



## Clovis Urban Greening Plan

Community Workshop #3 – Helm Ranch

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

### WHAT IS AN URBAN GREENING PLAN?

- A guide to help the City to improve quality of life for residents
- Identification of needs, opportunities and goals for creating a greener, more environmentally sustainable and livable City
- Strategies to address identified goals
- It is a plan and is opportunity-based – implementation over time

## WHAT IS AN URBAN GREENING PLAN?

Parks, trails and open space



Urban forestry and street trees



## WHAT IS AN URBAN GREENING PLAN?

Stormwater Management



Water Conservation

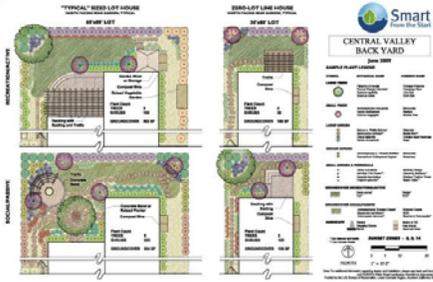


## WHAT IS AN URBAN GREENING PLAN?

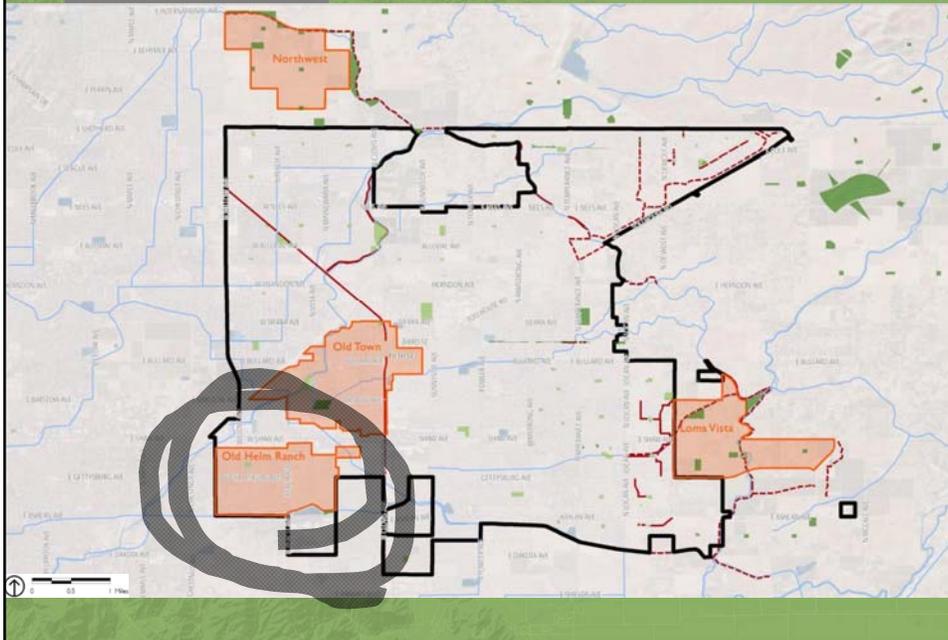
Improved pedestrian and non-vehicular access

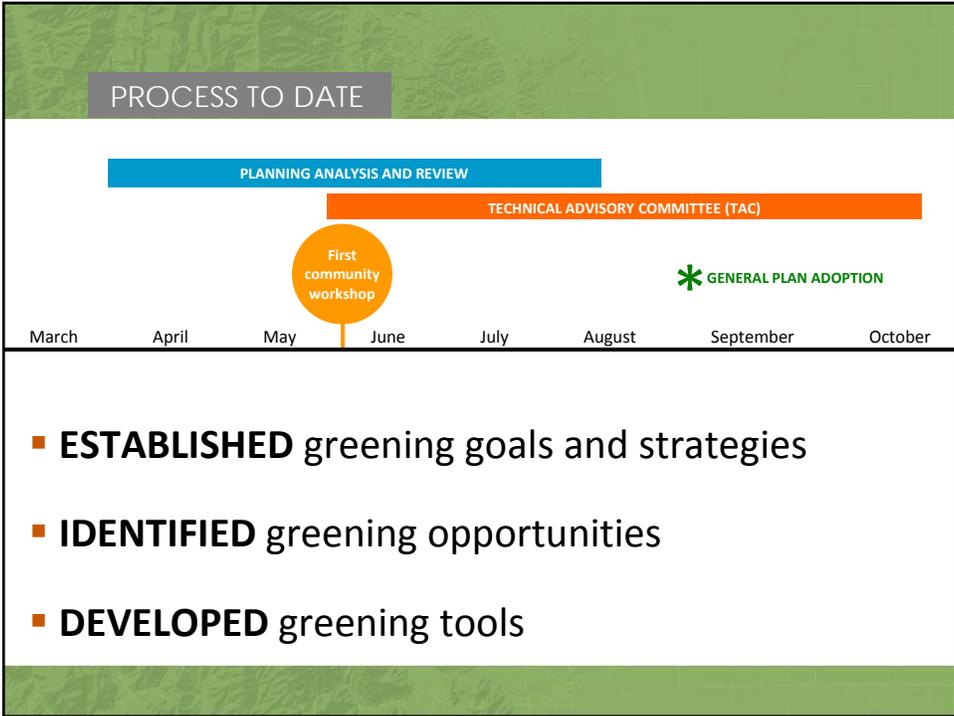


Landscape design guidelines and plant palette

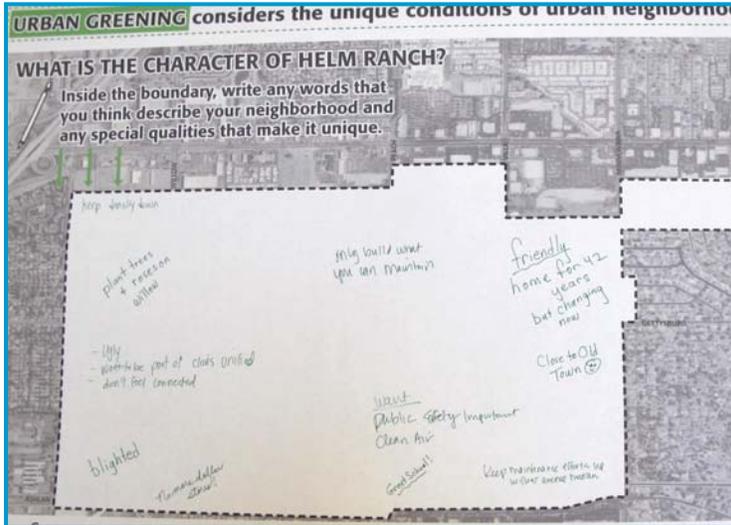


## CITY OF CLOVIS





## GREENING GOALS AND STRATEGIES



## COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

## GREENING GOALS AND STRATEGIES

EDUCATE THE COMMUNITY AND BUSINESSES	DRAW PEOPLE OUTSIDE	UTILIZE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE	PROMOTE ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION	GROW THE LOCAL ECONOMY	IMPLEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PREVIOUS PLANNING EFFORTS	MAXIMIZE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTNERSHIPS ON GREENING EFFORTS
<p>Provide information about conservation and the multiple benefits of urban greening</p> <p>Encourage healthy eating habits and experiences through support of agricultural education</p> <p>Support environmental and agricultural education</p> <p>Inform the public about 2010 local Water Efficiency Ordinance</p> <p>Inform the public about Tree Protection Standards in updated City Development Code</p>	<p>Create new green space</p> <p>Develop pedestrian linkages and trails</p> <p>Support provision of outdoor dining</p> <p>Consider creating a City-wide landscape improvement district</p> <p>Formalize joint use agreements with schools</p>	<p>Offset the impact of impervious surfaces by pursuing "Green Streets" pilot projects</p> <p>Increase and maintain the urban forest</p> <p>Enhance overall beautification and neighborhood identity through plantings that are designed for minimal maintenance</p> <p>Develop water-efficient guidelines and plant palette for new development</p> <p>Encourage conservation and restoration of wildlife habitat</p>	<p>Reduce vehicle miles traveled and fossil fuel dependency</p> <p>Increase connectivity to green space and other activity centers</p> <p>Improve pedestrian access from residential neighborhoods to everyday goods and services</p> <p>Provide safe and accessible streets with shading and buffers to encourage walking and biking</p>	<p>Protect agricultural operations</p> <p>Increase property values</p> <p>Increase activity in retail areas</p>	<p>Urban Forest Resources Analysis: 2,512 available planting sites</p> <p>Bicycle Transportation Master Plan: Increase utilization and recreational uses of bike system</p> <p>Parks Master Plan: New open space opportunities</p> <p>Draft General Plan: Contribute to grow and sustain the values that make Clovis special: foster stewardship to conserve and enhance natural resources while contributing to a healthy community</p>	<p>County of Fresno</p> <p>City of Fresno</p> <p>Clovis Unified School District</p> <p>Clovis Community Foundation</p> <p>Clovis Chamber of Commerce</p> <p>Tree Fresno</p> <p>Clovis Botanical Garden</p> <p>UCCE Master Gardeners of Fresno County</p> <p>Clovis Robee Association</p> <p>Building Industry Association</p> <p>Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District</p> <p>Fresno Irrigation District</p> <p>Climate Change Institute of Fresno State</p>

## COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

## GREENING OPPORTUNITIES

### NEW PARK SPACES

- Recreational centers
- Vacant lot conversions

### STREETS

- Safety improvements
- Access for all types of pedestrians
- Aesthetic improvements and maintenance



## COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

## GREENING OPPORTUNITIES

### CIRCULATION

- Pedestrian concerns on large streets and major intersections
- Landscaping to improve major streets
- Traffic and exhaust issues near commercial areas

### ACCESS

- Improve walking conditions along key residential streets around school and irrigation canal



## COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

GREENING TOOLS

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

GREENING TOOLS

PLANT PREFERENCE

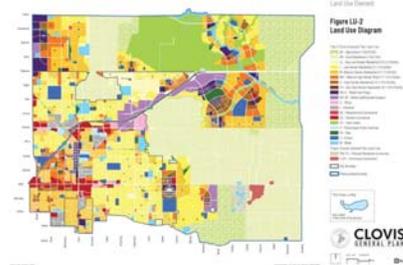
COMMUNITY FEEDBACK



## GREENING TOOLS

### CIRCULATION ELEMENT:

- Goal 3: A **MULTIMODAL** transportation network that is safe and comfortable in the context of adjacent neighborhoods.
- Goal 4: A **BICYCLE AND TRANSIT SYSTEM** that serves as a functional **ALTERNATIVE TO COMMUTING BY CAR**.
- Goal 5: A complete system of **TRAILS AND PATHWAYS** accessible to all residents.
  - Policy 5.1 **COMPLETE STREET AMENITIES**. Upgrade existing streets and design new streets to include **COMPLETE STREET AMENITIES**, prioritizing improvements to bicycle and pedestrian connectivity or safety, consistent with the Bicycle Transportation Master Plan and other master plans.



### OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION ELEMENT:

- Goal 2: **NATURAL, AGRICULTURAL, AND HISTORIC RESOURCES** that are preserved and promoted as key features for civic pride and identity.
- Goal 3: A built environment that conserves and protects the use and **QUALITY OF WATER AND ENERGY RESOURCES**.

## PLANNING ANALYSIS

## GREEN VISION

- **Resolve maintenance issues and refocus new projects to Helm Ranch**
  - Improve overall look of landscape infrastructure
  - Provide new green infill projects in vacant and underutilized spaces
- **Infrastructure focused on MULTI-GENERATIONAL and MULTI-MODAL transportation**
  - Improved sidewalks
  - Improved bike lanes
  - Improved transit options



## Specific to HELM RANCH

GREEN VISION



Specific to HELM RANCH

GREEN VISION



Specific to HELM RANCH



## State-wide Water Conservation

### Executive Order B-29-15

- April 1, 2015: reduce urban potable water use by 25% and cities that are considered “high users” are required to reduce water use by even more
- local governments to replace 50 million acres of ornamental turf with drought tolerant landscapes statewide
- prohibit irrigation with potable water of ornamental turf on public street medians and irrigation that is not delivered by drip irrigation or micro-spray systems outside of newly constructed homes and buildings



## City-wide Water Conservation

### The City of Clovis Regulations

- The City is responsible for implementing and compliance with the State of Emergency requirements and must implement strict restrictions on water use to its residents
- Since the City of Clovis is considered a “high user,” water customers are being required by the City to reduce water use by **36%** for personal use and particularly landscape irrigation
- During the drought emergency, the City will relax enforcement of the City’s Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance related to irrigating turf



## Resident Water Conservation



Ceasing irrigation of ornamental turf may be the single most effective means to achieve the required 36% reduction in water usage, and is supported by the City of Clovis

- April 20, 2015: Clovis City Council approved actions to meet State water reduction requirements and on April 21, 2015 the Public Utilities Department sent letters to water customers stating the following restrictions:
- Effective May 1, 2015, any customer not achieving the 36% reduction in water use compared to the same time period in 2013 will be fined
- Customers may only water outside two days per week April through October. Even numbered addresses may water on Sunday and Wednesday. Odd numbered addresses may water on Saturday and Tuesday.
- No outdoor watering is allowed during and within 48 hours after measurable rainfall

## TONIGHT'S GOALS

### ■ DISCUSS IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

### ■ PRIORITIZE ACTION STRATEGY

- Short Term
- Mid Term
- Long Term



## Implementation: 20 Year Vision



### EDUCATE THE COMMUNITY AND BUSINESSES

#### SHORT TERM ACTIONS:

- *Create a median mulch demonstration site to showcase landscape practices that improve soil health*
- *Require the use of compost in City projects*
- *Develop pilot projects to test new plant species and landscape installation practices (such as sheet mulching) with the dual goals of reducing future maintenance while increasing community aesthetics and green infrastructure*

## Implementation: 20 Year Vision



### EDUCATE THE COMMUNITY AND BUSINESSES

#### SHORT TERM ACTIONS:

- *Create demonstration soil preparation at the median on Shaw Avenue in Loma Vista*
- *Partner with developers to implement soil preservation/enhancement protocols following earthmoving, including tilling soil to a depth of 2-feet in planted areas, and applying compost*
- *Require and develop topsoil replacement, amendment, and proper soil preparation practices for all new development, including public rights-of-way, especially in Loma Vista and Northwest due to duripan soil issues*

Implementation: 20 Year Vision



**MID-TERM ACTIONS:**

- *Create a median mulch demonstration site to showcase landscape practices that improve soil health*
- *Require the use of compost in all permitted projects*
- *Develop a heritage tree protection ordinance*
- *Consider incorporating or allowing plot-based community gardens or urban farming on public land*

Implementation: 20 Year Vision



**SHORT TERM ACTIONS:**

- *Increase urban forest plantings*
- *Develop a Citywide tree canopy coverage goal of 25%*
- *Add wayfinding to the intersection of Sierra Avenue and Clovis Avenue to direct trail users to trail and make drivers aware of busy trail intersection. Consider painting directional signage on pavement or using pavement markers*
- *Install flashing crosswalks at intersections of Sierra Avenue and Clovis Avenue, Minnewawa and Bullard Avenue, and Bullard Avenue and Pollasky Avenue*

Implementation: 20 Year Vision

**MID-TERM ACTIONS:**



- *Develop parking lot, street, and sidewalk shade ordinance*
- *Create a City-wide park and landscape district to provide dedicated source funding for maintenance throughout the City*
- *Develop plans for and construct new Basin Parks at Basins 4d, 4E, 5B/5C, 5F, BC, BX, BW, DO, and DP*
- *Create canal trail north from Letterman Park to Sierra Avenue, create pedestrian/bicycle crossings at canal intersections with Villa Avenue and Bullard Avenue*
- *Construct Centennial Plaza*
- *Create new community park at intersection of Willow Avenue and Holland Avenue*

Implementation: 20 Year Vision



**LONG TERM ACTIONS:**

- *Create a Basin Park adjacent to HWY 168 at the end of 3rd Street*
- *Create new pocket park at Gettysburg Avenue and Peach Avenue*

Implementation: 20 Year Vision



**SHORT TERM ACTIONS:**

- *Update City of Clovis Standard Drawings, October 1, 2012, to incorporate WELO requirements*
- *Update City of Clovis Approved Plant List with the recommendations from the Urban Greening Plan*
- *Update City of Clovis Design Guidelines to reflect the changes/ideas from the Urban Greening Plan including soil preparation*
- *Replace incandescent light bulbs with light emitting diode (LED) fixtures to provide better light quality on neighborhood streets, less light trespass into the night sky, lower electricity bills, eliminate toxic gases found in current lighting fixtures (thereby reducing landfill pollution), and reduce greenhouse gas emissions*

Implementation: 20 Year Vision



**SHORT TERM ACTIONS:**

- *Develop specific plan for Willow Avenue as a pedestrian-friendly, green street*
- *Develop specific plan for Pollasky Avenue south of Bullard Avenue to draw pedestrian activity from the northern part of the street south, to create new opportunities for commercial activity along this route or incorporate this into the Central Clovis Specific Plan*
- *Create a staggered planting plan to replace container trees along Bullard Avenue in Old Town*

Implementation: 20 Year Vision



**MID-TERM ACTIONS:**

- *Create a sustainable landscape best practices maintenance manual that outlines best practices to minimize waste, conserve water, and protect natural ecosystems; this could be built off of existing manuals such as the Model Bay-Friendly Landscaping Maintenance Specifications, which could be tailored to Clovis*
- *Consider the water tower at the southeastern edge of Letterman Park for a new water-efficiency demonstration garden*
- *Conduct traffic study of Willow Avenue, 5th Street, East Bullard Avenue, Gettysburg Avenue, Barstow Avenue, Minnewawa Avenue, and Shephard Avenue to evaluate opportunities for roadway reduction or reallocation to accommodate green street improvements*

Implementation: 20 Year Vision



**LONG TERM ACTIONS:**

- *Explore/install hydroelectric generation systems when retrofitting or replacing existing City pipelines*
- *Create free shuttle from Clovis Community College Center to Old Town*

Implementation: 20 Year Vision

PROMOTE  
ALTERNATIVE  
TRANSPORTATION

**SHORT TERM ACTIONS:**

- *Create crosswalks across Ashlan Avenue, Gettysburg Avenue, and Shaw Avenue at Paseo and internal roadway intersections in Loma Vista*
- *Develop master plan for Enterprise Canal Trail and community park space adjacent to trail*
- *Prohibit developers from creating separation wall between housing complexes and key street corridors, such as Shepherd Avenue, Minnewawa Avenue, and **Willow Avenue** to promote pedestrian activity along these corridor*
- *Incentive developers to install landscape elements, including street trees prior to construction of residential and commercial properties*

Implementation: 20 Year Vision

PROMOTE  
ALTERNATIVE  
TRANSPORTATION

**MID-TERM ACTIONS:**

- *Install crosswalk improvements at the intersection of **Peach Avenue and Ashlan Avenue**, consider painting street to create wayfinding and alert drivers to pedestrians and cyclists*
- *Replace and increase sidewalk width on **Willow Avenue in Helm Ranch** and improve the central median; consider a road diet and improved crosswalks*
- *Develop master plan for regional park at center of Northwest along Enterprise Canal*
- *Install crosswalks at **Willow Avenue** intersections with **Shephard Avenue, Perrin Avenue, Behymer Avenue, International Avenue, and Copper Avenue***

Implementation: 20 Year Vision

PROMOTE  
ALTERNATIVE  
TRANSPORTATION

**LONG TERM ACTIONS:**

- *Create levee trail along canal adjacent to Ashlan Avenue to create connection to the City of Fresno*
- *Extend levee trail to the east from Basin S. Park*

Implementation: 20 Year Vision

GROW THE LOCAL  
ECONOMY

**MID-TERM ACTIONS:**

- *Work with partners to make OMRI-certified compost, such as that made by Kochergen Farms Composting with Clovis' green waste via Allied Waste's facilities in Fresno, available locally to the City. Residential and commercial growers could reduce maintenance needs, increase plant viability, restore soil health, and reduce water needs*
- *Establish municipal curb-side green waste program*

**LONG TERM ACTION:**

- *Provide compost to residents at no or reduced cost*

## Implementation: 20 Year Vision



### SHORT TERM ACTION:

- *Pursue grant funding or other monies to implement the Urban Greening Plan, focusing on built improvements and maintenance and referencing the Greening Analysis work*

### MID-TERM ACTION:

- *Implement the proposed Class II bike lane on Willow and paint it for added visibility*

### LONG TERM ACTION:

- *Implement the proposed bike paths, lanes, and routes proposed in the Bicycle Transportation Master Plan*

## Implementation: 20 Year Vision



### SHORT TERM ACTIONS:

- *Look for opportunities to increase maintenance staffing*
- *Actively create partnerships/training to address maintenance staffing shortfalls. Current staffing levels limit the City's ability to proactively maintain the existing urban forest or increase plantings; most effort is spent reacting to hazards. Implementing several of the recommendations outlined in the report could provide significant improvements to the City's urban greening efforts*

## Implementation: 20 Year Vision

MAXIMIZE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTNERSHIPS ON GREENING EFFORTS

### MID-TERM ACTIONS:

- *Expand the Citizen Forester Program, among others*
- *Create an Urban Forester position and an Urban Forest Group charged with stewardship of the City's urban forest*

### LONG TERM ACTIONS:

- *Create multiple-benefits agreement program between City of Clovis and Fresno Irrigation District to formalize use of levees as trails.*
- *Establish best practices handbook for construction of trails on levees.*

## Funding Opportunities

### GRANT FUNDING

- CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS FOUNDATION PARK ENRICHMENT GRANTS
- LISC/NFL FOUNDATION GRASSROOTS PROGRAM
- US EPA ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
- CALIFORNIA RIPARIAN HABITAT CONSERVATION PROGRAM
- NATIONAL TRAILS FUND
- PROJECT LEARNING TREE
- CORPORATE GRANTS
- CAL FIRE GRANTS

### PROGRAMS

- ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM
- WATER ENERGY GRANT PROGRAM
- STRATEGIC GROWTH COUNCIL
- BIKE PATHS PROGRAM
- SCHOOL BUS PROGRAM
- MEASURE C: TRANSPORTATION SALES TAX

### STRATEGIES FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Community participation and community stewardship activities, such as selecting a community tree for a specific neighborhood.
- Coordinate stewardship activities with established volunteer groups like Tree Fresno, as well as school groups and environmental organizations.
- Notify residents and property owners of any project involving the planting or tree removal at City Parks near their home or business.
- Build upon existing community service programs and education programs to establish opportunities for classroom and neighborhood based learning.



## Clovis Urban Greening Plan

Community Workshop #3 – Helm Ranch

Wednesday, October 15, 2014