

FINDINGS – COMMUNITY PERCEPTIONS

Overall, East Lawrence homeowners, property owners, business owners, and tenants have a positive perception of their neighborhood. They recognize a wide variety of buildings, businesses, institutions and places as positive elements of the community. These range from the mid-19th century stone houses and remaining barns, to the many churches that dot the blocks, to parks and specific mature trees, to institutions such as the Social Service League, Pelathe Center, New York School and the Salvation Army. They view their connectivity to downtown, the diversity of businesses, the proliferation of artists, and the social and economic diversity of residents as positive assets that help define neighborhood character and distinguish East Lawrence from other neighborhoods.



People who live and work in East Lawrence recognize ways in which the neighborhood could improve. Better property maintenance, better recognition and protection of the significant architectural characteristics that define the neighborhood, improving the rate of homeowner occupancy, and reducing the number of problem property owners topped the wish list for improvements. While some individuals in East Lawrence have experienced non-violent crime and a small number of individuals have experienced violent crime, homeowners, property owners, business owners, and tenants feel that the *perception* of crime in East Lawrence by the larger community may be a factor limiting improvements in the neighborhood.



Section A of the "Background Studies" Document provides the complete workbook used in the Neighborhood Self-evaluation Workshop, which helps to define community and neighborhood perceptions.



Neighborhood homeowners, property owners, business owners, and tenants spent a good deal of time in the first workshop identifying visual neighborhood references and activity centers. The Visual Neighborhood References Map on Page 9 is a composite of their comments.



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East Lawrence Neighborhood Revitalization Plan



Visual Neighborhood References

Map:

The adjoining map identifies many of the neighborhood Visual Neighborhood References and Activity Centers that the homeowners, property owners, business owners, and tenants found contribute to the East Lawrence Neighborhood.

1. Old Post Office
2. Kansas River
3. House at Northwest corner of 7th St. & Connecticut St.
4. Santa Fe Railroad Station
5. Umbrella Tree, 732 Rhode Island St.
6. Elm Tree at 8th Street & Rhode Island St.
7. Poehler Warehouse building
8. Businesses along Pennsylvania
9. Brick buildings for commercial use
10. Charlie's Bar
11. St. Luke's AME Church
12. 9th St. & New Jersey St. Commercial District
13. Freestate Glass
14. Turnverein Hall
15. Social Service League
16. Salvation Army
17. Shalor Elridge Residence, 945 Rhode Island St.
18. Old Gas Station
19. New York Elementary School
20. Hobb's Park Stadium/ballpark
21. Freeman's
22. Laundromat at 12th St. & Connecticut
23. Law Enforcement Center / Douglas County Court House
24. Gazebo in South Park
25. Trinity Lutheran Church
26. Old Church, now public works
27. Central Junior High School
28. Landscaped Park at 15th Street.
29. Samuel Riggs House at 15th Street & Pennsylvania
30. SRS building
31. Pelathe Center
32. East Heights Elementary School
33. Brook Creek Park
34. E. Lawrence Recreation Center

The intent of this Visual Neighborhood References Map is not to indicate which buildings or sites are listed on or should be listed on the Lawrence Register of Historic Places, the Register of Kansas Historic Places, or the National Register of Historic Places. This list only identifies sites or buildings that participants use as visual references and believe contribute to the uniqueness of the East Lawrence Neighborhood.