

Aycock Historic District 2003 Strategic Plan – Where Are We Now?

Background

In 2003, community members from the Aycock Neighborhood Association joined forces with the Greensboro Department of Housing and Community Development to create a strategic plan to guide the growth of the neighborhood. Neighbors shared what their perceived strengths and weaknesses of the neighborhood were, and that feedback helped shape the plan.

The Aycock Neighborhood Strategic Plan serves four purposes: Pull in a broader base of involvement and support for the neighborhood planning, establish consensus on actions and priorities for improvement in the neighborhood, link the plan’s recommendations to the city’s work program and budget process, and increase awareness that the planning effort exists.

When planning, three steps were agreed upon:

1. Identify issues, concerns and ideas.
2. Agree on common objectives.
3. Develop the planning recommendations that satisfy the common objectives.

Strategic Plan

When the plan was adopted by the Greensboro City Council on November 5, 2003, 12 proposed actions were included in the plan. Below you will find the action items, as well as the level of progress made.

Proposed Action	What We’ve Done	Next Steps
Redesign/Improve Summit Avenue as a Primary Gateway to the Downtown.	In 2006, the Greensboro City Council adopted the Summit Avenue Corridor Plan and Market Study.	The Corridor Improvements were approved as part of the 2008 Transportation Bond. A start date of Spring 2016 is anticipated.
Enhance the Organizational Capacity of the Neighborhood Association	Board members are active in continuing to maintain and build Aycock’s profile within city: i.e. David Wharton- Historic Preservation Commission; Christina Cantrell- Historic Preservation Commission & Greensboro Neighborhood Congress; Linda Fusco – Greensboro Neighborhood Congress. Members of the board and property owners continually attend town hall and city council meetings staying involved in issues relevant to positively growing the neighborhood: i.e.	Continue Neighborhood involvement in Neighborhood Planning especially as it affects the northeast corridor

<p>Dunleath; Summit Avenue Corridor; War Memorial Stadium</p>		
<p>Miscellaneous Transportation and Traffic Improvements</p>	<p>In 2007, the neighborhood received the Greensboro Beautiful Neighborwoods grant, providing funds for a neighborhood reforestation program. In addition, board collaborated with the Aycock Middle School and voted to use MSD funds to provide for new fencing along the perimeter of the School. Gateways to the community have been enhanced in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Max Thompson Pedestrian Bridge improvements and landscaping • Yanceyville medians landscaping and signage maintenance • Landscaping at Murrow and Summit Avenue 	<p>Guilford County Schools has committed to the maintenance and upkeep of the fencing. The neighborhood will continue to have a representative at all Historic Preservation Meetings with active Certificates of Appropriateness (COAs) on the agenda.</p>
<p>War Memorial Stadium and Veterans Plaza Area</p>	<p>The city’s Parks and Recreation Department sponsored the War Memorial Stadium Program and Concept Design, and so recommendations from this plan were incorporated into the Summit Avenue Corridor Plan. In 2011, operation of the Farmer’s Curb Market was transferred to a private vendor from city operation.</p>	<p>Continue to advocate for the effective use of the War Memorial Stadium.</p>
<p>Street Name Signage</p>	<p>In 2011, the Board voted to approve the use of MSD funds to purchase 20 street sign toppers for the neighborhood for a total cost of \$3,500.</p> <p>2012: 20 Sign Toppers entitled “Historic Aycock” are now on strategic street signs.</p>	<p>Neighborhood is planning to place additional sign toppers on remaining street signs.</p> <p>Neighborhood is planning a brick and mortar sign similar to the Yanceyville and Summit sign at the Yanceyville and East Bessemer location. The neighborhood received a</p>

		Neighborhood Small Projects Grant to make this possible.
Law Enforcement/Public Safety	The Greensboro Police Department has dedicated an officer to serve as a liaison to the community.	Continue to report concerns to the Greensboro Police. Greensboro Police will continue to send a representative to neighborhood meetings.
Sternberger Park Improvements	The Neighborhood applied and was selected to receive a Neighborhood Small Projects program grant for improvements to Sternberger Park. Funding is anticipated to be available in the third quarter of 2012.	The Sternberger Park updates will occur in the lifecycle of the grant.
Upkeep of Residential Properties	The inspection of rental properties was addressed through the Rental Unit Certificate of Occupancy (RUCO) through the Greensboro Engineering and Inspections Department. The RUCO-enabling legislation has since been altered at the state level.	Rental properties in the Aycock Neighborhood that remain vacant are legally converted from rental properties to single-family homes. The Ordinance to Prevent Demolition by Neglect remains unfunded, but has seen some success.
Putting Overhead Utilities Underground	As the cost to bury and move is the responsibility of the property-owner, this goal presents some feasibility issues.	Encourage new construction and renovation to go underground.
Neighborhood Entryway Markers	The Board partnered with the Guilford County Schools and voted to use MSD funds to purchase a new sign for the Aycock Middle School that aligns with Historic Design Standards In addition, the Neighborhood Small Projects grants helped fund neighborhood entry signs on Yanceyville Street.	Neighborhood is planning a brick and mortar sign similar to the Yanceyville and Summit sign at the Yanceyville and East Bessemer location. The neighborhood received a Neighborhood Small Projects Grant to make this possible.
Murrow Boulevard/Aycock Square	The neighborhood has representatives working with the City of Greensboro to explore options for improvements to this area.	Being re-evaluated to propose for 2016