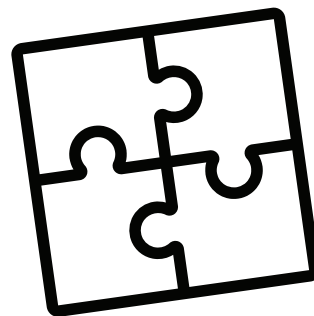


AN ACTION PLAN FOR WELCOMING PUBLIC SPACES

This plan for ensuring public spaces in Lancaster City are safe and welcoming for everyone, is a collaboration between Lancaster City Alliance, Lancaster County Housing & Redevelopment Authority Homelessness Coalition, and the City of Lancaster. These organizations coordinate the four components of this plan and facilitate collaboration between the plan stakeholders.

CLEANLINESS & SECURITY

PROGRAMMING



SOCIAL SERVICES

COMMUNICATION & MARKETING

CLEANLINESS & SECURITY

Goal: Promote safe, healthy, and legal behavior in public spaces through presence of public, private, and non-profit partner organizations.

Lead Agency: Lancaster City Alliance (LCA) Safety Executive Leadership Team

Accomplishments April–July 2023

- Expanded Downtown Investment District (DID) Clean Team and Ambassador coverage of Binns Park & Ewell Plaza (LCA)
- Assigned two officers to patrol the DID (City Police)
- Completed an inventory of Lancaster Safety Coalition and private security camera locations surrounding Binns Park & Ewell Plaza to identify lapses in coverage area (LCA)
- Enhanced communication among ambassadors, outreach workers, clean team, and private security (LCA)
- Increased the presence of Outreach Specialist (LCA)

Short Term Goals – by December 31, 2023

- Reestablish regular Safety Partners meetings, a collaboration of private and public organizations sharing information on safety best practices
- Enhance communication with stakeholders to coordinate and communicate activities, initiatives, and goals
- Enhance deterrence of panhandling

Key Initiatives

- Maintain visible presence of Ambassador, Clean Team & Outreach Specialist in current areas
- Provide businesses, visitors, and residents information on upcoming events, avoiding panhandling, and ambassador safety escorts to promote transparency and safety
- Clean and maintain public spaces and bathrooms
- Decrease illegal activity in Ewell Plaza and Binns Park through police presence

Long Term Goals

- Expand the Outreach Specialist program to include additional hours of coverage
- Identify and fill security camera lapses in coverage
- Assist in recruitment efforts of City Police

SOCIAL SERVICES

Goal: Coordinate supportive services for community members experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity.

Lead Agency: Lancaster County Housing & Redevelopment Authority/Office for the Homelessness Coalition

Accomplishments April–July 2023

- Initiated and funded a city-based day center, a place where individuals can rest during the day
- Developed and launched Code Red policy for extreme heat
- Secured additional funding partners to support individuals in emergency shelter to transition into housing

Short Term Goals – by December 31, 2023

- Expand the number of city-based emergency shelter beds
- Increase funding to expand necessary social services for homelessness response

Key Initiatives

- Onboard new service agencies addressing homelessness
- Educate and involve all agencies addressing homelessness in the Homelessness Coalition
- Ensure consistent, high-quality, client-centered services and responses
- Increase awareness of homelessness response system to increase funding and partners

Long Term Goals

- Establish a hub for homelessness services in Lancaster City
- Expand services for street outreach and permanent supportive housing

PROGRAMMING

Goal: Provide for accessible and diverse use of public space programming, promoting positive event experiences.

Lead Agency: Lancaster Office of Promotion (LOOP)

Accomplishments April–July 2023

- Hosted five successful events bringing people to the City and public spaces
- Activated Ewell Plaza as a positive public space

Short Term Goals – by December 31, 2023

- Increase promotion of opportunities for programming
- Partner with local organizations and businesses to more intentionally utilize public spaces

Key Initiatives

- Activate Binns Park, Ewell Plaza, and other key public spaces through special events and programming
- Provide economic support to small businesses through opportunities to utilize public spaces for retail/activities

Long Term Goals

- Create a four season art market/kiosks
- Create and implement a Tourism Master Plan

COMMUNICATION & MARKETING

Goal: Shares information with public and private stakeholders and promotes plan initiatives.

Lead Agency: Lancaster County Housing & Redevelopment Authority, Lancaster City Alliance, City of Lancaster

Accomplishments April–July 2023

- Responded to all media inquiries in a timely manner
- Distributed outreach newsletter to stakeholders in 100 block of N Queen street
- Built relationships between Police, DID staff, outreach workers, social workers and stakeholders

Short Term Goals – by December 31, 2023

- Maintain regular communication with private/public security network
- Develop a broad public awareness/fundraising campaign to support social services
- Develop a communications plan focused on increased agency coordination and public outreach
- Develop signage for vacant commercial space surrounding public spaces, including “Coming Soon” and “For Lease”

Key Initiatives

- Promote opportunities for events and activities in public spaces, including events that are already planned and future event opportunities
- Promote positive activities happening in public spaces
- Promote occupancy of vacant retail spaces

Long Term Goals

- Increase public education around long-term goals of the Plan for Welcoming Public Spaces
- Change the community conversation around City public spaces to focus on the action plan, rather than focus on individuals experiencing homelessness and addiction
- Execute a fundraising/awareness campaign to support social service agencies