

**OAK HILL AND WEST OAKLAND  
COMMUNITY ASSETS AND NEEDS  
ASSESSMENT & ANALYSIS REPORT**

**Considerations and Recommendations for  
Oak Hill & West Oakland with Implications for  
the Redevelopment of Wadsworth Hall**

**Developed by the  
University of Pittsburgh  
Community Outreach Partnership Center**

## Introduction

The report provides an analysis of community assets/resources in relation to the community of Oak Hill and, to some extent, West Oakland, particularly in regards to recreational and community services addressing youth and family development. It also presents feedback from residents on perceived needs for activities and services, and offers considerations and recommendations for programs and facilities in Oak Hill with emphasis on the redevelopment of Wadsworth Hall as a community center.

This report was carried out as an initial strategy to support active living and youth development in Oak Hill and West Oakland as part of the University of Pittsburgh Community Outreach Partnerships Center, to help in identifying and mobilizing university resources in support of these communities and their identified needs. In 2004 the University of Pittsburgh received a Community Outreach Partnership Center New Directions grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, which included a component for foster active living and youth development in Oak Hill and West Oakland. This agenda was developed through collaborative planning with community organizations, the Oak Hill Residents Council, the Oak Hill developer and its community service agent (Housing Opportunities Unlimited), and university partners from a number of academic, administration, and program units. While some active living and youth programs are already underway, especially on campus, outreach has just begun, and the redevelopment of Wadsworth Hall is paramount in fully realizing this community initiative.

a running/ walking/ biking track could surround this court

## Demographic Background of Oak Hill

The make-up of Oak Hill has changed drastically in the transition from the nearly 1,300 household Terrace Village Public Housing Community (*Census 2000*) to the mixed-income, HOPE VI community of 632 households it is today. With the anticipated Phase II development, Oak Hill should gain additional households. As a HOPE VI community, at least 2/3 (66.7%) of the residents must be in subsidized housing. At present, 170 units (27%) pay market value, and approximately 73% of households are subsidized. (*Demographics information on current residents from Beacon Corcoran Jennison, Oak Hill developer and property manager*)

There were 652 family households in Terrace Village in the 2000 Census; however, with the declining number of residents, families make up about 400 households, roughly 60%. As was the case in Terrace Village, most family households are low to low-moderate income and qualify for subsidies. Among the market-rate residents a sizeable portion are students – an accurate count of student residents has not been completed. Approximately 60 households are senior citizens (65+), with most living on fixed incomes.

Oak Hill is home, according to most recent BCJ records, to 261 children under 18 years of age.

The children's population reflects the following breakdown:

<u>Age Range</u>	<u>Number of Children</u>
0-5	71
6-12	86
13-17	104

In addition, there are approximately 52 young adult residents in the 18-23 age range. The general consensus among management, Residents Council, and service providers is that the 13-17 and 18-23 age groups are most lacking in community supports, especially within Oak Hill.

## Community Asset Map – Analysis and Discussion

The community asset map (see appendix – Map 1) denotes a concentration of recreational and service program resources in the lower Oakland and Hill District neighborhoods, which are accessible by car and, on a limited basis, by public transit and Access. The nearest significant recreational facilities are the Trees Hall athletic complex at the University of Pittsburgh and the Kennard Field park, considered by most an unsafe area. After-school programs, with two exceptions, are in Hill-based schools and churches or at community-based agencies like Hill House (Hill District) and Community Human Services (South Oakland), and Breachmenders (West Oakland). Schenley Park offers an array of recreational amenities, including one of the few public swimming pools remaining open this summer, but access is limited to personal transportation. Indoor recreational facilities, especially for youth, are based in the Hill District. One, Ammon Recreation Center was closed by the City and reopened on only a limited basis by a local church, and the other, the Center Avenue YMCA, has been undergoing major renovations. During the school year, several public schools, which Oak Hill/West Oakland youth attend, do offer after-school and some evening recreation. There are significant greenways in the areas, which are undeveloped for community use, and there are no adequate playground facilities readily accessible to area children and families. The lack of nearby and accessible shopping and related amenities, which often encourages active living, also adversely impacts the community.

This asset map serves to accentuate the lack of resources and access to recreational and other community resources that was noted in assessments conducted for the Pittsburgh/Allegheny County Empowerment Zone application nearly a decade ago. This is not an unusual situation given the tendency for public housing communities to be geographically isolated in both location and design, and Oak Hill still bears the mark of its public housing roots. West Oakland is also isolated by its hilltop location and proximity to Oak Hill.

The community asset map for Oak Hill underscores the lack of readily accessible recreational and social programs, particularly for youth and families. With the exception of health and child development programs at Mathilda Theiss Medical Center, and child care and after-school programs for elementary age children, the nearest resources are limited teen and children's programs through Breachmenders in adjoining West Oakland and recreational outreach to nearby University of Pittsburgh athletic facilities. Not that recreational and community service programs in lower Oakland and the Hill District are lacking and inaccessible; however, these resources are external to the neighborhood and not readily accessible without reliable transportation. Resources are particularly lacking for older youth (13-17) and young adults (18-23), as well as for family support and active living. What is especially a concern at this stage in the Oak Hill development is the lack of facilities to house recreational and community service programs, even on a modest outreach basis.

Oak Hill does have adjoining space that holds potential for recreational use, including the Kennard Field Park – now an area whose field and playground is constrained by drugs and crime, as well as by the negative effects of limited City services and maintenance lessening its use. There is also a large greenway surrounding the community; however, this has not been developed for recreational uses, although plans through an initiative called “Find the Rivers” does hold some hope for making this an active space. Oak Hill is also separated from parks, trails, and riverfront, but this separation is more than a matter of distance, which is not that great. Moreover, Oak Hill and West Oakland have no commercial area, and they are, like many Pittsburgh neighborhoods, are not in proximity to adequate and necessary commercial businesses. Within the community of Oak Hill, a great deal of space remains for further development, and this development could and should address more than housing.

Some Oak Hill and West Oakland residents do avail themselves of the many public parks and their recreational opportunities, but this appears to be a minority with personal transportation available. Public transit access to City parks and regional assets is further limited by the geographic isolation of these hilltop neighborhoods. Moreover, City of Pittsburgh closures of swimming pools, recreational centers, and senior community centers has further limited access to recreational, socialization, and developmental programs that enhance active living. With improved and coordinated transportation, access to nearby resources, such as Hill House, the Hill District YMCA, Community Human Services, Peoples Oakland, Schenley Park, shopping areas, and other amenities could be enhanced.

With its own pressing demands for athletics and recreational facilities, as well as the need to transport many athletes to off campus facilities, the University cannot be more than a casual supporter of community recreational programming on campus. It should be noted that over the past year, the University has restructured its Community Leisure Learn Program, strengthen the involvement of the School of Education's Health and Physical Activity Department, and enhanced engagement of its athletic department to support the recreation and fitness needs of the surrounding communities. With the exception of the summer National Youth Sports Program (NYSP), access to Trees Hall facilities, Saturday programs for youth, and the new Pitt Athletes Working with Students (Panther PAWS) have been solely target on youth and adults from the 15213 and 15219 zip code neighborhoods. With stronger neighborhood outreach, community use of facilities and participation in on campus programs has been tremendous. Community Leisure Learn has responded to early youth assessments with successful Saturday dance and martial arts classes, the number community-use passes – which had generally been capped at 200 – is being expanded in response to increased local usage, and the NYSP – with a goal of 200 youth – had an enrollment over 300 this summer. Without added facilities for its internal needs, it is unlikely the University can accommodate other community needs, especially for outdoor recreation, e.g., ballfield/soccer field, track, etc. Efforts to outreach Health and Physical Activity student projects and athletic community service activities, which have shown growing willingness, have been limited by the lack of adequate and regular outreach facilities in the community.

There is little argument that the temporary trailer housing HOU and the BJW children after-school program is merely a stop-gap measure. Consensus among all parties is that the facilities at the Burrows Street management office – a solitary community room with small kitchen and a tiny pool, often the butt of jokes – are inadequate and limit outreach activities. Facilities at the Mathilda Theiss Health Center are crowded and of limited use for additional programming. The old police station building near the Theiss Center provides modest space for the Residents Council, child care, and a food pantry, but it is considered seriously inadequate for all of these functions. The fragile safety net of limited services in Oak Hill rest on an even more fragile network of “make-do” facilities, which singularly and collective, cannot be considered adequate for the expressed and recommended programs and services needed in the community.

## Community Needs and Program/Services Assessment

During the first 5 months of 2005, COPC student interns working with community and university partners made several efforts to gauge Oak Hill residents' concerns and perceived needs for programs and services, particularly related to active living and recreation for children, families, and seniors. These efforts included discussion forums and basic informational surveys, including:

- A senior citizen town meeting was organized, and nearly two dozen elderly residents attended and participated in discussion about community concerns, service needs, and resources desired in the neighborhood. A follow-up survey (see appendix) was also sent to elderly Oak Hill residents, and 14 completed and returned surveys. In addition, senior resident needs have been assessed through interviews during the intensive case management process, particularly those who are largely home-bound elderly.
- Meetings of the Oak Hill Residents Council also served as forums to discuss community needs and recommendations for programs and services, with particular emphasis on the needs of youth and young adult residents.
- Two efforts were made with Housing Opportunities Unlimited and the Oak Hill Residents Council to conduct youth discussion groups; unfortunately, both sessions attracted less than a handful of youth. A follow-up youth survey (see appendix) was distributed to youth 13-17 attending Community Leisure Learn Program activities at Trees Hall; however, less than a half-dozen surveys were returned. (An earlier HOU survey, conducted with an Urban Study intern's assistance and used for the COCP New Directions application, represented responses from nearly 20 Oak Hill youth.)
- A survey was also sent to Oak Hill parents, identified through their children's use of CCL programs at Trees Hall (see appendix).

### *Senior Citizen Responses*

Most elderly (65+) residents of Oak Hill report that they were long-standing residents of Terrace Village Public Housing Community, and, for the most part, they are very satisfied with their new community and housing, in particular the safety of the neighborhood since redevelopment (Yamatani 2002). From the senior citizen survey (14 responses) and the senior citizen town meeting a number of concerns and activities were noted. Elderly residents have appreciated any and all activities and education, especially health education, programs hosted at the senior apartments in Oak Hill. Those who were not home-bound also noted that they would and have attended activities and programs at the Burrows Street management office community room. Several also decried the lack of a community center, particular the closure of Wadsworth Hall.

Elderly residents expressed a desire for a number of programs and classes that could help them become more active and involved with youth. A summary of these activities are reported in the appendix (*Chart 1: Senior Citizen Survey Responses*). The more notable activities included:

- Gardening – flower and vegetable, as well as gardening with children (intergenerational)
- Fitness classes – walking (11), low-impact and chair exercises, and biking
- Cooking classes – including classes where senior can teach youth cooking and traditions
- Games – bingo, cards, chess, and board games
- Arts and Craft classes – just about any, but knitting was also noted
- Computer classes – expressed by survey and by a group of residents at the town meeting
- Movie nights – at least monthly, were also very popular
- Other classes included bible studies, book groups, and health programs of any kind

- Outings/Field and Shopping – especially for the home-bound were strongly noted in interviews  
Businesses desired in the community included: Magazine Stand, Convenience Store, and Cleaners

Several activities have already begun with COPC support, including a computer class for 7 elderly Oak Hill resident conducted at and by Breachmenders (10 signed up for classes) and low-impact and chair exercise twice per week at the Burrows Street community room. Space and plans for community and intergenerational gardening has also been discussed.

### ***Adult Responses***

In addition to general discussion and feedback through the Oak Hill Resident Council meetings, a modest survey of Oak Hill adults was conducted by a student intern working with the Community Leisure Learn coordinator. Nearly 200 surveys were sent out to resident whose family members are using Trees Hall to assess activity and program interests and needs in the community, especially for youth and families. The survey also sought to assess which resources are now being used, willingness to and mode of travel. (See *Chart 2: Adult Survey Responses*) The responses revealed the following:

- Residents/families able to drive are taking advantage of a range of the regions parks and amenities, including trips of 2-5 miles and more. More than 60% of respondents had cars.
  - More than 50% of respondents reported walking to recreational and other amenities within a .5 – 2 mile radius.
  - About 20% indicated they would bus to local resources.
  - The largest number of adults, over 75%, noted Trees Hall as a recreational destination
  - Over 25% noted one of the City or Regional parks, e.g., Schenley, Schenley Heights (Herron Hill), Highland, Frick, Riverview, Buffalo Creek, as recreational destinations
  - About 20% indicated that they walk local streets, bike, hike nearby trails, or go to a mall
- A few use other campus facilities like CMU track or Cathedral Lawn, as well as fitness facilities at such community locations as Centre Avenue YMCA and Peoples Oakland

Adult residents also indicated other recreational resources, activities, and program needs and desires for Oak Hill, including:

- Residents expressed interest in using other Pitt facilities, especially the Peterson Center, indoor track and field house – including basketball courts, indoor pool, more access time for Trees Hall, and other facilities such as racquetball, tennis, and computers.
- Facilities desired in Oak Hill were, not surprisingly, a reopened Wadsworth Hall – especially a center for children and families, a bigger swimming pool, sports facilities (indoor – gym, weight room, exercise, sports/intramurals and outdoor – basketball, ball fields, playgrounds, and track
- In addition to sports and recreation and an overall family and youth community center, a number of program areas were also noted, including: an after-school program for teens, computer classes and facilities, parenting committee, improved tenant communications, and a community library.
- Among the activities and classes requested, health and fitness/sports were noted by more than half the respondents – including self-defense, exercise, kids sports, senior fitness, among others. Other program areas noted, included: computer classes, job help and training, teen after school and teen development classes, and a range of classes or activities similar to those noted by seniors: arts and crafts, cooking, book club, finances, and language classes.

The Collegiate YMCA has started a limited outreach for youth sports (soccer) in space allocated by

BCJ and swimming lessons in the limited pool facilities. Healthy Kids day and the Neighborhood Night Out have been focal events for youth and family activities.

### ***Youth Feedback***

Youth feedback has been the most difficult to assess. Surveys have had limited response, and two efforts with the Residents Council to conduct a youth forum have had very sparse involvement. An earlier HOU survey conducted with student intern assistance, had only 14 respondents, and this input was used in developing the COPC Active Living and Youth Development effort. The issues expressed in the earliest survey stressed greater access and programs at Trees Hall, which have already begun under Community Leisure Learn, and dance and martial arts classes, which were the first two successful Saturday youth programs at Trees. Other concerns and programs/services requested but a very limited number of youth respondents, include:

- More access to Trees Hall facilities especially gym and basketball
- Youth use other facilities, such as the Centre Avenue Y and the Wesley Center, but transportation is an issue.
- A community center with strong recreational, sports, and youth programs in Oak Hill (Wadsworth Hall)
- A teen after-school program with homework help
- A computer center and classes

Classes and programs for: dance, health, baby-sitting, languages, job/career help, cooking, music, and book club.

Several youth have now expressed an interest in maybe helping with youth activities, and these youth could provide the nucleus for a youth leadership group that can work with the Residents Council. The Collegiate YMCA will be supporting this youth leadership effort and will look to start weekly teen and monthly family events this fall.

## Wadsworth Hall Activity/Program Considerations and Recommendations

That recently Wadsworth Hall has largely sat idle and in disrepair at a time of transition and intense community need is disturbing. Given the gaps in recreational and community service resources noted in the community asset mapping of the area, it is imperative that Wadsworth Hall be given special priority by the City of Pittsburgh, the Pittsburgh Housing Authority, the Oak Hill Developer, and the Residents Council. The University of Pittsburgh, through its Community Outreach Partnership Center and its larger institutional resources, should support the renewal and development of Wadsworth Hall and its resources, in keeping with the needs and desires established by the aforementioned parties. Toward that end, the University Community Outreach Partnership Center has offered this assessment and offers the following considerations and recommendations for Wadsworth Hall in two aspects:

- Activity and programming in Wadsworth for community youth, families, and seniors
- Facility design considerations for interior and exterior space and space use

### 1) Activity and Program Considerations & Recommendations

In addition to the community asset map, surveys, and other, limited assessment efforts, COPC has looked to other community and youth centers local and connected with other HUD COPCs, as well as to youth program practice standards and models benchmarked by such recognized organizations as the Alliance for Children and Families. Local community centers such as Hill House, Community Human Services, Hosanna House, Kingsley Association, and other neighborhood centers and settlement houses offer substantial program and facility benchmarks for an Oak Hill community center at Wadsworth Hall. The critical issues are the resources for and scope of renovations. Before offering some guidelines for facility concept and design, this assessment provides a number of issues for considerations and recommends a number of critical approaches based on this assessment and benchmarking best practices of other community and youth centers.

#### **Issues for Consideration**

***Issue:** In renovating Wadsworth Hall as a community center, there are priorities for the use and programming at this center, notably that youth, especially teens, should be a primary target of program activities. In addition, programming should support family interactions, and, where involving senior citizens, should enhance relations across generations.*

***Issue:** Recreation, Fitness, Health, and Active Living are important to all segments of the community: children, teens, adults, and senior citizens. Oak Hill must have improved indoor and outdoor recreational and sports facilities to promote active living, and residents must have better access to nearby and regional recreational resources and social amenities.*

***Issue:** The Residents Council and its role in leading and serving the community needs greater support to build its organizational capacity and its role in mobilizing and involving residents to serve one another, engage youth, and promote the family.*

***Issue:** There are a range of interests and program needs identified by the community and these should be further prioritized, but several, in addition to the aforementioned recreation-related needs, must be addressed. These include: after-school programming for children and teens, a computer center and classes, job/career and training services, case management/information and referral and general space for outreaching services into Oak Hill, multi-purpose rooms for a range of classes and activities to be determined.*

**Issue:** *The isolation of Oak Hill and West Oakland are more than issues discussed here and should recognize that development of the Oak Hill is more than housing. Developing Oak Hill as a community means attention must be given to recreational, social, environmental, and economic/commercial elements of a healthy and active community.*

**Issue:** *Oak Hill and West Oakland, while distinct neighborhoods, do share common boundaries, similar issues and needs, and have resources that could be of benefit to the others residents. There is a need for greater collaboration between these communities and their key community organizations to address common needs and maximize resources.*

## **Recommendations**

**Recommendation:** *The City of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh Housing Authority, Beacon Cocoran Jennison, and the Residents Council need to get Wadsworth Hall on track and underway promptly. Development of Wadsworth as a community center should have three areas of emphasis prioritizes as follows:*

- *Children and youth, especially teens and even young adults most at-risk, should be the foremost focus of programming*
- *Programming at Wadsworth should be developed using models that maximize family and parent involvement with youth and support the value of family in the community. Senior citizens programming should also look for opportunities to engage senior with youth, promote extend family activities, and promote intergenerational programs.*

**Recommendation:** *In developing and operating recreational and fitness activities at Wadsworth and in the community, collaboration with an existing organization with strong experience and expertise in managing facilities and programming for recreation and fitness would make for a productive partnership and enable the community center to gear up faster and more effectively. Given its presence in the COPC and in Oak Hill, its extensive expertise, and its current national and local priority to “Activate Pittsburgh”, the YMCA seems an ideal community partner in this venture with the Oak Hill community. In addition, two additional and related recommendations should underscore the partnership with the University of Pittsburgh ad UPMC:*

- *Through its Community Leisure Learn Program, Health and Physical Activity Department, Athletics Department, and health-related schools the university can benefit the neighborhood by its community service that can also benefit the academic work of the institution.*
- *Health and wellness are integrally tied with recreation, fitness, and active living, and the Mathilda Theiss Center and the myriad of medical and health-related schools and programs, such as Bridging the Gaps, Center for Minority Health, and others, should continue to work closely and support development of Wadsworth Hall.*

*Oak Hill and West Oakland should become more strongly connected and part of the Healthy Oakland People community health partnership and its efforts, such as “Oakland Walks” in support of larger active living initiatives.*

**Recommendation:** *The Oak Hill Residents Council needs support to build its organizational and leadership capacity, as well as its membership and its role in developing and managing programs for the community. A strong and stable Residents Council is essential to ensuring resident input on and involvement in the affairs of the community. Several recommendations should support this capacity building:*

- *The University should provide technical assistance and training to the Residents Council and its leaders for organizational and leadership development, including board training to strengthen and grow the Residents Council, should they wish such support.*
- *The Resident Council should strongly consider taking on the development within its organization of a Family Support Center that would organize parents and families to take on active roles in the community and at Wadsworth Hall, similar to the many other successful community-based family support centers. A family support organizer should be hired to work with/through the Residents Council toward that goal with support from the University's Office of Child Development, which has responsibility in Allegheny County for promote family support, family support centers, and the family support policy board.*

*The Residents Council needs a significant stake in the oversight of Wadsworth Hall and needs to be supported in growing its role in community programming.*

**Recommendation:** *Program development in Oak Hill and at Wadsworth Hall should reflect the community center priorities noted above in the following ways:*

- *The community center should house the Beverly Jewell Wallace Children's Program, as well as a similar after-school and summer program for teens*
- *A computer center and classes should be established, and Oak Hill should look to the Housing Authority to apply for a Neighborhood Network – a computer center in public housing community for which there is a special HOPE VI grant program under HUD. In addition, the University through its Information Sciences School and Computer Information Services should aid in this grant and center development. Further, Oak Hill might look to Breachmenders for its expertise in operating a community-based computer center, as well as look to connect an eventual computer center or Neighborhood Network to the Wireless Neighborhood Network that is supporting internet-based learning programs for community centers across Pittsburgh.*

*Job and Career help and training should continue to be supported by HOU; however, Breachmenders' School-to-Career youth program is a regional model that should be tapped and the Oakland-Hill Workforce Collaborative Job/Bank could be an additional resource.*

**Recommendation:** *(To Develop) Community development, commercial business development in community, Greenway/park/playground development – Find the Rivers plan, transportation*

**Recommendation:** *(To Develop) Cross community program collaboration on community issues and programs: computer technology, youth career development, homeownership, transportation, playgrounds, HOP, special events – health fairs, Night Out, other neighborhood festivals*

## **2) Wadsworth Assessment & Recommendations: Space & Facilities**

It is clear from assessments of the available community recreational assets, as well as from residents surveys in the Oak Hill community, that Oak Hill needs a local community center that can be utilized by residents of all ages for recreation, health and fitness, education, leisure-learn activities, and community fellowship. In examining the proposed space plans, benchmarking community centers in general, and considering feedback from residents from surveys and discussion/assessment sessions, general, the following recommendations are made for ideal program space at Wadsworth Hall as a community center to serve the needs of youth, families, and senior citizens:

## **Interior:**

### ***Kitchen***

A community kitchen designed for cooking classes, to include:

Free-standing counter space at least 6' length

- Two separate, commercial-sized, sink areas
- Two separate cook-top areas/ ranges
- One or two large refrigerators
- Medium-sized floor freezer
- Dishwasher (2 optimal)
- Commercial coffee-making system (2 pot)

- Kitchen should have a pass-through counter area for serving

Kitchen should adjoin the common room for use for parties, movie night, dances, game night, etc.

### ***Common Room/ Great Room***

- This room should be quite large, and used for multi-purpose gatherings.
- Room should adjoin the community kitchen.
- Room should be technically equipped with large (pull-down or electric) movie screen at one end, video/ CD projector, music system and speakers for CD and tape play, and micro-phone capabilities for community gatherings.
- A vending area should be considered in this room, with proceeds supporting operations: products should not include 'junk foods', but possibly water and juice machines, with healthy snack foods (children's nutrition concerns).

### ***Classrooms***

- Arts/crafts classes with tables and work areas
- tutoring (2 separate rooms)
- elementary students (K-5) – smaller tables
  - teens (middle and high school)

Lecture/ education room or rooms (for concurrent events - with a retractable wall for larger audiences) media equipped for presentations.

### ***Offices***

- General community office for purpose of housing on-site staff, scheduling, staff, check-in area (facility and recreation management)
- Residents Council for communication among residents, food pantry coordination, and other tenant support activities.
- Housing Opportunities Unlimited for case management and job support (may need larger space for multiple staff and privacy room)

Outreach Office/Meeting Room – for use by multiple providers on an outreach basis for specialized, temporary, or limited services

### ***Specialty Rooms***

Gym- this should be a relatively large space for/ with (Some aspects of gym space could be accommodated in the great/common room facility.)

- retractable basketball hoops (if feasible)
- open area for exercise, dance and fitness classes
- indoor intramural sports (volleyball, basketball, floor hockey, self-defense classes, etc.

- Weight room to house simple exercise equipment. an age limit should be placed on use of this facility depending on supervision (possibly basement location)
- Community library
- Computer Classroom (consider applying for a Neighborhood Network grant)

Food Pantry Storage Area. This should include:

- Heavy-duty storage shelving
- Large, commercial dual-door refrigerator
- Commercial upright freezer
- Stainless tables for sorting and boxing food
- Cupboard space for storage

## Outside:

### *Garden plots*

- A parcel of land should be reserved for use as a functional and teaching venue for vegetable growth and procurement as well as for flowering vegetation
- Optimally, two parcels (one vegetable, one flowering) of estimated size: 10' X 30' each. This rectangular shape would allow for a maximum number of users, each having adequate depth for their personal use.

Another possibility for size would be a square, approx. 20' X 40', with walking aisles between the rows of vegetation; residents (or classes) would be assigned rows.

### *Pool*

- There is no currently available pool of adequate size for the community.
- Pool size should be approx. 20' X 40', for optimal usage and safety. It should consist of a graduated depth from 3' - 8'.. Space permitting, a small wading pool for toddlers of approx. size 5' X 8', of consistent depth of 8"-10". **This area should be enclosed by fencing separate from the larger pool.**

### *Basketball Court/Track*

- a standard-sized, fenced, court, with hoops at each ends

### *Playground/Green Space*

- Must include distinct play areas, and equipment, for children of toddler ages and elementary school ages.
- Ideally, the toddler area should be fenced.

Multiple benches should be placed for adults/ seniors, with sidewalk access to these sitting areas.

### *Ballfield*

- There is not ample space for a true ballfield on the premises of Wadsworth Hall
- The University of Pittsburgh, in conjunction with BCJ, the City, and the Public Housing Authority, should create one ballfield area in the proximity of Oak Hill for use by residents. This could possibly be a larger track and field area for soccer, field sports, and outdoor track for running, jogging, and walking

## **Appendix**

**CHART 1: OAK HILL ACTIVITY SURVEY - ADULTS**

**CHART 2: OAKHILL SENIOR CITIZEN SURVEY**

**CHART 3: COPC - OAK HILL ACTIVE LIVING COMMUNITY**

**CHART 4: ACTIVE LIVING/YOUTH DEVELOPMENT -  
OAK HILL/WEST OAKLAND**

**MAP 1: OAK HILL-WEST OAKLAND COMMUNITY ASSET  
MAP**

**CHART 1: OAK HILL ACTIVITY SURVEY - ADULTS (24 Respondents)**

**QUESTIONS/RESPONSES (# Responses)**

<b>1) How far would you be willing to travel for recreation?</b>	<b>2) How would you travel to recreation area?</b>	<b>3) Where do you and your family currently go for recreation?</b>	<b>4) Which University facilities/ programs would you like to use?</b>	<b>5) What programs does Oak Hill most need?</b>	<b>6) Activities/ Facilities desired in Oak Hill?</b>	<b>7) Activities &amp; Classes of Most interest?</b>
bus (3)	Car (15)	Trees Hall (17)	Peterson Center (4)	Family Recreation Cnt Kids and Seniors (5)	Re-open Wadsworth (7)	Health & Nutrition (6)
<0.5 (4)	Walk (14)	Walk Local St. (4)	Indoor Pool (3)	Uncertain (2)	Bigger Pool (6)	Computer Class (3)
0.5 - 1.0 (4)	Bus (6)	Highland Park (3)	Indoor Track (3)	Sports Programs/ Intramural Sports (2)	Other Sports (3) Bball (3) Racquetball	Self-Defense (2)
1.0 - 2.0 (1)	Bicycle (3)	Schenley Hgts Pk (2)	Field House (2)	Pool	Intramural Sports (3)	Exercise Class (2)
2.0 - 5.0 (6)		Schenley Park Oval	Basketball Courts (2)	Ballfields	Children's Playground (3)	Job Help/ Training (2)
> 5.0 (5)		CMU Track	Trees Hall (2)	Basketball	Ballfields - safe, flat (2)	Kids Sports (2)
NA (1)		Cathedral Lawn	Tennis Courts	Gym/Weight Room	Walking Track - family (2)	How to use Exercise equipment
		Frick Park	Racquetball Courts	Outdoor Track Activity	Personal Trainer (2)	Kick-boxing
		Riverview Park	Exercise Room	More kids use of Trees	Softball	Intramural Sports
		Bike Trails	Computers	Open facilities for kids from Pgh.	Kids More Access to Trees	Hunting/Fishing
		Local park walking trail		Children's Playgrounds	Education Summer Camp	Expand Theiss Senior Program
		Park, Mall (non-specific)		After-School Learning for Teens	Senior Recreation	Teen After-School
		Buffalo Creek - fish		Parent Committee	Indoor Gym/Weights	Teen Dating, Growing Up
		Public Pool		Computer Classes	Computer Class (3)	Arts & Crafts
		YMCA (Hill)		Communications (tenants/ community)	Kids Activities (2)	Cooking Classes, Language Classes, Finance
		Peoples Oakland		Okay as it is	Exercise Class, Kids Workout, Interesting Classes, Pet Classes, After-School - teens, Teen Programs, African Dance, Gardening/ Vegetable (1)	Community Library, Book Club

**CHART 2: OAKHILL SENIOR CITIZEN SURVEY**

*(Survey Responses - 17 Respondents)*

	<b>Activity 1</b>	<b>Activity 2</b>	<b>Activity 3</b>	<b>Activity 4</b>
<b>Activities Preferred - catego-</b>				
<b>Gardening</b>	flower (7)	vegetable (8)		
<b>Fitness</b>	walking group (11)	exercise class (1)	chair exercise (3)	biking group (4)
<b>Cooking</b>	general (3)	teaching youth (3)		
<b>Board Games</b>	any (1)	chess(1)	bingo (2)	
<b>Arts &amp; Crafts</b>	any (2)	knitting (1)		
<b>Movie Nights</b>	monthly (9)	bi-monthly (1)	every other (1)	
<b>Other Activities Suggested</b>	comuter classes	bible studies		
<b>Businesses in Area</b>	Newspaper stand	Cleaners	Convenience Store	

### Chart 3

## COPC - OAK HILL ACTIVE LIVING COMMUNITY

### Goal

Engage the entire Oak Hill neighborhood, especially older youth, senior citizens, and families in more active lifestyles that emphasize fitness and health, enhance access to University and other external resources, and promote development of community-based resources and facilities.

### Community Issues/Needs:

- Concerns with idle older youth and youth survey showing little youth activity; youth have little access to recreational resources in or outside community; City budget constraints
  - Senior citizens not engaged within and outside community; mistrust of youth
  - Community-wide concerns with childhood obesity, lack of fitness, diabetes, and other family health issues that show great disparity among minority residents
  - University student residing in, but not connected to, community and residents
- Few community resources; limited community access to/input on university facilities

### Program Activities:

- Youth fitness and recreation – engaging youth and students with youth
  - Community health and wellness – focus on health disparities and other identified issues
  - Intergenerational activities – linking youth and seniors, and students and seniors
  - Expanded and structured use of neighboring Pitt athletic facilities
  - Creating access to other Oakland and City resource for active living
  - Developing on-site recreational amenities and opportunities –Wadsworth, fields/woods
  - Building community capacity (Residents' Council) to collaborate on fitness, recreation, and youth programming – community advisory on Pitt facilities, collaboration with Y
  - Community Asset and Resource Mapping – mobilizing residents
- Evaluation – exercise epidemiology, surveys, health disparity impact

### Community Partners

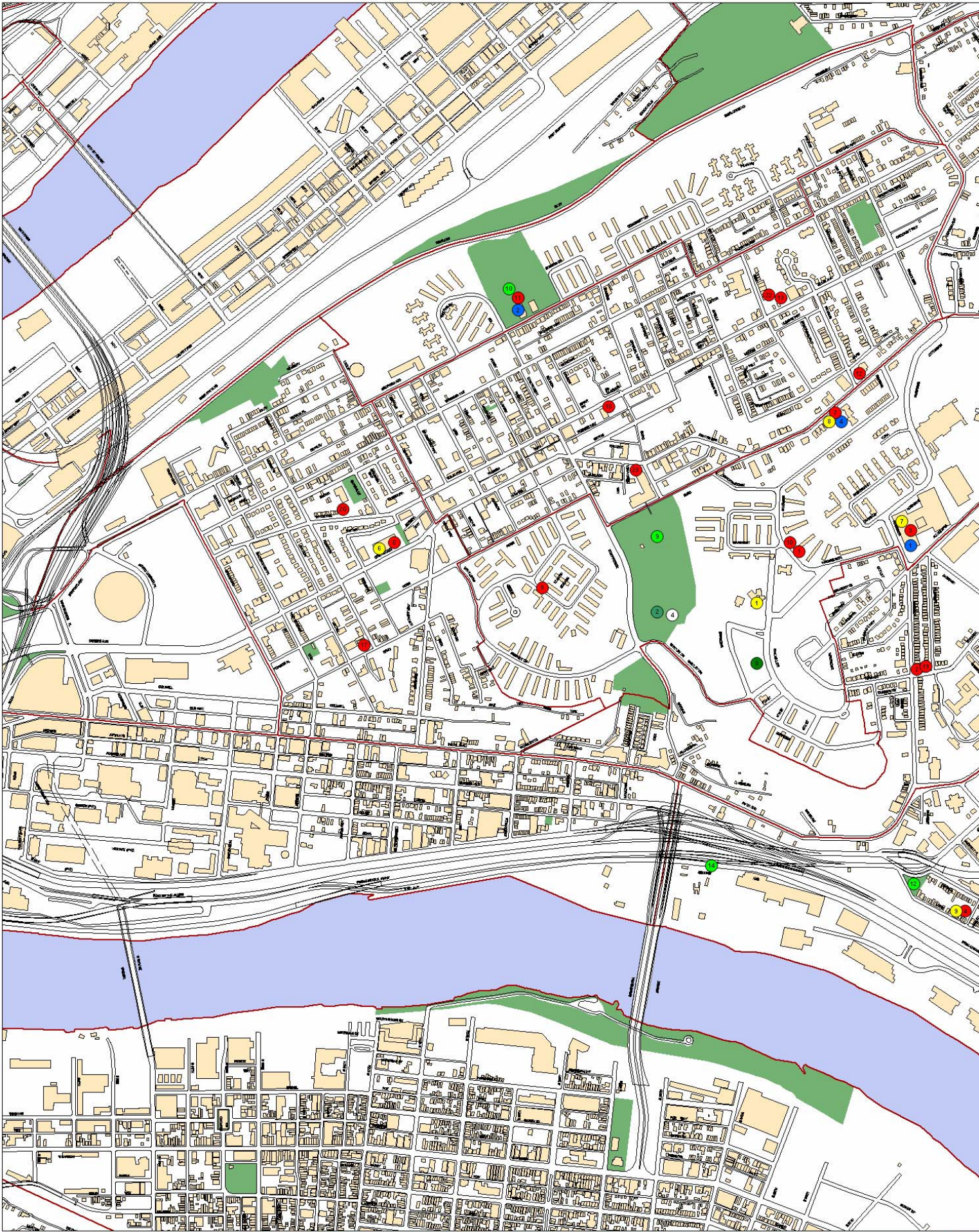
- *Oak Hill Residents' Council* (resident association) – community oversight
  - *Housing Opportunities Unlimited* (developer's agent) – social service support
  - *Beacon Corcoran Jennison Partners* (developer) – renovations of Wadsworth Hall
- Healthy Oakland People* (Developed under COPC) –community-wide health efforts

### University Partners

- *School of Education* (Physical Education) – coordination facilities, educational outreach
- *School of Medicine* – coordination of health and wellness in support of active living
- *Urban Studies* – community organizing and capacity building with Residents' Council
- *Athletics Dept.* – administration and student athletes; summer youth sports program
- *Student Residents* – living in Oak Hill – intergenerational and youth outreach volunteers
- *UPMC* (Mathilda Theiss Health Center) – healthcare, child care, transportation, nutrition
- *Collegiate YMCA* – student volunteers/programs, access to camps and Y youth programs
- *Generations Together* – intergenerational and service learning programs and center
- *Graduate School of Public Health* – Center for Minority Health, Exercise Epidemiology
- *Bridging the Gaps* - Medical, Dental, Nursing, Pharmacy, other health-related internships
- *Community Relations* – COPC management; liaison between community & University
- *Social Work* – COPC direction – community organizing students already in community
- *GSPIA* – COPC direction – asset and resource mapping

**CHART 4: ACTIVE LIVING/YOUTH DEVELOPMENT - OAK HILL/WEST OAKLAND**

ACTIVITIES	Activity 1	Activity 2	Activity 3	Activity 4	Activity 5	Activity 6	Activity 7
<b>COPC PARTNERS</b>							
<b>Community Leisure Learn Program (CLL)</b>	Establish CLL Community Advisory Board - quarterly meetings, minutes, reports of activities	Reorganize adult use of Trees to 15219 and 15213 residents - set-up database on use	Reorganize and structure youth programs at Trees (Saturday Dance & Martial Arts classes)	Report - Assess use of Trees (database) and benchmark athletic & Phys. Ed engagement at other universities	Engage Athletic Department - Panther PAWS (Prit Athletes Working with Students - spring '05)	Health & Physical Activity Programs expands internships - outreach weekly senior & youth programs Oak Hill)	Expand National Youth Sports Program (NYSP) and enhance COPC community outreach
<b>Collegiate YMCA (Y)</b>	Serve on CLL Advisory Board	Prepare community asset map -recreation and youth activities	Students interns - Wadsworth planning with HOU and BCI	Summer youth swim and sports program	Weekly youth program and activities engage students & athletes	Teen after-school tutoring - student volunteers and coordi-	Monthly Family activity for Oak Hill
<b>Bridging the Gaps (BTG)</b>	Annual summer BTG projects at MT - '05 youth diabetes education/prevention	Summer BTG at Breachmenders - youth health outreach via MT	Youth Health and Safety class at CHS summer youth program (K-8)	Develop youth nutrition with Breachmenders and in Oak Hill (06)	Youth health and fitness screening with CLL and MT		
<b>Generations Together (GT)</b>	Outreach and assessment of Seniors in Oak Hill	Community Garden - seniors & elementary after-school students	Senior exercise classes (low-impact)	Link student residents in Oak Hill with senior resident activities			
<b>Housing Opportunity Unlimited (HOU)/BCJ Partners</b>	Work with COPC to assess community needs - surveys & community forums	Work with Residents Council and BCJ to plan Wadsworth Hall renovations and use	Case management support, PR & outreach in Oak Hill and for Wadsworth				
<b>Mathilda Theiss Health Center (MT)</b>	Connect with Medicine, Public Health, Nursing, Health Professions -	Health services for Oak Hill and West Oakland residents ID from	PR and outreach via senior group and youth development programs	Transportation - use of Theiss vans by local seniors and youth to	Health screenings and evaluation for COPC related activities		
<b>Breachmenders</b>	Serve on CLL Advisory Board	PR & outreach to West Oakland for Trees Hall expanded use by community	PR and outreach for CLL and Y youth activities	Youth nutrition program via BTG	Outreach of athletes, PR to W. Oakland youth on PAWS	Oak Hill/West Oakland COPC outreach and programs (senior citizen computer classes; youth after-school tutoring (Y)	Link summer youth programs to NYSP (PM recreation via NYSP)
<b>Peoples Oakland (PO) &amp; Healthy Oakland People (HOP)</b>	Healthy Oakland People involves Oak Hill & West Oakland groups/	Oakland Walks groups in Oak Hill and West Oakland	Students interns and athletes involved at PO and in HOP				
<b>Community Human Services (CHS)</b>	Serve on CLL Advisory Board	PR & outreach for Trees Hall expanded use by community	BTG interns -summer youth health and safety program	PR and outreach for CLL and Y youth activities			Link summer youth program to NYSP for recreation ('06)
<b>School of Medicine</b>	Theiss Health Center	Health students	Health Education				
<b>Social Work, Urban Studies, Health &amp; Physical Activity</b>	Student Interns for Outreach and Research Projects						
<b>Community Relations</b>	Project Coordination	CLL Advisory/OD	Liaison BCJ Partners				



INDOOR RECREATION

OUTDOOR RECREATION / PARKS

OUTDOOR RECREATION / PLAYGROUNDS

OUTDOOR RECREATION / POOLS



1	Trees Hall
2	Ammon Recreation Center
3	People's Oakland
4	YMCA (pool under renovation)
1	Schenley Park
2	Kennard Field (currently not accessible)
3	Oak Hill Management Office
4	Robert E. Williams Park
5	Schenley Park
6	Schenley Park
7	Schenley Plaza (under construction)
8	Robert E. Williams Park
9	Kennard Field
10	Ammon Park (not available)
11	Marino Field
12	Parklet at Ophelia and Lawn
13	Zulema parklet
14	Elijah Furnace Trail
1	BJWL (Beverly Jewel Wallace Lovelace) Afterschool Program
2	Breachmenders s2c Program
3	Community Leisure-Learn Program, University of Pittsburgh
4	CHS (Community Human Services)
5	Magee Women's Hospital
6	Hill House
7	YMCA
8	Carnegie Museums (of Art and Natural History) and Library
9	Addison Terrace
10	Allequippa Terrace
11	Ammon Park After school Program
12	CARES (Wesley Center)
13	Cavalry Baptist Church
14	Grace Memorial Presbyterian
15	Madison Elementary School
16	Margaret Millones Technology Academy
17	Miller Elementary School
18	Monumental Baptist Church
19	New Beginnings Learning Center
20	Ozanam Cultural Center
21	YMCA - Collegiate
22	Vann Elementary School
23	Weil Technology Institute
1	Schenley Park (Soccer)
2	Schenley Oval (Soccer, Tennis, Walking Track)
3	Marino Field
4	Kennard Field
5	Mazeroski Field
1	Matilda Theiss Health Center
2	Magee Women's Hospital
3	UPMC Children's Hospital
4	People's Oakland
5	Family Care Connections at Children's Hospital
6	Hill House
7	Community Leisure-Learn Program, University of Pittsburgh
8	YMCA
9	Community Human Services
10	Carnegie Museums (of Art and Natural History) and Library

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

BALL FIELDS

HEALTH / NUTRITION