



# South East Villages Neighborhood Action Plan

Aurora Neighborhood Planning Initiative

City of Aurora, IL



Adopted December 2005



Prepared by:





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## Special Thanks

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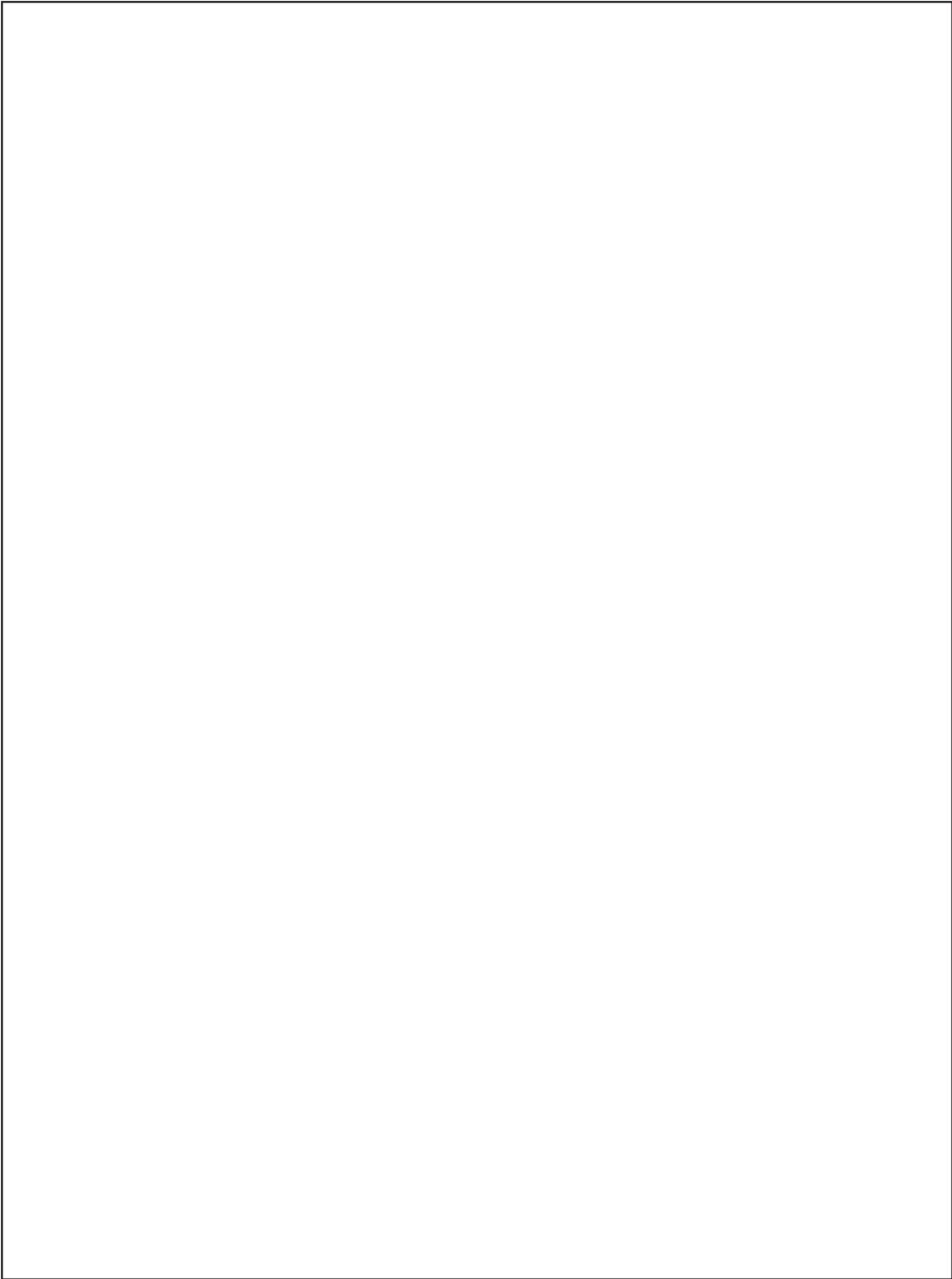
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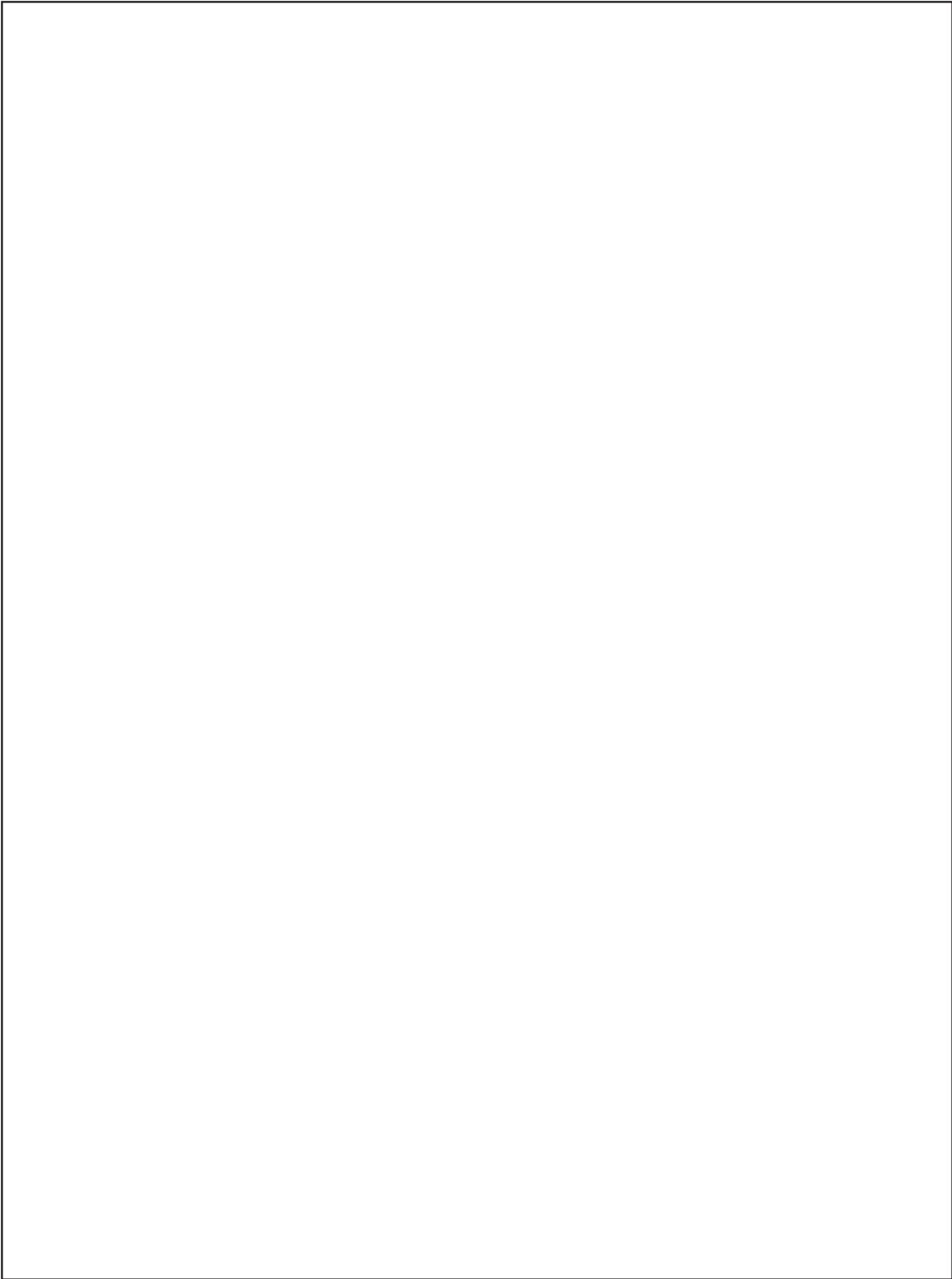




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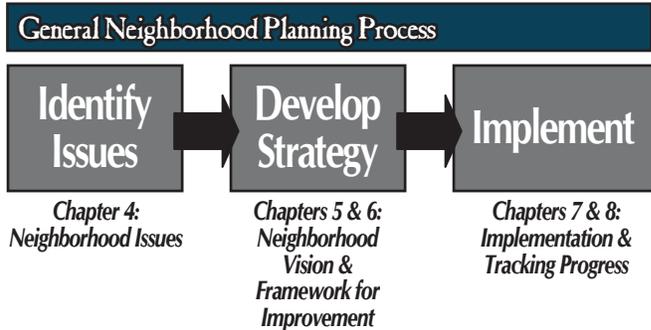




The **Aurora Neighborhood Planning Initiative (ANPI)** is designed to help residents and other local stakeholders (e.g. business owners, employees of local businesses, faculty and staff at local schools, etc) shape the way their neighborhood will grow and change. Located at the southeast section of the City at the quad-county line, the **South East Villages Neighborhood** is the fourth neighborhood to complete the ANPI process. The neighborhood planning process was characterized by **active community participation**, without which the ANPI would not be successful. The **South East Villages Neighborhood Planning Team** was comprised of City staff, the volunteer Leadership Team, consultants, and, most importantly, residents and local stakeholders who participated in the planning process. A series of neighborhood meetings was organized to gather input and ideas from residents and local stakeholders. Numerous leadership team meetings and planning activities also played integral roles in the planning process. Chapter 2 provides more detailed descriptions of the ANPI, Planning Team, and overall neighborhood planning process. Chapter 3 provides a neighborhood profile, including a demographic analysis and descriptions of zoning districts and neighborhood assets.

The diagram to the right illustrates the **general neighborhood planning process** used to develop this plan. The initial phases of the planning process were designed to identify the key issues facing the neighborhood. Based on a series of exercises, a neighborhood survey, and various discussions with the community, the Planning Team identified its **neighborhood issues**, which are described in more detail in Chapter 4.

In addition to identifying the priority issues, the neighborhood began to develop a strategy to address these issues by drafting and endorsing a **Neighborhood Vision**, which is shown below and described in greater detail in Chapter 5.



## Neighborhood Vision

### **Welcome to the South East Villages Neighborhood!**

*Our richly diverse community offers a safe, secure and stable environment where neighbors are active, caring and informed. Residents work together to ensure that all property is well-maintained, provide a safe and controlled street system with enforced parking policies, preserve a wholesome environment for youth activities, and inform neighbors of issues and activities through active neighborhood groups. Our partnership with City officials and the police department helps maintain the neighborhood's security, attractive physical character, and dynamic social character.*

*Our neighborhood is a highly desirable place to call home due to its excellent schools and places of worship, convenient access to interstate and commuter transit, a plentiful supply of open areas and parkland, a vibrant community center, outstanding medical facilities, and an abundance of commercial businesses.*

*Our vision is to provide a friendly, safe, well-maintained and accessible community where neighbors will choose long-term residency and become actively involved.*



With the issues identified and a Neighborhood Vision established, a **Framework for Neighborhood Improvement** was developed to effectively address these neighborhood issues. This Framework is described in Chapter 6. Generally, the most efficient process to enact change includes clearly defined **Action Items** addressing each priority issue and strategy to effectively implement those Action Items. **The two critical components of the Framework for Neighborhood Improvement are the Physical Framework and the Organizational Framework.**

The **Physical Framework** focuses on the key relationships between the different physical components in the neighborhood such as streets, sidewalks, and land uses. By understanding these relationships, one can begin to envision how neighborhood improvement strategies can be developed to improve connections between people and community resources. The **Organizational Framework** primarily focuses on the Task Forces and their working relationship with the Aurora Neighborhood Council (ANC), City Council, City staff, and elected officials. The core of the Organizational Framework is the creation of five **Task Forces** (shown on the right) that will address the neighborhood issues. By working with existing organizations and the City, the Task Forces will work towards achieving solutions to the neighborhood issues in a focused and managed manner to minimize repetitiveness and maximize effectiveness. In addition, **the Task Forces provide the South East Villages Neighborhood with a unified voice with which the neighborhood can bring attention to neighborhood issues both at the City level and at higher levels of government.** Constant communication of progress and finding practical solutions to the neighborhood issues will not only help foster a sense of community pride but also potentially encourage other residents and stakeholders to take part in the grassroots efforts of the Task Forces. More detailed descriptions of the Physical and Organizational Frameworks are provided in Chapter 6.

**Task Forces**  
To implement the Neighborhood Action Plan



<b>C</b>	Community Connections Task Force
<b>CS</b>	Crime & Safety Task Force
<b>Y</b>	Youth Activities Task Force
<b>P</b>	Property Improvement Task Force
<b>T</b>	Traffic Task Force

To put the Physical and Organizational Frameworks in motion, the five Task Forces will be entrusted with **Action Items** that were developed to address the priority issues. As detailed in Chapter 7, execution of the Action Items is guided by **implementation worksheets** that provide the Task Forces with general step-by-step processes to follow in order to achieve the objectives of the Action Items. **The Task Forces can certainly modify or deviate from the worksheets as long as the objectives of the Action Items remain in sight.** In addition to the worksheets, the Task Forces will find a **listing of community development resources** at the end of Chapter 7, which will prove valuable as they build partnerships with the City and other local community organizations to successfully implement the Action Items.



*The neighborhood planning process and the resulting Action Plan are designed to help the community address its issues through community activism and partnerships to maintain a high quality of life for all, which includes issues such as well-maintained properties (above).*

As the Task Forces continue to implement the Action Items and make progress towards achieving the type of community envisioned in the Neighborhood Vision, it is highly important for them to **track and report progress on projects and programs to the entire neighborhood.** Not only will the whole community be informed of the progress of the implementation of the Action Plan, but the Task Forces will also have the opportunity to evaluate the state of the neighborhood and determine whether the Action Plan needs any revisions to maintain a steady course towards neighborhood improvement. Chapter 8 outlines a procedure that the Task Forces can follow to track and report progress of the Action Plan.



The Aurora Neighborhood Planning Initiative (ANPI) provided the general framework for the planning process for the South East Villages Neighborhood. A general overview of the ANPI is provided below. This chapter also provides information on the study area, planning team, and neighborhood planning process for the South East Villages Neighborhood.



Formally initiated in 2002, the Aurora Neighborhood Planning Initiative is one of the first comprehensive neighborhood planning efforts in the region.

### **Overview of the Aurora Neighborhood Planning Initiative (ANPI)**

The City of Aurora initiated one of the first comprehensive neighborhood planning efforts in the region in 2002. The Aurora Neighborhood Planning Initiative (ANPI) is being implemented to help residents and other stakeholders shape the way their neighborhoods will grow and change over the next 20 years and beyond.

Since February 2000, the City of Aurora has taken a proactive stance in working with its neighborhoods to identify common problems and develop solutions. The Neighborhood Revitalization Team (NRT), comprised of neighborhood representatives and City staff, spent several months identifying common issues confronting Aurora's established neighborhoods. At the conclusion of their work, the group formulated a number of recommendations that included sponsorship of two neighborhood-oriented programs.



Neighborhood residents and local stakeholders actively participated in the planning process.

The first program would allow ongoing City-neighborhood dialogue to address a variety of issues. The implementation of this recommendation was the formation of the Aurora Neighborhood Council (ANC), a type of "one-stop shop" for neighborhoods to access City services. The ANC is made up of neighborhood representatives and is served by representatives of each City department.

The second NRT program was based on the acknowledgment that each of Aurora's neighborhoods has its own character, its own unique set of issues, and, perhaps, its own priorities for improving its quality of life. As such, the NRT proposed a process for ensuring long-term, neighborhood-by-neighborhood planning. The goal of this proposal was to

ensure that the distinct needs of various neighborhoods are addressed and that revitalization is an ongoing, joint effort of both residents and City government. The ANPI was started to provide a forum for neighborhoods to collaborate with the City in addressing neighborhood issues through long-range planning. The objectives of the program are shown below.

### **Objectives of the Aurora Neighborhood Planning Initiative**

- 1** Identify and involve stakeholders;
- 2** Help community stakeholders identify key goals for their neighborhood;
- 3** Involve stakeholders in determining the best ways to achieve neighborhood AND City goals; and
- 4** Create a collaborative and inclusive environment that will foster community building in each neighborhood.

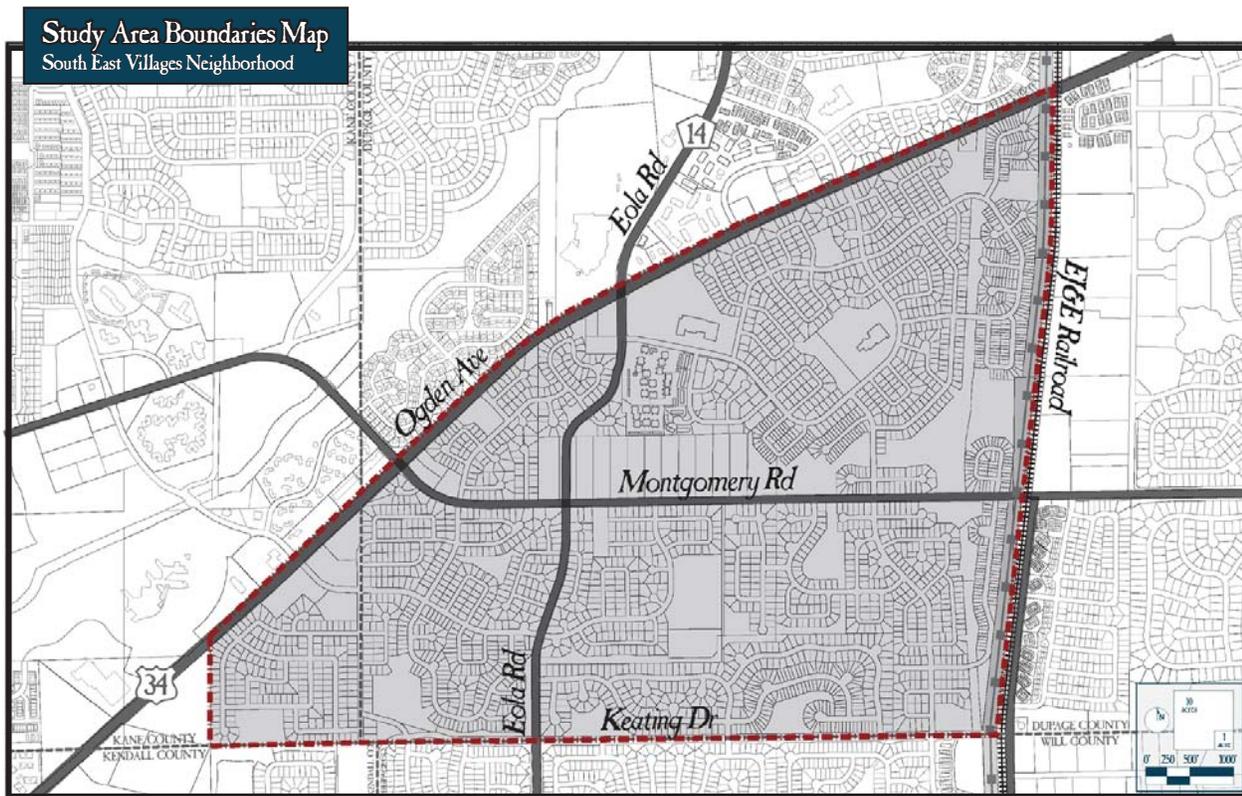
### South East Villages Neighborhood Study Area

Located in the southeast section of the City, the South East Villages Neighborhood is primarily located within DuPage County except for a small section west of Kautz Road, which is located within Kane County. The neighborhood is located directly north of the Kane/Kendall and DuPage/Will County lines. As shown in the map below, the general boundaries of the South East Villages Neighborhood study area are: Ogden Avenue (Route 34) on the north, the EJ&E Railroad on the east, Keating Drive and the county lines on the south, and the western edge of the Four Pointes Park subdivision on the west.



Clearwood Park is located along Ogden Avenue, which is the northern boundary for the South East Villages Neighborhood study area.

Residents living outside the defined study area were welcome to participate in the planning process since planning efforts will likely impact them. Also, due to the proximity of local community amenities such as Rush Copley Hospital, Waubonsie Valley High School Main Campus, and the Eola Community Center, planning efforts were cognizant of the significance of these amenities despite being outside the study area boundaries.



Although located outside the study area, Rush-Copley Hospital (left), Waubonsie Valley High School Main Campus (center), and Eola Community Center (right) are prominent neighborhood assets providing important services and resources to the community.



### **South East Villages Neighborhood Planning Team**

The South East Villages Neighborhood Planning Team was comprised of City staff, consultants, and, most importantly, residents and other neighborhood stakeholders who participated in the process, including those on the volunteer Leadership Team. Stakeholders are those individuals who have a vested interest in the changing conditions of the neighborhood, including property owners, business operators, employees, and residents. The diagram to the right depicts the members of the Planning Team and summarizes the general responsibilities of each team component. The primary objectives of the Planning Team are to:

- Identify key goals for the neighborhood;
- Determine the best ways to achieve neighborhood and City goals; and
- Create a collaborative and inclusive environment that will foster community building in each neighborhood.

The Leadership Team was comprised of a diverse group of local residents and stakeholders that focused on the outcomes of neighborhood meetings and input from residents. Working with City staff and consultants, the Leadership Team was instrumental in ensuring that the planning process reflected the community's needs and desires. Among its various assignments, the Leadership Team is responsible for the following:

- Promote the ANPI and neighborhood meetings;
- Appropriately represent the South East Villages Neighborhood residents;
- Develop and organize Action Items to address the neighborhood's issues;
- Review the Neighborhood Vision;
- Clarify the Action Items; and
- Review the Action Plan.

#### **Neighborhood Plan Participants**

- Attend/participate in meetings
- Communicate concerns, experiences & ideas
- Review consultant ideas in order to shape plan



#### **Neighborhood Leadership Team**

- Promote meetings
- Accept responsibility for assignments between meetings
- Make sure recommendations reflect neighborhood's desires



#### **Consultants**

- Facilitate discussions
- Design and advise on activities
- Translate meeting findings into planning document



#### **City Staff**

- Attend and help plan meetings
- Bring in additional resources and information as necessary
- Distribute information throughout the process



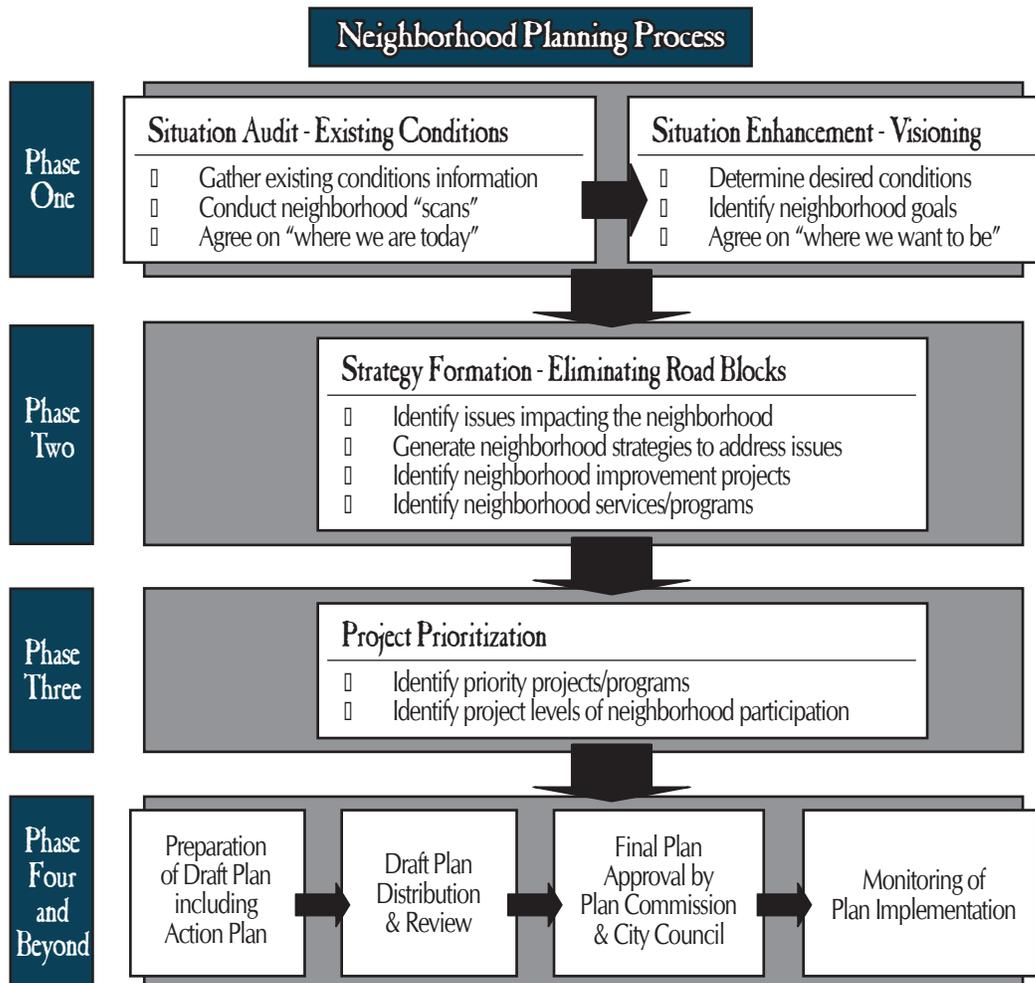
### Neighborhood Planning Process

Throughout the planning process, a series of meetings was held to give residents, local business owners, and other South East Villages stakeholders the opportunity to participate in the planning of their neighborhood. The map on the next page shows the geographic distribution of the residents and stakeholders who participated in the neighborhood meetings. The neighborhood planning process was primarily comprised of three phases, which are summarized in the diagram below.



One of the major elements of the neighborhood planning process was a series of community-wide neighborhood meetings, which included a variety of public participation exercises, discussion groups, and presentations (above).

*The South East Villages Neighborhood Action Plan is intended to be a dynamic, living document that will require constant usage by the neighborhood to implement the strategies outlined.* Periodic revisions will be needed as the neighborhood grows and adapts to trends and other influential factors. In addition, the **neighborhood planning efforts** described within this plan are not intended to replace existing neighborhood associations or other community organizations; they are **designed to unite the various neighborhood groups and provide them with a stronger unified voice to represent the entire South East Villages Neighborhood.**

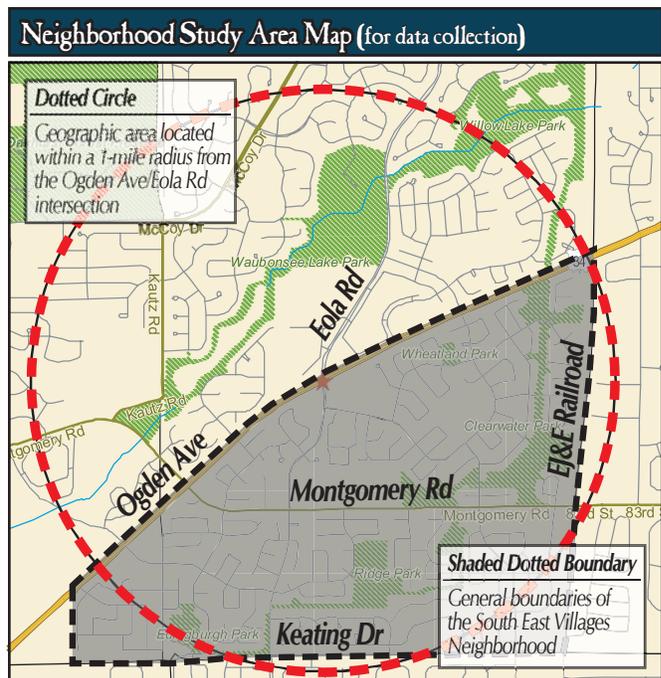


The neighborhood profile includes a quantitative analysis of the demographic composition and character of the South East Villages Neighborhood. In particular, the neighborhood profile includes an analysis of U.S. Census data to provide insight into local demographic and economic trends, focusing on population, housing, and economic data (*Note: All data provided by the 2000 U.S. Census unless noted otherwise*). The neighborhood profile also includes descriptions of zoning districts and neighborhood assets.

### Data Collection

The data analyzed for the neighborhood profile were derived from the following two sources:

- **U.S. Census:** U.S. Census data are typically available for individual communities, which are systematically broken down to smaller geographic units including census tracts, block groups, and blocks. **The most recent data available for the South East Villages Neighborhood is census block group data from the 2000 Census.** The U.S. Census does provide periodic updates to demographic data, but only at the City, County, and State levels. Therefore, most of the demographic analysis for the neighborhood is based on 2000 Census data.
- **Experian/Applied Geographic Solutions:** Demographic and economic analysis are also based on additional detailed data from a third party commercial data provider known as Experian/Applied Geographic Solutions. **Experian uses U.S. Census data and provides historic, current, and projected data for general geographic areas.** Also, Experian is often used for economic market analyses, so most of its data is based on drive time and service radii, not areas defined by the U.S. Census. **For the South East Villages Neighborhood, Experian provided population, housing, and economic data for a geographic area located within a 1-mile radius from the Ogden Avenue/Eola Road intersection (see map on the right).** Although this geographic area is larger than the study area boundaries for the South East Villages Neighborhood, it includes the study area but also takes into account residents who physically live outside the study area but may visit the schools, parks, shops, and other amenities in the neighborhood.



Source: Experian/Applied Geographic Solutions, 2004.

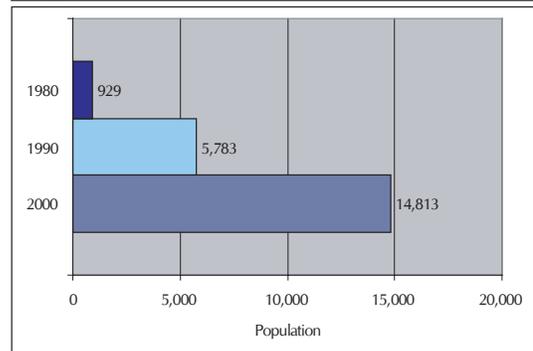
**Although two data sources were used for the demographic and economic analysis, the data presented in the two sources are consistent with each other since they were both derived from the U.S. Census. The major difference is the geographical representation of the data:** one is completely contained within the South East Villages Neighborhood study area boundaries while the other extends beyond the study area but within a specified radius of the neighborhood. **The demographic and economic analysis in the next few pages clearly indicates the use of regular Census data versus the use of Experian data to avoid confusion.**



## Population

As defined by the study area boundaries, the South East Villages Neighborhood had a population of 9,522 residents in 2000. The neighborhood's total population comprises only a small percentage (6.7%) of the City of Aurora's 2000 total population of 142,990. Using the Experian data, the neighborhood had a 2000 population of 14,813 residents living within a 1-mile radius of the Ogden Avenue/Eola Road intersection. As illustrated in the figure to the right, the 2000 population is a 156% increase from the 1990 population of 5,783 residents and an even more dramatic 1495% increase from the 1980 population of only 929 residents. Based on the low amount of vacant/undeveloped land within and around the neighborhood, population growth is not expected to change as dramatically as it has in the past 25 years.

Population (1980 - 2000)



Source: Experian/Applied Geographic Solutions, 2004.

## Population by Age

	Population by Age	Percent of Total
Age 4 and younger	1,144	12.0%
Age 5 - 17	2,291	24.1%
Age 18 - 21	368	3.9%
Age 22 - 29	1,187	12.5%
Age 30 - 39	2,396	25.2%
Age 40 - 49	1,391	14.6%
Age 50 - 64	601	6.3%
Age 65 and older	144	1.5%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,522</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: U.S. Census, 2000.

## Age & Gender

Based on the age composition of the neighborhood's total population in 2000, the South East Villages Neighborhood is generally viewed as a place where young families make their home. Nearly 50% of the neighborhood's population is comprised of young adolescents (5-17 age group) and thirtysomethings (30-39 age group). In addition, residents in the 40-49 age group make up about 14.6% of the total population while residents in the 22-29 age group comprise about 12.5%. Children age 4 years and younger comprise another 12%. Very few senior citizens make their home in the neighborhood, as indicated by the 1.5% composition of residents in the 65 and older age group. The table on the left shows a complete breakdown of the population by age group.

The median age of the South East Villages Neighborhood in 2000 was 29.1, which is about equal to the City-wide median age of 29.3. In addition to the composition of age groups, the gender composition of the South East Villages Neighborhood is nearly even, with slightly more males (50.6%) than females (49.4%) in 2000.

The neighborhood's proximity to a wide array of community amenities is a positive community characteristic, particularly for a neighborhood comprised primarily of young families. The area provides the neighborhood with a variety of recreational opportunities, including an abundance of parks and open space. Within the study area, the neighborhood boasts several parks such as Clearwood Park, Four Pointes Park, Ridge Park, and Edinburgh Park. Some recreational amenities such as the Eola Community Center and the Waubensee Creek Trail are located outside the study area but within close proximity.

In addition, the neighborhood provides a variety of educational facilities. Some educational facilities such as Waubonsie Valley High School Gold Campus, Georgetown Elementary School, Gombert Elementary School, and the Montessori school are located inside the study area; however, other facilities such as Waubonsie Valley High School Main Campus, McCarty Elementary School, Jeffrey C. Still Middle School, the Rush Copley Hospital branch of Waubonsee Community College, and the Eola Road branch of the Aurora Public Library are located outside the study area but within close proximity. Local and regional shopping and employment opportunities are also available with a variety of businesses near or within driving distance of the neighborhood.



Although the South East Villages Neighborhood is primarily a young community, the neighborhood and City will need to ensure that residents of all ages have access to a variety of opportunities that meet their needs and interests. For example, age-specific amenities such as playgrounds and day-care centers are appropriate for a young community like the South East Villages Neighborhood; however, amenities such as walking trails and bike paths cater to residents of all ages. Striking the right balance is key to fostering a community that meets the needs and interests of all of its residents.

**Race & Hispanic Origin**

The U.S. Census states that the concept of race “reflects self-identification by people according to the race or races with which they most closely identify.” The Census adheres to the racial classifications as shown in the table to the right. Racial classifications include both racial and national origin groups.

Based on the racial composition of the South East Villages Neighborhood in 2000, about 80.8% of neighborhood residents are White, which is almost 13% higher than the White composition (68.1%) of the entire City. Black residents comprise the second highest racial composition in the neighborhood at 7.8%. Asian residents are third with a 5.3% racial composition. Residents who identify as Other Race (i.e. an unlisted race) or Multi-Race comprise 3.0% and 2.8%, respectively. All other races comprise less than 1% each.

The concept of race is separate from the concept of Hispanic origin. The U.S. Census defines people of Hispanic origin as those who identify themselves as being Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino, regardless of race (*Note: the terms Hispanic and Latino are often used interchangeably*). In general, race and Hispanic origin are two separate classifications that help the Census qualify self-identification. Based on Hispanic origin, residents of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino descent (of any race) comprise only 8.7% of the neighborhood’s population in 2000, which is considerably lower than the 32.6% composition for the entire City. Generally speaking, almost 1 of 10 neighborhood residents is Hispanic/Latino while 1 of 3 City residents is Hispanic/Latino.

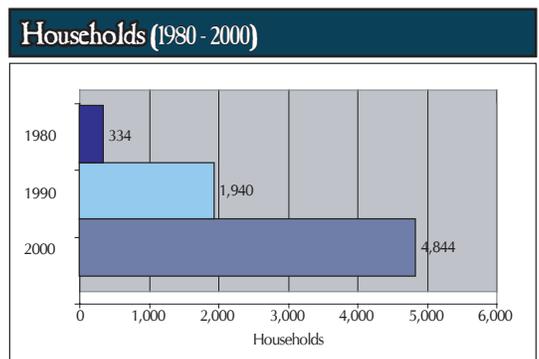
**Households**

As defined by the U.S. Census, a household “consists of all the people who occupy a housing unit.” Furthermore, a housing unit includes a house, an apartment or other group of rooms, or a single room that is currently occupied or intended for occupancy as separate living quarters. As the population of the South East Villages Neighborhood grew substantially

Population by Race				
	South East Villages N’hood		City of Aurora	
	Population by Race	Percent of Total	Population by Race	Percent of Total
White	7,695	80.8%	97,340	68.1%
Black	740	7.8%	15,817	11.1%
American Indian/ Alaska Native	27	0.3%	511	0.4%
Asian	504	5.3%	4,370	3.1%
Native Hawai’ian/ Pacific Islander	0	0.0%	47	0.03%
Other	288	3.0%	20,762	14.5%
Multi-Race	268	2.8%	4,143	2.9%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,522</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>142,990</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Population by Hispanic Origin				
	South East Villages N’hood		City of Aurora	
	Population by Race	Percent of Total	Population by Race	Percent of Total
Hispanic/Latino (of any race)	833	8.7%	46,557	32.6%
Not Hispanic/ Latino	8,689	91.3%	96,433	67.4%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,522</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>142,990</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: U.S. Census, 2000.



Source: Experian/Applied Geographic Solutions, 2004.



*Duplexes are an important component of the neighborhood's diverse housing stock, which provides a variety of options to meet the community's varying incomes and needs.*

over the past 25 years, the Experian data indicates that the number of households has also grown substantially. In particular, the total number of households within a 1-mile radius of the Ogden Avenue/Eola Road intersection increased from 1,940 households in 1990 to 4,844 households in 2000, an increase of about 150%. The increase from 1980 to 1990 was more significant, with the number of households increased by about 480%, expanding from a mere 334 households in 1980 to 1,940 households in 1990.

Since the neighborhood's population is not expected to grow as dramatically as it did in the past 25 years, the number of households is also not expected to grow as much. Like any well-established neighborhood, there is the potential for a decrease in population and number of households, which may be attributed to a variety of factors.

Some factors are within the control of the community while others are not as controllable due to typical population fluctuation. For example, a growing perception of physical and social deterioration in the South East Villages Neighborhood in the past few years may cause some residents to leave or prevent others from moving in. The factor of perceptions is controllable provided that the community recognizes the issues and addresses them appropriately, such as preserving a safe and well-maintained community that adequately provides a variety of opportunities that meet the needs and interests of residents of all ages. Such steps would help retain and attract residents who are more likely to choose long-term residency.

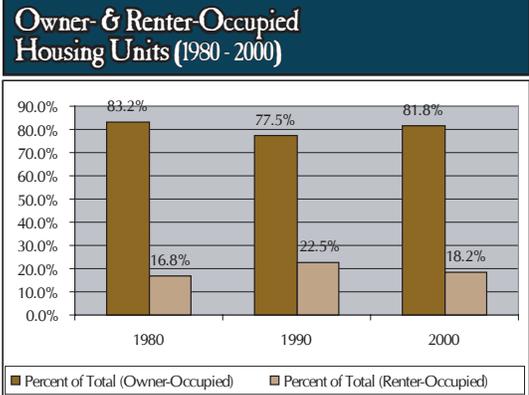
As for less controllable factors due to typical population fluctuation, the neighborhood may experience a decline in population once the current 17 and younger age group reaches college age and moves out of the community. A decrease in population is not always a negative trend; it just depends on the factors for population change and how much control the community has on these factors. Regardless of whether the population is growing, shrinking, or remaining the same, the neighborhood and City must work together to sustain a safe and inviting community that boasts a high quality of life and inspires community pride within its residents.

**Housing Occupancy**

According to the 2000 Census, about 97.5% of the 3,154 housing units within the South East Villages Neighborhood study area were occupied. The remaining 80 housing units left unoccupied translates to a 2.5% vacancy rate in the neighborhood, which is almost half of the City's vacancy rate of 4.7%. The very low vacancy rate indicates that the neighborhood has certain qualities that make it a desirable place to live. Affordable homes, strong schools, and convenient access to a variety of community amenities are just a few of the qualities of the neighborhood that keep residents in the community and housing units occupied. However, as stated above, the neighborhood and City must work together to maintain a low vacancy rate by sustaining a safe and attractive community that maintains a high quality of life and fosters a feeling of community pride.

**Housing Tenure**

According to the 2000 Census, about 82.7% of all occupied housing units within the South East Villages Neighborhood study area are owner-occupied, which is higher than the 70.1% owner-occupied composition for the entire City. The remaining 17.3% in the neighborhood are renter-occupied housing units (compared with 29.9% for the entire City). Based on the Experian data which represents a larger area within a 1-mile radius of the Ogden Avenue/Eola Road intersection, the composition of owner-occupied and renter-occupied housing units in 2000 is fairly similar at 81.8% and 18.2%, respectively. As illustrated in the figure to the right, the composition of owner-occupied and renter-occupied housing units

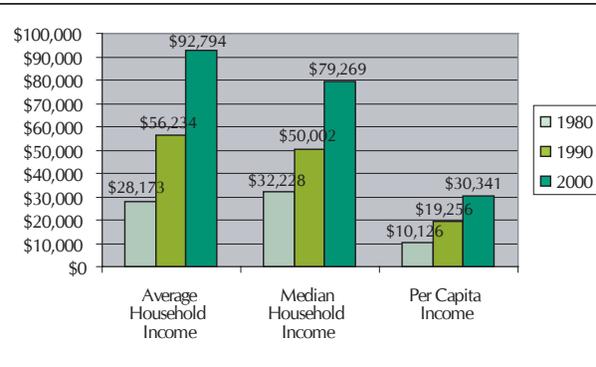


Source: Experian/Applied Geographic Solutions, 2004.



has historically fluctuated over the past 25 years but has stayed within the upper 70%/lower 80% range. The South East Villages Neighborhood has a mixed housing stock, including single-family homes, townhomes, duplexes, apartments, and multiple-family homes. Although apartments such as the ones in Aspen Place are the primary component of renter-occupied housing units, some housing units that are typically owner-occupied (i.e. single-family homes, townhomes, duplexes, and multiple-family homes) are used as rental units. A mixed housing stock is generally considered a positive characteristic for a neighborhood as it provides a variety of housing options to meet varying incomes and needs of the community.

### Average & Median Household Income and Per Capita Income (1980 - 2000)



Source: Experian/Applied Geographic Solutions, 2004.

### Household Income

In 2000, the average household income in the South East Villages Neighborhood was \$92,794. Also, median household income and per capita income were \$79,269 and \$30,341, respectively, which were both considerably higher than the same figures for the entire City (\$54,861 and \$22,131, respectively).

Although household and per capita incomes have generally increased since 1980, increases in income figures were greater from 1980-1990 than from 1990-2000. As illustrated in the figure to the left, average household income and per capita income increased by 99.6% and 90.2%, respectively, from 1980-1990 but experienced smaller (but still sizeable) increases of 65.0% and 57.6%, respectively, from 1990-2000. The greater increases in

average household and per capita incomes in the 1980-1990 decade than the 1990-2000 decade is mostly attributed to the dramatic 480% increase in the total number of households in the neighborhood from 1980-1990. From 1990-2000, the number of households still increased but only by 150%. Median household income increased at fairly similar rates from 1980-1990 (55.2%) and from 1990-2000 (58.5%).

In general, the diversity in housing types in the South East Villages Neighborhood provided residents of varying income levels with a variety of housing options to fit their budgets and needs. The South East Villages Neighborhood is fairly built-out with few vacant lots remaining to be developed. As a result, household and per capita income figures are expected to remain steady (aside from general economic inflation) since no new housing developments are anticipated. Other factors such as the neighborhood losing residents or single-family homes being converted to multiple-family dwellings will certainly influence income levels, and any such factors should be monitored and addressed promptly to ensure they do not pose any long-term problems in the neighborhood.

## Zoning Districts

Zoning districts are a general means of classifying land according to uses that are legally permitted by the City. Zoning classifications are typically similar to land use categories, but they also specify permitted uses and construction constraints such as lot and building dimensions, parking, and landscaping.

The South East Villages Neighborhood is primarily comprised of residential uses with some non-residential uses scattered throughout the neighborhood, particularly along Ogden Avenue and Eola Road. Below is a brief description of the different zoning districts in the neighborhood as shown in the City's 2005 Zoning Map Book.

- Even though a majority of the lots in the neighborhood are used for residential uses, most of the residential lots are designated as **PDD (Planned Development District) zones**. A planned development is designed to promote creative land development which permits deviation from standard zoning requirements in exchange for additional community amenities. Many residential subdivisions in the neighborhood such as Georgetown and Autumn Grove were developed as planned unit developments and are thus zoned PDD. Some non-residential uses such as Rush Copley Hospital and the Walgreens/Burger King commercial area are also zoned PDD.
- Despite the dominance of the PDD zoning designation, some residential areas are designated as traditional residential zones. One-family dwellings are designated as **R-1 (One-Family Dwelling District) zones**. Two-family dwellings are designated as **R-4A (Two-Family Dwelling District) zones**. Multiple-family dwellings are designated as **R-5 (Multiple-Family Dwelling District) zones**.
- The only properties zoned for business uses are the BP Gas, McDonald's, and auto/tire center at the southwest corner of Ogden Avenue and Eola Road. These business uses are designated as **B-2 (Business District – General Retail) zones**.
- About 115 acres within the study area are devoted to parks and open space, which are designated as **P (Park/Open Space) zones**. Schools are also designated as P zones.



*The Aspen Place rental community, a multi-family use developed as a planned unit development, is designated as a PDD (Planned Development District) zoning district.*



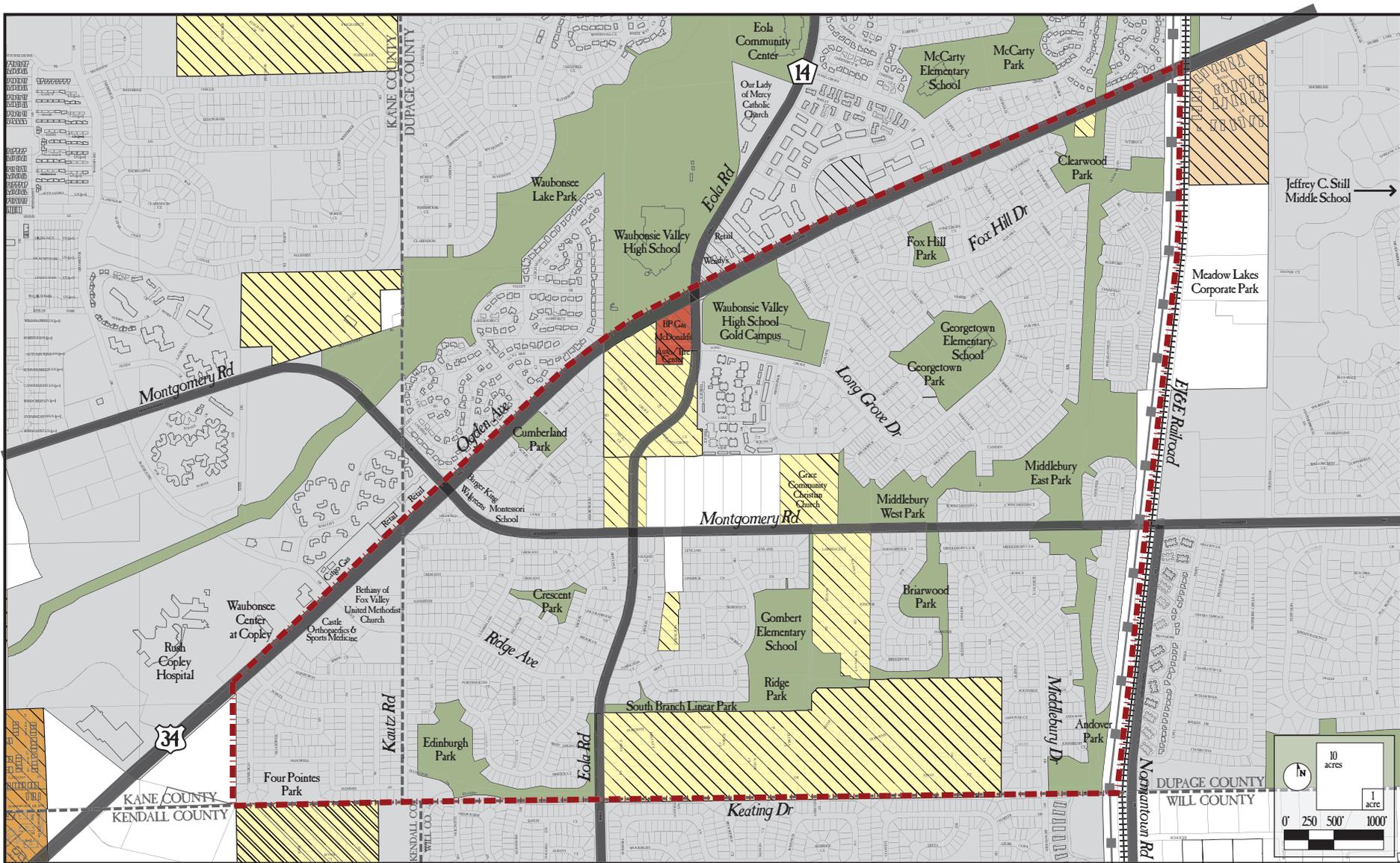
*The neighborhood's abundance of parks and open space such as Cumberland Park are designated as P (Park/Open Space) zoning districts.*



*Not all properties within the study area are designated within an Aurora zoning district. A few large single-family lots located along Montgomery Road are currently unincorporated.*

The Zoning Districts Map on the next page shows the existing zoning districts in the neighborhood. In addition to having a specified zoning designation, some properties are also designated as Special Use Districts, which are generally defined as properties that promote greater land use compatibility by requiring a special review as a prerequisite to any development. These Special Use Districts are indicated on the map as hatched areas. The map also shows currently unincorporated properties that are located within the study area. These areas do not fall under the authority of the City. A few large single-family lots located along Montgomery Road are currently unincorporated but lie within the study area. All other properties are incorporated into Aurora.





**LEGEND/LEYENDA**

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
|  R-1 Zone: One-Family Dwelling District<br>R-1 Zona: Distrito de la Vivienda de la Uno-Familia           |  B-2 Zone: Business District - General Retail<br>B-2 Zona: Distrito De Negocio - Venta Al Por Menor General |  No Zone Assigned: Outside of City of Aurora Municipal Limits<br>Ninguna Zona Asignó: Fuera de Límites Municipales de la Ciudad del Aurora |
|  R-4A Zone: Two-Family Dwelling District<br>R-4A Zona: Distrito de la Vivienda de la Dos-Familia         |  PDD Zone: Planned Development District<br>PDD Zona: Distrito Planifico del Desarrollo                      |  Special Use District<br>Distrito Especial del Uso   |
|  R-5 Zone: Multiple-Family Dwelling District<br>R-5 Zona: Distrito de la Vivienda de la Múltiple-Familia |  P Zone: Park/Open Space District<br>P Zona: Distrito del Parque/Espacio Abierto                            |  Neighborhood Boundary<br>Límite de la Vecindad  |

## Neighborhood Assets

Neighborhood assets are community resources that include local buildings, services, recreational areas, and other community-related uses that residents visit, use, or need on a regular basis. The South East Villages Neighborhood is served by a variety of local assets, which are described below and illustrated on the Neighborhood Assets Map on page 20. Some assets are located within the study area while others are located outside but within close proximity to the neighborhood.

- **Schools:** One of the strongest assets of the neighborhood is its network of schools. Waubonsie Valley High School, which has a Main Campus (outside the study area) and freshman Gold Campus (within the study area), maintains a strong presence in the community and is highly visible from Ogden Avenue and Eola Road. Within the study area, the neighborhood is also served by Georgetown and Gombert Elementary Schools and the Montessori school. Other schools such as McCarty Elementary School and Jeffrey C. Still Middle School are located outside the study area. The Waubonsee Center at Copley, which is one of Waubonsee Community College's newest facilities, is located outside the study area on the Rush Copley Hospital Medical Campus and provides educational resources and opportunities.



*Gombert Elementary School (top) and Georgetown Elementary School (bottom) are two of the three elementary schools serving the South East Villages Neighborhood.*

- **Churches:** The community is served by three churches: Bethany of Fox Valley United Methodist Church, Grace Community Christian Church, and Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church. Our Lady of Mercy is located just north of the study area along Eola Road.

- **Parks & Open Space:** The neighborhood is served by about 115 acres of parks and open space, which are dispersed throughout the neighborhood to serve all residents. Some parks have playground equipment or ball fields while others are passive open spaces used for a variety of recreational activities. Schools also provide their own recreational spaces such as playgrounds and ball fields.



*Some of the 115 acres of parks and open space in the neighborhood are characterized by a playground (top) or left open for passive recreation (bottom).*

- **Trails:** The neighborhood also has access to the Waubonsee Creek Trail, which runs north of the study area. The Waubonsee Creek Trail originates from Waubonsee Lake Park and runs towards Rush Copley Hospital before connecting with the Virgil Gilman Trail, a regional trail serving Kane County. A pedestrian bridge crossing is also located across Eola Road near the Eola Community Center.

- **Eola Community Center & Aurora Public Library:** Eola Community Center and the Eola Road Branch of the Aurora Public Library are located north of the study area along Eola Road. The community center and library provide a variety of year-round recreational and educational opportunities and resources.



*Eola Community Center provides a variety of recreational and educational opportunities for the South East Villages Neighborhood throughout the year.*

- **Rush Copley Hospital:** Even though it is located on the outskirts of the study area, Rush Copley Hospital holds a strong presence in the community offering superior medical services and facilities as well as employment and volunteering opportunities. Although not affiliated with Rush Copley Hospital, the Castle



Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine Facility, which is located within the study area just east of the hospital, provides additional medical and physical therapy services to the community.

- **Retail Businesses:** The neighborhood is adequately served by a variety of retail businesses providing quality goods and services. Only a handful of businesses are located within the study area boundaries. However, several businesses are located along the north side of Ogden Avenue and along Montgomery Road on the east side of the railroad. Fox Valley Mall and the Route 59 retail corridor are also within close driving distance to the neighborhood.
- **Pace Bus:** Pace provides feeder bus service for the Route 59 Metra Station along its Route 534 line, which travels south along Eola Road and traverses through the South East Villages Neighborhood with a terminus near Rush Copley Hospital. Pace also has plans to provide an additional feeder bus route to Fox Valley Mall along the Route 59 bus line.



*The Burger King (top) and Walgreens (bottom) located at the southeast corner of Ogden Avenue and Montgomery Road are two of the businesses located within the study area.*

Not all of the neighborhood's assets are easily identifiable on a map. For example, the neighborhood is served by the following two resident-based organizations that are dedicated to improving and enhancing the quality of life in the neighborhood:

- **Georgetown Relief Effort Neighborhood Organization (G.R.E.N.O.):** G.R.E.N.O. is a not-for-profit group of organized residents working towards neighborhood improvement in the Georgetown neighborhood, which is located in the northeast part of the study area. The purpose of the organization is to promote the well-being of the Georgetown neighborhood; aid, assist, and initiate community work; identify, create, and implement action for neighborhood improvement; and work cooperatively with local officials and community members to maintain and enhance the neighborhood. G.R.E.N.O. meets the first Saturday of every month at 10:00 am at the Eola Community Center.

For more information, visit the G.R.E.N.O. website: [www.GRENO.org](http://www.GRENO.org)

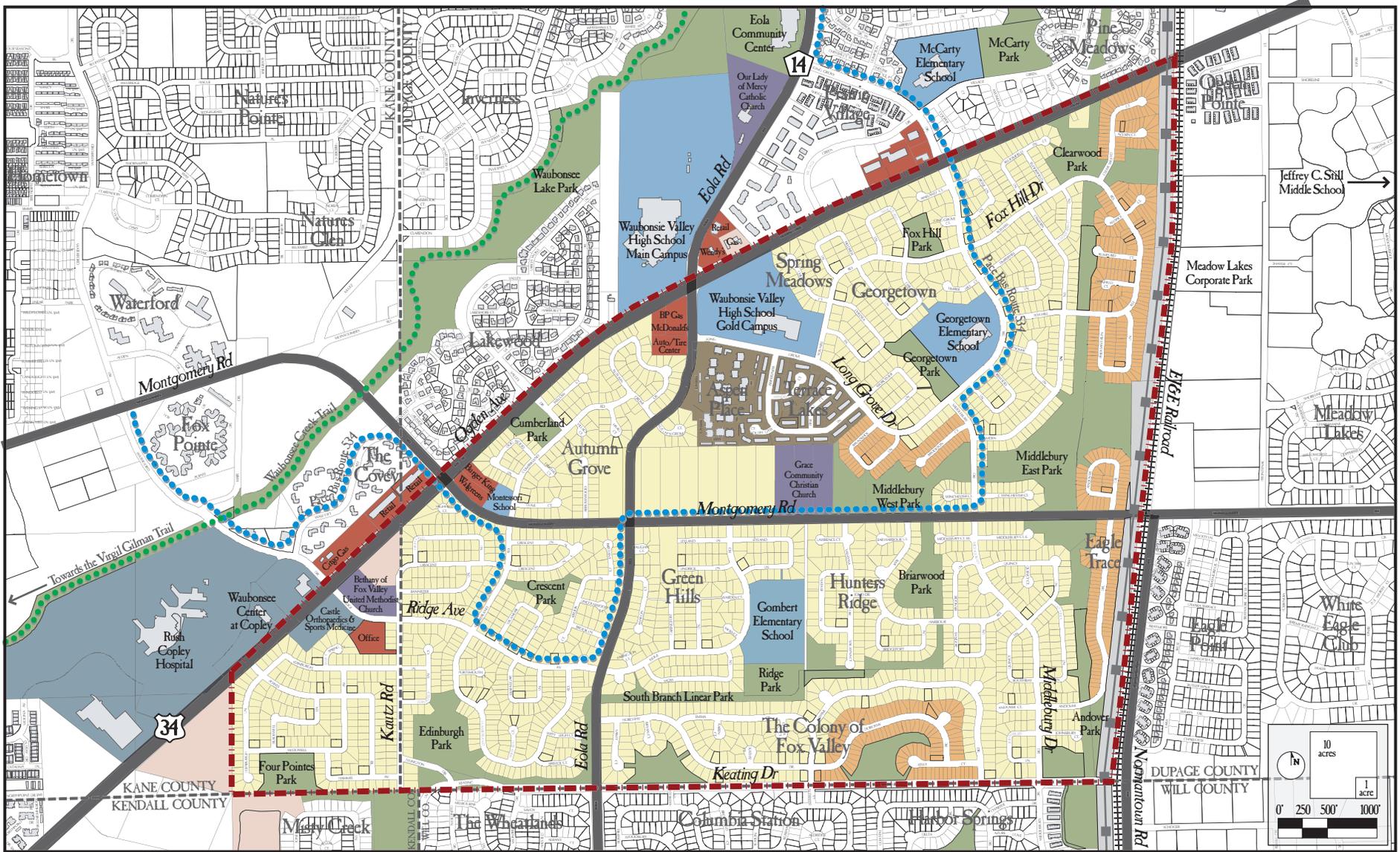
- **Neighborhood Organization of South East Aurora (N.O.S.E.A.):** N.O.S.E.A. is a not-for-profit organization developed to effectively sustain and improve the 'quality of life' within and near the organization's borders. The efforts of N.O.S.E.A. follow its Three Basic Principles: Crime Prevention, Community Awareness, and Community Improvement. N.O.S.E.A. meets the last Saturday of every month at 10:00 am at the Eola Community Center.

For more information, visit the N.O.S.E.A. website: [www.NOSEA.us](http://www.NOSEA.us)

Both organizations were invited to participate in the ANPI process. The South East Villages Neighborhood greatly benefits from the work and dedication of these two neighborhood organizations and other active residents. Continued active participation throughout the ANPI planning process will prove invaluable to the implementation of the Action Plan.

Both places and people help define the character of the neighborhood, and they are all considered neighborhood assets. The strengths and benefits offered by these neighborhood assets are essential for the neighborhood to maintain a high quality of life.





**LEGEND/LEYENDA**

 Single Family Detached House Casa Separada de la Sola Familia	 School Escuela	 Rush Copley Hospital Hospital de Rush Copley	 ComEd Right-of-Way Derecha-de-Manera de ComEd	 Trail Camino
 Duplex Duplex	 Church Iglesia	 Retail Business Comercio AIPor Menor	 Neighborhood Boundary Limite de la Vecindad	 Pace Bus Route 534 Ruta 534 de Pace Autobús
 Apartment Apartamento	 Park/Recreation Area Parque/Área de la Recreación	 Vacant/Undeveloped Parcel Propiedad Vacante/Subdesarrollada		

Before charting a path towards improvement, it is necessary to look at the South East Villages Neighborhood as it is today and take inventory of the positive and negative elements that shape the neighborhood. In addition to understanding the present state of the neighborhood, it is equally important to recognize how the community envisions itself in the future. Analysis of existing conditions and determination of desired conditions for neighborhood improvement both rely on gaining a thorough understanding of the key issues facing the neighborhood as well as determining how best to address these issues.

During the First Neighborhood Meeting, meeting participants took part in a series of exercises to gather their initial thoughts and perceptions of the neighborhood. These exercises included one-word exercises and a SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats). Residents were also given the opportunity to complete a survey for the same purpose. The results of these exercises and the survey provided the Planning Team with a thorough compilation of thoughts and ideas from which a set of key neighborhood issues was derived. The results of the exercises and survey were analyzed collectively to determine patterns and note any inconsistencies in order to gain an overall perspective of the issues facing the neighborhood. The results of the exercises and survey are summarized below (complete results are provided in the Appendix).

### One-Word Exercises

Meeting participants helped kick off the neighborhood planning process by participating in a series of exercises allowing them to identify how they perceive the neighborhood “as it is today” and “as they want it to be”. After compiling the list of words for each exercise, meeting participants were given the opportunity to rank the words based on how accurate the words describe the present and envisioned future states of the neighborhood. The final rankings of the one-word exercise for “The South East Villages Neighborhood as it is today” is shown below. The final rankings of the one-word exercise for “The South East Villages Neighborhood as I want it to be” is shown on the next page.



Many meeting participants stated that the neighborhood has experienced a noticeable state of decline in the past couple years, particularly with the maintenance of homes and properties. For example, some homes have cracked driveways with overgrown weeds (above).



### The South East Villages Neighborhood as it is today ...

**One-Word Exercise**

Based on the top ten ranked words, the statement below summarizes the general perceptions of how meeting participants view the neighborhood “as it is today”:

*Meeting participants currently view the South East Villages Neighborhood as CHANGING, particularly becoming RUN-DOWN, UNCOMFORTABLE, and DETERIORATING. Even though some feel that the neighborhood is in decline, others feel that it is somewhere in the MIDDLE, being a good neighborhood with its share of faults. CRIME seems to be the most pressing issue while other issues such as TRAFFIC are also a concern. Although the neighborhood has become FRAGILE in the past couple years, many feel that it is SALVAGEABLE and HOPEFUL.*

Rank	Word (# of votes)	Rank	Word (# of votes)
1(t)	Crime (7)	6(t)	Declining (1)
1(t)	Deteriorating (7)	6(t)	Nice (1)
1(t)	Salvageable (7)	6(t)	Optimistic (1)
2(t)	Traffic (5)	6(t)	Drugs (1)
2(t)	Changing (5)	6(t)	Transient (1)
3(t)	Middle (4)	6(t)	Dark (1)
3(t)	Uncomfortable (4)	6(t)	Diverse (1)
3(t)	Hopeful (4)	6(t)	Congested (1)
3(t)	Fragile (4)	6(t)	Disappointing (1)
4	Run-down (3)	6(t)	Unmaintained (1)
5(t)	Louder (2)	6(t)	Vacant (1)
5(t)	Trashy (2)	6(t)	Moderate (1)

\* Rankings determined by total number of votes received. The (t) symbol denotes a tied ranking (i.e. words receiving the same number of votes).



### The South East Villages Neighborhood as I want it to be...

#### One-Word Exercise

Based on the top ten ranked words, the statement below summarizes the general perceptions of how meeting participants view the neighborhood "as I want it to be":

*Meeting participants want the South East Villages Neighborhood to be CLEAN, SAFE, and GANG-FREE. Residents should be VIGILANT and UPBEAT and shall promote the DIVERSE elements of the community. The neighborhood shall become not only a VALUABLE and ATTRACTIVE asset to local residents but also an INVITING and DESIRABLE place to visit and potentially become somebody's new home.*

Rank	Word (# of votes)	Rank	Word (# of votes)
1	Safe (16)	6(t)	Friendly (1)
2(t)	Gang-free (6)	6(t)	Maintaining (1)
2(t)	Desirable (6)	6(t)	Comfortable (1)
3(t)	Inviting (5)	6(t)	Better (1)
3(t)	Valuable (5)	7(t)	Tidy (0)
3(t)	Vigilant (5)	7(t)	Stable (0)
4	Upbeat (3)	7(t)	Peaceful (0)
5(t)	Attractive (2)	7(t)	Homey (0)
5(t)	Cleaner (2)	7(t)	Small-town (0)
5(t)	Diverse (2)	7(t)	Pleasant (0)
5(t)	Prosperous (2)	7(t)	Inclusive (0)

\* Rankings determined by total number of votes received. The (t) symbol denotes a tied ranking (i.e. words receiving the same number of votes).

### Neighborhood Survey

At the start of the planning process, meeting participants were asked to complete a survey to either confirm or contradict a series of statements based on initial perceptions of the neighborhood as determined by the Planning Team. The survey was mailed to all residents within the study area and also made available in an online format. It is important to keep in mind that the survey was not a scientific survey and was just an efficient way to evaluate residents' initial perceptions of the neighborhood.



### Neighborhood Survey Results

#	Statement	% Agree	% Disagree
1	The biggest problem is crime & safety.	53%	47%
2	Property maintenance is a major issue.	69%	31%
3	The railroad crossing at Montgomery Road is dangerous for pedestrians.	59%	41%
4	The neighborhood is pedestrian friendly as a whole.	67%	33%
5	Too many cars park on the street/driveway and block the sidewalk.	64%	36%
6	There are adequate parks and open space.	81%	19%
7	There is a need for additional nearby businesses.	13%	87%
8	The overall 'quality of life' is equal to or better than I expected.	59%	41%
9	City code enforcement is applied consistently.	35%	65%
10	Youth have ample places to play.	71%	29%
11	The residents are as friendly and sociable as I desire.	69%	31%

\* Based on 127 total returned surveys (119 paper & 8 online)

For the most part, the survey results were fairly consistent with the results

from the one-word exercises, SWOT analysis, and general discussions with the Planning Team. However, there were two particular results that were somewhat inconsistent with overall perceptions of neighborhood issues:

- **Inconsistent survey result #1:** The first inconsistency was the near 50/50 split on statement #1, which states, "The biggest problem is crime and safety." Overall, it seems that crime is the most pressing issue facing the neighborhood; however, barely half of all survey respondents agreed. It is important to keep in mind that the key word in this statement is "biggest", which indicates that crime may be a problem in the neighborhood but perhaps not the biggest problem to some survey responders (rental units or property maintenance may be a bigger problem than crime for some residents). Thus, wording of the survey is very important and can impact responses, as may have been the case with statement #1.
- **Inconsistent survey result #2:** The second inconsistency was the high percentage of survey responders who agreed with statement #10, which states, "Youth have ample places to play." The general perception, as gathered from our other means,



is that residents feel that the neighborhood does not provide enough activities for youth. Again, the wording of the statement could have impacted the responses since “places to play” could be interpreted as parks and open space, which the neighborhood has plenty. On the other hand, some survey responders could interpret a “place to play” as not only a physical space but also a planned activity.

Inconsistencies like these emphasize the importance of analyzing the survey and exercise results collectively to determine true patterns and note inconsistencies that may occur due to multiple interpretations or confusion. In the case of the two survey result inconsistencies noted above, overall neighborhood perceptions indicate that crime is a major issue and there is a need for more youth activities despite ample parks and open spaces. All other survey results are fairly consistent.

**SWOT Analysis**

Meeting participants took part in small group discussions to compile a list of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) that characterize the neighborhood. General definitions of a Strength, Weakness, Opportunity, and Threat are as follows:

- **Strength:** Anything that currently EXISTS and is a POSITIVE influence.
- **Weakness:** Anything that currently EXISTS and is a NEGATIVE influence.
- **Opportunity:** Anything that currently is NOT PRESENT but could be a POSITIVE influence.
- **Threat:** Anything that currently is NOT PRESENT but could be a NEGATIVE influence.



**Nine Major Planning Issues**  
SWOT Analysis

- 1 Crime & Safety
- 2 City Services
- 3 Physical Character
- 4 Community Character
- 5 Community Activities
- 6 Neighborhood Infrastructure
- 7 Parks/Open Space/Recreation
- 8 Housing
- 9 Roads & Transportation

The various comments provided during the SWOT analysis discussions were categorized under 9 major planning issues as shown in the figure above. Summaries of all 9 planning issues and their associated Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats are provided below and on the next few pages.

**Nine Major Planning Issues**

**1 Crime & Safety**  
(Issues as determined from the SWOT Analysis small group discussions)



<p><b>Strengths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Increased police presence</li> </ul>	<p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Neighborhood watch</li> </ul>
<p><b>Weaknesses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Drive-bys</li> <li>□ Crime (guns, vandalism, theft)</li> <li>□ Fear of crime</li> <li>□ Drugs in neighborhood</li> <li>□ Decreased feeling of safety</li> <li>□ Gang activity</li> </ul>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Increase in gang activity</li> <li>□ Increase in school violence</li> <li>□ Violent crime</li> <li>□ Theft</li> <li>□ “Standing in the street”</li> </ul>

**Summary: Crime & Safety**

Despite increased police presence, residents believe there has been a noticeable increase in crime in the neighborhood. The types of crime vary from vandalism to guns, and some violence has extended from the “street” into schools. Based on the small group discussions, one-word exercises, and other discussions with the Leadership Team, crime and safety seem to be the most prominent issue in the neighborhood. Further increases in crime incidents are a threat. Although the only suggested opportunity to combat crime was a neighborhood watch, which has been successfully implemented by current neighborhood organizations, determining other ways to fight and deter crime seems to be one of the neighborhood’s top priorities.

## 2 City Services

(Issues as determined from the SWOT Analysis small group discussions)



<p><b>Strengths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ City services are good overall (garbage, water, sewer, snow removal, etc)</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Communication between City &amp; residents</li> <li>□ Satellite City Hall</li> <li>□ Availability of info on City programs &amp; other community services (e.g. block grants, etc)</li> </ul> <p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ None identified</li> </ul>	<p><b>Weaknesses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Lack of inspections</li> <li>□ Communication w/ gov't</li> <li>□ Lighting maintenance</li> <li>□ Consistent enforcement</li> <li>□ No regulations</li> <li>□ Lack of enforcement</li> <li>□ Resident involvement w/ enforcement</li> <li>□ Enforcement of property maintenance regulations</li> <li>□ Slow responses for enforcement of property standards</li> <li>□ N'hood currently doesn't receive block grants</li> </ul>
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### Summary: City Services

Overall, basic City services are rated as being adequate. Residents feel that there are opportunities to improve communication with the City as well as increase the availability of information related to City programs & community services, particularly those pertaining to housing and property maintenance. A satellite City Hall was also suggested. Despite adequate basic City services, residents feel one area in which the City is weak is the need for consistent, timely enforcement of property maintenance standards. Lighting maintenance is also a concern.

## 3 Physical Character

(Issues as determined from the SWOT Analysis small group discussions)



<p><b>Strengths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Location</li> </ul> <p><b>Weaknesses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Isolated neighborhoods (lack of connections)</li> <li>□ Lack of maintenance</li> <li>□ Poor lighting (porches, street, parks, parking lots)</li> <li>□ Lack of inventory of dead trees and broken lights</li> <li>□ Maintenance of sidewalks, bushes, etc</li> <li>□ Dogs not curbed</li> </ul>	<p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Opportunities for better landscaping &amp; weed control</li> <li>□ Curb appeal - repair potential</li> </ul> <p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ One 'bad' property can impact others around it</li> <li>□ Poor lighting</li> </ul>
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### Summary: Physical Character

The location of the neighborhood is a major strength, with its proximity to major transportation routes, schools, shopping, churches, recreation, etc. However, some residents feel that the smaller neighborhoods that make up the overall South East Villages Neighborhood are isolated and lack direct connections. Lighting and maintenance of sidewalks and landscaping are other perceived weaknesses that present opportunities. Even if some parts of the neighborhood are better maintained than others, some residents feel that it's best to look out for the best interest of the entire neighborhood since one 'bad' area can impact all areas around it.

## 4 Community Character

(Issues as determined from the SWOT Analysis small group discussions)



<p><b>Strengths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Convenience</li> <li>□ Affordable</li> <li>□ Diverse population</li> <li>□ Familiar</li> <li>□ Good people</li> <li>□ Diversity</li> <li>□ Involved citizens</li> <li>□ Friendly</li> <li>□ People willing to make change</li> </ul>	<p><b>Weaknesses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ School discipline (schools and parents)</li> <li>□ Aurora &amp; Naperville press</li> <li>□ General lack of involvement</li> <li>□ Loud music</li> <li>□ Losing freedom</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Affordable</li> <li>□ Resourceful residents</li> <li>□ Know your neighbor</li> </ul>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Noise</li> <li>□ Loss of reputation</li> <li>□ Doing nothing/ complacency</li> <li>□ Decrease in school test scores</li> </ul>
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### Summary: Community Character

As a community, the South East Villages Neighborhood has several positive elements including convenience, affordability, diversity, and friendly community-minded neighborhood residents. Some citizens feel that there isn't enough resident involvement in the neighborhood, though. Complacency paired with perceived increases in crime incidents and decreases in property maintenance can undermine the strengths of the neighborhood. A few residents feel that this has already begun to happen as they have noticed that they are beginning to lose their reputation as a good neighborhood in which to live.



## 5 Community Activities

(Issues as determined from the SWOT Analysis small group discussions)



### Strengths

- Park District programs
- Outreach programs (community service)

### Weaknesses

- Lack of after-school programs
- Unsupervised kids
- Lack of activities for teens
- High school kids loitering at parks

### Opportunities

- Reach out to more kids
- Opportunities for teen activities (places to hang out, organized activities, youth center, etc)
- Work with local groups to organize activities
- Community activities (block parties, etc)

### Threats

- Lack of parental involvement
- Lack of teen activities makes neighborhood susceptible to vandalism, crime, late-night loitering, wear-and-tear on properties, etc

### Summary: Community Activities

The lack of activities and programs for children and teenagers is a major concern in the neighborhood. While some residents feel that the Park District offers adequate programs, others feel that there's room for improvement. When there aren't enough activities available for youth, it makes the neighborhood susceptible to uninvited activities such as loitering, vandalism, and wear-and-tear on properties. Outreach to kids is viewed as very important to provide more organized activities and a range of opportunities to keep children and teenagers active and resourceful. Increased parental involvement is also a necessity.

## 6 Neighborhood Infrastructure

(Issues as determined from the SWOT Analysis small group discussions)



### Strengths

- Maintained infrastructure
- Schools
- Employment opportunities
- Corporate base
- Religious choices
- Near hospital
- Drive-in
- Access to stores/shopping

### Weaknesses

- Schools

### Opportunities

- New retail - taxes
- Medical support

### Threats

- None identified

### Summary: Neighborhood Infrastructure

The physical and social infrastructure for the neighborhood is viewed as strong. The neighborhood provides a diverse set of assets including schools, businesses, religious institutions, medical facilities, employment opportunities, and adequate access to goods and services just outside the neighborhood. Although schools were primarily viewed as a strength, a few residents feel that schools are a weakness, which may be a function of the perceived increase in school violence and decrease in school test scores. Regardless of the reason, the perception of school as a weakness is something that should be explored.

## 7 Parks/Open Space/Recreation

(Issues as determined from the SWOT Analysis small group discussions)



### Strengths

- Open space
- Amount & accessibility of parks

### Weaknesses

- Park maintenance
- Poorly planned green space
- Accessibility of parks
- Some parks have no lights; some close at dusk

### Opportunities

- Basketball & tennis courts
- Planned activities
- Regulations
- Lighting
- Youth activities
- Open space (safe place for recreation)

### Threats

- None identified

### Summary: Parks/Open Space/Recreation

Although there is little disagreement on the significant amount of parks and open space, residents are divided in the accessibility and maintenance of parks and open spaces. Many residents feel that there's room for improvement for the neighborhood's parks and open space system, including better uses, organized activities, specific sports fields, better lighting, and more defined regulations.



## 8 Housing

(Issues as determined from the SWOT Analysis small group discussions)



### Strengths

- None identified

### Weaknesses

- Decrease in owner-occupied housing
- School lack of residence
- Vacant housing
- Number of homes with multiple families in single unit
- Number of homes with home businesses
- Lack of associations for maintenance
- Increase in Sec. 8 housing
- Absentee landlords
- Monitoring & screening of renters

### Opportunities

- Re-sale value
- Landlord class

### Threats

- Decrease in homeownership / Increase in rentals
- Decrease in property values
- Absentee landlords
- Regulations on renters
- Single family homes converted to rental units (OK if well maintained)
- Overcrowding of people in homes & cars on street

### Summary: Housing

The decrease in homeownership and subsequent rise in rentals in the neighborhood is becoming a major concern. Vacancies, absentee landlords, lack of maintenance, inadequate screening of renters, and overcrowding are specific issues stemming from the larger problem. It is important to note that it isn't only rental properties that have inadequate maintenance; property maintenance goes across the board from buyers to renters. Thus, it is imperative to emphasize to all residents the importance of property upkeep to not only maintain property values but also enhance the overall quality of life for the entire neighborhood. Violations of property maintenance standards could occur for a variety of reasons, including the lack of information, lack of understanding of the rules and penalties for violations, or just blatant disregard for rules. Regardless of the reason, the neighborhood would greatly benefit from defining an effective system of administering and monitoring property maintenance standards.

## 9 Roads & Transportation

(Issues as determined from the SWOT Analysis small group discussions)



### Weaknesses

- Speeding
- Bus stops - approaching
- Number of parked cars
- Lack of safe pedestrian crossings and sidewalks
- Inconsistent street improvements
- Bike & vehicular traffic
- Parking on both sides - child safety
- Poor railroad sidewalk crossing and pedestrian crossing gates at Montgomery Rd
- No left turn onto Frontenac St & Montgomery Rd
- Discontinuous sidewalks
- Limited bus service
- Lack of connectivity to rest of Pace bus system
- Lack of communication between Kane & DuPage Co bus service

### Strengths

- Easy highway access
- Public transportation
- Sidewalk conditions OK

### Opportunities

- Adopt neighborhood traffic plan
- Relieve traffic on main roads
- Traffic calming
- Potential extension of E&E railroad for freight and commuter lines
- Need for bus hub or better access to closest hub
- Widening of Eola Rd

### Threats

- Speeding/tailgating
- Cut-through traffic
- Traffic increasing on Middlebury Rd
- Poor railroad sidewalk crossing at Montgomery Rd

### Summary: Roads & Transportation

Accessibility is the primary strength of the neighborhood. Like most neighborhoods, major transportation issues facing the South East Village Neighborhood include speeding, inadequate pedestrian access, cut-through traffic, and increasing traffic volume. Issues more specific to this neighborhood include unsafe pedestrian railroad crossing at Montgomery Rd, inadequate bus connections, inconsistent street improvements, and overcrowding of cars on the street. Varying traffic issues present the opportunity for a neighborhood traffic plan.



### Prioritizing Neighborhood Issues

The Planning Team began to identify patterns in the issues and levels of concern expressed by residents and local stakeholders. Using the 9 major planning issues as a reference, a consolidated list of 28 neighborhood issues was developed and presented to the community at the Second Neighborhood Meeting. After reviewing the neighborhood issues, meeting participants voted for their 5 most important issues, enabling the Planning Team to prioritize the 28 neighborhood issues (see figure to the right). The 10 issues receiving the most votes are considered the neighborhood's High Priority Issues with the remaining 18 issues considered Low Priority Issues. It is important to keep in mind that prioritization of the neighborhood issues in no way diminishes the need to address the lower priority issues. Based on the availability of resources and need to create a manageable Action Plan for neighborhood improvement, prioritization of the neighborhood issues demonstrates the community's desire to tackle certain issues (i.e. the High Priority Issues) at the onset and then handle other issues (i.e. the Low Priority Issues) as the Action Plan progresses and resources become available.

The next two chapters outline the next step towards addressing these neighborhood issues. In particular, Chapter 5 outlines a Neighborhood Vision, which is intended to guide neighborhood improvement efforts. Chapter 6 provides a Framework for Neighborhood Improvement, which includes a Physical Framework, an Organizational Framework, and a detailed set of Action Items designed to collectively address the neighborhood issues.

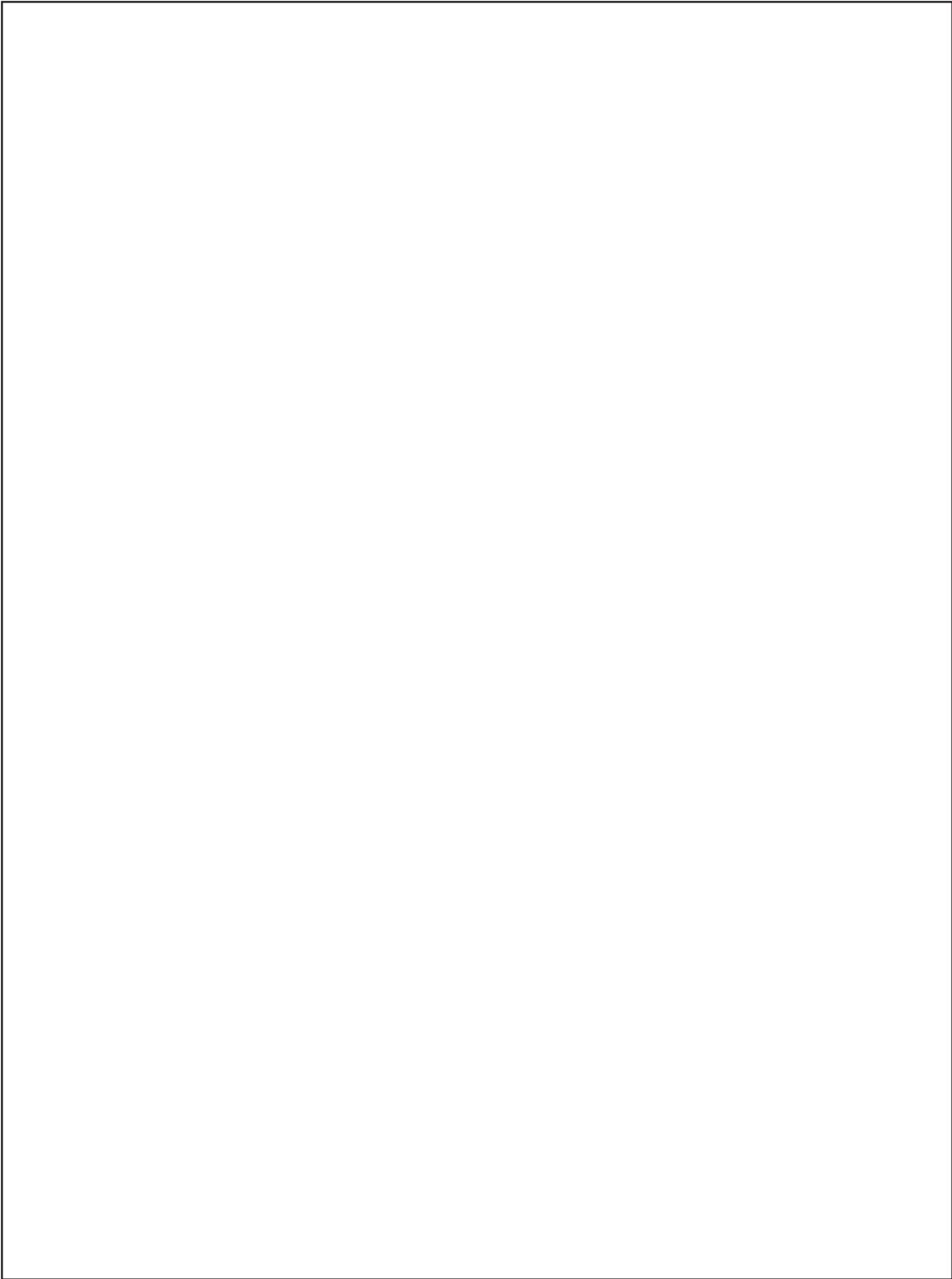
### Prioritizing Neighborhood Issues

High Priority Issues (white) & Low Priority Issues (gray)

Rank	Issue	Votes
1	Decrease in homeownership/Increase in rentals	76
2	Increased police presence	65
3	Incidences & perceptions of crime	45
4	Overcrowding of people in homes & cars on street	29
5	Consistent & prompt enforcement of property maintenance regulations	24
6	Speeding	16
7	Schools	12
8	Improved communication between City & residents	10
9	Access & safety for pedestrians	10
10	Community activities	8
11	Adequate City services	7
12	Neighborhood watch	6
13	Poor lighting	6
14	Park maintenance	5
15	Complacency/Doing nothing	4
16	Park District programs	4
17	Lack of activities for teens	4
18	Diversity	3
19	Accessibility & amount of parks	3
20	Adopt a neighborhood traffic plan	3
21	Isolated neighborhoods	2
22	Easy highway access	2
23	Location	1
24	Affordability	1
25	Access to a variety of community amenities	1
26	Cut-through traffic	1
27	People willing to make change	0
28	Additional activities & amenities	0



Property maintenance is considered one of the most prominent issues facing the neighborhood. In general, many meeting participants believe that this issue could be addressed with more consistent and prompt enforcement of property maintenance regulations. The City has taken the initiative to be more proactive to these property issues. In addition, neighbors have the responsibility to ensure that all residents, old and new, are aware of these property maintenance regulations.



One of the first exercises in which residents participated was a one-word exercise to identify how they would like their neighborhood to be. The goal of that exercise was to get a preliminary sense of how residents perceive their neighborhood and envision it in the future. As the planning process progressed, key issues facing the neighborhood were identified and discussed, allowing the Planning Team to gain a better understanding of the state of the neighborhood as well as figure out ways to address the neighborhood's diverse set of issues. Developing a plan of action to address the neighborhood's issues was the primary goal of the planning process, and it was very important to develop a unified statement of objective or vision for the neighborhood. By creating a Neighborhood Vision, the community will have a clear idea of what it wants the neighborhood to be like in the future, which is the first step toward identifying opportunities to resolve the neighborhood's key issues and ultimately make the Neighborhood Vision a reality.

### Neighborhood Vision

A Neighborhood Vision provides guidance to residents, stakeholders, and the rest of the Planning Team for the remainder of the planning process as well as future neighborhood planning improvement efforts. Meeting participants were instrumental in drafting the Neighborhood Vision for the South East Villages Neighborhood by providing their suggestions for key elements to be included in the vision statement. In particular, meeting participants at the Second Neighborhood Meeting broke into five small groups to brainstorm vision elements based on the current state and an envisioned future state of the neighborhood. A complete listing of all brainstormed vision elements from all five small groups is provided in the Appendix. Based on these vision elements, the Leadership Team worked with City staff and the consultants to draft a Neighborhood Vision that reflects the ideas and hopes of the South East Villages Neighborhood. At the Third Neighborhood Meeting, meeting participants reviewed and endorsed the Neighborhood Vision, which is shown below.



*Creating a safe environment for youth is one of the key elements in the Neighborhood Vision. Safety for the community's youth extends to all areas of the neighborhood, including parks and schools such as Georgetown Elementary School (above).*

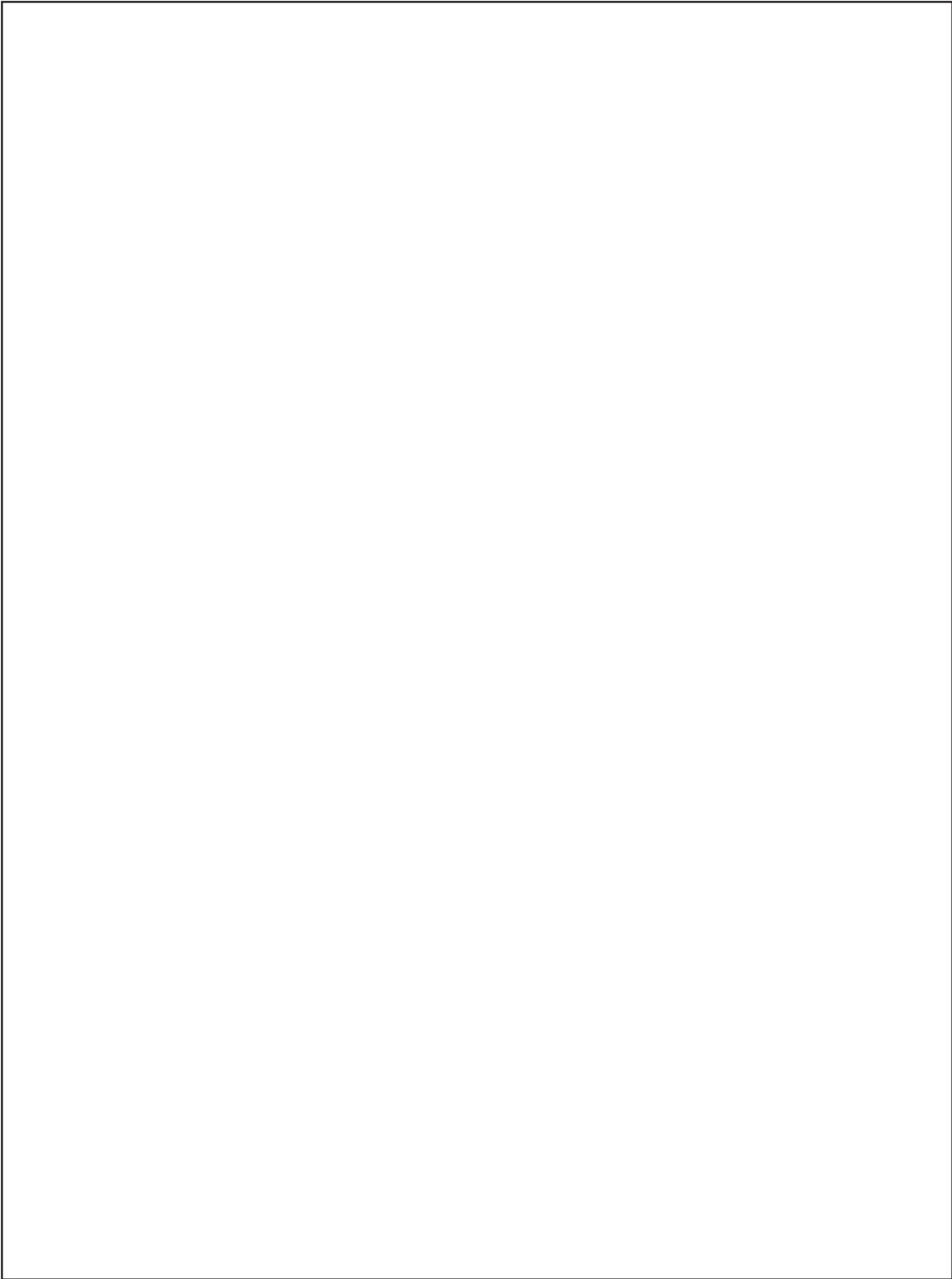
## Neighborhood Vision

### ***Welcome to the South East Villages Neighborhood!***

*Our richly diverse community offers a safe, secure and stable environment where neighbors are active, caring and informed. Residents work together to ensure that all property is well-maintained, provide a safe and controlled street system with enforced parking policies, preserve a wholesome environment for youth activities, and inform neighbors of issues and activities through active neighborhood groups. Our partnership with City officials and the police department helps maintain the neighborhood's security, attractive physical character, and dynamic social character.*

*Our neighborhood is a highly desirable place to call home due to its excellent schools and places of worship, convenient access to interstate and commuter transit, a plentiful supply of open areas and parkland, a vibrant community center, outstanding medical facilities, and an abundance of commercial businesses.*

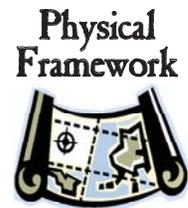
*Our vision is to provide a friendly, safe, well-maintained and accessible community where neighbors will choose long-term residency and become actively involved.*



**A** *Framework for Neighborhood Improvement* is necessary to assess the most appropriate course of actions to take in order for the South East Villages Neighborhood to become the community portrayed in the Neighborhood Vision. The Framework for Neighborhood Improvement is comprised of two critical components: a **Physical Framework** and an **Organizational Framework**. The Physical Framework is described below. The Organizational Framework is described on page 34.

### Physical Framework

As a fairly well-established neighborhood, the planning process for the South East Villages Neighborhood generally focused more on organizational and community development priorities than physical planning priorities. In particular, there are very few vacant or undeveloped properties within the neighborhood that called for physical planning and new development. Also, there was little knowledge of existing structures that required major overhauls or complete redevelopment. Despite the lack of need for major physical planning in the neighborhood, establishing a **Physical Framework** is still important in that it **provides the community with a means of recognizing the key relationships between physical elements in the South East Villages Neighborhood. The Physical Framework helps the neighborhood better understand its identity and facilitate safe and efficient connections between residents and resources.**



The neighborhood may not need any new developments, but the physical layout of the neighborhood provides insight into how the different land uses and transportation network relate to each other. In some cases, land uses and transportation routes work together to create an accessible community connecting residents to resources; for example, Ogden Avenue provides residents with access to a variety of retail uses within the neighborhood and even more within close driving distance (e.g. Fox Valley Mall and the Route 59 retail corridor). However, in other cases, land uses and transportation routes do not always work well together; for example, Eola Road provides residents with vehicular access to the Eola Community Center, but the lack of safe road crossings for pedestrians and bikes raise some concerns. By mapping out these physical relationships, the neighborhood can use the Physical Framework to evaluate strategies for neighborhood improvement.

A Physical Framework Plan was developed based on discussions throughout the planning process, with particular attention to the issues prioritization exercise and the Map of Areas of Concern (see Appendix) developed during the Second Neighborhood Meeting. The Physical Framework Plan, which is illustrated on the map on page 37, includes the following components:

- **Residential Areas:** These areas include existing residential uses within the study area. The South East Villages Neighborhood is characterized by a mixed housing stock, including single-family homes, townhomes, duplexes, and apartments. Although the neighborhood primarily consists of single family homes, the diversity in the neighborhood's housing stock provides a variety of housing options for residents which matches the varying incomes and needs of the community.
- **Community Focal Points:** Community Focal Points provide the community with the space and facilities to hold community-oriented events and activities. The Eola Community Center and the neighborhood's schools and churches all provide a variety of indoor and outdoor spaces to hold community-oriented events and activities such as neighborhood organiza-

### Components of the Physical Framework Plan \*

Residential Areas  
Community Focal Points  
Neighborhood Services  
Areas to Strengthen  
Parks & Open Space  
Transportation Corridors  
Key Connections  
Neighborhood Gateways  
Traffic Calming  
Pedestrian/Bicycle Crossings

\* The Physical Framework Map is provided on page 37.



tion meetings, block parties, and organized sports and recreational activities. Cooperation between residents, schools, churches, and other community organizations can lead to healthy relationships to coordinate the facilities and resources needed to hold events and activities. The neighborhood's network of schools, churches, community center, and even parks and open space provides opportunities to build a strong community through active participation and interaction.

- **Neighborhood Services:** Neighborhood Services provide goods, services, and business opportunities to the community. The various retail businesses along Ogden Avenue comprise a major segment of the Neighborhood Services component. The Rush Copley Hospital and Waubensee Center Campus (both outside the study area) and Castle Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine Facility (within the study area) collectively form another major Neighborhood Service, providing quality medical services and facilities. The Meadow Lakes Corporate Park located just east of the study area along the railroad is another major Neighborhood Service, providing employment and business opportunities for local residents.

- **Areas to Strengthen:** As indicated on the Map of Areas of Concern (see Appendix) developed during the Second Neighborhood Meeting, the Planning Team was able to determine certain areas in the neighborhood that needed strengthening due to perceived decline. It is anticipated that the neighborhood planning efforts outlined in the Action Items will address many of the issues creating the areas of decline. However, some areas of decline may need focused attention due to site-specific issues. Although meeting participants were also asked to identify stable and improving areas on the Map of Areas of Concern, these areas are generally covered by the other components of the Physical Framework Plan. For example, Rush Copley Hospital is perceived as a stable area on the Map of Areas of Concern but is identified as a Neighborhood Service on the Physical Framework Plan.

- **Parks & Open Space:** As described in the Neighborhood Profile, parks and open space comprise one of the most prominent features of the neighborhood. The amount and accessibility of parks and open space are a major asset to the neighborhood; however, elements such as programming, maintenance, and lighting have raised some concern. Although some of the individual parks are located adjacent to each other forming passive linkages, the neighborhood may wish to consider creating active linkages via multi-use paths or a physical fitness trail to produce a connected greenway system and additional recreational opportunities for the community.

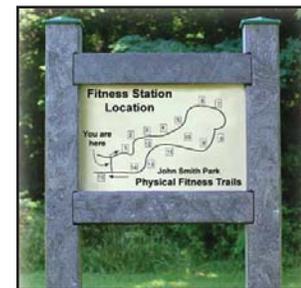
- **Transportation Corridors:** As the neighborhood's Primary Transportation Corridor, Ogden Avenue provides regional access for the community by connecting the neighborhood to the rest of the City to the west and Naperville to the east. Eola Road and Montgomery Road are the neighborhood's Secondary Transportation Corridors, providing access to and within the neighborhood. Although Eola Road and Montgomery Road both provide connections beyond the South East Villages Neighborhood like Ogden Avenue, these two roads are viewed as Secondary Transportation Corridors in the Physical Framework Plan since they also serve as local roads within the neighborhood.



*As Community Focal Points, schools and churches often offer excellent facilities and accommodations for events and activities. For example, the Waubonsie Valley High School Gold Campus graciously provided meeting spaces for the South East Villages Neighborhood planning process.*



*Rush Copley Hospital is one of the neighborhood's most prominent Neighborhood Services, providing excellent medical services and facilities to the neighborhood and region.*



*A physical fitness path is one potential way to create a continuous system of parks and open space throughout the neighborhood.*



- **Key Connections:** In addition to the potential to create a connected greenway system, the neighborhood is presented with opportunities to create key connections between the different components of the Physical Framework Plan. Connections take on a variety of forms, depending on the components being connected and nature of the connection. For example, the Eola Community Center (north of the study area) is very accessible by car via Eola Road; however, pedestrians and bicyclists from the neighborhood have the challenge of contending with the buzzing traffic and multiple lanes along Ogden Avenue just to visit the community center. The neighborhood may wish to consider ways to enhance this Key Connection between the neighborhood and the Eola Community Center to create safer pedestrian and bike crossings across Ogden Avenue. Other Key Connections are identified on the Physical Framework Plan.
- **Neighborhood Gateways:** Major roadways, traffic patterns, and distinctive physical features often work in tandem to create conditions for a Neighborhood Gateway, particularly the overall feeling that one is passing from one prominent area to another. For example, the Ogden Avenue/Eola Road intersection is the neighborhood's most prominent Neighborhood Gateway, particularly with the Waubonsie Valley High School campuses serving as prominent landmarks at the northwest and southeast corners and a variety of retail businesses providing highly visible goods and services to passing motorists at the other corners. Prominent landmarks and visual elements provide passing motorists with a strong sense of arrival. Other Neighborhood Gateways are noted on the Physical Framework Plan.
- **Traffic Calming:** During the planning process, residents noted specific areas that are known for speeding problems. Although most streets will likely experience speeding offenses every now and then, some areas are more susceptible to speeding than others, which may be attributed to conditions such as long and straight street segments, obstructed or unposted speed limit signs, or general disrespect for traffic laws. Many neighborhoods incorporate traffic calming devices such as speed bumps, curb bump-outs, and electronic speed read-out boards to address speeding problems in specified areas. The South East Villages Neighborhood may wish to consider incorporating traffic calming devices in some of the areas designated as Traffic Calming Areas on the Physical Framework Plan. Additional Traffic Calming Areas may be identified as new problem areas arise.
- **Pedestrian/Bicycle Crossings:** In addition to improving the safety of vehicular traffic circulation, a safe transportation network is also necessary for pedestrians and bicycles, particularly at road crossings. Safety improvements for pedestrians and bicycles could entail a variety of options, including providing road medians, installing digital timers on pedestrian traffic signals, improving signage to announce upcoming crosswalks, and enhancing the visibility of crosswalks via grade separation, paving, or painted lines. Improved pedestrian/bicycle crossings are most prominent along highly traveled roads like Ogden Avenue and Eola Road as well as at railroad crossings.



*Pace Bus Route 534 travels through the South East Villages Neighborhood, presenting an excellent opportunity to create better connections between the community's various resources.*



*Waubonsie Valley High School's two campuses collectively create a strong physical presence at the Ogden Avenue/Eola Road intersection.*



*Although they require certain physical and financial resources, traffic calming devices such as paved speed bumps (above) may help reduce speeding and prove beneficial to road safety in the neighborhood.*



## Organizational Framework



### Organizational Framework

The Aurora Neighborhood Planning Initiative was designed to provide residents with a community-based planning effort through which they can offer input to the City on how it can improve in performing its job to benefit both the City as a whole and its distinct neighborhoods. In addition, as a result of the planning process, residents and other local stakeholders will learn how they can assume responsibility for certain aspects of developing and implementing an Action Plan for their neighborhood. In conjunction with the Physical Framework described above, the Organizational Framework provides a strong foundation for

the South East Villages Neighborhood Action Plan. **The Organizational Framework includes existing neighborhood organizations as well as plans for a new structure of Task Forces that will implement the Action Items designed to address neighborhood issues.** Also, due to the variety of issues facing the neighborhood, the Organizational Framework creates a structure to help the neighborhood and the City efficiently manage available resources.

In addition to the planning efforts carried out thus far during the ANPI planning process, the South East Villages Neighborhood has greatly benefited from the work and dedication of the neighborhood's two existing resident-based organizations – the Georgetown Relief Effort Neighborhood Organization (G.R.E.N.O.) and the Neighborhood Organization of South East Aurora (N.O.S.E.A.). These organizations actively participated throughout the ANPI planning process and will prove to be valuable assets to the implementation of the Action Plan. The Aurora Neighborhood Council (ANC) will also play a significant role in the implementation process.

Like any other physical or organizational structure, a neighborhood requires ongoing management and maintenance. Even though the City and the ANC can play a significant role in implementing many plan recommendations and monitoring their progress, ultimately it is the residents and other local stakeholders who must make a strong commitment to hold themselves and the City accountable.

Plan participants and the Leadership Team are sensitive to the resources offered by the City and existing neighborhood organizations. Rather than duplicate the work of these organizations, the hope is to **gather interest from and recruit community-minded and resourceful residents and stakeholders to form a group of Task Forces that are designed to address the key neighborhood issues identified during the planning process.** The five Task Forces identified to carry out the implementation of the South East Villages Neighborhood Action Plan are described in the figures on the next page. The Task Forces are charged with the following duties:

- Initiate implementation steps to address priority issues as outlined in Chapter 4;
- Report to neighborhood groups and the ANC regarding progress, obstacles, and activities;
- Maintain a cooperative relationship with City staff that allows for collaborative work and successful lobbying to City leaders;
- Explore all avenues for neighborhood improvement relative to the Task Force focus (i.e. employ an attitude of “thinking outside the box”); and
- Promote the work of the Task Force in order to recruit new members and expertise.

### Task Force Duties



While each Task Force will work independently on the Action Items which it is charged to address, they will periodically meet as a common group to provide each other with insights and suggestions on their planning efforts. They should also coordinate efforts to **communicate their progress to the at-large community**, which is outlined in more detail in *Chapter 8: Tracking Progress*. Essentially, **communication of progress on addressing the neighborhood issues will help foster a sense of pride and accomplishment in the South East Villages community and potentially encourage other residents and stakeholders to join a Task Force.**



Residents and local stakeholders played an integral part in developing the Neighborhood Action Plan and will continue to participate in implementing the Plan via Task Forces.



## Task Forces

To implement the Neighborhood Action Plan

The intent of the Task Forces is to maintain a system of community-led meetings to sustain the momentum from the ANPI process and translate the planning efforts into action. It is also important to continually attract new Task Force members and raise heightened awareness of the work and progress of the Task Forces. The Task Forces can also collaborate with other neighborhood organizations to lobby the City and act as a “community watchdog” to track the work and progress of the City in addressing the neighborhood’s issues. Essentially, the five Task Forces work together to create a community-based mechanism, providing a stronger voice for the South East Villages Neighborhood at all levels of government.

### Community Connections Task Force

C

The **Community Connections Task Force** is responsible for exploring and developing methods to improve communication with the other Task Forces, between the City and neighborhood, and among residents. A strong communication network is vital to keep the community aware of progress on the Action Items and ensure planning efforts are developed and implemented via community partnerships. Planning activities for the community is also important to keep residents active and involved.



### Crime & Safety Task Force

CS

The **Crime & Safety Task Force** is responsible for exploring and developing methods to improve the comfort and address the perceptions of crime and safety in the neighborhood. Lighting issues will also be addressed. Coordination with the Aurora Police Department is essential in establishing a safe community monitored by both APD and residents.



### Youth Activities Task Force

Y

The **Youth Activities Task Force** is responsible for exploring and developing methods to encourage the involvement of the community’s youth in the planning of activities and spaces in the neighborhood. The ideas of teenagers and younger children will prove invaluable. The community must also ensure that youth have a safe and wholesome environment in which to learn and play.



### Property Improvement Task Force

P

The **Property Improvement Task Force** is responsible for exploring and developing methods to ensure that properties are well maintained and property violations are addressed consistently and promptly. Cooperation with the City is important; however, accountability, community pride, and neighborhood investment are just as important in sustaining a well-maintained neighborhood.



### Traffic Task Force

T

The **Traffic Task Force** is responsible for exploring and developing methods to ensure that neighbors have adequate access to neighborhood amenities as well as safe and efficient circulation throughout the neighborhood. Access and circulation for pedestrians and bikes are of particular concern. Developing a Neighborhood Traffic Plan is a comprehensive approach to planning for these issues.

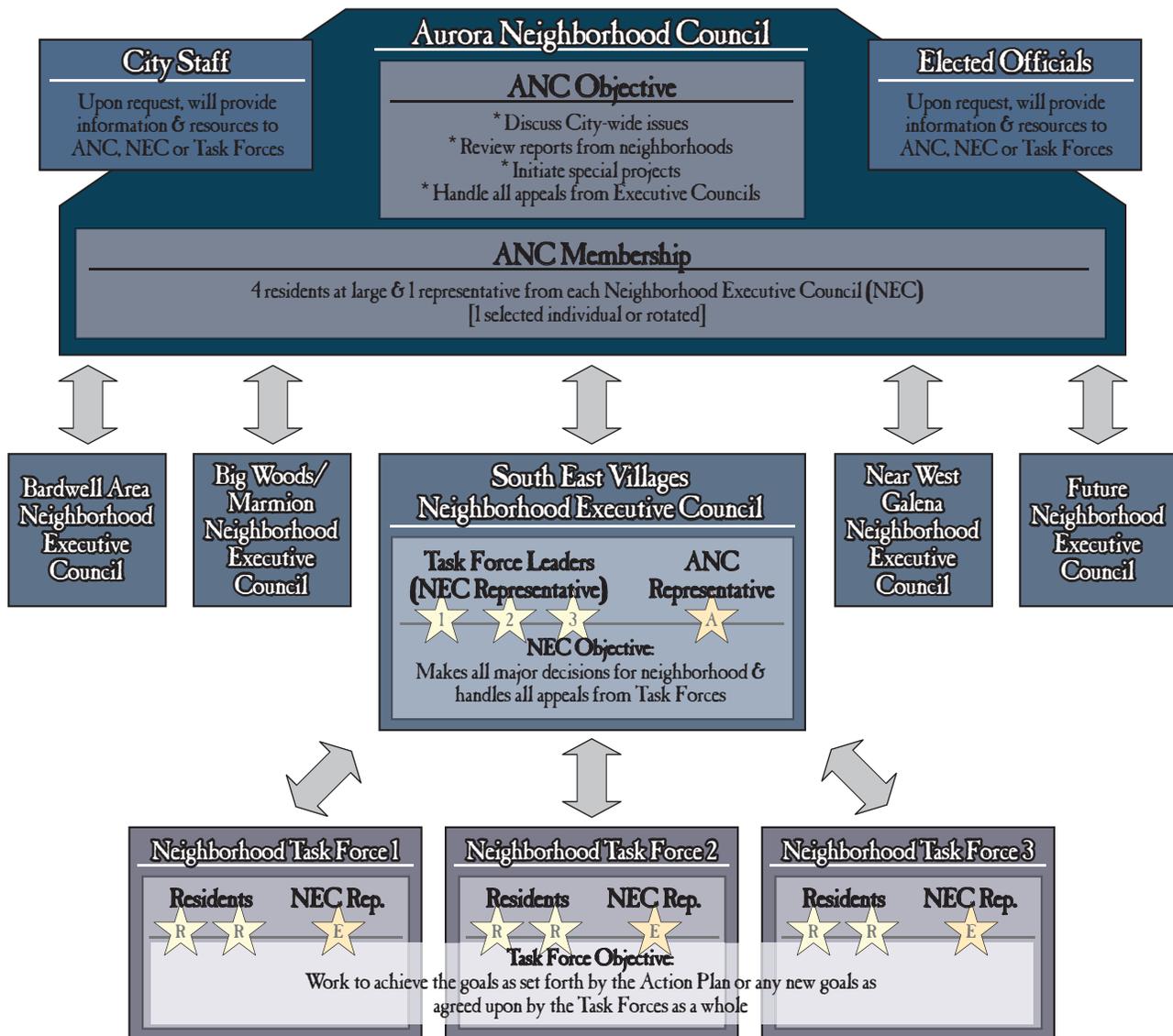


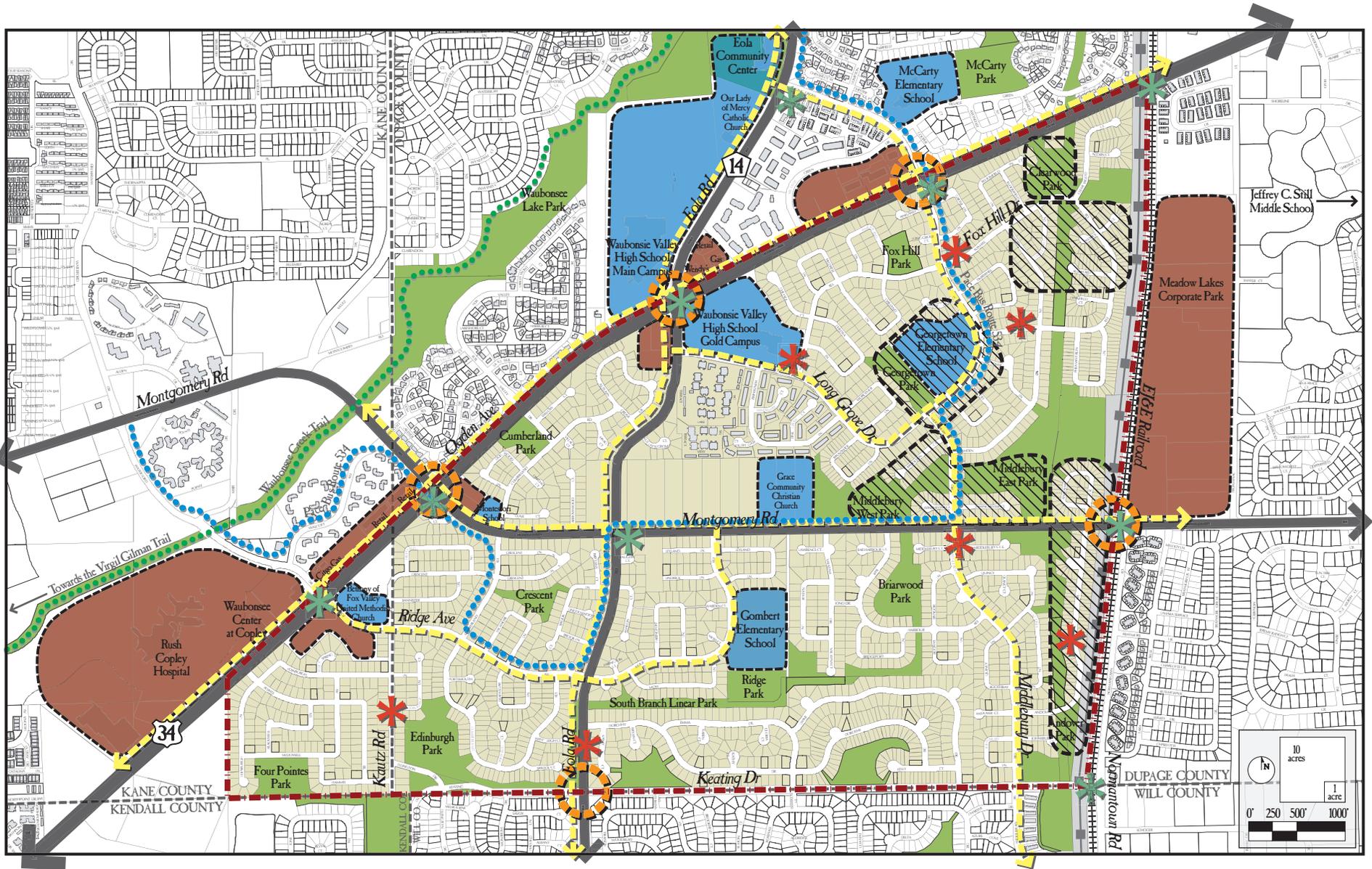
Since the Task Forces represent everyone in the neighborhood, it is important to note that ***the Task Forces allow the neighborhood to speak as a united voice that can call attention to its diverse set of issues at the City and at higher levels of government.*** Task Forces are not limited in membership. All interested residents are encouraged to participate and may join more than one Task Force. Initial Task Force members volunteered to participate at one of the neighborhood meetings. In the end, the City will be encouraged to act on an issue raised and supported by 9,500 residents instead of just a few residents.



Children and teens are highly encouraged to participate in neighborhood planning activities.

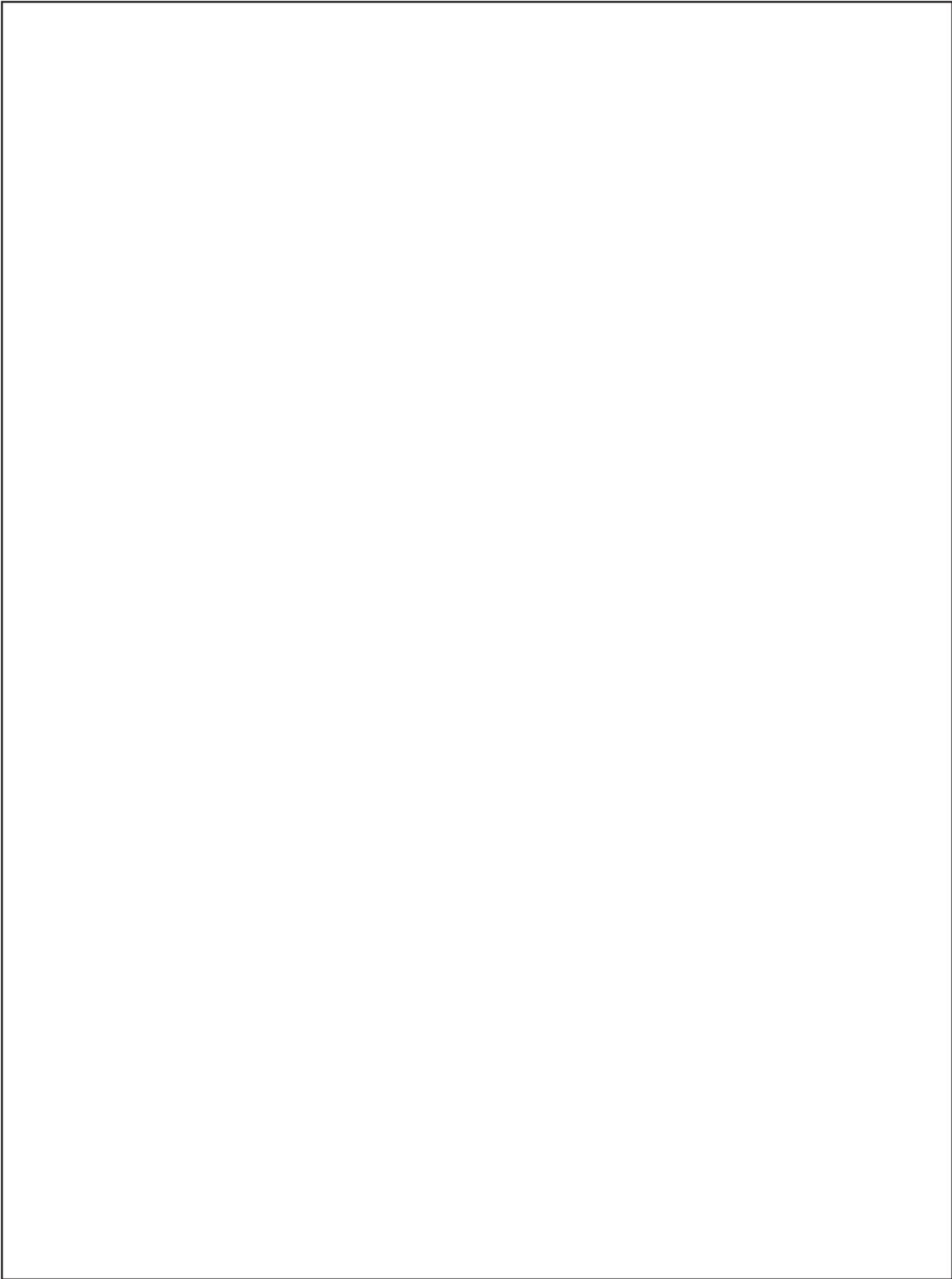
Upon approval of the Action Plan, the City will accept responsibility for the continued support of certain activities as described throughout this document. Additionally, the ANC will play a primary role in assisting the planning efforts of the Task Forces as needed. Acting as a council of resources and expertise, the ANC will provide assistance to the Task Forces if they face obstacles or are unsure of the appropriate course of action to address a particular issue. The figure below illustrates the distinct roles of and the cooperative relationship between the Task Forces and ANC along with City staff and elected officials.





**LEGEND/LEYENDA**

Residential Areas Áreas Residenciales	Parks/Open Space Parques/Espacio Abierto	Primary Transportation Corridor Pasillo Primario del Transporte	Waubensee Creek Trail Rastro del Cala de Waubensee	Neighborhood Gateways Entradas de la Vecindad
Community Focal Points Puntos Focales de la Comunidad	ComEd Right-of-Way Derecha-de-Manera de ComEd	Secondary Transportation Corridor Pasillo Secundario del Transporte	Pace Bus Route 534 Ruta 534 de PACE Autobús	Traffic Calming Areas Áreas que Calman del Tráfico
Neighborhood Services Servicios de la Vecindad	Areas to Strengthen Áreas a Consolidar	Key Connections Conexiones Importantes	Neighborhood Boundary Límite de la Vecindad	Pedestrian/Bicycle Crossings Travesías de Peatón/Bicicleta



Throughout the planning process, the South East Villages Neighborhood was represented by a diverse group of residents and other community members who participated in identifying neighborhood issues, prioritizing those issues, creating a Neighborhood Vision, and prioritizing Action Items to address the issues. As described in the previous chapter, community participation will need to continue for the Action Plan to succeed. The implementation process will utilize the Organizational Framework developed in the previous chapter. Specifically, significant community participation is imperative for the Task Forces to adequately address each set of Action Items.

### Action Items

Based on the prioritization of issues and discussions with the Planning Team, **a series of Action Items was developed which the community can utilize to address the neighborhood issues and forge a path towards ongoing neighborhood improvement.** The Action Items will be handled by the Task Forces outlined in the previous chapter. At the Third Neighborhood Meeting, the Action Items were presented to the neighborhood for feedback and to provide them with a general idea of the amount of community participation and cooperation with the City and other entities necessary to make the Action Plan successful.

The Third Neighborhood Meeting also provided the community with the opportunity to prioritize the Action Items, keeping in mind some of the following matters:

- **“Quick wins”:** Some Action Items are relatively easier to achieve than others, requiring less time and effort for achievement. Sometimes a community likes to notch a “quick win” under its belt to demonstrate to the City and skeptical residents that the Action Plan is effective in addressing the neighborhood’s issues. In turn, this may attract other residents to join a Task Force or assist in general neighborhood planning efforts. The City will also recognize that the neighborhood is making progress and putting forth a concerted effort to address its issues.
- **Immediacy:** The timeliness of addressing certain issues is very important, particularly if delaying any action will exacerbate an issue or create new ones. As a result, certain Action Items require immediate attention while others are not as sensitive to time and are not as likely to worsen if given a lower priority.
- **Availability of resources:** Some Action Items may require extra time to collect information, conduct proper studies or research, or find available resources (e.g. funding, time, data, etc). The availability of resources may not necessarily place a certain Action Item at a lower priority, but it does demonstrate that it takes time to properly address certain issues.

Results from the prioritization of Action Items are located on the next page (complete voting results from the prioritization exercise are provided in the Appendix). Although some Action Items were given a higher priority than others, this does not disregard or diminish the importance of the lower priority Action Items. Once the Task Forces have made progress on the high priority Action Items, they are encouraged to commence with the lower priority Action Items. Also, new issues may arise over time, so the Task Forces need to determine how best to address these new issues. In the case that a new issue does not fall under one of the five Task Forces, the neighborhood can discuss the merits of either forming a new Task Force or pooling together the resources and expertise of the existing Task Forces to adequately address the issue. It is imperative that the South East Villages Neighborhood always stay organized and prepared to ensure that future issues do not escalate to a point where they are detrimental to the neighborhood’s quality of life.



*Providing a variety of youth activities such as the day & summer camps offered by the montessori school is one of the goals of an Action Item to be addressed by the Community Development Task Force.*



## Implementation Worksheets

Implementation worksheets have been created for the Action Items and are provided on the next several pages. The Task Forces can use the worksheets to guide planning efforts throughout the implementation process. Each worksheet describes the nature of each Action Item and indicates the party/parties responsible for initiating the work and maintaining progress of the work. The worksheets outline the steps that need to be taken to achieve the goal of each Action Item. Also, each Action Item is listed with recommended Task Force partners (indicated by the Task Force abbreviations) to encourage collaboration and pooling of resources. The worksheets are meant to be dynamic and flexible, allowing the Task Forces to add or revise steps if necessary to achieve the objectives of the Action Items. Space is provided on each worksheet for Task Force members to write in the scheduled initiation and completion dates to ensure work progresses in a timely manner. The worksheets also allow for assignments to be assigned to Task Force members and for reports to be drafted to the ANC and other groups.

As the Task Forces complete the Action Items, it is important for them to use the relationships that have been formed to complete the remaining Action Items and address new issues that may arise. City staff, the ANC, and other community development resources are available to provide assistance throughout the implementation process. A listing of various community development resources, including funding sources and incentive and assistance programs (as of Action Plan approval), is provided starting on page 60.

## Prioritizing Action Items

\* Based on community voting at Third Neighborhood Meeting

### C Community Connections Task Force

ID	Action Item
C-1	Promote and suggest improvements to the City's existing programs to provide information to residents
C-2	Organize social and recreational activities to encourage interaction among neighbors
C-3	Monitor the applicability and adequacy of City services
C-4	Research and provide recreational programs and activities that are tailored to the interests and age levels of the neighborhood
C-5	Work with the Fox Valley Park District and Indian Prairie School District 204 on the frequency of updating and adding playground equipment and recreational spaces
C-6	Identify ways to celebrate and engage the neighborhood's diversity

### CS Crime & Safety Task Force

ID	Action Item
CS-1	Maintain regular contact with the Aurora Police Department and encourage increased police presence, especially in key locations
CS-2	Utilize the Aurora Police Department's community policing program
CS-3	Develop and maintain a lighting program to facilitate a well-lit and safer neighborhood

### P Property Improvement Task Force

ID	Action Item
P-1	Keep residents, landlords, and property owners informed of community expectations on property maintenance, community pride, and accountability
P-2	Work with the City to develop an effective program to consistently and promptly enforce property maintenance regulations
P-3	Identify target property inspection areas and implement the property inspection program outlined in Action Item P-2
P-4	Work with the City to expedite the addition of single-family rental housing to the existing multiple-family rental licensing program

### Y Youth Activities Task Force

ID	Action Item
Y-1	Monitor and promote a safe learning and growing environment at school and in the neighborhood
Y-2	Form a youth-led activity board to develop youth activities

### T Traffic Task Force

ID	Action Item
T-1	Develop and adopt a Neighborhood Traffic Plan
T-2	Create a plan for a pedestrian-friendly neighborhood focusing on safety and improved access to recreational opportunities and community amenities
T-3	Develop a traffic calming system to reduce speeding and cut-through traffic on neighborhood streets
T-4	Investigate pedestrian crossing improvements for roads crossing the E&E Railroad





## Community Connections Task Force

C

Action Item C-1

**Promote and suggest improvements to the City's existing programs to provide information to residents**



<p><b>Description:</b> Communication between residents and the City is important to ensure the neighborhood's ideas and concerns are heard and addressed appropriately. The City has existing programs that provide information to residents. In cases where such programs are inadequate, residents need to suggest improvements or adjustments to ensure their needs and concerns are adequately addressed. Just as important is communication within the neighborhood, ensuring that all residents are kept informed of the efforts and progress of the Task Forces.</p>	Who will be responsible for INITIATING this work?	Who will be responsible for MAINTAINING progress of this work?	Task Force Partner(s)
	Neighborhood, ANC & City	Neighborhood, ANC & City	CS, Y, P, T
Tasks: What will be done?	Who will do it?	Initiation Date	Completion Date
1	Develop and maintain a database of City contacts for all departments including staff relations to neighborhood initiatives *	Neighborhood	
2	Develop and maintain a schedule of all available opportunities for public comment *	Neighborhood	
3	Invite City departmental representatives to Task Force and general neighborhood meetings as necessary to clarify or present information affecting the neighborhood	Neighborhood & City	
4	Develop and maintain a database of addresses for mailings	Neighborhood & City	
5	Set a regular calendar (up to 3-4 months in advance) to keep the neighborhood informed of upcoming meetings and events	Neighborhood	
6	Identify and employ the most effective methods for public notification (e.g. mailings, fliers, emails, webpage, newspaper notices, etc) to advertise meetings and events	Neighborhood	
7	Create and periodically update a master list of projects and initiatives for all Task Forces	Neighborhood	
8	Consider creating a neighborhood-hosted webpage to post notices, meeting and event schedules, and other information relating to neighborhood initiatives	Neighborhood, City & Aldermen	
9	Hold periodic "State of the Neighborhood" meetings to report progress of the Task Forces to the entire neighborhood **	Neighborhood	

\* See page 64 for general City contact information and schedule of City meetings.

\*\* See Chapter 8: Tracking Progress for more information.

**Notes**

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## Community Connections Task Force

C

Action Item C-2

### Organize social and recreational activities to encourage interaction among neighbors



Description: One of the most important building blocks of a community is knowing your neighbors, whether that's through informal conversations or organized social and recreational activities, which connect neighbors with shared interests and provide social outlets for neighbors to interact and get to know each other.		Who will be responsible for INITIATING this work?	Who will be responsible for MAINTAINING progress of this work?	Task Force Partner(s)
		Neighborhood	Neighborhood	Y
Tasks: What will be done?		Who will do it?	Initiation Date	Completion Date
1	Develop and administer a survey (via mail or online) to identify social and recreational activities that may be of interest to residents (examples: block parties, adult sports leagues, picnics, book clubs, other hobby-related clubs, etc)	Neighborhood		
2	Tabulate and analyze the survey results	Neighborhood		
3	Create a list of social and recreational activities that match the interests of residents	Neighborhood		
4	Identify social and recreational activities that the neighborhood can organize on its own	Neighborhood		
5	Work with the Fox Valley Park District and Indian Prairie School District 204 to identify existing social and recreational programs and the potential to initiate new ones	Neighborhood, Fox Valley Park District & Indian Prairie School District 204		
6	Coordinate with the planning efforts from Action Item C-4 to avoid duplication of work	Neighborhood		
7	Create a calendar of social and recreational activities, specifically identifying times, locations, and required resources for each activity	Neighborhood		
8	Coordinate, promote, and facilitate social and recreational activities	Neighborhood, Fox Valley Park District & Indian Prairie School District 204		
9	Monitor the success of each activity and ask neighbors for feedback via comment cards, word-of-mouth, etc	Neighborhood		
10	Identify ways to improve each activity	Neighborhood		
11	Develop a "Better Business" information sharing program that allows neighbors to share information/provide recommendations for good (and bad) businesses/services	Neighborhood		
12	Promote and implement the "Better Business" information sharing program	Neighborhood		

**Notes**

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## Community Connections Task Force

C

Action Item C-4

**Research and provide recreational programs and activities that are tailored to the interests and age levels of the neighborhood**



<p><b>Description:</b> It is important for any neighborhood to provide adequate recreational spaces and opportunities that serve a diverse population. Although the South East Villages Neighborhood is home to many young families, the community must ensure that residents of all ages have access to recreational spaces and opportunities that meet their needs and interests.</p>	Who will be responsible for INITIATING this work?	Who will be responsible for MAINTAINING progress of this work?	Task Force Partner(s)
	Neighborhood, Fox Valley Park District & School District 204	Neighborhood, Fox Valley Park District & School District 204	Y
<b>Tasks: What will be done?</b>	<b>Who will do it?</b>	<b>Initiation Date</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
1 Identify existing and planned recreational programs offered by the Park and School Districts	Neighborhood		
2 Research recreational programs from other communities (locally and nationally)	Neighborhood		
3 Update the Neighborhood Assets Map (see page 20) to identify new parks, playgrounds, and/or open spaces (if necessary)	Neighborhood		
4 Identify age groups and recreational interests that are currently underserved in the neighborhood	Neighborhood		
5 Present list of underserved age groups and recreational interests to Park and School District representatives to identify appropriate programs and facilities to better serve the community	Neighborhood, Fox Valley Park District & Indian Prairie School District 204		
6 Identify community-based programs to involve residents in forming their own recreational opportunities (e.g. resident sports leagues, neighborhood walks/bike rides, charity walk/run races, sports days, etc)	Neighborhood		
7 Coordinate with the planning efforts from Action Item C-2 to avoid duplication of work	Neighborhood		
8 Promote the community-based programs from Task 6	Neighborhood		
9 Monitor the implementation of programs and facilities	Neighborhood		
10 Maintain lines of communication with the Park and School Districts to keep them informed of progress or the need for additional programs and facility needs	Neighborhood		

**Notes**

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## Community Connections Task Force

C

Action Item C-5

**Work with the Fox Valley Park District and Indian Prairie School District 204 on the frequency of updating and adding playground equipment and recreational spaces**



<b>Description:</b> The neighborhood has an abundance of parks and open space. Many host a variety of recreational activities while others are more passive spaces. Proper maintenance of these parks and open spaces is important to provide safe areas for recreation and beautify the neighborhood, promoting pride in the community.		Who will be responsible for INITIATING this work?	Who will be responsible for MAINTAINING progress of this work?	Task Force Partner(s)
		Neighborhood, Fox Valley Park District & School District 204	Fox Valley Park District & School District 204	Y
Tasks: What will be done?		Who will do it?	Initiation Date	Completion Date
1	Develop and maintain a database of contacts from the Fox Valley Park District & Indian Prairie School District 204, particularly those relating to facilities management	Neighborhood		
2	Draft a list or map of parks and open spaces that need improved maintenance	Neighborhood		
3	Create a checklist of maintenance standards, particularly those focusing on safety and upkeep of equipment and grounds	Neighborhood		
4	Present list/map and checklist to Park and School District representatives to identify appropriate methods to improve maintenance	Neighborhood, Fox Valley Park District & Indian Prairie School District 204		
5	Identify criteria used by the Park and School Districts when deciding the sites of potential parks/recreational spaces	Neighborhood, Fox Valley Park District & Indian Prairie School District 204		
6	Identify locations, funding, and physical resources for potential parks/recreational spaces	Neighborhood, Fox Valley Park District & Indian Prairie School District 204		
7	Identify and promote community-based programs to involve residents in park/open space maintenance (e.g. cleanup days, "Adopt-A-Park" program, Earth Day & Arbor Day programs, etc)	Neighborhood		
8	Monitor the implementation of maintenance methods/ programs and crosscheck progress with checklist from Task 3	Neighborhood		
9	Monitor the construction of new parks/recreational spaces	Neighborhood		
10	Maintain lines of communication with the Park and School Districts to keep them informed of progress or the need for additional steps toward improved maintenance	Neighborhood		

**Notes**

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## Community Connections Task Force

C

Action Item C-6

Identify ways to celebrate and engage the neighborhood's diversity



<p><b>Description:</b> The neighborhood boasts diversity in race, culture, age levels, and housing stock. One way to get to know your neighbors and build a community is to acknowledge and celebrate the neighborhood's diversity, whether that's by celebrating a culturally significant holiday, holding block parties in the different sub-neighborhoods within the South East Villages Neighborhood, or some other way. Recognizing diversity is one thing; learning about and celebrating it is another.</p>	Who will be responsible for INITIATING this work?	Who will be responsible for MAINTAINING progress of this work?	Task Force Partner(s)	
	Neighborhood	Neighborhood	Y	
Tasks: What will be done?		Who will do it?	Initiation Date	Completion Date
1	Identify the different racial and cultural backgrounds of residents	Neighborhood		
2	Meet with interested residents to identify and learn about culturally significant holidays/celebrations	Neighborhood		
3	Research background information and contact local cultural centers to learn about the culturally significant holidays/celebrations	Neighborhood		
4	Identify community-wide activities that cater to the interests of different age groups (from children to senior citizens)	Neighborhood		
5	Plan community walks to visit and meet-and-greet neighbors in the different sub-neighborhoods in the South East Villages Neighborhood	Neighborhood		
6	Create a calendar of culturally significant holidays/celebrations, community-wide activities, and community walks, specifically identifying times, locations, and required resources of such events	Neighborhood		
7	Organize interested residents to coordinate, promote, and facilitate the events from Task 6	Neighborhood		
8	Encourage different blocks/sub-neighborhoods to host events	Neighborhood		
9	Monitor the success of each event and ask neighbors for feedback via comment cards, word-of-mouth, etc	Neighborhood		
10	Identify ways to improve each event	Neighborhood		

**Notes**

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## Crime & Safety Task Force

CS

Action Item CS-1

**Maintain regular contact with the Aurora Police Department and encourage increased police presence, especially in key locations**



<p><b>Description:</b> Increased police presence was a high priority issue in the neighborhood. Although maintaining a more visible and frequent police presence in the neighborhood is one way to deter crime, it is also important for the neighborhood to maintain a working relationship with the Aurora Police Department to foster a sense of trust and understanding in the community.</p>	Who will be responsible for INITIATING this work?	Who will be responsible for MAINTAINING progress of this work?	Task Force Partner(s)
	Neighborhood & Aurora Police Dept	Neighborhood & Aurora Police Dept	C
Tasks: What will be done?	Who will do it?	Initiation Date	Completion Date
1 Contact the Aurora Police Dept (APD) to determine the frequency of police patrols in the neighborhood	Neighborhood & Aurora Police Dept		
2 Meet with APD officers living in or near the neighborhood to form a rapport with them	Neighborhood & Aurora Police Dept		
3 Draft and present a list or map of problem areas to APD to identify appropriate methods of policing	Neighborhood		
4 Maintain lines of communication with APD to keep them informed of actual crimes and problem areas that have high potential for crimes	Neighborhood		
5 Invite APD officers to hold seminars/presentations in the neighborhood about safety, crime prevention, community policing (see Action Item CS-2), and other related matters	Neighborhood & Aurora Police Dept		

**Notes**

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## Crime & Safety Task Force

CS

Action Item CS-3

### Develop and maintain a lighting program to facilitate a well-lit and safer neighborhood



<p><b>Description:</b> Lighting problems have been described in various areas throughout the neighborhood parks, streets, and some business parking lots. Problems include brightness levels and lack of lighting altogether. Improved lighting would brighten dark spots and create a sense of safety in the neighborhood. In some cases, lighting could also be used as a crime deterrent, perhaps incorporating motion sensor lights in places (e.g. parks, schools, etc) where loitering is unwanted. In addition to the installation of lights, a lighting program could also entail community activities that promote lighting of the neighborhood.</p>	Who will be responsible for INITIATING this work?	Who will be responsible for MAINTAINING progress of this work?	Task Force Partner(s)
	Neighborhood	Neighborhood, City, Fox Valley Park District & Local Businesses	C, P
Tasks: What will be done?	Who will do it?	Initiation Date	Completion Date
1 Walk through the neighborhood to identify dark spots, tree infringement, and broken, dim, or missing lights	Neighborhood		
2 Prepare a map identifying problem areas	Neighborhood		
3 Identify contacts with ComEd, Fox Valley Park District, and local businesses to maintain working relationships	Neighborhood		
4 Develop a step-by-step process for reporting lighting issues	Neighborhood		
5 Promote a "Bright Nights" program to encourage the use of porch lights in conjunction with neighborhood events and activities	Neighborhood		
6 Meet with the City to explain the map of problem areas and to discuss appropriate lighting improvement methods	Neighborhood		
7 Determine timing and availability of City funding for lighting improvements	City		
8 Research other funding sources (e.g. grants, Special Service Areas, Tax Increment Financing, etc)	Neighborhood & City		
9 Issue Request for Proposals (RFP's) for lighting installation or other lighting projects as necessary	Neighborhood, City & Fox Valley Park District		

**Notes**

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## Youth Activities Task Force

Y

Action Item Y1

**Monitor and promote a safe and wholesome learning and growing environment at school and in the neighborhood**



Description:		Who will be responsible for INITIATING this work?	Who will be responsible for MAINTAINING progress of this work?	Task Force Partner(s)
		The schools in the neighborhood are held in high regard, providing excellent education and enrichment opportunities for the neighborhood's children. To complement an exemplary education system, the community must ensure that its children can learn and grow in a safe and wholesome environment where the only worries are about pop quizzes and cafeteria food, not crime and declining community values.		Neighborhood, Schools & Other Local Organizations
Tasks: What will be done?		Who will do it?	Initiation Date	Completion Date
1	Identify youth-related concerns about safety and community values in schools and in the neighborhood	Neighborhood		
2	Define standards for safety and community values	Neighborhood		
3	Meet with APD, school officials, and other local organizations (e.g. religious institutions, local businesses, etc) to discuss youth-related concerns	Neighborhood, APD, Schools & Other Local Organizations		
4	Identify programs and methods to address youth-related concerns (e.g. after-school programs, mentoring programs, seminars/assemblies on safety and community values, etc)	Neighborhood, APD, Schools & Other Local Organizations		
5	Research programs and methods used by other communities (locally and nationally)	Neighborhood		
6	Determine funding and resource (e.g. facilities, staffing, etc) needs for programs and methods	Neighborhood		
7	Discuss desired programs and methods with APD, school officials, and other local organizations	Neighborhood, APD, Schools & Other Local Organizations		
8	Monitor the implementation and progress of programs and methods to ensure they meet the standards for safety and community values defined in Task 2	Neighborhood		

**Notes**

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## Property Improvement Task Force

P

Action Item P-1

**Keep residents, landlords, and property owners informed of community expectations on property maintenance, community pride, and accountability**



<p><b>Description:</b> Whether it's a homeowner, landlord, or renter, property maintenance is very important to keep the neighborhood attractive, maintain property values, and enhance the overall quality of life. Violations of property maintenance standards are attributed to a variety of causes, including the lack of information, lack of understanding of the rules and penalties for violations, or just blatant disregard for rules. In most cases, knowledge is the key element and understanding the right information can often curtail property maintenance violations. Keeping residents, landlords, and property owners informed of community expectations would greatly benefit the neighborhood by offering important property maintenance information to new and current residents to help prevent (or at least minimize) property issues.</p>	Who will be responsible for INITIATING this work?	Who will be responsible for MAINTAINING progress of this work?	Task Force Partner(s)
	Neighborhood & City	Neighborhood	C
Tasks: What will be done?	Who will do it?	Initiation Date	Completion Date
1 Inventory programs and information (e.g. pamphlets, handbooks, etc.) offered by the City and other local agencies that focus on property maintenance and "being a good neighbor"	Neighborhood & City		
2 Promote the City's "Be A Good Neighbor" program	Neighborhood & City		
3 Establish contacts with the City and other local agencies to create a reliable and responsive communication network to report violations or other issues	Neighborhood & City		
4 Create a booklet/folder of the programs, information, and contacts inventoried in Tasks 1 through 3	Neighborhood		
5 Make the booklet/folder available to current residents, landlords, and property owners via mail or information kiosks (at Eola Community Center, schools, churches, etc)	Neighborhood		
6 Provide the booklet/folder to new residents, landlords, and property owners during one of the following processes: closing or property inspection for owned properties and lease signing for rental properties	Neighborhood		
7 Provide programs, information, and contacts on neighborhood & City websites	Neighborhood & City		

**Notes**

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## Property Improvement Task Force

P

Action Item P-2

**Work with the City to develop an effective program to consistently and promptly enforce the City's property maintenance regulations**



Description: One of the most pressing issues in the neighborhood is the consistency and promptness of the City's enforcement of property maintenance regulations. The neighborhood and City will both benefit from establishing a program that addresses property maintenance problems through public education, allowing for an understanding of the community's standards for property maintenance and the City's procedures for handling code violations.		Who will be responsible for INITIATING this work?	Who will be responsible for MAINTAINING progress of this work?	Task Force Partner(s)
		Neighborhood & City	Neighborhood & City	C
Tasks: What will be done?		Who will do it?	Initiation Date	Completion Date
1	Review the City's existing property maintenance and inspection policies and resources to determine the characteristics that are the most influential in improving the physical conditions of the neighborhood	Neighborhood & City		
2	Meet with the City's Division of Property Standards (DPS) to evaluate and learn the property inspection process	Neighborhood & City		
3	Evaluate the property maintenance and inspection policies and resources from Task 1 to determine potential amendments to the City's property maintenance and inspection policies	Neighborhood & City		
4	Recommend and adopt amendments to the City's property maintenance and inspection policies	Neighborhood & City		
5	Develop a pamphlet or information packet summarizing the City's property maintenance and inspection policies and the step-by-step inspection process	Neighborhood & City		
6	Provide the pamphlet or information packet to new and current residents, landlords, and property owners via mailings, postings on City and neighborhood websites, and information kiosks at Eola Community Center & Eola Branch of Aurora Public Library	Neighborhood & Division of Property Standards		
7	Invite DPS officials to hold seminars/presentations in the neighborhood about property maintenance, code violations, and other related matters	Neighborhood & Division of Property Standards		

**Notes**

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## Property Improvement Task Force

P

Action Item P-4

**Work with the City to expedite the addition of single-family rental housing to the existing multiple-family rental licensing program**



Description: The decrease in homeownership and increase in rental properties are major concerns in the neighborhood. The City is in the works of adding single-family rental housing units to its existing multiple-family rental licensing program. Encouraging the City to expediate this addition to the program would provide the neighborhood with a means of recording and monitoring legally licensed single-family rental housing units. In turn, unlicensed single-family rental housing units would be easier to identify and report to the City for violations.		Who will be responsible for INITIATING this work?	Who will be responsible for MAINTAINING progress of this work?	Task Force Partner(s)
		Neighborhood & City	Neighborhood & City	C
Tasks: What will be done?	Who will do it?	Initiation Date	Completion Date	
1 Review the City's existing multiple-family rental licensing program and proposed addition of single-family rental housing units	Neighborhood			
2 Identify the elements of single-family rental housing units that are considered acceptable and unacceptable/undesirable (i.e. pros and cons)	Neighborhood			
3 Meet with City officials to discuss the addition to the licensing program and suggest other revisions	Neighborhood & City			
4 Volunteer the South East Villages Neighborhood as the first neighborhood to participate in the updated licensing program	Neighborhood			
5 Encourage the City to expedite the addition to the licensing program if progress is slow or delayed	Neighborhood			
6 Review and adopt the updated licensing program	City			
7 Implement the updated licensing program and monitor its progress, particularly its impact on the acceptable and unacceptable/undesirable elements identified in Task 2	Neighborhood & City			

### Notes

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## Traffic Task Force

T

Action Item T-1

### Develop and adopt a Neighborhood Traffic Plan



<p><b>Description:</b> A Neighborhood Traffic Plan is intended to address a wide array of transportation-related topics to plan for a safe and efficient transportation network for the entire neighborhood. Such a plan would prove beneficial to addressing the other Action Items charged to the Traffic Task Force.</p>		Who will be responsible for INITIATING this work?	Who will be responsible for MAINTAINING progress of this work?	Task Force Partner(s)
		Neighborhood	Neighborhood, City/Counties, Fox Valley Park District & Local Businesses	C
Tasks: What will be done?		Who will do it?	Initiation Date	Completion Date
1	Walk/drive through the neighborhood to identify transportation issues for cars, pedestrian, and bicycles	Neighborhood		
2	Identify and research existing transportation plans from the Counties and City and existing trail plans from the Fox Valley Park District	Neighborhood		
3	Conduct traffic counts on major neighborhood roads	Counties & City		
4	Conduct a transportation planning workshop in the neighborhood to gather input from residents and local stakeholders	Neighborhood		
5	Prepare a map and summary report identifying transportation issues	Neighborhood		
6	Identify contacts with County, City, and Fox Valley Park District officials to maintain working relationships	Neighborhood		
7	Meet with County, City, and Park District officials to present map and summary report and discuss transportation issues	Neighborhood, Counties, City & Fox Valley Park District		
8	Identify potential programs/projects and funding sources to address transportation issues	Neighborhood, Counties, City & Fox Valley Park District		
9	Consolidate information from previous tasks into a final report (i.e. Neighborhood Traffic Plan)	Neighborhood		
10	Create new Action Items (if necessary) to implement the Neighborhood Traffic Plan	Neighborhood		

**Notes**

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### **Community Development Resources**

In order to provide the Task Forces with a jump start to help them achieve their goals, the remaining pages in this chapter list a variety of community development resources, including the following:

- Incentive and assistance programs
- Funding sources and grants
- Property maintenance programs
- Community policing programs
- Other community development programs
- City contacts and meeting times

Many of the Action Items within this Action Plan will require funding or financial support of some level in order to succeed. The type and amount of funding or financial resources available will vary by item and may only be available to certain qualified people, such as property owners, low-to-moderate income residents, etc. In addition to funding or financial resources, the Task Forces may wish to consider participating in community development programs to address certain issues such as crime prevention and youth community involvement. Descriptions, contacts, and meeting times for City and community programs are also provided for reference. The resource listings below and on the following pages are not an exhaustive list and the Task Forces are encouraged to research and seek assistance from other programs and organizations as necessary.

### **Incentive & Assistance Programs**

#### **Landlord/Tenant Training Program**

The Aurora Police Department conducts this program which provides information and assistance on leases, evictions, background checks, etc. The program is free and voluntary. Currently, landlords are required to take the class ONLY when in violation of City ordinance. Training is held once in the spring and once in the fall.

#### **Emergency Rehabilitation Program**

Through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program offered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the City's Neighborhood Redevelopment Department will provide a zero-interest, deferred payment loan for the cost of emergency home repairs up to \$5,000. Technical assistance is also available at no cost for determining what needs to be done, how it should be done, and for the review of bids from contractors. Recipients must qualify by income.

#### **Reconversion Incentive Program**

The City's Neighborhood Development Department provides a grant incentive (up to \$21,000 per housing unit) to encourage the restoration of multiple family dwelling units to their original single family or duplex residential uses. Priority is given to properties that can demonstrate a significant impact on the neighborhood by the reconversion process.

#### **Senior Citizen/Disabled Home Security Grant Program**

The City's Neighborhood Redevelopment Department provides a \$1,000 grant to pay for the purchase and installation of home security features as recommended in a free Aurora Police Department home security survey. Recipients must qualify by age/disability and income.

#### **Senior Citizen/Disabled Right-Of-Way Concrete Replacement Program**

The City's Neighborhood Redevelopment Department provides coverage of the homeowners' cost of replacing deteriorating public sidewalks, drive approaches, and curb and gutter in front of their homes. Recipients must qualify by age/disability and income.

#### **Dead/Dying Tree Removal Program**

The City's Neighborhood Redevelopment Department provides 1/2 the cost of removing a dead or dying tree on private property up to a maximum reimbursement of \$500. Recipients must qualify by property standards, owner-occupancy, and income.



**Assist Program**

The City's Neighborhood Redevelopment Department provides lower-rate interest and money for down payment and/or closing costs to first time homebuyers.

**Mortgage Credit Certificate Program**

Through the Mortgage Credit Certificate Program (MCCCP), the City's Neighborhood Redevelopment Department provides first time homebuyers with an income tax credit equal to one-fourth of the annual interest paid for the life of the mortgage. Maximum annual credit is \$2,000.

**Real Estate Transfer Tax Rebate**

Offered to participants in the Assist and MCCP programs who purchase property in one of the City's targeted neighborhoods, the City's Neighborhood Redevelopment Department will refund its portion of the real estate transfer tax to the buyer. This is a seller expense but a buyer's benefit, and it averages around \$200 after closing.

**CDBG Funding**

The City's Neighborhood Redevelopment Department provides CDBG funding made available through a grant writing process for communities seeking to perform necessary rehabilitation work by coordinating with area agencies that provide public services. Some CDBG programs include:

- Full housing rehabilitation assistance
- Paint Rebate and Energy Rebate Programs
- Playground equipment installation
- New housing construction via Fox Valley Habitat for Humanity
- Public service agency support for community development programs ranging from tutorial programs to emergency assistance for seniors

**Funding Sources****New Start Program**

The New Start Program offers housing rehabilitation through a partnership between the City and the Joseph Corporation (JOCO), a local not-for-profit community development corporation. JOCO acquires, rehabilitates, and sells single-family homes for first-time homebuyers. The City provides gap funding to JOCO for the renovation of older properties to increase the supply of high quality housing in Aurora.

**Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)**

The City's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) provides funds for long-term infrastructure and capital project needs. For a project to be included in the CIP, it must involve the creation or purchase of a tangible asset of at least \$25,000 and a useful life of at least one year.

**Right-Of-Way Improvement Program**

The Right-Of-Way (ROW) Improvement Program provides residents with the opportunity to obtain a 50% grant from the City to help pay for the replacement of sidewalks and drive approaches.

**Special Service Areas (SSA) Funds**

SSA's enable property owners to participate in a neighborhood capital project through the payment of a special property tax. SSA's have been used to finance a variety of capital projects including street improvements, curbs and gutters, and decorative street lighting.



## Grants

### Public Infrastructure Program

This program provides assistance under two components. Business Development Infrastructure funding is provided to communities which demonstrate that specific infrastructure improvements are essential to attract new business or to support the expansion or retention of an existing business. Under Affordable Financing of Public Infrastructure, up to \$100,000 is loaned to local entities and public health clinics for infrastructure improvements to promote economic development or address threats to health and safety.

### Recreational Trails

Federal grants are available to provide up to 80 percent funding for both motorized and non-motorized trail acquisition, development, rehabilitation, enhancement and maintenance.

### The JoMijo Foundation

The mission of the JoMijo Foundation is to aid disenfranchised persons or communities through targeted funding of grassroots efforts that improve the quality of people's lives. The Foundation has fairly strict guidelines on who they will and will not fund; however, it has funded community and neighborhood groups, with a few in the Chicago area.

### Bicycle Path Grants

The State Bicycle Path Grant provides matching grants to eligible local units of government to assist them in the acquisition and/or development of nonmotorized bicycle paths. Projects must be locally operated and maintained. The program can provide up to 50 percent reimbursement. Assistance for development (construction) projects is limited to \$200,000 per annual request. No maximum limit exists for acquisition projects.

### Open Space Land Acquisition & Development (OSLAD)

The OSLAD program provides local governments with funding to acquire and/or develop public outdoor recreation areas. Approved projects are eligible for up to 50 percent reimbursement. Maximum grant assistance for development projects is \$400,000 per annual request. Acquisition projects are limited to \$750,000 per annual request.

### The Aurora Foundation

Comprised of individual funds and resources provided by local citizens to enhance and support the quality of life in the Greater Aurora Area, the Aurora Foundation is a tax-exempt public charity that allows individuals, businesses, and other non-profit organizations to establish permanent endowment and temporary funds within the confines of one large foundation. In addition to grants, the Aurora Foundation also offers scholarship opportunities to local students.

### Funds for Illinois' Future Grants

Grants in this program are provided for infrastructure improvements including, but not limited to, park and recreational projects, facilities, bike paths, equipment, and other necessary costs.

### Community Services

Grants are awarded from a federal block grant to fund a variety of local anti-poverty programs including employment and economic development, family planning education, housing assistance, self-sufficiency services, and seminars to assist low-income persons in becoming more involved in community affairs. Ninety percent of the allocation is passed through the state to a network of federally recognized Community Action Agencies. In Illinois, CAAs include 11 public and 25 private non-profit organizations. Funds are awarded to the community action agencies by formula based upon the percentage of low income population in the area served.

### Online Resources

The Foundation Center and Fundsnet Services provide comprehensive online listings of community foundations at the national and state levels. They also provide tools and resources for communities seeking grant assistance.

#### The Foundation Center

[http://fdncenter.org/funders/grantmaker/gws\\_comm/comm\\_il.html](http://fdncenter.org/funders/grantmaker/gws_comm/comm_il.html)

#### Fundsnet Services Grantmakers in Illinois

<http://www.fundsnet services.com/illinois.htm>



## Property Maintenance Programs

### “Be A Good Neighbor” Program

The City’s Department of Property Standards offers helpful tips and guidelines for neighbors to properly maintain their yards, houses, and general property to preserve a healthy and clean neighborhood.

### Public Education

The City’s Department of Property Standards works closely with neighborhood groups and concerned citizens by acquainting them with City ordinances and helping them prevent/eliminate neighborhood deterioration.

### Rental Licensing Program

The City’s Department of Property Standards offers annual inspections of rental apartment buildings having 2 or more units to assure code compliance.

### Weed Control Ordinance

The Weed Control Ordinance mandates that grass and weeds may not exceed 8 inches in height during the summer months. Violations and enforcement issues should be addressed to the City’s Department of Property Standards.

### Junk & Trash Ordinance

The Junk & Trash Ordinance monitors the proper storage of junk and trash such as worn tires, cans, bottles, rotten wood, paper, and vehicle parts. Violations and enforcement issues should be addressed to the City’s Department of Property Standards.

## Community Policing Programs

### Aurora Police Department Crime Prevention Programs

The Aurora Police Department provides a variety of crime prevention programs (listed below), many of which are geared towards community activism and neighborhood development. Please contact APD for information on any of these programs.

- Child Fingerprinting for Identification
- Child Personal Safety: “Stranger Danger”
- Citizen, Neighborhood Action Patrol Program
- Citizen Radio Patrol
- Citizen Ride-A-Long Program
- Community Policing Information
- Domestic Violence Program
- Drug & Alcohol Prevention Program
- Fingerprints in General
- Gang Awareness Presentation
- General Personal Safety for Everyone
- Home & Business Security Surveys
- How & When to Report Suspicious Activity

### Press Releases of Possible Nuisance Properties

The City posts press releases that identify possible nuisance properties whose owners have received notification of alleged illegal activities. Under State law, the State may seek civil action against the owners of houses, apartments, or buildings that qualify as a nuisance. The building may then be subject to a lien and sold to pay unsatisfied judgments.

### Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) Program

D.A.R.E. is a comprehensive drug abuse and violence prevention education program which represents a community partnership between schools and law enforcement agencies. The D.A.R.E. curricula are designed to equip elementary, middle and high school students with the appropriate skills to resist substance abuse, violence and gangs. Please contact APD for additional information.

- How to be “Streetwise & Safe” (Rape Prevention)
- Law Enforcement Explorer Program
- Licensing for Single Family Rental Housing
- Neighborhood Watch Group Set Up & Coordination
- Personal Safety for Business Women
- School Crossing Guard Safety
- The Citizen Patrol Academy
- Traffic Control & Direction
- Volunteer Programs & Citizen/Neighborhood Volunteer Groups
- Volunteers in Policing Program



## Other Community Development Programs

### Aurora Cares Corporation

The Aurora Cares Corporation is a broad-based community group working to reduce crime in the City. One of its accomplishments is the administration of a City youth initiative grant to prevent gang violence through a collaborative effort with the Fox Valley United Way.

### Fox Valley United Way

The mission of the Fox Valley United Way is to measurably improve lives in the communities in which it serves. By partnering with other local community organizations such as the Aurora Cares Corporation, the City of Aurora, and local schools, the Fox Valley United Way helps strengthen the community and provide adequate services and programs where needed.

### CeaseFire Aurora

CeaseFire Aurora is an anti-gang violence program whose mission is to work with community, city, and county partners to reduce killings in all forms, including youth violence, gang violence, family and partner abuse, child and elder abuse, and sexual assault. The program is a partner of the CeaseFire Chicago program.

### Lights On Afterschool! Program

The Lights On Afterschool! Program is a national program designed by the After School Alliance which calls attention to the importance of afterschool programs for children, families, and communities. Afterschool programs keep kids safe, help working families, and inspire learning beyond the classroom. Currently, the Bardwell Elementary School in Aurora is participating in the program through its Breaking Free/PALS activity.

## City Contacts & Meeting Times

### City Information & Contacts

#### City of Aurora

City Hall  
44 East Downer Place  
Aurora, IL 60507  
phone: (630) 264-4636  
fax: (630) 892-0741

Police Department  
Planning Division  
Neighborhood Redevelopment Division  
Division of Property Standards  
Customer Service

phone: (630) 859-1700  
phone: (630) 844-3614  
phone: (630) 264-3060  
phone: (630) 897-4589  
phone: (630) 264-INFO

For more information,  
visit the City's Website:  
[www.aurora-il.org](http://www.aurora-il.org)



### Meeting Times

Group	Meeting Day	Time	Place
Aurora Neighborhood Council	First Thursday each month	5:00 pm	City Hall, 5th Floor Conference Room
Planning Commission	First & Third Wednesdays each month	7:00 pm	City Hall, 2nd Floor Council Chambers
Zoning Board of Appeals	First & Third Wednesdays each month	6:00 pm	City Hall, 2nd Floor Council Chambers
Planning & Development Committee	Each Thursday following City Council	5:00 pm	City Hall, 5th Floor Conference Room
Committee of the Whole	Tuesday the week prior to City Council	5:00 pm	City Hall, 5th Floor Conference Room
City Council	Tuesday of first full week of each month	5:00 pm	City Hall, 2nd Floor Council Chambers
	Tuesday of third full week of each month	5:00 pm	City Hall, 2nd Floor Council Chambers
Planning Council	Every Tuesday	9:00 am	City Hall, 5th Floor Conference Room

\* Note: The City's website provides a Committee Meeting Calendar listing all meeting times. Agendas and meeting minutes are also provided for certain committees. Although the committees try to keep a regular schedule as listed above, please check the online calendar for any changes. The web address for the calendar is: [www.aurora-il.org/AldermensOffice/committeecalender.html](http://www.aurora-il.org/AldermensOffice/committeecalender.html)



For the neighborhood planning process to sustain itself, the Task Forces must be part “cheerleader” and part “task master”. As “cheerleader”, Task Forces must keep the community informed and involved, even recruiting additional Task Force members as planning efforts progress and interest grows. As “task master”, Task Forces must monitor the progress of projects and programs to ensure that all parties are fulfilling their agreements. The Task Forces must establish a method to track progress on projects and programs and will be responsible for making quarterly reports to the ANC about current activities and progress in plan implementation.



*Maintenance of safe playground equipment and the provision of other age-appropriate park and playground equipment are two items that should be continually monitored by the Community Development Task Force. In addition, progress and community needs should be reviewed during periodic “State of the Neighborhood” meetings.*

From time to time, Task Force members will want to ask each other the following questions to track progress:

- Do we adequately represent the South East Villages Neighborhood? Has the makeup of the neighborhood changed since we developed our Action Plan?
- Do we have correct information? Is our initial information current or out-of-date? If we need updated information, what sources should we consult?
- Do we need to re-examine our Neighborhood Vision? What have we learned that is worth adding or revising?
- Have neighborhood improvements achieved via our planning efforts produced the results we hoped for? Why or why not?
- Do we need to re-negotiate our agreements within our community partnerships? Have political or economic conditions changed? If so, have they altered the nature of our community partnerships?
- Are we taking appropriate actions? Are they having the desired effects?
- Are we involved enough to sustain our neighborhood? Do we need to strengthen our leadership or add to our Task Force membership?
- Are our physical and financial resources adequate? If not, what other resources are available?

### **“State of the Neighborhood” Meetings**

Answers to these questions (and others that will inevitably arise as planning efforts continue) should be communicated to the entire neighborhood at periodic “State of the Neighborhood” meetings. Whether it’s annual, semi-annual, or quarterly, it is up to the Task Forces to determine the frequency of these meetings to ensure that the entire neighborhood is kept up-to-date on the progress of the implementation of the Action Plan. Each “State of the Neighborhood” meeting should accomplish the two objectives listed in the figure to the right.

### **“State of the Neighborhood” Meeting Objectives**

- Celebrate accomplishments – no matter how small – that are serving to improve the quality of life in the South East Villages Neighborhood.
- Enlist neighborhood stakeholders in assessing the relevance of the original Action Plan document and making adaptations as necessary.



A summary of the “State of the Neighborhood” meeting and any proposed actions or changes should be submitted to all of the original groups that approved the Action Plan: ANC, Planning Commission, and City Council.

### **Action Plan Updates**

In addition to the periodic “State of the Neighborhood” meetings, the neighborhood should prepare an update to the original Action Plan approximately every three years. The frequency of updates may be higher as situations and issues warrant; however, updating the Action Plan every couple of years will ensure that the Task Forces are accomplishing the goals set forth in the Plan and the neighborhood is progressing towards the community envisioned in the Neighborhood Vision. Funding from City programs will be made available based on these periodic updates which should employ a collaborative and interactive approach similar to the process described in the ANPI Neighborhood Planning Handbook.

Depending on conditions in the neighborhood, the plan update process could be accomplished in one neighborhood-wide meeting or in several meetings scheduled for a specified time frame. A document describing the plan update process for the South East Villages Neighborhood should be submitted to the ANC, Planning Commission, and City Council every three years (or each time the Action Plan is updated, depending on the frequency of updates). The document should address the elements listed in the figure to the right.

### **Document Outlining the Action Plan Update Process**

To be submitted to the ANC, Planning Commission & City Council for review

The document outlining the Action Plan update process should address the following elements:

- Process and neighborhood involvement used to conduct the Action Plan update;
- Accomplishments since the adoption of the Action Plan;
- Items that were not accomplished and the reasons why;
- Changes in the neighborhood that necessitate re-direction of activities and programs;
- New initiatives including the explanation of need; and
- Updates to the Action Plan worksheets.



## Appendix Contents

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### Summary & Findings from the Second Neighborhood Meeting [August 22, 2005]

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## Summary & Findings from the First Neighborhood Meeting [July 25, 2005]

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### One-Word Exercise: The Neighborhood “As It Is Today”

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In the first of two one-word exercises, meeting participants offered one-word descriptions to describe the neighborhood “as it is today”. These words are summarized in the figure on page 21 in *Chapter 4: Neighborhood Issues*.

### One-Word Exercise: The Neighborhood “As I Want It To Be”

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In the second of two one-word exercises, meeting participants offered one-word descriptions to describe the neighborhood “as I want it to be”. These words are summarized in the figure on page 22 in *Chapter 4: Neighborhood Issues*.

### Small Group Discussions: S.W.O.T. Analysis [Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats]

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In addition to the two one-word exercises, meeting participants also participated in small group discussions to discuss the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (S.W.O.T.) in the neighborhood. The results from this S.W.O.T. analysis are summarized in the figures on pages 23-26 in *Chapter 4: Neighborhood Issues*.

### Neighborhood Survey

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Prior to the First Neighborhood Meeting, residents were asked to complete a survey to either confirm or contradict a series of statements based on initial perceptions of the neighborhood as determined by the Planning Team. Survey results are summarized in the figure on page 22 in *Chapter 4: Neighborhood Issues*.

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## Summary & Findings from the Second Neighborhood Meeting [August 22, 2005]

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### Mapping Exercise: Areas of Change

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As meeting participants arrived at the Second Neighborhood Meeting, they were asked to identify three types of “areas of change” by placing colored dot stickers on a neighborhood base map. The three types of “areas of change” include:

- **Areas that are STABLE.** Planning efforts are aimed to REINFORCE the STABLE areas.
- **Areas that are DECLINING.** Planning efforts are aimed to STRENGTHEN the DECLINING areas.
- **Areas that are IMPROVING.** Planning efforts are aimed to ENHANCE the IMPROVING areas.

The Map of Areas of Change, which is provided on page A-4, was helpful in creating the Physical Framework Plan on page 37 in *Chapter 6: Framework for Neighborhood Improvement* and drafting the Action Items in *Chapter 7: Implementation*.



## Summary & Findings from the Second Neighborhood Meeting [August 22, 2005]

### Voting Exercise: Prioritizing Neighborhood Issues

Based on the exercise and survey results and general discussions from the First Neighborhood Meeting, the Planning Team identified 9 major planning issues (see page 23 in *Chapter 4: Neighborhood Issues*) to create a consolidated list of 28 neighborhood issues, which were presented at the Second Neighborhood Meeting. Meeting participants were asked to vote for their 5 most important issues, enabling the Planning Team to prioritize the 28 issues. Voting results for prioritizing the neighborhood issues are summarized in the figure on page 27 in *Chapter 4: Neighborhood Issues*.

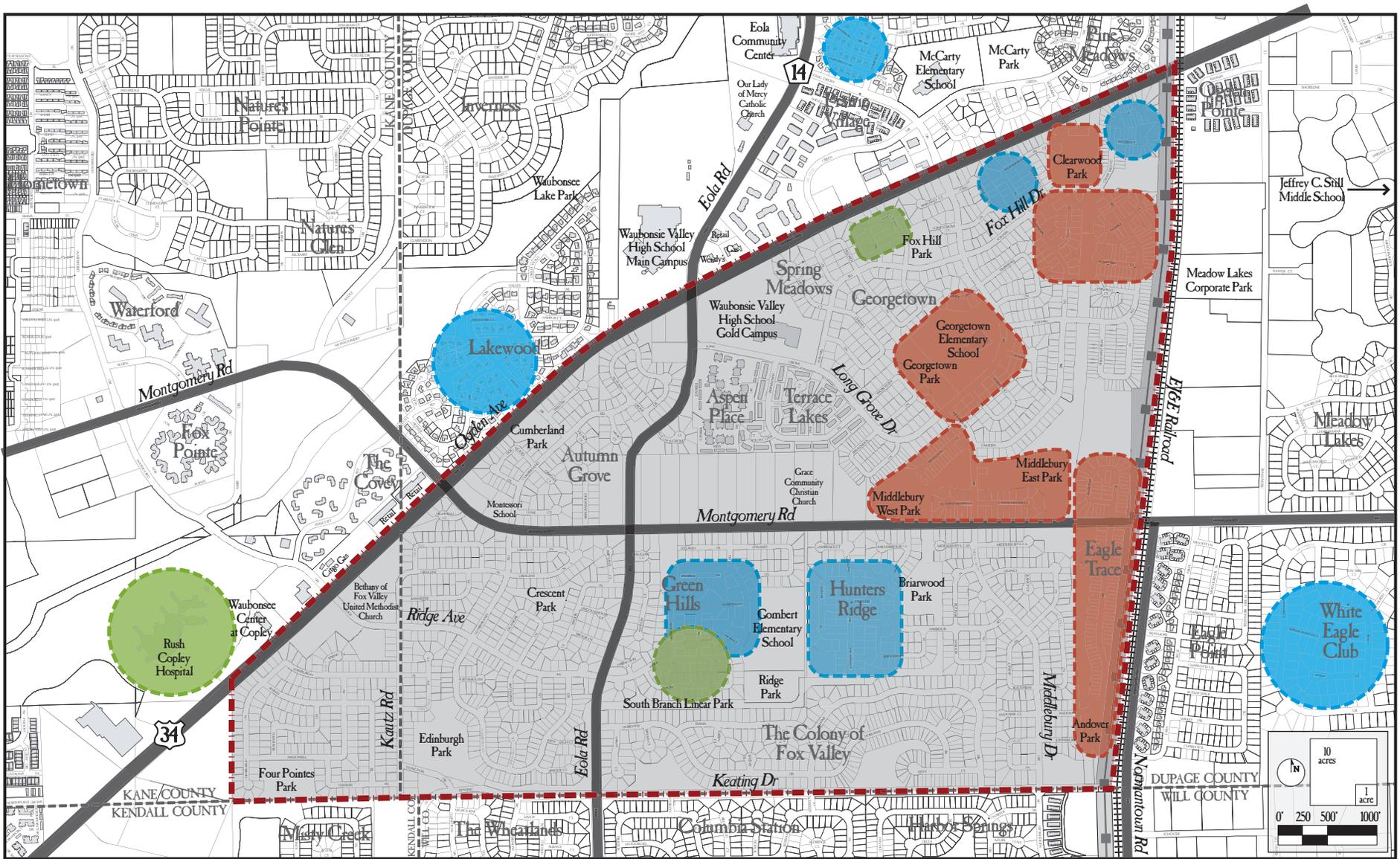
### Small Group Discussions: Drafting a Neighborhood Vision Statement

Meeting participants also participated in small group discussions to discuss key elements they would like to see included in the Neighborhood Vision Statement. A complete listing of vision elements generated during the small group discussions is provided below. The Neighborhood Vision is presented on page 29 in *Chapter 5: Neighborhood Vision*.

**Neighborhood Vision Statement**  
Consolidated Vision Elements from Small Group Brainstorming Exercise

Consolidated Vision Elements	Consolidated Vision Elements
City support for plan	Community street
Safe streets & walk environment	Behavioral public transportation
Green spaces/parks/amenities	24-hour public transportation
Effective programs to reduce residential turnover (rental single family unit) and multi-unit rental properties	Location of the station
Consistent enforcement of property use rules & standards	Build over
Family & self-employment friendly	Appropriate parking regulations to control car access/curb use street
Reduce traffic noise	Appropriate signage of all streets
Clear designation of bus routes	Neighborhood events to safely use city streets
Enforcement of parking regulations	Clear
Coordination between parks & Park District	Reduction of over-saturation
Cooperation between police & neighborhood	Use of lights as deterrent of crime
Cooperation between City & neighborhood	Homeowner associations that include diverse racial & linguistic social groups
Long-term residents	Fast and efficient method of work stoppage
Sense of pride & ownership	Last person to sample water distribution is all
Active, caring & informed residents	Exclude year "2000" to keep out air pollution from air
Activities & opportunities for youth	
Engaged youth	
Maintain neighborhood schools	
Take back control from police presence	
Kid friendly environment	
Good neighbor hood communication	
Neighborhood activities, block parties & special events for whole community (not for new & current residents (newcomers/outsiders))	
Diversity & multi-lingual	
Take initiative	
Resiliently planning	
Take direct & personal neighborhood walk reduced crime	
Walk the neighborhood	
Accountable & active homeowners & landlords	
Signage on poles to keep eyes on the street (neighborhood watch groups)	
Well maintained parks, playground & open space	
Responsible parents	
Clear, accessible circulation for pedestrians	
Improve safety control & circulation throughout neighborhood	
Access to local activities & services	
Enforcement of codes	





Map of Areas of Change  
 Mapa de Areas del Cambio

**INSTRUCTIONS**  
 Identify areas of change using the colored stickers.

**INSTRUCCIONES**  
 Identifique las áreas del cambio usando un pegatine de color.

**LEGEND/LEYENDA**

 Area that is **STABLE**  
 Área que es **ESTABLE**  
 Neighborhood planning efforts shall **REINFORCE** **STABLE** areas.

 Area that is **DECLINING**  
 Área que **ESTA DECLINANDO**  
 Neighborhood planning efforts shall **STRENGTHEN** **DECLINING** areas.

 Area that is **IMPROVING**  
 Área que **ESTA MEJORANDO**  
 Neighborhood planning efforts shall **ENHANCE** **IMPROVING** areas.

## Summary & Findings from the Third Neighborhood Meeting [September 26, 2005]

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### Ranking Exercise: Prioritizing Action Items

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Based on the prioritized neighborhood issues and discussions with the Planning Team, a series of Action Items was developed which the community can utilize to address the neighborhood issues and forge a path towards ongoing neighborhood improvement. The Action Items will be addressed by the Task Forces outlined in *Chapter 6: Framework for Neighborhood Improvement*. The Action Items were presented at the Third Neighborhood Meeting where meeting participants were asked to rank each set of Action Items for each Task Force. For example, the Crime & Safety Task Force is responsible for 3 Action Items, so meeting participants were asked to rank those 3 Action Items (independent of the Action Items for the other Task Forces) with a #1 ranking being "high priority" and a #3 ranking being "low priority". Ranking results for the Action Items are summarized in the figures on page 40 in *Chapter 7: Implementation*. Complete ranking results are provided below.

