

McKinley Hill Neighborhood Plan

Co-created plan with residents for neighborhood identity and vitality

City Council selected McKinley as one of the pilot neighborhoods for the Neighborhood Planning Program. The Plan was developed through a process of co-creation with neighbors throughout 2022, and is informed by responses from surveys, community groups, and public meetings and events. We will continue to work with partners and neighbors to support implementation in 2023 and beyond.



Project Players
MAKERS: Rachel Miller, Markus Johnson, Queenie Gipaya
Neighborhood Planning Program: Anneka Olson, Lauren Hoogkamer, Charlotte Hevly

Major Goals

The Neighborhood Planning Program engaged community members through surveys, events, a Virtual Plan-A-Thon, Steering Group, Youth Action Mapping Project, multilingual focus groups, McKinley Neighborhood Fair, and numerous other activities to capture key issues and ideas for McKinley's future. Through this iterative process, we identified four major goals:

- 1 Vibrant Business District** Support a vibrant economic base; comfortable, family-friendly environment; and unique McKinley identity.
- 2 Walkability and connections to key destinations** Improve walkability and placemaking within the business district, and enhance connections to transit, schools and parks.
- 3 Activated open spaces** Enhance key open spaces to support community gathering and safety, such as McKinley Overlook, as well as business district gateways.
- 4 Enhance McKinley's Center with new amenities** As the neighborhood grows, support options for housing, food/grocery, services, and amenities.

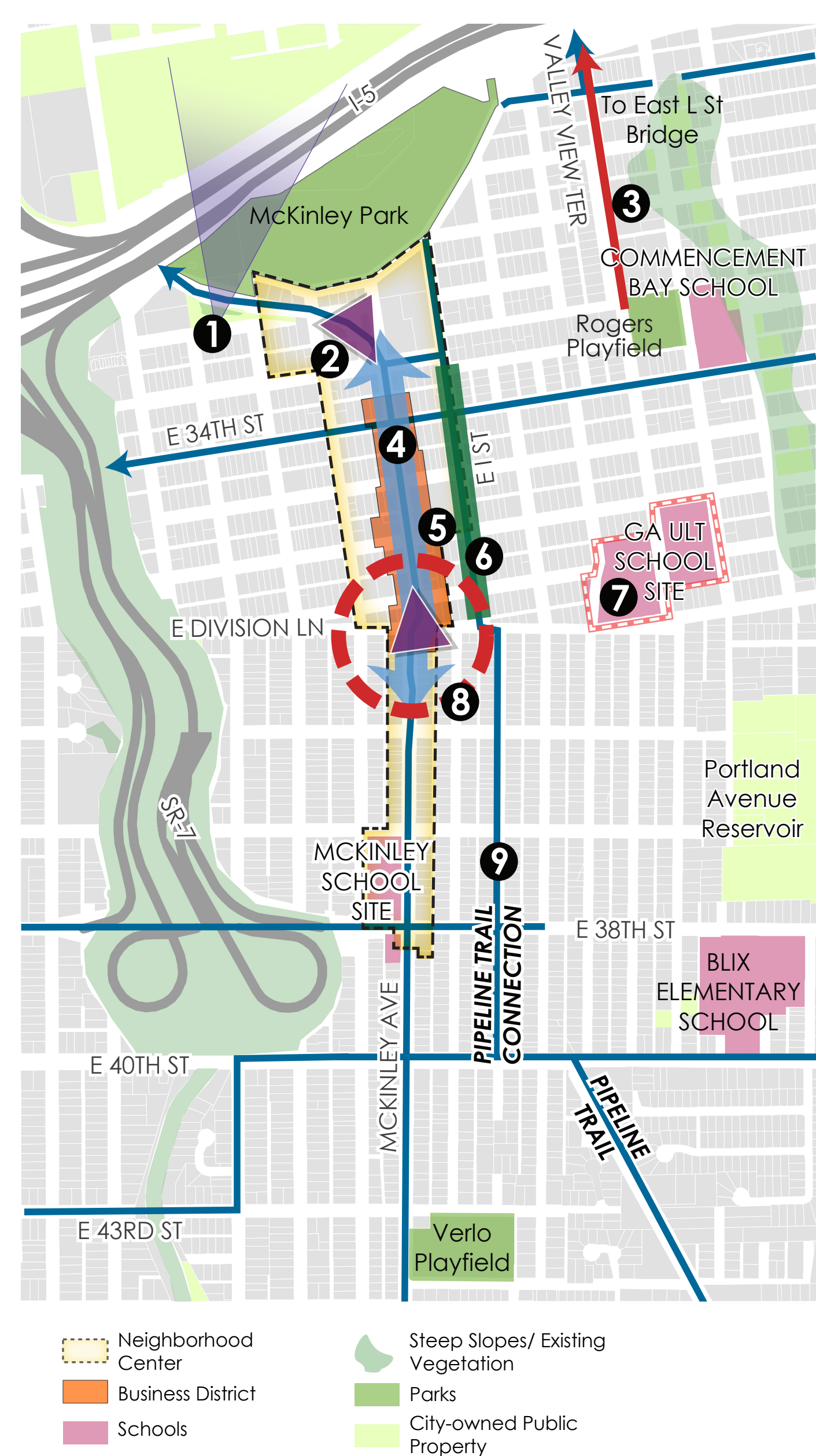
Engagement

Intentional and equitable community engagement was the core driving force behind the creation of the Plan. Staff proactively reached out and engaged with community members to co-create the community engagement process and the Plan. Building lasting relationships and connections to resources also helped build community capacity. We are grateful to the community for their enthusiastic participation, which included:

1,500+ Community "Engagements"

- Steering Group and 3 Committees**
50+ members
- Action Mapping Project**
1,500+ responses
- 5 Community Events**
300 attendees
- McKinley Neighborhood Fair**
200+ attendees
- 4 Focus Group Roundtables**
McKinley Business District
Multilingual targeted engagement
100+ responses
- 2 Surveys**
150 responses

Major Actions



- 1** Activate the McKinley Overlook (along East 32nd St)
- 2** Enhance north and south gateways to Business District
- 3** Complete missing sidewalk to connect McKinley to Dome District via East L St Bridge
- 4** Redesign and upgrade McKinley Ave streetscape
- 5** Support Business District identity through placemaking and art
- 6** Calm traffic through neighborhood tree-planting
- 7** Pursue community priorities, including a grocery store, with the Gault School redevelopment
- 8** **Community Booster Project!**
The neighborhood selected the East Division Ln/McKinley Ave intersection safety enhancement project for their community booster grant (\$50,000). It will provide temporary bulb-outs, repainted crosswalk and intersection mural.
- 9** Build new connections and crossings for people biking, walking and rolling to transit, parks, neighborhood centers, schools, and trails



Implementation

Most of the Plan actions are intended to be opportunistic, completed when grant or other funding becomes available. However, several projects have already been funded with the help of internal and external partners. These include the following:

Projects Coming to McKinley!

- Tree planting and traffic calming on East I Street (Pipeline Connector)
- Drinking water fountains
- Intersection safety and placemaking at E Division Ln and McKinley Ave
- Crosswalk re-painting
- Placemaking strategy for business district
- Wall murals
- McKinley Ave streetscape design
- Utility pole painting
- Bike parking/corral
- Stormwater stencils
- Speed reduction for business district
- Tree planting outreach

Open Space Activation | McKinley Overlook

From initial surveys and community outreach, McKinley Overlook (viewpoint at East 32nd St), which provides an extraordinary panoramic view of the Tacoma Dome, downtown, and the Port of Tacoma, was a critical open space to address community concerns about illegal dumping and crime. Ongoing Neighborhood Planning efforts guide the next steps and priorities to ensure the creation of a family-friendly space for walking/rolling and enjoying the view of downtown.

