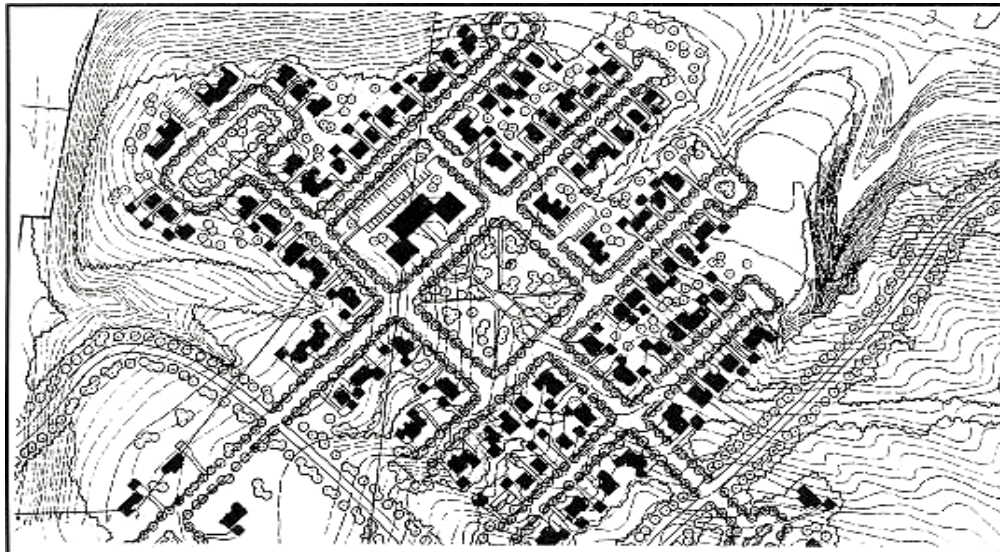




**Position on Glen Oak School Siting Decision**  
**November 20, 2006**

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**The Heart of Peoria Commission** recommends that Glen Oak School be rehabilitated and used as the new K-8 grade school for the Woodruff attendance area. In the event the current Glen Oak School building cannot be reused, we recommend the new grade school be constructed on the current Glen Oak School site. Our view is based on current research and evidence showing multiple benefits when a school is physically centered in a neighborhood as envisioned by the following illustration.



A new or renovated school located at the current Glen Oak School site—when appropriately designed, landscaped, and programmed—has the potential to enhance and stabilize this troubled East Bluff neighborhood, and a stable neighborhood improves the learning environment for the children. Schools centered in neighborhoods promote socialization and healthy living patterns, and we expect to see positive results created by a reconfigured indoor and outdoor space.

The Heart of Peoria Commission's purpose is to advocate and promote the principles of the New Urbanism as stated in the "Charter for the New Urbanism" (attached) and the Heart of Peoria Plan. We recommend that the City Council of Peoria make their care of the public space (i.e., streets, alleys, sidewalks, street trees, curbs, and gutters) a top priority and make a commitment to the revitalization of the Wisconsin Commercial Corridor using sound urban design planning and proven economic development methods. We recommend that the Peoria Park Board agree to partner with the City and District 150 to create open park space located within the current school site.

**Achieving** these goals will require unprecedented cooperation which we feel could occur with sound community leadership. There are ample opportunities for partnerships to make the Glen Oak neighborhood and Glen Oak School successful. Broad-based community involvement, using established best-practice guidelines, will create trust leading to ownership by the various stakeholders. We urge all involved to consider the significance of the Heart of Peoria Plan while making decisions about Peoria's future.



*This aerial photograph developed by Tri-County Planning May of 2006*

- **Red outlined area**- Glen Oak School attendance area.
- **Light blue circles** - are the  $\frac{1}{4}$  and  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile radius pedestrian sheds around the current Glen Oak School site. **Please notice this is the center of the Glen Oak neighborhood and encompasses almost the entire current attendance area- thus requiring minimal busing**
- **Yellow circles** - are the  $\frac{1}{4}$  and  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile pedestrian sheds around the proposed new site (approximate location) in Glen Oak Park. Notice how the circles encompass much of the natural area for the future expanded Glen Oak Zoo and also of the Kingman attendance area. **The proposed site leaves the majority of the Glen Oak attendance area beyond the  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile radius which will result in mandatory busing of the majority of children attending Glen Oak School.**

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