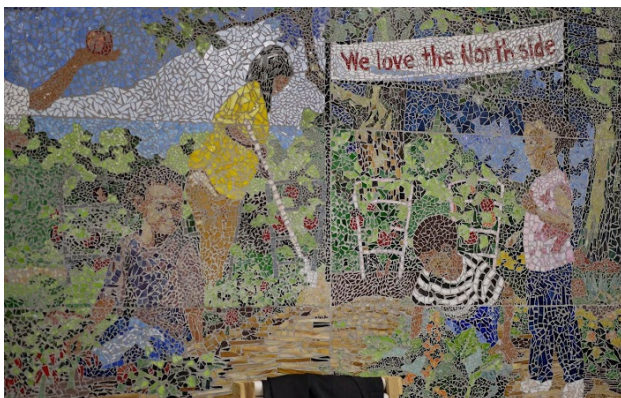


## 2. Neighborhood Plans

Kalamazoo's neighborhoods are diverse collection of people and history. During IK 2025, it became clear that in addition to common issues such as walkability, access to recreation opportunities, and desire to meet daily needs in each neighborhood was at a different. Each geography was at a different stage of development or had a unique focus. The Stuart neighborhood with its rich history, wanted to enhance its historic character through street design. The Northside neighborhood is focused on resident-

owned businesses and resident jobs, while infilling with single-family homes. The Milwood neighborhood wants to create a stronger identity and sense of community. The Vine Neighborhood was hoping to enliven the park with a skate park. Because of the specific nature of these requests, City staff quickly started to organize a neighborhood plan process.

Neighborhood Plans will allow residents to focus on issues important to their neighborhood, while also creating the



Each Kalamazoo neighborhood has a specific history and character. Neighborhood Plans will address the needs of each neighborhood individually. Photo credit:: Neal Conway

opportunity to achieve City-wide Strategic Vision and Master Plan goals. They can focus on as much or as little as the plan would like to cover. All plans will seek to be adopted into the 2025 Master Plan through the Planning Commission.

Neighborhood Plans will:

- Align with the Strategic Vision and Master Plan at the neighborhood scale.
- Develop individual strategies needed to achieve neighborhood completeness.
- Establish a unique neighborhood vision, goals, and actions for implementation.
- Establish relationships within the neighborhood to support implementation.
- Use IK 2025 input from residents as a place to start.



Neighborhood associations play an important role in the development and implementation of Neighborhood Plans.

Photo credit: Neal Conway

## 2.1 Developing the Plan

The development of Neighborhood Plans will be a collaborative effort between the City and each neighborhood. Engagement with residents, business owners, workers, community organizations, institutions, and neighborhood associations are key to the successful development and implementation.

These partners will work with the City to identify neighborhood priorities and set actionable goals.

## 2.2 Planning Process

The Neighborhood Plan process is outlined step by step (Figure 2). It includes information for neighborhoods with and without a current organization, for neighborhoods who are confirming existing plans, and those creating new ones.

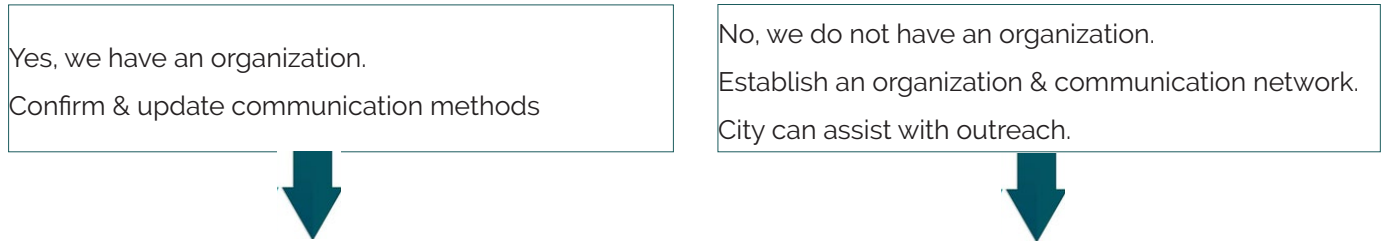
**Step 1. Neighborhood Organization.** To begin the planning process, a neighborhood must have an established organization. This can be formal as a 501c(3) organization or informal. The key is that the group represents the neighborhood as whole, has regular meetings, and an established method of communication through physical or online newsletters or flyers, email, and/or social media.

**Step 2. Existing Plan.** This step is an opportunity to review all existing planning documents related to the neighborhood. A good review will determine what is still relevant for the neighborhood, and how it aligns with the Strategic Vision & Master Plan.

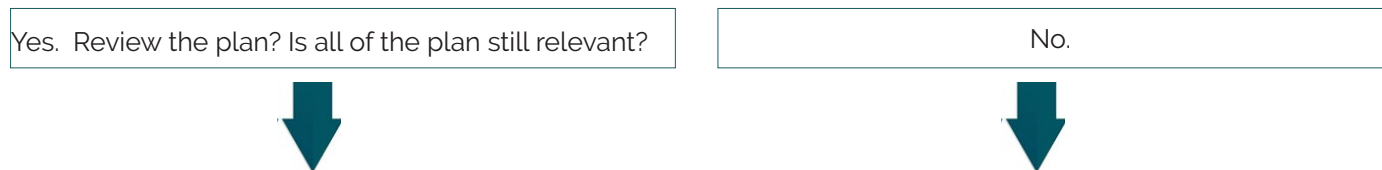
# Neighborhood Plan Process

Figure 2

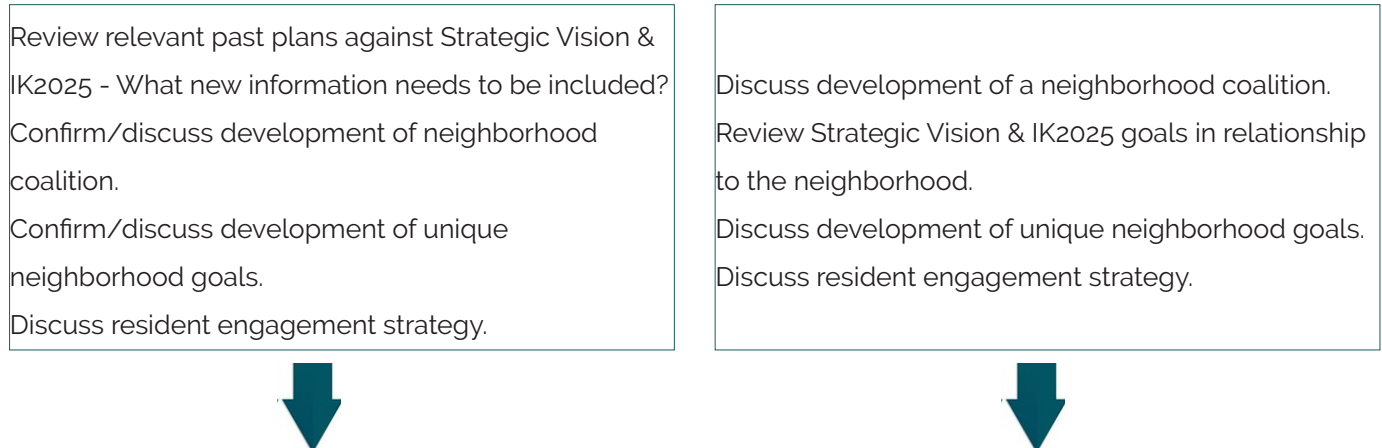
## Step 1. Neighborhood Organization



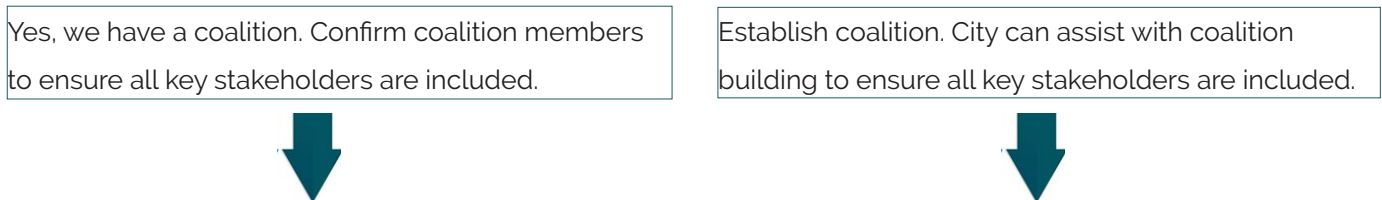
## Step 2. Does your neighborhood already have a plan?



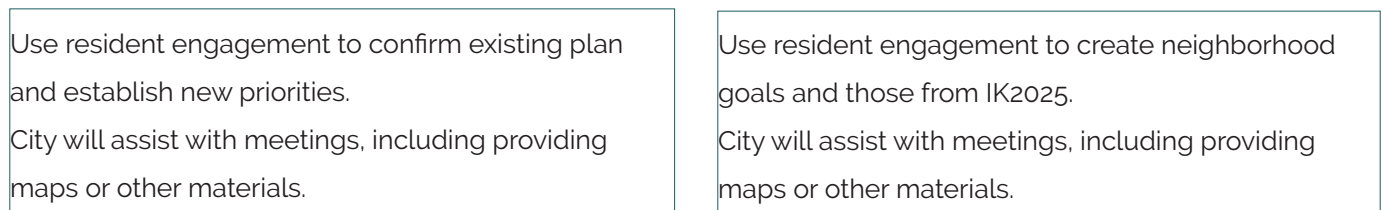
## Step 3. Contact Planning Division to meet with Neighborhood Activator 269-337-8044



## Step 4. Neighborhood Coalition



## Step 5. Set Neighborhood Goals through Resident Engagement.



Step 6. Align Neighborhood Goals & Plan with Strategic Vision

	SP	CC	IPP	ER	SC	YD	CN	SD	EV	GG
Strategic Vision Goals	Shared Prosperity	Connected City	Inviting Public Places	Environmental Responsibility	Safe Community	Youth Development	Complete Neighborhoods	Strength Through Diversity	Economic Vitality	Good Governance
Neighborhood Plan	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•



Step 7. Prioritize & create S.M.A.R.T. goals and actions.

Use resident engagement to confirm existing plan and establish new priorities.  
 City will assist with document drafting.



Step 8. Confirm plan, goals, & actions with neighborhood.

Use resident engagement to confirm plan.



Step 9. Planning Commission to review the plan as Master Plan amendment.

City will assist neighborhood with Planning Commission review.

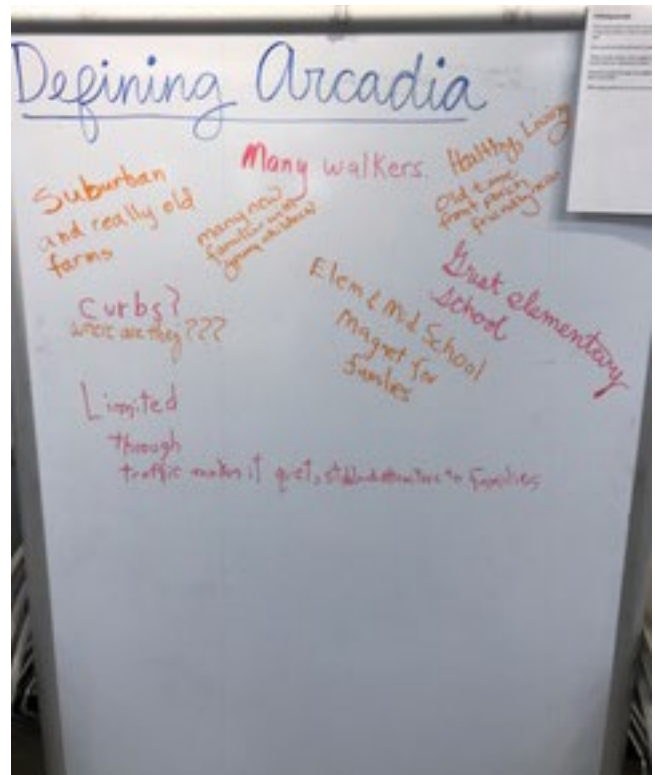
**Step 3. Contact the Planning Division.** The City will support all neighborhoods in their planning efforts. Checking in with Planning Division early in the process will allow the opportunity to start this partnership from the beginning of the process.

**Step 4. Neighborhood Coalition.** Neighborhood Plan development and successful implementation requires a support network. The coalition will be comprised of representatives of the neighborhood organization and City Staff. Community Planning and Development will serve as the lead City representative; other City Departments will be represented depending on the neighborhood's needs. The coalition will also include neighborhood partners representing a variety of interests such as businesses, schools, civic, church, and non-profits who work with and are located within the neighborhood.

**Step 5. Set Neighborhood Goals through Engagement.** The neighborhood outreach will build from IK2025 and include confirmation of this input, explore ideas further, and gather new ideas. The type and extent of engagement will vary by neighborhood and depend on if the neighborhood is working on an existing plan or creating a new one. At a minimum the engagement with neighborhood-wide meetings and regular communication through social media, email, or newsletters/flyers. The City can provide meeting materials and development of engagement activities. The outreach and contact process will be lead by the neighborhood.

### Steps 6-7 Neighborhood Plan Development.

Neighborhood Plans have two key roles. First, they provide a neighborhood approach to implementing the City-wide goals outlined in the Strategic Vision and Master Plan. This includes creating a Connected City and realizing Complete Neighborhoods. Secondly, Neighborhood Plans also aim to achieve the unique vision and goals of the neighborhood. Implementation of the goals and actions will be clearly defined, much like the IK at Work Section of this document. Community Planning and Development (CP&D) staff will typically manage the drafting of the plan document for the neighborhood.



Working to define the Arcadia Neighborhood at a IK2025 meeting.

**Step 8. Confirm Plan with Neighborhood.** When the draft plan is completed, a presentation to the neighborhood should be held so that it can be confirmed by the neighborhood.

**Step 9. Planning Commission Review.**

Neighborhood Plans will be incorporated into the Master Plan through a Planning Commission hearing. The City will assist the neighborhood with this process.

## 2.3 Plan Implementation

Neighborhood Plans are to be action-oriented documents, with clearly implementable goals and actions. Once adopted into the Master Plan, the goals and actions can be realized in a variety of ways.

**Zoning Ordinances.** The Master Plan provides the vision, and the Zoning Ordinance provides the

detailed regulations relating to our built environment. Neighborhood Plans may require zoning updates to realize its vision.

**City Policies & Plans.** The Complete Street Policy and the Non-Motorized Plan will guide transportation projects in the City for all travel modes. Neighborhood Plans actions will be reviewed and implemented using these as guides.

**Funding.** Funding is key to implementing any plan. Priority actions from Neighborhood Plans can be considered for future City budgets and grants. For example, including projects in the City's Transportation Improvement Plan. The incorporation of the Neighborhood Plan into the Master Plan and its alignment with the City's Strategic Vision is seen favorably to many State and Federal grants that can provide additional support.