

Resource Guide

Green Neighborhood Scorecard

Distributed by the Green Neighborhood Council of the green OMAHA coalition

Organizing your Neighborhood for Green THINKING AND ACTION

For strengthening your network as a neighborhood collective:

http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/article/Association/How_To_Start_Association

For information on how to start a Neighborhood Association visit:

<http://www.cityofomaha.org/mayor/component/wordpress/neighborhoods>

View sample Neighborhood Association newsletters:

http://www.giffordparkomaha.org/Newsletter_Archive.html

<https://people.creighton.edu/~tfm48293/>

<http://www.fbnaomaha.com/newsletter.php>

Natural Environment

Trees

This is a difficult question to quantify for comparability across neighborhoods; however, we chose to include it as a way of calling attention to the value of trees in any neighborhood. Mature trees add shade as well as being attractive and increase the neighborhood's livability. Trees with 20-foot or greater in diameter crowns or drip lines have a greater mass of leaves or needles and, therefore, a greater ability to absorb the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide. The greater the proportion of mature trees in your neighborhood, the "greener" your neighborhood.

While it may be tricky to estimate a 20-foot diameter crown or drip line, we have a couple of suggestions.

- 1) Create a mental picture of a 10-foot length (such as the height of a basketball basket rim) and use that as a "ruler" to estimate approximately 10 feet from branch tip on one side to the trunk and then on the other side to the trunk.
- 2) Measure the distance of your stride and then walk from tree trunk to the outer edge of the tree's drip line."

WE also recognize the challenge of comparing nonstandard-sized "city blocks" throughout the Greater Omaha Area.

Your responses will be indicators of tree planting and tree nurturing efforts in your neighborhoods. The number of trees in a block in your neighborhood with 20-foot diameter crowns or drip lines will provide a baseline from which you can begin to track your neighborhood's progress.

For your interest, resources identifying species native to our area:

<http://www.nrdtrees.org>

<http://citnews.unl.edu/florasearch/region.html>

Scoop-the-poop Box

FICTION: Dog poo is a good fertilizer! Wrong! Dog poo is toxic to your lawn. Often times it will burn or even discolor your grass. This misconception is due to dog manure's fertilizing properties being confused with those of cow manure, which can indeed be beneficial to your lawn.

FACT: Dog poo is bad for the environment! Under the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) pet waste is classified as a dangerous pollutant, which falls into the same category as toxic chemicals and oil.

Transportation

Bus Stops

To find bus routes visit: <http://ometro.com/bus-system-page/system-map>. Drive the routes in your neighborhood and count the number of marked stops with Metro Transit bus stop signs.

Omaha Metro Contact Info: <http://ometro.com/contact-page/contact-information>

Transportation Master Plan: <http://www.cityofomaha.org/tmpln/>

Bicycles

Community Bike Project: <http://www.communitybicycleshopomaha.org/>

Omaha Bikes Blog and Resources: <http://bikeomaha.blogspot.com/>

Walkability

Active Living Research about walking: <http://www.activelivingresearch.org/node/10649>

Calculate your neighborhood's walk score: <http://www.walkscore.com/>

Ridesharing

MetrO! Rideshare: <http://www.mapacog.greenride.com/>

Food

Locally Produced

Find locally produced foods: <http://www.localharvest.org/>

Sustainable Fast Food

Find out how sustainable fast food restaurants in your neighborhood really are at:

http://www.greenopia.com/SB/fastfood_search.aspx?category=Fastfood&Listpage=0&input=Name-or-product&subcategory=None

Water and Stormwater

Omaha Stormwater

Omaha Stormwater Program: <http://www.omahastormwater.org/home>

Keep Omaha Beautiful Storm drain Awareness

<http://www.KeepOmahaBeautiful.com/programs/storm-drain-awareness>

An example of how to coordinate a stormwater labeling event, visit:
http://metroneighborhoodnews.com/index.php/mnn/volunteers_needed_to_label_storm_drains/

Rain Barrels

Create and install a local rain barrel: <http://www.gardeners.com/Rain-Barrel-How-To/5497,default,pg.html>

Rain Garden

Rain Garden 101 – Do It Yourself: <http://www.groundwater.org/ta/raingardens.html>
Example of a rain garden: <http://www.wearivinggreen.com/>

Water Conservation

Water conservation information: <http://planetgreen.discovery.com/home-garden/minimize-water-use-green-lawn.html>

Waste and Recycling

Recycling Centers

Recycling centers directory: <http://earth911.com/>
What kinds of materials can be recycled: <http://wasteline.org/>
E-waste drop directory: <http://rewaste.net/>
Hazardous waste drop Omaha: <http://www.underthesink.org/>

Cleanup Day

Organizing a cleanup day: <http://lancaster.unl.edu/community/articles/organizecleanup.shtml>

Swap Meets/Garage Sales

Organizing a stuff-swap day: <http://thelivinggreensolution.com/got-stuff-host-a-swap-party/>
Coordinating garage sales, visit: <http://www.omahabydesign.org/2010/03/b-aa-big-green-garage-sale-may-22/>

Help us continue to develop an even better Scorecard Resource Guide!

Please let us know your suggestions to add to the Scorecard Resource Guide:
scorecard@greenomahacoalition.org

Thank You.

Green Neighborhood Council

