

## NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN PROCESS

The Neighborhood Plan is the result of a planning process which partners the Neighborhood with City Planners and other support staff: such as Traffic Codes, Engineering, Public Works, and Police Departments. The process begins with a Neighborhood commitment to review and resolve specific issues which are concerns in the Neighborhood. The Neighborhood seeks to resolve these issues by showing the existing conditions through neighborhood inventories and seeking various recommendations to these concerns which will produce a positive outcome. The neighborhood becomes involved through resident committees which gather data on street lighting, sidewalks, street and alley pavement, and traffic and crime safety.

A consultant team retained by the Euclid/St. Paul's Neighborhood Association prepared the Euclid/St. Paul's Neighborhood Plan. The team worked in conjunction with the Euclid/St. Paul's Neighborhood Association Planning Committee and the Traffic Study Committee. Technical assistance was provided by the City of St. Petersburg Neighborhood Partnership Department. Funding for the Neighborhood Plan was made possible through the City of St. Petersburg's Neighborhood Partnership Grant Program.

Gathering of data, both tangible and observable, was compiled in the first phase of the planning process. The neighborhood had the benefit of a survey completed in 1997 of the neighborhood's architecture by Judith Kitchen, architectural historian. Other segments of the data gathering phase included land use, zoning, property values, boarded and vacant properties, aerial photography, utilities, reclaimed water, lighting, traffic plans, and other inventory

elements.

The consultant team researched current City neighborhood improvement programs in terms of funding and procedures as well as general demographic and real estate trends in the Euclid/St. Paul's Neighborhood.

Part of the data gathering phase is community involvement in developing a vision statement and goals for the future: A neighborhood traffic workshop was held in June 2000, and produced resident-driven input on how to reduce the traffic concerns in the neighborhood.

In January 2001, the neighborhood plan process was launched with the inception of the Euclid/St. Paul's Planning Committee. In early 2001, a Neighborhood Survey of pertinent questions was developed and written by the Planning Committee and the consultant and was mailed to all addresses in the Neighborhood to supplement and update input generated at past Neighborhood



Association meetings. The 2001 Neighborhood Survey, was geographically divided into 6 sections, color-coded, and all responses were logged in by section. Creating the sections gives

the Neighborhood Association the flexibility to review and make use of specialized response zones and rates that could target specific concerns within a defined area. The survey distribution is as follows (see survey zones map on the page 12).

Number of households in each of the six zones:

- Zone 1 (green) property owners = 120; renters = 23
- Zone 2 (mustard) property owners = 281; renters = 72
- Zone 3 (yellow) property owners = 112; renters = 69
- Zone 4 (pink) property owners = 110; renters = 21
- Zone 5 (orange) property owners = 205; renters = 28
- Zone 6 (blue) property owners = 52; renters = 19

A total of 1,112 surveys were mailed by City of St. Petersburg Neighborhood Partnership. The Euclid/ St. Paul's Neighborhood realized a 24% return of completed surveys.

The responses to the survey were reviewed, categorized, and evaluated to become a part of this document. The majority of residents responding to the Neighborhood Survey perceived the overall quality of the neighborhood as good (68%), fair (21%), poor (2%), and excellent (9%). Many of the residents value the Euclid/St. Paul's Neighborhood for its sense of community, nice homes and yards, architectural styles, churches and schools, and convenience to many places near by. The Neighborhood Survey indicated that the top priority with regards to improvements to the neighborhood is protecting the neighborhood character, and secondly, neighborhood beautification.

The neighborhood's top six most valued characteristics, in order of importance, as perceived by the residents's neighborhood survey (see graph of Valued Neighborhood Characteristics on page 13):

- trees and landscaping
- neighborhood character
- convenience to downtown
- brick streets
- neighborhood friendliness
- historic preservation.

The Neighborhood Survey identified six items as highest in importance for neighborhood improvements and that would highlight the body of the Neighborhood Plan as follows (see graph of Valued Neighborhood Characteristics on page 14):

- protecting neighborhood character
- enhancing neighborhood beautification
- enhancing crime prevention
- slowing and decreasing traffic
- upgrading neighborhood housing / code enforcement
- historic preservation.

Other items identified as a lesser priority, but still important were (in order from higher to lower):

- install decorative street lighting
- restrict or enhance rental properties
- reclaimed water sprinkling / recycling
- improve street and alley pavement
- improve existing hex block walks or install new sidewalks
- repair brick streets
- restrict or enhance commercial establishments
- availability of parks and recreation
- restrict neighborhood noise
- restrict or enhance on-street parking
- neighborhood identification / signage
- natural gas availability



**Shade and canopied streets  
are a valued neighborhood amenity**



**Alleys (paved, brick or dirt)  
are a valued neighborhood amenity**

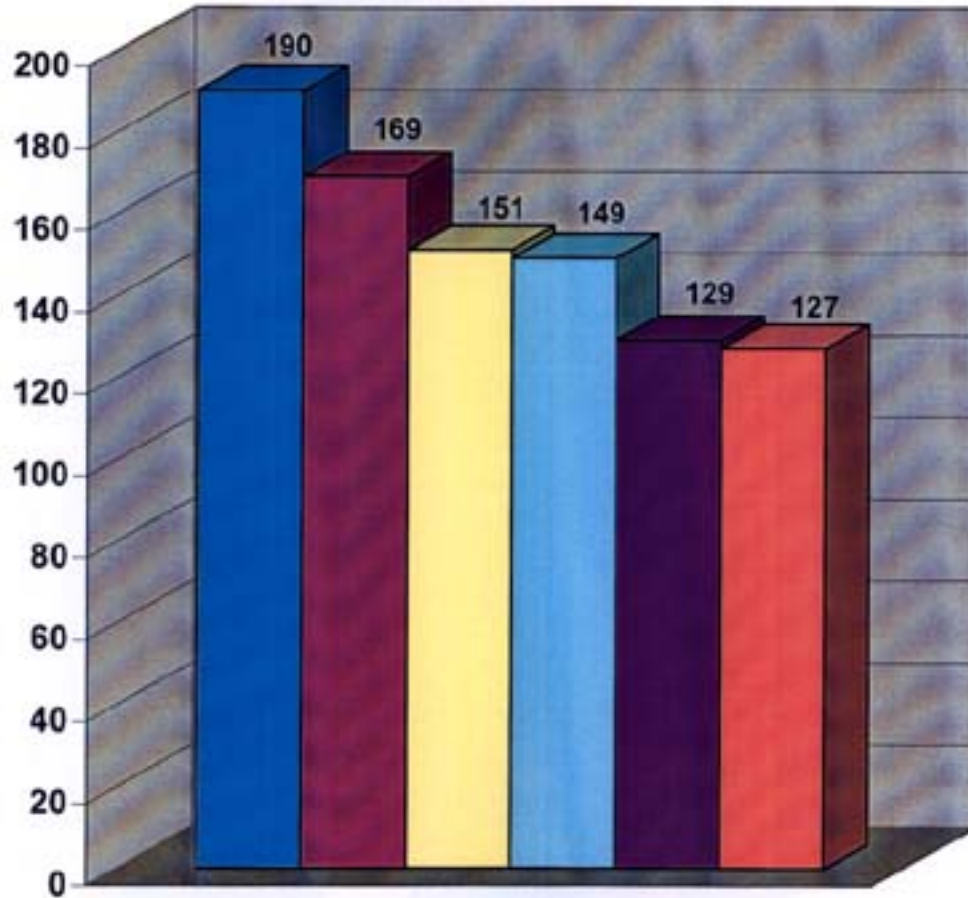


**Hexblock sidewalks  
are a valued neighborhood amenity**



**Front porches for socializing  
are a valued neighborhood amenity**

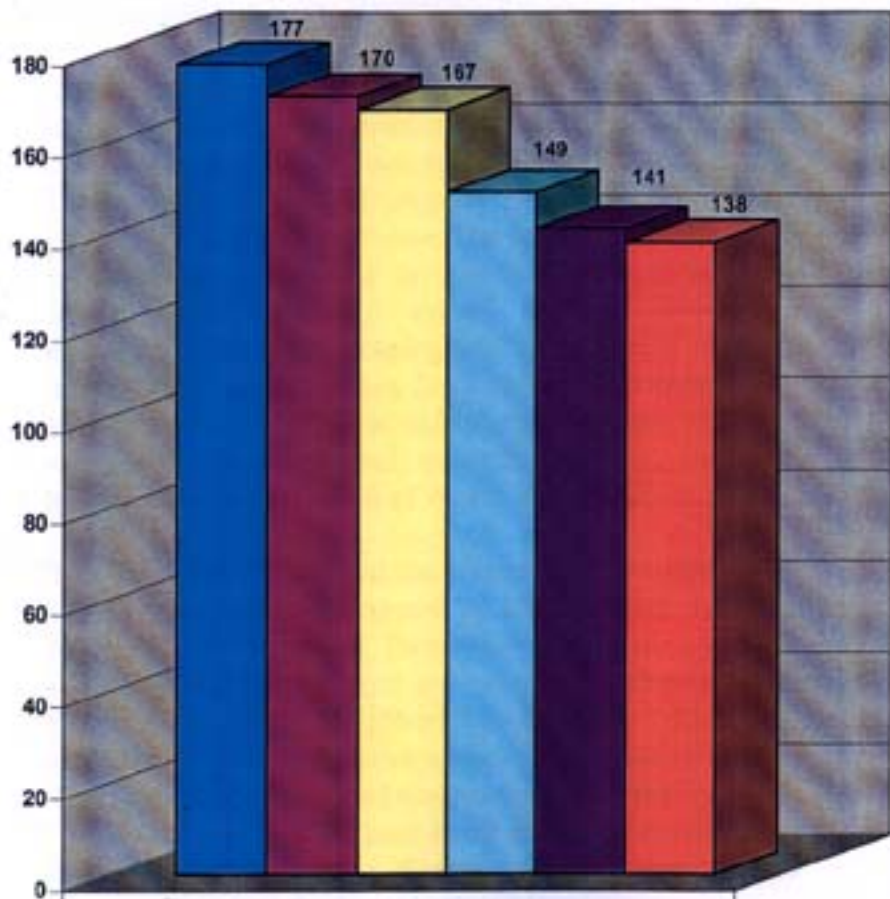
## QUESTION 4: VALUED NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTERISTICS



- **TREES / LANDSCAPING: 190**  
RESPONSES OF A POSSIBLE TOTAL  
247 RESPONSES
- **NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER: 169**  
RESPONSES
- **CONVENIENCE TO DOWNTOWN: 151**  
RESPONSES
- **BRICK STREETS: 149** RESPONSES
- **NEIGHBORHOOD FRIENDLINESS: 129**  
RESPONSES
- **HISTORIC PRESERVATION: 127**  
RESPONSES



### QUESTION 5: NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENTS (TOP 6)



■ **PROTECTING NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER: 177 RESPONSES OF A POSSIBLE TOTAL 247 RESPONSES**

■ **NEIGHBORHOOD BEAUTIFICATION: 170 RESPONSES**

■ **ENHANCE CRIME PREVENTION: 167 RESPONSES**

■ **SLOW OR DECREASE TRAFFIC: 149 RESPONSES**

■ **UPGRADE NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING / CODE ENFORCEMENT: 141 RESPONSES**

■ **HISTORIC PRESERVATION: 138 RESPONSES**

Of the 247 respondents to the Neighborhood Survey, 69% would be willing to pay a minimal one-time tax for one or more of the above capital improvements in the neighborhood. Twenty-one percent (21%) are opposed to the tax, and 10% did not respond. Three neighborhoods (North Shore, Uptown and Crescent Lake) have already approved the creation of dependent special districts, which allowed the residents to assess themselves to provide funding for their neighborhood plans.

The Euclid/St. Paul's Neighborhood kicked off the development of its neighborhood plan on May 8, 2001. The commencement meeting was held at the St. Paul's Catholic Center. All residents, both property owners and renters were invited to attend and participate. The participants were asked to share their opinions on various subjects, such as infrastructure, sidewalks, streets, lighting, alleys, and amenities, such as landscaping and street trees. They were asked to vocalize what they liked about the neighborhood, such as friendly neighbors, safety and ambiance, and what needed improvement, such as traffic calming, improved sidewalks, and renovation of vacant properties.

The consultants compiled the results of 247 surveys that were completed and returned by the deadline and their responses were recorded. Twenty-seven (27) surveys came in after the deadline. These were received and recorded at the May 8, 2001 Neighborhood Planning "Kick-Off" meeting. Fifty-five (55) surveys were returned undeliverable. The consultants presented the results of the survey at the "Kick-Off" meeting and later distributed these results to the Neighborhood Planning Committee for review and incorporation into the Neighborhood Plan.

### **The Design Process**

The second phase of the Neighborhood Plan, was prepared by the consultant and was based upon the results of neighborhood input, meetings, workshops, and the survey with the assistance of the City planners. The consultants presented an array of solutions to the neighborhood's traffic problems at the Executive and Planning Committee meeting which exhibited various plans and sections of typical neighborhood roadway widths. Additional issues of alternatives to traffic calming, parking, beautification, alley paving, speeding, and clean-up, sidewalks, street lighting, neighborhood identity and signage, pedestrian safety and beautification on the 9<sup>th</sup> Street corridor were also discussed. At the Neighborhood's general membership meeting of September 6, 2001, a set of priorities and issues as defined by the neighborhood's input and survey became the tool used by the consultants to provide recommendations to solve problems and allay concerns and be incorporated into the Neighborhood Plan. The meeting provided a forum for all interested residents to express their ideas, perceptions, opinions and attitudes and devise a plan of action.

The issues of code enforcement, pedestrian and traffic safety, street and alley speeding, police response, drug dealing and citizen crime were also major concerns voiced and reiterated in the Neighborhood Survey. The Neighborhood Plan was written in response to these issues and concerns and synthesized into an overall draft design plan to show the issues and opportunities present in the neighborhood.

### **Implementation Strategies and Priorities**

In the final phase of the Neighborhood Plan, implementation of the projects and programs defined will be carried out by a team consisting of the Neighborhood Association and the City of St. Petersburg, working jointly to take advantage of funding opportunities as they become available. The recommendations and design sketches shown in the Neighborhood Plan are

representational of a conceptual design level. They allow for reinterpretation and refinement as each improvement undergoes detailed design and implementation. General information concerning the design and estimates of probable construction costs are also included for the desired improvements. The plan is designed to be flexible, so that as time passes, new issues and concerns can be addressed, and implemented projects can be assessed and fine-tuned.

The neighborhood has significant, positive attributes, such as mature tree-shaded, brick streets, charming architecture and mid-range priced housing. With the guidance of the Neighborhood Association and participation of its resident membership, the Neighborhood Plan will be the blueprint to achieve the neighborhood's vision.

### **Plan Acceptance**

The plethora of responses to the Neighborhood Survey gave the consultants and the Neighborhood Association a focus to base the neighborhood constituency's responses of what they wanted for their neighborhood. These data facilitated the process for establishing the priority of target neighborhood improvements. Results of this survey response data can be found in the survey section of this document starting on page 17. The residents' responses were grouped in various categories which have become the plan elements, in order as follows: Neighborhood Character and Identity, Infrastructure, Crime and Safety, Traffic Calming, the Residential Element, and the Commercial Element, Code Enforcement, Redevelopment, Land Use, and Zoning.

The Neighborhood Plan is presented to the General Membership of the Euclid/St. Paul's Neighborhood Association, the Neighborhood Planning Committee, and the Neighborhood Association Board of Directors for their

review and acceptance. Drafts of this document will be distributed to the all pertinent City of St. Petersburg departments for review. In the final step, the Euclid/St. Paul's Neighborhood Plan will be presented to the Planning Commission and the City Council for formal review and approval.

# NEIGHBORHOOD SURVEY RESULTS

## 2001 Euclid/St. Paul's Neighborhood Association Resident Survey Results

The Euclid/St. Paul's Neighborhood Association conducted a door-to-door survey to better represent the interests and address the concerns of the neighborhood. The survey is being used to develop a neighborhood plan that will protect and direct neighborhood initiatives over the next five to ten years.

### Question 1.

<b>Rent</b>	18 responses	8%
<b>Own</b>	211	92%
<b>Single-family home</b>	216	
<b>Condominium</b>	0	
<b>Garage apartment</b>	18	
<b>Apartment building</b>	9	
<b>Other</b>	9	

### Question 2.

<b>Year-round resident</b>	234 responses	97%
<b>Seasonal resident</b>	7 responses	3%
<b>For years</b>	average of 15 years residency	

### Question 3.

**How would you rate the overall quality of the neighborhood?**

Excellent	22 responses	9%
Good	170	68%
Fair	52	21%
Poor	5	2%

### Question 4.

**What characteristics do you value about the neighborhood?**

Tree and landscaping	190 (responses)
Neighborhood character	169
Convenience to downtown	151
Brick streets	149
Neighborhood friendliness	129
Historic preservation	127
Alleys	124
Neighborhood association	109
Parks/recreation facilities	100
Community police officers	98
Granite curbs	80
Hexagon block sidewalks	73
Neighborhood signage	52
Available public transit	36
Commercial establishments	24

### Question 5.

**Listed below are some of the common improvements for which neighborhoods usually plan. In your opinion, which of the following issues are the 10 most urgent in our neighborhood?**

Protecting neighborhood character	177 (responses)
Neighborhood beautification	170
Enhance crime prevention	167
Do something to slow or decrease traffic	149
Upgrade neighborhood housing/code enforcement	141
Historic Preservation	138
Install decorative street lighting	135
Restrict or enhance rental properties	134
Reclaimed water sprinkling/Recycling	134
Improve street/alley pavement	126
Put in or improve sidewalks	107
Repair brick streets	91
Restrict or enhance commercial establishments	83
Availability of parks and recreation	82
Restrict neighborhood noise	76
Restrict or enhance on-street parking	75
Neighborhood identification/signage	66
Natural gas availability	28

**Question 6.**

**Would you be willing to pay a minimal one-time tax for one or more of the above capital improvements in our neighborhood?**

Yes	69 %	172 (responses)
No	21 %	53 responses
	10%	No response

**Question 7.**

**What traffic issues are you concerned about? Are there particular locations you are concerned about?**

Speeding	155 (responses)
Wrong way drivers	69
Stop sign running	53
Alley speeding	50
Parking on both sides of the street	40
Street lighting	40
Number of vehicles on the street	36
Traffic noise	34
Dangerous intersections	29

**Question 8.**

**Is there sufficient on-street parking on your block? If yes, when is it difficult to find on-street parking, during certain times of the day or on weekdays / weekends?**

Yes	72%	178 (responses)
A.M.:		18 response
No	23%	59 responses
P.M.:		46 responses
	5%	No response
Weekends:		25 responses

**Question 9.**

**How would you classify the condition of the following features of your block?**

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>
Housing				
	24 (responses)	140	66	12
Street condition	25	154	54	7
Alley condition	13	90	82	49
Street lighting	15	113	82	24
Sidewalks	13	112	75	27
Storm drainage	14	121	64	32
Sewers	15	135	58	20
Yards	14	106	96	25

**Question 10.**

**What neighborhood businesses do/would you patronize?**

Restaurant	160 (response)
Convenience stores	149
Service Stations	130
Antique Shops	96
Dry Cleaners	65

**Question 11.**

**Which of the following do you feel can improve the following corridors?  
Check all that apply.**

	9 <sup>th</sup> St.	16 <sup>th</sup> St.	9 <sup>th</sup> Ave.	22 <sup>nd</sup> Ave.
Landscaping	106	120	102	95 (responses)
Pedestrian safety methods	73	63	58	73
Small businesses	38	45	25	16
Bike lanes	98	75	62	81
Pedestrian Stop Lights	48	41	37	42

**Question 12.**

**Would you use curbside recycling if available?**

Yes	72 %	179 (responses)
No	21%	54 (responses)
	7%	No response

**If Yes, would you be willing to pay an increased utility fee for recycling?**

Yes	32 %	81 (responses)
No	36 %	89 (responses)
	32%	No response

**Question 13.**

**Do you feel that the Euclid/St. Paul's Neighborhood Association effectively represents your interests?**

Yes	53%	132 (responses)
No	12%	32 (responses)
	35%	No response

**Question 14.**

**How would you rate the following City services?**

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No Experience
Police presence	25	113	59	21	10
Police responsiveness	38	121	31	9	37
Fire department responsiveness	50	72	7	0	93
Paramedics responsiveness	54	69	7	3	94
Garbage collection	69	128	27	8	4
Code enforcement	14	95	67	41	15
Animal control	16	86	38	31	54

**Question 15.**

**This neighborhood needs (write-in comments).....**

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Total
Total # (Responses)	35	80	20	35	63	14	247
Traffic: slow/decrease	X	X	X		X	X	5
Code enforcement	X	X	X	X	X		5
Sidewalk improvement	X	X				X	3
Improve street/alley pavement			X	X		X	3
Trees/Landscaping/Beautification	X	X				X	3
On-street parking: restrict/enhance	X		X		X		3
Upgrade housing/properties		X		X	X		3
Pedestrian safety	X				X		2
Street lighting				X	X		2
General clean up	X				X		2
Storm sewer improvement				X			1
Crime prevention						X	1
Reclaimed water					X		1
Brick streets						X	1

**Question 16.**

**Are you a member of the Euclid/St. Paul's Neighborhood Association?**

Yes	55 (responses)
No	95 responses

**Question 17.**

**Would you use, read, or address neighborhood issues via a dedicated Euclid/St. Paul's Neighborhood Association web site?**

Yes	151 (response)
No	76 responses