

## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS AND NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING AREAS

The LWV-L/DC consensus statement on planning principles states: “The primary urban planning unit should be the neighborhood.” (See the glossary for features which constitute a neighborhood.) The two maps in this packet show neighborhood areas and boundaries, one as delineated by “Plan ‘95” and the other by neighborhood associations. A quick comparison reveals the divergence between the two sets of boundaries. In some cases the association boundaries encompass only a portion of the neighborhood as delineated by “Plan ‘95”; other association boundaries combine parts of two or more “Plan ‘95 neighborhoods”. Therefore, caution must be exercised to be certain which boundaries are being referenced by planners, commissioners, or the public.

Eleven neighborhood associations have joined together to form the Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods (LAN). The twelfth, North Lawrence Improvement Association (NLIA), does not participate in LAN. The map showing NLIA and the LAN-member organizations’ boundaries was made based on information provided by NLIA and LAN. In accordance with the recommendations made in “Plan ‘95”, neighborhood plans were formulated for the following areas: North Lawrence, East Lawrence, Far East Lawrence (now know as Brook Creek), Oread, Old West Lawrence, and Pinckney. These plans were approved by the Planning Commission to function as guides for planning and zoning decisions that affect the respective areas. The maps provided by the planning staff for these approved neighborhood plans show the boundaries to be nearly identical to those used by the neighborhood associations. Recently, University Place formulated a neighborhood plan which was accepted as a communication from the neighborhood; while that plan was not approved by the Planning Commission, it is supposed to be used to assist in planning decisions that affect the area.

Because neighborhoods are the basic planning unit, and the long-term health of a community is directly dependent upon the viability of its neighborhoods, it is in the best interest of the entire community that all neighborhoods remain stable and protected from physical changes that cause neighborhoods to deteriorate. In recognition of the need to provide assistance for low- to moderate-income neighborhoods, Lawrence’s community Development block Grant (CDBG) program provides funds to ensure the stability of these areas. Examples of projects for which CDBG funds are used include: maintenance and preservation of existing housing; neighborhood beautification; drainage improvements; sidewalks and curbs; enhancement of parks and recreational facilities; and alleviation of transportation-related problems. In recent years the City has cooperated with the CDBG program to replace aging water and sewer lines. The neighborhoods currently being targeted to receive CDBG funds are: North Lawrence, East Lawrence, Brook Creek, Oread, Pinckney and University Place. Other low-to moderate-income areas have been identified outside of the targeted neighborhoods; but, because requests exceed the availability of funds, most projects which receive money are in the targeted neighborhoods.

Joyce Wolf, October, 1991

### UPDATE, MARCH, 2012

Note: the planning areas that historically were used by Lawrence planners in our comprehensive plan, Plan ‘95, referred to above, and the general neighborhood planning approach at that time has been revised in the new comprehensive plan—Horizon 2020—accepted by the City Commission on January 27, 1997. There are now adopted “Area Plans,” 13 in all as of March, 2012, which have been incorporated into the current comprehensive plan. The most recent Area Plans have been adopted in advance of development. These generally show the jurisdictional boundaries covered by each Area Plan as a map. Each plan has an extensive text and set of policies for each area. Policies and land use decisions that are recommended in each Area Plan, according to the current Zoning Ordinance in our Lawrence Land Development Code, should be followed. Please also note that the boundaries of Neighborhood Associations and the Planning Areas are not identical, but in general the Associations have had a major voice in the policies of the planning areas that were adopted in the older areas and those new areas that have been substantially developed. In the developing areas this has been true for the landowners, as well. We recommend to view these Area Plans and their texts that the Reader refer to the Planning Commission website: <http://www.lawrenceks.org/pds/lr-areaplans> . The current area boundaries map of the Lawrence Neighborhood Associations is shown below.



# Lawrence Neighborhood Associations

