

WALKABLE COMMUNITY PLANS

Prepared by:

City of Las Vegas Planning and Development Department
www.lasvegasnevada.gov



PURPOSE

Great neighborhoods are often prized for their walkability, their balanced mixture of housing, shops, and services, and civic amenities. Walkable neighborhoods improve the quality of life for residents by providing convenience and access. The development of walkable neighborhoods assists in implementing the City's sustainability measures.

GOALS

- o Provide the needs of daily life within the proximity of residents: City residents should have convenient access to schools, stores, and civic amenities.
- o Reduce vehicle miles traveled: Being able to walk to schools, stores, and services reduces pollution and congestion on our roadways.
- o Increase alternative transportation options: Improve pedestrian facilities and bike lanes within existing neighborhoods to reduce the dependence on the automobile and promote mobility for youth and seniors.
- o Increase health and social interaction: Walking promotes greater health, and leads to more face-to-face interaction with other residents.

SCOPE

Identify existing neighborhoods where several key services are clustered within a 1/2 mile (10-minute walk) of residences. Within the identified 1/2 mile radius, enhance pedestrian and bike facilities, improve or establish park facilities, and pursue essential retail shops and services for the neighborhood.



PROMOTING WALKING BY RETROFITTING EXISTING NEIGHBORHOODS

SIDEWALKS – *establish a defined pedestrian network of equitable access.*



VS



SHADE TREES – *provide much needed relief from the hot desert climate.*



VS



BIKE LANES – *provide safety for the cyclist as well as the pedestrian*

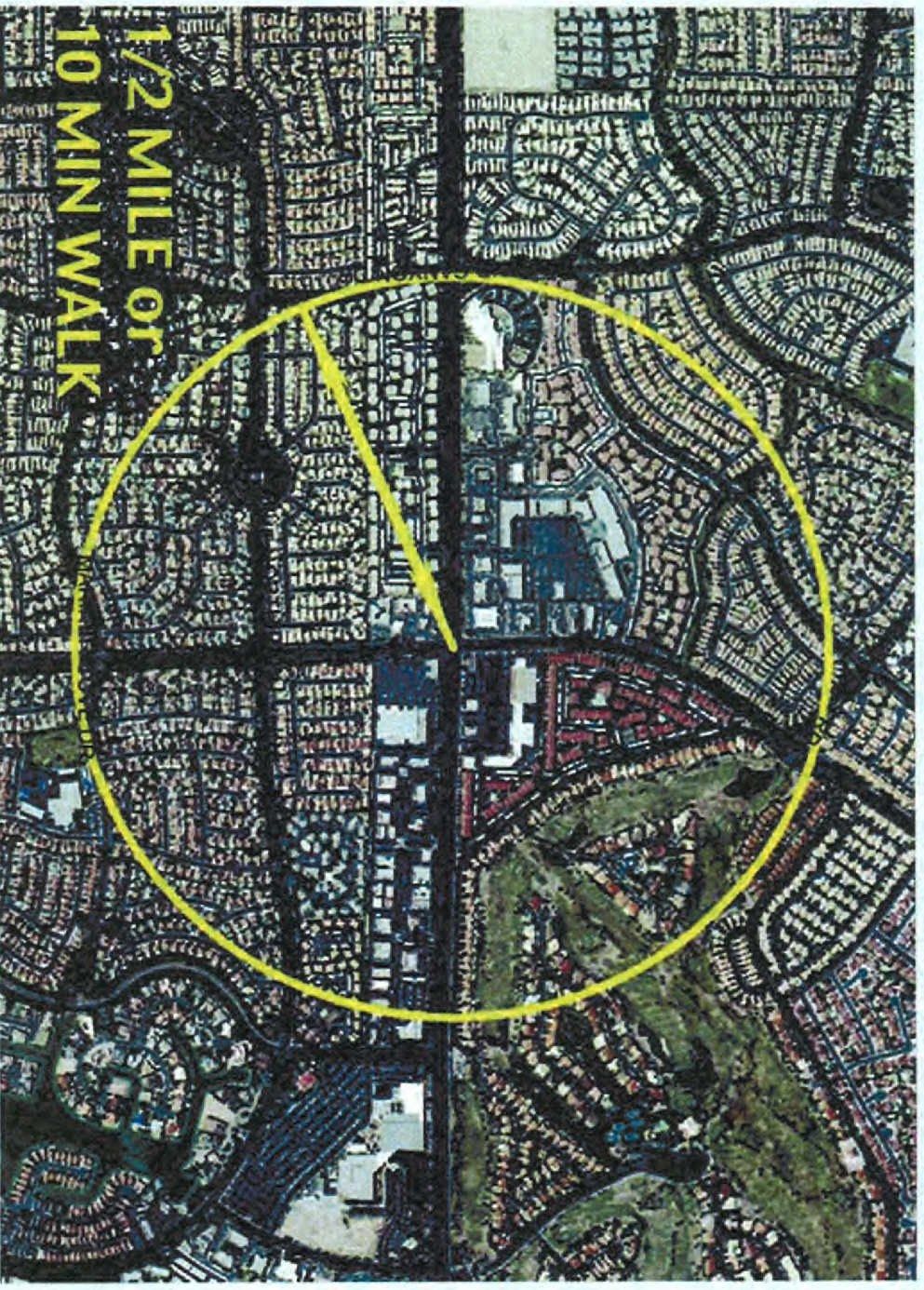


VS



ADDING PEDESTRIAN AMENITIES THAT SUPPORT A WALKABLE NETWORK OF USES

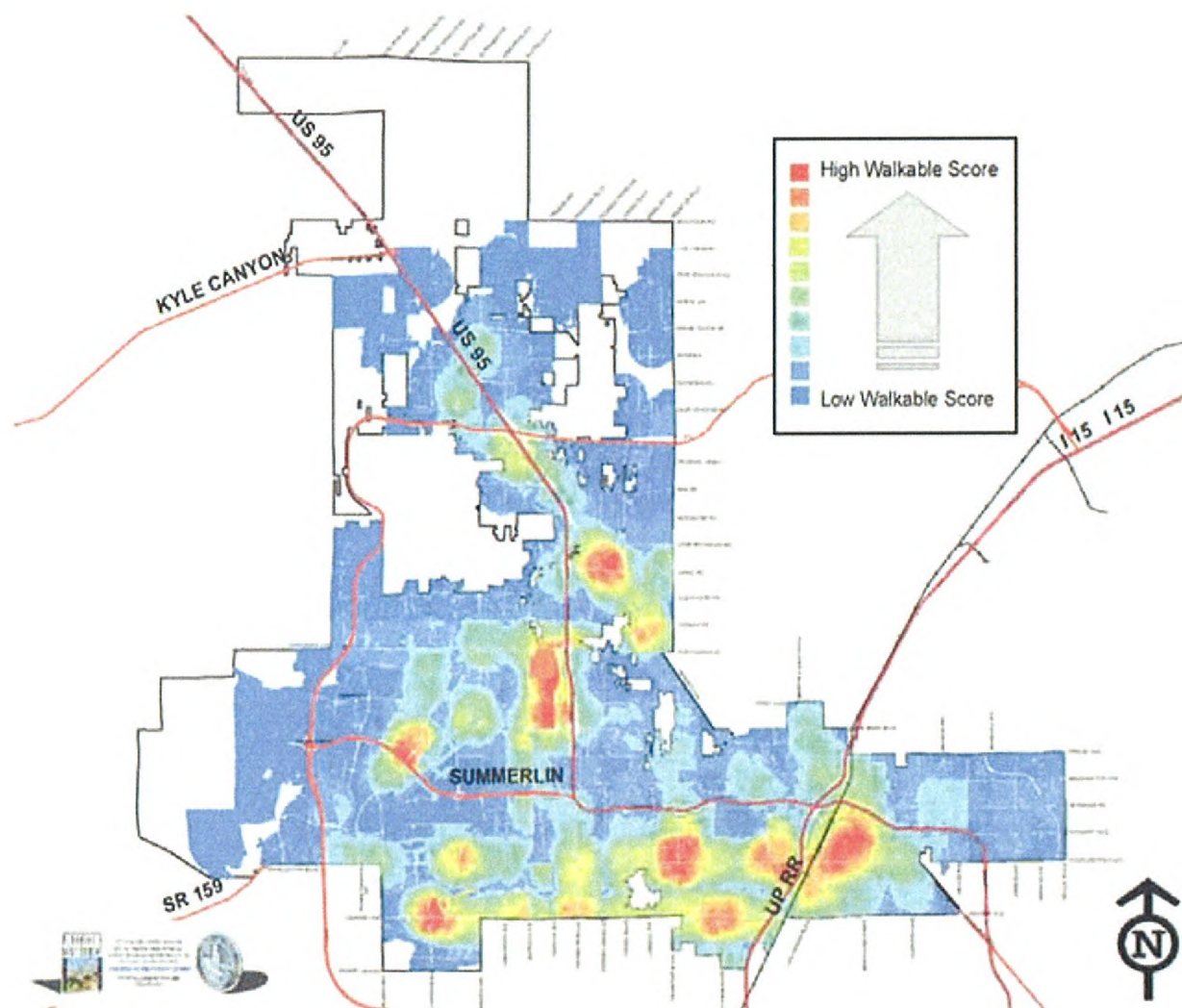
At the heart of a walkable community is a collection of diverse uses within convenient walking distance of residences. These uses typically include grocery stores, parks, churches, schools, and other essential uses based on the character of the community. An abundance of these uses allow for more social interaction and help establish an identity as a walkable community.



The goal is to make improvements that provide residents an easy walk between community resources on a daily basis. These improvements divert an over-reliance on automotive-based travel by providing other modes of transportation such as walking, bicycling and mass transit that are more convenient and sustainable than driving.

PRIORITIZING OUR WALKABLE COMMUNITY PLAN AREAS

The City of Las Vegas Department of Planning and Development recently completed a study to identify areas with the greatest potential for becoming self-sustaining walkable communities. Areas in red indicate existing residential communities with strong pedestrian connectivity to commercial services.



Pursuant to the recommendations expressed in The Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan, the City is reviewing opportunities to provide improvements that encourage human-scaled environments and walkability. Future plan areas seek to expand the overall walkability of Las Vegas by tying into the communities with high-performing pedestrian networks.

For more information visit www.lasvegasnevada.gov/Government/planning.htm or contact the Planning & Development Department at: (702) 229-6301

The Meadows

Walkable Community Plan

We choose our neighborhoods based on the conveniences and amenities that benefit our daily lives. By examining the components of our communities and enhancing the existing framework, we can build stronger and more sustainable neighborhoods.



Existing



Enhanced

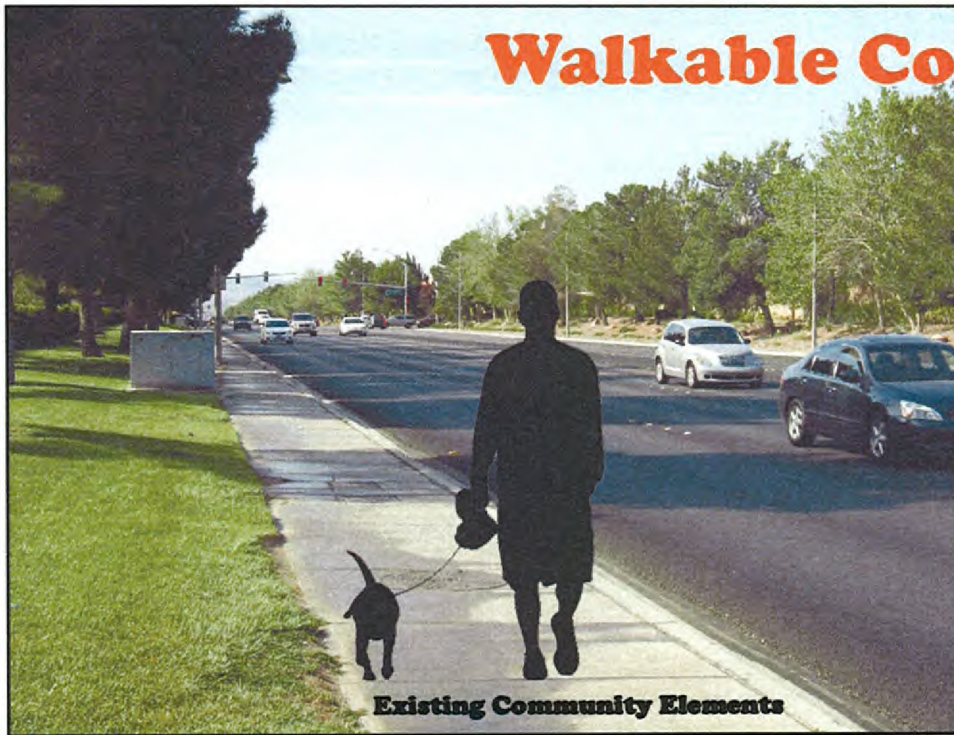


Walkable Communities:

- ...create lasting value
- ...allow easy access to community resources
- ...provide aesthetic value to communities
- ...allow for multiple means of transportation

Sahara West

Walkable Community Plan



Existing Community Elements

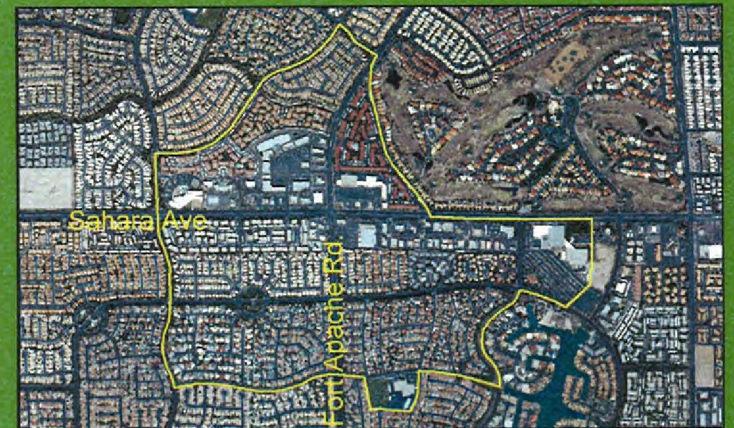


Enhanced Community Elements

We choose our neighborhoods based on the conveniences and amenities that benefit our daily lives. By examining the components of our communities and enhancing the existing framework, we can build stronger and more sustainable neighborhoods.

Walkable communities...

- Create lasting value
- Allow easy access to community goods and services
- Provide aesthetic value
- Allow for alternative modes of transportation
- Create community identity



Qualities of Great Neighborhoods

- Functional attributes of day-to-day living
- Accommodates multiple modes of transportation
- Visually interesting design and architecture; memorable character
- Encourages human contact and social activities
- Promotes sustainability



Why Great Neighborhoods?

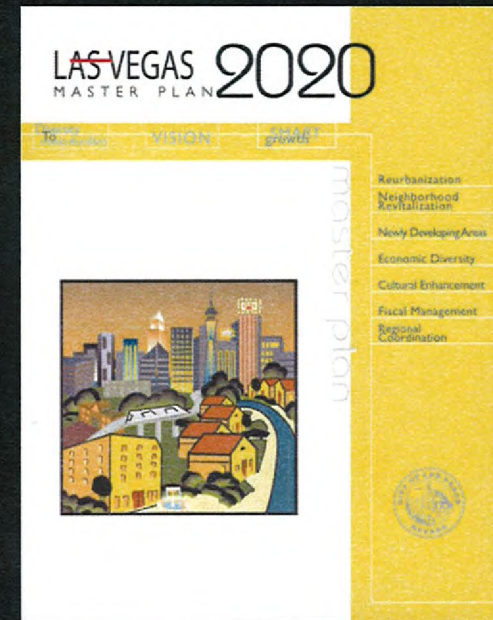
World-Class Cities Have Memorable Neighborhoods



Why Great Communities?

Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan:

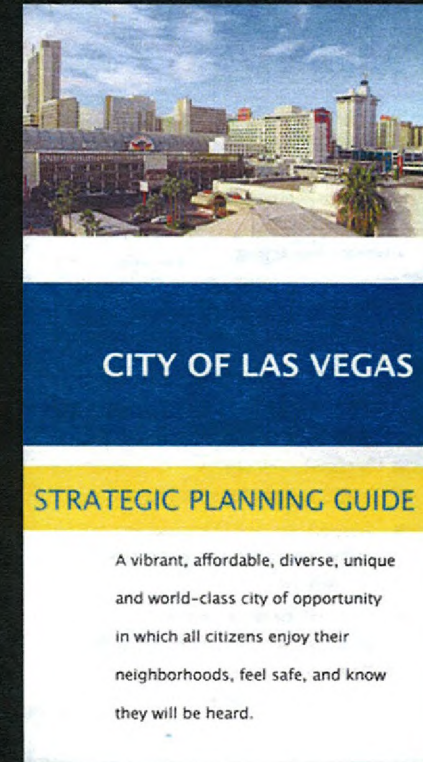
- Walkable communities be promoted in areas of reinvestment
- Distinguish neighborhoods through urban design
- Continue to improve streetscape enhancements in urbanized areas
- Evaluate potential for improvements that will make neighborhoods more desirable



Why Great Communities?

City of Las Vegas Strategic Plan:

- Support and encourage sustainability, livability, and pride in our neighborhoods
- Revitalize and invigorate our mature areas and urban core
- Promote healthy lifestyles for all segments of the community



Why Great Communities?

Climate Protection Resolution (R-57-2006)

- Adopt policies that create walkable communities
- Promote transportation options
- Reduce emissions
- Promote tree planting to increase shading



Why Great Communities?

Neighborhoods of Lasting Value:

- Preserve value for residents
- Maintain and enhance the city's tax base

are we building this...



...or this?

Why Great Communities?

Improved neighborhoods and streets =
Improved quality of life for residents



Walkable Communities Are Great Communities

Great communities:

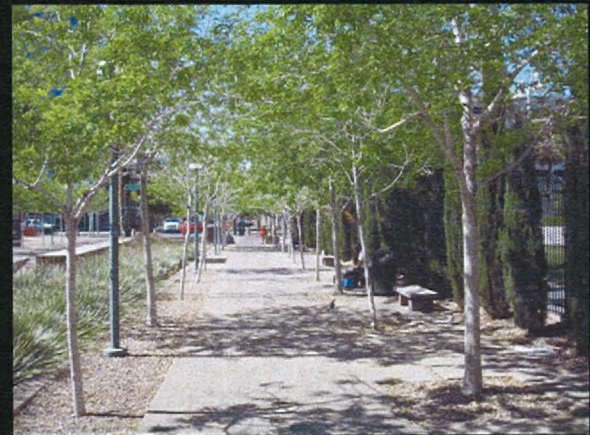
- Have the functional attributes of day-to-day living
- Accommodate multiple modes of transportation
- Encourage human contact and social activities
- Promote sustainability



Why Walkable Communities?

Benefits:

- Convenience for residents
- Encourage alternative transportation modes
- Reduced congestion, VMT's
- Improved air quality
- Increased tree canopy
- Health benefits for children, adults



What Makes a Community Walkable?

Pedestrian facilities: Sidewalks, shade, safety



What Makes a Community Walkable?

Amenities: Grocery store, drugstore, restaurants, schools, parks, library



How Do We Start?

- **New neighborhoods:** Uniform Development Code will encourage walkable neighborhoods through connectivity standards, street standards
- **Existing neighborhoods:** Develop Walkable Community Plans that enhance existing facilities and neighborhood amenities



How Are Walkable Community Areas Selected?

5 types of walkable neighborhoods:

(Christopher Leinberger – ULI)

1. Traditional downtown (Downtown)
2. Downtown adjacent (West Las Vegas)
3. Suburban town center (Centennial Hills)
4. Suburban redevelopment
5. Suburban greenfield (Kyle Canyon)



How Are Walkable Community Areas Selected?

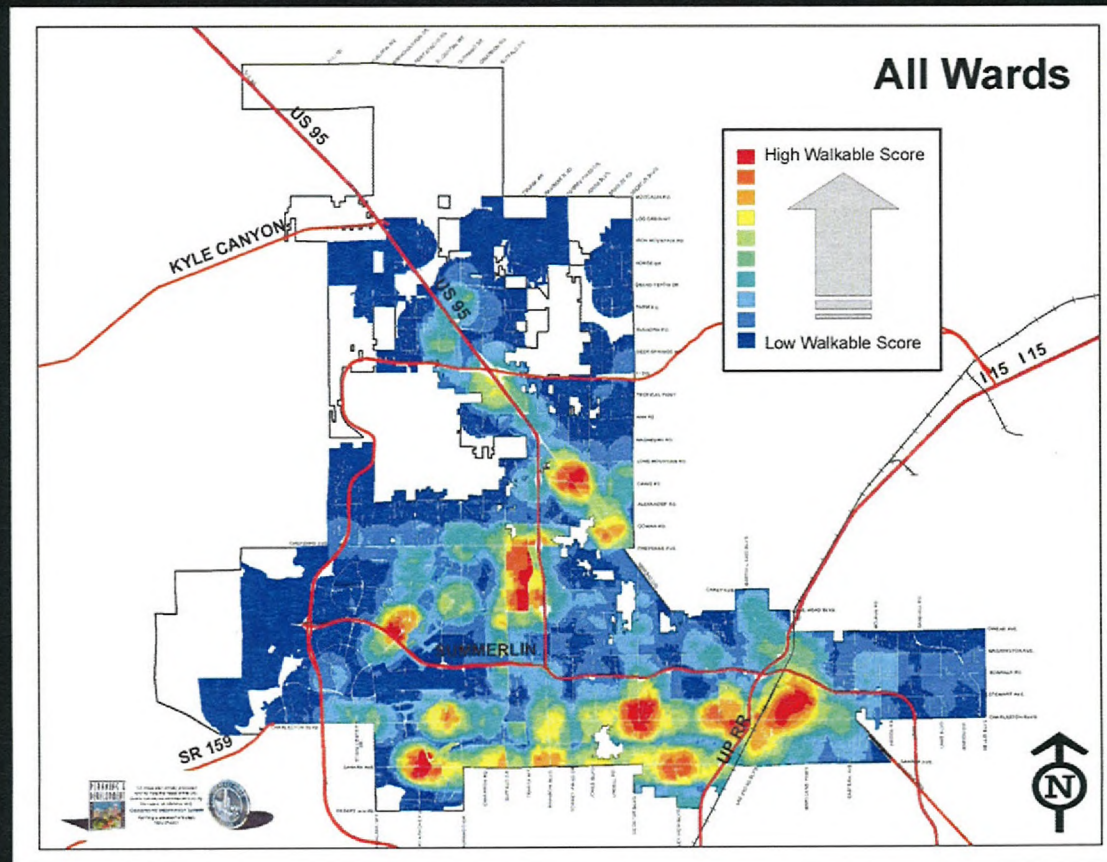
Existing Community Qualities:

- Density – single & multifamily
- Close proximity to commercial
- Civic amenities
- Transit opportunities
- Potential for implementation



How Are Walkable Community Areas Selected?

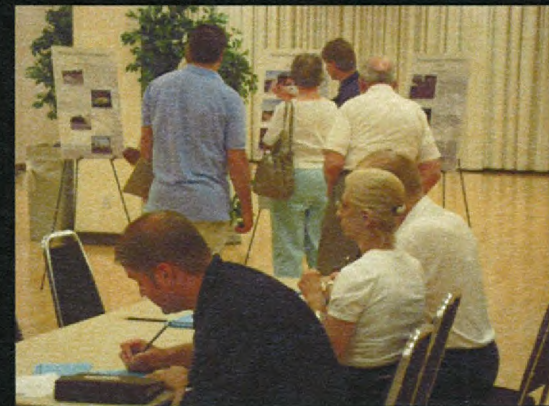
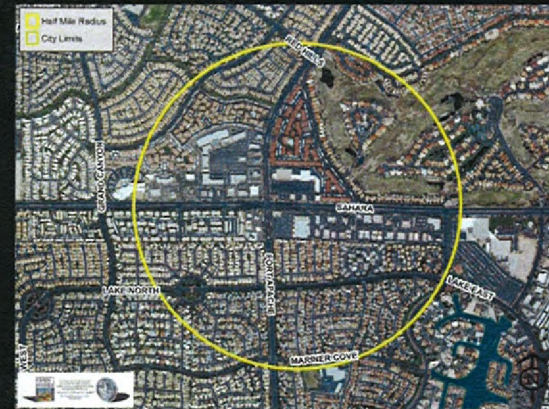
Identify existing areas with “good bones”



What is a Walkable Community Plan?

Walkable Community Plans:

- Develop boundaries of plan area (10-minute walk)
- Assess existing conditions
- Work with residents to identify needed improvements: sidewalk network, shade, crosswalks, etc.
- Develop an implementation plan
- Pursue grants and other funding opportunities



What is a Walkable Community Plan?

Assessment of existing conditions:

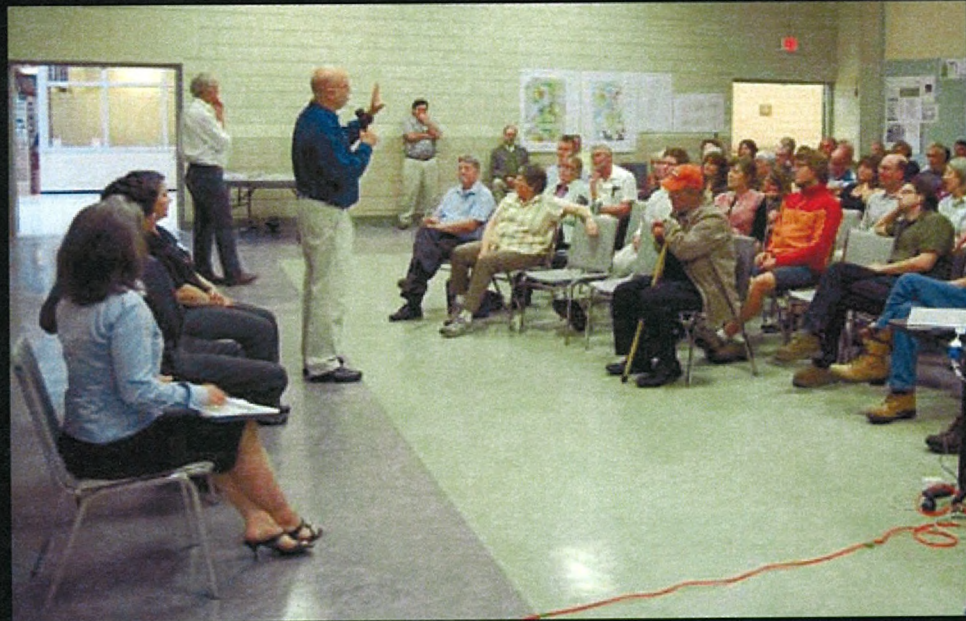
- Sidewalk network
- Bike lanes
- Shade/street trees
- Crosswalks
- Transit/bus shelters
- Neighborhood amenities/land use



What is a Walkable Community Plan?

Public input:

- Destinations
- Safety
- Comfort
- Amenities
- Enhancements



What is a Walkable Community Plan?

Implementation:

- List of action items
- Adoption by City Council
- Coordination with capital projects
- Seek grant funding for “shovel-ready” projects



Public Input Process

Initial strategy:

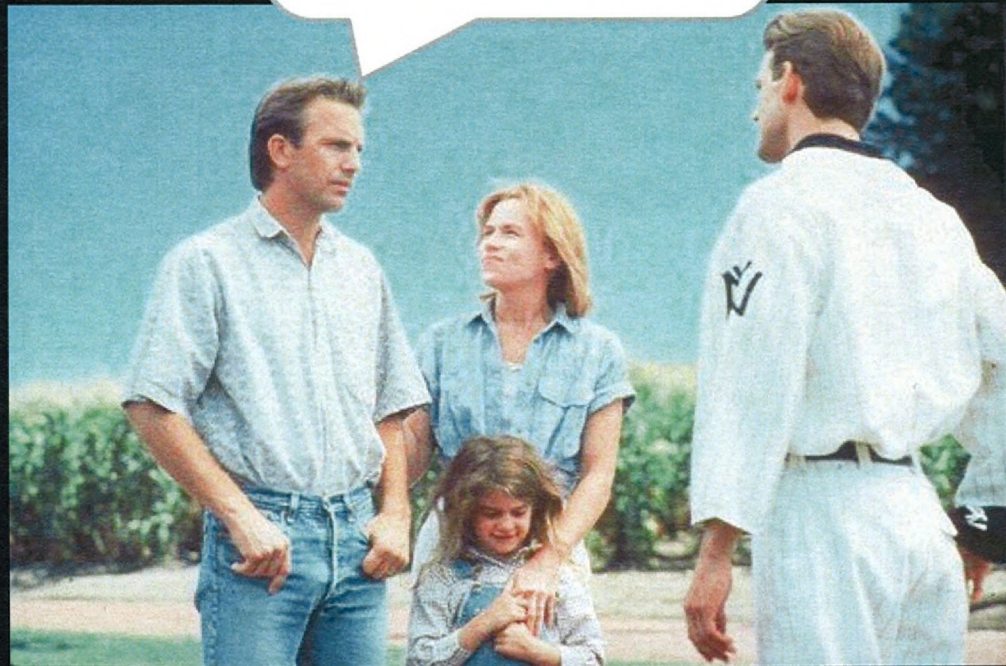
- Schedule a public meeting
- Send postcards to residents
- Send postcards to neighborhood associations
- Wait for the overwhelming response!



Public Input Process

If you hold a meeting, they will come....

We were like Kevin Costner's character in "Field of Dreams"....



Public Input Process

....but after mailing
hundreds of postcards
and putting up flyers,
very few residents
attended.



(sound of crickets)

Public Input Process

New and improved strategy:
Instead of bringing them to us – we go to them



Public Input Process

New strategy:

- Attended 17 neighborhood association meetings in April and May 2010
- Attended transit fair at mall, booth at 5K race, back-to-school fairs
- Distributed comment cards at stores and shopping centers
- Developed online survey



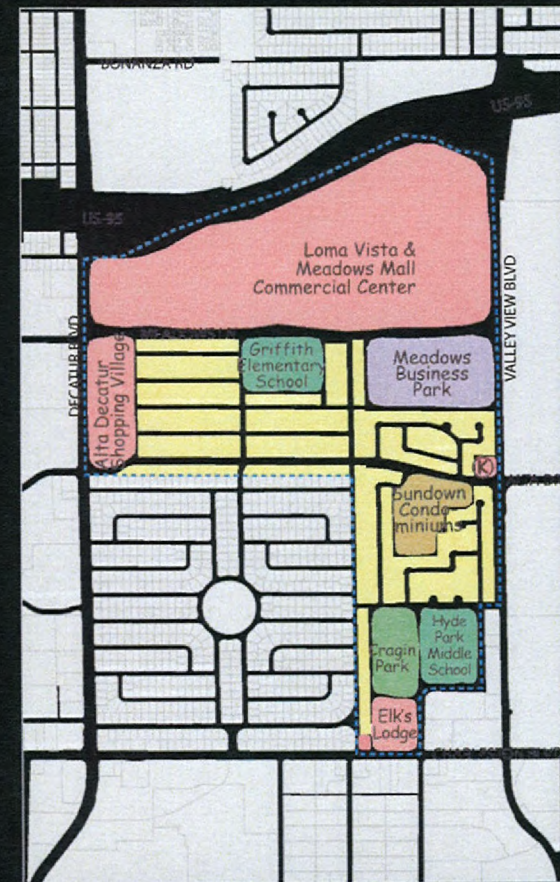
Meadows Walkable Community Plan



Meadows Walkable Community Plan

Amenities:

- Park, YMCA, Springs Preserve
- 2 Schools
- Banks, drug store, retail
- Restaurants
- Regional mall
- General office, medical office



Public Input: Meadows

Residents suggested the following:

- Crosswalks and sidewalks on Meadows Lane; opening in wall for pedestrians
- Shade trees along sidewalks
- Improve/add crosswalks
- Slow traffic, add medians, distinguish bicycle lanes on Alta
- Benches for people to rest
- Additional bus shelters
- Personal safety issues (crime)
- Grocery store to replace Von's



Meadows Mall Site

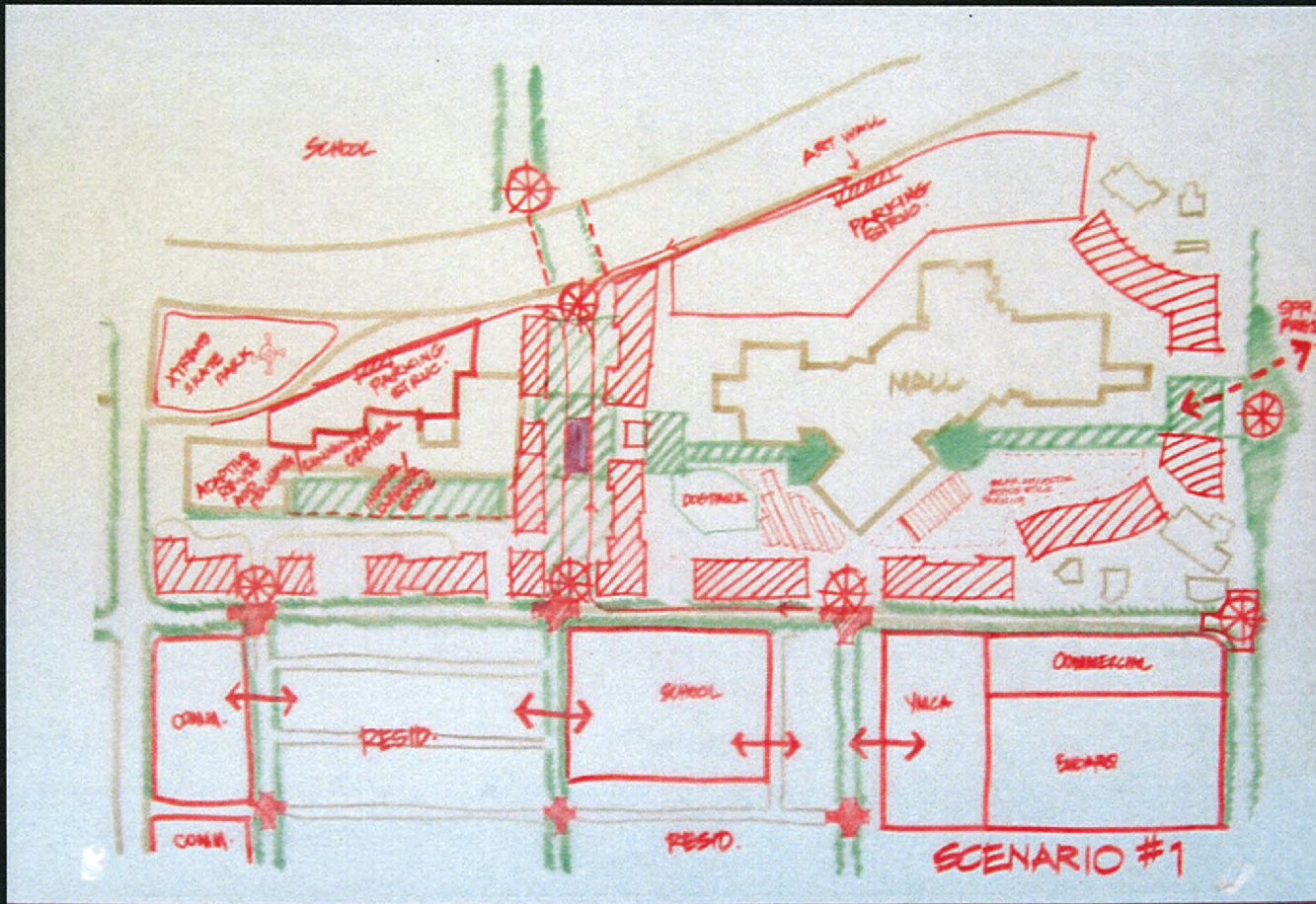
Green Council: 3 scenarios

- Scenario 1 – Mall remains in place
- Scenario 2 – Mall partially rebuilt
- Scenario 3 – Mall site completely redeveloped



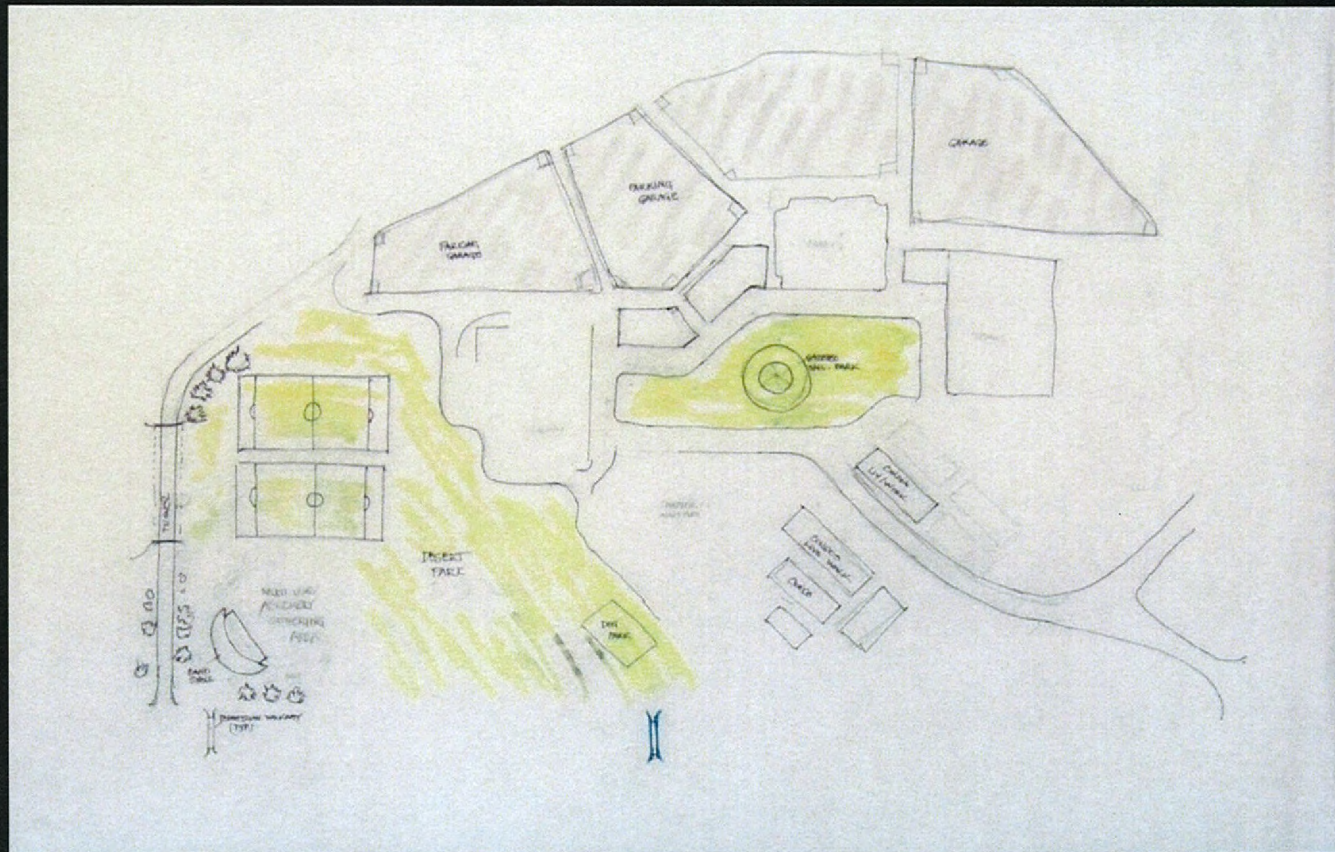
Meadows Mall Site

Scenario 1: Leave the mall in place

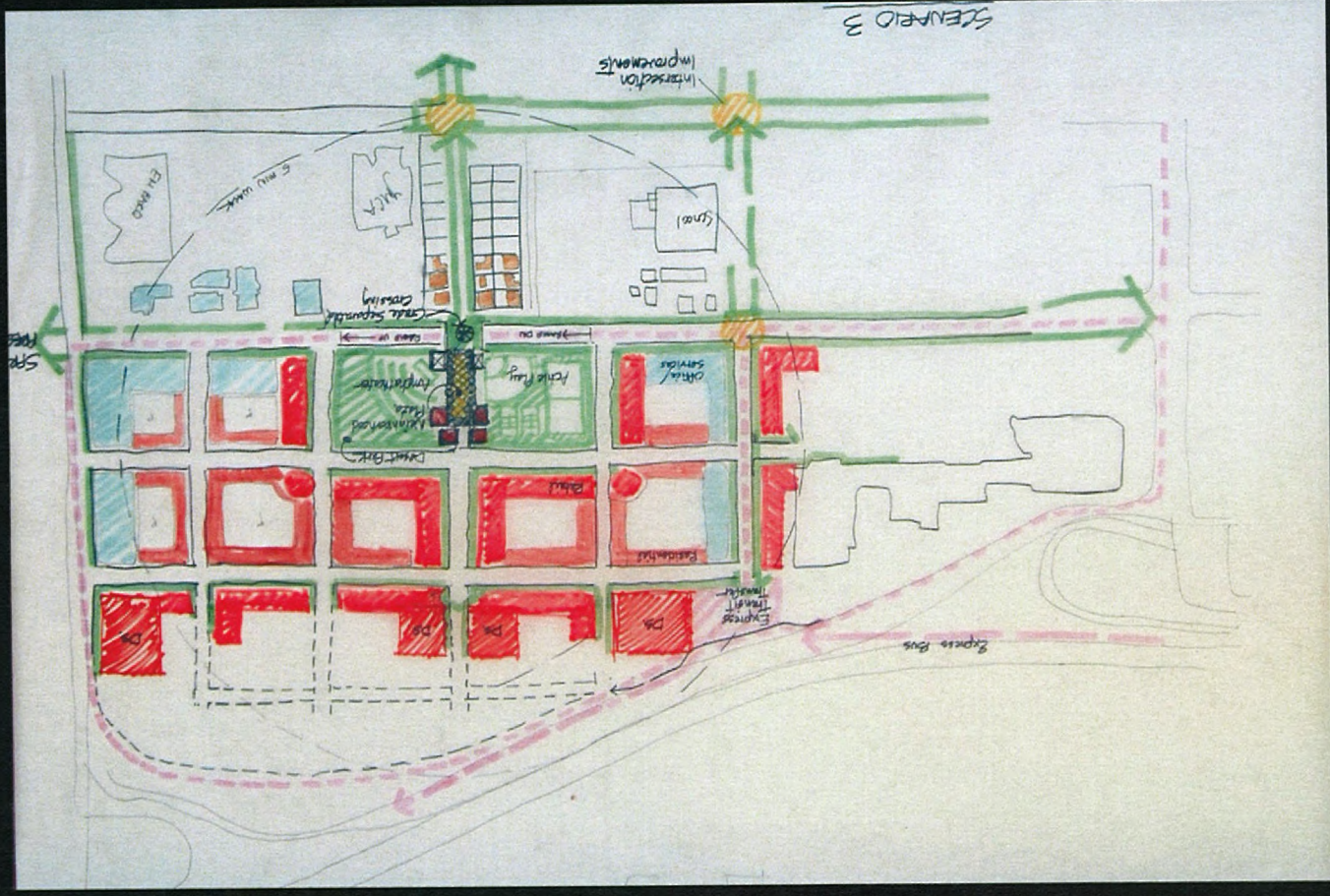


Meadows Mall Site

Scenario 2: Mall partially rebuilt



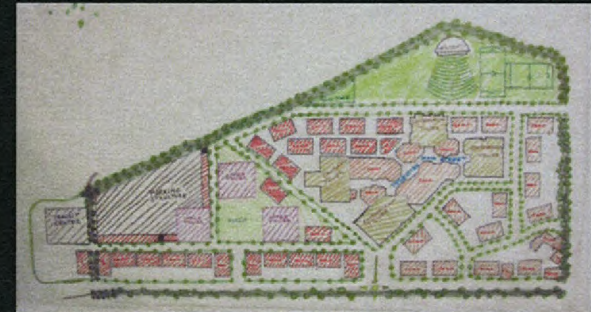
Scenario 3: Mall site completely redeveloped



Meadows Mall Site

Scenarios indicate:

- No changes needed to zoning district, land use, mixed-use parking requirements
- Changes needed to setbacks, lot coverage, residential adjacency
- Improvements needed to Meadows Lane, pedestrian circulation
- Need connection to transit



Recommendations: Meadows

Action items:

- Street-by-street recommendations
- Connectivity – continuous pedestrian & bike routes
- Safe circulation – crosswalks, lighting
- Comfort – shade, benches
- Uses – needs, redevelopment opportunities



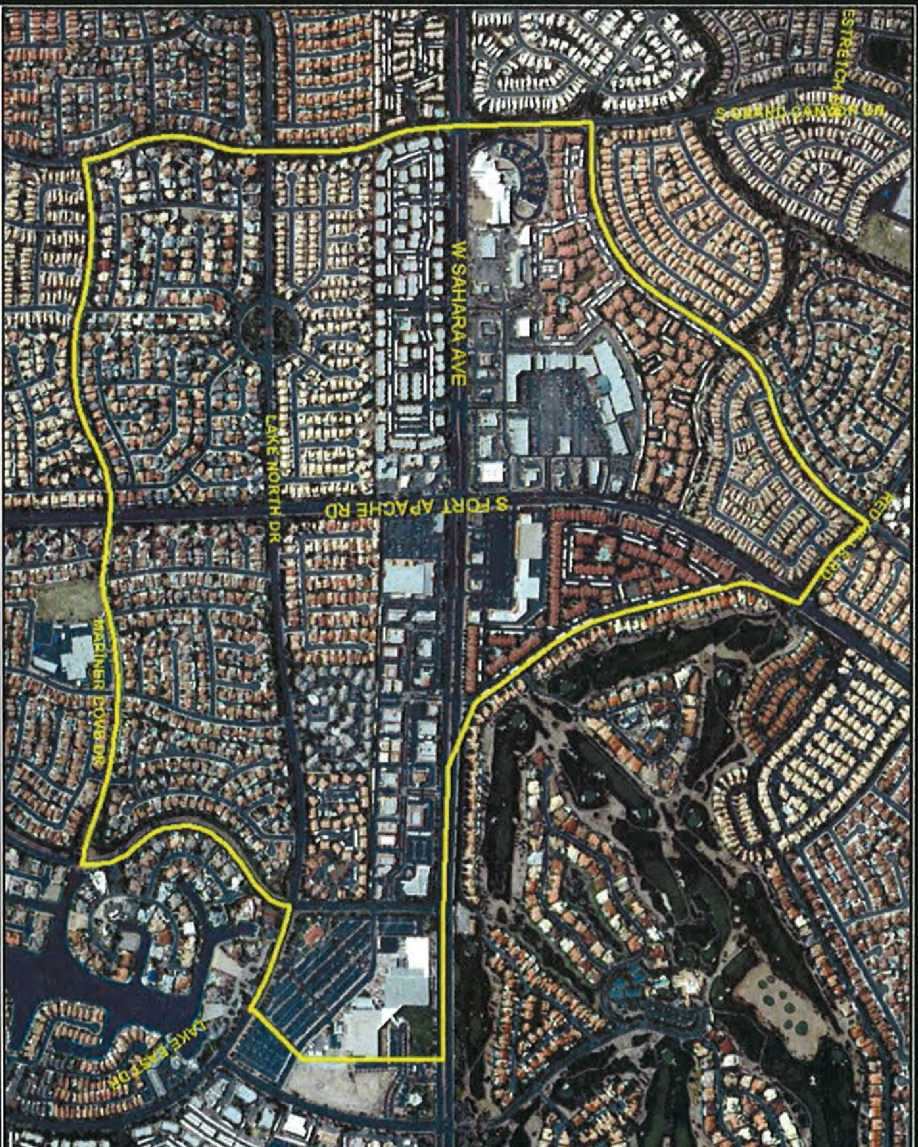
Implementation: Meadows

Implementation schedule:

- Review draft plan with residents Sept./Oct.
- Review by Planning Commission, adoption of plan by City Council
- Coordinate improvements with other capital projects or private development
- Seek grant funding for shovel-ready projects



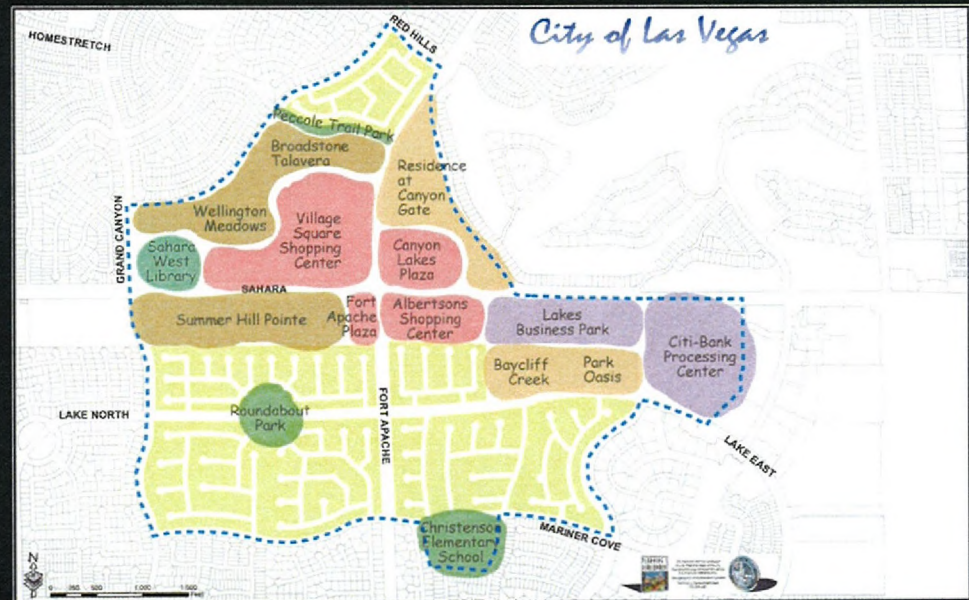
Sahara West Walkable Community Plan



Sahara West Walkable Community Plan

Amenities:

- Library, parks
- School
- Banks, drug stores, retail
- Grocery store
- Restaurants
- Movie theater
- General office, medical offices



Public Input: Sahara West

Residents suggested the following:

- Complete the sidewalk network
- Install additional crosswalks on Ft. Apache, make crosswalks safer
- Reduce traffic speeds
- Provide pedestrian bridge over Sahara to bus stop across from Citibank
- Additional pedestrian lighting needed
- Bus stop at Sahara & Ft. Apache is too close to the intersection
- Need additional shade trees along sidewalk



Recommendations: Sahara West

Action items:

- Street-by-street recommendations
- Connectivity – uninterrupted pedestrian/bike routes
- Safe circulation – crosswalks, lighting
- Comfort – shade, benches
- Uses – needs, redevelopment opportunities



Implementation: Sahara West

Implementation schedule:

- Review draft plan with residents Sept./Oct.
- Review by Planning Commission, adoption of plan by City Council
- Coordinate improvements with other capital projects or private development
- Seek grant funding for shovel-ready projects



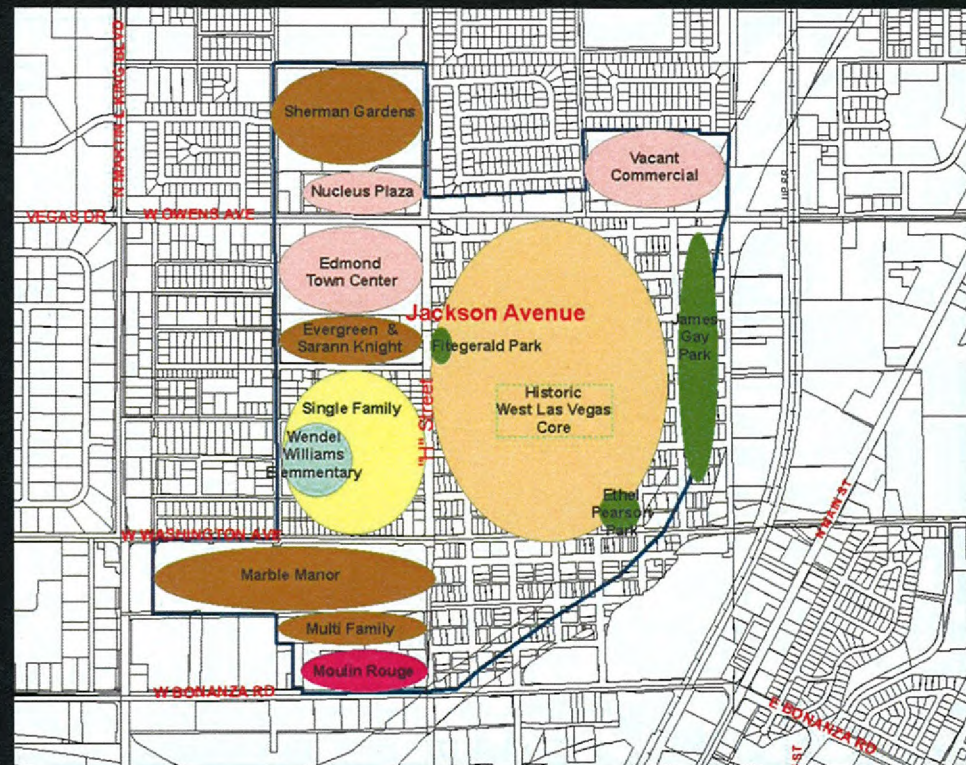
Future Walkable Community Plans: Jackson Avenue



Future Walkable Community Plans: Jackson Avenue

Amenities:

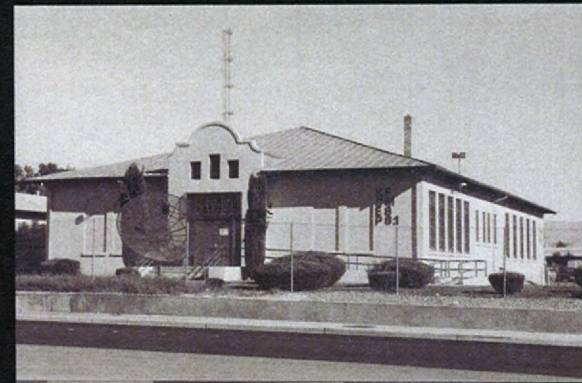
- Parks
- School
- General retail
- Grocery store
- Restaurants
- Churches



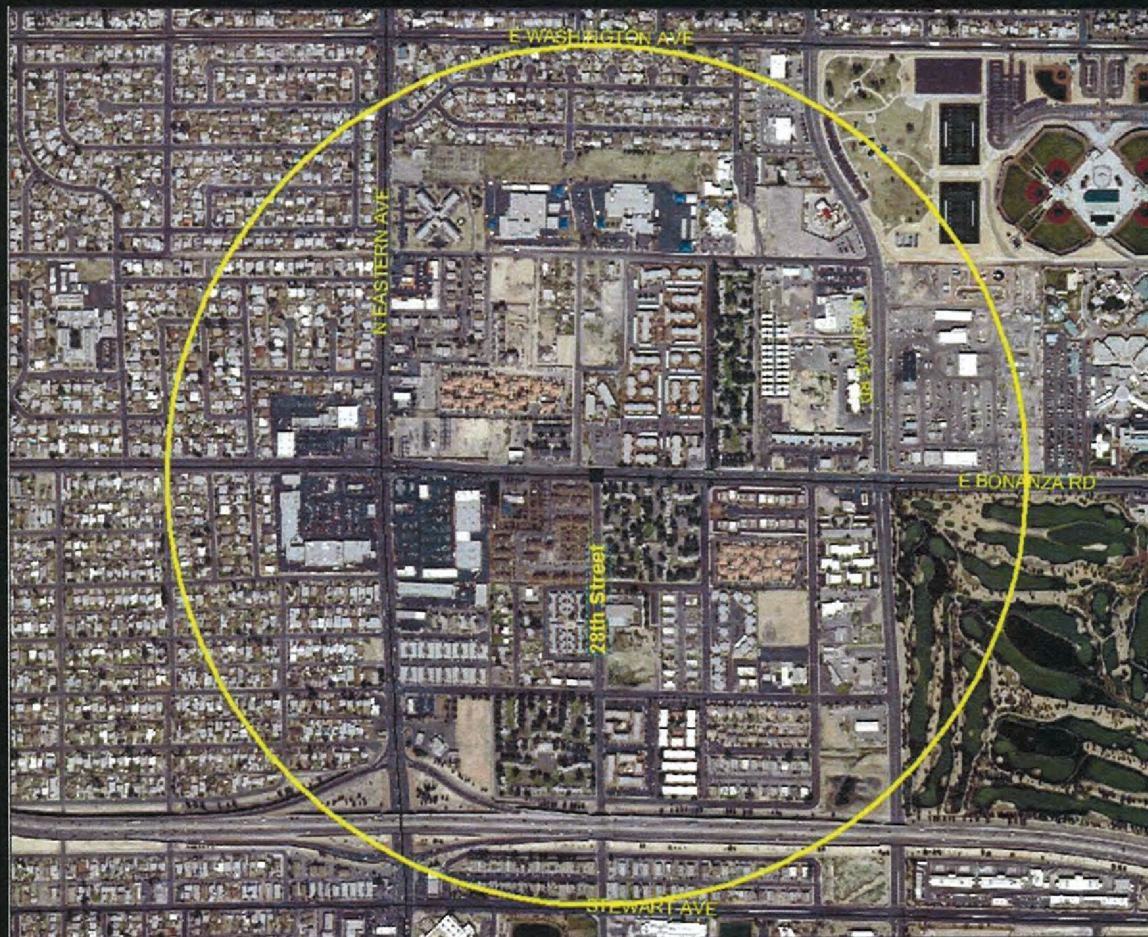
Future Walkable Community Plans: Jackson Avenue

Schedule:

- Initial survey and data collection underway
- Fall 2010 – public input sessions with residents
- Spring 2011 – present draft plan to residents for comment
- Late Spring 2011 – review by Planning Commission & City Council



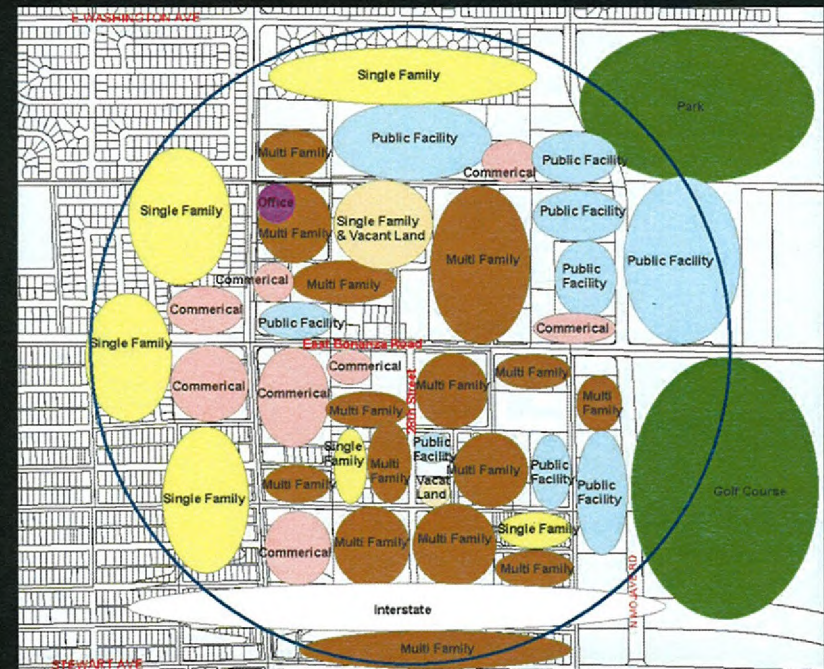
Future Walkable Community Plans: 28th Street



Future Walkable Community Plans: 28th Street

Amenities:

- Park, golf course
- 2 schools
- General retail
- Bank, offices
- Grocery store
- Housing Authority has retained an architecture firm to redevelop their properties as an affordable, mixed-use, mixed income community



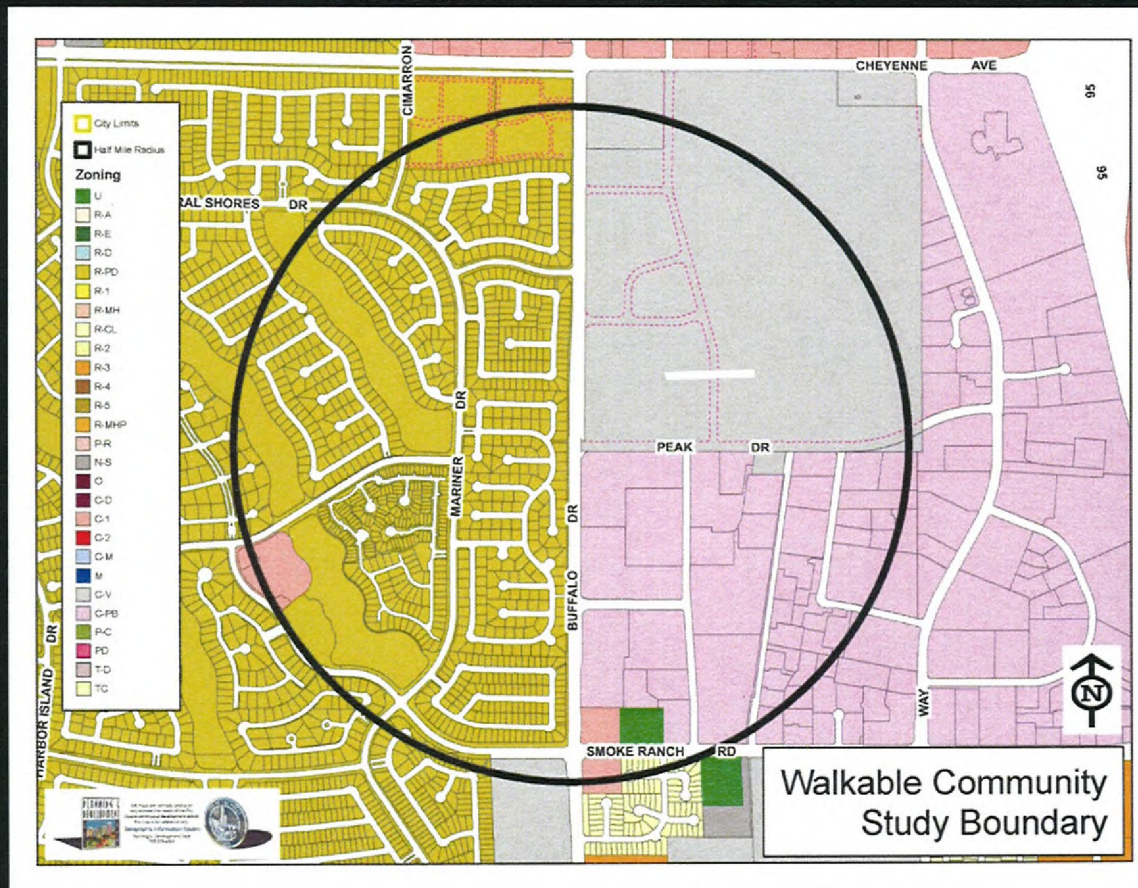
Future Walkable Community Plans: 28th Street

Schedule:

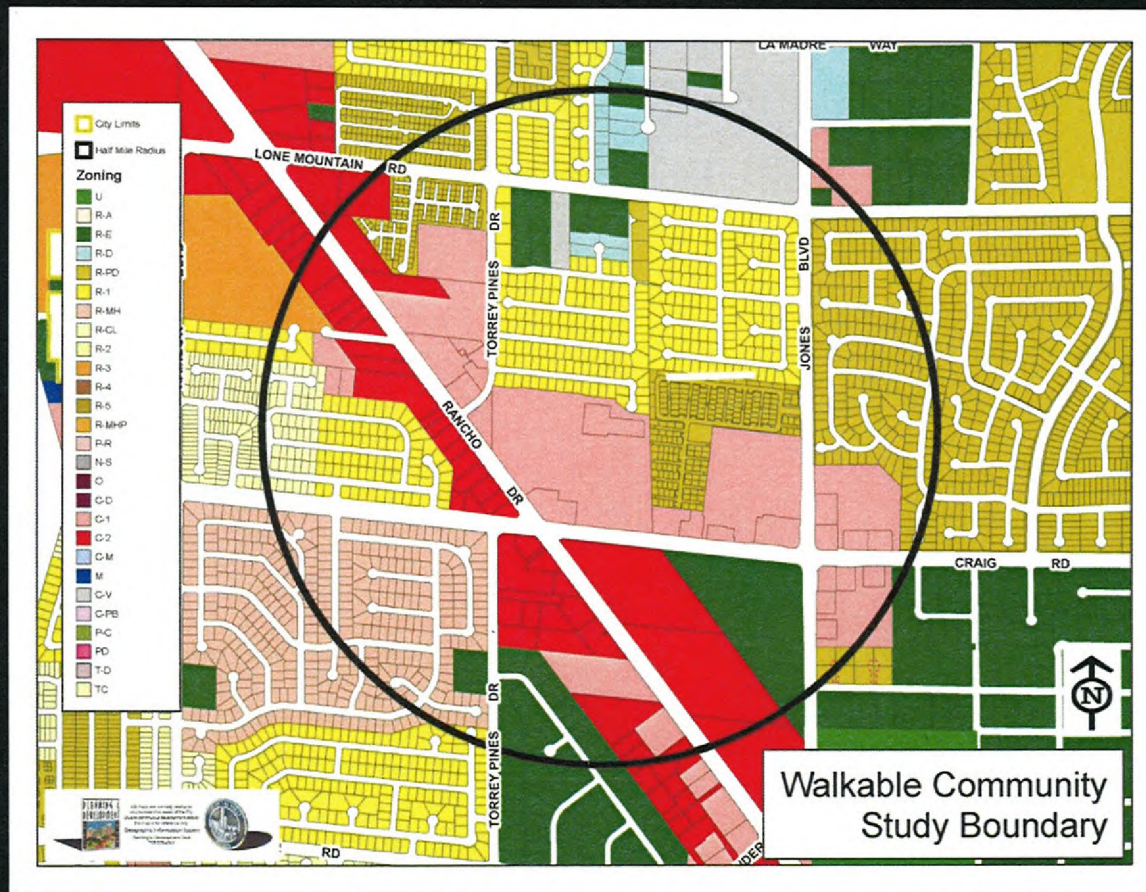
- Initial survey and data collection underway
- Spring 2011 – public input sessions with residents
- Summer 2011 – present draft plan to residents for comment
- Fall 2011 – review by Planning Commission & City Council



Future Walkable Community Plans: Buffalo Drive



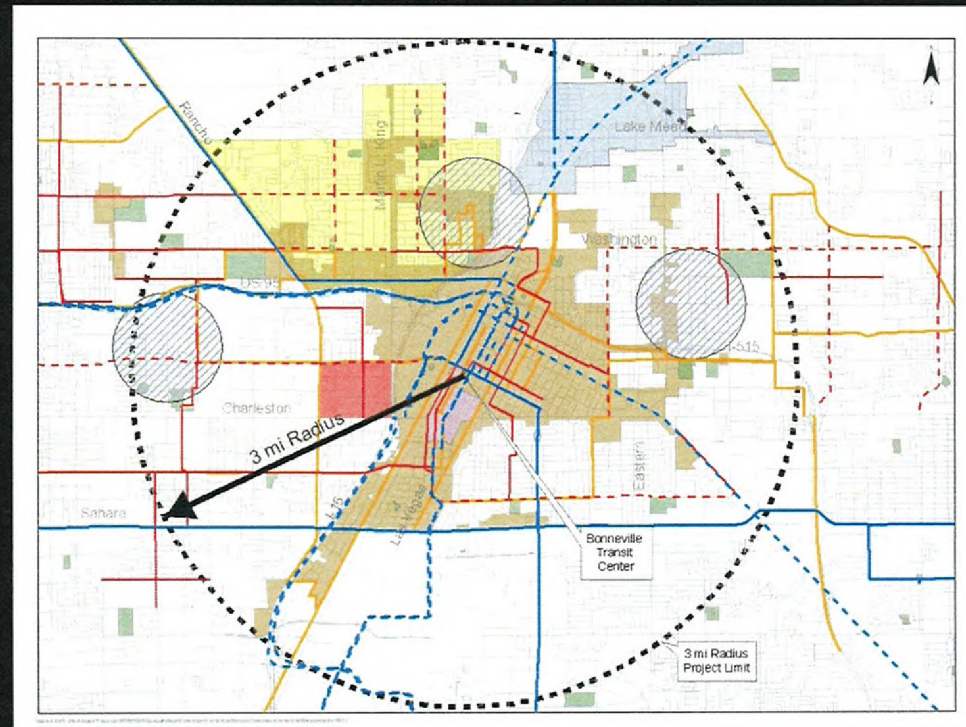
Future Walkable Community Plans: Rancho Drive



Other Efforts

DOT/HUD Community Challenge Planning Grant

- Planning grant to align transit, pedestrian & bike networks, land use
- CLV partnership with RTC
- \$400,000 request with \$100,000 match
- Federal sustainability programs to be discussed at APA conference



Walkable Community Plans

- Implement the Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan
- Accomplish the goals of the strategic plan
- Implement sustainability
- Create great communities

