

Sunshine/Holland

A Neighborhood With Heart in the Heart of the City

Neighborhood Assessment Report

Accepted by City Council: June 4, 2007



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 Sunshine/Holland Neighborhood Assessment workshop. Participants mapped their community, and identified assets and priority issues in their neighborhood.

The Sunshine/Holland Neighborhood Assessment workshop was held on September 25, 2005, however the report wasn't accepted by City Council until June 4, 2007. This time lapse was due to staff turnover and training of new staff on the Neighborhood Assessment Team.

Sunshine/ Holland Neighborhood Assessment Area



Department of Planning and Development
City of Springfield, Missouri



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:

A Neighborhood With Heart in the Heart of the City

Other suggested slogans:

- Retro and Proud Of It
- Where East Meets West

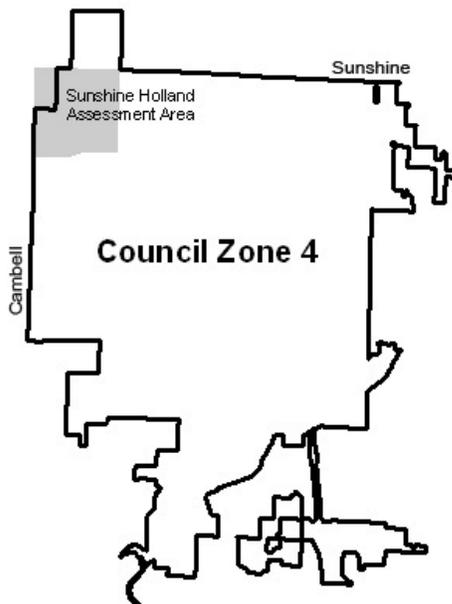


Neighborhood assessment participants are seen here voting on the slogan that best fits their neighborhood.

STEP 1: Facts About My Neighborhood

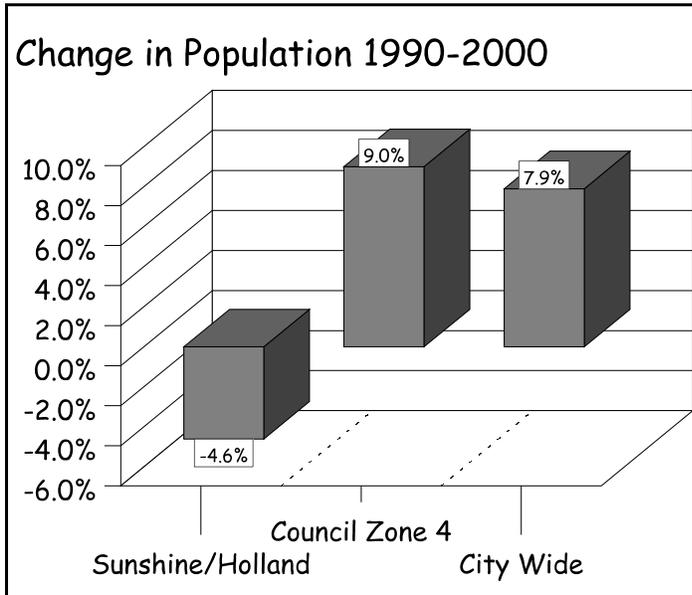
The data presented at the Assessment workshop was from the 2000 Census, the Police Department, Building Development Services and the Planning & Development Department. Below are comments and questions that participants generated at the assessment workshop.

- What are the boundaries of Council Zone 4?



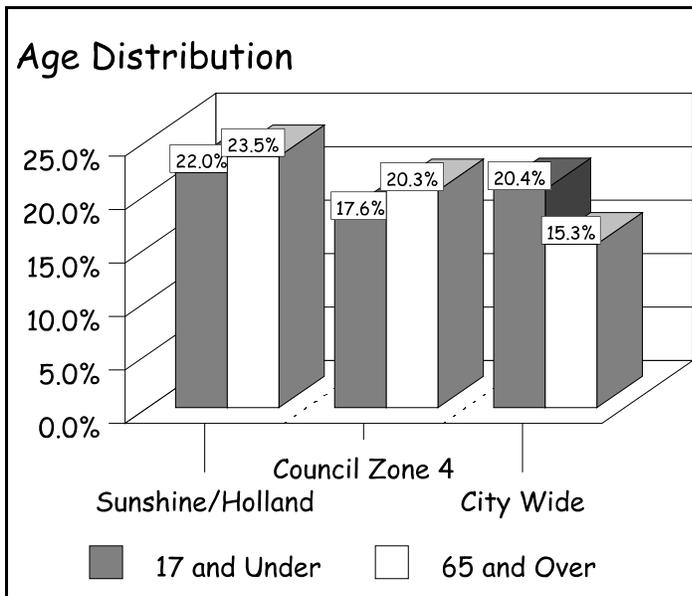
Participants are viewing data about their neighborhood.

POPULATION



2000 Census

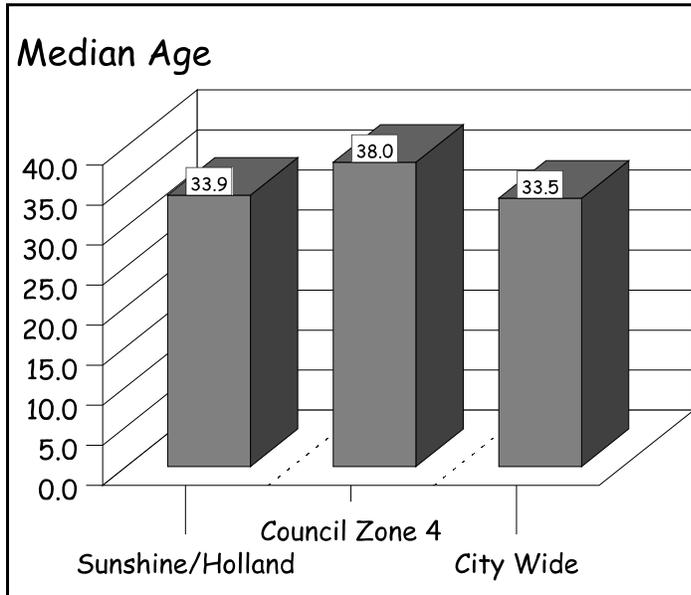
In 2000, there were 3,789 persons living in the Sunshine/Holland neighborhood. Between 1990 and 2000, the population in the Sunshine/Holland neighborhood decreased by -4.6%. By comparison, the population increased in Council Zone 4 by 9.0% and in the city by 7.9%.



2000 Census

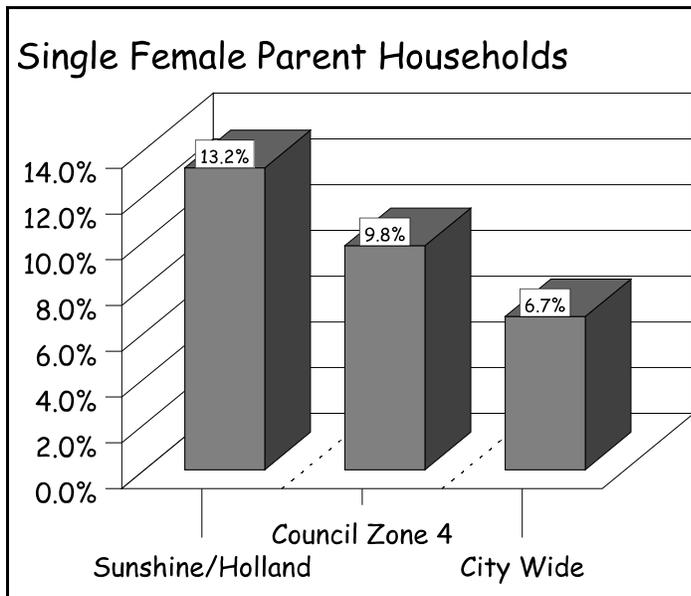
The percentage of people age 17 and under in the Sunshine/Holland neighborhood is 22.0% and 23.5% are age 65 and over. By comparison, Council Zone 4 has 17.6% age 17 and under and 20.3% are age 65 and over. City wide 20.4% are age 17 and under and 15.3% are age 65 and over.

POPULATION



2000 Census

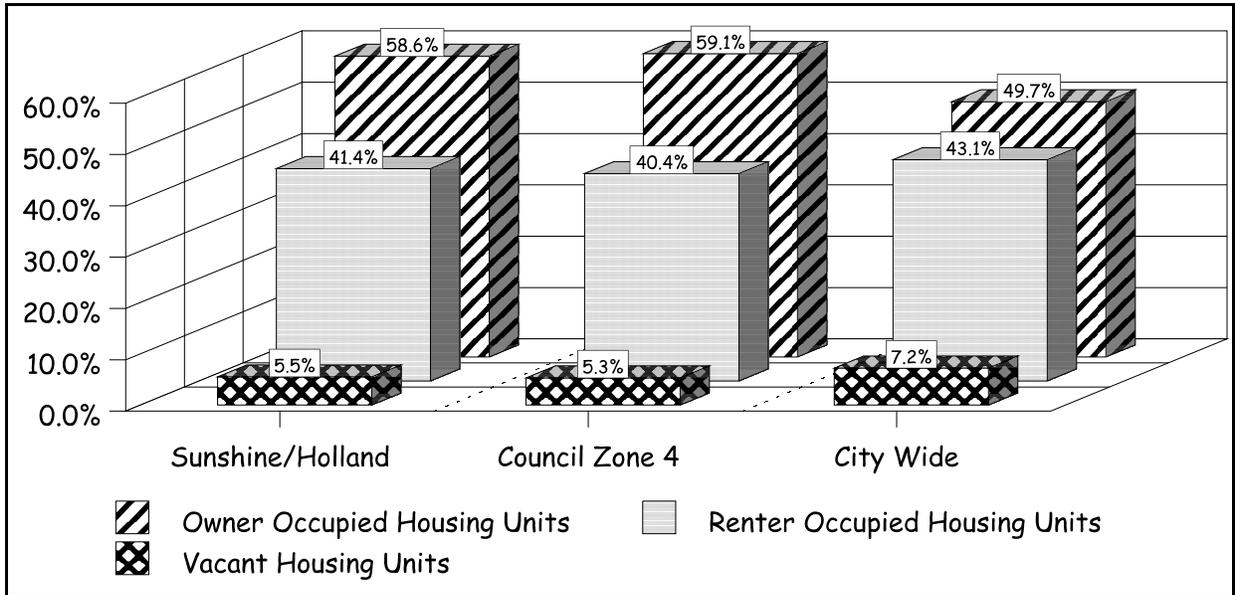
In the Sunshine/Holland neighborhood, the median age is 33, which means that half of the people in your neighborhood are younger than 33, and half are older than 33. In Council Zone 4, the median age is 38, and city wide it is 33.



2000 Census

The percentage of single female parent households (with children under 18 years of age) in the Sunshine/Holland neighborhood is 13.2%. This compares with 9.8% in Council Zone 4 and 6.7% city wide.

HOUSING

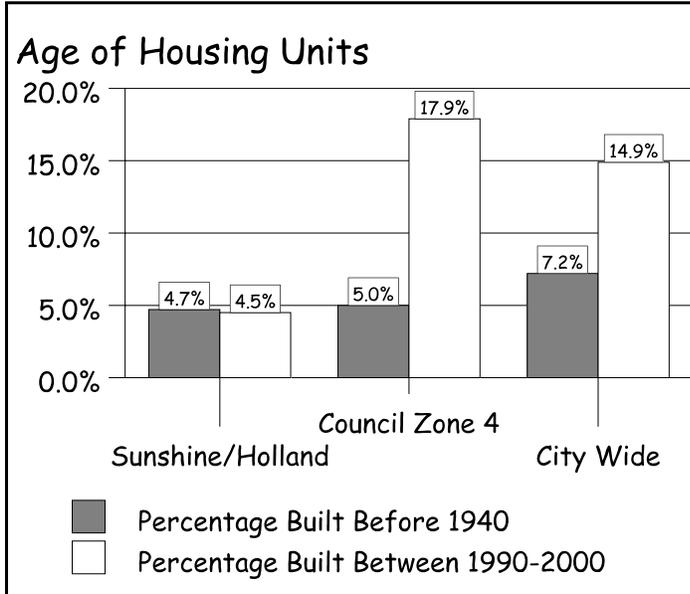


2000 Census

Housing in the Sunshine/Holland neighborhood assessment area is composed of 58.6% owner occupied, 41.4% renter occupied, and 5.5% vacant housing. This is a lower rate of owner occupancy compared to Council Zone 4 but a higher rate of owner occupancy compared to the city as a whole. Council Zone 4 housing is 59.1% owner occupied, 40.4% renter occupied, and 5.3% vacant. City wide housing is 49.7% owner occupied, 43.1% renter occupied, and 7.2% vacant.

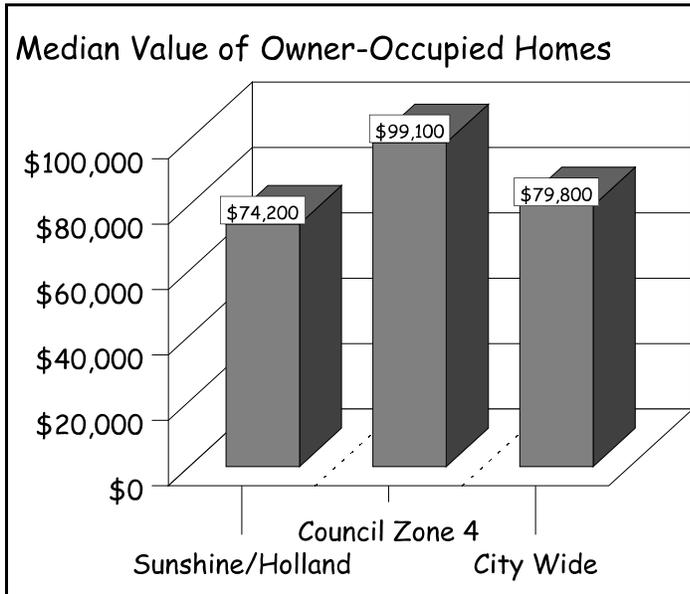
HOUSING

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 Sunshine/Holland neighborhood built before 1940 is 4.7%. This compares with 5.0% in Council Zone 4 and 7.2% city wide. In addition, the percentage of housing units built in the Sunshine/Holland neighborhood between 1990 and 2000 is 4.5%. This compares with 17.9% in Council Zone 4 and 14.9% city wide.

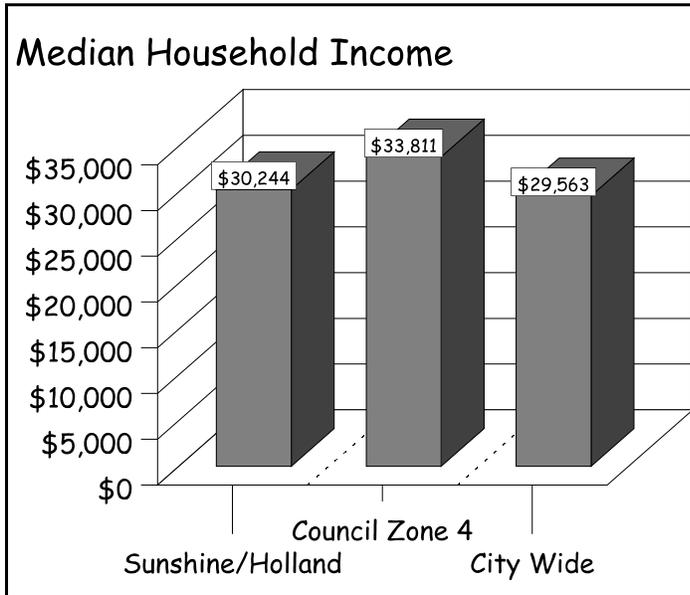
2000 Census



In the Sunshine/Holland neighborhood, the median value of an owner-occupied home is \$74,200. This means that half of the owner-occupied homes in the neighborhood are valued at more than \$74,200 and half are valued for less. The median value of owner-occupied homes in Council Zone 4 is \$99,100 and city wide is \$79,800.

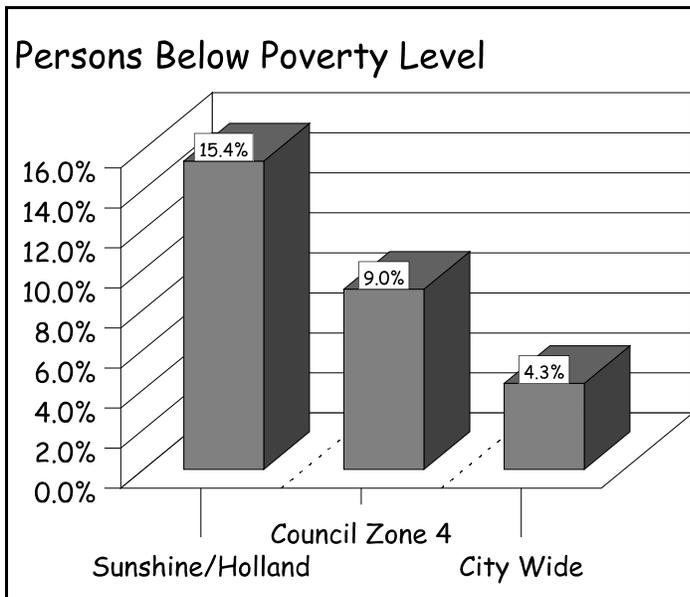
2000 Census

INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT



2000 Census

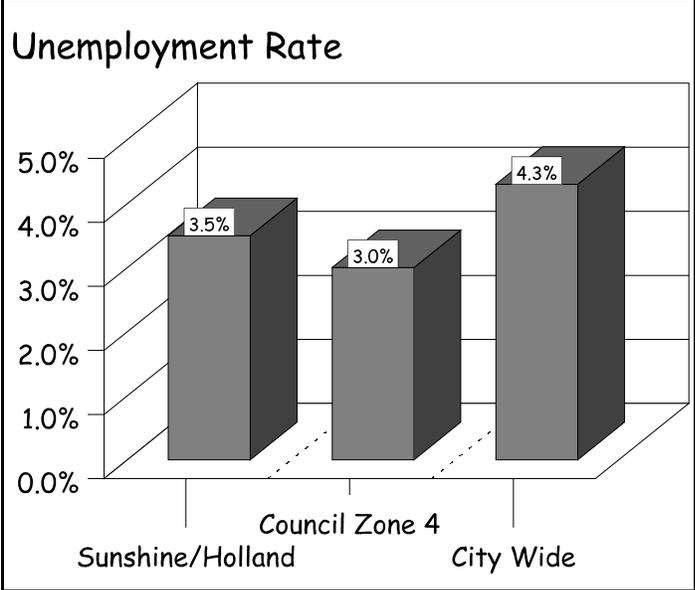
The median household income in the Sunshine/Holland neighborhood is \$30,244, which means that half of the households in the neighborhood have incomes of more than \$30,244 and half have less. This compares with median household incomes of \$33,811 in Council Zone 4 and \$29,563 city wide.



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 the Sunshine/Holland neighborhood is 15.4%. This compares to 9.0% in Council Zone 4 and 4.3% city wide.

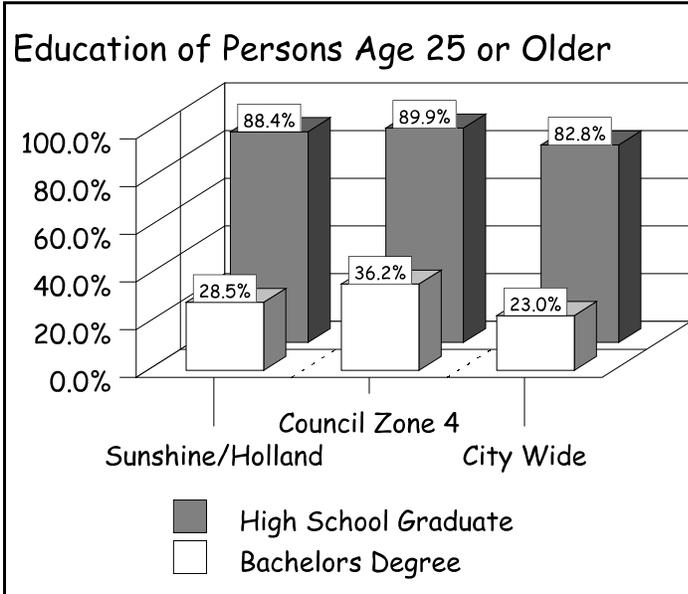
INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT



In the Sunshine/Holland neighborhood, 3.5% of persons are unemployed. In Council Zone 4, the percentage is 3.0%, and city wide the percentage is 4.3%.

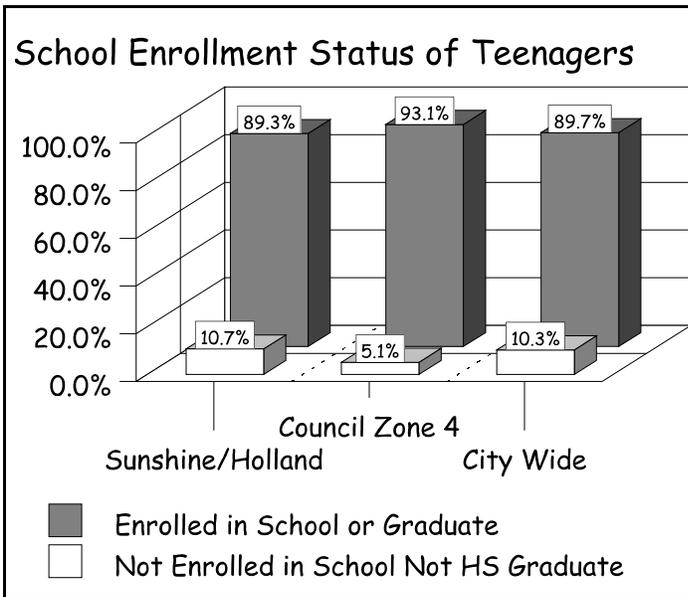
2000 Census

EDUCATION ATTAINMENT AND SCHOOL ENROLLMENT



2000 Census

Information shows highest level of educational attainment by persons 25 years of age or older. The percentage of persons within the Sunshine/Holland neighborhood who have attained a high school diploma as their highest level of education is 88.4%. In Council Zone 4, it is 89.9% and 82.8% city wide.

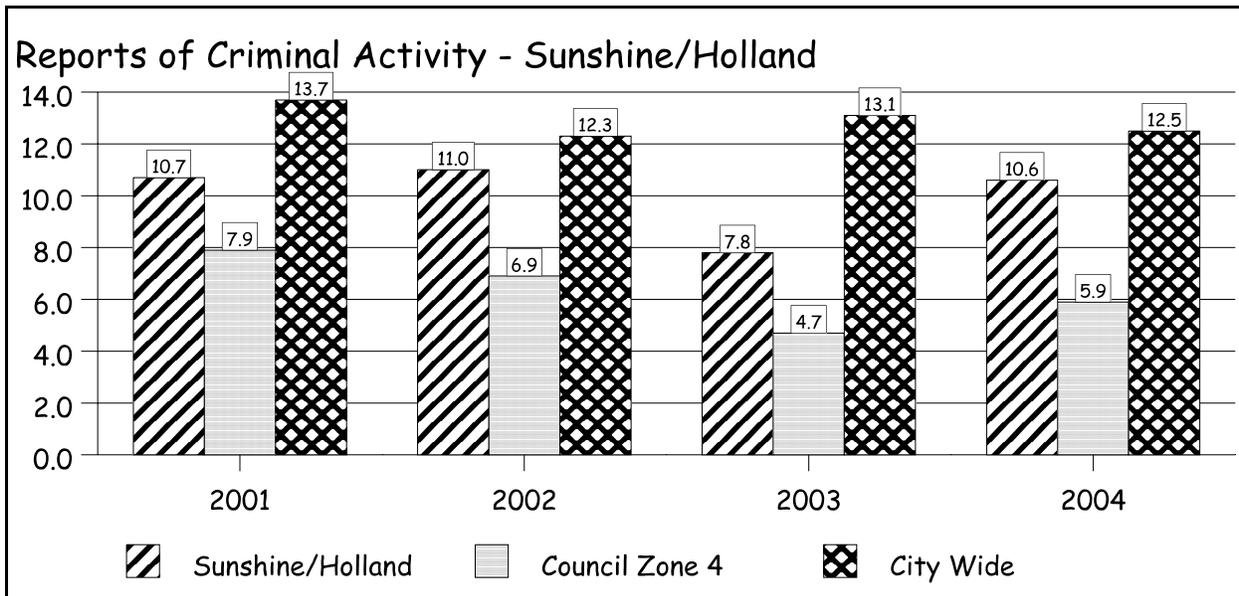


2000 Census

The percentage of teenagers within the Sunshine/Holland neighborhood who are enrolled in school or have graduated is 89.3%. In Council Zone 4 it is 93.1% and 89.7% city wide.

REPORTS OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

Reports of criminal activity have been compiled from the year 2001 to 2004 for comparison with your neighborhood, Council Zone 4, 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.



The Sunshine/Holland neighborhood shows a higher concentration of police service calls than Council Zone 4 and a lower concentration than the city as a whole over the last four years. 2003 marks the lowest number of reported crimes for the Sunshine/Holland neighborhood. Reports of criminal activity were steady in the other years following but do not mirror the decrease experienced by Council Zone 4 and the city as a whole.

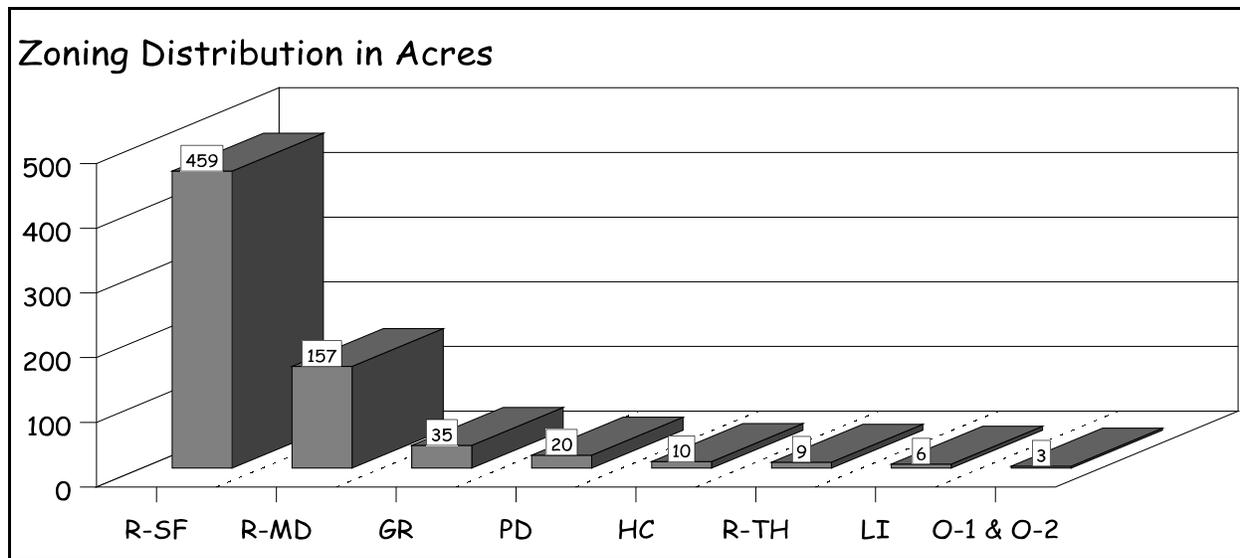
LAND DEVELOPMENT

The following tables illustrate the breakdown of land in the Sunshine/Holland assessment area by zoning district and by actual land use. Zoning regulates the type of uses that are permitted on each piece of property and how that property is developed. Often times a piece of property may contain a land use that is not permitted by the property's zoning. This discrepancy can occur because the existing land use predated the implementation of zoning in the area. Such uses are referred to as "nonconforming." The existence of nonconforming uses is one of the many reasons that data in the land use table is dissimilar to data in the zoning table.

ZONING DISTRIBUTION

The majority of land in the Sunshine/Holland Neighborhood Assessment is zoned Residential, Single Family and is distributed throughout the area. Residential, Medium Density, General Retail and Planned Development zoning districts also make up a large portion of the acreage in the area. The zoning dictates the type of development permitted in specific areas. *Some land use categories have been omitted from this chart due to insignificant acreage or relevance.*

R-SF=Residential, Single-Family; R-MD=Residential, Medium Density Multi-Family; GR=General

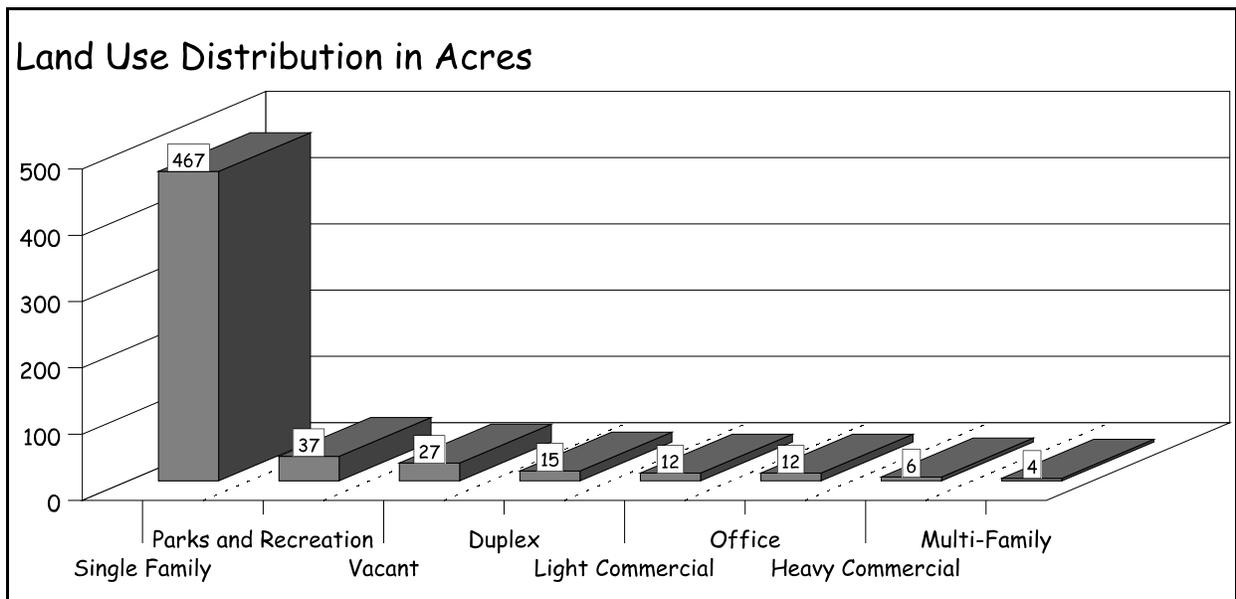


2001 City of Springfield, Department of Planning and Development, Zoning and Subdivision Office

Retail; PD=Planned Development; HC=Highway Commercial; R-TH=Residential, Townhouse; LI=Light Industrial; O-1 & O-2=Office District

LAND USE DISTRIBUTION

This chart represents the land use data obtained from the 2001 aerial survey. Residential single family and parks and recreation land make up the majority of the Sunshine/Holland Neighborhood Assessment area. There is also a concentration of vacant, duplex, light commercial and other uses. Overall the area has a diverse mix of development. *Some land use categories have been omitted due to insignificant acreage or relevance.*



2001 City of Springfield, Department of Planning and Development

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:

- Remains of McDaniel Stables
- St. John's Hospital
- McDaniel Park Wildlife
- McDaniel Park
- Ziggies
- Messiah Lutheran
- Southern Heights Bible Church

Edges or Barriers:

- Lack of access on sidewalks
- Storm water channels

Paths:

- Greenway Trail
- Holland School Trail

Features:

- McDaniel Park
- Greenway Trail

Activity Centers:

- Nu Brew
- McDaniel Park
- South Ministry
- Ziggies
- Holland School Trail
- Southside Senior Center

Neighborhood Images



Landmarks, Activity Centers & Features:

Here is a picture of the entrance to McDaniel Park which assessment participants reported as an important element in their neighborhood.

Landmarks & Activity Centers:

Ziggies is a popular restaurant located within the Sunshine/Holland neighborhood assessment area. Participants consider this restaurant an important feature in their neighborhood.



Activity Centers:

This is a picture of the Southminster Presbyterian Church which neighborhood participants consider an activity center in their neighborhood.

Paths & Features:

This is a segment of the Greenway Trail located within the Sunshine/Holland neighborhood assessment area.



Landmarks:

This is a picture of the entrance to the McDaniel Park Stables that neighborhood participants consider a landmark in their neighborhood.

Activity Centers:

This is a picture of the Nu Brew Coffee House which is an asset to the Sunshine/Holland 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.

- Girl Scout Groups
- Boy Scout Groups
- AA/NA Meetings
- Walkers & Joggers
- Historic homes/features
- Bass Pro
- Community churches
- Holland Elementary PTA
- Jefferson Avenue "A.A." historic marker
- YMCA after school Prime Time
- Mother & Child groups
- Historic Indian grounds
- Walgreens
- Remains of McDaniel Stables
- St. John's Hospital
- Nu Brew
- McDaniel Park Wildlife
- Lack of access on sidewalks
- McDaniel Park
- Greenway trail
- South Ministry
- Ziggies
- Storm water channels
- Holland School trail
- Southside Senior Center
- Messiah Lutheran
- Southern Heights Bible Church



This is a picture of the Southern Heights Bible Church which assessment participants consider an asset to their 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 Sunshine/Holland neighborhood.

- Enforcement of ordinances, especially front yard parking.
- Add additional sidewalks in the Sunshine/Holland neighborhood. Also add crosswalks on Seminole east of Holland.
- No parking on Holland. Have an off-street pick-up site at Holland Elementary.
- Trash receptacles removed from the curb.
- Better enforcement of 4-way stops. Better visibility of school pedestrian signs.
- Form a neighborhood welcoming committee/association.
- Incentive for home ownership.
- Tree trimming on Holland and Hampton.
- Trash pick-up on major thoroughfares.
- Assessment of signs in prominent locations. Signs obscured by trees, etc.
- Allowing garage sale signs to remain long-term.
- Bulky item pick-up problem.
- Add recreation space for kids on Maryland Avenue.
- Faster snow removal of local residential streets.
- Off-street parking where greenway crosses Jefferson.
- Enforce trash and debris in yards on Seminole.
- Reopen ditch section on 2200-2300 blocks of South Maryland.
- Promote mixed use of properties along major streets - to preserve the integrity of the local architecture.
- Add a steel grate to the ditch on south side of Holland Elementary School.
- Perform regular maintenance on the safe walkway at Holland Elementary School.
- Investigate storm water problems in the area (National and Florence, Cherokee, Hampton, Kings).
- Install walkable neighborhood signage (walking maps).
- Front porch furniture ordinance.
- Control speeding on Hampton south of Seminole.
- Curb cut on south end of Holland to access greenway trail.

- Restrict automobile access between Kings to Hampton for safe walking paths.
- Install "CHILDREN AT PLAY" signs in the 2200 block of South Virginia.
- Reduce through traffic on Seminole by adding speed limits, stop signs, traffic calming measure.
- Add a 4-way stop at Roanoke and Crestview.
- Improve the intersection at Seminole and National.
- Allowing new development to add to storm water runoff...negatively effecting our neighborhood.
- Add signal light at Campbell and Seminole.
- Bicycle education program.
- Pick up after your animals.
- Curb and gutter neighborhood wide.
- Add more police officers.
- Repair sidewalk on Holland between Cherokee and Seminole.
- Lack of adequate street lighting.
- Reduce speed limit to 25 MPH.
- Add centerlines to Holland, Jefferson and Roanoke.

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 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 (Blue)	Conservation (Orange)	Stabilization (Purple)	Redeveloping (Green)
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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 description of the Sunshine/Holland Neighborhood Type is contained in this 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.

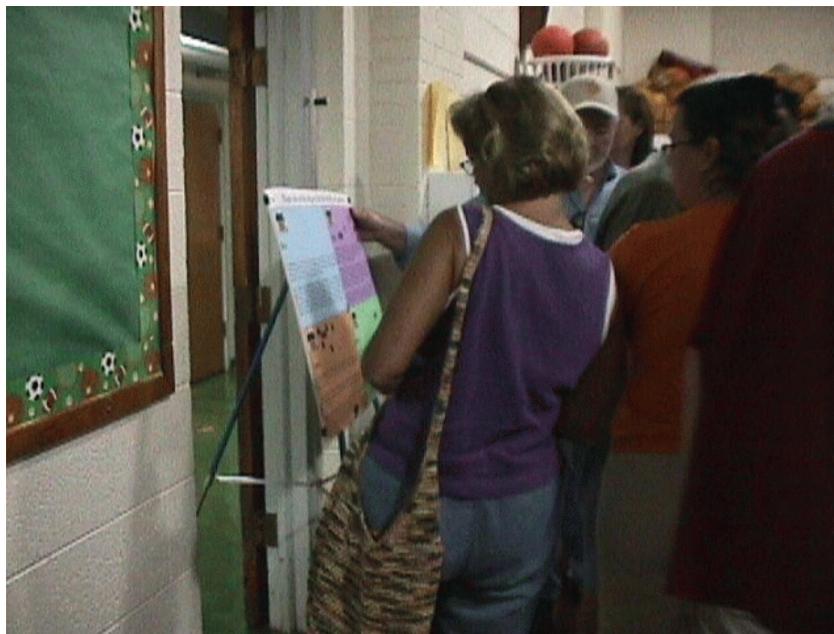


Those who attended the workshop were asked to vote on the Neighborhood Type that best described their neighborhood. Their choice was **Conservation**.

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.



Assessment participants seen here are voting on their neighborhood type.

STEP 6: Making My Neighborhood Better

The Sunshine/Holland 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 **Ourselves**:

- Pick up after animals.

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

- Form a Neighborhood Association/Welcoming Committee.
- Bulky item pick-up.
- Trash pick-up on major thoroughfares.
- Walkable neighborhood signage (walking maps).

Things the **City** should do:

- Install a signal light at Campbell and Seminole.
- Construct additional sidewalks on Kimbrough, Sunshine, and Cherokee. Install crosswalks on Seminole east of Holland. Install sidewalk on everything south of Sunshine.
- Reduce speed limit to 25 MPH.
- Improve intersection at Seminole and National.
- Add centerlines to Holland, Jefferson, and Roanoke.
- Reduce through traffic on Seminole by adding speed limit and stop signs and other traffic calming measures.
- Faster snow removal of local residential streets.
- Incentive for home ownership.
- Assessment of signs in prominent locations obscured by trees, etc.

- Better enforcement of 4-way stops. Better visibility of school signs.
- Enforcement of ordinances, especially front yard parking.
- Install a signal light at Campbell and Seminole.
- No parking on Holland. Have a Holland Elementary off-street pick-up site.
- Lack of adequate street lighting.
- More Police Officers.
- Promote mixed use of properties along major street- to preserve integrity of the local architecture.
- Enforce trash and debris in yards on Seminole.
- Allow new development to add to storm water runoff, negatively affecting our neighborhood.
- Restrict automobile access between Kings to Hampton. Safe walking paths.
- Add steel grate to ditch on south side of Holland School.
- Repair sidewalk on Holland between Cherokee and Seminole.
- Off-street parking where greenway crosses Jefferson.
- Allowing garage sale signs to remain long term.
- Place a "Children at Play" sign in the 2200 block of South Virginia.
- Front Porch Furniture ordinance.
- Storm water problems on National & Florence, Cherokee, Hampton, Kings.
- Regular maintenance of Holland School Walkway (Holland to National- safe walk)
- Curb-cut on south end of Holland to access greenway trail.
- Remove trash receptacles from the curb.
- Speed control on Hampton south of Seminole. Traffic calming.
- Tree trimming on Holland and Hampton.
- Curb and gutter neighborhood wide.
- Bicycle education program.
- Add a 4-way stop at Roanoke and Crestview.
- Reopen ditch section on 2200-2300 blocks of South Maryland.
- Add recreation space for kids on Maryland Avenue.
- Water drainage ditch between the 2300 blocks of South Virginia and Dollison.

CITY ACTION PLAN

PRIORITIES

During the Neighborhood Assessment workshop, Sunshine/Holland residents identified 42 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. Sunshine/Holland residents chose the following actions as their top priorities:

1. The **City** should **partner** with MoDOT and install a signal light at Campbell and Seminole.
 2. The **Neighborhood** should **partner** with the **City** to form a neighborhood association (welcoming committee/association).
 3. The **City** should construct additional sidewalks on Kimbrough /Sunshine/Cherokee. Install crosswalks on Seminole east of Holland. Install sidewalk on everything south of Sunshine.
 4. The **City** should reduce speed limit to 25 MPH.
 5. The **City** should partner with MoDOT to improve intersection at Seminole and National.
 6. The **City** should add centerlines to Holland, Jefferson and Roanoke.
 7. The **City** should reduce through traffic on Seminole by adding speed limit and stop signs and other traffic calming measures.
 8. The **City** should work to remove snow off local residential streets faster.
 9. The **City** provide incentive for home ownership.
 10. The **City** should assess location of prominent signs obscured by trees, etc. (Seminole/Holland flashing red.)
-

CITY ACTION ON PRIORITIES

City staff explained to Sunshine/Holland assessment participants that the City would only be able to focus on a few activities in the short term. Based on the input and review of the priorities identified by Sunshine/Holland residents, various City departments and other organizations have committed to taking the following four actions in the Sunshine/Holland Neighborhood Assessment Area:

Priority #2: The **Neighborhood** should partner with the **City** to form a neighborhood association (welcoming committee/association).

Response: The City provides support for neighborhoods that are interested in starting a neighborhood association. Neighborhood Conservation Office staff will work with a "steering committee" to form a viable neighborhood organization.

Priority # 3: The **City** should construct additional sidewalks on Kimbrough/Sunshine/Cherokee. Install crosswalks on Seminole east of Holland. Install sidewalk on everything south of Sunshine.

Response: The City's primary program to construct new sidewalks is related to the School Sidewalk Program; to efficiently accomplish this goal the City prioritizes new school sidewalks in cooperation with school officials, the PTA and the Public Schools Safety and Security Office. The City's Traffic Engineering Department currently has prioritized needs for Sunshine and Holland schools. These sidewalk needs are used to develop sidewalk priorities for the Capital Improvements Plan and other improvement plans and programs, such as the Neighborhood Assessment Program. Because the locations mentioned are priorities with the School Sidewalk Program, these streets along with others in the immediate vicinity of the schools will be funded for sidewalk construction. The City plans to construct sidewalks on Kimbrough and Kings, in addition to replacing and filling in gaps on Holland and Cherokee.

Traffic Engineering does not support mid-block crosswalks on Secondary Arterials, such as Seminole, except at designated crosswalk locations; the designated crossing for this area is at Holland.

Priority # 4: The **City** should reduce speed limit to 25 MPH.

Response: The Rountree Neighborhood speed limit change to 25 mph was approved by City Council on October 3, 2005. The Traffic Engineering Division of Public Works has been monitoring vehicle speeds within the Rountree Neighborhood over the past 12 months. This pilot project has been successful in reducing prevailing speeds by 3-5 mph. In the spring of 2007, City Council will be asked to continue the 25 mph speed limit in the Rountree Neighborhood and to potentially expand the 25 mph speed limit to other neighborhood streets in the City. Council approval will be needed before any other streets can be considered for a lower speed limit.

Priority #5: The **City** should partner with MoDOT to improve intersection at Seminole and National.

Response: Although the City does often partner with MoDOT where the particular street/route or intersection is part of the State system, this intersection is not and wouldn't be a situation where the City would partner for an improvement. However, the east approach

to the intersection of Seminole & National was improved a few years ago in conjunction with the vacation of Cherokee Street between Fremont & National. The design and reconstruction of the intersection is a continuation project in the next ¼ Cent Capital Improvements Program approved by voters as part of the February 6, 2007 referendum. Design and construction of the intersection will occur within the next three years.

CITY RESPONSE ON PRIORITIES

Some of the other priorities identified 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.

Priority # 1: The City should partner with MoDOT and install a signal light at Campbell and Seminole.

Response: Although the City does often partner with MoDOT where the particular street/route or intersection is part of the State system, this intersection is not and wouldn't be a situation where the City would partner for an improvement. However, it was anticipated that the realignment of Cherokee Street at Campbell Avenue would increase Seminole traffic; however, traffic volumes on Seminole continue to be at or below the levels prior to the changes on Cherokee Street. Consistent with national traffic engineering practices it is the City's policy to install traffic signals only when a location meets the warrants as established by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). While the existing conditions do not meet these signal warrants, Traffic Engineering will continue to monitor the intersection to determine when signal warrants are met.

Priority # 6: The City should add centerlines to Holland, Jefferson and Roanoke.

Response: Holland & Roanoke are both local residential streets. The City does not typically add centerline marking on local streets for several reasons because it is difficult to sustain on-street parking and a marked centerline makes the street look more like a major traffic artery acceptable for faster traffic. Our policy is to retain parking on local neighborhood streets as a convenience for residents and for the traffic calming benefits. Traffic Engineering will add a centerline on local streets when there is a sharp curve in alignment.

Priority #7: The City should reduce through traffic on Seminole by adding speed limit and stop signs and other traffic calming measures.

Response: The Traffic Engineering Division receives many requests for STOP signs to

interrupt traffic or to slow speeding vehicles. However, studies across the nation show that there is a high number of intentional violations when STOP signs are installed as nuisances or “speedbreakers.” Stop signs are not recommended for the purpose of controlling speed. Studies show that speed may be reduced in the immediate vicinity of unwarranted STOP signs. However, speeds are often higher between intersections than before the signs were installed as motorists attempt to “make up for lost time.” Unwarranted STOP signs also increase air pollution, waste fuel and create more traffic noise. The Traffic Engineering Division has reviewed the speed limit signing and recently conducted additional speed and traffic volume studies along Seminole Street. Traffic counts have shown a steady decline in volumes since 1996. Also, the speeds on Seminole are consistent with other similarly classified streets in Springfield. Traffic Engineering does not support additional 4-way stops on Seminole Street between National and Campbell Avenues.

Priority # 8: The City should work to remove snow off local residential streets faster.

Response: Springfield’s snow removal program, which is consistent with national practices focuses on the major thoroughfare system with a priority given to major thoroughfares; serving hospitals and other emergency care providers, schools, major employment and retail centers. A review of the City’s snow removal policies and procedures was initiated following the December 1991 ice storm, which essentially brought the region to a standstill. A Citizen’s Committee was appointed by Council with representatives from the emergency services industry, the medical, and the business & educational communities. The Committee supported a policy to provide snow routes within two or three blocks of most residents given the magnitude and duration of most winter storms in the Ozarks. Consistent with the Committee’s recommendations the City has increased its storage capacity for de-icing materials, retained the services of a professional weather service to provide real-time (24/7) forecasting, and expanded snow equipment storage capabilities to improve winter storm responsiveness. The City continuously evaluates our snow removal policies to ensure that our citizens are provided with the most cost-effective snow removal program possible with the resources provided (staffing, equipment, and funding).

Priority #9: The City provide incentive for home ownership.

Response: The City currently has a down payment assistance program for households that meet the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) guidelines. These guidelines are based off of household income and the eligible boundaries are determined by census tracts throughout the City that fall within the qualifying income base. The Sunshine/Holland Assessment Area does not meet the income guidelines required by HUD and therefore does not fall within the City’s loan boundaries. However, there are several non-for-profit agencies in Springfield that offer home-buyer education classes promoting home-ownership and smart purchasing practices. For more information about home-buyer education, please contact Urban Neighborhoods Alliance at 865-4774, OACAC at 447-0554, or Consumer Credit Counseling at

889-7474 ext 116.

Priority # 10: The City should assess location of prominent signs obscured by trees, etc. (Seminole/Holland flashing red.)

Response: The Traffic Engineering Division corrects all sign obstructions reported by City staff and the public. Neighborhood residents concerned about obstruction of signs should call 864-1980 to report the locations so that Public Works can take corrective action.

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 # 1: Better enforcement of 4-way stops. Better visibility of school signs.

Response: The request for better enforcement of the 4-way stops in the neighborhood has been relayed to the Springfield Police Department. They will do what they can within their available resources. About five years ago, the Traffic Engineering Division replaced all of the yellow/orange school warning signs with high intensity fluorescent yellow signage. This new signage is a significant improvement in visibility for daytime & nighttime hours. Sign crews can focus their attention on the school signing in the neighborhood and will review those signs for possible obstructions. The Traffic Engineering Division will assign a sign crew to drive the streets around Holland Elementary and will address any sight obstructions.

Issue #2: Install sidewalks on Holland Avenue between Cherokee and Seminole.

Response: The Street Maintenance Division of Public Works has inspected the sidewalks on Holland and identified the sections that are in need of repair or replacement, these repairs will be funded in the summer of 2007.

Issue #3: Storm Water problems on National and Florence, Cherokee, Hampton, and Kings.

Response: Storm Water Services has conducted a preliminary analysis of the area and determined that conveyance system improvements are needed from National & Cherokee to Kings & Seminole. The \$500K project will require neighborhood cooperation on easements and dedicated funding. Although there are currently no funds available to advance this significant project to construction, staff will continue to look for ways to phase the identified

improvements contingent on funding availability. One residential property has been acquired on Seminole, which was needed to advance future improvements.

Issue #4: Speed Control on Hampton south of Seminole.

Response: Traffic Engineering will take speed surveys on each street segment to determine the current speed profile. Traffic Engineering will provide a copy of the study to the Police Department for its use in determining how to target enforcement.

Issue # 5: Tree trimming on Holland & Hampton.

Response: Public Works is responsible for the care of street trees within the public right-of-way. The trimming and pruning of publicly maintained trees is on a five-year maintenance schedule. The trees on these two streets are scheduled to be trimmed in the Spring of 2007.

Issue # 6: Reopen ditch section on 2200-2300 blocks of South Maryland

Response: The 2200-2300 blocks of South Maryland Avenue are open ditch sections with a limited gradient to the south. The Street Maintenance Division will explore the benefits of re-grading the ditches to improve stormwater flows to the south as an interim solution. This project has been placed on the City's unfunded stormwater needs list for future project consideration, which will be required to fully address this neighborhood concern.

CITY OF SPRINGFIELD CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM

Some of the issues in the "City Action Plan" portion of this document reference the City of Springfield *Capital Improvements Program (CIP)*. This section of the Neighborhood Assessment Report provides additional background information on this public infrastructure improvement program.

The *Capital Improvements Program (CIP)* provides a mechanism for scheduling public physical improvements over a number of years. It establishes the City's priorities for public projects based on available financial resources and project ranking criteria. Going beyond just a listing of priority projects, the *CIP* also:

- Provides a mechanism for estimating all of the City's capital needs; and,
- Allows public improvement proposals to be tested against a set of objective criteria (transportation projects are ranked in part based on average daily traffic (ADT), roadway classifications, and crash data); and,
- Provides an opportunity for long-range financial planning and management, which is essential for projects that take more than one year to construct; and,
- Coordinates the activities of various departments in meeting project schedules; and,
- Informs the public of projected capital improvements.

The *CIP* is reviewed and adopted annually by the City Council and includes public infrastructure projects throughout the city. **Within the** Sunshine/Holland Neighborhood Assessment area, the stormwater and street improvements to South Jefferson Avenue is a prime example of a high-priority, high-cost project programmed through the *CIP*.

Acknowledgements



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