

Presented By:

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Sustainable Neighborhoods Program Open House

Harnessing the passion of neighbors
for climate action & community
resilience





Sustainable Neighborhood Network

A network of cities harnessing the passion of neighbors for climate action and community resilience.

- 14 years, 7 cities
- 32 neighborhoods
- 100,000 + participants
- 1,900 + projects, events & workshops

Agenda

Welcome

Introductions

Program Overview

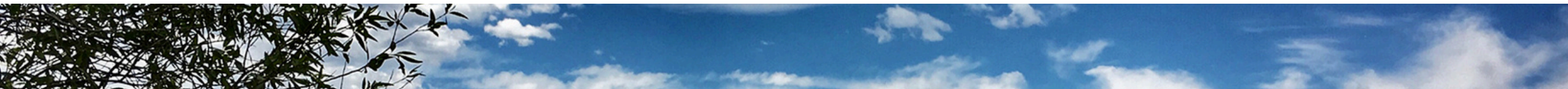
SNN Program Information

Certification Information

Lakewood SNN Program Information

Application Details

Question and Answer



The Basics

- Residents host workshops, create resources, and complete projects that advance sustainability
- The magic of the program is that it is resident-led and resident-driven
- Neighborhoods earn credits for accomplishments
- Neighborhoods achieve certification and recognition from the city



Program Goal Areas



Guide the neighborhood's
selection of projects and initiatives

Energy and Solar Fairs



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Community Gardens



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Tree Planting Projects



Help Keep Morse Park Green!

Tree Planting Initiative



We planted 32 new trees in our first year in the program.
Now, we've set a bigger goal:

200 new trees in Morse Park by the end of 2020!

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Leaf and Christmas Tree Composting



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Recycling Events



Seed and Plant Swaps

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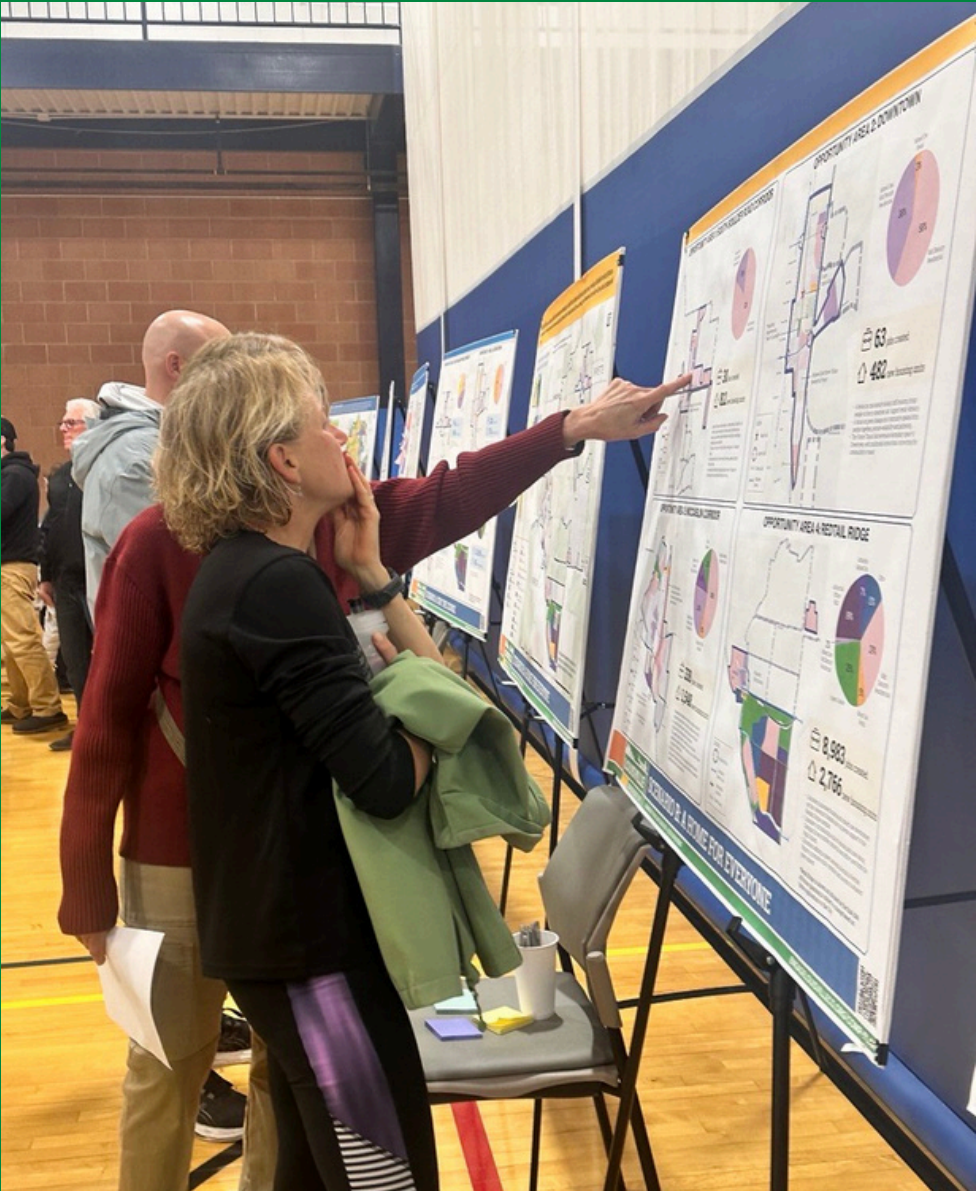
Water-Wise Landscaping



Biking Events

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Certification

Two Levels of Certification:

Certification Level	Credits Required
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Participating Neighborhood	60
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Outstanding Neighborhood	100
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Credit Eligible Activities

- Neighborhood Workshops
- Special Events
- Clubs
- Neighborhood Outreach Plan
- Implementation of Projects



Neighborhood Recognition

- Neighborhood signage
- Mayor & City Council events
- City Promotion & media campaign
- Leadership training opportunities
- Community award opportunities

Other Benefits

- Community and relationship building
- Customized by and for the neighborhood
- Neighborhood-Driven Innovation
- Resiliency and environmental protection
- Pride in community, accomplishments, and recognition
- Staff support helps to keep things streamlined





Application Process and Details:

- Application Guide
- FAQs
- Online Application Form
- Signatures of Support



Review the Application Guide and FAQs before completing the online application.



Application Process:

Neighborhood Selection:

- We will select neighborhoods that will have a good chance at being successful in the program.
- Evaluation committee will assess how well the applicants answer each of the questions in the application.



What makes a successful Sustainable Neighborhood and successful application?

- Neighborhood success requires a team of volunteers who work together. (This can't all be done by one person.)
- Neighborhood success requires perseverance, positivity, and patience.
- Neighborhood success is increased when teams involve diverse neighbors in their activities.



Application Process

- Neighborhoods apply to join the program and applications are reviewed by an inter-departmental evaluation committee
- Two new neighborhoods will be accepted
- City staff walks the new neighborhoods through a 3-step launch process



Once Neighborhoods are Selected: Launch Process

- Application team meeting:
 - Neighborhood announcement and develop communication plan
- Inventory/survey neighbor interests and resources
- Neighborhood kick-off meeting
- Team kickoff meeting to form leadership team and start planning activities



What if your neighborhood is not selected?

- We can connect you with volunteers from nearby neighborhoods – they would love to have your help, and everyone is welcome to participate in the neighborhood activities
- Stay involved by signing up for our Sustainability Division e-newsletter, joining the Louisville Sustainability Advisory Board

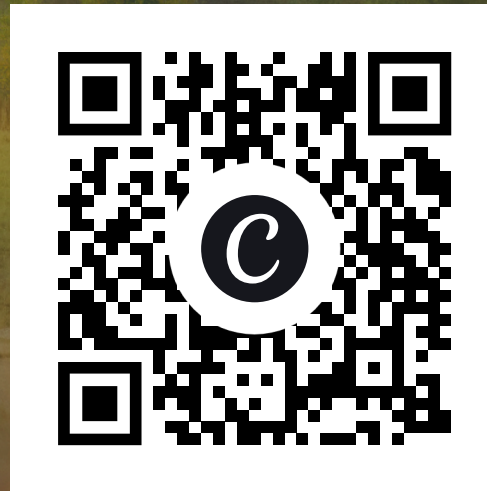
Question and Answer

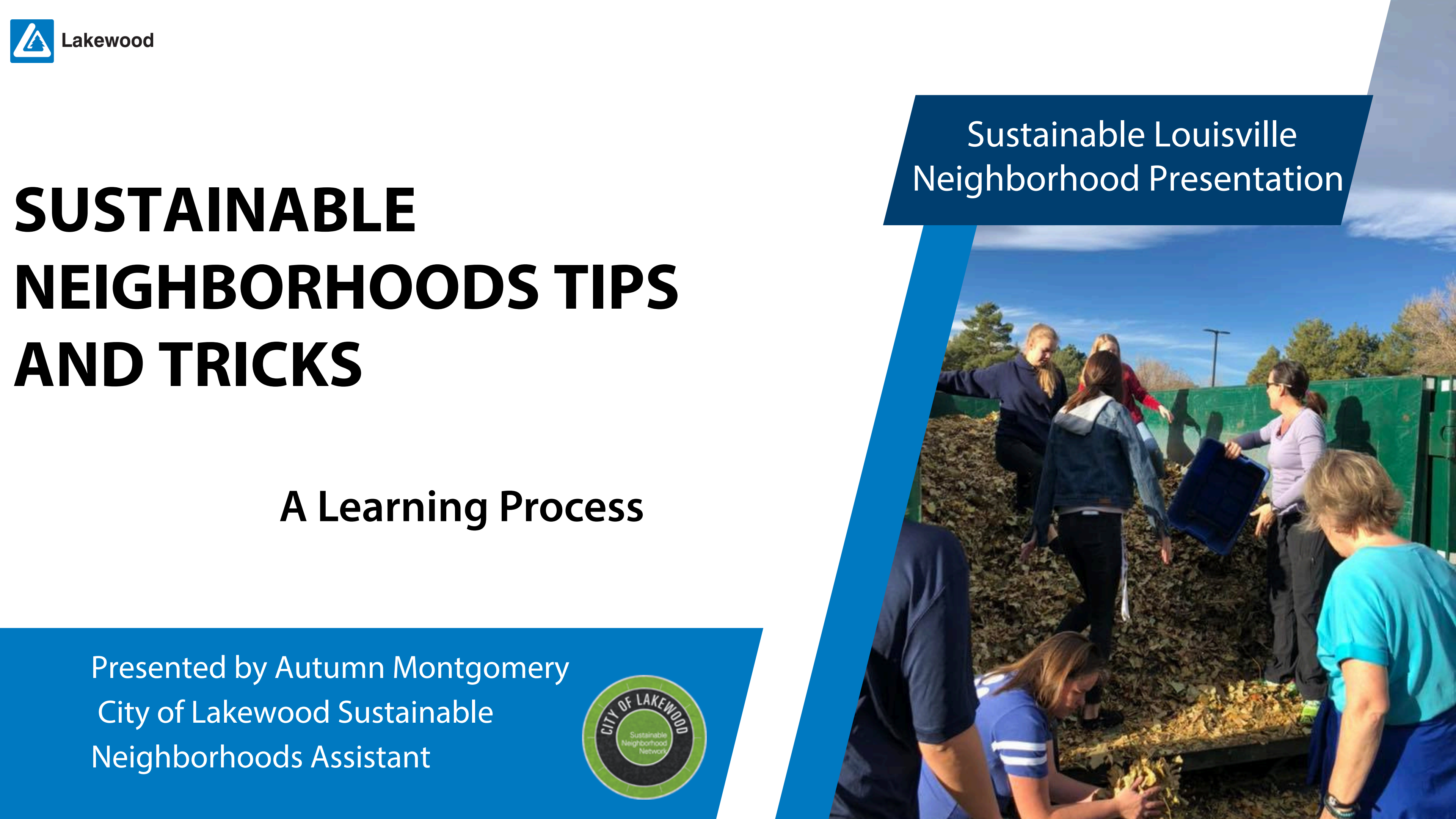
- Application questions
- Q&A with current Neighborhood Network leaders
- Q&A about General Sustainability topics in Louisville

SNN Application



Louisville SNN Webpage





SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBORHOODS TIPS AND TRICKS

A Learning Process

Presented by Autumn Montgomery
City of Lakewood Sustainable
Neighborhoods Assistant



Topics

Introduction: How I started

How to begin

**What Events, Workshops, Clubs or
Projects should I do?**

Delegate Work

Communication

Organizational Meetings

Website Help

Need more help?

SUSTAINABLE LAKE LOCKWOOD VILLAGE

How I started

SLLV was started by a group in 2015 – they worked on Landscape improvements, home improvements, saving water

Another person took over in 2020 – Bee Safe Program, Smith Reservoir clean up, food drives and square dancing

Then in 2023 that group stopped and the leader moved away. I was asked to take up the reins. I had no idea what was happening because I had barely joined. Many of the others had left the group. Talk about a deer in the headlights...



Application

Program Application & Participation Criteria

- Resident-Led Team: Form a core team or organizing committee of active resident volunteers representing the neighborhood.
- Focus Areas: Plan community workshops, projects, and events aligned with the five core pillars: energy efficiency, air quality, water conservation, land stewardship, and people (community building). FIND YOUR PASSION. EACH NEIGHBORHOOD IS UNIQUE.
- Open Engagement: Initiatives and events must be open to all residents within the neighborhood boundary to encourage inclusive civic participation.



Application Process

- Brainstorm project ideas with neighbors, keeping in mind the project criteria.
- Starting March 1, 2026, submit a preapplication form (that will be available on the NPP website) with the general details of the proposed project. This is a required step that must be completed by May 1, 2026.
- Project proposal will be vetted by the appropriate department staff to ensure that it meets the project criteria.
- If approved by the department director, the organizers will receive a link to the final application and may begin working on their submittal.
- Final application must be submitted by July 1, 2026, at 5:00 pm.

Things to do and know going in

Point 1

Give a community interest survey to understand your identity as a neighborhood first. Find out what matters to your community in the categories of:

Air, Water, Energy, Land and People.



Point 2

Begin slowly with a couple of activites. Choose from events, workshops or clubs that can become anchors of tradition over the years for your neighborhood.

Get Active



Point 3

Know that there is a pattern of change with SNs. People come and go. Activities are well attended and not well attended. Projects succeed and some don't. People love what you're doing, sometimes they don't. Let this guide you to the things your community wants over time. This is how you form your identity as a community.

Keep going



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Keep in Mind

Point 4

As a grass roots, volunteer group we can connect and insure people's voices can be honored.



Point 5

We can come together on projects that improve life for all residents.
We can feel useful and be purpose driven.



Point 6

We can learn and grow in Sustainable Practices that help to be a resilient community where residents can thrive.



Events/Benefits



Events

Benefits



Bee Festival



Community: using sustainable practices for pollinators helps our community and the earth thrive.



City Wide Yard Waste Events



Community: Composting benefits our community and the earth by reducing landfill materials helping us thrive with clean air and land.



Community Drives



Community: We and others thrive by being useful and purpose driven which improves quality of life through giving.



Social Gatherings



Community: We thrive by sharing fun and bonding, thrive by having local business



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Projects



Landscaping

5 Year Plan and Beyond

Problems

Aging property

Limited Budget for improvement

Trees - sick/dying, maintenance

Irrigation - pipes are pinching, rusting out, need more zones

Landscape - blue grass requires too much water, browning, run off areas, drying out areas

Solutions

Aging property

Limited Budget for improvement

Trees - Take down trees as needed/replacement with firewise/waterwise trees. Trim trees each year

Irrigation - add more zones, schedule of fixing areas, add more drip

Landscape - reduce grass areas, plant waterwise gardens, small vegetable gardens, seed with native grasses

Bennifits

Learned: Sustainable landscape practices , native plants and grasses

Community: We had to bring together many opinions , ideas and needs to work together. Voices were heard. Saved water. We came together to make our community thrive.

Projects/Benefits



Vegetable Gardens - we came together to plan how to be successful with vegetable gardening/sharing



Planting in Small Space
In our townhome village we each have some small place for planting. Offer classes for those interested.

Building the raised beds
We decided to have a cohesive look in the village.

Sharing Produce
As a community we decided to have individual beds grown by volunteers. Have a large community garden failed in the past because it was hard to get people to care for it.

Building Materials

- Lumber 2 x 6 x
- corner blocks
- Painted brown to match home
- Build layers up to three
- must fit into garden areas.

Farmer's Market in the Village
Growing vegetables right outside your door is easier. Community members plant different vegetable and share in the fall.

Sustainability





Applewood - Stober Elementary Garden



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Workshops/Benefits



Benifits



Community - shared ideas to be safe, and keep neighbors safe



Community - knowledge to keep healthy, resouces and HOA help available



Community - thrive by saving water, need to look at changing our grass landscape



Community - keep material out landfils and recieve compost



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Clubs/Benefits



When all 13 neighborhoods come together we can do anything!

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”
- Margaret Mead



Organizational Meetings



- Set regular meetings (monthly, quarterly...) Whatever works for Louisville.
- Make the meetings have a fun atmosphere. Some SNs do potlucks, Happy Hour, Show-n-Tell, music, or have a guest speaker for the first 15-30 min.

Delegate the Work



- You have a team so work together to make the work lighter. You do not want to burn out.
- Give everyone an area to focus on (communication, materials needed, food needed, contacting speakers, setting the venue, entering Proposals and Credits...)
- Decide the arrangement that works for you.

Communication

Idea 1

Start with one or two solid communication systems. You can expand later.

Idea 2

What are the avenues Louisville can utilize to get information spread?



Idea 3

Do you have access to make signs, flyers and postcard mailings?
What about cost?

Idea 4

Can Canva help you with interesting advertising like posters, newsletters and websites?
Social media?



Help Is On the Way

Website Help

[Sustainable Neighborhood Network Home](#)

You are not alone.

**You can ask other
neighborhood leaders.**

**You can always contact
us at Lakewood SN
Program.**

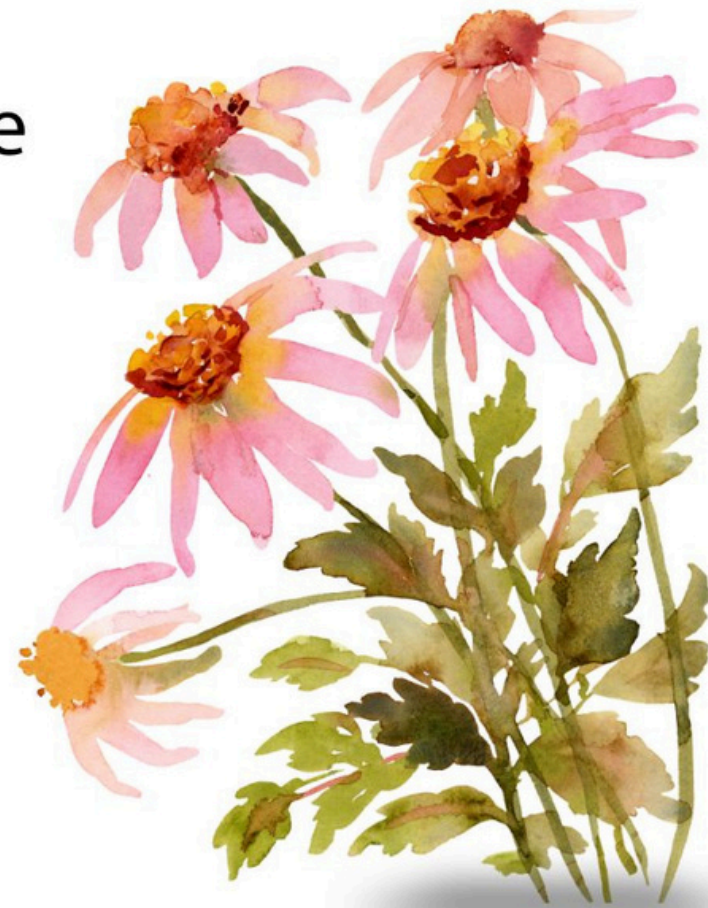
The city offers support with:

- printing
- postcards
- address lists
- materials from dishware and tables clothes to games and activities
- some funding for food
- retreats
- recognition social
- speaker lists

"A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." – Lao Tzu

Thank you!

for continuing to take steps to make our planet and its people thrive. Your help and support is priceless.



SustainableLouisville Neighborhoods



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