

The Community's Plan: Innerbelt Master Plan Process

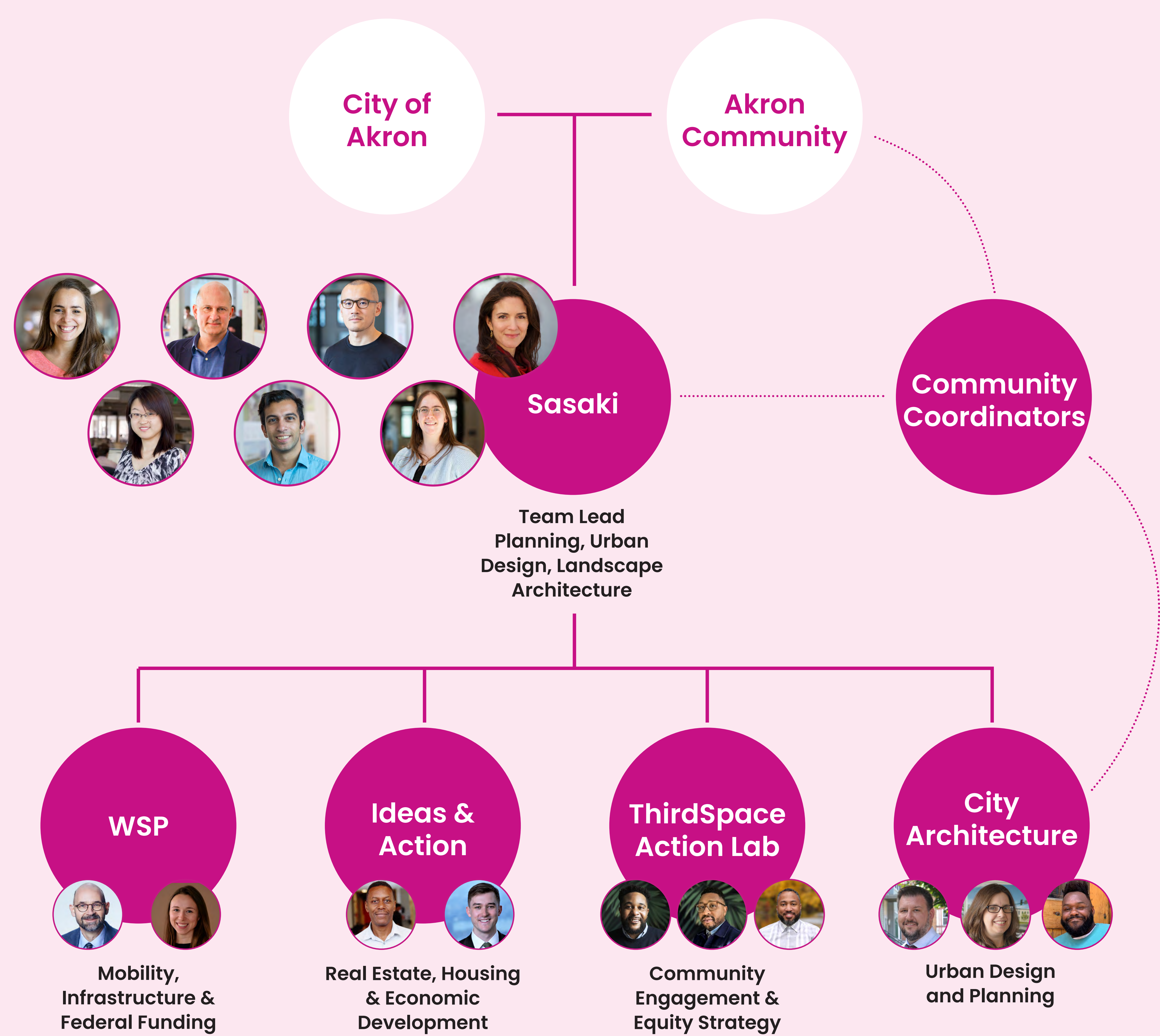


From 2021-2023, the City held community conversations about the past and future of the Innerbelt. The summary and analysis of those conversations as well as recommendations for moving forward can be found in the Phase 1 report.



During Open House #1, we brought together ~200 Akronites to share their knowledge and perspective on the Innerbelt. Mayor Malik announced that Akron had won a \$10 million federal grant to support the project.

Meet the Team



Meet Our Community Coordinators!



Carla Davis
Communications Professional

Carla brings a wealth of experience in public relations, journalism, and communications. She is the president and founder of Carla Davis Communications and played a pivotal role in The City of Akron Racial Equity and Social Justice Task Force.



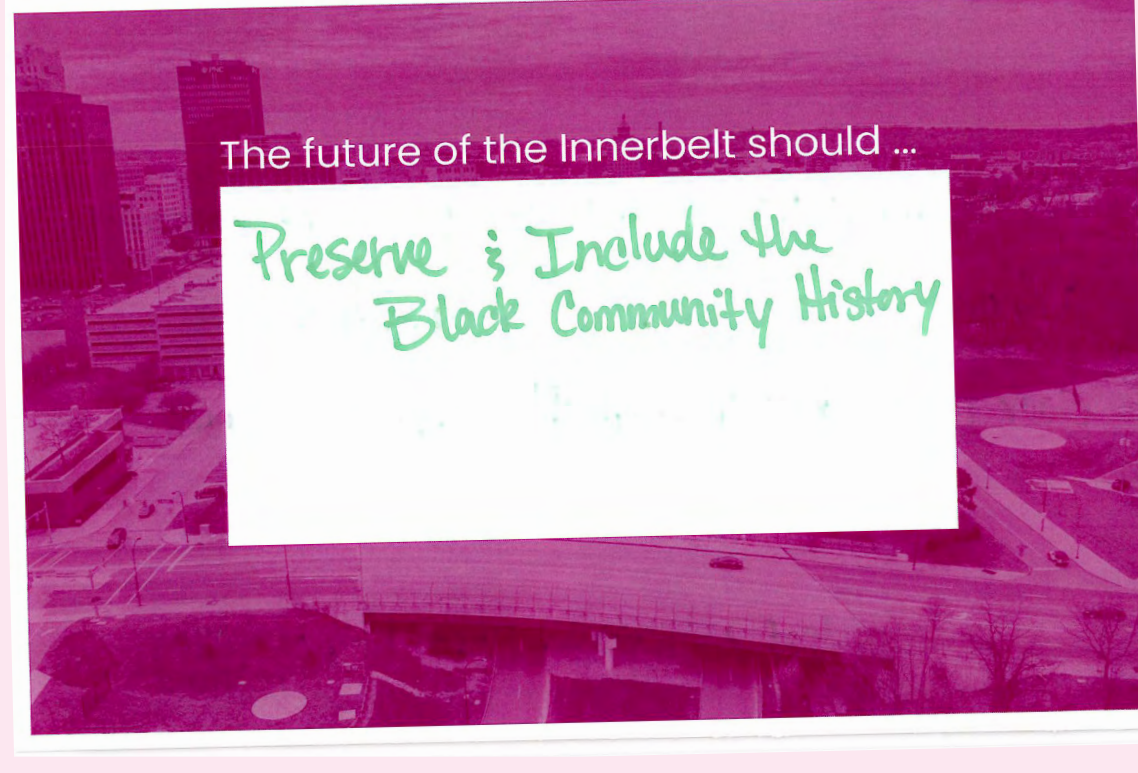
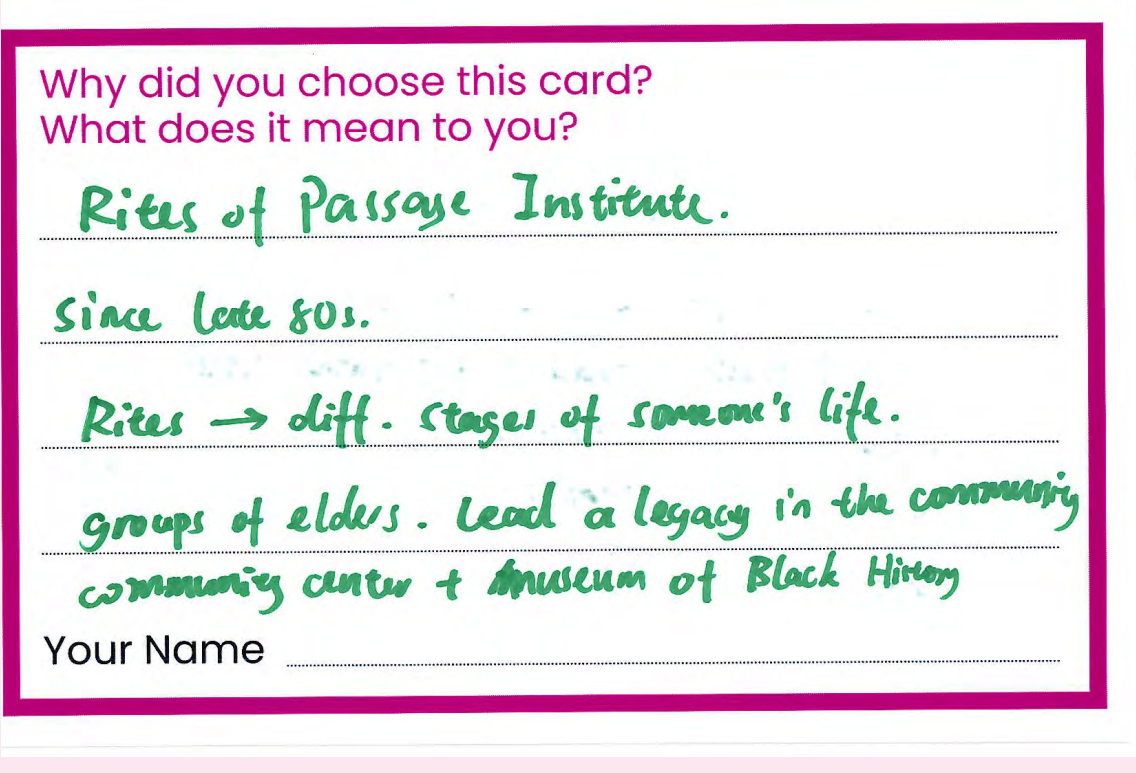
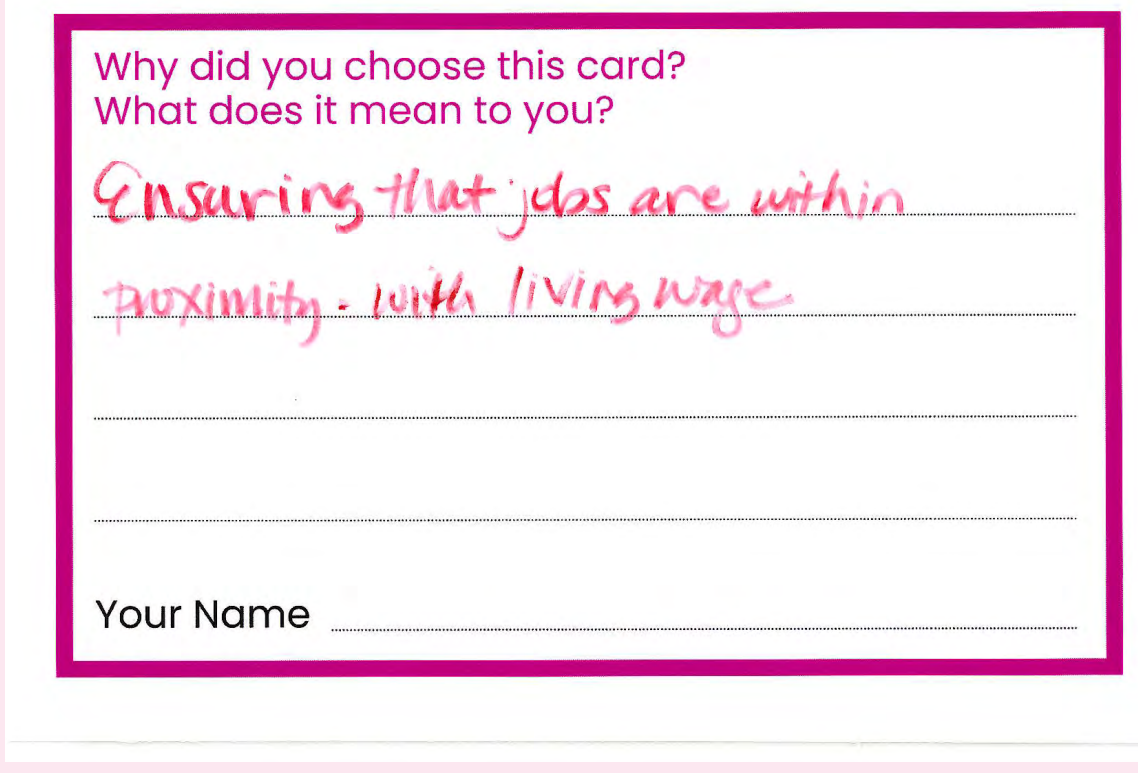
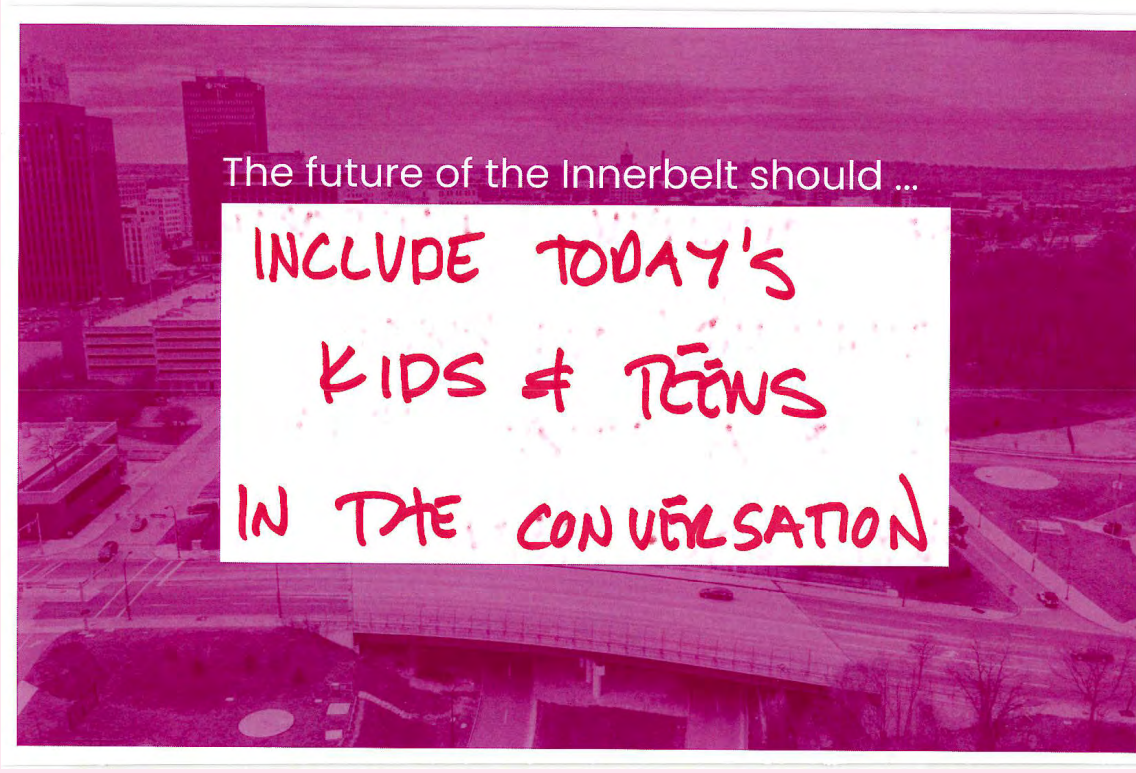
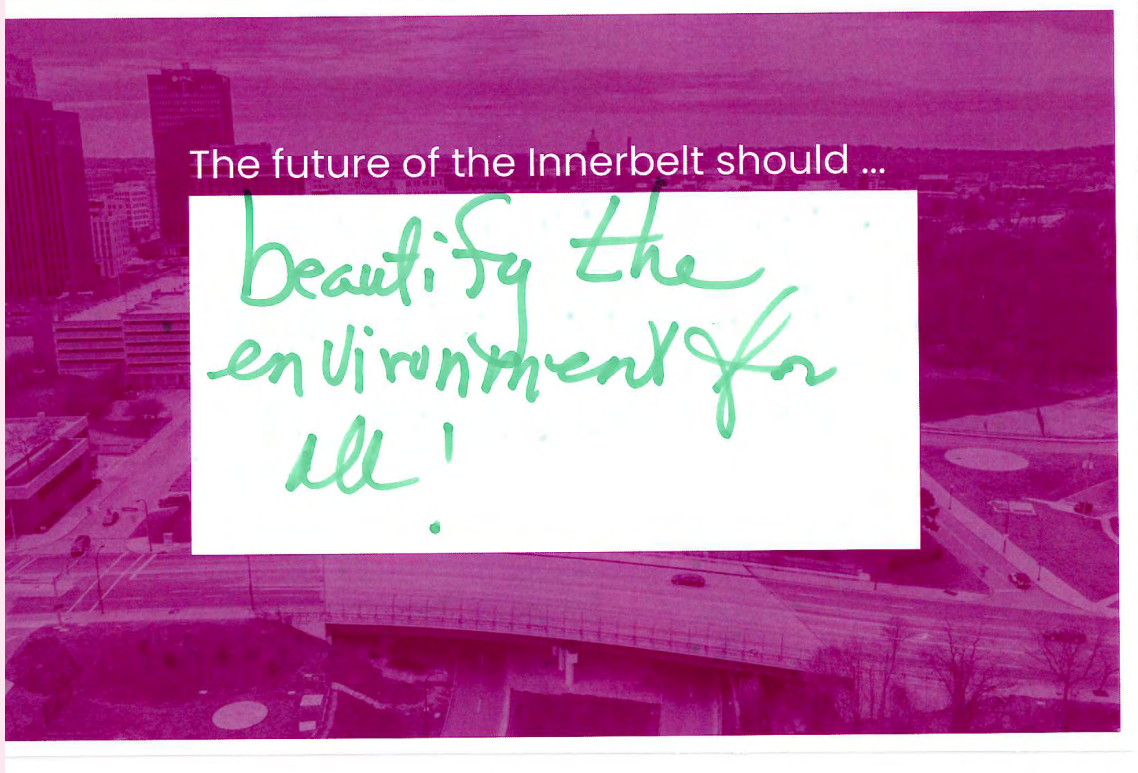
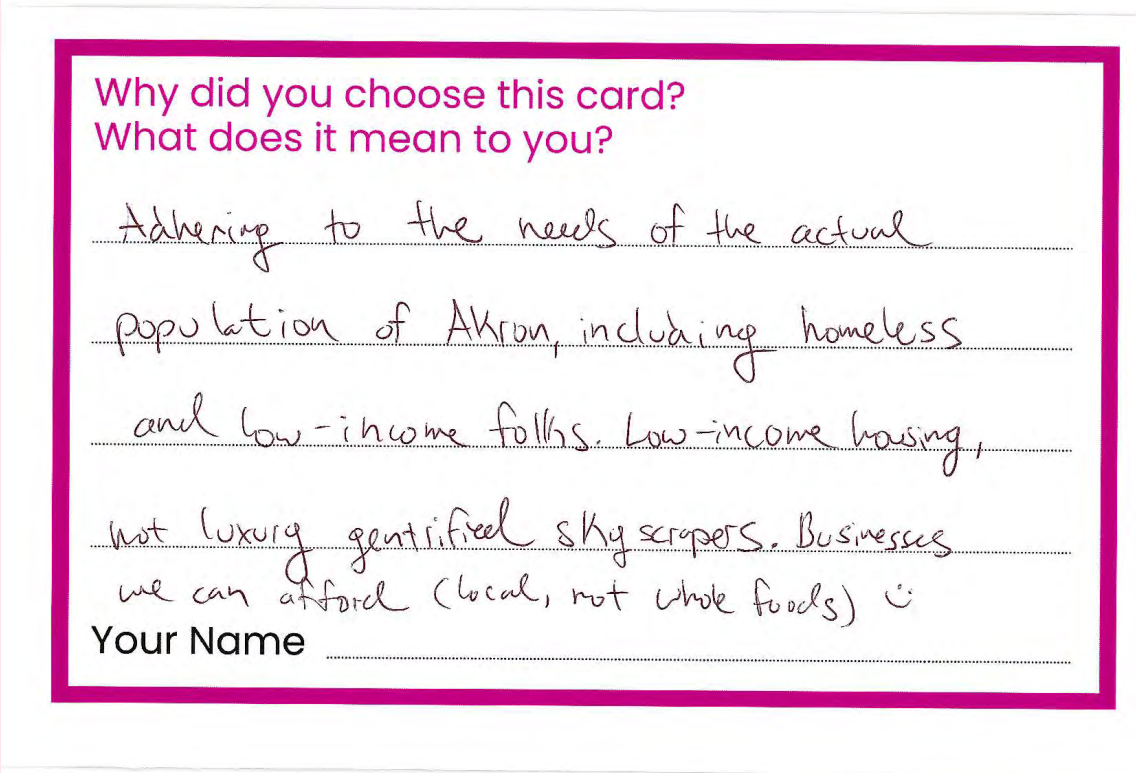
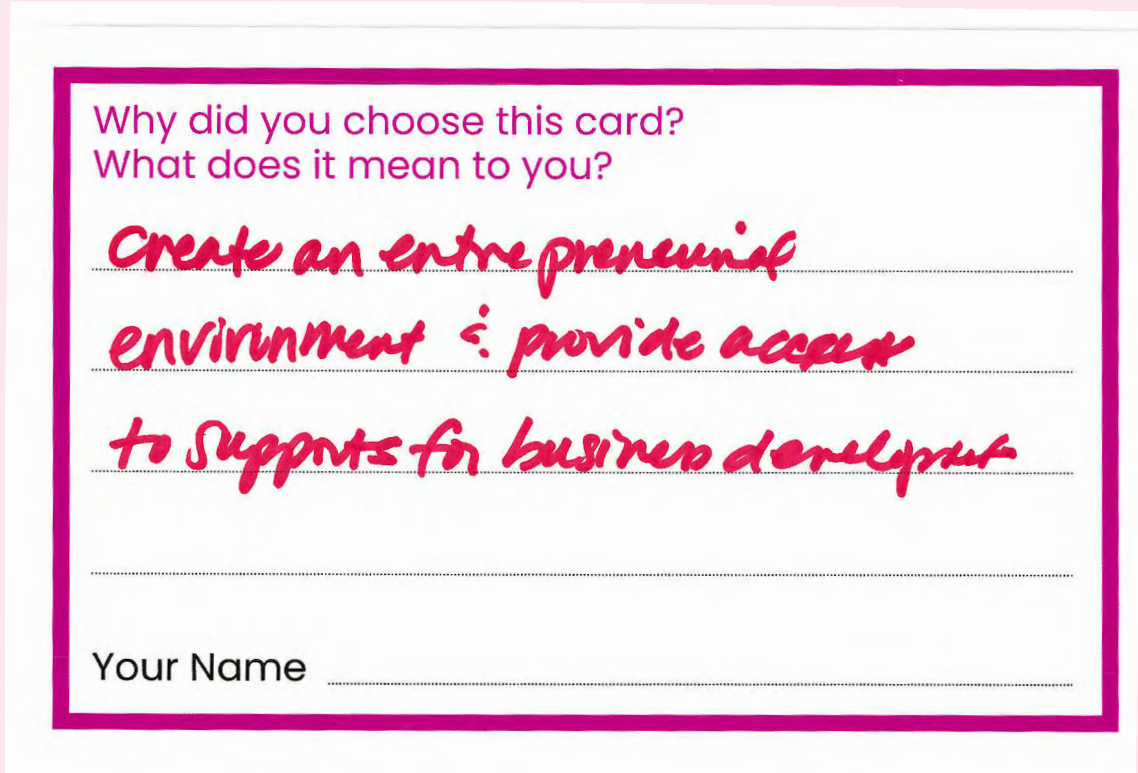
Ebony Hill
Master Life Coach

Life coach Ebony Hill takes pride in educating people about the importance of Juneteenth and Black history. She also offers life coaching for individual community members through Hilltastic Coaching and Consulting.

Community Voices to Principles & Goals

Community Input from Open House #1

During Open House #1, the community shared their voices and perspective on the future of the former Innerbelt land. Topics ranged from housing affordability to open space access to job opportunities.



Principles + Goals

This community perspective was distilled into Principles & Goals for the future of the Innerbelt. These were divided into 7 thematic topics. The order reflects the amount of importance given to each topic during Open House #1.

- Economic Opportunity
- Housing
- Environment & Open Space
- History & Culture
- Mobility & Infrastructure
- Community Wellbeing
- Community Power / Capacity

Actions

Action that could happen on or around the former Innerbelt land were developed based on these Principles & Goals. We are looking for your voice to determine which ingredients are most needed and where.

- Reconnect Streets
- Affordable Multifamily
- Cultural Center
- Green Streets & Infrastructure
- Youth Spaces
- Tree Canopy
- Heritage Trail
- Public Transit
- Supportive Housing
- Business Incubator
- Access to Former Innerbelt & Open Spaces
- Pop-up Event Space
- Healthy Food
- Career Center & Education
- Bike Paths & Trails

The former Innerbelt land should...

Take the
survey on
your phone!



Place a dot under your top 3 Principles of future development of the former Innerbelt land.



ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY
... create and promote
equitable access to wealth
and economic opportunities.



HOUSING
... support more affordable
housing and prevent
displacement.



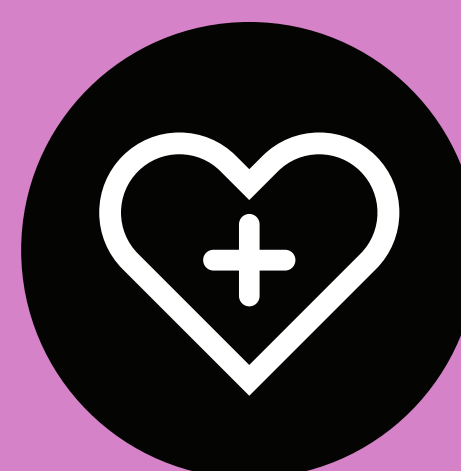
ENVIRONMENT & OPEN SPACE
...create safe, welcoming
public spaces and a
regenerative natural
environment.



HISTORY & CULTURE
... preserve history and
celebrate Akron's unique
identity.



MOBILITY & INFRASTRUCTURE
... reconnect Akron's
neighborhoods.



COMMUNITY WELLBEING
... support community
resources that enhance the
health, safety, and wellbeing of
the community.



COMMUNITY POWER / CAPACITY
... build community power
and capacity in future
development.

Are there are principles we missed?

Share your
thoughts here!

The former Innerbelt land should...

Take the
survey on
your phone!

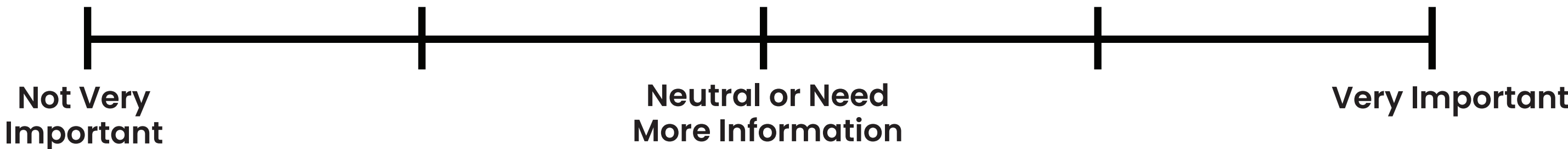


Place a dot along the line under each goal based on how important you think it is to the future of the former Innerbelt land.

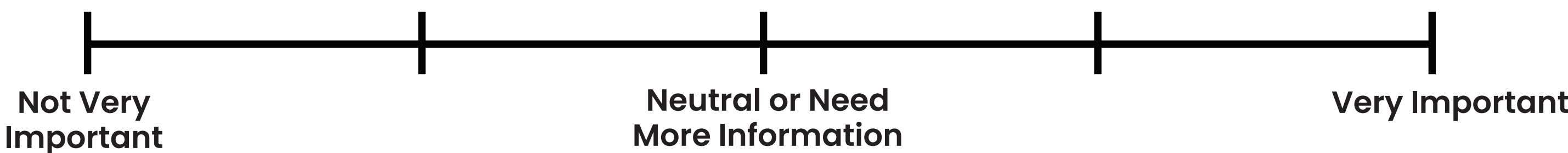


ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY
... create and promote equitable access to wealth and economic opportunities.

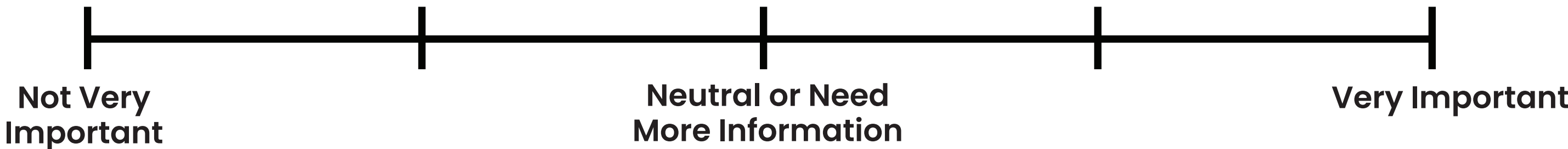
- 1 Leverage the transformation of the former Innerbelt to catalyze economic development and value creation, and ensure that value is distributed equitably



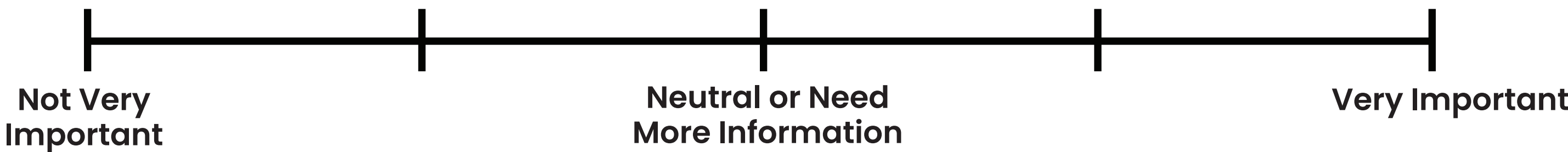
- 2 Support commercial projects and industries with the potential to grow quality jobs that are accessible to local residents



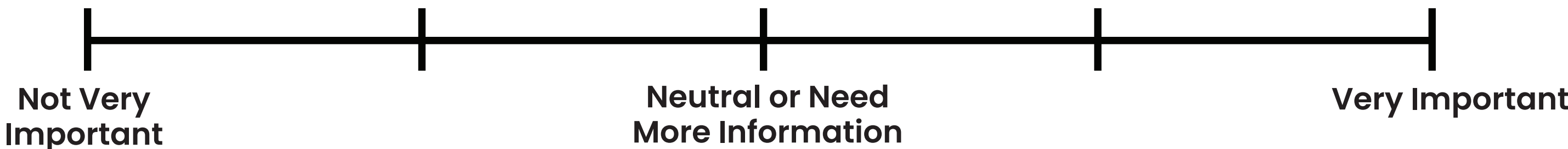
- 3 Support training and workforce development programs that align with new job opportunities, for Akronites at every stage of life and career



- 4 Support small business development, especially local and minority businesses

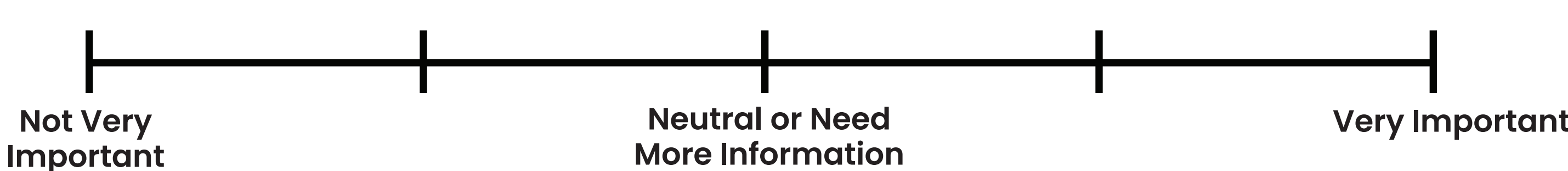


- 5 Support entrepreneurship

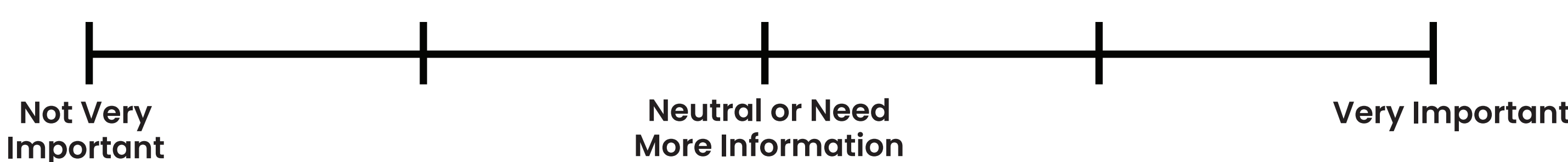


HOUSING
... support more affordable housing and prevent displacement.

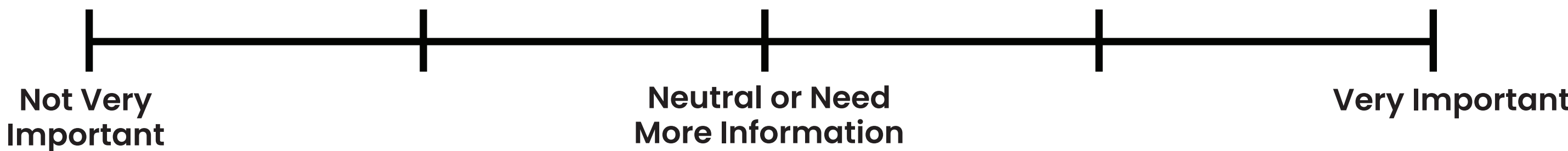
- 1 Promote new supply of affordable rental housing that meets the needs of Akronites with the most need, including seniors, young people, vulnerable and unhoused people with special needs.



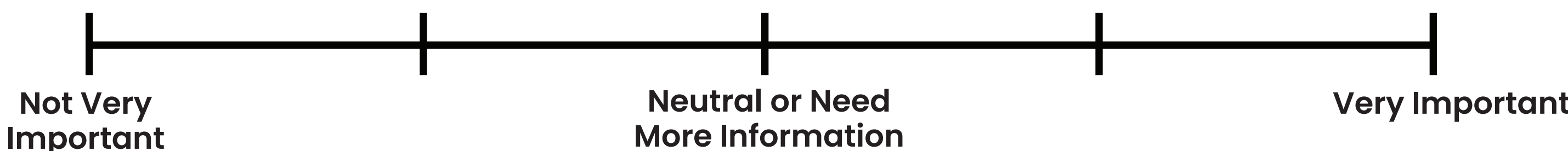
- 2 Promote new supply of affordable homeownership housing



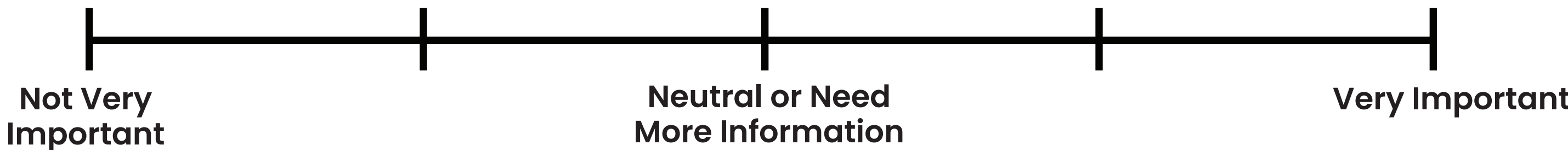
- 3 Promote resources to help residents access and maintain rental and homeownership opportunities



- 4 Preserve and support existing affordable rental housing



- 5 Support existing homeowners struggling with housing costs



The former Innerbelt land should...

Take the
survey on
your phone!

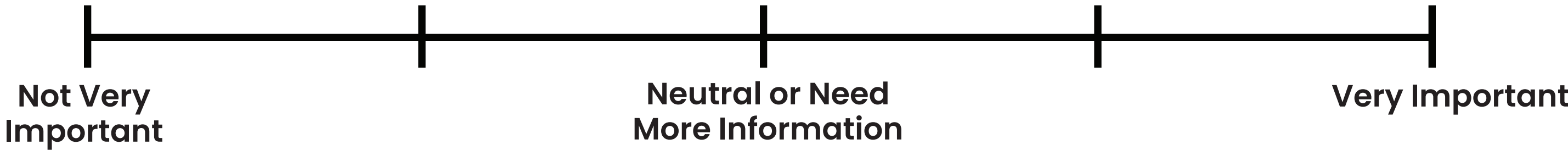


Place a dot along the line under each goal based on how important you think it is to the future of the former Innerbelt land.

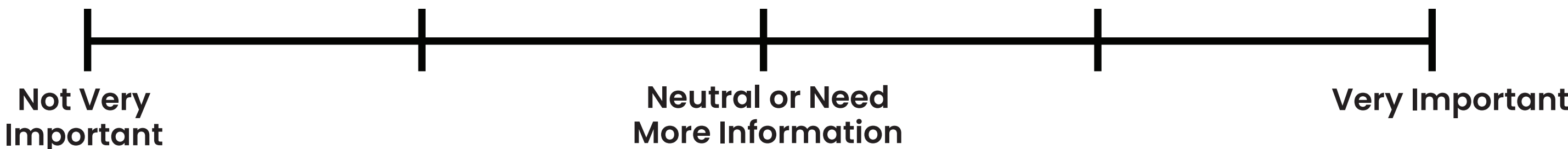


ENVIRONMENT & OPEN SPACE
... create safe, welcoming public spaces and a regenerative natural environment.

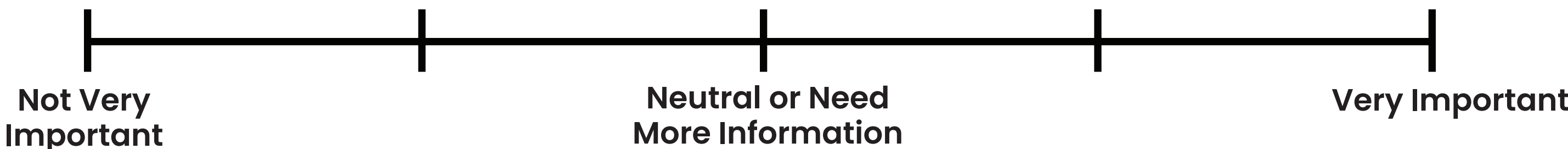
1 Create equitable access to safe, welcoming open spaces



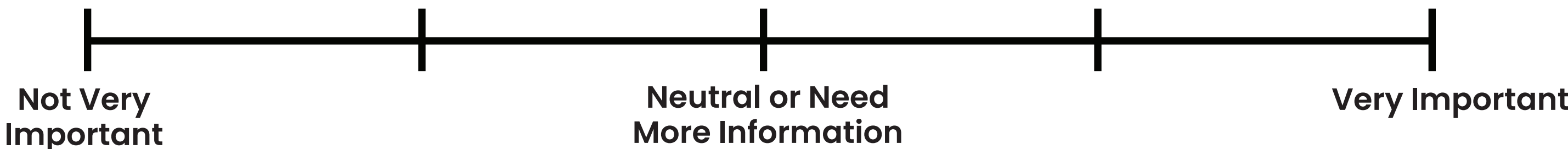
2 Strengthen and build on Akron's network of trails and natural corridors



3 Prioritize environmental clean-up efforts, and address the historical burden of pollution on surrounding communities

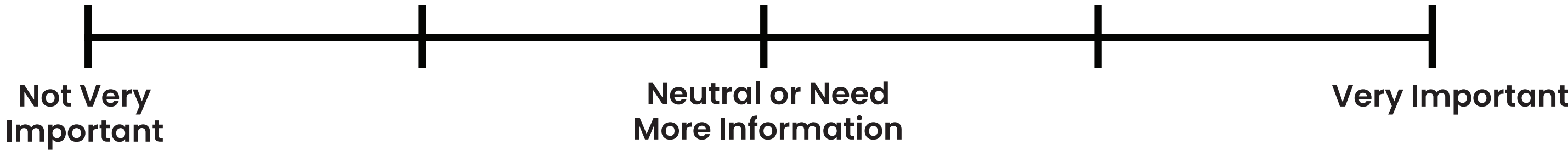


4 Promote good building design that creates welcoming public spaces and incorporates green and sustainable features

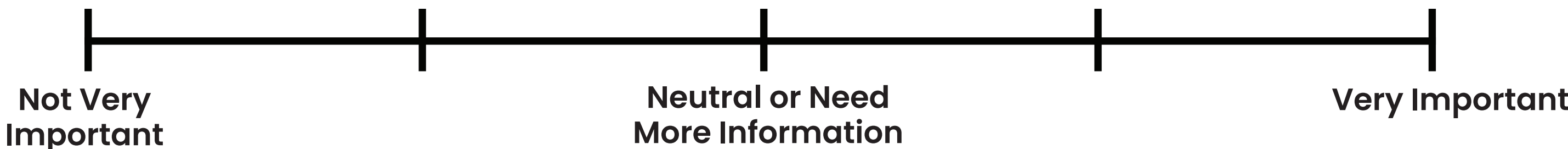


HISTORY & CULTURE
... preserve history and celebrate Akron's unique identity.

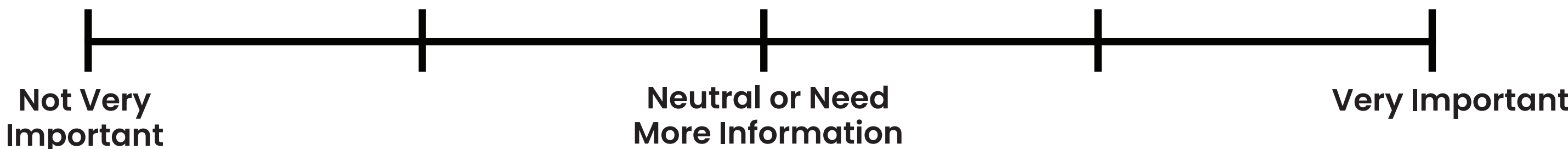
1 Preserve, recover, and celebrate Akron's Black history



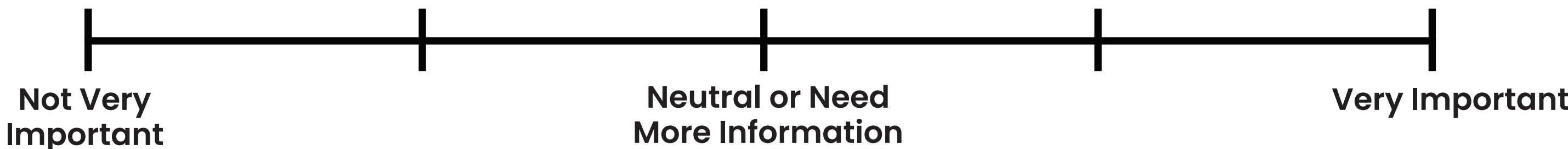
2 Restore and memorialize damage by Urban Renewal



3 Create opportunities to celebrate Akron's contemporary identity and cultural creativity

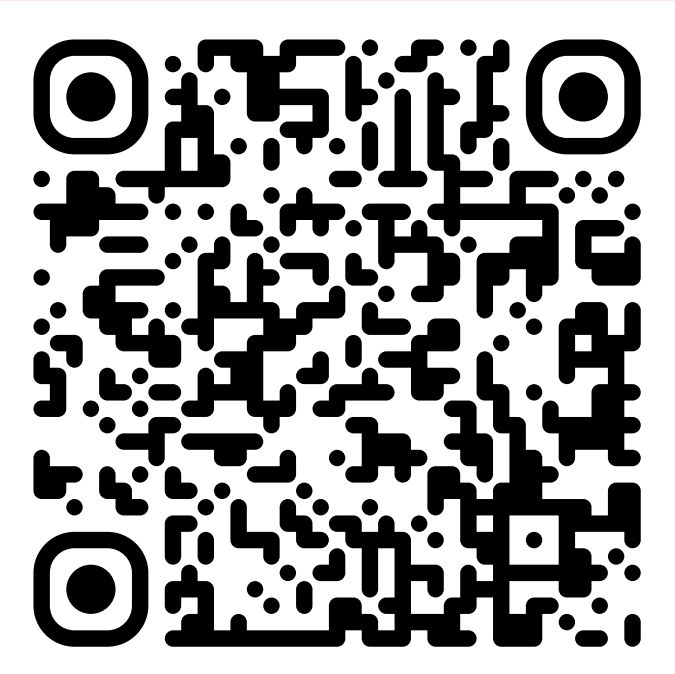


4 Develop a new identity and name for this area that reflects its rich history and looks to the future



The former Innerbelt land should...

Take the
survey on
your phone!

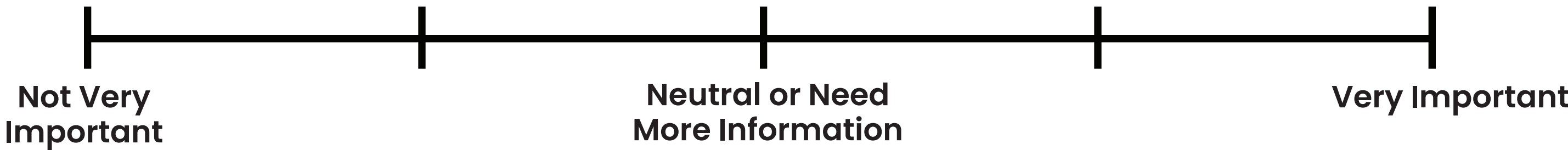


Place a dot along the line under each goal based on how important you think it is to the future of the former Innerbelt land.

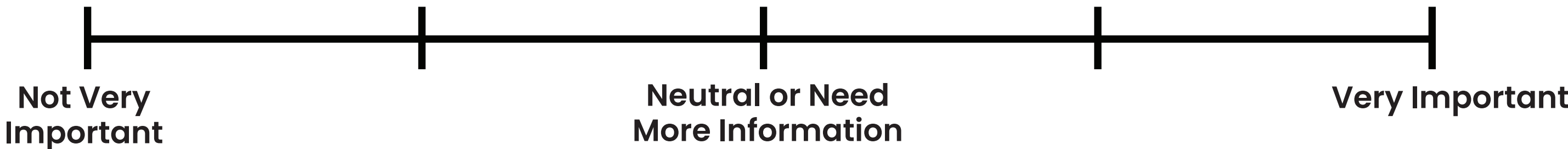


MOBILITY & INFRASTRUCTURE
... **reconnect Akron's neighborhoods.**

- 1** Repair the connections among neighborhoods that were broken by the Innerbelt, particularly between Downtown and the predominantly Black neighborhoods to the west

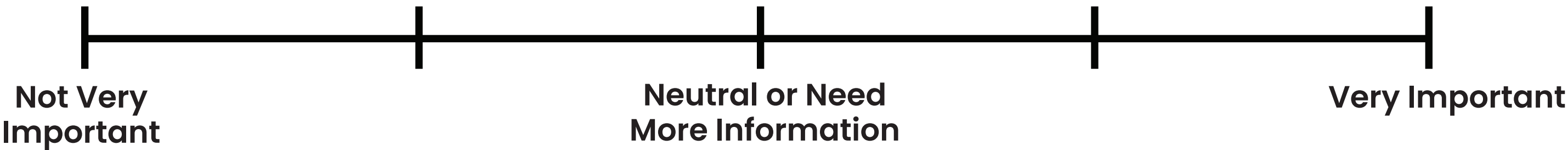


- 2** Create a safe and comfortable environment for walking and biking, and support getting around without a car

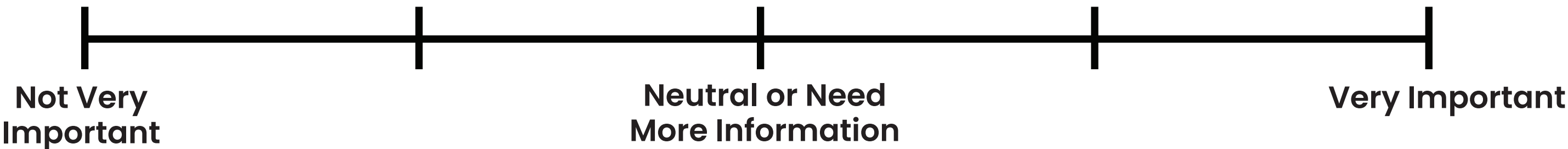


COMMUNITY WELLBEING
... **support community resources that enhance the health, safety, and wellbeing of the community.**

- 1** Support the construction, operation & maintenance of community and non-profit spaces that foster recreational, health, and wellness activities, alongside educational and cultural opportunities, aimed at empowering youth and providing safe, supportive environments

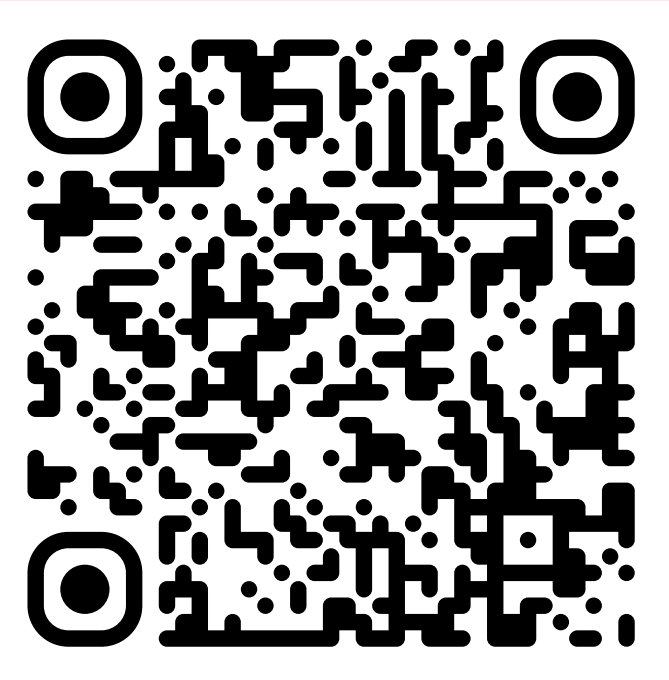


- 2** Support programs and services that enhance community wellbeing and address basic community needs



The former Innerbelt land should...

Take the
survey on
your phone!

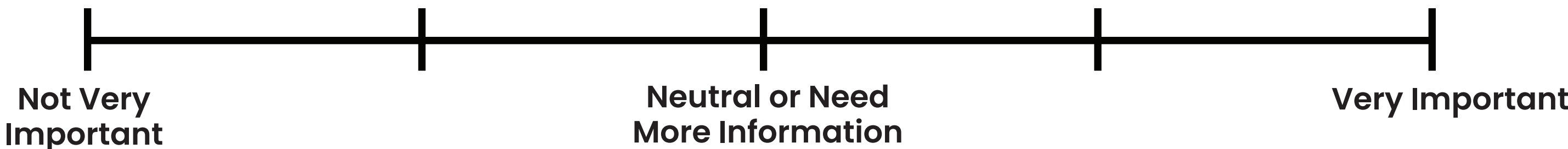


Place a dot along the line under each goal based on how important you think it is to the future of the former Innerbelt land.

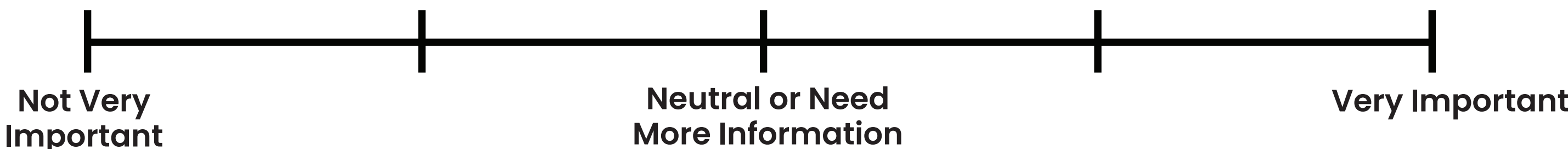


COMMUNITY POWER / CAPACITY
... build community power and
capacity in future development.

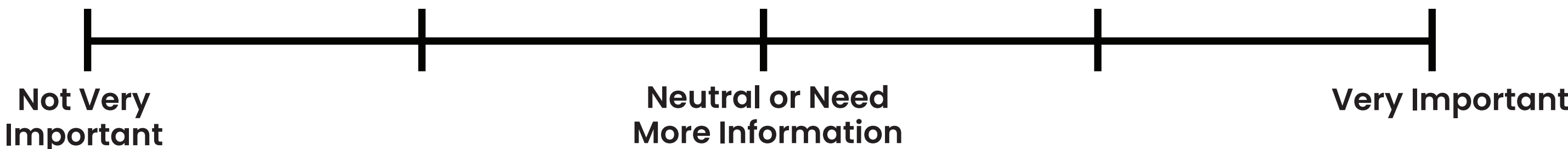
1 Align the Innerbelt Masterplan with the vision defined by the community



2 Establish an inclusive public forum (organization) for ongoing engagement and community feedback in City decision-making processes related to the Innerbelt Masterplan



3 Promote the accessibility of ongoing engagement and participation in City decision-making processes



Are there any goals we missed?

Share your
thoughts here!

1

2

3

Reconnect Streets

Affordable Multifamily

**Cultural
Center**

Public Transit

Healthy Food

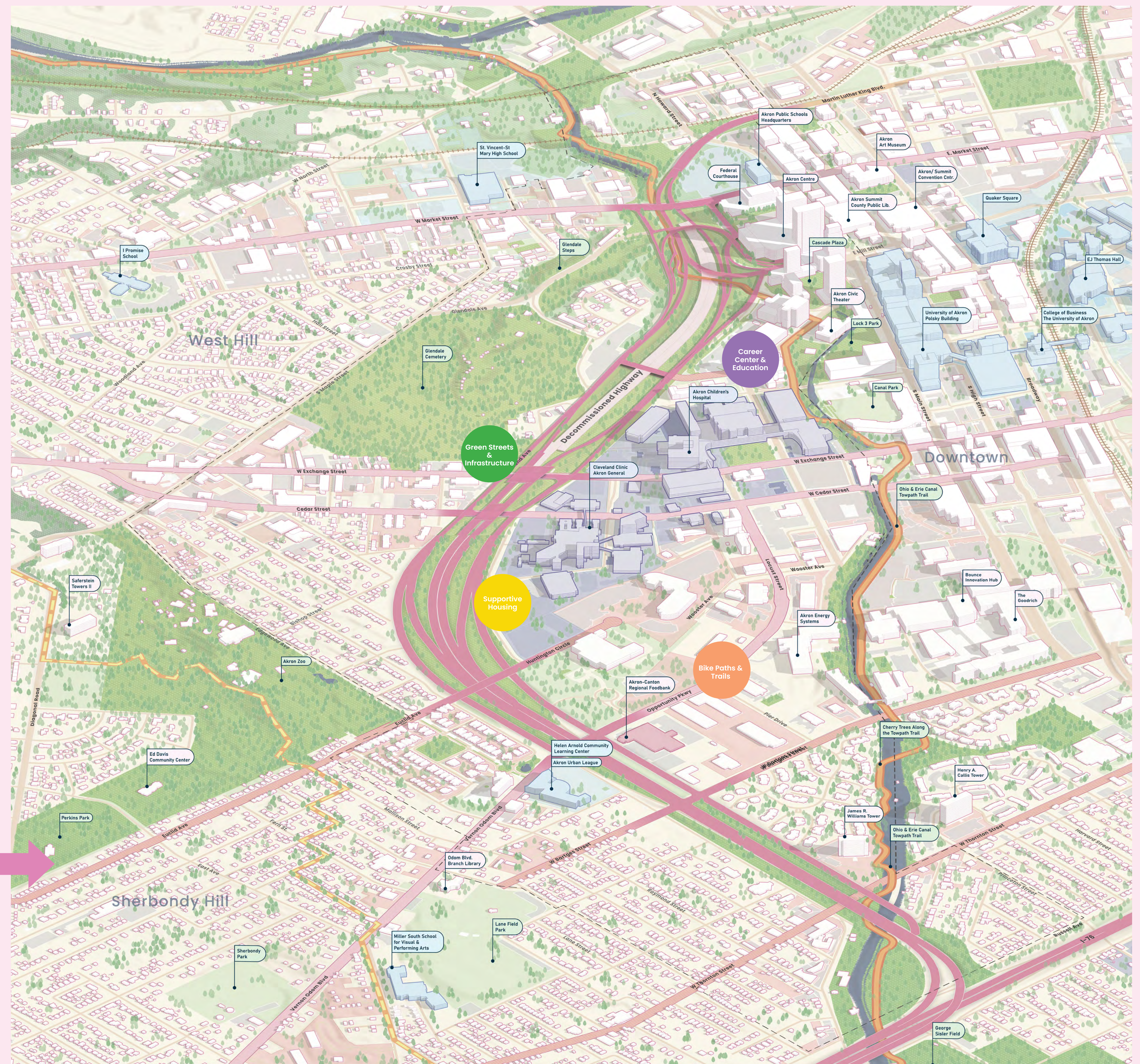
Tree Canopy

Business Incubator

**Access to
Former
Innerbelt &
Open
Spaces**

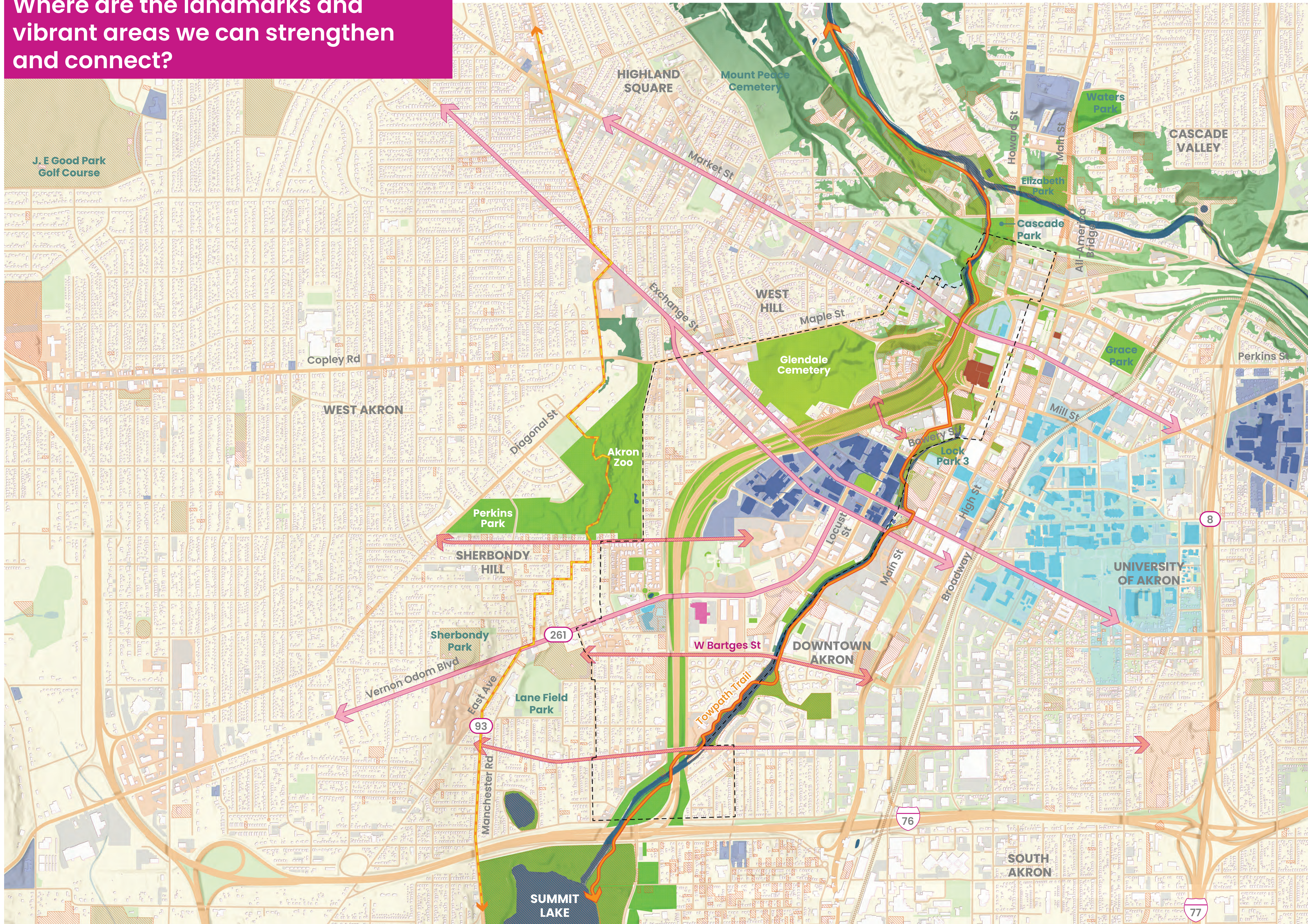
Pop-up Event Space

Heritage Trail



Opportunities

Where are the landmarks and vibrant areas we can strengthen and connect?



Opportunity Sites
Land with greatest potential to create positive change

- City Owned Parcels
- Large Surface Lots

Activity Areas
Places with momentum to build on and connect to

- Education
- Healthcare
- Commercial & Retail

Natural Assets
Green spaces to strengthen and create access to

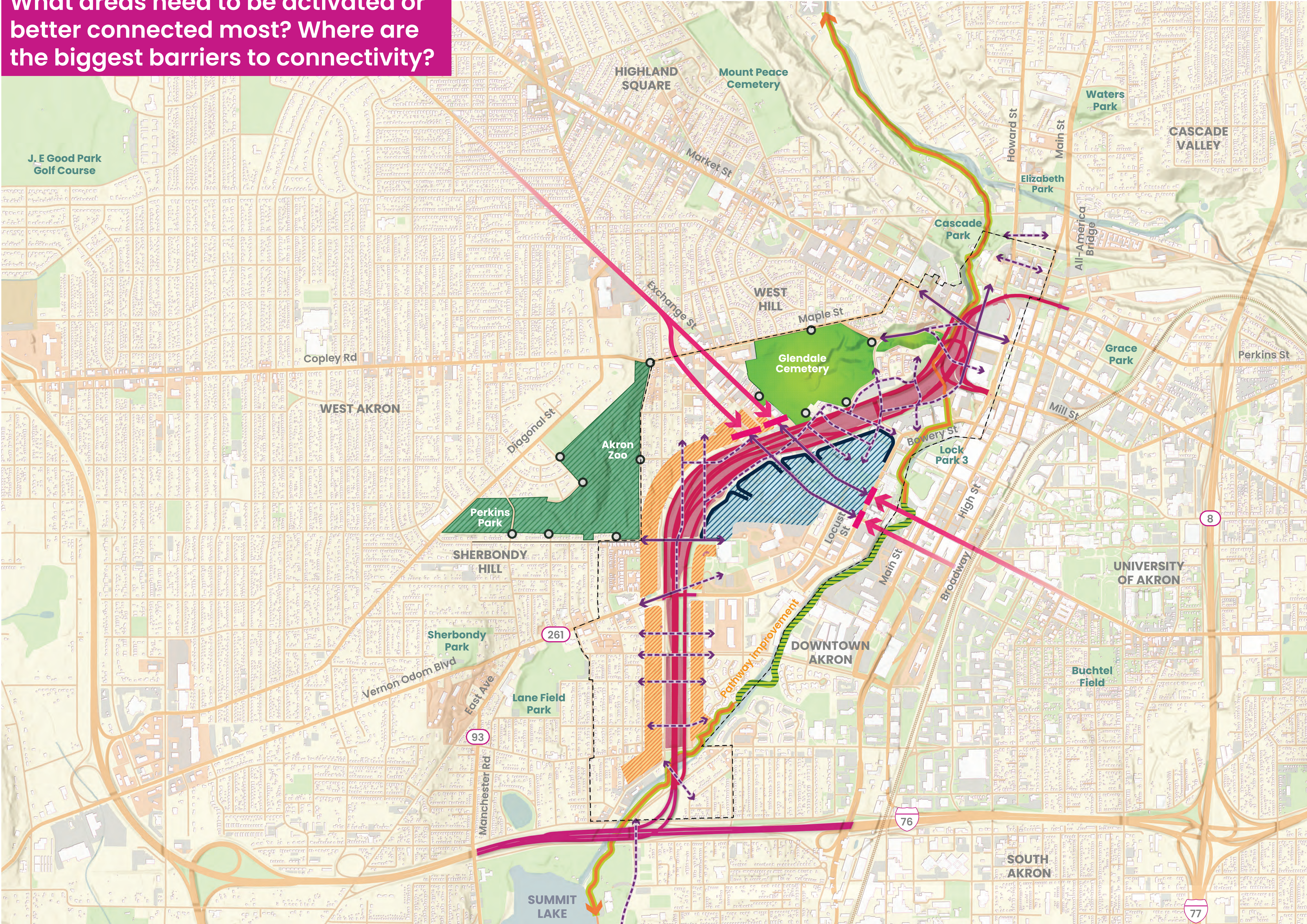
- Parks
- Other Natural Areas

Connections
Existing and potential networks to reinforce

- Urban Corridors
- Towpath Trail
- Historic Portage Path

Constraints

What areas need to be activated or better connected most? Where are the biggest barriers to connectivity?



Barriers

Between downtown and neighborhoods

- Inaccessible Former Innerbelt Areas
- Active Innerbelt Roadways

Broken Street Grid

where the urban fabric has been disrupted by urban renewal

- Lost Street Connection
- Remaining Connections
- Institutional and Industrial Campus

Large Open Spaces

Are assets, but can also disrupt connectivity

- Akron Zoo
- Glendale Cemetery

Inactive Edges

Adjacent uses that cause challenges to activation & quality of life

- Neighborhoods next to Active Highway
- Towpath Trail with Inactive Edges
- Large Surface Lots