

# Hiawatha CARE Project Project Update

February 2013



## Project Partners

Alexander's Import  
Auto Repair

American Lung  
Association of MN

Blue Construction

City of Minneapolis

East Phillips  
Improvement  
Coalition

Environmental  
Justice Advocates  
of Minnesota

Gardening Matters

Hennepin County

Hennepin–University  
Partnership

Little Earth of  
United Tribes

Longfellow  
Business Association

Longfellow  
Community Council

Longfellow Lutheran  
parishes / Minnehaha  
Communion Lutheran

Minnehaha Creek  
Watershed District

Minnesota  
Department of Health

Minnesota Pollution  
Control Agency

Mississippi  
Watershed Mgmt  
Organization

St. James AME  
Church

US Environmental  
Protection Agency

Women's  
Environmental  
Institute

## What's Been Happening?

The Hiawatha CARE Project is a community collaboration to identify, rank, and ultimately address environmental health risks in the East Phillips and west Longfellow neighborhoods.

Throughout 2012, the CARE project team talked to hundreds of community members about the risks they face. Each person rated 20 issues on the impact those issues had on environment and health in the community.

Five issues stood out as high priorities: air pollution and vehicle emissions, asthma, clean water, economic instability, and nutrition and obesity. In addition, health disparities and environmental sustainability rated highly as guiding principles for this work.

## What's Next?

The CARE project team will be working with community members to figure out what we can do together to reduce the impacts of these risks.

The team will look at existing resources and explore other approaches to deal with these risks. They will be meeting through the spring to come up with an Action Plan for the project.

**Here's your chance to get involved! If you are interested in working on one or more of these issues, contact us at the email address or phone number listed below.** We look forward to working together to make a healthier, more sustainable community.

**Air Pollution and Vehicle Emissions:** Air pollution affects our community by creating haze, making it difficult to breathe, and damaging plants and buildings. Air pollution comes from motor vehicles, lawn and garden equipment, paints and solvents, fire places/fire pits, power plants, and other sources.



**Asthma:** Asthma is a life-long disease that can make it difficult to breathe. Asthma affects our community through health care costs and lost work and school days. Asthma triggers can include air pollution, cleaning products, dust mites, exercise, mold, pet dander, tobacco smoke, and vehicle emissions.

**Clean Water:** Water quality can be impacted by fertilizers and chemicals, erosion, and high levels of pollutants. Rooftops, parking lots, and streets send polluted runoff (grass clippings, leaves, and pet waste) into area lakes and rivers, endangering plant and animal life.



**Economic Instability:** Economic instability reflects a lack of affordable housing, access to health care, loss of jobs, and poverty. The community instability that results leads to loss of businesses, vacant storefronts, blighted properties, environmental nuisances, and poor health outcomes.

**Nutrition and Obesity:** Over 60% of Minnesotans are currently overweight or obese. Lack of physical activity and poor eating patterns contribute to these high numbers. Obesity not only increases the risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, and type 2 diabetes, but also contributes to high health care costs. Poor access to healthy, affordable food worsens the problem.



**For More Information:** [www.minnehaha-hiawatha.com/care](http://www.minnehaha-hiawatha.com/care)  
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