

RIVERSIDE

Normal City

N e i g h b o r h o o d

History

Normal City and Riverside were blossoming communities in the early 1900s and were created to expand the city of Muncie. While Normal City was developed in January of 1899, Riverside was developed as a separate municipality in 1918. To gain attraction, the Normal City community offered a free trip to the neighborhood. Normal City was initially named after the normal school, the predecessor to Ball State University, and offered reduced lot sales to people to gain attraction to the school in 1899.

The newly developing neighborhood gained the most attraction through incentives on land and genuine curiosity for the school in Normal City. By 1903, the population consisted of mostly businessmen living in the Riverside suburb in order to escape from the increasingly dense downtown atmosphere. The Riverside Historic District would later be added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1999;

Historically, the housing in this area has consisted of three main housing types. This includes bungalows, contemporary homes, and two-story frame homes. Bungalows, typically found south of Jackson Street, consisted of a simple floor plan with rooms opening into one another and had no provisions for automobiles. Contemporary style housing was popular nearest the Hazelwood Christian Church and at this time in the early 1950s, these homes were developed for residents who would soon retire. Two-story frame housing was developed south of University Street, between Light and Dicks Street, and were mostly larger homes for bigger households.

“Out From The Ashes”

The Riverside/Normal City Neighborhood Association received the Phoenix award for re-vamping its neighborhood plan. This award was presented by the Muncie Action Plan Task Force 2 chairs at December 2014 Neighborhood President’s Council meeting. Prior to 2014, the neighborhood association had been dormant for quite some time. The association worked with a class of Ball State University Urban Planning majors in the fall of 2015 to develop a neighborhood action plan that helps define goals for improving the area. These goal groups include:

- 1.) Business
- 2.) Housing Stock
- 3.) Public Infrastructure
- 4.) Resident Relations & Identity
- 5.) Upkeep

The Neighborhood Association was busy at the January meeting reviewing the goals and corresponding initiatives to prioritize projects that can be started right away. We can use your help! Neighborhood Association meetings are held at Hazelwood Christian Church Fellowship House (mansion) 1400 W. University. Please review the plan online at riverside-normalcity.wordpress.com



Boundaries, Projects & Places Identity
Priority Map

