



Photo by Daniel Jeffries

Neighborhood Conditions Index

A Strategic Planning Tool



What is a Neighborhood Conditions Index?

The *Neighborhood Conditions Index* is a *Strategic Planning* tool used to inform residents of the overall conditions of their neighborhoods by utilizing data analysis and identifying how specific indicators are performing in comparison with the remaining parts of the city.

Neighborhood condition is determined based on both built environment and socioeconomic factors, such as land use, transportation, economic development, housing, and public services. Preselected data indicators can help assess existing conditions under these topics.

The goal of the *Neighborhood Conditions Index* is to identify low-scoring indicators and encourage residents to proactively pursue opportunities for improving their own neighborhood. The Tulsa Planning Office will periodically gather and analyze up-to-date data in order to monitor progress and provide the most current assessment of conditions.

A *Neighborhood Conditions Index* report will be produced for each of the 80 Neighborhood Statistical Areas (NSA) covering the entire city limits of Tulsa.

What is a Neighborhood Statistical Area (NSA)?

Neighborhood Statistical Areas are groupings of Census Tracts that align with neighborhoods of similar character in terms of population, income, housing tenure and characteristics, size, and supporting land uses. These areas can be compared to each other and the city based on a list of preselected indicators across the nine chapters of *planitulsa*, Tulsa's Comprehensive Plan.

NSAs house stakeholder representation through various organizations, including nonprofits and neighborhood groups that can facilitate coordination and resource implementation to proactively address their issues, serving as partners.

The Tulsa Planning Office will produce *Neighborhood Conditions Index* reports for all 80 Neighborhood Statistical Areas.

What is Strategic Planning?

Strategic Planning is a new program developed by the Tulsa Planning Office in 2019. The program follows a data-oriented process to direct the allocation of public programs and services towards specific areas where funds and other resources are most needed, can be readily utilized, and are most likely to achieve sustainable success in alignment with City priorities.

The Tulsa Planning Office has created a strategic planning data library that prioritizes City initiatives and planning efforts based on **five guiding principles**, informed by various adopted policies that focus strongly on equity. The guiding principles are:

- Foster community buy-in and leadership
- Facilitate revitalization and quality infill
- Leverage growth to build inclusive neighborhoods
- Improve accessibility to connect people to places
- Fund and implement plan recommendations

What is included in the Neighborhood Conditions Index?

Each report includes six sections:

- **Overview.** General facts about the area

Section will cover location, description and map of the NSA.

- **Diagnosis.** Key takeaways

Section will describe main takeaways and identify the area's overall score, priority group, and underperforming indicators that may require attention.

- **Strategic Planning Screening.** Neighborhood conditions evaluation

Section will include a list of data points grouped under nine indicators categories. Data points will be scored and classified as 'Good', 'Average', or 'Poor'.

- **Next Steps.** Description of service

In order to promote neighborhood improvement based on data analysis, the Tulsa Planning Office utilizes a two-level approach to serve its neighborhood residents.

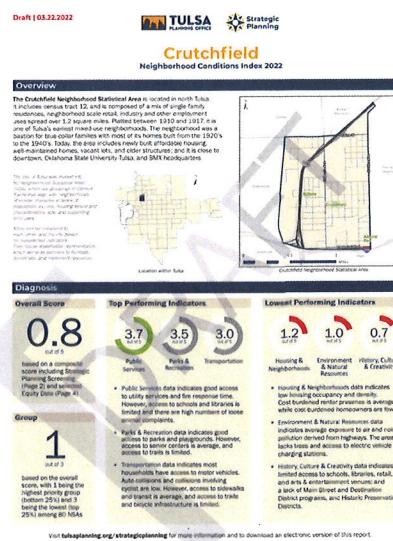
- **Area Snapshot.** Neighborhood data profile

Section will present specific data on the NSA's composition and compare it with the city, including demographics, economy, and available public services. It also lists potential partner organizations that could assist in project implementation.

- **Data Points Glossary.** Description of analysis

Section will include a brief description of the nine indicator categories, and detailed list of data points and their analysis.

Additionally, the report includes a map with all 80 NSA, grouped by priority based on the assessment's overall scoring.



Cover page of a Neighborhood Conditions Index Report

Two Levels of Service

Strategic Planning offers a two-level approach to serve neighborhood residents, which will assist them in project implementation. The program intends to be proactive, and each level presents a different implementation approach. Progress will depend on each NSA's capacity to build partnerships and pursue opportunities.



- **Level 1 – Analyze.** Think of it as a Personal Health Assessment

All 80 NSAs will have their own Neighborhood Conditions Index report. Residents will also have access to implementation resources and programs, such as the *Neighborhood Toolkit* and the *Commercial Toolkit*, which aim to assist them in addressing issues and low scores.

- **Level 2 – Connect.** Think of it as a Doctor Visit

Strategic Planning staff will identify the lowest performing neighborhoods and engage with stakeholder leadership to work on specific resources. Any NSA representatives interested in further assistance for their neighborhood may approach the Tulsa Planning Office to request this service as well. Staff will evaluate requests and address them based on need, NSA priority group, stakeholder interest, and available resources.

Project implementation will function in a similar way to following a treatment plan, as neighborhood stakeholders will address their low scores utilizing available programs and resources, such as those included in the *Neighborhood Toolkit* and/or the *Commercial Toolkit*.

Other Questions?

Where can I find my neighborhood report and more information about this program?

All Neighborhood Conditions Index reports and other resources available on our website, at tulsaplanning.org/strategicplanning

How can I read the Neighborhood Conditions Index?

These reports are meant to be user-friendly. There is a 'How to read your results' description in the Strategic Planning Screening section. Additionally, the *Data Points Glossary* describes the level of analysis for each data point.