



12 Entrances to Walkable Main Village

Entrance connectivity is important to the Walkable Main Street Village which now has its southern boundary extended to Avenue B (78). 1) State Street at Railroad Tracks 2) Main Street at Roaches 3) West Avenue A at 4th street 4) South 4th Street from Avenue B 5) S Third Street at Avenue B 6) Brackett Street at Avenue B 7) Second Street from Avenue B 8) Haskell at Avenue B 9) Avenue A at 78 10) Main Street at North First/78 9) 11) State at North First 12) Austin at North First. [Note: We should probably have a small directional sign pointing the way to the village at 4th and State, but 4th at that point does not directly lead into the village.]

Each entrance should be unique but each entrance should have a few of the elements to tie it to 1) the Walkable Main Village Brand/logo and also the Garland Firewheel brand/Firewheel logo and 2) the unifying theme of urban agriculture featuring the blackberry with the presence of real blackberry bushes. [Note: the logo provided below is for example only.]



Walkable Main Street
a Walkable Village in Garland, Texas





Lets talk more Urban Farm Potential for the Walkable Main Street Village at the South Third and Avenue B Entrance!

Let's begin with the very real example of the corner of South Third and Avenue B (78). This ½ acre vacant lot shown in the photo below happens to be one of the corners of an entrance to the Walkable Main Street Village from Avenue B.

Imagine this space as a mini-farmer's market AND urban farm. The entire length of the front, 10 feet in from the road, would be stands and tables of fruit and vegetables grown in the Walkable Main Street Village. The produce for this market could come from all over Walkable Main Street.

AND unlike any other farmer's market, some of the produce sold at the market would be grown on this land. We could have four or five rows of blackberry bushes running the entire length along the line of the trees shown on the right. We could even have some picnic tables and benches set up in the shade of the trees. Then we could have a huge okra patch running the length of the Third Street side—perhaps four row or five rows. Instead of worry about the high cost of labor, we could feature these as "Pickin' Patches" where the customers pick their own, then they are weighed and they pay according to current market value. Of course the produce already picked will be a bit more expensive. This is where some of the portable business carts made by the Makerspace fairies come in handy. We might even eventually put up a quaint little stand where people might get fruit drinks and water.

See next page for one of the urban farms planned for Walkable Main Street Village. (*This information is part of the proposed plan for Austin Street.*) The proposed urban farm would be located between Austin and State Streets. It is approximately 2.5 to 3 acres. It would be operated according to sustainable principles. In addition to actually producing food and eggs (as of course there will be hens and roosters), this farm will also be a place that will be open to the community from time to time with visits from school children. Ideally we would find a real farmer to help us plan this along with perhaps the assistance of folks from Texas AgriLife.



No doubt some of the produce for the Market at 3rd and Avenue B could come from the Walkable Village Urban Farm.

THE WALKABLE VILLAGE URBAN FARM



Another example of an entrance is shown on the next page.

Welcome!



Other Entrances

Each Entrance would feature a welcome sign along with a map of the village with the current location pinpointed. Then there would be some other feature (appropriate to the size and space of the particular entrance). *[Funding for these entrances might be paid for in part through grants obtained through the Neighborhood Vitality Department. After all, their specialty is providing funds for decorations to entrances to neighborhood associations. The folks who live in the Walkable Main Street Village can form various neighborhood associations perhaps and apply for these grants.]*

The half-acre entrance at Third and Avenue B as previously illustrated is an appropriate size and location to support a large urban garden and a mini-farmer's market. As suggested previously, the vacant lot in front of Roaches could serve as the focal point for the entrance to Main Street. That space is appropriate for several uses in addition to an entrance: a dog park for residents in nearby urban units; a park; and/or a neighborhood community garden. As an entrance and announcement for the Village, I have suggested that perhaps Makerspace Fairies at the Wallis Welding makerspace (if we have one) create a metal sculpture for this space that would emphasize urban agriculture.



Sculptures don't necessarily have to be metal or permanent. For example, Roaches could donate straw bales and we could have designs that change with the quarter. Perhaps they might be seasonal in nature but featuring agriculture.



[Of course I would be cheering for a lot of art representative of the farm]

OUTDOORS SCULPTURE AND ART THROUGHOUT WALKABLE MAIN STREET VILLAGE

We should have outdoor sculptures and murals featured throughout the village—just one more way to make the village more interesting and walkable. Also, as I’ve mentioned, many of them might be created in the Makerspaces in the village—particularly at the welding makerspace. For example, one fun thing might be to paint building facades on the faces of the warehouses that stretch down Austin Street. We could make it funny and do famous recognizable places. For example, one of the buildings could be painted to look like the White House. Perhaps another could be painted like the Taj Mahal, etc. Perhaps they could just be painted with agricultural scenes. Perhaps one like a barn with horses in the scene. Another with cows at milking time, perhaps a replica of Grant Woods famous “Gothic Couple”, etc. All the murals would be life and larger-than-life scales.

NOTE: Just a reminder to the planners. We have plenty of Garland residents who are artists and we should tap our local resources before going outside the community of Garland.

For just one example: **Robert Opel**, who lives here in Garland and is also a member of the board of Loving Garland Green, is a talented muralist whose murals appear in two places in downtown Dallas. Robert is also responsible for artwork on the Dallas downtown trolley. In addition, he is an experienced welder and has created large metal sculptures.

Also as part of our signage throughout the village, and in efforts to increase walkability, we might have signs with inspiration quotes. Here is one of my favorites:

