

# Neighborhood Element

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Neighborhood element recommends ways to promote strong, healthy neighborhoods and to preserve their unique character. Neighborhoods are a basic building block of the city and are the areas residents identify as home. The city is committed to enhancing, preserving and protecting its neighborhoods.

**New neighborhood design:** design new neighborhoods to be safe, well-maintained and attractive places to live.

**Compatible neighborhood development:** ensure that new development in or adjacent to neighborhoods is compatible.

**Neighborhood organization:** strengthen the capacity of neighborhood organizations to handle neighborhood issues more effectively.

**Character and identity:** promote development, identification and preservation of neighborhood character through good design, improving or highlighting area strengths, overlay districts, landscaping and other tools.

**Neighborhood circulation:** design and maintain neighborhood streets, sidewalks and paths to be safe and efficient while discouraging cut-through traffic.

**Neighborhood safety:** protect neighborhoods from crime and environmental hazards through a variety of programs and public/private partnerships.

**Neighborhood and freeway compatibility:** enhance neighborhoods impacted by freeways or parkways with noise walls, landscaping, buffering or other tools.

## INTRODUCTION

Because strong healthy neighborhoods are critical to the long-term vitality and success of Phoenix and the quality of life of its residents, the city of Phoenix is committed to preserving and enhancing its neighborhoods. The intent of this General Plan element is to provide a policy framework for addressing neighborhood issues in Phoenix, and to work towards achieving and maintaining healthy neighborhoods.

### Importance of Neighborhoods in Phoenix

A neighborhood is a geographic area in which the residents have a common sense of identity or perceive that they have common interests. Neighborhoods can be formed or united by any

number of social, political, geographic or demographic factors. Neighborhoods vary widely in size, composition and configuration. The residents who live there can best define specific neighborhood boundaries.

A city's character is reflected in its neighborhoods. Neighborhoods showcase a city's architecture and urban design, as well as the varied lifestyles and cultural and ethnic diversity of its residents. Neighborhoods provide an identifiable unit of the city at a human scale where most residents form their first level of attachment to the city. They provide a place to relax and recharge from daily activities. Neighborhoods are home.

In Phoenix, neighborhoods are an integral part of the city's urban villages and have an essential role in the long-term success of the urban village model. Urban

villages provide a link between the city and its neighborhoods. Each village consists of a unique set of neighborhoods that together provide an identity for the villages and an opportunity for a range of lifestyles to residents.

Strong neighborhoods can enhance the city by:

- Providing a safe and pleasant place for residents to live
- Maintaining property values
- Preventing deterioration and blight
- Maintaining the tax base
- Providing and retaining affordable housing throughout the city
- Supporting neighborhood retail and area employment
- Providing a sense of community and a source of pride for residents

### City Focus on Neighborhoods

After many years of addressing neighborhood issues through a variety of city departments, in 1993 staff and resources were brought together to form the City of Phoenix Neighborhood Services Department (NSD). This department coordinates the city's efforts to respond more effectively to the needs of neighborhoods. The department's goal is to preserve stable neighborhoods, stabilize transitional ones, and give new life to deteriorating neighborhoods.

The Neighborhood Services Department works with residents and other city departments to address many neighborhood concerns. In some areas, nonprofit groups are another essential partner in improving neighborhoods.

Through the years, the city has worked to enhance and preserve its existing neighborhoods and develop new ones through numerous city programs, ordinances, plans, and policies. Creating historic district overlays, special district plans, redevelopment plans, and the Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance, and using programs such as Neighborhood Fight Back and Adopt-a-Park, are just a few of the many ways in which Phoenix has assisted its neighborhoods.

The forces of urban growth and change have threatened many Phoenix neighborhoods. These factors include:

- Intrusion by incompatible development
- Street widening
- Freeway construction
- A highly mobile population
- Deteriorating housing
- Excessive cut-through traffic
- Increased drug and crime problems

If neighborhoods are to remain desirable places to live, then action must be taken to mitigate these impacts. To maintain a healthy residential base, Phoenix must continue to innovate and develop coordinated neighborhood policies.

**GOAL 1 NEW NEIGHBORHOOD DESIGN: ALL NEIGHBORHOODS SHOULD BE DESIGNED TO BE SAFE, WELL-MAINTAINED, PEDESTRIAN-ORIENTED, DESIRABLE PLACES TO LIVE.**

The rapid pace of housing development in Phoenix dictates the need for careful neighborhood design. Some developments have been criticized for design that is monotonous, garage-dominated, lacks adequate streetscaping, and provides little sense of community. New neighborhoods should incorporate diverse housing styles, community identity, different garage treatments, and safety techniques such as traffic calming.

### Policies:

1. Promote neighborhood identity through planning that reinforces the existing landscaping and character of the area. Each new development should contribute to the character identified for the village.
2. Enhance and promote each area's historic and cultural qualities through distinct building design that is responsive to, but not necessarily matching, the existing context of the area. For infill development, this should include buildings similar in size, shape and materials as surrounding buildings.
3. Protect the neighborhood's views of open space, mountains, and man-made or natural landmarks.
4. Ensure that schools, libraries, parks, and trails are planned if needed.



**FIGURE 1 - Phoenix Neighborhood**

5. Locate public gathering places such as parks, open space, community centers and neighborhood retail with convenient access to neighborhoods.
6. Promote design that will increase opportunities for people to interact both within the neighborhood and with existing or future adjacent neighborhoods.
7. Promote connections among neighborhoods by carefully designing residential edges to be sensitive and compatible with adjacent residential uses. Tools to improve neighborhood connections such as landscaped areas and pedestrian paths should be encouraged over barriers such as walls or dead-end streets.
8. Integrate new subdivisions that are larger or smaller than adjacent subdivisions, by designing transitional elements such as landscape buffers at the perimeters.
9. Design new neighborhoods to promote access (both physical and visual) to parks and open space. New developments should also provide convenient pedestrian access to transit stops, schools and other neighborhood amenities.
10. Integrate into the development design natural features such as washes, canals, significant topography and existing vegetation, which are important in providing character to new subdivisions. By preserving these amenities, more interesting developments will occur, which will increase the long-term viability and desirability of the



**FIGURE 2 - Neighborhood at Desert Edge**

11. Provide impact-mitigating features (such as extra width or depth, single story units, or landscape buffering) when new residential lots abut existing non-residential uses or are adjacent to arterial streets or freeway corridors. Dissimilar land uses often require additional separation or other measures to achieve compatibility.
12. Develop low and medium-density housing so that it does not front directly on, or have direct access to, arterial streets, unless large lot size, buffering techniques, and/or site design can adequately mitigate both negative traffic impacts and adverse noise impacts.
13. Avoid perimeter walls. When necessary, in conjunction with new development, design and construct the exterior of walls adjacent to streets to have a finished appearance and to minimize the opportunity for graffiti.
14. Provide a variety of subdivision and housing designs, which will lend visual interest and distinctive character and identity to the community.
15. Continue to implement subdivision design guidelines and single-family development standards.
16. Encourage a streetscape that is not dominated by garage doors, by improving and varying home design or increasing or varying lots sizes.
17. Enhance a sense of safety and community by encouraging windows and porches that face the street.

18. Encourage the use of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles in designing new neighborhoods for improved safety. These principles include access control, natural surveillance, identification of private ownership, and management and maintenance responsibilities.
19. Design high-density housing developments that minimize traffic conflicts with adjacent streets and buffer residents of the development from the noise of adjacent streets.
20. Design neighborhood retail to be compatible in scale and character and oriented towards the residential areas that it serves, in terms of both design and pedestrian linkages. Traffic, noise or other factors should not negatively impact adjacent residential areas.
21. Encourage throughout each village a diverse range of housing styles affordable to all income levels. (See Goal 2, Housing element.)
22. Locate elementary schools in residential areas on or near a collector street, to handle traffic demands.
23. Encourage developers to plant suitable shade trees during initial building phase.
24. Consider modifications to the Zoning Ordinance (especially design review standards) to promote diversity, character and quality in new subdivisions.
25. Consider principles of New Urbanism in designing new neighborhoods. These principles include narrower streets, town centers, a mix of residential densities and easy access to neighborhood retail uses.



**FIGURE 3 - New Housing within the City**

**GOAL 2 COMPATIBLE NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT:** NEW DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION OR REDEVELOPMENT OF EXISTING DEVELOPMENT IN OR NEAR RESIDENTIAL AREAS SHOULD BE COMPATIBLE WITH EXISTING USES AND CONSISTENT WITH ADOPTED PLANS.

Neighborhoods should be preserved, stabilized and/or upgraded, unless part of an area is planned to transition to another use. Although the city's existing neighborhoods vary widely in their character and needs, new development should be sensitive to the existing uses.

**Policies:**

1. Encourage new land uses that are specifically supported by the General Plan, or a city-adopted area or specific plan. Unless the proposed use is supported by an adopted plan, non-residential land uses that do not serve the neighborhood and are not compatible in both scale and character with the surrounding residential area, should not be permitted adjacent to planned or existing residential development.
2. Utilize Zoning Ordinance design review standards and any adopted plans or guidelines for planning compatible new development in existing neighborhoods.
3. Create new development or redevelopment that is sensitive to the scale and character of the surrounding neighborhoods and incorporates adequate development standards to prevent negative impact(s) on the residential properties.
4. **Residential Conversion Policy:** Encourage properties and neighborhoods planned for residential use to continue as residential uses rather than being assembled for non-residential development. This policy establishes criteria that the City Council, Planning Commission and other review bodies should consider in evaluating a request to rezone, to a nonresidential use, existing developed residential land or vacant land within a residential neighborhood. The criteria listed below should be satisfied before converting existing neighborhoods to

nonresidential uses. These criteria should not be construed as the only relevant factors in deciding whether to allow nonresidential conversion.

- ❑ The proposed use change is compatible with and helps to implement the General Plan or other adopted plans.
  - ❑ There is a substantial need in the immediate future to use the land for a commercial or industrial purpose that cannot be accommodated in an existing commercial or industrial zone.
  - ❑ The area is not viable for continued residential use because of a combination of factors such as deterioration, land use or traffic conflict.
  - ❑ Parking, traffic and other impacts of the proposed development will not adversely impact nearby residential uses.
5. Encourage existing low and medium-density housing located on arterial streets to remain residential, unless the property is no longer viable for residential use according to Policy 3, **Residential Conversion Policy**.
  6. Enhance the compatibility of residential infill projects by carefully designing the edges of the development to be sensitive to adjacent existing housing. Create landscape buffers and other amenities to link new and existing development.
  7. Be sensitive to adjoining properties when developing canal banks for recreational purposes.
  8. Encourage residents to play an active role, in all levels of the city's public review process, on issues affecting their neighborhood.
  9. Encourage residents and businesses to participate in city programs that help stabilize property values, and improve reinvestment potential, safety and attractiveness of neighborhoods.



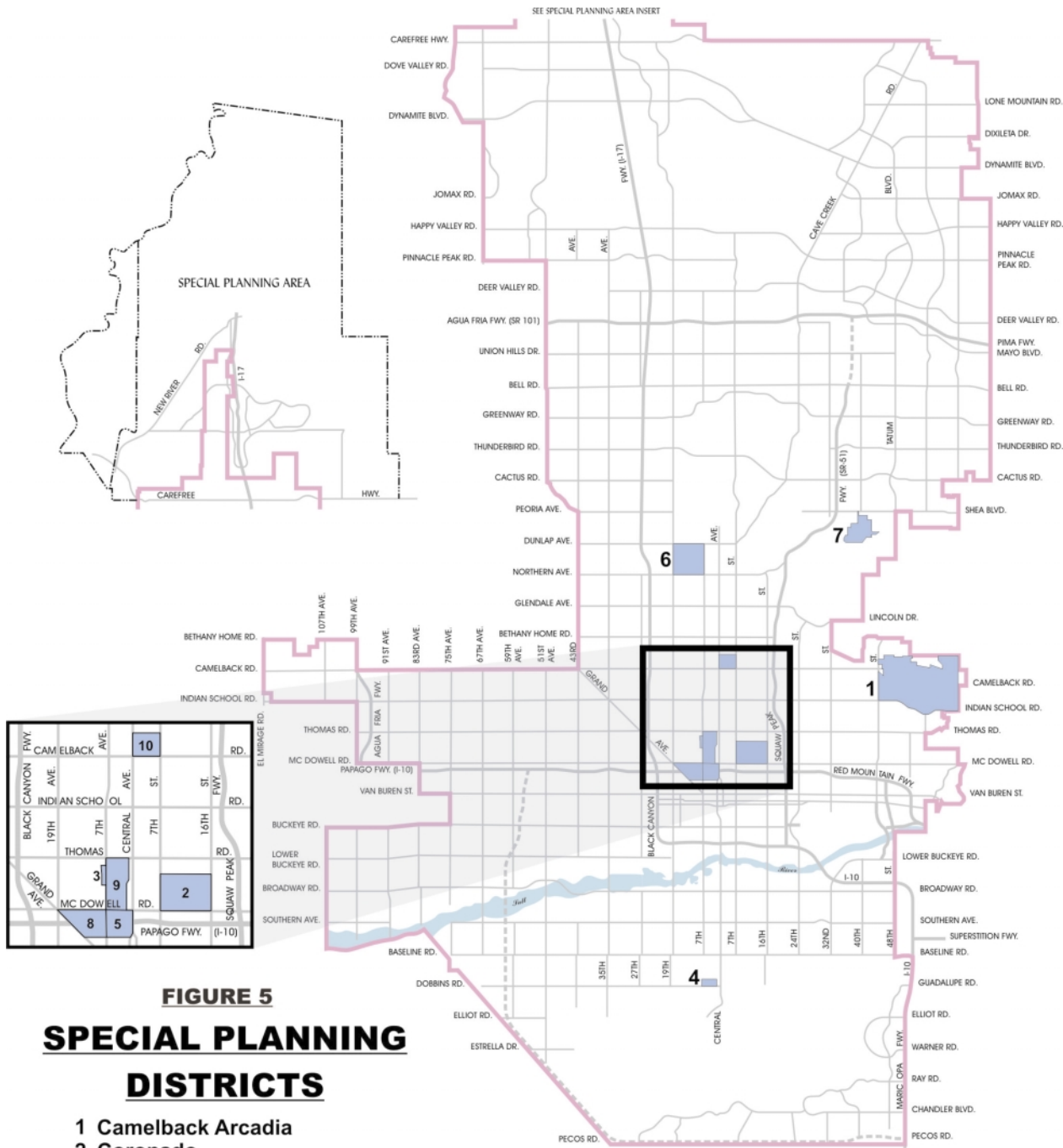
**FIGURE 4 - Neighborhood Cleanup**

10. Assist residents and property owners in initiating and implementing programs for conserving and revitalizing neighborhoods through special planning district plans or other neighborhood planning efforts.

**Recommendations:**

- A. Utilize Special Planning District (SPD) overlays to preserve neighborhood character. These neighborhood plans allow regulations and/or land use policies to be tailored for the area.

Special Planning Districts (SPDs) are neighborhood plans initiated by residents and adopted by the city, which provide a framework for future development and clarify neighborhood goals. The plans may include regulations for future development. Ten neighborhoods have become SPDs (they are identified on the city Zoning Map through a zoning overlay). Each of these neighborhoods has an adopted plan, written in conjunction with neighborhood residents, which describes the vision for the future of the neighborhood.



**FIGURE 5**  
**SPECIAL PLANNING**  
**DISTRICTS**

- 1 Camelback Arcadia
- 2 Coronado
- 3 Encanto Vista
- 4 Mountain Park
- 5 Roosevelt
- 6 Royal Palm
- 7 Sahuaro
- 8 Story
- 9 Willo
- 10 Windsor Square



- B. Investigate methods to implement neighborhood-specific design recommendations and/or regulations through SPDs.
11. Disperse group homes throughout the city in locations where they are compatible with surrounding densities. They should not be concentrated in any one neighborhood or urban village. (See Housing element, Goal 3, Policy 1 and Land Use element, Goal 8.)
  12. Prohibit the concentration of homeless shelters in any one neighborhood or urban village.
  13. Retain existing and encourage new affordable housing units throughout the city. (See Housing element, Goal 2.)
  14. Promote the maintenance and upkeep of all properties. (See Conservation, Rehabilitation and Redevelopment element, Goal 2.)
  15. Preserve and enhance existing neighborhoods through proactive partnerships among city staff, neighborhood residents, the village planning committees, and the private sector.
  16. Encourage infill development on vacant lots and parcels in and adjacent to neighborhoods, to provide appropriate and

compatibly designed housing and services that are needed in the area. (See Land Use element, Goal 3.)

**GOAL 3 NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION: STRENGTHEN NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONS.**

Neighborhood organizations themselves can be the most powerful and effective tool to preserve and revitalize neighborhoods. The city, the private sector, educational institutions, and nonprofits should work together to expand the knowledge and skills of residents, in order to empower them to handle neighborhood issues as they develop.

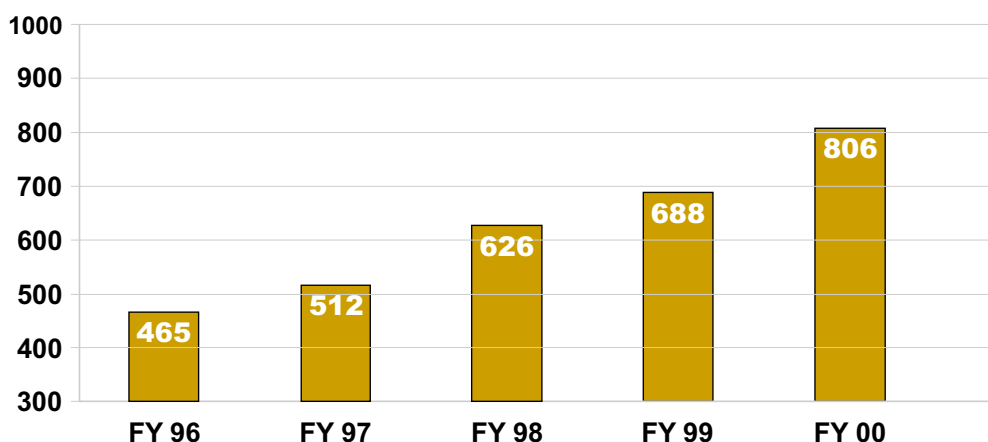
**Policies:**

1. Encourage neighborhoods to identify their own boundaries.
2. Continue to provide technical assistance and continuing education to neighborhood groups seeking to organize and/or resolve neighborhood problems.

**Recommendations:**

- A. Improve and utilize electronic communication such as Web sites and e-mail to transmit information to neighborhood organizations.

**FIGURE 6  
NUMBER OF REGISTERED NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS**



SOURCE: Neighborhood Services Department



**FIGURE 7 - Meeting on Neighborhood Issues**

- B. Provide opportunities for neighborhood representatives to become involved in planning and development issues for their area.
  - C. Continue to support programs that promote neighborhood self-reliance and community-based problem solving, such as the Neighborhood Fight Back Program, Good Neighbor Programs and Neighborhood Leadership Training.
3. Encourage a working relationship among neighborhood and community organizations, city departments and elected officials.

**Recommendations:**

- A. Encourage neighborhoods to register and maintain contact with the city's Neighborhood Notification Office, to enable it to collect and disseminate information important to neighborhoods. This should include information on traffic mitigation areas; how to contact their council representative, neighborhood specialist, village planner, or community action officer; and what function each of these offices performs.
- B. Encourage neighborhoods to establish partnerships with business and non-profit groups to assist with costs and expertise to pursue improvements.

- C. Work with the state legislature to make laws more responsive to neighborhood concerns.
4. Promote neighborhood organization, pride and planning through selected programs and projects.

**Recommendations:**

- A. Celebrate neighborhood successes through organized events, awards and publicity.
- B. Increase the percentage of people participating in neighborhood associations.

**GOAL 4 CHARACTER AND IDENTITY: NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER AND IDENTITY SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED AND REINFORCED.**

Neighborhood character is difficult to define and can be different for every residential area. It is an important factor that gives a neighborhood its identity and its sense of place. Character is often a complex set of perceptions based on the area's location, geographic features, landscaping, building types and other unique aspects.

**Policies:**

- 1. Encourage, develop and enhance neighborhood character and/or identity through the use of creative and flexible



design standards, varied architecture, streetscape themes, appropriate names, entrance markers, and/or improvement projects.

**Recommendations:**

- A. Encourage neighborhoods to inventory and celebrate the important elements of their neighborhood character and identity.
- B. Encourage using architectural features, building materials, landscaping material and building scale that are representative of the character of the area.



**FIGURE 8 - Architectural Features**

- C. Continue to work with residents and businesses to improve their neighborhood identity and image through signage, gateways, landscaping and lighting.
  - D. Encourage tree planting consistent with the neighborhood's character.
2. When making changes and improvements near residential areas, avoid, to the extent possible, any alteration or destruction of points of reference (such as prominent natural features or historic buildings), focal points, and place names important to the area's identity.
  3. Protect unique community and neighborhood character and resources through historic overlay districts, design guidelines and special planning districts.



**FIGURE 9 - House in Central Phoenix**

**Recommendations:**

- A. Encourage placing on the federal, state and Phoenix Historic Property Register neighborhoods and individual properties that meet their requirements.
  - B. Encourage new construction in or adjacent to historic neighborhoods to be sensitive to the unique character of the area.
4. Encourage new development that respects and enhances the neighborhood's character.

**Recommendations:**

- A. Encourage village planning committees to work with neighborhood residents to identify important elements of neighborhood character and identity.
  - B. Encourage village planning committees to consider neighborhood character and identity when evaluating general plan amendments or zoning cases.
5. Encourage neighborhoods to find ways (such as education, fund raising, partnering with other groups and working with public agencies) to solve their problems and build on their strengths.
  6. Encourage all neighborhoods to initiate beautification efforts and celebrate successes.

**GOAL 5 CIRCULATION:** THERE SHOULD BE SAFE, DIRECT, PLEASANT PATHS FOR PEDESTRIANS, BIKERS AND RIDERS ON HORSEBACK TO USE. ALLEYS SHOULD BE SAFE AND WELL MAINTAINED. TRAFFIC AND OVERFLOW PARKING FROM ADJACENT BUSINESSES SHOULD NOT IMPACT NEIGHBORHOODS BY DISRUPTING OR ALTERING QUALITY OF LIFE. (SEE CIRCULATION ELEMENT, GOALS 2D AND 2E.)

Traffic within neighborhoods, particularly cut-through traffic, is one of the most important issues facing Phoenix residents. People also are concerned about the noise, air pollution and safety problems associated with living on or near major streets.

**Policies:**

1. Discourage cut-through traffic and excessive speed in residential areas.

**Recommendations:**

- A. Expand and utilize neighborhood traffic management programs to reduce traffic problems.
  - B. Increase use of targeted speed enforcement in neighborhoods experiencing problems.
2. Minimize traffic through lower-density residential areas by locating heavy traffic-generating land uses on or near arterial streets.



**FIGURE 10 - Measures to Discourage Neighborhood Traffic**

**Recommendation:**

- A. Discourage commercial or industrial access onto residential streets.
7. Design major streets in residential areas to buffer adjacent residential uses from their negative impacts.

**Recommendations:**

- A. Provide walls and landscaping to screen impacted residential areas.
- B. Consider reconfiguring traffic patterns to minimize negative impacts on residential uses.

4. Design residential collector streets to accommodate no more than one lane of vehicular traffic in each direction (plus a turn lane if necessary). (See Circulation element, Goal 2C, Policy 5 for refinement.)
5. Throughout residential areas, provide safe and well-maintained sidewalks, bikeways and/or trails, as appropriate. Connect these areas to the services and facilities that serve them. Public bike paths and/or equestrian trails should be provided in accordance with approved bikeway and equestrian trail plans.
6. Design and operate arterial and collector streets bounding residential areas to facilitate the ease and safety of pedestrian travel along and across them.

**Recommendation:**

- A. Evaluate existing and proposed pedestrian, bike and equestrian facilities to improve connections in and around neighborhoods.
7. Encourage street and freeway planning to consider pedestrian and bicycle activities within and adjacent to neighborhoods.
  8. Utilize public transit routes on all major streets to link neighborhood residents with employment, shopping and services.

9. Ensure that sidewalks within neighborhoods are accessible to the disabled.
10. Provide for adequate emergency vehicle access within neighborhoods.
11. Ensure that alleys in residential areas are safe and well-maintained.
12. Utilize existing programs to resolve parking conflicts in neighborhoods near business areas where street parking is a problem.

**GOAL 6 FACILITIES AND SERVICES: ADEQUATE COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD FACILITIES AND SERVICES SHOULD BE ASSURED. (SEE PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PUBLIC SERVICES, NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION, AND RECREATION ELEMENTS.)**

Convenient access to public parks, open space, and public facilities such as schools, libraries and senior centers, is important to Phoenix residents. Adequate and good quality emergency services, streets, street lighting, and utilities are vital to all neighborhoods.

**Policies:**

1. Encourage development of parks that are large enough and have sufficient security and equipment to meet the park and recreation needs of the neighborhood.
2. Encourage joint development of park and school sites to maximize the recreation space, community gathering space and open space available to area residents.
3. Encourage innovative park and recreational options to meet the recreational needs of residents in developed areas where sufficient land is not available.
4. Locate elementary schools within reasonable and safe walking distance for school children, when warranted by area demographics.
5. Encourage the use of elementary schools as special-purpose community activity centers for the surrounding residential areas. Where feasible, encourage city-sponsored activities

at elementary schools, to promote after-hours use by all area residents.

6. Locate neighborhood retail to be easily accessible to neighborhoods.
7. Locate police, fire and paramedic facilities to provide efficient emergency service to neighborhood residents.
8. Provide neighborhood-based social services (senior centers, Head Start Programs, job training, counseling) appropriate to the area's needs in convenient facilities compatible in scale and character with the surrounding neighborhood.
9. Provide neighborhoods with adequate basic infrastructure appropriate to the area, including: storm sewers; sanitary sewers; paved streets; sidewalks or other means of safe pedestrian access; street lighting; water and electric and/or gas service connections.
10. Encourage public and private utilities, including high-tension wires, to be located underground to enhance the overall appearance of neighborhoods. If high-tension wires cannot be placed underground, they should not be placed along local neighborhood streets.
11. Serve neighborhood residents with regular public sanitation and maintenance services.
12. Provide a branch library to serve neighborhood residents within each village.
13. Provide neighborhood and community facilities that are accessible to the disabled.

**GOAL 7 NEIGHBORHOOD MAINTENANCE/ PROPERTY PRESERVATION: THE MAINTENANCE AND UPKEEP OF ALL PROPERTIES SHOULD BE PROMOTED. (SEE GOAL 2, CONSERVATION, REHABILITATION AND REDEVELOPMENT ELEMENT.)**

Property conditions are an indication of an area's character, quality and value. Well-maintained properties make more livable and attractive neighborhoods that can better support private

investment. Well-kept neighborhoods also provide a healthy and safe environment in which to live, work and play.

**Policies:**

1. Enforce the Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance citywide, to encourage property maintenance.

**Recommendation:**

- A. Provide programs to assist lower-income households in making property improvements.

**GOAL 8 NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY: CRIME AND ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS IN NEIGHBORHOODS NEED TO BE ADDRESSED. (ALSO SEE SAFETY ELEMENT.)**

Quality of life depends on safe neighborhoods. Not only do property crimes, gangs, drug crime, and drive-by shootings harm all those involved, but they also harm the reputation of the neighborhood. Criminal activity exists in all neighborhoods and needs to be aggressively addressed. Graffiti and blight (such as abandoned, dilapidated buildings) contribute to a public perception of danger. Environmental contaminants also are a concern in some areas.

**Policies:**

1. Utilize community-policing techniques to work directly with block watch groups, neighborhood associations and community activists to solve community problems at a grass-roots level.

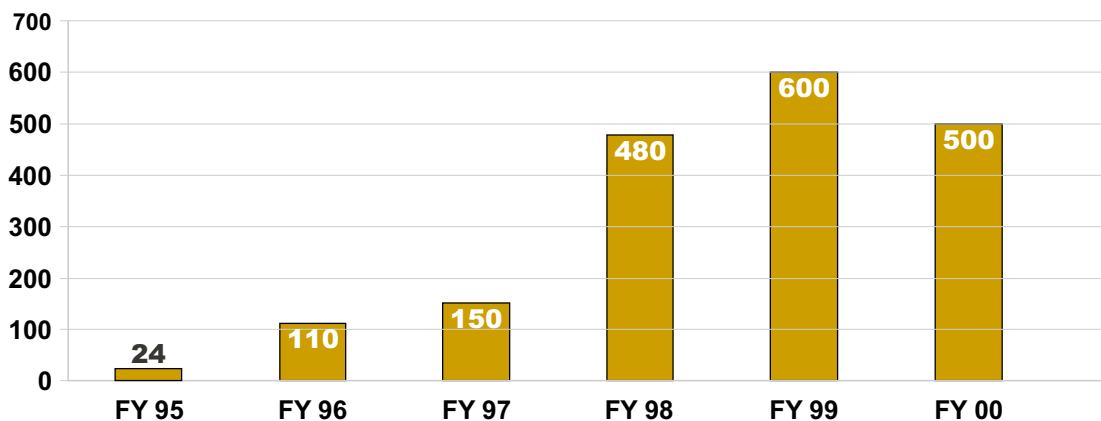


**FIGURE 12 - Police K-9 Unit Meets with Neighborhood**

**Recommendations:**

- A. Expand and enhance training for neighborhood groups to improve law enforcement and discourage criminal activity.
- B. Encourage community safety audits in existing neighborhoods, using Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles.

**FIGURE 11  
NUMBER OF NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUP/RESIDENT MEETINGS FACILITATED**



SOURCE: Neighborhood Services Department

- C. Investigate measures that will improve neighborhood safety through the control of access to and from the neighborhood.
- 2. Continue and expand partnership of city departments and neighborhood groups to address criminal activities.
- 3. Continue and expand programs and activities to improve or remove extremely deteriorated structures, excessive trash and debris, and other blight in neighborhoods.
- 4. Remove graffiti rapidly whenever it appears.

**Recommendation:**

- A. Encourage increased use of programs to address graffiti in and near neighborhoods.
- 5. Ensure that all neighborhood parks are safe for residents to use.

**Recommendation:**

- A. Investigate measures that will improve area residents' safe use of parks.
- 6. Develop policies/programs to help free neighborhoods from intrusion of harmful levels of noise, odor, lights, exhaust fumes, toxic wastes, vibrations, and development-generated heat and glare.
- 7. Continue existing programs that promote safety in neighborhoods, such as the following:



- The Graffiti Busters Program responds to complaints and proactively removes graffiti from all surfaces. It provides airless paint spray training for residents, as well as the paint to eliminate graffiti

**FIGURE 13 - Graffiti Cleanup**

and other blight. The program also provides community groups with paint and supplies to paint out graffiti in their neighborhoods.

- Operation Weed and Seed is a multi-agency strategy that "weeds out" violent crime, gang activity, drug use, and drug trafficking in targeted high-crime neighborhoods, and then "seeds" the target area by restoring it through social and economic revitalization and physical improvements. The weed and seed strategy recognizes the importance of linking and integrating federal, state, and local law enforcement and criminal justice efforts with government and local social services, private sector, community residents and local businesses, to maximize the impact of existing programs and resources. The program is funded through the U.S. Department of Justice.

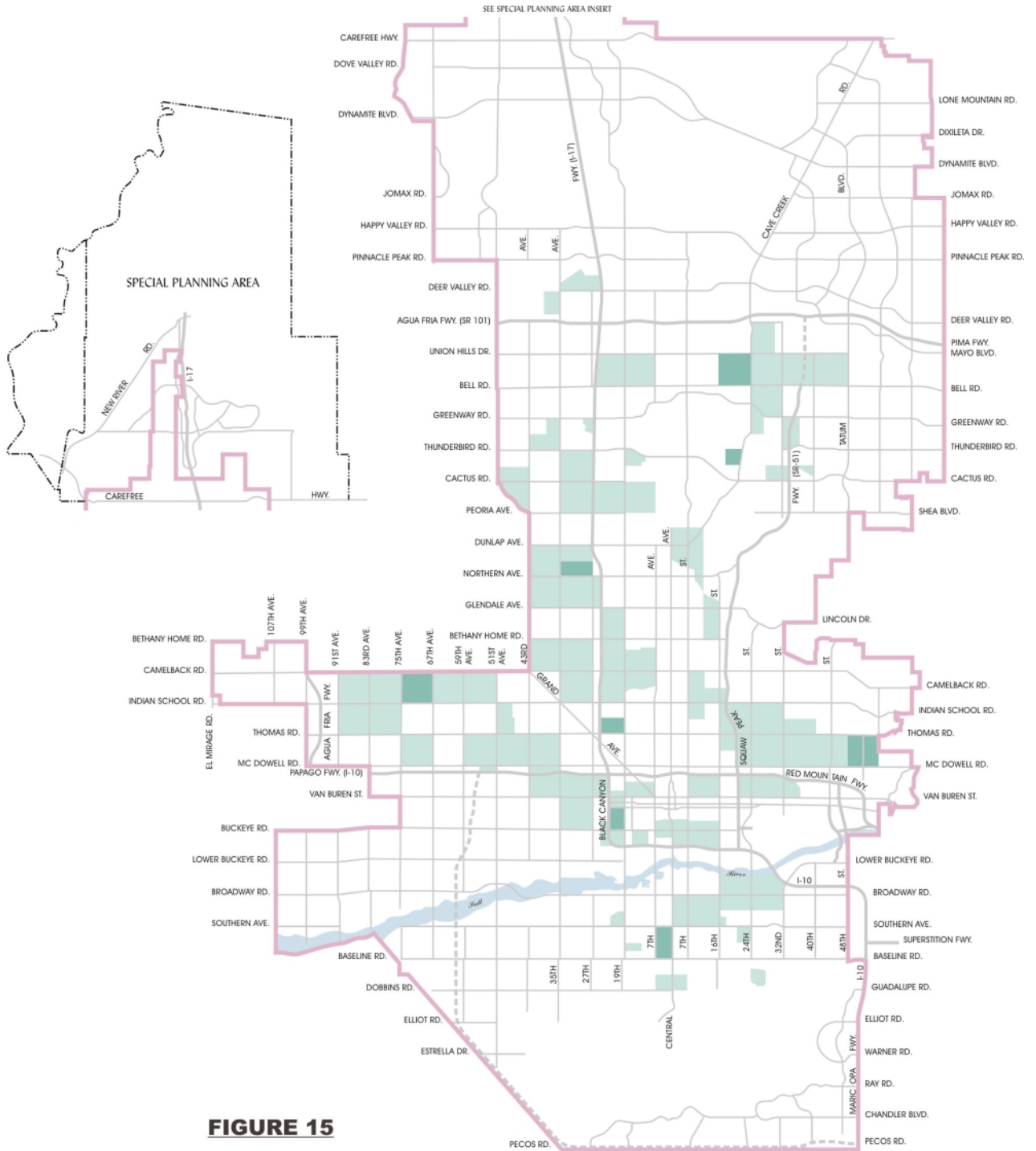
- Abatement Detective Program involves one detective from each of the six police precincts working with the Neighborhood Services Department inspectors to reduce blight in neighborhoods. The abatement detective's goal is to reduce/eliminate crime on property through the use of the Crime Abatement Law and the crime abatement process. The detectives and inspectors attack blight by issuing notices to the owners of problem properties, advising them that failure to remove blighting conditions will result in filing a criminal case against them. The abatement detectives also contend with illegal signs, failure to register rental property with the County Assessor's Office, and to some extent, assist the Neighborhood Services Department with mobile vendor enforcement.

- Neighborhood Block Watch Program provides an opportunity to enhance the safety and quality of life in the city by empowering community groups to prevent and solve crime problems in their neighborhoods. This is done by educating individuals to work together to solve problems, encouraging people to develop a sense of ownership for their neighborhoods, developing and addressing common goals, coordinating pertinent community meetings, and teaching crime prevention and safety techniques.



**FIGURE 14 - Police Work with Neighborhood Children**

- ❑ The Neighborhood Fight Back Program began in 1989, offers designated neighborhoods specialized city support over a limited period of time to assist with resident-driven neighborhood improvement efforts. There have been 90 areas designated and 74 completed. These efforts generally focus on revitalization, sustainability, crime and blight reduction, neighborhood leadership development, and community building. Activities may include participating in cleanups, increasing police services, increasing zoning code enforcement, adding youth and recreational programs, increasing the number of streetlights, reducing traffic and adding park equipment.
  
- ❑ The Community Prosecution Program began in 1997 and focuses on long-term solutions to problems that are identified by neighborhood members, in consultation with the Phoenix Prosecutor's Office and other agencies. It concentrates on a small number of target areas of no more than one square mile, in which neighbors are organized, active and dedicated to solving their problems.



**FIGURE 15**  
**FIGHT BACK**  
**NEIGHBORHOODS**

- FIGHT BACK NEIGHBORHOODS 2001
- FIGHT BACK NEIGHBORHOODS 1989-2001



**GOAL 9 NEIGHBORHOOD AND FREEWAY COMPATIBILITY: FREEWAYS AND PARKWAYS WITHIN THE CITY SHOULD BE DESIGNED OR MITIGATED TO BE SENSITIVE TO ADJACENT NEIGHBORHOODS.**

The Freeway Mitigation Program was established in 1988 to reduce the impacts of freeways on nearby residential areas. Mitigation measures primarily include noise walls, landscaping and neighborhood traffic improvements. The program uses Capital Improvement Bond Funds to prepare specific plans for the city's planned and existing freeway corridors and fund mitigation projects. Staff works with residents and the unique characteristics of the areas to address the following types of issues relating to freeway impacts: zoning and land use, circulation, noise, landscaping, bicycle paths, recreational trails, neighborhood safety, stabilization, and enhancement.



**FIGURE 16 - Freeway Mitigation Noise Wall**

**Policies:**

1. Ensure that freeway mitigation measures are considered and, if possible, implemented where freeways negatively affect residential areas.

**Recommendations:**

- A. Require that any new residential development, or redevelopment adjacent to freeways, incorporate appropriate mitigation measures through the rezoning and site plan review process.
2. Proactively plan mitigation efforts with neighborhoods and village planning

committees within existing and planned freeway corridors.

**Recommendation:**

- A. Enhance neighborhoods impacted by freeways or parkways by working with residents to incorporate positive features or themes of their neighborhood with freeway structures.
3. Ensure that local traffic patterns are not unnecessarily disrupted during freeway construction projects, and that residents have adequate access to and from their neighborhoods.

4. Reduce freeway noise impacts on adjacent neighborhoods.

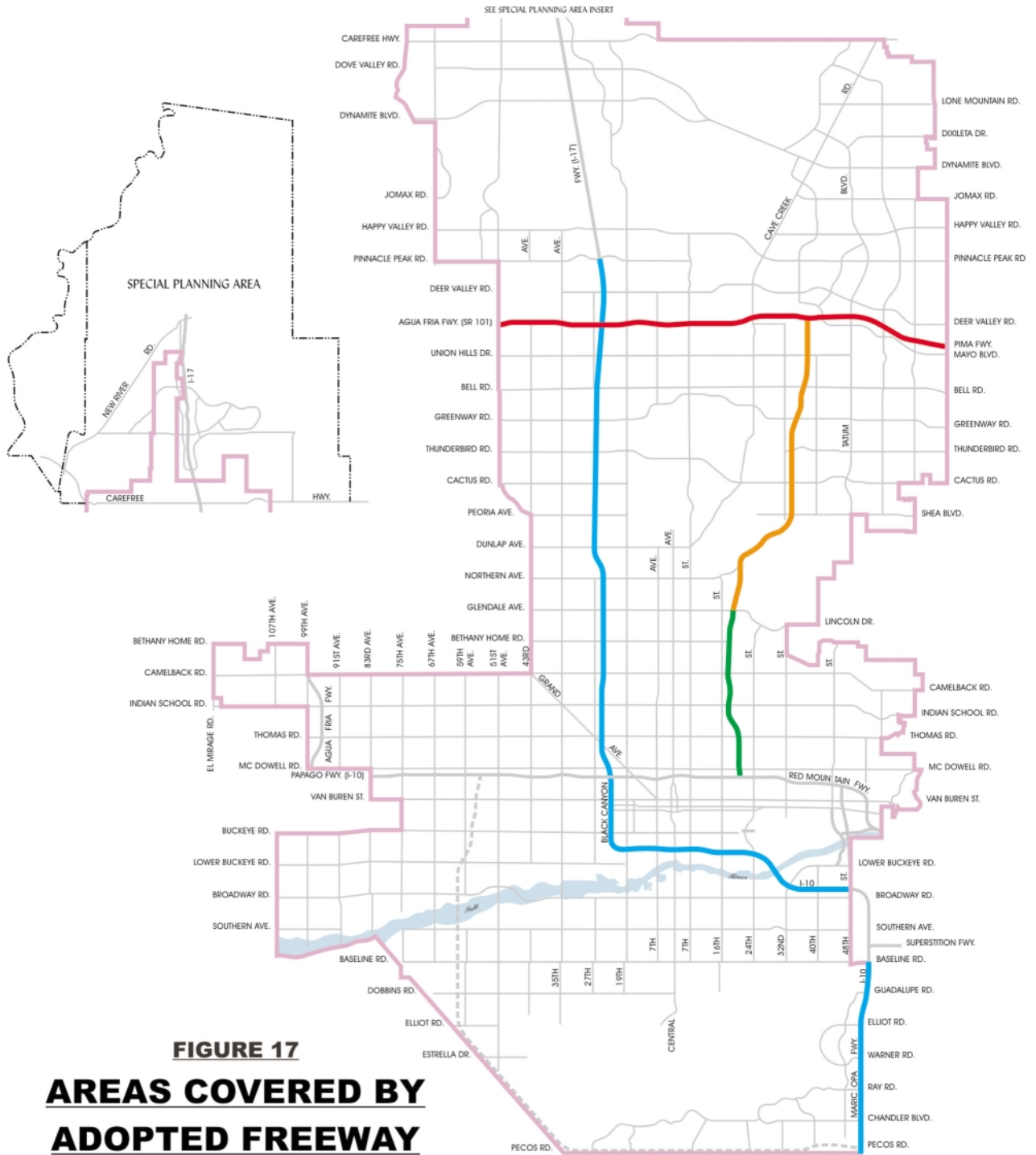
**Recommendation:**

- A. Conduct noise studies and provide mitigation when necessary, according to the city's noise abatement policy.
5. Enhance the quantity and, if necessary, the quality of landscaping in neighborhoods near freeways.

**Recommendation:**

- A. Coordinate with city departments and the Arizona Department of Transportation, to design and install landscaping that provides focal points, and screens the visual impact of the freeway or parkway.
6. Integrate bicycle paths and recreational trails in adjacent neighborhoods consistent with the Phoenix Bikeway System and the Circulation element of the General Plan.
7. Improve the safety and stability of neighborhoods near the freeway by improving lighting and reducing cut-through traffic.





**FIGURE 17**

**AREAS COVERED BY  
ADOPTED FREEWAY  
MITIGATION PLANS**

- █ SQUAW PEAK PARKWAY
- █ SQUAW PEAK FREEWAY
- █ OUTER LOOP FREEWAY
- █ BLACK CANYON/MARICOPA FREEWAY

