Akron's Neighborhoods

Special Collections Division
Akron-Summit County Public Library
60 S. High Street, Akron, Ohio 44326
330-643-9030
speccollections@akronlibrary.org

Neighborhoods are the building blocks of a city. The residents and organizations that make up a neighborhood often change over time with the arrival of new cultural groups and shifts in a city's industrial and economic landscape. Neighborhoods are more than streets and residences; they include the schools, places of worship, cultures, traditions, organizations and events that inhabitants experience in their daily lives.

This guide provides a selection of resources with information about Akron's neighborhoods. Where indicated, please check the Library's catalog (accessible through the Library's home page at www.akronlibrary.org) for copies available to check out. **All other books and Special Collections resources are for in-house reference use only within the Special Collections Division**.

Books and Microfilm

Akron Department of Planning and Urban Renewal. Summit Lake Park Master Plan. 1978. Akron Public Schools. What's in a Name?: Origin of Names for Schools in the Akron Public School District. 1997. (Check catalog)

Blower, Arthur H. How it was Named: A Booklet Showing How Places in Summit County were named. 1953.

Cahill, Carol. Historic Highland Square. 1984.

Dyer, Joyce. Goosetown: Reconstructing an Akron Neighborhood. 2010. (Check catalog)

Frazier, Kevan Delany. Model Industrial Subdivisions: Goodyear Heights and Firestone Park and the Town Planning Movement in Akron, Ohio, 1910-1920. 1994.

Gardner, Dick. Memories of Ellet: Only Yesterday. 1996. (Check catalog)

Johnston, W. A., and Olin, O. E. Barberton and Kenmore, Ohio: The Golden Years. 1976.

Lewis, Clarice Finley. A History of Firestone Park. 1986. (Check catalog)

Musarra, Russ and Chuck Ayers. Walks around Akron: Rediscovering a City in Transition. 2007. (Check catalog)

Portage Lakes-Kenmore Herald (newspaper on microfilm). 1953-1965.

Quine, Cloyd R. Old Akron's One-Room Schoolhouses. 1959.

Smith, Kris Runberg. Housing with Dignity: Sixty years of the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority. 2000.

Troup, Tammy L. Building East Akron: The Local Vision of F. A. Seiberling and the City of Akron. 2008. This book is also available online through the OhioLink Electronic Theses & Dissertations Center.

West Hill Neighborhood Organization. West Hill Newsletter. 2009-2013.

Online Books and Images

Summit Memory
www.summitmemory.org

Views of Akron, Ohio and Environs
http://www.akronlibrary.org/images/Divisions/SpecCol/images/views_of_akron.pdf

West Hill Sketch Book
www.akronlibrary.org/images/Divisions/SpecCol/images/West_Hill_Homes.pdf

Finding Aids to Special Collections Archival Collections

Akron Public Schools - High school yearbooks (Schools and years available vary)

Memories of Downtown
www.akronlibrary.org/images/Divisions/SpecCol/images/Memories-of-Downtown.pdf

Neighborhood History Project
www.akronlibrary.org/images/Divisions/SpecCol/images/Neighborhood-History-Project.pdf

Wallpaper Project
www.akronlibrary.org/images/Divisions/SpecCol/images/Wallpaper-Project.pdf

Other Special Collections Resources

Akron and Summit County atlases and maps– Some are available on Summit Memory
www.summitmemory.org/cdm/onlinemaproom

Akron city directories (1859 – 1968/69) available in the division as well as online at
www.akronlibrary.org/locations/main-library/special-collections/genealogy/historic-city-directories

Archives Catalog: Catalog of local archival collections and photographs.
https://gencat.eloquent-systems.com/akronlibrary/public

Vertical files – Folders of newspaper article clippings about Akron neighborhoods.

Local Resources

Akron Neighborhood Profiles (City of Akron)
www.akronohio.gov/cms/site/c95aa0fb68bb58c8/index.html

Akron Ward Maps – Current (Summit County Board of Elections)
www.summitcountyboe.com/AreaMaps.aspx

East Akron Neighborhood Development Corporation
http://eandc.org

Highland Square Neighborhood Association
www.highlandsquare.org

Kenmore Historical Society
www.kenmorehistorical.org

West Hill Neighborhood Organization
www.whno.org/about_us.aspx

West Side Leader/South Side News Leader (Akron and nearby communities)
www.akron.com

Westside Neighborhood Development Corporation
www.wendco.org