
Q: Why are Neighborhoods Important?

A: Neighborhoods are the building blocks of the community. Within a neighborhood, people form a shared identity, face many similar problems, and are often concerned about the same issues. There are numerous neighborhood areas in Rochester. Some have established boundaries and formal neighborhood associations. Some are newly established developments. Each neighborhood is unique, with its own set of issues and priorities. Neighborhoods are facing a variety of concerns. Some streets in our neighborhood may be dealing with aging housing stock. Newer neighborhood might have traffic problems. Beautification may be a concern. Whatever the issues, each neighborhood needs a vehicle to address the issues so that the community is strengthened and protected.

Neighborhood planning is an opportunity for citizens to take a leading role in their future. The neighborhood planning process enables citizens to work together to identify issues; establish actions to address those issues; set priorities for the actions; identify funding for the actions; and, take the actions. The process includes citizens, governmental, community organizations and other stakeholders working together to develop a common vision for the community. The goal of neighborhood planning is to develop mutual responsibility and collaborative problem solving. The City of Rochester strongly relies on the stability of the individual neighborhoods. An informed, active citizen constituency will help lead our sector towards a stable and healthy future.

2. Q: Why Develop a Neighborhood Plan?

A: Neighborhood plans are undertaken for a number of interrelated reasons, such as:

1. To provide a clear and common vision for the future development/redevelopment of a neighborhood
2. To define actions which address specific issues in the neighborhood
3. To provide information and support for neighborhood positions on proposed actions and changes
4. To provide justification for requests for services and funds To increase citizen involvement and buy-in for the development and enhancement of the neighborhood
5. To strengthen and empower the neighborhood which strengthens the foundation of the City

3. Q: What is a Neighborhood Plan?

A: Neighborhood Plans provide a collaborative process for citizens to work together to improve their neighborhoods and assure a better future. A Neighborhood Plan is a set of strategies developed to preserve or improve specific areas. These strategies may address issues such as land use, zoning, economic development, transportation, safety, beautification and social service delivery. The scope of the plans will vary depending upon the number and intensity of the issues to be addressed.

Identify Boundaries: Neighborhood planning begins with identification of the boundaries of the neighborhood, a comprehensive analysis of social, economic, safety, and housing issues, and a demographic profile. Participation of the residents is imperative because they know best their strengths and needs.

Build Consensus: Through consensus building processes, a plan of action(s) which address specific issues and concerns is developed. The involvement of the residents is critical to the success of these plans. Their involvement assures that the plan is responsive to the residents and provides appropriate solutions to the identified problems.

Develops Strategies: The plan offers action strategies that will be taken to protect and/or improve the neighborhood. The plan will identify quick fixes, short term and long term goals. All supportive data is well documented and included in the plan. Appropriate maps and graphics are used for illustrative purposes.

4. **Q: Who will Develop the Neighborhood Plan?**

5. **Q: What is Needed to Develop and Implement the Neighborhood Plan?**

A: Organization: A dedicated group of neighborhood citizens that represents the general composition of the neighborhood is critical to give leadership to the project.

Commitment of Time and Energy: The planning process may take only several months and it may take many months. Residents and staff must have the commitment to meet as often as necessary during this time.

Skills: The staff and the residents must identify the skills required by the group needed during the planning process, then identify those skills already in place, and obtain training for those skills that are missing.

Information: Information about the neighborhood is a major portion of the planning process. Identification of necessary information, collection of available information and creation of missing information is necessary.

Government Support: Government support of the planning process is critical to the success of the planning process. The implementation of the plan is not possible without a partnership between the neighborhood and government.

6. **Q: What are the Steps in the Neighborhood Planning Process?**

A: Once the neighborhood boundaries are established, interested residents must be contacted. A public meeting will be held to educate the residents on the importance of neighborhood planning and to seek participants for the planning process. Once the a planning team@ is in place, the process will include:

- Organizing a Neighborhood Study Group
- Collecting Information
- Surveying Results
- Identifying Issues and Assets
- Establishing a Vision for the Future
- Setting Goals, Strategies and Action Items
- Analyzing Alternative Solutions and Funding Opportunities
- Producing the Plan Document
- Approving/Adopting the Plan
- Implementing the Strategies
- Monitoring, Evaluating and Updating the Plan



U.S. Census Bureau American FactFinder

FACT SHEET

Zip Code Tabulation Area 14621

View a Fact Sheet for a race, ethnic, or ancestry group

Census 2000 Demographic Profile Highlights:

General Characteristics - show more >>

	Number	Percent	U.S.		
Total population	35,977			map	brief
Male	16,565	46.0	49.1%	map	brief
Female	19,412	54.0	50.9%	map	brief
Median age (years)	30.4	(X)	35.3	map	brief
Under 5 years	3,134	8.7	6.8%	map	
18 years and over	23,780	66.1	74.3%		
65 years and over	4,424	12.3	12.4%	map	brief
One race	34,150	94.9	97.6%		
White	11,962	33.2	75.1%	map	brief
Black or African American	15,578	43.3	12.3%	map	brief
American Indian and Alaska Native	160	0.4	0.9%	map	brief
Asian	805	2.2	3.6%	map	brief
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	22	0.1	0.1%	map	brief
Some other race	5,623	15.6	5.5%	map	
Two or more races	1,827	5.1	2.4%	map	brief
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	9,479	26.3	12.5%	map	brief
Household population	35,330	98.2	97.2%	map	brief
Group quarters population	647	1.8	2.8%	map	
Average household size	2.60	(X)	2.59	map	brief
Average family size	3.39	(X)	3.14	map	
Total housing units	15,703			map	
Occupied housing units	13,602	86.6	91.0%		brief
Owner-occupied housing units	5,062	37.2	66.2%	map	
Renter-occupied housing units	8,540	62.8	33.8%	map	brief
Vacant housing units	2,101	13.4	9.0%	map	

Social Characteristics - show more >>

	Number	Percent	U.S.		
Population 25 years and over	20,875				
High school graduate or higher	12,713	60.9	80.4%	map	brief
Bachelor's degree or higher	1,666	8.0	24.4%	map	
Civilian veterans (civilian population 18 years and over)	2,145	8.9	12.7%	map	brief
Disability status (population 5 years and over)	10,130	30.8	19.3%	map	brief
Foreign born	3,474	9.5	11.1%	map	brief
Male, Now married, except separated (population 15 years and over)	4,289	37.6	56.7%		brief
Female, Now married, except separated (population 15 years and over)	4,281	29.8	52.1%		brief
Speak a language other than English at home (population 5 years and over)	10,563	31.7	17.9%	map	brief

Economic Characteristics - show more >>

	Number	Percent	U.S.		
In labor force (population 16 years and over)	13,390	53.2	63.9%		brief
Mean travel time to work in minutes (workers 16 years and older)	22.1	(X)	25.5	map	brief
Median household income in 1999 (dollars)	22,107	(X)	41,994	map	
Median family income in 1999 (dollars)	26,167	(X)	50,046	map	
Per capita income in 1999 (dollars)	12,235	(X)	21,587	map	
Families below poverty level	2,414	28.9	9.2%	map	brief
Individuals below poverty level	11,360	31.8	12.4%	map	

Housing Characteristics - show more >>

	Number	Percent	U.S.		
Single-family owner-occupied homes	4,457				brief