

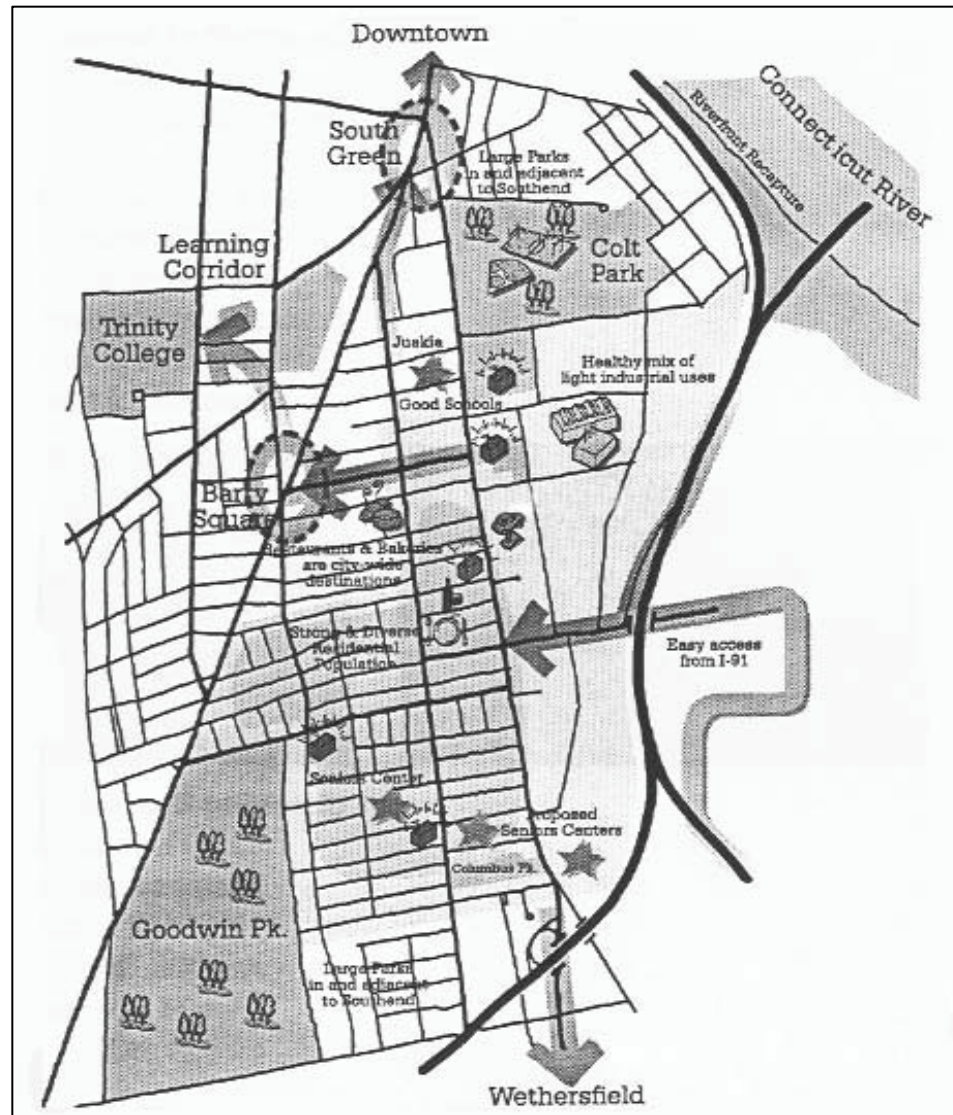
7. Directions for the Future

Principal Directions for South End NRZ Revitalization Plan

The draft "Principal Directions for South End NRZ Revitalization Plan" was prepared for the Committee in 1999. This Plan assessed the neighborhood's assets and constraints, and provided for key directions to strengthen the South End. The five key areas that the Plan discussed were:

- To strengthen the relationship between the South End and its neighboring context.
- To create pride in the public realm.
- To create/establish distinctive uses along key streets:
Promote Franklin Avenue as a cluster of multicultural restaurants;
Promote Wethersfield Avenue as "Main Street" South;
Promote greater diversity of uses within South Meadows.
- To encourage balanced modes of transport.
- To enhance utilization of existing community amenities.





To implement the key directions, the Plan suggested a number of measures.

- Better use of capital and community improvement programs, community facilities, and existing organizations.

This would entail understanding and utilizing Federal programs where available (TEA-21, Community Development Block Grants, etc.), and City and State programs (Façade Improvement Program, Streetscaping Program, Hartford Signage, Hartford Gateway Project) for street improvements. To help with community programs, an inventory of programs at the various facilities was recommended. Also, understanding mandates of existing community organizations will help align similar efforts for greater effect.

- Build consensus among local stakeholders

The diversity of the neighborhood will require consensus building on implementing the various aspects of the Plan. Representation on the NRZ Committee should be inclusive to achieve the best results for the South End.

- Seek partnerships with neighboring communities

The areas surrounding the South End are equally as rich with amenities and resources. For example, Colt Park and Goodwin Park are adjacent to the neighborhood and provide links among areas of the City.

- Link with Hartford Revitalization Initiatives

There are many initiatives being undertaken by the City and other interests. Alliances with the various programs will help to identify opportunities and assist the City as a whole.

