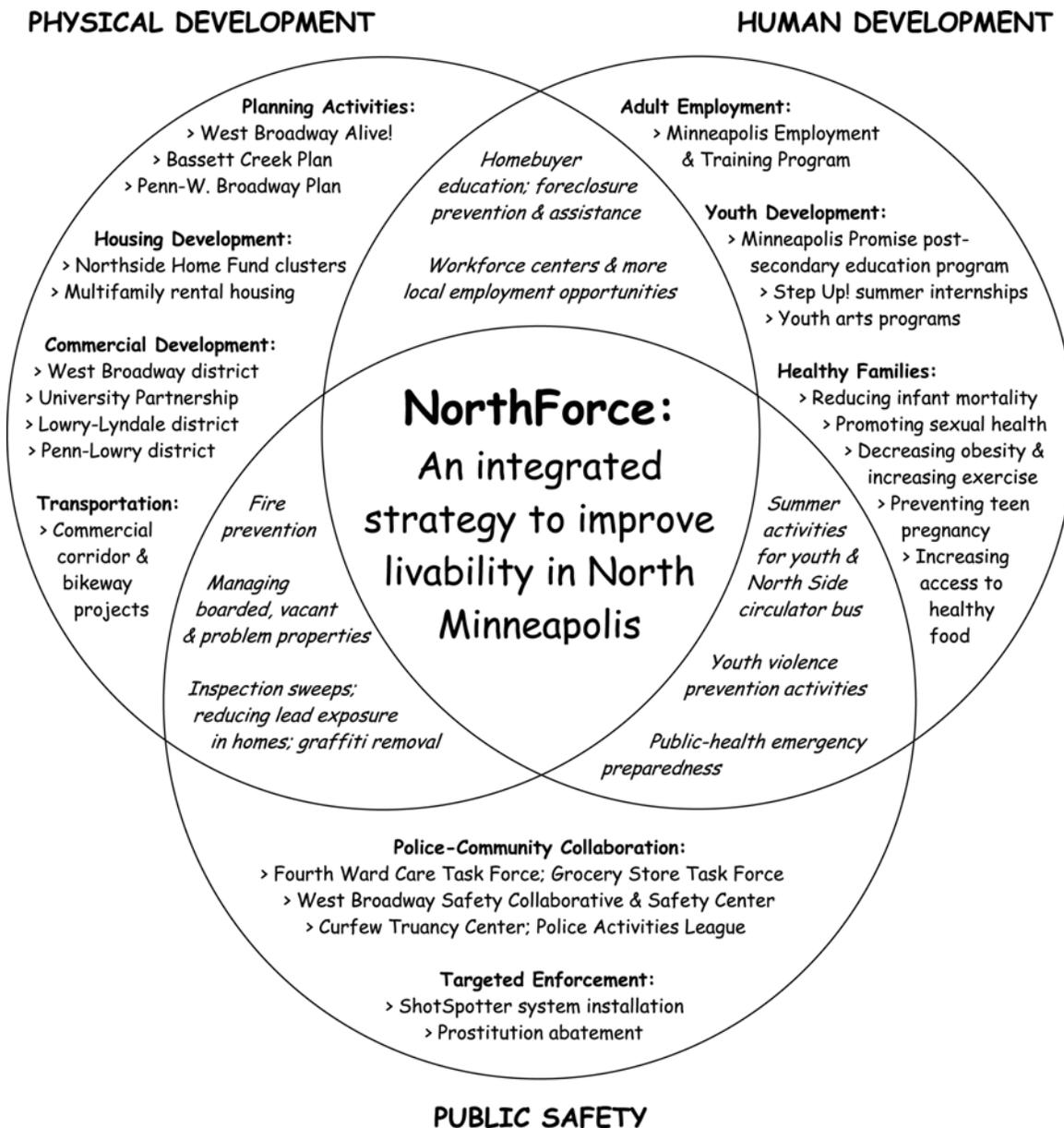




NorthForce: Working together to build a better future for North Minneapolis

Collaboration among government agencies, neighborhood and community organizations, residents and businesses is crucial to creating and maintaining a healthy community. NorthForce reflects the City of Minneapolis' collaborative, cross-departmental approach to finding new and creative ways to address the challenges facing the Northside.

The enhanced collaboration that NorthForce represents stemmed from a meeting in the spring of 2006 where elected officials shared their constituents' concerns about rising crime, mounting gang activity, blighted and vacant buildings, housing code violations, decreasing property values, and business license violations. After that meeting, City staff cataloged the resources already being deployed on the Northside and began identifying new ways to work together to increase their effectiveness and improve results. Today, staff from Police, the City Attorney's Office, Fire, Regulatory Services, Community Planning and Economic Development, Public Works, Communications, and Health and Family Support are working together to improve livability on the Northside. The chart below provides a few examples.



What are the City efforts on the Northside?

The core focus of the NorthForce collaboration centers on providing basic city services such as public safety and ensuring neighborhood livability. Beyond this core, NorthForce reaches further and includes:

- Increasing police visibility and working with neighborhood organizations to prevent crime
- Getting tough on problem convenience stores and apartment buildings that generate high numbers of police calls for loitering, drug dealing and assaults
- Reducing criminal activity in vacant and boarded properties
- Reducing loitering
- Getting guns off the streets
- Turning around blighted blocks through redevelopment
- Getting help to homeowners facing foreclosure
- Attracting new businesses and linking adults to employment opportunities
- Encouraging greater compliance with the housing code
- Improving the appearance of neighborhoods and cleaning up graffiti
- Fostering efforts to improve residents' physical and mental health
- Finding jobs for teens and connecting kids to recreational opportunities
- Working with schools to reduce truancy and curfew violations.

If you'd like to follow the progress of the City's effort on the Northside, you can read the City's Northforce newsletter which is posted online at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/residents/north and available at the North Regional Library, 1315 Lowry Ave. N., and Sumner Library, 611 Van White Memorial Blvd.

We're making progress

Here are just a few examples of the City's successes on the Northside –

- Year-to-date statistics for the 4th Precinct show that rapes are down by 52 percent, robbery is down by 23 percent, and aggravated assault is down by 20 percent. Overall, Part 1 crime is down by 19 percent.
- In the last 18 months, the City has closed down eight trouble-prone convenience stores and imposed special operating conditions on 11 problem stores. Just three of the now-closed stores were responsible for more than 1,500 police calls in 2005 for loitering, drug-dealing and assaults.
- Minneapolis was recently awarded a \$10 million loan from the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency to help neighborhoods destabilized by foreclosures. Funds will be used to acquire and rehabilitate vacant properties, and then put them in the hands of stable homeowners.
- The City has committed more than \$6 million since 2005 for commercial and housing developments that total more than \$110 million in four priority districts: Penn/Lowry, Penn/West Broadway, Penn/Plymouth, and West Broadway between Fremont and Interstate 94.
- A 2006 curb-to-alley inspection sweep of all 26,438 homes in the 3rd, 4th and 5th wards, netted a total of 38,228 violations — mostly for peeling paint, damaged trim, junk in the yard, and unmowed grass. Today, 91.5 percent of these violations have been resolved.
- This summer, circulating buses will provide young people with safe transportation to recreation centers, libraries, parks, Boys and Girls Clubs, Police Activities League and other places in the community.
- More than 600 jobs have been added to the City's STEP-UP summer program for teens, raising the total to 2,000. Many of these jobs went to Northside teens.
- To increase Northside residents' access to fresh produce, two mini-farmers' markets — one at Penn and Lowry and another at Plymouth and Penn — will be open this summer on Fridays and Sundays.