

# NEIGHBORHOOD SPOTLIGHT



## **Gary-Miller Spotlight Community Quality of Life Conversations Report**

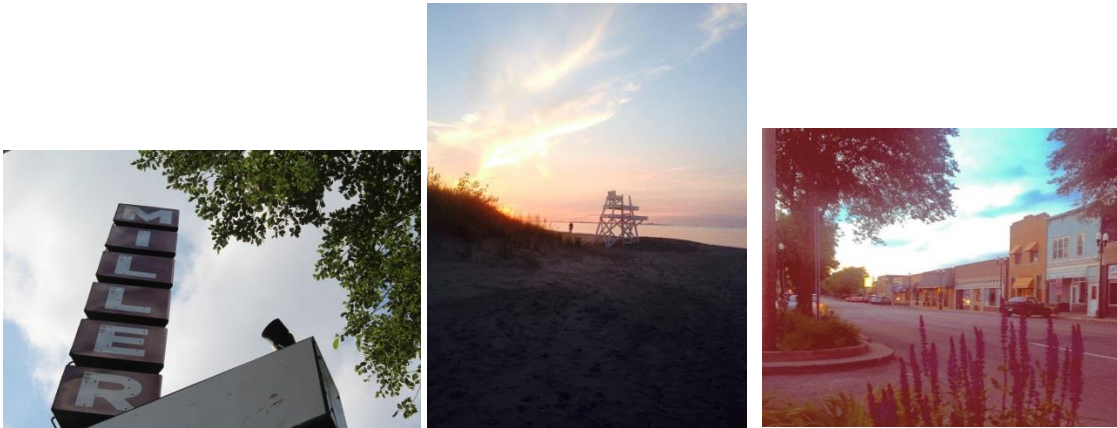
Presented on June 27, 2015

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Gary-Miller Neighborhood Spotlight Project

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## Introduction of the Project



### Community Description

Miller is a neighborhood within the City of Gary, Indiana. Located on the most southern tip of Lake Michigan, this beach community is home to an eclectic population, boasting world-class bio diversity and several long-established volunteer groups. As a community Miller is seeking to further help with the revitalization efforts occurring within Gary via the implementation of their collective impact plan, which will be constructed by the findings within this quality of life study.



### Project Description

Neighborhood Spotlight is a new initiative for strategic investments in community development. The Legacy Foundation has made a major commitment to relational place-making where leaders and citizens are fostering positive community change and becoming stronger, more vibrant neighborhoods that enhance regional vitality.

Neighborhood Spotlight represents a collaborative approach to community development. Citizens, community-based organizations and community members from the public, private and non-profit sectors will work together to Organize, Decide and Act upon issues important to them. The collective impact model revolves around five goals:

#### Goal 1 – Common Agenda

All participants have a shared vision for change including a common understanding of the problem and a joint approach to solving it through agreed upon actions.

#### Goal 2 – Shared Measurement

Collecting data and measuring results consistently across all participants to ensure efforts remain aligned and participants hold each other accountable.

#### Goal 3 – Mutually Reinforcing Activities

Incentivizes projects and programs that are different while still being coordinated through a mutually reinforcing collective impact plan of action.

#### Goal 4 – Continuous Communication

Consistent and open communication across the participants and stakeholders to build trust, assure mutual objectives, and appreciate common motivation.

#### Goal 5 – Backbone Support

Managing collective impact with one convening organization playing a “quarterbacking” role. The lead agent staff will have a specific set of skills to serve as the backbone for the initiative in a particular place and coordinate the efforts of participating partners.

Sources:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/legacyspotlightimpact>

<http://www.legacyfdn.org/neighborhood-spotlight.php>

#### **Purpose of the Project**

Neighborhood Spotlight provides a framework for capacity-building, planning and implementation block by block. It is modeled after successful community development work in Indianapolis and Chicago. Neighborhood Spotlight guides a cross-section of community members work collaboratively and collectively on improving quality of life. A convening organization, usually a community-based organization, will spearhead the coordination of neighborhood relationships. With support from Legacy Foundation staff and consultants, Neighborhood Spotlight communities will organize, decide and act upon projects that can profoundly change their future.

<http://www.legacyfdn.org/neighborhood-spotlight.php>

#### **Methodology**

Legacy Foundation conducted trainings over the course of 2014, community members from neighborhoods teamed up with a local non-for profit (Convening Organization) to attend these trainings and apply to the Neighborhood Spotlight initiative. Legacy Foundation then selected two communities (NW Hobart and Gary-Miller) to pilot the program in Northwest Indiana.

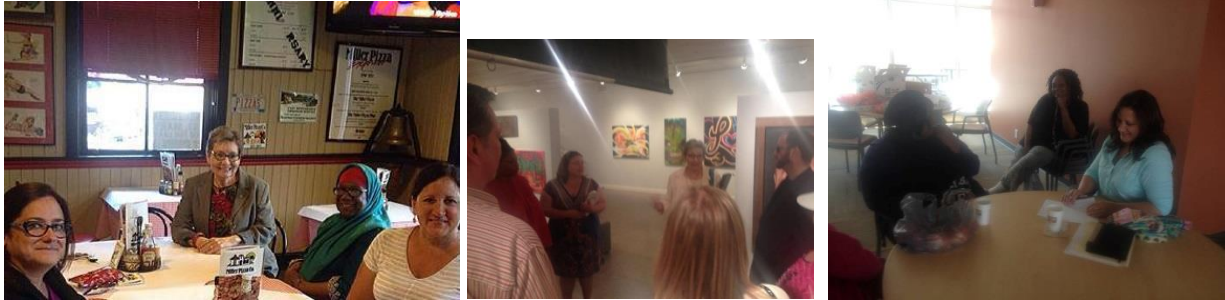
Legacy Foundation granted Gary-Miller’s Convening Organization, Miller Beach Arts and Creative District, a Neighborhood Spotlight distinction. Gary-Miller hired a community builder, Jessica Renslow. The Miller Spotlight Steering Committee was then formed to help carry out their community quality of life study.

The Miller Spotlight Steering Committee is an eleven-person, all volunteer group, invested in the Neighborhood Spotlight process. Along with the community builder, they conducted a quality of life study for Miller using SWOT analysis (one-on-one in-person interviews). The purpose of the study was to pool the opinions from locals living/ working/ worshipping in the targeted grant area (County Line to Clay St to Rt. 12 & 20) to see what they felt were their community’s greatest strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. The findings from these 203 interviews are listed within this report. They have

been synthesized by Miller's community builder. 4,013 raw comments were collected during the SWOT process. It should be noted that these findings are the perceptions and views of the community members that were interviewed. Over the course of the next steps in the Neighborhood Spotlight initiative a plan of action will be created from these findings. During this process, the community will research the viability of the opinions expressed in the study.

**Miller Spotlight Steering Committee Members**

Zully Alvarado, Terry Cera, Susie Galantee, Sue Kallimani, Richard Leverett, Rasheedah Muhammad, Terry Payonk, Derrika Rollins, Meg Roman, Tim Petrites and Rebecca Wyatt



**How the Community was Chosen**

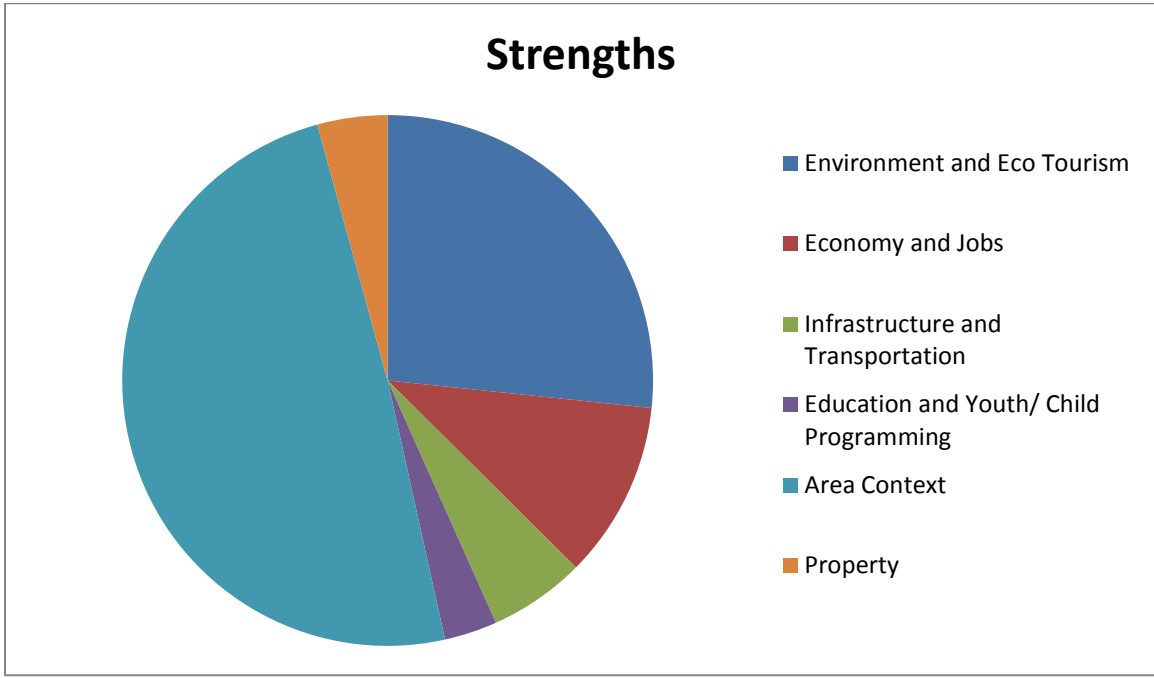
Gary-Miller was chosen by Legacy Foundation for the following reasons:

Gary-Miller's proximity to the lakefront is a notable asset as is the renovation of its Marquette Park and the historic Pavilion. Several Gary-Miller structures have historical significance with a number of them on the National Register. Collaborative bodies are working in the community and include those focused on civic engagement, professional development, philanthropic resources, and safety concerns.

Source: <http://www.legacyfdn.org/neighborhood-spotlight.php>



## Findings

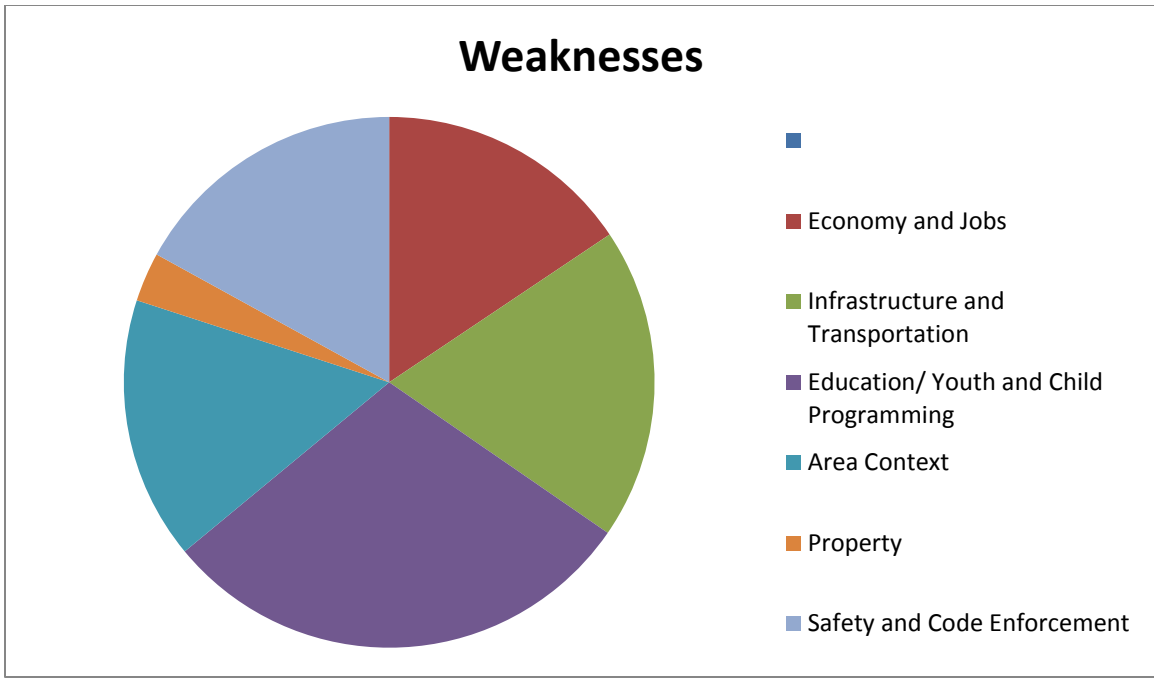


Breakdown of Strengths Percentages	Theme	Percent
Percentage for this theme	Area Context	48.95%
Percentage for this theme	Environment and Eco Tourism	26.52%
Percentage for this theme	Economy and Jobs	10.73%
Percentage for this theme	Infrastructure and Transportation	5.84%
Percentage for this theme	Property	4.25%
Percentage for this theme	Education and Youth/ Child Programming	3.2%

**\*\*\*Safety and Code Enforcement did not overtly present itself, but could be found under the Area Context theme, as many interviewees noted that we have a peaceful, tranquil atmosphere.\*\*\***

## Our Community Strengths

comment	Theme	# of Comments
The people: friendly, welcoming, diverse population	Area Context	244
The Beach	Environment and Eco Tourism	161
The community; is vested, passionate, open-minded, volunteer-oriented, intellectual, hard-working	Area Context	144
Marquette Park/Marquette Park Upgrade	Environment and Eco Tourism	81
Ecology/ biodiversity/ natural wonders	Environment and Eco Tourism	67
Lake St and the Arts District	Economy and Jobs	64
The South Shore/ Train Station	Infrastructure and Transportation	48
Proximity to Chicago	Area context	38
Eclectic/ cool mix of houses and historic buildings/ venues/ property in general	Property	36
It's a beautiful, quiet place	Area Context	34
Local non-for-profits and volunteer groups	Area Context	32
Nature in general	Education and Youth/ Child Programming	28
Local businesses/ small businesses	Economy and Jobs	22
The Douglas Center	Environment and Eco Tourism	22
It's a safe place comparatively	Area Context	22
	Total	1248



Breakdown of Opportunity Percentages	Theme	Percent
Percent of total comments that see this Theme as an opportunity	Education/ Youth and Child Programming	29.4%
Percent of total comments that see this Theme as an opportunity	Infrastructure and Transportation	19%
Percent of total comments that see this Theme as an opportunity	Safety and Code Enforcement	17%
Percent of total comments that see this Theme as an opportunity	Area Context	16%
Percent of total comments that see this Theme as an opportunity	Economy and Jobs	15.6%
Percent of total comments that see this Theme as an opportunity	Property	3%

**\*\*\*The Environment & Ecotourism did not present in the weakness category, as its underutilization fell in with the Area Context section for poor public relations and general underutilization\*\*\***

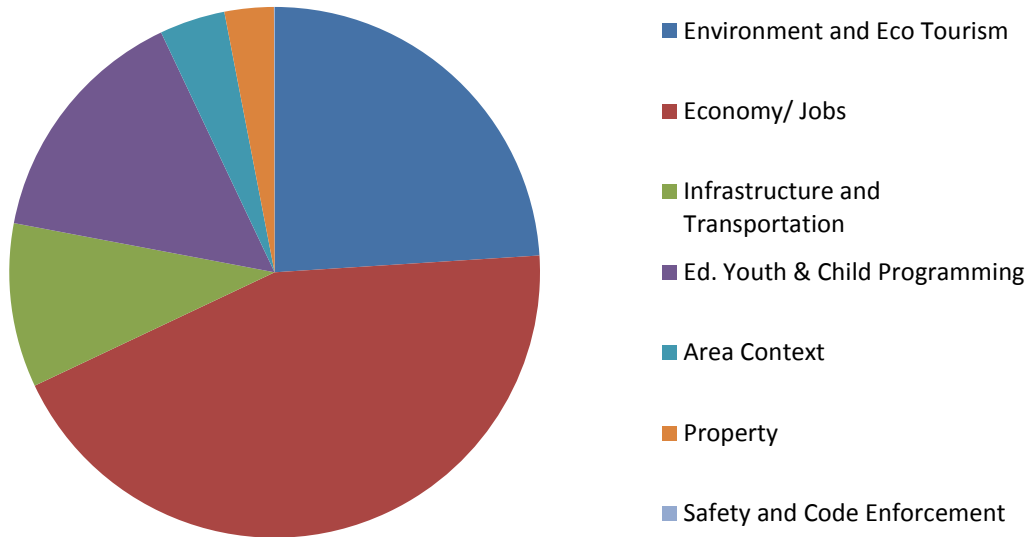


## Our Community Weaknesses

comment	Theme	# of Comments
Schools: their facilities, reputation, lack of leadership (school board)	Education/ Youth and Child Programming	243
Our grocery options are very limited. We would like to see one back where Ralph's/ Willco was. We are a food desert.	Economy and Jobs	147
Litter/ trash	Safety and Code Enforcement	132
Potholes/ roads	Infrastructure and Transportation	94
Buses lack of hours/ routes/ no bus on Sunday	Infrastructure and Transportation	86
We need better PR and more Media/ branding synergy/ one hub for the community (Businesses & organizations) / Promote our natural wonders	Area Context	83
Lack of Child and Youth Programming	Education/ Youth and Child Programming	71
abandoned houses	Property	31
Not enough support for new businesses	Economy and Jobs	23
government seems disorganized/ moves slow	Area Context	23
General lack of code enforcement	Safety and Code Enforcement	22
exclusivity and lack of mingling between the socio economic classes/ sectioned off Miller	Area Context	21
Lake St programming hasn't been approachable for as much mixing of the races as there should be	Area Context	17
Perception of crime doesn't match the actuality of crime rate	Safety and Code Enforcement	16
Crime rate is too high	Safety and Code Enforcement	15
Apathy by some/ okay with sticking with the status quo	Area context	15
No parking lines on Lake Street	Infrastructure and Transportation	15
Guilt by association when it comes to being part of Gary	Area Context	12
not a lot of activities for kids	Education/ Youth and Child Programming	10
Entrances to community looks pretty bad	property	8
Sidewalks need help	Infrastructure and Transportation	7
Lack of ADA accommodations	Infrastructure and Transportation	5

Blight	Property	4
elected officials not doing much	Area Context	3
K-Market has a monopoly and ripping folks off	Economy and Jobs	3
lack of school pride/ sapping of community pride due to removing kids from their neighborhood schools and busing them all over	Education/ Youth and Child Programming	3
residents not working at local stores	Economy and Jobs	1
	total	1109

## Opportunities



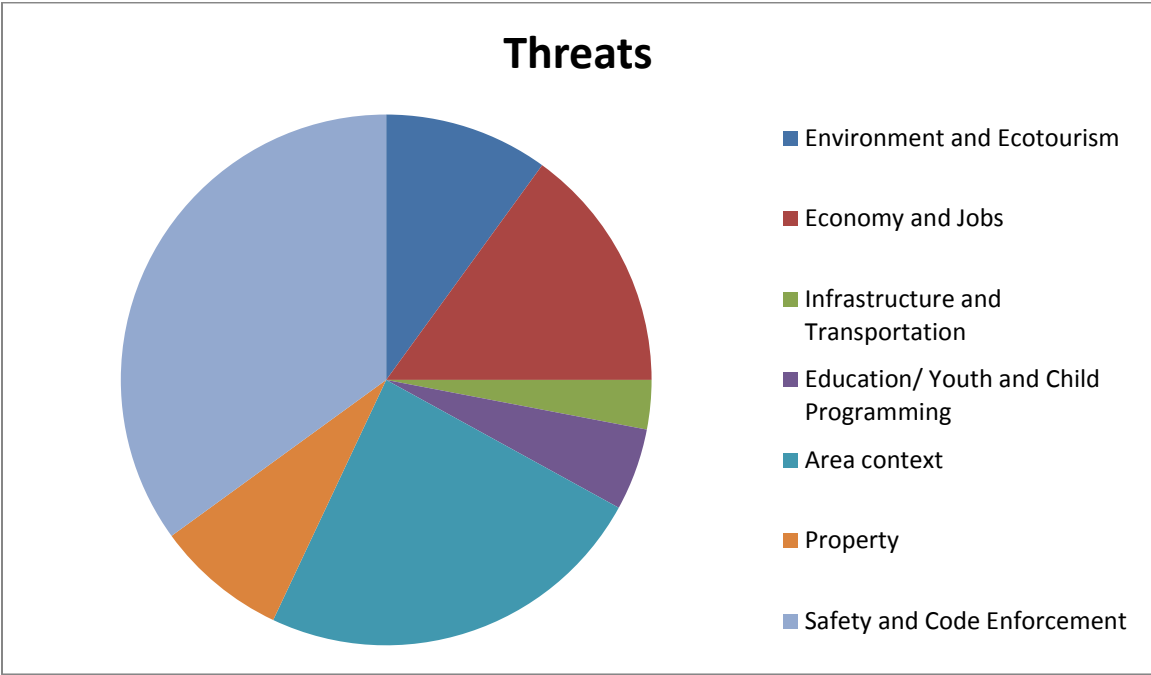
Breakdown of Opportunity Percentages	Theme	Percent
Percent of total comments that see this Theme as an opportunity	Economy/ Jobs	44%
Percent of total comments that see this Theme as an opportunity	Environment and Eco Tourism	24%
Percent of total comments that see this Theme as an opportunity	Ed/ Youth & Child Programming	15.1%
Percent of total comments that see this Theme as an opportunity	Infrastructure and Transportation	9.4%
Percent of total comments that see this Theme as an opportunity	Area Context	4%
Percent of total comments that see this Theme as an opportunity	Property	3.1%
Percent of total comments that see this Theme as an opportunity	Safety and Code Enforcement	.4%

## Our Community Opportunities

comment	Theme	# of Comments
Promoting the Lake in creative and profitable ways	Environment and Eco Tourism	105
Promote business/ new business	Economy/ Jobs	102
Develop more stores	Economy/ Jobs	84
Developing Lake St.	Economy/ Jobs	82
Grocery store (current ones are very limited)	Economy/ Jobs	68
More buses/ buses on the weekends	Infrastructure and Transportation	53
Child friendly activities programming	Ed/ Youth & Child Programming	42
Develop Lake Street Beach; boat ramp, fishing, concession stand, bathrooms...	Environment and Eco Tourism	35
Eco tourism	Environment and Eco Tourism	34
Improve the schools	Ed/ Youth & Child Programming	34
Youth programming	Ed/ Youth & Child Programming	33
Media synergy/ Better PR	PR & Programming	30
Capitalize on the parks	Environment and Eco Tourism	27
Various adult education classes and parenting	Ed/ Youth & Child Programming	19
More jobs	Economy/ Jobs	19
Trollies or Shuttle from South Shore to Lake St Beach	Infrastructure and Transportation	15
Promote Lakeshore	Environment and Eco Tourism	15
Rt 12 & Rt 20 corridor	Economy/ Jobs	15
More events at Lake/ in town	Economy/ Jobs	12
Rental/ Devi bike system	Infrastructure and Transportation	11
Capitalizing on housing stock	Property	11
Capitalize on proximity to Chicago	Property	11
More festivals	Economy/ Jobs	9
Capitalize on green technology	Economy/ Jobs	9
More bus stops	Infrastructure and Transportation	8
Douglas Center	Environment and Eco Tourism	8
Synergy between business, parks and non-for-profits	Economy/ Jobs	8

Eateries/ Family friendly dining	Economy/ Jobs	8
Arts District	PR & Programming	7
more businesses would mean more jobs	Economy/ Jobs	7
Extend/ capitalize on bike trails	Infrastructure and Transportation	7
Mentor new businesses	Economy/ Jobs	7
Do something with the abandoned houses	Property	6
Utilize Nobel in some way for the community	Property	6
more programs to get kids vested in their community	Ed/ Youth & Child Programming	5
Natural wonders	Environment and Eco Tourism	5
dunes	Environment and Eco Tourism	5
Capitalize on existing and potential volunteers	PR & Programming	5
More Police	Safety and Code Enforcement	5
Education programs	Ed/ Youth & Child Programming	5
Natural wonders	Environment and Eco Tourism	5
Make community service a requirement in the schools	Ed/ Youth & Child Programming	4
Real estate	Property	4
bring a grocery store that is more like Ralph's was	Economy/ Jobs	4
Do something with the Ralph's-Wilco building	Property	4
employ more residents	Economy/ Jobs	4
more stores that match all of our demographics	Economy/ Jobs	4
more buses that go both ways not just in one directions	Infrastructure and Transportation	3
More bus hours	Infrastructure and Transportation	3
Hotel/ motel	Economy/ Jobs	3
removing abandon buildings could create jobs people could be employed to take them down	Economy/ Jobs	2
start an abandoned/ vacant homes restoration and purchase program	Property	1
promote co-mingling between the income brackets	Economy/ Jobs	1
upgrade the flea market on 20	Economy/ Jobs	1
start more kid-friendly facility like a skate park	Ed/ Youth & Child Programming	1
offer dumpsters at the end and / or beginning of the month	Environment	1
expand Boys and Girls club to a Miller-based facility	Ed/ Youth & Child Programming	1

create mini-block clubs for the kids where they adopt a block and get points or coupons or something for taking care of their block	Ed/ Youth & Child Programming	1
small business workshops to help new businesses flourish	Economy/ Jobs	1
bring the Girl's Academy's gardening program to the Miller schools	Ed/ Youth & Child Programming	1
organizations should collaborate more to be more effective	PR & Programming	1
do a grant workshop for teachers and not-for-profits	Ed/ Youth & Child Programming	1
since Miller has vested community members, they could do outreach to other parts of Gary to promote the same investment	PR & Programming	1
have more collaboration between sister organizations within Gary and Miller	PR & Programming	1
Schools should use their parks more	Ed/ Youth & Child Programming	1
promote the Mighty Acorns Program across Miller	Ed/ Youth & Child Programming	1
Could foster green businesses	Economy/ Jobs	1
Wirt-Emmerson Arts Program could be expanded	Ed/ Youth & Child Programming	1
a dog section/ dog park on the beach	Environment and Eco Tourism	1
Charter school	Ed/ Youth & Child Programming	1
Private school	Ed/ Youth & Child Programming	1
	total	1013



Breakdown of Opportunity Percentages	Theme	Percent
Percent of total comments that see this theme as an opportunity	Safety and Code Enforcement	35%
Percent of total comments that see this theme as an opportunity	Area context	24%
Percent of total comments that see this theme as an opportunity	Economy and Jobs	15%
Percent of total comments that see this theme as an opportunity	Environment and Ecotourism	10%
Percent of total comments that see this theme as an opportunity	Property	8%
Percent of total comments that see this theme as an opportunity	Education/ Youth and Child Programming	5%
Percent of total comments that see this theme as an opportunity	Infrastructure and Transportation	3%

## Our Community Threats

comment	Theme	# of Comments
crime	Safety and Code Enforcement	69
Pollution (air, water, toxic waste...)	Environment and Ecotourism	39
Outside criminal influence and disregard for basic codes	Safety and Code Enforcement	31
Gary's bad reputation	Area Context	27
Perception of what "Gary" is/ "Scary Gary"	Area Context	26
General mistrust of the city of Gary's ability to manage itself/ reputation for nepotism	Area Context	26
taxes	Property	23
Destruction of public schools/ losing families due to this	Education/ Youth and Child Programming	17
Absentee landlords	Property	13
gangs	Safety and Code Enforcement	13
Drugs	Safety and Code Enforcement	12
Govern Pence giving Hoosiers a bad rep and stopping business	Economy and Jobs	12
Wildlife that could cause accidents, or illness: deer, raccoons, ticks, Asian Carp...	Environment and Ecotourism	11
guilt by association with Gary	Area Context	11
Train accidents	Infrastructure and Transportation	10
Security/ general unsafe feeling	Safety and Code Enforcement	10
Litter/ trash	Safety and Code Enforcement	9
Politics within the city and downstate	Economy and Jobs	9
gentrification	Area Context	9
apathy	Area Context	9
losing money to other communities/ cities like Portage, Hobart, Merrillville	Economy and Jobs	8
Losing the library	Economy and Jobs	8
school system	Education/ Youth and Child Programming	8
Lack of code enforcement	Safety and Code Enforcement	7
Perception of crime	Safety and Code Enforcement	7



US Steel leaving	Economy and Jobs	7
Break ins/ robberies	Safety and Code Enforcement	7
perceived danger	Safety and Code Enforcement	7
Abandoned houses	Property	6
The City of Gary going bankrupt	Economy and Jobs	6
Racism between major populations towards each other: Caucasians to African Americans/ African Americans to Caucasians	Area Context	6
Over commercialization of the beach/ Casino on Beach	Economy and Jobs	6
Declining/ aging population	Area Context	6
communities not working together/ not communicating	Area Context	6
panhandlers	Safety and Code Enforcement	4
Illegal dumping	Safety and Code Enforcement	4
lack of police presence	Safety and Code Enforcement	4
Using Gary as a toxic dump, as has happened in other depressed urban cities	Environment and Ecotourism	4
Disbursement of public housing without engaging the population	Area Context	4
Fear and defeatist attitude	Area Context	4
blight	Property	3
Lack of jobs	Economy and Jobs	3
Losing the industry we have	Economy and Jobs	3
Losing the industry we have	Economy and Jobs	3
Brain Drain	Economy and Jobs	3
Losing the South Shore station	Infrastructure and Transportation	3
crime not conducive to foster new businesses	Economy and Jobs	3
Slum lords	Economy and Jobs	3
general economic decline	Economy and Jobs	3
nothing for kids and families	Education/ Youth and Child Programming	3
Skateboarders (illegal skateboarding on private property)	Safety and Code Enforcement	3
Weather (snow/ ice)	Environment and	3

	Ecotourism	
Environmental disaster due to hazardous waste on trains	Environment and Ecotourism	2
Water quality	Environment and Ecotourism	2
Fires/ fire equipment up to code?	Safety and Code Enforcement	2
guilt by association with Indiana's restrictive policies	Economy and Jobs	2
subsidized housing having residents who aren't vested in our community	Area Context	2
public safety	Safety and Code Enforcement	2
infrastructure aging	Infrastructure and Transportation	2
loud music from cars	Safety and Code Enforcement	2
transient community	Safety and Code Enforcement	2
deep level of corruption in the 1st district/ corruption in general	Safety and Code Enforcement	2
stigma of Miller being a whites only community	Area Context	2
too many homes are just 2nd homes	Property	2
No more Strip joints they give us a bad rep	Area context	2
entrance exits from high way	Infrastructure and Transportation	2
popping locks (PSC)	property	1
Charter school	Education/ Youth and Child Programming	1
Ogden Dunes	Area Context	1
abundance of boats anchoring on the lake	Environment and Ecotourism	1
religious organizations might lose funding/ get cut	Economy and Jobs	1
1% tax on property is hurting us	Economy and Jobs	1
School Board	Education/ Youth and Child Programming	1
Loitering	Safety and Code Enforcement	1
lack of incentives for retail businesses	Economy and Jobs	1
MBA doesn't serve Miller businesses well	Economy and Jobs	1
hipsters	Area Context	1
poor corporate citizenship	Economy and Jobs	1

under-funded police	Safety and Code Enforcement	1
banks not giving loans	Economy and Jobs	1
Wells St. Beach	Safety and Code Enforcement	1
mental social growth	Area Context	1
ownership/ pride	Area Context	1
national reactionary thinking	Area Context	1
better community mingling	Area Context	1
being sexually assaulted while walking on Lake St	Safety and Code Enforcement	1
having people have sex on Lake St	Safety and Code Enforcement	1
too many rental properties	property	1
hiring people not from Gary as our police force, so they aren't as vested and may not know how to interact with our population	Safety and Code Enforcement	1
Lake St needs a cop	Safety and Code Enforcement	1
can't develop Lake Street with public housing	Property	1
no control of public housing tenants	Safety and Code Enforcement	1
poverty and its effect on our children; most effected youngest children and females lack of protection for our children	Area Context	1
no repercussion for crimes committed or unacceptable behavior	Safety and Code Enforcement	1
aging community-citizens	Area Context	1
not enough children and young families as permanent residents	Area Context	1
more people on welfare than ever	Area Context	1
County line's lack of street lights	Infrastructure and Transportation	1
Indiana doesn't require housing deeds to be recorded	Property	1
nationwide our only major institutions now are prisons and schools	Area context	1
It costs more to keep someone in jail than to educate them but we refuse to understand this as a nation	Education/ Youth and Child Programming	1
No more truck stops	Economy and	1

	Jobs	
	total	601

## ***THEME BREAKDOWNS***

### **TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE**

Transportation and Infrastructure ranks high on both the Opportunity and Weakness quadrants from our community interview data. Many interviewees mentioned that they were pleased to have most of the major roads repaved in Miller, but they find the potholes on the side streets and the disrepair of the railroad crossings nearly impossible to pass. People are encouraged by Gary's push for green design, but would like more information on the city's intentions. The lack of a continuous sidewalk on Lake St also came up several times in the interview process. Many people would like to see the parking lines painted on Lake St and more bike lanes would improve traffic/ pedestrian flow. Many people feel that the South Shore Station is a major asset to our neighborhood, but would ideally like some mode of public transportation like buses, or trolleys available to get them and prospective tourists to Lake St. Beach and Marquette Park. Additionally, many of our neighborhood facilities like our parks and trails are being underutilized because there is not a visible bus stop provided at these major destinations. Several interviewees also informed our steering committee that they, or someone close to them, have lost jobs due to the buses being undependable. They feel that the buses should run more frequently because it would increase revenue for Miller and Gary as a whole. They implore that a few positive side effects to these additions would be a general increase in the quality of life for Gary-Miller residents, a promotion of tourism and less pollution as even folks with personal vehicles would be more likely to take the bus if it were more convenient.



*Opportunity by Theme: Infrastructure and Transportation*

comment	Opportunity	# of C
More buses/ buses on the weekends	Infrastructure and Transportation	53
Trollies or Shuttle from South Shore to Lake St Beach	Infrastructure and Transportation	15
Rental/ Devi bike system	Infrastructure and Transportation	11
More bus stops	Infrastructure and Transportation	8
Extend/ capitalize on bike trails	Infrastructure and Transportation	7
more buses that go both ways not just in one directions	Infrastructure and Transportation	3
More bus hours	Infrastructure and Transportation	3
Total # of comments that see this Theme as an opportunity	Infrastructure and Transportation	100
Percent of total comments that see this Theme as an opportunity	Infrastructure and Transportation	9.4%

*Threat by Theme: Infrastructure and Transportation*

comment	Opportunity	# of C
Train accidents	Infrastructure and Transportation	10
Losing the South Shore station	Infrastructure and Transportation	3
infrastructure aging	Infrastructure and Transportation	2
entrance exits from high way	Infrastructure and Transportation	2
County line's lack of street lights	Infrastructure and Transportation	1
Total # of comments that see this theme as an opportunity	Infrastructure and Transportation	18
Percent of total comments that see this theme as an opportunity	Infrastructure and Transportation	3%

*Weakness by Theme: Infrastructure and Transportation*

comment	Weakness	# of C
Potholes/ quality of roads unsafe	Infrastructure and Transportation	94
Buses lack of hours/ routes/ no bus on Sunday	Infrastructure and Transportation	86
No parking lines on Lake Street	Infrastructure and Transportation	15
Sidewalks need help	Infrastructure and Transportation	7
Lack of ADA accommodations	Infrastructure and Transportation	5
Total # of comments that see this Theme as an opportunity	Infrastructure and Transportation	216
Percent of total comments that see this Theme as an opportunity	Infrastructure and Transportation	19%



*Strengths by Theme: Infrastructure and Transportation*

comment	Theme	# of Comments
The South Shore/ Train Station	Infrastructure and Transportation	48
trails	Infrastructure and Transportation	13
Close to major highways	Infrastructure and Transportation	12
infrastructure / lighting	Infrastructure and Transportation	6
Total # of comments for this theme	Infrastructure and Transportation	73
Percentage for this theme	Infrastructure and Transportation	5.84%

## AREA CONTEXT

From the 4,013 comments recorded during our initial interview process, Gary's Miller neighborhood is seen by the majority of interviewees as an established community with a lot of potential that could be better capitalized upon. Most folks interviewed, have seen their experience here as positive in general, but also contend that there is room for growth and improvement. Most agreed that Miller could use a better public relations campaign if we want to grow as a community. However, some stated that they preferred our hidden gem status and feared gentrification and exploitation of our community and its natural resources. Vested community members, natural wonders, relatively inexpensive cost of living and proximity to Chicago have been listed as our top strengths as a neighborhood. We have such a unique and eclectic community, there seems to be a lot going on all-year-round, but many folks have stated that there isn't enough synergy between our online and traditional news sources. We have a need for more connected and targeted marketing for our entire community to help it thrive. Our diverse population has been listed as a strength by the majority of interviewees, but our inability to coordinate more blending between the races, generations and socio economic brackets is seen as not only a missed opportunity, but a weakness in general. Other concerns stated by our community are the general negative perception of our schools, crime rate, lack of city services, lack of government leadership and over-dependence on volunteers to manage tasks traditionally covered by municipal entities. One of the main questions that have arisen from our study is whether there is actual validity to these concerns, or if they are based more on hearsay. This will need to be explored further by our Area Context Action Group before they can be properly addressed.



*Opportunity by Theme: Area Context; PR/ General Programming/ People/ Volunteers*

comment	Opportunity	# of C
Media synergy/ Better PR	Area Context	30
Arts District	Area Context	7
Capitalize on existing and potential volunteers	Area Context	5
organizations should collaborate more to be more effective	Area Context	1
since Miller has vested community members, they could do outreach to other parts of Gary to promote the same investment	Area Context	1
have more collaboration between sister organizations within Gary and Miller	Area Context	1
Total # of comments that see this Theme as an opportunity	Area Context	45
Percent of total comments that see this Theme as an opportunity	Area Context	4%

*Threat by Theme: Area Context*

comment	Opportunity	# of C
Gary's bad reputation	Area Context	27
Perception of what "Gary" is/ "Scary Gary"	Area Context	26
General mistrust of the city of Gary's ability to manage itself/ reputation for nepotism	Area Context	26
guilt by association with Gary	Area Context	11
gentrification	Area Context	9
apathy	Area Context	9
Racism between major populations towards each other: Caucasians to African Americans/ African Americans to Caucasians	Area Context	6
Declining/ aging population	Area Context	6
communities not working together/ not communicating	Area Context	6
Fear and defeatist attitude	Area Context	4
Disbursement of public housing without engaging the population	Area Context	4
subsidized housing having residents who aren't vested in our community	Area Context	2
stigma of Miller being a whites only community	Area Context	2
No more Strip joints they give us a bad rep	Area context	2
Ogden Dunes	Area Context	1
hipsters	Area Context	1
mental social growth	Area Context	1
ownership/ pride	Area Context	1
national reactionary thinking	Area Context	1
better community mingling	Area Context	1
poverty and its effect on our children; most effected youngest children and females lack of protection for our children	Area Context	1
aging community-citizens	Area Context	1
not enough children and young families as permanent residents	Area Context	1
more people on welfare than ever	Area Context	1
County line's lack of street lights	Infrastructure and Transportation	1
Indiana doesn't require housing deeds to be recorded	Property	1
nationwide our only major institutions now are prisons and schools	Area context	1
Total # of comments that see this theme as an opportunity	Area context	153
Percent of total comments that see this theme as an opportunity	Area context	24%

*Strengths by Theme: Area Context*

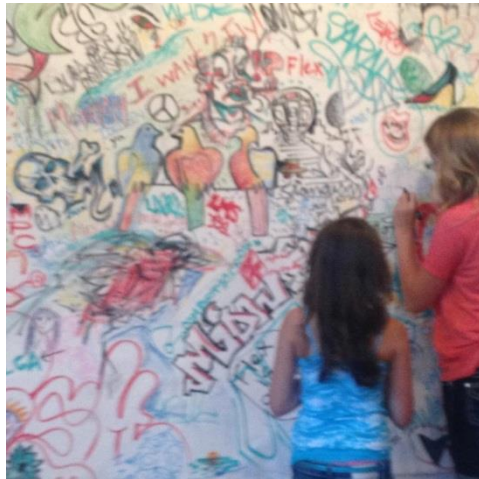
comment	Theme	# of Comments
The people: friendly, welcoming, diverse population	Area Context	244
The community; is vested, passionate, open-minded, volunteer-oriented, intellectual, hard-working	Area Context	144
Proximity to Chicago	Area context	38
It's a beautiful, quiet place	Area Context	34
Local non-for-profits and volunteer groups	Area Context	32
It's a safe place comparatively	Area Context	22
The interesting history of the City of Gary and Miller	Area Context	18
The prime location	Area Context	16
Lots of religious options if you want to attend a place of worship	Area Context	16
Being part of the City of Gary is a good thing	Area Context	12
Cool/ good/ quaint vibe	Area Context	12
National Lakeshore proximity	Area Context	12
Miller is unique	Area Context	7
Very dog friendly	Area Context	2
Michael Jackson	Area Context	1
Railcats	Area Context	1
Total # of comments for this theme	Area Context	611
Percentage for this theme	Area Context	48.95%

*Weakness by Theme: Area Context*

comment	Weakness	# of C
We need better PR and more Media/ branding synergy/ one hub for the community (Businesses & organizations)	Area Context	83
government seems disorganized/ moves slow	Area Context	23
exclusivity and lack of mingling between the socio economic classes/ sectioned off Miller	Area Context	21
Lake St programming hasn't been approachable for as much mixing of the races as there should be	Area Context	17
Apathy by some/ okay with sticking with the status quo	Area context	15
Guilt by association when it comes to being part of Gary	Area Context	12
elected officials not doing much	Area Context	3
Total # of comments that see this Theme as an opportunity	Area Context	174
Percent of total comments that see this Theme as an opportunity	Area Context	16%

## **EDUCATION / YOUTH & CHILD PROGRAMMING**

According to our interviewees one of the greatest opportunities and weaknesses within our community is our education system/ youth and child programming. Though Miller boasts several educational options and has state-honored schools, there is a general perception that we are losing young families who do not have the means/ or desire to send their children to private schools. Some interviewed contended that certain schools may be doing okay as far as test scores, but that they had heard horror stories about the facilities themselves and major behavior issues amongst the student population. The community seems to feel that Miller could be greatly improved if more opportunities were given to families, if we were to capitalize on our youngsters to promote leadership from within. Until these items have been addressed, most folks claim they would be hesitant to recommend Miller to young families. Whether there is validity to all of these perceptions, the statements showcase that more research and fact finding needs to occur by our community to attempt to address this theme.



*Opportunity by Theme: Ed/ Youth & Child Programming*

comment	Opportunity	# of C
Child friendly activities programming	Ed/ Youth & Child Programming	42
Improve the schools	Ed/ Youth & Child Programming	34
Youth programming	Ed/ Youth & Child Programming	33
Various adult education classes and parenting	Ed/ Youth & Child Programming	19
more programs to get kids vested in their community	Ed/ Youth & Child Programming	5
Education programs	Ed/ Youth & Child Programming	5
Make community service a requirement in the schools	Ed/ Youth & Child Programming	4
start more kid-friendly facility like a skate park	Ed/ Youth & Child Programming	1
expand Boys and Girls club to a Miller-based facility	Ed/ Youth & Child Programming	1
create mini-block clubs for the kids where they adopt a block and get points or coupons or something for taking care of their block	Ed/ Youth & Child Programming	1
bring the Girl's Academy's gardening program to the Miller schools	Ed/ Youth & Child Programming	1
do a grant workshop for teachers and not-for-profits	Ed/ Youth & Child Programming	1
Schools should use their parks more	Ed/ Youth & Child Programming	1
promote the Mighty Acorns Program across Miller	Ed/ Youth & Child Programming	1
Wirt-Emmerson Arts Program could be expanded	Ed/ Youth & Child Programming	1
Charter school	Ed/ Youth & Child	1



	Programming	
Private school	Ed/ Youth & Child Programming	1
Total # of comments that see this Theme as an opportunity	Ed/ Youth & Child Programming	152
Percent of total comments that see this Theme as an opportunity	Ed/ Youth & Child Programming	15.1%

*Threat by Theme: Education/ Youth and Child Programming*

comment	Opportunity	# of C
Destruction of public schools/ losing families due to this	Education/ Youth and Child Programming	17
school system	Education/ Youth and Child Programming	8
nothing for kids and families	Education/ Youth and Child Programming	3
Charter school	Education/ Youth and Child Programming	1
School Board	Education/ Youth and Child Programming	1
It costs more to keep someone in jail than to educate them but we refuse to understand this as a nation	Education/ Youth and Child Programming	1
Total # of comments that see this theme as an opportunity	Education/ Youth and Child Programming	31
Percent of total comments that see this theme as an opportunity	Education/ Youth and Child Programming	5%

*Strengths by Theme: Education and Youth/Child Programming*

comment	Theme	# of Comments
Nature in general	Education and Youth/ Child Programming	28
The library and its programming	Education and Youth/ Child Programming	8
The Schools/ School Options	Education and Youth/ Child Programming	4
Total # of comments for this theme	Education and Youth/ Child Programming	40
Percentage for this theme	Education and Youth/ Child Programming	3.2%

*Weakness by Theme: Education/ Youth and Child Programming*

comment	Weakness	# of C
Schools: their facilities, reputation, lack of leadership (school board)	Education/ Youth and Child Programming	243
Lack of Child and Youth Programming	Education/ Youth and Child Programming	71
not a lot of activities for kids	Education/ Youth and Child Programming	10
lack of school pride/ sapping of community pride due to removing kids from their neighborhood schools and busing them all over	Education/ Youth and Child Programming	3
Total # of comments that see this Theme as an opportunity	Education/ Youth and Child Programming	327
Percent of total comments that see this Theme as an opportunity	Education/ Youth and Child Programming	29.4%

## SAFETY AND CODE ENFORCEMENT

Our data has stated that there is a disconnect between our actual crime rate and the perception of our crime rate. This coupled with an understaffed police force and influx in our transient community, has led many interviewees to fear a potential rise in crime. However, Miller's crime, especially violent crime, is significantly lower than is generally perceived.

The majority of folks interviewed by the Miller Spotlight Project stated that they wanted to see more police presence, especially in our heavily populated areas. Additionally a general lack of code enforcement when it comes to litter and illegal dumping is seen as an extreme threat to our community because it deters economic growth and could be hazardous to our health.

Many interviewed also questioned the city's choice to close our smaller Fire Station. They now fear whether or not we have enough of firefighters on site if a major disaster were to occur.

These are the opinions expressed by the community and their validity will need to be explored further by our Safety and Code Enforcement Theme Action Group before they can be properly addressed.



*Opportunity by Theme: Safety and Code Enforcement*

comment	Opportunity	# of C
More Police	Safety and Code Enforcement	5
Total # of comments that see this Theme as an opportunity	Safety and Code Enforcement	5
Percent of total comments that see this Theme as an opportunity	Safety and Code Enforcement	.4%

*Threat by Theme: Safety and Code Enforcement*

comment	Opportunity	# of C
Crime	Safety and Code Enforcement	69
Outside criminal influence and disregard for basic codes	Safety and Code Enforcement	31
Gangs	Safety and Code Enforcement	13
Drugs	Safety and Code Enforcement	12
Security/ general unsafe feeling	Safety and Code Enforcement	10
Litter/ trash	Safety and Code Enforcement	9
Lack of code enforcement	Safety and Code Enforcement	7
Perception of crime	Safety and Code Enforcement	7
Break ins/ robberies	Safety and Code Enforcement	7
perceived danger	Safety and Code Enforcement	7
Panhandlers	Safety and Code Enforcement	4
Illegal dumping	Safety and Code Enforcement	4
lack of police presence	Safety and Code Enforcement	4
Skateboarders (illegal skateboarding on private property)	Safety and Code Enforcement	3
Fires/ fire equipment up to code?	Safety and Code Enforcement	2
guilt by association with Indiana's restrictive policies	Economy and Jobs	2
subsidized housing having residents who aren't vested in our community	Area Context	2
public safety	Safety and Code Enforcement	2
infrastructure aging	Infrastructure and Transportation	2
loud music from cars	Safety and Code Enforcement	2
transient community	Safety and Code Enforcement	2
deep level of corruption in the 1st district/ corruption in general	Safety and Code Enforcement	2
Loitering	Safety and Code Enforcement	1
under-funded police	Safety and Code Enforcement	1
Wells St. Beach	Safety and Code Enforcement	1
being sexually assaulted while walking on Lake St	Safety and Code Enforcement	1
having people have sex on Lake St	Safety and Code	1

	Enforcement	
hiring people not from Gary as our police force, so they aren't as vested and may not know how to interact with our population	Safety and Code Enforcement	1
Lake St needs a cop	Safety and Code Enforcement	1
no control of public housing tenants	Safety and Code Enforcement	1
no repercussion for crimes committed or unacceptable behavior	Safety and Code Enforcement	1
Total # of comments that see this theme as an opportunity	Safety and Code Enforcement	212
Percent of total comments that see this theme as an opportunity	Safety and Code Enforcement	35%



*Weakness by Theme: Safety and Code Enforcement*

comment	Weakness	# of C
Litter/ trash	Safety and Code Enforcement	132
General lack of code enforcement	Safety and Code Enforcement	22
Perception of crime doesn't match the actuality of crime rate	Safety and Code Enforcement	16
Crime rate is too high	Safety and Code Enforcement	15
Total # of comments that see this Theme as an opportunity	Safety and Code Enforcement	185
Percent of total comments that see this Theme as an opportunity	Safety and Code Enforcement	17%

## THE ECONOMY/ JOB MARKET

Those interviewed would love to see Rt. 20 and 12 capitalized on and listed that the trucking/ mass transit industry may be a great opportunity for us as a community. However, many also noted that the City of Gary has a reputation for making it difficult for new business to prosper here. Some noted that this could just be a rumor, but because its reputation concerning this matter exists it also deters potential business as well. A large majority stated that they would love to see a grocery store return to the Ralph's-Wilco spot, or at the very least see our existing convenience stores and groceries carry more options and spruce up their facilities. Almost everyone would like Miller Ave to be more developed as it is seen as a major eyesore in its current condition. Many of the interviewees noted a disconnect between the shops on Lake Street and the majority of our population. They said that boutiques are great but we could also use more practical institutions such as a hardware store/ household goods store. Brain drain and the lack of job openings are listed as one of Miller's biggest weaknesses. It is generally noted that we are losing many of our high school and college grads to neighboring cities due to a lack of employment opportunities. Many stated that we could capitalize more on the commuter crowd as our proximity to Chicago is a major asset.



*Opportunity by Theme: Economy/ Jobs*

comment	Opportunity	# of C
Promote business/ new business	Economy/ Jobs	102
Develop more stores	Economy/ Jobs	84
Developing Lake St.	Economy/ Jobs	82
Grocery store (current ones are very limited)	Economy/ Jobs	68
More jobs	Economy/ Jobs	19
Rt 12 & Rt 20 corridor	Economy/ Jobs	15
Capitalize on green technology	Economy/ Jobs	9
Synergy between business, parks and non-for-profits	Economy/ Jobs	8
Eateries/ Family friendly dining	Economy/ Jobs	8
more businesses would mean more jobs	Economy/ Jobs	7
Mentor new businesses	Economy/ Jobs	7
bring a grocery store that is more like Ralph's was	Economy/ Jobs	4
Do something with the Ralph's-Wilco building	Property	4
employ more residents	Economy/ Jobs	4
more stores that match all of our demographics	Economy/ Jobs	4
Hotel/ motel	Economy/ Jobs	3
promote co-mingling between the income brackets	Economy/ Jobs	1
upgrade the flea market on 20	Economy/ Jobs	1
small business workshops to help new businesses flourish	Economy/ Jobs	1
Could foster green businesses	Economy/ Jobs	1
More events at Lake/ in town	Economy/ Jobs	12
More festivals	Economy/ Jobs	9
Total # of comments that see this Theme as an opportunity	Economy/ Jobs	453
Percent of total comments that see this Theme as an opportunity	Economy/ Jobs	44%

*Threat by Theme: Economy and Jobs*

comment	Opportunity	# of C
Govern Pence giving Hoosiers a bad rep and stopping business	Economy and Jobs	12
Politics within the city and downstate	Economy and Jobs	9
losing money to other communities/ cities like Portage, Hobart, Merrillville	Economy and Jobs	8
Losing the library	Economy and Jobs	8
US Steel leaving	Economy and Jobs	7
The City of Gary going bankrupt	Economy and Jobs	6
Over commercialization of the beach/ Casino on Beach	Economy and Jobs	6
Over commercialization of the beach/ Casino on Beach	Economy and Jobs	6
crime not conducive to foster new businesses	Economy and Jobs	3
Slum lords	Economy and Jobs	3
general economic decline	Economy and Jobs	3
Lack of jobs	Economy and Jobs	3
Losing the industry we have	Economy and Jobs	3
Losing the industry we have	Economy and Jobs	3
Brain Drain	Economy and Jobs	3
guilt by association with Indiana's restrictive policies	Economy and Jobs	2
religious organizations might lose funding/ get cut	Economy and Jobs	1
1% tax on property is hurting us	Economy and Jobs	1
lack of incentives for retail businesses	Economy and Jobs	1
MBA doesn't serve Miller businesses well	Economy and Jobs	1
poor corporate citizenship	Economy and Jobs	1
banks not giving loans	Economy and Jobs	1
No more truck stops	Economy and Jobs	1
Total # of comments that see this theme as an opportunity	Economy and Jobs	92
Percent of total comments that see this theme as an opportunity	Economy and Jobs	15%

*Strengths by Theme: Economy and Jobs*

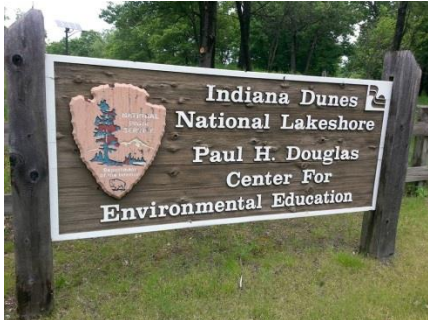
comment	Theme	# of Comments
Lake St and the Arts District	Economy and Jobs	64
Local businesses/ small businesses	Economy and Jobs	22
The Lake	Economy and Jobs	19
Farmer's Market/ The Farmer's Market helps promote the neighborhood and small businesses	Economy and Jobs	12
Airshow returning!	Economy and Jobs	11
events	Economy and Jobs	3
A lot of gas stations	Economy and Jobs	1
The Family Dollar caters to a large part of our neighborhood's soci economic needs	Economy and Jobs	1
There are a lot of banks, which is good for everyone, especially convenient for small businesses	Economy and Jobs	1
Total # of comments for this theme	Economy and Jobs	134
Percentage for this theme	Economy and Jobs	10.73%

*Weakness by Theme: Economy/ Jobs*

comment	Weakness	# of C
Our grocery options are very limited. We would like to see one back where Ralph's/ Willco was. We are a food desert.	Economy and Jobs	147
Not enough support for new businesses	Economy and Jobs	23
K-Market has a monopoly and ripping folks off	Economy and Jobs	3
residents not working at local stores	Economy and Jobs	1
Total # of comments that see this Theme as an opportunity	Economy and Jobs	174
Percent of total comments that see this Theme as an opportunity	Economy and Jobs	15.6%

## ENVIRONMENT & ECOTOURISM

92% of our interviewees listed our environment and natural wonders as a huge opportunity for our community. There are varying opinions on how they should be used and a real fear of the possible destruction of them due to a mega pollution based disaster, or over commercialization. Again and again in our study litter and illegal dumping have come up as a real weakness/ threat to our community, as it is something that is both an external and internal problem. It has been suggested by several interviewees that we need better signage and to administer tickets concerning this matter. Though some great neighborhood institutions vigilantly attempt to combat these issues, it will be nearly impossible to overcome them without more support from our city and a community-wide attempt to address them. As a whole, the majority of those interviewed stated that ecotourism, if it is done with an environmentally consciousness mindset, would be a huge opportunity for Miller. Our parks, beach, the Douglas Center and trails are seen as a HUGE strength, but they're underutilization is viewed as a major weakness for Miller. We have an incredibly unusual environment that includes unique bird migrations, bio diversity and beauty. Considering the era in which our neighborhood came of age, it is amazing that they've been kept as pristine as they have. The community wants to keep them this way. So, there is also a fear of over commercialization and population if these entities were to be exploited.



*Opportunity by Theme: Environment and Eco Tourism*

comment	Opportunity	# of C
Promoting the Lake in creative and profitable ways	Environment and Eco Tourism	105
Develop Lake Street Beach; boat ramp, fishing, concession stand, bathrooms...	Environment and Eco Tourism	35
Eco tourism	Environment and Eco Tourism	34
Capitalize on the parks	Environment and Eco Tourism	27
Promote Lakeshore	Environment and Eco Tourism	15
Douglas Center	Environment and Eco Tourism	8
Natural wonders	Environment and Eco Tourism	5
dunes	Environment and Eco Tourism	5
Natural wonders	Environment and Eco Tourism	5
a dog section/ dog park on the beach	Environment and Eco Tourism	1
offer dumpsters at the end and / or beginning of the month	Environment	1
Total # of comments that see this Theme as an opportunity	Environment and Eco Tourism	242
Percent of total comments that see this Theme as an opportunity	Environment and Eco Tourism	24%



Threat by Theme: Environment and Ecotourism

comment	Opportunity	# of C
Pollution (air, water, toxic waste...)	Environment and Ecotourism	39
Wildlife that could cause accidents, or illness: deer, raccoons, ticks, Asian Carp...	Environment and Ecotourism	11
Using Gary as a toxic dump, as has happened in other depressed urban cities	Environment and Ecotourism	4
Weather (snow/ ice)	Environment and Ecotourism	3
Environmental disaster due to hazardous waste on trains	Environment and Ecotourism	2
Water quality	Environment and Ecotourism	2
abundance of boats anchoring on the lake	Environment and Ecotourism	1
Total # of comments that see this theme as an opportunity	Environment and Ecotourism	62
Percent of total comments that see this theme as an opportunity	Environment and Ecotourism	10%

*Strengths by Theme: Environment and Eco Tourism*

comment	Theme	# of Comments
The Beach	Environment and Eco Tourism	161
Marquette Park/Marquette Park Upgrade	Environment and Eco Tourism	81
Ecology/ biodiversity/ natural wonders	Environment and Eco Tourism	67
The Douglas Center	Environment and Eco Tourism	22
Total # of comments for this theme	Environment and Eco Tourism	331
Percentage for this theme	Environment and Eco Tourism	26.52%

## **PROPERTY**

The majority of people interviewed in our study noted that being located on the southern shores of Lake Michigan surrounded by the National Lake Shore and our proximity to Chicago as a major strength that hasn't completely come to fruition yet. The majority of our community sees Miller as offering an eclectic mix of housing styles and price ranges. With some of the most residential housing and largest public beaches on Lake Michigan. Our affordability is also seen as a major strength. However, our interviewees also stated that we have major issues concerning abandoned property, absentee landlords and property tax evasion. The way the state handles property titles is also seen as a threat by some as it allows buildings to stand untended for decades. The city's inability to tear down condemned buildings and to save classic structures is also seen as a threat. While the majority of interviewees feel that our entrances need better tending and signage is greatly needed as well. The variety of housing and proximity to public transit to Chicago and Lake Michigan have granted Miller a rare property niche.



*Opportunity by Theme: Property*

comment	Opportunity	# of C
Capitalizing on housing stock	Property	11
Capitalize on proximity to Chicago	Property	11
Real estate	Property	4
Do something with the Ralph's-Wilco building	Property	4
Do something with the abandoned houses	Property	6
Utilize Nobel in some way for the community	Property	6
start an abandoned/ vacant homes restoration and purchase program	Property	1
Total # of comments that see this Theme as an opportunity	Property	43
Percent of total comments that see this Theme as an opportunity	Property	3.1%

*Threat by Theme: Property*

comment	Opportunity	# of C
taxes	Property	23
Absentee landlords	Property	13
Abandoned houses	Property	6
blight	Property	3
too many homes are just 2nd homes	Property	2
popping locks (PSC)	property	1
too many rental properties	property	1
can't develop Lake Street with public housing	Property	1
Indiana doesn't require housing deeds to be recorded	Property	1
Total # of comments that see this theme as an opportunity	Property	51
Percent of total comments that see this theme as an opportunity	Property	8%

*Strengths by Theme: Property*

comment	Theme	# of Comments
Eclectic/ cool mix of houses and historic buildings/ venues/ property in general	Property	36
Affordable housing	Property	17
Total # of comments for this theme	Property	53
Total # of comments for this theme	Property	53
Percentage for this theme	Property	4.25%

*Weakness by Theme: Property*

comment	Weakness	# of C
abandoned houses	Property	31
Entrances to community looks pretty bad	property	8
Blight	Property	4
Total # of comments that see this Theme as an opportunity	Property	42
Percent of total comments that see this Theme as an opportunity	Property	3%

## Appendix of Raw Data

### All Strengths Comments (Raw form)

Strengths
A lot of gas stations
Farmer's Market helps promote the neighborhood and small businesses
People are friendly
The library is always busy and has good children's programs
The Family Dollar caters to a large part of our neighborhood's soci economic needs
There are a lot of banks, which is good for everyone, especially convenient for small businesses
Word-of mouth promotion is good
The beach
All the restaurants
The art exhibits are good for businesses too
The Lake St Fest is good for many people; kids, businesses, merging groups
Schools
Farmer's Market
Small businesses
People are friendly
The location is beautiful/nature/beach
There's a great history behind Miller
The community is passionate
18th Street Brewery brings in people from all over
Community focuses in on the positive
A lot of events going on
People are friendly
Trails
Beach
Pavilion
Buildings in general
non-for-profits
The Douglas Center
A good rep as far as Gary reps go
People are friendly and connected
racial diversity
liberal outlook politically
Beach/ environment
intellectual community
the businesses foster community
vested community members
safety and security



easy to transition into this community when I first moved here 25 years ago
inclusive community
waterfront rehab/ Marquette Park
MCC
Carmella's Café
Dog friendly
people friendly
airshow returning
Goddess parties
people
lakefront
energy vibe/ community
racial diversity
cross section of genders
arts corridor on Lake St.
Being part of Gary, its history as a black city
local environmental sentimentalities
Charter School of the Dunes
active garden club
Miller is unique
People who are born and bred here and decide to stay are very vested as well as the new blood too
reasonable housing prices
cool houses
eclectic buildings
Lake Michigan and everything associated with it
Bike path
historic places
residential area
businesses are within walking distances of residential area
friendly community
politically active community
MCC
Active non for profits
farmer's market
public services
cheaper than IL
lots of ways to be active in the community
diverse population
intellectual community
The South shore Trains
Dog friendly

Beach/ environment
uncommercialized
naturally integrated
parks traffic/ usage has increased
Pavilion
historic places
The South shore Trains
More lights
Ecology
Beach/ environment
diverse population
historic places
The South shore Trains
parks
National Lakeshore proximity
lakefront
infrastructure
diversity
strong community
proximity to transportation routes
Marquette Park
Biking & walking trails
ample land for economic development
full of dedicated people, collaborative
historic places
diverse population
resource heavy in terms of people wanting to make a difference
people are supportive
The Lake
Marquette Park
improvements to Marquette Park
airshow returning
creative people
at its tipping point for the positive
Home of the Jackson 5/ Michael Jackson
The Rail Cats
Carmella's Café
A diamond in the rough
diversity
not a small town nor a big city
uncommercialized

Miller is unique
historic places
parks traffic/ usage has increased/rehad done well
love our area
walk to the beach
nature park
the people are resilient
Lake Michigan and everything associated with it
close-knit community
close to Chicago
trains
buses
Lakeshore
proximity to national park
The National Lakeshore
Proximity to Chicago
The South shore Trains
diversity
The Douglas Center
arts corridor on Lake St.
Proximity to Chicago
beach
fishing
park
coming from Chicago to here is comforting
diversity
pool of people willing to give their time
location
lake
The South shore Trains
highways
National Lakeshore proximity
historic places
warm sense of community
people with means/ money
eclectic
infrastructure
social work
economically diverse
diversity requires people to work together
historic places

natural wonders
Landscape
diversity
historic places
a real community
parks
Lake St
The South shore Trains
eclectic
pretty
Schools
businesses are within walking distances of residential area
Farmer's Market
people
beach
environment
long-standing businesses
bus line
South Shore
diversity
Community focuses in on the positive
diversity
beauty
Flamingo's
St. Mary's
lake
Marquette Park
churches
community focuses in on the positive
proximity to Chicago
South Shore Train
The Douglas Center
beach
property values
Beach
The Douglas Center
Community focuses in on the positive
volunteers
diversity
organizations
The beach

The National Lakeshore
The beauty
close to Chicago
close to an airport
cheaper than IL
Performing arts school, Wirt-Emmerson
environment
The beauty is inspiring
diverse population
vested community members
a certain level of an interest in the arts
Lake St Arts District
Banneker Elm
Lake and Shelby businesses
Park Shore Common
The beauty
St. Mary's
vested community members
churches
religious organizations help the community
unified community voice
vested community members
volunteers
leadership
beach
existence of infrastructure is good
diverse population
It's the most diverse population in Gary
sense of community
vested community members
arts corridor on Lake St.
parks
eateries
Brewery
Miller is unique
Miller Garden Club rocks
proximity to Chicago
volunteers
religious organizations help the community
Beauty
Community focuses in on the positive

infrastructure
beauty
Biz spirit
part of Gary
historic places
nice setting for arts and crafts
Community focuses in on the positive
beach
you know your neighbors
lake
a lot of community activities
Farmer's Market
MCC
The Miller Garden Club
people reach out and are enthusiastic
natural wonders
beach
diverse population
a naturally integrated diverse population
religious organizations help the community
religious diversity
Marquette Park upgrade
pizza joints; 3 types all different and good
close to the South Shore
Looks good in all 4 seasons
good Chinese joint on 20
Arman's
eclectic buildings
eclectic drinking establishments
hidden gem
people
Lake
natural wonders
nature park
diversity
accessible by the highways
proximity to Chicago
public transit
South Shore
people
Lake

natural wonders
nature park
diversity
accessible by the highways
proximity to Chicago
public transit
South Shore
beach
shoreline close by
library
The library is always busy and has good children's programs
Lake
Lake Front
proximity to Chicago
South Shore
Marquette Park
Charter School of the Dunes
Beach Café
Beach
Beach
movies
Marquette Park
nice apartments, they're very big
we live on the beach
work out room at PSC
Good people
beach
beach
environment
nature park
beach
churches
sister group
sister group summer sack lunch program
arts corridor on Lake St.
Marquette Park
Lake St.
Clean apartments at PSC
PSC workers are nice
security
beach

area is nice
peaceful
safe
beach
happy to be living here
friends for my daughter live here
National Lakeshore proximity
diversity
services
skills and background of community
proximity to downtown
accepting of diversity
National Lakeshore proximity
plans for Shelby and Locust
Lake St
Garden Club
vested community members
Marquette Park
Bike path
Farmer's Market
arts corridor on Lake St.
Beach
National Lakeshore proximity
plans for Shelby and Locust
Lake St
Garden Club
vested community members
Marquette Park
Bike path
Farmer's Market
arts corridor on Lake St.
Beach
airport
Miller Bakery Ce
Miller Pizza
vested community members
South Shore
Lake St Arts District
lake
Marquette Park
Dunes



natural wonders
historic places
highways access
South Shore
relatively low crime rate
airshow returning
diverse population
historic places
bottom up projects
vested community members
email network: Miller Next-door
building interaction with the police and fire departments
affordable
Miller is unique
attracts interesting mix of folks
proximity to Chicago
lake
live and let live mentality
diverse population
friendly
variety of housing options
Landscape
diverse population
historic places
vested community members
parks
Lake St
South Shore
eclectic housing
pretty
Miller beach
Park Shore Common
safe
the lake front
diverse population
location
housing and homes
buses
eclectic
naturally integrated
social workers

the economics and diversity requires folks to work together
diverse population
historic places
natural wonders
People
block clubs
vested community members
friendly community
beauty
Dunes
Lake Front
natural wonders
Farmer's Market
arts corridor on Lake St.
professional people
Lake Front
beach
highway access
higher income level in comparison to the rest of Gary
vested community members
activists
Lake
Dunes
sense of community
beach
Lake St.
economically diverse
economic development
The Douglas Center
safe
arts corridor on Lake St.
welcoming
Lake Front
Dunes
Good people
parks
Community focuses in on the positive
lake
historic places
proximity to Chicago
local businesses

quiet place especially at night
buses
beach
beaches
peaceful
park
friendly community
quiet place especially at night
Lake Front
proximity to Chicago
Clean streets
affordable
diverse population
Lake Front
Marquette Park
eateries
eclectic bars
dunes
natural wonders
highway access
South Shore
vested community members
Good people
diverse population
vested community members
churches
Miller's schools
wild life
natural wonders
air show
vested community members
beach
friendly community
people try to spend their money here
people choose to stay here
It's my favorite place
lots of ways to be active in the community
beautiful property by the lake
safe
PSC fixes stuff in a timely manner
PSC workers are nice

PSC office staff is great
Buildings are pretty
Lakeshore
Marquette Park
historic places
tight knit community
Miller Garden Club rocks
Garden walk
vested community members
fun fundraisers for the community
gay friendly
cable TV-HD finally available
Dunes
biking/ hiking trails
neighborhood watch
community sees a need and gets it done
airshow returning
humane society
arts corridor on Lake St.
Lake Front
Marquette Park
vested community members
diverse population
Miller is unique
accessible by the highways
South Shore
beach
Lake street
Lots of potential
Charter School of the Dunes
vested community members
love of the beach
diverse population
Miller is unique
Lots of potential
elders
vested community members
Good people
diverse population
MCC
Gardner Center

Mayor
let and let live
Aquatorium
The Douglas Center
West Beach
biking/ hiking trails
natural wonders
proximity to Chicago
long established community
Good people
diverse population
accessible by the highways
South Shore
Lake St Arts District
National Lakeshore proximity
The Douglas Center
eco system
arts corridor on Lake St.
vested community members
Lake Front
wild life
let and let live
can do attitude
recreational activities
diverse population
Lake St Arts District
Lots of potential
Landscape
PSC is safe
safe
camera security at PSC
doors lock at certain times
the environment is nice
nice buildings
PSC computer labs
Charter School of the Dunes
beautiful property by the lake
vested community members
farmer's market
new management at PSC is very good
safe

trespassing has decreased
beach
summers are great here
safe
really safe during the day
Lake St Arts District
beach
PSC new management is good
PSC facilities
beach
natural wonders
beach
vested community members
buses
MCC
Lake St
events
farmer's market
airshow returning
lake
proximity to Chicago
South Shore
arts corridor on Lake St.
lots of creative people
pockets of close neighborhoods
brewery
organizations
Marquette Park
live and let live mentality
diverse population
Good people
good relationships with the fire department and police
Miller Garden Club rocks
lake parking
everything is pretty fine
it's pretty
street lights
buses
park
Lots of potential
environment

diverse population
roads are improving
National Lakeshore proximity
South Shore
many transportation options
beach
local businesses
Lake Front
diverse population
vested community members
location
Lake Front
diverse population
vested community members
eclectic
acupuncture
meditation center
proximity to Chicago
affordable
friendly community
diverse population
good community leaders
beautiful property by the lake
natural wonders
snow removal has improved
friendly community
Marquette Park UMC
let and let live
diverse population
location
vested community members
2 fire houses
live and let live mentality
willing to work together
library
arts corridor on Lake St.
Good people
pollution rate is decreasing
population is mostly environmentally aware
size of community
diverse population

friendly community
beach
beauty
hidden gem
diverse population
friendly community
historic places
The Douglas Center
churches
Marquette Park UMC
Good people
vested community members
live and let live mentality
beach
good vibe
serene
peaceful
cheaper than IL
Lake Front
small community but seems large
proximity to the dunes
airshow returning
Beauty
quaint vibe
Buildings are pretty
sense of community
good people
safe
good food joints
Lake Front
diverse population
people who choose to live here do it for more than just the stats
live and let live mentality
unified
organizations
diverse buildings
historic places
affordable
Marquette Park upgrade
beach
Dunes



Aquatorium
historic places
Lake Front
natural wonders
affordable
beauty
National Lakeshore proximity
SHLT
natural wonders
civil-minded community organizations
strong sense of community
being connected to Gary opens us up to being available for more grants
public transportation
diversity
it's not Portage
It's the only place I'd ever live in NWI
houses
close to Chicago
cheap housing
beach
nature
trails
18th St Brewery
Flamingo's
cheap housing
near Chicago
South Shore train
culture
food
arts
music
People are friendly and connected
community sees a need and gets it done
school options (there's a lot of choices available)
affordable
beach
natural wonders
diverse population
near Chicago
near highway access
South Shore

being connected to the city of Gary provides us with city services
neighbors get along
police department
a lot of organizations
good water quality
students here are independent and strong
students here are really supported by their mothers
student here are very loyal
there is a desire to do better
community is not afraid to advocate for its needs
strong family bonds
students want to succeed
the lake front
18th St Brewery
Douglas Center
community activism
South Shore train
mixed eccentric community
new shops coming to Miller
Miller's my only home
woods
lagoon
swimming
the beach
the pavilion
natural wonders
eclectic residents
strong community engagement
low population density
interest in the arts
decent public library
unique landscape
variety of housing options
small town friendliness
population diversity
housing diversity
the lake front
the beach
the pavilion
National Lakeshore proximity
national parks programs

Douglas Center
young people moving in
cheap housing allows for high quality of life
south shore
free parking at train station
wide variety of religious institutions
beach entrance
proximity to the dunes
proximity to Chicago
beach
natural wonders
historic places
bio diversity
vested community members
diverse population
accepting population
climate
People are friendly and connected
people are willing to work for the greater good
several great bars
local service groups that are very good
local churches
the lake
park
south shore
community supports organizations
diverse community
economy is pretty stable
Douglas Center
Nora's List
Facebook groups
18th St Brewery
arts district
housing diversity
natural wonders
community gardens
proximity to Chicago
beach
dunes state park
diversity of people
diversity of incomes

housing diversity
housing value
affordable
Cheap beer and cigs :)
diversity
culture
proximity to Chicago
South Shore train
McDonald's
18th St Brewery
Becky Wyatt
Yoga at Marquette Park
people
beach
small town vibe
liberal
beach
trails
people
beach
very diverse community
affordable
beautiful property by the lake
location with abundant public natural areas
some very committed individuals to community organizations
vested community members
community service minded
peacefulness
neighbors get along
lesbian community; strong presence, volunteer-minded, good folks, all my friends are lesbians
volunteerism
Garden Club
dunes
natural wonders
community oriented culture
real neighborhood
volunteerism
highway access
South Shore train
beach
proximity to Chicago

near highway access
trails
a lot of vested community members
lots of arts
Miller is unique
diverse population
liberal community
Lake Front
lake
national park
location
natural wonders
state parks
summer tourism
tolerant population
community of self-starters
south shore
proximity to Chicago
nature
hidden gem
people
Douglas Center
people
nature
Garden Club
lake
people
beach
parks
lake beach front
south shore
18th St Brewery
beach
nature
parks
South Shore train
beach entrance
people
Douglas Center
trails
beach

people
beach
people
small town vibe
lake
nature
people
diverse population
vibe
beach
people
south shore
Douglas Center
library
beach
beach
Marquette Park upgrade
south shore
diverse population
beach
parks
pretty nature
people
small town vibe
volunteerism
diverse eco system
nature
beach
people
arts district
National Lakeshore proximity
proximity to Chicago
south shore
racially diverse
viable lake front
National Lakeshore proximity
IUN
more economical than IL suburbs
historic places
history
housing options

proximity to Chicago
natural wonders
lake
vibe (small town but liberal)
nature
people
location beach
Douglas Center
South Shore train
people (diversity)
beach
south shore
buses
diversity
different backgrounds
lake
city proximity (Chicago)
south shore
natural wonders
people
volunteerism
volunteer spirit
beach
people
beach
people
Garden Club
beach
volunteers
MCC
MBA
Garden Club
diversity
local vibe
diverse population
nature
lake
beach
people
lake street
nature

near Chicago
beach
people
pretty nature
nice beach
quiet
parks
beach
cool houses
volunteers
people
diverse population
beach
people
near Chicago
south shore
a group of committed people who are already very active and vested in the community
residents seem friendly and there is no real crime to speak of
property is general is well maintained
community is situated on a beautiful location
proximity to Chicago
easy commute
commuter train south shore is a big pro
light traffic
city services are actually excellent especially trash cleanup
the diversity of Miller
the beach and lakefront is relaxing
Charter School of the Dunes
neighborhood watch
the pavilion
beautiful property by the lake
lake
south shore
national parks programs
beautiful property by the lake
beautiful in genera;
small town vibe
affordable
south shore
vested community members
volunteerism



community cohesiveness
national parks programs
Marquette Park upgrade
eclectic residents
eclectic architecture
buses
18th St Brewery
Garden Club
national parks programs
beautiful property by the lake
beautiful in genera;
small town vibe
affordable
south shore
vested community members
volunteerism
beach
people
people
nature
beach
south shore
beach
Marquette Park upgrade
churches
neighborhood
friendly community
nature
lake
community supports organizations
religious organizations help the community
Lake Front
national parks programs
parks\
beaches
train
near highway access
people
houses/ styles
Douglas Center
lots of drinking opportunities

friendly community
friendly fire department
landscape is beautiful
nature
lots of people volunteer here
small town vibe
beach
parks
people
Douglas Center
beach
parks
people
proximity to Chicago
South Shore train
beach
beauty
parks
people
south shore
beach
trails
nature
people
volunteers
MCC
MBA
Miller Garden Club rocks
beach
parks
Douglas Center
people
diversity
beauty
nature
beach
parks
Douglas Center
volunteerism
DIY culture
vested community members

established groups like MCC
new businesses
18th St Brewery
south shore
beach
Marquette Park upgrade
south shore
beach
Marquette Park
beach
parks
beach
quiet
pretty nature
safe
near beach
beach
it's quiet here
beach
lake street
events like Lake Effect
people
beach
lake
historic places
architecture
history
vested community members
diverse population
diverse biology
community organizations
MCC
Garden Club
range of housing
beach
pretty nature
different types of houses
people
beach
parks
people

nature
the lake
location
proximity to Chicago
mass transportation
south shore
buses
landscape is beautiful
bike trails
volunteers
the lake
location
Beach
Lake Michigan
law enforcement officials live here
vested community members
reputation
National Lakeshore proximity
location
eco-tourism
decent schools k-12
strong history
lake
farmer's market
volunteers
community organizations
diversity
lake
organizations
location
access to the beach
the dunes
new neighbors
new businesses
18th St Brewery
beach
Marquette park
cool houses
pretty nature
quiet
Park shore Commons is nice

beach
beach
quiet
people
beach
Douglas Center
proximity to Chicago
easy commute
commuter train south shore is a big pro
light traffic
city services are actually excellent especially trash cleanup
the diversity of Miller
the beach and lakefront is relaxing
beach
Marquette park
cool houses
pretty nature
quiet
Park shore Commons is nice
beach
beach
people
nature
Garden Club
lake
people
beach
parks
lake beach front
south shore
18th St Brewery
beach
nature
parks
South Shore train
beach entrance
people
Douglas Center
South Shore
being connected to the city of Gary provides us with city services
neighbors get along

police department
a lot of organizations
good water quality
strong family bonds
students want to succeed
the lake front
18th St Brewery
Douglas Center
community activism
South Shore train
mixed eccentric community
new shops coming to Miller
Miller's my only home
woods
South Shore train
mixed eccentric community
new shops coming to Miller
Miller's my only home
woods
South Shore train
arts district

**All Weakness Comments (Raw form)**

<b>Weaknesses</b>
residents not working at local stores
not a lot of activities for kids
abandoned houses
elected officials not doing much
exclusivity and lack of mingling between the socio economic classes
K-Market has a monopoly and ripping folks off
lack of school pride
sapping of community pride due to removing kids from their neighborhood schools and busing them all over
trash cans at stores overflowing
not enough lights
Too many deer!
history should be promoted more
The Douglas Center should be promoted more
More PR is needed in general
There should be more synergy between the local organizations and their PR efforts/ branding

lack of compromise between groups
government moves VERY slowly
government seems disorganized
The way teachers communicate with their students is causing a negative effect on them and how they communicate in the community
Brain Drain
Public school funding
communication in general, there seems to be a lot of tribal politics
roads and potholes are TERRIBLE
issues are not handled well within the low-income communities, I know I lived at one for 3 years
train traffic slows down EVERYTHING
more arts education is needed within the schools and community
elected officials not doing much
elected officials into promoting themselves and not the people
misuse of funding
schools
PR issues
Guilt by association when it comes to being part of Gary
No grocery store
businesses need better PR
fear of unknown community members/ lack of mingling between income brackets
no dog section really at the beach
cross walk signs should be painted on the road like they are in Chicago
shortage of full-time residents
being part of Gary/ lack of resources and city services
crime rate too high
limited snow removal
not enough monitoring of beach tourists
trash on beach
abandoned houses/ buildings
public schools
Clay St. just ignored
Corporations aren't required to be good corporate citizens
Not enough traffic to support fringe businesses
not enough advertising
Not promoted well
Guilt by association when it comes to being part of Gary
community events seem to be unintentionally segregated
wireless reception sucks
schools
we're losing religious organizations
limited snow removal

roads and potholes are TERRIBLE
seedy businesses
train traffic slows down EVERYTHING
K-Market has a monopoly and ripping folks off
lack of necessities
K-Market has a monopoly and ripping folks off
No grocery store
lack of produce
Guilt by association when it comes to being part of Gary
we're losing religious organizations
PR issues
vacancies
lack of MCC web presence
What are the long term plans for Marquette Park? Foresight?
No services
Lack of ADA accommodations
no cabs
security
safety
poor maintenance if infrastructure
no easy way to get to the lakeshore from the South shore Train
abandon buildings in business district
schools, comparatively
poor blight ordinance enforcement
excessive litter
The powerful people in Miller don't always represent ALL of Miller
lack of effort to cross pollinate between the social/ income brackets
self-interest promoting
city isn't supporting small businesses
The MBA doesn't branch out past Lake St
lack of bi-partisan places to socialize
Guilt by association when it comes to being part of Gary
mills going down
schools unsafe
streets unsafe
school system antiquated
fear of unknown community members/ lack of mingling between income brackets
elected officials not doing much
one-party system
too clannish
people don't see the potential



people who have been here a long time aren't open to change
fear of unknown community members/ lack of mingling between income brackets
more support for businesses
Don't clean up
dumping
leaves, dead-trees
people don't know the rules
Guilt by association when it comes to being part of Gary
poor city services
abandoned buildings
poor infrastructure
bad sidewalks
lack of enforcements of codes
Under prompted South shore
LITTER!!!
Wells St Beach
schools
lack of parental involvement
lack of police presence
lack of city services
limited snow removal
blighted properties
stores not close enough
stores we have close early
city won't maintain roads
escalating utility costs
need more people to get involved
apathy by some
skepticism due to lack of involvement
Guilt by association when it comes to being part of Gary
roads and potholes are TERRIBLE
infrastructure
schools
roads and potholes are TERRIBLE
limited snow removal
ADA accommodations are lacking
disorganized
misuse of funding
lack of PR
school support
Guilt by association when it comes to being part of Gary

apathy by some
Brain Drain
crime rate too high
abandon
student's behavior
I lived at Lakeshore Dunes for over 12 years. In the last 5 years the new kids that came weren't supervised
not enough monitoring of beach tourists
Kids too free range/ we need programs for the kids!!!
safety
classism within Miller
too volunteer dependent, people get worn out
ignorance and fear of the unknown
ineffective political leadership at the district level
our last district rep got arrested
park jobs are being outsourced
declining education
rail roads too much cargo traffic
PR issues
apathy by some
Lack of infrastructure within Gary
no government support for improvement
no way to publicize events to public
no contact with council person
access to National Park Property
communication in general, there seems to be a lot of tribal politics
absentee landlords
recycling area placement in Miller
Not enough publicizing of Douglas Center
Need to be more active communication with the Park Leadership
tethered to Gary
Taxes
We need to have more of a mixing of races, social classes and ages at our events, for example the Garden Club
schools
Steel Mill Taxes
abandoned properties
2 Millers: one is on the lakefront and the other is the rest of town
can't attract the middle class with our schools
our image
no real grocery store
Lack of 24/7 shuttle
undependable buses

we need more youth programming
illegal dumping
LITTER!!!
stricter litter policies at Park Shore Commons
lack of police presence
PSC laundry needs to be open on Saturdays
unemployment
lack of things to do
losing business
lack of opportunity for business
potholes
infrastructure
snow service
no tech grants
schools
reports of home invasions
lack of climate for business
train traffic slows down EVERYTHING
isolation affects our attitude
no major job employer
lots of banks but no grocery store
No grocery store
lack of youth programming
aging population
More stores
No grocery store
sidewalks need to be fixed
no ice-cream parlor
we need a better bus service
the buses let us off in snow piles
we need better garbage cans
the litter is out of control
drug problems
We need to advertise Miller more
media synergy is needed
not enough mixing of the social classes and races in social settings/ cat events
lack of youth programming
lack of opportunity for business
wealth is out of balance
absentee landlords
slumlords

school buildings are aging
because trains there are no over/ under passes to get out of Miller
We need to get better at communicating
businesses need better PR
businesses are being closed due to the train
Churches need to put up signs that say "this is not a dog park"
schools are not part of the community anymore
local school board
lack of employment
No grocery store
aging population
not enough young families
more cargo trains have slowed down business
lack of police presence
lack of code enforcement
employment rate
abandoned buildings
trains keep us isolated
not enough housing
schools
No grocery store
abandoned buildings
property assessment
gated parking lots at beach
street parking at Marquette Park is distracting the view
PR
strip joints
not a lot of job opportunities except fast food
schools
No grocery store
no shopping really
abandoned buildings
LITTER!!!
trash on beach
codes not being enforced
People prefer to travel to Chicago than to support our local entertainment venues (theater, music, art...)
racial and economic disconnect
whites don't send their kids to Gary schools so it effects the community as a whole
Lake St programming hasn't been approachable for as much mixing of the races as there should be
abandoned houses
abandoned buildings

no way for tourists to get to the lake
poverty
unemployment
leadership
Brain Drain
no summer jobs for kids
lack of youth programming
No grocery store
no corporations
mold
flooding
ticks
abandoned houses
recycling area placement in Miller
No grocery store
historic cemetery isn't being tended
train traffic slows down EVERYTHING
lack of youth programming
lack of police presence
drug problems
disconnect between Gary and Miller
councilmen
transient community
abandoned houses
lack of police presence
LITTER!!!
schools
apathy by some
PR
abandoned buildings
isolation affects our attitude
The garden club is great, but over extended, the city should be tending some to this stuff too
lack of code enforcement
larger apartment complexes aren't screening their tenants as they should
side streets have a pothole issue
sidewalks need to be fixed
Lake St programming hasn't been approachable for as much mixing of the races as there should be
Under serviced
library just lost another day
religious organizations need more funding
scenic highways are underutilized

tourism is under played
PR
schools
abandoned buildings
Guilt by association when it comes to being part of Gary
Under serviced
underutilized
No grocery store
losing money because there is nothing to do
lack of youth programming
not enough restaurants
PR
reputation of schools
prejudice against Gary schools
racial and economic disconnect/ tensions concerning Gary schools
single family housing and apartments being under utilized
train traffic slows down EVERYTHING
no grocery store really on the inside of the tracks
not enough synergy
Lake St programming hasn't been approachable for as much mixing of the races as there should be
Guilt by association when it comes to being part of Gary
perception
school system antiquated
public safety
Atena need to be fixed too it's right next door if we don't take care of it will affect us
underdeveloped
limited progressive ideas
failure to take advantage of our environment the way other areas with similar assets have
abandon houses
too many subsidized houses
unreliable buses
bus drivers are rude
lack of equality on the buses
special treatment on the buses by the bus drivers
no grocery store
no curfew for kids
lack of youth programming
Kids too free range/ we need programs for the kids!!!
After hours issues at PSC
I know 5 people who lost their jobs due to buses
lack of youth programming

lack of children's programming
high school
middle school
unreliable buses
no grocery
sand in the playground at PSC
security
communication in general, there seems to be a lot of tribal politics
IMAGE!!!
LITTER!!!
lack of youth programming
parents not involved with kids at PSC
not many activities at Marquette Park
youth activities / lacking
security
lack of police presence
parents not involved with kids at PSC
Guilt by association when it comes to being part of Gary
potholes
pest control at PSC
trash on beach
high-rise at PSC garbage disposals
summer programming needed for kids
the governor
lack of business
types of businesses
tear down the paintball building
schools
school system antiquated
no youth center
lack of jobs
no sidewalks
no grocery store
unfriendly maintenance staff
LITTER!!!
bums
speakers at PSC need to be fixed
unfriendly maintenance staff
LITTER!!!
Kids too free range/ we need programs for the kids!!!
park is under used

skateboarders
ding dong ditch
speakers at PSC need to be fixed
schools
empty buildings
need to use buildings on miller Ave
need block clubs to meet with each other
crime rate too high
property value went down
air quality
high rate of cancer
not enough people
blocked by trains
not using our natural resources
side streets have a pothole issue
train station doesn't have a high platform
abandoned buildings
not enough on Rt. 20
no grocery store
Nobel
not enough security
no pool
PSC needs to maintain the playground
not enough to occupy kids
transportation
bus hours on the weekends
jobs
Section 8 housing
city is broke
not much hope
no family-friendly dining
no safe greenery
city of Gary is hard to work with
hard to develop business because of the city
schools
schools bookended by projects
No media that really challenges what's happening here
no sidewalks
lack of maintenance at Marquette Park
RT 20 structures
Miller Ave may need a stop light



Corner of Atnea looks like a dump
12&20 split looks terrible
Lake St. beach underused
no place to dock a boat
we've lost businesses
LITTER!!!
no organized system for dealing with litter
not knowing new neighbors (they seem less friendly)
people don't stop at stop signs
codes not being enforced
for sale signs in front yards (there used to be a code against this)
potholes on side streets
no grocery store
should have better services
the k-market is over priced
loitering
no signs indicating bus schedule
panhandlers
crime rate too high
not enough youth programming
we've lost businesses
garbage on balconies of PSC
trash blows everywhere
lack of code enforcement
illegal dumping
NIPSCO hijacking after hours at PSC
Kids too free range/ we need programs for the kids!!!
kids in the computer labs
lack of youth programming
unfriendly maintenance staff
lack of code enforcement
speakers at PSC need to be fixed
LITTER!!!
NIPSCO hijacking after hours at PSC
can't choose your own caterer at the Pavilion
police presence especially on the beach
trash and trash pickup on the beach
using backhoe to pick up trash on the beach
blighted properties
LSD pavement
breakfast joint

boat control on the water in the summer months
honest government
airshow not a money-maker
shrinking tax base
our greatest asset, Marquette facilities, are being mismanaged
insufficient retail to draw tourists and public from outside communities
section 8 housing
low performing schools
trash-on streets & sidewalks
abandoned buildings
crime and perception of other communities in relation to retail corridor
lack of business incentive for new retail
racial tension-stemming from city hall
bias between city hall and Miller
policing
fire department issues
weak political leadership
crime
lack of great city curb and gutter
schools are unacceptable
IMAGE!!!
no plan to turn image around that is visible
Lake street & count Line road section 8 housing
bus service
Miller Branch Library is inadequate
not realistic on the expectations for development
we "settle" in expectations
we agree to take the 2nd best
dumping
real neighbors are gone
children can't play the way they used to
few children
those that are here, nothing for them to do with organized activities
no pool
no swimming lessons
schools
teachers not provided with necessary supplies
schools in disrepair
litter is an issue
litter codes need to be enforced
lack of police presence

location/ lack of transportation
schools need help
clashes between different school kids
abandoned buildings
Gary's government
Gary's disinterest in Miller and prejudice
abandoned buildings
SCHOOLS
insufficient retail to draw tourists and public from outside communities
waterlines
power grid
NIPSCO
business district
police support
crime
city and community lack of communication
lack of synergy between media
transportation
bus stops
no youth center
no grocery store
people don't get to know each other anymore
not so safe for kids
too many abandoned buildings
not enough real jobs
people are out of shape
snow plows
potholes
schools
public transportation stops too early
not a lot of activities for kids
house break ins
trash on 12 & 20
entrances to communities
Nobel School
neighborhoods need to pool our resources
abandoned houses
Lake Shore Dunes
schools
school board members
neighborhood pockets could mix more

litter
responsiveness with city services
boarded up buildings
potholes on side streets
permit office for business makes it difficult to get business
city ordinance on back taxes
property liquidators
Miller people don't support Miller businesses enough
animals-deer
need hardware store
need hobby house
need to clean up playground at PSC
Sherriff Dept.
need to hire kids to do clean up in summer
Guilt by association when it comes to being part of Gary
no grocery store
roads
schools
losing families
Dirty
needs clean up
abandoned buildings
schools
no grocery store
no place for house hold goods
Brain Drain
political rep
school board members
bad rep
not enough young voters
need to patron local joints
local joints need to mirror actual population more
no coffee joint
schools
charter schools
abandoned buildings
PR
Gary city services
Gary government
bad rep
Guilt by association when it comes to being part of Gary

hidden gem
no grocery store
no hardware store
no household goods store
roads
litter
schools
first impression
road access
Brain Drain
limited employment opportunities
no grocery store
no retail store
vandalism
littering
break-ins at homes and in cars
potholes
bad rep
abandoned buildings
illegal dumping
city needs to be more proactive
out of state home owners who don't register to vote here aren't able to be vested and we are under represented
out of state home owners complain but then can't act
the entire 1st district is fractioned and not working as a unit
Town Hall not being used
not enough mixing of the social classes and races in social settings/ at events
too much gov nepotism
past rep
liquor store next to library
reactionary
infrastructure
streets
abandoned homes
vacant lots
not vested transient community
need a better grocery store
no grocery store
no retail store
schools
losing families
city services

better synergy
policing underequipped
small congregations
litter at beach
lack of code enforcement
beaches being under utilized
apathy
highway exits look bad
city services
bus services
not enough businesses
city services
snow removal
potholes
litter
buses not connected
political recycling
no hotels
casino boats not bringing in the money they promised
schools
potholes
garbage
recycling area placement in Miller
street lights
business support
PR
streets
snow removal
no grocery store
no retail store
no goods produced
robbery
street cleaning
garbage on Lake St.
litter on beach
schools
perceived crime
over population of deer
failure to take advantage of our environment the way other areas with similar assets have
failure of races to mix better socially
projects on section 8 take up some valuable land, they could be moved to leverage better usage and put in a different part of Miller

concentration of poverty is a bad idea
city council is a joke
no grocery
crime
litter
schools
no grocery really
no hardware store
no grocery
no retail store
no strip mall
corrupt city council
very low commercial activity
lack of job opportunity for young people
narrow community engagement
litter
illegal dumping
dilapidated housing
lack of investment in businesses
negative perception of Gary
limited capacity for the city of Gary to leverage Miller as an asset
aging housing stock
city's inability to work with private groups to tackle blight issue
aging religious org.
inability to communicated with each other
school system antiquated
not easy to work with the city, which deters business
unreliable government
property taxes are high considering the services we receive
no real grocery store
no movie theater
lacking commercial services
no local mechanic
the citizens don't push enough for the services they deserve
school: we are losing young families due to them
library just lost another day
bipartisan bickering between Lake Co cities
failure to take advantage of our environment the way other areas with similar assets have
side streets have a pothole issue
rail road tracks need help
schools bad reputation

lack of communication
infrastructure
food desert
litter
no real grocery store
illegal dumping
lack of code enforcement
old Hobart road large item dumping
city needs to work better on road and litter enforcement
city needs to work better on road and litter enforcement and cooperating with bordering cities to ensure that it is actually happening
city needs to get over its fiefdom issues
financial viability is low
no community disaster exit plan in case of train disaster
Is our emergency workers equipment up to code?
rail road hazard
bad rep
city needs to work better on road and litter enforcement
city needs to work better on road and litter enforcement and cooperating with bordering cities to ensure that it is actually happening
city needs to get over its fiefdom issues
lack of communication
infrastructure
food desert
litter
no real grocery store
illegal dumping
lack of code enforcement
financial viability is low
no community disaster exit plan in case of train disaster
Is our emergency workers equipment up to code?
rail road hazard
bad rep
income disparity isn't recognized
not enough youth programming
Douglas Center is under utilized
people don't seem to enjoy our natural wonders as they should
lack of organized activities in Marquette Park
Marquette Park trails need better signage
lack of synergy between media
lack of synergy between groups
schools



infrastructure
city projects not communicated well to community
city projects don't allow for time to get feedback from community
diversity of incomes not recognized
school system antiquated
apathy
racism between both whites towards African Americans and African Americans towards whites
lack of decent retail
shitty city government
our formal and informal leaders are aging
no Dunkin' Donuts
not enough support of local businesses
porno industry
abandoned houses
potholes
loose dogs
relatively high taxes
banks exercising red lining
increase in violence
not enough bike racks
lack of media synergy
closing the postal plant in Gary will probably lead to us losing some of our population and will slow down mail
litter
entrances to communities
not enough PR synergy
schools
grocery store
potholes
Litter!!!
pollution
PR
schools
grocery store
schools
litter
hard to find out what's going on
poor city services
lack luster support of some community initiatives
lack of quality grocery store
lack of practical services/ goods store
racism between both whites towards African Americans and African Americans towards whites

Lakeshore Dunes not connected to Miller
no retail store
no real grocery store
there needs to be more unification between the different sections of Miller
no real communication between the schools and community
under resourced schools
lack of info and disclosure about the schools
bus service is VERY limited on the weekends
no bus on Sundays
weekend bus hours exclude non-car owners from many community events
bus doesn't line up well with the South Shore schedule
vacant store fronts
lack of places with Wi-Fi
library just lost another day
not enough businesses
grocery store
we don't have a Whole Foods
schools
grocery store is limited
abandoned homes
no real grocery store
schools
too many cargo trains
litter
city hall moves slow
abandoned homes
crime
culture of failure
apathy
railroad traffic
alcoholism
drug addiction
abandoned buildings
lack of code enforcement
absentee landlords
no real grocery store
no health food options
potholes
lack of youth programming
lack of children's programming
literacy rate

lack of job opportunity for young people
lack of job opportunity for upper level jobs
lack of area for teens
political cronies
nepotism (in the city)
equipment for fire department is antiquated
parks not understanding beach
no grocery
entrances to communities
schools
breakfast joints
seasonal residency
train traffic slows down EVERYTHING
no real hotel options
students need more supplies
students get less than in other districts
lack of trust to authority figures
traditional pathways to success do not reflect outcomes here
infrastructure
limited entrances
lack of police presence
should have a beat cop again of Lake St
litter
abandoned buildings
12 & 20 corridor
lack of communication with the city
not unified as a community
the old Ralph's/Wilco is an eyesore
people don't call the police/ trust the police
better info
loiterers
transition of fear in Miller
We came to Miller in 1919 and had the only phone in town. My whole young life my parents let anyone who needed to use the phone come in to our house. Now I'm afraid to answer the door when a stranger is on my steps. I live very close to my childhood home. This is just sad.
lack of safety for elders
lack of parent involvement
lack of children's programming
lack of youth programming
lack of discipline with kids
people don't buy local in Miller
business not supported

but businesses don't support the safety of the clientele either though
no real grocery store
schools
schools fiscal management
city services
lack of code enforcement
no real grocery store
city government is uncooperative
lack of youth programming
entrances to communities
no parking lines on Lake Street
potholes
grocery store is limited
lack of public safety response time
school administration
school facilities
Where does certain grant money go?
lack of transparency with funding
voter apathy
city council is a fiefdom
school board is a fiefdom
school teachers are buying toilet paper for students
no accountability at the schools
street lights
South Shore schedule not publicized well
kids don't have ID cards
library just lost another day
city's lack of communication on projects that affect the community
not many rent-to-own options
curb appeal is low
over dependence on volunteers
crime rate too high
litter
illegal dumping
lack of code enforcement
police presence especially on the beach
apartments not connected to the community
over dependence on volunteers
we need more services
no real grocery store
schools

abandoned buildings
schools
grocery store is limited
litter
entrances to communities
abandoned buildings
lack of media synergy
bus hours are weird
potholes
schools
lost one fire station
lost a day for the library
lack of PR
schools
perception
crime
break ins
schools
grocery store
bad rep
bad PR
schools
perception of the city
schools
low employment rate
grocery options
not enough police
lost a day for the library
only one fire station
litter
school funding
PR
limited grocery options
potholes on side streets
schools
litter
no grocery
schools
bus hours are weird
library just lost another day
leadership is lacking in city

grocery stores are limited
too many cargo trains
litter
not enough cops
down to one fire station
schools
abandoned houses
schools
no grocery options
no real grocery store
schools
school facilities
economy
not enough synergy between the classes
school's bad rep
library just lost another day
down to one fire station
litter
not enough community involvement
same usual suspects are the only ones getting stuff done
poor school performance
negative stigma with Gary's name
not enough downstate legislative support
schools
library just lost another day
grocery store is limited
lack of political leadership
school board is a fiefdom
school facilities
lost a day for the library
schools
limited grocery options
schools
no grocery
not enough for kids
litter
abandoned houses
racial segregation
cultural segregation
city's lack of funds
Gary's perception

perception of danger
condition of roads
city bureaucracy
permits are slow to get
brain drain
PR
schools
grocery store
spike in break-ins
schools
brain drain
panhandlers
lack of youth programming
grocery store
not enough mixing of the social classes and races in social settings/ at events
social classes
schools
limited grocery options
not much for kids in the summer
schools
limited grocery options
PR litter
schools
grocery store
potholes
grocery store
litter
only one fire station
not enough police
schools
kids don't have anything to do
not enough businesses
no bus on Sundays
bus hours are weird
no grocery store within walking
litter
potholes
Lakeshore Dunes not connected to Miller
crime rate too high
the Mosby Motel
lack of code enforcement

street drunks
lack of code enforcement
City of Gary's corruption
lack of services
grocery store
jobs
not hiring within city
potholes
weather
retail
Lake Street doesn't have enough parking
Lake Street doesn't have lines to show parking spots
Lake St entrances
lack of bike lanes
lack of bike racks
sidewalks
volunteers are aging
loss of power for days at a time
PR issues
perception of crime
Nipsco's lack of maintenance
too divided
2, or 3, different Millers
not enough mixing of the social classes and races in social settings/ at events
schools
grocery store
lack of youth programming
kids don't have anything to do
bus hours are weird
not enough jobs
entrances to communities
hotel off of I65
strip joints
parking on Locust and Shelby
school
no programs for kids
lack of leadership
lack of infrastructure
inability to keep up basic city services
library just lost another day
schools



grocery
kids need more activities
noise too loud in halls
litter
schools
grocery
kids need more activities
noise too loud in halls
lack of infrastructure
inability to keep up basic city services
library just lost another day
no grocery
trains
not enough stuff for kids
schools
grocery store is limited
no bus on Sundays
schools are leaving kids behind
litter
abandoned houses
schools
panhandlers
not enough cops
abandoned houses
grocery is limited
perception of crime
schools
limited grocery options
roads are beat up

**All Opportunity Comments (Raw form)**

<b>Opportunities</b>
employ more residents
more child-friendly activities
start an abandoned/ vacant homes restoration and purchase program
promote co-mingling between the income brackets
upgrade the flea market on 20
start more kid-friendly facility like a skate park
bring a grocery store that is more like Ralph's was
do something with the DQ building

do something with the Ralph's building
more programs to get kids vested in their community
more stores that match all of our demographics
offer dumpsters at the end and / or beginning of the month
expand Boys and Girls club to a Miller-based facility
create mini-block clubs for the kids where they adopt a block and get points or coupons or something for taking care of their block
more buses that go both ways not just in one directions
small business workshops to help new businesses flourish
organizations should collaborate more to be more effective
bring the Girl's Academy's gardening program to the Miller schools
lots of green grant opportunities
do a grant workshop for teachers and not-for-profits
since Miller has vested community members, they could do outreach to other parts of Gary to promote the same investment
have more collaboration between sister organizations within Gary and Miller
more buses that go both ways not just in one directions
More bus stops
Schools should use their parks more
promote the Mighty Acorns Program across Miller
Could foster green businesses
The Douglas Center
Arts District
Wirt-Emmerson Arts Program could be expanded
more businesses would mean more jobs
removing abandon buildings could create jobs people could be employed to take them down
a dog section/ dog park on the beach
grocery store
eco-tourism
rent-a-bikes at the train station and Marquette Park
increasing lake traffic
federal funding
Lakeshore
eco-tourism
hotel on lake front
year-round livable accommodations
Rt. 20 could be more developed
pooling resources with other cities
working together at a County level
Create some kind of festival to promote Miller, sort of like the ethnic festival we had back in the 70s
Pavilion
parks

Lake St Beach
MCC
More clubs
National Lakeshore
eco-tourism
historical festival
create some kind of festival to promote Miller, maybe an Oktober Fest since there's a brewery
PR for Miller in general
synergy between business sphere, community and parks
eco-tourism
grocery store
revitalization
airshow
Arts District
festivals
get a weekender volunteer group together
bus to the beach
promote the homey vibe
PR in general
get a weekender volunteer group together
festivals
fishing
develop business corridor
work with city hall to support business
improve/ maintain infrastructure
Enforce ordinances; blight, litter...
Improve services; snow removal, litter, roads...
Lake St development
improve maintenance of Marquette Park
environment for sustained business including national chains
lakefront tourism
bike rentals
Shelby commercial district
art-based future
interest rates are low
property prices are down
best time to buy
we're at a positive tipping point
improve lake access
charter schools
ability to change people's outlook about Miller/ Gary

PR in general
eco-tourism
PR in general
Arts District
farmer's market
Taste of Miller Festival
more programs to get kids vested in their community
jobs
Farmer market; teach, grow, cook...
The sky is the limit!
eco-tourism
bird watching
proximity to Chicago
improve Lake St Beach, it's a gold mine
Douglas Center
mandatory community service in the schools
Wells St Beach must enforce codes
Make Marquette Park a real destination
Lake St Corridor/ business
removing abandon buildings could create jobs people could be employed to take them down
affordable housing
The South shore trains
improve our police department
infrastructure improvement
improve roads
Cultural destination; arts, shopping, dining, nature...
develop business corridor
lakefront tourism
boardwalk
build relationship with schools
band shell in Marquette
continue to improve Marquette Park
Let's not make us Disney Land, promote eco-tourism while maintaining our homey vibe
court tech companies
better PR
mentor new businesses with seasoned businesses
Lot of potential
eco-tourism
festivals
real estate
promote history

rebirth Miller and then have it effect Gary
create a thriving downtown
child-based programs
utilize Nobel for something in the community
Boost after school programs
eco-tourism
create beach camp for kids like the ones they have in Michigan City
PR in general
broaden spectrum of events
foster business
more stores that match all of our demographics
More bus stops; Douglas Center, Marquette Park, Lake St. Beach...
some sort of way to get from South Shore to beach
develop business corridor
untapped awesomeness
employ more residents
eco-tourism
more jobs
better PR
more stores that match all of our demographics
Bring back Jack Sprat's
do something with the abandon houses
Keep St. Mary's
Schools should use their parks more
Schools
youth programing
eco-tourism
boat rides to Chicago
more activities in the winter
Douglas Center
better PR
eco-tourism
jobs
do something with the abandon houses
foster business
grocery store
more housing
do something with the abandon houses
more stores that match all of our demographics
better PR
more upper level jobs, not just fast food opportunities

connective programs between local colleges and high schools
grocery store
Higher more Gary residents to be on the Gary Police force
Higher more Gary residents to work in the parks
youth programing
sports programs
do something with the abandon houses
more clean up days with the volunteer programs
more bus stops
foster more relationships with the schools and the arts district
Lake St
devi bikes
eco-tourism
jobs
job corps
CETA
grocery store
after school programming
do something with the abandon houses
recycling bin placement not right at entrance
grocery store
walkable side walks
more buses that go both ways not just in one directions
keep churches/ religious organizations open
stronger political leaders
youth programing
child-based programs
more parks
do something with the abandon houses
better PR
do something with the abandon houses
eco-tourism
eateries
get a café on 20
capitalize on our diverse housing
more police presence
substance abuse counseling
sidewalk from 3rd and Lake to Lakeshore
capitalize on Lake St Beach
The South shore trains
trucking biz

youth programing
schools
more bus stops
concert series that switched between the churches
dunes national scenic highway
eco-tourism
better PR
Miller Garden Club
community green houses
do something with the abandon houses
synergy between business sphere, community and parks
synergy between all the non for profits/ volunteer organizations
Could be utilized like Brown Co
tourism
eco-tourism
do something with the abandon houses
grocery store
utilize the Miller School as mini mall for local venders
more buses
synergy between business sphere, community and parks
PR in general
youth programing
child-based programs
after school programming
job corps
grocery store
more programs to get kids vested in their community
stores on Lake St
do something with the abandon houses
stores that reflect our actual population's needs
more bus stops
eco-tourism
devi bikes
Miller should be marketed as a resort
lake St.
green environment concepts
bus to the beach
more bus routes
more bus stops
develop business corridor
develop beach at Lake St

grocery store
youth programing
child-based programs
parent support group
swings at PSC
synergy with the community
community activities
more goodwill donation boxes so people will not just throw stuff out
2 buses for Miller
buses on Rt. 20
more festivals
organized community-wide basketball tournament
basketball hoops at PSC
pool at PSC for kids
grocery store
youth programing
child-based programs
community activities
books for kids
youth programing
child-based programs
block parties
beach activities
child-based programs
activities throughout the dunes
youth programing
parent support group
youth programing
child-based programs
more buses
more bus stops
jobs
sports programs
youth programing
child-based programs
community activities
swim lessons
educational programs
summer programs
rail cats job opportunities
Lake St. Beach marina



family-friendly dining
grocery store
move section 8 housing to less prime real-estate
better PR
succession from Gary
vested voters
more bike paths
Rt. 12 scenic highway
develop business corridor
develop 12 & 20
do something with the abandon houses
lake St.
employ more residents
Lake St Beach
have businesses within walking distance
grocery store
do something with the old Ralph's/ Wilco building
Further grow Farmer's Market
eco-tourism
hire one person to coordinate school funding/fundraise ring
more bike paths
Rt. 12 scenic highway
develop business corridor
develop 12 & 20
do something with the abandon houses
lake St.
employ more residents
Lake St Beach
have businesses within walking distance
grocery store
do something with the old Ralph's/ Wilco building
Further grow Farmer's Market
eco-tourism
hire one person to coordinate school funding/fundraise ring
more synergized community info
raise community pride
better PR
youth programing
child-based programs
marina
utilize Nobel for something in the community

utilize old Miller Town Hall for something in the community
train/ trolleys from South Shore to Beach
work on Miller's main entrances
develop business corridor
a lot of potential
eco-tourism
raise community pride
festivals
real estate
promote history
housing
more buses
cleaner safer environment
Maintain our unique vibe while promoting business
foster relationships/ business with tech companies
capitalize on prime real-estate
better PR
mentor new businesses with seasoned businesses
mentor new businesses with seasoned businesses
National Lakeshore
lots of organizations
churches
better PR
do something with the abandon houses
people
more businesses would mean more jobs
real estate
National Lakeshore
dunes national scenic highway
Lake St.
more events that mix the races and socio-economic spheres
youth programing
child-based programs
synergy between volunteer groups
mentor new businesses with seasoned businesses
incorporate schools more into the community
bed and breakfast joint
boat rides to Chicago
grocery store
mentor new businesses with seasoned businesses
develop business corridor

community activities
skateboard park for youth
skateboard park for youth
eateries
lower housing costs
lower gas prices
lower taxes
eco-tourism
zip line
National Lakeshore
Rt. 12 scenic highway
Zone Rt. 20 for residential buildings too
schools
Lake St
Lake St. Beach marina
do something with the abandon houses
grocery store
do something with Nobel
more buses
more bus stops to attractions
utilize the Miller School as mini mall for local venders
utilize the south shore
devi bikes
grocery store
utilize prisoners to clean up litter
festivals
blues fest
buses on Rt. 20
gospel fest
country fest
Enforce ordinances; blight, litter...
real estate
grocery store
better PR
Dollar Tree
community mixer
youth programing
child-based programs
Enforce ordinances; blight, litter...
National Lakeshore
youth programing

after school programming
community activities
holiday events
churches
youth programing
movie nights
pool at PSC for kids
computer classes in the community
National Lakeshore
park programming
back to school night donation fundraiser
4th of July community party
more mixing of the social classes
youth programing
movie nights
pool at PSC for kids
Enforce ordinances; blight, litter...
adopt areas for clean up
capitalize on vested volunteers
Lake St.
foster relationships/ business with tech companies
service oriented business
grocery store
airshow
welcome various caterers to the Pavilion
Lake St
sidewalk from 3rd and Lake to Lakeshore
do something with the abandon houses
Lake St
South shore
lake St. beach
more eateries
promote Douglas Center
National Lakeshore
arts
biking
lake St. marina
bus stop at beach
bus stop at Douglas Center
mentor new businesses with seasoned businesses
babysitting training

red cross
park programming
parent support group
partnership with the community
a lot of potential
raise community pride
random acts of kindness
community games
Enforce ordinances; blight, litter...
community activities
advertise community
better PR
buses don't run after 6:30pm
sidewalk from 3rd and Lake to Lakeshore
basketball hoops at PSC
grocery store
daycare options
Enforce ordinances; blight, litter...
use prisoners to pick up litter
jobs
do something with the abandon houses
grocery store
classes on mechanics
community BBQ pits
do something with the abandon houses
aide testing
cleaner safer environment
educational programs
youth programing
child-based programs
do something with Nobel
use Nobel as a community center
Lake St.
alliance with the gay community
do something with the abandon houses
National Lakeshore
natural wonders
youth programing
child-based programs
jobs
connect community with school programs

parent support group
more bus hours
community activities
eateries
grocery store
better PR
grocery store
retail store
school options
promote businesses
eco-tourism
grocery store
better PR
promoting business
youth programing
grocery store
house hold goods store
National Lakeshore
green environment concepts
better PR
more recycling
better PR
grocery store
retail store
more cafes
religious organizations
community activities
eco-tourism
do something with the old Miller Town Hall
more mixing of the social classes
festivals
better PR
youth programing
foresight
eco-tourism
grocery store
retail store
promote history
festivals
utilize library
The Douglas Center

better PR
South shore
eco-tourism
paddles for the lagoon
scenic highway promotion
better PR
do something with the abandon houses
Industrial Hub for Chicago
transportation hub
promote local businesses
joint city-wide bus services
joint city-wide bus services
voter info programming
do something with the abandon houses
grocery store
tourism
eco-tourism
require good corporate citizens
street lights
festivals
natural wonders
better PR
more mixing of the social classes
Capitalize on Rt. 20
do something with the abandon houses
devi bikes
grocery store
arts
more music programming
capitalize on gay community
more opportunities for seniors
youth programing
child-based programs
religious organizations
more unification between non-exclusive community vision
micro loan grant opportunity program for current homeowners whose property as the tipping point to becoming blighted
create a bus tracking app
more bus hours on weekends
have a Sunday bus run
Align the buses with the South Shore schedule
shuttle from South Shore Station to Lake St. Beach

bike lanes
bike rentals/ devi bikes
eco-tourism
implement a similar subsidized new business incubator as was done in Detroit where new businesses got 3 months to test out their business models
more social and business mixing with the races
improve schools
develop Lake St Beach more
Develop area around train station
fix up program for abandoned houses
new businesses
develop 12 & 20
Lake Street Beach (fix up)
history (promote and protect)
natural wonders
eco-tourism
better PR
Lake Street Beach (fix up)
services for families (counseling, HR & training)
parenting classes
capitalize on our proximity to Chicago
connect trails
youth programing
better access to quality food in general
child-based programs
capitalize on the arts
coordinate with schools and community more uniting the two
scaffold tax brackets to promote business
extend the bike trails and connect them downtown
grocery store
hotel
workshops to help teachers teach better in a multicultural environment reflective of our community
hands on training
have workshops in the schools dedicated to displaying community members who are successful
have community service be a graduation requirement for high scholars
have more shops that actually reflect our entire population's economic standing
communicate better with the City of Gary
MBA mentorship for new businesses (workshops)
more activities for elders
ADA compatible trails
need to either improve our grocery store or get a better one
open bathrooms at beach



get built restrooms not just porter potties at the beach
unify our groups more in a casual setting
improve schools
better signage
better co-mingling between the churches
work better together as a community
bring back ice skating to the lagoon
bring back Tobago slide to the lagoon
more family friendly programming
we need positive ways for youth and children to burn their energy
real bath rooms at Marquette Park
better signage
improve schools
Opportunities to draw multicultural Chicagoites here for vacation
Attract Hyde Park professionals
capitalize on our proximity to Chicago
capitalize on tourism
develop the arts district more
green urbanism
promote how much the area has been cleaned up
the train station
creating development near train station
creating well-lit ADA compatible sidewalks
complete public transit to Lake St Beach
fix up concession stand at Lake St Beach
more events near the lake
more winter events
more education classes on the environment
school system improvement
enhance local business
develop Lake St Beach more
more public transit
grocery store
old fashioned general store
wine store
better schools
more summer activities for children
open library more days
better government
better city services
code enforcement (litter & illegal dumping& noise pollution)

local mechanic
develop 12 & 20
Lake Street Beach could be capitalized
cottage industries
Wirt needs to advertise its activities more
larger grocery store
gym
community plan for rail road hazard
youth programing
green education
boat rides to Chicago
condos by train
capitalize on train station
improve schools
larger grocery store
Lake Street Beach
adopt the Douglas Center as a community center
organize rec programs at Marquette Park
better signage at Marquette Park for trails
organize an official walking club
engage the whole community
create a neighborhood nature scavenger hunt
we could use Nobel for community sports
close the gap for the Marquette Trail
Gary Green Link
develop Lake St Beach more
Capitalize on our brewery (Halo effect)
dog beach
do something with the abandon houses
bike racks at Marquette Park
electric car chargers
Air Show should be more open to venders
fireworks
concerts
promote events better
media synergy
more businesses would mean more jobs
develop 12 & 20
better schools
bigger grocery store, or fix up the one we have
Lake Street Beach

12 & 20
grocery store
more jobs
retail development on Lake Street Beach
more useful businesses
grocery store
hardware store
news stand
coffee shop
community news source
Get Lakeshore Dunes more connected with the community
more useful businesses
grocery store
develop business corridor
employment
grocery store
school system improvement
youth programing
entrances need sprucing up
bike rentals/ devi bikes
South Shore to Lake Street Beach shuttle
better grocery store
Miller Beach Arts
Arts District
Garden Club
Farmer's Market
develop business corridor
better grocery store
housing available
public transit
use public buses like the Hammond schools do it will save the city money and promote our public transit
more library hours
grocery store
news stand
entrances need sprucing up
do something with abandoned buildings
Arts District
18th St Brewery
Promote Miller better via Airshow
Farmer's Market
Better PR

promote businesses
fix up Lake Street Beach
eco-tourism
after school programming
devi bikes
more events near the lake
more events at Marquette Park
more winter events
more child-centered programming
better grocery store
more buses
better grocery store
develop business corridor
Lake Street Beach
Lake Street Beach could be capitalized
Lake Street Beach concession stand
Lake Street Beach
trollies from South Shore Station to Lake Street Beach
12 & 20 development
Lake Street Beach
12 & 20 development
trollies from South Shore Station to Lake Street Beach
better grocery store
better schools
eco-tourism
better grocery store
more stuff for kids
develop 12& 20
grocery store
school system improvement
more buses
more businesses would mean more jobs
better grocery store
12&20 development
Lake Street Beach development
Lake St development
grocery store
better schools
tear down or do something with abandoned properties
more business on Lake Street
Lake Street Beach

better schools
big grocery store
more kid friendly programs
develop business corridor
fix up Lake Street Beach
tourism
developing lakefront
educating Gary kids about unique environment
tourism
airport development would bring more people to Miller and Gary
open a trade school or promote shop classes at Wirt-Emerson
12 & 20 development
Lake Street Beach
tourism
develop business corridor
develop Lake St Beach more
better grocery store
better grocery store
keep library open and use it more as a community center
bike rentals/ devi bikes
Develop area around train station
more business
Lakefront Development
better grocery store
more business
more business
develop 12 & 20
better comingling between the classes and races at events
youth programing
kid friendly programming
develop Lake St Beach more
better grocery store
better schools
more police
better schools
fix streets
more businesses would mean more jobs
12 & 20 development
develop business corridor
capitalize on our proximity to Chicago
more jobs

more businesses would mean more jobs
more activities for elders
more after school programs
more jobs
more buses
more after school programs
more business on 12 & 20
more business near train station
Lake Street Beach
business development
12 & 20 cross roads development
fix more roads
grocery store
An opportunity would be to subsidize section 8 housing
see the opportunity in our housing value
transition from a slow tranquil place to a commercial hub
A business with a salon
a multicultural center
a variety of useful businesses
more youth groups
events in the park
rent jet skis (dock)
more options for household necessities
practical stores
develop abandoned railroad into a trail
help Miller Key Market expand and increase its quality of products
develop Lake St Beach more
develop Lake St Beach more
capitalize on our proximity to Chicago
capitalize on our midcentury modern architecture
develop the west side of Miller
revitalize downtown Miller
tons of commercial housing stock
Historic District
more walkable sidewalks on Westside
live-own spaces
12 & 20 corridor
family friendly dining
private school
tourism
eco-tourism

better PR
Lake Street Beach
trolleys from South Shore Station to Lake Street Beach
trolleys from South Shore Station to Lake Street Beach
develop Lake St Beach more
better schools
better grocery store
Lake Street Beach
trolleys from South Shore Station to Lake Street Beach
grocery store
more business
more grocery store
more library hours
more programming at the library
vacant businesses and land for business development
more stuff at Lake Street Beach
more PR
all volunteer groups work together
more business
grocery store
more family friendly programming
more family friendly dining
more business
bigger grocery store, or fix up the one we have
more businesses would mean more jobs
Lake Street Beach
trolleys from South Shore Station to Lake Street Beach
bigger grocery store, or fix up the one we have
Lake St development
12& 20 development
trolleys from South Shore Station to Lake Street Beach
concession stand and boat ramp at Lake St. Beach
more business here
more jobs
Lake St. Beach
better schools
more stuff for kids
develop Lake St Beach more
develop business near South Shore
Lake St. Beach
concession stand and boat ramp at Lake St. Beach

develop 12 & 20
more buses
more bus routes
Develop area around train station
trollies from South Shore Station to Lake Street Beach
better litter pickup
develop 12 & 20
more buses
trollies from South Shore Station to Lake Street Beach
better grocery store
more art programs
better schools
require students to do community service
Develop Lake St
Develop Lake Street Beach
better schools
more jobs
more programs to get kids vested in their community
better schools
more kid friendly programs
use park more
more buses
better grocery store
jobs
more buses
more bus hours
better schools
more programs to get kids vested in their community
more jobs
develop 12 & 20
eco-tourism
Lake St development
capitalize on existing grocery store
shuttle from South Shore Station to Lake St. Beach
advertise to Chicago folks
Capitalize on Lake St
more sidewalks
devi bikes
capitalize on our existing structures
more business
Lake Street Beach



more buses
build a grocery store
build a hardware store
could be developed more
more housing options on Miller Ave
12& 20 could have more retail
more entertainment options
more bike trails
Gary Green Link
rental bikes
engage youth to volunteer more
engage local schools to do community service
youth programing
grocery store
strip mall
land we need to develop
hardware store
foster more business
Aquarium at Aquatorium
terrarium at Aquatorium
eco-tourism
retail development on Lake Street Beach
bakery
hotel
motel
recreation
movie theater
more live theater
more police presence
more jobs
more tutoring for adults
youth programing
parenting classes
more mixing of the social classes
more mixing of the races at events
more mindful of different religious holidays
adult education
have churches do a shuttle to truck stops
media synergy
a lot of potential
develop business

pulling everyone together we need to learn to play nice together (collective impact)
location
business development
business expansion
eco-tourism
marina
boat launch
decent wages
hire qualified Gary folks
grocery store
more jobs
better grocery store
more buses
more jobs
better schools
more stuff for kids
more jobs
more jobs
Lake Street Beach
develop 12 & 20
kid friendly programming

**All Threats Comments (Raw form)**

<b>Threats</b>
lack of PR
corporations not being good corporate citizens
taxes/ property tax perception
under represented down state
racial divide
Indiana legislator
under represented down state
pollution
crime from outsiders
illegal dumping
Gary city government; graft and self interest
bad rep by being associated with Gary
national reactionary thinking
Transient community
don't commercialize the beach too much
don't make us Disneyland

security
crime
apathy
unemployment rate
partisan politics
partisan politics
corporate tax rate
PSC's reputation
guilt by association with Gary
losing businesses
other communities poaching our business
outsider's perception of Gary
robberies
crime rate
losing community by displacing our community
gentrification
potential bankruptcy of Gary
city's inability to work easily with new businesses
losing money to other communities
lack of communication
losing money to other communities
crime
perceived danger
taxes/ property tax perception
lack of ability for city and Miller to communicate
lack of ability for city and miller to work together
Gary's bad rep
Gary's bad rep for attracting unqualified teachers
alcoholism
drug addiction
complacency
lack of skilled labor
gangs coming in from other areas
gentrification
taxes/ property tax perception
tax management
nepotism
natural disaster
crime
Gary School Corporation
seasonal residency

air pollution
prejudice between both sides of our main race population
peer pressure
status quo thinking
lack of birth control use
gangs coming in from other areas
not enough police
politicians (local)
apathy
no voters
collapse in residence due to a boom in crime
outside crime
breakdown in communications
reasonable business development is stifled by city's slow response to basic requests
Lake Michigan becoming toxic
environment-pollution
people leaving due to lack of business
guilt by association with Gary
the perception of Gary
Gary going bankrupt
false image of Miller and Gary (negative perception)
Indianapolis doesn't recognize our issues
US Steel shutdown
US Steel ignoring city
visitors not understanding proper lake etiquette
city's inability to work easily with new businesses
city makes it difficult for contractors like roofers, plumbers... to get permits
bi partisan issues
Gary politics
train derailments
train hazards
perceived danger
bi partisan issues
Gary politics
train derailments
train hazards
perceived danger
perception of Gary keeps business out
other communities poaching our business
deer
ticks

feral cats
ticks
outside communities poaching our business
Lake Shore Dunes drug situation
city hall
state of Indiana is negligent when it comes to NWI
partisan politics
steel mills shutting down
selling out
gentrification
outside violence
industry leaving
city going bankrupt
pollution
guilt by association with Gary
crime
perception
targeted break-ins
stagnant development of some areas
Lake Shore Dunes fluxing population
other communities poaching our business
city of Gary's bad rep for fostering business
safety
crime
absentee landlords
outside crime
lack of safety
panhandlers
south shore schedule not published consistently
loss of parking on Shelby & Locust
outside crime moving in
illegal dumping
losing money to other communities
absentee landlords
property value decreasing
vacation homeowners not being vested
Airshow; garbage, crime...
stigma of Miller being a whites only community
guilt by association of being part of Gary
politics downstate
perception of crime

gentrification
pollution
losing Woodson Library
closing of the library
losing businesses to neighboring towns
train derailments
deer ticks
crime
library closing
fires
pollution
losing businesses to neighboring towns
pollution
pollution
crime
pollution
toxic disaster
crime
perception of Gary keeps business out
possibility of increased taxes
need more monitoring of school referendum
need to monitor air and water pollution
US steel leaving
down state political BS
Gov. Pence making all Hoosiers look like idiots!
library closing
pollution
perception of scary Gary
crime
crime
apathy
pollution
city going bankrupt
crime
pollution
library closing
pollution
perception of crime
US steel leaving
crime
gangs coming in from other areas

drugs
When Chicago Housing projects were knocked down it caused issues for Miller
loitering
littering
crime rising at Lake Shore Dunes
garbage dumping
crime
drugs
pollution
city of Gary's government disintegrating
break-ins
littering
financial threat from city of Gary
crime
city can't run itself
perception of crime
school system
Fucking Gov. Pence!
perception
pollution
crime
pollution
library closing
low tax collection threatens city services
low voter turnout translates to poor city council and school board representation
library closing
politicians
losing US Steel
crime moving in
litter
pollution
crime
toxic disaster
train accident
perception
scary Gary
pollution
Gov. Pence making all Hoosiers look like idiots!
losing the business we have
pollution
crime coming in from Chicago

losing South Shore Station
gangs coming in from other areas
outside crime
pollution
ticks
guilt by association with Gary
major businesses pulling out
city going bankrupt
pollution
bad rep by being associated with Gary
outside crime
gangs
drugs
outside crime
new people
crime
gangs
pollution
losing business
politics
city of Gary
association with the city of Gary
Gov. Pence making all Hoosiers look like idiots!
train derailments
outsides
litter
Gary going bankrupt
political issues
gangs
drugs
city leadership
threats from the section 8 housing residents form Chicago
apathy
rental house owners not vested
gangs
absentee landlords
losing money to other communities
outside communities poaching our business
gangs
demographics shifting
gentrification



gangs coming in from other areas
business being poached by other communities
apathy
corruption
poor education
poor communication across the board
crime
guilt by association with Gary
random acts of violence
city gov
Influence of IL people/ transient crime population
absentee landlords
slum lords
taxes not being paid
US steel leaving
no jobs
pollution
no jobs
gangs
crime
violent crime
drugs

## **What's next???**

The community will host a Visioning Session on July 7, 2015 at 6:30pm at the Marshall J. Gardner Center for the Arts. Attendees will help construct Gary-Miller's community vision and sign up to join Action Groups to help access the themes presented in this quality of life study. The Action Groups will meet 3-6 times between July and September to construct plans to access each theme. Afterwards the community builder and IACED will construct a Community Plan that will be implemented in 2016.

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