

2005

Citizens using technology to improve Omaha neighborhoods: Omaha Neighborhood Scan

School of Public Administration, University of Nebraska at Omaha

Russell L. Smith

Heather L. Bloom

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.unomaha.edu/cparpubarchives>



Part of the [Demography, Population, and Ecology Commons](#), and the [Public Affairs Commons](#)

Please take our feedback survey at: [https://unomaha.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/](https://unomaha.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8cchtFmpDyGfBLE)

[SV_8cchtFmpDyGfBLE](https://unomaha.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8cchtFmpDyGfBLE)

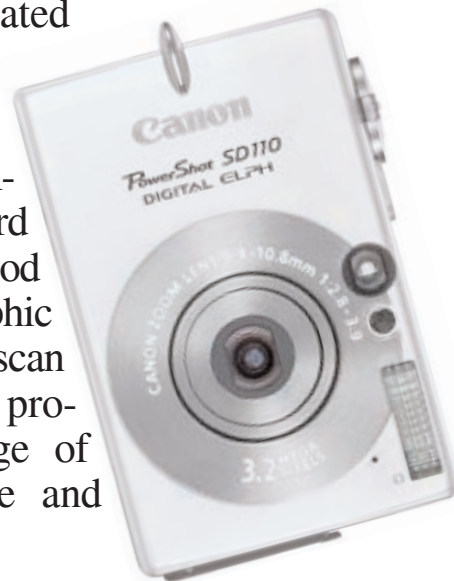
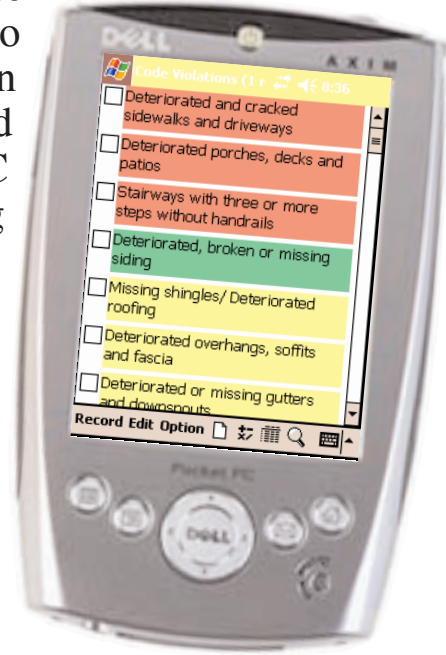
What technology is used for Omaha Neighborhood Scan?

ONS relies on several technology components:

■ Residents use Pocket PCs (PPC) to record information about neighborhood conditions. The PPC contains all training information neighborhood residents need to support their work while in the field.

■ Second, easy-to-use software is loaded on each PPC. The software is customized for each project and provides an automated form for collecting scan information.

■ Third, digital cameras are used to record photos of neighborhood conditions. Photographic images are linked to scan data records. This provides a visual image of conditions for before and after comparisons.



To view past projects, visit:

<http://neighborhoodscan.unomaha.edu>

For other questions, please e-mail us at:

unoneighborhoodscan@mail.unomaha.edu

Or call the Omaha Neighborhood Scan office at: (402) 554-2702



Who Do I Contact for More Information?

Dr. Russell L. Smith
Director, School of Public Affairs
University of Nebraska at Omaha
Omaha, NE 68182
Phone: 402-554-3188
FAX: 402-554-2682
E-Mail: unoneighborhoodscan@mail.unomaha.edu

Heather Bloom
Project Assistant
University of Nebraska at Omaha
Omaha, NE 68182
Phone: 402-554-2702
E-Mail: unoneighborhoodscan@mail.unomaha.edu

Omaha Neighborhood Scan is a cooperative service of the School of Public Administration, University of Nebraska at Omaha and the Mayor's Office, City of Omaha. Funding provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
Grant # B-03-SP-NE-0452

Citizens using technology to improve Omaha neighborhoods



 omaha neighborhood scan

How does Omaha Neighborhood Scan work?

The concept behind Omaha Neighborhood Scan (ONS) is simple:

- Pocket PCs (PPCs) are made available to neighborhood leaders.
- After training, residents conduct windshield or walking surveys.
- Using customized automated forms displayed on the PPCs and digital cameras, residents compile information in areas important to both neighborhoods and City of Omaha departments with responsibilities for code enforcement and quality of life issues.



How can ONS help our neighborhood?

- Neighborhood residents will learn to identify and document potentially dangerous conditions.
- Neighborhoods will be connected to city area resources and organizations to solve problems.
- Residents will work to educate their community about the role of city codes in neighborhood improvement.
- Be a part of an accessible local conditions database.

What services can ONS provide?

- Setting Your Agenda. Staff will help you think through the issues you are concerned about and how they might be documented and addressed via Omaha Neighborhood Scan.
- Team Development. ONS staff will assist in thinking through the number of people needed to conduct your neighborhood scan and the type of scan your neighborhood needs.
- Hardware and Software. Pocket PCs, digital cameras and easy-to-use software will be made available to your neighborhood association during the scan process. All documentation of conditions is done via customized data entry forms on the Pocket PCs.
- Training. ONS staff will assist you in using all hardware and software. A Pocket PC classroom is also available on the UNO campus for groups desiring to have more in-depth classroom training prior to field work.
- Analysis Assistance. Documentation of neighborhood conditions is quite easy and fast with the PPCs and software provided by ONS. You will be provided a summary of data and findings within a week.
- Meeting Facilitation. ONS staff will be available to help organize and facilitate meetings to discuss and review actions.

Andrea Anderson-Lucas



North Omaha
Weed and Seed
Coordinator &
ONS participant

Anderson-Lucas recruited high school students involved with an Omaha chapter of Girls, Inc. to help administer neighborhood surveys.

(I am) very pleased with the Pocket PCs, Anderson-Lucas said. Very impressed with how fast data results were given back to us. (It was an) awesome way to get kids involved with community projects.

Data was entered more efficiently, results delivered quicker and with visuals and graphs for at-a-glance comparisons.