

Becoming a Great Neighborhoods Partner



Once you've started to organize your neighborhood, we recommend submitting an application form to become a Great Neighborhoods Partner. Neighborhood Partners are neighborhood associations, property owner's associations and home owner's associations that have agreed to participate in the Bentonville Great Neighborhoods Partnership. Participation is voluntary but strongly encouraged.

All partners must follow the four principles of participation below.

Four Principles of Participation

- Resident-led** Neighborhood residents must lead the process. The city provides assistance and specific programs, but does not organize neighborhoods.
- Long-term commitment** Neighborhood residents must have a commitment to the association to ensure its resiliency over time.
- Inclusive** Neighborhood events and programs must be inclusive of all residents, businesses and organizations that wish to participate.
- Engaging activities** Events, meetings and activities open to the entire neighborhood must be held on a regular basis.

Organizational Levels

Neighborhoods can become a partner at one of two levels:

1. **Activating** - for neighborhoods are just beginning to organize or
2. **Active** - for existing active neighborhood associations (or POA/HOA's).

The program benefits vary based on the activation level.

Partnership Component (see pg. 3)	Activating	Active
Planning & Support	Full	Full
Neighborhood Partnership	Activating Level	Active Level
Neighborhood Advisory Committee	Non-voting representation	Voting representation
Neighborhood Programs	Limited*	Full

* Each program has specific eligibility requirements.

Steps to Register as a Great Neighborhoods Partner

1

Check the eligibility criteria below and gather supporting documents.

2

Go to the Great Neighborhoods Partnership web page at www.bentonvillear.com/1048/Great-Neighborhoods-Partnership and click on the "Neighborhood Partner" tab.

3

Under Resources, click on the "Neighborhood Partner Registration Form" which will take you to an online form to complete and upload supporting documents.

Eligibility Criteria

Criteria	New Neighborhood Associations	Existing Active POA/HOA	Organization Level Requirement	
			Activating	Active
Approved neighborhood boundaries	The geographical area should be logical, with major roads, trails, or natural terrain serving as boundaries. Area should be of a reasonable size that is easy to organize. Staff can assist in defining boundaries.	The boundaries of the subdivision are acceptable.	●	●
Adopted neighborhood name	Contact staff to ensure the neighborhood name selected is not already in use by another organization or conflicts with the name of a subdivision.	The subdivision name listed on the covenants are acceptable.	●	●
At least 2 meetings per year	This can include the initial core group meeting and one other meeting. To register, copies of minutes from two meetings will be required. For tips, see "Holding Meetings" on page 8.	POA meetings are acceptable. Minutes must be submitted with registration	●	●
Adopted bylaws	Bylaws should include the requirements for membership, election of officers, etc. See page 6 and the appendix for information on bylaws.	The POA adopted bylaws are acceptable and must be submitted with registration.		●
Elected officers	The bylaws should set forth the process for electing officers, which should include a transparent, democratic process.	The elected officers of the POA are acceptable. A list of officers must be submitted with registration.		●
At least one neighborhood event per year	This may include any number of events, activities or projects, as long as they are open to all residents/property owners in the neighborhood boundaries. See "Planning Projects & Events" on page 13.	Documentation of at least one neighborhood event must be submitted with registration. See "Planning Projects & Events" on page 13.		●