

DOWNTOWN LAS VEGAS CIVIC SPACE & TRAILS MASTER PLAN

FINAL REPORT - AUGUST 2019



DESIGNWORKSHOP

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

LAS VEGAS CITY COUNCIL

Carolyn Goodman, Mayor
 Michele Fiore, Mayor Pro-Tem
 Brian Knudsen, Councilman
 Victoria Seaman, Councilwoman
 Olivia Diaz, Councilwoman
 Stavros Anthony, Councilman
 Cedric Crear, Councilman

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

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 Rosa Cortez
 Stephen Glimp

Seth Floyd
 Teresa Boyce
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 Esther Reincke

STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Derek Stonebarger
 Dayvid Figler
 Melissa Clary
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 Todd Kessler
 Bill Noonan
 Shondra Summers-Armstrong
 David Frommer
 Steven Clarke
 Brian Knudsen
 Julie Murray
 Jonathan Kermani
 Craig Palacios
 Tina Wichman

Patrick Hughes
 John Tippins
 Rob Gurdison (rep. Steve Molasky)
 Caron Milstead

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Michael Howe
 Maria Jose Noreno
 Sidney Noyce
 Lorenzo Mastino

CONSULTANT TEAM

Steve Noll, Principal, Design Workshop
 Kuang Xin, Project Manager,
 Design Workshop
 Lindsay Kageyama, Project Assistant,
 Design Workshop
 Grace Chrysomallis, Project Assistant,
 Design Workshop
 Tyson Murray, Project Assistant,
 Design Workshop
 Jay Pleggenkuhle, Stonerose Landscape

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

GREENER DOWNTOWN

One of the big ideas out of the Vision 2045 Downtown Las Vegas Master Plan was to create a Greener Downtown by calling for an additional 24 acres of new parks and plazas, as well as 30 miles of new urban trails. As of 2017, only 1.3% of the downtown area is considered open space (about 38.4 acres). The successful integration of these new open spaces and trails into the downtown open space network, require an understanding of what the opportunities and challenges are in each area. We heard from the community and stakeholders about the lack in number and quality of open space and trails downtown and with their help drafted this plan.

OVERARCHING GOALS AND PRIORITIES

The purpose of the Downtown Civic Space and Trails Plan ("Plan") is to maintain and build on the momentum within the downtown area generated by 2016's adoption of the Vision 2045 Downtown Las Vegas Master Plan. The Plan provides a strategic approach to establishing new opportunities for open space, trails and amenities that link and help maximize the city's existing downtown open space and recreation facilities. The Plan will augment and enhance work already in progress via the City's capital investment plan. The plan is to be used by elected and appointed officials and City staff in the ongoing process of making decisions, updating ordinances and allocating funds. The Downtown Civic Space and Trails Plan is in parallel with the development of the new Title 19.09 Form-Based Code for downtown (Regulating Plan and District Level Standards). With the completion of the Plan, future phases include funding strategies for land acquisition, facilities development, and coordinated operations of existing and new facilities.

In order to address the challenges and provide vibrant, safe and enjoyable parks and open spaces within the Downtown, goals were developed early in the process to guide the public process and the development of the Plan. The following summarizes the goals established for this process.

- Create more **PARKS** and **GREEN STREETS** to meet the needs and aspirations of the community
- Provide safe, comfortable outdoor public spaces to serve current and growing population and tourism

- Promote fitness to support an overall higher quality of life
- Improve economic health and increase overall property values
- Preserve and celebrate the historic and cultural importance of each district
- Improve and expand the trail system within each district, citywide and regionally
- Create iconic, memorable spaces for both local residents and visitors

PLANNING PROCESS

The process for the Plan included assessing and evaluating the existing parks, open spaces and trails within the area, hosting a series of technical and advisory committee meetings, facilitating two public meetings and regular meeting and coordination with City staff. The results of these efforts are a series of recommendations based on research of other similar parks throughout the country, input from residents and stakeholders and identifying the types and general locations where improvements and new facilities should be considered.

PROJECT CHALLENGES

With the downtown area being the most mature and intensely developed area within the City, there are several challenges that were identified during this process. The following is a summary of the issues that will need to be addressed associated with improving and expanding the parks, open spaces and trails within the downtown area. These have been identified in the Vision 2045 Downtown Las Vegas Master Plan, with input from stakeholders and residents, discussions with City staff and through the assessment of the existing conditions by the planning team.

- Poor linkages and connections to the surrounding areas and neighborhoods
- Limited recreation uses that meet the needs of the residents
- Lack of cohesive downtown-wide wayfinding system
- Perceived safety issues
- Limited affordable and available land for new parks

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The planning team considered a variety of factors, including downtown land availability, acquisition cost, parking, distance to residential areas, safety, surrounding use, etc. The downtown area will have a total of 61-acres of open space including existing and the proposed parks identified in the System-wide Recommendations Chapter. In order to meet the level of service target and the community's recreation needs 50 acres of new parkland is required.

It is not likely the City will have the funding to achieve this deficit given availability and cost of land for new park facilities. Recognizing community and regional parks within the City's boundaries, yet outside the study area provide active recreational opportunities for downtown residents, the new park facilities within the study area should provide a different experience. Park facilities in the downtown area should have a stronger civic, cultural and events focus to meet the needs of the community and visitors to the area. It is important to understand that parks within the downtown districts will require a higher level of design, construction

budget and maintenance compared to a park with play fields and other active recreational opportunities.

NEXT STEPS

Future efforts by the City to implement the recommendations provided in this document include:

Prioritization

The City will determine prioritization of the location and type of improvements based on available funding for land acquisition and construction, opportunities for Public Private Partnerships (P3) and community opportunities and needs identified through engagement.

Programming and Design

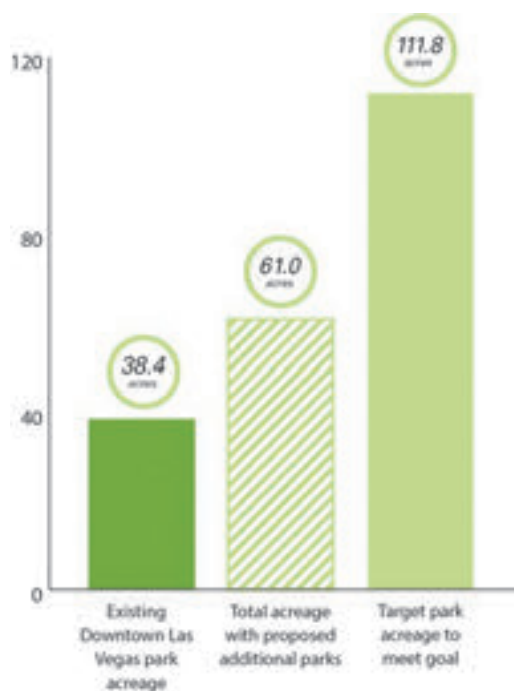
Once land has been secured through purchase, donation, or a formalized P3 opportunity is identified, the City should engage the community in developing the programming and design for park improvements. Information in this document should be used as a basis for beginning the design and programming for upgrading existing or constructing new facilities.

Maintenance and Management

Providing consistent maintenance and proper management for parks and urban plazas will need to be considered as part of the programming and design process. Residents and stakeholders have concerns over safety as well as the side effects of a large homeless population currently downtown.

Through proper design some of these issues can be minimized. Increased funding by the City to monitor the parks and/or opportunities for a non-profit organization to program and manage the parks are methods that will improve the use and quality of the parks and open spaces.

We look forward to continuing the discussion and partnering with the community in order to achieve a greener downtown.







CHAPTER 1

DOWNTOWN OPEN SPACE & TRAILS INVENTORY

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

Part of the Downtown Civic Space and Trails Master Plan is to focus on identifying system condition and prioritizing improvement that aligns with available resources. In the system-wide inventory, the study included a review of demographics, existing park and trail, park classification, and level of service. The planning team held 3 technical and stakeholder meetings to incorporate input from City staff and downtown business owners. The team also held 2 community meetings to collect recommendations and feedback from local residents. With the review and revision process the planning team sought to establish a framework that helps identify current system conditions and future open space and trail needs in the downtown area.

DOWNTOWN LAS VEGAS PARKS SYSTEM

The Master Plan study focused on parks, open space and trails within the downtown area. In total, the City of Las Vegas and private business owners currently manage and operate approximately **38.4 acres of parkland**. It includes **10 parks, one open space, 2 urban plazas, and one sports complex** in the Cashman district.

An inventory of the park system is used to assess quantity, types of the parks, size and service area. The following classifications, based on Las Vegas Master Plan 2020 Parks Element were used to study the existing park system and recommendations.



PARK SYSTEM INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS STUDY INCLUDES

- Parks and open space site visit and condition assessment
- Existing and future level of service for the needs of a growing downtown
- Study of regional parks and trail connectivity
- Demographics and the needs of park uses
- Review session with Technical and Stakeholder committee members.
- Public meetings and surveys

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

Mini Park/Urban Plaza

Mini park or urban plaza is a small, single purpose park or plaza facility designed for active use for children or passive use for adults. They are generally the smallest in size with no more than one acre of parkland.

Neighborhood Park

Neighborhood park is typically a combination playground and park designed primarily for non-supervised, non-organized recreation activities. They are generally small in size (from 5-10 acres) and serve an area of approximately one half-mile radius.

Community Park

Community park is primarily to provide active and structured recreation opportunities. In general, community park facilities are designed for organized activities and sports. They serve a much larger area (multiple neighborhoods) and offer a greater diversity of facilities.

Their service area is generally between a 1 to 3 mile radius. The minimum acreage requirement is above 10 acres with the optimal size being between 20 to 40 acres.

Regional Park

Regional park is designed to serve the entire city of Las Vegas. Regional parks include recreational facilities and/or programming elements of regional significance. These parks usually start at around 40 acres and are more typically in excess of 100 or more.



Mayfair Place Park (Mini Park)



Ethel Pearson Park (Neighborhood Park)



Lorenzi Park (Community Park)



Floyd Lamb Park (Regional Park)

Park Classification Examples

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

In addition there are two park types that could be introduced into the downtown park system:

Joint Use Park

Joint use parks function primarily as playgrounds and field space for schools and by the general public when schools are not in session. The service area for joint use park will be similar to the ones for Neighborhood Park

Urban Park/Central Park

Defined as delineated open space areas, mostly dominated by vegetation and water, and generally reserved for public use in the urban central area. Urban parks are mostly larger, with multiple programs and event space to serve the entire city.

Below is a summary chart to describe existing park facilities in downtown Las Vegas. For a complete matrix of existing parks see chapter 3 parks assessment and appendix A for detailed information including acreage, amenities and classifications.



Grand Park in Downtown Los Angeles - an example of urban central park

PARK TYPE	SIZE	PARKS IN DOWNTOWN	LAS VEGAS PARK EXAMPLE	AMENITIES OFFERED IN THE PARK
Mini Park/Urban Plaza	<1 acre	7	Fitzgerald Tot Lot, Mayfair Place Park, Healing Garden, Stupak Park	Playground, Small Shade Structure, Fitness Equipment
Neighborhood Park	1-10 acres	6	Ethel Pearson Park, Heritage Park, Symphony Park, Centennial Plaza	Playground, Shade Pavilion, BBQ Place, Fitness Equipment, Running/Jogging Trail, Sport Courts
Community Park	10-50 acres	0	Lorenzi Park, Jaycee Park. These parks are not in the downtown limit but serves downtown residents.	Large Play Facility, Splash Pad, Large Shade Pavilion, Sport Courts, Sport Fields, Running/Jogging Loop Trail.
Regional Park	40+ acres	0	Floyd Lamb Park, Lone Mountain Regional Park. These parks are designed to serve the entire city.	Large Play Facility, Large Shade Pavilions, Multi-use Lawn, Sport Courts, Sport Fields, Running/Jogging Loop Trail, Special Use Such as Horse Riding or Kart Tracks.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

EXISTING LEVEL OF SERVICE

Level of Service (LOS) is a study based on existing park acreage per population estimated in the downtown area. The LOS is used to examine the park resources and to determine adequacy for the needs of local residents. It also helps to understand how downtown Las Vegas parks uphold this standard when comparing it to other cities with comparable LOS.

The current population in the downtown area is approximately 22,000. Therefore the overall LOS currently provided by all parks is 1.7 per 1,000 residents. Nationwide a typical park and recreation agency offers 10.1 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, identified by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). While the level of service quantitatively studies the overall parkland, several areas within the downtown boundary are more under-served than others. In this study the planning team has taken other factors such as open space corridor, land availability, community and business owners' inputs into park system recommendations.

REGIONAL PARKS AND TRAILS

Some large community parks, such as Lorenzi Park, are located outside the downtown limit but their service area covers local residents. Most of these community level parks are within driving distance for the downtown community and accommodate their active recreation needs. The following maps show the location and service area for all regional parks and trail system.

*The City of Denver has **108 acres** of open space to serve **19,000+** downtown residents. A well-established public transit and trail network helps 60% of downtown employees use transit, bike, walk, or carpool to work.*

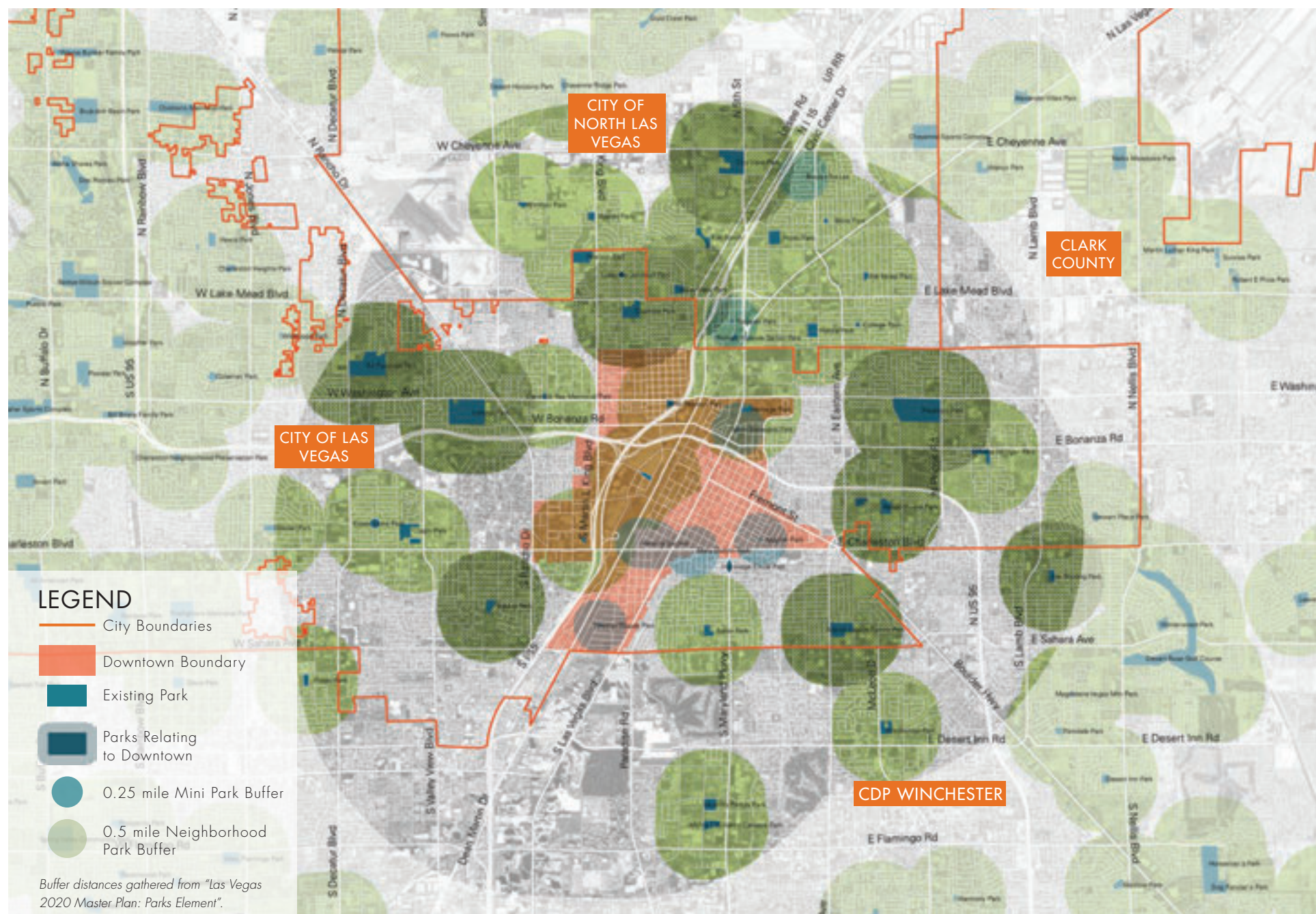
CASE STUDY: OPERATE AND MANAGE A CITY PARK

*Cost of managing a city park varies with the park type, location, and recreation programs. Based on 2018 NRPA field report, the median level operating expenditures is **\$6,589** per acre of parkland. This converts to a typical park and recreation agency with an annual operating expenses of **\$78.26** per capita. The denser the population, such as downtown environment, the higher operating expenses per people basis.*

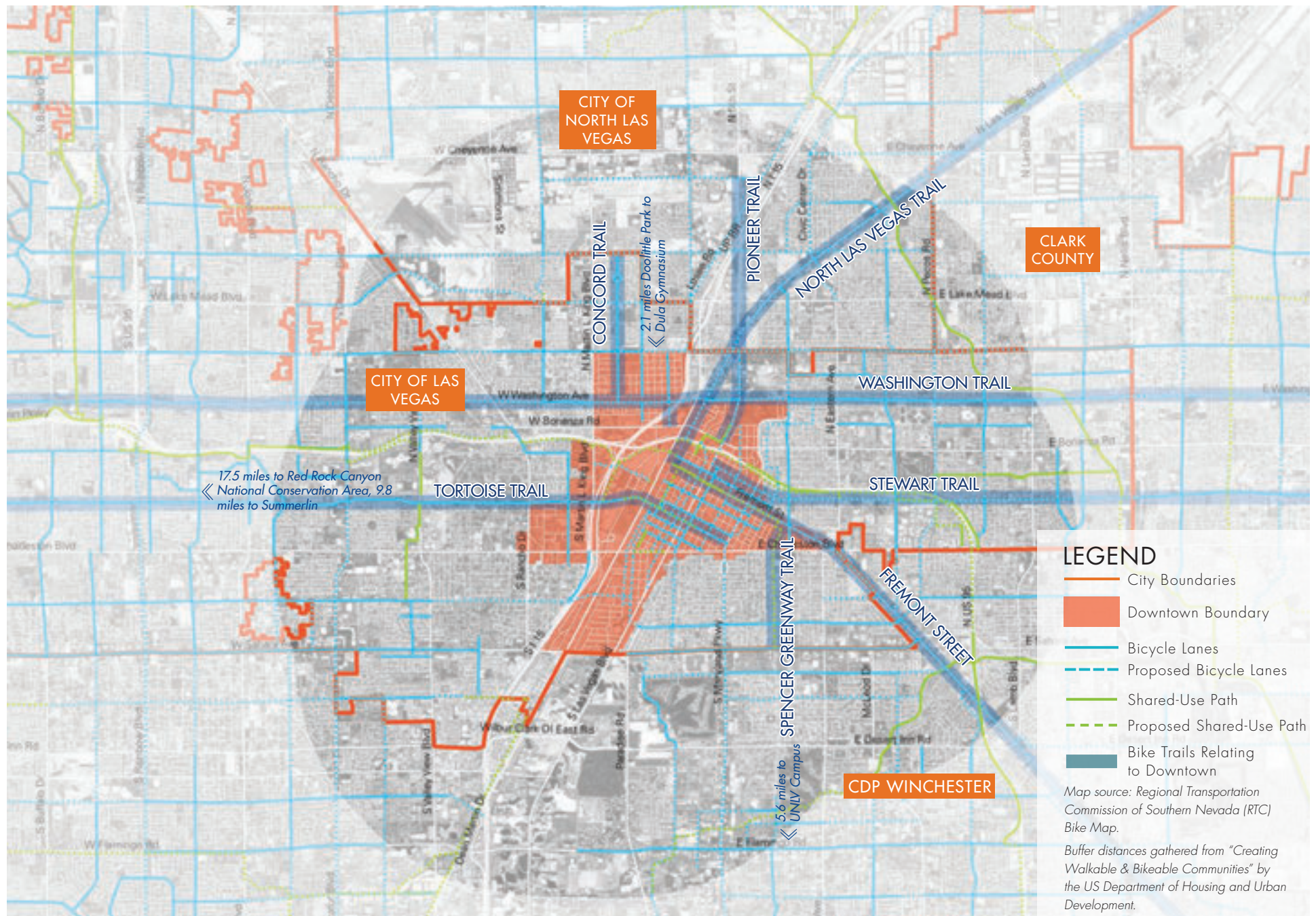
*Parks operation expenditures also involve personnel services. At the typical park and recreation department, such personnel services account for **55 percent** of the operations budget.*



PARKS AND OPEN SPACE IN THE REGION



BIKE NETWORK IN THE REGION



STUDY AREA AND AREA OF INFLUENCE

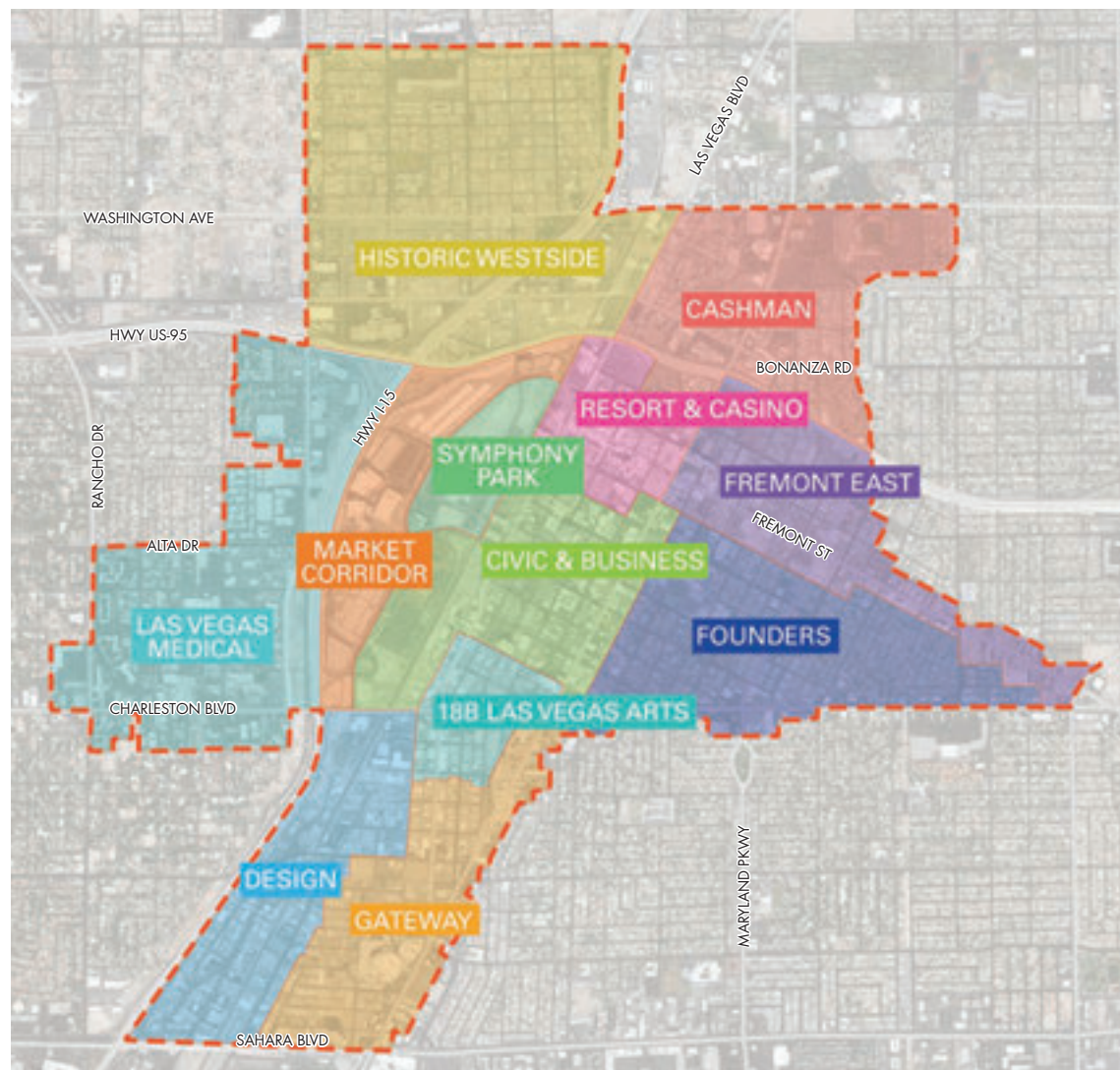
STUDY AREA

The downtown area is situated in the southeast corner of the city boundary just north of the Strip. Historically it's the region's first settlement that formed the original gaming industry in the Valley. Today, downtown Las Vegas consists of a variety of businesses and community, and with a series of nationally known art & musical events in the area.

Based on the Vision 2045 Downtown Las Vegas master plan, the study area includes parks and trails within 9 districts that are traditionally considered the downtown core, 2 districts (Historic Westside and Cashman) north of the highway 95, and Medical district east of the Interstate 15. In the recommendations chapter the study clusters the downtown into five subareas: the **Downtown Core, Downtown North, Downtown South, Downtown East** and the **Medical District**. Additional parks within the area of influence, such as Huntridge Circle park were also taken into planning considerations.

DOWNTOWN EXISTING PARKS, TRAILS, AND FACILITIES

The master plan provides study and recommendations for downtown's existing parks and trails. These include all neighborhood and mini parks that are currently managed by City or through a partnership agreement. The study also assesses parks and plaza space that are under public private partnership, such as Symphony park. These parks support a wide variety of recreation uses for downtown residents. The following maps show the location and service area for all parks, trails and facilities in the downtown area.



Downtown District Map

EXISTING PARKS & OPEN SPACE

LEGEND

- Existing Park (public)
- Existing Park (private)
- Closed Park
- Highways & Major Thoroughfares
- District Boundary
- Study Boundary

Scale: 1" = 2,500'

0 ft 1,250 2,500

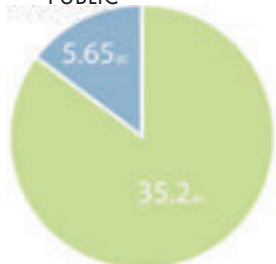
MINI PARK/
URBAN PLAZA



NEIGHBORHOOD
PARK

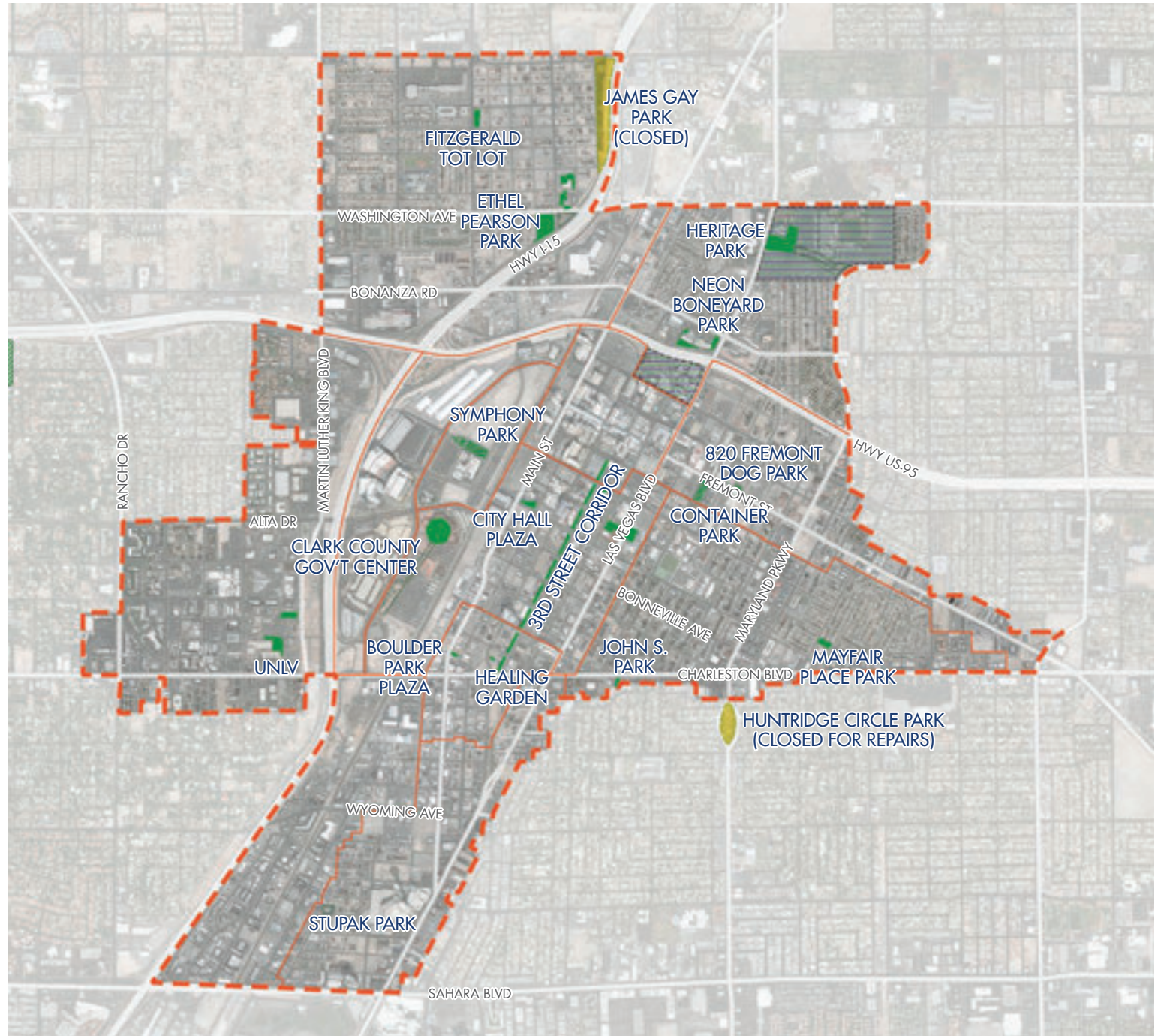
PARK TYPE

PUBLIC



PRIVATE

PARK OWNERSHIP



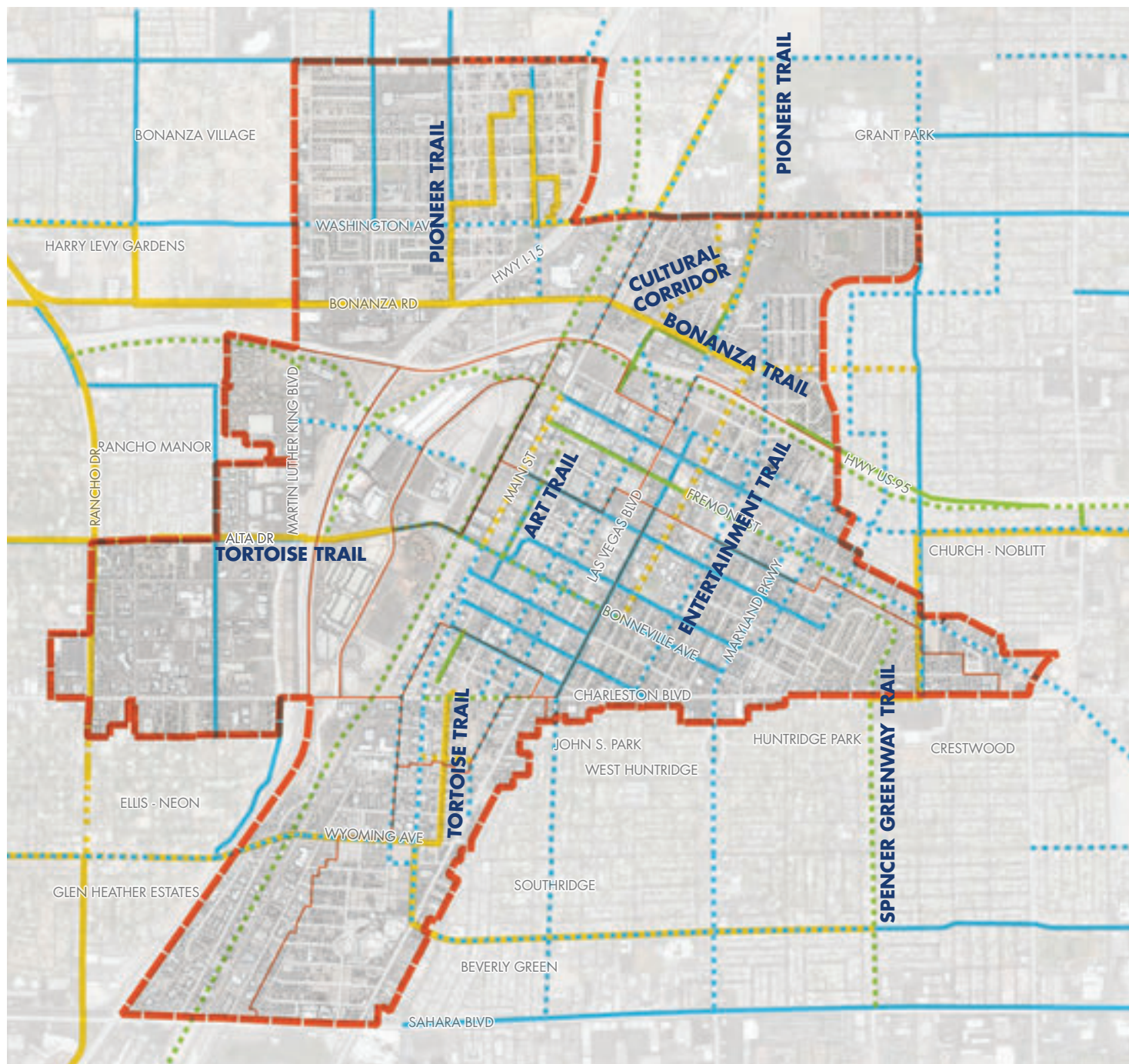
EXISTING & POTENTIAL TRAILS

LEGEND

- Existing Sidewalk Trail
- - - Potential Sidewalk Trail
- Existing Shared Use Path
- - - Potential Shared Use Path
- Existing Bike Lane/Route
- - - Potential Bike Lane/Route
- Highways & Major Thoroughfares
- District Boundary
- - - Study Boundary

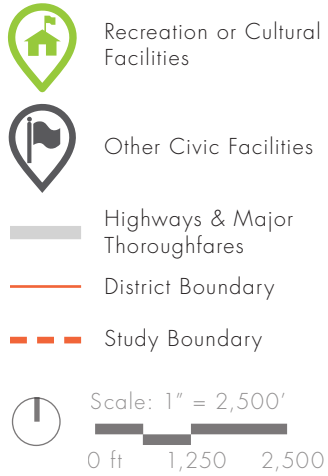
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EXISTING FACILITIES

LEGEND



PROJECT AREA DEMOGRAPHICS

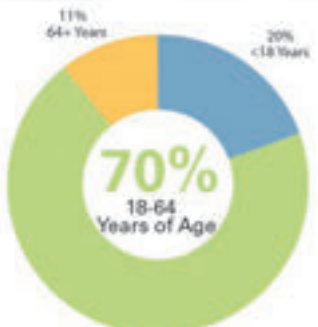
COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHICS OVERVIEW

As one of the master plan study goals, existing parks and open space shall embrace trends and community needs for park and recreation use. This master plan identifies the character of downtown demographics by each district, and reflect priorities in the recommendation. Specific demographic items under this study include:

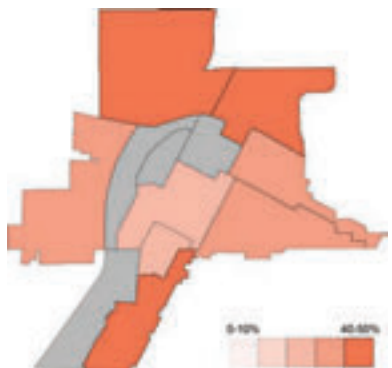
The infographics on the right describe the downtown existing demographics and summary of key findings.

Demographic Mapping

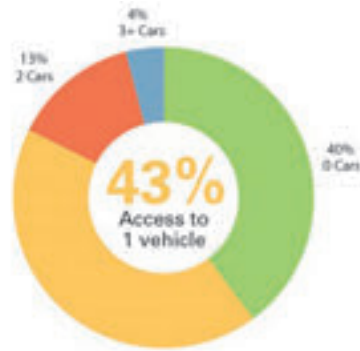
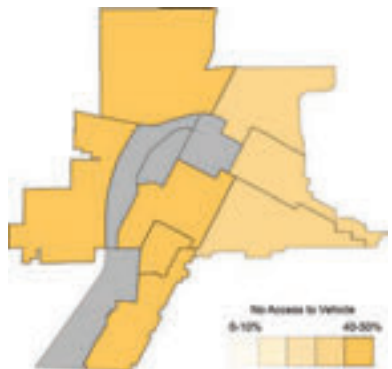
AGE UNDER 18



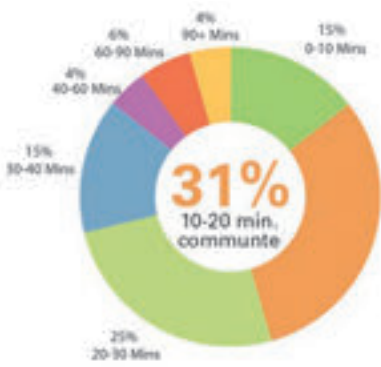
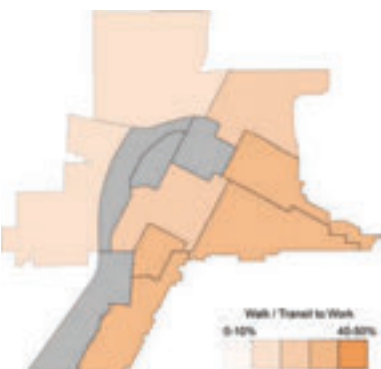
POVERTY RATE



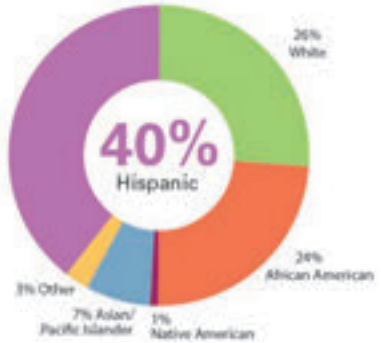
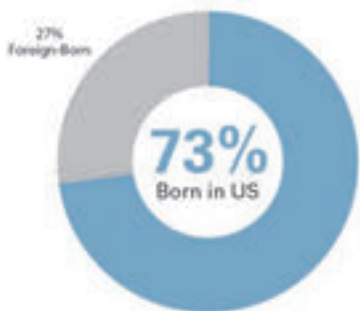
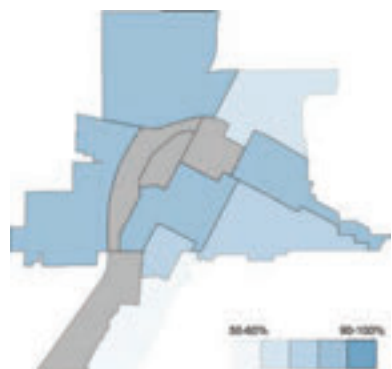
ACCESS TO VEHICLE



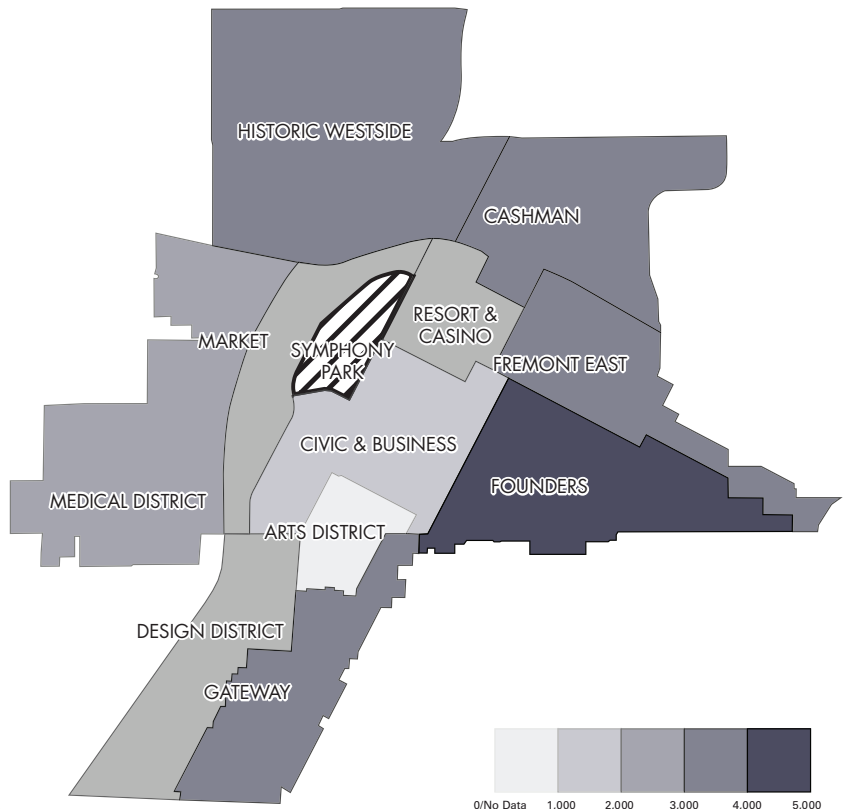
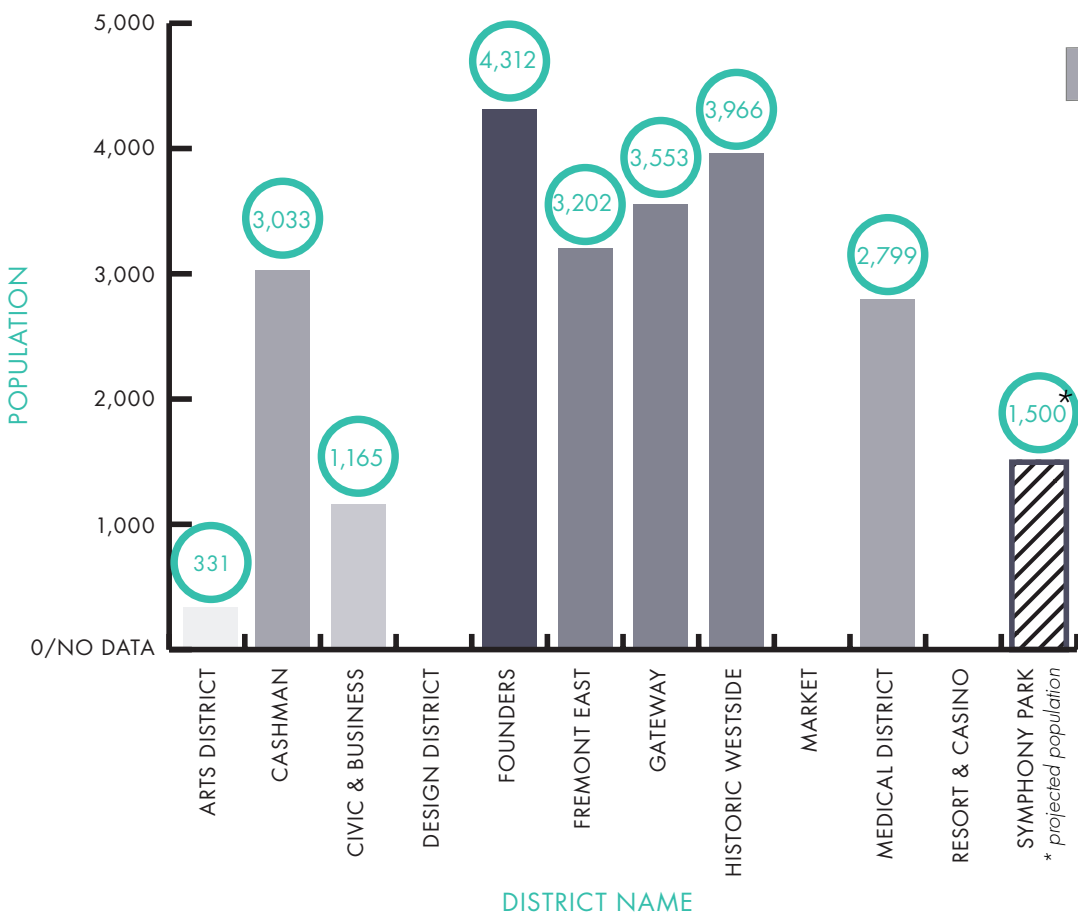
COMMUTE



CITIZENSHIP & ETHNIC GROUPS

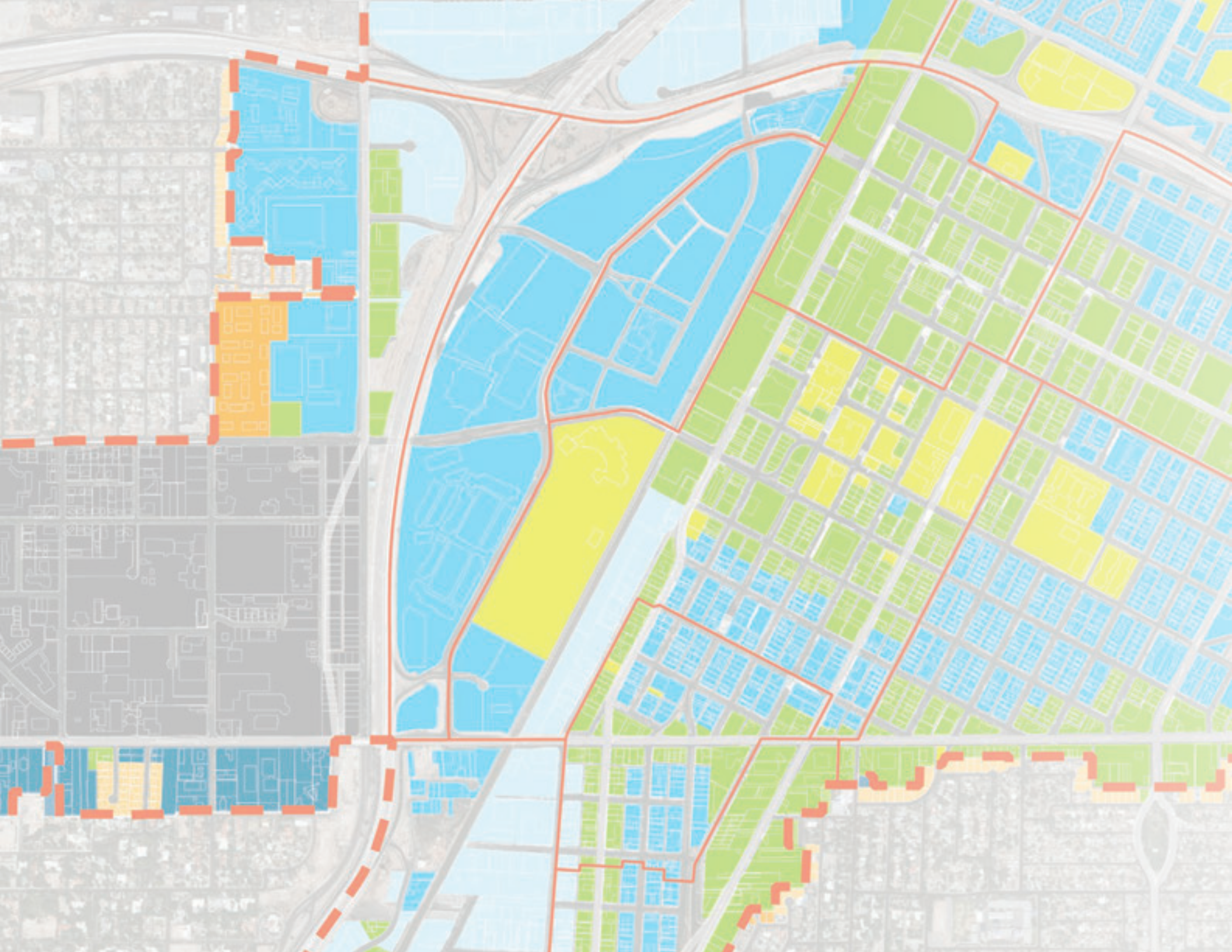


PROJECT AREA POPULATION ANALYSIS



° While the Symphony district does not have population today, it will attract over 1,500 residents with its near term residential development.

POPULATION BY DOWNTOWN AREA





CHAPTER 2

SYSTEM-WIDE ASSESSMENT

PREVIOUS PLANNING DOCUMENT REVIEW

VISION 2045: DOWNTOWN LAS VEGAS MASTER PLAN

The Vision 2045 Plan serves as a separate master plan for Downtown Las Vegas, given that its character differs from the rest of the city. The plan proposes 24 additional acres of parks throughout the 12 downtown districts by establishing a Downtown Central Park, 5 Neighborhood Parks, numerous Urban Plazas and Mini Parks, and public-private partnership opportunities.

The Plan proposes a ‘super aggressive growth scenario’ in which 12 million gross square footage is predicted in the downtown study area to occur. The future development will promote the gaming and tourism industry, provide ample housing and community amenities, expand retail and entertainment offerings, create more parks and green streets, and rebrand the Downtown area.

Based off of the recommendations from the Vision 2045 Plan, the Las Vegas Downtown Open Space and Trail Master Plan makes specific recommendations to align with the opportunities within each district.

LAS VEGAS 2020 MASTER PLAN: PARKS ELEMENT

The Parks Element from the City’s 2020 Master Plan seeks to establish a network of parks, complete streets, trails, and non-traditional open spaces. Non-traditional open space includes activated alleys and fringe land (viaducts, underpasses, transitional zones, and underutilized parcels).

The Master Plan is currently being revised, yet it contains numerous goals, objectives, and policies pertaining directly and indirectly to developing the Downtown Civic Space and Trails Master Plan. They include the following:

Goal 1

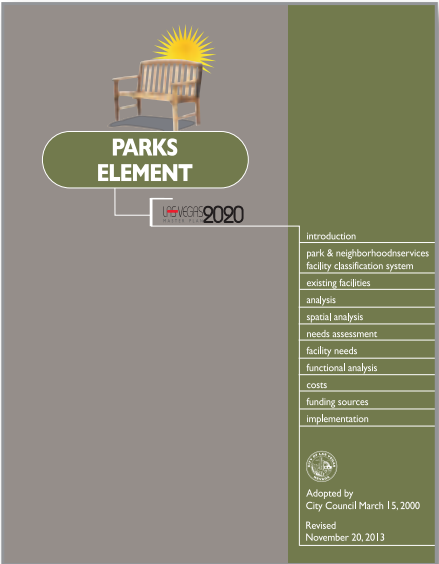
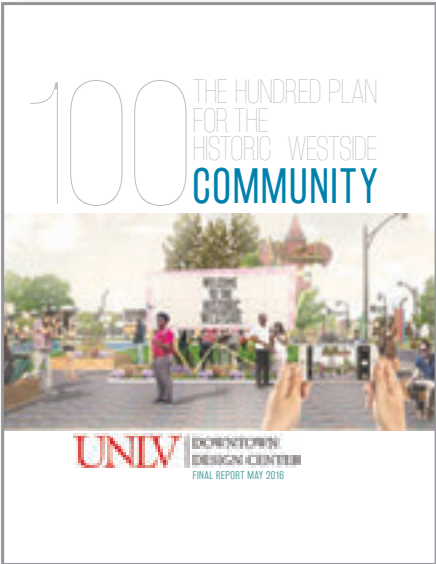
The Downtown area will emerge as the preeminent hub of business, residential, government, tourism and gaming activities in the City of Las Vegas and as a major hub of such activities in the Las Vegas Valley.

Goal 2

Mature neighborhoods will be sustained and improved through appropriate and selective high-quality redevelopment and preservation.

Goal 3

Newly developing areas of the City will contain adequate educational facilities, and recreational and open space and be linked to major employment centers by mass transit, including buses and by trails.



LAS VEGAS 2020 MASTER PLAN: TRAIL ELEMENT

The trail element from Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan was to establish standards, guidelines, policies and priorities for the transportation and recreation trails in Las Vegas. The Plan outlines trail improvement goals including an interconnected downtown trail system, enhanced streetscape linked between parks and neighborhoods, and trail system to highlight region's cultural and environmental significance..

THE HUNDRED PLAN FOR THE HISTORIC WESTSIDE COMMUNITY

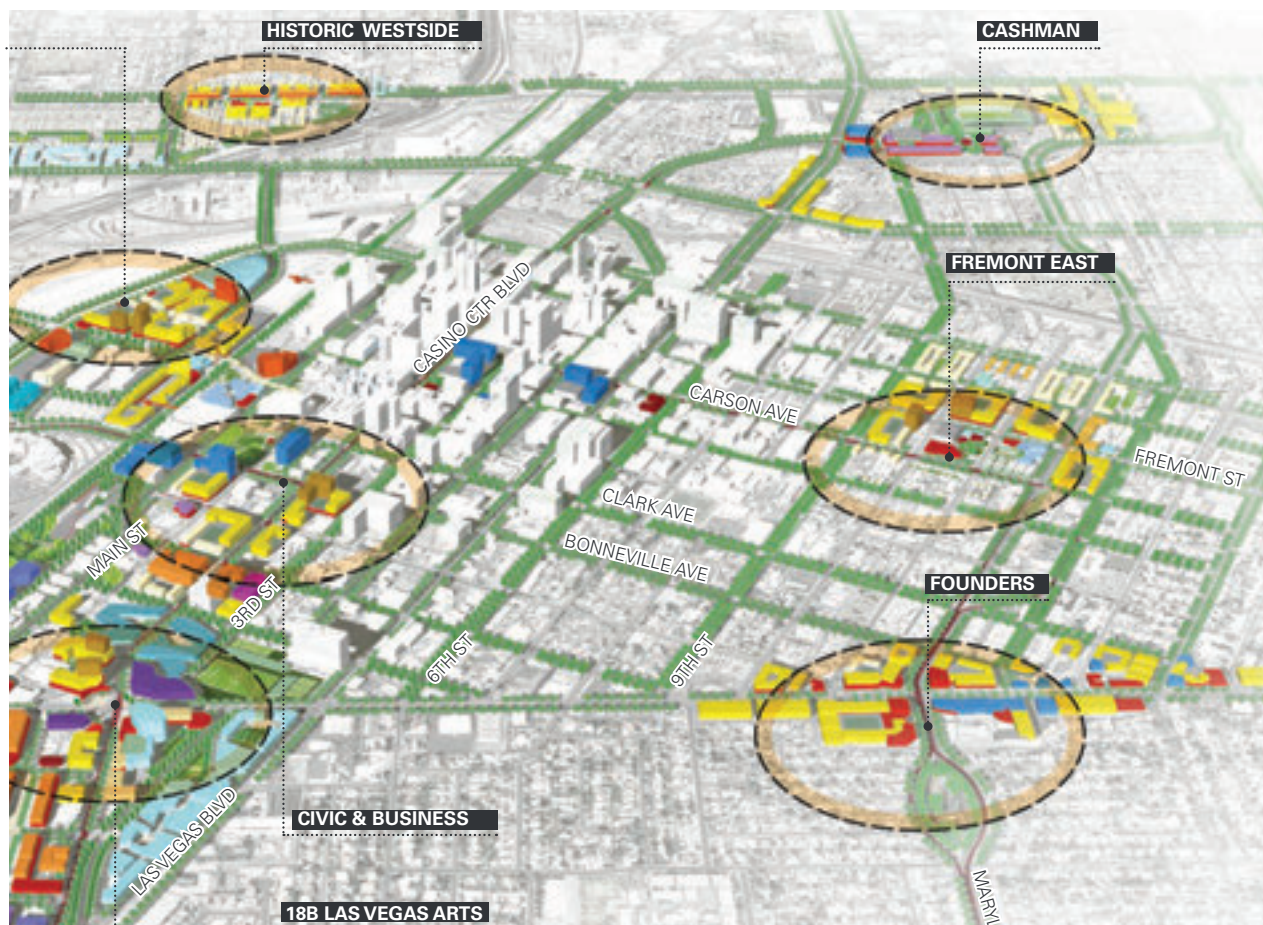
The HUNDRED Plan is a district-level master plan for the Historic Westside district. The Plan focuses on linking the current district with its history in the development of Las Vegas. The Plan outlines eight goals to transform the neighborhood into a thriving area:

1. Establishing gateways to create visual interest and establish boundaries.
2. Revitalize historic Jackson Street with catalyst projects to boost the local economy.
3. Infill development such as housing, plazas, community gardens, and community clubs.
4. Establish Washington Avenue with live music venues and restaurants
5. Infill projects along Owens Avenue and Martin Luther King Boulevard for commercial, and office uses.
6. Design for pedestrians and cyclists with complete streets to improve safety, tree

coverage, and access to multi-modal transportation.

7. Develop a mixed-use development adjacent to James Gay Park to make the area a safer environment.
8. Revitalize the Moulin Rouge Entertainment area with mixed-use, small-scale, artisan and industrial uses.

Of these goals, this plan recommends establishing enhanced gateways into the community to provide better connectivity between the district and the rest of the downtown.



Graphic from Vision 2045 Downtown Las Vegas Master Plan

OUTREACH

TECHNICAL AND STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH SUMMARY AND KEY FINDINGS

By creating a shared vision among city staff and community members, the master plan invited groups with various interests to review and comment on mappings and recommendations. This will aid in community buy-in and implementation. Committees included:

Technical Committee

Comprised of staff from related city departments (Mayor and City Council, Planning Commission, City Manager's Office, Planning, Cultural Affairs, Parks and Recreation, Public Works and Major Projects Coordination Team) to share information and discuss current issues and challenges associated with existing parks. In addition, the group provided insight to resolving issues and understanding opportunities of expansion and implementation of the parks.

Stakeholder Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee consisted of residents from downtown Las Vegas, local private business owners and organizations, institutional groups and organizations to guide the process.

Below is a summary of key findings and consensus throughout the master planning process.

KEY FINDINGS

- *Downtown parks and open space improvement shall tie to local cultural and historic character.*
- *Creating inviting park facilities which address safety and other concerns.*
- *Look for opportunities to create economic benefit, either in the parks or adjacent to them in the form of development activity.*
- *Implement reasonable changes to the streetscapes and provide friendly pedestrian experience*
- *A shaded and walkable downtown network.*



COMMUNITY OUTREACH SUMMARY AND KEY FINDINGS

As part of the public outreach strategy, the project team held two public meetings, administered a community online survey and conducted community outreach in Wards 1, 3 and 5 to share information about the project, gain feedback about the existing parks, and gain recommendations for site improvement opportunities. Outreach efforts showed that the community desires inviting, safe, accessible, flexible, and comfortable public spaces.

Many downtown residents choose driving over walking and bicycling due to lack of tree coverage and extreme heat on pedestrian walkways due to the desert climate of Las Vegas.

Another major concern from the community is safety and maintenance in public spaces—people want clean, family-friendly environments to socialize and play. With regards to the amenities and programs provided by the parks, the community prefers active uses to facilitate fitness and outdoor recreation for all age groups.

Many community members said that **safety and maintenance issues** deter them from spending more time in downtown parks.

A majority of public meeting attendees want to see **active uses** in the city's parks and open space.

"There is great potential for Las Vegas to make itself known for other things—not just partying and nightlife. We should reinvent the days in Las Vegas for the active adults, parents, and families. For the bikers, hikers, runners, and athletes. Put us in the light and show that we are also a community of healthy, active adults and families."

—Comment Card from Public Meeting 2



SYSTEM-WIDE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA



SYSTEM-WIDE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

PARK DISTRIBUTION

The distribution of parks affects social and ethnic equity and how well groups can access parks. Parks in the downtown area need to be evenly distributed so that all neighborhoods have acceptable park coverage. Distribution also ties into neighborhood density (denser neighborhoods should have more parks to accommodate the higher population) and physical location (parks must be placed in safe, easily accessible locations in order to have a positive impact on the communities which they serve).

PARK ACCESS

Parks that are easy to access, have lower crime rates and have better neighborhood conditions translate into increased park use. Park should be accessible for all age groups. Having many connections into parks from adjacent neighborhoods and parks along streets with low traffic volumes is shown to increase the public's level of appreciation for parks.

AMENITIES & PROGRAMS

Programs provided in parks should be a reflection of the community's needs, to accommodate changing demographics and trends of how public space is used. Amenities and programs should also fill the park gaps within the downtown area. Flexibility and availability of public space is also important in accommodating public, art, and musical events in order to build a Downtown Las Vegas brand.

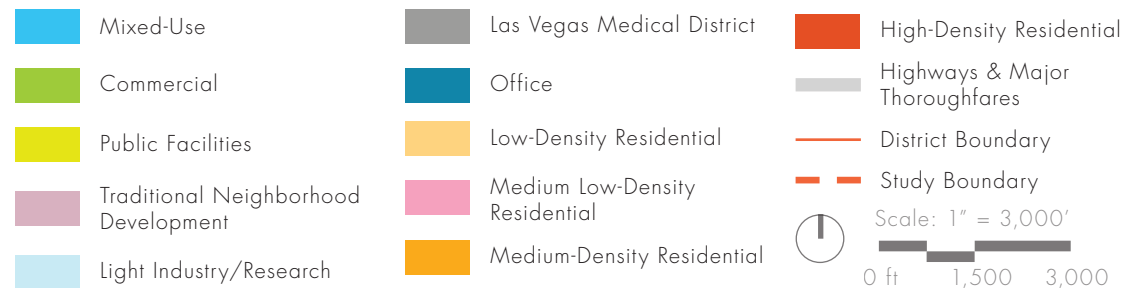
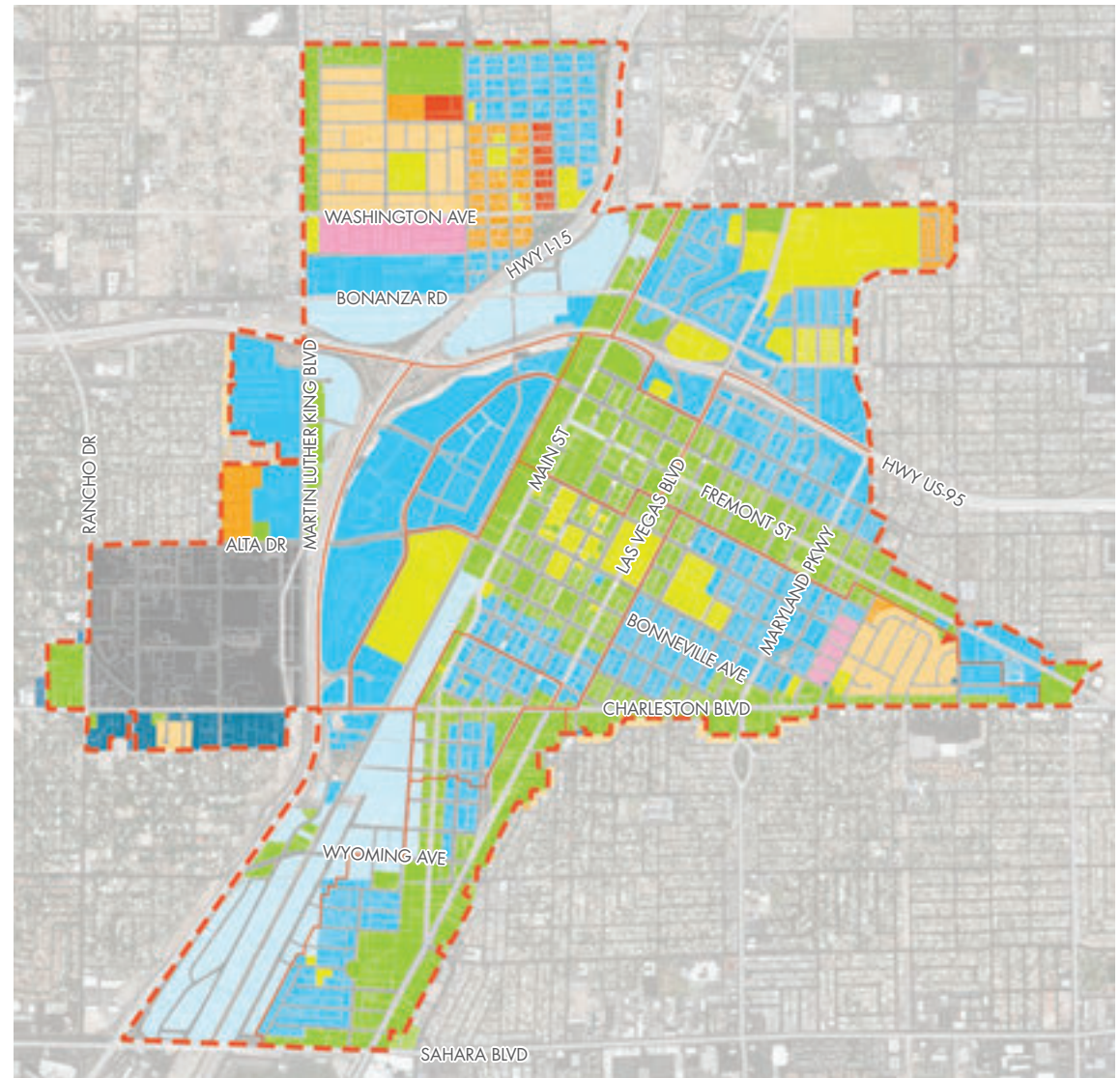
PARK CONDITION

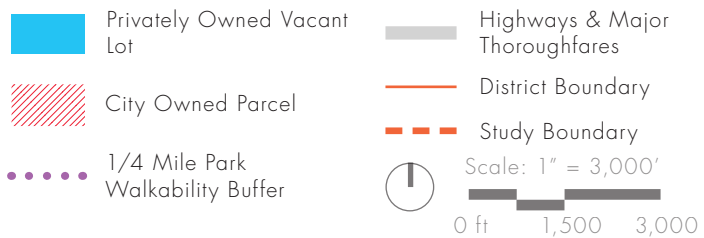
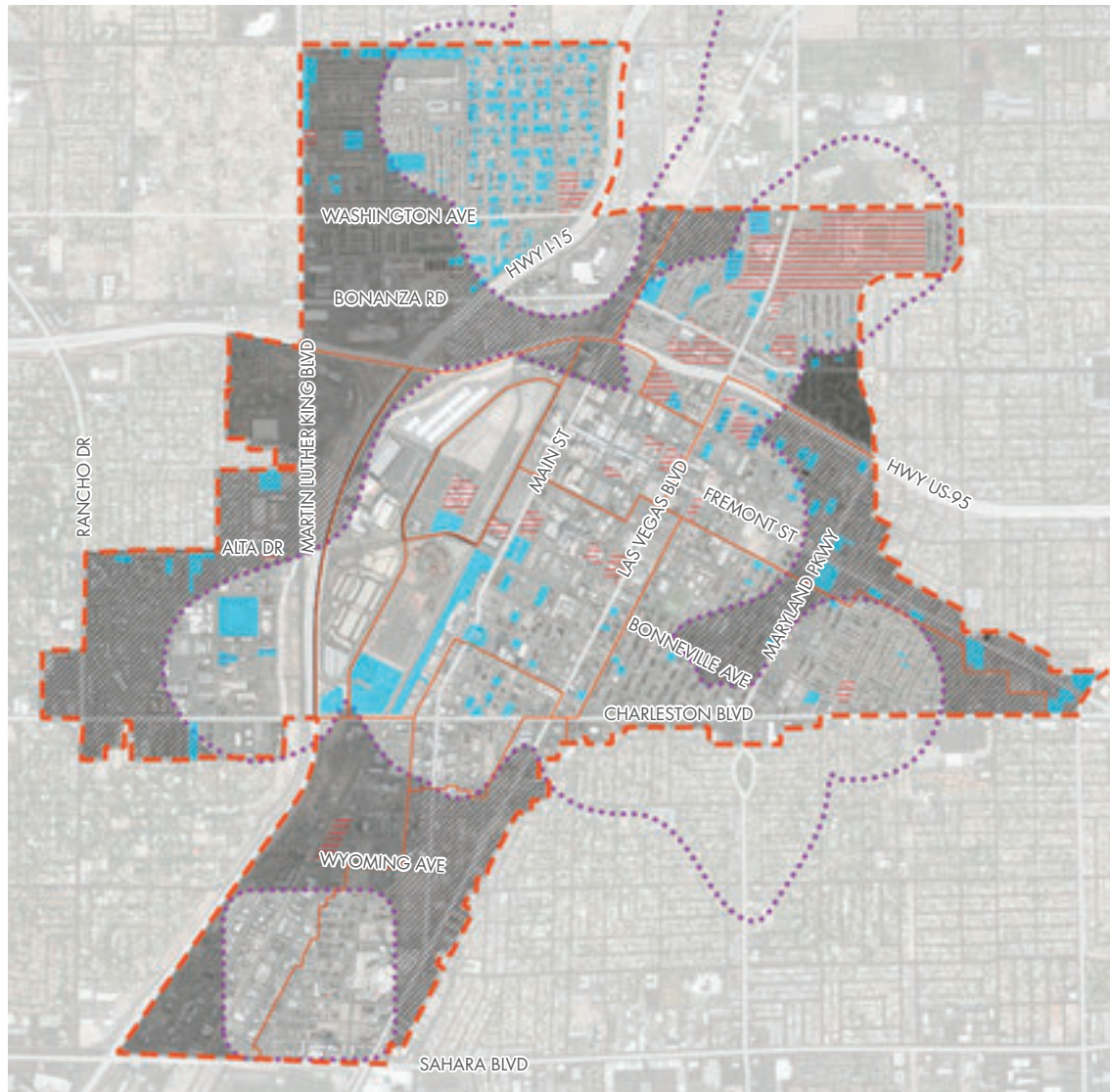
Parks that are in good condition are associated with higher use. Condition of parks includes being well-maintained, aesthetically appealing, and safe and inviting. Facilities that are poorly maintained and high levels of litter are shown to negatively impact civic trust of parks and open spaces.

EXISTING PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ANALYSIS

CURRENT AND FUTURE LAND USE

The primary land uses within the downtown study area are mixed-use, commercial, light industry/research, and the Medical district facilities. A majority of public facilities, (which includes parks and open space) are located in the Downtown Core and Downtown North. These areas have a great amount of industrial zoning which correlates with decreased access to public facilities.





PARCEL VACANCY

The parcel vacancy assessment shows that there are several privately owned vacant lots within the downtown area, with the highest vacancy rates occurring within the Historic Westside, Civic & Business, and Fremont East Areas. Vacant lots outside of the 1/4 mile park walkability buffer provides the greatest opportunity for the city to purchase vacant privately owned to convert into parks or establish a public-private partnership with a private landowner.

PARK SPACE DEMAND

In order to fulfill the goal of providing 5 acres of parks for every 1,000 residents, Downtown Las Vegas currently needs 73.4 acres of additional parks and open space. Accounting for a projected 2.9% annual population growth rate, by 2035 the city must provide a total of 190 acres of parks and open space.



38.4 acres of Parkland for 3058.9 acres of Downtown study area

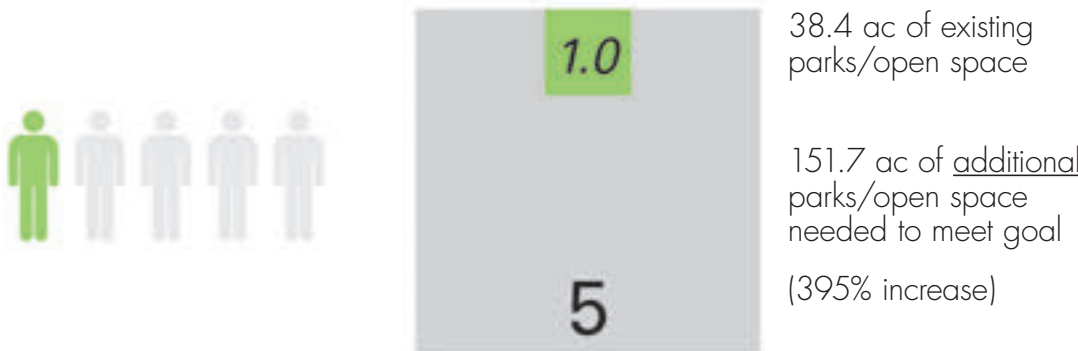
LEVEL OF SERVICE BY POPULATION

Downtown Las Vegas currently has 38.4 acres of open spaces that serve over 22,000 local residents. It converts to an average LOS of 1.7 acres parkland per 1,000 residents. Downtown will need additional public open space to maintain or exceed the existing LOS when total population increases to 38,000 in the next 20 years.

2017: CURRENT 22,362+ Downtown Residents



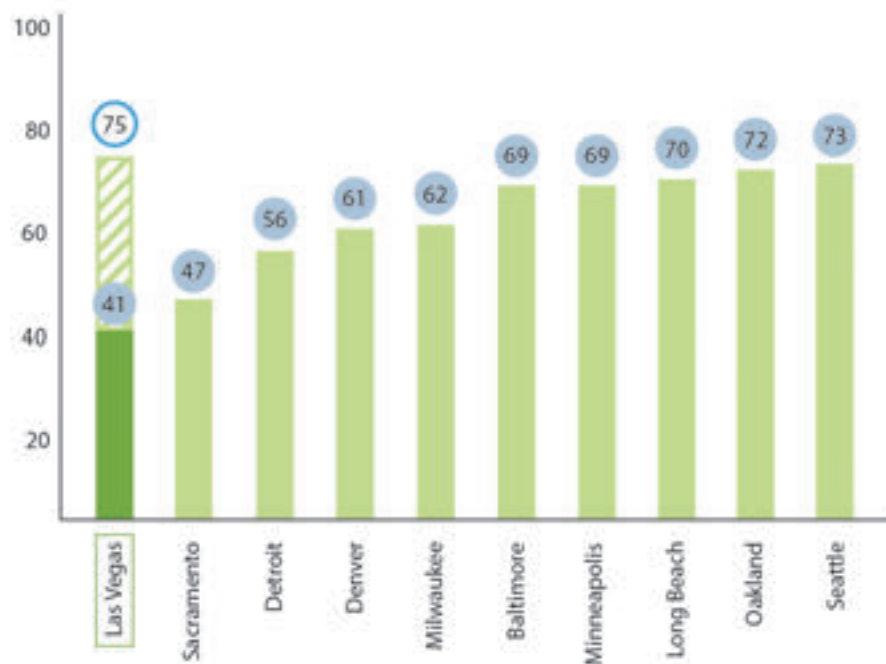
2035: PROJECTED 38,015+ Downtown Residents



TARGET LEVEL OF SERVICE AND WALKABILITY



Level of Service Comparison



Walkability Score Comparison

5.0

Acres of parkland per 1,000 residents would be an achievable goal for Downtown Las Vegas.

13.7

The median park acres per 1,000 residents provided by medium-low density cities

7.8

Las Vegas' citywide park acres per 1,000 residents (2017)

(Source: The Trust for Public Land's 2016 City Park Facts)

Walk Score analyzes walking routes to nearby amenities. Amenities within a 5 minute walk (0.25 miles) are given maximum points. A decay function is used to give points to more distant amenities, with no points given after a 30 minute walk.

A walksore of 75 in a downtown area will be regarded as 'very walkable city'.

PARKLAND COMPARISON



TUCSON

On week days the city transforms Jacome Plaza into an **"outdoor office"** by providing **furniture, wifi,** and **career services** to help people find jobs.

Total Downtown Park Acreage: 14.1 acres

Downtown Park Density: 4.9 acres per 1,000 people

Average Downtown Park Size: 1.8 acres



DENVER

Denver's downtown parks form a **system** to celebrate and activate the outdoor environment and contribute to an **economically thriving** place.

Total Downtown Park Acreage: 108.7 acres

Downtown Park Density: 5.7 acres per 1,000 people

Average Downtown Park Size: 7.7 acres



SACRAMENTO

Capitol Park in Sacramento is a 34-acre **botanic garden and community park** next to Sacramento's main employment center.

Total Downtown Park Acreage: 91.6 acres

Downtown Park Density: 4.3 acres per 1,000 people

Average Downtown Park Size: 5.73 acres



LAS VEGAS

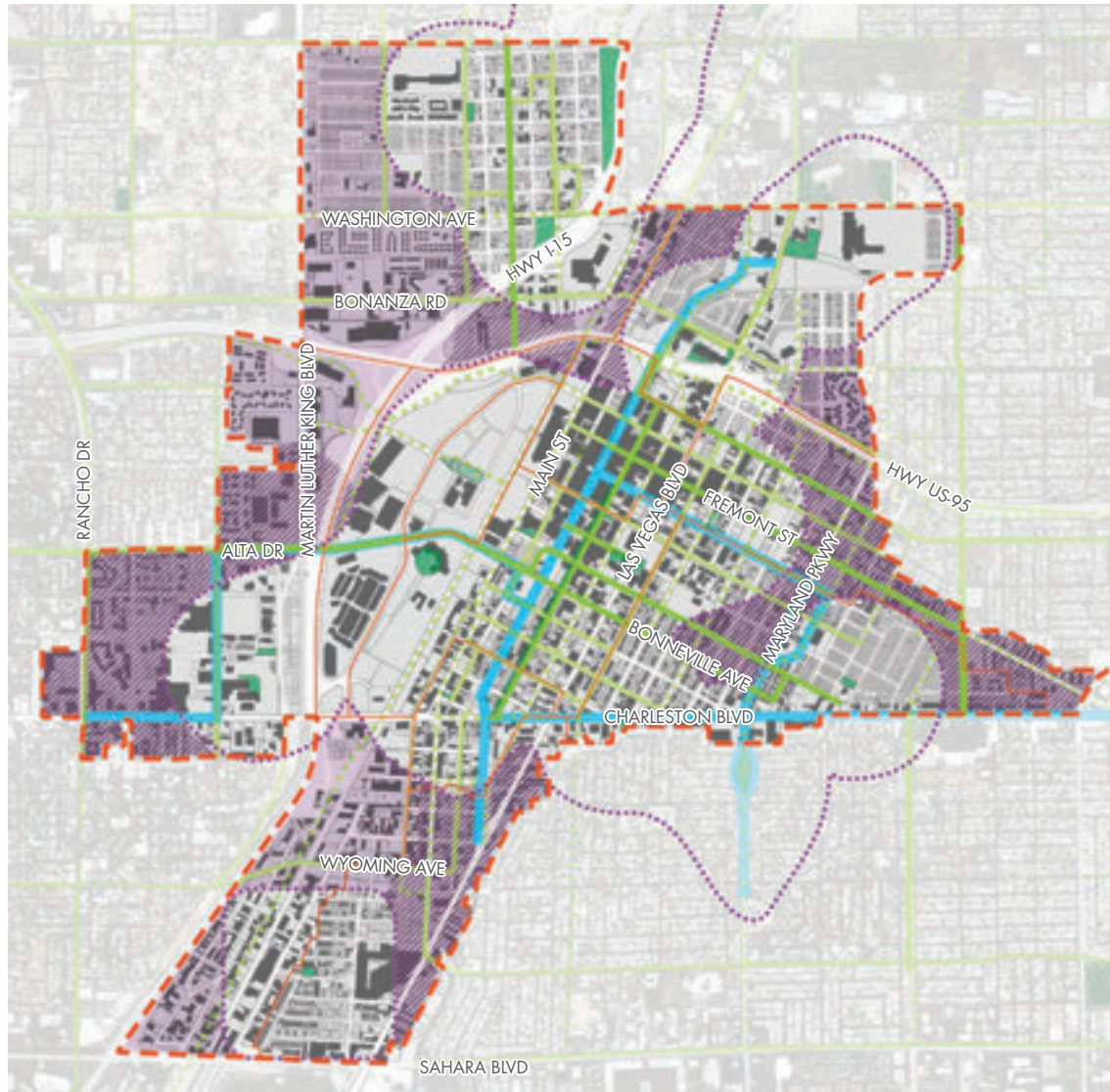
Symphony Park is a 1.9-acre **urban park** featuring outdoor event space and managed under a **public private partnership**.

Total Downtown Park Acreage: 38.4 acres

Downtown Park Density: 1.7 acres per 1,000 people

Average Downtown Park Size: 3.2 acres

NEEDS ASSESSMENT



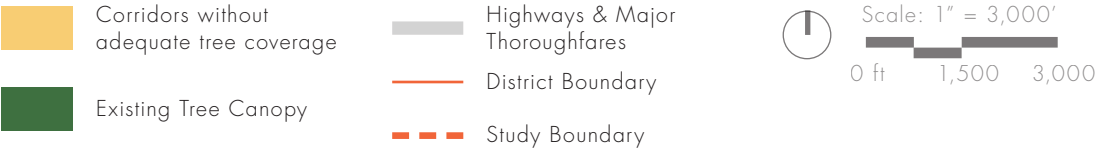
GAP ANALYSIS

The gap analysis map is a tool used to geospatially determine which districts of the downtown are recreationally under-served. The purple color shown are areas **not** within a walkable distance (5 minutes or 1/4 mile) to an existing downtown park or open space. A gap analysis allows the project team to identify areas that are under-served by the current park system in order to plan for additional parks and open space.

Note that while some districts may appear to have adequate parks and open spaces the quality and safety of these facilities may prohibit people from using them.

TREE SHADE COVERAGE

Tree canopy looks at the percentage of an urban environment that is shaded by trees. In desert climates this is an important part of ensuring the comfort of public space users year round. Tree plantings will focus on streetscapes to provide adequate shade while accommodating water conservation. The assessment highlights key corridors that are lacking in adequate tree coverage, many of which overlap with existing or potential trail networks.



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CHAPTER 3

SYSTEM-WIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

OVERALL PARKS & OPEN SPACE OPPORTUNITIES

In the Vision 2045 Downtown Las Vegas Master Plan the downtown area is envisioned as a greener destination – a place with more shade and a pleasant outdoor environment. Based on the park and open space assessment, this chapter identifies site opportunities and improvement recommendations to enhance the downtown open space experience as an integrated system. The recommendations include existing public space renovations and future urban parks. This chapter also:

- Identifies the social and economic value to improve parks and public open spaces.
- Incorporates key findings from public meeting input or other planning efforts.
- Aligns improvement to the cultural or historic character of the districts.
- Highlights specific components to address community needs and concerns.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE CREATING ECONOMIC VALUE

Millions of people benefit directly from local parks and recreation agencies and the facilities they manage. With programmed open space to exercise and social gathering spaces to meet friends and family, public parks add significant value to the community in promoting health and wellness and social equity. In addition, parks and recreation facilities bring momentum to economic growth in their communities. National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), a leading non-profit organization dedicated to public parks and facilities, found a strong relationship between public parks and local economy. The U.S. census bureau reports local park and recreation agencies generated more than \$154 billion in economic activity and more than 1.1 million jobs in 2015. The state of Nevada creates more than 11,000 jobs associated with parks and recreation agencies, and it has contributed over \$480 million in labor income. Park and recreation facilities are becoming a critical factor in establishing a city as a vibrant and prosperous place. These park and recreation facilities also generate other economic benefits beyond spending, including:

- **Economic Development:** Parks and recreation improves the quality of life in communities and benefits the local economic development of a region. A recent survey in Area Development magazine notes that three-quarters of corporate executives rate quality-of-life features as important factors when choosing a location for a headquarters, factory or other company facility. Creation of a tax increment financing district (TIF) or business improvement district would also help in funding local parks and facilities.



OVERALL PARKS & OPEN SPACE OPPORTUNITIES

- **Visitor Spending:** Many local park and recreation agency amenities spur tourism to their respective locales, generating significant economic activity, including (but not limited to) increased sales at local restaurants/bars and hotels. The August 2017 NRPA Park Pulse poll found that park and recreation amenities—such as beaches, parks, trails and relaxing places—are important to people when choosing a vacation destination.
- **Health and Wellness:** Parks and recreation promotes improved physical and mental health. This not only helps people feel better, but can also help lower medical and insurance costs for those people taking advantage of park and open space facilities and activities. Three in five respondents to the November 2017 NRPA Park Pulse poll indicate they would take up walking or jogging in local parks, trails or around their neighborhoods if advised by their doctors to be more physically active.
- **Conservation and Resiliency:** Park and recreation agencies' protection of land, water, trees, open spaces and wildlife improves air and water quality in communities. Through effective land management methods and green infrastructure investments, parks and recreation make communities more resilient to natural disasters, reducing disaster recovery and insurance costs. Eighty-seven percent of respondents to the 2017 NRPA Americans' Engagement with Parks Survey agree that their local government and local park and recreation agency should make the needed investments to ensure their communities are more resilient to natural disasters.
- **Property Values:** Economic research has demonstrated consistently that homes and properties located near parkland have higher values than those farther away. Higher home values not only benefit the owners of these properties, but also add to the tax base of local governments. Eighty-five percent of respondents to the 2017 NRPA Americans' Engagement with Parks Survey seek high-quality park and recreation amenities when they are choosing a place to live.

CASE STUDY: BUCKHEAD PARK ATLANTA, GA

*Partnered with a **Business Improvement District** or **Community Improvement District** to advocate for and champion a funding strategy*

- 5.6 : 1 ratio of jobs to residents in Buckhead CID. A significant job center.
- Attracted 32.2 million annual visitors to Buckhead attractions including the park space. Also generated 2 million overnight guests annually in Buckhead hotels.



CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE COSTS

Las Vegas aims to create quality parks in a well-maintained and connected downtown open space system. Studies reveal that urban parks attract more users following improvements or renovation. Studies also indicate that successful downtown parks stimulate retail and commercial development adjacent to the park sites. During the master planning efforts, many meeting attendees and respondents expressed the importance of operating and maintaining parks at a high standard as the parks age over time. The City of Las Vegas allocates significant resources in supporting new park construction, park operation and maintenance, and renovation. Funding resources from the city are limited, therefore additional resources are needed to address the long term operation costs and the need for new parks and amenities. A sustainable funding and operations strategy must be identified to maintain park resources at a high level. The goal of this section is to address:

- **Identification of park activity levels (high-activity, moderate activity/programs, and low activity/programs) and associated construction costs.**
- **Description of the amenities and programs each park activity level could provide.**
- **Estimation of the operation and maintenance costs for the different levels of parks.**

Cost of park elements*:

- Lawn = **\$4 - \$14** per square foot
- Garden = **\$11 - \$18** per square foot
- Plaza = **\$46 - \$115** per square foot

*includes elements such as site furnishings, lighting, and signage

A high-activity urban park typically has more specialized facilities and programs to support a desired level of urban outdoor use. These include large park structures that incorporate both indoor and outdoor active uses, shaded social spaces, large hardscape plazas for gathering and special events, large water features, viewing decks, large play areas for children, loop trails, and specialized paving to celebrate local culture and history. This type of urban park is typically located in a high

density, heavily traveled area. The exhibits on pages 43 - 44 illustrate an example of a high-activity urban park in St. Louis, Missouri. The construction cost for this **3-acre** urban park was **\$22,150,000**, or approximately **\$7.4M per acre**.

A moderate-activity urban park provides a balance between facilities and construction cost. It supports a wide range of recreation uses that promote a healthy lifestyle for downtown communities. These include cafés and smaller parkitecture, walking and other moderate intensity activities, lawns, shade structures, playgrounds, and some water features. The exhibits on pages 45 - 46 illustrate an example of a moderate-activity urban park in Boston, Massachusetts. The construction cost for this **4.7-acre** park was **\$12,300,000**, or approximately **\$2.6M per acre**.

A low-activity urban park provides the most cost-efficient facilities and passive programs. It supports basic needs of urban outdoor activities, including lawns for sitting and viewing, small playgrounds, plazas, and limited hardscape areas. The exhibits on pages 47 - 48 illustrate an example of a low-activity urban park in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The construction cost for this **7.5-acre** passive park was **\$3,500,000**, or approximately **\$480K per acre**.

CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE COSTS



Quick Facts:

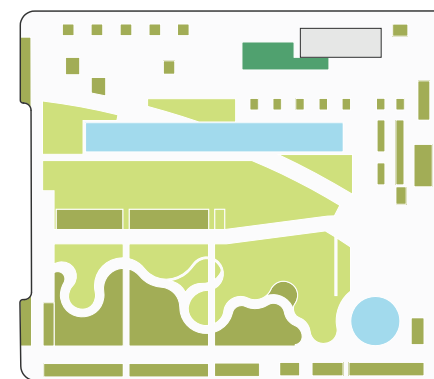
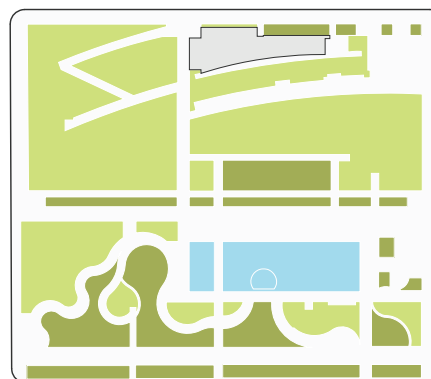
Total Cost: **\$22,150,000**

Size: **3 acres**

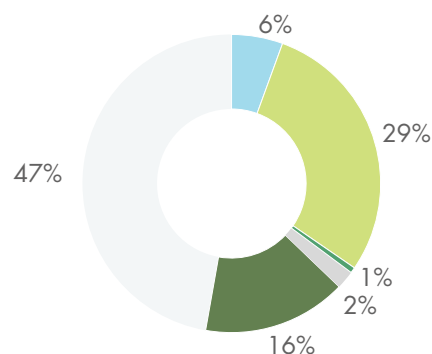
Cost per Acre: **\$7.4M/ac**

Cost per Sq/Ft: **\$170/sf**

Year Constructed: **2008 - 2009**



Site Plan (N.T.S)



Site Percentages

LAWN 43,701 sq. ft	WATER FEATURE 8,377 sq. ft
OVERLOOK 909 sq. ft	HARDSCAPE 71,115 sq. ft
SOFTSCAPE 23,515 sq. ft	BUILDINGS 3,002 sq. ft

Site Element Legend

EXAMPLE OF A HIGH-ACTIVITY URBAN PARK

CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE COSTS



CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE COSTS



Quick Facts:

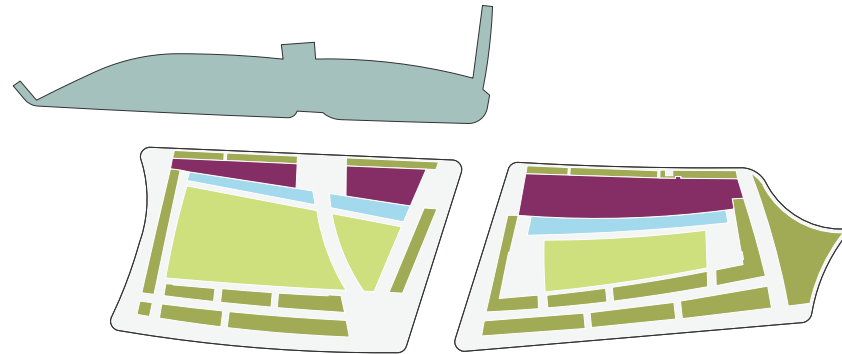
Total Cost: **\$12,300,000**

Size: **4.7 acres**

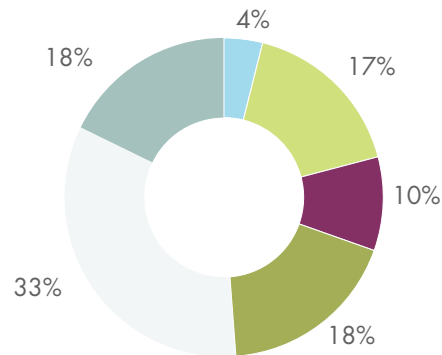
Cost per Acre: **\$2.6M/ac**

Cost per Sq/Ft: **\$60/sf**

Year Constructed: **2008**



Site Plan (N.T.S)



Site Percentages

LAWN 25,618 sq. ft	PLAZA 14,330 sq. ft
SOFTSCAPE 27,718 sq. ft	HARDSCAPE 50,383 sq. ft
WATER FEATURE 5,891 sq. ft	SIDEWALK 26,785 sq. ft

Site Element Legend

EXAMPLE OF A MODERATE-ACTIVITY URBAN PARK

CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE COSTS



EXAMPLE OF A MODERATE-ACTIVITY URBAN PARK

CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE COSTS



Quick Facts:

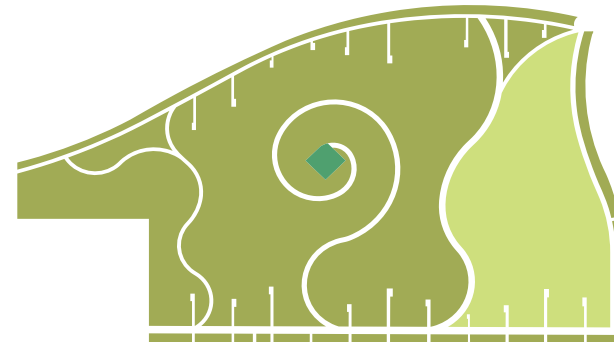
Total Cost: **\$12,300,000**

Size: **4.7 acres**

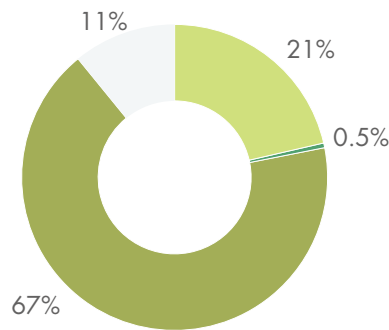
Cost per Acre: **\$2.6M/ac**

Cost per Sq/Ft: **\$60/sf**

Year Constructed: **2008**



Site Plan (N.T.S)



Site Percentages

<div></div> LAWN 80,008 sq. ft	<div></div> SOFTSCAPE 251,512 sq. ft
<div></div> OVERLOOK 1,859 sq. ft	<div></div> HARDSCAPE 40,717 sq. ft

Site Element Legend

EXAMPLE OF A LOW-ACTIVITY URBAN PARK

CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE COSTS



EXAMPLE OF A LOW-ACTIVITY URBAN PARK

CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE COSTS

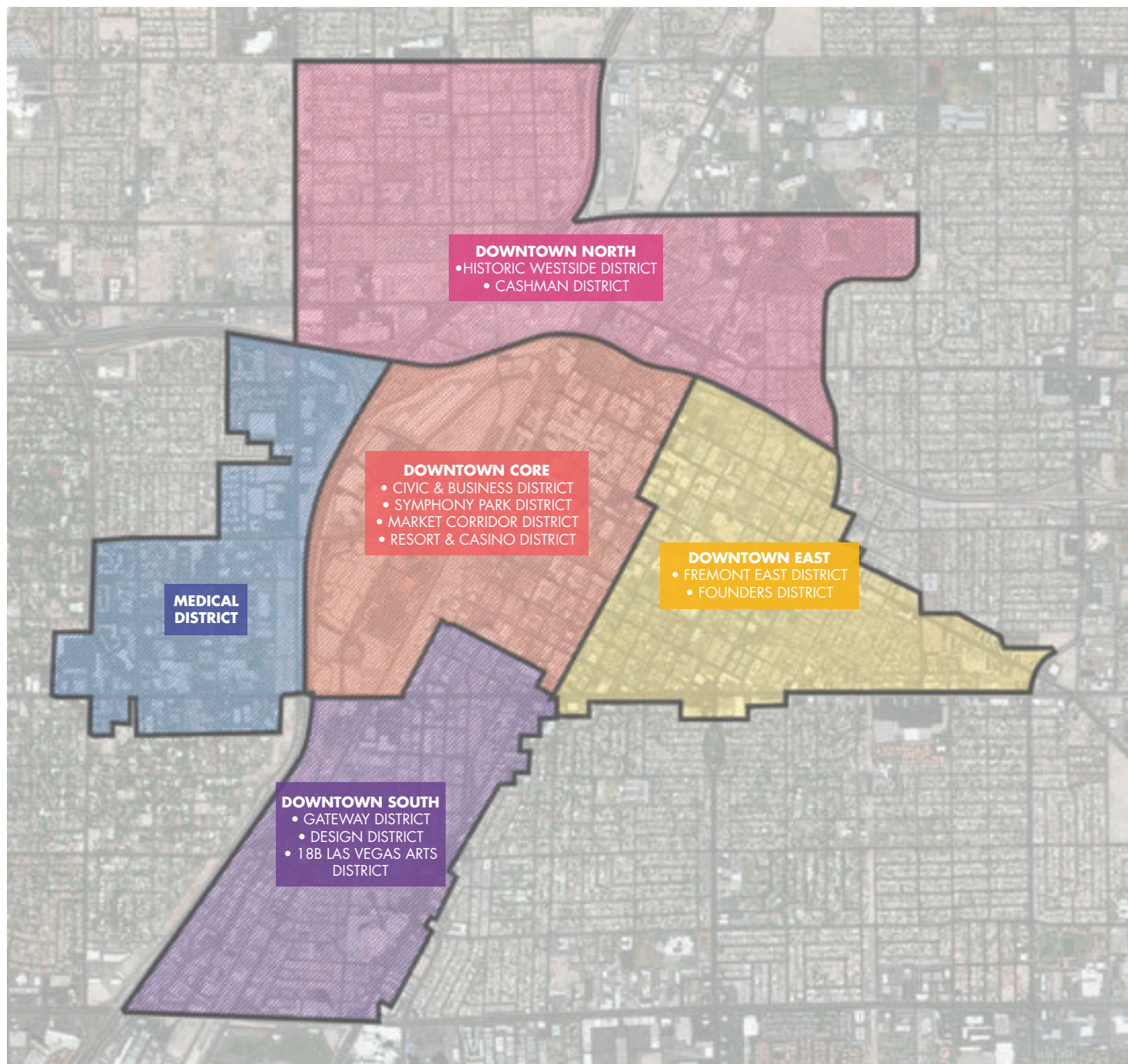
Based on each urban park type and programs, below is a summary of construction and maintenance costs estimates on a per acre basis.

URBAN PARK CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE COSTS SUMMARY

PARK TYPE	TYPICAL USES	CONSTRUCTION COSTS PER ACRE (COSTS PER SQUARE FOOT)	ANNUAL MAINTENANCE COSTS PER ACRE (COSTS PER SQUARE FOOT)
High-activity	Large park structures, shaded social spaces, large hardscape plazas, large water features, viewing decks, large children's play areas, loop trails, and specialized pavement.	\$3M - \$7.5M / acre (\$68 - \$160 / square foot)	\$36,500 per acre/year (\$0.83 per square foot / year)
Moderate-activity	Smaller parkitecture, walking and other moderate intensity activities, lawns, shade structures, playgrounds, and limited water features.	\$1.5M - \$2.5M / acre (\$30 - \$58 / square foot)	\$25,500 per acre/year (\$0.58 per square foot / year)
Low-activity	Lawns for sitting and viewing, small playgrounds, plazas, and limited hardscape area.	\$400K - \$1.0M / acre (\$9 - \$24 / square foot)	\$14,500 per acre/year (\$0.31 per square foot / year)

OVERALL PARK SYSTEM OPPORTUNITIES

While the study team assessed each individual parkland, we identified overall open space and trail opportunities within a consistent green network. Hence in this planning study we establish five subareas by combining culturally or geographically related districts together.



DOWNTOWN
SUBAREAS

DOWNTOWN CHARACTER

DOWNTOWN CORE

The Downtown Core includes the Civic and Business district, Resort and Casino district, and Symphony district. These districts have a mix of distinctive zones, each with unique history and strong character. The zoned land uses in these areas are government facilities, retail businesses, and professional offices.

Civic and Business District

The Civic and Business district is the employment hub for residents within and outside the downtown area. Development opportunities from the downtown Vision 2045 Plan include “to add density to the area and promote compact transit-oriented development surrounding the City Hall and Bonneville Transit Center”. This can be achieved by developing infill projects on vacant parcels and blighted properties to promote diverse housing and office space.

Resort and Casino District

The Resort and Casino district is the City’s original gaming center and still has a number of classic Las Vegas casino resorts today. The district serves as the entertainment center for Downtown Las Vegas, with both indoor and outdoor spaces for music and art venues, social gathering, and hospitality. The City has identified multiple development goals to enhance the district’s character and the needs for Downtown. To achieve these goals the City should be seeking infill projects to accommodate the increasing need for hospitality and office space.

Symphony District

With the goal of bringing a 61-acre quality urban living environment to Las Vegas, the City of Las Vegas has partnered with developers to propose a mixed-use urban area, with each block to be densely developed to achieve a critical mass of residents and visitors with a compact downtown character. Currently, the Symphony district includes the Smith Center, Symphony Park, and Children’s Museum and will have retail and high- and mid-rise residential development in the future. A modern art museum would contribute to the existing character of the district as the symbol of art in Las Vegas.

Adjacent to Symphony Park, is the Market Corridor district that includes the World Market Center and Las Vegas Premium Outlets. The Market Corridor district attracts visitors and convention attendees from all over the world.



First Street Gallery



The Neon sign from downtown Casino



Symphony Park and Smith Center

DOWNTOWN CHARACTER



Westside School and Interpretive Board on Pioneer Trail



Aerial of Cashman Center Facility

DOWNTOWN NORTH

Downtown North includes the Historic Westside and Cashman districts that represent cultural and community significance to the city of Las Vegas. Both districts are located north of Highway 95 and Interstate 515, with arterial roadways connecting to the downtown core area. The freeway creates a barrier leading to challenges with trail and pedestrian connectivity for residents, especially when 40 percent of the population does not own a vehicle. With a population of approximately 7,000, both districts lack open space for social and recreational uses. The community in Historic Westside share only 0.65-acres of parkland per 1,000 people, while the Cashman district has only 1.28 acres of parkland among 1,000 people.

Historic Westside District

The Historic Westside district witnessed the early settlement and evolution of downtown Las Vegas. It's a unique neighborhood separated by development of surrounding freeways over time. Historically as an African American community, the district thrived in the 1950s and 60s along with the casino and entertainment industry. The Moulin Rouge on Bonanza Road was the first integrated hotel and casino in the city of Las Vegas as well as the United States. Historic churches, businesses and nightclubs can be still be seen on the route of the Pioneer Trail today. Changes in the economy, poverty and land vacancy have created substantial challenges for the community. In 2016, UNLV Downtown Design Center studied the area and created the HUNDRED (Historic Urban Neighborhood Design Redevelopment) plan. One of the plan's overall visions is to bring back the community with historic character in the form of urban fabrics, arts and outdoor activities. This could be achieved with a series of small, incremental open space and trail improvements at key locations. To establish a livable outdoor space with themes and character that represents the district, the City should seek additional park space that is accessible to all community members. This park will help improve economic conditions with planned social gathering spaces and activities to aid in the future success of the entire district.

Cashman District

The Cashman district is home of Cashman Field, a mixed-use stadium that is primarily used for soccer. Historically it was the baseball field and home of the Minor League Baseball team Las Vegas 51s and now houses the Las Vegas Lights soccer team. Adjacent to the field is the Cashman Center facility that has been permanently closed and the City is seeking redevelopment options. Apart from its strong sports recreation character, the district also represents the culture and history of old Las Vegas. Located near North Las Vegas Boulevard, the Neon Museum has a collection and features signs from old casinos and motels in downtown Las Vegas. These neon signs are considered both historically

DOWNTOWN CHARACTER

and culturally significant to the city. The 3.87-acre Heritage park serves as the only neighborhood park in the Cashman district.

Community parks or active recreation space should be introduced during the redevelopment process to address the lack of park space to better serve downtown park users. Parks and open space in this district could be themed with neon character. Trail improvements should incorporate lighting and signage in an artistic way. Opportunities at Heritage park include adding more active facilities and better access for the community through a trail and wayfinding system.

DOWNTOWN SOUTH

Downtown South is located between the Downtown Core and the Strip, serving as a southern gateway to the downtown area. The area is zoned primarily for light industrial, mixed-use, and commercial use. Largely due to the non-residential zoning of the area, the districts have a limited number of residents, with 91% of the study area's residents living within the Gateway district.

18b Las Vegas Arts District

The 18b Las Vegas Arts district is directly south of the Downtown Core and is characterized by art galleries, local stores, and artist residents and hosts art-related events such as the monthly First Friday art showcase. The City has identified the district as a key growth area and has outlined strategies to invest in vacant and underutilized land, that could include additional community park space, increased affordable housing, creative office space, and civic and institutional uses.

Gateway District

Home of the Stratosphere Tower, the Gateway district is often associated with the Strip, although much of residential areas surrounding the attraction are blighted and vacant. The district has a population of over 3,000 people and

the City has proposed infill housing, community amenities, streetscape improvements, and rebranding efforts to reinforce the area as the southern gateway to downtown. Some of the district's goals include improving walkability to provide access to several transit modes with an extended high-capacity transit line along Las Vegas Blvd, accompanied with transit-oriented development to increase density.

Design District

The Design district currently has no population data due to its current utilitarian uses, but the area provides a large employment base for businesses servicing both the entertainment industry and municipal needs. With many people commuting to the area for work, public/private outdoor spaces should be made available to employees. Vacant and declining properties can be used as temporary open spaces for outdoor relaxation and social gathering. The Union Pacific Railroad corridor runs through the length of the district. There is potential for long-term redevelopment of the corridor with a linear park and multi-use path to encourage the reuse of buildings and parcels in the district, while connecting to the Downtown Core.

MEDICAL DISTRICT

The Medical district is the existing healthcare and office hub for the City and is identified as a key growth area. Current institutions in the area are the University Medical Center, Valley Hospital Medical Center, Horizon Specialty Hospital, the UNLV School of Dental Medicine, and the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department.

With the goal to establish the Medical district as a driving force in the downtown economy and as a top center for

List of 18b Las Vegas Arts District events:

- First Friday
- Main Street Art Walk
- Dark Arts Market
- Preview Thursday at the Arts Factory and Art Square
- Art Fair

DOWNTOWN CHARACTER



Fremont Street Corridor

healthcare and research in southern Nevada, the Vision 2045 Plan proposes several large-scale development projects with the goal of bringing in a more educated population that lives, studies, and works in downtown Las Vegas. Included in the plan is 19,000 gross square feet of development including mixed-use development on major streets, bringing in convenient transit, green linkages, and bike trails/bike share stations. The City proposes to expand the multi-modal transit along Martin Luther King Boulevard, Rancho Drive, and between the district and the downtown core—this presents an opportunity to create better connections into the Medical district through an expanded trail network.

DOWNTOWN EAST

The Fremont East and Founders districts are located to the east of the Downtown Core. Both districts have a large residential community and are mainly zoned for mixed-use development and commercial, as well as a small amount of low- and medium low- density residential use. Together, the Downtown East have the largest residential population of the downtown study zones.

Fremont East District

The Fremont East district is the home of Las Vegas' historic main street which bisects the area and has distinctive neon signs and a lively night scene. In recent years, a new mix of restaurants, bars, and clubs have sprung up along Fremont Street to accompany the existing historic casinos and hotels. Other businesses along the corridor have been revitalized in recent years—including the Downtown Container Park and other music event spaces to provide entertainment for all age levels. According to the Vision 2045 Plan, "Fremont East has gained residents and shops through its popularity due to its proximity to the Resort and Casino district but is in need of a more pedestrian friendly atmosphere for continued success and growth." One way to achieve this goal is to provide a central activity hub with services and amenities for the community. The Fremont East district has an increasing population and the majority of the area is outside of a walkable distance to a park, furthering the need for a central activity hub.

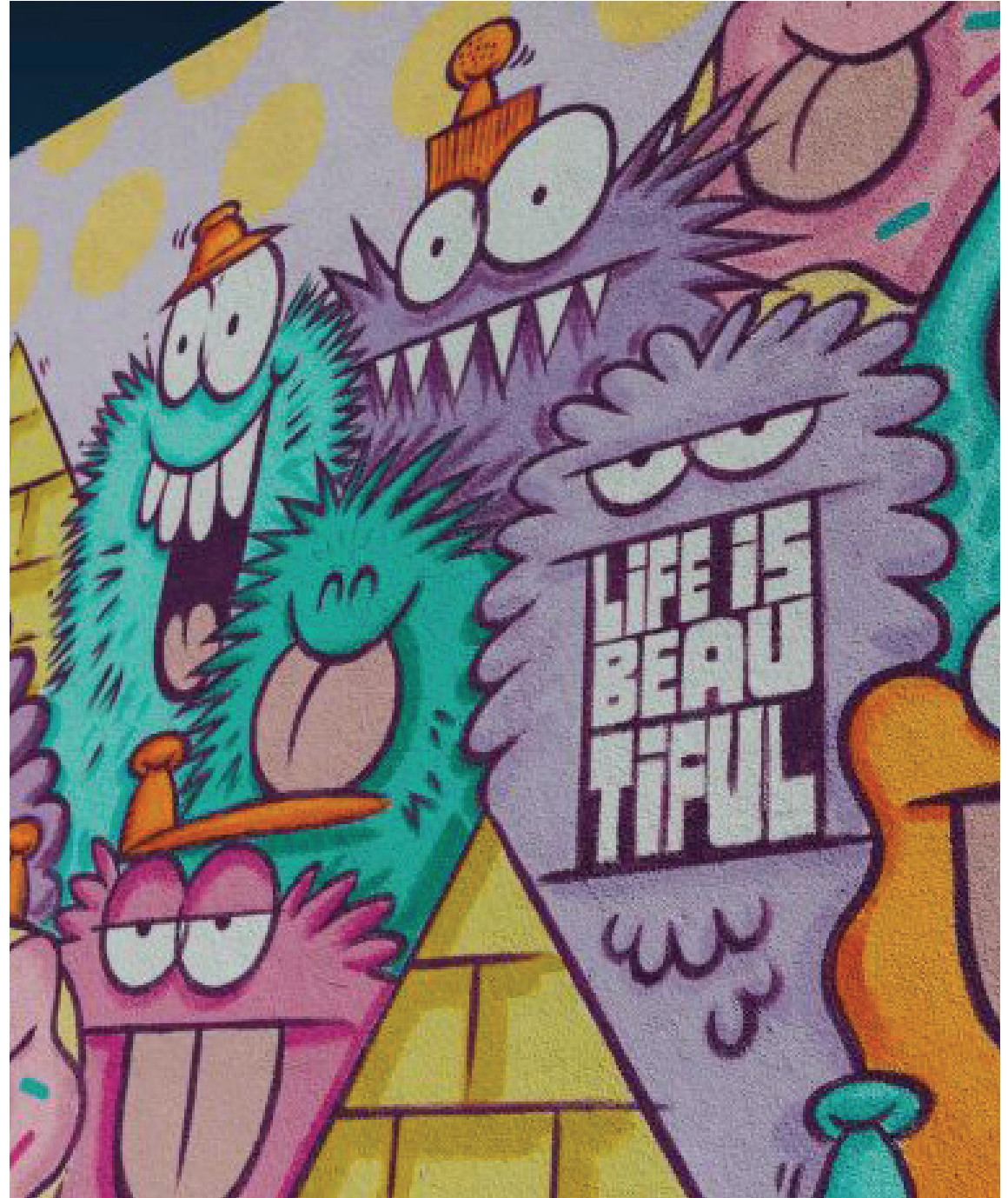
In 2018 the Project Enchilada started as part of the downtown revitalization effort. The project envisions Fremont Street between Las Vegas Boulevard and 14th Street as a pilot movement with highlights of attractive streetscape, restored neon signage, and retail development. The project essentially aims to enhance the idea of a 'greener downtown'.

DOWNTOWN CHARACTER

Founders District

The Founders district has the largest population of any of the downtown areas, and mainly serves as a historic residential neighborhood. As stated in the Vision 2045 Plan, the City plans to establish development standards in the district in order to preserve its historic aspects. Such opportunity includes mixed-use mid- and high-rise housing, retail and office space, a community center, and a multi-modal transit station.

The Fremont East and Founders districts are both subject to economic influence from the private sector, as both move toward higher density mixed-use development with ground floor services. Public-private partnerships will play an important role in improving the open space within the district. The development of parks and open space in the Downtown East is focused more on the existing community. While the two districts both have unique characteristics and development goals, improvements to the trails and wayfinding systems will tie them together.



Life is Beautiful Mural Painting in 2018

OVERALL PARK SYSTEM RECOMMENDATIONS



Park design and review process



Partner with developers and community organizations



Cultural features for downtown Vegas

OVERALL IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The open space master plan identifies improvement opportunities for existing parks and for future parks based on the criteria of area distribution, access, existing condition, and programs to meet downtown community and visitors need. A list of recommended components that are shared among all parks are described below. Specialized items that are unique to each park are noted in the area and site specific recommendations.

- Acquire park land from private ownership:** Several of the recommendations within this plan would require the City to acquire land for new park development. The city of Las Vegas has limited landholdings within the downtown area that could be converted for use as parks and open space. The locations of newly acquired land should be accessible from bikeways, trails, public transportation, and roads.
- Park conceptual and schematic design:** Opportunities such as new parks and existing parks to be expanded would go through a design process with the City. All parks undergoing this process should address safety issues in the parks and surrounding areas, promote a range of active programs, and have signage and theming that align with Vision 2045 Plan, the Signage Design Development Package, and previous district-specific master plans.
- Partnerships with Private Developers:** Public-private partnerships are a feasible way to increase the downtown area's parklands, while addressing park distribution and access. Partnering with private developers allows the City to incorporate additional and better-quality parks in locations currently lacking sufficient park space. Additionally, partnering with private developers or a non-profit organization to maintain the park allows the City's budget for parks and open spaces to go further. It is suggested to establish on-site open space requirements for new development and the option for property owners to pay into open space fund if and when they cannot meet those requirements. Those fees could go toward open space in the same larger area as new development. The model of public-private partnerships with the City will require further investigation.
- Identify park themes, art, and cultural features:** Park specificity is important in maintaining the unique characteristics within each of the Downtown districts. Each district has its own needs and characteristics—whether for a playground to accommodate a large resident population or an open plaza to host events in the downtown core. Each of these cultural aspects studied should align with the amenities and programs in each park and open space.
- Conduct community outreach:** Conducting community outreach and participation during the design and implementation process is vital to the creation of great park and open spaces. Community members should be encouraged to provide input and suggestions on their expectations for future parks. Volunteering in the park improvement process is another way to create community ownership and pride of the place.

OVERALL PARK SYSTEM RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Shade trees:** Shaded areas are critical in attracting park users and extending outdoor time. They improve the comfort and health of users and increase the overall use of outdoor public space. Large, broad-leaf trees at play, seating, and hardscape gathering areas will ensure a pleasant experience for all park activities. Consider a tree palette specific to each district to foster its unique character and a sense of place when arriving.
- **Functional public art:** Art can be incorporated through functional uses, such as sculptures that also function as bicycle racks, workout equipment, or seating areas. This can be used to simultaneously increase the aesthetics of open spaces while creating usable spaces.
- **Play features:** Play features should be incorporated in parks in areas with higher resident populations or projected population increase. These play structures should include overhead shade canopies to maintain the usability of the equipment year-round. Play feature types include typical playground structures currently found in the downtown area, nature play areas, and water play. The play features should accommodate for a range of children ages.
- **Enhanced seating and social gathering space:** Small spaces shaded by structures could create pleasant resting areas for park users during hot weather. Hardscape plazas provide a dual function for group gatherings during formal events and informal activities. Plaza designs should include pavement, lighting, other necessary structures and feature local history and/or natural character.
- **Entry monuments and parking areas:** Entry monuments would highlight the history of downtown Las Vegas and orient people towards park spaces. Provide adequate on-street and off-street parking for both community park users and visitors. Surface parking should be constructed with sustainable and green infrastructure practices.
- **Internal walking/jogging paths and trails:** Parks and opens spaces with walking/jogging paths increase a parks usage substantially and park users engage in more physical activity when paths are available. Accessible trails within parks promotes a healthy lifestyle and can be incorporated with other park amenities such as outdoor fitness equipment, play features, and educational signage. The materiality of the path or trail can be either paved concrete or a natural material application. Paths also have the ability to increase family and multi-generational interaction due the flexibility of use.
- **Sports courts:** The downtown area has limited access to sport courts. Uses such as skate parks and full-size basketball courts that are open to the public would be viable options for non-traditional open spaces along transportation corridors. Additional court types for tennis, pickleball, and volleyball should be incorporated in mini parks and neighborhood parks.
- **Outdoor fitness:** Providing an alternative to indoor gyms, an outdoor fitness area offers all-age groups durable fitness equipment to utilize. Typically set in clusters of 3-5 fitness pieces, this low maintenance equipment should be placed adjacent to a play area to promote a social, multi-generational component to a park.
- **Water features:** Water features are a desirable amenity given Las Vegas' desert climate. These amenities can be flexible and can range from a single fountain in the downtown core to a water play area in parks oriented for families.
- **Flexible and shared use areas:** The availability of flexible public spaces, whether a hardscape plaza or an open lawn area, are assets within an urban core. These programmable areas allow for a multitude of uses to take place and respond to changes within an urban environment. Having spaces that can be used in a variety of ways and by different user groups facilitate a lively downtown.

In the downtown open space public meetings, participants cited:

- **Safe and comfortable** public outdoor spaces
- Shared use space that can accommodate outdoor **musical and art** events
- Would walk or bike more if pedestrian walkways covers with **shade**

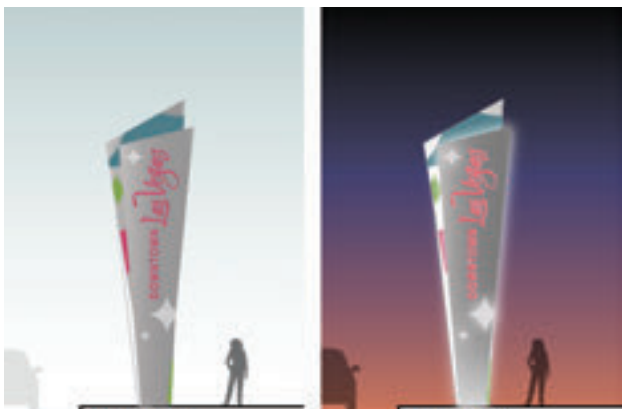
OVERALL PARK SYSTEM RECOMMENDATIONS



Outdoor fitness area



Flexible and shared use park space



Downtown Las Vegas Signage Design

- **Access to trail systems:** Connections to the regional trail system allows users to visit community parks that provide active programs and sports fields. Another trail function is to connect the residents from their neighborhoods to surrounding open spaces.
- **Signage and wayfinding system:** Building off of the Downtown Las Vegas Signage Design Development Package a system for signage and wayfinding within parks and trails should be used with consistent branding across downtown park facilities. At certain parks, special graphics added to the typical signage will enhance the park theme, cultural features and functions. Signage and wayfinding features provide clearer directional information to lead visitors traveling to a park or trail. Park entrances, trailheads or other key locations should be identified on City maps with graphical information for ease of interpretation by all users. Shared use signage can be considered to direct people to surrounding businesses with identification of restaurants, shops etc. to help with economic vitality. Application based wayfinding in the downtown area will also help visitors identify their desired destinations. The signage form and character should be identified in guidelines prior to each park's project design phase.
- **Park access to all age groups:** Park accessibility is important to ensure that everyone can travel to and use a space. Ways of improving access to a park include assuring the wayfinding is legible for all age groups, including signage and wayfinding in multiple languages. Access into parks needs to meet current ADA standards and play features should include universally accessible design. Additionally, it is important to locate new parks near public transportation and trail networks.
- **Address safety and comfort in parks:** Downtown Las Vegas has a large number of residents experiencing homelessness. In addition to a comprehensive strategy to reduce homelessness, it is important that the City consider this when adding or renovating Downtown civic space and trails. Collaborative efforts are required between the departments of Public Safety and Parks and Recreation, community members, and all park users. The City should consider design and programming options in order to improve safety and comfort for all park users. For example, adequate lighting should be placed in key areas. Shrubs and tall grasses should be prohibited at corners to provide clear visibility from the street.

OVERALL PARK SYSTEM RECOMMENDATIONS

Design best practices for a successful urban public space:

- Programed with **year-round park features** to attract local community and visitors.
- **Large open gathering space** to accommodate a wide range of activities.
- Establish a **park management organization** to renovate and operate the park on daily basis.



DOWNTOWN CORE

CHARACTER AND OPPORTUNITIES

A study of the Downtown Core as one system is necessary for the development of a successful parks and open space program to attract downtown community members and visitors. Although each district has its own character and development goals, improvements to the parks, open space, trails, and wayfinding systems should tie them together through consistent design. This consistency can connect people to places by integrating downtown history, art, and local landscape resources. Creating dynamic urban spaces in existing and future parks will further enhance the design concepts and engage in a variety of active and passive activities for the community and visitors.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations and opportunities should be applied to the Downtown Core and will require detailed implementation strategies in the future:

- Create a downtown central park that provides multi-purpose spaces to support public events, social gathering areas, play features, art and musical festivals, a large shaded lawn, plazas, a walking and jogging trail, and surface parking.
- Expand the bicycle network and promote existing bike share system.
- Enhance pedestrian connectivity along this key corridor with a pedestrian bridge crossing the Union Pacific Railroad to create a dynamic and walkable downtown.
- Establish a signage and wayfinding system to guide residents and visitors to parks and trails.
- Explore outdoor art venue opportunities to serve downtown occupants and visitors and build an art brand for Downtown Las Vegas.



DOWNTOWN CORE

SYMPHONY PARK

Unique among the downtown Las Vegas parks, Symphony Park is located in the center of a newly planned mixed-use development area. Symphony Park represents an example of a public/private partnership which could be applied to the development of future parks in the downtown area. Though the park is well situated within Symphony district, it lacks connectivity to downtown residents and visitors. One of the primary features of the park is a large event lawn that can host musical venues, festivals, or other public events yet the park should be reprogrammed for a variety of activities.

Through stakeholder and public outreach, participants identified that this park exemplifies quality and brings great potential. There is opportunity to expand outdoor programming, trail access, fitness, and programs to serve all age groups. There are also opportunities to improve access to the downtown area, expand parking facilities, and improve overall circulation. Signage and wayfinding systems should be improved where possible.

Park Opportunities

- **M4 Parcel Expansion:** In the original Symphony Park Master Plan, the primary organizing axis of the public space network runs east-west along the extension of the City's Lewis Street corridor. This axis consists of a collection of open spaces and a pedestrian promenade intended to establish a strong relationship to downtown Las Vegas. The M4 Parcel, initially named as "the Crossing", features opportunities such as a stepped plaza and a pedestrian bridge to cross the railroad tracks. A central plan with a seating terrace, gathering area, and water features should be designed with contemporary urban character for uses ranging from small group gatherings to community events.
- **Outdoor fitness:** Adult outdoor fitness would be appropriate in the newly planned M4 parcel plaza or integrated by reprogramming portions of the existing Symphony Park event lawn.



Symphony Park Entry Monument

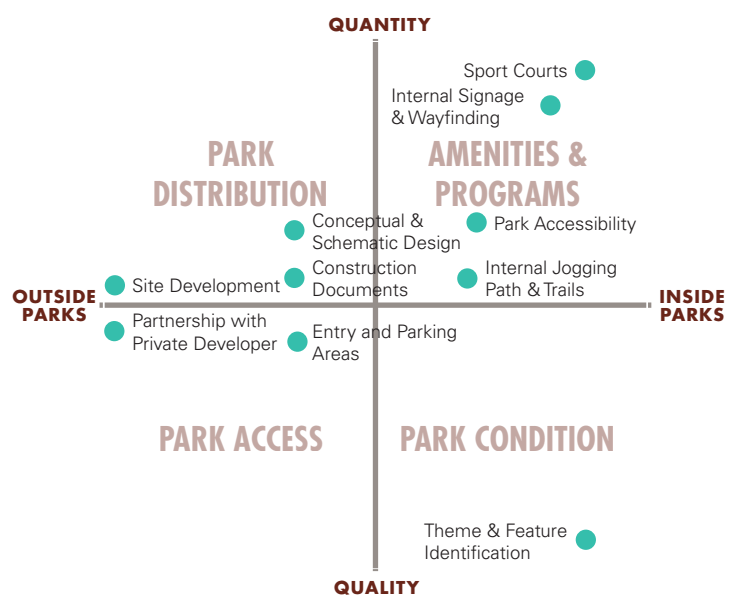


Symphony Park Plaza with Art Installation



Event Lawn, Smith Center

DOWNTOWN CORE



- Repurpose Park Space:** Public outreach participants expressed interest in a wide variety of recreational activities in parks. Providing a variety of amenities could attract users, extend their outdoor time and frequency of use. While Symphony Park was designed with the attributes of an outdoor performance and art space, the great lawn and plaza could be partially reprogrammed with activities such as outdoor fitness, shaded seating, or small active program space to enhance the park into a greater social gathering area.
- Pedestrian Bridge:** To connect the downtown Las Vegas core to Symphony Park, a pedestrian bridge across the railroad tracks should be developed. The bridge should be designed as a multi-use corridor that allows both pedestrians and bicyclists to move from downtown to the Symphony district. The Union Pacific Railroad played an integral part in the early settlement of the American West and Las Vegas old town. The design character and components of the pedestrian bridge could reflect and celebrate this history.



DOWNTOWN CORE

CENTENNIAL PLAZA

Centennial Plaza is an urban community hub located in the historic 5th Street School grounds and is an important cultural and historical space in the community. Opportunities to explore include repurposing the plaza space with upgraded site furnishings, lighting, shade trees, and signage features. The plaza improvements should also address ongoing issues such as safety and the impact of homelessness.

Park Opportunities

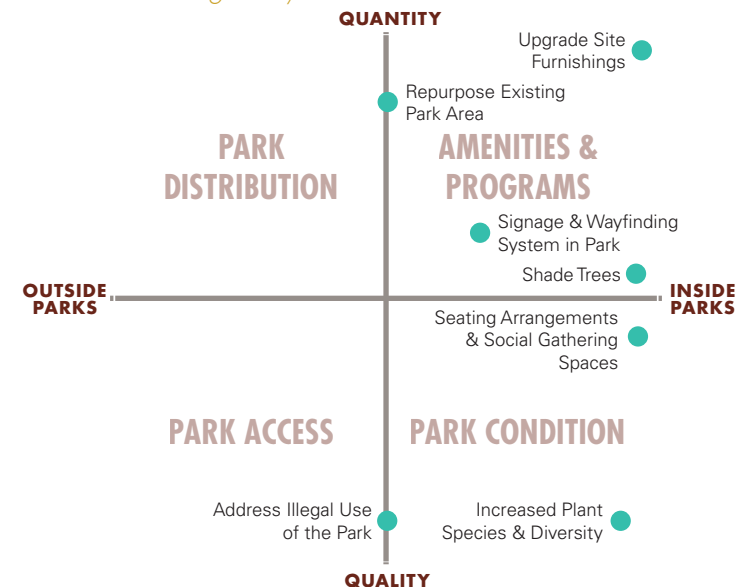
- **Reprogramming the Existing Plaza:** Replacing and renovating the existing plaza features will create better use of the space. As part of this renovation, the planters could potentially be removed to create a large, unobstructed gathering space. Located on the eastern end of the Lewis Avenue corridor, the plaza should be redesigned into a centralized activity hub, featuring elements such as play space, outdoor fitness equipment, modern chairs and tables.
- **Upgrade Site Furnishings:** The existing planter seating should be replaced with small-scale chairs and tables. Signage, informational boards, and drinking fountains should also be provided at this site.
- **Shade Trees**
- **Address the Impact of Homelessness and Illegal Activities in the Plaza**
- **Renovate the entire plaza to address safety and maintain function for cultural events**



Street view of Centennial Plaza



Benches in existing courtyard



DOWNTOWN CORE

FUTURE PARKS AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS

DOWNTOWN CENTRAL PARK

The core area of downtown Las Vegas features a mixed development of casinos, civic and professional office space, commercial space, and residential uses. The downtown Central Park concept presents an opportunity for the City to develop its first urban central park. Given the typical daily influx of workers and visitors into the core area, park will likely attract office employees during the daytime, residents in the evening, and visitors during weekends and holidays. Depending on land price and availability, the City could acquire and develop a minimum of 1.5-acre urban park in this area. The park could be used to support public and social events such as festivals, art events, and outdoor musical events. In addition, the park could provide outdoor fitness opportunities, such as a jogging/running trail and outdoor fitness equipment. Park amenities should include benches, bike racks and storage, a bike rental station, lighting, restrooms, cafe, etc.

Park Opportunities

- **Central Plaza and Gathering Area:** A hardscape plaza with a dual function of group gatherings during formal events and informal activities. The design of the plaza should include pavement, lighting, other necessary structures and should feature local history and/or natural character.
- **Internal Loop Trail:** The development of a multi-purpose trail in the downtown Central Park serves as an important feature to downtown residents. A one-mile accessible trail will promote a healthy lifestyle by attracting all-age groups for walking and jogging and will increase family and multi-generational interaction.
- **Access to trail systems:** Link the downtown Central Park with adjacent trail networks to promote bicyclists to visit the park from their surrounding neighborhoods. The trail should also connect the park to nearby attractions within walking or biking distance. The City should consider opportunities for connecting the downtown Central Park with the sports complex via Alta Drive. The pathway material can be either hard or a durable soft-surface for recreational use.



DOWNTOWN CORE

- **Implementation Strategy:** The City should consider a few potential sites based on the park assessments and recommendations, parcel availability, cost of land acquisition, and other factors. The City should conduct public outreach regarding the downtown Central Park programs and activities. When the park site has been determined and acquired, the City and a design consultant should conduct a comprehensive design and documentation process in order to create a quality urban park that best represents the past and future of downtown Las Vegas.
- **Shaded Seating and Social Space**
- **Entry Monument and Parking Areas**
- **Signage and Wayfinding System**

DOWNTOWN TRAIL AND CONNECTIVITY ENHANCEMENT

Convenience and safe travel to parks and nearby attractions requires the City to establish a well-defined trail and pedestrian system. Greater connectivity within the downtown area will lead community members to visit parks within walkable or bikeable distances and provides safe access. The development of multi-purpose trails was frequently mentioned during public outreach. Community participants suggested that trail systems should link open spaces to other downtown destinations and promote a non-vehicular healthier lifestyle.

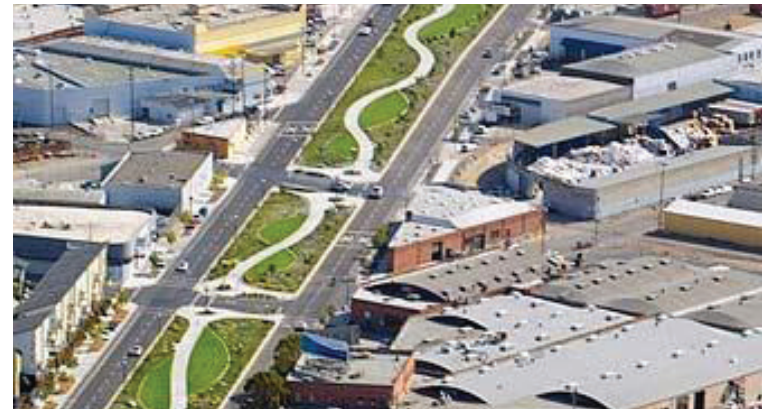
During the public outreach process shaded pedestrian corridors were also mentioned numerous times to help enhance connectivity. Comfortable walking and bicycling helps address accessibility issues to parks, open space, downtown attractions and businesses. Adequate lighting along pedestrian corridors will promote a safer walking experience. Overall, trail and pedestrian improvements can further ensure the entire network is inclusive to all age groups and abilities.



Mandela Parkway, Oakland



Wayfinding System



Mandela Parkway, Oakland

DOWNTOWN CORE



Downtown Core open space and trail network

LEGEND

	Existing and potential park and trail network		Existing Sidewalk Trail
	City Owned Parcels		Potential Sidewalk Trail
	Vacant Parcels		Existing Shared Use Path
	District Boundary		Potential Shared Use Path
			Existing Bike Lane/Route
			Potential Bike Lane/Route



Grand Park, Los Angeles



Bryant Park, New York City



Civic Space Park, Phoenix

DOWNTOWN CORE

DOWNTOWN CORE IMPROVEMENT SUMMARY

PARK NAME	SIZE	EXISTING USES	FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES
Symphony Park	1.9 acres	Outdoor event and art space	Park expansion, outdoor fitness, repurpose park space, pedestrian bridge
Centennial Plaza	1.0 acres	Plaza adjacent to historic 5th Street School. Located in the downtown core on Lewis Avenue Corridor.	Upgrade site furnishing, reprogram plaza, add shade trees. Address the impact of homelessness, safety and cleanliness issue.
Downtown Central Park	1.5-2.5 acres	Private vacant parcel to be acquired	Central plaza and gathering, loop trail, shaded seating and social space, entry and parking area, signage and wayfinding system.
Trail Improvement	-	N/A	5' Class II trail along this key corridor. Provides a shaded pedestrian realm.



DOWNTOWN NORTH



CHARACTER AND OPPORTUNITIES

Developing a well-defined, safe and an easy-to-access trail system throughout Downtown North along the existing Pioneer Trail route provides opportunity to share cultural and heritage aspects in the Historic Westside and Cashman districts and connection to key attractions and historic sites. Improved signage, wayfinding, areas for resting and interpretation along both the bike and pedestrian trail routes reinforces the importance of these districts with the history of Las Vegas and provides opportunities for recreation as well as education.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations and opportunities should be applied to the Downtown North to fulfill the districts' goals of identifying potential parcels to provide parks and open space for the community and enhancing the trail system to showcase historical and culture resources. Some of these improvements will require programming and implementation strategies to carry into the future:

- Promote community level parks and/or active recreation programs to meet the need of downtown neighborhoods.
- Identify and establish small parks and open space close to the trail route for accessibility.
- Enhanced signage, wayfinding, and cultural components on the Pioneer Trail.
- Create a better non-vehicular connection from downtown north to the downtown core and address safety along each route.
- Consider re-purposing park space that is currently closed.

DOWNTOWN NORTH

ETHEL PEARSON PARK

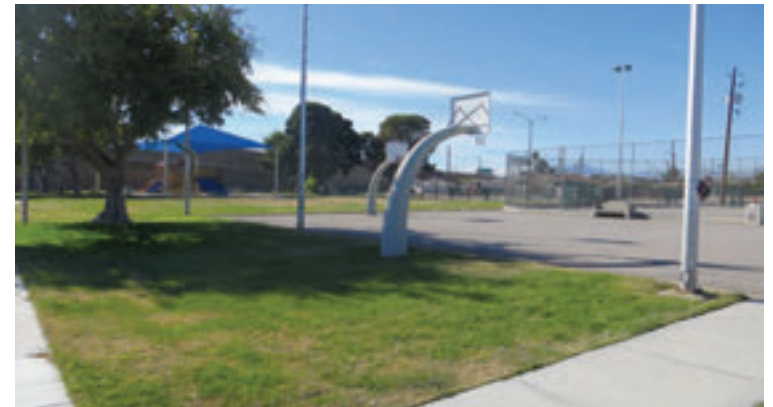
Ethel Pearson park is a 2.59-acre neighborhood park located at E Street and West Washington Avenue just north of Interstate-15. Currently, as the only operating park in the Historic Westside district, it primarily serves as a passive use, community event, and outdoor party space. Opportunities to improve the park include identifying a park theme, expanding the park program to better support social activities, address safety issues and elevate maintenance priorities.

Park Opportunities

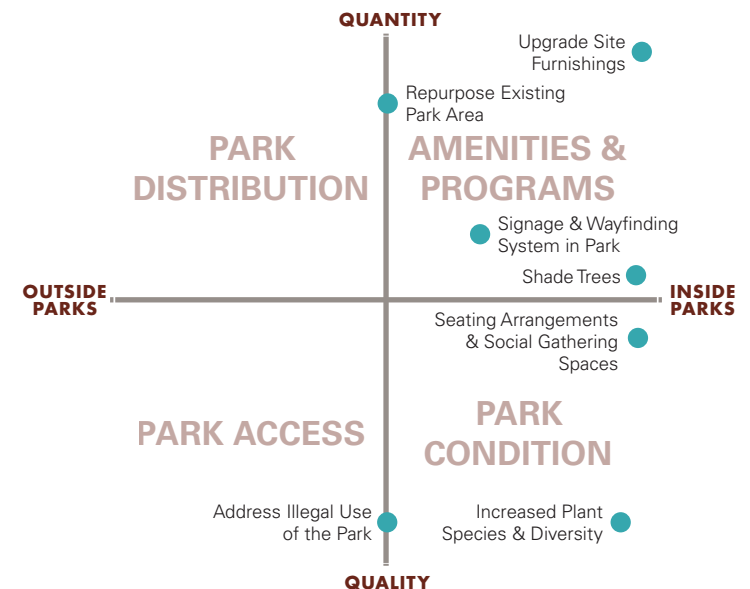
- **Park Theme, Art and Cultural Features:** Identify a park theme and character to represent the Historic Westside. The park could include works from local artists and photographers similar to the exhibition at the Historic Westside School across the street from the park. The park could be programmed as an educational place on Pioneer Trail, with temporary or permanent interpretive boards on site to accent the historical significance of the trail.
- **Seating and Social Gathering Space Improvement:** Consider renovating the park space with providing hardscape seating and social gathering opportunities. The space and associated facilities would support social and community events.
- **Flexible and Shared Use Area:** Basketball courts should be re-arranged to accommodate flexible active recreation use, such as volleyball and pickleball. With multi-use field markings and portable equipment, this can be achieved within an affordable budget. The existing passive lawn area could be programmed to support a five-a-side soccer game. With more active programs onsite, Ethel Pearson Park would attract additional community members to enjoy the park facilities.
- **Park Access:** Increasing access to the park would attract more residents to use and provide new opportunities for outdoor programming and to support events. Implementing a signage and wayfinding system in the district will aid in access and an additional trail along West Washington Avenue would enhance connectivity for the community.
- **Community Participation**
- **Plant Shade Trees**



Playground at Ethel Pearson Park



Grass Lawn And Basketball Court



DOWNTOWN NORTH

JAMES GAY PARK

Located near Owens and B Street, James Gay park is a neighborhood park with a linear lawn area, basketball courts, skate park and playground. While its 5.99-acre space is programmed with abundant amenities, the park is situated at the fringe of the Historic Westside district away from where most residents live. As a result, it has become a frequent gathering area for the homeless population. The park has been closed since the summer 2013 due to safety issues and this has only aggravated the park and amenity deficiency for the neighborhood. There is opportunity to repurpose the site for an alternative use.

Park Opportunities

- **Repurpose existing park:** Consider repurposing this parkland to other uses that would benefit the City. The City could take this underutilized site that is already under public ownership and create a linear desert landscape open space, or a staging site. The City should consider a future park in a more centralized location where parks are in higher demand.



James Gay Park current condition

DOWNTOWN NORTH

HERITAGE PARK

Located adjacent to Cashman Field, Heritage Park is primarily used for passive recreation, featuring a picnic lawn, shaded playground and desert landscape area. The park is situated behind the Las Vegas Natural History Museum and County Library and draws users to this outdoor space throughout the day. The primary access is a shared entry way with the museum and there is a secondary entry from Washington Avenue that remains locked on regular basis.

Park Opportunities

- **Expand Active Programs and Amenities:** There is opportunity to expand and/or create active program spaces to attract more users for fitness, social gathering, play, and outdoor learning. Site furnishings and park amenities should also be modernized to accommodate for all-age groups to use and enjoy the park amenities.
- **Internal Jogging Path and Trail:** Redeveloping the Cashman Field can introduce a healthier lifestyle to the community by creating a running or jogging trail loop within the block. A short loop trail, typically less than 3-miles long, could promote moderate outdoor fitness activities for downtown residents. Tree plantings should be added to provide shade along the pathway and adjacent seating area. The loop trail could also be themed by connecting local attractions and cultural places, such as the Mormon Fort and the Neon Museum.
- **Enhanced Access:** By providing better wayfinding cues such as an entry sign on Las Vegas Boulevard, the park could be easier to recognize by local community members. Incorporating walking and biking trails south of Heritage Park during the Cashman Center redevelopment would improve access.



Aerial view of Heritage Park



Heritage Park current condition

DOWNTOWN NORTH

FUTURE PARKS AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS

CASHMAN COMMUNITY PARK

The future of the Cashman Field property has been a topic of discussion with the City and potential developers since the Las Vegas 51 AAA baseball team left in 2015. While the 10.7-acre site is large enough to be a new regional sports complex for the community, the opportunity for a mixed-use development along with additional park improvements may be the best use of the property given several goals of the City. As potential development is identified for the property, consider a range of supportive recreational uses in site planning. The opportunity for a public private partnership has a high potential of success given the size and

location. Since active sports fields are lacking in the downtown area, consideration for providing this use as well as others that will best support the surrounding community should be included in the final site design as well as opportunities to host sports and musical events.

Since the property is in close proximity to Pioneer and Bonanza trail system, improving connectivity within the property and to surrounding neighborhoods will provide greater non-motorized access and less dependency on the automobile.

Park Opportunity

- **Sports fields:** Existing sports fields within the downtown study area are located at schools and have limited access for the public. These sports fields could include soccer fields,

baseball and softball fields, football fields, and a running track.

TRAIL AND CONNECTIVITY ENHANCEMENT

The trail and pedestrian network in the Downtown North should be enhanced to ensure history and culture components are embedded into the system. The Pioneer Trail is a good example in bringing the story of early Las Vegas to life with signage, banners, and historic places on its route. The network should also promote a safe and welcoming way to the downtown area. Figure 4.13 illustrates the potential connection from Bonanza to the Downtown Core across the viaduct. Lighting, shade trees, and other streetscape elements will help address safety issues.



Sports fields at Orange County Great Park, Irvine







DOWNTOWN NORTH



Downtown North open space and trail network

LEGEND

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---------------------------|
|  | Existing and potential park and trail network |  | Existing Sidewalk Trail |
|  | City Owned Parcels |  | Potential Sidewalk Trail |
|  | Vacant Parcels |  | Existing Shared Use Path |
|  | District Boundary |  | Potential Shared Use Path |
| | |  | Existing Bike Lane/Route |
| | |  | Potential Bike Lane/Route |



Riverfront Park, Denver



Neighborhood Park, Irvine



Historic Westside Gateway Plaza

DOWNTOWN NORTH

DOWNTOWN NORTH IMPROVEMENT SUMMARY

PARK NAME	SIZE	EXISTING USES	FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES
James Gay Park	5.99 acres	Closed	Repurpose park for other use
Ethel Pearson Park	2.59 acres	Serves as the only neighborhood park in Historic Westside with active and passive space.	Central plaza and gathering, loop trail, shaded seating and social space, entry and parking area, signage and wayfinding system.
Cashman Community Park	10.70 acres	Mixed Use stadium primarily used for baseball and soccer game adjacent to Cashman Center operated by City of Las Vegas.	Partially re-purpose existing surface parking to active recreation opportunities including sport fields, court, ADA accessible trail, wayfinding, restroom facility and improved irrigation system. This improvement would promote a shared use parking area.
Trail Improvement	-	N/A	5' class II trail along key corridor. Provide shaded pedestrian realm.
Signage and Wayfinding System	-	-	Wayfinding information include parks, public facilities, cultural places and other local attractions.



DOWNTOWN SOUTH

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations and opportunities should be applied to the Downtown South and will require future detailed implementation strategies:

- Increase accessibility to the Healing Garden, so it can accommodate a larger volume of programs and people.
- Create a neighborhood park within the Gateway district as a long-term planning project.
- Create bicycle friendly street corridors along 3rd Street, Main Street, and Wyoming Avenue/Oakley Boulevard to create a connection between the Strip and downtown and across Interstate-15 to neighboring residential communities.
- Expand pedestrian infrastructure to promote sustainability, access to different modes of transportation, and safety.
- Implement a signage and wayfinding system to guide residents and visitors to parks and trails.
- Explore outdoor art venue opportunities to serve downtown occupants and visitors and build an art brand for Downtown Las Vegas.



DOWNTOWN SOUTH



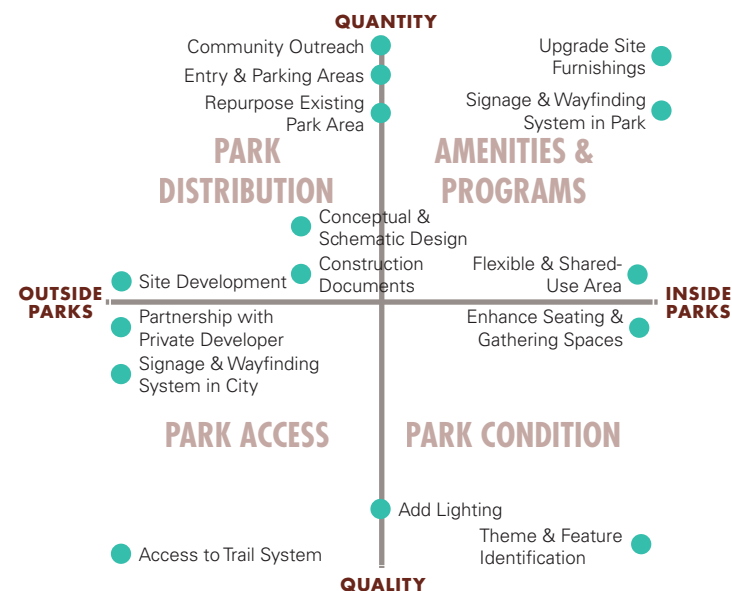
Existing photos of the Healing Garden

HEALING GARDEN

The Healing Garden is a memorial space that was built by community members following the 2017 Las Vegas mass shooting. Originally constructed as a temporary remembrance wall, the wall was permanently rebuilt in 2018. The site is located in the Arts district and is close to the 3rd Street and Main Street improvements taking place. The City purchased the vacant parcels directly to the north of the existing garden, which will increase accessibility through surface parking and allow for more open space to accommodate other uses.

Park Opportunities

- **Improved Entry & Circulation:** Improve entry points at the southern portion of the site along Casino Center Boulevard and along the northeast corner of Coolidge Avenue to provide better access for the newly constructed mixed-use development and from 3rd Street.
- **On-site Parking & Accessibility:** On-site parking will be located along Coolidge Avenue to provide better access to the garden by personal vehicle. The garden is also located next to a transit stop which provides public transportation directly to the space.
- **Social Gathering Space:** Create a programmable social gathering space to be used for versatile events. The gathering area could be located on a newly acquired parcel north of the existing memorial.
- **Upgraded Site Furnishings:** Site furnishings including seating, signage, drinking fountains, and lighting should be provided for the social gathering space.



DOWNTOWN SOUTH

FUTURE PARKS AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS

GATEWAY NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

Located within the Gateway district, a new neighborhood park would increase resident access to parks and address the projected population increase within the area. The park would require obtaining privately owned vacant parcels.

The park could be used to support events that are located off of Main Street, such as parades, farmers markets, and other festivals.

With both passive and active programming, the park should accommodate uses for all ages. Amenities should include shade trees, play features, enhanced seating and social gathering spaces, an internal jogging path, and access to the greater downtown Las Vegas trail system.

Park Opportunities

- **Internal Loop Trail:** The development of a multi-purpose trail in the downtown Gateway Neighborhood Park serves as an important feature for downtown residents. This one-mile accessible trail will promote a healthy lifestyle by attracting all-age groups for walking and jogging and will increase family and multi-generational interaction.
- **Accessibility:** The location for the potential park is located at the terminus of the bike trail that runs west along Wyoming Avenue/Oakley Boulevard to the neighboring residential communities.
- **Regional Trail Connections:** The park can serve as an activity hub along the trail networks that run through the district and connect to the Strip. This will

promote bicyclists to visit the park from their neighborhoods. The pathway material can be either hard or a durable soft-surface for recreational use.

- **Social Gathering Area**
- **Shaded Seating and Social Space**

DOWNTOWN TRAIL AND CONNECTIVITY ENHANCEMENT

While much of the Downtown South is automobile-centric, several street enhancement projects would provide better walkability and bikeability for residents and visitors alike. Creating a better connection between the Strip and the downtown area would promote sustainable transportation. One long-term planning strategy is enhancing the Union Pacific Railroad to an off-street path that runs through the entire downtown.

In the Arts district, public art should be a driving force behind design decisions. The existing 1st Street Art Trail showcases several art exhibits and installations, such as a temporary art displays in City Hall windows, artist sculptures, an “aerial gallery” of artist designs on street banners, and artist-designed benches. The Arts district acts as the southern terminus of this trail, which leads to north to the Golden Nugget Hotel in the Downtown Core.

The potential bike trail along Wyoming Avenue/Oakley Boulevard terminates at the potential site of the Gateway Neighborhood Park and continues west across Interstate -15 to provide connectivity.



Aerial view of the monthly First Friday event in the 18b Las Vegas Arts District

DOWNTOWN SOUTH



Downtown South open space and trail network



Lowry Neighborhood Park, Denver



Yerba Buena Gardens, San Francisco

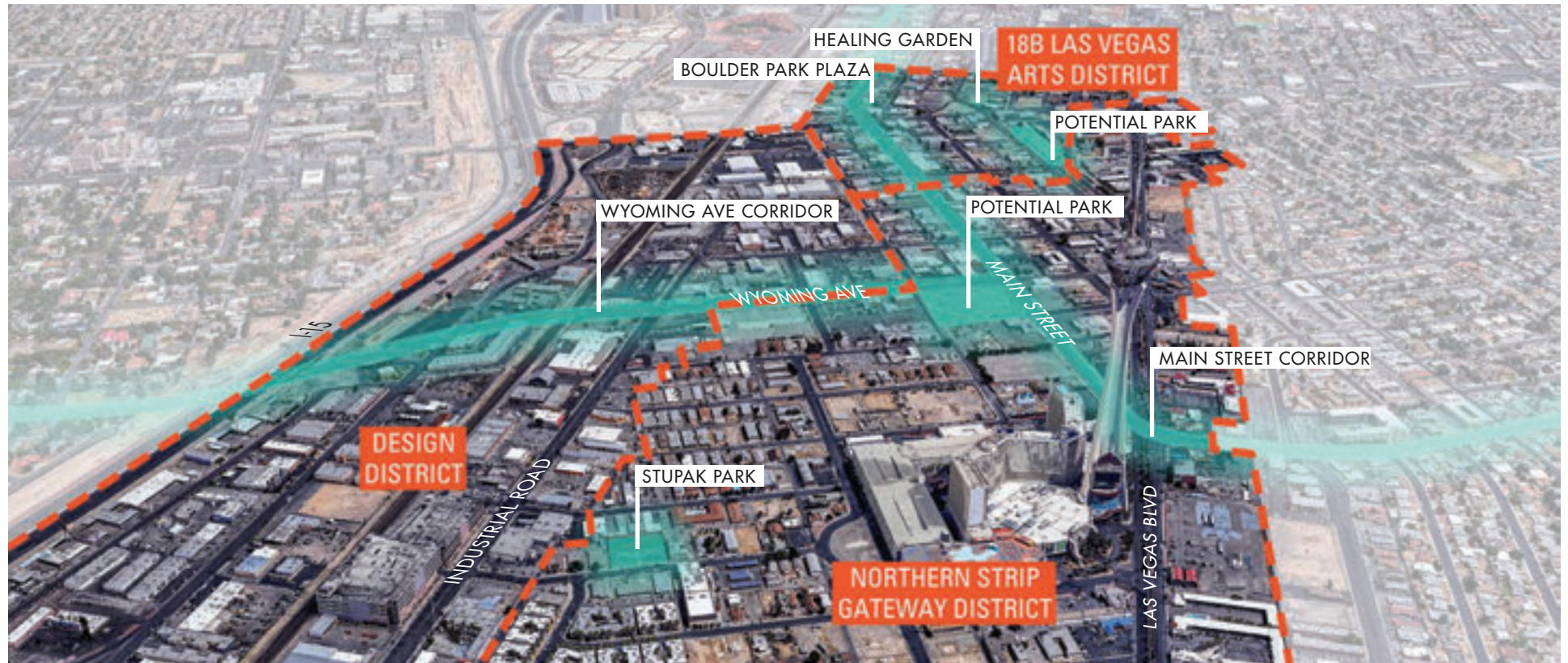


Mission Bay Kids Park, San Francisco

DOWNTOWN SOUTH

DOWNTOWN SOUTH IMPROVEMENT SUMMARY

PARK NAME	SIZE	EXISTING USES	FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES
Healing Garden	0.25 acres	Temporary memorial park with cultural and social significance	Expand and program the park through design process. Improve to a permanent park by keeping its memorial function and other programs. Opportunities to commission art installation.
Gateway Neighborhood Park	2.25 acres	Private vacant parcel to be acquired	A neighborhood park developed to serve the increased population in the future. Passive, active and social gathering spaces should be added to the park.



DOWNTOWN EAST

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations and opportunities could be applied to the Downtown East. Each will require detailed implementation strategies in the future:

- Enhance the Fremont Street Corridor with walkability and a connection to the Resort & Casino district.
- Expand the downtown bicycle network to connect to the residential communities north of Highway 95 and south to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas campus.
- Explore opportunities to acquire and repurpose underutilized parcels into uses currently unavailable in the Downtown East.
- Create a new neighborhood park to serve the residents in the Downtown East.
- Implement a signage and wayfinding system to guide residents and visitors to parks and trails.
- Explore outdoor art venue opportunities to serve downtown occupants and visitors and build an art brand for Downtown Las Vegas.



DOWNTOWN EAST

FREMONT STREET CORRIDOR

The Fremont Street Corridor is the historic main street for the city of Las Vegas, known for its display of neon lights and historic casinos and hotels built in the 1930s. The revitalization of Fremont Street is an ongoing project within the City and serves as a pilot project for the resurgence of downtown Las Vegas and the improvements to other iconic streets. There are numerous entities invested in the revitalization of Fremont Street and with these improvements the crime rate may also be reduced. Many Las Vegas residents and visitors attend events and patronize the restaurants so improving accessibility, connectivity and wayfinding along the Fremont Street Corridor will result in increased visitation and reinvestment by businesses and property owners.

Stakeholder and public outreach efforts identified that there are numerous entities invested in the revitalization of Fremont Street. Many Las Vegas residents and visitors alike travel to the corridor to attend events and go to restaurants. There are many opportunities to improve the accessibility and connectivity along the Fremont Street Corridor.

Park Opportunities

- **Consistent Tree Canopy:** Through outreach, many members of the public asked for an increased tree canopy and shade in the city's public spaces. Increasing the shade canopy with broad leaf trees serves to lower the warmer temperatures associated with urban paved areas and make spaces more comfortable and usable year-round.
- **Outdoor Public Gathering Spaces:** The Fremont East district would benefit from public-private partnerships to increase the level of service of its parks and open spaces. Parcel owners have the opportunity to create gathering spaces along the streetscape that are accessible to the public.



Existing Fremont Street Streetscape



Rendering of future Fremont Street



Fremont Street during the 1940s

CASE STUDY: CHICAGO

Millennium Park was made possible due to a strong public-private partnership between the City of Chicago and the nonprofit conservancy Millennium Park Foundation.

- This partnership formed the base fundraising and management structure, raising an unprecedented \$490 million.
- The park is managed by the Millennium Park Foundation, while the city owns the park.
- Enriching programs that attract a diverse group of visitors are what keep the partnership ongoing today.

DOWNTOWN EAST

- **Enhanced Walkability & Bikeability:** An integral way to improve the streetscape is to emphasize the importance of pedestrian walkability along the street. Fremont Street has a large 80' right-of-way and is currently designed around the automobile with 5 lanes. Expanded sidewalks and street amenities such as bicycle racks, trash receptacles, seating, and planting areas create a space more desirable for pedestrians. The corridor is also recommended by the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) to have a striped bicycle lane to make the downtown street more bike friendly.
- **Signage & Wayfinding System**



DOWNTOWN EAST

MAYFAIR PLACE PARK

Mayfair Place Park opened to the public in 2017 and is the newest park in the downtown area. The park is a 0.6-acre mini park located in the heart of the Founders district with facilities for all age groups. The park features a basketball court, shaded playground, shaded picnic area and grill, fitness station, and jogging path that serves the nearby community. Mayfair Place Park is best accessed by foot as there is limited street parking. The current recommendation for Mayfair Place Park is to keep the existing maintenance level of service.

Given the limited size of this park, a larger neighborhood park is recommended to increase the park space in the Downtown East.

FUTURE PARKS AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS

FREMONT NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

Located within walking distance of the Fremont Street corridor and other key attractions in the district, a neighborhood park could serve as the first public park in the Fremont East district. Given the increasing rates of tourism and population in the area, the park would attract both local and visiting families. The park size, which is dependent on parcel vacancy and price, may range from 2 to 4.5 acres. Potential uses include a play area for children, an outdoor plaza for events, and art installations. Park amenities could include seating, bicycle storage, bike share station, lighting, and restrooms.



Existing Mayfair Place Park



Potential park signage

DOWNTOWN EAST

Park Opportunities

- **Entry and Parking Area:** Design an entry monument to highlight the history of downtown Las Vegas and to orient people towards parks and open spaces. Provide adequate on-street and off-street parking for both community park users and visitors. Surface parking should be constructed with sustainable and green infrastructure practices.
- **Implementation Strategy:** The City should consider a few potential sites based on park assessments and recommendations, parcel availability, cost of land acquisition, and other factors. The City should conduct public outreach to develop the downtown Fremont Park programs and activities. When the park land has been determined and acquired, the City and a design consultant should conduct a comprehensive design and documentation process in order to create a quality urban park that best represents the past and future of downtown Las Vegas.
- **Central Plaza and Gathering Area**
- **Regional Trail Connections**
- **Shaded Seating and Social Space**
- **Signage and Wayfinding System**



Tongva Park, Santa Monica



Klyde Warren Park, Dallas

DOWNTOWN EAST

VIADUCT SPORTS PARK

The downtown Viaduct Sports Park provides an opportunity for the City of Las Vegas to repurpose an existing vacant parking lot under elevated portions of Interstate 515. There is an opportunity to leverage NDOT construction funds when I-515 is rebuilt over this area to partially allocate funds to pedestrian and aesthetic enhancements. The addition of a hardscape park would help address safety issues that surround the vacant areas of the Fremont East district, by creating a community space in an otherwise vacant and removed area. The park could have sport courts, restrooms, and a parking area or other features that do not require irrigation or plantings. Art features and mural paintings would reflection the local character of the Fremont East district.

Park Opportunities

- **Entry and Parking Areas:** Provide adequate on-street and off-street parking for both community park users and visitors. Surface parking should be constructed with sustainable and green infrastructure practices.
- **Sport Courts:** Amenities such as skate parks and full-size basketball courts that are open to the public would be viable options for the Viaduct Sports Park.
- **Signage and Wayfinding System:** A system with similar design treatments could be used across the entire downtown area. When guiding users to specific parks, unique signage could be used identifying certain park themes or functions. The signage forms and character should be identified in guidelines prior to the park's project design phase.
- **Green Space Or Open Area** that consider maximize use flexibility and accommodate yearly events.
- **Dog Park**



Underline Park rendering, Miami



I-25 Viaduct Park renderings, Denver

CASE STUDY: UNDERGROUND AT INK BLOCK

Boston converted a vacant 8-acre parking lot into a thriving, urban park in the city's South End neighborhood.

- Using a public-private partnership, MassDOT built the park and a private developer operates the park under a long-term lease.
- The park features 24-hour security, street art, dog park, fitness classes, sport courts, and bicycle paths just outside Boston's downtown.



DOWNTOWN EAST

DOWNTOWN TRAIL AND CONNECTIVITY ENHANCEMENT











Streetscape improvements in the Downtown East will improve connections from the downtown area to the north and south. Highway 95 creates a divide between the Fremont East district and the Cashman district to the north, cutting off connectivity between Cashman, the City of North Las Vegas, and the greater downtown. The proposed Spencer Greenway Trail runs from north to south through the two Downtown East districts and will serve as a connection between the downtown and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

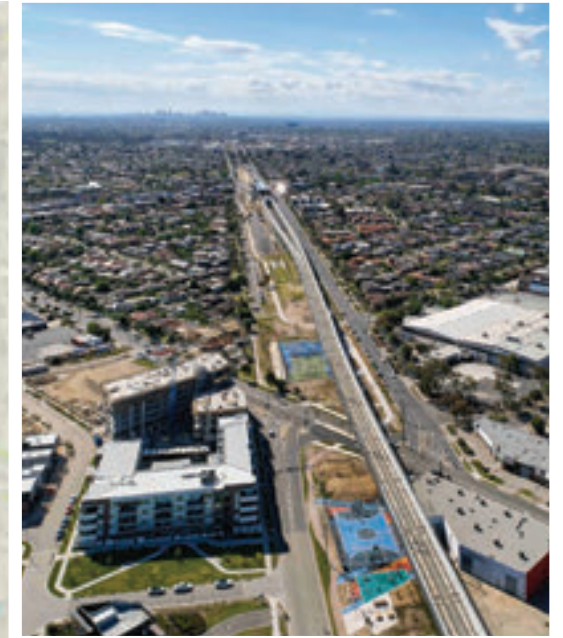
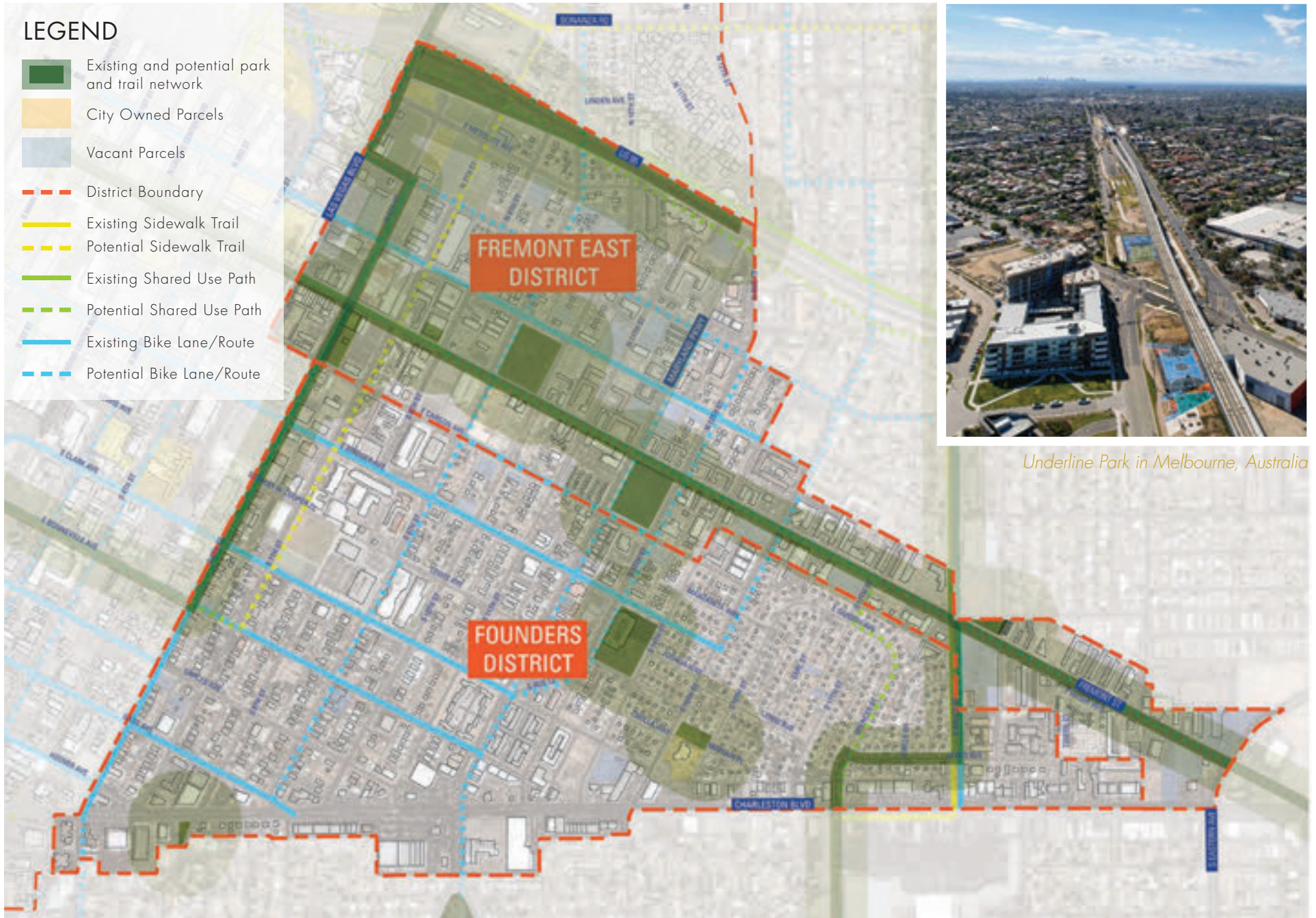


Underline Park in Melbourne, Australia

DOWNTOWN EAST

LEGEND

-  Existing and potential park and trail network
-  City Owned Parcels
-  Vacant Parcels
-  District Boundary
-  Existing Sidewalk Trail
-  Potential Sidewalk Trail
-  Existing Shared Use Path
-  Potential Shared Use Path
-  Existing Bike Lane/Route
-  Potential Bike Lane/Route

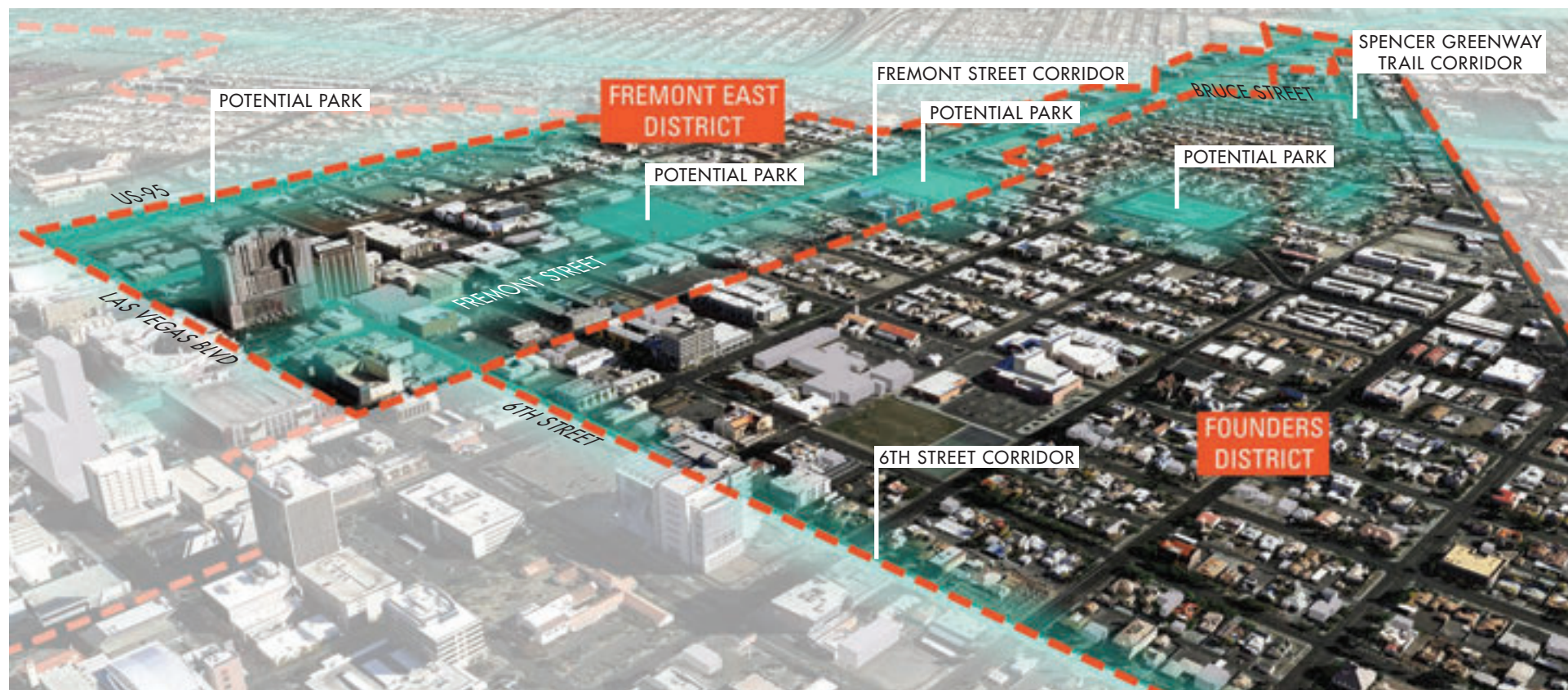


Underline Park in Melbourne, Australia

DOWNTOWN EAST

DOWNTOWN EAST AREA IMPROVEMENT SUMMARY

PARK NAME	SIZE	EXISTING USES	FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES
Fremont Street Corridor	-	Historic main street to the city of Las Vegas with strong cultural features and attractions along the corridor.	Add shade trees, structures and outdoor public gathering spaces.
Viaduct Sports Park	4.00 acres	Parking lot, city's staging area.	A special use site under Highway 95 with active recreation courts, restroom facility, parking area and dog park. Add art features and paintings to reflect local character.
Mayfair Place Park	0.65 acres	Newly constructed park with active recreation and playground space to serve nearby community.	Improve access to downtown trail system
Fremont Neighborhood Park	2.5 acres	Private vacant parcel to be acquired	An urban neighborhood park to serve the increased population within the area, with features such as play features, outdoor plaza. Select a site that is within walking distance to the Fremont Street corridor and the area's key attractions.
Trail Improvements	-	N/A	Fremont street corridor, future trails along light rail extension.



MEDICAL DISTRICT

CHARACTER AND OPPORTUNITIES

The Medical district is the existing healthcare and office hub for the City and is outlined as a key growth area. Current institutions in the area are the University Medical Center, Valley Hospital Medical Center, Horizon Specialty Hospital, the UNLV School of Dental Medicine, and the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department.

With the goal to establish the Medical district as a driving force in the downtown economy and as a top center for healthcare and research in Southern Nevada, the Vision 2045 Plan proposes several large-scale development projects with the goal of bringing in a more educated population that lives, studies, and works in downtown Las Vegas. Included in the plan is 19,000 gross square feet of development including mixed-use development on major streets, bringing in convenient transit, green linkages, and bike trails/bike share stations. The City proposes to expand the multi-modal transit along Martin Luther King Boulevard, Rancho Drive, and between the district and the downtown core—this presents an opportunity to create better connections into the Medical district through an expanded trail network.

MEDICAL DISTRICT CHARACTER AND OPPORTUNITIES

The City of Las Vegas does not currently own any parcels within the Medical district and a majority of the zone falls outside of a walkable distance to a park. Given that a large portion of the district is privately owned, opportunities to create parks and open space are somewhat limited to public-private partnerships. Such public-private partnership parks could be included within opportunity sites along the central roads running through the district as the City moves toward densifying the area.

The Medical district has existing bicycle lanes and pedestrian paths running along several of its main throughways—Alta Drive/Bonneville Avenue, Shadow Lane, and the newly constructed portion of Martin Luther King Junior Boulevard. Enhancing these key areas is critical in the development of the Medical district as a livable community and modern work environment.



CASE STUDY: PUBLIC PLAZA IN DEVELOPMENT AREA



MEDICAL DISTRICT

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

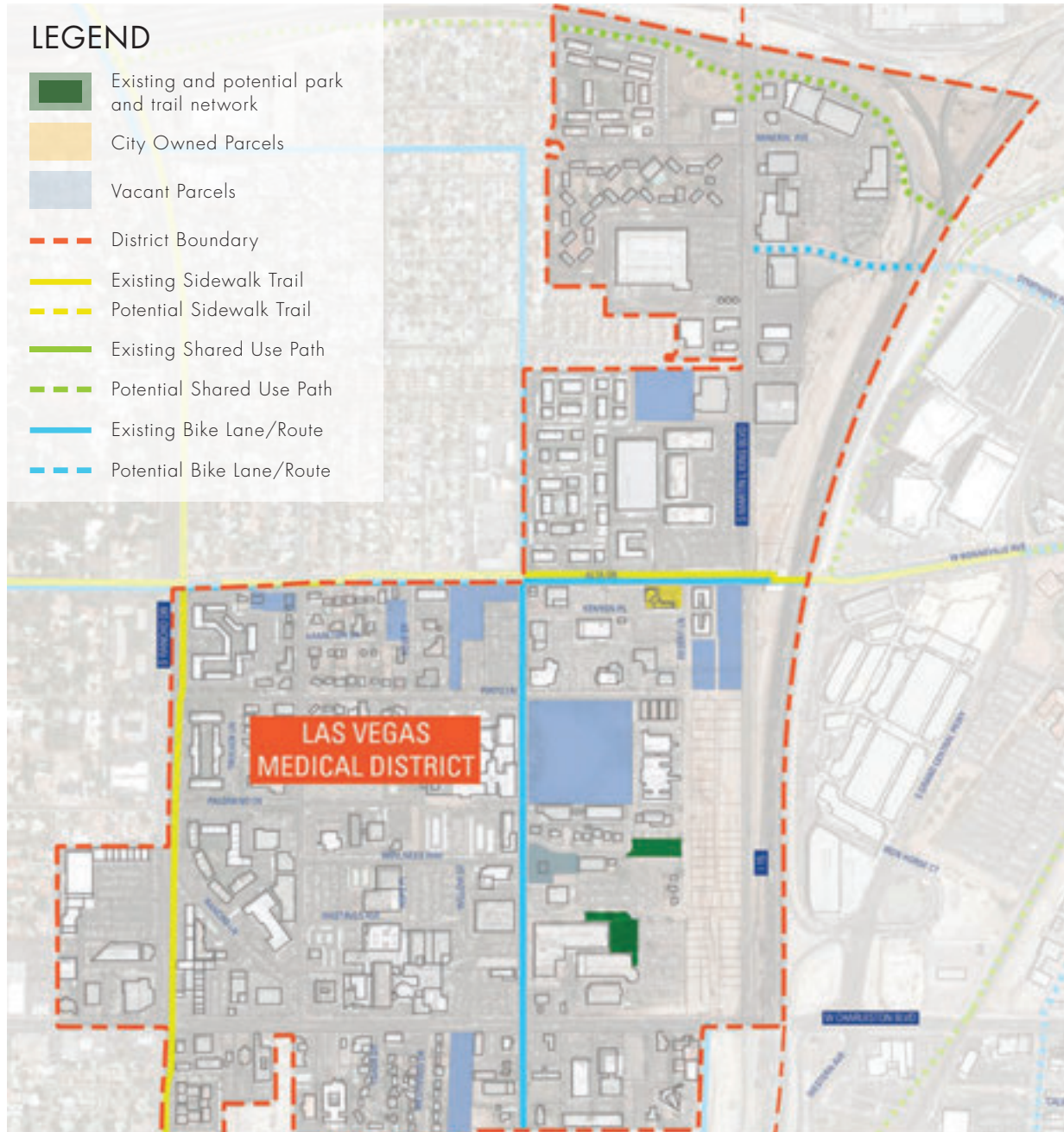
- Trail connectivity enhancements along Alta Drive, Shadow Lane, Charleston Boulevard, and Martin Luther King Junior Boulevard.
- Development of new parks and open space through a public-private partnership along key access routes.
- Expand the bicycle network and promote a bike share system.
- Enhance the pedestrian zone through better connections between potential amenity areas.
- Create better bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly connections between the district and the Downtown Core.
- Incorporate NDOT landscape areas when applicable.

DOWNTOWN TRAIL AND CONNECTIVITY ENHANCEMENT

Connectivity between the Medical district and the rest of the downtown area is essential as the City moves to incorporate more housing, jobs, and educational facilities within the district. Interstate 15 and Highway 95, which border two sides of the district, act as dividing agents between with the rest of the downtown. Connections across the highways along major corridors to the east and north are critical locations for trail enhancements within the downtown area. Trail connections should be both pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly and should include a buffered bicycle lane, increased shade coverage, and art in underutilized areas.

Additionally, improvements to the on-street trails within the Medical district should align with locations of existing and proposed public transit lines and where the City has planned areas of development, based on the Medical district Facilities Master Plan and the Vision 2045 Plan. Development opportunity site based off these two plans is centralized around Shadow Lane, so the trail corridors should take a “spine” approach and emanate from that location. This provides a greater connection to the rest of downtown and to the west of Las Vegas and Summerlin.

MEDICAL DISTRICT



Mandela Parkway, Oakland

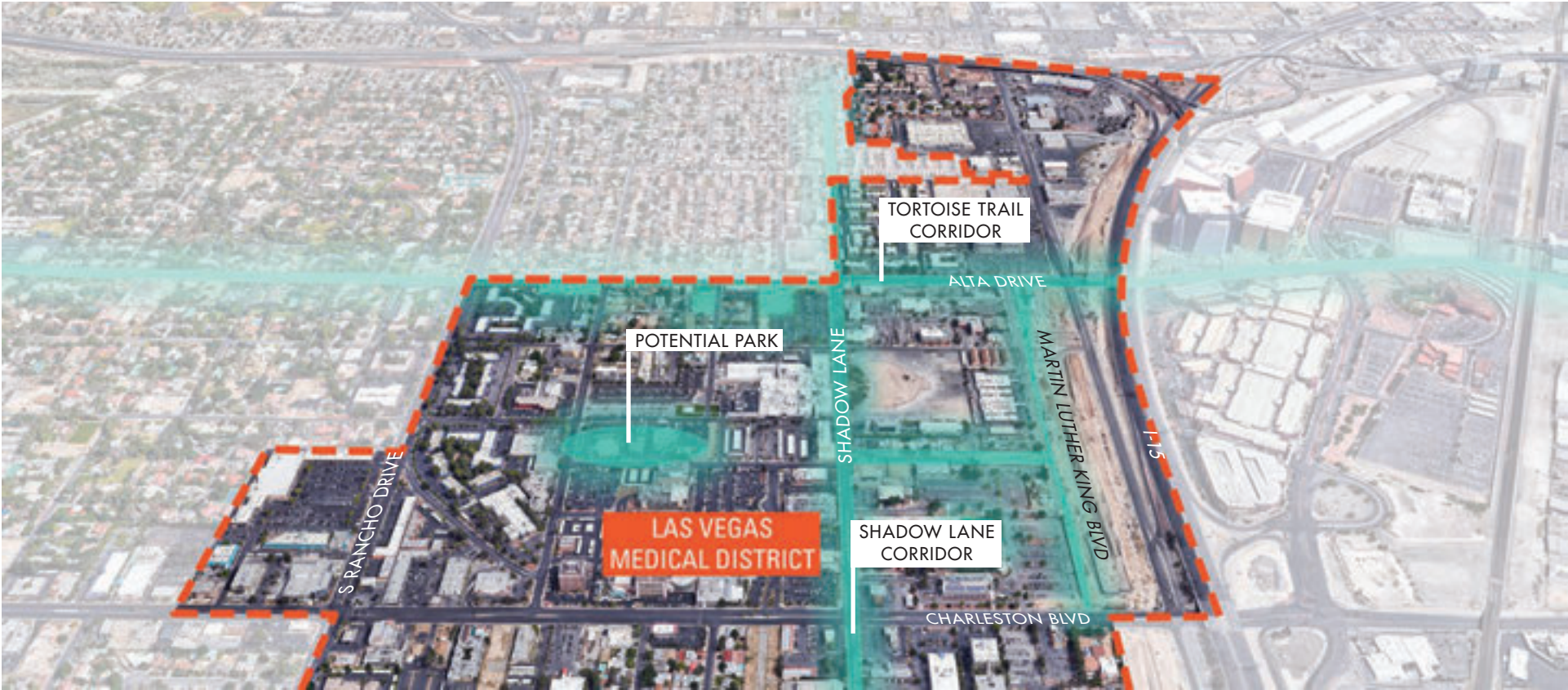


Stapleton Greenway Park, Denver

MEDICAL DISTRICT

DOWNTOWN MEDICAL AREA IMPROVEMENT SUMMARY

PARK NAME	SIZE	EXISTING USES	FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES
Trail and Connectivity Improvement	-	N/A	Trail corridor improvement along Alta. Improved pedestrian realm within the area.
Public space within private development	-	-	Promote outdoor public space within private housing or commercial projects.



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