

Berrytown Neighborhood Plan

23-AREA-0001
Planning Commission | June 1st, 2023
Rachel Casey – Office of Advanced Planning

Plan Background

- Berrytown is a historically Black neighborhood in eastern Jefferson County that has never had a formal long-range plan.
 - It is within the study area of the Old Henry Road Sub-Area Plan (2007).
- Councilmember Anthony Piagentini (19) and community members expressed desire for a neighborhood plan in 2021, and the planning process began in January 2022.
- During the planning process, Metro Council District boundaries were changed due to legally required political re-districting. The entirety of the Berrytown Neighborhood now lies within Metro Council District 17 and is represented by Metro Council President Markus Winkler, who has been supportive of the plan and planning process.



Project Team





PLAN PROCESS TIMELINE

Fall 2021

 Initial meeting with community to determine needs. March – July 2022

- Monthly meetings (total of 5) in Berrytown.
- Visioning and idea development.

September 2022

 Recommendations presented at inperson meeting. October 2022

 Draft plan presented at inperson meeting. November 2022 – March 2023

 Comment/review period and plan refinement.

Community Engagement

Because of the size of the neighborhood, the high level of engagement, and the desire for a quick planning process, the planning team made the decision forego an Advisory Group.

7 In-Person Meetings in 9 Months

- Monthly meetings from March-July 2022
- Meeting to review recommendations in September 2022
- Meeting to review draft plan in October 2022
- Meeting information was communicated through yard signs, door-to-door flyers, and an ongoing email list. A consistent group of 25-30 residents attended each meeting, and every attendee is listed as a contributor to the plan.
- A website was also created to host meeting information, meeting recordings, and plan documents.



PLAN COMPONENTS

- Executive Summary*
- Introduction*
- Current Conditions and History*
- Vision Statement*
- Land Use*
- Housing*
- Mobility*
- Berrytown Park
- Quality of Life

BERRYTOWN

In the 1870s, Berrytown and Griffytown were created by freed African Americans. In 1915 Anchorage PTA got a train carrying the Liberty Bell to stop at neighboring schools, including Berrytown and Griffytown. Until 1934, the Interurban Car System electric trolley transported residents into Louisville.

Presented by Louisville and Jefferson County African American Heritage Committee, Inc.

BERRYTOWN

This eastern Jefferson County community began with five acres purchased in 1874 by Alfred Berry, a freedman. Other Berrytown founders were Wm. Butler, Sallie Carter, and Kidd Williams, all of whom bought land from Samuel L. Nock, a wealthy businessman.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

VISION STATEMENT

"Berrytown is a safe, welcoming, and inclusive community, that preserves its historic Black legacy by promoting the continuation of home ownership. It is a thriving and sustainable community, supported by resilient infrastructure, with safe, pedestrian-friendly streets that provide access to jobs, parks, transit, schools, businesses, and other resources. Berrytown fosters a civically engaged community with a small town feel in a forested neighborhood."

LAND USE OBJECTIVES & RECOMMENDATIONS

Objective 1: Promote a resilient and civically engaged neighborhood.

• Recommendation 1.1: Create a Neighborhood Association with 501(c)3 status.

Objective 2: Support and encourage Berrytown's historic housing legacy.

- Recommendation 2.1: Promote future development that reflects the historic design of the neighborhood.
- Recommendation 2.2: Work with various partners to decrease the number of vacant and abandoned properties.
- Recommendation 2.3: Ensure that infill development is consistent with surrounding form.

HOUSING OBJECTIVES & RECOMMENDATIONS

Objective 3: Increase and stabilize home ownership.

Recommendation 3.1: Develop increased opportunities for owner-occupied housing.

Objective 4: Promote Berrytown as a safe, welcoming, and inclusive community.

 Recommendation 4.1: Communicate the geographic location and identity of the Berrytown neighborhood.

MOBILITY OBJECTIVES & RECOMMENDATIONS

Objective 5: Promote multi-modal connections inside the neighborhood and to the surrounding areas.

- Recommendation 5.1: Improve the vehicular transportation network to adjacent neighborhoods.
- Recommendation 5.2: Improve the safety and continuity of the pedestrian network.
- Recommendation 5.3: Improve transit connections.

BERRYTOWN PARK OBJECTIVES & RECOMMENDATIONS

Objective 6: Position Berrytown Park as a central asset in a thriving and sustainable community.

- Recommendation 6.1: Implement capital improvements, such as new features and updates, to Berrytown Park.
- Recommendation 6.2: Perform necessary maintenance in neglected areas of Berrytown Park.

QUALITY OF LIFE OBJECTIVES & RECOMMENDATIONS

Objective 7: Support an engaged community with a small town feel in a forested neighborhood.

 Recommendation 7.1: Maintain and enhance the historic tree canopy in Berrytown.

Objective 8: Strengthen the historic legacy of Berrytown.

 Recommendation 8.1: Preserve and promote Berrytown's history to build pride in Berrytown's independent past.

QUALITY OF LIFE OBJECTIVES & RECOMMENDATIONS - Planning Committee Updates

Recommendation 7.1: Maintain and enhance the historic tree canopy in Berrytown.

- 7.1.1: Encourage new development to contribute to the neighborhood-wide goal of 45% tree canopy coverage, matching the tree canopy goal for Louisville Metro set forth in the *Urban Tree Canopy Assessment (2015)*.
- In the "Next Steps and Responsible Parties" section of the Implementation Table, the following sentence was added: The 45% coverage goal is meant to increase tree canopy on a neighborhood scale and does not necessarily apply to individual sites and does not supersede the requirements in the Land Development Code.
- Clarification statement also added to the plan narrative on p. 47.

REQUIRED ACTIONS

Planning Commission must:

- Recommend APPROVAL or DENIAL of 23-AREA-0001 (Berrytown Neighborhood Plan) to Metro Council.
- Recommend APPROVAL or DENIAL of 23-AREA-0001 (Berrytown Neighborhood Plan) Executive Summary as an amendment to Plan 2040 to Metro Council.