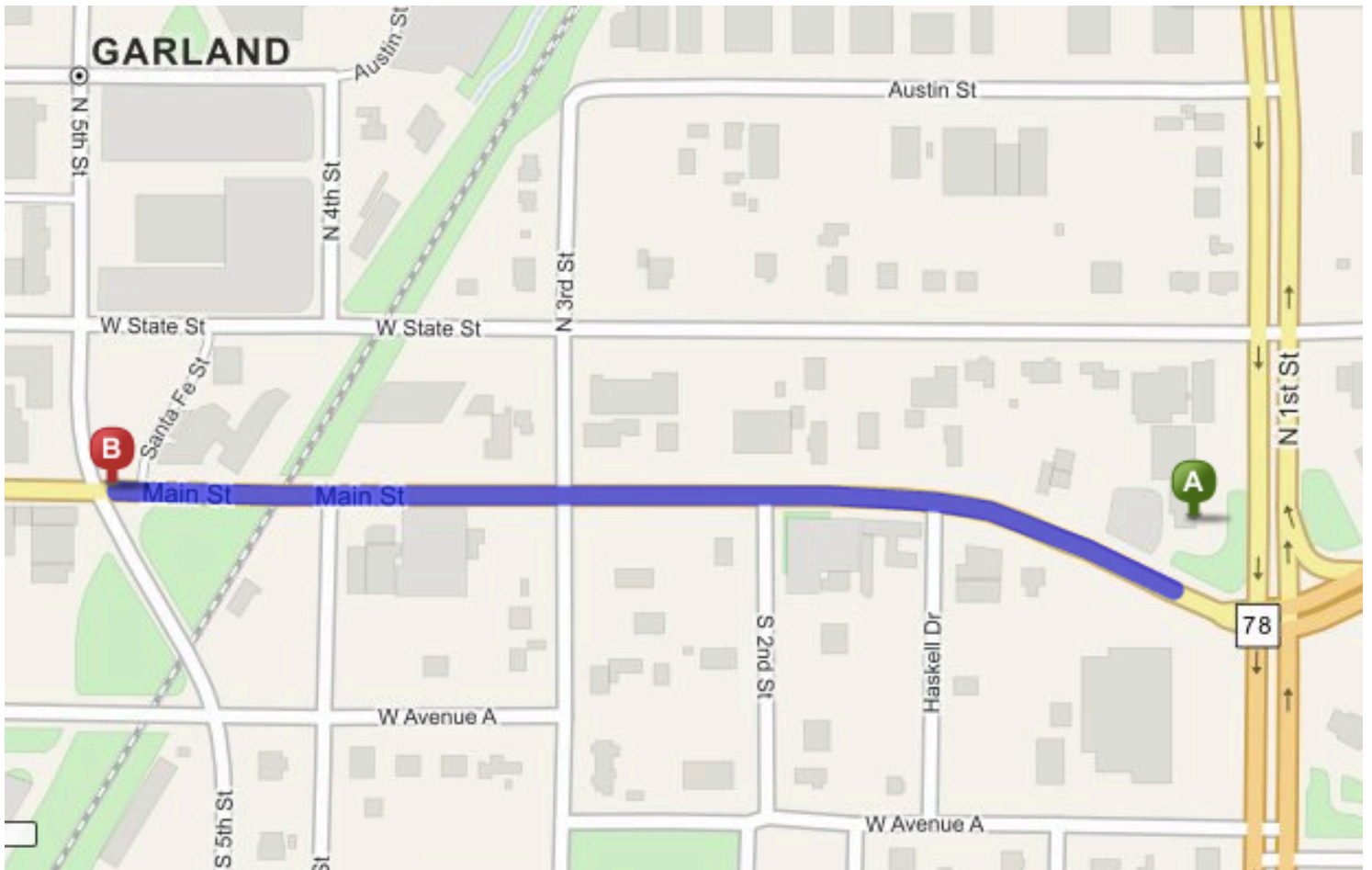


# STAGE II: Landscaping for Paths

Location:  
WALKABLE MAIN STREET  
0.30 miles



We invite all Garland residents to participate in building the Walkable Main Village. Send your ideas to Loving Garland Green, or send them directly to Mayor Athas and Anita Goebel who is the City Council Representative for this area. We would all love to hear from you.

## Overview

All of Walkable Main Street is a crushed granite path. The entire street is to be considered as a sidewalk for pedestrians that is shared with motorists and bicyclists who observe the 20 mile an hour speed limit and no cell phone use restrictions. The part of Main Street that cars and bicyclists travel on runs down the middle of the path and is about the size of a two-lane road. That area of the path is still considered a common area that is shared with pedestrians who always have the right of way. The rest of the Walkable Main Street path of crushed granite outside this two-lane strip in the middle is reserved for pedestrians only. There are no traffic signs with instructions. However, there are signs at both entrances to this 0.30 strip of Main Street that inform motorists and bicyclists of the 20 mile an hour speed limit and no cell phone use rules.

### **First Step: Move all parking on Walkable Main Street to the back or side of existing buildings.**

From First Street (the eastern border) automobiles can access the Walkable Main Street Village from four possible entry points: Austin Street, State Street, Walkable Main Street, and Avenue A. [See map on cover page.] It is possible that motorists who want to access a particular business on the north side of Walkable Main Street can access that business by accessing it in the back from State Street which leads into Walkable Main Street Village from First Street on the east as well as from the downtown area of Garland on the west. Ideally, there would be no parking in front of any of the businesses located on Walkable Main Street.

As for the south side of Walkable Main Street, motorists can access that area on the east from First Street and on the west also via Avenue A. Depending upon which business they want to visit, they can approach the parking in back from Haskell, Second, Third or Fourth Street.

The following businesses along Walkable Main Street would be affected by this possible change in parking locations for their business. Someone from the planning committee for Walkable Main Street would work one to one with the owner/renter for each space to ensure this can be done without hurting business.

There is a tradeoff here. For example, many of the automotive businesses will ironically be getting more attention from walkers on Walkable Main than they ever did when these people were motorists going by in their cars.

1. Texas Hot Spot
2. Wallis Welding
3. All Worlds Transmissions
4. Heartland Car Care
5. We Finance

## Materials

Materials needed would depend on the determination of the re-design plan for this space.

## Resources

Again, the resources needed for the re-design efforts for each space would be determined by the plan.

However it is expected that most of the resources for the redesign of this space would come from community donations and volunteer labor.

*Note: The entire project of WALKABLE MAIN is a Soup Stone community involvement project whereby all participants bring “vegetables” to make the “soup.” We are working together to make our community more inviting, unique and lovable and in so doing, we are lifting up the quality of our own lives and our local economy. We are all connected and it is to all our best interests to enhance that connectivity.*

## WALKABLE MAIN

6. Breitling Youth Theater
7. EZ Ride Auto Sales
8. Hour Kitchen
9. Texas Auto Select-Pary's Auto Sales
10. Rose Detail
11. Vacant Lot (between Rose and Garland Saw)
12. Garland Saw and Lawnmower
13. Samson's Auto Sales
14. Premier
15. Ochoa Motor Cars
16. Universe Auto Sales
17. Auto Repair
18. 121 Main Street Used Cars
19. [Property for Lease—a new brick building with two spaces: one 1,800 and the other one 600 sq. feet]
20. Staten's Used Appliances
21. Union Motors Auto Sale
22. ZT Auto Sales

### Second Step: Install 44 blackberry bushes (Ideally orchard size). We could have the first Garland Blackberry Festival June 2016.

When the steps of this process are completed, there will be two blackberry bushes in 55-gallon metal drums at each of the 22 businesses listed above. We want a pretty and also edible landscape that is maintained without the use of chemical pesticides or herbicides. We do not want ornamentals like Bradford pears, crepe myrtles, red buds, etc. planted, as these plants do not fit into the theme of sustainable.

- Obtain 50, 55-gallon used metal food-grade barrels from Texas Barrel Supply right here in Garland (harrell@texasbarrelsupply.com)
- Obtain 44: +/-3' pruned, nice Instant Apache and Natchez orchard size shipped to us April 1, 2016 at \$18.95 a plant. 10 plants for \$169.95
- Purchase needed soil and amendments for planting blackberries
- Determine placement of plants with owner and with respect to an over all landscape design plan
- Punch holes in bottom of barrel
- Fill with amended soil and plant
- NOTE: someone should monitor these plants on a weekly basis from Loving Garland Green or perhaps Keep Garland Beautiful to ensure they are disease free and have sufficient water. They will be producing a lot of berries by the end of May 2016.



*The barrels don't have to be brand new but they do need to be food grade. They don't have to be the same color. In fact, it's more interesting if they are not. No shiny brand-new enamel painted barrels. Doesn't fit with back to basics sustainable.*

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*An Annual, month-long Blackberry Festival could do much to boost our local economy. Among other things, it calls attention to the potential that raising blackberries has for not only improving the health of the citizens of Garland, but also the health of their economy. Blackberries grow like weeds in Garland and Loving Garland Green has records to prove it.*

*If enough people in Garland grow blackberries, we could create a Blackberry cooperative to assist them in selling their commodity to local businesses who use this raw material such as our local restaurants, grocery stores, and jam and jelly makers. In addition, production of this plant-based raw material could increase to the point to support the creation of other local businesses as blackberries, because of their extreme antioxidant value, are used in anti-aging cosmetics.*

**Third Step: Purchase and install 8 fountains made from boulders.**

Each side of Walkable Main Street will have four water features. These water features will be placed according to the overall landscape design that is created by a professional landscape designer. The fountains will be different sizes and shapes, but all will be made from boulders.

**Fourth Step: Nestle some of the portable businesses along the path.**

Again these are placed according to an overall landscape design that considers all the elements of the pathway and their relationship to each other.

**Fifth Step: Nestle Makerspace furniture along the path to provide seating for walkers.**

Again these are placed according to an overall landscape design that considers all the elements of the pathway and their relationship to each other. No doubt some seating would be appropriate at the fountains.



*A professional landscaper will determine the placement and surrounding landscape elements for these fountains. They should vary in size from small to large. The one unifying element is they are all made from rock. As for funding for these fountains, I suggest donations from families in memory of love ones. There would be a plaque in memory of at each fountain for the donor.*



*Benches can dot the landscape of Portable Main Street. These are benches that can be made at a makerspace. Ideally the benches should be made from recycled materials such as pallets.*



*Portable business might be as simple as carts, which could be made by woodworking Maker Fairies from one of the Maker Spaces located on Walkable Main.*

### Sixth Step: Nestle Makerspace yard art along the path.

Again these are placed according to an overall landscape design that considers all the elements of the pathway and their relationship to each other. We would want to feature creations from the Wallis Welding Makerspace.



### Seventh Step: Create some raised beds along the path.

Since about 90% of Walkable Main Street is covered in concrete and asphalt, raised beds and containers will be featured to contain the plants. Again these are placed according to an overall landscape design that considers all the elements of the pathway and their relationship to each other. At least one of these beds should be devoted entirely to edible herbs. We might construct them from stone. That would go well with the crushed granite path.

### Eighth Step: Create some watering holes.

Bottled water will/should be sold through one or the portable businesses. [This might be an opportunity to promote Blackberry leaf flavored water. This is another blackberry product that could be made and distributed locally here in Garland. The process for making it is simple: Obtain fresh young blackberry leaves and pour hot water over them. Bottle and sell. It has a fresh good taste. We can also dry the leaves and sell as tea bags. The leaves of blackberries are said to be even more antioxidant packed than the berries.] Perhaps we should install a few water fountains as well.

*Perhaps the scale of this yard art a little too big—even for Garland Texas. However, we have no doubt that Maker Fairies working out of a Maker Space located in the Wallis Welding shop could create a work of art of this magnitude. Perhaps we might have three large sculptures commissioned for WALKABLE MAIN to be placed 1) Restaurant Tacqueria 2) Advanced Auto Parts and 3) the vacant lot in front of Roaches Feed and Seed. The purpose of these sculptures would be to call attention to the entrances to the Walkable Main village.*

### Ninth Step: We need a restroom!

Not portable potties. They are so ugly.



*In addition to the blackberry plants and the various landscaping elements that have been mentioned, Walkable Main will need a few trees. Ideally each business along Walkable Main will have at least one raised bed that will have flowers and at least one edible plant.*

## SUMMARY WALKABLE MAIN ESSENTIALS

These are all the elements essential to the landscape design of the path. The key is to put different kinds of elements into the landscape design but each group has the same key features. For example all 55 gallon not newly painted metal drums for the blackberries but none matching in exact color. All boulder fountains but none the same size or style.

- 44 blackberry bushes at a minimum with 44 barrels to contain them
- 8 stone fountains (four on each side of street)
- 2 portable businesses as carts
- Makerspace art and furniture as yard art and benches
- At least 6 raised beds to start
- Water for people to drink
- Restrooms



*Perhaps we could even have a local artist design the water fountains for Walkable Main. Like the other elements in the overall landscape design, they should be in keeping with the theme of sustainable and perhaps somewhat on the rustic side in appearance.*

## Instant Business Buildings

We could create a couple of permanent mini shops from Air Stream trailers on the path to create interest and to serve the walkers. Perhaps one could sell food and drinks and the other could sell used and/or repurposed objects.



NOTES ABOUT WHAT **YOU** THINK: