

Hiawatha CARE Project Project Update

August 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 deal with health and environmental risks in the East Phillips and west Longfellow neighborhoods.

In 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.

What are the Communities' Concerns?

Five issues stood out as high priorities:

- air pollution and vehicle emissions
- asthma
- clean water
- economic instability
- poor nutrition and obesity

In addition, health disparities and environmental sustainability rated highly as guiding principles for this work.

What Can We Do?

The CARE project team will be working with community members to figure out what we can do together to reduce the impacts of these five issues. The team has come up with 14 different **strategies** or **actions** that could be done within our community to reduce the effects of these issues [see box below].

What's Next?

Throughout summer, we will be talking to people at community events and throughout the neighborhood about these actions. What are your thoughts? What's important to you? What are you willing to help with?

Let us know what you think by going to www.minnehaha-hiawatha.com and clicking the survey link on the right.

Hiawatha CARE Project Strategies

Air Pollution

- ✓ Plant more trees.
- ✓ Reduce air pollution from cars and trucks, lawnmowers, wood fires, etc.
- ✓ Work with business and industry to reduce local air pollutants.

Asthma

- ✓ Reduce children's exposure to secondhand smoke.
- ✓ Support efforts to reduce asthma triggers in the home.

Economic Instability

- ✓ Encourage people and businesses to buy locally.
- ✓ Support partnerships to improve jobs skills, train workers, and create learning opportunities for all.
- ✓ Support local food production to grow the local economy.

Clean Water

- ✓ Encourage yard-care practices to minimize pesticides and reduce environmental impacts.
- ✓ Reduce chemical use in homes and businesses and cut down on dumping of hazardous waste.
- ✓ Reduce stormwater runoff to rivers, lakes, and creeks.

Poor Nutrition and Obesity

- ✓ Improve access to healthy, affordable food through gardens, farmers markets, and urban farms.
- ✓ Make it safer and easier to walk and bike to places in the neighborhood.
- ✓ Support community efforts to promote good nutrition and healthy food.

For More Information: www.minnehaha-hiawatha.com/care
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