

4. Local Perception

Earlier chapters have shown the local profile for Lansdowne through a number of data collection styles, such as census data reports and field surveys. This chapter will provide a summary of a residential survey conducted in Lansdowne on February 2-3, 2001 as well as the results of a SWOT exercise carried out during the February 20, 2001 Lansdowne neighborhood meeting. The analysis of this material will present supplemental and current information on the socio-economic and physical make-up of Lansdowne. In conjunction with other data collection methods, this chapter can help the steering committee to choose wisely the issues that need to be explored more closely in improving their community.



LSC meeting, residents and students working on the cognitive mapping exercise

2001 LANSDOWNE REVITALIZATION PLAN

4.1 Cognitive Mapping

The cognitive mapping exercise was conducted at the first monthly meeting to attain an understanding of the Lansdowne neighborhood from the residents that live there. The variety of information collected from the residents was the outer boundary of Lansdowne, district boundaries, local landmarks, resources or assets, and problems sites/areas.

By gathering in smaller groups (about 4-5 residents with a few university students) and marking on a provided map of the Lansdowne region, the residents expressed their knowledge. Each color of marker represented different concerns. The black marker represented the outer boundary of the Lansdowne neighborhood. The blue marker represented the boundaries for any districts (for example -industrial areas, shopping strips, church rows, etc). The neighborhood's most important local landmarks (for example -historic homes, parks, schools, churches, or monuments) were identified by brown markings. The green marker labeled Lansdowne's most important resources or assets (for example -open green spaces, successful business, social service agencies, housing, etc.). And finally the red marker labeled Lansdowne's biggest problems sites/areas (for example -trash, flooding problems, speeding vehicles, high crime activity, illegal dumping, etc.).

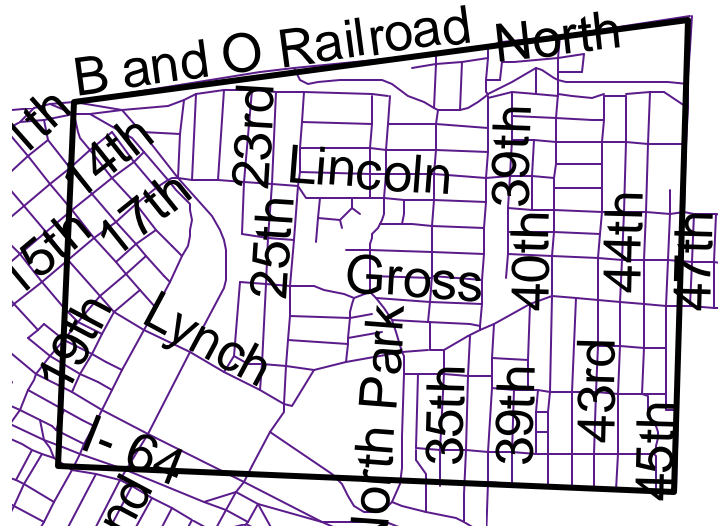
After each group finished marking their individual maps, they reported out to the larger group. A collective map was created with each groups input. During the reporting out time dialogues occurred. Some of the debates where the location of the outer boundary of Lansdowne and what kinds of threats there are in the neighborhood. Below are the results from this exercise.

Map A shows the boundary of the Lansdowne neighborhood that was outlined by the residents.

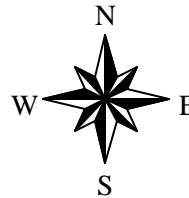
The boundary consists of:

- ?? B & O Railroad (North)
- ?? Bunkum Rd. (South)
- ?? 46th St. (East)
- ?? 15th St. (West)

Lansdowne Neighborhood Boundary



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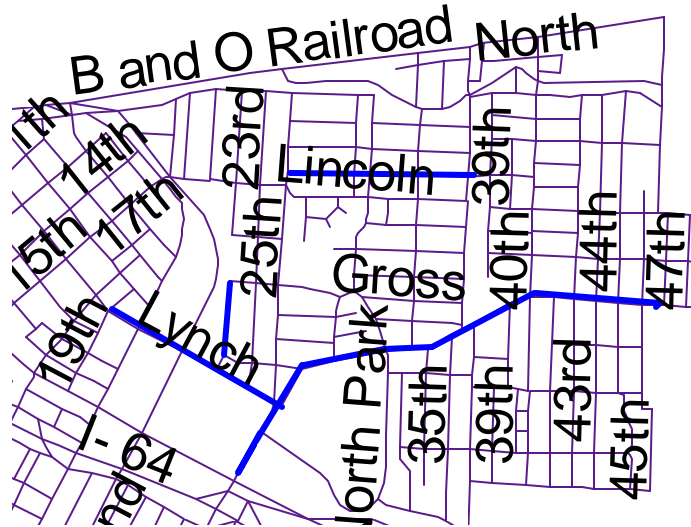


Map A: Cognitive map of neighborhood boundary

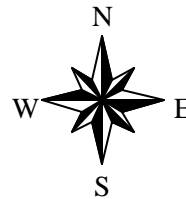
On *Map B* the Lansdowne neighborhood districts are shown in blue. The residents highlighted the following:

- ?? Business districts
- ?? Commercial areas
- ?? Industrial sites

Lansdowne Districts



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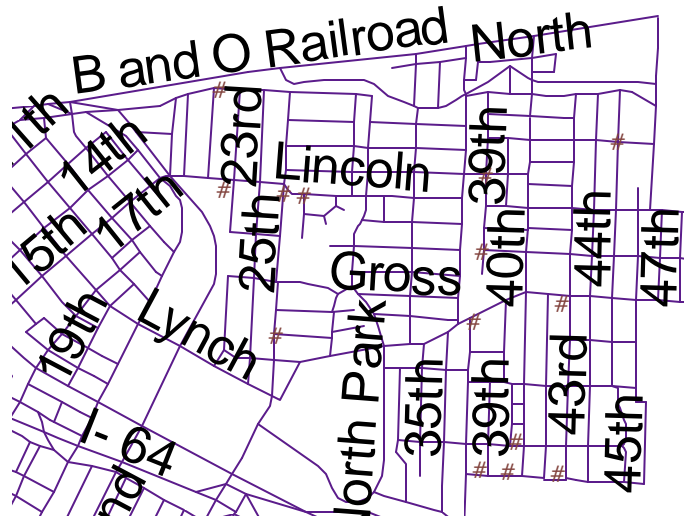


Map B: Cognitive map of districts

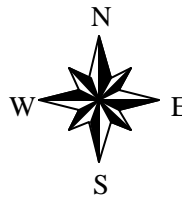
The brown points on *Map C* indicate the neighborhood landmarks and historic buildings. The residents listed:

- ?? Churches
- ?? Schools
- ?? Fire Station

Lansdowne Landmarks



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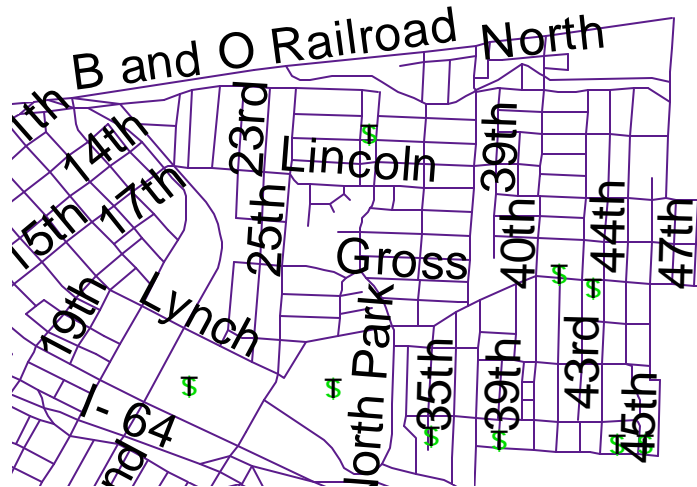


Map C: Cognitive map of landmarks and historical buildings

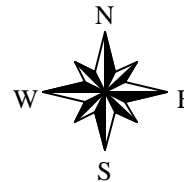
On *Map D* the residents identified the resources of the neighborhood. They produced the following:

- ?? Open Spaces
- ?? Schools
- ?? Kenneth Hall Park
- ?? Jackie Joyner Center

Lansdowne Resources



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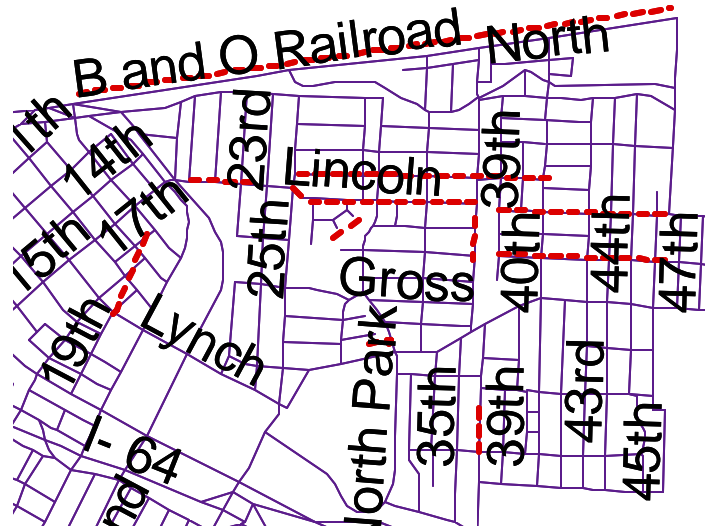
Map D: Cognitive map of resources and assets

The red lines on *Map E* display the various problems and weaknesses of the neighborhood.

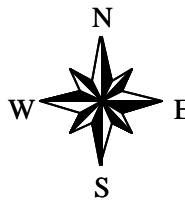
The residents listed the following as problems:

- ?? Abandoned Lots
- ?? Drug Activity
- ?? High Crime
- ?? Dilapidated Housing
- ?? Poor Street Conditions
- ?? Trash

Lansdowne Problem Areas



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Map E: Cognitive map of problem areas

