

GREAT NEIGHBORHOODS

Phase 2 (Define) Engagement Update: Urban Design

Introduction

Phase 2 (Define) of the neighborhood area planning process began in January of 2025 and went through March. Engagement during this phase focused on developing draft plan elements, including a vision statement and key policy moves.

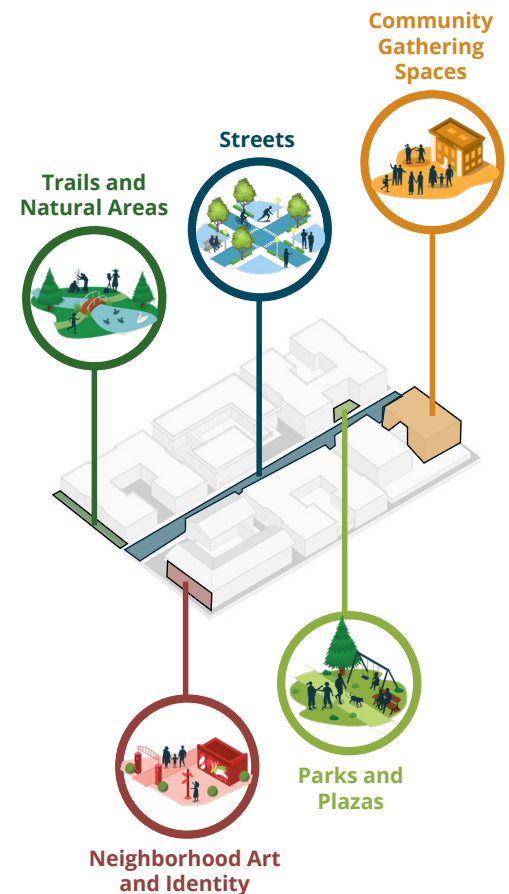
One area of focus during Phase 2 (Define) is **urban design**. Urban design is the practice of planning and designing the physical environment of a community. Within the scope of neighborhood area plans, urban design can improve the design and function of public spaces, including community gathering spaces, parks, plazas, streets, trails, natural areas, and public art.

In February, the planning team gave a preview of upcoming work on developing an urban design framework and shared information on how community members can be involved at two separate virtual events for Crossroads and Newport. The Crossroads event took place on Thursday, February 13th, and the Newport event took place on Thursday, February 27th.

Following these virtual events, City staff hosted a public space event series starting in early March and ending in early April. This event series included different engagement activities for the community to provide feedback on public space improvements they want to see in their neighborhood. These activities were designed to be family-friendly, accessible for all ages and abilities, and facilitated in different languages.

How This Input Will Be Used

City staff is currently processing feedback and will be publishing a Phase 2 (Define) engagement report soon. Feedback will inform refinement of draft policies. Policies can be revised to better reflect public space priorities identified by the community. Concept maps and precedent imagery will be incorporated into the neighborhood area plans to clearly identify and illustrate these urban design opportunities.



During this phase, the planning team so far connected with

31 people at our virtual project update events

154 people in-person at our community workshops, pop-up events, small-group activities and presentations

310 visitors to our online engagement hub

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Types of Engagement Activities

Neighborhood Scans

A neighborhood scan involves participants documenting their walking, biking, and/or rolling experience within the neighborhood. Participants were asked to identify a route within the neighborhood and travel along it, writing down observations of what made their trip enjoyable and challenging, as well as public spaces they noticed along the way.

City staff participated in weekend morning and weekday afternoon pop-up events in both the Newport and Crossroads neighborhood areas to guide people through how to complete a neighborhood scan.

Public Space Workshops

City staff hosted public space workshops on March 15th at the Crossroads Community Center and March 22nd at Newport Heights Elementary School.

These workshops consisted of different activities, including a voting exercise where participants selected their top priorities for features that could be incorporated into the design of public spaces, a mapping activity where participants identified important destinations within the neighborhood and potential improvements for getting around the neighborhood, and a drawing activity where participants used collage materials to describe their vision for the neighborhood. Participants also had the opportunity to provide feedback on the initial draft policy moves shared at earlier events.

Community Partner Events

City staff adapted the neighborhood scan and public space workshop materials to reach community members that typically do not attend or are unable to attend traditional meetings; including youth, older adults, and non-English speakers. Existing engagement activities were adapted to be done in small groups with a community facilitator and allow for participation in different languages.



Community members participating in a neighborhood scan in Newport Shores



Youth sharing their neighborhood vision at a public space workshop in Crossroads



Community member sharing feedback at a public space workshop in Newport



Families participating in a mapping exercise during Newport Library's Chinese story time