

NORTHSIDE PORCH TOUR

Connecting Community to History



HISTORY



Every other autumn, Northside residents prepare for the biennial Porch Tour—a celebration of Northside’s streetscapes. The Porch Tour was created in 1997 by local architect Tim Jeckering and the Northside Community Council. His goal was to create a street festival that showcased the Victorian work of Irish and German craftspeople from the 1890s through 1940. Once upon a time, porches were known as gathering places—somewhere you could escape the heat and meet as a neighborhood

for local conversations. Northside recreates its Victorian history every other October as residents set up luminarias, ride in horse drawn carriages, share food, drink and music, and engage in friendly conversations. The Porch Tour is an immersive experience whereby the community rallies together to listen to a historical narrative and celebrate its signature feature.



PREPARATION

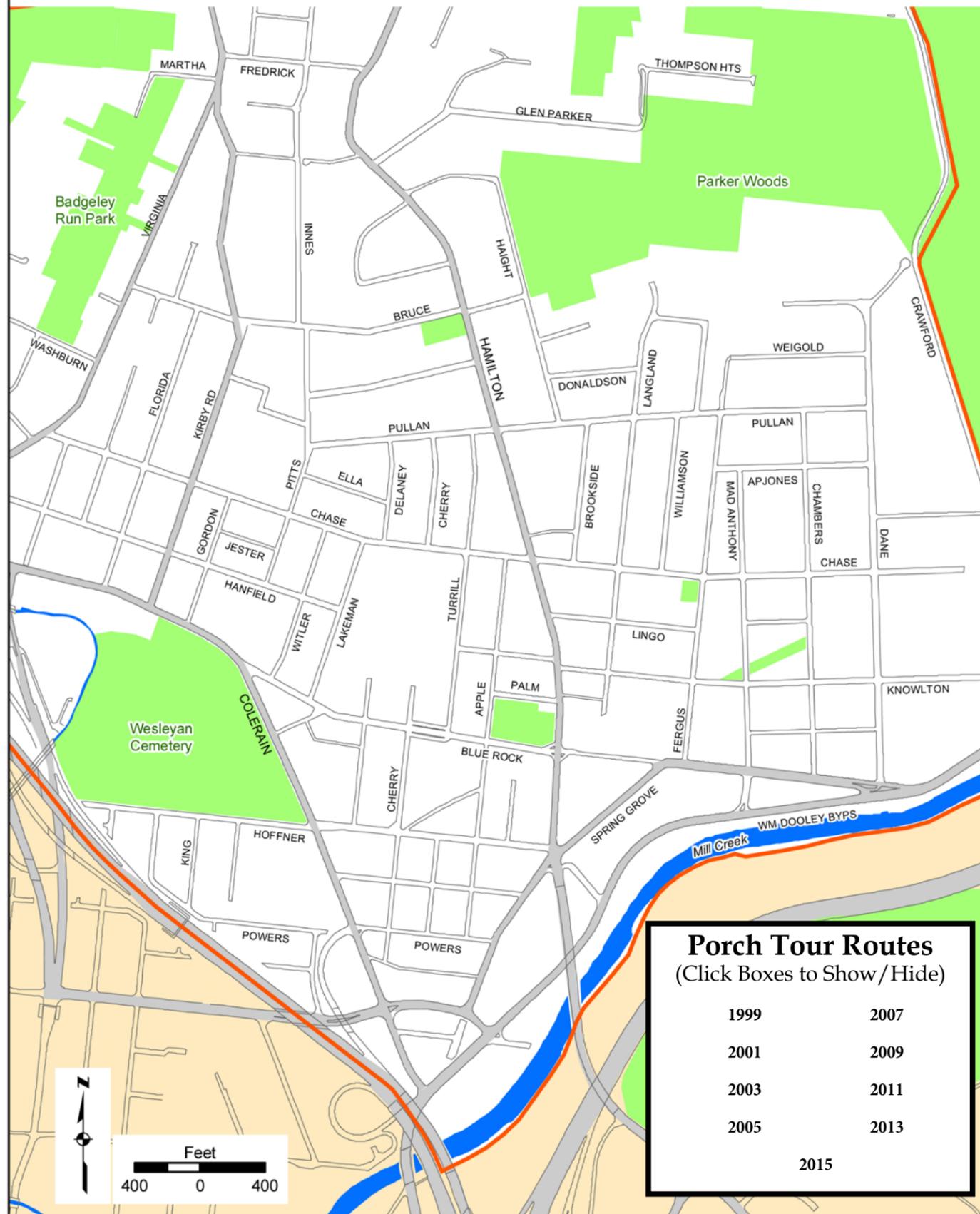


Flyers are passed out starting months prior to the event in the hopes that everyone in Northside will join the festivities on the chosen night. Residents on that year’s predetermined tour route are encouraged to paint their porch, plant a garden, and assign a “block captain”—a volunteer to be

in charge of 10-12 adjacent houses. Volunteers clean up the streets, from litter control to landscaping. As nightfall approaches, the neighborhood places their luminarias along the streets. Up to 3,000 luminarias are created for abundant and atmospheric lighting. Tim Jeckering creates the route for every Porch Tour and changes the location each time. This gives Northside residents a chance to meet and greet new neighbors at each event, as well as encourage people of all backgrounds to participate.



NORTHSIDE PORCH TOUR



THE TOUR

The Porch Tour takes place on an October night from 6pm-9pm. Upon arrival to the Porch Tour, attendees are greeted by a 20-person, horse-drawn carriage, rented with funding from the Northside Community Fund. Guests pay a small \$3 fee to ride along with others and learn about Northside's historical landscape. Some residents have parties on their porch to excite others about the historical nature of Northside. An architectural narrator shares stories and history along the route while dressed in Victorian era clothing. Everyone is encouraged to dress up in Victorian get-up to set the scene from the 1800s. Past porch tours have even welcomed Mary and Abe Lincoln to the event!

Located below is a video interview with Erica Riddick, a local Northside architect and architectural narrator on the Porch Tour. In it, Erica discusses how she got involved with the Porch Tour, goes into detail about the role of architectural narrators and speaks about the importance of the event to the Northside community.



[Click Here to View Video Interview](#)

FOOD, MUSIC AND FUN



Along with partaking in the tour ride, attendees are encouraged to enjoy live, local music, food and drink. The Northside's Citizen on Patrol volunteers provide some backyard flare by grilling out hamburgers and hot dogs. They also set-up a face painting station which is popular among the children.

The Porch Tour is about neighborhood pride. It makes the people of Northside feel welcome and creates friendships among entire

blocks. Not only does the Porch Tour lead to spring block parties, but it decreases drug dealer activity as everyone watches out for their street and each other's properties.

From volunteer cleanups to horse drawn carriage rides and block party staples, the porch tour is an event the entire Northside community looks forward to and enjoys.

