



Neighborhood Scans



Omaha Neighborhood Scan

Volunteers look for trouble spots



Volunteers have hit the streets looking for trouble. It's part of Omaha Neighborhood Scan, a plan to spot city code violations and residential nicks and bruises in need of attention.

The neighborhood scans are being conducted in the Joslyn neighborhood, around the Ford birth site and in the Gifford Park neighborhood.

The information can be used in two ways. A report is given to the neighborhood association so it can address the issue or, for serious problems, it can be turned over to the city for attention.

Heather Bloom takes part in the survey walks and she documents what she sees in a pocket PC and with a camera.

Neighborhood volunteers are trained in what to look for.

Volunteers see their survey walks as a pro-active approach to catch minor concerns before they become big problems.

Ms. Bloom says, "The sooner you pick up on some of these minor problems, the cheaper it is to replace them."

Graffiti, junk cars, and park equipment in need of repair are all things that might be documented.

Bloom says, "We look for roof problems, step problems, cracks in sidewalks and driveways, peeling paint, broken windows."

Because not everyone is thrilled to have problems on their property documented, the volunteers usually conduct the walks in pairs. Also, since they're not city inspectors, they only document what they can see from public sidewalks.

Once the information is collected a report is made available to the neighborhood association and the city.

Ms. Bloom says, "Once they get all their information we download that into a spreadsheet that we give to the neighborhood and to the city to use."

If you'd like to see a survey walk on your block, you can get in touch with Omaha Neighborhood Scan by calling 554-2702.

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