

VOLKER

Neighborhood Assessment Report

Neighborhood Workshop Date: September 23, 2000



FOCUS Kansas City
City Planning and Development Department
City of Kansas City, Missouri

City of Fountains



Heart of the Nation

SERVICE	AGENCY OR CITY DEPARTMENT	PHONE
City Services	Action Center	513-1313
Abandoned Cars on Private Property	Neighborhood and Community Services	513-9000
Abandoned Cars on Public Property	Kansas City, MO Police Department	234-5000
Abandoned Homes	Neighborhood and Community Services	513-9000
Air Quality	Health Department	513-6314
Animal Control	Neighborhood and Community Services	513-9800
Building Permits	Codes Administration	513-1451
Bulky Item Pick Up	Environmental Management	513-3490
Curb Reconstruction	Public Works	513-2590
Dangerous Buildings/ Demolition	Neighborhood and Community Services	513-9000
Housing Code Violations	Neighborhood and Community Services	513-9000
Illegal Dumping Hotline	Environmental Management	513-3485
Neighborhood Assistance/ Services	Neighborhood and Community Services	513-3265
Paint Program	Neighborhood and Community Services	513-3266
Parks and Community Centers	Board of Parks and Recreation	513-7500
Potholes	Public Works - Street and Traffic	513-2777
Senior Citizens Transportation	Share-a-Fare/ATA	842-9070
Sewers - Problems	Water Department After Hours	513-2180 513-2109
Sidewalks - Repair	Public Works	513-2602
Storm Drains	Water Department	513-2180
Street Light Repairs	Kansas City Power and Light	654-1400
Weatherization Program	Housing and Community Development	513-3015

THE VISION OF FOCUS KANSAS CITY

We, as Kansas Citians, envision our city as a people-centered community. From economic development to the readability of street signs, we consider people first. Kansas City shapes and guarantees its future by examining first and foremost the impact of every decision on future generations.

We, as Kansas Citians, are full of hope. We demonstrate this hope through our investment in our families, our homes, our neighborhoods, our schools, our businesses and our city.



For more information about **FOCUS Kansas City**:

- call the office at **513-2822**,
- visit **www.kcmo.org/focus/**, or
- e-mail **focus@kcmo.org**.

To reach the Neighborhood Assessment Team, call **513-2909**.

FOCUS - **F**orging **O**ur **C**omprehensive **U**rban **S**trategy



FOCUS KANSAS CITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD ASSESSMENTS



FOCUS Kansas City, Kansas City's strategic and comprehensive plan, recognizes that neighborhoods understand best how to direct their own futures. The first initiative in the *FOCUS Neighborhood Prototypes Plan* is a strategic assessment / evaluation that enables a neighborhood to evaluate its strengths and needs. Through the assessment process, a neighborhood can direct its assets towards its most critical needs. The *FOCUS Neighborhood Prototypes Plan* identifies the assessment format.

There were two objectives for these neighborhoods during the self-evaluation:

1. To self-identify its **neighborhood type** from the *FOCUS Neighborhood Prototypes Plan*.
2. To develop **improvement strategies** that will direct neighborhood improvement, a "To Do" list/Action Steps incorporating participation by the neighborhood, community partners, and the City.

This neighborhood conducted the neighborhood assessment workshop with assistance from City staff. Residents, business people and people who work in local institutions provided input. These community members mapped their community, and identified assets and priority issues in their neighborhoods.



A Volker resident finds her home on the "heart map"



NEIGHBORHOOD TYPE

The FOCUS Neighborhood Prototypes Plan recognizes that not all neighborhoods in Kansas City are the same. The character and condition of where we live varies according to age, history, type of housing and other factors. Each community has different strengths and opportunities. Each has different assets and priorities that drive unique strategies for improvement. FOCUS developed four unique Neighborhood Types that generally describe Kansas City neighborhoods. Each Neighborhood Type suggests what actions are required for an area to become or stay healthy. These four Types (assigned the colors Blue, Orange, Purple and Green in the Neighborhood Assessment workshop) are:

Developing Conservation Stabilization Redeveloping

The Assessment is a beginning point from which the community can move forward and achieve quality living environments through a commitment to continuous improvement. The descriptions for these four Neighborhood Types are contained in the *FOCUS Neighborhood Prototypes Plan*, Appendix A, "General Neighborhood Description / Types."

In the workshop, participants defined the tools, actions and strategies for improving their community. They will use this information to strategically apply public and private resources in a way that is based on existing conditions, trends, opportunities, strengths and needs. Once other neighborhoods identify their Type, then similarly "typed" Kansas City communities can connect and partner around common issues and projects while assisting each other in developing their organizations.



Workshop participants vote for their choice of Neighborhood Type

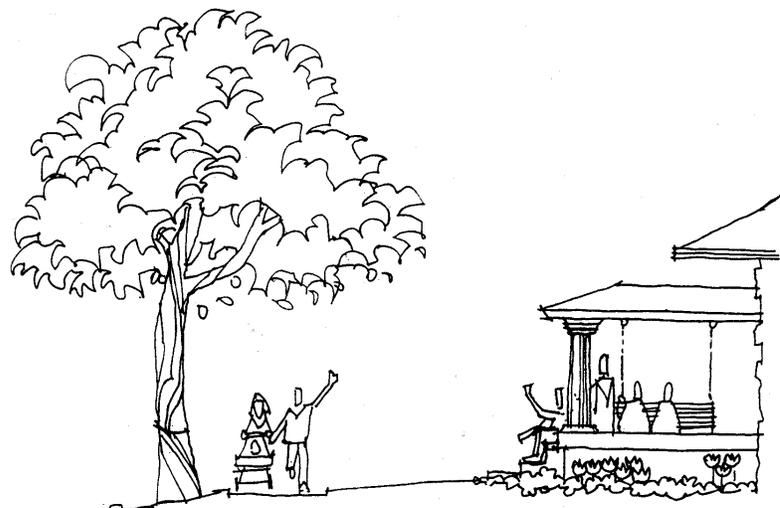
THE VOLKER PERSPECTIVE

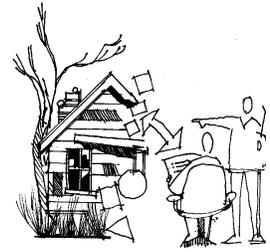


On Saturday, September 23, 2000, a group of dedicated neighbors from the Volker neighborhood got together for their FOCUS Neighborhood Assessment workshop. This was in fact the second time that this neighborhood went through this process; the first was just over two years ago, when they were part of the original FOCUS Neighborhood Assessment pilot program.

At the workshop two years go, residents voiced their concerns, suggested strategies for addressing them, and developed their priorities. The result of the work done at that original workshop is the Volker Strategic Plan, included in its entirety at the end of this report. At the September workshop, residents again discussed their neighborhood in depth. Some in attendance were participants at the original workshop, and some were not, which made for a balanced discussion of the history of the work that had been done in the area, and what was possible for the future.

The Volker neighborhood takes its name from one of Kansas City's most famous entrepreneurs, William Volker, a man known for his generosity and dedication to the community. His home, named "Roselawn" after his wife Rose, remains standing, and is one of the most treasured properties in the neighborhood. Residents would like to see it restored, and preserved as an owner occupied single family residence (it currently is rented). The former Loretto Academy, originally built as a Catholic girl's home, has been restored, and now is home to condominiums and office space, most notably an office of the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation. Both of these historic properties are listed on both the Kansas City and National Historic Registers.

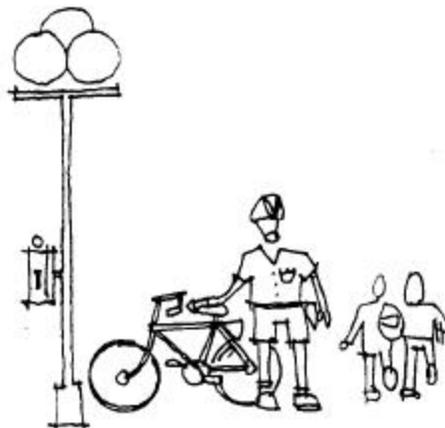




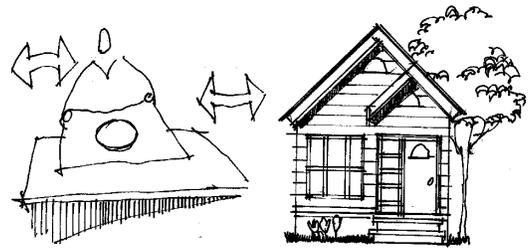
The preservation of the Volker neighborhood's architectural quality is at the top of the list for the residents. They want to see improved property maintenance by both home owners and landlords, and are especially concerned about the negative impact that absentee landlords who neglect their properties has on the neighborhood. Traffic issues such as speeding and the inability to easily cross and turn from and onto Southwest Trafficway are also concerns, as is the maintenance of the trees in the area by the City, including those in Roanoke Park.

The workshop participants spoke of the many aspects of Volker of which they are proud: the sense of community, including many active residents, the businesses along 39th Street, historical leadership and a strong neighborhood association, and the diversity of people, incomes, and housing. Those present recognized that these strengths are what will support their neighborhood in moving forward on all of their priority issues.

The purpose of this report is to help clarify residents' goals and identify resources. The following page contains the residents' priorities and their suggested improvement strategies. The report also contains the lists of assets, challenges and ideas for improvement that Volker residents named during the workshop. Finally, a directory of frequently used City and agency services is on the inside back cover.



PRIORITIES



Residents of the Volker neighborhood named the following as their priority issues:

Preserve the Quality of the Neighborhood

Volker residents are proud of their neighborhood, and want to see that the positive features are protected, and that negative aspects are abated. Some of their suggestions are:

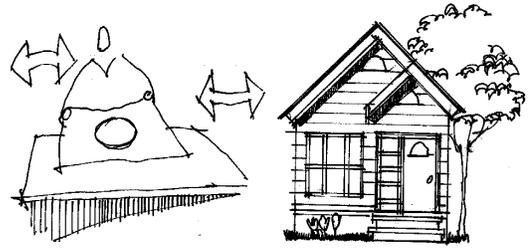
- Continue to work on increasing home ownership, and enhance education about property maintenance
- Encourage the City to enforce property code violations against absentee landlords and to conduct routine “windshield” property inspections in the neighborhood
- Work with the City to address traffic issues, and encourage the KCMO Police Department to enforce the parking restrictions and speed limits

Continue Neighborhood Enhancements

Workshop participants saw many opportunities to continue the work they are already doing, and to make further progress:

- Start a neighborhood recycling program
- Put up the new Volker banners
- Continue to seek funds from other sources for neighborhood projects
- Pay for historically-inspired street lights

PRIORITIES, CONT'D



Promote Neighborliness

Volker residents know that neighbors that treat each other and the community with respect are vital to any area. Some of their suggested strategies to encourage this:

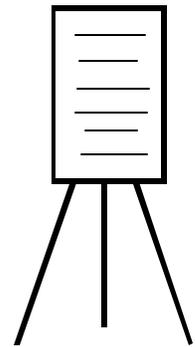
- Create and publicize a “Good Neighbor Agreement” that will provide guidelines and resources for both neighbors and businesses
- Through education, encourage pet owners to be responsible for their pets
- Create a volunteer list to help older residents and others who need assistance in keeping up their property

Develop and Continue Partnerships

A strong neighborhood association is one that has both internal and external support. Volker neighbors would like to work with their partners in the community:

- Encourage KCPL to provide more reliable electrical services
- Continue working with KU Medical Center for use of their parking lot for the 39th Street businesses
- Encourage the 39th Street businesses to install ATMs and to post their menus
- Build or enhance relationships with Woodbridge Apartments, Gordon Parks Elementary School, Westside Housing Organization, and other neighborhood associations

CHART NOTES



The Volker Neighborhood Assessment covered the area from 31st Street on the north to Westport Road on the south, and from State Line on the west to Roanoke Road/Southwest Trafficway on the east.

Neighborhood Slogans

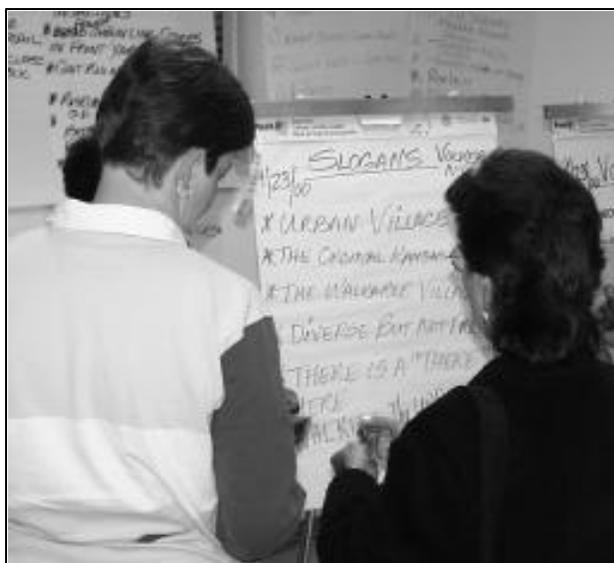
The attendees brainstormed several slogans to describe their neighborhood. The slogans helped the participants to identify how they viewed their community.

The selected slogan:

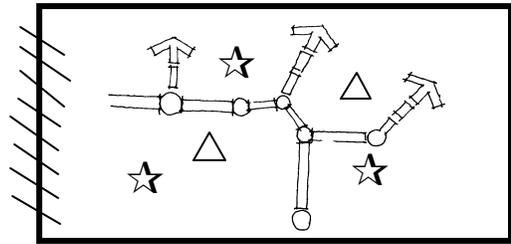
Walking the Urban Village

Other suggested slogans:

- Urban Village
- The Original Kansas City
- The Walkable Village
- Richly Diverse But Not Perverse
- There Is a "There" Here



Volker residents vote for their favorite neighborhood slogan



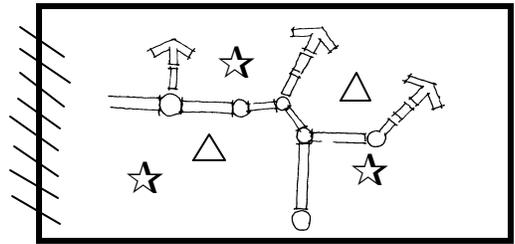
STEP 1: My Neighborhood Is

Workshop participants identified how they experience their neighborhood, and considered those things they want to protect, preserve or enhance. They thought about the landmarks, paths, activity centers, districts, edges or barriers, and features. These were noted on a wall map.

- △ **Landmarks** — significant physical objects, like buildings or signs
- ⦚ **Paths** — routes people use to get places
- **Activity Centers** — gathering places to do some activity
- **Districts** — areas of recognizable character
- ▨ **Edges or Barriers** — a limit or boundary that prevents people from enjoying the neighborhood or something in it
- ☆ **Features** — things people like and would like to preserve or enhance



Roanoke Park, an area Activity Center and Feature



Landmarks

- The Loretto
- Guardian Angels Church
- Covered wagon at intersection of Southwest Trafficway and Westport Road
- Roselawn (William Volker's home)
- d'Bronx
- Fric-n-Frac restaurant
- Mr. Z's convenience store
- Café Allegro
- Jazz: A Louisiana Kitchen
- The brick road near the Westport/Roanoke Community Center
- Westport Road commercial district

Paths

- State Line Road
- 39th Street
- Westport Road
- Wyoming
- The "secret path" in Roanoke Park

Activity Centers

- Businesses along 39th Street
- Churches south of 39th Street
- Roanoke Park
- Westport/Roanoke Community Center
- Westport Road commercial district

Districts

- Businesses along 39th Street
- Westport Road commercial district

Edges or Barriers

- Southwest Trafficway (including timing of the traffic signals)
- The "secret path" in Roanoke Park

Features

- The Loretto
- Roselawn
- Churches south of 39th Street
- Roanoke Park
- Arts and Crafts bungalows, mostly south of 39th Street
- Gordon Parks Elementary School
- The many people in the neighborhood who are community activists
- The brick road near the Westport/Roanoke Community Center

VOLKER IMAGES



Landmark, Activity Center and District:
The businesses along 39th Street



Landmark:
Fric & Frac, a restaurant on 39th Street that is working with the Volker Neighborhood Association to promote the neighborhood



Edge or Barrier:
Southwest Trafficway, one of the Volker neighborhood's boundaries, and a street that can be very difficult to cross on foot or in a car

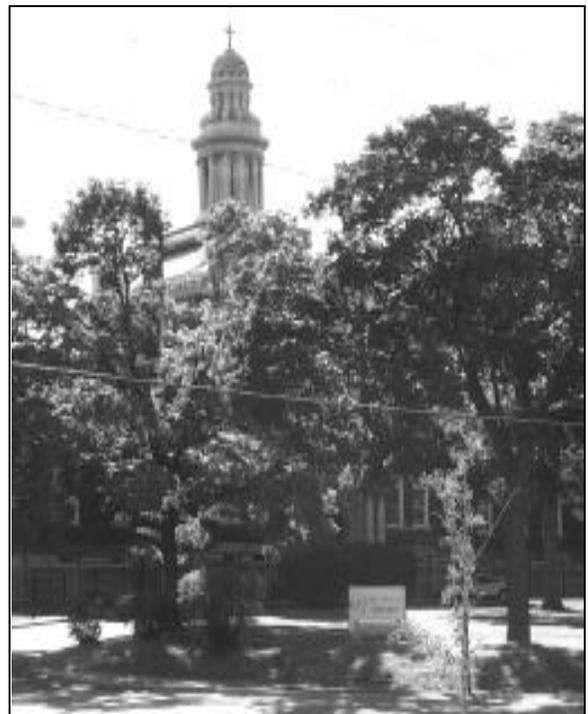
VOLKER IMAGES



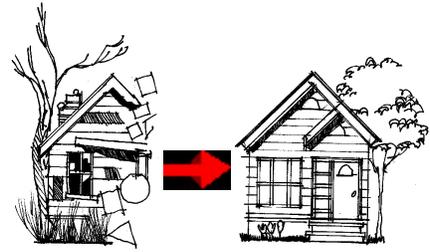
Feature:

The former Volker Elementary School, now housing Gordon Parks Elementary School

Landmark and Feature:
The Loretto



A Volker neighborhood marker



STEP 2: If I Could Fix One Thing

In every neighborhood there are some things that need to be changed. These issues can inhibit residents from enjoying their neighborhood and from doing the things they like to do. Below is the list of “fixes” that workshop participants said they would like to see in the Volker neighborhood.

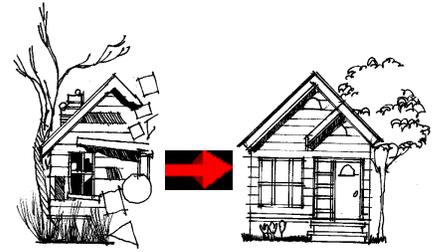
- Initiate systematic property code inspections
- Have fewer chain link fences in front yards
- Get rid of the overpopulation of black birds
- Restore Roselawn to a single family dwelling
- Better code enforcement for both owner occupied single family homes and rented properties
- Require the property owner to live in their multi-family property
- Control the unsupervised, vicious dogs in the area
- Stop speeding on the “Wyoming Speedway” – and on 39th Street, Southwest Trafficway and 41st Street
- More trees throughout the neighborhood
- Improve park maintenance
- Improve property maintenance
- Allow left turn onto Valentine Road from Southwest Trafficway from both north-and south-bound lanes



Volker residents would like to see fewer chain link fences like this one in their neighborhood



Workshop attendees would like to see improved maintenance of trees in the area



- Limit the number of single family homes that are rental properties
- Create a low-power classical and jazz radio station in the neighborhood
- Landscape properties to their value and appearance
- Encourage the City to tell its mowing contractors to be more mindful – they often leave deep ruts in the easements
- Rezone all of Volker north of 39th Street to R2a
- Improve current public transportation and create other, more effective options
- Create more usable bike, pedestrian and recreational trails in the neighborhood (most existing trails are littered with shards of glass)
- Add public art to 39th Street



Some Volker residents would like to see public art along 39th Street, one of the neighborhood's main thoroughfares



STEP 3: My Neighborhood's Assets

Workshop participants identified assets in their neighborhood. These qualities include places, groups, organizations, equipment, skills, abilities and any other feature that adds value to the neighborhood.

- Homes with front porches
- Roanoke Park
- Responsive, progressive and pragmatic neighborhood association that listens to and works with all people in the neighborhood, not just the businesses or other "big players"
- Many individuals who take an interest in the neighborhood and get things done
- 39th Street – it's a real destination, for both Missouri and Kansas residents
- Convenient, walkable access to shopping
- Historical leadership, beginning with William Volker
- A sense of community
- Great, diverse people
- Roselawn
- The Loretto
- Historic fabric of the homes, no room for new development
- Johnson Hardware
- The business district on Westport Road
- The property values have increased tremendously
- The diversity of housing stock
- The diversity of income
- It's a FOCUS neighborhood!



One of the many beautiful front porches in the Volker neighborhood



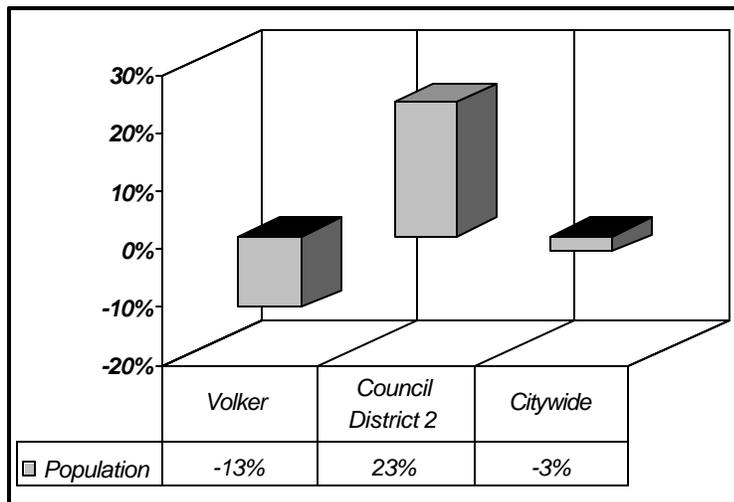
Roselawn, the former home of William Volker



STEP 4: Facts About My Neighborhood

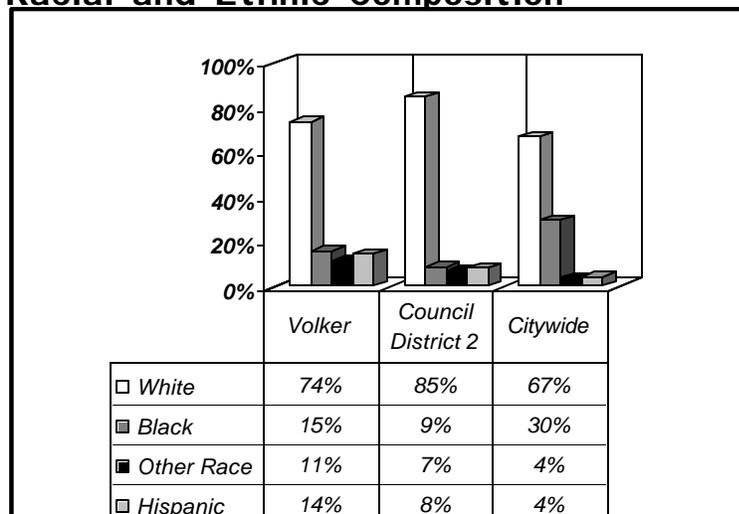
The data presented at the Volker Neighborhood Assessment was from the 1990 U.S. Census, and from 1999 information from the Kansas City, Missouri Police Department and the Kansas City, Missouri City Planning and Development Department. Below are the facts the participants said were surprising or noteworthy. (See the neighborhood assessment workbook for more detail.)

Change in Population 1980-1990



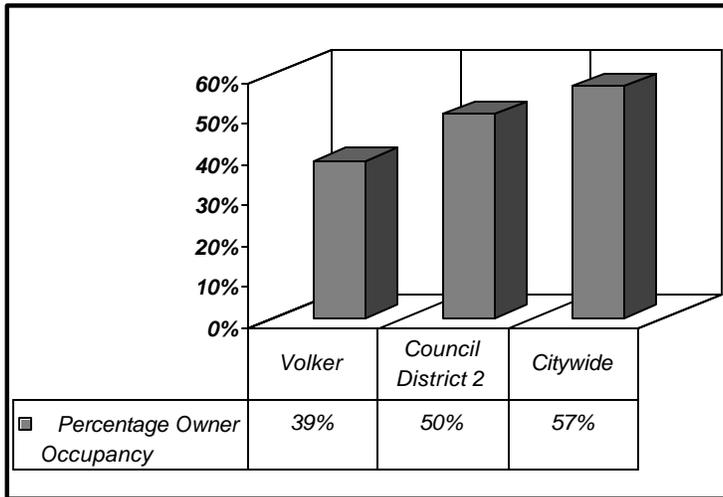
Neighbors believe that there has been an increase in the population since 1990, and that the population is more racially diverse; they also stated that the Hispanic population has increased significantly, especially south of 39th Street.

Racial and Ethnic Composition



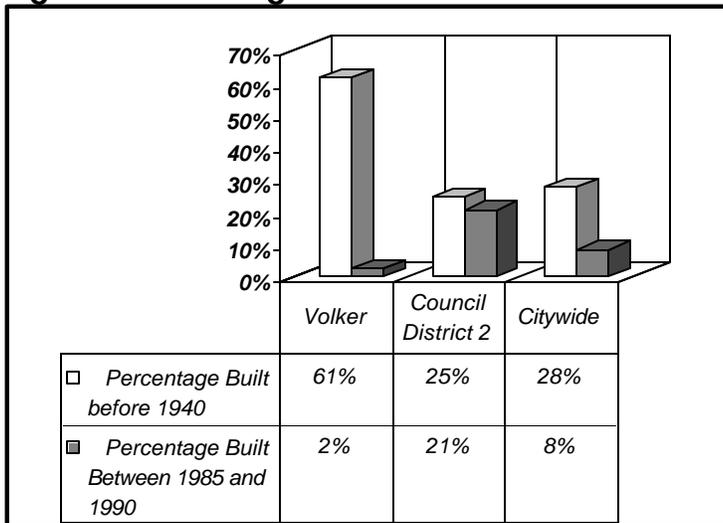


Owner Occupied Housing Units



Residents stated that there are fewer rental units now, which they feel contributes to a reduced crime rate. They feel that higher percentages of rentals can contribute to increases in crime, because people involved in criminal activity may perceive that people in the area aren't as concerned about what goes on in the community. Residents believe that the perception of a low crime rate is bringing homeowners back to the area.

Age of Housing Units

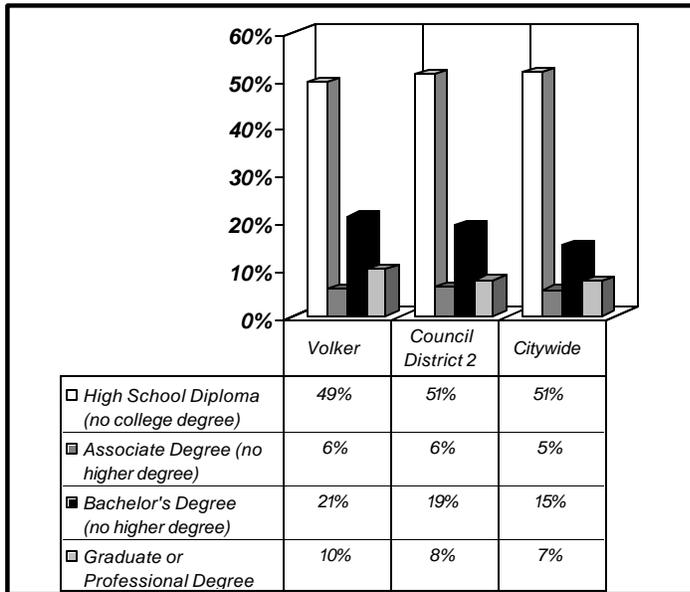


Participants stated that many of the historic homes in the neighborhood were built not only before 1940 but at around the turn of the century.



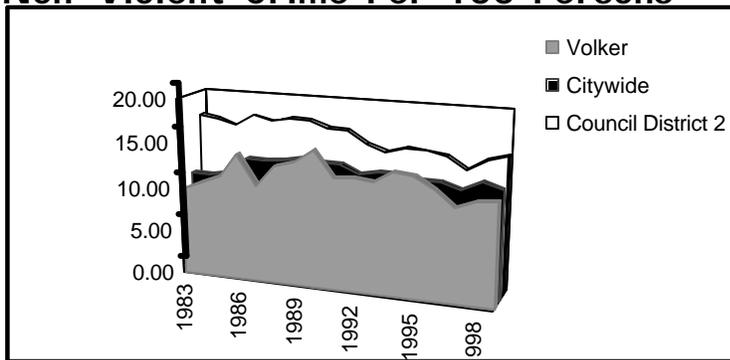
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Education of Persons Age 25 or Older

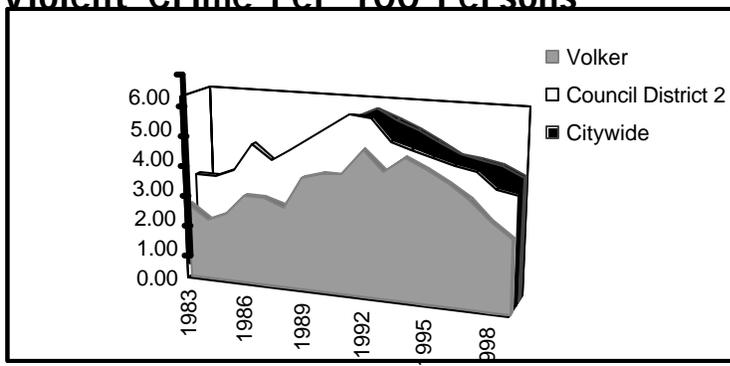


Residents noted that the rates of higher education in Volker are comparable to those for the rest of Council District 2, which includes the new developments north of the river and people with higher incomes.

Non-Violent Crime Per 100 Persons



Violent Crime Per 100 Persons



Neighbors believe that the goal from the Volker Strategic Plan to reduce the rate of crime is working.



STEP 5: Describing My Neighborhood

Those who attended the workshop were asked to vote on the Neighborhood Type that best described their neighborhoods. The majority chose Conservation.

Conservation

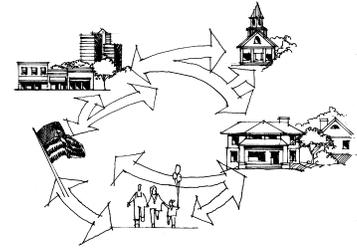
My neighborhood has been developed for some time. Established businesses and institutions are located in the neighborhood. Places of worship, schools, recreational and entertainment facilities, and businesses provide many opportunities near my home.

Tree-lined streets, historic structures or qualities, public art and/or other amenities characterize the neighborhood and give it a sense of place. Most of the houses are occupied. Little demolition has occurred here and vacant land is scarce.

It appears that both public and private areas are well-maintained, although a house or business periodically falls into disrepair from a lack of routine maintenance (painting, yard upkeep, awning repair, etc.). Some infrastructure repairs may be needed to keep the neighborhood attractive. Generally the problems that do come up can be addressed by our neighborhood association, by a call to the City, or through neighbors getting together to help one another.



Johnson Hardware at 39th and Bell, an established business in the Volker neighborhood

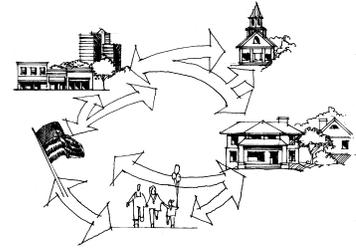


STEP 6: Making My Neighborhood Better

Neighbors talked about specific actions their community can take to address the issues and challenges identified earlier in the Assessment. They brainstormed ideas, concentrating on those actions that can be performed by the community to improve the neighborhood. Below is a list of all the ideas mentioned by workshop participants. They voted on the ideas that they most want implemented to make their neighborhood better.

Things we can do **Ourselves**:

- Start a neighborhood recycling program
- Continue to work on increasing home ownership
- Institute a "Good Neighbor Agreement" that will provide guidelines and resources for neighbors and businesses
- Through education, encourage pet owners to be responsible for their pets, such as cleaning up after them, managing bored, barking dogs
- Put up the new Volker banners
- Create a volunteer list to help older residents and others who need assistance in keeping up their property
- Continue and enhance education about property maintenance
- Install a container for pet waste, including bags
- Put information about the City's transit study meetings in the neighborhood newsletter
- Work with the City Forester to replace trees
- Continue to seek funds from other sources for neighborhood projects
- Consider dividing Volker into North Volker and South Volker
- Encourage more residents from all of the neighborhood to participate in the neighborhood organization
- Pay for historically-inspired street lights



Things we can do with a **Partner**:

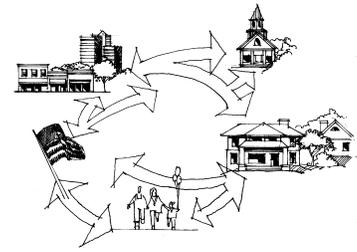
- Work with housing developers on the conversion of existing multi-family units into housing for the elderly, co-ops, etc., to increase owner-occupancy and housing options
- Encourage KCPL to provide more reliable electrical services
- Continue working with KU Med Center for use of their parking lot for the 39th Street businesses
- Work with a nearby neighborhood to remove brush, limbs and other yard waste
- Encourage local businesses to install ATMs
- Encourage local restaurants to post their menus
- Continue and enhance the partnership with Westside Housing Organization – tool lending library, etc.
- Encourage local businesses to adopt the Good Neighbor Agreement, and to encourage employees through incentives for alternative transit use
- Encourage the 39th Street Merchants Association and the Volker Neighborhood Association to “play nice” together
- Build a relationship with the Volker Neighborhood Association and Woodbridge Apartments
- Enhance the neighborhood’s relationship with Gordon Parks Elementary School
- Partner with other neighborhood associations, which would allow more representation from all neighbors



The KU Med Center parking lot



Woodbridge Apartments



Things the **City** should do:

- Enforce property code ordinances against absentee landlords
- Enforce the ordinance that prohibits parking across sidewalks in a driveway, and from parking on the street too close to a driveway
- Raise the upper limit of the amount of traffic that an intersection must have in order to allow more stop signs and traffic lights
- The Kansas City Police Department should enforce the parking restrictions and speed limits, especially on evenings and weekends along 39th Street between Southwest Trafficway and State Line
- Schedule at least one storm pick up per year, rather than basing it on the City budget
- When redistricting happens, the 2nd District should separate at the Missouri River, so that “north of the river” is its own district, and Volker is part of a “south of the river” district
- Conduct a traffic study on 41st Street and Southwest Trafficway to address speeding, the need for ability to make turns, traffic calming issues, etc.
- Clean the sanitary sewers in the area – when it rains, there is a distinct odor at Valentine Road and Bell Street
- Conduct routine “windshield” property inspections in the neighborhood
- Replace the old water lines – many residents experience low water pressure
- Repair the sidewalks where tree roots have torn them up
- Replace trees on Wyoming
- Downzone north of 39th Street to retain the single family character of the area
- Provide a “Mobile City Services” van for easy access to paying taxes, getting licenses, registering to vote, getting a library card, flu shots, etc.



Workshop participants
vote on their priorities

Volker Neighborhood Assessment Participants

Kathleen Brock
Mary Campbell
Scott Coryell
John DeBauche
Pamela Gilford
Sue Horning

Helen Huffman
Melissa Koch
Jefferson E. Lewis
Lynda McClelland
Cindy McElmurry
Bill Moretini

Donovan Mouton
Bill & Christine Mullins
Colleen Murbach
Janet Olson
Irene Perez
Jim Peters
Judy Widener

Sponsors and Contributors

- Volker Neighborhood Association
- Gordon Parks Elementary School
- Westport/Roanoke Community Center
- Immanuel Lutheran Church

Getting Involved

To find out more about the Volker Neighborhood Association, contact President Judy Widener at (816) 561-5827. For more information about neighborhood organization, contact the Kansas City Neighborhood Alliance at (816) 753-8600 or the City's Neighborhood and Community Services Department at (816) 513-3200.



Acknowledgements

The Honorable Kay Barnes, *Mayor*
Robert L. Collins, *City Manager*

City Council

The Honorable Ed Ford
First District-at-Large

The Honorable Teresa Loar
First District

The Honorable Bonnie Sue Cooper
Second District-at-Large

The Honorable Paul Danaher
Second District

The Honorable Troy Nash
Third District-at-Large

The Honorable Mary Williams-Neal
Third District

The Honorable Evert Asjes III
Fourth District-at-Large

The Honorable Jim Rowland
Fourth District

The Honorable Becky Nace
Fifth District-at-Large

The Honorable Kelvin Simmons
Fifth District

The Honorable Alvin Brooks
Sixth District-at-Large

The Honorable Charles A. Eddy
Sixth District

City Planning and Development Department

- Vicki Noteis, AIA, *Director*
- Denise Phillips, *FOCUS Manager*
- Diane Charity, Jermine Alberty, Sharon Cheers, Willie Mae Conway, Lindsey Cook, Suzy Latare, John Pajor, Robert Rutherford, Julie Xiong, *Neighborhood Assessment Team*

City Support

- Denise Reeves, *Action Center*
- Evana Hudson, *Action Center*
- Terri Scott, *Action Center*

Appendix

Volker Neighborhood Association Strategic Plan 1997 - 2002

Submitted to:

Kansas City Neighborhood Alliance

By:

Kathleen Brock, President
Donovan Mouton, Vice-President
Paul Mohr, Area II Representative
Mary Rouse

May 16, 1997

I. Mission Statement of Volker Neighborhood Association:

"To promote, in a spirit of selfless cooperation, the health, safety and well-being of the residential and commercial fabric of Volker Neighborhood to enhance and preserve the quality of life for all."

II. "Building A 21st Century Village" - The Vision of Volker Neighborhood in the Year 2002

Features:

- A "Village Without Walls," Volker exists within the larger framework of other neighborhoods and the community-at-large.
- Community anchors or "Focus Centers" are well established, located in schools, churches, and historic structures.
- Mixed-use commercial development is prevalent and within easy access by foot or bicycle.
- Housing values are strong and matched by widespread homeownership.
- A pedestrian and bicycle friendly environment exists.
- A strong presence within cyberspace has been established.

III. Issues Analysis

Issues in 1997, ranked by priority of concern:

1. Lack of homeownership (33% of dwelling units owner-occupied; 1990 census)
2. Traffic & parking problems
3. Residential/commercial land use conflicts:
 - Encroachment of commercialization into residential area
 - Concentration of restaurants
 - Concentration of liquor licenses (west end of 39th St)
 - Lack of commercial diversity
4. Aesthetic issues
 - Property maintenance
 - Litter
 - Unscreened dumpsters
 - Lack of park maintenance
5. Allowable residential density too high in North Volker - development threat to historic "Roselawn"
6. Crime, or the perception of crime
7. Concentration of low-income housing in one location (i.e., Roanoke Ridge)
8. Uncertain future of churches (i.e., Large church/Small congregation syn drome)

IV. Goals, Objectives & Activities

Goal A: Neighborhood Sustainability - Nurture neighborhood sustainability through comprehensive planning, good urban design, environmental stewardship, conservation of housing stock, and the incorporation of transportation alternatives.

Objective 1: Increase number of owner-occupied dwelling units to 45% of all DUs by year 2000 census (up from 33% in 1990).

- *Activity 1 - Establish Volker as a "test" neighborhood for the implementation policies embodied in the City's comprehensive plan, FOCUS Kansas City.*
- *Activity 2 - Downzone residential property in North Volker from R-2b to R-2a.*
- *Activity 3 - Create and distribute marketing piece to area realtors and prospective homebuyers.*

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- *ACTION: Write, fund and implement 1997 KCNA Self-Help Grant: "The Volker Writers' Project"*
 - *Activity 4 - Hold a "homes tour" for realtors and the general public.*
 - *Activity 5 - Promote available homeownership assistance programs (e.g., HOME Program).*

Objective 2: Introduce traffic calming measures on blocks experiencing traffic problems.

- *Activity 1 - Establish Residential Permit parking on those blocks which demonstrate sufficient interest.*
- *Activity 2 - Alleviate traffic problems on case-by-case basis using other control measures, as appropriate and per consultation with traffic engineers.*
- *Activity 3 - Encourage strong enforcement of parking ordinances by the regular police and the police traffic control unit.*

Objective 3: Improve the aesthetic environment and increase the level of property code compliance among both residential and commercial properties, such that the number of city-recorded complaints are reduced by 50% from 1997 to 2002.

- *Activity 1 - Instill pride of ownership and community through the distribution of booklet describing the neighborhood's history.*
- *ACTION: Write, fund and implement 1997 KCNA Self-Help Grant: "The Volker Writers' Project"*
- *Activity 2 - Maintain city's active involvement in Systematic Code Enforcement.*
- *Activity 3 - Educate residents on the requirements of the property maintenance code.*
- *Activity 4 - Report rental and commercial properties in violation of the property maintenance code &/or approved development plans.*

Objective 4: Control the number and density of licensed liquor premises to current or lower levels.

- *Activity 1 - Hold firm to the "no net increase" in the number of licensed liquor premises per the South Volker Plan.*
- *Activity 2 - Develop measurable internal guidelines for use by VNA board in order to determine VNA's position regarding the appropriateness of siting/renewal of a licensed liquor premise.*

Objective 5: Raise median household income to 70% of metropolitan median by year 2000 census (up from 66% in 1990).

- *Activity 1 - Establish a "Village Resource Bank" (motto: "Our Capitol is our People") that would enable residents to obtain services from within the neighborhood.*
- *Activity 2 - Encourage neighborhood businesses to post employment notices on the VNA home page.*
- *Activity 3 - Monitor redevelopment of Roanoke Ridge housing and encourage mixed-income development in that project.*

Objective 6: Increase median value of owner-occupied housing to 90% of metropolitan median by year 2000 census (up from 77% in 1990).

- *Activity 1 - Establish the neighborhood as a service area for a Community Development Corporation (CDC).*
- *Activity 2 - Promote available housing rehabilitation assistance programs (e.g., the City's Home Rebate Program).*

Goal B: Neighborhood Safety - Promote neighborhood safety through measures that ensure peace of mind and freedom of movement for all residents.

Objective 1: Decrease Part I & Part II crimes by 40% by the year 2002.

- *Activity 1 - Establish regular contacts/coordination with community policing unit.*
- *Activity 2 - Promote active patrolling by the police bicycle patrol.*
- *Activity 3 - Involve the police in performing home security inspections and educate residents concerning the availability of such inspections.*

Goal C: Neighborhood Identity - Foster positive neighborhood identity through measures that instill communication, cultivate pride, promote name recognition, and contribute to a sense of place and community.

Objective 1: Establish strong presence on world-wide web and record 10,000 annual hits by 2002.

- *Activity 1 - Establish VNA technical group to create and maintain home page.*
- *Activity 2 - Place a neighborhood profile and history on the web.*

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- *ACTION: Write, fund and implement 1997 KCNA Self-Help Grant: "The Volker Writers' Project"*
 - *Activity 3 - Sell advertising space &/or sell links to businesses located within/adjacent to neighborhood.*

Objective 2: Establish North Volker, and potentially South Volker, as historic districts listed on the Kansas City Register of Historic Places.

- *Activity 1 - Assemble survey data and photographs relevant to designation status, in consultation with Landmark's Commission staff.*

Objective 3: Increase paid membership in the neighborhood association by 50%.

- *Activity 1 - Welcome new residents with printed material that profiles and describes neighborhood, VNA, services, et. al.*
- *Activity 2 - Maintain general meetings that are interesting, brief and relevant.*
- *Activity 3 - Disseminate to membership the history of the neighborhood.*
- *ACTION: Write, fund and implement 1997 KCNA Self-Help Grant: "The Volker Writers' Project"*
- *Activity 4 - Review and modify VNA by-laws as necessary in order to improve meeting processes and resident participation.*