

Doling Park

Historical Doling: Past, Present, Future

Neighborhood Assessment Report

Neighborhood Workshop Date: January 24, 2004

Accepted by City Council Date: June 7, 2004



Sponsored by:

City of Springfield
Department of Planning and Development
Neighborhood Conservation Office

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VISION 20/20 AND NEIGHBORHOOD ASSESSMENTS



The Vision 20/20 *Neighborhoods Plan*, a portion of the Springfield/Greene County Comprehensive Plan, was adopted on July 10, 2000. The *Neighborhoods Plan* outlines objectives and actions that Springfield and Greene County will pursue to stabilize or improve existing neighborhoods and to create sustainable attractive new neighborhoods. The *Neighborhood Assessment* process was adopted by City Council in order to implement a portion of the *Neighborhoods Plan*. Specifically, the *Assessment* process implements the *Plan* by:

Allowing local residents to create an "*Assessment of neighborhood condition*". Helping local residents to identify where "*Targeted neighborhood improvements*" are needed. Identifying where "*Housing services*" and "*Housing assistance*" programs are desired.

Springfield's *Neighborhood Assessment* process mirrors a public input process developed and utilized by the City of Kansas City, Missouri.

With assistance from City staff, residents, business representatives and people who work in local institutions provided input at the Doling Park Neighborhood Assessment workshop. Participants mapped their community, and identified assets and priority issues in their neighborhood.

Doling Park

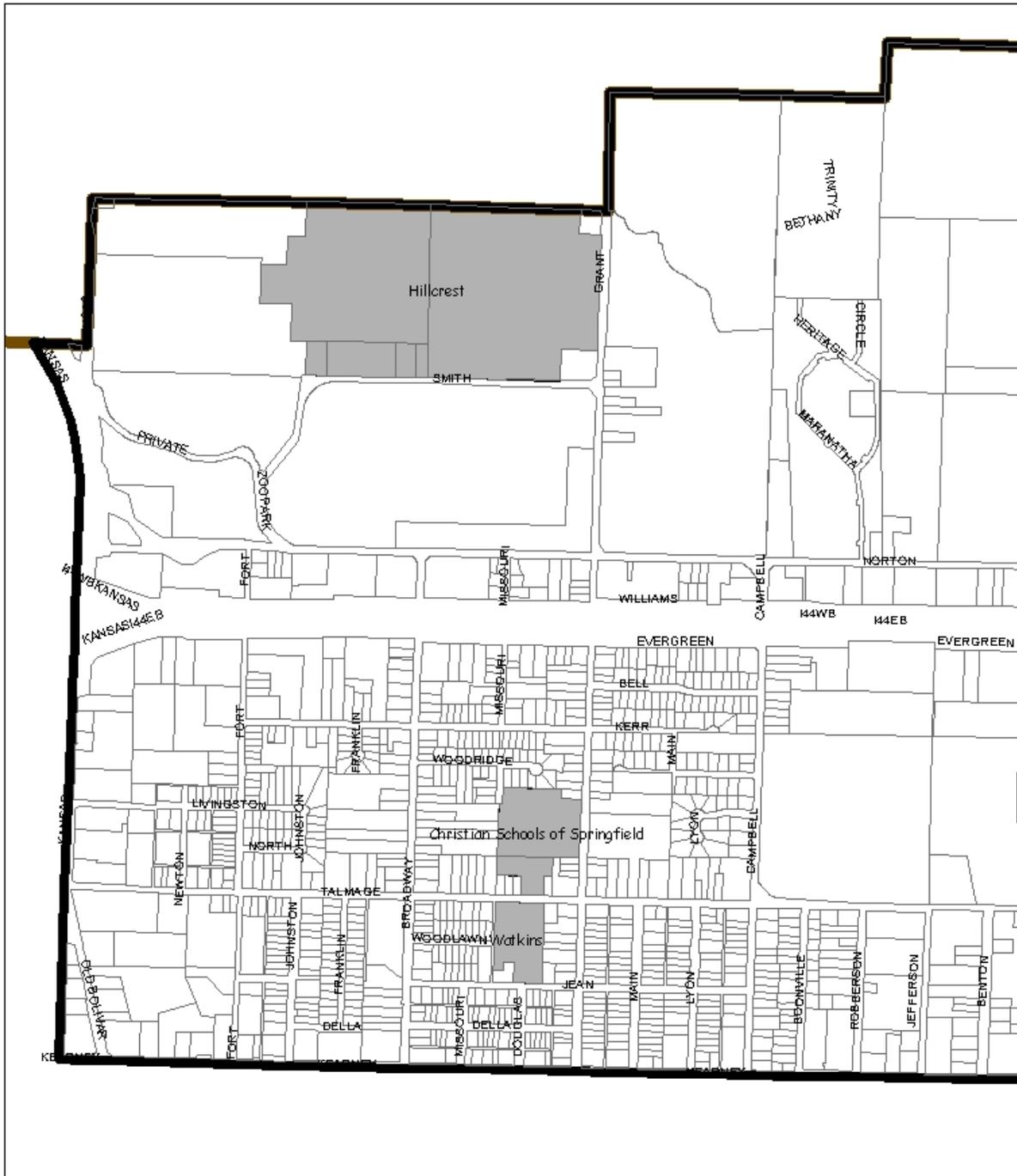


CHART NOTES



Neighborhood Slogans

The attendees listed several slogans to describe their neighborhood. The slogans helped the participants to identify how they viewed their community.

The selected slogan:

Historical Doling: Past, Present, Future

Other suggested slogans:

- Doling: A Place for Learning, Living & Leisure
- A Great Place To Live



Workshop participants working on a slogan for their neighborhood.

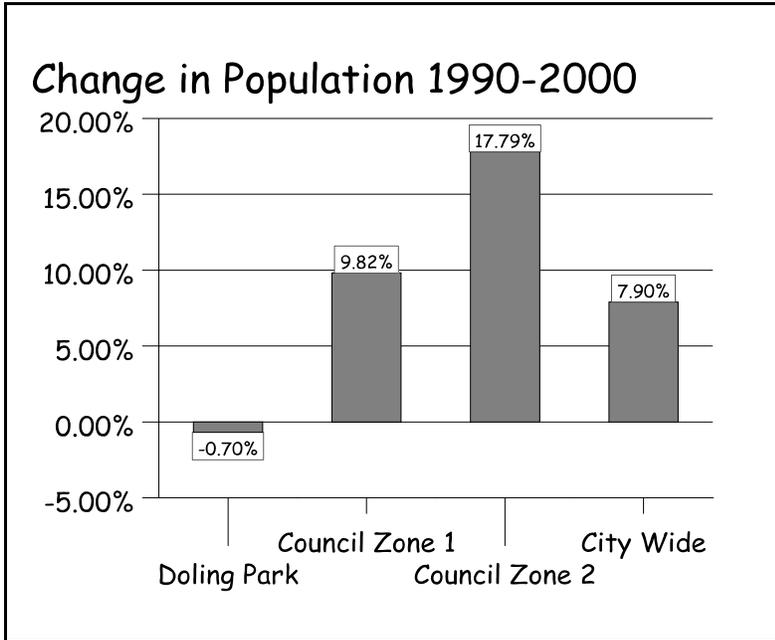
STEP 1: Facts About My Neighborhood

The data presented at the Assessment workshop was from the 2000 Census, the Police Department, Building Development Services and the Planning & Development Department's Grants and Program Implementation Division. Below are the facts the participants said were surprising or noteworthy.



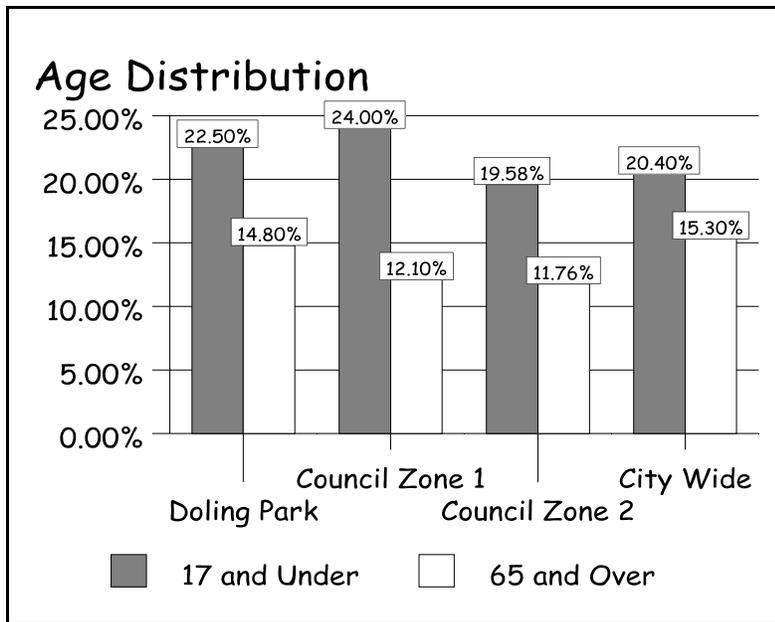
During Step 1 participants were presented charts showing demographic facts about their neighborhood in relation to their Council Zone and the city as a whole.

POPULATION



In 2000, there were 7,487 persons living in Doling Park. Between 1990 and 2000, the population in Doling Park decreased by 0.70%. By comparison, the population increased in Council Zone 1 by 9.82% and by 17.79% in Council Zone 2. City wide it increased by 7.90%.

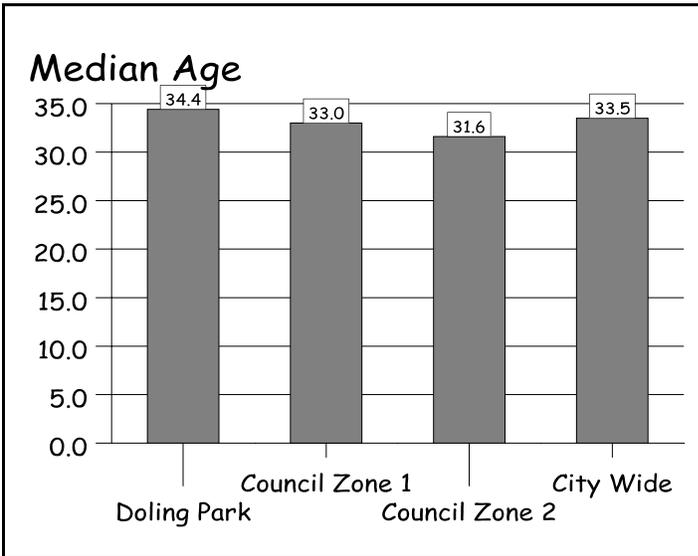
2000 Census



The percentage of people under age 17 in Doling Park is 22.50% and 14.80% are over the age of 65. By comparison, Council Zone 1 has 24.00% under age 17 and 12.10% over age 65; and, Council Zone 2 has 19.58% under age 17 and 11.76% over age 65. City wide 20.40% are under age 17 and 15.30% are over age 65.

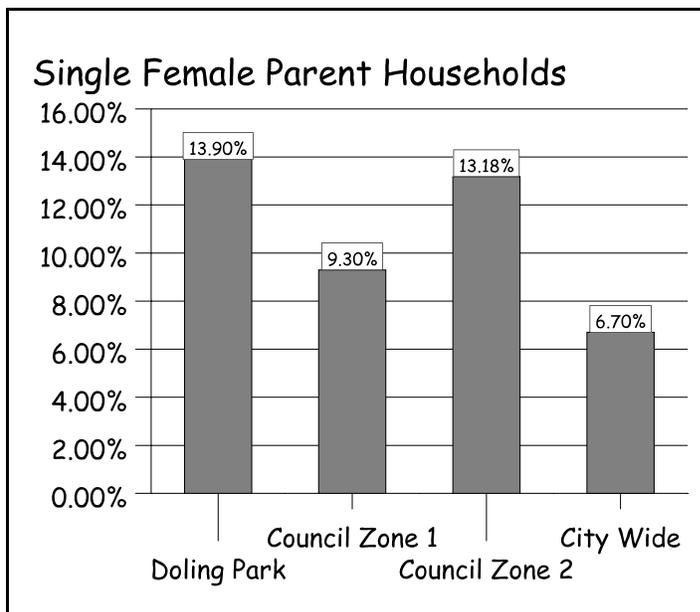
2000 Census

POPULATION



In Doling Park, the median age is 34.4, which means that half of the people in your neighborhood are younger than 34.4, and half are older than 34.4. In Council Zone 1 the median age is 33 and in Council Zone 2 the median age is 31.6. City wide it is 33.5.

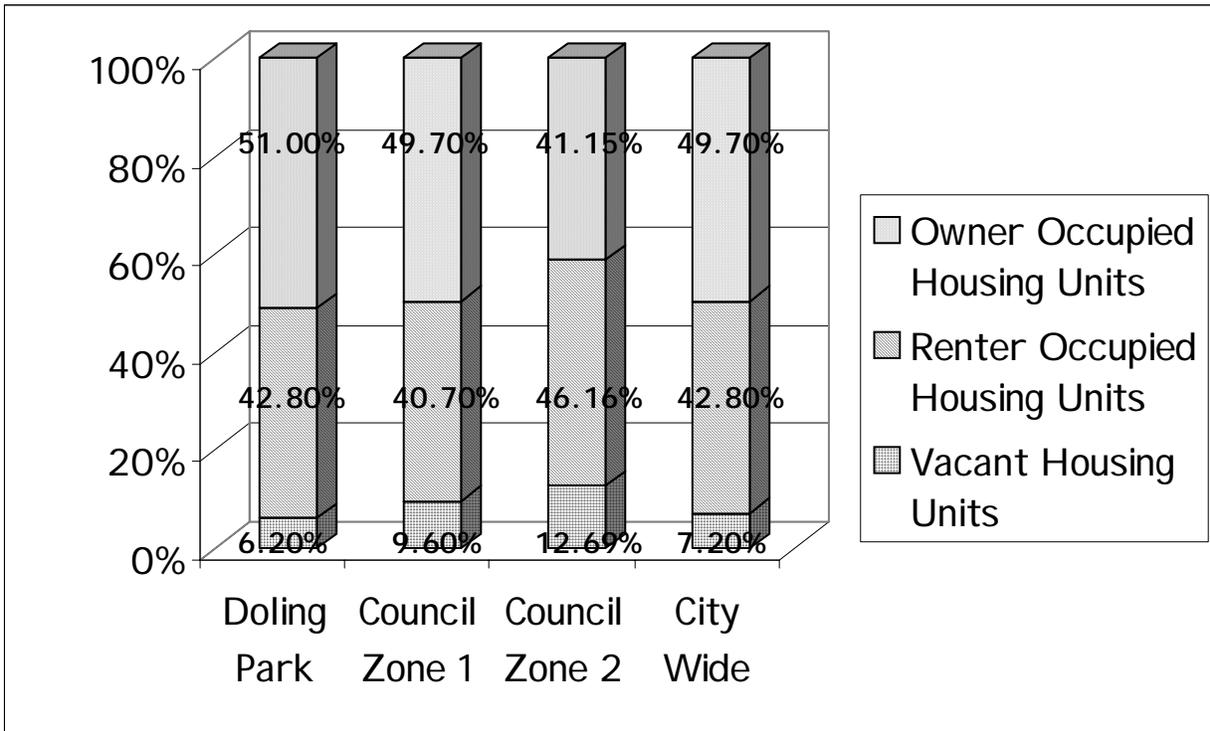
2000 Census



The percentage of single female parent households (with children under 18 years of age) in Doling Park is 13.90%. This compares with 9.3% in Council Zone 1 and 13.18% in Council Zone 2. City wide it is 6.7%.

2000 Census

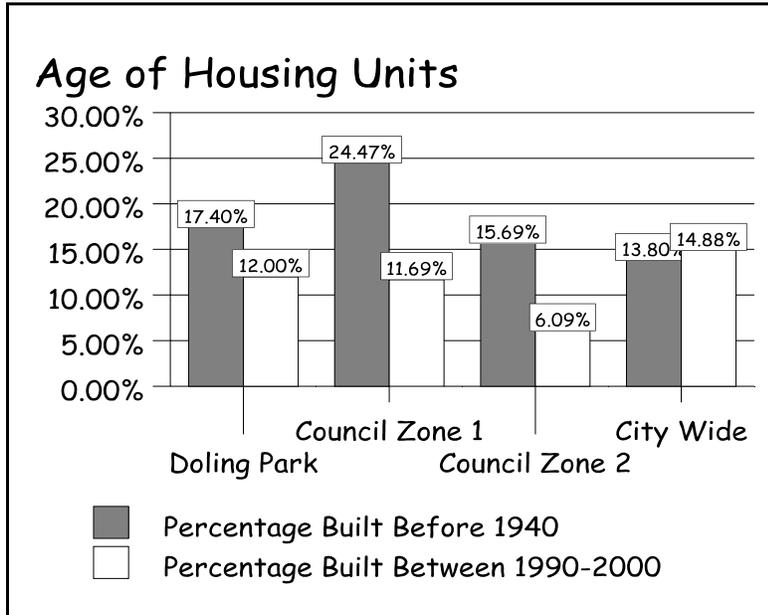
HOUSING OCCUPANCY



Housing occupancy in the Doling Park neighborhood is composed of 51% owner occupied, 42.8% renter occupied, and 6.2% vacant housing. The percentage of owner occupied housing in your neighborhood is higher than that of Council Zone 1, Council Zone 2 and the city as a whole. The percentage of rental housing is also comparable to the city as a whole. The percentage of vacant housing in the Doling Park neighborhood is less than Council Zone 1, Council Zone 2 and the city as a whole.

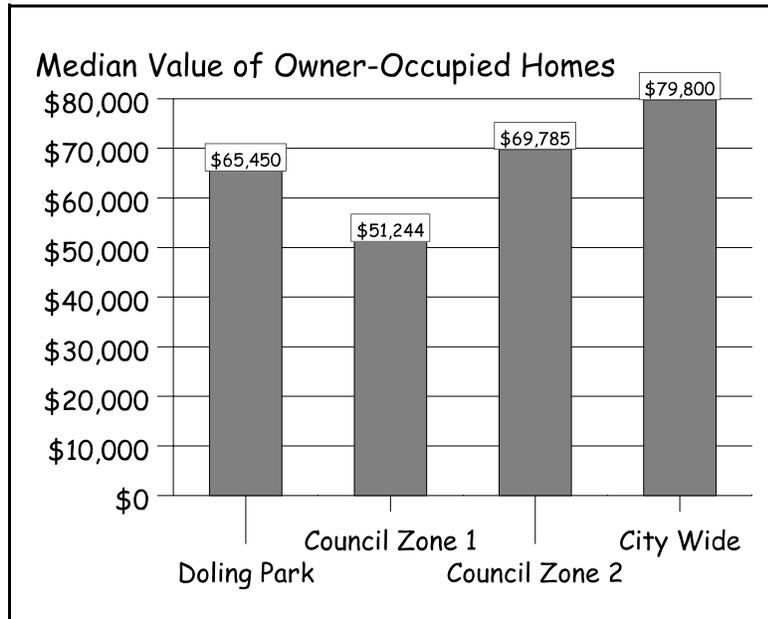
HOUSING

A housing unit is a house, an apartment, a mobile home or trailer, a group of rooms, or a single room that is occupied as a separate living quarters, or, if vacant, is intended for occupancy as a separate living quarters.



The percentage of housing units in the Doling Park neighborhood built before 1940 is 17.40%. This compares with 24.47% in Council Zone 1 and 15.69% in Council Zone 2. City wide it is 13.80%. In addition, the percentage of housing units built in the Doling Park neighborhood between 1990 and 2000 is 12%. This compares with 11.69% in Council Zone 1 and 6.09% in Council Zone 2. City wide it is 14.88%.

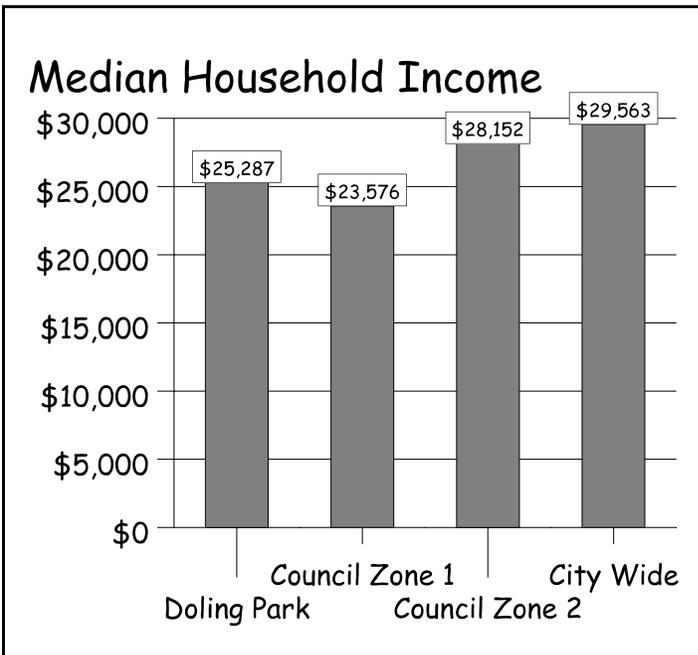
2000 Census



In the Doling Park neighborhood, the median value of an owner-occupied home is \$65,450. This means that half of the owner-occupied homes in the neighborhood are valued at more than \$65,450 and half are valued for less. The median value of owner-occupied homes in Council Zone 1 is \$51,244 and in Council Zone 2 it is \$69,785. City wide it is \$79,800.

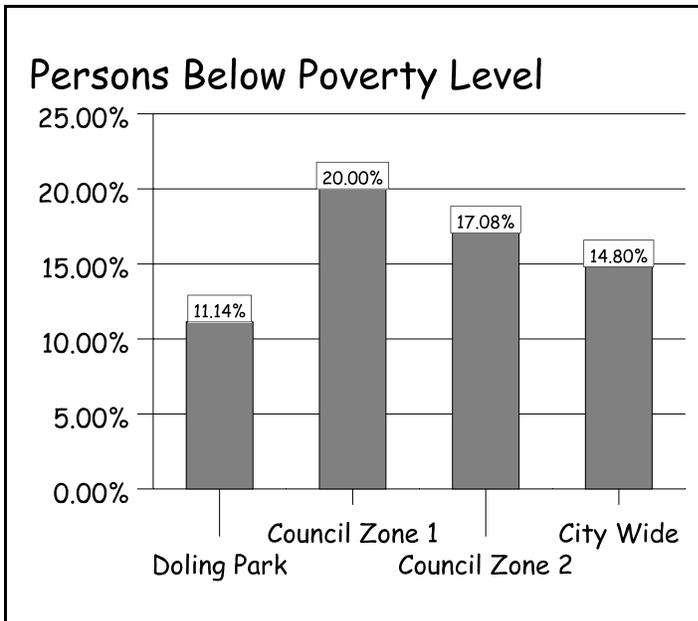
2000 Census

INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT



2000 Census

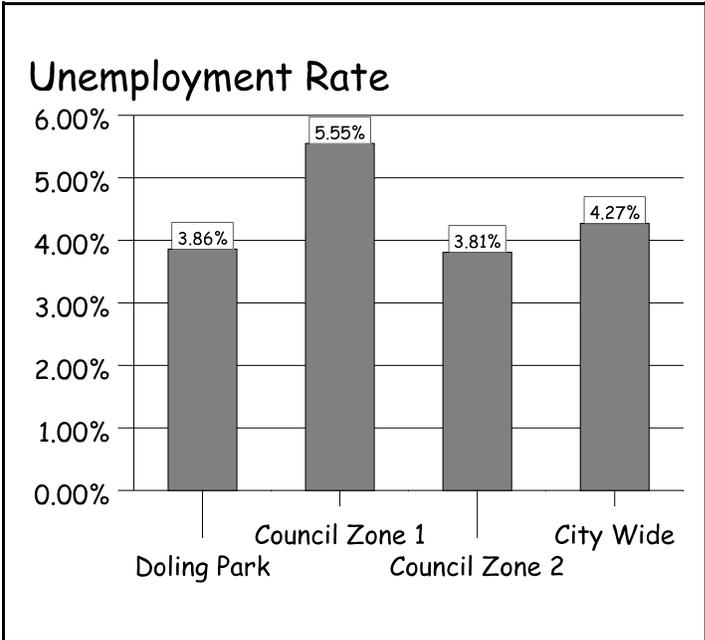
The median household income in the Doling Park neighborhood is \$25,287, which means that half of the households in the neighborhood have incomes of more than \$25,287 and half have less. This compares with median household incomes of \$23,576 in Council Zone 1 and \$28,152 in Council Zone 2. City wide it is \$29,563.



2000 Census

Poverty level is based on the income, age and number of people in the household. The percentage of persons living below the poverty level in Doling Park is 11.14%. This compares to 20% in Council Zone 1 and 17.08% in Council Zone 2. City wide it is 14.80%.

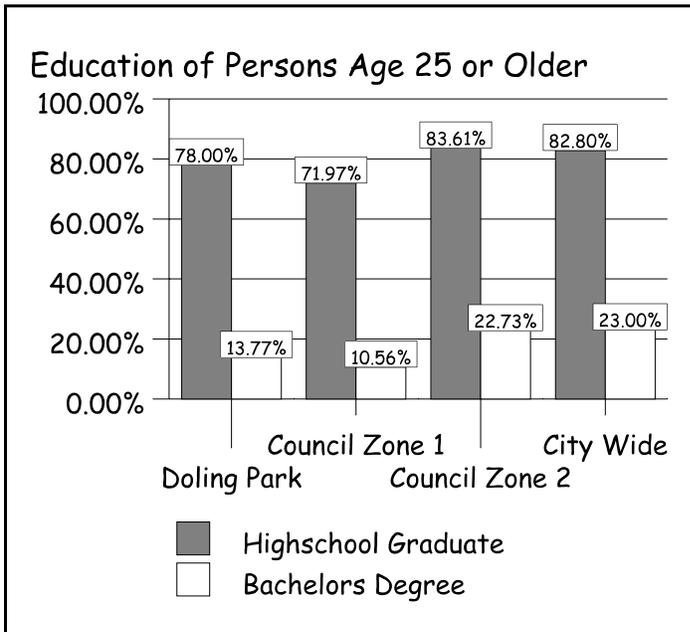
INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT



In Doling Park, 3.86% of persons are unemployed. In Council Zone 1 the percentage is 5.55% and in Council Zone 2 it is 3.81%. City wide the percentage is 4.27%.

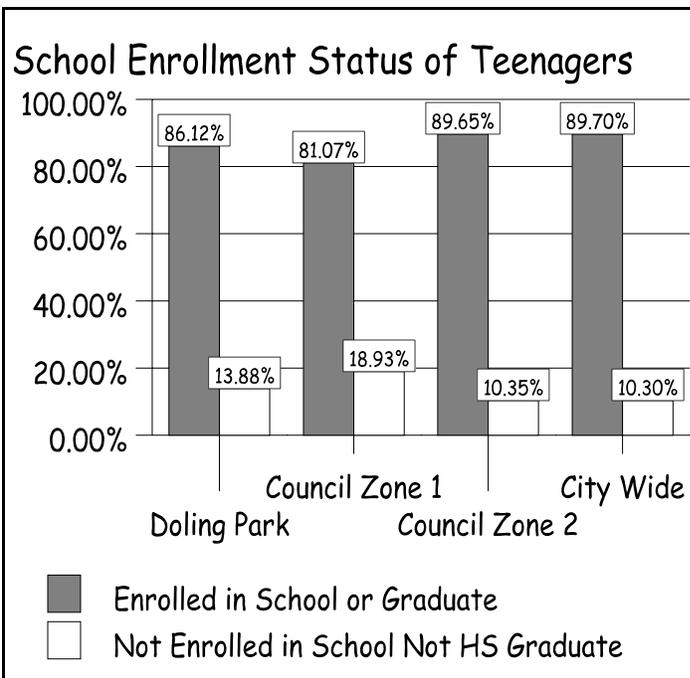
2000 Census

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND SCHOOL ENROLLMENT



This chart shows highest level of education attained by persons 25 years of age or older. The percentage of persons within Doling Park who have attained a high school diploma as their highest level of education is 78%. In Council Zone 1 it is 71.97% and in Council Zone 2 it is 83.61%. City wide it is 82.80%.

2000 Census

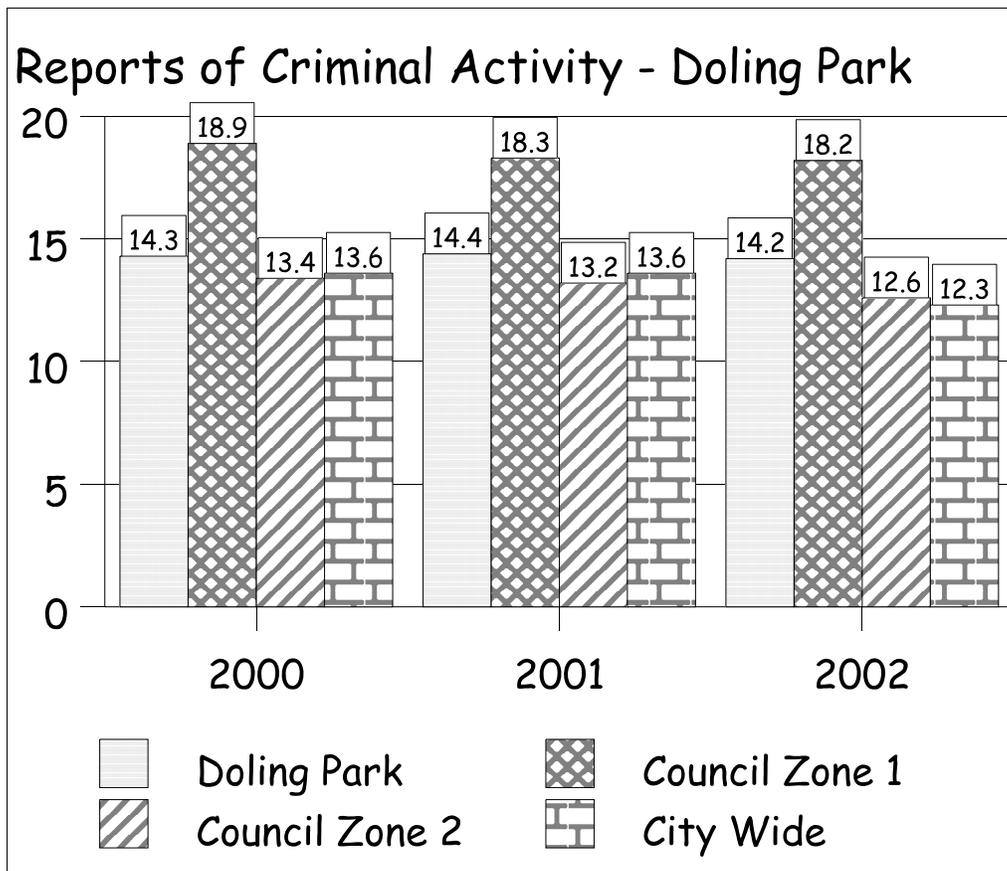


The percentage of teenagers within Doling Park who are enrolled in school or have graduated is 86.12%. In Council Zone 1 it is 81.07% and in Council Zone 2 it is 89.65%. City wide it is 89.70%.

2000 Census

REPORTS OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

Reports of criminal activity have been compiled from 2000 to 2002 for comparison with your neighborhood, Council Zones 1 & 2, and the city as a whole. These reports include calls for service to the Police Department for the following activities: assault, drugs, general disturbances, noise disturbance, loud parties and residential burglaries. The chart below reflects the number of calls for police service per 100 people in each area.



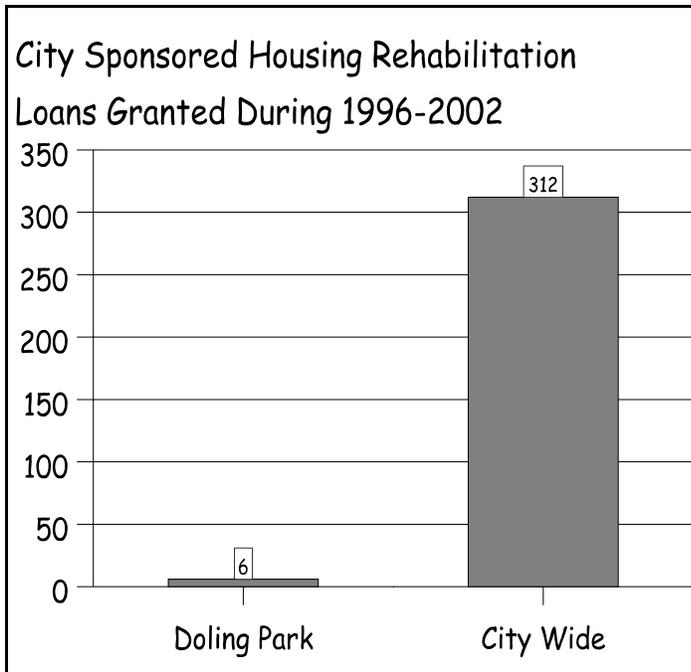
Types of activities are: assault, drugs, general disturbances, noise disturbance, loud parties and residential burglaries.

The Doling Park neighborhood shows a higher concentration of police service calls than Council Zone 2 but a lower concentration than Council Zone 1 and the city as a whole over the last three years. 2002 marks the lowest number of reported crimes for Doling Park with the other 2 years very nearly the same. Reports of criminal activity remain relatively steady for all three years in Council Zones 1 & 2 and the city as a whole.

DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

Housing Rehabilitation Loans

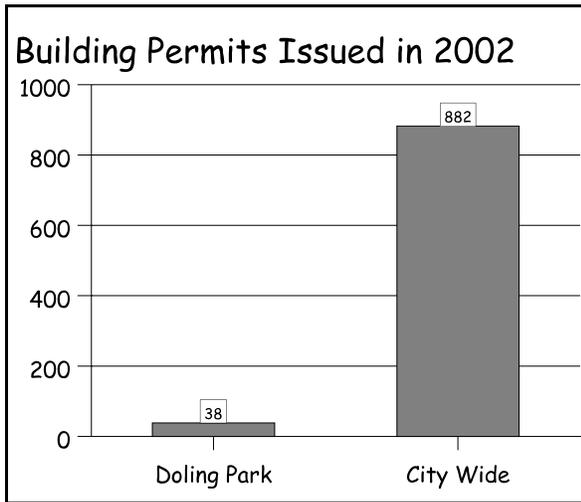
Housing rehabilitation loans granted by the city include low-interest loans for the renovation of owner-occupied homes, and low-interest loans for the rehabilitation of rental properties. This information was retrieved from the City of Springfield, Department of Planning & Development, Grants and Program Implementation Division.



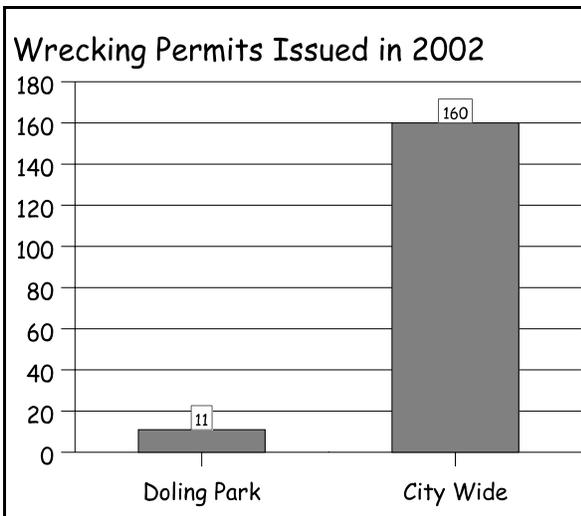
DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

Building and Wrecking Permits

Building permits are issued by the city for activities including the construction of new buildings, additions to existing buildings, remodeling, damage repair, etc. Wrecking permits are issued for any type of demolition activity - whether for part of a structure or an entire structure. This information was retrieved from the City of Springfield, Department of Building Development Services.



City of Springfield, Department of Building Development Services



City of Springfield, Department of Building Development Services

STEP 2: My Neighborhood Is

Workshop participants identified how they experience their neighborhood, and considered those things they want to protect, preserve or enhance. They thought about the landmarks, paths, activity centers, districts, edges or barriers, and features. These were noted on a wall map.

- △ *Landmarks* — significant physical objects, like buildings or signs
- +++ *Paths* — routes people use to get places
- *Activity centers* — gathering places to do some activity
- *Districts* — areas of recognizable character
- \\ *Edges or barriers* — a limit or boundary that prevents people from enjoying the neighborhood or something in it
- ✕ *Features* — things people like and would like to preserve or enhance

Landmarks:

- Historic Homes
- Greenlawn Cemetery
- North Town Mall
- Ozark Empire Fairgrounds
- Dickerson Park Zoo
- Maranatha Village
- Churches
- Dickerson Park Zoo
- Hillcrest High School
- Robberson Elementary School
- Christian Schools
- Central Bible College
- Churches

Paths:

- Route 66 (Kearney)
- Norton Road

Edges or Barriers:

- I-44

Activity Centers:

- Doling Family Center
- Watkins Elementary School
- Fremont Elementary School
- Library Station
- Payne Stewart Golf Course
- Ozark Empire Fairgrounds

Features:

- Route 66 (Kearney)
- Cox North Hospital
- Doctor's Hospital
- Library Station
- Dog Pound / Fulbright
- Payne Stewart Golf Course
- Ozark Empire Fairgrounds
- Dickerson Park Zoo
- Maranatha Village

Neighborhood Images



Activity Centers:
Assessment participants consider the Doling Family Center to be an activity center within their neighborhood.

Landmarks:
The participants of the Doling Neighborhood Assessment gave Greenlawn Cemetery as an example of a landmark within their neighborhood.



Activity Centers:
Workshop participants consider Hillcrest High School to be an activity center.



Landmarks & Activity Centers:

The assessment participants consider all churches within their neighborhood to be both landmarks and activity centers.

Edges or Barriers:

Assessment participants listed Interstate 44 as an edge or barrier within their neighborhood.



Landmarks, Activity Centers & Features:

Workshop participants consider the Ozark Empire Fairgrounds to be a landmark, activity center and a feature within their neighborhood.

STEP 3: My Neighborhood's Assets

Workshop participants identified assets that add value to their neighborhood. The assets include places, groups, organizations, equipment, skills, abilities and any other asset that adds value to the neighborhood. These assets are listed in random order.

- Veterinary Clinic
- Stability of the Neighborhood
- Friends of the Zoo
- PTA Organizations
- Church-Community Oriented Activities
- Diversity - Age, Ethnicity
- Boy Scouts - Girl Scouts
- Law Enforcement Presence
- Accommodating Neighbors and Caring Children
- Meals on Wheels
- Fire Stations
- Fitness Center
- Urgent Care Center
- Motels and Restaurants on Glenstone
- Natural Vegetation & Mature Trees
- Northside Betterment Association
- Church Festival & Neighborhood Oriented Events
- Adopt a School Program Through Churches
- Historic Homes
- Greenlawn Cemetery
- North Town Mall
- Ozark Empire Fairgrounds
- Dickerson Park Zoo
- Maranatha Village
- Churches
- Route 66 (Kearney)
- Norton Road



Neighborhood assessment participants consider Maranatha Village to be an asset to their neighborhood.



North Town Mall is considered an asset to the Doling Park neighborhood.

- Doling Family Center
- Watkins Elementary School
- Fremont Elementary School
- Library Station
- Payne Stewart Golf Course
- Hillcrest High School
- Robberson Elementary School
- Christian Schools
- Central Bible College
- Churches
- Cox North Hospital
- Doctor's Hospital
- Dog Pound / Fulbright



Fire Station 4 is located within the Doling Park neighborhood.



The neighborhood participants considered Payne Stewart Golf Course to be an asset to their neighborhood.

Central Bible College is another example of an asset to the Doling Park neighborhood.



STEP 4: If I Could Fix One Thing

In every neighborhood there are some things that need to be changed. These issues can prevent residents from enjoying their neighborhood and from doing the things they like to do. Below is the list of “fixes” that workshop participants said they would like to see in the Doling Park neighborhood.

- Speeding on Howard and Summit and Talmage
- Upgrade sewer capabilities
- More police patrols in the area
- Traffic on Norton - improvements during fairground events other than the fair
- Intersection at Talmage and Campbell
- Clean/repair ditch along Talmage, Broadway and other streets
- Clean up boarded and dangerous buildings (commercial buildings) in area and along National
- Open the alley at the 800 block East Talmage
- Loose dogs and cats
- Create a neighborhood association
- Add city bus service to Doling Park
- Widen Talmage between Summit and Benton and Livingston
- Left turn arrow at Grant and Norton
- Add a stoplight at Talmage and Kansas
- “Cross Traffic Does Not Stop” sign on Talmage and Broadway
- Owners of rental properties held accountable
- More walking and biking trails
- Snow removal policy
- Drainage improvements at Howard and Smith
- Enforce front yard parking ordinance
- Sidewalk along National from Newton for children attending area schools who are not far enough to ride a school bus
- Improved bike routes
- Beautification program for Kearney Street

STEP 5: Describing My Neighborhood

The *Neighborhoods Plan* recognizes that not all neighborhoods in Springfield are the same. The character and condition of where we live varies according to age, history, type of housing and other factors. Each community has different strengths and opportunities. Each has different assets and priorities that drive unique strategies for improvement. The *Neighborhoods Plan* developed four unique Neighborhood Types that generally describe Springfield neighborhoods. Each Neighborhood Type suggests what actions are required for an area to become or stay healthy. These four types (assigned the colors Blue, Orange, Purple and Green in the Neighborhood Assessment workshop) are:

Developing Conservation Stabilization Redeveloping

The Assessment is a beginning point from which the community can move forward and achieve quality living environments through a commitment to continuous improvement. The descriptions for these four Neighborhood Types are contained in the Doling Park Assessment Workbook.

In the workshop, participants defined the tools, actions and strategies for improving their community. They will use this information to strategically apply public and private resources in a way that is based on existing conditions, trends, opportunities, strengths and needs. Once other neighborhoods identify their type, then similarly "typed" Springfield communities can connect and partner around common issues and projects while assisting each other in developing their organizations.



Those who attended the workshop were asked to vote on the Neighborhood Type that best described their neighborhood. Their choice was **Conservation**.

My neighborhood has been developed for some time. Established businesses and institutions are located in the neighborhood. Places of worship, schools, recreational and entertainment facilities, and businesses provide many opportunities near my home.

Tree-lined streets, historic structures or qualities, public art and/or other amenities characterize the neighborhood and give it a sense of place. Most of the houses are occupied. Little demolition has occurred here and vacant land is scarce.

It appears that both public and private areas are well-maintained, although a house or business periodically falls into disrepair from a lack of routine maintenance (painting, yard upkeep, awning repair, etc.). Some infrastructure repairs may be needed to keep the neighborhood attractive. Generally the problems that do come up can be addressed by our neighborhood association, by a call to the City, or through neighbors getting together to help one another.

STEP 6: Making My Neighborhood Better

The Doling Park workshop participants talked about specific actions their community can take to address the issues and challenges identified earlier in the assessment. They brainstormed ideas, concentrating on those actions that can be performed by the community to improve the neighborhood.

Below are the lists of all the ideas mentioned by workshop participants. They voted on the ideas that they most want implemented to make their neighborhood better.

Things we can do with a **Partner**:

- Coordinate with the neighborhood association to provide targeted enforcement of speeding on streets such as N. Howard Ave. and N. Campbell Ave. and determine ways to alter patrols to increase visibility in the neighborhood. (City, Neighborhood)
- Add a stoplight at the intersection of Talmage and Kansas to provide for safer access to the shopping center on the west side. (City, MoDOT)
- Work with Ozarks Greenways to provide more walking and biking trails within the neighborhood. (Neighborhood, Ozark Greenways)
- Coordinate traffic signals along Kansas Expressway. (City/MoDOT)
- Improve the partnership between the City and Fairgrounds to help alleviate traffic issues on Norton during the Fair and other events.
- Work with Caring Communities to establish a neighborhood association.
- Partner with MoDOT, neighborhoods, and the City to promote a beautification effort on Kearney St.
- Partner with Greene County to widen N. National past the City limits.

Things the **City** should do:

- Improve narrow open ditch street segment along Talmage, Livingston (Fort to Kansas), and Kerr (Fort to Broadway) streets.
- Adopt a rental property registration and/or inspection program to address maintenance issues.

- Provide alley access to the rear of properties within the 800 block of E. Talmage (north side) utilizing the existing 5 foot utility easement.
- Prevent Smith Street drainage from flowing north into a private portion of N. Howard Ave (problems caused by clogged culverts and a fire hydrant at this location).
- Clean up boarded and dangerous buildings (commercial building included).
- Consider regulations to deal with loose cats in a similar manner as dogs.
- Revise a bus route to add service to the community centers within Doling Park. (City Utilities)
- Consider altering or redesigning the intersection of W. Talmage and N. Campbell to discourage traffic on Talmage that fails to obey signage.
- Revise the snow removal policy to ensure that salt is quickly added to streets with inclines during bad weather.
- Clean and repair culverts and ditches along w. Talmage, and on N. Broadway from W. Talmage to W. Kerr.
- Expand the sidewalk network within the neighborhood.
- Pro-actively enforce front yard parking ordinances.
- Expand the sewer system to areas within the Doling Park assessment area that are currently without sewer service.
- Install a traffic calming device at N. Howard and W. Talmage (to alleviate speeding on N. Howard).
- Install a sign at W. Talmage and N. Broadway indicating "Cross Traffic Does Not Stop."
- Work with subcontractors to provide equipment and service to accelerate snow removal.
- Install a left turn arrow at N. Grant and W. Norton.
- Provide an overview and explanation of plans for greenway trails in the vicinity of the Doling Park assessment area.
- Create and expand bike routes, and provide more bike route identification signage.
- Create a responsible driving campaign that includes items such as "Drive Friendly" signs and public service announcements.
- Install a sidewalk along E. Norton and N. National Ave north to the City limits.



Neighborhood participants seen here are working on prioritizing actions they would like to see within their neighborhood.

Assessment participants are seen here voting on the top priorities to improve their neighborhood.



CITY ACTION PLAN

PRIORITIES

During the Neighborhood Assessment workshop, Doling Park residents identified 29 actions that they could do “themselves”, “with a partner”, or actions the “city” could take. Following the workshop, attendees voted for the actions that they felt were the most necessary to improve their neighborhoods. Doling residents chose the following actions as their top priorities:

1. The **City** should improve narrow open ditch street segments along Talmage, Livingston (Fort to Kansas), and Kerr streets.
2. The neighborhood should **partner** with the City to provide targeted enforcement of speeding on streets such as N. Howard Ave. and N. Campbell Ave.; and, to determine ways to alter patrols to increase visibility in the neighborhood.
3. The City should **partner** with MoDOT to add a stoplight at the intersection of Talmage and Kansas to provide for safer access to the shopping center on the west side of the intersection.
4. The **City** should adopt a rental property registration and/or inspection program to address maintenance issues within the assessment area.
5. The **City** should provide alley access to the rear of properties within the 800 block of N. Talmage Ave. (north side) utilizing the existing 5 foot utility easement.
6. The **City** should prevent Smith Street drainage from flowing north into a private portion of N. Howard Ave. (to address problems caused by blocked culverts and a fire hydrant at this location).
7. The neighborhood should **partner** with Ozark Greenways to provide more walking and biking trails within the neighborhood.
8. The **City** should clean-up dangerous and boarded buildings within the assessment area (including commercial buildings).
9. The **City** should consider regulations to deal with feral cats in a similar manner as loose dogs.
10. The **City (City Utilities)** should revise a bus route to add service to the community centers within Doling Park.

11. The City should consider altering or redesigning the intersection of W. Talmage and N. Campbell to discourage traffic on Talmage that fails to obey signage.
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CITY ACTION ON PRIORITIES

Doling Park participants were told throughout the Neighborhood Assessment workshop that the city could only focus on a few activities in the short term. Based on the input and review of the priorities identified by Doling Park residents, various City departments and other organizations have committed to taking the following three (3) actions in the Doling Park Neighborhood Assessment Area:

Issue: The City should improve narrow open ditch street segments along Talmage, Livingston (Fort to Kansas), and Kerr streets.

Response: A portion of Talmage Street west of Broadway will be provided with curb and gutter in association with a storm water improvement. Due to resident input at the neighborhood assessment workshop, neighborhood assessment funding will be used to extend the previously proposed curb and gutter further east to the Talmage/Broadway intersection. Work is anticipated to begin in the Spring/Summer of 2004.

The short term solution to the other areas mentioned above is to replace driveway culverts that have deteriorated over the years and to clean out silted ditches. Driveway approaches are the responsibility of the property owner and the standard policy is that the City will place driveway pipes if the property owner will provide the materials. This is one way the City can help control the cost of driveway pipe placement for the property owners. Also, to place the new pipes and to re-establish the ditch flow lines, the ditches would have to be deepened to about 18 inches, to place the pipes and provide adequate cover over the pipes. Inadequate cover over the existing driveway pipes is the cause of the deterioration of the pipes in the first place. To accomplish this all of the affected property owners would have to agree to the conditions of the project and would need to realize that the "cleaned out ditches" would be deeper and more difficult to mow.

Responsible Department: Public Works

Issue: The neighborhood should **partner** with Ozark Greenways to provide more walking and biking trails within the neighborhood.

Response: Ozark Greenways and Springfield/Greene County Park Board efforts are currently focused on the development of the South Dry Sac River Greenway north of the Doling Park neighborhood assessment area. The first segment of this 12.3 mile trail connecting Ritter Springs Park and Valley Water Mill will be constructed between Ritter Springs Park and the Lost Hills Natural Resource area in the near future. The only potential greenway trail located within the Doling Park neighborhood assessment area is the Pea Ridge Creek Greenway extending north from Doling Park past Hillcrest High School, the Dickerson Park Zoo and terminating at the South Dry Sac River Greenway. As a result of your input at the assessment process, planning efforts have now been accelerated for the development of the Pea Ridge Creek Greenway trail between Doling Park and Norton Road. An initial segment of this trail could be constructed in the 2005/06 fiscal year if adequate easements can be obtained from adjacent property owners.

Responsible Department: Springfield/Greene County Parks Board, Ozark Greenways

Issue: The City should consider altering or redesigning the intersection of W. Talmage and N. Campbell to discourage traffic on Talmage that fails to obey signage.

Response: The Springfield Public Works Department reviewed the traffic conditions at this intersection and found that there has only been one crash since January 2001; however, observations of traffic operations at this location confirm that the large paved intersection with a large radius on the northeast corner contributes to random points of stopping and turning. Public Works anticipates more traffic at this intersection with the completion of the new Doling Park Community Center. To provide for more positive control of traffic, Public Works will install larger stop signs, double yellow centerline strips on all approaches, and stop bars on the Talmage St approaches as soon as weather permits this Spring.

Responsible Department: Public Works

CITY RESPONSE ON PRIORITIES

Some of the priorities identified on pages 27 & 28 can not be undertaken by the City at this time. City action is either not recommended, or can only take place with further involvement and/or information from neighborhood residents. The following list provides some suggestions which neighborhood residents can use to increase the chances that these issues can be better addressed in the future

Issue: The City (City Utilities) should revise a bus route to add service to the community centers within Doling Park.

Response: Bus service was previously provided to Doling Park but was discontinued due to a decrease in rider ship and activity. City Utilities considered the extension of an existing route to renew service to Doling Park in light of new rider ship potential generated by the recent completion of the Doling Family Center and Doling Senior Center. Unfortunately, there was no route identified that can be modified without maintaining their route schedule. Questions about the City Utilities bus system can be directed to Carol Cruise at 863-9000.

Responsible Department: City Utilities

Issue: The neighborhood should partner with the City to provide targeted enforcement of speeding on streets such as N. Howard Ave. and N. Campbell Ave.; and, to determine ways to alter patrols to increase visibility in the neighborhood.

Response: Speeding enforcement and patrol visibility are difficult issues for the Springfield Police Department to address equitably throughout the community. Without a constant police presence in a neighborhood, many residents perceive that their neighborhoods are receiving inadequate services. Doling Park assessment area residents should form a neighborhood association to work directly with their neighborhood police officers in order to form a consensus of how the department can best focus their services in the neighborhood. Neighborhood organization representatives are encouraged to contact their neighborhood officers, Officer Rod Smith at 874-1201, ext. 44137 and Officer Nathan Thomas at 874-1201, ext. 44594 in order to initiate a dialogue.

Responsible Department: Police

Issue: The City should partner with MoDOT to add a stoplight at the intersection of Talmage and Kansas to provide for safer access to the shopping center on the west side of the intersection.

Response: Traffic volumes on Talmage Street at Kansas Expressway are approximately half the amount required to warrant a traffic signal at that location. Therefore, a signal at Talmage and Kansas Expressway is not in foreseeable plans. In addition, Kansas Expressway is a state maintained facility any improvements would require MoDOT approval. The Springfield Public Works Department and MoDOT are working together on an access management plan that would result in relocation of the existing traffic signal at Kansas Expressway and Evergreen Street approximately 700 feet to the south to the south driveway serving the Wal-Mart Supercenter. This location is at the north end of the newly renovated shopping center and will also help to provide safe access for their customers. Although there is no definite time schedule for this signal improvement, it is hoped that, with the cooperation of adjacent businesses, the project may be possible within the next few years.

Responsible Department: Public Works, MoDOT

Issue: The City should adopt a rental property registration and/or inspection program to address maintenance issues within the assessment area.

Response: Rental occupancy permit and rental property inspection programs exist in the Phelps Grove and Rountree neighborhoods. A recent attempt to revise these programs and to expand them into a third Springfield neighborhood has yet to be approved largely due to objections to rental property fees that are necessary to operate the programs efficiently. Any attempt to investigate the potential for such programs in the Doling Park assessment area should be initiated by a neighborhood association through direct dialogue with the Springfield Health Department's Environmental Health section. The Environmental Health section can be reached by calling 864-1666.

Responsible Department: Health

Issue: The City should provide alley access to the rear of properties within the 800 block of N. Talmage Ave. (north side) utilizing the existing 5 foot utility easement.

Response: There is no public right-of-way at this location. The 5 foot utility easement at the rear of these subject properties is private, dedicated solely for the placement of utilities and cannot be used for an alley access. While public

agencies have the right to access the easement for utility work, it remains privately owned. To facilitate the construction of a public alley at this location, property owners would have to construct an improved (paved) alley to city standards and then deed the alley and right-of-way to the City. All affected property owners would have to agree and participate in this project. The property owners would need to work through the Springfield Planning Department on the dedication and City Council would have to accept the donated right-of-way in order for the City to assume maintenance responsibilities.

Responsible Department: N/A (Private property owner responsibility)

Issue: The City should prevent Smith Street drainage from flowing north into a private portion of N. Howard Ave. (to address problems caused by blocked culverts and a fire hydrant at this location).

Response: The Springfield Public Works Department will check the problems caused by blocked culverts in this vicinity. Public Works will clean out the culverts if necessary. Residents are encouraged to call the City's service request hotline at 864-1011 when they suspect that a culvert has been clogged by debris.

Responsible Department: Public Works

Issue: The City should clean-up dangerous and boarded buildings within the assessment area (including commercial buildings).

Response: Springfield revised its dangerous building regulations in October of 2001. Since that time, the City has abated over 530 dangerous structure problems through board-up, rehabilitation or demolition. These regulations currently focus on residential structures only; however, the City will begin applying these ordinances to commercial structures in other targeted areas. Following a review of how effective these ordinances are on targeted commercial structures, the regulations could be expanded to apply to commercial structures city-wide. Code enforcement of dangerous structures is complaint only. Residents are encouraged to call the City's service request hotline at 864-1011 when they suspect that a building is open and dangerous.

Responsible Department: Building Development Services

Issue: The City should consider regulations to deal with feral or stray cats in a similar manner as loose dogs.

Response: A law to address the issue of feral and stray cats was proposed to Springfield City Council a few years ago but was not passed due to a significant

amount of opposition. A neighborhood association should be formed and should serve as an advocate for reinitiating potential regulations to deal with feral and stray cats. Until a neighborhood association can organize support for such regulations, individual property owners are urged to call the Springfield Health Department's Animal Control section at 864-1126 so that live traps can be set to assist assessment area residents in getting rid of strays.

Responsible Department: Health

CITY ACTION ON OTHER ISSUES

Other actions, while not determined by Neighborhood Assessment participants to be priorities, were proposed that might require City involvement to be undertaken. Of those actions, the City will commit to or has completed the following:

Issue: Install a sign at W. Talmage and N. Broadway indicating "Cross Traffic Does Not Stop".

Response: The Springfield Public Works Department installed a "Cross Traffic Does Not Stop" sign underneath the W. Talmage stop signs at this intersection in January, 2004.

Responsible Department: Public Works

Issue: Pro-actively enforce front yard parking ordinances.

Response: Springfield City Council recently modified zoning regulations which relate to front yard parking. Staff is in the midst of a 6 month period to notify the public that it is re-instituting pro-active front yard parking enforcement. At the completion of this interim period (June 28, 2004) city staff will re-initiate pro-active front yard parking enforcement.

Responsible Department: Police (Parking Services & Community Services Sections), Building Development Services

Issue: Improve the partnership between the City and the Fairgrounds to help alleviate traffic issues on Norton during the fair and other events.

Response: The Springfield Police and Public Works Departments meet annually with the Fairgrounds administration to pre-plan traffic handling for the Fair and for other high traffic events. The group met on January 23, 2004 to discuss changes

needed for the upcoming year to improve traffic circulation, access to and from parking areas and pedestrian safety. New signage (a combination of fixed and variable message) is to be installed on Norton Road, which will help alleviate some of the confusion for motorists approaching the Fairgrounds to encourage proper lane usage and direction to available parking. Public Works' Traffic Management Center continues to coordinate with Police during the Fair. In addition, MoDOT implements a special timing plan for Kansas Expressway at that time.

Responsible Department: Police, Public Works

Issue: Create a responsible driving campaign that includes items such as "Drive Friendly" signs and public service announcements.

Response: The Springfield Public Works Department started a safety campaign in 2001 with "Respect Red", in 2002 with "Drive Friendly," and 2003 to present with "Drive Responsibly." With all of these campaigns we have had help from local radio stations, City Utilities Transit, local merchants, and various other community organizations. Static signs along the roadway were installed with the "Respect Red" and "Drive Friendly" campaigns and many of those signs continue to be in place. The current safety education campaign has an overall theme of "Drive Responsibly" with sub-themes created to address the four greatest contributing circumstances to crashes as shown in crash records. The current theme is "Let Them Have Their Way" which is intended to address the problem of "Failure to Yield". We are continuing to look for ways to get the messages out to the public and have recently added some private partners who are willing to invest in the program. Look for more information on this program in the near future.

Responsible Department: Public Works

Issue: Install a sidewalk along E. Norton and N. National Ave. north to the city limits.

Response: Sidewalks will be constructed on both sides of National Avenue between Norton Rd & Jean St during the National Ave street improvements which is included in the list of projects in the next three year ¼ cent sales tax program.

Responsible Department: Public Works

Acknowledgments



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Tom Finnie, *City Manager*

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Zone 1 Councilman

Mary Collette
General Councilwoman A

Shelia O. Wright
Zone 2 Councilwoman

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