



# Memorandum

**TO:** Planning Commission

**FROM:** John Weis  
Norberto Dueñas

**SUBJECT: EDENVALE/GREAT OAKS SNI  
NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT  
PLAN AMENDMENT**

**DATE:** August 9, 2008

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COUNCIL DISTRICTS: 2  
SNI AREA: Edenvale/Great Oaks

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The City and Redevelopment Agency staff recommend that the Planning Commission recommend that the City Council:

- (a) Accept the Strong Neighborhoods Initiative (SNI) *Edenvale/Great Oaks Improvement Plan Amendment* as the renewed Community vision for the future of the Edenvale/Great Oaks SNI Planning Area; and,
- (b) Encourage Edenvale/Great Oaks area residents, property owners and community members to continue to dedicate their time, energy and resources towards the *Plan Amendment* while continuing current community-building activities.

## **OUTCOME**

City Council acceptance of the *Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood Improvement Plan Amendment* will demonstrate to the Edenvale/Great Oaks Strong Neighborhoods Initiative Community that Council, City staff and Agency staff will continue to support and partner with the neighborhood to achieve their renewed goals and to complete the newly developed Top Ten Action Agenda.

## **BACKGROUND**

**Renewing the Action Agenda.** Since 2006, the 19 Strong Neighborhoods have been renewing their "Top Ten" lists and creating updated Action Agendas. The Renewed Action Agenda focuses the dedication and vision of neighborhood leaders and the resources of the City and Redevelopment Agency in a clear, balanced, and mutually agreed upon set of priorities.

Each of these neighborhood priorities should meet three foundational criteria:

1. **Important to neighborhoods.** This means that there are a significant number of people who are ready to take action to be part of the solution.
2. **Something a City/Local Government can and should do well.** The priority must be reasonably within the sphere of influence of the City or partner organization. Preference should be given to priorities that clearly play to strengths.
3. **Transformative.** The priority should have a significant positive effect on the surrounding neighborhood.

To be effective, it is crucial that each Action Agenda be focused exclusively on priorities that will transform neighborhoods and that the City and Redevelopment Agency can achieve. In addition to meeting the three foundational criteria, the priorities in each Action Agenda should address a balanced mix of the following four categories: Neighborhood Action, Services or Social Issues, Capital Projects and Transformative Opportunities.

Renewing the Action Agenda (RAA) produces both a new "Top Ten" list, and serves to renew neighborhood enthusiasm and leadership. Through this process, each neighborhood is encouraged to examine the organizational capacity of its Neighborhood Action Coalition (NAC) and the overall community. The intent is to deepen the organizational capacity of the NAC and to create a network of interconnected neighborhood leaders as the Renewing the Action Agenda process unfolds.

Renewing the Action Agenda and renewing neighborhood leadership are interconnected and interdependent. Implementing a "Top Ten" list requires effective neighborhood leadership. Strong leadership develops through the experience of action, balanced with reflection. The mix of four categories provides the opportunity for a variety of leadership styles and approaches. The intent is to build a broader and more diverse leadership network with an emphasis on action.

**Edenvale/Great Oaks SNI Planning Area.** Located approximately seven miles southeast of downtown San José, the Edenvale/Great Oaks SNI Planning Area is comprised of two distinct but similar neighborhoods. The neighborhoods are bounded by Coyote Road to the north, U.S. 101 to the east, Blossom Hill Road and Monterey Road to the south, and Rahway Drive to Roeder Road, including Caroline Davis Intermediate School, to the west. The Edenvale and Great Oaks neighborhoods not only share a comparable mix of land uses and similar resident populations, they also face many of the same challenges. Together, the adjacent neighborhoods encompass approximately 440 acres of land located within Council District 2. There are a total of 3,149 households in the Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood, and the average household size is 3.92 residents.

The Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood has a suburban character and consists primarily of single-family homes, duplexes and apartments. In the southeastern corner of the neighborhood there is also a mobile home park located between U.S. 101 and the Monterey Road. Two neighborhood elementary schools, Edenvale Elementary School and Stipe Elementary School, are located within the Plan Area.

Caroline Davis Intermediate School is also located within the neighborhood. The neighborhood contains one public park, the 12-acre Great Oaks Park, as well as the recently completed Discovery Community Garden. The neighborhood's new skatepark is located within Great Oaks Park.

Although the neighborhood is largely residential, the area does contain some commercial and retail uses. These uses are concentrated along the Monterey Road and southern portion of Roeder Drive. Built in the 1950s and 1960s, the Edenvale Shopping Center is the area's largest commercial development. The Edenvale Center contains restaurants and other neighborhood-serving retail, as well as the Christ the King Catholic Church. The Redevelopment Agency and the property owners have signed an Owner Participation Agreement whereby the Agency and owners are funding parking lot improvements, which include paving, lighting and landscaping. Work on the project began in August 2008. Since the SNI program launched, 4,000 square feet of new retail space has been constructed in the Edenvale/Great Oaks neighborhood.

## **ANALYSIS**

### **Edenvale/Great Oaks Planning Process and Participation**

The RAA process was conducted through three community workshops and various small group discussions were held with youth, parent, resident, religious, and educational groups to help build interest in participating and obtaining input on potential priorities.

A steering committee of neighborhood residents and stakeholders was formed to guide the process and develop an outreach strategy. In order to build awareness about the upcoming RAA workshops large posters were placed in the windows of the local merchants announcing the workshops and the opportunity to get involved. In addition, surveys were conducted and informational tables were set-up at the library, church, neighborhood supermarket, and school events. A network of street captains and volunteers was used to deliver flyers door to door for each workshop. In addition, the three neighborhood schools included information about the workshops in their weekly school packet. The neighborhood church included the workshop information in its weekly bulletin. Finally, the email and phone database were used as a reminder of the upcoming workshops.

The first community workshop was held on March 12, 2008. It opened with a presentation on the neighborhood's accomplishments (nine of the ten existing priorities are complete with the tenth well underway) and introduction to the City Council-approved selection criteria and framework categories set-forth to guide the Action Agenda renewal process. Participants were asked to discuss their vision and goals for the future of the neighborhood, as well as any issues they believe should be included in the new "Top Ten" priority list. The community feedback strongly reaffirmed the vision and goals established in the original plan, which are safety and crime reduction; service delivery; community engagement; traffic, circulation, and parking; recreation, youth and family services; and beautification and community identity.

The second community workshop was held on April 9, 2008. For those participants new to the process, the presentation included an overview of the material presented at the first workshop, as well as a summary of the vision and goals discussion and the preliminary list of community-identified priorities. Participants were given a list of all the priorities identified in the first workshop and asked

to prioritize the issues and consider which should be included in the new Top Ten list. A representative from each table presented their group's ideas for additional priorities to the larger group and further discussed how the priority would address a need in the neighborhood. After the large group discussion, community members were given five "sticker dots" to vote for their top five priorities. The "dot voting exercise" provided a clear indication of the issues the community considered vital to improving the neighborhood.

The third and final community workshop was held on May 17, 2008 and began with an overview of the two previous workshops, followed by a presentation of the results from the voting exercise. The preliminary results indicated twelve potential items for the new Top Ten list. In order to narrow the list down to the community's "Top Ten" most important issues, the group reviewed and discussed the twelve priorities. Representatives from various City departments and agencies took part in the discussion to offer additional details, address community concerns and answer questions. Specifically, Jeremy Shoffner, the Recreation Supervisor for Citywide Aquatics (addressed Priority 5); Rudy Navarro, the Facility Reuse Project Manager for the City of San José (Priority 6); and Lieutenant Frank Aviles of the Southern Division for the San José Police Department (Priority 9), addressed the group.

During the discussion, community members suggested specific action items for each priority and volunteered to help implement them. Community volunteers signed up for each priority to help ensure community input and support moving forward. At the end of the workshop, community members voted once again and established the new "Top Ten" list.

### **Renewed "Top Ten" Priority Actions**

The "Top Ten" Priority Actions listed below are ranked in order of importance as identified by the Community as having the greatest potential for positive impact:

1. Address Traffic Calming and Pedestrian Safety Issues
2. Establish Regular Neighborhood Clean-Up Events
3. Provide Free or Low-Cost Health Clinic and Services
4. Build the Edenvale Community Center
5. Build a Community Pool
6. Re-Open the Edenvale Youth and Family Center
7. Establish Educational Programs and Career Services
8. Install Security Cameras in Neighborhood
9. Increase Police Presence and Response
10. Trim Trees

## **EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP**

The Strong Neighborhoods Initiative (SNI) is a partnership between the San José Redevelopment Agency, the City of San José, San José residents and business owners. The goal of the SNI is to improve neighborhood conditions, enhance community safety, facilitate community services and strengthen neighborhood associations. The renewal of the Edenvale/Great Oaks Action Agenda will assist in meeting neighborhood development goals.

City Council accepted the original *Strong Neighborhood Initiative Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood Improvement Plan* in December 2001. The SNI Neighborhood Improvement Plan is downloadable and available for review online at: <http://www.strongneighborhoods.org/edenvale06.asp>. All subsequent and individual *Strong Neighborhood Initiative Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood Improvement Plan Amendment* action items will be brought to City Council for consideration before implementation.

## **PUBLIC OUTREACH**

The public participation process fostered active community involvement and engaged community members who participated in past planning efforts as well as those residents who have previously been unable to do so. The community workshops offered multiple opportunities for stakeholders to provide input and develop a sense of ownership in developing the new "Top Ten" list. All of the community workshops were open to the public and included Spanish and Vietnamese translation services, as well as childcare and refreshments for attendees.

A steering committee of neighborhood stakeholders led the outreach process which included door-to-door flyer distribution, email and phone reminders, placing poster and informational tables at key neighborhood locations and events, flyer distribution via the three schools, and small group presentations.

## **COORDINATION**

The preparation of the *Edenvale Neighborhood Improvement Plan Amendment* was coordinated with the District 2 Council Office, various City departments and agencies, including Planning, Building and Code Enforcement; Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services; Transportation; and the San José Police Department. On August 31, 2008, SNI staff reviewed the draft *Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood Improvement Plan Amendment* with the neighborhood steering committee to receive input and comments.

## **CEQA**

The SNI Program EIR, Resolution No. 71045, was adopted by City Council on June 11, 2002. The proposed activity is within the scope of the SNI Program EIR. The proposed action is for the City to acknowledge the Community's vision for improvement within the identified SNI neighborhood area, as expressed in the *Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood Improvement Plan Amendment*, and more specifically in the updated "Top Ten" priority list. However, by acknowledging the Community's

vision and amended "Top Ten" list of improvements, the City is not taking an action that commits the City to the implementation of the Community's identified improvements. When specific development projects are formally proposed as either public or private actions, they will be subject to environmental review to identify potential significant project-specific impacts.



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Neighborhood Improvement Plan Amendment  
**Edenvale/Great Oaks**

September 2008

**Strong Neighborhoods Initiative**





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## I ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The following individuals are gratefully acknowledged for their commitment and for providing valuable assistance in the development of the *Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood Improvement Plan Amendment*.

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## 2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Launched in July 2000 by the City of San José, the Strong Neighborhoods Initiative (SNI) provides additional resources to neighborhoods throughout the city to help strengthen community leadership and improve the quality of life for its residents. SNI encompasses 19 diverse neighborhoods and includes 230,000 people living in one-quarter of the city's land area. The SNI program works with communities to improve safety, enhance services and develop programs within the neighborhood that foster long-term success. The program is funded through a combination of resources from the City and Redevelopment Agency, grants, public-private partnerships and private investments.

Located approximately 7 miles southeast of downtown San José, the Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood is designated as a Strong Neighborhoods Initiative Planning Area. In April 2000, the Edenvale/Great Oaks community published its *Neighborhood Revitalization Plan* followed by its first *Neighborhood Improvement Plan* under the SNI program in December 2001, establishing a clear set of community goals and priorities to guide revitalization efforts.

In mid 2007, the Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood began the Action Agenda Renewal Process. This process, and the resulting *Neighborhood Improvement Plan Amendment*, provides a unique opportunity to build upon the original plan's success and guide future investments within the neighborhood.

As part of the renewal process, three community workshops were held to garner input from local residents and stakeholders. During the first workshop, members generated a comprehensive list of key issues and potential projects. This list was refined in the second workshop and community members were given the opportunity to vote on their top priorities. In the third workshop, participants established the new Top Ten list and provided additional details for each priority to form the implementation strategy.

The following *Neighborhood Improvement Plan Amendment* includes a summary of the Action Agenda Renewal Process; an updated description of the

neighborhood's accomplishments, profile and vision; and a detailed strategy to revitalize the neighborhood and implement the community's new Top Ten list. The new Top Ten list includes the following community-identified projects and actions, listed in order of priority:

**1. Address Traffic Calming and Pedestrian Safety Issues**

Several locations within the neighborhood are considered less safe for vehicles and pedestrians. Residents are asking the Department of Transportation (DOT) to conduct traffic engineering studies to evaluate the streets and intersections listed in Table 8-1 for any negative impact associated with high traffic speed and volume. The studies may include but are not limited to stop signs, crosswalks, radar speed display signs and other appropriate traffic calming measures. DOT will also evaluate subject locations for installation of American with Disability Act (ADA) ramps and sidewalks improvements.

**2. Establish Regular Neighborhood Clean-Up Events**

Frequent clean-up events are needed to help address illegal dumping and littering, improve community identity and create a more attractive environment.

**3. Provide Free or Low-Cost Health Clinic and Services**

Residents desire accessible and affordable healthcare programs, such as health fairs, health-mobile visits, and partnerships with local service providers.

**4. Build the Edenvale Community Center**

The new Community Center is from the previous Top Ten list, and plans for its development are well-underway. A separate community process will further address programming at the Community Center.

**5. Build a Community Pool**

Council District 2 does not have an aquatics center and residents believe it would be a well-used and appreciated resource for the entire neighborhood.

**6. Re-Open the Edenvale Youth and Family Center**

Re-opening the Youth and Family Center will provide an essential resource for the community and help address crime and gang activity. After-school activities and evening programs engage both families and teenagers, and provide positive activities.

**7. Establish Educational Programs and Career Services**

Career services, mentoring and tutoring programs, counseling and job training provide constructive outlets and opportunities for local youth and help prevent crime.

**8. Install Security Cameras in Neighborhood**

Security cameras deter illegal dumping and other nuisance activities. The City's pilot project allows the installation of a maximum of two motion-activated cameras in the neighborhood and may require the participation of residents to help monitor.

**9. Increase Police Presence and Response**

In order to increase safety and reduce crime, residents indicated a desire for additional police officers patrolling the community's streets, as well as faster response times from police officers.

**10. Trim Trees in Neighborhood**

Trimming overgrown trees throughout the community will improve the visibility of traffic signs, reduce hazards for pedestrians and cars, and enhance nighttime visibility for safer streets.

CITY OF SAN JOSÉ  
EDENVALE/GREAT OAKS NEIGHBORHOOD  
IMPROVEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT  
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### 3 BACKGROUND

The following chapter provides an overview of the Strong Neighborhoods Initiative, the original *Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood Improvement Plan* and the Action Agenda Renewal Process.

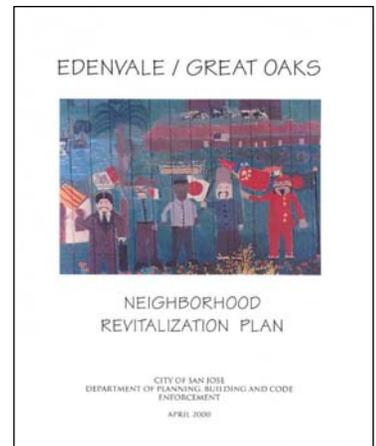
#### A. *The Strong Neighborhoods Initiative*

Introduced by the City of San José and the San Jose Redevelopment Agency in 2000, the Strong Neighborhoods Initiative (SNI) is a unique and far-reaching program designed to revitalize community engagement and enhance the livability of the City’s neighborhoods. The intent of the program is to strengthen neighborhoods by bolstering community leadership and fostering collaborative partnerships between City staff, residents, business owners and other stakeholders.

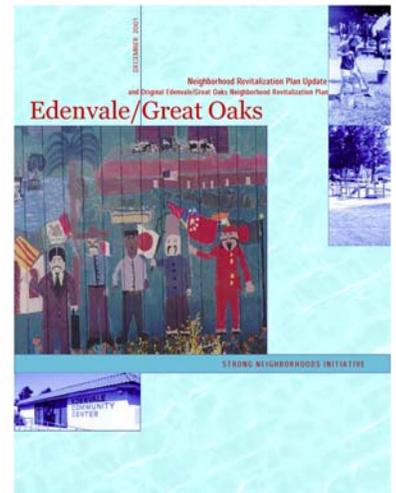
The program is funded through a combination of resources, including City and Redevelopment Agency funds, grants, public-private partnerships and private investments. SNI provides additional resources to neighborhoods to help strengthen community leadership and develop the tools necessary to improve the quality of life for its residents.

The Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood is one of the designated Strong Neighborhoods Initiative Planning Areas. During the first seven years of the program, the Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood and the City formed a successful working partnership and made several notable accomplishments. A crucial element of this plan was the Action Agenda, a comprehensive list of community-identified projects. The original Action Agenda contained 90 priority items, including the Top Ten priorities list. Since that time, nine of the Top Ten priorities have been completed, and the final priority is currently underway.

Each of the 19 SNI neighborhoods has a Neighborhood Action Coalition (NAC) that is comprised of interested residents, business owners, community leaders and other stakeholders. NACs provide community leadership and project input, as well as serve as liaisons between the neighborhood and City



*Neighborhood Revitalization Plan, April 2000*



*Neighborhood Improvement Plan, December 2001*

throughout the plan’s implementation. NACs are essential partners in the SNI program and each neighborhood’s success. The Edenvale/Great Oaks Plan Implementation Coalition (EGOPIC) serves as the NAC for this SNI Planning Area and provided essential community leadership and guidance throughout the process.

### *B. Renewing the Action Agenda*



Neighborhood workshop, March 12, 2008

The purpose of the Action Agenda Renewal Process is to take inventory of the neighborhood’s accomplishments and establish a new set of priorities to help ensure a long-term approach to revitalization that is consistent with community desires, changing conditions and funding exigencies. The Renewed Action Agenda serves as a guide for public and private investment throughout the neighborhood over the coming years. Additionally, the renewal process and resulting *Neighborhood Improvement Plan Amendment* provide a unique opportunity to build upon the original plan’s success and the partnerships formed over the past seven years, as well as engage new neighbors in the process.

On April 6, 2006 the Mayor and City Council approved the “Strong Neighborhoods Update” memorandum to guide SNI communities through the Action Agenda Renewal Process. The framework builds on the collaborative relationship established between the SNI neighborhoods, City and Redevelopment Agency to achieve a mix of priorities that build neighborhood leadership and capacity, and can offer options during unforeseen budget challenges. The remainder of this section is excerpted from the memo and provides a description of the selection criteria and framework categories established to develop the new Top Ten priorities list.

This Action Agenda will focus the passion of the neighborhood and resources of the City and Redevelopment Agency on a clear, balanced, and mutually agreed set of priorities.

Each of these neighborhood priorities should meet three foundational criteria.

1. **Important to neighborhoods.** This means that there must be significant numbers of people who are ready to take action to be part of the solution.
2. **Something a City/Local Government can and should do well.** The priority must be reasonably within the sphere of influence of the City or partner organization. Preference should be given to priorities that clearly play to strengths.
3. **Transformative.** Done well, the priority should have a significant positive ripple effect.

Only priorities meeting all three criteria should be considered for inclusion in the Action Agenda. This means that many potential priorities will not become part of the agenda. These priorities can, and in some cases should, be addressed in other forums or by other organizations. To be effective, it is crucial that each Action Agenda is focused exclusively on the most important priorities that will transform neighborhoods and that the City can achieve.

In addition to meeting these three foundational criteria, the priorities in each Action Agenda should reflect a balanced mix of the following four categories described below:

- A. **Neighborhood Action (4-6)**
- B. **Services or Social Issues (1-3)**
- C. **Capital Projects (1-3)**
- D. **Wow! (1)**

**A. Neighborhood Action:** These priorities are projects that can be implemented relatively quickly by the neighborhood. They demonstrate change in a visible way and often have the greatest potential to involve community members. Examples might include street tree planting, house painting, neighborhood clean-ups, murals, etc.

**B. Improved City Services / Social Issues:** City departments will continue to work with neighborhoods to implement projects and allow for greater partnerships between the City and neighborhoods. Recent feedback from neighborhood leaders have included requests to explore methods of improving Code Enforcement through use of volunteers and improved tracking methods. Suggestions such as these will help strengthen service delivery to neighborhoods and improve relationships between programs and the people they engage.

**C. Capital Projects:** These projects focus on major long term improvements. Given the nature of capital work, it is likely that the completion of major capital projects will be considered as long term projects. Focusing on key capital improvements will increase the chances of seeing visible change sooner. It will also allow neighborhoods and staff to concentrate on finding funding for key projects and to begin work on their implementation.

**D. Wows!:** These projects serve as potentially transformative opportunities. Every Action Agenda should include one or two “wows!” A “wow!” is something neither the community nor the City is really sure is possible, but if accomplished, would move the neighborhood significantly closer to achieving its vision. These projects can inspire immense creativity in residents and staff and challenge all involved to think and act differently. Examples of “wows!” may include completely revitalized business districts, acquisition of parkland, reuse of Brownfield, or creation of new opportunities for affordable housing.

## 4 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Nearly seven years ago, the residents, property owners and community stakeholders of the Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood began working with San Jose Redevelopment Agency and City staff to develop the *Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood Improvement Plan* (the Plan). The Plan, which was adopted in December 2001, provided a comprehensive strategy for revitalizing the neighborhood and established an Action Agenda to help accomplish the community's Top Ten priorities. Today, nearly all of the projects on the neighborhood's original Top Ten list have been completed.

### A. *Assessment of Accomplishments*

The Plan envisioned “a neighborhood that is safe, attractive, has a strong sense of community, and celebrates its cultural diversity.” Implementation of the original Action Agenda has been extremely successful and provided the Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood with several lasting resources and amenities. With nine out of ten priorities already implemented, and the tenth well-underway, the community has made tangible progress towards achieving its vision and goals.

Implementation efforts over the past seven years have demonstrated that the community's ability to work together can create meaningful change within the Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood. Each of the implemented priorities directly or indirectly addresses the goals established in the Plan and brings the community closer to realizing its vision.

Implementation of the original Action Agenda required significant community advocacy and organization. Since the Plan's adoption, the Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood has worked with the City to develop community gathering places, to provide additional recreation opportunities and to improve traffic and circulation conditions within the neighborhood. As a result of these efforts, the Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood has a greater sense of community and several new neighborhood facilities and landmarks. The following list provides a brief explanation of each of the original Top

Ten priorities and their status. With the exception of Priority #3, all of the original projects are complete.

**Priority #1: Great Oaks Neighborhood Center**



GONA Neighborhood Center

The Great Oaks Neighborhood Center is the result of an innovative partnership between the Edenvale/Great Oaks Plan Implementation Coalition (EGOPIC), the Oak Grove School District, the City of San José Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) and the Redevelopment Agency. The Center held its grand opening in January 2005, providing the Great Oaks Neighborhood Association (GONA) with its own facility to host a variety of community programs and events. The 960-square-foot facility is located on the grounds of Stipe Elementary School and includes a kitchen, multi-purpose area, office space, a restroom and landscaped patio. GONA has partnered with Go Kids to identify community needs and local service providers. Go Kids leads the Southeast Community Partnership, which brings together community based organizations, government, parents, family and children service providers to create a system of care for families of young children with a focus on early childhood development (0-5 years). Go Kids will be in charge of the Center’s operations and will focus programming to meet the needs of families with children under the age of five. Go Kids will also partner with other service providers to offer additional programming options, such as English language and computer classes, at the Center. GONA and Go Kids anticipate programming to begin fall 2008.

**Priority #2: Edenvale-Roundtable Community Association Neighborhood Center**



ERCA Neighborhood Center

The Edenvale-Roundtable Community Association (ERCA) Neighborhood Center also held its grand opening in January 2005, and is the result of a partnership between the EGOPIC, Oak Grove School District, PRNS and the Redevelopment Agency. The 1,960-square-foot facility is located on the grounds of Edenvale Elementary School and includes a kitchen, multi-purpose area, office space, restrooms and landscaped patio. Programming for the ERCA Neighborhood Center includes a Santa Clara County Education Program for migrants, as well as a clothes and food bank program.

**Priority #3: Edenvale/Great Oaks Community Center**

Planning for the Edenvale Community Center is well-underway, and neighborhood partners are actively working to implement the last remaining priority from the original Top Ten list. In order to ensure that the committed funding is carried through the budget process, this project is included in the new Top Ten list. Currently, the City and Oak Grove School District are working to finalize the joint use agreement and construction is scheduled to start in September 2008. The 20,204-square-foot facility will contain a reception area, gymnasium, combined dance and fitness room that opens to the gym and can serve as a stage, two early-childhood recreation rooms with a shared courtyard, a classroom, computer lab, a warming kitchen and an office area. The Community Center project is expected to be complete in early 2010. The Community Center is a welcome benefit for Caroline Davis Intermediate School and the neighboring Boys and Girls Club who will have access to the facility for athletic and school related activities.

**Priority #4: Community Garden**

The Discovery Community Garden opened in August 2007, in the middle of the Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood. Located at the intersection of Discovery Lane and Branham Lane East, the community garden sits on a half-acre site that was once slated for a Highway 101 interchange. Today, the formerly vacant land provides space for community members to grow their own fruits and vegetables, as well as an attractive place to gather and relax.



Discovery Community Garden

**Priority #5: Edenvale/Great Oaks Skatepark**

Located in Great Oaks Park near the intersection of Giusti Drive and Snow Drive, the Edenvale/Great Oaks skatepark provides local youth with a place of their own to skateboard and play. The skatepark opened in 2005, after significant input from local skateboarders on the park's design. A collaborative effort between neighborhood residents, EGOPI, PRNS and the San Jose Redevelopment Agency, the park includes a 9,200-square-foot concrete skating surface with a series of ramps and other "street" obstacles.



Great Oaks Skatepark



Traffic calming improvement on  
Branham Lane East



Installed ADA curb ramp



Improved street lighting

#### **Priority #6: Neighborhood Tree Planting**

In March 2002, the Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood partnered with EGOPIC, the Department of Transportation's (DOT) City Arborist and Our City Forest to plant trees along the majority of the streets in the Edenvale/Great Oaks neighborhood.

#### **Priority #7: Traffic Improvements at Neighborhood Schools**

To address concerns regarding pedestrian safety surrounding the Neighborhood's schools, DOT worked with the Oak Grove School District, ERCA and GONA to identify areas in need of improvements. In 2006, two radar speed display signs were installed in front of the Caroline Davis Intermediate School along Branham Lane East.

#### **Priority #8: ADA Curb Ramps**

EGO PIC worked with DOT's Operations Division to identify appropriate locations for the installation of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) ramps throughout the SNI Planning Area. Once funding was secured, DOT constructed a total of 125 ADA ramps throughout various neighborhood locations.

#### **Priority #9: Residential Speeding & Traffic Mitigation**

DOT's Operations Division conducted basic traffic calming studies in community-identified locations to determine which areas were most in need of improvements. As a result of these studies, two roadway speed bumps were installed on Snow Drive, ten stop signs were installed throughout the neighborhood and red curbs were installed at eight locations.

#### **Priority #10: Improve Street Lighting**

To improve nighttime visibility and safety, the Department of Public Works (DPW) Design and Construction Division installed five new street lights in the Great Oaks neighborhood. Additionally, DPW upgraded six street lights within the neighborhood.

### *B. Neighborhood Accomplishments*

In addition to those priorities identified on the Top Ten list, the Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood accomplished several other projects and goals from the original Action Agenda.

On November 3, 2007, the Edenvale Branch Library opened just outside of the Edenvale/Great Oaks SNI Planning Area. The new 22,200-square-foot facility includes an internet café, a community living room with a fireplace, a technology lab, a community room and on-site parking. Although this priority is in the Plan, it was not in the original Top Ten list. The new library is a much-needed and welcomed resource in the community.

Another accomplishment is the completion of exterior design concepts for Roundtable Drive apartments as part of the Project Alliance Program. Project Alliance provides grant funding for exterior property improvements, such as new paint, upgraded windows and landscape enhancements.

### *C. Public and Private Investment*

Implementation of the original Action Agenda has been possible because of strong partnerships, diligent community advocacy and significant public and private investment in the neighborhood. According to an August 2007 report conducted on behalf of the City, over \$11 million has been invested in the Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood as a result of the SNI Program.<sup>1</sup>

Specifically, the Redevelopment Agency and City have invested \$770,000 in the two completed neighborhood centers, as well as an additional \$1.9 million in the neighborhood's other Top Ten priority projects. The San José Housing Department has invested \$1.3 million to help expand and improve the neighborhood's housing stock, and private developers have invested ap-



Traffic calming improvement on  
Branham Lane East

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<sup>1</sup> Seifel Consulting Inc, Report on Investment in the Strong Neighborhoods Initiative (SNI) Area. August 2007.

**CITY OF SAN JOSÉ**  
**EDENVALE/GREAT OAKS NEIGHBORHOOD**  
**IMPROVEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT**  
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

proximately \$6.8 million in a variety of community projects. As a result of these investments, 21 new housing units, including 14 affordable units, and 4,000-square-feet of retail space have been constructed in the Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood.

## 5 NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE

Located approximately 7 miles southeast of downtown San José, the Edenvale/Great Oaks SNI Planning Area is comprised of two distinct, but similar neighborhoods. The neighborhood is bounded by Coyote Road to the north, U.S. Interstate 101 to the east, Blossom Hill Road and Monterey Road to the south, and Rahway Drive to Roeder Road, including Caroline Davis Intermediate School, to the west. The Edenvale and Great Oaks neighborhoods not only share a comparable mix of land uses and similar resident populations, they also face many of the same challenges. Together, the adjacent neighborhoods encompass approximately 440 acres of land located within Council District 2. Figure 5-1 illustrates the location and boundaries of the Edenvale/Great Oaks SNI Planning Area.

### A. *History of the Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood*

Purchased by William P. Lyon in 1894, the area now known as the Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood was originally developed as an apricot orchard on the outskirts of San José. Following World War I, the land was sold to a horse breeder named Norman Church, and the Edenvale portion was converted into a horse farm. When the land was again sold in 1947, the new owner, Muriel Vanderbilt Adams, built a private horse racing track, as well as continued to breed and train horses on the land.

As San José experienced unprecedented growth following World War II, the Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood was one of the first areas to be annexed and subdivided for residential development. To this day, many of the streets in the southern portion of Great Oaks and throughout Edenvale are named after famous race horses.<sup>1</sup>

Early residential development in the Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood largely consisted of track homes for middle and working class families. Most of the neighborhood's single-family homes were built during this period in



Improved street lighting

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<sup>1</sup> City of San José Department of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement, *Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood Revitalization Plan*. April 2000.



Source: San Jose Department of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement Planning Services Division. August 25, 2008

FIGURE 5-1

EDENVALE/GREAT OAKS SNI PLANNING AREA

the first half of the 1960s and was followed by the development of the multi-family properties in the late 1960s and '70s. However, as early as the mid-1970s many of the original homeowners moved out of the area and several single-family houses became rental properties. During the next two decades, many of these properties fell into disrepair due to absentee landlords and deferred maintenance. It was also during this period of time that crime and gang-related activities grew significantly in the Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood.

Although the City initiated programs and policies, such as Project Crack-down, to help reduce crime rates in the early 1990s, the community continued to face many challenges. The original Strong Neighborhoods Initiative Top Ten priorities were established to help overcome these challenges, strengthen community assets and foster a safe, attractive and vibrant neighborhood.

### *B. Overview of Neighborhood Land Uses*

The Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood has a suburban character and consists primarily of single-family homes, duplexes and apartments. In the southeastern corner of the neighborhood there is also a mobile home park. Due to its location between U.S. Interstate 101 and the Monterey Road, residents of the mobile home park have limited access to the rest of the neighborhood. Since the SNI program was launched, 21 new housing units, including 14 affordable units, have been constructed in the Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood.

Two neighborhood elementary schools, Edenvale Elementary School and Stipe Elementary School, are located within the SNI Planning Area. Caroline Davis Intermediate School is also located within the neighborhood and is situated along the SNI Planning Area's western boundary.

The Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood contains one public park, the 12-acre Great Oaks Park, as well as the recently completed Discovery Commu-



Track at Caroline Davis Intermediate School

nity Garden. The neighborhood's new skatepark is located within Great Oaks Park. These important neighborhood amenities are centrally located within the SNI Planning Area and are easily accessed from the Great Oaks area to the north and the Edenvale area to the south.

Although the neighborhood is largely residential, the area does contain some commercial and retail uses. These uses are concentrated along Monterey Road and the southern portion of Roeder Driver. Built in the 1950s and '60s, the Edenvale Shopping Center is the area's largest commercial development. The Edenvale Center contains restaurants and other neighborhood-serving retail, as well as the Christ the King Catholic Church. Since the SNI Program launched, 4,000-square-feet of new retail space has been constructed in the Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood.

Figure 5-2 indicates the General Plan Land Use Designations within the Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood.

### *C. Neighborhood Demographics*



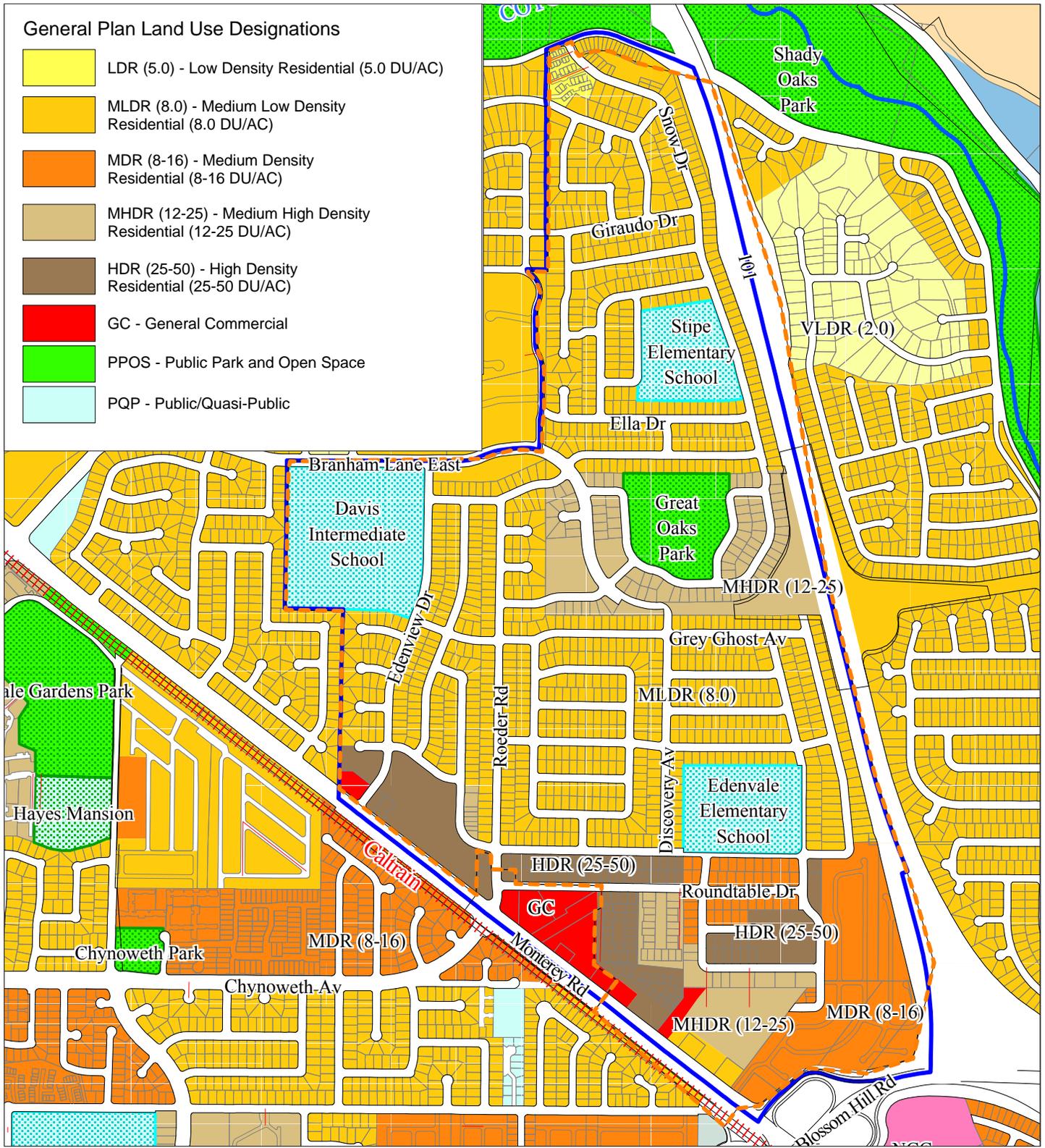
Great Oaks Park

According to the 2000 Census, the Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood has a total population of approximately 12,400 residents. Of these residents, 47 percent are Latino, 25 percent are Asian and 6 percent are African-American. Compared to the City of San José as a whole, as well as other SNI neighborhoods, Edenvale/Great Oaks is relatively young, with 32 percent of the population 17 years old or younger, while only 26 percent of the City's population and 28 percent of all SNI neighborhood residents are under the age of 18.<sup>2</sup>

With 67 percent of its residents age 16 and older participating in the labor force, the Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood matches the citywide labor force participation rate and exceeds the 64 percent participation rate for SNI areas.

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<sup>2</sup> Seifel Consulting Inc, Report on Investment in the Strong Neighborhoods Initiative (SNI) Area. August 2007.



Source: San Jose Department of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement Planning Services Division. August 21, 2008

FIGURE 5-2

GENERAL PLAN LAND USE DESIGNATIONS

CITY OF SAN JOSÉ  
EDENVALE/GREAT OAKS NEIGHBORHOOD  
IMPROVEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT  
NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE

In comparison to the information in the *Neighborhood Improvement Plan* that was adopted by City Council in 2001, this reflects a change in the ethnic composition of the neighborhood, which was described as follows: 41.6 percent Hispanic, 31.6 percent White, 12.8 percent Asian, 8.3 percent African-American and less than 1 percent Native American or other races. While the Plan of 2001 was based on 1990 Census data that did not include the Meadows Senior and Eden Palms apartments nor the western portion of the SNI Planning Area, this information does seem consistent with the trend of an increased percentage of Latinos in the City and the State. This information also suggests a significant rise in the Asian population in the neighborhood.

There are a total of 3,149 households in the Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood, and the average household size is 3.92 residents. This is larger than both the citywide average of 3.19 residents and the SNI average of 3.72 residents. In comparison to the findings from the 1990 Census described in the Plan of 2001, this represents a rise in the average household size from 3.44 persons per household.

The homeownership rate in Edenvale/Great Oaks is lower than the City as a whole, but higher than other SNI neighborhoods. Fifty percent of the housing units in the Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood are owner-occupied, compared to 62 percent citywide and 40 percent for SNI areas in general.

The median household income for the neighborhood is just over \$75,000, which is approximately \$10,000 higher than the median for SNI neighborhoods as a whole. Household income, however, is nearly \$15,000 lower than the citywide median household income. This disparity between the Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood and the City as a whole has remained relatively consistent with 1990 data.

## **6 PUBLIC INPUT AND OUTREACH PROCESS**

Public participation has played a critical role in both the implementation of the Plan of 2001 and in the renewal of the Action Agenda. Between March and May of 2008, three community workshops were held in the Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood to promote an open dialogue between local residents, property owners, community leaders and the City.

### *A. Public Participation Process*

The public participation process fostered active community involvement and engaged community members who participated in past planning efforts as well as those residents who have previously been unable to do so. Additionally, the public participation process encouraged more residents to take on leadership roles in community projects and the Neighborhood Action Coalition (NAC).

The community workshop series offered multiple opportunities for stakeholders to provide input and develop a sense of ownership in the updated Action Agenda. All of the community workshops were open to the public and included Spanish and Vietnamese translation services, as well as childcare and refreshments for attendees.

The renewal process also included significant input from the NAC. The Edenvale/Great Oaks Plan Implementation Coalition (EGOPIC) held monthly meetings to help guide and inform the process while also serving as a liaison between the neighborhood and City.

### *B. Community Outreach*

To promote community awareness and encourage workshop attendance, the Edenvale/Great Oaks Steering Committee spearheaded the public outreach effort. Comprised of EGOPIC members and neighborhood stakeholders, along with support from the City's SNI staff, the Edenvale/Great Oaks Steering Committee met on February 13, 2008 to develop an outreach strategy.

As part of the effort, Steering Committee members distributed flyers and posters throughout the neighborhood in both English and Spanish. Additionally, members set up information tables at Christ the King Church, the Edenvale Branch Library and other community venues to increase public awareness and distribute information. The three neighborhood schools assisted in distributing flyers by sending information home on the three workshop dates with each student.

### *C. Community Workshops*

The following section provides a summary of each of the three community workshops held during the Action Agenda Renewal Process. A list of workshop attendees is included in the Acknowledgements located in Chapter 1 of this Plan Amendment.

#### **1. Community Vision, Goals and Key Issues**

The first community workshop was held on March 12, 2008 and opened with a presentation on the neighborhood's accomplishments. The presentation also provided an introduction to the City Council-approved selection criteria and framework categories set-forth to guide the Action Agenda Renewal Process.

Following the presentation, workshop attendees were divided into tables of five to seven participants for a small-group exercise and facilitator-led discussion. Participants were asked to discuss their vision and goals for the future of the neighborhood, as well as any issues they believe should be included in the new Top Ten priorities list.

After the small-group exercise and discussion, a representative from each table presented their group's vision and their list of key issues to the larger group. The community feedback strongly reaffirmed the vision and goals established in the Plan of 2001. The combined list of priorities included 39 community-identified issues in the following categories:



Neighborhood workshop, March 12, 2008



Neighborhood workshop, March 12, 2008

- ◆ Beautification and Community Identity
- ◆ Safety and Crime Reduction
- ◆ Service Delivery
- ◆ Community Engagement
- ◆ Traffic, Circulation and Parking
- ◆ Recreation, Youth and Family Services

A complete list of community-identified priorities is included in Chapter 8, Strategic Action Plan, of this Plan Amendment.

## 2. Creating the New “Top Ten” Priorities List

The second community workshop was held on April 9, 2008, and it opened with a presentation. For those participants new to the process, the presentation included an overview of the material presented at the first workshop, as well as a summary of the vision and goals discussion and the preliminary list of community-identified priorities. The presentation also emphasized the importance of selecting a balanced mix of priorities that represent the various framework categories established by the City.

Following the presentation, attendees again divided into tables of five to seven participants for a small-group exercise and facilitator-led discussion. Participants were given a list of all the priorities identified in the first workshop and asked to review them as a group to determine if any issues needed to be added or required further clarification. Community members were encouraged to begin to prioritize the issues and consider which should be included in the new Top Ten list.

After the small-group exercise and discussion, a representative from each table presented their group’s ideas for additional priorities to the larger group and had further discussion on how the priority would address a need in the neighborhood. As a result of the small-group exercise and discussion with the larger group, seven new items were added to the list developed in the first workshop.



Neighborhood workshop, March 12, 2008



Neighborhood workshop, April 9, 2008

Following the large-group discussion, the list was posted on the wall and community members were given five sticker dots to vote for their top five priorities. The “dot voting exercise” provided a clear indication of which issues the community prioritized.

### 3. Finalizing the New “Top Ten” Priorities List & Action Agenda

The third and final community workshop was held on May 17, 2008. The workshop began with an overview of the material presented at the previous workshops, followed by a presentation of the results from the second workshop’s voting exercise. The preliminary results indicated 12 potential items for the new Top Ten list.

In order to narrow the list down to the community’s ten most important issues, the group reviewed and discussed the twelve priorities. Representatives from various City departments and agencies took part in the discussion to offer additional details, address community concerns and answer questions. Specifically, Jeremy Shoffner, the Recreation Supervisor for Citywide Aquatics Master Plan (who addressed Priority #5); Rudy Navarro, the Facility Re-use Project Manager for the City of San José (Priority #6); and Lieutenant Frank Aviles of the Southern Division for the San José Police Department (Priority #9), addressed the group.

During the discussion, community members suggested specific action items for each priority and volunteered to help implement them. Community volunteers signed-up for each priority to help ensure community input and support moving forward. At the end of the workshop community members voted once again and established the new Top Ten list.



Neighborhood workshop, April 9, 2008

## 7 UPDATED VISION, GOALS AND ISSUES

In order to plan for the community's future and continue its revitalization efforts, the Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood updated its vision and goals during the Action Agenda Renewal Process. This chapter provides an overview of emerging themes within the community, as well as a summary of the public discussions and input that lead to the development of the new Top Ten priorities list.

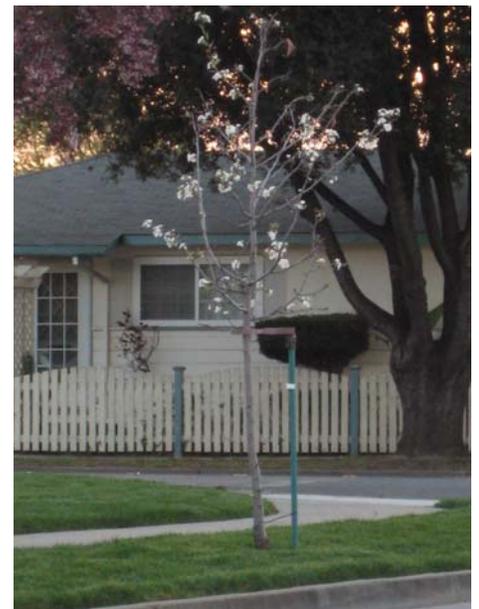
### A. Community Planning Issues

Throughout the public participation process, community members discussed the original Neighborhood Improvement Plan and the vision, goals and priorities set-forth within it. In order to create the *Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood Improvement Plan Amendment*, stakeholders actively reevaluated the community's vision to establish a new set of priorities.

The original Top Ten list focused heavily on the creation of community gathering places and circulation improvements. In fact, the five highest-ranking priorities called for the development of new community facilities, and three of the Top Ten involved vehicular or pedestrian improvements. Of the two remaining priorities on the original list, one addressed safety and crime reduction and the other addressed neighborhood beautification.

As the highest ranking priority on the new list, traffic and circulation improvements remain a key issue for the community. The remainder of the new Top Ten list, however, focuses more on community services and programs, especially for youth, as well as on safety and crime reduction.

Throughout the Action Agenda Renewal Process, the community strongly supported the creation of positive and constructive activities for youth to reduce gang-related crime and activity. Four of the new Top Ten priorities, including Priority #3: Provide Free or Low-Cost Health Clinic and Services, Priority #4: Build the Edenvale Community Center, Priority #6: Re-Open the Edenvale Youth and Family Center, and Priority #7: Establish Educational Programs and Career Services, directly or indirectly address the need for addi-



Tree planting



Roadway speed bump installed as a traffic calming measure

tional programs and services within the neighborhood. Of these programs, all but Priority #3 specifically target neighborhood youth and young adults. Priorities #8: Install Security Cameras in Neighborhood, #9: Increase Police Presence and Response, and #10: Trim Trees in Neighborhood directly address community safety issues.

The undergrounding of utility wires was an issue raised during the community participation process. However, participants decided to remove it off the list and replace it with tree trimming.

## *B. Vision and Goals*

During the Action Agenda Renewal Process, community members discussed and actively reaffirmed the vision set-forth in the original Neighborhood Improvement Plan. While the original vision remains relevant to the Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood, new themes, goals and priorities emerged during community discussions. The following section sets-forth the updated vision and goals for the community.

### **1. Plan Vision**

This Plan envisions a neighborhood that is safe, attractive, has a strong sense of community, and celebrates its cultural diversity, where:

- ◆ Neighbors work individually and collectively to maintain and improve their neighborhood.
- ◆ Property owners and residents take pride in their properties and keep them well maintained and attractive.
- ◆ The neighborhood has access to facilities and recreational opportunities that meet the needs of neighborhood residents and children in particular.
- ◆ Criminal activity is reduced and residents feel safe both in their homes and throughout the neighborhood.
- ◆ Private and public properties are secure from vandalism and theft.

- ◆ Streets and intersections within and adjacent to the neighborhood are safe for pedestrians, especially children, as well as bicyclists and motorists.
- ◆ Residents have convenient access to shopping, education, healthcare, technological services and recreational opportunities.
- ◆ New land uses and developments support and enhance the community.
- ◆ Adequate parking is available to all residents.
- ◆ Public streets and landscaped areas are well maintained, attractive and clean.
- ◆ Youth and young adults are positively and actively engaged in community life.

## 2. Plan Goals

To achieve the vision, the following goals have been identified by the community to provide a more specific direction for improving the neighborhood:

- ◆ Create an attractive and inviting neighborhood by improving the overall appearance and maintenance of private properties.
- ◆ Create an attractive and inviting neighborhood by eliminating conditions that contribute to visual blight along neighborhood streets.
- ◆ Repair, maintain and/or upgrade existing public infrastructure including streets, sidewalks, curbs, gutters, sewer systems and overhead utilities (including Internet infrastructure).
- ◆ Improve traffic flow at those intersections and street segments experiencing traffic congestion.
- ◆ Minimize the occurrence of nuisance activities throughout the Edenvale and Great Oaks neighborhoods.
- ◆ Create a community that is, and is perceived as, a clean, well-cared for place.
- ◆ Improve and increase recreational opportunities and amenities, including sports fields.

- ◆ Improve and expand existing City and other public services available to neighborhood residents and develop additional services, such as career and educational programs and other youth-oriented services.
- ◆ Prevent crime and enhance the overall security of the Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood.
- ◆ Reduce gang-related violence and activity in the neighborhood.
- ◆ Improve traffic and pedestrian safety in the Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood, especially adjacent to neighborhood schools, to create a safer street environment for neighborhood children, pedestrians and motorists.
- ◆ Increase street lighting to improve neighborhood security, as well as the safety of pedestrians and vehicles.
- ◆ Discourage the introduction of land uses into the neighborhood that disrupt the community, and encourage new land uses that support and enhance the community.
- ◆ Promote the involvement of community members, especially youth and young adults, to work together to improve the neighborhood and implement the Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood Improvement Plan Amendment.
- ◆ Strengthen existing neighborhood organizations by encouraging increased participation and active involvement in leadership roles.
- ◆ Beautify public space with additional landscaping.
- ◆ Foster a sense of shared community identity, responsibility and pride among residents from all backgrounds and encourage residents to take ownership of their neighborhood by participating in revitalization efforts.

### *C. Developing the New Top Ten Priorities List*

This section provides a summary of the public input and discussion that led to the development of each of the new Top Ten priorities.

#### **1. Address Traffic-Calming and Pedestrian Safety Issues**

During the first workshop, community members identified several locations within the neighborhood as safety concerns for vehicles and/or pedestrians. Initially, these comments were grouped into four separate priorities: Conduct Warrant Studies for the installation of Traffic-Calming Devices; Conduct Warrant Studies for the installation of Traffic Signal Lights and Stop Signs; Repair Sidewalks and Construct ADA Ramps; and Improve Crosswalk Safety where it is feasible. Community members decided to combine these into a single priority, establishing it as the neighborhood's highest ranking project.

Over the course of the three workshops, community members provided additional details regarding specific intersections and areas that need traffic and pedestrian improvements. Figure 7-1 provides an illustration of the locations identified by the community within the neighborhood.

#### **2. Establish Regular Neighborhood Clean-Up Events**

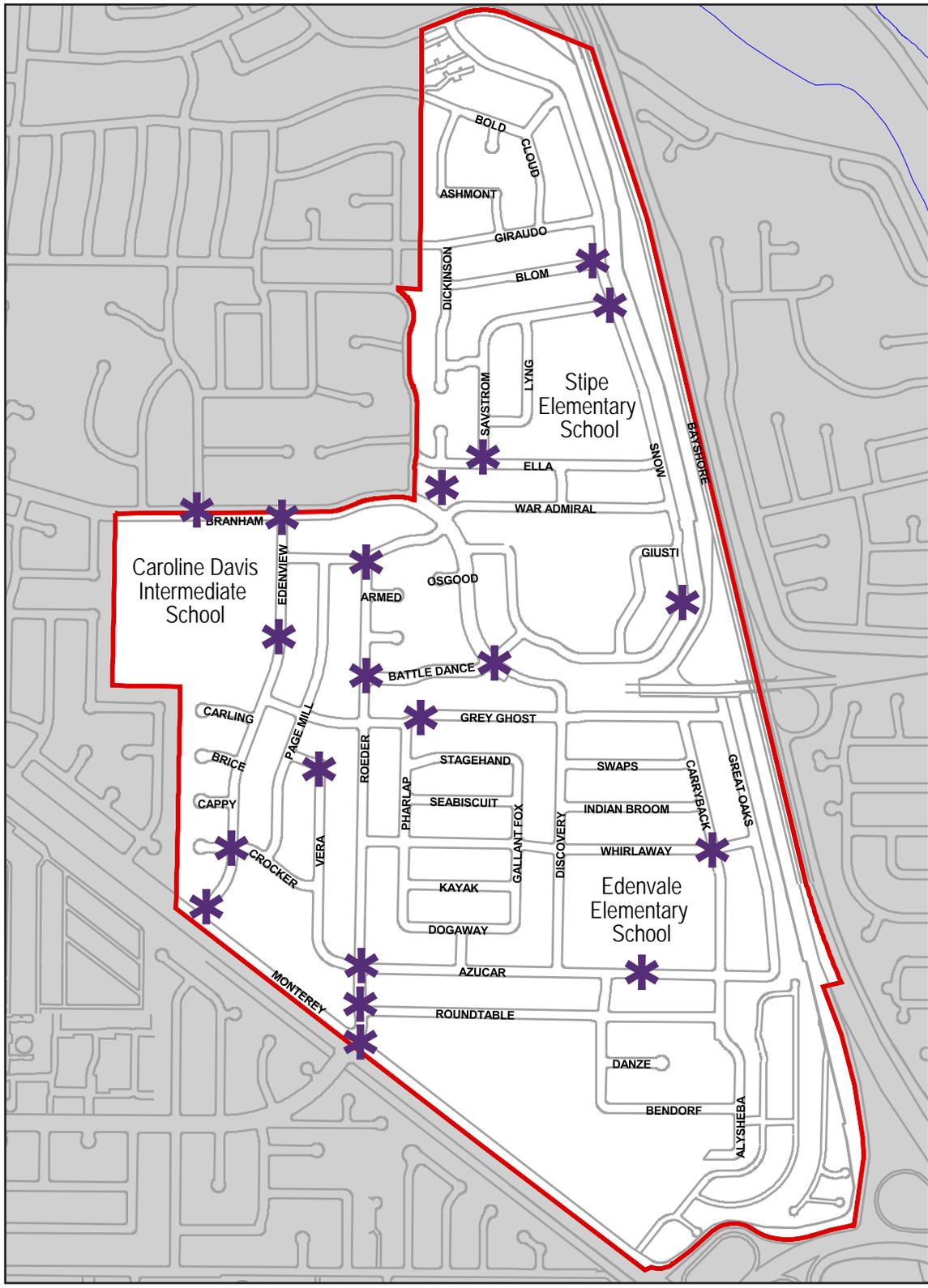
During the first workshop, several groups identified issues relating to neighborhood cleanliness and beautification. Residents expressed a strong desire for regular clean-up events to address illegal dumping and littering within the community. In the second and third workshops, participants suggested increasing the frequency of events, indicating two to three times a year, and discussed potential funding sources. Specifically, the community suggested additional dumpster days and neighborhood association-sponsored events and discussed applying for the Community Action & Pride (CAP) Grant Program as a source of funding to achieve this priority.

#### **3. Provide Free or Low-Cost Health Clinic and Services**

This priority was added during the second workshop as a result of the feedback from the small-group exercise. The community agreed that accessible



Traffic calming improvement



\* Community-Identified Location Requiring Improvement

FIGURE 7-1

TRAFFIC CALMING & PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

and affordable healthcare is a high priority for the residents of the Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood.

During the third workshop, attendees discussed existing programs and services providers, as well as the type of services that would best meet the community's needs. Healthcare and clinics fall within Santa Clara County's sphere of influence, and the community discussed working with the County to develop local programs. Participants identified the following activities and service-providers:

- ◆ Community health fairs
- ◆ Frequent health-mobile visits
- ◆ Partnerships with the Santa Clara Valley Family Health Plan
- ◆ Partnerships with First 5 to register children for health insurance
- ◆ Go Kids program

The participants also discussed the potential for the South Bay Children's Health Clinic to set up a location within the neighborhood. The Clinic has expressed interest in submitting a proposal in response to the Request for Proposals at the Edenvale Youth and Family Center and, if selected, would provide services at this site utilizing a portion of the space.

#### 4. Build the Edenvale Community Center

As a previous Top Ten priority that is already underway, the Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood is actively involved in planning for the new Community Center and remains very excited about the future resource. Participants at the workshops reaffirmed the need to keep the Community Center on the list as one of their top priorities to ensure that the committed funding is carried through the budget process.

Although there will be a separate community process to discuss programming at the Community Center, participants discussed several potential programs and amenities. The desired resources for the new Community Center include the following:



Edenvale Community Center



Rendering of the Edenvale Community Center  
(front entrance view)

- ◆ Daycare facilities
- ◆ Fitness center
- ◆ Youth and family recreation programs
- ◆ Educational programs
- ◆ Career services

### **5. Build a Community Pool**

During the first two workshops, community members emphasized the need for youth-related activities and amenities within the neighborhood. Several attendees suggested enhancing the recreational opportunities available to families and youth as a solution to crime and gang-related activities. Community members also recognized a need for a pool in the area and felt that it would be a well used and appreciated resource for the entire neighborhood during the summer months.

During the third community workshop, attendees discussed the Citywide Aquatics Master Plan and process. The Mayor- and Council-approved Aquatics Master Plan determined that Council District 2 is in need of a medium-size, family-themed aquatics center. A representative from Citywide Aquatics explained that the City's Parks Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department is in the process of working with a consultant to produce a feasibility study to assess and identify sites within Council District 2 that meet the special needs to accommodate the aquatics center, parking, pedestrian and vehicular accessibility, and all other planning and amenity aspects required for a medium-size family-themed aquatic facility. Site locations may include vacant land, existing parks, and potential school partnerships.

The approved Aquatics Master Plan defines a medium-size family-themed aquatic center with features that include a six-lane 25-yard pool with two diving boards, a 9,200-square-foot leisure pool with zero beach entry, a 700-square-foot tot pool with slide, eight shade structures, bathhouse, snack bar, two family changing rooms and locker rooms. Play features include two waterslides, a participatory play feature, an otter slide, tumble buckets and cur-

rent channel. Programming may include swim lessons, water aerobics, water walking, lap swimming and competitive swimming.

Community members expressed excitement about the project and strongly supported locating the pool within or near the Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood to achieve this priority. The neighborhood is ready to partner with the City's Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services to find a venue in Council District 2 to place the aquatics center.

#### **6. Re-Open the Edenvale Youth and Family Center**

This issue was identified in the first community workshop, and reiterated in the second workshop, as a high priority for several groups during the small-group exercise. Several attendees expressed serious concerns about crime and gang-related activities among the neighborhood's youth as a result of closing the center. Many participants indicated that the Edenvale Youth and Family Center had provided an essential resource and positive outlet for the neighborhood's youth.

A representative from the City of San José presented an overview of the City's facility reuse process and explained that although it is guaranteed to re-open, it may be reused for a variety of services, including a youth, family or health center. The facility reuse program will ensure that the new service provider offers neighborhood-based services that are consistent with community input. During the third workshop, residents decided to remove this priority off the Top Ten list because it is on the City's facility reuse list and scheduled to re-open later this year under a new operator. However, after further discussion residents decided to place it back on the Top Ten list.

The participants determined that it was necessary for the community to play an active role in the reuse process in order to advocate for services and programs that engage both families and teenagers. A Request for Proposals (RFP) for reuse of the facility will be issued, proposals will be reviewed, and a report will be made back to the Mayor and City Council in Fall 2008. It is



Edenvale Youth & Family Center

anticipated that the selected provider will move in between September and December 2008. A citywide committee that includes Strong Neighborhoods Initiative (SNI) neighborhood and community members will review proposals for all reuse sites.

#### **7. Establish Educational Programs and Career Services**

Similar to other priorities on the new Top Ten list, community members identified educational programs and career services as potential solutions to gang activity and crime within the neighborhood. Throughout the workshop series, attendees stressed the need for positive activities and programs to engage the neighborhood's youth. Specifically, community members suggested the following programs:

- ◆ Career services
- ◆ Mentoring programs
- ◆ Tutoring programs
- ◆ School field trips
- ◆ Counseling services
- ◆ Job placement and training
- ◆ Gang prevention and intervention programs
- ◆ Extended library hours

Community members also discussed the potential of coordinating efforts with local organizations, as well as offering educational and career services at the new Edenvale Community Center. The Great Oaks Neighborhood Association (GONA) and Edenvale-Roundtable Community Association (ERCA) neighborhood centers, Edenvale Library and the Boys and Girls Club are other possible locations for such programs.

#### **8. Install Security Cameras in Neighborhood**

During the first workshop, community members expressed interest in the use of neighborhood security cameras as a means of deterring illegal dumping and gang-activity. Participants strongly supported the idea to have more “eyes on the street” and suggested the following locations as those most in need:

- ◆ Edenvale Shopping Center along Roundtable Drive
- ◆ Between Christ the King Church and Jennifer’s Salon facing Roundtable Drive
- ◆ Liquor and convenience stores in the neighborhood
- ◆ Branham Lane East and Discovery Avenue
- ◆ Great Oaks Park and skatepark

Community members also discussed the City’s new pilot project to install motion-activated wireless cameras to reduce illegal dumping and crime in SNI neighborhoods. The pilot project allows for the installation of two cameras in each neighborhood and may require the active participation of residents to help monitor. Participants acknowledged that any cameras installed on private property will require permission from the owner.

#### **9. Increase Police Presence and Response**

Throughout the community workshop process, members of the public reiterated the need to increase safety and reduce crime within the Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood. Several residents indicated a desire for additional police officers patrolling the community’s streets, as well as for faster response times from police officers to effectively reduce criminal activity.

Community members specifically requested additional police presence along Roundtable Drive, within Great Oaks Park and areas adjacent to convenience stores. They also discussed having police patrol on bicycles to interact more with the community and have a stronger presence.

In addition to increasing the amount of police in the community, participants discussed pursuing neighborhood-based initiatives to reduce crime and gang activity. Neighborhood Watch programs can be organized through existing neighborhood associations and should reflect a collaborative effort within the community. The Stop Trespassing on Public/Private Property (STOP) Program is another potential program the community can utilize to help address safety within the neighborhood.



Installed ADA curb ramp

## 10. Trim Trees in Neighborhood

At the first community workshop, all of the groups identified tree trimming as a key priority for the neighborhood. Participants discussed the need for trees throughout the community to be trimmed for a variety of safety reasons. Community members indicated that over-grown trees reduced the visibility of traffic signs, created a hazard for pedestrians and cars, and significantly diminished visibility at night, creating unsafe pockets throughout the community. Although most participants suggested that the entire neighborhood needs tree trimming, community members did specifically call-out Roundtable Drive, Page Mill Drive and Vera Lane.

Community members also discussed potential solutions to the problem, as well as the City's new tree trimming policy. The City of San José initiated a new policy on July 1, 2008, that requires property owners to trim trees located in front of their homes that pose a danger, have fallen into the street or sidewalk, or have branches that block street sweepers, cars or traffic signals. Participants considered options for getting property owners to proactively follow the program and proposed working with Code Enforcement and property owners to ensure compliance.

### *D. Framework for the New Top Ten Priorities List*

As discussed in Chapter 3, the Top Ten list is to include a balanced mix of four types of projects: Neighborhood Actions, Improved City Services/Social Issues, Capital Projects, and Wows!. The new Top Ten list contains a variety of projects to improve the neighborhood and a mix of the four framework categories.

Five of the Edenvale/Great Oaks updated Top Ten priorities are "Neighborhood Actions":

- ◆ Establish Regular Neighborhood Clean-Up Events (Priority #2)
- ◆ Provide Free or Low-Cost Health Clinic and Services (Priority #3)
- ◆ Install Security Cameras in Neighborhood (Priority #8)
- ◆ Trim Trees in Neighborhood (Priority #10)

Five of the Edenvale/Great Oaks updated Top Ten priorities are “Improved City Services/Social Issues”:

- ◆ Address Traffic-Calming and Pedestrian Safety Issues (Priority #1)
- ◆ Re-Open the Edenvale Youth and Family Center (Priority #6)
- ◆ Establish Education Programs and Career Services (Priority #7)
- ◆ Install Security Cameras in Neighborhood (Priority #8)
- ◆ Increase Police Presence and Response (Priority #9)
- ◆ Trim Trees in Neighborhood (Priority #10)

Four of the updated Top Ten priorities are “Capital Projects”:

- ◆ Address Traffic-Calming and Pedestrian Safety Issues (Priority #1)
- ◆ Build the Edenvale Community Center (Priority #4)
- ◆ Build a Community Pool (Priority #5)
- ◆ Install Security Cameras in Neighborhood (Priority #8)

Two of the updated Top Ten priorities are “Wows!”:

- ◆ Build the Edenvale Community Center (Priority #4)
- ◆ Build a Community Pool (Priority #5)

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**IMPROVEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT**  
UPDATED VISION, GOALS AND ISSUES

## 8 STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

The following chapter provides an action plan to address the new Top Ten priorities list and other key issues discussed in Chapter 7. The Strategic Action Plan establishes a detailed list of implementation steps and action items, including the anticipated timeframe and entity responsible for completion, and is intended to provide a clear roadmap for the neighborhood over the next three to six years.

### A. *Top Ten Priorities List*

#### 1. Address Traffic-Calming and Pedestrian Safety Issues

Several intersections and areas within the neighborhood are considered less safe for vehicles and/or pedestrians. Residents are asking the Department of Transportation (DOT) to conduct traffic engineering studies to evaluate the streets and intersections listed in Table 8-1 for any negative impact associated with high traffic speed and volume. The studies may include but are not limited to stop signs, crosswalks, radar speed display signs and other appropriate traffic-calming measures. DOT will also evaluate subject locations for installation of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) ramps and sidewalks improvements.

- a. Refine list of community-identified problem-areas and prioritize to determine areas with greatest need.

*Timing:* Short Term (0-3 years)

*Responsibility:* Edenvale/Great Oaks Plan Implementation Coalition (EGOPIC)

- b. Provide detailed list of problem(s) at each of the identified locations.

*Timing:* Short Term (0-3 years)

*Responsibility:* EGOPIC and DOT

- c. Conduct traffic studies where appropriate.

*Timing:* Short Term (0-3 years)

*Responsibility:* DOT

CITY OF SAN JOSÉ  
EDENVALE/GREAT OAKS NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT  
STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

TABLE 8-1 TRAFFIC-CALMING AND PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENT LOCATIONS

Community-Identified Locations		Community-Identified Concerns				
		Vehicular Speed	Intersection Safety	Pedestrian Crossing	Insufficient ADA Accessibility	Insufficient or Unsafe Sidewalk
1	Azucar Avenue	✓		✓	✓	
2	Azucar Avenue @ Edenvale Elementary School			✓		
3	Branham Lane East @ Caroline Davis Intermediate School			✓		
4	Branham Lane East @ Battle Dance Drive	✓	✓			
5	Branham Lane East @ Lyric Lane		✓	✓		
6	Branham Lane East to Stipe Elementary School					✓
7	Carryback Avenue @ Whirlaway Drive		✓			
8	Edenview Drive in front of Caroline Davis Intermediate School	✓		✓		✓
9	Edenview Drive @ Monterey Road		✓			
10	Edenview Drive @ Crocker Drive		✓			
11	Ella Drive	✓				
12	Grey Ghost Avenue		✓			
13	Roeder Road	✓				
14	Roeder Road @ Monterey Road, Roundtable Drive & Azucar Avenue		✓		✓	
15	Roundtable Drive			✓		
16	Snow Drive between War Admiral & Battle Dance	✓				
17	Snow Drive between Savstrom Way & Bold Drive		✓	✓		
18	Snow Drive @ Savstrom Way		✓	✓		
19	Vera Lane @ Page Mill		✓			
20	Whirlaway Drive @ Edenvale Elementary School			✓		

- d. Implement traffic-calming and pedestrian safety strategies.

*Timing:* Medium Term (4-6 years)

*Responsibility:* DOT

## **2. Establish Regular Neighborhood Clean-Up Events**

The Community Action & Pride (CAP) Grant Program is an existing program available to EGOPIC, Edenvale-Roundtable Community Association (ERCA) and Great Oaks Neighborhood Association (GONA) as a source of funding for neighborhood clean-up events. The CAP Grant Program is a commonly used resource for neighborhoods to host clean-ups on a regular basis. The neighborhood associations in the Edenvale/Great Oaks Neighborhood have experience applying for CAP funding and coordinating clean-ups. The clean-ups are a tool to help build an organization and its identity. Additionally, Council Offices are given a certain number of clean-up events per year, which they need to rotate from neighborhood to neighborhood in order to serve the entire council district. The rotation is on approximately a three-year cycle. Edenvale/Great Oaks just held their Council-sponsored clean-up in April 2008. Completing this priority is likely to be an on-going effort if the neighborhood groups decide to apply for grants annually.

- a. Apply for annual CAP Grant.

*Timing:* Short Term (0-3 years)

*Responsibility:* EGOPIC, ERCA and GONA

- b. Organize supplemental events as necessary.

*Timing:* Short Term (0-3 years)

*Responsibility:* EGOPIC, ERCA and GONA and Council Office

## **3. Provide Free or Low-Cost Health Clinic and Services**

Healthcare and clinics fall within Santa Clara County's sphere of influence. Residents desire accessible and affordable healthcare programs, such as health fairs, health-mobile visits, and partnerships with local service providers. There is a potential for the South Bay Children's Health Clinic to establish a location within the neighborhood.

- a. Form a Community Task Force.  
*Timing:* Short Term (0-3 years)  
*Responsibility:* EGOPIIC
- b. Enroll interested families in the Healthy Families health insurance program.  
*Timing:* Short Term (0-3 years)  
*Responsibility:* Community Task Force
- c. Assemble a comprehensive list of available programs and services.  
*Timing:* Short Term (0-3 years)  
*Responsibility:* Community Task Force
- d. Organize neighborhood health fairs and health-mobile visits.  
*Timing:* Short Term (0-3 years)  
*Responsibility:* Community Task Force and EGOPIIC
- e. Advocate for the South Bay Children's Health Clinic to locate within community.  
*Timing:* Short Term (0-3 years)  
*Responsibility:* Community Task Force
- f. Collaborate with Santa Clara County and other nonprofits to address unmet needs.  
*Timing:* Short Term (0-3 years)  
*Responsibility:* Community Task Force and EGOPIIC

#### **4. Build the Edenvale Community Center**

The Community Center is the last remaining item from the previous Top Ten list, and plans for its development are well underway. It remains as an existing priority on the new Top Ten list to ensure that the committed funding is carried through the budget process. The City and Oak Grove School District are finalizing the joint use agreement, and construction is scheduled

to start in the fall of 2008. A separate community process will further address programming at the Community Center.

- a. Finalize funding from the FY 2008-2009 budget allocation to fill remaining gap.  
*Timing:* Short Term (0-3 years)  
*Responsibility:* San Jose Redevelopment Agency and Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services
- b. Initiate and complete construction of Community Center.  
*Timing:* Short Term (0-3 years)  
*Responsibility:* San Jose Redevelopment Agency and Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services
- c. Conduct public input process to discuss programming for the Center.  
*Timing:* Short Term (0-3 years)  
*Responsibility:* San Jose Redevelopment Agency, Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services and Edenvale/Great Oaks Community

## 5. Build a Community Pool

The Mayor and Council approved an Aquatics Master Plan in August 2007. After extensive community outreach, including community meetings and phone surveys, the City's Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department (PRNS) concluded that Council District 2 is in need of a medium size, family-themed aquatics center. PRNS is in the process of working with a consultant to produce a feasibility study to assess and identify sites for the aquatics center. In meeting the goals of the Aquatics Master Plan, the neighborhood is interested in partnering with PRNS to find a venue in South San José to place the aquatics center that will serve the Edenvale/Great Oaks community and Council District 2.

- a. Form a Community Task Force.  
*Timing:* Short Term (0-3 years)  
*Responsibility:* EGOPIC

- b. Support and participate in the Aquatics Master Plan process.  
*Timing:* Short Term (0-3 years)  
*Responsibility:* Community Task Force and Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services
- c. Advocate for the community's preferred location.  
*Timing:* Short Term (0-3 years)  
*Responsibility:* Community Task Force
- d. Implement plans for the aquatics center.  
*Timing:* Medium Term (4-6 years)  
*Responsibility:* Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services

#### **6. Re-Open the Edenvale Youth and Family Center**

The Edenvale Youth and Family Center is on the City's facility reuse list and will re-open. Residents support advocating for a preferred service provider to help ensure that the facility remains dedicated to the needs of youth, teens and families. Re-opening the Youth and Family Center is intended to provide an essential resource for the community to help address crime and gang-related activity.

- a. Issue Request for Proposals (RFP) for the reuse of the existing facility.  
*Timing:* Short Term (0-3 years)  
*Responsibility:* Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services
- b. Form a Community Task Force.  
*Timing:* Short Term (0-3 years)  
*Responsibility:* EGOPIIC
- c. Advocate for the community's preferred service provider.  
*Timing:* Short Term (0-3 years)  
*Responsibility:* Community Task Force

## 7. Establish Educational Programs and Career Services

Additional programs and services are desired to specifically address the needs of young adults in the community. Career services, mentoring and tutoring programs, counseling and job training provide constructive outlets and opportunities for local youth and help prevent criminal activities.

- a. Form a Youth & Anti-Gang Task Force.  
*Timing:* Short Term (0-3 years)  
*Responsibility:* EGOPIIC
- b. Collaborate with neighborhood service providers.  
*Timing:* Short Term (0-3 years)  
*Responsibility:* Youth & Anti-Gang Task Force
- c. Assemble a comprehensive list of available programs and services.  
*Timing:* Short Term (0-3 years)  
*Responsibility:* Youth & Anti-Gang Task Force
- d. Distribute list and educate community about available resources.  
*Timing:* Short Term (0-3 years)  
*Responsibility:* Youth & Anti-Gang Task Force
- e. Conduct assessment of existing programs to identify any unmet needs.  
*Timing:* Short Term (0-3 years)  
*Responsibility:* Youth & Anti-Gang Task Force
- f. Collaborate with existing groups and new Edenvale Community Center.  
*Timing:* Medium Term (4-6 years)  
*Responsibility:* Youth & Anti-Gang Task Force and Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services

## 8. Install Security Cameras in Neighborhood

Security cameras deter illegal dumping and other nuisance activities. The City's pilot project allows for the installation of two motion-activated cameras in the neighborhood and may require the participation of residents to help monitor.

- a. Enroll in the Security Camera Pilot Program.

*Timing:* Short Term (0-3 years)

*Responsibility:* EGOPIC

- b. Discuss and identify the community's top locations for camera installations (refer to Updated Visions, Goals & Issues sections for suggested sites).

*Timing:* Short Term (0-3 years)

*Responsibility:* EGOPIC

- c. Identify resident volunteers to help monitor the cameras.

*Timing:* Short Term (0-3 years)

*Responsibility:* EGOPIC

- d. Train volunteers on monitoring and retrieving information from the cameras.

*Timing:* Short Term (0-3 years)

*Responsibility:* Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services and Resident Volunteers

- e. Install cameras.

*Timing:* Short Term (0-3 years)

*Responsibility:* Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services

## 9. Increase Police Presence and Response

In order to increase safety and reduce crime, residents indicated a desire for additional police officers patrolling the community's streets, as well as for

faster response times from police officers. Other solutions include the creation of a Neighborhood Watch program and bicycle police patrols.

- a. Establish "Neighborhood Watch" Programs  
*Timing:* Short Term (0-3 years)  
*Responsibility:* EGOPIC, ERCA, GONA and San José Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit
- b. Identify areas in the neighborhood that need additional police attention.  
*Timing:* Short Term (0-3 years)  
*Responsibility:* EGOPIC, ERCA and GONA
- c. Request bicycle police patrol within community.  
*Timing:* Short Term (0-3 years)  
*Responsibility:* EGOPIC and City of San José Police Department

#### **10. Trim Trees in Neighborhood**

Trimming overgrown trees throughout the community will improve the visibility of traffic signs, reduce hazards for pedestrians and cars, and enhance nighttime visibility to increase safety. The City of San José initiated a new policy on July 1, 2008, requiring property owners to trim trees located in front of their homes that pose a danger, have fallen into the street or sidewalk, or have branches that block street sweepers, cars or traffic signals.

- a. Prioritize identified locations and determine areas affected by City's new policy.  
*Timing:* Short Term (0-3 years)  
*Responsibility:* EGOPIC
- b. Inform the respective property owners of the need to trim trees.  
*Timing:* Short Term (0-3 years)  
*Responsibility:* DOT and City Arborist

c. Trim trees.

*Timing:* Medium Term (4-6 years)

*Responsibility:* Edenvale/Great Oaks Community

*B. Additional Community- Identified Priorities*

In addition to the new Top Ten priorities list, several other potential projects and priorities were identified by community members during the three workshops. Although these are not included in the new Top Ten list, they represent additional priorities for the community and City to pursue following implementation of the Top Ten priorities. The following section provides a list of these priorities.

- ◆ Underground utility wires
- ◆ Code Enforcement
- ◆ Provide additional receptacles for garbage and other waste
- ◆ Improve access to public transit
- ◆ Address homeless services and low-income services
- ◆ Install sidewalk on Rahway between Branham Lane East and Ella Drive
- ◆ Address blighted properties
- ◆ Provide curb, gutter and sidewalk repairs and maintenance
- ◆ Increase street and neighborhood lighting
- ◆ Increase communication with residents regarding community involvement opportunities
- ◆ Pave streets that were not re-paved previously or require repaving
- ◆ Implement youth and family recreational programs
- ◆ Provide anti-gang education and activities
- ◆ Build pedestrian bridge over freeway to connect to the Century Neighborhood

- ◆ Enforce parking restrictions
- ◆ Install new dividing lane on Battle Dance Drive
- ◆ Repair railroad track crossing at Chynoweth Avenue
- ◆ Paint house numbers on curb in front of houses
- ◆ Clean sewer lines
- ◆ Increase access to high-speed Internet and technology
- ◆ Install a divider in the median on Monterey Road between Branham Lane East and Blossom Hill Road
- ◆ Improve street cleaning
- ◆ Plant more trees throughout the neighborhood
- ◆ Create gateway into neighborhood on Roeder Road
- ◆ Increase signage for community resources
- ◆ Reinstate “street captains”
- ◆ Improve energy reliability in the neighborhood
- ◆ Provide additional after-hours parking
- ◆ Install synthetic or turf fields in Great Oaks Park
- ◆ Create a daycare facility at the Edenvale Community Center
- ◆ Install rubberized paving at the Caroline Davis Intermediate School Track

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STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

## 9 ACTION PLAN MATRIX

Action	Department/ Entity	Timing
<b>1. Address Traffic Calming and Pedestrian Safety Issues</b>		
a. Refine list of community-identified problem-areas and prioritize to determine areas with greatest need.	EGOPIC, ERCA, GONA	Short Term
b. Provide detailed list of problem(s) at each of the identified locations	EGOPIC, DOT	Short Term
c. Conduct traffic studies where appropriate.	DOT	Short Term
d. Implement traffic calming and pedestrian safety strategies.	DOT	Medium Term
<b>2. Establish Regular Neighborhood Clean-Up Events</b>		
a. Apply for annual CAP Grant.	EGOPIC, ERCA, GONA	Short Term
b. Organize supplemental events as necessary.	EGOPIC, ERCA, GONA, CO	Short Term
<b>3. Provide Free or Low-Cost Health Clinic and Services</b>		
a. Form a Community Task Force.	EGOPIC	Short Term
b. Enroll interested families in the Healthy Families health insurance program.	CTF	Short Term
c. Assemble a comprehensive list of available programs and services.	CTF	Short Term
d. Organize neighborhood health fairs and health mobile visits.	CTF	Short Term
e. Advocate for the South Bay Children's Health Clinic to locate within community.	CTF	Short Term
f. Collaborate with Santa Clara County and other nonprofits to address unmet needs.	CTF, EGOPIC	Short Term
<b>4. Build the Edenvale Community Center</b>		
a. Finalize funding from the FY 2008-2009 budget allocation to fill remaining gap.	SJRA, PRNS	Short Term
b. Initiate construction of Community Center.	SJRA, PRNS	Short Term
c. Conduct public input process to discuss programming for the Center.	SJRA, PRNS, Residents	Short Term

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Action	Department/ Entity	Timing
<b>5. Build a Community Pool</b>		
a. Form a Community Task Force.	EGOPIC	Short Term
b. Support and participate in the Aquatics Master Plan process.	PRNS, CTF	Short Term
c. Advocate for the community's preferred location.	CTF	Short Term
d. Implement plans for the aquatics center.	PRNS	Medium Term
<b>6. Re-Open the Edenvale Youth and Family Center</b>		
a. Issue Request for Proposals for the reuse of the existing facility.	PRNS	Short Term
b. Form a Community Task Force.	EGOPIC	Short Term
c. Advocate for the community's preferred service provider.	CTF	Short Term
<b>7. Establish Educational Programs and Career Services</b>		
a. Form a Youth & Anti-Gang Task Force.	EGOPIC	Short Term
b. Collaborate with neighborhood service providers.	YAGTF	Short Term
c. Assemble a comprehensive list of available programs and services.	YAGTF	Short Term
d. Distribute list and educate community about available resources.	YAGTF	Short Term
e. Conduct assessment of existing programs to identify any unmet needs.	YAGTF	Short Term
f. Collaborate with existing groups and new Community Center.	PRNS, YAGTF	Medium Term
<b>8. Install Security Cameras in Neighborhood</b>		
a. Enroll in the Security Camera Pilot Program.	EGOPIC	Short Term
b. Discuss and identify the community's top locations for camera installations.	EGOPIC	Short Term

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Action	Department/ Entity	Timing
c. Identify resident volunteers to help monitor the cameras.	EGOPIC	Short Term
d. Train volunteers.	PRNS, Volunteers	Short Term
e. Install cameras.	PRNS	Short Term
<b>9. Increase Police Presence and Response</b>		
a. Establish "Neighborhood Watch" Programs.	EGOPIC, ERCA, GONA	Short Term
b. Identify areas in the neighborhood that need additional police attention.	EGOPIC, ERCA, GONA	Short Term
c. Request bicycle police patrol within community.	EGOPIC, SJPD	Short Term
<b>10. Trim Trees in Neighborhood</b>		
a. Prioritize identified locations and determine areas affected by City's new policy.	EGOPIC	Short Term
b. Inform the respective property owners of the need to trim trees.	DOT, City Arborist	Short Term
c. Trim trees.	Residents	Medium Term

**Department/Entity Legend:**

City: City of San José  
 CO: Council Office  
 CTF: Community Task Force  
 DOT: Department of Transportation  
 EGOPIC: Edenvale/Great Oaks Plan Implementation Coalition  
 ERCA: Edenvale-Roundtable Community Association  
 GONA: Great Oaks Neighborhood Association  
 PRNS: Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services  
 Residents: Edenvale/Great Oaks Community  
 SJPD: City of San José Police Department  
 SJRA: San Jose Redevelopment Agency  
 YAGTF: Youth & Anti-Gang Task Force

**Timing Legend:**

Short Term: 0-3 years  
 Medium Term: 4-6 years

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IMPROVEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT  
ACTION PLAN MATRIX

A P P E N D I X A

W O R K S H O P I N O T E S





**Workshop #1**  
**March 12, 2008**

**Large Group Discussion Notes Summarized**

***Beautification and Community Identity***

1. Provide additional receptacles for garbage and other waste
2. Establish regular neighborhood clean-up events
3. Improve street cleaning
4. Trim neighborhood trees
5. Plant more trees
6. Create gateway into neighborhood on Roeder Road
7. Increase signage for community resources
8. Address blighted properties
9. Provide curb, gutter and sidewalk repairs and maintenance

***Safety and Crime Reduction***

10. Increase street and neighborhood lighting
11. Increase police presence and response
12. Reinstate "street captains"
13. Establish Neighborhood Watch
14. Install security cameras in neighborhood

***Service Delivery***

15. Improve Code Enforcement
16. Improve energy reliability in the neighborhood
17. Clean community sewer lines
18. Increase access to high-speed Internet and technology

## ***Community Engagement***

19. Increase communication with residents regarding community involvement opportunities

## ***Traffic, Circulation and Parking***

20. Install traffic calming devices
21. Improve cross-walk safety
22. Install a divider in the median on Monterey Road between Branhan Lane East and Blossom Hill Road
23. Build pedestrian bridge over freeway to connect to the Century Neighborhood
24. Add more traffic lights and stop signs
25. Reduce traffic congestion at Azucar Avenue and Roeder Roads due to school
26. Provide additional after-hours parking
27. Enforce parking restrictions
28. Repair sidewalks and install ADA curb ramps
29. Pave streets that were not paved
30. Improve access to public transit

## ***Recreation, Youth and Family Services***

31. Implement youth and family recreational programs
32. Establish educational programs and career services
33. Provide anti-gang education and activities
34. Install synthetic or turf fields in Great Oaks Park
35. Build a community pool
36. Establish a neighborhood fitness center in the community center
37. Create a daycare facility at the Edenvale Community Center
38. Install rubberized paving at the Caroline Davis Intermediate School Track
39. Re-open the teen center in the Edenvale Youth and Family Center

**A P P E N D I X B**

W O R K S H O P 2 N O T E S





**Workshop #2  
April 9, 2008**

**Large Group Discussion Notes Summarized**

**Initial Voting Results (39 from Original List Re-Grouped):**

***Beautification and Community Identity***

1. Provide Additional Receptacles for Garbage and Other Waste (6 votes)
  - Add more recycle bins and trash cans in public areas
  - Dumpsters
  - Recycling on Roeder Road
  - Dog waste bags
  - More garbage receptacles on Roeder Road
  
2. Establish Regular Neighborhood Clean-Up Events (15 votes)
  - Remove garbage from palm trees
  - More dumpster days twice a year and community clean-ups
  - Organize neighbors to clean up litter quarterly
  - Community clean-ups three times a year
  - Curbside clean-ups
  - Clean-up the Edenvale Shopping Center
  - Get community dumpsters “San José Clean-Up” 2-3 times a year
  
3. Improve Street Cleaning (0 votes)
  - Street cleaning on smaller streets (need fines, towing or whatever works)
  - Signs for street cleaning day
  - Roeder (near the Shell gas station) – gutters overflow
  
4. Trim Neighborhood Trees (7 votes)
  - Trim trees (every street!), especially at Page Mill Drive and Vera Lane
  - Roundtable Drive is the most dangerous: trees need trimming
  
5. Plant More Trees (0 votes)
  - Community tree-planting
  - More trees/groundcover on Monterey Road (less dirt), especially in front of Christ the King Church

- More planting to provide shade and protection from rain
  - Trees at Stipe Elementary School
  - Plant appropriate trees along sidewalk
  - More trees at Stipe Elementary School on Snow Drive
  - Volunteer and neighbors program to help plant/maintain
  - Replace with trees that don't sap
6. Create a Gateway into Neighborhood on Roeder Road (0 votes)
  7. Increase Signage for Community Resources (0 votes)
    - Signage for community resources – Community Garden, Great Oaks Park
    - Improve signage visibility in neighborhood (install where needed)
    - Reflective street signs (visible at night)
  8. Address Blighted Properties (3 votes)
    - Address vacant properties
    - Address blight issues with rental properties
    - Limit car repairs and storage
    - Limit commercial vehicle storage
  9. Provide Curb, Gutter and Sidewalk Repairs and Maintenance (3)

### ***Safety and Crime Reduction***

10. Increase Street and Neighborhood Lighting (3 votes)
  - Lighting on Caroline Davis Intermediate School track
  - Roundtable Drive is the most dangerous area because street lights out
  - Street lights on Roeder Road, Roundtable Drive, Carryback Avenue, Giusti Drive and Snow Drive
11. Increase Police Presence and Response (11 votes)
  - Get rid of gang activity/crime
  - More bicycle police patrols
  - Stay as a Police Training Area
  - More police presence around parks
  - More police at skate park (to stop drug dealing?)
12. Reinstate "Street Captains" (0 votes)
13. Establish Neighborhood Watch (0 votes)

14. Install Security Cameras in Neighborhood (12 votes)
- More security at local markets, stores and convenience stores
  - Security cameras at shopping centers/liquor stores (Branham Lane East and Discovery Avenue) illegal dumping!
  - Cameras at skate park (to stop drug dealing?)

### ***Service Delivery***

15. Improve Code Enforcement (8 votes)
- Police monitor streets (Code Enforcement)
  - Have Code Enforcement at community meetings
  - Stronger presence of Code Enforcement
  - Code Enforcement - provide trainings and hand out pamphlets with phone numbers
  - More Code Enforcement on residents doing paint and body shop work as a home business
  - Inform/educate people about parking Code Enforcement rules on grass/sidewalk
16. Improve Energy Reliability in the Neighborhood (0 votes)
17. Clean Community Sewer Lines (1 vote)
18. Increase Access to High-Speed Internet and Technology (1 vote)
- Council to adopt policy to for companies to serve all neighborhoods equally (For example, High speed Internet and/or technology improvements should be done in all areas of the City so that lower income areas are not overlooked)

### ***Community Engagement***

19. Increase Communication Regarding Community Involvement Opportunities (3 votes)
- Outreach/communication to new residents (first identify them)
  - More outreach to grow attendance/participation at community meetings
  - Community engagement to educate about responsibilities, maintenance & available resources
  - More block parties

## ***Traffic, Circulation and Parking***

20. Install Traffic Calming Devices (8 votes)
  - Add more speed bumps/humps
  - Speed bumps on Edenview Drive (in front of Caroline Davis Intermediate School)
  - Speed bumps on Roeder Road, Snow Drive, Edenview Drive and Ella Drive
  - Speed bumps/traffic calming on Roeder Road
  - Speed bumps (Branham Lane & Battle Dance Drive)
  - Have speed limit sensors “Your speed is...”
  - Paint “speed bumps” to slow traffic
  - Speed bumps and other traffic calming in front of Caroline Davis Intermediate School and Edenvale schools (on Azucar Avenue)
  - Two speed bumps on Roeder Road (traffic calming)
  - Traffic calming on (speed bumps) Crocker Drive and Page Mill Drive
  
21. Improve Cross-Walk Safety (1 vote)
  - Crosswalk in front of Edenvale Elementary School
  - More crossing guards needed at Stipe Elementary School
  - Enhanced blinking crosswalks in school zones at Branham Lane East and Lyric Lane
  - Roundtable Drive/Azucar Avenue need crosswalks
  - LED light on crosswalk
  
22. Install a Divider in the Median on Monterey Road between Branham Lane East and Blossom Hill Road (0 votes)
  
23. Build Pedestrian Bridge over Freeway to Connect to the Century Neighborhood (2 votes)
  
24. Add More Traffic Lights and Stop Signs (7 votes)
  - Add flashing lights at intersections to slow traffic (especially by schools)
  - Add a 4-way stop at Carryback Avenue/Whirlaway Drive
  - Grey Ghost Avenue needs stop sign
  - Yellow light on Vera Lane and Page Mill Drive
  - Stop sign NEEDED at Branham Lane and Lyric Lane
  - Traffic calming: Whirlaway Drive /Carryback Avenue needs a stop sign
  - Stop sign at Stipe School and Snow Drive at the top of hill
  - Stop sign at Edenview Drive to Monterey Road and Crocker Court

- Stop signs at Branham Lane East and Lyric Lane, Snow Drive and Savestrom Way
25. Reduce Traffic Congestion at Azucar Avenue and Roeder Road due to School (0 votes)
- Have buses for students to reduce traffic (especially at rush hour)
  - Community buses are making transportation more difficult
  - Return to prior bus routes/system
  - Provide new access from apartments at Roeder Road/Azucar Avenue to Monterey Road
26. Provide Additional After-Hours Parking (0 votes)
- Library parking – after hours
  - Church parking
27. Enforce Parking Restrictions (2 votes)
- Sidewalk parking (eliminate?)
  - Paint corner curbs red for no parking to increase safety and visibility
  - Cars parked too long on Kayak Drive – 72 hour limits to parking
  - Broken-down cars on the street on Edenview Drive and Cappy Court
28. Repair Sidewalks and Install ADA Curb Ramps (2 votes)
- Accessibility ramps near gas station on Roeder Road
  - Roundtable Drive/Azucar Avenue: needs a ramp
  - Install a pedestrian sidewalk along Rahway Drive
  - Sidewalk repairs at teachers' parking lot on Edenview Drive
29. Pave Streets that were Not Paved (3 votes)
- Pave streets: Roundtable Drive
  - Branham Lane between Battle Dance Drive and Grey Ghost Avenue needs repaving
  - Repave Branham Lane between Snow Drive and Discovery Avenue
30. Improve Access to Public Transit (8 votes)
- Increase bus frequency

### ***Recreation, Youth and Family Services***

31. Implement Youth and Family Recreational Programs (2 votes)
- Youth recreation (karate, dance)

- Youth/teen/young adult programming at new center
  - Promote engaged youth through activities and education
  - After school programs (until later in evening)
  - Family activities through community
  - Handball court
  - Grass bowling
  - Tennis courts
  - Sports
32. Establish Educational Programs and Career Services (11 votes)
- Youth career services for mentoring or tutoring
  - School provides more field trips
  - Counseling services
  - Education-severity of death/jail
  - Job placement and job training
  - Extend library hours
33. Provide Anti-Gang Education and Activities (2 votes)
- Education and activities to stop gang activity (expose youth to reality, e.g. Morgue visits)
  - Youth after-school activities (get at reasons for gang activity)
34. Install Synthetic or Turf Fields in Great Oaks Park (0 votes)
- Handball court at Great Oaks Park
35. Build a Community Pool (13 votes)
36. Build a Neighborhood Fitness Center in the Community Center (2 votes)
37. Create a Daycare Facility at the New Community Center (0 votes)
38. Install Rubberized Paving at the Caroline Davis Intermediate School Track (0 votes)
39. Re-open the Teen Center in the Edenvale Youth and Family Center (13 votes)
- Teen center to re-open (sports, physical education, arts & crafts)
40. Repair Railroad Track Crossing at Chynoweth (1 vote)
41. New Dividing Lane on Battle Dance Drive (2 votes)

42. Sidewalk on Rahway Drive between Branham Lane East and Ella Drive (5 votes)
  - New sidewalks on Ella Drive and Rahway Drive
43. Underground Utility Wires (10 votes)
44. Homeless services and low-income services (5 votes)
45. Provide Free or Low Cost Health Clinic and Services (14 votes)
46. House Numbers on Curb in Front of Houses (1 votes)



A P P E N D I X C

W O R K S H O P 3 N O T E S





**Workshop #3  
May 17, 2008**

**Large Group Discussion Notes Summarized:  
Finalizing the New Top Ten List and Action Agenda**

**Determine Top Ten from List of 12 Key Issues:**

1. Address Traffic Calming and Pedestrian Safety Issues (18 votes)
2. Establish Regular Neighborhood Clean-Up Events (15 votes)
3. Provide Free or Low-Cost Health Clinic and Services (14 votes)
4. Build the Edenvale Community Center (From the Original Top Ten List)
5. Build a Community Pool (13 votes)
6. Re-Open the Edenvale Youth and Family Center (13 votes)
7. Install Security Cameras in Neighborhood (12 votes)
8. Increase Police Presence and Response (11 votes)
9. Establish Educational Programs and Career Services (11 votes)
- ~~10. Underground Utility Wires (10 votes) VOTED OFF LIST BY COMMUNITY~~
- ~~11. Improve Code Enforcement (8 votes) VOTED OFF LIST BY COMMUNITY~~
12. Trim Trees (7 votes)

