

Priority Area:

Address Declining Neighborhoods

Goal/Objective:

Improve appearance of neighborhoods through maintenance of properties.

Strategy 2- Neighborhood Improvement Zone Project:**Action Steps:**

- a. Form workgroup of city staff to conduct research of program(s) for possible implementation. Review former program as well as conduct new research of similar programs to determine best program parameters to include in new initiative. Establish new processes and procedures for new project to include how to determine zones for focused efforts, neighborhood engagement meetings to receive citizen input into neighborhood concerns and possible solutions, etc. Ensure process design includes required continued dialogue with neighborhoods after new neighborhood zones are selected for focus (staying connected with neighborhoods already in program).
- b. Re-establish relationships with neighborhood by working with One Joplin, churches, schools, and other neighborhood anchors active in neighborhood improvement.
- c. Work with neighborhood councils to identify new initiatives to positively impact neighborhood ownership and pride (beautification initiatives i.e. house or yard of month, neighborhood clean up days, etc.).
- d. Work with neighborhoods to identify city infrastructure needs to improve neighborhood appearance (street lights, sidewalks, street and curb/gutter improvements, etc.)
- e. Work with neighborhoods to identify other neighborhood issues requiring city assistance (crime, animal control, etc.).
- f. Expand existing and create new relationships with local non-profit and faith-based organizations active in homeowner assistance with home repairs and improvements (Habitat For Humanity, Fuller Housing, etc.). Work with these organizations to target home repairs in declining neighborhoods. Explore additional shared relationships with these organizations to leverage resources (see Action Plan 4- Strengthen Home Repair Program).

Resources Required:

1. Staff time for research of program and program needs.
2. Funding for annual cost (personnel, fringe) of employment of 2 staff (Neighborhood Improvement Officer and Neighborhood Improvement Supervisor)
3. Funding for annual operational costs \$25,000.
4. Funding for one-time start-up costs (vehicles, office furniture, phones, etc.).
5. Funding for 0.25 FTE additional court/prosecutor staff.

*“Clean up blighted neighborhood areas, address the dangers that these areas cause.” –
Listening Tour Respondent*

Total Plan Cost:

Total Additional FTE: 2.25

One Time Costs: \$5,000

Staffing Annual Costs: \$165,000

Program Annual Costs: \$25,000

Desired Benefit/Outcome:

- Stabilize property values.
- Enhance neighborhood pride.
- Improve communication between the City of Joplin and residents.

Improve maintenance of structures and yards.

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