

Attractive Community

Introduction

With the completion of MLK Parkway, the NorthSide community will be one of the first images of the City that visitors, as well as area residents, encounter. Improving the appearance of the community will increase resident pride and may also deter crime. Criminal activity often occurs and flourishes in deteriorated areas. The Attractive Community theme group recommends improving the appearance of NorthSide neighborhoods by decreasing the number of code violations, reducing litter, improving streetscapes, increasing green space, rehabilitating residential and commercial structures and implementing a unified signage program. The following objectives and action steps seek to support the Attractive Community goal of preserving the history, character and beauty of the NorthSide residential and commercial neighborhoods.

GOAL

Create an attractive NorthSide community that residents and visitors can enjoy while preserving the history, character and beauty of its residential and commercial neighborhoods.



Objective 1.0 – Reduce Code Violations

Reduce the number of public nuisance, minimum housing, and junk vehicle violations by the following percentages: public nuisances 75%, minimum housing 80%, and junk vehicle 90%, within 5 years (2008). (Base year 2002: 161 public nuisance violations, 89 minimum housing violations, and 69 junk vehicles violations).

Action Steps:

- 1.1.** Aggressively enforce public nuisance, minimum housing and junk vehicle laws.

- 1.2.** Provide sufficient staff resources to enforce the City’s Code of Ordinances.

- 1.3.** Institute an EYES ON THE STREET neighborhood watchdog group to report code violations.

- 1.4.** Develop an EYES ON THE STREET educational packet on what to look for, who to call and why it is important.

- 1.5.** Prepare and distribute EYES ON THE STREET complaint forms to residents to utilize in reporting property violations (overgrown yards, abandoned cars and houses, etc.).

- 1.6.** Showcase EYES ON THE STREET program through Government TV, City website, mailings (utility bills), signage, neighborhood associations, local churches and schools, posters in NorthSide businesses, bulletin boards, local media (newspapers, radio and TV), magnets and postcards.



Action Step 1.1

Lead: City of Wilmington

Funding: City of Wilmington

Timeline: One Year

Action Step 1.2

Lead: City of Wilmington

Funding: City of Wilmington

Timeline: Two Years

Action Step 1.3

Lead: NSNA, City of Wilmington

Funding: NSNA, City of Wilmington

Timeline: One Year

Action Step 1.4

Lead: NSNA, City of Wilmington

Funding: NSNA, City of Wilmington

Timeline: One Year

Action Step 1.5

Lead: NSNA, City of Wilmington

Funding: NSNA, City of Wilmington

Timeline: One Year

Action Step 1.6

Lead: NSNA, City of Wilmington

Funding: Local businesses, NY Times Community Grant Fund, City of Wilmington

Timeline: One Year



Action Step 2.1

Lead: NSNA, City of Wilmington
Funding: City of Wilmington
Timeline: One Year

Action Step 2.2

Lead: Solid Waste, Fire, Environmental Services, GTV and NHC Environmental Management
Funding: City of Wilmington, New Hanover County
Timeline: One Year

Action Step 2.3

Lead: NSNA, City of Wilmington
Funding: CDBG funds
Timeline: Two Years

Action Step 2.4

Lead: City of Wilmington
Funding: City of Wilmington
Timeline: One Year

Action Step 2.5

Lead: City of Wilmington
Funding: City of Wilmington
Timeline: One Year

Action Step 2.6

Lead: City of Wilmington
Funding: City of Wilmington
Timeline: One Year



Objective 2.0 – Decrease Litter

Reduce litter in the NorthSide by targeting “hot spots” that include Nixon Street, N. 4th Street and Red Cross Street within 5 years.

Action Steps:

- 2.1. Establish and implement spring and fall clean-up weekends prior to the Azalea Festival and Riverfest and as needed.
- 2.2. Institute a public awareness program on how and where to dispose of hazardous materials.
- 2.3. Establish a clean-up and repair co-operative for the elderly and physically challenged NorthSide residents.
- 2.4. Install vandalism proof trash receptacles along N. 3rd Street, N. 4th Street, Nixon Street and Red Cross Street commercial business districts.
- 2.5. Install public trash receptacles in areas adjacent to bus stops.
- 2.6. Maintain regular trash pick-up days and enforce solid waste/trashcan ordinance that prohibits leaving items on the street indefinitely.

Objective 3.0 – Revitalization

Revitalize commercial and residential areas in the NorthSide community.

Action Steps:

- 3.1. Conduct a lighting level analysis to determine if the “cobra” lights along the North 4th Street business district can be removed and, if so, remove them.
- 3.2. Paint N. 6th Street Bridge.
- 3.3. Work with the owners of the Independent Ice Plant at N. 6th Street and Brunswick Street to adaptively reuse the building for community or residential uses.
- 3.4. Prepare a Historic Structures Report for the Dudley School which is currently under condemnation.
- 3.5. Expand the National Register and local historic districts. Inform owners of property in National Register Historic Districts that they may be eligible for tax credit incentives for the rehabilitation of historic structures.
- 3.6. Create an annual facade grant program (Community Development Block Grant) for commercial buildings in the City.
- 3.7. Establish an endangered buildings program to preserve or rehabilitate architecturally, culturally or historically significant resources that are threatened by demolition, neglect or are unoccupied.



Action Step 3.1

Lead: Progress Energy, Public Utilities-City of Wilmington

Funding: City of Wilmington

Timeline: Two Years

Action Step 3.2

Lead: City of Wilmington

Funding: City of Wilmington

Timeline: Three Years

Action Step 3.3

Lead: NSNA, City of Wilmington

Funding: CDBG funds, tax credits, and private funds

Timeline: Five Years

Action Step 3.4

Lead: Preservation Engineer

Funding: National Trust for Historic Preservation

Timeline: Six Months

Action Step 3.5

Lead: Historic Preservation Commission

Funding: City of Wilmington, CLG grant funds

Timeline: One Year

Action Step 3.6

Lead: City of Wilmington

Funding: CDBG program funds

Timeline: Six Months

Action Step 3.7

Lead: Historic Preservation Commission and Historic

Wilmington Foundation, NSNA

Funding: CDBG Funds

Timeline: One Year



Action Step 3.8

Lead: Historic Preservation Commission, NSNA

Funding: City of Wilmington

Timeline: One Year

Action Step 3.9

Lead: City of Wilmington

Funding: CDBG Funds

Timeline: One Year

Action Step 3.10

Lead: Historic Preservation Commission, Historic Wilmington Foundation, NSNA, CFCC, Churches

Funding: CDBG funds

Timeline: Two Years

Action Step 3.11

Lead: City of Wilmington

Funding: City of Wilmington

Timeline: One Year

Action Step 3.12

Lead: UNC-W, Historic Wilmington Foundation (Resource only), NSNA, City of Wilmington

Funding: Grants

Timeline: One Year

Action Step 3.13

Lead: NSNA

Funding: NSNA

Timeline: One Year

Action Step 3.14

Lead: NorthSide Community Garden Club

Funding: NorthSide Community Garden Club

Timeline: One Year

3.8. Conduct educational seminars about rehabilitation strategies, including historic preservation tax credits and soft second mortgages for residential and commercial property owners.

3.9. Re-establish the \$1.2 million revolving low-interest loan pool for small businesses.

3.10. Collaborate with public and private organizations to implement new and support existing revitalization programs like paint-fair (to provide color selection assistance) and repair-fair.

3.11. Protect and preserve the historic brick streets in the NorthSide community.

3.12. Establish a historic plaque research program for low-to-moderate income families.

3.13. Establish a NorthSide garden club.

3.14. Institute a program that recognizes "Great Yards" and place award signs in yards quarterly or monthly.

Objective 4.0 – Streetscape Enhancement

Implement streetscapes, landscapes and other measures on public property including signage, pedestrian-scale lighting and other amenities (curb and gutters, trash cans, bus shelters and benches) in the NorthSide community.

Action Steps:

- 4.1. Hire sufficient grounds maintenance employees and equipment to ensure the health, safety and beauty of the existing public parks, street trees and plazas.

- 4.2. Add green-scaping to existing parks by planting grass and trees species to be determined by Parks, Recreation and Downtown Services Department.

- 4.3. Landscape entrances into NorthSide including Holmes Bridge (consider 9/20/02 American Institute of Architects recommendations).

- 4.4. Install brick crosswalks, acorn globed streetlights and street trees throughout the NorthSide community, particularly along the N. 3rd and Red Cross Streets commercial corridors to create a uniform appearance. The streetscape should look like those found along the N. 4th Street business corridor.

- 4.5. Conduct a tree survey and develop an urban reforestation plan.

- 4.6. Install coordinated and unique street and directional signs for each NorthSide neighborhood.



Action Step 4.1

Lead: City of Wilmington

Funding: City of Wilmington

Timeline: Five Years

Action Step 4.2

Lead: City of Wilmington

Funding: City of Wilmington

Timeline: Five Years

Action Step 4.3

Lead: NCDOT

Funding: NCDOT, City of Wilmington (CIP)

Timeline: Three Years

Action Step 4.4

Lead: City of Wilmington

Funding: City of Wilmington

Timeline: Ten Years

Action Step 4.5

Lead: City of Wilmington

Funding: Grants

Timeline: Two Years

Action Step 4.6

Lead: NSNA

Funding: NSNA, Grants

Timeline: One Year

Action Step 4.7

Lead: NSNA, Local Garden Clubs, and City of Wilmington

Funding: United States Department of Agriculture, Seed Companies, Lowes, Home Depot, Local Nurseries

Timeline: Two Years

Action Step 4.8

Lead: City of Wilmington, NSNA

Funding: City of Wilmington

Timeline: One Year



4.7. Create Community Gardens in City owned vacant lots at 511 Swann Street, 1018 N. 6th Street, at 8th and McRae Streets, northwest corner of 10th and Post Streets and fenced property behind the Boys and Girls Club. Community gardens may also be established on private property with the owner's consent such as the southeast corner of N. 6th and Campbell Streets.

4.8. Display appropriate amount of Christmas lights along N. 4th Street during the Christmas Holiday season.

Objective 5.0 – Urban Design

Improve the appearance of the NorthSide community through unified urban design that complements the character and sense of place by incorporating site and building design features that respond to its distinctive cultural, historic and architectural character. Begin local historic district expansion process by the expansion of existing historic district boundaries or creation of new local historic districts or historic overlay districts within ten years.

Action Steps:

- 5.1. Educate NorthSide property owners and residents about the value and benefits of local and national historic districts.

- 5.2. Work with NorthSide property owners and residents to develop and adopt flexible design guidelines, particularly for roofs on existing buildings as well as for windows and synthetic siding for new construction.



Action Step 5.1

Lead: NSNA, Historic Preservation Commission
Funding: City of Wilmington
Timeline: One Year

Action Step 5.2

Lead: NSNA, Historic Preservation Commission
Funding: City of Wilmington, CLG Grants
Timeline: Three Years



Action Step 6.1

Lead: NSNA

Funding: NSNA

Timeline: One Year

Objective 6.0 – Neighborhood Association

Establish a Neighborhood Association to assure the implementation of the NorthSide Community Plan.

Action Steps:

- 6.1. Continue to maintain a NorthSide Neighborhood Association to ensure the implementation of the NorthSide Community Plan, work on neighborhood issues and projects, speak as one voice before public bodies, organize social gatherings, protect residential and commercial neighborhoods, and share information about projects that impact the community.