
The Lakefront Revitalization Plan

Bringing the Lakefront Home



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Foreword

This Cleveland Lakefront Revitalization Plan was created by the graduate students in the Spring 2009 PDD 611 Planning Capstone course at the Levin College of Urban Affairs of Cleveland State University. It is the product of four months and thousands of hours of work by the 30 planning students who contributed to this final document. It is also a result of the contributions of our instructors, guest speakers, and the many people, both professionals and citizens, who shared their knowledge and opinions about Cleveland's lakefront and planning in general. This plan was presented to the public on Tuesday, May 12, 2009 at the Levin College of Urban Affairs.

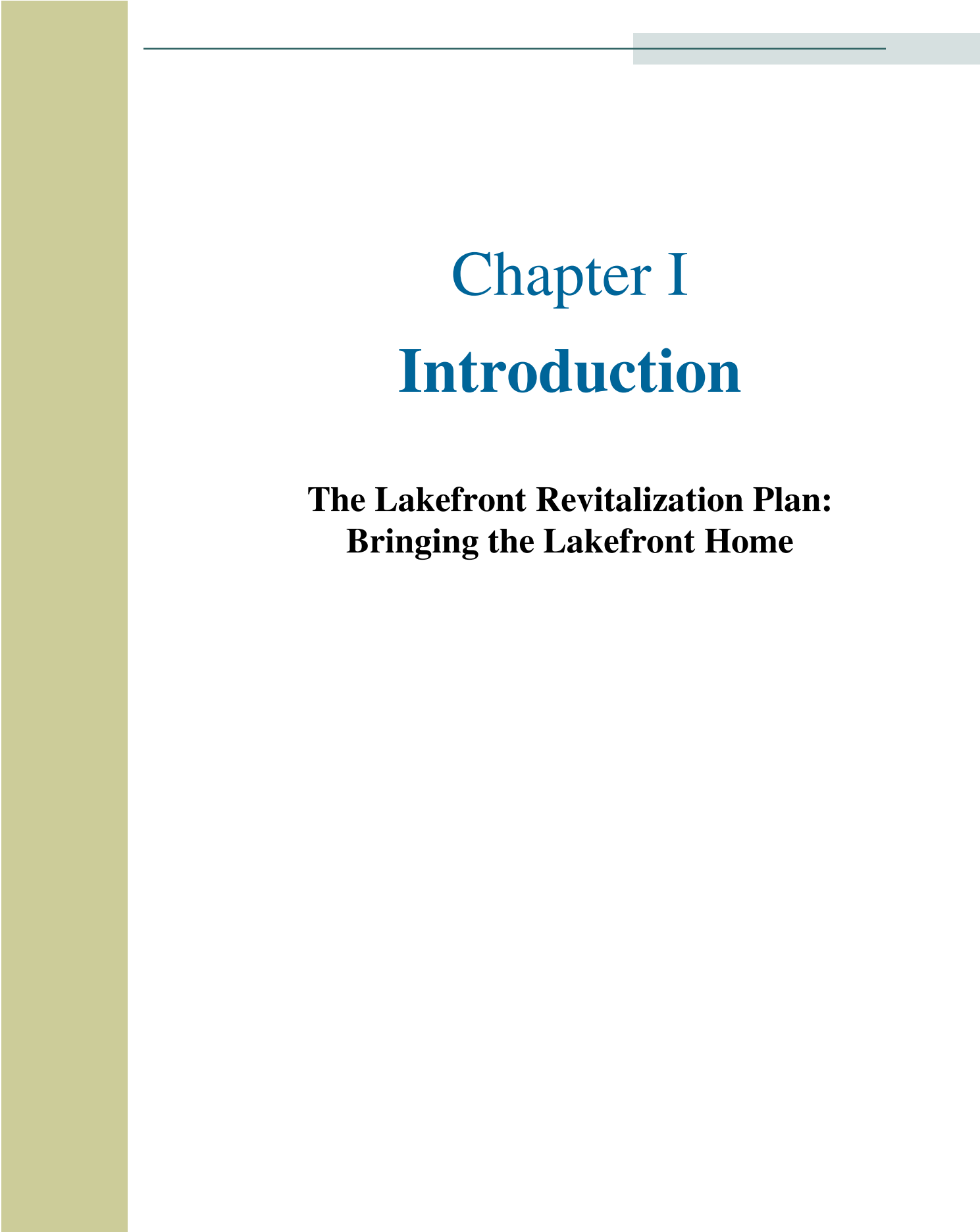
It was a goal of the planning team to produce a plan that is both visionary and grounded in reality. The visionary aspect is in line with Daniel Burnham's oft quoted admonition to "make no little plans." In that light, this plan proposes many projects, including a new entertainment district along the downtown lakefront, signature bridges and greenways to connect the lakefront parks, innovative opportunities to take advantage of the current foreclosure crisis to improve neighborhoods, and new mechanisms and cooperative efforts to collectively manage and fund lakefront revitalization.

At the same time, this plan addresses the reality on the ground. The team specifically chose to work within the constraints of various proposals that have already generated great debate in the City of Cleveland and the region. Realizing that many of these controversial projects will come to fruition, we believed it was important to create a more beautiful and vibrant lakefront within that context rather than some idealized vision. This plan works from a three phase timeline, and many of the proposals try to address the challenges of implementation directly.

It is our hope that the Cleveland Lakefront Revitalization Plan meets the high expectations of the community in addressing both the very real needs of a city and region still experiencing economic distress and looking for solutions, and a city and region also looking for an inspired vision of the future in connecting to Lake Erie one of our most valuable assets.

Lakefront Revitalization Plan Steering Committee

14 May 2009



Chapter I

Introduction

**The Lakefront Revitalization Plan:
Bringing the Lakefront Home**

VISION:

An accessible and vibrant lakefront utilized by all citizens for live, work, and play

MISSION STATEMENT:

To reconnect the people of Greater Cleveland and the region to the lakefront by developing creative and comprehensive strategies to enhance green space and reimagine its recreational, ecological, and economic uses.

PLANNING PRINCIPLES:

- Reconnect people to the Cleveland lakefront, both through improved physical connections and improved recreational opportunities.
- Incorporate changing land use patterns into creative green space strategies.
- Create a comprehensive strategy for ongoing funding and administration of Cleveland's lakefront parks and green spaces.
- Balance recreation, environmental improvement and economic development in Cleveland's lakefront areas.

