

Accept the 2021 South Park Blocks Master Plan as a guide for future use and development of the Park (Resolution)

Exhibits

Exhibit A:

South Park Blocks Master Plan Main Document:

https://issuu.com/portlandparks/docs/spbmp_2021-final-rec-draft

Exhibit B:

Connected Cultural District Concept:

https://issuu.com/portlandparks/docs/spbmp_2021-0422_app-b



PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATIONSM

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland

South Park Blocks

MASTER PLAN





Cover images (clockwise from top left):

Picnickers at Block 1 in the University District during the Saturday farmers market event, October 2018

Grid of trees at Block 6 looking south through the University District, May 2019

Rose planters at Block 10 at the Portland Art Museum the Cultural District, June 2019

Shemanski Fountain at Block 12 in the Cultural District, April 2019

Parallel walkways along Block 8 in the Cultural District, April 2019

Left:

Looking south towards Block 9 in the Cultural District, April 2019

Opposite (top to bottom):

University District wood slat bench seating installed on brick seatwall at Block 2, May 2019

Leaking lower fountain at Shemanski Fountain, April 2019

All photos: MIG



VISION

Portland's parks, public places, natural areas, and recreational opportunities give life and beauty to our city. These essential assets connect people to place, self, and others. Portland's residents treasure and care for this legacy, building on the past to provide for future generations.

MISSION

The mission of Portland Parks & Recreation is to help Portlanders play - providing the safe places, facilities, and programs which promote physical, mental, and social activity. We get people, especially kids, outside, active, and connected to the community. As we do this, there will be an increase in the wellness of our residents and the livability of our city. We accomplish this through:

- Establishing, safeguarding and restoring the parks, natural areas, public places, and urban forest of the city, ensuring that these are accessible to all;
- Developing and maintaining excellent facilities and places for public recreation and community building;
- Providing dynamic recreation programs and services that promote health and well-being for all;
- Partnering with the community we serve.

EQUITY STATEMENT

We recognize, understand, and encourage celebration of the differences that surround us. Diversity and equity are vital to Portland Parks & Recreation's ideals and values.



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**South
Park
Blocks**
MASTER PLAN

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Shemanski Fountain at the block located between Main and Salmon Street in the Cultural District (MIG)



Gathering space at the center of the block located between Montgomery Street and Mill Street in the University District (MIG)



PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION™

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland

Dear Portlanders:

The South Park Blocks has long served nearby neighbors and downtown visitors and provides space for citywide gatherings, including the Rose Festival, annual salmon bakes, Portland Farmers Markets, University District campus activities, Cultural District events, and more. Through the master planning process, we have learned about the park's diverse history and existing features and heard from Portlanders about new challenges and opportunities. I am proud to present this plan that combines vibrant community contributions with the technical resources needed to guide the future stewardship of the South Park Blocks.

The downtown park blocks are treasured by many as historic spaces tied to the early development of what we know today as the City of Portland. Landscapes have a history reflective of many different cultures, perspectives, and experiences. Our beloved public spaces present a shared responsibility to acknowledge and attend to these diverse realities. The South Park Blocks Master Plan provides a vision that speaks to our shared cultural history and balances current needs with character-defining park features.

We have heard community members ask for more opportunities for reconciliation and healing through the landscape, better representation of diverse cultural histories and identities in art and other park features, and rehabilitation of spaces to be more accessible to people of all ages and abilities. Addressing these needs aligns with Portland Parks & Recreation goals related to equity, inclusion, and antiracism. Future design and engagement processes will help ensure park improvements retain community-valued features while creating a more inclusive space that feels safe and welcoming for all.

The Master Plan's tree succession strategy provides a long-term guide for replacing trees when they naturally reach the end of their life spans. The long-term vision balances preserving the canopy form of elm trees with adding more species diversity to promote resiliency, honor Indigenous traditions and values, and reintegrate native species present on the landscape before European settlement.

Over the past year, Portland parks have provided essential spaces for our community during the global pandemic and served as a stage for racial and social justice movements. People increasingly rely on parks for their physical and emotional well-being. As the pressures on the downtown area increase and impacts from climate change intensify, the demands on our park spaces will grow. As responsible stewards, we need to look ahead and equip our existing parks to serve the changing needs of a growing and changing Portland. This plan will serve as a critical guide to sustain and enhance the South Park Blocks for future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adena Hong".

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Peace Chant artwork at the block located between Columbia Street and Jefferson Street in the Cultural District (MIG)



Holon artwork at the block located between Hall Street and Harrison Street in the University District (MIG)

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**South
Park
Blocks**
MASTER PLAN

Executive Summary







Executive Summary

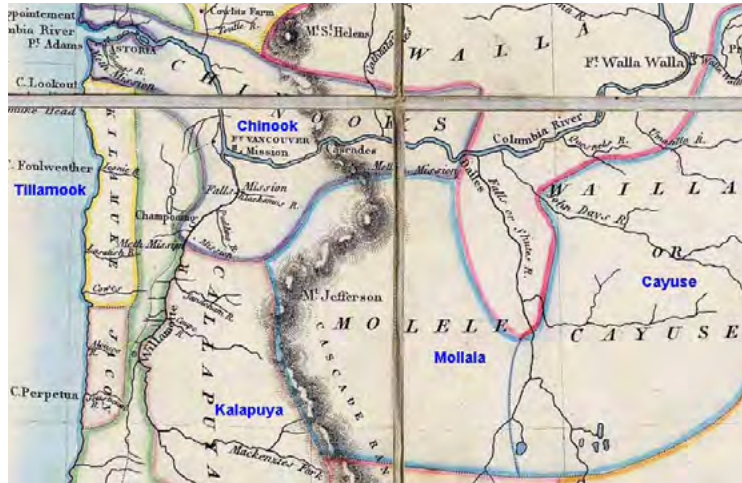
Overview

The South Park Blocks Master Plan develops a long-term concept for the park’s physical rehabilitation as well as a Tree Succession Strategy that works toward improving the resiliency and endurance of the park’s iconic trees, many of which are reaching the end of their designed lifespans. The plan recognizes two distinct areas of the park, the University District and the Cultural District, and includes unifying features to emphasize a single holistic identity for the park. The recommended design is compatible with the historic features of the South Park Blocks as they are understood today while addressing accessibility and equity considerations throughout. The Green Loop component of the Master Plan weaves additional pedestrian and bicycle capacity along the park.

The South Park Blocks are comprised of twelve consecutive city blocks in southwest downtown Portland bound by Jackson Street and Salmon Street and bordered by Park Avenue East and Park Avenue West. The park is an important downtown strolling, gathering, studying and people-watching destination.



South Park Blocks Master Plan



Map showing tribal lands in what would become the Oregon Territory (Courtesy of Charles Wilkes, Library of Congress)

The southern six blocks of the University District provide park space for Portland State University and the city’s well-renowned, year-round Portland Saturday Farmers Market. The northern six blocks of the Cultural District function as the front yard to major cultural institutions such as the Portland Art Museum, Portland’s Performing Arts Center, Oregon Historical Society, and residential and religious uses. The Cultural District also hosts a May-October farmers market event on Wednesdays at Shemanski Square. The South Park Blocks and the nearby North Park Blocks provide linear park space in the downtown core that starts at the foot of the West Hills and ends at the Willamette River.

History

Prior to European settlement in the mid-19th century, the Willamette and Columbia rivers supported Native villages and fostered a vigorous trade network throughout the basin and beyond. Indigenous groups made significant contributions to the land since time immemorial. Despite the harm that has been done to these communities, Indigenous people in Portland continue their cultural practices and sacred connections to the land today. The proximity of the South Park

Blocks to the Native American Student and Community Center (NASCC) at Portland State University provides a great opportunity to reconnect to this history and weave these stories and cultural practices into the urban park.

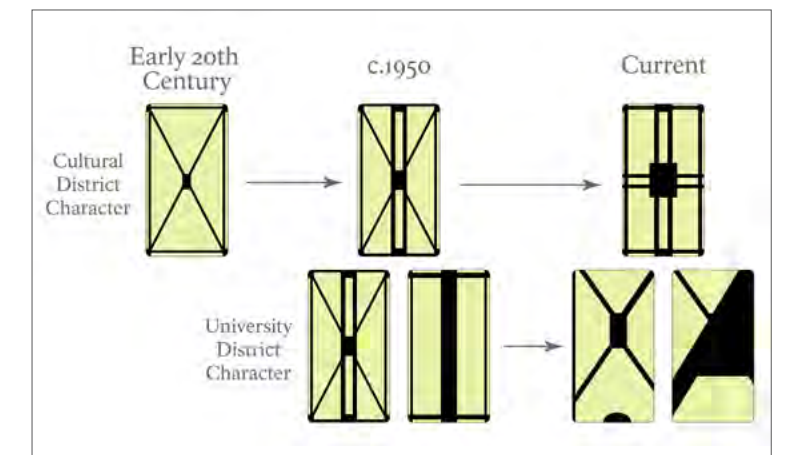
By the 1840s, Indigenous populations had been devastated by epidemics of introduced European diseases as settlers started to encroach the land that would become downtown Portland. The subsequent development of the South Park Blocks reflected Eurocentric spatial organization and design details that were popular in U.S. cities since the mid-1800s. When the park was first planted with a grid of trees in 1877, inspiration for the South Park Blocks may have included Boston’s Commonwealth Avenue Mall (built 1858-1870s) and other park designs inspired by tree lined Parisian boulevards. Decades later, the park underwent two redesigns, the University District in 1971 and the Cultural District in 1984 and 1987. A more complete site history for the park is provided in Chapter 2: Site History Summary and Appendix A.



1878 View of South Park Blocks looking northeast one year after initial tree planting (Oregon Historical Society Research Library: OrHi 23454)



Native American Student and Community Center at the south end of the South Park Blocks (MIG)



Diagrams illustrate how circulation patterns have evolved in the South Park Blocks (MIG)

Character-defining features of the South Park Blocks

- Spatial organization with twelve blocks forming a linear park
- Grid arrangement of trees and mature canopy
- Sequence of focal points and gathering areas
- North-south focused circulation patterns with seating along walkways
- Balance of hardscape plaza spaces, walkways, and planting areas

The Planning Process and Public Engagement

Community engagement was done throughout the planning process and guided by Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) and consultants Lois D. Cohen Associates. A Community Advisory Committee (CAC) was established at the outset of the project with representation from downtown residents, workers, students, neighboring cultural institutions, and other active users of the South Park Blocks. The CAC worked together to recommend a community-supported park design that reflects neighborhood priorities and citywide goals. A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) with representation from PP&R work groups, other City of Portland bureaus and external partners that manage assets in or near the South Park Blocks was also convened to highlight major policy and technical considerations. Many other stakeholders and the wider community provided input and advice through the planning process phases: Visioning, Design Concept Review, Draft Preferred Design Review. Chapter 3: Community Engagement overviews this process in more detail.

The recommended design for the South Park Blocks prioritizes protection of the park’s historic resources through a rehabilitation lens, meaning some features will change to accommodate contemporary uses and needs. The Master Plan’s recommended design improves the park’s resiliency to impacts of climate change; adds art, design elements, and planting treatments that reflect more diverse cultural histories and identities; addresses existing accessibility challenges; creates more flexible, safe, and inclusive spaces; and converts underused street space for park users.

South Park Blocks Master Plan Project Schedule

Project kickoff and site reconnaissance	Apr 2019
CAC, TAC engagement, stakeholder outreach	May 2019
Community Gathering #1	July 2019
Existing Conditions, Issues and Opportunities Report	Aug 2019
Concept Development	Aug - Dec 2019
CAC, TAC engagement, stakeholder outreach	Oct 2019
Community Gathering #2	Nov 2019
Commission Briefings #1	Dec 2019 - Jan 2020
Draft Preferred Design and Tree Succession Strategy	Feb - Apr 2020
CAC, TAC engagement, stakeholder outreach	May 2020
Community Gathering #3	June 2020
Commission Briefings #2	July 2020
Design and Master Plan Refinements	Aug - Dec 2020
Master Plan Acceptance	2021



Community Gathering #1, Party in the Park, held on the park block fronting Lincoln Hall on July 17, 2019 (MIG)

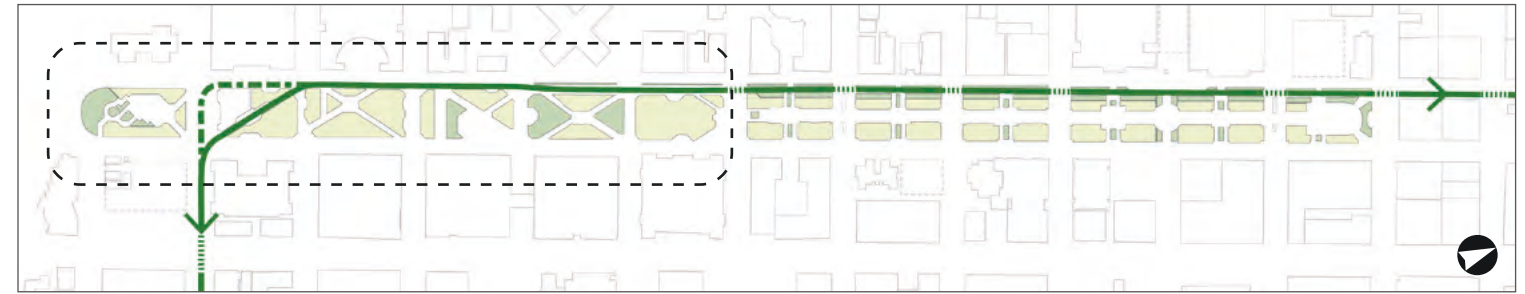


Community Gathering #2 was advertised on bilingual signage placed in the park leading up to Community Event #2 (MIG)

RECOMMENDED DESIGN - UNIVERSITY DISTRICT

South Park Blocks
MASTER PLAN

Key Map: Green Loop Recommended Alignment



LEGEND

- | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Building Footprint | Green Loop Shared Use Path (Block 2) | Cross Walk | Turf / Lawn |
| Roadway | Green Loop Path (Blocks 5-12) | Gathering Areas | Tree Canopy |
| Pedestrian Paving | Streetcar Line | Bench / Social Seating | Plant Bed: Native, Ornamental, or Flower |
| Shared Bike / Ped Zone | | Small Scale Feature / Art | Playground Safety Surfacing |



0 125 250 Feet

Source: PortlandMaps Open Data, COP GIS, 2019 MHA Tree Inventory, 2019 MIG Fieldwork and Site Documentation, ESRI orthoimagery, South_Park_Blocks_Base.dwg

Recommended Design

University District

Some of the major rehabilitation activities recommended for Blocks 1-6 of the University District include improving overall site accessibility, upgrading and adding gathering space, a new playground near the Native American Student and Community Center, and planting changes. The replanting plan for the design has fewer trees over time in order to retain and promote healthy, large trees that provide a similar canopy experience as today with native tree species incorporated. Park lighting levels to be unified and ideally replaced to match fixtures used in recent North Park Blocks renovations.

Other features specific to each block include:

Block 1 - PSU Playground and Gathering Area

- New gateway art
- Small gathering areas
- Thematic play experience
- Link to Native American Student and Community Center
- Incorporation of native trees and plantings

Block 2 - Viking Pavilion Flexible Event Space

- New flexible gathering plaza
- Green Loop alignment diagonally through block following plaza construction

Block 3 - Maseeh Hall / Millar Library

- Refurbish Holon artwork
- Formalize desire line circulation
- Quiet block
- Green Loop shared use path along west side of block

Block 4 - Smith Plaza

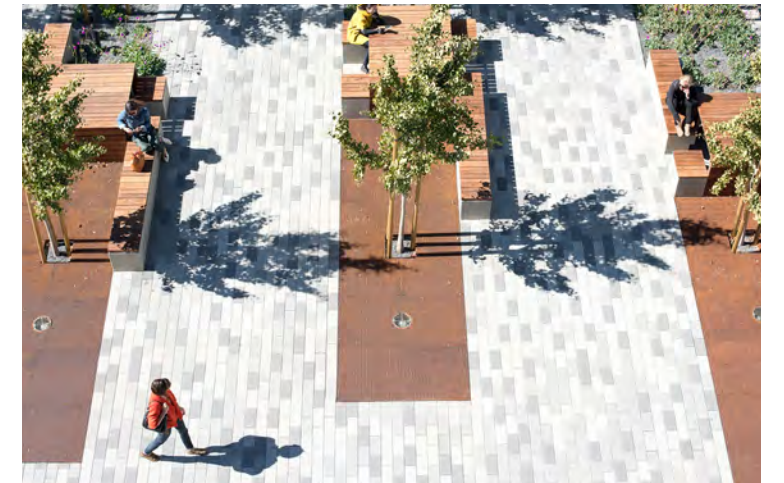
- Renovate Smith Amphitheater for more flexibility and accessibility upgrades
- Incorporation of native and adapted plants around Smith Plaza
- Green Loop shared use path along west side of block

Block 5 - Farewell to Orpheus Fountain

- Incorporation of native and adapted plantings along Mill Street
- All door boarding at streetcar stop
- Refurbish fountain and brick base
- Formalize desire lines
- Green Loop is a separated path along Park Avenue West lined with planting

Block 6 - Lincoln Hall

- Provides space for rotating exhibits and/or new permanent art
- Low-mow lawn as pilot project study for turf alternatives in the South Park Blocks
- Quiet block
- Green Loop is a separated path along Park Avenue West lined with planting



Example of flexible gathering space for Block 2 (Meyer Studio Land Architects)

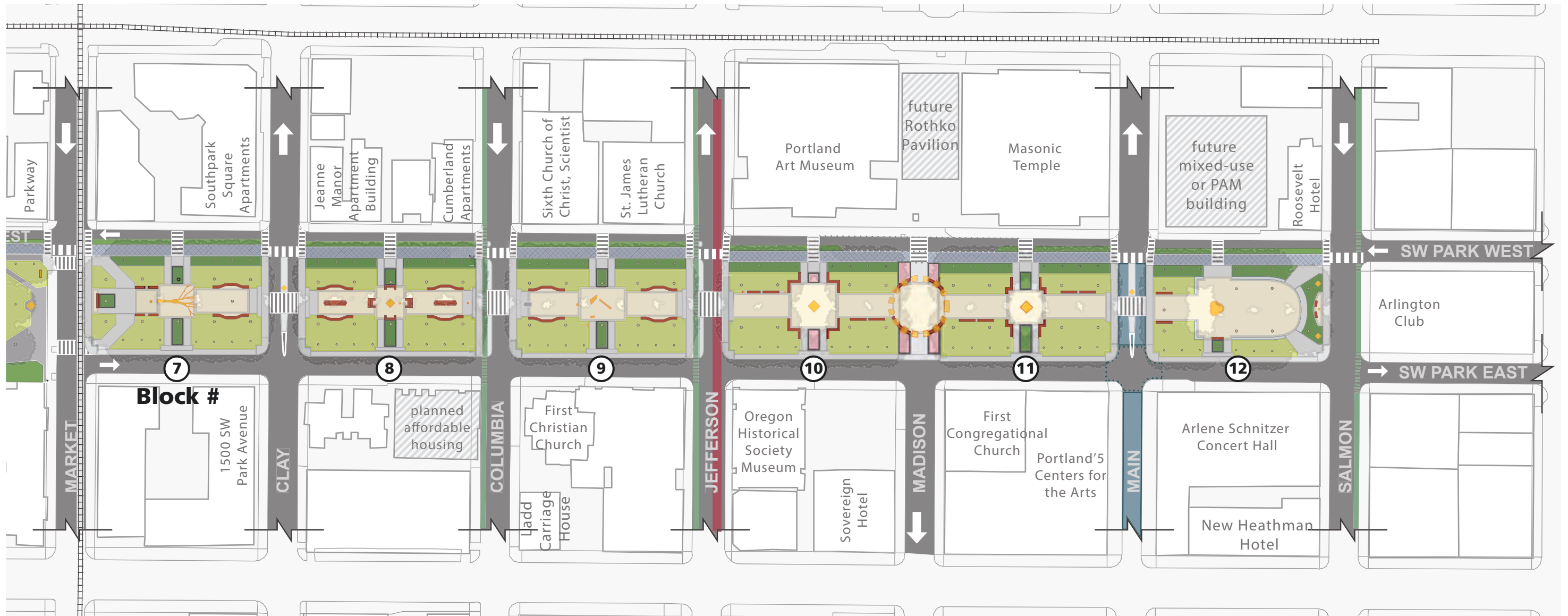
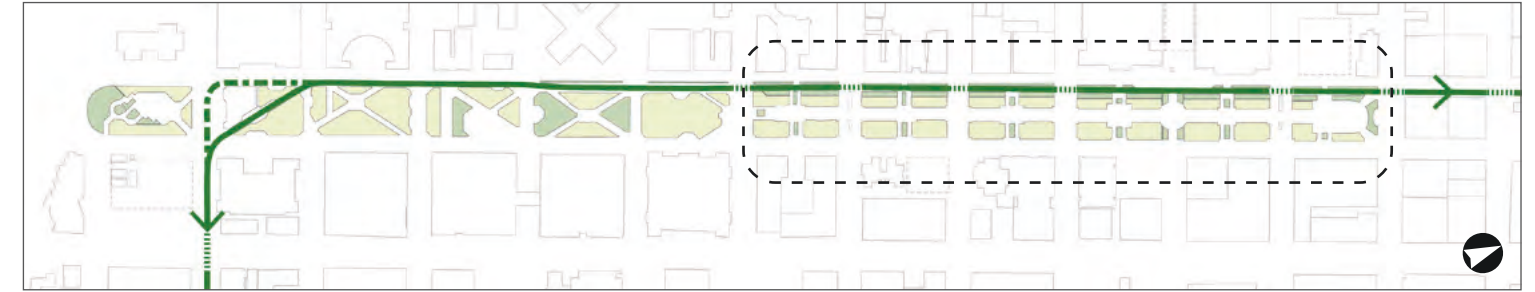


Example of outdoor rotating art exhibit for Block 6 (Public Art Fund)

RECOMMENDED DESIGN - CULTURAL DISTRICT

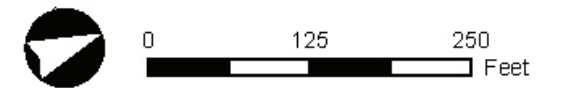
South Park Blocks MASTER PLAN

Key Map: Green Loop Recommended Alignment



LEGEND

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Building Footprint | Green Loop Path (Blocks 5-12) | Gathering Areas | Tree Canopy |
| Roadway | Intersecting Bikeways | Temporary Closure for Events | Turf / Lawn |
| Pedestrian Paving | Streetcar Line | Bench / Social Seating | Raised Rose Bed |
| Rose Lane Project | Cross Walk | Small Scale Feature / Art | Raised Plant Bed: Native, Ornamental, or Flower |
| | | | Plant Bed: Native, Ornamental, or Flower |



Source: PortlandMaps Open Data, COP GIS, 2019 MHA Tree Inventory, 2019 MIG Fieldwork and Site Documentation, ESRI orthoimagery, South_Park_Blocks_Base.dwg

Cultural District

Some of the major rehabilitation activities proposed for Blocks 7-12 of the Cultural District include a central promenade pedestrian strolling mall, continuation of elms along the promenade, adding tree diversity along the edges of the park, adding social seating, improving overall site accessibility, and conversion of a block of Madison Street to a plaza expanding the park space. The Green Loop is a shared use path separated from vehicles with planting along Park Avenue West. Park lighting levels to be unified and ideally replaced to match fixtures used in recent North Park Blocks renovations.

Other features specific to each block include:

Block 7 - Shadow of the Elm

- Refurbish ‘Shadow of the Elm’ paving
- Optional median art location at Clay Street

Block 8 - Neighborhood Block

- Expanded social seating
- Space for interactive art at block’s center

Block 9 - Peace Chant

- Refurbish Peace Chant artwork
- Protection for artwork using special paving treatments
- Quiet block

Blocks 10 and 11 - Cultural District Squares

- Space for focal point art at block centers
- Links to new Madison Plaza gathering space and Rothko Pavilion
- New interactive artwork at Madison Plaza space
- Social seating oriented around new Madison Plaza
- Roses in east and west planters remain

Block 12 - Shemanski Square

- Shemanski Square better linked to Blocks 10-11 with central promenade
- Refurbish Shemanski Fountain
- Gateway art at Salmon Street planter
- Location for art at Main Street median



Example of social seating for Block 7 (mmcité)

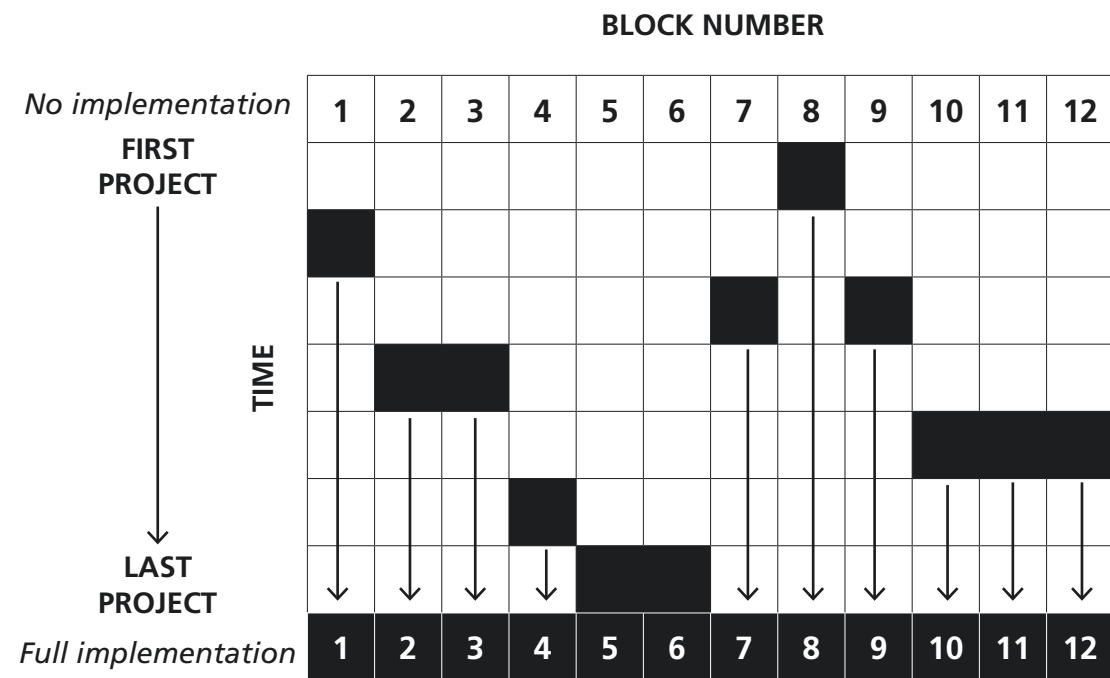


Example of art to reflect diverse cultural histories and identities for Blocks 10 and 11 (Hood Design Studio)

Partnerships

Maintaining partnerships will be key to Portland Parks & Recreation’s (PP&R’s) ability to make progress on the Master Plan. During implementation, PP&R will continue to engage the community, staff working groups, various stewards of the park blocks, and stakeholders. Many groups and individuals will be important partners to the Master Plan implementation, details of which are provided in Chapter 3 and Chapter 5.

POTENTIAL CONSTRUCTION SEQUENCING



Project Phasing

The South Park Blocks Master Plan reflects what will likely be a 50-year or longer vision for the park. The Master Plan provides a framework for block construction based on a goal to have the entire park rehabilitated in a way that prioritizes public access and allows the design to remain readable and consistent from block to block.

Rehabilitation of the park is more complex today than it was in previous decades considering factors like the older age of mature trees, stormwater management standards, ADA standards, historic compliance, new standards for tree protection, City equity goals, and sustainability and design resilience in light of climate change. Together, these factors suggest a long period of time will be needed for the park-wide rehabilitation.

Potential design and construction sequencing of these improvements is shown in the graphic to the left. This serves as a guide for implementation with reference to sequencing and timing of efforts to attain full implementation of this Master Plan. Sequencing will need to be revised over time based on changing priorities and to reflect completed block renovations.

Cost

The estimated total project budget for the recommendations in the South Park Blocks Master Plan uses a high and low range to provide a wider understanding of what the effort may entail. These costs include construction costs, mobilization (all activities and associated costs for transportation of contractor’s personnel, equipment, operating supplies to the site, and establishment of general facilities for the contractor’s operations), contingency, and soft costs such as design, engineering, permitting, and project management. Green Loop implementation costs are provided separately with no range.

Low range: \$22.9 million

High range: \$46.6 million

Green Loop: \$7.4 million

1

Introduction





1

Introduction

A Culturally Significant Park in Downtown Portland

The South Park Blocks is a unique, linear park in downtown Portland comprised of twelve contiguous half-size city blocks. It provides a welcome respite for many in the heart of the city. The park acts as the front yard for the City's largest cultural and performing arts institutions and its predominant institution of higher learning, Portland State University (PSU). The park is split into two equally sized districts, the Cultural District and the University District.

The park blocks are and have been used in a variety of ways by residents, visitors, office workers, students and other community members in downtown. Being under a mature tree canopy, resting on benches, strolling through the park in a dominant north-south direction, studying, and viewing art at focal points are some of the primary and daily activities and experiences.¹ Since its inception in 1877 when the blocks were planted with a grid of Lombardy poplars and elm trees, the park has undergone periodic physical changes to its circulation and planting. Most recently, major renovations took place in the early 1970s with the redesign of the University District by architects Campbell Yost Grube and in the early to mid-1980s with the redesign of the Cultural District by the landscape architecture firm Walker Macy.



¹ See Appendix C, Community Engagement Report #1, Visioning Survey Results

Character-defining features of the South Park Blocks

- Spatial organization with twelve blocks forming a linear park
- Grid arrangement of trees and mature canopy
- Sequence of focal points and gathering areas
- North-south focused circulation patterns with seating along walkways
- Balance of hardscape plaza spaces, walkways, and planting areas

Plan Purpose

The Master Plan effort for the South Park Blocks is prompted by upward growth trends of both the City of Portland and PSU, recent development patterns along the park blocks, and continuation of popular activities like weekly farmers market events that draw more and more visitors each year. Many of the oldest trees in the park are also reaching the end of their lifespans. Predicted climate change impacts - higher forecasted precipitation levels and more unpredictable weather events - also prompt action for a Master Plan given the impacts will affect the park's trees. These factors also make the park more important to the daily lives of those who live, work, and recreate downtown. Increasing the park's responsiveness, capacity, and resiliency in light of these and other factors is paramount to maintaining the defining experiences of visiting the South Park Blocks for future generations.

The purpose for a South Park Blocks Master Plan is to ensure there is balanced and forward-thinking design guidance in place to ensure protection of the park's historic and cultural resources while also addressing contemporary needs to help it thrive in the future.

Respect for the park's understood character-defining features - a grid arrangement of trees with mature tree canopy, park circulation arranged in a dominant north-south direction with seating along walkways, a sequence of focal points and gathering areas, and balance of hardscape and planting - figured prominently in this master plan process. While the proposed recommendations over time will alter some circulation and vegetation in the park, they are part of the Master Plan to ensure the park's resilience over the next hundred years.

Other major factors that led to the Master Plan include:

- The South Park Blocks have not previously had a master plan for all 12 blocks
- Large-scale improvements from 1971 (Campbell Yost Grube University District design), 1984 and 1987 (Walker Macy Cultural District design) are showing their age
- Need for a tree succession strategy to address the park's mature iconic American elm trees (*Ulmus americana*), which are reaching the end of their designed lifespans. Planning and forward-thinking

design is needed to ensure that all tree species in the park can thrive in conditions quite different from when they were originally planted.

- Inclusion of the Green Loop as part of the City of Portland's adopted Central City 2035 Plan and its alignment along the South Park Blocks
- Expansion of the Portland Art Museum in the Cultural District as a major City of Portland destination, promenade and gathering space
- Recent development on an adjacent block (Broadway Tower) provided public benefit funding for affordable housing, park planning, and improvements to Block 8 (between Clay and Columbia Streets). As other adjacent properties develop in the future, a similar model of funding park improvements may be anticipated.
- ADA assessment from 2014 identified needed improvements in the South Park Blocks as part of the City's accessibility transition plan

Project Goals

The City and park stakeholders developed project goals for the South Park Blocks Master Plan process that were reviewed periodically. Recommendations for the park were developed to ensure project goals are met. Goals include:

1. Developing a community-supported park design
2. Expanding opportunities for a variety of uses and activities for people of all ages and abilities
3. Understanding, respecting and reflecting the complexities of the South Park Blocks' history
4. Providing strategic guidance for the management of the character-defining trees on site, including a tree succession planting scheme
5. Establishing recommendations for a future alignment of the Green Loop that balances the needs of bicyclists and pedestrians, promotes safety for all transportation modes, incorporates feedback from adjacent neighbors/stakeholders, and benefits park users
6. Accounting for adjacent uses and development trends along the park blocks, including the University and Cultural Districts and increasing residential densities
7. Producing a Master Plan that reflects the capacities, resources and strengths of the many stewards of the South Park Blocks





Design Objectives

The City's consultant team, comprised of landscape architects, cultural landscape preservation experts, transportation designers, and consulting arborists developed objectives for the Master Plan based on the above project goals. Objectives include:

1. Celebrate the South Park Blocks identity through defining features in both the University and Cultural Districts
2. Prioritize inclusive design and equitable experiences for people with differing abilities and backgrounds
3. Enrich the park experience through performing and visual arts and small community events
4. Strengthen relationship with the Native American Student and Community Center
5. Provide periodic flexible use space for community events, farmers markets, fairs, exhibits and live performances



6. Develop and expand specific program of appropriate elements or attractions
7. Consider methods to increase the sustainability and resiliency of park resources
8. Consider micro-climate and user comfort in all seasons
9. Preserve and improve wildlife habitat and urban forest canopy over time
10. Facilitate maintenance and operations efficiencies
11. Improve the physical and perception of public safety
12. Improve circulation and physical safety at streets and street crossings
13. Explore possible street closures in coordination with Portland Bureau of Transportation and other stakeholders
14. Support multi-modal connections and implementation of the Green Loop
15. Provide design and treatment recommendations in accordance with the *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties & Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes* using a rehabilitation framework approach understanding that the park blocks (in part or in whole) may be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places

Glossary of Important Terms

This section provides definitions and information for many of the key terms used in this Master Plan.

University District

The six blocks of the South Park Blocks between Jackson and Market Streets are part of the University District. These park blocks include vacated streets that contribute to the sense that the park is a campus quad. For the purposes of the Master Plan, the term 'University District' corresponds to park blocks between Jackson and Market Streets and Park Avenue East and Park Avenue West, including vacated sections between College and Market Street.

The circulation layout and design details of the University District differ significantly from the Cultural District in several ways, reflective of the Campbell Yost Grube redesign of the campus in 1971. Specifically, the site's ability to accommodate more gathering was priority of the 1971 redesign.²

² The 1972 Downtown Plan stated that, "redesign of the South Park Blocks adjacent to Portland State will provide areas for active uses such as outdoor concerts and informal gatherings."

Cultural District

The six blocks of the South Park Blocks between Market and Salmon Streets are part of the Cultural District. The Cultural District park blocks between Jefferson and Salmon include adjacent performing arts and museum organizations such as the Portland5, Portland Art Museum, Oregon Historical Society, and the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. Park blocks between Market and Jefferson have adjacent residential, religious and commercial uses. For the purposes of the Master Plan, the term 'Cultural District' corresponds to park blocks between Market and Salmon Streets and Park Avenue East and Park Avenue West.

As a result of the 1984 and 1987 rehabilitation of the Cultural District, the blocks between Market and Salmon were altered to provide a paved central activity area at each block.³ Gathering spaces support the overflow of adjacent uses of the cultural institutions, such as when people are entering or leaving performances.

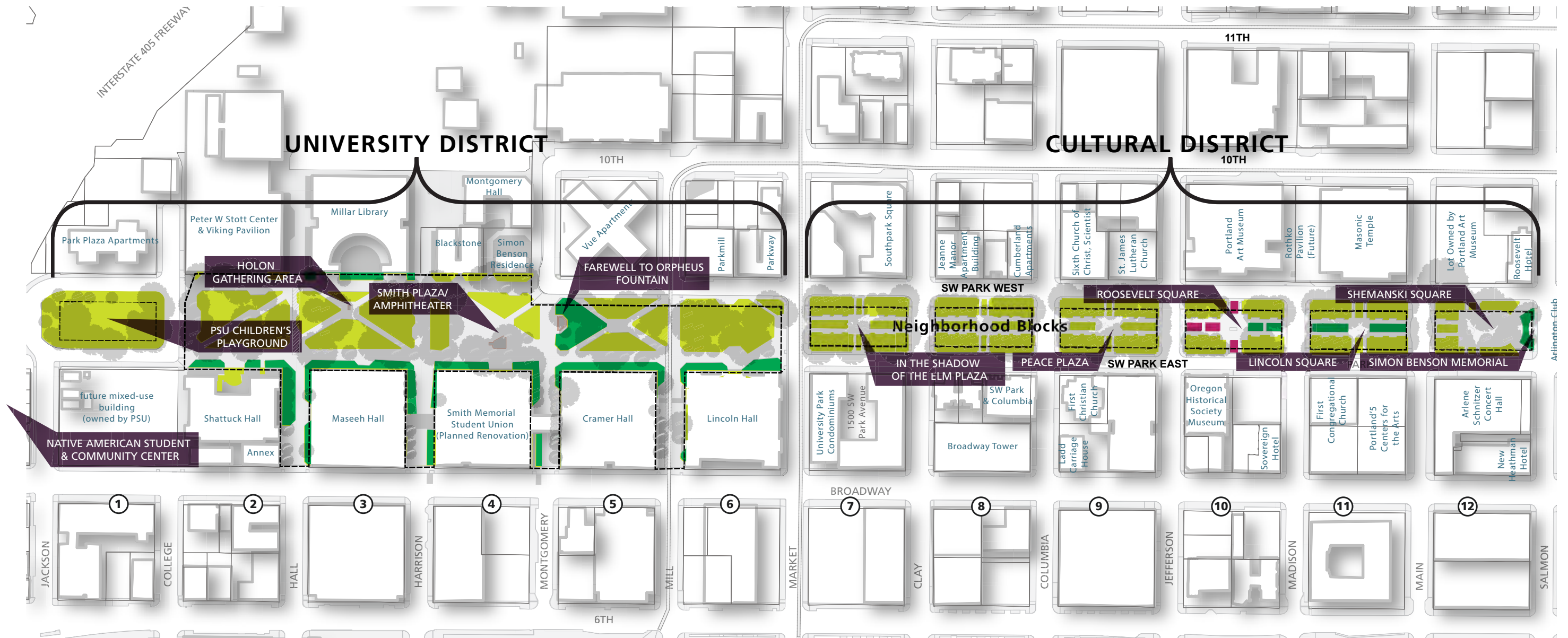
³ Request for Qualifications for the South Park Blocks Phase Two Redevelopment Project, 1986, page 3.



North-south focused circulation patterns with seating along walkways (MIG)

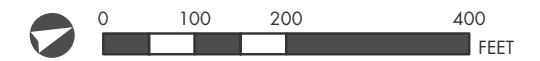


Balance of hardscape plaza spaces and planting areas (University District) (MIG)



Existing Conditions Map

- Full Existing Tree Canopy (approx.)
- Lawn
- Native / Ornamental Mix Plant Bed
- Rose Bed



Source:
 2019 Mayer/Reed Fieldwork and Site Documentation, Next Portland, PortlandMaps Open Data, COP GIS, 2019 MHA Tree Inventory 2019 MIG, Inc. Fieldwork and Site Documentation, ESRI orthoimagery, South_Park_Blocks_Base.dwg

Block Numbering used in the Master Plan

The South Park Blocks are numbered for clarity and ease of reference throughout this document. The block numbers in the Master Plan do not have a relationship to other official block numbering systems used by the City of Portland. The blocks are numbered 1 through 12 from south to north as follows:

- Block 1 - Between Jackson Street and College Street
- Block 2 - Between College Street and Hall Street
- Block 3 - Between Hall Street and Harrison Street
- Block 4 - Between Harrison Street and Montgomery Street
- Block 5 - Between Montgomery Street and Mill Street
- Block 6 - Between Mill Street and Market Street
- Block 7 - Between Market Street and Clay Street
- Block 8 - Between Clay Street and Columbia Street

- Block 9 - Between Columbia Street and Jefferson Street
- Block 10 - Between Jefferson Street and Madison Street
- Block 11 - Between Madison Street and Main Street
- Block 12 - Between Main Street and Salmon Street

South Park Blocks Master Plan: Existing Conditions, Issues, and Opportunities Report

The *Existing Conditions, Issues, and Opportunities Report* (ECIOR) is a document produced during the summer of 2019 to summarize project goals, provide a brief site history and chronology of development, and provide a detailed description of the park's existing conditions, and identify key issues and opportunities that frame the master plan approach. The ECIOR includes many graphic exhibits locating park features and a summary table of potentially historic and non-historic landscape features. The ECIOR provided the basis of design for Master Plan concept development.

National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the Nation's historic places worthy of preservation. Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archaeological resources.

A draft nomination for both the North and the South Park Blocks was produced in 1985. More recently, a subcommittee of the Downtown Neighborhood Association developed a draft nomination for just the South Park Blocks.

Cultural Landscapes

Cultural landscapes are historically significant places that show evidence of human interaction with the physical environment. Their authenticity is measured by historical integrity, or the presence and condition of physical characteristics that remain from the historic period.⁴

The South Park Blocks are considered a cultural landscape.

⁴ <https://www.nps.gov/articles/cultural-landscapes-101.htm>

Standards for Rehabilitation*

- A property will be used as it was historically or be given a new use that requires minimal change to its distinctive materials, features, spaces, and spatial relationships.
- The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The removal of distinctive materials or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.
- Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or elements from other historic properties, will not be undertaken.
- Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right shall be retained and preserved.
- Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.
- Deteriorated historic features will be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature will match the old in design, color, texture, and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features will be substantiated by documentary and physical evidence.
- Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.
- Archaeological resources will be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.
- New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work will be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.
- New additions and adjacent or related new construction will be undertaken in a such a manner that, if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

*Birnbaum, Charles. *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties & Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*, National Park Service, U.S. Secretary of the Interior, 1992.

Rehabilitation Treatment

Rehabilitation treatment for a landscape recommends some change to accommodate contemporary use. A rehabilitation approach for properties listed in the *National Register of Historic Places* is defined as “the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values.”⁵

Rehabilitation is one of four treatment approaches (preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, reconstruction) for cultural landscapes. Because the South Park Blocks are a cultural landscape considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, a rehabilitation approach is recommended.

5 A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports: Contents, Process and Techniques, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, DC, 1998.

Green Loop

The Green Loop is a major initiative to build a six-mile linear park and multi-use path that invites residents, employees, and visitors to experience Portland’s urban core in a new way. The Green Loop leverages opportunities in the right-of-way, existing open space and building setbacks to create a high-quality destination that expresses the character of each district and unites Portland’s Central City.

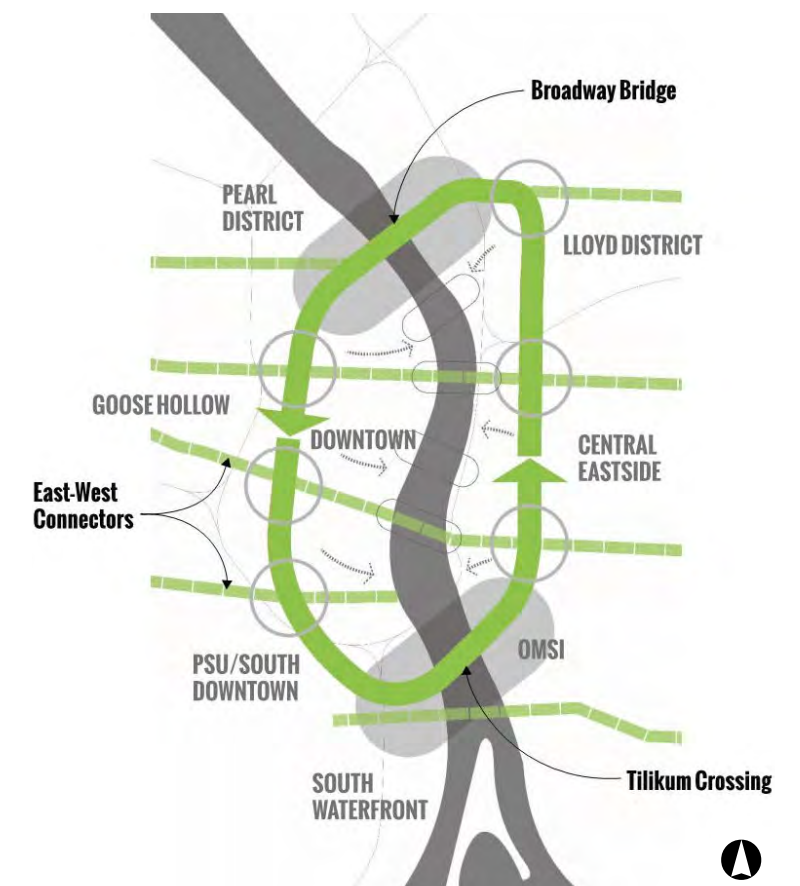
The Green Loop is intended to connect the North and South Park Blocks together, along with the midtown blocks (Director Park, O’Bryant Square, and Ankeny Square) and the future open spaces of the Broadway Corridor. The Green Loop will help provide a strong, intuitive link, inviting people to experience the great open spaces of Portland’s Downtown.

Key Map: Green Loop Recommended Alignment



The Green Loop is intended to be multi-modal, accommodating people who walk, jog, bike, and scoot. For cyclists, the Green Loop is intended to provide a safe, slower-paced space for “interested but concerned” cyclists. Although the South Park Blocks contains a network of pathways, they are not currently designed to accommodate all modes of the Green Loop.

At the north end of the South Park Blocks, the Green Loop path is planned to be on Park Avenue West (SW 9th Avenue), consistent with the current planned development at Block 216. At the south end of the South Park Blocks, the Green Loop path alignment is anticipated to follow College eastward.



Green Loop concept diagram (Mayer/Reed)

Rose Lane Project

A “Rose Lane” is a transit route where buses and streetcars have priority on the road in congested areas. The Rose Lane Project grew out of recommendations in the city’s Enhanced Transit Corridors Plan, adopted by Portland City Council in June 2018.

Through the Rose Lane Project, the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) is giving buses and streetcars priority on the road, helping more Portlanders get where they need to go more reliably and quickly.⁶

In the South Park Blocks, a northbound Rose Lane priority bus lane is planned along Jefferson Street.

Central City in Motion

Central City in Motion (CCIM) is PBOT’s effort to plan, prioritize, and implement transportation improvements in the city’s core. Eighteen projects were prioritized and include new pedestrian crossings, bus lanes, and bikeways.

⁶ “Rose Lane Project.” <https://www.portland.gov/transportation/planning/rose-lane-project>.

In the South Park Blocks, two CCIM projects⁷ apply:

- **Project 5: SW Madison/Columbia/Jefferson**

Multiple bus lines use Columbia and Jefferson Streets to connect from Goose Hollow to the Hawthorne Bridge. These streets are also critical east/west connections through downtown Portland for cars and trucks. The proposed project would improve transit reliability and speed by adding a Bus and Turn lane and bus stop improvements. Traditional bike lanes would also be provided.

- **Project 8: SW Salmon/Taylor**

SW Salmon and Taylor Streets are proposed to become key east/west bike routes for people of all ages and abilities between Goose Hollow and the Willamette by creating a protected bike lane on both streets. They would link to the Hawthorne Bridge via a new protected bike lane on SW 1st. Pedestrian crossing improvements on both streets and bus stop improvements on Salmon Street are also proposed.

⁷ “Central City in Motion.” www.portlandoregon.gov/transportation/71158.

Portland’5

In 2013, the Portland Center for the Performing Arts (PCPA) rebranded itself to the name “Portland’5 Centers for the Arts”. The “5” in the brand name intended to highlight that the organization has five venues, four of which are located adjacent to the South Park Blocks on Park Avenue East. They include: Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall, Winningstad Theater, Newmark Theater, and the Brunish Theater.

The center is referred to as “Portland’5” in this Master Plan.

2

Site History Summary





2

Site History Summary

Overview

A site history overview, repeat photography, inventory and analysis of existing park features, list of potentially historic park features, and opportunities and constraints discussion for the South Park Blocks was completed in July 2019. This purpose of this information was to establish a framework and common understanding about the park for the Master Plan concept development phase. The *South Park Blocks Master Plan Existing Conditions, Issues and Opportunities Report (ECIOR)* summarized the initial technical investigation of the South Park Blocks Master Plan process and is available as Appendix A. The ECIOR includes the following:

- Introduction
- Site History and Development of the South Park Blocks
- Existing Conditions
- Issues and Opportunities
- Appendices
 - Appendix A: Tree Inventory Summary Table
 - Appendix B: Planning and Land Use Documents Relevant to the Master Plan
 - Appendix C: Archival Documents Provided by PP&R and the City of Portland
 - Appendix D: List of reviewed documents not provided by PP&R

This chapter includes a succinct summary of the report integrated with more inclusive historical content developed through the master planning process.

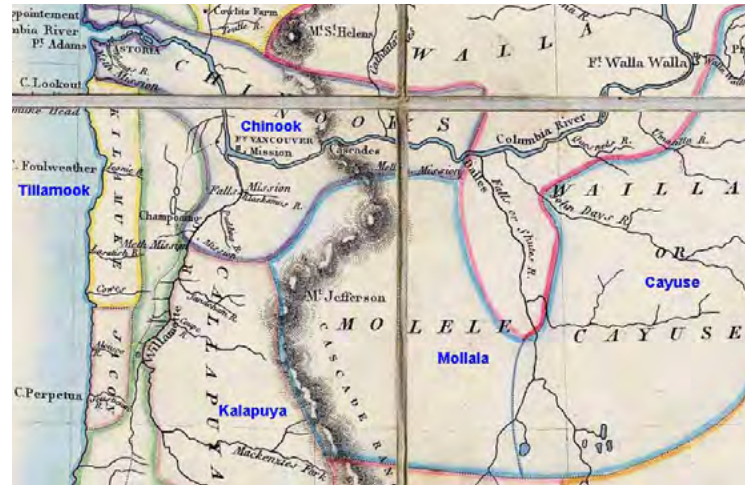
South Park Blocks
Master Plan Update

EXISTING CONDITIONS, ISSUES, AND OPPORTUNITIES REPORT
SOUTH PARK BLOCKS MASTER PLAN UPDATE

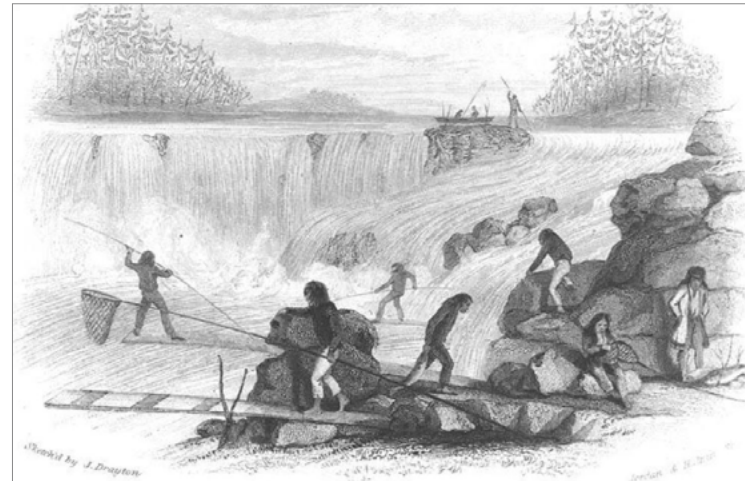
AUGUST 1, 2019 | FINAL DRAFT

MAYER/REED | TOOLE DESIGN GROUP | MORGAN HOLEN & ASSOCIATES | LOIS D. COHEN ASSOCIATES

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Map showing tribal lands in what would become the Oregon Territory (Courtesy of Charles Wilkes, Library of Congress)



1841 Chinookan men (possibly Clackamas) fishing at Willamette Falls, engraving by J. Drayton (University of Washington Libraries Special Collections Division, American Indians of the Pacific Northwest Images, NA3995)

Indigenous History and Culture

The Willamette Valley lies within the traditional homelands for a variety of Indigenous tribes and bands. These communities were non-homogeneous tribal entities made up of multiple subdivisions. Kinship and village residence defined the social identities for Indigenous peoples. By the 1840s, epidemics of introduced European diseases had devastated Native people and the appropriation of their lands dramatically altered the character of their culture and lands.

Treaties between the tribes and U.S. government executed in the 1850s resulted in the ceding of tribal lands and the resettlement of Indigenous people to reservations. Many of these individuals ended up at the Grand Ronde, Siletz, Warm Springs and Yakama reservations. Frequently, descendants married into other tribes throughout the Northwest. Moving into the twentieth century, a series of Federal policies and broken treaties led to the forced removal of Indigenous communities from the lands they had inhabited since time immemorial, terminated tribal governments, and relocated Indigenous peoples to urban areas.

Oregon has nine federally recognized Indian tribes whose present-day headquarters lie within state boundaries and whose members are citizens of sovereign nations. Federal recognition, whether by treaty or executive agreement, connects tribal members to the U.S. government, as beneficiaries of trust obligations. In this way, federally recognized tribal nations - whether they are on or off reservation lands - have unique political status.

During the 1970s, numerous protests and strikes took place in the South Park Blocks and Downtown Portland. Many of these events occurred near Portland State University, including Vietnam War protests and demonstrations in solidarity with the American Indian Movement (AIM). The AIM advocated for preserving tribal sovereignty and treaty rights and moved issues forward through marches and demonstrations directed at alleviating and addressing injustices and a lack of services. The United Indian Students of Higher Education (UISHE) was formed as a community service organization and started to hold annual salmon bakes in and around the South Park Blocks to raise awareness about Indigenous culture and money to support additional education and advocacy efforts.



Published in Oregon Journal May 17, 1975: Violet Allman, with spatula, and Jessie Curley, adjusting skewer, prepare salmon for serving in the South Park Blocks (photo courtesy Oregon Historical Society Research Library, Oregon Journal, photo file 1851)



1977 Salmon bake at Portland State University, organized by the United Indian Students of Higher Education (photo courtesy Oregon Historical Society Research Library, Oregon Journal, photo file 1851)



1978 Mike Hunter attends the PSU salmon bake with the United Indian Students of Higher Education (photo courtesy Oregon Historical Society Research Library, Oregon Journal, photo file 1851)



2019 salmon bake in the University District (photo courtesy of Indigenous artist Christine Bruno)

UISHE continues to meet today and hold these same gatherings in the Park Blocks and at the Native American Student and Community Center.

For generations, many Indigenous people have lived away from their tribal homelands, and Urban Indians from all over the United States are residents of Oregon. The City of Portland is one of the top 25 U.S. cities with the largest American Indian/Alaska Native populations, and 28 Native organizations run by and staffed with Native people have combined resources representing millions of dollars in revenue that go to local taxes, business, and services. Indigenous Portlanders are increasingly represented in government, art, education, and business, but they continue to experience stereotyping, microaggressions, racism, and institutionalized oppression. The resilience of the Indigenous community is rooted in their sense of culture, community, identity, and belonging. Cultivating spaces that honor and provide these cultural connections is important.

Following over a decade of advocacy and fundraising by the Indigenous community, students, and faculty, ribbon cutting ceremonies and tribal blessings

were held to open the Native American Student and Community Center (NASCC) at the southern end of the South Park Blocks in October 2003. The center provides space for community gathering and programming centered around Native American, Alaska Native, Pacific Islander, and other Indigenous community voices. Nez Perce landscape architect Brian McCormack helped to build a rooftop garden that can be reached by way of a ceremonial walkway. Seven rooftop beds with medicinal and ceremonial plants can be visited by a fully accessible path. These spaces provide opportunities for multiple generations to connect with each other and to the land through tradition, ceremony, and storytelling.⁸ Judy Bluehorse-Skelton, a Nez Perce and Cherokee Assistant Professor with PSU's Indigenous Studies Program, uses the gardens to educate students on Indigenous land ethics, regenerative design, and food sovereignty to reclaim health, address historical trauma, and continue Indigenous practices into the future to heal and create more resilient landscapes. The South Park Blocks will benefit from engaging Indigenous design expertise and Tribal Ecological Knowledge respectfully through design and implementation.

⁸ <https://www.psuf.org/native-american-student-and-community-center>, accessed November 9, 2020



American Indian Movement (AIM) protests in the South Park Blocks, May 8, 1976 (City of Portland Archives)



Native American Student and Community Center at the south end of the South Park Blocks in 2019 (MIG)

South Park Blocks Master Plan

Table 1: Chronological Overview of South Park Blocks Historic Resources and Events	
Date	Resource Information or Event
15,000 – 18,000 years ago	Glacial Lake Missoula breaks through a series of ice dams flooding the Pacific Northwest during 100 events over a period of 3,000 years with 40 of those events reaching Portland, carving out the Willamette River and its associated floodplain, which included the area now including downtown Portland.
1806	Capt. William Clark met with American Indians located on the Columbia River near the mouth of the Sandy River where they discussed the character of present-day Portland along the Willamette (then Multnomah) River and the tribes that lived along its banks. Indigenous tribes that lived around present-day Portland were the Clowewalla and Clackamas, whose descendants today are recognized as part of the Siletz and Grande Ronde.
before 1810	Region around present-day Portland, Oregon populated with Chinook and Atfalati Kalapuyan peoples.
1830	Federal Indian Removal Act institutionalized the practice of removing Indigenous tribes from their ancestral lands – including all of what is now Portland – in order to make room for white settlement. ⁹
1840s and 1850s	The Park Blocks were set aside by early landowner Daniel Lowndale in an 1849 survey. The narrow strip of blocks running north and south were substantially west of the city center at the time. ¹⁰
1850	The Oregon Donation Land Law (Act) (a predecessor to the Homestead Act of 1862) brought thousands of white settlers into Oregon Territory, swelling the ranks of settlers traveling along the Oregon Trail.
1852	One year after incorporation, Portland accepted a dedication of a row of twenty-four narrow blocks west of town from developer Daniel Lowndale. ¹¹
1852-1875	Park lots exist as unimproved roadway surrounded by residential development with Italianate mansions.
1855	Kalapuya Treaty of 1855 (also known as the Treaty of 1855, or the Dayton Treaty) dispossessed the Kalapuyans of the aboriginal lands and effectively transferred the vast wealth of the Willamette Valley to non-Indians. ¹² Similar treaties were signed with the Cayuse, Umatilla, and Walla Walla tribes.
1857	Oregon voters disapproved a proposal to legalize slavery yet approved of an exclusion clause by a wide margin. The clause prohibited Blacks from being in the state, owning property and making contracts. ¹³
1870	Fifteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is federally ratified, granting African American men the right to vote. Oregon did not approve until 1927.
1877	First planting of 104 Lombardy poplars and elms between Salmon and Hall Streets completed. Analysis of historic photos around this time indicate five rows of nine trees spaced 20 to 22 feet apart on the north-south axis and 20 feet apart on the east-west axis.
c.1910	New park superintendent Emanuel Mische, a former employee of the Olmsted Brothers firm, carries out major redesign of the Park Blocks. Each block was reseeded to turf and alternate blocks planted with roses or colorful exotics, expressive of the formality of the park's overall design. ¹⁴
1921	South Park Blocks “improved extensively...the broad center walk treatment, used in the lower blocks, has been extended and four blocks have been seeded to grass. The extension of this plan of central walks in gradually converting the South Park Blocks into an attractive mall will serve Portland somewhat as the Capitol mall served Washington, DC.” ¹⁵
1922	‘Theodore Roosevelt, Rough Rider’ statue given to city by Dr. Waldo Henry Coe. Groundbreaking ceremony attended by President Calvin Coolidge.
1926	Shemanski Fountain given to the City by Joseph Shemanski, designed by Architect Carl Linde, includes the statue <i>Rebecca at the Well</i> and three ground level water basins for dogs. The fountain is installed in the park block between Salmon and Main Streets.

9 <https://www.oregonmetro.gov/news/roots-portlands-native-american-community>

10 Oregon History Project <https://oregonhistoryproject.org/articles/historical-records/park-blocks-1878/>

11 Oregon Encyclopedia, Daniel Lowndale (1803-1862) <https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/lowndale-daniel/>

12 Oregon Encyclopedia, Kalapuya Treaty of 1855 https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/kalapuya_treaty/

13 Oregon Encyclopedia, Black Exclusion Laws in Oregon https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/exclusion_laws/

14 Open Space and Park Development, 1851-1965, PP&R (2010)

15 The Sunday Oregonian, March 20, 1921, Section 5, Page 3, Image 69, “Busiest Outdoor Season Now Has City Bureau of Parks Occupied.” (Historic Oregon Newspapers Archive, University of Oregon)

Table 1: Chronological Overview of South Park Blocks Historic Resources and Events	
Date	Resource Information or Event
1928	Statue of Abraham Lincoln placed on the block between Main and Madison Streets.
1900-1942	Apartments and rooming houses begin to appear. Mansions lining the park blocks converted to apartments.
1945-1950s	Mansions razed to make way for new apartment buildings. ¹⁶
1953	Portland State University moves to Lincoln Hall in the South Park Blocks.
1962	Columbus Day storm damages many trees requiring their removal.
1965-1969	Stadium Freeway/Foothills Freeway/Interstate 405 construction demolishes many buildings and the park block between Clifton and Jackson Streets. ¹⁷
1970s	Demonstrations held on PSU campus and South Park Blocks following students killed at Kent State University, objections to the Vietnam War, and concern about Indigenous rights.
1969-1971	Master Plan for PSU developed by Portland-based architecture firm Campbell Yost and Associates (now Yost Grube Hall Architects), who retained landscape architect Hideo Sasaki as a project consultant. ¹⁸
1971-1972	Major redesign of the University District park blocks. Park rebuilt as a sloping, slightly terraced brick-lined mall with updated diagonal circulation system and new gathering spaces. ¹⁹
1973	University District closed to traffic. ²⁰
1975	Addition of Farewell to Orpheus fountain to south end of park block between Mill and Montgomery.
1979	Holon sculpture by Gordon Hearn installed on block facing Millar Library and Neuberger Hall.
mid-1980s	Peace Chant sculpture by artist Steve Gillman installed on block between Jefferson and Columbia.
1984	Design Commission accepted the design concept from Portland landscape architecture firm Walker Macy for blocks between Market and Jefferson and the requisite deletion of diagonal walkways.
1984	Major renovation of the Cultural District blocks between Market and Jefferson – blocks widened, dual north-south walkways and cross-block connections added, new light standards, hexagonal asphalt pavers for walkways and sidewalks.
1984	In the Shadow of the Elm marble paving art by Paul Sutinen installed on block between Market and Clay.
1985	Peace Chant sculpture by artist Steve Gillman installed on block between Jefferson and Columbia.
1985	Draft nomination for the South Park Blocks and North Park Blocks to the National Register of Historic Places authored by Herbert K. Beals.
1987	Major renovation of the Cultural District's three most northern blocks (Salmon to Jefferson) used same circulation concept and design elements inspired by 1984 construction on blocks between Market and Jefferson. Shemanski Square significantly altered to establish level gathering space, elevated stage area, and retaining wall and staircases added along Salmon.
1996	Farmers Market moves to PSU campus from location at the Albers Mill building.
1997	Wednesday afternoon Farmers Market added at Joseph Shemanski Square.
2001	Portland Streetcar installed along Mill Street and Market Street.
2003	PSU's Native American Student and Community Center (NASCC) opens at Park Avenue East and Jackson Street.
2010	Portland Loo added to Block 9 between Columbia Street and Jefferson Street.
2019-2021	South Park Blocks Master Plan developed and accepted by Portland City Council.

16 Danaher, Lana. “Historic Summary of South Park Blocks,” June 14, 1979. https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1033&context=oscdl_cityarchives

17 Stadium Freeway future northbound route looking northwest, City of Portland Archives, AP/5435.

18 “University Reappraises Long-Term Building Plans,” Portland State Perspective, Vol. 2, No. 1, January 1970 <https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=https://www.google.com/&httpsredir=1&article=1021&context=perspective>

19 Danaher, Lana. “Historic Summary of South Park Blocks,” June 14, 1979. https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1033&context=oscdl_cityarchives

20 <https://www.pdx.edu/profile/visit-south-park-blocks>

Historic Development of the South Park Blocks

Potential Period of Significance for Development as a City Park

For listing on the National Register of Historic Places, further archival research will be necessary to determine the period of significance for the South Park Blocks as a developed urban park. Based on the limited research effort expended for the Master Plan, a preliminary period of significance could be 1852-1970, with 1852 being the inception of the plat and 1969-1971 being the period before large-scale redesign took place in the University District. Additional research is needed to better understand how the South Park Blocks evolved between the 1900s and 1960s, as well as the 1971 redesign of the University District.⁹ Given the 1971 date of construction for the University District, the six University District blocks could potentially be separately eligible due to the early 1970s design work that

occurred there.¹⁰ The phased 1984-1987 renovation of the Cultural District designed by Portland landscape architecture firm Walker Macy is well-documented.

Table 1 provides a summary of chronological park development of South Park Blocks historic resources and events. An expanded chronology is provided in Appendix A. A selection of historic photographs is provided here to illustrate some of the major changes.

¹⁰ The University District design is 48 years old as of 2020. The age of an eligible property for nomination to the National Register is generally at least 50 years old.



1852 Plat map of the City of Portland reflecting the Lownsdale dedication of park blocks in downtown Portland (Oregon Historical Society Research Library, G494.P6G46.1852.T619.G2)



1866 Plat map of the City of Portland with the future location of the South Park Blocks in green (City of Portland Archives, MI4415)



1878 View of South Park Blocks looking northeast one year after initial tree planting (Oregon Historical Society Research Library, OrHi 23454)



1882 Italianate mansions along the South Park Blocks (Oregon Historical Society Research Library, OrHi 734)



1883 View of the South Park Blocks five years following the initial tree planting (City of Portland Archives, AP/11565)

⁹ The Master Plan effort was unable to find thorough documentation of the Yost Grube Hall redesign for the University District.

Vanport

At the end of 1942, the first tenants moved into Vanport, which was quickly built to house Kaiser Shipyard workers during World War II. At 648 acres, Vanport was the largest public housing project in the country at the time. In 1944, over 40,000 people, including up to 10,000 Black Americans, lived in Vanport which became the most racially diverse city in Oregon at the time.*

The Black population in the rest of Oregon remained quite small given the State Constitution's previous exclusion clause that prohibited Black people from residing in the state. At Vanport, Black families sent their children to integrated schools, but other forms of segregation and racial tension existed. The Oregon State Board of Education offered college-level courses at the Vanport Extension Center which provided new opportunities and options to returning veterans and residents.**

In May 1948, surging waters from the Columbia River flooded Vanport, leaving over 18,000 people homeless and significantly altering race relations in Portland. After the flood, the Vanport Extension School was relocated to the old Lincoln High School building near the South Park Blocks, and it would eventually become Portland State University.

At the time of the master planning process, a Vanport College plaque outside Lincoln Hall and a "Vanport room" in the Smith Memorial Student Union are the only markers on campus that reference this history and link the two institutions. Design phases for master plan implementation should consider honoring this history in a meaningful way, including but not limited to replacement and new opportunities for art.

*The Oregon Encyclopedia - <https://www.oregonhistoryproject.org/articles/essays/the-vanport-flood/#.X-EeqNhKiUl> – accessed December 21, 2020

**Abbot, Carl. *Portland in Three Centuries: The Place and the People*. Corvallis: Oregon State University Press, 2011 (124-126)



View from top of Vanport College (University Archives, Portland State University Library)



PSU sign at downtown Portland campus in 1976 (Former Coach Joe Holland and football player, 1976, University Archives, Portland State University Library)



1938 Aerial of SW Portland showing proposed Stadium/Foothills Freeway at the south end of the South Park Blocks which was later constructed in 1965 (City of Portland Archives, A2010-001-92)



1929 View of Shemanski Fountain at the park block between Main and Salmon Streets. The block sloped downhill toward Salmon Street before it was filled and leveled by the 1987 renovation designed by Walker Macy (City of Portland Archives, AP120414)



View of the University District between Harrison and Montgomery Streets several months prior to the 1971-1972 redesign (Park Blocks (for F.P.), April 1971, University Archives, Portland State University Library)



Eras of contemporary change in the South Park Blocks (MIG)

3

Community Engagement





3

Community Engagement

Overview

The community engagement process for the South Park Blocks Master Plan involved the public, the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), and a range of other park stakeholders including Portland State University (PSU), Portland Art Museum, Portland'5, Oregon Historical Society, the Parks Accessibility Advisory Committee, and the Native American Community Advisory Council, and other groups (many which overlap with the CAC).

Various City bureaus participated at every phase of the project as well, with notable contributions from Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) and Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS). Public engagement included three community events with survey tools at critical project touch points. This chapter was authored by PP&R staff and provides an overview of the community engagement process, including:

- Project Goals and Opportunities
- Project Advisors
- Phase 1: Visioning
- Phase 2: Design Concepts Review
- Phase 3: Draft Preferred Design Review
- Concluding Remarks



Community Gathering #1, Party in the Park, July 2019 (PP&R)

Historic Park at the Heart of Downtown Portland

The South Park Blocks are part of a larger network of park blocks in Portland’s downtown Cultural District. They serve an urban residential community, a university, businesses, social services, and a variety of cultural institutions and are a destination for local visitors and tourists alike. The master planning process allowed for renewed planning attention to ensure the South Park Blocks flourish into the future, serving the needs of their many users.

The South Park Blocks have a long history with high levels of activity, so the Master Plan did not consider the site as a “blank slate.” Rather, the planning process provided an opportunity to learn about and build upon the park’s history and existing features, confront new challenges and opportunities, and combine these learnings with public and stakeholder input to enhance the South Park Blocks for current and future needs.



Community Gathering #2, PSU Farmers Market, November 2019 (PP&R)

Park Stewardship

The South Park Blocks are managed in partnership with Portland Parks & Recreation Urban Forestry and Land Stewardship teams and Portland State University. The Friends of the South Park Blocks volunteer regularly to assist with park horticulture maintenance and the Portland Bureau of Transportation, Portland Streetcar, and TriMet all manage services that intersect with the South Park Blocks. This complex management framework is integral to current and future planning for the South Park Blocks.

Project Goals and Opportunities

The design team, technical advisors, and the public were encouraged to present creative solutions that will weave the blocks’ historic character and functions with identified needs and opportunities. Areas of greatest opportunity for change include incorporating the Central City 2035 Plan for a Green Loop, planning for a long-term planting design in the park including managing the historic tree canopy over time, and revitalizing the South Park Blocks as a significant segment of the connecting thread of Portland’s downtown park blocks.

The following project goals were set at the onset of the planning process with input from the Community Advisory Committee:

1. Develop a community-supported park design;
2. Expand opportunities for a variety of uses and activities for people of all ages and abilities;
3. Understand, respect and reflect the complexities of the park blocks’ history;
4. Provide strategic guidance for the management of the character-defining trees on site, including a succession planting scheme;
5. Establish recommendations for a future alignment of the Green Loop that balances the needs of bicyclists and pedestrians, promotes safety for all transportation modes, and benefits park users;
6. Account for adjacent uses and development trends along the park blocks, including the University and Cultural Districts and increasing residential densities; and
7. Reflect the capacities, resources and strengths of the many stewards of the South Park Blocks.

Project Advisors

A **Community Advisory Committee (CAC)** was established for the project with representation from downtown residents, workers, students, neighboring cultural institutions, and active users of the South Park Blocks, including the Portland Farmers Market. CAC’s are intended to represent a diversity of expertise, skills, backgrounds, and viewpoints. Advisors are expected to:

- Listen carefully to each other;
- Fully consider community needs, ideas, and feedback; and
- Work together to recommend a community-supported park design that reflects neighborhood priorities and citywide goals.

The South Park Blocks CAC met a total of seven times (including at the Concept Development Workshop) before the Recommended Draft of the Master Plan was completed. The CAC will meet one final time to review the results of the Draft Preferred Design engagement and understand how they’ve been incorporated into

the Recommended Draft before it is released to the wider public and taken to City Council.

A **Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)** was established for the project with representation from PP&R work groups, other City of Portland bureaus and external partners that manage assets in or next to the South Park Blocks. The intention is to have relevant bureaus, work groups, and agency partners represented on the TAC to productively inform the planning and design process. TAC feedback was shared with the project team, the CAC, and integrated into the development of the master plan design and recommendations.

The TAC for the South Park Blocks Master Planning process was convened at the beginning of 2019 and met six times throughout the process. Meetings functioned primarily for the project team to provide information on the master plan, so TAC members could highlight any major policy or technical considerations to inform feasible proposals to present to the public. Members of the TAC with expertise highly relevant to the master planning process were engaged more frequently in smaller groups.

Additionally, the project team presented to the following groups and organizations to seek their advice and input at key milestones during the planning process:

- Parks Accessibility Advisory Committee
- Native American Community Advisory Council
- Urban Forestry Commission
- Design Commission
- Historic Landmarks Commission
- Friends of the South Park Blocks
- Downtown Neighborhood Association
- Portland Business Alliance and Downtown Clean & Safe
- Portland’5
- Oregon Historical Society
- First Congregational United Church of Christ
- Portland Farmers Market
- Portland State University



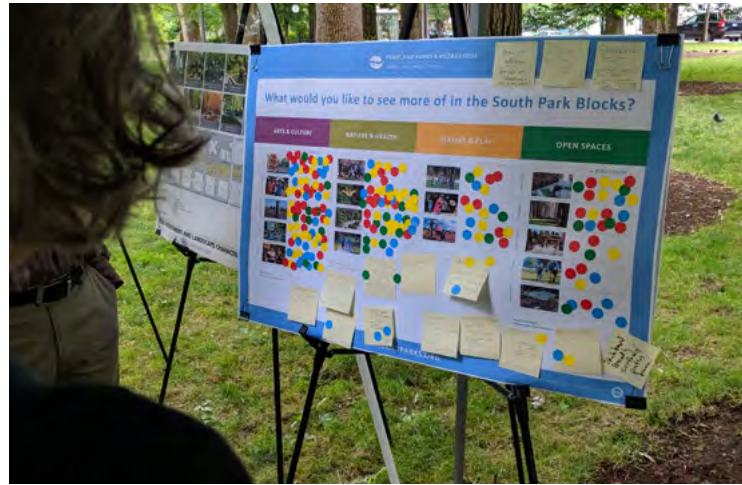
Park tour with the Parks Accessibility Advisory Committee, August 2019 (PP&R)



Park tour at the Farewell to Orpheus fountain with the Parks Accessibility Advisory Committee, August 2019 (PP&R)



Community Gathering #1, Party in the Park, July 2019 (PP&R)



Community Gathering #1, Party in the Park, July 2019 (PP&R)



Community Gathering #1, Party in the Park, July 2019 (PP&R)



Community Gathering #1, Party in the Park, July 2019 (PP&R)

Phase One: Visioning

The Phase One community engagement and outreach approach was designed to:

- Enlist community participation in this project;
- Consult the community about how they use the park and ideas to improve the space;
- Understand preferences for park features, experiences and priority issues for the master plan; and,
- Build community support for the current and future South Park Blocks.

Phase 1 Community Engagement Overview

We invited the community to participate in visioning to inform the development of design concepts for the master plan. This first round of broad community engagement began with a two-hour community gathering held in the South Park Blocks on July 17, 2019. More than 150 people participated in the Party in the Park, and 122 surveys were submitted in hard copy and online during the comment period in July 2019.

The following outreach and promotion activities added to the larger community effort including tours, tabling at community events and community meetings designed to engage interested Portlanders in this project. The Party in the Park event and comment survey were actively promoted to all our contacts and at meetings and activities.

Community Advisory Committee Highlights:

Two meetings of the Community Advisory Committee were held in April and June 2019. At the April meeting, Community Engagement Representative Barbara Hart reviewed the South Park Blocks Master Plan Goals and the CAC goals, explaining the use of consensus-based decision making and ground rules for advisory committee meetings. PP&R Project Manager Tate White provided an overview of the project. The June meeting focused on a review of PP&R’s Racial Equity Plan and introducing the project’s consulting design team who gave a presentation on their initial investigations about the South Park Blocks.

Questions and discussion followed and then the consulting facilitator asked CAC members to do at-

home review of the sorted list of Opportunities and Issues and identify their top five priorities to input into the proceeding Concept Development Workshop:

Highest Priorities - Issues and Opportunities July 2019

- Provide access for all abilities, ages, races, genders, economic levels, and cultures.
- Make sure this process, master plan and developments recognize the Indigenous tribes native to this area, past and present.
- Improve community gathering spaces for families and groups
- Design with maintenance in mind - materials, species, durability, stewardship.
- Provide Farmers Market and other users with needed infrastructure: plumbing, electric, loading.
- Have meaningful placemaking for residents.
- Consider how the Green Loop impacts the historical South Park Blocks
- Fund long term maintenance.
- Make the South Park Blocks welcoming and inclusive including the houselessness population and need to access nearby social services.
- Build the vision on the foundation of history, respect historic designation of South Park Blocks.
- Design and promote the parks as welcoming space for everyone including tourists.
- Design for continuity of “place” even though funding may be sporadic.
- Keep the intimate scale of the Park blocks, it feels human.
- Programming entity like Pioneer Courthouse Square to make stuff happen
- Engage area churches, nearby businesses, cultural institutions, child care centers, and non-profits along with the wider community.
- Balance the casual intimacy of the blocks with programming that invites more people in. The Wednesday Farmers Market is a sterling example.

Table 2: Community Engagement Events and Activities - Phase 1	
Description	Date
Community Advisory Committee Meeting #1	April 16, 2019
Native American Community Advisory Committee	May 15, 2019
Walking Tour 1	May 20, 2019
Walking Tour 2	May 23, 2019
Walking Tour 3	June 4, 2019
Community Advisory Committee Meeting #2	June 20, 2019
Ed Washington, Portland State University Meeting	July 2, 2019
St James Lutheran Church and Child Development Center Meeting	July 3, 2019
Party in the Park – Community Gathering	July 17, 2019
Visioning Comment Survey	July 17-29, 2019
Downtown Neighborhood Association General Meeting	July 23, 2019
NEMO HÁDÉÉST’JJ/FINDING NEMO Native American Youth and Family Center Movie Night in Cully Park - PPR Table	July 27, 2019
Parks Accessibility Advisory Committee Park Tour	August 5, 2019
Concept Development Workshop	August 6, 2019
Green Loop Sunday Parkways South Park Blocks Table	August 25, 2019
Friends of the South Park Blocks Meeting (regular meetings with group leaders since August 2018)	August 28, 2019



Concept development workshop with City staff, project consultants and stakeholders, August 2019 (PP&R)

- Address negative behavior in the park and surrounding streets.
- Create all-weather uses.
- Collaborate with homeless shelters and improve inter-agency communication to better address negative behaviors in the park.
- Car parking spaces support neighboring businesses and are well used. How much space for cars is needed?
- Expand options for recreation and play. Incorporate more age-specific, child friendly, safe, and universally accessible places to play. (From the PSU plan)

Visioning Comment Survey Overview:

The survey asked community members about their interaction with the park, their views on existing park features, and priorities for new features. Paper copies of the survey were made available at the “Party in the Park” community event on July 17 and through other community events during the comment period. An online version of the survey was also available on the South Park Blocks Master Plan project web site.



Concept development workshop with City staff, project consultants and stakeholders, August 2019 (PP&R)

Highlights of what we heard:

- Most survey respondents visit the South Park Blocks to shop at the Farmers Market, enjoy nature and be outdoors, and on the way to cultural events, performances, concerts, or church services.
- Safety was overwhelmingly rated as needing the most improvement in the park and identified as a priority to consider in the planning process. Landscaping, trees, pedestrian movement, pathways, street crossings, lighting, and accessibility were also ranked as high priorities.
- Historic or iconic features considered most important by respondents were the trees, planting areas, pathway design, and type of landscaping.
- Survey participants and attendees at the “Party in the Park” were asked what they would like to see more of in the South Park Blocks. Native plantings and habitat, cultural performances, additional, more diverse public art, places for rest and quiet, live music, and community event space were identified most frequently.

Phase Two: Design Concepts Review

The community engagement approach for this stage of the project was designed to:

- Enlist community participation in the design review process with a special focus on students, PSU communities of color, the Native American Community Advisory Council and Parks Accessibility Advisory Committee;
- Explain how community feedback and ideas during the visioning phase influenced the development of draft concepts;
- Gather and understand community feedback on the draft design concepts to develop a preferred park design; and,
- Build community relationships and support for the South Park Blocks and PP&R.

Phase 2 Community Engagement Overview

Community stakeholders and the general public were invited to review and comment on three design concepts for the South Park Blocks Master Plan. PP&R

partnered with the PSU Farmers Market to hold a Community Gathering and Market Booth followed by a month-long comment period. More than 250 people were contacted at the Farmers Market Booth and corresponding Community Gathering held inside the Smith Memorial Student Center. A Spanish interpreter provided language assistance to participants and market vendors.

The opportunity to review and comment on design concepts was promoted through community outreach to stakeholders and at all meetings, events and activities during this stage of the project. A total of 500 flyers in Spanish and English were distributed to residents, businesses, organizations, park visitors, PSU students and staff, and Portland Farmers Market visitors to promote the Community Gathering and invite comments on the design concepts.

The following meetings, outreach and events were designed to engage stakeholders and the broader community in the review of design concepts. Public feedback was gathered on the design features and park improvements to guide the Community Advisory Committee and project team in refining the concepts into a draft preferred park design.

Table 3: Community Engagement Meetings and Events - Phase 2	
Description	2019
Community Advisory Committee Meeting #3	September 26
Community Advisory Committee Meeting #4	October 29
Parks Accessibility Advisory Committee	November 7
Friends of the South Park Blocks	November 12
Portland Business Alliance	November 19
Native American Community Advisory Council	November 19
Portland Art Museum	November 22
Community Gathering #2 – PSU Farmers Market	November 23
Design Concepts Comment Survey	November 23-December 30
Downtown Neighborhood Association Land Use and Transportation Subcommittee	December 3
Design and Historic Landmarks Commissions Joint Briefing	December 5
Parks Board Land Use and Infrastructure Subcommittee	December 6
Oregon Historical Society	December 11
Portland’5 Center for the Arts	December 30
2020	
Native American Community Advisory Council	January 15
Urban Forestry Commission	January 16
Portland Farmer’s Market	January 24
Arlington Club	January 27
Portland Parks Board	February 11
St Mary’s Academy Focus Group	February 25
PSU Student Focus Group	February 28



Community Gathering #2, PSU Farmers Market, November 2019 (PP&R)



Community Gathering #2, PSU Farmers Market, November 2019 (PP&R)



Community Gathering #2, PSU Farmers Market, November 2019 (PP&R)



Community Gathering #2, PSU Farmers Market, November 2019 (PP&R)

Community Advisory Committee Meeting Highlights:

Two meetings of the Community Advisory Committee were held in September and October. The September agenda included a presentation by Ed Washington of Portland State University who discussed the history of Vanport, issues of race and racism in Portland, and connections between Vanport and Portland State University. In October, the CAC previewed the draft design concepts and discussed key design elements, proposed park features and fall community engagement plans.

Design Concepts Comment Survey and Focus Groups Overview:

A written survey was used to gather feedback on design elements and park features shown in three concepts. Fourteen paper surveys and 124 online surveys were submitted for a total of 138 responses. Paper copies of the survey were made available at a Community Gathering on November 23 and at stakeholder meetings and events. An online version of the survey was available on the South Park Blocks

Master Plan project web page and promoted through social media during the month-long comment period.

Highlights of what we heard:

- Among the most favored improvements and new elements were social seating, connected gathering and event spaces, art representing more diverse histories and identities, renovation of Smith Amphitheater, gateways at the north and south entrances and a renovated playground.
- To sustain the park’s historic tree canopy, respondents expressed wanting to increase the range of tree species, decrease the percentage of elms over time, retain the healthy elms along the central promenade and plant small groups of trees to balance sun/shade areas in the University District.
- Strong support to add native plantings in Block 1 to enhance connections to the Native American Student and Community Center, maintain open lawn in the University District, and add lower maintenance native plantings in Blocks 7-9.

- A wider, enhanced central pedestrian promenade in the Cultural District was the most favored pathway option by participants with the modification of short diagonal paths to connect pedestrians from pathways in center to corner street crossings favored somewhat less.
- The most favored Green Loop approach was to direct users to follow a two-way separated path along Park Avenue West in both the University and Cultural Districts. The Downtown Neighborhood Association expressed concern about potential bicycle and pedestrian conflict with all Green Loop options presented.
- Many respondents showed support for proposals to remove regular car traffic from one block of SW Main and one block of SW Madison between Park Avenues and asked for more car-free areas near the park. We also heard contrasting concerns about negative outcomes from limiting vehicle traffic and parking.

In addition to the survey, two focus group discussions engaged high school and university students to understand their level of support for design elements and park features. Two focus groups were held with students at St Mary's Academy and Portland State University in February.

Major themes from the Focus Groups included:

- Favor for the central promenade of the Emerald Arrow concept;
- Concerns that the park does not feel safe currently and does not provide anything to make it a destination;
- Need for more group seating instead of so many traditional benches;
- Need for more spaces for families, gatherings, and students who want to work in the park;
- Need for more and better lighting throughout the park;
- Add more native plants and connect them so they function as habitat;
- Retain some sunny lawn spaces that aren't so muddy and useable for play and studying;
- Add play and seating spaces throughout the park;
- The Smith Plaza renovation ideas are good and would make the area more usable;
- Need for more weather protection/covered spaces – especially at Smith Amphitheater;
- Favor for participatory gardens and plantings to connect Native American Community and Student Center;
- Need for community gardens to support food insecure students;
- Add interpretive signage and art to acknowledge diverse cultures, sites and communities; and,
- Hire more diverse, community-based planning consultants and sub consultants.

Table 4: Community Engagement Meetings and Events - Phase 3	
Description	2020
Community Advisory Committee Meeting #5	March 11
Community Advisory Committee Meeting #6	June 2
Parks Accessibility Advisory Committee	June 4
Virtual Open House and Comment Period	June 10-29
Portland State University Student Focus Group	June 22
Downtown Neighborhood Association	June 23
Pearl District Neighborhood Association	July 7
Design and Historic Landmarks Commissions Joint Briefing	July 14
Urban Forestry Commission Briefing	July 16
Portland's 5 Centers for the Arts Briefing	July 21
Native American Community Advisory Committee Meeting	July 28
PSU Campus and Facility Planning Staff Briefing	July 29
Portland Business Alliance Briefing	August 4
First Congregational United Church of Christ Briefing	August 5

Phase Three: Draft Preferred Design Review

The community engagement approach for this stage of the project was designed to:

- Enlist community participation in the design review process with a special focus on PSU students, the Native American Community Advisory Council and Parks Accessibility Advisory Committee;
- Explain how community feedback and ideas heard during the draft concept phase influenced the development of Draft Preferred Design;
- Gather and understand community feedback on the Draft Preferred Design to develop a Recommended Park Design; and
- Strengthen community relationships and build support for the South Park Blocks and PP&R.

Phase 3 Community Engagement Overview

Community stakeholders and the general public were invited to review and comment on the Draft Preferred Design for the South Park Blocks to help

inform the development of a Recommended Design. In accordance with pandemic-related health regulations and guidance, PP&R hosted a virtual Open House with detailed views of the park design and a comment form in both Spanish and English. More than 1000 people participated in the online event and 220 detailed comments were received.

The following meetings, outreach and events were designed to engage stakeholders and the broader community in the review of the Draft Preferred Design. Public feedback was gathered on design features and park improvements to guide the project team as they refine the Draft Preferred Design and prepare the Recommended Draft of the Master Plan.

Community Advisory Committee Meeting

Highlights:

At the March Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting, Barbara Hart presented an overview of community engagement activities and the results of the design options survey and gave a recap of community engagement goals and efforts, highlighting the involvement of students from St Mary's Academy

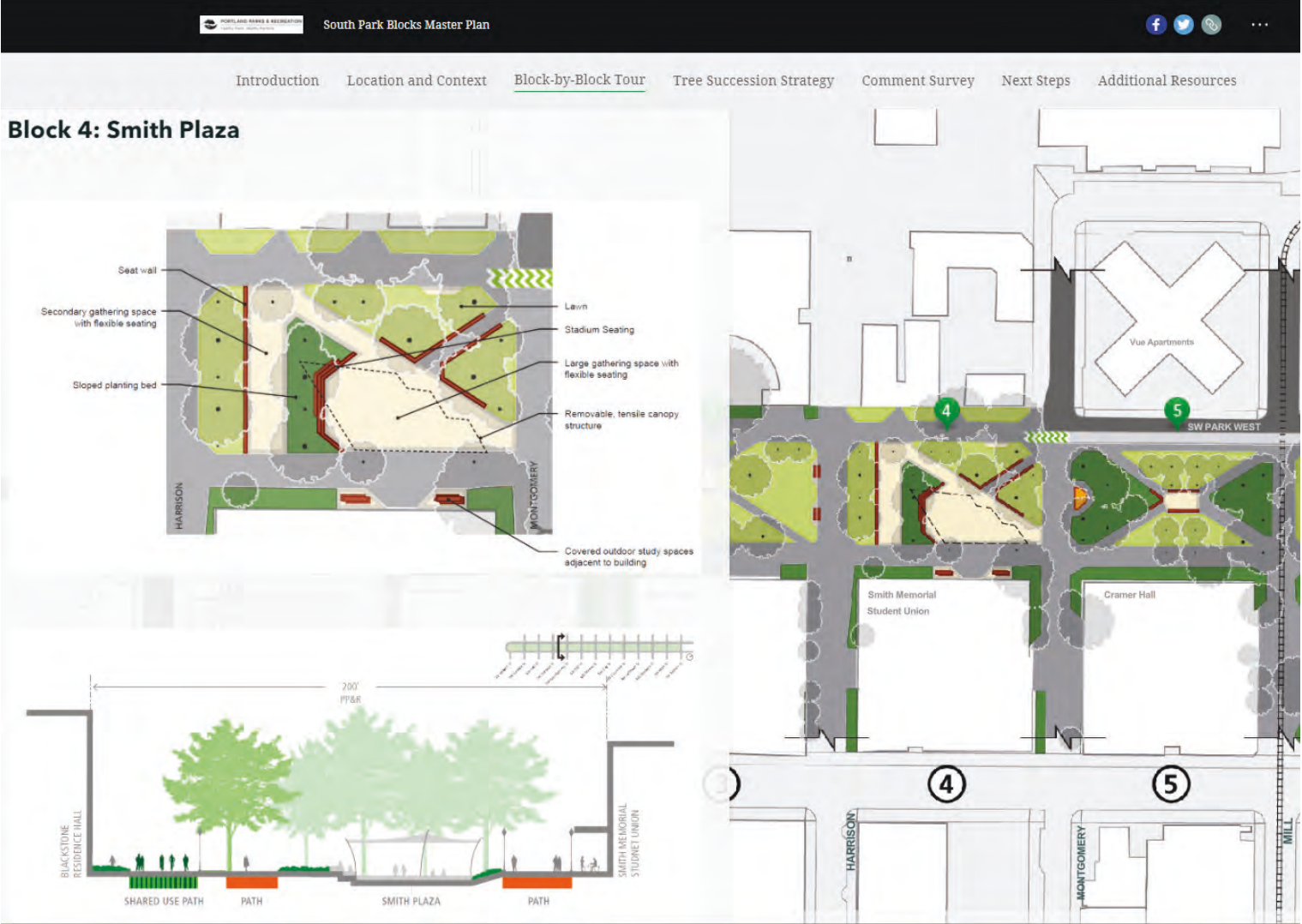
and PSU who participated in focus groups. Questions and discussion about the survey results ensued and participants in the focus groups debriefed on what was discussed. Afterwards, the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability Senior Planner Lora Lillard presented on the concept and direction for the Green Loop. The meeting ended with robust discussion about recommendations for the Draft Preferred Design.

Soon after the March meeting, the COVID-19 pandemic significantly hampered normal city operations. In accordance with health regulations and guidance, the June meeting took place virtually on the Zoom meeting interface. Members of the design team presented the Draft Preferred Design and opened the floor for questions and comments from CAC members. The group strongly supported the design and agreed that it was ready for public review and comment. The concerns of the one advisor who expressed non-support were related to historic preservation.

Draft Preferred Design Comment Survey and Focus Group Overview:

PP&R hosted a virtual Open House with detailed views of the park design shown through a dynamic StoryMap interface. The StoryMap and related comment forms were made available online in both Spanish and English. More than 1000 people participated in the online event and 220 detailed comments were received.

The opportunity to review and comment on the draft park design was promoted through the Community Advisory Committee members, outreach to stakeholders and project participants, lawn signs in the South Park Blocks and social media posts throughout the comment period. Announcements about the Draft Preferred Design and comment period were posted on the PP&R main web page, the project web page and featured in the City of Portland online citywide events calendar. A total of 35 lawn signs in Spanish and English inviting comments through the virtual open house event were posted in the 12-block park space to invite participation from park visitors.



Community Gathering #3, screen shot of StoryMap online open house event (PP&R)



Community Gathering #3, screen shot of StoryMap online open house event (PP&R)

Highlights of what we heard:

- Most respondents expressed favor for all proposed new features in the University District with relatively lower levels of favorability for the removable canopy at the Smith Amphitheater Plaza renovation and the Green Loop crossing at Block 2.
 - Most respondents expressed favor for proposed new features in the Cultural District with relatively lower levels of favorability for new social seating types at Blocks 7 and 8.
 - Most respondents expressed favor for the Tree Succession Strategy approaches in the University District with some disfavor expressed for replanting elm trees or comparable species in central rows.
 - Most respondents expressed favor for maintaining the overlapping tree canopy in the Cultural District and providing increased space for two rows of elms to become healthier and more resilient but notable disfavor for not replanting the central row of trees over time to support this increased space.
 - Significant support was expressed for proposed safety improvements related to transportation,
- inclusive design, clearer visibility, and opportunities for activated spaces throughout the day.
 - Concerns about the Draft Preferred Design expressed most frequently focused on:
 - » The creation of an overly busy, cluttered space;
 - » The addition of too much hardscape and activity with a loss of quiet, green space; and,
 - » Conflicts with the historic park design and reduction of elm trees over time.
 - Many contrasting views were expressed related to the Green Loop, bicycles, and cars:
 - » Support for the Green Loop and improving bicycle accessibility along the park blocks and contrasting concerns about bicycles and the Green Loop negatively impacting the experiences of park users.
 - » Disappointment that there are not more car-free areas proposed with contrasting concerns about the reduction in car access, loading, and parking.

- Many comments were expressed related to the need to reconsider the relevance and appropriateness of the Roosevelt and Lincoln statues.

In addition to the survey, the focus group with students at Portland State University was reconvened and a focused meeting with members of the Native American Community Advisory Council was held over the Zoom meeting interface.

Major themes from the PSU Focus Group:

- Design has worked towards incorporating a lot of different ideas and seems like a good compromise;
- Like the addition of evergreen trees – important for stormwater management;
- Concern about anti-skate design elements as skateboarding is a legitimate form of transportation for many;
- Please continue to work towards making more inclusive spaces, important to make sure that everyone feels welcome;

- Favor for representing more diversity in cultures and identities, the historic presentation opposition seems like coded language;
- Work at telling more diverse stories through visuals that are reminder of roots of Portland – great for visitors;
- Like the idea of bringing art into the park – look at San Francisco MOMA who provides art in public spaces that can be viewed without paying an entrance fee;
- Please engage non-white artists for new work – PBOT is working on a Black Street Art Request for Proposals that could be a good model;
- Temporary canopy seems like it might be too labor intensive or costly; and,
- Interest in continuing to be involved in transportation decisions around the Green Loop and crossing treatments.

Major Themes from Meeting with Native American Community Advisors:

- Concern over the historic focus on settler culture and the European-influenced park design resulting in an erasure of Native American history and culture;
- Disappointment about the number of elms proposed to be replanted with a concern a monoculture is being created – evergreen and native trees as well as species diversity provide more habitat value and resiliency;
- Emphasis that the Roosevelt and Lincoln statues should be reconsidered; would be great to have a Native sculpture, something by a Black artist, and/or rotating temporary art instead; and,
- Negative impression from lines of trees along central promenade, consider planting native understory to soften those lines and provide a more productive and restorative landscape.

Concluding Remarks on Public Engagement

The project team is thankful to all of those who have contributed to the master planning process. The Recommended Draft of the Master Plan will attempt to find a balance from what is desired by the Portland community, best practices for forward-looking park and urban forestry stewardship, and City and partner agency policies and priorities.

We recognize that many communities experience competing priorities and barriers to participation, including but not limited to time constraints and different cultural preferences. Portland Parks & Recreation will continue to work towards providing more equitable opportunities for engagement in our planning and design processes. Implementation of this master plan will provide additional opportunities to have more focused community conversations about the landscape.

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4

Recommended Design and Tree Succession Strategy





4

Recommended Design and Tree Succession Strategy

Overview

The Recommended Design chapter for the South Park Blocks Master Plan includes the following components:

- Concept Development Overview
- Tree Succession Strategy
- Recommended Design Overview and Block by Block Detail
- Hardscape and Planting Palettes

The Recommended Design and other components of the Master Plan reflect the importance of the park’s historic character-defining features: the park’s linear layout, its grid of trees, dominant north-south pedestrian flows, the experience of being under mature tree canopy, periodic focal points of art and sculpture, and the balance of paved and landscaped areas. Input and feedback from a series of community touch points at each phase of the project informed design direction and intensity of program development for each block. The design also addresses goals articulated by the *Central City 2035 Plan* as it relates to Portland Parks & Recreation, Urban Forestry, Bureau of Transportation, and Bureau of Planning and Sustainability. These goals include making the park more resilient, sustainable, accessible, equitable, economical, and better equipped to respond to the needs of Portland’s growing and more diverse population.

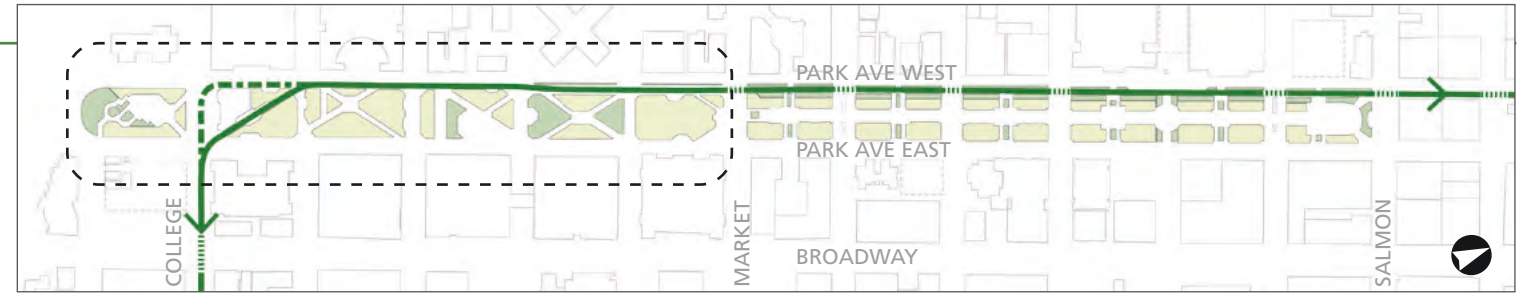
Character-defining features of the South Park Blocks

- Spatial organization with twelve blocks forming a linear park
- Grid arrangement of trees and mature canopy
- Sequence of focal points and gathering areas
- North-south focused circulation patterns with seating along walkways
- Balance of hardscape plaza spaces, walkways, and planting areas

RECOMMENDED DESIGN - UNIVERSITY DISTRICT

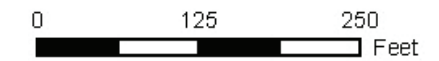
South Park Blocks MASTER PLAN

Key Map: Green Loop Recommended Alignment



LEGEND

- | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Building Footprint | Green Loop Shared Use Path (Block 2) | Cross Walk | Turf / Lawn |
| Roadway | Green Loop Path (Blocks 5-12) | Gathering Areas | Tree Canopy |
| Pedestrian Paving | Streetcar Line | Bench / Social Seating | Plant Bed: Native, Ornamental, or Flower |
| Shared Bike / Ped Zone | | Small Scale Feature / Art | Playground Safety Surfacing |

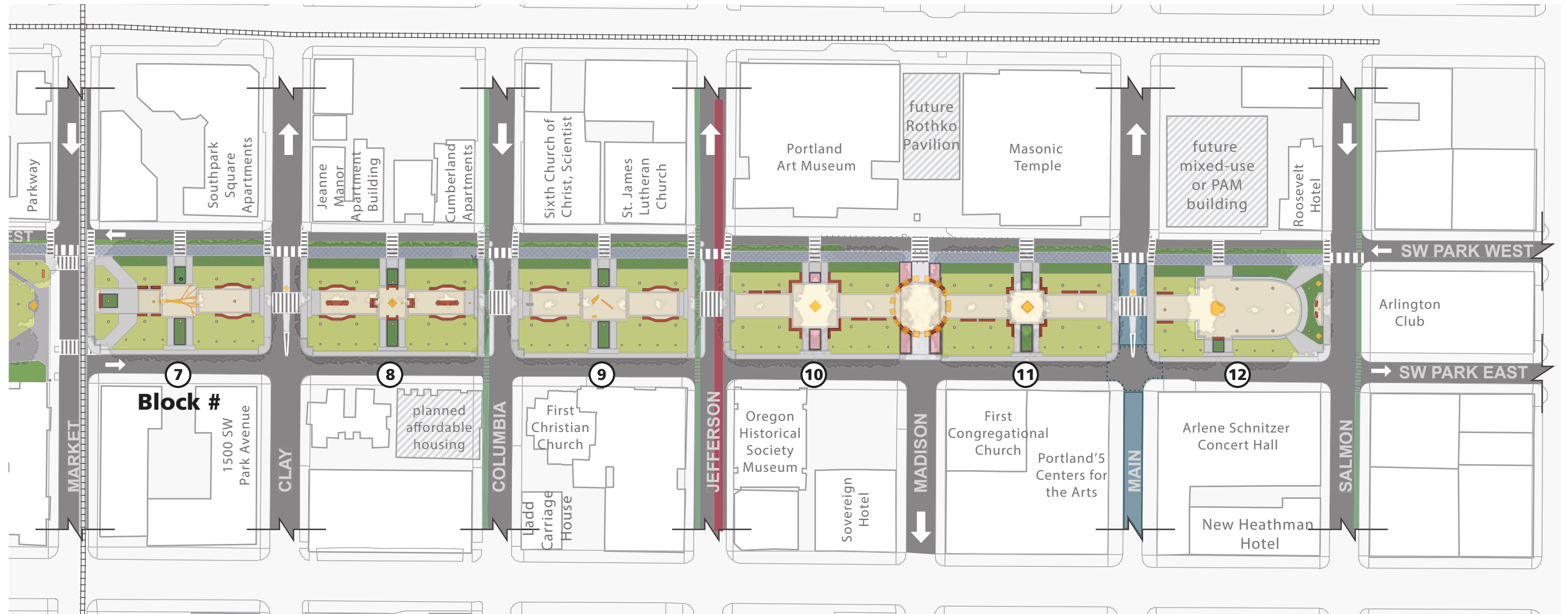
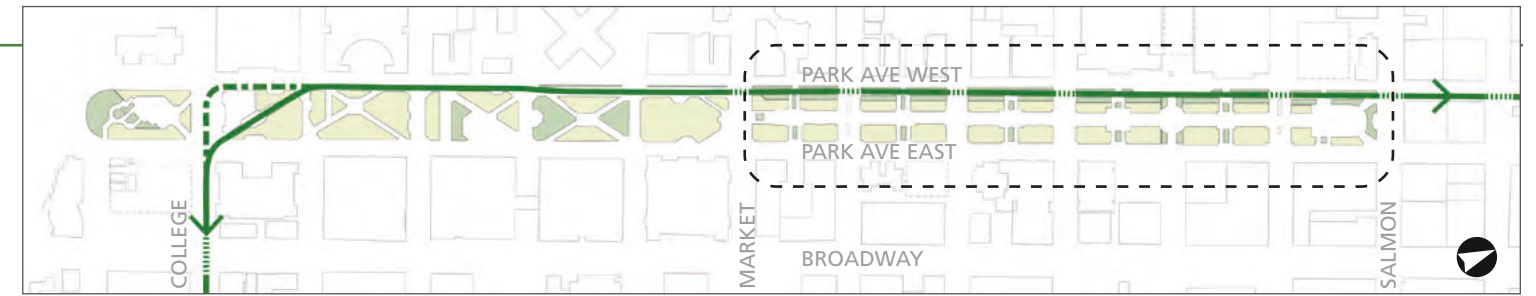


Source: PortlandMaps Open Data, COP GIS, 2019 MHA Tree Inventory, 2019 MIG Fieldwork and Site Documentation, ESRI orthoimagery, South_Park_Blocks_Base.dwg

RECOMMENDED DESIGN - CULTURAL DISTRICT

South Park Blocks
MASTER PLAN

Key Map: Green Loop Recommended Alignment



LEGEND

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Building Footprint | Green Loop Path (Blocks 5-12) | Gathering Areas | Tree Canopy |
| Roadway | Intersecting Bikeways | Temporary Closure for Events | Turf / Lawn |
| Pedestrian Paving | Streetcar Line | Bench / Social Seating | Raised Rose Bed |
| Rose Lane Project | Cross Walk | Small Scale Feature / Art | Raised Plant Bed: Native, Ornamental, or Flower |
| | | | Plant Bed: Native, Ornamental, or Flower |

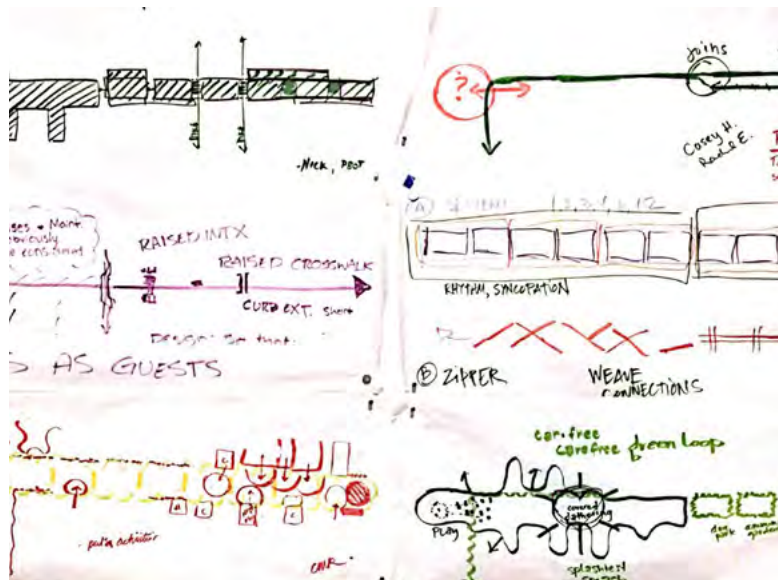


0 125 250 Feet

Source: PortlandMaps Open Data, COP GIS, 2019 MHA Tree Inventory, 2019 MIG Fieldwork and Site Documentation, ESRI orthoimagery, South_Park_Blocks_Base.dwg



Concept development workshop on August 6, 2019 (MIG)



Concept sketches produced by workshop participants (MIG)

Concept Development

The concept development phase followed initial visioning with the community and technical investigation of issues and opportunities. Following an all day design charrette process with the City and stakeholders, the design team distilled three concepts that had discernible differences in terms of their circulation scheme, programming and furnishings approach, and planting design. The three concepts (on the following three pages) were presented for staff and public feedback in fall of 2019.

The three concepts were intentionally diverse to gauge the community's willingness and interest in various degrees of changes to trees and planting, park circulation, new park features, and programming. Each concept had slight differences in the approach to the protection of

the park's historic resources as a way to assess tolerance for changes to these features that directly address project goals for enhanced site resilience and sustainability. Each of the three concepts included new park features, approaches to rehabilitation of existing park features, and programming ideas.

The Emerald Arrow Concept

The Emerald Arrow Concept proposes two dominant character areas in the South Park Blocks, the Cultural District and the University District, with an emphasis on the pedestrian experience along a central promenade in the Cultural District. New event spaces, crossing treatments, and closed streets improve pedestrian connections between blocks in the Cultural District evoking an emerald arrow through the blocks.

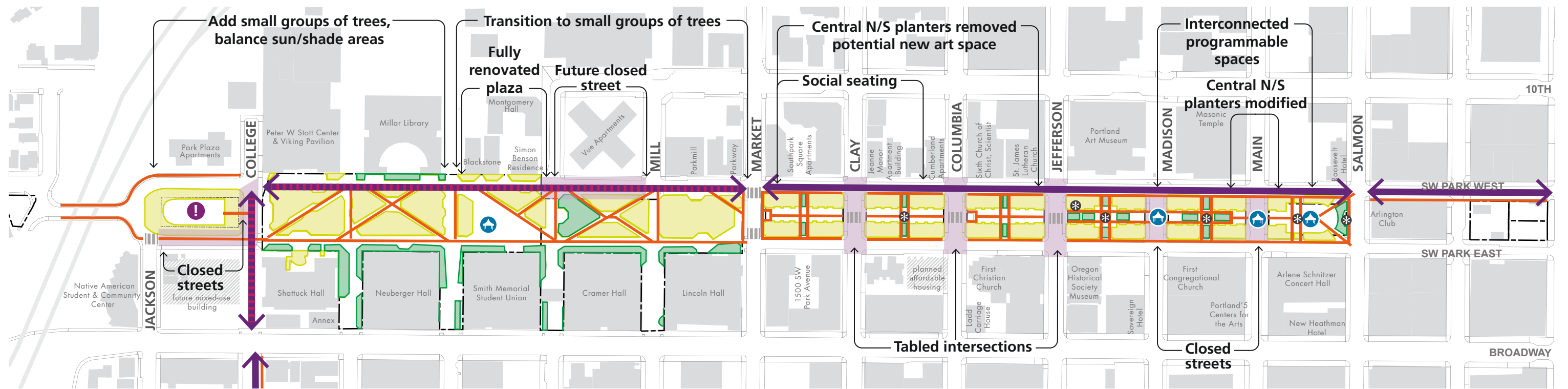
The Braided Districts Concept

The Braided Districts Concept weaves together three districts in the South Park Blocks: the campus, neighborhood blocks, and institutions. Enhanced corner crossings in the neighborhood blocks create opportunities for social interaction and also improve crossing safety and pedestrian visibility.

The Mirrored Chain Concept

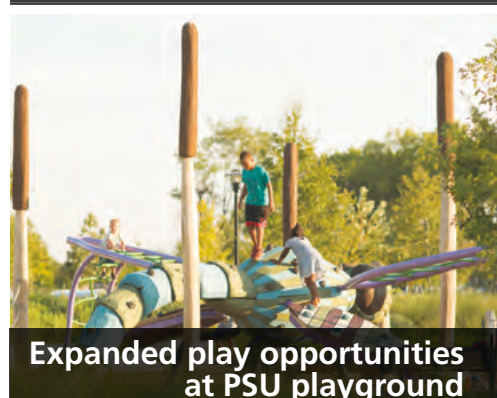
The Mirrored Chain Concept reflects needs of individual adjacent block uses whether they be educational, residential, religious, mixed-use commercial businesses, or cultural institutions. The South Park Blocks are linked together like a chain with added gateways, interactive art, and all ages play opportunities.

EMERALD ARROW DESIGN CONCEPT



CONCEPT ELEMENTS

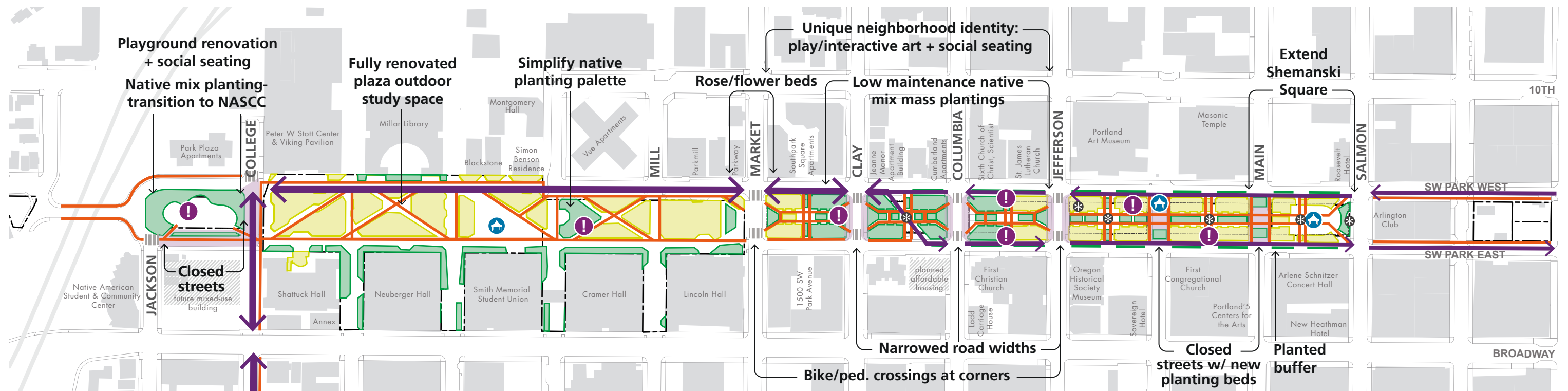
Spatial Organization	Historic character
Pedestrian Experience	Central promenade
Trees	Retain rows of elms
Planting	Retain/Redistribute Cultural District Planters
Art	Added periodically throughout
Terminus	Gateways at end points
Street Treatments	Tabled intersections and closed streets
Focal Points	Added/Existing art and fountains, renovated Smith Amphitheater
Green Loop	Perimeter along Park Ave West



MAP LEGEND

- Park Tax Lot
- Building Footprint
- Historic Small-Scale Features (in place prior to 1971)
- VEGETATION**
- Lawn
- Native / Ornamental / Flower Bed
- PROGRAMMING**
- Event Location / Gathering Space
- Interactive / Play Feature
- CIRCULATION**
- Shared Use Path
- Separated Bikeway
- Pedestrian Path
- Crosswalk
- Potential Street Reconfiguration

BRAIDED DISTRICTS DESIGN CONCEPT



CONCEPT ELEMENTS

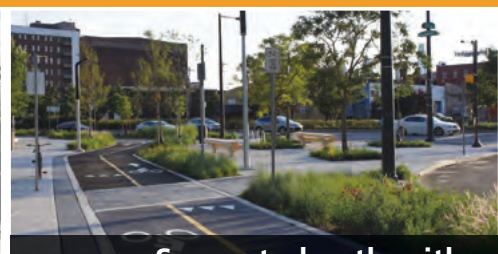
Spatial Organization	Sequential related woven spaces
Pedestrian Experience	Enhanced corners
Trees	Increased variety with aesthetic quality
Planting	Retain/Expand Cultural District Planters
Art	Added to Cultural District closed streets
Terminus	Transition to Native American Center
Street Treatments	Narrowed roads to shorten crossing distances; closed streets
Focal Points	Interactive play features, three district identities
Green Loop	Perimeter, diagonal connection



Larger group seating (University District)



Maintain flexible lawn spaces (throughout)



Separated path with vegetated buffer (Cultural District)



Expanded play opportunities (throughout)



Expand rose beds (throughout)



Narrowed road widths (Cultural District)

MAP LEGEND

- Park Tax Lot
- Building Footprint
- Historic Small-Scale Features (in place prior to 1971)

VEGETATION

- Lawn
- Native / Ornamental / Flower Bed

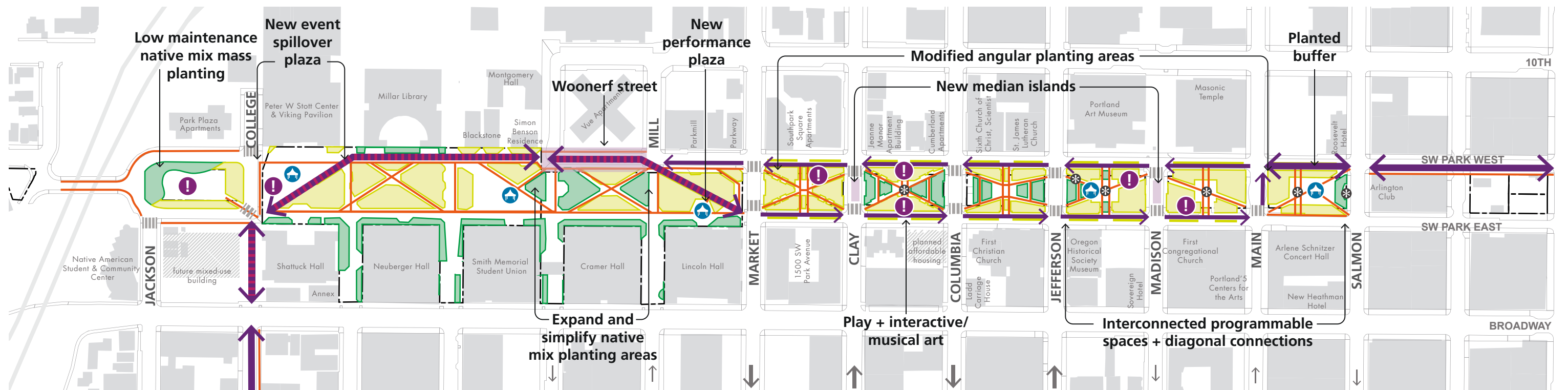
PROGRAMMING

- Event Location / Gathering Space
- Interactive / Play Feature

CIRCULATION

- Shared Use Path
- Separated Bikeway
- Pedestrian Path
- Crosswalk
- Potential Street Reconfiguration

MIRRORED CHAIN DESIGN CONCEPT

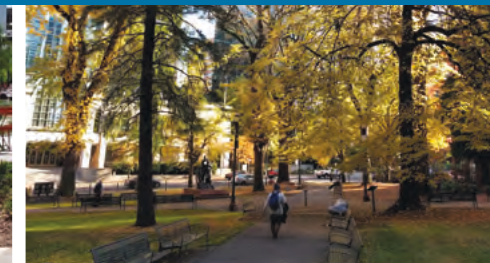


CONCEPT ELEMENTS

Spatial Organization	Block by block, responsive to immediate context
Pedestrian Experience	Diagonal "X" pattern
Trees	Diverse canopy with conifers - biodiversity
Planting	Reconfigure to Diagonal Planters
Art	Added to Cultural district median islands
Terminus	Gateways at endpoints and midpoint
Street Treatments	Periodic street medians
Focal Points	Interactive art features, new plazas in University District
Green Loop	Perimeter along Park Ave East / West



Event spillover plaza at Viking Pavilion (University District)



Conifer species within linear rows (University District)



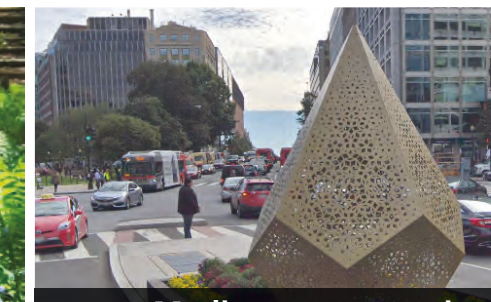
Separated path with vegetated buffer (Cultural District)



Interactive / play features (throughout)



Ferns and forbs ground cover (throughout)

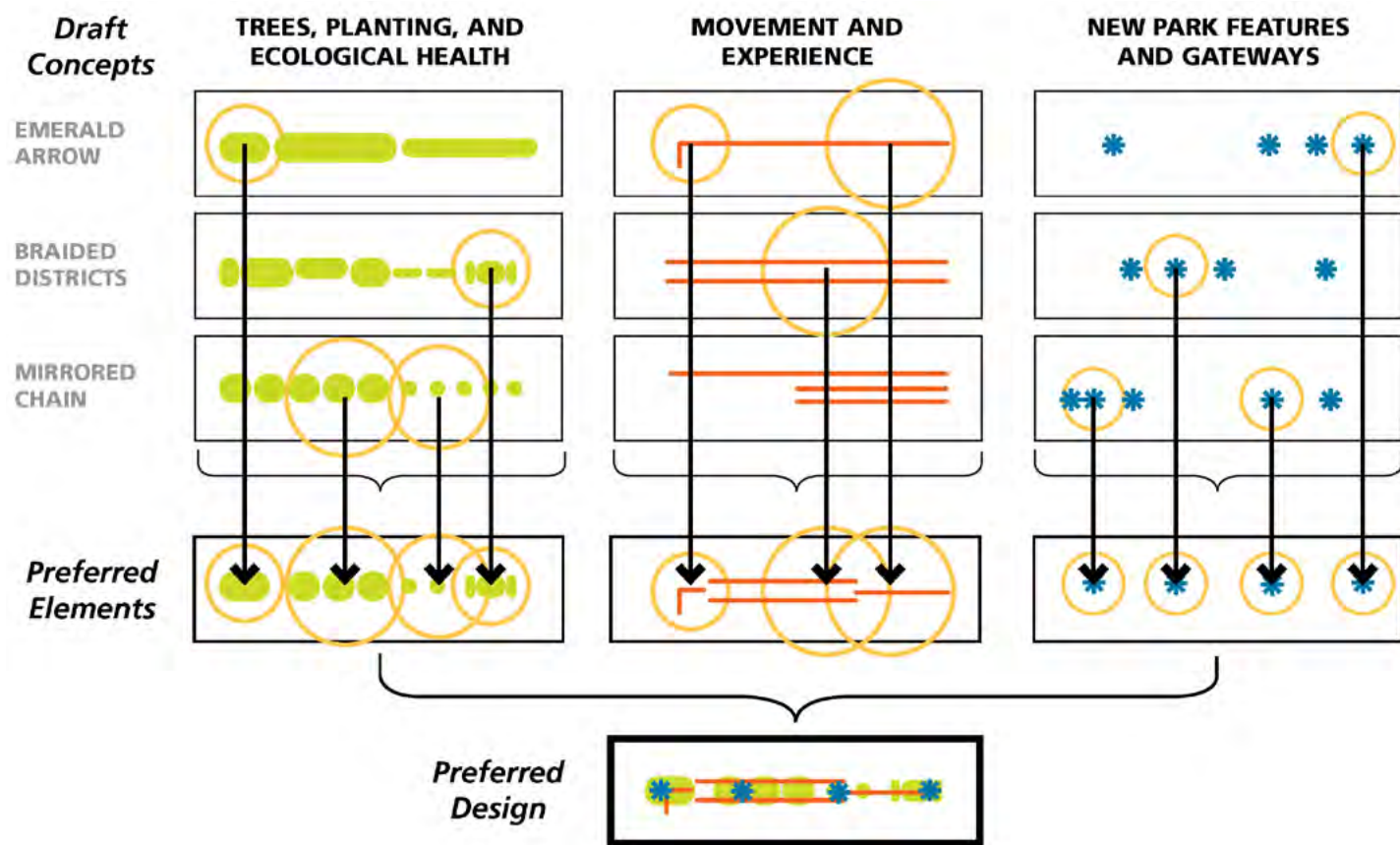


Median art responsive to cultural institutions (Cultural District)

MAP LEGEND

- Park Tax Lot
- Building Footprint
- Historic Small-Scale Features (in place prior to 1971)
- VEGETATION**
- Lawn
- Native / Ornamental / Flower Bed
- PROGRAMMING**
- Event Location / Gathering Space
- Interactive / Play Feature
- CIRCULATION**
- Shared Use Path
- Separated Path
- Pedestrian Path
- Crosswalk
- Potential Street Reconfiguration

KIT OF PARTS APPROACH



Concept diagram for the 'kit of parts' approach to concept refinement (MIG)

Concept Refinement

Feedback from the public, technical advisors, and stakeholders reflected an overall preference for the Emerald Arrow design concept along with a strong desire for select elements from the other concepts.

With this information, the design team used a 'kit of parts' approach to transition from concept development to concept refinement. The 'kit of parts' reflects the process of filtering preferences and feedback from a variety of sources in an effort to produce a single design that harmoniously blends publicly-supported features from different concepts. The most favored and appropriate elements from the feedback were integrated into one draft preferred design that was presented to project stakeholders and the community in late spring and summer of 2020.

The *Draft Preferred Design* concept was reviewed again by the public, technical advisors, and stakeholders. The Urban Forestry Commission and the joint Design and Historic Landmarks Commissions reviewed and provided feedback on the three concepts as well as the *Draft Preferred Design*. In fall and winter of 2020, feedback was incorporated at various steps from all involved parties, and the *Master Plan Recommended Draft* was prepared for submission to City Council.

South Park Blocks Tree Succession Strategy

Why do we need a tree succession strategy?

While this master plan does not advocate removing any mature healthy trees, it is understood that all trees have a life span and that over time existing trees will need to be replaced when they become hazardous or simply reach the end of their lives. Most park improvements are planned for areas without existing trees; however, in the exceptional cases where park improvements require the removal of trees, more detailed design and construction processes will work towards preventing unnecessary removal or mitigating impacts from removal. The replacement process has been in effect anytime damaged or diseased trees have been removed and replanted, but to date there has not been a comprehensive replacement strategy that balances the health of the urban forest with the historic character of the South Park Blocks. This tree succession strategy provides a guide for replacing trees when they need to be removed. It balances goals for improving the growing conditions and resiliency of the urban forest while maintaining historic character of the trees.



SPECIES COMPOSITION IN THE SOUTH PARK BLOCKS

Tree species have become more diverse over the years

circa 1877: original tree planting

The park was first planted with American elms and Lombardy poplars, the latter of which is a fast-growing and short-lived tree species. Today, none of the Lombardy poplars and some of the American elms remain.

2020: a diversified composition

In recent decades, the City has replaced dead or dying elms with a wider variety of tree species. Today, American elms and elm hybrids account for 52% of inventoried trees. The remaining 48% of trees include species such as littleleaf linden, sycamore maple, American beech, red oak, sugar maple, Japanese zelkova, Oregon white oak, and others.

Issues that were identified during the master planning process which this strategy mitigates include:

- **A majority of trees were planted too close to each other to accommodate their mature growth, which can affect their health and structure.**
- **A lack of species diversity, often called a monoculture, leaves an urban forest more prone to impacts by pests and diseases.**
- **American elms contribute to the character of the South Park Blocks in a variety of ways. It is challenging to find alternative tree species that compare with their large size at maturity, overarching canopy, spreading crown form, and change of foliage color in fall (see page 40).**

Approach

This strategy guides the future replacement of trees so that it retains much of the grid-style tree planting of large stature trees (primarily American elms) that is a character-defining feature of the South Park Blocks. It also incorporates goals that increase the resiliency of the urban forest to issues such as pests, disease, and climate change that are more pronounced in monocultures.

Reflected in the long-term vision of the design, this strategy proposes priority tree locations that have adequate spacing reflective of the necessary soil and canopy space required for each tree type while maintaining the characteristic overlapping canopy condition of the trees at their maturity. The implementation of this vision at its apex will maintain an urban forest with full canopy coverage for nearly all of the South Park Blocks, providing shade that is critical in an urban environment in the summer but also open to light in most places in the winter.

Some key goals of the strategy that the design reflects include:

Maintain a grid of trees on each block that are primarily large stature trees reflective of the character of the American elms that currently exist and contribute to the park's historic character.

Within the Cultural District this strategy results in a design with a central allée of large trees that match the existing American elms framing the central promenade. American elms are characterized by being tall (60' to 80') trees with a wide branching structure that creates their iconic vase-shaped form. They have medium-textured leaves that turn yellow in the fall. Within the University District large trees are found throughout the grid, but sometimes interrupted to accommodate pathways and plaza spaces. However, the visual presence of the grid and its rows remains visible throughout. There may be some cases where a tree of medium stature is needed to meet the conditions of the location, but these should only be used in limited circumstances.

Add tree species diversity along the edges of the Cultural District in order to increase resiliency.

Increasing species diversity and the urban forest's resiliency needs to be accommodated on the east and west edges of the Cultural District blocks in order to maintain the historic character of large stature tree species that frame the central allée. The trees will be planted in a grid matching the historic spacing and planting pattern.

New plantings should aim to achieve a consistent form and symmetry through species collection by, for example, limiting the number of species per block to five. This is indicated on the tree succession strategy diagram with symbols noting a suggested number and arrangement of tree species. The species should be chosen to reflect the character and form of the historic American elms whenever possible.

Plant deciduous trees in the Cultural District, and prioritize planting deciduous trees in the University District. Accommodate evergreen trees in some of the University District's locations to provide more native tree species and biodiversity, enhance the tree canopy's capacity to absorb stormwater, and add habitat.

Deciduous trees will continue to be the dominant tree type throughout the South Park Blocks, reflecting the character and form of the American elms whenever possible. Evergreen trees will be limited to the University District and planted in strategic locations. The distribution and location of tree species will be guided by maintaining the sense of symmetry and order that currently exists and is reflective of the park's historic character.

Introduce native species when possible to reflect an earlier period of this landscape's history associated with the region's Indigenous communities.

Native trees should be considered when determining replacement species, but should meet the same criteria outlined earlier for replacement trees. For the Cultural District, that means that trees should reflect the size, character, and form of American elms whenever possible. There is more latitude in the University District, but all trees should have a similar stature to blend well within the urban forest of the South Park Blocks. While this section focuses on trees, native shrubs and forbs can be introduced in planting areas, as well, to increase the number of plants with greater habitat value.

TREE SUCCESSION STRATEGY // UNIVERSITY DISTRICT







Existing Trees 2019



Tree Succession Strategy Long-term Vision

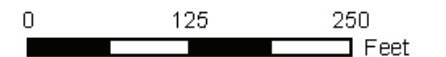


LEGEND

-  American elm-like large stature tree
(See *University District center tree type*)
-  Large and medium stature deciduous trees, with preference for large where space available
(See *University District edge tree type*)
-  Evergreen trees (See *University District evergreen tree type*)
-  Building Footprint
-  Lawn
-  Plant Bed: Native, Ornamental, or Flower

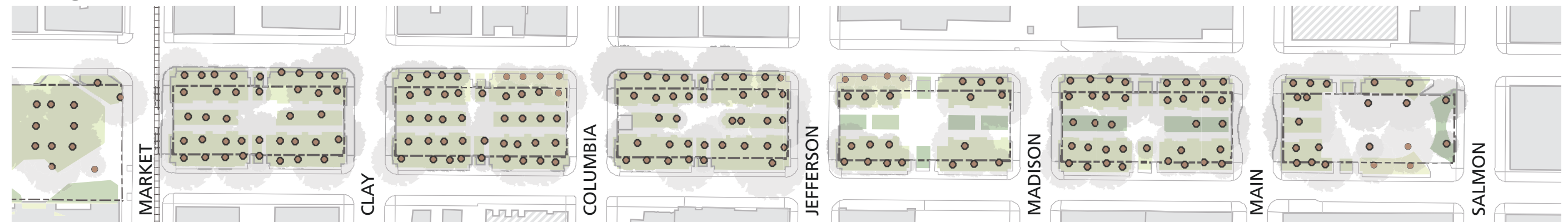
Summary:

- Elm trees or comparable deciduous species are present in the middle rows of plantings with breaks for pathways and plazas.
- A variety of compatible deciduous trees are added to maintain the visual presence of planted rows and increase the resiliency of the tree canopy.
- Evergreen trees are introduced in the University District at key locations.
- Tree canopies at maturity will overlap at their edges to provide shade and enclosure similar to the current experience of being in the South Park Blocks.

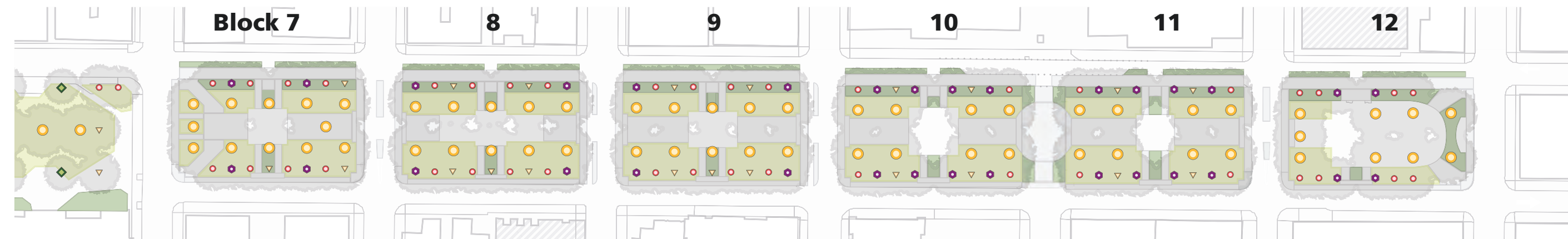


TREE SUCCESSION STRATEGY // CULTURAL DISTRICT






Existing Trees 2019



Tree Succession Strategy Long-term Vision



LEGEND

-  American elm-like large stature tree (See Cultural District center tree type)
-  Large and medium stature deciduous trees, mix of up to four species per block, planted symmetrically (See Cultural District edge tree type)
-  Building Footprint
-  Lawn
-  Plant Bed: Native, Ornamental, or Flower

Summary:

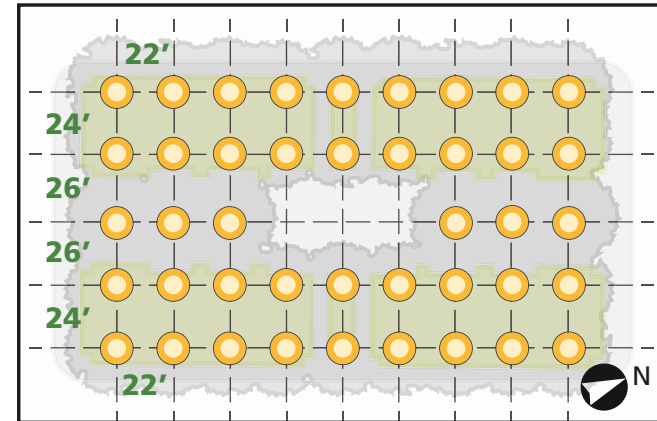
- When existing trees in the central north-south planters die or become hazardous, they are not replaced in situ (in the same location). Over time, this area is repurposed and rebuilt as the central promenade.
- Elms framing the central promenade are provided more growing room and solar exposure using a new spacing standard resulting in healthier, stronger trees. A variety of compatible deciduous trees are added to the park's edges over time.
- Tree canopies at maturity will overlap at their edges to provide shade and enclosure similar to the current experience of being in the South Park Blocks.



OTHER TREE SUCCESSION STRATEGY RECOMMENDATIONS

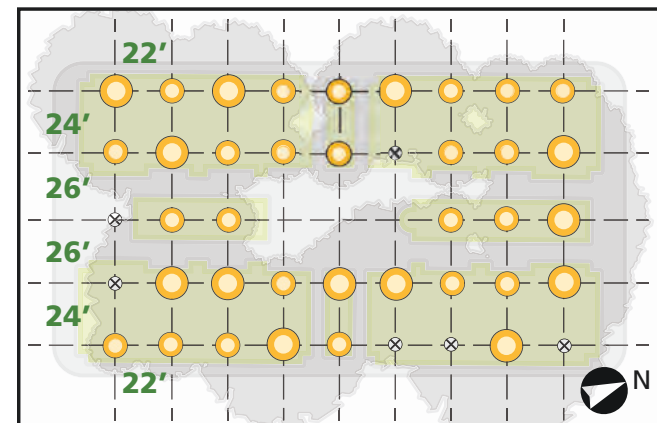
1 CHARACTERISTIC TREE SPACING (C.1971) (up to) 45 trees

Grid layout with limited canopy space for elm trees



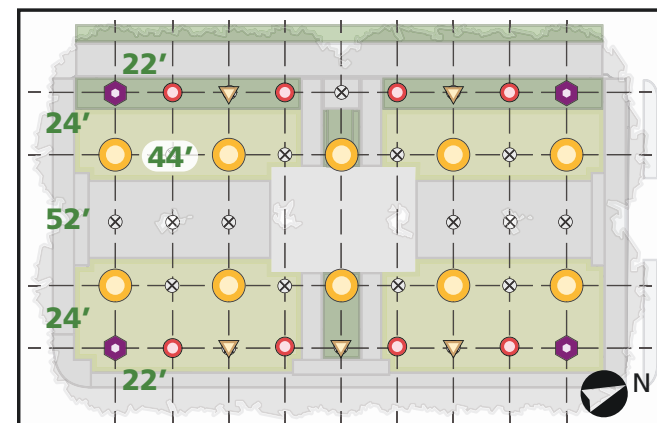
2 EXISTING TREE SPACING (2020) (up to) 42 trees

Grid layout with open space at block centers; limited canopy space for elms and other large trees; problematic for new growth and structural tree health



3 PROPOSED CULTURAL DISTRICT TREE SPACING 27 trees (typ.)

Grid layout with increased canopy space for elm or elm-like trees along remaining center rows; retain historic grid spacing for large and medium deciduous trees at block edges



Spacing Guidelines

Spacing guidelines, shown here, were established based on the growing conditions needed for replacement trees balanced with the historic tree spacing grid to help ensure a closed canopy over time.²³ Within the Cultural District, trees along the east and west sides of the blocks are planted to match the historic spacing, and trees planted along the central promenade are planted to provide more suitable growing space for large trees. This spacing takes into account each tree’s typical mature canopy spread, approximately 45 feet, allowing the edges of adjacent canopies to slightly overlap. Similar to today, the grid is interrupted in some locations for developed park features that serve the community. At more detailed design stages, tree planting opportunities will be maximized throughout the park. In the Cultural District, opportunities will be explored to bring the rows lining the central promenade closer to the park centerline while maintaining visual alignment.

²³ <https://www.mortonarb.org/trees-plants/tree-plant-descriptions/elm-cultivars>

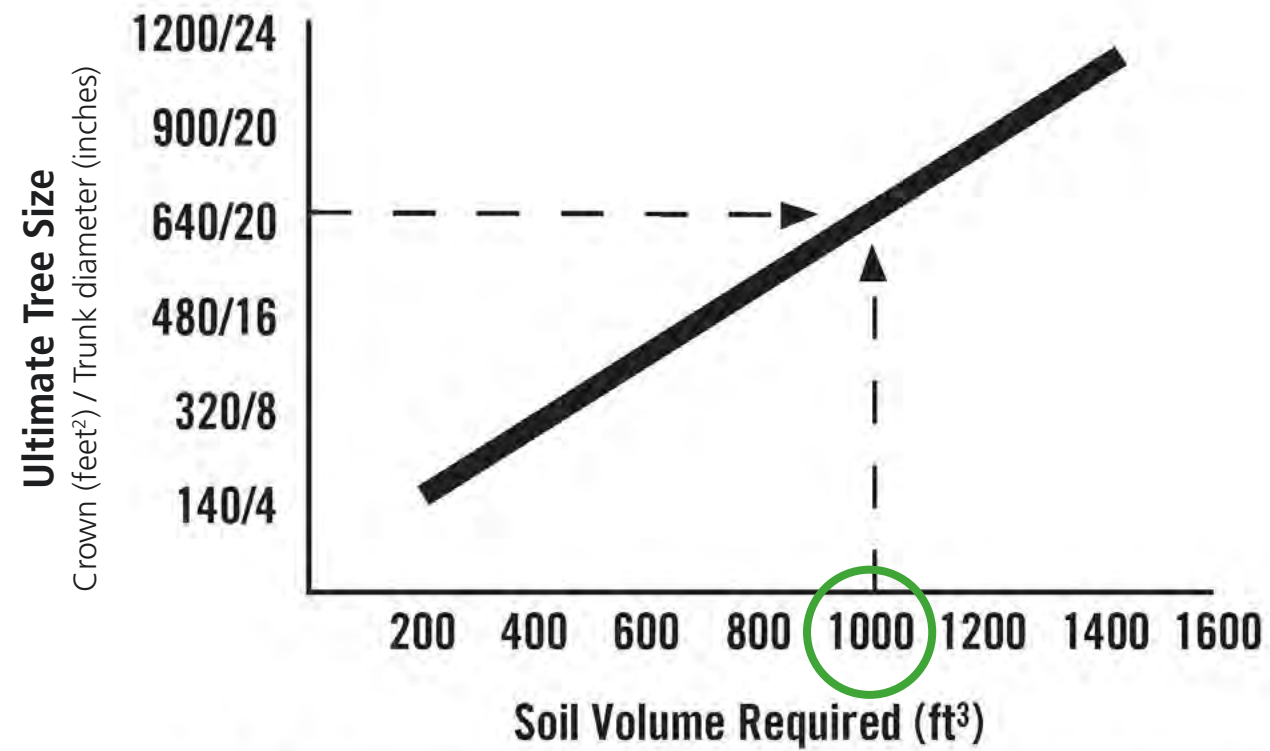
Within the University District, the historic planting grid was already interrupted when the blocks were redesigned in the 1970s. The spacing guidelines balance the desire to retain as many trees as possible, while also providing adequate growing space. The locations match, wherever possible, the historic planting grid that was part of the original designed landscape.

Tree Species

Based on this approach, 267 trees are planned for the mature plant-out of the 12-block park. American elms were nearly 100% of the trees planted during the historic period and represent 52% of the trees that remain today, a trend which has already increased the overall diversity of the South Park Blocks’ urban forest. Strategic locations have been recommended in the Cultural District for Dutch elm disease-resistant American elm cultivars framing the central promenade. This balances the park’s role as an urban forest and as a National Register of Historic Places eligible historic district.

Tree species diversity is added to promote resiliency and to incorporate more native species reflective of the landscape’s earlier history.

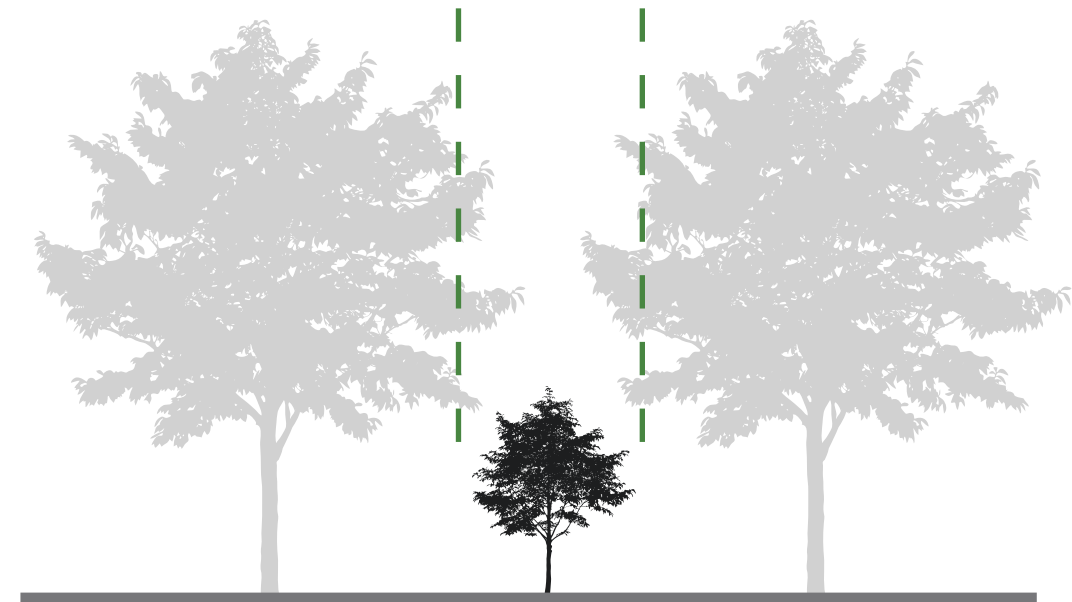
Trees Need Soil To Grow



Source: USDA Forest Service Center for Urban Forest Research

Minimum Soil Volume

There is a direct relationship between a tree's ultimate size (i.e., maximum crown spread) and the amount of soil volume provided. Soil depth should be approximately 36" deep, as tree roots may extend to 24" deep.



Overhead Pruning Requirements

Wherever new trees are planted beneath the crown of existing trees, pruning may be needed for the existing trees to provide overhead clearance and sunlight access to the new tree.

- Prevents asymmetrical growth (leaning)
- Reduces a tree's susceptibility to sun scorch when adjacent trees become damaged, are dying, and/or must be removed per an arborist's recommendation
- Expands lifespan potential of trees

TREE SPECIES GUIDANCE

THE UNIQUE QUALITIES OF ELM TREES

The combination of characteristics and qualities particular to American elms (*Ulmus americana*) include:

- Large-stature and vase-shaped*
- Fast-growing and long-lived*
- Deciduous*
- Open and nuanced branch structure*
- Straight trunks that are unbranched until quite tall*
- Small to medium leaves with texture
- Tolerant of urban conditions
- Adaptive to a broad range of climates and soils
- Provide habitat value to insects (especially bees) and songbirds because they flower early when most other trees are still bare²⁴
- Seeds (samaras) provide food source for birds and small animals

While all of the listed characteristics and qualities are important, those marked with asterisks (*) are prioritized for the South Park Blocks and should be considered when selecting non-elm replacements.

²⁴ Christian O. Marks, "The Ecological Role of American Elm (*Ulmus americana*) in Floodplain Forests of Northeastern North America," Proceedings of the American Elm Restoration Workshop 2016: 89, accessed October 17, 2020, <https://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/pubs/gtr/gtr-nrs-p-174papers/10marks-gtr-p-174.pdf>



Elm trees in the University District



CULTURAL DISTRICT CENTER

The priority for trees lining the central promenade in the Cultural District should be Dutch elm disease-resistant American elm cultivars (or hybrids) to reflect the character, form, and experience of walking through a mature allée²⁵ of American elms that is characteristic of the South Park Blocks designed landscape.

For example, the Jefferson elm (known as *Ulmus americana* 'Jefferson') is the first joint release of a Dutch elm disease-tolerant American elm cultivar by the National Park Service (U.S. Department of the Interior) and the Agricultural Research Service (U.S. Department of Agriculture). It has excellent horizontal form and can tolerate numerous environmental stresses including deicing salts, drought, and air pollution.

Placement of other large and medium stature trees of similar scale, form, and appearance to elms may also be considered along the central promenade, such as Northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*).²⁶

²⁵ An allée is a straight path or road with a line of trees running along each side, usually the same species or cultivar so as to give uniform appearance.

²⁶ Any tree species included when referencing future planting are examples but not commitments. This reflects essential principles of dendrology and urban forest management.

TREE SPECIES GUIDANCE, CONTINUED

CULTURAL DISTRICT EDGE

Trees along the east and west edges of the Cultural District should be species other than American elms to increase the diversity and resiliency of the South Park Blocks urban forest. However, to maintain the character of the grid of limited-species large stature trees, those designated for the edges should have similar characteristics to the American elm so that they blend well with the character and form of Cultural District Center trees along central promenade. Planting locations for Cultural District Edge trees reflect spacing of the original grid, meaning new trees will be planted closer than is ideal, but it is a compromise needed in order to prioritize additional room at the block center.

Cultural District Edge trees should be deciduous, large-stature where possible, have a vase-shaped branching form, and have small to medium-sized leaves with toothed leaf margins. A species having fall color that doesn't produce a lot of non-leaf debris would be ideal. For example, according to the Arnold Arboretum and the Morton Arboretum, some non-elm species that have been considered as replacements for American elms in an urban environment include:

- *Celtis occidentalis* (Hackberry)
- *Zelkova serrata* (Japanese zelkova)
- *Tilia tomentosa* (Silver linden)

Non-elm species currently planted in the Cultural District that could also potentially be considered include *Tilia cordata* (Littleleaf linden), *Acer saccharum* (Sugar maple), and *Quercus rubra* (Northern red oak). The overarching intention is to plant diverse species that still fulfill characteristics of the historic canopy.²⁷

²⁷ Any tree species included when referencing future planting are examples but not commitments. This reflects essential principles of dendrology and urban forest management.



Japanese zelkova



Littleleaf linden



Northern red oak



Hackberry



Silver linden



'Accolade' elm



Hackberry

UNIVERSITY DISTRICT CENTER

The priority large trees along the middle rows in the University District should be Dutch elm disease-resistant American elm cultivars (or hybrids) to reflect the character and form of American elms that is characteristic of the South Park Blocks designed landscape.

For example, the Accolade²⁸ elm (known as *Ulmus* 'Morton Accolade') is a complex hybrid with excellent resistance to Dutch elm disease, elm leaf miner, and elm leaf beetle. It is characterized by arching limbs and a graceful vase shape like that of the classic American elm. The glossy, dark green foliage changes to yellow in the fall. This hybrid is both heat and drought resistant.

Placement of other large stature medium stature trees of similar scale, form, and appearance to elms may be considered in the University District center, such as Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*).²⁹

²⁸ The Accolade Elm is a hybrid of the Japanese elm (*Ulmus davidiana* var. *japonica*) and Wilson's elm (*Ulmus wilsoniana* 'Morton').

²⁹ Any tree species included when referencing future planting are examples but not commitments. This reflects essential principles of dendrology and urban forest management.

TREE SPECIES GUIDANCE, CONTINUED

UNIVERSITY DISTRICT EDGE

Deciduous trees for non-center rows in the University District need to be species other than American elms to increase the diversity and resiliency of the South Park Blocks urban forest and allow the park's long-term replanting strategy to meet species diversity goals. The species should share some similar characteristics to the American elm to complement and blend with University District Center trees. Trees should have a vase-shaped or wide branching form. Native tree species should be given high consideration for replacement trees in the University District.

For example, native species that can be considered include:

- *Fraxinus latifolia* (Oregon ash)
- *Quercus garryana* (Oregon white oak)
- *Acer macrophyllum* (Big leaf maple)

Non-native, non-elm species currently planted in the University District that could also potentially be considered include *Tilia cordata* (Littleleaf linden), *Acer pseudoplatanus* (Sycamore maple), *Fagus grandifolia* (American beech), and *Quercus rubra* (Northern red oak).³⁰

³⁰ Any tree species included when referencing future planting are examples but not commitments. This reflects essential principles of dendrology and urban forest management.



Oregon white oak



Oregon ash



Big leaf maple



Sycamore



American beech



Douglas fir



Douglas fir



Southern live oak



Western red cedar

UNIVERSITY DISTRICT EVERGREEN TREES

Evergreen species slated for inclusion in the University District could include both conifers and broadleaf species. Their locations should be considered carefully so that areas where access to sunlight is needed in the winter months is not impeded. Some pruning will be required for some tree species to provide adequate sight-lines under the tree canopies. While evergreen trees cannot match the character and form of the American elm, species should have a similar size when grown in an urban environment, and have a spreading branching form. Trees that have a similar-scaled texture would be ideal. Native tree species should be given high consideration for replacement trees in the University District.

For example, some evergreen trees that can be considered include:³¹

- *Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Douglas fir)
- *Thuja plicata* (Western red cedar)
- *Quercus virginiana* (Southern live oak)³²

³¹ Any tree species included when referencing future planting are examples but not commitments. This reflects essential principles of dendrology and urban forest management.

³² <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/article/514100>



Recommended Design Block by Block

In this subchapter, the recommended design for each block in the South Park Blocks is provided. Blocks are described from south to north, starting with the University District and moving on to the Cultural District.



In This Section



Plan diagrams for all blocks



Sections for blocks 1, 2, 4, 8, 10 and 11



Design examples and bulleted design program for all blocks





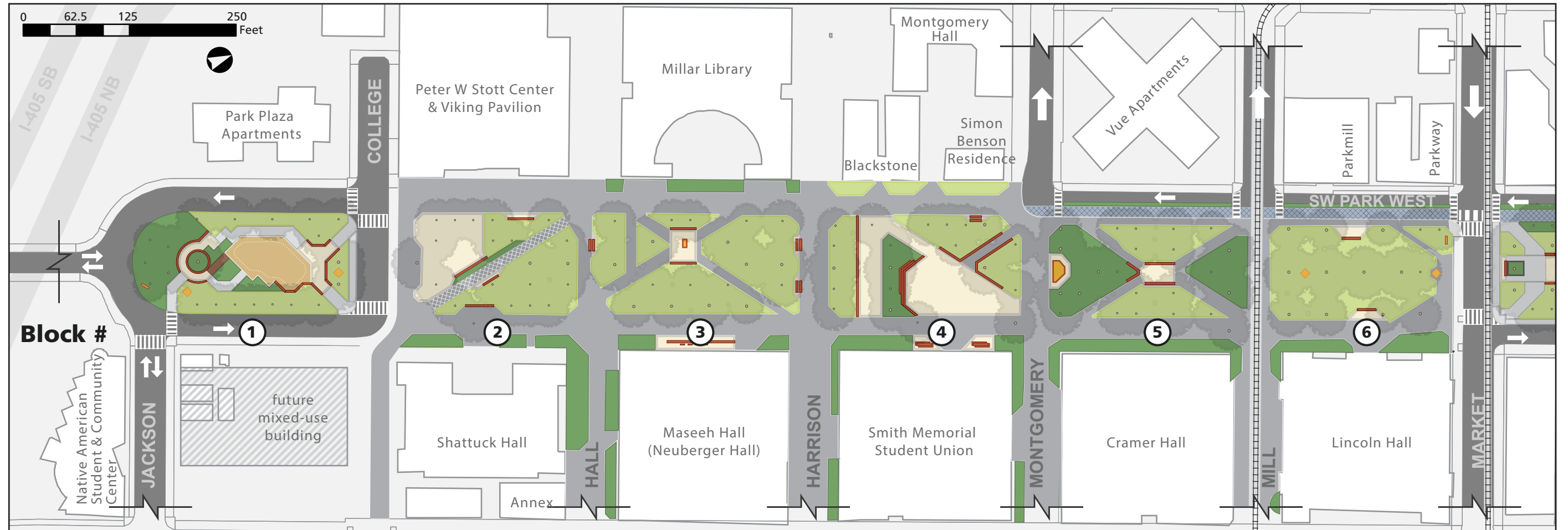
The Master Plan sets a vision and direction for future, more detailed implementation. Examples of guidance from the Recommended Design that will need to be carried through implementation include:

- Balance contemporary needs with maintaining historic features
- Optimize opportunities for reconciliation and healing through the landscape and park features
- Promote inclusive design so each block meets or exceeds accessibility codes and standards
- Increase safety with improved sight lines to provide all park users natural surveillance and more features that passively activate the park throughout the day
- Create opportunities for interaction and learning among different groups with new public art and seating promoting social interaction
- Represent more diverse cultural histories and identities in art, landscaping, and other park features
- Prioritize pedestrian and bicycle safety through incorporation of Green Loop facilities along the park edge
- Provide elements to unify all 12 blocks of the South Park Blocks while acknowledging and supporting the different histories, functions, and needs of the Cultural and University Districts

Examples of additional features that will be elements of future construction design:

- General park wayfinding that will connect park users to one another
- Green Loop detailed design including specific Green Loop wayfinding that will minimize conflicts between people using different ways to move through, beside, or linger in the park
- Considerations for houseless community
- Electricity and power supply locations and type
- Lighting
- Irrigation
- Features to protect art work, park furnishings, paved areas, etc.
- Stormwater management features

RECOMMENDED DESIGN BLOCKS 1 THROUGH 6



ALL BLOCKS

Design supports large trees with more space in between to provide similar canopy experience as today with more sustainable growing conditions

Provides more sun in high use areas that are today overshadowed

Provides a range of different sized gathering areas

Replace park lighting to match fixtures in the North Park Blocks

BLOCK 1

New gateway art

New play experience and gathering area

Link to Native American Student and Community Center

BLOCK 2

New flexible gathering plaza

Green Loop alignment diagonally through block following plaza construction

BLOCK 3

Quiet block

Formalize desire line circulation

Refurbish Holon artwork

Green Loop shared use path along west side of block

BLOCK 4

Renovate Smith Amphitheater for more flexibility and ADA upgrades

Green Loop shared use path along west side of block

BLOCK 5

Add native and adaptive plantings along Mill

Refurbish fountain and brick base

All door boarding at streetcar stop

Formalize desire lines

Green Loop separated path along west side of block

BLOCK 6

Space in lawn for rotating exhibits and/or new permanent art

Low-mow lawn approach

Green Loop separated path along west side of block

Quiet block

BLOCK 1 PSU PLAYGROUND GATHERING AREA

The existing Block 1 is the southernmost block of the South Park Blocks. It provides a fenced playground at the south side of the block, the condition of which is fair to poor. A mix of large and medium canopy trees planted within turf lawn shades the play equipment, with dappled sunny areas in between. One concrete walkway connects College Street to the play area. Large, single boulders line the block along Park Avenue East. The block lacks typical design features found in other University District blocks. Pedestrian scale lighting is located along Park Avenue West and Park Avenue East.

The renovation of Block 1 upgrades and diversifies the play experience, provides two small gathering spaces, improves connections to adjacent block frontages, adds native planting and native trees, and identifies locations for art reflecting a wider range of community histories and cultures. New paving design and furnishings will be similar to those used in other newly renovated blocks in the University District.

The overhead tree canopy reflected in the Tree Succession Strategy provides dappled shade to seating areas with breaks for more sun at the play area.

A new connection to the Native American Student and Community Center (NASCC)

is provided at the corner of Jackson Street and Park Avenue East. This new connection makes it possible for safer, more direct, and increased use of this park block by the Center's students, visitors, and staff. A location for artwork near this entrance will be designated for elements representing Indigenous art, history, and/or culture.

A small gathering area is provided around a large, mature elm along this entry walkway. Once this elm reaches the end of its life, PP&R and Urban Forestry staff will partner with the NASCC to select an appropriate replacement species.

Tree canopy at Block 1 is characterized by the addition of native conifers along the block's north-south axis. Between these are a mix of up to three additional, large stature tree

species that function to add species diversity. Conifers are to be limbed as necessary to remove boughs that may impede sight lines across the block. Below the conifers, turf lawn is replaced with a variety of low, native ground covers selected and arranged in partnership with the NASCC.

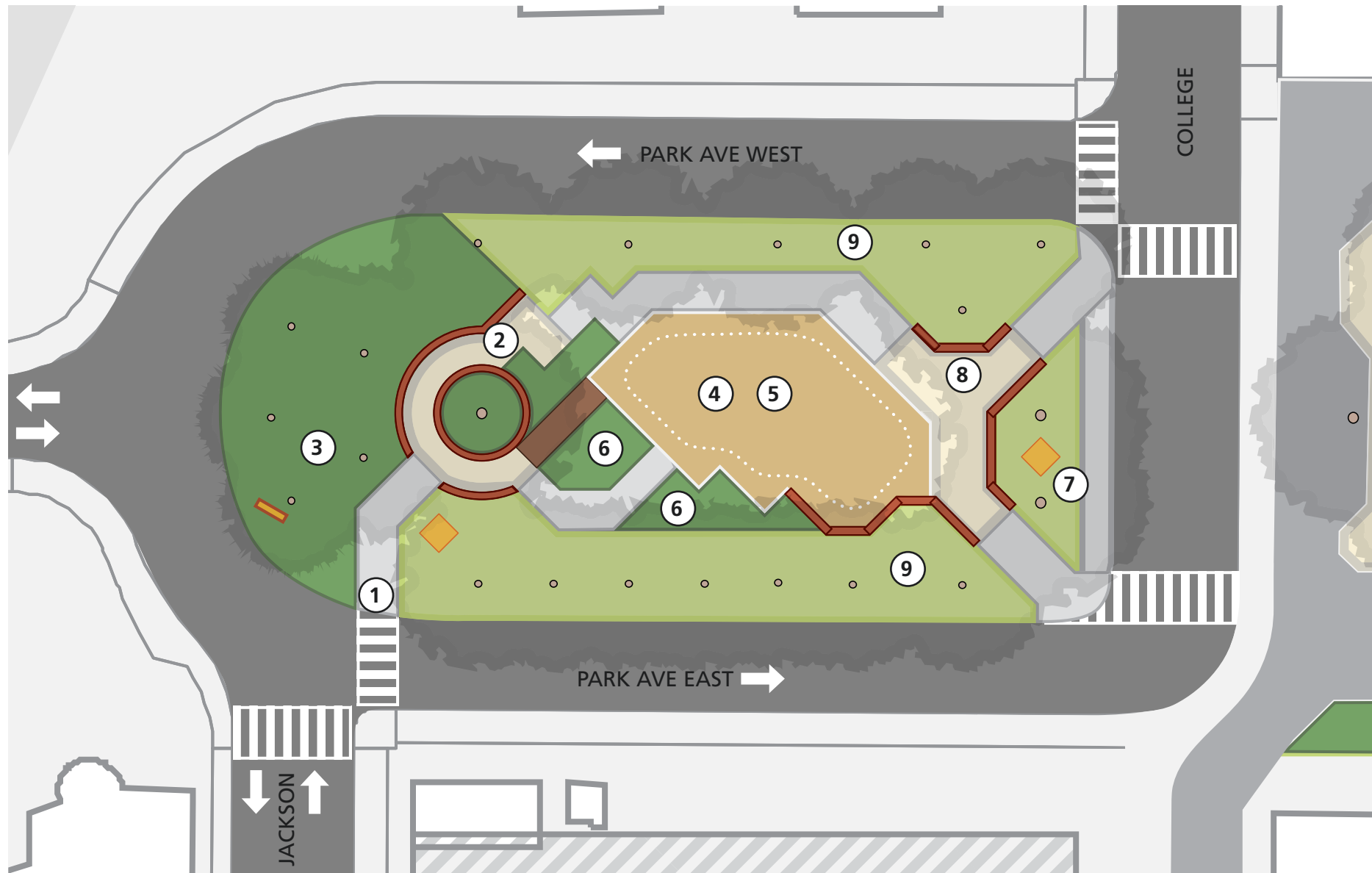
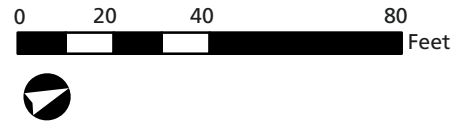
New sculptural, thematic play features will provide accessible play opportunities, potentially using a contoured hill feature with other features highlighting balance and climbing skills. At the play area's north side, a seating area creates opportunities for exchange and interaction that have not existed here before. The design of the larger playground and its gathering areas will be welcoming not only for children and their caretakers, but also students, workers, residents, and farmers market visitors.

Additional native planting beds replace lawn in selected areas around the playground that the NASCC and the Indigenous Nations Studies Program can use for educational and other cultural uses. Open lawn remains around the block perimeter providing another area for informal gathering and recreation.

New gateway art at the block's midblock location along College Street reflects a desire of the master plan to include unifying design elements throughout the twelve park blocks, as well as to include art that reflects a wider and broader range of experiences and histories.

Future design considerations include potential removal of parking along Park Avenue East to better connect planned mixed-use development to the park.

BLOCK 1 PSU PLAYGROUND GATHERING AREA



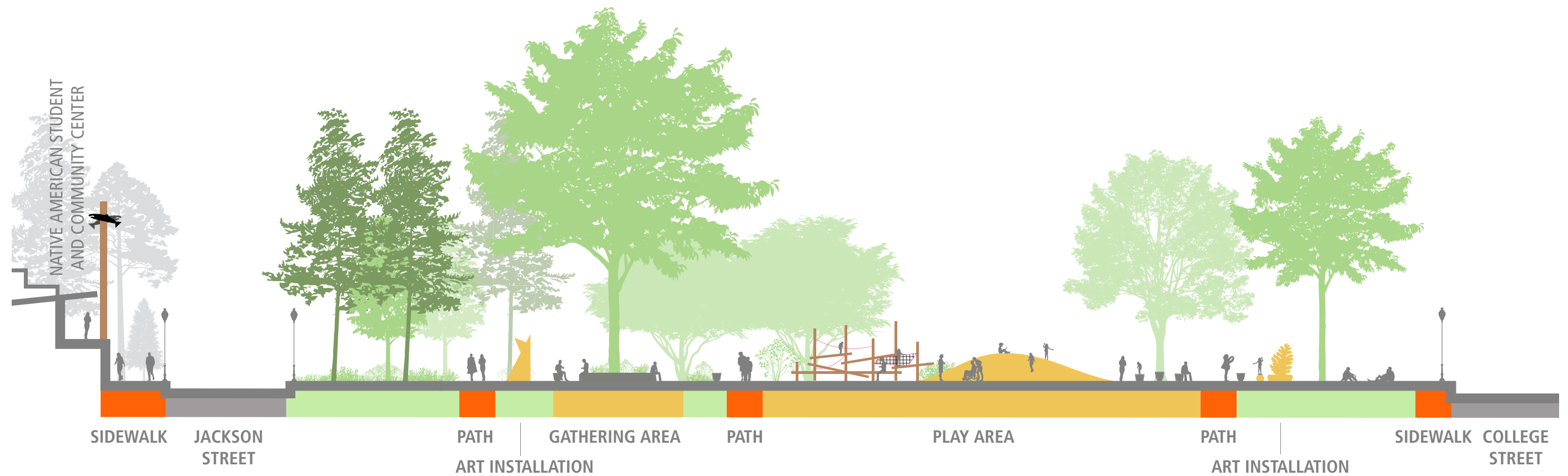
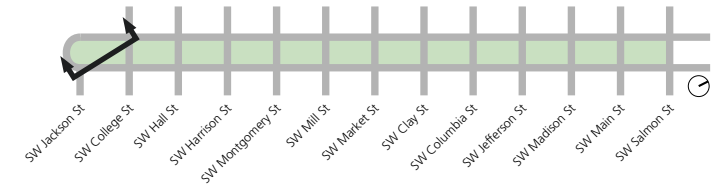
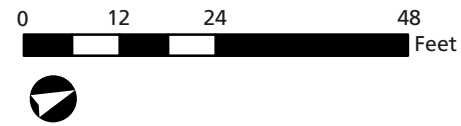
1. New connection to Native American Student and Community Center
2. Small gathering area at mature elm
3. Native planting of conifers and low ground covers
4. Play area with accessible safety surfacing
5. Sculptural thematic play feature
6. Replace lawn with native, habitat-friendly plantings to add interest at play area
7. New location for gateway art
8. Seatwall and/or benches
9. Open lawn

LEGEND

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|--|--|
| | Building Footprint | | Turf / Lawn |
| | Roadway | | Tree Canopy |
| | Pedestrian Paving | | Plant Bed: Native, Ornamental, or Flower |
| | Shared Bike / Ped Zone | | Playground Safety Surfacing |
| | Cross Walk | | |
| | Gathering Areas | | |
| | Bench / Social Seating | | |
| | Small Scale Feature / Art | | |

BLOCK 1 PSU PLAYGROUND GATHERING AREA

**South
Park
Blocks**
MASTER PLAN



BLOCK 1 PSU PLAYGROUND GATHERING AREA



Example of interactive art and play features for Block 1 (left: Louis Helbig / right: MIG)



Example of gateway art for Block (Ben Brink)



Example of social seating for Block 1 (Rios Clementi Hale Studios)



Example of understory plantings for Block 1 (SE Uplift)



Example of thematic play feature for Block 1 (Ben Brink)



Example of interactive art for Block 1, cast of Willamette meteor 'Tomanowos' (source unknown)



Example of boulder scramble for Block 1 (MIG)

BLOCK 2 VIKING PAVILION FLEXIBLE EVENT SPACE

The existing Block 2 is a quiet, unprogrammed park block fronting the Viking Pavilion and Shattuck Hall. It is characterized by a diagonal walkway that bisects the block at its northwest and southeast corners. Park benches installed along low brick seatwalls are located along this walkway, providing places for respite and people watching. Three additional inset areas along the block perimeter include similar bench seating. Large canopy trees planted within the turf lawn and in circular brick-lined tree wells along College Street provide consistent shade to this block during summer.

The renovation of Block 2 respects its existing geometry and provides a new flexible plaza space for temporary events. Lawn and trees reflect existing aesthetics with designated locations for conifers. Paving design and furnishings will be similar to those used in other renovated blocks in the University District, which is needed to provide unifying design elements along the park blocks. Replacement seating will match existing wood slat benches found throughout the district. The Green Loop shared use path will pass diagonally through the block once the plaza is constructed.

The **new Viking Plaza space** reflects interest and need for additional flexible hardscape areas to support needs of university gatherings and graduations, outdoor classroom space, farmers market, and similar events. Like other University District gathering areas, Viking Plaza includes locations for at grade tree wells or silva cells designed so new trees have strong growth potential both above and below ground. Future design considerations for this space should include stormwater management given the addition of hardscape.

New walkway and gathering area paving will be reinforced concrete paving potentially with exposed aggregate banding. New concrete should be formulated to patina to a dark grey to match existing paving in the University District, allowing the visual qualities of the landscape to spring forward.

Canopy trees within turf lawn will remain a key feature of this space. Along vacated Hall Street there are two locations for new conifers which would similarly be pruned to remove boughs that impede visibility across the block.

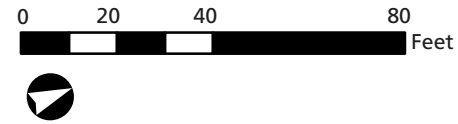
Along the block's north-south axis, existing elms or new disease resistant elm hybrids or cultivars will provide another unifying design element along the park blocks.

Following construction of the Viking Plaza, the **Green Loop shared use path will also follow the diagonal walkway alignment** to provide the most direct route across the block factoring in the block's topography and awareness of potential pedestrian-bicyclist conflicts that may present from the new spillover gathering area. The diagonal walkway will include distinctive paving treatment to bring awareness to both cyclists and pedestrians of the new mixing area. Prior to plaza construction, the shared use path will go around Block 2, connecting College Street to vacated Park Avenue West.

Future design considerations should include: 1) provision of clear messaging to bicyclists in the design to ensure safety of pedestrians in the shared use environment 2) the incorporation of Green Loop wayfinding elements between College Street and Hall Street 3) the temporary

re-routing of cyclists to adjacent streets during events, such as the farmers market, and 4) plaza design details supporting NASCC needs for events such as the annual salmon bakes.

BLOCK 2 VIKING PAVILION FLEXIBLE EVENT SPACE



1. Flexible, hardscape gathering area
2. Vehicle drop-off area
3. Green Loop paving for Block 2
4. Canopy trees and open lawn
5. Rehabilitated University District wood bench seating, typical
6. Potential stormwater facility
7. Location for future conifer tree
8. New crosswalk locations at College Street
9. Green Loop shared use path along west side of block

LEGEND

	Building Footprint		Green Loop Shared Use Path (Block 2)
	Roadway		Turf / Lawn
	Pedestrian Paving		Tree Canopy
	Shared Bike / Ped Zone		Plant Bed: Native, Ornamental, or Flower
	Cross Walk		Playground Safety Surfacing
	Gathering Areas		
	Bench / Social Seating		
	Small Scale Feature / Art		

BLOCK 2 VIKING PAVILION FLEXIBLE EVENT SPACE



Example of flexible plaza space for Block 2 (UC Irvine)



Example of flexible plaza space for Block 2 (Unilock)



Example of flexible plaza space for Block 2 (Meyer Studio Land Architects)



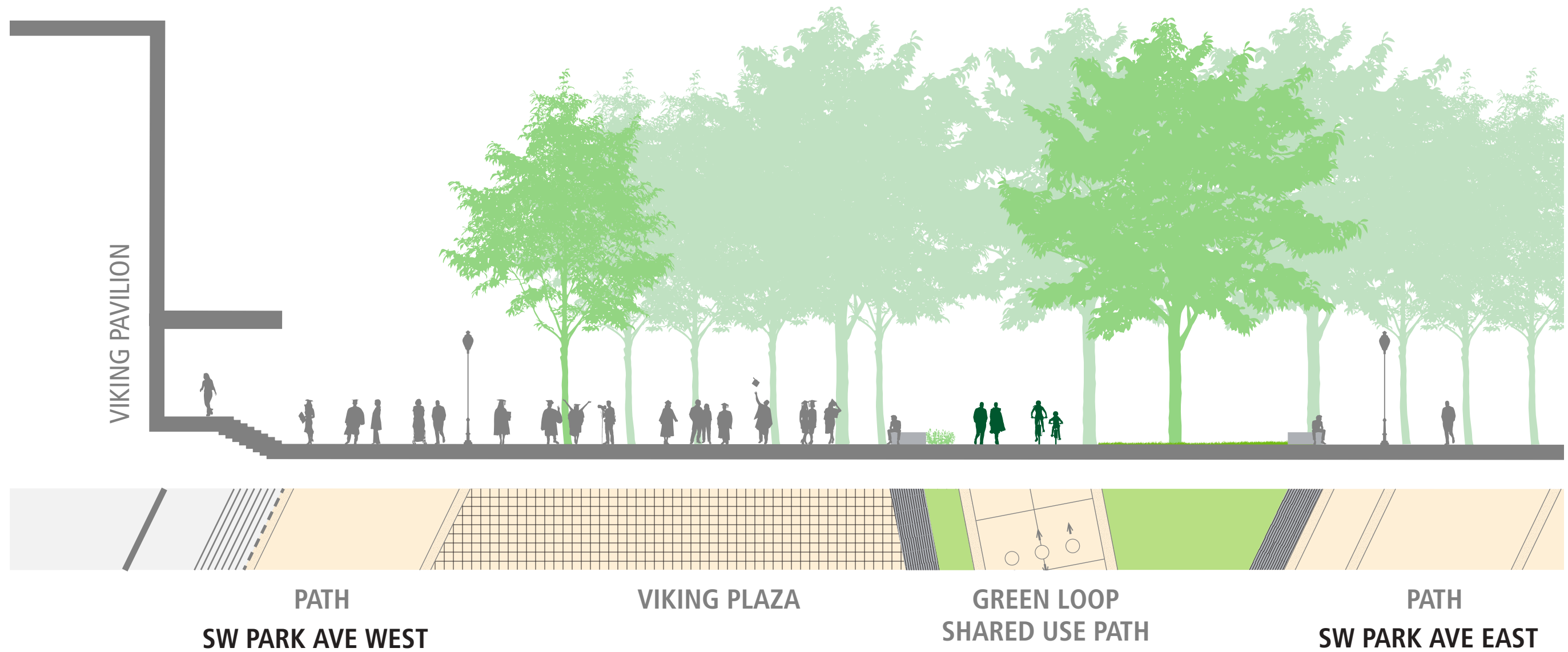
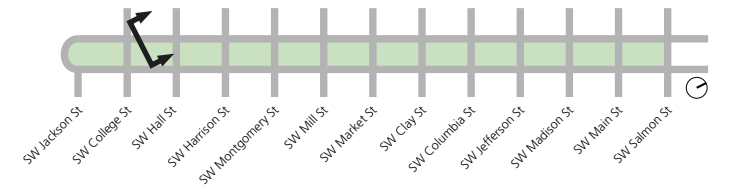
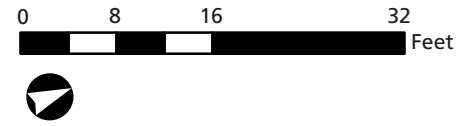
Example of a conifer tree (cedar) used in a downtown Portland park (MIG)



Example of new matching replacement benches in the University District (MIG)

BLOCK 2 VIKING PLAZA FLEXIBLE EVENT SPACE

**South
Park
Blocks**
MASTER PLAN



BLOCK 3 MASEEH HALL

The existing Block 3 fronts Maseeh Hall and Millar Library. Circulation for this block has an X-pattern in plan view comprised of exposed aggregate diagonal walkways edged in brick. There is a small gathering area where the walkways meet. Holon, a granite sculpture installed here in 2004, provides a focal point on Block 3 similar to other park blocks. Turf lawn is planted under a canopy of both young and mature shade trees, many of which are American elms. Tree layout is reflective of the historic 5-row grid pattern providing heavy shade over Block 3. Planting elsewhere is lawn turf. Distinctive 1971-era chess tables and bench seating with sloped brick bases are located along Hall and Harrison Streets. A desire path across Block 3 to the library's south entrance reflects a need to update how circulation works here.

The proposed renovation of Block 3 respects the historic program and geometry of the block while updating paving materials to improve accessibility, providing matching replacement seating that meet accessibility standards, and

formalizing desire paths. The result of these modifications is a block that is similarly quiet as it is today and more responsive to its context and user needs.

New walkway and gathering area paving will be reinforced concrete paving potentially with exposed aggregate banding. New concrete should be formulated to patina to a dark grey to match existing paving in the University District, allowing the visual qualities of the landscape to spring forward. Desire paths between building entrances across the block will be formalized with similar design.

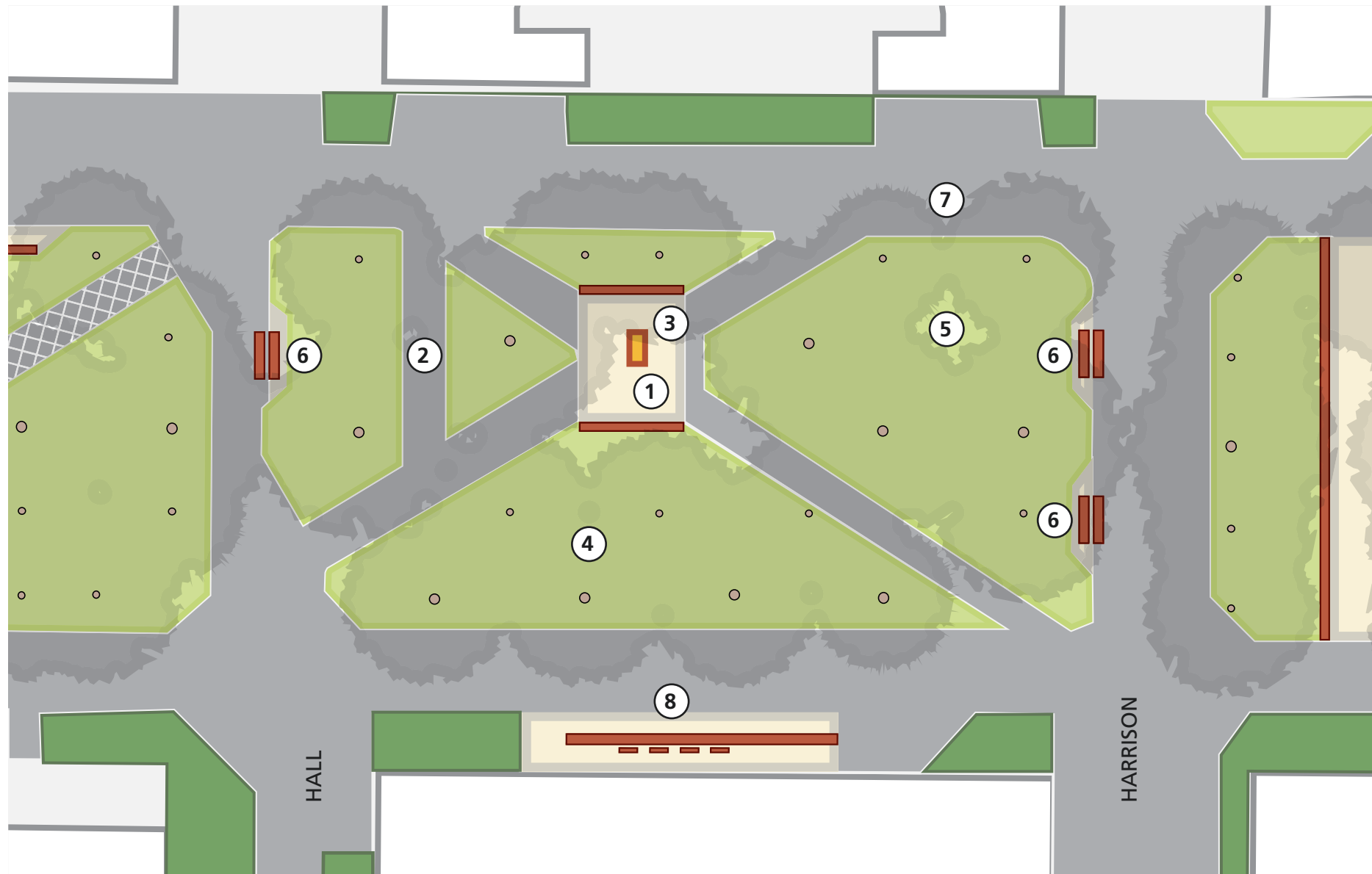
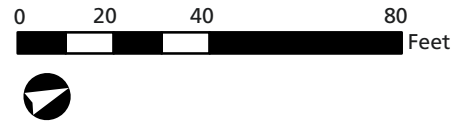
Rehabilitation of Holon should be undertaken when conditions warrant or when blockwide improvements are initiated. Rehabilitation activities may include (but are not limited to) sculpture cleaning, stonework repairs, and repointing of the brick at the base. Holon will remain in place.

Canopy trees within turf lawn will remain a key feature of this space. There are two locations for new conifers, one at the entrance of Millar Library and one at the entrance to Maseeh Hall. Conifers would be pruned to remove boughs that impede visibility across the block. Along the block's north-south axis, existing elms or new disease resistant elm hybrids or cultivars will provide another unifying design element along the park blocks.

Turf lawn areas are to remain, with a future consideration to replace with a lawn alternative that requires less mowing and reduced irrigation.

The **Green Loop shared use path along west side of block** will function very similarly as it does today, where pedestrians and cyclists share the existing 25-foot wide pathway. Future design considerations should include: 1) the incorporation of Green Loop wayfinding elements between Hall Street and Harrison Street, and 2) the temporary re-routing of cyclists to adjacent streets during large events, such as the farmers market.

BLOCK 3 MASEEH HALL



1. New walkway and plaza paving
2. Formalize desire path from library across block
3. Refurbished Holon sculpture
4. Canopy trees
5. Turf lawn
6. Rehabilitated University District wood bench seating, typical
7. Green Loop shared use path along west side of block
8. Existing social seating in front of Maseeh Hall

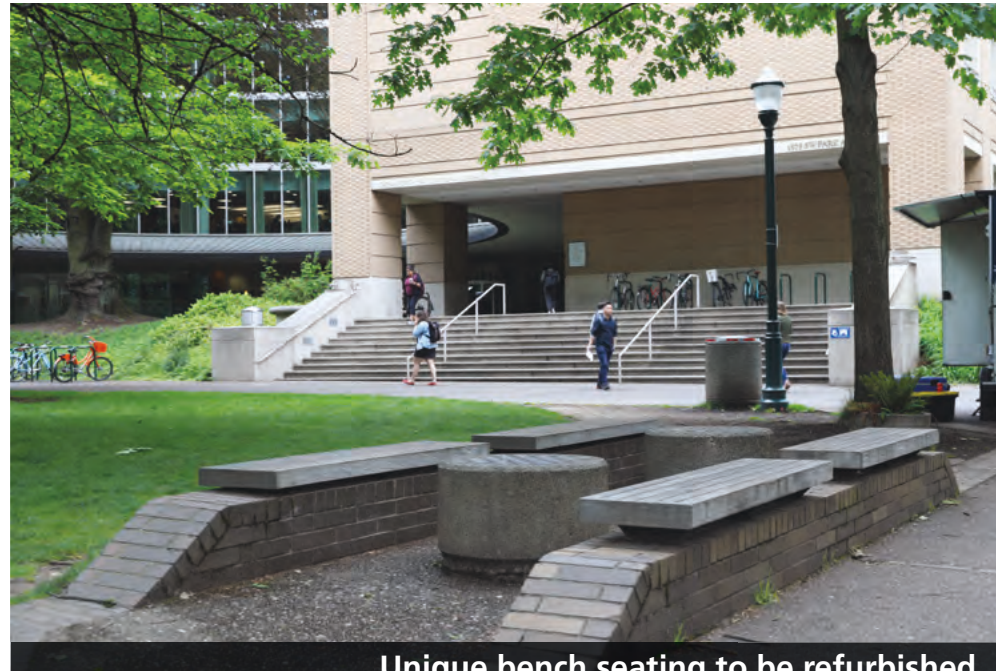
LEGEND

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Building Footprint | Green Loop Shared Use Path (Block 2) |
| Roadway | Turf / Lawn |
| Pedestrian Paving | Tree Canopy |
| Shared Bike / Ped Zone | Plant Bed: Native, Ornamental, or Flower |
| Gathering Areas | |
| Bench / Social Seating | |
| Small Scale Feature / Art | |

BLOCK 3 MASEEH HALL



Holon sculpture to remain in place (MIG)



Unique bench seating to be refurbished to address trip hazard (MIG)



Existing social seating in front of Maseeh Hall at Block 3 (Mayer/Reed)



Example of skate deterrent detail for Block 3 (Mayer/Reed)

BLOCK 4 SMITH PLAZA

The existing Smith Plaza is bisected by a wide, diagonal pathway. The focal point is a small, brick stage surrounded by brick and wood bench seating. Large canopy trees fill the plaza, planted in small tree wells at paved areas and in open lawn areas, many of them following a 5-row grid pattern. The plaza is programmed regularly by PSU and the farmers market, although trees and benches are spread out across the plaza so that there is not much open, flexible space for these events. Many areas of the site, including the stage, have ADA compliance issues, and the entire site slopes approximately 6 feet from south to north. The tree canopy is very dense, allowing little sunlight from early spring through late fall to filter down into the plaza.

The renovation of Smith Plaza respects the historic program and geometry of the block while improving circulation, maximizing flexible use space, and resolving accessibility challenges. The diagonal path bisecting the site is narrowed, and several trees in the center are removed to create a larger gathering area near the entrance

of Smith Memorial Student Union. Decreasing tree canopy at the plaza allows more sunlight to reach the understory and improves growing conditions for the surrounding trees.

The **large gathering space** facilitates active programming by PSU. When not in use for events, flexible seating allows students and park users to occupy the space. Future design considerations for this space should include: 1) an event stage, temporary or permanent, and 2) a canopy structure, which can extend the seasonal use of the plaza, and 3) a power source for sound and lighting equipment for programming and small events.

Amphitheater seating is built into the plaza creating a continuous length of permanent furnishings along the southern edge of the enlarged gathering space. Seating made of cast-in-place concrete with sustainable hardwood decking provides a durable and aesthetic bench compatible with historic park context and contemporary user needs.

Canopy trees will remain a key feature of this space. As the existing trees surrounding the plaza age and succumb to health issues they can be replaced with a mix of large canopy and understory trees, as described in the overall Tree Succession Strategy.

Planting beds with native and adaptive species are incorporated south of the built-in seating. The beds slope with the adjacent grades and incorporate existing elms that were previously limited to smaller tree wells.

A generous, flat east-west pathway creates a **secondary gathering space** for flexible seating and temporary market tents. A long seat wall marks the southern edge of the plaza.

Lawn or turf alternative surrounds the distinct, triangular paved area of Smith Plaza.

Covered outdoor study spaces adjacent to building can be provided with the addition of a canopy along the west façade of Smith Memorial Student Union as part of a future renovation.

A **Green Loop transition area** occurs at the corner of Park Ave West and Montgomery St. The Green Loop transitions from a separated path and pedestrian sidewalk on Park Avenue West north of Montgomery Street to a shared use path south of Montgomery. Material changes, signage and pavement markings will be used to indicate to cyclists that they are entering a shared space.

The **Green Loop shared use path along west side of block** will function very similarly as it does today, where pedestrians and cyclists share the existing 25-foot wide pathway. Future design considerations should include: 1) the incorporation of Green Loop wayfinding elements between Montgomery Street and College Street, and 2) the temporary re-routing of cyclists to adjacent streets during large events, such as the farmers market.

BLOCK 4 SMITH PLAZA

**South
Park
Blocks**
MASTER PLAN

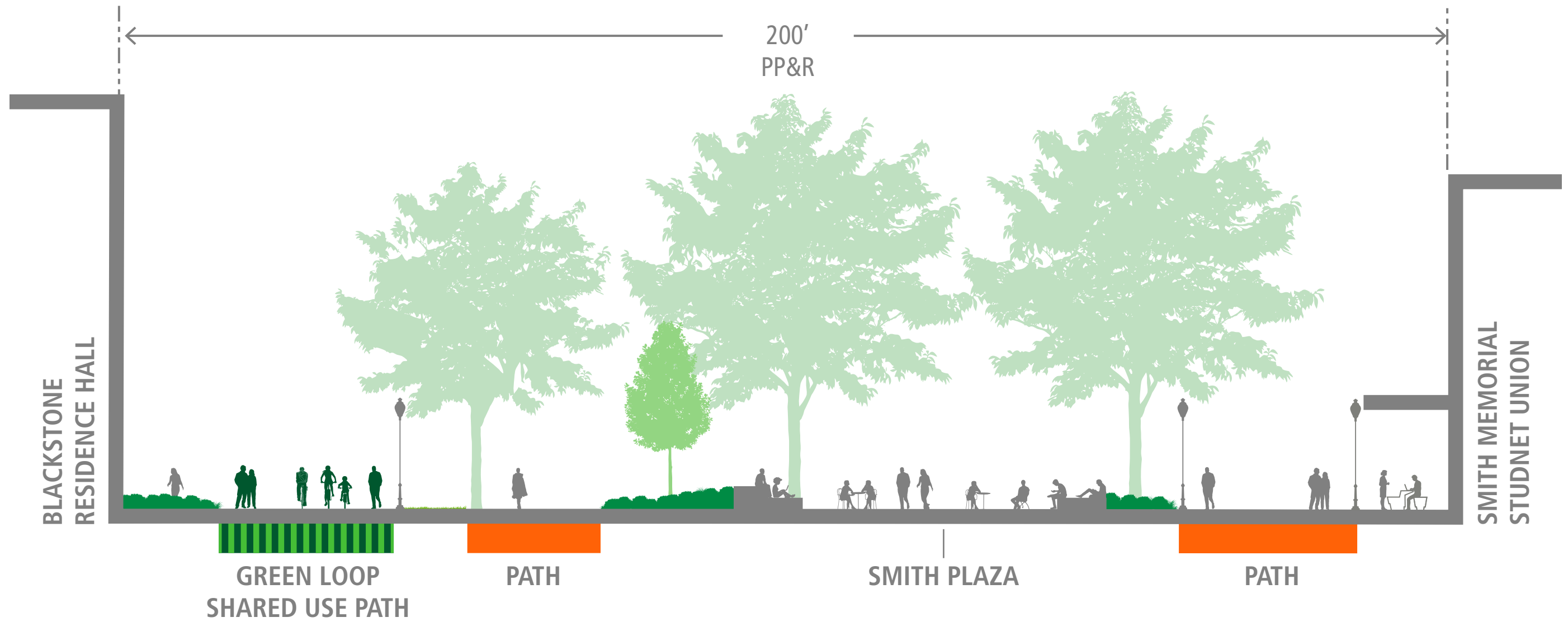
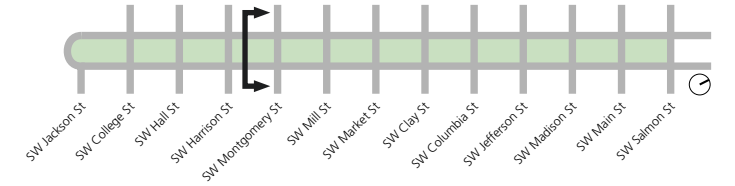
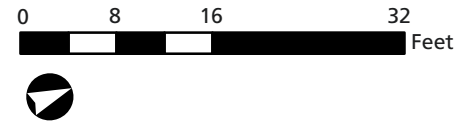


1. Large gathering space
2. Amphitheater seating
3. Canopy trees
4. Planting bed with native and adaptive species
5. Secondary gathering space
6. Lawn or turf alternative
7. Covered outdoor study spaces adjacent to building
8. Green Loop transition area
9. Green Loop shared use path along west side of block

LEGEND

	Building Footprint		Green Loop Path (Blocks 5-12)
	Roadway		Turf / Lawn
	Pedestrian Paving		Tree Canopy
	Shared Bike / Ped Zone		Plant Bed: Native, Ornamental, or Flower
	Cross Walk		
	Gathering Areas		
	Bench / Social Seating		
	Small Scale Feature / Art		

BLOCK 4 SMITH PLAZA



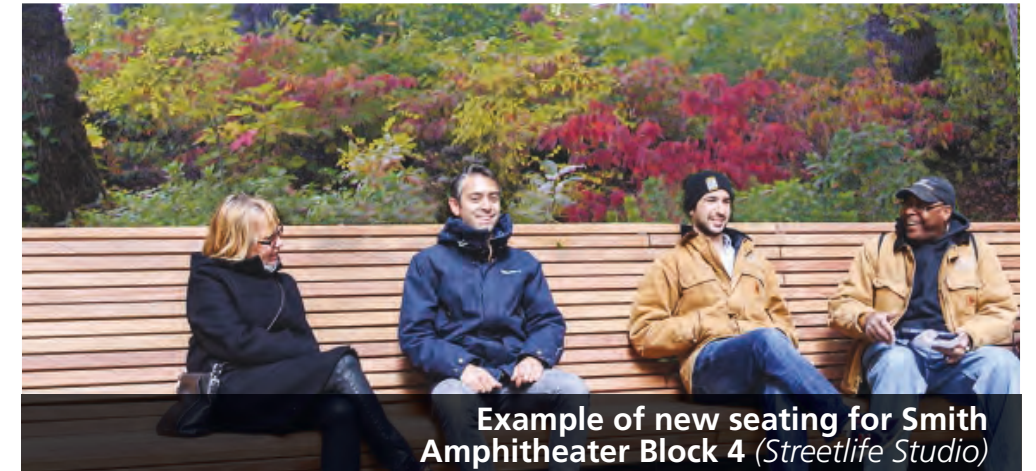
BLOCK 4 SMITH PLAZA



Example of covered outdoor study space at student union entrance (Mayer/Reed)



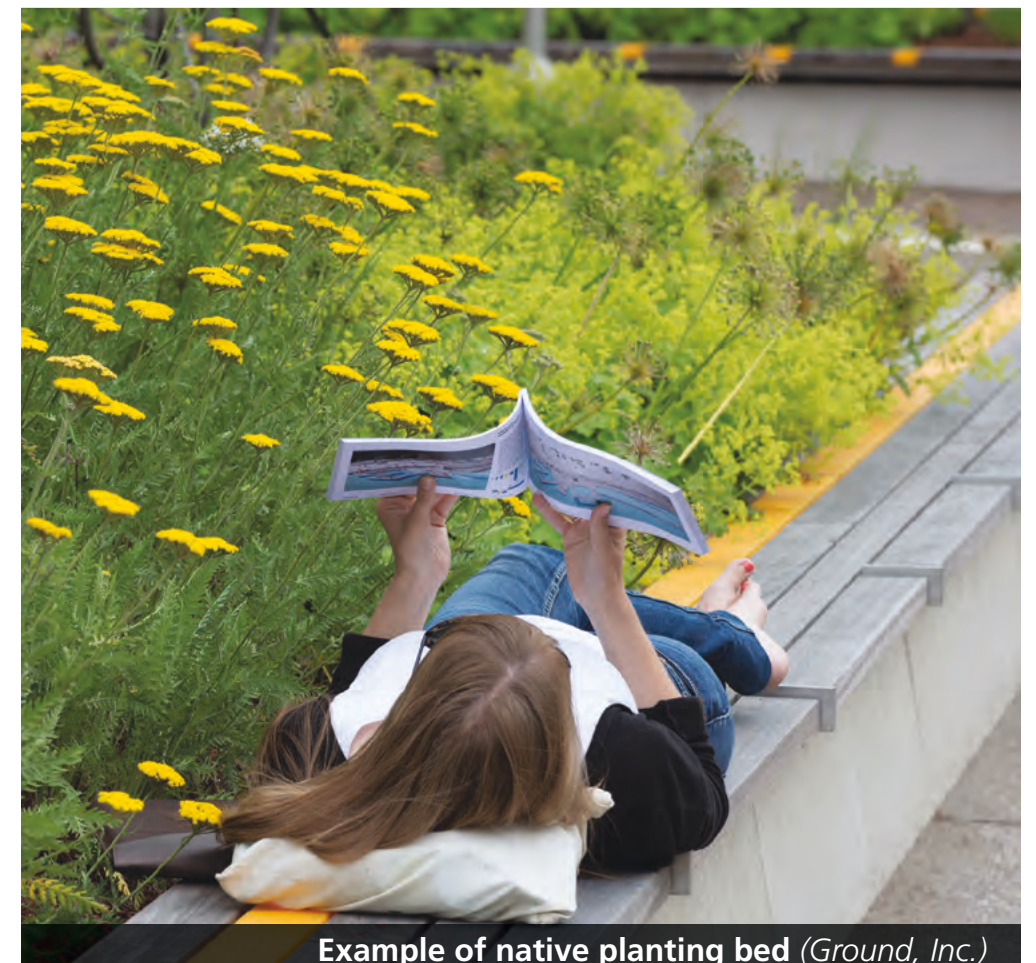
Example of new seating for Smith Amphitheater Block 4 (Oregon Convention Center Plaza, Mayer/Reed)



Example of new seating for Smith Amphitheater Block 4 (Streetlife Studio)



Example of flexible event space and seating (Mala Studio)



Example of native planting bed (Ground, Inc.)

BLOCK 5 FAREWELL TO ORPHEUS FOUNTAIN

The existing Block 5 is bordered on the south end by Farewell to Orpheus, a brick-lined fountain, and on the north end by the Portland Streetcar tracks. The topography of Block 5 has more than a 10-foot grade change between the fountain and the streetcar line, sloping downhill from south to north. Circulation for this block has an X-pattern in plan view and is comprised of exposed aggregate diagonal pathways edged in brick. A seating area where these walkways intersect provides a popular meeting spot for small groups. A large planting area near Farewell to Orpheus is composed of a wide assortment of native plants of many different types and species, sometimes becoming overgrown and obscuring visibility across the block. Planting elsewhere is lawn turf. Medium and large canopy trees provide an even canopy with a bit more sun reaching the fountain. Desire paths exist along the north end of the block, reflecting a need to rethink how circulation works along the streetcar line.

The proposed renovation of Block 5 respects the historic program and geometry of the block while updating paving materials to improve accessibility, providing matching replacement benches updated to meet accessibility standards, formalizing circulation along the streetcar, and renovating planting areas. The result of these modifications is a block that is similarly quiet as it is today, but is more balanced with regard to planting and provides paving upgrades for improved accessibility.

Native plantings will replace lawn turf in the north triangular planting bed along the streetcar tracks. Vigorous shrubs that tend to limit visibility across the block may be removed.

A simplified plant palette for this entire block streamlines maintenance, enhances aesthetics, and improves sight lines across the block.

A new sidewalk/streetcar platform along the north edge of Block 5 will provide a permanence to this desire line and replace the temporary bark chip paths, creating the opportunity for upgrading the streetcar station for all door boarding and exiting.

New walkway and gathering area paving will be reinforced concrete paving potentially with exposed aggregate banding. New concrete should be formulated to patina to a dark grey to match existing paving in the University District, allowing the visual qualities of the landscape to spring forward.

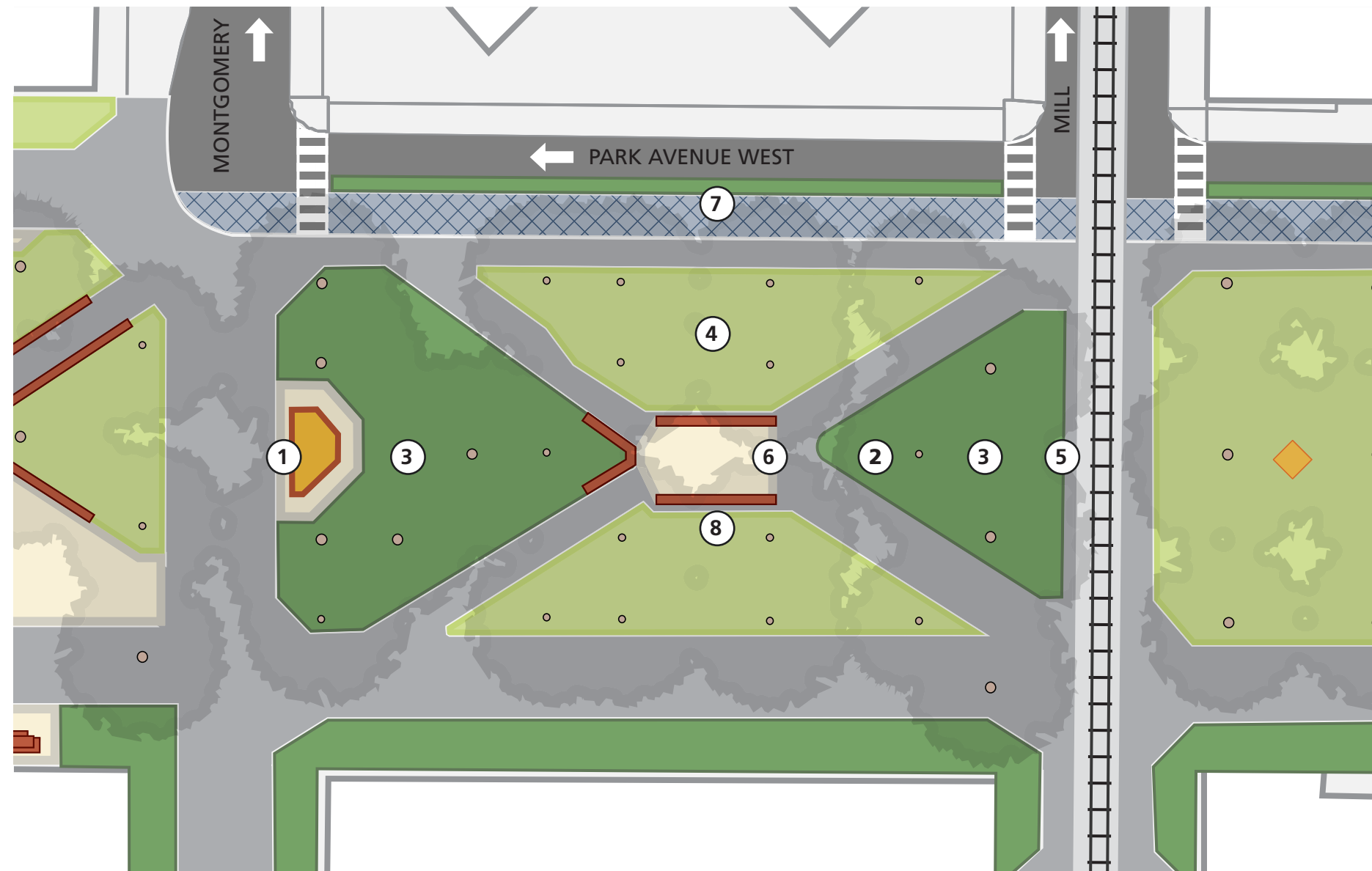
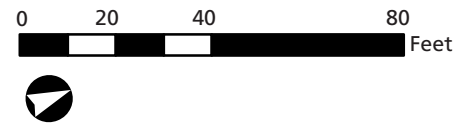
Proposed Park Avenue West modifications include the addition of the **Green Loop separated path and planted buffer** replacing approximately seven parallel parking spaces. Future design considerations include the incorporation of Green Loop wayfinding elements between Montgomery Street and Mill Street.

Canopy trees will remain a key feature of this space. As the existing trees succumb to health or structural issues they may be replaced with a mix of large canopy trees, as described in the overall Tree Succession Strategy.

Rehabilitation of the Farewell to Orpheus fountain should be undertaken when conditions warrant or when blockwide improvements are initiated. Making the area around the fountain accessible will be a key consideration. Other rehabilitation activities may include (but are not limited to) sculpture cleaning, replumbing, and repointing of the brick around the fountain.

BLOCK 5 FAREWELL TO ORPHEUS FOUNTAIN

**South
Park
Blocks**
MASTER PLAN



1. Rehabilitation of the Farewell to Orpheus fountain
2. Native and adaptive plants in north triangular planting area
3. Partner with NASCC and Indigenous Nations Studies Program to replant native species
4. Canopy trees
5. New sidewalk/streetcar platform on south side of Mill Street
6. Replace existing walkways and gathering area paving with new reinforced concrete paving with a distinctive banding/edge treatment
7. Green Loop separated path along west side of block and median strip planting
8. Rehabilitated University District wood bench seating, typical

LEGEND

	Building Footprint		Green Loop Path (Blocks 5-12)
	Roadway		Streetcar Line
	Pedestrian Paving		Turf / Lawn
	Shared Bike / Ped Zone		Tree Canopy
	Cross Walk		Plant Bed: Native, Ornamental, or Flower
	Gathering Areas		
	Bench / Social Seating		
	Small Scale Feature / Art		

BLOCK 5 FAREWELL TO ORPHEUS FOUNTAIN



BLOCK 6 LINCOLN HALL

The existing Block 6 is the northernmost block of the University District. Lincoln Hall, residential apartment buildings, and the Portland Streetcar border it. There is a noticeable 12-foot grade change between Mill and Market Streets. Circulation for this block is generally comprised of wide perimeter walkways. Small inset seating areas provide two resting spots at midblock locations. Along Market Street, Portland State University's marble sign is located at the prominent midblock position suggesting that the park blocks of the University District function primarily as a college campus. Large canopy trees are reflective of the historic 5-row grid pattern and provide significant shade. The block is planted with turf lawn throughout.

The proposed renovations respect the historic program and geometry of the block while designating locations for art that function as a unifying element for larger park, providing matching replacement benches updated to meet accessibility standards, updating walkways, and piloting lawn-alternatives aimed at reducing maintenance in the long-term. Combined,

these modifications establish a new gateway marking where the University District meets the Cultural District while linking the two districts with art at central focal points. The overall tenor of the block remains a peaceful and subdued environment with marked accessibility improvements to paving and seating.

A low-mow seed mix formulated to grow in conditions of summer shade will replace existing lawn turf throughout the block. These formulas are sometimes referred to as tapestry lawns. This block offers an opportunity to pilot a study for the future potential application of lawn/turf alternatives for other park blocks.

Canopy trees remain a distinctive feature of this space given the absence of walkways has allowed the grid to remain dominant here. As the existing trees succumb to health or structural issues they may be replaced with a mix of large canopy trees, as described in the overall Tree Succession Strategy.

Designated locations for rotating art are provided at two locations underneath the tree canopy. The location along Market Street provides a visual link to other focal point art in the Cultural District. Upslope, the second location provides a visual indicator the pattern continues through the University District. Installation of discreet, at-grade concrete pads at these locations may facilitate installation and stability of art pieces. Several inches of bark chips may be used to conceal the concrete pads so they fade back visually in the landscape.

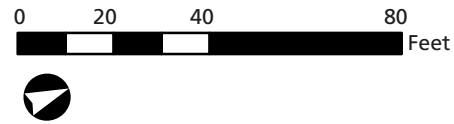
Relocation of the PSU marble sign to the block's northwest corner clarifies how the University District is a component of one linear 12-block park as opposed to a separate college campus.

Corner crosswalks at Market Street will be striped to provide safe crossing locations at the eastbound Portland Streetcar platform.

New walkways will be reinforced concrete paving with a distinct banding treatment. New concrete should be formulated to patina to a dark grey to match existing paving in the University District, allowing the visual qualities of the landscape to spring forward.

Proposed Park Ave West modifications include the addition of the **Green Loop separated path and planted buffer** replacing approximately six parallel parking spaces. Future design considerations include the incorporation of Green Loop wayfinding elements between Mill Street and Market Street, and for PBOT to consider installing a signal at Park Avenue West to promote safer crossing at this busy intersection.

BLOCK 6 LINCOLN HALL



1. Designated location(s) for rotating outdoor art
2. Relocate Portland State University marble sign
3. Pilot study location for low-mow lawn/turf replacement for South Park Blocks
4. Canopy trees
5. Replace existing walkways with new reinforced concrete paving with a distinctive banding/edge treatment
6. Green Loop separated path along west side of block and median strip planting
7. Rehabilitated University District wood bench seating, typical
8. Corner crosswalk locations at Market Street

LEGEND

	Building Footprint		Green Loop Path (Blocks 5-12)
	Roadway		Streetcar Line
	Pedestrian Paving		Turf / Lawn
	Shared Bike / Ped Zone		Tree Canopy
	Cross Walk		Plant Bed: Native, Ornamental, or Flower
	Gathering Areas		
	Bench / Social Seating		
	Small Scale Feature / Art		

BLOCK 6 LINCOLN HALL



Example of outdoor rotating art exhibits (*Public Art Fund*)



Example of outdoor rotating art exhibits (*Dave Smith*)



Example of outdoor rotating art exhibits (*Duthie Gallery*)



Example low-mow tapestry lawn
(*Wikimedia Commons, Solstice2015*)

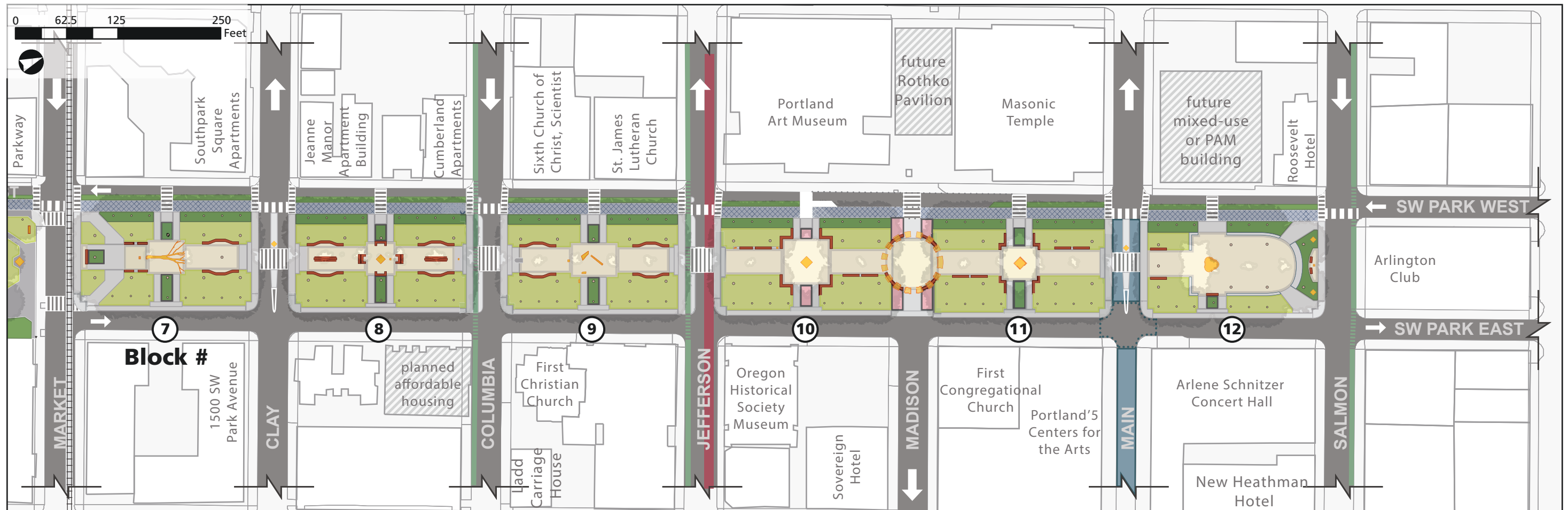


Example of low-mow lawn (detail) (*John Sage, FinchHaven*)



Example of low-mow lawn in a public landscape (context)
(*John Sage, FinchHaven*)

RECOMMENDED DESIGN BLOCKS 7 THROUGH 12



BLOCK 7

- Central pedestrian promenade with benches promoting social interaction
- Refurbish 'Shadow of the Elm' paving
- Optional median art location at Clay Street

BLOCK 8

- Neighborhood block
- Benches promoting social interaction
- Space for interactive art at block center

BLOCK 9

- Quiet block
- Refurbish 'Peace Chant' art work
- Benches promoting social interaction

BLOCK 10

- Links to new Madison Plaza gathering space and Rothko Pavilion
- Extended seating along promenade
- Roses in east and west planters remain, north-south rose beds relocated to new Madison Plaza
- Space for focal point art at block center

BLOCK 11

- Links to new Madison Plaza gathering space
- New interactive artwork at Madison Plaza space
- North-south planting beds relocated to east-west walkway
- Space for focal point art at block center

BLOCK 12

- Refurbish Shemanski Fountain
- Gateway art at Salmon Street planter
- Art installed on Main Street median
- Shemanski Square better linked to other Cultural District squares with central promenade

ALL BLOCKS

- Design supports large trees with more space in between to provide similar canopy experience as today with more sustainable growing conditions
- Over time, middle planter repurposed and rebuilt as central promenade to improve growing space for existing and new trees
- Green Loop path provided in Park Avenue West with planted median expanding park
- Replace park lighting to match fixtures in the North Park Blocks

BLOCK 7 SHADOW OF THE ELM

Block 7 marks the entrance to the Cultural District and is also one of three 'neighborhood' blocks in the South Park Blocks. Block 7 is distinguished by the Shadow of the Elm art paving which spans its open, central plaza. Parallel walkways of hexagonal asphalt block in the north-south direction and midblock walkways that intersect the plaza are defined by turf lawn planting areas. Like other Cultural District blocks, there is space for 16 traditional park benches along the north-south walkways. A mix of young and mature trees are planted in a tight grid of five rows. Pedestrian lighting is spaced regularly around the block perimeter and at the corners of the central plaza.

The proposed renovations include a central promenade that is specifically geared towards providing a more open and inclusive space for pedestrians. A parallel Green Loop path along Park Avenue West is provided for cyclists and other non-vehicular users. The Shadow of

the Elm art paving is retained as an art focal point of the block. Modified bench designs are recommended to expand the range of social interaction on this block.

The **central promenade** is a generous north-south pedestrian walkway along Block 7's north-south axis. It reflects the earlier design of the Cultural District blocks prior to the last major renovations that took place between 1983-85. As detailed in the Tree Succession Strategy, the promenade provides added growing room for large canopy trees in the Cultural District. The central promenade provides a pedestrian-focused option for park and Green Loop users.

The Shadow of the Elm art paving is refurbished to stabilize laid stonework and address accessibility issues.

Seating supporting more social interactions is added on Blocks 7, 8, and 9 reflecting the adjacent residential, religious, and ground floor uses of these blocks. Social seating options will be compatible in design and materials with the existing traditional park bench seating.

New walkways will be reinforced concrete paving with a distinctive scoring pattern common to other renovated blocks in the Cultural District. New concrete should be formulated to patina to a dark grey to allow the visual qualities of the landscape to spring forward. There is an opportunity to interpret planting locations of earlier trees along the central promenade using inset paver design or other details within the concrete walkways.

A continuous tree canopy of American elms is envisioned to line the edges of the central promenade maintaining the pedestrian experience of walking under the canopy of elm trees. The outside edges of Block 7 will be lined with a mix of large and medium canopy trees that are similar to, but are not elms, to add species diversity.

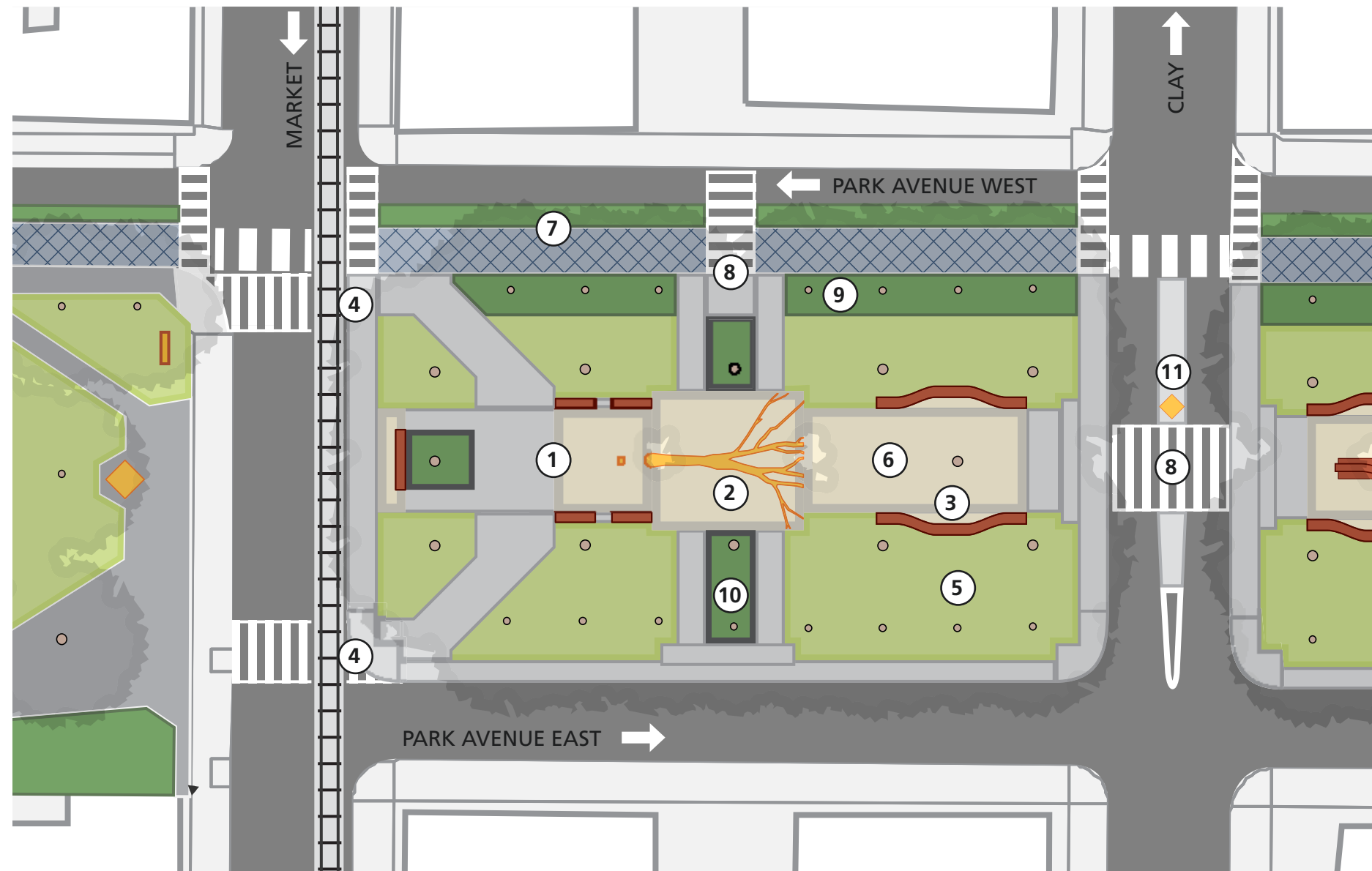
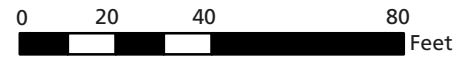
Locations for two trees within the central promenade are provided.

Corner crosswalks at Market Street maintain pedestrian safety at the streetcar platform. **A new striped midblock crosswalk** at Clay Street improves pedestrian safety and visibility. This crosswalk includes a **new refuge median** with a designated **location for future art**.

Proposed Park Avenue West modifications include the addition of the **Green Loop path with a planted buffer separating the shared use path from moving traffic**. This change removes parallel parking on both sides of Park Avenue West. Future design considerations include the incorporation of Green Loop wayfinding elements between Market Street and Clay Street. **The midblock crossing** location at the Green Loop path will include distinct paving treatment, contrasting textures, and crosswalk striping to provide adequate warnings to cyclists and pedestrians of the mixing area.

Native and adaptive plants will replace lawn in planting areas at midblock locations.

BLOCK 7 SHADOW OF THE ELM



1. Central promenade supports pedestrian movement
2. Shadow of the Elm paving rehabilitation
3. Benches promoting social interaction
4. Corner crossing locations at Market Street
5. Canopy trees
6. Replace existing walkways with new reinforced concrete paving
7. Green Loop separated path along west side of block and median strip planting
8. Midblock crossing location
9. Understory planting of native and adaptive plants
10. Native and adaptive planting at east-west ornamental planters
11. Optional median art location

LEGEND

Building Footprint	Green Loop Path (Blocks 5-12)
Roadway	Streetcar Line
Pedestrian Paving	Cross Walk
Gathering Areas	Tree Canopy
Bench / Social Seating	Turf / Lawn
Small Scale Feature / Art	Raised Rose Bed
	Raised Plant Bed: Native, Ornamental, or Flower
	Plant Bed: Native, Ornamental, or Flower

BLOCK 7 SHADOW OF THE ELM



Example of promenade scale pedestrian path for Block 7
(Flickr Creative Commons, bujich)



Example of social seating for Block 7 *(mmcité)*



Existing view of Shadow of the Elm paving looking south along Block 7 *(MIG)*



Example of Green Loop separated path with planted buffer *(Kelley Jordan Schuyler)*

BLOCK 8 NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK

The existing Block 8 in the Cultural District is surrounded by residential uses. This block has the same parallel walkways of hexagonal asphalt block as other blocks in the Cultural District. The central plaza area is surrounded with traditional park benches and a Benson bubbler water fountain. It is a quiet block. A mix of young and mature trees are planted in a tight grid of five rows. Pedestrian lighting is spaced regularly around the block perimeter and at the corners of the central plaza.

The proposed renovations include a central promenade that supports needs of pedestrians. A location for new art is provided at the block's center focal point. Along the promenade, new seating options include new bench and table types to expand the range of social interaction on this block. The Green Loop separated path along Park Avenue West supports needs of cyclists. The Benson bubbler remains.

The **central promenade** is a generous north-south pedestrian walkway that provides space for the inclusion of social seating and an interactive art feature at Block 8. As detailed in the Tree

Succession Strategy, the central promenade provides added growing space for large canopy trees in the Cultural District and will function as a wide, generous strolling mall under the shade of tree canopy. The central promenade provides a pedestrian-focused option for park and Green Loop users.

Interactive art is located at the center of the block. The art selected for this site may have qualities that invite pedestrian interaction using movement, illumination, or materials. Future design considerations should include the need for healthy maintenance support, funding, and knowledgeable staff who can provide technical support for interactive art features.

Social seating is strongly emphasized on Block 8 reflecting the needs of the adjacent residential uses. Social seating options are to be compatible in design and materials with the existing traditional park bench seating used on these blocks today. Design and location of seating will allow maintenance vehicles to travel in one way and out another.

New walkways will be reinforced concrete paving with a distinctive scoring pattern common to other renovated blocks in the Cultural District. New concrete should be formulated to patina to a dark grey to allow the visual qualities of the landscape to spring forward. There is an opportunity to interpret planting locations of earlier trees along the central promenade using inset paver design or other details within the concrete walkways.

A continuous tree canopy of American elms is envisioned to line the edges of the central promenade maintaining the pedestrian experience of walking under the canopy of elm trees. The outside edges of Block 8 will be lined with a mix of large and medium canopy trees that are similar to, but are not elms, to add species diversity.

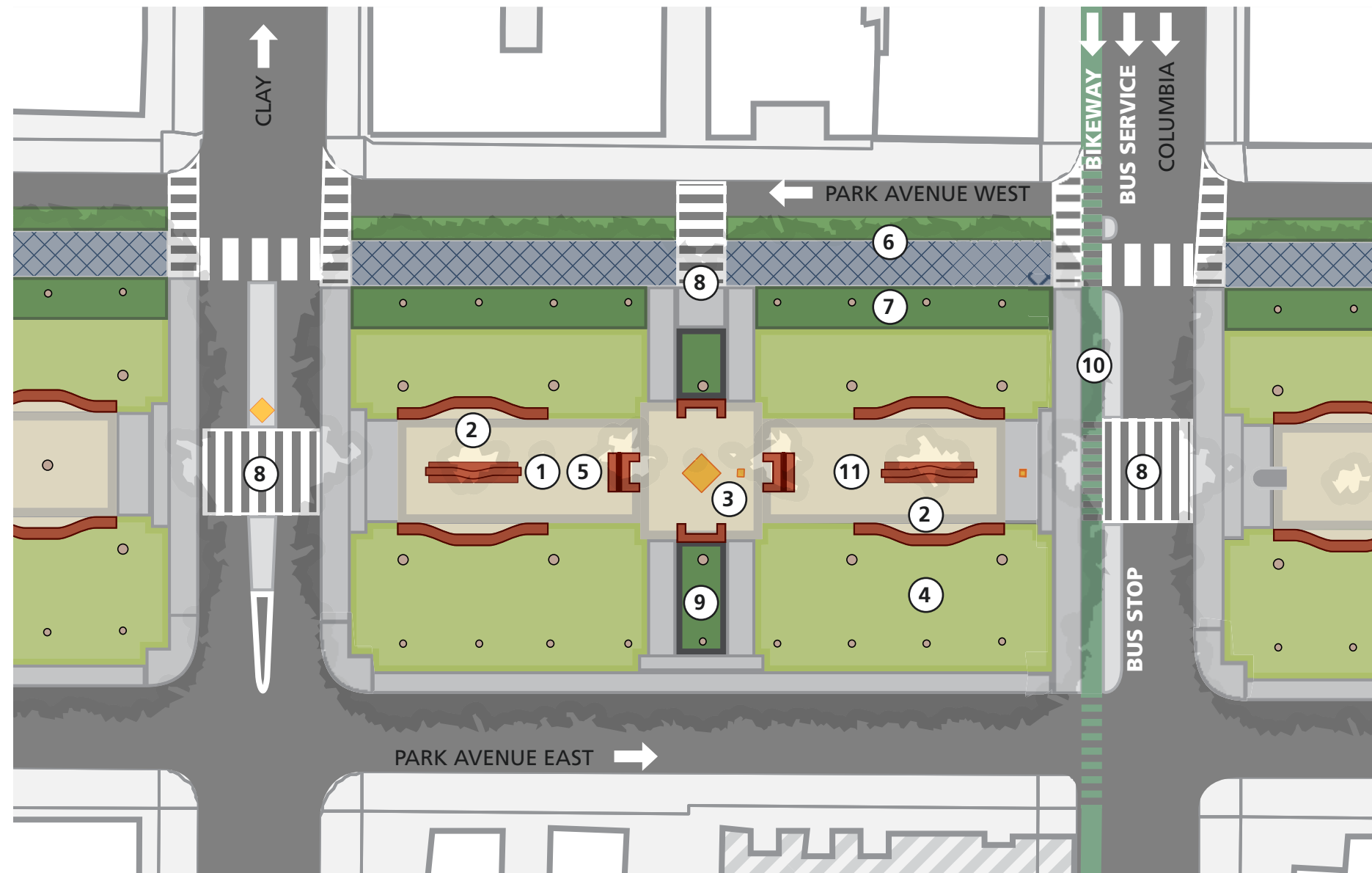
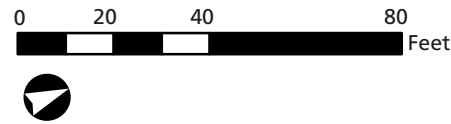
New striped midblock crosswalks at Clay and Columbia Streets improve pedestrian safety and visibility.

Proposed Park Avenue West modifications include the addition of the **Green Loop path with a planted buffer separating the shared use path from moving traffic**. This change removes parallel parking on both sides of Park Avenue West. Future design considerations include the incorporation of Green Loop wayfinding elements between Clay and Columbia Streets. The **midblock crossing** location at the Green Loop path will include distinct paving treatment, contrasting textures, and crosswalk striping to provide adequate warnings to cyclists and pedestrians of the mixing area.

Native and adaptive plants will replace lawn in planting areas at midblock locations.

BLOCK 8 NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK

**South
Park
Blocks**
MASTER PLAN



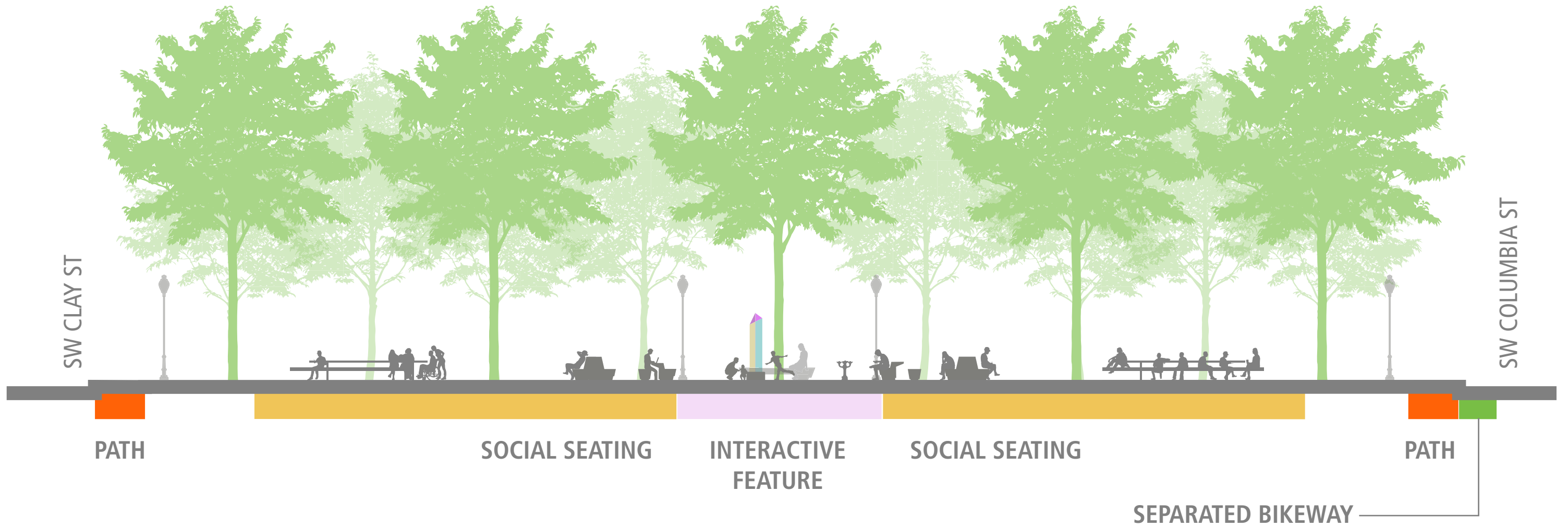
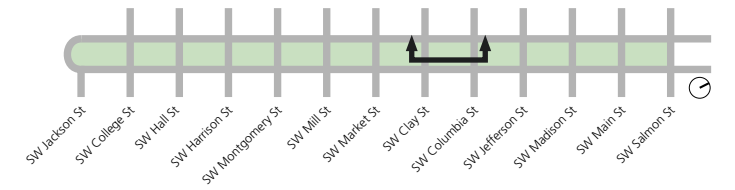
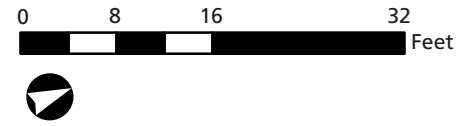
1. Central promenade supports pedestrian movement
2. Social seating
3. Location for interactive art, Benson Bubbler remains
4. Canopy trees
5. Replace existing walkways with new reinforced concrete paving
6. Green Loop separated path along west side of block and median strip planting
7. Understory planting of native and adaptive plants
8. Midblock crossing location
9. Native and adaptive planting at east-west ornamental planters
10. Central City in Motion planned bike lane
11. Interpret planting locations of earlier trees along promenade

LEGEND

Building Footprint	Green Loop Path (Blocks 5-12)
Roadway	Intersecting Bikeways
Pedestrian Paving	Streetcar Line
Gathering Areas	Cross Walk
Bench / Social Seating	Tree Canopy
Small Scale Feature / Art	Turf / Lawn
	Raised Rose Bed
	Raised Plant Bed: Native, Ornamental, or Flower
	Plant Bed: Native, Ornamental, or Flower

BLOCK 8 NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK

**South
Park
Blocks**
MASTER PLAN



BLOCK 8 NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK



Example of social seating for Block 8 (*mmcité*)



Example of communal table and benches for Block 8
(left: *Fletcher Studio* / right: *Wallace Liu*)



Examples of interactive art for Block 8
(left: *Downtown GR* / right: *Fanny Allie*)



Example of appropriate scale of social seating for Block 8
(*Jason DeSomer*)



Example of interactive art for Block 8 (*Mad.Sq.Pk.*)



Example of separated path and planted buffer for Block 8 (*NV5*)

BLOCK 9 PEACE PLAZA

The existing Block 9 in the Cultural District is surrounded by residential and religious uses. This block has the same parallel walkways of hexagonal asphalt block as other blocks in the Cultural District. Block 9 is distinguished by the Peace Chant granite sculpture which is comprised of three distinct pieces within the central plaza. Parallel walkways in the north-south direction and midblock walkways that intersect the plaza are defined by turf lawn planting areas and lined by traditional park benches. A mix of young and mature trees are planted in a tight grid of five rows with an opening at the center square. Pedestrian lighting is spaced regularly around the block perimeter and at the corners of the central plaza. The Portland Loo facility is located at the Columbia Street midblock location. There are TriMet bus routes along both Columbia and Jefferson Streets, including a bus stop at the corner of Columbia Street and Park Avenue East.

The proposed renovations include a central promenade that supports a more flexible and inclusive pedestrian space. A parallel Green Loop path along Park Avenue West is provided for cyclists and other non-vehicular users. The Peace

Chant granite sculpture is retained as an art focal point of the block. Modified bench designs are recommended to expand the range of social interaction on this block.

The **central promenade** is a generous north-south pedestrian walkway along Block 9's north-south axis. As detailed in the Tree Succession Strategy, the promenade provides added growing room for large canopy trees in the Cultural District and will function as a wide, generous strolling mall under the shade of tree canopy. The central promenade provides a pedestrian-focused option for park and Green Loop users.

Seating supporting more social interactions is added on Block 9 reflecting the surrounding residential, religious, and ground floor uses. Social seating options will be compatible in design and materials with the existing traditional park bench seating.

New walkways will be reinforced concrete paving with a distinctive scoring pattern common to other renovated blocks in the Cultural District. New concrete should be formulated to patina to a dark grey to allow the visual qualities of

the landscape to spring forward. There is an opportunity to interpret planting locations of earlier trees along the central promenade using inset paver design or other details.

Paving that surrounds the Peace Chant artwork will contrast from the central promenade with distinctive banding or scoring that weaves the area together with the promenade. The artwork will receive refurbishments as needed including a course of at-grade cobbles or similarly textured material around its perimeter base to deter approaching skateboarders. The sculpture should remain accessible with these refurbishments.

A continuous tree canopy of American elms is envisioned to line the edges of the central promenade maintaining the pedestrian experience of walking under the canopy of elm trees. The outside edges of Block 9 will be lined with a mix of large and medium canopy trees that are similar to, but are not elms, to add species diversity.

New striped midblock crosswalks at Columbia Street and Jefferson Street improve pedestrian safety and visibility.

Proposed Park Avenue West modifications include the addition of the **Green Loop path with a planted buffer separating the shared use path from moving traffic**. This change removes parallel parking on both sides of Park Avenue West. Future design considerations include the incorporation of Green Loop wayfinding elements between Columbia and Jefferson Streets. The **midblock crossing** location at the Green Loop path will include distinct paving treatment, contrasting textures, and crosswalk striping to provide adequate warnings to cyclists and pedestrians of the mixing area.

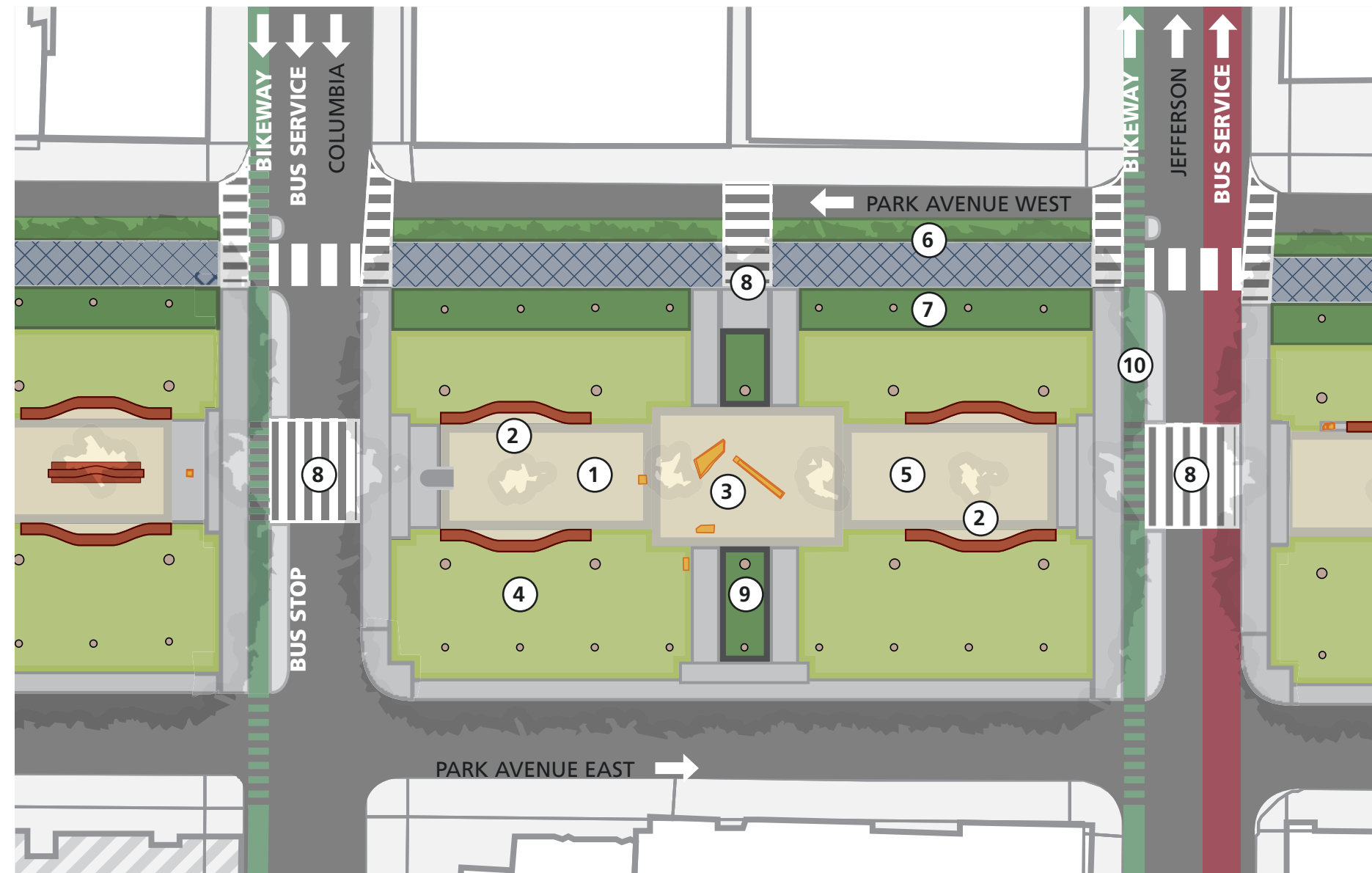
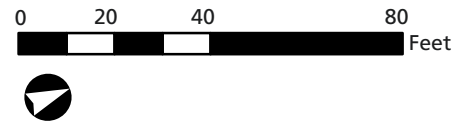
Native and adaptive plants will replace lawn in planting areas at midblock locations.

The **Portland Loo** remains in place.

Future design considerations related to transit include bus routes and stop(s) along Columbia Street and Jefferson Street.

BLOCK 9 PEACE PLAZA

**South
Park
Blocks**
MASTER PLAN



1. Central promenade supports pedestrian movement
2. Social seating
3. Peace Chant art refurbished and protected
4. Canopy trees
5. Replace existing walkways with new reinforced concrete paving
6. Green Loop separated path along west side of block and median strip planting
7. Understory planting of native and adapted plants
8. Midblock crossing location
9. Native and adapted planting at east-west ornamental planters
10. Central City in Motion bike lane

LEGEND

Building Footprint	Green Loop Path (Blocks 5-12)
Roadway	Intersecting Bikeways
Pedestrian Paving	Streetcar Line
Rose Lane Project	Cross Walk
Gathering Areas	Tree Canopy
Bench / Social Seating	Turf / Lawn
Small Scale Feature / Art	Raised Rose Bed
	Raised Plant Bed: Native, Ornamental, or Flower
	Plant Bed: Native, Ornamental, or Flower

BLOCK 9 PEACE PLAZA



BLOCKS 10 AND 11 CULTURAL DISTRICT SQUARES

With the recommended closure of SW Madison Street between Park Avenue West and Park Avenue East, the increased connectivity of blocks 10 and 11 greatly strengthens the north-south pedestrian experience through the Cultural District.

The creation of a **flexible, programmable plaza at closed Madison Street** creates valuable space within the park and provides opportunities for programming collaboration with the Portland Art Museum, Oregon Historical Society Museum, First Congregational Church and Portland'5. Openings at plaza from Madison Street will meet standards for fire department access.

A **vertical landmark** at the central plaza will serve an important place-making role within the Cultural District park blocks and provides a large-scale opportunity for artistic expression. The design of the metal sculpture example bridges the contemporary and historic characteristics of the Cultural District and provides texture to the ground plane with patterns of light and shadow, and serves as an intermediate connection to the tree canopy above. Overhead artworks will be

designed to allow for vehicular clearance from below and respect the tree canopy from above. Detailing and material selection of all artworks are to be durable, easy to clean and maintain, and should not include glass as a canopy material.

Two secondary **sculpture plazas** will remain in the middle of Blocks 10 and 11. These plazas will continue to have public art pieces as focal points. Additional works of art are encouraged throughout the South Park Blocks that would be developed and sited with each park improvement section. Works of art are intended to engage the park user and represent more diverse cultural histories and identities.

Social seating will be a feature of each plaza space. This seating will be designed to facilitate conversation and observation of social activities in the plaza and around the promenade. Materials can be a combination of cast-in-place concrete, wood and steel. Attention to detailing is important to provide skate deterrent design integral to the social seating furnishings.

A **central promenade**, uniting all three plaza spaces, is created by gradually phasing out

the central row of north-south planters and connecting the two parallel pathways into one. The central promenade is the primary circulation option for park and Green Loop pedestrians. The central promenade is flanked on either side by inner rows of American elm-like large stature species. The outer rows are composed of other large to medium deciduous trees.

Promenade seating along both sides of the central promenade maximizes availability for park users. Design and location of seating will consider the temporary use of the space for events as well as the needs of maintenance vehicles to service the area with ease. Seating may be removable or blocked during large events as needed. All seating throughout the Cultural District blocks to be of the same style, materials, and similar frequency where possible.

Rose planters remain along the east-west pathways in the middle of Block 10 and those along the north-south pathways are relocated to Madison Street.

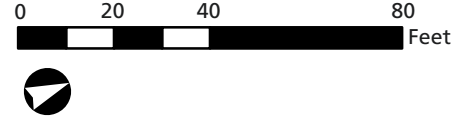
Plaza paving will contrast in tone from the central promenade with banding or scoring that weaves the plaza together with the

promenade. All paving to be designed to allow for ease of cleaning and detailed with PP&R input to minimize uplift, differential settlement and frequent repairs, while working within the framework of a historic park.

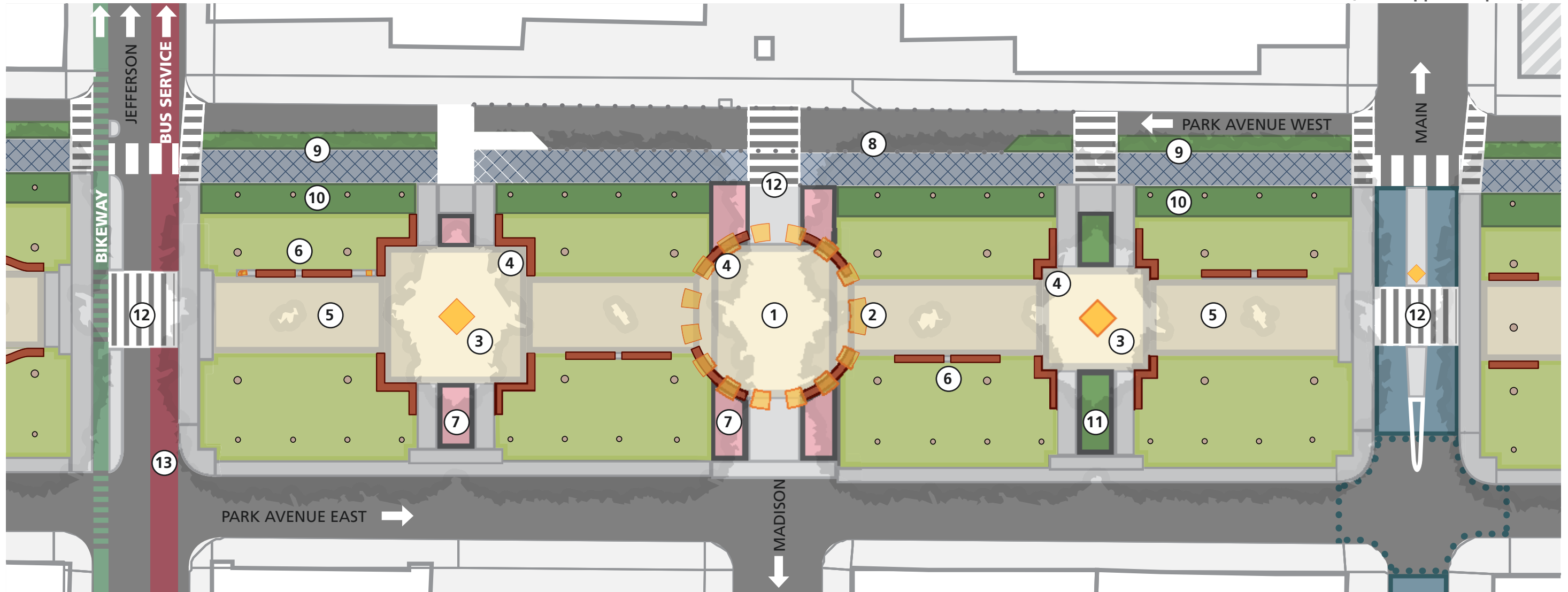
Proposed **Park Avenue West modifications** include the addition of the Green Loop path and a planted median, replacing parking and a narrow, east-side sidewalk. Existing midblock east-west pathways in the park at the sculpture plazas are preserved, and crosswalks are added that connect to entrances at the art museum. The street between these two crossings may be curbless, separated from sidewalk and plaza by bollards, to create a seamless connection between the Madison Street plaza and the Rothko Pavilion entry court. There is space here, without the planted median, to accommodate drop-off at the museum. A wide swath of low native and adaptive shrubs and ground covers planted along Park Avenue West provide a verdant understory for the street trees adjacent to the future Green Loop path.

BLOCKS 10 AND 11 CULTURAL DISTRICT SQUARES

South Park Blocks
MASTER PLAN



- 1. Flexible programmable plaza at closed Madison Street
- 2. Vertical landmark
- 3. Sculpture plaza
- 4. Social seating
- 5. Central promenade
- 6. Promenade seating
- 7. Roses at east-west ornamental planters, typ.
- 8. Park Ave West drop off area
- 9. Green Loop separated path along west side of block and median strip planting
- 10. Understory planting of native and adaptive plants
- 11. Native and adaptive planting at east-west ornamental planters, typ.
- 12. Midblock crossing location
- 13. Future Rose Lane Project bus lane (PBOT approved plan)

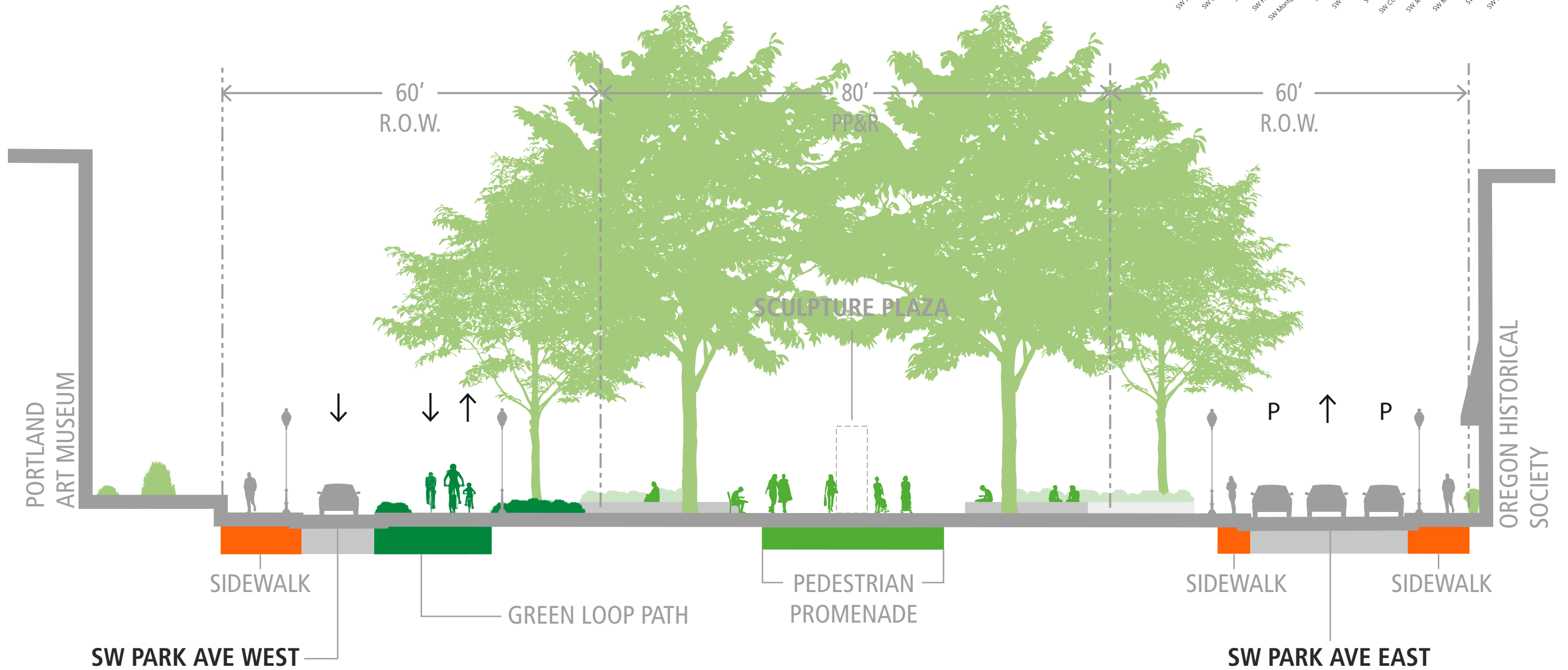
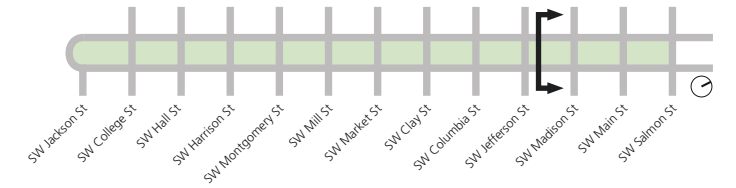
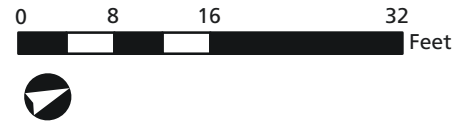


LEGEND

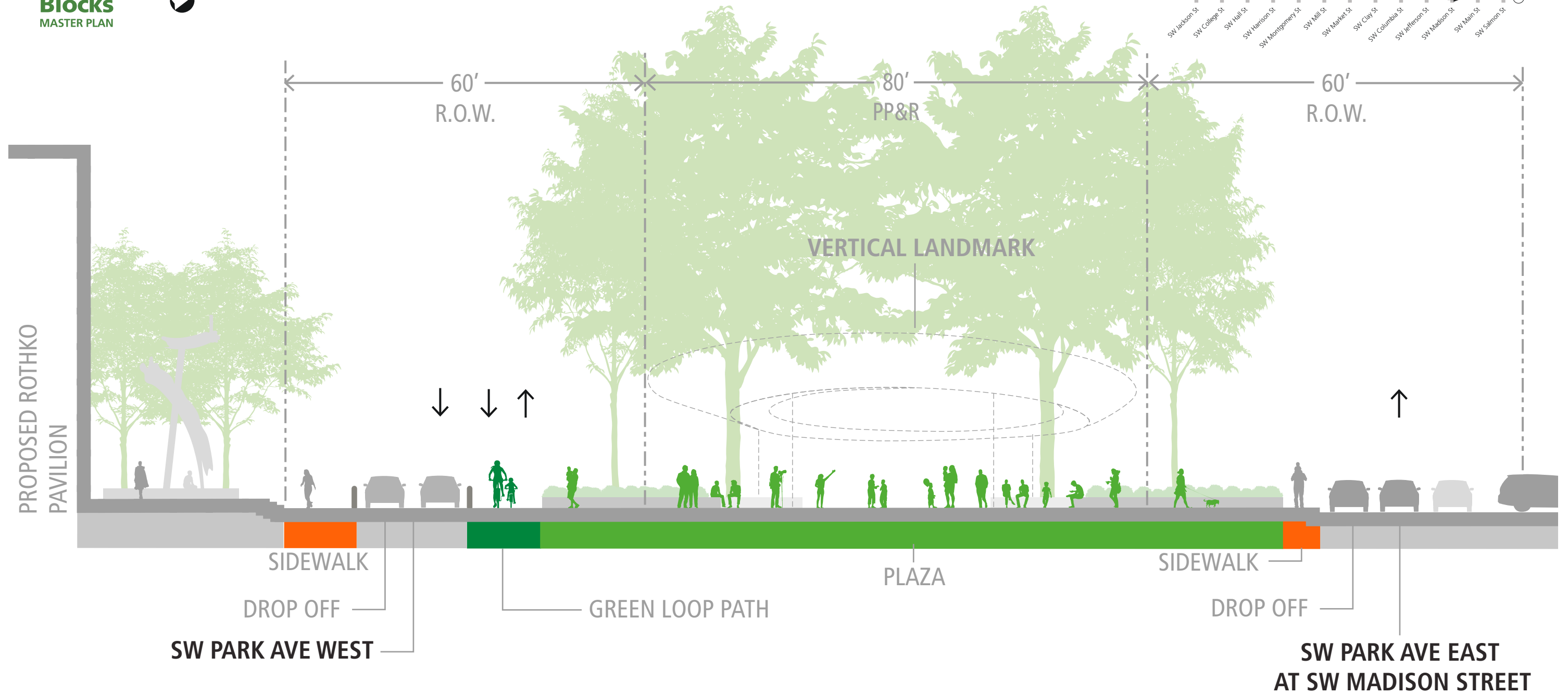
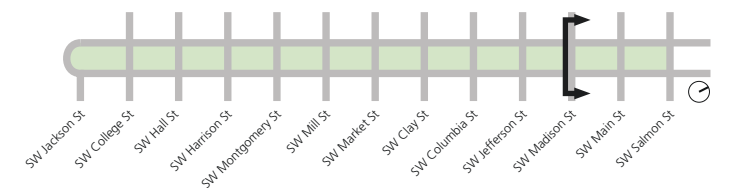
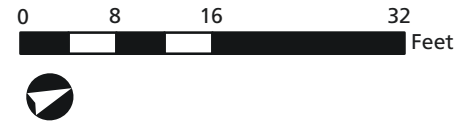
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|--------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Building Footprint | Green Loop Path (Blocks 5-12) | Gathering Areas | Tree Canopy |
| Roadway | Intersecting Bikeways | Temporary Closure for Events | Turf / Lawn |
| Pedestrian Paving | Streetcar Line | Bench / Social Seating | Raised Rose Bed |
| Rose Lane Project | Cross Walk | Small Scale Feature / Art | Raised Plant Bed: Native, Ornamental, or Flower |
| | | | Plant Bed: Native, Ornamental, or Flower |

BLOCK 10 CULTURAL DISTRICT SQUARE

**South
Park
Blocks**
MASTER PLAN



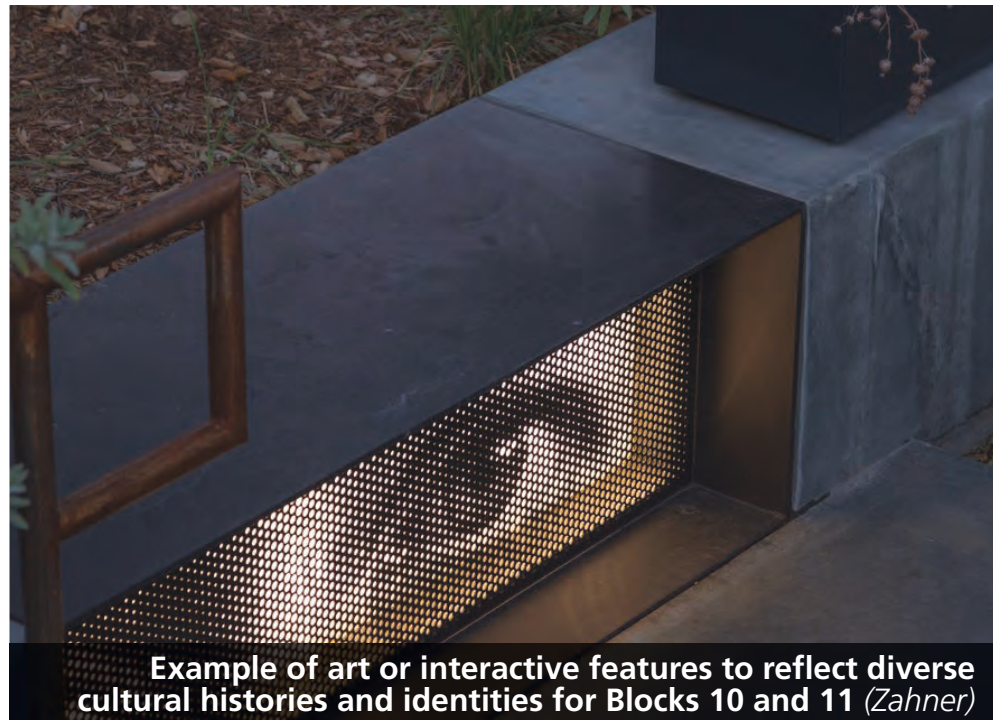
BLOCK 11 CULTURAL DISTRICT SQUARE



BLOCK 11 CULTURAL DISTRICT SQUARE



Example of art or interactive features to reflect diverse cultural histories and identities for Blocks 10 and 11 (Hood Design Studio)



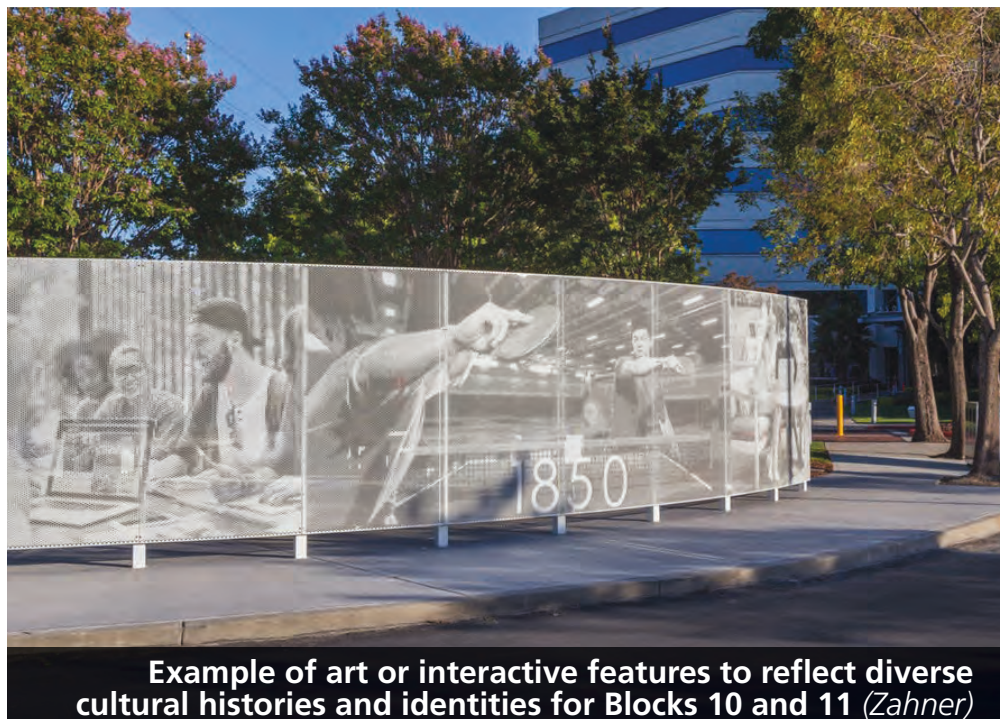
Example of art or interactive features to reflect diverse cultural histories and identities for Blocks 10 and 11 (Zahner)



Example of overhead sculpture as 'place-making' feature for Blocks 10 and 11 at Madison Street closure (Turenscape)



Example of interactive social seating for promenade flanking Madison (mmcité)



Example of art or interactive features to reflect diverse cultural histories and identities for Blocks 10 and 11 (Zahner)



Example of overhead sculpture as 'place-making' feature for Blocks 10 and 11 at Madison Street closure (Primera Engineers, Ltd.)



Example of potential bench materials (Landscapeforms)

BLOCK 12 MAIN STREET / SHEMANSKI SQUARE

The existing Block 12 is the northern entrance to the Cultural District and is surrounded by performing arts organizations and residential uses. Block 12 is defined by a wide, flat paved gathering area of hexagonal and square asphalt blocks with the Shemanski Fountain as the focal point. This space hosts the seasonal Wednesday farmers market event. A graceful grid of mature trees arcs over the gathering space in four rows. A concrete stage and retaining wall bookends the north side of the park block. Along Salmon Street the Simon Benson Memorial plaque adds detail to the retaining wall.

Proposed renovations for Shemanski Square include a central promenade that supports pedestrian activity throughout the Cultural District and provides an improved visual and physical link between Shemanski Square and the other park blocks.

Shemanski Fountain is retained as the art focal point of the block. **The fountain is refurbished** to include cleaning of Rebecca at the Well statue, replumbing of the fountains, repairing leaks, providing surface repairs to the sandstone fountain base, and other improvements, as needed.

New gateway art is added at two locations along Salmon Street at the corners of an existing planting area. This art will reflect the diverse cultural histories and identities of Oregon. This planting area will be refurbished to provide a better visual connection between Shemanski Square and Salmon Street.

The **central promenade terminates at Shemanski Square just north of Main Street** where it joins the paved gathering space. The central promenade is the pedestrian component of the Green Loop in the Cultural District.

A continuous tree canopy of American elms and other medium and large trees is envisioned to line the edges of the central promenade extending through Shemanski Square. New trees in this area are to be planted with adequate volumes of structural soil to promote their fullest growth potential. The outside edges of Block 12 will be lined with a mix of large and medium canopy trees that are similar to, but are not elms, to add species diversity.

New walkways and gathering space paving will be reinforced concrete paving with a distinctive scoring pattern common to other renovated blocks in the Cultural District. New concrete should be formulated to patina to a dark grey to allow the visual qualities of the landscape to spring forward. Traditional park benches provide seating around the perimeter of the gathering area. These improvements will support the usability of the square as a small event space to host functions like the Wednesday farmers market, book fair, or other cultural community events.

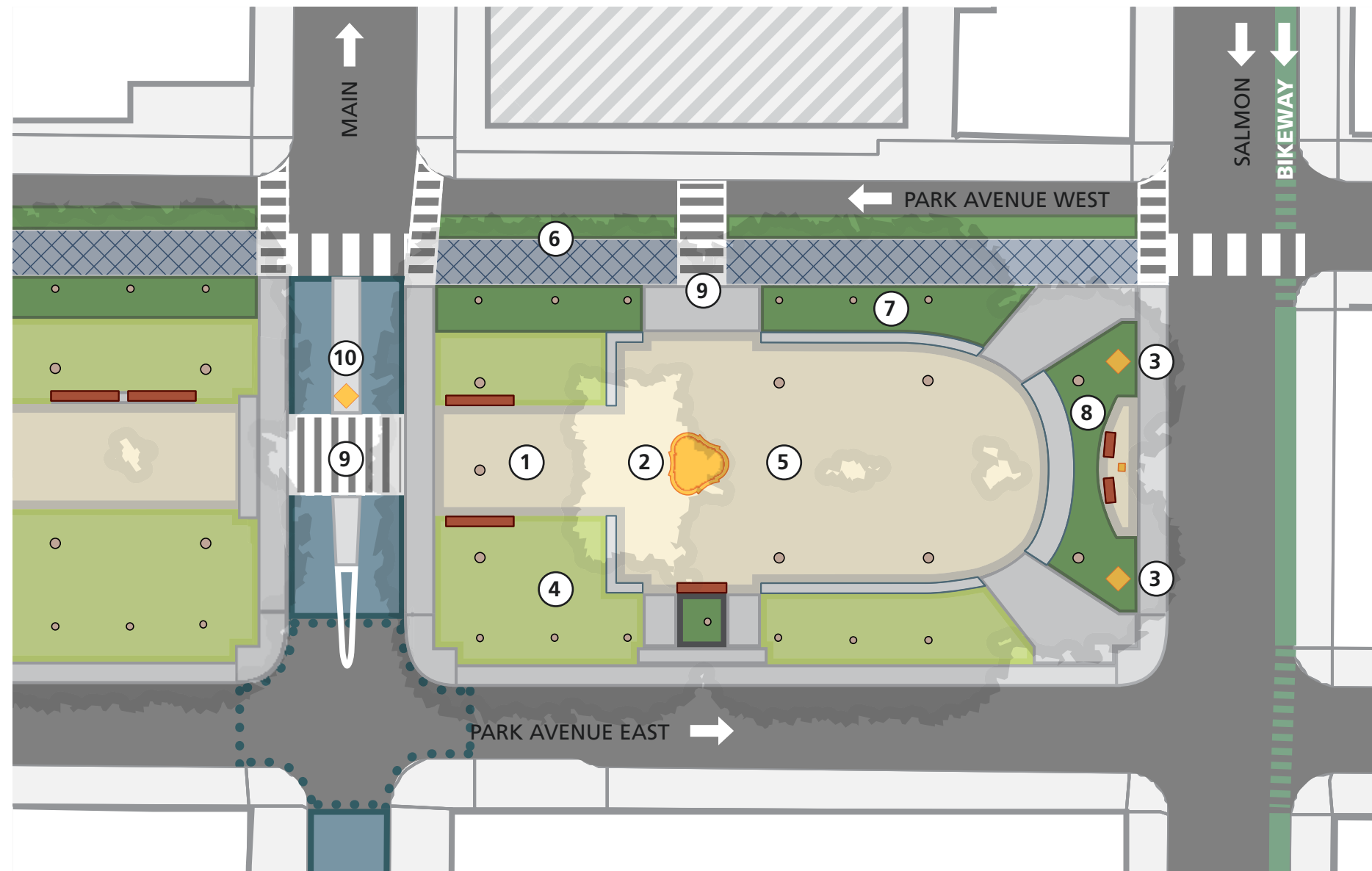
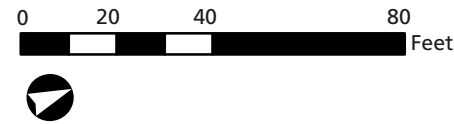
A new striped midblock crosswalk at Main Street improves pedestrian safety and visibility. This crosswalk includes expansion of the existing **refuge median with a designated location for future art**. A future design consideration includes the proposal to permanently vacate Main Street in coordination with the Portland’5, who is interested in making their recurring Main Street closure permanent.

Proposed Park Avenue West modifications include the addition of the **Green Loop path with a planted buffer separating the shared use path from moving traffic**. This change removes parallel parking on both sides of Park Avenue West. Future design considerations include the incorporation of Green Loop wayfinding elements between Main Street and Salmon Street.

The **midblock crossing** location at the Green Loop separated path will include distinct paving treatment, contrasting textures, and crosswalk striping to provide adequate warnings to cyclists and pedestrians of the mixing area.

BLOCK 12 MAIN STREET / SHEMANSKI SQUARE

**South
Park
Blocks**
MASTER PLAN



1. Central promenade links to other Cultural District squares
2. Shemanski Fountain remains
3. New locations for gateway art in a refurbished planting area fronting Salmon Street
4. Canopy trees
5. Replace existing walkways and gathering area with new reinforced concrete paving
6. Green Loop separated path along west side of block and median strip planting
7. Understory planting of native and adaptive plants
8. Enhanced entrance planting
9. Midblock crossing location
10. Location for art at Main Street median

LEGEND			
	Building Footprint		Green Loop Path (Blocks 5-12)
	Roadway		Intersecting Bikeways
	Pedestrian Paving		Streetcar Line
	Gathering Areas		Cross Walk
	Temporary Closure for Events		Tree Canopy
	Bench / Social Seating		Turf / Lawn
	Small Scale Feature / Art		Raised Rose Bed
			Raised Plant Bed: Native, Ornamental, or Flower
			Plant Bed: Native, Ornamental, or Flower

BLOCK 12 MAIN STREET / SHEMANSKI SQUARE



Example of small community event at Shemanski Square (MIG)



Example of permanent closure along Main Street (Jason Quigley)



Example of pedestrian promenade experience for Block 12 (Wikimedia Commons, Ingfruno)



Example of gateway feature reflecting diverse cultural histories and identities of Oregon along Salmon Street, Block 12 (left: Zakary Naranjo Morse / center: Susan Zoccola / right: Flickr Creative Commons, shirokazan)



Example of midblock crossing with median art at Main Street (HYBYCOZO)

Green Loop

The Green Loop concept of the *Central City 2035 Plan* is envisioned as a six-mile linear park that connects people through the heart of the city, improving access to and linking regional attractions, cultural institutions, employment centers, and shopping districts. Given that the Central City is home to 60 percent of Portland's affordable housing units, the alignment of the Green Loop along the west side of the South Park Blocks is critical to supporting businesses, social services, improving access to places where people can get the staples and support they need. It also reconfirms the City's commitment to greater access to parks, nature, and active transportation.

The preferred alignment of the Green Loop along the South Park Blocks as a multi-use pathway in the University District and a shared use path separated from car traffic along Park Avenue West was a result of public feedback received, input from stakeholders around the park, PBOT, PP&R, Friends of the Green Loop, and other advisory committees involved in the Master Plan.³³

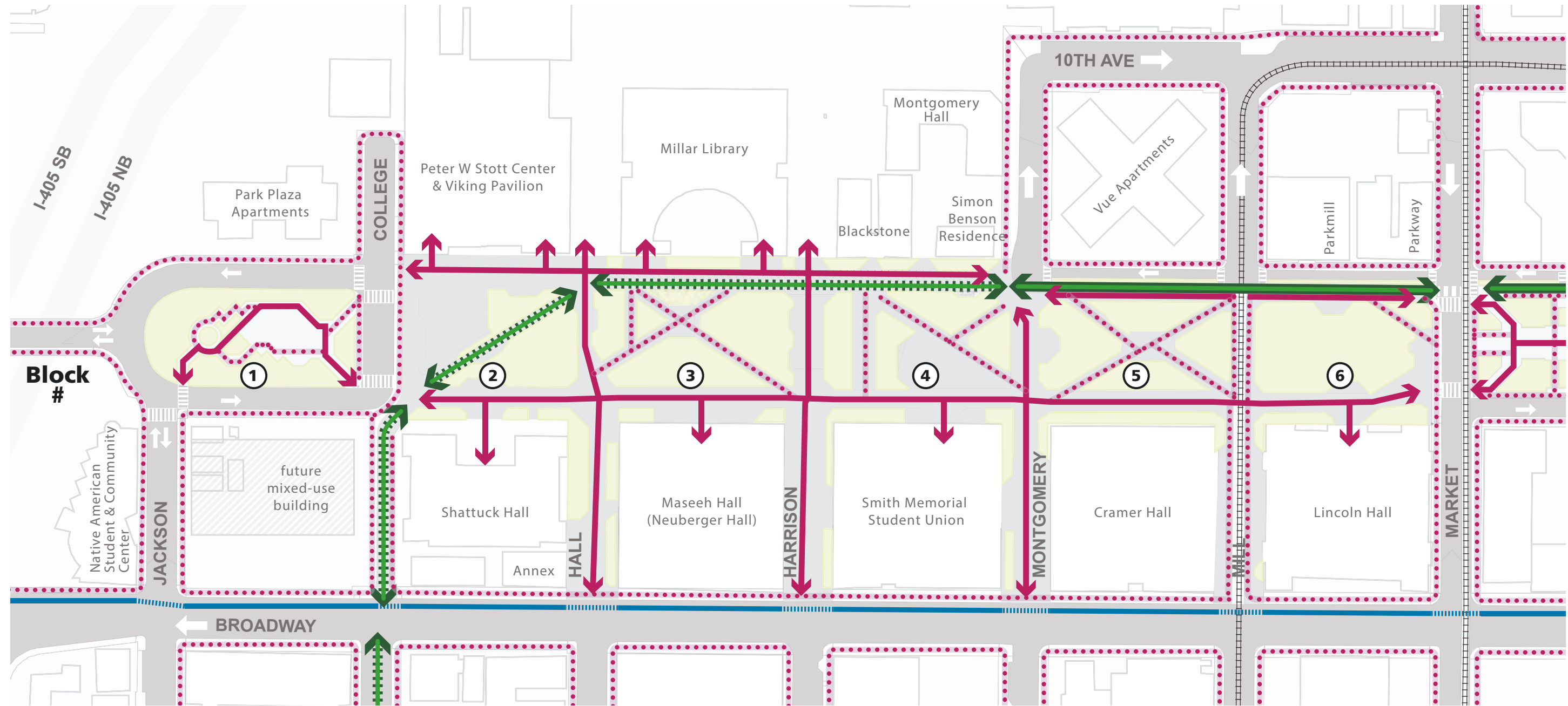
The Green Loop will require careful consideration of all the crossing points from the park across the shared use path and at street crossings. Safety and awareness should be the focus of the Green Loop program implementation. The remainder of this section provides guidance on design and materials that provide visual and textural cues to park users about mixing areas for pedestrians and bicycles.

³³ See Appendix B for the Connected Cultural District Concept that emerged out of the planning process.



(Lavengood Photography)

RECOMMENDED CIRCULATION - PEDESTRIAN AND ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION MODES



LEGEND

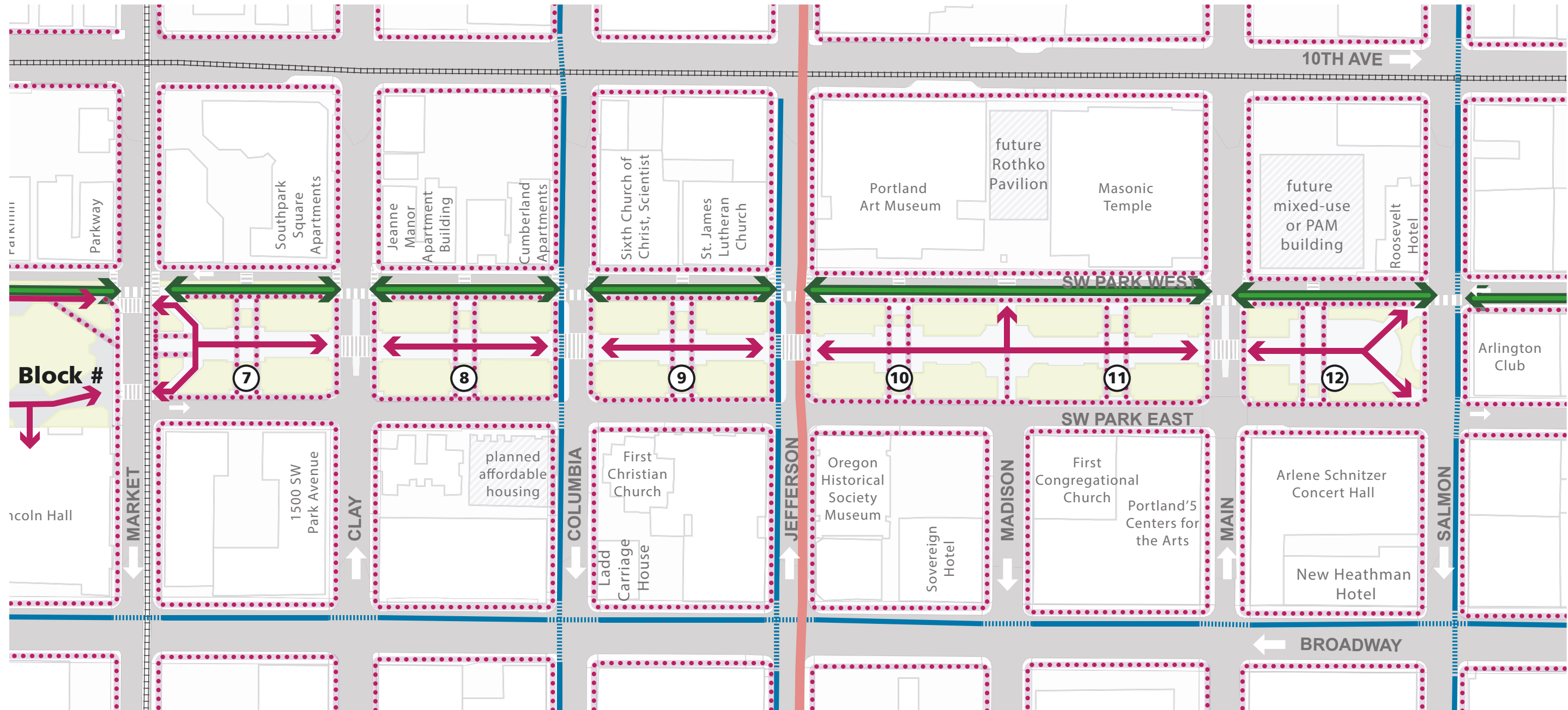
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|--|------------------------|--|----------------------------|--|--|
| | Building Footprint | | Streetcar Line | | Bike Lane |
| | Roadway | | Cross Walk | | Rose Lane Project |
| | Pedestrian Paving | | Main Pedestrian Route | | Green Loop Shared Use Path |
| | Shared Bike / Ped Zone | | Secondary Pedestrian Route | | Green Loop Shared Use Path separated from cars |





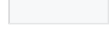
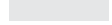
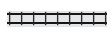







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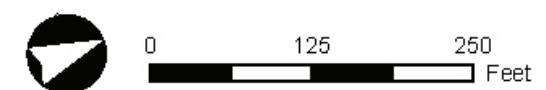
Source: PortlandMaps Open Data, COP GIS, 2019 MHA Tree Inventory, 2019 MIG Fieldwork and Site Documentation, ESRI orthoimagery, South_Park_Blocks_Base.dwg

RECOMMENDED CIRCULATION - PEDESTRIAN AND ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION MODES



LEGEND

-  Building Footprint
-  Roadway
-  Pedestrian Paving
-  Shared Bike / Ped Zone
-  Streetcar Line
-  Cross Walk
-  Main Pedestrian Route
-  Secondary Pedestrian Route
-  Bike Lane
-  Rose Lane Project
-  Green Loop Shared Use Path
-  Green Loop Shared Use Path separated from cars



Source: PortlandMaps Open Data, COP GIS, 2019 MHA Tree Inventory, 2019 MIG Fieldwork and Site Documentation, ESRI orthoimagery, South_Park_Blocks_Base.dwg

GREEN LOOP CONCEPT DETAILS

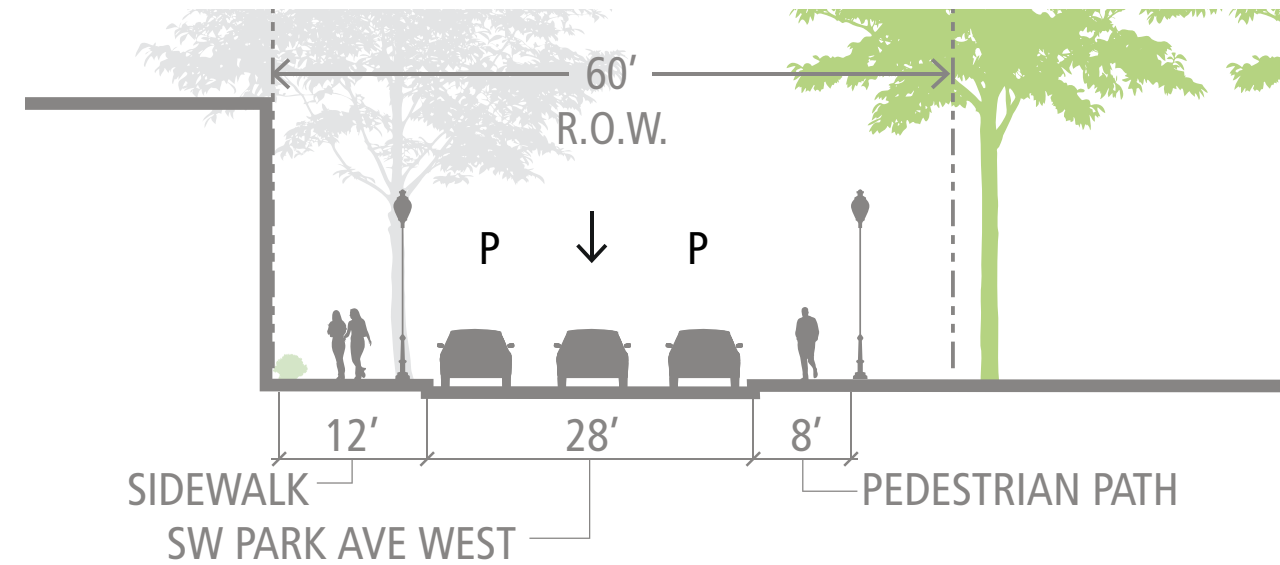
Key Map: Green Loop Recommended Alignment



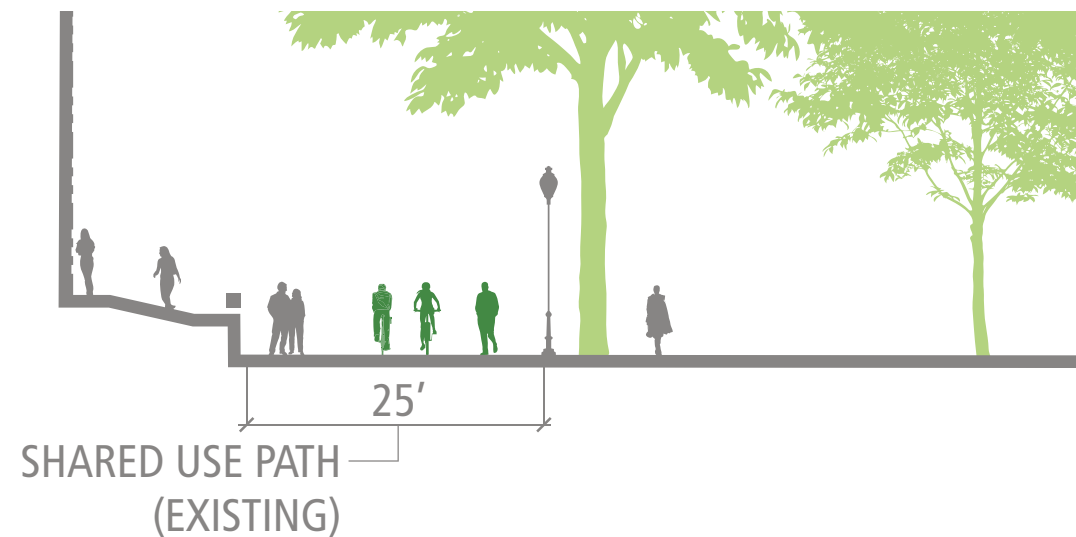
EXISTING PARK AVE WEST Blocks 2-4 (University District)



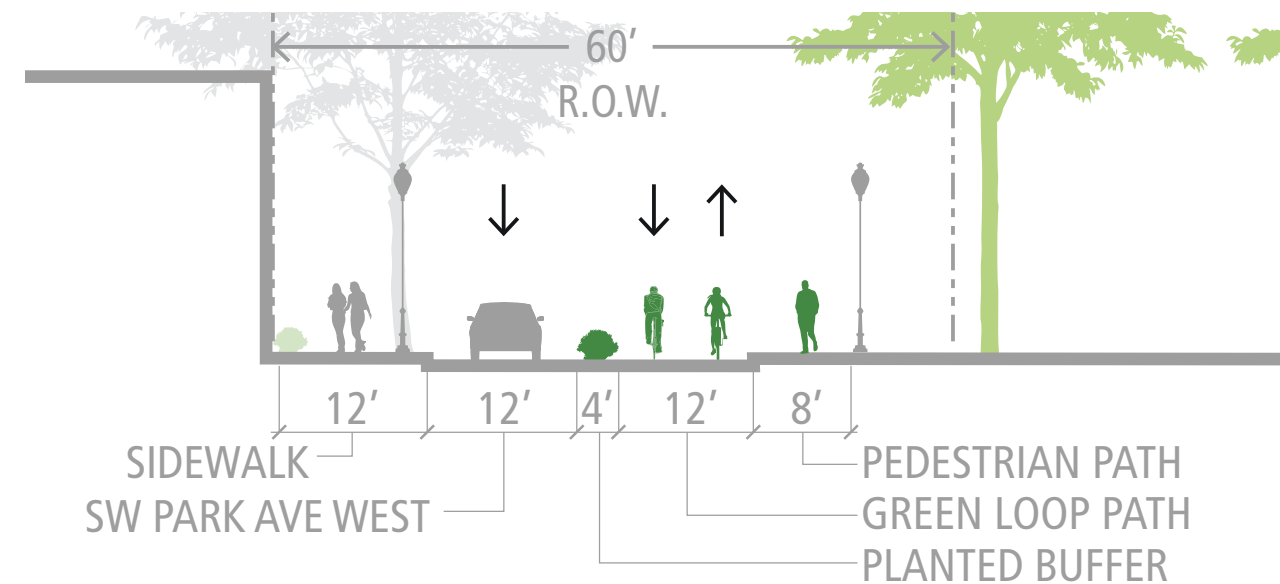
EXISTING PARK AVE WEST Blocks 5-6 (University District)



PROPOSED PARK AVE WEST Blocks 2-4 (University District)



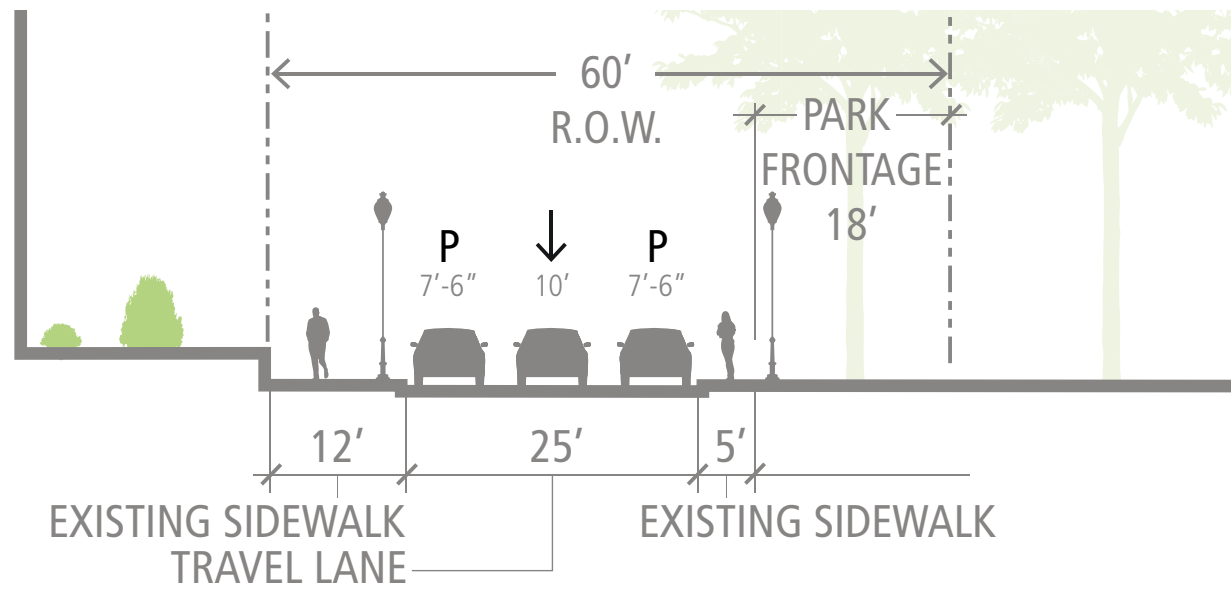
PROPOSED PARK AVE WEST Blocks 5-6 (University District)



Note: Sections on this page are oriented north. Final dimensions of right-of-way elements to be determined by PBOT.

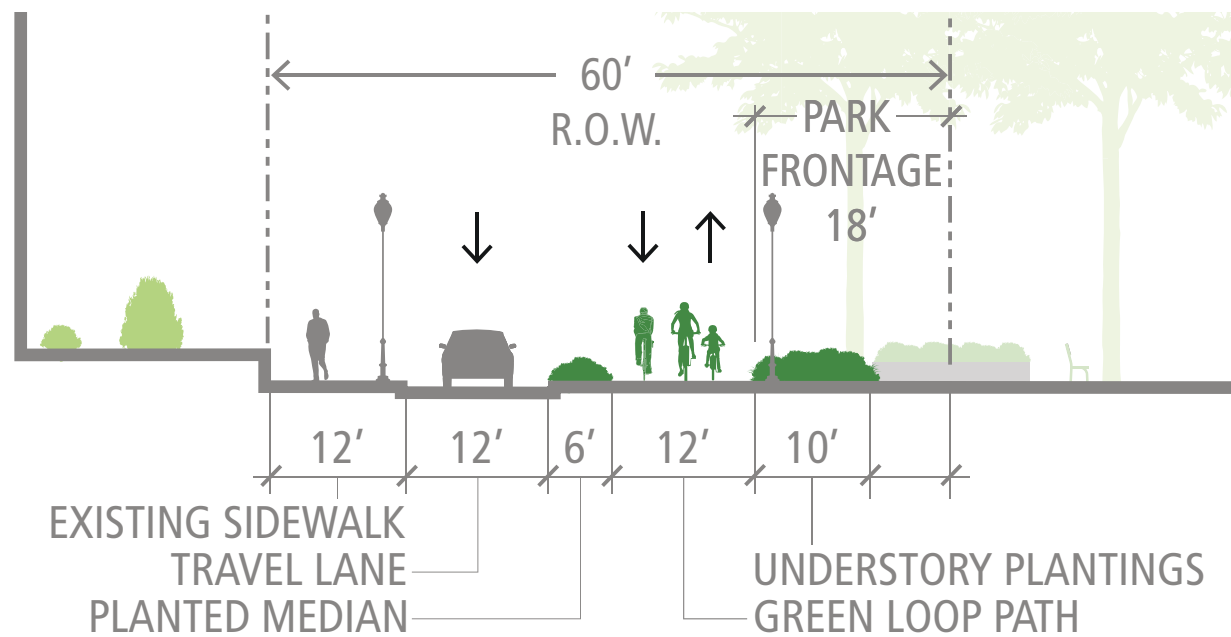
GREEN LOOP CONCEPT DETAILS

EXISTING PARK AVE WEST Blocks 7-12 (Cultural District)



Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) visualization concept of the Green Loop path along Park Avenue West based on the preferred alignment from the South Park Blocks Master Plan process. The Green Loop path is proposed fully within the public street right-of-way by widening the existing sidewalk and establishing a planted median buffer from the adjacent travel lane. No tree removal is proposed.

PROPOSED PARK AVE WEST Blocks 7-12 (Cultural District)



Visualization is for illustration purposes only and does not represent a final design that would better reflect the park master plan and accessibility considerations.

Note: Sections (above) are oriented north and visualizations (at right) are oriented south. Final dimensions of right-of-way elements to be determined by PBOT.

GREEN LOOP DETAILS



Existing shared use pathway through PSU from Park Ave West to College Avenue with removable bike parking (MIG)



The existing shared use pathway through PSU from Park Ave West to College Avenue is a slow-paced area friendly to bicyclists and pedestrians (Flickr Creative Commons, Bosdos)

PATHS SEPARATED FROM CARS

Benefits

- Increases the perception of safety and comfort for current and potential bicyclists
- Provides space for bicyclists to pass another bicyclist without encroaching into the adjacent vehicle travel lane
- Improves safety sight lines among bicyclists, drivers and pedestrians
- Provides greater passing distance among vehicles, bicyclists and pedestrians
- Planted buffers provide protection from vehicles, visual interest, pollinator habitat, and stormwater function

Details

- Pavement markings installed where pedestrians, bicycles and vehicles meet
- Bollards demarcate edge of Green Loop and sidewalk fronting Portland Art Museum
- Special Green Loop pavement in Cultural District to signal use change to pedestrians crossing Park Ave West
- No painted green lanes in keeping with the historic character of the Cultural District



Example of special Green Loop pavement in Cultural District (Angelus Paving Stones)



Example of Green Loop pavement markings for Blocks 10 and 11 (Mayer/Reed)



Example of bollards proposed along path opposite Portland Art Museum (Daimler headquarters, Mayer/Reed)

Recommended Hardscape Palette

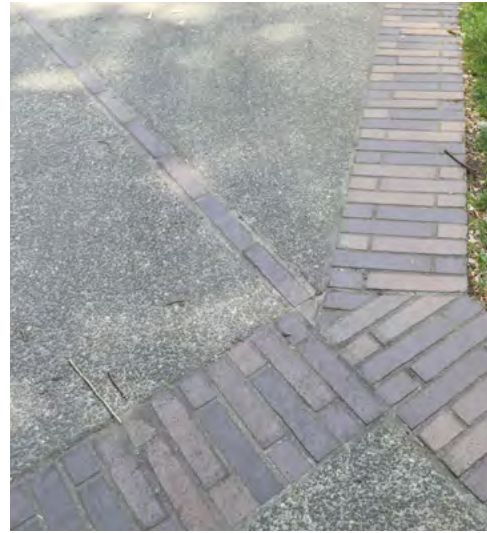
Guiding Principles

- Provide simple, high quality and elegant design of park furnishings and hardscape materials that are compatible, yet distinct.
- Respect historic park layout and augment with contemporary improvements that create a sense of timelessness.
- Improve overall accessibility in the South Park Blocks
- Provide durable, maintainable and long-lasting finishes and furnishings.
- Provide appropriate scale and frequency of site furnishings for use in active, urban, public open space.
- Integrate variety without compromising overall integrity and continuity throughout the South Park Blocks.
- Allow for site specific responses within the Cultural District blocks and the University District blocks to address site adjacencies and flexibility of use.
- Provide continuity of materials as a unifying design element that ties all the blocks together.
- Confer with PP&R Parks Professional Repair and Maintenance staff on current standards to facilitate ease of maintenance.



RECOMMENDED HARDSCAPE PALETTE // UNIVERSITY DISTRICT

Major and minor pathways / cast-in-place exposed aggregate paving with banding



Paving Option 1 (for small repairs prior to full block rehabilitation): Match existing exposed aggregate paving with brick border. Finish of new pavement to match adjacent paving while meeting ADA thresholds.



Paving Option 2 (for full block rehabilitation): Single pour, cast-in-place 6" reinforced concrete panels with broom finish and exposed aggregate edge accent (or vice versa). For more contrast to existing paving, use above left.

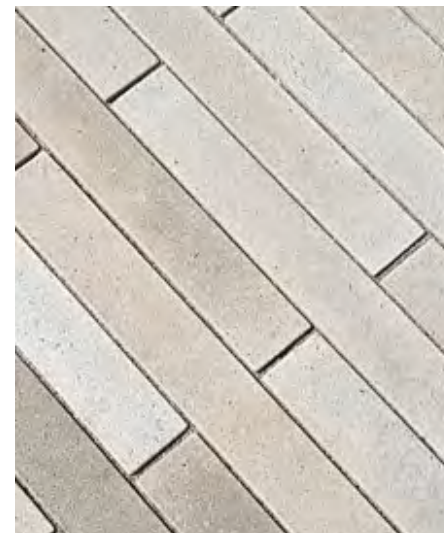
Plazas / cast-in-place concrete and unit pavers



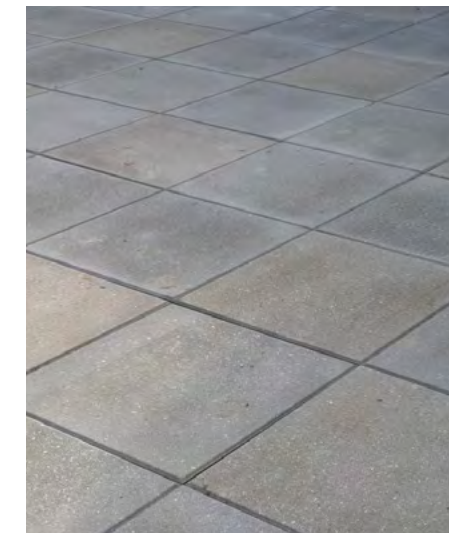
Cast-in-place reinforced concrete with scoring pattern, accent banding, and layout to reinforce pedestrian scale, artwork, and existing and proposed site furnishings (Marion Brenner)



Unit paver plaza (Western Washington University, Mayer/Reed)



Narrow and standard dimension modular pavers



Plaza paver considerations:

- product replacement efficiency
- narrow brick or paver banding for accent
- durable
- high-quality
- sustainable manufacturing practices
- recycled content

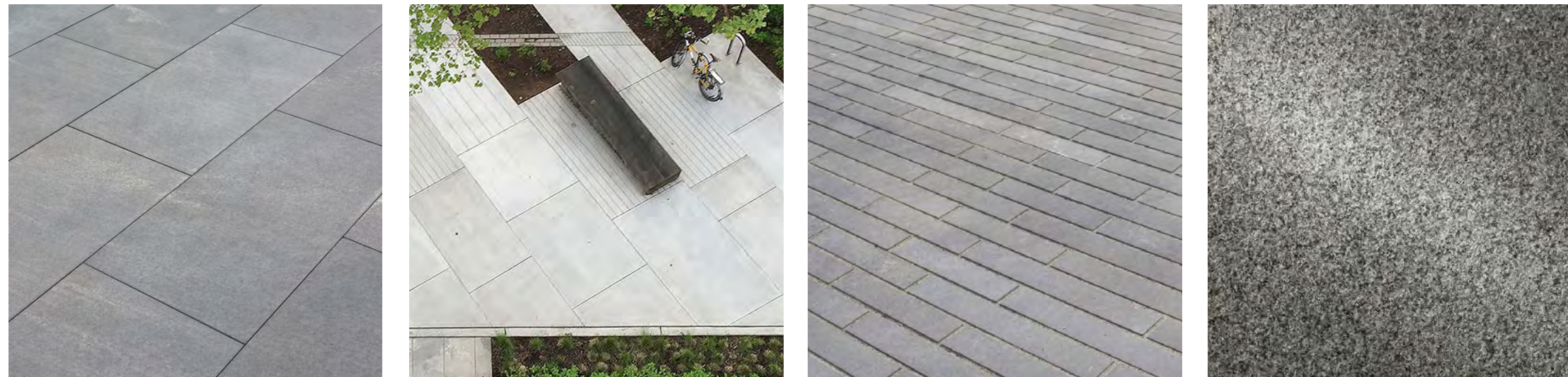
RECOMMENDED HARDSCAPE PALETTE // CULTURAL DISTRICT

Central promenade and east-west walkways / *cast-in-place concrete*



Cast-in-place 6" reinforced concrete, scoring pattern, tooling, accent curb headers, slip resistant finish. New concrete will darken over time from exposure to weather and urban conditions so it visually fades back.

Plazas / *cast-in-place concrete and unit pavers*



Columbia basalt pavers

Cast-in-place, reinforced scored concrete (Berger Partnership)

Stepstone narrow modular pavers

Accent - thermal finish limestone paver



Planting Design Strategy

This planting design strategy identifies key areas within the park for increased understory and multi-layered landscape opportunities. A primary goal is to enrich the pedestrian experience throughout the park with subtle landscape renovations while respecting the defining character of the historic large stature trees, open lawn areas and geometric urban park patterns. The goals of this Master Plan work in tandem with the Portland Parks & Recreation's *Ecologically Sustainable Landscape Initiative*. This is not intended to be a comprehensive list of acceptable plant species; it is provided as a guide to continue our community's efforts to increase biodiversity and thus improve ecological processes within our urban parks. For guidelines of the park's tree canopy, reference the South Park Blocks Tree Succession Strategy for detailed information about existing and future tree planting and locations.

Approach

The South Park Blocks has two distinct areas of pathway and tree canopy geometry: the University District (Blocks 1-6) and the Cultural District (Blocks 7-12). Areas conducive to landscape rehabilitation differ within these districts and the planting design should consider the variables that make these district blocks unique from the other while continuing to support an aesthetic balance of continuity throughout the twelve blocks.

The proposed landscape enhancements focus on the following key components: integration of native plants with regionally adaptive (also called 'adapted') shrubs and ground covers, respecting the existing park geometry and circulation, careful selection and management of plantings within root zones of existing trees to remain, and user safety.

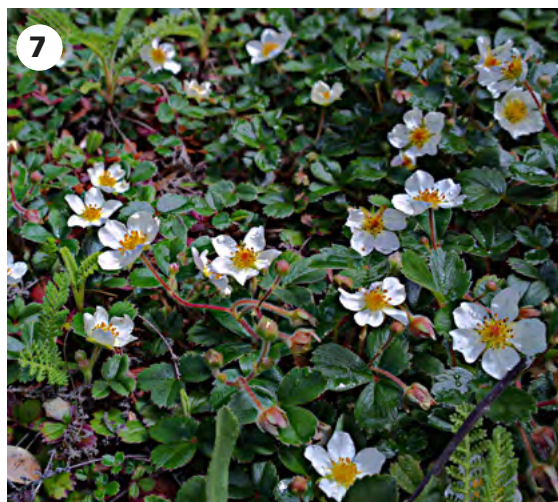
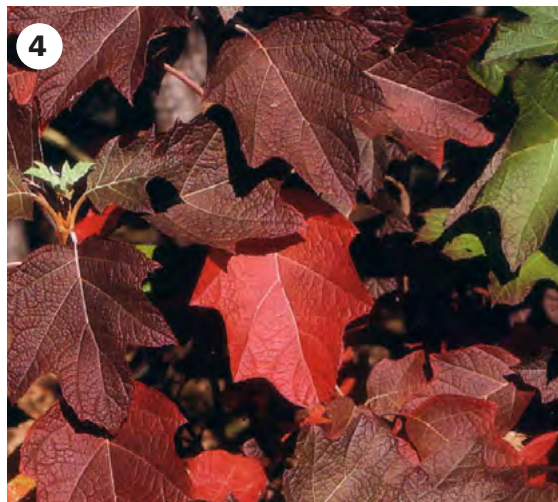
Proposed Plant Palette Guiding Principles

- Include a combination of native and adaptive plants selected for characteristics that maintain the urban feel of the park.
 - Native plants are species that exist in a region without human introduction.
 - Adaptive plants are not native and not invasive, but are able to thrive in the local climate and soil conditions.
- Use plant material to highlight features of the park design and guide pedestrians, whether at entrances or plazas, and to offset focal points.
- Select slower growing species or varieties to reduce maintenance.
- Pilot alternatives to turf lawn that maintain the uniform appearance of low ground cover while reducing watering, reseeding/resodding, and mowing requirements.
- Select plant material from the *Portland Tree and Landscaping Manual* (2017, or current) version.

Planting Considerations

For each landscape typology listed below, consider the following before selecting individual species appropriate for each location:

- Solar aspect, hours of sun/shade each day in each season
- Micro-climate factors, i.e. south or west-facing wall, heat reflection from surrounding building glazing, wind tunnels, dense summer canopy, open winter canopy, etc.
- Heat island effect along roadways
- Hardiness and adaptability to changing climate
- Tree proximity and potential surface root disturbance and needed protection
- Companion planting options to existing trees and/or existing vegetation to remain
- Soil conditions and gradients, soil type, additional care needed for planting around existing trees
- Plant sensitivity adjacent to pedestrian walks, bike paths, seating and gathering areas
- Plant toxicity in areas accessible to children
- Safety sight lines at street and pedestrian intersections
- Pest and disease control within PP&R's integrated pest management (IPM) program
- Irrigation needs, i.e. individual plant water needs and compatibility with those of existing trees and adjacent plantings
- Plant longevity
- Minimize seasonal maintenance and reduce need for pruning to keep plants within bounds
- Appropriate plant spacing for public spaces, and setbacks from walkways, roadways, circulation routes
- Habitat friendly species
- Engage Indigenous design expertise and Tribal Ecological Knowledge for native plantings
- Confer with PP&R Horticulturalist staff on species selection in the Cultural District
- Confer with PSU Maintenance staff on species selection in the University District



Plant species examples for this landscape typology:

1. *Camellia* sp. (camellia)
2. *Mahonia* 'Winter Sun' (Winter Sun mahonia)
3. *Carex morrowii* 'Ice Dance' (Ice Dance sedge)
4. *Hydrangea quercifolia* (oak leaf hydrangea)
5. *Hydrangea quercifolia* (oak leaf hydrangea)
6. *Polystichum munitum* (sword fern)
7. *Fragaria chiloensis* (beach strawberry)
8. *Hakonechloa macra* (Japanese forest grass)
9. *Liriope muscari* (lilyturf)

LANDSCAPE TYPOLOGY - ENTRANCES

Three locations are considered entrance opportunities:

Block 1 – Plant selection for Block 1 will reflect partnership between PP&R and the Native American Student and Community Center to identify appropriate native plant species that reflect Indigenous heritage and cultural values (see Block 1, page 65). Consider including a continuous landscape band along the curved south end of the block that incorporates native coniferous trees with low native ground covers to add visual strength to this end of the park blocks. The selected planting palette should provide visual connectivity to the woodlands of the West Hills, mitigate the adjacent bridge and roadway, and provide shade to the improved play and gathering areas. Attention to plant toxicity, sight lines, habitat friendly, and drought tolerant plantings is critical here.

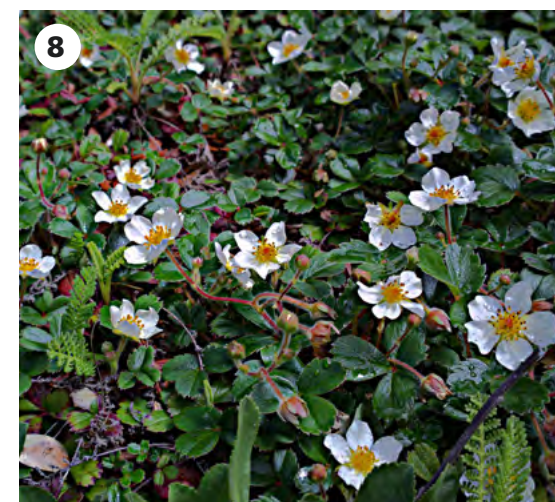
Block 6 – Add a single species of low evergreen ground cover at the northwest corner of Park Avenue West and Market Street to mass plant around the base of the relocated PSU monument sign. Depending on proximity of the sign to the pedestrian crossing, a single species of mid-height deciduous or native evergreen shrubs could flank the back of the sign should sight lines allow.

Block 12 – Refine existing planting along Salmon Street with a maximum of three species of low to medium-sized ornamental shrubs and ground covers to provide year-round seasonal interest. Select plants with interesting natural forms and textures to provide a multi-layer aesthetic that works with the elevated grades at this north entrance to the park.

LANDSCAPE TYPOLOGY - UNDERSTORY, ACCENT AND FOUNDATION PLANTING

Mixed understory, accent and foundation planting areas are located throughout the University District and include new areas surrounding the playground and gathering area at Block 1, along built-in seating at Smith Plaza at Block 4, and at two large triangular areas at Block 5. Foundation planting along PSU buildings fronting the park blocks is already present in many locations, but further enhancement is possible where circulation and building access allow planting bed expansion. Considerations for understory, accent and foundation planting areas include:

- Understory plant species to be shade and drought tolerant.
- Where using a variety of medium to tall native shrubs, contain them in the center of a larger planting area and maintain their form and size to provide visibility in the surrounding area.
- Foundation planting should be considered with planned building renovations and to balance other uses and conditions such as additional covered outdoor seating areas.
- Within areas of increased numbers of species, layout plants in single species groups to provide a mass planting effect. PP&R will partner with NASCC through master plan implementation on plant species selection based on different principles at Block 1.
- At Block 4, the planting area south of the built-in seating should be a simple palette of two to three species of low shrubs and ground covers to work among existing trees and proposed tree replacements.



Plant species examples for this landscape typology:

1. *Cistus sp.* (rockrose)
2. *Caryopteris x clandonensis* ('Longwood Blue' bluebeard)
3. *Sarcococca hookeriana v. digyna* (purple stem sweet box)
4. *Daphne tangutica* 'Eternal Fragrance' (eternal fragrance daphne)
5. *Podophyllum pleianthum* (Chinese mayapple)
6. *Acanthus mollis* (bear's breeches)
7. *Vancouveria hexandra* (inside-out flower)
8. *Fragaria chiloensis* (beach strawberry)
9. *Hakonechloa macra* (Japanese forest grass)



Plant species examples for this landscape typology:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1. <i>Epimedium</i> sp. (bishop's hat) | 4. <i>Rosa</i> spp. (roses) | 7. <i>Helleborus</i> 'Julerose' (Julerose hellebore) |
| 2. <i>Polystichum munitum</i> (sword fern) | 5. <i>Vancouveria hexandra</i> (inside-out flower) | 8. <i>Acanthus mollis</i> (bear's breeches) |
| 3. <i>Corylopsis spicata</i> (witch hazel) | 6. <i>Cistus</i> sp. (rock rose) | 9. <i>Caryopteris x clandonensis</i> ('Longwood Blue' bluebeard) |

LANDSCAPE TYPOLOGY - EAST-WEST ORNAMENTAL PLANTERS

Per the Recommended Design, all midblock Cultural District planting areas oriented in the north-south direction will be removed or relocated over time to accommodate construction of the central promenade, a generous north-south pedestrian-focused walkway extending between Block 7 and Block 12. Smaller planters along the midblock walkways oriented in the east-west direction will remain and be rehabilitated to provide ornamental mixed plant species in greater variety than in other areas of the park. The planters also provide a unifying design element in the Cultural District. PP&R will continue to work with Friends of the South Park Blocks, the volunteer group that provides critical stewardship of these planters, through master plan implementation.

Considerations for rehabilitation of ornamental planters in the Cultural District include:

- All planters should be contained within raised concrete curbing (similar to what is currently provided at Block 10) to protect plant material, provide consistency from block to block, and elevate plant material closer to eye level.
- Maintain roses in a variety of forms and species in east-west planters at Block 10; add roses to new corner planters at the Madison Street plaza space between Blocks 10 and 11.
- Replant shaded planters in the Cultural District with species appropriate to mixed sun/shade conditions, such as those listed here.
- Provide waterwise irrigation systems throughout.

LANDSCAPE TYPOLOGY - UNDERSTORY BUFFER PLANTING

This planting type is located along the western edge of the park next to the Green Loop path from Market to Salmon Street. The continuous north-south planting strip is approximately ten feet wide providing adequate room for a select variety of plant species to create a softened vegetative buffer along the street frontage with breaks to guide pedestrians where to cross Park Avenue West. Considerations for the proposed mix of native/adaptive low shrubs and ground covers include:

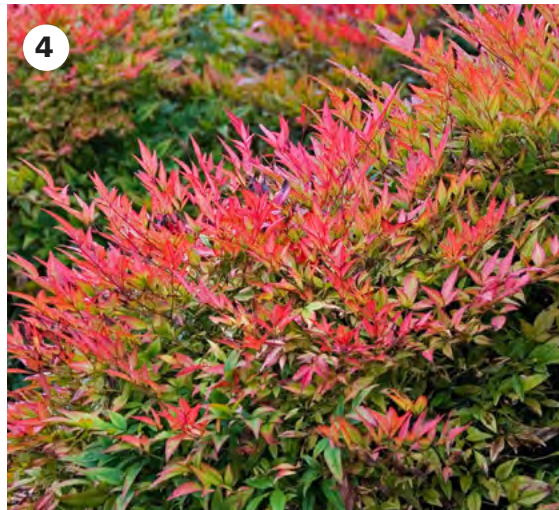
- Western afternoon sun exposure with morning and midday shade from park’s tree canopy
- Landscape renovations will have a phased sequencing from block to block as park improvements are made and the tree succession strategy is implemented.
- Plant availability is never guaranteed, so the mixture of plants will be critical. Limit mix of shrub species per block to three or four. Limit ground cover species to a maximum of two per block.

- Plant materials and their planting locations along the six block edge are to be aesthetically contiguous while addressing necessary adjustments for micro-climates, mature tree adjacency, street trees and buildings that create more shade from across Park Avenue West in specific locations.
- Right-sizing plant species to provide a continuous buffer without overgrowth onto path or crosswalks.
- Provide a balance of evergreen and deciduous shrubs should create year-round seasonal interest and winter presence using native and adaptive ornamentals.
- Limit ground cover species to a maximum of two per block.
- Plant layout should be in large groupings of single species and respect formal historic context.
- Preferred shrub height along the park edge to vary from 12 to 42 inches where sight lines allow.



Plant species examples for this landscape typology:

1. Understory planting example
2. Mahonia eurybracteata 'Soft Caress' (Soft Caress mahonia)
3. Gaultheria shallon (salal)
4. Viburnum plicatum 'Mariesii' (Doublefile viburnum)
5. Fothergilla gardenii (dwarf fothergilla)



LANDSCAPE TYPOLOGY - MEDIAN STRIP AT PARK AVENUE WEST

A curbed median strip along the west side of the Cultural District blocks and the future Green Loop path will provide a green planting island approximately 4-6 feet wide. Plant species for this ornamental, slightly raised area are selected based on hardiness, minimal maintenance, able to withstand the conditions of heat island, and multimodal traffic along both sides. The palette shown here provides a consistent aesthetic along the median strip's length, which is present on Blocks 5-12. Additional considerations include:

- Where necessary due to differing micro-climates, plant species may change from block to block, but together they should maintain a contiguous visual appearance throughout.
- Plant material should be heat reflective and drought tolerant.
- Provide color and textural blend for year-round interest.
- Plant material should require minimal pruning or transplanting.
- Provide long-lived species.
- Plant height not to exceed 36 inches.
- Provide a mixture of evergreen and deciduous shrubs.

Plant species examples for this landscape typology:

1. *Sedum spectabile* 'Autumn Joy' (Autumn Joy stonecrop)
2. *Raphiolepis indica* (Indian hawthorne)
3. *Achillea terracotta* (terracotta yarrow)
4. *Nandina domestica* 'Gulf Stream' (compact heavenly bamboo)
5. *Cornus sericea* 'Kelseyi' (Kelsey dogwood)
6. *Hebe topiaria* (topiarist's hebe)
7. *Ceanothus gloriosus* 'Point Reyes' (Point Reyes ceanothus)
8. *Caryopteris* sp. (bluebeard)
9. *Fothergilla gardenii* (dwarf fothergilla)

5

Project Phasing and Partnerships





5

Project Phasing and Partnerships

Overview

The South Park Blocks Master Plan reflects what will likely be a 50-year or longer vision for the park. This chapter identifies a framework for block construction based on a goal to have the entire park rehabilitated in a way that prioritizes public access and allows the design to remain readable and consistent from block to block. Whether one block is rehabilitated before another is contingent on a variety of sometimes competing factors, including, but not limited to:

- Available funding
- Public support
- City equity priorities
- Block condition
- Technical complexity of the design
- Intensity or extent of adjacent development and requisite community benefit calculation
- Tree health or decline on any one block
- Construction efficiencies
- Immediate need in the light of destructive storms or similar events that affect park features



1971 Bulldozer in the South Park Blocks on Sept. 8 (University Archives, Portland State University Library)



1972 Dedication of Park Blocks on May 19-22 (University Archives, Portland State University Library)

Precedent

Previous phased redesigns of the park blocks can provide insight from the past. The redesign of the entire University District was undertaken between September of 1971 and May 1972.³⁴ This redesign significantly altered the circulation, spatial organization, and materiality of the University District and reflected a new relationship between the park and its Portland State University (PSU) context. The Cultural District underwent two phases of construction in the mid-to late 1980s. The first three-block phase was built in 1984; the second three-block phase in 1987. These past efforts reflect a preference for clustering the redesign to achieve design and construction efficiencies, to limit the amount of time the park is closed, to keep the project at a manageable complexity, and to ensure coherency and consistency in the design details.

³⁴ The University District construction window was estimated using historical photographs from the Portland State University Archives.

Considerations for Sequencing

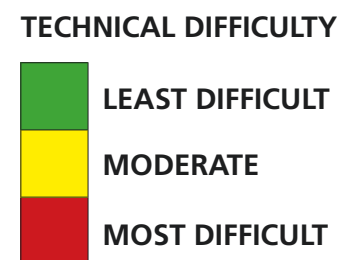
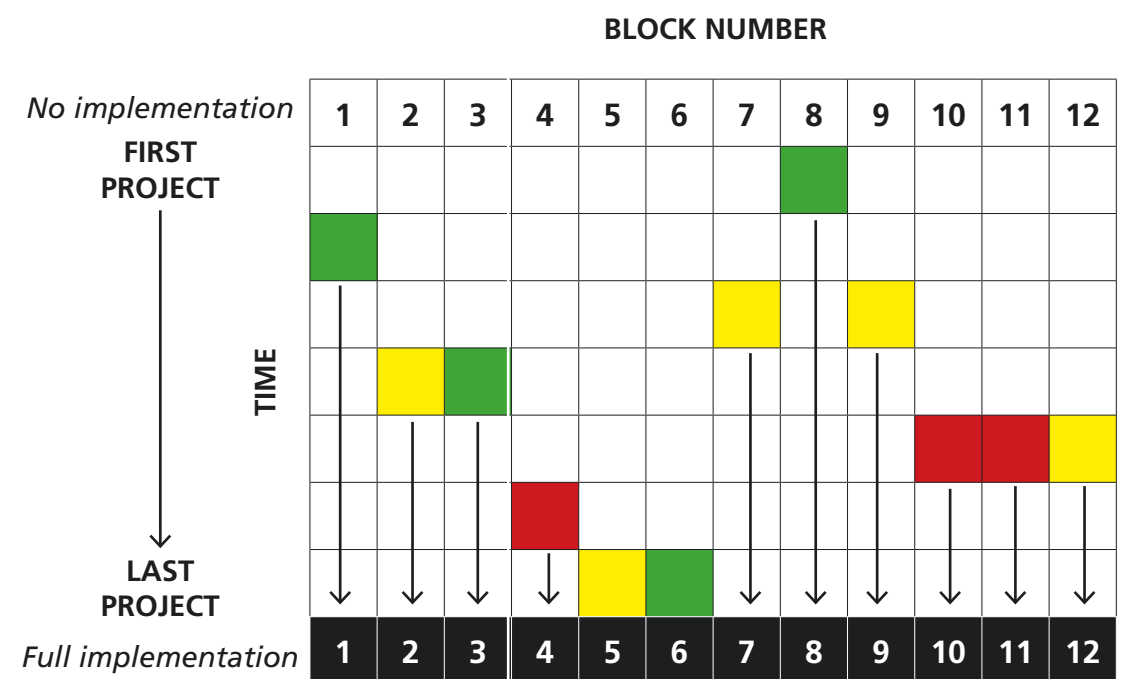
Thirty plus years have passed since the last major rehabilitation of the South Park Blocks. The process is understandably more complex today than it was in previous decades considering factors like the older age of mature trees, stormwater management standards, ADA standards, historic compliance, new standards for tree protection, City equity goals, and sustainability and design resilience in light of climate change. Together, these factors suggest a longer period of time will be needed for the park-wide rehabilitation than required in the past. Moving forward:

- It is still ideal to rehabilitate the park in related groups of two or three blocks to ensure consistency in design details, construction mobilization efficiencies, to minimize street closures and impacts to transit, meet public expectations, and implement features that span the entire park in a coherent way, such as the Green Loop.
- The City and the consultant team should plan for continued communications with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to ensure protection of the park's documented historic resources

in compliance with ORS 358.353. In 2020, a subcommittee of the Downtown Neighborhood Association developed a draft nomination for just the South Park Blocks. As that nomination process updates, PP&R will coordinate with SHPO through the compliance process based on the South Park Blocks being eligible (regardless of a nomination being completed or not).

- There is identified funding for park improvements at Block 8 provided by the BPM Real Estate Group. BPM has made a commitment to build affordable housing along the park and to fund improvements on the specific park block nearest their affordable housing development between Columbia Street and Clay Street.
- Block designs with the greatest immediate local community benefit potential should be tackled first to enlist the general support of the surrounding neighborhood. Blocks that fit in this category include Block 1, 7, 8, and 9.
- Technical complexity of some block designs may require approaching them as singular projects.

POTENTIAL CONSTRUCTION SEQUENCING



- Tree health and decline will have a role in determining whether a block with large impacts to trees may move forward sooner or later.
- Issue of transit overlay on the proposed design and coordination will require early coordination with TriMet, Portland Streetcar, and Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT).
- Some blocks may require significant donor campaigns that may take ten or more years to plan and implement.
- The Green Loop path may be implemented in the short term as a temporary pop-up demonstration or as a quick-build project using interim construction materials such as pavement markings and modular planters within the roadway. This can be done immediately. Evaluation of the installation at regular intervals can help demonstrate interest in working with the community to improve safety for all modes. Input will also inform future permanent design development of the Green Loop.
- As blocks redevelop, the footprint for the permanent Green Loop improvements can be set aside and construction deferred until at least three contiguous blocks are improved. At that time, permanent Green



Pop-up bikeway event in Minneapolis, Minnesota (Nick Falbo)

Loop improvements can be implemented. PP&R and PBOT will continue to collaborate on and coordinate as permanent construction opportunities arise for the Green Loop and the Park Blocks.

Potential design and construction sequencing of these improvements is shown in the graphic to the left. This serves as a guide for implementation with reference to sequencing and timing of efforts to attain full implementation of this Master Plan. Sequencing will need to be revised over time based on changing priorities and to reflect completed block renovations.

Partnerships

Maintaining partnerships will be key to PP&R's ability to make progress on the Master Plan. During implementation, project staff will continue to engage staff across PP&R work groups and City bureaus to inform detailed decision-making. PP&R will continue to engage the community and stakeholders as projects are funded and move through more detailed permitting, design, and construction phases.

Partnerships of significance for the South Park Blocks Master Plan implementation process include:

- Partnering with the Native American Student and Community Center on aspects of the design of Block 1 including native plant and tree species selection and layout. Compensation for Indigenous expertise and sacred knowledge should be considered in the implementation process.
- Working with the Regional Arts and Culture Council, Portland Art Museum, other relevant agency partners, and the community to identify potential replacement and new public art representing more diverse cultural identities and histories. These

conversations and decision-making processes should be centered around Black and Indigenous voices as well as other communities of color.

- Some partnerships are critical to advance thinking around technically challenging aspects of the park design. For example:
 - PP&R should continue working with PBOT to further explore the Connected Cultural District idea (see Appendix B) and with Friends of the Green Loop on Green Loop focused details and programming.
 - PBOT will continue to study the safest crossing treatments for the Green Loop and streets surrounding the park. PBOT and PP&R will continue to work to ensure adequate fire and emergency access.
 - There is need for consistent coordination between Bureau of Environmental Services, Portland Water Bureau, and PP&R to ensure clarity regarding maintenance responsibilities, infrastructure access, and respecting easement areas in the South Park Blocks.

A Concept for a Connected Cultural District

During the South Park Blocks Master Plan process, Portland Parks & Recreation and Portland Bureau of Transportation planning staff heard from many in the community about the future of the South Park Blocks. One key theme PBOT heard was the desire to connect and expand the park blocks, and to minimize the impact of the streets surrounding them.



The South Park Blocks Master Plan incorporates these ideas with a recommendation to extend the park blocks across Madison Street and to explore a similar treatment on Main Street. Repurposing these blocks

for park activities would stitch together a long park block, providing more flexibility and opportunities for community uses. During discussions with key Cultural District stakeholders, the opportunity was identified to take these ideas even further by expanding the park across select blocks of Park Avenue East and Park Avenue West to better connect the park to its cultural neighbors.

Inspired by the transformation of the South Park Blocks through Portland State University in the 1970s, the Connected Cultural District envisions a traffic-free cultural campus for children, events and community activation to take place. The traffic-free zone would span from building to building, creating an expansive new experience, and opening new opportunities for community events and activities.

The Connected Cultural District concept is an emerging idea. Early responses from the public about this concept were positive. PBOT will continue to work with stakeholders and the community to pursue this concept further in partnership with PP&R.

More details about the Connected Cultural District Concept are included in Appendix B.

6

Project Costs





6 Project Costs

Cost Assumptions

Costs are listed reflective of anticipated project phasing described in Chapter 5. There would be cost savings for combining blocks with related design features and limiting the number of phases to reduce mobilization and other inefficiencies.

These costs are an order of magnitude planning level estimate. As implementation moves forward, costs will need to be reviewed as the scope, schedule, and design development provide additional context and specificity to the individual projects. High and low cost ranges are provided to account for potential material changes or finishes that have costs associated with them, and/or to accommodate for customization of park elements versus use of catalog items. Costs will need to be updated to ensure they are consistent with current materials and labor markets. This opinion of costs is based on 2020 construction costs. Contingencies are included to provide greater context given the conceptual nature of the Master Plan.

Table 5: Cost Estimate (in 2020 dollars)

Order of Magnitude Costs for the South Park Blocks Recommended Design			
Description	Park (Low)	Park (Higher)	Green Loop
Block 1	\$2,071,200	\$4,067,700	\$307,654
Blocks 2-3	\$3,794,900	\$7,286,300	\$1,169,414
Block 4	\$1,647,100	\$4,650,100	
Blocks 5-6	\$4,413,500	\$7,989,800	\$1,194,726
Block 7	\$1,783,600	\$4,613,700	\$2,744,544
Block 8	\$2,511,600	\$4,877,600	
Block 9	\$919,199	\$2,229,500	
Block 12	\$2,027,025	\$3,844,300	\$1,941,792
Blocks 10-11	\$3,712,800	\$7,048,500	
Total	\$22,880,767	\$46,607,521	\$7,358,130

Contingencies may cover regulatory requirements, design fees, and other costs that will not be known until a full scope of the project has been determined. Examples of potential costs that could be covered by contingency amounts but may at times exceed estimates include:

- ORS 358.353 Compliance process and potential mitigation requirements
- Associated permitting costs and mitigation requirements from Urban Forestry or other infrastructure bureaus (transportation, water, environmental services)
- Costs associated with any required land use reviews*

Costs are generally broken out on a block or two block basis to assist in future planning efforts, with the exception of the Green Loop. Given the nature of the Green Loop, order of magnitude costs are broken down differently based on proposed phasing of implementation. Utility needs are generalized and inclusion of a public toilet, Portland Loo or other equal, has not been included. Revisiting the public need for such a facility in the University District would be prudent during future schematic design of the South Park Blocks.

**At the time of writing, development associated with Parks and Open Areas uses does not require a Conditional Use Review and is exempt from Design Review (according to Portland City Code 33.420/825). Any proposed structures in the park or non-standard ROW improvements would be required to go through Design Review. If/when the South Park Blocks are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, they will be subject to Demolition Review (according to Portland City Code 33.445/846).*

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