

BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

PRATT COMMUNITY: Health, Safety, Quality of Life

"A University of Chicago study found that communities with lower incomes, higher poverty rates, and higher proportions of racial and ethnic minorities also had the "fewest opportunities for community-level physical activity." Lack of green space is then not just about unfairness, it's about health. Low-income communities may have higher rates of health problems like obesity and asthma in large part because they don't have parks."

Community Goals / AIA R/UDAT

"The proposed vision grows out of expressed community concerns: protecting water quality and supply; addressing area flooding; addressing vacant land; expanding parks; creating open space and community facilities; creating greenways and trails; increasing walkability; and increasing access to healthy food."



STABILIZATION

INFRASTRUCTURE

CATALYTIC DEVELOPMENT

HOUSING

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Stabilization Efforts to date:
255 Demolitions of abandoned and unsafe structures;
Code Blitz resulting in over 300 cited violations;
\$792,500 directed towards critical repair needs within the Community;
26 Tax Delinquent Properties currently being cleared by the Birmingham Land Bank Authority;
Almost 100 Wills and Trust created to preserve the wealth of the Community.

Completed or In-Process Projects:
Reconstruction of Pratt Library \$1.5M
Construction of Fire-station \$2.55M
TIGER Trail Construction \$1.8M
Street Network Reconstruction \$3.0M
Community Safe Rooms \$5.0M
Total: \$13.85M

Potential Catalytic Development Projects:
Iconic Recreation Center
World Class Park
Greenway and Trail System
Historic Site Trail System
Sustainable Neighborhood Development

Housing Projects:
Cherry Ridge Multifamily \$10.8M
Dugan Square \$5.5M
Shadowbrook Village \$9.2M
Single Family Housing In-Fill \$22.5M (est)
Total: \$48M

Potential Economic Development Projects:
Job Skills and Training Center;
Redevelopment of Scott School;
Neighborhood Service Retail along Dugan Avenue;
Access to Lending and Capital for small business;
Public - Private Partnerships;
Technical Assistance;
Urban Agriculture

The Pivot From Stabilization to Revitalization:



The Pratt Community has experienced many of the same market conditions that many neighborhoods in Birmingham have over the past 50 years, notably a loss of populations from shuttered industry and the lack of capital investment required to maintain a community. This problem was exacerbated in 2011 with the damage and destruction from an EF-5 tornado. However, by tapping into the rich cultural heritage and the strong sense of community, a revitalized Pratt Community can emerge. This will take great effort and a comprehensive strategy for redevelopment and private investment.

Communities that thrive are communities that are connected and this connectedness is a social condition as well as a physical condition. In order to bring this back to the Pratt community a new 'center' must be created. According to the R/UDAT report this community center should have a focus around the Pratt Library and foster a high quality housing community.

- Key features of this 'center' should be:
- An open space that fosters civic engagement;
 - Open space that is conducive for active and passive recreation;
 - The use of natural systems and ecology as a driving factor of the program;
 - A community 'front yard' that is surrounded by high quality housing;
 - Strong edges that integrate the community green into the neighborhood;
 - Strong building feature that give Pratt a sense of identity;
 - Building program that fosters community connections and healthy living.

