Urban Villages

The urban villages are based on the Phoenix General Plan which was adopted to guide the urban form of the city while meeting the community's desires for a well-planned city with a sense of place. Three key principles of the General Plan are:

- balance housing and employment
- concentrate intensity in village cores
- promote the unique character of each village

Each village has a core which serves as the focal point of the village by combining the most intense land uses with a great variety of uses. By providing a mix of employment, housing and retail opportunities, this village "downtown" creates a physical identity for the residents. It should also serve as a gathering place with pedestrian activity and a focus for the local transportation system. The core should reflect the character and land use intensity of the village it supports.

Village Planning Committees

Each village has its own village planning committee which represents the interests of local residents. The village planning committees helped develop the General Plan for Phoenix. They review and comment on General Plan amendments, zoning ordinance text amendments, and rezoning requests and sometimes assist the City of Phoenix Planning Department in developing plans for areas within the village. The committees are a vital link between the community and city decision makers.

Village planning committees are volunteers appointed by City Council and their recommendations are advisory in nature. The Council strives to create well-balanced committees which represent the people who live and work in all segments and geographic areas of the village. The 15-21 members of each village committee typically meet one a month in the evening. Some also have active subcommittees.

How to Participate

All village committee meetings are open to the public. Their agendas can be found on the Internet at: www.ci.phoenix.az.us (Public Meeting Notices and Agendas). Each committee is staffed by a planner who can provide additional information about attending meetings or becoming a member. For more information call the Phoenix Planning Department at: (602) 262-6882.

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Phoeni is a growing city with a population of over one million people and a planning area of over 600 square miles. Meeting the demands of a diverse and increasing population takes thoughtful planning and active citizen participation. The Phoenix City Council and Planning Commission have divided the city into twelve planning areas called urban villages in order to work better with the community on planning and development issues. The goal for each village is to offer a variety of housing, job opportunities, education, recreation, and shopping facilities.

**Central City Village**

The core of Central City Village is Downtown, the urban center for the entire city. Downtown Phoenix was the city’s original 1870 townsite. Today, Downtown Phoenix is the center of an expanding metropolitan region. The village is distinguished by many important features:

- It is an important employment center which includes the seat of State, Maricopa County and City Government as well as major financial, business and hospital facilities.
- It is a cultural and recreational center which includes a state of the art municipal library, museums, music, theater and major sports entertainment facilities. The state’s largest convention facility is Downtown. Support services such as restaurants, hotels, and shopping are available and expanding.
- Many of the oldest neighborhoods in Phoenix surround the Downtown area. Some, such as the Roosevelt and Story neighborhoods, are officially designated historic districts and contain fine architecture and tree-lined streets. Most have strong neighborhood organizations which work on improvement efforts and enhance an old fashioned neighborhood feeling.
- Central City Village contains many organized neighborhoods and historic areas. Boundaries are available from the Neighborhood Services Department.

Points of Interest:
- Burton Barr Central Library
- Bank One Ball Park
- American West Arena
- City Hall
- Capital Mall
- Downtown
- Redevelopment Area
- State Capitol
- Margret T. Hance Park
- Phoenix Civic Center
- Salt River
- Rio Salado
- Proposed Estrella Village

Adopted Plans:
- Core Area
- Arts District
- Customers’ Washington
- Capitol Mall
- Downtown
- Redevelopment Area
- Special Redevelopment Area
- Roosevelt Special Planning District
- Sky Harbor Center
- Redevelopment Area
- Story Special Planning District
- Story Special Planning Area
- 7th Street & Buckeye
- Redevelopment Area
- Boundaries approximate