

The West End archive is a resource for community leaders, stakeholders, researchers, and interested parties. The focus is planning documents and reports relevant to West Louisville and its constituent neighborhoods. The collection is a living archive and welcomes submissions, which may be emailed to cepmeffc@louisville.edu.

The archive currently includes:

- Two park blueprints;
- Fourteen descriptive works dealing with demographics and planning in the area;
- Two Ph.D. history dissertations on race and housing and drainage developments;
- The whole of the *Courier-Journal's* "A Place in Time" historical pieces;
- Six studies of economic conditions and viability;
- Eighteen plan proposals for both neighborhoods and connecting Metro Park areas spanning 1976-2009;
- Two studies on air toxins in West Louisville; three studies on health in Louisville;
- The Housing Authority's entire proposal for the HOPE VI project in Park DuValle;
- Two community-generated pieces – one on Louisville's food system and the second on policy connections between environmental sustainability and economic development.

The documents come from the following sources:

- Academic (4)
- Cornerstone 2020 Coalition (2)
- Private analytic firms (8)
- Louisville Metro Housing Authority (1)
- Louisville & Jefferson Co. Planning Department OR Louisville Metro Planning and Design (18)
- The Mayor's Office (2)
- Louisville Metro Air Pollution Control (2)
- Louisville Metro economic development (2)
- Louisville Metro parks (7)
- Louisville Metro public health & wellness (3)
- Neighborhood groups (3)
- Kentuckiana Regional Planning & Development (1)
- Kentucky Commerce Cabinet (1)
- The Louisville Courier-Journal (1)

Major publications are discussed below, with the focus on reports that present new data and unexplored dimensions of the state of economic and social development in West Louisville and its neighborhoods.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH

Economic development research in Louisville began in the late 1970s and early 1980s and has continued with the 2011 *Competitive City Report* by the Greater Louisville Project. The *West Louisville Economic Research Report* (1982) details the population loss and generation gaps facing West Louisville after the 1980s. The Report finds that a majority of area business respond as “satisfied” with their location in the area. Lack of knowledge about enterprise zones and other development policies are presented as the critical obstacle to attracting business.

The Initiative for a Competitive Inner City’s *West Louisville Competitive Assessment and Strategy Project* (ICIC 2001) identifies industry clusters – geographic concentrations of interconnected firms or institutions which cooperate or compete in a particular field and represent a strong foundation for an area’s economic development. The primary clusters are identified as automotive-related; transportation and logistics; and health services/medical devices. The two reports also include surveys of business owners on advantages and disadvantages for locating a firm within West Louisville. Business owners report that both crime and the concern over crime are the two biggest obstacles to local development, while location and availability of workforce were the area’s biggest advantages. As with ICIC’s report, the 2007 Center for Neighborhoods survey of Park Hill employers found a significant concentration of Park Hill employees residing within the zip codes that includes Park Hill and the contiguous zip codes to the west and southwest.

Economic Research Associates’ report (ERA 2009) on Park Hill complements the findings of the ICIC study. The report recommends industry-specific recruitment strategies, focusing on “building fixtures, equipment & services, metal manufacturing, motor driven products, plastics, prefabricated enclosures, automotive, business services, chemical products, entertainment, processed foods, and publishing and printing.” The report also recommends

labor force training which may be available through Department of Labor funding in order to incentivize firms to locate in the area.

NEIGHBORHOOD PLANS, HOUSING, AND SOCIAL RESEARCH

The Louisville and Jefferson County Planning Commission, beginning in the late 1970s and continuing for the better part of a decade, oversaw and/or directed a number of studies and plans concerning West Louisville's neighborhoods. During the years 1980-1985, plans were created for the California, Parkland, Portland, Russell, and Shawnee neighborhoods. "Needs assessments" and small area studies covering Chickasaw, Park DuValle, Park Hill, Portland, and Riverside Gardens were also conducted over this period. The neighborhood plans cover land use, transportation, housing, and economic development. Each thematic section contains descriptive data on existing conditions at the time along with brief recommendations and development strategies. Typical strategies stress the need for more attractive shopping areas and commercial spaces.

During 1987-1999, plans and related literature developed for Louisville cover redevelopment of the Louisville parks system master plan and individual parks. Additionally, urban renewal and redevelopment projects were planned for Park DuValle (e.g. HOPE VI project) and Russell neighborhoods, and a rezoning study was released for the Louisville Enterprise Zone. The Russell and Park DuValle documents detail the scope of both neighborhoods' respective renewal programs, along with detailing existing land uses.

Since 2000, there have been a large volume of research and papers made available from a variety of sources. Louisville Metro Parks contributes a number of park plans, including a plan for the city-wide shared-use pathway system. Academic contributions include a detailed empirical report on housing in western and central Louisville by the Urban Studies Institute at the University of Louisville. Sarah Blum's PhD dissertation (2006) on the history of race and housing in Louisville, completed at the University of Kentucky, presents a summary of housing

in Louisville as it relates the larger social issues of race and ethnicity in the United States over the 20th century. Along the same historical theme, the Louisville Courier-Journal published *A Place in Time* in 2001 and represents a major contribution to the history of Louisville and its neighborhood development. The 2011 and 2012 reports by the Louisville Metro Public Health and Wellness department provide comprehensive analyses of the state of public health in Louisville.

A number of community organizations have also contributed to this body of research. The Community Farm Alliance's "Bridging the Divide" makes the argument for the presence of *food deserts* in Louisville, presenting data on both food quality and availability in the West End along with descriptive statistics on transportation patterns for residents. The Congressional Hunger Center's *State of Food* provides another substantial contribution to the understanding of food availability and lack thereof in the West End. It goes beyond "Bridging the Divide" in that it details concomitant local initiatives attempting to affect change in Louisville's food policy.

BUILDING TRANSPARENCY & ACCESSIBILITY

It should be noted that there is no easily accessed central official archive for the sort of documents collected for this archive, even for very specific categories such as official plans. Instead, data, reports, and other pertinent information are scattered across Louisville Metro's various websites and others belonging to non-profits and consulting firms. Material that was not available digitally was gathered through personal contact through Louisville Metro or local organizations such as the Center for Neighborhoods. We make academic material available where possible without violating copyright law. There may be additional related material available through the Louisville Metro Archives, but that process is cumbersome – interested parties are unable to see the Archives' contents without physically visiting the department and

information requests are conducted by Archive employees, who may not be familiar or sensitive to the needs of stakeholders.

TOWARDS A COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REPOSITORY

This archive serves as the starting point for a user-driven knowledge base about West Louisville that includes material listed and described thus far and additional submissions from the community at-large. This will enable practitioners, stakeholders, researchers, advocates and others to see precisely what information exists. What plans have been done – with what recommendations? Have these plans changed over time? What does the research say? Even an incomplete understanding of answers to these questions may focus community efforts more precisely, allowing for more efficient time and resource management in an environment that is resource-scarce.

INTERNET RESOURCES FOR ARCHIVE MATERIALS

Organization	URL
Center for Neighborhoods	http://www.centerforneighborhoods.org/
Community Farm Alliance	http://communityfarmalliance.org/
Downtown Development Corp.	http://www.downtowndevelopmentcorp.org/
Greater Louisville Project	http://www.greaterlouisvilleproject.org/
Initiative for a Competitive Inner City	http://www.icic.org/
Kentucky State Data Center (Univ. Louisville)	http://ksdc.louisville.edu/
Kentuckiana Regional Planning Dev. Authority	http://www.kipda.org/
Metro Air Pollution Control District	http://www.louisvilleky.gov/apcd/
Metro Community Services and Revitalization	http://www.louisvilleky.gov/CSR/
Metro Economic Development	http://www.louisvilleky.gov/economicdevelopment/
Metro Health & Wellness - Center for Health Equity	http://www.louisvilleky.gov/Health/equity/
Metro Louisville Govt.	http://www.louisvilleky.gov/
Metro Parks	http://www.louisvilleky.gov/metroparks/
Metro Planning and Design	http://www.louisvilleky.gov/planningdesign/
Metro Public Health	http://www.louisvilleky.gov/health/
Poverty & Race Research Action Council	http://www.prrac.org/
University of Kentucky	http://www.uky.edu/
University of Louisville	http://www.louisville.edu/upa/