

# Blueprint for Neighborhood Betterment

- A CITY OF SPRINGFIELD NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING PROGRAM



In response to the Neighborhood Advisory Council's desire to increase planning opportunities for Registered Neighborhood Organizations in the city and impending pressure and need to update five existing neighborhood plans, the Planning and Development Department has developed a new neighborhood planning program. The Blueprint for Neighborhood Betterment (BNB) Program is a structured planning process intended to facilitate updates to several neighborhood plans and develop new plans for those neighborhoods that are without plans. The program will also serve to facilitate input for the Land Use Plan and Capital Improvement Program.

The BNB Program was created to be an efficient and streamlined neighborhood planning process to focus on Land Use Planning with a format and structure intended to collect input on the built environment. The objective is to gain information that is connected directly to quality of life and improvement of the physical environment of each neighborhood. The process aims to identify points of stress and friction for neighborhoods and residents on the fringe. The process should also help to identify opportunities for new development (what types and where), identify qualities residents celebrate about their neighborhood and things they might like to do differently.

The BNB and any other neighborhood plan is an extension of the City's Comprehensive Plan. Plans are not a regulatory, binding document. The Comprehensive Plan and these neighborhood plans are intended to provide guidance and support for policy decisions and future land use development. The plans are intended to track common themes where demographic data and resident input intersect and recommend new strategies for solutions and opportunities to improve the physical development of the neighborhood.

The expedited, interactive, efficient and focused process is expected to take place over the course of 2 meetings in 3 months and is designed to be easily replicated from neighborhood to neighborhood. The proposed process provides 3 options for participation by residents – an online option where residents can respond to all questions and study the maps of their neighborhood, a paper copy option of all the meeting materials and the attendance at the meetings. At the first meeting, attendees will be broken down into "table teams" for small group discussion. Each group will be encouraged to draw on a provided map, record their thoughts and discuss the pre-determined topics with the help of a trained facilitator. At the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting staff will report back with the results as well as share a demographic analysis, trends in community input and vision with the participants. The goal at the end of the process is to have a plan for the neighborhood that is a resident inspired, living document reflective of the neighborhood's vision for improvement.

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**For more information contact:**

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## Preparation and Notice

- Postcard invitations distributed to all neighborhood residents and property owners
- **8 meeting topics** are shared, in advance, to consider before attending the meeting

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## Organizing Neighborhood Input

Following the meeting, Neighborhoods Staff will organize the Neighborhood input and divide it into 4 categories for consideration or action:

1. Neighborhood Planning Priorities
2. Action-Oriented Recommendations
3. City-wide Planning Topics
4. Neighborhood-level Planning Topics

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## Neighborhood BNB Plans are Posted

Following the 2<sup>nd</sup> neighborhood meeting, the City will post the BNB along with a map illustrating the comments and planning considerations on each neighborhood's City-webpage

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## Let's Get Started! 1<sup>st</sup> BNB Meeting

- City will host the 1<sup>st</sup> BNB Neighborhood meeting
- Provide an outline of the timeline and process
- Break into Table Teams
- Each Table Team provides input on the **8 topics** groups shared in the invitation / mailing
- Neighborhood participants are given a map and encouraged to plot and add comments directly to the map

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City staff and trained facilitators will assist each table team by recording answers, keeping time, maintaining focus, answering questions and reporting responses

## BNB Report is Presented 2<sup>nd</sup> BNB Meeting

- The plan (BNB) will be introduced to the neighborhood at a 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, where staff will facilitate strategies for implementation
- All input and information collected at the neighborhood meeting is included for discussion

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## Neighborhood Meeting Topics (order specific)

1. **Locations of significant interest (map exercise)**
2. **Locations of stress or needed improvement (map exercise)**
3. **Neighborhood redevelopment opportunities**
4. **Transition and Friction points – discussion of how and what would be acceptable**
5. **Neighborhood Visioning - discussion of quality of life, character and image development**
6. **Incentives, investments, partnerships and promotional opportunities**
7. **Capital Improvement priorities – nonspecific infrastructure needs**
8. **Other (neighborhood specific)**