

Project Overview

Welcome to "Field Trip Fridays," a distinguished series dedicated to exploring innovative urban development strategies across various locales. In this episode, we delve into the City of Snellville, strategically positioned east of Stone Mountain Village. Snellville has garnered attention for its recent capital improvement projects and the transformative redevelopment of its town center. Our investigative journey uncovers the city's pioneering approach to tactical urbanism, a program that merits a closer examination for its potential to inspire long-term urban renewal.

Tactical Urbanism

Tactical urbanism, as defined by the authoritative "Tactical Urbanist's Guide to Materials and Design," represents a multifaceted strategy employed by cities, organizations, and citizens to foster community development. This approach leverages short-term, cost-effective, and scalable interventions to spur significant and enduring urban transformation. The methodology unfolds through four progressive stages of project delivery: Demonstration (lasting from a single day to one month), Pilot (from one month to one year), Interim Design (one to five years), and Long-Term (five to fifty years). Each phase escalates in complexity, engagement, and investment, laying the groundwork for substantial capital projects.

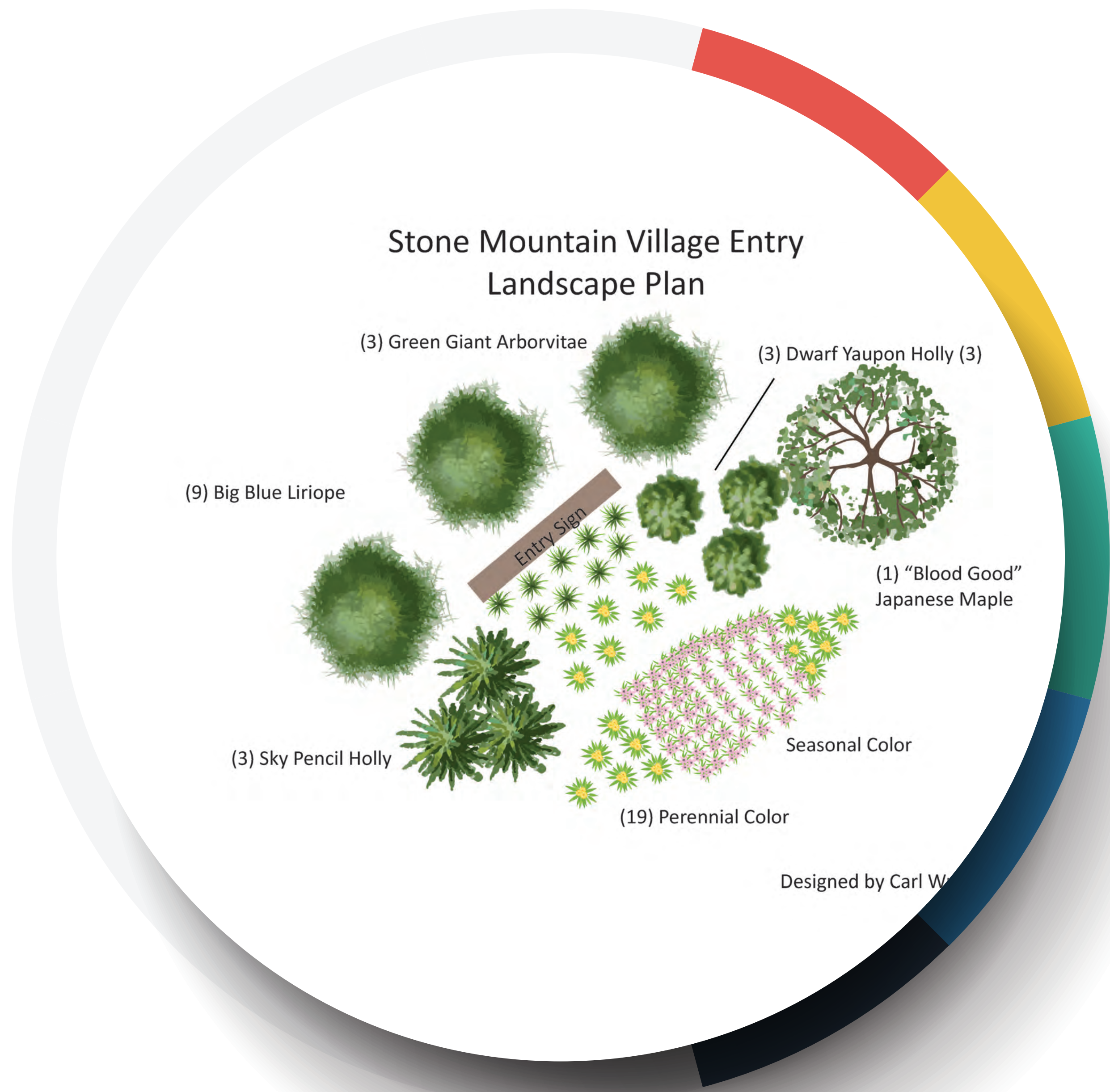
In a collaborative effort, the City of Snellville's planning department, alongside the Downtown Development Authority, Development Authority of Snellville, and the Urban Redevelopment Agency, has crafted a comprehensive guide. This manual serves to enlighten stakeholders and citizens on the tactical urbanism initiative, delineating project types essential for Snellville, application procedures, and safety protocols. The guide prioritizes projects aimed at traffic calming, public art, streetscape enhancements, and pedestrian infrastructure improvements—each designed to foster a safer, more aesthetically pleasing urban environment.

Specific examples of tactical urbanism projects and opportunities for grant applications detailed in Snellville's Tactical Urbanism Guide include:

- **Traffic Calming:** Implementation of on-street parking, bike lanes, crosswalks, speed bumps or humps, roundabouts, and Park(ing) Day initiatives.
- **Public Art:** Creation of murals, sculptures, pop-up retail, Little Free Libraries, performance spaces, and Park(ing) Day events.
- **Streetscape Improvements:** Enhancement through flowers, minor landscaping, street furniture, Little Free Libraries, and improved signage.
- **Pedestrian Infrastructure:** Development of crosswalks, pedestrian shelters, comprehensive signage, street furniture, and seating options.

Conclusion:

The City of Snellville's Tactical Urbanism Guide stands as an exemplary model for urban innovation, offering a blueprint that the City of Stone Mountain could emulate. By adopting a similar framework, Stone Mountain can accelerate its urban development initiatives, encouraging active participation from citizens, stakeholders, and community groups. Furthermore, the application process outlined in the guide ensures that community-led projects are thoroughly vetted and approved, promoting a collaborative and inclusive approach to urban revitalization.



"Welcome to Stone Mountain Village Sign" Landscape Plan by Carl Wright

Temporary



Demostrative



Community Lead

Low Cost

Images from CITY OF SNELLVILLE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT Tactical Urbanism Program Project Guide.

Mini-roundabout installation in Fayetteville, Arkansas. One of the largest tactical urbanism projects to come out of the City-run program. Source: City of Fayetteville

Temporary stop bars at an intersection in a Toronto neighborhood. The old setup allowed cars to pass through at unsafe speeds. Source: Dave Meslin (@meslin)

Painting bike lanes in Macon, Georgia. Source: Streetsblog USA

A crosswalk redesign as part of a larger Tactical Urbanism demonstration in Garden Grove, California. Source: Street Plans Collaborative