



2010

# Annual Report

FIRST CHOICE

NEIGHBORHOODS

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## 2010 1ST CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS PROGRAM REVIEW

Welcome to the 2010 1st Choice Neighborhoods Annual Report. In the following pages you will see the past year in review of activities and programs implemented by the 1st Choice Neighborhoods Program. You may notice that this year's report is a departure from years past. Previous versions were reports of the past year's activities as well as a manual of everything that 1st Choice Neighborhoods program supported. This year we are simplifying the format by providing year in review information only. For those who are interested in the overall program information including past Action Plans, visit our website by clicking [here](#).

The year 2010 represents a new identity for us as we have changed our name. 1st Choice Neighborhoods focuses on the importance of developing strategies for redevelopment and revitalization while providing an opportunity for citizens to shape the neighborhood they want to call home. Since 1998, Neighborhood Planning, now 1st Choice Neighborhoods, have strived to focus on four goals:

1. Guiding redevelopment and revitalization.
2. Providing opportunities to improve the quality of life.
3. Protecting neighborhood residences and existing businesses from decline.
4. Coordinating services by bringing attention, focus, and problem-solving resources to neighborhoods.

In addition to the name change, 2010 highlighted the rollout of our new initiative called *Love Where You Live*. We have been working on finding new ways to address creative problem solving and using the spirit of teamwork between the city and our neighborhoods. This new strategy aims to use local community-based support to help raise awareness and support for our neighborhoods in more need of assistance than our previous programs could do alone. We do all of this within our existing financial restraints. As a result, previous programs such as Fast Track and Full Track Plans are for the time being not our main focus. Another program, Revisiting Neighborhoods where we meet with previous recipients of the Action Plans, is still on-going and not affected by these changes.

Thanks for being a part of our program this past year. We appreciate your comments and support in 2010 and for years to come.



**Before and After photos in Village Creek North, 3345 Tarkio Road**

### Armstrong Park

Planning staff conducted two meetings in February 2010 as part of the revitalization neighborhood process. The neighborhood had previously been visited in 2004 as a full-track action plan. Problems discussed in the 2004 action plan have since that time been addressed and on-going proactive solutions have also been implemented. During the meetings concerns over Public safety and code enforcement were discussed with city staff and solutions were presented. In addition, concerns over the park have been discussed with Parks and Recreation Department (PARD). At this time, PARD performs a yearly cleanup (neighbors have asked for PARD to perform two per year). While the condition of the trails has been determined in need of repair, it is not on the list for upgrades for several years. Due to the City of Plano's fiscal constraints and overall economic trends, major capital investment and project consideration is unavailable at this time. Following the second meeting, all parties agreed to conclude the process as there was no signification call for assistance and need for concern. A summary report of these meetings was created and distributed to attendees.

### Haggard Park

Planning staff conducted two meetings in July 2010 as part of the revitalization neighborhood process. The neighborhood had previously been visited in 2001 as a full-track action plan. Problems discussed in the 2001 action plan have since that time been addressed and on-going proactive solutions have also been implemented. During the meetings concerns over Public safety and code enforcement were discussed with city staff and solutions were presented. Several topics over the Heritage process was raised (Haggard is a Heritage District) and addressed in regards' to neighbors questions and concerns. Due to the City of Plano's fiscal constraints and overall economic trends, major capital investment and project consideration is unavailable at this time. Following the second meeting, all parties agreed to conclude the process as there was no signification call for assistance and need for concern. A summary report of these meetings was created and distributed to attendees.

### North Dallas Estates

Planning staff conducted two meetings in July 2010 as part of the revitalization neighborhood process. The neighborhood had previously been visited in 2003 as a full-track program. Problems discussed in the 2003 action plan have since that time been addressed and on-going proactive solutions have also been implemented. Residents raised concerns over parking; Police have pledged to review the situation. Also of concern has been communications between St. Mark's Church and the Dallas North Estates HOA. Both are currently working to develop better communication. Representatives from Property Standards talked about the various ways residents can report violations. Representatives also mentioned community service projects and shared information about the Probationer's program. [The City of Plano Transportation Engineering Division](#) is currently reviewing three school zones for possible removal/modification. Following the second meeting, all parties agreed to conclude the process as there was no signification call for assistance and need for concern. A summary report of these meetings was created and distributed to attendees.





## Love Where You Live

After several years of planning, 2010 saw the official rolling out of the *Love Where You Live* initiative in the [Village Creek North](#) neighborhood. This neighborhood revitalization strategy targets areas of need by creating an outreach strategy which aims to address more communication and social needs in each neighborhood while improving the physical appearance of the area.

This collaborative partnership-based approach

is intended to increase community involvement and use 1st Choice Neighborhood support within the existing budget limits. Twenty-five faith groups and non-profits volunteered to be a part of the first *Love Where You Live* project, providing significant labor, capital, and resources toward the program's goals.

On October 16th, housing improvement projects began with 40 of the 66 homes cleanup projects planned undergoing work. In addition, partners began an area-wide alley cleanup and curb painting effort (this effort concluded in December for Village Creek North).

Since the October 16th kick-off, staff and volunteer partners are proud to report the following:

- ▶ Approximately 347 volunteers worked 1,925 hours on Saturday, October 16
- ▶ The Environmental Waste rear loader trucks (rolling through alleys) collected 4 tons of landscape debris. The roll off dumpsters collected and recycled 3 tons of landscape debris. A total of 14,000 pounds (7 tons) of landscape debris was collected and recycled.
- ▶ 6,980 pounds (3.49 tons) of trash was taken to transfer stations
- ▶ 40 individual work-site projects started and were completed on October 16. There were a total of 66 projects pre-selected and these projects will occur on a continual basis throughout October and November 2010.
- ▶ 21 groups participated in the kick-off street fair in Shawnee Park, including the Village Creek Neighborhood Association and Barron Elementary PTA.

Following the kick-off rally, residents and partners have participated in neighborhood meetings, cleanup projects and a follow-up survey of the neighborhood. After conclusion of the project, staff will continue to check-in with the neighborhood. The second *Love Where You Live* project is planned for Spring 2011.

Click [Here](#) for a video of Love Where You Live



## SECTION THREE: OUTREACH & EDUCATION

### Community Outreach



Every year, 1st Choice Neighborhoods works with the [Plano Homeowners Council](#) (PHC) to enhance the program's presence in Plano neighborhoods. 1st Choice Neighborhoods staff attends PHC meetings, forums, and boot camps to share and exchange information and to remain informed about activities and changes impacting Plano neighborhoods.

Since 2007, 1st Choice Neighborhoods has worked with Plano Independent School District (PISD) to increase communication between the administration and the City of Plano on actions and efforts in Plano neighborhoods. At the beginning of each planning project, staff invites PISD to attend meetings and exchange information about a project area in an effort to enhance

stakeholder participation in the neighborhood planning project.

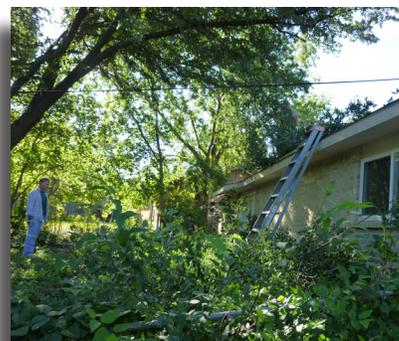
### Community Projects

#### ▶ [PARKS & REC UPDATES](#)

*CLEARVIEW PARK IMPROVEMENTS* - Plans are complete for improvements to Clearview Park. Improvements include a new playground, sidewalk additions, drainage improvements and tree planting. Construction is expected to begin in late 2011.

*CHISHOLM TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS* - Plans are still in progress for improvements to Chisholm Trail in the Big Lake area. Improvements include a stone border around the pond, trail overlooks, tree planting and enhancements to the bridges at Cross Bend Road and Deerfield Drive. Construction is expected to begin late 2011.

*EVANS PARK IMPROVEMENTS* - Plans are complete for the addition of a parallel parking lane on Silverwood Lane. Improvements will include replacement of the existing fence. Construction is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2011 after school is out. These improvements are part of the neighborhood revitalization program.



#### [PUBLIC WORKS & ENGINEERING](#)

Substandard Building	86
Tree Branches	84
Open Storage	71
Refuse & Rubbish	26
Fence Repair	24
High Grass	19
Landscape Maintenance	8
Special Vehicle Storage	8
Junk Vehicle	7
Accessory Buildings	3
Abandoned Shopping Carts	3
Visibility Obstruction	3
Inoperative Vehicle	2
<b>TOTAL CASES</b>	<b>344</b>

*DOUGLASS COMMUNITY* - A quiet zone through the neighborhood was implemented. This will effect train activity through the neighborhood. A public works project was conducted on Avenue F.

*MEADOWS ADDITION* - Work has started on Phase One of a Public Works project in the area.

#### ▶ [PROPERTY STANDARDS](#)

As part of the Love Where You Live initiative, the Property Standards Department (PSD) worked in conjunction with Planning, Police and other City departments and personnel to develop and employ the Neighborhood Housing Assessment. Seven clean-up projects during the kick-off event on October 16, 2010 including landscape trimming & maintenance, tree removal and general landscape trimming & maintenance, fence removal, and accessory building demolition and removal. In addition, Property Standards has conducted a clean up of neighborhood alleys. These sweeps done December 14 – 20, 2010 have brought the following results:

## Neighborhood Enhancement Tool (N.E.T.) Analysis

In July 2008, the City of Plano Planning Department began researching opportunities to develop a neighborhood evaluation model that would allow the City of Plano to measure the condition of Plano neighborhoods, determine the impact city efforts have on neighborhood conditions, show a correlation between city program efforts and neighborhood conditions, and help city staff become more strategic with regards to program implementation. Below is an overview of this new process. Results from this analysis are being used to target prospective *Love Where You Live* neighborhoods.

- ▶ **Request for Information:** In December of each year, Community Services Planners will initiate data collection for the N.E.T. Analysis by sending a memo to Planning GIS Analyst and Police Department Crime Analysts.
- ▶ **Generate Statistics Annually:** Following the memo requesting information for the N.E.T. statistics, it might take 2-3 months for GIS Analysis to input and aggregate data for the N.E.T. Analysis.
- ▶ **Report and Distribute Changes in HTE Districts and Neighborhood Trends:** Following the completion of the current year's analysis, Community Service Planners should develop a 1-2 page summary outlining the changes in each indicator for the entire city and for specific areas if needed. The report should be distributed to the Community Services Division Manager, Director of Planning, departments submitting data for analysis (Police and Property Standards) as well as other staff or members of management as recommended by the Director of Planning.

## Downtown Plano Initiatives

Following decades of decline, [Downtown Plano](#) has reemerged as an exciting and vibrant place. Through the last decade, it has been reborn with a variety of shops, housing, light rail transit, offices and restaurants. Working with property owners, merchants and residents, city staff have assisted the downtown area with city sponsored initiatives towards their revitalization efforts. Below are a few used the past year.

### ▶ **Downtown Plano Matching Marketing Fund**

2010 was the inaugural year for this fund. Established to help aid the Historic Downtown Plano Association's efforts. For the 2009-2010 fiscal year, \$4,580.56 was submitted with the city's contribution of \$2,290.28 matched by the HDP. The funds were approved to support updates to the website, COOP advertising with the Texas Downtown Association, Public Relations projects including TV/Radio, Print, and social media, and promotion for downtown area restaurants. The grant was approved for continuation in 2010-2011 fiscal year.

### ▶ **Holiday Lighting Grant**

For the holiday season, Planning is responsible for the implementation and maintenance of the street holiday lighting, Haggard Park light display, and the Christmas Tree. In 2010, the grant was up for bid. This bid was won by The Christmas Light Guy located in The Colony. The contract was revised to separate the project into 3 distinct areas. For 2010, the location of Municipal Center was removed from the contract. This is done on a year to year basis and all locations are reviewed annually. In the upcoming fiscal year, additional lighting and ornaments will need to be purchased as existing inventory is dwindling. In addition the existing tree topper will need to be replaced as the vendor has determined it will not be usable after the 2009-10 fiscal year. Other cost saving options including LED lights, leasing new inventory is being considered for 2010-11.



### ▶ **Downtown Kiosk**

The maps and directories were updated for the holiday season and installed. The maps and directories will also be used by the HDP. The maps and directories will also be used by the HDP. The maps and directories will also be used by the HDP. The maps and directories will also be used by the HDP.

## SECTION FOUR: NEIGHBORHOOD PLANS

### Clearview Neighborhood Action Plan



Proudly presented by the residents of the Clearview Neighborhood August 2007

## Neighborhood Plans

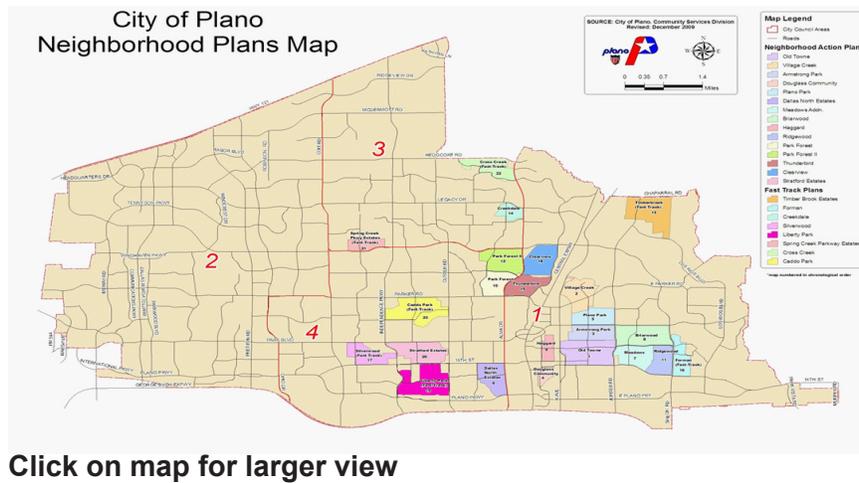
In previous years, 1st Choice Neighborhoods conducted Neighborhoods Plans. These were conducted as either Full-Scale or Fast-Track plans based on the needs and goals of the Neighborhood. Beginning 2010 the focus of 1st Choice Neighborhoods' Neighborhood support shifted to the *Love Where You Live* Program ([see the Love Where You Live Section for details](#)). As a result no Neighborhood Plans occurred in 2010.

Click [here](#) for access to Neighborhood Action Plans

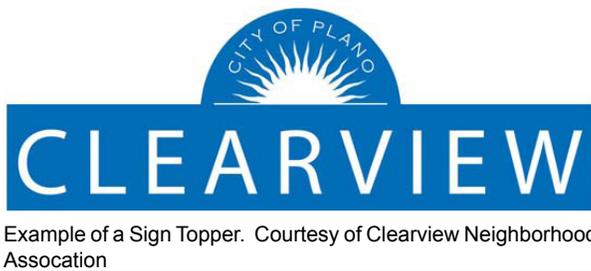
Armstrong Park (2001)  
 Briarwood (2004)  
 Caddo Park (2009)  
 Clearview (2007)  
 Creekdale (2006)  
 Cross Creek (2009)  
 Dallas North Estates (2003)  
 Douglass Community (2002)  
 Forman (2006)  
 Haggard Park (2004)  
 Liberty Park (2007)  
 Meadows Addition (2003)

Old Town (1999)  
 Park Forest I (2005)  
 Park Forest II (2005)  
 Plano Park (2003)  
 Ridgewood (2004)  
 Silverwood (2006)  
 Spring Creek Parkway Estates (2008)  
 Stratford Estates (2008)  
 Thunderbird (2005)  
 Timber Brook Estates (2005)  
 Village Creek (2000)

Adoption date is denoted in parenthesis. More information on the neighborhood plans including copies of each action plan can be found [here](#).



## RESOURCES



Example of a Sign Topper. Courtesy of Clearview Neighborhood Association

1st Choice Neighborhoods offers several resources for additional information on our programs. For more information, click on the highlighted title.

[Home page](#) - Browse the 1st Choice Neighborhoods website for everything we offer.

[Love Where You Live](#) - Launched in 2010, Love Where You Live (LWYL) assists communities by connecting stakeholders on community service projects, education and outreach programs, and revitalization efforts.

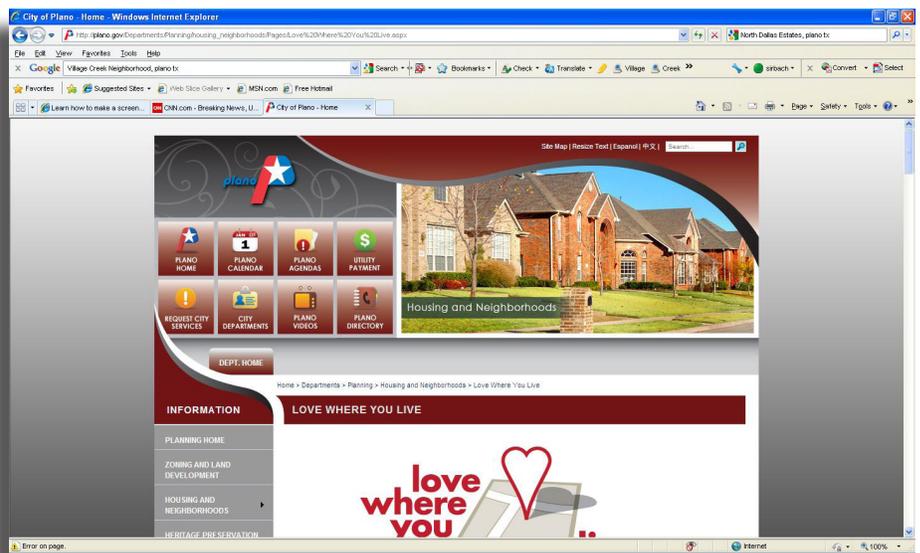
[Revisiting Projects](#) - Browse this page for more information about past, current, and future projects.

[Full-Scale and Fast-Track Action Plans](#) - Browse this page to see a list of all plans (Full-Scale and Fast-Track) and read an overview of the two types of plans.

[HOA Information](#) - 1st Choice Neighborhoods offers an online contact database to register homeowners associations (HOA) or neighborhood associations (NA) through Plano. To be added, contact Planning Staff.

[Plano Homeowners' Council](#) - The Plano Homeowners' Council connects all of Plano's HOAs and NAs while offering education and support. View their website for more information

[Need more information?](#) View this page for direct access to the Plano Quick Link, the HomeSmart Knowledgebase, Plano Housing Authority, the Resident Services Guide, a Guide to Forming Neighborhood Associations, and much more!



## Sign Toppers Program

One of the benefits of the Neighborhood Plans has been the option of Sign Toppers identifying the neighborhood on streets inside the neighborhood. However with the suspension of the Neighborhood Plans, this option has been put on hold. Beginning in 2010, the 1st Choice Neighborhoods program began offering interested neighborhood associations the option of adding sign toppers to their neighborhood. Below is a summary of the process:

Once contacted by inquiring neighbors, Community Service Planners will work with the neighborhood association in reviewing the Sign Topper Guidelines and Petition Process. The 1st Choice Neighborhood planners work with additional city staff including Public Works to get these sign toppers installed. The guidelines and petition are available online and may also be sent via e-mail upon request. The guidelines contain a seven-step approval process that a 1st Choice Neighborhood Planner will help neighborhood association with as they move forward on the sign topper installation process. For further information, click [here](#).