

# South Park Blocks Master Plan Update Design Concepts

Design and Historic Landmarks
Commissions Briefing
December 5, 2019

#### PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Community and Stakeholder Engagement
- 2. Design Objectives
- 3. Site Analysis Overview
- 4. Kit of Parts Approach
- 5. Review of (3) Design Concepts in Detail
- 6. Discussion and Question Topics



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## COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Technical Advisory Committee Meetings - most recent 9/23/2019 Community Advisory Committee Meetings - most recent 10/29/2019

### Phase 1 (complete):

Phase 1 Engagement Survey Results
CAC's Priority Issues and Opportunities
Community Event #1 - 7/17/2019
Walking tours and meetings with community
and stakeholder groups
Concept Development Workshop - 8/6/2019







# **COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

### Phase 2 (in process):

Presentations to various community and stakeholder groups

Downtown Neighborhood Association - 12/3/2019

Portland Art Museum - 11/22/2019

Portland Business Alliance -11/19/2019

Meeting with PBOT - 11/13/2019

Friends of South Park Blocks - 11/12/2019

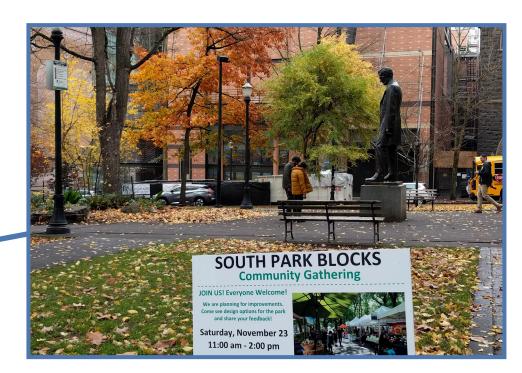
Parks Accessibility Advisory Committee - 11/7/2019

Community Event #2 - 11/23/2019 •

Historic Landmarks and Design Commissions Briefing - 12/5/2019 🔾

Phase 2 Engagement Survey - open through 12/31/2019

Urban Forestry Commission - 1/16/2020



We are here!

**Collect Ideas** *spring/summer 2019* 

**Review Options** *fall/winter 2019* 

**Complete Plan** *spring/summer2020* 

Your feedback will help us refine these concepts into a preferred park design that we will bring back to the community for comment next spring.

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# **COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

Select findings from Phase 1 Engagement Survey Results:

# Community Priorities? (top responses)

- 1. Safety
- 2. Landscaping
- 3. Trees
- 4. Pedestrian Movement
- 5. Park Pathways
- 6. Street Crossings



# What would you like to see more of in the South Park Blocks? (top responses)

- 1. Native plantings and habitat
- 2. Places for rest and quiet
- 3. Enjoy additional/more diverse public art
- 4. Cultural performances
- 5. Community event space



# Most important historic or iconic features? (top responses)

- 1. Trees
- 2. Planting areas
- 3. Pathway design
- 4. Type of landscaping
- 5. Statues, memorials, public art
- 6. Lighting
- 7. Plaza areas
- 8. Material types (pavement types)



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## **DESIGN OBJECTIVES**

- Celebrate the South Park Blocks identity through defining features in both the University and Cultural District.
- Prioritize inclusive design and equitable experiences for people with differing abilities and backgrounds.
- Enrich the park experience through cultural events, performing arts and visual arts.
- Provide periodic flexible use space for events, farmers markets, fairs, exhibits and live performances.
- Develop and expand specific program of appropriate elements or attractions.
- Consider methods to increase the sustainability and resiliency of park resources.
- Consider micro-climate and user comfort in all seasons.

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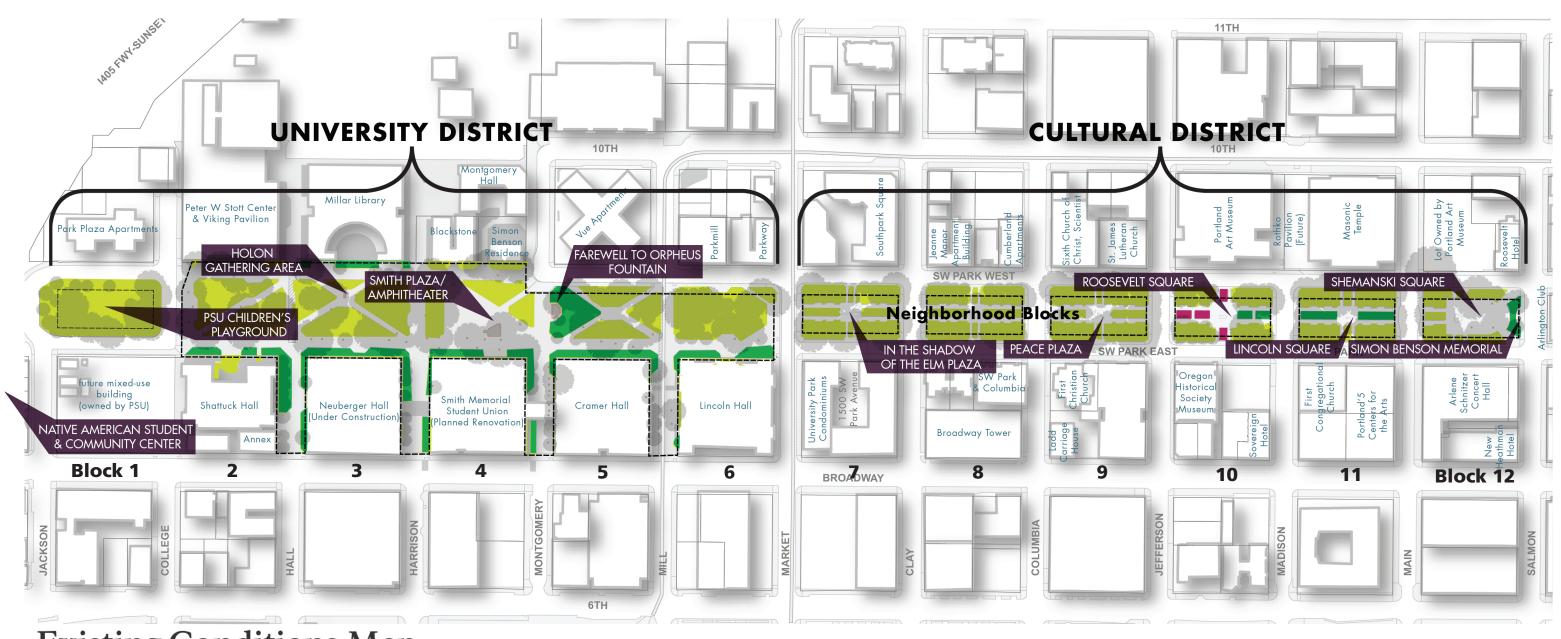


## **DESIGN OBJECTIVES**

- Preserve and improve wildlife habitat and urban forest canopy over time.
- Facilitate maintenance and operations efficiencies.
- Improve the physical and perception of public safety.
- Continue to work with partners to support each other and identify mutually beneficial opportunities.
- Consider the need for a large public gathering hub in times of emergency.
- Improve circulation and physical safety at streets and street crossings.
- Explore possible street closures.
- Support multi-modal connections and implementation of the Green Loop.
- Strengthen relationship with the Native American Student and Community Center.



# SITE ANALYSIS OVERVIEW



### **Existing Conditions Map**



Full Existing Tree Canopy (approx.)



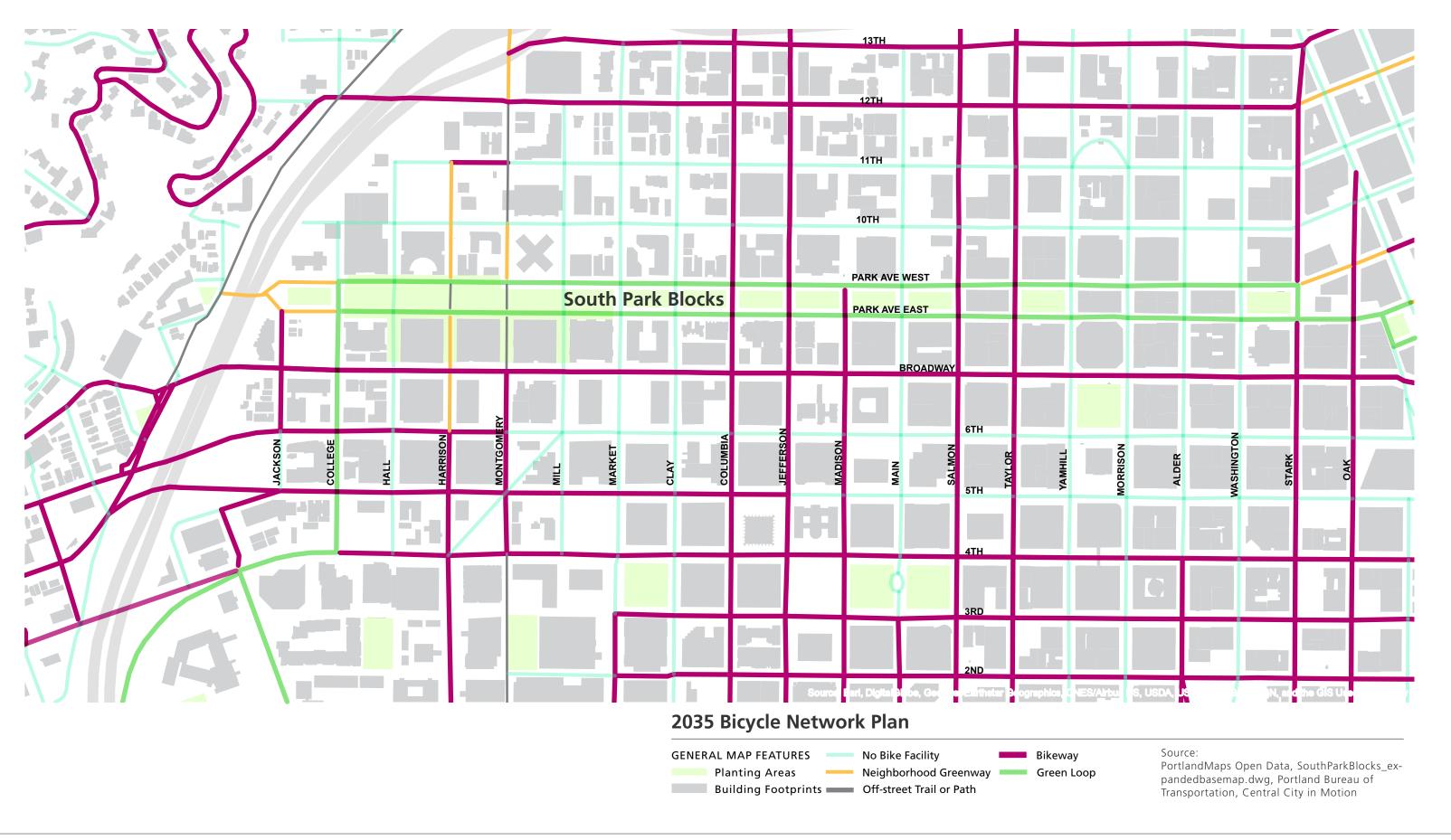
Native / Ornamental Mix Plant Bed

Rose Bed

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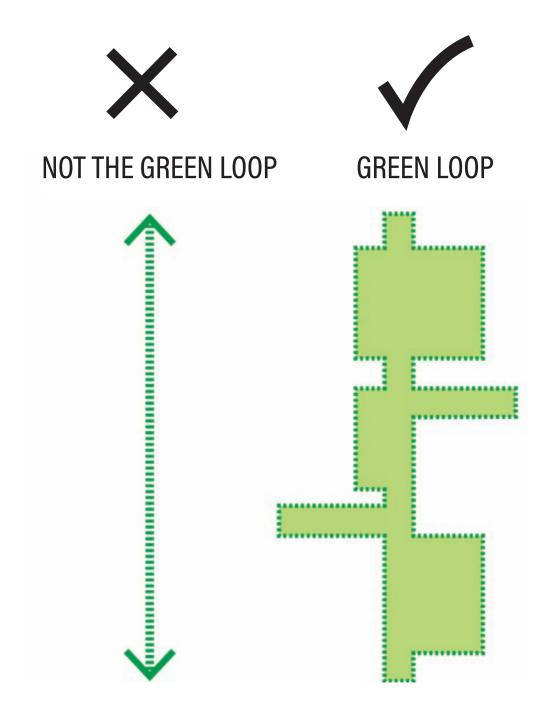




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# GREEN LOOP CHARACTER IN THE SOUTH PARK BLOCKS





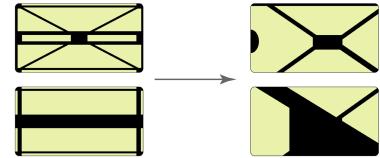




# CIRCULATION PATTERNS OVER TIME

**University District Character** 

c.1950 Current

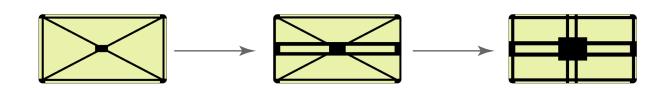


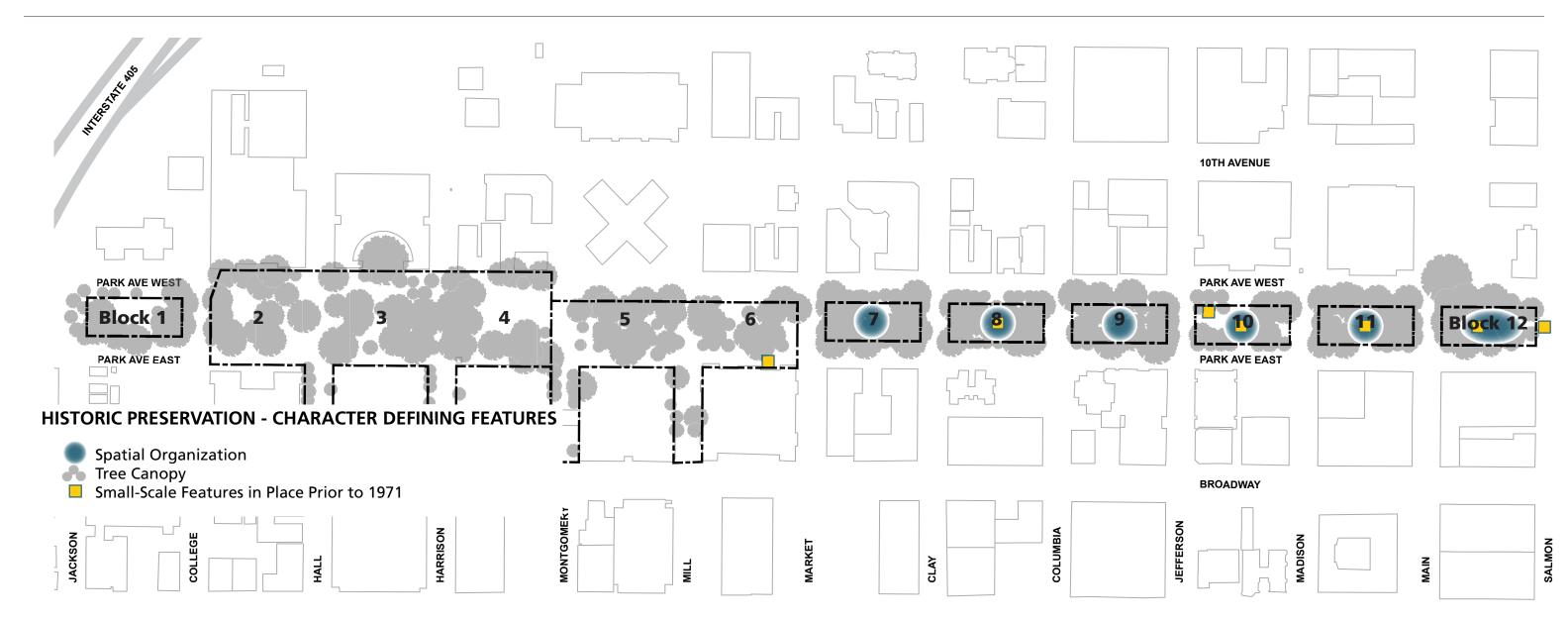
**Cultural District Character** 

Early 20th Century

c.1950

Current





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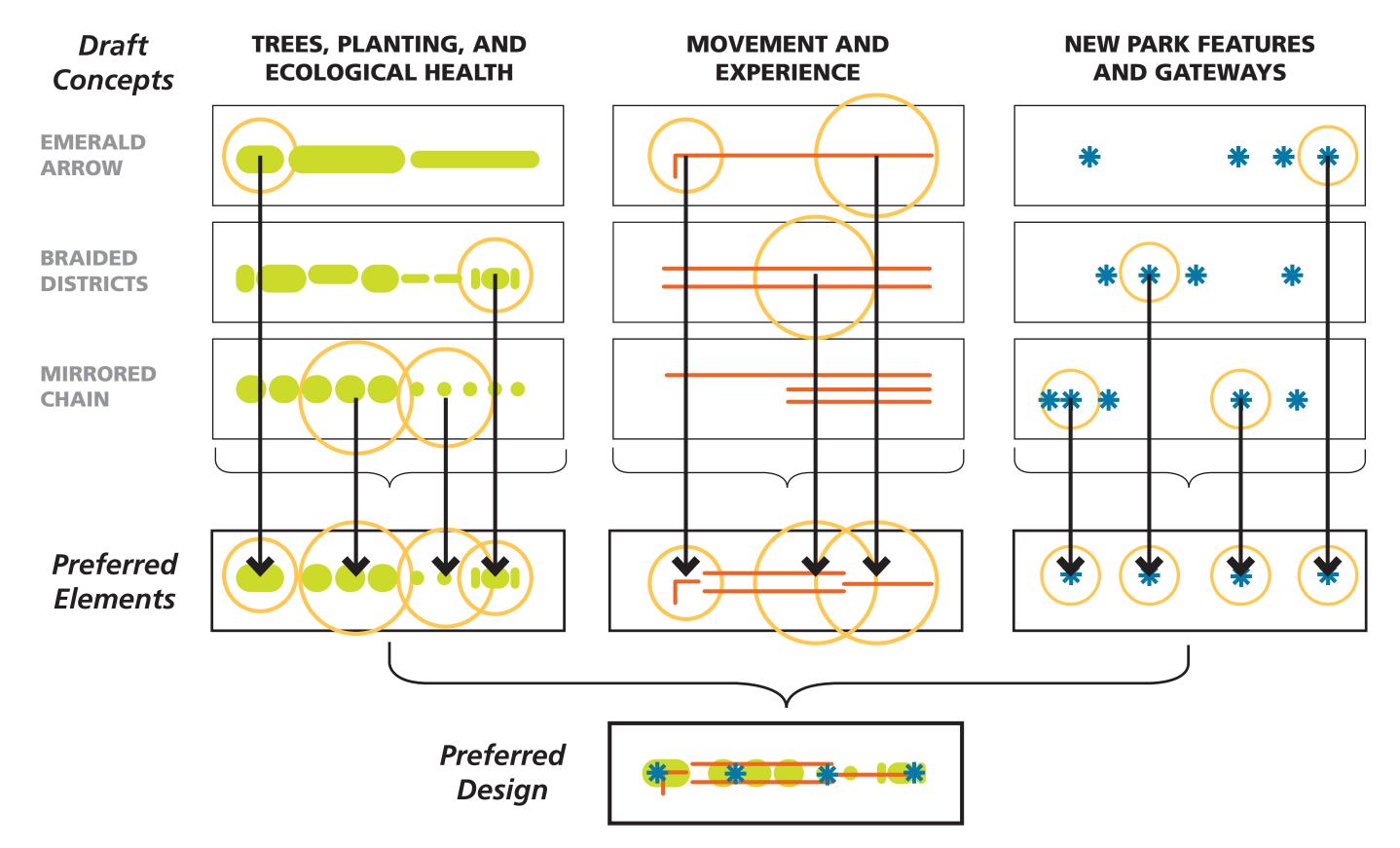
#### TREE CANOPY CHARACTER



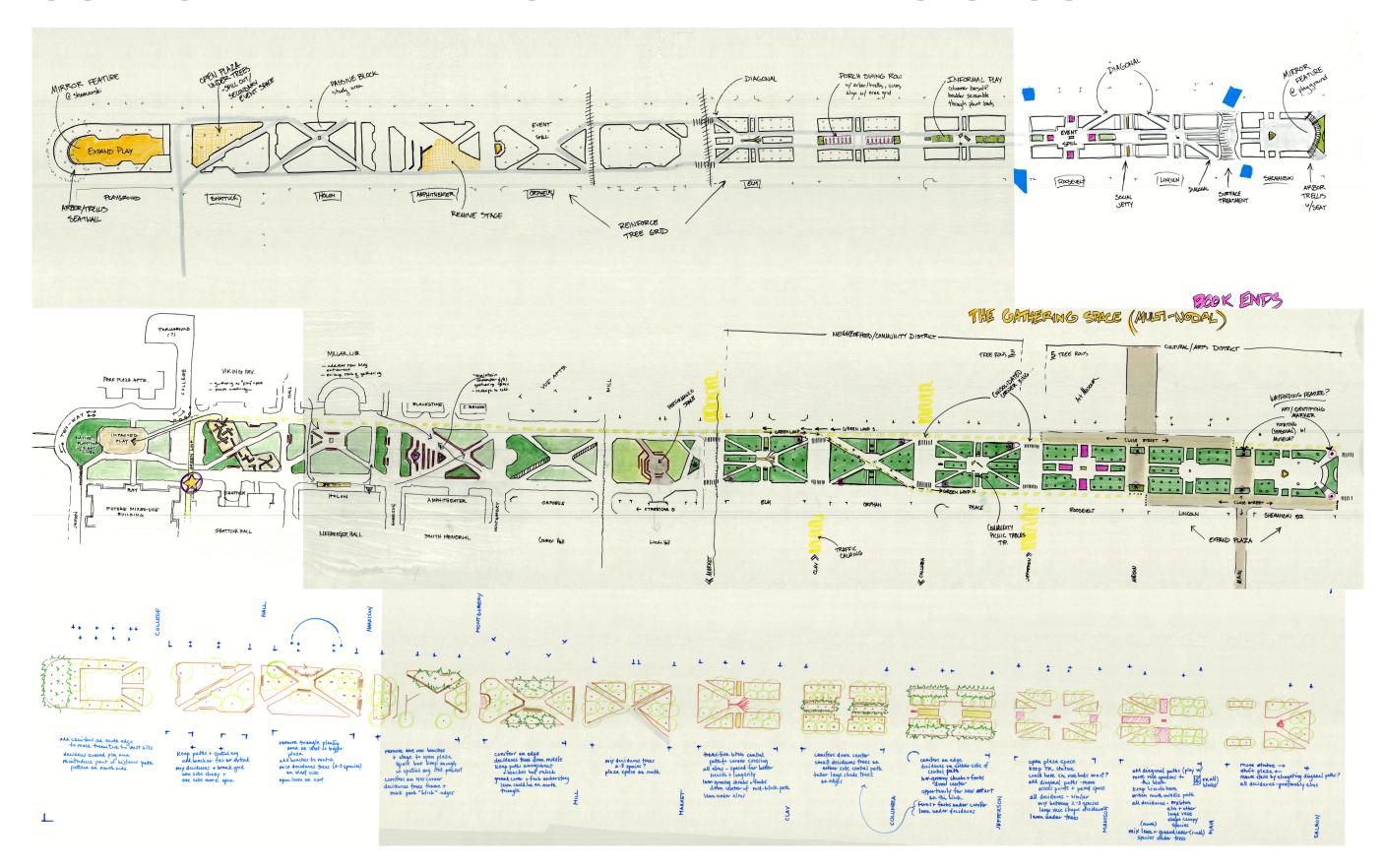
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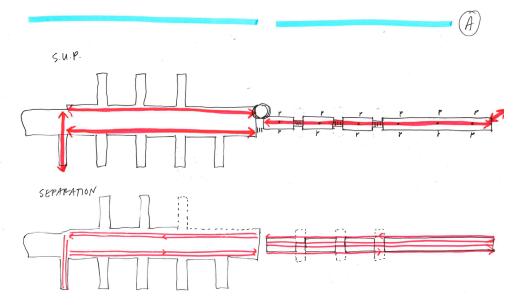
# KIT OF PARTS APPROACH

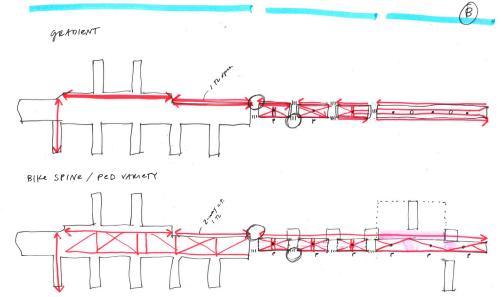


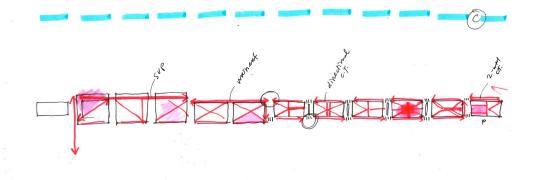
# **CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT - PROCESS**



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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 endpoints
Street Treatments	Tabled intersections and closed streets
Focal Points	Added/Existing art and fountains, renovated Smith Amphitheater
Green Loop	Perimeter along Park Ave West

# EMERALD ARROW CONCEPT ELEMENTS

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SPATIAL PATTERN

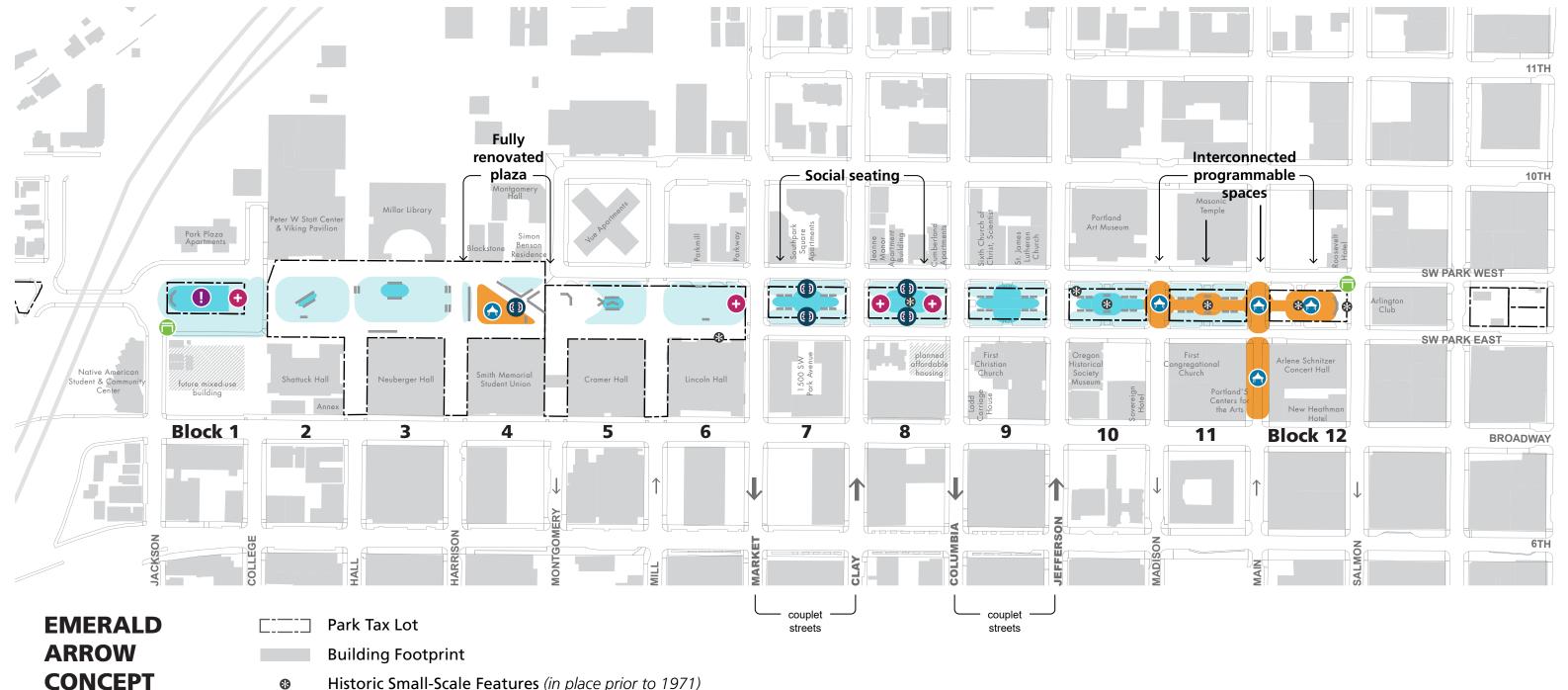
**UNIVERSITY DISTRICT** 

**CULTURAL DISTRICT** 

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# **CONCEPT**

**NEW PARK FEATURES AND GATEWAYS** 

Historic Small-Scale Features (in place prior to 1971)

**Programmable Gathering Space** (larger events)

Small / Informal Gathering Space

Flexible Open Space (turf)

Programmable Space (event location)

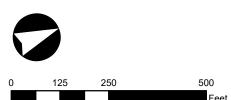
**①** New Small-Scale Feature / Art Installation

Interactive / Play Feature

**Gateway Feature** 

**Bench Seating** 

**Social Seating** 





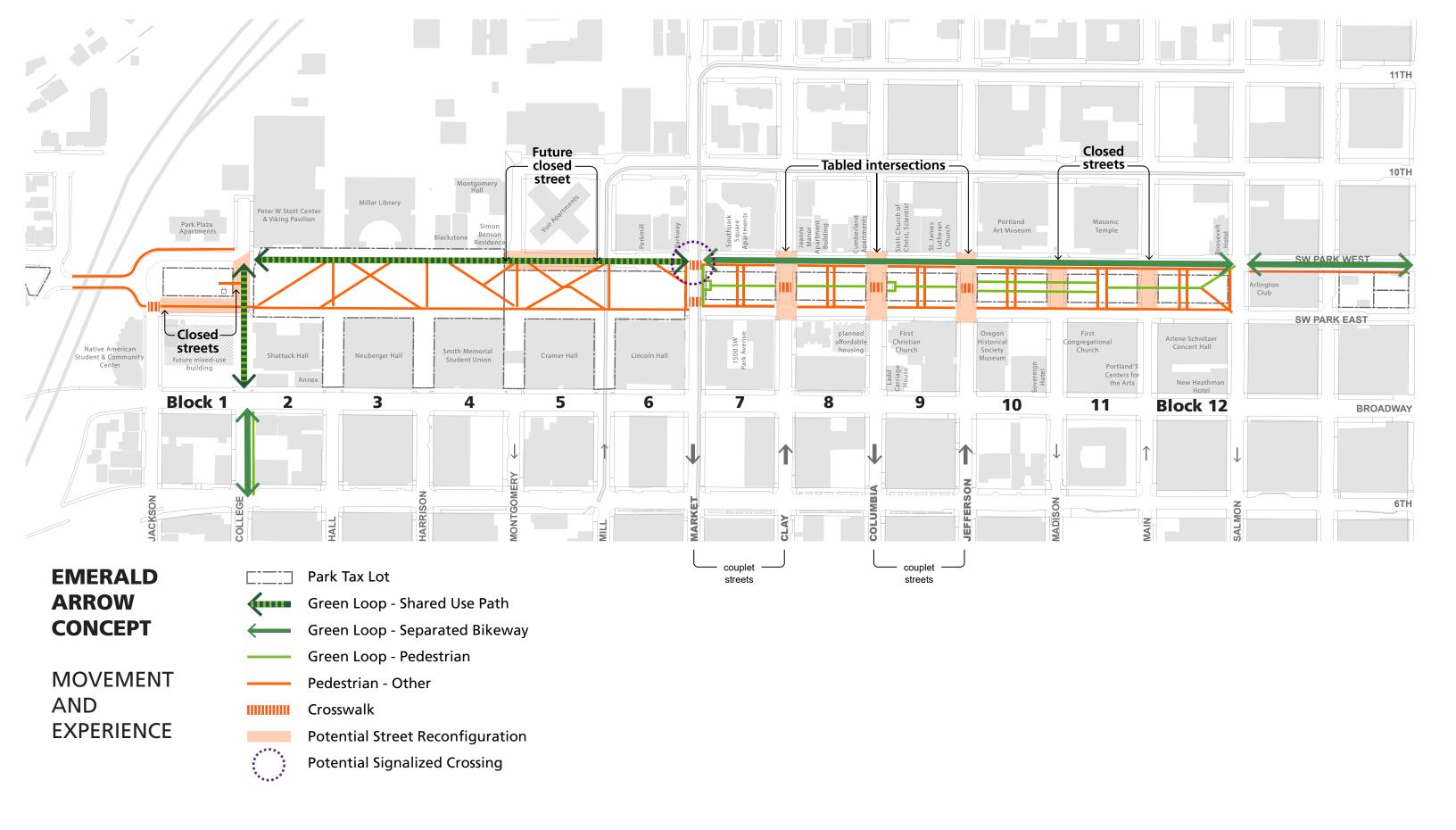






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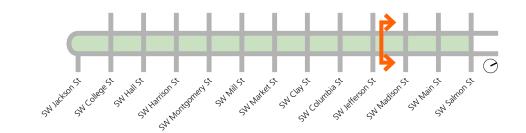


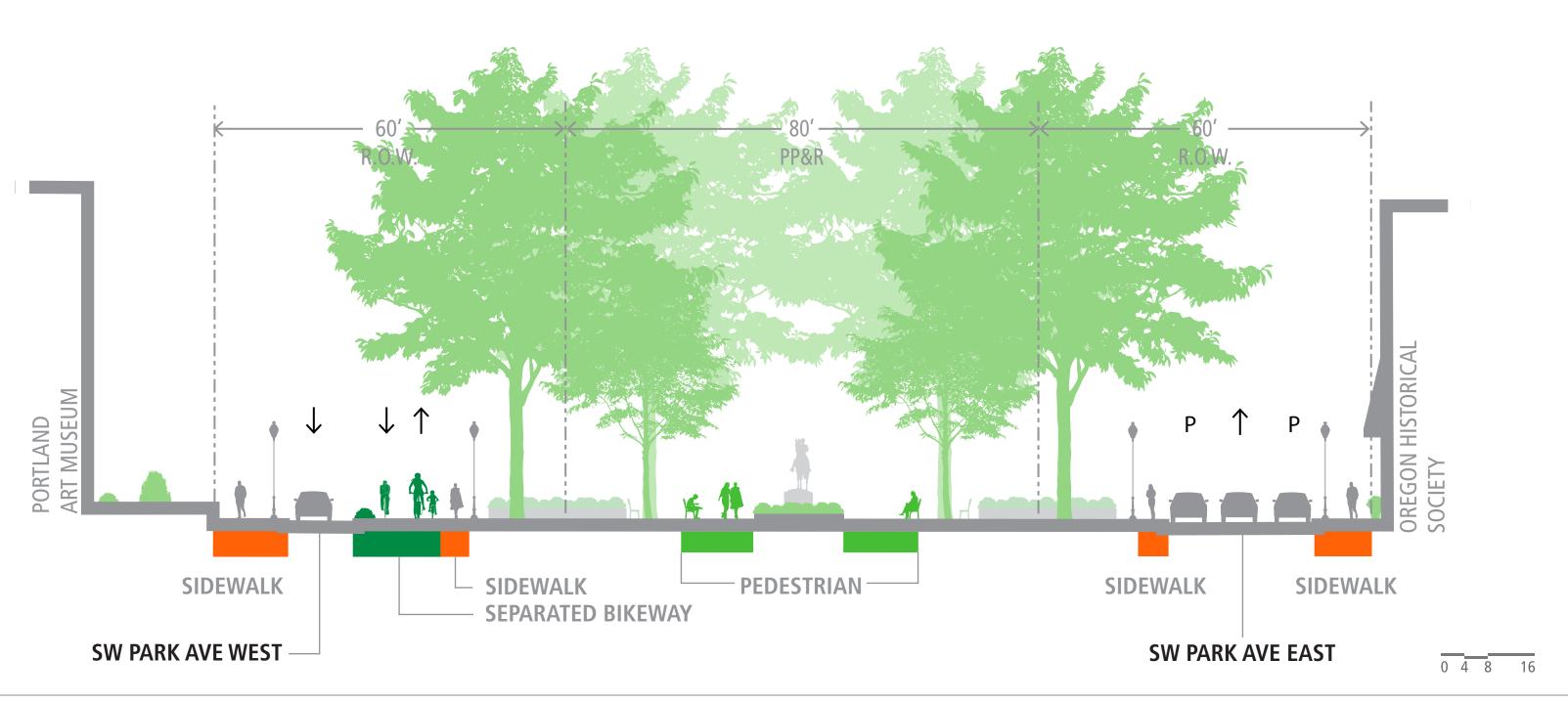
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#### **EMERALD ARROW CONCEPT**

SW Hall St





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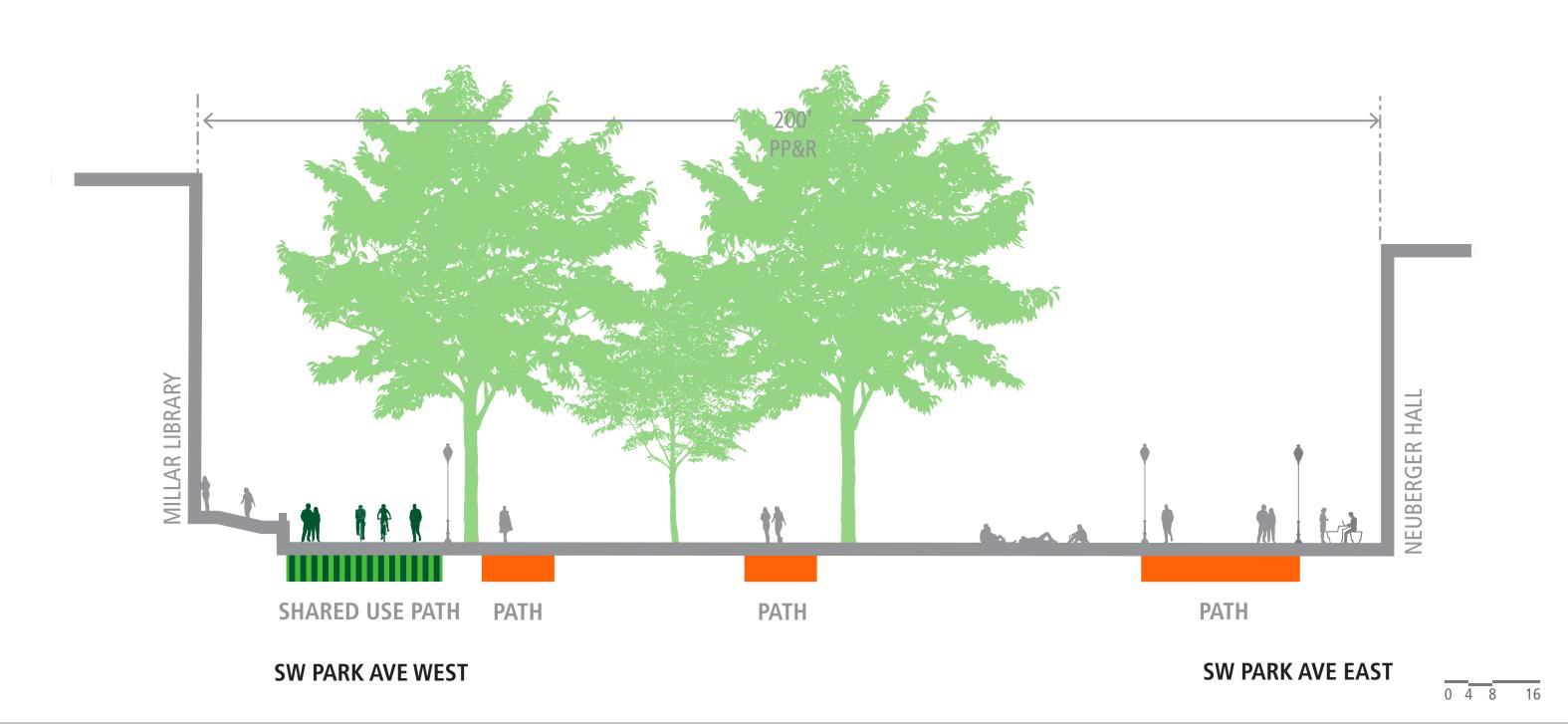
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#### **EMERALD ARROW CONCEPT**

SW Hall St





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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

# BRAIDED DISTRICTS CONCEPT ELEMENTS

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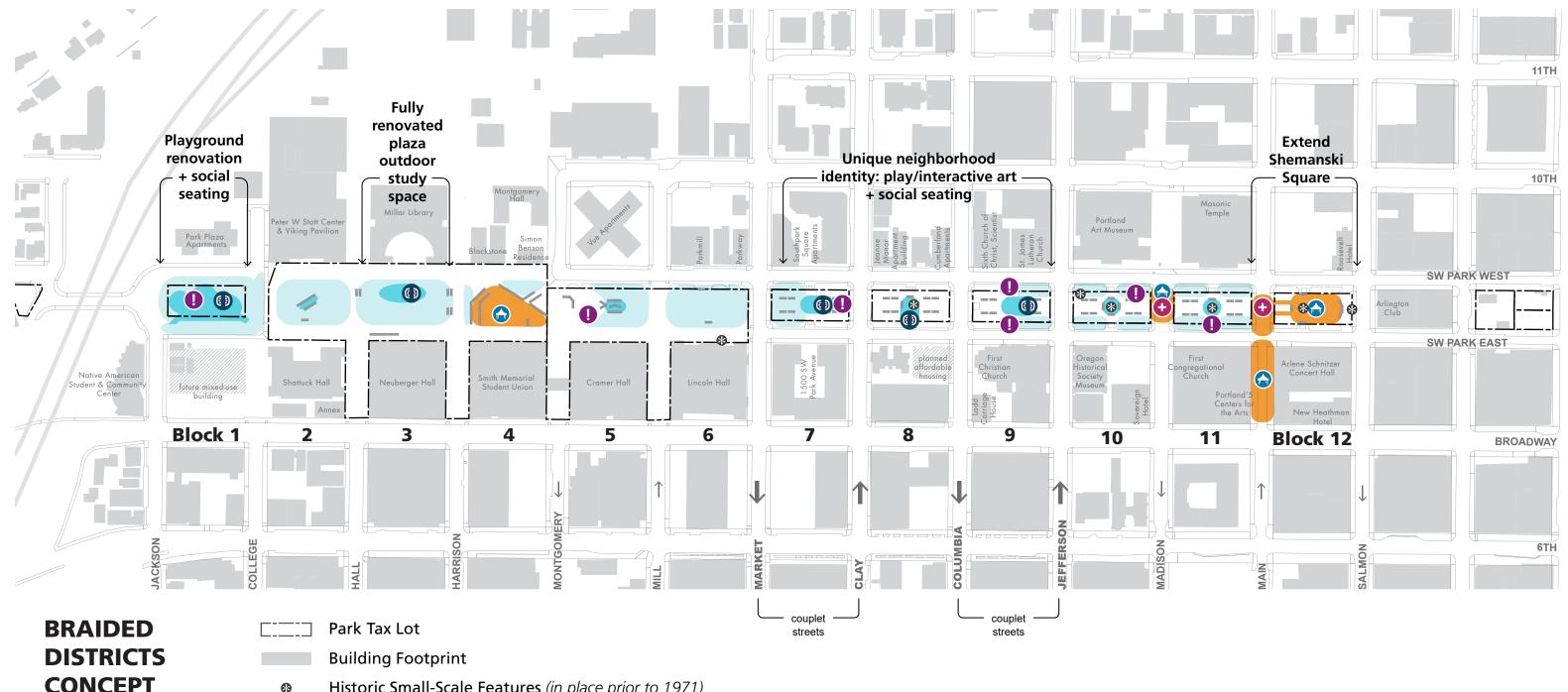
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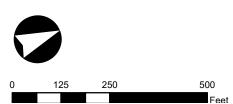
• New Small-Scale Feature / Art Installation

Interactive / Play Feature

**Gateway Feature** 

**Bench Seating** 

**Social Seating** 





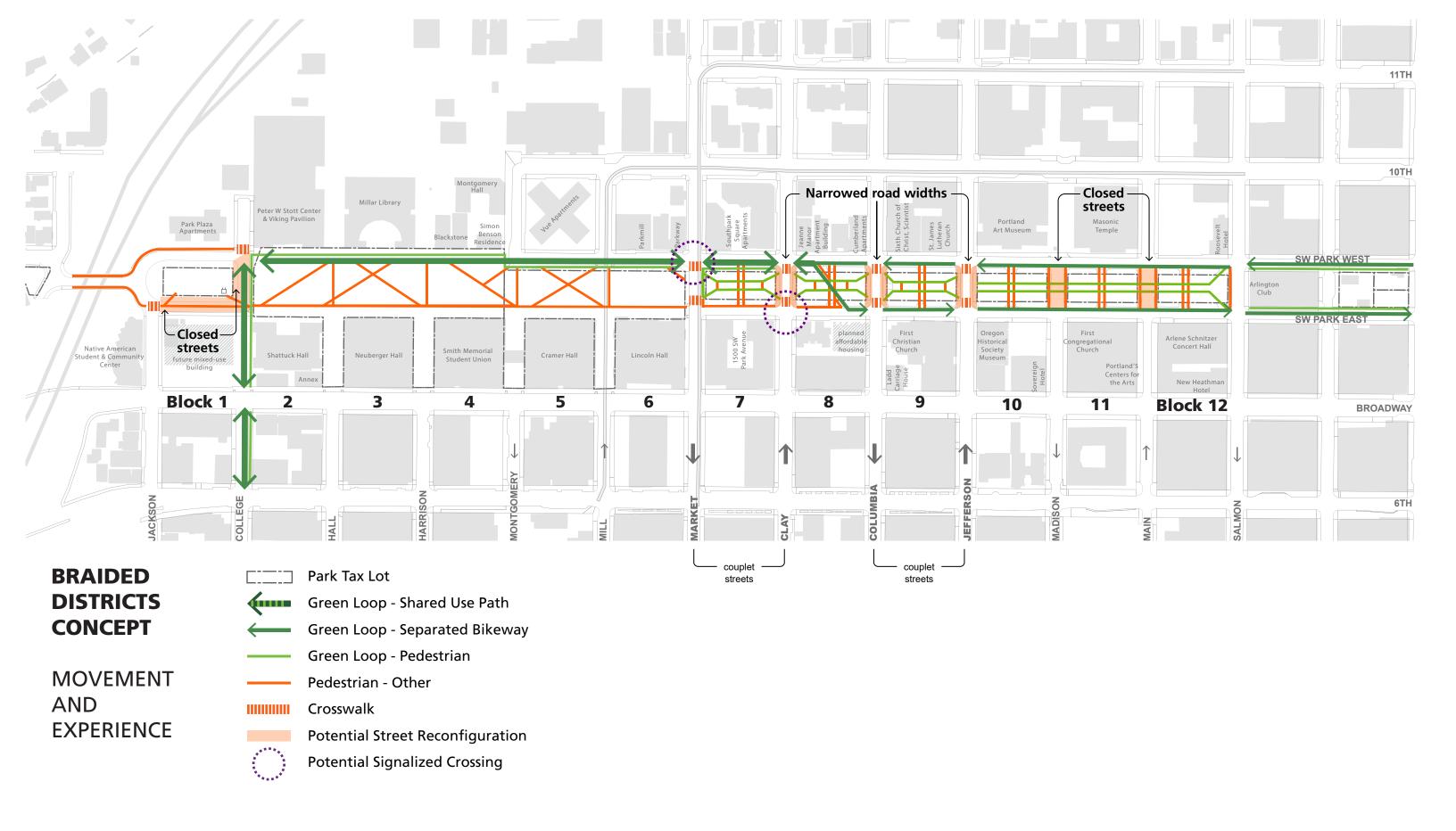






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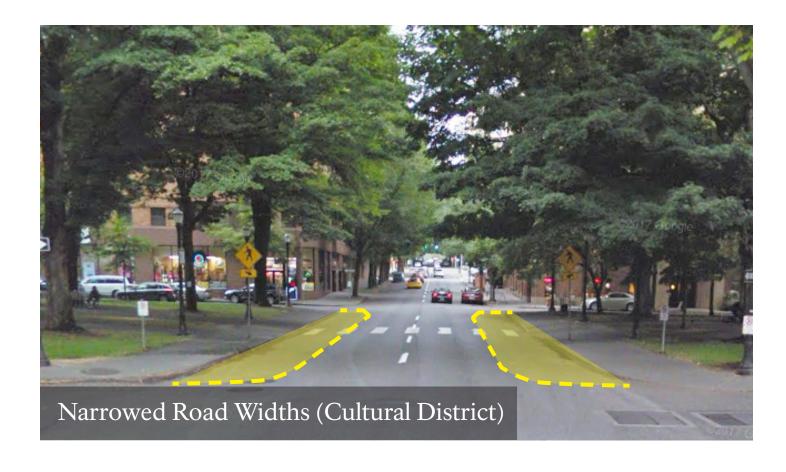


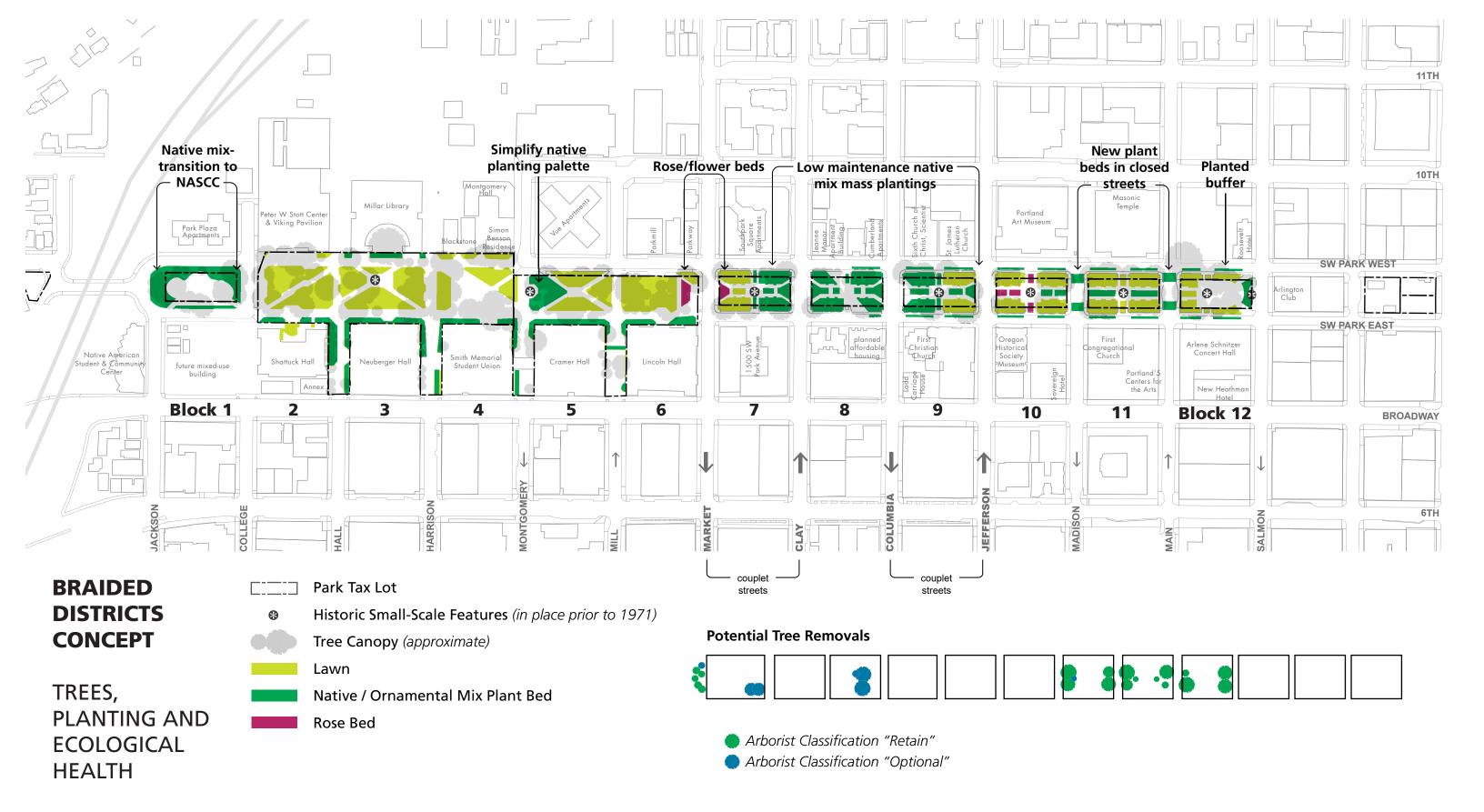


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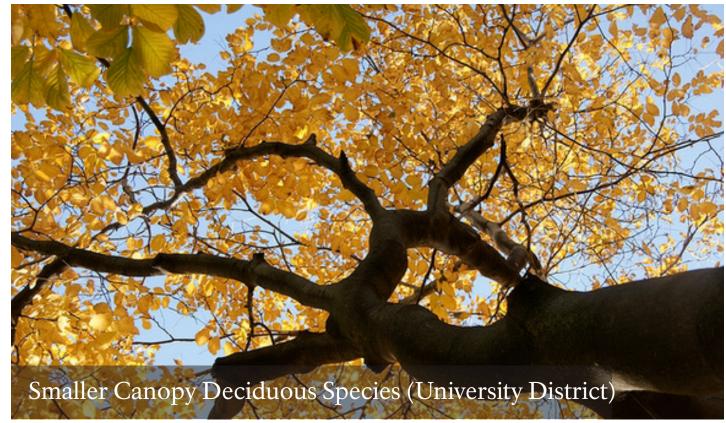




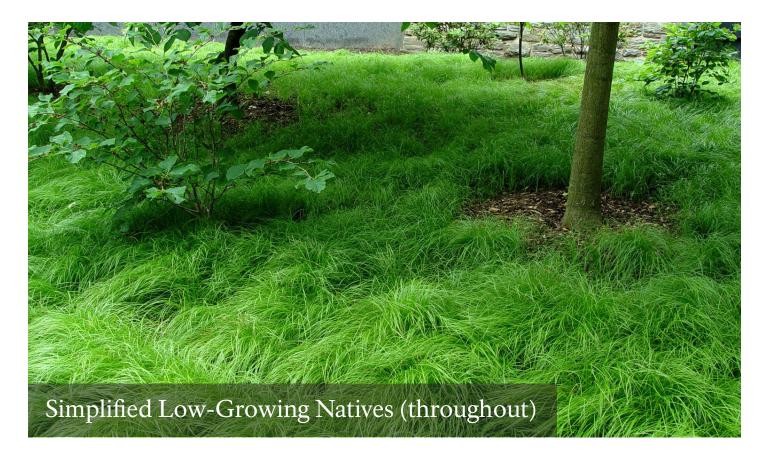




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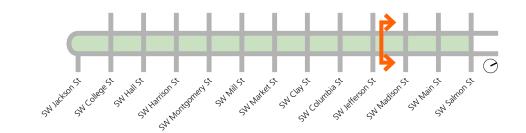




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**SW Hall St** 





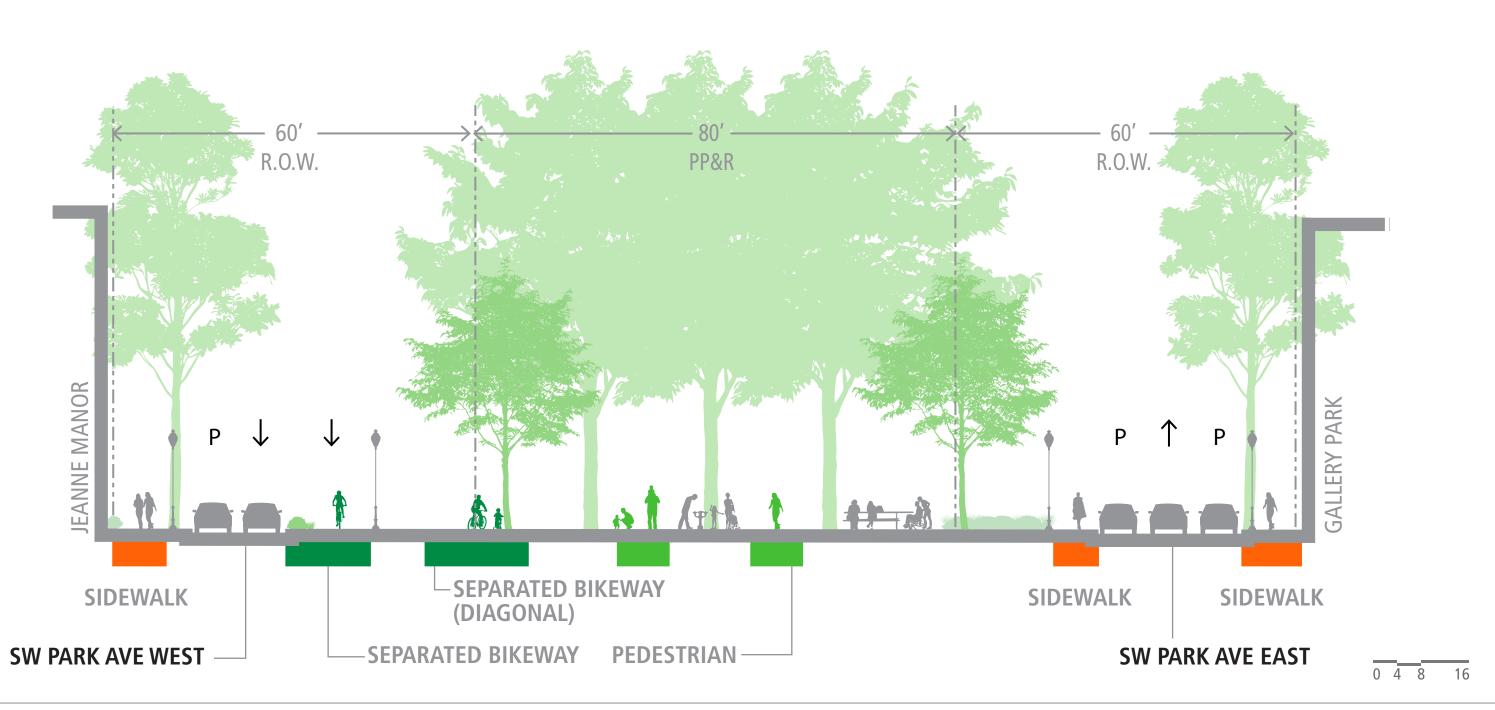
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**SW Hall St** 



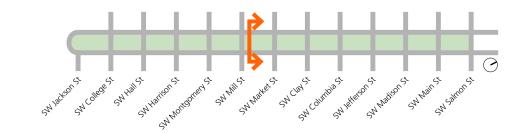


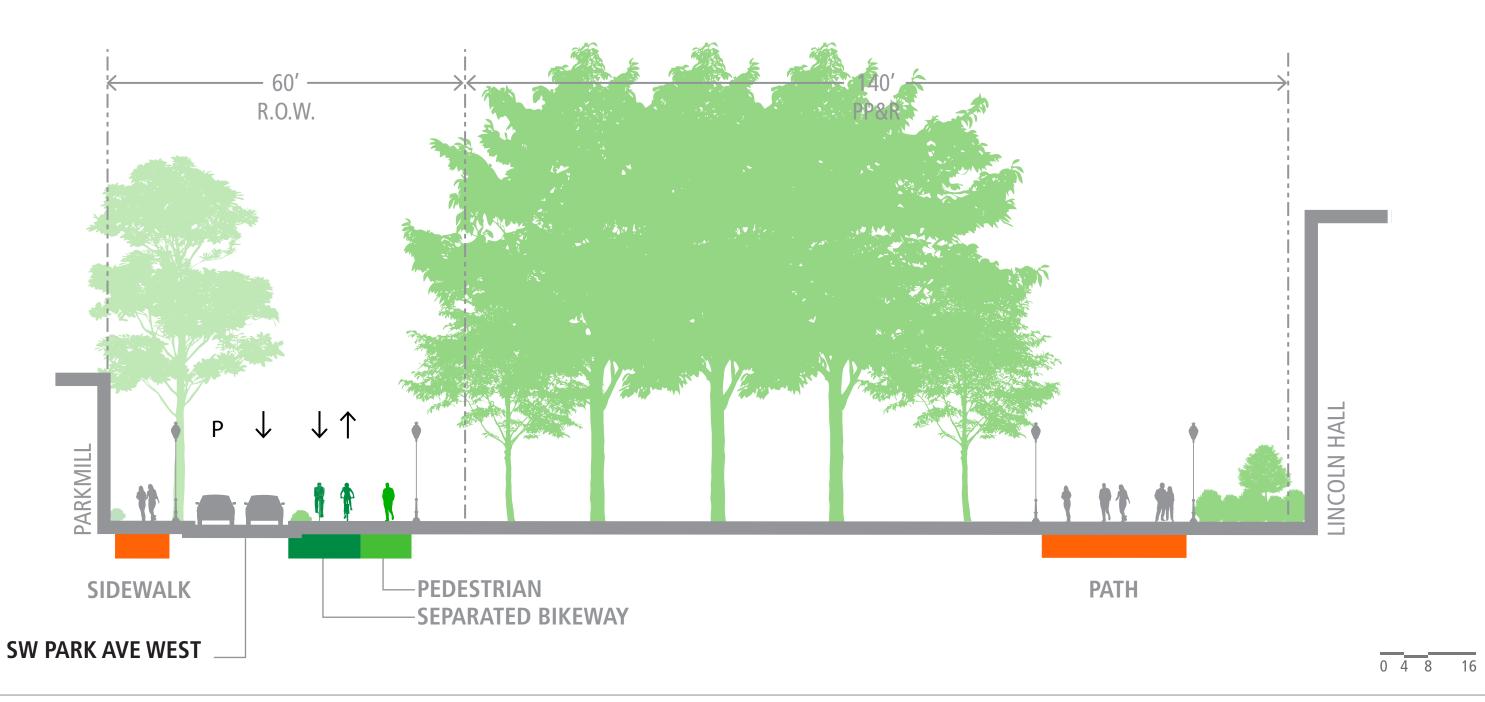
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SW Hall St

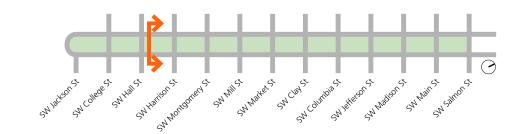


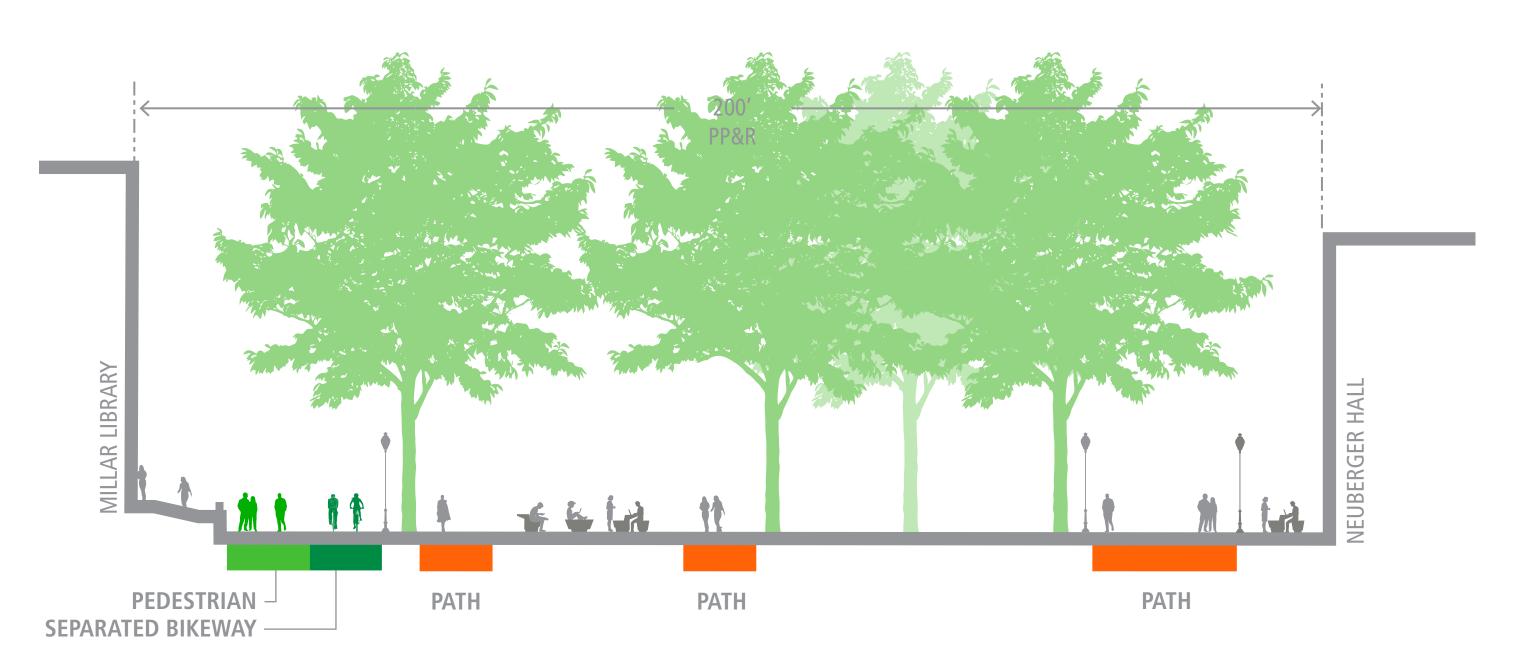


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Elements			
Spatial Organization	Block by block, responsive to immediate context		
Pedestrian Experience	Diagonal "X" pattern		
Trees	Diverse canopy with conifers - biodiversity		
Planting	Reconfigure to Diagonal Planters		
Art	Added to Cultural District 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		

# MIRRORED CHAIN CONCEPT ELEMENTS

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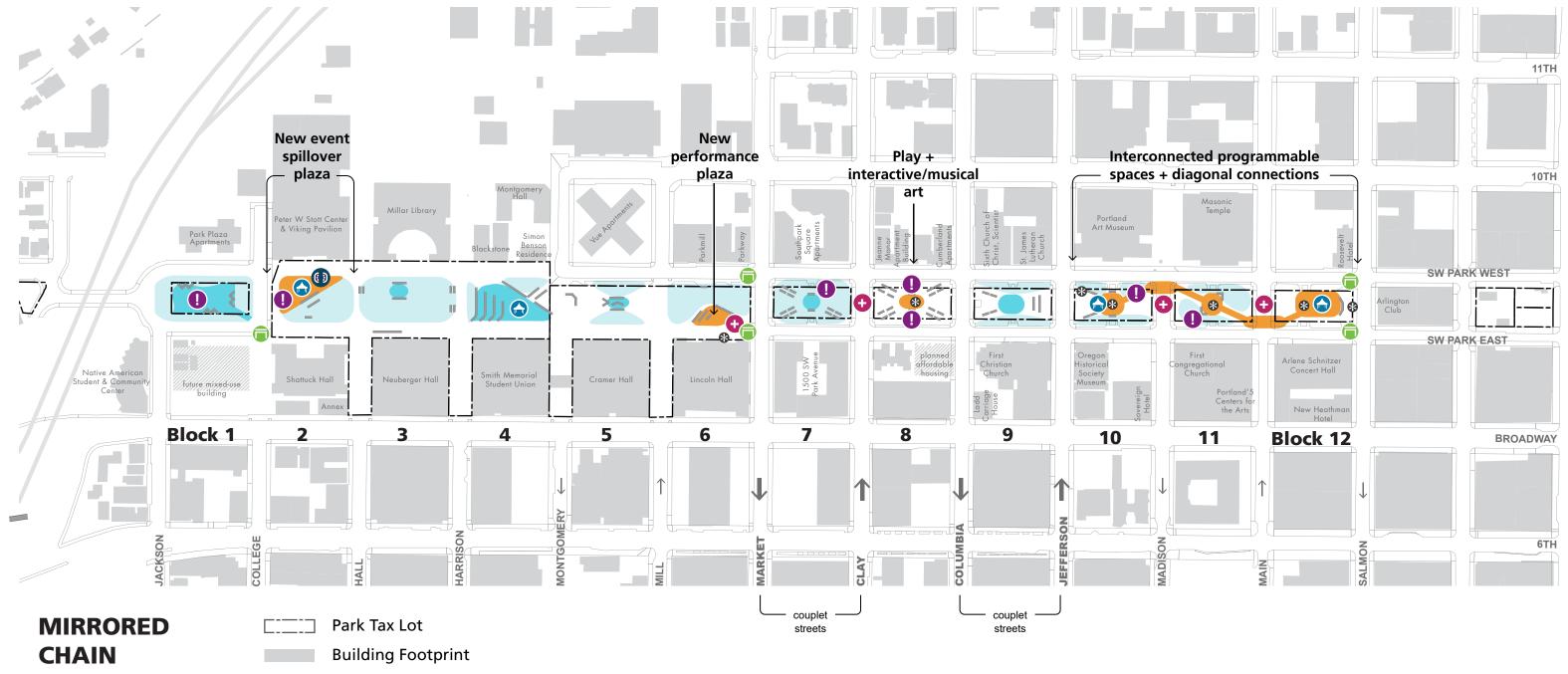
SPATIAL PATTERN

**INDIVIDUAL BLOCKS** 

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**Bench Seating** 

**Social Seating** 





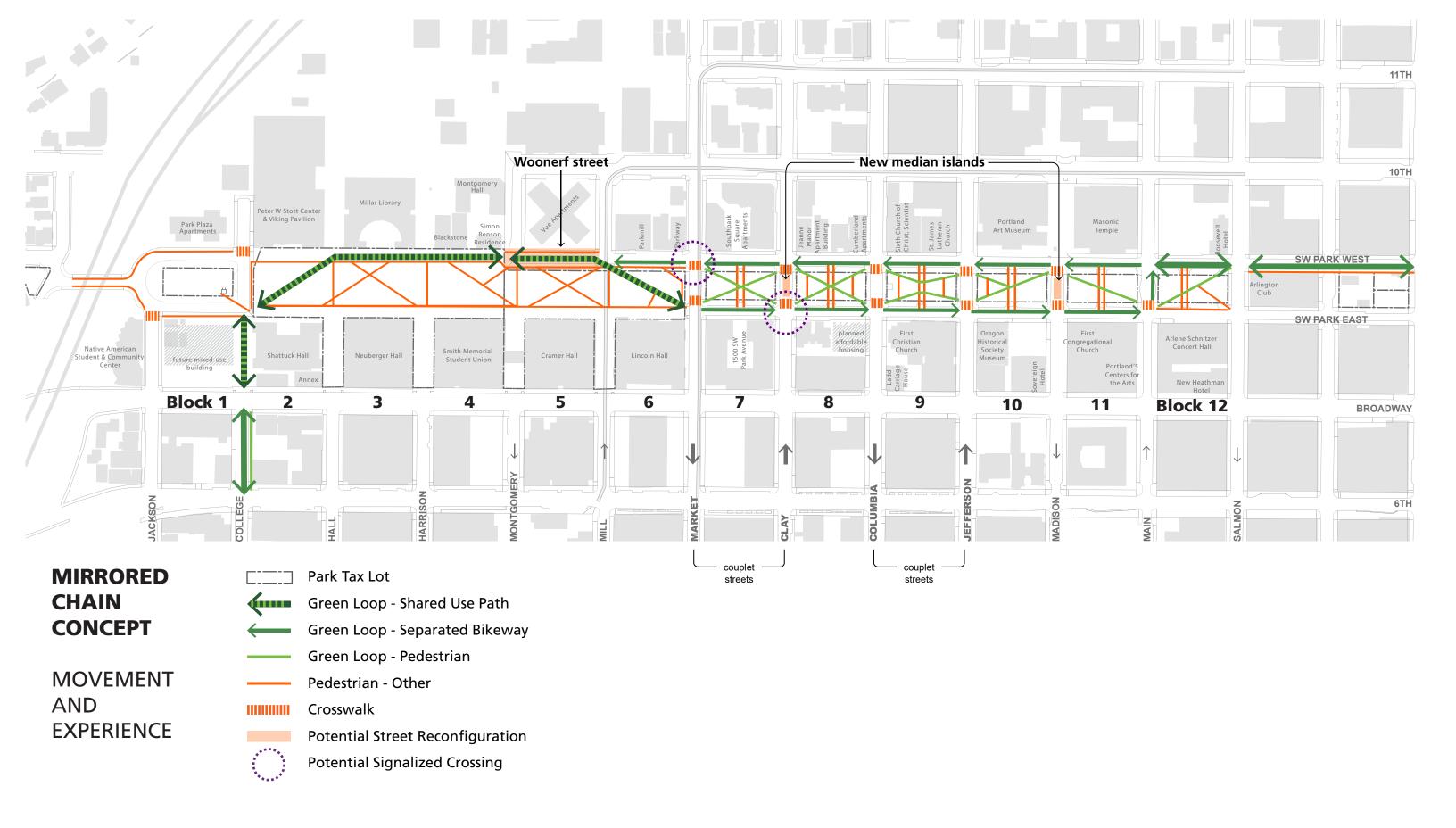






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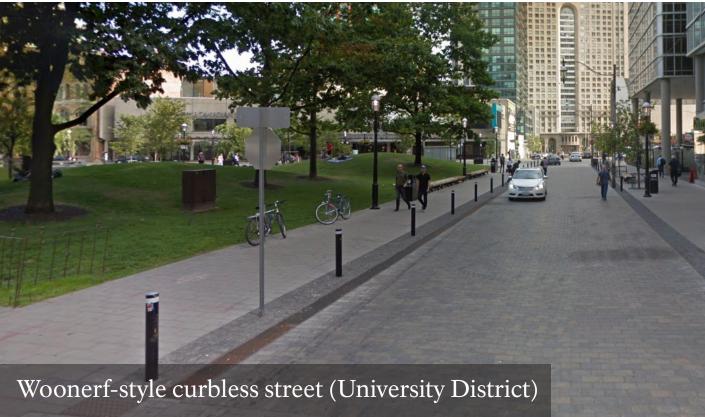




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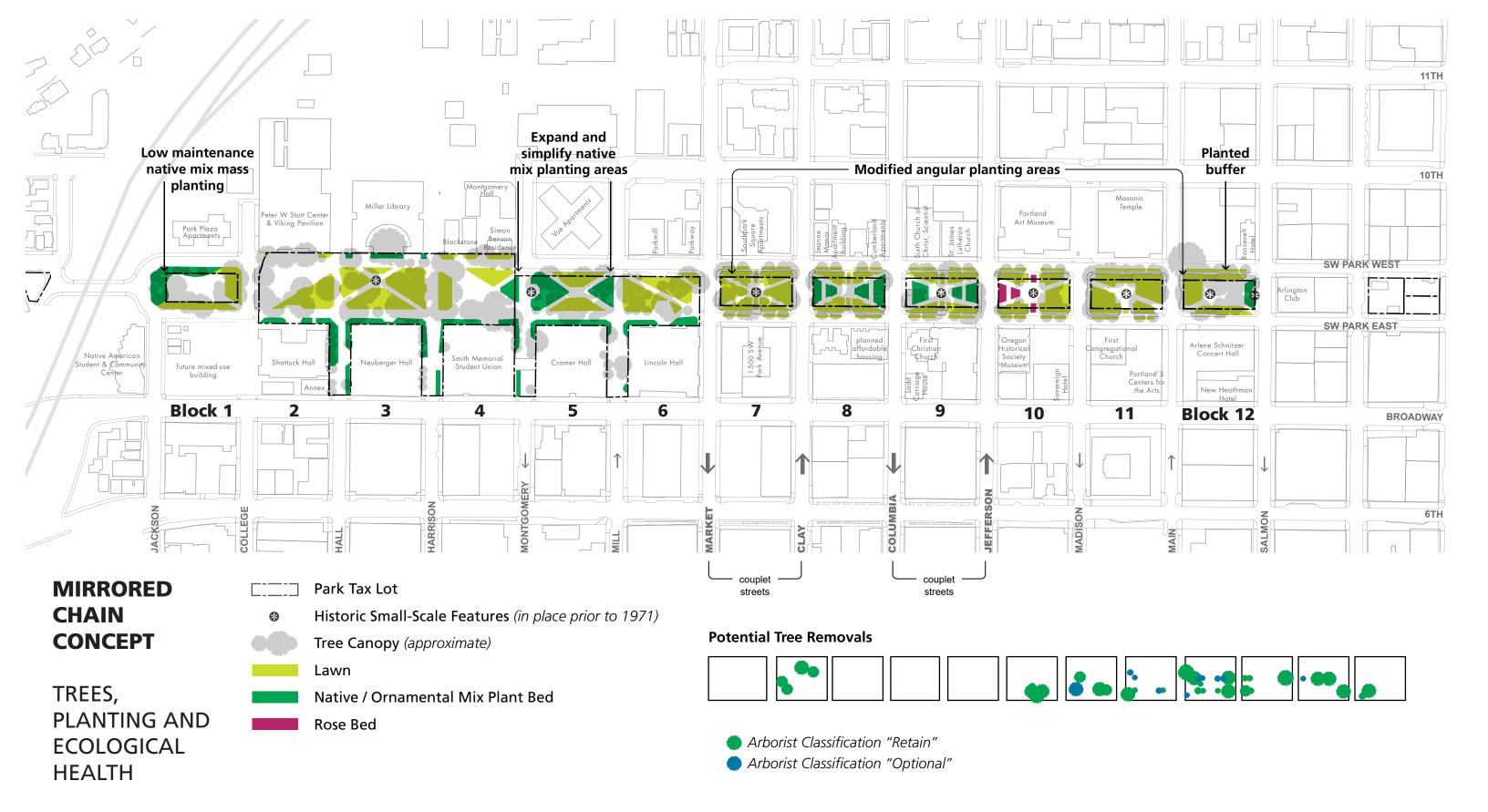




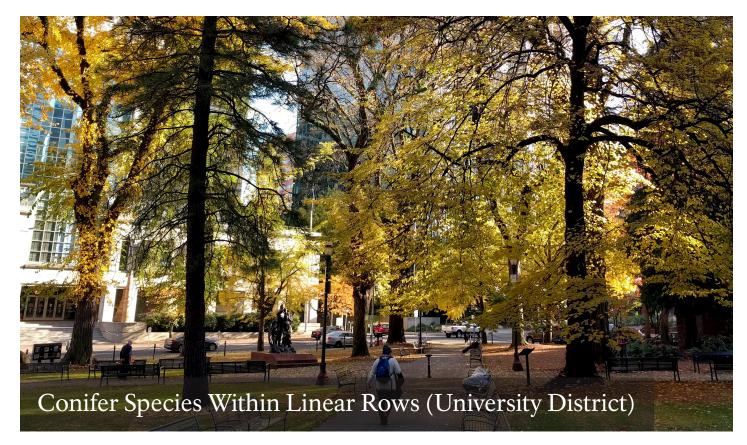


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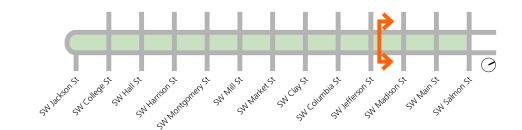


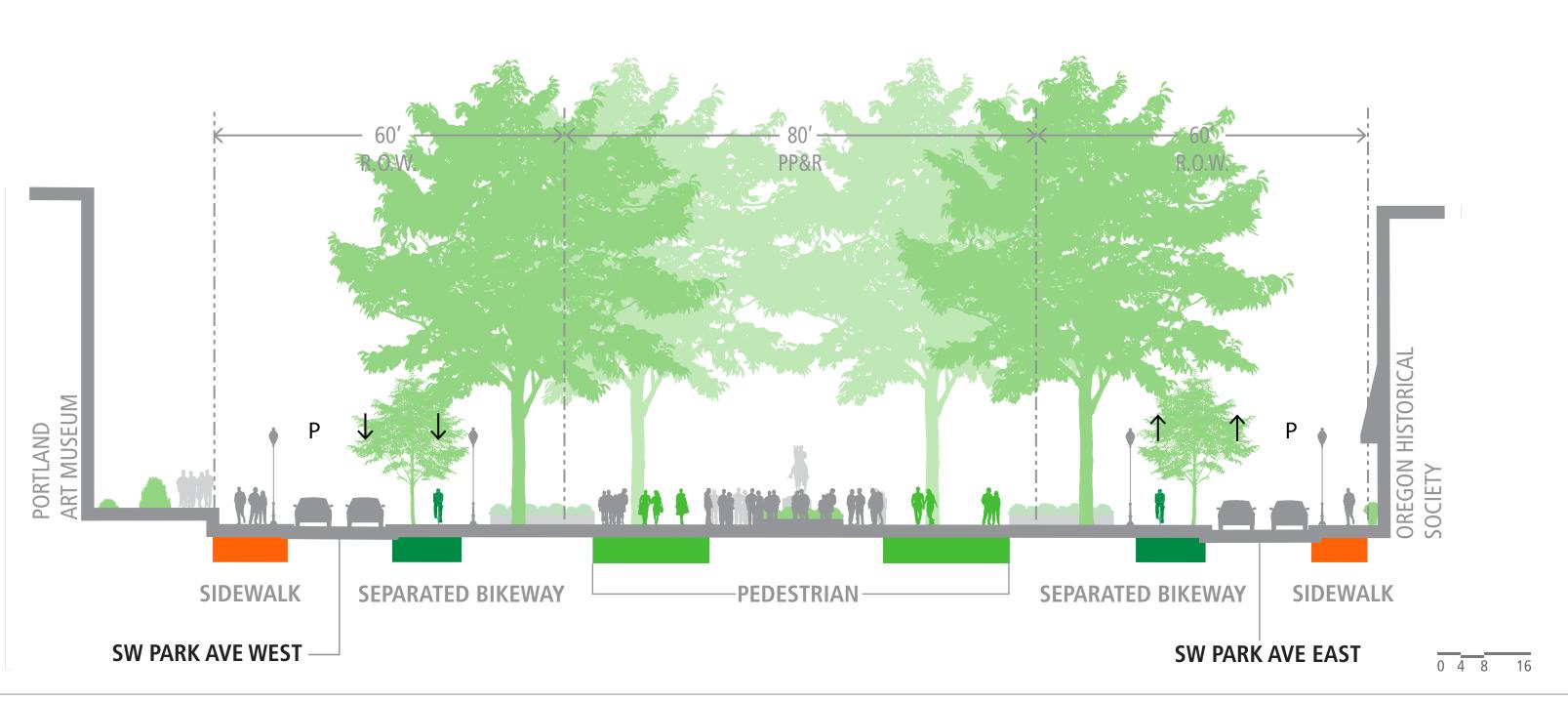
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#### MIRRORED CHAIN CONCEPT

**SW Jefferson St** 





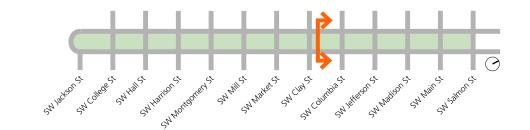
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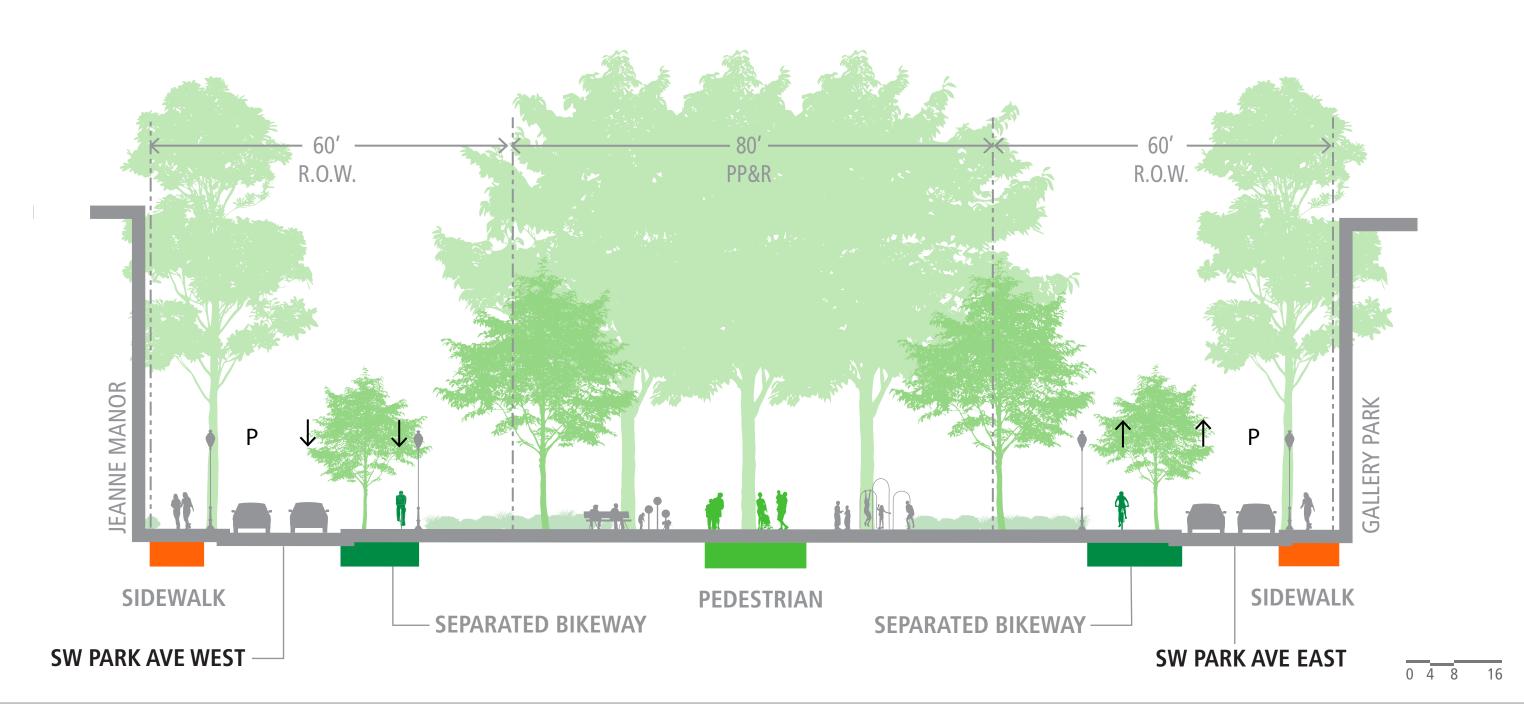
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#### **MIRRORED CHAIN CONCEPT**

**SW Jefferson St** 





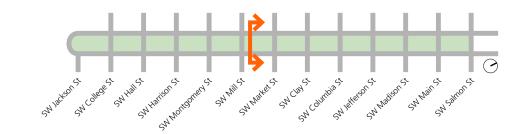
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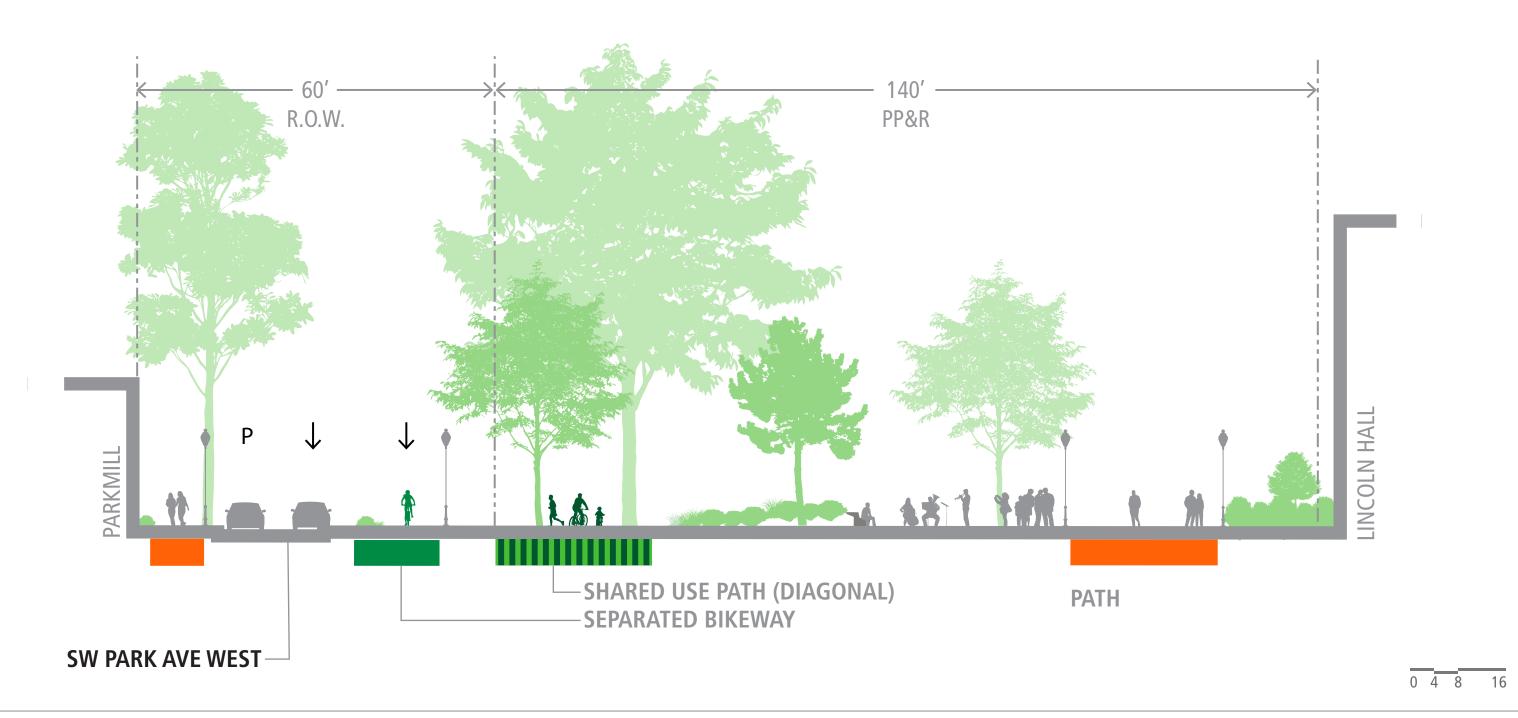
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#### **MIRRORED CHAIN CONCEPT**

**SW Jefferson St** 





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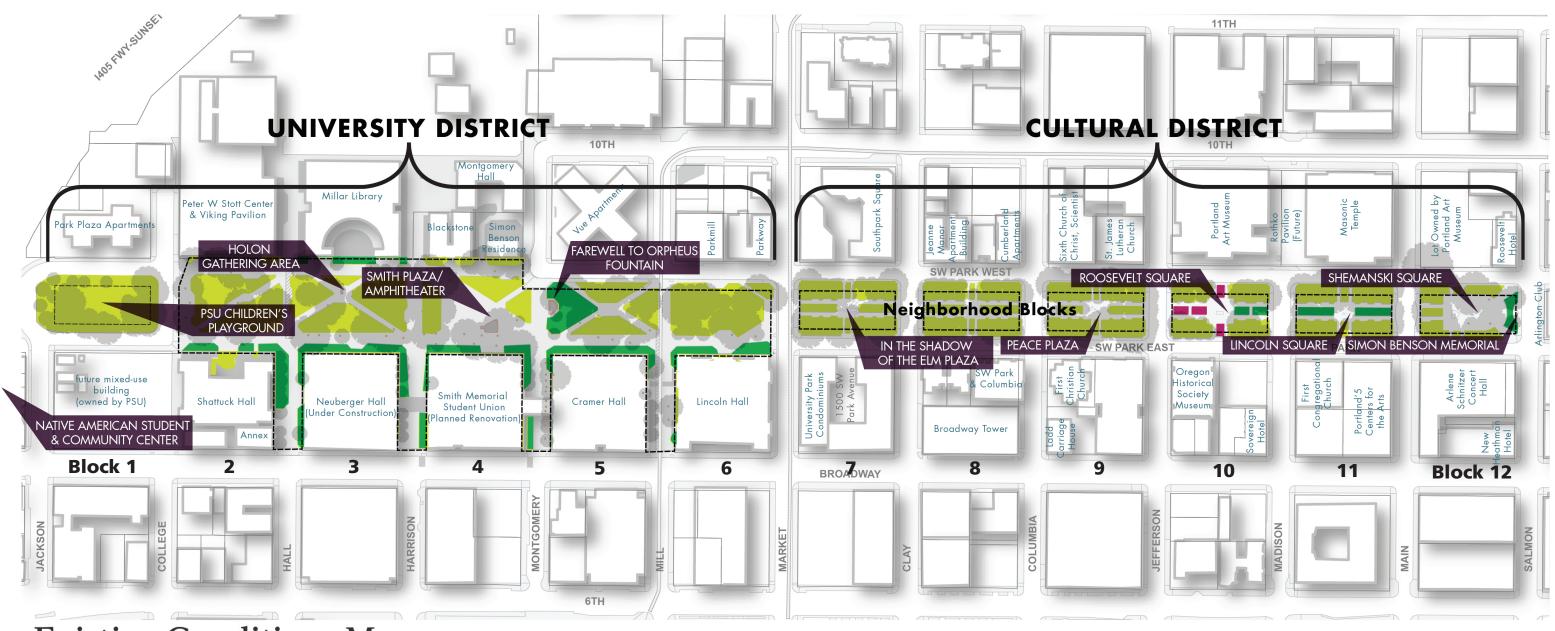
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### **Discussion and question topics for the Commissioners:**

- 1. Trees as a Primary Character-Defining Feature: approach to urban forestry and tree replacement
- 2. Planting: changes to planting and turf areas, native planting proposals
- 3. Activation: value of park programming on certain blocks
- 4. Activation: proposal of some partial street closures for programming
- 5. Pedestrian Circulation: diagonal pathways versus orthogonal walkways with midblock crossings
- 6. Use of Public Open Space: removal of some parking on the Park Blocks
- 7. Compatibility of Modes: designation of pedestrian versus cyclist pathways
- 8. Compatibility of renovated plaza spaces, potential structures, and historic eligibility





#### **Existing Conditions Map**



Full Existing Tree Canopy (approx.)



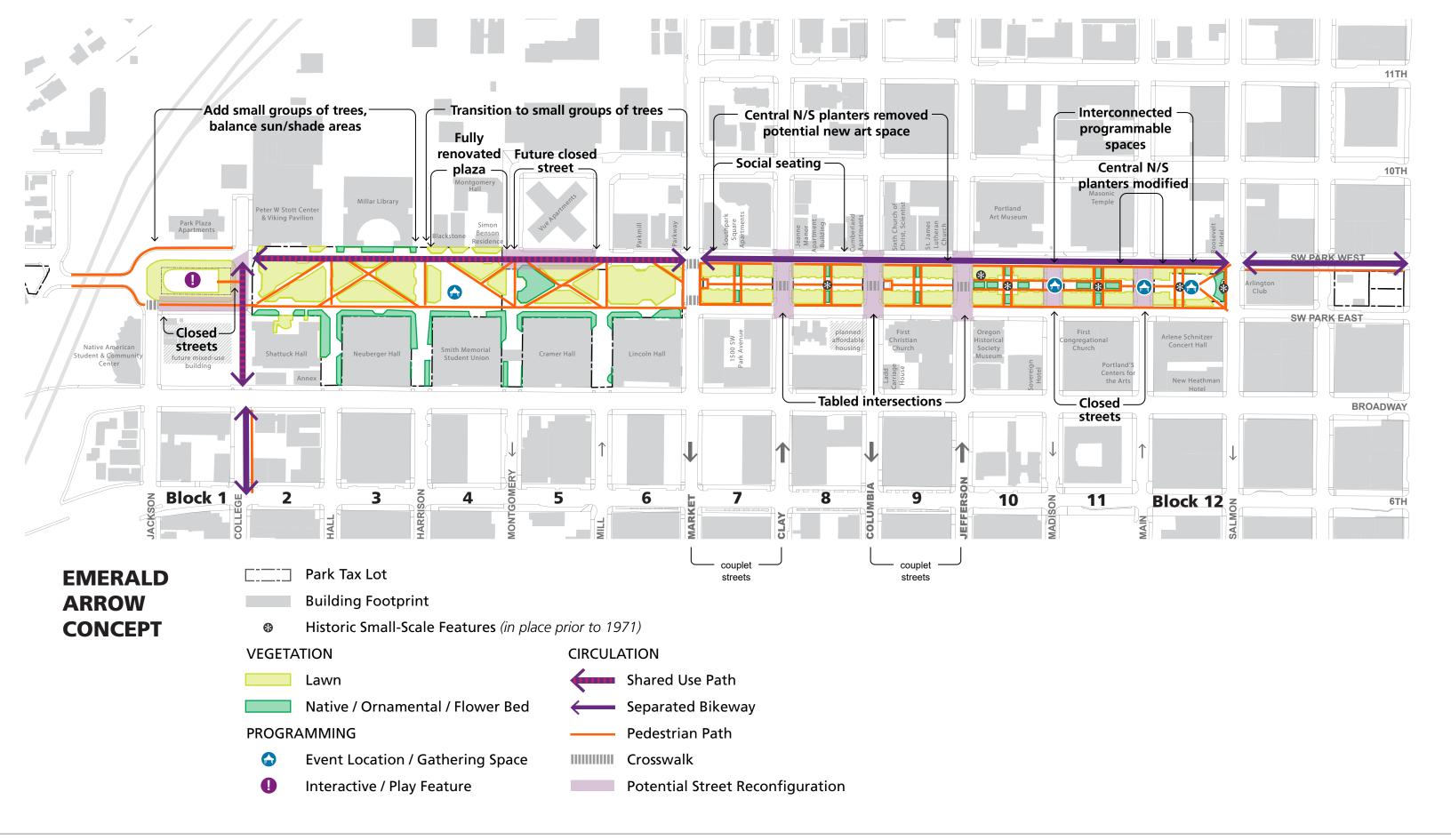
Native / Ornamental Mix Plant Bed



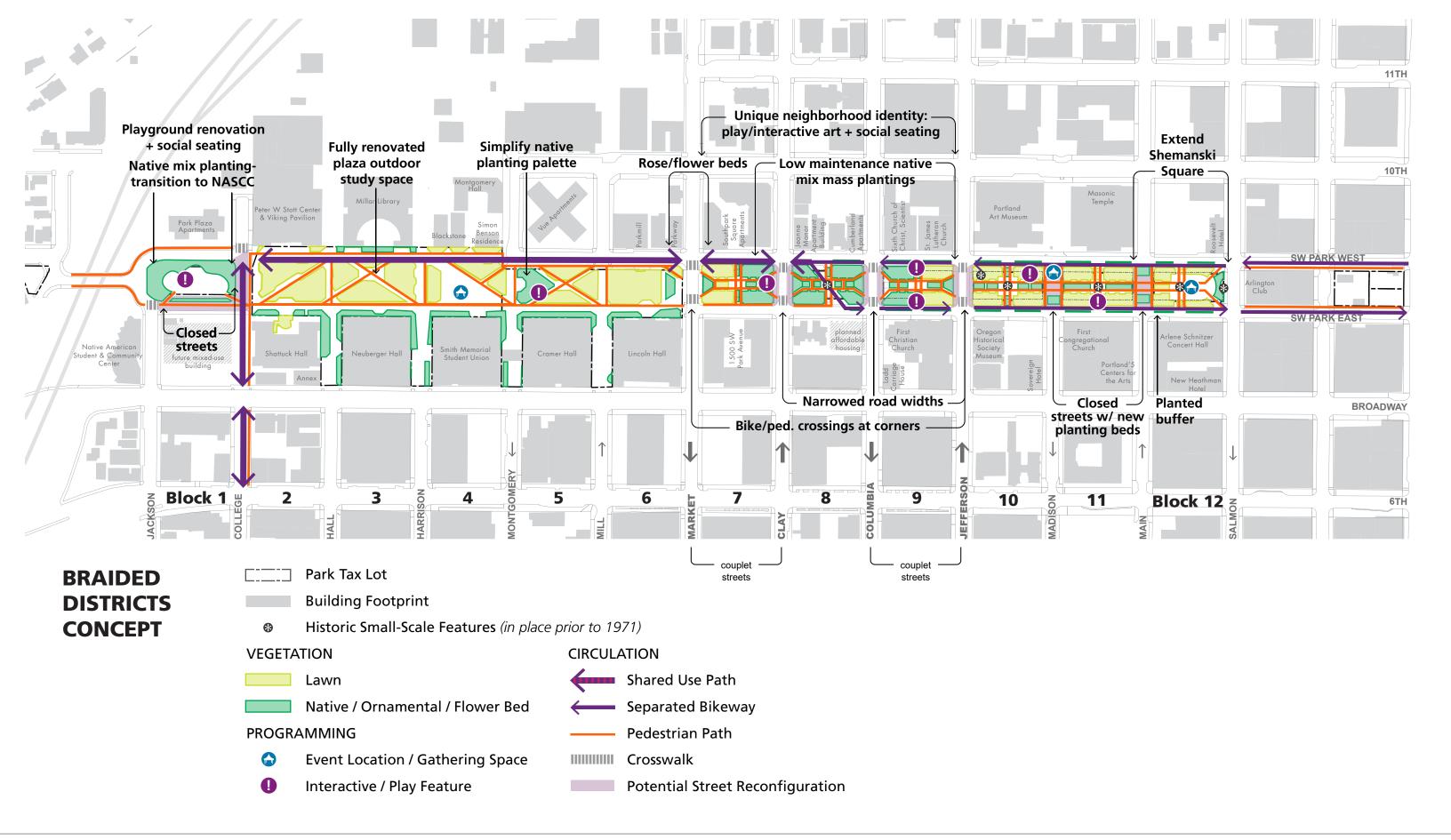
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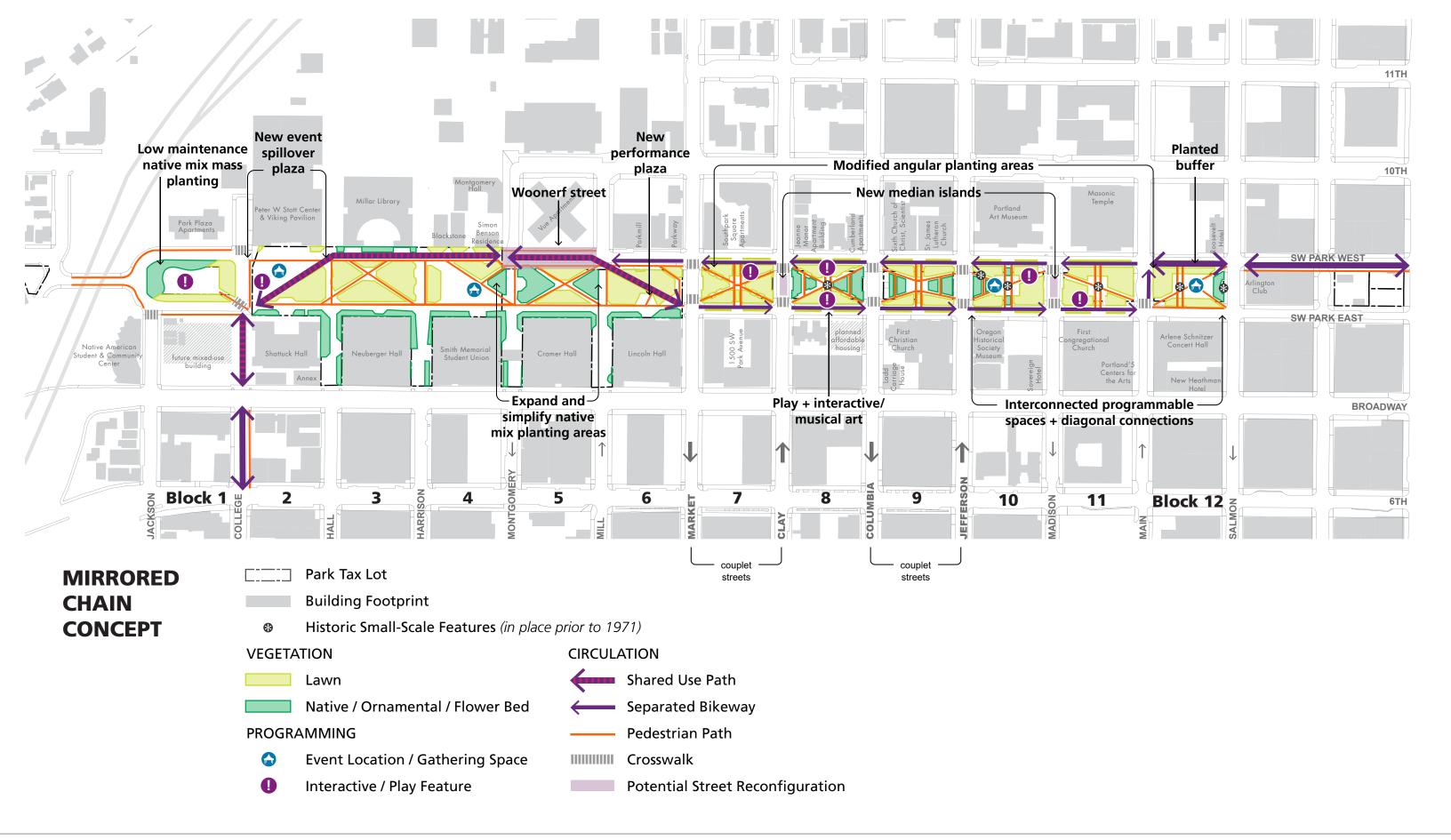




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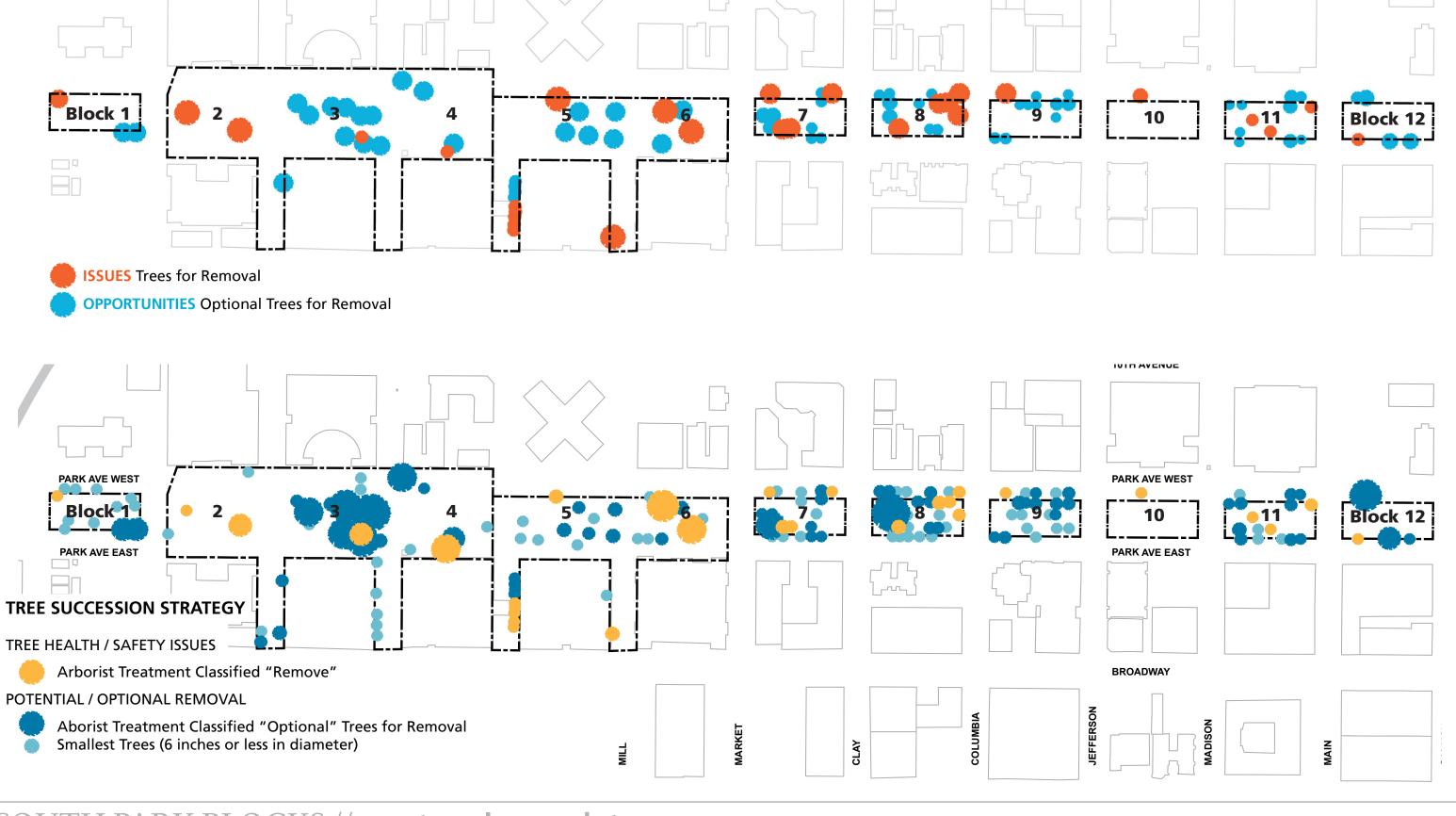


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## Tree Analysis Highlights:

- Tree succession plan should consider fewer trees to improve growing space, pruning existing trees to improve growing space, and incorporating species that are more tolerant of shade in dense areas where new trees are desired.
- 52% (199) of inventoried trees are American elm (*Ulmus americana*) and elm hybrids (*Ulmus spp.*)
- Tree diameter information:
- 20% of trees smaller than 6-inches
- 50% between 6- and 24-inches
- 30% larger than 24-inches

- Some young trees are struggling
- Lack of overhead growing space shade intolerance
- Many developing with poor structure including one-sided crowns and lean.
- Over 90% of the inventoried trees are in fair or good condition
- Treatment recommendations:
- 75% of trees are classified as retain
- 29 trees (8%) classified as remove
- 68 (17%) optional
- Urban Forestry is currently reviewing these recommendations



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#### South Park Blocks Master Plan Update Design Concepts

	Emerald Arrow Concept	Braided Districts Concept	Mirrored Chain Concept
Elements			
Spatial Organization	Historic character	Sequential related woven spaces	Block by block, responsive to immediate context
Pedestrian Experience	Central promenade	Enhanced corners	Diagonal "X" pattern
Trees	Retain rows of elms	Increased variety with aesthetic quality	Diverse canopy with conifers - biodiversity
Planting	Retain/Redistribute Cultural District Planters	Retain/Expand Cultural District Planters	Reconfigure to Diagonal Planters
Art	Added periodically throughout	Added to Cultural District closed streets	Added to Cultural District median islands
Terminus	Gateways at endpoints	Transition to Native American Center	Gateways at endpoints and midpoint
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Focal Points	Added/Existing art and fountains, renovated Smith Amphitheater	Interactive play features, three district identities	Interactive art features, new plazas in University District
Green Loop	Perimeter along Park Ave West	Perimeter, diagonal connection	Perimeter along Park Ave East/West

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## List of considerations that will be part of refining preferred concepts:

- Emergency and fire access
- Traffic management
- Maintenance and operations needs
- Accessibility and inclusive design
- Perceptions of and design for safety
- Electrical connections and lighting
- Tree succession planting strategy
- Irrigation

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Pavement materials

\*All concept elements subject to further design detail and continued conversations with the community and technical advisors

