

# TOWN OF HUACHUCA CITY GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN



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#### Town Council and Administration

George Nerhan, Mayor Dave Perry, Pro Tem Nancy J. Holland, Council Member Billy K. Weeks, Council Member John Wheeler, Council Member Richard Stevens, Council Member Carol Armistad, Council Member James Miller, Town Attorney Marilynn Slade, Town Clerk Joe Glowacki, Interim Fire Chief Bob Fenimore, Fire Chief Billy McLain, Public Works Director Jim Johnson, Building Official/Zoning Administrator

#### **Planning & Zoning Commission**

Todd Braswell, Chair Jon Smuda, Vice Chair Lisa McLain Rick Stevens Billy K. Weeks, Council Member Liaison Jim Johnson, Building Official/Zoning Administrator

#### **General Plan Committee**

Todd Braswell, Chair Bill Stein, Vice Chair Jon Smuda Lisa McLain Rick Stevens Keith Arnett Billy McLain Jim Johnson, Technical Advisor

#### **Other Contributors**

Gene & Jan McCullough Pat O'Hare Elmer Urda

#### **Special Contributions and Thanks**

Billie Gilmore Past Planning & Zoning Chair Past General Plan Committee Chair

#### Plan Consultants

The WLB Group, Inc. Curtis Lueck & Associates

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## **I - INTRODUCTORY MATERIALS**

## 1. OBJECTIVE OF THE PLAN

The primary objective of the Town of Huachuca City General Development Plan is to provide a unified vision of the Town's growth and development in accordance with the wishes of the Town's residents, property owners and stakeholders. By preparing a General Development Plan, the Town of Huachuca City is complying with the State of Arizona Growing Smarter and Growing Smarter Plus legislation. Additionally, the preparation of a General Development Plan demonstrates that the Town is a thoughtful and forward-thinking community that wishes to be pro-active about its development future.

The Town of Huachuca City has enjoyed a small-town lifestyle since its incorporation in 1958. The citizens of Huachuca City, envisioning growth, have become involved in the planning process to guide this growth and still retain their vision of a quality "small town" lifestyle. They realize this will require improvement and expansion of the infrastructure as well as promoting a stable economy. It is the pride and vision of the citizens of Huachuca City that have guided the development of this General Development Plan document.

This planning document shall serve as a guide for the Town Council, Town Planning and Zoning Commission, Town Staff and the general public regarding future development, growth and land use activity within the Town. The General Plan outlines the community's goal and objectives, establishes the land use and circulation plans and provides recommendations, policies and implementation strategies to meet the goals and objectives.

## 2. PLAN PROCESS

In January of 2002, The Town of Huachuca City issued a Request For Proposals for the development of a General Development Plan. The Town selected Tucson-based firm The WLB Group, Inc. and Curtis Lueck & Associates, also of Tucson. In February 2002, the contract was executed and work on the project began.

Public workshops were conducted in the Town of Huachuca City on:

Plan Kick-off / Workshop I: Monday, February 25, 2002; Town Hall, Council Chambers Workshop II: Monday, March 25, 2002; Community Center Workshop III: Monday, June 10, 2002, Town Hall, Council Chambers Workshop IV: Monday, July 22, 2002, Town Hall, Council Chambers

At these workshops, public input and information was solicited and recorded. This information was used to develop the plan's Vision Statement as well as the Goal and

Objective Statements for the Land Use and Circulation Elements. Numerous maps of the Town, including Existing Land Use and Existing Zoning were presented and were used to solicit public input and sentiment toward future development and land use activities.

Three "Proposed Land Use" alternatives were presented to the public at the Third Workshop, held on June 10, 2002. The attending public were asked to comment on the various proposed land use scenarios and choose the components of each that they felt most closely matched their vision of the Town's future. These were assembled into a Preferred Land Use Alternative that was placed on display in the Town Hall, the library and the Town's Senior Center.

The fourth and final workshop was held on July 22, 2002 at which a Draft General Development Plan was presented with emphasis on the Proposed Land Use Map and the Recommendations and Policy Statements. These comments were collected and incorporated into a summary report to the General Plan Committee and used to amend and augment the plan.

Two study-session/plan updates—also open to the public—were conducted with the Town's General Plan Committee on:

Tuesday, May 6, 2002, Town Hall, Council Chambers Friday, July 19, 2002, Town Hall, Council Chambers

## 3. PLAN ADMINISTRATION AND AMENDMENT PROCEDURES

This section is designed to provide administrative direction in accordance with the criteria of Growing Smarter and Growing Smarter Plus legislation regarding General Plan monitoring, amendments and updates.

## 4. GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN AMENDMENTS

Growing Smarter and Growing Smarter Plus restrict frequent changes to adopted municipal General Plans. This Plan was prepared using the input of the community and with careful attention to existing conditions and community needs. Frequent changes to the Plan serve to weaken the community's work in developing the plan and stray from the Town's defined vision.

Major amendments to the General Plan are now limited by Arizona statute, which permit major changes only *once per year*. The Plan Amendment must have two-thirds majority vote of the Town Council. In accordance with Arizona Statutes, ARS 9-461.06-G, a "major amendment" means a substantial alteration of the land use mixture or balance as a whole established by the municipality's existing general plan Land Use Element.

The Town of Huachuca City will review major Plan amendments once per year in accordance with State of Arizona Statutes. Minor plan amendments will be reviewed on an on-going basis and handled through the Town's procedures and adopted amendment policies.

A detailed review on how the Town of Huachuca City can distinguish between and act upon major or minor plan amendments is more fully discussed in *The General Development Plan Implementation Program* found in Section VII of this document.

## 5. GENERAL PLAN UPDATES

In accordance with Arizona Statutes, ARS 9-461.06-J, the Town of Huachuca City General Development Plan is effective for ten years upon its adoption. The Plan can be re-adopted and/or updated at any time at the discretion of the Town. As new data is made available including demographic, economic and housing data, the plan will require periodic updates or a full comprehensive update.

## 6. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The **Town of Huachuca City General Development Plan Update** has been prepared according to Arizona Growing Smarter and Growing Smarter Plus statutory requirements. The Town's population stands at 1,751 as of Census 2000 and exhibited a net loss of 31 inhabitants since Census 1990. As per the formula for required Plan Elements based upon population change, the Town of Huachuca City General Development Plan contains the required two elements—Land Use and Circulation— needed to satisfy the Growing Smarter/Plus requirements.

**Land Use Element:** The element designates the proposed general distribution, location and amount of land for residential, commercial, recreational, industrial, municipal and open space uses. Further, the element identifies policies and programs to encourage infill and adaptive re-use of parcels in specific areas of the Town.

**Circulation Element:** The element identifies the existing conditions and location of existing and proposed arterial routes, collector streets and street classifications. The element describes multi-modal options and means of developing mass transit options to serve the Town and the region. Public transportation and pedestrian circulation facilities are also proposed and discussed. The Circulation Element supports the proposed land use pattern outlined in the Land Use Element of the plan.

## **Town of Huachuca City Vision Statement**

The Town of Huachuca City's long-term community vision is built upon the premise of an attractive, forward-thinking and progressive community.

We desire a clean, safe, and prosperous community that retains its small-town charm, friendliness and rural desert character.

We desire fruitful and productive partnerships with our neighboring communities, while at the same time maintaining our unique identity and self-sufficiency.

We encourage residential and commercial development that will balance economic prosperity with our natural and cultural heritage. We believe this balance is crucial for a continued high standard of living and high quality of life for our residents.

We desire a town that provides a wide range of community facilities and access to goods and services that promote the health, happiness and well-being of residents and visitors.

## **II - EXISTING CONDITIONS**

## 1. PLANNING AREA

The Town of Huachuca City planning area encompasses the incorporated limits of the Town and extends one-mile north and one-mile west of the Town into lands in the Babocomari land grant and lands under Cochise County jurisdictions.

## 2. **REGIONAL SETTING**

The Town of Huachuca City is located on State Highway 90, approximately 65 miles (by road) southeast of Tucson and five miles north of Sierra Vista. The Town's elevation ranges from 4,245 to 4,395 feet. The Town's incorporated area occupies approximately 2.7 miles and is bordered to the east and south by the City of Sierra Vista (concurrent with Ft. Huachuca), to the north by the San Ignacio del Babocomari land grant and to the west by private lands under the jurisdiction of Cochise County. The parcels and residential area east of Yavapai Avenue are outside of the incorporated limits and jurisdiction of the Town; this area is subject to Cochise County Zoning.

# 3. NATURAL RESOURCES, PHYSICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS

The Town of Huachuca City is situated several miles north of the foot of the Huachuca Mountains and just south of the Babocomari River. The site of the Town provides excellent views of the Huachuca Mountains to the south and the Whetstone Mountains to the northwest. The Town falls within the regional "basin-in-range" physical province and is characterized by sloping valleys created by alluvial deposits. Within this province, the Mexican Highland Section is typified by varied fault block mountains with well developed drainage, evident in the rolling topography to the east of the Town.

Vegetation in the Town's immediate vicinity is characterized by the presence of yucca plants, and in localized areas the presence of various oak species. Higher elevations in the Huachuca Mountains to the south and the Whetstone Mountains to the west support modest amounts of oak woodlands, ponderosa pine and chaparral forest. Lower elevations, especially down toward the San Pedro, support desert grasses and mesquite.

Soils in the vicinity of the Town are primarily alluvial in nature, placed over extensive, unconsolidated sedimentary deposits of gravel, sand and silt. Generally between elevations of 3,000 and 6,000 feet are some red-brown soils, while above 6,000 feet soils are reddish, clayey and commonly leached of their lime carbonate material.

The two dominating features of Huachuca City's climate are its abundant summer rainfall and its mild temperatures throughout the year. Due to its location on the northeastern slopes of the Huachuca Mountains, the Town receives a maximum amount of rain from the moist tropical air masses that move into the area in the summer. Under the combined influences of strong surface heating and orographic uplift of the air over the mountains showers and thundershowers often develop near the Town during the warmer hours of the day. Although brief, these showers are intense and frequent enough to account for onehalf of Huachuca City's annual rainfall of 14.79 inches.

Relatively little precipitation falls during the remainder of the year; most of this concentrated in the colder months and associated with middle latitude laconic storms that move into the area from the Pacific Ocean. Approximately one-tenth of the winter precipitation falls as snow, which rarely accumulates on the ground for more than one day.

The Town maintains mild temperatures year-around. In winter, the Town's position on the slopes of the Huachuca Mountains helps to mitigate the severity of cold spells, as the coldest and most dense air tends to settle on the valley floors. As a result, midday temperatures rise into the upper 50s and low 60s and even into the 70s during warmer periods.

With the Town's elevation ranging between 4,245 and 4,395 feet and frequent afternoon cloudiness, maximum summer temperatures are mild in comparison to other areas of the San Pedro Valley. Summer nights are clear and cool, with temperatures ranging in the 50s and 60s just before sunrise.

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	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
Highs (F°)	59.4	63.2	66.7	74.1	81.9	89.9	89.6	87.2	84.0	77.0	65.0	59.9	75.0 F•
Lows (F°)	34.3	36.6	39.9	46.0	53.6	62.8	66.1	64.0	59.8	50.6	39.5	34.9	49.2 F•
Precipitation (Inches)	.85	.74	.58	.24	.16	.57	3.87	3.27	1.79	1.04	.64	1.04	14.79

**Table 1: Average Monthly Climate Summary** 

Source: Arizona Department of Commerce

## Figure 1: Regional Context Map







COCONINO MOHAVE NAVAJO APACHE YAVAPAI L LA PAZ GILA 51 MARICOPA GREEN PINAL GRAHAM YUMA PIMA COCHISE SANTA CRUZ Area of main map above

## 4. POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS

#### **EXISTING CONDITIONS**

As of Census 2000, the Town of Huachuca City maintained a population of 1,751; a net decrease of 31 inhabitants from Census 1990.

rable 2: Past Population and Future Projections: Huachuca City & Vicinity										
	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
Huachuca City (DES)	1,241	1,661	1,782	1,751	2,152	2,229	2,298	2,362	2,419	2,469
Huachuca City (30 year)	1,241	1,661	1,782	1,751	1,938	2,021	2,104	2,186	2,269	2,351
City of Sierra Vista	6,689	24,937	32,983	37,775	43,484	45,542	49,795	52,541	54,889	56,747
Whetstone CDP	(n/a)	(n/a)	1,289	2,354	1,791	1,917	2,037	2,145	2,238	2,315
Cochise County	61,918	85,686	97,625	117,755	129,580	137,755	143,793	149,990	155,429	160,049

Table 2: Past Population and Future Projections: Huachuca City & Vicinity
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Sources: US Census Bureau (1970-2000); Arizona Department of Economic Security (2005-2030)

## Table 3: Past Population and Future Projections (% change),Huachuca City & Vicinity

	1970-	1980-	1990-	2000-	2005-	2010-	2015-	2020-	2025-
	1980	1990	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
Town of Huachuca City	+33.8%	+7.2	-1.7%	+22.9%	+3.6%	+3.0%	+2.8%	+2.4%	+2.1%
City of Sierra Vista	+272.8%	+32.2	+14.5%	+15.1%	+4.7%	+9.7%	+5.5%	+4.4%	+3.3%
Whetstone CDP	(n/a)	(n/a)	+82.6%	-23.9%	+7.0%	+6.2%	+5.3%	+4.3%	+3.4%
Cochise County	+38.4%	+13.9%	+20.6%	+10.0%	+6.3%	+4.3%	+4.3%	+3.6%	+2.9%

Sources: US Census Bureau (1970-2000); Arizona Department of Economic Security (2005-2030), data extrapolated from these sources

## **CHANGE FROM 1970 TO 2000**

In the three decades from 1970 to 2000, the Town of Huachuca City had a net gain of 510 inhabitants, demonstrating modest continued growth. The City of Sierra Vista and Cochise County also posted growth during this period. The explosive growth of Sierra Vista between 1970 and 1980 is due the City's formal annexation of Fort Huachuca. Subsequent growth in Sierra Vista is due to the continued presence of the base and growth of the services and businesses serving the base and region at large, while the Town has remained relatively stable by comparison.

## PROJECTED CHANGE FROM 2000 TO 2030

Projections for the coming 30-year period illustrate continued growth for the Town of Huachuca City according to the Arizona Department of Economic Security official projections. A second set of projections illustrates potential growth based upon the growth rate recorded from 1970 to 2000. Of note, population projections—particularly for small communities—are difficult to determine with tight accuracy; a single event

(such as an employer closing down or a new housing development being established) can often radically alter the projected population picture.

Regional trends—particularly in southeastern Arizona—indicate a continued rise in retirement community development, overall increases in new housing developments and continued in-migration from other areas of the United States. These factors, coupled with local conditions such as future growth of Fort Huachuca, favorable year-around climate and technological advances that enable more people to work from home may serve to impact future population growth.

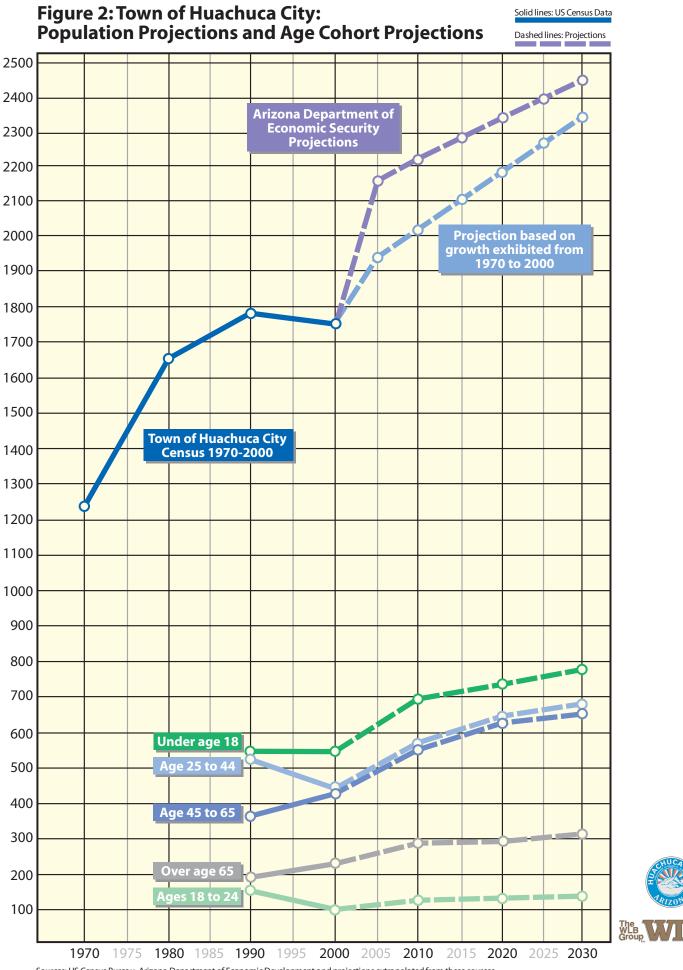
## DEMOGRAPHIC STRUCTURE

The following tables detail the demographic profile of the Town of Huachuca City from both 1990 and 2000. Key changes in the past decade include a net increase in residents age 45 and over, a net decrease in residents aged 18 to 44 and stable population of residents aged 18 and under. In a broad sense, these changes reflect the changes in many small to medium-sized rural Arizona communities; continual increase in the older age categories and retention of the existing aging population coupled with the loss of the youth (18-24) and key working age individuals (25-44). The losses in this category can be attributed partly to recent high-school graduates who leave the area for work, educational or military opportunities elsewhere and young families that seek out opportunities elsewhere.

	Census 1990	Census 2000	Net Change 1990-2000	Percent Change 1990-2000
Over age 65	199	222	+23	+11.5%
45 - 64	362	431	+69	+19.0%
25 – 44	521	447	-74	-14.2%
18 – 24	152	102	-50	-32.8%
Under age 18	548	549	+1	+0.1%

Table 4: Demographic Structure, 1990 & 2000

Source: US Census Bureau



Sources: US Census Bureau, Arizona Department of Economic Development and projections extrapolated from these sources. Please note: This data is based upon mathematical modeling and formulas and in no way serves to definitively determine the Town's future population

## **RACE AND ETHNICITY**

The racial composition of the Town is primarily Caucasian (including Hispanic origin) with African-American, Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander ethnicity also present. The following tables detail the racial composition of the Town from both Census 1990 and Census 2000.

	1990	Percent of Population (1990)	2000	Percent of Population (2000)
Caucasian (incl. Hispanic)	1,512	84.8%	1,320	75.3%
African-American	118	6.6%	119	6.8%
American Indian, Alaskan Native	56	3.0%	47	2.7%
Asian	46	2.5%	26	1.5%
Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander	9	0.4%	4	0.3%
Other	50	2.7%	143	8.2%
Two or more races	(not a category in 1990)		92	5.2%
TOTAL	1,782	100.0%	1,751	100.0%

Table 5: Race and Ethnicity, 1990 & 2000.

Source: US Census Bureau

## HOUSING DATA

Of prime concern to Huachuca City is the quality and availability of its housing stock. The table below lists the total, occupied, rental and vacant housing units for the Town from both Census 1990 and Census 2000.

	1990	% of Total	2000	% of Total	Net Change 1990 to 2000
TOTAL HOUSING UNITS	837	100.0%	844	100.0%	+7
Total Occupied Housing Units	680	81.2%	713	84.5%	+33
Owner-Occupied Housing Units	399	58.8%	443	52.4%	+44
Renter-Occupied Housing Units	245	29.3%	270	31.9%	+25
Vacant Housing Units	157	18.7%	131	15.5%	-26

Source: US Census Bureau

The Town reported a net increase of seven (7) housing units from 1990 to 2000, however the overall characteristics of the Town's housing units shifted subtlety during the past decade. In absolute numbers, both owner-occupied and renter-occupied units increased, with a downturn in unoccupied units. There was a slight increase in the percentage of home categorized as renter occupied, and a slight decrease in the percentage of owneroccupied units and vacant units. The increase in renter occupied units suggests the creation of new apartments or duplexes during the past decade and potentially, increased demand for rental units.

## **EXISTING SOCIOECONOMIC CONDITIONS**

The table below illustrates trend changes from 1990 to 1999 in the Town. The Town's labor force has increased gradually—a net increase of 47—from 1990 to 1999. Unemployment rates for the period declined by 1.2%.

	1990	1998	1999		
Civilian Labor Force	630	661	677		
Unemployed	57	62	53		
Unemployment Rate	9.0%	9.4%	7.8%		

#### Table 7: Town of Huachuca City Labor Force Statistics

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security, Arizona Department of Commerce

Detailed data for the Town of Huachuca City is not available for specific employment categories, however a review of the existing labor force trends in Cochise County serves to cast some light on conditions in the Town.

	February 2000	February 2001	February 2002
Labor Force	38,350	40,500	41,400
Total Unemployment	1,975	2,000	2,275
Unemployment Rate	5.0%	4.9%	5.5%
Unemployment Rate (Seasonally Adjusted)	4.7%	4.6%	5.1%
Total Employment	37,000	38,500	39,125
Non-Farm Employment	31,375	33,200	32,850
Goods Producing	2,850	3,175	2,950
Mining & Quarrying	(data not	(data not	(data not
	available)	available)	available)
Construction	1,825	2,200	2,050
Manufacturing	1,000	975	900
Service Producing	28,150	30,025	29,900
Transportation, Communications and Public Utilities	1,225	1,300	1,275
Trade	7,475	7,825	7,800
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	725	725	725
Service & Miscellaneous Employment	8,125	8,950	8,700
Government	10,600	11,225	11,400
Federal	4,050	4,250	4,425
State & Local	6,550	6,975	6,975

#### **Table 8: Cochise County Principal Economic Activity**

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security & U.S. Census Bureau \*Includes military

As is indicated on the table above, service sector work (service producing, service and miscellaneous) is the leading employment category followed by government, trade and goods producing. Prime employers for Town residents include Fort Huachuca (both military and non-military employment), Coca-Cola Distributing, School District of Tombstone, United States Postal Service, Town of Huachuca City government and Huachuca City Public Library. Service and retail sector work provides additional employment.

	1990	1998	1999
New Building Permits*	14	54	54
Taxable Sales	\$4,942.500	\$10,253,000	\$12,976,800
Net Assessed Valuation	\$3,706,281	\$4,684,507	\$4,615,179

#### **Table 9: Town of Huachuca City Growth Indicators**

Source: Arizona State University and Arizona Department of Revenue

\*Includes additions, alterations and demolitions

## 5. MUNICIPAL FACILITIES AND SERVICES

## WATER DISTRIBUTION

Water distribution is currently provided through the municipal water system. The main water reserve storage is a 750,000-gallon tank. Current pumping capacity from the Town's four wells is as follows:

Tuble 101 10 (in of Huuchueu Oly Municipal () en Fumping Cupacity		
Well	Pumping Capacity (Gallons per Minute)	
Howard Street Well	300 gpm	
Skyline Well	400 gpm	
Cochise Well	500 gpm	
La Sombra Well	326 gpm	

Source: Town of Huachuca City

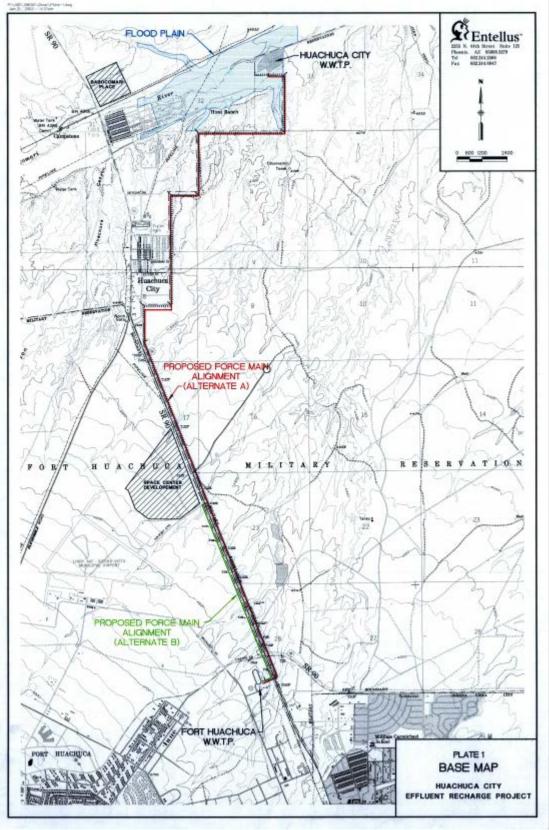
The average well depth is 382 feet while the average static water level is 231 feet below surface. Existing main trunk lines are 10" to 12" in diameter and cover most the Town's developed area. Additional storage capacity and new trunk lines will need to be put in place as new developments occur.

#### SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM

The current wastewater facility is located east of the Town off of Hunt Road. Present capacity is 17,612,247 gallons contained in four ponds utilizing an evaporative gravity flow system. The main sewer line is a 14" main, while lateral lines are 8", 10" and 12". Average input into the sewer ponds is approximately 261,000 gallons per day. The facility presently has excess capacity but would require expansion should substantial commercial and residential development occur.

As part of the Huachuca City Effluent Recharge Project, the Town has recently entered into an agreement with Fort Huachuca to pump effluent to the Fort's wastewater treatment facility located approximately three miles south of the Town near the intersection of State Route 90 and Carter Street. While the Town will be required to fund the construction of the force main to the facility, the Fort will accept the effluent free of charge, and will discharge the treated water back into the aquifer. See Figure 2A.

Figure 2A: Effluent Recharge Project



#### SOLID WASTE

The Town maintains a landfill within the Town's incorporated limits encompassing 42.9 acres with an additional 22.6 acres available for future expansion.

#### GAS AND ELECTRICITY

Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative provides electricity service to the Town, while Southwest Gas Corporation provides natural gas.

## COMMUNICATIONS

Qwest provides telephone service. The Town also has access to cable television, Internet service and fiber optic networks.

## POLICE/FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Town of Huachuca City Police Department is authorized for one police chief and three commissioned officers. The Town retains five full-time police dispatchers and maintains a fleet of five vehicles designated for law enforcement use. The Town has one holding cell facility, with Cochise County holding cell facilities located in Bisbee and Sierra Vista.

The Town's fire department operates as a volunteer system, presently staffed with 24 volunteers and a Town-paid Fire Chief. The Town maintains insurance for up to 24 volunteer firefighters. The Town maintains mutual aid agreements with other fire districts including, Whetstone, Sierra Vista, Fry, PBW and Fort Huachuca. The Department also maintains contracts with the State Land Department for fire control.

The department maintains the following fire control equipment:

Three Type 1-structure trucks One Type 6-brush truck One Type 1-water tender One Type 3-water tender One chase truck/control vehicle Two EMS-Rescue vehicles

Fire hydrants are located on every block with a 12" main and very few residences are beyond 600' from a fire hydrant throughout the Town. Underwriter's ISO rating is a 5— which is considered excellent for a town of this size. Current staffing and interest is viewed as sufficient to serve the existing town limits and possible future expansion.

The Fry Fire Department provides ambulance service on an as needed basis. Several of the Town's volunteer firefighters are also certified Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). When a request for emergency services is made, the EMTs are dispatched to the site and stabilize the situation prior to the arrival of the ambulance.

## SENIOR CENTER

The Huachuca City Senior Center building is owned by the Town and operated by Catholic Community Services. The center employs two full-time employees along with seven volunteers. The facility serves as a recreational center for residents aged 60, offers a meal program and a "Meals on Wheels" program. The center serves approximately 250 individuals per month.

## **EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES**

The Town of Huachuca City is within the Tombstone School District and has one K-8 school facility. Current enrollment is presently 519 students (May 2002).

## COMMUNITY CENTER

The Town of Huachuca City maintains a Community Center at 201 Yuma Street. The center provides ample space and seating for a variety of gatherings and community events.

## LIBRARY

Roughly 700 people per month visit the Huachuca City Library, a 2,480 square foot building that, with a grant to add approximately 3,197 square feet, will one day house a Senior/Disabled complex as well. The library is considered a "net lender" within the Library District because it lends approximately 100 items to other libraries each month while borrowing only about 40 items. Almost 15,000 items are currently held, including a large collection of electronic media. The library also offers eleven public access PCs with Internet connections and a port for laptop users. The library has plans to add five more PCs in the near future.

## PARKS AND RECREATION

The Town presently maintains five parks, these include:

**Hunt Park:** Located on the southeast corner of Pima and Gila Streets, a Community Development Block Grant was obtained in 2000 to renovate the 0.39-acre park with new playground equipment, barbeques, ramadas, picnic tables, benches, fencing, ground cover and bathrooms.

**Gordon W. Leffingwell Park:** Located directly to the east of Town Hall, the park was dedicated on July 27, 1969. This 5.2-acre park has large open spaces with trees and grass, playground equipment, picnic tables, barbeques and tennis courts.

**McCray Park:** The 0.23-acre park is located on the west side of SR 90 on the Town's southern boundary next to the north gate of Fort Huachuca. The park contains a historical marker, picnic tables and barbeque grills.

**Keeline Park**: Located on the southwest corner of Skyline and Edgewood Drives, the park encompasses 7.8 acres and contains four ball-fields with lights. The park also features paved parking, bleachers, restrooms and a concession stand. At present, approximately one-half of the park is developed, leaving ample opportunity for future development and use.

**Desert Grove Park:** Located just north of the Library, the park contains walking paths and open area with native vegetation.

## III - LAND USE ELEMENT

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Among the primary functions of planning is to document and understand the changes in land use activity. Commercial, industrial and residential land uses need to be situated appropriately to ensure access, safeguard public health, protect property values and maintain the quality of life for the community.

## 2. EXISTING CONDITIONS

A key component for future planning and development is to inventory and understand the Town's existing conditions. Staff from The WLB Group conducted a comprehensive town-wide existing land use survey in March 2002. Figure 3 illustrates the existing pattern of land use in the Town.

The Town of Huachuca City exhibits a traditional urban form containing distinct residential and commercial districts. SR 90 forms the central commercial corridor, with the most intense commercial use found from the intersection of the highway from School Avenue southward to the Town's boundary with Sierra Vista. The Town contains three distinct residential neighborhoods: Lower Huachuca to the north, Hillcrest/Skyline in the Town's northeast and Upper Huachuca in the Town's southeastern area.

Municipal uses encompass much of the Town's east-central area including the town hallfire station-police station complex, park areas, the school campus and the lands committed to the recycling center and land fill.

West of SR 90, the land area is pre-dominantly vacant, save for the gravel pit operation and some small pockets of residential use. The following table details the specific amounts of the eight major land use categories in the Town.

Square Square Percent of Town's Acres Feet Miles **Total Area** Vacant Land 52,921,596.98 1214.91 1.90 70.4% 7.185.379.12 164.95 0.26 **Single-Family Residential** 9.6% 5,713,239.48 131.16 0.20 7.4% **Right-of-Way** 99.27 5.9% **Municipal – General** 4,324,425.22 0.16 Commercial 4,014,635.16 92.16 0.14 5.2% 605,967.20 13.91 0.02 0.7% Municipal – Park Institutional 323,767.31 7.43 0.01 0.4% 0.01 0.4% **Multi-Family Residential** 283,962.70 6.51 75,372,973.17 1730.30 2.70 100.0% **Total Area** 

 Table 11: Town of Huachuca City Existing Land Uses (March 2002)

Source: WLB Group database from Town Field Survey (March 2002)

As is indicated, vacant land comprises the majority of the Plan's area followed by single family residential and land committed for road right-of-ways. Municipal land accounts for almost six percent of the Town, with the remaining area being comprised of commercial uses, parks, institutional and multi-family residential uses. Brief definitions for each existing category are as follows:

**Vacant Land:** Land undeveloped or uncommitted to a specific land use activity. In Huachuca City, these areas are generally being held as an investment or in reserve for future development.

**Single Family Residential:** Land or parcels containing single-family residences and attendant ancillary structures including garages and workshops. Home-based businesses are contained within this designation.

**Multi-Family Residential:** Land area or parcels that contain residential structure containing more than one dwelling unit per structure. In Huachuca City, these areas encompass the Town's various apartment complexes and duplex developments.

**Right-of-Way:** Land area committed for existing or future roadway, pipeline or utility infrastructure development.

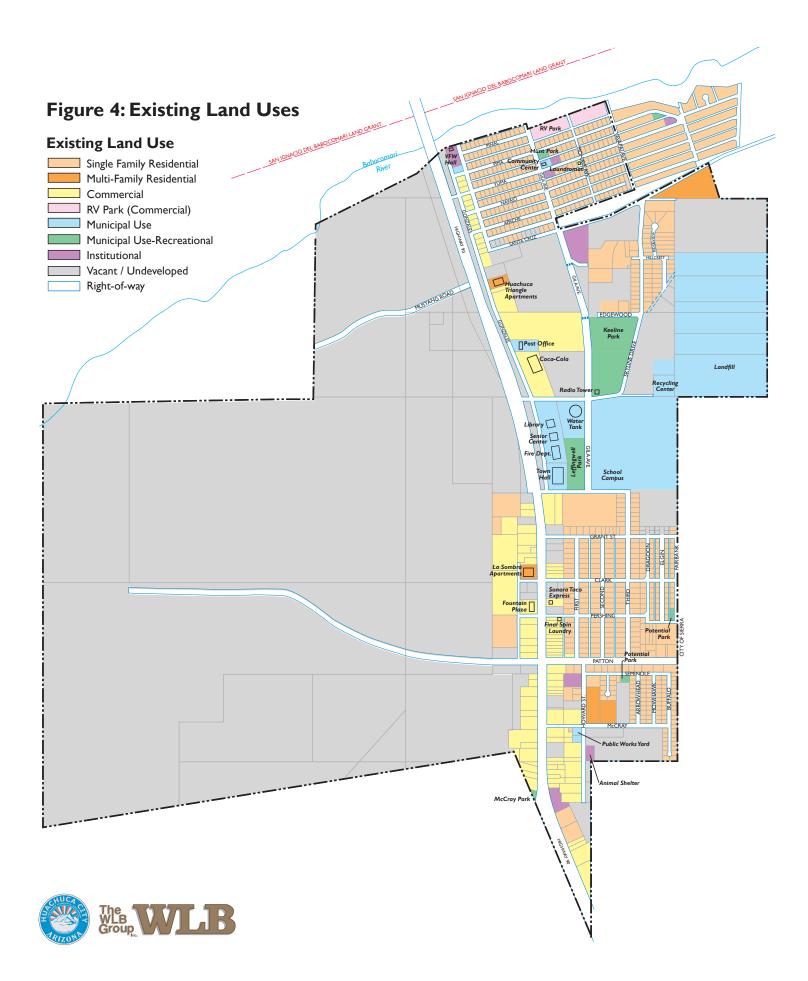
**Municipal-General:** Land areas committed for municipal use including buildings and area for government use, school district use and in Huachuca City are extended to encompass the landfill and recycling center.

**Commercial:** Land area or parcels upon which the primary activity is retail, wholesale, commercial or industrial enterprise.

**Municipal-Park:** Land area or parcels reserved and maintained by the Town as common area primarily for recreational use.

**Institutional:** Land area or parcels that serve a type of community or business function but are not specific residential, commercial or municipal uses. In Huachuca City, these uses have been identified as places of worship and the animal shelter.

**Recreational Vehicle (RV) Park:** Land area or parcels specifically in use for recreational vehicle use, with (or without) amenities such as electrical hook-ups.



## 3. LAND USE CONSIDERATIONS: BARRIERS, STRENGTHS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The Town of Huachuca City has a number of counter-balancing barriers and opportunities when considering its future growth, expansion and development. Since its incorporation in 1958, the mainstay of the Town's growth and perpetuation has been the on-going presence of Fort Huachuca. The military installation has grown continually, providing a stable market for both business and residential development in Huachuca City, Sierra Vista, the neighboring incorporated communities, and to unincorporated areas of Cochise County. Fort Huachuca is poised to remain a key fixture of the area and future growth of the base is anticipated with the decommissioning of other military installations nationwide indicating that potential remains for continued growth for Huachuca City.

## BARRIERS

The Town of Huachuca City presently faces several barriers—chiefly geographic, economic and perceptual—to its future growth.

The geographic barriers are the most immutable. These include the southern and eastern boundaries of the Town, which are fixed by the presence of the City of Sierra Vista/Ft. Huachuca. The City of Sierra Vista annexed the entire military base in 1971 and their boundaries are concurrent. Territorial expansion to the north of the Town is presently limited by the presence of the San Ignacio del Babocomari Land Grant. Future growth in relation to these conditions—is therefore limited to the Town's northeast (east of Yavapai Avenue), much of which is already developed or encompassed by the Hunt Ranch, and to the west into lands under the jurisdiction of Cochise County.

The nearby presence of Fort Huachuca also presents some limitation for land use development within the Town; notably the airport noise/decibel contour and the presence of the Fort's airport "crash zone".

Economic and perceptual barriers to the community's future development are in many ways combined. Huachuca City is presently perceived as a "pass through" community, lacking a definitive presence as a regional destination. Travelers on SR 90 are on their way to Ft. Huachuca, Sierra Vista or to the communities of southern Cochise County when passing through Huachuca City. Another perception is that the Town lacks a unifying "identity". The SR 90 Corridor— serving as the town's "main street"—has numerous vacant and abandoned commercial sites which presently diminish the town's appearance and cohesiveness. Vacant and abandoned businesses serve to feed the perception that the Town is not presently an ideal site for business or economic development.

Other perceptual barriers for the Town include the declining number of working age individuals (prime working age termed as ages 18 through 44) since 1990, relatively few places of employment in the Town and the quality of the housing stock in portions of the Town.

## STRENGTHS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Despite the barriers listed above, the Town of Huachuca City maintains a number of key strengths and opportunities for future growth and development.

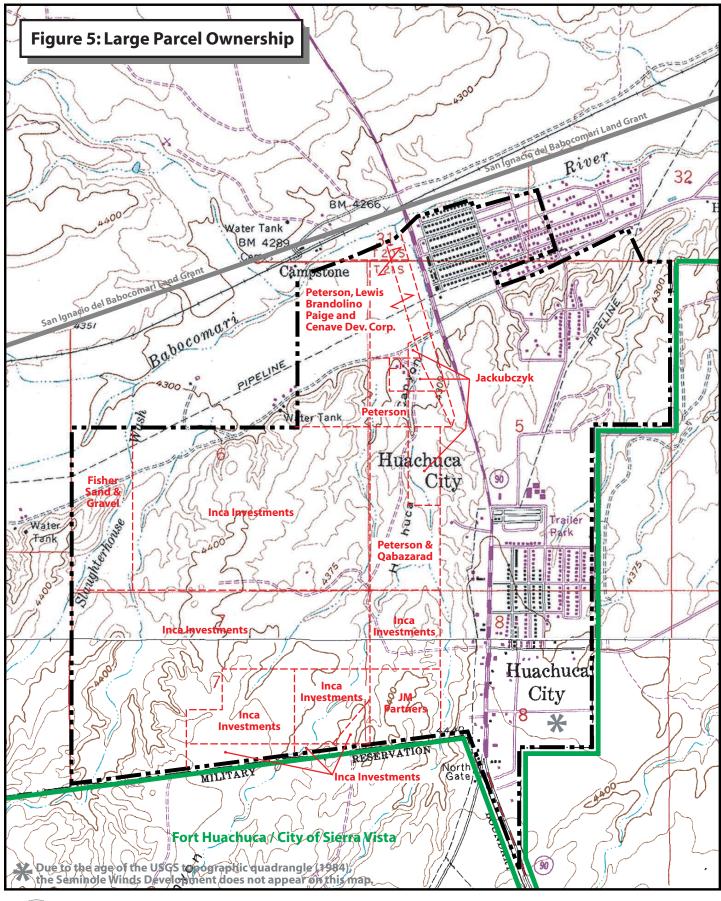
The key strength for the community has been and will continue to be its proximity to Fort Huachuca and Sierra Vista as civilian and military employees will continue to fuel local demand for housing, goods and services. In light of the Town's proximity to the base, the SR 90 Corridor is the main artery through the region, connecting southern and eastern Cochise County to Tucson. With thoughtful redevelopment of the corridor within the Town (notably: in-fill, re-use of buildings, promotion of commercial development along the corridor within defined infrastructure service areas) there will be increased ability to capture the attention of travelers and tourist traffic.

Other strengths for the Town include abundant and relatively inexpensive land, a very desirable climate and the ability to "piggy-back" on the successes of other communities in the region; particularly in capturing the increasing influx of retirees to southern Arizona from other areas of the U.S. and the increasing demand for recreational vehicle parks for seasonal visitors.

Additional amenities include the friendly, small-town atmosphere, desert character and mountain views, high quality water and air, night-sky viewing, low crime and overall safety, low property taxes and the peace, quiet and security of small town living.

## 4. LARGE PARCEL OWNERSHIP SUMMARY

As mentioned in the Existing Conditions section, approximately 70 percent of the plan area is vacant or undeveloped. The largest portion of this undeveloped land is west of SR 90 and is in private ownership. The following graphic shows the owners and approximate boundaries of the largest parcels in the Town. The Proposed Land Uses found later in the Land Use Element of this plan, reflect the community's wishes and desires on how the Town might best use its vacant land resources. The plan does not dictate to the landowners what can or cannot be done on their land. Land use controls are a function of municipal ordinances and the Town's zoning code. The Land Use Designations can be amended via the Town's plan amendment process should the landowners desire a type of use not in line with the General Plan at the time of their development interest.





## 5. LAND USE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

#### Goal 1: Provide for the orderly and planned growth of the Town.

Objective 1.1: Accommodate a range of development activities in appropriate locations to minimize land use conflicts.

Objective 1.2: Promote in-fill development and adaptive re-use of commercial and residential parcels within the Town.

Objective 1.3: Continually review existing land use controls, including zoning and local ordinances for their effectiveness and applicability.

Objective 1.4: Work cooperatively with adjacent jurisdictions and landowners for the planned and orderly incorporation of new lands into the Town.

#### Goal 2: Improve the visual quality and overall aesthetic appearance of the Town.

Objective 2.1: Develop effective and equitable local ordinances for the control and screening of eyesores

Objective 2.2: Promote the use of landscaping, planting, building improvements and attractive signage to improve and beautify the Town's appearance and enhance its small-town character.

Objective 2.3: Promote the use of local funds, business grants and sales tax money for "facelift" improvements to local business.

Objective 2.4: Develop a community wide clean-up program.

#### Goal 3: Retain and enhance the small-town, rural desert character of the Town.

Objective 3.1: Encourage new residential and commercial developments to locate within defined areas where infrastructure, safe pedestrian access and auto traffic access can be accommodated.

Objective 3.2: Provide a continuous, publicly based planning process that is responsive to the needs and concerns of Town residents.

Objective 3.3: Identify and create a distinctive Town identity.

#### **Goal 4: Protect the natural resource amenities of the Town.**

Objective 4.1: Encourage the creation and development of open-space areas and trail networks for recreational use.

Objective 4.2: Maintain the integrity of night-sky viewing and work to minimize light pollution as new development takes place.

Objective 4.3: Promote measures that protect the quality of the Town's water and air.

Objective 4.4: Maintain and preserve the panoramic mountain views of the Town.

#### Goal 5: Ensure the long-term quality and integrity of the Town's built environment.

Objective 5.1: Promote programs that assist residents and property owners in the Town to maintain and improve their property, residences and businesses.

Objective 5.2: Maintain a continued system of efficient and equitable zoning code enforcement and building code compliance in the Town to minimize land use conflicts, promote health and safety and protect property values.

Objective 5.3: Ensure the future of the Town's built environment by working to attract quality residential developments.

Objective 5.4: Improve the quality of manufactured homes by encouraging cleanup maintenance, removal and requirements for skirting.

## 6. LAND USE RECOMMENDATIONS

#### A. INFILL AND ADAPTIVE REUSE

The SR 90 Corridor is a key regional transportation artery connecting Sierra Vista/Fort Huachuca and southeastern Cochise County with Tucson. As such, the route brings substantial traffic through the Town. "Capture" of this traffic by the Huachuca City market can be dramatically increased by the careful redevelopment of the commercial corridor. This redevelopment will need to balance several factors, including:

Attraction of New Businesses and Retention of Existing Businesses: The Town would be well served to conduct a survey or study of the existing established businesses and ascertain how long they have been in place, number of employees, type of business/service they conduct, any identified seasonal or long-term fluctuation in their success and what types of ancillary needs or services they might make use of. By understanding what works in the existing economic framework of the Town, gaps can be identified and the focus for new businesses can be sharpened.

A Clear Understanding of What Type of Businesses can be Maintained in the Town, and are Successfully Supported by the Local Market: This may prove to be the most difficult as the Town is in direct competition with Sierra Vista for new business attraction. In concert with the business retention study mentioned above, the Town would be well served to contact the property owners of now-defunct or abandoned businesses and work to get them re-interested in the community, or at very least to better ascertain why their business failed or pulled out of Huachuca City.

Aesthetic Considerations: These include the developments for landscaping, signage, and establishing a "community character". Communities often employ a range of techniques such as "historically themed" street signs up to specific regulations for specific building colors and design. For the Town of Huachuca City, enticements, options and a less regulatory approach are advised as securing new businesses and advancing development is a prime concern. A key consideration in planning and development is that *private enterprise creates public space*. By providing a range of options from financial enticements, design guidance on through improved regulation and ordinances, the Town can work to guide its future look and feel.

**Municipal Incentives and Programs:** These require the most direct attention from the Town's staff and become an integral part of the community's development strategy and policy. Incentives for the redevelopment corridor can range in scope from providing tax incentives for building renovation, site re-use, streamlining the permitting process, passing ordinances that eliminate permit fees or impact fees in the designated area, pooling knowledge and financial resources

of local businesses to create a Business Improvement District and directly marketing to or targeting businesses in other communities to relocate or expand in the Town. State agencies such as the Arizona Department of Commerce also can provide assistance in connecting the Town to technical expertise and financial resources (grants, loans, other programs) for these initiatives.

**Market Demand:** New business development is governed by market demand. When new residential developments, RV parks and planned area communities take place in the Town, they will inevitably create a demand for local goods and services. Sierra Vista will continue to provide a challenge to Huachuca City in terms of attracting business, however, in determining its specific 'niche' Huachuca City can better define its economic role in the region.

## **B. DESTINATION VS. "PASS THROUGH" COMMUNITY**

During the public input sessions, a repeating theme is the identification of the Town as a "pass through" community rather than a "destination" community. Huachuca City's position on the periphery of Fort Huachuca and Sierra Vista perpetuates this, and this factor may always—on some level—be true. The Town can, however, enact a number of techniques and enticements to hopefully "capture" an increased share of local traffic. The following three points of discussion are the "unwritten rules" of "destination communities."

**Destination communities are visually attractive:** As mentioned in the "Aesthetic Considerations" paragraph above, an attractive community—with attention paid to the quality and appearance of buildings, streets, residences and signage—entices the traveler to stop. The Town has created an excellent example in municipal building integration with the development of an architectural theme and color choices for its Town Hall, Fire/Police Station, Library and Senior Center. This type of attention will need to be carried over into the private sector for Huachuca City to fully reach its potential.

Screening and/or removal of "eyesores" as well as the removal or repair of dilapidated buildings and signs serve to enhance the community's appearance. These actions are usually conducted under the auspices of health, safety and the protection of property values of adjacent parcels, or directly through the municipal zoning code and building code.

**Destination communities have a unique or distinguishing feature or event that draws in visitors:** Destination communities exploit their uniqueness and local features; physical attributes, cultural events, prominent historical figures, events or other features. Other area communities such as Bisbee and Tombstone have capitalized upon their history (mining and frontier town themes) to develop them as tourist attractions and into a larger community identity. Benson is working to capitalize on the presence of Kartchner Caverns State Park as a key

anchor for tourism and residential development, in addition to hosting its annual Territorial Days. Huachuca City—as a more recent municipal addition to Cochise County—may have more difficulty in this arena. The Town does, however, have some of these types of resources that may be creatively developed and marketed including:

- The desert landscape and scenic views
- The Babocomari River Corridor for hiking and bird watching
- Connectivity of the Babocomari River Corridor to the San Pedro Riparian Area to the east
- Historical marker for The Babocomari Land Grant; only four states (California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas) have these unique historic and geographic features
- Recreational Vehicle (RV) "rendezvous" destination
- "Gateway" to Southern Cochise County
- Historic Marker for Campstone
- Native American Archaeological Site

**Destination communities build upon and retain prior successes:** Successful communities identify what actions and policies actually work and which fail and are in continual review and monitoring of their progress. Setting goals, assigning staff, maintaining citizen support, allocating funding, prioritizing needs and setting reasonable timelines will serve to meet the communities' long-term ends.

## C. PLANNED AREA DEVELOPMENTS

As is illustrated in the Existing Conditions narrative above, the Town of Huachuca City has ample vacant and undeveloped land—primarily west of SR 90—at its disposal. This availability should not be used to justify the abandonment of the existing commercial and residential areas within the Town's incorporated limits. As interest and potential in developing these vacant areas arises, the Town will need to review the efficacy of its present application process, submittal and review procedures as well as its public hearing and approval process.

New housing development will undoubtedly provide a boost to the Town's economy and overall growth and should be encouraged. It is crucial, however, that new growth and development be compatible with both the Town's existing and planned infrastructure capacity (in terms of sewer, water, and other municipal services) and existing setting.

New developments should work to preserve roadway flow and pedestrian connectivity to the existing developed areas. Roads developed as part of planned area developments will need to be constructed to the Town's code before the Town shall assume control or maintenance responsibility for them. All new planned area developments—with particular attention to those including a recreational development or golf course development—should incorporate water re-use, conservation and effluent recycling to minimize water waste.

Careful attention should be paid to maintaining natural washes for their role as wildlife corridors, and for use as hiking paths and natural intermittent watercourses. Provision of adequate open-space areas (parks, walking paths, paseos, connectivity to washes) must be made in each new planned area development.

The Town will need to review its existing Planned Area Development regulations and standards to streamline the development process and ensure plan proposals will result in quality developments that fit with the community.

## D. TERRITORIAL EXPANSION

As with many incorporated Arizona communities, the Town of Huachuca City must assess its surrounding area in terms of municipal expansion for future growth. Several factors preclude the immediate need for territorial expansion of the Town. Community sentiment-gathered through the public input process-indicates a strong desire for reuse of exiting commercial parcels and buildings and maintaining the existing highway corridor as the primary commercial area in the Town. These comments, coupled with the Town's position of being functionally "locked in" to the south, east and-for the moment—to the north, serve to strengthen the position of maintaining the existing municipal boundary. However, should a development opportunity arise (for example: the siting of an incoming, large employer, manufacturer, warehouse, etc.) for which the existing plan, existing sites and infrastructure prove to be inadequate, the Town needs to maintain good relations with outlying areas and neighboring jurisdictions to ensure an opportunity is not lost. The Town should periodically review and update its current policy for land annexation and remain in contact with representatives of both Cochise County and the Babocomari Land Grant to ensure continued communication of community desires.

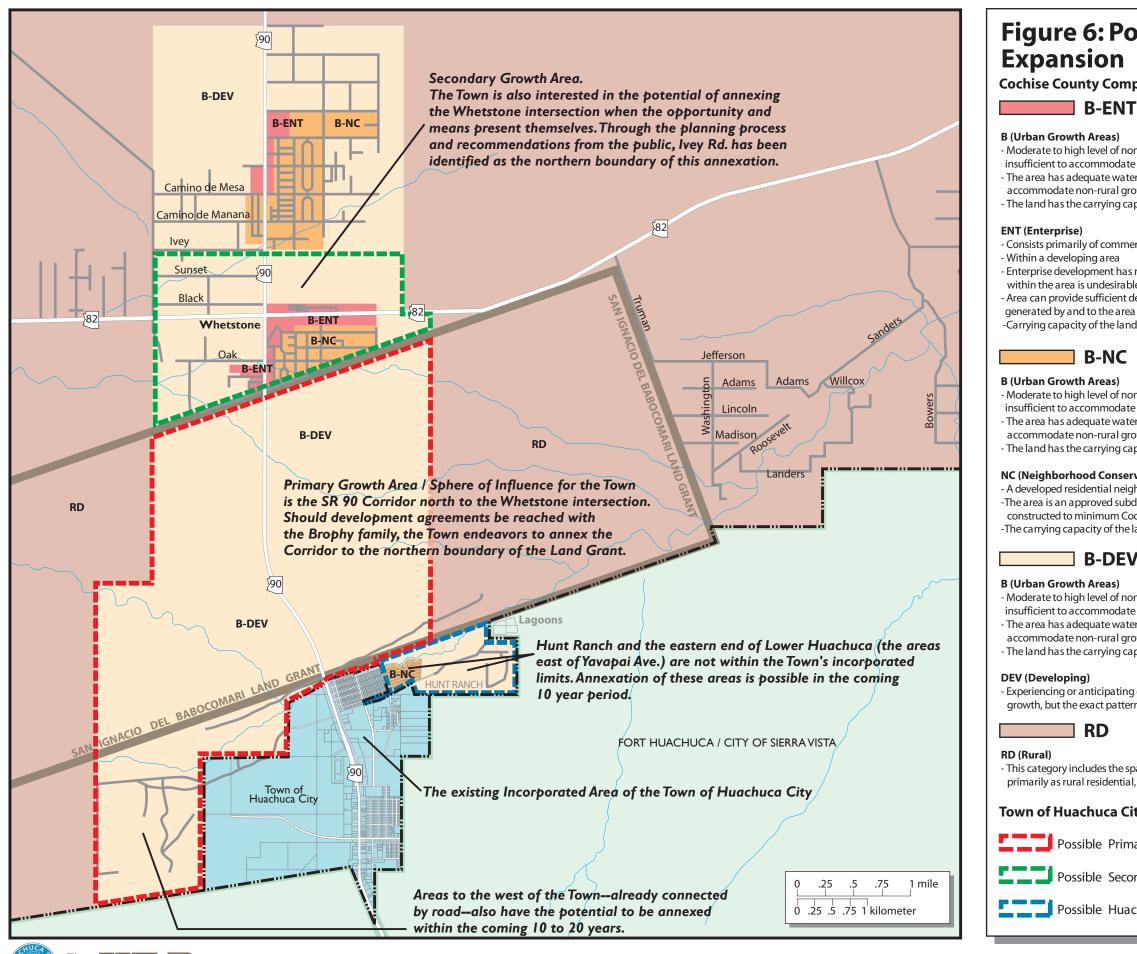
Acquisition of territory northward into the Babocomari Land Grant area presents a "double-edged sword" for the Town. New territory provides ample opportunity for new commercial and residential development activity and its attendant benefits. Expansion also comes with the costs to service these areas with infrastructure (water, sewer, roads) and services (police, fire, maintenance); additionally, for the Town, new areas may work against the goals of promoting in-fill and adaptive re-use of the SR 90 corridor.

Three distinct areas have been identified through the public planning process demonstrating the Town's desire and direction of future expansion. These include a Primary Growth Area, Secondary Growth Area and the Eastern Lower Huachuca / Hunt Ranch Area; each of which is discussed below:

**Primary Growth Area:** The Primary Growth Area encompasses approximately nine square miles to the north and east of the Town and is coincident with the Cochise County Comprehensive Plan B-DEV (Developing Growth Area) designation. The northern portion of the Primary Growth Area is within the San Ignacio del Babocomari Land Grant. Annexation of this area is most likely not within the near future for the Town of Huachuca City. Acquisition of these areas, however, should be seriously entertained when lands in the Babocomari Land Grant are developed and infrastructure extensions to these areas is desired. Areas directly west of the Town—not within the Land Grant—are anticipated to remain in their low-density, rural desert character situation for sometime. Annexation of these areas should be driven by the will of its residents and property owners.

**Secondary Growth Area:** The Secondary Growth Area encompasses an area of approximately 2.5 square miles from the northern boundary of the San Ignacio del Babocomari Land Grant to Ivey Rd. This area encompasses the unincorporated hamlet of Whetstone at the intersection of SR 90 and SR 82. Annexation of the Whetstone area is at present a distant consideration for the Town, requiring both the access to it via the Land Grant and the will of the residents, businesses and landowners in the area.

**Eastern Lower Huachuca / Hunt Ranch Area:** This area—under Cochise County jurisdiction—encompasses approximately one half square mile and is comprised of two separate parts: Eastern Lower Huachuca (east of Yavapai Avenue) and Hunt Ranch, which is largely undeveloped; however, some homesites are emerging along the north-facing slopes against the Ft. Huachuca border. This area has not been incorporated into the Town previously for a variety of reasons. Chief among these are the overall low quality of the housing stock and roadways (for which the Town to this point has not desired to assume responsibility) and the on-going sentiment that the Town should not annex this area. A recent emerging desire to integrate and improve this part of the community is seen as leading to future annexation. While out of its direct jurisdiction, the Town presently maintains agreements with Cochise County for law enforcement and other municipal services to this area.



WLB Group

# **Figure 6: Potential Territorial**

### **Cochise County Comprehensive Plan Land Use Designations B-ENT**

- Moderate to high level of non-rural growth is anticipated and present growth area is insufficient to accommodate the projected growth for the area
- The area has adequate water, access, drainage and sewage disposal capacity to accommodate non-rural growth
- The land has the carrying capacity for higher density development

- Consists primarily of commercial and industrial enterprises
- Enterprise development has reached the level whereby additional residential growth within the area is undesirable to the parties in interest
- Area can provide sufficient dedicated public access to carry traffic which will be
- -Carrying capacity of the land can accommodate enterprise uses

# **B-NC**

- Moderate to high level of non-rural growth is anticipated and present growth area is insufficient to accommodate the projected growth for the area
- The area has adequate water, access, drainage and sewage disposal capacity to accommodate non-rural growth
- The land has the carrying capacity for higher density development

#### NC (Neighborhood Conservation)

- A developed residential neighborhood that needs protection from non-residential uses -The area is an approved subdivision for which all improvements are in place and constructed to minimum Cochise County standards
- -The carrying capacity of the land can accommodate the expected residential density

# **B-DEV**

- Moderate to high level of non-rural growth is anticipated and present growth area is insufficient to accommodate the projected growth for the area
- The area has adequate water, access, drainage and sewage disposal capacity to
- accommodate non-rural growth
- The land has the carrying capacity for higher density development

- Experiencing or anticipating growth of a "non-rural" nature. Local pressure exists for growth, but the exact pattern of future land use has not yet been established

# RD

- This category includes the sparsely populated rural lands of the county which serve primarily as rural residential, and agricultural areas, and not as identifiable communities.

#### Town of Huachuca City: Possible Future Territorial Acquisitions

- Possible Primary Huachuca City Northern Annexation Area
- Possible Secondary Huachuca City Northern Annexation Area
- Possible Huachuca City Eastern Annexation

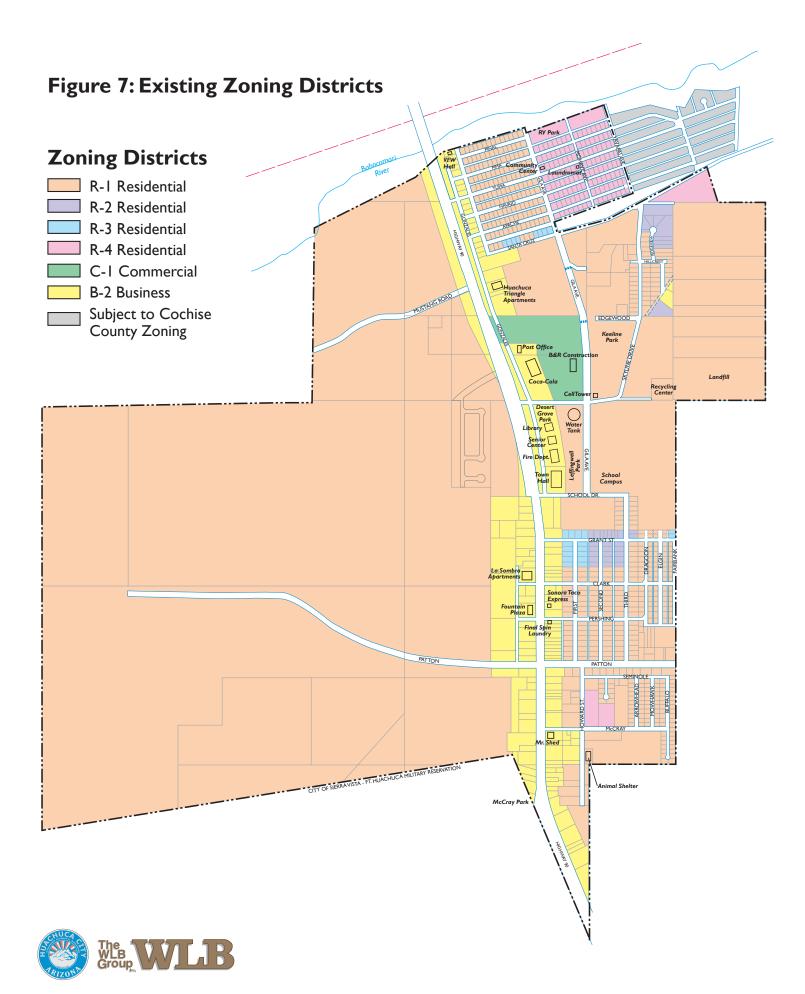
#### E. ZONING

The Town presently maintains eight zoning districts. Five of which are presently in use. The Towns zoning districts include the following:

R-1 Single-Residence Zone
R-2 Multiple Residence Zone
R-3 Multiple Residence Zone
R-4 Multiple Residence Zone
B-1 Local Business Zone
B-2 General Business Zone
C-1 Commercial Zone
C-2 Light Industry and Warehouse Zone
C-3 Heavy Industry and Mining Zone

Specific restrictions of each zoning district are found in Articles 17-6 through 17-13 of the Town's Municipal Code. Figure 6 on the following page illustrates the existing zoning districts presently in force within the Town.

Anticipated residential developments can be suitably accommodated for under the existing residential districts, however, the Town would be well served to undertake a full review of its zoning ordinances (either in-house with the assistance of the Town Attorney or by hiring a private consultant) and land use control ordinances for their efficacy and applicability.





#### F. NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

The mild climate and the integrity of the natural environment are key features that have attracted people to the area and will continue to do so. Natural amenities identified through the public process have identified the desire to protect the mountain views, clean air, water quality, night-sky viewing, and overall desert character of the Town.

Town residents have identified the following amenities as specific items they wish to preserve and enhance:

**Mountain Views:** The Huachuca Mountains to the southwest, Mule Mountains to the southeast, Whetstone Mountains to the northwest and the Dragoon Mountains to the far east and northeast dominate the skyline and viewshed of the Town. Placement of telecommunication towers should take into consideration the existing viewscapes. When a tower is sited, the Town should encourage numerous communications providers to utilize the tower to minimize the total number of towers necessary in the vicinity. The Town should also consider the fact that more towers of less height are generally preferable over fewer towers of greater height.

**Maintain Washes for Use as Trail Network and Flood Abatement:** Protection of washes and streams is critical to the stability of both the natural and the built environment. Existing state and federal regulations apply within the Town

**Clean Air:** The Town enjoys a high standard of air quality. Key sources of pollutants in and near the Town include naturally occurring dust, roadway dust, motor vehicle exhaust and emissions from nearby Fort Huachuca. To reduce the amount of dust, the Town may wish to enact a phasing program for paving of dirt roads

**Clean Water Supply:** By present estimates, the Town maintains a good supply of water for household and commercial use for the coming years. With projected increases in population for the coming 30-year period, the Town will need to ensure both the continued supply and quality of their source. The City of Sierra Vista has conducted a study on the potential for connecting to the Central Arizona Project.

**Night-Sky Viewing:** The Town should encourage private property owners and businesses to utilize outdoor lighting fixtures designed to minimize "light trespass" and light pollution. The Town may serve as an example to the community by purchasing or phasing in low-intensity or light-escape abatement fixtures for public facilities and buildings.

# 7. LAND USE POLICIES

#### A. GENERAL LAND USE POLICIES

- Maintain the color scheme and design aspects already started by the Town's municipal buildings for future municipal structures.
- Develop and enforce an "eye-sore" and screening ordinance to reduce the visual impacts of private enterprises that create aesthetic discontinuity and diminish property values of adjoining parcels.
- Increase enforcement of building code violations and zoning code violations to improve the health, safety and the aesthetic appeal of the community.
- Encourage attractive signage in the Town. Develop and implement a sign ordinance, guidelines and review panel for large-scale advertising.
- Balance development of new lands for commercial and residential use with adaptive re-use and in-fill of the "Main Street (SR 90) Corridor". Encourage residential and commercial in-fill on appropriate vacant sites within the Town.
- Encourage landscaping, xeriscape design and plantings along the "Main Street (SR 90) Corridor" to improve the Town's aesthetic appeal.
- Develop a "gateway" or defined entryway to the Town at the north and south points of entry on SR 90. This could include an information kiosk, interpretive markers, wayside oasis with restrooms, or attractive entry-welcome signs.
- Maintain the uninterrupted view-sheds of the Huachuca and Whetstone Mountains from the Town by identifying building height restrictions and communications tower placement guidelines.

#### **B.** ECONOMIC POLICIES

- Develop and implement incentives for in-fill and adaptive re-use of existing abandoned commercial structures and lots. These may include streamlining the permitting process, coordination of financial assistance, Town purchase and leasing of lots or other assistance and incentives.
- Develop and maintain an on-going economic strategy for the Town, including pursuit of grant writing for community improvements and economic development.
- Balance development of new commercial areas with in-fill and re-use of existing vacant or abandoned commercial sites.

• Host an annual (or periodic) council of leaders from Fort Huachuca, Sierra Vista, owners of the Babocomari Land Grant, State Lands Department and Bureau of Land Management for a "round-table" discussion of regional issues.

#### C. ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES

- Create a Babocomari River Trial network. The trail could be expanded eastward to connect to the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area. The Town would be well served to develop a Trail Subcommittee to collect data and community sentiment, meet with landowners and government agencies and pursue funding options for the project. Cooperation with Arizona State Parks would benefit this process.
- Preserve mountain views of all Huachuca City residents by working cooperatively with Cochise County, communications providers and the trustees of the Babocomari Land Grant to find amenable and workable solutions for communications tower placement.
- Design and implement incentives for use of light abatement fixtures to protect night-sky viewing in the Town. These measures should be incentive based and not regulatory.
- Maintain washes in the Town in their natural and undisturbed state for use as wildlife corridors and walking paths.

### 8. **PROPOSED LAND USE (2002-2030)**

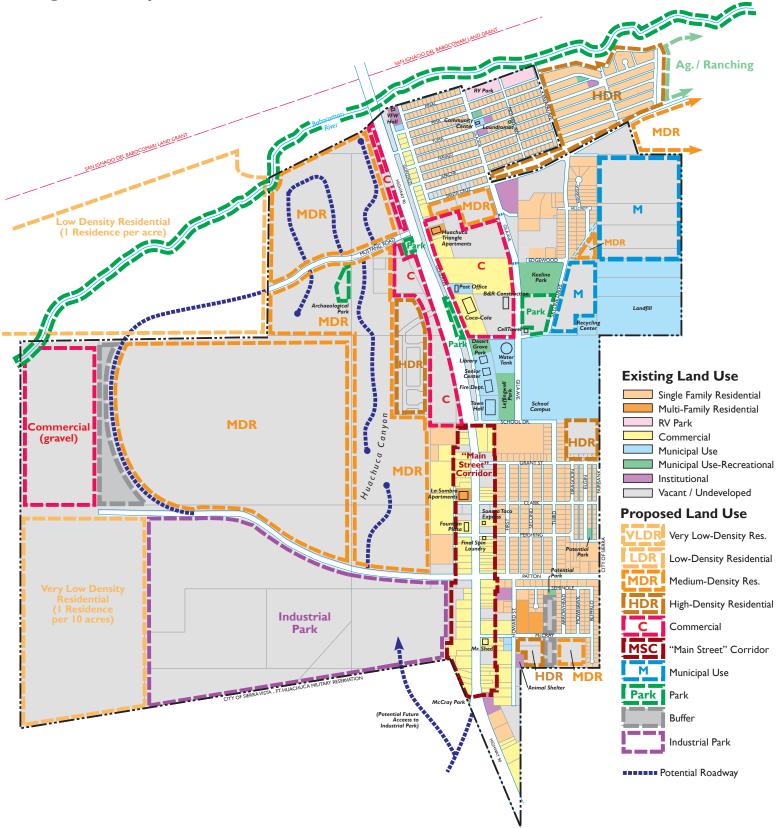
The following categories describe the Proposed Land Use Designations for the Town. These designations are intended to guide future development and growth in accordance with the identified wishes and needs of Town's residents. The Proposed Land Uses within the Town of Huachuca City municipal limits deal primarily with the vacant and presently undeveloped lands. These areas have been assigned land use designations based upon the following factors:

- Existing plans for development prior to the initiation of the Town of Huachuca City General Development Plan.
- Identified needs for municipal services including expansion of the landfill and areas most desirable for new parks.
- Trends that are emerging on their own or are guided by the morphology of the Town such as maintaining the SR 90 Corridor as the primary site of Commercial development.
- Input from the attending public at the Workshops held during the planning process.

Additionally, Proposed Land Use Designations have been assigned to areas beyond the Town's municipal limits. Although presently outside the Town's jurisdiction, these areas have the potential to be annexed and included as part of the Town in coming years, and consideration of proposed uses is appropriate.

The Proposed Land Use Designations are broken down into the following three major categories: Residential Uses, Commercial Uses and Municipal Uses. Other designations such as Buffer Areas and Trail Networks are discussed separately.

# Figure 8: Proposed Land Uses





#### VLDR – Very Low Density Residential

**Purpose:** This designation is intended to provide for a very low density of residential, rural-styled development within the Town. The target density of this designation is for 1 residence per 10 acres. This Very Low Density Residential Designation is in deference to the wishes of Fort Huachuca. Military activities on the base, including the realignment of Libby Airfield and its future crash zone may impact this portion of the Town. The Very Low Density designation is therefore in place to safeguard residents' health and property, and minimize impacts of adjacent use.

**Location:** One area, encompassing approximately 354 acres along the Town's southern border with Fort Huachuca / Sierra Vista is designated for Very Low Density Residential.

#### **LDR – Low Density Residential**

**Purpose:** This designation is intended to provide for orderly low-density residential single-family residential development. The target density for this designation is for up to 4 residents per acre.

**Location:** No areas within the Town's municipal limits are designated for Low Density Residential development. One area to the Town's northeast, which is accessed by Mustang Road and bisected by the Babocomari River, has been designated Low Density Residential. This designation is in line with the existing pattern of development and existing housing densities in this area, which should be maintained.

#### **MDR – Medium Density Residential**

**Purpose:** This designation is intended to provide for medium-density, single-family residential development in new areas and in accordance with the character of existing neighborhoods. The target density of the Medium Density designation is up to 9 residences per acre.

**Location:** Several areas within the Town have been identified as desirable for Medium Density development. In total, 448 acres have been given the designation, including significant portions of the undeveloped areas to the west of SR 90 and various sites of in-fill within existing residential neighborhoods. An area beyond the Town's municipal limits, south of Hunt Road has also been identified as desirable for this level of development.

#### HDR – High Density Residential

**Purpose:** This designation is intended to provide for high-density, single-family and multi-family residential development in new areas and in accordance with the character of existing neighborhoods. This designation is to include apartments and duplexes. The target density of this designation is for 10 or more residences per acre.

**Location:** There are three areas within, and one area adjacent to the Town designated for high-density development. Within the Town the sites include: the area on Paloma Drive (platted but not planned) west of SR 90, the area north of Grant Street adjacent to the Town's boundary with Fort Huachuca and the area behind the Animal Shelter to the south of McCray Street. Adjacent to the Town is the unincorporated portion of Lower Huachuca, east of Yavapai Avenue. This area already contains substantial residential development.

#### COMMERCIAL USES

#### <u>C – Commercial</u>

**Purpose:** This designation is intended to provide for the orderly development of business and retail operations in defined areas of the Town where safe access and infrastructure are present or anticipated.

**Location:** Existing commercial development is largely tied to the SR 90 Corridor, as the highway provides the main access to the Town and highest visibility to retail commerce. Areas planned for future commercial activity remain adjacent to the SR 90 Corridor on both its east and west frontage areas.

#### MSC – Main Street Corridor

**Purpose:** This stretch of SR 90, from School Road south to the Town's boundary with the City of Sierra Vista and For Huachuca has been identified as the "core" commercial corridor, and on that level, functions as the Town's "Main Street". This "Main Street Corridor"—as the "backbone" of the community, has been delineated as an area that needs to be improved aesthetically and economically. Redevelopment of this corridor is to include the re-use of lots; sites and buildings already connected to, or can easily be accommodated by, the Town's existing infrastructure.

#### **MUNICIPAL USES**

#### <u>M – Municipal</u>

**Purpose:** This designation is intended to provide area specifically for municipal and utility use, including the expansion of existing areas or development of new services and amenities.

**Location:** Two areas, totaling approximately 99 acres, have been identified specifically for Municipal uses. These are located to the north and the east of the existing landfill and are anticipated in their initial phase to be used for landfill expansion. Later uses of these parcels, at such time the landfill closes down and is reclaimed, will be for recreational use and park development.

#### <u>P - Parks</u>

**Purpose:** This designation is intended to provide area for expansion of community recreational facilities.

**Location:** Seven areas throughout the Town have been identified as having good potential for park use and recreational development. These include several Town-owned parcels, the largest of which is to the south of Keeline Park. Two small parcels, one along Seminole, the other along Elgin would serve as fine "pocket parks" for their neighborhoods. Additional sites include the strip between SR 90 and Gonzales Avenue, the intersection of Mustang Road and SR 90, portions of the Babocomari River corridor for trail development, and the archaeological site south of Mustang Road.

#### **OTHER USES**

#### <u>Industrial</u>

**Purpose:** This designation is intended to provide areas for development of industrial operations that are compatible only with non-residential surrounding uses.

**Location:** The approximately 250-acre area designated as Industrial is` almost entirely within the aircraft noise and crash hazard zones associated with Fort Huachuca, making it very suitable for non-residential uses.

#### **Buffer**

**Purpose:** This designation is not intended to specifically prohibit development on the areas designated for a buffer, but is to serve as a reminder and indicator that incompatible land uses need to be separated by setbacks, screenings and/or plantings to minimize negative impacts to residents and property owners.

**Location:** There are two areas identified for buffers on the Proposed Land Use map. The first is found in the western edge of the Town and would provide a buffer between the gravel pit operation and future residential development along the proposed "Western Loop Road". The second area is sited to the north and south of McCray Road. This second area has been identified for its existing water detention capability and drainage use.

#### Lands Outside the Town of Huachuca City's Jurisdiction

The Town has—as part of the planning process—identified areas beyond the municipal limits appropriate for annexation and development when the need, situation and interest arise. These areas are outlined fully in the Territorial Expansion discussed earlier in the Land Use Element.

Of prime interest is the future expansion of both commercial activity and residential development along the SR 90 Corridor. As indicated in discussions by the participating public during the Plan's development, there was a strong preference for commercial activities to be concentrated at sites along the roadway, with residential layouts to be concentrated behind and away from the highway.

Other considerations include the eastern portion of Lower Huachuca City, east of Yavapai Avenue. This area presently falls under Cochise County jurisdiction and is subject to its zoning and land use. The area has been identified as appropriate for continued High Density Residential use.

Areas to the northwest and west of the Town have been earmarked for Low Density Residential development in deference to the land-ownership patterns and existing development densities already in place.

# **IV - CIRCULATION ELEMENT**

# 1. VISION

The vision of multi-modal transportation for Huachuca City emphasizes personal transportation by privately owned vehicle, yet acknowledges the need to provide viable travel alternatives for those who do not drive or do not have a vehicle available. The State Highway system is and will remain crucial to Huachuca City because it provides linkages to rural areas and to Interstate 10 and the surrounding communities. In addition, State Route 90 functions as the Town's "Main Street". Alternate modes, including transit, walking, and bicycling, will play an increasingly important role as Huachuca City grows in population.

Huachuca City will continue to develop a transportation system that provides mobility for all people and ready access to their chosen places and travel modes. The vision also recognizes the role of transportation to the Town's economic development and the fulfillment of the land use elements of this plan.

Regarding rail service, Amtrak passenger rail service is available in the City of Benson, located about 25 miles north. Regarding air passenger service, Huachuca City will continue to rely on facilities in the Tucson metropolitan area as the primary providers of service to Huachuca City residents, visitors and businesses.

# 2. INTRODUCTION

The primary goals of the Town's transportation system are to improve the mobility of people and goods, provide viable alternatives to the "drive alone" mode, protect the natural environment, support economic development, and sustain public support for the transportation planning and funding efforts. The factors considered in the development of a comprehensive transportation and circulation plan include supporting the economic viability of the area, increasing the safety of the transportation system, and improving accessibility and mobility options for people and goods.

In order to meet these goals, the plan protects and enhances the environment, promotes energy conservation, enhances integration and connectivity of modes, promotes efficient system management and operation, and emphasizes the preservation of existing surface transportation systems.

# 3. ELEMENTS OF THE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

- Providing new and expanded roadways; building new sidewalks, bike routes, and trails; and providing basic transit services will require new and innovative revenue sources.
- Future land use patterns and transportation systems will be planned in a coordinated, continuous, and comprehensive manner.
- Promoting land use patterns that reduce travel miles and encourage use of transportation alternatives that will protect air quality.
- Auto, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian travel will be coordinated with land use planning, especially within and between activity centers and growth corridors.
- Attractive design of the Huachuca City roadways and assurance of recreation and scenic linkages will be characteristic of the transportation system.
- Citizen participation will be a significant part of the decision-making process.
- The Town's Transportation Plan will be updated and implemented in a manner consistent with this General Plan.

#### POLICY 1: MOBILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

Improve the mobility of people and goods by providing effective, convenient accessible, and safe transportation options for travel to employment, education, recreation, shopping, medical, and other desired destinations.

Goal 1.1	Provide an integrated, multimodal, sub-regional transportation system that offers attractive choices among modes for the efficient movement of people and goods.
Goal 1.2	Provide a sub-regional balance of transportation facilities and services by mode, including automobile, public transit, bicycle, and pedestrian.
Goal 1.3	Rail and aviation systems are not included in the plan other than by providing linkages to services provided within the region.
Goal 1.4	Provide facilities for multiple modes of travel in transportation improvement projects, as applicable.

Goal 1.5	Manage the performance of all modal systems to best mitigate traffic congestion and to attain safe operating conditions.
Goal 1.6	Promote travel demand management strategies and incentives to more fully utilize alternate modes of travel. Examples include carpooling, public transit, and telecommunications substitutes to travel.
Goal 1.7	Assure that transportation investments improve the mobility of all segments of the community, including the underserved, disabled, and economically disadvantaged.
Goal 1.8	Promote strategies to reduce peak period demand through car- pooling, flexible hours, alternate modes of travel, and other travel reduction tools.
Goal 1.9	Identify and pursue funding mechanisms for ongoing maintenance of existing transportation investments and for future improvements needed to maintain mobility within the transportation system.
Goal 1.10	Comply with established goals for system performance, consistent with the Huachuca City Transportation Plan, as updated.

#### **POLICY 2: CIRCULATION AND SAFETY**

Promote an effective, well-planned system of roadways that establishes a functional, safe, and aesthetic hierarchy of streets while incorporating the latest advanced technologies.

Goal 2.1	Work together with ADOT and Cochise County to accommodate existing
	and future demand for transportation and to facilitate a sustainable system,
	reduce congestion, and provide for efficient and economic movement of
	people and goods.

- Goal 2.2 Periodically monitor and report on system demand, operating conditions, and performance for all modes to assist in the planning process and investment decisions.
- Goal 2.3 Promote convenient multimodal access to public places having high concentrations of trips, such as commercial core areas and institutional facilities.
- Goal 2.4 Provide for a street functional classification system and a Major Streets and Scenic Routes Plan that is based on type, use, and visual quality.

Goal 2.5	Integrate vehicular circulation within neighborhoods and provide bicycle and pedestrian connectivity to key destinations, including recreation areas, such as parks, adjacent services, transit facilities, and schools.
Goal 2.6	Design streets with continuous pedestrian facilities of sufficient width to provide safe accessible use and opportunities for shade and shelter.
Goal 2.7	Design neighborhood streets using appropriate traffic calming techniques and street widths to sustain the quality of life in the neighborhoods.
Goal 2.8	Provide for the planning, design, construction, and operation of facilities and services to reduce, to the greatest possible extent, the losses from accidents.

#### **POLICY 3: PUBLIC TRANSIT SERVICES**

Plan for and initiate a safe, efficient, and accessible public transportation system that provides a viable alternate to the private vehicle.

- Goal 3.1 Provide a transit service that is readily accessible, convenient, and safe to an increasing proportion of persons in the region.
- Goal 3.2 Provide convenient public transit connections at and between urban activity centers.

#### **POLICY 4: BICYCLE FACILITIES**

Plan for bicycle facilities throughout the community that provide for the safe and efficient means of transportation and recreation.

Goal 4.1	Promote bicycle travel as an alternate mode of transportation.
Goal 4.2	Promote a system of bicycle facilities that provide a continuous, safe, and accessible system.
Goal 4.3	Promote bicycle safety education programs to increase awareness of and adherence to laws and regulations regarding bicycle use.
Goal 4.4	Design bicycle facilities consistently throughout the Town.

#### **POLICY 5: PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES**

Plan and encourage the use of pedestrian facilities as a critical element of a safe and livable community to meet the transportation and recreational needs of the community.

Goal 5.1	Provide for the construction of accessible pedestrian facilities with all street construction and major reconstruction projects; all appropriate private residential, commercial, and industrial development; and all public development in the urban area.
Goal 5.2	Develop a program for the 'installation of pedestrian facilities in appropriate areas where they do not currently exist.
Goal 5.3	Design pedestrian facilities that are direct, safe, comfortable, attractive, and continuous.
Goal 5.4	Improve pedestrian visibility and safety and raise awareness of the health benefits of walking.
Goal 5.5	Identify specific pedestrian mobility and accessibility challenges and develop measures for implementation of necessary improvements.

#### **POLICY 6: ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Protect the natural and built environments from adverse impacts resulting from the provision of transportation facilities and services. Promote transportation facilities and services that enhance the quality of life of the communities within the region.

Goal 6.1	Design transportation improvements to comply with air quality standards and avoid the creation of air quality hot spots.
Goal 6.2	Consider the economic, energy, and environmental effects of major transportation investments.
Goal 6.3	Promote the implementation of the goals and objectives of adopted land use plans and development policies with investments in transportation facilities and services.
Goal 6.7	Strive for fairness and equity in who pays for transportation improvements and who benefits from them.
Goal 6.8	Provide for transportation enhancements, including bicycle lanes, sidewalks, and nontraditional transportation projects.

Goal 6.9 Provide parking standards that encourage their use as flexible tools to achieve other overall transportation policies.

#### POLICY 7: PUBLIC SUPPORT

Build and sustain public support for the implementation of transportation planning goals and objectives, including the financial basis of the plan, through community involvement.

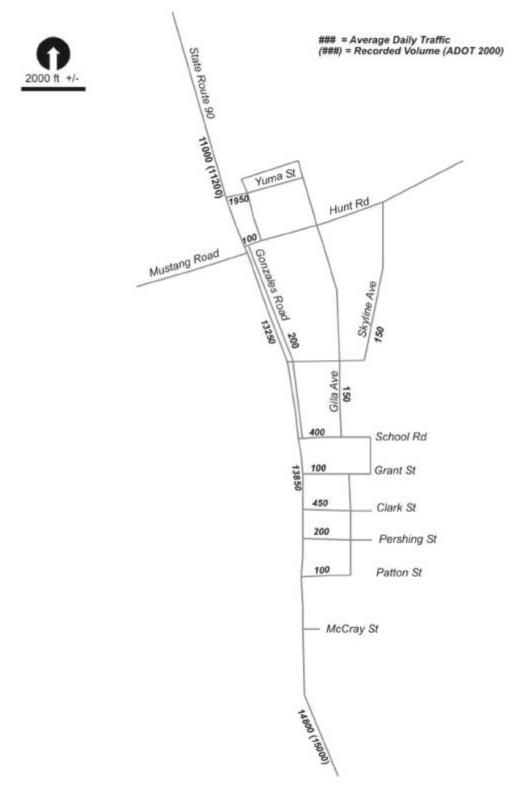
- Goal 7.1 Approach public involvement proactively throughout regional transportation planning and programming processes, including open access to communications, meetings, and documents related to the plan.
- Goal 7.2 Include and involve all segments of population, including those groups protected under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Executive Order 12898 Environmental Justice provisions, including future amendments to those provisions.
- Goal 7.3 Promote effective intergovernmental relations through agreed upon procedures to consult, cooperate, and coordinate transportation related activities and decisions.

#### POLICY 8: TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AND FUNDING

Integrate transportation planning into the land use decision-making process by creating tools, standards, and administrative processes that facilitate integrated decisions.

- Goal 8.1 Create a Major Streets and Scenic Routes plan that defines the ultimate right-of-way of major facilities, their locations, and their scenic or historic attributes.
- Goal 8.2 Periodically update the Town's transportation plan in coordination with the ADOT, Cochise County, and SEAGO.
- Goal 8.3 Continue to pursue alternate revenue sources for all modes of transportation from federal, State, and regional sources, and from the private sector.

Figure 9: Huachuca City Current Traffic Volumes



CURRENT CONDITIONS	
Total Dwelling Units	810
Persons per Household	2.5
Total Population	2,030
TOTAL PERSON TRIPS	11,560
Person Trips per dwelling	14
Home based work (HBW) trips	3,632
HBW Percent of Total	31%
Home based non-work (HBNW) trips	6,720
HBNW Percent of Total	58%
Non-home based (NHB) trips	1,208
NHB Percent of Total	10%
HBW Average Occupancy Rate	1.30
HBNW Average Occupancy Rate	1.50
NHB Average Occupancy Rate	1.3
TOTAL VEHICLE TRIPS	10,170
Average Vehicle Trips per dwelling (Inc NHB)	12.6
Residential Trip Generation Rate per Unit	6.9
Commercial Trip Rate Per acre	147.7
Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)	77,000
VMT/person	37.9
Average Trip Length	6.7

Note: Total population is based on entire census tracts, including some areas not within Town limits.

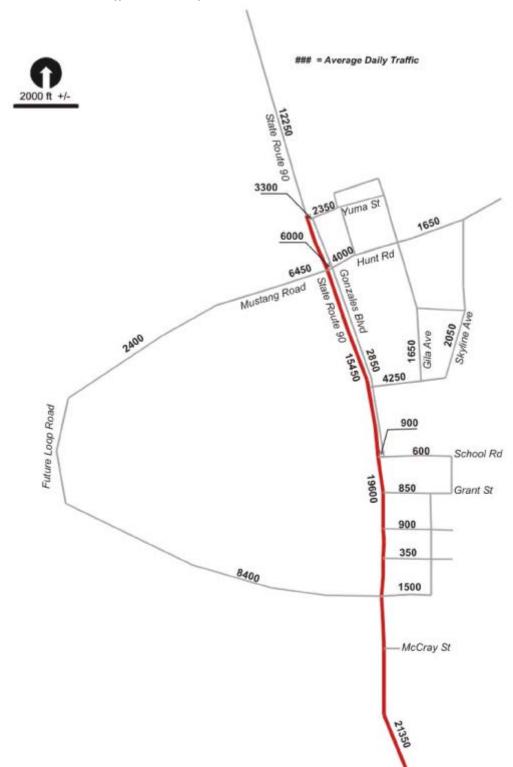
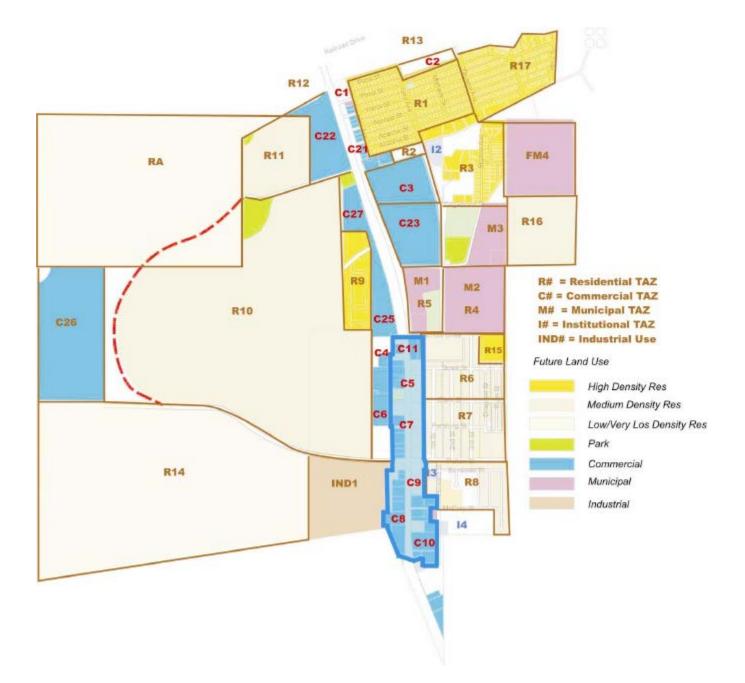


Figure 10: Future Traffic Volumes from Buildout Conditions Model

# Trip Characteristics from Buildout Conditions Model

Total Dwelling Units	4,100
Persons per Household	2.5
Total Population	10,250
TOTAL PERSON TRIPS	120,580
Person Trips per dwelling	29
Home based work (HBW) trips	23,638
HBW Percent of Total	20%
Home based non-work (HBNW) trips	57,808
HBNW Percent of Total	48%
Non-home based (NHB) trips	39,136
NHB Percent of Total	32%
HBW Average Occupancy Rate	1.30
HBNW Average Occupancy Rate	1.50
NHB Average Occupancy Rate	1.3
TOTAL VEHICLE TRIPS	76,600
Average Vehicle Trips per dwelling (Inc NHB)	18.7
Residential Trip Generation Rate per Unit	7.0
Commercial Trip Rate per Acre	187.5
Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)	362,000
VMT/person	35.3
Average Trip Length	3.0

### Figure 11: Huachuca City Traffic Analysis Zones (TAZ)



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0	28	0	375
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Socio Economic Data – Current and Buildout Conditions

Current Conditions Data is taken from 2000 Census Future Conditions is based on Future Land Use Categories

#### SIGNAL WARRANTS SCREENING ANALYSIS

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The future need for traffic signals at the major intersections can be evaluated using the traffic signal screening warrants shown below. These warrants are based on the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices previous edition and provide a good reference of when signals might be needed based on the most frequently met conditions. The latest edition of the MUTCD combines the previous warrants 1 and 2 into a single warrant (Warrant 1) with two conditions A and B, but is otherwise the same for these conditions. The analysis for the major intersections along State Route 90 is provided in the table following the screening guide.

This analysis was performed for the buildout condition, using the projected volumes produced by the QRS II travel demand model. The analysis indicates that traffic signals may be warranted at the intersections of SR 90/Mustang Road and SR 90/Loop Road (South). In the future, the City and ADOT should closely monitor traffic volumes at these locations, and consider installing a signal when warrants are met or exceeded. Recognize that meeting a traffic signal warrant, by itself, does not mandate signal installation. The decision whether to install a signal should be based on the warrant analysis and professional traffic engineering assessment of the overall benefit and risk associated with the proposed signal. See the MUTCD for additional information.

> Signal Warrants Screening Guide (For decisions at the 95% Confidence Level)

ADT Volumes Below Which Signal Is Not Warranted

	ADT	
or St. Major	it. Major	. Minor St
0	S	
1 8,20	8,200	3,200
1 9,85	9,850	3,700
1 12,30	12,30	1,850
1 14,75	14,75	1,850
12 LINES 0 10	14,75	1

#### ADT Volumes Above Which Signal Is Warranted

	Approach	Lanes	ADT	
	Major St.	Minor St.	Major St.	Minor St.
Warrant 1				
	1	1	9,600	5,750
	2 or more	1	11,550	5,750
Warrant 2	1	1	14,400	2,900
	2	1	17,300	2,900

Source: National Highway Institute, March 1001

			anted Below Volumes	Warranted if Above these Volumes			
		Warrant 1	Warrant 2	Warrant 1	Warrant 2		
MAJOR STREET	Projected	9,850	14,750	11,550	17,300		
MINOR STREET	Volume	3,700	1,850	5,750	2,900		
Buildout Condition	A214-110-12		10				
State Route 90	12,250	Above	Below	Above	Below		
Yuma Street	3,300	Below	Above	Below	Above		
State Route 90	15,450	Above	Above	Above	Below		
Mustang Road	6,450	Above	Above	Above	Above		
State Route 90	15,450	Above	Above	Above	Below		
School Road	4,250	Above	Above	Below	Above		
State Route 90	19,600	Above	Above	Above	Above		
Skyline Avenue	600	Below	Below	Below	Below		
State Route 90	19,600	Above	Above	Above	Above		
Loop Road South	8,500	Above	Above	Above	Above		

Signal Warrants Screening Analysis Matrix

# V - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUMMARY

# **1. INTRODUCTION**

Throughout the development of the Town of Huachuca City General Development Plan, numerous issues arose from public input that could not be cleanly confined to either a land use or circulation issue. The intent of this plan section is to acknowledge this input and provide an overall framework for addressing these issues. The following goals were derived from the input gathered and the Public Input Sessions/Workshops during the planning process

### 2. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal 1: Enhance the quality of life of the Town through the promotion and development of leisure, recreational and cultural activities.

Objective 1.1: Work to enhance existing youth programs and create new programs and facilities for year-around youth activities including sports, recreation and educational opportunities.

Objective 1.2: Encourage the creation of new park areas, trails, sports fields, and community facilities.

Objective 1.3: Provide an atmosphere in the Town that is welcoming to cultural events and activities.

Objective 1.4: Promote the scenic, environmental and historic amenities of the Town and region as a means of attracting and increasing tourism activity.

Objective 1.5: Identify means of making Huachuca City a regional destination rather than a "pass through / drive through" community.

# Goal 2: Promote and encourage new economic development activity within the Town.

Objective 2.1: Ensure an adequate infrastructure system, land base and efficient permitting process to provide for future economic growth and development.

Objective 2.2: Treat in-fill and adaptive reuse of existing commercial sites as a "growth area".

Objective 2.3: Provide incentives and benefits to incoming enterprises that make use of in-fill and existing commercial sites for their business.

Objective 2.4: Encourage the development of new retail, service sector and "clean" light industrial businesses to locate in the Town and actively pursue these businesses with a directed marketing and Town-promotional campaign.

#### Goal 3: Promote wise use of the Town's financial and natural resources.

Objective 3.1: Develop an impact fee ordinance to ensure new developments pay their fair share of the costs of their creation.

Objective 3.2: Continually review community needs for law enforcement, fire protection and government services and make budget provisions for these services.

Objective 3.3: Encourage Town-wide water saving techniques including graywater re-use, xeriscape landscaping techniques and water conservation education.

Objective 3.4: Develop a Town-wide Wellhead Protection plan and implement techniques to protect the quality of the Town's subsurface water resources.

# VI - PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

# 1. INTRODUCTION

The Town of Huachuca City General Plan is intended to guide future land use decisions and activity for the Town's future. The Town has developed and approved Goal and Objective Statements which now require implementation steps to be achieved.

Four interrelated components constitute the Implementation Program, they are:

- Procedures for Plan Amendments
- Phased Action Program
- **Plan Monitoring** for measuring the on-going performance of the General Plan.
- **Decision Guides** to assist in evaluating proposed development projects and assure their consistency with the General Plan.

# 2. GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT PROCEDURES

In 1998 and 2000, the State of Arizona passed the Growing Smarter and Growing Smarter Plus legislation, which stipulated that major amendments to adopted General Plans may only be considered once each year. A major amendment is defined as any change that causes *substantial alteration of the municipality's land use mixture or balance as established in the municipality's existing general plan land use element.* The State of Arizona does not define a quantitative measure for the term "*substantial alteration*"; the following narrative is presented to assist the Town of Huachuca City in determining whether an amendment is "major" or "minor".

#### DEFINING MAJOR AMENDMENTS TO THE GENERAL PLAN

A major amendment to the Town of Huachuca City General Plan is any proposed land use or development activity that would result in a change significant enough to impact a substantial land area within the Planning Area.

Criteria for determining a major amendment are based upon the relative size and the extent of the proposed change, in terms of development intensity (e.g., dwelling density), as well as its relationship with surrounding land uses and its impact upon public infrastructure. Criteria for determining a Major Amendment to the Huachuca City General Plan include:

- A change in the Land Use Plan designation on:
  - o 2.5 or more acres inside the Town's municipal boundaries
  - o 5 or more acres in defined master-planned community areas
  - 10 or more acres elsewhere in the Planning Area as a recommendation to the County.
- An increase or decrease of 10 acres or more for commercial or industrial (e.g., industrial, office, retail, resort) types of uses
- An increase or decrease of 10 acres or more for open space uses

**Exception:** An Amendment to the Land Use Plan *initiated by the property owner* that results in a *decrease* in land use intensity will not be considered to be a major amendment.

#### DEFINING MINOR AMENDMENTS TO THE GENERAL PLAN

Minor amendments to the General Plan can be defined as the following:

- Minor text changes
- Map adjustments and/or corrections that do not impact the General Plan's overall land use mix or balance of land uses.

#### BASIS FOR CONSIDERATION

In evaluating future development proposals and potential amendments to the General Plan, the Town Council, Planning and Zoning Commission and Town Staff should consider the following factors:

- The availability of alternate sites for the proposed development.
- The short-term and long-term impacts of the plan amendment to the General Plan itself and to the Town as a whole. This includes: significant alteration of land use patterns, needed infrastructure improvements, changes in flow or volume of traffic and compatibility with adjacent land uses.
- The benefit to the entire Town of the proposed change vs. the benefit to a particular interest group or individual.
- Changes in the Town's other adopted policies or existing conditions that justify the amendment.

• Consistency with the General Plans adopted Goals and Objectives. The burden is on the applicant or petitioner for the plan amendment to show that the proposed development is consistent with the Plan's Goals and Objectives.

# 3. PHASED ACTION PLAN

State statutes require the General Plan to be updated at least every ten years. The Phased Action Plan portion of the implementation strategy focuses on the coming thirty-year period (through 2027).

The following charts indicate short-term, mid-term and long-term specific action steps to meet the Goals and Objectives of the Plan. The program is meant to be flexible and actions may be added, redefined or deleted as the Town's specific circumstances require.

#### SHORT-TERM COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACTIONS

Short-term actions can be defined as those taking place or at very least, initiated within the coming two-year period.

1 to 2 Years (2003 to 2004)					
<b>Community Desire</b> (s):	<b>Required Action(s):</b>	<b>Responsible Group(s):</b>			
In-fill of vacant commercial sites and re-use of existing commercial building stock	<ul> <li>Inventory remaining suitable sites, assess quality, contact property owners to gather their short-term and long- term intent for the property</li> <li>Code enforcement / zoning enforcement</li> <li>Provide incentives for re- use/removal/demolition</li> <li>Marketing campaign to attract business</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Town Staff, Building Official, hired consultant</li> <li>Grant writing; business community, Town staff</li> <li>Hired consultant</li> </ul>			
Clean-up and beautification of the Town	<ul> <li>Sponsor annual "Clean-Up" Day "Junk Amnesty" Day</li> <li>Provide incentives for removal of eyesores</li> <li>Ordinances/code enforcement</li> <li>Screening ordinances</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Volunteer groups, church groups, Scouts</li> <li>Town staff, business community</li> <li>Town staff, Town attorney, Planning &amp; Zoning Commission</li> </ul>			
Improve building code and zoning ordinance	<ul> <li>Revamp existing codes</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Consultant, Town staff, Town attorney, Planning &amp; Zoning Commission, Building Official</li> </ul>			

#### MID-TERM COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACTIONS

Mid-term actions can be defined as those taking place or at very least, initiated within the next five to ten years.

Community Desire(s):	Required Action(s):	Responsible Group(s):			
Desired population growth to 4,000 by 2007	<ul> <li>Provide a high quality of life and an attractive community.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Entire community including residents, local government and civic groups</li> </ul>			
Utilize Babocomari Wash for trail development, nature interpretive trail, bird watching and natural area.	<ul> <li>Identify access points, secure access and easements and provide desired recreational amenities (picnic areas, trail improvements, interpretive materials, etc.)</li> <li>Pursue funding/grants for recreational trail development</li> <li>When momentum is building on this project; meet with representatives of BLM to assess potential for connectivity to the San Pedro Riparian Area to the east.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Town staff and Public Works</li> <li>Trail development subcommittee</li> <li>Landowners</li> <li>Hired consultant</li> <li>Grant programs for funding development</li> <li>Trail development subcommittee</li> <li>Town Staff</li> <li>BLM</li> </ul>			
Increase business attraction, specifically: Restaurants Grocery Bank branch Medical / Clinic facility Hardware store	<ul> <li>Develop and implement a Town marketing campaign</li> <li>Contact businesses desired by the community</li> <li>Provide incentives (tax incentives, site purchase incentives, waiver/reduction of impact fees)</li> <li>Assess ability to accommodate new business in terms of market (local and regional), developable space, access and infrastructure</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Town staff</li> <li>Hired consultant</li> <li>Town staff, Community Development Director, hired consultant</li> <li>Town staff, Town Council, Planning &amp; Zoning Commission</li> <li>Town staff, Town Council, Planning &amp; Zoning Commission</li> </ul>			

10 Years (2010)						
Community Desire(s):	Required Action(s):	Responsible Group(s):				
Develop Sports Park facility Ball-fields Pool Other amenities	<ul> <li>Identify appropriate sites and funding sources</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Town staff, Town council, school district, Planning &amp; Zoning Commission, hired consultant</li> </ul>				
Enlarge school capacity	<ul> <li>Building/facility/program expansion</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>School District, Town Council, Dept. of Education, local residents and parents</li> </ul>				
<i>Reuse of landfill site for nature park or preserve</i>	<ul> <li>Identify timeframe of existing site being filled to capacity, physical constraints, location constrains, environmental concerns</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Town staff, Town Council, parks and recreation,</li> <li>Department of Environmental Quality, grant writer, hired engineering consultants</li> </ul>				
Enhance role of recycling center for environmental educational purposes	<ul> <li>Identify needs and funding</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Town staff &amp; Public Works</li> <li>Recycling subcommittee</li> <li>Volunteer groups</li> </ul>				

### LONG-TERM COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACTIONS

These actions, requiring substantial community investment are slated for the longer term and in many ways are dependent upon the short-term and mid-term actions being taken.

25 Years (2027)						
<b>Community Desire</b> (s):	Required Action(s):	<b>Responsible Group(s):</b>				
Territorial expansion and acquisition through annexation	<ul> <li>Assess and "triage" needs for new territory</li> <li>Develop agreements with adjacent jurisdictions for smooth transfer of lands into Town control</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Planning &amp; Zoning Commission, Town Council, Town staff</li> </ul>				
Development of professional services including offices, medical facilities, retail development	<ul> <li>Assess capacity (local population and market) to attract these amenities</li> <li>Maintain adequate sites and infrastructure for incoming businesses</li> <li>Pursue businesses with on-going Town marketing campaign</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Planning &amp; Zoning Commission, Town Council, Town staff, Public Works</li> <li>Marketing campaign, Community Development Director, hired consultants</li> </ul>				

# 4. PLAN MONITORING

The Town of Huachuca City General Plan is not a static and unchanging document. The plan intended to be updated as new material surfaces. Town staff will apply the principles and directives of the General Plan on a day-to-day basis, keeping track of shortcomings to be remedied. Residents, property owners and developers need to rely on the General Plan and follow its directions. Together, all these stakeholders should get involved in the monitoring responsibility: oversight, updating and following Plan directions.

#### PLAN OVERSIGHT

As the Town's appointed advisors on planning matters, the Planning and Zoning Commission is responsible for broad General Plan supervision. Town staff, however, are in the best position to provide regular General Plan upkeep services. Basic information about planning and development activity, especially changes in each of the Element's status, is a fundamental tool in Plan maintenance. It is essential to keep the document current.

Some practical ways for keeping the General Plan on track are suggested:

#### Map Revisions

The following periodic revisions to the adopted Proposed Land Use Map should be made:

- Approved Major or Minor General Plan Amendments
- Annexation areas
- Overlay districts as they are created
- Special use areas as they are created
- Street pattern extensions or closures
- Other substantial alterations to land uses or roadway revisions

Preferably, maps would be updated on an annual basis, soon after the General Plan Amendment hearings. An on-going series of regular graphic refinements and map adjustments provides a valuable means of charting changes in land use in the community.

#### Text Revisions

Amendments to the narrative portions of the Town's planning documents, also, should be inserted regularly into users' copies of the General Plan. It is not necessary to republish the document frequently. "Change pages", marked as current updates, may be prepared to replace older versions of sections that have been officially revised.

The Town Clerk is charged with recording changes authorized by General Plan Amendments. Text revisions, as well as legal descriptions of properties involved in map amendments, should be conveyed for accurate insertion in regularly updated Plan documents.

#### Record Keeping

Quarterly reports on Planning and Zoning Commission, Board of Adjustment and other advisory bodies' activities are helpful in reflecting the Town's development trends. Data on construction activities (for example: permit valuations, housing starts, commercial square footage) are key indicators for measuring community growth.

#### Plan Progress Assessment

The Town of Huachuca City Planning & Zoning Commission, with the support of the Town Staff, serves as the repository for recording the successes and shortfalls of the plan. Throughout the year, periodic progress reviews may be conducted as discussion or decision items on the Commission's regular meeting agendas.

A typical annual schedule of assessment checkpoints, which may be adjusted at the Commission's pleasure, is illustrated in the table below. Explanations for each review function are offered in the following sections.

ASSESSMENT	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	ОСТ	NOV	DEC
Annual Report			X									
Performance Measures							X					
General Plan Amendment											X	
Changed Conditions			X						X			
Quarterly Review	X			X			X			X		

#### Plan Progress Assessment Table

#### Performance Measurement

Overall attention to General Plan Goals can be rated for each Plan Element by the Town's Planning and Zoning Commission on a traditional scale of 1 to 10; with 1 being

the lowest rating meaning "no attention/seriously deficient" and 10 to read as "well ahead of schedule/action successfully completed". A cumulative average of 6 or better may be regarded as a satisfactory progress rating for the Plan and its attendant actions.

Each action step on the Phased Action Chart Shown above should be subject to periodic evaluation. A point system, with a maximum of 5 points may be awarded for any item. An Example of this point system is illustrated on the following chart.

Score	Rating Definition
0	No Attention
1	Limited Progress / Discussion underway
2	Initial Work underway
3	Partial completion / Preliminary Results Achieved
4	Completed or Completion is imminent / Ready for Implementation
5	Completion / Implementation is underway

Looking at the Short-Term Phase, for instance, the 14 listed items could achieve a maximum of 70 points. In the first year, 2003, a score of 40 might be acceptable. By the second year, the total should be above 50. In the second and third years, points may be awarded for beginning accomplishments in the next Phase. That is, if progress has been made toward, such as beginning to install the open space trails system, it may rate additional points. Therefore, when Short-Term ratings are completed in 2005, Huachuca City could have achieved a success rating of 80 or more, ready to embark on the next Phase.

Members of the public, other Boards or Commissions, and Town Council may also be provided an opportunity to fill out performance scorecards as input to the Planning and Zoning Commission's assessments.

#### Changes of Conditions

Unforeseen circumstances, such as a major development proposal or a severe economic downturn, should be entered into the progress measurement equation. Critical needs -- infrastructure extensions or repairs, responses to flooding or other natural occurrences -- would require reallocation of planning and funding priorities.

When "brushfire" requirements alter the Town's use of resources toward General Plan implementation, the diversion of effort should be noted in ratings and reports of progress. Flexibility is a key concept in Plan implementation. When opportunities present themselves, the Town will be prepared to take advantage of them. Mid-year briefing reports from staff or citizen groups could indicate possibilities for natural resource preservation, tourism attraction or economic development that might be enhanced by additional, special implementation initiatives. With Town Council approval, any such prospect may merit a reevaluation of planning efforts to benefit from previously unforeseen options.

#### Annual Report

During the first quarter of each calendar year, the Planning and Zoning Commission is expected to issue a concise report on General Plan progress. The General Plan Progress Report, after presentation to and approval by the Town Council, will be made available to the public.

A record of recent accomplishments, including development activity and major municipal improvements, should be summarized. An overview of Action Recommendation progress, together with a statement of activities anticipated for the upcoming year, should be included. The report may also provide information on building permits, code enforcement and disposition of applications to boards, commissions and Council. Data regarding acreages and/or dwelling units rezoned or developed over the past year, according to use type, would be particularly relevant.

As part of the on-going public participation program, the Town will distribute the Annual Report to statutory reviewing agencies, jurisdictions, civic organizations, stakeholders and other interested persons.

# 5. LAND USE GUIDELINES AND DECISION KEYS

General Plan implementation is an incremental process that includes all plans and improvements to property in the Town. Each property, when it is built upon, redeveloped, or revitalized, can make a positive contribution to achieving Huachuca City planning goals. By observing simple principles in new construction projects, property owners will be assured that their homes or businesses meet community standards -- and that other land uses in the neighborhood are, likewise, encouraged to maintain higher levels of quality.

Criteria for assessing various types of development may be applied as guides to decisionmaking by the Town Council, its advisory boards and commissions (especially the Planning and Zoning Commission), and Town staff. These guidelines may be incorporated, as appropriate, into municipal codes or may be added to or refined in practice without requiring formal General Plan Amendment.

#### RESIDENTIAL KEYS

Quality, affordability and variety represent desirable objectives for upgrading the Town's housing stock. Guidelines are to be adapted in economically feasible ways to apply to infill projects.

<u>Street access</u> should be provided to an appropriately surfaced dedicated public roadway or accepted private street for each dwelling unit, with paved areas for

parking and maneuvering. Developments containing forty or more dwellings should have a minimum of two points of emergency ingress-egress.

<u>Pedestrian connections</u> should include sidewalks in higher density neighborhoods; however, for most new, planned residential areas, multi-purpose pathways, improved to acceptable standards and designed to link with the community pathway system for pedestrian connection to schools, shopping or other activities, are preferred.

<u>Useable open space</u>: Subdivisions or complexes planned for forty or more dwellings should consider allocating recreational space (which may include pathway linkages) in proportions similar to those required in planned residential developments.

<u>Appearance themes:</u> Where tract development occurs, residential designs should reflect variety in house plans and elevations with ample use of native landscaping to emulate Huachuca City's desired "custom housing" image.

#### COMMERCIAL KEYS

Retail, service and office establishments are highly visible. They also attract traffic. Appearance and safety considerations may be combined with creative site planning:

<u>Gateway properties</u> reflect on Huachuca City's image and should contribute to appearance themes through landscaping, signage and architectural character.

<u>Street access</u> provides direct ingress/egress from a public arterial or collector roadway. Properties five acres or greater in area should have two or more access driveways.

<u>Parking and maneuvering</u>: Retail, food service and other hospitality industry uses, especially, should design street-side setbacks, to separate entry points from parking areas. Required handicapped facilities are emphasized.

<u>Pedestrian connections</u> are encouraged to link with community path or sidewalk systems. Centers including multiple or larger establishments should design walkways between stores/designated pedestrian ways in parking lots to separate customers on foot from vehicular traffic.

<u>Screening and landscaping</u>: Low-water use landscape materials may be planted at the upper edges of drainage swales for appearance purposes, with more dense vegetation or block walls along rear and side property lines that abut residential areas to screen portions of the property containing outdoor storage, loading or parking areas.

<u>Signage</u>: Signs should be well designed as part of the overall site décor and should be no larger than necessary to convey their message or advertisement. Signs must be within compliance of all applicable code provisions. Business signs may be placed near entry driveways in landscaped setback areas. When used, monument signs, should be four feet or less in height.

#### INDUSTRIAL/EMPLOYMENT KEYS

Industrial and heavy commercial sites should be designed to accommodate current business purposes and employee convenience; but, also, to facilitate possible future expansion. Different appearance criteria could apply and would depend upon location: highway frontage, Airport Industrial Park and, especially, adjacent to residential zoning.

<u>Site planning</u> should be required on all projects, with general siting concepts shown for future construction phases.

<u>Street access</u> may be by privately maintained roadway or driveway directly served by public arterial or collector street frontage. Special paving considerations may be required for operations involving heavy vehicles.

<u>Parking and maneuvering</u>: Dust-proofing and surfacing should be provided as appropriate to the industrial use and its surrounding area; designated parking, loading, storage and maneuvering areas should meet all zoning requirements with additional improvements if necessary for the number and types of vehicles required by the proposed use and its employees.

<u>Water consumption</u>, which is measured in terms of available municipal resources, should relate positively with the contribution made by the industrial use to the local economy. High water-use processes should be encouraged to employ effective water recycling techniques.

<u>Employee amenities:</u> Protecting health and safety of workers is regarded as necessary. Facilities for work breaks or after-shift recreation are desirable, particularly in conjunction with Town or civic organization joint use possibilities.

#### PUBLIC OR INSTITUTIONAL USE KEYS

Town of Huachuca City projects should lead by example. Municipal uses, schools, churches, government agency or civic organization properties may be exempt from some code requirements; however, they should attempt to follow Decision Keys. The public library is an excellent existing example in terms of building design, landscaping and pedestrian access.

<u>Site planning:</u> Present an orderly, attractive appearance. Architectural and landscaping excellence is encouraged.

<u>Street access</u> should be appropriate to the function and scale of the public or quasi-public use. High traffic generators should be expected to observe commercial location standards.

<u>Parking and maneuvering</u>: Areas may be designed to facilitate periods of peak use at the facility, including the designation of temporary vehicular use areas and/or joint use with nearby properties for special events.

<u>Community amenities</u> should be considered, particularly pathway connections. Useable open spaces should be scaled to the property: playground or tot lot, picnic ramadas, or court games.

#### MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT KEYS

Plans for larger developments that include non-residential uses should observe the keys for each type of use -- as well as taking the opportunity to design features that further enhance safety, marketability, convenience and distinctive appearance.

<u>Street access</u>: Entry monumentation is recommended for development identification and for each separate residential neighborhood. A sign theme package is desirable. Portions of the development containing 50 or more dwelling units should add a third point of principal access, with additional ingress/egress for each additional 100 units.

<u>Pedestrian connections</u> should include linkages to the pathway system especially from the development's residential areas to its open space, shopping, employment components and to nearby schools or churches.

<u>Useable open space</u>: Preferably exceeds planned development standards, with added area to serve recreation and leisure needs of employment, shopping and institutional uses. There should be a centrally located, joint-use park (or pathway access leading to the park) within 600 feet of each home or business.

<u>Streetscape themes</u> may be used to identify individual neighborhoods and non-residential areas with varied landscaping, lighting or street furniture

# VII - PLAN APPENDICES

# 1. PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY FROM PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

#### LAND USE

- Make better use of existing land
- Infill of existing commercial lots
- Need a consolidated industrial park
- Developers need to pay their fair share
- Housing developments need to accommodate green-space/park areas/commons and open-space as part of their plans.
- Need development ordinances
- Expansion of land base is important / Annexation of adjacent lands
- Attract new home development / residential development
- Attract quality home developments: stick built / on-site built
- Control and screening for "eyesores" junkyards and scrap-yards
- Landscaping of Town's right-of-way (SR 90); Improve roadway appearance

#### CIRCULATION

- SR 90 is dangerous
- Access is difficult
- SR 90 is not well engineered
- Need to lower speed limit
- Better law enforcement (local, County and DPS)
- Need turn lanes / better signage / stop lights
- Safety concerns / need to cut down on accidents.
- Traffic concerns: need lights, signals on SR 90
- Need a regional transportation system / Cochise County "loop shuttle"
- Local/Regional bus service / shuttle service
- Need shuttle to Sierra Vista

#### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Promote cultural activities; music; arts; programs for youth
- Promote eco-tourism; make use of archaeological resources
- Ball field and sports field development / need to develop co-facility with Tombstone (Intergovernmental Agreement)
- Need a stronger local police force (more county and state presence)

- More recreation facilities and improve existing facilities (playgrounds, ball fields, youth center, public pool)
- Need grocery store and bank
- Need a bathroom/wayside/oasis/info kiosk/historical marker on SR 90
- Need "marketing campaign"
- Need to maintain adequate infrastructure to handle growth
- Need impact fees to cover costs of development
- Need youth programs / activities for youths /
- Need to retain small town character: small-town, clean, safe, nice
- Need to expand and upgrade existing water system to meet future demands
- Promote gray-water usage / water conservation efforts
- Need a well-head protection plan
- Need to maintain water quality
- Encourage use of xeriscape/low water use/regional and climate appropriate plants for new home development.
- Encourage water saving techniques
- Clean, clean, clean!
- Improve appearance of businesses, streets, residences
- Increased prosperity / increase employment
- Maintain environmental integrity
- Maintain mountain views
- Attract "clean industries"
- Eco-tourism
- Need thriving businesses
- Business grants / use sales tax money for "Facelift" improvements
- Need local incentives for aesthetic improvements
- Have a high percentage of low-income renters
- Need youth programs (all-year around); enhance existing programs (Little League, etc.)
- Improve cooperation with Cochise County and surrounding communities
- Pool resources, ideas with neighboring communities
- Attract off-base (Ft. Huachuca) events (recreational / cultural)
- Maintain and improve the Fire Station