

Quality of Life Plan Summary

BTW Neighborhood

September 2021





Introduction

Booker T. Washington is a historic and loving community, working together for a better tomorrow.

#letsdoitagainBTW

BTW Community got the name from Booker T. Washington, a slave in 1856. Years ago there was a farm in this area and some of the residents worked on the farm and other residents worked various types of domestic jobs. Everyone that lives in this community love something about this community. More streets have been developed. Carver and Dunbar streets were the only streets ran from 10th ave to 21st ave. Back in the day Carver Street was the place to go; but now most of the businesses are gone.

Now the focus is on what we want our community to be: safety, health, education, economic opportunity, and housing. Our coalition is currently passionate about engaging the community, the resident leaders in the BTW community have identified a plan to help improve our community. We would like your participation to get the community moving in a positive direction.

Mrs. Lena Brown

BTW Neighborhood History

As one of the oldest neighborhoods in Myrtle Beach, Booker T. Washington (BTW) has a unique and historic story.

Beginning in the late 1800s the African American community lived in areas referred to as Racepath, Sandridge, The Hill, and later what is now called the Booker T. Washington and Canal Street neighborhoods. The Booker T. Washington neighborhood houses owned by the African Americans were originally on what is now Oak Street and were later moved to Dunbar Street and westward. A resident by the name of Cecil Graham (deceased) recalls some of the lots at 21st Avenue North and Oak Street were only available for sale to members of the Fraternal Order of the Odd Fellows. Many members of the African American community worked in the fisheries, farms, hotels, and private homes as housekeepers and cooks. Some of the African American men who worked in the hotels formed a club called the “Cooks and Waiters Club” that met once a month at the Club Bamboo on Carver Street.



In speaking with residents their dream and hope is to continue to have a neighborhood that celebrates their history yet moves into a brighter future.

An African American School was also erected in the late 1920s and was referred to as the Myrtle Beach Colored School. Prior to the school being erected, African American students attended the first through third grades at Sandy Grove Missionary Baptist Church and fourth grade and up at Mt. Olive A.M.E. Church.

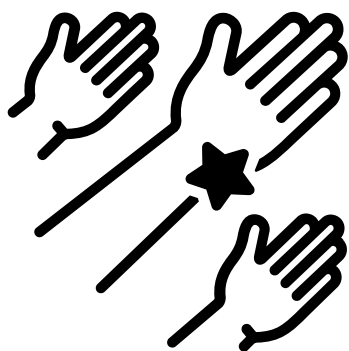
The Myrtle Beach Colored School closed in 1953 when the Carver School was built on Dunbar Street and the Old Farm Road (now Mr. Joe White Avenue). In 2006, the modern-day Historic Myrtle Beach Colored School and Education Center opened its doors and continues to serve the community as a museum and education center.

Many of the black enterprises that were the heart of the Booker T. Washington were located on Carver St. The places that remain are the Friendly’s Barbershop and the restoration of Charlie’s Place that now serves as a business incubator and museum. In speaking with residents their dream and hope is to continue to have a neighborhood that celebrates their history yet moves into a brighter future.

• *History Summary Credit: City of Myrtle Beach Comprehensive Plan*

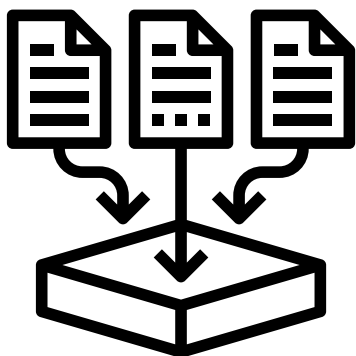
Planning Process

The planning process was designed not only to include and engage as many residents as possible but also to get future leaders eager to use their skills and gifts to pursue their passions for the good of the rest of the neighborhood. There were 3 phases of the planning process, which are detailed below. The planning process was carried out in a collaboration between resident leaders and Habitat for Humanity of Horry County's Neighborhood Revitalization team.



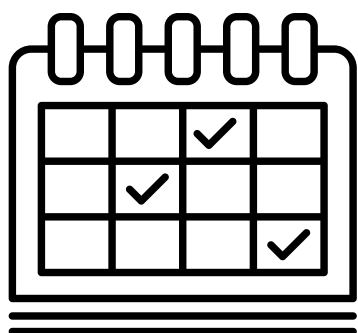
Outreach and Engagement

Resident Leaders and the Neighborhood Revitalization team at Habitat for Humanity went door to door, inviting people to connect and get their voice heard. Every resident was ensured that their perspective is vital to shaping the vision.



Data Collection

Individual resident perspectives were collected at a neighborhood cookout, other small events, surveys, workshops and in 1-on-1 conversations. The purpose of the data collection was to find a collective story of the history, the present, and the future vision for the BTW community.



Neighborhood Planning Meetings

One community meeting was held to gather ideas of what should be the top priorities. An additional meeting was held to create Neighborhood Action Teams around the priorities. Those teams set the initiatives under each of 3 high-level goals that were prioritized by residents.

Planning Approach

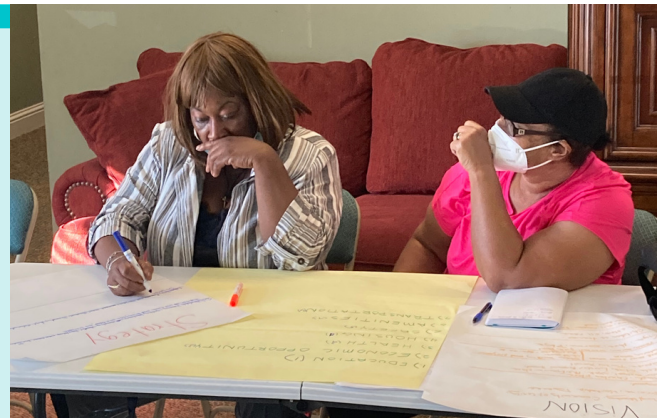


Asset-Based

Asset-Based Community Development is the approach that's been adopted for this plan. In a nutshell, it means that residents and partners look for what's strong and use it to address what is wrong.

Resident-Led

Residents Leadership is the core of the Quality of Life Plan process. Residents inform and lead all of the work that is taken on by neighborhood partners.



Coalition Building

The process of creating this Quality of Life Plan has energized residents under a unified vision, and it has also created pathways for partnership with organizations that impact the quality of life.


Always Evolving

This plan is designed to be iterative, which means that it will always adapt and adjust with new information, new perspectives, and changes to the local landscape.



Strategic Goals: Summarized

Through the planning process, three major goals and one overarching value surfaced. In each of the goals below, resident ownership is infused into the very philosophy of the goal - informing the entire process by which the coalition will approach the achievement of these goals.



core value: resident ownership

Improved Infrastructure with Government Support

The future vision of BTW includes fruitful working relationships with local governments, and as a result, neighborhood infrastructure primed for economic development and residential growth that is resident powered.

Healthy and Safe Community

BTW is striving to become a place that promotes physical and mental health and well-being. Included in this goal is the shared responsibility of safety and easy connections to resources for residents to grow and advance their wellness.

Restored Housing

In this historic community, the current housing stock is a key medium of BTW's unique story. Preserving these structures and infusing new life into them is an ideal goal for residents. This includes vacant properties and homes occupied by families who need assistance with repairs.

Asset Map, Action Steps, and Acknowledgements are detailed in the full report

A commitment of the BTW Neighborhood Coalition and Habitat for Humanity of Horry County is to respect resident data and strategic information by sharing it only with partners and individuals making an active contribution to the quality of life for current residents of the neighborhood.

To request a conversation with resident leaders about learning more and partnership opportunities, please contact nrcoordinator@habitatmb.org.

Convened by:

