On May 1, 2006, Mayor Cicilline and the City Council announced the creation of Providence Tomorrow, an institutional and inclusive planning process designed to prepare the city for its future. As part of the planning process, a neighborhood plan was prepared for each distinct neighborhood. Since then, the City Council adopted a new Comprehensive Plan, and the Department of Planning and Development has begun detailed planning studies in each of the city’s neighborhoods.

Providence has 25 distinct neighborhoods, each with unique character and identity. While neighborhoods share many features, each has its own set of planning challenges. Neighborhoods are defined as areas that share common spatial boundaries, planning policies that were conducted at the neighborhood level. The neighborhoods were grouped together to form the ten neighborhood planning areas, or planning studies, conducted from 2007 to 2009.

The Charles and Wanskuck Neighborhood Charrette was held July 15–16, 2006. Sessions were held at the Davis Center for Community Dialogue at 300 Charles St. Discussions included neighborhood identity, neighborhood resources, and challenges and opportunities for the neighborhoods. The discussion was facilitated by a planning consultant who created a list of challenges and opportunities for the neighborhoods. The list of challenges and opportunities was then developed into a list of goals and objectives. The goals and objectives were then used to draft the comprehensive plan for the neighborhood.

This map is a summary of the information that was collected from residents, business owners, and neighborhood groups over the course of an intensive week of many public forums. The map highlights the existing character of the neighborhoods through photos and descriptions of how to improve parks and other public spaces in the neighborhoods. The map was developed to help residents understand how to address the challenges and opportunities that the neighborhoods are currently faced with. The map was developed to help the City prioritize funding for projects and infrastructure improvements, and provide a guide for redevelopment efforts.

Redevelop the former Steere Mill/American Touriser Site into a beneficial use to the neighborhood and the City.

- Encourage potential uses such as senior assisted living, commercial, or industrial development.
- Through the redevelopment process, ensure the preservation of a portion of the site, including Whipple Pond, as open space with a walking path and easy neighborhood access.

Improve access to and increase opportunities for recreation and enjoyment of open space at Wanskuck Park.

- Examine the feasibility of installing a playground within the park.
- Upgrade benches and trash cans at Wanskuck Park.
- Consider the installation of an enclosed off-leash dog area within the park.

Recognize Canada Pond as a valuable neighborhood resource: work with RIDEM to improve water quality, restore its beach if feasible, schedule area clean-ups, and improve access to the pond and its surrounding for neighborhood residents.

Establish an opening and closing schedule for the park adjacent to St. Ann’s Church.

Improve access to and increase opportunities for recreation and enjoyment of open space at Hopkins Square.

- Repair broken lights in Hopkins Square and evaluate lighting to ensure safety in the evening hours.
- Examine the possibility of a seasonal farmers market at Hopkins Square.
- Work with RIPTA to install signature bus shelters at Hopkins Square.

Upgrade the lighting and plant additional trees at Iola French Park.

Redevelop the former auto body shop on the west side of Douglas Avenue between Lancashire and Columbus streets with a neighborhood-serving commercial development.

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