

## Sunset Neighborhood Phase 2

### Survey and Workshop Summary

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#### Overview

Engagement efforts for Phase 2 of the Sunset Neighborhood plan included an online survey and an in-person and virtual workshop. The online survey was open from April 12 through May 17, 2021 and received a total of 172 responses. The online workshop was held on April 26 and had 3 participants and the in-person workshop was held at Sunset Park on April 29 and had 13 participants. This summary aggregates the feedback from these three outreach events into a series of key themes and findings.

#### Participant Information

- 98% of survey respondents lived in the Sunset Neighborhood and respondents represented neighbors throughout the geographic bounds of Sunset.
- All virtual and in-person workshop participants lived in the Sunset Neighborhood.
- Survey respondents represented a broad range of age groups, with individuals between 35-44 being the most represented group at 37% of respondents. About 60% of the survey respondents have lived in Sunset for less than 10 years with the remaining respondents representing individuals who have been residents of the neighborhood for 11-20 years (20%) or greater than 20 years (19%).
- A striking 94% of survey respondents own their homes, with the remaining 6% indicating that they were renters or did not wish to answer this question. The Sunset neighborhood has an ownership composition of approximately 55% owner occupied housing units, which indicates that these responses are not entirely representative of the renter population in Sunset.



## Vision Statement

Participants were asked to provide input on the following draft Vision Statement for the Sunset Neighborhood.

**Sunset has the charm of a small neighborhood while embracing a diverse population. This community is not just a place where neighbors live, it is a place where neighbors belong.**

**92% of respondents indicated that they generally felt that this vision statement represented their vision for the Sunset Neighborhood.** 63 open ended comments were left in regard to the draft Vision Statement representing the following themes:

- Respondents expressed a desire for more specificity – referencing the parks, trails, trees, quiet streets, peaceful atmosphere, artistic culture, and unique locations that make Sunset special.
- An interest from respondents to recognize the value in how the neighborhood is today – ensure that new changes do not negatively impact the quality of life residents of Sunset enjoy today.
- Define inclusivity – Some respondents felt that inclusivity could have a wide variety of meanings to different people and thus needed additional explanation.
- Rework the first statement – respondents indicated that the vision statement as written can be interpreted as contradictory and should be clarified to show that a small neighborhood can be harmonious with a diverse population.
- Find ways to ensure that development in the neighborhood does not damage the “charm” of the area – respondents wanted to see preservation of space, funky architecture and a nod to the agricultural presence that historically defined this area.

## Value Statements

Survey respondents were asked to provide input on the following draft Value Statements for the Sunset Neighborhood.

**Neighbors can activate the vision by:**

- **Ensuring our neighbors, homes, and streets feel safe and connected**
- **Valuing inclusivity and honoring the contributions of all our neighbors**
- **Being good stewards of our united community, greenspaces, and old growth tree canopy**

**91% of respondents indicated that they generally felt that these value statements represented the core values of the Sunset Neighborhood.** 54 open ended comments were left in regard to the draft Value Statements representing the following themes:

- Transportation choice and safety feels absent in the current value statement, despite being a neighborhood priority.

- *Value inclusivity* could be strengthened by incorporating the of practice inclusivity.
- Valuing and respecting the perspectives of neighbors is not strongly represented as written.
- “Honoring” could be replaced with “respecting” to make a stronger statement that better represents Sunset.
- There was some confusion around what it means to be a “Good Steward”. This statement should be defined or explained in some way.

## Neighborhood Goal Statements

Survey respondents were asked to provide input on the following draft Goal Statement for the Sunset Neighborhood.

**Together with neighbors, the City of Boise, and other partners, we will make progress towards our vision by striving to reach each of these goals:**

- **Connectivity and Safety – A safe and effective transportation network for all users that connects seamlessly to important destinations**
- **Design and Development – Residential and commercial spaces are context sensitive, authentic, and designed to meet the needs of individuals at all stages of life**
- **Neighborhood Cohesion – A welcoming neighborhood with the capacity to celebrate community and implement improvements**
- **Green Systems – A neighborhood where people can live and work sustainably with ease**

**94% of respondents indicated that the draft goal statements represented the goals the Sunset Neighborhood should be working to implement.** 58 open ended responses were left in regard to the draft goal statements representing the following themes:

- Green systems should specifically mention trails and open spaces.
- Pedestrians and cyclists should be specifically addressed in the connectivity and safety goal – *“a safe transportation networks for pedestrians, bikes, cars, and public transit”*.
- Safety should be broader to encompass creating a neighborhood that is safe from crime.
- Inclusivity is a high priority for respondents – ensuring that the neighborhood is welcoming to all populations and that the neighborhood remains affordable for a wide range of income levels.
- The goals should help us celebrate and implement civility and neighborliness.
- The goals could generally be more specific with measurable outcomes.

## Priority Projects and Actions

This section highlights the specific suggestions and actions that will help turn the neighborhood vision and goals into a reality. Suggestions here represent the ideas and thoughts of survey respondents and workshop participants and are not necessarily representative of the priority projects that will be put forth in the Sunset Neighborhood Plan.

### **Connectivity and Safety**

Below is a representation of the ideas and suggestions from the survey and workshops related to building connectivity and safety.

1. **Complete the sidewalk network** – specific areas mentioned throughout the engagement efforts include:
  - a. 28<sup>th</sup> St.
  - b. 30<sup>th</sup> St.
  - c. 32<sup>nd</sup> St. (mentioned dozens of times throughout open-ended responses and at the workshops)
  - d. 36<sup>th</sup> St.
  - e. Hill Rd.
  - f. Smith Rd.
  - g. Southside of Sunset Blvd.
  - h. Around Taft Elementary
2. **Traffic management/calming to improve safety and user experience** – Specific roadways and streets mentioned throughout the engagement efforts include
  - a. 26<sup>th</sup> St.
  - b. 28<sup>th</sup> St.
  - c. 32<sup>nd</sup> St.
  - d. Hill Rd.
  - e. Ussery St.
3. **Crosswalks and pedestrian crossing improvements** – priority intersections include
  - a. 28<sup>th</sup> St. and Sunset Blvd.
  - b. 28<sup>th</sup> St. and Smith Ave.
  - c. 28<sup>th</sup> St. and Neff Ct.
  - d. 28<sup>th</sup> St. and Hill Rd.
  - e. 28<sup>th</sup> St. and Gerrard St.
  - f. 32<sup>nd</sup> St. and Sunset Blvd.
  - g. 32<sup>nd</sup> and Taft St.
  - h. 32<sup>nd</sup> and Hill Rd.
  - i. State St. and Dewey St.
4. **Define the use conditions for alleyways** – What is possible given existing conditions and ownership?
5. **Add Roadway Signage**
  - a. Share the road signs throughout the neighborhood.

- b. Yield and caution signs at intersections that do not have stop signs.
- c. Wayfinding signs to key destinations.

## **6. Bicycle lanes and infrastructure**

- a. Reduce user conflict between cars and bicyclists at intersections.
- b. Traffic lights that recognize bikes, so they do not have to wait for a car to come to the intersection.
- c. Creating buffer zones between bicyclists and automotive users.
- d. Designated bike routes and signage.
- e. Specific areas for bicycle improvement included:
  - i. 28<sup>th</sup> St.
  - ii. 30<sup>th</sup> St.
  - iii. 31<sup>st</sup> St. – mentioned as a designated connection to the greenbelt that could be improved with specific wayfinding signage.
  - iv. 32<sup>nd</sup> St. (most commonly mentioned route for bicycle improvements)
  - v. 36<sup>th</sup> St.
  - vi. Hill Rd.

## **7. Infrastructure projects**

- a. Pedestrian and bicycle overpass at 28<sup>th</sup> and State St.
- b. Pathways to better connect the neighborhood to the Foothills trails.
- c. Bus stop shelters and improvements.

### ***Design and Development***

Below is a representation of the ideas and suggestions presented through the survey and workshops related to design and development.

#### **1. Preserve Affordable Housing without Damaging Neighborhood Character**

- a. It was important to many respondents that neighborhood development strike a balance between creating housing opportunities within the neighborhood and preserving the existing character of Sunset. This means different things to different people, but comments were generally focused around preserving the unique architecture of the neighborhood, leaving space for lawns and privacy, and finding opportunities for mid-tier density housing options that would fit into the existing neighborhood structure such as cottage homes or tri-plex style units.
- b. There was additional concern from some respondents about the impact of short-term rentals on the overall feel and function of the neighborhood.

#### **2. Support Mixed-Use Development**

- a. Create spaces that can be used for mixed-use development in the heart of the neighborhood.
- b. Rezone certain areas to allow for additional uses that support affordability and community engagement

3. **Support Community Amenities** – specific ideas for desired amenities included:
  - a. Walkable neighborhood coffee shops
  - b. Restaurants and bars – specifically serving the neighborhood but welcoming to all.
  - c. Nursery, greenhouse, and community garden spaces
  - d. Small scale retail and shopping opportunities
  - e. Space for community services such as hair salons, daycares, yoga studios, etc.
4. **Community Projects and Improvements**
  - a. Update and renovate the Lowell Pool – specifically there is a desire for places where kids and parents can more readily interact.

### ***Neighborhood Cohesion***

Below is a representation of the ideas and suggestions presented through the survey and workshops related creating neighborhood cohesion in throughout Sunset.

1. **Host community events including but not limited to:**
  - a. Block parties and street fairs
  - b. Food truck rallies
  - c. Pop-up markets and farmers markets
  - d. Swap meets and neighborhood garage sale days.
  - e. Garden and vegetable exchanges
  - f. Holiday parties and activities – Easter egg hunts at Sunset Park, 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations, Thanksgiving potlucks, etc.
  - g. Neighborhood concert series
  - h. Movie nights at Sunset Park
  - i. Neighborhood clean-up days
  - j. Skill development classes
  - k. Art shows
2. **Improve communications around neighborhood events and activities.**
  - a. Create neighborhood activity boards, email lists, social media posts, newsletters, and flyers to promote activities and neighborhood connections
3. **Explore opportunities for neighborhood event and program funding.**
4. **Public Wi-Fi available at community gathering spaces such as parks and schools.**
5. **Create a neighborhood ambassador program with volunteers who help connect neighbors to events, activities and most important to each other.**
6. **Place restrictions on front yard lawn signs that cause tension and divide in the community.**

## **Green Systems**

Below is a representation of the ideas and suggestions presented through the survey and workshops related to creating and supporting green systems and sustainability in the Sunset Neighborhood.

- 1. Protect and expand the neighborhood tree canopy.**
  - a. Promote the planting of new trees in public space and in private land.
  - b. Use the City of Boise's tree planting guide
  - c. Offer classes about healthy tree maintenance.
  - d. Provide free trees to neighborhood residents.
- 2. Encourage personal and community gardens as part of a broader sustainability and community engagement strategy**
  - a. Host community markets and produce swaps.
  - b. Classes to learn about gardening and landscape maintenance.
  - c. Establish dedicated community garden spaces for neighborhood use.
  - d. Establish a community compost collecting/sharing program.
- 3. Encourage the use of environmentally friendly landscaping and lawn maintenance.**
  - a. Use native and pollinator friendly plants.
  - b. Educate residents about the benefits of reducing grass lawns and planting native species instead.
- 4. Improve stormwater capture rates with pervious paving and directed runoff channels to water wildlife habitats and bioswales.**
- 5. Require new development to include sustainable design with greenspaces, trees, sustainable and alternative energy sources, and low-water landscaping.**
- 6. Repair existing irrigation infrastructure and ensure that residents know how to access and use this affordable water resource.**
- 7. Add electric vehicle chargers in prominent spaces including Sunset Park.**