

BEASLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

PROGRESS UPDATE

The Beasley Neighbourhood Association seeks to promote a positive neighbourhood experience and improve the quality of life for people who live, work and play in the Beasley Neighbourhood!

That's why in 2012 the BNA spent a year developing a Neighbourhood Plan, a general guide that would promote community ownership. Ensuring plans and development that better reflect the wishes of the community. The goal is to improve the overall quality of life for residents through a process designed to seek ways for the broader community to be involved and engaged in future development.

Beasley residents working together with businesses and property owners, community groups and other stakeholders through public meetings and information sharing. The Beasley Neighbourhood Plan is all about empowering residents and building equality. Turning the diversity of the Beasley Neighbourhood into an agent of power! Building capacity for residents to have a sense of ownership and be community leaders.

Thank you to all the dedicated Beasley friends and residents who have put in their hard work and dedication towards helping us make Beasley a place where you can be your best!

Take a look on the back of the page for some examples of how we have already met many of the objectives outlined in the Beasley Neighbourhood Plan over the past 4 years.



Beasley Neighbourhood Assoc.



www.ourbeasley.com

It's time to review the progress of our last plan and move forward with a brand new updated plan, which we will launch at the end of 2016 for the 5th anniversary!

Join us on Wed. November 25th for a community conversation. We want to hear your thoughts on what you would do to improve conditions and build on the strengths of our community.

A Neighbourhood Plan promotes the health and well being of the community! Greater community engagement leads to an increase in healthy and sustainable development in your neighbourhood!

SAVE THE DATE!

JOIN US FOR A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION
WED. NOVEMBER 25th

FROM 6:00-8:30PM IN THE
NEW BEASLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE

145 Wilson Street

(the South/West corner of Dr. Davey School)

OBJECTIVE:
 Improve Parks,
 Recreation &
 Gathering
 Places



BEASLEY & MCLAREN PARK REDEVELOPMENT

Last year the BNA and the City of Hamilton started work on the redevelopment of two of our neighbourhood parks. While Beasley Park is still in the design phase; work on McLaren Park has already started. Thanks to the City of Hamilton, Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion and volunteers from the neighbourhood, who organized a neighbourhood engagement event and spend all day on a Saturday talking to a wide variety of people who use the park on a regular basis about their ideas.

McLaren park is one of the smallest, yet most heavily used parks in Hamilton. It was identified in our neighbourhood plan as a park that needed some TLC. Look for improvements to happen over time. If you take a stroll down John Street to the park you'll notice a much nicer looking cast iron fence has replaced the chain link that gives the park a better look, while still providing safety from the busy street.



The kids and youth asked for a larger grass soccer pitch so the basketball court is being moved to the asphalt pit and grass is now covering the old court. There are also plans to tear down the concrete building and add better lighting in order to make the park safer at night.

OBJECTIVE:
 Promote Beasley
 As A Great Place
 To Live



BEASLEY BANNERS

Thanks to generous donations from Cogeco, Jason Farr, Ward 2 City Councillor and Glen Norton from the Urban Renewal Planning & Economic Development Department, the Beasley neighbourhood will be decorated with colourful banners that celebrate the diversity and resilience of the neighbourhood.

The first phase of the banner project was completed in the fall of 2014! 40 banners have been installed all along Ferguson Avenue, running from King William down to Barton. The banners are a variety of bright, vivid colours and each feature a different "be-statement". All of the "Be-statements" were created and chosen in many brainstorming sessions with the residents at our Beasley Neighbourhood Charter meetings.

For the second phase of the banner project, we hope to install more banners along Cannon, Wilson and John Streets in the near future.



OBJECTIVE:
 Enhance Pride
 & Ownership
 Through
 Beautification



THE ALLEYWAY PROJECT

Alleyways are consistently areas used for dumping and other acts that shouldn't happen in public spaces. In the Neighbourhood Plan, residents identified alleyways as a part of the neighbourhood that they wanted to improve on. The BNA held a neighbourhood engagement night to kick off this special project to make the alleyway a safe and vibrant place in our community.

With the help of our fellow neighbours in Ward 2, the Beasley Neighbourhood was able to secure funding through the Participatory Budgeting process. We have up to \$200,000 for the improvement and beautification of the Elgin and Mary St. Alleyway running north from Cannon to Barton.

In Sept. 2015 the giant steel Beasley sign went up on time for the first ever Gallery Alley market party! An exciting event with art vendors, musicians and free BBQ.

Phase 2 of the project gets underway this month on designing and constructing the Beasley Weather Station.



OBJECTIVE:
 Promote Livable
 Street and Traffic
 Design

CANNON STREET BIKELANES

In September 2013, City Council voted unanimously to support the installation of two-way bike lanes on Cannon St. through the downtown core. Over just a few short months, the Yes We Cannon campaign convinced councillors that a prominent east/west bike route on Cannon will be good for residents & cyclists, and will not greatly impact drivers.

Yes We Cannon was a local, grassroots movement, gathering Hamiltonians to petition City Council to improve cyclist and pedestrian safety in the lower city by taking one simple step. The mission was to create a bi-directional bike lane, running the full length of Cannon Street, by 2015.

A cycling trip is only as safe as the least safe part of the journey. Adding bike lanes to Cannon Street provides us an opportunity to make our roads safer, our communities better connected, and our citizens healthier and happier!



OBJECTIVE:
 Health and Well
 Being Of The
 Community



MCLAREN CUP AND NEIGHBOURHOOD HOOPS

This past summer the BNA helped organize the 2nd annual McLaren Cup. During the last week of August dozens of neighbourhood kids came out to practice soccer skills and play in some organized games, finishing off on the weekend before school with an all day tournament and the crowning of the McLaren Cup Champions. Thanks to the Youth Out Reach Workers, Y on Wheels and the West Hamilton Youth Soccer club for helping to make this happen!

'Neighbourhood Hoops' campaign brings Mac basketball to Beasley Park. The league offers barrier-free, accessible basketball programming to players ages 9-14 in the inner-city Beasley community. The 8 week program allows participants to make new friends and learn the fundamentals of basketball in a positive, supportive environment.

Neighbourhood Hoops was developed in partnership between the City of Hamilton, the Eva Rothwell Resource Centre, Boys & Girls Clubs of Hamilton, Wesley Urban Ministries and McMaster Athletes Care. Nearly 200 people came out to see the finale between our Beasley Community All-Stars vs. the McMaster Basketball team.



OBJECTIVE:
 Improve Parks,
 Recreation &
 Gathering
 Places



BEASLEY PARK COMMUNITY MURAL

The Beasley Community Mural was completed in August 2013! Matt McInnes, Becky Katz and Sylvia Nickerson, along with numerous neighbourhood volunteers of all ages helped paint the Beasley Community mural onto the exterior wall of the old Beasley Community Centre in Beasley Park. The design for our mural came from 50 kids drawings made by kids who live in Beasley or attend Dr. Davey School. These drawings were collaged together to make the mural design.

A big Thanks to: Benjamin Moore, Hamilton Community Foundation, Sylvia Nickerson, Matt McInnes, Becky Katz, Landon Haggerty, Beasley Neighbourhood Association volunteers, kids from Dr. Davey School and the Beasley neighbourhood, Charlie Mattina, Brandon Braithwaite, Neighbourhood Development Strategies office, City of Hamilton, and many more people who helped us get this project completed this summer.



OBJECTIVE:
Improve Housing
Options &
Property
Standards



HAMILTON COMMUNITY LANDTRUST

In 2014 the BNA decided to publicly support a grassroots effort to found a Hamilton Community Land Trust (CLT) downtown. A CLT owns land in the name of all citizens and protects it and leases it to community groups for certain uses such as gardens, green and community space, and affordable housing. It is a way to ensure that positive land uses can be protected against rising land values and gentrification, and keeps citizens involved in decision-making in the rapidly developing downtown core.

Allison Maxted, a UBC planning graduate and Hamilton resident had approached the BNA in 2013 to study the possibility of creating a land trust here. Beasley residents have been enthusiastically supporting the group as they have incorporated, recruited a Board of Directors, and received a Ontario Trillium Foundation grant to fund a feasibility study. We think a CLT is a great opportunity to build and protect our community assets while protecting the amazing diversity and dynamism of our neighbourhood.

To learn more about the Hamilton Community Land Trust or to volunteer visit: www.hamiltonclt.org



OBJECTIVE:
Integrating with
Social, Religious
& Cultural
Groups



MULTICULTURAL CELEBRATIONS



The first annual Beasley Multicultural Celebration happened this September in Beasley Park. This is an event for people all ages and backgrounds to celebrate the beautiful cultural diversity of this neighbourhood featuring performances, music, a fashion show, delicious food and wonderful company!

Beasley also hosted an Eid al-Fitr potluck this summer at the Old Beasley Community Centre! The potluck celebrates the end of Ramadan, was a great opportunity for mutual learning and knowledge exchange. Get to know your neighbours by bringing a dish to share!

OBJECTIVE:
Promote
Healthy Food
Networks



COMMUNITY KITCHEN & OUTDOOR OVEN

Inspired by the Friends of Dufferin Grove Park, a group of Beasley community residents and city of Hamilton took a road trip to see the wood fired communal ovens at Dufferin Grove Park Toronto. The tour included a history of the ovens, operations, costs, building plans and communal uses such as "Pizza Days". The ovens and the community kitchen have become a true focus within in the neighbourhood.

"The oven is a story magnet. People rarely pass by the park oven when something is baking without stopping to talk."

The information was brought back to the BNA and the Charter groups. It was decided to include an outdoor oven and community kitchen as part of the Beasley Neighbourhood Plan. With funding secured through the Participatory Budgeting process and partnerships created through the Beasley Neighbourhood Charter, this objective is one step closer to reality.



OBJECTIVE:
Increase Sense
of Health,
Safety &
Security



BEASLEY SAFE COMMUNITIES REPORT

From the inception of the Beasley Neighbourhood Plan, Community Safety was identified as a priority that residents wanted to address. Through a series of discussions and neighbourhood surveys, residents and community partners formulated a Safe Community strategy. **"A safe community is one where people know their neighbours, respect themselves and others, where everyone is valued and included in decisions and activities. It creates environment that is free of fear from physical, psychological or physical harm and allows EVERYONE to be their BEST."**

Three pillars were developed to support this strategy and action objectives were established.

1) Promote social cohesion. Strengthen community action through community engagement and inclusion. Build on our strengths and community partnerships

Actions: a) Apartment outreach program
b) Established The Beasley Inclusion Group (BIG)

2) Create Opportunities, such as affordable recreational & cultural programs, & employment.

Actions: a) "Hoops" Basketball program
b) Beasley Community Kitchen and Outdoor oven

3) Address issues of Safety with respect to the Physical Environment. Create Healthy, Livable and green environments. Safe Traffic design on the streets

Actions: a) The Alley project
b) Establishment of Beasley Planning and Development Subcommittee

OBJECTIVE:
Encourage
Cultural
Ambassador
Programs



JOHN/ROBERT TOWERS TENANTS GROUP

Some 60 residents of the 181 John St. N. and 192 Hughson St. N. apartments came together for a public meeting at the Beasley Community Centre in February of 2015. The event, organized by the Hamilton Social Planning and Research Council, was held to give building tenants some guidance about what to do as the property tries to move people out ahead of major renovations.

Thanks also to the hard work of residents and volunteers from the John/Robert Towers for knocking on the doors of the towers and neighbouring apartment buildings. They gathered signatures in support of installing a pedestrian activated crosswalk at the corner of John and Robert streets. Residents were empowered to make a positive change and make the streets safer for the children crossing to get to McLaren Park!

OBJECTIVE:
Fundraising
& Event
Planning



ANNUAL BEASLEY BBQ, WINTER FESTIVAL & BEASLEY FAIR

The BNA hosts the annual Summer BBQ and Winter Carnival in Beasley Park since 2006. Thanks to the help of our Charter partners such as Good Shepherd, Boys and Girls Club, the Downtown Mosque, Wesley Urban Ministries, Hamilton Recreation Dept and the Hamilton Police Services the BNA is able to put on full scale carnival events in the park with free food, fun and games for all ages!

Some other ongoing traditions that happen in Beasley and McLaren Parks include creating the Beasley Park Ice Rink and decorating the Beasley Park Fountain for the Winter Carnival and holding regular movie nights in McLaren Park.

The Annual Beasley Fair, held in the Dr. Davey Gym, this event gives the residents an opportunity to come and find out what's going on in their neighbourhood! And to connect with all city services, places of worship, organizations and local business that serve the Beasley Community.



Beasley BBQ



Objective: Increase Positive Interaction Between Neighbours

EVERYDAY HERO



"Bill Simone is my everyday hero. As a senior, Bill has engaged an entire neighbourhood. Inspired young and old. Volunteered countless hours for countless causes. As a long-standing member of the BNA, Bill played a key role in established Hamilton's (and likely Canada's) first ever neighbourhood charter. This declaration of commitment to making Beasley the best place to live, work, play and learn is something I know Bill is very proud of. We are all very proud of him."

– Hamilton Councillor Jason Farr