

HOW DO I...

CREATE AND MAINTAIN

A BLOCK CLUB?

Starting a block club is all about working with others, getting to know your neighbors, and having fun working together to accomplish your goals. This guide describes how to organize your group and help identify your neighborhood's resources, goals, and plan of action.



GETTING STARTED

1 FORM A CORE GROUP & IDENTIFY LEADERS.

Register as a block club with the city and establish a regular meeting time and place (see back). Identify active neighbors.

2 IDENTIFY NEIGHBORHOOD CHALLENGES AND STRENGTHS.

Identifying needs and strengths will help establish goals and maximize resources.

3 SET GOALS & ACTION ITEMS.

Work toward smaller, near-term goals first to help gain momentum and demonstrate intentions (lot clean ups, etc.). Set goals for the near and long term (6-8 weeks/3-6 months/12-18 months). Then identify action items for each goal.

4 IDENTIFY RESOURCES AND PARTNERS.

Identify volunteer groups that can assist with clean ups etc. Seek funding to help expand your efforts, such as local grant support. Consider applying for a 501(c)3 status in order to receive grants.

5 OUTREACH.

Get others involved. Reach out to neighbors, ask members to invite others, and tap existing networks and events. Collect and compile contact information. Be inclusive and invite newcomers. Use social media to share your progress.

What else can I do to create a successful block club?



- * **Socialize** and include **fun activities** in your block club meetings!
- * Provide **skills training** that people **value**.
- * Pay attention to process and keep your overall **goals** in sight at all times.
- * **Divide** and **delegate** work.
- * Develop a **decision-making process**.
- * **Respect** people's time.
- * Be **organized** and **efficient**!
- * Focus on **action**.
- * Have **fun**!

Where can I find additional block club resources in the city?



The City offers a guide to starting a block club:

<http://www.detroitmi.gov/DepartmentsandAgencies/RecreationDepartment/CommunityServices/Services/CommunityGroupsBlockClubs.aspx>

Additional resources for organizing block clubs and community organizations are available to residents at four recreation centers: Northwest Activities Center, Butzel Family Center, Williams Community Center, and Patton Recreation Center.

West:

Northwest Activities Center
18100 Meyers Rd. (48325) 313.870.0649

East:

Butzel Family Center
7737 Kercheval St. (48214) 313.628.2170

Central:

Williams Community Center
8431 Rosa Parks Blvd. (48206) 313.224.2989

Southwest:

Patton Recreation Center
2301 Woodmere St. (48209) 313.628.2180