

The 9 Elements of a Successful District

It's All There When Cities Work. Vibrant cities and towns where people want to live, work, play and study require a complex mix of elements to perform well. The “9 Elements of a Successful District” is CityWorks’ method to help stakeholders participate in planning a future vision for their communities. It’s also the structure used by our planners and architects to organize design concepts and planning documents, blending our team’s technical and design expertise with community stakeholders’ input.

Each of the 9 Elements of a Successful District is listed below. And, if lucky number 9 isn’t enough, we add a special element that is tailored to the specific character or needs of an area. Just like the game Jenga, when the blocks are in place and properly balanced they create the most stable structure. Successful districts need these building blocks to succeed:

- + **Element #1:** Quality Rehabilitation and Redevelopment
- + **Element #2:** Community Character
- + **Element #3:** Mixture of Uses
- + **Element #4:** Pedestrian Orientation
- + **Element #5:** Amenities and Services
- + **Element #6:** Density and Compactness
- + **Element #7:** Open Space
- + **Element #8:** Mixture of Transportation
- + **Element #9:** Economic Vitality

Our team binds and strengthens these building blocks with sustainable practices, social equity and human-benefit technologies.



Element #1: Quality Rehabilitation and Redevelopment

Provides places for needed uses that are complimentary to the existing context and contribute to creating a sense of place.



Element #2: Community Character

Maintains and expands community character through physical improvements and events.



Element #3: Mixture of Uses

Provides a mix of uses so there are many reasons to be in the district while also enlivening activity nodes and pedestrian routes.



Element #4: Pedestrian Orientation

Creates a connected system of pedestrian routes that are easy and pleasant to use and accessible to everyone.



Element #5: Amenities and Services

Maintains and expands these uses to meet the everyday needs of those living in the District while also activating civic life.



Element #6: Density and Compactness

Creates districts that are functional, active, safe and accessible to pedestrians by keeping uses close together.



Element #7: Open Space

Provides a variety of spaces, both passive and active that support: quiet moments to stroll, read, think and dream; gather with friends and family; or to partake in athletic pastimes.



Element #8: Mixture of Transportation Modes

Provides many ways to get around a district and to other districts.



Element #9: Economic Vitality

Creates economic vitality through an affordable mix of uses and travel modes, as well as active support of a mix of both small/local and larger businesses.

