

OUR VISION: RENEWAL OF THE COLLEGE HILL NEIGHBORHOOD AREA

The College Hill Neighborhood Area is an important, visible and dynamic social and cultural hub of the Cedar Falls community. It offers a vibrant living and working environment with social vitality, cultural diversity, and aesthetic imagination. The Neighborhood presents opportunities for life-long learning experiences, leisure and thriving economic enterprises. It is effectively positioned to recapture the nostalgia of Main Street Iowa while embracing the zest of 21st Century learning, living, working and playing. Its renewal can be facilitated by promotion of the following:

Social and Cultural

The College Hill Neighborhood Area will demonstrate community vitality as an engaged, culturally diverse citizenry in a cornerstone historical neighborhood. We envision a neighborhood and business district that: 1) offers abundant and dynamic community events, street fairs, and live music for all ages; 2) is a destination accessible by pedestrians and bicycles; 3) offers recreational opportunities through corridors connecting the area to the greater community; and 4) serves as a tourism destination offering attractive venues as well as complementary support services for annual University-based events.

Aesthetic

The College Hill Neighborhood Area will represent a unique expression of the people living and working in the neighborhood. We envision a neighborhood that 1) reflects the creative endeavors of its citizens; 2) demonstrates creative solutions to urban environmental issues; and 3) promotes a functional, aesthetically pleasing environment that both reflects and encourages community practices of sustainability and beautification.

Student Life & Learning: "Live, work, create..."

Because the University and its students are the heart of the neighborhood, we wish to create more opportunities for learning, service and community collaboration. We envision mutual enhancement of the University and the Neighborhood through encouraging opportunities for student research, service learning and entrepreneurial experiences. Students living in the College Hill Neighborhood Area can and should be embraced as fully participating, contributing members of the community.

Community Economic Renewal

We wish to revitalize the College Hill Neighborhood Area through community and business development to encourage a wider range of complementary services and businesses in the commercial area and to promote family ownership and revitalization of aging residences. Transformation of the College Hill Neighborhood Area is essential as new social and cultural imperatives meet economic necessities.

OUR PLAN: RENEWAL OF THE COLLEGE HILL NEIGHBORHOOD AREA

The renewal of the College Hill Neighborhood Area can be facilitated by the following planning strategies:

Creation of a University/Community District Partnership

This partnership would include the College Hill Neighborhood Association, the University of Northern Iowa, College Hill Business Association and the City of Cedar Falls. The purpose of this partnership would be to bring into a collaborative venture the research, service and entrepreneurial thrusts of each toward the renewal of the College Hill Neighborhood Area.

Creation of a New Joint Position: College Hill Neighborhood Area Community Organizer

The purpose of the position is to serve as a catalyst and facilitator to align selected UNI academic programs, student resources, Neighborhood and City resources into an integrated whole to promote Area renewal and revitalization. This position calls for shared funding by the University of Northern Iowa and the City of Cedar Falls. Possible services to be initiated by this position include grant development and support, neighborhood safety/conflict resolution, neighborhood residential renewal, social and cultural program development, business and economic research/enhancement, as well as facilitation of relevant scholarly activities, service learning projects and other entrepreneurial projects.

Development of a Public/Private Partnership to Support Residential Home Ownership

This public/private partnership could be similar to existing University activities linking the Cedar Valley medical community with selected academic programs. Its purpose: to provide immediate assistance to the College Hill Neighborhood residential area. Such assistance could offer opportunities to students in Industrial Technology and other academic programs for meaningful, service-learning projects, such as improving the quality of residential sites to promote single-family ownership and neighborhood enhancement, etc. The proposed Community Organizer (see above) could coordinate this partnership.

Establishment of a Corridor Linking the UNI West Campus to the College Hill Improvement Project

This project requires clear linkages between the University, the Neighborhood's commercial and residential districts, and the larger community. It should establish a pedestrian and bicycle corridor which links the University's West Campus to the College Hill Improvement Project, and extend streetscape elements to penetrate the neighborhoods east and west. This will promote a greater sense of community and improve the integrity, aesthetic features and physical connection of the University to the College Hill Neighborhood.

Positioning of Malcolm Price Laboratory School as a Neighborhood School with Expanded Community Service Responsibilities

The Malcolm Price Laboratory School is the College Hill Neighborhood Area's local neighborhood school. Its role should be expanded to embrace broader neighborhood and community responsibilities. It must become a vibrant center of community action supporting the development of educational, social and cultural services as well as the entrepreneurial hub of social invention and action. This initiative supports positioning the Malcolm Price Laboratory School as a model demonstration entity for all Iowa communities, especially schools located in rural communities requiring such a comprehensive initiative.