

South Wilmington Planning Network

2021 Overview, Structure and Strategic Plan

OVERVIEW

Mission Statement

The mission of the South Wilmington Planning Network (SWPN) is to serve as a vehicle for information and the leveraging of resources on collaborative projects to improve the quality of life for the South Wilmington community.

Vision Statement

We envision the SWPN to be a place where ideas and information are shared and partnerships are created with the purpose of positively impacting South Wilmington and its communities.

STRUCTURE

A Core Group comprised of founding agencies and current Network chair(s), guides the work of the SWPN. The SWPN itself is led by a chair and vice-chair, who set agendas, run meetings and facilitate communication among members.

The Core Group currently consists of the following members:

Brittany Salen, Co-Chair

Executive Director
Environmental Justice Initiative

William Swiatek, Co-Chair

Principal Planner
Wilmington Area Planning Council

Michelle Harlee,

Councilperson
City of Wilmington

Rysheema Dixon
Councilperson
City of Wilmington

Diana Dixon,
Vice President
Southbridge Civic Association

Damon Bagwell,
Treasurer
Southbridge Civic Association

Travis Smith, Sr.,
President
Southbridge Connects

Alison Windle,
Executive Director
Neighborhood House

Victor Perez,
Associate Professor
University of Delaware

Marie Reed,
Past President
Southbridge Civic Association

Ella Edwards,
Health Promotion Advocate
Henrietta Johnson Medical Center

John Harrod
Director
DuPont Environmental Education Center

Russ Zerbo

Advocate
Clean Air Council

Kate Dupont Phillips
Executive Director
Healthy Communities Delaware

OVERVIEW

The South Wilmington Planning Network (SWPN) functions in collaboration with neighborhood residents, policy makers, non-profit organizations, and local agencies.

The SWPN seeks to communicate and integrate collaborative and inclusive mechanisms for improving the quality of life in South Wilmington. By incorporating the experiences and local knowledge of residents while maintaining focus on community education and meaningful engagement throughout all planning processes, the SWPN has proven that this reflexive methodology is dependent on a Holistic Approach to Community Health Model (see below) at every level of planning.

1. RESEARCH AND COLLABORATE

Community Identity and Local Support

2. OUTREACH AND EDUCATE

Community Leadership and Relationship Building

3. ENGAGE AND INTEGRATE

Community Participation and Collective Empowerment

4. REMAIN AND MAINTAIN

Community Access and Sustainability

2021 STRATEGIC PLAN

General Initiatives

- Update to the Neighborhood Plan
- Implementation efforts of the 2006 Neighborhood Plan
- Program Support
- Member Agency Support
- Policy Advocacy
- Bring on intern
- Website refresh

Key Efforts

- **Update the Southbridge Neighborhood Plan** – Grant funding was received through Healthy Communities Delaware to create a Southbridge Neighborhood Action Plan. This plan will build off both the 2006 South Wilmington Neighborhood Plan and Wilmington’s 2028 Comprehensive Plan. The SWPN will work closely with the Southbridge Civic Association, residents, and SWPN partners to create this plan.
- **Barbara Hicks Park Revitalization** – Grant funding was awarded to complete a portion of the Hicks Park Revitalization Plan, created by the SWPN. The SWPN will continue to pursue additional funding streams to complete the full project.

- **Southbridge Streetscape Projects** – The SWPN will continue to work to implement the streetscape recommendations in the 2008 Southbridge Circulation Study. Phase I has been constructed, Phase II has been funded and is awaiting implementation, and a request for Phase III funding has been submitted.
- **Transportation Connections Projects** – The SWPN will continue to advocate for improved transportation connections from Southbridge to the Riverfront. The A Street Path is funded and awaiting construction; so too is the trail through the Southbridge Wetland Park. Additional connections are needed to the south, including a new road “New Sweden Road Extended” which would link Church Street with the new Christina River Bridge, along with sidewalk access to Garasches Ln.
- **Flood Reduction / Sea Level Rise Adaptation Support** – The SWPN will continue to support the implementation of the Southbridge Wetland Park project and advocate for additional flood and sea level rise mitigation efforts in Southbridge, including the introduction of green infrastructure.
- **Lower Christina and Brandywine Remediation, Restoration and Resilience (CBR4) Plan** – the SWPN will work with the Delaware Nature Society and others to seek community input and perspectives to inform strategies and projects to restore the health of Wilmington’s rivers and riverfront areas for fish, wildlife, and people. In 2021-2022 this planning process coordinated by the Christina Conservancy and American Rivers, working closely with DNREC and others, will develop high priority projects and actions to be taken over the next ten years.
- **Support Community Air Monitoring** – The SWPN will support the Clean Air Council (CAC) with the deployment of community air monitors. CAC can help residents monitor the air with personal particulate matter monitors. The monitor is free and will be given to residents who request one. They can help make sure nearby industry or construction is following local public health regulations. Anyone with wireless internet and accessible electricity is eligible, please contact Russell Zerbo at rzerbo@cleanair.org

- o [Click here to view air monitors operating live in Southbridge and surrounding communities.](#)
- o [Click here for a printable handout about the project with contact information and public service information.](#)