

Neighborhood Wellness

Champaign, Illinois

Vision Report



*Cover:
A typical tree-lined street near Clark Park in Planning Area 10.
Photo by Rob Kowalski*

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Many thanks to the residents and City staff who participated in input gathering sessions and submitted information for the document.





A lovely home in the Garden Park neighborhood, Planning Area 1.

Photo by Lacey Rains

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What is Neighborhood Wellness?

Neighborhood wellness is the desired quality of life for all of Champaign's neighborhoods. This term is deliberately used as concepts associated with wellness such as health, well-being, and stability describe the ideal conditions that should exist in every City neighborhood. Neighborhood wellness is defined by safe, sound, and affordable housing; well maintained private yards and public spaces; a safe environment; and sound public infrastructure. Neighborhood wellness also aims to preserve neighborhood character and promote resident involvement in neighborhood affairs.

History

The concept of neighborhood wellness originated in the late 1980s as part of a citywide planning effort to promote healthy and stable neighborhoods. Prior to this planning effort, the City had concentrated its housing rehabilitation programs, intensive code enforcement, and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)-funded capital improvements almost exclusively in the northeast section of the City. Neighborhoods that experienced extensive deterioration were targeted for clearance, and this was funded with federal and state grants. By the mid-1980s, grants that had been available for these costly clearance projects were no longer available, so in 1985, the City Council moved to expand community development activities citywide. Utilizing a citywide neighborhood wellness program, the City began to attack blight and decline at an earlier stage to prevent the need for massive neighborhood clearance and redevelopment.

In 1992, the City Council adopted the Neighborhood Wellness Action Plan, identifying strategies to deliver neighborhood-based services throughout the City. The document was awarded a National Planning Award from the American Planning Association, as the first of its kind to recognize that each neighborhood is unique and requires different levels of service delivery. After classifying neighborhoods by their level of 'wellness', strategies were identified to address goals in the areas of housing, property maintenance, crime/public safety, infrastructure, and citizen involvement. For fourteen years, this Plan has served as a foundation for the City's neighborhood-based services.

Why have a Neighborhood Wellness Plan?

The Neighborhood Wellness Plan has two parts, the Vision and Analysis Report and the Action Plan. Together, they present a comprehensive strategy for addressing the issues faced by individual neighborhoods. Neighborhood wellness has been a successful program producing notable improvements in the City since 1992. The Neighborhood Wellness Plan documents identify neighborhood problems and needs, recognize neighborhood priorities, and develop programs to efficiently allocate City resources.

Interdepartmental Coordination and Support

Neighborhood wellness is a tool to coordinate the activities across department boundaries in order to make the greatest possible impact in our neighborhoods. Wellness activities cannot succeed without this cooperation. The primary departments implementing wellness activities include the Neighborhood Services department, Public Works Department, Police Department and Planning Department.



Introduction

Many of the long term strategies and programs in the Neighborhood Wellness Vision and Analysis Report have a direct relationship with City Council goals. Council goals set priorities for implementation of Plan strategies. It is also important that strategies be consistent with City codes such as the property maintenance and zoning ordinances. As codes are enforced by the City, they also achieve goals identified in the Plan.

Why have a Neighborhood Wellness Plan?

- To convey a vision for the City's neighborhoods.
- To represent residents' interests and priorities for their neighborhoods.
- To customize strategies to address the unique needs of specific geographic areas.
- To promote citizen partnerships with local government in improving neighborhoods.
- To detect and eliminate conditions which cause neighborhood deterioration and resident dissatisfaction.
- To improve coordination of City services and maximize the use of available resources in response to neighborhood needs.
- To guide funding decisions regarding neighborhood improvements.

The Neighborhood Wellness Plan documents coordinate with other policy documents that are also tools for strategy implementation. For example, the Neighborhood Services Department creates the Consolidated Plan, a five year strategic plan that outlines specific housing policies and programs. Knowing the major housing issues and priorities, the Consolidated Plan will direct its resources appropriately. Other departments' strategic plans are also coordinated with the Neighborhood Wellness efforts to ensure that services are delivered effectively. Neighborhood-specific plans, such as the Beardsley Park Neighborhood Improvement Plan, identify action steps to address the unique needs of a targeted geographic area, but the actions remain consistent with the general policy direction of the Vision and Analysis Report.

Update Process

The Neighborhood Wellness Plan documents must be updated regularly to ensure that the strategies and programs are based upon current neighborhood conditions. The process is similar to that utilized for the City's Comprehensive Plan. It is an ongoing process that requires monitoring and testing of strategies to reflect changing conditions, neighborhood needs, and resident priorities.

1992 Neighborhood Wellness Action Plan

Being an element of the City's Comprehensive Plan, the planning process for the 1992 Neighborhood Wellness Plan and 1992 Comprehensive Plan ran on parallel tracts. Two key documents were created to support preparation of both plans. In 1991, the City Inventory and the Neighborhood Analysis Report were created to provide the City with background information to assist in preparing the plans. The documents also served as reference sources for public officials, students,

businesses, and the general public. The City Inventory is a community profile, tracking at the City level, conditions and trends in the areas of municipal government, population, economics, housing, utilities and infrastructure, land use, community facilities, transportation, environment, and social concerns. The Neighborhood Analysis Report took this compilation of information a step further by collecting data at a more detailed level, including an analysis of neighborhood physical, economic, social conditions and trends.

Additionally, public input crossed over between the two plans. Neighborhood meetings were held early in the process to obtain residents' perspectives on the future of the City in general as well as their comments regarding issues and conditions within their neighborhoods.

Apart from activities that contributed to the development of the 1992 Comprehensive Plan, there were five major phases in developing the 1992 Neighborhood Wellness Action Plan. The first phase defined planning areas within the City. The purpose of creating planning areas was to have manageable study areas to evaluate neighborhood conditions, gather resident input, and target City services. When the neighborhood wellness program began, there was little documentation of neighborhood conditions throughout the City; nor was there a method in place to measure these conditions. The second phase involved collecting specific data to evaluate social, economic, and physical conditions in each of 15 planning areas. This information was used for the third phase, to classify four levels of neighborhood wellness: healthy, conservation, preservation, and restoration. The fourth phase, public participation and input, took place during the entire process. Lastly, the fifth phase was the development of an action plan that included goals, objectives, and strategies for each neighborhood wellness classification and an implementation schedule for the Plan's programs.

2006 Neighborhood Wellness Action Plan

Updating the 1992 Neighborhood Wellness Action Plan began in 2002 with an extensive process to identify current neighborhood issues and needs. The 2006 Neighborhood Wellness Action Plan is a new policy document that replaces the former plan. Its components are similar to the 1992 Plan with goals and strategies resulting from updated data analyses and new public input. Public participation played a critical role in the Plan's development.

Components of the Neighborhood Wellness Vision and Analysis Report

- Data Collection** Between 2002 and 2003, Staff collected data related to population and household characteristics, housing conditions and characteristics, real estate, property maintenance, infrastructure, and public safety. During this time, Staff updated the City's planning area map by designating new planning areas to reflect new and future development.
- Analysis Report** The 2003 Neighborhood Analysis Report is an analysis of all data collected for each of the seventeen planning areas. In addition to presenting the quantitative findings from the data, the Neighborhood Classification System, from the previous report, was applied to determine whether a planning area was ranked as healthy, conservation, preservation or restoration. The Neighborhood Classification System is a tool that helps determine whether progress has been made in the past ten years, and which community indicators need more attention in each of the planning areas.
- Public Input** Several activities were used to gather public input on the Plan and to further identify neighborhood issues. In Fall of 2002, Staff held a series of neighborhood meetings to learn about neighborhood issues from residents. An on-line survey and several "Mobile City Halls" were held at this time. The "Mobile City Halls" were events where Staff representing departments such as Planning, Neighborhood Services, Police, Fire, and Public Works went out into the community and shared information on City services. In the Fall of 2004, Staff held a focus group meeting in most of the Planning Areas, except Planning Areas 3, 12, 16, and 17. Planning Areas 12, 16, and 17 did not have a meeting due to positive feedback received from residents, who also expressed their general satisfaction with City services and indicated that there was not a need for focus group meetings in their areas.



Introduction

Who Uses This Document and How This Document Should Be Used

The Neighborhood Wellness Vision and Analysis Report is intended to be used by City staff, appointed and elected officials, and residents of the City as well as other agencies in and outside of the community. In conjunction with the Neighborhood Action Plan, this document provides information regarding neighborhood conditions and issues through the indicator data. Because it is intended to be used at various civic levels, the plan has a number of distinct, yet related applications. These include:

Neighborhood Planning- Both the Neighborhood Vision and Analysis Report and the Neighborhood Wellness Action Plan describe a planning process that can be followed by residents and neighborhood organizations to prepare individual plans for their neighborhoods in the future or participate in the updates and implementation of this Plan.

Program Development- The Vision and Analysis Report describes City programs that will be implemented to meet established neighborhood wellness objectives.

Project Identification and Targeting- The Action Plan includes Prognosis and Prescription Sheets that assign specific programs and strategies to each of the City's planning areas based on the identified issues and conditions. The assignment of programs and strategies will be monitored to ensure that the services continue to meet the needs of each planning area. As other City plans, such as the Infrastructure Master Plans and the Consolidated Plan, identify their annual projects, this Plan will guide that decision making process. Lastly, understanding each planning area's issues and priorities allows other organizations to identify programs that are needed and the locations where those programs ought to be implemented.

Project Selection and Funding- The Plan allows government officials to determine which public improvements and neighborhood self-help projects should be scheduled and funded. The Plan provides detailed information that can be included in any proposal for funding a neighborhood project planned in a specific area to improve neighborhood conditions.

Grant and Project Proposals- The Vision and Analysis Report and the Action Plan provide information on resident concerns, neighborhood conditions, priorities, and program strategies. Often, this information is required in any grant or project proposal to an agency that funds projects ranging from resident self-help activities to major redevelopment and development activities. As residents, organizations, or the City apply for grants, not only is the needed information made accessible through this Plan, it can increase the likelihood of being awarded a grant by showing that a planning process is already in place.

Measuring Program and Project Impacts- As strategies are implemented, wellness indicators may be measured and compared with the success measures to determine the level of impact that specific projects or programs have made. Residents and City staff can determine what improvements have been made and to what extent long-term neighborhood goals are being met. Future updates to indicator data can be used in comparison as well.

Evaluating Projects and Proposals- The document provides information residents can use to evaluate project proposals presented to the Champaign City Council or other government officials. Residents can determine whether a proposal is consistent with the vision stated in the document and which neighborhood goal it supports. Also, it provides City officials with the information and tools to evaluate the effectiveness of specific projects and programs. For other agencies and private organizations, the Plan permits an evaluation of existing and proposed programs to determine consistency with the future direction and growth of individual neighborhoods.

Decision Making- The Plan allows elected and appointed officials to make choices between competing interests and serves as a guide for making decisions regarding the allocation of City services.



In the years that have passed following the adoption of the first Neighborhood Wellness documents, there have been many changes throughout the community that require neighborhood conditions to be reassessed, new neighborhood trends to be identified, and strategies to be redefined and appropriated based on these new conditions and trends. Many of the positive changes in neighborhoods are results of the neighborhood wellness initiatives that were identified in the 1992 Plan.

This chapter contains three major sections to review the activities that have occurred between the adoption of the 1992 Plan and the creation of the current Neighborhood Wellness Vision and Analysis Report. The first section highlights the neighborhood wellness programs and initiatives that have impacted the City's neighborhoods. Unless specified, these programs continue to be ongoing programs utilized by the City. Recognizing the impacts of the implemented initiatives and programs, the update to the 1992 Plan required a reassessment of neighborhood conditions, which resulted in the 2003 Neighborhood Analysis Report. Data collected in this extensive effort informs this document. The second section is an explanation of the updated City Planning Area Map which recognizes the City's growth and identifies new planning areas. The final section of this chapter is a brief summary of the 2003 Neighborhood Analysis Report.

Neighborhood Wellness Programs and Initiatives

Programs and Initiatives Prior to the 1992 Neighborhood Wellness Action Plan

Neighborhood Watch Groups and Associations

Neighborhood Watch Groups and Neighborhoods Associations are wellness related programs that predate the 1992 Neighborhood Wellness Action Plan. The Neighborhood Watch Program is a program that gained popularity throughout the country in the 1970s, and has been implemented in Champaign since 1984. The program establishes a formal network for groups to communicate with neighborhoods and the Police Department regarding crime related issues. Through the program, residents can practice and promote various crime prevention and home security measures. Primarily implemented by the Police Department, the responsibilities of this program were transferred to the Neighborhood Services Department following the adoption of the 1992 Neighborhood Wellness Action Plan. The department provides assistance for residents to create Neighborhood Watch Groups and programs to teach and update residents' crime prevention skills. As of 2005, there were 65 registered groups.

1992

- Adoption of the Neighborhood Wellness Action Plan
- Creation of Neighborhood Services Department

1993-1995

- Creation of Neighborhood Services Team, a multi-department team set up to do neighborhood problem solving
- Building Code Citizen Advisory Committee is formed to improve code enforcement procedures (1993)
- April 18, 1994 - The 1992 Neighborhood Wellness Action Plan receives the 1994 Outstanding Planning Award from the American Planning Association at the National Planning Awards
- Adoption of Citizen Participation Plan (1994)
- Community Oriented Policing and SARA Model are introduced (1994-1995)



History and Background

Neighborhood Associations also receive assistance from the Neighborhood Services Coordination Division. Like neighborhood watch groups, neighborhood associations have been in existence prior

to the adoption of the Plan, however, they are larger in scope. Prior to the adoption of the 1992 Neighborhood Wellness Plan, however, few neighborhood associations were active. With the creation of the Neighborhood Coordination Division, they now receive support from the City which helps them be more active. Neighborhood associations tend to be larger in area, at times encompassing several neighborhood watch groups, and meet to address overall neighborhood issues and conditions. They also serve as a link between the City and neighborhood residents, providing a structure for information sharing and citizen participation. The Neighborhood Services Department assists with their formation, bylaws, scheduling and advertising of meetings, and grant writing. Since 2000, grants are also awarded to neighborhood associations for various neighborhood activities. Also, the Neighborhood Services Department has held annual meetings and conferences throughout the year to recognize neighborhood associations and to inform neighborhood leaders of current City activities.

1993-1995 (cont.)

- Adoption of Graffiti Ordinance and Right of Way Ordinance (1995)
- Creation of Neighborhood Action Teams (NAT) for Planning Areas 1, 2, 4, 8 (1995) ended 1999/2000
- Neighborhood Based Customer Service Training is offered to City employees (1995-1996)
- Fire Department Public Education Programs
- Urban Renewal-Rapid Response for Neighborhood Infrastructure Program is created
- Neighborhood Clean Ups
- Yard Waste and Leaf pickups begin
- Creation of a Foot Patrol in Planning Areas 2 & 4
- Area Plans & Studies adopted including: Beardsley Park Neighborhood Plan, North First Street Plan, Downtown Plan, East Side Plan. Area studies completed for the Francis-McKinley Area, John-Kenwood-Belmont area, the Par 3 Golf Course area, Atkins West development, and Glenn Park area.

Housing Programs

Prior to the adoption of the Neighborhood Wellness Action Plan, the City provided a variety of housing programs to its community development target areas through federal and state community development funds as well as partnerships with local banks. These programs have carried over and continue to exist. Most of the housing programs require that families meet income eligibility guidelines and many are geared towards owner-occupied housing units. The following are descriptions of the housing programs that have been provided over the years.

- Full Home Improvement Program-The Full Home Improvement



205 W. Vine before and after

History and Background

Program provides grants and low-interest loans to eligible Champaign homeowners to rehabilitate deteriorated dwellings using up to \$30,000 to complete major repairs and code renovations. Since 1992, a total of 149 homes have utilized this program.

- Minor Home Improvement Program- The Minor Home Improvement Program is similar to the Full Home Improvement Program, except that there is a \$5,000 limit. This program is intended to encourage less extensive yet still necessary repairs for homes with fewer code deficiencies.

- Emergency Repair Program- This program provides assistance to eligible Champaign homeowners to correct housing deficiencies of an immediate nature which threaten the health or safety of the occupants or the structure. Assistance through this program is provided to correct the immediate housing concern only and is generally limited to \$3,000 per household. A total of 346 grants have been awarded since 1992.

- Rental Rehabilitation Program- The rental rehabilitation program was administered from 1996 to 1999, providing a matching grant to rental property owners to make physical improvements to their rental properties. Besides requiring that the property owner match the grant, structures receiving the grant may not contain more than 11 units, and all of the units must rent to tenants that meet specified income requirements for five to ten years following the rehab project.

- Caulk and Paint Program- The Caulk and Paint program provides vouchers to eligible Champaign homeowners and renters to cover the cost of purchasing exterior house paint and caulk.

- Single Family Home Ownership Program- The City offers several programs to assist in the purchase of a home. Throughout the years, the City has utilized federal money as well as partnerships with local financial institutions to provide these programs.

- Handicapped Accessibility Retrofit Program- This program was created to help eliminate barriers, modify the layout, or add structural accessories or improvements to a dwelling to make it more accessible to occupants with disabilities. This program may also be used to make “visitability” modifications to dwelling units to allow immediate family members who have disabilities to visit

1996

- NAT Teams extend to Planning Areas 3 & 7

- Neighborhood Watch organizing handbook is revised

- City develops a Citizen Notification Policy

- A full time fire inspector was hired to re-institute a comprehensive fire prevention safety inspection program in April

- Neighborhood Recognition Task Force is established to develop a neighborhood recognition program in December

- “Safety House” program is introduced to neighborhoods

- Campustown 2000 Task force was created

- Neighborhood Improvement Program begins in Planning Areas 2 & 8



History and Background

1996 (cont.)

- Emergency Repair Program is expanded to include roof repairs
- “Real Estate Sales Program”- acquisition and relocation of home in the Boneyard Creek Floodplain
- Campus Area Transportation Study Initiated

1997

- A Neighborhood Action Team was established for Planning Area 9
- The “Where to Call” guide was developed by the Neighborhood Recognition Task Force and distributed to block captains and neighborhood residents
- An Aggravated Public Nuisance Ordinance is adopted on March 18, 1997
- The City’s first conference for neighborhood groups was held on May 10, 1997 at Columbia School.
- A Historic Preservation Commission is established and holds its first meeting in May
- T.I.M.E.S. Center Citizen’s Advisory Board is created

Programs and Initiatives Created from the 1992 Neighborhood Wellness Action Plan

Creation of Neighborhood Services Department 1992

The City created the Neighborhood Services Department in 1992 to implement the Neighborhood Wellness Action Plan and to coordinate City services to ensure a comprehensive and effective response to neighborhood needs. The department consists of three divisions: neighborhood services coordination, property maintenance, and program services. The Coordination Division is responsible for neighborhood organizing and citizen outreach. Property Maintenance promotes compliance with the City’s blight and nuisance abatement programs. Program Services administers the City’s housing and community development programs.

Neighborhood Clean-ups

To help maintain a clean and safe environment, the City has sponsored approximately four neighborhood clean-up events annually for the past 13 years. Following the adoption of the Neighborhood Wellness Action Plan, the clean-ups have taken place in the City’s Restoration and Preservation planning areas. The City provides dumpsters and staff to assist with collection of yard waste, appliances, and debris that otherwise could become a blight in the neighborhood. The City also provides a pick up service for the elderly and persons with disabilities who can not bring their materials to the clean up site.

Neighborhood Based Customer Service Training 1995-Present

Neighborhood Based Customer Service has become a core philosophy of the City. Out of this philosophy, the City has been able to deliver the services that achieve neighborhood wellness and improve the overall quality of life by recognizing the unique characteristics of each planning area, and tailoring its services to match neighborhood needs. Beginning in 1995, the City began training its employees the philosophy’s three main components: community involvement, responsive services, and problem-solving. The SARA (Scanning, Analysis, Response, and

Assessment) problem-solving model, used by the Police Department has also been trained to all City employees to incorporate with neighborhood based customer service delivery. SARA is described in further detail under “Community Oriented Policing and SARA Problem Solving Model”.

History and Background

Neighborhood Action Teams 1995-2000

Neighborhood Action Teams (NAT), were created in 1995 to further reinforce the City's commitment to neighborhood based service delivery. The overall goals of the teams were to improve the coordination of City services, improve the communication between the City and neighborhood residents, and increase the impact of City activities in neighborhoods. Assigned to a specific planning area to respond to neighborhood needs, each team consisted of various staff representatives from departments including Neighborhood Services, Police, Fire, Public Works, Planning, METCAD, and the Library as well as representatives from the Champaign Park District and Unit 4 School District. NATs were created for Planning Areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, and 9, which were areas classified as preservation or restoration at the time.

Neighborhood Improvement Program 1996-2000

The Neighborhood Improvement Program was a pilot program introduced in 1995 and implemented the following year in Planning Areas 2 and 8. The purpose of the program was to develop short term action plans for these areas that were more specific than the Neighborhood Wellness Action Plan. This program was also unique because it included a partnership with the University of Illinois in which students assisted citizens with the planning and development of improvement strategies. Following the completion of these short term plans, the two representative neighborhood organizations, Concerned Citizens for Better Neighborhoods (Planning Area 2) and United Garden Hills (Planning Area 8) were granted \$100,000 for the implementation of their plans over a three year period.

Community Oriented Policing and SARA Problem Solving model

Community Oriented Policing is a process that promotes interaction between police officers assigned to specific patrol areas and the citizens who reside in those areas. Increased interaction between the police and citizens is key to effective crime prevention. Following the adoption of the 1992 Neighborhood Wellness Action Plan, several community oriented policing strategies were undertaken, including permanent beat officer assignments and specific geographic assignments for sergeants and lieutenants. Additionally, six new officers were hired under a federal community oriented policing grant and walking unit patrols were created for the Vine-Maple-Columbia, Campustown, and Northeast Champaign areas. At this time, the Police Department began conducting its annual Fear of Crime and Disorder surveys, which gauged the public's perception of safety in their neighborhoods. These surveys were conducted through 2001.

1997 (cont.)

- The City opens a residential recycling drop-off site
- The City holds Re-Vision Workshops as part of the planning process for updating its Comprehensive Plan.
- The City receives one of the National League of Cities Innovation Awards for Connecting Citizens to Government through its Neighborhood Wellness program in December.
- Construction of Fire Station #5 begins in Planning Area 8 with the inclusion of community meeting space
- "Operation: Bristol Place" takes place-a major interdepartmental coordinated neighborhood improvement program

1998

- First Neighborhood Recognition Reception is held



History and Background

A major component of Community Oriented Policing involves the SARA (Scanning, Analysis, Response, and Assessment) Problem Solving model. This model is applied to situations where two

or more incidents similar in nature occur, cause or threaten harm, or generate concern to the public, and uses all available people and programs to focus on finding a solution. Training in this problem solving model was originally provided to police department employees in 1994, and was extended to all other City employees in 1995 as part of neighborhood based customer service training. In its first year, the Police Department opened 55 official problem cases, using the SARA model to respond. This model continues to be a part of the City's problem solving philosophy.

1998 (cont.)

- Abandoned Vehicle Ordinance is updated
- Traffic Calming Pilot Study in Garden Hills and along Armory Street neighborhood
- Eight historic landmarks and two historic districts are designated by the City
- A series of public meetings are held on the topic of police and community relations between April and November of 1998
- Demolition of Green Apartments and institution of one-way streets in Bristol Place Neighborhood in November
- Parkside and Mansard Square Apartments are acquired by the City for redevelopment (November 1998)

1999

- Study Circles starts in March to discuss race relations in the community
- Clean Campus committee is formed

Public Safety Education

Over the years, the City has provided a variety of public education programs, services, and events to inform people of fire and crime safety. Many of the public education programs have been offered citywide or provided upon request from schools, community groups, and neighborhoods. In recent years, both the fire and police departments have developed safety programs particularly geared towards the campus area, include "Fire Factor" which teaches resident hall advisors and fraternity and sorority housing representatives of the dangers of fire and proper prevention and response actions.



The City offers numerous public educational programs regarding public safety, crime prevention, fire prevention, and fire safety. Many of the programs are created and customized to relate to different groups of people.

Housing Programs

Prior to the adoption of the Neighborhood Wellness Action Plan, the City provided the previously described housing programs using various community development funds. After the adoption of the Plan, the City expanded these programs, providing new services to promote housing improvements. They include the following programs;

- Emergency Roof Repair- In 1996, the City began a roof repair program in response to the number of homeowners who were on the Full Home Improvement Program waiting list that needed

History and Background

immediate assistance. The program assisted applicants based on the level of severity of roof damage. The applicants were allowed to keep their home on the waiting list for the Full Home Improvement Program if additional repairs were still needed to their homes. Since 1996 30 homes have utilized this program.

- Get the Lead Out- This program was created in 2002 to provide assistance to households in abating the health hazard of lead paint in their homes. As many older homes contain lead paint, the purpose of this program is to eliminate lead in the home and assist eligible homeowners who may not be able to afford the removal. In total, the City has removed lead paint from 16 housing units.

Urban Renewal Rapid Response Program for Neighborhood Infrastructure

While the City budgets for infrastructure maintenance, it can not always keep pace with the demand for all infrastructure repair requests. This program uses urban renewal funds to make minor infrastructure improvements that otherwise would not be high priorities under the City's Capital Improvement Program. The intent of the program is to make such improvements in a timely manner. Each year, \$120,000 is budgeted to fund eligible projects.

Local Street Improvement Program (2005)

The Local Street Improvement Program is similar to the Rapid Response Program, in that the funds allotted each year for this program go directly to improvements that are not currently included on the list of funded projects in the Capital Improvements Plan. The program specifically addresses pavement improvements, and each year focuses on the areas with the greatest need of repair. In its first year running, Planning Areas 1 and 14 were the targeted areas and had a majority of the streets repaired.

Code Revisions and Updates

Throughout the implementation of the Neighborhood Wellness Action Plan, the City has revised and updated many of its City codes and ordinances, adopted new approaches to how codes are enforced, and created new codes. The following are some of the significant code revisions, updates, and new enforcement approaches that have a direct relationship with neighborhood wellness.

1999 (cont.)

- New TIMES Center is constructed
- Safe Schools Initiative
- Risk Watch Continues to see success
- Juvenile Firesetter Program
- Champaign County SAFE KIDS Coalition campaign
- City's website is launched in May
- Boneyard Creek Master Plan is adopted
- Neighborhood Small Grant Program is created

2000

- Beardsley Park Plan is amended
- Guidelines for Neighborhood Small Grants are expanded



History and Background

• Property Maintenance Code- Following the creation of the Neighborhood Services Department, the City developed various strategies to address property maintenance issues in the City. One of the

2001

- Communications Committee is formed
- Heros and Helping Hands Award Program is initiated

2002

- Burch Village Redevelopment Plan is adopted
- Update to the Comprehensive Plan is adopted
- Process for updating the Neighborhood Wellness Plan begins; neighborhood meetings and Mobile City Halls take place

2003

- Neighborhood Association Annual Meetings are started

2004

- Focus group meetings are held for the 2006 Neighborhood Wellness Action Plan

2005

- Staff workshop held to develop strategies for the 2006 Neighborhood Wellness Plan

most significant strategies was to change the way the property maintenance code was enforced. In 1994, City inspectors began systematic routine monitoring of neighborhoods and generated nuisance and property maintenance code violations to property owners. Prior to this, the property maintenance code was enforced based on citizen complaints, and did not necessarily address housing code deficiencies.

• Abandoned Vehicle Ordinance- Prior to 1997, the City's existing Abandoned Vehicle Ordinance made it difficult to expeditiously remove abandoned vehicles from the streets. Due to increasing complaints from citizens in certain neighborhoods, the ordinance was revised by a committee that included the Police, Planning, Legal, and Neighborhood Services Departments. The new ordinance allows for the immediate removal of vehicles that are unregistered, considered to be junk, or dangerous.

• Graffiti and Right of Way Ordinances- These two ordinances were created to encourage a clean and well maintained community by requiring that property owners quickly remove graffiti on their property as well as be responsible for the removal of abandoned items from the public right of way if left unattended for more than four hours. Both ordinances encourage voluntary compliance, however, if non-compliant property owner may be charged for City abatement and administrative costs for cited violations.

• Zoning Ordinance- In 1996, the City updated its Zoning Ordinance. As part of this major rewrite, several components of the Ordinance dealt directly with neighborhood wellness. The new zoning ordinance included an historic preservation ordinance that allowed for the nominations of locally designated historic landmarks. This was a specific strategy identified in the 1992 Neighborhood Wellness Action Plan to preserve historic housing stock viewed as assets in neighborhoods. Additionally, the drafting of the Ordinance involved a high level of public participation and input regarding new approaches towards regulating neighborhood issues impacted by the Ordinance including taverns, religions institutions, and non-conforming uses in neighborhoods.

• Aggravated Public Nuisance Ordinance- In 1997 the City adopted the Aggravated Public Nuisance Ordinance. This ordinance amended the section of the City code pertaining to public nuisances and defined an aggravated public nuisance as a dwelling where the owners or occupants

History and Background

have committed multiple violations of specific criminal ordinances in a single year. Under this ordinance, property owners may be subject to court action if they are found to have recklessly, knowingly, or negligently allowed the criminal activity to occur on their property. This ordinance is another tool to help the City combat criminal activity in the City's neighborhoods.

Citizen Notification Policy and Communications Plan

In 1996, the City developed a citizen notification policy to ensure that public input was solicited for all City activities. The policy provided guidance to City staff to notify the public about particular issues of interest to ensure that opportunities are provided for public participation in all of the City's processes. In 2002, a Communications Plan was adopted for the City. This plan provides information on how residents prefer to receive information from the City and recommendations on how best to involve the public in local decision making processes.

Study Circles

The City's Study Circles Program ran from 1998 to 2001, following a national model for creating dialogue within the community to discuss race relations, police and community relations, and education. Study Circles are small, democratic, highly participatory discussion groups that provide ways for people to build community and address issues of public concern. Groups usually consist of around 8-10 people from diverse backgrounds and are led by two facilitators. The groups meet for six two-hour sessions over a period of eight weeks ultimately resulting in a report on the groups thoughts and strategy ideas. During this programs operation, over 16 study circle groups met. The ideas that came from the various dialogs were communicated to City officials through the Human Relations Commission and other spin-off task citizen task forces.

Neighborhood Focused Problem Solving

Various areas throughout the City with unique circumstances that required specific planning processes and strategies were identified following the adoption of the 1992 Neighborhood Wellness Action Plan and the 1992 Comprehensive Plan. Some of these studies resulted in neighborhood plans including:

- Beardsley Park Redevelopment Plan
- Glenn Park and Illinois Concrete Study
- Parkside-Mansard Square and Burch Village Redevelopment Plans

Additionally, there have been specific neighborhood conditions and issues that have arisen during this time that led to City and resident partnerships to solve issues. These include:

- Sesquicentennial Neighborhood Organization and Maple-Vine Area
- Operation: Bristol Place
- Traffic Calming Problem Solving
- Area 4a and 4b streetlights
- Centennial High School neighborhood problem solving



History and Background

Update of the City's Planning Area Map

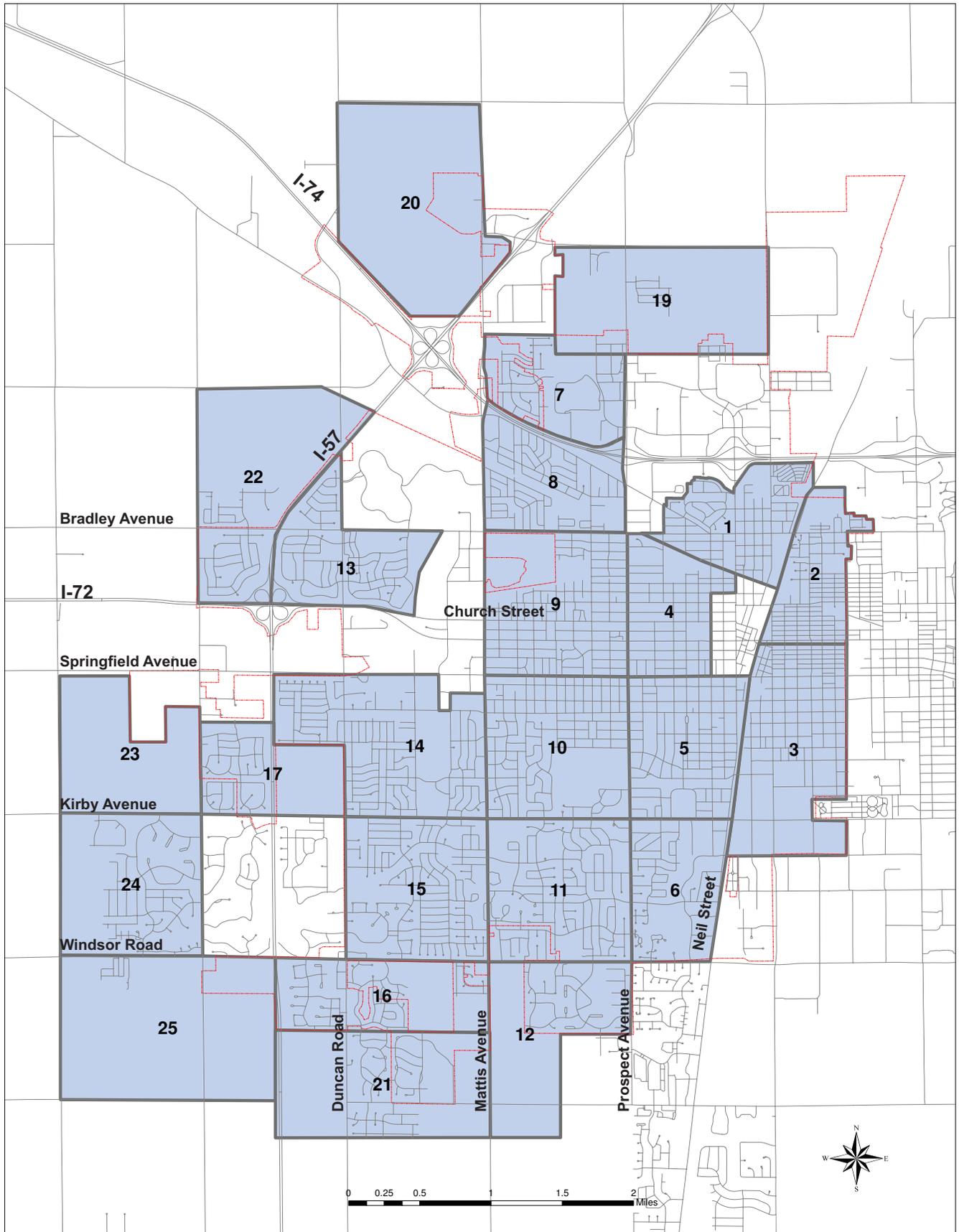
Given the City's continued land development and population growth, one of the first steps in updating the Neighborhood Wellness Action Plan was to update the map of the City's Planning Areas. At the beginning of the process for creating the original Plan, the City identified fifteen residential planning areas, in which data indicating neighborhood conditions and issues could be analyzed at a neighborhood level. The planning areas were established using major boundaries within the City and attempted to define planning areas by homogeneous features and not necessarily individual subdivisions.

Residential growth experienced in south and west Champaign led to the addition of Planning Areas 16 and 17. While Planning Area 16 was suggested in the original plan, it was never created because most of the land was not within the City's limits. Now the majority of the land has been developed and annexed into the City, this area has been redrawn and includes some land that was previously in Planning Area 12. Planning Area 17 is entirely new development that occurred after 1992.

Compared to the original Planning Area map, there are several other new features. A square mile of land between Planning Areas 15 and 24, has been labeled "unincorporated" because it is unlikely to be incorporated into the City in the near future, and will not be part of the City's neighborhood analysis or Neighborhood Wellness Action Plan. This map also identifies future planning areas that are anticipated for development. Lastly, all commercial areas are symbolized with hatched markings as opposed to being given the numbers they were previously assigned. Commercial areas are not within the scope of the Plan. While residential development exists in some of these areas, for example Downtown, it is recognized that there are other plans that call for specific strategies and recommendations for these areas and their unique characteristics.

History and Background

Map 1. 2006 Planning Area Boundaries





History and Background

Neighborhood Analysis Report and Neighborhood Classification System

Between 2002 and 2003, the City developed a Neighborhood Analysis Report to determine neighborhood conditions and needs, and measure the magnitude of physical problems. Updating the 1991 Neighborhood Analysis Report, this report measures wellness indicators, which are economic, physical, and social data, on a scale of standards for the defined planning areas. The report assists in the identification and prioritization of neighborhood issues that ultimately are addressed in this plan.

The scale on which the wellness indicators are measured is part of the Neighborhood Classification System. The system places each planning area in one of four categories: Healthy, Conservation, Preservation, and Restoration. Each classification represents a stage in the neighborhood change process and reflects the type and intensity of physical problems and the extent to which residents possess the means to improve neighborhood conditions.

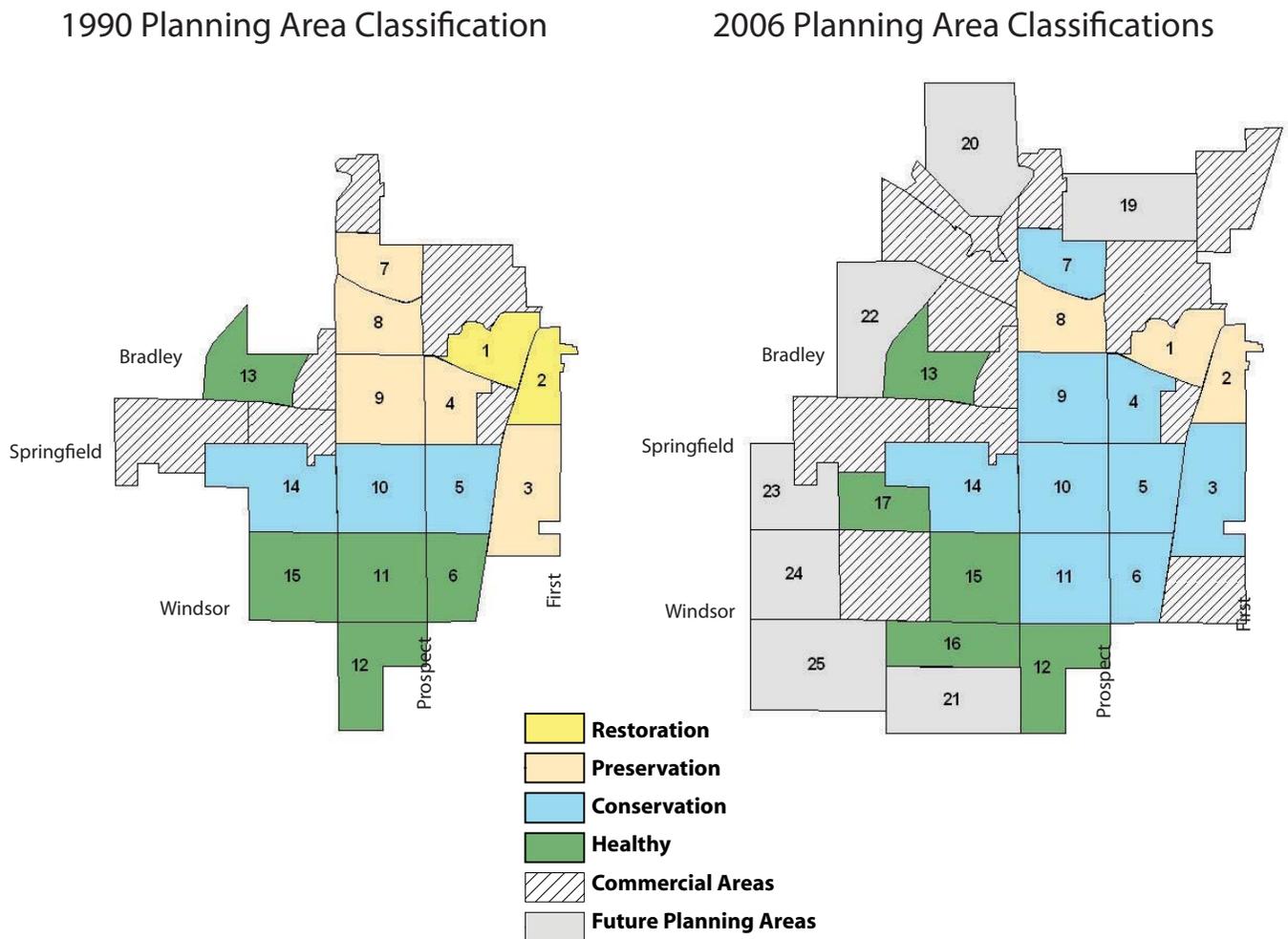
Neighborhood Classification System

- **Healthy:** A Healthy neighborhood is one in which basic City services are adequate to maintain a high quality of life. In these neighborhoods, housing and infrastructure conditions are sound, property ownership is stable and investments are steady. There are no significant threats to public safety and citizens participate actively in neighborhood or community issues. In these areas, residents have the ability to maintain their neighborhood in a healthy state, with little or no need for outside assistance.
- **Conservation:** A Conservation neighborhood is an area where City attention may be needed in some aspects to maintain neighborhood stability and prevent future deterioration. These neighborhoods may experience some slight increases in City maintenance and service needs, which should be expected as a normal result of neighborhood aging. As with Healthy neighborhoods, housing and infrastructure conditions are essentially sound, with minor deterioration limited to spot locations. Residents are likely to reinvest in their neighborhood and participate actively in issues that affect them.
- **Preservation:** A Preservation neighborhood requires an increased level of City involvement to maintain and/or restore a high quality of life. In these neighborhoods, deteriorated infrastructure cannot be addressed through regular City maintenance programs and the housing stock may need significant rehabilitation. These neighborhoods may also experience increased incidents of crime or other public safety problems. Population trends may include a decline in owner-occupancy and decreasing household incomes. This could make it more difficult for residents to invest in their neighborhood or to be active in problem-solving efforts.
- **Restoration:** A Restoration neighborhood requires a significant level of City intervention to address neighborhood problems and restore a positive quality of life. In many cases, basic services cannot keep up with needs, and parts of the area require major reinvestment to prevent further decline. Property maintenance is a significant problem and major infrastructure improvements may be necessary. Levels of private reinvestment are low, and citizens may face significant obstacles when trying to address neighborhood problems on their own.

History and Background

Table 1. Neighborhood Classification System shows the benchmarks for how each wellness indicator falls into one of the four classifications. Table 2, Summary of Neighborhood Wellness Indicators summarizes the findings of the 2003 Neighborhood Analysis Report by listing each data set's result for each planning area. Overall, the City's Planning Areas have shown a general improvement since 1992. The City's two Restoration planning areas in 1992, Planning Areas 1 and 2, have changed to a Preservation classification. Likewise, Planning Area 3 changed from a Preservation classification to a Conservation classification in the 2006 Update. While other areas have remained the same classification, Planning Areas 6, 11, and 15 have changed from Healthy to Conservation. As seen by the table, it is most likely that the public infrastructure in the area is aging and that there will soon be further service needs for these areas to prevent further decline.

The results from the Neighborhood Analysis Report in conjunction with residents' priorities help determine the appropriate strategies to address neighborhood conditions and issues. Input from residents was collected early in the process and following the completion of the report, discussions were held to determine residents' priorities. Table 3 lists the top four priorities for 14 out of the 17 planning areas. The focused discussion were not held for Planning Areas 12, 16, and 17, as residents in these areas expressed satisfaction with their neighborhoods and did not have specific comments regarding neighborhood issues.





History and Background

Table 1. Neighborhood Classification System

This table is a review of the Neighborhood Classification System. Each wellness indicator includes a series of data sets with corresponding benchmarks that determine the level of neighborhood wellness (either Healthy, Conservation, Preservation, or Restoration).

INDICATOR	HEALTHY	CONSERVATION	PRESERVATION	RESTORATION
Household Economic Conditions				
Median Family Income	≥ City median	90% of City median	75% - 90% of City median	<75% of City median
Unemployment Rate	≤ City rate	≤ 10% higher than City rate	10% -25% higher than City rate	> 25% higher than City rate
Public Assistance as a Form of Income	< City rate	City rate >5% higher than City rate	5%>15% higher than City rate	>15% higher than City rate
Housing				
Growth in Housing Units	Increasing	0% ≥ 1% decrease	1% - 10% decrease	>10% decrease
Age of Housing Units	≤ 10% are 30 years or older	11% -25% are 30 years or older	26%-50% are 30 years or older	≥ 50% are 30 years or older
Ownership Pattern	≥ 80% owner-occupied	80% - 60% owner occupied	60% - 40% owner occupied	≤ 40% owner occupied
Vacancy Rate	≥ 1% decrease in vacant units	1% decrease - 1% increase	1% - 3% increase in vacant units	>3% increase in vacant units
Property Maintenance				
Primary Structure Condition	> 80% are in good condition	80% - 60% are in good condition	60% - 40% are in good condition	< 40% in good condition
Accessory Structure Condition	> 80% are in good condition	80% - 60% are in good condition	60% - 40% are in good condition	< 40% in good condition
Nuisance Violations	> 80% properties violation free	80% - 60% properties violation free	60% - 40% properties violation free	< 40% properties violation free
Real Estate				
Assessed Value	>Citywide	75% of Citywide ≥ Citywide	50% of Citywide ≥75% of Citywide	<50% of Citywide
Value per Square Foot	>City average	85% of Citywide ≥ Citywide	60% of Citywide ≥ 85% Citywide	< 60% of Citywide
Housing Cost Burdened	<10% of Households	10% -15% of Households	15% -20% of Households	> 20% of Households
Days on Market	≤ Citywide median	Citywide median >125% of Citywide median	125% Citywide median <150% Citywide median	>150% of Citywide median
Turnover Rate	< Citywide median	Citywide median >125% of Citywide median	125% Citywide median <150% Citywide median	>150% of Citywide median
Home Purchase Loans	≤ Citywide denial rate	Citywide >125% Citywide denial rate	150% >200% Citywide denial rate	>200% Citywide denial rate
Home Improvement Loans	≤ Citywide denial rate	Citywide >125% Citywide denial rate	150% >200% Citywide denial rate	>200% Citywide denial rate
Refinancing Loans	≤ Citywide denial rate	Citywide >125% Citywide denial rate	150% >200% Citywide denial rate	>200% Citywide denial rate

History and Background

INDICATOR	HEALTHY	CONSERVATION	PRESERVATION	RESTORATION
Public Infrastructure				
Pavement Condition	Average PCI rating 100-70	Average PCI rating from 69-55	Average PCI rating from 54-40	Average PCI rating <40
Sanitary Drainage System	No major or minor structural defects. Standard 8" sewer with good slope, no infiltration, no root intrusion, proper taps, and no grease blockages.	No major or minor structural defects. Standard 8" sewer with good slope, no infiltrations, no root intrusion, few improper taps, and no grease blockages.	No major or minor structural defects. Standard 8" sewer with good slope but minor alignment problems, minimal infiltration, limited root intrusion, under 50% hammer taps and one grease blockage.	Major and minor structural defects, 6" sewer with poor slope, obvious infiltration, root intrusion at 15% of joints, many improper taps and more than one grease blockage.
Drainage	Equipped with storm sewers. No ditches. No flooding problems.	Mostly sewered, few ditches. Few, small flooding problems. Few if any wet basements.	About half sewered, half ditches. Some flooding problems, some wet basements, problem sump pumps.	Few if any storm sewers, mostly ditches, known flooding problem. Basement flooding and sump pump problems common.
Streetlight Condition	Good to excellent condition	Half of useful life remains on lights that are similar to City standard.	Non-standard lights, but still useful.	Non-standard lights at end of useful life.
Alley Condition	100%-90% of alleys are up to standard (good condition).	90% - 80% of alleys are up to standard (good condition)	80% - 70% of alleys are up to standard (good condition)	Less than 70% are up to standard (good condition)
Sidewalk Condition	Sidewalk repair programs in the past 10 years or most sidewalks in good condition.	Sidewalk repair programs more than 10 years ago, or limited repairs needed	Sidewalk repair programs not to area yet; repairs needed	Sidewalk repair programs not to area yet; many repairs needed.
Public Safety				
Police Services per Capita	A safe neighborhood where little police intervention is necessary. 0-200 Reports of Police Activity Per 1000 People	A relatively safe neighborhood where the level of crime does not rise above that which can be addressed with traditional police methods, but is higher than an acceptable community standard. 201-400 Reports of Police Activity Per 1000 People	A neighborhood with an unacceptable level of crime that would require non-traditional police responses to alleviate. 401-600 Reports of Police Activity Per 1000 People	A neighborhood where the level of crime or the seriousness of the crimes is so high that a focused, comprehensive response is needed to improve the situation. 600 or More Reports of Police Activity Per 1000 People



History and Background

Table 2. Neighborhood Classification System

This table shows the neighborhood indicator data collected. Most of the data was collected during the 2003 Neighborhood Analysis Report update.

Indicator	City	1	2	3	4	5	6
Household Economic Conditions							
Median Family Income	\$52,628	\$28,700	\$25,435	\$17,432	\$40,461	\$56,516	\$58,125
Unemployment Rate	2.3%	4.7%	10.5%	3.6%	1.3%	1.2%	0.4%
Public Assistance as a Form of Income	3%	9%	10%	1%	5%	2%	0%
Housing							
Growth in Housing Units	10%	-4%	-11%	13%	-6%	-2%	22%
Age of Housing Units	51%	64%	70%	29%	82%	75%	40%
Ownership Pattern	47%	57%	52%	1%	32%	42%	55%
Vacancy Rate	5%	11%	18%	4%	6%	4%	3%
Property Maintenance							
Primary Structure Condition	82.4%	44.8%	29%	56%	71.5%	78.3%	95.2%
Accessory Structure Condition	74%	47.4%	28%	58%	68%	79%	91%
Free of Nuisance Violations	91.7%	80.7%	77%	79%	90%	98%	100%
Real Estate							
Avg. Equalized Assessed Value 2003	\$37,376	\$14,499	\$13,178	\$109,475	\$30,328	\$38,550	\$34,101
Percent of Citywide Average	-	39%	35%	292%	81%	103%	91%
Value per Square Foot 2003	\$76.69	\$43.85	\$38.42	\$69.04	\$63.28	\$77.56	\$72.55
Value per Square Foot 2003 (2006 Dollars)	\$85.94	\$49.14	\$43.05	\$77.37	\$70.91	\$86.92	\$81.30
Value per Square Foot 2006	\$99.16	\$56.91	\$50.64	82.01	89.86	\$102.14	\$90.47
Change	\$13.22	\$7.77	\$7.59	\$4.64	\$18.95	\$15.22	\$9.17
Housing Cost Burdened	15.5%	19.4%	34.7%	13.8%	24.3%	13.1%	14.5%
Days on Market 2003	16 days	10 days	5.5 days	n/a	6 days	6 days	16 days
Days on Market 2006	63 days	77 days	75 days	n/a	63 days	36 days	40 days
Change	47 days	67 days	69.5 days		57 days	30 days	24 days
Turnover Rate 2003	4.3%	5.0%	0.7%	n/a	3.2%	2.8%	4.7%
Turnover Rate 2006	5.1%	5.5%	1.1%	n/a	4.2%	3.8%	7.2%
Change	0.8%	0.5%	0.4%		1.0%	1.0%	2.5%
Home Purchase Loans Denial Rate 2003	6.53	20.40	15.80	7.70	10.00	2.60	4.40
Home Purchase Loans Denial Rate 2006	5.77	16.67	12.00	5.31	9.26	4.00	5.03
Change	-0.76	-3.73	-3.80	-2.39	-0.74	1.40	0.63
Home Improvement Loans Denial Rate 2003	32.22	40.90	71.40	25.00	35.00	35.00	23.90
Home Improvement Loans Denial Rate 2006	5.26	34.29	68.75	0.00	14.29	16.00	19.05
Change	-26.96	-6.61	-2.65	-25.00	-20.71	-19.00	-4.85
Refinancing Loans Denial Rate 2003	13.53	43.00	55.20	4.90	14.70	13.30	5.50
Refinancing Loans Denial Rate 2006	n/a	33.72	33.33	10.00	26.53	16.36	9.47
Change	n/a	-9.28	-21.87	5.10	11.83	3.06	3.97

History and Background

In 2003, data was only collected for the first 17 planning areas. For the current action plan, some indicators were recollected to look at trends happening in each planning area. Certain data indicators, primarily those from the 2000 census, cannot be updated until the 2010 census is finalized.

7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
\$48,443	\$35,347	\$51,570	\$65,804	\$72,433	\$85,648	\$63,136	\$48,380	\$75,028	\$104,271	\$76,578
1.1%	2.4%	2.0%	1.9%	0.4%	0.4%	2.4%	1.5%	1.5%	1.7%	1.7%
8%	7%	3%	1%	1%	0%	2%	3%	1%	0%	0%
35%	-5%	-1%	0%	88%	7%	64%	5%	13%	39%	100%
30%	68%	77%	92%	31%	4%	3%	51%	30%	5%	6%
27%	50%	50%	83%	75%	73%	78%	55%	91%	79%	97%
5%	5%	4%	3%	2%	6%	4%	4%	1%	2%	7%
33.5%	79%	76.8%	92%	99.9%	100%	100%	77.2%	98%	100%	100%
85%	75%	66%	95%	n/a	n/a	n/a	82%	73%	n/a	n/a
72%	78%	91.2%	99.5%	100%	100%	100%	83%	95%	100%	100%
\$12,735	\$21,372	\$26,835	\$43,100	\$50,996	\$64,123	\$32,126	\$28,739	\$39,507	\$60,989	\$52,747
34%	57%	71%	115%	136%	172%	86%	77%	106%	163%	141%
\$69.94	\$54.47	\$68.91	\$84.73	\$81.06	\$91.44	\$80.35	n/a	\$78.95	\$89.96	\$89.79
\$78.38	\$61.04	\$77.22	\$94.95	\$90.84	\$102.47	\$90.04	n/a	\$88.47	\$100.81	\$100.62
n/a	\$72.72	\$93.08	\$102.42	\$95.82	\$106.50	\$96.44	\$82.06	\$93.58	\$105.16	\$109.22
	\$11.68	\$15.86	\$7.47	\$4.98	\$4.03	\$6.40		\$5.11	\$4.35	\$8.60
15.6%	25.3%	8.4%	11.6%	14.5%	17.5%	20.9%	15.7%	8.0%	16.1%	20.6%
6 days	9 days	17 days	7 days	16 days	n/a	14 days	8 days	8 days	n/a	n/a
n/a	69 days	55 days	52 days	52 days	50 days	65 days	50 days	39 days	73 days	114 days
	60 days	38 days	45 days	36 days		51 days	42 days	31 days		
1.5%	3.6%	4.2%	3.6%	4.6%	n/a	8.0%	4.6%	4.6%	n/a	n/a
n/a	5.2%	4.3%	3.7%	5.5%	6.7%	14.7%	3.6%	3.8%	5.1%	11.1%
	1.6%	0.1%	10.0%	0.9%		6.7%	-1.0%	-0.8%		
20.00	4.70	9.40	7.00	4.40	4.40	4.70	3.70	6.40	6.40	6.40
7.91	10.26	11.93	2.59	5.03	2.83	3.27	8.29	7.00	4.30	11.93
-12.09	5.56	2.53	-4.41	0.63	-1.57	-1.43	4.59	0.60	-2.10	5.53
62.50	37.50	27.00	18.80	23.90	23.90	37.50	37.30	22.60	22.60	22.60
47.06	40.63	16.22	15.00	19.05	16.67	11.76	35.42	24.24	17.39	23.19
-15.44	3.13	-10.78	-3.80	-4.85	-7.23	-25.74	-1.88	1.64	-5.21	0.59
44.40	25.70	8.50	8.80	5.50	5.50	25.70	19.60	6.50	6.50	6.50
39.26	39.26	23.19	18.92	9.47	16.67	24.49	38.33	20.69	26.09	16.22
-5.14	13.56	14.69	10.12	3.97	11.17	-1.21	18.73	14.19	19.59	9.72



History and Background

Table 2 (Continued). Neighborhood Classification System

This table shows the neighborhood indicator data collected. Most of the data was collected during the 2003 Neighborhood Analysis Report update.

Indicator	City	1	2	3	4	5	6
Public Infrastructure							
Pavement Condition (PCI Index) 2003		62.5	61.6	55.5	65.9	65.4	65
Pavement Condition (PCI Index) 2006		51	54	44	52	50	57
Change		-11.5	-7.6	-11.5	-13.9	-15.4	-8
Sanitary Sewers (Number of defects) 2003	1420	308	131	163	201	46	36
Sanitary Sewers (Number of defects) 2006	1000	157	77	143	153	96	38
Change	-420	-151	-54	-20	-48	50	2
Streetlight Condition 2003		80%	79%	72%	64%	100%	57%
Streetlight Condition 2006		0%	16%	39%	78%	32%	57%
Change		-80.0%	-63.0%	-33.0%	14.0%	-68.0%	0.0%
Alley Condition (% in good condition) 2003		90%	95%	50%	85%	70%	n/a
Alley Condition (% in good condition) 2006		96%	94%	50%	82%	82%	n/a
Change		6%	-1%	0%	-3%	12%	
Sidewalk Condition (Feet in need of repair) 2003	102,114	7,920	8,135	13,550	14,680	8,015	2,150
Sidewalk Condition (Feet in need of repair) 2006	152,739	8,485	0	22,925	12,915	12,544	6,228
Change	50,625	565	-8,135	9,375	-1,765	4,529	4,078
Public Safety							
Police Services Total Calls 2003		3,488	2,214	10,153	2,812	2,550	511
Police Services Total Calls 2006		3,972	2,561	9,735	2,736	2,720	1,190
Change		484	347	-418	-76	170	679

History and Background

In 2003, data was only collected for the first 17 planning areas. For the current action plan, some indicators were recollected to look at trends happening in each planning area. Certain data indicators, primarily those from the 2000 census, cannot be updated until the 2010 census is finalized.

7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
71.6	58.6	65.6	59.9	60	81.3	81.1	55.6	60.9	79.1	98.6
58	39	54	52	54	72	68	54	61	71	75
-13.6	-19.6	-11.6	-7.9	-6	-9.3	-13.1	-1.6	0.1	-8.1	-23.6
3	87	84	36	40	9	2	217	54	0	3
4	81	304	125	38	9	2	193	172	0	8
1	-6	220	89	-2	0	0	-24	118	0	5
0%	n/a	98%	n/a	n/a	n/a	100%	100%	100%	n/a	n/a
0%	0%	98%	100%	n/a	n/a	100%	0%	0%	n/a	n/a
0.0%		0.0%				0.0%	-100.0%	-100.0%		
n/a	n/a	12.5%	0%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
n/a	n/a	87%	100%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
		75%	100%							
519	270	5,060	2,220	17,975	655	870	12,510	7,120	425	40
1,965	1,030	7,015	8,385	15,712	2,995	5,135	20,555	22,375	2,105	945
1,446	760	1,955	6,165	-2,263	2,340	4,265	8,045	15,255	1,680	905
714	2,541	2,812	1,387	557	100	413	1,771	744	118	269
828	2,732	2,075	1,280	1,062	161	317	2,244	767	110	99
114	191	-737	-107	505	61	-96	473	23	-8	-170



History and Background

History and Background

Table 3. Resident Priority Matrix

The following table is a matrix of residents' top four neighborhood priorities. These priorities were identified through focus group meetings that were held in the Fall of 2004.

Planning Area	PRIORITY #1	PRIORITY #2	PRIORITY #3	PRIORITY #4
1	Public Safety -volume and speed of traffic	Housing -condition and appearance	Public Safety -traffic and lighting	Public Safety -police protection
2	Civic Involvement -public education/resources for neighborhood coordination	Property Maintenance -improve maintenance of neighborhood businesses	Property Maintenance -enforcement and assistance for condition of homes	Housing -vacancy rate and effect of vacant structures on neighborhood
4	Housing -need for stricter zoning enforcement	Public Safety -traffic and retention of Fire Station #3	Property Maintenance -maintenance in alley right of ways, education and enforcement of codes	Infrastructure -improve drainage, alley conditions and more yard waste pick up
5	Public Safety -noise and other disturbances and lack of follow up enforcement	Infrastructure -sidewalk maintenance	Public Safety -traffic, enforcement of stop signs	Property Maintenance -more education to residents of codes
6 & 11	Infrastructure -drainage problems	Infrastructure -streetlights	Property Maintenance -enforcement of city and homeowner association codes	
7	Housing -maintenance of owner and renter occupied homes	Infrastructure -want street lights, sidewalks and improve MTD routed streets	Property Maintenance -education of who to call for enforcement-trash nuisances	Public Safety -noise and persons out late at night/early morning
8	Infrastructure -drainage problems	Infrastructure -there are no streetlights	Property Maintenance -parking occurs on grass and parkways	Public Safety -continue the enforcement of traffic at school zones
9	Civic Involvement -more neighborhood coordination, keep a neighborhood school	Housing -maintain character of housing	Property Maintenance -enforce nuisance violations	Infrastructure -need street upgrades and address drainage problems on slurry seal streets
10	Infrastructure -drainage and ponding in areas	Infrastructure -street surfacing conditions		
13	Property Maintenance -enforcement on properties-developed and under construction	Infrastructure -drainage, management and maintenance of detention basins		
14	Infrastructure -poor pavement and sidewalk conditions	Public Safety -pedestrian safety between school and streets	Property Maintenance -nuisance violations, especially trash	Housing -increase enforcement of violations
15	Public Safety -need better lighting around park	Public Safety -traffic at Crescent and Kirby	Infrastructure -pavement conditions on Clover Lane	



Goals, Success Measures, and Strategies

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Introduction

This chapter provides the overall vision statement for the Neighborhood Vision and Analysis Report, as well as the current Neighborhood Wellness Action Plan. While the 1992 Neighborhood Wellness Action Plan defined neighborhood wellness, there was not an overall vision to steer the direction of the Plan. The Neighborhood Wellness Vision is an important component of the Plan because it depicts in words what neighborhood wellness means and the intended overall outcome of the Plan for all neighborhoods to strive to attain. Although each neighborhood has its own character, the Vision applies to all of the City's planning areas. The Vision Statement is structured similarly to the 2002 Comprehensive Plan's Vision Statement; it includes an overall statement followed by statements related specifically to the Plan's goal areas: Housing and Property Maintenance, Public Infrastructure and Facilities, Public Safety, and Civic Involvement.

Vision Statement

Champaign has healthy neighborhoods where residents show pride in their community and value the unique character of each neighborhood.



Vision

Housing and Property Maintenance



Adequate, safe, and affordable housing is available throughout the City where residents have a wide range of housing choices. Property owners maintain their property and benefit from increasing property values.

Civic Involvement

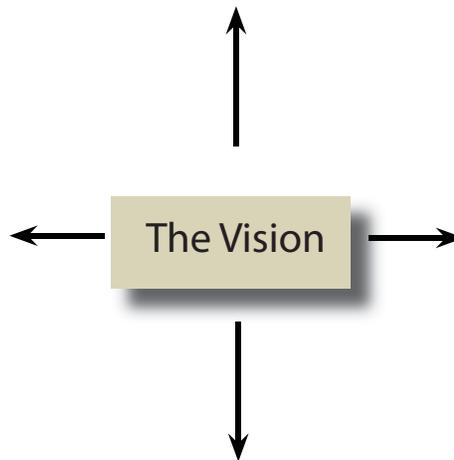


Neighborhood residents are active in issues that impact their neighborhood. Residents work together to solve problems and improve their neighborhoods. Neighborhood organizations participate in local decision-making, allowing the City to target services to meet the unique needs of each neighborhood.

Public Safety



Residents feel safe and secure in their neighborhoods. Through positive relationships with the Police and Fire Departments, residents are engaged in addressing issues and solving problems, and are prepared to respond to emergencies within their neighborhood.



Public Infrastructure and Facilities



Public infrastructure throughout the City is well maintained. Quality public facilities are available to residents of each neighborhood.

The Vision Statement is the desired state for all of the City's neighborhoods. This chapter of the Plan contains the goals, success measures, and strategies that support that Vision Statement. Besides providing the framework for how to achieve the Vision, the goals, success measures, and strategies also assist in the identification of the type and direction of program activities for each planning area.

For the purpose of this Plan, goals are defined as the broadest statements describing what residents want in their neighborhood. Consistent with the Plan's Vision, the goals are categorized into the areas of: Housing and Property Maintenance, Public Infrastructure and Public Facilities, Public Safety, and Civic Involvement.

The success measures link the Plan's goals and strategies to one another as well as create a direct relationship with the Neighborhood Analysis Report. The success measures are qualitative measures that, when assessed over time, will indicate whether or not goals are being accomplished. They also determine whether or not the chosen strategies are effective. Most of the success measures noted throughout this Plan have an equivalent data set that is quantitatively measured in the Neighborhood Analysis Report. Many of the goals have several success measures that can indicate the success of the different components of each goal.

Each goal area contains multiple strategies which are the actions or approaches that detail how the goals can be accomplished. Some strategies pertain to existing or new programs, while others pertain to the creation of a new City ordinance, or an amendment to an existing one. The strategies are common in that they all lead to reaching their corresponding goal, however, they are unique because they may be applied differently to certain planning areas. Also, some strategies may be applicable to all neighborhoods in the City and others may be planning area specific.



Goals, Success Measures, and Strategies

Hierarchy of the Neighborhood Wellness Action Plan

Vision Statement

A description of what all neighborhoods are striving to achieve.



Goal

A destination or outcome, which a neighborhood seeks to attain. It is a general statement, which sets the broad framework for the Plan's strategies, and further describes how to achieve the Vision.



Success Measure

A quantifiable measure of a wellness indicator that will determine whether or not a goal is being successfully implemented by a designated strategy.



Strategy

The specific action needed to achieve a goal. Usually there are several strategies that show different approaches that work either individually or collectively to accomplish a goal.

Goals, Success Measures, and Strategies

Housing and Property Maintenance:

Adequate, safe, and affordable housing is available throughout the City where residents have a wide range of housing choices. Property owners maintain their property and benefit from stable property values.

Goal 1: Preserve and expand the supply of adequate, safe and affordable housing throughout the city.

It is important, when promoting healthy neighborhoods to provide a range of housing choices. These choices should include such factors as price, style, location and tenure to accommodate residents within the community. Additionally, there should be a supply of housing stock that is accessible as well as visitable for persons with disabilities.

G1 Success Measures:

1. Housing is in good condition.
2. There are opportunities to both own and rent a home.
3. Housing costs are not a burden to the household.

G1 Strategies:

1. Identify new approaches for funding housing programs and activities. Potential programs may include developing residential TIF districts (Tax Increment Financing), providing property tax rebates, and creating trust funds.
2. Identify individual lots and areas that can be acquired by the City and packaged with redevelopment incentives to develop new affordable housing.
3. Promote mixed income neighborhoods using techniques such as zoning, impact fees, and property tax rebates.
4. Provide incentives to encourage the preservation of historic housing stock.
5. Conduct home maintenance workshops for residents. Expand current programs to residents who are not participating in City housing rehabilitation programs.
6. Increase homeownership and housing rehabilitation programs throughout the City.
7. Provide additional education to housing developers, architects, builders, City governments, and the general public about the importance and practicality of adopting universal design standards to meet the growing need for more affordable, accessible home building.

Goal 2: Encourage investments and improvements that will positively affect property values.

To promote a wide range of housing choices, maintaining the existing housing stock and reversing deterioration are important factors to positively affect property values within neighborhoods.

G2 Success Measures:

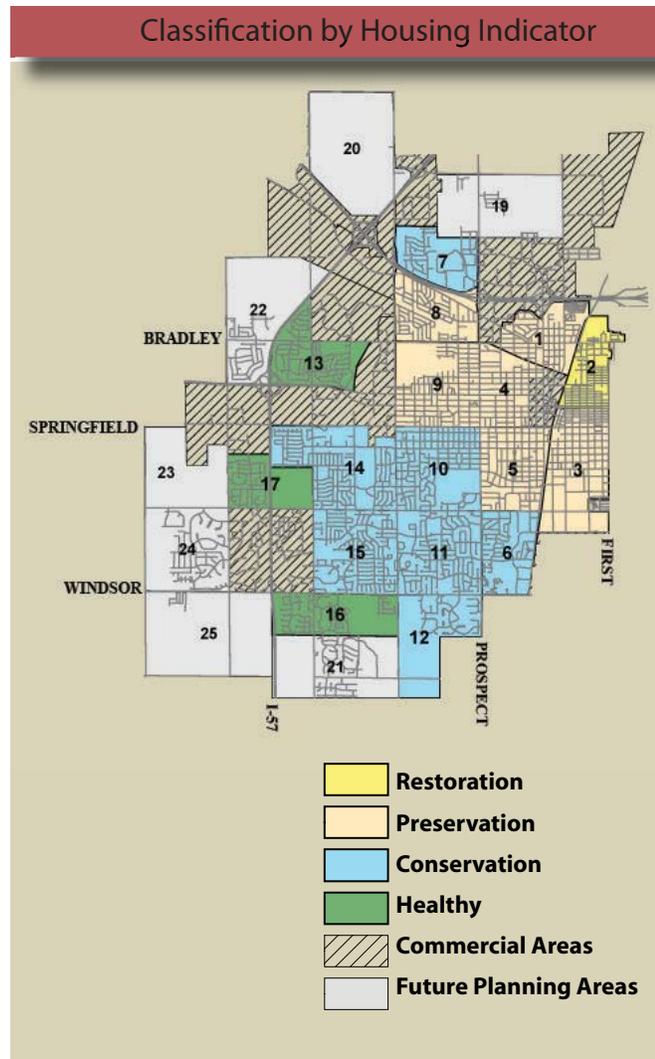
1. Property values increase at the same rate or at a greater rate than the City's average.
2. Homes are sold at a pace comparable to the citywide average.
3. All residents have equal access to private and public capital for home purchases and improvements.
4. Increasing private loan approval rates.
5. Vacancy rates are consistent among all neighborhoods.



Goals, Success Measures, and Strategies

G2 Strategies:

1. Provide programs to encourage reinvestment and promote improvements to existing housing stock.
2. Work with the financial community to eliminate barriers to credit and expand lending activity in low and moderate income areas.
3. Provide credit counseling and education programs to residents in partnership with other agencies such as banks and non profit agencies.
4. Develop programs that partner with other agencies such as banks, employers, and non profit organizations that assist low and moderate income households with home purchase and home improvements. Potential programs may include lease to purchase, private activity bonds, down payment assistance, and employer assisted housing.



Goal 3: Improve and maintain the appearance and condition of property (land and buildings) in all neighborhoods.

In addition to new housing, attention must be given maintaining and upgrading the appearance and condition of property within neighborhoods to achieve community standards and code compliance.

G3 Success Measures:

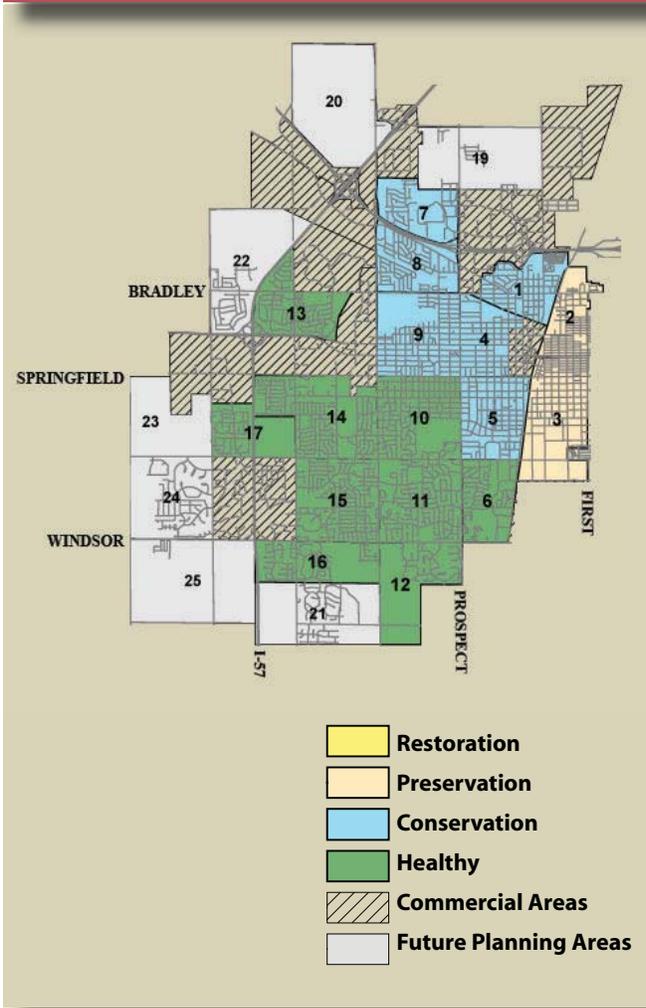
1. Housing is in good condition.
2. Accessory structures are in good condition.
3. Properties are free of nuisances.

G3 Strategies:

1. Expand property maintenance enforcement by developing a systematic rental inspection program.
2. Maintain information on building conditions through periodic surveys to detect and document condition changes over time. Incorporate the data collected into the City's Geographic Information System.

Goals, Success Measures, and Strategies

Classification by Property Maintenance Indicator



3. Identify and work with non-profit, volunteer, and other agencies to provide services/support with home improvements and property maintenance to special needs populations.
4. Identify new funding sources specifically for the City or housing developers to purchase dilapidated properties and rehabilitate or replace.
5. Expand housing rehabilitation programs to renter occupied properties with requirements that units are rented to low to moderate income households.
6. Develop educational programs and literature media to help property owners and other organizations interact with local government as well as inform residents of City programs.
7. Utilize a range of penalties for repeat property maintenance code offenders such as court, classes, and community service.
8. Assign inspectors to monitor areas on a regular basis to identify potential property maintenance problems and violations.
9. Continue to be involved with housing organizations, such as the Champaign County Apartment Owners Association, campus area apartment owners, and Board of Realtors to inform them of City plans, programs, and activities.
10. Encourage registered neighborhood organizations to routinely canvass neighborhoods and forward information regarding code violations and potential problems to the appropriate City official.
11. Expand neighborhood clean up activities to non-targeted planning areas.
12. Continue the "Move-In; Move-Out" program in the University District to discourage and reduce inappropriate dumping of trash at the end of the semester.
13. Develop a vacant/abandoned building ordinance to address building conditions and include actions for acquiring vacant structures for rehab, demolition, or redevelopment.
14. Assist property owners in the demolition of dilapidated secondary structures such as sheds and garages.



Goals, Success Measures, and Strategies

Goal 4: Minimize negative impacts that arise from conflicting land uses.

Some uses may conflict with the predominant uses in a neighborhood, although they may be compliant with the Zoning Ordinance. With the help of City staff, problems can be addressed and minimized.

G4 Success Measures:

1. Land use conflicts are mitigated or eliminated.
2. Neighborhood complaints and issues are addressed, and where possible resolved through appropriate action.

G4 Strategies:

1. Identify inappropriate zoning classifications that could lead to incompatible uses.
2. Rezone properties which may be incompatible.
3. Provide incentives and zoning techniques such as planned developments, that can help minimize conflicts.
4. Identify new code (zoning and property maintenance) enforcement approaches.
5. Develop approaches to encourage the relocation of incompatible uses.

Goals, Success Measures, and Strategies

Public Infrastructure and Facilities:

Public infrastructure throughout the City is well maintained. Quality public facilities are available to residents of each neighborhood.

Goal 1: Build and maintain existing neighborhood infrastructure to City standards.

This goal addresses the provision of basic infrastructure improvements. It provides for new development to meet current City standards and for existing development to be brought up to those standards. Also, there is a need to maintain existing infrastructure so that it continues to operate effectively.

G1 Success Measures:

1. Pavement is in good condition.
2. Sanitary sewers are in working condition and have few defects.
3. Flood areas are identified and mitigated.
4. Sidewalks are safe and accessible to residents.
5. Streetlights are in good and working condition.
6. Alleys are in good condition.

G1 Strategies:

1. Complete Infrastructure Master Plans for all infrastructure systems.
2. Utilize the Local Street Improvement Program to upgrade deficient local streets, and prioritize improvements.
3. Improve sanitary sewers using the Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Program.
4. Identify and record flooding problems, and schedule drainage improvements based on priority.
5. Identify new funding sources to implement neighborhood level improvements recommended by the Stormwater Management Plan.
6. Utilize the sidewalk gap program in the Capital Improvements Plan for highest priority areas.
7. Revise the Sidewalk Rehabilitation Program to schedule improvements within the life cycle of sidewalks.
8. Install intersection lighting at high priority locations.
9. Prioritize alley maintenance and rehabilitation projects based on the recommendations and activities identified in the Alley Master Plan.
10. Continue to disconnect areas annexed into the City from their current drainage districts.

Goal 2: Provide support to neighborhood residents who want to upgrade their neighborhood infrastructure.

The City's existing policies require a cost share between the City and residents to construct initial infrastructure or bring it to City standard in areas where it is lacking. This goal strives to improve communication and coordination between the City and property owners to find cost effective ways to install and upgrade various infrastructure systems.

G2 Success Measures:

1. New infrastructure is constructed on a systematic basis.
2. The public understands City policies and how decisions are made for infrastructure repairs.
3. A system is in place to allow City staff to work with residents who wish to upgrade infrastructure in their neighborhood.



Goals, Success Measures, and Strategies

G2 Strategies:

1. Review the City Council policy on cost sharing for local infrastructure improvements.
2. Identify optimal funding sources and programs for high priority local infrastructure improvement projects such as the Capital Improvements Plan, special assessments, stormwater utility tax, SSA's (Special Service Areas), and local motor fuel tax.
3. Provide support and funds for neighborhoods to use to address priority infrastructure needs.
4. Evaluate current criteria for capital improvement prioritization and consider adding more weight to the neighborhood support criterion.
5. Consider alternative infrastructure standards for certain projects to reduce their costs.

Goal 3: Public facilities, including parks, schools, and community centers, are well maintained and an asset to the neighborhood.

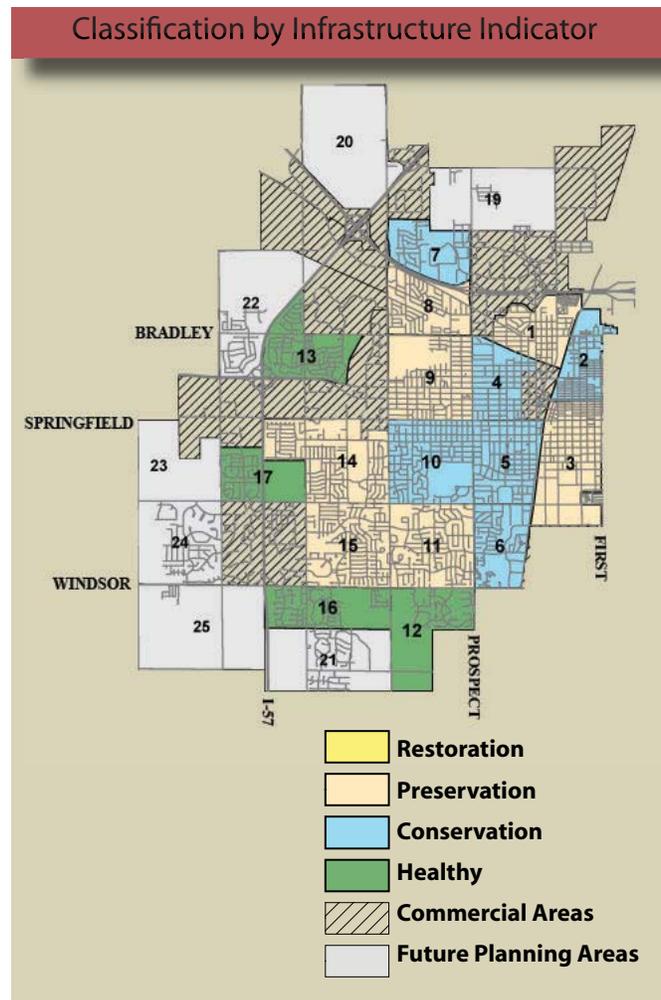
Public facilities such as parks, community and recreation centers, and schools are neighborhood amenities and contribute to the overall vitality of neighborhoods. It is important that beyond their presence in neighborhoods, they also remain safe, usable, and accessible to residents.

G3 Success Measures:

1. Public facilities are available to their surrounding neighborhoods.
2. Residents use the public facilities in their neighborhood.
3. There is communication between neighborhood and staff regarding the use and condition of public facilities.
4. Crime rates are low in and around public facilities.

G3 Strategies:

1. Work with other units of government to ensure that their public facilities are safe.
2. Use public facilities for community outreach efforts and neighborhood meetings.
3. Encourage other governmental agencies to attend neighborhood meetings.
4. Encourage intergovernmental cooperation in the design and construction of new public facilities so they have multiple public purposes.
5. Work with other units of government, including the Park District and the School District, to determine the best way to ensure that adequate public facilities are available in new neighborhoods.



Goals, Success Measures, and Strategies

Public Safety:

Residents feel safe and secure in their neighborhoods. Through positive relationships with the Police and Fire Departments, residents are engaged in addressing issues and solving problems, and are prepared to respond to emergencies within their neighborhood.

Goal 1: Improve and maintain public safety in neighborhoods.

Residents are entitled to feel safe in their neighborhoods. This goal addresses the provision of police and fire protection to ensure the safety and well being of residents.

G1 Success Measures:

1. The average Fire/EMS response times remain within city standards.
2. Crime rates are low.
3. Citizens obey traffic laws and accidents are low.

G1 Strategies:

1. Enforce traffic laws, including speeding and failure to stop on local streets.
2. Coordinate efforts between the Police, Public Works, and Planning Departments to identify areas with high accident rates and develop solutions for remediation such as intersection/street design, signage, traffic lighting, and appropriate speed limits.
3. Provide short term directed/deterrent patrols to any identified problems.
4. Utilize foot patrols to reduce street crimes.
5. Continue to use a directed patrol to reduce street crimes.
6. Use programs such as community policing, private security, student patrol programs, and neighborhood watch groups to address neighborhood crimes.

Goal 2: Build positive relationships between residents and the Police and Fire departments to promote public involvement in solving and responding to neighborhood safety issues.

In order to maximize the effectiveness of police and fire services, it is important that residents have open communication with the Police and Fire departments. Positive relationships and dialogue can help in problem solving neighborhood issues and adjusting services to fit neighborhood needs.

G2 Success Measures:

1. There are neighborhood organizations and active neighborhood watch groups.
2. There is a high level of trust in the Police and Fire Departments.

G2 Strategies:

1. Communicate with the public the processes for reporting neighborhood criminal activity.
2. Plan, organize, and attend neighborhood and community meetings.
3. Provide opportunities for the public to report crime in a safe environment, such as through public facilities, telephone, Crimestoppers, City website, and personal contact with officers.



Goals, Success Measures, and Strategies

4. Provide community policing training and neighborhood watch programs.
5. Educate residents on safety issues through literature, neighborhood meetings, workshops, and other media.
6. Openly communicate police deployment practices and share information regarding distribution of police services.
7. Solicit citizen input on police priorities and encourage their participation in problem-solving efforts.

Goal 3: Neighborhood residents are prepared to respond to emergencies.

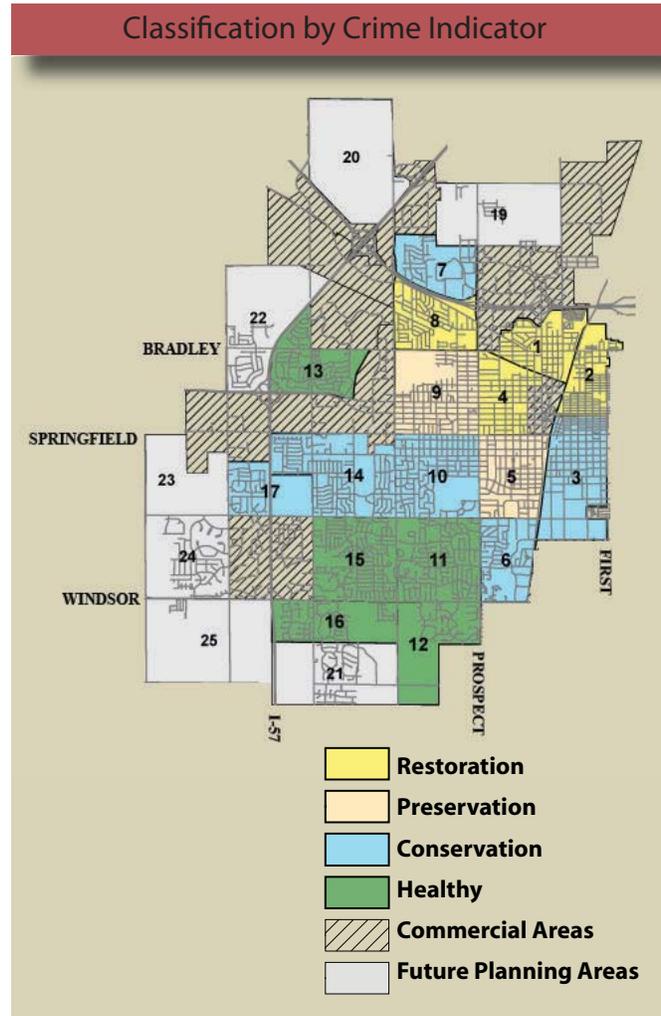
The City and emergency service providers may not always be able to respond to emergencies immediately. Through training and neighborhood organization, residents can be equipped to initially respond to emergencies that impact their neighborhood until the City or other groups can assist the neighborhood.

G3 Success Measures:

1. Residents are educated and/or trained in emergency preparedness.
2. Residents are notified of emergencies in a timely manner.

G3 Strategies:

1. Assist residents and neighborhood groups in developing emergency response plans.
2. Identify neighborhood contacts for emergencies as well as neighborhood resources that may be utilized in emergencies.
3. Provide training and tools for emergency preparedness, including CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) and AED (Automated External Defibrillator) training.
4. Investigate improved methods of notification to the public of emergency situations.



Goals, Success Measures, and Strategies

Civic Involvement:

Neighborhood residents are active in issues that impact their neighborhood. Residents work together to solve problems and improve their neighborhoods. Neighborhood organizations participate in local decision-making, allowing the City to target services to meet the unique needs of each neighborhood.

Goal1: Engage citizens in the operation of local government.

The Neighborhood Wellness Plan is the outcome of input from citizens in the community. Activities such as neighborhood meetings, special committees, task forces, and workshops are ways in which the City can receive input from residents. This goal addresses the City's commitment to finding additional ways to engage the public, especially as residents may have limited time to get involved in civic related activities. This goal also furthers the philosophy of neighborhood wellness, to encourage residents to be organized and self equipped to address neighborhood issues and work in partnership with the City to solve neighborhood problems.

G1 Success Measures:

1. There is a high voter turnout for local elections.
2. Residents provide input on neighborhood issues.
3. Board and Commission positions are filled.
4. Residents have access to information about the City.

G1 Strategies:

1. Identify activities to increase voter registration. (Provide registration at all public facilities, education, marketing)
2. Provide neighborhood organizations with resources to be more involved in neighborhood affairs such as neighborhood meetings, clean up activities, and events.
3. Recognize neighborhood organizations for their accomplishments.
4. Provide new and more convenient ways for residents to provide and receive information from the City.
5. Develop events and activities that foster neighborhood interaction within neighborhoods and between neighborhoods.
6. Utilize existing boards and commissions as forums for additional resident involvement
7. Build resident input into all City processes and formalize opportunities for community dialogs on City processes and projects so that residents are informed and may participated in issues that affect them.
8. Provide direct and timely responses from staff to citizens when requests are made.
9. Provide neighborhood leaders with access to City staff, and to information that may be communicated back to neighborhood groups.



Goals, Success Measures, and Strategies

Goal 2: Provide neighborhoods with the tools to maintain and improve the health of their neighborhoods.

G2 Success Measures:

1. There are active neighborhood organizations.
2. Residents participate in neighborhood activities and meetings.



G2 Strategies:

1. Provide incentives for the creation of neighborhood organizations.
2. Provide incentives for the continuation of, and active participation in existing neighborhood organizations.
3. Work with residents to identify resources and self-help projects that improve condition in neighborhoods. Projects may include Adopt a Park programs, neighborhood clean ups, and active identification and reporting of code violations and other neighborhood issues.
4. Facilitate communication between neighborhood organizations and other governmental units such as the Park District and School District.

Goals, Success Measures, and Strategies

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Neighborhood Wellness Programs

Introduction

The implementation of the Plan's goals and strategies is carried out through the actions of the City's departments as well as by residents, other agencies, and partnerships. This section describes ongoing activities necessary to implement the vision and goals of neighborhood wellness, broken out by each area of the vision. The Neighborhood Wellness Plan is a combination of two documents; the Vision and Analysis Report and the Action Plan. The Action Plan is the work program that lists the programs or activities, called Prescriptions, that will be accomplished in each planning area over a two-year time period. The programs listed here are 'prescribed' for various planning areas as actions that should be implemented to stabilize and improve the area. In the Action Plan, each planning area includes a Prognosis and Prescription report, which outlines or diagnoses the issues facing that area and then lists actions that will mitigate those issues.

The ongoing activities are defined as programs and initiatives that apply to the whole City, although their relevance may be more pertinent or have greater impact in certain planning areas. New activities are those that have been identified and are being further developed to implement in the short term. Lastly, proposed initiatives are those recommended to be further researched and developed for the long term. Supplementing the descriptions of these activities is an implementation table showing the timeframe for these proposals, the lead department for implementing the activities, and the pertinent planning areas in which these proposals would be relevant or useful.

Where some planning areas may not contain specific actions or activities, this is usually indicative of healthy conditions in which the City will continue to provide its citywide programs and baseline services, but will not need to put forth additional, targeted services.

Neighborhood Wellness Programs

Neighborhood Wellness Programs - Ongoing

Housing and Property Maintenance

Housing Programs The housing programs identified in the History and Background Chapter are ongoing programs to address physical repairs to owner occupied homes or housing affordability. These also include partnerships with various agencies including non profit organizations and banks.

Land Acquisition/Demolition This is a blight abatement strategy to eliminate deteriorated and unsafe structures. Limited funds are available for the acquisition and demolition of structures where the owner is either unwilling or unable financially to repair the structure. Following the acquisition and demolition of a property, the City will use the properties to construct affordable housing.

Systematic Nuisance Inspections/Enforcement As an ongoing project, the City's property maintenance inspectors will be assigned to neighborhoods to routinely monitor and enforce the property maintenance code. Additionally, the Neighborhood Services Department will continue to respond to resident initiated complaints.

Front Yard Parking Ordinance Adopted in 2003, this ordinance prohibits cars from parking in front yards, across sidewalks, on parkways, or City easements. Vehicle owners who violate the ordinance are ticketed and could potentially have their driver's license suspended upon an accumulation of 10 unpaid parking tickets.

Secondary Structure Demolition Program This program provides funding to income eligible property owners to remove dilapidated garages, sheds, and other accessory structures from their properties.

Summer Code Compliance Program Also known as "annual sweeps", this is a systematic code enforcement program carried out by student interns over the summer months. Activities involve canvassing neighborhoods for property maintenance violations and citing property owners and residents to achieve compliance.

Neighborhood Cleanups While this is an ongoing program that provides three neighborhood cleanups annually for target area neighborhoods, the possibility of expanding this program citywide is currently being researched. Neighborhood organizations may also apply for a Neighborhood Small Grant to have a neighborhood cleanup day for their neighborhood.

Zoning Enforcement Enforcement of the City's Zoning Ordinance is a City baseline service. This is an ongoing activity which identifies violations of the City's Zoning Ordinance, particularly regulations regarding illegal uses and signs. There are two components to this activity: routine patrols and response to citizen complaints.

Systematic Inspection of Multifamily Common Areas In 2005, the City Council approved a pilot program for the systematic inspection of common areas within multifamily housing throughout the City. The purpose of the program is to identify life safety issues in the over 1,000 multifamily buildings



Neighborhood Wellness Programs

in the City with 3 or more dwelling units. The program is an innovative partnership between property owners and the City to assure that multifamily properties are evaluated annually. For the first two years of an inspection cycle, property owners conduct self inspections and report the results to the City and in the third year a City inspector inspects the common areas for fire prevention and life safety issues. The Central Illinois Apartment Association works closely with City staff to make property owners aware of the program and City code requirements. Training sessions and meetings are held to educate owners and property management personnel on how to complete the self-inspections and the importance of these issues related to resident safety. Deficiencies identified by City inspectors will be handled as code violation cases.

Self-Inspection Checklist This program encourages residents to examine their own properties on a regular basis so they can identify and correct property maintenance violations. The program would consist of the development and distribution of a property checklist through neighborhood groups to residents throughout the City.

Public Education Public education involves using a variety of methods to communicate to and educate residents on the City's property maintenance standards as well as provide technical assistance regarding home and property maintenance. Current educational activities include home maintenance workshops, credit and savings workshops, brochures providing information about the City's property maintenance and housing programs, and advertising programs on the City's website and television channel.

Yard Waste Collections The Public Works Department provides a five-week yardwaste collection in the fall and a two-week yardwaste collection in the spring to all residents in the City.

Public Infrastructure and Facilities

Pothole Patching The Pothole Patching Program is a program to repair potholes in a timely manner to prevent further deterioration of streets. Routine inspections are carried out to identify locations in need of repair. Citizen requests for services are also part of this program.

Overhead Sewer Cost Share The City and Urbana-Champaign Sanitary District (UCSD) will participate in cost sharing to retrofit owner-occupied single family homes with gravity flow sewers that have below grade plumbing to an overhead sewer system. This type of system eliminates the possibility of sewage backups into basements and lower levels of homes. Combined, the City and UCSD's participation is 75% of the project, or a maximum of \$3750. Homes must have been built before 1994 in order to be eligible for this program.

Hazardous Sump Pump Abatement Program A cost share program is offered to residents to connect their sump pump into the City's storm sewer system when the discharge from their sump pump is causing ice or algae problems in the City right of way. Homeowners are required to pay \$1500, and there is no formal maximum limit established for the City's expenditure.

Tree Pruning This is a regular City service in which all trees within the public right of way are trimmed on a seven year cycle. The program also includes responding to citizen requests for service,

Neighborhood Wellness Programs

and the City will remove dead, declining, and undesirable trees from public rights of way. Citizens may also request the planting of a tree in public right of way to either replace a removed tree or through a cost-share. Developer are responsible for the planting of trees in new subdivisions.

Mowing The City mows City-owned lots, traffic islands, and right of way that are difficult for adjacent property owners to maintain.

Weed Control This program applies herbicide three times per year (Spring, Mid-Summer, and Fall) to medians, traffic islands, and other City right of way locations to control weeds.

Alley Maintenance Under the Alley Maintenance Program, the City inspects and maintains the surfaces in the City's alleys. Activities include filling potholes and blading gravel and asphalt milling surfaces.

Sidewalk Rehabilitation Sidewalk rehabilitation is an ongoing City service that repairs deteriorated sidewalks throughout the City based on a schedule as well as a list of resident requests.

Sewer Cleanup The televising and cleaning of the City's sanitary sewers is scheduled throughout the City on a ten year cycle.

Street Maintenance During April through November residential streets are swept at least one and a half times per month

Public Safety

Community Oriented Policing This program promotes interaction between police officers assigned to specific patrol areas and the citizens who work or reside in those areas. Through the process, citizens and police officers work together to identify neighborhood problems and concerns, as well as viable solutions. Resources from both groups are used to address these problems.

STEP: Selected Traffic Enforcement Patrol The STEP Program is a program in which the Police Department targets problem intersections or street sections which have high accident rates or incidents of speeding. Specific locations are selected for increased traffic enforcement over a period of time.

Directed/Deterred Patrol This is a program in which several police officers are dedicated to the suppression of street crime. This team of law enforcement officers is on flexible assignment, which allows it to target specific areas and concentrate on particular problems. The team has latitude in deciding how to address specific problems.

Station Adjustment Program The Station Adjustment Program works with young people who have been charged with a crime or been involved in violent incidents at school. The Station Adjustment Program includes weekly curfew checks, regular contact with school personnel regarding the young person's behavior and school attendance to ensure program compliance. Police Staff currently work with youth on a Station Adjustment and those who were previously on Station Adjustments. They



Neighborhood Wellness Programs

work with the families by making referrals to social service agencies and offering a free after school tutoring program. One afternoon a week, youth can attend a program that addresses social skills, anger management, accountability for ones' actions and goal setting. Youths on Station Adjustment are also required to participate in a community service project.

Student Patrol This program, specific to Planning Area 3, is designed to increase student safety on in the University of Illinois' campus area through student patrols. The program has two elements: Party Patrol, which consists of two students who provide an initial response to calls about loud parties; and Foot Patrol, involving student patrol seven nights a week, which reports dangerous or suspicious activity to police.

Citizen's Police Academy This intensive 10-week experience covers all aspects of policing and police training. The primary goal of the academy is to educate citizens to be more informed consumers of police services. Each fall and spring, citizens enroll in this program of instruction. Classes are taught at the Police Training Institute on the University of Illinois campus. The class meets for three hours, 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm each Thursday evening. The class is excellent for neighborhood watch block captains, persons considering a career in policing or anyone seeking more knowledge about police operations and training. Anyone interested in attending the citizen's academy should contact the Police Chief or Sheriff from the jurisdiction where they live.

Neighborhood Group Meetings When neighborhood groups hold meetings, police officers will attend to get resident input on priority neighborhood crime related issues and to provide information to residents on police activity pertaining to crime prevention.

Community Outreach and Education This activity refers to a range of crime and fire protection and awareness programs offered by the Police and Fire Departments. These programs are aimed primarily at youths in areas schools. Special provisions can be made to have these activities brought to specific neighborhoods. Example programs include: Fire Factor, D.A.R.E., and the Juvenile Firesetter Program.

Walking Unit The walking unit are police officers who patrol areas on foot rather than in a squad car. The Police Department programs for officers who are specifically part of the walking unit.

Civic Involvement

Neighborhood Organizing The City provides support for residents interested in forming neighborhood associations to address issues of concern and carry out self-help projects. Since the adoption of the 1992 Neighborhood Wellness Action Plan, the Neighborhood Coordination Division has taken an active role in assisting neighborhood associations in forming and providing technical assistance to keep them active. In recent years, providing assistance to keeping Homeowner's and Lakeowner's Associations active and registered with the State of Illinois has become a larger priority for neighborhood organizing activities.

Neighborhood Watch This is a citizen participation program designed to improve public safety in neighborhoods. Residents within a small geographic area work together to keep "watch" over each

Neighborhood Wellness Programs

other's property and safety. Residents receive crime-prevention training, which involves learning to detect and properly report suspicious activity to police.

Neighborhood Newsletter Based on the recommendations of the City's Communications Plan, the Neighborhood Services Department sends out two newsletters to all of the City's registered neighborhood group organizations. Besides providing education regarding City services, the newsletter is an effective way to keep people informed of City activities and opportunities to be involved in civic issues and activities.

Neighborhood Small Grant Program The Neighborhood Small Grant program provides funding for neighborhood organizing, small-scale neighborhood improvements, or neighborhood-based projects and events. The program allows participation by any active, registered neighborhood group in the City including neighborhood watch, home owner associations, and lake owner associations. The program encourages citizens to be active in organizing their neighbors to address high priority neighborhood problems and needs. Small grant projects must provide a public benefit to the neighborhood and/or the overall community. Activities undertaken with grant funds must be open to all households residing within the identified neighborhood boundaries.

National Night Out The National Association of Town Watch (NATW) has held National Night Out (NNO) in cities across the nation since 1982. The National Night Out event is designed to heighten awareness of methods used to prevent crime and drug activities in neighborhoods. Nationally, 34.2 million people participated in "America's Night Out Against Crime", in 2004. In recent years, the National Night Out celebration has been a joint effort between Champaign and the City of Urbana, featuring several local agencies that offer valuable information on keeping neighborhoods, homes, and pets safe. While the City supports the (NATW) in their effort to fight crime in neighborhoods, C-U's National Night Out celebration emphasizes a more rounded approach to safety, providing a range of information from changing a tire on an automobile to properly using Emergency 911.

Annual City Services Update Meeting For the past several years, the Neighborhood Services Department has facilitated an annual meeting for registered neighborhood organization leaders, block captains, homeowner association, and lake association officers to attend. The meeting provides participants an opportunity to learn about City services, major projects in the community, and upcoming City activities and development.

Neighborhood Wellness Programs - New

Housing and Property Maintenance

Housing Counseling Program The City's Neighborhood Services Department is approved by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as a Housing Counseling Agency. City staff members are able to provide home ownership and credit counseling workshops and one-on-one counseling to assist residents with correcting credit problems, eliminating debt, and building savings. The City offers these services to enhance existing home purchase and housing rehab programs. Counseling services are often provided in partnership with nonprofits or community agencies such as the Parkland Business Development Center that offers training for first-time home buyers.



Neighborhood Wellness Programs

Public Infrastructure and Facilities

Local Street Improvement Program Adopted in 2005, the Local Street Improvement Program provides funding each year for the improvements of local streets that have traditionally not achieved the priority to be included in the City's ten year Capital Improvements Plan. The program focuses on areas documented to have the greatest need for pavement repair on local streets.

Public Safety

Emergency Preparedness There are several initiatives that are currently taking place in the community that address emergency preparedness. Two major initiatives include CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) Training and Citizen Corps. CERT Training is a program that will teach residents how to prepare for and respond to emergencies that could occur in the community. As the City would need to address areas with the greatest need and highest priority in an emergency situation, it is important for neighborhoods to be equipped with the tools to be able to be self-sufficient, especially if they City may not be able to help them first. The Citizen Corps, a federal initiative, is coordinated on a local level by local, regional, and state organizations. The Citizen Corps provides opportunities for citizens to engage in planning and preparing for emergency situations and knowing how to respond to emergencies.

Traffic Safety Website The Champaign Police Department recently created a page on the City's website that provides a convenient method for citizens to report ongoing traffic concerns. Concerns might involve speeding, speeding in school zones, pedestrian traffic issues, or other reoccurring problems with a traffic component to them. Isolated problems should be monitored, or reported to the Police Department when they occur. Engineering issues that involve changes to signage or speed limits should be addressed through the Public Works Department.

Civic Involvement

Good Neighbor Award The Good Neighbor Award is a new program that recognizes Champaign residents who exemplify the characteristics of good citizenship in action. The program encourages kindnesses and neighborly deeds to make Champaign's neighborhoods special, and recognizes the "everyday" acts of good neighbors that make the City a safe, friendly place to live and work. Nominations are accepted throughout the year, and awards are given annually. Eligible candidates are citizens who have resided in the City for at least one year have volunteered in community projects, programs, or events, have provided their expertise in neighborhood affairs, or have otherwise demonstrated the traits of good citizenship.

Neighborhood Wellness Proposed Initiatives

Housing and Property Maintenance

Vacant Building Ordinance Currently, City codes allow property maintenance inspectors to cite property owners for a vacant or abandoned structure only if the structure is open to intrusion, is

Neighborhood Wellness Programs

visibly decayed, or has nuisance code violations. A Vacant Building Ordinance would allow staff to track and monitor vacant structures and encourage owners to repair or demolish them. The ordinance could require the registration of vacant buildings with the City, require inspections of vacant properties, or specify procedures and standards for vacant buildings. Additionally, such an ordinance could establish penalties for non-compliance and promote long term solutions for removing or reoccupying vacant or abandoned buildings.

New Construction of Infill Housing For many years, the City has worked with nonprofit housing developers such as Habitat for Humanity to promote the construction of new single-family housing units on vacant City-owned lots. In addition to continuing these efforts, the City will explore ways to expand new construction activities in preservation neighborhoods. Many vacant residential lots in these areas are undersized, requiring a unique housing design to meet today's zoning standards. The City hopes to work with both nonprofit and for-profit developers to identify home designs that can be built on narrow lots and be compatible with the architectural character of the surrounding housing stock. The City will partner with housing developers and private lenders to finance the construction of new homes to provide affordable homeownership opportunities for City residents. City funding may be used to acquire or clear land, contribute to construction costs, or to assist buyers with the purchase of these homes.

Acquisition, Rehab, and Resale of Deteriorated Properties The City would like to identify funding to purchase and rehab vacant housing that is deteriorated but still suitable for renovation. The acquisition of these properties could be accomplished as a result of court action in property maintenance cases, or the City could negotiate to purchase properties from willing sellers. This would allow the City to intervene earlier as housing conditions decline, rather than delaying action to when demolition is necessary. The City could conduct these projects in-house or partner with nonprofit or for-profit housing developers who would agree to bring the properties up to city code and sell or rent them at an affordable price. These activities would be targeted in preservation planning areas where disinvestment trends are high.

Employer Assisted Housing Program The Employer Assisted Housing Program has been successful in other communities. This initiative would allow employers in the City to provide incentives for their employees to rent, purchase or build homes near their place of employment. The State of Illinois recently initiated a program that provides a 50% tax credit for every dollar a company invests in Employer Assisted Housing. The assistance to the employee might be in the form of down payment, reduced interest mortgages, or rent subsidies. The Illinois Housing Development Authority may also provide funding to match the employer contribution. The City may consider operating a similar program, or educate major employers to participate existing programs through the State or the Illinois Housing Development Authority.

Exterior Repair Program This program could provide funding for repairs to siding, gutters, soffit, and fascia, and window and door replacement if funding allows. Participants could be identified by the City's Property Maintenance Division as owners of blighted properties most in need of exterior renovation and properties that would have a significant positive impact on the surrounding neighborhood if addressed. Financial assistance could be secured by a mortgage with payback required when the property is sold or title is transferred.



Neighborhood Wellness Programs

Public Infrastructure and Facilities

Infrastructure Master Plans and Reprioritization of Maintenance Schedules Master Plans are being completed by the Public Works Department for each of the City's main infrastructure systems which include: streets, sidewalks, sanitary sewers, drainage, streetlights and alleys. The Master Plans will identify the overall infrastructure issues and develop a plan for systematically improving and maintaining the public infrastructure. As these plans develop, neighborhood classification and identified neighborhood infrastructure needs will factor into priorities for when and where repairs and maintenance will be scheduled.

Infrastructure Cost Share Alternatives The existing City policy for the upgrade or installation of neighborhood infrastructure such as sidewalks, streetlights, and stormwater and sanitary sewer systems requires a cost sharing between the City and residents benefitted by such projects. Since this policy was adopted, this program has not been used. This activity calls for exploring ways to better communicate the existing policy to the public and to find new cost effective ways to install and upgrade various infrastructure systems. Possible programs to assist residents in their share for improvements include using home equity for improvements by placing a lien on the property, creating a financing mechanism similar to a reverse mortgage, or creating Special Service Areas (SSAs), where impacted residents pay an annual amount based on the equalized assessed value of their home. Other alternatives for improving local infrastructure may include identifying new sources of funding for improvement projects that would not require a cost share from residents. This could include placing a higher priority on neighborhood needs to facilitate their inclusion in the Capital Improvements Plan, and considering alternative infrastructure standards in appropriate instances, where the cost would be lower, but the product would still be of an acceptable quality.

Civic Involvement

Neighborhood Contact Team This trial project will provide other City staff to assist the Neighborhood Coordinator with coverage of neighborhood meetings and events. As the City expands and more neighborhoods organize, scheduled neighborhood meetings and events are also increasing. The City wants to assure that all neighborhoods who want a City representative to attend their meetings can be accommodated; however, the growing number of scheduled conflicts makes it increasingly difficult for the Neighborhood Coordinator to attend them all. Several City employees perform similar community outreach functions as part of their work and are interested in expanding their efforts to assist with neighborhood outreach and organizing activities. Contact Team members will attend neighborhood events in the place of the Neighborhood Coordinator and will refer neighborhood information and questions back to the City organization. These employees will work as a team with the Neighborhood Coordinator to identify issues of common interest and concern to neighborhood groups and they will facilitate a response to these issues by City staff.

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