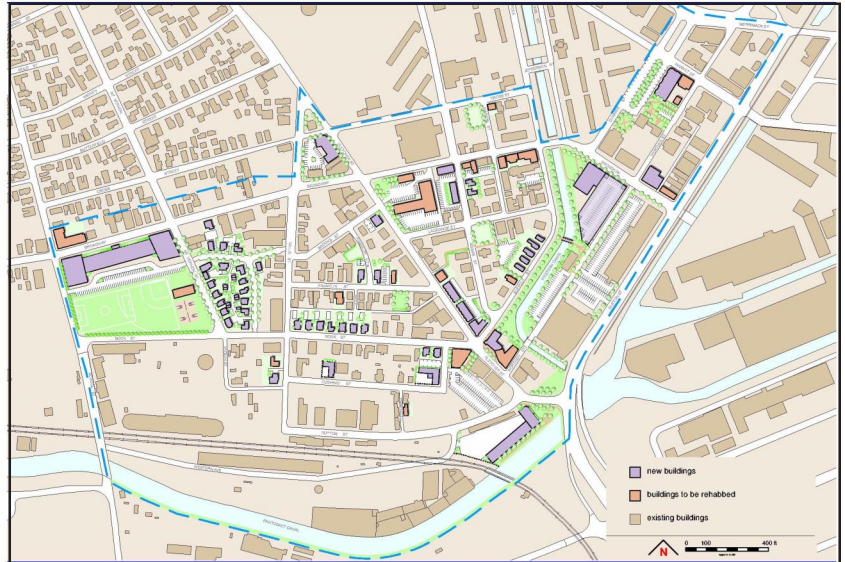


The City of Lowell has taken advantage of the state urban renewal program to help stimulate development of a targeted portion of its Acre neighborhood. The Acre neighborhood has historic significance in the City, as it was settled by Irish immigrants and has since become home to a melting pot of immigrants from several countries making their first home in the United States.

The Acre Plan was the product of a 10-month planning process, guided by a 29-member Citizens Advisory Committee made up of representatives from a cross-section of residents, businesses, agencies, and DPD Staff, a group that continues to meet today. The City Council approved the Plan in June of 1999 and State approval from the Department of Housing and Community Development was received in January of 2000.



A few of the major aspects of the plan include the acquisition of 18.28 acres of the targeted area, the construction of an Acre middle school, infrastructure improvements, and new zoning intended to increase residential and commercial uses and to resolve incompatible land uses. In February of 2000, new zoning was instituted and the Acre Neighborhood District. Public improvements have already begun on several streets, with roadway repaving, brick sidewalks, historic curb setting, Victorian lighting, and underground utility work underway.

The school site is undergoing an environmental evaluation and that information is being reviewed and presented to the public. The former City Barns is currently being rehabilitated to become the new Telemachus M. Demoulas Senior Center, which is located across the street from a new Market Basket supermarket.



< LEFT - Market Basket opened in the heart of the Acre in 1997. Just across the street a new Senior Center is under construction.

For more information on the Acre Plan, contact:

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