

HELM RANCH

ROUND 2 - COMMUNITY WORKSHOP AND OPEN HOUSE SUMMARY

*Tarpey Elementary School, Clovis, CA
October 15, 2014 – 6:30pm-8:30pm*



OVERVIEW

On Wednesday, October 15, 2014, staff from the City of Clovis and PlaceWorks facilitated a second community workshop aimed at re-introducing the City's Urban Greening Plan process, reviewing the outcomes of the previous workshop in April and getting feedback from participants on ideas for sample improvements and potential implementation of the Plan in Helm Ranch. Approximately 3 members of the public attended the meeting, which began with a brief overview introducing the Urban Greening Plan, including the Proposition 84 funding provided to develop the Plan, common features found in greening plans in other areas, and evolution of the Urban Greening Plan in Clovis.

Following the presentation, participants were engaged in small discussion groups facilitated by staff from the City of Clovis and PlaceWorks. The groups discussed prioritization of types of projects and/or locations for projects and looking at sample project types to help articulate community needs.

RESULTS FROM SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Priorities

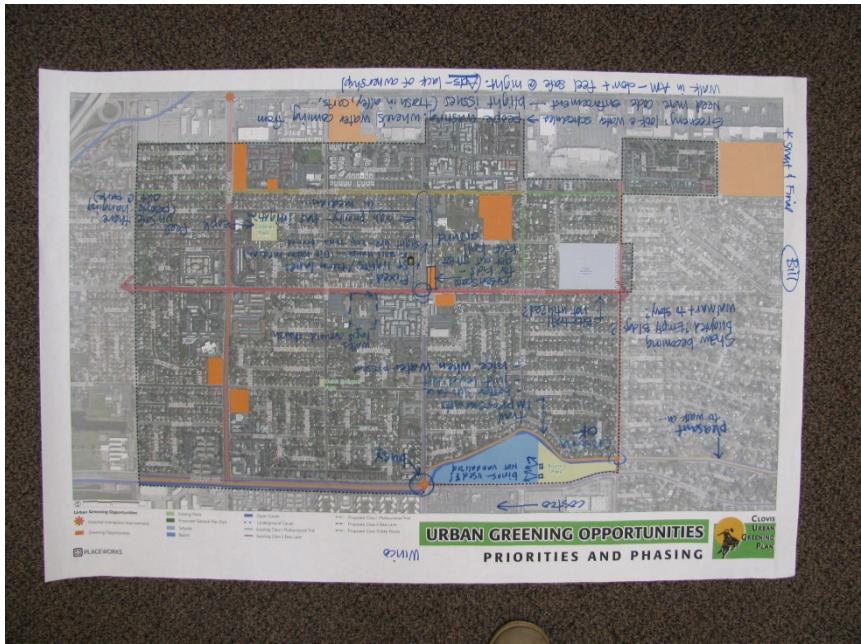
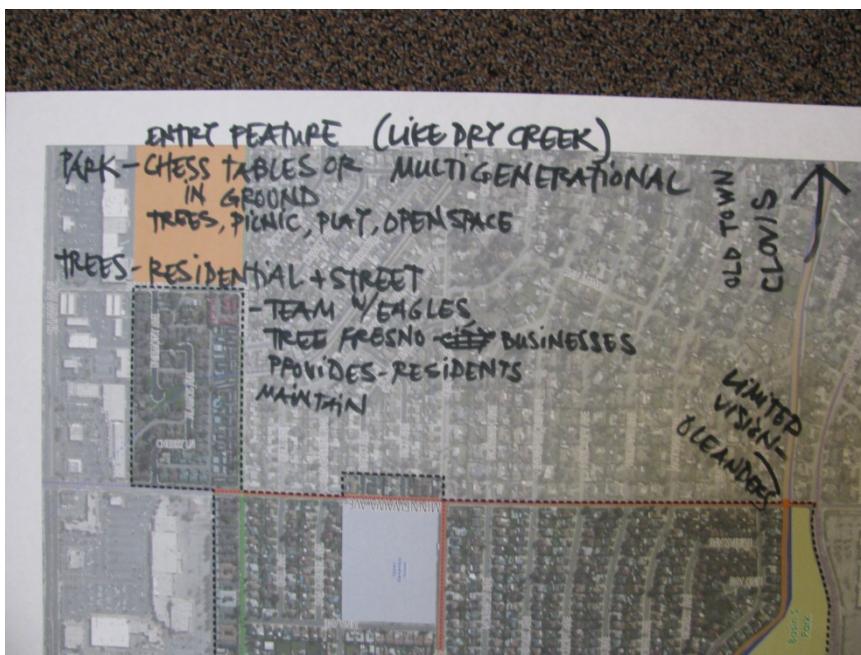
Community members participated in a discussion of possible projects, existing conditions, new developments and their vision for improvements. Maps were marked up and notes were written to capture the main ideas which included prioritizing the following:

- More trees but need to be limbed up for safety and vision
- Median trees along Willow
- Intersection improvements at Rolland Ave and Willow Ave more important than greening between Peach Ave/Villa Ave and Sanata Ana Ave/Rialto Ave
- Trail improvements (e) at drainage basin, level out w/better walking surface
- Intersection @ Peach/Ashlan is busy – needs traffic calming
- Golf course not used/Fresno side of street desirable for walking – work w/them?
- Priority area @ Gettysburg/Peach - use vacant lot to create space for kids to get out of street and kick ball around, keep clear site lines (limb up vegetation),green up the block – high priority
- Low water/low maintenance need plants



Concerns the community would like to see urban greening efforts also address include:

- Blight along Shaw Ave - empty buildings
 - Trash/carts in alleys
 - No code enforcement
 - Lack of ownership with all the apartments
 - Water use: pay attention to watering schedules and runoff
 - Safety – walk in AM, don't feel safe at night
 - San Gabriel Park doesn't feel safe





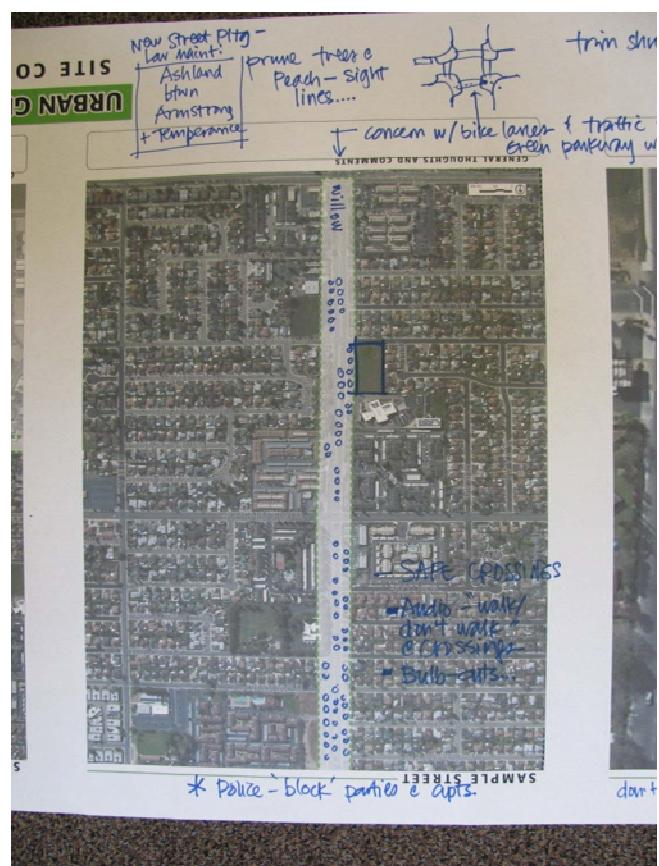
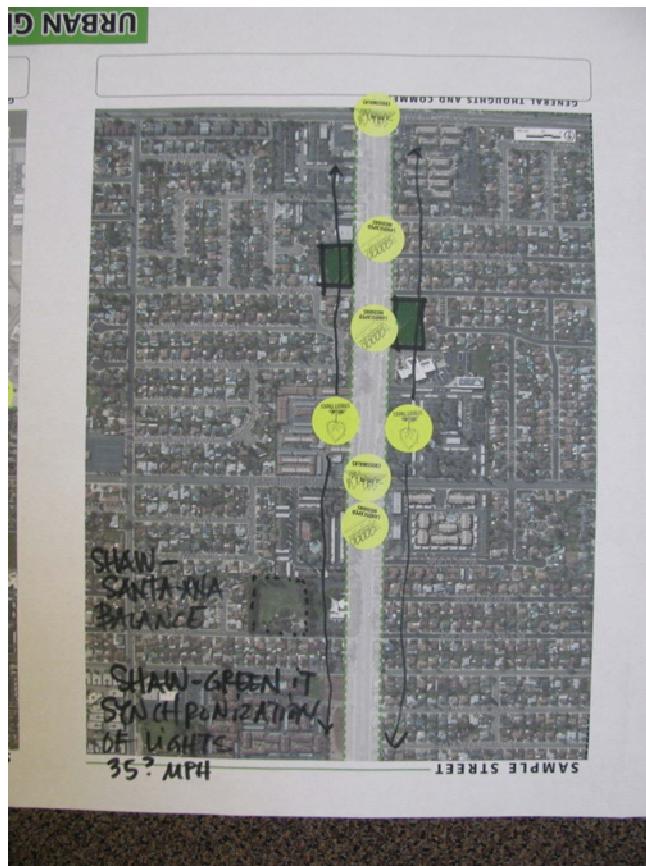
URBAN GREENING OPPORTUNITIES



Design: Sample Streetscape

Comments were solicited as to components for streetscapes that would support the City's urban greening efforts. Willow Avenue was used as a sample street to illustrate community wants with stickers of different amenities and notes used to convey their desires. Street designs included the following:

- Explore Shaw – Santa Ana balance traffic and connectivity
- Green Shaw Ave: synchronize the lights, enforce a 35(?) mph speed limit
- Plant street trees along both sides of street corridor
- Landscape the median down the corridor
- Improve crosswalk specifically at intersections with Gettysburg Ave and Ashlan Ave
- Provide new low-maintenance street planting on Ashland between Armstrong and Temperance
- Prune trees around Peach Ave to improve sight lines
- Concern with bike lanes and traffic; a green parkway without losing lanes
- Create safe crossings with the audible "walk/don't walk" and bulbouts to reduce pedestrian crossing distances
- Increase police presence – 'block' parties at apartments



Design: Sample Park Project

An undeveloped parcel along Willow Avenue was identified as potential park land. Priorities for amenities on this site include the following:

- Look at Dry Creek as a good example of what they would like to see
- Program the park to be multigenerational
- Plant species that will attract hummingbirds and butterflies
- Include a picnic shelter and bbq
- Install crosswalks on the perimeter streets for safe accessibility
- Plant street trees around the park perimeter and landscape the median on Willow Ave
- Install pedestrian lighting
- Provide basketball court
- Include playground structure and swings
- Police neighborhood event and opening





Design: Sample Trail Project

A potential trail was located along a canal and the community recommended the following features:

- Water bottle filler and dog water fountain
- Benches
- Shade – trees or structure
- Crosswalks at Willow Ave and Peach Ave
- Trees and pedestrian lighting along the trail
- Fitness area
- Safer crossing at Peach Avenue with an audible signal and bulbouts to reduce the crossing distance for pedestrians
- Paved with level surfacing, such as decomposed granite or dirt
- Pedestrian lighting

