

Tuesday, June 8: NJM Urban Placemaking Day



**Partnership and Planning for the Future:
Donnelly Homes and Battle Monument/North
Trenton Choice Neighborhood Initiative**



isles.org/forum



Partnership and Planning for the Future: Donnelly Homes and Battle Monument/North Trenton Choice Neighborhood Initiative



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Executive Director, Trenton Housing Authority



Jeff Wilkerson

Supervising Planner, Division of Planning,
City of Trenton



Michael Nordquist

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& Development



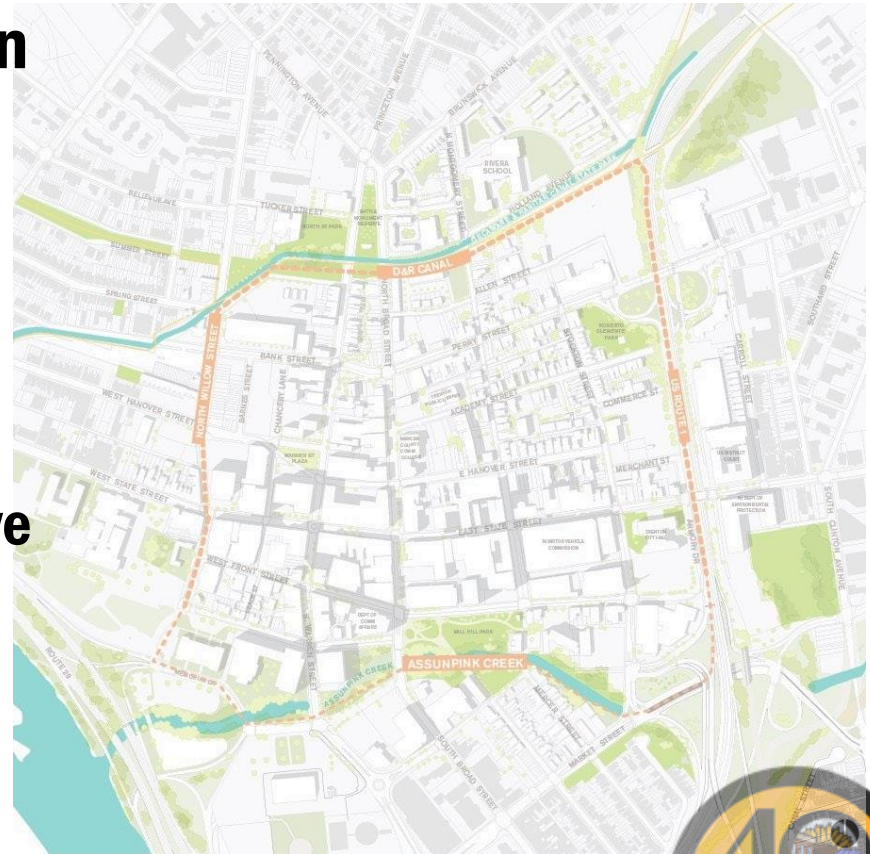
Overview

- 1. Isles, Planning, Partnership**
- 2. Choice Neighborhood Initiative**
- 3. North Trenton/Battle Monument Choice**
- 4. Conversation**
- 5. Next Steps and Conclusions**



Isles, Planning, Partnership

- **Long history of planning in Trenton and region**
 - **Citywide**
 - **Old Trenton/Downtown**
 - **East Trenton**
 - **Trenton Historic Development Collaborative**
 - **North Trenton/BUILD**
- **Plan *and* Do**
- **Only possible through partnership**



HUD's Choice Neighborhood Initiative

- **Launched in 2010, replaced HOPE VI**
- **Designed to revitalize public housing and the neighborhoods they're part of**
- **Provides planning and implementation grants**
- **Improvements from previous programs:**
 - Right to return for residents
 - One-for-one housing replacement
 - Robust resident engagement requirement
 - Comprehensive plan requirement

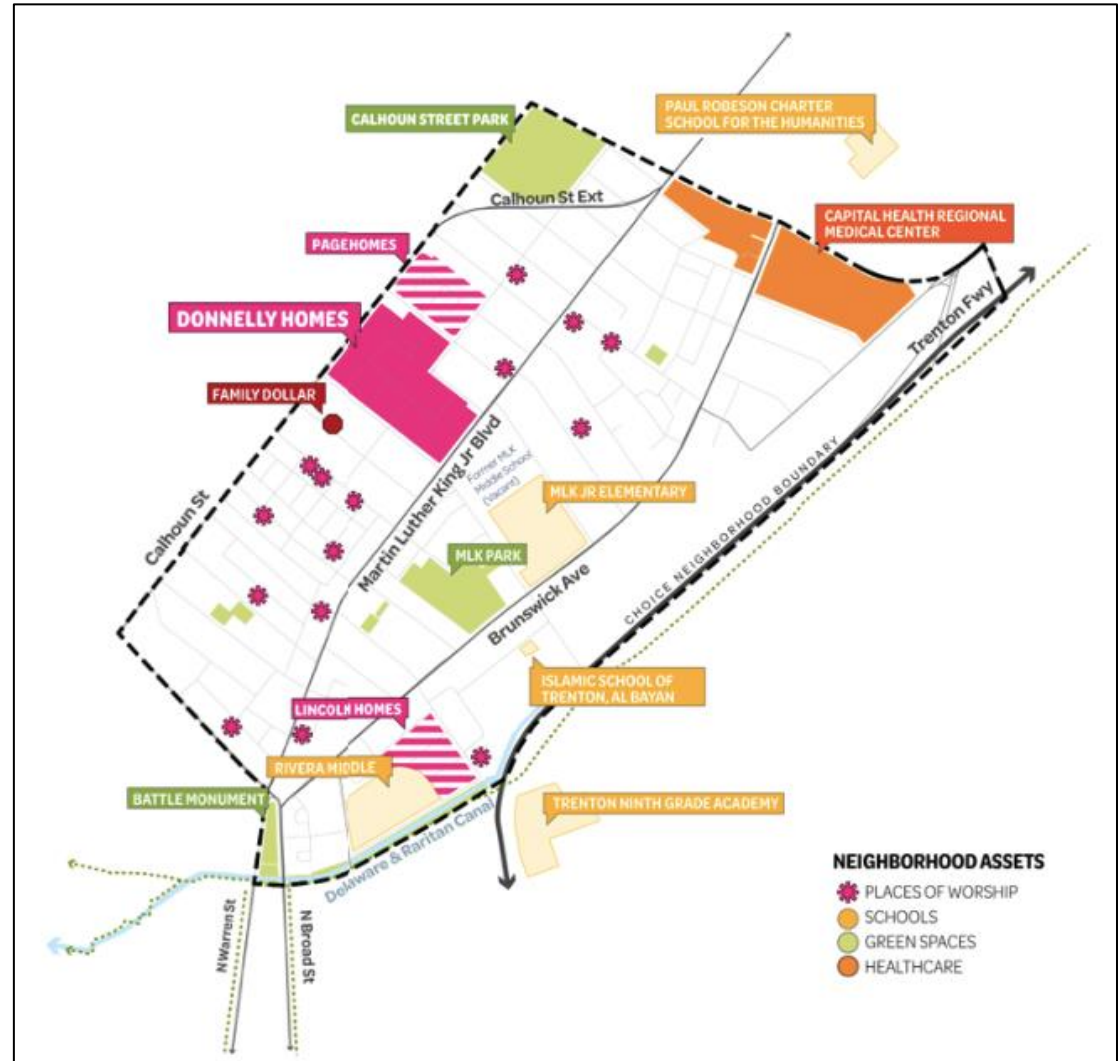


North Trenton/ Battle Monument Choice

- **In 2019, THA and the City were awarded a Choice Planning Grant, with WRT as planning coordinator and Isles as partner**
- **Funds development of neighborhood revitalization plan with a focus on Donnelly Homes**
- **Three key areas:**
 - Housing
 - Neighborhood
 - People



Neighborhood



Choice overview





Partners

Task Force Members

Capital Region Minority Chamber of Commerce
Ewing Township Division of Planning & Zoning
Mercer County Planning Department
NJ DCA Local Planning Services
NJ State Treasurer
Trenton Police Department
Capital Area YMCA
Capital Health
Christina Seix Academy
Mercer County One-Stop Career Center
Mercer Street Friends
Trenton Music Makers
Trenton Health Team
Trenton Public Schools
Young Scholars Institute

Steering Committee

Donnelly Homes Resident Council
Donnelly Homes Residents
THA
City of Trenton
Grace Cathedral Fellowship
Mercer County Community College
Smith Family Foundation
NJ HMFA

Planning Coordinator

WRT



Project Tasks and Milestones

Progress to Date

- **FALL 2019:** kick off, task forces established
- **WINTER 2020:** needs assessment, task force meetings
- **SUMMER 2020:** goal and strategy development for draft plan
- **FALL 2020:** submit plan "outline with content"
- **WINTER 2021:** identify possible early action activities
- **SPRING 2021:** Leadership Series, revise goals and strategies
- **SUMMER 2021:** draft revised plan, outreach and engagement



Resident and Community Engagement

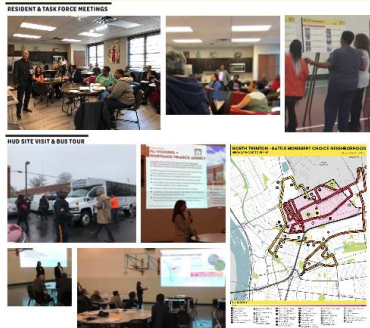
NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS

A highlight of the planning process so far was our Needs Assessment Launch that celebrated Black History Month. More recently, we enjoyed National Night Out.



PROJECT MEETINGS

The planning process began with in-person meetings, which helped us get to know one another. More recently, our task force meetings have involved a hybrid approach of meeting virtually through Zoom and concurrently on-site at Donnelly Homes at a safe distance.



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- HUD Site Visit
- Needs Assessment
- Kick-off event
- Task Force meetings
- National Night Out
- Leadership Series
- Community BBQ

NORTH TRENTON BATTLE MONUMENT

Choice Neighborhood Plan

NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERSHIP SERIES



When you look around the neighborhood, are there things you want to change? Do you want to be more active in the Choice planning process? Would you like to be more involved with the future of North Trenton?

If so, please join us for an exciting Neighborhood Leadership Series for Donnelly Homes residents and residents of the North Trenton Battle Monument neighborhood. Develop your communication and leadership skills, meet neighbors with similar interests, learn how to take an active part in the Choice and other community development efforts, and have some fun!

ALL SESSIONS WILL BE VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM AND IN PERSON AT THE DONNELLY HOMES GYMNASIUM
(MASKS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIRED)

**ALL SESSIONS WILL RUN FROM
5:30 - 7:00 PM ON WEDNESDAYS - STARTING MARCH 24**

Staying Safe:

Join the meeting **online** on your own computer or mobile device:
[HTTPS://ZOOM.US/J/96773364163](https://zoom.us/j/96773364163)

Come early for dinner and conversation at 5:00 pm. The presentation/workshop will begin at 5:30 pm

Or participate **in person** at a safe distance in the gymnasium at Donnelly Homes (875 New Willow Street, Trenton, NJ 08638)



For more information, contact:
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Next Steps

Planning:

- Continue revising plans
- Finalize early action activities
- Finalize and submit neighborhood transformation plan!

Activities:

- Identify resources and support for planned actions
- Continue to get residents and neighbors involved
 - June 16: Community BBQ

More information:

<https://www.tha-nj.org/choice-neighborhoods-planning-initiative/>



Roundtable



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Executive Director, Trenton Housing Authority



Jeff Wilkerson

Supervising Planner, Division of Planning,
City of Trenton



Michael Nordquist

Managing Director, Community Planning
& Development



Thank you for attending!

Questions or Comments?

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<https://www.tha-nj.org/choice-neighborhoods-planning-initiative/>



Sign up for more sessions at
isles.org/forum

