

Summary of APP meeting 1—Northwest Audubon Downriver

On May 31, 2018, several stakeholders of the Northwest, Audubon, and Downriver neighborhoods met to discuss the area's assets. The group came to the agreement that an asset is "The status, condition, behavior, knowledge, or skill that a person, group or an entity possesses and which serves as a support, resource, or source of strength to one's self and others in the community." Through a workshopping exercise of Participatory Asset Mapping, stakeholders identified several key assets in the community.

One of the most prominent assets discussed were different shopping centers and nodes throughout the community. One of the largest is the Shadle Shopping Center. As noted by one stakeholder, this shopping center is the largest commercial center for both neighborhoods. It includes grocery shopping, dining, transportation, smaller services, and a park. The River Ridge shopping center was identified as another asset in the community as it includes the VA hospital, as well as a couple of dining and retail options. The Audubon Park node, which encompasses a school, a park, basketball courts, historic buildings, and shopping—and the Rowan/Alberta node—which has dining, pet services, and a house of worship.

Local businesses were strongly supported as assets by the stakeholders, including the Downriver Grill, Iron Goat Brewery, Judy's Nursery, Polkadot Pottery, and several others. Additionally, services such as laundromats, auto repair, a vacuum and sewing shop, and local dentists were recognized as assets in the community.

Finally, the general access to nature, parks, golfing, and pools was regarded as an important asset in the community.

Several locations in the community were introduced as asset opportunities in the community—including vacant buildings and lots, and the desire for more grocery, dining, small business, healthcare and professional service options. Addressing pedestrian, biking, bus, and car transportation was touched on as an opportunity for more community assets, as well as adding more signage in the neighborhood. The second meeting of this Abbreviated Planning Process will be devoted to discussing asset opportunities and issues in the Northwest, Audubon, and Downriver communities.