The Drachman Institute collaborated with Catalina Magnet High School as part of the Communities Putting Prevention to Work (CPPW) Grant for this project. The proposal was to plant trees and add picnic tables and benches to three interior courtyards on the campus. The focus of this project was to create more hospitable environments that promote greater access to nutrition and physical fitness.

The central interior courtyards at the school act as community gathering spots with the potential to offer environments that foster learning, healthy food and activity habits, and positive communication practices.

The project was carried out by two classes that were engaged in empowerment and community change curriculum.

The goals for this neighborhood project included:

- Expand the focus of wellness at Catalina Magnet High School
- Teach literacy to ESL students by looking at the community and the surrounding environment
- Have students design and implement the courtyard plans to create a sense of pride for their school

The two plans for the shaded courtyard areas were designed by ESL refugee students.
The Drachman Institute, in collaboration with Roskruge Bilingual Magnet School, has utilized funds from the Communities Putting Prevention to Work (CPPW) grant to enhance the school’s existing Student Garden.

Intended to increase access to healthy foods and promote physical activity, the garden is nearing completion. School staff and students have worked to implement this plan, while CPPW funds have contributed to the tools, vegetation, and cistern for the project.

The school hopes to install the rain harvesting cistern and plant several citrus trees during the Spring 2012 semester.

Student Garden

Photos to the right show the project in progress. The school is awaiting installation of a cistern and planting of citrus trees. An example of the type of cistern the school will install is shown below.

Tree Planting

The image to the left shows the priority of the plantings in this project.

Improving Our Community

The goals for this project include:

- Create a space for enhanced social support
- Provide for greater access to healthy foods
- Promote physical activity
Drachman Institute collaborated with El Montevideo Neighborhood Association to create a concept document for neighborhood improvements. It began with analyzing neighborhood issues such as context, neighborhood character, street width, traffic, and street functions.

After meeting with El Montevideo Neighborhood Association, ideas and concerns were added to the scope of the project. These included speeding and cut-through traffic, drainage and erosion issues, landscape improvements, and improved walkability.

Drachman Institute Design Project 2006

Great streets do not just happen. Overwhelmingly, the best streets derive from a conscious act of conception of the street as a whole. The hands of decision makers are visible.

- Allan B. Jacobs

**Drainage**

Water runoff conditions, as shown in the photo to the right, depict how drainage is handled in this neighborhood. The lack of infrastructure to handle runoff causes soil loss, erosion, and damage to the roads, as shown by the photo below.

**Planting Basins**

One way to solve drainage issues is to create sunken planting basins, as shown in the images above and below. The planting basins support vegetation and wildlife on available rainfall alone.

**Traffic Speed and Volume**

A long, unobstructed view down a neighborhood street, similar to the image to the right, encourages speed and cut through traffic. Traffic circles at the intersections help calm traffic on both streets.

**Traffic Calming**

Visual barriers are more effective at both decreasing cut-through traffic and reducing speed. The traffic circle shown in the photo on the right is a successful example of this. It is also an attractive addition to the neighborhood.

Chicanes are a series of alternating bump-outs emanating from the side of the road into the roadway. The driver experiences an s-like drive as the roadway meanders around the chicanes, alternating on opposite sides of the road. Though not optimal for bicyclists, chicanes are effective at traffic calming and an attractive addition to the neighborhood.

**Walking Paths**

The wide streets in this neighborhood (photo above) provide an opportunity to create walking paths. Along wide streets, walking paths reinforce the existing aesthetic and increase vegetative cover when natural materials and native Sonoran desert plants are used. They also slow traffic and provide an opportunity for shade.

**Walking Opportunities**

Lifeless dead-end streets and barren street corners become attractive and functional elements of neighborhood life with relatively small investment. The addition of a simple bench and more vegetation provide shade and create a nice rest stop for neighborhood walkers.
Drachman Institute Design Project 2006

The Greening Concept plan for St. Mark’s Church was completed by the Drachman Institute in 2006 as a component of the larger Miramonte Neighborhood Plan.

The plan was completed in conjunction with Miramonte area residents and St. Mark’s church to help mitigate the impact of the parking lot, contribute to a sense of place and community, and enhance neighborhood safety.

Urban Heat Island Effect

St. Mark’s expansive parking lot lacked any shade from trees and contributed to an increase in ambient temperature. Known as the Urban Heat Island effect, heat radiates from the asphalt surface and increases temperature in the vicinity.

Greening the Parking Lot

Trees planted in and around the parking lot help to break up the large area of asphalt, contributing to the reduction of ambient temperature in the area. When fully grown, these trees will provide additional shade.

The image above shows the conceptual plan for mitigating the heat island effect. Part of the plan is to add trees around an existing basketball court.
Improving Our Community

The goals for this neighborhood project included:

- Beautify Treat Path and improve safety at path road crossings
- Celebrate the Treat Path and the Arroyo Chico Crossings as neighborhood places
- Reinforce the neighborhood’s identity

The Drachman Institute collaborated with the Broadmoor Neighborhood to create a plan to enhance the neighborhood character while improving safety. Techniques for improvement included the transformation of excess street area into community space and creating a more coherent sense of place for the neighborhood.

The purpose of the Malvern Street Gathering Place was to bring people of the neighborhood together. The space reduces excessive street width, as shown in the proposed plan below right, to create this gathering space. The final design of the gathering space is shown below.

The purpose of the Treat Path Bridge was to provide a safe crossing over the Arroyo Chico Wash. There were several different concepts for the bridge. One of these concepts is shown above. The final realization of the Treat Path Bridge is shown to the left.

The plan proposed to enhance the walking path through more visible designations of street crossing as well as to provide a more unified character along the path. The new sidewalk, benches, and brick crossings accomplish these goals.
The Drachman Institute collaborated with the Rincon Heights Neighborhood Association (RHNA) in 1997 to develop a neighborhood plan for streetscape improvements and the creation of a small neighborhood park along the High School Wash. The plan was revived in 2004, and the neighborhood secured Pima County Bond Funds to implement the 9th and 10th Street chicanes systems. The park and the chicanes were implemented in association with the neighborhood and many other organizations.

**Small Neighborhood Park**

Located at the east end of the neighborhood along High School Wash, the small community park provides a community space along with several stormwater mitigation techniques.

**9th and 10th Street Chicanes**

Left: This picture shows the proposal of a crossing feature along the High School Wash

Below: Plan shows the proposed design along the entire wash.

Left: View of the street after the chicanes have been implemented

Below Left: Chicanes provide niches for residents to park their cars on the street

Below: Chicanes use native vegetation to help control water run off.

**Improving Our Community**

The goals for this neighborhood project included:

- Create an urban wildlife habitat for birds
- Calm traffic and reduce cut through traffic
- Beautify the neighborhood
- Create a more attractive street and streetscape