

COMMUNITY RENEWAL

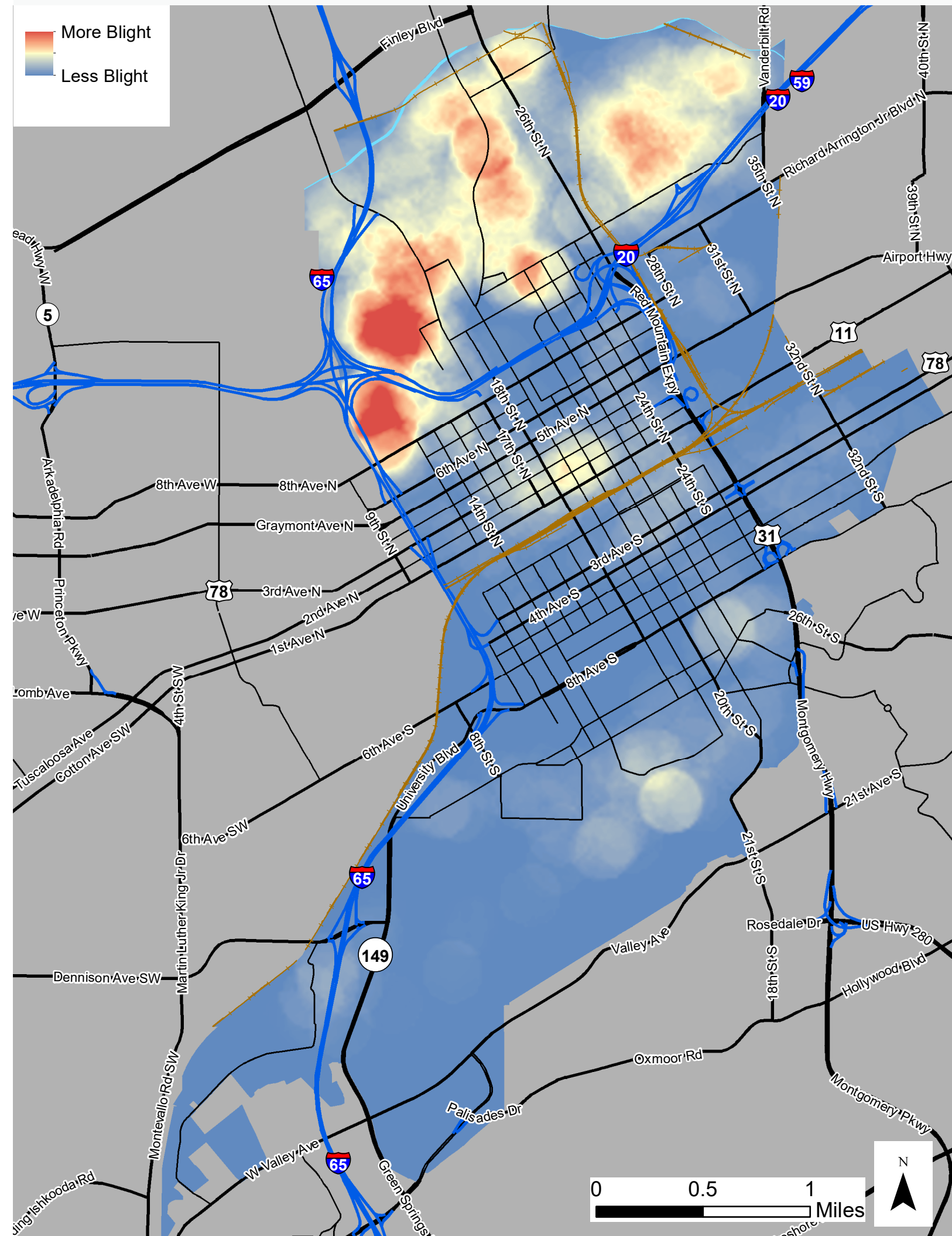
The Community Renewal chapter for this plan involves a variety of issues affecting the Northside Southside Area such as housing, blight, and crime. Although these issues may seem disparate, they collectively affect the quality of life for those within the community. Solutions to these issues will involve many overlapping partners, strategies, and actions. For instance, reducing the perception of crime can attract new residents and businesses which can bring additional investments to the area. Implementing an action of one of the goals of this chapter inevitably eases the implementation of another goal's actions. Some of these goals may require a number of easier, more immediately implementable actions to be met first to pave the way for more far-reaching outcomes to become possible.

This chapter outlines ways to improve the physical character and definition of the City, along with strategies and programs needed to streamline code enforcement and enhance safety and security of residents.

KEY

- Presence of blighted homes and lots
- Lack of code enforcement and absentee landlords
- Excessive homelessness, panhandling, and loitering in commercial districts
- Desire for additional police officers to ensure the on-going safety and security of residents
- Under performing public K-12 education system

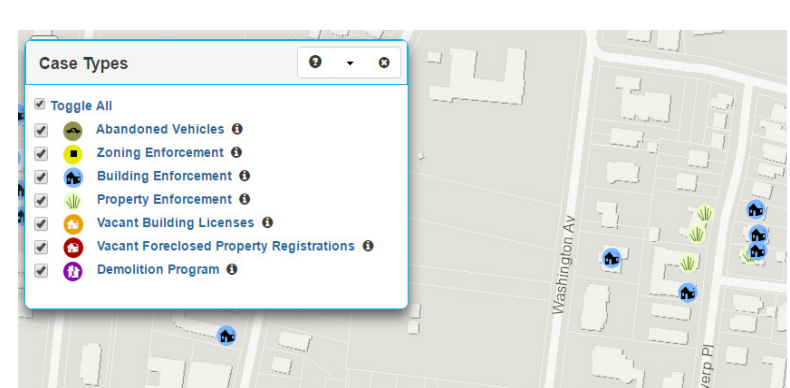
Concentrations of Existing Blight



1 Identify and reduce blight.

- Improve property condition collection and code enforcement efforts
- Renovate and clean up blighted properties
- Acquire and dispose of tax delinquent properties
- Prevent illegal dumping in environmentally sensitive areas and remediate illegal dumping sites

Create City policies and programs to reduce blight



Create an online database for residents to look up property information and report code violations



Create a vacant property registration ordinance to improve code enforcement and fine absentee landlords

BIG IDEA:

During the public involvement process, residents expressed a strong interest in having access to tools for various home improvement, remodeling and repair, gardening, and landscaping projects. Establishing a "Tool Lending Library" (TLL) would allow residents to borrow various tools, the same way they would borrow a book or DVD from a public library (See Atlanta Community ToolBank's [website](#)).



Expand the Senior Services Division of Birmingham to include services for property maintenance

3 Ensure the physical well-being of residents is improved.

- Increase awareness of the City's existing support services and programs pertaining to childcare, financial training, substance abuse, homelessness, domestic violence and food kitchens
- Encourage an active lifestyle for residents by converting vacant land into parks and accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists by constructing additional sidewalks, greenways, and bicycle facilities. Prioritize repairing existing sidewalks.
- Facilitate the retention and development of grocery stores, neighborhood-based markets, farmers markets, and community gardens.

Convert vacant land with informed partners



Encourage additional grocery options



Educate homeowners about common code violations



Create a code enforcement guide and distribute it to citizens

4 Provide high quality housing options for a variety of income and household sizes.

- Improve the quality of existing housing by enforcing current building codes, reducing blight, and providing rehabilitation and maintenance assistance to residents.
- Support the development of affordable housing units through government incentive programs and public private partnerships.

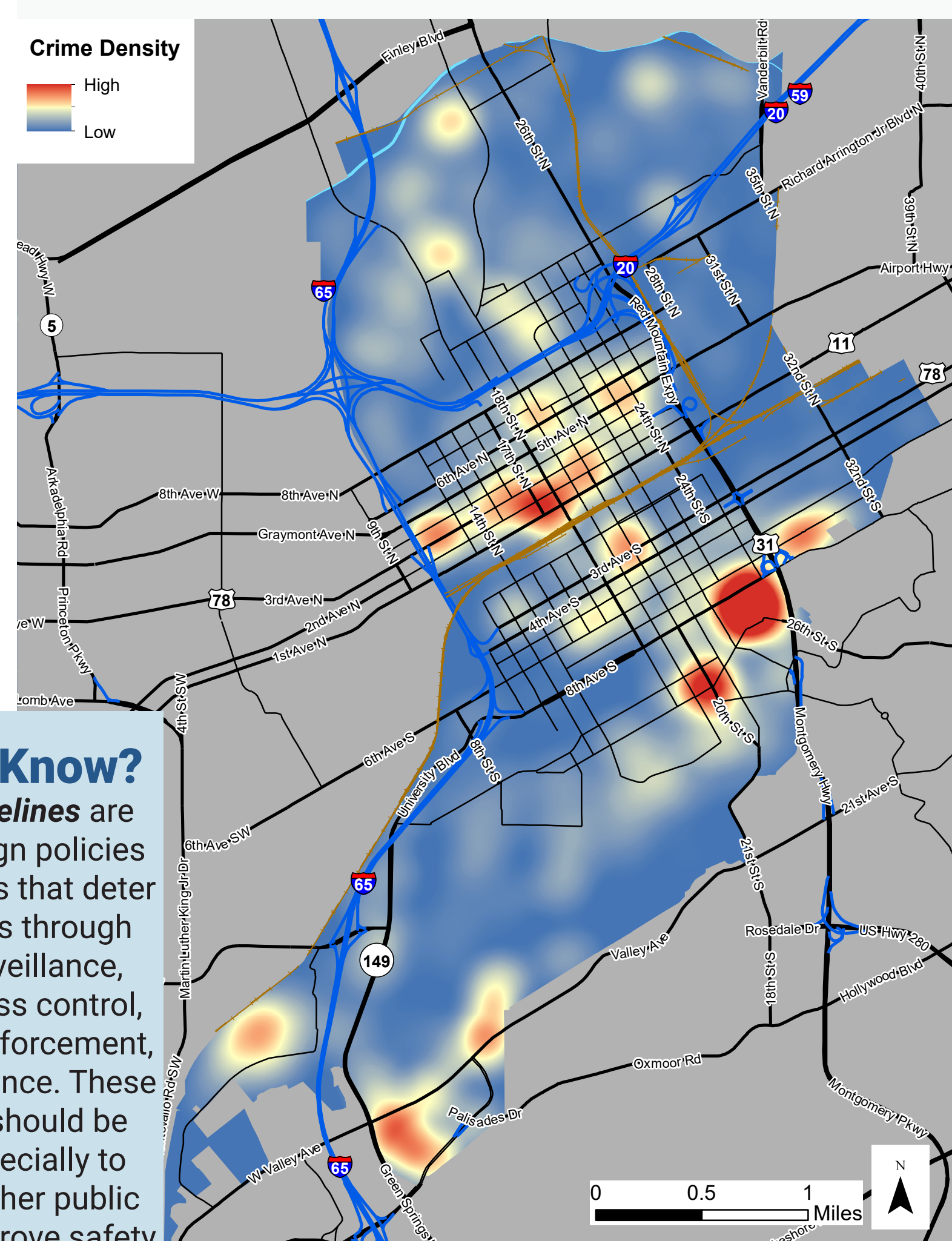
Provide a variety of housing types



2 Ensure the safety of the communities

- Create and promote neighborhood watches and new neighborhood programs. Ensure a safer built environment by:
 - Implementing Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Guidelines (CPTED) and increase lighting in neighborhoods
 - Dedicate additional police patrols in crime hot spots
 - Enforce existing codes and ordinances – leash law, noise ordinance, communal living ordinance

Concentrations of Crime



Did You Know?
CPTED guidelines are a set of design policies and strategies that deter criminal acts through natural surveillance, natural access control, territorial reinforcement, and maintenance. These guidelines should be applied especially to parks and other public spaces to improve safety.



5 Improve citizen involvement in their communities and establish new partnerships.

- Form partnerships with various groups and establish a point of contact for each partnership

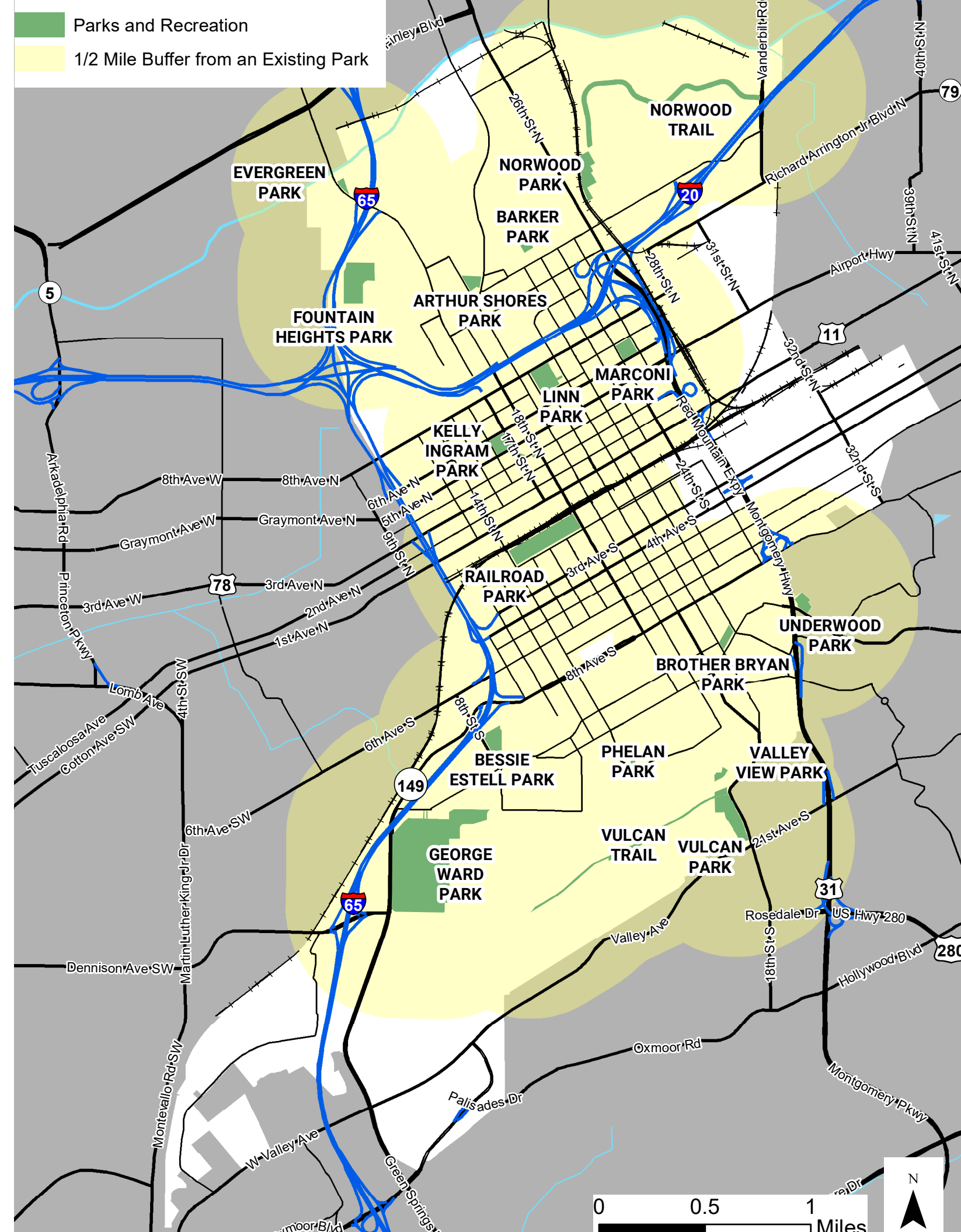
GREEN SYSTEMS

The Northside Southside Area has a variety of green system elements that serve the surrounding residents, as well as attract a regional audience. This chapter highlights the needs, opportunities, and related actions regarding parks, open space, natural resources and systems, as well as stormwater management for the Northside Southside Area.

KEY

- Several neighborhood parks are poorly maintained and need a maintenance strategy
- Lack of police patrols and lighting in parks has led to an increase in criminal activity in some neighborhood parks
- Lack of trails and sidewalk connections to parks and public spaces
- Antiquated stormwater infrastructure

Existing Parks and Recreation



1 Recreational opportunities are within a 10-minute walk of every resident.

- Maintain and enhance existing parks and recreational facilities by dedicating adequate funding for park maintenance and capital improvements.
- The City should consider establishing a Parks and Recreation Board with governing policies to ensure that quality leisure service programs, parks, and open space are provided. The plan provides maintenance recommendations for the following parks and public spaces:
 - Bessie Estell Park
 - Brother Bryan Park
 - Valley View Park
 - George Ward Park
 - Vulcan Park and Trail
 - Norwood Park
 - Norwood Community Center and Boulevard
 - Fountain Heights Community Center and Park
 - Marconi Park
 - Arthur Shores Park

Did You Know?

During the public outreach phase of this plan, stakeholders identified the following recreational needs:

- Additional dog parks and inclusive playgrounds
- Support existing plans and studies including UAB's Dragon Fly Park, the Five Points Alliance's Parks Master Plan, and the Norwood Master Plan
- Explore the feasibility of building a recreation center in Druid Hills

George Ward Park



Brother Bryan Park



Kelly Ingram Park

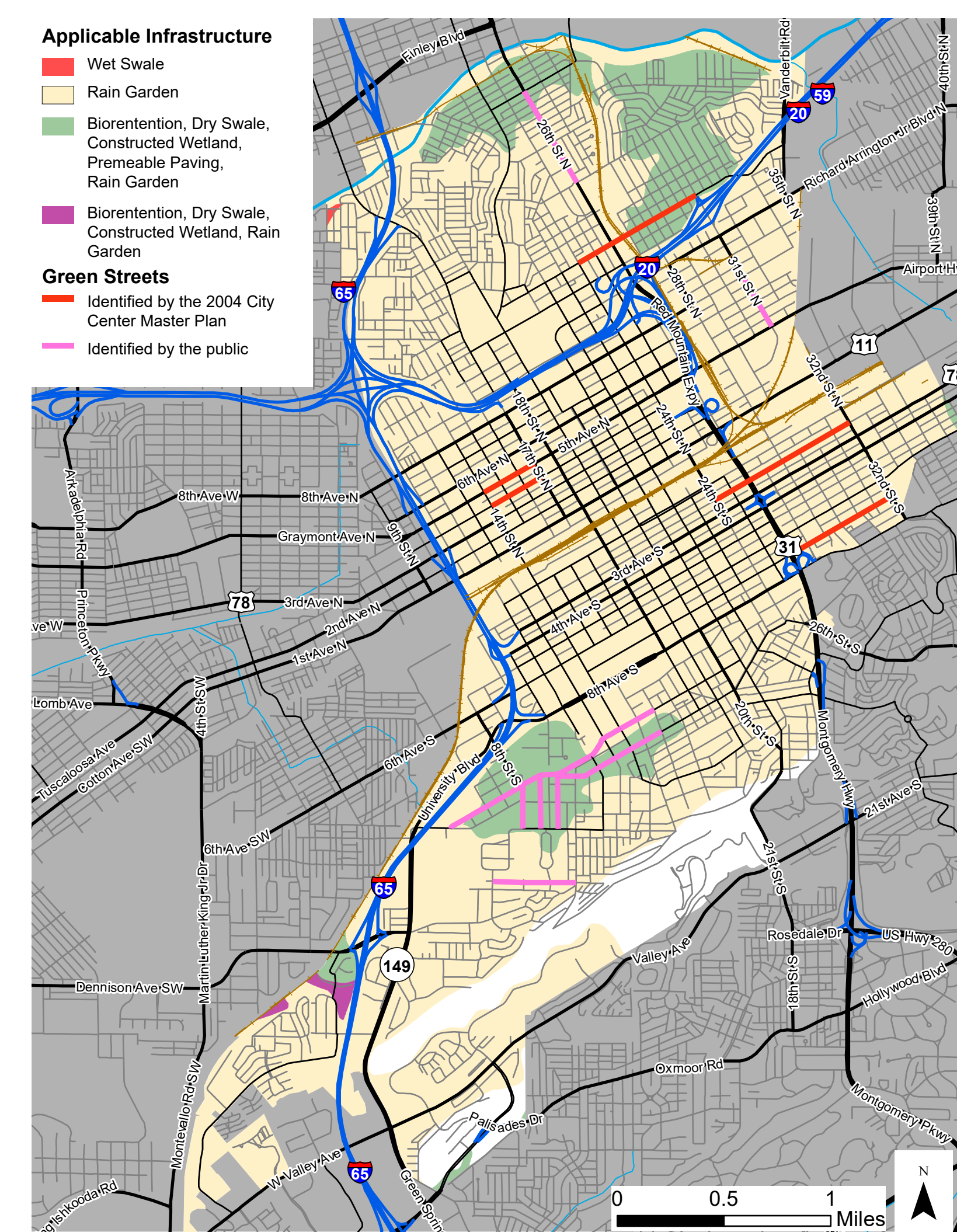


Linn Park



- To ensure the safety of residents, adopt Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principals for the design of parks, greenways, and recreational facilities.
- Expand Recreational opportunities for residents by acquiring blighted and flood-prone properties to expand recreational opportunities for residents to create neighborhood open spaces, pocket parks, greenways, community gardens, and urban forests.

Areas Appropriate for Green Infrastructure



Did You Know?

Low-impact development (LID) & Best management practices (BMPs) are green systems that reduce non-point source pollution, reduce water bills, decrease the effects of erosion and lessen the load on existing sewer systems - saving residents, developers and tax payers money!

2 Improve the ecological health of the Northside Southside Area's natural systems through enhanced stormwater management and flood mitigation techniques.

- Incorporate green systems (rain gardens, bioswales, bioretention, pervious paving, green streets) into city policy to support stormwater management and mitigate flooding.
- Develop a system of green streets to help manage stormwater. The following streets have been identified:
 - 2nd Ave S
 - 7th Ave S
 - 10th St S
 - 10th Pl S
 - 10th Ave S
 - 11th St S
 - 5th Ave N
 - 4th Ave N
 - 12th Ave N
 - 26th St N
- Continue to protect and mitigate Village creek by supporting policies and programs that ensure its preservation and importance to the community.

Green Street Example



Rain Garden



Bioretention

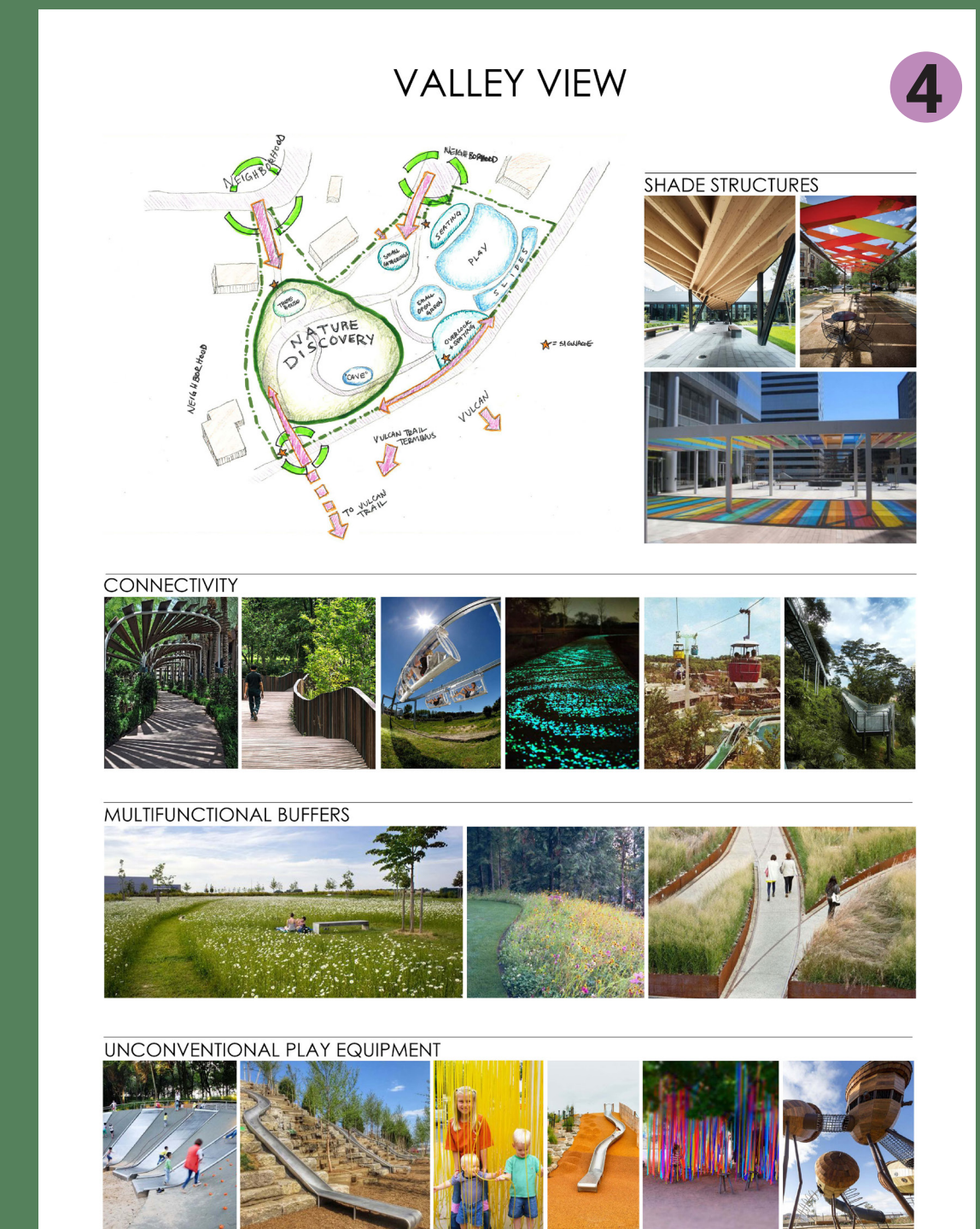
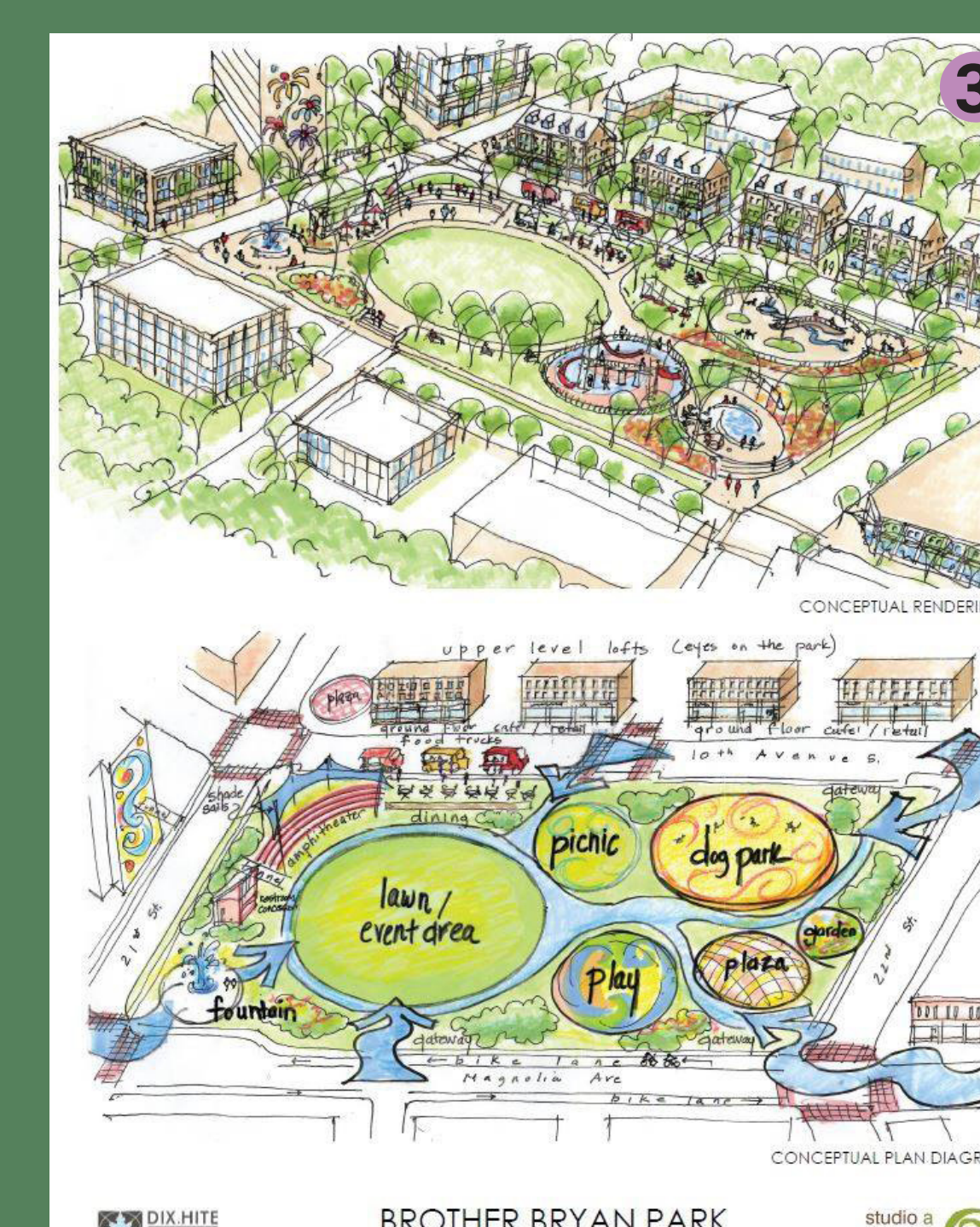
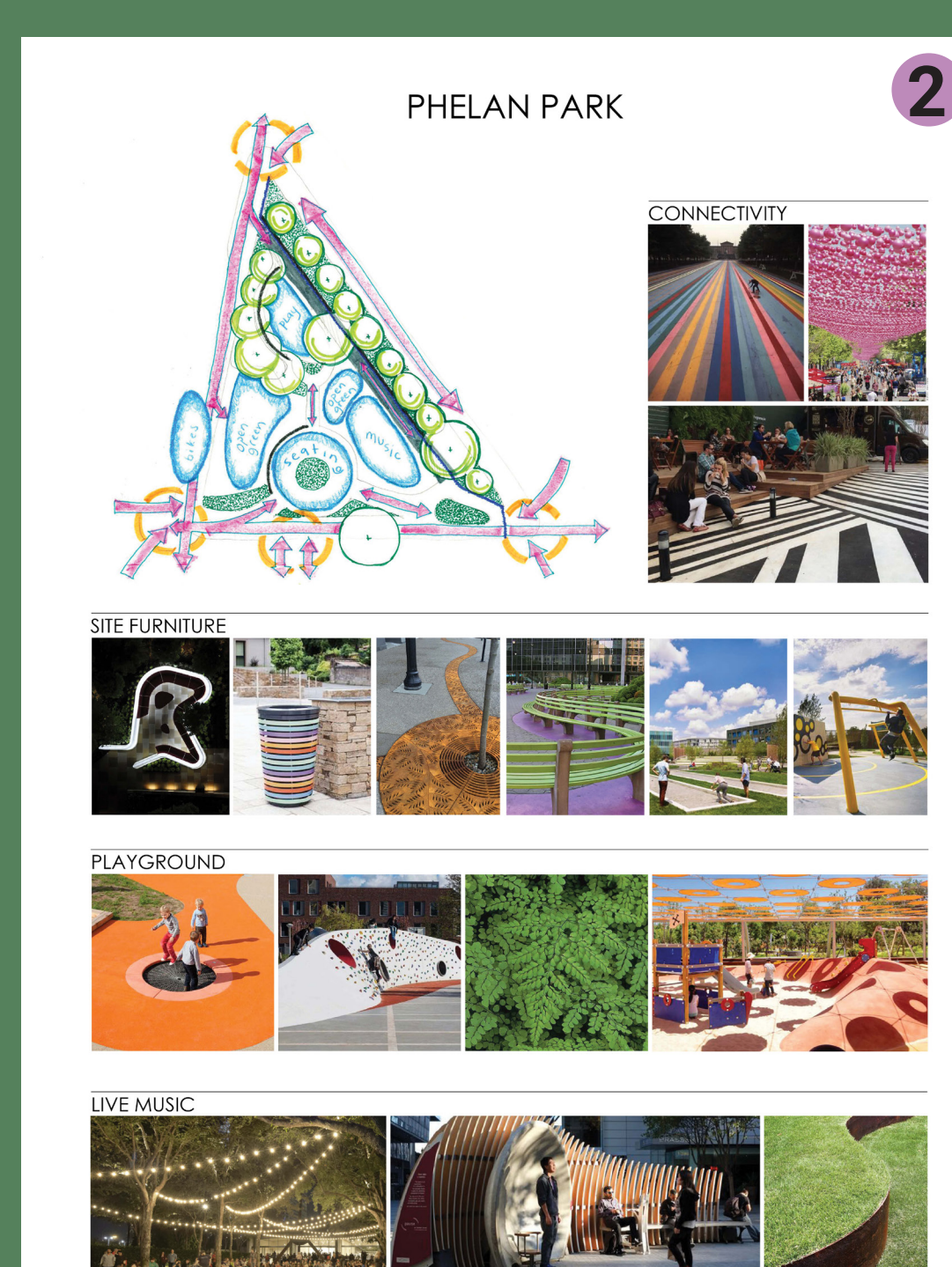
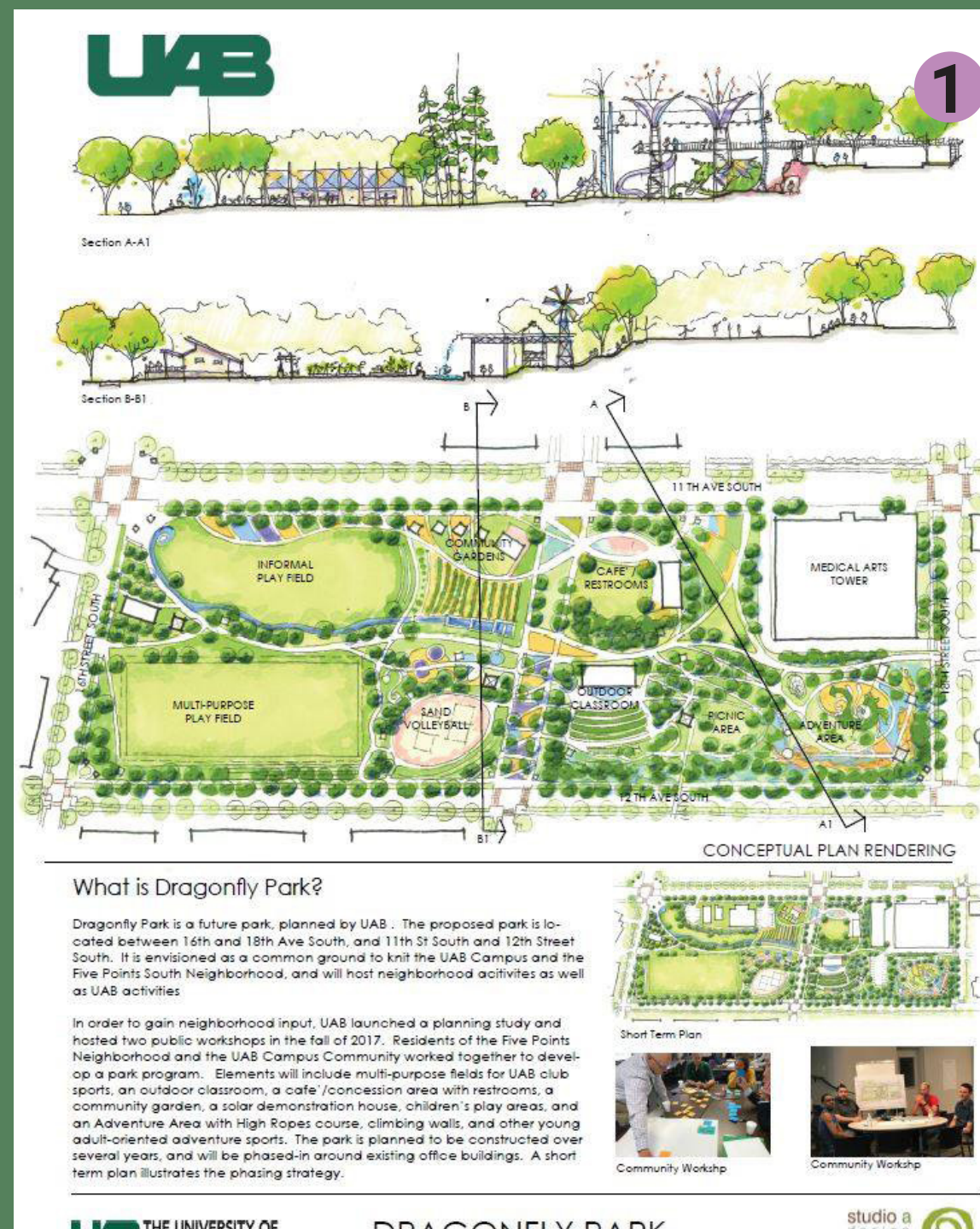
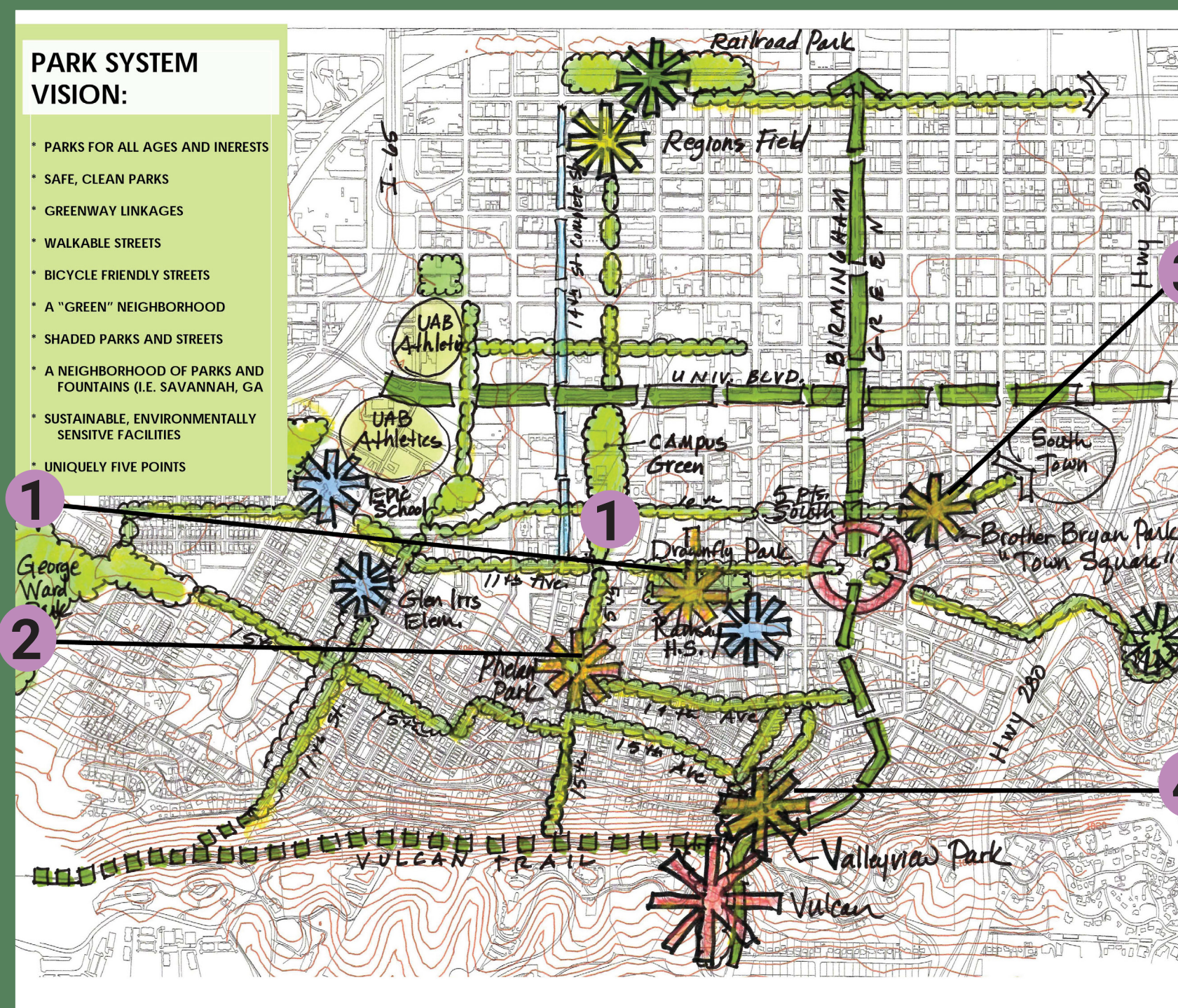


Did You Know?

LIDs & BMPs are components of green streets!

BIG IDEA:

Implement the Five Point South Parks Conceptual Master Plan



ECONOMIC VITALITY

Achieving economic vitality in the Northside Southside Area would mean adequate job opportunities, training for those jobs, an attractive and supportive retail market, and business attraction and retention. By following the recommendations in this chapter, the City, with assistance from its partners and the private sector, could attract new businesses and industries while also supporting existing businesses the Northside Southside Area.

KEY

- Additional grocery, retail and restaurant options are needed
- Downtown lacks an identity. The City should continue to improve Downtown's marketability through aesthetic improvements, wayfinding and branding
- Coordinated workforce and education development programs are lacking
- Birmingham City Schools need improvement - residents have submitted a number of complaints regarding the quality of K-12 education, decreasing graduation rates, and school condition

1 Create and maintain an award-winning educational system, both in the pre-k and k-12 systems and in higher education.

- Expand and promote resources to improve educational attainment. Continue to partner with local nonprofits to expand Pre-K and basic adult education programs.
- Develop pre-college education programs for students and continue to support the "Career Academies" at Birmingham City Schools.
- Develop professional development programs for teachers to help them meet the changing demands of the workplace.



4 Make government policies, programs, and processes related to business efficient, fair, and transparent.

- Establish procedures to make city interactions with businesses, including licensing, permitting and procurement, more user-friendly
- Improve the city's website to make business-related information more user-friendly



5 Support an economy with viable commercial, mixed-use, research, and retail development.

- Target priority sites for public infrastructure improvements – resurfacing, aesthetic improvements, wayfinding, provide additional branding assistance
- Improve transit service along commuting corridors and establish new stops in and around key destinations
- Address homelessness and panhandling in commercial areas
- Encourage, market and retain businesses that complement existing businesses
 - Support additional mixed-use development
 - Consider converting vacant office space to a higher and better use
 - Recruit additional entertainment, grocery, retail and shopping options



Did you Know?

The **Career Academies** initiative is Birmingham City Schools' innovative approach to preparing students for career and college success. Students are presented with a rigorous academic curriculum and provided access to business networks that prepare them to compete in the global economy. Located at six of the seven public high schools in the City, students can apply to the following academies: business and finance, engineering, health sciences, hospitality and tourism, urban educators, information technology, and architecture and construction.

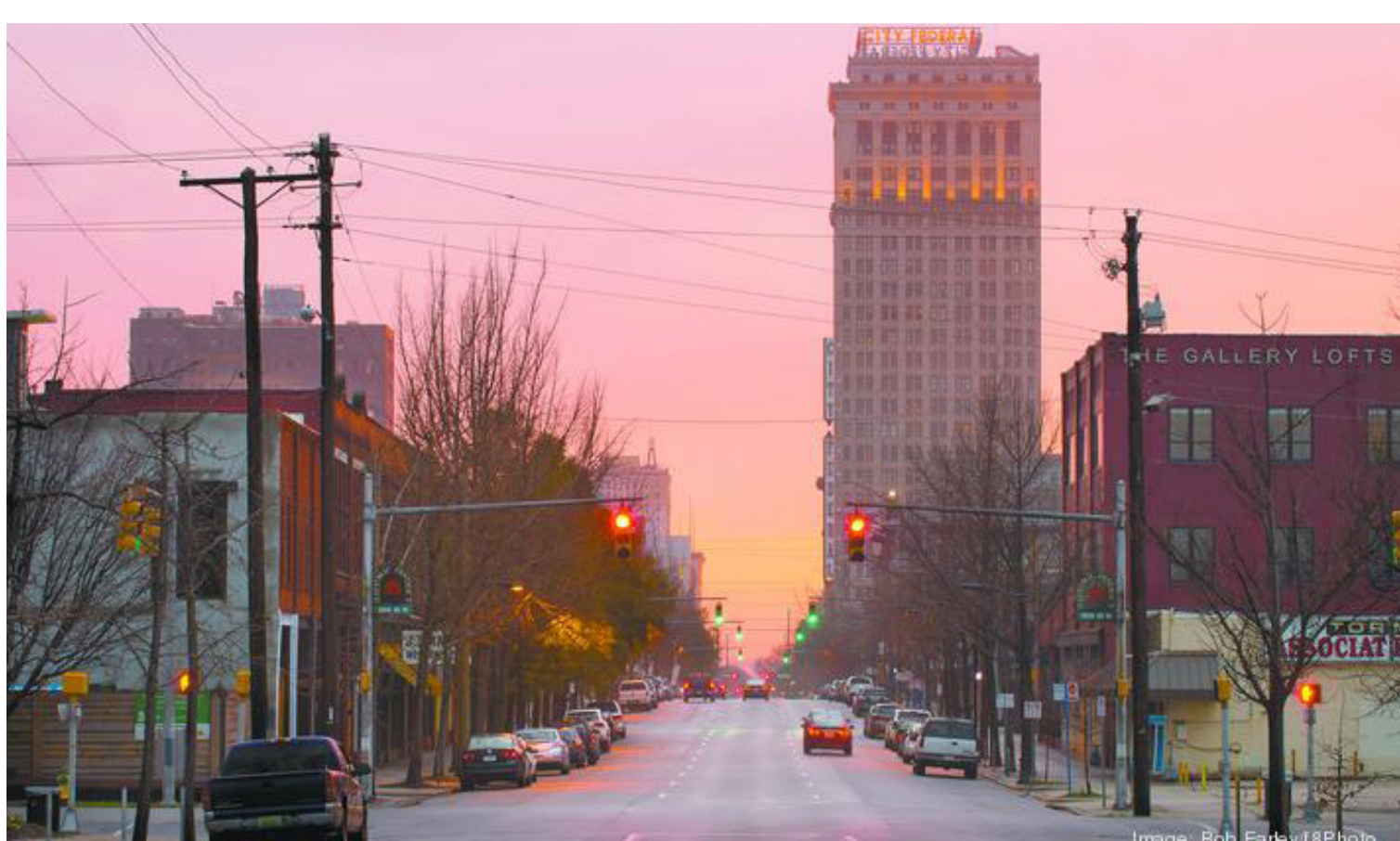
2 Education and workforce development resources are readily available to improve educational attainment.

- Support the existing workforce councils, expand co-op and alternative training opportunities for students, and continue to provide job readiness and training programs to residents
- Encourage students and adults to seek employment in advanced manufacturing, life science and biotech research, and IT sectors by connecting them to local initiatives

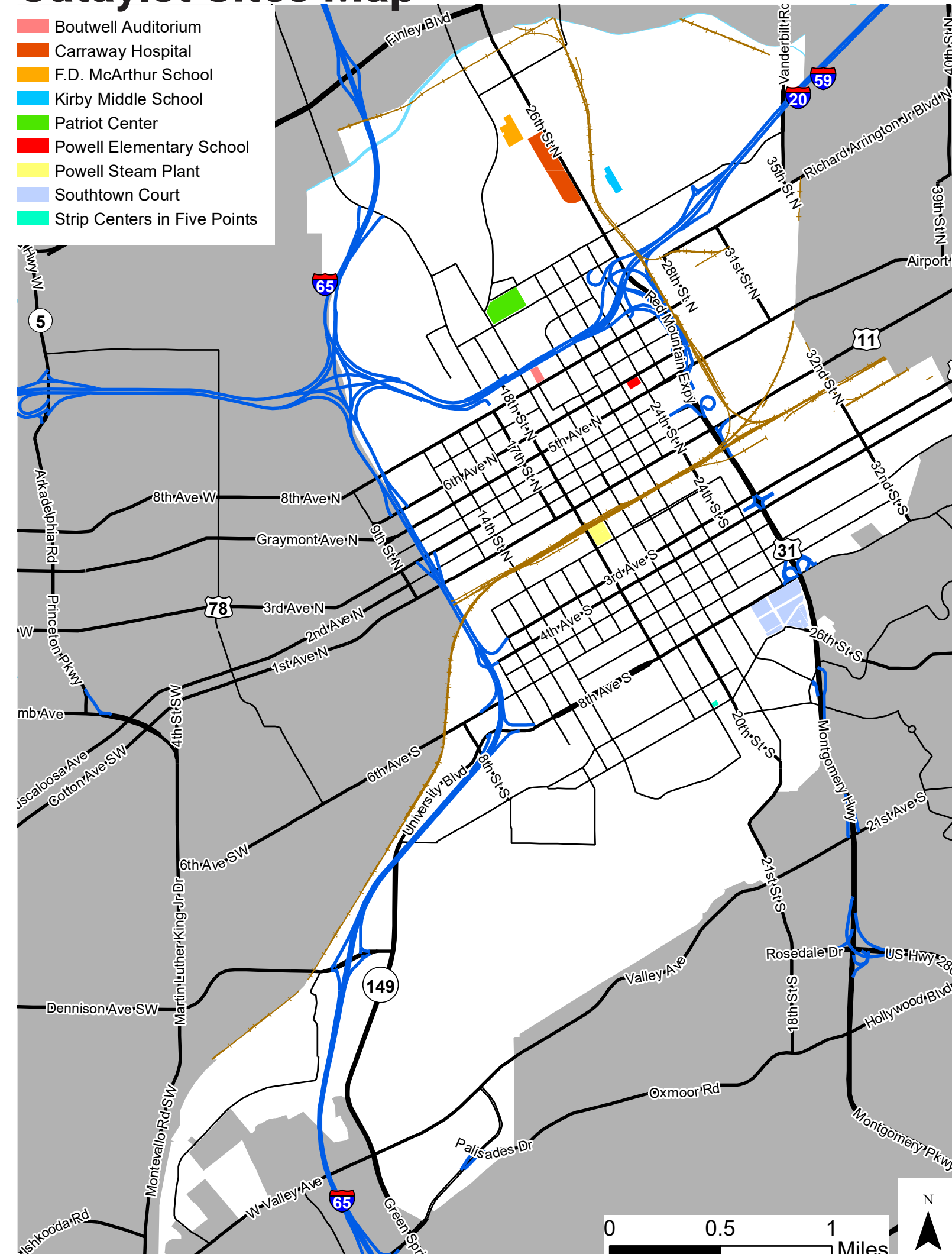


3 Support entrepreneurs, start-ups, and small businesses.

- Strengthen the network of entrepreneurial education and business assistance programs
- Develop initiatives that focus on retention of local college graduates to remain in the City
- Provide start-up help, training, technical assistance, gap financing, and other development tools to encourage reinvestment in the Northside Southside Area



Catalyst Sites Map



6 Utilize catalyst sites.

- Dispose of or reuse publicly owned sites such as the F.D. McArthur School, Powell Elementary School, and Kirby Middle School
- Prioritize the development of catalyst sites
 - **Northside sites** include the Boutwell Auditorium, the Building Trade towers, the Patriot Center, Carraway Hospital, the 12th Avenue North Corridor
 - **Southside sites** include Southtown Court, the Powell Steam Plant, the Sloss Industrial Arts District, and strip centers and surface parking lots in Five Points South

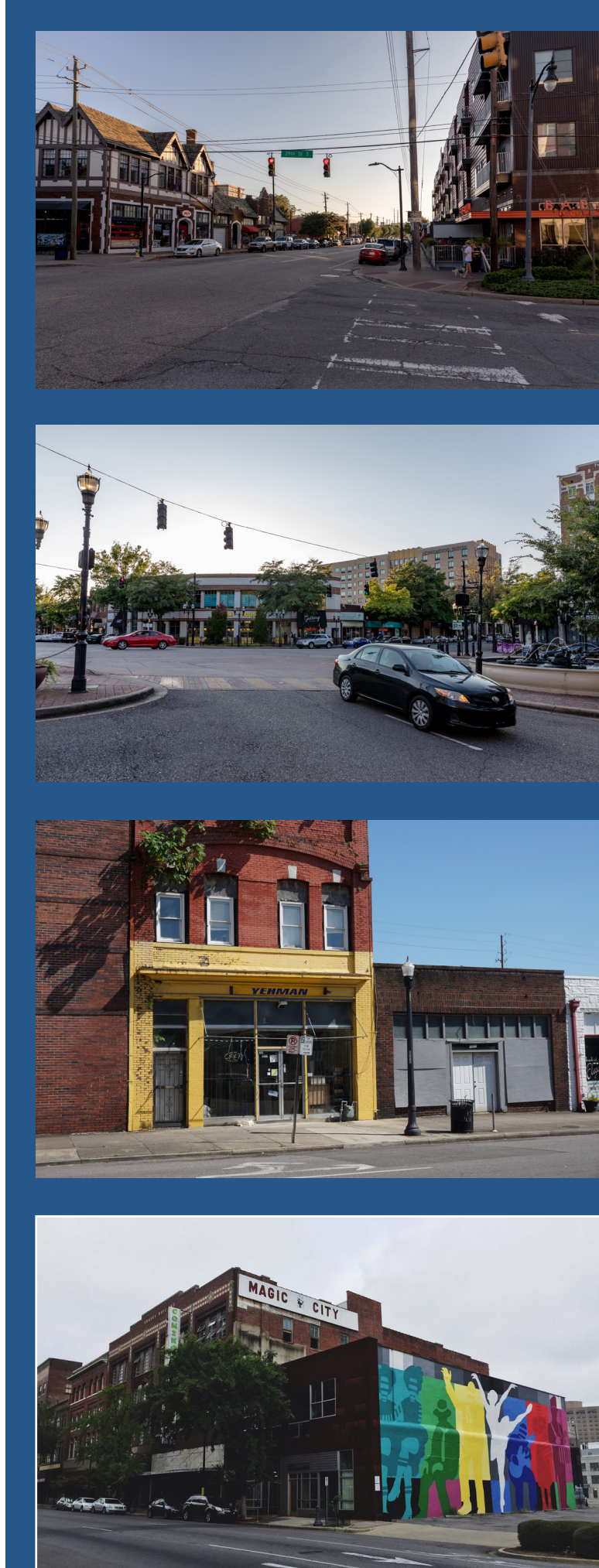
STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITY AREAS + CATALYST SITES/ AREAS

The Comprehensive Plan goes to great lengths to recommend the identification and prioritization of Strategic Opportunity Areas (SOA). The Comprehensive Plan (7.8) recommends areas as SOAs if they have "market potential, presence of employment centers, location in relation to current and future plans for transit improvements, momentum from existing activities, and good urban form." Because of their potential and impact on their surrounding communities, the Comprehensive Plan (7.12-7.16) recommends prioritizing transit-oriented development, economic incentives, and infrastructure in SOAs. This plan concurs and recommends several ways to make SOAs a priority, both in this chapter and in Appendix C: Strategic Opportunity Areas. The two SOAs for the Northside Southside Framework Plan are listed below.

- Northside Community - 12th Avenue North Corridor
- City Center Master Plan

In addition to the Northside Southside Framework Plan, an update to the 2004 City Center Master Plan is also underway. The City Center is a subarea of the Northside Southside Framework Plan addresses issues and opportunities specific to Downtown including land use, zoning, urban design, parking, connectivity, housing, retail, and office space. The Master Plan identifies the following catalyst areas:

- Civil Rights District
- Innovation District
- City Center Core
- Uptown
- Five Points South
- Lakeview



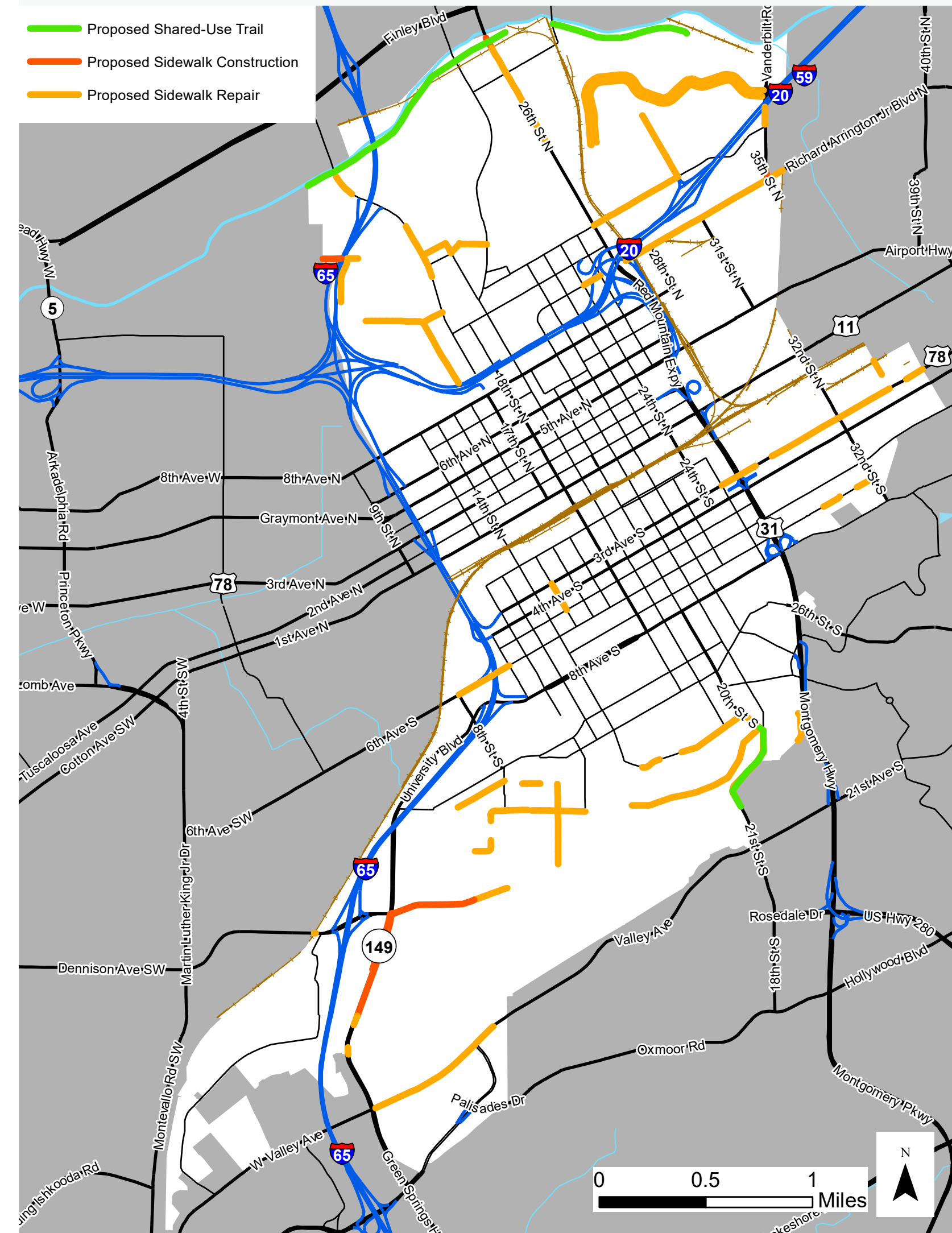
TRANSPORTATION + INFRASTRUCTURE

Transportation plays a critical role in the Northside Southside Area's quality of life, creating access to goods and services, education and opportunities, worship and recreation. Circulation patterns determine the quality of residential streets by affecting their safety and walkability. Efficient transportation connections have always been a precursor to growth and economic success. This chapter provides goals and recommended actions for addressing the Framework Area's transportation system deficiencies, and for improving overall travel conditions throughout the City.

KEY

- Needed improvements to sidewalk and bicycling facilities
- Inefficient parking management
- Dangerous streets and intersections - poor signal timing, additional pedestrian infrastructure needed
- Lack of funding for street resurfacing, landscaping, and bridge repairs
- Increased truck traffic

Potential New Sidewalks & Greenways



1 Provide a wide range of transportation choices.

- Utilize the complete streets ordinance to incrementally expand the multi-modal transportation network. Ensure that pedestrian, bicycle and trail facilities are interconnected
- Alleviate congestion at key bottlenecks by improving intersection design and traffic signal timing
- Consider developing a citywide truck management plan to better understand freight movement in the City and mitigate some of the issues that arise from heavy truck traffic, such as improper maneuvers and parking issues
- Continue to improve transit throughout the Northside Southside Area by supporting the development of the BRT, enhancing transit amenities and bus stops, and encouraging transit conducive development

2 Improve travel safety for all users.

- Recycle excess roadway capacity to construct additional bicycle facilities such as two-way cycle tracks and protected bike lanes
- Utilize the curb to activate the street with café seating, temporary pop-up parks, and green infrastructure
- Develop a valet services policy and permitting system

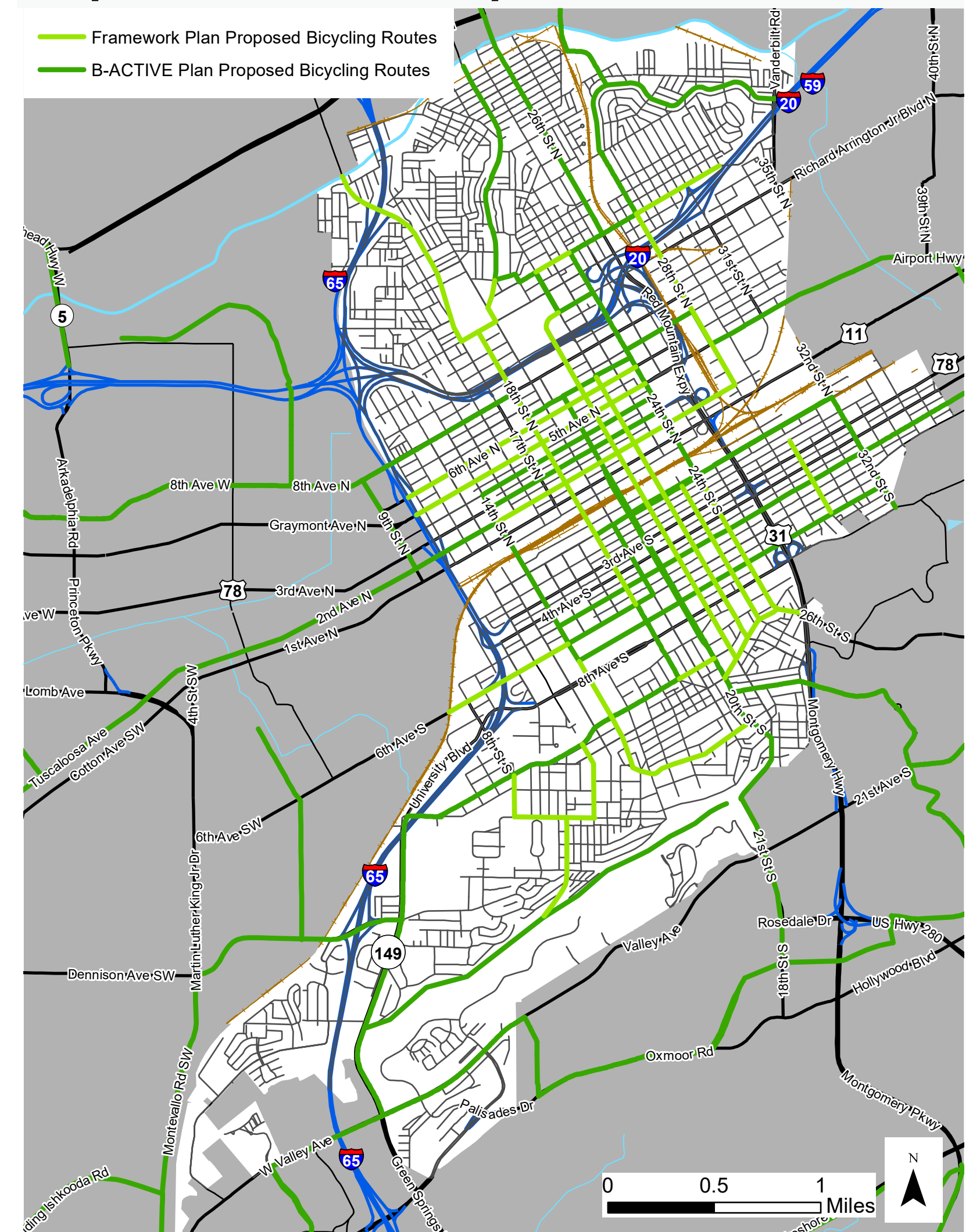
BIG IDEA

Develop a residential parking permit program for neighborhoods with limited supply.

A residential parking permit program is an effective tool to help secure adequate on-street parking for residents. With this program, the City would give or sell residents the right to the curbside parking in their neighborhood, as well as the ability to grant temporary parking permission to their guests. All other visitors would be strictly limited in how much time they could park in a given space or would be banned from that parking zone entirely during certain times of day. Permits could take the form of a car decal and could be obtained with by filling out a simple application at City Hall. Such programs can also encourage visitors to park in more appropriate locations, such as lots, garages or metered curbs that generate municipal revenue, all while reducing traffic circulating through the neighborhoods.



Proposed Active Transportation



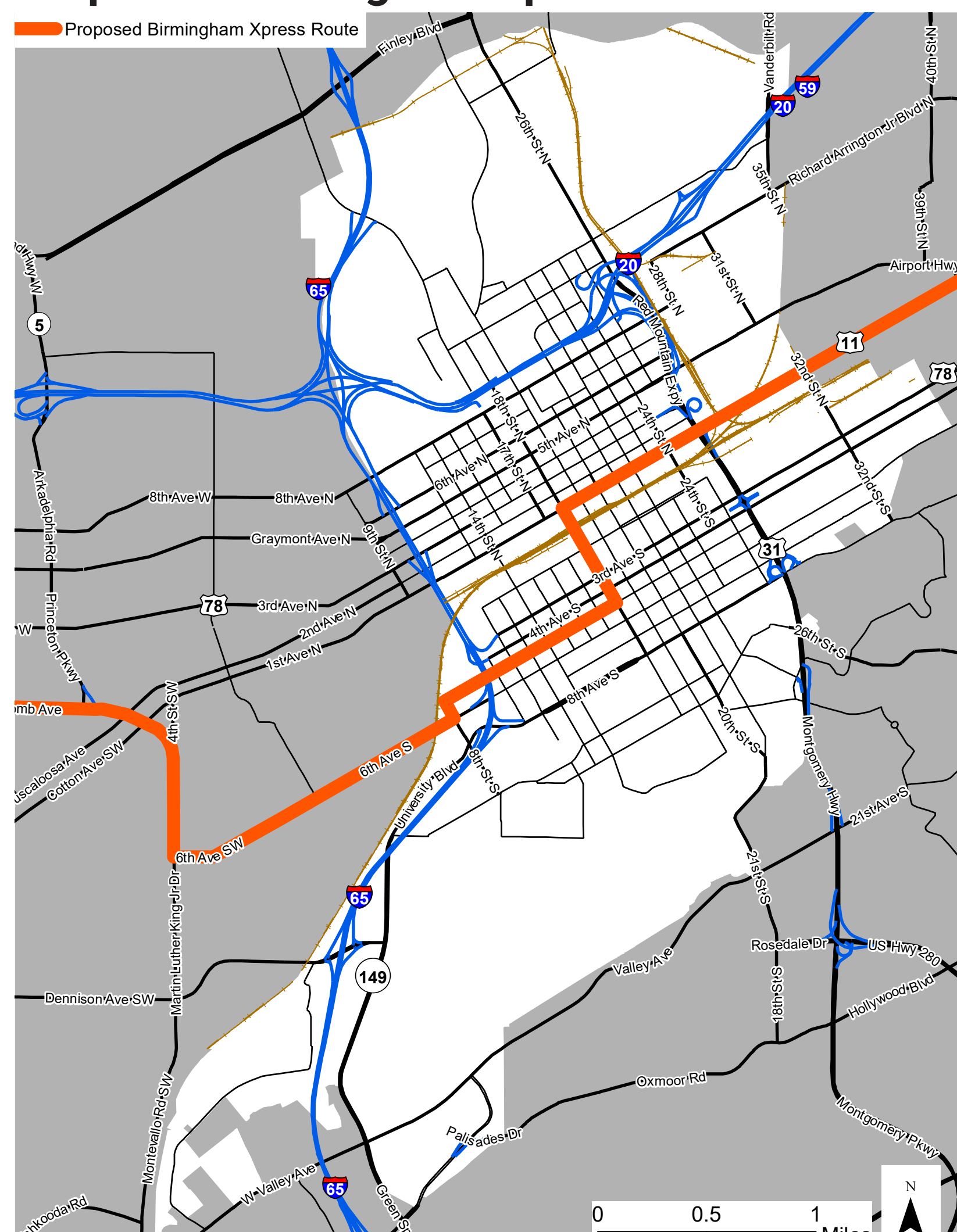
Did you Know?

The **B-Active Plan** is the Active Transportation Plan for the Greater Birmingham region, adopted in March 2019 by the Regional Planning Commission. The plan established a clear vision for building and expanding a multi-modal transportation network in Jefferson and Shelby Counties, with a specific focus on creating a cohesive system of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. The plan identifies and prioritizes strategic projects to build a safe, more connected, and more equitable transportation system for the region.

Did you Know?

The **Birmingham Xpress** will employ Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) technology to provide a high-quality public transit alternative that delivers fast, reliable and cost-effective mobility service for citizens and visitors. The Birmingham Xpress will connect 25 neighborhoods to opportunities and vital services along its ten-mile corridor from Woodlawn to the Birmingham Crossplex. It will also provide access for visitors to explore Birmingham's historic and cultural locations. Think light-rail transit on rubber tires – BRT can travel as fast and as comfortably as light rail, but at only one-third of the construction costs. The proposed route is shown to the right, and will replace existing BJCTA's Max services that currently operate within the corridor. The travel time between Woodlawn and Crossplex is estimated to be just under an hour.

Proposed Birmingham Xpress

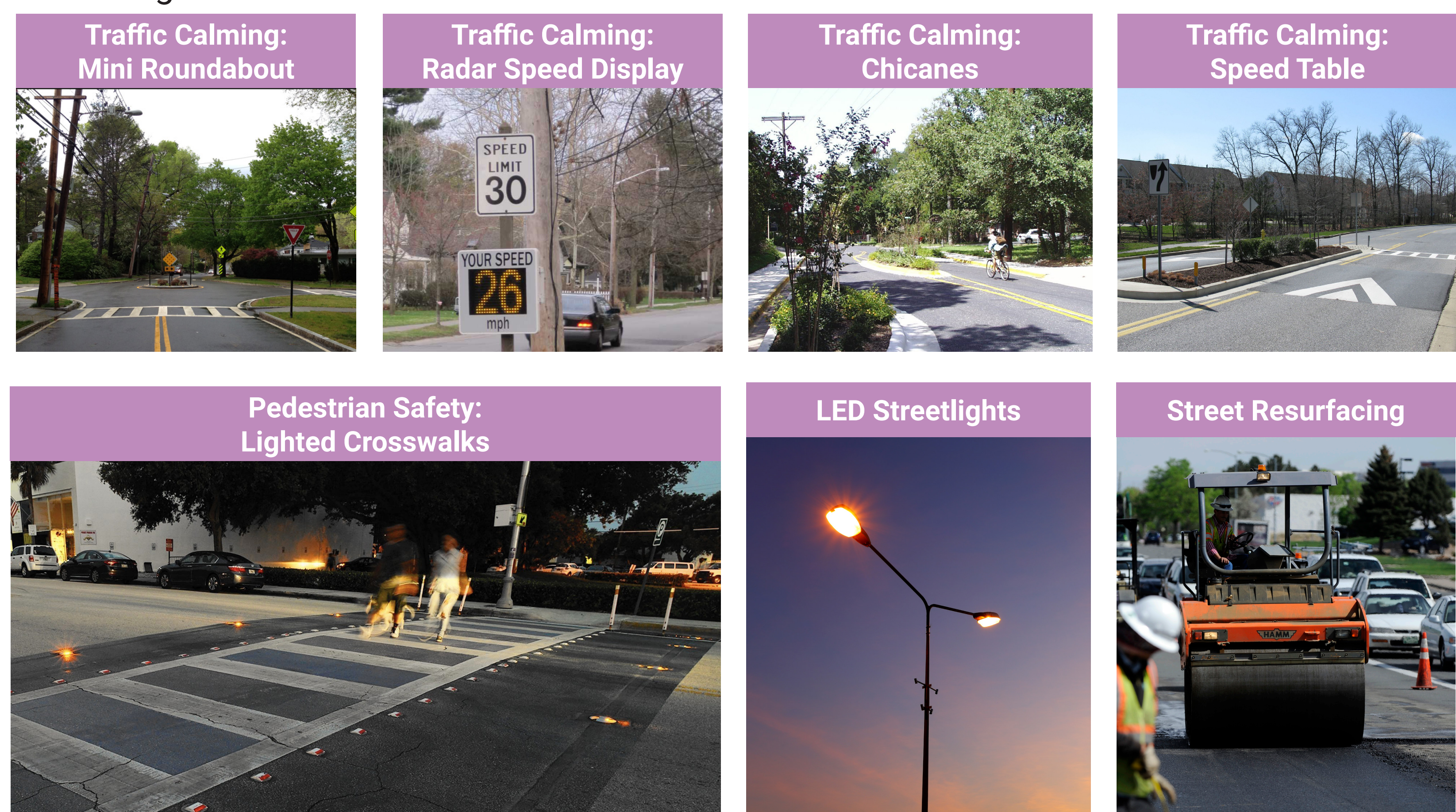


3 Provide a safe transportation network in a state of good repair.

- Protect pedestrians on neighborhood streets with appropriate traffic calming measures
- Provide accessible, safe crosswalks at target intersections
- Develop a City Streetscape Master Plan to ensure safe, attractive, vibrant and pedestrian friendly streetscapes
- Utilize the SMART Resurfacing pavement management system to guide road resurfacing projects
- Repair damaged and antiquated storm drainage infrastructure

Did you Know?

Traffic calming refers to a combination of primarily physical techniques that reduce vehicle speeds to keep pedestrians and cyclists safe. Techniques may include chicanes, roundabouts, speed tables and curb extensions. When designed carefully, these measures are proven to reduce crashes, noise, vibration and pollution.



FUTURE LAND USE

The Birmingham Comprehensive Plan established a Future Land Use Plan (Map) for the City which generally outlines expected land use patterns and development trends citywide. Adopted in 2013, this plan is more prescriptive in nature, and may not reflect the existing land uses, or the most appropriate land uses within the Northside Southside Area. The Future Land Use Plan is subject to periodic review to see if conditions have changed to justify an amendment, or change. Through this Framework process, the project team identified recommended changes to the Future Land Use Plan (Map) based off of a detailed windshield survey, open houses, steering committee meetings, and stakeholder interviews. The recommended changes to the Land Use Map are shown below. Once adopted, the Future Land Use Map, will be the legal basis for zoning. Any rezoning for property in the Northside Southside Area requested by the City or private individuals will be required to follow the Future Land Use map.

The Northside Southside Area contains some of the densest development within the City of Birmingham, due to its status as the economic core of the region. Neighborhoods surrounding the central core are primarily residential with adjoining commercial districts while the Central Business District, which is being addressed by the concurrent Center City Master Plan, is primarily commercial and institutional with increasing pockets of residential development. The main goals of establishing an updated and accurate Future Land Use Plan for the Northside Southside Area are to:

- Preserve existing single-family districts from unnecessary encroachment by multifamily or other non-residential uses.
- Introduce the concepts of mixed-use districts as desirable transition areas between residential and commercial districts.
- Regulate the form and location of catalytic sites through the inclusion of form-based zoning.
- Allow for flexibility in permissible housing types as a means to increase the supply of affordable housing options.

KEY

- Additional mixed-use, mixed-income units needed
- There is a desire for more mid-range and affordable units in the form of townhomes, duplexes, and triplexes
- Desire for additional retail, restaurants, and grocery options
- Revitalization of vacant and underutilized spaces is needed
- Adopt high-quality design regulations

1

New growth is supported by insisting on quality developments and by promoting desired land use patterns that allow for a variety of compatible uses.

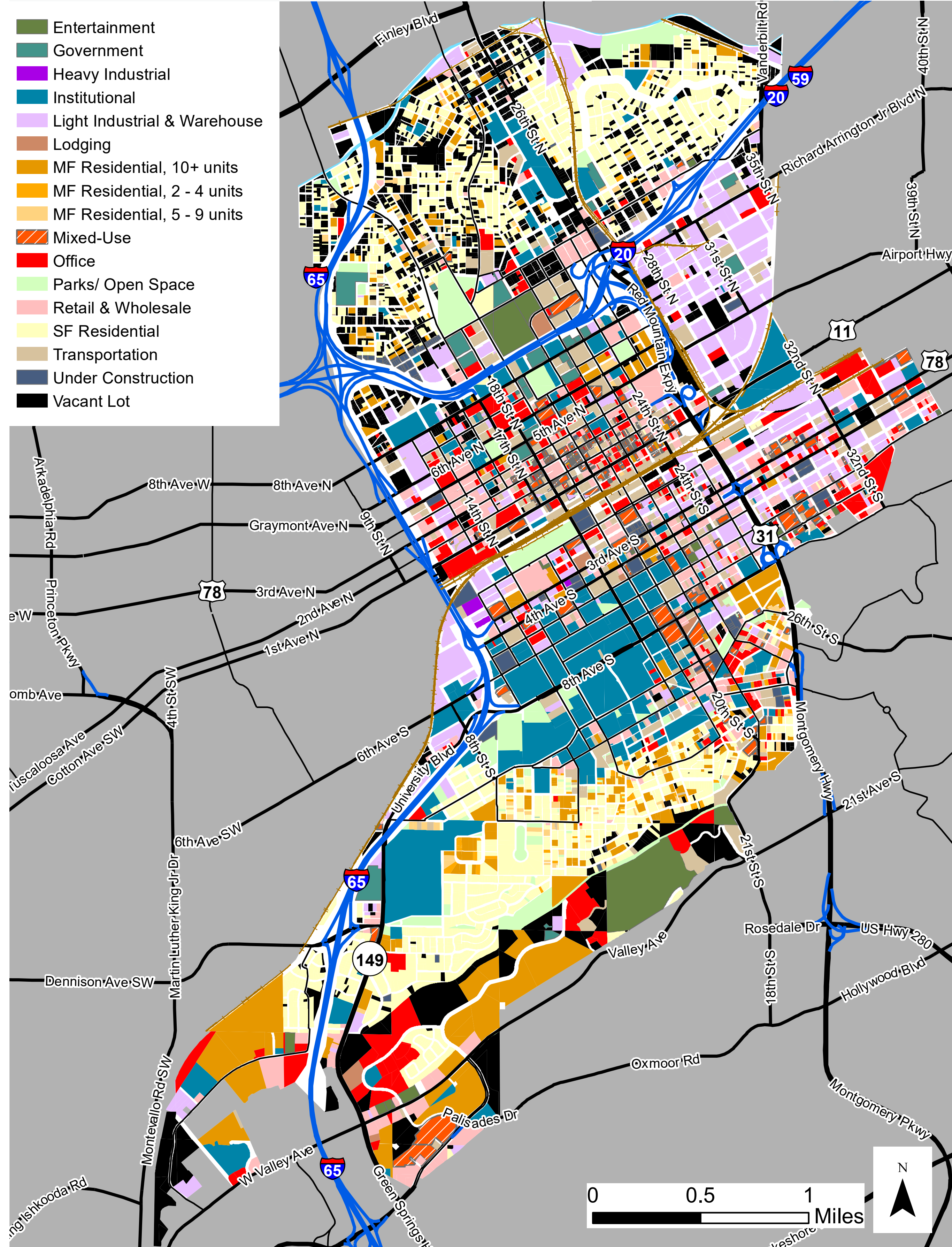
- Encourage additional mixed-use development in and around Strategic Opportunity Areas. Encourage any new multifamily development to locate as a component of mix-used development
- Encourage a wide range of housing types such as single-family, duplexes, townhomes, and other multifamily types affordable options

2

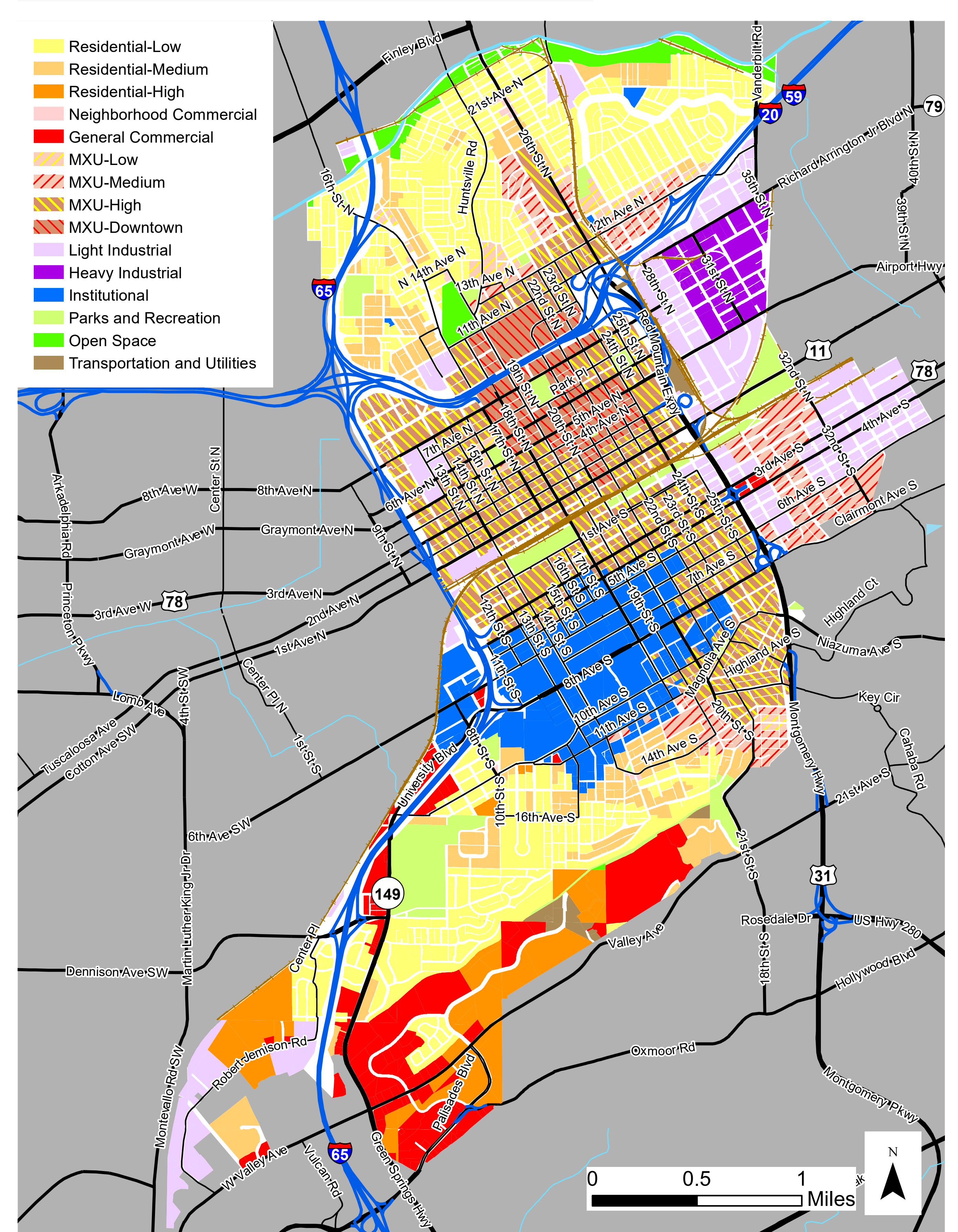
Enhance city livability and competitiveness through quality urban design

- To support creative placemaking throughout the Northside Southside Area, the City should adopt and implement the Character-Based Code and Design Guidelines. Presently, the Character-Based Code and Design Guidelines are under review and is anticipated to be adopted in 2020

Existing Land Use Map (2018)



Proposed Future Land Use Map (2019)



Encourage a variety of uses:



Proposed Future Land Use Categories

Future Land Use Category	Northside Southside Communities	
	Northside	Southside
General Commercial	X	✓
Neighborhood Commercial	✓	✓
Light Industrial	✓	✓
Heavy Industrial	✓	X
MXU-Low	✓	✓
MXU-Medium	✓	✓
MXU-High	✓	✓
MXU-Downtown	✓	✓
Residential-Low	✓	✓
Residential- Medium	✓	✓
Residential- High	X	✓
Institutional	X	✓
Open Space	✓	✓
Parks and Recreation	✓	✓
Transportation and Utilities	✓	✓