

Great Northwest Independence Neighborhood Initiative

-Group Four-

A Detailed Action Plan



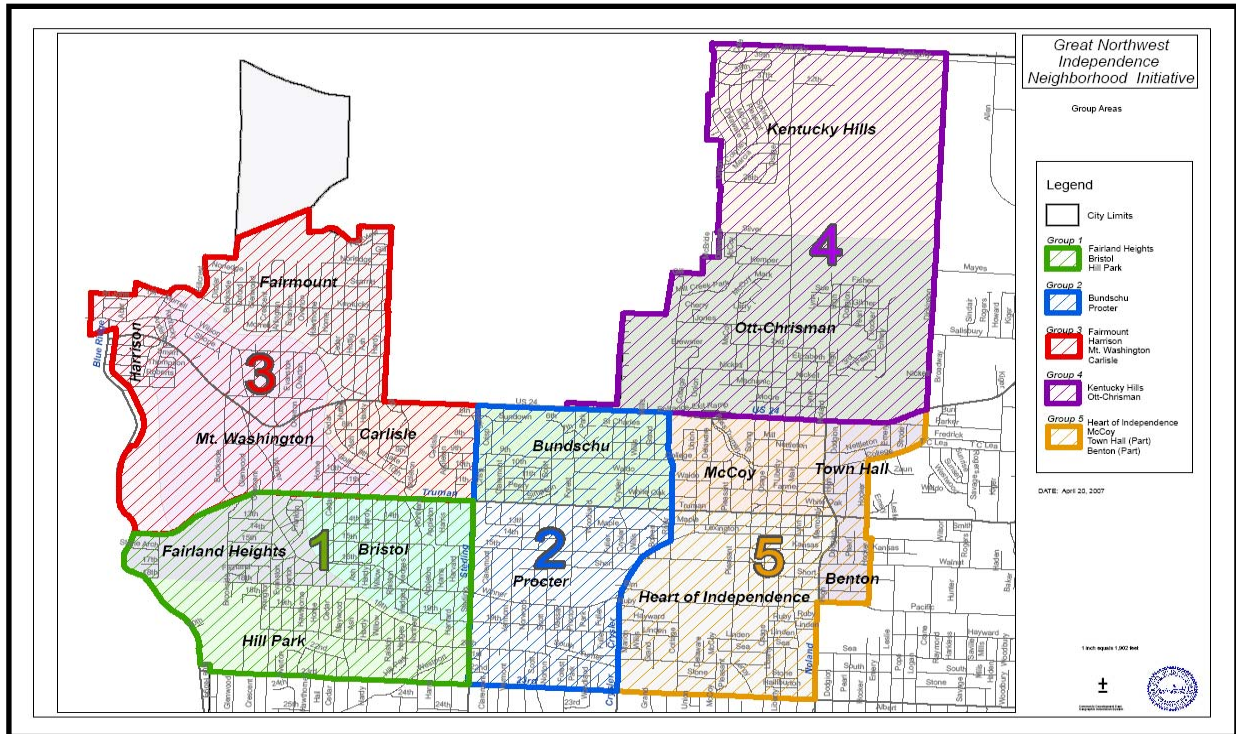
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Great Northwest Independence Neighborhood Initiative

Summary

The Great Northwest Independence Neighborhood Initiative (GNWINI) is a process whereby residents of the First Council District can create a vision for their area, and ensure that these neighborhoods are great places to live, work, and raise a family. The following Action Plan was developed for Group Four of the Initiative, with additional groups to follow over the next few months. Over the course of three (3) meetings in Group Four of the First Council District, the residents have articulated a vision and identity based upon three (3) positive neighborhood attributes and (3) points of concern. During the previous meetings, and upon review of a completed neighborhood survey, residents thought that the following positive attributes describe Group Four- Friendly, Connected- Quiet, and Affordable. Similarly, points of concern are that the neighborhood has Deteriorating Housing, A Perception of Crime/is Unsafe, and a Lack of Retail. This document outlines a strategy for building upon the positive neighborhood attributes, and identifies a strategy to address points of concern within the neighborhood.

The following figure identifies all of the neighborhood groups in the First District. All groups have utilized a similar planning process, and an Action Plan will be developed.



To ensure implementation of the Action Steps in this document, it is recommended that three (3) residents from Group Four will be selected to be members of the Great Northwest Independence Neighborhood Initiative Advisory Team to identify, prioritize, and refine the Action Steps for Implementation described in this document. Other members will include department directors and other city staff, and civic and business leaders from within the area. As each group completes the planning process, additional members will be added to facilitate the overall implementation strategy. This team will be the overall coordination body to ensure the long term implementation of the plan.

Time Objective: **The Great Northwest Independence Neighborhood Initiative Advisory Team will continue to meet monthly or as necessary to implement the objectives of the plan.**

Outcomes: **Established meeting schedule.**

Progress Tracking

For the Great Northwest Independence Neighborhood Initiative Action Plan to be successful, there must be a resource to distribute updates on progress and future action steps. In response to this need, a specific web page address has been established on the City of Independence web site to update residents on progress and facilitate the planning process. In addition, updates on the implementation of the Action Plan will be included in the City Scene, Channel 7, and other sources.

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The Positive Neighborhood Attributes identified by Group Four are that the area is-Friendly, Connected- Quiet, and Affordable. Given these attributes, the following Action Steps, Time Objectives and Outcomes have been developed.

Proposed Action Steps to Maintain Neighborhood Friendliness:

1. The GNWINI Advisory Team, in coordination with the Community Development Department will identify neighborhood leaders within the Kentucky Hills and Ott-Chrisman Neighborhoods to identify and sustain leadership and to create or support the distribution of neighborhood newsletters.

Time Objective: Neighborhood leaders and meeting schedules established in January 2008.

Outcomes: Identify neighborhood leadership and the creation of strong neighborhood associations.

2. The NSD will develop a Neighborhood Development Program which will result in a recognized neighborhood program to engage neighborhoods with City Hall and foster civic pride. This Action Step will be developed as a Pilot program for neighborhoods within the First Council District, and implemented in other areas upon successful implementation.

Time Objective: Program guidelines will be developed by February 2008.

Outcomes: Development of program parameters and guidelines.

3. The NSD will expand and update current information sources on the City web page, Channel 7, and other media sources.

Time Objective: Completed by February 2008 but will be refined throughout the process.

Outcomes: Updated web-site information and neighborhood links.

4. The NSD will assist the established Neighborhood Associations in creating a Welcome Wagon program for residents in these neighborhoods. Presently, it appears that the Bristol Neighborhood has a well organized, active neighborhood association that could serve as a model program that could be replicated in the Kentucky Hills, Ott-Chrisman Neighborhoods.

Time Objective: Packets developed by June 2008 and on-going.

Outcomes: Development of program and distribution of packets.

Support Department: Neighborhood Services Division
Community Development Department

Proposed Action Steps to Maintain Neighborhood Connection and Encourage Walk-ability:

1. The City of Independence will work with the Group Four neighborhood associations to sponsor various social and recreational events, such as walking parties of historic homes and businesses, garage sales, and progressive dinners in various locations in the neighborhood.
2. The City of Independence and the Chamber of Commerce will work with the 24 Highway Merchants Associations to sponsor commercial block parties, unique sales and shopping parties specifically for the neighborhood.

Time Objective: Initial events planned by June 2008, and on-going.
Outcomes: Development of neighborhood event planner and schedule.

Support Department **Neighborhood Services Division**
Community Development Department

Proposed Action Steps to Maintain and Encourage Neighborhood Affordability:

1. The NSD and the GNWINI Advisory Team will continue to create and revise housing programs to encourage revitalization by targeting these programs to certain populations of the community. For example, offering additional First Time Homebuyer Assistance to Independence Police Officers and Teachers.

Time Objective: Programs developed in draft form January 2008.
Outcomes: Programs adopted in 2008-2008 Annual Plan submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Support Departments **Neighborhood Services Division**
Community Development Department

In addition to building upon the strengths of the previous positive attributes, the residents have three (3) areas of concern that create a negative perception of the neighborhood. These areas of concern are that the neighborhood has a Deteriorating Housing Stock, A Perception of Neighborhood Crime, and a Lack of Viable Retail.

Proposed Action Steps to Address Deteriorating Housing Stock.

1. The NSD in conjunction with the GNWINI Advisory Team will review existing city planning documents, and review potential for creating/expanding residential and commercial improvement programs to encourage renovation of existing structures.

Time Objective: Completed by August 2008 and on-going.
Outcomes: Creation of unique renovation programs such as 353 tax abatement program, or neighborhood improvement districts, or special financing programs for commercial and residential properties.

2. The NSD and the GNWINI Avvisory Team will create renovation programs that expand amenities of existing homes thereby attracting families.

Time Objective: Draft programs developed by August 2008 and on-going.
Outcomes: Revision and Development of Program Guidelines.

3. The GNWINI Advisory Team will meet with representatives of the Independence Landlords Association to determine what programs would best target unmet need in the community, and revise/create programs accordingly.

Time Objective: Completed by March 2008 and on-going.
Outcomes: Possible development of housing program.

Support Department: Neighborhood Services Division
Community Development Department

Proposed Action Steps to Reduce Crime and Increase Perception of Neighborhood Safety:

1. The City of Independence Police Department, Parks and Recreation Department, and Community Development Department will sponsor monthly neighborhood walks involving Police Officers, local churches and social service agencies.

Time Objective: Completed by July, 2008 and on-going.
Outcomes: Development of event planner and schedule.

2. Utilize the Independence Examiner, "Life on the Beat", articles to promote the Neighborhood Watch Program on the Police Department web page. The web site includes information on reasons why and how to form a Neighborhood Watch Program. This site will be linked to the Community Development Department web site in the Neighborhood Services Division.

Time Objective: Completed by August 2008, and on-going.
Outcomes: Updated web site information and neighborhood links.

3. The Independence Police Department will recruit additional residents for the Volunteers in Police Service, and the Police Citizen's Academy from the Ott-Chrisman and Kentucky Hills Neighborhoods.

Time Objective: The next recruiting class for both programs and on-going.
Outcomes: Additional recruitment of residents.

4. Utilize the Volunteers in Police Service participants for activities of the Neighborhood Association or Block Party events to increase the presence of this program in this area

Time Objective: August 2008 and on-going.
Outcomes: Expanded use of VIP participants.

Support Department Independence Police Department

Proposed Action Steps to Create/Maintain Viable Retail:

1. The GNWINI and the Chamber of Commerce will work with existing businesses to create merchants associations, and sponsor local shopping events, such as “Shop Here First”, or other seasonal marketing programs.

Time Objective: Completed by July 2008 and on-going.
Outcomes: Additional staffing of inspectors in accordance with adopted budget.

2. The Health Department and Community Development Department will continue to maintain/expand current programs such as the Deficient Rental Property and the Top Offender Program to encourage property maintenance for all residential and commercial property in the area.

Time Objective: Completed by July 2008 and on-going.
Outcomes: Maintain/expand available programs.

3. The Neighborhood Services Division in conjunction with the Fairmount Carlisle Redevelopment Corporation and established neighborhood associations will expand the marketing of the Adopt A Block program along 24 Highway through the Public Works Department.

Time Objective: Completed by July 2008 and on-going.
Outcomes: Expanded marketing of the program through neighborhood associations.

Support Departments **Health Department**
 Community Development Department
 Public Works Department