

# Village Creek Neighborhood

## Village Creek Revisiting Neighborhoods Project

Staff met with Village Creek from July 2008 to October 2009. The Village Creek Neighborhood Association (organized in 2000 following the neighborhood planning project) meets monthly. Therefore, at the beginning of the revisiting effort, staff began attending the association's meetings. During the meetings, the Neighborhood Planning Team (residents and staff) determined that a block party and a neighborhood survey would help the association better understand and serve the needs of the residents in Village Creek.

## Neighborhood Survey

Beginning in early 2009, residents and staff began developing a neighborhood survey. The survey was mailed to every resident and placed online. Initial responses were collected by city staff and subsequent responses received at the block party and National Night Out event were collected by the Village Creek Neighborhood Association (VCNA). The survey generated information about the association and it generated new contacts and participants for the neighborhood association. [View Survey](#)

## Ongoing Concerns

VCNA assigns various responsibilities to its participating members. The association continues to work closely with Neighborhood Police Officer (NPO) David Waddell to address various neighborhood safety and quality of life concerns. Some concerns that continue to challenge Village Creek include shopping carts and *Al Dia* newspapers littering the neighborhood, yard maintenance concerns, and some quality of life crime offenses. To learn more about the Village Creek Neighborhood Association (VCNA) view their self-maintained website - <http://www.village-creek.org/villagecreek.htm>

## Neighborhood Block Party

[Block Party at Shawnee Park](#) hosted May 19, 2009



## National Night Out (NNO) Event

- Tuesday, October 13, 2009

## Neighborhood Action Plan Objectives

On the subsequent pages, you will find tables containing all action plan objectives established during the Village Creek Neighborhood planning project, which was completed in 2000. Please proceed to the next page.

Click [HERE](#) to return to the 2009 Annual Report

# Village Creek Neighborhood (2000)

[Action Plan](#)

## Ongoing Projects

Objective	Cost	Responsibility	Status
Volunteer project to post house numbers in the alleys to assist in reporting problems by sanitation crews, code enforcement, and emergency services	N/A (Volunteers)	Residents	Ongoing
Periodic walk-through with Property Standards Specialists and concerned neighbors	N/A (Staff Time)	Residents/ Property Standards	Ongoing
Encourage people to call in complaints	\$500.00 (Brochures)	Property Standards	Ongoing
Use community service volunteers to periodically clean up the neighborhood and park	Volunteers	Property Standards	Ongoing
Clean the pond regularly	\$50/cleaning	Parks & Recreation	Ongoing
The Parks & Recreation hosts many events in Bob Woodruff Park and other parks. We would like to see small events hosted in Shawnee Park	Staff Time	Parks & Recreation	Ongoing
Improve landscaping along major thoroughfares and in surrounding business complexes to improve neighborhood image and dampen traffic related noise	Depending on Design and Placement	Private Business Owners/ Parks & Recreation	Ongoing
The neighborhood group will work to encourage the merchants along K Avenue to improve the streetscape and support future plans for improvements	N/A	Residents	Ongoing
Encourage a broader range of uses within the retail areas serving the neighborhood, including fine restaurants, pharmacies, and small retail stores	Staff Time	Economic Development	Ongoing
Host events in the park, such as a crafts fair or a model boat race for the kids, have cleanup days, or annual block parties. The Neighborhood Planning Team would also like to publish a neighborhood newsletter and directory	N/A	Residents	Ongoing
The Neighborhood Planning Team will stay in close contact with Keep Plano Beautiful so that they can benefit from any input that organization might add	N/A	Residents/ Keep Plano Beautiful	Ongoing

Objective	Cost	Responsibility	Status
Investigate various speed management devices and install the most effective choices in problem areas to be determined by the Neighborhood Planning Team and the Transportation Engineering Division	\$1000/bump (Staff time)	Transportation Engineering	Resident Initiative
The Neighborhood will open communications with the surrounding businesses to nurture their support for the neighborhood plan	N/A	Residents	Ongoing

## Completed Projects

Objective	Cost	Responsibility	Status
Establish a permanent neighborhood Property Standards Inspector	\$70,000 (Staffing)	Property Standards	Completed
Trim low tree branches in both alleys and streets to allow access by tall trucks	\$120,000 City Wide (Operations)	Property Standards	Completed
Explore low or ground level lighting or work to find better placement options for mid-block light	Staff Time	Residents / Engineering	Completed
Explore options for alternatives to street lights, such as landscape floodlights, motion detectors, or a plan to have alternating homes leave their porch lights on during the night	Possible CDBG Funds/ Staff Time	Residents / Neighborhood Services	Completed
Work with City representatives to explore modification to City policies regarding street light spacing in neighborhoods with mature tree canopies	Staff Time	Residents/ Engineering	Completed
Provide professional landscape plans to homeowners and residents. Since many people cannot afford to buy large quantities of landscaping material, they need help knowing how to use what they do have for maximum results. The plans would also help homeowners know how to buy landscaping material in intervals and spread the costs	Volunteers	Residents	Completed
Provide more lighting in the park	\$25-35,000	Parks & Recreation	Completed
Work with city staff to develop stricter standards that will limit the number, frequency and proximity to major roadways of for-profit itinerant merchants who regularly occupy the corners of Parker Road and K Ave. selling sunglasses, rugs, and beanie babies	Staff Time	Building Inspections	Completed

Objective	Cost	Responsibility	Status
Display name of neighborhood on decorative signs (like at the Douglass Community) at Parker median, P Avenue., K Avenue., and possibly at the entryway to Shawnee Park	\$15-25,000/ sign	Capital Improvements	Completed (not monument but sign toppers)
The Neighborhood Planning Team would like to see a complete Traffic Flow Analysis of this intersection during the drop off and pick up times at Barron Elementary School	(Staff Time)	Transportation Engineering	Completed
Research grants from utility companies and other private entities to be used to increase the amount of lighting in the neighborhood	N/A	Residents	Completed
Provide roll-off dumpster for large item collection each month until the neighborhood is cleaned up (at least six months)	\$89 per haul/ \$28.08 per ton materials	Solid Waste	Completed
Establish a neighborhood philosophy on how the park area around creeks will be maintained	Staff Time	Residents/ Parks & Recreation	Completed
Increase education efforts from the Solid Waste Department to help teach neighbors how to use the department services more effectively and thus clean up the neighborhood. This should include distribution of schedules showing regular and special collection dates, educational brochures and refrigerator magnets that remind residents of collection rules	Undetermined	Solid Waste	Completed
Police officer to do traffic control at P Avenue. and Parker Road during peak congestion times	Staff Time	Police	Two officers are assigned to the intersection in the morning and afternoon to alleviate problem
Neighborhood representatives should meet with Parks Operation personnel to outline volunteer projects and requirements concerning park maintenance	Staff Time	Residents/ Parks & Recreation	Completed
Plant more trees in the park and along the perimeter of the park	N/A (Tree Farm)	Parks & Recreation	Completed
Add more picnic areas	\$800 each	Parks & Recreation	Completed
Work with Parks & Recreation to identify Shawnee Park's drainage problems	Staff Time	Residents / Parks & Recreation	Completed
Sow grass seed in bare or patchy areas in Shawnee Park	Staff Time	Parks & Recreation	Completed

Objective	Cost	Responsibility	Status
Install new benches along sidewalks and pond	\$800 each	Parks & Recreation	Completed
Clearly post park rules and closing time	\$55/sign	Parks & Recreation	Completed
The team feels that it is important to rejuvenate the neighborhood Crime Watch Program. It may be more feasible for the two homeowners associations to work cooperatively in a Crime Watch program until more residents are actively participating	N/A	Residents	Completed

## Other Projects

Objective	Cost	Responsibility	Status
State Law states that 30 MPH is proper for neighborhood streets but the planning team suggests reducing the speed limit to 25 MPH	Staff Time	Transportation Engineering	Not Recommended: 30 mph is the lowest speed authorized by City Council for residential roads.
Encourage property owners along Parker Road to participate in a Community Development Block Grant program to relocate driveways to the alleys	\$122,000 \$5100/lot CDBG funds	Neighborhood Services	Not Feasible
P Avenue., from Abbey Road to Parker Road needs a "No Parking" sign to prohibit parking during early morning hours and from 2:30-3:30 PM. On street parking near intersections should also be closely monitored	\$45/sign and Staff Time	Residents / Transportation Engineering	Not Feasible
Allow the north and southbound traffic light on P Avenue to remain green longer than it currently does. The way the light currently cycles, after the crossing guard allows the children to cross Parker Road, the northbound traffic has the right-of-way. This allows only one or two southbound cars through the light per cycle. If the light were green longer, more southbound traffic could pass, decreasing the congestion on P Avenue	Staff Time	Transportation Engineering	Not Feasible
The team feels that the Police Department should be collecting data about those homes that have the most criminal activities and calls. Today, the city does not keep a "score card" on repeat offenders. A scorecard system, similar to the Dallas S.A.F.E. Nuisance Abatement Team should be created. Findings could then be disseminated to the City Attorney as the first step toward completing the necessary legal paper work to seize the problem property. The civil procedure for abating a common or public nuisance is set out in Chapter 125 of the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code. This suggestion involves two actions; one by the Police Department and the other by the City Attorney's office	Staff Time	Police & Legal	Not Currently Feasible

Click [HERE](#) to return to the 2009 Annual Report