



Downtown Fort Worth Parks & Open Space Plan

DOWNTOWN FORT WORTH IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT | DOWNTOWN FORT WORTH, INC.

SPECIAL THANKS

Downtown Fort Worth, Inc. (DFWI) is grateful to the Downtown Green Space Committee members for their time, energy, and dedication to the improvement of Downtown through quality spaces.

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Much of Downtown's recent growth has been office construction, hotels, new residential development and the adaptive reuse of office buildings for residential use. These expanding residential, office and visitor populations have created a greater need for usable green and open space Downtown.

The desire to have a place for respite and recreation in the center city dates back to the beginning of Fort Worth. In 1892, the City Park Garden, which straddled the Clear Fork of the Trinity River roughly between today's West Seventh Street and Lancaster bridges, provided such a place.

Rotary Park - developed by the Rotary Club in 1916, on the southeast corner of West Seventh and Summit Avenue - included a small bath house and Rotary Club headquarters. The Fort Worth Water Gardens, referred to as an "urban oasis in a concrete jungle," was designed as a place to relax and escape the noise and bustle of the city.

Now, with local residents, out of town guests, and a larger work force using Downtown in greater numbers - almost 40,000 employees and millions of visitors each year - the need for parks and open space is greater than ever. Fortunately, Downtown Fort Worth has significant existing green and open space that, with improved design, could provide usable places for relaxation and play.

Active public spaces, including urban parks, plazas, open spaces, and streetscape linkages, can provide great public destinations and add to the livability and economic vitality of Downtown. The Downtown Fort Worth, Inc. (DFWI) Downtown Green Space Committee collaborated for a year to analyze existing green and open spaces Downtown, and explore the needs and opportunities for new parks. This report contains their recommendations.

SUCCESSFUL URBAN PARK EXAMPLES

The following are some successful active parks in Downtowns around the country. Aspects of these parks can be incorporated into green and open spaces in Downtown Fort Worth to create vibrant, active spaces.

Mellon Square, Pittsburgh
Inspired by Union Square in San Francisco, Mellon Square was built in 1953 on the roof of a six-level parking garage. Pittsburgh was the first city to build an underground parking garage to fund the debt service incurred to develop and maintain a park. A great example of a public-private partnership, the garage was developed through Pittsburgh's public parking authority, and the 1.37-acre park improvements were funded by the Mellon family. This 230-foot by 260-foot site is slightly larger than a typical Downtown Fort Worth block. Similarly, General Worth Square is built above a parking garage.



Bryant Park, New York

By 1980, Bryant Park was largely unused except as a drug haven. The park was raised above sidewalk-level and surrounded by tall shrubs and an iron fence that had a few narrow openings. The design also included walls of shrubs and bushes within the space, which helped to create an unsafe setting. In 1980, the New York Public Library, the surrounding neighborhood and the City partnered to transform the park, and a business improvement district (BID) was established. The new design recommended a number of significant improvements: the shrubs were removed so that people could see into the park from the street, movable chairs were added to the acre of grass in the center, more openings were created in the iron fence and a restaurant and concessions were added. Large pathways, movable seating, shady and sunny areas, and kiosks in Bryant Park create an active, usable park. The park was programmed with events such as outdoor movies, jazz performances and fashion shows. In time, undesirable activity was replaced by workers, residents, and visitors.





Post Office Square, Boston

The 1.7-acre Post Office Square is supported both physically and financially by a 500,000 square-foot parking garage below. The garage generates approximately \$8.6 million per year, which supports the park and garage development (\$76 million,) annual operating expenses (\$2.9 million) and local taxes (\$1 million). The redevelopment of Post Office Square began in 1983 with the formation of Friends of Post Office Square, Inc. This private sector effort included a group of 20 chief executive officers from neighboring businesses. They raised almost \$80 million by soliciting private donations, selling shares in the project, and securing a \$48.5 million loan. The park was redesigned to be an inviting space from the street level, not just an area to be appreciated by people in surrounding high-rise buildings. The park is 53 percent green space and 47 percent hard surface, and includes different types of seating. The centerpiece is a sculptural fountain with curved seating around it. Teak benches, movable cast-iron café chairs with tables, a linear polished granite wall, and one-half acre of lawn all provide more seating options. Once an unsightly parking garage, Post Office Square is now a focal point of activity for Downtown Boston.

Pioneer Courthouse Square, Portland

Pioneer Courthouse Square is an example of Portland's trailblazing efforts to revitalize their Downtown. Located on a block that was home to a dilapidated hotel, the area was originally slated to become a parking garage. A grass-roots effort led the City to purchase the block and redevelop the land into a park. Local individuals and businesses purchased, one by one, 65,000 bricks that would pave the square and pay for other amenities. Created in 1984, the square is commonly referred to as the city's outdoor living room. The park is host to a number of programmed and un-programmed events and, most importantly, is located at the confluence of the transit mall, the light-rail system, and the city's two biggest department stores. Retail, including two shops and several vendor carts, also draws people and generates revenue. Owned by Portland Parks and Recreation, the square is operated by the Friends of Pioneer Courthouse Square under contract with the city.





Washington Square, New York

Originally built in 1826, Washington Square is located in the heart of Greenwich Village.

The park is very popular and attracts a wide variety of people. This has not always been the case. In the 1980s, it was a drug dealing center and the square was particularly dangerous. It has improved dramatically since the 1990s.

The park is now surrounded by row houses and the campus of New York University. The new design encourages activity with paths laid out so that people cut through it. Facilities to attract people of all ages, including playgrounds, a chess area, grassy areas, and a dog run serve a wide audience. The central fountain and triumphal arch serve as focal points that create a space for people to gather, see, and be seen.

Perhaps the most important aspects of the park are the simple design and the wide variety of things to do, places to sit and gather. Visitors can sun by the fountain, nap or picnic in the shady grass, relax on a bench while their dog has a chance to run and socialize with other dogs, listen to impromptu performing groups, play chess, or just people-watch.

Bowling Green Park, New York

Bowling Green is a small public park in Lower Manhattan and an example of a highly used park in a very small space. It is the oldest existing public park in New York City and the location of the Charging Bull bronze sculpture, one of the most recognizable landmarks of the Financial District.



The park is a wedge-shaped plaza, formed by the splitting of Broadway into two forks. The eastern fork becomes Whitehall Street and the western fork becomes State Street after Broadway terminates. A portion of the park is a fenced-in grassy area with tables and chairs that are popular lunchtime destinations for local workers in the nearby Financial District. Transparent wrought iron fencing provides a sense of protection from the two adjacent high-traffic streets.

The south end of the plaza is bounded by the front entrance of Alexander Hamilton US Custom House. Previously there was a public road along the south edge of the park, also called "Bowling Green," but since this area was needed for a modern entrance to the subway station, the road was eliminated and paved over with cobblestones. If weather permits, there are official food stands in this area once or twice a week, as well as many unofficial vendors selling goods.

The park suffered neglect after World War II, but was restored by the city in the 1970s and is now one of the most heavily traveled plazas in the city. In 2004, improvements were made to Bowling Green Park. The bluestone sidewalks enclosing the park and the path inside the park were replaced with historically appropriate materials. The interior lawn was reconstructed, and new benches, lighting, and a new planting bed were added. In 2006, a fountain was added as a focal point in the center of the park.



BROAD RECOMMENDATIONS

THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS GREW FROM THE DESIRE TO CREATE ACTIVE, USABLE GREEN AND OPEN SPACES DOWNTOWN. THEY ARE PRINCIPLES TO BE CONSIDERED WHEN REDESIGNING EXISTING OR DEVELOPING NEW SPACES IN THE CENTER CITY.

- Parks should contribute to the mix of activities surrounding them, rather than simply being a refuge from Downtown.



- Parks should encourage activity.
- Consider developing a dog park or run to accommodate Downtown residents. A Downtown dog park is part of the 2003 Master Plan adopted by the Fort Worth City Council. The Plan calls for four dog parks in other parts of the City. And, these four parks are in addition to the very successful Fort Woof Dog Park. Other accommodations for Downtown dogs could also follow, such as a pet store, café or other businesses with patio areas that allow pets.

- Parks should have Wi-Fi service.
- Parks should have good visibility from the street so that they encourage use and increase safety.
- Lighting affects usability and safety and should be an important consideration for all parks.



Wireless service would draw more people to Downtown parks.

- Include public art where possible. Examples could include free standing sculptures or be a part of design elements such as benches, lighting, walkways and other features.



- Children's play equipment can take on a more urban, contemporary form by utilizing public art.
 - Select park furniture made of durable material.
 - Trees are crucial elements in and around Downtown parks because they provide shade, and help to create a sense of place.
- Park seating should be comfortable, encourage interaction, and provide choices.





Seating should be included in parks and can take many forms.



Dallas has a dog park under freeways on the edge of Downtown, similar to the West Lancaster area.



Amenities, such as this dog water fountain, could be incorporated in some Downtown parks.



A dog park or run could be considered for Downtown residents.

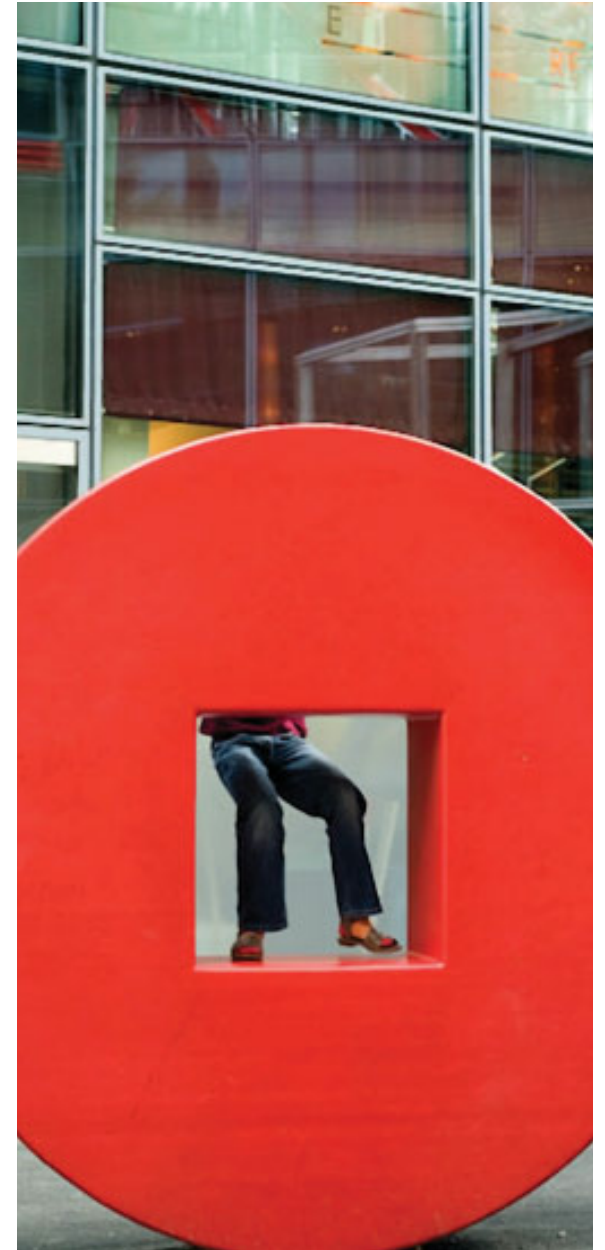


Public art can take many forms.





Children's play equipment can take on a contemporary form by utilizing public art.



DOWNTOWN PAKS AND OPEN SPACE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

The Downtown Green Space Committee established the Downtown Parks and Open Space Fundamental Principles to aid in the development of the active spaces:

- Maintain and enhance strong partnerships with DFWI, the City of Fort Worth, Tarrant County, and Downtown property owners and developers.
- Enhance the design and maintenance of existing Downtown parks and open spaces to create active, usable public spaces for residents, employees and visitors.
- Develop new public spaces in Downtown areas lacking green and open space.
- Create park designs that entice visitors and encourage active use.
- Recognize this plan as a living document that will evolve as changes occur.

IMPLEMENTATION

The following are implementation strategies designed to encourage proposed Downtown spaces and address the recommended improvements to existing Downtown parks and open space:

- Work with the City to incorporate the plan into the City's Park Master Plan and Comprehensive Plan.
- Work with the City to establish a park fund to be utilized specifically for Downtown parks. The fund would be comprised of park dedication fees from Downtown developments.
- Pursue grant opportunities as they become available.
- Introduce a park plan funding proposal that would be incorporated into future City Capital Improvement Programs.
- Partner with the City and private property owners to encourage voluntary development of active public spaces and the redevelopment of parks and open spaces.
- Incorporate designs that encourage active use of public spaces Downtown.



Incorporating public art in parks adds interest and character.

Portland's Pioneer Courthouse Square includes inscribed donor bricks, which can be a fund raising tool for parks.





TRINITY RIVER LINKAGES

Recommendations



1 Forest Park Boulevard and 5th Street Intersection Enhancements

The intersection of 5th Street and Forest Park Boulevard is a key access point to the Trinity River linear park. 5th Street leads directly to the River and is lined with sidewalks on both sides of the street. The intersection at Forest Park is signalized, and has a striped crosswalk. Crosswalk enhancements would increase safety for pedestrians and bicyclists and improve Downtown access to the park.

Recommendations

- Add crosswalk enhancements, such as bricks, pavers, or stamping to the intersection at Forest Park Boulevard and 5th Street.
- Install handicap ramps.



2 Trinity Trail - East Side of West Fork

The Trinity River Vision Master Plan calls for a trail along the Trinity River. This trail will greatly enhance access to the Trinity River linear park from Downtown, particularly for the growing residential population in the northwest area of Downtown. This new trail would also connect to the trailhead and proposed pedestrian bridge located near the Lancaster Avenue bridge.

Recommendations

- Implement the planned trail along the east side of the West Fork of the Trinity River and Forest Park Boulevard.
- Connect the trail to the Forest Park and 5th Street intersection and the 7th Street Bridge.

3 Culvert at Forest Park Boulevard and Purcey Street

All of Downtown's stormwater drainage gathers and flows into the Trinity River via the culvert located at Forest Park Boulevard and Purcey Street. Surrounded by approximately one acre of green space, this site is within walking distance of a growing residential and commercial area. It could provide a link to the trailhead and proposed pedestrian bridge on the south and to future trails and developments on the north. The Tarrant Regional Water District is currently studying this site and potential improvements as part of the Trinity River Vision and Trinity Uptown plans.

Recommendations

- Develop trails that connect to this green space from the north and south.
- Implement a trailhead.
- Work with nearby residents to explore other potential improvements that could increase the usability of this green space.
- Include fencing or other improvements in the design enhancements to control culvert access.
- Develop a maintenance/cleaning plan for the culvert.

4 Trinity River at Bluff Development

Trinity Bluff is a master-planned, mixed-use development by Trinity Bluff Development, Ltd. Encompassing approximately 30 acres along the bluff, this project sits on the east bank of the Trinity River, overlooking the historic site of Fort Worth's oldest community, and offers an opportunity to provide public access to the Trinity River linear park and proposed new paved walkways below.

Recommendations

- Work with the City and the developer to cooperatively achieve access to the proposed Trinity River trails below the development.
- Explore opportunities for a trailhead with parking at or near the development.
- Explore a potential partnership with Nash Elementary to provide possible weekend parking.





5 East 3rd Street Streetscape

Just east of Downtown, a new trailhead connects to the Trinity Trails and provides parking and picnic space. Sidewalks along this route are currently nonexistent or in disrepair. Significant walkway enhancements along 3rd Street leading to this trailhead would improve access to the Trinity Trails and encourage people to walk and bike to and from the trails.

Recommendation

- Install sidewalks, street trees and pedestrian lighting along both sides of 3rd Street from Nichols Street to the trailhead.



PARKS & OPEN SPACE

Recommendations



Upper West Side

1 Green Space at Forest Park Boulevard and Summit Avenue

The former Rotary Park site, located where Forest Park Boulevard, Weatherford Street and Summit Avenue meet, serves as the primary northwest gateway into Downtown. Conceptual design has been completed and includes landscape and hardscape enhancements that would beautify and improve the usability of this green space. Part of the improvement plan includes reconfiguring the Summit Avenue merge to Weatherford Street. The final engineering study on the street reconfiguration concluded that the proposal will not negatively affect traffic circulation. This rerouting allows the approximately 1.5-acre site, which is currently a median, to be connected to Mallick Tower and the future Klabzuba Properties office building, easing accessibility and adding much-needed usable green space to the west side of Downtown.

Recommendation

- Seek funding to implement planned improvements for the green space located at Forest Park Boulevard and Summit Avenue. Plans also include crosswalk enhancements to the Forest Park Boulevard/Summit Avenue intersection.



Robin Frye

2 Harrold Park

Located along Summit Avenue in west Downtown, this 1.5-acre park provides a large green space for nearby residents and employees, as well as a recreational area for children. All Church Home for Children, which is adjacent to the park, uses the park regularly. The park is also bounded by the Sunset Terrace single-family neighborhood and an office building.

Recommendations

- Replace trees that have been removed.
- Enhance screening with additional landscaping along Summit Avenue. Screening should not create a wall or completely block the park from view.
- Add a variety of seating alternatives throughout the park.



3 West Side Park



The west side of Downtown has experienced significant residential growth in recent years. Residential units such as Trinity Terrace, Westview, Firestone, AMLI and Versailles do not offer significant green space, and there is not an existing park in the immediate area. Development of a park in this area of Downtown is needed and will act as a civic and neighborhood anchor for the west side.

Recommendations

- Design and implement an active park for west Downtown.
- Work to acquire a park site west of Henderson, south of 7th Street, north of Lancaster Avenue and east of Summit Avenue.

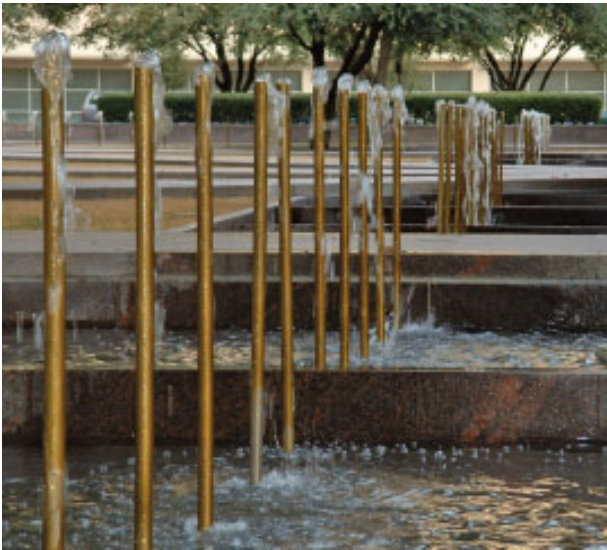
A conceptual approach to a west side park with linear greenways.



South Downtown/Lancaster Corridor



Elevated sidewalks make park lawns difficult to use.



Bubblers were intended to shoot water high into the air.

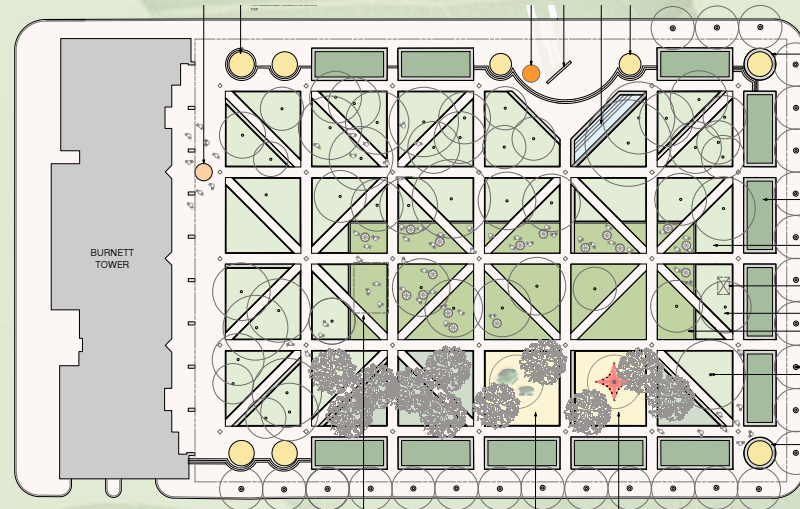
4 Burnett Park

Designed by Peter Walker, Burnett Park is located at the base of Burnett Plaza. The three-acre park contrasts the greenery with seasonal plantings, a grove of trees, and a grid of raised granite walkways. The park features a major fountain “room” with raised illuminated bubblers. Now more than 20 years old, Burnett Park is in need of significant capital improvements to replace fountain infrastructure. The Burnett Foundation funds the majority of park maintenance costs.

Burnett Park was beautifully designed and fit the needs of Downtown when it was built. Downtown changes, particularly the increase in residential development, have fueled the desire for a more active and user-friendly green space. The Burnett Foundation has funded a park redesign, and Peter Walker is working with a stakeholder committee to redesign elements of the park that will address maintenance and usability issues.

Recommendation

- Redesign Burnett Park to reduce needed capital and ongoing maintenance costs and improve the usability of the park.



Peter Walker's conceptual design includes removing the fountains in the center to create a large green space, movable tables and chairs, children's public art-style play area, lowering of perimeter landscaping, food kiosks, and adding aeration to the existing water feature on the north side of the park.

5 Cherry/7th Street Median (privately owned)

This quarter-acre green space is situated between the Bank of America Building, the new Cantey Hanger Building, Burnett Plaza and Burnett Park. It is characterized by mature shade trees, a grassy lawn, a low perimeter concrete wall, and annual plantings at either end. This raised area currently serves as an attractive, well maintained gateway and green space. Design changes could make this median a great small park for employees and visitors of surrounding buildings. Because this green space serves as a gateway into the Downtown core, public art at the west end could add significant interest, both for vehicular traffic and for park users.

This median is surrounded by a traffic lane that allows turns from 6th to 7th Street and has very low-traffic counts. The lane on the west side of the median is one of three lanes on Burnett Street, another relatively low-traffic street Downtown. These lanes around the park could potentially be converted into additional green space and increase the size of the park by 40 percent.

Recommendations

Work with the property owner to:

- Explore modifications to create a usable green space. These could include pedestrian amenities and accessibility enhancements.
- Explore with the property owner and City the opportunity to close traffic lanes surrounding the median and incorporate the area into the green space.
- Explore opportunities for public art that would serve as a gateway for vehicular traffic and appeal to users of the green space.



South Downtown/Lancaster Corridor



6 Bank of America Plaza (privately owned)

The Bank of America Plaza, located across 7th Street from Burnett Park, is home to Isamu Noguchi's sculpture garden, The Texas Sculpture. Noguchi's original design included landscaping surrounding each of the three sculptures, but this plan was never implemented. The ground floor of the Bank of America building has retail space for a restaurant, currently a sandwich shop. Seating is provided for the restaurant, but it is not heavily used because of the lack of shade and sense of enclosure in this spacious plaza.

Recommendations

Work with the property owner to:

- Explore improvements to make the plaza more usable, including additional landscaping, expansion of the seating/table area and additional railing.
- Highlight the Noguchi sculptures by implementing the shade elements from the original plan.
- Consider coordinating improvements with the Burnett Park redesign.
- Consider crosswalk enhancements on 7th Street to improve safety and increase connectivity to Burnett Park.
- Encourage more retail activity on the ground floor of the Bank of America building.
- If adjacent properties are redeveloped, add amenities that will serve those developments.



7 Hyde Park

The City of Fort Worth, the Fort Worth Transportation Authority, the U.S. General Services Administration, and Downtown Fort Worth, Inc. have partnered to reestablish Hyde Park as Downtown Fort Worth's civic square. In its new incarnation, the Hyde Park transit-oriented public space was originally conceptualized in 1999 by consultants studying the Intermodal Transportation Center (ITC) at Ninth and Jones Streets. This square would integrate several disparate spaces surrounding the intersection of Ninth and Throckmorton, including Lanham Plaza, the remaining section of Hyde Park, the former public library site, John Peter Smith Park, City Hall Plaza and a vacated section of Tenth Street. Park design is complete, and construction is expected to begin in 2008. The design proposes multiple public art pieces that are not funded. Lanham Plaza improvements are not currently funded.

Recommendations

- Implement planned improvements for Hyde Park.
- Seek funding to implement proposed public art in Hyde Park.
- Continue to work with the General Services Administration to implement improvements to Lanham Plaza that are compatible with the Hyde Park design.

8 General Worth Square

General Worth Square flanks the southern end of Main Street and is often used by Downtown events organizers. Artist Cameron Schoepp's sculpture of five whimsical limestone "Hats" is located in the park, as is the Aviation Wall of Honor. A memorial sculpture of John F. Kennedy is planned for the park. Plans are underway to relocate the Aviation Wall of Honor to an aviation museum. The park is located across from the Fort Worth Convention Center and the Hilton Fort Worth Hotel.

General Worth Square does not enjoy significant use, other than special events. However, the park's size and location offers great possibility for active use year-round by Downtown employees, residents, visitors and conventioners.

Recommendation

- Redesign General Worth Square to improve active use of the park. Include the JFK Plaza and park areas on both sides of Main Street in the redesign.

9 Intermodal Transportation Center Green Space

Located on the southern end of the Intermodal Transportation Center is approximately one-fifth acre of green space. The space is currently planted with grass and trees, but could be improved to accommodate people waiting for the train or bus, as well as future area residents.

Recommendation

- Work with the T to implement improvements to the green space. Possible improvements could include pathways, benches, game tables, and/or interactive public art.



South Downtown/Lancaster Corridor



10 John Peter Smith Park

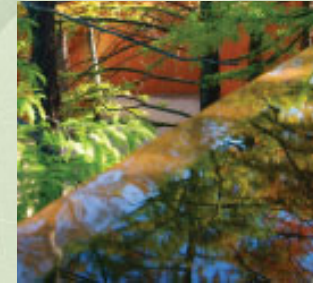
The median surrounded by 9th, Jennings and Throckmorton Streets in south Downtown is approximately one-quarter acre of shaded green space and the site of the John Peter Smith monument. City Hall and AT&T are located directly across Jennings and Throckmorton Streets, respectively, and St. Patrick Cathedral abuts the space on the south. The size of the area, the close proximity to office buildings and the church, and the shade provided by established trees offer an opportunity for a pleasant respite for employees and church patrons. Currently, there are no amenities in the space that would appeal to potential park users.

Recommendations

- Improve landscape to include seasonal color and other interesting plants.
- Add benches or movable seating. Chess tables may be a possibility.

11 Fort Worth Water Gardens

The Fort Worth Water Gardens is a beautiful and refreshing oasis adjacent to the Fort Worth Convention Center. Designed by Phillip Johnson, the Water Gardens is an architectural and engineering marvel offering a variety of water features. The park features three pools of water: the aerating pool, the quiet pool, and the active pool with water tumbling down a series of terraces. The park connection to the Fort Worth Convention Center was dramatically improved with the closing of 13th Street and the development of a plaza. In addition, significant renovations were completed in 2007. The park was designed as a quiet oasis within a busy urban context, with large walls around the perimeter of the park. A 1999 study recommended opening the southwest corner of the park to Lancaster Avenue and creating a retail or kiosk plaza there.



Recommendations

- Implement the study recommendation to open the southwest corner of the perimeter wall and create an active plaza.
- Explore ways, such as the use of vines, to soften the south wall façade.



12 Al Hayne Memorial Park

For decades, the Al Hayne Monument was located in a small triangular median at Lancaster Avenue and Main Street. With the reconstruction of Lancaster Avenue and realignment of Main Street at that intersection, this small median has been expanded to become a more usable green space. The Frank Kent family has funded the redesign and implementation of Al Hayne Memorial Park, and the design process is underway.

Recommendation

- Complete the redesign and implementation of Al Hayne Memorial Park.

13 T & P Terminal Plaza (privately owned)

Owned by the U.S. Post Office, the large parking lot in front of the Texas & Pacific Lofts offers an opportunity to create a public plaza for the Lancaster corridor. The City is currently exploring the possibility of purchasing the U. S. Post Office for use as a City Hall, and this land could be included in that purchase. This plaza would be adjacent to Al Hayne Memorial Park and could serve as a significant open space component along the Lancaster corridor.

Recommendations

Work with property owner to:

- Design and implement an active plaza/green space.
- Consider coordinating the design with the redesigned Al Hayne Memorial Park.



Gideon Toal



South Downtown/Lancaster Corridor



14 Lancaster “West Park”

Lancaster “West Park” is a TXDOT-owned property of approximately 3.5 acres on the west end of Lancaster Avenue Downtown. The AMLI Apartments (194 units) and Westview condos (50 units) are one block away and the Firestone Apartments (300 units) are three blocks away. Lancaster corridor developments are bringing new residents to this area of Downtown. Office, hotel and retail uses will also grow along the corridor. This large green space could serve residents, employees and visitors and beautify the south gateway into Downtown. It is large enough to use part of it as a dog park or skate park which could serve the city as a whole.

Recommendations

- Explore possibilities for a dog park or skate park.
- Add amenities for area residents, employees and visitors, such as walkways, landscaping and benches that create a sense of place.



GideonToal

Sundance Area

15 Heritage Park

Designed by Lawrence Halprin in 1976, Heritage Park sits on the natural bluff of the Trinity River and extends to the River edge below. It features a series of terraced walkways that are accompanied by a stream of water. The overlook offers an excellent view of the convergence of the Clear and West Forks of the Trinity River, the Paddock Viaduct, and the historic power plant situated across the river. Leading away from the west side of the park is a brick trail that allows pedestrian access to the river.



The more than 30-year-old infrastructure system that carries the water through the park is not functional, the park has deteriorated over time, and the City recently closed the park for safety reasons. The condition, combined with the walled-off design creates the perception that the park is not safe. Jacobs Carter Burgess recently completed an analysis of the park's infrastructure.

Employees and visitors to the adjacent court and office buildings, Downtown and City residents, trail users and tourists are potential park users.

Recommendations

- Explore opportunities to make the park more usable and accessible, both physically and visually.
- Capitalize on the vista overlooking the Trinity River and improve access to the park and trails below.
- Coordinate any design changes with Trinity River Vision improvements.
- Explore potential improvements to pedestrian circulation and safety on the streets adjacent to the park.



Sundance Area



16 Paddock Park

Located immediately to the north of the historic Tarrant County Courthouse and at just under an acre in size, Paddock Park is one of the larger green spaces in Downtown. Designated as a City park, the City owns approximately 75 percent in the eastern section, which includes the area occupied by the Charles Tandy sculpture. The remaining park site is owned by Tarrant County.

This park offers a significant opportunity for green space that could be widely used by Downtown employees and visitors, as well as residents and students from nearby developments, including Trinity Bluff and Tarrant County College. Mature trees create shade for those having lunch, enjoying the Paddock Street Viaduct View, people watching, or simply enjoying a walk through the park. Currently the park has no amenities, with the exception of the Tandy sculpture.

Recommendations

- Work with the City and County to consolidate park ownership within the City or the County, or develop a long-term lease to one party.
- Consider a gateway artistic or landscape element that will engage pedestrians while respecting the Courthouse view.
- Improve green space with seating and other elements, such as game tables.
- Improve pedestrian circulation and safety on the streets that border Paddock Park and connect to Heritage Park.
- A commemorative Ripley Arnold public art piece is fully funded and could be placed in Paddock Park, as could other public art, particularly relating to Fort Worth and Tarrant County history.



GideonToal

17 Tarrant County Plaza

Formerly a plaza for the Tandy Tech Center, Tarrant County Plaza is a sunken space that includes terraced landscaping, seating areas and an amphitheater. This plaza became a public space when Tarrant County purchased the property from RadioShack. However, most people would not recognize the plaza as a public space since it is below street level and surrounded by a six-foot fence. While there are two entrances on the smaller side streets, access is not easily apparent. Tarrant County Plaza offers significant potential as a place for employees and residents to have lunch or take a break and relax. The amphitheater is an ideal location for programmed events that would draw people to the space. Retail at the ground level of the building would help bring active uses to the space. Small retail at street level, such as a coffee shop, would also help attract foot traffic.

Recommendations

- Add additional entrance points, particularly on Taylor Street. Consider a wide, well marked, entry or entries that open the park physically and visually.
- Add additional movable seating.
- Encourage retail/vending uses at street and/or plaza level.

18 Tarrant County Administration Building Plaza

The green space in front of the Tarrant County Administration Building at Weatherford and Main Streets was designed as a passive space for people walking to and from the building. Bushes close to the building are shaped in letters spelling “Tarrant” and can be seen clearly from upper-floor offices. Users of this building—as well as the surrounding court and court-related buildings — could benefit from a space designed for more uses.

Recommendation

- Explore opportunities to redesign this space and encourage more use. Consider seating and additional landscaping that creates a sense of place.



Sundance Area



19 Sundance Square Courtyard

Located on Commerce and 2nd Streets, the Sundance Square Courtyard offers seating in a quiet, shaded, intimate-sized courtyard. The courtyard is near Sundance offices, restaurants and retail and could draw more people with some minor changes.

Recommendations

Work with the property owner to:

- Soften the west wall of the courtyard with a mural, or landscaping, such as vines.
- Explore adding other design elements to soften the environment and encourage activity, such as potted plants, chess tables and/or a small water feature.
- Consider adding Wi-Fi to the space.



20 Central Plaza (privately owned)

The 1983, 1993 and 2003 Downtown Strategic Action Plans (SAP) support the development of a central plaza in the heart of Sundance Square. This goal is one of the few from previous SAPs that has not yet been achieved. The two blocks identified for the proposed plaza are bounded by Main, 3rd, Commerce and 4th Streets, and currently serve as parking lots. These lots are sometimes closed for events. Developing a central plaza at this location would draw people on a daily basis and provide a focal point within the core of the Sundance entertainment and commercial district. A below ground parking garage may be suitable for this site.

Recommendation

- Work with the property owner to encourage and support the development of a central plaza in Sundance Square.

21 CGI Building Plaza (privately owned)

The CGI Building is located across the street and to the west of the Central Library at Lamar and 3rd Streets. Approximately one-quarter of the CGI block is a plaza designed as a pass-through space. This space offers a lot of shade with mature trees and could be an excellent place for employees and visitors to spend time. Hedges reduce space usability and create barriers to open space.

Recommendation

- Work with the property owner to redesign the plaza to become a more usable space, maintaining the shade trees if possible.



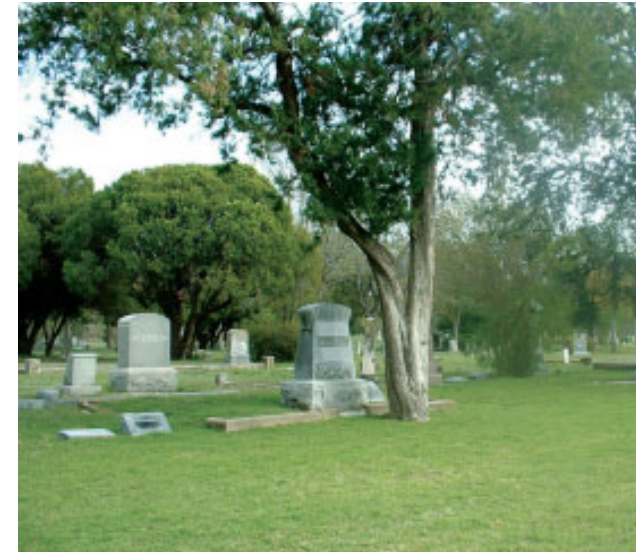
Trinity Bluff

23 Pioneers Rest Cemetery

Pioneers Rest Cemetery, located along Samuels Avenue in northeast Downtown, is the oldest cemetery in Fort Worth. The first known burials there were Major Ripley Arnold's children, Willis and Sophie, who died in 1850, and eleven soldiers who died at the Fort in 1849 and 1850. A Cemetery Association was formed in 1870 with trustees K. M. Van Zandt, M. B. Loyd, W. P. Burts and W. A. Darter. Many of the early settlers of Fort Worth are buried in the Cemetery including the Daggetts, Zane-Cettis and the Peaks. In addition, Edward H. Tarrant's body was moved to the Cemetery.

Recommendation

- To prevent vandalism, implement security improvements that do not discourage use or block off the cemetery physically or visually.



24 Arnold Park

Arnold Park provides almost an acre of significant recreational green space for residents in the Samuels Avenue neighborhood. The park amenities were recently upgraded and include playground equipment, benches and a tennis court.

Recommendation

None.



Trinity Bluff



25 Samuels Avenue Neighborhood Community Garden

A large linear green space that borders Woods Avenue and the CRI & P Railroad (Rock Island) could be a community garden up to approximately one acre in size. Residents of the Samuels Avenue neighborhood, a planned Fort Worth Housing Authority development across the street, and Trinity Bluff developments could participate in and maintain the garden. There may also be other possible locations in the area for a community garden.

Recommendation

- Partner with Samuels Avenue neighborhood residents to explore creating a community garden along Woods Avenue and the railroad track or in another suitable location in the neighborhood.



Parks and Open Space Plan Recommendations

Existing and proposed parks and open space

Proposed Trinity Trails Linkage Improvements

UPPER WEST SIDE

1. Green Space at Forest Park Boulevard and Summit Avenue

LOWER WEST SIDE

2. Harrold Park
3. West Side Park

SOUTH DOWNTOWN/ LANCASTER CORRIDOR

4. Burnett Park
5. Cherry/7th Street Median
6. Bank of America Plaza
7. Hyde Park
8. General Worth Square
9. Intermodal Transportation Center Green Space
10. John Peter Smith Park
11. Fort Worth Water Gardens
12. Al Hayne Memorial Park
13. T & P Terminal Plaza
14. Lancaster "West Park"

SUNDANCE AREA

15. Heritage Park
16. Paddock Park
17. Tarrant County Plaza
18. Tarrant County Administration Building Plaza
19. Sundance Square Courtyard
20. Central Plaza
21. CGI Building Plaza

EAST DOWNTOWN

22. Elm Street Park

TRINITY BLUFF/TCC/ RADIO SHACK AREA

23. Pioneers Rest Cemetery
24. Arnold Park
25. Samuels Avenue Neighborhood Community Garden

TRINITY TRAILS

1. Forest Park Boulevard and 5th Street Intersection Enhancements
2. Trinity Trail - East Side of West Fork
3. Culvert at Forest Park Boulevard and Purcey Street
4. Trinity River at Bluff Development
5. East 3rd Street Streetscape





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