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 once 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.
Phoenix 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.

North Mountain Village is generally bounded by Greenway Road on the north, 16th Street and mountains on the east, Northern Avenue on the south and 43rd Avenue, the Arizona Canal and 51st Avenue on the west. The village contains a wide variety of neighborhoods including traditional central corridor areas, neighborhoods in the foothills of the Phoenix Mountains and suburban neighborhoods near the Metrocenter village core.

The Metro Center village core is located at the southwest segment of Black Canyon Freeway and Peoria Avenue. It provides over one million square feet of shopping, entertainment and commercial services. The Black Canyon corridor provides additional commercial, high-tech offices and industrial complexes.

Sunnyslope, an older, once freestanding community, is located nine miles north of downtown on the south-facing slopes of the Phoenix Mountains. It is a well identified community with a variety of positive attributes including a mountainous setting, the Arizona Canal with its improved canal banks and a small town atmosphere. In addition to containing areas of prewar settlement, it is home to some of the city’s religious and ethnic communities.

The Phoenix Mountain Preserve, Cave Creek Recreation Area and Arizona State University West Campus are major features of the village.