

## Staff Report

**NEIGHBORHOOD WORKSHOP**

October 16, 2018

**BACKGROUND:**

Historically, the City Council has held a neighborhood summit meeting on a bi-annual basis. The most recent summit was held in 2014. The City's neighborhood program has been branded as Strong Neighborhoods for approximately ten years. This brand is inclusive of the many City Departments that work together in order to support neighborhoods and encourage organized, attractive, informed, safe, and green neighborhoods through a multitude of programs.

At the time of the last Neighborhood Summit there were 27 neighborhood associations that were recognized by the City of Ames. In June 2017, Staff reached out to all identified neighborhood associations to verify their status as active or inactive and update contact information. As a result of outreach, the number of active associations fell to 21 associations. Four associations replied as inactive and no response was received from two.

As of today, there are 25 active neighborhood associations, five of those are new to being recognized by the City as active neighborhood associations. (See Attachment A: Neighborhood Map) Looking back at archived lists of neighborhood associations the number of those considered active hovers around the 23-27 range. It is common to see this number fluctuate and organizations come and go. Neighborhood Associations often form when there may be a source of discord whether that is related to a City project in the area, nuisance properties, or inter-personal relationships. When resolution is reached and/or momentum for organization wanes you may see some associations dissolve. However, several active associations have been able to continue the momentum of building community and relationships within their neighborhoods and with the City.

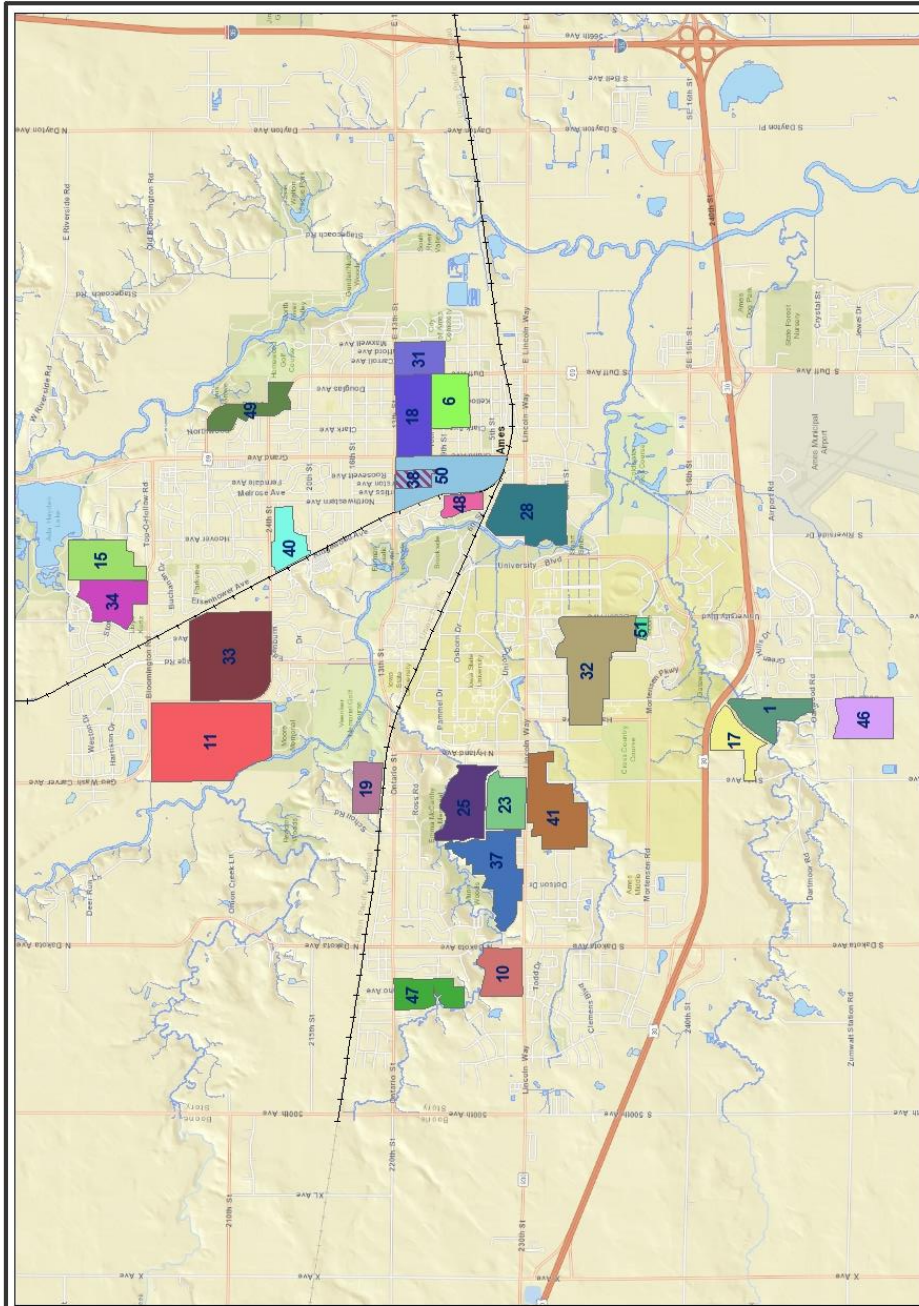
The City does provide several programs supporting neighborhoods such as the Neighborhood Improvement Grant, Newsletter Grant, Neighborhood Sculpture, Street N' Greet Block Party Trailer, Neighborhood Walks, Street Painting, Curb Replacement and more. (Attachment B: List of Neighborhood Programs. All programs, except the Newsletter Grant, are open to all residents of Ames, even if a City acknowledged neighborhood association does not exist in the area.

The Street N Greet Block Party Trailer is the most utilized neighborhood support program as reservations are filled annually. The trailer is available all weekends from April through October, with the exception of home Iowa State football games in September and October. The purpose for excluding these weekends is due to the public safety needs of the community on those weekends. Police and Fire like to participate in the delivery of the trailer and visit block parties. Two years ago it was

discussed if demand warranted a second trailer. Due to the cost associated with adding a trailer, it was decided to make the trailer available twice per weekend rather than once. This is the second year that two days per weekend have been available for reservations and the community has definitely made use of the additional availability.

**The City of Ames Neighborhood programs have seen many years of success. It is time to build on this success and implement new programs. Some ideas for improvements would include: updating the neighborhood association website, establishing more formal neighborhood association qualifications, creating more community engagement events, and hosting educational seminars. If the City Council concurs, staff can begin working with the neighborhood associations to identify future improvements.**

# Attachment A: Neighborhood Association Map



## Neighborhood Associations

1. Timberland Road N.A.
6. Historic Old Town N.A.
10. Westbend N.A.
11. Northridge H.O.A.
15. Stone Brooke H.O.A.
17. Meadow Glen Road N.A.
18. North Old Town N.A.
19. King-Am N.A.
23. Westside N.A.
25. Oak-Wood-Forest N.A.
28. Oak-Riverside N.A.
31. Sunrise Addition N.A.
32. South Campus Area N.A.
33. Somerset Village N.A.
34. Bloomington Heights N.A.
37. Edwards N.A.
38. Emanon N.A.
40. Allenview N.A.
41. College Creek/Old Ames Middle School N.A.
46. Ringgenberg N.A.
47. Spring Valley N.A.
48. South Brookside N.A.
49. Inis Grove N.A.
50. Roosevelt N.A.

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# Neighborhood Associations Map

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 Department of Planning and Housing  
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## Attachment B: Neighborhood Programs

<b>ORGANIZED NEIGHBORHOODS</b>
• Neighborhood association recognition
• Sub-Area plans
• Neighborhood Newsletter Grants
• Neighborhood News
<b>ATTRACTIVE NEIGHBORHOODS</b>
• Neighborhood Improvement Program grants
• Code Enforcement
• Neighborhood Sculpture Program
• Neighborhood Street Painting
• Curb Replacement
<b>INFORMED NEIGHBORHOODS</b>
• Neighborhood News - quarterly
• City Side - monthly
<b>SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS</b>
• Community Resource Officer
• Safe Neighborhood Team
<b>GREEN NEIGHBORHOODS</b>
• Rain Gardens
• Free Yard Waste Days
• Rain Garden Program
• Compost Bin/Rain Barrel Rebate
• Rummage Rampage