PHILADELPHIA CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

PHILADELPHIA
2035

IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

WEST PARK
DISTRICT PLAN

Parkside Edge

Source: Philly.com
Philadelphia2035 is the city’s Comprehensive Plan. Created and updated by the Philadelphia City Planning Commission (PCPC), this document serves as a guide for the city's long-term growth.

Philadelphia2035 is a two-phase effort:

I. CITYWIDE VISION

The Citywide Vision lays out broad goals and policy for all aspects of the city. These include neighborhoods, vacant land, economic development, open space, and transportation.

II. DISTRICT PLANS

District Plans apply the concepts of the Citywide Vision to specific areas of Philadelphia.

IMPLEMENTATION

PCPC staff works with city agencies, City Council, and non-profit partners to see the District Plans become reality. PCPC has secured grants for follow-up studies, engineering, and construction totaling almost $23 million. This document highlights projects being implemented and the progress so far.

BENEFITS OF PLANNING

ENVIRONMENT

Natural and man-made surroundings provide safe and healthful conditions for current and future generations.

ECONOMY

Economic development generates jobs, income, wealth, revenue and city services.

EQUITY

Planning helps ensure that everyone benefits from programming and funding, regardless of race, ethnicity, class or any other dimension of identity.

HEALTH & WELL-BEING

Philadelphia’s built environment encourages active living and supports fair access to the resources and amenities necessary for residents of all ages to improve their physical, mental, and social well-being.

ENGAGEMENT

Many stakeholders come together to shape a common, future vision.
PLAN IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

The Philadelphia City Planning Commission adopted the West Park District Plan in March 2012. The plan makes 88 recommendations across three themes:

- **41 THRIVE**
  - Neighborhoods | Economic Development | Land Management
- **18 CONNECT**
  - Transportation | Utilities
- **29 RENEW**
  - Open Space | Environmental Resources
  - Historic Preservation | Public Realm

With the help of our Implementation Partners, we’ve advanced 40% of plan recommendations:

**60% In Progress // 40% Complete**

Thank you to our Implementation Partners:

- Councilmember Curtis Jones
- Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC)
- Fairmount Park Conservancy
- John S. and James L. Knight Foundation
- Mayor Jim Kenney
- Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT)
- Philadelphia Department of Commerce
- Philadelphia Office of Transportation, Infrastructure, and Sustainability (OTIS)
- Philadelphia Parks and Recreation Department (PPR)
- Philadelphia Streets Department
- Philadelphia Water Department (PWD)
- SEPTA
- William Penn Foundation

ZONING REMAPPING PROGRESS

As of Spring 2022

A big part of making Philadelphia2035 a reality is updating Philadelphia’s zoning maps. PCPC is working with City Council to make sure the zoning matches existing uses and points the way for future projects.
In June 2018, the first part of Centennial Commons opened in West Fairmount Park. It includes porch swings, new trees, a rain garden, and a walking path. Centennial Commons is along Parkside Avenue between 41st Street and Belmont Avenue. This project has three different phases.

The plan for the next phases are:

- Creative play spaces for youth
- Seating and picnic areas
- Plants, shrubs, and trees
- More rain gardens
- Safer street crossings into the park from the neighborhood and from the Please Touch Museum and Mann Center

The Fairmount Park Conservancy has managed this $11 million project. They have been working closely with the Parkside community on it.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Improve Parkside Avenue with new medians, crosswalks, and traffic lights as recommended in the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission’s Parkside Traffic Taming Plan in order to facilitate better connections between East and West Parkside and Fairmount Park
- Create green infrastructure along Parkside Avenue, Upland Way, Blankenburg Elementary School, 52nd and Lancaster park space and at Dinner Beeber Middle School to capture stormwater runoff
- Make Centennial District improvements such as creating neighborhood amenities, such as picnic areas or community gardens, between South Concourse Drive and Parkside Avenue near intersections along Parkside Avenue to increase neighborhood use of the Park
- Increase programming to use West Fairmount Park for large events to promote awareness of the significant resources contained within
CENTENNIAL VILLAGE

NEW MIXED-INCOME HOUSING IN PARKSIDE

RECOMMENDATIONS

WP 24
Provide new housing for the elderly near services and amenities, such as transit and commercial corridors

WP 36
Consolidate publicly owned vacant parcels and sell for redevelopment

WP 52
Utilize traffic calming measures including new medians, curb bump-outs, trolley pull-out, and signal prioritization to improve pedestrian safety along the 52nd Street corridor from Girard Avenue to Parkside Avenue, especially at the Lancaster Avenue intersection

WP 85
Create pedestrian plazas as gathering places where there is a high level of pedestrian activity due to proximity of transit, such as at 52nd and Parkside Avenue

Centennial Village was completed in 2018. It is a mixed-income affordable housing development at 52nd Street and Parkside Avenue.

Centennial Village includes:

- low-income senior housing
- low-income rental housing
- homeownership housing
- retail space
- a community park
- office space

The development now includes a sit-down restaurant, something the neighborhood was missing. It is also safe, easy, and enjoyable to walk through.

Parkside Association of Philadelphia and Community Ventures LLC built this project. The City of Philadelphia helped by giving funding and City-owned properties.
PARKSIDE AVENUE CORRIDOR PROJECT

COMMUNITY DRIVEN SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

RECOMMENDATIONS

WP 30  Ensure that changes to the streetscape of Parkside Avenue allow access and movement of truck traffic to support the Parkside business park

WP 52  Utilize traffic calming measures including new medians, curb bump-outs, trolley pull-out, and trolley signal prioritization to improve pedestrian safety along 52nd Street corridor from Girard Avenue to Parkside Avenue, especially at the Lancaster Avenue intersection

WP 54  Enhance gateway at the 52nd Street Amtrak Bridge to improve pedestrian safety through improved lighting, gateway signage, and sidewalk maintenance

WP 85  Create pedestrian plazas as gathering spaces where there is a high level of pedestrian activity due to proximity to transit

WP 87  Create gateways at major entrances to neighborhoods, parks, and the city boundary

WP 88  Improve Parkside Avenue with new medians, crosswalks, and traffic lights as recommended in the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission Parkside Traffic Taming Plan in order to facilitate better connections between East and West Parkside and Fairmount Park

Source: OGIS

50% of all traffic deaths and severe injuries in Philadelphia happen on 12% of the streets. Those streets are called the High Injury Network. Parkside Avenue is one of those streets. To make Parkside Avenue safer, these improvements are planned:

- Medians for pedestrians to stand on
- New, brighter lights
- Traffic safety intersection improvements
- A new path for walking and biking separated from the street

Residents and business owners worked with the City to decide on this list of improvements. Lighting to make the 52nd and Lancaster underpass safer to walk under is also planned. The Streets Department and Office of Transportation & Sustainability received $2,683,000 for these important improvements.
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