

PLANNING PROCESS

January 2012

The planning area already has an active neighborhood group called the Northcenter Neighborhood Association (NNA). In early January, I had a conference call with the head of their Environment Committee to assess what kind of information would be valuable to local stakeholders. Based on this, I began to research the history of the community, and current planning documents in Chicago that address the impacts of climate change. I also began to review recent capital expenditure projects in the North Center neighborhood and the surrounding areas.

February 2012

I presented my initial proposal at the Environment Committee's first meeting of 2012. The attendees demonstrated that they were already well-informed about many issues affecting the environment of the neighborhood and the surrounding areas. They expressed interest in the possibilities of a climate-change plan, offered helpful suggestions, and contributed greatly to the planning process.

Based on this meeting, I began to assemble the environmental strengths and weaknesses of the neighborhood. After creating a matrix with various climate-change mitigation and adaptation strategies, gathered from various plans such as CMAP's "Go To 2040" Plan, the Chicago Climate Action Plan, and other publically available climate change plans, I refined a list of environmental strategies and recommendations. This list was based on feedback from neighborhood stakeholders and my own independent research on the neighborhood.

March 2012

My first review of the preliminary plan document was with faculty advisor Janet Smith, Co-Director of the Nathalie P. Voorhees Center and Associate Professor of Urban Planning and Policy at the University of Illinois-Chicago. A subsequent meeting with the NNA's Environment Committee in early March helped me refine the strategies and recommendations even further.