

Children's Village



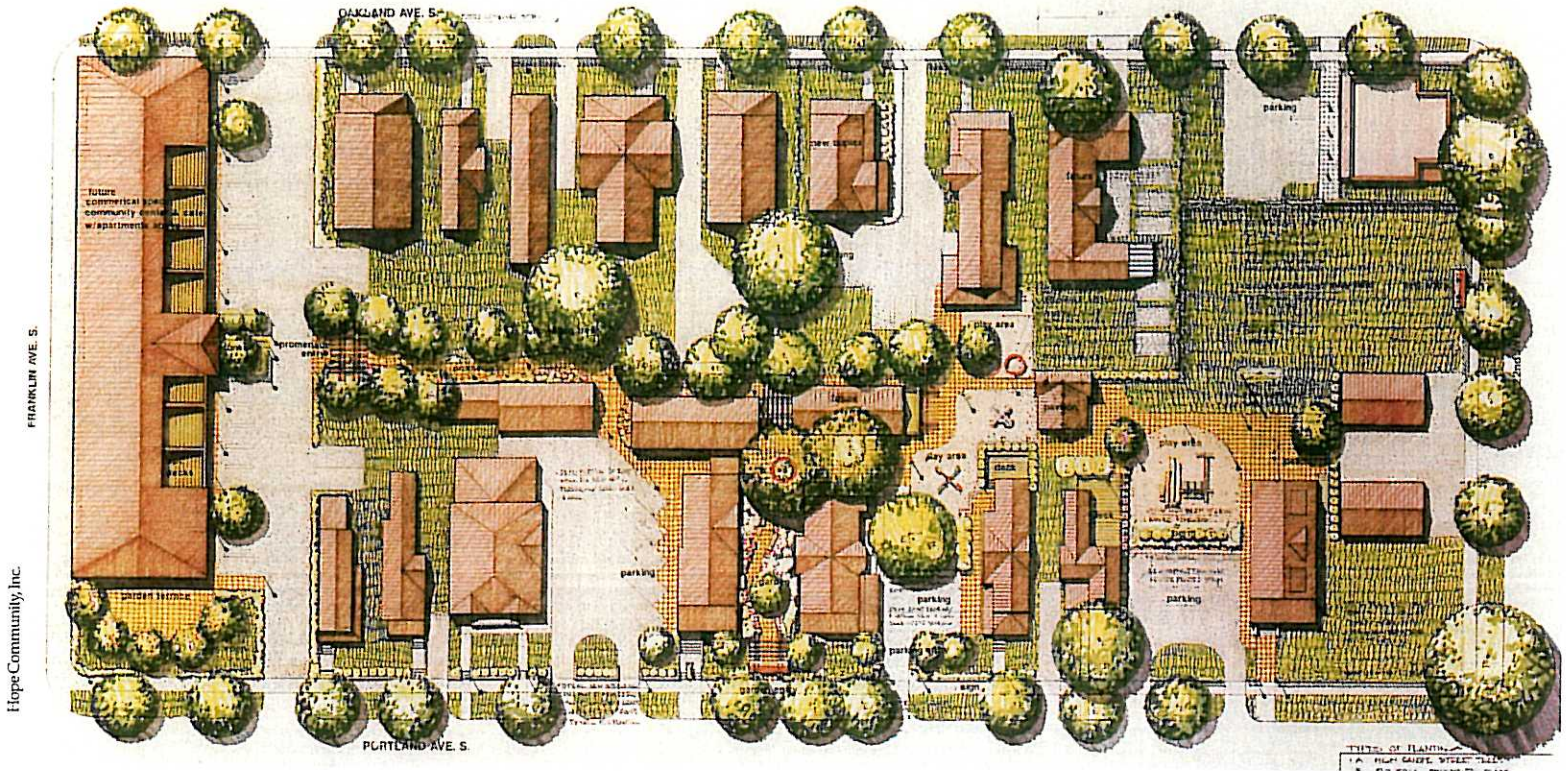
Mission...

Reclaim the Urban Village

The Hope Community Model

Children's Village is both an actual neighborhood in the heart of the city and a model of what a neighborhood can be. The vision of Children's Village was conceived in a one block area recreated and rehabilitated in response to the needs of children and families in the neighborhood. Children's Village is an expansion of a working model that currently exists at Hope Community.

Hope Community Block



The "Yellow Brick Road" is a safe passageway for children that winds its way through Children's Village. Surrounded by greenery and watchful neighbors, the walkway links small parks and gathering spaces that form the heart of each block and brings back a sense of connection to neighbors within the community.

Children's Village challenges us to seek new solutions to one of the most significant and pervasive urban problems of our time. Differences of power, wealth, culture or creed fade away in light of our shared commitment to children.

Walking the Yellow Brick Road.



Children's

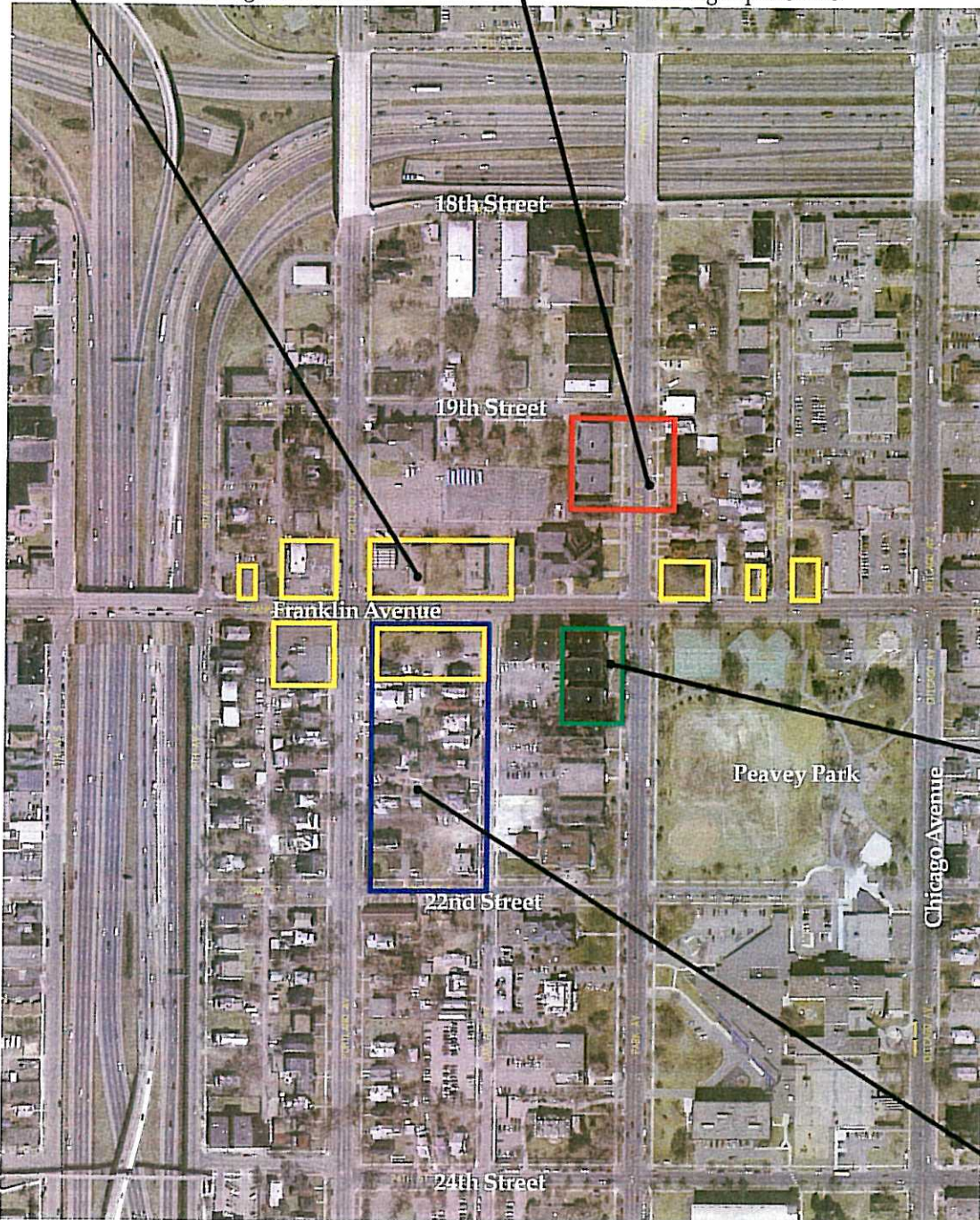
Northwest Phillips Community, As it Exists Today



Franklin Avenue's street edge is vacant of buildings and activities.



There are no buffers on Park Avenue to shield buildings & pedestrians.



Existing Barriers:

- History of deterioration and lack of investment.
- Disproportionate influence of automobile and commuter traffic.
- Alienation and fear create conditions for criminal activity.
- Lack of quality, affordable housing.
- Insufficient community resources, civic environments and commerce.
- Inadequate pedestrian pathways and safe play spaces for children.
- Freeways that isolate the area from neighboring communities.



Park Avenue brownstones overlook Peavey Park.

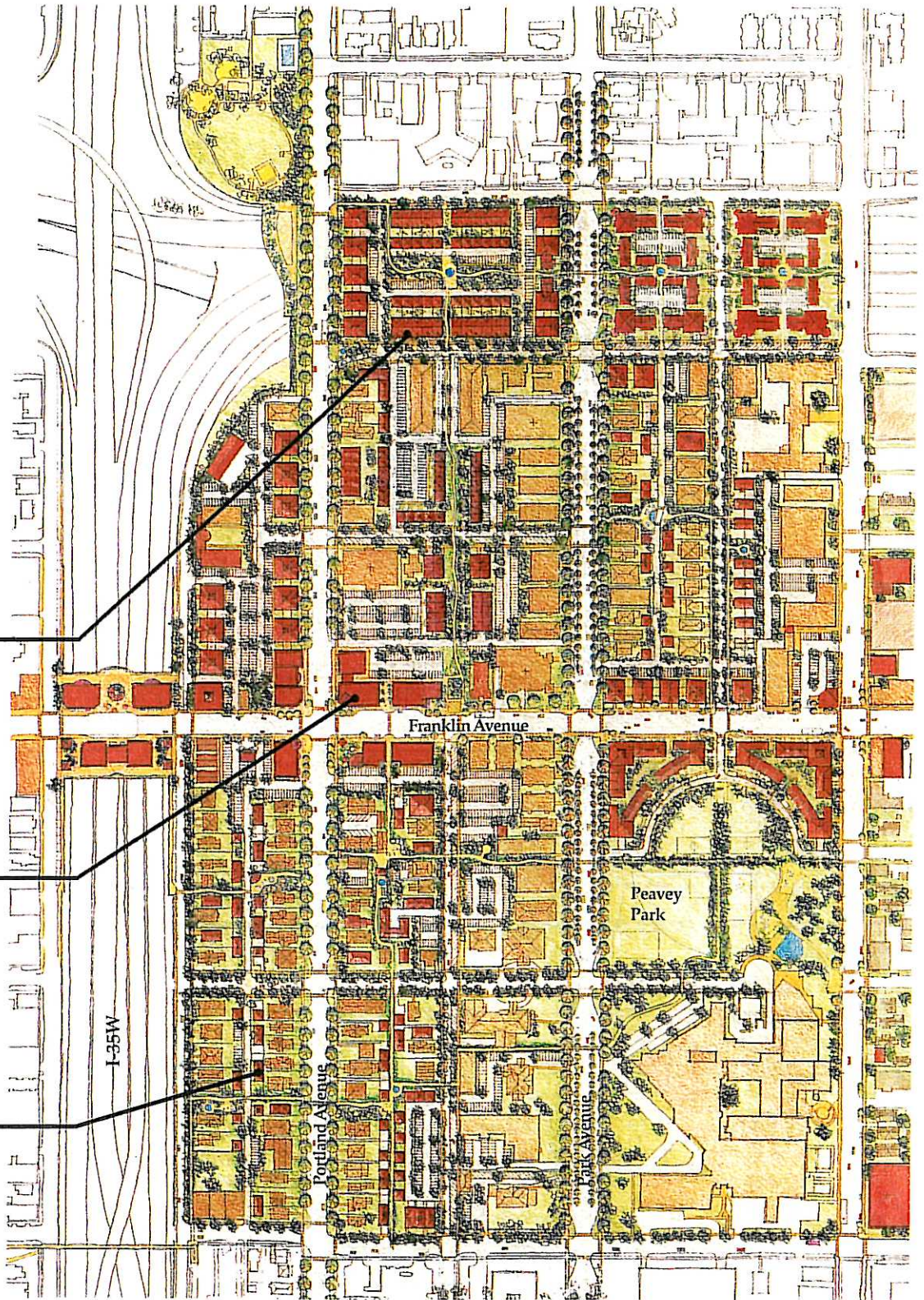


Hope Community Block playground.

Northwest Phillips Community, The Children's Village Vision

The Vision:

- Assumes the quality of life for children and families is the heart of a successful reclamation of the economic and social vitality of a city neighborhood.
- Creates a mixed income neighborhood built around cultural diversity and a strong base of affordable housing.
- Presents bold concepts that challenge assumptions and build on urban strengths.
- Is a conceptual plan that invites collaborators to engage the vision and help shape the future reality.
- Calls for major public and private commitment and investment



BRW Fitness, Minneapolis, 1996



Townhouses/ Rowhouses

DIR Architecture, Minneapolis



Mixed-use Commercial & Residential

Schroeder Murchie Laya Assoc, Illinois, 1992



Alley Housing



The Children's Village Vision

Like canaries in a coal mine,* the presence of children in a neighborhood clearly demonstrates the ability of the environment to sustain life.

Children's Village is a dream of what a neighborhood can be when children matter. The quality of life for children and families is at the heart of a successful reclamation of the economic and social vitality of a city.

* Historically, coal miners used a caged canary to test the quality of the air in the mines. As long as the bird lived, the air in the mine was fit for the miners.



Mission... Reclaim the Urban Village

The corners of Franklin & Portland Avenues revitalize a neighborhood with both commercial and residential opportunities, while also defining the character of the street's edge and creating pedestrian friendly spaces.



■ Providing Diverse & Affordable Housing

The Phillips neighborhood has a strong tradition of blending rich with poor and a history of significant cultural diversity. Observation and common wisdom tell us that mixed-income and diverse neighborhoods prove to be strong and resilient. The affordable housing crisis we face is a tragedy that we can turn into opportunity. A creative search for viable solutions is driven by the realization that quality housing, leased and owned, built in livable neighborhoods, has enormous economic and social impact on the community at large.

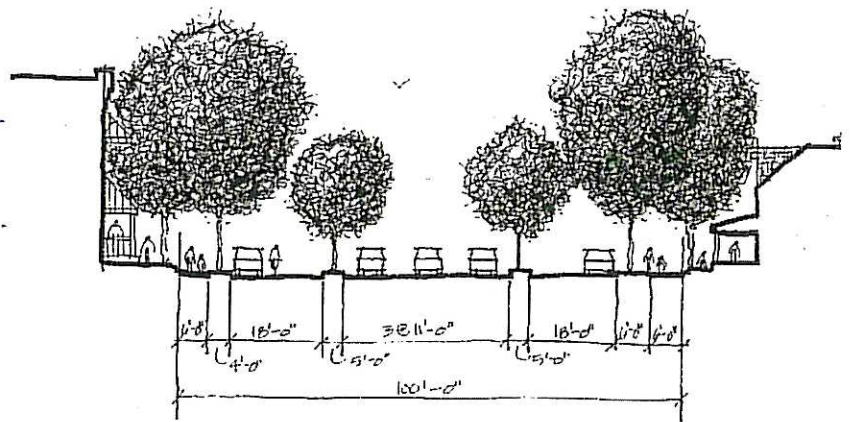
■ Integrating Transit Routes

Communities must provide and integrate all forms of local transit, including pedestrians, bicycles, automobiles and public transportation. By shifting the emphasis from the automobile to the pedestrian, the community shifts its emphasis to children, thus creating a balanced and integrated community environment.

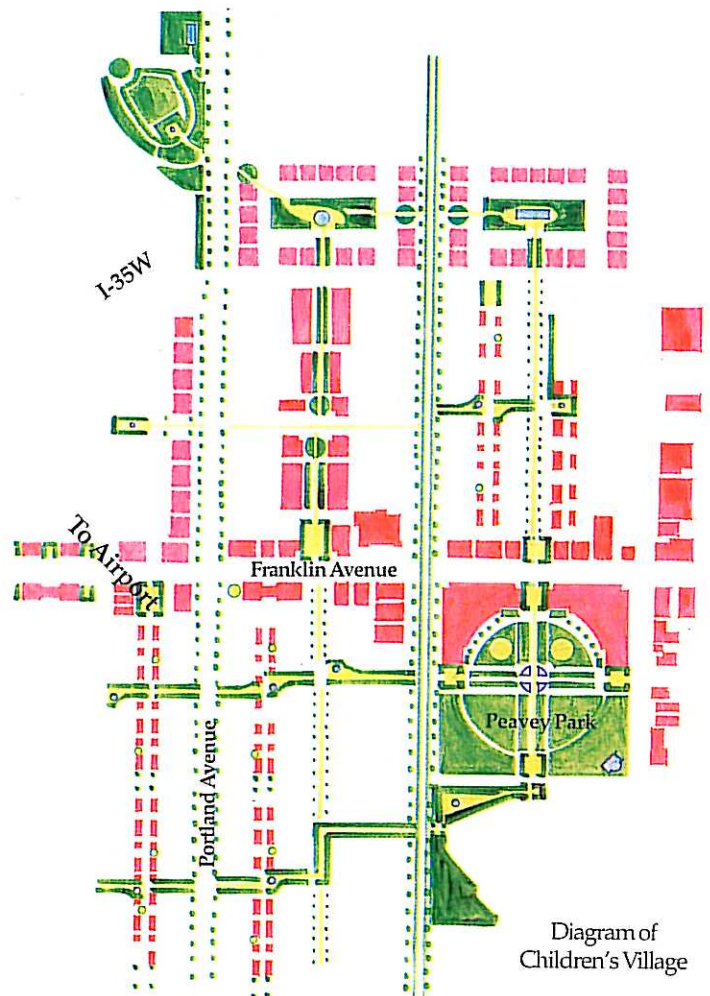
■ Establishing, Revitalizing & Connecting Greenspace

A well designed network of linked greenways and recreational areas fosters a sense of identity and shared experiences in a neighborhood. By setting apart public areas that serve the social needs of children and the community, we are silent witnesses to the importance of shared memories and common experiences that evolve out of livable communities.

A green and buffered Park Avenue

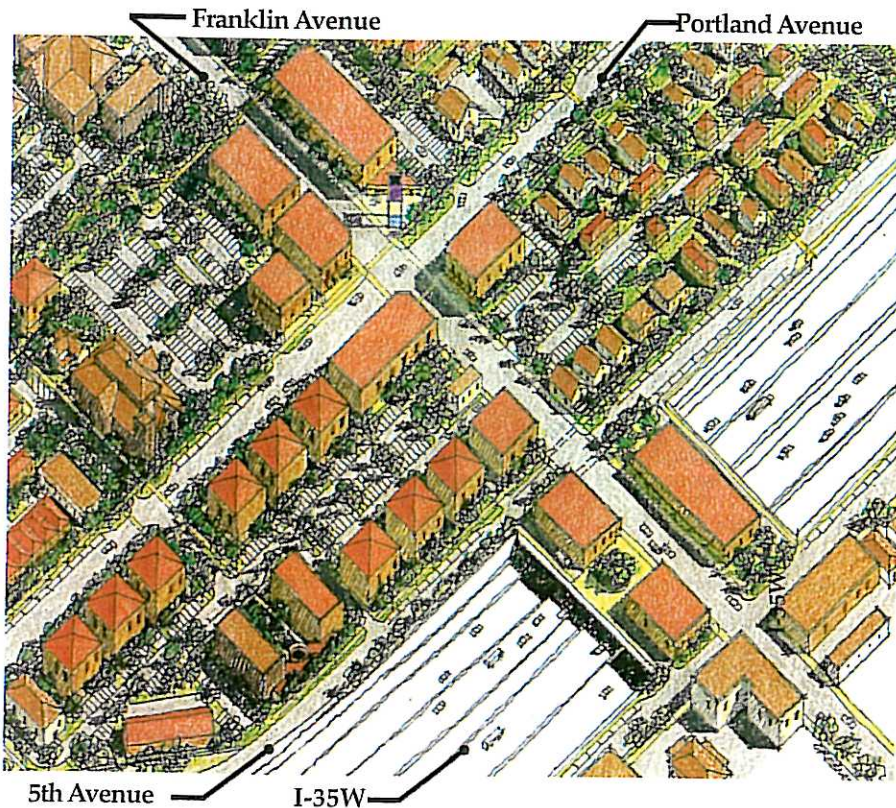


Children's Village is a vision of green pathways and a "yellow brick road" that links individual community blocks together. By calming traffic with reduced lane widths and defining street edges with built structures, trees and sidewalks, the neighborhood can begin to reclaim its neglected public space.





Building over existing Interstates physically, socially and economically links neighborhoods, while providing affordable housing and commercial opportunities.



■ Connecting Neighborhoods

Physical connections between adjacent neighborhoods reclaim the community's history by literally reconnecting public spaces. The community and its experience can be enriched by emphasizing a neighborhood's heritage. The past can educate us about characteristics, scale and development, while today we can better integrate technology and the community's needs.

■ Calming Traffic & Living with Automobiles

Reconfiguring streets and parking areas through strategies that soften edges, can better integrate traffic and pedestrian uses at an urban scale. Providing flexible space for community use evolves out of prioritizing the design first for the pedestrian and then for the automobile.

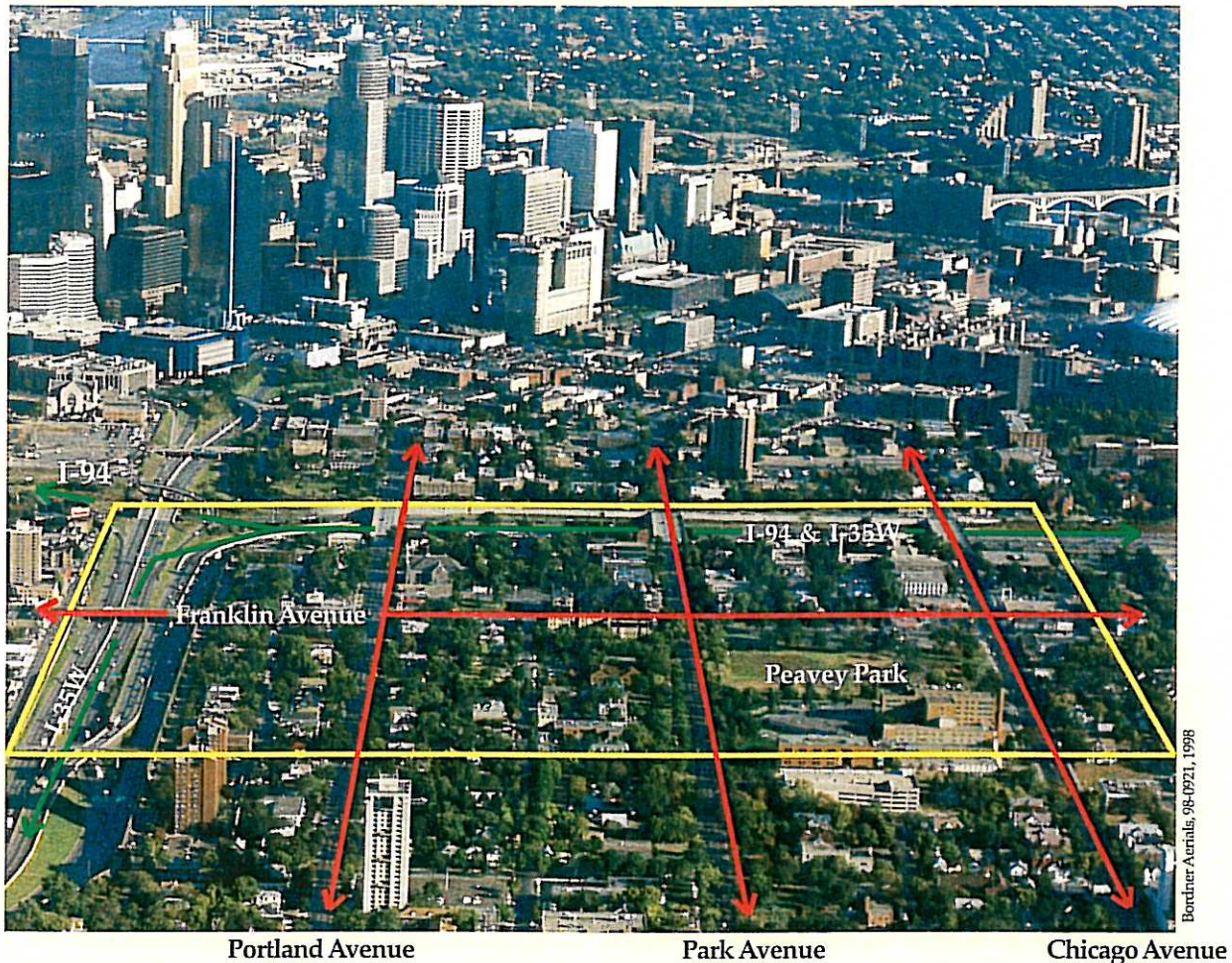
■ Creating Stability

A safe and stable environment is crafted through a combination of increased residential density and diversity, ample community services and public amenities that the entire community respects and utilizes.

■ Rebuilding Community Resources

Mixed-use and commercial development provides employment and a network of community resources. Development increases property value, rebuilds a stable urban district and enhances the public's perception of the surrounding community.

Children's Village and Downtown Minneapolis



Hope Community, Incorporated is a catalyst for change, growth and safety in our neighborhood. We work to build an inclusive, life-giving community by transforming relationships of fear into creative opportunities of mutual support. Founded in 1977, over the years our mission has expanded to embrace the neighborhood around us. Our focus is to create a public community that will persist for the long-term, maintain the ability to deal with changing issues and be strong enough to consistently welcome and encourage new members and partnerships. We believe that as people gain knowledge and act together to make a difference, the whole community is strengthened.

Hope Development Corporation facilitates and promotes investment in diverse urban neighborhoods by designing and developing built environments that nurture children, families and communities, with special emphasis on affordable housing opportunities.



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