.
- Create a sign-up process.



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## Sign-Up Process

Information to gather when volunteers sign up:

- Name
- Age / Age Range
- Contact Information
- Limitations
- Needs



# Volunteers

## Promotions

Use a variety of ways to recruit volunteers –

- Use your neighborhood association's communication channels
- Partner with influencers or neighborhood leaders
- Ask your partners to share volunteer opportunities on their platforms



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Use a variety of ways to recruit volunteers –

- Create volunteer fliers
- Attend other neighborhood meetings
- Incentivize volunteering



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# Onboarding Volunteers



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## Training:

Provide training to all your volunteers. Training Materials can include:

- Power Point Presentation
- Informational Flier
- Pocket Cheat Sheet
- Video



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## Information to Include in Volunteer Training:

- Association's Mission, Vision, and Values
- Boundaries of your neighborhood / Map
- Basic Information about event or project
- Form of Communication during event / project
- Safety and Emergency Protocols
- Code of Conduct / Rules



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## Limit your Liability

Work with a legal consultant to create a liability waiver form to protect your neighborhood association.

Collect liability waiver forms from all volunteers.

- Circulate the forms digitally before the event.
- Have paper forms for volunteers to complete and sign in person.



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## Overcommunicate

- Email volunteers reminders.
- Share plans for inclement weather and safety concerns.
- Contact volunteers if you're canceling their shift in advance.
- Overshare logistical information.



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# Managing Volunteers



# Volunteers

- Designate a volunteer point person
- Designate a volunteer check in location
- Plan for a way to identify volunteers
- Plan for volunteers' needs



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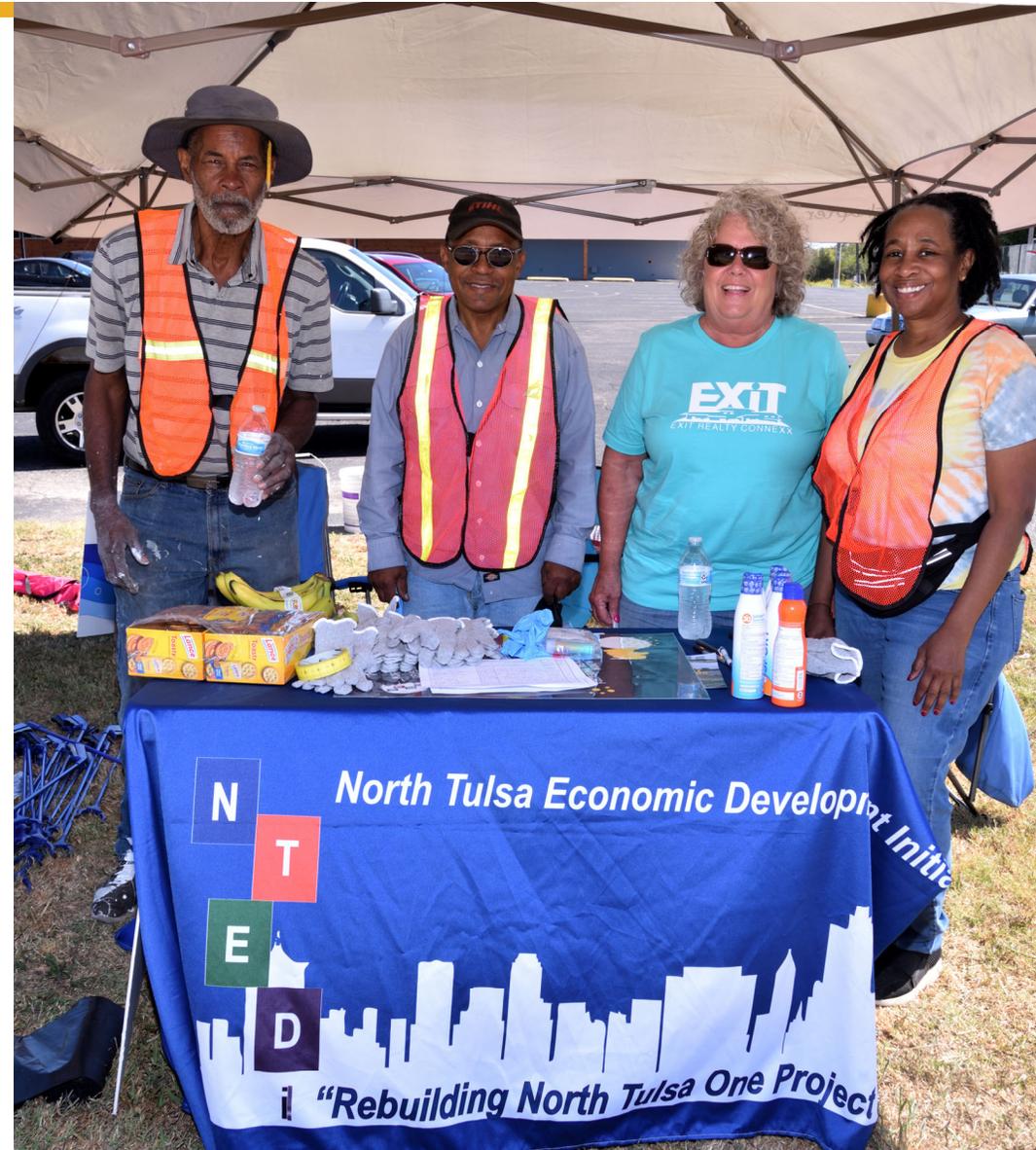
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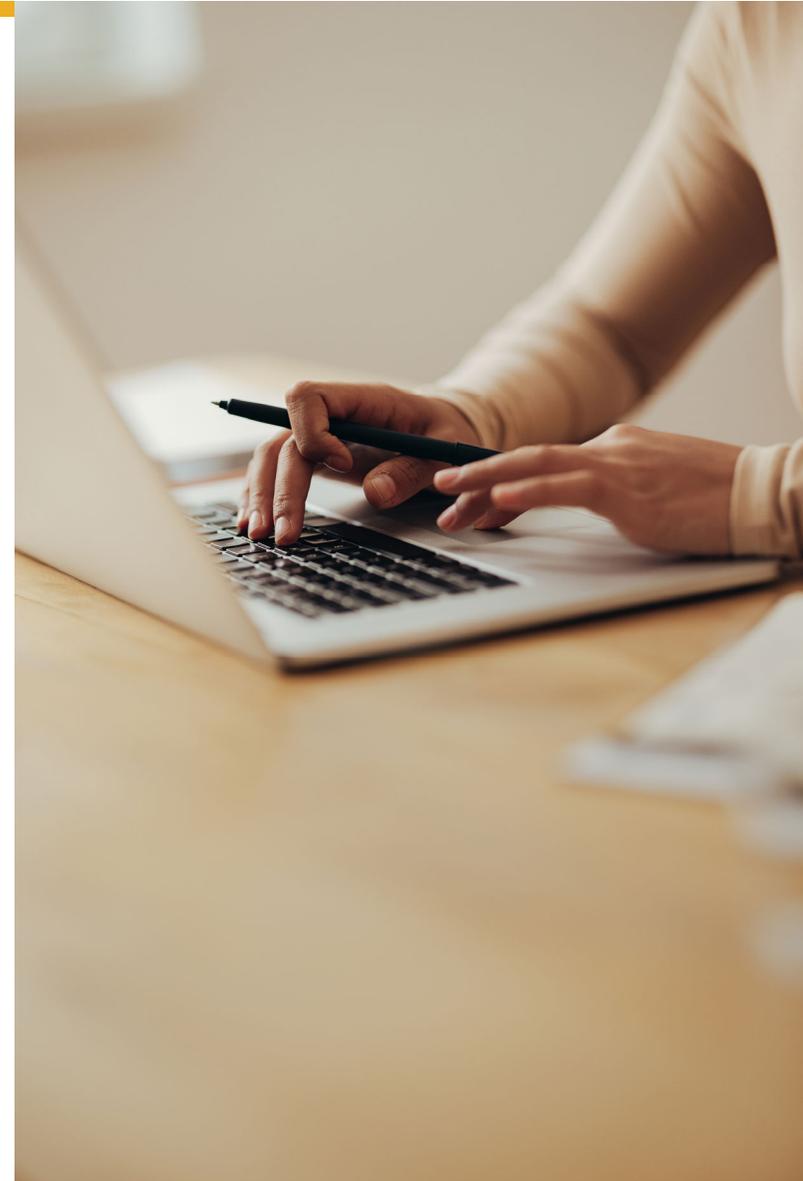
# Retaining Volunteers



# Volunteers

## Create a Volunteer Tracking System

- Contact Information
- Volunteer History



# Volunteers

## Recognition:

- Awards
- Social Media
- Newsletter
- Thank You Card
- Gift Card
- Birthday Card
- Swag
- “Club” or Status



# Volunteers

- Host Exclusive Volunteer Events & Meetups
- Incentives



# Volunteers

## Send a Follow-Up Survey:

- Understand / improve their volunteer experience
- Address issues volunteers encountered
- Provide future tools or resources needed
- Reduce barriers to volunteering with your association
- Gather their fresh ideas



# Conclusion



# Call to Action

## Your Next Steps:

- ❑ Create a list of potential volunteers from your Asset Map
- ❑ Create a list of incentives, events, and ways to recognize volunteers
- ❑ Create a volunteer tracking system
- ❑ Create your own volunteer training materials



# Questions?



**What's next?**



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# What's next?

## Plans & Partnerships

- ✓ Local Businesses & Nonprofits
- ✓ Volunteers
- SWOT Analysis
- Mapping Your Neighborhood
- Neighborhood Conditions Index (NCI)

**THANK YOU**

