Clarke Square Catalytic Projects

The following catalytic projects meet community needs identified by neighborhood residents, businesses, and other stakeholders. Together they will improve the infrastructure and cohesiveness of the community.

**Journey House Longfellow Center for Family Learning and Youth Athletics**

Journey House, a results-oriented community organization, and MPS Longfellow, a high-performing school, will build a $6 million addition to Longfellow to provide education and recreation services to residents. This joint facility meets the community demand for increased services, classroom and educational space, indoor sports venues and recreational areas, and green space. Journey House has secured $2.75 million in private funding towards this capital campaign. The project is “shovel-ready” and will create immediate local jobs.

**Sports-Plex**

A “Sports-Plex” multipurpose complex will be developed in Mitchell Park, including a large gymnasium that can be used for athletic tournaments or community events, and be available for rental for large gatherings such as family reunions and quinceañeras. The Sports-Plex will connect to other recreational destinations, such as the Hank Aaron Trail, and make available year-round sports and recreational activities to community members. This is in the pre-development phase.

**Skateboard Park**

A skateboard park will be built in Mitchell Park to meet the growing demand of young people. This is in the pre-development phase.

**NFL Football Field in Mitchell Park**

The NFL Green Bay Packers donated the former Nitschke Field Turf, a $300,000 synthetic field, to Journey House. Journey House will raise $450,000 to install and maintain the field in Milwaukee County’s Mitchell Park. National research demonstrates that high-quality football fields are catalysts for building community partnerships, increasing property values, and fostering economic development.

**Bike and Pedestrian Pathways**

To promote a bike-friendly community for youth and families, bicycle lanes and walking paths will be created. A facility where residents can build and repair bikes and skateboards also will be created.

**Clarke Square Park Revitalization**

Clarke Square Park will be revitalized as a safe, open space for children and families to congregate. The park will be designed to include benches, tables, drinking fountains, and other amenities that promote playing and gathering. The pavilion will be updated and expanded to accommodate neighborhood and family events.

**Milwaukee Christian Center**

Milwaukee Christian Center will launch a capital campaign to build a new center on its current site that would include a 48-unit senior housing complex, an expanded food pantry, indoor gymnasium, and space for community services.

**Hmong American Peace Academy**

Hmong American Peace Academy will expand its campus from K-6 to K-12 to effectively prepare 900 students for the demands of a competitive global economy. This project responds to the significant increase in student enrollment and parents’ desire to continue their children’s education at the academy.

**Welcome to Clarke Square**

Four Clarke Square gateway markers will be installed to market the community as one of the gateways to the Near South Side and tourist destinations such as Potawatomi Bingo Casino, Harley-Davidson Museum, Miller Park, and Mitchell Park Domes. In addition, a local artist competition will be held to design a logo and banners that promote Clarke Square as a neighborhood of choice for families and businesses. The banners will be displayed throughout the neighborhood to demonstrate pride in its diverse cultures and attractions.

**Urban Careers Institute**

The institute is an employment and training program that will place 75 adults in jobs each year. It meets the need for customized training and employment-readiness preparation in the areas of finance, science, engineering, coaching and officiating, urban ecology, economic development, customer service, and office technology.

**New Energy Star Homes**

The Milwaukee Christian Center Youth Build program will build three new Energy Star homes, which will provide affordable housing opportunities for residents. Neighborhood youth in Youth Build, an intensive carpentry skills training and educational program, will build these homes.

**Cesar Chavez Business Improvement District**

A new initiative will improve cooperation among businesses and attract new development in the Cesar Chavez Business Improvement District. The Cesar Chavez BID also will encourage commercial and residential property owners to invest in their properties and the community, improve façades, and attract businesses that are willing to help improve the business community.