

## Introduction

### *The Strong Neighborhoods Initiative*

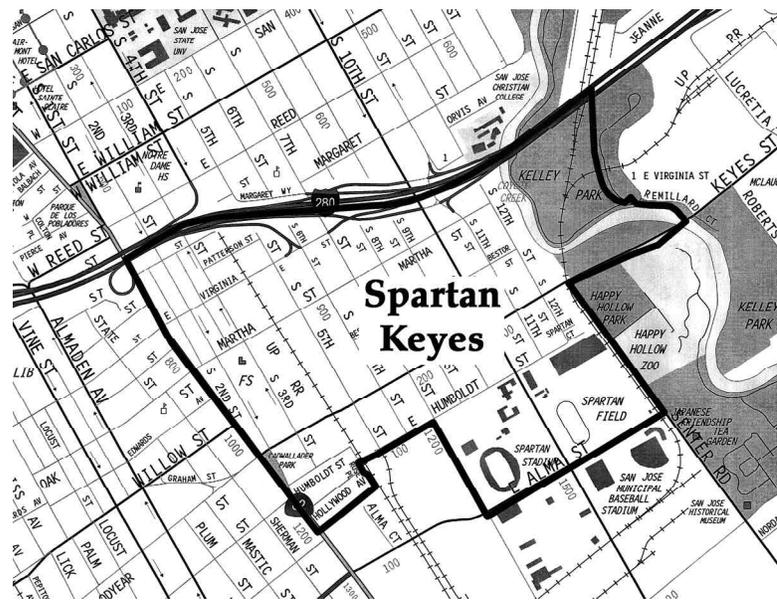
Launched in July 2000, the Strong Neighborhoods Initiative (SNI) is a partnership between the San Jose City Council, Mayor, residents and business owners. The goal of SNI is to improve neighborhood conditions, enhance community safety, facilitate community services, and strengthen neighborhood associations. The SNI is funded through resources from the City of San Jose, San Jose Redevelopment Agency, grants, private investments, and public-private partnerships. Spartan Keys is one of twenty-two neighborhoods in San Jose that have been designated as Strong Neighborhoods Initiative districts.

The SNI has two phases, planning and implementation. In Phase One, residents of each SNI area develop a Neighborhood Improvement Plan that recommends and prioritizes needed neighborhood improvements. Phase Two involves implementation of the Neighborhood Improvement Plan recommendations in the form of improved community services, capital improvement projects, and/or new development. To support the effort, the City of San Jose will form a redevelopment project area that leverages funds into the SNI area.

Each SNI area has a Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC) of representative community members that guides development of the Neighborhood Plan and its implementation. The NAC meets regularly to provide direction to City staff and consultants and to gather input from the community.

### *The Spartan Keys Planning Process*

The Spartan Keys neighborhood includes a former light industrial area known as East Gardner. Prior to the Strong Neighborhoods Initiative, the City of San Jose began the preparation of the *East Gardner Specific Plan* to guide conversion of the area to a more neighborhood-oriented community. NAC planning meetings began in February, 2001 addressing both plans simultaneously. Over the next year, one public workshop and twelve NAC meetings were held covering neighborhood topics and issues which affected both plans. In January, 2002, the SNI *Neighborhood Plan* and *Specific Plan* processes were separated to allow for more focused input on each. Over the course of the next four months, four more NAC meetings and two additional public workshops were held that focused



**Neighborhood Boundary**

solely on the *Neighborhood Plan*. NAC members refined the initial list of neighborhood issues produced at the community workshop in May, 2001 and created a vision for the Spartan Keyes area that has a clear goal of neighborhood revitalization.

The *East Gardner Specific Plan* is a long-range land use and infrastructure plan that will establish a vision for the East Gardner area within the greater Spartan Keyes neighborhood. The *Specific Plan* is a guide for the establishment of a new community with emphasis on housing, family and arts-oriented facilities, and neighborhood-oriented recreation. The *Specific Plan* is a policy document, as compared to the *Neighborhood Plan* which addresses specific action items and their implementation. The *Neighborhood Plan* includes issues addressed in the *Specific Plan* such as traffic circulation, open space development, pedestrian improvements, and arts-related uses. Together, the two plans will guide development and implement the desired neighborhood improvements and help realize the community's vision for Spartan Keyes.



Neighborhood Location