

# W LIVABLE CITY YEAR

## City of Auburn

### COMMUNITY PROFILES AND RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT IN NEIGHBORHOODS

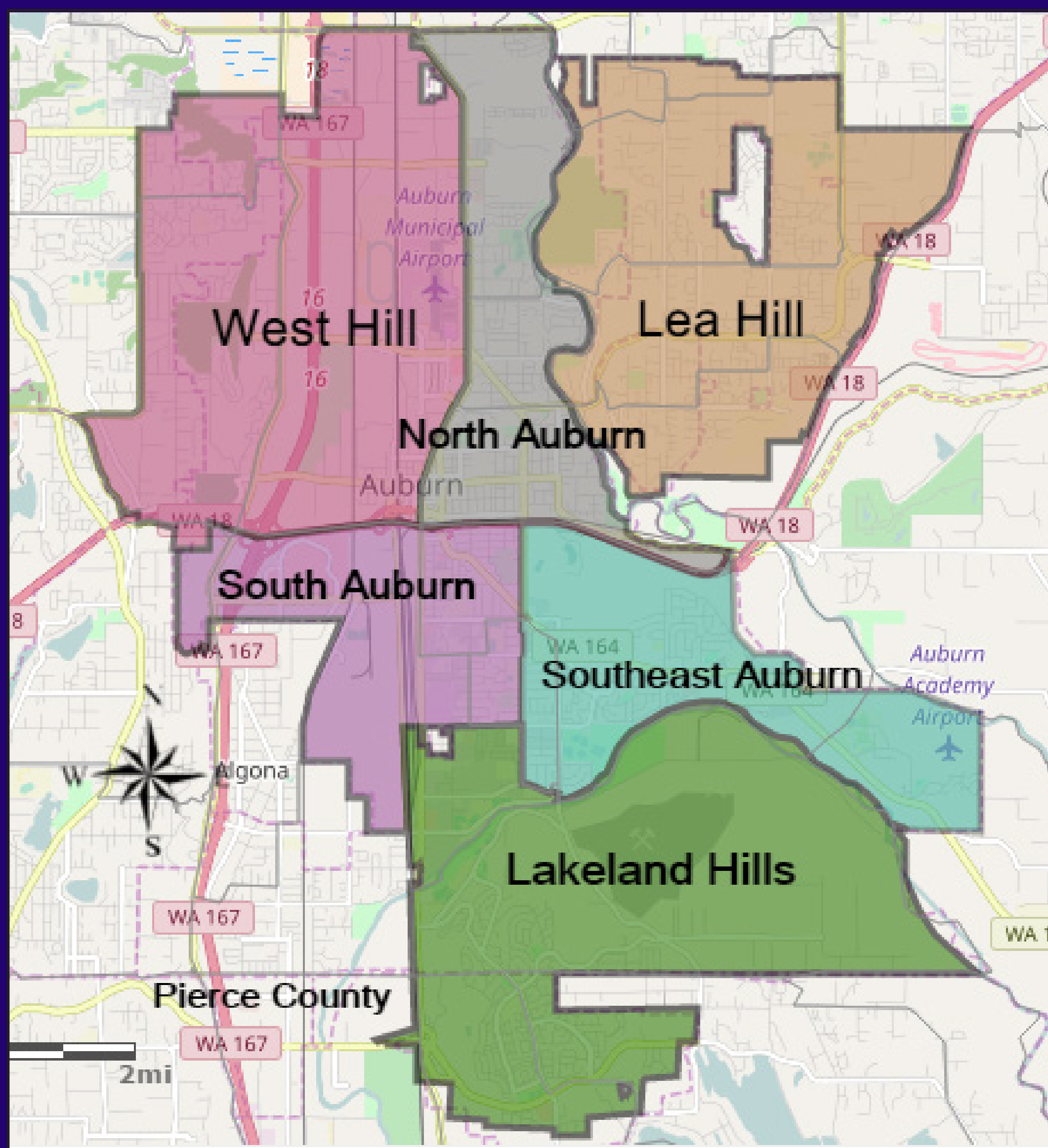
#### Executive Summary

The goal of this project was to help the City of Auburn better understand residents' perspectives and experiences and identify the most effective ways to utilize small grants for neighborhood improvement. Students were assigned to six police districts in Auburn. Each Auburn neighborhood has a diverse set of needs, however some common themes emerged. Residents expressed a desire for increased connectivity:

- Physically: through better sidewalks & transportation services
- Socially: with more opportunities to gather together

Resources exist in each neighborhood, and potential partnerships are available but are not currently realized.

#### Neighborhoods of Auburn



Map of Auburn Neighborhoods. Credit: Darragh Kerr

#### Suggestions

Resident perspectives on their neighborhoods do not necessarily align with the outlined boundaries of police patrol districts or even census tracts. Future Livable City Year projects could focus on interactive mapping as a strategy for both engaging more residents and better understanding their lived experiences in Auburn.



Photo of South Auburn Library. Credit: Student in South Auburn group



Photo of Lea Hill Park. Credit: Student in Lea Hill group

#### Conclusions

Each neighborhood has its own demographics, culture, and structure. Despite economic and social disparities between neighborhoods, there was common interest in bringing diverse groups together through communication in different languages and strengthened partnerships between neighborhoods and community groups. Many improvement ideas require large infrastructure changes. Residents wanted:

With increased partnerships, communication, and leveraged resources, small neighborhood improvement projects in these areas could be built into sustainable efforts to affect change and improve well-being.

#### Methods of Research

A combination of quantitative and qualitative research methods were used.

- Stakeholder interviews were conducted with involved residents, employees, and leaders in each Auburn neighborhood.
- Demographic information for each neighborhood was collected at the census-tract level using survey data from the 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year estimates.

- More streetlights
- Better sidewalks
- Increased transportation
- Access to healthy food
- Incentives for local businesses
- Increased physical connectivity
- Informal events

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