



**Core Area and Vibrant  
Neighborhoods Strategy  
Team Report  
to the City Council  
May 22, 2007**



# Strategy Team Membership

Name

Department

Dave Barber

Planning

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OCI

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Felecia Norris

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Law

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Water Utilities

Mark Stanberry

Housing

Brandon Kauffman

Finance (resource)

Pamaline King-Burns

Water (resource)

Mike Mayta

IT/IS (resource)



# Departments Represented in SPs and SAPs

City Manager's Office - SP only

Environmental Services - SP and SAPs

OCI - SP and SAP

Park and Recreation - SP and SAPs

Planning Department - SP and SAPs

Public Works - SP only

Wichita Police Department - SAP only

# What are you buying?

- ✓ **Fight against blight through code enforcement:** housing and environmental premise violations (tall grass and weeds, bulky waste, inoperable vehicles), abatements, neighborhood cleanups, demolitions, etc.
- ✓ **Streetlights:** 24,000 lights in place, 250 added each year including ornamental lights
- ✓ **Park management** - maintenance/mowing of 123 parks; 4,400 acres; 2,400 acres ROW
- ✓ **Park and Rec Administration:** provides overall direction and financial management





# What are you buying?

- ✓ **Forestry and Central Support:** maintenance of public trees in 4,500 acres of parks, 1,800 miles of ROW, and areas along rivers, streams and drainage ways
- ✓ **Advanced Planning:** comprehensive neighborhood planning, HUD environmental reviews and annexations management
- ✓ **Neighborhood Services:** four NCHs, six Neighborhood Assistants and three community educators

# Are there any free lunches? Sort of

✓ 13 Neighborhood Inspectors in OCI paid for by special revenue funds (cannot exceed 20% of total OCI budget and we are at 19%)

✓ 3 Environmental Maintenance inspectors paid for by CDBG funds

✓ 4 Neighborhood Assistants paid for by CDBG funds

✓ City pays less than 50 percent of salary for 6 Planning staff -- subsidized by HUD, Federal Transportation and County funding





# Are there any services we can eliminate?

Not without consequences.....

OCI and Environmental inspectors already have caseloads and geographical areas that exceed resources

Mowing cycles have been pushed to the limit of public acceptance

Trees must be maintained not only for aesthetic reasons, but also safety

You can't really do without streetlights



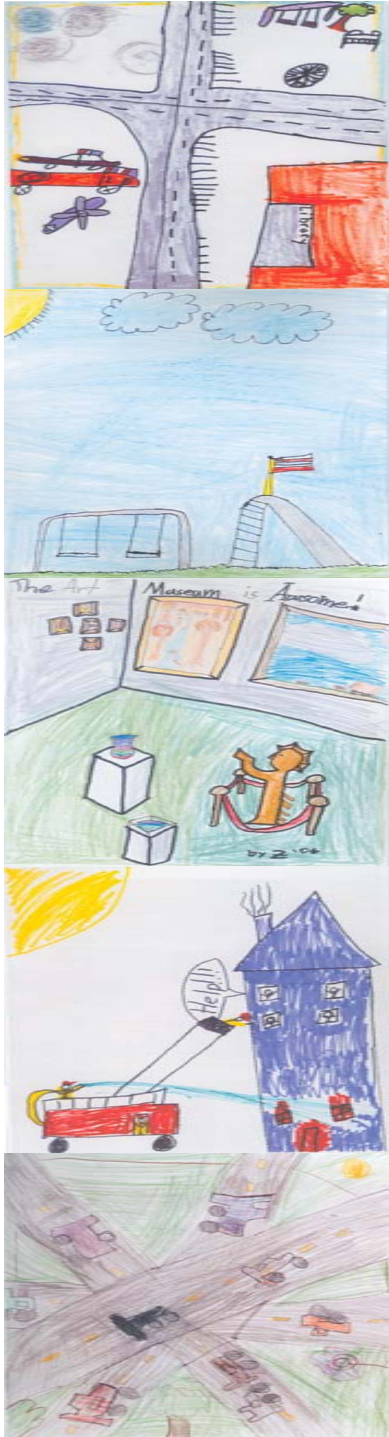
# Are there any services we can eliminate?

Not without consequences.....

Parks are a priority (Wichita Citizen Survey 2006); they need to be mowed, maintained and administered

Without coordinated planning efforts, vibrant neighborhoods will not be a reality

There will no longer be a key link between City government and neighborhoods if Neighborhood Assistants and Community Educators are eliminated



# Recommendation for combining resources and improving efficiency

## Move the Environmental Services inspectors to OCI

- Form a work process team including staff from OCI, Environmental Services, HR and Finance (utilize TW concepts)
- Provide enough funding to cover infrastructure needs, support staff, training, abatement, etc., to ensure a successful transition



# Recommendations for \$ savings

## Recognize Design Council has fiscal impact

- Design Council should adopt procedures that consider operational and maintenance costs
  - Landscape design recommendations are often costly to implement and even costlier to maintain based on local geography
  - To control costs and to speed repair/replacement of decorative streetlights, Public Works requests that the Design Council limit the number of styles of these units to five or fewer
  - If you build beautiful things, you need the funding to maintain them



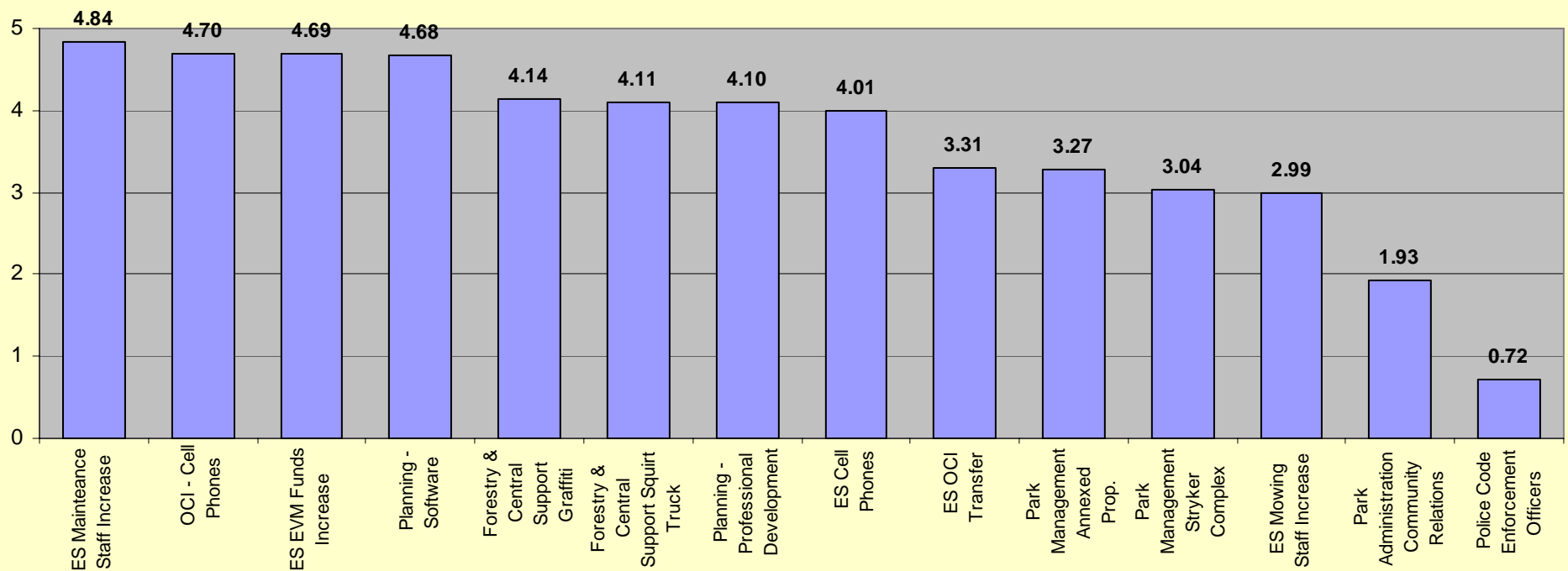
# Recommendation for preserving funding

## Protect Federal funding with appropriate training

- Many Federal programs including HUD, CDBG, HOME program, Emergency shelter program, etc. require environmental reviews
- Noncompliance (even if due to a lack of knowledge) can result in a loss of funding
- City staff could ensure that federal funding is maintained by becoming knowledgeable on the significance of Section 106 reviews
- Recommend mandatory training provided by Planning Department staff

# Service Adjustment Plan rating

## SAP Ranking Core Area and Vibrant Neighborhoods





# We could achieve more....

## Two additional Environmental Maintenance inspectors

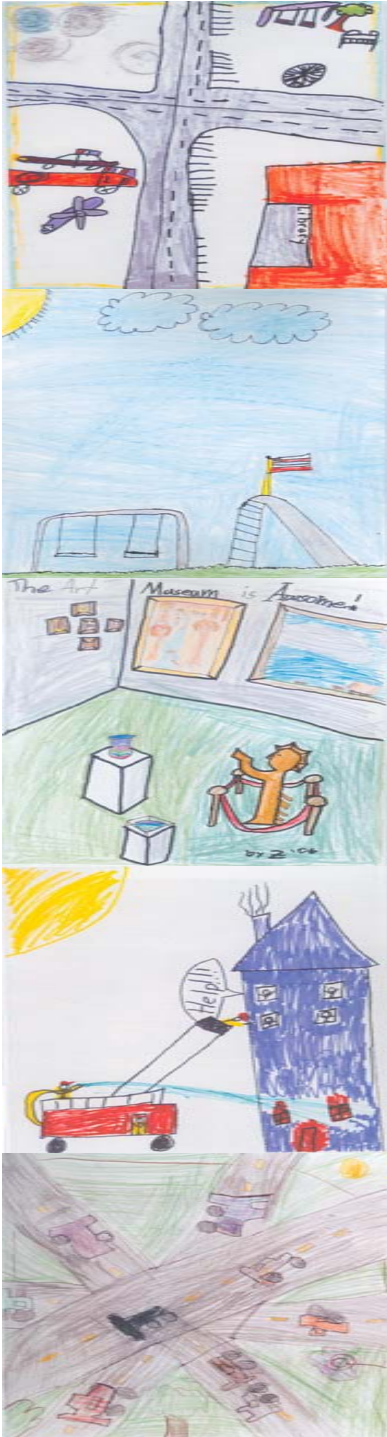
- Estimated cost per year: \$140,000
- Would reduce case closure rate by 5 to 10 days
- This service has a direct, visible and physical impact on neighborhoods.
- This service also impacts other TW goals: Quality of Life and Safe and Secure (citizen and visitor perception of public safety)



# We could achieve more....

## 13 photo-capable Cricket cell phones for OCI Neighborhood Inspectors

- Estimated cost per year: \$7,020
- Only SAP submitted by OCI
- Would increase field time and improve customer service thru efficient exchange of information
- Has proved valuable to building inspectors
- Has a direct, visible and physical impact on neighborhoods.
- Impacts other TW goals: Quality of Life and Safe and Secure (citizen and visitor perception of public safety)
- Supported by special revenue funding



# We could achieve more....

## Increase in nuisance abatement funds for Environmental Services

- Requested increase: \$50,000 (currently \$273,650)
- Properties like 10<sup>th</sup> and Volutsia can deplete funding quickly
- Community expectations regarding blighted properties continue to increase
- Has a direct, visible and physical impact on neighborhoods.
- Impacts other TW goals: Quality of Life and Safe and Secure (citizen and visitor perception of public safety)



# We could achieve more...

## Park Graffiti Removal Equipment

- Cost of equipment: \$58,200 initial and \$12,360 operating
- Graffiti destroys our park environment, capital investments and has a negative impact on the perception of public safety
- City currently has 1 spray washer and 1 sand blaster to cover 160 square miles of City
- Graffiti citywide can take up to four months to remove due to a lack of resources
- New performance measures developed for park graffiti removal - tracking notice/response

# We could achieve more....

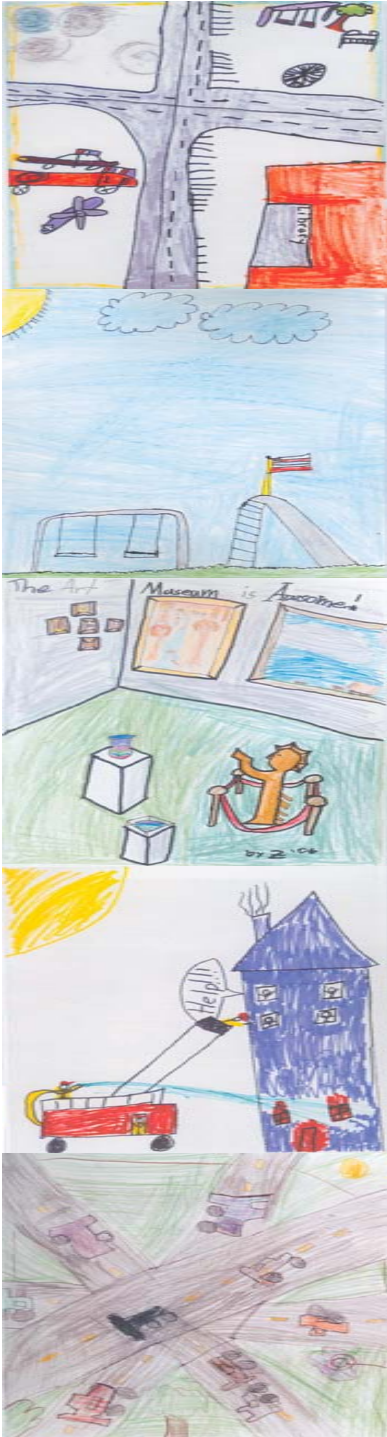
## Park Forestry Squirt Truck

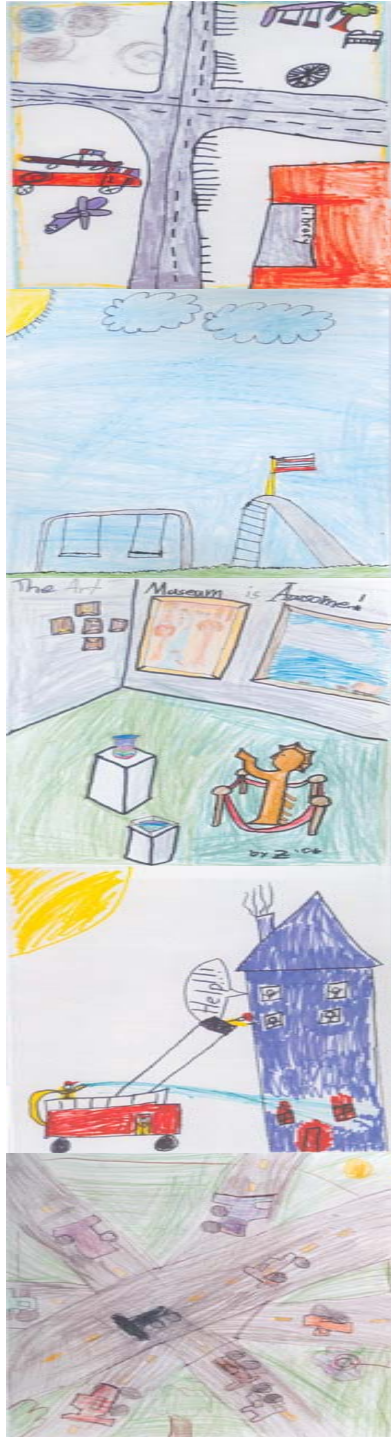
- Cost of equipment: \$74,000 initial and \$16,320 operating
- 1977 Resources: 40 staff and 1 aerial bucket truck to cover 98 sq. miles, 1,200 miles of streets and alleys, 3,000 park acres
- 2007 Resources: 33 staff, 4 aerial bucket trucks, 1 knuckle-boom truck, 2 stump grinders for 160 sq. miles, 1,800 miles of streets and alleys and 4,400 acres of parks
- Squirt truck will reduce employee hours per tree
- Squirt truck would be shared with other Departments



# If money were not an issue...

- Planning staff professional development for \$6,880
- Cell phones for Environmental Maintenance Inspectors for \$4,500
- 2 part-time staff and equipment for mowing/cleanup of annexed land, parks and right of way for \$42,000 initial and \$31,700 operating
- Make 1 part-time mowing coordination position in Environmental Services a full-time position for \$16,520





# Do not support

## Community Relations Coordinator position in Park Administration

- Organizational adjustments, such as a flatter reporting system would free up the Asst. Director to pursue these duties

## 4 Neighborhood Code Inspectors and four unmarked units for WPD for \$306,549

- No supervisors with skill set on housing codes and premises cases
- No plan to avoid duplication of services
- No plan for court, abatement or condemnation cases
- No plan for tracking cases



# Questions and Comments