

**Neighborhood Of Choice Survey Results**  
**Census Tract 307**  
**60 Respondents as of May 17, 2007**

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

Very Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Good	Average	Poor
5	11	9	22	6

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	31

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

B) Yes	B) No
18	37

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
3	2	22	10	3

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

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
2	30	10	10	5

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

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
2	22	14	13	7

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
3	11	17	12	14

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
5	20	22	2	2

# Neighborhood of Choice Survey Results

## Question Comments

*Quotations have not been edited.*

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

- \* Junk cars in yard indoor furniture on porch. Just horrible.
- \* Looks good on my block.
- \* Job losses/fixed income won't allow people to fix up homes, plus gas prices rising all the time hurts budgets.
- \* Some are junky and others keep nice yards.
- \* Phil Hathaway - Get rid of next.
- \* Low income area.
- \* There are a few homes that yards are not cut and trash thrown throughout yards.
- \* There are 2 or 3 homes that are run down.
- \* Most houses are unkept - 2 houses down, their yard is complete dirt! No grass!
- \* Most of the homes and yards are kept up nice.
- \* People don't care what things look like.
- \* Exception of one house.
- \* Tidiness is a problem & home repair also.
- \* Garbage, weeds, yard parking, store trash, sidewalk parking, motorcycle on sidewalks & noise.
- \* With exception of 1 or 2 homes.
- \* Some houses very junky appearance.
- \* High taxes.
- \* A few yards and homes could use work.
- \* Landlords that do not take care of rentals.
- \* Lot of rentals.
- \* Range from poor to very satisfactory.
- \* Young - unoccupied for several months. In deplorable condition. Tarp on back roof of house. Back yards looks like a junk yard. House in need of repair/paint, etc.
- \* My only concern are the homes on Carmody St - They need attention.
- \* Some homes very poor - most are average.
- \* Mose homes are kept in very satisfactory cond., but there are 3-4 who maintain large amounts of trash/junk which make other's effort futile.
- \* Please allow people the freedom to live their lives. The only thing the city should have a say in is disease breeding conditions.
- \* Lawns need cut.

### 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?

- \* Lots of rentals in streets behind Chipman not kept up. Junk all around.
- \* Great neighborhood.

- \* Kids & young adults litter and throw trash out of vehicles such as food containers, bottles, cans & paper.
- \* You make it impossible for us due to flood plan. We are in one but some have to have flood ins. Others don't - is not our fault drain from trailers was put in wrong.
- \* Large number of rentals.
- \* Small town, affordable homes but losing many jobs.
- \* I like my house, but hate that I can't get out of the flood zone! We are the only ones on the block that are paying flood insurance! Why?
- \* I would choose a subdivision neighborhood.
- \* We choose the neighborhood because of the house only.
- \* I like it where I live.
- \* A - some - several of us lived here over 50 years.
- \* Not sure.
- \* Too many rental homes & people who do not care about the outer appearance of their home.
- \* Uncaring landlords outside the neighborhood, uncaring business owners, vehicle noise.
- \* Good area.
- \* Only in the two homes mentioned above, all the other homes are low turnover.
- \* Just moved here April 2006.
- \* Too many dogs with poor owners.
- \* Moving out of state to Arizona.
- \* We have 2 houses that sell drugs just down the road.
- \* Housing in poor condition / lawns untended / junk around buildings
- \* It's too late now. I'm 85 years old and I'm gonna stay put.
- \* Run down.
- \* Most turnover is in rentals - others due to death, divorce, etc.
- \* Some homes are rentals. Police are seen frequently at some.
- \* Yes.
- \* Getting too many people renting out their homes.
- \* Sale.
- \* Maybe.
- \* Knowing what I know now, no drugs! Nothing to do with the neighborhood. More the stigma attached to it by the city, etc.

**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?**

- \* Streets need repair.
- \* Too many large trees and dangers.
- \* I would like to see my alley paved and Lafayette Street completely redone, curbs and all.
- \* Houses are way too close together.
- \* We have nice parks, sidewalk, etc.
- \* No sidewalks, no curbs, pea stone roads.
- \* Some houses very close to each other. Bentley Park needs new play equipment. Very run down and in disrepair.
- \* Sidewalks.
- \* City has maintained sidewalks in good condition.

- \* We have no parks.
- \* No sidewalks-street surface crumbling - concerned for Roosevelt School staying open - we need it.
- \* We are one of the few that have a sidewalk at all. Overall sidewalks are a mess for wheelchair use.
- \* Very few houses have a sidewalk - no park.
- \* Sidewalks end in the middle of the block - lots of children on the road who need to either cross the street or walk in the road.
- \* No sidewalks which is ok by me. I prefer a country setting. I miss the black raspberries along the tracks - all murdered.
- \* Poor upkeep.

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

- \* Crime may rise due to hard economic times.
- \* Had some minor incidents.
- \* Great police coverage.
- \* Occasional teen pranks, many people wandering streets.
- \* I feel pretty safe. There are a few "strangers" walking the tracks close by.
- \* I have alcoholics, drugs, and drug dealers in my neighborhood.
- \* I don't have any trouble so far.
- \* I live in Candlewick - self explained.
- \* Have had 3 cars broken into.
- \* We haven't had a problem with security as we don't make things available for theft.
- \* No police protection, no enforcement of even the simplest statutes, most C&V go unreported.
- \* Police only patrol main roads, not our neighborhood.
- \* Have had several things stolen from our yard with no recourse.
- \* Walk RR tracks. Cops can't catch them.
- \* We have seen drug deals go down in front of our house.
- \* Police always in this area.
- \* Some drugs and domestic arguments.
- \* Have had drug problems & congregating of young people. One problem house, now empty. Vandalism is low.
- \* I've head of some problems. I keep my home secure.
- \* Now that habitat for humanity have been sold!
- \* Some crime and vandalism.
- \* Crime/vandalism changes with the generations. Some bad, some good, I can see it beginning to change - lived in same home over 40 years.

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

- \* Great neighbors.
- \* Alcoholics, drugs, loud music, hateful people.
- \* Neighbors are respectful.
- \* We have some people who don't get along.
- \* We do get along with neighbors on each side of us.
- \* I don't get out much so I only know a few.
- \* We neighbor mainly with longtime surrounding neighbors.

- \* Own.
- \* I think so.
- \* Go outside without dogs barking constantly. Can't leave windows open either.
- \* Not as many known as before.
- \* All immediate neighbors are great.
- \* Only know a handful of neighbors.
- \* Them.
- \* We have nice neighbors who mostly keep to themselves, but we try to draw them in our own way. Many citizens get a sense of power from complaining and can't mind their own business.

**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.**

- \* Barking dogs, glaring lights, littering, weeds, junk trash.
- \* Vehicles with blaring boom boxes.
- \* I live in a rental district which are run down.
- \* Barking dogs, junk/trash, burning.
- \* Parking in front yards, outside storage.
- \* Junk/trash, parking in front yards, overcrowded dwellings, weeds, commercial vehicles, outside storage, noise, and engine exhausts.
- \* Littering, junk.
- \* Littering / junk / trash & parking in front yards.
- \* Barking dogs, junk/trash, parking in front yards, outside storage, noise.
- \* We get a lot of trash in our front yards, barking dogs, burning is a problem because our houses are too close for that, and people just have too much junk or stuff laying around & their homes are just dirty and scummy looking, but that's what probably about 60% - 70% of Owosso is like anymore!
- \* Some cars go so fast from Lillian St. to Lynn St. If a small child was out there, it could be badly hurt.
- \* Noise, engines, music!
- \* Burning on a non-burn day or after 7 p.m.
- \* Speeding cars on South Street.
- \* All of the above are a problem in our neighborhood.
- \* We suffer all the above but loud motorcycles up and down the streets and sidewalks are terrible.
- \* Overcrowded dwellings, barking dogs are overcrowded dwellings.
- \* One house.
- \* Except for two homes mentioned above.
- \* Barking dogs.
- \* Burning.
- \* Junk/trash, burning, trash, plastic - smoldering for days.
- \* Junk/garbage around rental properties.
- \* Dogs barking, outside storage in front yard, junk in back.
- \* Barking dogs, burning, noise (loud music) junk/trash.
- \* Neighbors burning trash, loud music/exhaust in vehicles, tires squealing, lawns not being mowed, speeding.
- \* Junk/trash, parking in front yards, weeds, littering, outside storage - mostly with rentals.
- \* Some parking in front yards. Recreational units parked in yards. Also covered automobiles.

- \* Just the trains.
- \* Parking in yards, & barking and loose dogs. Lets ban pit bulls also racing on the tracks is very annoying.
- \* Our neighborhood has a ton of all of this.
- \* Junk/trash, weeds, littering, commercial vehicles, loose dogs running and occ. barking dogs.
- \* I believe in the freedom of Americans to live the way they choose and try not to be bothered by their choices. If I have real issues, I take care it.
- \* Junk trash in yards.

**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.**

- \* City serviecs as in sewer, water, zoning, streets; employment, friends and family.
- \* The flood zone takes away the attractability of our homes.
- \* Lafayette Streets needs to be taken down to the new pavement and curbs.
- \* Employment, location close to family & friends.
- \* We choose to live here only because the living is so much more affordable than other places. We bought a very nice home for a great price.
- \* I like this part of town, usually not too loud or quiet!
- \* I moved here because of the affordability - 20 years ago - now rent has increased so much I can't save to get out.
- \* Our children are out of school now. City servies are satisfactory, don't know about the residents affordabilities.
- \* All these things are meaningless without police enforcement and protection of basic laws.
- \* If moving then this is what I would look for in a neighborhood. However, we don't agree that we have that now.
- \* Houses are affordable - taxes are outrageous!
- \* That's how it was when we moved here.
- \* I think Bryant is an awesome school since Mr. Brooks has entered the picture and that is the difference.

**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".**

- \* Make "trashy" neighbors clean their yards!!!
- \* Crack down on people having cars in yards. Police area for loud music and cars with no mufflers going by at high rate of speed. This problem is so bad my windows rattle so much they sould like they are going to break. Don't let people have old stuffed furniture. Cars parked on street marked No Parking.
- \* When the powers that be run short of money keep your police, fire & ambulance. Do not do what you usually do.
- \* The railroad tracks on S. Cedar, S. Chipman and W. Stewart have been neglected for years, years, years & years!
- \* Enforce City codes and if one doesn't abide by the rules, ticket them over and over again.
- \* Lower trees & insurance.
- \* Try it you might like it. We are close to Dutch town. I live in the tenant house on the land that used to be called Chipman Farm.
- \* City of choice as well. More jobs available in City to keep Owosso from becoming a "Ghost Town". It's

getting close. Jobs to help keep people's homes. Lower taxes, fix roads, help and find ways to care about lower income families. Childcare a part of job benefits, lower wages of the already well-to-do City workers. Present an application form to those willing to work and support themselves with a little help in getting started. So you realize why so many are leaving "our City" and state. Have more care and consideration for the citizens in your areas instead of looking for ways to charge us out of existence.

- \* City of choice - Owosso has only gone downhill - Holman Pool is a must--have--been here 25 years.
- \* Too many habitat homes. Having a member of the City Council that did not follow the proper procedures for the dismissal of the City Manager on this commission is not fair to the citizens of Owosso. Tired of always having the habitat homes built in our two sections of the City. How about a home up by the high school or over by Curwood Castle or up Chipman St.?
- \* Bring back jobs. Less police patrolling.
- \* Enforcing trash and junk and old cars on people's property to be taken care of looking at the "new" flood zone and who should be paying flood insurance.
- \* I would like to see my neighborhood become a family friendly subdivision type neighborhood or have the laws and rules apply to us that apply to sub-division. I have some comments and suggestions for improving my neighborhood. I would like to see my neighborhood become a family friendly sub-division type neighborhood or have the same laws and rules apply to my neighborhood. I would also like to see the following: 1. Have the people paint their home all at the same time or have it sided. 2. The east end of the alley between Hoyt and Lafayette Streets closed or and the west end from my garage to Lafayette Street paved and a storm sewer installed. 3. Remove all the trouble makers, the alcoholics, drugs and drug dealers from the neighborhood. 4. The barking dogs, flood and spotlights removed and just have porch lights, have all trash in my neighborhood picked up all at once, I would like all the live bands and loud radios removed from my neighborhood, all vehicles stored in garages, all campers & utility trailers stored inside, all lawnmowers, tractors, and other junk stored in sheds, or get rid of it, have all driveways concrete or paved, have my one neighbor's driveway come in off of Lafayette Street on the northside of his house instead of the alley. These are some suggestions to my neighborhood a neat, clean friendly neighborhood.
- \* Create a "Walk With Neighbors Day". (Once a week in summer time have one evening as walk to meet/greet your neighbor.)
- \* I don't mean to be such a stickler and I think it's great what you are doing, Owosso is not a very appealing place unless you are in the north end, of course. It's just there is a ton of scummy, dirty people who live around here that just don't care. That's who they are and that's the way they are always going to live. And it's really sad and unfortunate because with all the historical homes and buildings and the river running through and all, this could be a very nice city to live in. But I honestly think it will take a miracle from God to get enough people who care, and money provided to clean Owosso up and have it be a nice, desirable place to live and decent people to live around.
- \* We have sidewalks on our streets so why can't the kids rollerblade on them instead of the roads?
- \* Kids need to be supervised - less drugs - people respect other's lives.
- \* Noise of traffic on M-21 is biggest drawback.
- \* Have neighborhood watch set-up w/signs saying so.
- \* Clean up yards, less parking in streets make visibility unsafe for children playing in our neighborhood. Barking dogs, excessive roaming cats. We believe they should be licensed as dogs if they are to roam outdoors. People who have businesses out of their home should provide off-street parking for their employees. We have a lot of speeding cars on our streets. Could have more police patrol. We've lived in our home over 25 years. We take pride in keeping our home appearance nice to look at from front to back. Our neighborhood was better kept when we moved in. There are about 5 houses in our neighborhood that spoil the appearance of our neighborhood. Three are rental if not four. These houses are bringing the value of our home down. Our streets are also in bad repair. There are potholes all down Morrice Street that we paid to have resurfaced. We have tried to sell our home twice and I'm sure people look at the neighborhood and make opinions. The City could make a lot of money by fining

people for all the rules that are broken in this neighborhood. We've gotten building permits for everything we've done to our property and there are many people around here that do anything they want to without permission.

- \* My family has owned or held contract on this property since about 1953 and has always been a good place to live and go to school. Everyone loved it here, but many have passed on or moved away. The golden days are gone. Some homes have become rental units with all that entails. We would leave here, but economically trapped. Police protection and enforcement could make this a neighborhood of choice again.
- \* As good as any other.
- \* Curbs, sidewalks, police patrol, paved roads, enforce City ordinances (i.e. junk, dogs).
- \* Clean RR right-of-way 60 ft. so small cars can see over track and down tracks.
- \* New park equipment at Bentley Park. Tennis courts and basketball courts are nice for older children. Plenty of room to play, but the play equipment is very run down and needs to be upgraded. I think many more people would take advantage of it.
- \* A miracle.
- \* No jobs. Time to move. Bye.
- \* No burning. No storing junk in front yard.
- \* It would be nice to have heated sidewalks on my block and surrounding area.
- \* Better police patrol.
- \* We have lived in this location for 35 years. We feel over time that our choice of location has made us second or even third class citizens.
- \* State grants to help families do property improvement. More restrictions on rental properties - make landlords responsible for how their properties look.
- \* Take care of all the trash in back yard.
- \* Take time to enforce ordinances. Especially burning in all areas - not just a few "select" areas!
- \* Love the brush recycling but need recycling center for plastics, etc. Like the new businesses in West Town. Please add more "activities". Have places of interest for youth and adults (park, etc.) "Walk Places" need restrooms and water - Bentley Park has water?
- \* Enforcement of City codes. Marty does an excellent job with complaints. However, people fall right back to their past habits. Believe all rentals need garbage pick-up. Add it to the rent payments. All vacant houses should have yard maintenance.
- \* Frequent visual inspections of properties (4 times a year at least). Publish source of contact if there are problems. Owners of rental homes should be responsible for the property/renters keeping property looking clean & neat.
- \* Streets are crumbling and need resurfacing - some houses on Carmody St., are in need of attention and the yards need to be cleaned up- why do I have to walk 1/2 block to get my mail? Should have delivery to house - trees need trimming - all grown into wires.
- \* Sell more, less rentals.
- \* Fix the sidewalks so the kids can walk down the street w/o crossing back and forth to stay on them. Require neighbors to clean up their yards, clean up litter in area near the RR tracks.
- \* 1. Offer grants for those families who cannot afford loans to make improvements inside and out. 2. Pay more attention to neighborhoods with and without children so that families with children can purchase homes in areas that have other families with children. 3. Include fee surveying with purchase or permit to install fences. You might be surprised how little things like this would help.
- \* We moved to West/Dutch Town in 1965 because of its quaint/country charm. All the homes were older and well kept. The roads were gravel - lots larger, etc. And we raised our 4 plus shared our home with 13 teens over the years. Now there's been homes built where fields were, etc. and it is time for us to move on. Our goal is to do that with 3-5 years. Out of the City. City ordinances change with the

commissioners, etc. what was OK 10 years ago is ordinated against today, etc. It's just so much blah, blah, blah! Some folks have serious control issues, some are fair. I am all about individual freedom. God Bless America!

\* No parking on Carr Street. The street is too narrow.