Fort Worth

Neighborhood Conservation Plan and Affordable Housing Strategy

Summary of Data and Recommendations

August 2023

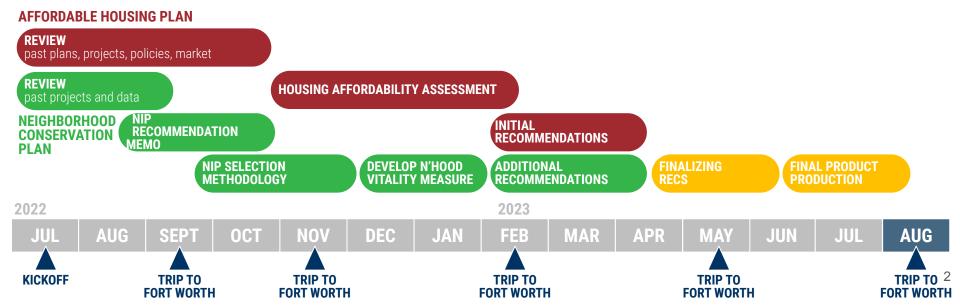
Interface Studio
Ninigret Partners
Mosaic SKM Collaborative



Timeline

- February
 - Final Housing and Neighborhood Conservation Analyses Completed
 - Draft Conservation
 Recommendations Completed
 - Additional Housing Conversations and Drafting of Recommendations

- March
 - Virtual Recommendations
 Presentation
- May / June / July
 - Plan Production



Current Housing Issues

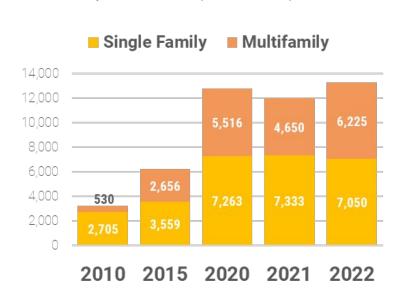


Fort Worth is adding jobs faster than housing.

Homebuilding is slowing, and the City will add jobs faster than projected household growth. Additionally, the City subsidizes jobs at incomes that may be eligible for housing assistance.

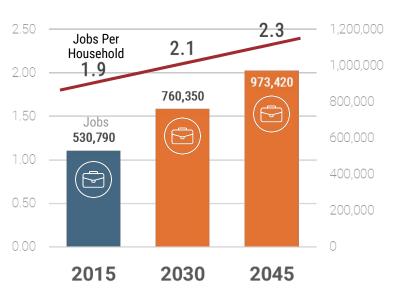
New Housing Units:Fort Worth Building Permits Over Time

City of Fort Worth Development Services Dept, 2023



Total Jobs and Jobs Per Household,Fort Worth Projections 2015-2045

North Central Texas Council of Governments

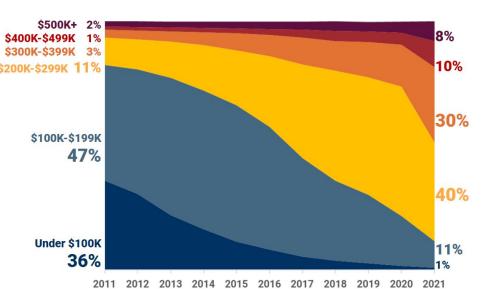


The increasing cost of housing is stretching budgets.

More than 80% of homes are now out of reach for a median income household, and rising rents are threatening the value of Federal rental assistance.

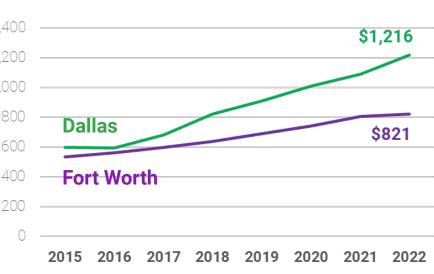


Texas A&M Real Estate Research Center, Fort Worth Local Market Area Housing Activity Trends, 2022



The Rental Market: Monthly Costs for a Housing Choice Voucher from 2015 to 2022

Housing Choice Voucher Dashboard, HUD



Neighborhoods are changing...

In areas where displacement may be

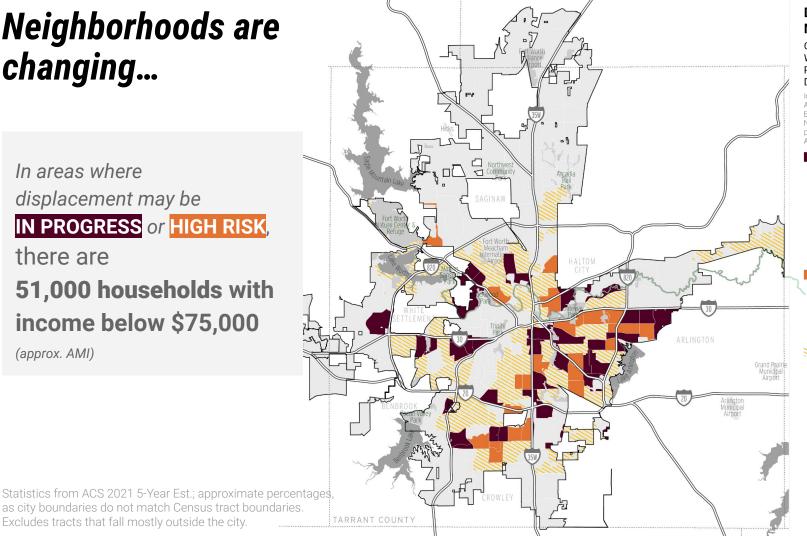
IN PROGRESS or HIGH RISK,

there are

51,000 households with income below \$75,000

Excludes tracts that fall mostly outside the city.

(approx. AMI)



Displacement Risk Measure

Composite Measure of Areas Where Homeowners May Be At Risk Of or Experiencing Displacement

Interface Studio analysis with data from ACS 2016, 2019, and 2021 5-year Estimates in 2010 Census Tracts, from NHGIS and ESRI Demographics; and property data from the Tarrant County Tax Assessor, 2016 and 2021

Displacement May Be In Progress

Among eligible areas, these have seen a rapid decrease in households below the Area Median Income (AMI) and a rapid increase in adults with a Bachelor's Degree or more, from 2016 to 2021; some areas may also meet "displacement risk" critera below

Displacement Risk Is High

Among eligible areas, these are "aging homeowner" neighborhoods where assessed home values rose faster than median household incomes from 2016 to 2021

Additional Areas of Concern

Areas that only meet the measure's eligibility criteria: more than half of households make under \$75,000 annually, the approximate Area Median Income in 2021

And change is disproportionately impacting BIPOC neighborhoods.

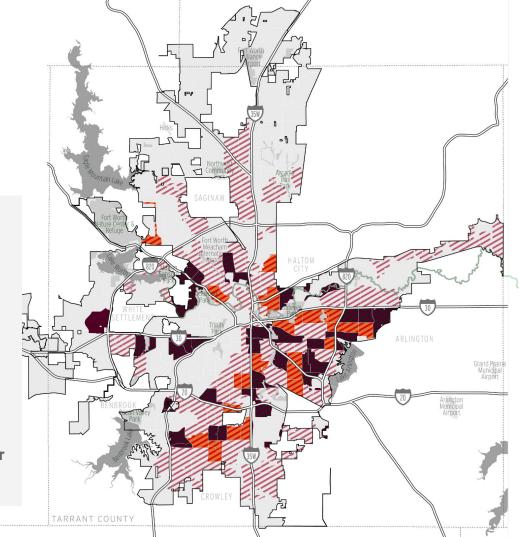
In areas where displacement may be

IN PROGRESS or HIGH RISK,

81% of residents identify as **Hispanic, Black, and other non-white group**

(175,000 residents out of 216,268)

62% of Fort Worth residents **citywide** identify as **Hispanic**, **Black**, **or another non-white group**



Displacement Risk Measure

Composite Measure of Areas Where Homeowners May Be At Risk Of or Experiencing Displacement

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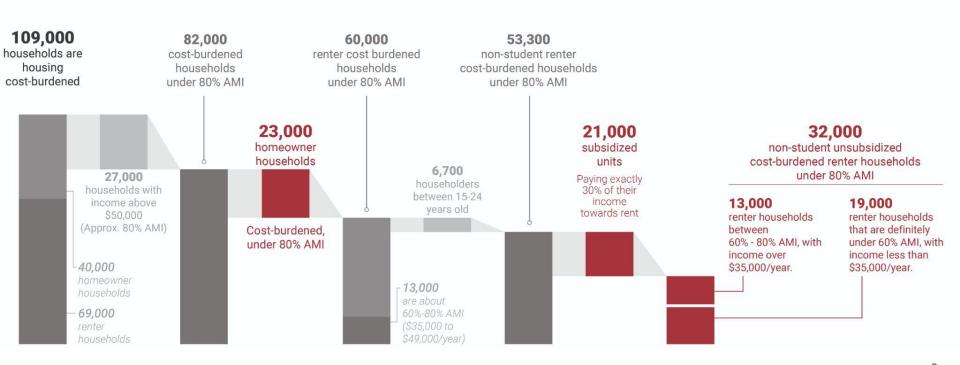
Displacement Risk Is High

Among eligible areas, these are "aging homeowner" neighborhoods where assessed home values rose faster than median household incomes from 2016 to 2021.

Majority Hispanic, Black, or Another Non-White Race or Ethnicity

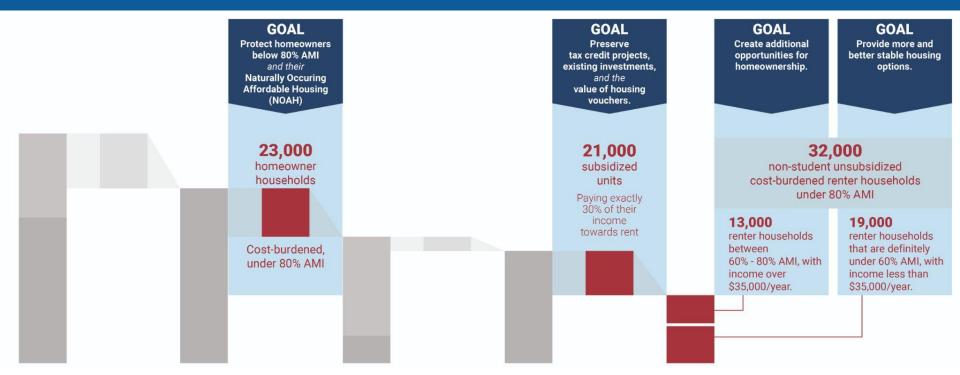
We need to define and right-size the problem.

Over 100,000 Fort Worth households pay too much for housing, but that measure is too broad. We need to focus action where it can make the greatest impact.



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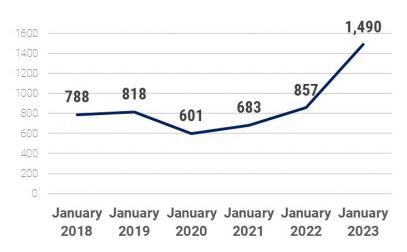


Homelessness also calls for a focused approach.

The Homeless Coalition says they're seeing many new families, and evictions are rising. With a tighter housing market, these numbers will go up.

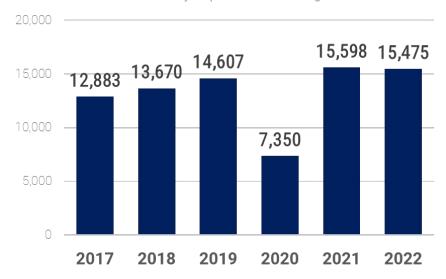
Fort Worth Monthly Point-In-Time Count of Homeless Households

Fort Worth Neighborhood Services Dept, Directions Home; 2021 did not include in person counts, only outreach



Fort Worth* Eviction Filings Over Time

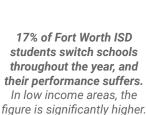
Ninigret Partners calculations based on North Texas Eviction Project & Tarrant County Dispute Resolution Program



Homelessness also calls for a focused approach.

The problem is complicated. To move the needle, the City should initially focus its efforts on a Functional Zero approach and two key populations.







Amount of Time Homeless,

Percent of all Homeless Individuals, Tarrant County, Q4 2022

Tarrant County Homeless Coalition



Without support, these residents risk major costs to the City and its partners.

Affordable Housing Strategy



See Appendix for recommendation details

What Fort Worth Does Today

Fort Worth Housing Assistance Program Goals, 2022-2023

Fort Worth 2022-2023 HUD Annual Action Plan

Household Type	Support Goal
Homeless	70
Non-Homeless	551
Special Needs	217
Total	838

Assistance Type	Support Goal
Rental Assistance	397
Production of New Units	41
Rehabilitation of Existing Units	390
Acquisition of Existing Units	10
Total	838

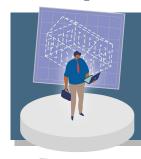
Tarrant County Housing Assistance Program Goals, 2022-2023

Tarrant County 2022 HUD Annual Action Plan

Household Type	Support Goal
Homeless	0
Non-Homeless	165
Special Needs	0
Total	165

Assistance Type	Support Goal
Rental Assistance	28
Production of New Units	0
Rehabilitation of Existing Units	37
Acquisition of Existing Units	100
Total	165

It's a problem of resources. How do we do this?



Attack the Cost of Building & Preserving Housing



Attack the Cost of Occupancy

for owners and renters



Intervene and Manage Housing Crises

to reduce homelessness and save affordable homes

The Costs of Building & Preserving Housing

Development Land Construction **Process** COSTS COSTS COSTS >> Soft costs >> Dollars per acre

- >> Developer fees
- >> Regulatory requirements

STRATEGIES

Accessory

Dwelling Units

Neighborhood Pattern

Book

Zoning Reforms

>> Land preparation

STRATEGIES

Expand Mixed Use

Zoning around transit

and retail corridors

Infrastructure

Investment

- >> Infrastructure
- >> Materials
- >> Labor

Cost of Capital

>> Grants

COSTS

- >> Loans
- >> Equity

STRATEGIES

City **Investment Capital**

Fully Utilize Financing Capabilities of HFC

STRATEGIES

Encourage Private & Philanthropic Investment

Expand CDCs

>> Operating margin

>> Return on capital

Create Development Bonuses

5 Profit

COSTS

FUNDING NOTES

STRATEGIES

Land Bank

Open Space Program

Partnership

For acquiring & managing land

Example Sources: Bond, Philanthropy, General Fund, HFC

FUNDING NOTES

Policy change plus consulting

Example Sources: Federal grants, General Fund

FUNDING NOTES

Policy change through zoning

Example Sources: PAYGO, Bond

FUNDING NOTES

For flexible dollars to expand / create housing programs

Example Sources: Bond, PAYGO, Tax Incentives (City and other jurisdictions), HFC

FUNDING NOTES

To build capacity / partnerships

Example Sources: Bond, Philanthropy, General Fund

The Costs of Occupying a Home

Taxes & Insurance

OWNER COSTS

- >> Property taxes
- >> Home insurance

OWNER STRATEGIES

Property Tax Assistance for **Low-Income Owners**

Homestead **Exemption** for income qualified owners

FUNDING NOTES

Tax assistance to reduce costs for renters and owners

Example Sources: City policy change, Other taxing jurisdictions

Maintenance & Utilities

OWNER COSTS

- >> Rehabilitation
- >> Weatherization

OWNER STRATEGIES

>> Code requirements

Cost of Unit

OWNER COSTS

- >> Down payment
- >> Mortgage
- >> Limitations of what is available on the market

Transportation

COSTS

- >> Travel for work
- >> Travel for daily needs

Expand City Rehabilitation **Programs**

> **Tax Abatements** for Property **Improvements** (NEZs)

FUNDING NOTES

To help more families stay in their homes affordably Example Sources: Bond, Chapter 380, CDBG, General Fund, CIP, other taxing jurisdictions

OWNER STRATEGIES

Community Land Trust

RENTER STRATEGIES

RENTER COSTS

>> Rent

Provide Additional Rental **Assistance**

Targeted Code Enforcement at Multi-Family Rental

STRATEGIES

Encourage Transportation Oriented **Development (TOD)**

FUNDING NOTES

To protect affordability over time Example Sources: Bond,

Philanthropy, potential Land Bank

FUNDING NOTES

Properties

To help renters stay in place and improve property conditions

Example Sources: Philanthropy, HOME, General Fund

FUNDING NOTES

Policy change through zoning

Example Sources: N/A

Intervene and **Manage Housing Crises**



HOME LOSS may occur due to a range of public processes including:

- Eviction
- Foreclosure
- Tax delinquency and sale
- Code enforcement action



Jurisdictions, Homeowner Equity



Example Sources: City, County, Bond



to serve populations

Sources: City, County, Hospitals, Medicaid

Estimated Impact Over 5 Years with \$100m of New Investment

A focused plan on most pressing housing issues in Fort Worth

- >> \$200m 300m additional outside investment
- >> 3000+ houses built or protected to manage and reduce the risk of displacement
- >> Flexible dollars to invest based on local needs and not federal requirements with declining dollars
- >> Better leverage federal dollars for programs difficult to fund locally
- >> Share the burden with the rest of region housing is not Fort Worth's problem alone
- >> Reduce on-street homelessness and reduce police, emergency services, and hospital costs
- >> Improve school performance for the 17 percent of Fort Worth students with housing insecurity
- >> Enhance the look and feel of neighborhoods consistent with the NIP program
- >> Better promote infill development where it's needed

Consistent with Full Strength Fort Worth

Many of the strategies proposed in this plan support strategies that are a part of Full Strength Fort Worth, the City's economic and community vitality framework.

There may be an opportunity to implement recommendations from the Affordable Housing Plan through funding categories mentioned in Full Strength Fort Worth.

FORT WORTH



Customized, community-led transformation strategies

The Full-Strength Fort Worth initiative empowers neighborhoods to develop and lead customized revitalization plans that are unique to their specific goals and needs.



Alignment of incentives and resources

City incentives and other funding sources are focused on creating equitable, long-lasting investment in Fort Worth's various communities.



City-led catalytic projects

The City of Fort Worth is taking the lead on projects that will inspire future development and investment in local neighborhoods.



Support for entrepreneurship and small business

Small businesses, "mom and pop" establishments, and local entrepreneurs are the heart of Fort Worth. This initiative and its partnerships will help businesses like these grow and thrive.



Small-scale, incremental development

Small-scale development allows communities to grow gradually in size and scale, creating long-term change that still preserves the existing characteristics and personality of the area.



Access to patient capital

With access to capital that doesn't require an immediate return on their investment, new development and projects that are more focused on community needs can become a reality.



New mixed-income housing

To make central-city housing options more affordable, a variety of different price points need to be available in the same area to help ensure that residents who are currently part of the community can still afford to live there.



Quality of life retail, and healthy food access

When a community has what it needs, it thrives. Access to nearby retailers, grocery stores, and walkable surroundings are critical to a neighborhood's overall health.



Storytelling and data

This initiative will use cutting-edge data to inform neighborhood strategies and tell the broader business story of each individual Fort Worth community.



Community partnerships and capacity-building

The Full-Strength Fort Worth initiative is all about partnerships, both local and national, that will empower communities to reach their fullest potential.



Placemaking and design

Each of Fort Worth's neighborhoods has its own personality, and those characteristics should be promoted and celebrated by locals and visitors alike.



Community education and empowerment

The community is in the driver's seat, with the City and its partners helping educate stakeholders to better attract the types of development opportunities that could help the neighborhood meet its poals.

Neighborhood Conservation Plan









Weak markets, greatest physical and social issues



Weak markets, some physical and social issues



Middle markets, some physical and social issues



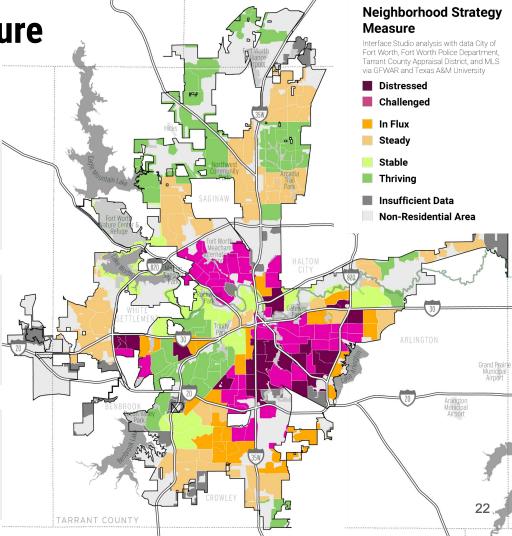
Middle markets, few physical and social issues

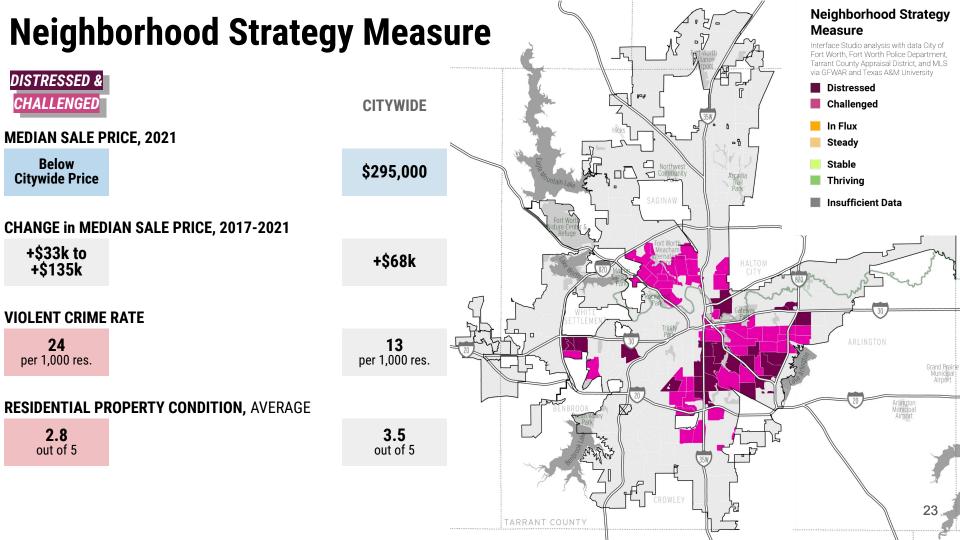


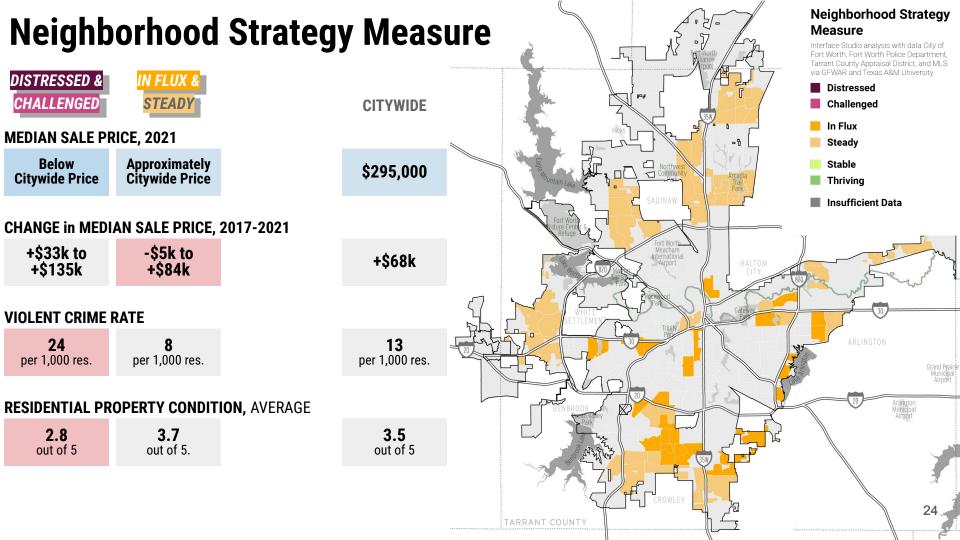
Strong markets, some physical and social issues

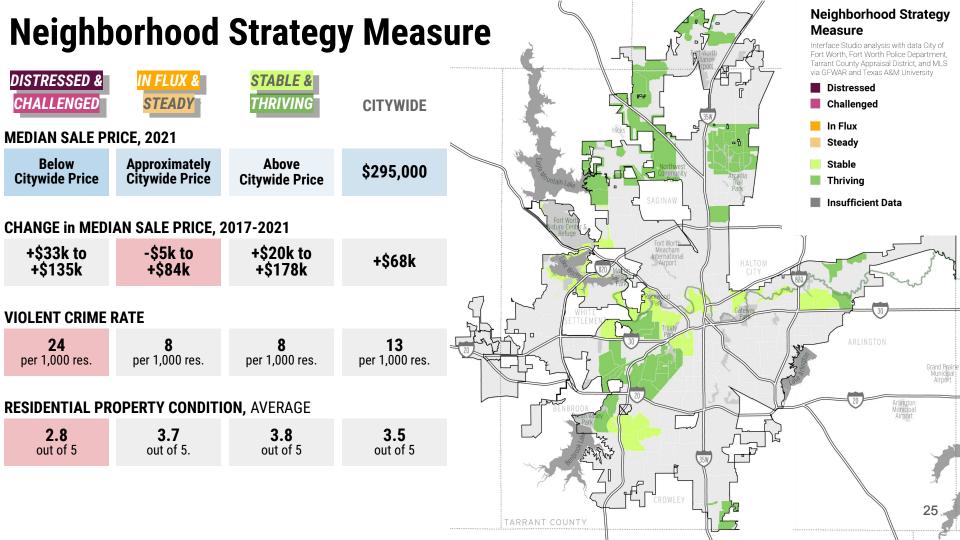


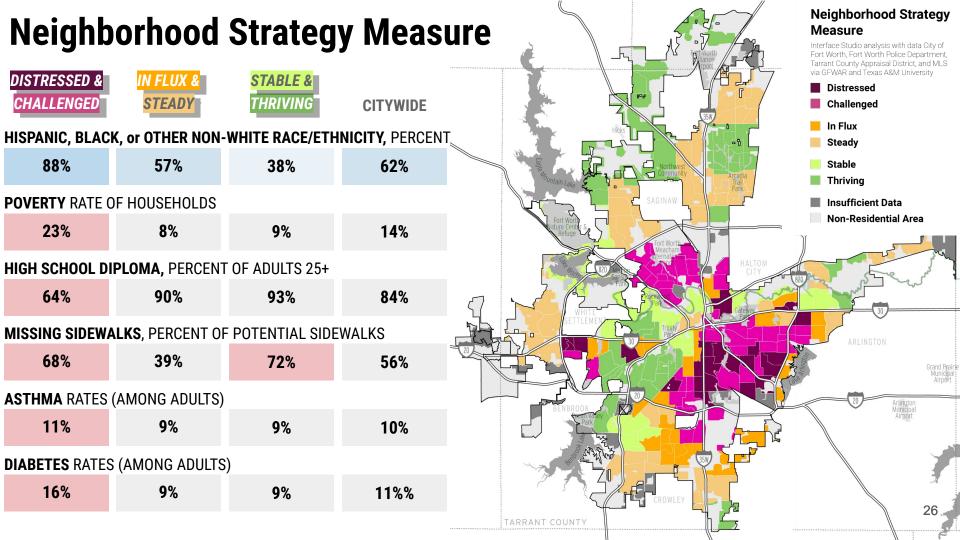
Strong markets, good conditions









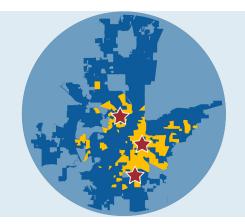


Neighborhood Conservation Plan



Neighborhood Checklist

A tool to help define the City's approach to particular neighborhoods



Citywide Conservation Strategies

Towards defining a Citywide approach to residential communities that recognizes their differences

Neighborhood Conservation Framework

Neighborhood improvement requires an intersection of strategies targeting three main areas.

MAINTENANCE **Strategic investments** in neighborhood assets Housing Construction, Rehab, & Preservation **Undeveloped Land NEIGHBORHOOD** & Vacant Buildings **IMPROVEMENT** Infrastructure Parks, Libraries, & Community Centers **INVESTMENT CAPACITY Greening & Environment Commercial Districts**

Day-to-day efforts to keep neighborhoods in good condition, physically & socially

- Clean & Safe
- Code Enforcement

Building up the ability of the City, communities, and other partners to invest in and maintain neighborhood vitality

- Human Services
- Capacity Building
- Data Collection & Evaluation
- Coordinated Strategies

Neighborhood Checklist of Key Strategies

PRIORITY

Stabilization

PRIORITY 2

Targeted Investment

PRIORITY 3

Ongoing Coordination

1 Community Capacity

- ☐ Is there a high-capacity geographically- focused community organization or CDC that can provide...
 - Programs and services?
 - Development capacity?
- Is there a strategy for building resident leadership?

2 Safety

If crime and safety are an issue, is there a strategy for increasing residents' sense of safety?

3 Code Enforcement

- **Is there a specialized strategy** to address the pressing Code issues?
 - What are the most pressing code issues threatening quality of life?

4 Undeveloped Land and Vacancy

Does the City and its partners have land control of key development sites or dispersed vacant parcels?

5 Human Services

■ Is there easy access to programs and services in centralized locations?

6 Coordinated Strategies

- Is there a comprehensive neighborhood plan?
- **Is there a coordinated approach** among City agencies and partners?

Neighborhood Checklist of Key Strategies

PRIORITY

Stabilization

PRIORITY 2

Targeted Investment

PRIORITY 3

Ongoing Coordination

7 Centralized Neighborhood Nodes

□ Is there a central hub or potential location for higher-density mixed use development nearby?

8 Civic Assets

■ Are there high-quality civic assets, such as parks, libraries, and community centers, in walking distance?

9 Housing Construction, Rehab & Preservation

■ Is there a strategy for developing and/or preserving affordable / mixed income housing, including NOAH?

10 Infrastructure Construction & Maintenance

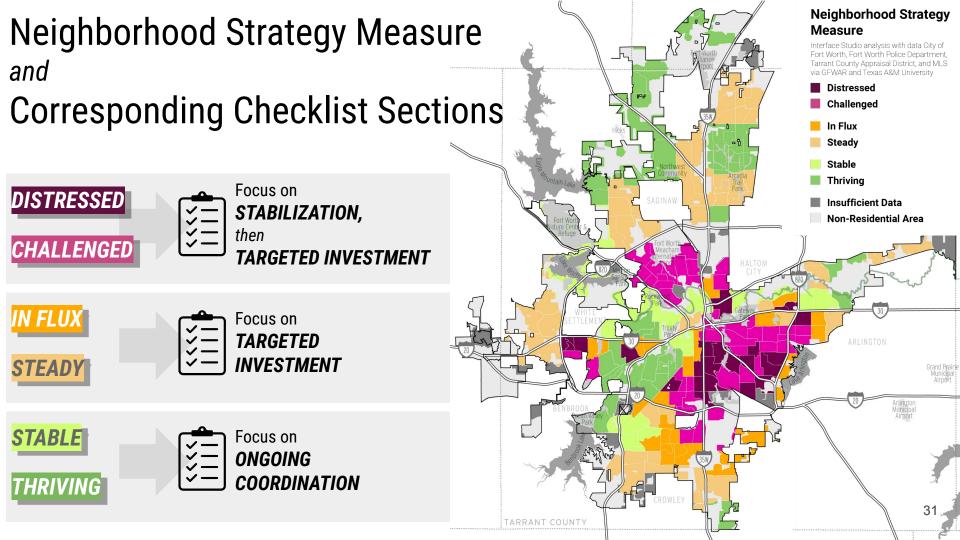
- Will the current schedule for rehab or replacement address conditions in a timely manner?
- ☐ Is there **broadband internet** access?

11 Greening & Environment

- If **stormwater** is a recurring issue, is there a strategy to address stormwater issues?
- If heat exceeds citywide levels, is there a strategy to increase tree canopy?

12 Communication and Evaluation

- Is there a strategy for **collecting data** on progress towards neighborhood goals?
- Is there a strategy for **communicating progress** to the public clearly and regularly?
- □ Is there a strategy for ongoing communication and strategizing between the City and community organizations?

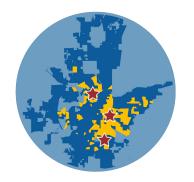


Recommendations for Neighborhood Conservation

Investment



Utilize the
"Neighborhood
Strategy Checklist"
and "Neighborhood
Strategy Measure"
to Specialize the City's
Approach to Different
Communities



Designate NRSA's to
Streamline CDBG
Spending in
Transitional
Neighborhoods

Focus Development at Strategic Hubs in challenged areas



Pursue a
Citywide Parks
Initiative
to spark improvement in
challenged areas

Develop a Plan for Southeast Fort Worth



Devote
Infrastructure
Dollars to
Underinvested
Areas

Greening
Strategies in
Low Income
Communities

Recommendations for Neighborhood Conservation

Maintenance









Continue
Focused Crime
Interventions
that coordinate action
across departments

Specialize
Code Enforcement
Approach
by neighborhood type

Maintain a
Priority List of
Vacant Properties
to seal, demolish, or
acquire first

Implement
Street Cleaning and
Bulk Trash
Strategies
to reduce trash & litter

Recommendations for Neighborhood Conservation

Capacity









Community
Development
Corporations (CDCs)

Use NIP to Build Local Capacity in disadvantaged communities

Colocate
Departments and
Services
in Community Centers

Create
Community
Resource Guides
to guide action

Train
Resident Leaders
to make change

Produce
Annual
Report Cards
for transparency and
evaluation

Fort Worth

Neighborhood Conservation Plan and Affordable Housing Strategy