

Parker & Stevenson 2022

Neighborhood Survey

City of Olathe Healthy Neighborhood Initiative



Neighborhood Surveys: Results

In August of 2022, as part of its Healthy Neighborhood Initiative (HNI), the City of Olathe mailed surveys to residents in three different Focus Area neighborhoods. These neighborhoods are identified as Focus Areas, or priority areas where we are working to align strategies to help restore the physical environment and fundamental conditions.

The purpose of each neighborhood survey was to:

- understand how residents perceive their neighborhood,
- learn what further improvements residents would like to see, and
- connect residents with each other to continue working together on key issues.

The City of Olathe has an entire team of internal staff known as our **Neighborhood Resource Team**, representing various City divisions, dedicated to being a resource and advocating for our neighborhoods. We communicate and collaborate on various neighborhood issues, working together to improve Olathe neighborhoods.

NEXT STEPS >> Based on your feedback and survey results, the Neighborhood Resource Team, along with any residents who would like to be involved, will begin to assess survey results and work together to create strategies to address issues raised by residents in each neighborhood. Strategies that come out of these meetings will be shared with the residents.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED >> If you would like to be included in these collaboration efforts with city staff on finding solutions to issues raised in this survey, please contact the Olathe Planning Division at PlanningContact@olatheks.org attention Neighborhood Surveys and include the name of your neighborhood included on the front of this survey. You can also call (913) 971-8750 and ask to speak with Planning Division staff regarding your Neighborhood Survey Results.

Please note that some issues mentioned in survey responses, such as housing repair or stormwater issues on individual properties, can be addressed directly by resources the City of Olathe already provides to residents. Please see these resources on page 15 and share them with any neighbors who may benefit from them.

Thank you again for your willingness to share your ideas and insight into your neighborhood!



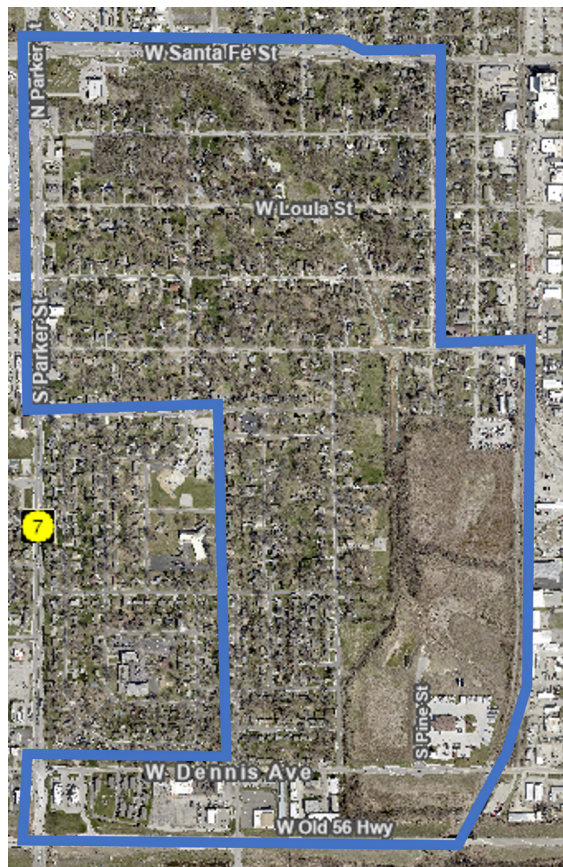
**Olathe Healthy
Neighborhoods**

PRESERVE | PROTECT | ENHANCE

Olathe's Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative (HNI) works to identify, advocate, and assist residents so that they can continue to live in safe homes and neighborhoods they can be proud of for years to come.

To learn more about neighborhood grants and other support available through the Healthy Neighborhood Initiative, visit olatheks.org/HealthyNeighborhoods

Parker & Stevenson Neighborhood Survey



586

Surveys
Mailed

58

Survey
Responses

9.9%

Response
Rate

Do you own or rent your home?

98%

Own

2%

Rent

According to the Census Bureau's American Community Survey (2020), the neighborhood's homeownership rate is roughly 65%. Renters were underrepresented in this survey's responses.

How long have you lived in this neighborhood?

21%

0-5 years

14%

5-10 years

18%

10-20 years

47%

20+ years

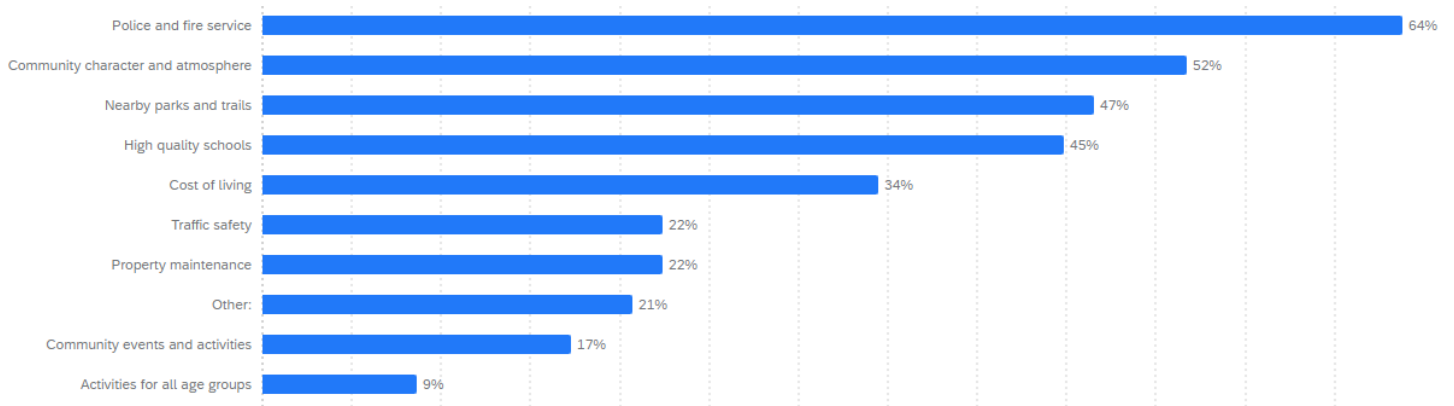
Survey Responses

1: Do you feel like you are part of a neighborhood?

88% Yes
12% No

2: What are some of the strengths of your neighborhood?

You may select as many as you would like.



On average, each respondent selected 3 strengths they saw in their neighborhood.

64% of respondents selected “police and fire service” as a strength of their neighborhood, making this the most commonly selected strength.

“Community events and activities” and “activities for all age groups” were the least-selected strengths.

The write-in entries for the “other” category were:

“Near downtown Olathe and historic homes.”

“Diverse housing”

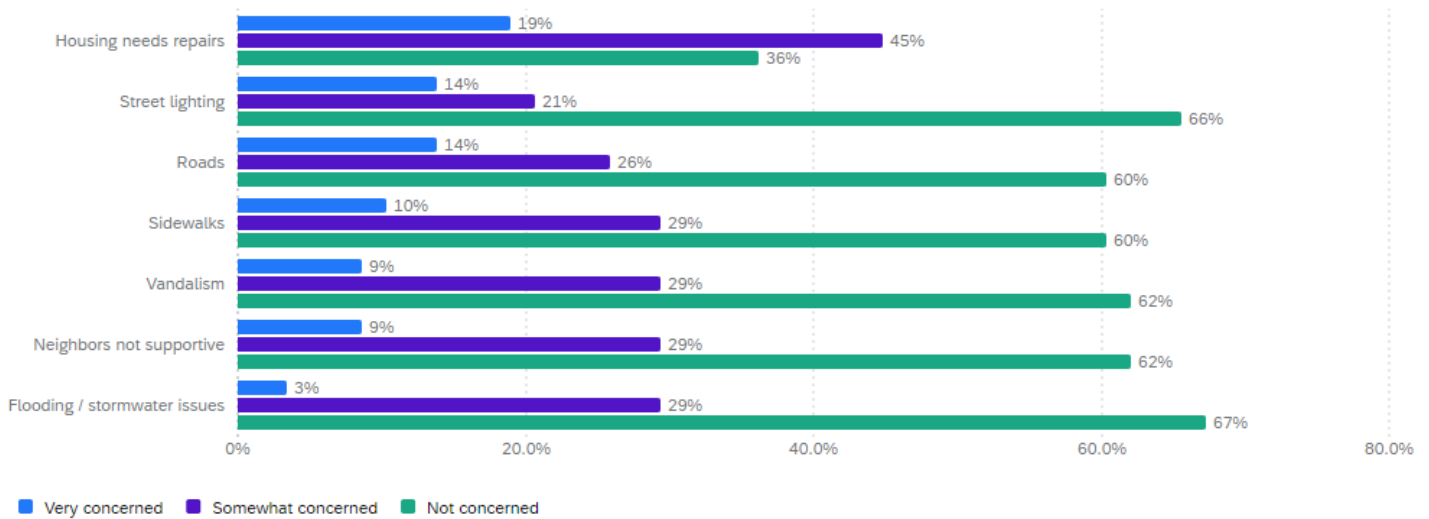
“Doesn’t appear to be much crime.”

“Walkable/bikeable errands - to grocery, downtown, post office, library, small hardware store, etc.”

“New library.”

Survey Responses

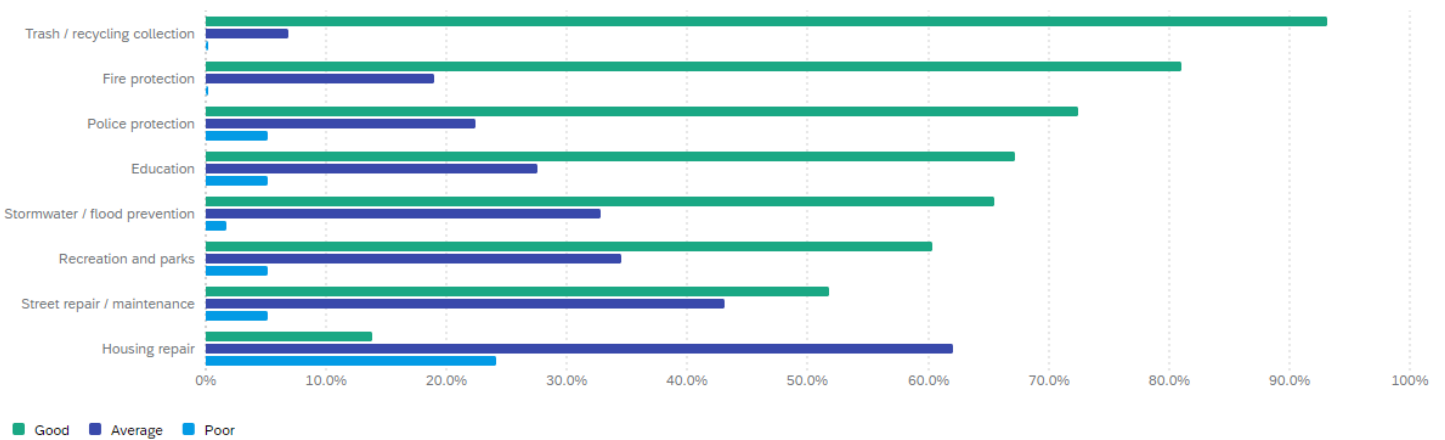
3: Please rate concerns you have for your neighborhood.



“Housing needs repairs” was the top concern for respondents, with over 60% respondents either concerned or very concerned about this issue.

“Street lighting” and “roads” were the next highest concern, with roughly 40% of respondents being either concerned or very concerned about these issues.

4: How are city services in your neighborhood?



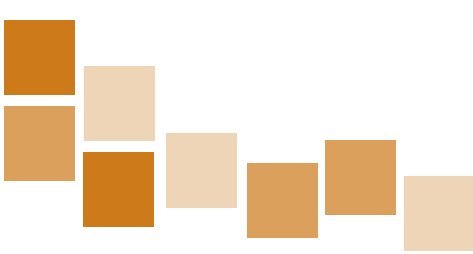
Respondents marked trash / recycling collection and fire protection as top city services for their neighborhood. Over 80% of respondents marked these services as “good” and no respondents marked these services as “poor.”

Respondents marked “housing repair” as the city service most needing improvement, with 24% saying this service was “poor”. More respondents said housing repair services were “poor” or “average” than said this service was “good.”

Survey Responses

5: What needs to be improved in the city services you rated “average” or “poor”?

Comment	# of residents with a similar comment
“The houses in the neighborhood are overall well cared for but some are definitely in need. I know there are some city services that can help with this but I’m not sure the message is getting to the homeowners in need of services.”	11
“Letters to neighbors about cutting lawns, cars in streets, equipment in yards.”	4
“I would like a park near our neighborhood.”	4
“Streets in my neighborhood have been on the repair list a long time before they are actually repaired... some still need some love.”	3
“I would like to see more lighting on Park, Pine, Loula, and Elm. The lighting on Cedar and Troost are excellent after the road improvements were done.”	3
“Better walkable sidewalks... Sidewalks are barriers for motorized scooters, uneven, forced to go into streets.”	3
“There are some individuals that speed up and down W Cedar.”	3
“Need more biking/hiking trail systems in the south Olathe area!”	2
“Large construction trucks have ruined Loula - patching pot holes is ineffective with construction trucks using the street.”	2
“In winter, the sidewalks need to be at least shoveled of snow and ice... Help for handicapped to get to the curb, especially in the winter.”	2
“Culverts need more attention for safety. They invite kids in and can be very dangerous during the flash floods.”	1



Survey Responses

5: What needs to be improved in the city services you rated “average” or “poor”?

Comment	# of residents with a similar comment
“Street sweeper/cleaner is never on our streets on west side.”	1
“Some old boarded up houses.”	1
“More native mass plantings. Less lawn! Encourage businesses with big lawns to plant natives. I’d love to see the traffic islands planted with natives.”	1
“Commercial traffic requirements. Limit commercial development to help with traffic flow. Parking entrance & exist space requirements.”	1
“South alley in 200 block of S Pine St is no ADA compliant, nor does it allow for water drainage from sidewalk and alley.”	1
“Parks, please put a bathroom/port-a-potty at Calamity Line Park. Who can stay at a park with kids more than a half hour without a bathroom?”	1
“No yield signs, everyone thinks all signs are yield and some have stop signs but no one stops.”	1
“Need traffic control - Dennis Ave is very dangerous for last three years. Need stop light at Dennis Ave and Weaver Street.”	1
“It would be nice if there was service that would help with tree limb collection or yard waste.”	1
“Dog waste stations along Santa Fe street between Parker and Kansas.”	1

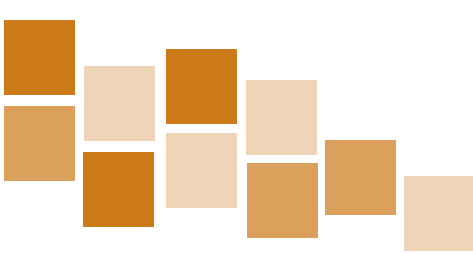
Survey Responses

6: Is there a city service that your neighborhood needs that is not provided?



7: Identify the needed service

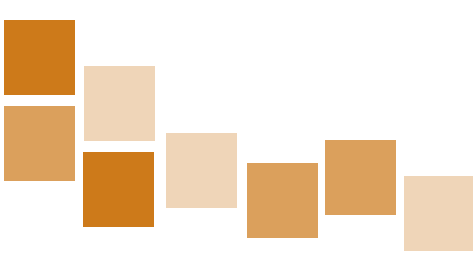
Comment	# of residents with a similar comment
"Tree trimming or trees cut down. Some trees are dead and too close to wires or cable lines."	4
"High grass / weeds. Clutter. City not enforcing ordinances."	3
"Police presence and enforcing laws."	2
"I'd appreciate limb pickup and yard waste disposal."	2
"More 'No Parking' signs."	2
"Limit commercial development and increase parking and traffic entrance and exit requirements. Limit access for traffic to cut through neighborhoods."	1
"More biking/hiking trails in the south Olathe area (Parker and Dennis - old Olathe)."	1
"More street lights on Elm St and speed bumps between the railroad and K-7."	1
"Streets cleaned."	1
"Green space, park, common space."	1



Survey Responses

8: What do you like most about living in your neighborhood?

Comment	# of residents with a similar comment
"The people. Have lived in my neighborhood since birth. Great neighbors."	15
"Quiet."	12
"Historic houses."	6
"No HOA."	5
"I feel safe."	5
"Cost of living."	5
"Since we don't live in a development but an old neighborhood, the variety of housing and people is nice."	4
"Walkable and bikeable... close to downtown."	4
"Close to schools, shopping, medical centers."	4
"I feel the city is trying to keep the Original Town area looking as good as possible... thank you for upgrading sidewalks and playground in Calamity Line Park."	3
"Lots of trees."	3
"Lots of yard gardens and front porch character."	3



Survey Responses

8: What do you like most about living in your neighborhood?

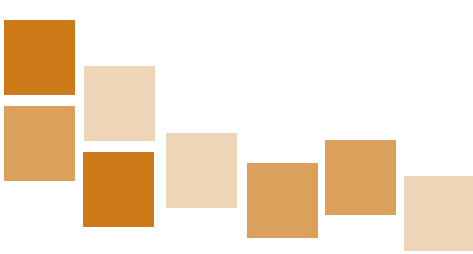
Comment	# of residents with a similar comment
"Good trash and recycling services."	1
"I am loving the downtown growth and changes."	1
"Local school."	1



Survey Responses

9: What changes would most improve your neighborhood?

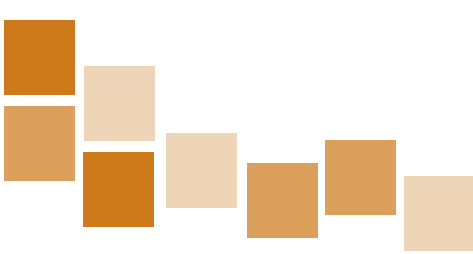
Comment	# of residents with a similar comment
"Our neighborhood would be improved if some of the homeowners could afford to do a little more repair on their homes."	10
"Enforced speed limit / add speed bumps for safety of children."	6
"Get more neighbors out to visit. Block Parties. This neighborhood would be a perfect location for a kids' bike rodeo."	4
"Resolving issues with drug use and car hopping."	4
"Repairing Loula St and maybe adding Elm-like speed bumps. People use Loula to bypass Santa Fe and drive entirely too fast!"	3
"Too many cars on the street."	3
"Removing dead trees and getting other trees trimmed. Fire hazard."	3
"Improve street lighting - on Elm and Pine Street, for instance."	2
"Don't destroy and more historic / cool / old houses and buildings! Encourage more historic preservation, provide resources for updates."	2
"Wish I could afford to improve my house - paint, windows, and repairs."	1
"Help with rental code requirements."	1
"Semi and dump truck traffic rerouted off 7 highway."	1



Survey Responses

9: What changes would most improve your neighborhood?

Comment	# of residents with a similar comment
"Roads and sidewalks repaired."	■
"Flood control in the back of houses. Backyards become swampy after rains."	■
"More biking / hiking trails."	■
"Enforce the codes on burning outside."	■
"Pricing on utilities going down (ex: electric, water, trash)."	■
"Trimming high grass / weeds / clutter."	■
"Crosswalks in area with high populations (apartment complexes) especially for kids walking to school."	■
"More yard waste removal solutions."	■
"Places for recreation."	■



Survey Responses

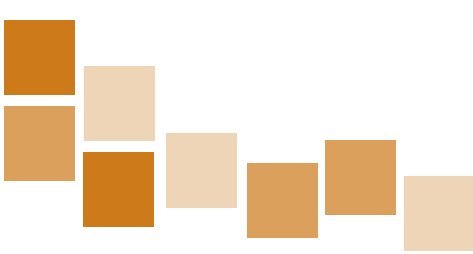
10: Do you have any other comments, questions, or concerns?

Comment	# of residents with a similar comment
"Some people on S Pine are cutting down trees and burning green wood making the entire neighborhood smell of smoke. If our houses should ever catch fire we wouldn't know if because it always smells of smoke."	1
"I'd love it if the City could use some of the street lane designators to make it possible to turn left or right at K-7/Parker and Park St but not to be able to try to cross the street. I know this would impact entering the Price Chopper Shopping center but the volume of traffic has increased significantly in this area and I believe it is an accident waiting to happen when a car tries to cross the street completely."	1
"Thank you for creating Claudio's job!! So helpful to know that codes enforcement has the emphasis of connecting people to resources for the common good, rather than punishing. One of those almost invisible amenities that makes a foundational difference."	1
"I don't know who made the decision to allow parallel parking on Kansas Ave at Elm st, but someone is going to get killed. A car on Elm st that is turning onto East Kansas Ave or that is going straight across has to practically be out in the center of Kansas Ave to see if it is safe to proceed."	1
"Look into cul-de-sacs on the west side. Ours has no streetlight. West side isn't well lit like the east or north side or south of Olathe."	1
"Traffic flow is a problem with allowing increase in businesses on Highway 7."	1
"Some cars go way too fast on our side roads and in neighborhoods."	1
"Drug usage, car thefts are areas of concern as well as street lighting."	1
"City of Olathe not supportive of historical society and maintaining history."	1

Survey Responses

10: Do you have any other comments, questions, or concerns?

Comment	# of residents with a similar comment
"Intersection between Parker and Dennis is extremely dangerous. Would like to see more traffic control there."	■
"Bike lanes that appear for a few blocks and suddenly end are ridiculous."	■
"Difficult to walk on sidewalks when shrubs and trees impeded sidewalks."	■
"We would like to see a block party organized for our neighborhood."	■
"I wish that there were more shopping options."	■



Resources

Click on the links (any word that is underlined) to learn more about each resource.

Healthy Neighborhood Grants

- Community Engagement Grant - up to \$2,000 - for neighborhood block parties, music events, classes, and other events that connect neighbors.
- Neighborhood Beautification Grant - up to \$4,000 - for community gardens, pocket parks, neighborhood clean-ups, and other projects that enhance neighborhoods.

Housing Rehabilitation

- Deferred Loan Program: income-eligible homeowners can apply for an interest-free deferred loan to make major home repairs.
- Emergency Repair Program: income-eligible homeowners can apply for a grant for repairs that would pose a threat to their health and safety.
- Accessibility Modification Program: income-eligible homeowners with physical limitations can apply for a grant to remove structural barriers from their home.

Neighborhood Traffic Safety

This program is designed to resolve traffic issues such as speeding and illegal parking.

Community Enhancement

Otherwise known as Codes Enforcement, these staff inspect properties for exterior code violations and require corrections. Submit a codes concern at the link above.

Stormwater Cost Share Program

The program helps cover the cost of materials, equipment, and labor with a 50 percent match for expenses on the following:

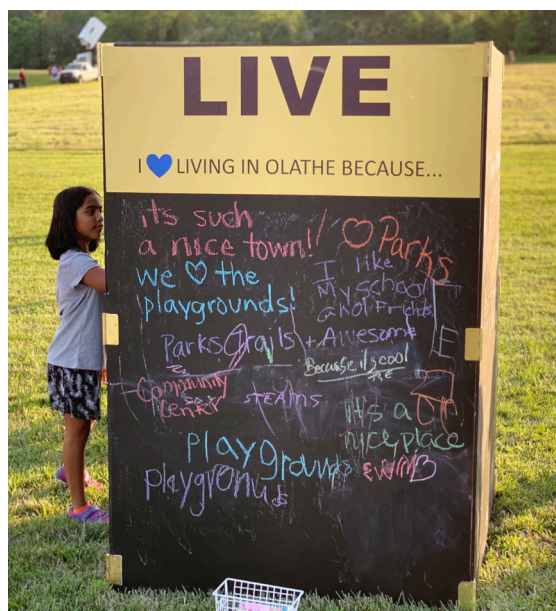
- Rain gardens, bioswales, stream buffers, or native plantings, up to \$1,000.
- Rain barrels, up to \$75 each. Limit: two rain barrels per household.

Snow Removal Assistance

The Snow Brigade operates as a volunteer service for elderly or disabled Olathe residents who request snow removal.

City of Olathe Contacts

City of Olathe - Main Line	913-971-8600
Planning Division	913-971-8750
Housing Rehabilitation	913-971-7900
Community Enhancement	913-971-9880
Stormwater	931-971-9071
Neighborhood Traffic Safety	913-971-5081
Snow Removal Assistance	913-971-8566
Utilities & Trash	913-971-9311



For additional information, contact the City of Olathe Planning Division at planningcontact@olatheks.org or (913) 971-8750