



Core Area and Neighborhoods

City Manager's Office, Environmental Services, Office of Central Inspection, Park and Recreation, Planning, Public Works



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Goal and Indicators

CORE AREA AND VIBRANT NEIGHBORHOODS

Indicators:

- Increase and sustain neighborhood vibrancy citywide
- Increase sense of community, neighborhood involvement, and satisfaction
- Continue revitalization of the Core Area



Accomplishments

City Manager's Office – Neighborhood Services

- Increased efforts to address neighborhood code complaints
 - Good Neighbor Program (Atwater NCH)
 - Beat 44 Initiative
 - Neighborhood Court Watch
 - Assisted with StopBlight development and coordinated public hearings for the initiative



Accomplishments

- Restructured Community Education Strategy Model
 - Expanded services from two council districts to citywide
 - Increased staff positions to three (from two)
 - Expanded internal and external partnerships for education initiatives
- Exceeded the projected number of citizens involved in program activities, projects and services



Links to Goals and Indicators

City Manager's Office

- **Neighborhood codes** – new strategies, especially those including citizen involvement, address blight in neighborhoods to increase *vibrancy and a sense of community, involvement and satisfaction*
- **Community Education model** – expanded citywide efforts provide *a return on quality of life*
- **Citizens served** – through increasing the number of citizens served, *a sense of community, involvement, satisfaction and neighborhood vibrancy are increased*



Key Issues and Challenges

City Manager's Office

- Continued challenges with interdepartmental processes
- Declining CDBG federal funding
- Limited staffing at Neighborhood City Halls
- Barriers for offering additional city services to citizens at Neighborhood City Halls, such as bill payment, licenses and permits



Accomplishments

Planning Department

- Initiated Arena Neighborhood Redevelopment Plan
- Completed and adopted South Central Neighborhood Plan
- Completed Dunbar Theater Redevelopment Feasibility Study
- Initiated International Marketplace District Plan



Links to Goals and Indicators

Planning Department

- Arena Neighborhood Redevelopment Plan will impact *continued revitalization of the core area*
- South Central Neighborhood Plan, Dunbar Theater Redevelopment Feasibility Study and the International Marketplace District Plan will *impact increased and/or sustained neighborhood vibrancy*



Key Issues and Challenges

Planning Department

- Implementation of neighborhood plans

- Major Comprehensive Plan Update



Accomplishments

Park and Recreation

- Reforestation efforts continued with pruning of 19,000 trees, 4,300 dead or dying tree removals, and planting of 1,690 trees
- Playground systems were enhanced or replaced at nine parks. Sports Complex was the site of a donated playground system valued at \$63,000
- Donations and grants received totaling over \$200,000 for park development projects, and coordinated over 1,000 volunteer hours from 170 volunteers



Links to Goals and Indicators

Park and Recreation

- Reforestation efforts increase and *sustain neighborhood vibrancy citywide*
- Playground improvements *increase neighborhood involvement and satisfaction* with their parks
- Donations, grants and volunteer efforts contribute significantly to park vibrancy citywide and *increase neighborhood involvement and satisfaction*



Key Issues and Challenges

Park and Recreation

- Maintenance of added property in 2005 and 2006 from annexations, rail banking and parks (320 acres)
- Maintenance of the landscapes for Kellogg and Arkansas River Corridor projects
- Vehicle and grounds maintenance equipment replacement continues to fall behind. Nearly 100 of the 700+ units are beyond scheduled replacement
- Increased cost of vandalism and graffiti damage



Accomplishments

Public Works

- Lighted six annexed neighborhoods
- Newly lighted six arterial segments
- Improved arterial lighting with roadway project



Accomplishments

- 36 residential lights at single locations requested by citizens
- 196 residential lights in new subdivisions
- 10 complete rounds of inspections of City maintained lights
- Ornamental fixtures along Douglas, Topeka to Washington, have been replaced



Links to Goals and Indicators

Public Works

- Adequate street lighting is essential for *neighborhood vibrancy and sense of community, neighborhood involvement and satisfaction*



Key Issues and Challenges

Public Works

- A citywide GIS listing for street lights would assist in maintenance responsibilities
- Need to develop standardized lighting options for parking lots, bridges, public art and blocks of ornamental lights



Accomplishments

Office of Central Inspection

- Implemented new and revised ordinances in support of StopBlight initiative - 550 new Neglected Building Code cases initiated
- Increased number of dangerous building and emergency board-up cases by 50%
 - Dangerous building removal/condemnation cases increased significantly



Accomplishments

- Number of days to resolve/close dangerous building removal/condemnation cases decreased by 18.6%
- Number of minimum housing case starts in 2006 was increased by nearly 5%
- Successfully coordinated and carried out 83 neighborhood cleanups
- 99.1% of all sign permit applications submitted for review were acted upon within 8 business hours



Links to Goals and Indicators

Office of Central Inspection

- New StopBlight ordinances will enhance *revitalization of the core area and neighborhoods*
- Increased emphasis on dangerous building/condemnation and housing code enforcement will *sustain neighborhood vibrancy* and reduce the blighting influences in neighborhoods.
- The Neighborhood Cleanup Program enhances *neighborhood sense of community, neighborhood involvement and satisfaction*



Key Issues and Challenges

Office of Central Inspection

- ❑ Implementing new StopBlight initiatives and ordinances that require new, supportive State legislation, Sedgwick County assistance, and support from both Municipal and District Court
- ❑ Efficiency in joint code enforcement



Key Issues and Challenges

- Escalating costs for dangerous building demolitions related primarily to utility disconnections, asbestos surveying and remediation and landfill costs
- Increased expectations for faster code compliance



Accomplishments

Environmental Services

- Improved case management and accuracy by implementing new technology - portable laptops and wireless access to case files and records for each inspector
- Reduced case process time by:
 - Increasing inspector field time – PWs took over weekend cleanups and a clerk was reassigned to serve as single point for email complaint intake



Accomplishments

- Reduced case process time by:
 - Improved complaint management by reprogramming Tidemark software to route cases directly to inspectors instead of supervisor
 - Eliminated 10 day wait time for repeat Tall Grass and Weeds (TGWs) violations, eliminated repeat violation letter, resulting in quicker compliance and reduced process cost



Accomplishments

- 16,775 total premise and TGWs cases received (increased 9% from 2005)
- 14,875 properties brought into compliance in 2006 (9058 premise cases and 5817 TGWs cases) including:
 - 324 properties abated by contractor (increased 11% from 2005)
 - 1,717 mowed by contractor (increased 22% from 2005)



Links to Goals and Indicators

Environmental Services

- Field based data processing and process improvements will ***increase and sustain neighborhood vibrancy and will enhance revitalization of the core area***
 - More efficient response to complaints and improved coordination with other Departments (OCI, WPD)
- Code enforcement and nuisance abatement will ***increase and sustain neighborhood vibrancy, continue revitalization of the core area, and increase sense of community***
 - Reduction of blight to maintain property values
 - Removal of environmental, health, safety threats and aesthetic nuisances



Key Issues and Challenges

Environmental Services

- ❑ Individual case load too high with almost 2,000 premise cases per inspector (only 6 inspectors for entire City) resulting in high staff turnover (4 new inspectors hired and trained in 2006)
- ❑ 3 inspectors are CDBG funded and have smaller areas
- ❑ Abatement demand and costs are increasing
- ❑ Legal constraints to effective enforcement
 - Municipal court action does not quickly or reliably resolve violations where owner permission to access is denied or where a fence prohibits access
 - Mechanisms needed to address repeat offenders