

Taking Action

Introduction

This section of the Lavaca Neighborhood Plan focuses on the development of an organizational element within the neighborhood to concentrate efforts on implementing the goals, objectives and actions steps outlined in this plan.

While the Neighborhood Association is listed as a lead partner of many of the actions steps found throughout this plan, there is a need to develop a sub-component of the association that will combine members of the existing neighborhood association and community members not formally affiliated with the association. The new organizational component will work in tandem with the neighborhood association on the implementation of the ideas found in this plan.

In addition, an *ad hoc* committee has been formed to provide oversight and to contribute to the design and construction process for the redevelopment of the former Victoria Courts Site. The formalization of this group will also be addressed in this section.



Goal 1: TAKING ACTION

Including as many community partners as possible, work proactively and with a unified effort to implement the goals, objectives and action steps delineated in the Lavaca Neighborhood Plan.

Objective 1.1: Implementation

Inform, organize and encourage the community to support and act on the ideas found in the Lavaca Neighborhood Plan.

Action Steps:

1.1.1 Organize a sub-component of the Lavaca Neighborhood Association to work exclusively on the implementation of the Lavaca Neighborhood. This organization should:

- *Include residents, business owners, property owners, institutional representatives that are not formally affiliated with the Lavaca Neighborhood Association.*
- *Coordinate implementation efforts with the neighborhood association so as not create redundancies in effort and to ensure a comprehensive effort of implementation occurs.*
- *Ensure issues are addressed according to the priorities of the community-at-large.*

1.1.2 Formalize the existing ad hoc oversight committee into the Victoria Courts Redevelopment Task Force to continue providing oversight and input to the developer and design teams throughout

Lead Partner:
Lavaca NA

Partnerships:
Southtown Urban Main Street Program, District 1 Council Office, Residents, Community institutions, Business/commercial property owners

Timeline:
Immediate (under 1 year)

Funding Sources:
No funding needed

Lead Partners:
Existing ad hoc oversight committee, Lifshutz Companies, Inc., San Antonio Housing Authority



Demolition at the former Victoria Courts site



Completed demolition at the former Victoria Courts site.

the redevelopment activities at the former Victoria Courts Re-development site.

Partnerships:

Lavaca Neighborhood Association, King William Association, COSA (Planning Dept.), Southtown Urban Main Street Program, SA Conservation Society, Business/property owners, Architects/designers

Timeline:

Immediate (under 1 year)

Funding Sources:

No funds required

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Measuring Success

Introduction

This section of the Lavaca Neighborhood Plan focuses on finding ways to measure a level of progress towards goals and objectives of this plan. This focus on indicators will assist with several aspects of measuring the success of the neighborhood plan's implementation.

National examples of indicators include the gross national product index, the incidence of specific diseases per capita or the national unemployment rate. Indicators can be used to measure progress towards achieving community goals, generate attention to neighborhood issues, guide decision-making, and identify trends or patterns. Studying indicators can result in identifying success in implementing a set of goals, objectives and action steps or discover issues that need to be addressed in the community. An example of this scenario could be that the neighborhood publicize the implementation successes based on measurements identified through the indicators or identify issues that need attention by showing a lack of change in a specific negative condition in the community.

HEART OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Indicator 1: Number of Businesses

Measuring the number of new desired businesses within the planning area will accurately gauge the level of progress towards the economic development goals of the neighborhood.

Baseline:

Number of Existing Businesses (00-01)

Desired Future Outcome:

10% Net Increase in the Number of Businesses over 5 years

Data Source:

COSA Development Services Department—Certificates of Occupancy; Southtown Urban Main Street Program

Frequency of Review:

Annually

Indicator 2: Number of Restored or Rehabilitated Homes

Improvement of owner-occupied and rental properties is a major objective found in this plan. Measuring the overall improvement of the quality of the housing stock could be used to attract new residents, retain current residents, as well as, generate a greater sense of personal responsibility and pride in maintaining one's living space in the community.

Baseline:

Current Number (00-01) of Building Permits for housing improvement and/or additions

Desired Future Outcome:

Net percentage increase of restored or rehabilitated homes a year; Net increase of amount of dollars invested in personal properties in a year

Data Source:

COSA Development Services Department— Building Permits

Frequency of Review:

Annually

Indicator 3: Number of Structures Designated as Historic Landmarks, Located in Historic Districts or Conservation Districts

Historic preservation and conservation of the neighborhood character is a major effort within the Lavaca Neighborhood. This indicator will help measure the efforts to maintain the neighborhood's historic character and housing quality.

Baseline:

Number of locally designated structures as of August 2001

Desired Future Outcome:

Increased Number of Designated Structures

Data Source:

COSA Planning Dept., Historic Preservation Division, Neighborhood & Urban Design Division

Frequency of Review:

Annually

GETTING AROUND TOWN AND REBUILDING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

Indicator 1: Number of streets and yardage of streets including sidewalks repaired and/or reconstructed in a five-year period.

Poor street conditions remain a substantial problem, however there are a number of street improvement projects currently underway. Measuring improvements qualitatively can reflect the neighborhood's ability to affect change in the overall condition of streets within the neighborhood.

Baseline:

Total number and yardage of streets in the planning area; Number of street currently under construction or repairs

Desired Future Outcome:

Net increase of distances repaired and improved every year during the five-year period.

Data Source:

COSA Public Works Dept.

Frequency of Review:

Annually

Indicator 2: Involvement in all Major Infrastructure Projects (ex: roads, sidewalks, drainage, sewers, utilities, alleys, etc.) from Concept Initiation through Implementation

Neighborhood involvement in infrastructure will help increase awareness of the amount of investment in the infrastructure, as well as help ensure the area receives infrastructure improvements that are sensible and improve the overall quality of the neighborhood.

Baseline: (will be developed for future projects)

Number of meetings where residents can actively participate

Desired Future Outcome:

Number of neighborhood design goals incorporated into the final design(s)

Data Source:

Dependant upon project, Lavaca Neighborhood Plan

How Often Reviewed?

Dependant upon project

PLACES WHERE WE PLAY, GATHER AND LEARN

Indicator 1: Number of Community Programs Held Within the Planning Area

Providing additional community programs could potentially improve some of the sociological circumstances within the neighborhood. As an end result, increasing the participation in new programs could lead to improvements such as lower incidence of crime, improved levels of education or increased levels of homeownership.

Baseline:

Number of Community Programs currently held within the Planning Area

Desired Future Outcome:

Increased Number of Community Programs

Data Source:

Various Institutional, Religious and Civic Organizations; Lavaca NA should develop a definition and listing of available programs

How Often Reviewed?

Annually

Indicator 2: Gross acreage of recreational / open space within the neighborhood

Lack of open and recreational space has been a constant issue for the Lavaca Neighborhood, however the neighborhood association has made great strides to utilize historically underutilized areas for the purpose providing outdoor amenities for the community at-large. Though available land for use as park space is extremely limited, there remains a few opportunities for the neighborhood to add recreational space to its inventory of amenities.

Baseline:

Current acreage of recreational / open space within the Planning Area

Desired Future Outcome:

Increased gross acreage of dedicated recreational / open space

Data Source:

COSA Planning Dept., Neighborhood & Urban Design Division; COSA Parks & Recreation Dept.

Frequency of Review:

Annually

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