
July 2, 2008

2 The Connected Oasis: “The Big Idea”

INTRODUCTION

Phoenix is located in the Sonoran Desert, considered the wettest desert in the world, receiving a range of three to 15 inches of rain per year, depending on location. The Sonoran Desert “biome”, or eco-region ranks second to the tropical rain forest in ecological diversity. Since the Downtown Phoenix area is a mostly man-made environment, much of the Sonoran Desert vegetation remains hidden from view. However, this particular desert location is the primary element that makes Phoenix so unique. With the interesting climate, important biodiversity, and an ever-growing population, Phoenix has many opportunities to demonstrate urban “best practices” in a hot, arid climate. Phoenix has the unique opportunity and potential to show the world how to appropriately respond to these environmental challenges in the 21st century.

The location of Phoenix results in mild temperatures seven to eight months of the year, with relatively hot and uncomfortable temperatures the remainder of the year. These extreme temperatures are exacerbated by the Urban Heat Island effect, which can negatively impact pedestrian activity in the Downtown. For a downtown to be truly successful there needs to be continuous pedestrian activity year-round. In a desert climate like Phoenix it is critical that pedestrian activity occur even during the “thermally-challenging” months of the year.



City Hall Plaza is one of the many “oases” that are elements of the Connected Oasis.



Downtown streets and sidewalks help create the corridors that are the backbone of the Connected Oasis.



The Connected Oasis is a network of great public places woven through every block in Downtown. (St. Mary's Virginia Piper Plaza)

In response to the critical need to provide a comfortable pedestrian environment, the Connected Oasis was introduced as the most important element of the Downtown Plan. It is a network of shaded pedestrian corridors connecting a variety of destinations within Downtown with adjacent neighborhoods, and ultimately with a valley-wide pedestrian network.

THE CONNECTED OASIS

The Connected Oasis will establish the distinctive character of Downtown, and as the Connected Oasis expands beyond Downtown, help define an image for the larger Phoenix community. In Downtown, it will establish a connected pedestrian network of public spaces that will serve to connect all activity centers. The Connected Oasis described in this chapter builds on existing resources to create a continuous network of great public spaces that extends throughout the entire Downtown.

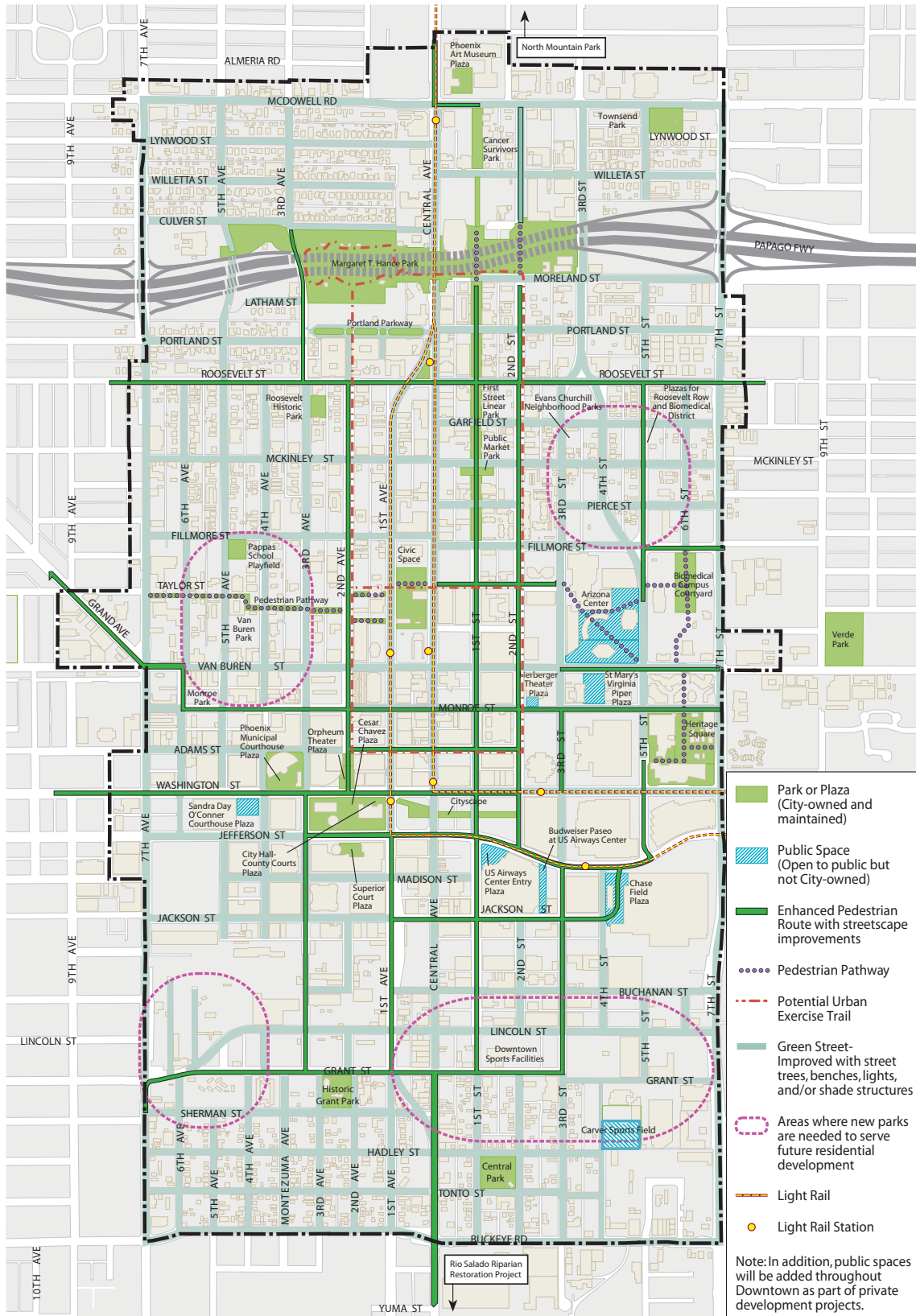
The potential for tremendous diversity of public spaces in Downtown exists. Many of the public spaces will be small and intimate, and can incorporate shade that is needed to provide human comfort outdoors. Artists can design lights, benches, tree grates, sidewalk paving, and other features that showcase the rich artistic talent and heritage unique to Phoenix. Water features can be incorporated to cool the air and celebrate the historic importance of water to settlement and habitation of the region. In this way, the Connected Oasis becomes a place that is attractive and inviting to residents, employees, and the thousands of visitors that come to the Phoenix region each year.

CONNECTED OASIS BENEFITS

Downtown Phoenix competes with downtowns of other large U.S. cities as well as with downtowns in other cities in the region. There is a need to create a unique character for Downtown that helps to make it a place where people want to live, work, and visit. The Connected Oasis not only provides the opportunity to transform Downtown from a dot on a map to a distinctive place, it offers a number of other benefits.

Creates Identity and Sense of Place – A unique system of pedestrian corridors and a variety of public spaces will serve to create an identity for Downtown.

Advances Economic Development Efforts – A vibrant Downtown that has



a strong image is a desirable destination which attracts investment.

Enhances Tourism – A framework of public spaces and great streets creates a canvas for public art installations that can become a unique tourist attraction.

Promotes Walkability and Healthy Lifestyles – Making Downtown thermally comfortable and walkable for pedestrians encourages walking and provides opportunities for urban dwellers to be physically active.

THE LAYERS AND COMPONENTS OF THE CONNECTED OASIS

The Connected Oasis is comprised of several components. When combined, they form a network of pedestrian corridors, public spaces, and a variety of destinations. In addition, as people walk through Downtown, they experience the components of the Connected Oasis: public art; a public plaza area with seating; shade; a water feature; or a building which incorporates mechanical shade louvers over the sidewalk.

The primary layers of the Connected Oasis are:

Green Streets – Streets with shaded sidewalks - natural or structural - and other pedestrian amenities that provide a comfortable and attractive pedestrian environment. The goal for Downtown is to make every street a “Green Street.”

Publicly-Owned Public Spaces Public parks, plazas, and courtyards owned and maintained by a government agency. They provide visual amenities, recreation areas, (including off-leash dog parks) and community event locations for residents, workers, and visitors.

Privately-Owned Public Spaces – Plazas and courtyards at a building entrance. They provide places where people can take a break, meet someone for lunch, or gather to socialize.

Privately-Owned Private Space - Open space provided for occupants and/or residents of a building but not accessible to the general public

Enhanced Pedestrian Corridors – Pedestrian corridors that link major destinations and should be enhanced with streetscape improvements such as benches, lights, signage, shade and pedestrian amenities.

Pedestrian Intensive Area and Centers – Throughout Downtown there will be active areas that will experience a higher level of pedestrian activity. These areas will require the incorporation of more pedestrian amenities and the inclusion of intense street level activities within the

building adjacent to the active area.

Pedestrian Connectors - Pedestrian connectors located at a smaller scale than the standard street grid that provide more direct routes and are enhanced with street trees, lighting, special paving, and other pedestrian amenities.

The major components of the Connected Oasis include:

Urban Exercise Amenities - Pedestrian corridors that provide opportunities for walking, jogging and other urban recreation activities and encourage residents, employees, and visitors to be physically active.

Streetscape improvements - It is critical that the pedestrian environment be enhanced to provide a more comfortable environment, but it also must provide for a sense of safety. An important contribution to the sense of safety is lighting. Lighting can be used to enhance safety while at the same time being used to enhance the appearance of Downtown.

Public Art - Public art will be integrated into all components of the Connected Oasis and will be both traditional and non-traditional art.

Water Elements - Water fountains, drinking fountains, and other elements integrated into public spaces to contribute to a more comfortable pedestrian environment while raising awareness about the history and importance of water in the Phoenix region.

Events and Programming - While not a physical element of the Connected Oasis, events are a critical component of the Connected Oasis experience that adds activity and excitement to the urban environment.

Policy 2-1 Adopt the Connected Oasis Plan and establish a program to implement over the next 25 years.

Policy 2-2 Establish development standards for the public projects and private development projects to provide consistency with the Connected Oasis Plan.



A small park or plaza should be provided at the edge of the Biomedical Campus, to serve campus employees, neighborhood residents, and the adjacent Roosevelt Row area of restaurants and retail shops.

PUBLIC PARKS

Public parks are the first level of the Connected Oasis. They are the public spaces owned and maintained by the city and provide visual amenities, recreation areas, off-leash dog areas, and community event locations for residents, workers, and visitors. There are a wide variety of existing parks, ranging from Hance Park, which is 30 acres, to Roosevelt Historic Park, which is 0.6 acres.

A detailed analysis of park needs and potential park sites was completed as part of the Downtown Urban Form Project. The “Parks and Public Spaces Report: Inventory and Planning Principles” was reviewed and approved by the Parks Board January, 2007 and is included as Attachment X in the Appendix. With a limited number of sites available for parks, a land acquisition program should be established quickly in order to meet the identified goal of at least 15 acres of new park land.

Existing Parks and Public Spaces

In order to prepare the parks needs analysis, an analysis of existing parks was conducted. Existing parks are shown as Figure 2-3, accompanied by photos in Figure 2-4. Table 2-1 describes the existing parks, including the type of park, size, designated and observed uses, and amenities.



The Biomedical Campus should include shaded walkways, small plazas, and landscaped courtyards open to the public.

Parks and Public Space Needs

To develop criteria for the location of future parks, population projections were analyzed for each character area and compared with the existing park acreage and population. Walking distances to existing and potential park sites were examined to make sure that each character area in Downtown will have a park within a one-fourth mile walking distance (equivalent to a five-minute walk).

Update the master plan for the eastern side of Hance Park.



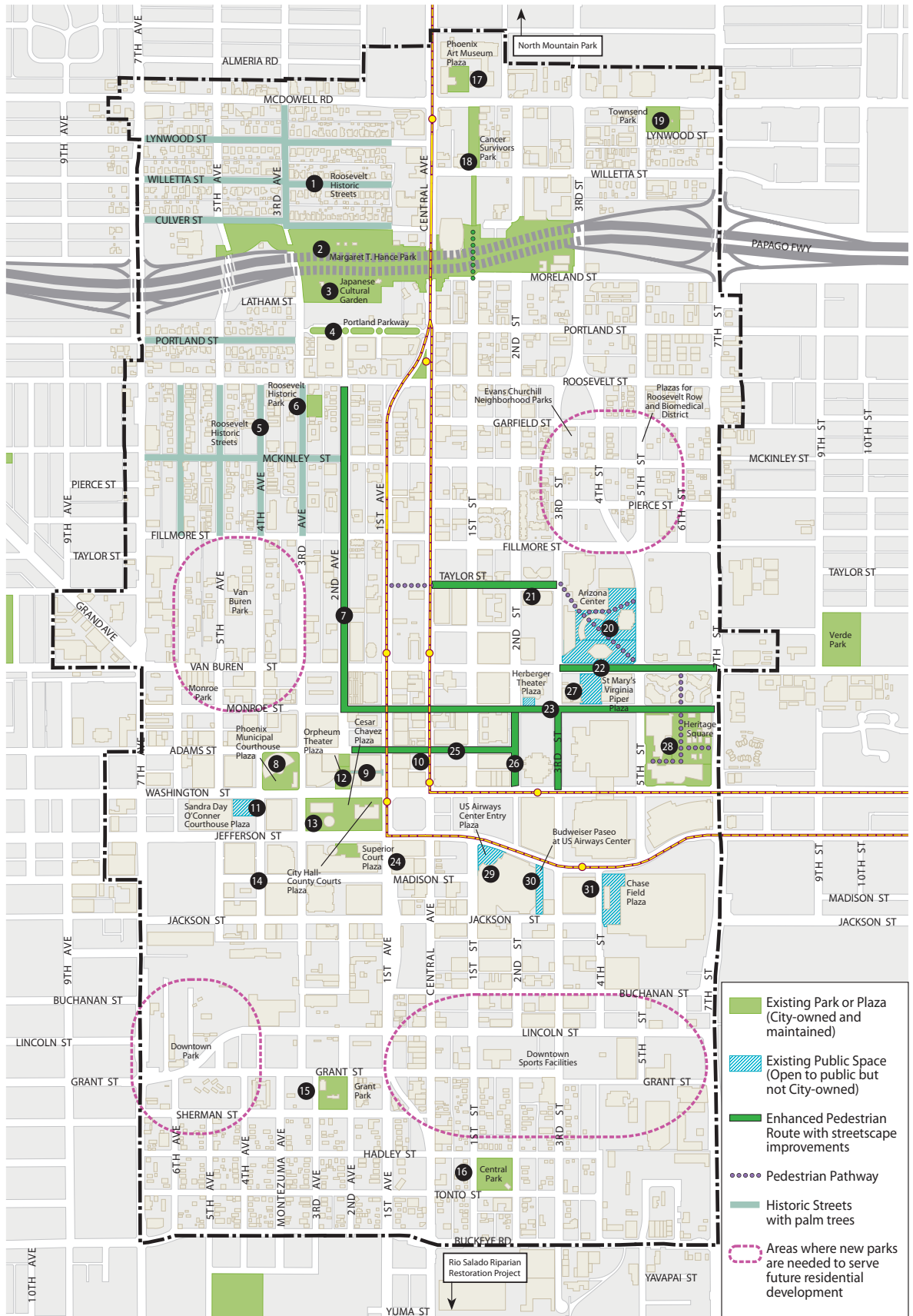


FIGURE 2-2 EXISTING PARKS



1 Historic Palms



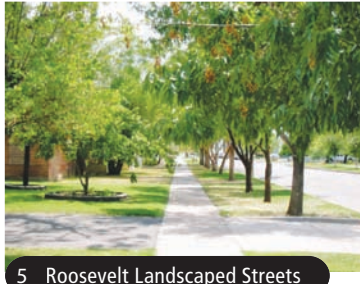
2 Hance Park



3 Japanese Friendship Garden



4 Portland Park



5 Roosevelt Landscaped Streets



6 Roosevelt Historic Park



7 2nd Avenue Promenade



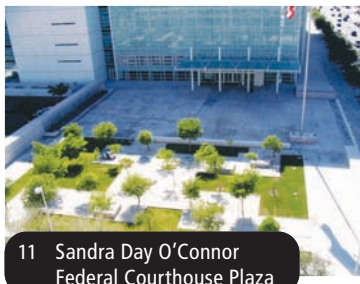
8 Courthouse Plaza



9 Mid-Block Walkthrough



10 Renaissance Buildings Plaza



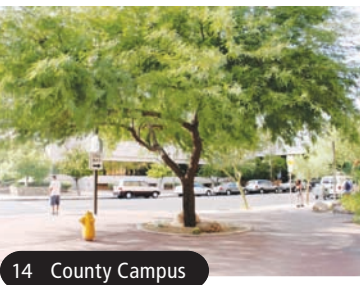
11 Sandra Day O'Connor Federal Courthouse Plaza



12 Phoenix Government Plazas



13 Cesar Chavez Plaza



14 County Campus

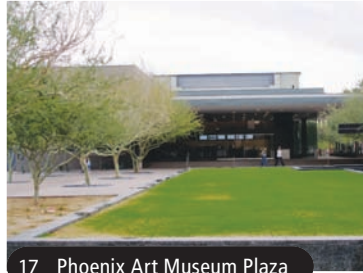


15 Grant Park

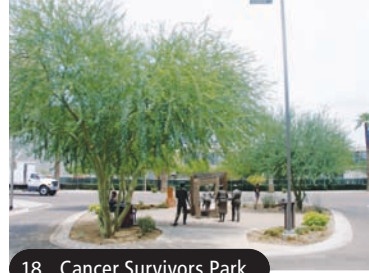
FIGURE 2-4 EXISTING ELEMENTS OF THE CONNECTED OASIS



16 Central Park



17 Phoenix Art Museum Plaza



18 Cancer Survivors Park



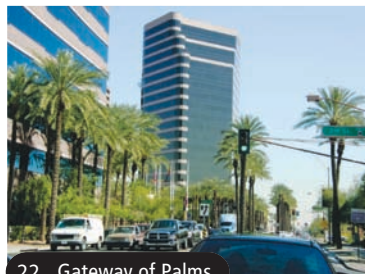
19 Townsend Park



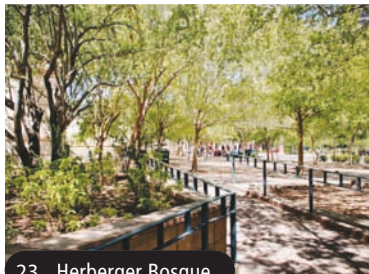
20 Arizona Center



21 Taylor Street Canal



22 Gateway of Palms



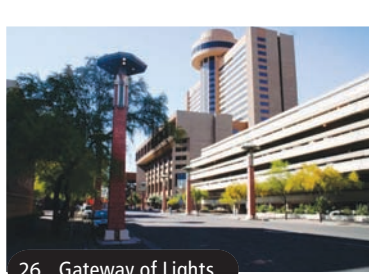
23 Herberger Bosque



24 Superior Court Plaza



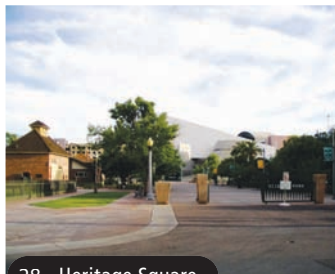
25 Adams Street



26 Gateway of Lights



27 St. Mary's Virginia Piper Plaza



28 Heritage Square



29 US Airways Center Entry Plaza



30 Budweiser Paseo



31 Chase Field Plaza

Table 2-1 Existing Parks and Public Spaces Table

Name	Reference #	Size (ac)	Type	Designated & Observed Uses	Amenities
Within Downtown					
Arizona Center	20	3.3	PL	sitting area, public art, movie theater, shopping, dining	trash receptacles, covered & uncovered areas, benches, water feature
Budweiser Paseo at US Airways Center	30	1.5	PL	sitting area, pedestrian circulation	trash receptacles, seat walls and blocks
Cancer Survivors Park	18	0.4	SA	sitting area, public art, interpretive walk, memorials	drinking fountains, trash receptacles, interpretive signs, rubber encased benches
Central Park	16	2.9	NP	ball courts, playground, tot lot, open turf, sitting area, sport field, community center	drinking fountains, restrooms, covered & uncovered areas, trash receptacles, pedestrian scale lighting, picnic benches
Cesar Chavez Plaza	13	1.2	PL	sitting area, pedestrian circulation, memorials	trash & recycle receptacles, signage, seatwalls
Chase Field Plaza	31	2.0	PL	open turf, sitting area, pedestrian circulation	trash & recycle receptacles, seatwalls and concrete benches
Grant Park	15	3.0	NP	ball courts, playground, dog area, BBQ/picnic area, pool, tot lots, open turf, farmer's market, sitting area, sport fields, ramada, natural areas	drinking fountains, restrooms, trash & recycle receptacles, covered & uncovered areas, signage, bike lanes, pet drinking fountains, emergency telephones
Herberger Theater Plaza	23	1.6	SA	sitting area, sculpture	trash receptacles, covered & uncovered areas, benches, seatwalls, link to Phoenix Convention Center across Monroe Street
Heritage Square	28	1.6	SA	sitting area, museum, festival space, historic structures, restaurants	trash receptacles, benches, seatwalls, Rosson House, Lath House, other historic buildings
Historic City Hall/ County Courts Plaza/ Calvin Goode Bldg/ City Chambers	13	1.4	SA	sitting areas, building entrances, rose garden, gazebo, open turf, dog walking	uncovered areas, water feature
Margaret T. Hance Park	2	30.0	CP	open turf, playground, sitting areas, BBQ/picnic area, ramada, tot lots, amphitheater, special cultural areas	drinking fountains, trash receptacles, covered & uncovered areas, telephones, dog waste bags, restrooms, bike lanes & bike racks, benches, seatwalls, concrete seating in amphitheater, turf areas, picnic tables, Irish Cultural Center, Japanese Friendship Garden, Phoenix Center for the Arts
Orpheum Theater/ City Hall Plaza	12	1.2	PL	sitting area, pedestrian circulation	drinking fountains, restrooms in City Hall and theater, seatwalls, water feature, art displays, community events
Phoenix Art Museum Plaza	17	0.8	PL	sitting area, building entrance	water feature, sculpture garden

Table 2-1 Existing Parks and Public Spaces Table

Name	Reference #	Size (ac)	Type	Designated & Observed Uses	Amenities																
Phoenix Municipal Courthouse Plaza	8	1.3	PL	sitting area, tree canopy, patio dining	trash receptacles, covered areas, tree canopy and arcade at restaurant, bike racks, seatwalls around the perimeter																
Portland Parkway	4	0.5	MP	open turf, dog area	trash receptacles, uncovered areas, regularly-spaced benches																
Renaissance Buildings Plaza	10	0.4	PL	sitting area, building entrance, pedestrian circulation, patio dining	trash & recycle receptacles, seatwalls, tables at adjacent restaurant																
Roosevelt Historic Park	6	0.6	MP	sitting area, tot lots	trash receptacles, dog waste bags, benches, picnic tables																
Sandra Day O'Connor Federal Courthouse Plaza	11	0.8	PL	sitting area, building entrance, pedestrian circulation	trash receptacle at building entrance, water feature, small turf area																
St. Mary's Virginia Piper Plaza	27	0.8	PL	open turf, sitting area, natural area, memorials	trash receptacles, covered & uncovered areas, benches along perimeter, sculptures, water feature																
Superior Court Plaza	24	0.8	PL	sitting area, building entrance, patio dining	trash receptacles, seatwalls, restaurants, outdoor dining																
Townsend Park	19	1.6	MP	ball courts, BBQ/picnic area, open turf, tot lot	restrooms (closed due to vandalism), trash receptacles, tables, chairs																
US Airways Center Entry Plaza	29	0.8	PL	sitting area, building entrance	trash receptacles, seatwalls and seat blocks																
Wells Fargo Plaza	9	0.4	PL	sitting area, pedestrian circulation	plantings, benches																
Outside Downtown																					
Carnegie Library		4.5	O	open turf, public meeting space, library services	formal garden																
Hu-O-Te		0.3	MP	tot lots	trash receptacles, bench																
Niños Park		0.7	MP	ball courts, BBQ/picnic area	trash receptacles, uncovered areas																
University Park		8.3	NP	ball courts, playground, pool, open turf, sport fields, ramada	restrooms, trash receptacles, benches, picnic tables																
University Park Parkway		2.4	SA	open turf	none																
Verde Park		3.5	NP	ball courts, playground, ramada, open turf, BBQ/picnic area, child care center	trash receptacles, covered & uncovered areas, drinking fountain, fixed benches, tables																
<p>TYPES:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>CP</td> <td>Community Park – typically 40 acres or larger with a 1.5 mile service radius (20,000-50,000 people)</td> <td>NP</td> <td>Neighborhood Park – typically 15 acres or larger with a 0.5 mile service radius (4,000-7,000 people)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DP</td> <td>District Park – 200 acres or larger with a 5 mile service radius (100,000-200,000 people)</td> <td>O</td> <td>Other</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MP</td> <td>Mini Park</td> <td>PL</td> <td>Public Space - Plaza</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>SA</td> <td>Special Area/Median in Right-of-Way</td> </tr> </table>						CP	Community Park – typically 40 acres or larger with a 1.5 mile service radius (20,000-50,000 people)	NP	Neighborhood Park – typically 15 acres or larger with a 0.5 mile service radius (4,000-7,000 people)	DP	District Park – 200 acres or larger with a 5 mile service radius (100,000-200,000 people)	O	Other	MP	Mini Park	PL	Public Space - Plaza			SA	Special Area/Median in Right-of-Way
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		SA	Special Area/Median in Right-of-Way																		



A small park site should be provided in Evans Churchill that is specifically geared towards residents, with facilities such as a tot lot.



The 1st Street right-of-way is 100 feet. There is room to add either a linear park in a median, or extensive landscaping and wide sidewalks on both sides of the street.



There is an opportunity to create a linear park on 2nd Street using the existing wide planter strips.

Park needs for each character area are discussed below. This does not include public spaces and/or open space provided with new development:

- The Roosevelt Character Area does not need new parks to accommodate the new residential or workforce populations because of the proximity to Hance, Portland, and Roosevelt parks.
- The Townsend Park Character Area does not need new parks to accommodate the new residential or workforce populations because of the proximity to Hance, Townsend, and Cancer Survivors parks.
- The Evans Churchill Character Area needs new parks and public spaces because of projected residential growth (5,100 units and 10,000 people). Hance Park provides park space for this area, however it is not centrally located so as to accommodate the projected growth. Parks and public spaces will be small in size because of limited land availability.
- The Van Buren Character Area needs new parks because the area is projected to have substantial residential growth (3,400 units and 6,800 people), and does not have any parks or public spaces. The Civic Space and University Park are nearby, but generally outside the one-fourth mile walking distance.
- The Business Core Character Area does not need new parks and public spaces because it currently contains over 18 acres of both. This area will have substantial residential growth and existing public space does not have facilities targeted to residential development. New parks such as the Civic Space and development of parks in adjacent neighborhoods, such as Van Buren and Evans Churchill, should be able to meet the need.
- The Government Character Area will not include residential development, but will need public spaces to accommodate employees and visitors.
- The Warehouse Character Area needs public spaces such as plazas and courtyards to serve public uses in the area. Private open spaces, such as patios, balconies, and roof top areas will be needed for residential uses.
- The Parks Neighborhoods Character Areas will need additional park space assuming infill development occurs at permitted densities on the vacant and underutilized sites.

Size and Location of Parks

Downtown parks must be designed to serve urban living. They will be smaller, due to the compact nature of high density development and the limited size of sites available. New parks will vary in size from ¼ acre to a maximum of 5 acres. Small parks are better suited for a downtown in a desert climate, because they can be shaded by buildings and landscaping.

Since walking and jogging are the primary forms of recreation in urban neighborhoods, enhancement of the streets is critical to making Downtown livable. In addition, as the number of residents increases in Downtown, it will be important to provide off-leash areas in city parks. The new parks and public spaces in Downtown will be incorporated with pedestrian corridors, and more integral with the built environment, in order to implement the Connected Oasis.

- Policy 2-3** Establish a joint public/private organization to implement the Connected Oasis plan, including land acquisition of at least 15 acres for new parks.
- Policy 2-4** Establish a “no net loss” policy for public park land in Downtown.
- Policy 2-5** Design the Connected Oasis to provide a sense of safety.
- Policy 2-6** Provide sports fields and facilities for recreational sports leagues.
- Policy 2-7** Encourage the development of small urban parks in neighborhoods throughout Downtown to accommodate projected growth and meet the needs of residents, workers, and visitors.
- Policy 2-8** Provide a variety of types of parks and other public spaces that meet the needs of Downtown residents, workers and visitors, including dog parks as identified in the Connected Oasis Plan.
- Policy 2-9** Locate parks, where possible, on land owned by the public in order to maximize the use of public resources and minimize land acquisition costs.
- Policy 2-10** Provide parks and public spaces consistent with the needs identified for each Character Area and consistent with the Connected Oasis Plan.

To meet parks needs for the projected 40,000 new residents in Downtown, 15 acres of new parks and 20 acres of public spaces should be added to the 65 acres of existing parks and public spaces.



Public Parks – 15 acres



Public Spaces – 20 acres



The Cosmo Dog Park in Gilbert is an example of an off-leash area in a city park



Adams Street is an example of a “Green Streets” and provides a pedestrian connector between the Convention Center and the west portion of Downtown

- Policy 2-11** Update the master plan for Hance Park and consider improvements such as: an enhanced open area that accommodates community events; shade throughout the park; pedestrian routes to connect with adjacent neighborhoods; and increased public parking.
- Policy 2-12** Locate parks and public spaces strategically throughout Downtown so that no resident, employee, or visitor is more than a 5 minute walk from a park or public space.
- Policy 2-13** Encourage implementation of linear parks on 1st and 2nd streets as described in the Connected Oasis Plan.

PUBLIC SPACES

Public spaces are squares or plazas that are accessible by the public for unstructured recreation or commercial activities, and owned and maintained by either a public agency or private property owner.

They may be a small courtyard at a building entrance, or a large public plaza such as the garden area at Arizona Center. They provide places where people can take a break, meet someone for lunch, or gather to socialize. They have often been created in conjunction with sports and entertainment facilities, such as the Herberger Theater or Chase Field. Each public space has a unique design that helps enhance and define the character of the district in which it is located.

Privately owned public spaces will be an important key component of the Connected Oasis. Every new non-residential project will be required to provide a public space that is visible from the street and open to the public during the day. These spaces could be incorporated into a vertical park where a staircase, escalator or elevator links green roofs, green terraces or green courtyards. These vertical parks can enhance the connections between ground level spaces and further the linkages between the various layers of the Connected Oasis. As Downtown development fills in vacant parcels, there will be a continuous pattern of public spaces along every street.

Residential projects will also be required to provide public space in the form of open space that can be accessible by the public, but may be restricted to use by the residents. The open space can be plazas, courtyards, common recreation areas, patios, balconies, and/or rooftop

amenities.

- Policy 2-14** Provide a variety of public spaces throughout Downtown consistent with the Connected Oasis Plan.
- Policy 2-15** Establish standards for the provision of public space in new developments.
- Policy 2-16** Locate enhanced public spaces where excess right-of-way is available on streets that do not carry large volumes of traffic.
- Policy 2-17** Provide private open space in new residential development for residents at a minimum standard of 200 square feet per unit.
- Policy 2-18** Incorporate a variety of shading techniques in the design of public spaces.
- Policy 2-19** Design public spaces to be attractive, safe, and comfortable with extensive shade and other features that help mitigate the Urban Heat Island.



Public Spaces (Arizona Center)

GREEN STREETS = GREAT STREETS

Public streets are the greatest resource for successfully implementing the Connected Oasis with continuous pedestrian routes that connect neighborhoods and key destinations. People can walk along the streets and encounter parks, plazas, restaurants, public art, shops, and other special spaces. The goal for Downtown is to make every street a “Green Street.”

The basic elements for developing Green Streets are trees, building shade, shade structures, and pedestrian amenities. It is critical to provide shade over the entire sidewalks, in order to create a comfortable pedestrian environment. Basic strategies for providing sidewalk shade in Downtown include trees, awnings or overhangs attached to a building, a freestanding shade structure, or a combination of the above; a double row of trees that shades the sidewalk; and/or an arcade or gallery, possibly in combination with trees.

- Policy 2-20** Develop a network of shaded pedestrian corridors - “green streets” - using the existing street grid.
- Policy 2-21** Prepare streetscape sections for all streets in Downtown and incorporate into the Form-Based



*Awnings shading the sidewalk
(1st Street)*



*Building overhang and street trees
(McDowell Road)*



*Awnings and street trees
(Portland Street)*



Double row of trees (Washington Street)

Code.

Policy 2-22 Introduce standards for shade improvements on existing structures that currently do not provide the minimum shade requirements. Shade should be provided when a change in use requires tenant improvements (interior remodel and/or parking upgrade), additional square footage is added, and for exterior remodel.

Policy 2-23 Encourage the installation of shade structures along all building facades.

Policy 2-24 Implement the PhxSCAPE (Phoenix-Shade & Comfort Activate the Pedestrian Environment) program to add shade and retrofit existing sidewalks and public spaces in Downtown.

Policy 2-25 Preserve the planting strips and palm trees that provide historic areas with distinctive character where possible. Add shade trees in the planting strip and in front yards to create a double row of trees to shade the sidewalk.

Policy 2-26 Design a distinctive shade structures for each character area that can be used in conjunction with trees, awnings and other shade components that will provide shade over all sidewalks and at all street corners.

ENHANCED PEDESTRIAN CORRIDORS

Enhanced Pedestrian Corridors are routes that link major Downtown destinations and are improved with an enhanced level of pedestrian amenities, such as benches, lights, signage, street trees, and shade structures.

Within Downtown, certain areas function as centers of pedestrian activity and therefore require additional amenities. Pedestrian centers are locations where there are a concentration of shops, restaurants, public spaces, and public buildings. They are often close to light rail and bus stops. These pedestrian intensive areas are a priority for streetscape improvements, including lighting, street furniture, active ground floor uses, and creative shading strategies.

Policy 2-27 Establish a program to add pedestrian



A sidewalk shaded by a freestanding shade structure.



A sidewalk shaded by street trees along the curb, and building projections over the sidewalk.



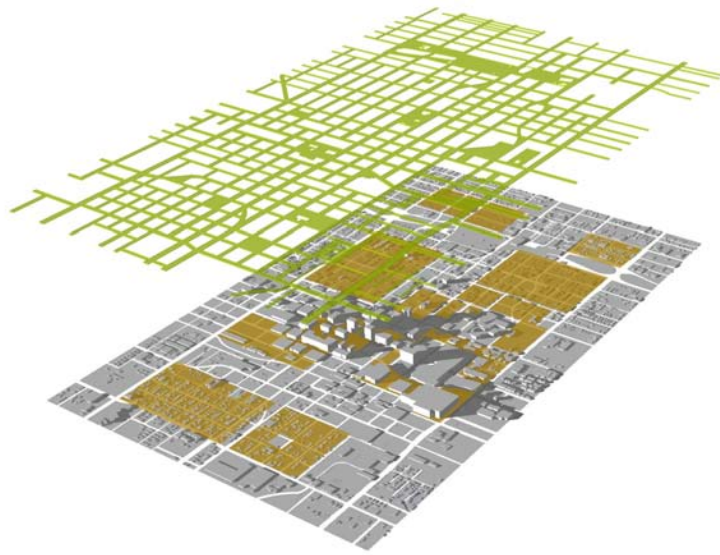
A sidewalk shaded by street trees along the curb, and overhangs and awnings over the sidewalk.

enhancements along the major pedestrian corridors consistent with the Connected Oasis Plan.

Policy 2-28 Encourage new development to provide entrances along the Taylor Street Pedestrian Pathway.

Policy 2-29 Improve the pedestrian connection from the Hope VI Community to the Downtown.

Streets are the greatest public space resource in Downtown. Create a network of attractive shaded pedestrian connections within the existing street grid. Ultimately every street in Downtown should be a “green street”—with street trees, shade structures, and other pedestrian amenities.



PEDESTRIAN PATHWAYS

Pedestrian pathways are connectors at a smaller scale than the standard street grid that provide more direct routes and are enhanced with street trees, lighting, special paving, and other pedestrian amenities.

Certain areas within the Downtown deviate from the standard street grid and are composed of over length blocks. These long blocks force pedestrians to walk longer distances in order to reach their desired destination. A series of pedestrian pathways is proposed to break up the auto-oriented street grid into a more comfortable pedestrian scale.

Policy 2-30 Enhance pedestrian connections throughout the Business Core, with special emphasis on creating connections between Downtown attractions, civic buildings and spaces, residential and office development and transit stations.

Policy 2-31 Enhance the east/west pedestrian and bicycle path to connect the Biomedical Campus, Arizona Center, ASU, the Van Buren Character Area, and neighborhoods east and west of Downtown.



The 1st Street Enhancement Project will have a major impact on future development and encourage investment by the private sector.



Enhanced Pedestrian Routes (2nd Avenue)



Pedestrian Pathways (mid-block between Adams and Washington streets)

COMPONENTS OF THE CONNECTED OASIS

The layers of the Connected Oasis provide the framework, but the various components create the unique character. These components activate public spaces and make Downtown more lively, safe and interesting.

PUBLIC ART

Works of art integrated into all layers of the Connected Oasis, including both traditional (sculptures, murals and monuments) and non-traditional (lightworks, projections and temporary installations) art forms.

Public art makes the Connected Oasis unpredictable, thought-provoking, and exciting. Artists will have a wide-ranging impact on public spaces and buildings by collaborating with landscape architects, planners, engineers and architects to enhance the design of parks, plazas, and streetscapes. This will ultimately bolster the comfort and appeal of transit stops, pedestrian cores, connectors and trails. Works could range from large site-specific sculptures to smaller utilitarian enhancements, such as seating and shade that add surprise and delight to the urban fabric. The results would be a museum without walls and accessible public spaces for all. Figure 2-7 shows the location of public art in the downtown, and Table 2-2 provides additional identifying information.

- Policy 2-32** Implement the 2008-2009 Public Art Project Plan to guide the creation of public art in Downtown and its integration into the Connected Oasis.
- Policy 2-33** Initiate an Art in Private Development Program, with the goal of enhancing publicly accessible and/or visible areas of private developments.
- Policy 2-34** Establish minimum requirements for the maintenance of public art on private property.
- Policy 2-35** Incorporate public art throughout the Connected Oasis to enrich the experience of walking along the streets, and to enhance Downtown's presence as one of the region's essential destinations. Locate public art on the major pedestrian routes.
- Policy 2-36** Involve artists in the early design stages of Connected Oasis projects, including parks, public spaces, and street improvements.

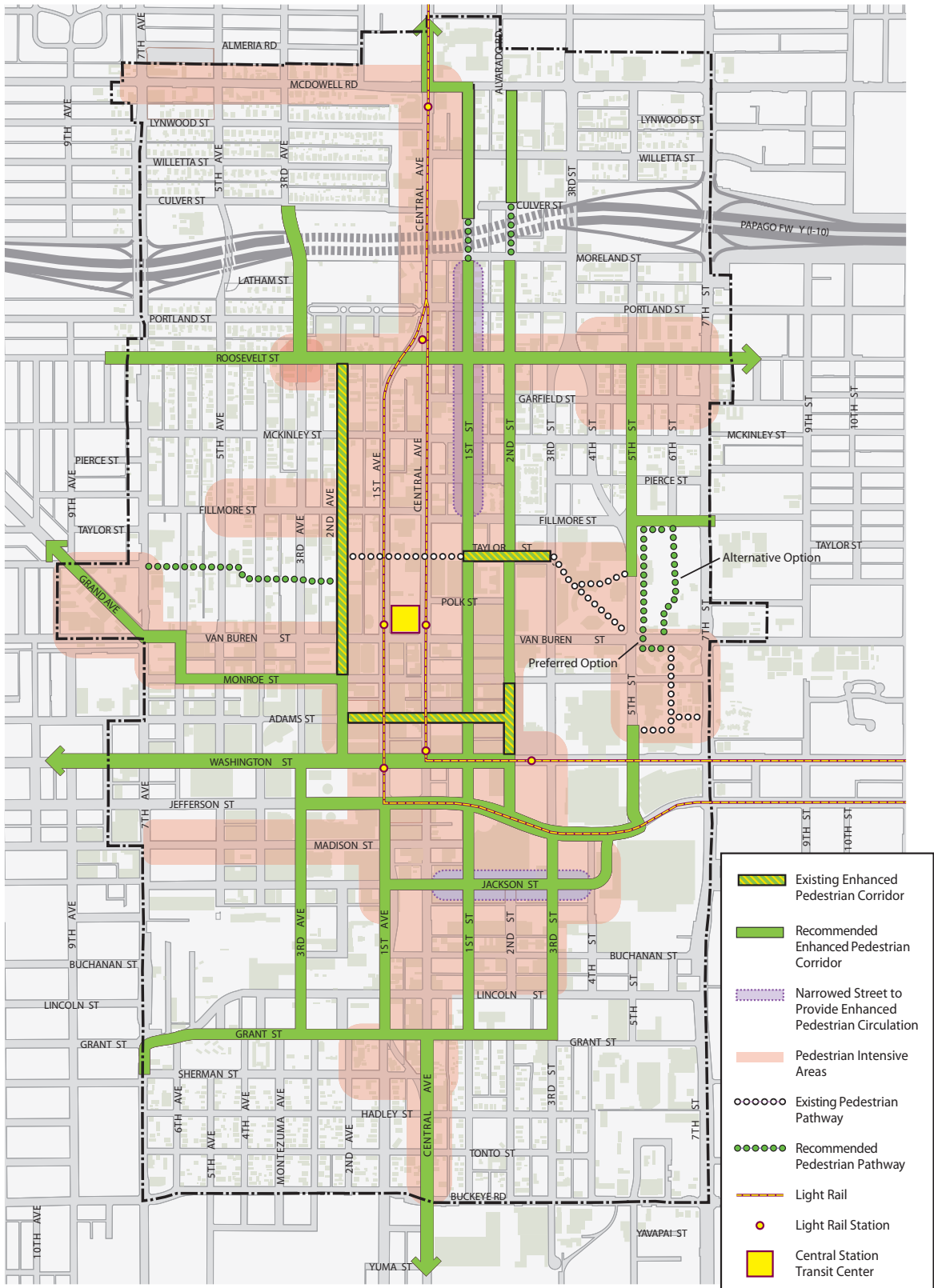
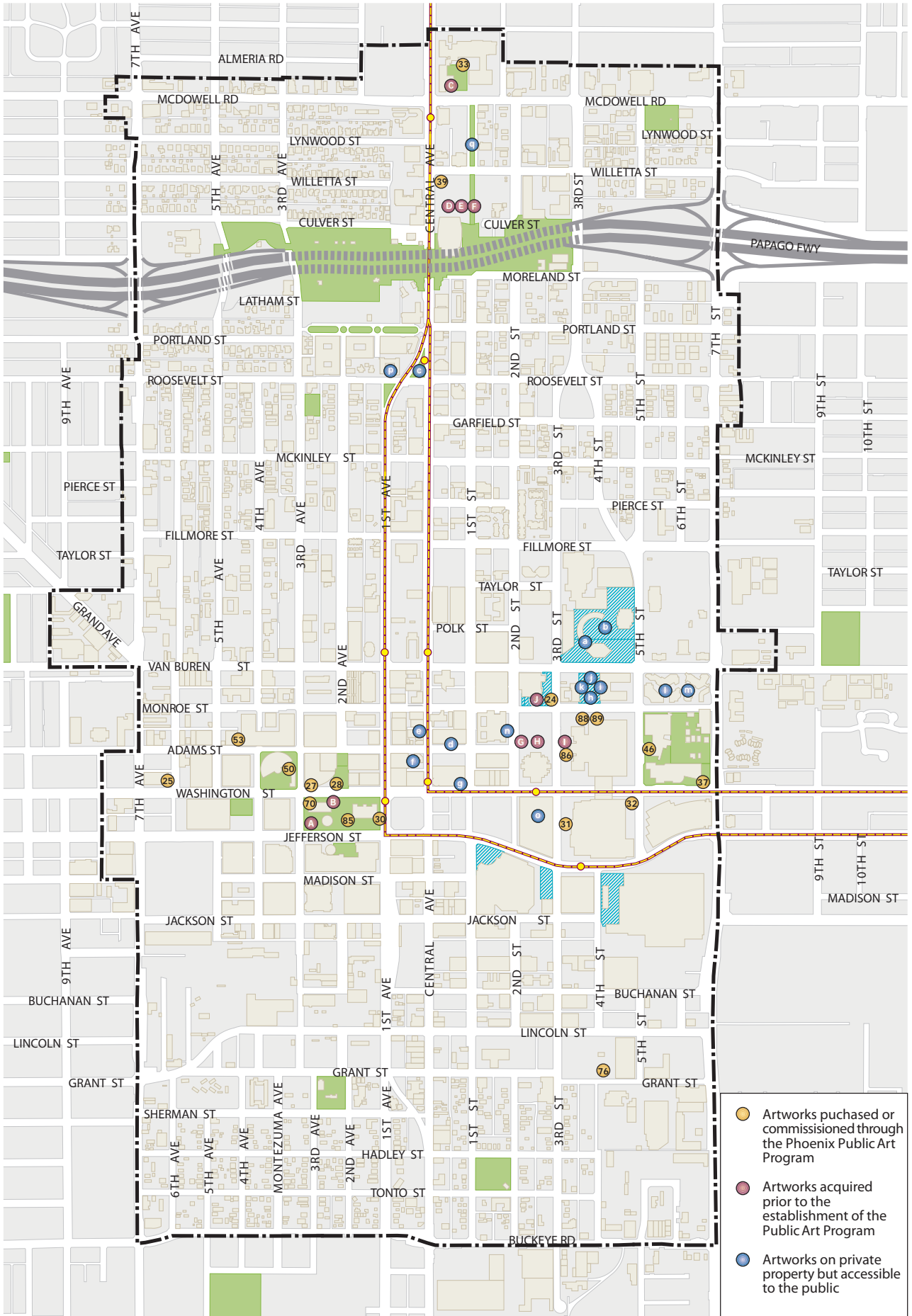


FIGURE 2-5 PEDESTRIAN ROUTES AND PEDESTRIAN INTENSIVE AREAS



- Artworks purchased or commissioned through the Phoenix Public Art Program
- Artworks acquired prior to the establishment of the Public Art Program
- Artworks on private property but accessible to the public

FIGURE 2-6 PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE ART IN DOWNTOWN

Table 2-2a: Publicly Accessible Art in Downtown

Artworks in the Downtown Study Area: Public Art Program

Artworks purchased by or commissioned through the City of Phoenix Public Art Program.

Title*	Artist(s)	Location	Type / Description	Funded by	Date
33. Hall of Mirrors	Robert Adams	Phoenix Library / Phoenix Art Museum	20 convex mirrors	City	1996
39. Children's Furniture	Virginia Senior, Jeff Osterle, Rose Johnson	Phoenix Central Library	children's furniture and lighting	City	1997
24. A Layering of Words	Brower Hatcher	Herberger Theater	mixed media sculpture	City	1993
63. Copper Sun	Sue Chenowith	Phoenix Child Care Center	wall mosaic	City	2002
25. Lobby design	Sally Weber	Police/Public Safety Bldg Lobby	lobby design	City	1993
50. Plaza design	Brad Goldberg	Phoenix Municipal Court	plaza design	City	1999
27. Metroasis	Joel Coplin	Phoenix City Hall Lobby	mural	City	1993
28. Public Employee Memorial	Otto Rigan	Phoenix City Hall	plaza design component stone and cast glass	City	1994
70. Memory Box	Stephen Farley	3rd Ave / Washington St.	large tiled box, photographs	City	2003
85. Rising Phoenix	Ed Mell	Old City Hall plaza	sculpture	Sister Cities	2005
30. Water Valve Covers	Michael Maglich	sidewalks throughout downtown	cast iron water valve covers	City	1995
31. The Arizona Bolas	Michael Maglich	Washington St between 2nd and 3rd Streets	59 bronze relief pieces	City	1996
32. Hohokam Camshaft Gates	Robert Adams, Michael Maglich	Civic Plaza	7 functional gates	City	1996
46. Lighting Centerpiece	Tom Joyce	Phoenix Museum of History	lighting center piece	City	1998
37. Suncatchers	Bill & Mary Buchen	Arizona Science Center	5 light and sound sculptures	City	1997
76. George Washington Carver	Ed Dwight	George Washington Carver Museum & Cultural Center	figurative sculpture bronze	City	2004
88. Art Is A Guaranty of Sanity	Louise Bourgeois	Phoenix Convention Center	mirror, steel, LED sculpture	City	2006
89. Million Colors	Tony Oursler	Phoenix Convention Center	video & sound installation	City	2006
90.			Phoenix Convention Center		
91.			Phoenix Convention Center		
92.			Phoenix Convention Center		

Table 2-2b: Publicly Accessible Art in Downtown

Artworks in the Downtown Study Area: Municipal Art Collection

Artworks acquired by the City of Phoenix prior to the establishment of the Public Art Program. Funding was primarily through donations and purchases.

Title*	Artist(s)	Location	Type / Description	Funded by	Date
A. Lariat Cowboy	Constance Whitney Warren	3rd Ave & Jefferson St.	figurative sculpture bronze	Municipal Art Collection	1926
B. Ferdinand & Isabella	Anna Vaughn Hyatt Huntington	Calvin C. Goode Bldg 215 W. Washington St.	figurative sculpture bronze	Municipal Art Collection	1961
G. Peacock Fountain	Australian architect	In storage	fountain	Municipal Art Collection	1972
H. Untitled	Ben Goo	Symphony Hall	2 sculptures	Municipal Art Collection	1972
I. Untitled	Ruth Asawa Lanier	Phoenix Civic Plaza	two fountain sculptures	Municipal Art Collection	1972
C. II Donnone	Paolo Soleri	Phoenix Art Museum	sculpture	Municipal Art Collection	1971
D. II Cubo	Arnaldo Pomodoro	Central Library	sculpture	Municipal Art Collection	1967
E. Tiered Orbits	Jerome Kirk	Central Library	kinetic sculpture	Municipal Art Collection	1972
F. Phoenix Bird Ascending	Jerome Kirk	Central Library	sculpture	Municipal Art Collection	1972
J Dance	John Henry Waddell	Herberger Theater Center	12 dancing figure sculptures bronze	Municipal Art Collection	1974

Table 2-2c: Publicly Accessible Art on Private Property in Downtown

Artworks in the Downtown Study Area: Public Art by Private Parties in the Public Realm

Artworks that are on private property but are easily accessible and intended to be accessible by the public at large. Acquired by private donation, purchase, or commission.

Title*	Artist(s)	Location	Type / Description	Funded by	Date
a. unknown**	unknown	Arizona Center interior	3 bronze oversize frogs & lily pads	Unknown	unknown
b. It's In Your Hands	Robert J. Miley	Arizona Center interior	bronze sphere w/ small figures supporting it	Mercy Healthcare Arizona	unknown
c. Release the Fear	Robert J. Miley	Roosevelt & Central	abstract sculpture	numerous	2005
d. unknown**	unknown	Adams St @ Wyndam Hotel	2 corTen sculptures	Unknown	unknown
e. unknown**	unknown	alley wall off 1st St. between Adams & Monroe	palm tree shadows painted on wall	Unknown	unknown
f. unknown**	unknown	interior courtyard @ Wells Fargo	4 stone sculptures on bases	Unknown	unknown
g. Full Life Reach	Trevor Southy	One Renaissance Square Washington St & Central Ave	bronze figure w/ text in marble base	Unknown	1987
h. Pope John Paul II	Michael Meyers	St. Mary's Basilica	figurative sculpture bronze	numerous	unknown
i. St. Francis of Assisi	Michael Meyers	St. Mary's Basilica	figurative sculpture bronze	Marlan & Curtis Rochelle	unknown
j. Mother Teresa	Michael Meyers	St. Mary's Basilica	figurative sculpture bronze	Mr & Mrs Jack McKone Mr & Mrs Arthur Romley	unknown
k. Circle of Peace	Gary Price	St. Mary's Basilica	figurative sculpture of children bronze	numerous	unknown
l. unknown**	unknown	ASU Mercado	stone carved Aztec snake	unknown	unknown
m. unknown**	unknown	ASU Mercado	2 carved stone blocks	unknown	unknown
n. unknown**	unknown	Downtown Hyatt lobby	numerous bronze abstract figures	Hyatt	unknown
o. unknown**	unknown	Collier Center level 2	abstract stone and glass	unknown	unknown
p. Stations of the Cross	unknown	Lutheran Church	14 piece mixed media	unknown	unknown
q.		Cancer Survivors Park			

* corresponds with number or letter on POAC map of artworks

** no information provided at site

URBAN EXERCISE AMENITIES

Pedestrian corridors that provide exercise trails for walking, jogging, and other urban recreation activities. These corridors include special amenities throughout the Connected Oasis that provide opportunities for residents, employees, and visitors to be physically active.

Urban Exercise Amenities should be designed into new projects in Downtown. One potential project is a 2.75-mile loop that incorporates 2nd Avenue, 2nd Street, Adams Street and Hance Park, as shown in Figure 3-8. It connects Hance Park with a number of other Downtown areas, including the Roosevelt and Evans Churchill residential neighborhoods, the Business Core, major hotels, sport and cultural destinations, and ASU.

This proposed route can be expanded by adding additional loops throughout Downtown connecting with pedestrian routes and pathways at several points, making it accessible to joggers and walkers throughout Downtown.

Policy 2-37 Develop a system of urban exercise and recreation amenities that provide opportunities for residents, employees, and visitors to be physically active and promote public health.

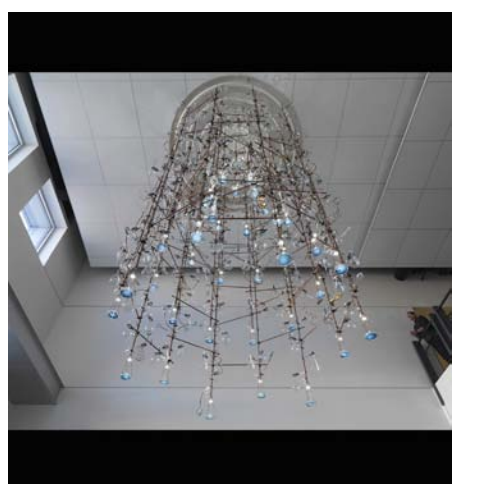
Policy 2-38 Develop identifiable dog walking routes and linear off-leash dog areas.

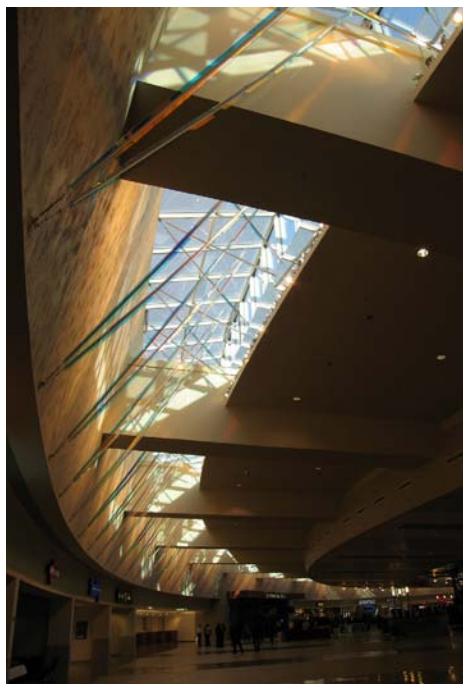
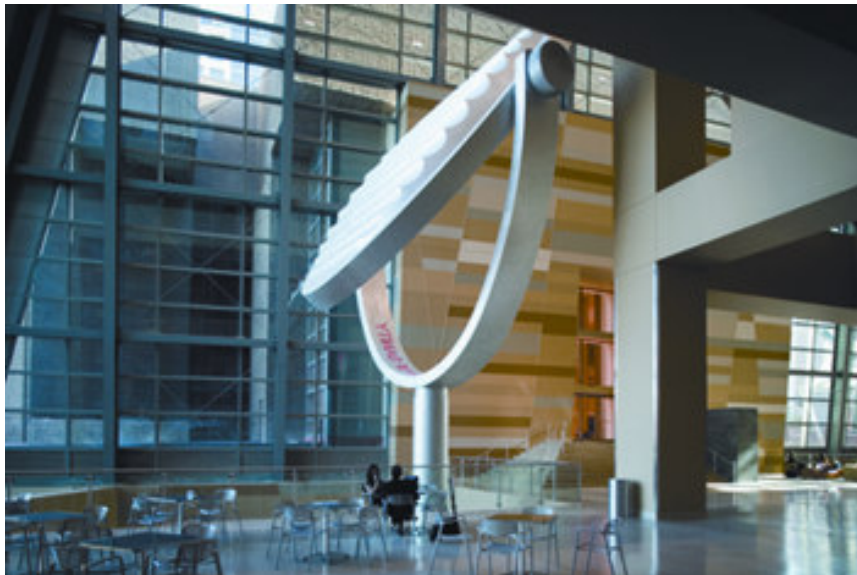
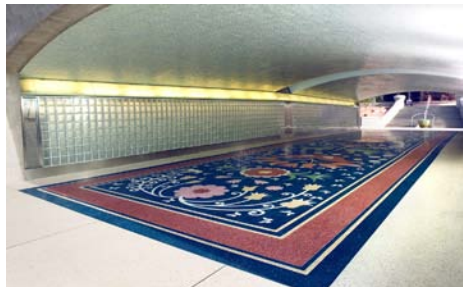
WATER ELEMENTS

Water elements include water fountains, drinking fountains, and other elements integrated into public spaces that contribute to a more comfortable pedestrian environment while raising awareness about the history and importance of water in the Phoenix region.

One of the key amenities of the Connected Oasis is the integration of water. Water from the Salt River is what drew the first inhabitants to settle the Phoenix region. Since the time of the ancient Hohokam there has been a network of canals in what is now Downtown. In acknowledgement of this history, this Plan proposes that water be used in sensible measures to enhance public spaces throughout Downtown.

A “Water in the Desert” walking route could be established to educate people regarding the role that water has played in the development





and growth of Phoenix, how desert plants use water, and how water can be used wisely by people who live in a desert climate. Much like the “Walk of Pride” that uses landmarks to demonstrate the accomplishments of notable Arizonans, this “walk” can creatively employ materials, designs, and themes to educate the public about water, while contributing to a more comfortable environment. These water features should be public art components of the Connected Oasis. Rather than statues or freestanding sculptures, the design of the water features can become the works of art.

Policy 2-39 Incorporate sensible water elements in public spaces to enhance pedestrian comfort and raise awareness about the role that water has played in the growth and development of Phoenix.

INTERPRETIVE ELEMENTS

Interpretative elements include Sculptures, plaques, kiosks, murals, and other physical elements that highlight special places, landmarks, accomplishments, and events that are important to the history of Phoenix.

The “Walk of Pride” is a walking tour through Downtown created by the Phoenix Pride Commission. Extending from 6th Street to 2nd Avenue, and from Van Buren Street to Jefferson Street, the path meanders through several Downtown blocks. Along the way informational markers tell the stories of “Arizonans Who Have Made a Difference”—local people who have contributed to the city or environment in a significant and meaningful way.

Policy 2-40 Support and accommodate the installation of the Walk of Pride in Downtown.

EVENTS AND PROGRAMMING

Events and programming are critical to promoting the use of Downtown public spaces. When public spaces are regularly used for community gatherings and as stages for public events, they become more inviting and comfortable places. Regular events programming creates a sense of safety and security among users at all times of the day. Users begin to take ownership of the space, helping to maintain it and reporting any problems.

The Parks and Recreation Department publishes a regular calendar that details the city’s public events many of which are held in Downtown public spaces. Downtown event locations include spaces such as



An urban exercise trail loop is proposed along 2nd Avenue and 2nd Street, looping up to Hance Park. (2nd Avenue)



Incorporate water features in an environmentally responsible manner, to cool public spaces and educate people about the importance of water. (Historic City Hall fountain)



Fountain at Arizona Center



Walk of Pride Marker



An ongoing program of community events is critical to creating a lively safe Downtown.



Encourage regular programming such as the Public Market.

Heritage Square, Hance Park, and Cesar Chavez Plaza. The Downtown Phoenix Public Market in the Evans Churchill Character Area is also an important regular event, building community and activating the area.

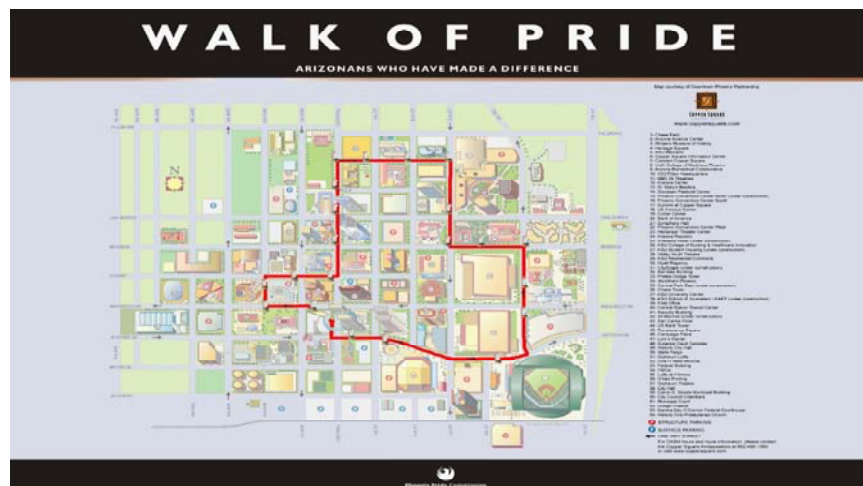
The city should take a more active role in promoting the use of Downtown parks and public spaces by regular user groups. The Downtown Phoenix Partnership and ASU should also conduct events in Downtown parks and public spaces. Groups should be encouraged to use Downtown spaces for a variety of special interest events like Tai chi classes, outdoor exercise classes, and jogging clubs. Community and school groups should also be encouraged to use Downtown parks and public spaces for sports and recreation, both children and adult leagues.

Large parks, such as the Civic Space, should be programmed with events that bring people from around the region to Downtown, in an effort to demonstrate to the region that Downtown is a safe and accessible place. Events may include auto shows, crafts fairs, sports events, cultural celebrations, music events, temporary art installations, and parades.

Policy 2-41 Establish and fund an ongoing program of community events and coordinated activities in the Downtown parks and public spaces.

Policy 2-42 Design facilities to accommodate community events, special festivals and outdoor entertainment, including music, art, dance, and movies.

Policy 2-43 Support the establishment of a permanent site for the Public Market including the development of a small urban park that serves the neighborhood.



MAINTENANCE

Maintenance involves the ongoing investment in the components of the Connected Oasis.

Budget constraints have impacted funding for parks maintenance, leading to reductions in staffing and equipment. Due to intensive use, Downtown parks are likely to require more maintenance than suburban parks, but existing funding does not reflect this difference in need. In order to accomplish the efficient maintenance of the parks and public spaces, a collaborative approach between the public sector and the private sector must be established.

In particular, the use and sharing of resources such as manpower, tools, and vehicles will make more of limited funding. Overall, there needs to be a major concerted effort to increase funding and staff, and coordinate efforts to maintain Downtown parks and public spaces.

- Policy 2-44** Establish consistent maintenance standards for the components of the Connected Oasis, tailored specifically to the types of plant materials and activities.
- Policy 2-45** Establish an assured funding source for maintenance of all components of the Connected Oasis including parks, public spaces, and streetscapes.
- Policy 2-46** Encourage new development adjacent to a park or public space to contribute to capital costs, maintenance, and programming consistent with city standards.
- Policy 2-47** Require all property owners to maintain all trees and landscaping on their property and within the public right-of-way adjacent to their property.
- Policy 2-48** Prohibit the planting of palm trees in the public right-of-way except for replacement of palm trees in historic districts or in areas in which palm trees are used to establish a unique character.
- Policy 2-49** Provide service access, a central maintenance yard, and storage facilities within the Downtown to service the Connected Oasis network of public spaces.



Hance Park, 30 acres in size, is the largest public park in Downtown.



Roosevelt Park is the smallest public park in Downtown; it is 0.6 acres in size.



The public market needs a permanent site, with shaded vendor stalls and walkways.



It is critical to budget adequate funds for parks maintenance if new parks are going to be created. (Hance Park)



Due to intensive use, some facilities in Downtown parks may require more maintenance than suburban parks. (Townsend Park)

REGIONAL SYSTEM

The Connected Oasis in Downtown will be the hub of a larger network of parks and trails in the Phoenix region. The first connection as will be an enhanced pedestrian corridor linking Downtown with the Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Area. This corridor will benefit residents and provide the opportunity for visitors to experience the restored riparian habitat along the Rio Salado.

A detailed plan will be prepared for the Connected Oasis with the initial focus on Downtown, but with the vision for expansion to incorporate the regional trail system and the numerous destination points that exist in Phoenix and other communities in the region. The Connected Oasis regional system can be similar to regional systems in other communities such as the Atlanta Beltline Project and the St. Louis River Ring Project.

PLACEMAKING

The success of the Connected Oasis depends on the quality of the built environment. Well designed parks and public spaces are vital to the success of a vibrant city. Public spaces provide opportunities for activities such as: community gatherings, cultural events, celebrations, recreation, and social interaction. parks and public spaces provide Downtown with a sense of community identity.

Establishing guidelines for parks and public spaces will help to implement a livable, high-quality, sustainable Downtown. Guidelines should address strategies for developing successful public spaces.

- The design of public spaces should focus on:
- Design for the Sonoran Desert climate
- Utilize sustainable materials
- Protect and enhance historic sites
- Mitigate the Urban heat island
- Manage stormwater as a resource
- Protect groundwater quality
- Implement best management practices

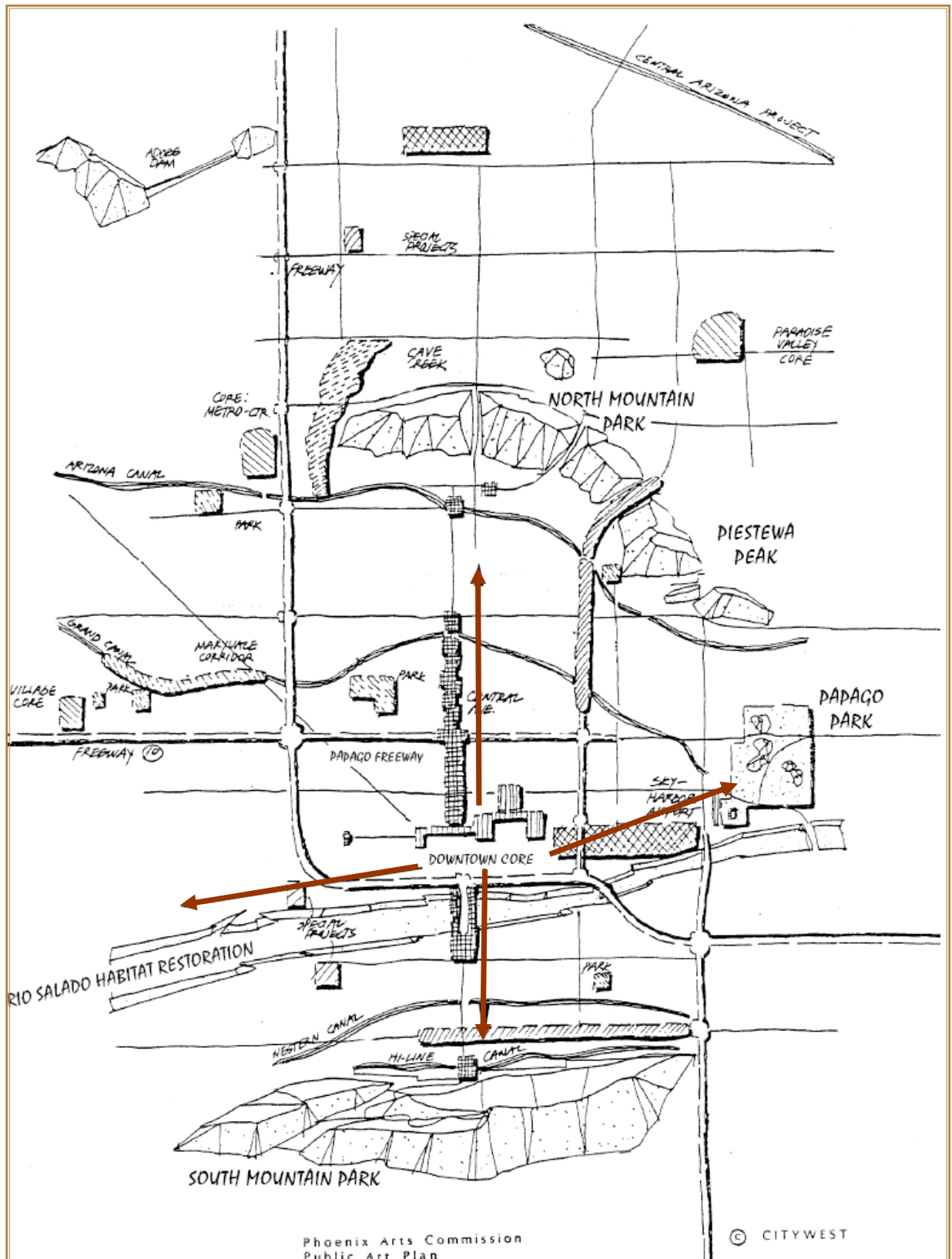


FIGURE 2-7 SKETCH FROM THE "PUBLIC ART PLAN FOR PHOENIX: IDEAS AND VISIONS SHOWING REGIONAL CONNECTIONS BETWEEN DOWNTOWN AND GREATER PHOENIX AREA"

DESIGN STANDARDS

The success of the Connected Oasis concept depends, in part, on the quality of the built environment. Well designed parks and public spaces are vital to the success of a vibrant city. Establishing design standards for parks and public spaces will help to implement a livable, high-quality, sustainable Downtown environment. The design of public spaces should focus on:

- Consideration of the Sonoran Desert climate;
- Utilization of sustainable materials and construction strategies;
- Protection and enhancement of historic sites;
- Reduction of the Urban Heat Island Effect;
- Utilization of water in an efficient, beneficial manner;
- Consideration of storm water management as an opportunity;
- Protection of groundwater quality and quantity;
- Implementation of best management practices (BMP's).

Consideration for the kinds of activities that might occur in each public space and its placement within the Connected Oasis network should be addressed. In general, four elements should be considered in the planning of new and revitalized spaces: uses and activities; access and linkage; comfort and image; and sociability. These four elements are described in detail in the publication *Public Spaces: Urban Design Report – Creating Public Spaces* (June 2005, City of Phoenix Planning Department).

USES AND ACTIVITIES

- Special and regular events draw people to public spaces; spaces should be designed to accommodate these events.
- Events such as art and music festivals can help to enhance the cultural identity and image of a place.
- Public Markets provide a regular use for a space and a venue to bring people together to establish commercial and social routines.
- Parades and other street events can provide cultural and recreational uses for streets.
- Public spaces designed for the human scale help to create a place where people feel comfortable.

- Public spaces should acknowledge the context in which they are placed, such as adjacent land uses, architectural features, view corridors, and natural features.
- Public spaces are best when defined by surrounding buildings, trees or other vegetation, art, views, and protection from the elements.
- The size of public spaces should correlate with the purpose and types of activities which are planned for them.
- Focal points and/or sub-spaces created within larger spaces provide diversity within the landscape.
- Interactive furnishings and features promote interaction and connection between people.

ACCESS AND LINKAGE

- Public spaces should be easy to find, and easy to see in and out of the space.
- A visual connection between adjacent buildings and/or streets with public spaces is important as it provides eyes on the street and a sense of connectedness.
- View corridors should be maintained and framed where possible
- The Connected Oasis aims to create a park and public space network, connected by pedestrian pathways that allows for both direct and random movement to and through spaces.
- Transit stops should be provided at public spaces as well as along pedestrian corridors.
- Transition areas between pedestrian and vehicular spaces should be created to provide a safe and seamless integration between the pedestrian and vehicular environment.
- Public spaces are accessible for people of all ages and abilities.
- The use of landmarks, lighting, sign elements, public art, and paving materials can enhance public spaces by providing means for guidance and to encourage exploration.

COMFORT AND IMAGE

- Seating should be provided in all public spaces and along pedestrian walkways at key locations.
- The number of seating elements, locations, and types should be based on the activities taking place within the public space.



Hance Park provides a large acreage of park space for the Roosevelt Planning Area.



Townsend Park and Hance Park provide adequate park space for the Culture and Mixed Use Planning Area. (Townsend Park)



The Evans Churchill and Van Buren planning areas will require new parks and public spaces, because a large amount of high-density residential development is anticipated on vacant lots.



The Business Core has adequate acreage of parks and public spaces to serve growth. However the existing parks and public spaces do not include recreation facilities to serve a residential population.



The Warehouse District needs a minimum of two acres of parks because of the projected residential growth.



There are no sports fields within the Downtown to serve residents. There are large sites in southern Downtown which might be able to be acquired for that purpose.

- Moveable seating increases comfort because it provides flexibility for maximum socialization.
- Cafés, restaurants, or food vendors should be located within or adjacent to public spaces to increase activity and more people.
- The incorporation of trees, shrubs and flowers into public spaces adds shade and beauty.
- Public spaces should provide opportunities for shade during the summer and sun during the winter.
- Water features should be considered as landscape features because they help to cool a space and attract people.
- Shelter and wind breaks should be considered for incorporation to increase comfort and safety within a space.
- Public spaces should be illuminated based upon the intended uses.
- Nighttime lighting of some public spaces (such as recreational facilities) should be considered to allow for evening use.
- Pedestrian scale lighting is important for users to feel comfortable in public spaces.
- Lighting fixtures should be in character with the architectural and landscape design of the area.
- SafeScape principles should be applied when designing public spaces.
- Traffic calming strategies should be applied where vehicular and pedestrian spaces converge.
- Activating public spaces attracts people and the more people in a space the safer the space.
- Directional signage is important because it lets people know their location and how to enter and exit a space.
- Continued management and maintenance is vital to keep public spaces inviting and safe for all users.

SOCIABILITY

- Public spaces should be designed to attract people by the use of shade, seating opportunities, or interactive art and water features.
- Lighting plays an important role in attracting people to a space after dark.

- Designing for diversity – both in users and activities – will help attract the community to public spaces.
- Public spaces should provide opportunities for people to gather, interact, and play together.
- Art and water elements can help to create experiences that promote interaction.



*First Street, 2nd Street, and Jackson Street are very wide, and can be modified with wider sidewalks, more landscaping, or medians, to create urban “linear parks.”
(1st Street)*