

Introduction and Purpose

The purpose of a neighborhood revitalization plan is to identify issues that are of concern to the residents and property owners of the neighborhood, and to devise strategies for addressing these concerns. In conjunction with broader policies and objectives contained within the community's General Plan and various redevelopment plans, the neighborhood planning process is intended to protect and enhance the livability within specific neighborhoods, as well as to help fulfill the overall community redevelopment vision and to create a more livable city. More specifically, neighborhood revitalization plans are intended to:

- Educate both city government and neighborhood residents about each other's concerns and visions for the future.
- Promote collaboration between the city and the neighborhood in order to achieve mutual goals and a shared sense of responsibility.
- Create a “sense of place” within the community by identifying and developing the assets within each neighborhood.
- Initiate change, rather than just reacting to it, by addressing specific issues and opportunities.
- Achieve sensible and coordinated project and program planning within each neighborhood and between all the City's “target” neighborhoods.
- Strengthen neighborhoods.

Two common elements of most neighborhood plans are both a factual statement of the neighborhood as it exists today and, more importantly, a vision statement describing the neighborhood in the future following successful implementation of the revitalization plan. The vision statement provides a framework for implementation and should touch on the issues, goals, objectives, and action items described in the plan.

As a community-driven effort, a neighborhood plan’s success lies to a large extent within the continued involvement of the residents of the neighborhood in the implementation phase of the plan. To that end, the citizen’s involvement in the planning committee established at the time of initiation of the planning process must evolve into involvement, typically through a neighborhood association or resident’s committee, in the carrying out of the plan’s objectives. Sustained neighborhood involvement is elemental to the transformation of the existing neighborhood into the vision of the future.