# The John Garden District

Communities Putting Prevention to Work Drachman Institute • Summer 2011





# THE DRACHMAN INSTITUTE

The Drachman Institute is a research and public service unit of the College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture at the University of Arizona, dedicated to the environmentally sensitive and resource-conscious development of neighborhoods and communities. The Drachman Institute dedicates its research and outreach activities to the proposition that housing is the buildingblock of neighborhoods, and neighborhoods are the building-blocks of communities.

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August 2011



## CPPW

Communities Putting Prevention to Work (CPPW) is a national initiative of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The goal is to prevent or reduce the spread of obesity and related diseases by increasing opportunities for improved nutrition and active living. The method is implementation of policy, systems and environmental change. Pima County was one of 44 communities nationwide to receive funding for the CPPW grant, part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

CPPW is being developed and administered by the Pima County Health Department, in partnership with Activate Tucson, a coalition advocating healthy eating and active living.

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A resident's garden on Bellevue street.

"A safe neighborhood in the heart of Tucson where a diverse and engaged community cultivates a beautiful environment within easy access to urban services."

Above quotes the neighborhood mission statement.

# **Communities Putting Prevention to Work**

The CPPW grant (Communities Putting Prevention to Work) has identified the Garden District as an area where participating teams can provide environmental design interventions that provide spaces for safe physical activity and healthy food production.<sup>1</sup>

For this project, the Drachman Institute worked with Pro Neighborhoods, an organization that helps "grassroots groups to build on the assets of their communities."<sup>2</sup> Pro neighborhoods will facilitate each neighborhood in its focus with a grant of up to \$6000 for a project that meets the goals of the grant.

Within each neighborhood a "connector" has been identified. Julie Zapolski, the Garden District's connector and coordinator is an active neighborhood resident committed to improving the community's environment. Julie works to bring consensus among neighborhood stakeholders and to prioritize the needs and wants neighborhood members relating to improving exercise and health.

Through this work we hope to help residents determine how to:

- Create safe and shady places in the neighborhood for exercise and recreation.
- Make sure kids can safely walk or bike to school.
- Add gardens and markets to increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables.
- Provide convenient, affordable alternatives to fast food.

# **Neighborhood Plan**

In 2008 graduate and undergraduate students from the University of Arizona Department worked with the neighborhood association and other members of the community to create a strategic plan for the Garden District neighborhood.

The *Midtown Garden District Neighborhood Plan* provides the neighborhood with a document that describes the vision statement of the neighborhood and provide a Plan of Action. The plan was created, "to assist residents of the Midtown Garden District Neighborhood in making decisions about the future of their community." Below are the Areas of Action described in the plan.

- Aesthetics and Quality of Life
- Circulation
- Safety
- Neighborhood Involvement
- Neighborhood Resources

Goals laid out in the document are in agreement with the visioning meetings that were held for this project.

<sup>1</sup> http://www.healthypima.org/AboutUs/NeighborhoodsTeam.aspx <sup>2</sup> http://www.proneighborhoods.org/



A recently installed community garden on Bell street. The garden was named the *Garden District's Garden Districts* or *GD2* by property owner Brad Holland.

# **The Garden District**

The Garden District Neighborhood is a centrally located, culturally diverse neighborhood in Tucson. Because of its location residents are close to many destinations providing opportunities for biking and walking. It is adjacent to several other neighborhoods as shown below. The community has a strong neighborhood association that works to engage its residents helping make the Garden District a more beautiful, safe, resource rich place to live.





# **Time Line**

Mid-1940s and -50s Most development takes place **1954** John B. Wright Elementary School on Linden Street opens **1974** Tucson Botanical Gardens opens **1995** Midtown Neighborhood Association founded **2006** Martha Cooper Branch Library opens

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The Garden District is bordered on the north by Grant Road, Speedway Boulevard to the south, Swan Road on the east, and Alvernon Way on the west. Pima Street running north and south and Columbus Boulevard running east and west divide the neighborhood into four quadrants.

The neighborhood is home to several churches and day care centers. On the northwest edge of the neighborhood lies the Tucson International Alliance of Refugee Communities (TIARC), an organization that helps integrate into the community and advocate for refugees.

Several points of interest are valuable resources to the neighborhood. These neighborhood 'gems' (as residents call them) are the Tucson Botanical Gardens, Martha Cooper Branch Library and Learning Center, and the John B. Wright Elementary School.





Four quadrants of the Garden District are divided by Pima and Columbus.

# **The Garden District**

#### **Four Quadrants**

Four quadrants are generally recognized within the neighborhood.

**Northwest** The northwest quadrant is the least dense with primarily low and medium density (R-1, R-2) housing with most occupants owning their homes. The Tucson Botanical Gardens are in this quadrant at 2150 North Alvernon Way. Fry's Food and Drug Store on the northeast corner is the largest commercial establishment and second most visited grocery store in the area according to survey results from Pro Neighborhoods.

**Northeast** The northeast quadrant is primarily medium density housing (R-2, R-3). Businesses here include medical and dental. Though not in the neighborhood, the southwest corner of Grant and Alvernon is home to Trader Joe's, the third most visited grocery store in the area, again according to survey results. John B. Wright Elementary School is on Columbus between Seneca and Lester. This diverse school has approximately 24 languages spoken at it due to the significant refugee population in the neighborhood. The percentage of the student population on the free and reduced lunch program is 98%. In 2010 only ten students were not living below the poverty line.

**Southwest** The southwest quadrant is zoned mostly for medium density (R-2). Though most of this area is renter occupied there are several small patches of owner occupied homes (along Louis and along Bellevue). Bellevue, one street north of Speedway, has several traffic circles and curb extensions which beautify the street and help calm traffic. Several large privately owned vacant lots in the area may provide opportunities for the community.

**Southeast** The southeast quadrant is predominantly renter occupied living in multi-family housing units. Sunflower Market in the southeast corner at Speedway and Swan and is the most visited grocery store in the neighborhood. Martha Cooper library is a valuable asset within this quadrant offering classes and meeting space for residents.

#### Population Characteristics compared to Pima County and U.S. population

- Slightly younger
- Live in smaller houses
- Have smaller families
- Have lower incomes
- Are more Hispanic
- Are more likely to speak a language other than English

#### Ethnic Diversity at Wright Elementary School

- Black or African American, 15.2
- Hispanic, 48.6
- Native American 5.9
- Asian American 12.0
- Multi-Racial, 2.3

# **Neighborhood Walkability**

Three grocery stores, the library and elementary school are within walking distance for many Garden District residents. In addition, the large arterial streets that border the neighborhood are lined with approximately 175 public destinations.

A proposal for a linear greenway has been developed for the north side of Pima between Alvernon and Columbus, but has not yet been implemented. One of the goals of this project is to increase pedestrian safety on the frontage road.

There are many streets that encourage speeding and discourage pedestrian and bicycle activity. Many have lanes that are 18 feet wide where 12 feet would be sufficient. Improving public safety through beautifying streets and traffic calming measures will help to create a more pedestrian friendly and livable community.

#### **Food Access**

Food stores are within walking distance for many neighborhood residents. This presents the opportunity to enhance routes to these stores and encourage walking.

## **Open Space**

The Tucson Botanical Gardens is the only designated open space within the Garden District. The garden, however requires a fee to enter and does not offer recreation opportunities.

Martha Cooper library has a large lawn where children can play as well as undeveloped land on site. Original plans for the library included an education garden which has been put on hold for budgetary reasons and because it is felt that the space is needed for additional parking.

A joint-use agreement with TUSD and the City of Tucson makes the school grounds at Wright elementary available to the public after school hours. Play equipment is near the entry gate on the west side of the school.





The gate to Wright School was built with money from a Back to Basics grant.





# Circulation

#### **Busing**

There are at least five full-service routes and three express routes in the neighborhood. Roads with public bus service provided by SunTran are Grant, Speedway, Pima and Columbus. Residents have expressed a need for shade structures at the stops along these routes. Covered bus stops are a part of the proposed Pima greenway on the north side.

## Biking

The neighborhood has six bikes routes with striped shoulders. These are Grant, Speedway, Alvernon, Swan, Pima and Columbus. Two bikeable streets with 30 mph max are Ralph, Catalina and Lee. Under the Grant Road Improvement Project a pedestrian activated light will be placed at Ralph and Grant. While helping bike riders, this will also benefit residents on the north side of Grant with children attending Wright elementary school.

The Pima Association of Government's Tucson Bike Boulevards Map (August 2010) show Seneca and Fairmount as proposed bike boulevards running east and west. Belvedere, a wide street running north and south with a 25 mph speed limit provides an opportunity for both biking and walking. (Crossings at Pima and Grant will need to be investigated and bikes may need to be diverted for safe crossings.)

Unfortunately the city does not stripe residential streets so to slow traffic and make the street a friendlier place for bikes and pedestrians traffic calming measures such as median islands, curb extensions and traffic circles would need to be added. Painting intersections may help calm traffic and are a community building effort that could be done in the interim when looking and waiting for funding for more expensive solutions.



Bike route on Columbus.

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# **Land Use**

## **Housing characteristics**

The Garden District has 6,144 housing units. 8% of housing units are vacant, compared to about 10% in Pima County. 29% of the housing units in the Garden District are owner occupied, 71% are renter-occupied.

These images show a variety of housing styles within the neighborhood.



Home W. Bryant



Home on Madelyn



Home on Sycamore and Fremont



Home on Justin



Typical ranch style home

Home on North east of Walnut

#### Single Family Housing



#### Multi-Family Housing

Mobile Homes



# Land Use



Tuscany Apts., Pima and Catalina



Apartment complex



Casa Linda townhomes on Lee



Cata-Lee Apts, Catalina and Lee



E GRANT RD

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Mobile Homes



Venice Village mobile homes

# Land Use

## **Commercial Destinations**

There are approximately 175 commercial or public access destinations in Garden District. The top 3 of greatest proportions are:

- 1. Other service (salon, lawyer, laundry), 55 or 33%
- 2. Other retail (card shop, video rental, florist, etc), 45 or 26%
- 3. Health and Human Services, 20 or 11%



Little Angels Learning Centers



Molina's Midway Restaurant



Office buildings near Swan



Sandyi Oriental Market

#### Commercial



# Land Use

#### **Unused and Vacant Land**

Within the Garden District there are areas of unused and vacant land. Most of these are privately owned parcels. Opportunities for these lots include purchase for open space or infill for needed housing. Many residents see these lots as an opportunity for open space that includes areas of play for neighborhood children. The map (right) shows some of these open lots. Also shown on the map are several city well sites.





# Neighborhood Concerns and Opportunities

Neighborhood concerns include lack of night lighting, walking paths and sidewalks. Residents would like to see hot exposed routes have more trees, parks, playgrounds, and seating areas with benches.

Opportunities listed here are from the Garden District Baseline Profiling, Feb. 21, 2011. These are in agreement with the three areas of focus determined at the second Visioning Meeting on June, 25, 2011. See Appendix pp 46–48.

#### **Opportunities from Baseline Profile**

- 1. Martha Cooper Library
  - Utilize lot space and run-off water to start a garden
- 2. Wright Elementary School
  - Make it look more welcoming
  - Improve the landscaping
  - Clean up the litter
- 3. Basketball Hoops
  - Install them within eye sight of parents
- 4. Community Garden or Stand
  - Establish with sustainability in mind
- 5. Sunflower Market is within walking distance
- 6. Lighting
  - Bollard lights to improve safety without the high intensity
- 7. Parks
- 8. Vacant Lots
  - Contact owners and see if they could be utilized for gardens
- 9. Assist the community to connect more with one another

#### **Areas of focus from Visioning Meetings**

- 1. Shaded walking Paths
- 2. Play areas for kids in all quadrants
- 3. Community nodes for exercise

Walking Paths Pedestrian Friendly Streets Community Nodes



# **Walking Paths**

## **Botanical Gardens to Martha Cooper Library**

A walking path between the Tucson Botanical Gardens and Martha Cooper Library has been a neighborhood topic for some time. This walking route could easily extend across the entire neighborhood on to Sunflower Market, a well visited grocery store in the southeast corner. This route could then be connected to all quadrants of the neighborhood.





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## Directions

- From Botanical Gardens turn south and continue along east side of Alvernon.
- 2 Enhance existing crosswalk on Justin to cross to south side.
- 3 Cross Justin to Linden. Keep on south side. To get to Wright use crosswalks. Consider adding raised table crosswalk.
- 4 Continue along west side of Columbus past the neighborhood mural (see drawing at left.)
- 5 Cross at the Columbus/Pima light to the south side of Pima then cross again and head east along the south side of Pima. (See page 21 for intersection improvements.)
- **6** Turn south on Catalina staying on the west side of the street. Cross Lee to get to the Library.
- 7 To get to Sunflower Market continue south on Catalina. At Bellevue turn east, cross Belvedere then turn south crossing Bellevue. Sunflower is on the west side of Belvedere.



**Tree Retrofit** J-shaped berm See Brad Lancaster's *Rainwater Harvesting for Drylands and Beyond*, chapter 9.



- —— Existing bike routes
- 💻 💻 Possible pedestrian/bike path
- 💻 💻 Proposed bike boulevard
- 🛑 🛑 Proposed greenway
  - Speed bump
- O Traffic Circle
- O Island/Bumpout
- Existing pedestrian lights
- Grant Rd. Project pedestrian lights

**Tree retrofit** 

Trees in the northwest quadrant have been planted along part of this proposed route, but may not be taking advantage of water harvesting opportunities. In these cases, trees may be retrofitted so that water runoff is directed towards the root zone. Care should be taken not to disturb roots.

## **Additional Walking Routes**

Neighborhood residents would like walking routes in all quadrants. Interest was also expressed in having nodes for exercise along these routes. Again, consider employing traffic calming techniques at intersections.



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## **Bulletin Boards**

Along walking routes well placed bulletin boards may announce neighborhood events. Message boards may be made by a neighborhood artist or designed by students at Wright elementary school. Boards should be placed in each quadrant. Possible locations are:

- GD2 Garden
- Martha Cooper Library
- Fairmount and Walnut intersection
- Justin and Village intersection

## Intersections

The intersection at Fairmount and Catalina along with other intersections on proposed walking routes may be calmed and beautified with shade trees, speed tables, curb extensions and traffic circles making walking more enjoyable. Water harvesting techniques include basins in the right of way which help irrigate vegetation and define the paths and the traffic circle which captures street runoff and calms traffic.



Typical intersections such as this one at Fairmount and Catalina may be transformed with shade trees and traffic calming measures as seen in the rendering at right.



Bulletin board



This bulletin board and bench were made by a resident artist. This piece is both functional and serves as public art.





Residents of Jefferson Park neighborhood planting in a newly installed traffic circle.



A chicane or curb extension helps slow traffic and collects street runoff in Rincon Heights neighborhood.

# **Pedestrian Friendly Streets**

Traffic calming or slowing of traffic will make people feel safer and more comfortable when walking along roadways. Making streets narrower can help slow traffic and can be achieved in several ways. Here are several ways to calm traffic in your neighborhood.

## **Traffic Circles**

The citizen or the neighborhood association contacts the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP), City of Tucson Traffic Engineering Division at (520) 791-4259 for information. NTMP will mail information along with the petition forms for the neighborhood residents to sign. 60% of the area residents must approve the project and sign the petition before a study is performed. After a study is completed, a traffic circle could be a recommendation if speeding is a problem. Residents are responsible for the cost of installing traffic circles which, at this writing, will cost approximately \$6,000 each.

## **Curb Extensions or Chicanes**

Chicanes are extension of the curb into the street which both calm traffic and take advantage of street runoff for irrigation. Chicanes work best on crested streets (higher in the middle) that drain water towards the curb. Watershed Management Group has extensive information on its website about their design and placement. See Appendix p. 49.

Where curb extensions are not applicable, basins in right of ways can create a buffer between the street and pedestrians. These may or may not have curb openings in them to harvest water from the street.

## Medians

Medians here will mean a small divider in the middle of the road that helps to slow traffic. Elm street just east of Campbell demonstrates the effectiveness of curb extensions paired with medians. See below.



A basin in the right of way with a curb core or opening to allow in street runoff at Salpoint high.

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## **Art Projects**

Sculpture on roadsides and in traffic circles can help beautify a street and slow traffic when drivers slow down to admire! Artist designed street furniture and bike racks will help identify the neighborhood or particular place (such as the library or community garden) and foster pride and ownership among residents. Art projects can be an individual's project or a group effort that involves community members to come together for a common cause. Mentioned earlier, painting intersections may calm traffic, are community building but are not permanent.

The Tucson Arts Brigade Tucson Mural Arts Program works with communities to create works of art involving residents of all ages in the design and painting of murals. Murals are requested through a Community Mural Application Process which can be found on their website. See page 49.

## Sidewalks

Sidewalks make it easier for pedestrians to walk but can also be costly to install. In areas where sidewalks are not an option paths lined with rock that are maintained by residents can help define the route.

## **Bike Education**

Workshops that educate children and adults on safe bike practices can help create confident, safe riders who also know how to fix a flat tire. Community classes may be held by the neighborhood or there may be a traveling bike station that meets at certain places at certain times. Bicas a nonprofit organization in Tucson may be solicited for classes. See page 49.

## **Speed Tables**

Speed tables that serve as crosswalks help slow traffic and provide safer crossing for pedestrians by being raised and brightly marked.



Residents of Dunbar Springs paint an intersection.



An artful sidewalk and rock placement on Mountain Ave.



Kha Dang pedals a traveling bike station helping educate and providing services for riders of all ages.



A speed table and crosswalk. Notice that the street is also narrower at this point.



A curved path and basins define up the right of way near Salpoint highschool.

#### **Putting it Together**

Columbus and Pima divide the neighborhood into its four quadrants. Improvements to the intersection will help give the neighborhood its identity at its heart. Enhanced corners might have a Garden District sign or art announcing the area. A raised table in the intersection will serve as a crosswalk and help calm traffic. This is an optional spot for signage helping direct pedestrians on their route through the neighborhood. If sidewalks are not in the budget or unavailable, dirt paths can be defined with rocks and/or basins.







Far left: a typical 15' back of curb with two rows of trees and a meandering path. A median in the center of the street helps calm traffic.

Left: A typical 8' back of curb with trees and dirt path. Plantings should take advantage of rainwater runoff.

Above: A section showing tree lined path and median.

## **Street Profiles**

Before planning planted curb extensions determine where the water is flowing so that plants can take advantage of stormwater runoff. The guidebook also has information on retrofitting parking lots for more shade.



Crowned streets are higher in the center meaning water runoff flows to either side.



Reverse crowned streets are lower in the center meaning water runoff flows towards the middle of the street.



Side shed streets are higher on one side draining water towards the other.

# **Community Nodes**

Community nodes are spaces for the neighborhood! They can offer education, play and socializing opportunities or just a shady resting area.

Within the Garden District a main area of concern is the lack of play areas for children in all quadrants. Though residents have offered space on their property for children to play, they do not want to be responsible for injuries that may occur. Under current laws the property owner is liable.

Look for opportunities to creating spaces right of ways. City well property, churches and other establishments may present opportunities.



Right of ways like this one on Seneca and Catalina might be transformed into a shady seating area.

## Alleys

City owned alley ways provide opportunities for walking, murals and gathering space near the entrances. Care must be taken not to block access for utility and garbage vehicles to enter and pass through if needed.



1 An alley between Walnut and Desmond is already being used as a walking route.

2 The wall in the image below is a blank canvas waiting for a mural!

3 Jerrie Boulevard, a dirt road that dead ends in the middle from both the north and south may serve as an alley type node where residents can gather and children can play.



The Fifth Avenue Greenway, is between Waverly and Linden Streets in Tucson.









A strip of unused land near 1161-1167 Catalina, near Bellevue could become a play space. Property owner would need to contacted for agreement.



**Tucson Water Well** 

### Vacant Land

There are many lots within the Garden District that are vacant; however, they are privately owned. While many of these sites are ideal for parks and playgrounds it may be very expensive and time consuming for the neighborhood to achieve. Also, though owners may agree to joint use with the neighborhood—as happened with the community garden site—the responsibility of being liable may become an issue for many owners. The Garden District's strategic plan (2008) lists vacant land lots on page 88.

## **City of Tucson Lots**

Several City of Tucson owned lots are city wells that have space which could accommodate play and gathering space. Though the city prefers that these properties remain only for their intended use, careful planning may demonstrate that joint use is possible. Concerns are that too much vegetation may block city access. To discuss further please contact Joe Huerstel at 850-3431.



## **Natural Play Spaces**

Below shows how space behind the city well B-050A at 4526 Linden may look as a play and gathering area. Play spaces for children can be simple without large, expensive play structures. Consider using natural materials like boulders, logs, sand, plants, etc. of different sizes and textures.





Behind the city well site on Linden.



A balancing maze could be made from recycled lumber.



A wooden ramada kit. http://www.swramada.com/kits.html



Casa Linda townhomes



Apartments on Bellevue

Walking path with shade trees and water harvesting basins. An exercise station and/or seating could be added to right of way space.

#### **Apartment Complexes**

Working with apartment complexes to add trees to parking lots and grounds is an opportunity to enhance outdoor spaces. Safely placed shaded areas will create outdoor spaces for residents and areas for children to play. Multifamily housing complexes in the Garden District are listed in the Garden District strategic plan on page 104. Of note are the Tuscany Apartments at 4399 East Pima Street, who have expressed interest in having trees planted on site.

An approximately 25' between the Tuscany apartment building and the street could be enhanced with trees and seating. Drainage of Catalina moves north east making street runoff difficult to capture, however basins may capture roof water and water that simply falls on site.



## Martha Cooper Library

In 2007 The Garden District received a Planning and Design Service award and used the grant to develop conceptual plans for a Learning Garden at the Martha Cooper Library.

This is currently on hold as a result of Pima County, who runs the library, deciding it may convert the area into a parking lot. While more parking may be needed there is certainly room for both additional parking and a learning garden.

The drawing below show the efforts by the community to develop a plan for a learning garden at the Martha Cooper Library. An additional conference room would reduce the size of the garden shown below but still provide plenty of space.





21 additional parking spaces still allows room for a garden on west side of the Library.

While losing the creosote on the west side of the site is unfortunate, it may be necessary to accommodate both parking and the planned garden developed by the community.

### **A Few Potential Spots**

The map below show just some of the potential areas that may be enhanced.



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# **Site Choices**





#### Tree plantings are planned for:

- 1 4156 N. Pima
- 2 4226 E. Pima
- 3972-3975 E. Lee
- 4 1513 N. Sycamore
- 5 1540 N. Desmond
- 6 4140-4144 E. Lee
- 7 1161 N. Catalina
- 8 4067 E. Bellevue
- 9 4077 E. Bellevue
- 10 1335 N. Walnut

#### SHAPE

The Garden District SHAPE Plan consists of engaging neighbors by planting native street trees and small shrubs in City right of way, utilizing active and passive water harvesting techniques for plant sustainability; developing clear walking paths; and implementing an interactive play area for small children. SHAPE is an

#### acronym for: Shade Helps All People Exercise.

Improvements are proposed for the southwest and southeast quadrants of the Garden District. Improvements are to encourage walking, exercise and social gathering spaces within the Garden District.

Materials for project completion include work gloves, shovels, soil mix, fertilizer, garden watering hose(s), vegetation (trees and native shrubs), soil stabilizing materials, gravel for pathways, exercise/play materials, and promotional material to inform residents about upcoming work groups.

#### **Improvement Areas**

Volunteers from the Garden District will gather this fall, beginning in mid October, to install 30 native trees/shrubs and to disperse gravel delineating a pathway. Soil stabilizing materials will be used, where necessary, to stabilize slopes and prevent soil erosion at planting basins.

Concrete sidewalks are sporadic in the Garden District. Through the SHAPE Project we plan to extend walkable paths in the right of way by clearing debris, leveling a 3'-4' wide path and spreading gravel to designate a pathway edge. A gravel pathway is delineated on Pima Street from Sycamore to Justin.



#### **TREE PLANTINGS**













PRO and Gary Wittwer

# **Notes and Resources**

Appendix 39



velvet mesquite



yellow bells



globe mallow



deer grass



chuparosa

# **Recommended Plant Materials**

The plant list below consists of mostly native plants. Native plants are well adapted to Sonoran desert conditions of extreme heat and low precipitation. In addition the use of native plants will serve as habitat for native birds, lizards and other wildlife.

All plants will need irrigation after being planted (except for some of the cactus) though many will be able to survive on Tucson's natural rainwater and can be weaned off irrigation after several years. It is important that a maintenance plan be put in place to monitor and care for plants to ensure their survival.

The following list is meant to serve as a guide and can be modified as needed.

#### **Trees**

desert willow Chilopsis ironwood Olneya tesota blue palo verde Parkinsonia florida velvet mesquite Prosopis velutina

#### Large Shrubs

fourwing saltbrush Atriplex canescens hopbush Dodonea angustifolia creosote Larrea tridentata Texas ranger Leucophyllum frutescens wolfberry Lycium sp. jojoba Simmondsia chinensis yellow bells Tecoma stans graythorn Zizyphus obtusifolia

#### **Medium and small Shrubs**

triangle leaf bursage Abrosia deltoidea fairy duster Calliandra eriophylla bush dalea Dalea pulchra turpentine bush Ericameria laricifolia brittlebush Encelia farinosa desert senna Senna covesii globe mallow Sphaeralcea ambigua

#### **Cactus and Succulents**

golden-flowered agave Agave chrysantha Parry's agave Agave Parryi shindagger Agave schottii saguaro Carnegiea gigantea staghorn cholla Cylindropuntia versicolor desert spoon Dasylirion wheeleri hedgehog cactus Echinocereus fasciculatus fishhook barrel Ferocactus wislizeni ocotillo Fouquieria splendens Engelmann prickly pear Opuntia engelmannii purple prickly pear Opuntia santa rita beargrass Nolina microcarpa banana yucca Yucca baccata soaptree yucca Yucca elata

#### Grasses

sideoats grama Bouteloua curtipendula bull grass Muhlenbergia emersleyi deer grass Muhlenbergia rigens alkali sacaton Sporobolus airoides

## Plants for Bird and Butterfly Gardens

butterfly mist Ageratum corymbosum desert honeysuckle Anisacanthus thurberi baja fairyduster Calliandra californica brittlebush Encelia farinosa gooding verbena Glandularia gooddingii chuparosa Justicia californica Parry's penstemon Penstemon parryi Mexican sunflower Tithonia fruticosa

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# **Streets**

## **Streets Profiles**

Before planning planted curb extensions determine where the water is flowing so that plants can take advantage of stormwater runoff. The following are from the San Mateo County Sustainable Green Streets and Parking Lots Design Guidebook which may be downloaded at http://www.flowstobay.org/ms\_sustainable\_streets.php. The guidebook also has information on retrofitting parking lots for more shade.



Crowned streets are higher in the center meaning water runoff flows to either side.



Reverse crowned streets are lower in the center meaning water runoff flows towards the middle of the street.



Side shed streets are higher on one side draining water towards the other.

# **Neighborhood Meetings**

#### Garden District Area of Wellness Committee, January 10, 2011

Members Present: Judith Anderson (Neighborhoods), Diana Olivares (Neighborhoods), Julie Zapolski (Connector), Lua Zawacki (Evaluation), Amy Wood (Built Environment), Leona Davis (Food Systems)

- 1. Julie identified successes, challenges, and opportunities for the Garden District.
  - A. **Successes:** Surveys have been distributed and should be complete by spring 2011. A short walking path with public art was recently created in the neighborhood.
  - B. **Challenges:** Some parts of this neighborhood have been heavily invested in, others, specifically the NE quadrant, have not. A "teaching garden" at the Martha Cooper library was designed as part of a previous neighborhood grant, but has not been implemented due to lack of funding and/or potential expanded parking into garden area. Bellevue St., which runs parallel to Speedway, is very wide and often used as a "frontage road to Speedway," and lacks sidewalks.
  - C. **Opportunities:** There are many vacant lots that neighbors have expressed interest in creating community gardens in, however ownership of these lands and liability involved raises questions. The Wright Elementary school in the neighborhood (which also has a Head Start program) is one of the few in Tucson available for joint use. However, Julie expressed a serious lack of maintenance on the school grounds, she does not know any neighbors who bring their kids there to play.

#### 2. Commitments

- A. **Neighborhoods team:** Can assist in setting up public meetings at the Martha Cooper library. Can also connect with the HHS/Faith Based team about getting the Christian Faith Center and other churches involved. Judith can approach the Alvernon/Grant Initiative about involving businesses. PRO also suggests a walking tour with neighbors and cameras, to photograph vacant potential garden sites.
- B. **Built Environment Team:** Amy mentioned reaching out to the refugee organization TIARC on the north edge of the neighborhood, and the Vietnamese Cultural Center. She will look into the status of a pedestrian pathway designed for the neighborhood in 2001, but not yet implemented.
- C. **Evaluation:** This team has nearly completed the Area Profile for this area, which was shared with the connector. The Evaluation team can help administer surveys, and clarified that completed surveys can be turned in one-by-one, do not need to be in one bunch.
- D. **Food Systems:** Can assist with installation workshops for a garden at Martha Cooper or vacant lot, if this opportunity becomes available. Can provide garden/ food system and resources/ healthy eating presentations at house meetings. Leona will be giving a public "Urban Farming" presentation at the Martha Cooper library on March 22, 5:00-6:30 p.m.

## Visioning Meeting, May 17, 2011

CHILDREN'S PLAY AREAS

- Hundreds of children in this neighborhood—need to nurture them all
- Wright has joint-use agreement but is limiting access to playground ( p.m. to sundown)
- Neighborhood Watch
- Increase/improve recreation venues, including Wright
- Plan to improve playground
- Create nearby safe play areas in all quadrants Wright is too far for some children to get to
- Empty lots
- Pocket parks
- Triple lot (1900 block on Catalina)
- Catalina & Waverly
- Park near Wright
- Get artists to work with kids, mural projects/classes
- Artwork on Belvedere

#### TRAFFIC CONTROL

- Street striping (pedestrian/bikes)
- Pima St.
- No sidewalk on south side
- Pedestrian refuge
- No crosswalks or any kind of traffic control

#### GREENING/SHADE

- Water harvesting for trees already planted throughout neighborhood
- Complete something at the library (plans are already done)

#### COMMUNITY BUILDING

- What are other communities doing?
- Community bulletin board in each quadrant
- Showing website
- Already have one in community garden
- "Meet me at Martha's" [Martha Cooper Library], takeoff of Meet me at Maynard's downtown
- · Co-op with businesses who are offering discounts

#### BEAUTIFICATION/QUALITY OF LIFE

- Graffiti cleaners
- Film treated signs (TDOT)

## Visioning Meeting, June 25, 2011 (Sticky Wall Summary)

- SHADE / LANDSCAPING / PARKS :
- More trees for shade [2]
- Street trees—Ralph, Seneca, many others
- Trees for Tucson planting
- Native plants
- Pocket parks
- Garden pockets (rest & shade & plants)
- Wright School park: add landscaping & seating to make it people-friendly
- Splash park
- Capitalize on non-auto + family use of Columbus Road
- Tar removal areas
- Permeable lot west of Martha Cooper-no paving!

#### WALKING\_PATHS

- Walking path(s) [3 cards]
- Permeable walking path at Wright
- Exercise walking path
- Pedestrian/bike paths
- Bike path
- Lend a Bike project
- Wayfinding signage along paths (to Riverwalk, etc)
- Dog poop baggies on posts along walking paths

#### EXERCISE / PLAY NODES

- Exercise areas under shade
- Exercise nodes
- Basketball courts for kids who live in apartments
- Community equipment / ball bag for sports
- Exercise/play node locations
- Fairmount & walnut (SW)
- Bryant S of Pima (SW)
- Tuscany Apartments (Catalina/Lester)

#### COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

- Neighborhood walk for clean-ups
- Clean up along streets
- Graffiti Team (to report to See Click Fix website)
- Meet me at Martha's events with local businesses
- 44 Garden District—APPENDIX

# Resources

#### Watershed Management Group

PO Box 65953, Tucson, AZ 85728 Phone: 520.396.3266 Website: http://www.watershedmg.org/ Contact: Lisa Shipek, Executive Director, lisa@watershedmg.orgm, 520.270.4242

#### ProNeighborhoods

738 N. 5th Ave. Suite 101, Tucson, AZ 85705 Phone: 520.882.5885 Fax: 520.207.8654 Website: http://www.proneighborhoods.org/index.php Contact: Judith Anderson, Consultant, 520.882.5885 ext: 302

#### **Trees for Tucson**

Website: http://www.ci.tucson.az.us/tcb/tft/ Contact: Rani Olson, Program Coordinator, tft@tucsonaz. gov, 520.791.3109

#### Trees Please!

Website: http://www.aztreesplease.org/index.html

#### **Community Food Bank**

11734 West Grier Road, Marana, Arizona 85653 Phone: 520.682.3001 Website: http://communityfoodbank.com/ Contact: Robert Ojeda, rojeda@communityfoodbank.org 520.622.0525, cell: 520.873.7404

#### **Playworld Systems**

Playworld Systems, Inc. 1000 Buffalo Road Lewisburg, PA 17837-9795 USA Phone 800.233.8404 Website: http://playworldsystems.com/ Info: : info@PlayworldSystems.com

#### Sonoran Desert Mueseum

(Outdoor Education Programs, Ecology Gardens) Website: http://desertmuseum.org/

#### **Tucson Botanical Gardens**

2150 N. Alvernon Way, Tucson, Arizona 85712 Website: http://www.tucsonbotanical.org/ Phone: 520.326.9686

#### **Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society**

(Funding for Cactus and Succulents) Website: http://tucsoncactus.org/

#### Lowes

(Funding Source) Website: http://www.toolboxforeducation.com/

#### Saguaro National Park

(First Bloom Gardens, Funding, Outdoor Education) Website: http://www.nationalparks.org/npf-at-work/ourprograms/apply-grants-programs/

#### **Desert Survivors Nursery**

(Outdoor Education Programs, Ecology Gardens) Website: http://www.desertsurvivors.org/Nursery. html

#### Native Seed Search

Website: http://www.nativeseeds.org/

#### Tucson Rain Jar Project

(Water harvesting Projects) Website: http://www.rainjars.org/Home.html

#### National Garden Association (Funding source) Website: http://assoc.garden.org/

#### **Tucson Arts Brigade**

Phone: 520.791.9359 Website: http://www.tucsonartsbrigade.org/murals. html

#### **Bicas** Website: http://bicas.org/

#### Pima County Neighborhood Reinvestment Program

Website: http://www.pima.gov/ced/CDNC/ Contact: Leslie Nixon, Program Manager, 520.243.6769

Administered through the Neighborhood Reinvestment Program of the office of Community Development and Neighborhood Conservation on behalf of the Pima County Board of Supervisors. The program goal is to promote stability and revitalize stressed communities through the funding of small capital improvement projects selected through a community consensus process.

#### **Back to Basics Grant**

Community Services Department Phone: 520.791.4605 Website: http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/hcd/back-tobasics-guide

Available through local City Ward Office. The program goal is to revitalize and stabilize neighborhoods with the most serious needs for basic improvement while developing partnerships among neighborhoods, Ward and City offices, and local businesses. Common uses are street paving, sidewalks, street lights, traffic calming, parks and streetscapes, bike and pedestrian paths, drainage improvements, and bus shelters.

#### **Midtown Ward Six**

3202 East 1st Street Tucson, Arizona 85716 Council Member Steve Kozachik Phone: (520) 791-4601 Fax: (520) 791-3211 Email: ward6@tucsonaz.gov Website: http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/wardsix

# **Credits**

All images by Maria Voris unless otherwise noted.

Cover: http://altbuildblog.blogspot.com/2010/04/tucson-botanical-gardens.html; Pages 9–13 maps: Drachman Institute; Page 13, bottom right: http://www.flickr.com/photos/zenmasterkha/3721641110/in/set-72157621162043603; Page 22 top left: Thomas Staudt, Page 23, bottom left: http://www.flickr.com/photos/zenmasterkha/sets/72157621162043603/, bottom middle: http://www.newhavensafestreets.org/2010/12/speed-table-and-curb-extensions-coming.html, top right: from the Dunbar Spring Neighborhood Traffic Calming, Water Harvesting and Street Beautification Project;

Page 24–25: Drachman Institute; Page 26, top right Drachman Image Library, bottom left: Drachman image library; bottom right: Drachman Image Library; Page 27 top right: http://www.westernskycommunications.com/blog/tag/tucson/; Page 28: bottom left: http://www.azwater.gov/azdwr/WaterManagement/AMAs/TucsonAMA/2008XeriscapeContestWinners\_000.htm , top right: http:// playgrounddesigns.blogspot.com/2009/01/natural-playgrounds-summary.html; bottom right: http://playgrounddesigns.blogspot.com/2009/01/natural-playgrounds-summary.html; bottom right: http://playgrounddesigns.blogspot.com/2009\_03\_01\_ archive.html, bottom right: http://www.swramada.com/kits.html; Page 31: upper right: Norris Design; bottom right: http://www.asla. org/awards/2008/08winners/117.html, middle: Martha Cooper Learning Garden, Pro Neighborhoods Community Project; Page 39: from San Mateo County Sustainable Green Streets and Parking Lots Design Guidebook

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# Notes