What is Energize Our Neighborhoods?

Energize Our Neighborhoods is a strategy for keeping Boise unique and desirable. The City of Boise mapped livability indicators to study the health of our community. The results showed areas of opportunity. Since then, we designed strategies for a new and meaningful way to revitalize Boise’s neighborhoods. The Vista Neighborhood is the starting point.

- **Residents**
  Resident involvement is key to Energize Our Neighborhoods. Vista residents help design the strategies, prioritize projects, and serve on committees and in leadership roles.

- **Community Partners**
  Community partners, both public and private, are essential to the success of Energize Our Neighborhoods. Their efforts help produce measurable change at a neighborhood level.

- **City of Boise**
  The City of Boise strives to be the most livable city in the country. Energize Our Neighborhoods is helping us engage the community and change the way we do business.
Energize Our Neighborhoods is working with business owners, local government agencies, and the Urban Land Institute (ULI) to improve the economic vitality, safety, and vibrancy along Vista Avenue.

Vista Avenue was named one of four national Demonstration Corridors as part of the ULI Healthy Corridors project. A grant was awarded to identify opportunities to increase the area’s livability by improving uses and infrastructure along the avenue, thus promoting physical activity and access to services and healthy food.

In October, City Council member Ben Quintana gave a presentation about Vista Avenue at the ULI Fall Conference. A team of national experts will visit in February 2016 to provide their recommendations for improving Vista Avenue.

### Focus Areas

1. **Children & Youth**
   - Expand opportunities for children and youth

2. **Economic Development**
   - Retain and attract compatible economic activity

3. **Health & Community Services**
   - Expand access to health/community services

4. **Housing**
   - Preserve and create affordable housing options for all incomes

5. **Placemaking, Arts & History**
   - Enhance unique neighborhood characteristics

6. **Public Safety**
   - Prevent and reduce crime

7. **Sustainability**
   - Ensure a lasting environment, innovative enterprise, and vibrant community

8. **Transportation**
   - Expand transportation choices and improve neighborhood connectivity

### Why Vista?

The Vista Neighborhood was identified as an area rich in opportunity. In part, Vista was chosen because of the City’s significant assets in the area:

- **Vista Avenue** is the gateway to the City, welcoming residents and visitors alike.
- **The Whitney Community Center** is a vital resource. It offers after school programs, dance classes, teen activities, and a community garden.
- **Housing** - The City owns 80 units of affordable housing on Vista Avenue.
- **Federal Funds** - The Vista Neighborhood qualifies for federal funds administered by the City of Boise.

### Urban Land Institute

Energize Our Neighborhoods is working with business owners, local government agencies, and the Urban Land Institute (ULI) to improve the economic vitality, safety, and vibrancy along Vista Avenue.

Fun Fact - Boise’s Vista Avenue was featured in the ULI magazine, which was distributed to more than 6,000 people!
LIVABILITY FOCUS AREAS

Children & Youth
- Goal: Expand opportunities for children and youth

Projects
- Boise Pre-K Project provides high-quality early childhood education to 60 students
- YMCA, Boys & Girls Club, and Boise Parks & Recreation partner to provide free daily programs for 50+ students

Indicators
- Idaho Reading Indicator scores for Fall Kindergarten and Spring 3rd grade
- Child nutrition program participation

Economic Development
- Goal: Retain and attract compatible economic activity

Projects
- Survey of local business owners
- ULI Healthy Corridors Grant: Assessment and recommendations from national experts regarding business development

Indicators
- Number of businesses by type
- Number and value of building permits

Placemaking, Arts & History
- Goal: Enhance the neighborhood's unique characteristics

Projects
- Documented Vista residents’ oral histories
- Vista Neighborhood History Report identifies placemaking opportunities

Indicators
- Park access points and walkability
- Number of public art installations and historic landmarks

LIVABILITY INDICATORS

Vista Neighborhood Accomplishments

A Year of Action | Energize Our Neighborhoods focuses on “Livability Indicators” to measure our community’s health. Eight committees, each working on a specific focus area, are working to identify measurable goals and specific projects. Some of the projects accomplished in 2015 are listed here.

Health & Community Services
- Goal: Expand access to health/community services

Events
- Neighborhood Clean Up Event
- 4th of July Celebration

Projects
- Received American Planning Association “Plan4Health” Grant to study access to healthy foods
- Walking Path at Hawthorne
- Shoshone Park signage
- Mobile Farmer’s Market with the Mobile Rec program during summer months

Indicators
- Access to amenities (grocery stores and cultural centers, etc.)
LIVABILITY FOCUS AREAS

Housing
- Goal: Preserve and create affordable housing options for all incomes

Events
- Awarded $8,000 in Home Improvement Grants to residents
- Home-improvement workshops

Programs
- Home Improvement Loan Program

Indicators
- Median value of residential property
- Percent of homes improved

Transportation
- Goal: Expand transportation choices and improve neighborhood connectivity

Projects
- Complete missing sidewalk/curb/gutter on Targee & Owyhee
- Improve shelters/bike facilities/public art for bus stops on Vista
- ULI Healthy Corridors Grant - Recommendations for transportation flow and improvements to Vista Avenue

Indicators
- Bus stops and bus service area
- Areas of missing or incomplete sidewalks
- Bicycle level of service

Public Safety
- Goal: Prevent and reduce crime

Projects
- Established a new substation at 2717 S. Vista Avenue and assigned a Neighborhood Contact Officer
- Placed stop signs and mobile radar units to improve neighborhood safety
- Fire Station #8 will be relocated to the Vista Neighborhood

Indicators
- Crime statistics
- Decrease in code violations

Sustainability
- Goal: Ensure a lasting environment, innovative enterprise, and vibrant community

Events
- 118+ trees given to Vista Neighborhood residents

Projects
- Atlantic House Demonstration Project showcases compatible improvements

Indicators
- Percentage of tree canopy and impervious surfaces
Energize Leadership
Diverse Partners Lead to Success

Energize Our Neighborhoods’ early success can be traced to the diverse groups of partners that are committed to making a difference in Boise’s neighborhoods.

Sense of Place
Boise Mayor David H. Bieter
“One of our most important assets is the strength of our neighborhoods. We want to make sure that there is a sense of place in the city, and that we energize all of those neighborhoods and provide amenities and opportunities in all of them.”

Learn As We Go
Ben Quintana
Boise City Council Member & Energize Co-Chair
“We’re going to learn a lot, we’re going to build some plans and we’re going to try and replicate this across the entire city, customizing it for each neighborhood and learning as we go.”

A Positive Effect
Brock Martinson
Leadership Team & Vista Resident
“The positive relationships that I have developed with my neighbors, my fellow local leaders, and the City of Boise make me confident that the Vista neighborhood can become a benchmark for other neighborhoods to look to as an example of the positive effect that the Energize our Neighborhoods program can have. I am ready and excited to help this amazing program continue to chart its course forward!”

Get Involved
Dave Kangas
Vista Neighborhood Association President
“If you doubted Energize, doubt no more, it’s happening and we still need more help to make it even better!”

Welcome to the City
Brian Powell
Transportation Committee & Vista Resident
“I want to see how the City of Boise, ACHD, and the community is able to come together to take on a much needed and pretty big obstacle; I’m excited to see Vista Avenue as a real gateway into Boise and how that comes to fruition.”

Change Starts Here
Mac Wrigley
Leadership Team & Vice President/Branch Manager at D.L. Evans Bank
“If you want to change the world, you have to start in your own back yard. We have an opportunity to set the framework not just for this neighborhood and the families that live in it or the small businesses in this community. We have an opportunity to set the framework for the entire city. What we do here has the potential to impact lives far beyond Vista. But it starts here and now with the understanding that what we are doing matters.”

Keshia Mendez
BSU Student
“It is amazing to see that we did something that is really benefiting my community, to see the change it is making and to be able to tell people that my class did this project, that we did something that really helped our own community.”
Energize Events

Neighborhood Clean Up Day & Community Fair
On May 2, over 100 volunteers joined forces to help clean up the Vista Neighborhood. Republic Services collected 63.78 tons of trash, tires, and other debris from homes throughout the area. A Neighborhood Fair held at the Whitney Community Center that day provided information and resources for residents.

Fourth of July Celebration
In partnership with Vista Neighborhood churches, the Health & Community Services Committee hosted a community celebration at Shoshone Park on the 4th of July. Residents enjoyed a hot dogs, ice cream, water games, a dunk tank, lawn games, and a chance to build community at this first-annual event.

Boise Pre-K Project Launch
On November 2nd, the Boise Pre-K Project started at both Whitney and Hawthorne Elementary Schools. By providing high quality early childhood education to 60 Vista Neighborhood students, the Pre-K Project aims to close or reduce the achievement gap for students beginning Kindergarten. The program, made possible by partnerships with United Way, Micron, the Boise School District, and the City of Boise, will increase the livability of the Vista Neighborhood.

Community Partners
Thank you to the community partners that have helped make the first year of Energize Our Neighborhoods a success!

Ada County Highway District
Albertsons
American Planning Assoc. – Idaho Chapter
Auto Metric
Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health, Inc.
Boise Office Moving & Storage
Boise School District
Boise State University
Boise Weekly
Boys & Girls Club
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
City of Boise
CSHQA
CTA
Day Realty Co., LLC
Divine Lotus Tea Co.
D.L. Evans Bank
Downtown Boise Association
El-Ada Community Action Partnership
Foerstel Design
George & Bev Harad
Go Green Insulation
Hawthorne Elementary PTO
Hellmann Construction
Idaho Department of Health & Welfare
Idaho Power
Idaho Public Health Authority
Idaho Statesman
Idaho Youth Ranch
Integrated Design Lab
Integrity Hardwood Floors
Interior Systems, Inc.
Love Inc.
Mesa Moving & Storage
Micron Foundation
Musgrove Engineering
NeighborWorks Boise
New Beginnings Housing, LLC
OnPoint Advantage, LLC
Oppenheimer Companies
Paige Mechanical Group
Republic Services
Retail West Properties
SoJourn Church
Saint Alphonsus Health System
St. Luke’s Medical Center
St. Vincent de Paul
Treasure Valley YMCA
United Way of Treasure Valley
Urban Land Institute
USGBC, Idaho Chapter
Valley Glass
Valley Regional Transit
Vista Neighborhood Association
Wells Fargo
Whitney Baptist Church
Whitney Elementary PTO
Whitney United Methodist
Whole Foods