

# *BERRYTOWN*



## Neighborhood Plan

**DRAFT**



OFFICE OF  
**ADVANCED PLANNING  
AND SUSTAINABILITY**

A Division of Develop Louisville



# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



## SPECIAL THANKS TO

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# Louisville and Jefferson County

## Comprehensive Plan 2040 Vision Statement

In 2040, Louisville Metro is a vibrant and diverse community that is connected, healthy, authentic, sustainable and equitable, with compassionate citizens and memorable places among its greatest assets and where all people are able to achieve their full potential.

The Berrytown Neighborhood Plan is in complete accordance with the Goals, Objectives, and Policies of Plan 2040, the Comprehensive Plan of Metro Louisville, Jefferson County.

### CHASE

**Connected** – connected transportation, technology and well positioned geographically to improve quality of life

**Healthy** – active lifestyles to better citizen’s well-being, including systemic improvements, equitable open space, recreation, healthcare, and food access

**Authentic** – compassionate community that promotes preserving and adaptive re-use of historic structures

**Sustainable** – resilient community that encourages sustainable, high-quality development practices for livable, walkable places in the natural environment

**Equitable** – values diversity and “addresses the history of inequities and their ongoing impacts, particularly among communities of color... and improvements to the built and natural environment in and across neighborhoods”



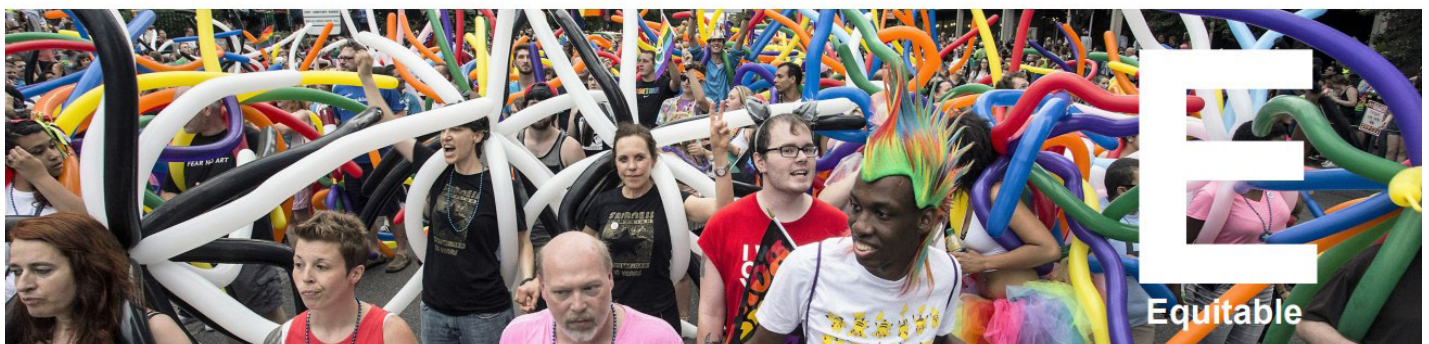
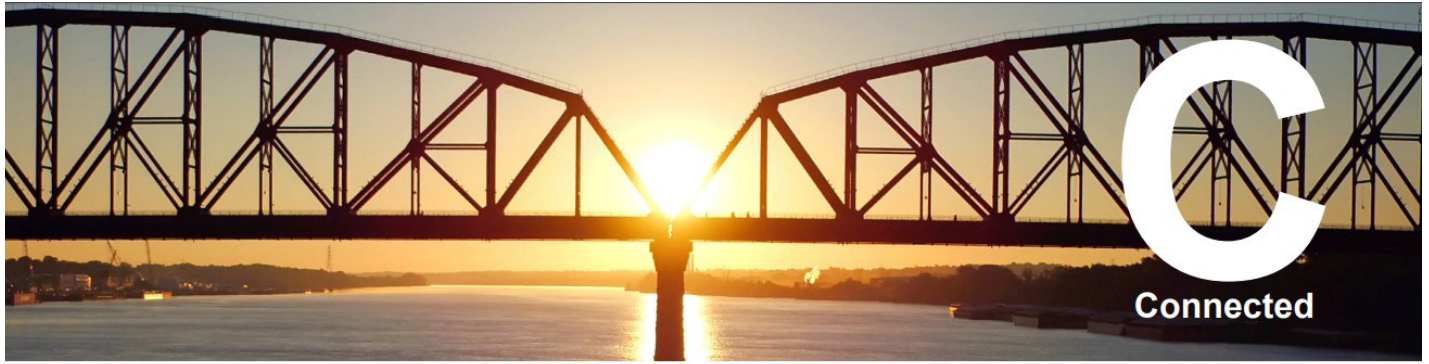


Image Source: Louisville and Jefferson County Comprehensive Plan 2040







# BERRYTOWN

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In the 1870s, Berrytown and Griffytown were created by freed African Americans. In 1915 Anchorage PTA got a train carrying the Liberty Bell to stop at neighboring schools, including Berrytown and Griffytown. Until 1934, the Interurban Car System electric trolley transported residents into Louisville.

*Presented by Louisville and Jefferson County  
African American Heritage Committee, Inc.*

1996

KENTUCKY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

1982

# BERRYTOWN

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This eastern Jefferson County community began with five acres purchased in 1874 by Alfred Berry, a freedman. Other Berrytown founders were Wm. Butler, Sallie Carter, and Kidd Williams, all of whom bought land from Samuel L. Nock, a wealthy businessman.



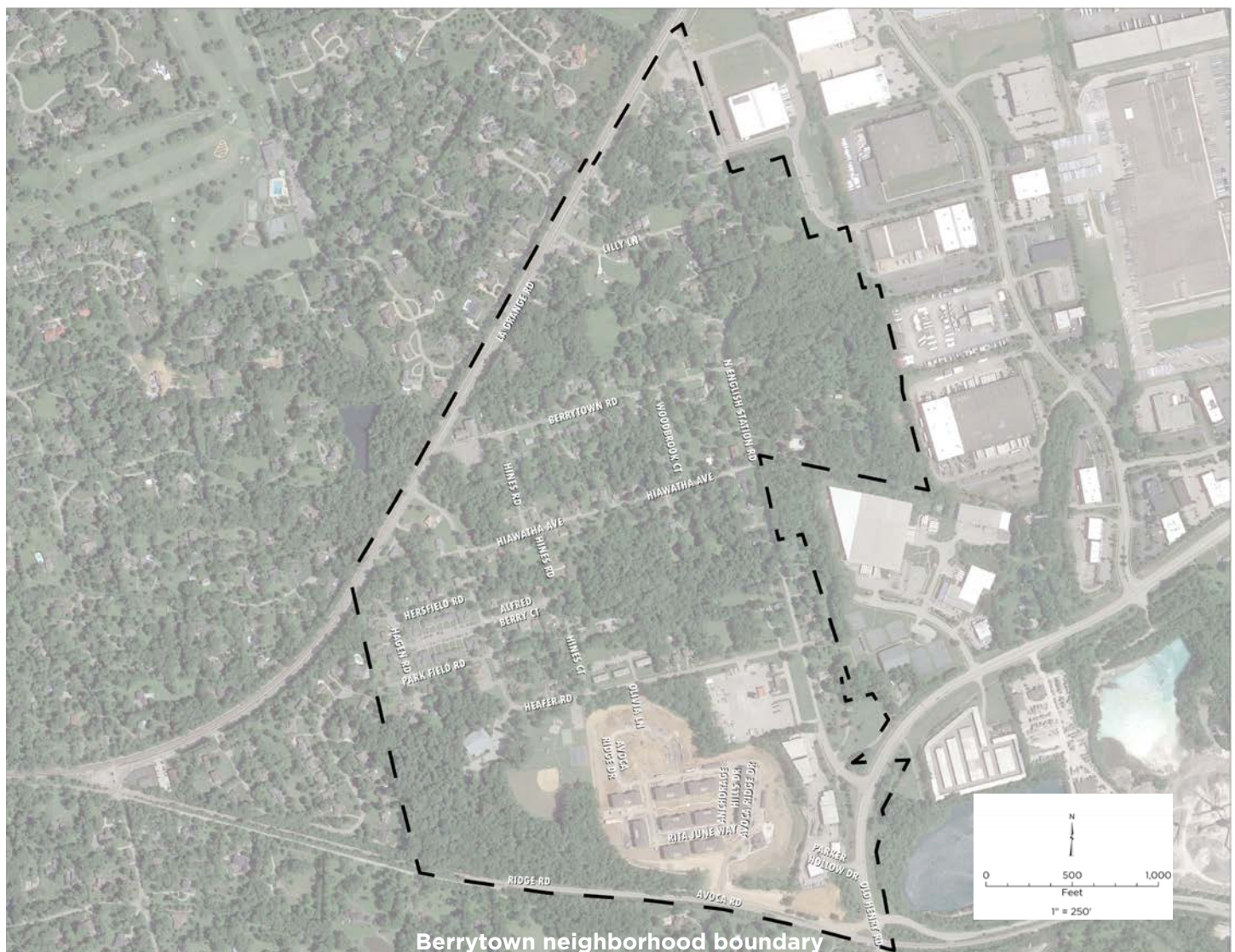
## Plan Components

Berrytown residents created a vision statement for the neighborhood that encapsulates their values and desires for the future. The plan covers the required components of a neighborhood plan, per Metro Ordinance Chapter 161, which includes Executive Summary, Introduction, Neighborhood Identity, Land Use and Community Form, Mobility, and Recommendations/Implementation sections.

Additionally, the plan covers: the rich history of Berrytown that is the rationale for the Vision Statement; housing which is a new requirement but reflects the needs of the area; \$200,000 of funding secured by Metro Council President Markus Winkler for improvements to Berrytown Park; and Quality of Life elements, which became a focal point of the plan.

## Berrytown Vision Statement

Berrytown is a safe, welcoming, and inclusive community that preserves the historic Black legacy by promoting the continuation of home ownership. It is a thriving and sustainable community, supported by resilient infrastructure, with safe, pedestrian-friendly streets that provide access to jobs, parks, transit, schools, businesses, and other resources. Berrytown fosters a civically engaged community with a small town feel in a forested neighborhood.





## Berrytown Certified Organizations with the State of Kentucky

\*These descriptions were written and submitted by members of the referenced organizations and are not verified by Louisville Metro Government.

**Berrytown Neighborhood Association** - A nonprofit 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization that seeks to provide a voice to the Berrytown Community, to raise awareness and involvement in matters that affect the community, to embrace diversity while preserving our African-American heritage, to advocate for sustainable and affordable housing opportunities, and to increase self-sufficiency of the neighborhood.

**Berrytown Community Land Trust (CLT)** – A nonprofit 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, that seeks to acquire, own, lease and manage residential and commercial real estate. The organization will also seek to create and support community garden programs to increase access to fresh, locally grown green leafy vegetables. The Berrytown CLT will provide opportunities for home ownership and long-term rentals for low-access and low-income families, and be an advocate for economic social justice. The organization will achieve these goals through a board of Berrytown CLT residents and community members dedicated to the vision of resident-powered development on community-owned land.

**Berrytown Development Corporation** – A nonprofit 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization that oversees the purchase, development, and management of the Berrytown CLT real estate assets. The organization will be responsible for management of the construction of affordable, sustainable, single, and multi-family housing projects and rental units. They will also seek to construct a food pantry or neighborhood fresh/farmers market to increase the flow and access to locally grown fresh and healthy food products including fresh produce, dairy, and meats, and an Airstream pop-up food trailer café to serve coffee, soups, sandwiches, and healthy grab-and-go semi-prepared meals for cook-at-home options. They will also seek to be involved in a wide range of community services, such as healthcare, education, and job opportunities, green entrepreneurship, promoting and fostering economic and commercial development, and other social programs.

**Berrytown Urban Agriculture Youth Summer Camp** – A nonprofit 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization that seeks to collaborate with the First Baptist Church of Anchorage and neighboring churches to create and host a youth summer reading and math enrichment program at the Church. This 8-week camp will be offered to 3rd to 5th-graders and middle school students, five days a week from June through July. The Urban Agriculture camp will be held in the afternoon at Berrytown CLT Community Garden, which will consist of a full-scale, fully equipped greenhouse, to provide a safe hands-on learning environment that will promote education and training on urban farming methods and safe food handling practices.

## Berrytown Neighborhood Plan

### Priority

L = Low Priority  
M = Medium Priority  
H = High Priority

### Time Frame

S = Short Term (1-3 years)  
M = Mid Term (4-6 years)  
L = Long Term (7+ years)  
O = Ongoing

## LAND USE RECOMMENDATIONS

**Strategy Recommendation Priority Timeframe Next Steps and Responsible Parties**

### Objective 1: Promote a resilient and civically engaged community.

#### Recommendation 1.1: Create a Neighborhood Association with 501(c)3 status.

1.1.1	Add the Neighborhood Association to the notification list for development applications in the area. Notify members of upcoming cases.	H	O	Berrytown Neighborhood Association (BNA) to create a notification list for all members BNA to create a series of next steps when upcoming cases occur BNA to work with Metro staff to understand Berrytown's concerns with upcoming cases
1.1.2	Add civically engaged community members to the notification list for development applications in the area.	L	L	All parties to promote the link to the city email subscriptions for notifications: <a href="https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/KYLOUISVILLE/subscriber/new">https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/KYLOUISVILLE/subscriber/new</a>

### Objective 2: Support and encourage Berrytown's historic housing legacy.

#### Recommendation 2.1: Promote future development that reflects the historic design of the neighborhood.

2.1.1	Seek developers and developments that increase affordable home ownership for residents.	H	S/L	Community Land Trust (CLT) to seek out builders and developers that will work with the CLT CLT to identify project partners All parties to identify funding sources
2.1.2	Encourage infill housing and improvements that build value and are sensitive to the design of the surrounding community.	M	M/L	CLT to review housing types and typical dimensions for Berrytown CLT to identify project partners All parties to identify funding sources
2.1.3	Investigate Community Land Trust status with leadership from the neighborhood.	H	M/L	CLT to investigate other Community Land Trusts (CLT) in the area CLT to review legal framework needed

#### Recommendation 2.2: Work with various partners to decrease the number of vacant and abandoned properties.

2.2.1	Utilize the Berrytown CLT 501(c)3 status to purchase and clean up abandoned properties.	H	O	CLT to identify properties CLT to create a roadmap to purchase properties CLT to work with the city to rehabilitate properties
2.2.3	Invite Louisville Metro staff to speak to the BNA about the root causes of vacant and abandoned properties, and discuss existing and future solutions.	H	O	BNA to learn from Metro staff about the VAP process and share their experiences BNA to create a series of next steps for dealing with Berrytown vacant properties BNA to intervene early in the process through rehabilitation before a property becomes rundown/vacant

#### Recommendation 2.3: Ensure that infill development is consistent with surrounding form.

2.3.1	Evaluate infill standards in suburban contexts in the Land Development Code to make sure design of new developments is consistent.	H	O	BNA to work with Metro staff on the effects of the LDC on a historically low-density community Metro staff to review infill standards in suburban contexts. Metro staff to take request to the Planning Commission for changes
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## Berrytown Neighborhood Plan

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## HOUSING RECOMMENDATIONS

**Strategy Recommendation Priority Timeframe Next Steps and Responsible Parties**

### Objective 3: Increase and stabilize homeownership.

#### Recommendation 3.1: Develop increased opportunities for owner-occupied housing

3.1.1	Create a neighborhood-wide goal for the home ownership rate in Berrytown (currently 55%) to meet or exceed the home ownership rate for Jefferson County (currently 60%).	H	L	Berrytown Neighborhood Association (BNA) and Community Land Trust (CLT) to develop relationships with contractors that will work with the community on home ownership BNA and CLT to identify other partners and provide educational programs for home ownership
3.1.2	Seek assistance for low-income families and seniors to afford home repairs and increase energy efficiency.	H	S/L	BNA to seek out home repair contractors that will work with the Neighborhood Association and the community BNA to identify other municipal partners All parties to identify funding sources
3.1.3	Encourage and properly utilize programs that help residents with increasing utility and property tax costs.	H	S/L	BNA to identify resources like Louisville Metro Office of Resilience and Community Services BNA to identify programs like Project Warm, LG&E's WeCare and WinterCare, and MSD's Emergency Wastewater Rate Assistance Program
3.1.4	Consider a local historic preservation district with design guidelines to preserve and enhance the character of Berrytown.	M	S	BNA to identify partners to assist such as Develop Louisville's Office of Housing and Community Development BNA to identify solutions like Jefferson County PVA office Homestead Exemption
3.1.5	Seek nomination and obtain National Register of Historic Places designation for Berrytown.	H	S	BNA to with Louisville Metro Planning and Design Services and Kentucky Heritage Council BNA to identify funding sources

### Objective 4: Promote Berrytown as a safe, welcoming, and inclusive community.

#### Recommendation 4.1: Communicate the geographic location and identity of the Berrytown neighborhood

4.1.1	Encourage new development in the neighborhood to identify their location as Berrytown.	H	S/L	BNA to meet with developers in the area to discuss and inform about the Berrytown neighborhood plan, and the neighborhood's rich history and legacy
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## MOBILITY & CONNECTIVITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Strategy	Recommendation	Priority	Timeframe	Next Steps and Responsible Parties
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### Objective 5: Promote multi-modal connections inside the neighborhood and to the surrounding areas.

#### Recommendation 5.1: Improve the vehicular transportation network to adjacent neighborhoods.

5.1.1	Identify improvements on Heafer Road to calm traffic and create safe crossings to Berrytown Park.	M	M	Metro Public Works to study need for traffic calming Metro Public Works to conduct preliminary engineering study for improvements Metro Public Works to prioritize pedestrian safety improvements on Heafer Road
5.1.2	Consider re-opening Ridge (Avoca) Road to create more connectivity.	L	L	Berrytown Neighborhood Association (BNA) to research the closing of Avoca Road at the railroad tracks Metro Public Works to study options for safely opening the connection between Avoca Road and Ridge Road Metro Public Works to identify funding for safer railroad crossings
5.1.3	Begin neighborhood-wide education and enforcement of business car sales/repair impeding through traffic on public streets.	L	S & O	Align Louisville Metro Government partnering agencies with BNA: Councilperson's office, Code Enforcement, and Louisville Metro Police Department to determine the enforcement response for on-street car parking, repair, and sales All parties to implement a neighborhood-wide response
5.1.4	Encourage new developments undergoing rezoning in and adjacent to the Berrytown neighborhood to conduct a traffic study as part of the development review process.	H	O	Planning & Design Services to review traffic study and make available on Accela prior to public hearings
5.1.5	Create right-of-way through Louisville Metro Government property at Heafer and La Grange Road. Dedicate excess land to the Berrytown CLT.	H	O	Metro Public Works to have properties surveyed Metro Public Works to dedicate right-of-way Louisville Metro Government and CLT to consider the best option for any excess land
5.1.6	Study and consider options for traffic calming on through roads such as Heafer Road, North English Station Road, and Berrytown Road.	H	M	Metro Public Works to study need for traffic calming Metro Public Works to conduct preliminary engineering study for improvements Metro Public Works to construct pedestrian safety improvements on Berrytown Road, Heafer Road, and North English Station Road

#### Recommendation 5.2: Improve the safety and continuity of the pedestrian network.

5.2.1	Create a walking path loop in Berrytown Park.	H	S	BNA and Louisville Parks and Recreation to identify funding sources and secure funding Louisville Parks and Recreation to construct proposed design
5.2.2	Create sidewalk routes that connect the Berrytown neighborhood.	H	M	Align Louisville Metro Government partnering agencies: Metro Public Works and Councilperson's office through their funding sources Louisville Metro Government agencies to secure funding for designing and constructing proposed enhancements Louisville Metro Government agencies to design and construct sidewalks and other improvements
5.2.3	Add sidewalks along the Fire Training Facility property on Heafer Road to connect to N English Station Road.	L	M	Align Louisville Metro Government partnering agencies: Metro Public Works, Fire Department, and Councilperson's office through their funding sources for designing and constructing proposed enhancements Louisville Metro Government agencies to design and construct concept(s)
5.2.4	Add sidewalks along N English Station Road in support of a loop for the neighborhood and for school bus stops.	M	M	Align Louisville Metro Government partnering agencies: Metro Public Works, JCPS, and Councilperson's office through their funding sources for designing and constructing proposed enhancements Louisville Metro Government agencies to design and construct concept(s)
5.2.5	Create a continuous sidewalk connection to Eastpoint Business Center, Anchorage and Middletown to the south, to access amenities and employment opportunities.	H	L	Align Louisville Metro Government partnering agencies: Metro Public Works and Councilperson's office through their funding sources for designing and constructing proposed enhancements Louisville Metro Government agencies to design and implement concept(s)
5.2.6	Conduct an overall lighting study based on pedestrian need, crash data, and recommended light levels - in particular, analyze the need for street lighting in the double curve of North English Station Road; bend in Heafer; Berrytown; and Hiawatha.	H	M	Metro Public Works and LG&E to analyze need and power feeds for electric service JCPS Transportation to review all bus stops for proper lighting Metro Public Works to identify funding sources Louisville Metro Government agencies to design and construct lighting improvements.

#### Recommendation 5.3: Improve transit connections.

5.3.1	Encourage TARC to investigate the timing and availability of pick up/drop offs during typical education and employment hours.	H	M	BNA to identify concerns with TARC TARC to perform a review of services TARC to implement changes that address concerns, review and check-in with BNA that the changes work
5.3.2	Study bus shelter location associated with Berrytown Park, including a safe street crossing.	H	L	BNA and TARC to identify location TARC to develop design and review with neighborhood TARC to identify funding sources TARC to install shelter
5.3.3	Create a working partnership between TARC and the Neighborhood Association to promote ridership.	L	S & L	BNA to identify concerns with TARC BNA to work with TARC to create a specific, updated list of locations and times to catch a bus in Berrytown BNA to circulate the list throughout the neighborhood



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## BERRYTOWN PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

**Strategy Recommendation Priority Timeframe Next Steps and Responsible Parties**

### Objective 6: Position Berrytown Park as a central asset in a thriving and sustainable community.

#### Recommendation 6.1: Implement capital improvements, such as new features and updates, to Berrytown Park.

6.1.1	Conduct a Master Plan of Berrytown Park.	H	S	Louisville Parks and Recreation to work with Berrytown Neighborhood Association (BNA) to create a Master Plan of the Park through consensus building Louisville Parks and Recreation and Councilperson's office to seek potential funding Louisville Parks and Recreation to conduct preliminary design
6.1.2	Add a Sprayground play area to Berrytown Park.	M	L	Louisville Parks and Recreation to work with Berrytown Neighborhood Association (BNA) to create a plan to add a Sprayground typical of other parks Louisville Parks and Recreation and Councilperson's office to seek potential funding Louisville Parks and Recreation to conduct preliminary design Louisville Parks and Recreation to implement a Sprayground
6.1.3	Create a walking path loop in Berrytown Park.	H	S	Louisville Parks and Recreation to work with Berrytown Neighborhood Association (BNA) to create detailed plan for a loop path for exercise in Berrytown Louisville Parks and Recreation and Councilperson's office to seek potential funding Louisville Parks and Recreation to conduct preliminary design Louisville Parks and Recreation to implement a loop path
6.1.4	Add a commemorative ballfield sign honoring local Berrytown hero, Louis "Spike" Bald.	M	M	BNA to work with Louisville Parks and Recreation and Metro Public Works Sign Department to create a sign Louisville Parks and Recreation to add the sign to ballfield
6.1.5	Add movable bleachers to the ball field that could also be utilized in other areas of the park, such as the basketball court.	L	M	Louisville Parks and Recreation to secure bleachers for Berrytown Park for ongoing ball events
6.1.6	Add a State Historical Marker to recognize the history and legacy of the Berrytown neighborhood.	L	M	BNA to create detailed historic sign plan including the text BNA to seek out funding BNA to send historic sign information to Kentucky Historical Society in Frankfort for review BNA to implement Historic Sign with the Kentucky Historical Society

#### Recommendation 6.2: Perform necessary maintenance in neglected areas of Berrytown Park.

6.2.1	Determine if repair, replacement, or capital improvements are needed throughout Berrytown Park via a Master Plan.	H	S	Louisville Parks and Recreation to do or hire a consultant to review the infrastructure and needs of the community and to create an overall priority plan for improvements to the park
6.2.2	Repair and update the "tree stump" bollards along the Berrytown Park perimeter.	L	S	BNA to work with Louisville Parks and Recreation to implement a new perimeter system
6.2.3	Replace picnic tables with long-lasting composite materials.	M	S	BNA to work with Louisville Parks and Recreation to supply a series of picnic tables for ongoing events
6.2.4	Implement drainage improvements to prevent standing water and erosion, and to maintain quality access to sidewalks.	H	M	BNA to work with Louisville Parks and Recreation and MSD to slope flat ground, vegetate erosion problems, and reinforce banks at sidewalk creek crossing
6.2.5	Improve basketball court surface.	H	L	BNA to work with Louisville Parks and Recreation to review the broken, unlevelled basketball surface
6.2.6	Investigate the state of the Berrytown Park Concessions Stand. Assess whether repairs/upgrades or replacement are a better option.	H	L	Louisville Parks and Recreation to investigate the condition of the Concessions Stand and consider options for the facility BNA to be consulted by Louisville Parks and Recreation after investigation
6.2.7	Review Park lighting for consistency and for ball activities. Check electrical hookups are in working order. See that some power is available at all times.	H	S	BNA to work with Louisville Parks and Recreation to review electrical connections and general power availability

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## QUALITY OF LIFE RECOMMENDATIONS

Strategy	Recommendation	Priority	Timeframe	Next Steps and Responsible Parties
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### Objective 7: Support an engaged community with a small town feel in a forested neighborhood.

#### Recommendation 7.1: Maintain and enhance the historic tree canopy in Berrytown.

7.1.1	Encourage new development to contribute to the neighborhood-wide goal of 45% tree canopy coverage, matching the tree canopy goal for Louisville Metro set forth in the <i>Urban Tree Canopy Assessment</i> (2015).	H	S	Since most of the vacant lots are forested, encourage new development to contribute to the neighborhood-wide goal of 45% tree canopy through tree preservation, fees-in-lieu, and alternate site planting. The 45% coverage goal is meant to increase tree canopy on a neighborhood scale and does not necessarily apply to individual sites and does not supersede the requirements in the Land Development Code.
7.1.2	Conduct a tree health audit for the Berrytown neighborhood.	H	L	In order to maintain a mature forested area, BNA to request that tree health will need to be studied by the Metro Division of Community Forestry
7.1.3	Work with partners to create a tree preservation and rehabilitation program.	M	M	BNA to promote tree knowledge to rehabilitate the forest in Berrytown through agencies like Brightside and organizations like Trees Louisville and Louisville Grows
7.1.4	Coordinate a twice a year tree and trash clean up day in the Berrytown neighborhood.	M	L	BNA to work with the Metro Council, Brightside, and organizations like Trees Louisville and Louisville Grows to create a yearly clean up day in order to keep the tree debris in check

### Objective 8: Strengthen the historic legacy of Berrytown.

#### Recommendation 8.1: Preserve and promote Berrytown's history to build pride in Berrytown's independent past.

8.1.1	Install placemaking and identity banners throughout the neighborhood, especially at gateways.	H	S	BNA, Councilperson's office, and Metro Public Works to indicate where banners and gateways should be located through the neighborhood
8.1.2	Improve access to social services (food pantry, TARC access, and senior activities)	H	L	BNA to locate a food pantry in the neighborhood BNA to further work with TARC on access BNA to further work with non-profits and government services to create a robust senior services
8.1.3	Add a Little Food Pantry in Berrytown.	M	M	BNA to locate a Little Food Pantry on private property adjacent to the right-of-way
8.1.4	Add a Little Library in Berrytown.	H	S	BNA to locate a Little (Book) Library on private property adjacent to the right-of-way
8.1.5	Identify and improve cemeteries by locating them, keeping trees in good health, grounds maintenance, and signage	H	L	BNA to work with land owners to restore cemeteries and maintain the grounds, even inside of TCPA where cleaning can occur as long as trees are not removed
8.1.6	Create ongoing local festival events in Berrytown Park	H	O	BNA, Councilperson's office, and Louisville Parks and Recreation to work together on providing a well-planned festival structure to continue the legacy of local festivals





# 03

## INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

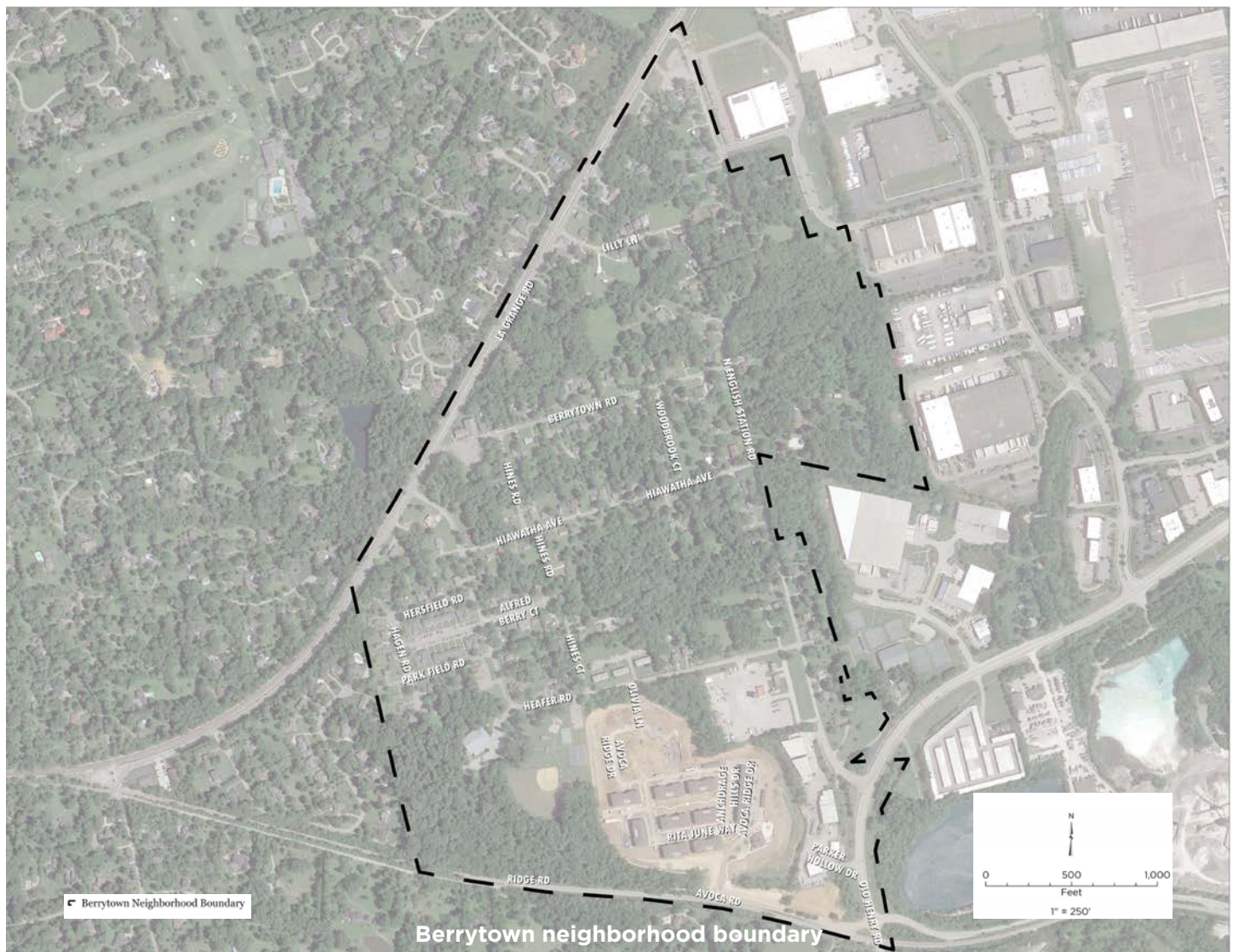


## Introduction and Purpose

The Berrytown Neighborhood Plan was initiated in September of 2021 by District 19 Metro Councilman Anthony Piagentini. After a legislative redistricting process in 2022, Berrytown was shifted to Metro Council District 17, represented by Councilman Markus Winkler. OHM Advisors and EHI were selected by Louisville Metro Government's Office of Advanced Planning & Sustainability. The team met with the neighborhood starting in March of 2022.


This plan provides an update to previous plans from 1976 and 1989, with a new set of community-driven recommendations for land use, mobility, housing, Berrytown Park, and quality of life. Monthly meetings focused on gathering information about Berrytown's strengths, issues, and opportunities.

Berrytown's rich history of civic engagement was represented well in the planning process: neighbors were notified about upcoming meetings through multiple channels, including email, yard signs, and hand-delivered flyers to the community through neighbors, local churches, and the recreation center. Neighborhood meetings were held at the Berrytown Recreation Center with consistently high attendance and engaged residents.







  
**BERRYTOWN CEMETERY**  
This cemetery became focal point for the Berrytown community, which began when Alfred Berry purchased five acres in 1874. Berrytown Cem. was purchased on June 23, 1890, by United Brothers of Friendship Lodge No. 83. As trustees, Lodge members maintained cemetery and, in 1902, constructed its columns and entrance gate.  
*Presented by Jefferson Co. Commissioner Russ Maple*  
1918      1918      1918

# 04

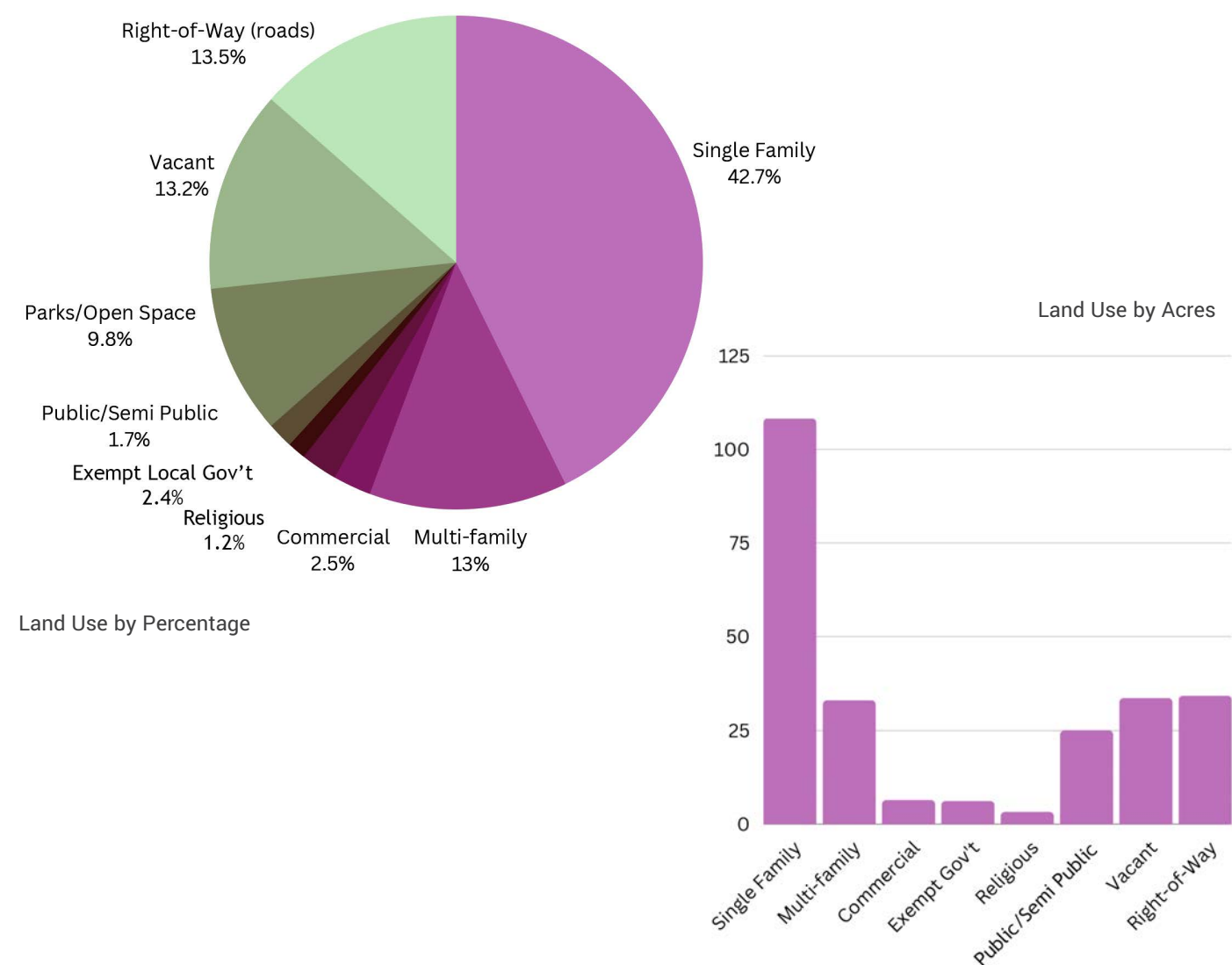
## CURRENT CONDITIONS AND HISTORY



# Current Conditions

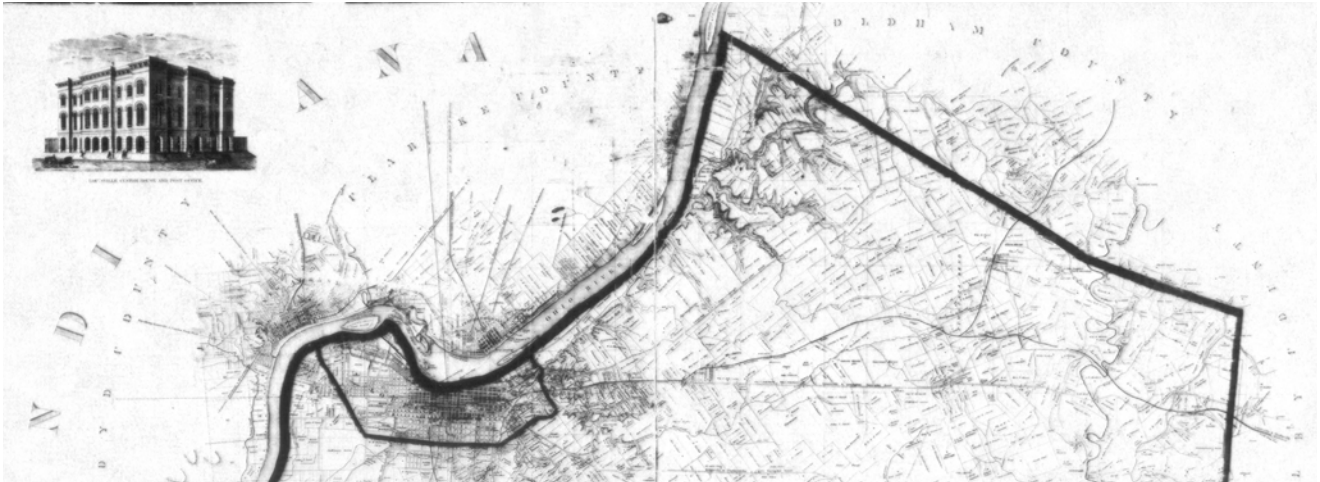
The Berrytown neighborhood is in eastern Jefferson County between the City of Anchorage, the City of Middletown, and the Eastpoint Industrial Park. A split in the railroad defines the outer edges of Berrytown, separating and disconnecting it from adjacent neighborhoods, and forming a barrier that creates unique circulation patterns for the community. This isolating infrastructure has shaped both the physical and social characteristics of the neighborhood, creating a rural community with a small-town feel.

Berrytown is approximately 253 acres in size, with a current population of roughly 500 people (this does not include the 408 apartments that are under construction). 42.7% of land use is represented by single-family residential housing; 25% is parks, public/semi-public open space, and right-of-way; and 13.2% is considered vacant land, with no existing structures. The neighborhood has lost 7% of its tree canopy in the last ten years due to development of greenfield properties. This is one indication that recent changes in the area have affected the multi-generational neighborhood.

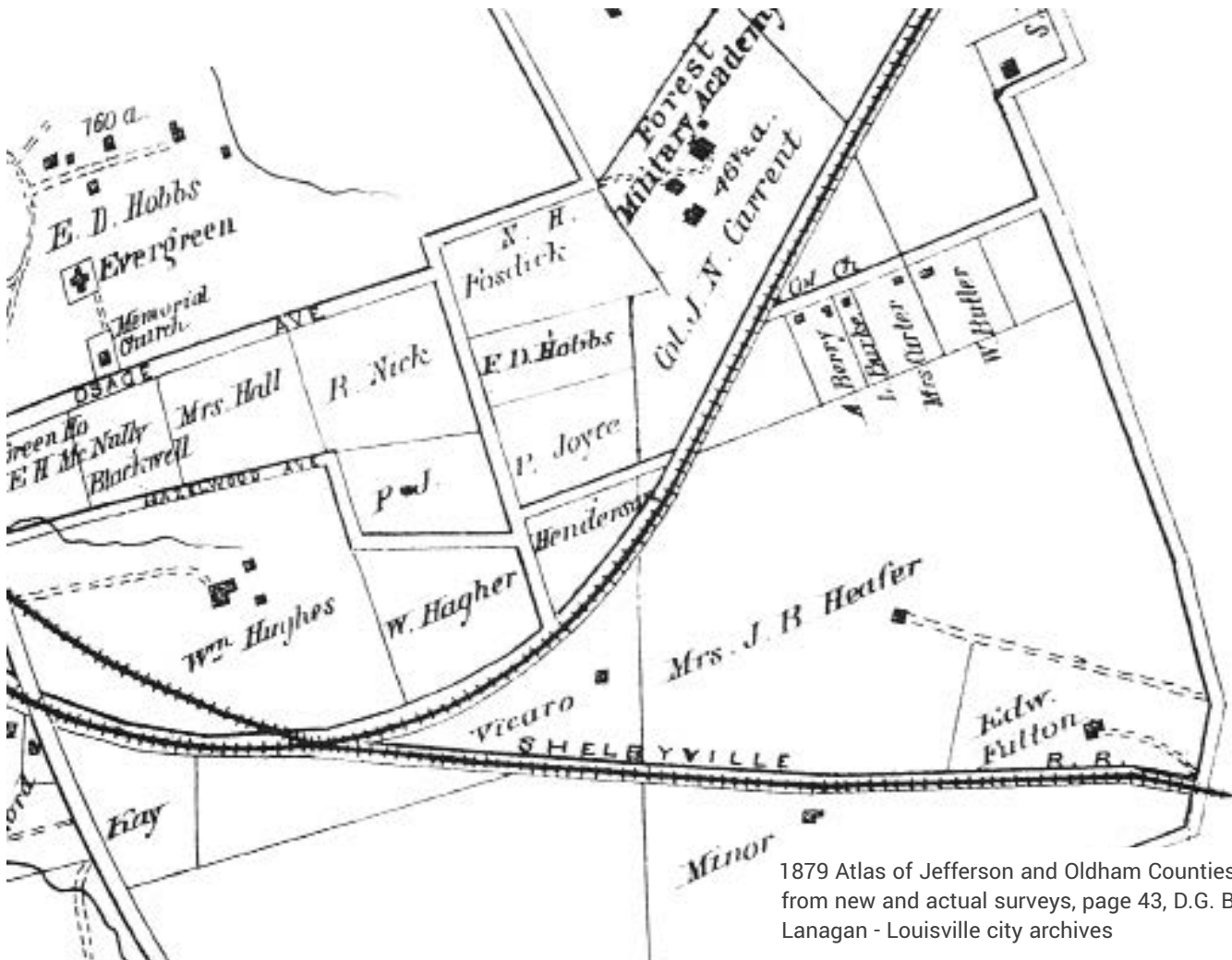


## History of Berrytown

Berrytown was founded by freedman Alfred Berry in 1874 when he purchased five acres of land with William Butler, Sallie Carter, and Kit Williams. The land was purchased from Samuel L. and Mary E. Nock, who acquired the land from the John B. Heafer Estate in 1868. The Nocks continued to sell off parcels from the estate throughout the 1890's, which formed one of the first freed African American enclaves in Eastern Jefferson County.



Northern portion of the 1858 Jefferson County Land Ownership map - Louisville city archives

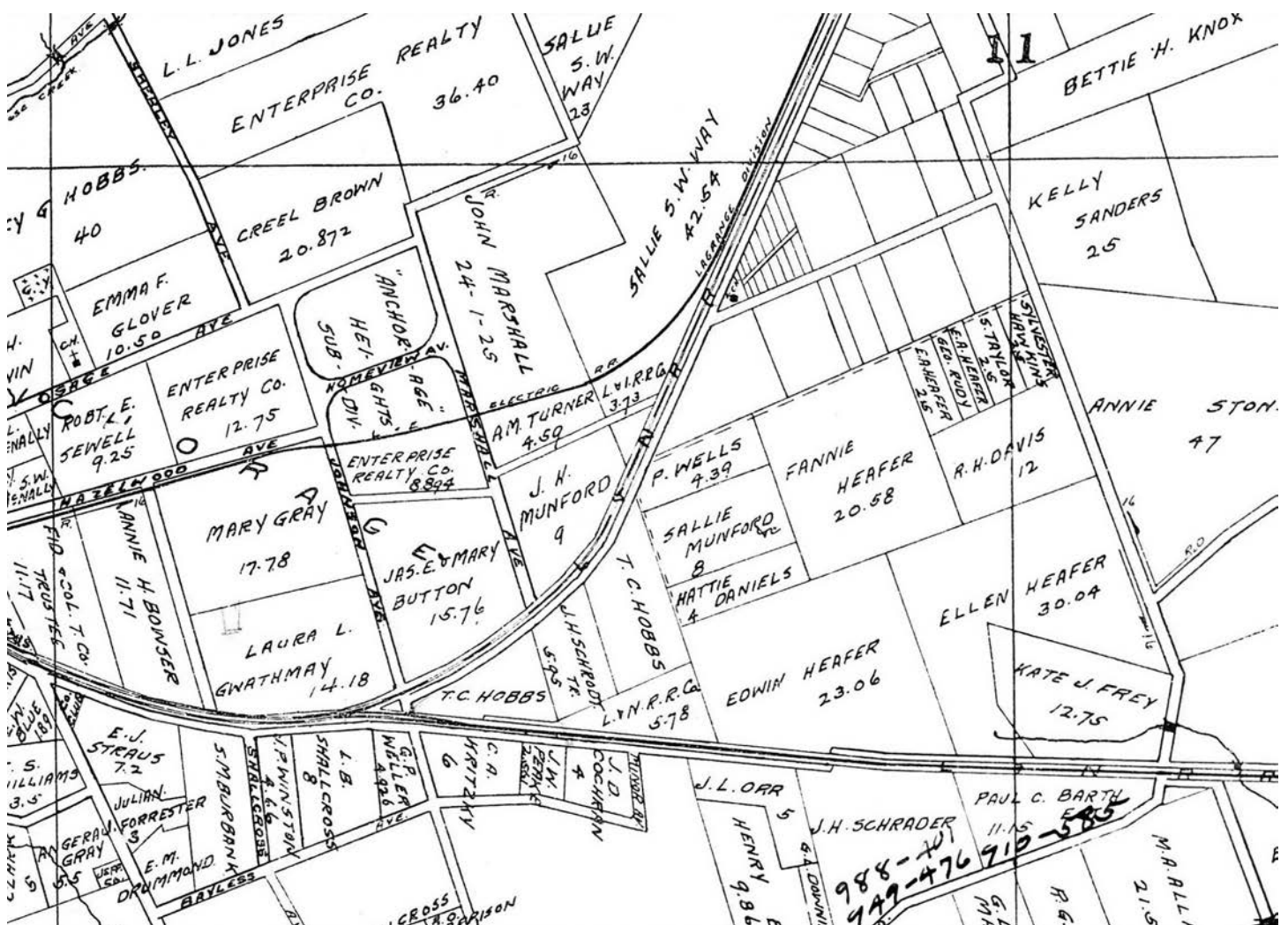


1879 Atlas of Jefferson and Oldham Counties, Kentucky from new and actual surveys, page 43, D.G. Beers and J. Lanagan - Louisville city archives



A sister community formed closer to Middletown, called Griffytown. Another community near the Ohio River is James Taylor – Jacobs School. All three of these neighborhoods remain historically black communities due to generational stewardship of property. The multi-generational nature of these neighborhoods has led to strong communities that support and assist one another.

The original land purchases were adjacent to what is now Berrytown Road, as shown in the 1879 Atlas of Jefferson and Oldham Counties, by D.G. Beers and J. Lanagan. Shortly after the founding, the Berrytown Cemetery was created with help from the Unified Brothers of Friendship Lodge No. 83, and later platted in 1915. In 1901, the newly established Marr's and Gaddie's Subdivision created more lots to the north along what is now Lilly Lane. It is worth noting that in the 1913 Atlas of Jefferson County, none of the landowners on Berrytown Road or Lilly Lane are named, while the surrounding landowners in Anchorage and Middletown are always labeled, regardless of the size of the lot. Interestingly, the First Baptist Church of Anchorage (FBCA), founded in 1875 on the corner of LaGrange Road and Berrytown Road, shows up on both maps. Kit Williams, America Duff, Margaret Hickman, Henrietta Butler, William Butler, Taylor Williams, and Mary Fields were all the founding members of that church.



1913 Atlas of Jefferson County - Louisville city archives



1993 Aerial from USGS

The Berrytown neighborhood continued to grow to the south, towards what is now Heafer Road. Much of the original neighborhood land use and circulation patterns remained the same except during two urban renewal efforts in the 1970's and 1980's. The first introduced the apartments surrounded by Park Field Road, Hagen Road, and Hersfield Road, the bend in Heafer Road, and added a Sewage Treatment Plant on Heafer in 1977. The second urban renewal effort in 1992 created single-family residential lots around Alfred Berry Court.

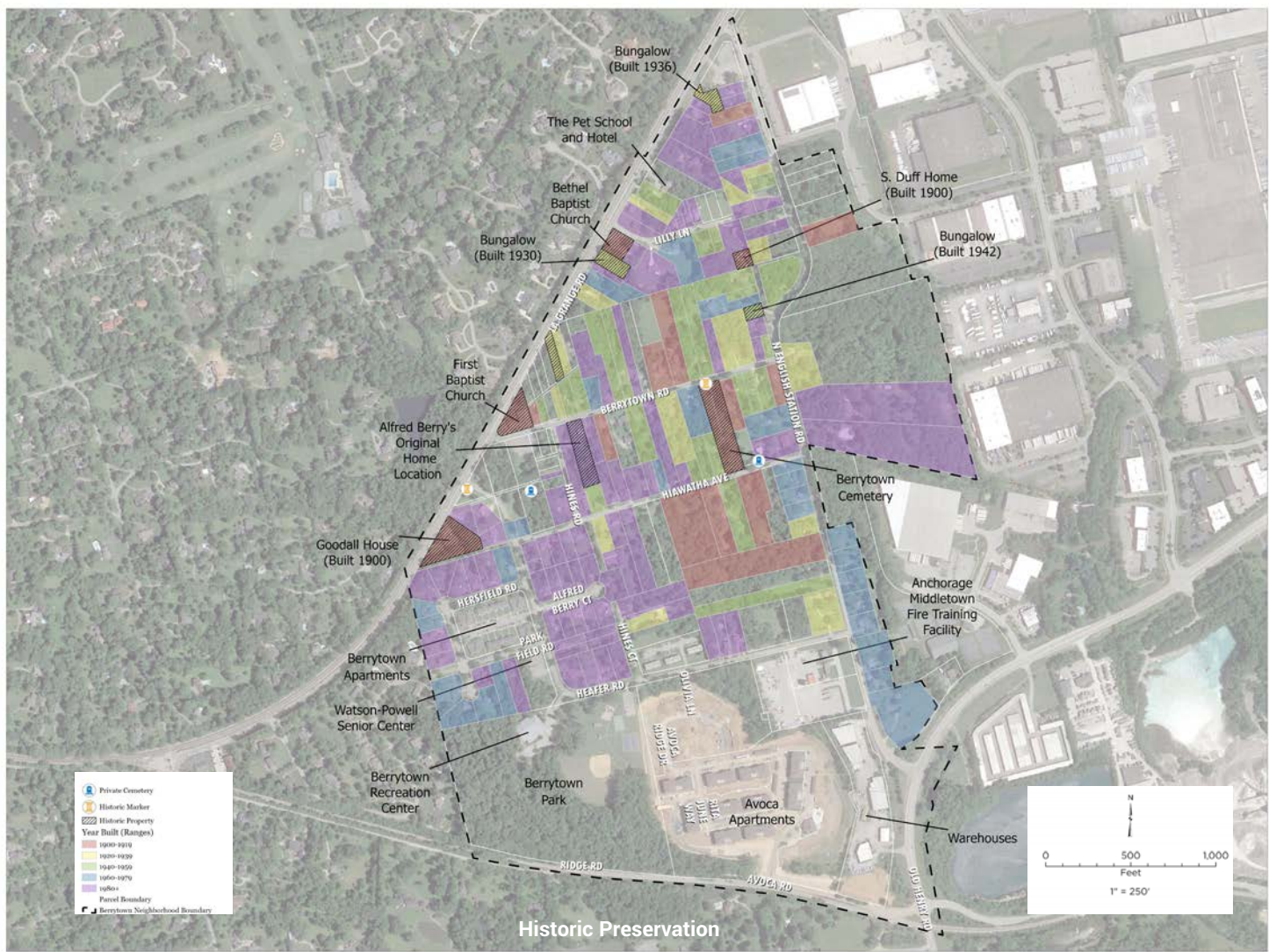
An effort to create a community center struggled to obtain funding in the 1990's and early 2000's. The residents of Berrytown, Griffytown, and the Berrytown-Griffytown Improvement Organization (BGIO) spent many years downtown trying to identify funding resources until County Commissioner Russ Maple found \$2.5 million dollars. A committee of planners and community members was formed to design and construct the building. There was a vote that the YMCA would occupy the building at a cost of \$1 a year. The YMCA vacated the building after 12 years and Metro Parks has occupied and maintained the building since. The vision of the Berrytown Community Center was to provide programs for youth and the elderly. It provides a safe place for Berrytown youth to come together and learn life-long skills.

In response to starting the Neighborhood Plan process, the neighbors quickly organized themselves and founded a 501(c)3 called the Berrytown Neighborhood Association in May of 2022. In September of 2022, the Berrytown Community Land Trust was formed. The neighborhood planning process has helped build unity in the community and has provided a forum for neighbors to discuss neighborhood issues.

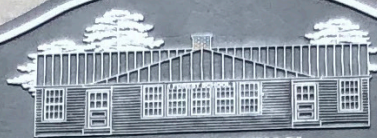


2022 Neighborhood Plan Meeting









### FOREST PUBLIC SCHOOL 1905 - 2010

The Forest School was originally built in 1905 as one room, located between Anchorage and Obannon Road. The school was later relocated to two lots on Berrytown Road. In 1912 an additional room was added and in 1928 another room was added giving the school three classrooms; normal capacity of approximately 50 people. The school had three large rooms, two medium sized closets and one room had a stage at one end, which provided storage also. There were several windows, all around the building, two doors in the front and one door in the rear. The building sat low in the front and the rear on a permanent stone rock foundation half way around that was approximately 2 feet high. The overall cost of the building in 1934 was \$2000. In 1948 more property was purchased around the school.

The Forest Public School in District D, served the students of Kentucky, teaching reading, writing, arithmetic, sewing and cooking. Grades one through eight were taught at the Forest School, and then students attended the Lincoln Institute in Shelby County for high school and vocational training.

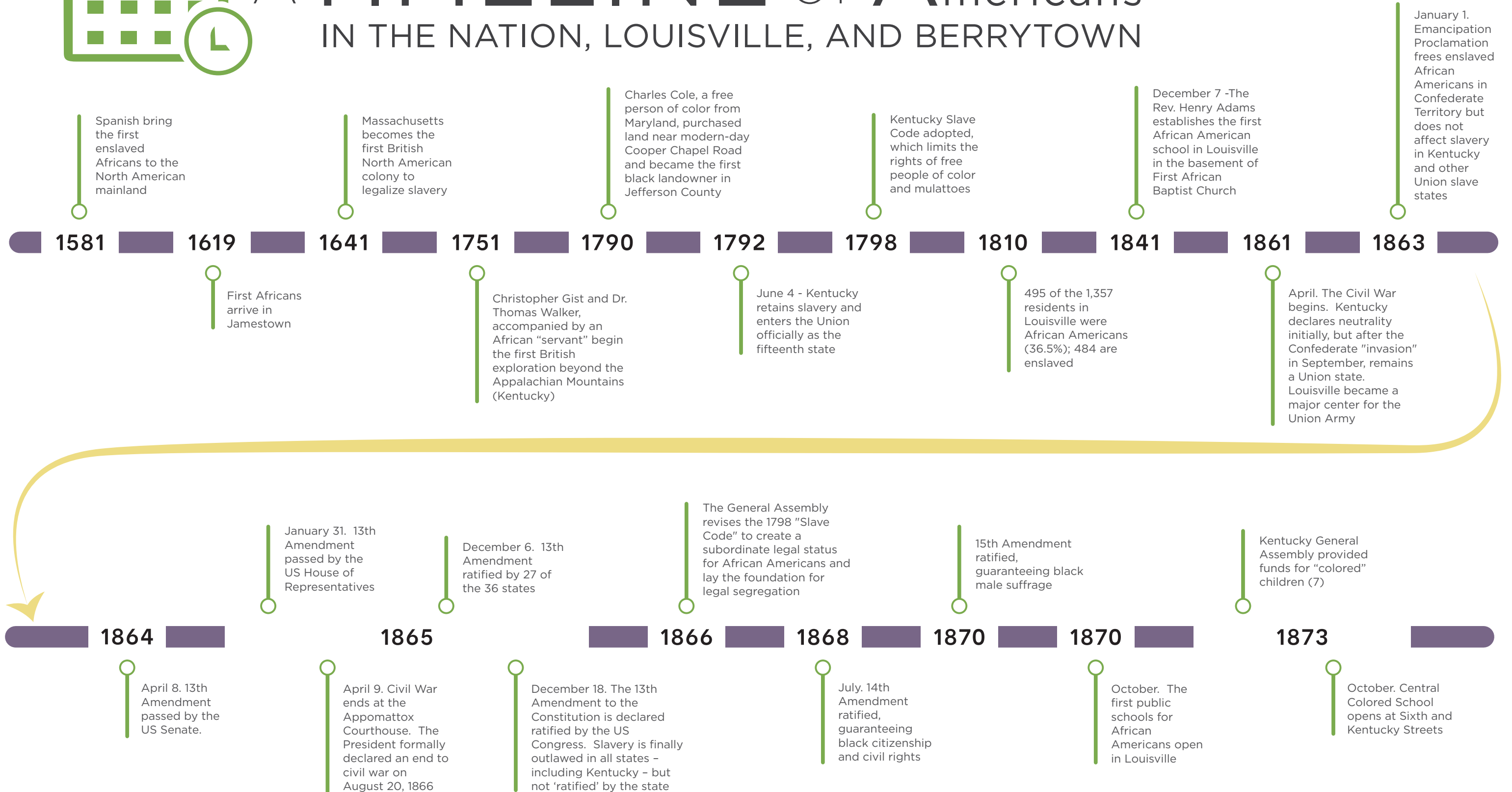
In 1963, the Forest School was closed as a result of desegregation. And the First Baptist Church of Anchorage placed the highest bid of \$2,700.00; which the school board accepted. The Forest School became known as the Annex for the church and from 1963 until an unfortunate fire in October 2010, the school was used for Sunday school, plays and vacation bible school.





# A **TIMELINE** of African Americans

## IN THE NATION, LOUISVILLE, AND BERRYTOWN

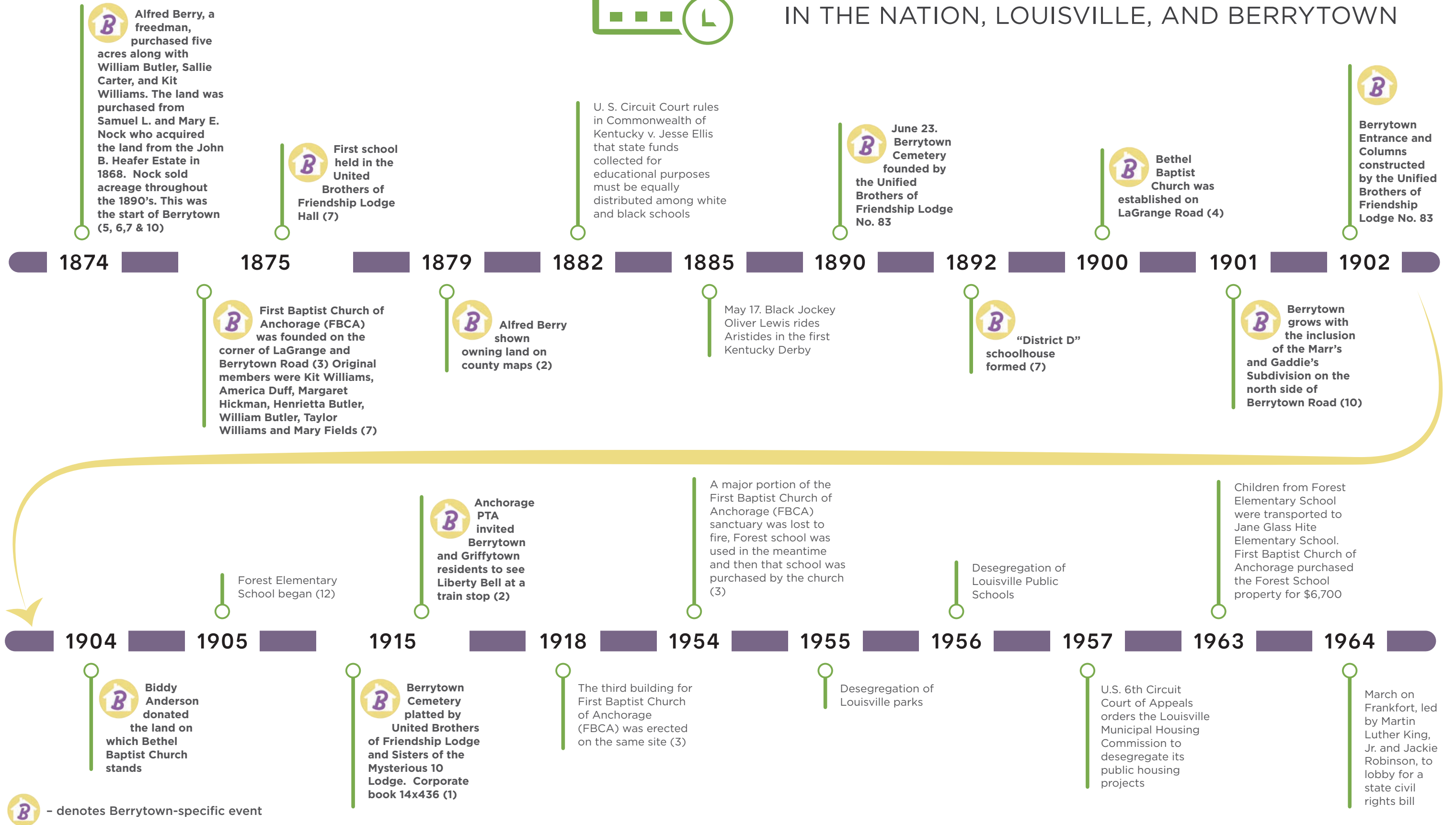


- denotes Berrytown-specific event



# A **TIMELINE** of African Americans

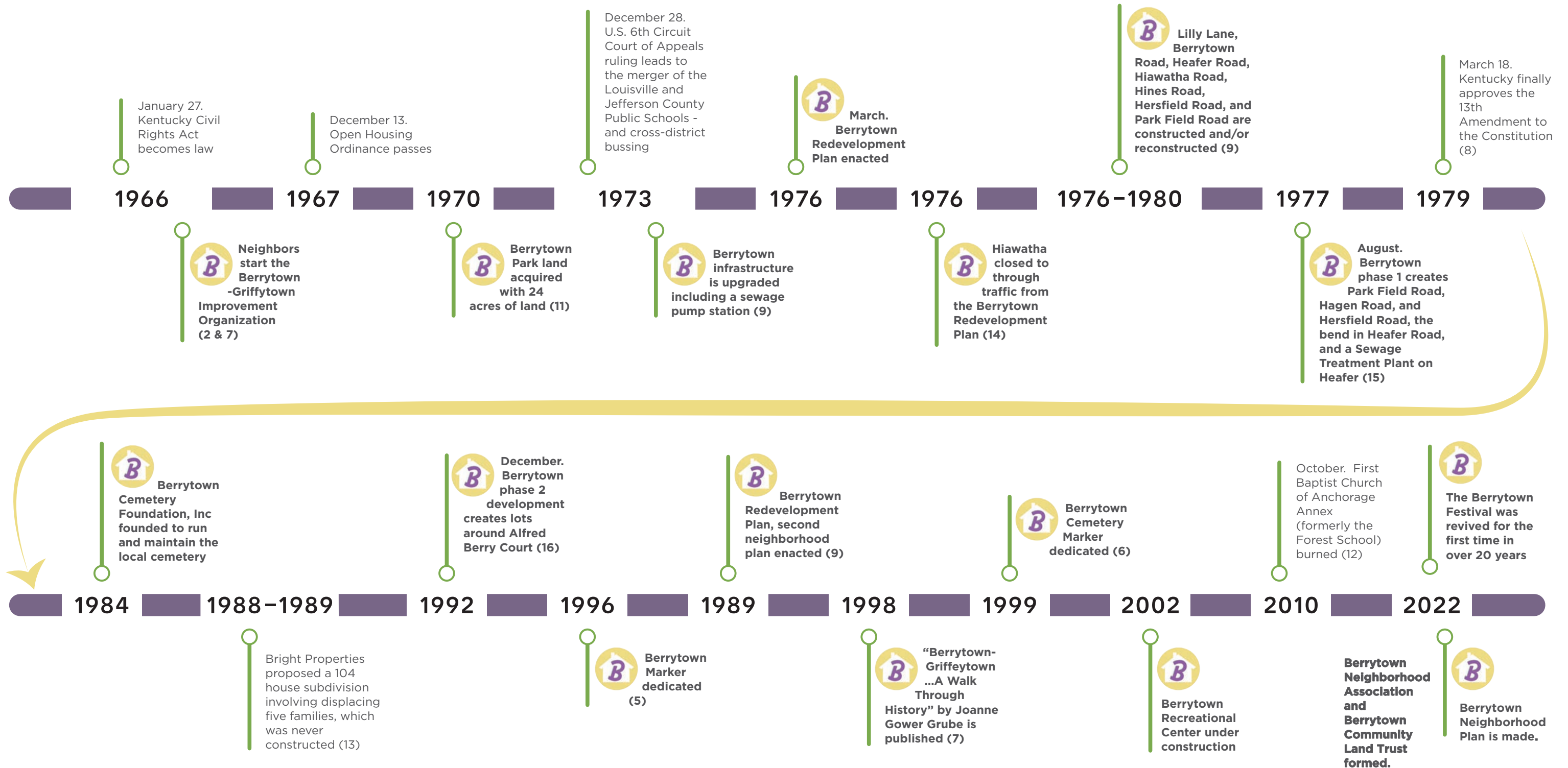
## IN THE NATION, LOUISVILLE, AND BERRYTOWN







# A **TIMELINE** of African Americans IN THE NATION, LOUISVILLE, AND BERRYTOWN

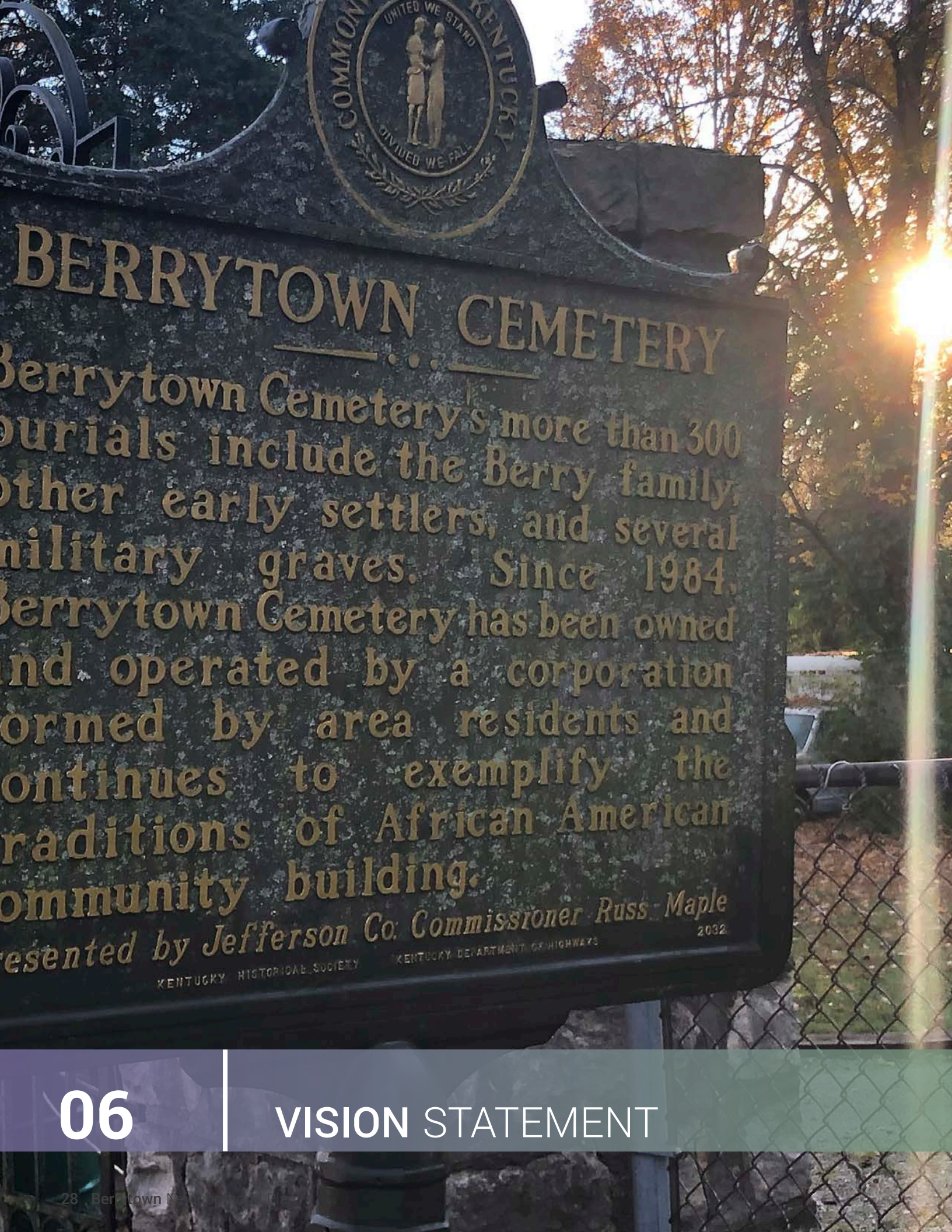


 - denotes Berrytown-specific event

Unless noted, the timeline main source is from the Two Centuries of Black Louisville: A Photographic History

- (1) Two Centuries of Black Louisville: A Photographic History; Butler Books, Louisville; 2011; by Mervin Aubespain, Kenneth Clay, J. Blane Hudson
- (2) A Place in Time: the story of Louisville's neighborhoods, courier-journal article, by Larry Muhammad, 1989
- (3) Historical View of First Baptist Church of Anchorage, accessed June 2022, <https://fbcanchorage.org/history/>
- (4) About Bethel Baptist Church, accessed June 2022, <https://www.godschildrenatwork.net/about>
- (5) Andrew Patrick, "Berrytown," ExploreKYHistory, Marker Number 1982, accessed August 19, 2022, <https://explorekyhistory.ky.gov/items/show/822>.
- (6) Andrew Patrick, "Berrytown Cemetery," ExploreKYHistory, Marker Number 2032, accessed August 19, 2022, <https://explorekyhistory.ky.gov/items/show/823>.
- (7) Berrytown-Griffytown ...A Walk Through History by Joanne Gower Grube, Jefferson County Community Development, 1998
- (8) Kentucky Historical Society, Moments in Kentucky Legislative History, [https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/LegislativeMoments/moments05RS/11\\_web\\_leg\\_moments.htm](https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/LegislativeMoments/moments05RS/11_web_leg_moments.htm) accessed on August 10, 2022.
- (9) Berrytown Redevelopment Plan, 1989
- (10) Kleber, John E., et al. (editor) (2000). The Encyclopedia of Louisville. University Press of Kentucky. ISBN 0-8131-2100-0. Page 87.
- (11) Berrytown Park, accessed August 2022, <https://louisvilleky.gov/government/parks/park-list/berrytown-park>
- (12) Forest Public School, accessed on August 19, 2020, <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=161777>.
- (13) Newsletter. Vol I No 1, April 1989
- (14) Berrytown-Griffytown BG Newsletter. Vol I No 2, May 1989
- (15) Record Plat Berrytown Phase 1. PB 32 PG 86. 1977
- (16) Final Record Plat Berrytown Phase 2. PB 40 PG 62. 1992





# BERRYTOWN CEMETERY

Berrytown Cemetery's more than 300 burials include the Berry family, other early settlers, and several military graves. Since 1984, Berrytown Cemetery has been owned and operated by a corporation formed by area residents and continues to exemplify the traditions of African American community building.

*Presented by Jefferson Co. Commissioner Russ Maple*  
KENTUCKY HISTORICAL SOCIETY KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS 2032





## VISION STATEMENT

Berrytown is a safe, welcoming, and inclusive community, that preserves the historic Black legacy by promoting the continuation of home ownership. It is a thriving and sustainable community, supported by resilient infrastructure, with safe, pedestrian-friendly streets that provide access to jobs, parks, transit, schools, businesses, and other resources. Berrytown fosters a civically engaged community with a small town feel in a forested neighborhood.





# 07

## LAND USE

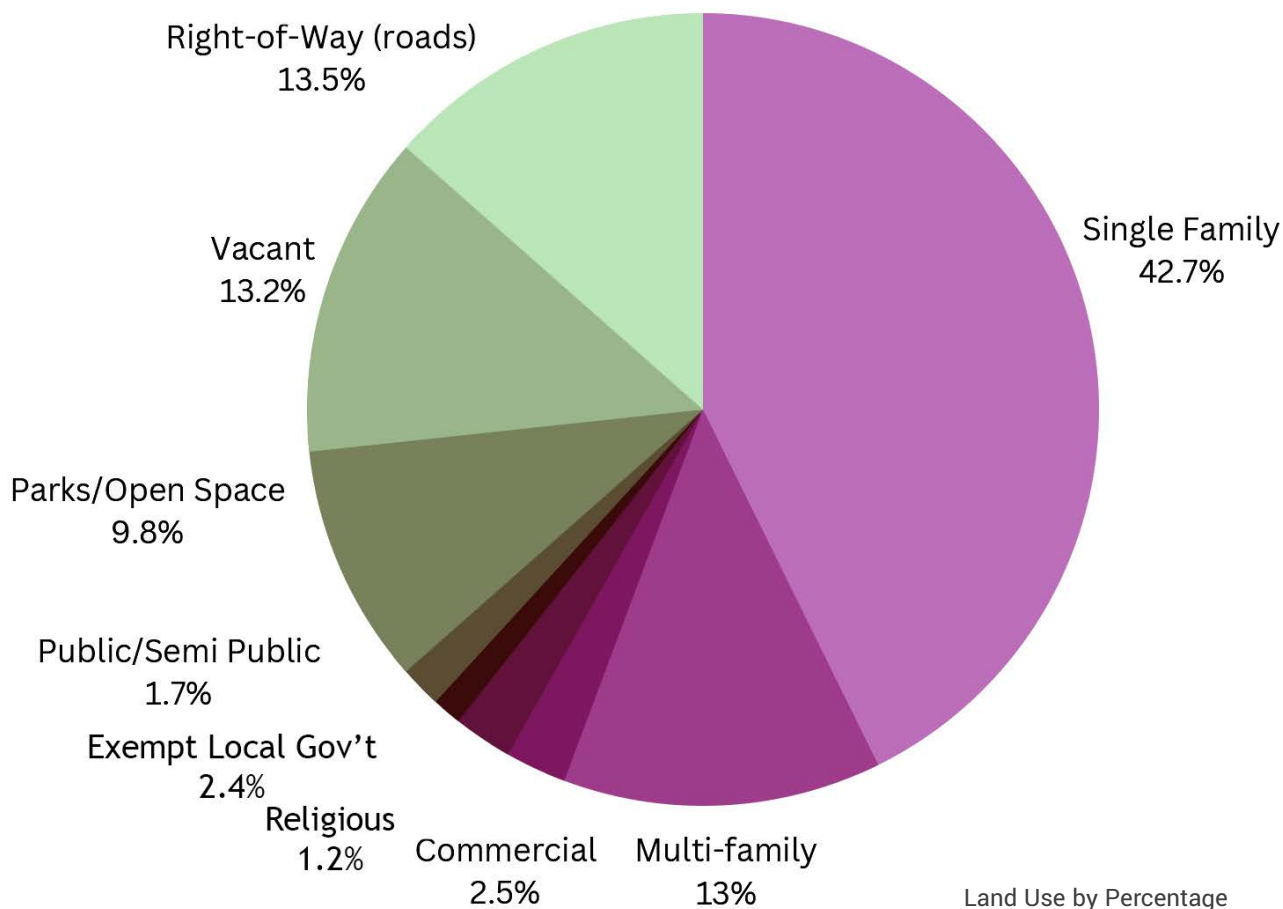


## Land Use

Berrytown is largely comprised of single family residential lots (42.7%) with mature trees, which contributes to the rural feel of the neighborhood. This has led to a consistent appearance of a vegetated, rural community. Since land ownership has been such a powerful historic tool, there are many long-time residents who are very engaged in the neighborhood. They have quickly banded together to form a neighborhood association and community land trust that can advocate for the community in issues of home ownership, development, and land use.

Infill housing and home ownership are current concerns of Berrytown residents, as they grapple with finding new ways to develop vacant lots while preserving their rural aesthetic and cultural heritage. Neighbors recognize the beauty in a diversity of housing and people, but also place significant value on retaining their neighborhood's unique culture in a place with a legacy of home-ownership not seen in other neighborhoods affected by redlining and other discriminatory practices. It is their hope that new developments of any kind should aesthetically match the current conditions in Berrytown, which is guided by Neighborhood Form District. Residents would like for this neighborhood plan to serve as a testament to the success of Neighborhood Form, and to encourage new development to match the historic design patterns of the neighborhood.

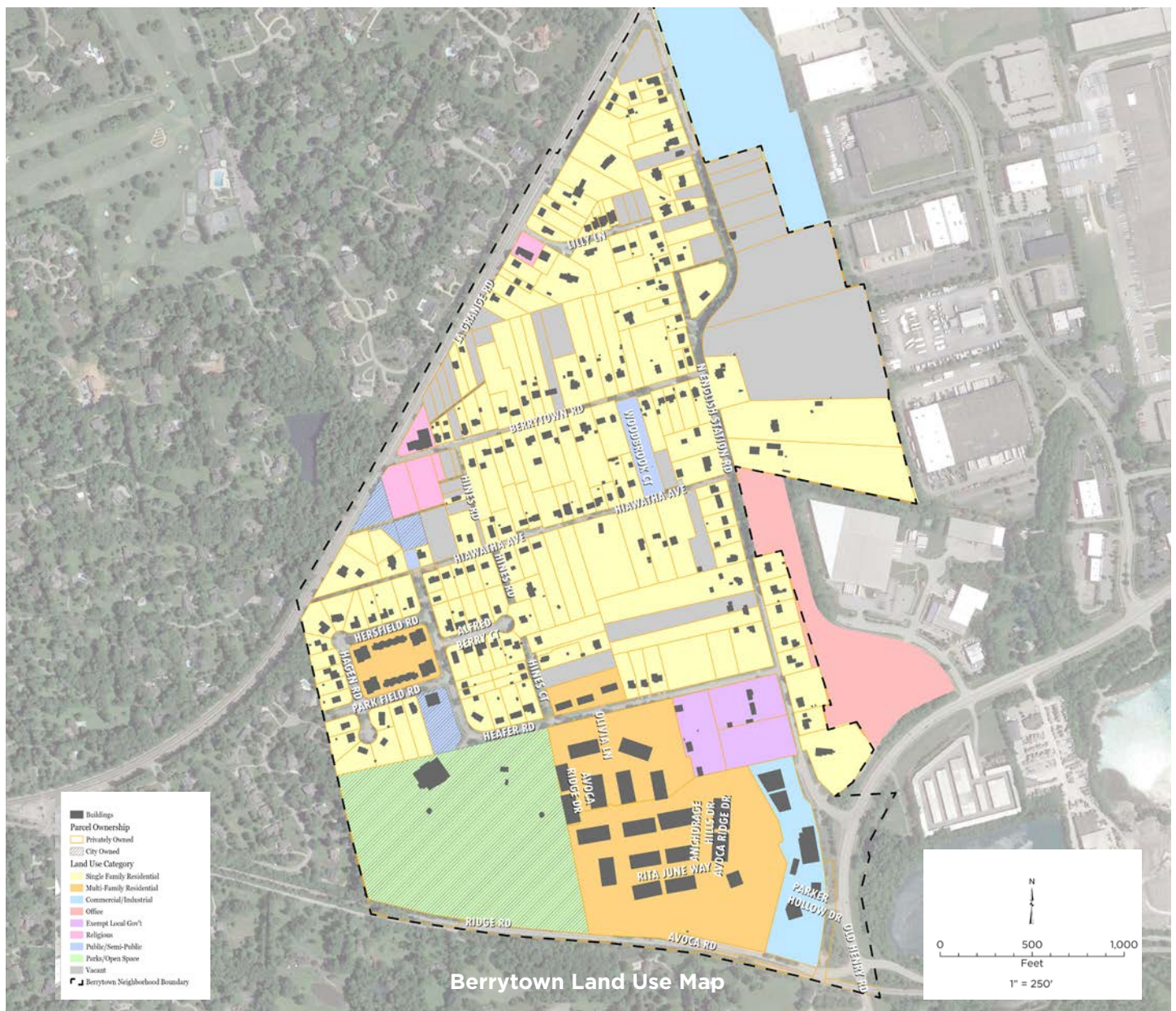
Another land use related issue is the decline and abandonment of property in the community. There are a fair number of properties that no longer have houses and are considered vacant – even if there are local landowners in good standing. Other properties may have deteriorated homes that are abandoned. This has led to lots being overgrown with vegetation, which expresses a lack of care or management. These vacant



Land Use by Percentage

lots account for 13.2 percent of the neighborhood’s land use. Further study is recommended to determine how properties become vacant or abandoned and what can be done to solve the problem.

One solution to affordable housing and home ownership is accomplished through the creation of a Community Land Trust (CLT). Berrytown has formed the Berrytown CLT as a 501(c)3 organization to foster community owned properties in service to current and future residents.





## Berrytown Neighborhood Plan

### Priority

L = Low Priority  
M = Medium Priority  
H = High Priority

### Time Frame

S = Short Term (1-3 years)  
M = Mid Term (4-6 years)  
L = Long Term (7+ years)  
O = Ongoing

## LAND USE RECOMMENDATIONS

**Strategy Recommendation Priority Timeframe Next Steps and Responsible Parties**

### Objective 1: Promote a resilient and civically engaged community.

#### Recommendation 1.1: Create a Neighborhood Association with 501(c)3 status.

1.1.1	Add the Neighborhood Association to the notification list for development applications in the area. Notify members of upcoming cases.	H	O	Berrytown Neighborhood Association (BNA) to create a notification list for all members BNA to create a series of next steps when upcoming cases occur BNA to work with Metro staff to understand Berrytown's concerns with upcoming cases
1.1.2	Add civically engaged community members to the notification list for development applications in the area.	L	L	All parties to promote the link to the city email subscriptions for notifications: <a href="https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/KYLOUISVILLE/subscriber/new">https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/KYLOUISVILLE/subscriber/new</a>

### Objective 2: Support and encourage Berrytown's historic housing legacy.

#### Recommendation 2.1: Promote future development that reflects the historic design of the neighborhood.

2.1.1	Seek developers and developments that increase affordable home ownership for residents.	H	S/L	Community Land Trust (CLT) to seek out builders and developers that will work with the CLT CLT to identify project partners All parties to identify funding sources
2.1.2	Encourage infill housing and improvements that build value and are sensitive to the design of the surrounding community.	M	M/L	CLT to review housing types and typical dimensions for Berrytown CLT to identify project partners All parties to identify funding sources
2.1.3	Investigate Community Land Trust status with leadership from the neighborhood.	H	M/L	CLT to investigate other Community Land Trusts (CLT) in the area CLT to review legal framework needed

#### Recommendation 2.2: Work with various partners to decrease the number of vacant and abandoned properties.

2.2.1	Utilize the Berrytown CLT 501(c)3 status to purchase and clean up abandoned properties.	H	O	CLT to identify properties CLT to create a roadmap to purchase properties CLT to work with the city to rehabilitate properties
2.2.3	Invite Louisville Metro staff to speak to the BNA about the root causes of vacant and abandoned properties, and discuss existing and future solutions.	H	O	BNA to learn from Metro staff about the VAP process and share their experiences BNA to create a series of next steps for dealing with Berrytown vacant properties BNA to intervene early in the process through rehabilitation before a property becomes rundown/vacant

#### Recommendation 2.3: Ensure that infill development is consistent with surrounding form.

2.3.1	Evaluate infill standards in suburban contexts in the Land Development Code to make sure design of new developments is consistent.	H	O	BNA to work with Metro staff on the effects of the LDC on a historically low-density community Metro staff to review infill standards in suburban contexts. Metro staff to take request to the Planning Commission for changes
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08

HOUSING

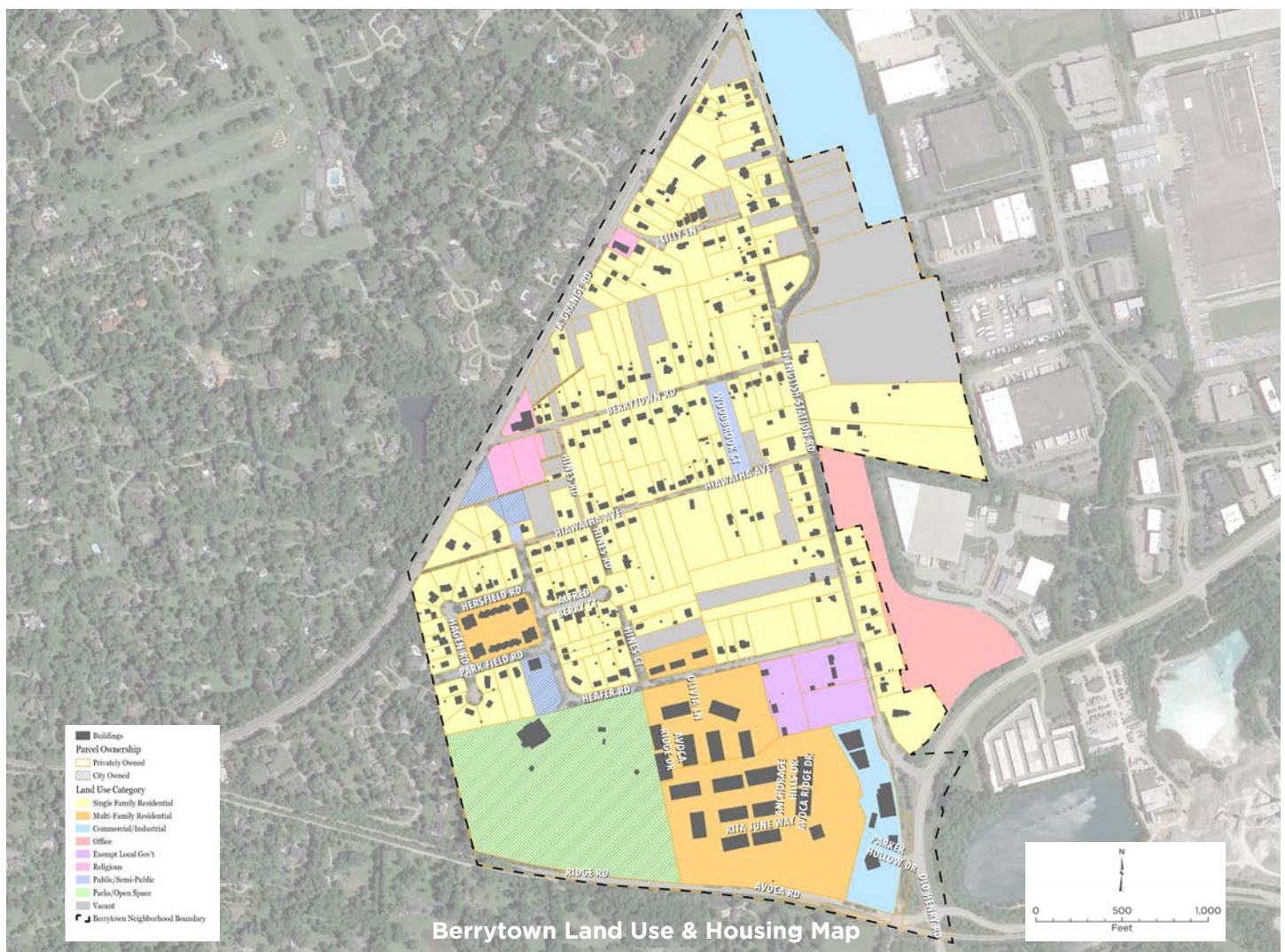


# Housing

Housing in Berrytown is a mix of stock from the late 1800's to present day. The varied age of the structures means that some homes require significant on-going maintenance. The neighbors named that they could use assistance in paying for home repairs. They are aware of the need for greater energy efficiency to reduce energy bills. One solution is to connect neighbors with programs that can assist with repair, utility, and tax costs.

A larger issue is that Berrytown is currently at 55% home ownership, which is below the city of Louisville's average of 60% home ownership, according to the National Realtors Association. The lower proportion could be due to the recent multi-family growth in the community. Note that there is an affordability gap in housing for those below 50% AMI according to the 2019 Housing Needs Assessment. Berrytown wants to encourage a balance that is at least in line with the city's percentage of home ownership compared to rentals, as well as affordable.

Some recent developments have marketed themselves as being in the Anchorage or Middletown area. Berrytown residents wish to have developers and home builders correctly name their developments as residing in Berrytown. The communities that surround it are bigger with more name recognition, however Berrytown wants to continue its historic legacy through the continued use of the Berrytown name. This is especially important as new people come to the area and become aware of the rich history - starting with Alfred Berry.





## Berrytown Neighborhood Plan

### Priority

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### Time Frame

S = Short Term (1-3 years)  
M = Mid Term (4-6 years)  
L = Long Term (7+ years)  
O = Ongoing

## HOUSING RECOMMENDATIONS

**Strategy Recommendation Priority Timeframe Next Steps and Responsible Parties**

### Objective 3: Increase and stabilize homeownership.

#### Recommendation 3.1: Develop increased opportunities for owner-occupied housing

3.1.1	Create a neighborhood-wide goal for the home ownership rate in Berrytown (currently 55%) to meet or exceed the home ownership rate for Jefferson County (currently 60%).	H	L	Berrytown Neighborhood Association (BNA) and Community Land Trust (CLT) to develop relationships with contractors that will work with the community on home ownership BNA and CLT to identify other partners and provide educational programs for home ownership
3.1.2	Seek assistance for low-income families and seniors to afford home repairs and increase energy efficiency.	H	S/L	BNA to seek out home repair contractors that will work with the Neighborhood Association and the community BNA to identify other municipal partners All parties to identify funding sources
3.1.3	Encourage and properly utilize programs that help residents with increasing utility and property tax costs.	H	S/L	BNA to identify resources like Louisville Metro Office of Resilience and Community Services BNA to identify programs like Project Warm, LG&E's WeCare and WinterCare, and MSD's Emergency Wastewater Rate Assistance Program
3.1.4	Consider a local historic preservation district with design guidelines to preserve and enhance the character of Berrytown.	M	S	BNA to identify partners to assist such as Develop Louisville's Office of Housing and Community Development BNA to identify solutions like Jefferson County PVA office Homestead Exemption
3.1.5	Seek nomination and obtain National Register of Historic Places designation for Berrytown.	H	S	BNA to with Louisville Metro Planning and Design Services and Kentucky Heritage Council BNA to identify funding sources

### Objective 4: Promote Berrytown as a safe, welcoming, and inclusive community.

#### Recommendation 4.1: Communicate the geographic location and identity of the Berrytown neighborhood

4.1.1	Encourage new development in the neighborhood to identify their location as Berrytown.	H	S/L	BNA to meet with developers in the area to discuss and inform about the Berrytown neighborhood plan, and the neighborhood's rich history and legacy
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# 09

## MOBILITY



## Mobility

Three main initiatives were identified by Berrytown residents regarding mobility. They are increasing the efficiency of the vehicular traffic network, improving the safety and continuity of the pedestrian network, and enhancing transit connections. The community sees the advantages of being connected to the surrounding communities, which gives them options and opportunities but also increases safety for all modes of transportation.

Increasing the efficiency of the vehicular traffic network is based on concerns for safety and connectivity. Ridge Road was closed sometime in the last few decades, which has funneled more traffic onto other roads during high-volume times. With rail lines so close, there are few vehicular connections through the neighborhood when the traffic is heavy. Having more options could disperse the traffic during those times. Evaluation of the closed connection should determine what other options can be made to alleviate current traffic bottlenecks.

Road safety is another concern in the neighborhood. Pedestrian crossing safety is a struggle due to the few connectivity options and the road geometry. Heafer Road has a 90-degree bend at the Berrytown Recreational Center, which is a crossing point for pedestrians going to the Center. The limited sight distance and high traffic speed can create a conflict between the drivers and people crossing the street. North English Station Road has a double curve in the roadway where drivers travel at speeds above what is posted. This can create a critical situation for drivers and adjacent landowners. Even single car accidents have occurred where cars have left the roadway and ended up in yards.

Lighting was named as an ongoing safety problem – both for people walking in the neighborhood and for drivers. One instance is the double curves of North English Station Road where drivers unfamiliar with the roadway may not know how the road bends. Lighting would help create a safer environment and a cue to look for upcoming changes in the road geometry. Berrytown Park is another place that needs lighting improvements. The recreation center has good lighting throughout the parking lot and building entrance, but the rest of the park should be reviewed for adequate lighting. The bend of Heafer Road in front of the park should be evaluated to determine options for increasing pedestrian safety and comfort. Safety at Jefferson County Public School's bus stops could improve through additional lighting, at locations such as Heafer and Hiawatha, two stops on North English Station, and one at Berrytown Road and Hines.

Connecting sidewalks inside and beyond the neighborhood was another highlighted issue. The size of the sidewalk network and number of ADA ramps has increased in Berrytown, but there are larger aspects that were highlighted by the neighbors – they want to be connected to the surrounding neighborhoods. They want to connect to Eastpoint Business Center on the east for jobs but also their walking path/green space. To the west, they want to connect to Anchorage and their greenway. To the south, they want to connect to Middletown for groceries, shopping, and jobs. Internally, they would like more loop walks – both in the park and throughout the neighborhood.

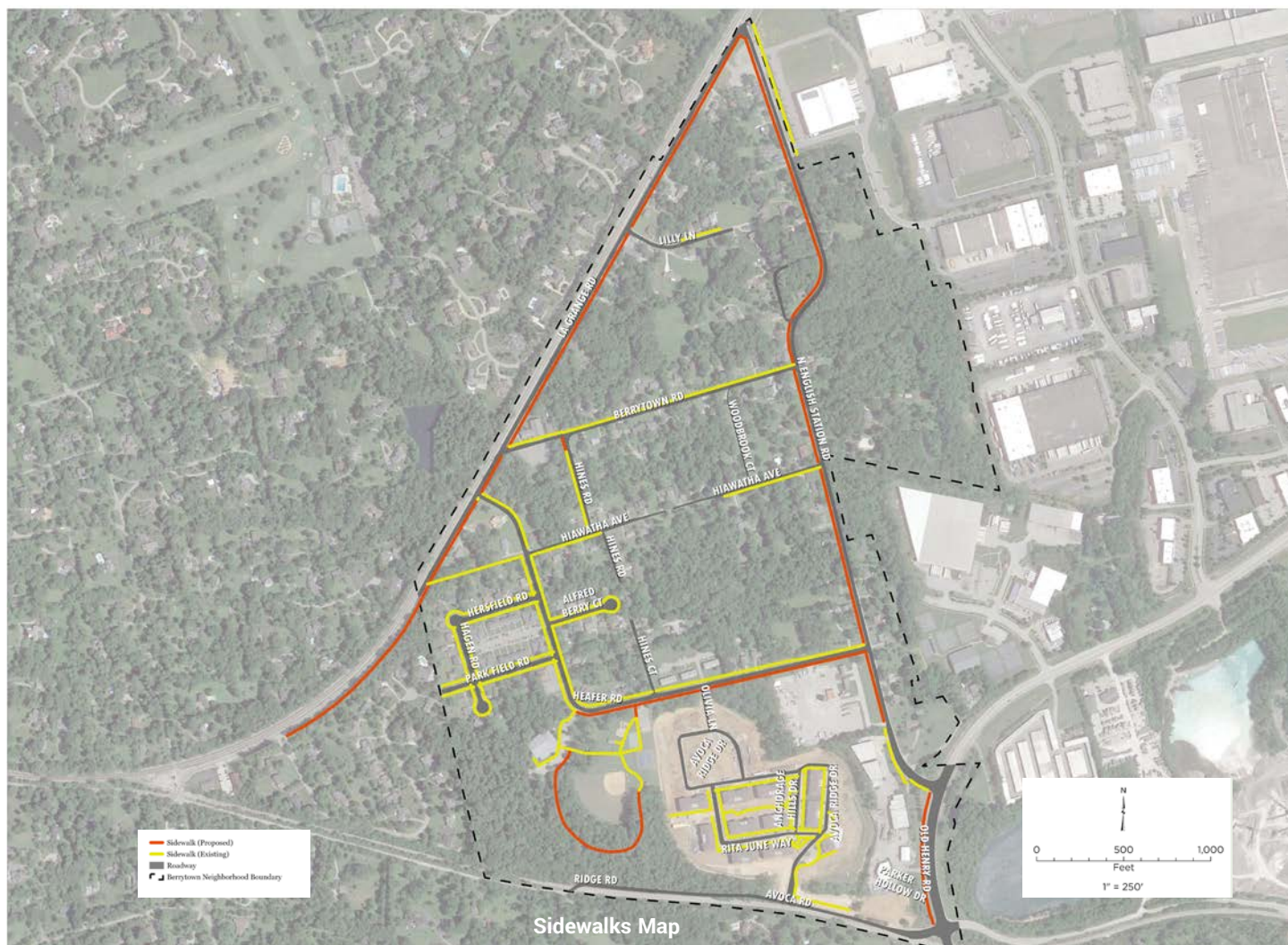
Berrytown has had bus connections for many years. The #31 TARC route passes through the neighborhood and connects to the Eastpoint Business Center for jobs and to Middletown for services. Issues related to bus frequency and physical amenities were mentioned and are added to the recommendations of the plan.







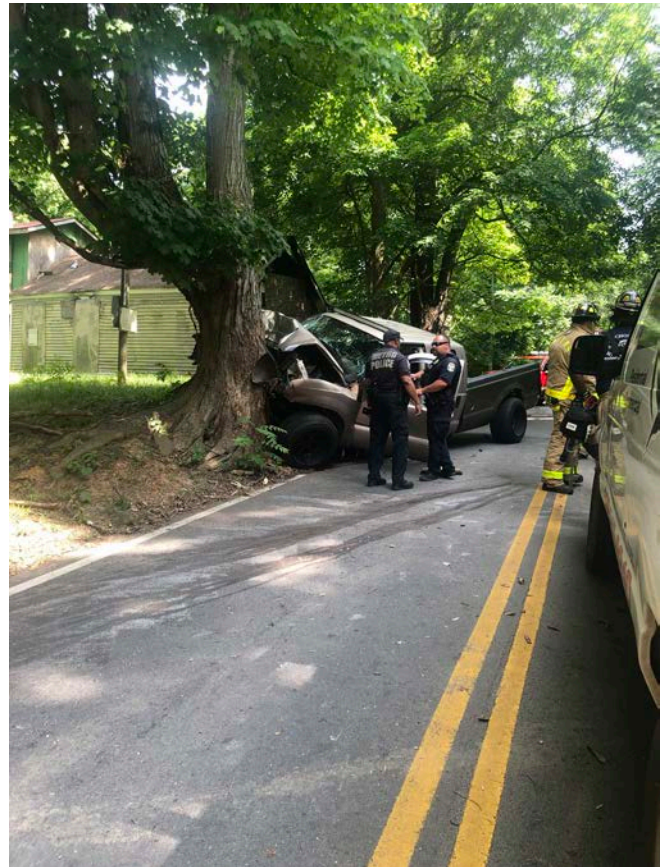




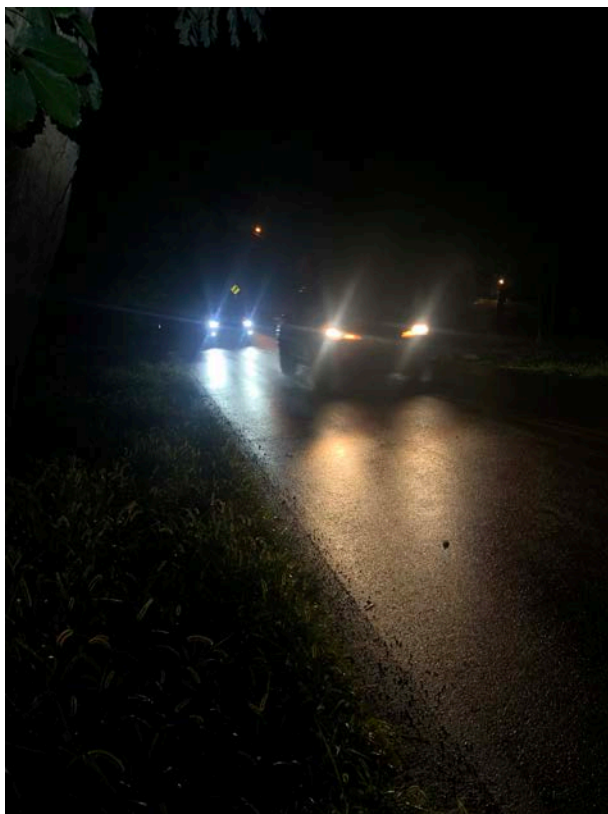




The existing conditions of the double curve and high rate of speed have led to accidents on North English Station Road (southbound), leading to Recommendation 5.1.6.\*



Single vehicle motor accident in the double curve on North English Station Road (northbound).\*



Lack of lighting on North English Station Road led to Recommendation 5.2.6.\*

\*These photos were captured and submitted for inclusion in the plan by Berrytown residents.



## MOBILITY & CONNECTIVITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Strategy	Recommendation	Priority	Timeframe	Next Steps and Responsible Parties
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### Objective 5: Promote multi-modal connections inside the neighborhood and to the surrounding areas.

#### Recommendation 5.1: Improve the vehicular transportation network to adjacent neighborhoods.

5.1.1	Identify improvements on Heafer Road to calm traffic and create safe crossings to Berrytown Park.	M	M	Metro Public Works to study need for traffic calming Metro Public Works to conduct preliminary engineering study for improvements Metro Public Works to prioritize pedestrian safety improvements on Heafer Road
5.1.2	Consider re-opening Ridge (Avoca) Road to create more connectivity.	L	L	Berrytown Neighborhood Association (BNA) to research the closing of Avoca Road at the railroad tracks Metro Public Works to study options for safely opening the connection between Avoca Road and Ridge Road Metro Public Works to identify funding for safer railroad crossings
5.1.3	Begin neighborhood-wide education and enforcement of business car sales/repair impeding through traffic on public streets.	L	S & O	Align Louisville Metro Government partnering agencies with BNA: Councilperson's office, Code Enforcement, and Louisville Metro Police Department to determine the enforcement response for on-street car parking, repair, and sales All parties to implement a neighborhood-wide response
5.1.4	Encourage new developments undergoing rezoning in and adjacent to the Berrytown neighborhood to conduct a traffic study as part of the development review process.	H	O	Planning & Design Services to review traffic study and make available on Accela prior to public hearings
5.1.5	Create right-of-way through Louisville Metro Government property at Heafer and La Grange Road. Dedicate excess land to the Berrytown CLT.	H	O	Metro Public Works to have properties surveyed Metro Public Works to dedicate right-of-way Louisville Metro Government and CLT to consider the best option for any excess land
5.1.6	Study and consider options for traffic calming on through roads such as Heafer Road, North English Station Road, and Berrytown Road.	H	M	Metro Public Works to study need for traffic calming Metro Public Works to conduct preliminary engineering study for improvements Metro Public Works to construct pedestrian safety improvements on Berrytown Road, Heafer Road, and North English Station Road

#### Recommendation 5.2: Improve the safety and continuity of the pedestrian network.

5.2.1	Create a walking path loop in Berrytown Park.	H	S	BNA and Louisville Parks and Recreation to identify funding sources and secure funding Louisville Parks and Recreation to construct proposed design
5.2.2	Create sidewalk routes that connect the Berrytown neighborhood.	H	M	Align Louisville Metro Government partnering agencies: Metro Public Works and Councilperson's office through their funding sources Louisville Metro Government agencies to secure funding for designing and constructing proposed enhancements Louisville Metro Government agencies to design and construct sidewalks and other improvements
5.2.3	Add sidewalks along the Fire Training Facility property on Heafer Road to connect to N English Station Road.	L	M	Align Louisville Metro Government partnering agencies: Metro Public Works, Fire Department, and Councilperson's office through their funding sources for designing and constructing proposed enhancements Louisville Metro Government agencies to design and construct concept(s)
5.2.4	Add sidewalks along N English Station Road in support of a loop for the neighborhood and for school bus stops.	M	M	Align Louisville Metro Government partnering agencies: Metro Public Works, JCPS, and Councilperson's office through their funding sources for designing and constructing proposed enhancements Louisville Metro Government agencies to design and construct concept(s)
5.2.5	Create a continuous sidewalk connection to Eastpoint Business Center, Anchorage and Middletown to the south, to access amenities and employment opportunities.	H	L	Align Louisville Metro Government partnering agencies: Metro Public Works and Councilperson's office through their funding sources for designing and constructing proposed enhancements Louisville Metro Government agencies to design and implement concept(s)
5.2.6	Conduct an overall lighting study based on pedestrian need, crash data, and recommended light levels - in particular, analyze the need for street lighting in the double curve of North English Station Road; bend in Heafer; Berrytown; and Hiawatha.	H	M	Metro Public Works and LG&E to analyze need and power feeds for electric service JCPS Transportation to review all bus stops for proper lighting Metro Public Works to identify funding sources Louisville Metro Government agencies to design and construct lighting improvements.

#### Recommendation 5.3: Improve transit connections.

5.3.1	Encourage TARC to investigate the timing and availability of pick up/drop offs during typical education and employment hours.	H	M	BNA to identify concerns with TARC TARC to perform a review of services TARC to implement changes that address concerns, review and check-in with BNA that the changes work
5.3.2	Study bus shelter location associated with Berrytown Park, including a safe street crossing.	H	L	BNA and TARC to identify location TARC to develop design and review with neighborhood TARC to identify funding sources TARC to install shelter
5.3.3	Create a working partnership between TARC and the Neighborhood Association to promote ridership.	L	S & L	BNA to identify concerns with TARC BNA to work with TARC to create a specific, updated list of locations and times to catch a bus in Berrytown BNA to circulate the list throughout the neighborhood





DEPARTMENT OF  
**METRO PARKS  
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10

BERRYTOWN PARK



## Berrytown Park

Berrytown Park is a unifying feature of the community. Church, family, and community gatherings happen at the park. People gather at the park to watch and participate in ball games. The Recreation Center also serves as a space for the community to come together. The park has existed since 1970 and the Recreation Center since 2000. Now, in 2023, there are new park features that could be added and some current features that need repair. Neighbors prioritized park needs to provide guidance for the District 17 office and Metro Parks in the appropriation of available funds. So, as a part of the neighborhood planning process, the neighbor's priorities for the park were added to the report.

After hearing so many requests for various changes, it became apparent that a master plan of the park should be considered. It would further organize and prioritize the needs for the park and the community. Some things mentioned in the plan, like a sign for the ballfield, may seem small but are meaningful to the community. Other items, like a sprayground, require complex infrastructure so prior planning is critical. The recommendations for Berrytown Park are listed in the priority order determined by the community, but they need further organization and study in the form of a master plan. Another issue in the park is deferred maintenance of certain features, each of which should be evaluated for repair or replacement. Some of these features are small, like picnic tables, while other features require more investment. Large gatherings this year have exposed ongoing maintenance problems with the electrical systems in the bathrooms, outdoor lighting, and concession stand. Collectively, more study is needed to review all types of maintenance issues in the park.





# BERRYTOWN PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

## Strategy Recommendation

## Priority Timeframe Next Steps and Responsible Parties

### Objective 6: Position Berrytown Park as a central asset in a thriving and sustainable community.

#### Recommendation 6.1: Implement capital improvements, such as new features and updates, to Berrytown Park.

6.1.1	Conduct a Master Plan of Berrytown Park.	H	S	Louisville Parks and Recreation to work with Berrytown Neighborhood Association (BNA) to create a Master Plan of the Park through consensus building Louisville Parks and Recreation and Councilperson's office to seek potential funding Louisville Parks and Recreation to conduct preliminary design
6.1.2	Add a Sprayground play area to Berrytown Park.	M	L	Louisville Parks and Recreation to work with Berrytown Neighborhood Association (BNA) to create a plan to add a Sprayground typical of other parks Louisville Parks and Recreation and Councilperson's office to seek potential funding Louisville Parks and Recreation to conduct preliminary design Louisville Parks and Recreation to implement a Sprayground
6.1.3	Create a walking path loop in Berrytown Park.	H	S	Louisville Parks and Recreation to work with Berrytown Neighborhood Association (BNA) to create detailed plan for a loop path for exercise in Berrytown Louisville Parks and Recreation and Councilperson's office to seek potential funding Louisville Parks and Recreation to conduct preliminary design Louisville Parks and Recreation to implement a loop path
6.1.4	Add a commemorative ballfield sign honoring local Berrytown hero, Louis "Spike" Bald.	M	M	BNA to work with Louisville Parks and Recreation and Metro Public Works Sign Department to create a sign Louisville Parks and Recreation to add the sign to ballfield
6.1.5	Add movable bleachers to the ball field that could also be utilized in other areas of the park, such as the basketball court.	L	M	Louisville Parks and Recreation to secure bleachers for Berrytown Park for ongoing ball events
6.1.6	Add a State Historical Marker to recognize the history and legacy of the Berrytown neighborhood.	L	M	BNA to create detailed historic sign plan including the text BNA to seek out funding BNA to send historic sign information to Kentucky Historical Society in Frankfort for review BNA to implement Historic Sign with the Kentucky Historical Society

#### Recommendation 6.2: Perform necessary maintenance in neglected areas of Berrytown Park.

6.2.1	Determine if repair, replacement, or capital improvements are needed throughout Berrytown Park via a Master Plan.	H	S	Louisville Parks and Recreation to do or hire a consultant to review the infrastructure and needs of the community and to create an overall priority plan for improvements to the park
6.2.2	Repair and update the "tree stump" bollards along the Berrytown Park perimeter.	L	S	BNA to work with Louisville Parks and Recreation to implement a new perimeter system
6.2.3	Replace picnic tables with long-lasting composite materials.	M	S	BNA to work with Louisville Parks and Recreation to supply a series of picnic tables for ongoing events
6.2.4	Implement drainage improvements to prevent standing water and erosion, and to maintain quality access to sidewalks.	H	M	BNA to work with Louisville Parks and Recreation and MSD to slope flat ground, vegetate erosion problems, and reinforce banks at sidewalk creek crossing
6.2.5	Improve basketball court surface.	H	L	BNA to work with Louisville Parks and Recreation to review the broken, unlevelled basketball surface
6.2.6	Investigate the state of the Berrytown Park Concessions Stand. Assess whether repairs/upgrades or replacement are a better option.	H	L	Louisville Parks and Recreation to investigate the condition of the Concessions Stand and consider options for the facility BNA to be consulted by Louisville Parks and Recreation after investigation
6.2.7	Review Park lighting for consistency and for ball activities. Check electrical hookups are in working order. See that some power is available at all times.	H	S	BNA to work with Louisville Parks and Recreation to review electrical connections and general power availability



Mural on Berrytown Park restroom facility





11

QUALITY OF LIFE



## Quality of Life

Though much of the concern in the neighborhood revolves around land use and housing, other quality of life issues also surfaced during the process. The recommendations began as requests from individuals that were then echoed by other residents in subsequent meetings. The requests included growing the tree canopy, caring for historic cemeteries, highlighting neighborhood identity, and increasing community cohesion.

Tree canopy is among the highest priorities of Berrytown residents. They enjoy living in a heavily forested area that offers a rural experience. Tree canopy coverage in the neighborhood was 49% in 2017. That number decreased in the last few years to 42.2% as new development has occurred on greenfield sites. The total tree canopy coverage of the neighborhood may increase slightly as the required tree plantings in new developments mature, but the neighborhood will still be less than Louisville Metro's overall goal of 45% tree canopy for the entire county, set by the [Urban Tree Canopy Assessment \(2015\)](#). In order to proactively address this issue, the Berrytown Neighborhood Plan encourages developers to contribute to the neighborhood-wide goal of 45% tree canopy. This goal is meant to increase the canopy on a neighborhood scale and does not necessarily apply to individual sites or supersede the requirements of the Land Development Code.

Other recommendations in the Quality of Life section relate to neighborhood identity. One way to establish this identity is through banners and gateway signs that promote the Berrytown name and community. Residents would like new developments and visitors to recognize the unique history and community of Berrytown.

Another recommendation from neighbors is the desire for a "Little Library" in Berrytown. This is a phenomenon popularized over the last decade where small, protected book shelters are placed on private property. Neighbors can pick up and drop off books in the "Little Library" at their own discretion and convenience. The books are free to everyone. It is a way that a community can create strong bonds and increase cohesion. In a way, this reflects one of the primary values of Berrytown: being free.



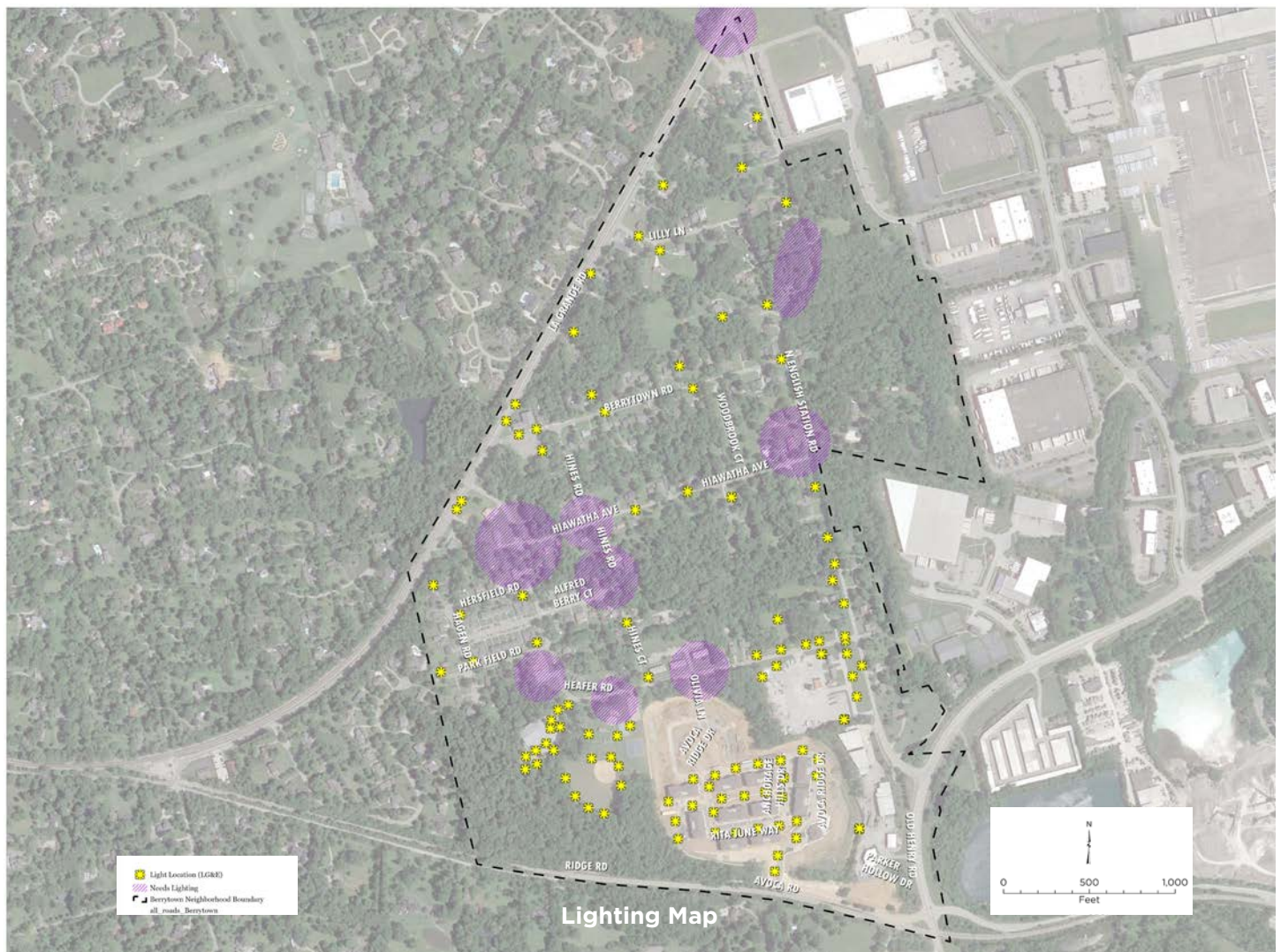
Example of a "Little Library"





Example of a “Little Food Pantry”







## Berrytown Neighborhood Plan

### Priority

L = Low Priority

M = Medium Priority

H = High Priority

### Time Frame

S = Short Term (1-3 years)

M = Mid Term (4-6 years)

L = Long Term (7+ years)

O = Ongoing

## QUALITY OF LIFE RECOMMENDATIONS

Strategy	Recommendation	Priority	Timeframe	Next Steps and Responsible Parties
Objective 7: Support an engaged community with a small town feel in a forested neighborhood.				
Recommendation 7.1: Maintain and enhance the historic tree canopy in Berrytown.				
7.1.1	Encourage new development to contribute to the neighborhood-wide goal of 45% tree canopy coverage, matching the tree canopy goal for Louisville Metro set forth in the <i>Urban Tree Canopy Assessment</i> (2015).	H	S	Since most of the vacant lots are forested, encourage new development to contribute to the neighborhood-wide goal of 45% tree canopy through tree preservation, fees-in-lieu, and alternate site planting. The 45% coverage goal is meant to increase tree canopy on a neighborhood scale and does not necessarily apply to individual sites and does not supersede the requirements in the Land Development Code.
7.1.2	Conduct a tree health audit for the Berrytown neighborhood.	H	L	In order to maintain a mature forested area, BNA to request that tree health will need to be studied by the Metro Division of Community Forestry
7.1.3	Work with partners to create a tree preservation and rehabilitation program.	M	M	BNA to promote tree knowledge to rehabilitate the forest in Berrytown through agencies like Brightside and organizations like Trees Louisville and Louisville Grows
7.1.4	Coordinate a twice a year tree and trash clean up day in the Berrytown neighborhood.	M	L	BNA to work with the Metro Council, Brightside, and organizations like Trees Louisville and Louisville Grows to create a yearly clean up day in order to keep the tree debris in check
Objective 8: Strengthen the historic legacy of Berrytown.				
Recommendation 8.1: Preserve and promote Berrytown's history to build pride in Berrytown's independent past.				
8.1.1	Install placemaking and identity banners throughout the neighborhood, especially at gateways.	H	S	BNA, Councilperson's office, and Metro Public Works to indicate where banners and gateways should be located through the neighborhood
8.1.2	Improve access to social services (food pantry, TARC access, and senior activities)	H	L	BNA to locate a food pantry in the neighborhood BNA to further work with TARC on access BNA to further work with non-profits and government services to create a robust senior services
8.1.3	Add a Little Food Pantry in Berrytown.	M	M	BNA to locate a Little Food Pantry on private property adjacent to the right-of-way
8.1.4	Add a Little Library in Berrytown.	H	S	BNA to locate a Little (Book) Library on private property adjacent to the right-of-way
8.1.5	Identify and improve cemeteries by locating them, keeping trees in good health, grounds maintenance, and signage	H	L	BNA to work with land owners to restore cemeteries and maintain the grounds, even inside of TCPA where cleaning can occur as long as trees are not removed
8.1.6	Create ongoing local festival events in Berrytown Park	H	O	BNA, Councilperson's office, and Louisville Parks and Recreation to work together on providing a well-planned festival structure to continue the legacy of local festivals



