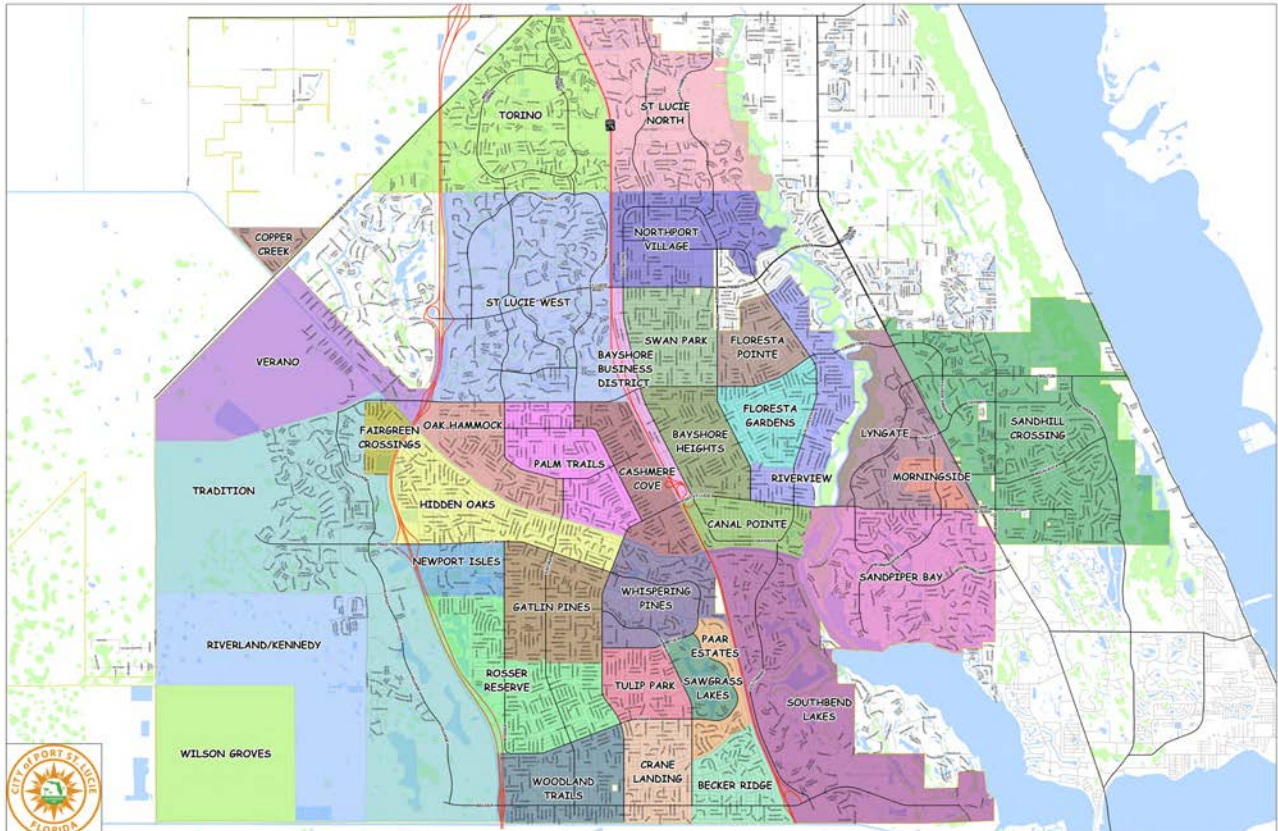




NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



NICE Update 2020

Program Developments & Project Updates

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SUMMARY

In 2020 the whole world faced an issue in a way never seen before. One of the challenges was learning how to shift our community engagement and outreach models and practices in light of COVID-19. Even the way the U.S. Census rolled out and wrapped was very different than what we might have imagined and evolved during the whole pandemic. Similarly, our N.I.C.E. activities and all of the City's outreach activities underwent drastic changes and as a result are continuing to evolve together with the pandemic. This update provides a summary of what we did in 2020 and some insight as to the direction that we are moving in 2021.

The N.I.C.E. program perseveres and many residents have embraced the new virtual settings. The setting was different but residents still participated. The type of surveys we conducted were different but residents still answered. Our presentation style changed but special updates were provided and our residents overwhelming support the continuation of our bi-annual meetings. Our hope is to continue to offer an inclusive and responsive neighborhood service and look forward to continuing our work in 2021.

2020 N.I.C.E. NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS & PROGRAMS

Spring NICE neighborhood meetings were cancelled due to COVID-19.

Fall NICE neighborhood meetings were conducted on Zoom and residents were also given the option to come in person at City Hall if needed. No in person accommodations were requested.

NICE neighborhood meetings will continue to be offered on Zoom and in person, if needed, in the spring and fall of 2021. Residents can request the option to come in person at City Hall if any special accommodation is needed. Zoom is a new tool that the program will continue to use because of significant feedback from residents about their appreciation for having the option to join virtually. This new hybrid meeting model allows for the program to expand it's reach and have more residents participate. Interactive tools like online polls, recordings, and chats features allow for new and innovative ways to foster collaboration and collect data with automatic analytics.

OUTREACH

In 2020 NICE worked with Communications to re-vamp the NICE webpage and outreach initiatives to help people understand more about the NICE meeting initiative. Groups of neighborhoods or cohorts developed for NICE neighborhood meetings were re-labelled with a geographic theme. NICE graphic materials and all webpage information was updated to allow residents to find their meeting time and register more easily www.cityofpsl.com/nice. A repository for 2019 meeting information and data was created on the webpage for the public to access. Every year the previous year's data and plans will be added. Every year input on NICE projects and programs will be collected and published.

The NICE program will look to expand outreach whenever possible through continued use of email, events, social media, radio, utility mailers and other outlets when available.

Utility Mailers: This April inserts with information about the NICE Neighborhood Meetings were included in all utility bills (4 weekly cycles). The NICE Office will gauge the effectiveness of this outreach effort by asking residents that attend the meetings if they were influenced by the mailers.

Online Neighborhood Group Directory: The NICE Office together with IT developed an online form and database to allow all residents to update neighborhood group contact information and view groups' information. The Directory will serve a repository for all groups: public, private, voluntary, and mandatory. Organizations will have the option to publish their group's information to make it available to the public. The public will be able to download PDFs of the most up to date information about groups who have elected to provide some publicly accessible contact information. This can be used for collaborative purposes, creating new groups, and for recruiting new members. The City will use this repository for outreach purposes together with the NICE email list. The Online Neighborhood Group Directory will be operational and demonstrated for residents at the spring meetings in May 2021.

As the City continues to grow the NICE Office is committed to becoming a resource for all areas and residents including newer communities and private communities. When the NICE Program was first created in 2016 the primary focus for the first projects and programs were the older areas of the City that only had section numbers for names. The neighborhood planning process with Tindale Oliver focused on the City's original sections. Those plans are published on the NICE webpage. Subsequently, the City underwent a "Neighborhood Naming" process and campaign via the NICE Office. 27 neighborhoods had their official boundaries defined and residents were given the opportunity to vote on their official names. The 27 neighborhoods plus another 8 (older and newer) neighborhoods make up the current NICE Neighborhood Map. The NICE Map will be updated as new neighborhoods are built in the undeveloped areas of the City.

After the NICE Map was created the NICE Office began working on various improvement projects funded by the City's recycling rebate that comes from our Waste Pro agreement. Those projects are on-going and neighborhood group feedback is a big part of the planning process for those projects. NICE neighborhood discussions and feedback come primarily from the bi-annual NICE Neighborhood Meetings that were started in 2019 and occur regularly every spring (May) and fall (November). 8 NICE Neighborhood Meetings are facilitated for specific neighborhood groupings. Other neighborhoods facilitate their own meetings through both voluntary and mandatory organizations. The following information outlines the current groupings and the areas they cover.

MEETINGS

MEETINGS FACILITATED BY NICE (8 GROUPS, 27 NEIGHBORHOODS) ~ 60.1 MILES²

North

Torino (6 miles²) – St. Lucie West (7.5 miles²) – Northport Village (2.8 miles²) ~ 16.3 total miles²

West

Fairgreen Crossings (0.5 miles²) – Hidden Oak (2.5 miles²) – Oak Hammock (1.6 miles²) – Palm Trails (2 miles²) ~ 6.6 total miles²

South West

Gatlin Pines (2.3 miles²) – Newport Isles (1 mile²) – Rosser Reserve (3 miles²) – Whispering Pines (2 miles²) ~ 8.3 total miles²

South

Becker Ridge (1.4 miles²) – Crane Landing (1.4 miles²) – Paar Estates (0.7 mile²) – Sawgrass Lakes (0.7 mile²) – Tulip Park (1.1 miles²) – Woodland Trails (2 miles²) ~ 7.3 total miles²

Central

Bayshore Heights (1.6 miles²) – Cashmere Cove (1.7 miles²) – Floresta Gardens (1.4 miles²) – Floresta Pointe (1.1 miles²) – Swan Park (1.7 miles²) ~ 7.5 total miles²

East 1

Canal Pointe (1.2 miles²) – Riverview (1.7 miles²) ~ 2.9 total miles²

East 2

Lyngate (2.4 miles²) – Morningside (0.4 mile²) ~ 2.8 total miles²

East 3

Sandhill Crossing ~ 8.5 total miles²

MEETINGS FACILITATED BY RESIDENTS (3 NEIGHBORHOODS) ~ 16 MILES²

St. Lucie North ~ 4.5 miles²

Sandpiper Bay ~ 4.9 miles²

Southbend Lakes ~ 6.6 miles²

OTHER (5...) ~ 43.1 MILES²

Bayshore Business District ~ 0.6 mile²

Riverland/Kennedy ~ 5.9 miles²

Tradition ~ 13.2 miles²

Verano ~ 5 miles² + newly built Copper Creek (0.5 Mile²)

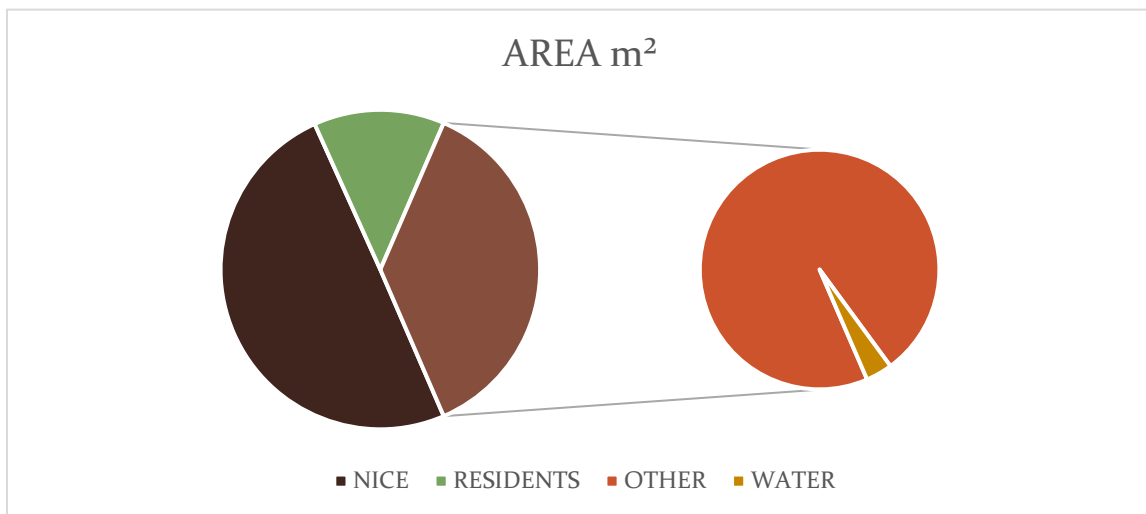
Wilson Groves ~ 4 miles²

McCarty Ranch ~ 4.8 miles²

Undeveloped Area in the NW ~ 9.1 miles²

THE CITY OF PSL TOTAL 120.8 (119.2 LAND, 1.6 WATER)

MEETINGS BY AREA



The 2020 fall NICE Neighborhood Meetings had a total of 54 participants in attendance at 7 meetings (average 7.7). A little over 70 residents registered on Zoom. In comparison, in the spring of 2019: 8 meetings were facilitated from the end of March through to the beginning of May with a total of 66 participants. In the fall of 2019: 9 meetings were facilitated from the end of October through to the beginning of December with a total of 90 participants. More residents showed interest on Facebook and through the email RSVP function but, they did not all attend in person.

Bi-annual meetings are structured and have an agenda.

Sample Agenda:



CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE
Neighborhood Services Department

N.I.C.E. Neighborhood Meeting Agenda
Fall 2020

- I. Police Department Update
- II. Code Update, Neighborhood Services
- III. Special Presentation on the City's Beautification Plan & Keep Port St. Lucie Beautiful (KPSLB)
- IV. NICE Project Update, Neighborhood Plans & Neighborhood Group Activities
- V. City tools & where to find them: Project Tracker, Neighborhood Directory, Social Media and 1PSL
- VI. Special Topic: SWALES
- VII. Next meeting spring 2021
- VIII. Any other business?
- IX. Adjournment

The meetings start with updates from the Police Department and the Code Division. Then, special topics that the City is focusing on were presented as well as special NICE plans and updates.

In 2020 a special presentation from [Keep Port St. Lucie Beautiful \(KPSLB\)](#) was shared at all the meetings. The focus was to show what KPSLB does and explain how to get involved and join or create Adopt-a-Street groups. There was also a special poll about drainage and swales. Swales and drainage are a hot topic in the City right now. The topic consistently tops all other requests for service and questions that come in through the [City's 24/7 City Hall application 1PSL](#). The [City's Swale Liner & Drainage Culverts webpage](#) was presented and 3 questions about swales were asked in a poll to groups as time permitted. Most importantly NICE conducted 3 polls to gauge NICE Neighborhood Meeting participants on how they feel about NICE projects and upcoming programs. In one special situation the East 3 meeting or Sandhill Crossing received a special presentation option to hear about upcoming CRA (Community Redevelopment Agency) plans in an area of their neighborhood. They participated in a different poll about the CRA's activities. Poll questions that were presented at the meetings and data collected are listed here below. Not all polls were done in each group, depending on time and not all participants answered all poll questions.

POLL #1:

- Would you participate in a MEETUP to CLEANUP with KPSLB and NICE?
⇒ KPSLB: 41 total responses; **27 participants responded “Yes”, 13 “Maybe”, 1 “No”.**

POLL #2:

- Have you submitted a service request for swale or drainage issues?
⇒ 34 total responses; **No 25/34**, Yes 9/34.
- How many times have you called the City to requests for swale and drainage issues? o times a year, 1-3 times a year, 3-6 times a year, More than 6 times a year.
⇒ 32 total responses; **0 times per year 23/32**, 1-3 times per year 8/32, 3-6 times per year 1/32.
- How often do you maintain your swale? Never, 1-2 times a month, 1-2 times every 3 months, 1-2 times per year.
⇒ 27 total responses; **1-2 times a month 14/27**, Never 8/27, 1-2 times every 3 months 3/27, 1-2 times per year 2/27.

NICE POLL PART 1:

1. Do you appreciate the new NICE neighborhood signs?
⇒ 51 total responses; **Yes 45/51**, Somewhat/Not sure 6/51
2. Do you like the decorative poles in the Canal Pointe neighborhood?
⇒ 51 total responses; **Somewhat/Not sure 27/51**, Yes 24/51.
3. How would you rate them as being an “important” neighborhood improvement project? On a scale from 1-5, 1 being the most important and 5 being the least important.
⇒ **Predominately #2**
4. Do you like the decorative light poles on Becker Rd., Gatlin Blvd., and Crosstown Pkwy.?
⇒ 50 total responses; **Yes 42/51**, Somewhat/Not sure 8/51.
5. How would you rate them as being an “important” neighborhood improvement project? On a scale from 1-5, 1 being the most important and 5 being the least important.
⇒ **Predominately #2**
6. Do you like the City’s Utility Box wraps?
⇒ 49 total responses; **Yes 45/49**, Somewhat/Not sure 3/49, No 1/49.
7. How would you rate them as being an “important” neighborhood improvement project? On a scale from 1-5, 1 being the most important and 5 being the least important.
⇒ **Predominately #2**
8. Do you think the City could benefit from more public art projects?
⇒ 41 total responses; **Yes 33/41**, Somewhat/Not sure 8/41.
9. How would you rate benches, trash cans, recycle bins, bike racks and pet waste stations as being an “important” neighborhood improvement project? On a scale from 1-5, 1 being the most important and 5 being the least important.
⇒ 45 total responses; **#1 = 28/45**, **#2 = 11/45**, #3 = 2/45, #4 = 3/45, #5 = 1/45.
10. How would you rate saving pockets of green space for neighborhoods as being an “important” neighborhood improvement project? On a scale from 1-5, 1 being the most important and 5 being the least important.
⇒ 47 total responses; **#1 = 37/47**, #2 = 4/47, #3 = 1/47, #4 = 2/47, #5 = 3/47.

NICE POLL PART 2:

1. Do you like the City's outdoor exercise stations?
⇒ 46 total responses; **Yes 31/46, Somewhat/Not sure 12/46**, No 3/46.
2. How would you rate them as being an "important" neighborhood improvement project? On a scale from 1-5, 1 being the most important and 5 being the least important.
⇒ **Predominately #1!**
3. **Do you like trails?**
⇒ **UNANIMOUS RESPONSE! All 50 responses were YES!**
4. How would you rate them as being an "important" neighborhood improvement project? On a scale from 1-5, 1 being the most important and 5 being the least important.
⇒ **Predominately #1!**
5. How would you rate sidewalks as being an "important" neighborhood improvement project? On a scale from 1-5, 1 being the most important and 5 being the least important.
⇒ 50 total responses; **#1 = 43/50**, #2 = 5/50, #3 = 2/50, #4 = 0/50, #5 = 0/50.
6. How would you rate beautifying lift stations as being an "important" neighborhood improvement project? On a scale from 1-5, 1 being the most important and 5 being the least important.
⇒ 47 total responses; **#1 = 17/47**, **#2 = 18/47**, #3 = 9/47, #4 = 30/47, #5 = 0/47.
7. How would you rate beautifying our City with more landscaping as being an "important" neighborhood improvement project? On a scale from 1-5, 1 being the most important and 5 being the least important.
⇒ 50 total responses; **#1 = 18/34**, **#2 = 14/34**, #3 = 0/34, #4 = 1/34, #5 = 1/34.
8. How would you rate creating more neighborhood groups as being an "important" neighborhood improvement project? On a scale from 1-5, 1 being the most important and 5 being the least important.
⇒ 50 total responses; **#1 = 21/50**, **#2 = 25/50**, #3 = 3/50, #4 = 1/50, #5 = 0/50.
9. How would you rate keeping NICE neighborhood meetings as being an "important" neighborhood improvement project? On a scale from 1-5, 1 being the most important and 5 being the least important.
⇒ 50 total responses; **#1 = 40/50**, #2 = 9/50, #3 = 1/50, #4 = 0/50, #5 = 0/50.
10. Would you volunteer to be a neighborhood leader responsible for meeting with the City to draft a Neighborhood Action Plan?
⇒ 48 total responses; **Yes 20/48, Maybe 20/48**, No 8/48.

COVID-19 POLL:

1. Has COVID-19 affected your work situation?
⇒ 62 total responses; **Yes 17/62**, No 10/62, Somewhat/Not sure 8/62.
2. Has COVID-19 caused mental or physical stress or pain for you or someone in your family?
⇒ 54 total responses; **Yes 28/54**, No 18/54, Somewhat/Not sure 8/54.
3. Do you think it is important to continue in-person activities even during the pandemic or should we wait to pick up those programs when we are safer from the virus? Very Important; Not that important; It is important that we don't do in-person events to protect ourselves, our loved ones, and our neighbors.
⇒ 47 total responses; **It is important that we don't do in-person events to protect ourselves, our loved ones, and our neighbors 30/47**, Very Important 13/47, Not that important 4/47.
4. If you think that in-person events are important should they be: Large, Medium, Small, A little bit of all three or some combo of the three, None/(N/A).
⇒ 42 total responses; **Small 23/42**, A little bit of all three or some combo of the three 8/42, Medium 5/42, None/(N/A) 5/42, Large 1/42.
5. Have you attended any events in the past 6 months?
⇒ 46 total responses; **No 25/46**, Yes 22/46.

BREAKDOWN OF ATTENDANCE:

11/02/2020	Canal Pointe and Riverview	4 participants
11/05/2020	Bayshore Heights, Cashmere Cove, Swan park, Floresta Gardens, and Floresta Pointe	6 participants
11/10/2020	Lyngate and Morningside	NO participants
11/12/2020	Gatlin Pines, Newport Isles, Rosser Reserve, and Whispering Pines	6 participants
11/14/2020	Northport Village, SLW, and Torino	6 participants
11/17/2020	Sandhill Crossing	9 participants
11/19/2020	Becker Ridge, Crane Landing, Paar Estates, Sawgrass Lakes, Tulip Park, and Woodland Trails	14 participants
11/21/2020	Fairgreen Crossings, Hidden Oaks, Oak Hammock, and Palm Trails	9 participants

THE CITY'S NATIONAL COMMUNITY SURVEY

In addition to all the outreach activities that the NICE Office and all the other City Departments carry out the City conducts a scientifically valid Community Survey every year. All of the information regarding the survey is published online at www.cityofpsl.com/citizensurvey. Certain parts of the survey are dedicated to the City's Strategic Plan Goal #2: Vibrant Neighborhoods. These areas have been performing well. In addition to this, in 2020 staff worked on an exercise to better define the meaning of "Vibrant Neighborhoods".

The updated definition of Vibrant Neighborhoods

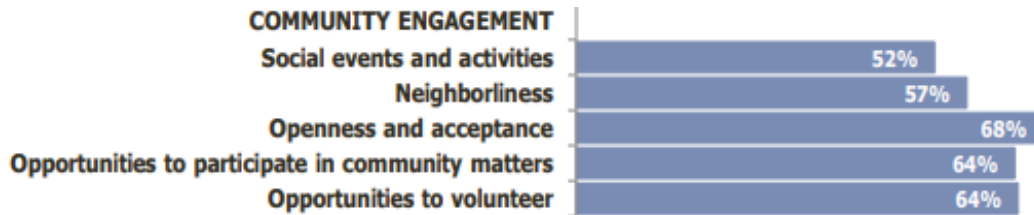


Results from the 2020 Community Survey compared to the same results from 2019.

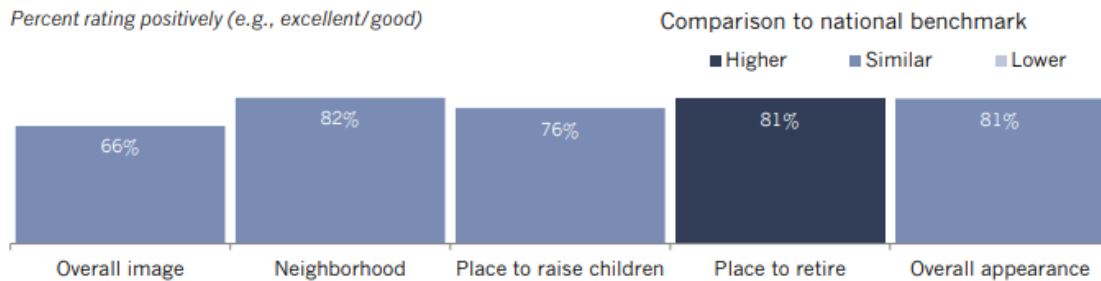
COMMUNITY SURVEY 2020

Information from the [NCS Community Livability Report 2020](#)

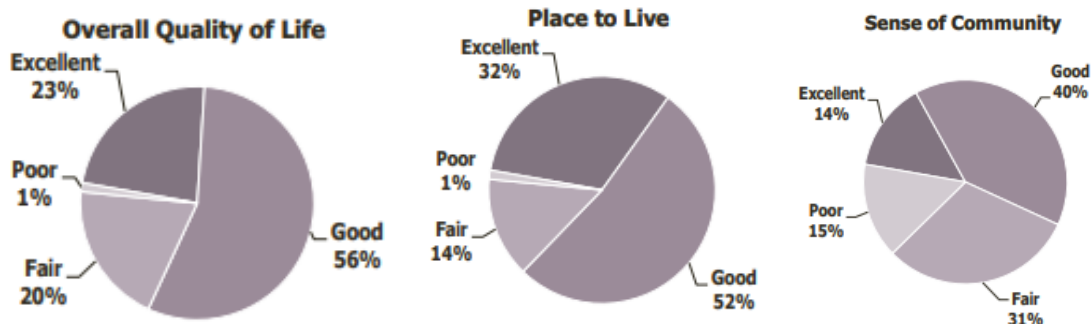
The results in these categories as they pertain to “Aspects of Community Characteristics” are very positive and have all increased in 2020 except for one Neighborliness which stayed the same.



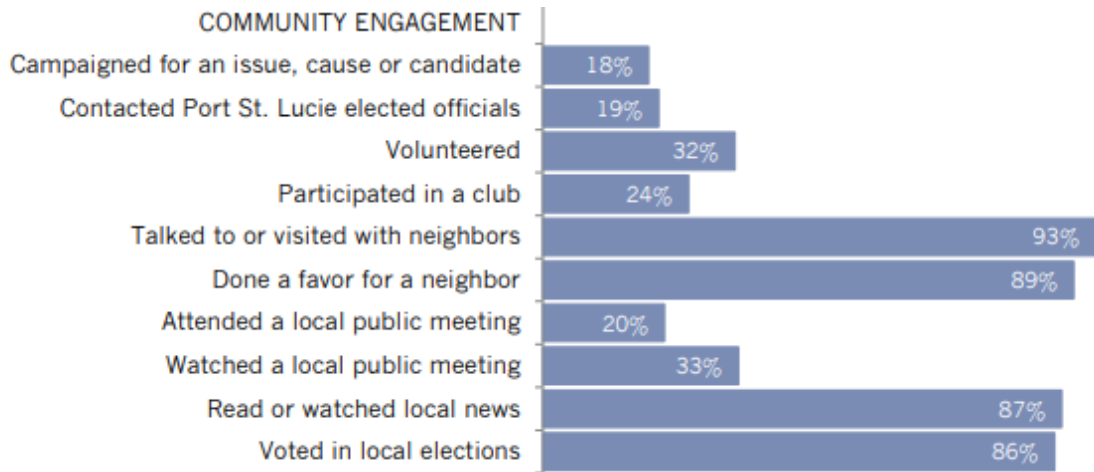
The positive rating of Neighborhoods went down slightly in 2020 from 84% to 82%. On the other hand, all of the other categories in this section the percent rating positively increased.



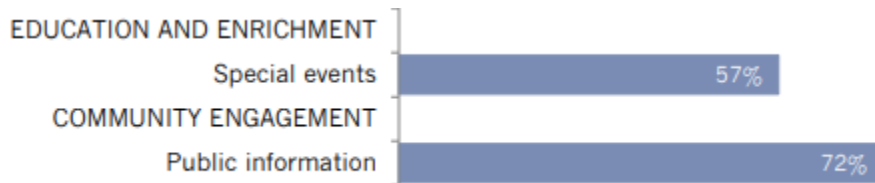
These areas remained fairly the same. There is a slight increase in the way residents view “Sense of Community” in the City. There is room here for improvements to help build community and its identity.



In reference to “Aspects of Participation” campaigning went down, contacting elected officials went up, volunteering stayed the same and participation in clubs decreased slightly. Talking with neighbors decreased only 1% but is high at 93%, doing a favor for a neighbor stayed the same and is high, attending a local meeting increased slightly and watching a local meeting decreased. Interest in local news increased 1% from 86-87% and voting in local election decreased 5% from 91-86%.

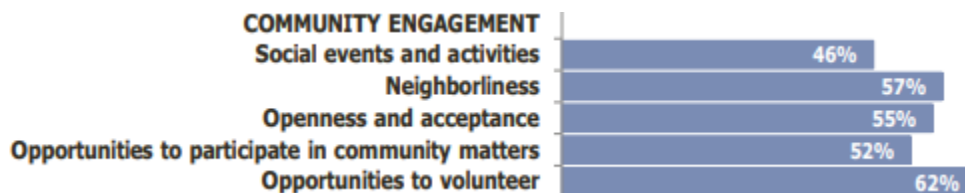


In reference to “Aspects of Governance” interest in special events was the same and access to public information went up significantly, almost 10% from 63-72%



COMMUNITY SURVEY 2019

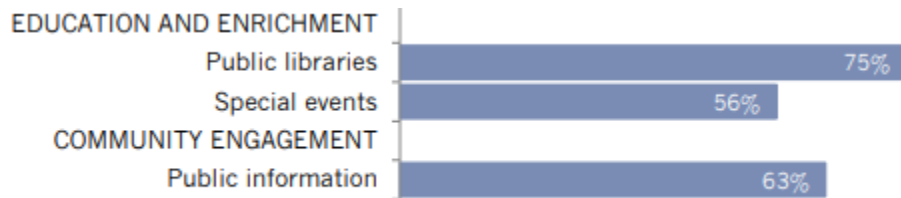
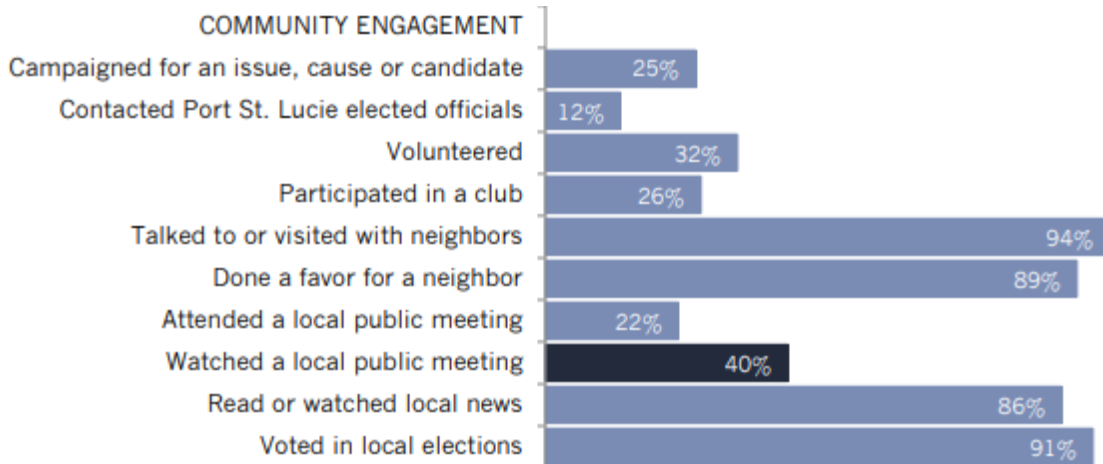
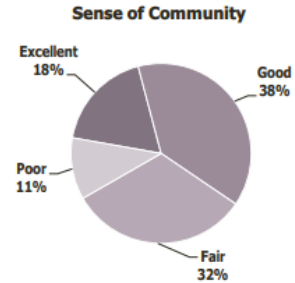
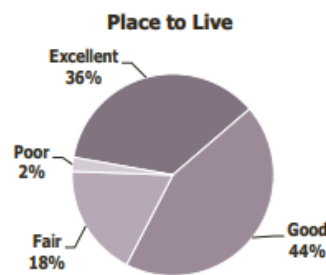
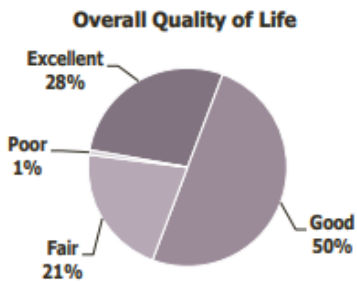
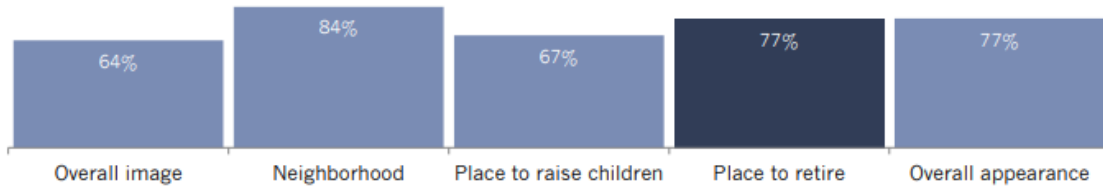
Information from the [2019 NCS Community Livability Report](#)



Percent rating positively (e.g., excellent/good)

Comparison to national benchmark

■ Higher ■ Similar ■ Lower



PLANS

In the past, neighborhood driven exercises that worked to create neighborhood groups and action plans were often a course of action that groups would undertake to get their voice heard and documented at the municipal level. Traditionally these types of activities are created by neighbors or spearheaded by a neighborhood group and used by local governments and organization alongside other plans, like comprehensive plans to guide future decisions affecting neighborhoods across a municipality. Today there are many ways that a group can enable a neighborhood to create an internal vision or visions and define the steps to achieve goals. Many municipalities are taking important steps to work together with residents and neighborhoods to facilitate community engagement. The NICE Office is here to help facilitate any objectives or activities that residents would like to accomplish. Creating a neighborhood group is a fantastic way to build relationships and work together with the most important level of community – your neighborhood. The NICE Office will publish helpful tips and information on our webpage to help give residents and groups ideas and concrete examples about how to work together.

The tools and toolkits provide groups, who wish to commit to the neighborhood engagement, and action a guide to getting started or starting new things in your existing group. All tools deliver suggested approaches which can be flexible and adapted to fit the needs and participation in different neighborhoods.

The NICE program has already taken action in creating some of the building blocks to allow neighborhoods to start building groups and plans including: a baseline neighborhood planning and naming exercise, the creation of tools to bring neighbors together to collaborate, a funding source and regular surveying of residents on different neighborhood topics. As the program continues to grow and build participation, neighborhoods will have the opportunity to work with the NICE Office to contribute the further development of neighborhood improvement projects and engagement activities. Residents and neighborhoods are encouraged to bring their own creativity to meetings, groups, and other activities and always remain flexible.

New trends are developing in the field of Neighborhood Services and Florida is one of the leaders in this field. The NICE Program won an award for being the “Best New Neighborhood Program” in 2018 from the Nationally recognized Neighborhoods, USA and has proven to be very innovative and unique. Nowadays, municipalities are conducting much more targeted outreach and seriously considering all residents’ opinions and ideas in relation to all aspects of local government. The City has increased outreach and information sharing/exchanging activities exponentially. This has directly impacted neighborhood groups and community organizing. Residents feel heard and City Strategic Planning is driven by staff, elected officials and residents. The NICE Program helps teach about the tools available to all neighborhoods and residents.

It has been observed and documented that groups are much more interested in organizing less formal groups and for specific activities like picking up litter, walking or maintaining healthy lifestyles, recreational teams, community building or volunteering, neighborhood safety or crime watch patrols, just to name a few. The City already facilitates a lot of this type of programming. Therefore, the NICE Office has teamed up with all City Departments across the organization to put together a new **Neighborhood Guide (2021)**. This Guide will be featured at the 2021 spring meetings and complements the [City of PSL’s Welcome Guide](#) but is targeted to neighborhoods and

neighborhood organizing. The book will be updated at least once a year based on staff and resident input. Please tell us what you think about it and what suggestions you might have for what your neighborhood group would like to do. Submit your neighborhood improvement suggestions via the City's 24/7 City Hall iPSL, download our APP <http://www.cityofpsl.com/ipsl>.

PROGRAMS

City University – City U went virtual during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic. The program continues to be very successful and every year more and more residents participate. 2020's program was a combination of live demos and tours and online Zoom classes. In 2021 the NICE Office, in collaboration with other City Departments, will develop an additional elective program where residents can sign up for different one-off offerings or “electives” which will be like the tours and demos offered during City U. This will allow more residents the opportunity to trial City U activities. Parks and Recreation is also working with NICE to create a youth targeted City U spin off program, tentatively set to launch in the fall of 2021.

Neighborhood Training Program – together with Communications NICE launched a program to allow neighborhood groups to bring forward ideas for training. The first pilot training class was done in collaboration with Communications and titled *20+ Tips for Better Neighborhood Social Media Engagement*. The most recent one was a proposal put forward by the Florida League of Cities to educate neighborhood leaders on how to advocate at the State level. The “Protect Your Neighborhood!” Advocacy program was very popular. NICE will continue to offer training programs to neighborhood groups based on resident input. Topics can include: Master gardening, litter prevention, tree planting, neighborhood watch, hurricane preparedness, Little Free Libraries, and neighborhood leadership or volunteer programs.

Neighborhood Recognition Program (aka NICE Awards) – together with Communications, NICE begun a phased approach to the creation of a Neighborhood Recognition Program. A Neighborhood Award was added to the #PSLinLIGHTS annual event and a Community Involvement Award was created to recognize outstanding volunteerism after Hurricane Dorian. As participation in the neighborhood meetings and groups grows NICE will launch more award categories and a nomination system. The NICE Awards will be launched at the 2021 spring NICE Neighborhood Meetings. Proposed categories include: Outstanding Neighbor, Outstanding Neighborhood and Contributor of the Year.

Neighborhood Grant Program – the NICE program is looking to establish a neighborhood grant program. Program details are being developed and a grant application process will be finalized and launched at the 2021 fall NICE Neighborhood Meetings.

Utility Box Wraps – the NICE program has received requests to develop a utility box wrap program and application to allow residents to request wraps on FP&L boxes and landscaping on AT&T. Program details are being deliberated and will be published together with the Neighborhood Grant Program in the fall of 2021. The City's utility box wrap program will continue to be maintained by the NICE Office and Public Works.

NICE PROJECTS

At the onset of the NICE Program the neighborhood sign project was selected as the first major capital improvement project that would launch together with other outreach projects to further cement neighborhood names and build identity as the result of the neighborhood naming campaign in 2017-18.

NEIGHBORHOOD SIGNS

(2 YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT 2018-19-20)

The neighborhood sign project was completed in the summer of 2020. A total of 63 signs were installed in 28 neighborhoods. NICE will continue to contribute landscape maintenance funds to Public Works for the continued maintenance of the landscape when necessary.

	Neighborhood Sign Project Total Costs	
2019-20	Landscaping	\$40,892.94
2019-20	Signs: production, installation and permitting	\$279,824.37
2019-20	Exhibit Design	\$29,926.00
Feb. 2019	Pilot Project	\$23,550.00
		\$333,300.37

NEIGHBORHOOD GREEN SPACES & PRESERVES

(2 YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT 2018-19-20)

As a result of the 2019 NICE neighborhood kick-off meetings, residents showed an overwhelming interest in preserving neighborhood green spaces and improving existing green spaces. \$400,000 per year, has been allocated to this capital improvement project, for 2 years. A interdepartmental team will be working together to plan this project and analyze City owned land opportunities as well as potential land acquisition.

[2019 NICE Neighborhood Meeting Data & Outreach Analysis](#)

Following approval of the proposed CIP budget for green space preservation and/or development NICE has worked with Parks and Recreation to create a project charter. 2 pilot projects were approved by Council in January 2021 as part of the High Performing Public Space (HPPS) strategic initiative. Design and, construction will take place the second half of the 2020-21 fiscal year.

2020 NICE Neighborhood Meeting data & outreach analysis continues to reinforce the fact that residents' current top priority neighborhood improvement projects are conserving green space and trails.

The City Manager’s Office has put together a new taskforce that will focus on High Performing Public Spaces (HPPS). NICE is working on this taskforce and will make sure all NICE projects are analyzed to be as multi-functional and high performing as possible.

DECORATIVE POLES
(2 YEAR TIMELINE 2021-22/2022-23 & POTENTIAL FUTURE PROJECTS)

2017-18 pilot project conducted in the Canal Pointe neighborhood (District 4): 30 decorative street sign poles were installed along SW Oakridge Dr. and SE Floresta Dr. costing \$51,630 + an additional \$6,470 for the neighborhood name toppers for a total of **\$58,100** (A total distance of 2.1 miles of roadway with 19 intersections).

NICE has partnered with Public Works to incorporate decorative street signs on new complete street projects based on the popularity of the pilot project.

Upcoming projects are as follows:

- Floresta Phase 1: 6 decorative poles, to be completed by October 2021
- Floresta Phases 2 & 3: 37 decorative poles, to be completed by October 2023
- PSL Blvd (Gatlin to Darwin): 3 decorative poles, to be completed in 2022
- PSL Blvd (Darwin to Alcantarra): 9 decorative poles, to be completed in 2023
- PSL Blvd (Alcantarra to Paar): 18 decorative poles, to be completed in 2025
- PSL Blvd (Paar to Becker): 13 decorative poles, completion to be determined
- California Blvd (SLW to Crosstown or Del Rio) 9 or 4 decorative poles (depends on limits), to be completed by October 2029

After assessing where City improvements have occurred to a lesser extent and building on the areas where decorative streetlamps already exist proposals have been drafted to fit some of these areas and important thoroughways of the City with decorative street signs. This would serve to expand the popular pilot project and create a stronger complete street look where decorative streetlamps are already installed. In addition to this, NICE is matching Public Works’ decorative pole maintenance fund with \$40,000 a year for 2 fiscal years minimum to increase the number of older, existing poles refurbished every year. The service life of the treatment and coating is approximately 5 years. The inspection and maintenance/refurbishment of poles ranges between \$355-\$800.

Poles to be refurbished in 2021: Becker Rd. District 3 (41), Village Pkwy. District 4 (28), Civic Center District 4 (88), Crosstown Pkwy. District 1 & 2 (33) for a total of **\$79,912.**

#1 Becker Rd. (District 3): 4 miles of roadway from the Turnpike to I-95, 42 intersections, going through 3 neighborhoods Becker Ridge, Crane Landing and Woodland Trails. Not all intersections will require decorative street signs as some are outfitted with mast arm traffic structures.

Est. # of poles needed	Estimated Cost	Proposed Completion Date
45	\$85,500	2021-22

#2a Gatlin Rd. (District 2 & 3): 2.75 miles of roadway from I-95 to PSL Blvd. going through 3 neighborhoods Gatlin Pines, Hidden Oaks, and Newport Isles.

Est. # of poles needed	Estimated Cost	Proposed Completion Date
20	\$38,000	2022-23

#2b SW Bayshore Blvd. (District 1): 1.7 miles of roadway from PSL Blvd. to Crosstown Pkwy. going through 3 neighborhoods Bayshore Business District, Bayshore Heights, and Swan Park.

Est. # of poles needed	Estimated Cost	Proposed Completion Date
24	\$45,600	2022-23

*Estimated costs do not include installation.

Future project areas can include but are not limited to SW Airoso Blvd., Crosstown Pkwy., SE Lennard Rd., Southbend Blvd., and SE Village Green Dr.

Additionally, NICE is looking into more cost effective ways of improving street signs in areas where decorative poles don't exist. NICE will continue to work with Public Works' sidewalk master plan and add neighborhood name toppers to new and improved round street sign poles when able as they are installed during a new sidewalk project to add a more complete street look. 2020 NICE Neighborhood Meeting data & outreach analysis showed a sample of residents preferred street furniture as a priority neighborhood improvement project.

OTHER CURRENT PROJECTS

Bench, bike rack, receptacle sets & pet waste stations: NICE continues to work with Public Works and the City's Solid Waste Manager to add street furniture when needed, inventory existing stock and fund the replacement of street furniture when weathered or damaged.

Keep Port St. Lucie Beautification Plan: NICE is working with Public Works to fund stormwater improvement projects. Plan is being currently being developed by Public Works.

Stormwater Improvement Master Plan: NICE is working with Public Works to fund stormwater improvement projects. Plan is being currently being developed by Public Works. This includes a NICE contribution to fund 3-4 lift station improvement projects a year when necessary.

Sidewalk Master Plan: NICE is partnering with Public Works to leverage the sidewalk master plan by funding additional improvements like bench sets or bus shelters when appropriate.

Traffic Calming Initiatives: traffic calming is a very important issue for neighborhoods and often reported to the NICE office. When possible and resident input NICE partners with Public Works to leverage approved traffic calming projects when appropriate.

Lift Station Beautification: lift stations play an important role in our City's everyday workings. They are plentiful and located in all neighborhoods. NICE is working with Utilities to fund more lift station beautification projects annually, as needed.

NEAT (Neighborhood Engagement Action Team): NICE programs and projects cannot happen without the support of all City Departments. The NICE Office continues to facilitate inter-

departmental groups that bring specific staff together to collaborate and work on NICE projects as well as other City projects. Collaborative teams and the NEAT was featured [in the City Manager's 2020 Annual Report, check it out.](#)

PUBLICATIONS

Neighborhood recognition program website and nomination form (aka NICE awards)

<https://www.cityofpsl.com/government/departments/neighborhood-services/nice-program/nice-awards>

Coming Soon! On the NICE webpage www.cityofpsl.com/nice

NICE Neighborhood Guide

Online Neighborhood Group Directory

Neighborhood Group Planning Toolkit

NICE Neighborhood Project Directory