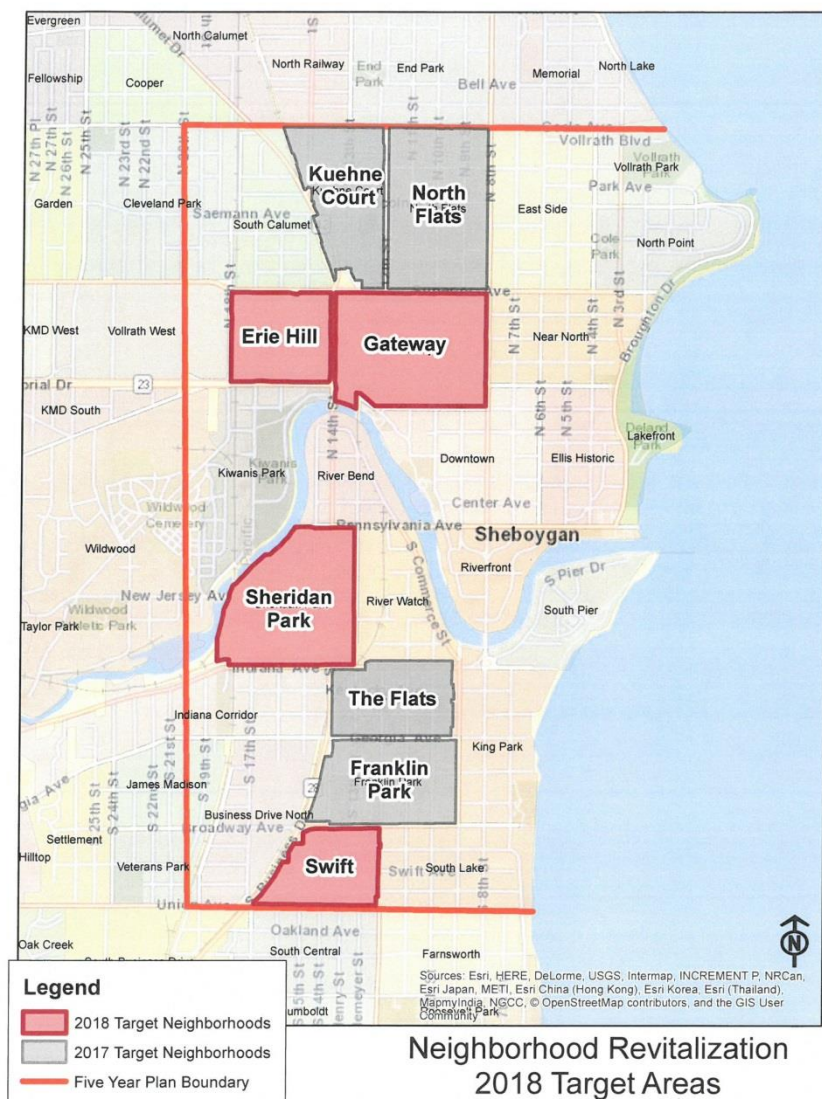


A YEAR IN REVIEW ON NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION ACTIVITIES

By: Chad Pelishek, Director of Planning and Development



This past year, city departments continued to aggressively work at revitalizing central city neighborhoods including Kuehne Court, Maple Heights, The Flats, Franklin Park and King Park. The efforts involved numerous city departments including Planning and Development, Building Inspection, Mayor's Office, City Administrator's Office, Police Department, Department of Public Works, and the City Attorney's office. Targeted code enforcement, dealing with abandoned vehicles, numerous neighborhood meetings, enhanced tree trimming, street

resurfacing, relationship building with residents and neighborhood associations were just some of the activities undertaken. On a monthly basis, these city departments met to discuss strategies for neighborhoods as well as meeting with the Lakeshore Landlord Association to keep open dialog centered on issues in rental units.

Another major endeavor was a property to property walk around in the targeted neighborhoods to develop baselines for revitalization activities. City staff members developed a ranking system to develop neighborhood baselines of pre-existing conditions that can be revisited in five years to note the changes. As a result of this effort, the need for additional street

lighting in the right-of-way was identified. The Sheboygan Police Department third shift officers mapped central city neighborhoods to determine if there were existing lighting fixtures that had burnt out bulbs, or if there were dark areas along the street that did not have a lighting fixture/ pole present. This information was mapped in the city's geographic information system by different colors from perfect lighting to very poor lighting. Planning and Development staff then traveled to each of these areas to determine if a new pole and light were needed or if a pole was present, but a new light fixture could be attached to it. Based on this survey, 14 new pole and light combinations and 11 new light fixtures on existing poles were needed. The City then partnered with Alliant Energy to complete this work. In the city, Alliant Energy provides non-decorative street lighting and the city pays a pro-rated electrical cost to rent these lights. Alliant Energy has been working on this project as time allows in their schedules. The primary areas on the north side that need additional lighting was near the intersections of Lincoln Avenue and North 9th and 10th Streets. On the south side, the primary areas that need additional lighting were Kentucky to Alabama Avenues and South 15th Street to South 17th Street and South 8th Street and Clara Avenue. The city is funding these improvements with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) dollars.

If you live in one these areas, you may notice additional lighting in areas that were otherwise dark. The 2016 community survey asked how safe residents feel in their neighborhoods at dark. Forty percent of the respondents said unsafe and very unsafe. The goal the investment in additional lighting will hopefully help with residents feelings towards our neighborhoods at night. The city has also budgeted additional CDBG funds to make investments in additional lighting in the rest of the central city neighborhoods in 2018.

Consistent with the City's Strategic Plan, city departments have identified the targeted neighborhoods for 2018. City staff will be undertaking the same processes in the following neighborhoods in 2018: Erie Hill, Gateway, Sheridan Park, and Swift. Residents living in the 2018 target neighborhoods should start seeing activity in February/March as surveying of properties commences. To view the maps associated with the lighting surveys, please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/ydazykoh>. All of these efforts continue to make Sheboygan a great place to live, work and play.