

City of Amarillo

Registered Neighborhood Association Program

What is the Registered Neighborhood Association program?

The Registered Neighborhood Association program is currently a draft proposal for consideration by the neighborhood associations and City Council. Based on similar programs in other cities, it is designed as a way to increase the livability in and provide a voice to neighborhoods. It is being introduced in Amarillo to do several things:

- 1 Formalize the relationship between the City and neighborhoods with adopted neighborhood plans;
- 2 Increase communication between the City and neighborhood associations;
- 3 Provide other resources and benefits that help neighborhoods organize and become more civically engaged.

What is a neighborhood association?

A Neighborhood Association is a group of community members who organize, share ideas, and cooperate to improve their neighborhood. Membership is voluntary and open to all stakeholders, including neighbors, businesses, and other organizations within a neighborhood. The voluntary and open nature of neighborhood associations differentiates them from homeowners associations, which are associated with individual subdivisions and typically compulsory.

By forming a neighborhood association, members work toward common goals. With a unified voice, they respond to community concerns, preserve and improve their neighborhood, plan and hold social events, and interface with local government and organizations.

How do neighborhoods register?

Neighborhoods must be an organized entity. This means each organization is required to have filed Articles of Incorporation with the State of Texas and to operate with written bylaws, or rules and regulations. Official 501 (c) (3) nonprofit status with the IRS is not required. After this, registration and renewal are simple. You provide your board roster with officers, your bylaws, the name of one person that the public or any city staff member may contact, emails for your officers for inclusion on our neighborhood notice emails, and a copy of your annual action plan to neighborhood planning staff.

There is no fee to register or renew.

Are neighborhoods required to register?

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What are the neighborhood association responsibilities once registered?

The responsibilities are likely no different than what you are already doing! Registered neighborhoods commit to actively working on projects and programs that foster community and improve livability. They must comply with adopted bylaws and utilize an orderly and democratic process for making representative decisions.

Neighborhood associations will also be asked to follow a clear method of reporting to the City their position on a matter that is a pending City agenda item.

What are the benefits of being a registered neighborhood?

1 **Open Communication**

Neighborhood planning staff will communicate directly with neighborhood association leadership on questions and concerns regarding city services, capital improvement projects, land use and development applications, and other programs and policies impacting neighborhoods.

2 **Plan Implementation**

For those with adopted neighborhood plans, neighborhood planning staff will assist with the development of annual action plans as well as project management where appropriate for implementation activities.

3 **Toolkit**

Registered neighborhoods will have access to resources, best practices and how-to guides through an online tool kit.

4 **Data for Decision-Making**

Each neighborhood will receive their annual neighborhood indicators data set.

5 **Trainings and Workshops**

The program plans to offer training and opportunities for cross-neighborhood collaboration on common neighborhood concerns.

6 **Block Party Fee Waiver**

Fees will be waived annually for one neighborhood block party.

7 **Neighborhood Signs**

Registered Neighborhoods will be eligible to participate in the City's Street Sign Topper program and install welcome signs.

8 **Traffic Calming**

Eligibility to participate in the City's petition process for neighborhood traffic calming solutions.

9 **Funding Opportunities**

Sources of funding to support neighborhood projects will be offered as available.