Neighborhood Element

Description of the Neighborhood Element

This element could include neighborhood associations, crime watch areas, and the Rebuild Conway Neighborhood Initiative. This element could also include identification of new approaches for fostering neighborhood associations and other efforts to promote participation at the neighborhood level which could create partnerships with the City and other organizations and agencies. Beautification programs and clean-up efforts could be part of the element. Homeowners associations could also be discussed.

Background and Existing Condition

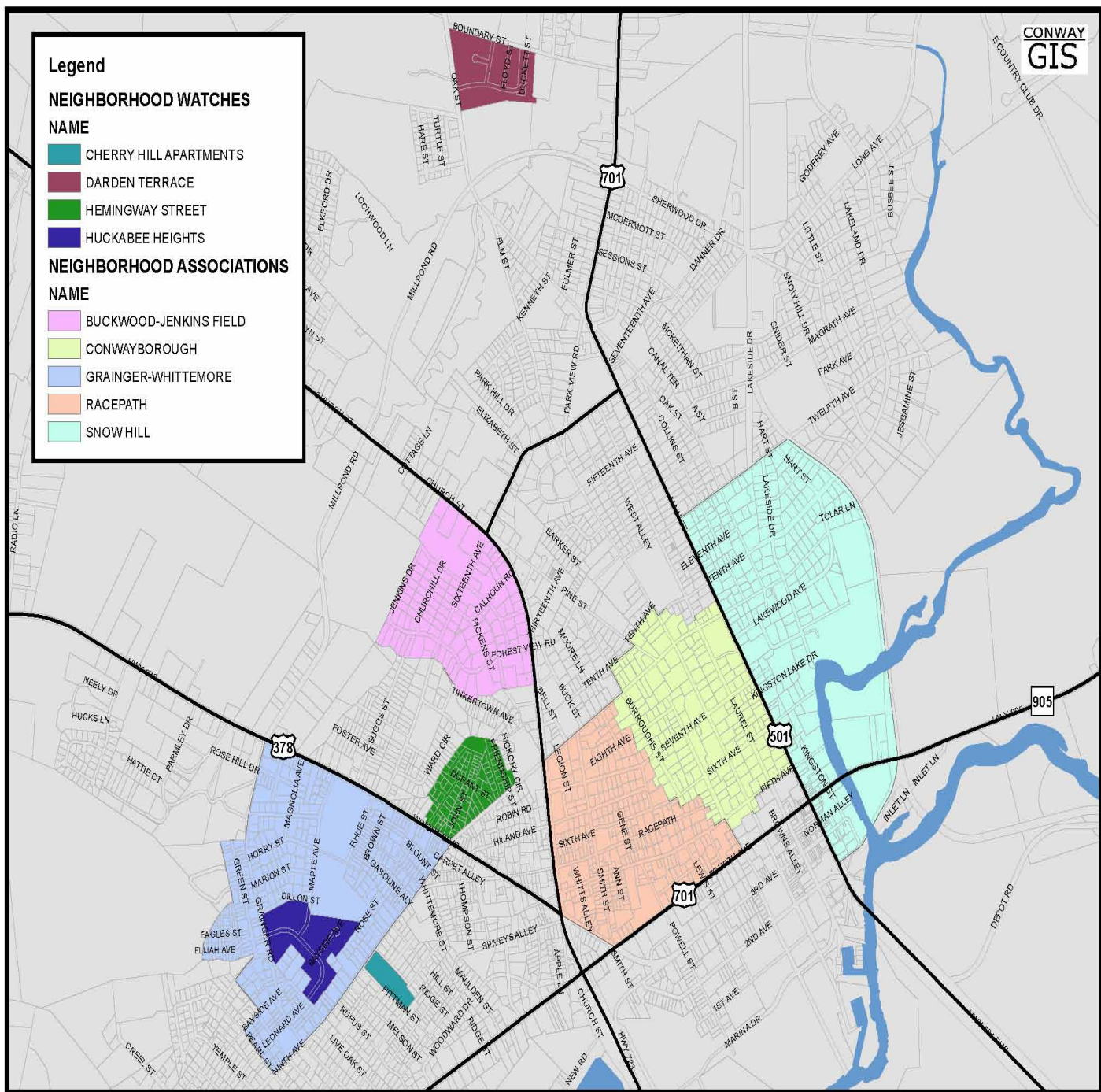### Conway Neighborhood Associations/Watches and Rebuild Conway Initiative

In Conway's more established neighborhoods there are five neighborhood associations and four neighborhood watches. The neighborhood associations are Race Path, Snow Hill, Graingertown-Whittemore, Conwayborough and Buckwood-Jenkins Field. See **Map N-1** for their locations**.** These organizations typically meet quarterly. Conway's four neighborhood watches are Cherry Hill apartments (inactive), Darden Terrace, Hemingway Street and Huckabee Heights. See **Map N-1** for their locations. The watch groups meet monthly in a joint meeting.

The City Police Department assigns a Crime Prevention Officer to work with the neighborhood associations and watches. The Officer attends neighborhood association meetings when invited and all of the neighborhood watch meetings. The goals of the Police Department are to maintain and increase membership in the existing watches and attract new watches with a number of public awareness and educational efforts. The Police Department's Crime Prevention Officer's duties include:

- ❑ Acts as a liaison between the neighborhood watch members and the Police Department
- ❑ Presents crime prevention measures for various types of crime
- ❑ Holds elections for the offices of the neighborhood watches – Neighborhood Watch Coordinators and Block Captains
- ❑ Provides security surveys for businesses and residences

Conway has in the last eight years added more residential units with new construction than in the City's history up to the year 2000. Annexation has also contributed to the growth in the City's total residential population. With the addition of new neighborhoods there is a need to instill within the residents of these neighborhoods a sense of community or place. City involvement can provide a positive influence on establishing this community spirit.

Map N –1: Neighborhood Associations and Watches

Legend

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCHES
NAME
- CHERRY HILL APARTMENTS
- DARDEN TERRACE
- HEMINGWAY STREET
- HUCKABEE HEIGHTS

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS
NAME
- BUCKWOOD-JENKINS FIELD
- CONWAYBOROUGH
- GRAINGER-WHITTEMORE
- RACEPATH
- SNOW HILL

CONWAY GIS

Source: City of Conway

Rebuild Conway Initiative

Two neighborhoods, Taylor Square/Hemingway Street and Mayfair, have been designated to start the Rebuild Conway Initiative. The mission of the Rebuild Conway Initiative is to target City areas of high crime and develop programs for lowering the level of crime through the following intervention programs:

- ❑ Rebuild infrastructure including sidewalks, street resurfacing and drainage.
- ❑ Improve landscaping and overall appearance of these areas.
- ❑ Provide an incentive program to attract businesses to their community (as allowed by zoning).
- ❑ Provide an opportunity for homeowners and renters to improve to their properties with grants for paint up to $500 per household and a low interest loan program from local banks.
- ❑ Provide support to communities to encourage them to participate in the Adopt a Highway Program.
- ❑ Encourage participation, especially youths, in recreation and police-sponsored programs.
- ❑ Seek grants from state and federal sources to assist in beautification and public improvement efforts.
- ❑ Provide superior police protection to neighborhoods.
  (City of Conway Police Department)

Map N - 2: Taylor Square/Hemingway Street
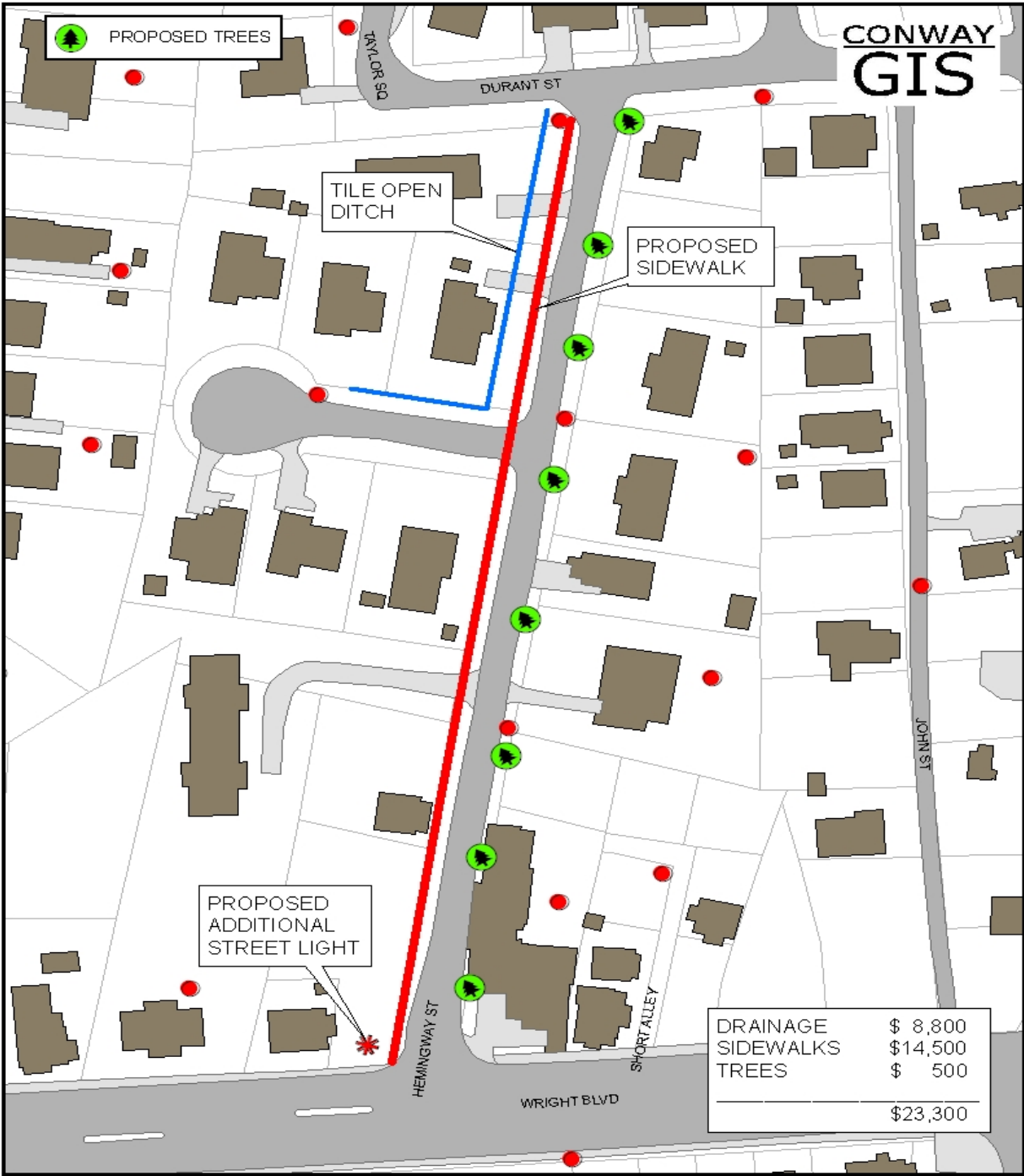
Source: City of Conway Planning Department

Map N – 3: Mayfair
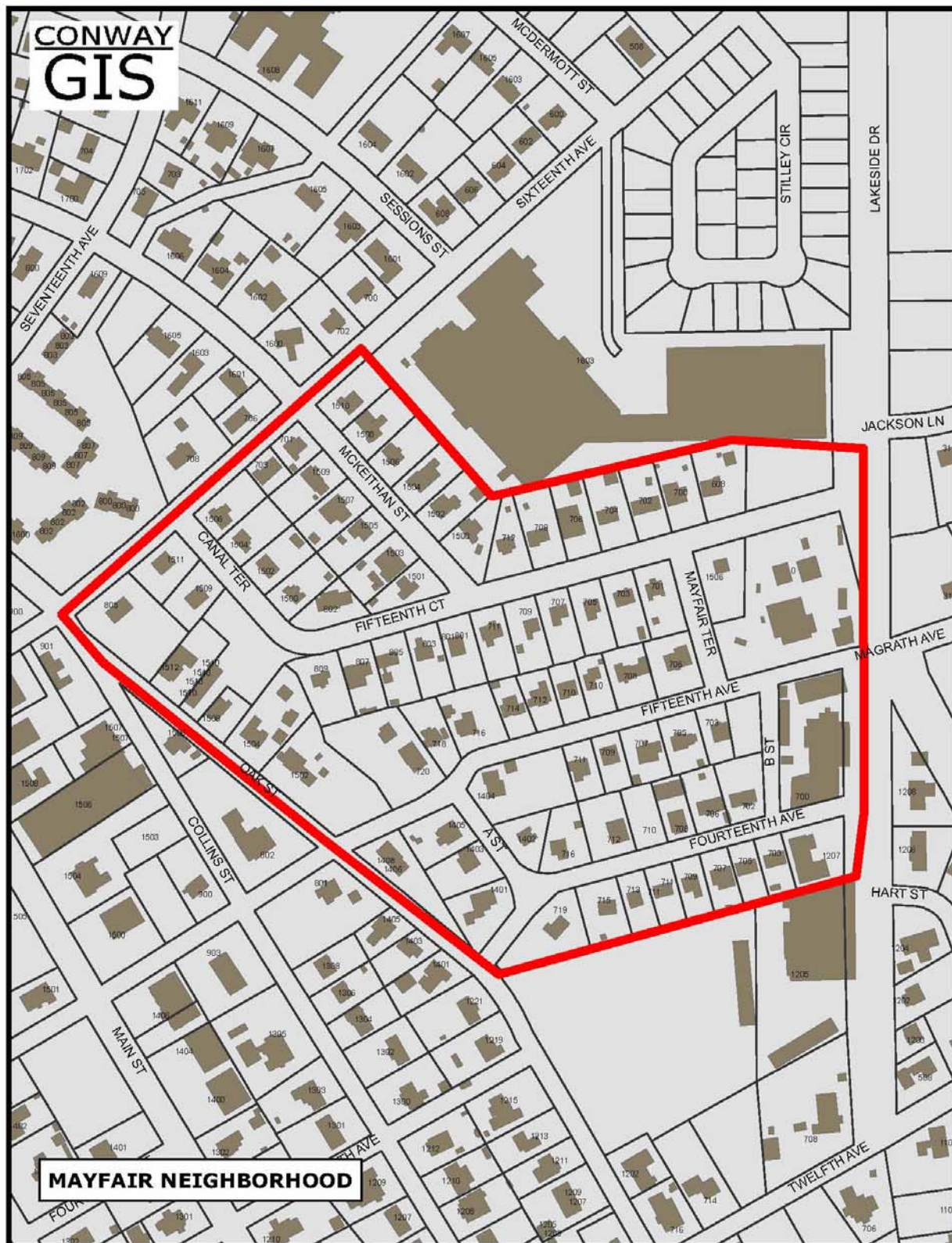
Source: City of Conway

Other City of Conway Programs and Projects

Code Enforcement

The City of Conway Building Department is responsible for code enforcement that addresses dilapadated houses, overgrown lots, and abandoned cars in Conway's neighborhoods.

In recent years, the City of Conway has been concerned with the increasing numbers of vacant, abandoned or substandard properties. The City Building Department has been working closely with the Police Department to monitor housing that is vacant and abandoned. From 2000 to March of 2007 approximately 151 houses have been demolished and 1,170 permits have been issues for the rehabilitation of dwelling units within the City.

The Building Department from April 2007 to February 2008 had 21 houses demolished, tagged 241 abandoned cars of which 109 have been removed and sent out 427 notices for overgrown lots.

Urban County HUD Entitlement Grant

The City of Conway and Myrtle Beach in 2008, agreed to give up their entitlement city statuses in order for Horry County to be eligible to become an entitlement county. Horry County would be the primary beneficiary of grant funds totaling $1,497,929 for the first year. Both cities have a three-year agreement with Horry County to receive a percentage of these funds that exceeds their past allotments. This grant program is designed to assist low/moderate income residents and neighborhoods by improving infrastructure and public services. (City of Conway Grants and Procurement)

Housing Authority of Conway

The mission of the Housing Authority of Conway is to assist residents to achieve optimum self-sufficiency, economic independence, and personal development and address quality of life needs within the Housing Authority of Conway's community. The purpose of the mission is to ensure that all residents of the Housing Authority have the opportunity to develop their full potential as individuals. The Conway Housing Authority manages a total of 298 units, a voucher program and a scattered site program with a staff of nine employees. (Housing Authority of Conway)

Animal Control

The Police Department provides animal control services in Conway's neighborhoods. The responsibilities include dealing with and if necessary seizing vicious animals or mistreated pets, and addressing unsanitary pet areas such as pens or yards. The Police Department works closely with the Building Department when unsanitary conditions have been found.

Community Workshop Input

During the Community Workshops held prior to the drafting of the Comprehensive Plan 2017, input was requested and received about neighborhoods. The listing below is the culmulative totals for all three workshops with the number of votes each comment received. The comments are listed under the general categories of Existing Neighborhoods, Public Improvements, Housing, Annexation and Growth and General Comments.

<u>Existing Neighborhoods</u>

Keep established neighborhoods R-1 Residential.	29
Support neighborhood associations/Preserve established neighborhoods.	12
Continue to enforce existing laws regarding dilapidated houses and assure that they are repaired or torn down.	5
Inactive neighborhood associations should become active.	4
Increased mixed-use downtown/Upper floor housing.	3
More neighborhood association support and neighborhood beautification projects.	2
Bury power lines in residential areas.	1
Better policing of parked vehicles, trailers, & RV's on streets causing hazards to drivers and pedestrians.	1
Keep housing areas clean and free of trash.	1
Increase the number of homeowners associations.	1
Rehabilitation of existing housing that is substandard.	0
More homeowners, fewer renters.	0

<u>Public Improvements</u>

Replace water lines on 5th, 6th, Race Path and Smith.	8
More sidewalks for elderly and children.	4
Trim trees limbs over Main Street sidewalks & make them "walker" friendly with lights.	4
Street repaving and sidewalks for Collins Street.	2
Connect neighborhoods with trails and sidewalks.	1
More development downtown by river/condos, etc. and longer walkway.	0

<u>Housing</u>

Affordable and low to moderate income housing is needed (not just on one side of town)	6
Conway needs more affordable housing - for all social levels. More emphasis should be placed on affordable housing to accommodate all citizens.	4
Homeless shelter/Facility to support and stabilize the homeless.	2
Senior housing for the 9th Avenue/ Race Path area.	1
Upscale condos.	1
Conway needs more quality public housing.	0

<u>Annexation and Growth</u>

Conway should continue to have a strong annexation policy in order to control the type of housing, etc. to preserve Conway's character; Annex areas surrounded by the City.	18

<u>General Comments</u>

Thorough building inspections	4
Bring all development closer to the streets with parking in the rear. Give a more friendly and city feel.	4
Create plan to encourage developers to add amenities.	3
Reevaluate zoning for residential – density, lot size, etc.	2
Businesses next to homes should keep their properties clean and safe.	0

Note: Comments with 0 votes were written during the public input session but did not receive any votes during the voting.

Neighborhood Programs and Organizations

Crimestoppers

Crimestoppers or Crime Stoppers, a part of Crime Stoppers International, is the telephone hotline, separate from the emergency telephone number system, that allows a member of the community to provide anonymous information about criminal activity. It thereby allows the person to provide crime solving assistance to the authorities without being directly involved in the investigation process. That person could

also be eligible for a reward if the reported information results in an arrest and/or prosecution. Crime Stopper programs are operated in many communities worldwide. It is supported by the Crime Stoppers International Network. (Crime Stoppers International)

According to Crime Stoppers USA there are three essential elements in a Crime Stoppers Program:

<u>Community</u>

Citizens are responsible for forming a Crime Stoppers non-profit corporation, whose directors establish policy, determine the amount and method of reward payments, work closely with law enforcement and the media and generally oversee the program. The directors are also responsible for fund raising, and all volunteer services. The program is supported by the public through tax deductible donations from businesses, corporations, individuals, and service organizations.

<u>Media</u>
Crime Stoppers is publicized on a regular basis by all media outlets including print, broadcast and web-based partners. Special attention is given to unsolved crime re-enactments, "Crimes of the Week", cold cases, narcotics activity, wanted fugitives, and suspected terrorist and gang activity.

<u>Law Enforcement</u>

Local law enforcement agencies receive and process the anonymous tips received through Crime Stoppers, and solve the crimes. If the information leads to an arrest, the caller will be paid up to $1,000.00 for their information.

Neighborhood Watches

Neighborhood Watch is one of the oldest and most effective crime prevention programs in the country, bringing citizens together with law enforcement to deter crime and make communities safer. (National Crime Prevention Council)

Sponsored by the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA), Neighborhood Watch can trace its roots back to the days of colonial settlements, when night watchmen patrolled the streets. The modern version of Neighborhood Watch was developed in response to requests from sheriffs and police chiefs who were looking for a crime prevention program that would involve citizens and address an increasing number of burglaries.(National Crime Prevention Council)

Launched in 1972, Neighborhood Watch counts on citizens to organize themselves and work with law enforcement to keep a trained eye and ear on their communities, while demonstrating their presence at all times of day and night. The program took off quickly: in just ten years, NSA data showed that 12 percent of the population was involved in a Neighborhood Watch. Neighborhood Watch acts to reduce the opportunities for crime to occur; it doesn't rely on altering or changing the criminal's behavior or motivation. (National Crime Prevention Council)

Neighborhood Watch Tips

- ❑ Work with the police or sheriff's office. These agencies are critical to a Watch group's credibility and are the source of necessary information and training.
- ❑ Link up with your victims' services office to get your members trained in helping victims of crime.
- ❑ Hold regular meetings to help residents get to know each other and to decide upon program strategies and activities.
- ❑ Consider linking with an existing organization, such as a citizens' association, community development office, tenants' association, or housing authority. They may be able to provide an existing infrastructure you can use.
- ❑ Canvass door-to-door to recruit members.
- ❑ Ask people who seldom leave their homes to be "window watchers," looking out for children and reporting any unusual activities in the neighborhood.
- ❑ Translate crime and drug prevention materials into Spanish or other languages needed by non-English speakers in your community. If necessary, have a translator at meetings.
- ❑ Sponsor a crime and drug prevention fair at a church hall, temple, shopping mall, or community center.
- ❑ Gather the facts about crime in your neighborhood. Check police reports, conduct victimization surveys, and learn residents' perceptions about crimes. Often, residents' opinions are not supported by facts, and accurate information can reduce the fear of crime.
- ❑ Physical conditions like abandoned cars or overgrown vacant lots contribute to crime. Sponsor cleanups, encourage residents to beautify the area, and ask them to turn on outdoor lights at night.
- ❑ Work with small businesses to repair rundown storefronts, clean up littered streets, and create jobs for young people.
- ❑ Start a block parent program to help children cope with emergencies while walking to and from school or playing in the area.
- ❑ Emphasize that Watch groups are not vigilantes and should not assume the role of the police. Their duty is to ask neighbors to be alert, observant, and caring—and to report suspicious activity or crimes immediately to the police. (Neighborhood Watch)

Project Safe Place

"Project Safe Place was created in 1983 as a youth outreach program by Shelter House, operated by the YMCA of Greater Louisville. YMCA Shelter House was a short-term residential and counseling center for youth ages 13 to 17. The agency is currently named YMCA Safe Place Services." (Project Safe Place)

"The Safe Place program began in response to the many calls to the shelter from young people who did not have a way to get there. As a result, many youth trying to cope with personal or family crisis situations never reached the shelter. To address this issue, the Safe Place program was developed, designating businesses and community buildings as locations where youth could easily access help. The first Safe Place site was a fire station at Sixth and Hill Streets in Louisville. A close relationship with fire departments as Safe Place partners continues to this day across the country." (Project Safe Place)

"Soon after it began, interest in the Safe Place program prompted the replication of the program in other communities. With a small federal grant, a comprehensive operations manual was produced. Today National Safe Place operates as its own non-profit organization, with a Board of Directors dedicated to expanding the program to reach youth in crisis." (Project Safe Place)

"In 1988 National Safe Place was created to provide consultation, training, conferences, networking opportunities and promotional materials for Safe Place licensed agencies. The National Safe Place office benefits from the suggestions of its volunteer National Advisory Board and reports to a national Board of Directors. National Safe Place is incorporated and operates through the YMCA of Greater Louisville." (Project Safe Place)

"Today Safe Place operates in hundreds of communities across the country and is a positive collaborative program filling a void in services to at-risk youth." (Project Safe Place)

Block Parent Program

The Block Parent Program is a large, volunteer-based, child safety & crime prevention program operating across Canada. Participants in the program (Block Parents) place signs on their homes indicating that the house is a police-screened, safe home for community members in distress, particularly children. If someone is in need of help and sees a block parent sign, they know there is someone home who can help them and call the appropriate emergency service if necessary. The program now includes 300,000 participants. (Block Parent Program)

Block parents may be called upon to offer their homes as place of safety when someone is in a dangerous or frightening situation such as being bullied; lost, hurt or ill; caught in severe weather; or frightened by a stranger. Block parents are not expected to provide food, drink, toilet facilities or transportation; administer first aid; or leave their home to break up a fight. (Block Parent Program)

Safety House

The Safety House Program is a national Australian community based and funded program designed for the safety of children while in transit to and from school. Houses and businesses are selected as safe places for children to seek shelter and safety if required. Applicants must undergo criminal history checks and other checks by the organization. (Safety House Program)

Neighborhood Associations

A neighborhood association is a group of residents, sometimes organized in the United States as 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, who take on problems or organize activities within a neighborhood. An association may have elected leaders and voluntary or mandatory dues.

The term neighborhood association is sometimes used interchangeably with homeowners association and many of their activities overlap. The primary difference is that generally membership in a homeowners association is mandatory tied to the purchase of a residence within the neighborhood, whereas membership in a neighborhood association is more likely to be voluntary or informal. The rules for formation of a homeowners or neighborhood association in the United States are sometimes regulated at the city or state level. Neighborhood associations are also more likely to be formed in older, established neighborhoods that do not have homeowners associations whereas homeowners associations are frequently established at the time a residential neighborhood is built and sold. (Wikipedia)

i-neighbors

"i-neighbors is a social networking service that connects residents of geographic neighborhoods.. Unlike websites that encourage global, national, or citywide communication, i-neighbors links members of local neighborhoods as defined by the people that create them. i-neighbors helps individuals, communities, and homeowner's associations build social capital by providing a place for neighbors to find each other, organize, share information and work together to address local problems. Their goal is to help people create neighborhoods that are safer, better informed, more trusting, and better equipped to deal with local issues. Founded in 2004, as a not-for-profit, advertising, and SPAM free service, i-neighbors now supports thousands of neighborhoods in all 50 U. S. states and all 10 Canadian provinces. i-neighbors is operated as an ongoing experiment in community building by a team of faculty and students headed by Professor Keith Hampton at the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania."(i-neighbors)

Homeowners Associations

A homeowners' association (HOA) is the legal entity created by a real estate developer for the purpose of developing, managing and selling a community of homes. It is given the authority to enforce the covenants, conditions, and restrictions and to manage the common amenities of the development. It allows the developer to legally exit responsibility of the community typically by transferring ownership of the association to the homeowners after selling off a predetermined number of lots. Most homeowners' associations are non-profit corporations, and are subject to state statutes that govern non-profit corporations and homeowners' associations. (Community Associations Institute)

The fastest growing form of housing in the United States today is common-interest developments, a category that includes planned-unit developments of single-family homes, condominiums, and cooperative apartments. Since 1964, homeowners' associations have become increasingly common in the USA. The Community Associations Institute trade association estimated that HOAs governed 295,700 communities, 23.8 million American homes and 58.8 million residents in 2007.(Wikipedia) This compares to 10,000 communities, 701,000 homes and 2.1 million residents in 1970. (Community Associations Institure)

Horry County has no listing of Homeowners Associations according to the Coastal Carolina Association of Realtors. In the Conway area, there are homeowners associations, according to local realtors but no listing to assist in determining if potential buyers will have the benefits and costs of being a member of a HOA. There also is little to assure that once in place they remain active and assume any responsibilities that may affect the maintenance of facilities and provide the services that they may be required or originally promise to do.

Neighborhood Planning

"The vision for the best neighborhoods, the ones we mean to nurture, people know that "the heart is more important than the head" (from *Streets of Hope*). Residents recognize one another and count friends and family among their neighbors. They have a sense of concern and responsibility for the neighborhood and its people that is translated into action." (Neighborhood Planning)

"In the best neighborhoods the following conditions exist to the greatest extent possible. This list can serve to shape the benchmarks for neighborhood planning with other goals and objectives developed in the planning process.

- ❑ Schools with small enrollments are one core of neighborhood life. The schools have strong parent and resident involvement. They work in partnership with the neighborhood to achieve high and shared aspirations for youth, educate adults, and solve community problems. Residents are welcome to use the gym, recreational fields, auditorium, and meeting rooms.
- ❑ The school site is the place where human service agencies collaborate to address the needs of families. Their staffs realize that people turn first to friends and neighbors when they have problems. These informal helping systems are sought out and strengthened.
- ❑ Many housing options exist for people in different stages of life and income levels. Housing values are neither rising rapidly (gentrification) nor falling (decline). Quality is maintained through upgrading by residents made possible by private capital or well-crafted affordable housing subsidies.

- Local businesses such as grocery and other retail stores, professional offices, bookstores, restaurants, and coffee shops are within a walk of home. Neighborhood life forms a network of relationships that helps people find jobs, start new businesses, and raise capital.
- People ensure public safety by looking out for each other, and creating partnerships with the police and public agencies to solve crimes and reduce the causes of crime.
- The neighborhood is well kept. Problems that arise (housing deterioration, trash, or abandoned autos) are dealt with quickly by responsive agencies. The neighborhood has a comforting sense of place expressed through its physical character.
- The best neighborhoods are not utopias. They are places where people care about one another enough that there are few problems that cannot be solved by working together." (Neighborhood Planning)

"The goal of neighborhood planning is to build social capital, which is the ability of the neighborhood to organize itself to identify problems and solve them in partnership with elected officials, businesses, and public agencies. Neighborhood planning is a way to unify and improve place-based social and physical conditions." (Neighborhood Planning)

"Ultimately it is the planning process, not the plan document, that brings about development". Neighborhood strategic planning can unify diverse community development activities such as in education, housing, economic development, and public safety through long term vision, goals, conditions assessments, strategies, objectives, and programs. (Neighborhood Planning)

Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD)

Asset Based Community Development is an approach to community-based development. It is often seen as a method for achieving successful neighborhood planning efforts.

"Its principles are:

- Appreciating and mobilizing individual and community talents, skills and assets. (rather than focusing on problems and needs)
- Community-driven development rather than development driven by external agencies.

It builds on:

- Appreciative inquiry, which identifies and analyses the community's past successes. This strengthens people's confidence in their own capacities and inspires them to take action.
- The recognition of social capital and its importance as an asset. This is why ABCD focuses on the power of associations and informal linkages within the community, and the relationships built over time between community associations and external institutions.
- Participatory approaches to development, which are based on principles of empowerment and ownership of the development process.
- Community economic development models that place priority on collaborative efforts for economic development that makes best use of its own resource base.

❑ Efforts to strengthen civil society. These efforts have focused on how to engage people as citizens (rather than clients) in development, and how to make local governance more effective and responsive." (Asset-Based Community Development - An Overview, Gord Cunningham and Alison Mathie, Coady International Institute)

Neighborhood Collaborative Planning

"The Neighborhood Collaborative Planning project of the American Planning Association (APA) was funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation to encourage the profession of planning to think critically about the ways in which families' and children's lives might be improved. The Casey Foundation has a special interest in the most needy residents of our communities. Through a number of initiatives, the Foundation seeks to link people and the meeting of their needs to and through place. An introduction to the work of the Foundation was provided at the 1996 American Planning Association national conference in the session, *Linking People with Place*." (American Planning Association)

"APA focused its project on neighborhoods and the means by which collaborative planning can improve the overall health of neighborhoods. The traditional practice of planning, in which a municipal planning department plans for the physical future of the entire jurisdiction from city hall, often fails to provide effective planning for the full range of community components that affect families and children at the neighborhood level. Some common characteristics of this problem include:

❑ The inability of some municipal planning offices to work collaboratively with other organizations doing community development and human service delivery work at the neighborhood scale;
❑ An emphasis in many public planning departments on the physical realm of land use and capital improvements, to the exclusion of other often non-physical interests affecting quality of life (human services, education, crime prevention, and economic development).

This project explored the way in which this new form of collaborative planning can take place by:

❑ Examining the current state of neighborhood planning as practiced by city planners;
❑ Setting forth the issues that stand in the way of full collaboration in neighborhood planning;
❑ Exploring models and examples of successful collaborations that improve the quality of life in neighborhoods;
❑ Recommending how state planning legislation can support collaborative neighborhood planning;
❑ Setting forth a policy for the American Planning Association in support of good practice and overall policy in this area."

The City of Conway can use the summary above to help guide its efforts in providing planning at the neighborhood level. The use of collaborative planning will determine the best approaches to take in order to provide the greatest benefits for Conway neighborhoods. While all neighborhoods have similar needs and comparable assets they also are unique and have issues to address and opportunities to capitalize upon so as to improve their residents quality of life.

<u>**Neighborhood Funding Sources**</u>

There are funding sources available for neighborhood planning and projects from a variety of sources. The three examples cited below are from a foundation, a non-profit organization, and a city to show options for how to fund neighborhood programs.

Wachovia Foundation

Neighborhood Planning Grants support the development of resident-driven neighborhood plans that take comprehensive approaches to revitalization. Grants vary in size from $25,000 to $100,000. Grants are approved once each year through a competitive selection process and are distributed based on performance over a twelve- to eighteen-month period.

Neighborhood Planning Grants fund direct expenses that are essential for planning such as hiring planning consultants, establishing outreach and neighborhood organizing functions, holding community meetings, and assuring advisory group development. Grants are designed to support neighborhood plans, not strategic or business plans for the organization." (Wachovia Foundation)

To assure its funds are wisely, the Foundation bases its grant-making decisions on seven guiding principles. To be funded by the Foundation, a project must be:

- ❑ "Compelling – projects that are innovative, support residents of a neighborhood, and demonstrate the potential for significant lasting impact in a specific neighborhood.
- ❑ Comprehensive – projects that provide – or partner with other organizations to provide – services that address multiple needs in the neighborhood.
- ❑ Accountable – projects that can be evaluated with measurable outcomes.
- ❑ Collaborative – projects that make linkages in the neighborhood and partner strategically with other non-profits, schools, government agencies, local institutions, and public and private entities.
- ❑ Sustainable – projects that focus on causes rather than symptoms and demonstrate a sustainability plan including strong leadership, capable management and public and private resources.
- ❑ Replicable – projects that create prototypes that can be replicated in other low-income communities.
- ❑ Inclusive – projects that help build communities and support resident empowerment by cultivating local leadership and developing program strategies that organize and energize neighborhood." (Wachovia Foundation)

Community and City Grants

Numerous cities throughout the United States have neighborhood grant programs. Funding for many of these communities is provided through their entitlement from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. As evidenced by the Rock Island Illinois' grants the amount does not have to be great to have a positive impact on neighborhoods and spur grassroots participation.

Rock Island, Illinois – Neighborhood Partners

Tiny grants can make a big difference as is evidenced in Rock Island, Illinois neighborhoods. Neighborhood Partners of Rock Island awarded ten grants for neighborhoods, impacting all of Rock

Island's neighborhoods in a specified area. Eight different organizations were awarded $11,943 in funds to improve the quality of life in these neighborhoods. Several projects focused on youth, such as summer employment, childcare training and playground improvements. Others focused on physical enhancements to neighborhoods, such as expansion of a graffiti removal project and gardening workshops. Some groups sought improved communication through newsletters and brochures. All are grassroots activities with support from neighborhood volunteers. (Rock Island – Neighborhood Partners)

The funded projects included:
- 11/31 Business Association 11th Street Brochure $500
- Community Caring Conference Graffiti Buster Enhancement $850
- Community Caring Conference Helping Our Peers to Excel $500
- Community Caring Conference Kidding Around $960
- Community Housing Solutions/RIHA Financial Literacy $2,000
- Greenbush Neighbors Training in Childcare $450
- KeyStone Neighborhood Assn. Gardening Workshops $1,110
- Old Town Chicago Historic Area Newsletter $1,800
- Rock Island Preservation Society Tour Yesterday $1,773
- RISD/Rock Island Primary Academy Peaceful Playground $2,000

Eligible applicants included the fourteen organizational members of Neighborhood Partners. All but four of the organizations submitted at least one application. Twenty-one total applications were received, requesting $31,753 in funds. Neighborhood Partners had $12,000 to grant. Over an eight-year period, Neighborhood Partners accumulated carryover from its share of Rock Island's Community Development Block Grant funds and raised some revenue from non-Rock Islanders attending the Community Leadership College. In fall 2004, Neighborhood Partners used the funds to establish the one-time Grants for Neighborhoods program to encourage grassroots projects with meaningful local impact. (Rock Island – Neighborhood Partners)

Fort Collins, Colorado – Neighborhood Services

The City of Fort Collins, Colorado through their Neighborhood Services Division provides a similar grant program as that of Rock Islands' Neighborhood Partners with small amounts available. "Their mission is based on the belief that their citizens are the most valuable resource they have and it is their goal to promote positive neighboring activities and neighborhood revitalization by providing financial assistance through neighborhood grants." Grants from $25 to $500 are available for eligible projects. (City of Fort Collins)

Eligible activities may include:
- Neighborhood Clean-ups.
- Block parties/potlucks.
- Beautification projects.
- Neighborhood entry-way projects.

Ineligible activities include:
- Political campaigning.
- Alcohol purchase.

- ❑ Homeowner Association business expenses.
- ❑ Projects on private property that will not benefit the entire neighborhood.

Grants will be evaluated based on the following criteria:
- ❑ Fostering positive neighbor relationships.
- ❑ Building a sense of pride in one's neighborhood and community.
- ❑ Number of neighbors participating and benefiting from event.
- ❑ Matching donations and volunteer hours contributed to event.

Summary of Findings

Conway growth presents new challenges to face in order to assure that the quality of life is enhanced for all of Conway's citizens. Improving and sustaining Conway older neighborhoods will also continue to demand attention. The City should lead efforts to involve its communities or neighborhoods in collaborative planning to address the future of Conway's neighborhoods in a proactive manner while tackling issues such as law and code enforcement. The process should produce a shared vision for the future of our neighborhoods.

The Community Workshops provided a good start in identifying issues and opportunities for Conway to address in the upcoming years. Expanding and further defining this list should be a key part of the planning process for neighborhoods in order for them to continue to improve, grow and prosper.

Implementing neighboring **planning** initiatives that create innovative improvement **programs** and **projects**, establish and take advantage of **funding** opportunities and address all pertinent **issues** and **opportunities** will encourage neighborhood involvement and the result will be better neighborhoods. Partnerships with other organization will be required to address some issues and those needs will emerge during the planning process and continue as neighborhoods begin to improve.

Primary Goal

Develop a strategy for implementing proactive and collaborative planning efforts for neighborhoods and communities in Conway. Establish partnerships, associations and linkages in order to address the various needs and capitalize upon the assets of Conway's neighborhoods.

Goal 1: Continue with and expand upon the current efforts of the City to improve neighborhoods.

Objective 1: Work with the existing neighborhood association/watches to assist those that are active and re-establish working relationships with inactive groups. Identify potential neighborhoods for associations, watches or other neighborhood collaborative efforts.

Strategies: Develop resource kits for forming neighborhood associations and watches to be distributed throughout Conway neighborhoods.

Develop resource kits for neighborhoods already in place and active providing ideas and opportunities for projects and programs.

Determine "ideal" size for neighborhood associations.

Objective 2: Develop a comprehensive program for neighborhood planning to include workshops and address input accordingly with a definite plan for implementation and monitoring progress. Encourage such groups to interact with each other and city personnel.

Strategies: Hold workshops to identify a wide range of input related to neighborhoods concentrating on assets not just problems in order to establish goals and objectives.

Establish a framework for remaining active and completing goals and objectives.

Set deadlines for projects and programs in order to monitor progress.

Develop a regular meeting schedule where possible with watches, associations and other appropriate groups.

Goal 2: Establish partnerships, programs and projects in order to increase effectiveness in addressing neighborhood issues and capitalize on opportunities.

Objective 1: Determine possible partnerships needed and/or possible based on neighborhood workshops.

Strategies: Compile a list of programs and possible partnership organizations and agencies that may become partners for neighborhoods including resources that may provide assistance without becoming partners such as e-neighbors.

Analyze programs that are in place in other communities like "SafePlace" to determine if they are right for Conway's neighborhoods. Identify partnerships and resources needed as part of the process.

Establish a "quick response" program for neighborhoods that experience a tragedy or disaster.

Determine if other programs developed locally might be appropriate for Conway's neighborhoods. Seek partners where appropriate.

Work with Horry County Schools to identify ways to partner such as increased participation in recreation programs, the arts and police sponsored programs.

Objective 2: Determine neighborhood projects that are achievable, highly visible and require little maintenance.

Strategies: Identify sites for projects such as landscaping, signage and lighting.

Work with businesses adjacent to neighborhoods to identify projects that create good will between the businesses and their residential neighbors.

Establish neighborhood involvement in clean-up efforts such as Adopt a Highway.

Goal 3: **Explore options for funding the projects and programs associated with improving neighborhoods.**

Objective 1: Seek funds for police use in their Neighborhood Watch and other neighborhood programs.

Strategies: Establish a fund for providing rewards for tips on criminal activity that leads to arrests or convictions. Take donations to continue this program.

Consider surveillance cameras for known high crime locations. Seek donations from businesses in the locations.

Discuss partnering with Santee Cooper to complete lighting studies to determine areas of Conway that need additional lighting. Consider using the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America's lighting standards.

Objective 2: Continue and expand the neighborhood small grants program using approaches similar to Rock Island, Illinois or Fort Collins, Colorado.

Strategies: Provide seed money to start the program and also seek corporate sponsorship funding.

Require matching funds from neighborhoods when appropriate.

Develop fund raising activities for raising funds and bringing neighbors together.

Establish eligible activities for using the grant funds and identify ineligible activities also.

Seek funding from other sources to build this program.

Establish well-defined goals for the grant program.

Goal 4: Incorporate Smart Growth concepts into new developing areas and older areas when possible.

Objective 1: Discuss and pursue through the Regional Transit Authority transit improvements in neighborhoods that need transit services.

Strategies: Locate possible sites for bus shelters and signage in neighborhoods and commercial locations where transit would be used.

Promote the Regional Transit Authority on the City's website.

Objective 2: Create to the greatest extent possible "walkable" and connected neighborhoods.

Strategies: Begin to implement the Greenway Plan.

Continue to pursue the Safe Routes to Schools funding through SC Department of Transportation.

Strategies: Adopt and begin the Complete Streets program.

Objective 3: Promote development that follows Smart Growth principles.

Strategies: Encourage community and developer collaboration when possible.

Encourage mixed uses in Planned Development Districts.

Plan for a wide range of housing choices and opportunities.

Recommend adding bike parking and transit options in the City's parking requirements and add/expand parking requirements.

Include open space, farmland, natural beauty and critical environmental areas in existing neighborhood planning and new developments