# West Tuscaloosa Community Inventory

JUNE 2018

# **Tonight's Presentation**

PART 1

INVENTORY & ANALYSIS

PART 2

RECOMMENDATIONS
CATALYST SITES + INFRASTRUCTURE



# INTRODUCTION

WORKING CLOSELY WITH CITY STAFF, THE TEAM CONDUCTED A COMMUNITY INVENTORY OF EXISTING LAND USES & ZONING,

VACANT LAND AND LANDS WITH DEVELOPMENT OR REDEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL,

AND HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT TRENDS...



### CONSULTANT TEAM







Dedenbach Planning Associates

Green View Studio

Everett Hatcher

President

Gerry Dedenbach

Vice President

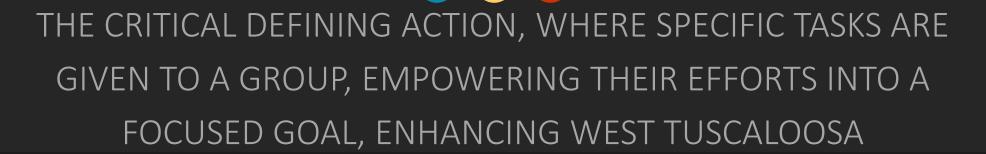
**David McGiffert** *Shareholder* 

Laura Dedenbach

Principal



# MISSION







Name (optional):	Which community amenities/
Tel./Email (optional):	services do you use most, and why?
Age (circle one):	
<20 20-29 30-39 40-49 50-59 60-69 70+	
Do you live in the study area?(check one)	9
☐ YES ☐ NO	<del></del>
If so, how long have you lived here?	What additional amenities/services or infrastructure would you like to see here?
What do you <u>like</u> about the community/what is working well?	2
	Any other comments?
What is <u>not working well</u> , or can be improved?	=
	Please Tiern Over to Provide Your Input on the Map

## Mission - First & Foremost

Through the planning process citizens were given a forum where they could:

- become engaged and encouraged to provide open dialog with constructive & critical input;
- partner with professional consultants and City staff to define & promote achievable goals; and
- provide key information to support officials' ability to represent Tuscaloosa's citizens.

All actions create a stronger community.



# 4<sup>th</sup> Goal

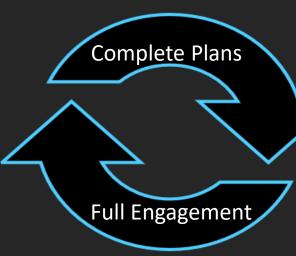
#### DEFINE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE UPDATE PROCESS

Define Technical Stakeholders Group;

Hold Kickoff / Introductory Meeting for Public / Council;

Define <u>desired</u> and <u>identified</u> Code Elements for Update; and

Process Land Development Code Updates through Council



## 1st Goal

#### DOCUMENT EXISTING CONDITIONS RANGING FROM:

Land Use, Zoning, and Environmental Characteristics;

Transportation Alternatives and Utility Infrastructure;

Engage Stakeholders, Key Residents, and Civic/Faith leadership; and

Assign community asset inventory to Study Participants

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Goal

#### DEFINE FUTURE GROWTH AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTIONS

Define Technical Stakeholders Group;

Review existing infrastructure and define limitations;

Project potential Re-Development / Development thresholds; and

Create Cost Projections and Identify Funding Sources

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Goal

#### COMMUNITY AND AREA SPECIFIC BLIGHT STUDY:

Survey overall Study Area, including residential & commercial;

Document as per Alabama Code Chapter 2, Section 24-2-2;

Identify community modifications / neighborhood conditions; and

Determine if Blighted Areas should be in CRA or CDBG programs



# **CITY OF TUSCALOOSA**

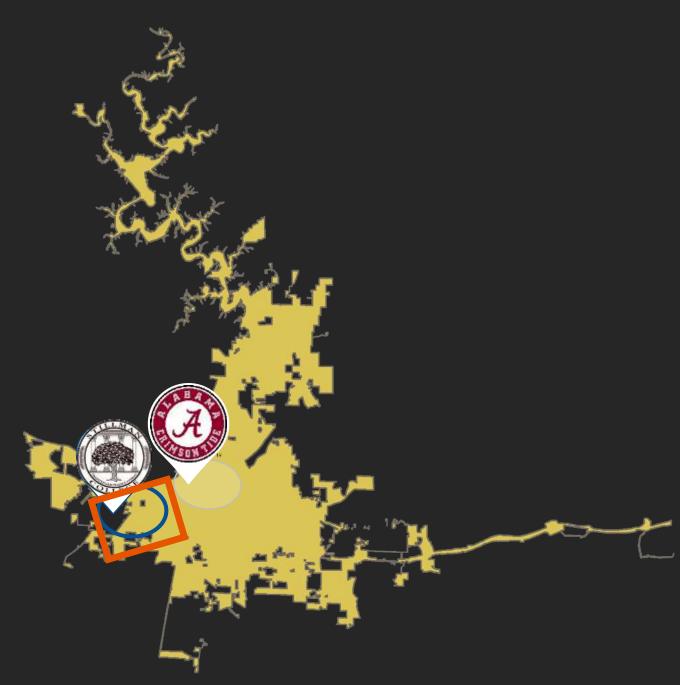
The City of Tuscaloosa is home to the University of Alabama, Stillman College, numerous industries, and thousands of families and students who call it home.

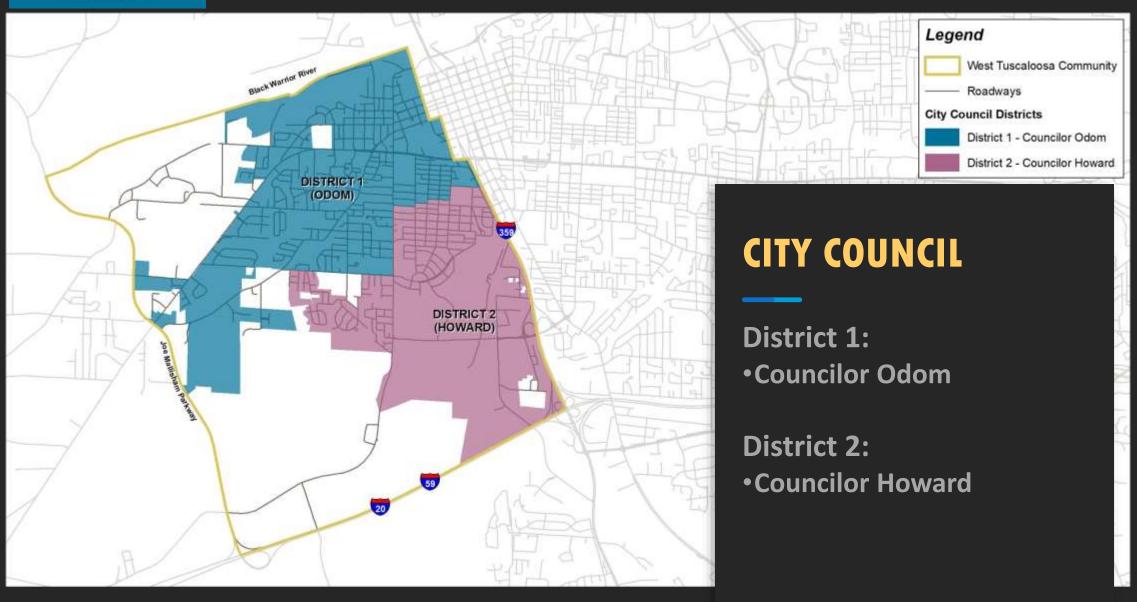


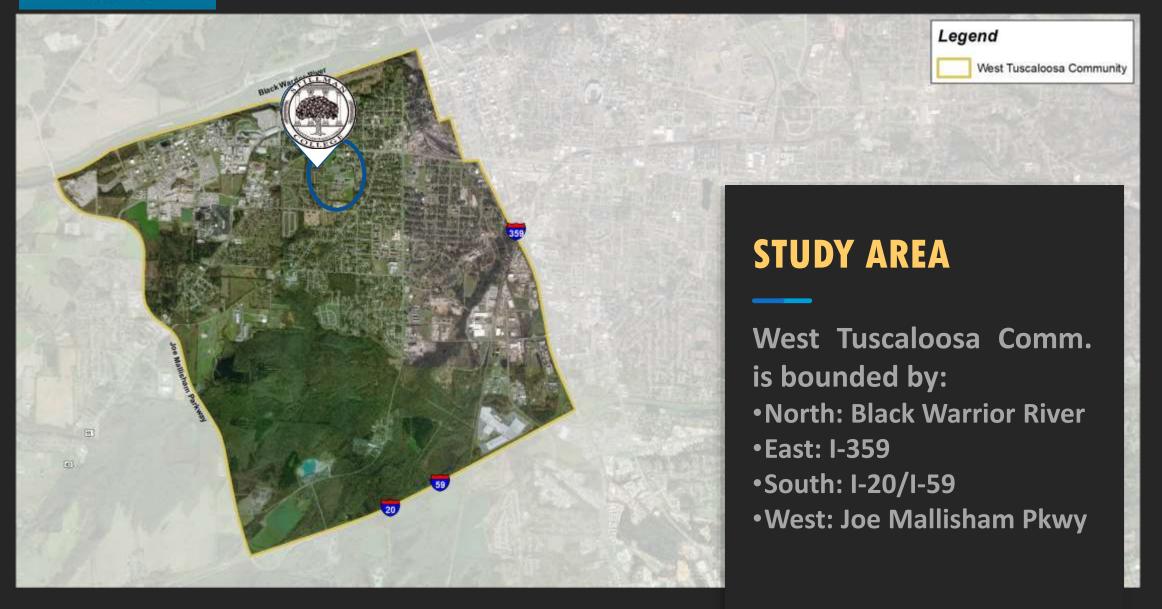


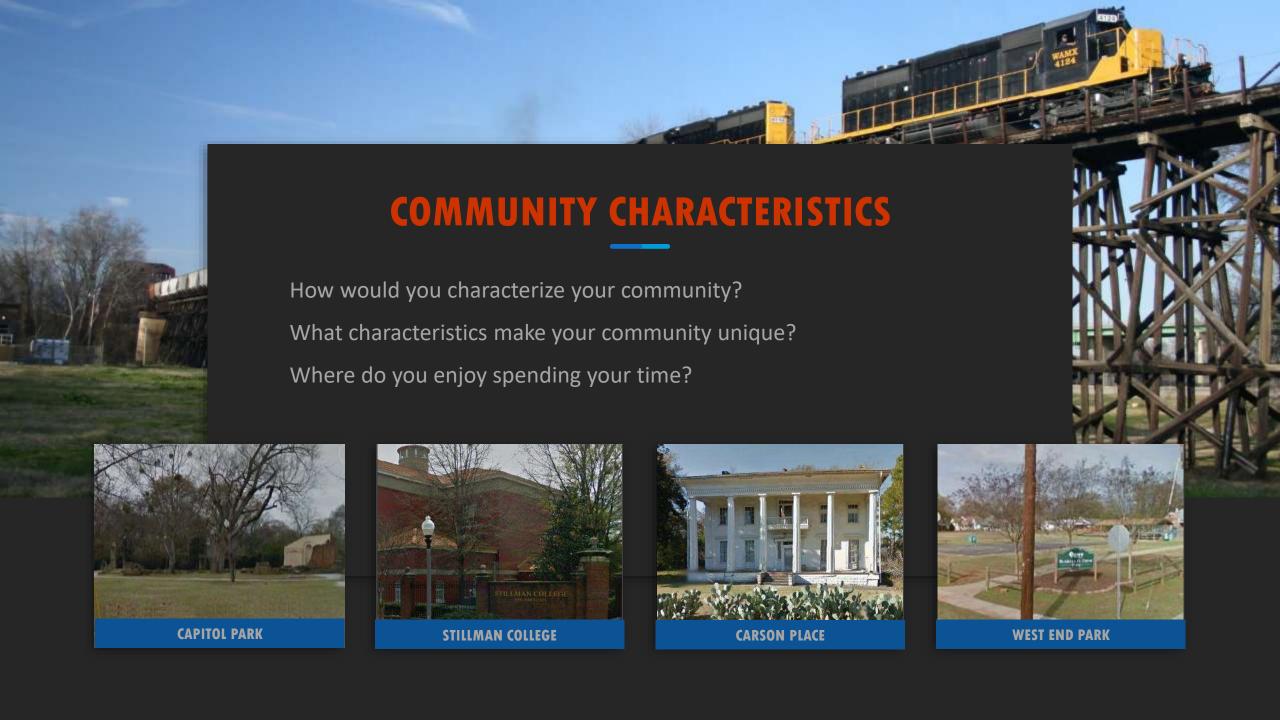












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COMMUNITY
INVENTORY

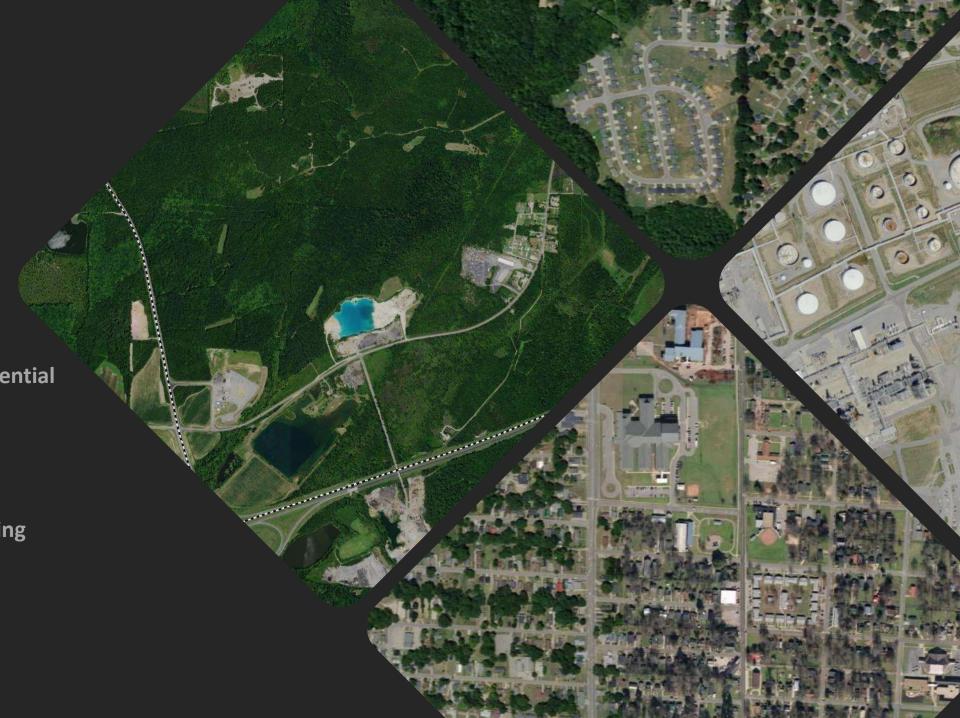
# LAND USE CHARACTERISTICS

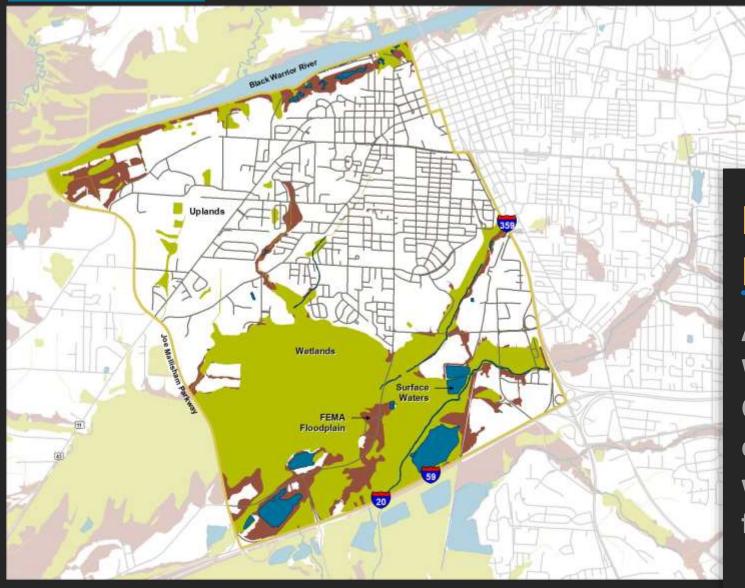
1. Historic / Gridded Residential Development Patterns

2. Modern-day Residential Development Patterns

3. Industrial / Manufacturing

4. Wetlands and Mining





# ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES

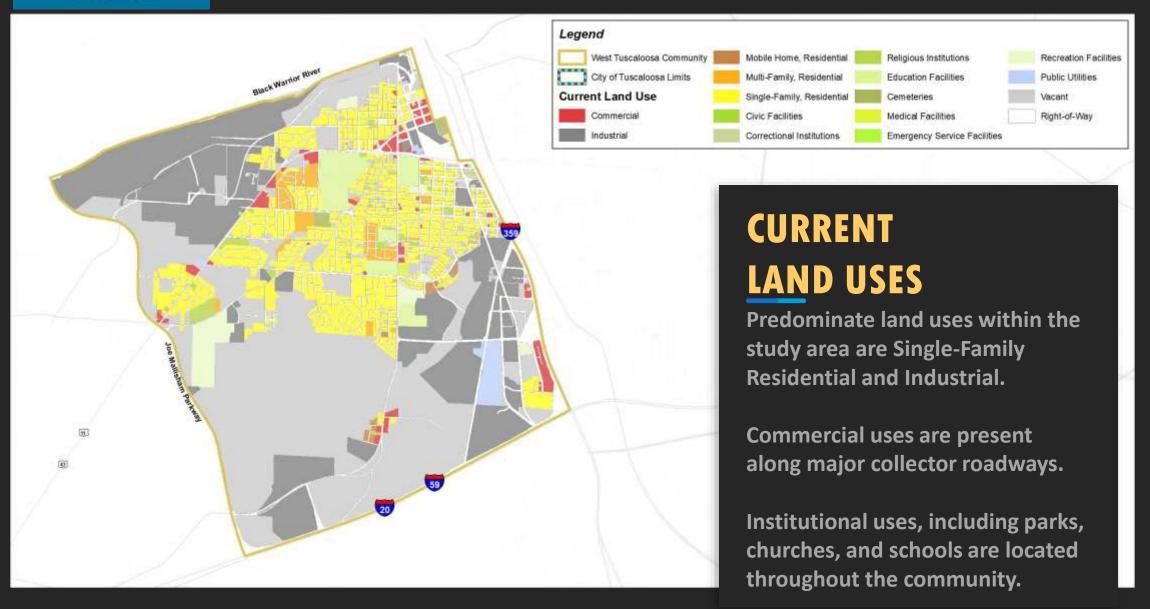
Legend

West Tuscaloosa Community

Surface Waters

Wetlands Floodplain

Approximately 40% of the West Tuscaloosa Community study area contains surface waters, wetland, and/ or floodplains.





The study area can be generalized by three main land uses: industrial, residential, and open space. Assets within the study area include major employers such as GAF, Hunt, Michelin, and Phifer, Inc., the former Tuscaloosa Country Club, community parks, and Stillman College.

### **KEY LAND USE RATIOS**

**INDUSTRIAL** 

23%

7%

2%

Primarily located to the west and south. Does not include western industrial along Black Warrior River.

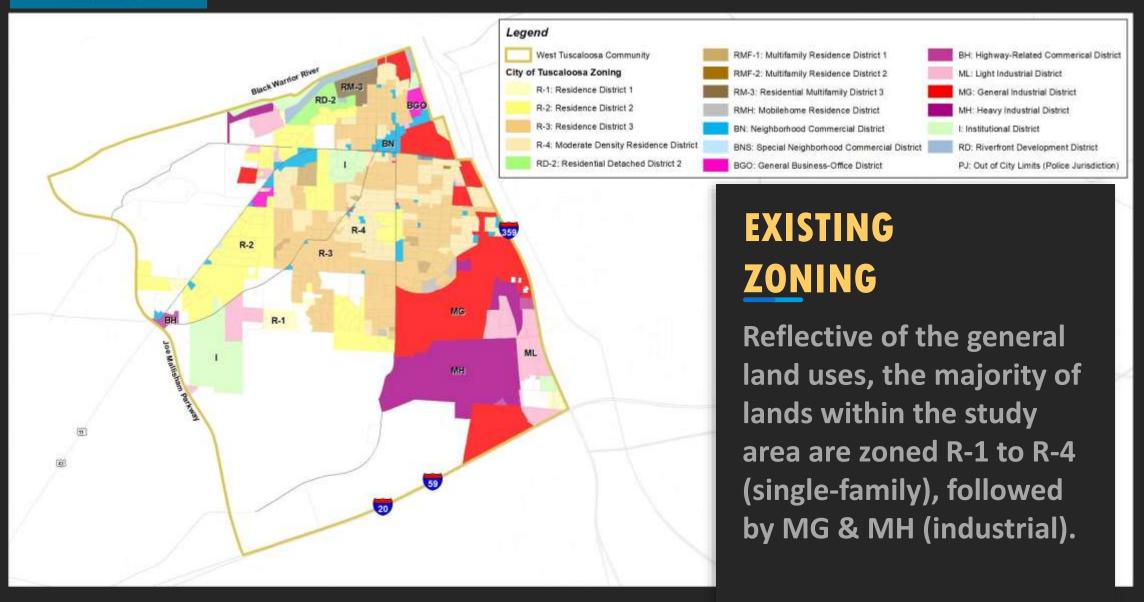
**RESIDENTIAL** 

A predominant land use throughout the study area, as single-family and multi-family homes.

Primarily consists of parks and civic uses, distributed throughout the study area.

COMMERCIAL Primarily located along major collector and

arterial roadways.





The study area can be generalized by two main zoning categories, industrial and residential. It is clear that there is an imbalance and deficiency of Goods and Services for West Tuscaloosa's population. Interviewees, meeting participants, and stakeholders confirmed needs.

### **KEY ZONING RATIOS**

INDUSTRIAL

35%

53%

8%

4%

Primarily located to the west and south. Does not include industrial along Black Warrior River.

**RESIDENTIAL** 

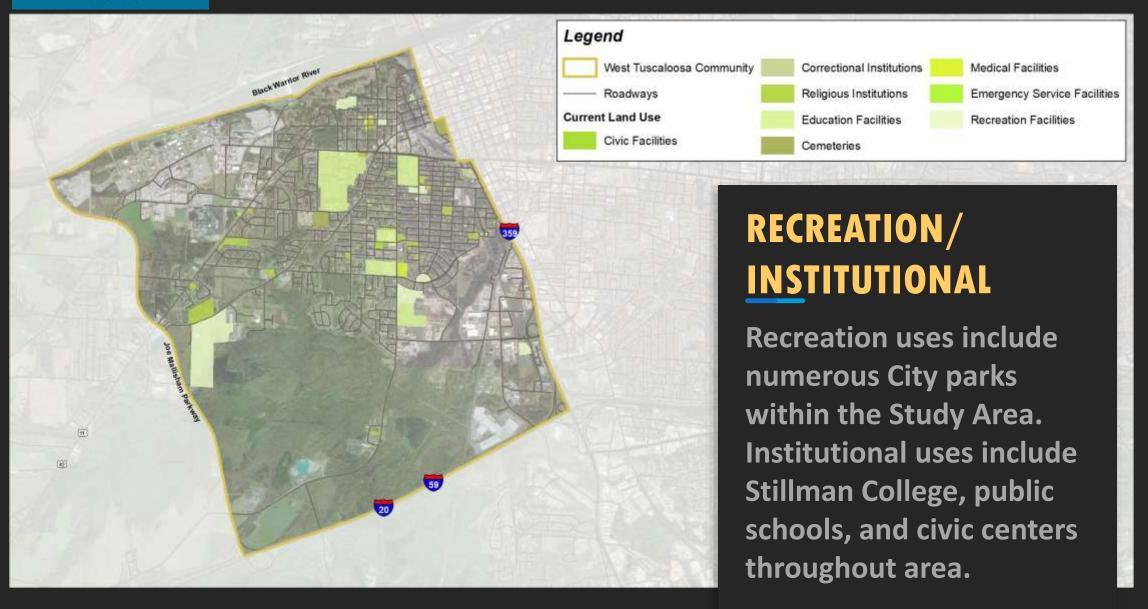
The predominant zoning category, located central and throughout the study area.

INSTITUTIONAL

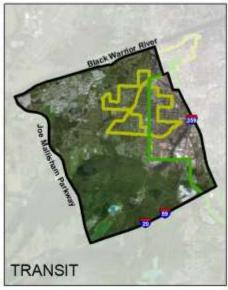
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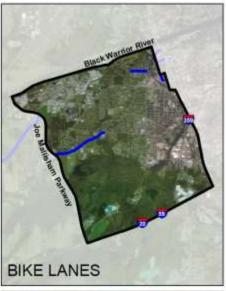
COMMERCIAL

Primarily located along major collector and arterial roadways.













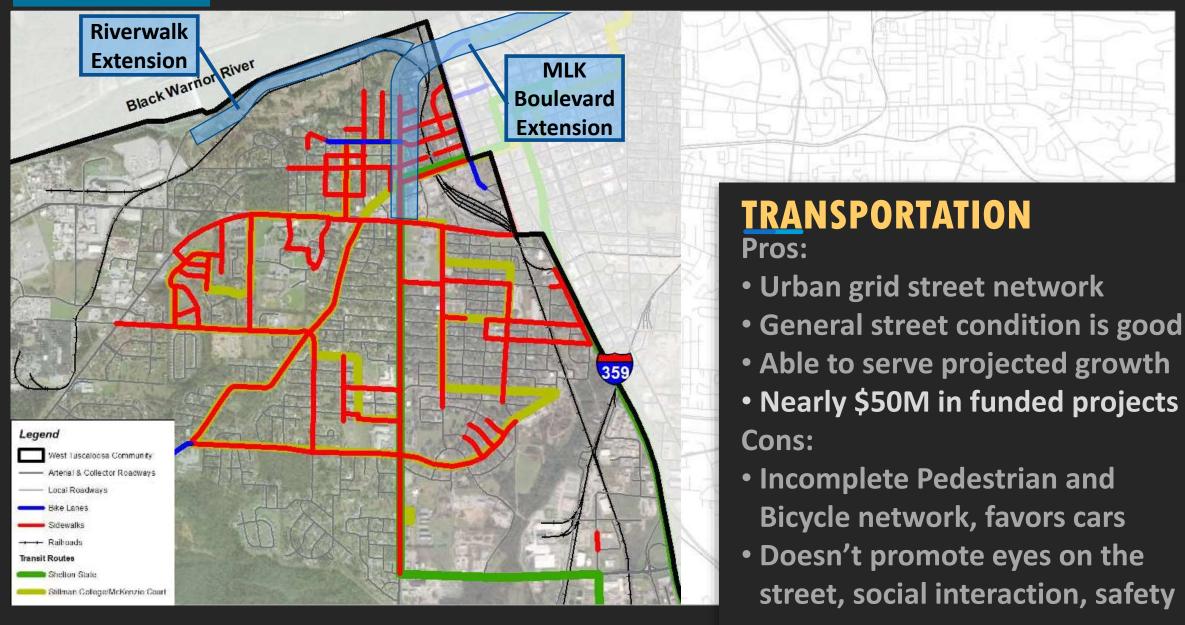


The Study Area has over 100 miles of roadways, ±10 miles of sidewalks, and very limited dedicated bicycle lanes. Mobility is very limited for those who don't own vehicles or have access to others means.

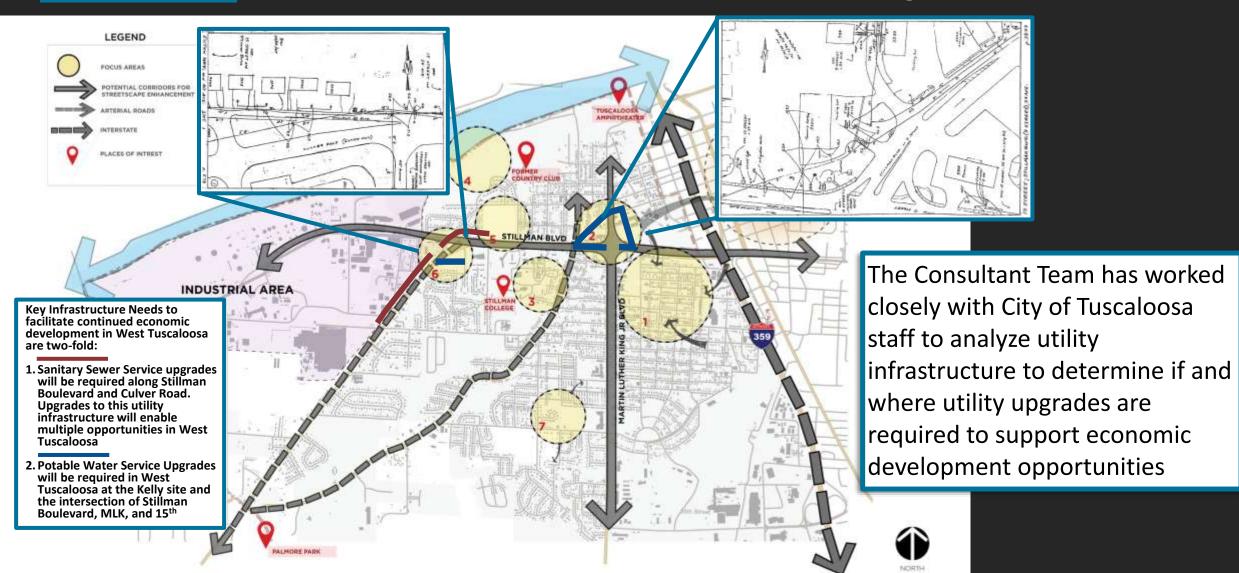
## **TRANSPORTATION**

#### **Pros:**

- Gridded street network
- Moderate block lengths
- Two active transit routesCons:
- Limited or no sidewalks
- Transit M-F daytime only



# Utility Infrastructure Findings

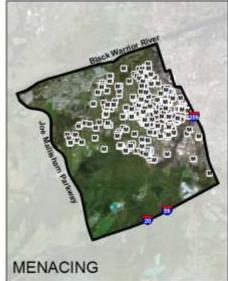


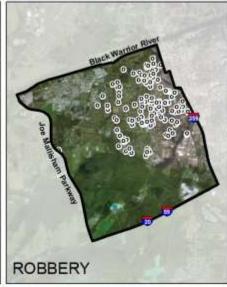


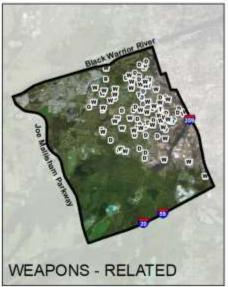


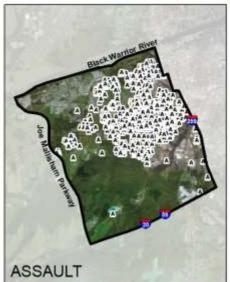


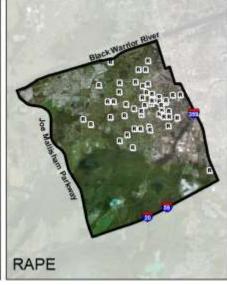


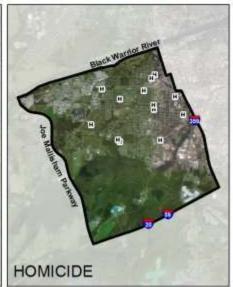












#### Legend

West Tuscaloosa Community

Violent Crime (Count)

ASSAULT (1,107)

DISCHARGE FIREARM (54)

GUN CALL (1)

SEX OFFENSE (33)

SHOOTING (2)

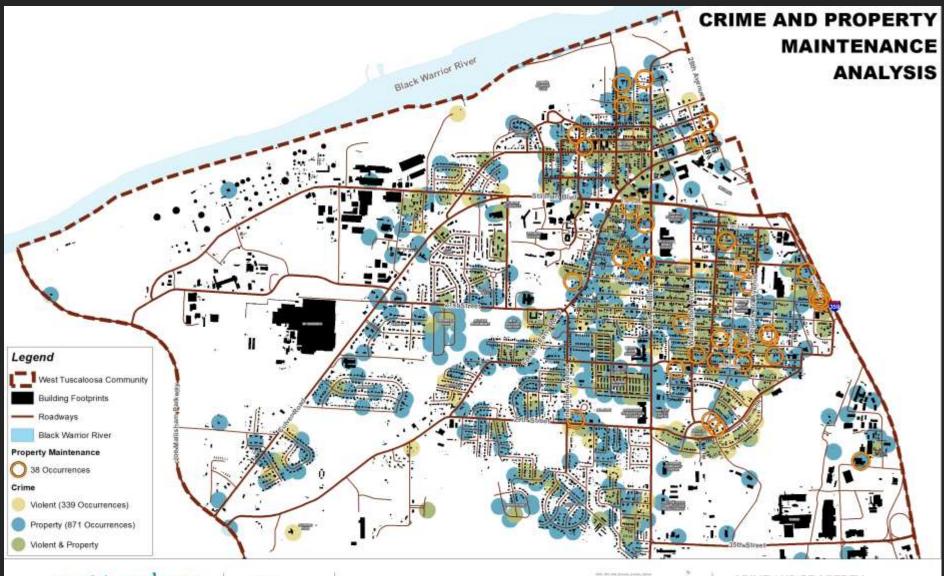
STABBING (1)

WEAPONS OFFENSE (47)

RAPE (57) ROBBERY (167)

# **CRIME INCIDENTS**

Not confined to any one neighborhoods or commercial area, crime is spread within the Study Area. Reduction of crime through new planning mechanisms and community empowerment is a focal element of the Study

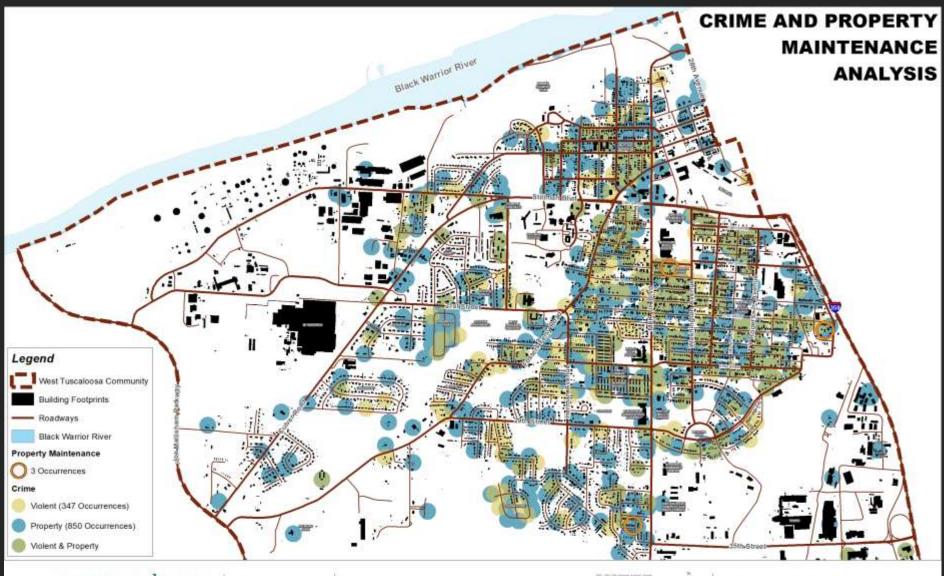




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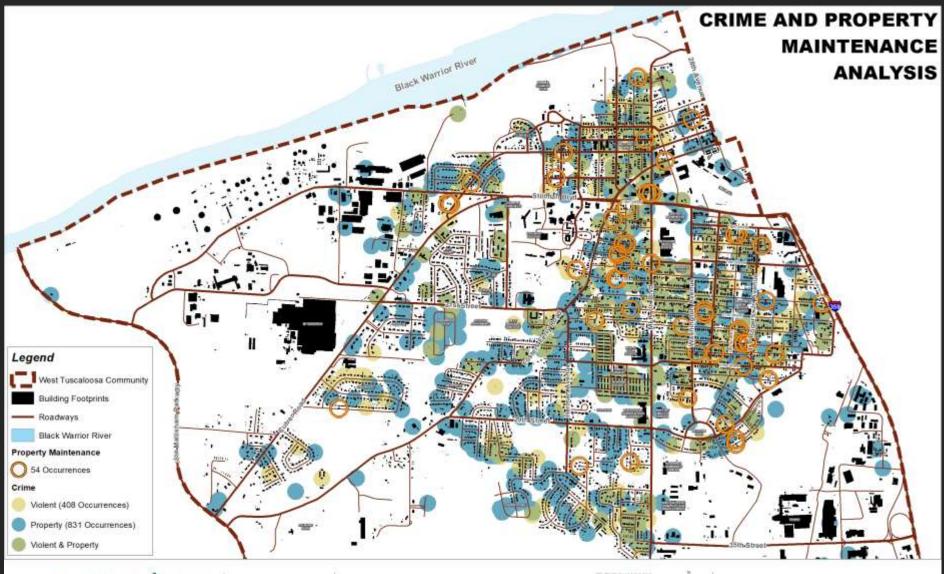




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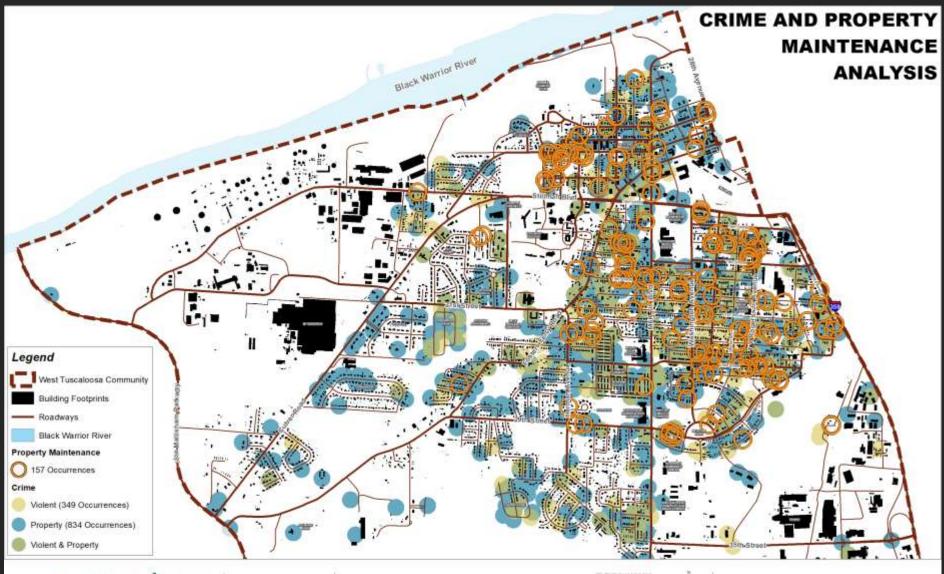
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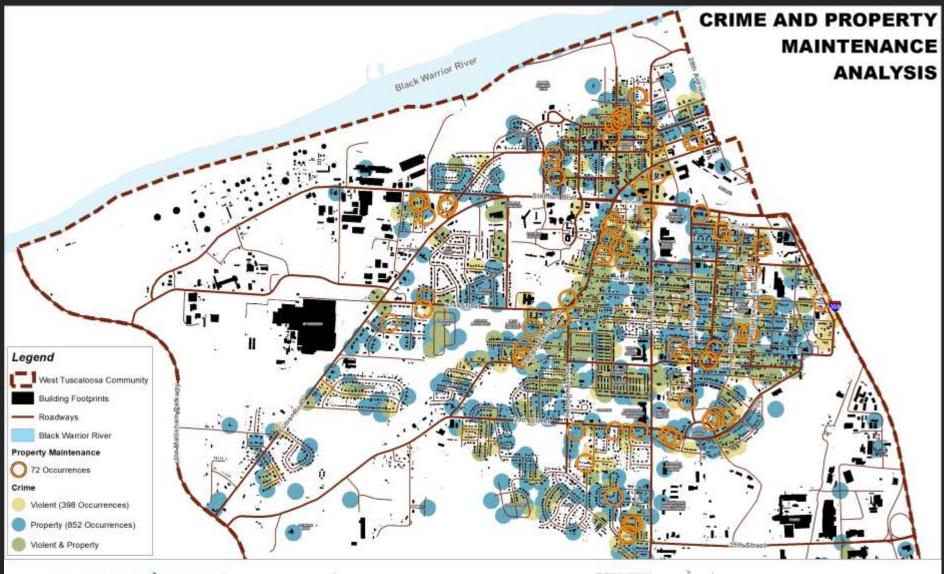




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# MISSION

THE CRITICAL DEFINING ACTION, WHERE SPECIFIC TASKS ARE GIVEN TO A GROUP, EMPOWERING THEIR EFFORTS INTO A FOCUSED GOAL, ENHANCING WEST TUSCALOOSA





# 4<sup>th</sup> Goal

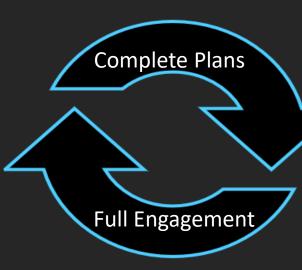
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Define <u>desired</u> and <u>identified</u> Code Elements for Update; and

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## 1<sup>st</sup> Goal

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# 3<sup>rd</sup> Goal

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Review existing infrastructure and define limitations;

Project potential Re-Development / Development thresholds; and

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# **2<sup>nd</sup>** Goal

#### COMMUNITY AND AREA SPECIFIC BLIGHT STUDY:

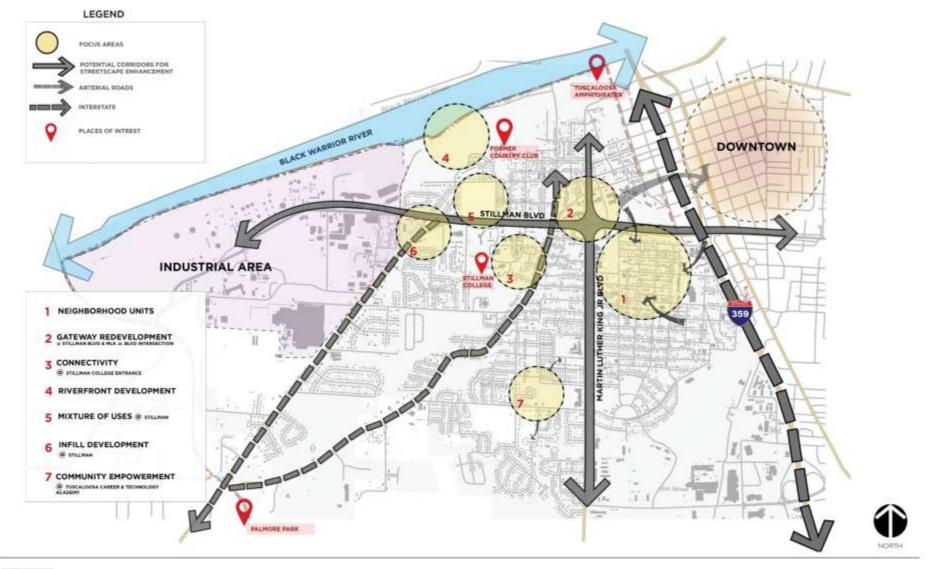
Survey overall Study Area, including residential & commercial;

Document as per Alabama Code Chapter 2, Section 24-2-2;

Identify community modifications / neighborhood conditions; and

Determine if Blighted Areas should be in CRA or CDBG programs







# NEIGHBORHOOD UNIT CONTEXT AREA

Jurisdiction: City of Tuscaloosa

**Land Area:** Size varies throughout Community

**Adjacent Roadways:** bounded by MLK, 15<sup>th</sup>, and

Railroad lines extending through Study Area

**Key Initiatives include, but not limited to:** 

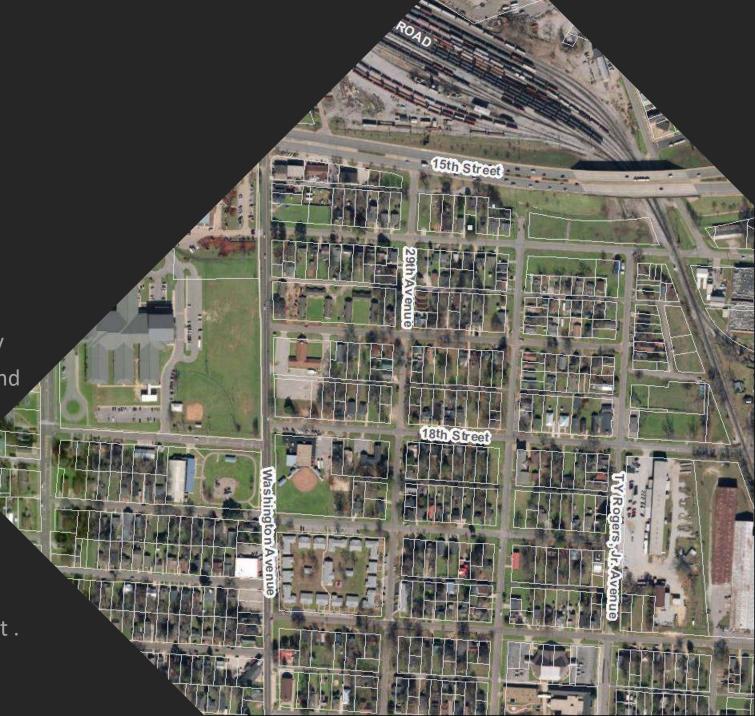
• Systematically complete sidewalks;

• Introduce LED lighting;

• Inventory Blight / prioritize removal;

• Identify key neighborhood leaders; and

Create / enhance neighborhood engagement .





# **NEIGHBORHOOD UNIT CONTEXT AREA**

**Existing Zoning: Predominantly Residential** 

Potential Uses(s):

**Transformational** residential housing; forms;

**Small-scale** neighborhood commercial; or

Limited new institutional;

Community input... Potential Habitat Pilot Project

#### **Potential Zoning:**

Residential;

Mixed Use;

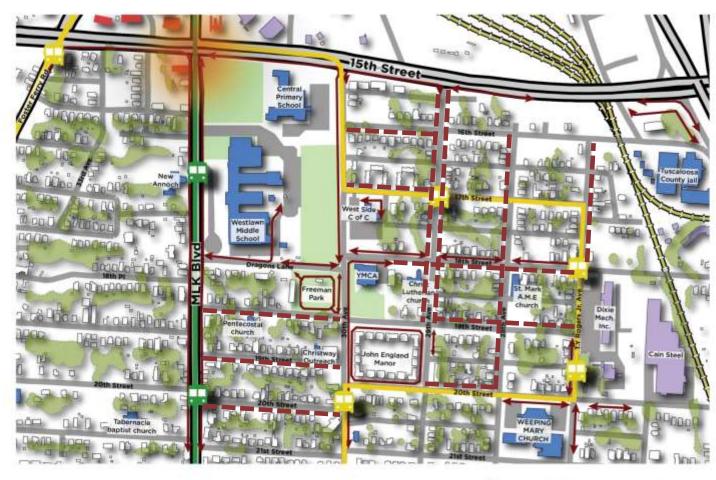
Institutional (Civic)

Master Planned Sites; and

Community input... Potential for mentor spaces











The most fundamental building block in strengthening West Tuscaloosa, and the community as a whole, is restoration and re-establishment of the Neighborhood Unit. Specific to the community, our one on one interview and open house participants have imparted upon us that at the most basic block level opportunities exist to restore a proud sense of value in the place residents call home. Tuscaloosa's citizens seek to reestablish safe and defensible space, lot by lot, home by home.

Using the input received throughout the process there are both short- and long-term actions that translate to opportunities. Items such as Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED), Community Resilience Strategies, and Defensible Space form the building blocks of our community vocabulary. At the neighborhood level, residents have articulated safety, connectivity, and enhanced Sense of Place as their highest priority goals.











# MLK-STILLMAN SITE

Jurisdiction: City of Tuscaloosa

**Land Area:** ± 6 acres

**Adjacent Roadways/Uses:** 

• North: Stillman Boulevard;

• East: MLK Boulevard, then Railroad;

• South: 15<sup>th</sup> Street; and

• West: Fosters Ferry Road.





## **MLK-STILLMAN SITE**

**Existing Zoning: BN & General Industrial** 

Potential Uses(s):

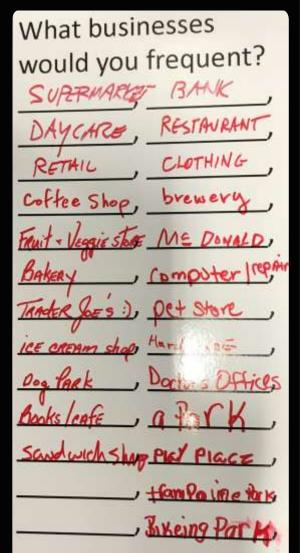
**Small-scale** Neighborhood commercial;

**Limited** Institutional; and

Community input...

**Potential Zoning:** 

Commercial; and









STILLMAN COLLEGE CONTEXT SITE

Jurisdiction: Stillman College, within

the City of Tuscaloosa

Land Area: ± 84 acres

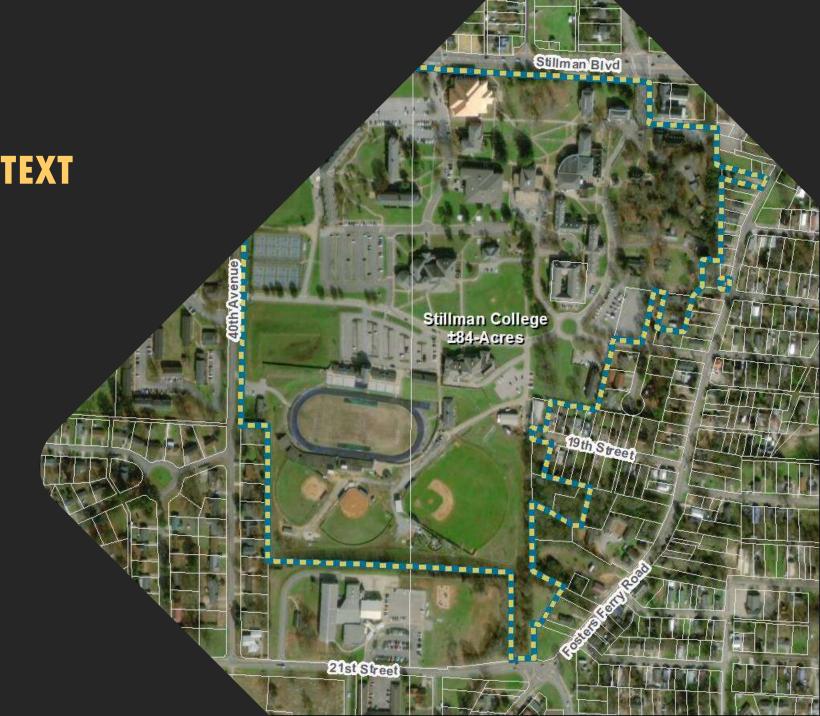
#### Adjacent Roadways/Uses:

• North: Stillman Boulevard

• East: Residential, Fosters Ferry Road

• South: 21st Street

• West: Residential, 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue





STILLMAN COLLEGE CONTEXT SITE

Jurisdiction: City of Tuscaloosa

Land Area: ± 84 acres

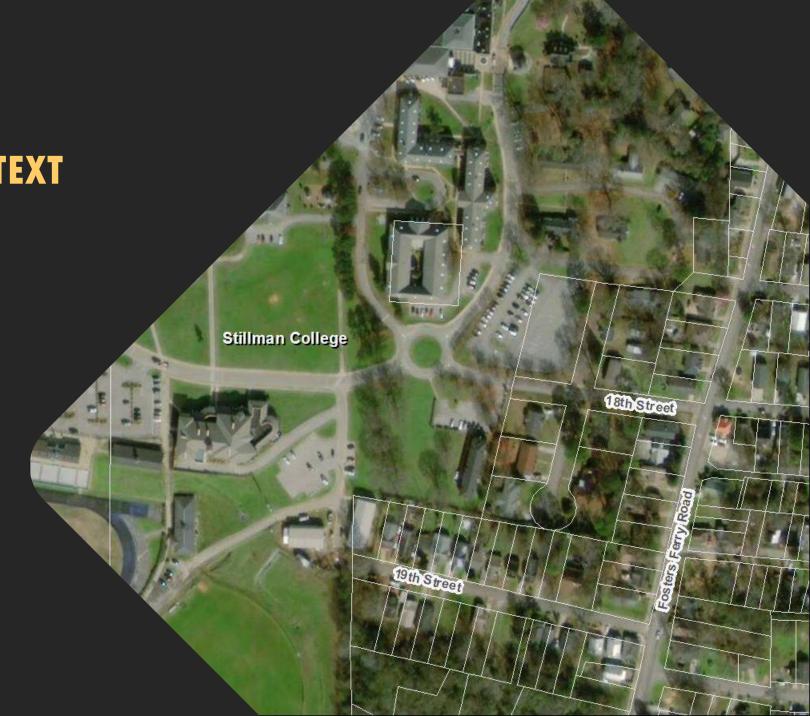
Adjacent Roadways/Uses:

• North: Stillman Boulevard

• East: Residential, Fosters Ferry Road

• South: 21st Street

• West: Stillman College Campus





# STILLMAN COLLEGE CONTEXT

**Existing Zoning: Institutional & Residential** 

Potential Uses(s):

*Transformational* residential housing; forms;

**Expanded** institutional;

**Small-scale** neighborhood commercial; or

Community input...

#### **Potential Zoning:**

Residential (attached or detached);

Limited Civic or Institutional;

New category supporting a Mix of Uses; or

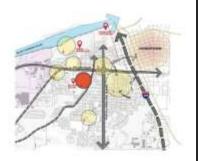


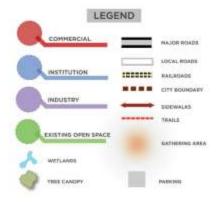




Stillman Route

Shelton State Route





A common theme that has emerged throughout the community, in both residential and commercial areas, is the lack of transportation options. It has been noted throughout the Study Area that public transit services operate only during weekday business hours. Individuals who rely on public transportation are able to use the mode for employment, but shopping and other personal needs that must occur on the weekends or evenings are unmet. This creates a reliance on more expensive travel options such as taxis, Uber, or private drivers. This can become an economic hardship on several groups including youth, singleparents, and the elderly.

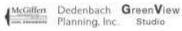
Pedestrian facilities such as sidewalks and paths are limited and often fragmented within neighborhoods, across thoroughfares, and community facilities such as parks. Bicycle facilities are even more limited within West Tuscaloosa. A short-, medium-, and long-term priority, as noted by residents, is completion or restoration of these facilities, which directly addresses residents' needs and offers health-related benefits for all generations.

Transit enhancements and added service nodes need to be analyzed. New stops should be coordinated with commerce centers and civic nodes to reinforce viability and residents' connection to goods and services.













# FORMER GOLF COURSE

Jurisdiction: City of Tuscaloosa

Land Area: ±110 acres

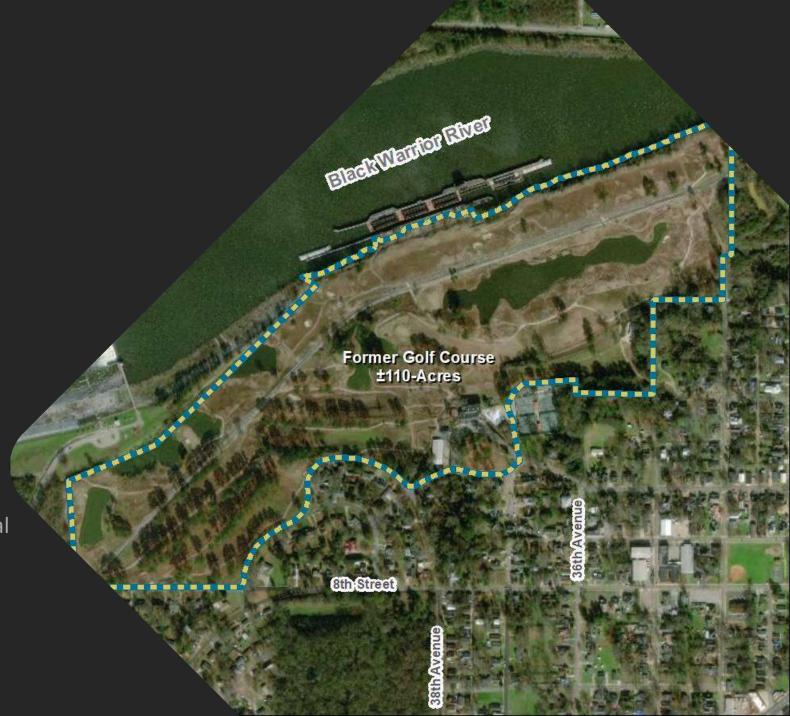
**Adjacent Roadways/Uses:** 

• North: Black Warrior River

• East: Industrial/Institutional

• South: Residential

• West: Single-family residential / industrial





## FORMER GOLF COURSE

**Current Use(s): none today** 

**Existing Zoning:** 

Riverfront Redevelopment District (RD); and

Institutional

#### Potential Uses(s):

New residential;

New recreation;

New commercial; or

Community input... Riverwalk Catalyst and Stillman connection

#### **Potential Zoning:**

Broad residential opportunities (detached, attached, condo);

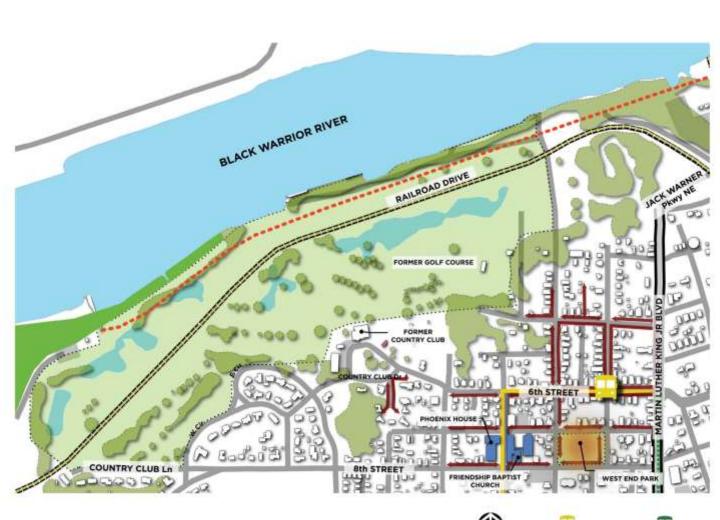
Limited Civic or Institutional;

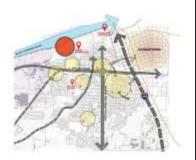
New category supporting a Mix of Uses (horizontal & vertical); or

Community input... Refine category for infill urban redevelopment











The City currently has a Master Planning effort underway for the Riverfront, which creates the northern edge of the former Country Club site. This effort seeks to create Resource-Based Recreation and continue the successful Riverfront development that occurs in East Tuscaloosa. The Riverfront Development creates opportunities beyond the project boundaries, by linking the adjacent neighborhoods to the Black Warrior River and potentially connecting with Stillman College.

The project is also capable of delivering community benefits far beyond the traditional perception of fitness and programmed activities. West Tuscaloosa has significant architectural forms and variety of building types. The ecological progression from the Black Warrior River to Stillman College can provide a learning pathway connecting an environmental feature and water-based commerce to a Higher Education Institution, historically connected to the community and population.













# BROADUS-STEWART SITE

Jurisdiction: unincorporated Tuscaloosa County

Land Area: ±21 acres

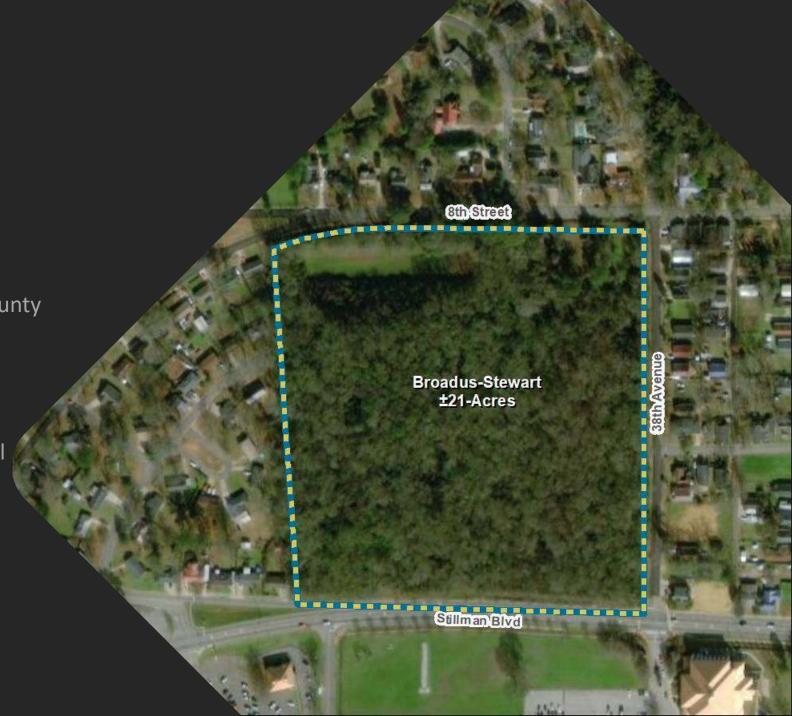
Adjacent Roadways/Uses:

• North: 8<sup>th</sup> Street/single-family residential

• East: 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue/single-family residential

• South: Stillman Boulevard/institutional

• West: Single-family residential





## **BROADUS-STEWART SITE**

**Current Use(s):** Vacant/forested

**Existing Zoning:** Police Jurisdiction (PJ)

Potential Uses(s):

New residential development, vertical mixed use;

Small-scale, neighborhood commercial (Mixed-Use);

Community assets, such as park/recreation; and

Community input...

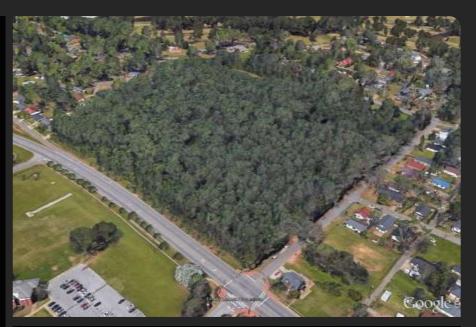
#### **Potential Zoning:**

Broad residential opportunities;

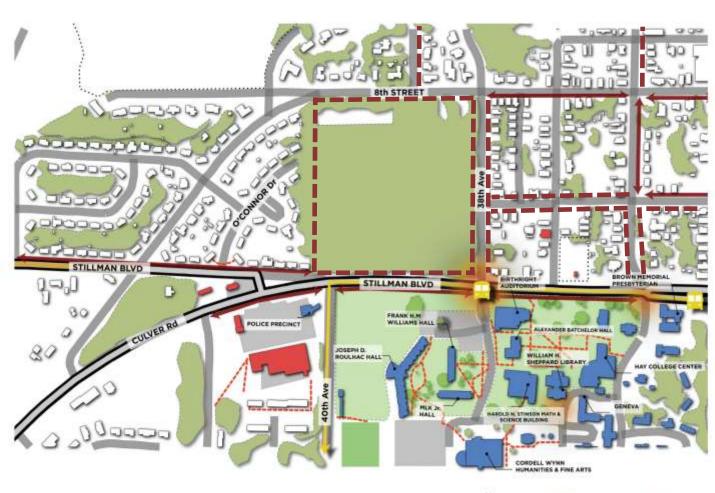
Residential over Retail;

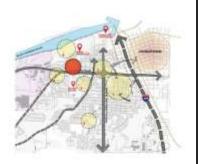
New category supporting a Mix of Uses;

Limited Civic or Institutional; or











The over twenty-acre wooded site, across from Stillman College, presents itself as a major catalyst center within the West Tuscaloosa community. Bounded on the west, north, and east by existing single-family detached homes of varying styles and sizes, this site's physical connection to both existing residents and the ability to build upon its direct proximity to Stillman College positions it as a foundation element within the West Tuscaloosa community's north-central core. Accessing Stillman Boulevard directly, the site has the potential to be landmark property, not only in size but scope with its ability to offer a mix of uses.

Proximity to Stillman College also creates opportunities for Public-Public (City/State, City/Community Agency, or City/ Educational Institution) and Public-Private Partnerships that could accelerate several sites' design, construction, and success in the community.













McGiffen Dedenbach GreenView Planning, Inc. Studio

5\_ MIXTURE OF USES





# **KELLEY / CLINTON SITES**

Jurisdiction: unincorporated Tuscaloosa County

Land Area: ±21 acres

Adjacent Roadways/Uses:

• North: 8th Street/single-family residential

• East: 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue/single-family residential

• South: Stillman Boulevard/institutional

• West: Single-family residential/industrial





# **KELLEY / CLINTON SITES**

#### **Existing Zoning:**

#### Potential Uses(s):

Small-scale, neighborhood commercial (Mixed-Use);

New residential development; or

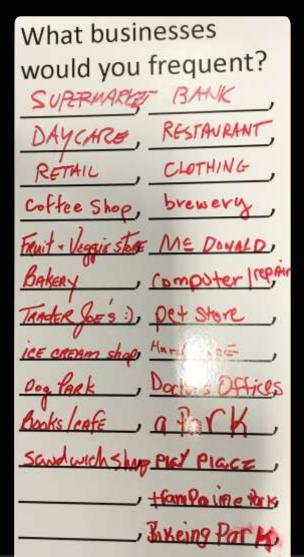
Community input...

#### **Potential Zoning:**

Commercial;

Residential;

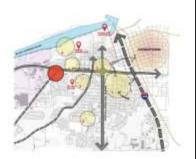
A Hybrid Zoning category; or













The six and one-half acre site, west of the existing community grocery store, which was the site of an auto salvage lot, has the potential to be redeveloped to have a mixture of uses. The site's location, nearly in the Northwest corner of West Tuscaloosa's residential population, is matched well in size and scale to deliver professional services that are scarce within West Tuscaloosa.

Additionally, within close proximity to the multitude of industrial and commercial uses that exist between the Black Warrior River and West Tuscaloosa's residential population, the site's potential to deliver complimentary uses to employees in the area's manufacturing and trade industry is tremendous. Numerous other areas, within the Study Area, lend themselves to infill development and may be identified for future detailed analysis.















McGiffer Dedenbach GreenView Planning, Inc. Studio





TUSCALOOSA CAREER & TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY

SITE

Jurisdiction: City of Tuscaloosa

**Land Area: ± 19** acres

Adjacent Roadways/Uses:

• North: McKenzie Court / residential;

• East: MLK Boulevard / mixed uses;

• South: 29th Street / single family; and

• West: Residential, Oak Ridge subdivision.





# TUSCALOOSA CAREER & TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY SITE

**Existing Zoning:** 

Potential Uses(s):

**Mentoring Center or Civic Uses**;

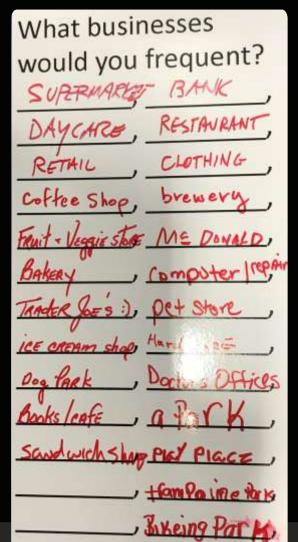
*Small-scale* neighborhood commercial; or

Community input...

**Potential Zoning:** 

Institutional (civic space);

Commercial; or













In all meetings and open house events throughout the community, citizens have shared their desire for greater connection to the place they call home and more importantly the community they cherish and wish to enhance. Connection to the physical and built environment can be enhanced through architectural, urban design, and landscape architectural forms and features. Drawing residents into engaging interaction, opportunities for shared activities, and making mentorship possible can be significantly enhanced by the quality and perceived safety of the spaces created for residents.

While many areas are lacking sidewalks, street or pedestrian lighting, or defensible gathering spaces, West Tuscaloosa residents have express specifically a desire to use the track adjacent to the Tuscaloosa Career and Technology Academy. The large expanse of land on the Academy's western side presents apportunities for community recreation, and beyond recreation - creation of sharespace to empower existing and future generations. Building on the Academy's core curriculum, starter spaces focused on Building Sciences, Human Services, and the Automotive Academy, for example, lend themselves to creating tomorrow's business owners today. Expand their reach and mission into the community. The template of Empowerment Centers could be replicated throughout the Study Area, each with a site-specific focus. Each should be programmed differently to address niche socioeconomic







McGiffer Dedenbach GreenView Planning, Inc. Studio





### **INFORMATION**

THE COLLECTIVE KNOWLEDGE, OBTAINED FROM RESIDENTS AND BUSINESS OWNERS, TELLS THE STORIES THAT CREATE A COMMUNITY NARRATIVE, DEFINING A CITY. FROM THIS, PLANS ARE FORMED BASED ON THE FOLLOWING COMPONENTS



#### **DATA COLLECTION**

Existing Conditions / History Trends
Our environment, commerce, Land Use
and Zoning patterns, residential patterns,
and our transportation systems tell the
story of our communities' development



#### **EXISTING CONDITIONS**

Analyzing Trends
The statistical analysis of community characteristics provides the basis of creating a foundation upon which planning recommendations are formed.



#### ANALYSIS / PROJECTIONS

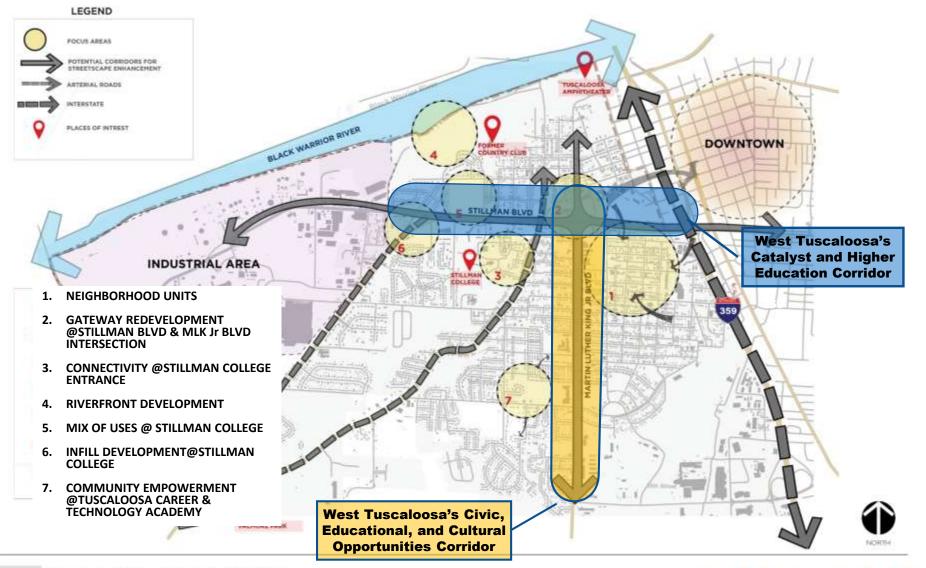
#### **Future Goals**

Based on Community Input, Consensus Building, and Goal-Setting, Plans are formed that guide communities' growth and engage and empower its citizens.



#### **GOALS+ RECOMMENDATIONS**

Planning Policy and Funding Options
Prioritized Goals and Identified Funding
create the building blocks for both
community reinvestment and catalysts for
enhanced redevelopment opportunities.



west tuscaloosa

Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard Civic, Educational, & Cultural Opportunities











# Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard Civic, Educational, & Cultural Opportunities

Educational Nodes at North form gateway feature

Neighborhoods reinforce the fabric of community

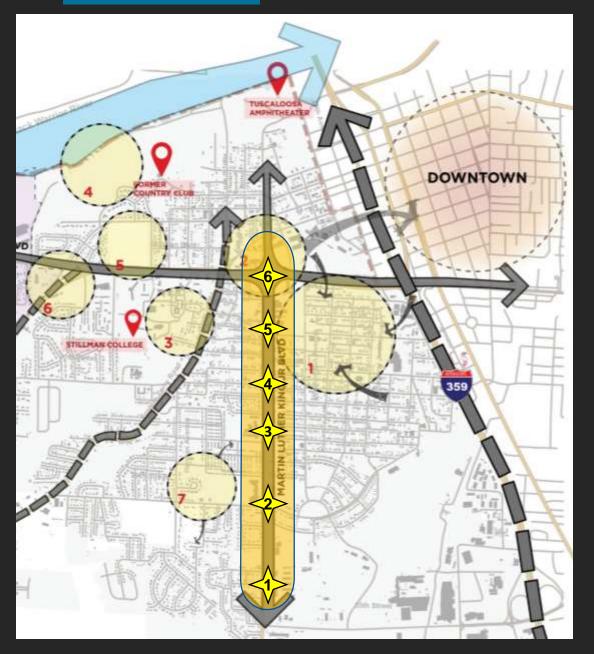
Blocks provide opportunity to improve safety

TCTA / Health Center provides education / health

McDonald Hughes Center is Civic gateway to corridor

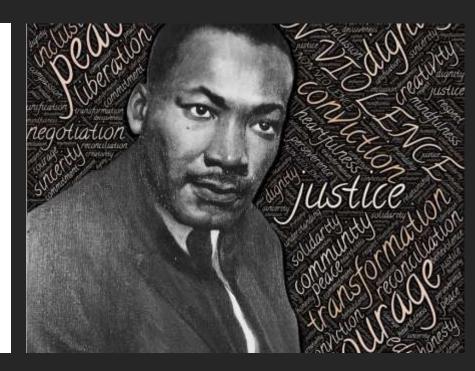
Creation of Civic, Educational, & Cultural nodes, along MLK Boulevard could be in partnership with the ARTS program or other groups as annual civic engagement exercises to engage the entire Tuscaloosa community.





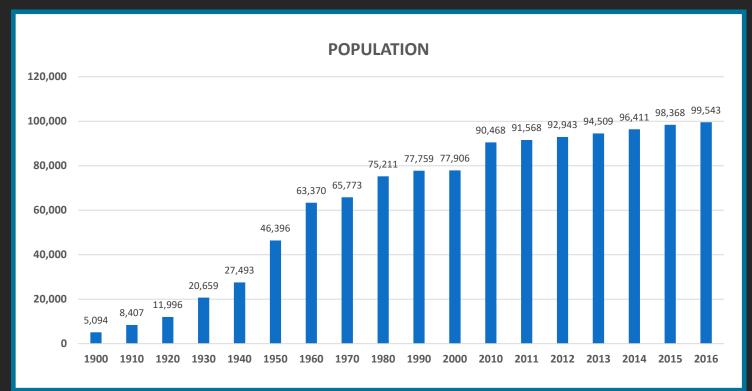
Building on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's legacy, with the Boulevard carrying his name, the community can be empowered to celebrate his legacy; understand the present, and define a pathway to the future for the entire City of Tuscaloosa, beginning in West Tuscaloosa.

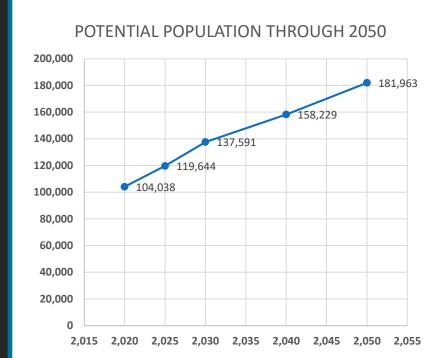
- 6. Action
- 5. Faith
- 4. Community
- 3. Inclusive
- 2. Opportunity
- 1. Education





## **POPULATION PROJECTIONS**



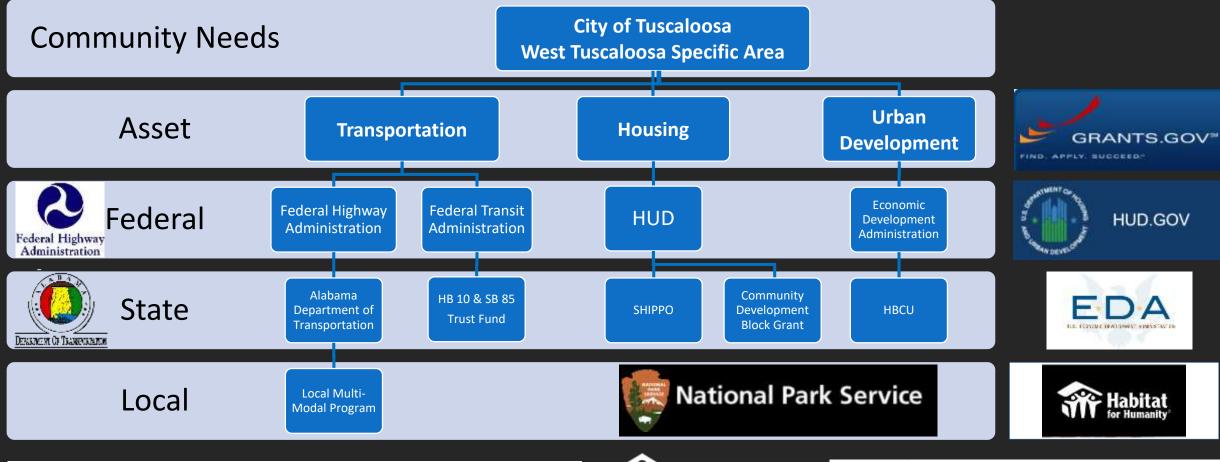


Tuscaloosa's population growth has historically grown in accordance with national averages. If the population continues to grow in this range, the City could reach a population of 181,963 by the year 2050

West Tuscaloosa accounts for approximately 13% of the City's population. Therefore, planning for another 10,000 persons over the next 30 years is appropriate.



# Funding Options



The City should use all means, backed by the data and analysis contained through this Community Inventory to seek as much funding as possible for West Tuscaloosa.





# West Tuscaloosa Community Inventory

JUNE 2018