



**City Council Workshop Agenda**

**June 9, 2026 at 6:30 PM**

**City Hall Council Chambers - 210 W 6th Ave and Virtual**


The City of Kennewick broadcasts Council meetings on the City's website at

<https://www.go2kennewick.com/CouncilMeetingBroadcasts>.

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<https://www.go2kennewick.com/550/Meeting-Guidelines>.

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1. Update: Fireworks Safety Outreach & Education Campaign
  2. Downtown Kennewick Strategic Plan

<b>Council Agenda Coversheet</b>	<b>Item Number:</b> 1. <b>Date:</b> 6/9/2026	<b>Category:</b> Info Only
	<b>Item Type:</b> Presentation <b>Subject:</b> Update: Fireworks Safety Outreach & Education Campaign <b>Department:</b> City Manager	
<b>Summary</b> The Communications Department will provide an update regarding education outreach efforts for the upcoming fireworks season.		
<b>Attachments:</b> 1. Presentation		



# Fireworks

2026 Public Education Campaign

# Situation

- In 2023, Council approved fireworks changes to the KMC that took effect July 2024.
- Despite efforts, we received more fireworks complaints and heard frustration from residents and council in 2025.
- Our goal in 2026 is to reach a broader audience and ensure residents know what's legal and what's not.



# 2025 efforts – 7 media stories



## Firework safety emphasized in Tri-Cities amid high fire danger for Fourth of July

Jake Gabel Jun 30, 2025 Updated Jul 4, 2025



## Kennewick fireworks safety: What you need to know

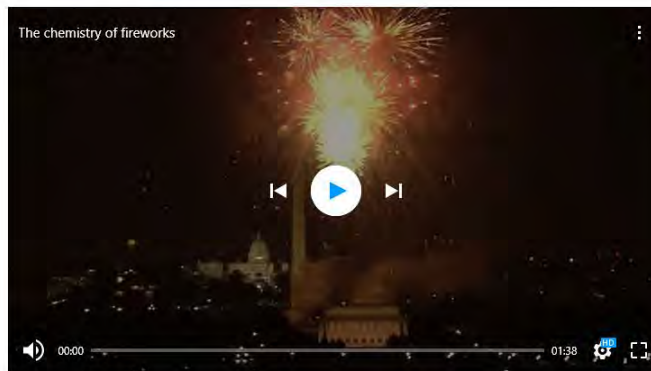
Mark Rattner NonStop Local Digital Journalist Jun 15, 2025 Updated Jun 16, 2025



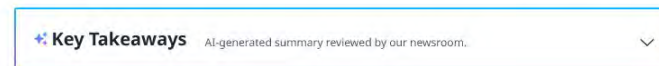
## Where and when fireworks are legal in Tri-Cities for 2025 Fourth of July

By Wendy Culverwell

June 24, 2025 5:00 AM | Gift Article



A chemistry lesson on fireworks and what makes them different colors. By McClatchy



KENNEWICK, WA

Listen to this article



KENNEWICK, Wash. – As the 4th of July approaches, Kennewick residents are reminded to prioritize safety when celebrating with fireworks.

Certain fireworks are illegal in Kennewick, including Roman candles, jumping jacks and aerial spinners. Violating these regulations can result in a \$250 fine per violation, and multiple offenses could lead to a misdemeanor.

### Top Videos



# 2025 efforts – regular social media posts



# City of Kennewick

## Illegal Fireworks PER KMC 15.30.240

### Smoke Device

Tube or sphere containing pyrotechnic composition that, upon ignition, produces a white or colored smoke as a primary effect.



### Mine/Shells/Cakes

Mine- An aerial device that shoots stars into the sky in an upward spray pattern.  
Shell- A shell is an aerial item that is fired into the sky.  
Cake- Dense-packed collection of mine/shell tubes that are fused together



### Ground Spinners

A small device similar to a wheel in design and effect. When placed on the ground and ignited, a shower of sparks and color is produced by the rapidly spinning device.



### Roman Candles

Heavy Paper or cardboard tube containing pyrotechnic composition. Upon Ignition, up to ten "stars" are individually expelled at several-second intervals.



### Helicopters, Aerial Spinners

A propeller or blade is attached, which upon ignition, lifts the rapidly spinning device into the air. A visible or audible effect is produced at the height of flight



### Firecrackers

Generally 1/4" x 1 1/2" or less that come in a packs to large bricks. A firecracker makes a single "pop" Sound. Many Firecrackers strung together will make repetitive "popping" sounds.



### Sky Rockets and Missiles

Attached to a stick or has fins and may have a plastic cap. A missile will have fins rather than a stick. Once lit, it ascends rapidly, high into the air where it explodes



### Bottle Rockets

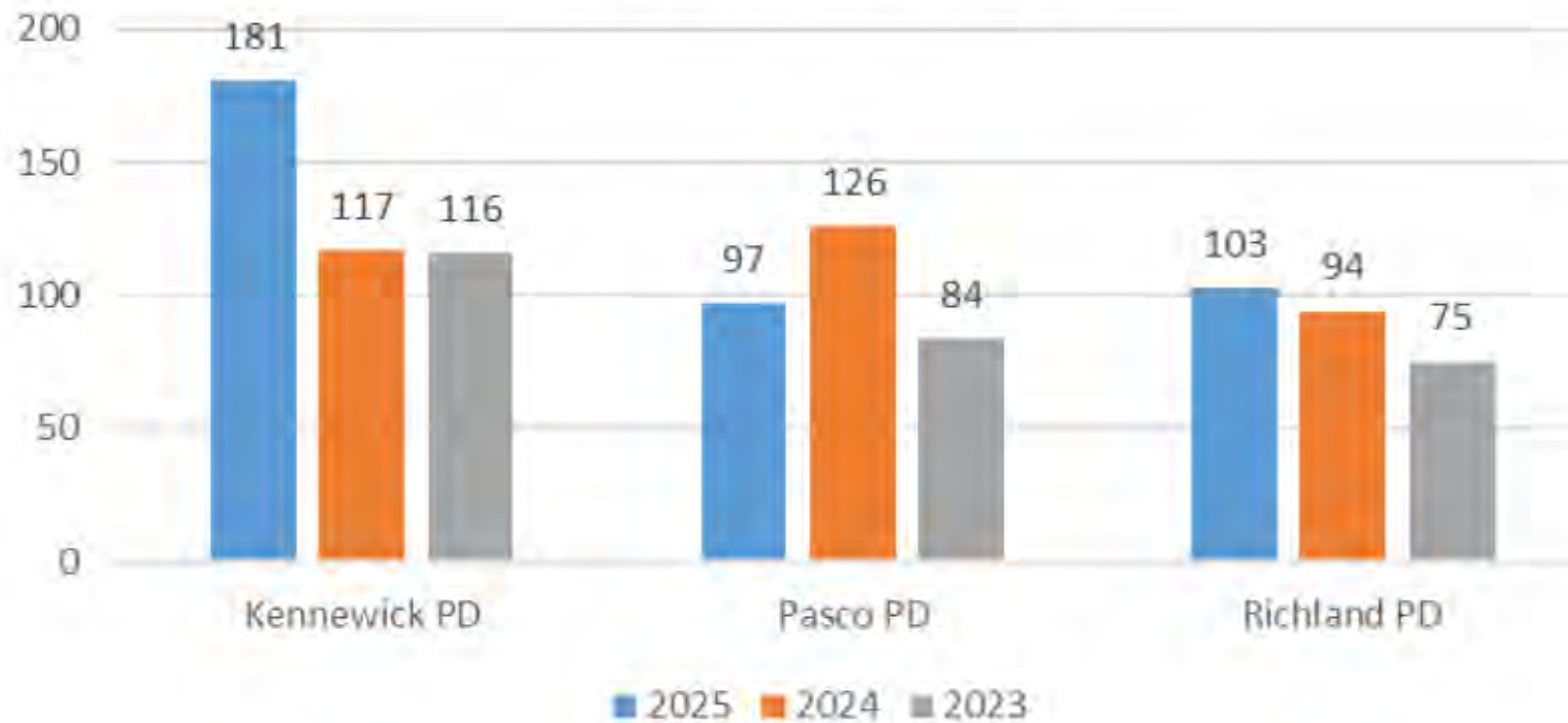
A firecracker type (tube) attached to a 12" long wooden stick. The stick is placed in a bottle and once lit, it rises into the air, travelling laterally before exploding.



\*\*Pictures shown are for illustrative purposes only and are not an endorsement of any brand or style of consumer fireworks.

31 Kennewick calls in 2025 were proactive contacts initiated by firefighters or officers

### Fireworks Calls 07/03 - 07/05 3 Year Comparison



# Research

“We believe we did receive more fireworks complaints [in 2025], but this number is also impacted by the proactive contacts done by the additional units working.”

# Problems to solve

- Fireworks purchased in West Richland cause confusion
- Communications were unclear in what is allowed – imagery included illegal fireworks
- More simple, clear in messages delivered to key audiences



# 2025 efforts – regular social media posts





City of Kennewick Government

Just now · 🌐

🔥 Spark Local – Buy in Kennewick, Know It's Legal 🔥

Planning your Fourth of July celebration? Purchasing fireworks from licensed vendors in Kennewick helps ensure the fireworks you buy are legal to use within city limits.

Help keep your family, neighbors, and community safe this holiday season!

🔥 Legal Fireworks in Kennewick

- ✓ Cylindrical fountains
- ✓ Cone fountains
- ✓ ... See more



**Spark Local**  
Buy in Kennewick, know it's legal

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share

# Strategies for 2026

- Clearer imagery
- Simple, plain language about what is allowed with links to helpful resources, avoiding TLDR
- Close and regular coordination with Kennewick Police and Kennewick Fire – same imagery and messages across platforms
- Identify and deliver targeted messages to key audiences
- Leverage media to deliver specific messages to broad audiences



# Key audiences

- Fire and Police – ensuring the team has the communications tools needed
- Adults ages 25 to 44
- Parents with children under 15
- HOAs and Neighborhood Groups



# 2026 tactics

- Coordinated city, police and fire multi-channel outreach
- Council briefings
- FAQs on a new webpage
- Data collection
- Social media campaign – Weekly educational content + boosted posts
- Media engagement – Local news, interviews, etc.
- Text & email alerts – Before and during July 4 weekend
- Print Materials – Flyers



# Messaging

- Key message: Spark Local - Buy in Kennewick, know it's legal
- Supporting messages
  - Illegal Fireworks = Fines and fire risk
  - Celebrate safely at River of Fire



# Timeline

- Research – May
- Planning – May/June
- Campaign implementation – June 4 through July 4
- Evaluation – July 5-20



# How we'll know we are successful




Metrics to track:

- Number of fireworks calls compared to 2025
- Website traffic to new fireworks webpage
- Social media reach and engagement



**Thank you**

<b>Council Agenda Coversheet</b>	<b>Item Number:</b> 2. <b>Date:</b> 6/9/2026	<b>Category:</b> Policy Review
	<b>Item Type:</b> Presentation <b>Subject:</b> Downtown Kennewick Strategic Plan <b>Department:</b> Community Planning	
<p><b>Summary</b></p> <p>In 2025, using EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant funds, BFCOG contracted with Stantec to develop and areawide plan for Downtown Kennewick. The primary purpose of the work was to identify potential redevelopment opportunities on public and privately- owned land. These efforts were coordinated primarily with (former) City of Kennewick Economic Development staff. Stantec, together with subconsultant AHBL, was engaged in this effort as contractors/ consultants, with Stantec serving in the prime role and AHBL providing local support for the effort from our Pasco office. The plan was completed in 2025 but has yet to be formally brought to the City Council due to concerns that city staff outside of Economic Development, the Historic Downtown Kennewick Partnership (HDKP) Board and the City Council were largely unaware of the planning effort. A review of public participation during the planning process included listening session between City and BFCOG staff and the consultants, three virtual meetings involving City staff, BFCOG staff and HDKP staff and a few other interested parties, and a public survey.</p> <p>Staff determined that additional outreach to the HDKP Board and the City Council in the form of a workshop would ensure that the prior work done would be supported by both entities. On May 13, 2026, AHBL staff met with the HDKP Board to review the areawide plan and to determine how the board's priorities aligned with the strategies identified in the plan. This resulted in concurrence with the strategies and prioritization of those strategies. This workshop aims to accomplish the same task, but with the City Council.</p>		
<p><b>Attachments:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Memorandum</li> <li>2. Presentation</li> </ol>		

# PROJECT MEMO



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<b>TO:</b>	Anthony Muai	<b>DATE:</b>	June 3, 2026
<b>FROM:</b>	Emily Weimer, AICP Nicole Stickney, AICP Pasco - (509) 380-5883	<b>PROJECT NO.:</b>	2260392.30
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	City Council AWP Prioritization	<b>PROJECT NAME:</b>	Downtown Kennewick Area Wide Planning (AWP) Study

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We have prepared this memo for you to give to your City Council members as a read-ahead item for next week's meeting.

## BACKGROUND

The Benton-Franklin Council of Governments (BFCOG) applied for and received two federal grant awards totaling \$1.2 Million from EPA. The BFCOG managed the funds locally (and will likely serve in the same role should additional grant awards be secured in the future) in partnership with local jurisdictions. The projects thus far have centered around "Brownfield Assessments" and are focused on methods and some site-specific research, to lay the groundwork for considering opportunities for future site reuse and revitalization.

As described on the BFCOG's website, they formed a coalition with local partners with the mission to "Use EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant funding to inventory and prioritize brownfield sites for redevelopment, assess existing site conditions, and plan for cleanup and reuse of priority sites throughout our community."

The webpage at <https://www.bfcog.us/174/Brownfields-Program> lists the guiding principles for the work and other program details. Major themes include: maximize investment, reduce blight, protect public health and a healthy environment, and prioritize grant fund investment to leverage private investment while creating jobs.

## INTRODUCTION TO THE AREA-WIDE PLANNING STUDY

It is our understanding that in 2024 or so, the BFCOG had some unused grant funds remaining from other projects, and it was determined that the money could be leveraged to write an Area-Wide Planning (AWP) study for Kennewick's downtown area. The primary purpose of the work was to identify potential redevelopment opportunities on public and privately- owned land. These efforts were coordinated primarily with (former) City of Kennewick Economic Development staff. Stantec, together with subconsultant AHBL, was engaged in this effort as contractors/ consultants, with Stantec serving in the prime role and AHBL providing local support for the effort from our Pasco office. The plan was completed in 2025 but has yet to be formally brought to the City Council.

## PAST PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

In early 2025, the project (which had previously launched, but subsequently had been put on hold) was restarted and City Economic Development staff at the time oversaw the public engagement efforts. This included a listening session, a series of Public Working Group meetings, and a community survey:

### City/ BFCOG listening session:

- o Stantec hosted a virtual "listening session" with the City staff and BFCOG staff to understand their ideas and recommendations pertaining to the Downtown Focus Area.

- The session focused on potential land uses, urban design, mobility enhancements, and redevelopment options.

**Public Working Group meetings:**

- City staff identified and invited stakeholders to three virtual meetings.
- The group comprised of City and HDKP staff, business/property owners, and representatives from governmental partners, and other interested parties.
- The group provided feedback throughout the process, including on the existing conditions report, survey results, and recommended strategies.

**Survey:**

- The subconsultant team launched an online survey to obtain local perspectives on Downtown assets, challenges, and opportunities.
- The survey was advertised by the City of Kennewick to the public through multiple avenues including: Civic Alerts webpage on the City of Kennewick’s website, City social media accounts, the Home Builders Association Newsletter, and published in the Tri-Cities Area Journal of Business. The survey was also advertised on the Facebook Page for the Benton-Franklin Health District, the HDKP, and BFCOG. It also appeared on NBC NonStopLOCAL news.
- The survey opened on April 15, 2025, and closed on May 16, 2025, receiving 196 responses.

During the project’s development, staffing changes occurred at the City (both staff members in the Economic Development department departed) and so the City’s Community Planning Director Anthony Muai became the new staff contact.

In order to meet the hard grant deadline, Stantec delivered the first draft to the BFCOG and Muai in late August 2025 and following the receipt of comments, Stantec delivered the “final plan” on September 11, 2025 (prior to the deadline corresponding to the end of the federal fiscal year).

## CURRENT STATUS

Further community review and consideration must take place prior to any further consideration of the plan’s recommendations, since the public engagement was not as robust or as broad as it likely should have been and due to other changes such as staffing.

Moreover, it is our understanding that concerns have been expressed that many stakeholders and the City Council weren’t properly consulted and therefore there is a lack of awareness; they don’t feel familiar with the plan or the process. As a result, many community members don’t feel like they had a role in creating it.

In order to move forward, we are working to address the gaps. On May 13, 2026 the consultants and City staff met with the Historic Downtown Kennewick Partnership (HDKP). We introduced the consultant team and the AWP, and facilitated several discussions including a prioritization ranking exercise. The objective of the meeting was to first tease out how well the AWP reflected the priorities of the HDKP and then to identify specific project recommendations that the HDKP considers high priorities.

The consultant team will present the AWP study and discuss project priorities to the City Council at the June 9, 2026 workshop meeting which was the first date that was feasible for a meeting under the current project phase.

Ideally, we wish to accomplish the following:

- |   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. Introduce the planning study – Explain what is contained in the document | 3. Share what HDKP recommended |
| 2. Discuss strategic action prioritization                                  | 4. Discuss next steps          |

## WHAT IS IN THE PLAN?

When we meet, we will review the plan contents.

The AWP study identified six community priorities for Downtown that emerged from community engagement which the AWP aimed to address and achieve:



Theme A: Create a Downtown Destination Beyond 9-5



Theme D: Support Economic Development, Adaptive Reuse, and Urban Infill Projects



Theme B: Enhance Downtown's Public Realm, Safety, and Functionality



Theme E: Expand Housing Options in Downtown



Theme C: Create Quality and Multi-functional Community Gathering Spaces



Theme F: Host Annual Events and Community Traditions

The AWP features an Urban Framework Plan (UPF) that identifies four recommended strategies for revitalization. The strategies that aim to address various aspects of redevelopment, community priorities, and placemaking. Each strategy includes a list of actions the community and City may choose to pursue/complete over the next ten years. When we met with HDKP members the group in attendance sorted the strategic actions into high, medium, and low priority, as well as assigned a ranking to the high priority actions.



**Strategy 1:**  
Diversify Downtown Land Use



**Strategy 2:**  
Revitalize Properties



**Strategy 3:**  
Enhance Safety and Connectivity



**Strategy 4:**  
Market and Brand Downtown and the Creative District

## NEXT STEPS

After the City Council workshop meeting, the consultant team will compile the strategic action rankings and prioritizations and take the City Council and the HDKP inputs developing a preliminary proposed **prioritization matrix**. This undertaking is worthwhile in order to ensure that community leadership and redevelopment objectives are aligned before the project team begins formal prioritization and implementation strategy development.

The final task will be the development of a Strategic Plan document. The Plan will likely consist of the following sections:

- Executive Summary
- Community Context and Vision
- Situational Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses and Opportunities and Threats)
- Strategic Goals & Objectives
- Action Plan and Implementation Strategy
- Resources and Partnerships
- Monitoring and Evaluation

The Action Plan and Implementation Strategy portion will translate the various priorities of the HDKP and Council into a detailed, realistic action plan and accompanying implementation strategy. The Action Plan and Implementation Strategy will outline the specific steps, resources, and timelines required to convert strategic goals into reality. The Strategic Plan document will then be handed over to City staff for final processing, including adoption, if desired.

Cc: Kevin Apperson and Emily Huang, Stantec

An aerial photograph of a city grid, likely downtown Kennewick, with a river visible in the upper right and a stadium in the distance. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent orange filter.

# **Downtown Kennewick Area Wide Planning (AWP) Study**

## **City Council Workshop June 9, 2026**

(Image Source: Google Earth Pro)

# Introduction

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Consultant team – Stantec and AHBL

We seek to tease out on how well the Area Wide Planning (AWP) study reflects the priorities of Council.

## **Meeting objectives:**

1. Introduce the planning study
2. Discuss strategic action prioritization
3. Share what HDKP recommended
4. Discuss next steps

# AWP Overview

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- The Benton-Franklin Council of Governments (BFCOG), received a federal grant totaling \$600,000 from the EPA for several projects
- Downtown Kennewick was chosen for an Area Wide Planning (AWP) study using some of the funds
- Initial public engagement efforts:
  - City/ BFCOG listening session
  - Public Working Group Meetings – series of 3
  - Survey was conducted in 2025, was widely advertised, and received 196 responses



# Community Priorities

Key themes emerged from community engagement that helped outline strategic goals/objectives for Downtown Kennewick:



**Theme A:** Create a Downtown Destination Beyond 9-5



**Theme B:** Enhance Downtown's Public Realm, Safety, and Functionality



**Theme C:** Create Quality and Multi-functional Community Gathering Spaces



**Theme D:** Support Economic Development, Adaptive Reuse, and Urban Infill Projects



**Theme E:** Expand Housing Options in Downtown



**Theme F:** Host Annual Events and Community Traditions

# Strategies / Urban Framework Plan

## Urban Framework Plan



**Strategy 1:**  
Diversify Downtown  
Land Use



**Strategy 2:**  
Revitalize  
Properties



**Strategy 3:**  
Enhance Safety  
and Connectivity

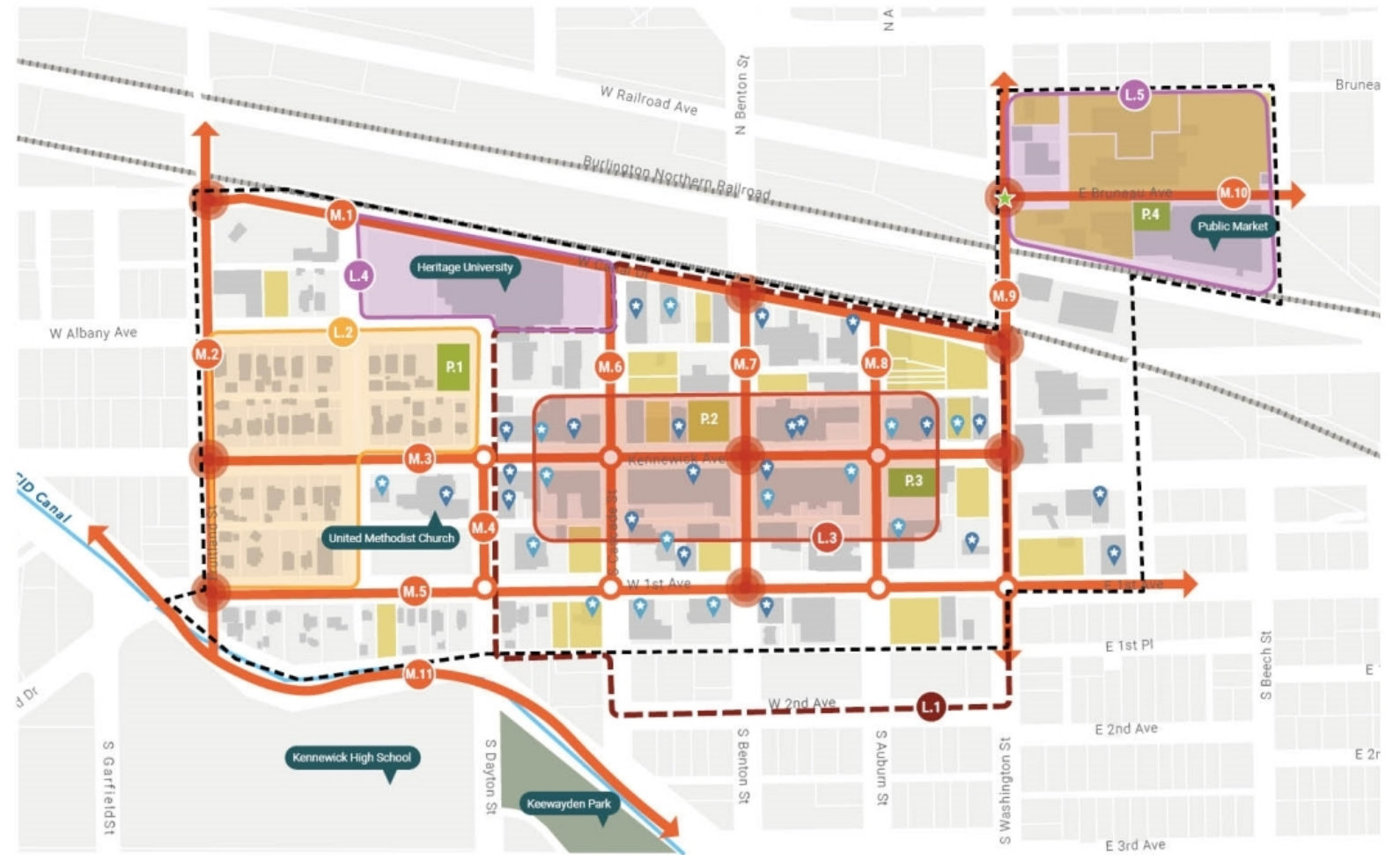


**Strategy 4:**  
Market and Brand  
Downtown and the  
Creative District

# Urban Framework Plan

The UFP and its accompanying Planning Initiatives List outline recommended near- and long-term mobility, open space, and land use improvements for the Focus Area. These include streetscape and access improvements, catalyst site identification, open space and recreation projects, and the designation of subdistricts.

- L.# = Land use district designations
- M.# = Mobility initiatives
- P.# = Parks and open space initiatives



**FIGURE ES.2 URBAN FRAMEWORK PLAN**

1: 4,800



- Focus Area Boundary
- Existing Parks
- Parcels

- Streetscape improvements
- Minor intersection treatment
- Major intersection treatment
- Gateway feature

- Downtown Subdistrict
- Residential Subdistrict
- Mixed-use Subdistrict
- Commercial Subdistrict

- Potential Park/Open Space
- Potential Catalyst Site
- Historic Structure (NRHP) Eligible
- Historic Structure (KRHP) Eligible

# Potential Catalyst Sites

- The Community Survey revealed that **“Development/Redevelopment of under-utilized lots/buildings ranked third** in terms of community priorities.
- Selected sites based on property inventory and initial feedback from listening session
- Total identified sites: **19**

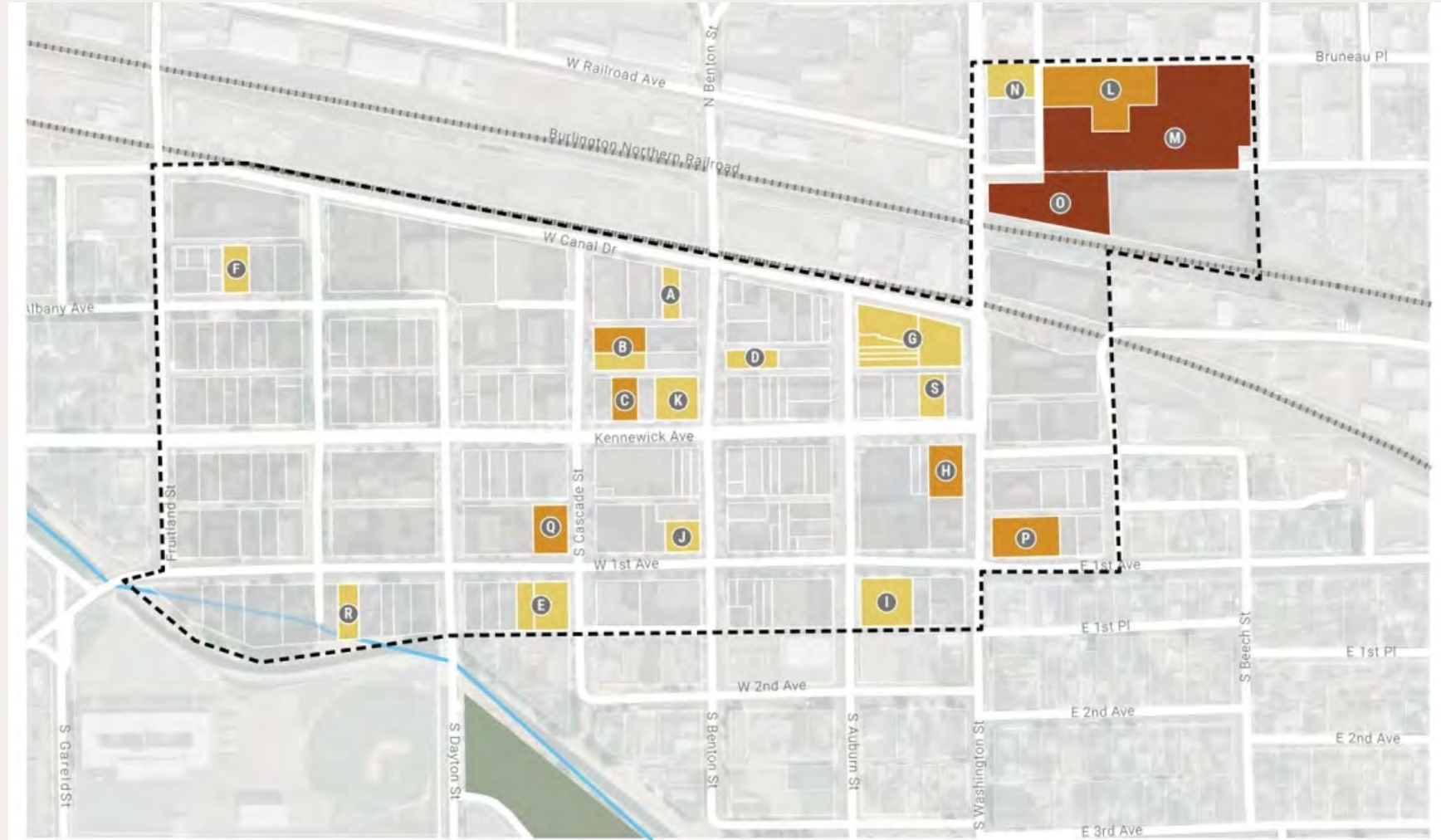
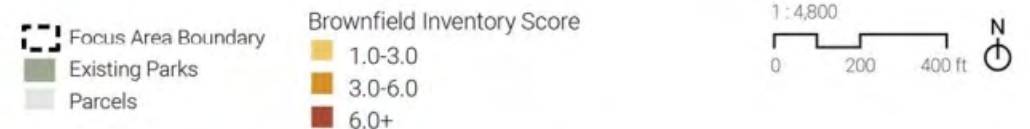


FIGURE 5.4.1 CATALYST SITES



# MENU / INTRO – Community Revitalization Strategies



# Proposed Revitalization Strategies



## STRATEGY 1: DIVERSIFY DOWNTOWN LAND USE

- **Subdistrict Designation** –Formally designate subdistricts to prioritize commercial, retail, wellness, and entertainment uses to achieve a critical mass of attractions.
- **Zoning Refinements** – Refine the zoning code to encourage a diverse urban scale mixed-use development and allow for more community-oriented uses
- **Objective Design Standards** – Implement objective building and site design standards to streamline development enhance architectural quality and preserve historic character.
- **Introduce More Community Spaces** – Expand the network of parks, plazas, and open spaces in Downtown.

# Proposed Revitalization Strategies



## STRATEGY 2: REVITALIZE PROPERTIES

- **Catalyst Site Designation** – Designate catalyst sites in and around the Downtown that should be prioritized for new community-serving uses and infill/adaptive reuse/redevelopment projects that strengthen Downtown’s character.
- **Incentivize Revitalization or Redevelopment** – Provide incentives to support revitalization.
- **Encourage Adaptive Reuse** – Support and prioritize adaptive reuse of Downtown’s existing buildings to activate vacant/underutilized storefronts.
- **Environmental Site Assessment and Remediation** – Provide financial assistance via grant and loan funding for environmental studies and, potentially, cleanup/abatement activities that address site contaminants, pollutants, and/or hazardous building materials.



# Proposed Revitalization Strategies



## STRATEGY 3: ENHANCE SAFETY AND CONNECTIVITY

- **Streetscape Enhancements** – Incorporate streetscape enhancements in Downtown outlined in the UFP to create a safe, functional, and distinctive destination.
- **Trail and Bikeway Extensions** – Expand and connect existing trails and bikeways within and around Downtown to integrate seamlessly with the broader Kennewick and regional active transportation network.
- **Gateway Enhancements** – Designate major gateways into Downtown with landscaping, signage, art, and/or monumentation to define the space and welcome visitors and reinforce the Downtown and arts district.
- **Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design** – Incorporate CPTED principles to enhance safety, improve visibility, and promote more activity.
- **Parking Strategy** – Conduct a district-wide study and develop strategies to address current and future needs in and around Downtown.
- **Utilities Analysis** – Conduct a comprehensive utilities and infrastructure analysis.

# Proposed Revitalization Strategies

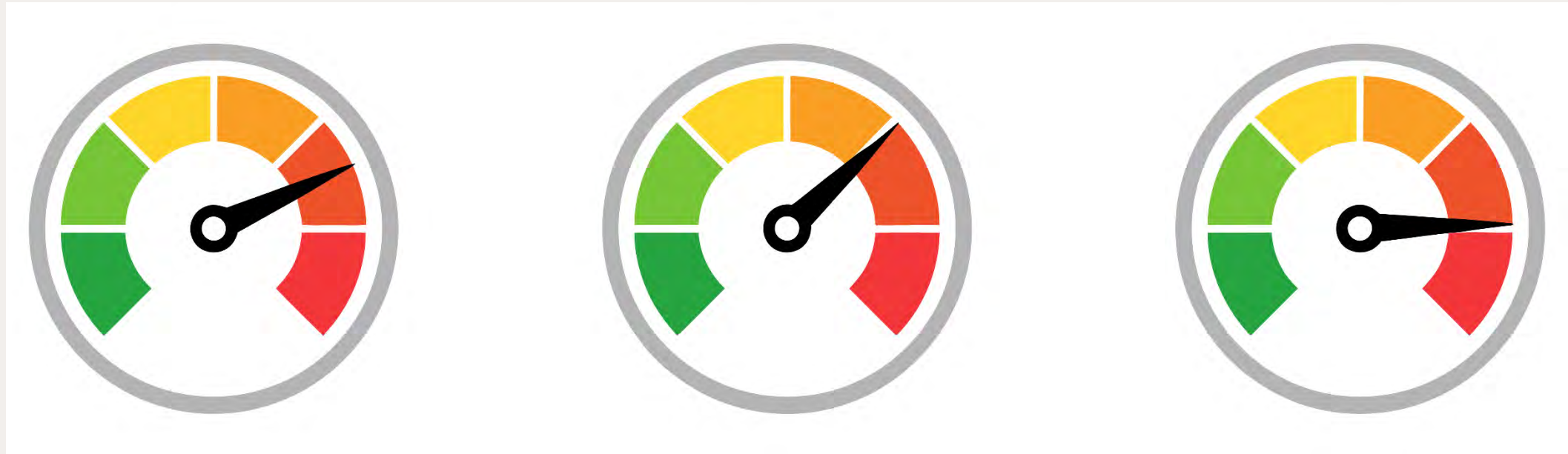


## STRATEGY 4: MARKET AND BRAND DOWNTOWN + THE CREATIVE DISTRICT

- **Community Events and Traditions** – Partner with local and regional businesses, organizations, and community groups to host community events and traditions throughout the year in Downtown.
- **Downtown Branding and Promotion** – In partnership with HDKP, rebrand Downtown.
- **Developer and Business Recruitment** – Implement a developer and business recruitment plan to entice private investment in and around Downtown.
- **Wayfinding Signage Program** – Implement the wayfinding signage program for Downtown.
- **Interim Uses / Temporary Installations** – Identify potential interim/temporary uses to activate vacant and underutilized buildings and properties until they are redeveloped/reused for permanent tenants.

# Prioritization

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# Next Steps

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Compile rankings draft a preliminary project prioritization

Strategic Plan document consisting of the following sections:

- Executive Summary
- Community Context and Vision
- Situational Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses and Opportunities and Threats)
- Strategic Goals & Objectives
- Action Plan and Implementation Strategy
- Resources and Partnerships
- Monitoring and Evaluation