Planning Matters

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October is National Community Planning Month Celebrate How Planning Benefits Communities

How do you get to work or school? Where do you live? Where do you shop? Many citizens do not realize that these decisions are all impacted by planning.

October has been designated National Community Planning Month by the American Planning Association (APA) as a way to highlight the role of planners and planning in our community. This year's theme is "Green Communities," acknowledging that planners play a vital role in creating sustainable and environmentally friendly communities—from how you commute to the parks you enjoy.

The month-long celebration is an opportunity to recognize how planning shapes communities, and the work of planners and the planning profession in creating communities of lasting value.

Planning is the process of envisioning, mapping or otherwise conceiving how a

community will look, grow, and define itself—its characteristics, attributes, and identity. As our communities continue to change and grow, planners play an important role in ensuring that new developments are designed and built in harmony with existing surroundings. Planners must carefully balance the needs and desires of residents against the challenges presented by growth and change not just in the physical realm, but also economically and socially.

Planning also strives to give residents choices. From the type of home an individual lives in, such as a condominium, apartment, town home or single family, to how an individual gets around, whether taking mass transit, walking, bicycling or driving, planning helps ensure communities address the needs of everyone.

To learn more about National Community Planning Month, visit www.planning.org



The American Planning Association represents more than 44,000 members, including professional planners, academics, business leaders, students and engaged citizens. APA advocates for good planning practices to keep communities safe, healthy, and prosperous.

Great Neighborhoods

Places that Stand Out for Their Character, Livability, & Positive Community Feeling Used with permission from Planning, copyright January 2008 by the American Planning Association.

Imagine that many people consider their own neighborhood a pretty fine place. After all, people live where they are comfortable with the physical surroundings and the neighbors. There are thousands of really fine neighborhoods throughout the country. In some ways it's unfair to single out just a few for extraordinary status.

So what distinguishes a truly great neighborhood from one that is merely good? The American Planning Association decided to answer that question through its Great Places in America program announced in 2007. Each year, APA recognizes 10 great neighborhoods, 10 great streets, and 10 great public spaces, based on criteria that were used to evaluate a total of nearly 100 nominations put forward by planners and others. APA's criteria are listed elsewhere in this

article. For the rest of us, "great" often means the extent to which a diverse group of people really cares about a place and demonstrates that caring every day, both individually and collectively.

In my own neighborhood, this translates to property owners planting and maintaining flowers for all to see, not just tucking them inside private gardens. It means that local merchants sweep their sidewalks every morning, learn their customers' first names, and watch the street.

It means that neighborhood people seek attention from city hall, organize programs that celebrate the neighborhood's history, and welcome diversity. To my mind, great neighborhoods offer many choices, they accommodate change gracefully, and they are socially and economically inclusive.

What Makes a Great Neighborhood?

- Has a variety of functional attributes that contribute to a resident's day-to-day living (residential, commercial, or mixed uses).
- Accommodates multimodal transportation (pedestrian, bicyclist, driver).
- 3. Has design and architectural features that are visually interesting.
- 4. Encourages human contact and social activities.
- Promotes community involvement and maintains a secure environment.
- Promotes sustainability and responds to climactic demands.
- 7. Has a memorable character.

Great Neighborhoods (continued from page 1)

Unfortunately, what has passed for neighborhood activism in the past few decades often is just the opposite. It has meant limiting choices by prohibiting new forms of housing, preventing change at all costs, and finding ways of subtly (or not so subtly) excluding certain types of people. Occasionally, what some people call neighborhoods are little more than single-family, auto-dependent subdivisions, with virtually no other uses save for the occasional church, park, or school.

There is a countermovement, though. Planners and others have been pushing for walkable neighborhoods with a mixture of uses and buildings that reinforce the public realm. To them, great neighborhoods—whether old urban, new urbanist, or something else—are agents of democracy. No gates, or subtle forms of exclusion. Rather, the streets and sidewalks are the social glue that binds the place together.

It is popular to refer to Americans' love affair with the car. But as a culture we have had another love affair that is much longer and much richer. That is our adoration of small towns. We romanticize them, we idealize them, we elevate them to mythical status. We praise their intimacy, friendliness, and folksiness. They represent the best of us, collectively and individually. In a sense, we try to embody the virtues and values of small towns in our neighborhoods.

Great neighborhoods age well and endure through time. Many hands contribute to their richness. Layers are added, and they acquire the patina of human endeavor. These neighborhoods are burnished and repaired, maintained and fussed over. They have characters and heroes, order as well as whimsy. In short, they are physical and social expressions of our long-standing efforts to live together in human settlements. Great neighborhoods are life-affirming.

They're diverse

Among the great neighborhoods that APA has designated this year, many are of varying incomes, and different family types. There are apartments as well as renovated row houses. The rich array of people and interests is obvious. The neighborhood is a great stew-pot of race, ethnicity, age, and income.

In a different way, San Diego's Hillcrest neighborhood is socially diverse in that it

has attracted a substantial number of gay and lesbian people. This new energy, which is celebrated by an annual Pride Parade down the main thoroughfare, infuses the area with a vitality and spirit that is palpable. Richard Florida has observed in his writings on the creative class that gays and lesbians are having an enormous influence by helping to reinvigorate urban neighborhoods throughout the country, and Hillcrest is a perfect example of that phenomenon.

Demographic diversity also is evident in neighborhoods such as Old West Austin, Pike Place Market in Seattle, and San Francisco's North Beach. These places aren't exclusive; they invite and embrace everyone.

Central locations

Most of the 10 great neighborhoods are situated close to the city center. This means they have had many decades to mature and benefit from waves of people and influences and architectural styles.

Many are within walking distance of downtown, or they are linked to it by transit. Residents can live there without a car. Increasingly such neighborhoods will appeal to seniors and younger residents who do not wish to be saddled with automobiles. In many ways, these places are far more sustainable—socially, economically, an environmentally—than outlying suburbs where the automobile is the driver.

Energy, land, materials, transportations, and utilities are far more efficiently used and financed through taxes within denser, inner city neighborhoods.

Shared ownership

People who live in these neighborhoods feel very strongly about them, and not just because they have homes there. They identify with the, Robert Putnam has lamented the gradual erosion of group activities in the U.S. That may be the case nationally, but not in these places. They show that many people still put a lot of energy into looking after neighbors, sharing responsibility for maintenance and informal policing, along with seasonal events and celebrations.

In places like Park Slope in New York City, community activism is high, with many people dedicated to maintaining safe and clean streets, parks, and playgrounds. Commercial streets teem with family-owned businesses that take as much pride and responsibility for keeping the neighborhood up as residents do. Park Slope has seen an amazing amount of new investment, particularly in the form of people renovating and upgrading the blocks of brownstone dwellings so characteristic of this slice of Brooklyn.

San Francisco's North Beach is filled with people who let city hall know when new influences threaten stability. North Beach residents were successful in getting the city to adopt programs such as rent control and affordable set-aside requirements for new development, so that people with moderate incomes could continue to live there.

The Old West Austin Neighborhood Association (in Austin, Texas) meets with developers early on to ensure that new projects will fit with the adopted neighborhood plan. The group also works with developers of mixed use projects to include affordable housing.

Pittsburgh's Chatham Village is tiny by comparison, but its residents are also passionate about the place. The same is true of Elmwood Village in Buffalo, New York, and the First Addition in Lake Oswego, Oregon.

Mayor Laurel Prussing of the city of Urbana, Illinois, says that "the West Urbana neighborhood is quite mixed and includes university students, long-time residents, and young families. But they all seem to feel very passionate about the place. A few years ago, we started seeing blocky apartment buildings intruding into the neighborhood. The residents lobbied hard to have the city ensure some protection from incompatible development. We listened and acted on their requests."

Sometimes citizen activism in one neighborhood can influence events beyond its boundaries. Residents of San Diego's Hillcrest neighborhood sought to replace a deteriorated pedestrian bridge that crossed a wide arterial street. City traffic engineers had declined to rebuild it, as it could not be linked to any transportation project. Rather than giving up, the community approached the Commission for Arts and Culture and secured funds for a bridge that would be a work of public art. According to Michael Stepner, FAICP, "Hillcrest's success resulted in the city reevaluating how it dealt with

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pedestrian needs and let to a pedestrian master plan that has changed the face of the entire city."

Community spaces

Most of the neighborhoods recognized in the APA program include at least one public spot where people spend time. Park Slope has Prospect Park, designed by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux. Parents with strollers walk along the meandering paths, while elderly folks pass the day watching passerby. In Park Slope, the streets themselves are terrific social spaces, with stoops and steps providing places to hang out. Nearby, the Grand Army Plaza hosts a terrific Saturday market where locals gather, schmooze, and queue up to snag the best fish from the colorful vendors.

Pike Place Market is an amazing mixing bowl within the neighborhood that surrounds it. Its streets and lanes and back alleys are filled with people enjoying the sensation of being together in a confined space. People jostle, converse, squeal with delight, and watch buskers and hawkers sell their wares. Victor Steinbrueck Park—on the edge of the market—is the site of outdoor events and casual meetings. It attracts visitors, residents, and street people alike, and no one feels uneasy.

Peter Steinbrueck, an architect and Seattle city councilman whose father helped save the market from demolition in the 1960's notes that "the 100-year old market embodies Seattle's long-standing populist tradition." Indeed, when a ballot measure to save farmlands was presented to the voters of King County, it was presented to the voters of King County, it was pitched as a way to keep the market thriving. Voters approved a property tax levy to buy those farms and keep hundreds of acres of land in agricultural use rather than having them go to subdivisions and strip malls.

Washington Square Park in San Francisco's North Beach neighborhood serves as a similar social space. Kids careen around the lawns while adults sit and watch from benches. Lovers lock arms and smooch, and senior citizens amble along. Surrounding shops and cafes animate the place day and night. Scattered groups of street people can be found, but the place invites and accommodates anyone. These spaces are true

agents of democracy, excluding no one whether by rules or subtle clues. On a smaller scale, the internal greenway in Chatham Village is a public space that ties the homes together in both a spatial and a social sense. This is a classic way of organizing dwellings in a village-like way—a design that has influenced other communities ranging from new towns to co-housing developments.

The First Addition in Lake Oswego is noted for its many private gardens that are visible from the street. This is a trait of traditional urban neighborhoods, with private space visually extending the public realm. As Tony Hiss has noted in his book, Experience of Place, most people need to see living systems, even if they aren't found within spaces that are publicly accessible. Well-tended front yard gardens also show that residents take great pride in their neighborhood. Oregon planner Sumner Sharpe FAICP, notes that "so well know is the First Addition's engaging, 'small town' streetscape that communities all over the state seek to emulate it."

Local commerce

The best neighborhoods provide residents with shops and services that can satisfy most of the daily needs. Businesses are often locally owned on the shopping streets. Ongoing personal relationships are important here. Merchant and customer know each other's first names. Residents feel responsible for nurturing local businesses and ensuring their survival over time, even if the prices are higher than in typical suburban chain stores.

Most of APA's Great Neighborhoods exhibit this characteristic. Park Slope has a primary retail street that serves much like the main street in a small town. On the opposite coast, in the Hillcrest neighborhood in San Diego, University Avenue offers a lively mix of places to eat, sit, lounge, and shop. Some years ago, a local grocery store call Ralph's took over a defunct department store and renovated it. The market is the centerpiece of a group of stores, restaurants, and viewer, dense housing, creating a kind of village within a village. Surprisingly, the supermarket is barely visible from the street; the University Avenue frontage is lined with mixed use buildings.

Old West Austin's wide variety of

residents, including members of many ethnic groups as well as university students, helps support the many locally owned businesses. Few chains are found here, although one of them is the flagship Whole Foods store, which is based in Austin.

Both Eastern Market neighborhood and the Pike Place Market neighborhood are anchored by their namesakes, each a rabbit warren of numerous locally owned businesses that give their districts a sense of uniqueness. These concentrations of small retailers provide a "third place' for many local residents to relax, eat, meet friends, and enjoy the fruits of dense urban life.

Columnist Neal Peirce has lauded the authenticity of the Eastern Market in Washington, D.C. "Its vendors are a shared city treasure—many family teams serving customers for decades, tempting all comers with cheese and bakery aromas, suggesting recipes, serving up homey breakfasts, offering a vegetable or fruit buyer a few extra bananas or apples ...a kaleidoscope of Washingtonians found the market a wonderfully natural place to people watch, rub shoulders, or carry home fresh foods."

Tragedy hit last April, when a fire gutted the 143-year old market building. While the complex is restored, the market is able to serve the neighborhood at least partially by operating out of temporary quarters.

History and character

Great neighborhoods usually take time to accumulate layers of richness. Multiple generations of people are needed to give a place roots and permanence, whether by planting trees, constructing buildings, or becoming local legends. A good neighborhood has a patina, as with a well-used, well-loved piece of furniture that has been cared for, repaired, and polished. New neighborhoods, no matter how well planned or designed, don't demonstrate the contributions of hundreds of people as they have come and gone.

Sometimes the architecture is a focal point. Park Slope is packed with narrow row houses, each with a long flight of steps, oversized vertical windows, and

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strong cornice line. While sections were developed by different individuals, they followed the same general rules and created a place that is visually cohesive in its repetitive forms and details. Residents personalize their homes by painting their front doors in different colors. The effect is both charming and a sign of a strong community.

Some of this year's 10 designated neighborhoods are historic districts, with mechanism in place to protect their value. For example, the Pike Place Market Historic District prevents the intrusion of brand names, commercial corporations, and proposed changes to the physical setting. Everything from signs to paving and windows is carefully reviewed to ensure that the character of the district is retained.

Chatham Village is a National Historic Landmark, recognized as one of the nation's planned communities. Designed by Clarence Stein and Henry Wright after the fashion of an English garden city. Chatham Village served as a New Deal model for subsequent federally sponsored residential projects. The greenbelts and superblocks and village-like compactness influenced planning throughout the U.S. And while this original development has worked well over the decades, it also taught us the lesson that the widespread application of inward-oriented planning schemes was not always successful from a social perspec-

Jim Duncan, FAICP, has lived most of his life in Austin, Texas. He notes that the city's unofficial motto is "Keep Austin Weird," and a website by that name displays the wonderfully quirky local color. Duncan says that Old West Austin is a perfect example of that attitude. Originally a tract given to former slaves after the Civil War so they could build their own homes, the neighborhood is an

eclectic mix of housing types and style but generally is characterized by very small homes on small lots." Old West Austin personifies 'old urbanism," says Duncan. "So unique is its character and the little main street filled with odd shops including a huge, funky bookstore that it' become a regional draw, attracting people from all over to visit the place and hang out."

City actions

Often neighborhoods that are widely valued also have the support of citysponsored policies, programs, or projects. Not that this is automatic or easy. Most of the 10 neighborhoods celebrated by APA have had to maintain an active lobbying effort to ensure attention. Sometimes neighborhood groups have initiated their own efforts to strengthen regulations, add design standards, attract public and private investment, or seek out grants.

Great neighborhoods require great cities and great city governments that recognize their value. Plans, as important as they are, are not enough in themselves to ensure that neighborhoods do well over time. Cities have to work on efforts such as community policing, affordable and workforce housing, parks and schools, neighborhood gardens, street cleaning and maintenance. And because municipal funds are often scarce, some of these efforts require participation—either financial or in-kind—by the residents themselves. No one should depend on city government to provide everything.

One of my first professional jobs involved working with neighborhood groups to plant street trees throughout the five boroughs of New York City. The residents paid half the cost and the city picked up the rest and handled all the contracting and installation. That was decades ago. Now, when I visit those neighborhoods,

the mature trees add immensely to the stability and value of the streets and blocks. In my current neighborhood, the community council works with the local court system to enlist the help of light offenders, who clean the streets instead of paying fines; the crews are supervised by resident volunteers. Similar programs requiring partnerships are absolutely critical in the fostering of good neighborhoods.

It is encouraging that Americans are rediscovering the virtues and values of solid urban neighborhoods. Not the faux neighborhoods of isolated, exclusive single-family subdivisions but neighborhoods that are diverse, messy, vital, and ever-changing. People who live in these rediscovered places are not looking for escape from urban density and congestion. Rather, they revel in it.

APA has found 10 great neighborhoods to celebrate this year, but there are hundreds of splendid neighborhoods in cities and town throughout the country. We are finally relearning one of our culture's most deeply rooted traditions; physically compact, socially intimate, and economically mixed neighborhoods that are walkable and offer many choices in jobs, housing, recreation, and arts. And where the public realm is considered just as important as private space.

The renewed interest in real neighborhoods portends well for the future of cities. People are seeking the authenticity of experience, the richness that only comes from varied people living in close proximity, and the intrinsic beauty of buildings that have aged well with time. We are not long satisfied with the ersatz; we want the genuine article.

To learn about APA's 2008 Great Neighborhoods, Streets, and Public Spaces, visit www.planning.org/ greatplaces/index.htm

What is a Certified Planner?

For some, AICP may mean "any idiot can plan," but AICP really stands for American Institute of Certified Planners. Established by the American Planning Association, this professional institute provides recognized leadership nationwide in the certification of professional planners, ethics, professional development, planning education, and standards of planning practice. To become a certified plan, APA members must meet certain education and experience requirements and pass a written examination. To maintain certification, certified planners must complete a minimum of 32 hours of continuing education every 2 years, including 1 1/2 hours in ethics and law each. This professional development requirement helps planners gain the knowledge and skills they need to remain current in the practice of planning and to demonstrate ongoing commitment. Certified planners use their skills to find solutions to community problems and carry the community towards its desired long-term goals. Today there are approximately 130 certified planners in Kentucky.

2008 Zoning Compliance Permit Analysis January—September 2008

	City of Bardstown		Nelson County		Total	
	Permits	Est. Cost (\$)	Permits	Est. Cost (\$)	Permits	Est. Cos
Agricultural Structures	0	\$0	43	\$666,455	43	\$666,45
Agricultural Additions	0	\$0	4	\$6,000	4	\$6,00
Agricultural Subtotal	0	\$0	47	\$672,455	47	\$672,4
Accessory Additions	2	\$5,191	2	\$6,200	4	\$11,39
Accessory Structures	52	\$192,578	166	\$1,718,070	218	\$1,910,64
Demolitions	0	\$0	5	\$0	4	ψ1,010,0
Duplexes (4 units)	0	\$0	2	\$340,000	2	\$340,0
Manufactured Homes, double-wide	0	\$0	12	\$696,120	12	\$696,1
Manufactured Homes, single-wide	0	\$0	21	\$248,200	21	\$248,2
Manufactured Home Additions	0	\$0	5	\$45,100	5	\$45,1
Modular Homes	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	¥ 10,1
Multi-Family Structure (18 units)	2	\$470,000	0	\$0	2	\$470,0
Multi-Family Addition	0	\$0	1	\$400	1	\$4
Single-Family Additions	24	\$245,919	64	\$1,032,017	88	\$1,277,9
Single-Family Dwellings	31	\$3,782,816	101	\$13,578,594	132	\$17,361,4
Single-Family Alteration/Remodeling	13	\$228,603	21	\$470,600	34	\$699,2
Townhouses/Condominiums (17 units)	4	\$720,000	0	\$470,800	4	\$720,0
Residential Subtotal	128	· ·	395	, ,	528	
Residential Subtotal	120	\$5,645,107	393	\$18,135,301	326	\$23,780,4
Commercial Accessory Structures	2	\$2,400	1	\$4,000	3	\$6,4
Commercial Additions	7	\$3,189,500	3	\$121,792	10	\$3,311,2
Commercial Alteration/Remodels	22	\$578,692	1	\$500	23	\$579,1
Commercial Demolitions	0	\$0	1	\$0	1	Ψσ. σ, .
Commercial Structures	12	\$2,523,900	5	\$1,595,000	17	\$4,118,9
Commercial Tenant Fit-Ups	10	\$583,460	1	\$12,000	11	\$595,4
Commercial Subtotal	53	\$6,877,952	12	\$1,733,292	65	\$8,611,2
Industrial Accessory	3	\$62,000	0	\$0	3	\$62,0
Industrial Additions	5	\$1,615,000	3	\$928,000	8	\$2,543,0
Industrial Alterations/Remodels	0	\$0	1	\$15,000	1	\$15,0
Industrial Demolitions	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	
Industrial Structures	0	\$0	1	\$65,000	1	\$65,0
Industrial Subtotal	8	\$1,677,000	5	\$1,008,000	13	\$2,685,0
Public Structures	0	\$0	1	\$75,000	1	\$75,0
Public Additions	0	\$0	1	\$0	1	
Public Alterations/Remodeling	2	\$639,300	2	\$9,000	4	\$648,3
Telecommunications Facilities	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	
Telecom. Accessory Structures	0	\$0	1	\$24,000	1	\$24.0
Public Subtotal	4	\$639,300	5	\$108,000	7	\$747,3
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otal Permits Issued	191	\$14,839,359	469	\$21,657,048	660	\$36,496,4

New Construction Permit Comparison 2006 - 2008 (to date) (#) denotes dwelling units

2006		200	07	January—September 2008		
Permit Type	# Permits (Units)	Est. Cost	# Permits (Units)	Est. Cost	# Permits (Units)	Est. Cost
Duplexes	12 (24)	\$552,000	10 (20)	\$1,027,000	2 (4)	\$340,000
Multi-Family Structures	8 (25)	\$845,000	1 (3)	\$110,000	2 (18)	\$470,000
Townhouses/Condos	16 (39)	\$3,620,000	9 (33)	\$1,860,000	4 (17)	\$720,000
Single-Family Dwellings	252 (252)	\$34,653,512	200 (200)	\$27,124,864	132 (132)	\$17,361,410
Commercial Structures	18	\$8,740,876	17	\$3,604,933	17	\$4,118,900
Industrial Structures	2	\$9,978,390	6	\$10,020,250	1	\$65,000
Public Structures	12	\$5,726,000	2	\$1,502,558	1	\$75,000
Total Permits	1,011	\$82,423,600	944	\$70,493,140	660	\$36,496,407

Conventional Single-Family Dwellings 1995— September 30, 2008

	•
Year	# Dwellings
1995	397
1996	380
1997	351
1998	474
1999	427
2000	402
2001	406

Year	# Dwellings
2002	391
2003	429
2004	377
2005	390
2006	252
2007	200
2008 (Jan—September)	132

Conventional Single-Family Dwelling Data Analysis 2006— September 30, 2008

Construction Cost		Size—Living Space			
Range	2006	\$7,500-\$600,000	Range	2006	448-7,080 sf
	2007	\$18,000-\$1,987,000		2007	156-14,676 sf
	2008	\$15,700—\$500,000		2008	909-4,937 sf
<u>Average</u>	2006	\$132,510	<u>Average</u>	2006	1,783 sf
	2007	\$135,624		2007	1,671 sf
	2008	\$132,403		2008	1,789 sf
<u>Median</u>	2006	\$115,000	Median	2006	1,500 sf
	2007	\$100,000		2007	1,436 sf
	2008	\$105,000		2008	1,544 sf
<u>Mode</u>	2006	\$60,000	<u>Mode</u>	2006	1,350 sf
	2007	\$80,000		2007	1,350 sf
	2008	\$80,000		2008	1,250 sf

Conventional Si Subdivision	ngle-Family Dwelling 2008 (to date)	gs by Subdivision # Units
Miller Springs (Villa	ge)	13
Bridgepointe (Urbar	n)	9
Corman's Crossing	(Village)	7
Early Times (Urban)	5
Big Springs (Suburl	ban)	4
Tullamore (Urban)		3
Wildwoods (Rural/N	NSA)	3
Locust Grove (Subu	urban)	3
Mallards Landing (S	Suburban)	3
Cross Creek (Haml	et)	3
Beech Fork (Urban))	2
Castle Cove (Subur	rban)	2
Copperfields (Subu	rban)	2
Forest Springs (Villa	age)	2
Parkway Village (U	rban)	2
Pembrooke Place (Suburban)	2
Poplar Woods (Sub	ourban)	2
Remington Heights	(Suburban)	2
Wellington (Urban)		2
Woodlawn Springs	(Urban)	2

Joint City-County Planning Commission of Nelson County

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Todd Johnson, City of Bardstown
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Linda Wells (Vice-Chair), Nelson County (#2)
Mike Zoeller (Chair), Nelson County (#1)
Caroline Welch, Nelson County (#4)

denotes Magisterial District

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Planned Unit Development?

Condominiums?