Greensboro Neighborhood Congress
Neighborhood Quality-of-Life Tool

The Greensboro Neighborhood Congress developed a Vision, Mission, Values, and Goals over the last year, to help it be more focused and effective.

Goal Three states – ***Measure neighborhood quality-of-life to identify areas for improvement***.
Adopting and implementing the list of factors in Exhibit A will provide a way to measure and prioritize improvements and/or changes in neighborhood quality-of-life. This is a first step in addressing this goal.

1. What is the Neighborhood Quality-of-Life Tool?
The GNC Tool is depicted in **Exhibit A - Factors to be Assessed when planning and/or changing Funding, City Ordinances, or Land Use**. For each of the Seven Factors, the City Staff, GSO Boards & City Council will be requested to identify the neighborhoods that will be impacted by a proposed change (or if the impacts would be city wide), and to assess its impact.

The City assessment tool shall be shared with the Neighborhood Association Leaders. Neighborhood Associations may also use this Tool themselves in assessing and planning neighborhood improvements.

2. How was the list developed?
A draft list of factors was developed. Ten neighborhood leaders were interviewed about this draft list of factors with a few open-ended questions.

Ninety-Five Findings resulted from the ten interviews, and 36 of which suggested changes to the draft factor list. These changes included factor eliminations, additions, combining, needed clarity, etc. Following these interviews an Internet search found a relevant study was done in 2013. The recommended list depicted in **Exhibit A** was adapted from this academic 2013 study titled ***Principles of urban quality of life for a neighborhood***.
The full study report with references can be found at:
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/257681106_Principles_of_urban_quality_of_life_for_a_neighborhood .
The **Exhibit A Tool** was adapted to Greensboro's situations during four I&B Committee meetings.

Exhibit A
GNC Neighborhood Quality-of-Life Tool
Factors to be Assessed when planning and/or changing Funding, City Ordinances, or Land Use

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Factors to be Assessed when planning and/or changing Funding, City Ordinances, or Land Use

Factor	Comment(s)	Considering the Effects Upon:
1 **Environmental Quality-of-life**		Access to clean air, water, land, that ensure non-toxic materials in proximity to people in order to protect people and maintain biodiversity.
		Energy demand.
		Energy saving technologies.
		Natural or green areas distribution-within the neighborhood.
		Ways to control and manage waste.
2 **Physical Design Quality-of-life**		Compact and pedestrian friendly design.
		Diversity of uses and in proximity of each other.
		Access to services and facilities that fulfill peoples' (neighborhood and city wide) desires and needs.
		Access to buildings that fulfill peoples' (neighborhood and city wide) desires and needs.
		Noise and Light.
		Access to Primary, Urgent, Hospital, and Trauma Care facilities.
		Street networks and open spaces based on pedestrian and vehicle load.
		Management, maintenance and repair policies that ensure the sustainability of neighborhoods.
3 **Mobility Quality-of-life**		Alternatives to using cars in order to reduce traffic load, minimize air pollution and conserve energy.
		Transit stops that are within walking distance to allow independence for those people that do not drive.
		Streets friendly for pedestrians, cycles, and vehicles.
4 **Social Quality-of-life**		Access to affordable housing, economic activities, services and facilities.
		Barriers that reduce the participation in daily life of people such as persons with disabilities, women, children and elderly.
		Streets and buildings that reinforce safe environments.
		Range of housing types, owner occupied versus rental, and price levels.
		Civic buildings and public gathering places.
		Social participation in all governing processes.
		Safe, comfortable, interesting streets and squares for use by pedestrians, and others not using motor vehicles.
		Neighborhood stability.
5 **Psychological Quality-of-life**		Community identity by preserving heritage and historic remains.
		Architecture and landscape consistent with their context.
		Opportunity for people to have a place of their own by giving the ability to personalize the space.
		Consistent Aesthetic character of the built environment.
6 **Economical Quality-of-life**		Local businesses, local ownership, mixed-use development, and local job opportunity.
		Access to affordable housing, services and facilities.
7 **Political Quality-of-life**		City governance. Detract from or enhance
		Codes and legislation. Detract from or enhance
		Democratic decision processes.
		Community involvement in council decision making.