

Neighborhood of Choice Survey Results

Census Tract 304

89 Respondents as of June 19, 2007

1. The conditions of homes, yards and general attractiveness of my neighborhood are:

Very Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Good	Average	Poor
31	22	14	8	5

2. A) Is your neighborhood experiencing a high population turnover rate with people frequently moving into or out of the neighborhood?

A) Yes	A) No
24	57

B) If you were to start over again would you choose this neighborhood?

B) Yes	B) No
55	20

3. With respect to open space, safety, and walkability in your neighborhood, how would you describe the condition, adequacy and quality of parks, sidewalks, street trees, schoolyards, and the fit of structures relative to their lot size?

Very Good	Good	Average	Below Average	Poor
27	30	15	4	4

4. My neighborhood has a low incidence of crime and vandalism and we feel secure here.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
26	41	6	9	9

5. I live in a sociable neighborhood where many know each other and sense support.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
13	33	17	14	3

6. Nuisances (barking dogs, glaring lights, junk/trash, parking in front yards, overcrowded dwellings, weeds, littering, burning, commercial vehicles, outside storage, noise and engine exhausts) are infrequent and not a problem.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
13	34	4	15	11

7. Other issues such as quality of schools, city services (as in sewer, water, zoning, fire, police, streets, parks), housing affordability, employment, friends and family are equal or greater contributors to my choice (location) of residence.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
13	42	15	6	

Neighborhood of Choice Survey Results

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Question Comments

Quotations have not been edited.

1. The conditions of homes, yards and general attractiveness of my neighborhood are:

- * One neighbor keeps a very messy yard.
- * Several vacant
- * People do keep the yards looking nice
- * Buckley is one of the best places to live in Owosso
- * The younger people that have moved in around us in the past few years are making splendid changes in their yards.
- * Some homes and yards are not well kept
- * Rental properties are neglected and their owners do not monitor their tenant's habits.
- * Except for the "dump" to our north.
- * Boats, basketball hoops, etc should not be allowed - with regular police patrols
- * Some rental need maintenance
- * Some houses are major eyesores (junk yards, run-down)
- * Too many rentals in our neighborhood
- * In general satisfactory. However, one just has to drive down the 1200-1300 block of North Water Street to see the poor condition of several (mostly) rental homes. Take a look at N. Water and notice the (now unused) leaning satellite dish pole one foot from the sidewalk with it's cement base heaved up out of the ground, the front side yard a mud bog from being used as a driveway, and the general very poor condition of the home. Isn't there an ordinance against parking in the front lawn?
- * The only nuisance is a hedge between two driveways which exceeds the legal height by four times. Neighbors notified but refuse to top hedge! Need better city enforcement of these laws.
- * Only 2 houses at N. Water
- * N. Chipman: M-21 to North St. is a traffic zone, not a neighborhood street.
- * Some residences
- * The block behind us is horrible & blight creeps.
- * Sometimes the rental places tend to look unkempt
- * Except for the vacant home on the corner of Ada & Lee St.
- * Some good others neglected.
- * 2 lawns not mowed until 6"-8" long or more.
- * Many cars parked on one area - all have license so I guess they are legal.

2A. Is your neighborhood experiencing a high population turnover rate with people frequently moving into or out of the neighborhood?

2B. If you were to start over again would you choose this neighborhood?

- * When I built here in 1950 it was a bit in the country but has expanded since then

- * Neighbor has loud motorcycles, business sewer truck, car pool parking on street all coming and going blocking entrance to Adams Park, parking wrong way on street
- * I've lived here 42 years and many families of that time lived in a neighborhood where the children grew up together. Now there are constant swinging doors as families have become more transient. My house took care of a family and now it's a good retirement home.
- * It's quiet and the neighbors are good
- * Attractive area - quite as yet
- * Traffic on King St. increased dramatically
- * Quiet, pleasant, patrolled by police since I am near a church & a school
- * Property value lower due to condos & bad street repair
- * Great neighbors - peace & quiet! Older citizens - stable & friendly
- * Country View

3. With respect to open space, safety, and walkability in your neighborhood, how would you describe the condition, adequacy and quality of parks, sidewalks, street trees, schoolyards, and the fit of structures relative to their lot size?

- * Yard lights ripped out; never replaced
- * Traffic is too fast on N. Chipman St. Bridge on Oliver not pedestrian/bike friendly
- * Most deficiency on south bank of Shiawassee River
- * Too many people & cars in rental property.
- * No designated bike paths to speak of. Good city to walk in.
- * Need clean up by owner of animal drops
- * Sidewalks could use some evening out
- * I will wait to see if neighborhood children can walk to school safely after MHC construction.
- * We seem to have a safe area.
- * We have a "forgotten park" Adams St. It should be emphasized as a neighborhood park.
- * No sidewalks on Center St. & Center Street need of replacement
- * Poor visibility at corner of Chipman & Shady Lane due to bushes - driving hazard.

4. My neighborhood has a low incidence of crime and vandalism and we feel secure here.

- * Things are stolen or destroyed
- * So far, so good - noise increase
- * Never have a problem
- * The police are frequently observed at rented houses and domestic disputes sometimes occur.
- * Used to until situation to our north.
- * 3 grills stolen gas stolen out of car in last 3 yrs.
- * We got crime don't seem to catch the people
- * The day we moved in we were told of a stalker in the neighborhood
- * We have looked at the Police Dept logs of our neighborhood
- * Vandalism is low, but the home at N. Water has a long history as being a drug house, and still has incidents of rowdy and drug-related late-night parties where police have come to monitor them, to the point of drug busts and arrests in the early morning hours. Beer cans are left strewn over our lawns from the kids attending the parties. One of the kids caught urinating on a neighbor's front lawn told her to shut up and go back in the house. The house mentioned above is so notorious the police know the address by heart, but the problem never seems to be remedied as it has gone on for years. This was once considered the North End.
- * Although I have experienced property vandalism as have some of my neighbors!
- * 2 rentals - many moving in and out

- * Vandal source - south bank of river
- * No incidents I know of
- * Traffic - speed - strangers
- * Do not feel as safe as I did years ago.
- * Teenagers coming and going at Adams no parents at home
- * We lose a mailbox once a year

5. I live in a sociable neighborhood where many know each other and sense support.

- * Quite a few working families, few retired - weekend contact only
- * Only know 2 of our neighbors
- * It seems that few know one another
- * Except immediate next door
- * I have a few good neighbors across the street that I use for support
- * Times are different now / Neighbors are busy / That "sociable" neighborhood is not as obtainable today. Not like when I was a child. 60's - 70's
- * Have had for 52 years.
- * I have been here for 46 years so we know most people and are not impressed with some of course affected by next door situation.

6. Nuisances (barking dogs, glaring lights, junk/trash, parking in front yards, overcrowded dwellings, weeds, littering, burning, commercial vehicles, outside storage, noise and engine exhausts) are infrequent and not a problem.

- * Bad points are underlined (barking dogs, weeds, noise, engine exhausts). Cats are killing wild life!
- * As more multi housing rentals appear & economy worsens - all are escalating
- * There are a couple of barking dogs in our neighborhood. These is one gentleman who burns whenever he wants
- * Barking dogs, engine exhaust, noise
- * Except burning
- * Burning!! Huge problem
- * Noise, glaring lights, front yard parking, weeds, outside storage and lots of litter.
- * Dogs, junk, parking, overcrowded, weed, litter, noise, police up a lot.
- * Boats, basketball hoops, etc. should not be allowed - with regular police patrols
- * On the northeast corner blue house Adams St. has 2 dogs barking at everything 6 a.m. and 11 p.m. and when they mow their grass they leave 2 inches deep on the sidewalk and never sweep the clippings.
- * All and I mean all
- * Too powerful noisy, riding on mowers & boats and motor home storage
- * Dogs running loose, barking & defacating on my lawn
- * General upkeep
- * Barking dogs, junk & trash
- * Fine residents' who violate city ordinances, i.e. burning garbage, not just yard waste.
- * Next door only weeds & commercial vehicle
- * Barking dogs, loud neighbors coming home in middle of the night.
- * We have barking dogs on both sides of us - Also many many roaming cats in neighborhood. We cannot believe Owosso does not have a leash law for cats

- * All of these have ordinances against them but are continually broken unless someone calls to complain which people are hesitant to do to their neighbors. There are barking dogs all around us, one neighbor with three! Neighbors with glaring sodium light who was told by the city to shield it, did for a short time, and then removed the shield so it glares in everyone's window. Few neighbors on this block shovel their snow so we have to wade through it if we want to walk and nobody enforces this ordinance. Burning is a HUGE problem for those of us who have respiratory problems. We love sleeping with our windows open. Even in hot weather we turn off the air and open windows to sleep. But there is someone in the vicinity of Adams Street Park who regularly burns garbage 1 - 2 times every week starting at about midnight or 1 o'clock a.m. We have to get up and close our windows in the middle of the night when we would really rather have fresh air in nice weather. Police want to know a house number before they will check it out, so is a woman supposed to go snooping around the neighborhood at 2 a.m.? These people wait to burn (not necessarily on burning days) during the night because police cannot pinpoint the source in the dark. H
- * The only nuisance is a hedge between two driveways which exceeds the legal height by four times. Neighbors notified but refuse to top hedge! Need better city enforcement of these laws. Also neighbors who install large numbers of bird feeder create costly messes from bird droppings! health issue???
- * Cats roam free & kill birds
- * Except 2 rentals
- * Neglect of property by some absentee landlords, south bank; outside storage in some yards; frequent burning with annoying smoke; occasional jet skis, motor boats on river; constant stream of trash moving in river past our home.
- * Potholes in street, electric scooter & ATV vehicles, overnight street parking, noise after 9 p.m.
- * If one, would be dog barking
- * Except for the house mentioned above
- * A few blight the neighborhood. Using front yards for sale (vehicles etc.) of others friends families or upkeep
- * I am in the over eighty age group - When I go outside to work in my gardens the many neighborhood cats have used my gardens as a litter box. On the one side of my house (east side) I cannot open my windows because of the smell. What can be done to bring this to a halt.
- * Outside storage and parking in side/front yards/lack of rental house maintenance/traffic noise
- * The 1225 can be annoying on occasion w/ it's over zealous whistle!
- * No problem except barking dogs.
- * Motorcycle tune-ups. Old falling down barn. Brush, etc, pile
- * I will wait and see how much the area traffic increases with MHC construction.
- * Barking dogs.
- * Burning is a problem at night in spring & summer.
- * Dogs barking and noisy motorcycles
- * Commercial vehicle parked on street every night until dark, sometimes on weekend.
- * Barking dogs
- * Barking dogs
- * Barking dogs - one neighbor in particular - problematic
- * Barking dogs, glaring lights, engine noise, loud talking late at night and early in the morning
- * Loose cats and dogs constantly around
- * Railroad right a way is not kept up - Back of Mitchell Museum north along Chipman & north along Center St from King.
- * Hospital fans are very noisy.

7. Other issues such as quality of schools, city services (as in sewer, water, zoning, fire, police, streets, parks), housing affordability, employment, friends and family are equal or greater contributors to my choice (location) of residence.

- * We enjoy living close to police, fire & hospital. We enjoy walking to post office & stores, etc.
- * water & sewer bills are extremely high
- * Jobs? That's a joke!
- * Owosso desperately needs "companies" who provide good paying jobs to support our tax base or neighborhoods will deteriorate.
- * Have lived at same address for 42 years coming here from Bay City for employment transfer.
- * But, taxes going up too much. Seniors fixed income
- * They are all important
- * Except that good jobs are leaving the city.
- * Jobs & new business are a problem for this area. It mirrors the state of Michigan.
- * Employment poor
- * Family / Church Central MI location all contribute
- * One short line is insufficient to comment upon my views.
- * Street need major upgrading
- * Need more jobs

8. After reviewing your responses, please feel free to offer your ideas on what can be done to make your neighborhood a "Neighborhood of Choice".

- * Check speeding on N. Shia. At and watch for people and large semis running red light at Shiawassee & King Streets!!
- * Since the designation of multiple housing, a steady deterioration has taken place.
- * I know people are busy, but getting to know the neighbors would be good.
- * The sidewalks need to be completed in the 1300 block of Olmstead St. There are young kids that ride bikes and play in the street. I think sidewalks would help keep them out of the street. There needs to be a street light mid-block of the 1400 block of Olmstead Street. It is very dark, especially when the leaves are on the trees.
- * Some of the homes on streets off Chipman for example Stinson, some of the buildnes behind the house should be torn down or fixed up
- * Due to age and several storms, we've lost so many trees over time. Please replace the trees for our environment, birds & grand childrens future enjoyment.
- * There is severe blight on East Oliver as I drive east past M-52. Something needs to be done to help people with some of these fine old homes. Some look terrible.
- * Our neighborhood is the greatest, but I live at Campbell Dr. & the holes in our tarvies degrade the looks of our homes. I have reported it, but to no avail! If only to just patch it would help - I find no help in coming to the next meeting as I did before. Fix our road at least - please - Thanks
- * Residents care about their property.
- * Enforce city ordinances such as barking dogs, burning
- * A new bridge across the Shia. River at North Street!!
- * Make it easier for citizens to report complaints about neighbors without feeling like they will know where complaint came from.
- * Ball Street needs resurfacing from Galusha south.
- * Enforcement of ordinances

- * We've been here since 1964 - No faults
- * Get the lowlifes out and teach the ignorant Force people to sweep sidewalks of lawn clippings trim trees/bushes that overhang sidewalk, and not to park across the sidewalk.
- * Better code enforcement, and police on side streets
- * Better street repair especially on Buckley Drive
- * Have lived in the area 45 years of the 50 years I've lived in Owosso. I must like it!!!
- * Require landlords to maintain their property. Mow, paint, repair
- * Place garbage pickup on homeowner's tax bills, ban burning. Less than a quarter of the residents on my street have garbage pickup. Where is their garbage going?
- * Why does the city allow signs in front of homes after the contractor is done with the job? There are 5 signs in front of the house on Oliver.
- * We live on a street of old homes built to fit almost the entire lot. There's nothing that can be done to change that.
- * Get a cat leash law. Four of our immediate neighbors and ourselves love to garden. Cats poop as much as dogs and they do it in our gardens often ruining a newly planted plant. They also kill many of our beautiful neighborhood birds. We also have neighbors that let their grass grow above the city codes. If you should happen to research this cat issue, you would find that many MI cities have cat leash laws.
- * new employment - in Michigan - Owosso or county All my relatives moved from Michigan in the 1970's. They got jobs in Georgia and Florida Cable T.V. rates are too high cost & poor quality.
- *
 Start by enforcing the ordinances that are already on the books without a person having to call and report and neighbor. Quit picking on the little stuff like a little sign on someone's lawn or firemen sitting out front of the fire department. Concentrate on the things that will actually improve the quality of life! The signs of the times are the realtor signs sitting in the yards all over the neighborhoods. Everybody wants to get out on the country! To make a neighborhood better, people are going to have to respect each other and treat each other like human beings. How do you legislate that?
- *
 Plant flowers along some city streets. Could do this as a community volunteer project where participants all bring a flat of flowers with them. Makes a striking difference when you see this in other cities.
- * Keep property taxes affordable, maintain responsible city services, and strive to bring companies that will provide good paying jobs to the Owosso area.
- * Do not ever consider putting in sidewalks our walkers do fine in our low traffic streets.
- * Driveway (rentals) so bad especially when it rains, renters drive on neighbors lawn. Sidewalk so muddy & people walk around in the street. Why does the city not inspect rentals and enforce codes for rental property?
- * Slow down traffic. Encourage "sprucing up" and perhaps planting trees/flowers. Chipman could be cozied up a bit. Add bike lanes. Organize the overhead lines better / efficiently or put below ground. The intersection at Oliver Woods & Chipman & Oliver is difficult by car or bike. Make a differentiation between the "Industrial" portion of N. Chipman and the "Neighborhood" portion.
- * Strong city action to require absentee landlord upkeep of property; removal of river snags by City (not by adjacent property owners) strong ordinances on property appearance.
- * Everything satisfactory
- * Construct a pedestrian bridge over the Shiawassee River to attach our neighborhood to Patridge Park. Complete pathways from Williams Street to Patridge Park to promote walking/bicycling in the city's northwest area.
- * House on N. Water St. needs cleaned up, etc. It is a disgrace.

- * Get rid of apartment houses that are not kept up. The landlords don't live there and they don't care. The 800 block of N. Water looks like the Flint tenements. This was a beautiful neighborhood of older homes and well kept & that's what has kept Owosso great, but is getting ruined by too many people, cars at these homes. I know people have complained and they do nothing so what's the use of having an ordinance if nothing is done.
- *
 - If people knew how great it is to walk to market, walk to Cone Zone, walk downtown, to church, to events downtown & at the amphitheater. Have a yard big enough to plant what you want, but not so big, it takes all your summer to maintain. Think the city would be better maintained if had City garbage pick-up.
- * More & better businesses would do wonders. More & better schools, better services, more parks, etc.
- * Enforcement of ordinances & speed limits. Time limit on do it yourself repairs / projects outside. Grateful for questionair. Thanks.
- * Have the people in the "blue house" and the unfinished "riverboat resort" clean up. Adams St.
- * This neighborhood should be your model. It's very pleasant, affordable, peaceful, diverse, and safe.
- * Sidewalks on both sides of Oliver St. would have been a help as my children walked to Central school.
- * I have lived here for 52 years. The neighborhood had changed but we have always gotten in good neighbors. I now live alone & find I have a good feeling about being secure & they are very good to me.
- * Need more city inspections and enforcement.
- * Ban all outdoor burning. Sidewalk downhill on King by Par Course & on 7th St.
- * Get an ordinance so a 22' sewer truck can't park on street to make the area look commercial and trashy - leaves every morning before 6 a.m. with loud diesel engine. Then motorcycles with loud mufflers (baffles removed) at night and weekends. I own two houses - thinking of moving to TWP.
- *
 - A yield or stop sign corner of Ward & King St. Straight way to long down King St., even cops speed.
- * Good neighborhood except for cats and dogs running loose
- * RR#'s need to be kept mowed & junk & trash cleaned up. They should have same requirement as residence they pass through.
- * Chipman Street has always been a well travelled road and consequently it has plenty of rough areas (M-21 to North St.). I love my home & neighborhood! I am also so disappointed that so many homes in Owosso are for sale due to the poor economy.
- * Resurface Oliver Street from M-52 to Chipman Street. A. S. A. P. Please !!!
- * Potholes in road need filled