

CITY OF BURLINGTON, VERMONT
PARKS, ARTS & CULTURE COMMITTEE
c/o Fletcher Free Library
235 College Street, Burlington, VT 05401

Councilor Dave Hartnett, Chair, North District
Councilor Sara Moore, Ward 3
Councilor Joan Shannon, South District

Staff: Kath Laing, Strategic Development
Fletcher Free Library
klaing@burlingtonvt.gov

AGENDA

Park, Arts & Culture Committee Meeting

Tuesday, August 29th at 10:00 am
Fletcher Free Library – Local History Room

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1) Approval of agenda & draft minutes from May 17, 2017 | (5 mins) |
| 2) Public Forum | (5-10 mins) |
| 3) City Hall Park project (DPW, P&Z, CEDO) | (45 mins) |
| 4) Executive Session {if necessary} | |
| 5) Adjournment | |

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DRAFT MINUTES

Park, Arts & Culture Committee Meeting
Tuesday, August 29th, 2017 at 10:00am
Local History Room, Fletcher Free Library

Participants

Committee Members:

Councilor Dave Hartnett, North District (Chair)
Councilor Sara Moore, Ward 3
Councilor Joan Shannon, South District

Staff:

Meagan Tuttle, Planning and Zoning
Deryk Roach, Burlington Parks, Recreation and Waterfront
Kath Laing, Fletcher Free Library

Public Forum:

James Lockridge
Didi Macnow
Joe Speidel

1. Approval of agenda & draft minutes from 05/11/17 – minutes approved unanimously. The agenda was approved unanimously adding the scheduling of meetings for September, October and November 2017 as agenda item #4.

2. Public Forum:

- James Lockridge presented the attached statement regarding un-curated public bulletin boards in City Hall Park.

3. City Hall Park project (DPW, P&Z, CEDO)

- Meagan Tuttle of Planning and Zoning presented updates to the City Hall Park project. Her presentation is attached to these minutes. Her presentation walked Councilors and other attendees through: the three-part initiative for Great Streets BTV; the planning history and process for this project; the November 2016 concept plan and feedback (over 400 comments) to this plan (highlighting ecological, accessibility, civic use and historic preservation issues raised); and the revised August 2017 plan responding to feedback.

- The revised plan incorporates the following: more bike parking; the location and utility connections for a standalone restroom; the removal of a steep path; the elimination of the terraces behind City Hall minimizing paved spaces and prioritizing the activation of College Street; modifications to the size and materials for planned infrastructure; and the location and utility connections for a future kiosk, providing a temporary space to pilot a concession area.
- Councilors made / asked the following comments / questions. Meagan Tuttle and Deryk Roach provided responses.
 - Councilor Moore inquired as to the maintenance for splash pad / water feature. This is being taken into account in the plan.
 - Councilor Hartnett asked about lighting. Lighting along pathways, historical lighting on along the back of City Hall and other buildings. From a public safety perspective, lighting is important but plan isn't to over light the park. The plan is to create a more cohesive and inviting space. BPD is more concerned about not creating spaces where people can hide.
 - Councilor Shannon referenced that the park has always been a watering hole, for animals and people. She encourages the plan to consider a central vertical sculptural potable water feature.
 - Councilor Moore agrees with James Lockridge that the bulletin boards should be accessible and not sanitized. All Councilors encourage a variety of bulletin boards – some curated others not, with an organic feeling and aesthetic.
 - Councilor Hartnett inquired why City Hall Park is part of Great Streets Initiative. Largely due to storm water functional process. The new plan for City Hall Park has no impact on parking on Main St.
 - Joe Speidel inquired about the location for the pilot temporary concession area. Temporary and longer term vendors would be selected through a proposal process and would be required to get permits. Above ground utility enclosure is a priority for concession area and other features of the park that require utility connections.
- Councilor Shannon proposes the motion: PACC recommends the City Council votes to amend the current design contract to include the next phase of design, seeking proposals for a central, vertical, sculptural and potable water feature in the design. Councilor Moore seconded the motion. The PACC approved the motion unanimously.

4. Meeting schedule – Councilors agreed to meet on September 20, October 18 and November 15 from 5:30pm – 7:00pm at the Fletcher Free Library in the Local History Room.

5. Executive Session – not necessary.

6. Adjournment – the meeting adjourned at 11:29am.



City of Burlington

Great Streets BTV

City Hall Park Update

City of Burlington
Community & Economic Development Office
Public Works
Planning & Zoning

Suisman Urban Design
DuBois & King
Michael Vergason Landscape Architects
Wagner Hodgson Landscape Architects
Urban Rain Design
Domingo Gonzalez Associates
Third Sector Associates

Great Streets BTV

City Hall Park Update Presentation 08.14.2017

suisman
URBAN DESIGN

Introduction

Three-Part Initiative

A

Create

Downtown Street Design Standards

- Stormwater
- Trees
- Lighting
- Furnishings
- Pathways

B

Create

Main Street Concept Plan

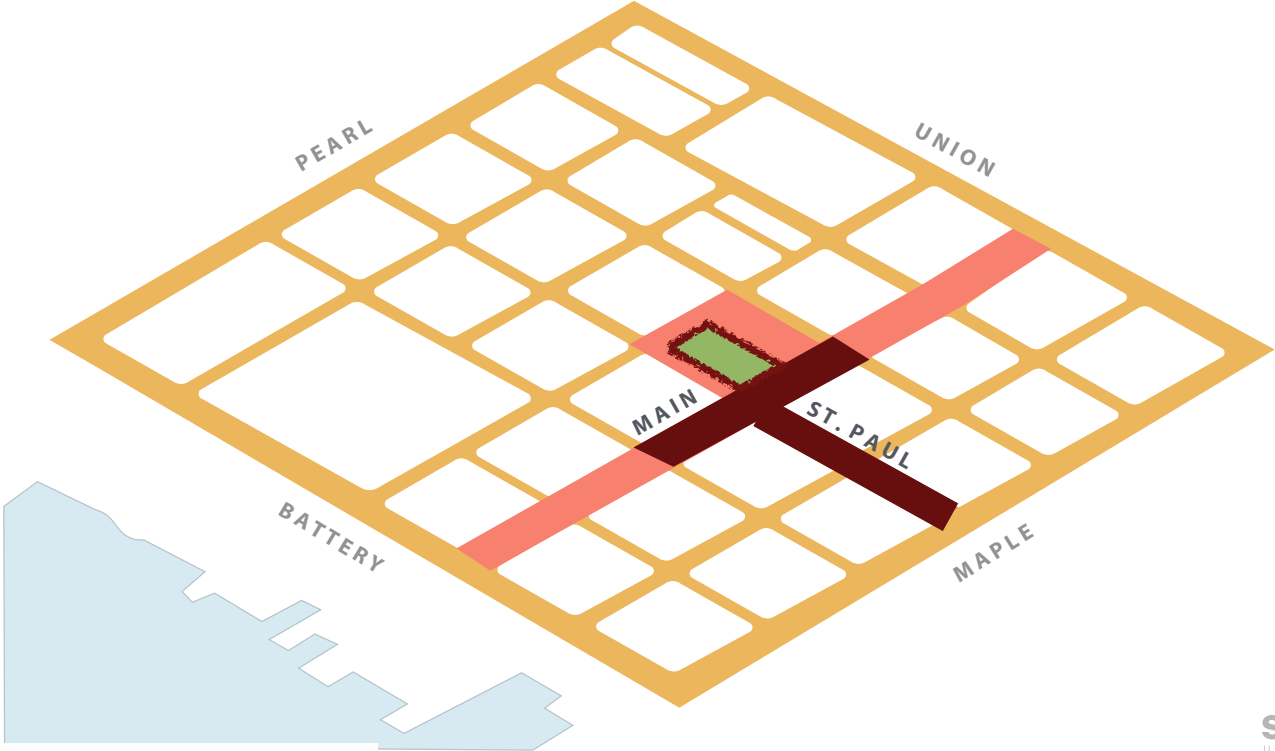
- Main Street (6 blocks)
- City Square
- St. Paul Street (2 blocks)

C

Design & Build

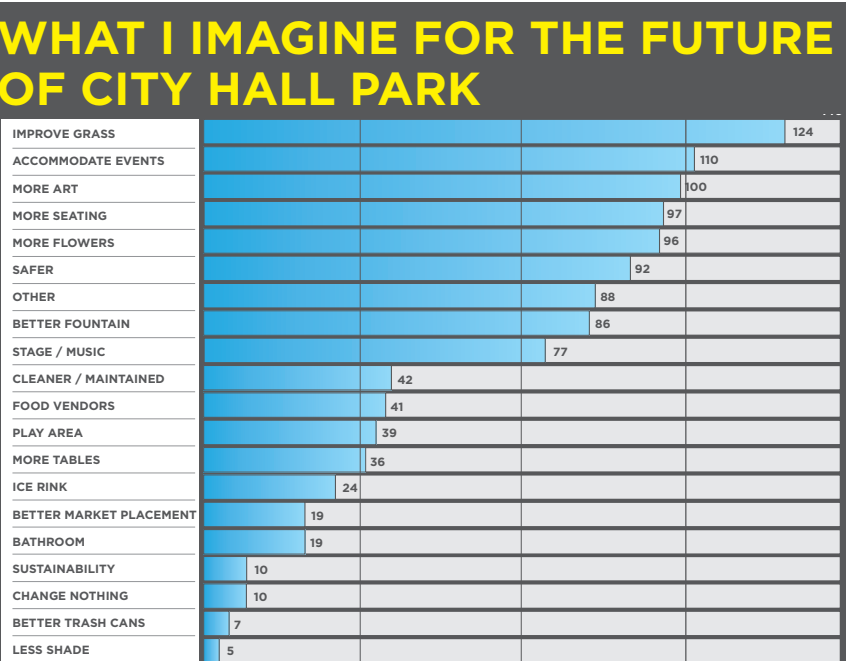
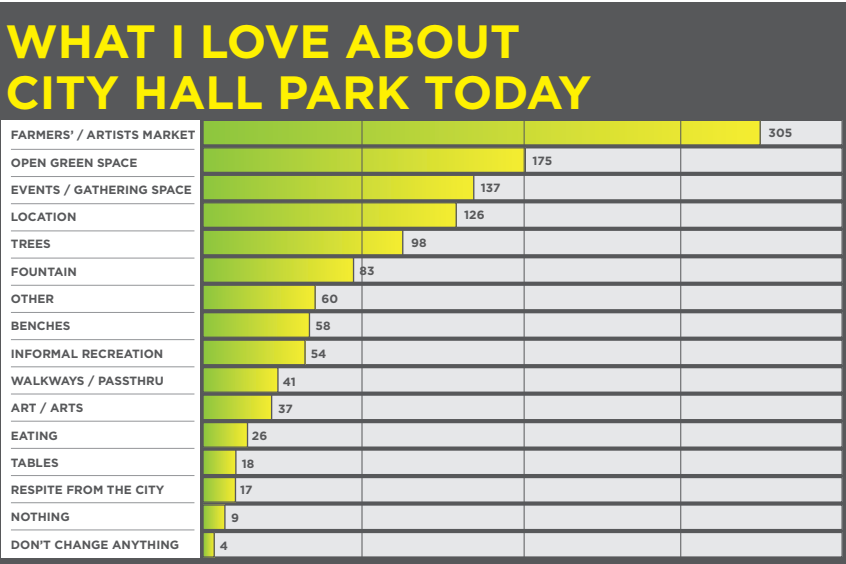
Park & Main Project

- Main Street (2 blocks)
- City Hall Park
- St. Paul Street (2 blocks)



Great Streets Initiative Concept Plans
City Hall Park Plan History & Process

- Plans to reimagine City Hall Park began in 2011 through the Mayor’s City Hall Park Task Force
- Group’s shared interest was to restore park’s role as a central gathering place through short- and long-term solutions.
- Public and stakeholder engagement resulted in a concept plan for the reconstruction of City Hall Park, as well as interim solutions for providing more activity, improving cleanliness and security



Great Streets Initiative Concept Plans

City Hall Park Plan History & Process

- 2014 City Council resolution encouraged the City to proceed with Phase 2 design and construction of the park as funding became available
- City, BCA include park in Capital Plan, seek grants and philanthropic donations for construction
- 2016 launch of Great Streets Initiative planning for the streets bounding the park; give park plans a fresh look to integrate into forthcoming plans for Main Street



Imagine City Hall Park Concept Plan 2012

Great Streets Initiative Concept Plans

City Hall Park Plan History & Process

- Redesign Main Street edge to integrate with concept plan
- Organize Farmer's Market around the park, rather than within to reduce soil/turf compaction, erosion
- Smaller central kiosk; eliminated restroom in kiosk, but explored options
- Retained flexible spaces for events throughout park, modest changes to size and orientation
- Stormwater infrastructure more integrated throughout the park
- Strengthened connections to City Hall, Church Street and buildings/streets bounding park



Great Streets Revisions to City Hall Park Plan- November 2016

Public, Board & Commission Input

Collected public feedback through Dec 2016; visited all City NPA's; presented plans to Parks Commission, Planning Commission, Council PACC, DAB and DRB for input

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Historic Preservation Feedback

Sought additional input of State Historic Preservation Office, Preservation Trust of VT, Preservation Burlington regarding refinements to increase plan's sensitivity to historic character-defining features

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Additional Due Diligence

Worked with design team, city staff to further evaluate feasibility of plan, identify additional plan refinements necessary in the next Phase of project

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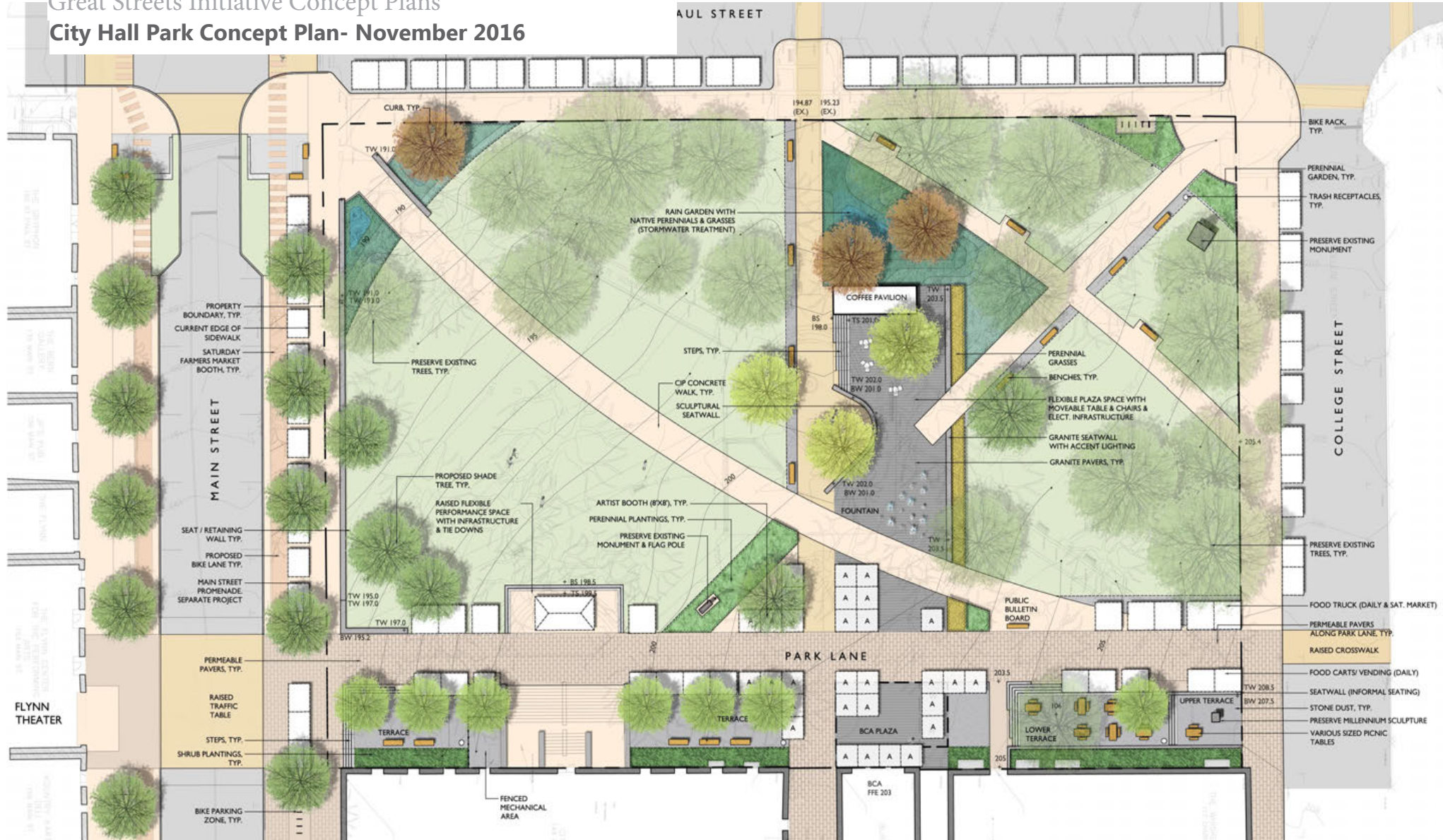
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Advanced plans for St. Paul Street
Critical milestone reached in Eagle's Landing construction timeline; advanced St. Paul St ahead of park and Main St to coordinate construction, test Great Streets Standards

Great Streets Initiative Concept Plans

City Hall Park Concept Plan- November 2016



Great Streets Initiative Concept Plans

City Hall Park Concept Plan- November 2016



Great Streets Initiative Concept Plans

City Hall Park Concept Plan- November 2016



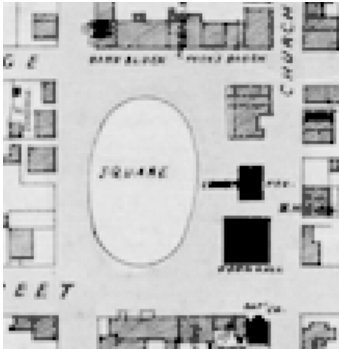
Great Streets Initiative Concept Plans

City Hall Park Plan History & Process

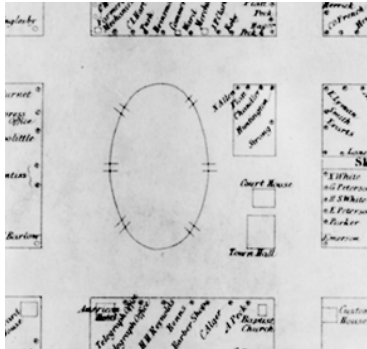
Burlington's central public space was originally conceived and named as a public court house square: an entire block extending from building face to building face. As it was converted to a park and the adjacent streets became busier with traffic, it has seemed to lose its connection to its surrounding edges.



1830
Court House Square



1853
Square



1862
no name



1869
Public Square



1873



1877

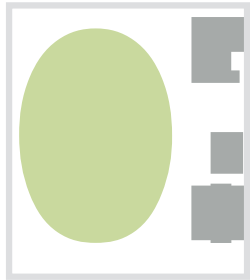


1890

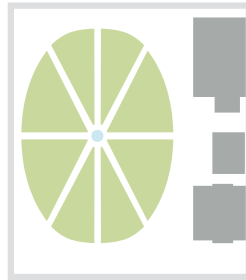


Great Streets Initiative Concept Plans

City Hall Park Plan History & Process



1853



1850



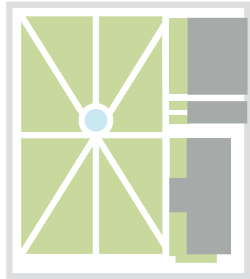
1859



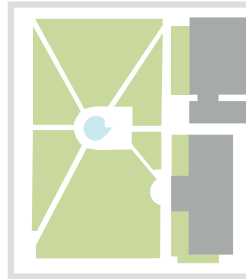
1875



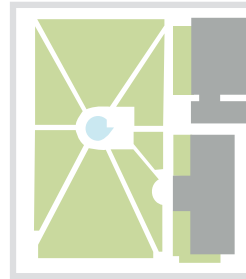
1881



1928



1991



2008



2012
Concept Plan
Imagine City Hall Park



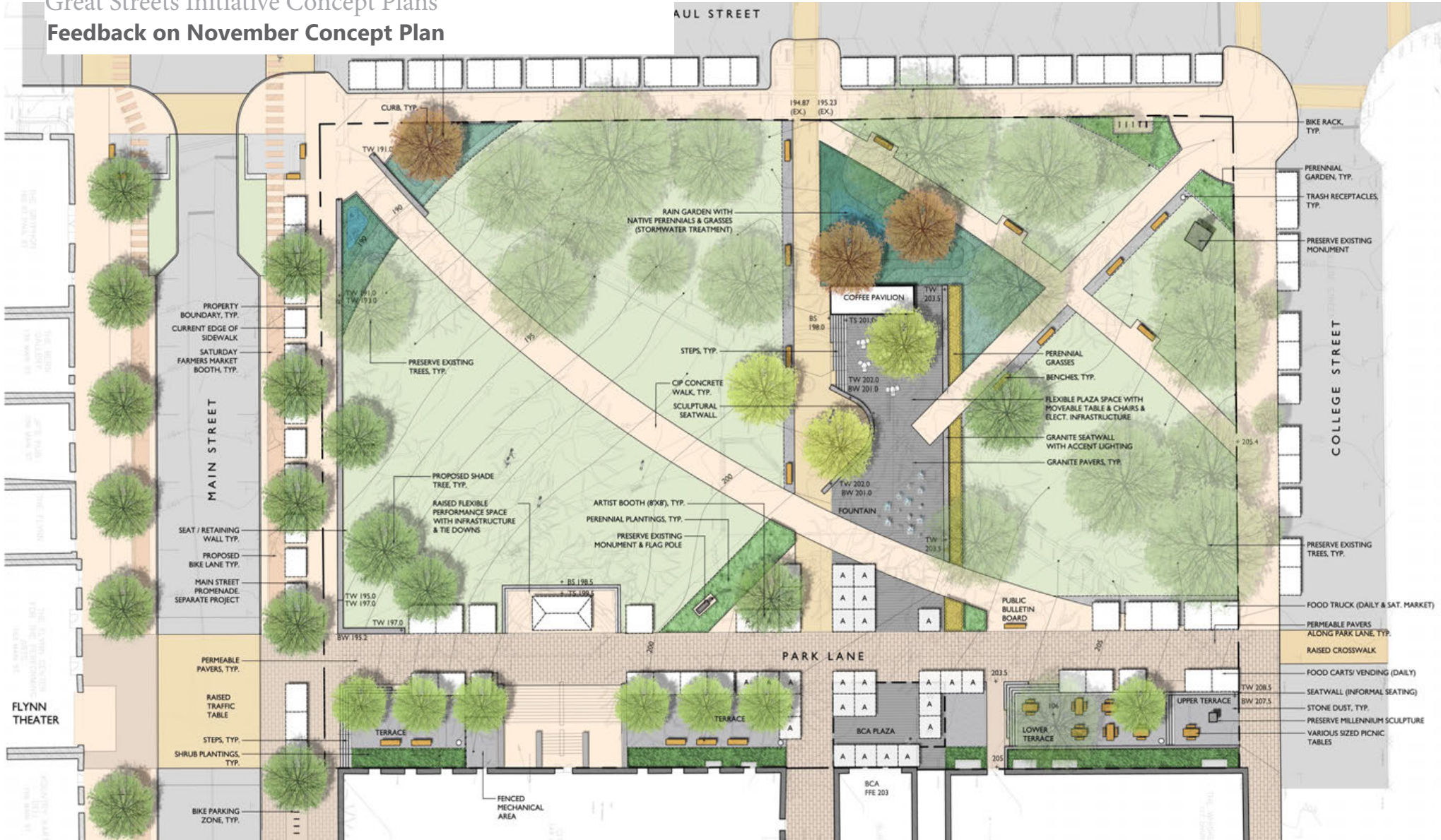
2016
Alternate B
Main Street Concept Plan

City Hall Park has had many names - and forms - since its inception, but these are the key character-defining features that have been constant:

1. **Public /civic space**
2. **Path radiating from or near center**
3. **Central focal point with a water feature**

Great Streets Initiative Concept Plans

Feedback on November Concept Plan



Great Streets Initiative Concept Plans

Feedback on November Concept Plan

ECOLOGY

- Improving health, management of soil, trees, grass important; addition of rain gardens positive
- Size, location and edge treatment of pathways important to encourage walking on paths rather than “cow paths” in lawn
- Trees & vegetation:
 - Don’t remove any trees
 - Too many trees, impacting lawn
 - Remediate or replace trees in poor condition,
 - Improve soil condition & don’t overprogram
 - More gardens/plants for visual interest in all seasons



Great Streets Initiative Concept Plans

Feedback on November Concept Plan

ACCESSIBILITY

- Many advocated public restrooms and concern about safety, cleanliness; suggestions for stand-alone facility rather than a building
- Park as both a destination and part of the network walking routes downtown-pathway locations & width
- Paths should be smooth, level, ADA tested, and elements should not impede people with mobility challenges
- Range of seating options positive
- Accountability for behavior without displacing users of the park



Great Streets Initiative Concept Plans

Feedback on November Concept Plan

ACCESSIBILITY

- Other suggested additions: drinking fountain, trash cans, more bike parking, lights
- Bulletin boards easy to use and uncured
- Some advocated for no "hard" edges



Great Streets Initiative Concept Plans

Feedback on November Concept Plan

MODERN CIVIC USES

- Many felt that plan strikes balance between active/passive uses, challenges, and role as an urban gathering space
- Others proposed “Central Park” or naturalized approach to redesign
- Food or other vending: permanent vs. temporary vs. none at all (except the Farmer’s Market)
- Vending opportunities solicited through RFP, not to the exclusion of non-paying customers
- Keep Farmer’s Market, relocate the Farmer’s Market



Great Streets Initiative Concept Plans

Feedback on November Concept Plan

MODERN CIVIC USES

- Flexible spaces for variety of events and purposes positive; however, avoid large, ticketed events
- Some feel park's challenges are just about deferred maintenance, but most feel that maintenance will be key in future regardless of plans
- Other suggested additions: fire feature, ice skating, public art, game tables, children's play equipment, climbing rocks, free wifi



Great Streets Initiative Concept Plans

Feedback on November Concept Plan

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

- Historic significance is as a gathering place; reorganizing paths, caring for trees, and rethinking fountain are part of history, not destruction of it
- Stick closely to the straight, radial pathway design and maintain existing fountain, benches, lights



Great Streets Initiative Concept Plans

Feedback on November Concept Plan

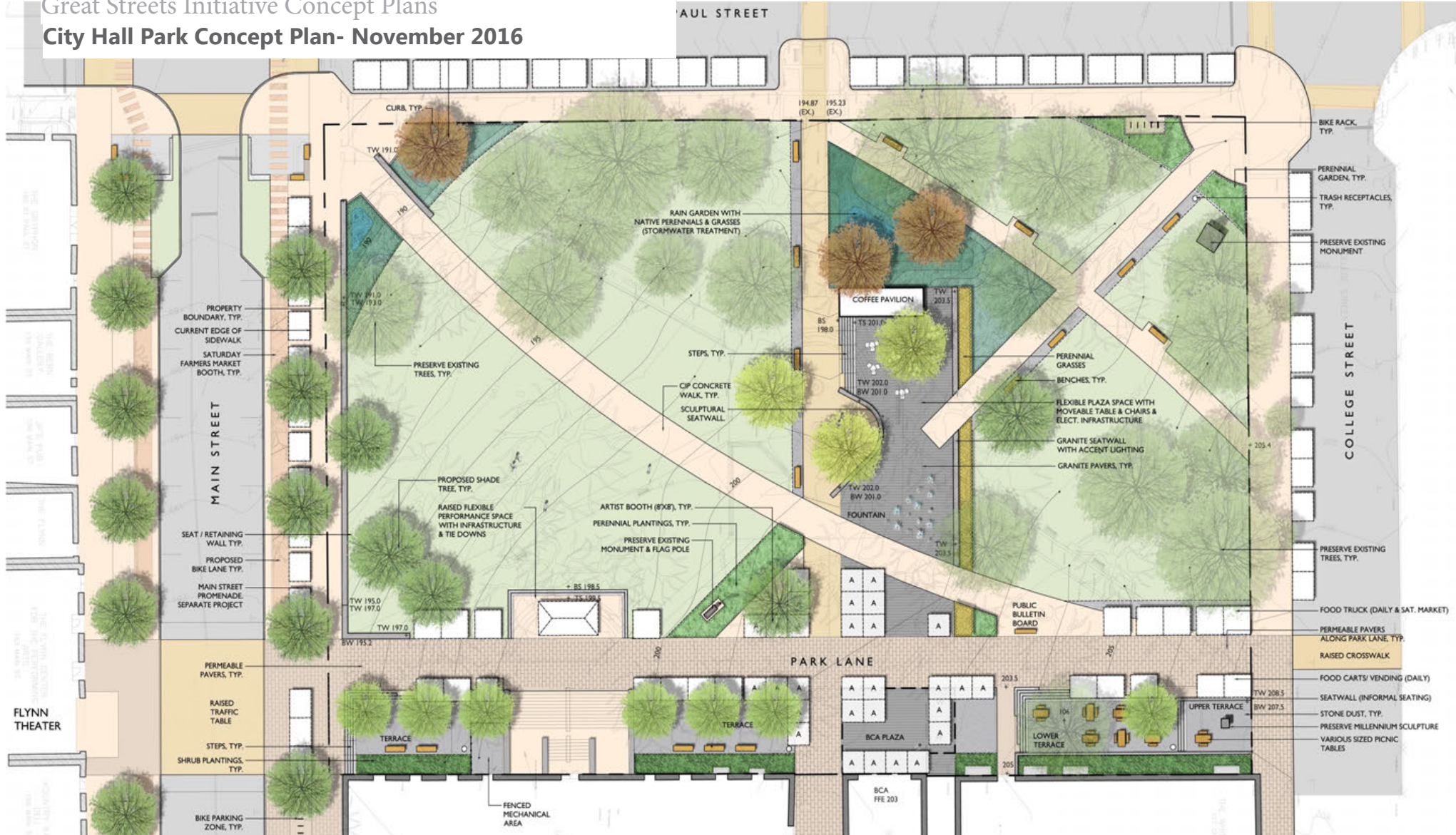
HISTORIC PRESERVATION

- Historic preservation orgs: changes will not destroy park's contribution to historic district
- Suggested refinements to better reflect historic character-defining features:
 - Paths straighter, converge closer to center
 - Central terrace more round, water feature closer to center
 - Changing fountain ok, but need an upright "focal element"
 - Activation, enhancement of public buildings on edge good, but be mindful of amount of paving

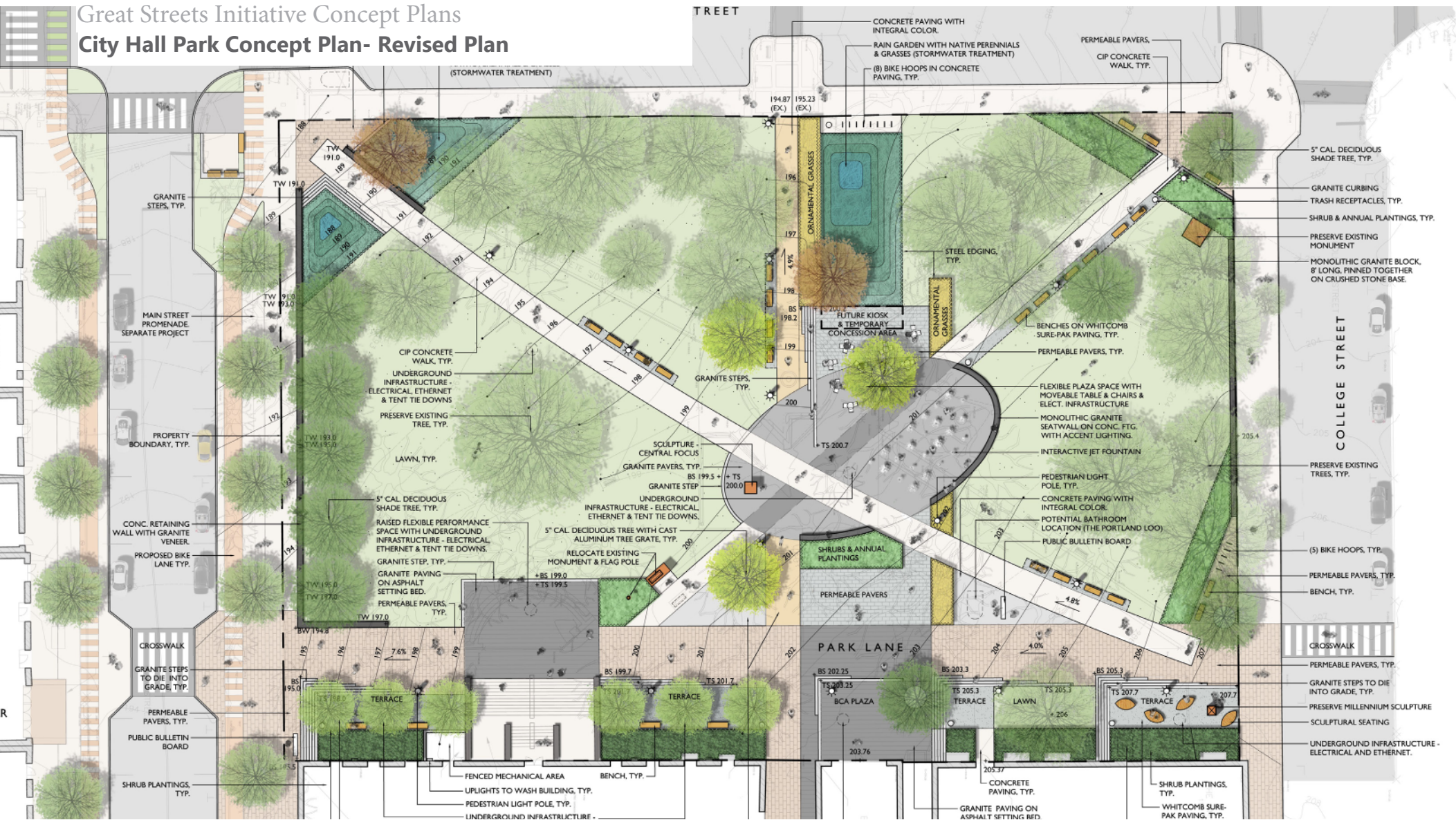


Great Streets Initiative Concept Plans

City Hall Park Concept Plan- November 2016

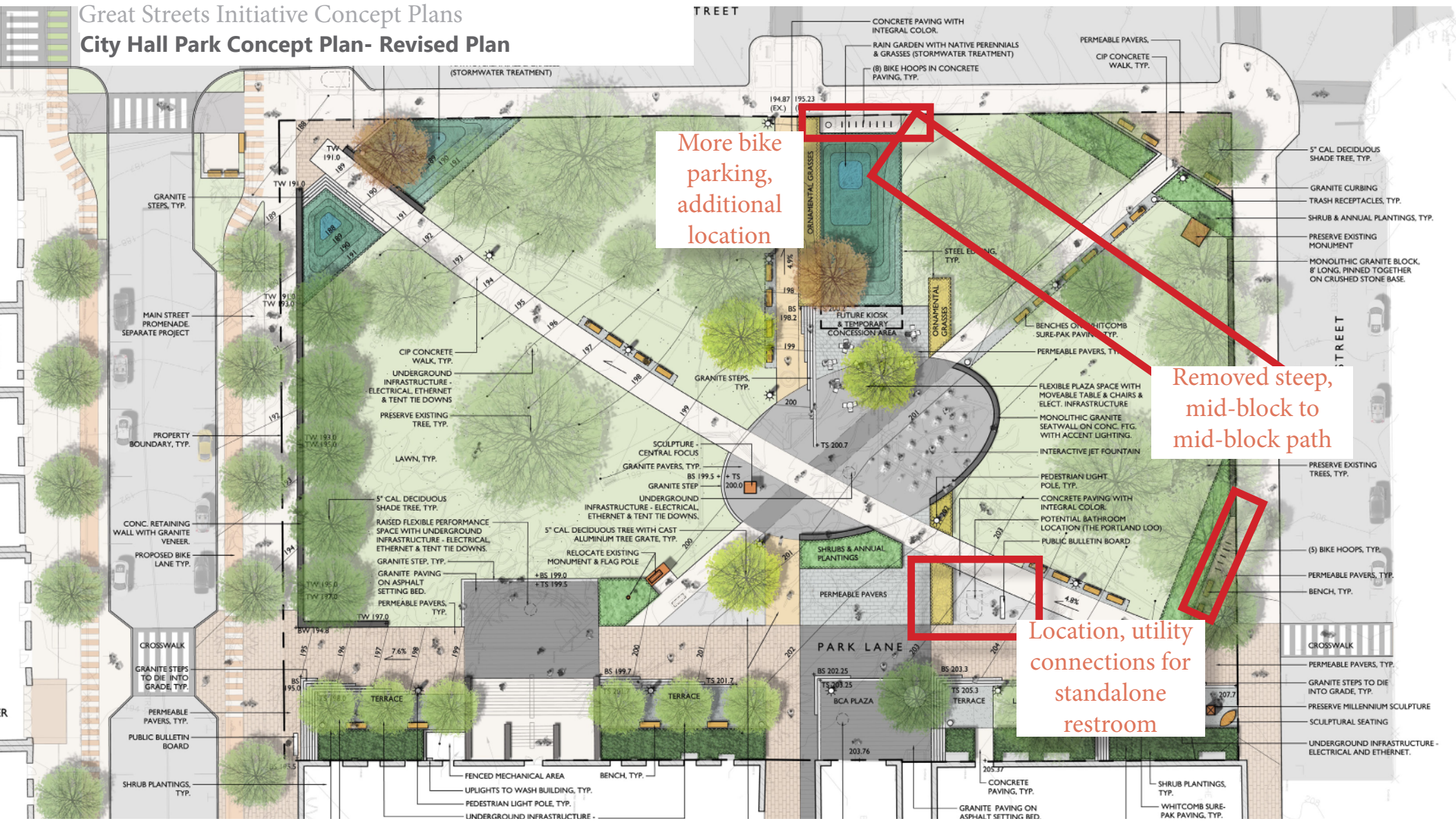


City Hall Park Concept Plan- Revised Plan

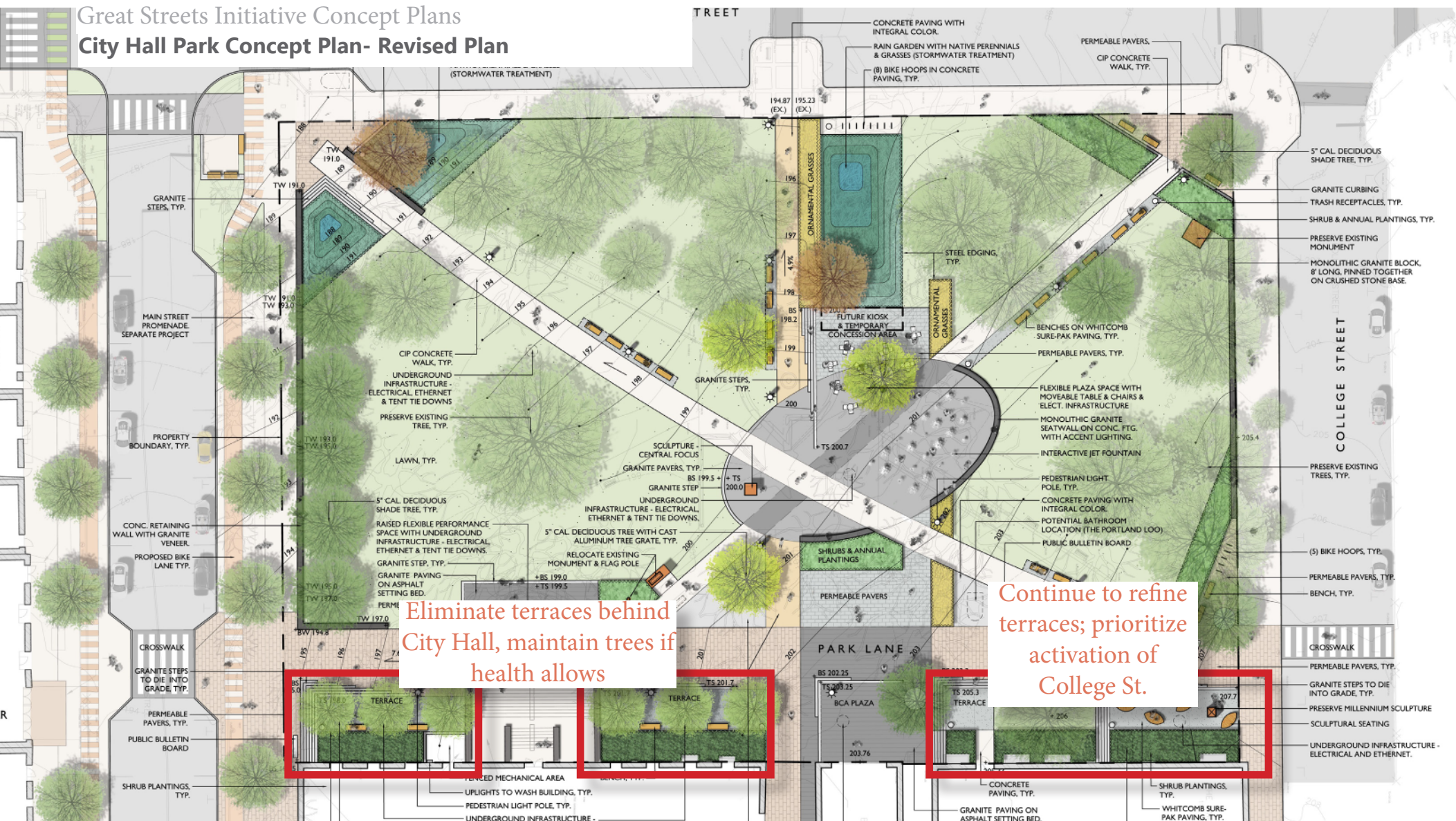


Great Streets Initiative Concept Plans

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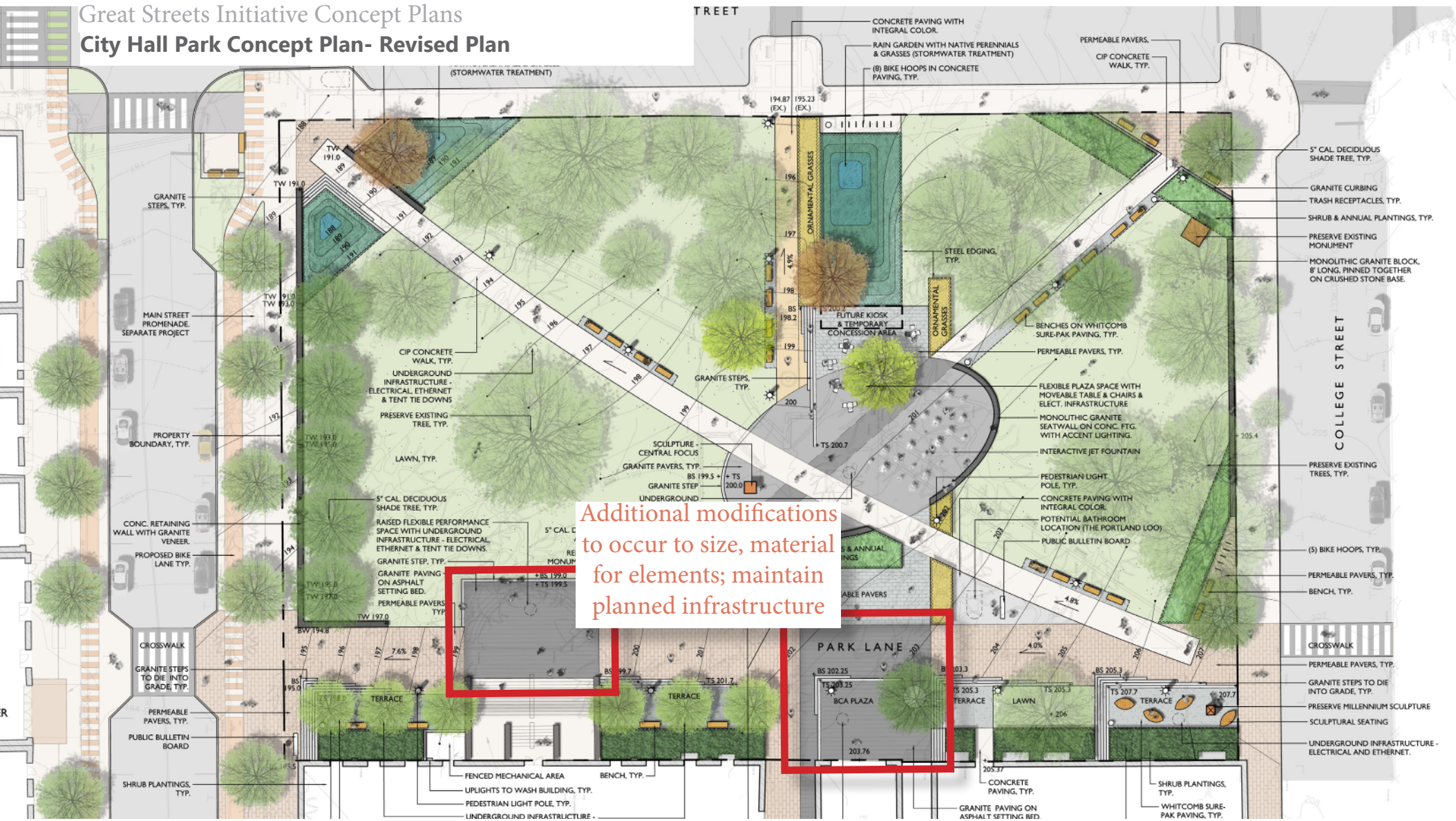


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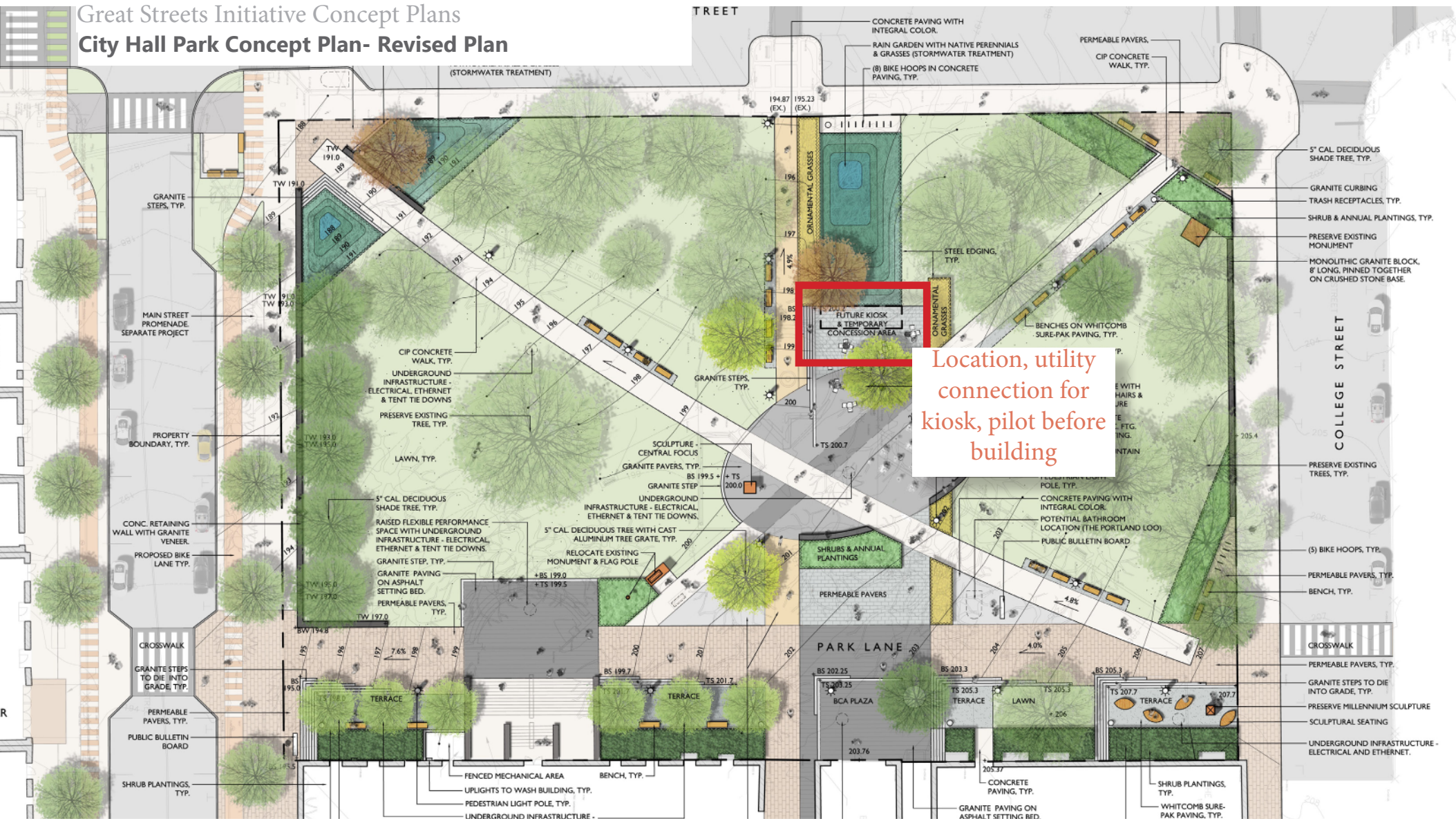


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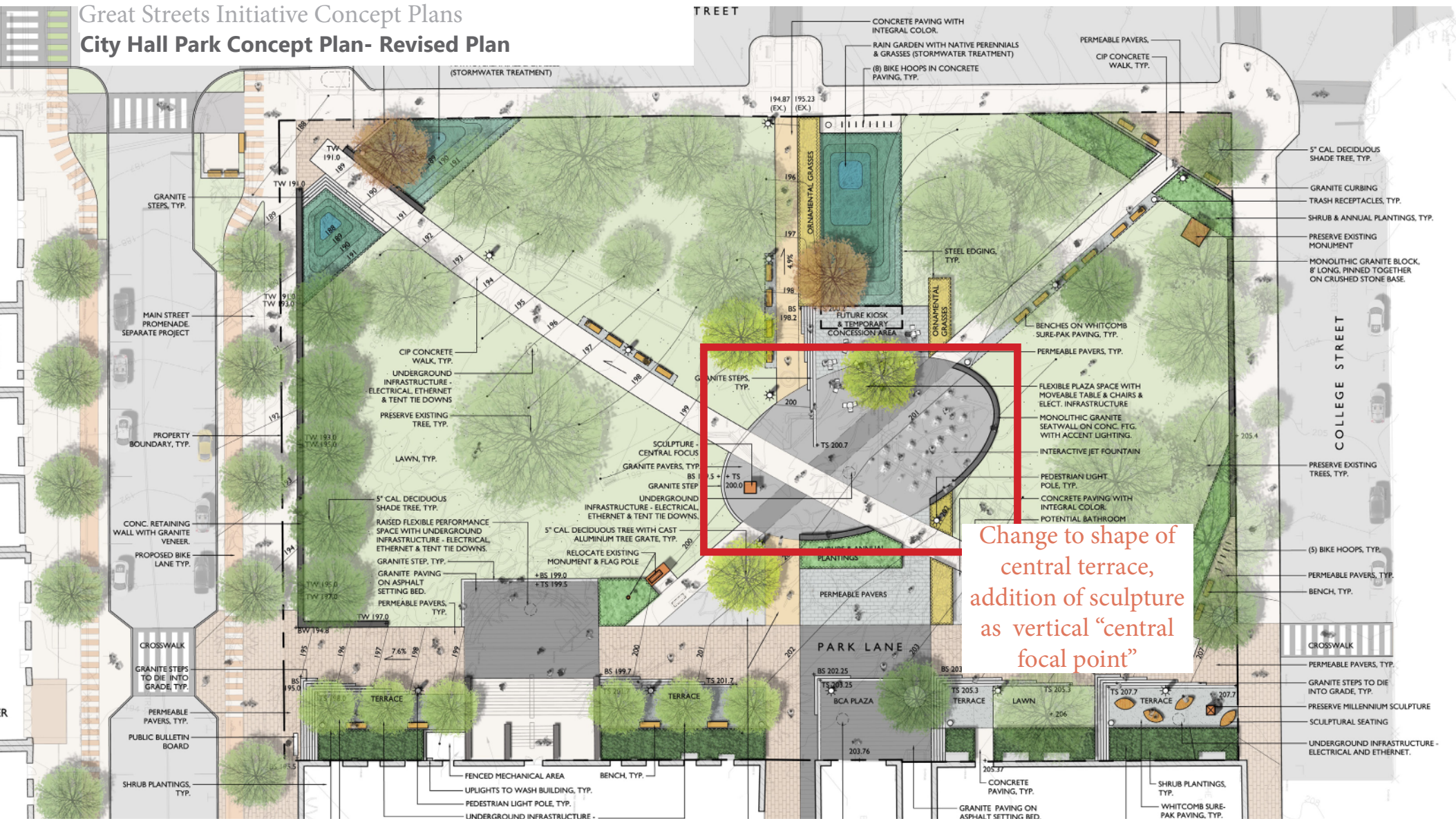


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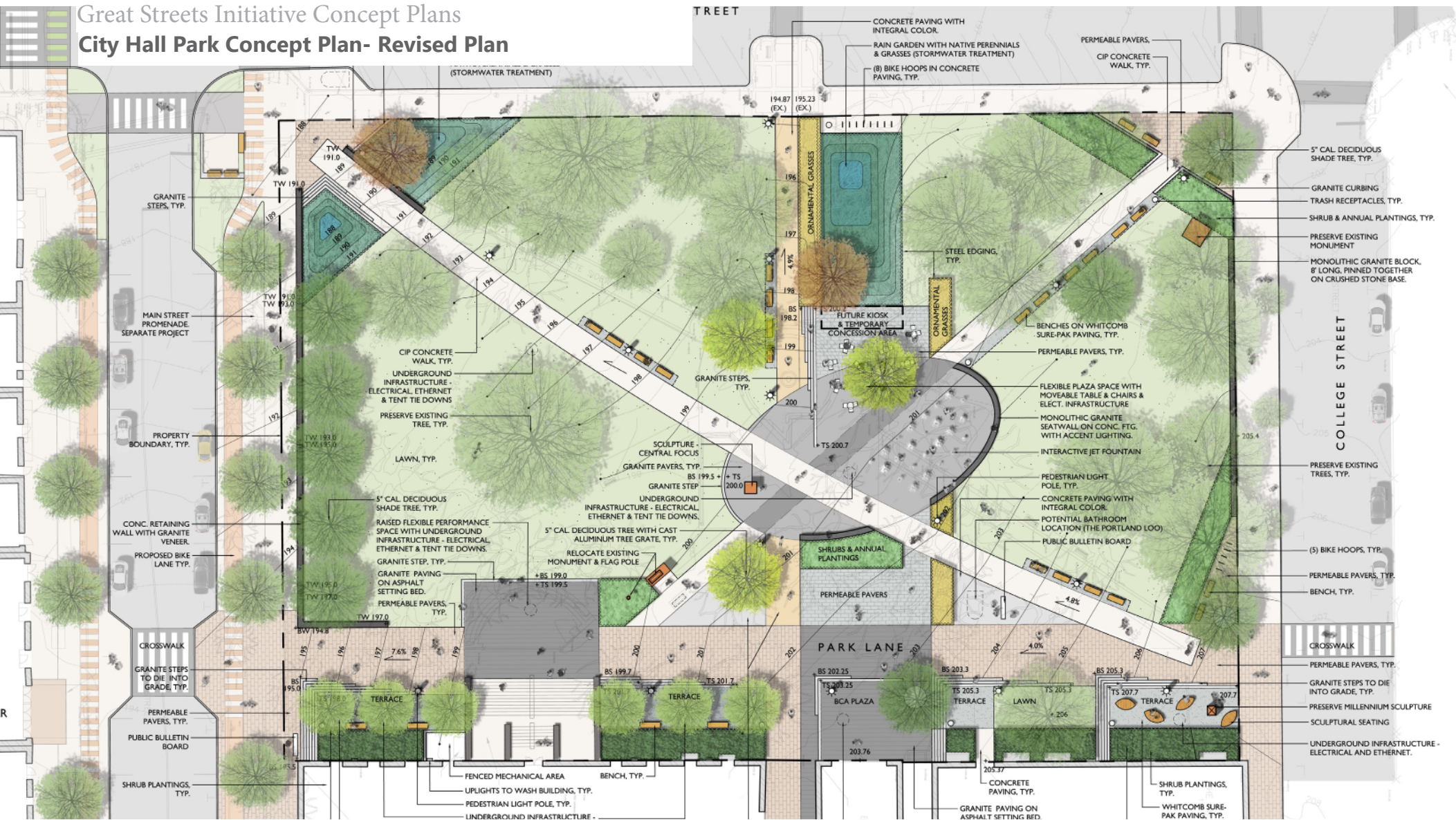


Great Streets Initiative Concept Plans

City Hall Park Concept Plan- Revised Plan



City Hall Park Concept Plan- Revised Plan



Additional Presentations

- Council Parks, Arts and Culture Committee presentation August 29 @ 10am
- Parks Commission presentation September 5 @ 5:30pm

Phase 2 Design

- Request contract amendment to continue developing designs- September

Next Steps for Plan

- Visit Design Advisory Board and Development Review Board for approval of plan
- More detailed design work and construction document development
- Construction Spring 2019



City of Burlington

Great Streets BTV

City Hall Park Update

Questions & Comments

More information at www.greatstreetsbtv.com

Un-curated Public Bulletin Boards in City Hall Park

Un-curated traditional public bulletin boards provide a barrier-free resource to all artists. They have a low capital cost and cost the city minimally for the function of revealing to visitors and locals how dynamic and vital the city's cultural offerings are, up-to-the-minute.

During the installation of a sculpture in 1999 the city removed two bulletin boards totalling more than 125 square feet. The current CHP plan does not replace this resource, but could.

PACC Members: Please request that three standard 4x8' bulletin boards made from conventional materials appropriate to the culture of bulletin board use be installed in City Hall Park, to serve our artists inclusively like the city originally intended.

