

CITY OF RIVERSIDE GENERAL PLAN UPDATE & CLIMATE ACTION AND ADAPTATION PLAN

Planning Commission Update
May 21, 2026

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General Plan Update (GPU) Overview

- A strategic vision for the City over a generation
- A blueprint for physical growth, development, and preservation
- The community’s vision informs the contents of General Plan Elements in addition to statutory requirements
- Elements include goals, policies, and implementation measures for the various topics
- Influences zoning and the types of development desired, goals for improving and adding public amenities, natural spaces to restore and protect, delivery of public services, budgeting decisions and more
- General Plans have a typical planning horizon of 20-25 years

Mandatory Elements*

- Conservation*
- Mobility & Circulation*
- Noise*
- Open Parks, Space & Recreation*
- Public Safety*
- Land Use & Urban Design*
- Housing*

Optional Elements

- Arts, Culture, & Historic Preservation
- Economic Development & Innovation
- Public Facilities & Infrastructure
- Environmental Justice, Air Quality, Health

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Climate Action & Adaptation Plan (CAAP) Overview



- A roadmap to prepare for climate risks and create meaningful reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
- Relationship to General Plan Update:
 - Adaptation and GHG emissions are addressed by many GPU elements
 - CAAP includes additional GHG reduction measures to demonstrate GPU meets state requirements
- Why it matters:
 - Helps the City meet state environmental requirements
 - Simplifies how climate impacts are evaluated for future projects
 - Supports a healthier, more sustainable, and resilient community



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CAAP Next Steps

City reviewing potential actions to understand what is feasible and effective



Community input is being gathered through workshops, events, and surveys



Based on this input, the City will refine the list of actions for the CAAP



The project team will evaluate how much each action can reduce emissions and how it can be implemented



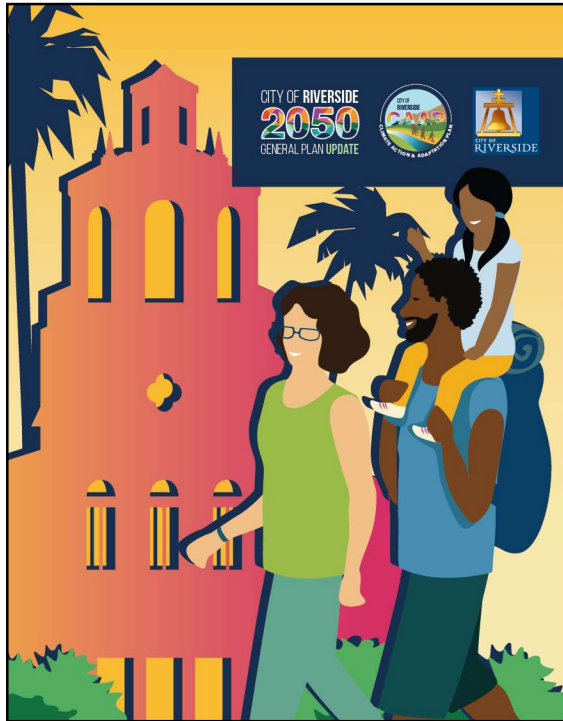
Final actions will be identified by mid-2026



Development of draft CAAP by September 2026
Final CAAP October 2026



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Community Outreach & Engagement

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2025 Outreach Overview – What We've Done



- **40+** Social media posts to 199,000 followers
- **23** email blasts and **3** newsletters
- Regular project website updates – www.riverside2050.com
- **320** email opt-ins to-date
- **13** Pop-up workshops – **1,290** engagements
- Neighborhood Land Use Community Workshop – **150+** attendees
- Build the Future Workshop – **65** attendees
- Online Mapping Activities – **293** comments
- Banners at **3** city parks
- **7** movable exhibits with bilingual banners
- General Plan Advisory Committee – **4** meetings
- CAAP Advisory Committee – **2** meetings
- **4,359** comments received and logged



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2025 Outreach Overview – What We've Heard

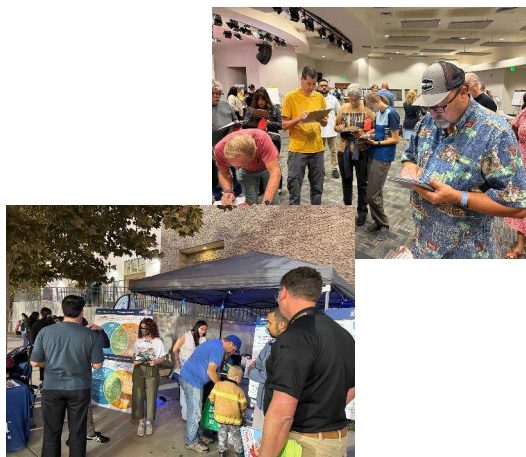


- **Preserve Open Space and Resist Overdevelopment:** There is strong support across multiple neighborhoods for the preservation of open space, greenbelts, horse trails, and agricultural lands.
- **Neighborhood-Focused Development:** Residents support mixed-use development and the revitalization of aging commercial corridors while respecting neighborhood scale and character.
- **Targeted Infrastructure and Mobility Improvements:** Communities desire better pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, traffic calming solutions, and improved transit access.
- **Maintain and Enhance Community Spaces:** Residents call for stronger code enforcement in neighborhoods for illegal dumping, improved lighting in public spaces, and street beautification



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2025 Outreach Overview – What We've Heard



- **Culture & History:** Residents desire a creative economy and a robust cultural tourism industry, including facilities and public spaces that reflect the cultural identity and heritage of Riverside through design and intention.
- **Public Safety & Services:** Road safety and crime reduction emerged as a top public safety priority for communities and wildfires are becoming a greater concern for families.
- **Air Quality & Affordability:** Communities seek low-cost transit passes, solar and EV incentives, and energy rebates to improve air quality in affordable ways.



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Land Use Workshop – May 2



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Outreach – Notifications to Promote Workshop

Canvassing:

- 2 full days on the week of April 27th at over 200 locations across all wards
- Locations reached include businesses and affordable housing facilities

CBO Partnerships:

- Partnered with 4 local community organizations; efforts included tabling or phone calls

Other Notifications:

- 3 eblasts to 3,000 stakeholders
- 2 text messages from the project helpline number
- City press release & council member's newsletter
- Riverside Public Utilities Lobby TV Ad
- Auto center billboard
- Social media posts on City's Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter (X)
- Raincross Gazette & local universities' community calendars



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Outreach – Pop-Up Events

Completed:

- Ward 1: Riverside Insect Fair – April 25th
 - 678 stakeholders engaged
- Ward 2: UC Riverside Earth Day – April 22nd
 - 106 stakeholders engaged
- Ward 3: Arbor Day Celebration – April 18th
 - 70 stakeholders engaged
- Ward 7: Community Health & Wellness Resource Fair – April 25th
 - 113 stakeholders engaged



Upcoming (as of publication):

- Ward 4: Mission Grove Neighborhood Alliance Meeting – May 13th
- Ward 5: Cinco de Mayo Celebration – May 9th
- Ward 6: Tyler Galleria Farmers' Market – May 17th



Land Use Element and Scenarios

Community Priorities That Informed the Vision



What We've Done

- Visioning Campaign
 - Social media posts
 - Eblasts and newsletters
 - Project website
 - 7 pop-ups (1 in each ward)
- Baseline Survey (Oct 16-24, 2024)
- FutureFest at Riverside Plaza
 - 500+ attendees
 - 221 written comments received
- Continued social posts, eblast, and newsletters
- Utility mailers to every household and business
- Workshops #1 and #2, popups

Sunday, October 19, 2024	Tuesday, October 29, 2024	Sunday, October 19, 2024	Saturday, October 18, 2024	Friday, October 25, 2024	Saturday, October 10, 2024	Tuesday, November 5, 2024
Ward 1	Ward 2	Ward 3	Ward 4	Ward 5	Ward 6	Ward 7
Mission Inn Run	UCR Scorefest	Riverside Airport Café Planes 'N' Treats	Boo Bash in the Crest	Spooky Spectacular	La Sierra High School Fall Festival	La Sierra Park
300+ Attendees	300+ Attendees	5,000+ Attendees	350+ Attendees	200 Attendees	400+ Attendees	50+ Attendees



Development of the Vision Statement

- Draft Vision Values
 - Sustainable and Resilient Growth
 - Healthy, Connected, and Livable Neighborhoods
 - Economic and Educational Opportunities and Innovation
 - Heritage, Arts and Culture, and Natural Landscape Preservation
 - Equitable Access to Services and Amenities



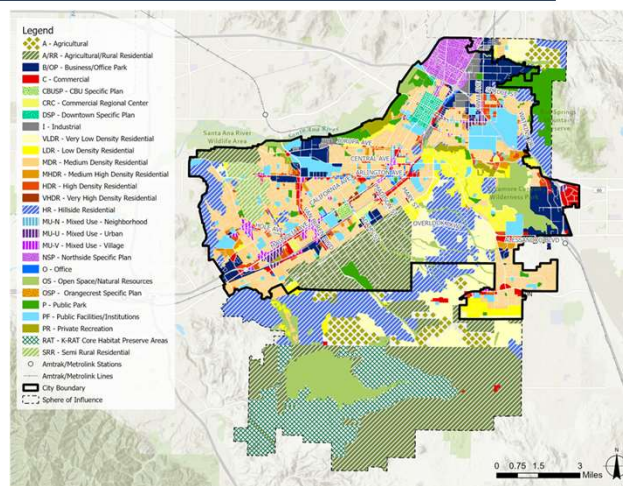
Draft Guiding Principles – Land Use Element

- Key priorities that serve as a framework for decision making, inform policy development:
 1. Promote **efficient** and **sustainable** land use.
 2. Promote **high-quality** urban design and development standards.
 3. Strengthen neighborhood **identity** and **sense of place**.
 4. Foster a diverse and **inclusive** built environment.
 5. Advance housing **affordability** and **availability**.
 6. Enhance **mobility, accessibility** and **walkability**.
 7. Expand open space and recreational **opportunities**.
 8. Support a **dynamic** and **resilient** economy.
 9. Adapt to **emerging** technologies and economic **trends**.

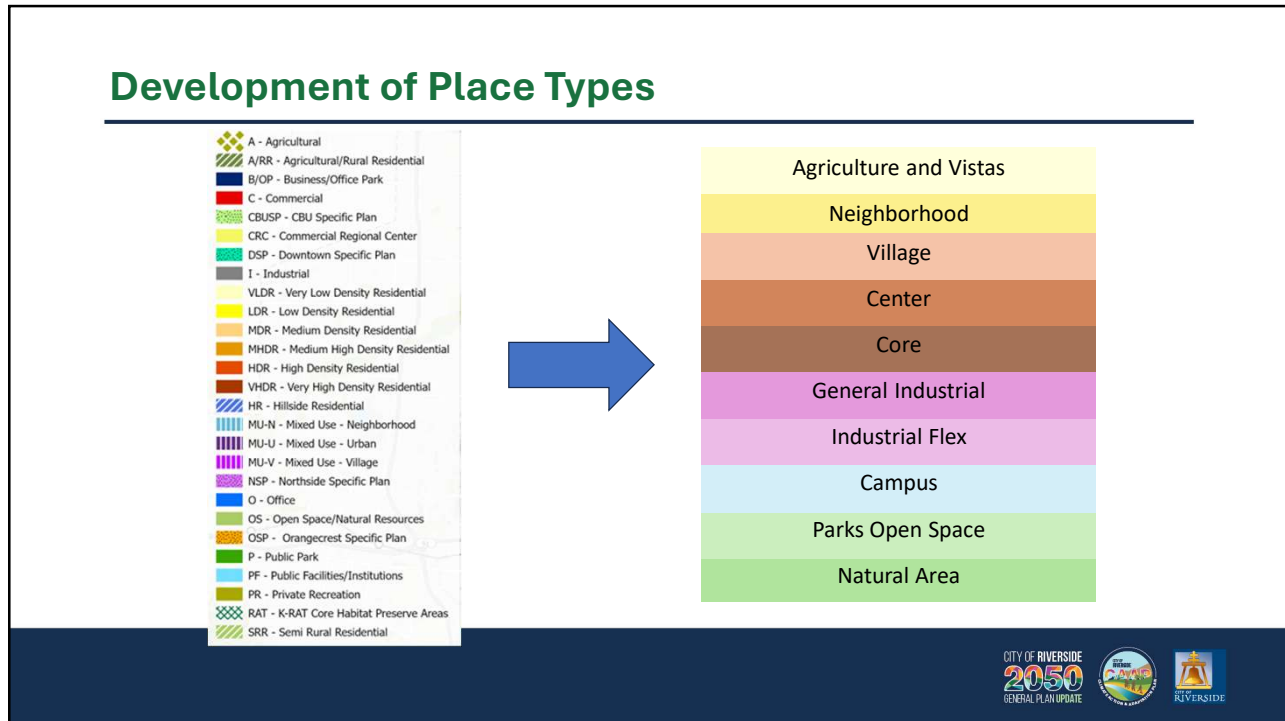
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Land Use and Placetypes

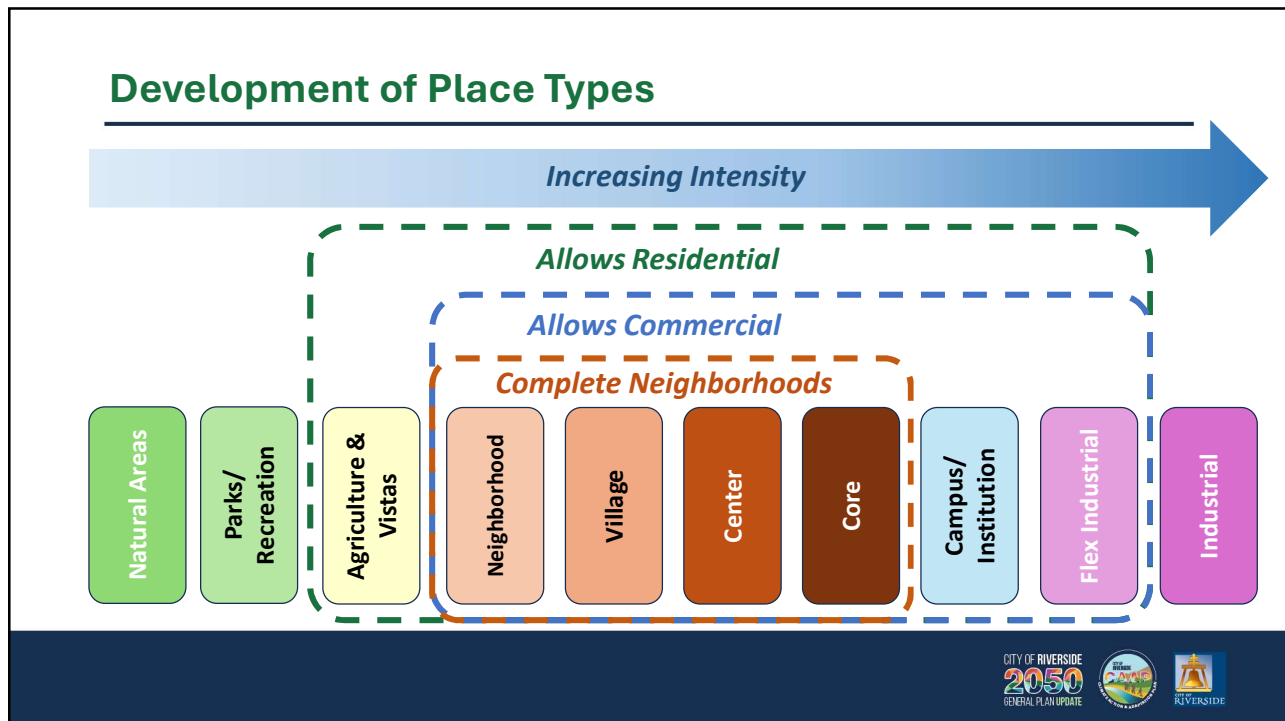
- Explains what different areas of the city are used for
- Shows where homes, stores, jobs, schools, and parks go
- Helps everyone understand how the city grows and changes
- Forms a foundation for more detailed regulations like Zoning
- Guides decisions about new projects and improvements
- Reflects community values and long-term vision











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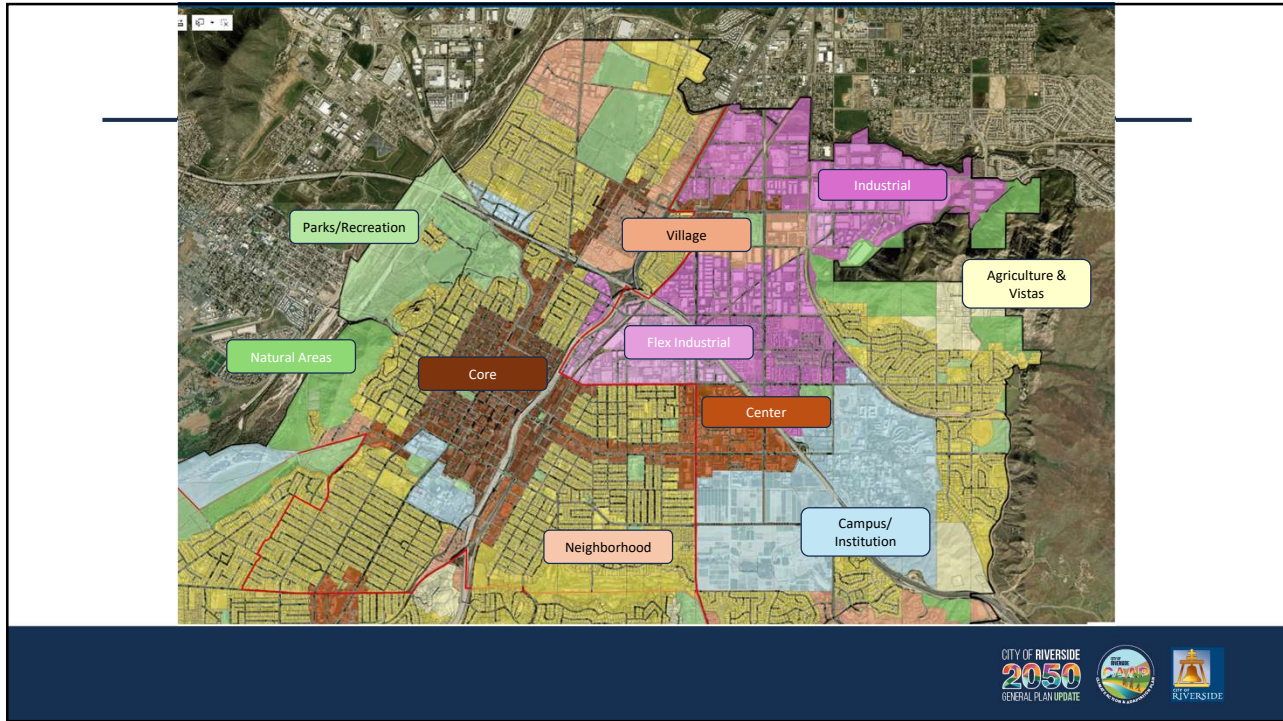
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<p>Agriculture and Vistas Farmland, orchards and hillsides; Prop R- and Measure C-protected land.</p>			
<p>Neighborhood The base land use designation for most neighborhoods; small-scale housing and some neighborhood-serving commercial activity.</p>			
<p>Village Local activity centers and corridors with a moderate mix of housing types, commercial activity and some employment.</p>			
<p>Center Significant activity centers and major transit-served corridors with compact housing, major commercial activity, employment, and services.</p>			

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<p>Core Transit-rich, regional employment, commercial, cultural, and civic centers with dense housing and employment and a chiefly urban character.</p>			
<p>General Industrial Reserved for more impactful industrial activities including heavy manufacturing, logistics and goods movement.</p>			
<p>Industrial Flex Innovation-focused blend of clean industrial operations mixed with commercial, office, and live-work residential.</p>			
<p>Campus Large, master-planned education, medical, civic, and business campuses, including public and private facilities.</p>			

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Land Use Scenarios

- Three land use scenarios that reflect different approaches to managing growth to meet residents and city long term goals.

Housing

- Increased density along primary corridors
- Expansion of higher density housing on the west side of the city
- Increased density on select secondary corridors in residential areas

Innovation & Growth

- Increased density along primary corridors
- Creation of urban core areas outside of downtown
- Increased amount of office/campus designations
- Increase in amount of flexible industrial/maker space
- Expansion of the downtown Urban Core designation

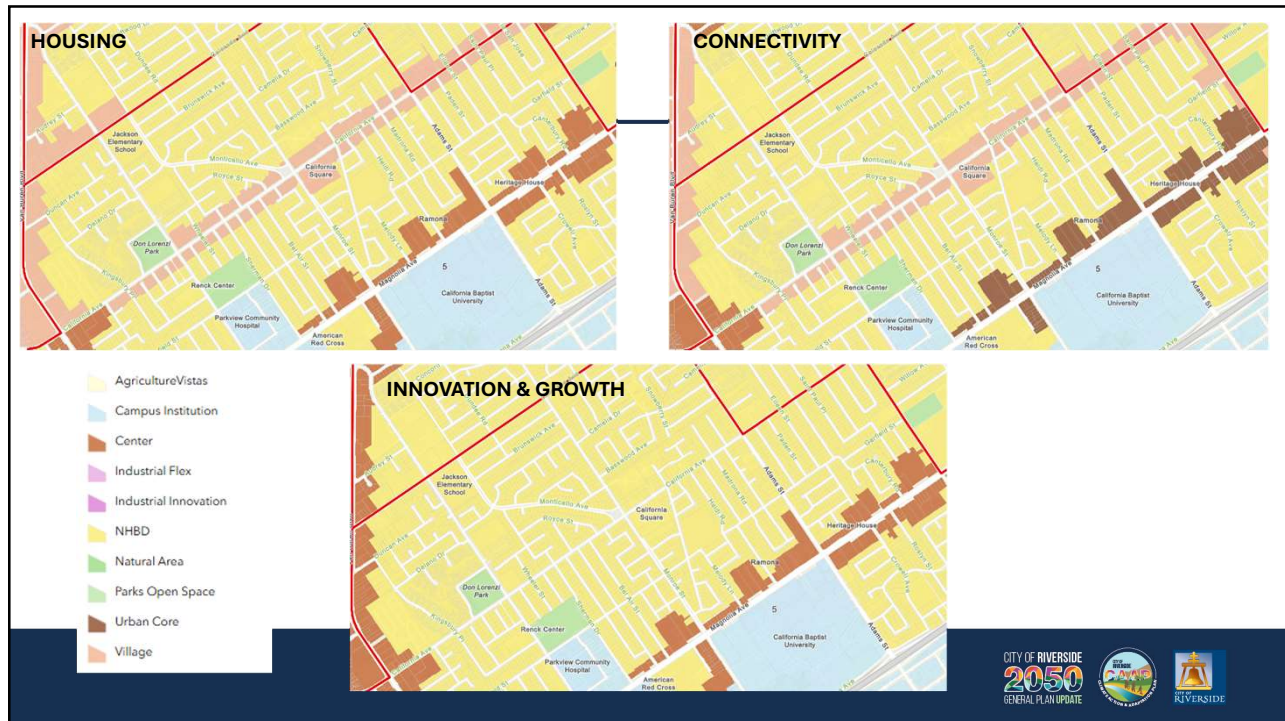
Connectivity

- Increased density along primary corridors
- Secondary corridors connecting key centers and corridors
- Access to parks and natural areas
- Keeps lower-density, more rural areas at the edges of the city

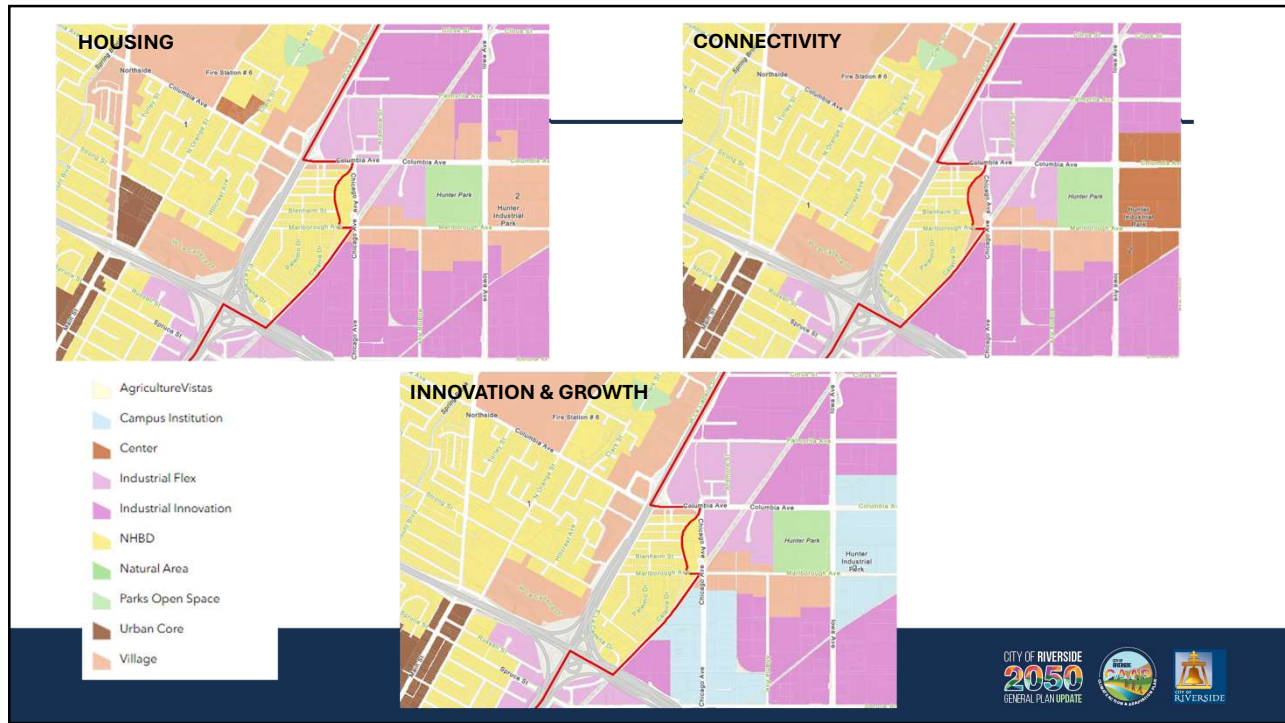
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Place Types Viewer



SCAN HERE to try it out!

Take the survey:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DT6T7KL>

Riverside GPU CAAP Land Use Scenario Viewer

Find address or place

Housing Placetypes

- Agriculture and Vistas
- Neighborhood
- Village
- Center
- Core
- General Industrial
- Industrial Flex
- Campus
- Parks and Open Space
- Natural Area

City Boundary

City Wards

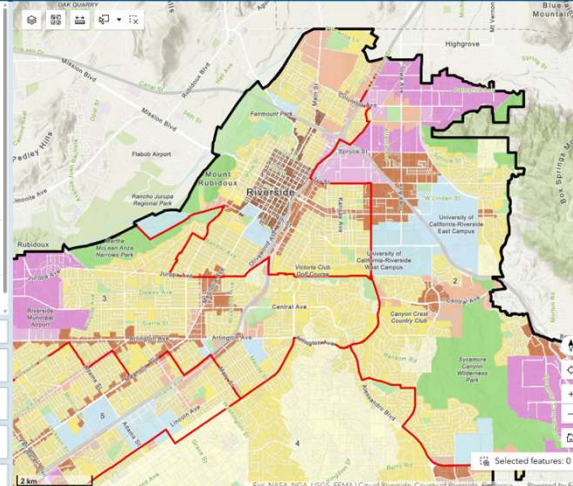
Housing Alternative

Innovation and Growth Alternative

Connectivity Alternative

Existing Standards

Place Types



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RIVERSIDE

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Recommendation

That the Planning Commission receive and file this update on the Riverside 2050 General Plan Update and Climate Action & Adaptation Plan and provide feedback.



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