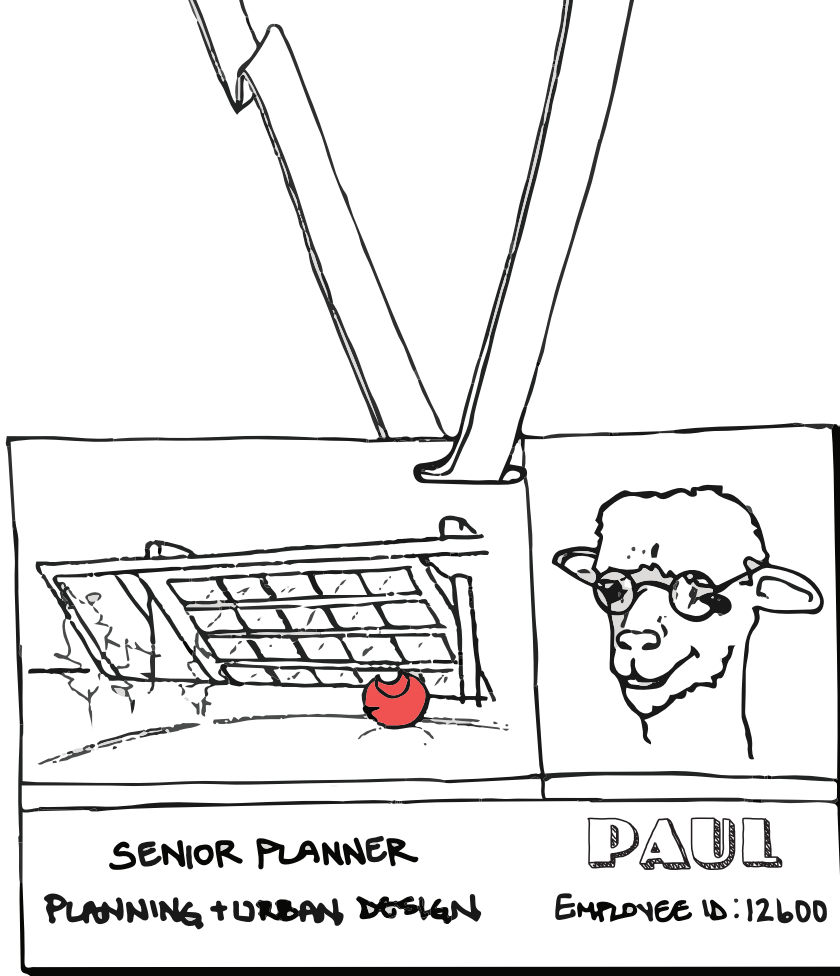


PAUL THE PLANNING ALPACA

teaches us about
“Urban Planning in Dallas”





Paul the Planning Alpaca is an **urban planner** for the City of Dallas. He's here to teach you about urban planning and how he works with residents to make the City of Dallas a great place to live.

Facts about Paul:

ALPACA

URBAN PLANNER

HAY, GRASS, & THE OCCASIONAL
CARROTS & APPLES

29

PERU

PLAYING THE GUITAR

Facts about you:

Species

Job

Favorite Food

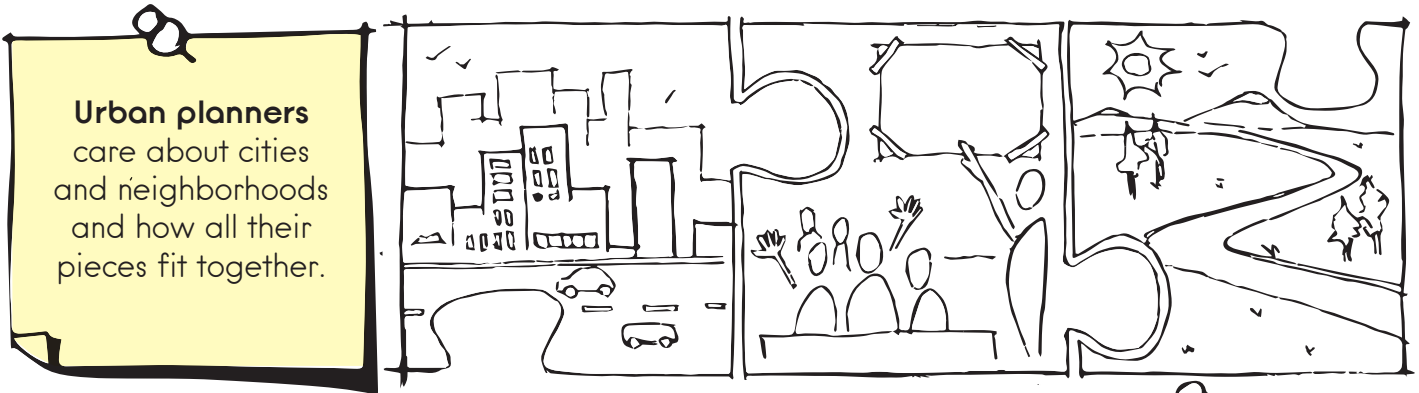
Age

Country Origin

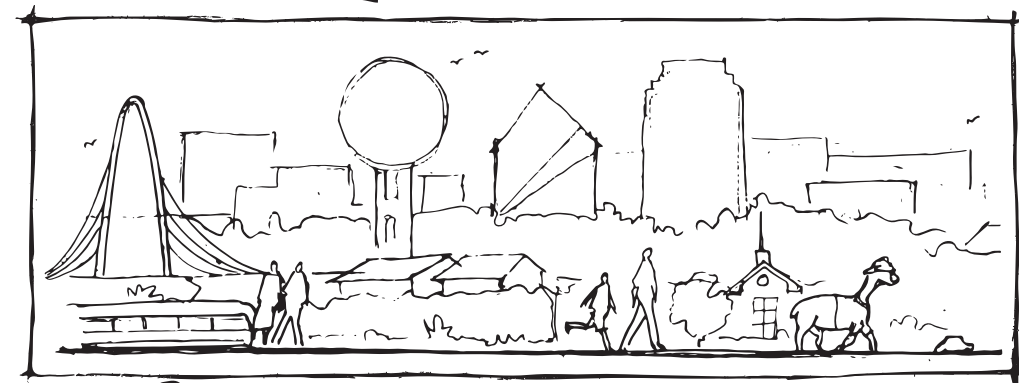
Hobbies

This Book Belongs to:

What Do Urban Planners Do ?

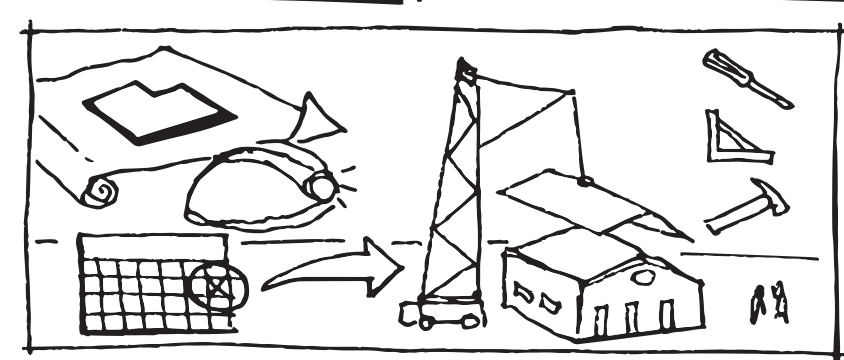


Urban planners care about cities and neighborhoods and how all their pieces fit together.



Making sure we have access to housing, jobs, shopping, parks, and more...

Making sure we can get where we need to go.



Urban planners help shape how the city grows and changes over time, planning ahead 5, 10, 15, or more years into the future, as well as taking care of current needs.

Urban Planning Terms



Urban planners use a lot of terms, or words, that you may not have heard before. Paul will explain many of these terms (**bolded throughout**) as we explore the city together. He has also prepared a glossary, or list of words and their definitions, at the back of this book if you would like to know more!

Paul At the Office: Making a Plan



This is Paul's office located in Dallas City Hall. He works alongside other urban planners in the Department of Planning and Urban Design. Today he's working on a neighborhood **plan** for the Green Meadows neighborhood.



Plans are documents that help us understand neighborhoods and cities. They tell us what things are like today and how they might change in the future. Plans cover many important topics including:

Does the neighborhood have the right type and amount of homes for the people who want to live there?

Does the neighborhood have the kinds of shops people need?

Are the roads and sidewalks safe and clean?

Learn More!

P+UD

To learn more about the Department of Planning and Urban Design, check out the back cover of this book, or visit us online at: dallascityhall.com/departments/pnv/

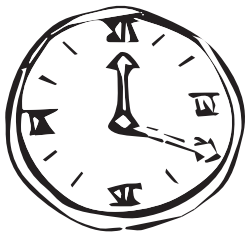
Paul At the Office: What is in a Plan?



There are many kinds of plans. Some plans are written for the entire city and some are written for smaller areas. Today, Paul is working on a neighborhood plan for the Green Meadows neighborhood. To prepare for his plan, Paul gathers many pieces of information so the residents and **stakeholders** can be well-informed when making decisions about the future of their neighborhood.

Paul's Research Kit

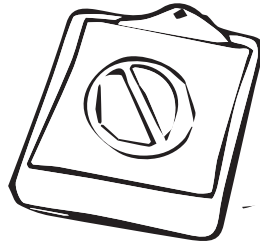
1. Neighborhood History



2. Neighborhood Data



3. Neighborhood Challenges



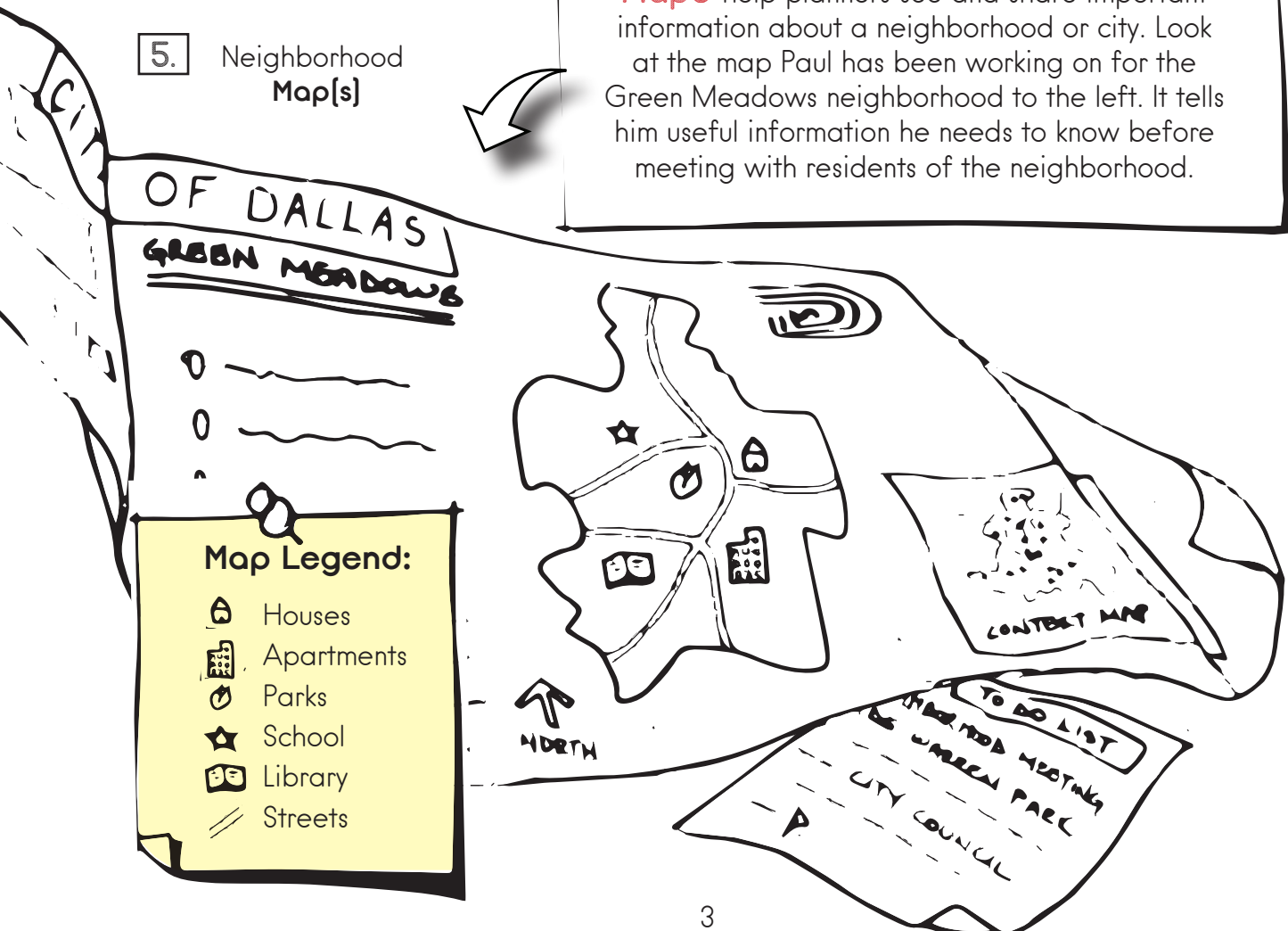
4. Neighborhood Opportunities



5. Neighborhood Map(s)



Maps help planners see and share important information about a neighborhood or city. Look at the map Paul has been working on for the Green Meadows neighborhood to the left. It tells him useful information he needs to know before meeting with residents of the neighborhood.



Paul Meets with Neighborhood Residents



As a planner, Paul meets with **residents**, or people who live in a particular area, to listen and collect thoughts and ideas about their neighborhood.



Questions Paul asks when meeting with neighborhood residents, include:

- What do you like about your neighborhood?
- How do you want to change or improve your neighborhood?
- How can urban planners work with you to make your neighborhood a safer, more comfortable, and beautiful place to live?



What do you like about your neighborhood?

.....



What would make your neighborhood better?

.....

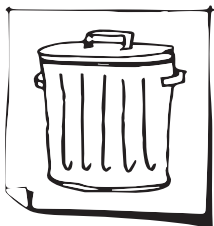
Paul Helps Residents Beautify Their Neighborhood



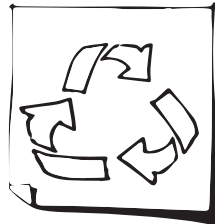
Paul is working with residents of the Green Meadows neighborhood to plant trees, install flower beds, and pick up trash around their houses and along the sidewalk. A clean and beautiful neighborhood is beneficial for residents, reduces crime, helps to increase home values, and promotes community pride.



Things You Can Do to Keep Your Neighborhood Beautiful:



Throw trash into
trash cans



Recycle



Start a
community
garden



Join a
neighborhood
clean-up

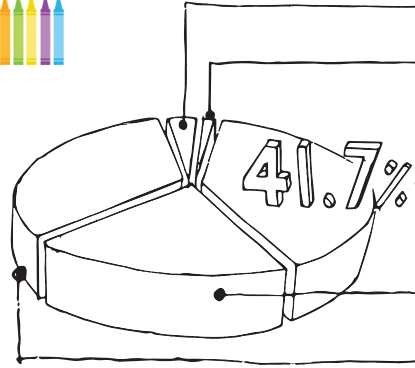
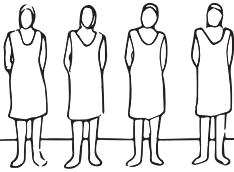
Paul Teaches Us About Data, Using the US Census

LESSON 1

Data, or information, is another important tool urban planners use to learn about a neighborhood or city. Data can be used to describe specific neighborhoods or the entire city.

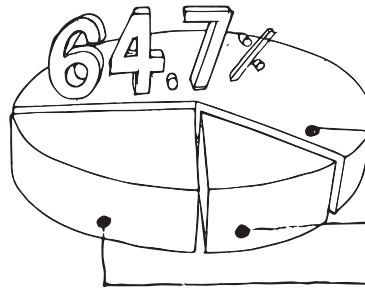
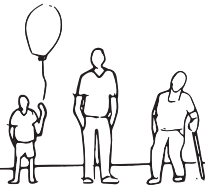
City of Dallas Stats

Race/Ethnicity: (the percentage of people in Dallas who identify with a race or ethnic category.)



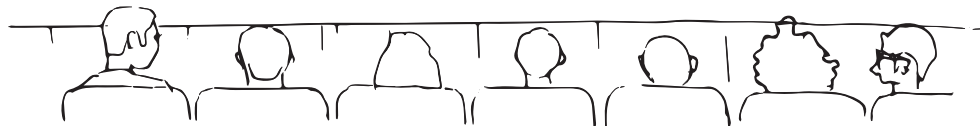
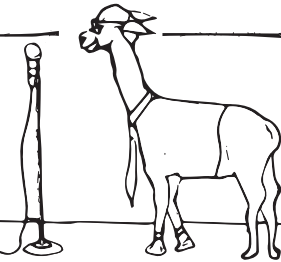
ASIAN (3.4%)
 OTHER (1.5%)
 HISPANIC
 BLACK / AFRICAN AMERICAN (24.3%)
 WHITE (29.1%)

Age groups: (the percentage of people in Dallas who fit into each age group of people by major age category)



1,345,040 (TOTAL)
 18-64 (64.7%)
 65 & OVER (9.8%)
 UNDER 18 (25.5%)

Here, Paul is informing a group of residents about the people of Dallas using data from the **U.S. Census** (see "The U.S. Census?" below).



Urban planners use the U.S. Census along with other data to plan for the future of the city, making sure Dallas has the resources, housing, and amenities it needs (such as parks and libraries).



The U.S. Census counts every person living in the United States every 10 years regardless of age or if they were born in the U.S. It collects data such as how many people live together, their ages, languages they speak and their race or ethnicity.

Paul Rides the DART



Paul is riding the **DART** green line (**light rail**) to visit his friends in another neighborhood. While taking transit, he can read a book, listen to music on his headphones, or chat with other passengers.



"The Last Mile"

Paul works with transportation planners to make sure you have safe connections between a DART station and your home, including walking, biking, or riding a scooter. This is referred to as "**the last mile**", or ability for you to travel from a transit station to your home.

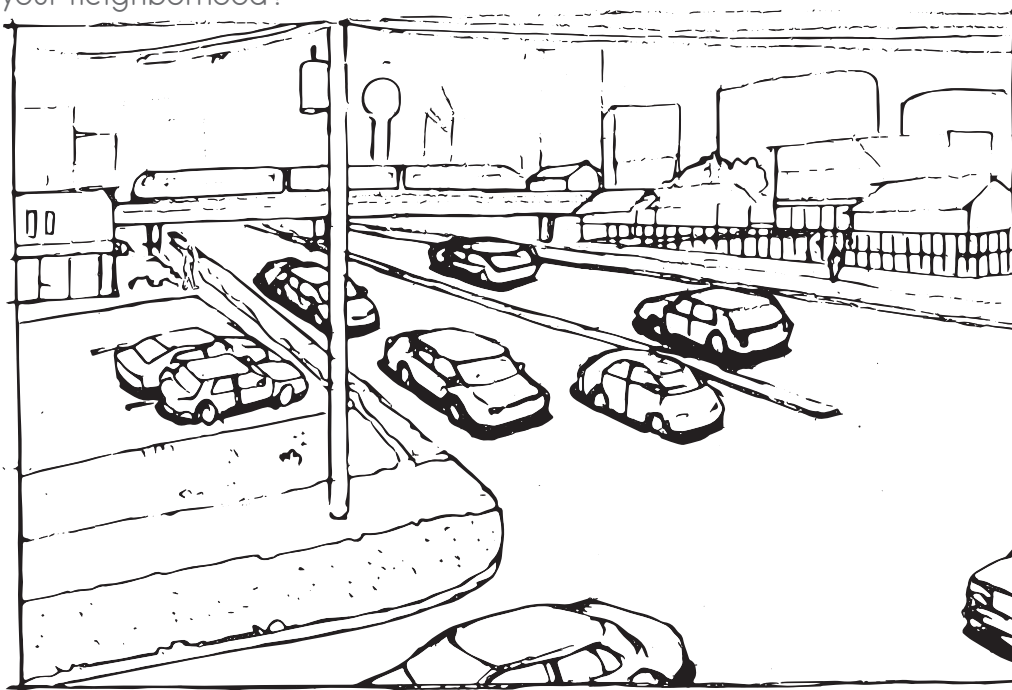


DART The mission of Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) is to build, establish and operate a safe, efficient and effective transportation system that, within the DART Service Area, provides mobility, improves the quality of life, and stimulates economic development through the implementation of the DART Service Plan as adopted by the voters on August 13, 1983, and as amended from time to time.

Paul Helps Make a Complete Street

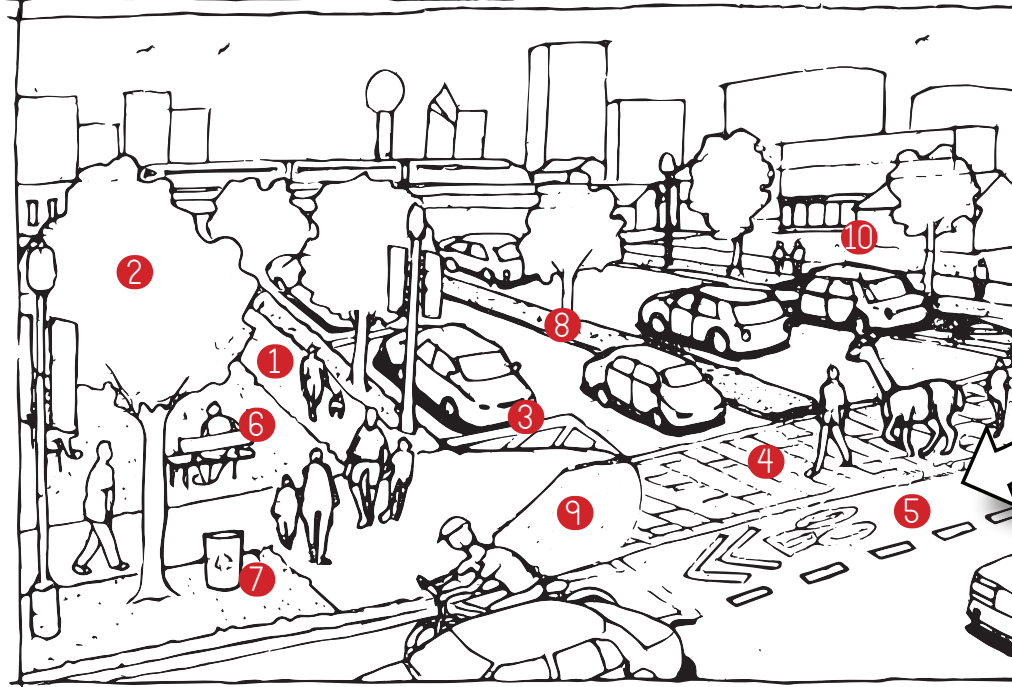


As an urban planner, Paul is concerned about making **complete streets** that are safe and inviting for everyone. Have you ever felt uncomfortable or even unsafe walking or riding your bike around your neighborhood?



Before

This area was filled with mostly cars. It was not very safe for people to walk or ride their bikes. Also, there weren't many trees to provide shade in the hot weather.



After

Paul worked with residents to improve this street to be safer and more comfortable for everyone!

- 1 Wider Sidewalks
- 2 Street Trees
- 3 On-Street Parking
- 4 Crosswalks
- 5 Bike Lanes
- 6 Benches
- 7 Trash Cans / Recycling Bins
- 8 Wide Planted Median
- 9 ADA Accessible Wheelchair Ramp
- 10 Eyes on Street / Direct Street Access

Complete streets are streets for everyone. They are designed to ensure all users such as drivers, bikers, walkers, or bus riders all have safe access. Complete streets can include bus-only lanes, protective bike lanes, wide sidewalks, and well designed **pedestrian** crosswalks for people of all ages and abilities.



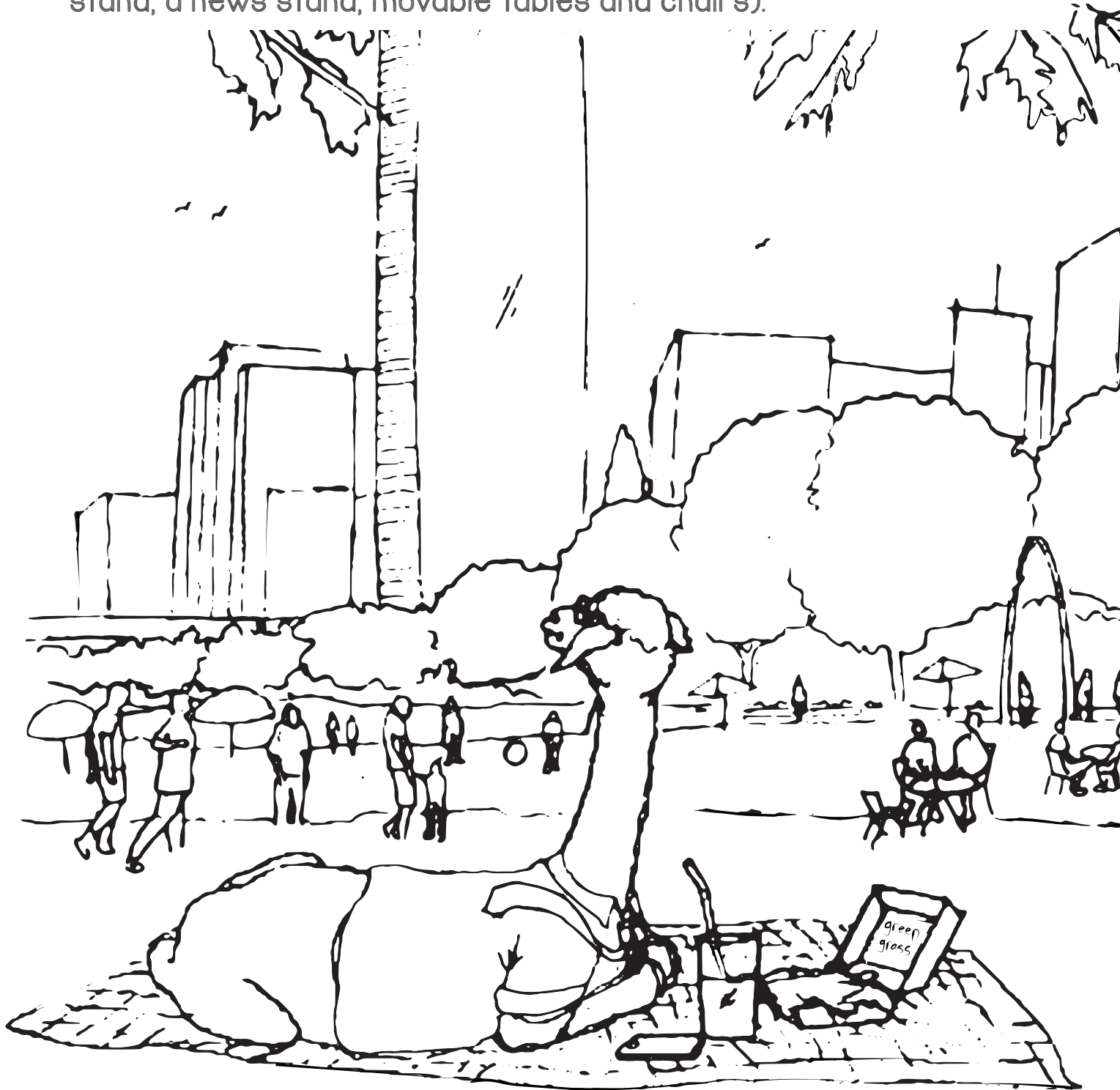
Paul Visits Klyde Warren Park



Paul likes to eat his lunch at Klyde Warren Park where he can enjoy the beautiful landscaping, the view of Downtown Dallas, and all the other features that make it a great **public place**.

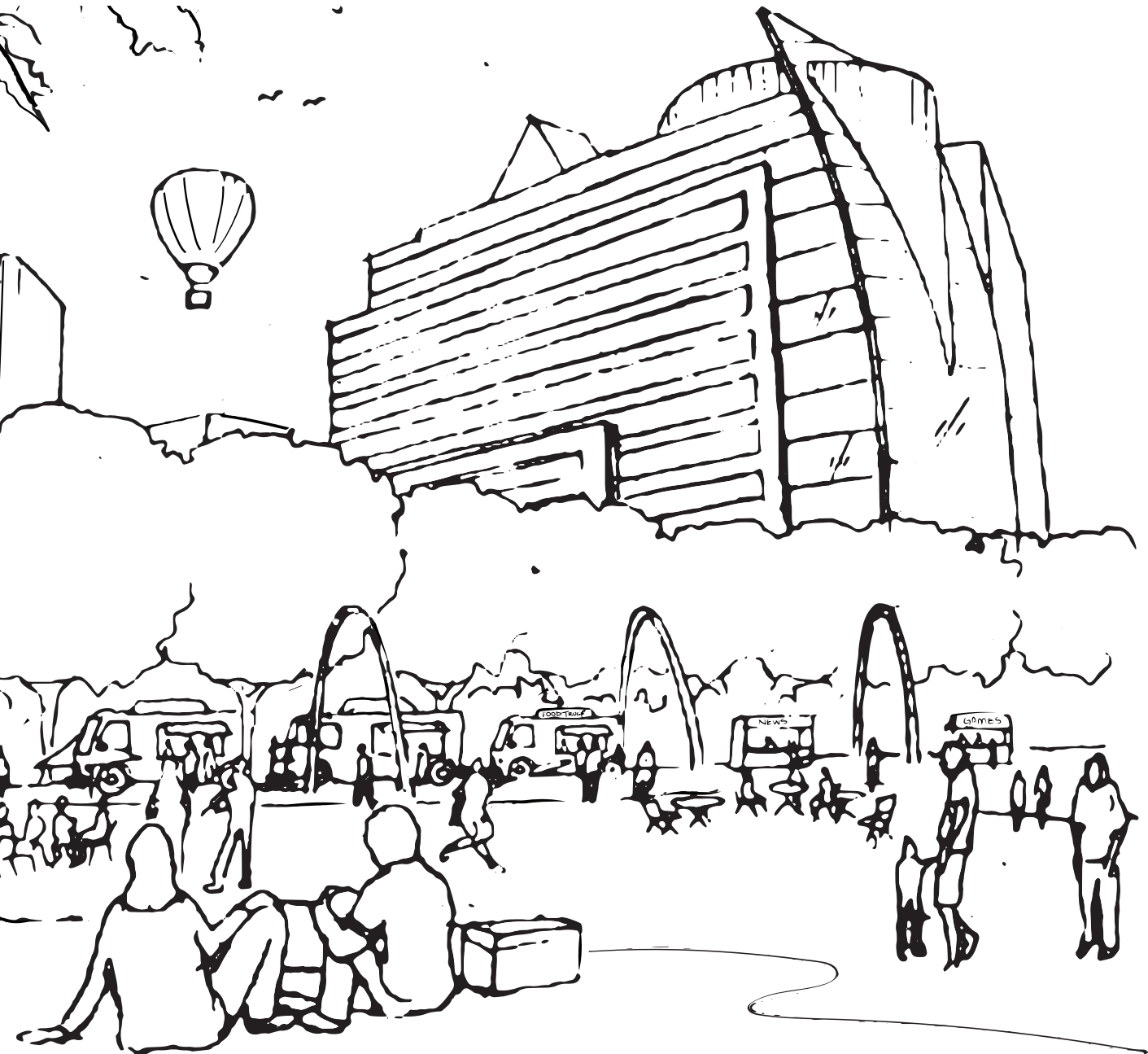


Can you find the following features that were placed in the park to make it a great public place? (food trucks, art features, a game stand, a news stand, movable tables and chairs).





Planners and **landscape architects** work together to make our parks and other public places inviting to different kinds of people and activities. Klyde Warren park is a great example of a public place where people can relax, eat, and play. The park includes spaces for recreation and performance, a children's play area, and a dog park!

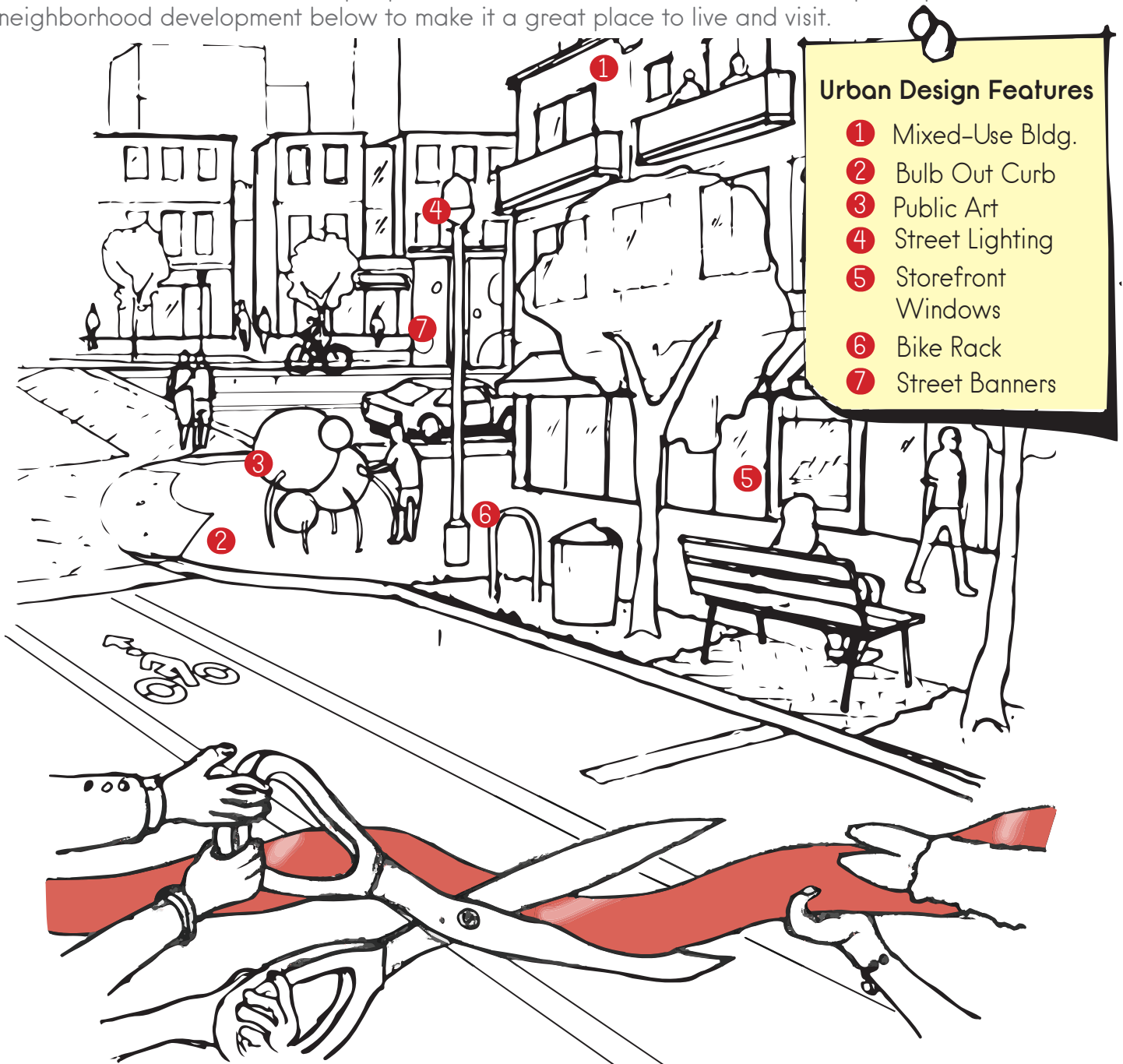


Klyde Warren Park's mission is to provide free programming and educational opportunities for the enrichment of visitors' lives, to showcase the multitude of cultures and talents Dallas has to offer, and to be an urban park where citizens may congregate and create traditions.

Paul Teaches Us About Urban Design



Paul uses **urban design** to ensure that new buildings in Dallas are safe, beautiful, functional, and accessible to different kinds of people. Look at the different features Paul helps shape in the neighborhood development below to make it a great place to live and visit.



Urban Design Features

- ① Mixed-Use Bldg.
- ② Bulb Out Curb
- ③ Public Art
- ④ Street Lighting
- ⑤ Storefront Windows
- ⑥ Bike Rack
- ⑦ Street Banners

Paul attends a ribbon cutting ceremony with city leaders and other stakeholders for a new development he helped design.



Urban design shapes how places work, look and feel. It looks at how buildings and the spaces surrounding them work together to create an environment that is safe, beautiful, functional, and accessible to different kinds of people.

Paul Commutes Home

When **commuting** home from work, Paul likes to use different ways to travel, such as walking, riding a bike, riding a scooter, or taking DART transit from his office at Dallas City Hall. He uses more than one way to get home based on what weather or traffic conditions are like that day. He also knows that by not driving his car all the time, he is helping the environment and helping to keep himself healthy and active.

Paul's Home

Use the legend to help color Paul's route home.

Map Legend:

- Walk
- Bike
- Train
- Bus
- Scooter

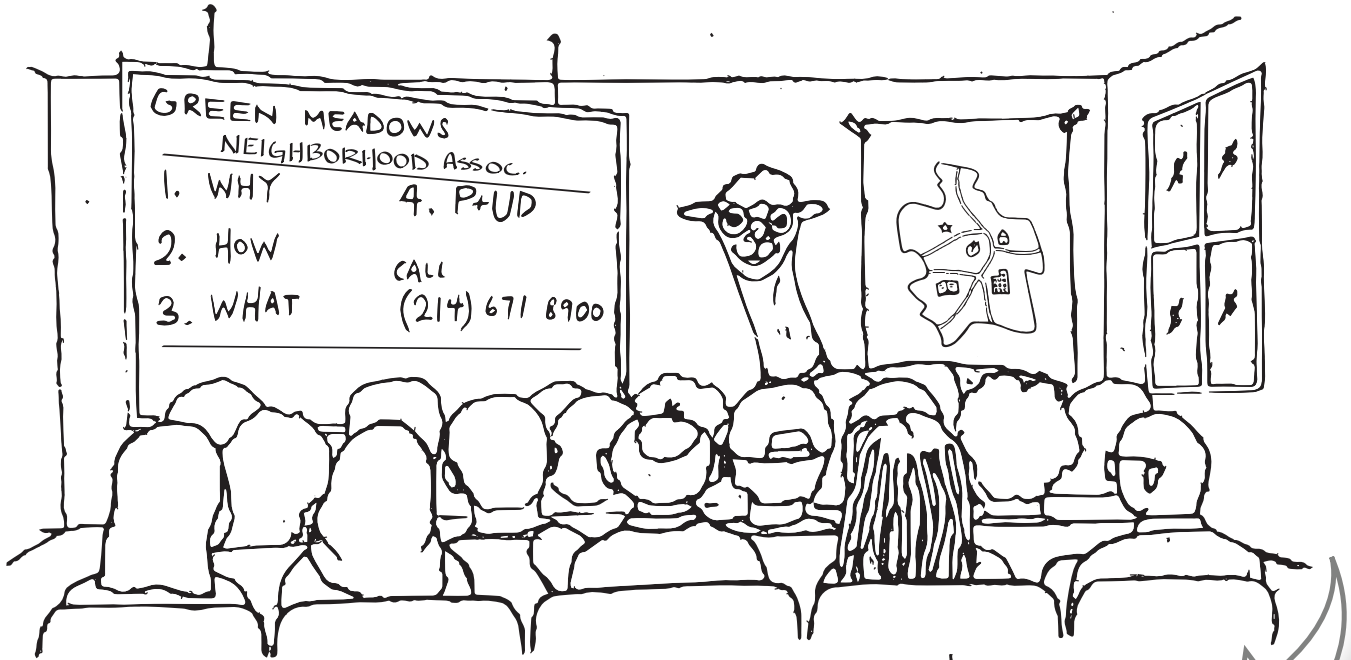
Start Here

Help Paul decide on the route and type of **transportation** he should use to get home quickly and safely.

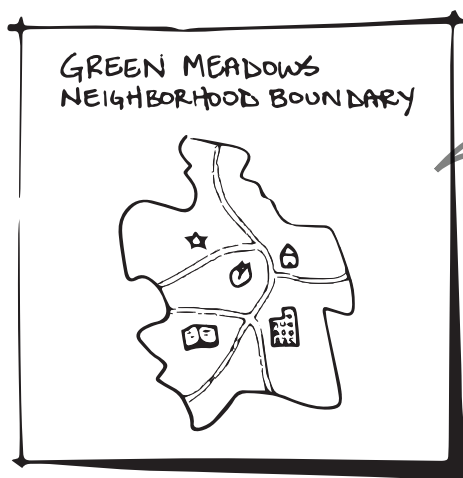
Paul Helps Residents Form a Neighborhood Association



Paul meets with a group of neighbors in the Green Meadows neighborhood to discuss how they can form a **neighborhood association**. Neighborhood associations allow residents to discuss common issues and collaborate on improvement projects in their area. They also help establish an **identity** for the neighborhood and keep neighbors aware of important issues or changes facing their community.



Now that the Green Meadows Neighborhood Association is formed, Paul adds it to the online map on the PUD website. This map has all the registered neighborhood associations and homeowner associations in Dallas. This allows anyone to find neighborhood organizations anywhere in the City of Dallas.



Learn More! To find your neighborhood on the map, visit:
<https://dallascityhall.com/departments/pnv/Pages/MapMyNeighborhood.aspx>

Paul Helps Residents Revitalize Their Neighborhood



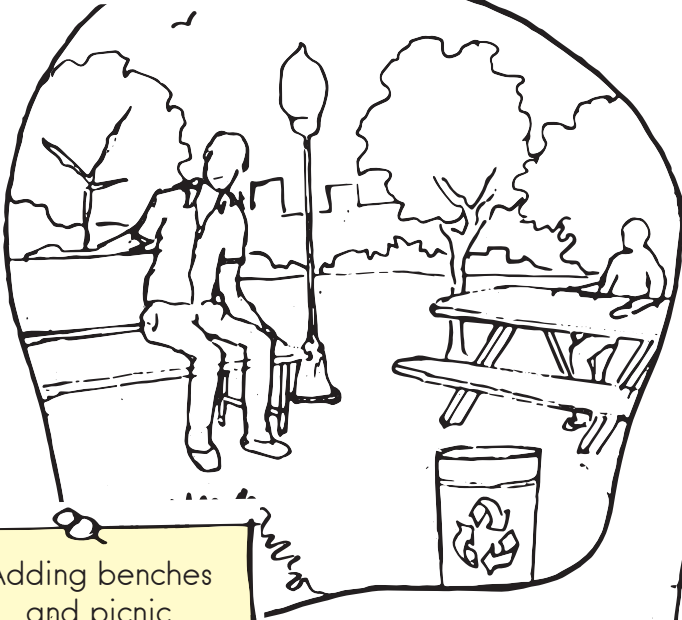
Paul worked with several neighborhoods to help create a sense of place for their community. See some of the projects they came up with below:



Planting trees on the main street of their neighborhood



Installing an art mural to show off local pride



Adding benches and picnic tables to their park



Installing Sign Toppers

Paul Works with Students on a Tactical Urbanism Project



Paul is working with a group of students from City Lab High School to create temporary crosswalks in a local neighborhood. These crosswalks are an example of **tactical urbanism**. While not permanent, projects like these are a way to make their neighborhoods safer and more inviting. It's also a great way to get community members involved in making their neighborhoods, streets, and public spaces safer and more vibrant.

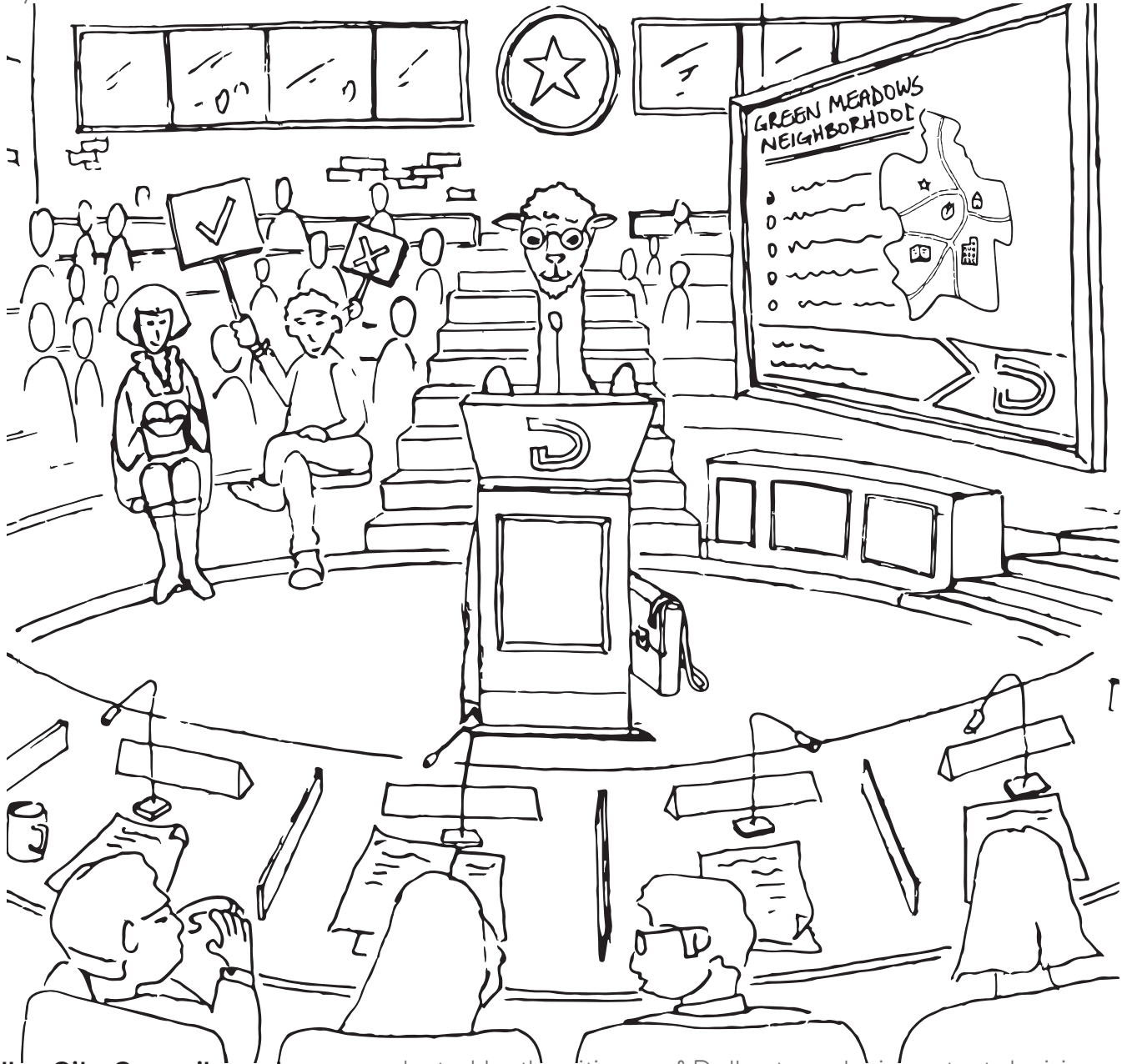


Tactical urbanism is when urban planners or neighborhood groups use low-cost materials to experiment with, or “test”, new ideas on their streets or public spaces. Examples include installing parklets in downtown parking spots for the day, adding protective bike lanes to a street, or closing a street off to cars to create a pedestrian plaza.

Paul Presents to City Council



Paul gives a presentation to the **Dallas City Council** about the plan he made with the Green Meadows Neighborhood. They will vote on whether to adopt this neighborhood plan as official city policy.



Dallas City Councilmembers are elected by the citizens of Dallas to make important decisions on their behalf in the City government. Dallas has 14 councilmembers and 1 **mayor**, each representing a different district (a group of neighborhoods), so that all areas of Dallas are represented on the Council. City Councilmembers often meet with residents and neighborhood groups to listen to their concerns and ideas, both for their neighborhoods and for the city as a whole.



Do you know who your City Council Representative is?

.....

Urban Planning **Word Match**



Match the urban planning terms below to their definitions on the right. Feel free to check your work in the glossary of terms.

WORD	DEFINITION
Commercial	A person who walks to get where they're going
Department of Planning & Urban Design	A document that describes a neighborhood or city now and how it might change in the future
Last Mile Solution	A group of residents or property owners who advocate for or organize activities within a neighborhood
Neighborhood Association	Getting you from a transit station to your home safely
Pedestrian	The practice of organizing the city based on building type or land use
Plan	An act of urban planners or neighborhood groups using low-cost materials to experiment with, or "test", new ideas on their streets or public spaces
Residential	The practice of shaping spaces between buildings and making connections between people and places
Tactical Urbanism	Describing an area used for housing people, such as apartments, houses, or condos
Urban Design	Describing an area of the city that is primarily used for shops, offices, theaters, or restaurants
Zoning	The department that develops and facilitates comprehensive plans, policies, and programs through effective community engagement in Dallas

Glossary of Urban Planning Terms

Architect: a person that designs buildings

Bulb Out Curb: also known as a curb extension, is the extension of the sidewalk or curb line into the street that decreases the overall width of a roadway. This results in slower automobile traffic and increased pedestrian visibility.

City Council: a group of elected officials that governs a city

City Council Representative: a person elected by the citizens of Dallas to make important decisions on their behalf in the city government

Commercial: an area of the city that is primarily used for shops, offices, theaters, or restaurants

Commute: to travel from your home to work or school

Complete Streets: a street that is safe and comfortable for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, and automobile drivers

Dallas Neighborhood Vitality Grant: created to encourage neighborhood organizations and nonprofits to identify and implement projects that address specific neighborhood needs while increasing resident engagement, promoting neighborhood pride, and building stronger organizations. Eligible projects include art installations, signage, beautification, urban gardens, public park or trail improvements, and litter abatement

DART: the acronym for Dallas Area Rapid Transit, which is Dallas's public transportation system that includes light rail, bus, streetcar, paratransit and other services

Data: facts and statistics collected and used for analyses, calculations or record keeping

Department of Planning and Urban Design: the office that develops and facilitates comprehensive plans, policies, and programs through effective community engagement in Dallas

Developer: a person who arranges for new buildings to be built

Ethnicity: belonging to a social group that has a common national or cultural tradition

Grant: money given by the government or other organization for a specific purpose

Identity: characteristics and qualities that make something what it is

Industrial: describing an area of a city used for fabrication, manufacturing or assembling materials into goods

Landscape Architect: a person that designs outdoor environments, especially harmonizing parks or gardens with buildings and roads

Last Mile Solution: getting you from a transit station to your home safely

Light Rail: a passenger train that is powered by overhead electrical wires, usually much lighter and smaller than other trains

Map: a visual representation of an area of land or sea showing physical features, cities, roads, or data about people living in certain areas



Glossary of Urban Planning Terms (cont.)

Mayor: the leader of the city's government elected to represent its residents

Mixed-Use: describing a zone that includes a variety of land use types, most commonly residential housing mixed with restaurants or retail

Neighborhood: place where people live and interact with each other, usually centered around a school or other feature

Neighborhood Association: a group of residents or property owners who advocate for or organize activities within a neighborhood

Pedestrian: a person who walks to get where they're going

Plan: a document that describes a neighborhood or city now and how it might change in the future

Policy: a legal document that establishes and enforces goals, actions, and objectives set by a plan

Population: all the people of a particular town, area, or country

Public Space: an indoor or outdoor location, either public or private, that the public has the right to enter or use

Race: distinct physical characteristics; a group of people with common physical features

Recreational: describing an area that is used for physical activities such as sports fields, gymnasiums, playgrounds, public parks and green areas, public beaches and swimming pools, or camping sites

Resident: a person that lives somewhere permanently or on a long-term basis

Residential: describing an area used for housing people which could include apartments, houses, or condos

Stakeholder: a person with an interest or concern in something

Tactical Urbanism: the act of urban planners or neighborhood groups using low-cost materials to experiment with, or "test", new ideas on their streets or public spaces

Transportation: the act of moving someone or something from one place to another

U.S. Census: the process that counts every person in the United States and gathers important information about people living in the U.S.

Urban Design: shapes how places work, look and feel. It looks at how buildings and the spaces surrounding them work together to create an environment that is safe, beautiful, functional, and accessible to different kinds of people

Urban Planner: a professional that works to shape neighborhoods, cities, or regions

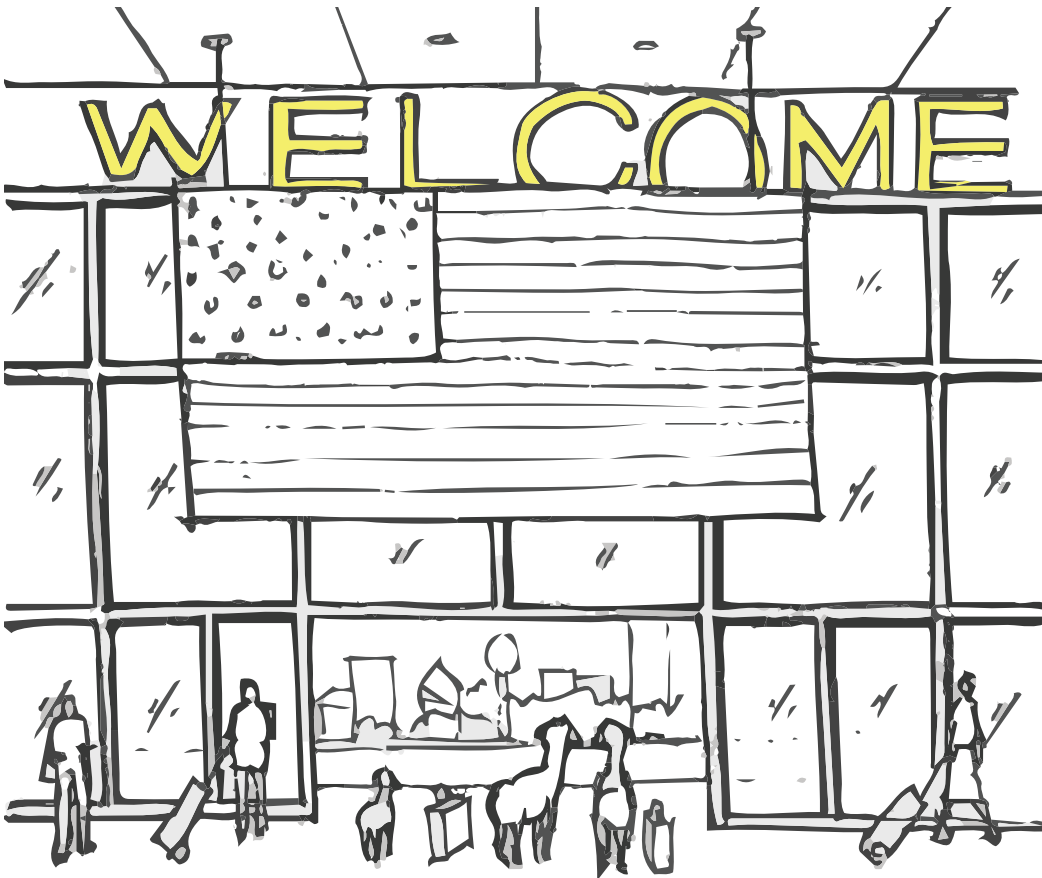
Urban Planning: the practice of furthering the welfare of people and their communities by creating convenient, equitable, healthy, efficient, and attractive environments for present and future generations

Zoning: the practice of organizing the city into regions based on the land use



About Paul the Planning Alpaca

Paul the Planning Alpaca comes from a family of proud alpacas who grew up in a scenic, rural mountainous area just a few miles north of Ollantaytambo, Peru. At an early age, Paul had a desire to learn about the world through maps. He wanted to help communities, like his home town, to live in a safe, organized manner. When Paul was 9 years old his dad accepted a new job, moving his family to Dallas, Texas, USA. Paul knew from his knowledge of maps that Dallas was very far way.



Paul Coming to America

He knew that the culture would be very different and that they would all have to learn English. Like most alpacas, Paul was able to adapt well and get along with others. Paul and his parents are proud of their bilingualism and bi-culturalism as Peruvian-Americans living in a diverse city like Dallas.

Paul found his calling when he realized that he could be an urban planner, where he could explore his ideas and work with people from his and other neighborhoods to make the city better. After he graduated with his master's degree in Urban Planning, Paul applied for a job with the City of Dallas and was hired. After a few years, he was promoted to Senior Planner due to his impressive credentials for community engagement, problem solving, map making, and his desire to always improve in his work. Paul takes pride in his job and he hopes to leave a legacy of responsiveness and improvement for Dallas well into the future!



About the Planning & Urban Design Department

P+UD

The Planning & Urban Design Department (P+UD) develops and facilitates comprehensive plans, policies, and programs through effective community engagement. Our goal is to advance livability, economic vibrancy, sustainability, and equity throughout Dallas. Our team collaborates across departments, external agencies and private initiatives to:

- Draft comprehensive land use and urban design plans for Council adoption;
- Lead targeted neighborhood revitalization efforts;
- Provide capacity building and training for neighborhood organizations;
- Provide conceptual design services and design review for development projects;
- Facilitate implementation of adopted City plans and policies.

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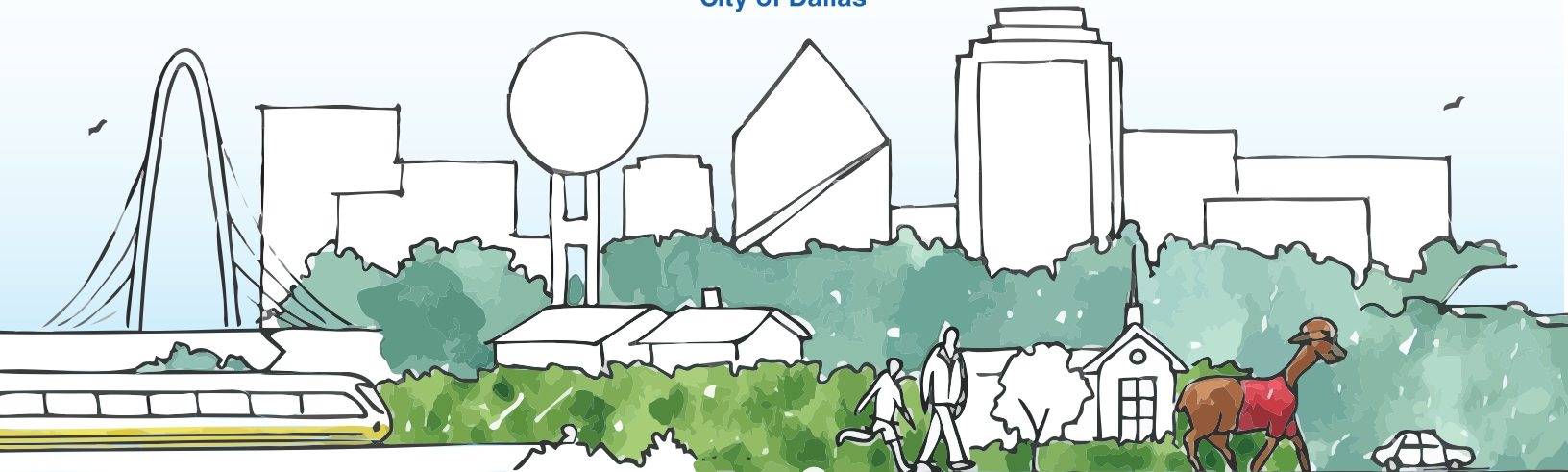
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departments/pnv](http://dallascityhall.com/departments/pnv)

 @DallasPlanUD

 /DallasPlanUD



City of Dallas



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