



August 28, 2023

Lina Smith
Associate Planner | City of Beaverton Community Development Department
P.O. Box 4755
Beaverton, OR 97076-4755
By Email: Lina Smith <lsmith@beavertonoregon.gov>

**Re: THPRD Comments on the Westgate + Hall Mixed Use Development Application
(CU2023-0003/DDR2023-0008 / LLD2023-0002 / TP2023-0002)**

Ms. Smith,

Please accept the following comments from the Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District (THPRD) in the above-referenced matter.

THPRD supports the applicant's inclusion of a short path into the vegetated corridor to enhance the public's ability to visually access Beaverton Creek. Over the past two years, the City and THPRD have partnered on the creation of the forthcoming Downtown Parks and Open Space Framework Plan (Framework Plan) that will focus on bringing new parks, open spaces, plazas, trails, green stormwater management and wildlife habitat to the downtown area. This project also seeks to connect existing downtown amenities and support business and housing development. City and THPRD staff jointly presented a draft of the Framework Plan to City Council at their July 18, 2023, meeting (Enclosed).

The planned Westgate & Hall Mixed Use development is adjacent to the Framework Plan's contemplated *Creek Access Focus Area* (figure 1.26), where the plan seeks to improve physical and/or visual access to Beaverton Creek. The planned path furthers the intent of the *Creek Access Focus Area* by improving the public's visual access to Beaverton Creek and by providing a pause place for visitors, in alignment with the Framework Plan's Reflect & Protect Nature theme. THPRD supports the continued inclusion of the path as it will help the further efforts to realize actions within Framework Plan goal 13 – *Work toward enhancing public access and views along Beaverton, Hall, and Messenger Creeks* - including:

- Action 13.1: Explore opportunities to locate new pocket parks and pause places along creeks and wetlands.
- Action 13.3: Provide pause places with moments of physical and/or visual access to water at key intervals along the creek and trail system.
- Action 13.4: Design development and infrastructure projects to provide visual or physical access to creeks.

To further align the proposed path with Framework Plan goals and actions, THPRD encourages the applicant to explore including additional small-scale amenities that would support the planned path's ability to serve as a publicly accessible pause place, such as benches or signage.

THPRD looks forward to continuing its work with the applicant, the City of Beaverton, and other jurisdictional partners to ensure high-quality recreation amenities are available to future residents of the proposed Westgate + Hall Mixed Use development. Please notify us of continued progress with this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Swinton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Peter" and last name "Swinton" clearly distinguishable.

Peter Swinton
Planner II

Encl.: City of Beaverton Agenda Bill 23154: Downtown Beaverton Parks & Open Space
Framework Plan Presentation

CC: Gery Keck, Planning Manager; THPRD

AGENDA BILL

Beaverton City Council Beaverton, Oregon

SUBJECT: Downtown Beaverton Parks and Open Space Framework Plan Presentation

FOR AGENDA OF: 07-18-23 **BILL NO:** 23154

CITY MANAGER'S APPROVAL: Jenny Hanayama

DEPARTMENT OF ORIGIN: CDD *DW*

DATE SUBMITTED: 07-05-23

CLEARANCES:

City Attorney	<u>RM</u>
Finance	<u>DL</u>
Development	<u>TR</u>
Planning	<u>AS</u>

PROCEEDING: PRESENTATION

EXHIBITS: 1. Downtown Beaverton Parks & Open Space Framework Plan Draft Report dated June 2023

BUDGET IMPACT

EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION
REQUIRED n/a	BUDGETED n/a	REQUIRED n/a

*Account Number

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

City Council provides feedback on the staff presentation.

ISSUE STATEMENT SUMMARY:

The City of Beaverton along with the Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District (THPRD) have been working collaboratively with Agency Landscape + Planning (Agency) towards the creation of a Downtown Beaverton Parks and Open Space Framework Plan since January 2022. The purpose of this presentation is to introduce the draft framework plan with a focus on certain plan elements. Staff plans on returning to City Council in September for a final presentation and adoption.

The attached plan is a final draft for your review between now and September. Staff does not expect City Council to review and digest this entire draft before the presentation on July 18th. Rather, staff asks you to focus on the areas of the presentation described below.

1. Downtown Park Types and Public Spaces, pages 33-39.

In 2019 and with input from City staff, THPRD updated its park types and adopted new ones appropriate for downtown Beaverton. THPRD also developed standards for the approximate sizes of these types of parks and types of park "components", though they are flexible to respond to the urban conditions of downtown. The plan also acknowledges that other types of spaces, such as privately owned, and "remnant" spaces are an important contribution to the open space system in downtown Beaverton. Lastly, the plan introduces a mini open space concept called "pause place," which is a small rest or respite stop with amenities that could include benches, wayfinding signage, or drinking fountain.

Agenda Bill No: 23154

2. Framework Plan Map, pages 56-57

This map will provide a visual and spatial reference to inform decisions about land acquisition, coordinate with private development projects, and align with other capital projects. The map reflects approximate areas and numbers of new parks with an emphasis north of SW Farmington Rd. It also reflects opportunities for new parks or access points along Beaverton Creek, shows the relationship of new spaces to the Loop and highlights BURA-owned properties for reference. While BURA properties were acquired for redevelopment, not new parks, it's possible that smaller, publicly accessible plazas or play areas could be included in new BURA-driven development.

3. Overview of Goals and Actions, pages 8-9

Staff shared draft goals and related actions in the City Council presentation on May 16th. Staff will not review the goals and actions but will ask for any questions about them in the presentation. To see the complete list of goals and draft actions, refer to the Framework Summary on pages 8-9. The Future Parks and Open Spaces Vision section contains recommended actions in response to Council feedback, found on pages 54-101. This section is organized by chapters per plan goal and outlined in the plan Table of Contents.

4. Next steps

Staff will return in September to present any changes to the draft plan from July 18 and highlight the Plan's Implementation Strategy. The Implementation Strategy will be a road map for how the two agencies will see the plan to fruition, including priority actions. If there are no major changes requested to the plan, then staff will recommend adoption.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

In the last 10 years, the City and THPRD completed planning efforts that call for the development of parks and open space in and around downtown Beaverton. The Parks and Open Space Framework Plan is envisioned to add to this work, in particular the City's recently completed Downtown Design Project and THPRD's Parks Functional Plan. The purpose of the project is to provide a framework for providing future opens space, increasing livability, and catalyzing private development downtown. THPRD has funding in its budget for property acquisition and this plan will guide where acquisition may occur and for what purpose. The project has taken into consideration several recent planning efforts such as the Downtown Loop, Downtown Equity Strategy, and Community Vision Plan Update.

On November 16, 2021, City Council, awarded a \$100,000 design services contract to Agency Landscape + Planning for the development of the Downtown Parks & Open Space Framework Plan. On May 2, 2023, City Council approved an \$26,000 addition to the THPRD, BURA, and COB Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) and the Agency contract.

COMMUNITY VISION/COUNCIL PRIORITIES/EQUITY & CLIMATE GOALS:

City of Beaverton – Council Goals 22-23

Welcoming Community
Economic Prosperity
Environmental Sustainability
Community Wellness and Fun

Beaverton Climate Action Plan (2019)

53. Complete bicycle and pedestrian gaps and create new connection options for community members

Beaverton Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Plan (2019)

- HL5 City planning & policies take into account the experience of historically underserved communities and are designed to create a livable community for all.
- CB4 Immigrant and refugee newcomer integration the city contributes in meaningful ways to the linguistic, civic and economic integration of newcomer populations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Sara King, Sr. Development Project Manager, sking@beavertonoregon.gov

DOWNTOWN **BEAVERTON**

Parks & Open Space Framework Plan

FINAL DRAFT REPORT
JUNE 2023



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

June 2023.

City of Beaverton, Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District (THPRD),
Beaverton Urban Redevelopment Agency, and Community Partners

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INTRODUCTION



Raleigh Park, THPRD.

“Vibrant downtowns are part of healthy communities. It’s our core and center of where we come together.”

-Online survey response





Beaverton Night Market at the Round, City of Beaverton.

CHAPTER 1:

A Shared Vision for Downtown Parks

Partnership for Downtown Parks and Open Spaces

This project was undertaken and guided by the City of Beaverton (City) and the Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District (THPRD); both entities share a vision for the success and future of parks and open spaces in Downtown Beaverton.

Formed by a public vote, THPRD has been the park provider to the City of Beaverton since 1955. More recently, in 2019, the City, Washington County, Metro, and THPRD formally entered into an Urban Service Agreement (USA) which affirmed THPRD as the service provider of

parks and recreation services within the City's municipal boundary. The agreement set forth the functional roles of THPRD and the City. While the agreement acknowledged that the City and other public entities provide some park and recreation services and may provide these services at additional locations in the future, it requires ongoing communication between the City and THPRD regarding desired roles and responsibilities for land acquisition, development of parks and facilities, or service provision in new urban areas.

Parks and Open Space Framework Summary

This plan makes recommendations for enhancing Downtown parks and open spaces through four community-driven themes. A summary of the goals and actions that emerged through community input, City and THPRD staff workshops, and research is below. More details on these recommendations can be found in the Future Parks and Open Space Vision section of this report, following a summary of existing conditions and community input.

Gather Community: Create spaces for community to come together

Goal	Action
1. Locate and design new Downtown parks and open spaces to close gaps in the network of open spaces, provide safe pedestrian access, and align with future growth.	1.1 Coordinate future parks with redevelopment areas and large employment centers.
	1.2 Focus on filling existing gaps in proximity to amenities in the northeast area and northwest edge of Downtown.
	1.3 Provide safe, walkable park access that does not require crossing transportation barriers (ex. busy road intersections).
2. Provide open spaces and amenities that allow multiple ways to gather.	2.1 Design small gathering spaces into the fabric of new Downtown parks and open spaces.
	2.2 Create distinct play areas that are distributed equitably across Downtown.
	2.3 Explore potential for indoor, covered, or all-weather recreation spaces (including private partnerships) in the northeast district of Downtown.
3. Continue to enhance and support 1st Street and SW Broadway as vibrant, pedestrian-friendly streets.	3.1 Consider seasonal or permanent public outdoor dining and gathering spaces in the vicinity of 1st Street and potential partnerships for long-term operational sustainability.
	3.2 Introduce colorful pedestrian amenities and beautification elements along the full extent of 1st Street in Downtown.
4. Collaborate with developers to provide accessible parks and open space.	4.1 Use the City's Development Code to ensure new private open spaces meet updated development requirements and contribute to making Downtown's public open spaces welcoming and inclusive for all.
	4.2 Develop new parks with specific amenities that help achieve the city's redevelopment goal to implement an active and livable downtown.

Welcome & Celebrate: Build on Downtown's vibrancy and cultural diversity

Goal	Action
5. Support programming and design for multicultural, family-oriented events of varying scales throughout Downtown.	5.1 Expand on the success of the existing Farmer's Market and Night Market to develop more multicultural and multigenerational festival experiences that are co-produced with community organizations and local non-profits.
6. Make parks more welcoming, accessible, and inclusive by building comfort, basic needs, and places to rest into the fabric of Downtown.	6.1 Integrate wifi hotspots and charging stations across Downtown's parks and open spaces.
	6.2 Create a unified standard of furnishings and site amenities for Downtown Beaverton's parks and open spaces that includes more benches, water stations, and restrooms.
	6.3 Ensure all Downtown parks and open spaces are designed and maintained for universal accessibility and inclusive programming.
7. Expand and improve permanent event infrastructure to support a wide range of public programs Downtown.	7.1 Adapt existing event spaces to better support frequent event use.
	7.2 Centralize and coordinate information and marketing for events and spaces in a shared portal that leads to each agency's booking system.
	7.3 Locate new events near parking, transit, and appropriate amenities.
8. Reduce barriers to pop-up activation and short-term parks and open space projects.	8.1 Work to reduce code and permitting barriers to creating pop-up and temporary park and open spaces on underutilized lots.
	8.2 Consider a programming step during site design to ensure that existing and future parks and open spaces have adequate infrastructure and amenities for short-/mid-term activation by community groups.

Goal	Action
9. Celebrate Beaverton's cultural diversity by expanding art in public places, including creative placemaking initiatives, site-specific artworks (both temporary and permanent), and performances and experiences.	<p>9.1 Expand the murals around Broadway and 1st Street and create a Downtown mural walk or interactive public art tour.</p> <p>9.2 Incorporate artistic elements that enhance accessibility and improve orientation (universal access or multi-language).</p> <p>9.3 Incentivize and encourage private property owners and developers to incorporate art in publicly-accessible open spaces.</p>

Reflect & Protect Nature: Amplify Beaverton's natural qualities in its Downtown parks and open spaces

Goal	Action
10. Integrate nature into Downtown parks and plazas where it can thrive and fit the park or plaza's purpose.	<p>10.1 Introduce nature play experiences to Downtown playgrounds.</p> <p>10.2 Celebrate and preserve the unique Ponderosa Pine stand in City Park.</p> <p>10.3 Continue to bring the THPRD Nature Mobile to City Park and expand opportunities to bring it to sites north of Farmington.</p> <p>10.4 Prioritize natural planting palettes that reduce maintenance needs and create connections to regional ecology.</p>
11. Raise community awareness of Beaverton's creeks and natural systems.	<p>11.1 Coordinate with the recommendations of the future Downtown Stormwater Strategy to integrate environmental education and/or public access in combination with stormwater projects.</p> <p>11.2 Create moments for nature education and awareness of indigenous lands and practices through interpretation.</p> <p>11.3 Use art, creative signage, and other means to educate and connect people to their environment.</p>
12. Expand shade, covered shelters, and water access in Downtown parks and open spaces.	<p>12.1 Prioritize expanding tree canopy in parks and streets in areas with high amounts of impervious surface and low existing canopy to meet climate goals and lower heat island effects.</p> <p>12.2 Provide opportunities for water access (play, water fountains, mist tents).</p> <p>12.3 Create shade and all-weather protection with elements such as trees or shade structures.</p>
13. Work toward enhancing public access and views along Beaverton, Hall, and Messenger Creeks.	<p>13.1 Explore opportunities to locate new pocket parks and pause places along creeks and wetlands.</p> <p>13.2 Strive to daylight piped creek segments when feasible.</p> <p>13.3 Provide pause places with moments of physical and visual access to water and wetland park access at key intervals along the creek and trail system.</p> <p>13.4 Design development and infrastructure projects to provide visual or physical access to creeks.</p> <p>13.5 Create clear and safe bike and pedestrian access in proximity to the creek system.</p>

Connect: Ensure safe access to Downtown parks and open space for all

Goal	Action
14. Improve and enhance neighborhood access into and around Downtown parks and open spaces.	<p>14.1 Create small "pause places" on routes to parks and between downtown destinations.</p> <p>14.2 Strive to maintain universal accessibility to all Downtown parks.</p> <p>14.3 Create and expand connections to surrounding neighborhoods.</p>
15. Expand the existing brand, wayfinding, and gateway system to support navigation of Downtown Beaverton's parks and open spaces.	<p>15.1 Expand the branded wayfinding identity for Downtown parks and open spaces, ensuring that wayfinding strategies are accessible and inclusive for all.</p> <p>15.2 Provide directional signage along trails and to support navigation between Downtown destinations and parks.</p>



Holi celebration at Rock Creek Park, THPRD.

Creating Shared Benefits

There are many studies and reports detailing how investments in parks and open spaces within downtowns result in multi-faceted and positive economic, social, and ecological impacts. Not only do

investments in downtown public spaces increase surrounding land and property values¹, but access to open spaces also provide positive health benefits², reduce crime³, and reduce stormwater run-off.⁴ Additionally, developers who were specifically consulted about this plan confirmed that

well placed open spaces are an incentive for private sector investment. Yet, particularly in recent years, studies⁵ have highlighted that the value of improvements in cities is not always shared equitably and can fail to benefit all residents and

Downtown Study Area: Existing Parks & Open Spaces



Figure 1.1 Downtown Beaverton Study Area: Existing Parks and Open Spaces

businesses, or can cause displacement. In a growing downtown like Beaverton's, this balance of providing open space amenities equitably is important to consider as the city makes investments in and around existing neighborhoods and businesses. The City and

THPRD are committed to making sure that parks and open space improvements lead to a more welcoming and inclusive downtown, rather than inhibiting it. Central to realizing this vision will be continued community engagement during implementation and coordination

of park improvements with other downtown strategies to ensure parks are part of an overall equitable development approach.

Boundary of Influence (Downtown Study Area and surrounding neighborhoods)

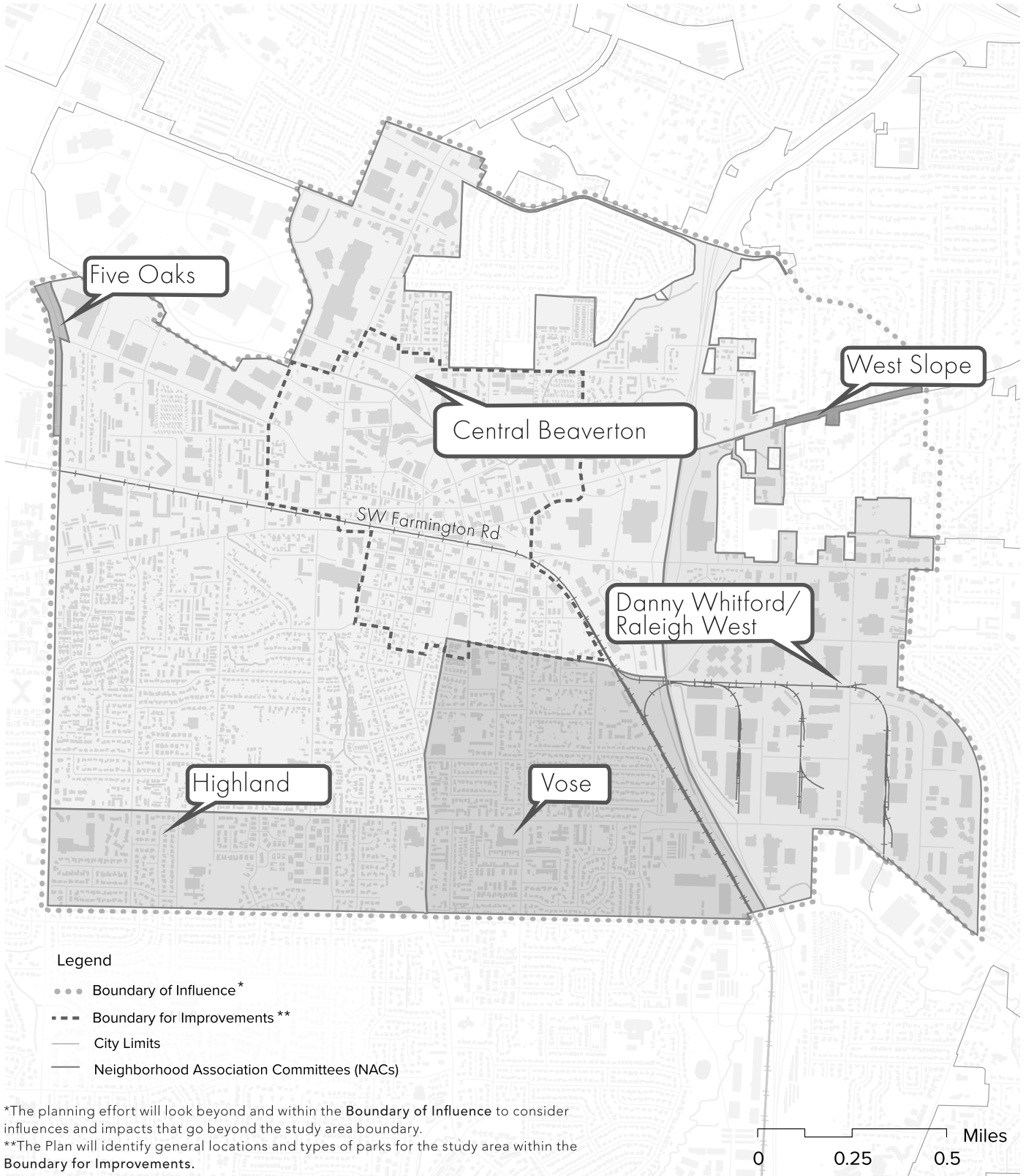


Figure 1.2 *Boundaries for Downtown Beaverton, showing surrounding neighborhoods.*

Study Area

The study area for this plan, also known as the Boundary for Improvements (see Figure 1.5 below), is defined by 5th Street to the south, SW Center St and SW Hall Blvd to the north, SW Hocken Ave and SW Stott Ave to the west, and SW 117th Ave and the commuter rail to the east.

Inside this boundary, the plan will identify general locations and types of parks for the study area. To give greater context, the plan also looks beyond the study area to a second boundary defined as the Boundary of Influence (see Figure 1.5), considering the influences and impacts of the surrounding neighborhoods such as Vose, Five Oaks, West Slope, Danny Witford/Raleigh West, and Highland.

As the Beaverton Urban Design Framework observes “Today Downtown Beaverton is experienced as many different areas, each possessing network, block and parcel size, and building types.”⁶ The same can be said of the distinct character of parks and open spaces in each of these areas of downtown. From the green lawn at the Library, to the fountain at City Park in Old Town, to small pocket parks along the street in the Broadway area, to urban plazas at the Round in Central Beaverton, to the Crescent

Connection Trail near the Transit Center, downtown’s parks and open spaces reflect a variety of types and amenities.

Past Planning Efforts

Beaverton’s Parks & Open Space Framework Plan builds on recent and ongoing efforts such as the Beaverton Downtown Urban Design Framework and the Downtown Loop project, which seek to reposition and reconnect Downtown, in addition to the THPRD Parks Functional Plan and the THPRD Vision Action Plan, which guide how parks and open spaces are invested in across the broader area. The data and analysis in this framework represents a snapshot in time, reflecting available information as it was developed. This plan utilizes information from City of Beaverton and THPRD planning documents, including the following:

City of Beaverton Planning Efforts

Beaverton Community Vision (2010, 2016)
 Beaverton Downtown Design Project (2018-2020)
 City of Beaverton Comprehensive Plan (2016-2017)
 Civic Plan Central City Strategy (2011)
 Creekside District Master Plan (2014)

Downtown Equity Strategy, Draft (2020)

Downtown Loop Project: Existing Conditions (2021)

Public Art Plan (2009/2015)

Regional Center Designation (1998)

THPRD Planning Efforts

Athletic Facilities Functional Plan (2014)

THPRD Comprehensive Plan (2023)

THPRD Comprehensive Plan Update (2013)

Natural Resources Functional Plan (2014)

Parks Functional Plan (2019)

Trails Functional Plan (2016)

Vision Action Plan (2020)

State Planning Efforts

Blueprint for Urban Design: ODOT’s Approach for Design in Oregon Communities (2020)

Statewide Planning Goal Five Resource Inventory

Resiliency Planning

City of Beaverton Climate Action Plan (2019)

Creekside District Master Plan Vol. 1 & 2 (2014, 2015)

Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan (2020)

Transportation Planning

Beaverton Active Transportation Plan (2017)

EXISTING CONDITIONS



“Provide educational opportunities that explain the wildlife or bird migrations around the park/area, such as the braille placards at Nature Park.”

- Focus Group participant

City Park Fountain, City of Beaverton.

IONS

“Nature play or a wooden park/playground would spark creativity and is a nice extension of nature.”

-Focus Group participant





Redevelopment in Downtown Beaverton, City of Beaverton.

CHAPTER 2: Downtown Redevelopment

Why Invest in Downtown Parks & Spaces?

For the past decade, Downtown Beaverton has seen substantial growth and a new period of redevelopment, resulting in increased denser, mixed-use developments and mixed-income housing. The drivers for these changes are largely the result of the City's passage of the Central Beaverton Urban Renewal Plan in addition to intentional investment in and activation of downtown due to business outreach, storefront

improvement and other incentive grants, and the establishment of the Beaverton Downtown Association.

As Downtown continues to see growth in the coming years - in office space, residences, restaurants, and retail - the area's success will be reinforced by investments that not only focus on healthy economic development, but also contribute to placemaking and public improvements.

These types of investments are highlighted in the Downtown Design Project. They range from the Downtown Loop, which will implement prominent bike and pedestrian enhancements through the core of Downtown, to Gateways that reinforce and define the arrival and departure points of Downtown, to Character Areas that define a vision for the design and experience of distinct areas in order to inform development.

When planning for the character, amenities, and accessibility of Downtown's parks and open spaces, the following Downtown Design Project's Development Code Design Principles are especially relevant:

- Design Places for People - emphasizing pedestrian-scaled places for everyone, including racially and ethnically diverse populations as well as historically underrepresented and underserved populations.
- Support an Intensely Developed, Mixed-Income, Mixed-Use Downtown - focusing on complementary uses that support a diverse population and vibrant, 18-hour-a-day activity.
- Promote High-Quality Design - such as using materials that add visual interest and add to people's experience of Downtown as a vibrant and inviting place.
- Consider Development Context - including massing, character, rhythm, uses and historic significance.
- Provide Safe and Comfortable Connectivity - including prioritizing safe and active transportation for all modes of travel, and implementing pedestrian-friendly designs while respecting the Old Town block structure.

- Preserve, Enhance and Engage Nature - in order to maintain healthy natural systems that promote wildlife habitat, mitigate flooding, increase beauty and improve health.
- Incorporate Sustainability and Resiliency - to strive for designs that improve liveability and promote positive effects on the environment and on community health.
- Integrate Places to Gather and Spend Time Outdoors - including urban open spaces that allow people to connect with nature, exercise, socialize and play.

Implementing parks and open spaces with these principles in mind - from small plazas to pocket parks to trails - is crucial for Downtown Beaverton to thrive as a place where development, parks, open spaces, and other city systems all feel unified and connected. In addition, parks and open spaces can also be an incentive for redevelopment and shape development patterns.



BG's Food Cartel, City of Beaverton.



Conestoga Recreation & Aquatic Center, THPRD.

CHAPTER 3:

Neighborhoods, People, History & Environment

The City of Beaverton is known for a high quality of life and is home to a thriving economy, a diverse community, and great schools. The Downtown Beaverton study area has sixteen parks and open spaces that offer community members a wide variety of amenities to choose from. Additionally, Beaverton's larger regional context allows community members to take advantage of the City's proximity to Portland and all that the Pacific Northwest offers.

A Region Defined by Water

Beaverton, as part of the Pacific Northwest landscape, was originally sculpted by the ice age Missoula floods that shaped the creek and floodplain of the Tualatin River Watershed. Three creeks converge in downtown: Beaverton Creek,

Messenger Creek, and Hall Creek. Much of Downtown exists within the 100-year floodplain of these creeks. The Atfalati-Kalapuya people had lived in this area since time immemorial. They were forcefully displaced from their ancestral homeland by European settler colonizers and forcefully sent to the Grand Ronde reservation by the US Government. Today their descendants are primarily members of the Grande Ronde and Siletz Confederated Tribes, with tribal relations across Oregon and living throughout Beaverton and the metro area. The Atfalati village, Chakeipi (meaning "place of the beaver"), was located on what are now called the Beaverton and Fanno Creeks.

As colonial Europeans settled in the 1800s, much of Beaverton's marshy landscape was drained for agriculture and development. Running through the heart of Downtown Beaverton, Canyon

Downtown Creek Access

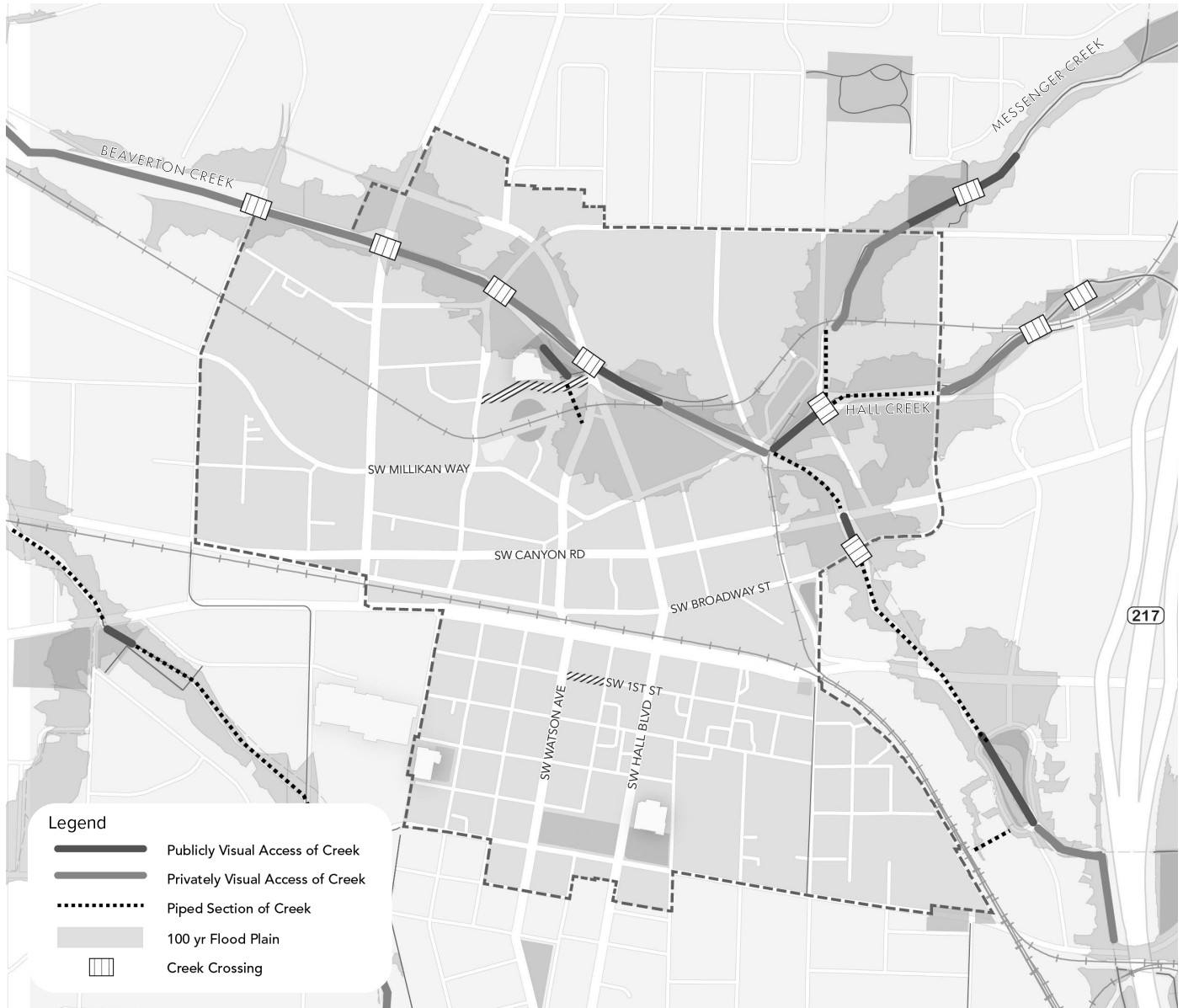


Figure 1.3 *Downtown Creeks visibility and access.*

Road was built in 1860 as a main thoroughfare connecting Portland to Hillsboro. Railroad connections arrived at the turn of the century, and agricultural, logging, and transportation industries became strong economic engines developing Beaverton throughout the 1900s.

Urban growth has stressed

watershed systems, resulting in increased runoff, pollutants, and piped or channelized creek segments.⁷

When flood events happen, compacted soils and impervious surfaces give water no place to go, and the effects can be felt by neighborhoods adjacent to the creek system.

Development has also impacted public perception of downtown open spaces. Visual access to creeks - one's ability to see the creeks - is limited in downtown Beaverton. While creek crossings do exist throughout Downtown, most visual access is private, only reached through points that feel as though they are off the path, unsafe, or not publicly accessible.



Figure 1.4 Existing moments in Downtown where creeks and nature are visible.

Beaverton Character Areas and Development Code Zoning Districts: Overlaps and Development Standards									
City Zoning District	Character/ Corridor Zones	Purpose	Max. Building Height (ft)	FAR	Max Units/ Acre	Frontage Seback, w/ Ground Floor Residential		Frontage Setback, No Ground Floor Residential	
						Min. (ft)	Max. (ft)	Min. (ft)	Max. (ft)
RC - BC Beaverton Central	Beaverton Central Transit Center Canyon Corridor	To create a pedestrian-oriented, high-density, mixed-use district around rail stations, with opportunities for new development to define the Downtown skyline.	120	1.5	60	6	12	0	10
RC - MU Mixed Use	Cedar Hills Corridor Canyon Corridor Hall Corridor	To create a high-density neighborhood with a mix of uses in close proximity to Beaverton Central	75	1	43	6	16	0	16
RC - DT Downtown Transition	Transit Center Beaverton Central Hall Corridor	To create a transitional area in scale and use between the Beaverton Central and adjacent neighborhoods.	60	1	30 min. 60 max.	10	20	0	15
RC - OT Old Town	Old Town Lombard Gateway	To provide a mix of housing, jobs, and services at a scale that acknowledges and complements historic development patterns.	65	0.5 or 0.7	18 or 24	6	16	0	10

Figure 1.5 Summary of Beaverton Development Code: Chapter 70 “Downtown Design District” and character/corridor zone overlap areas.

Downtown Character Areas and Zoning Districts

The Downtown Parks and Open Space Framework builds on previous planning and urban design efforts to enhance the existing character of Downtown Beaverton and make changes that reinforce Downtown’s look and feel as a cohesive urban center. The plan integrates the idea of five distinct “character areas” from the Beaverton Downtown Design Project. The Downtown Design Project notes, “While not specific zoning districts, these areas have or will have their own character, style, and scale of development and will inform development as Downtown Beaverton continues

to grow and evolve.” The five character areas are: Beaverton Central, the Transit Center, Broadway, Old Town, and the Library. Additionally, areas not within these character areas function as corridors that are defined by major arterials and connect people to the heart of Downtown. These corridors are: Cedar Hills, Hall, Canyon, and Lombard Avenue. Each area poses differing constraints and opportunities, and the following section reviews the aesthetic and programmatic qualities of parks and open spaces within the five zones. These character areas were evolved and reflected into the Beaverton Development Code’s Downtown Zoning Districts and are summarized above (see Beaverton Development Code, Chapter 70).

Beaverton Central

Beaverton Central is positioned as Downtown's newer civic and cultural hub. This zone includes many destinations, such as City Hall, the Patricia Reser Center for the Arts, and BG's Food Cartel, which can be reached from a regional light rail stop, an asset for future parks. The Round is a major cultural asset in Beaverton Central, hosting large gatherings like the annual Night Market. This area also includes new residential, hospitality, office, and structured and surface parking.

Beaverton Creek passes through Beaverton Central along its northern edge. Apart from the visual and sensory experience of Beaverton Creek at the Patricia Reser Center for the Arts entry plaza, Beaverton Central's parks and open spaces are characterized by hardscape (asphalt, concrete, and unit pavers). In addition to overhead catenary lights, outdoor seating/lounging options at The Round and BG's Food Cartel, and the sculptures at the Round and Patricia Reser Center for the Arts, the planters and site furnishings around City Hall reflect the civic character of this district.

Transit Center

The Transit Center area today is generally paved, tied to its transportation functions, with

surprising moments of creek access. Though the Transit Center functions as a major connector, the area can be disorienting for pedestrians who must walk across multiple transit-related barriers to reach or depart from the Transit Center building. Walkways sometimes lead pedestrians through narrow paths directly adjacent to the rail line or behind department store big-box buildings.

Broadway

The Broadway core zone sits between SW Canyon Road and SW Farmington Road, mixing a light industrial feel along the north side of Broadway Street with a historic "Main Street" quality along the south side of the street. This core zone includes multiple small pocket parks and pause places along the street, including the buffer zone at the intersection of Broadway and Watson Ave., The Beaverton Building Plaza that exhibits the "Three Creeks, and One Will" sculptural piece.

Old Town

The Old Town core area encompasses the zone south of Farmington Road. Destinations here include Restaurant Row, a series of food and beverage establishments along 1st Street, and the 1st Street Dining Commons, a temporary public-space activation initiative during COVID-19 that has become a

popular outdoor gathering place. Restaurant Row and the Dining Commons are bounded by the future Downtown Loop, a City of Beaverton initiative to enhance connectivity downtown (under design development now). Surrounding the area is a mix of residential units, small shops, and services.

A unique characteristic of Old Town is the series of murals along 1st Street. These colorful, artistic expressions are carried through to the pop-up site furnishings and chalk art and ground murals at the Dining Commons.

Library

The "greenest" of the Downtown character areas, the Library core area is another major civic and cultural hub. Rich with services and open gathering spaces, the Library area includes the Beaverton City Library and lawn and City Park and playground, the former of which is home to City Park Fountain and the "Singing Sky" sculpture by Richard Taylor. The farmer's market activates the parking lot north of City Park. The trees at the Library core area give it a distinct character. The landscaped area bordered by birch trees runs east-west to frame the plaza and library, and a stand of mature ponderosa pine trees at the playground create the feeling of being in a forest.

Land Use in Downtown

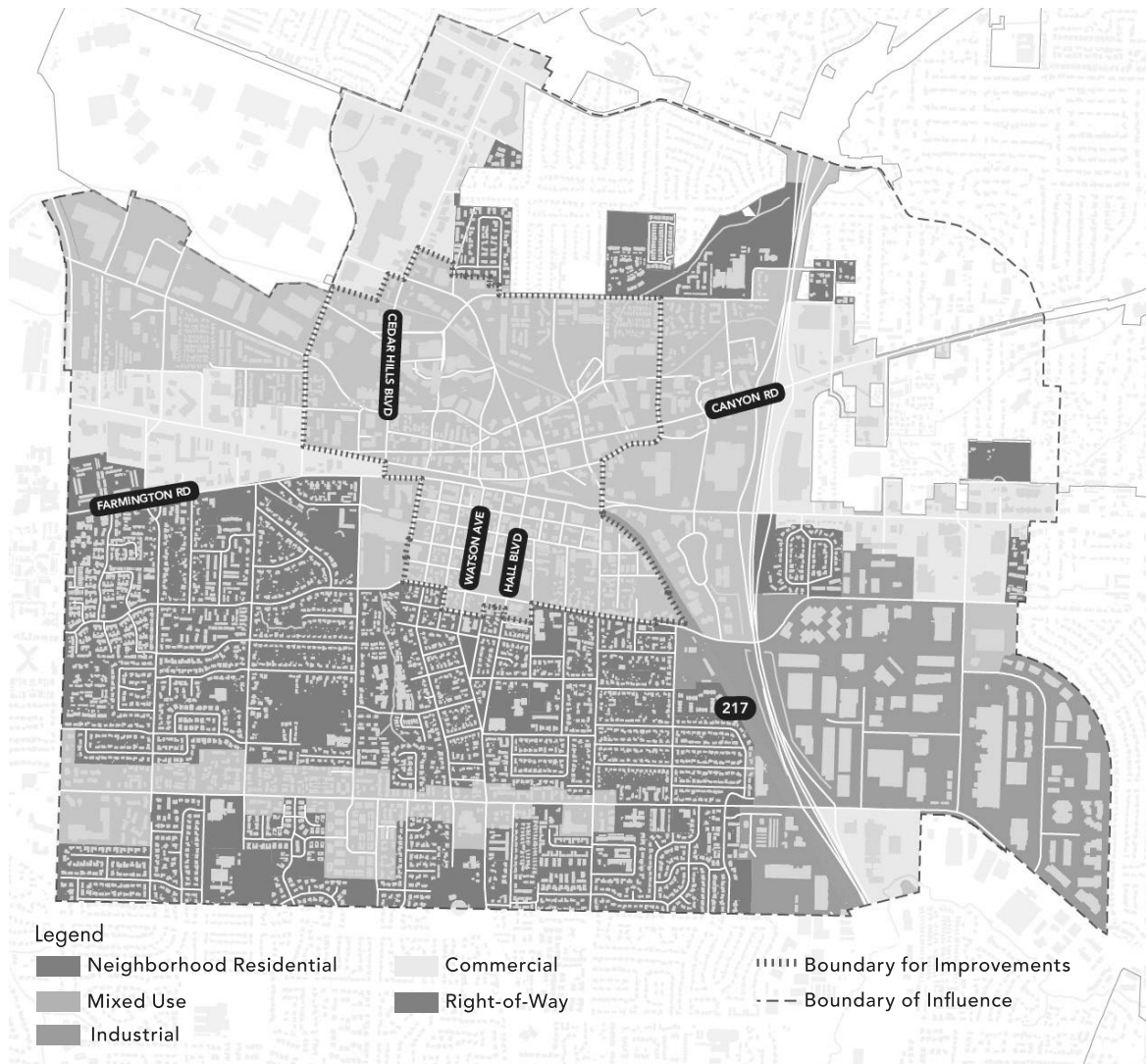


Figure 1.6 Land use map showing how the Downtown study area is designated mixed-use.



The mixed-use nature of Beaverton's Downtown creates opportunities for groups with varying interests to converge.

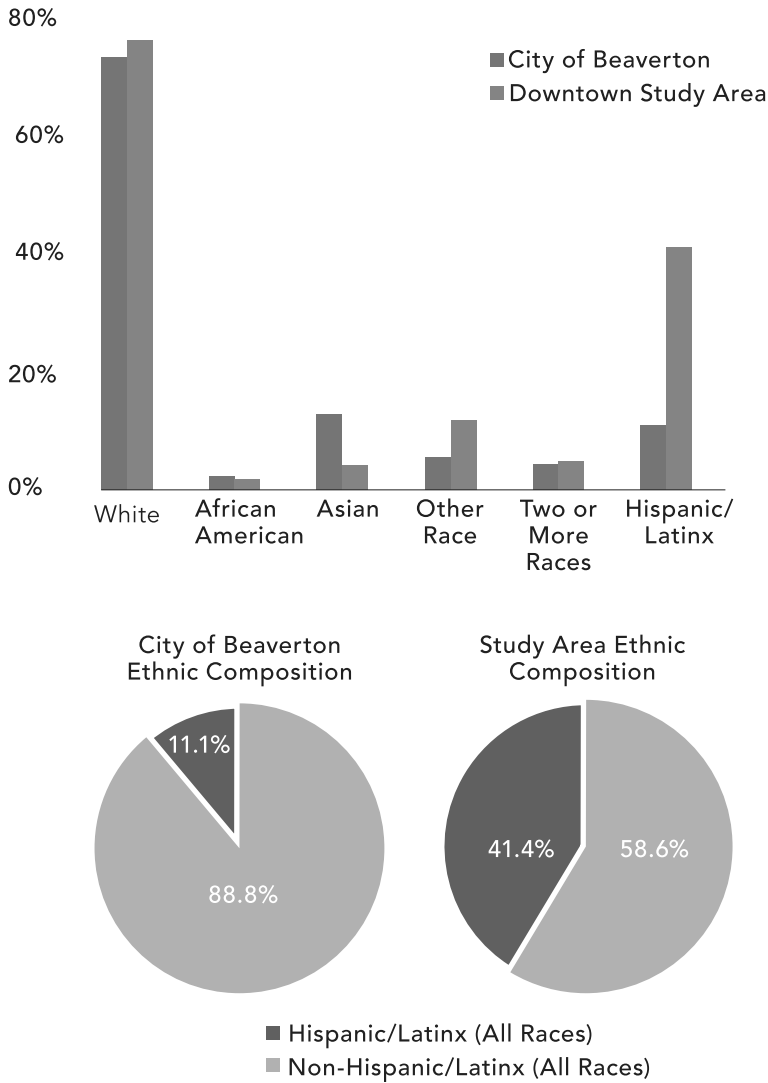


Figure 1.7 *Demographic snapshot over the past decade.*
 Source: American Community Survey 2019
 *Source: City of Beaverton

City of Beaverton 2010 Population
89,903

City of Beaverton 2021 Population
98,216*

Growth*
(2010-2022)
9.5%

Median Age
38

Median Household Income
(2017-2021)*
\$82,380

Demographics

Over the past ten years, the city’s population has steadily grown, attracting people from all over to move to Beaverton to enjoy a wide variety of amenities, while also benefiting from amenities in the greater Portland region. Beaverton’s population grew by 9.5% in the last eleven

years, reaching 98,216 in 2021. Downtown Beaverton continues to be more diverse than the city as a whole. In particular, 41.4% of the 2020 population in the Downtown Beaverton study area identified as Hispanic/Latinx, compared to 11.1% who identified as Hispanic/Latinx within the City of Beaverton as a whole.

As a result, the engagement efforts, which involved multi-lingual community focus groups, pop-ups at locations around the city, and an online survey offered in both English and Spanish, were intentionally designed to include and gather feedback from the diverse populations that exist Downtown.

Population, 2020



Figure 1.8 2020 Population within project area of influence. Source: US Census



Recent developments in Downtown Beaverton. Left: Westline Apartments, Right: Hyatt House Beaverton.



The south side of Broadway retains its historic character with a series of small, local shops.

Downtown Activity & Character

A wide variety of businesses across Downtown shape its character and ground level experience. Active ground-floor restaurants and retail spaces occupy a portion of 1st Street in Old Town, where a wide variety of cafes, restaurants

and bars showcase large windows and active frontages. Southwest Broadway has a dual character, where the south side of the street retains its historic feel, brick sidewalks, and local shops, while the north side consists of automobile-focused development, such as car dealerships, showrooms, and garages. Car-focused

development fills the area north of Farmington Road and Canyon Road as well. Newer mixed-use development is changing the character on the northwest side gradually, as new, mid-level housing developments and ground-floor retail offer a change from the big-box retail stores and large parking lots in the northeast.

Downtown Business Patterns

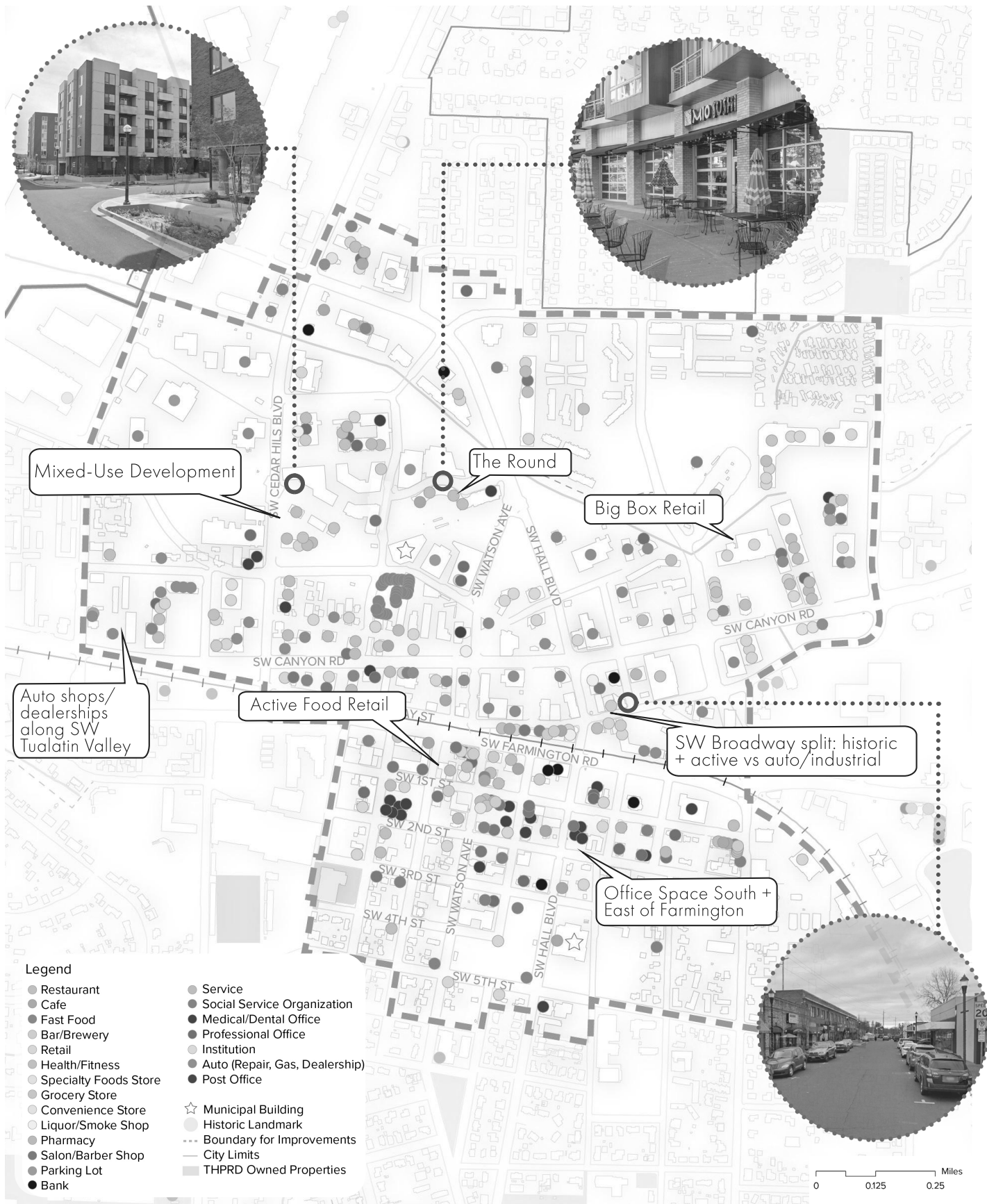


Figure 1.9 Overall business patterns in Downtown Beaverton.

Downtown Food & Dining Hubs

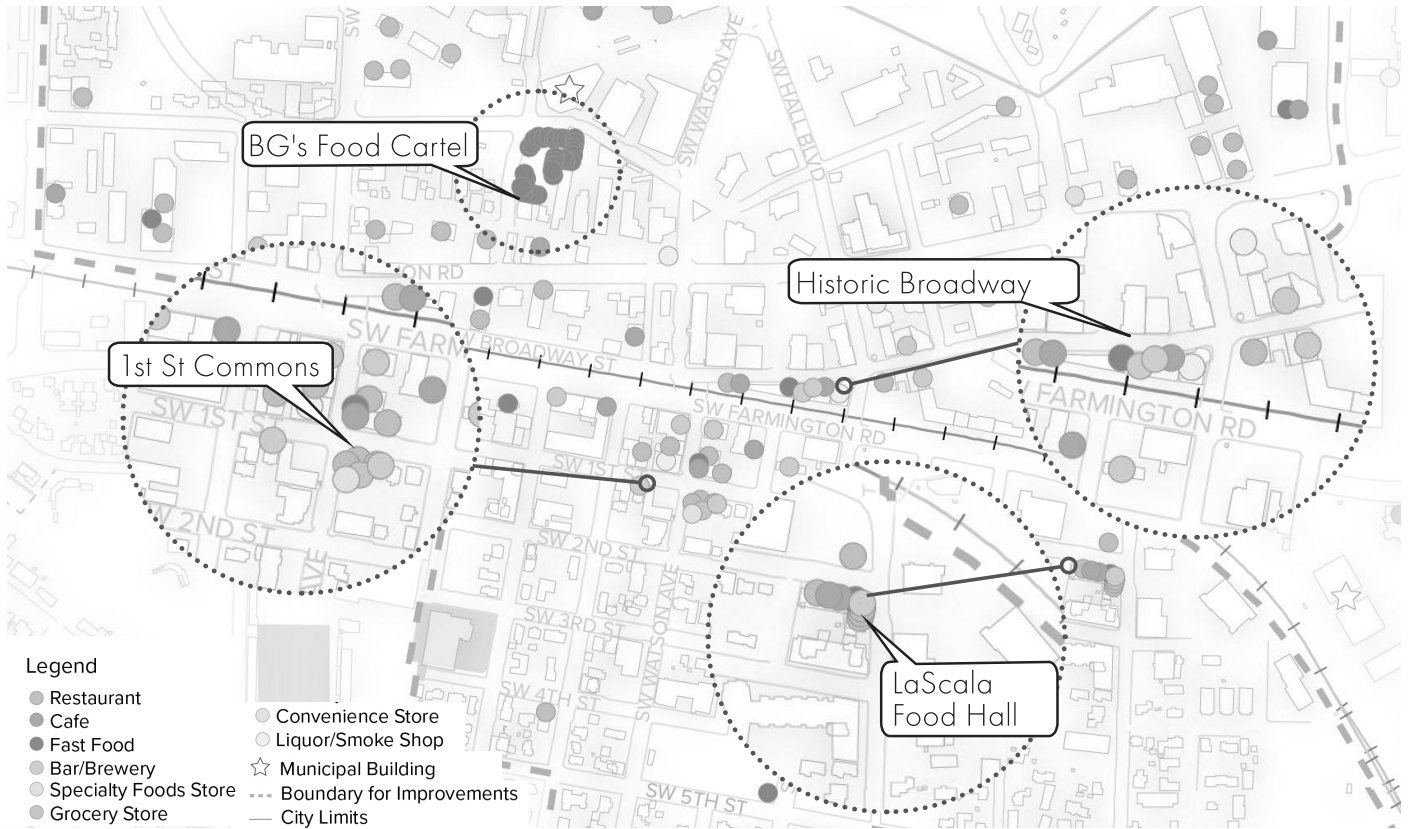


Figure 1.10 Food and Dining hubs throughout Downtown.

A Thriving Food Culture

Food and dining is a strong and growing thread throughout Downtown. From the outdoor experience at BG’s Food Cartel to the 1st Street Dining Commons and Restaurant Row to the LaScala Food Hall, Beaverton residents noted an appreciation for Downtown’s diverse food choices. This growing food scene creates opportunities and demand for new parks and open spaces associated with food and dining, in particular, seating areas and spill out spaces for informal gathering and communal meals.



BG'S Food Cartel



1st Street Dining Commons and Restaurant Row



City Park, City of Beaverton

CHAPTER 4:

Downtown Park Types: Parks & Public Spaces

Downtown Park Types

This plan integrates the park categorizations from THPRD's 2019 *Parks Functional Plan*. The *Parks Functional Plan* lists six (6) types of parks and open spaces and their associated park components, amenities or other elements that are to be provided (see Table 1 - THPRD Park Category Descriptions and Table 6 - Park Components, THPRD Parks Functional Plan, listed below).

Within a downtown setting, the potential spaces for future parks and open spaces are limited in size and may be challenged to meet all of the criteria. Still, there are ways to be flexible and fulfill community amenity needs and standards in a way that is adapted to the downtown conditions. The anticipated park and open classifications within downtown, now and in the future, include:

Urban Plaza

Highly relevant to the downtown context, urban plazas are "small public gathering space[s] in an urban area that foster community interaction and civic pride."⁸ An example of this in Downtown is the urban plaza at Beaverton City Park, which features a water feature, benches, and a civic art piece.

Pocket Park

Typically 1 acre or less, pocket parks are also important open spaces within highly urbanized settings where "full size park developments

[are] not feasible due to land availability." An example to the southeast of the boundary area for improvements is Fifth Street Park.

Neighborhood Park

Neighborhood parks are typically between 2 to 8 acres and serve the recreational needs of surrounding residents. Center Street Park northeast of the boundary for improvements is an example of a neighborhood park.

Community Park

Community parks are typically larger than 8 acres and, thus, serve larger geographic areas, engaging visitors from across the district and meeting a wide variety of recreational needs. Due to spatial constraints, community parks are less likely to occur in downtowns. However, a grouping of small spaces with a higher concentration of amenities may function similarly to that of a community park within a smaller geographic area. Evelyn M. Schiffler Memorial Park just southwest of the boundary for improvements exists in this capacity.

Linear Park

This new park designation most commonly appears in the form of park amenities that are paired with trail corridors. Some of the characteristics of this park type may be applicable to linear, mobility focused corridors like the Downtown Loop, growing trails, and future creek access.

Special Use Park

Finally, special use parks are spaces of variable size that are dedicated to a specific natural, historical, or cultural purpose. The one-acre Veterans Memorial Park south of this project’s boundary for improvements falls into this category, as the park is activated primarily for specific programming.

Park Components

To the right is a list of potential park components from THPRD’s Parks Functional Plan that are used by the district to calculate level-of-service, highlighting components that were identified as a priority during community engagement discussions (pop-up, survey, and focus group feedback). These highlighted components are also those that are most likely to be feasible within a downtown context that is often constrained by land, limited in parking, and set within a mixed-use environment.

Additional Downtown Open Space Categories

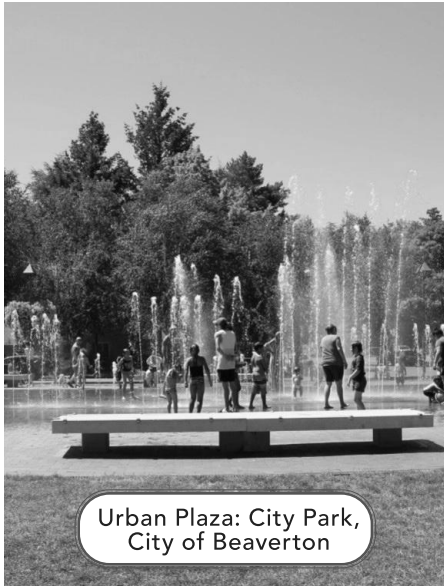
Downtown Beaverton is distinct from many of its surrounding residential neighborhoods, acting as an employment hub that draws daytime users, a retail/restaurant destination that attracts evening users, and an events center that welcomes large groups for dedicated times throughout the year. To continue to attract people from across

-
- Amphitheater
 - Aquatics Pool
 - Aquatics Spray Pad
 - Archery Range
 - Basketball Court
 - Bike Course
 - Bocce Court
 - Diamond Fields
 - Disc Golf
 - Dog Park
 - Educational Experience
 - Event Space
 - Fitness Course
 - Futsal Court
 - Game Court
 - Garden, Community
 - Garden, Display
 - Horseshoe Court
 - Loop Walk
 - Multi-use Court
 - Multi-use Pad
 - Multi-use Field
 - Natural Area
 - Open Turf
 - Passive Node
 - Pickleball Court
 - Picnic Ground
 - Playground, Destination
 - Playground, Local
 - Playground, Nature Play
 - Public Art
 - Rectangular Field
 - Shelter
 - Skate Feature
 - Skate Park
 - Tennis Complex
 - Tennis Wall
 - Track
 - Trail, Paved/Multi-use
 - Trail, Soft-surface
 - Volleyball Court
 - Water Access, Developed
 - Water Access, General
 - Water Feature
 - Water, Open

Figure 1.11 List of typical park components, highlighting components that were identified as a priority during community engagement.

the city and region, Downtown Beaverton’s public spaces need to support visitors and offer something distinctive and unique in terms of design and program. In addition to including the park components noted above, Downtown open space vibrancy also relies on the presence of active storefronts, pop-up play areas, widened sidewalk zones

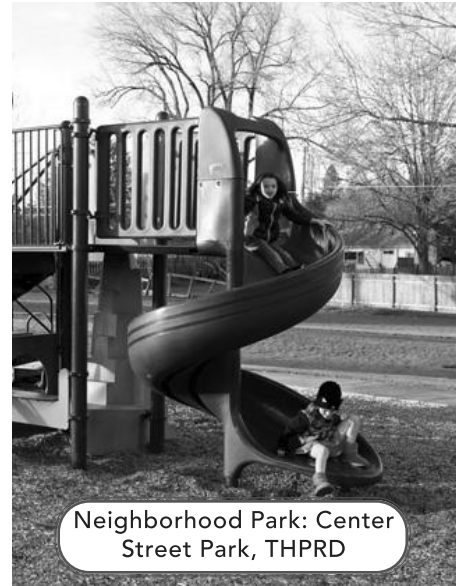
with areas to pause on benches or seating, and activated street spaces for informal gathering. Pedestrian walkways and bike corridors also support multimodal access Downtown, where the compact nature of amenities and uses across the area encourage non-vehicular modes of travel. With an understanding that Downtown



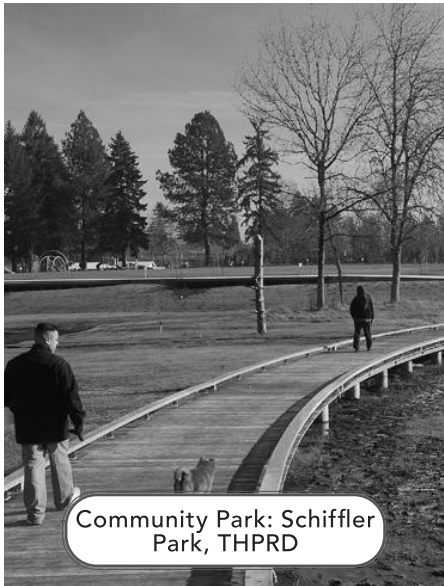
Urban Plaza: City Park, City of Beaverton



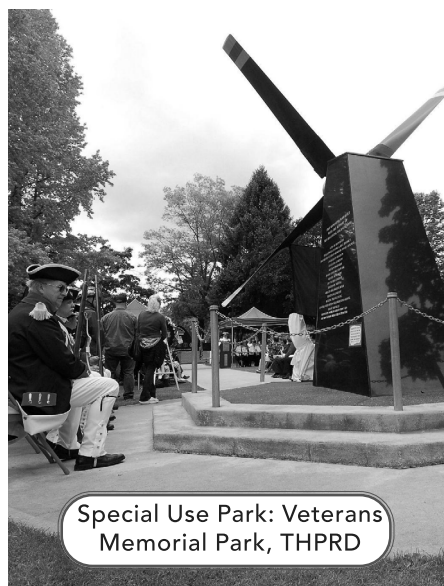
Pocket Park: 5th Street Park, THPRD



Neighborhood Park: Center Street Park, THPRD



Community Park: Schiffler Park, THPRD



Special Use Park: Veterans Memorial Park, THPRD



Pocket Plaza: Lascala Food Hall, Privately-owned

Figure 1.12 Various park types across Beaverton.

Beaverton is divided by major vehicular arterials, future Downtown park and open space sites must actively consider the tension between access and safety.

Privately-owned Parks and Open Spaces

These spaces are privately owned, but designated for public

use. An example of a privately-owned open space within the Downtown Beaverton boundary for improvements is the plaza between Lascala Food Hall and the Barcelona at Beaverton apartments on Lombard Avenue.

Underutilized Lots

Underutilized lots capture land fenced off (temporarily

undeveloped) or permanently not developed and not programmed with active or passive open space amenities (e.g. grass lawn, park, benches, leftover spaces from public transportation projects, etc.). There are several privately- and publicly-owned lots within Downtown Beaverton.

Inventory of Downtown Parks & Open Spaces

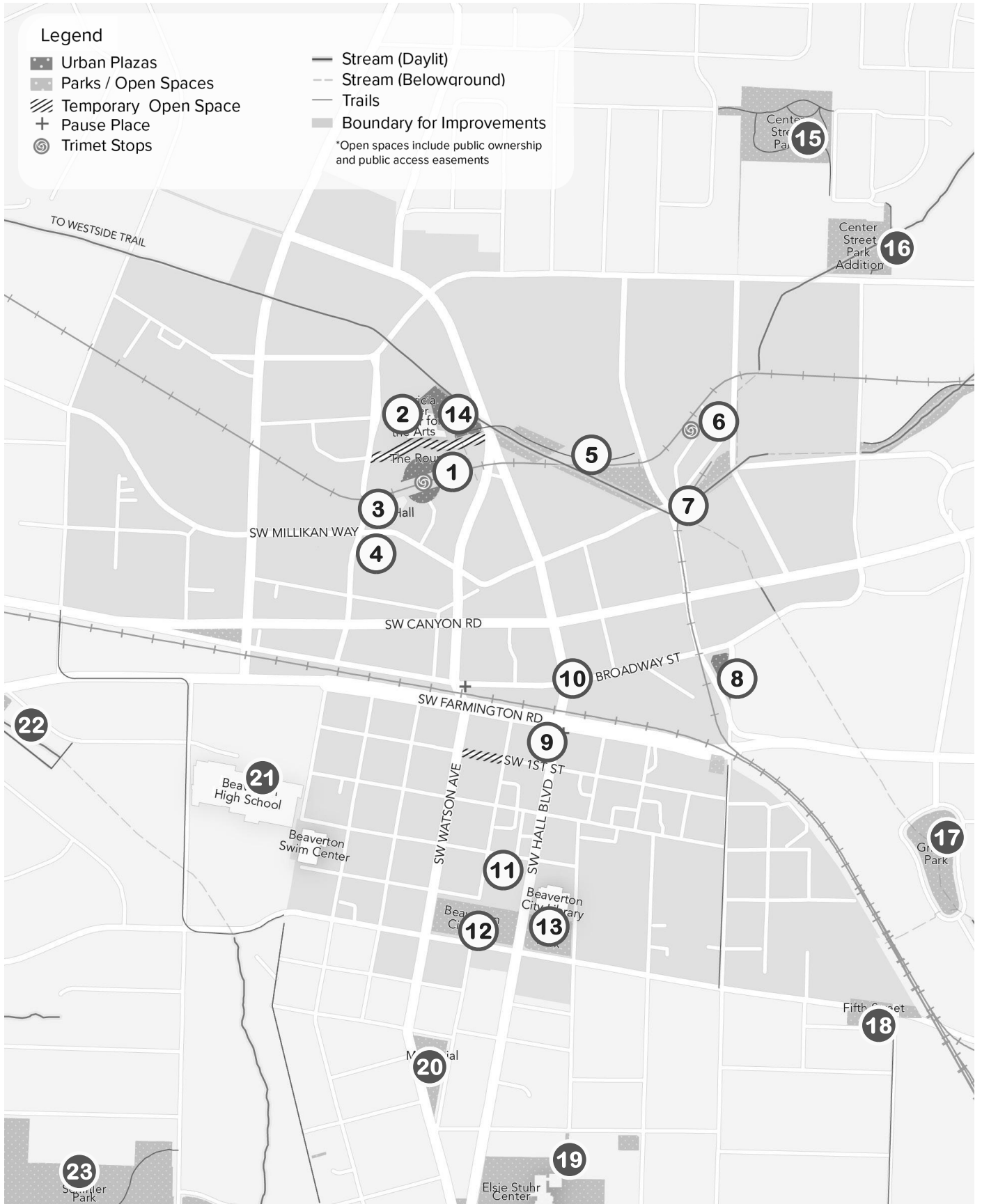


Figure 1.13 Inventory of Downtown Beaverton and surrounding area parks and open spaces.

Existing Downtown Parks and Open Spaces Amenities

Within Boundary for Improvements

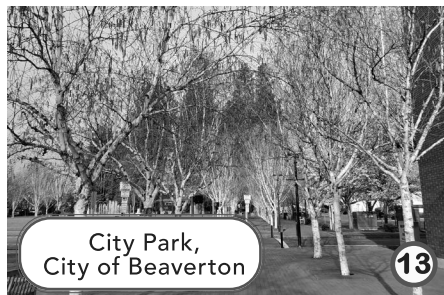
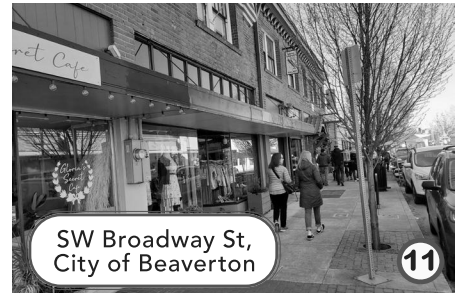
- ① The Round
- ② Patricia Reser Center for the Arts
- ③ Beaverton City Hall
- ④ BG's Food Cartel
- ⑤ Creekside Trail
- ⑥ Beaverton Transit Center
- ⑦ Crescent Connection Trail
- ⑧ Lombard Plaza
- ⑨ 1st Street Dining Commons*
- ⑩ Broadway pocket plaza
- ⑪ Farmers Market*
- ⑫ City Park and Playground
- ⑬ Beaverton City Library / City Park
- ⑭ PCRA Plaza

Accessible to Downtown area

- ⑮ Center Street Park
- ⑯ Center Street Wetlands Trail
- ⑰ Griffith Park
- ⑱ Fifth Street Park
- ⑲ Elsie Stuhr Center
- ⑳ Veterans Memorial Park
- ㉑ Beaverton High School
- ㉒ Eichler Park
- ㉓ Evelyn M. Schiffler Memorial Park

*Seasonal pop-up

Examples of existing downtown amenities



Downtown Urban Design Framework: Core & Corridor Areas

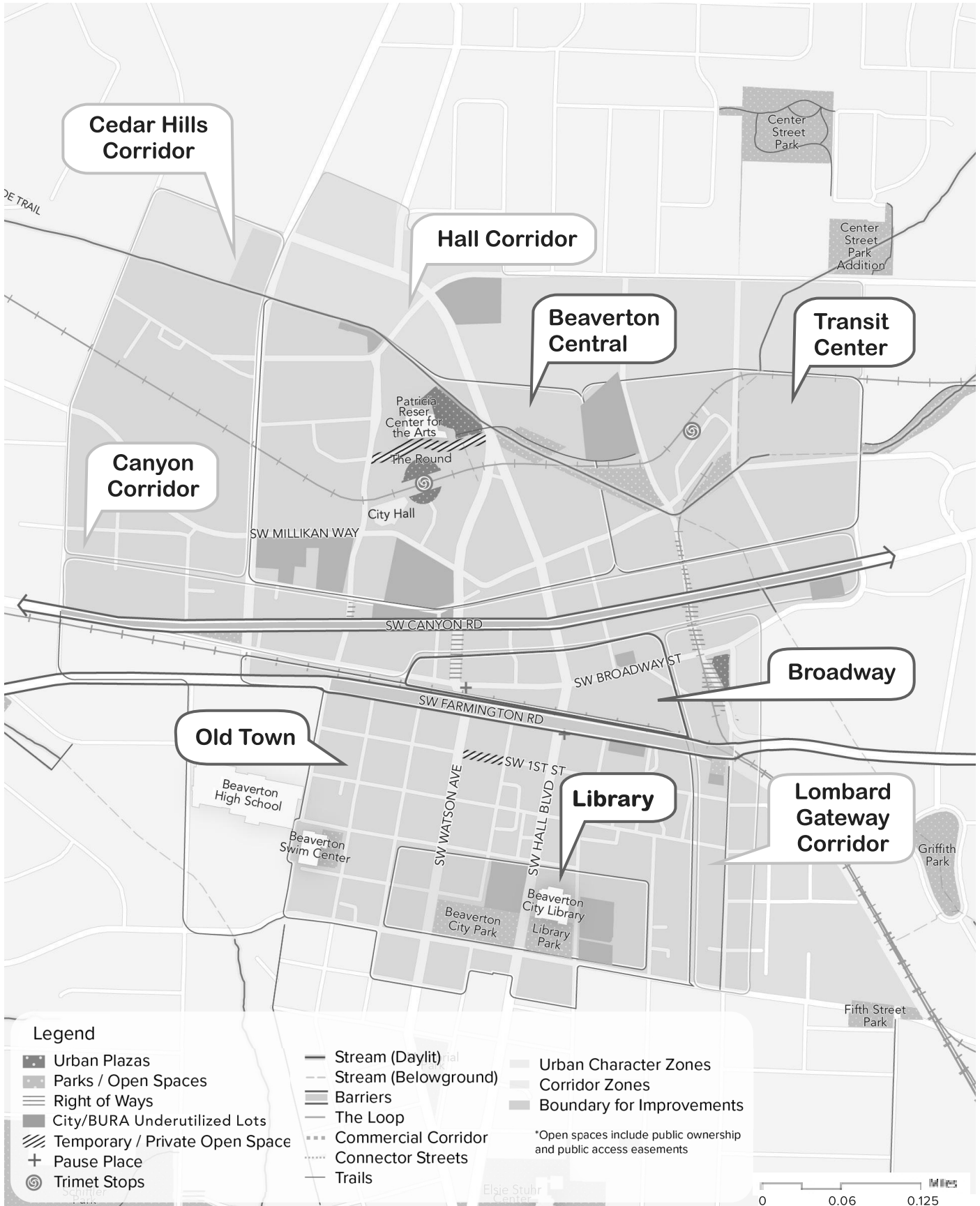


Figure 1.14 Core and corridor areas; Refer to Beaverton Downtown Design Project: Urban Design Framework.

Park Components & Amenities

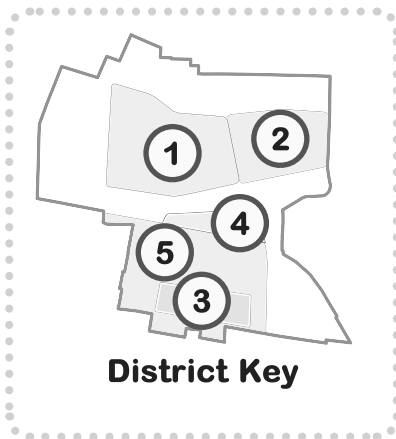
The table at right consolidates spatial and programmatic standards and expectations for future parks Downtown as defined in THPRD's Parks Functional Plan.

Note that these standards should remain flexible for parks and open spaces Downtown due to size restrictions within the urban core.

Level of Service Standards and Expectations

Park Type	Area	# Components
Neighborhood Park	2-8 acres	5
Community Park	>8 acres	8-10
Urban Plaza	Flexible	1-2
Pocket Park	<1 acre	2-3

Figure 1.15 *Level of Service requirements for future parks as defined by THPRD's Parks Functional Plan.*



1 Beaverton Central

- Patricia Reser Center for the Arts
 - Plaza
 - Public art
- Beaverton City Hall
 - Plaza
 - Public art
- The Round
- BG's Food Cartel
- TriMet Station
 - Public Art
- Crescent Connection Trail
 - Public Art



2 Transit Center

- TriMet Station
- Hall Creek Connection
- Public art
- Crescent Connection Trail



3 Library

- Library Green
- Beaverton City Park
 - Playground
 - Urban plaza
 - Public art
 - Fountain and splash pad
- Farmers Market (seasonal)



4 Broadway

- Historic main street
- Lombard Plaza
- Pocket Plaza (2)
- Public art

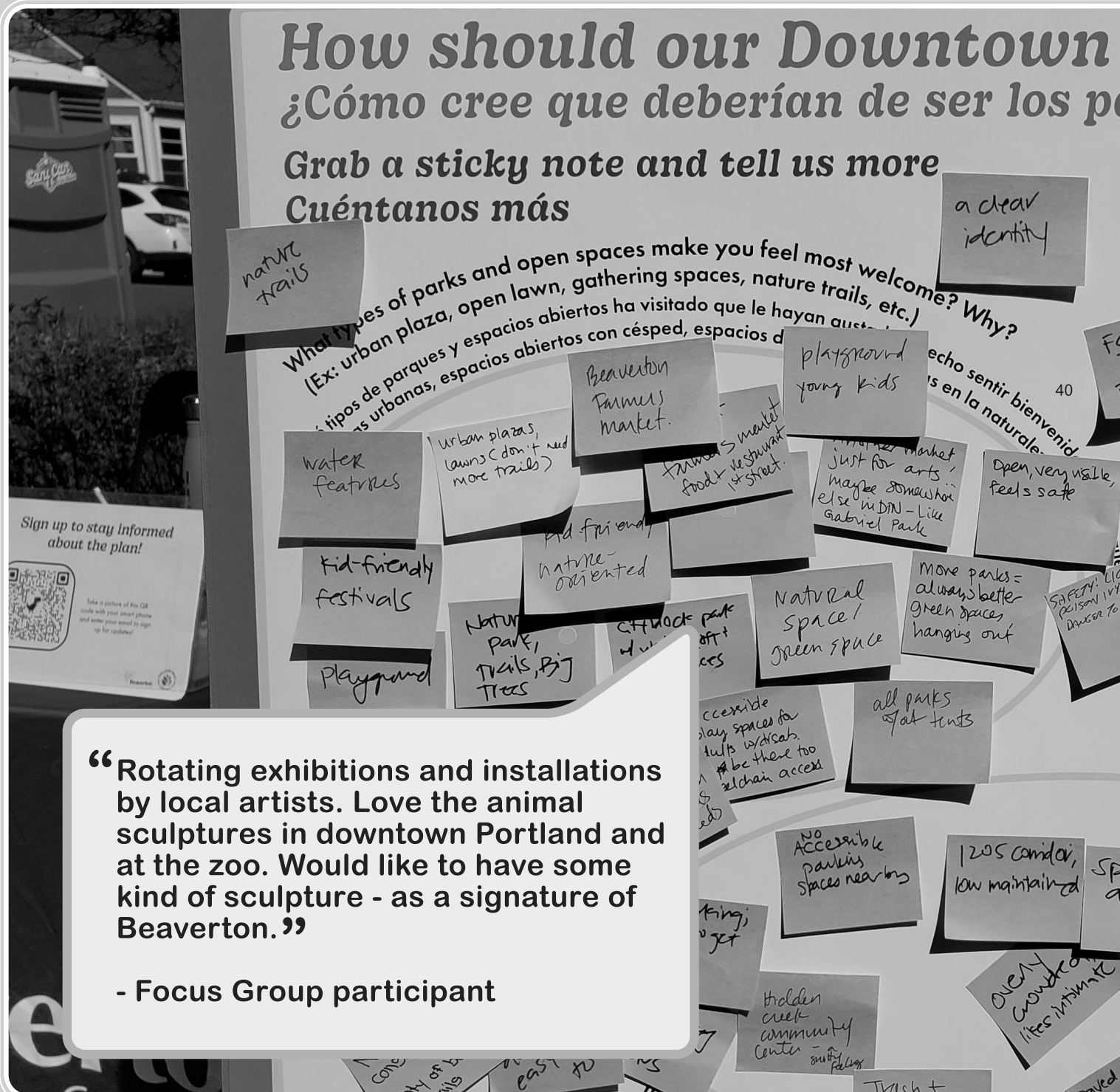


5 Old Town

- Restaurant Row
- 1st Street Dining Commons
- Murals
- Beaverton Swim Center
- LaScala Food Hall

Figure 1.16 *Inventory of Downtown Beaverton parks and open space amenities by core area.*

COMMUNITY INPUT



How should our Downtown
¿Cómo cree que deberían de ser los p
Grab a sticky note and tell us more
Cuéntanos más

What types of parks and open spaces make you feel most welcome? Why?
 (Ex: urban plaza, open lawn, gathering spaces, nature trails, etc.)
 ¿Qué tipos de parques y espacios abiertos ha visitado que le hayan gustado?
 ¿Por qué?
 ¿Qué tipos de parques, espacios abiertos con césped, espacios d

nature trails

a clear identity

Beaverton Farmer's market.

playground young kids

water features

Urban plazas, lawns (don't need more trails)

farmer's market food restaurant 1st street.

farmer market just for arts... maybe something else in DN - like Gabriel Park

Open, very visible, feels safe

kid-friendly festivals

kid friendly nature-oriented

Natural space / green space

More parks = always better green spaces hanging out

playground

Nature park, trails, Big Trees

city block park

accessible play spaces for kids w/ disabilities. be there too wheelchair access

all parks w/ at tents

No Accessible parking spaces nearby

1205 consider, low maintained

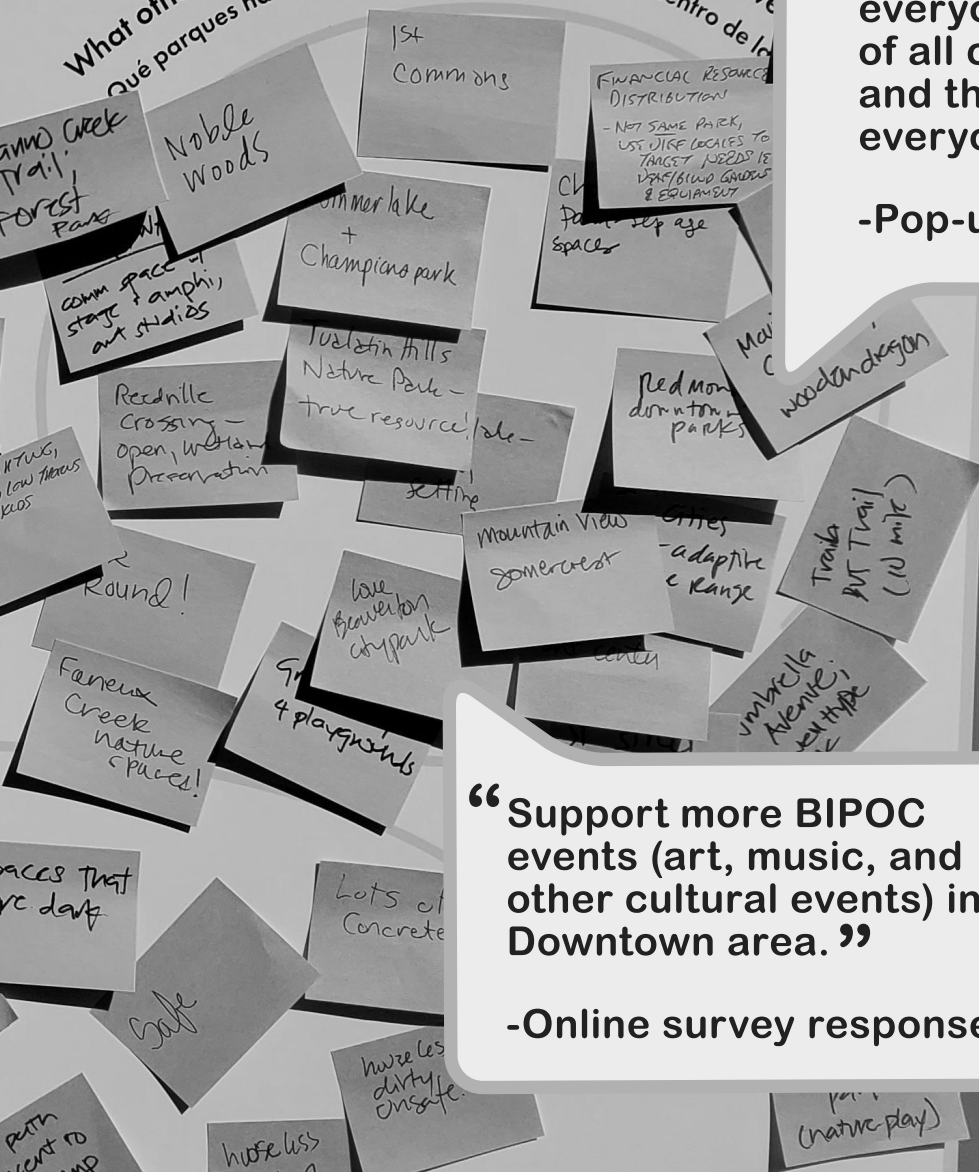
“Rotating exhibitions and installations by local artists. Love the animal sculptures in downtown Portland and at the zoo. Would like to have some kind of sculpture - as a signature of Beaverton.”
- Focus Group participant

Community feedback board at pop-up tabling event at Beaverton Farmer's Market.

T SUMMARY

parks look and feel? parques del centro de la ciudad?

What other downtown parks have you visited and loved?
¿Qué parques ha visitado y que le han gustado en centro de la ciudad?



“At the Night Market, everyone is invited, people of all cultures feel welcome, and there are activities for everyone of all abilities.”

-Pop-up outreach comment

“Support more BIPOC events (art, music, and other cultural events) in the Downtown area.”

-Online survey response



Pop-up tabling at Pride in the Park, City Park, City of Beaverton.

CHAPTER 5:

Summary of Community Input

Introduction

Both the City and THPRD have recently completed planning studies that included extensive community engagement. While community input from these previous studies provides direction for our overall goals, this plan seeks to gather additional input that further refines our goals for future downtown parks and open spaces. Methods for gathering this input were chosen to intentionally welcome, include, and reflect Beaverton's richly diverse communities.

Community engagement included a range of bilingual and multilingual opportunities designed to reach both frequent downtown users and voices that government agencies have historically failed to include. Throughout the process, it was also important to remain in line with safety protocols and community health levels due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In response to these considerations, community engagement included:

- Pop-up tabling at local community and cultural events
- Virtual engagement through social media, digital newsletters, a project website, and more
- An online survey (June-July)
- Multi-lingual focus groups with community-based organizations (CBOs)
- Youth engagement through local schools and afterschool programs

Throughout the public engagement process, feedback was gathered to learn about community perspectives on four main questions:

1. What types of parks and open spaces would you like to see?
2. Do you have ideas for the design/look/feel for Downtown parks and open spaces?
3. What ideas do you have to make downtown Beaverton parks/open spaces more welcoming and inclusive?
4. Where could these spaces and amenities be located?

Engagement Numbers:

Nearly **1,900** people reached

We reached nearly 1,900 community members through multiple engagement methods and received over 2,000 comments.

across **32** engagement opportunities!

In addition to an online survey, community feedback was collected at 32 in-person engagement opportunities, including Downtown multicultural events and community gatherings and at 16 focus groups with community-based organizations, to welcome input from people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.



Engagement Tools:

Pop-Up Tabling

The project team gathered community feedback through pop-up activities at multiple events, locations, and times across Downtown. We gathered input from over 1,000 individuals through pop-up tabling at different locations and events, starting with at BG's Food Cartel in March and ending with the Night Market in July. The team also collected input at the Marhaba Arab celebration, the City Fountain grand opening, Pride in the Park, and Ten Tiny Dances as part of the larger engagement efforts. The pop-up activity, which was available in both English and

Spanish, asked community members to identify the activities and amenities that excite them for Downtown. The activities/amenities were organized into three categories: **water-/nature-based**, **connective**, and **vibrant and playful**. The consolidated results (*to right*) showed that participants were most interested in discovering nature. Art appreciation and picnicking/sharing meals also ranked high among participants overall. Within the "vibrant and playful" category, "play spaces" were the most popular amenity.

Digital Communication

The City of Beaverton hosted a "Downtown Beaverton Parks and Open Space Framework Plan" webpage within their official website that provided information about the plan

and project updates. This included an introduction to the plan, project goals, contact information, and relevant links, including a link to the online survey.

Pop-up Tabling Results

<i>Water-/Nature-based</i>	
Discovering nature	115
Water play	95
Urban wildlife viewing	87
Reflecting	69
Resting in shade	61
Total _(Water-/Nature-based)	427
<i>Connective</i>	
Art appreciation	107
Picnicking/Sharing meals	105
Off-street bike/ pedestrian paths	85
Gathering/Socializing	75
Flexible congregation	45
Total _(Connective)	417
<i>Vibrant and Playful</i>	
Play spaces	90
Gaming	67
Playing sports	56
Learning	50
Exercising	44
Total _(Vibrant and Playful)	307

Figure 1.17 Pop-up board activity categories and number of selections across 12 pop-up tabling events.



Focus Groups with CBOs and Youth

To collect input from historically-underrepresented groups in Beaverton, the project hosted focus groups with CBOs (the "*" indicates focus groups that occurred in conjunction with efforts by the City's Community Visioning group).

The focus groups were:

- Korean language*
- Spanish language*
- Chinese language*
- Arabic language*
- Vietnamese language*

- Russian language*
- Tribal focus group*
- BIPOC (2 sessions)*
- Accessibility focus group*
- Beaverton High School
- ACMA High School
- Mayor's Youth Advisory Board (City)
- THRIVE (THPRD afterschool program, 3 sessions)

During these focus groups and youth engagement sessions, members of each group were asked the same

guiding questions regarding spaces they would like to see Downtown, types of activities they would like to do, ideas for the design/look/feel for downtown open spaces, and ideas to make Downtown Beaverton feel more welcoming and inclusive. Feedback emphasized excitement for multicultural and social events and programming to bring people together Downtown.

"All kinds of entertainment activities are needed, especially culturally specific events that include cultural dancing and music."

"[I would like to see] a quaint pedestrian area with plenty of covered seating areas for eating, listening to music, watching street performers, hanging out with friends, etc."

"I'd like to see places to host children's birthday parties in the winter."

Figure 1.18 Quotes from focus group and youth participants.

Online Survey

As part of the community engagement process, the project team collected input through an open online survey. The survey included images that people could choose and comment on, which helped the team identify possible options for future park spaces. The survey was available in both English and Spanish, reflecting that 41.4% of Downtown residents identify as Hispanic/Latinx and 13%

of Beaverton residents speak Spanish at home. The survey was open from June to July 2022 and advertised through social media, the project website, and flyers with QR codes distributed by the City and THPRD. The survey yielded 317 individual responses.

The survey was a valuable tool that offered insight into community members' perspectives on different open

"Large, flexible gathering areas are inclusive to multiple groups and ages."

"Seating that incorporates natural elements, shade (from sun and rain), trees, etc."

Figure 1.19 Quotes from community members who participated in the online survey.

Online Survey

space types.

The online survey included the following examples of parks and amenities to select from and comment on (organized from most to least popular using SurveyMonkey's built-in survey analysis tools):

- Pedestrian/Bike pathways
- Green spaces/lawns
- Art/Murals
- All-weather recreation areas
- Gardens
- Water access areas

- Outdoor performance/ community gathering spaces
- Urban plazas
- Seating areas
- Athletic spaces
- Dog runs
- Playgrounds

Community survey responses revealed a general interest - across all park types - in creating spaces that look and feel "natural" and are surrounded by nature (i.e. trees, plantings, wildlife, etc.) embracing and

celebrating the quality of life that Beaverton provides in the Pacific Northwest. Survey results showed that the most popular choices almost always featured public spaces surrounded by plants/trees or in a natural setting. The results of the visual preference survey reinforced findings from the pop-up engagement, which demonstrated community excitement around opportunities for discovering nature.

Community Input: Key Findings & Themes

The multi-faceted engagement process reinforced the community's interest in downtown parks and open space investments, capturing responses from a broad spectrum of residents, stakeholders, and visitors. Together, the community input aligned towards four themes, which serve as

organizing principles for this plan to make sure future investments are coordinated with the community's own vision for its downtown parks and open spaces.

The themes include:

1 Gather Community



2 Welcome & Celebrate



3 Reflect & Protect Nature



4 Connect



Community Input: Key Findings & Themes

Gather Community

- Create open spaces and amenities that allow for all kinds of gathering.
- Enhance and expand 1st Street as a vibrant, pedestrian-friendly street, as well as a dining and social hub.

"For the outdoor pedestrian mall: eating, listening to music, watching street performers, hanging out with friends, browsing, shopping, etc."

"Places to hold children's birthday parties in the winter. Safe playgrounds for children. Open-air exercise areas for adults."

"Expanding outdoor dining helps growing restaurant options remain accessible to our high-risk neighbors."

"Places for parents and children, and quiet places for people who prefer quiet space."

Figure 1.22 Key takeaways and comments from the online survey.

Comments from the online survey were very positive and appreciative of Downtown Beaverton's existing public gathering spaces, such as the 1st Street Dining Commons. These spaces visibly enliven the streetscape, serving as hubs that support the downtown economy and providing a multi-generational space for people to rest, eat, play, and enjoy being among their neighbors.

From "Separate Destinations" to "Activated Areas"

Across Downtown today, there are multiple separate parks and open space destinations, such as the Round, City Park, and the temporary 1st Street Dining Commons. These destinations have the potential not only to be independent places, but to

function as a part of a system of activated parks and open spaces connected by urban plazas and pocket parks. With this in mind, future Downtown development, both large- and small-scale, should reinforce and support existing and future parks and open spaces to help bring people together and contribute to an active urban feel.

Community Input: Key Findings & Themes

Welcome & Celebrate

- Explore art as an avenue for cultural expression that defines the unique character of downtown spaces.
- Better accommodate large-scale community gatherings that highlight Beaverton's rich cultural diversity (markets, fairs, pop-ups, etc).

"AAPI farmer's market"

"A park such as Bosque de Chapultepec [in Mexico City] with art, crafts, dance, food, music, more family oriented."

"We need small [artistic] investments that incrementally make a larger statement that this place is alive."

"Support more BIPOC events (art, music, and other cultural events) in the local area."

"Korean garden w/ fish pond, tea house, gathering spots protected from the rain to play table games."

"Parks need more art and to be more colorful."

"Culturally-specific food at all times."

Figure 1.23 Key takeaways and comments from the online survey.

With an increasingly diverse population, community input, particularly from community-based organization focus groups and survey responses, gave insight into how Downtown can be imagined as a space that embraces and celebrates this cultural diversity. The feedback highlighted the need for day-to-day cultural visibility through art, furnishings, programming, and expansion of Downtown's events spaces to accommodate larger gatherings.

From "Discrete Moments" to "Cultural Hubs"

This rich and growing presence of visual and performing arts can be leveraged in existing and new parks and open spaces, creating hubs that have potential to support large-scale events that integrate public gathering spaces among public art. This could take the form of bike and pedestrian art tours, mural walks, or street festivals and markets that showcase local artists.

These activities are also a great opportunity to partner with vendors, non-profits, and community-based organizations to co-produce arts and performance-based events. These partnerships can establish new relationships between the agencies and local leaders, and allow them to collaborate to program parks and open spaces Downtown with experiences that are representative and empowering to community members of all ages and cultural backgrounds.

Community Input: Key Findings & Themes

Protect & Reflect Nature

- Embrace Beaverton's natural resources and aesthetic, and use trees to provide shade.
- Provide activities to interact with nature within the city (bird watching, educational opportunities, etc).
- Design nature trails that are shaded, have seasonal interest, and allow visual and/or physical access to water.

"We need to do anything we can to aid pollinators."

"Helping our children connect with nature is most important. **Nature play is essential.**"

"I would like **visual and physical access to the creeks.** Daylight them whenever possible and create paths and trails or even parks adjacent to them."

Figure 1.24 Key takeaways and comments from the online survey.

Community feedback, particularly from the online survey and pop-up tabling events, highlighted a sensitivity to and appreciation for Beaverton's natural surroundings. Many survey comments emphasized a love of Beaverton's trees, and a desire to maintain a "natural feeling," even within Downtown's urban setting. The feedback also noted interest in more opportunities for residents and visitors to connect with nature, including visual and/

or physical access to creeks. Shaded areas for play and rest also emerged as a priority for Downtown; covered, all-weather recreation spaces are desirable amenities during rain events and increasingly warm summers.

From "Out of Reach" to "Experienced"

Today, the area's three creeks and natural features are evident at multiple locations. However, these places are often out of

reach, partially visible, and do not feel welcoming due to private property or infrastructure barriers; many places do not allow public access at all. Most of these natural features offer potential for enhanced access, views, and a design experience that can allow them to be enjoyed by all. There are clear desires to connect with Beaverton's natural context and creek system and to engage with nature play and outdoor learning.

Community Input: Key Findings & Themes

Connect

- Develop trail connections Downtown that connect to existing areas with better bike/pedestrian infrastructure.
- Sensitively design play equipment and street furnishings for all ages, bodies, and abilities.
- Revamp welcome signs and wayfinding to be more accessible across languages and abilities.

"Specific drop-off points can **promote walking** in the city."

"We need our streets to be bike/pedestrian friendly as it's healthy and much more ecologically sound than gas cars."

"Signage in as **many languages** as possible."

"Shaded benches for resting, not just in parks but along streets."

Figure 1.25 Key takeaways and comments from the online survey.

Input from the community noted the need for more bike- and pedestrian-friendly streets that connect Downtown to the existing and proposed network of trails that run through Beaverton. This system of safe streets, sidewalks, and trails is vital to creating an accessible downtown park system. To foster a feeling of inclusiveness and belonging, many comments from the online survey called for public signage and furnishings

that accommodate all ages, backgrounds, and abilities.

From "Emerging Network" to "Inviting and Inclusive Connectors"

Today, there is an emerging multimodal network in Downtown, reinforced by the THPRD Trails Functional Plan. The Downtown Design Project and the Downtown Loop designate "gateways" at key

intersections along Watson Avenue and Hall Boulevard. Transit gateways exist at the Trimet Center, the Round, and the Patricia Reser Center for the Arts. With coordinated park investments, there is an opportunity for these gateways to be expanded and integrated along key connector and commercial streets, allowing them to act as both functional entries as well as inviting, visual markers into Downtown.

FUTURE PARKS AND OPEN SPACES VISITATION



“Parks with a special character, story, or theme are more interesting to visit. Parks that draw visitors and tourists provide an economic benefit to the surrounding area.”

- Focus Group participant

ND ION



A FUTURE PARKS AND OPEN SPACES VISION FOR DOWNTOWN!

The vision for Downtown Beaverton’s parks and open spaces is grounded in 4 community-driven themes, 15 goals, and 42 actions. These themes were identified in collaboration with the City and THPRD. The goals are summarized below and include key actions, projects, and case studies. Look for the following icons next to goals for related themes:



Improvement/
Expansion



Programs



Facilities



Partnerships

Gather Community

1. Locate and design new Downtown parks and open spaces to close gaps in the network of open spaces, provide safe pedestrian access, and align with future growth.
2. Provide open spaces and amenities that allow multiple ways to gather.
3. Continue to enhance and support 1st Street and SW Broadway as vibrant, pedestrian-friendly streets.
4. Collaborate with developers to provide accessible parks and open spaces.

Welcome & Celebrate

5. Support programming and design for multicultural, family-oriented events of varying scales throughout Downtown.
6. Make parks more welcoming, accessible, and inclusive by building comfort, basic needs, and places to rest into the fabric of Downtown.
7. Expand and improve permanent event infrastructure to support a wide range of public programs Downtown.
8. Reduce barriers to pop-up activation and short-term parks and open space projects.
9. Celebrate Beaverton’s cultural diversity by expanding art in public places, including creative placemaking initiatives, site-specific artworks (both temporary and permanent), and performances and experiences.



Project team staff gathering input for the Downtown Parks and Open Spaces Plan at the Farmer's Market.

Reflect & Protect Nature

- 10. Integrate nature into Downtown parks and plazas where it can thrive and fit the park or plaza's purpose.
- 11. Raise community awareness of Beaverton's creeks and natural systems.
- 12. Expand shade, covered shelters, and water access in Downtown parks and open spaces.
- 13. Work towards enhancing public access and views along Beaverton, Hall, and Messenger Creeks.

Connect

- 14. Improve and enhance neighborhood access into and around Downtown parks and open spaces.
- 15. Expand the existing brand, wayfinding, and gateway system to support navigation of Downtown Beaverton's parks and open spaces.

A FRAMEWORK PLAN FOR DOWNTOWN PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

This framework plan will guide the City of Beaverton and THPRD as they collectively work to maintain, improve, and program existing downtown parks and open spaces as well as add new spaces - all with the goals of making downtown more welcoming, vibrant, and inclusive.

Many of these changes will take place over time, in coordination with other public infrastructure and private development projects. The framework map provides a spatial reference to inform decisions about land acquisition, coordination with private development projects, and alignment with other capital projects.

Key elements include:

- Reinforce and strengthen existing, successful downtown urban plazas and open spaces, such as City Park and the Round, and make improvements to add more diverse amenities to passive open spaces.
- Build on the linear natural and mobility systems of the creeks, planned trails and Downtown Loop project to integrate small plazas, pocket parks, and pause places along them. Focus small plazas at key intersections like SW Watson and 1st Street or around the City Park area.
- Close gaps in park access and build on future redevelopment opportunities in the northeast and northwest areas of downtown, considering pedestrian barriers.

Framework Plan Map

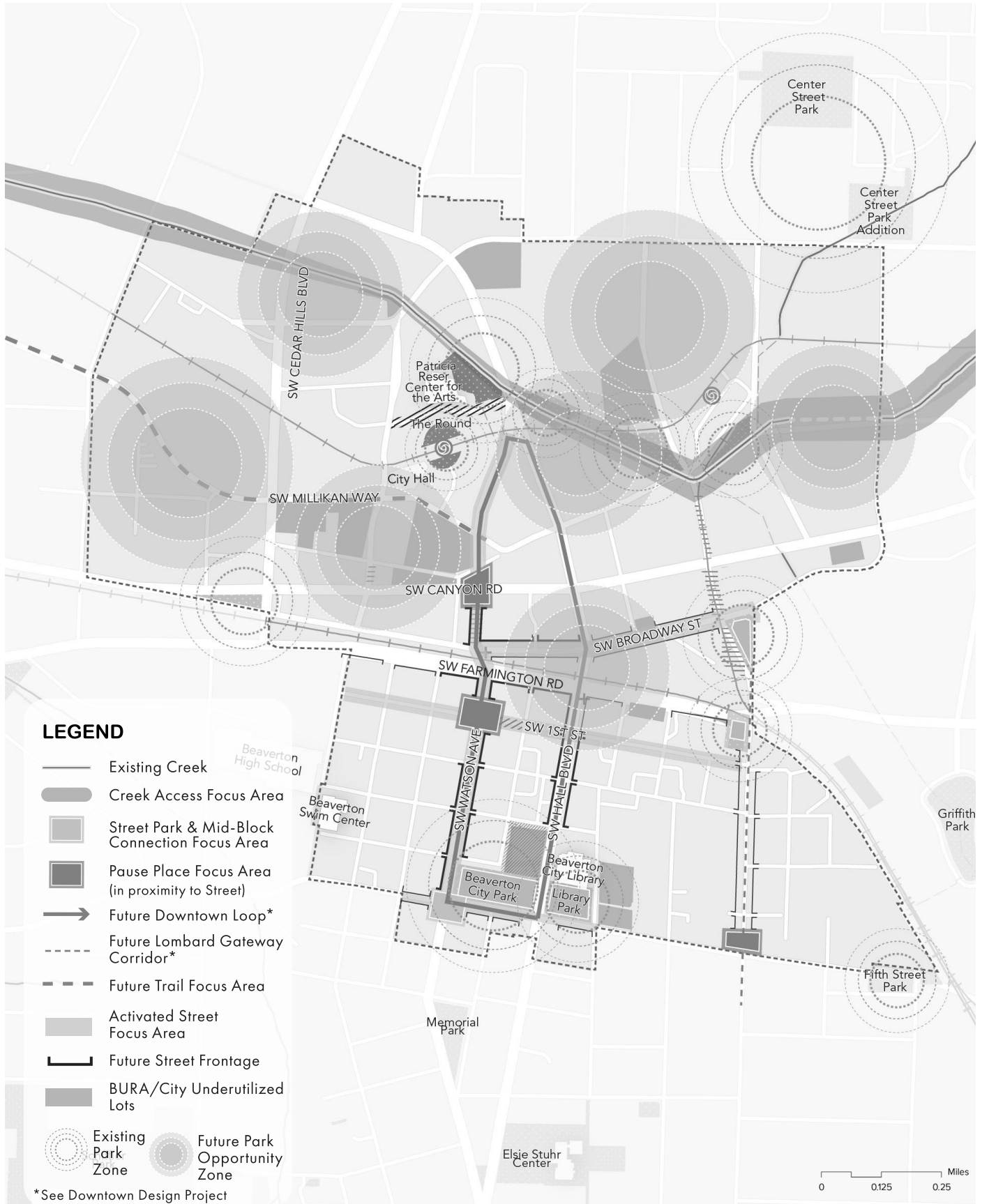
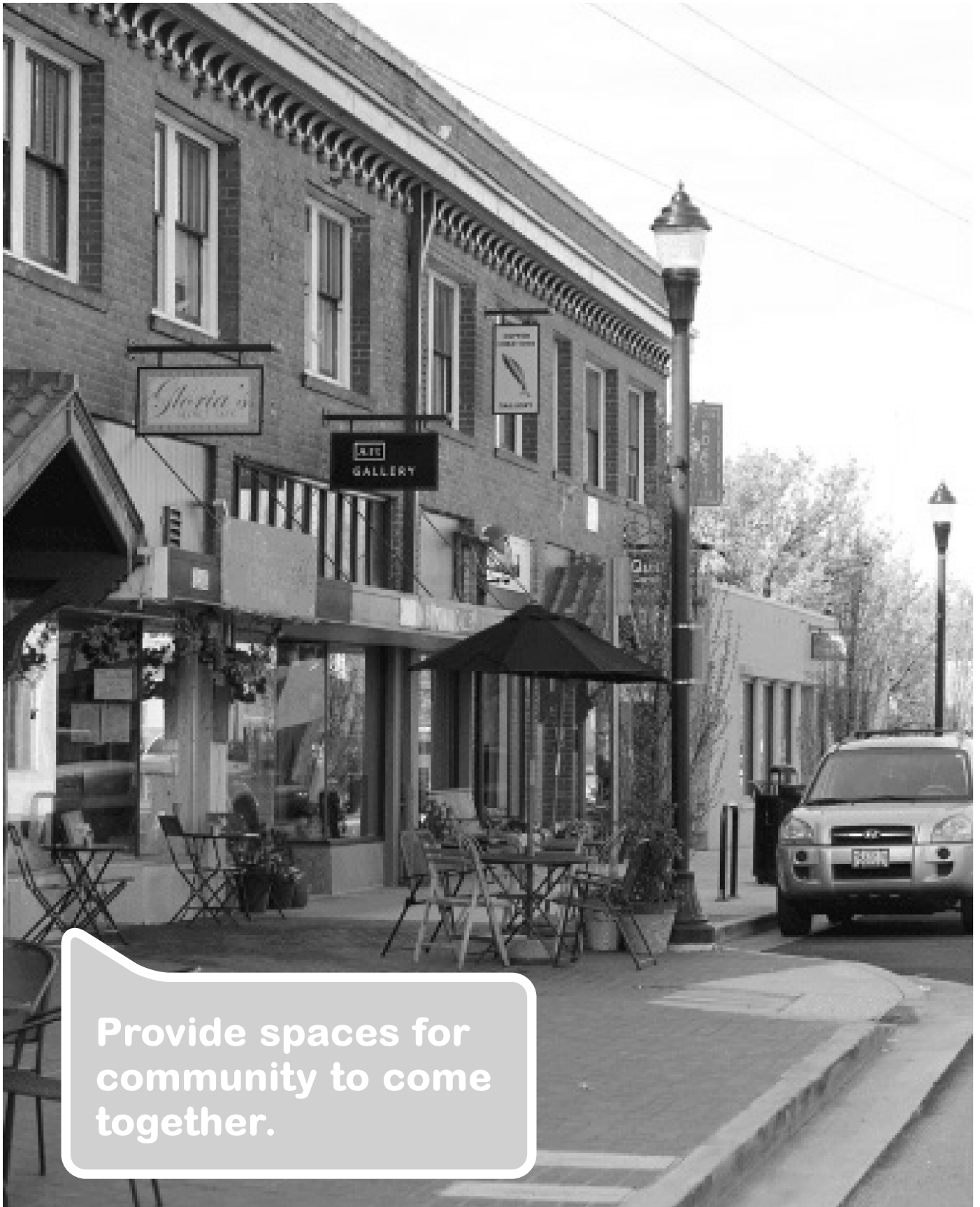
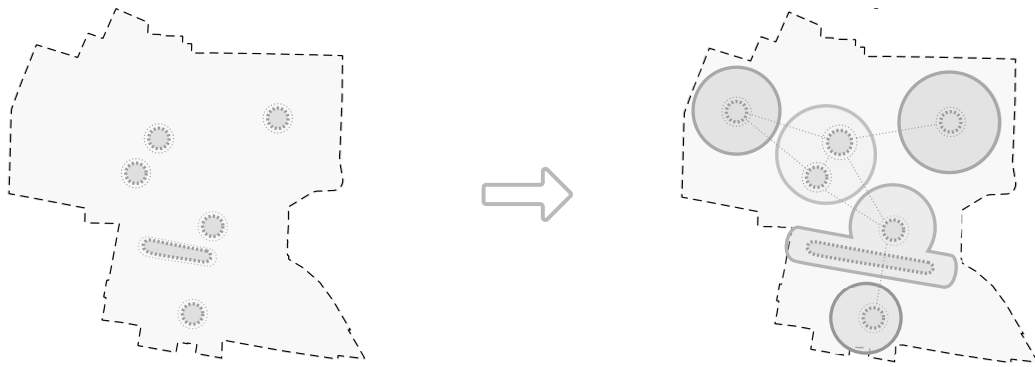


Figure 1.26 Framework Plan Map for Downtown Parks and Open Spaces.



Provide spaces for community to come together.

Shops along SW Broadway St.



CHAPTER 6: Gather Community

Downtown Beaverton’s success – from an economic, social, and quality of life perspective – can be bolstered by parks and open spaces that make people feel welcome, enable them to gather together, foster chance encounters, and meet their basic needs for comfort and accessibility. Vibrant and welcoming parks, open spaces, and public realm will draw more people to Downtown, support employee satisfaction, and encourage visitors to linger and frequent local businesses or events.

1 Locate and design new Downtown parks and open spaces to close gaps in the network of open spaces, provide safe pedestrian access, and align with planned urban growth.

There are three different factors to consider when creating new parks and open spaces Downtown: 1) existing gaps in proximity to a range of experiences; 2) current significant pedestrian barriers; and 3) urban growth patterns. These three factors are not mutually exclusive; instead, THPRD and the City should evaluate opportunities in relationship to each of these in order to achieve park coverage that is safe, accessible, and responsive to where people live and work Downtown.

Under the assumption that urban residents often trade private space for proximity to broader amenities, the figure below uses a five-minute walkshed that may not consider traffic control timing. The figure demonstrates the walkable reach of different categories of parks and open space experiences today (parks, public art, playgrounds and recreation centers, and nature/ecological areas). These gaps should be used as a starting point to consider sites for new parks in the future. Filling park “gaps” will allow for more equitably-distributed access to parks and open spaces across Downtown. The gap analysis also takes into account the physical, pedestrian barriers defined in THPRD’s Parks Functional Plan, including major roads like SW Canyon Road and SW Farmington Road.

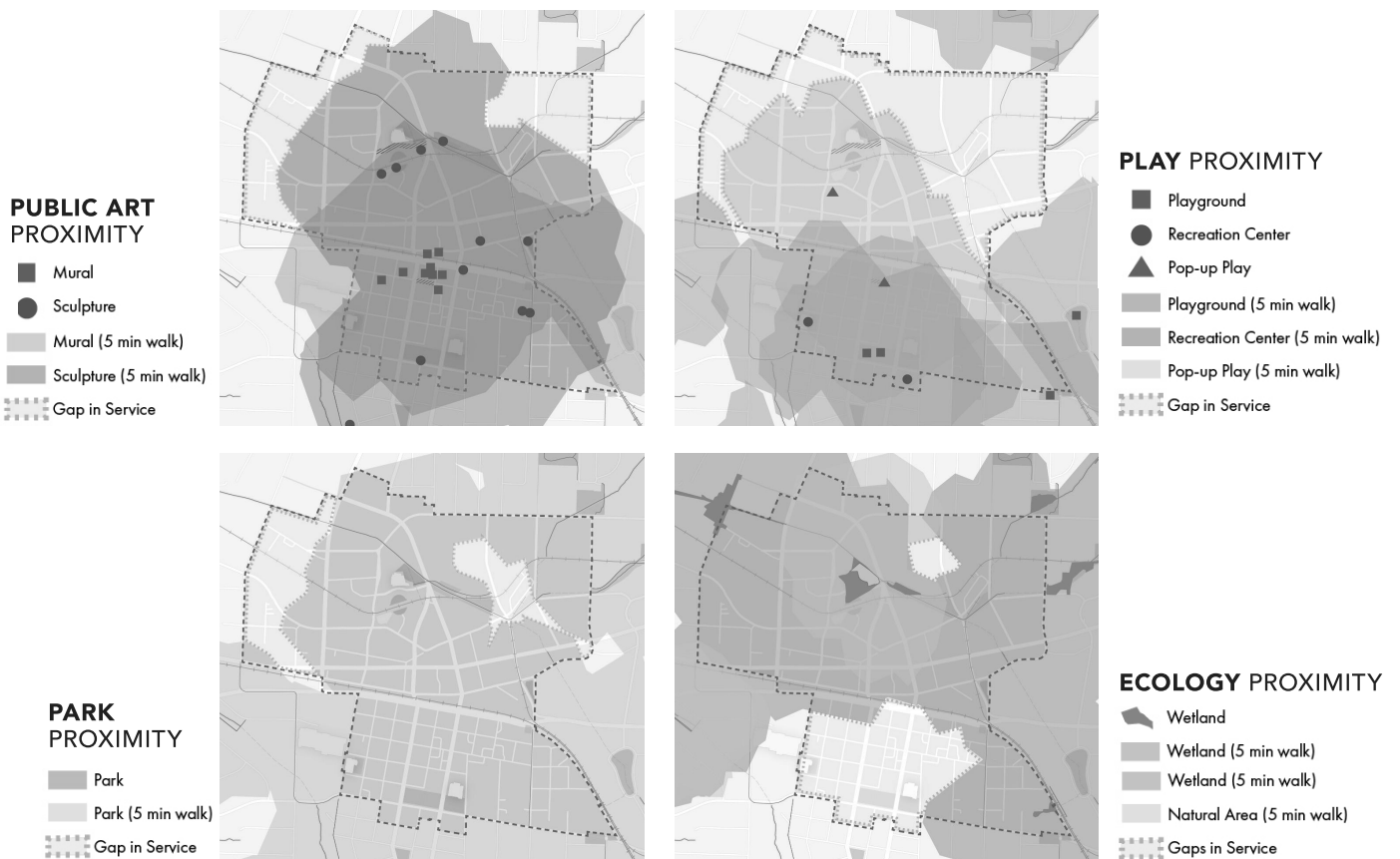


Figure 1.27 Gaps in walkable access to parks and open space amenities.

1.1 Coordinate future parks with redevelopment areas and large employment centers.



The third driver for park and open space investments is a simple one: spaces should be located where people already are today or where new development will create more homes and jobs in the future. Many BURA-owned parcels and other large parcels in the northeast and northwest areas are likely to redevelop toward more urban-oriented uses in the coming years, in response to both market demand and recent plans and policies. These large sites provide opportunities to integrate new parks and open spaces that can help close gaps and overcome barriers, while bringing parks and open spaces close to existing and future downtown populations.

1.2 Focus on filling existing gaps in proximity to amenities in the northeast area and northwest edge of Downtown.



An analysis of park proximity and coverage across Downtown confirms that there are no public open spaces in which to pause and gather in the northwest edge or northeast zones immediately surrounding Downtown's transit center core area north of Farmington Road. While the Crescent Connection provides pause places to experience the creek, there are no play spaces north of Farmington Road. New parks and open spaces in these areas can also function as open space transitions between the Transit Center, Beaverton Central, adjacent neighborhoods, and big-box stores. This gap in open space, play, and public art also includes the confluence of Beaverton's creeks, which sets up a potential opportunity for nature access and play (See Chapter 8).

1.3 Provide safe, walkable park access that does not require crossing pedestrian barriers.



In addition to broad coverage across the area, Downtown today is segmented by five fast-moving transportation corridors that impede pedestrian travel to parks and open spaces: Farmington Road, Canyon Road, Cedar Hills Boulevard, Hall Boulevard, and the downtown railroads. New sites should also be considered that are located within areas of Downtown that currently do not require crossing a major transportation corridor in order to gain park access (See Chapter 9).



BARRIERS TO ACCESS

Figure 1.28 *Pedestrian barriers.*

..... Pedestrian Barriers
(THPRD PFP, Map B)

2 Create open spaces and amenities of an urban character that allow multiple ways to gather.



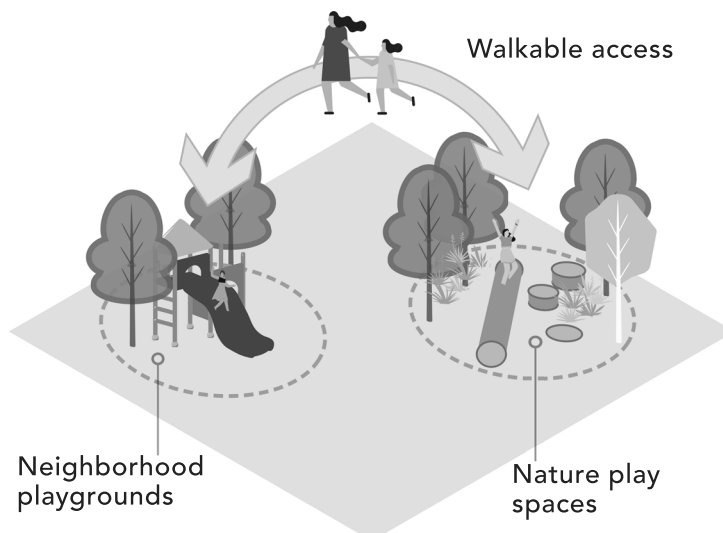
2.1 Design small gathering spaces into the fabric of new Downtown parks and open spaces.

During community engagement sessions, community members noted the importance of dedicated space within parks and open spaces to allow for multiple forms of small group gatherings. This was particularly emphasized in multicultural focus groups. Examples include areas to play table games that are protected from the weather, places for parents and children, and quieter spots for small groups who prefer less active areas. Additional ideas centered around open-air exercise areas for adults, culturally specific amenities, and places to gather throughout all seasons that could accommodate events like children's birthday parties.



2.2 Create distinct play areas that are distributed equitably across Downtown.

Currently, the only formal play spaces in Downtown are City Park and 5th Street Park. There is an open play space on private property at BG's Food Cartel and a designated play space along the 1st Street Dining Commons. The community input expressed a strong desire to see more places for kids and families to enjoy. Additionally, themed play spaces can assist in Downtown placemaking efforts, emphasizing the unique character of each Downtown area, while simultaneously filling gaps in play to ensure 5-10-minute walkable access to play spaces Downtown. Prior to developing new play spaces Downtown, the City and THPRD should perform an inventory of the Downtown play amenities/equipment and the age ranges they serve to ensure that future play spaces serve the needs of children of all ages.





2.3 Explore potential for covered or all-weather recreation spaces (including private partnerships) in the northeast district of Downtown.



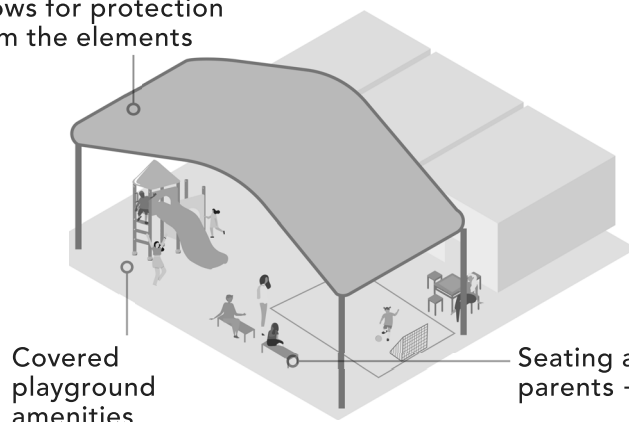
In addition to the characteristic Pacific Northwest rain, residents and visitors of Beaverton are experiencing increasingly warm summers and heat waves. As cited in the Beaverton Climate Action Plan, temperatures are expected to increase by 4-11°F by 2100.⁹ Covered or all-weather recreation spaces can extend the use of spaces to all weather and seasons, increasing comfort and safety, and the City and THPRD can work together to provide incentives for establishing all-weather recreation spaces. These types of spaces received a lot of positive feedback during community engagement showing a high demand for sheltered public areas downtown. The northeast district of Downtown presents an exciting opportunity for such spaces (publicly or privately owned and accessible to all), as this zone is connected to public transit and trails.



2.4 Develop new parks and open spaces with specific amenities that help achieve the City’s redevelopment goal for an active and livable downtown.

There is – and should be – a link between a park’s program and the land uses and densities of development surrounding it. In planning for new parks, the City and THPRD should work to ensure that the type of parks and open spaces that are implemented coordinate with the planned uses, density, and program of nearby redevelopment projects. This may take the form of specific amenities and experiences that best coordinate to different mixes of uses, with a specific sensitivity to current and future land use and zoning.

Covered space allows for protection from the elements



Covered playground amenities

Seating areas for parents + caretakers

3 Continue to enhance and support 1st Street and SW Broadway as vibrant, pedestrian-friendly streets.



3.1 Consider seasonal or permanent public outdoor dining and gathering spaces in the vicinity of 1st Street and potential partnerships for long-term operational sustainability.

Initially conceived of as a temporary street activation proposal in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 1st Street Dining Commons street closure between SW Watson Avenue and SW Washington Avenue has become a popular Downtown destination. In a recent survey distributed by BURA on the Future of the Commons, 85% of respondents said that they would like the Commons to stay as a permanent installation. Residents and visitors highlighted its success as an economic activator and social hub for community members of all ages, and demonstrated a deep interest in making the Dining Commons a more permanent amenity in Beaverton's Downtown.



3.2 Introduce colorful pedestrian amenities and beautification elements along the full extent of 1st Street in Downtown.

Simple site and furnishing improvements along the extent of 1st Street can work to further reinforce 1st Street in Old Town Beaverton as a distinct area that draws people for its variety of food and beverage options. To capitalize on 1st Street's active and lively ground floor experience, future pedestrian amenities and site furnishings can be colorful and character-defining, drawing inspiration from the murals along 1st Street and supporting input heard from the community. As the 1st Street Commons planning effort is underway, it will be critical to ensure efforts are aligned to create a space that both supports Downtown restaurants and serves as potential urban park space that can accommodate multiple scales of activation, from pop-up to larger events.



The 1st Street Dining Commons became a popular community gathering hub during the pandemic.

4 Collaborate with developers to provide accessible parks and open space.



4.1 Consider changes to the City Development Code that incentivize new development to include public open space.



The City's Downtown design guidelines currently include open space requirements for new residential and mixed-use development. These guidelines outline strategies such as preserving active street frontages along active streets, ensuring visibility, integrating infill development and adaptive reuse to create new public open spaces, activating surface parking with outdoor dining or gathering areas, and creating intersection enhancements that promote walkability. These private development guidelines should be leveraged when possible to help create more successful parks and open spaces with active edges and vibrant street life around them.

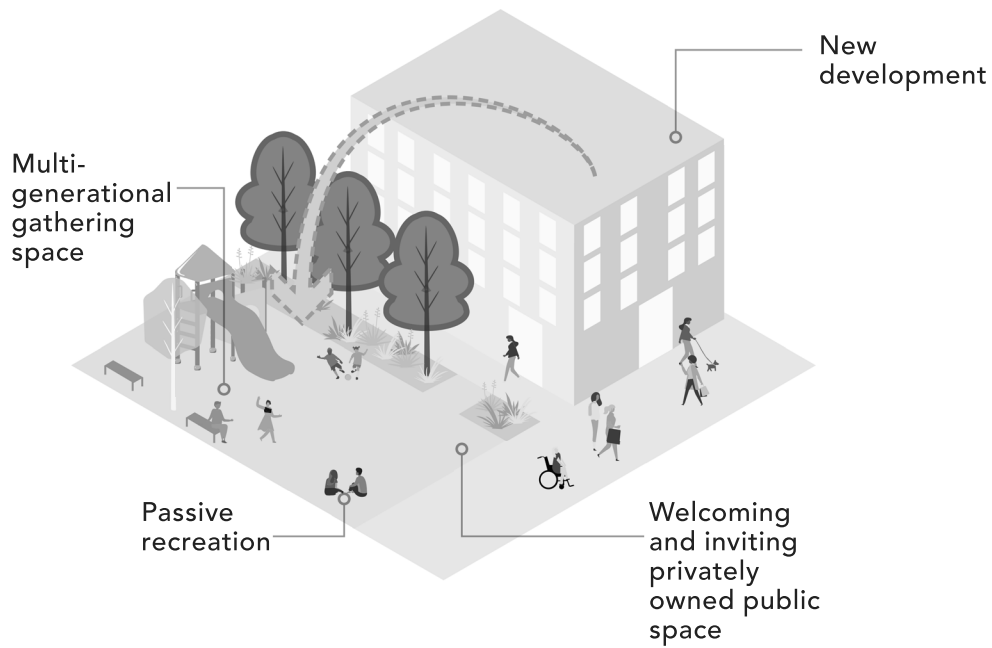
As redevelopment continues in Downtown, working in partnership with developers will be important to create more public open spaces in association with areas of increased density, particularly in areas that contain gaps in these downtown amenities. An example of this is the small, privately-owned plaza between Lascala Food Hall and the Barcelona Apartments along Lombard Avenue. The public open space between a food and beverage ground floor use and a residential building creates a mixed-use pocket park where people can gather and interact. This type of public space creates benefits for both the private development and broader community, as researched by the Urban Land Institute in their 2018 report "The Case for Open Space: Why the Real Estate Industry Should Invest in Parks and Open Spaces." The ULI report notes that "open space and parks as part of a development project creates a win-win scenario for the community and the developer's return on investment. Oftentimes, well-used gathering spaces can be added in small or underutilized project areas and can be relatively inexpensive in the overall project context." Developer education, conversation, and coordination will be important to promote the integration of open space into new developments.

As Downtown continues to evolve, the City and THPRD can work together to make public-private open space partnerships desirable for developers and ensure that the outcomes benefit the community. Clear expectations around signage, maintenance responsibilities, programming, access, and design are critical to successful partnerships and to spaces that are truly shared by public and private users.



4.2 Use THPRD's System Development Charge (SDC) incentive program to increase the number of privately provided public spaces.

THPRD's SDC incentive program offers developers a waiver of SDCs in exchange for public spaces built by that developer. The spaces must be built to THPRD's standards and ownership turned over to THPRD. Together with the City, THPRD will work together to promote the SDC incentive program to potential developers and monitor its effectiveness within the downtown context.



Proposed Downtown Land Acquisition Framework

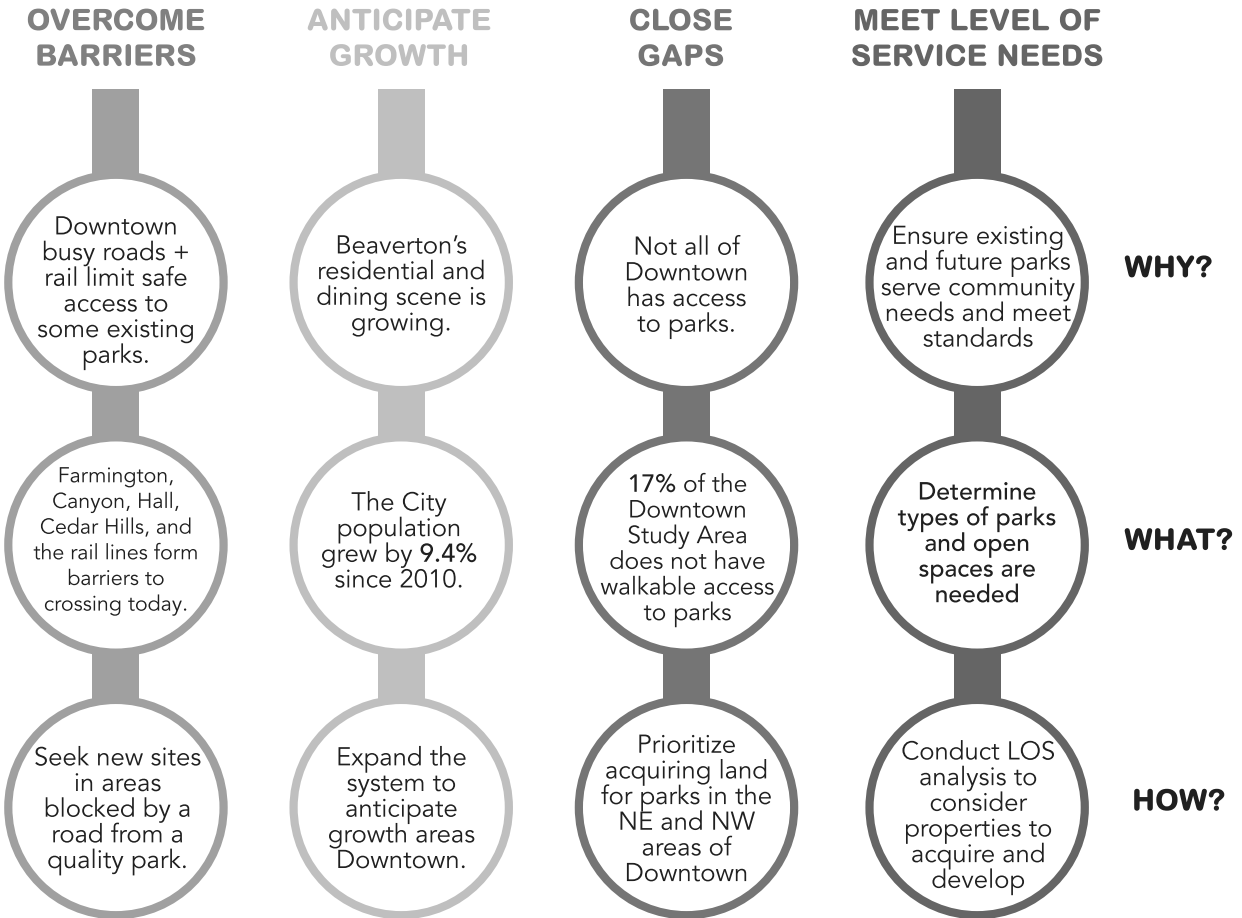


Figure 1.29 A proposed Land Acquisition Strategy should be multi-dimensional, aiming to close gaps, anticipate growth, overcome barriers, and meet level of service needs.

Downtown Land Acquisition Framework

To reach the City and THPRD's aspiration for a more equitable and accessible downtown park and open space system, a future downtown land acquisition strategy should address four goals: overcoming barriers, anticipating growth, closing existing gaps, and meeting THPRD's service levels to help determine type and size of park/open space. THPRD and the City should collaborate to identify appropriate sites for land acquisition. A future downtown strategy should complement, but

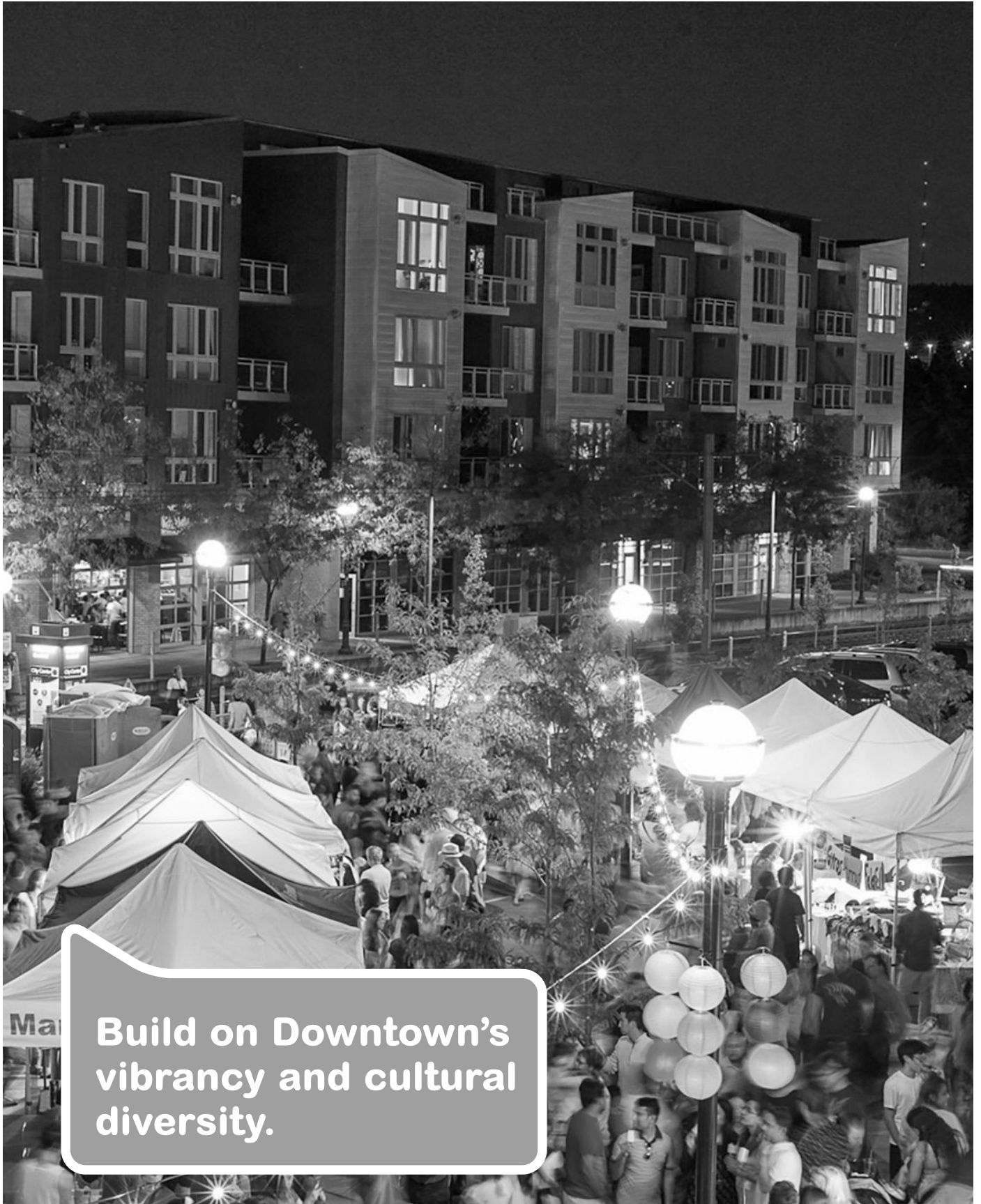
not supersede THPRD's existing land acquisition strategy, tailoring it to the unique goals for Downtown.

These goals can work alongside specific criteria for siting new parks, outlined in the checklist on the next page. This checklist reflects feedback from the public as well as City and THPRD staff and consists of characteristics that would be desired for new park and open space sites the City and THPRD are considering acquiring.

Priority Characteristics for Potential Sites: Summary Checklist

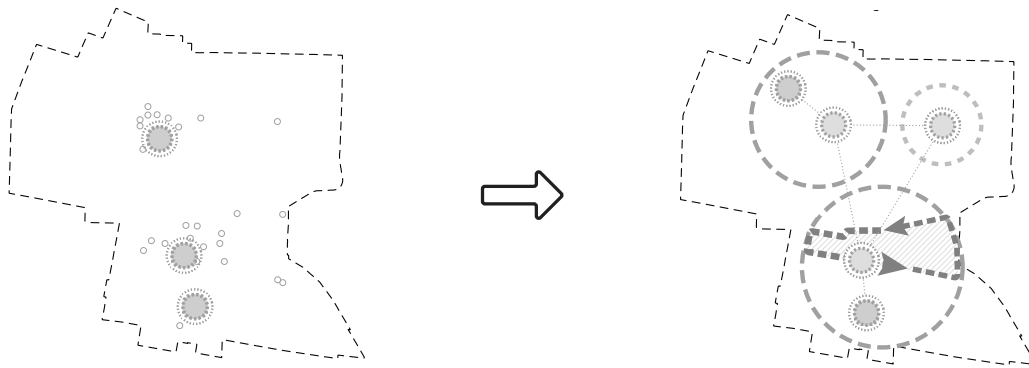
The following checklist outlines characteristics that would be priorities when acquiring new parks or open spaces:

- Creates an opportunity to improve park access/
crossing
- Avoids adjacencies with major transportation
barriers
- Supports downtown employer hubs
- Coordinates with redevelopment activities
- Addresses park deficit area
- Is proximate to trails/multi-modal connections
- Provides creek access or visibility



**Build on Downtown's
vibrancy and cultural
diversity.**

Beaverton Night Market at the Round, City of Beaverton.



CHAPTER 7: Welcome & Celebrate

As the population of Downtown Beaverton grows and diversifies, so too must its network of public open spaces. Public art can play a large role in lending local identity and culture to parks and open spaces by contributing to neighborhood character and reinforcing a sense of belonging for all. During community engagement, multiple people highlighted the need for day-to-day cultural visibility through art and programming. Suggestions included an AAPI-specific farmer's market; BIPOC-led events and programming; and parks that allow for arts, crafts, dance, food and music, resembling programming and character of parks found in Mexico City.

Art, identity and cultural expression can inform how Beaverton's Downtown parks and open spaces are designed. Beaverton already has an extensive inventory of public art. Currently in Downtown, there are discrete moments of public art, including murals, sculptures, and performance and event spaces. Prioritizing the expansion of public art, events, and performance spaces alongside the creation of parks and open spaces will allow these spaces to reflect the cultural vitality and diversity of the Beaverton community, while making these places more vibrant and accessible for all.

Festival Feature: Ten Tiny Dances

Ten Tiny Dances is an innovative dance performance concept that originated in Portland, Oregon in 2002 which presents the work of exemplary contemporary and traditional choreographers. The concept involves creating ten “stages” that are only four feet by four feet in size and placing them in unexpected locations, such as a bus stop, a park bench, or a tree stump. The stages are then used as performance spaces for ten different dance artists or groups, who each perform a short piece of choreography on their tiny stage. The tension of performing within the limited space is matched with a sense of intimacy offering an experience shared by dancers and audience alike.

This performance event has been produced in Beaverton for over 13 years and is always hosted the weekend after the 4th of July holiday. The event engages and invites the community to experience art in public places by bringing an element of surprise, discovery and playfulness while featuring the artistic and cultural diversity of Beaverton. Every year, in keeping with the original spirit of this performance series, the City considers different sites, contexts and geographic representation to keep the format evolving while activating spaces across the city equitably.



Credit: Ten Tiny Dances, THPRD.

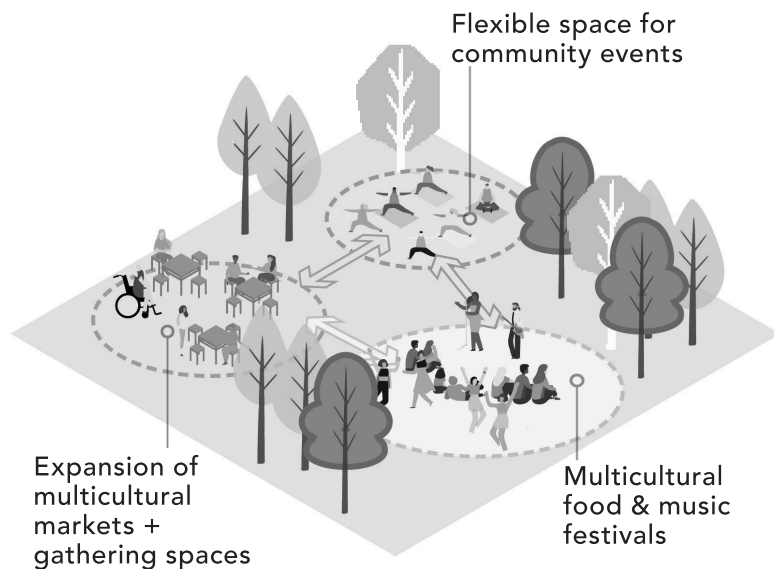
5 Support programming and design for multicultural, family-oriented events of varying scales throughout Downtown.



5.1 Expand on the success of the existing Farmer’s Market and Night Market to develop more multicultural and multigenerational festival experiences that are co-produced with community organizations and local non-profits.

Community feedback identified the opportunity to host specific events and markets Downtown that celebrate individual cultures, and incorporate art, crafts, dance, food, music, and family-oriented activities.

These activities are a great opportunity to partner with vendors, non-profits, and community-based organizations to co-produce events, shifting leadership opportunities to community advocates. These partnerships can establish new relationships between the agencies and local leaders, where outside groups can collaborate to program City and THPRD spaces with experiences that are representative and inclusive of community members of all ages and cultural backgrounds.



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Boston Public Library (BPL) Outdoor Wifi Zones

During the COVID-19 pandemic, it became clear how many Boston residents depended on the BPL's resources to access the internet. Faced with these challenges, BPL and the Mayor's Office of New Urban Mechanics (MONUM) installed 14 outdoor wifi zones at each library, allowing visitors to access wifi even though the BPL was closed.

Each of the outdoor zones was based on a prototype design that was adapted to varying conditions at each of the BPL sites. The zones were outfitted with outdoor work stations, flexible furnishings, lighting, signage, winterization treatments, and other amenities to make these spaces more accessible for users throughout the year. Each zone had to respect that it would require no additional staff to operate, that materials would be durable and weather-resistant, and that the setup and orientation of activated zones would respond to programming needs of BPL staff and various community groups.



Credit: Boston Public Library and Culture House

6 Make parks more welcoming, accessible, and inclusive by building comfort, basic needs, and places to rest into the fabric of Downtown.



6.1 Integrate more wifi hotspots and charging stations across Downtown's parks and open spaces.



The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the digital divide that exists across the country as internet and technology access became increasingly important for people's school, work, and social lives. In Beaverton, 91% of households have access to broadband internet at home.¹⁰ During the pandemic, the Beaverton School District worked to close the gap for students during distance learning. Beyond home access, as people move through their daily lives, access to technology in public spaces is increasingly important to create places where people can stay, work, gather, recharge, and meet their daily needs. Many cities have worked to pilot integrating more wifi and technology access into the city infrastructure. Downtown Beaverton can test this throughout its downtown through a variety of partnerships and pilots:

- Partner with technology companies, wifi providers, and others to provide free access to wireless internet at city anchors, like the Round, City Park, and Trimet Station as well as in future Downtown parks and open spaces.
- Develop a pilot project creating flexible outdoor classrooms or work spaces that provide outdoor working environments with seating, wireless, charging stations, and shelter.

6.2 Create a unified standard of furnishings and site amenities for Downtown Beaverton's parks and open spaces that includes more benches, water stations, and restrooms.

Throughout Downtown, a variety of benches, waste and recycling receptacles, and site furnishings have been deployed in parks and plazas, along streets, and on paths and trails. During community engagement, there was also feedback regarding the need for more access to restrooms in parks and open spaces. Restrooms should be considered as an amenity for downtown parks and open spaces. The City and THPRD should inventory these elements and work together to establish guidelines for consistency in appearance and maintenance across the downtown parks and open spaces, as well as identify moments where standards can be deviated from for a specific design or functional reason.



6.3 Ensure all Downtown parks and open spaces are designed and maintained for universal accessibility and inclusive programming.

Community feedback noted the need for Downtown spaces to be designed to mirror innovations in other THPRD park spaces that support inclusion from a sensory perspective, as well as physical and language accessibility. As an example, artificial grass can be used in spaces where green space is desired, yet there is still a need for maintaining accessible ground coverage.



Inclusive playground at Mountain View Champions Park, THPRD

7 Expand and improve permanent event infrastructure to support a wide range of public programs Downtown.



7.1 Adapt existing event spaces to better support event use.

Today, Beaverton uses flexible hardscaped spaces such as the Library parking lot, the Round, and The Patricia Reser Center for the Arts, among others, to host events like the Farmer's Market and Night Market. These flexible spaces do double duty at different times of the day and week. As events and programming grow, the City and THPRD should seek to renovate these spaces for more efficiency, including ensuring event spaces are universally accessible, have access to sufficient public parking, include nearby related amenities (such as play spaces, restrooms and seating), and have the ability to grow capacity needed for events. Efficient space use will support operating staff and improve the event's ability to generate revenue through vendors, greater attendance or other measures. The City and THPRD should also identify existing similar multi-use spaces across Downtown (flexible parking lots or low traffic streets) that can host additional pop-up events on occasion to relieve pressure from these two main spaces.



7.2 Collaborate to cross-promote/-support events and open spaces in Downtown.

The City and THPRD could coordinate online parks and open space information, regulations, marketing and reservations. Together, the agencies could create a shared, co-marketed events calendar to track upcoming events online and market them through the City's and THPRD's social media.

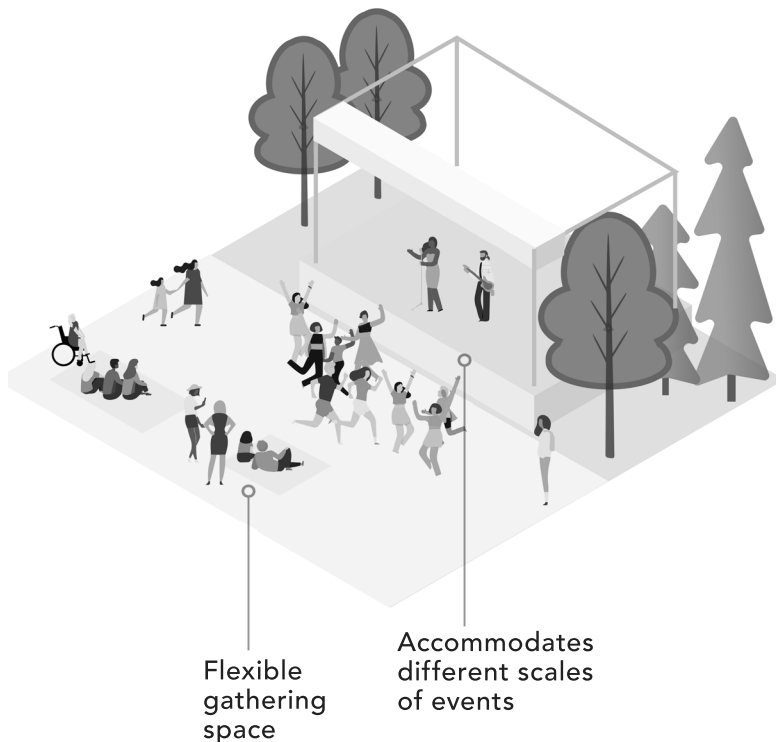


7.3 Locate new events near parking, transit, and appropriate amenities.



New, large events should be located in parks and open space near available parking and transit. Likewise, future permanent event spaces should be located near permanent parking spaces, such as the Beaverton Central District Garage and Transit Center. (Parking should not need to be dedicated to a park site in Downtown, but should be available for public sharing nearby).

Additionally, events should be located near necessary infrastructure and amenities such as sufficient electrical service to support lighting, sound, restrooms and food vendors. Event spaces should prioritize ADA access and maintain accessible ground surfaces. Certain events could benefit from a permanently covered space to protect from the elements.



8 Reduce barriers to pop-up activation and short-term parks and open space projects.



8.1 Work to reduce regulatory barriers to create interim park and open space uses to activate underutilized lots.



At present, temporary activation of underutilized spaces are subject to the same code and permitting requirements as other long-term development projects. This creates a high cost and extended approval timeline for activation projects that will have a much shorter lifespan than full-scale development. The City should develop a streamlined set of requirements applicable to projects that will exist only for short-term periods. The City should evaluate code requirements to promote parks and open space activation for both short-term (under 90 days) and mid-term durations (less than 10 years).

Current City codes allow for short duration activities up to 90 days to occur, defining the duration of time for pop up vs short term projects. The City and other regulatory agencies, such as Clean Water Services (CWS) and the County Health Department, should work together to unlock potential for temporary activation of underutilized lots.



8.2 Consider programming opportunities during site design to ensure that existing and future parks and open spaces have adequate infrastructure and amenities for short-/mid-term activation by community groups.



Community engagement should continue to be an important step in future parks and open space improvements to make spaces successful community event hubs. Community members and organizations, as well as operational staff, should continue to be engaged during the design of parks and open spaces to ensure that park amenities, layout, and infrastructure support programming and events.

Existing Downtown Public Art and Proposed Focus Areas



Figure 1.30 Currently in Downtown there are a range of public art types, from sculptures, to murals, to pop-up event spaces.

Talking Walls, THPRD

The Talking Walls program has become an engaging, community-directed initiative led by THPRD. A Talking Wall is a form of expression and visual storytelling about social and culturally relevant themes, usually represented as a mural on designated walls in THPRD parks.

This program aimed to provide a platform for local artists to showcase their work while also deterring graffiti in public parks. The program has been successful in reducing incidents of vandalism and graffiti in THPRD parks, while also adding a new dimension of community engagement and artistic expression to the parks.



Credit: Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District (THPRD)

9 Celebrate Downtown Beaverton's cultural diversity by expanding art in public places, including creative placemaking initiatives, site-specific artworks (both temporary and permanent), performances, and experiences.



9.1 Expand murals Downtown, especially around Broadway and 1st Street, and create a Downtown mural walk or interactive public art tour.

The historic building character and concentration of murals around Broadway and 1st Street is an opportunity to create a unique destination that bridges the Broadway and Old Town areas (Figure 1.30). In contrast to the character of performance art and interactive sculptures at the Round and the Patricia Reser Center for the Arts, the area around Broadway and 1st Street represents Beaverton's historic core, where murals can be integrated with active street life. Murals also create opportunities to partner with multicultural organizations and express Beaverton's diversity values within the downtown environment. As an example, THPRD's "Talking Walls" program collaborated with youth partners to implement public art at existing THPRD parks as a way to express solidarity among the Beaverton community for racial justice. The program also created opportunities for BIPOC mentorship.

Given that Downtown's development density will make it difficult to locate large, community-scale parks, murals can also help to multiply the visual impact of a small space by creating vertical visual interest around a pocket park or mini-plaza. They also can be applied to ground surfaces to activate the pedestrian zone in the form of temporary murals/painted applications, sculptural applications, creative lighting, infographics, and wayfinding. Beaverton can encourage residents and visitors to explore Downtown with a mural walk or ride.



9.2 Incorporate artistic elements that enhance accessibility and improve orientation (universal access or multi-language).



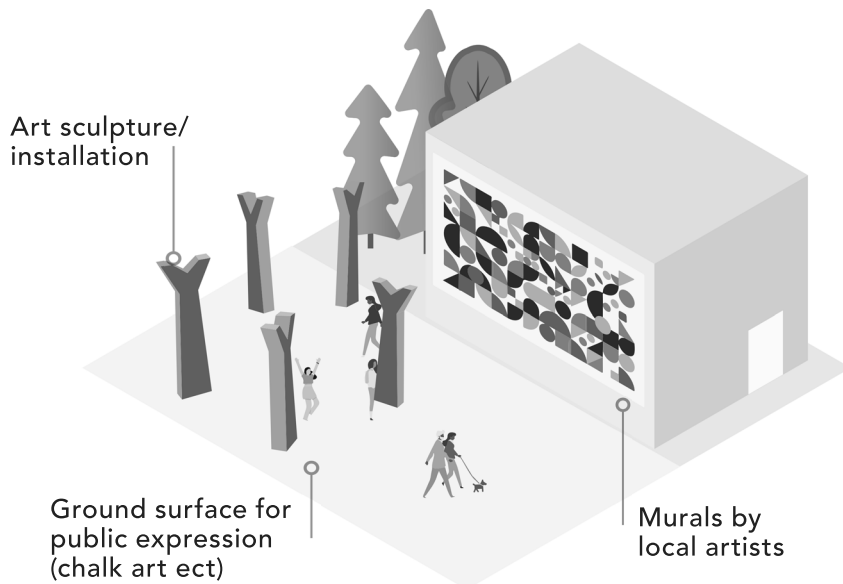
Community engagement discussions emphasized the importance of providing interpretative signage and wayfinding in multiple languages to welcome, include, and highlight Beaverton’s many cultures. The City of Beaverton and THPRD should provide consistent design standards for Downtown park furnishings, signage, and flexible amenities that are consistently updated, expanded, and implemented throughout Downtown parks and open spaces. These elements should incorporate clear, simplified signage that identifies any hours of use, operating guidelines, and ownership.



9.3 Incentivize and encourage private property owners and developers to incorporate art in publicly-accessible open spaces.

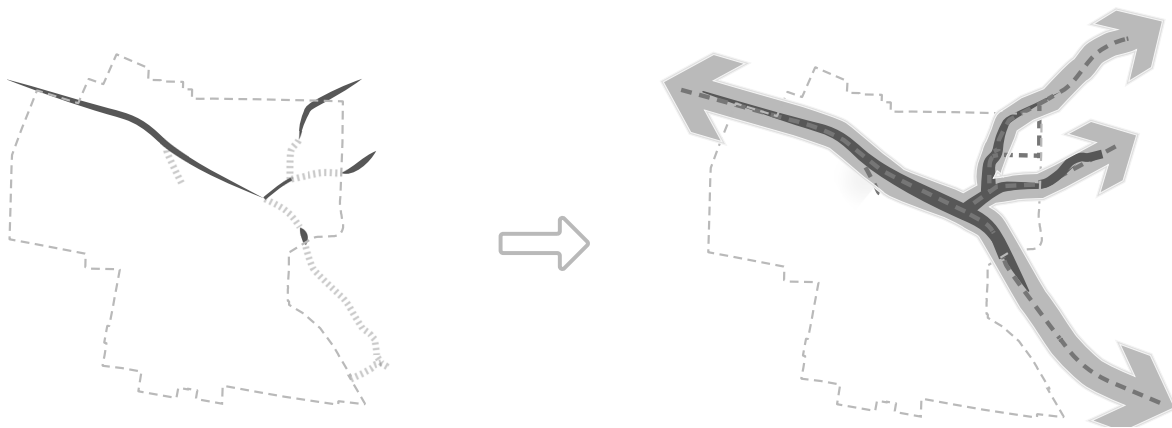


Encourage private owners to incorporate and maintain public art, pop-up spaces, pocket parks, and areas set up with access to necessary amenities (electrical, amplified sound, covered areas) – especially for increasing access to performance and rehearsal spaces.





Amplify Beaverton's natural qualities in its Downtown parks and open spaces.



CHAPTER 8: Reflect & Protect Nature

Through their community input, the Beaverton community expressed appreciation for the region’s natural setting. Community members requested Downtown parks and open spaces that fully integrate nature; provide shade; and create opportunities for activities such as nature play, bird watching, nature education, and access to water.

The following recommendations draw from the priorities of community members heard during this process. Overall, residents want to appreciate

nature in Downtown even amid its urban character. They hope to find nature education opportunities and interpretation in Downtown parks and open spaces, and to emphasize access to water—being able to both physically and visually access Beaverton creeks. To bring these aspirations to life, future parks and open space investments should work toward a long-term vision of enhanced access to nature, with integrated “pause places” along the creek system that allow opportunities to stop and experience Beaverton’s natural resources.

Westmoreland Park Nature Based Play Area

The Westmoreland Nature-Based Play Area is a pilot project for Portland Parks and Recreation with extensive outreach built into the design process. It replaced an outdated playground with a nature-based play environment and focused on developing a context-sensitive design that would reference the specific characteristics of the site and its surrounding community.

Sustainable features include water conservation, drought-tolerant planting design, efficient irrigation, native or native-adaptive plant material, sustainable stormwater management, incorporation of salvaged concrete repurposed for water play elements and many salvaged logs for climbing features and custom benches.



Credit: Greenworks -
Westmoreland Park Nature
Based Play

10 Integrate nature into Downtown parks and plazas where it can thrive and connect the park or plaza's purpose.



10.1 Introduce nature play experiences to Downtown playgrounds.

Beyond City Park, there is the potential to bring more natural experiences into a future park space north of Farmington that would be accessible to northern neighborhoods and destinations near the Beaverton TriMet destinations near Downtown Beaverton's light rail stations and the Round. Drawing from feedback heard during public engagement, community members advocated for nature play in Downtown, and expressed how important it is for children to have opportunities to connect with nature. For example, Westmoreland Park in Portland offers an exciting, nature-based play experience to connect children to their surrounding environments. Depending on the specific location of the park and what land uses are nearby, this nature play space could be sited together with future creek access or near new development sites.



10.2 Celebrate and protect the unique Ponderosa pine stand in City Park.

City Park's Ponderosa pine stand of trees is a unique feature that allows park users to feel as though they are stepping into nature and an environment that is distinctive and of the region. Likewise, the park itself serves as a true community center for the city. Through future reinvestment, City Park's play area has the potential to be renovated into a signature nature play space for the community that celebrates and educates about the region's natural setting and acknowledges the park's unique features. Environmental education components can be built into the park and offer a potential programming partnership with the nearby Beaverton Library.



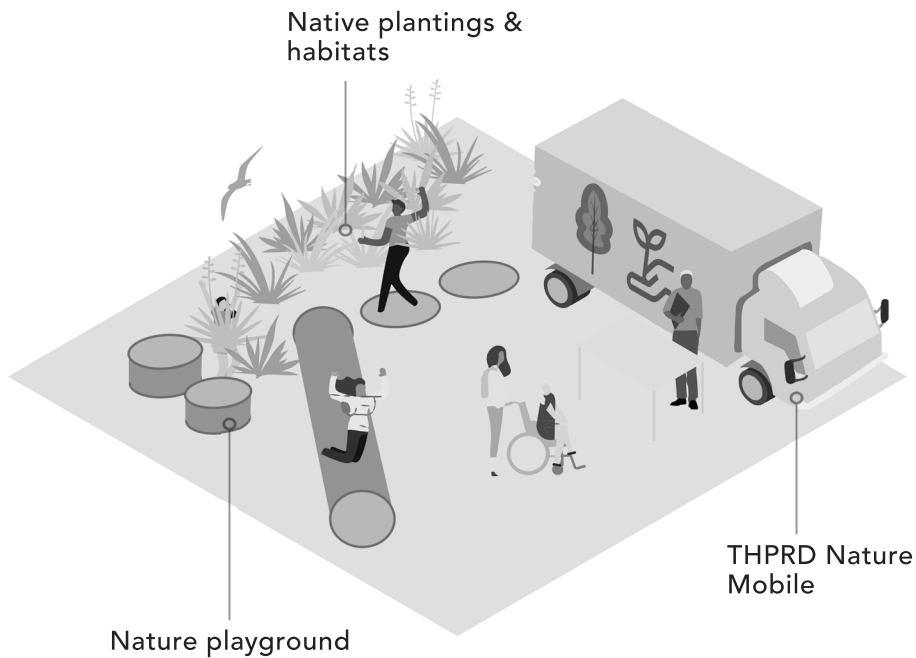
10.3 Continue to bring the THPRD Nature Mobile to City Park and expand opportunities to bring it to sites north of Farmington Road.

THPRD has a successful programming initiative to bring events to different outdoor areas of the region with its mobile recreation programs. As redevelopment occurs on key sites north of Farmington, increasing Downtown residences, Downtown destinations should be identified to expand this service to these current and future neighborhoods. This could occur in the plazas at the Round, Reser Plaza, or at a future park or plaza that is designed in consultation with program staff to ensure the site can accommodate space needs of the pop-up vehicle and education team.



10.4 Prioritize natural planting palettes that reduce maintenance needs and create connections to regional ecology.

While Downtown park spaces often integrate design choices (such as lawns or hardscaped plazas) that are compatible with urban settings, Beaverton community members expressed a clear desire for the look and feel of their Downtown parks to visually express a connection to nature. Community feedback indicated a preference for a diversity of native plant species that aid pollinators, nature trails with lots of trees that provide shade, and less large areas of mowed lawn. While civic plazas and open lawn areas may remain important to facilitate specific uses in certain areas, the City and THPRD should evaluate park and open space designs to incorporate more natural planting, particularly along edges and in remnant areas. In addition to prioritizing natural plantings, the City and THPRD should work together to strengthen successful Downtown parks and open spaces, like City Park, by addressing stormwater issues that make public areas unusable.



Tryon Creek Cultural Ecology Program

Friends of Tryon Creek (FOTC) is collaborating with the Native American Youth And (NAYA) Family Center and the Grand Ronde Cultural Lifeways Community.

The program focuses on environmental education through a cultural lens, grounded in the traditions of local tribes from the Pacific Northwest. It is led by Native American youth. The program includes a mix of field trips to the Tryon Creek State Natural Area as well as classroom lectures focused on indigenous cultural and ecological history, providing learning opportunities for students from NAYA's Early College Academy and other schools in the Portland area.



Credit: Friends of Tryon Creek

11 Raise community awareness of Beaverton's creeks and natural systems.



11.1 Coordinate with the recommendations of the future Downtown Stormwater Strategy to integrate environmental education and/or public access in combination with stormwater projects.

The City of Beaverton is undertaking a Downtown Sub Basin Strategy to explore stormwater management at a system-wide scale for the Downtown area. When recommendations are available, it is likely that larger areas may be identified for stormwater management projects. These future projects should be designed in collaboration with THPRD and the City Community Development Department to support both stormwater needs and public desires for access to natural areas. Environmental education, paths/wetland boardwalks and overlooks should be integrated, building on precedents in other THPRD parks outside of Downtown.



11.2 Create moments for nature education and awareness of indigenous lands and practices through interpretation.



Green spaces, such as trails, pocket parks, or pause places, along or near Beaverton's creeks introduce a key opportunity for outdoor learning. These are places to engage youth and introduce them to local nature and ecology to foster a culture of land stewardship and sustainability. Interpretative signage along trails and pause places can provide a narrative for environmental histories, cultural landscapes, or indigenous stewardship practices that tell important stories of the region.

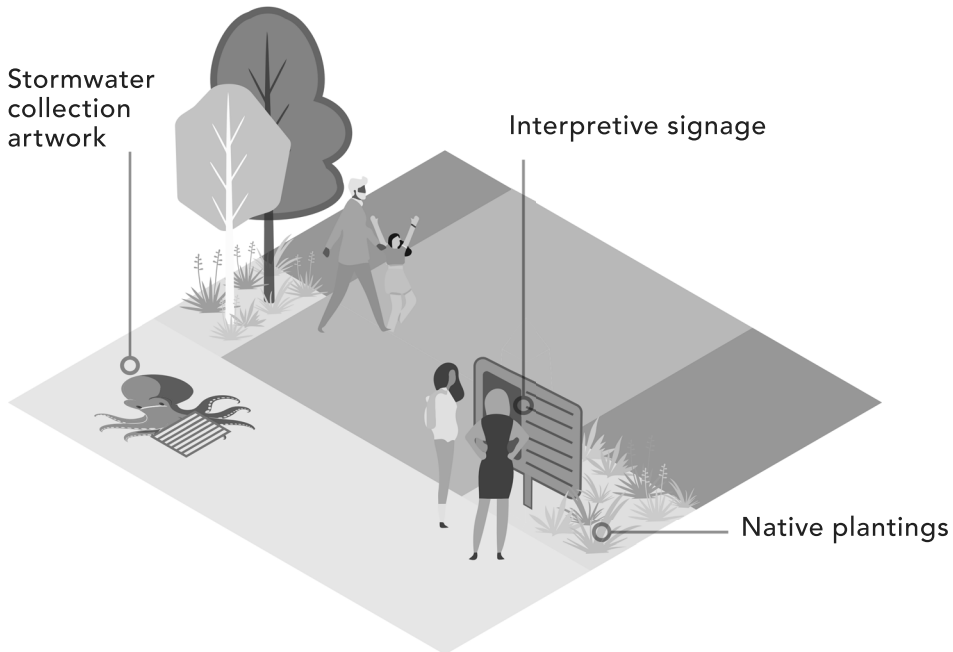
THPRD has already been working to expand after school nature programming, such as with the Nature Experiences and Workforce Training (NEWT) program that includes afterschool and weekend activities at four Beaverton School District schools and a summer youth development program to recruit, train, and employ high school-age Latino students. As THPRD and the City continue to pursue partnerships, they should explore opportunities that focus on community engagement and hands-on landscape restoration through an indigenous perspective.



11.3 Use art, creative signage, and other means to educate and connect people with their environment.

Downtown Beaverton has an ongoing art program that ranges from murals around Broadway to interactive art near the Round and the Reser (more information included in Chapter 7: Welcome and Celebrate). Future art pieces should also be used to inform and connect people to the natural environment. Ideas for art engagement include:

- Emphasize the Downtown creeks through installations and signage at primary creek access points.
- Make stormwater infrastructure visible through planters stormwater collection artwork, hatch covers, tree well covers, utility boxes, and other integrated artist-designed infrastructure elements.
- Use art to connect people with nature.



Existing and Potential Downtown Access to Nature

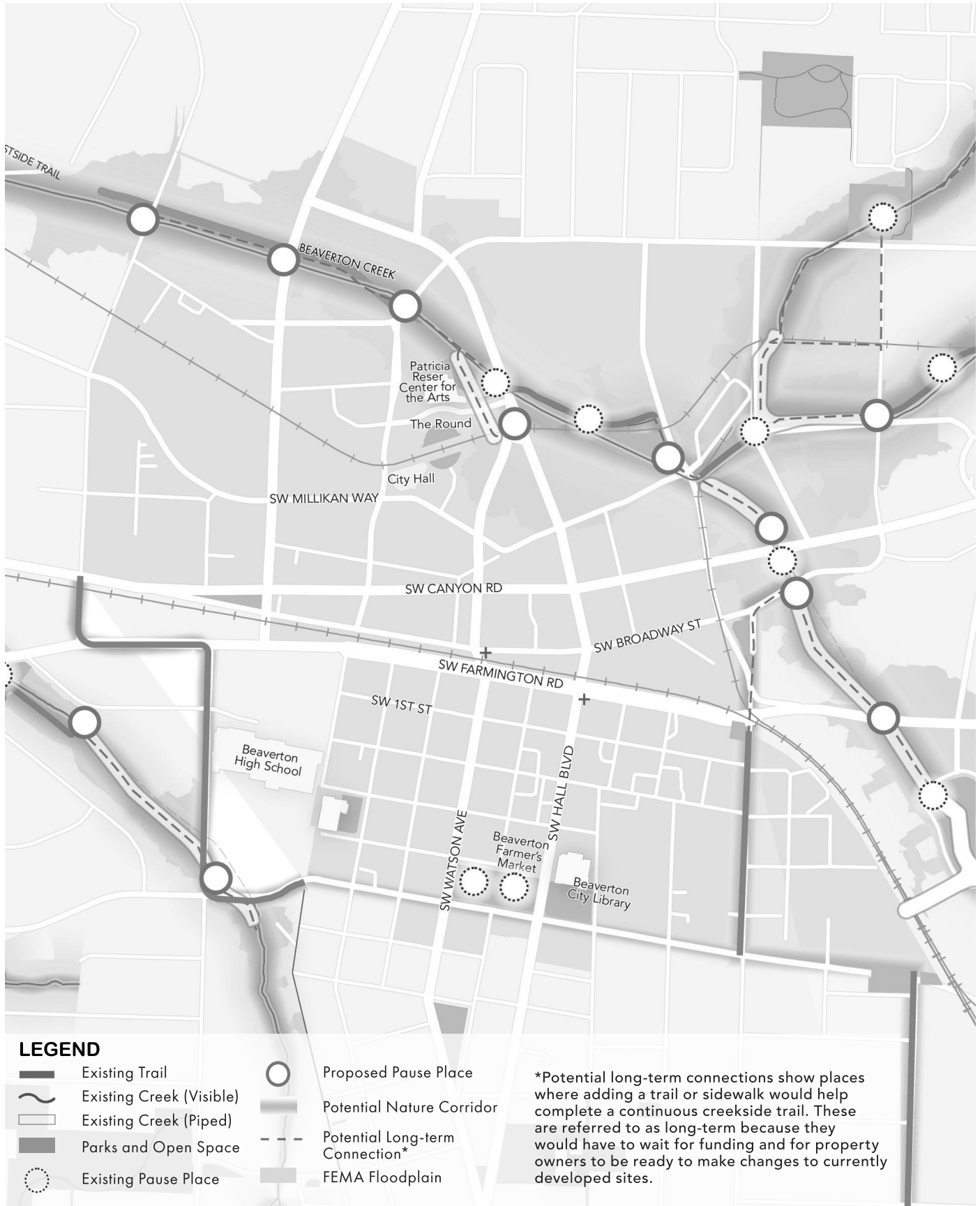


Figure 1.31 There is a lot of potential for experiencing Downtown Beaverton's natural systems.

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The Boston Heat Resilience Plan (The Heat Plan)

The Heat Plan presents twenty-six strategies to improve heat conditions under two categories: relief during heat waves and longer-term cooling of communities, and focuses on five of the city's hottest neighborhoods: Chinatown, Dorchester, East Boston, Mattapan, and Roxbury.

Strategies that were employed include creating cooling centers in areas with high concentrations of vulnerable populations, expanding urban tree canopy, increasing shade in public spaces through the use of shade structures, and installing mist and spray systems that help lower temperature and provide relief.



Credit: Heat Resilience Solutions for Boston

12 Expand shade, covered shelters, and water access in Downtown parks and open spaces.



12.1 Prioritize expanding tree canopy in parks and streets in areas with high amounts of impervious surface and low existing canopy to meet climate goals and lower heat island effects.

The Beaverton Climate Action Plan (BCAP) includes recommendations for Natural Systems that align well with Downtown parks and open space investments. In particular, the BCAP recommends continued attention to the urban canopy and tree strategy, including development of a heat island map to identify areas of vulnerability prioritization/geographic focus. Downtowns, with greater areas of development, surface parking, and large-scale land uses, often have lower tree canopy and higher areas of heat island. This tree canopy pattern can be seen in Beaverton's downtown, too. By planting more trees on public streets, parks, plazas, and remnant open spaces or infrastructure corridors, like the rail lines, the Downtown area can be made more cool and liveable for moving through or strolling, even on more frequent hot days.



12.2 Provide opportunities for water access (play, water fountains, mist tents).



With increasingly hot summers and heat waves, flexible solutions for cooling off in downtown parks and open spaces is important. Beaverton can create both permanent and temporary solutions for cooling off downtown. Water play and spray grounds can be integrated with existing or future plazas and playgrounds, and mist tents can be used as pop-up water zones at events and festivals, or as needed during periods of summer heat. Likewise, water fountains are an important component of downtown parks, plazas, and play spaces to reinforce welcoming spaces.

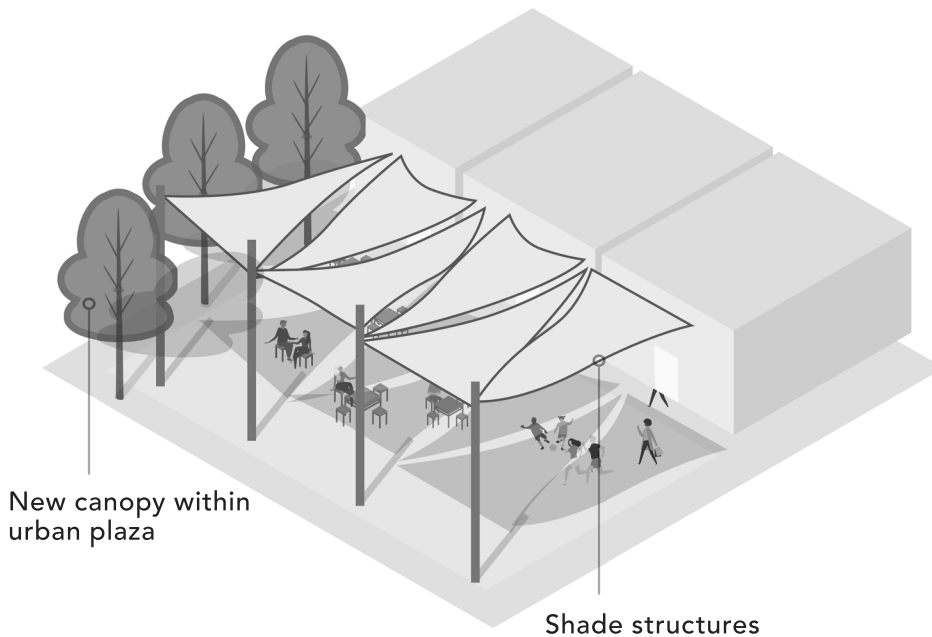


12.3 Create shade and all-weather protection with elements such as trees or shade structures.



All-weather and four season gathering is desired Downtown, and there are many examples to build on. The 1st Street Commons pop-up piloted a large dining and gathering space underneath a tent that provides shade and shelter and defines the boundaries of the space. Further from downtown, THPRD provides popular covered park shelters, such as at the Cedar Hills Rec Center and HMT Complex.

These types of shelters and covered seating can be adapted to smaller downtown spaces to provide respite from the elements. Shade is a critical element to be associated with downtown play areas. Shade solutions can range from simple, umbrella-shaded seating to larger covered shelters. In addition, flexible design can extend the usability of the space in all seasons and times of day.

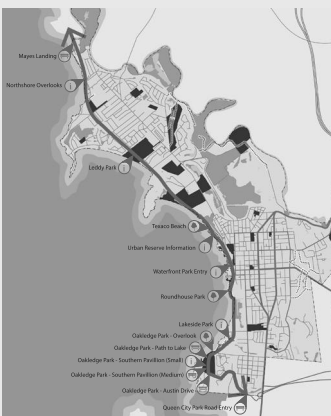


Burlington, VT Waterfront Trail Pause Places Program

The Burlington, VT Bike Path Plan created an inventory of fourteen pause places located along the bike path that provided users with various amenities. Pause places were divided into three scales:

- Small rest stops that included amenities such as benches, kiosks, or gateway signage.
- Medium-sized “information stops” that offered all the amenities of a small rest stop plus additional amenities such as bike racks and drinking fountains.
- Larger-scaled “mini-parks” that offered all the amenities of a medium “information stop” plus additional amenities such as recreation space.

The program also included concepts for different materials to be used in each of the pause places based on their context. These materials included lakeshore materials focused on local ecology and geology, industrial contexts, native stone and riparian plantings, and weathered wood and metal.



Credit: Burlington, VT Pause Places Program

13 Work toward enhancing public access and views along Beaverton, Hall, and Messenger Creeks.



13.1 Explore opportunities to locate new pocket parks and pause places along creeks and wetlands.

Community feedback pointed to an appreciation and desire for parks and open spaces that create access to nature and a feeling of being in nature. Within Downtown, local jurisdictions should strive to acquire property adjacent to creeks and wetlands when opportunities arise. This might include outright land acquisition or negotiated public easements when available along Downtown creeks. The City of Beaverton and THPRD should also work with private partners to create experiences along creeks and buffer areas. If future creekside parcels redevelop, the City of Beaverton and THPRD should work with development to provide public space, views, and building orientation toward the creeks.



13.2 Strive to daylight piped creek segments when/where feasible.



Many communities have brought new vitality and a sense of nature to their downtowns by reimagining forgotten urban waterways, from Lexington, Kentucky’s reveal of the buried Town Branch Creek to clean up and activation of Greenville, South Carolina’s Reedy River. In Beaverton, various studies have imagined daylighting and restoring Beaverton’s three Downtown creeks, capitalizing on this critical resource and making it more of an open space amenity.

There are many current challenges that make daylighting creeks in Beaverton difficult, including varied property ownership, overall cost, flood risks, making redevelopment of sites more challenging, and complex transportation infrastructure. Local jurisdictions should work together to implement changes to existing regulations and create incentives to encourage daylighting or creek access and enhancements with redevelopment activities. Daylighted areas can be implemented in pieces over time, as infrastructure improvements, transportation changes, and development projects affect change along different segments of the creek. Ultimately, working toward long-term open space access along Beaverton’s Downtown creek system can create a new Downtown linear park for future generations.



13.3 Provide pause places with moments of physical and/or visual access to water at key intervals along the creek and trail system.

Along linear systems, like Beaverton’s Downtown creeks, small public spaces - even smaller than a pocket park - can afford moments of pause and rest while incorporating visual access to water and nature. These pause places could occur either along a trail or at an intersection or termination of a public street and a creek where visual access to the water is apparent. Pause places are generally small, but can range in scale from a rest space for benches, signage or bike racks to a more programmed space with art, small play feature, shade or fitness equipment. Pause places should support human comfort, enhanced recreation, improved natural areas, and identity.

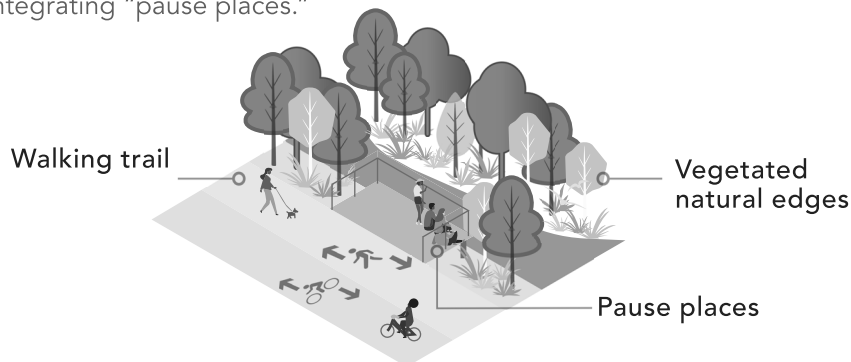


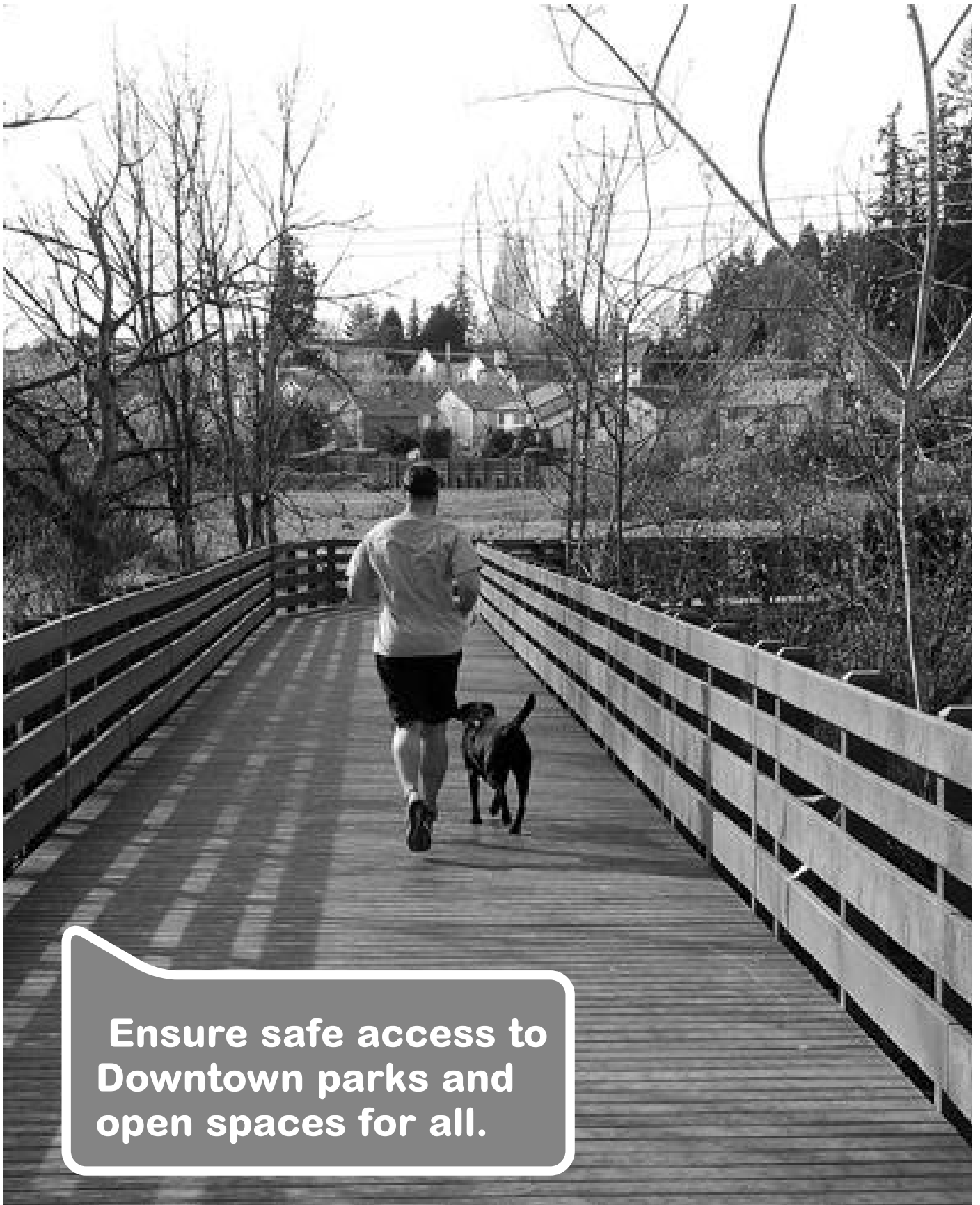
13.4 Design development and infrastructure projects to provide visual or physical access to creeks.

In line with the recommendations of the Beaverton Climate Action Plan and in anticipation of future stormwater projects, see that future projects increase public access and enjoyment of the creeks. This could be done by developing a policy to ensure that when new projects are undertaken in proximity to any Downtown creek, they are reviewed for features that increase access and visibility of the creeks. This might include clearing of invasive species, revegetating banks, grading back banks for wider stream corridors, and using consistent material palettes at crossings.

13.5 Create clear and safe bike and pedestrian access in proximity to the creek system.

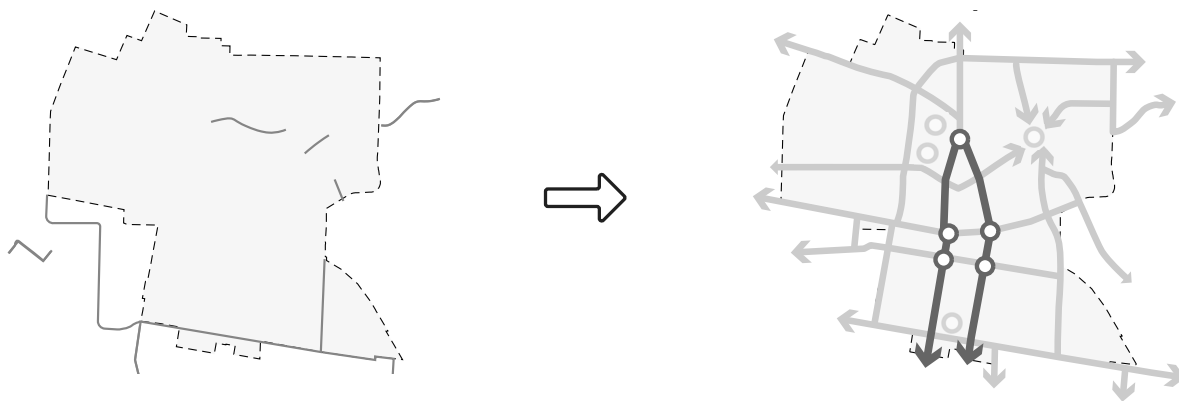
In addition to the already planned regional trails through Downtown, create clear and safe bike and pedestrian access where feasible within the creek system. This may include implementing walking trails adjacent to the creek, creating opportunities for creek crossings, or integrating “pause places.”





**Ensure safe access to
Downtown parks and
open spaces for all.**

Waterhouse Trail THPRD.



CHAPTER 9: Connect

Downtown Beaverton accommodates a mix of multimodal transportation systems to move cars, trains, bikes, and pedestrians, as well as support broader economic and industrial needs. Managing all of these modes safely is a challenge, particularly for bike and pedestrian connectivity in Downtown Beaverton roads. Major streets like Farmington and Canyon Road bisect the Downtown area, and the Union Pacific Railroad line passes east-west through the center, limiting opportunities for crossing between Old Town and Broadway and areas to the north. Accessing parks and open spaces that exist beyond any of these transportation barriers can be difficult for those not in a car. Community input indicated that many Beaverton community members would like to see more investments in pedestrian and bike pathways Downtown as a way to access parks and open spaces.

Many planning documents have looked at improving connectivity in Beaverton including the Downtown Loop Project (In Progress), THPRD Trails Functional Plan (2016), Blueprint for Urban Design: ODOT's Approach for Design in Oregon Communities (2020), Beaverton Active Transportation Plan (2017), and the City of Beaverton Downtown Design District Development Code. Roadway, bicycle, trail, and sidewalk improvements should follow the guidelines set forth in these and other relevant planning documents.

The following recommendations build upon those already set forth in the previously listed planning documents, adjusting them to focus on parks and open space needs Downtown.

14 Improve and enhance neighborhood access into and around Downtown parks and open spaces.

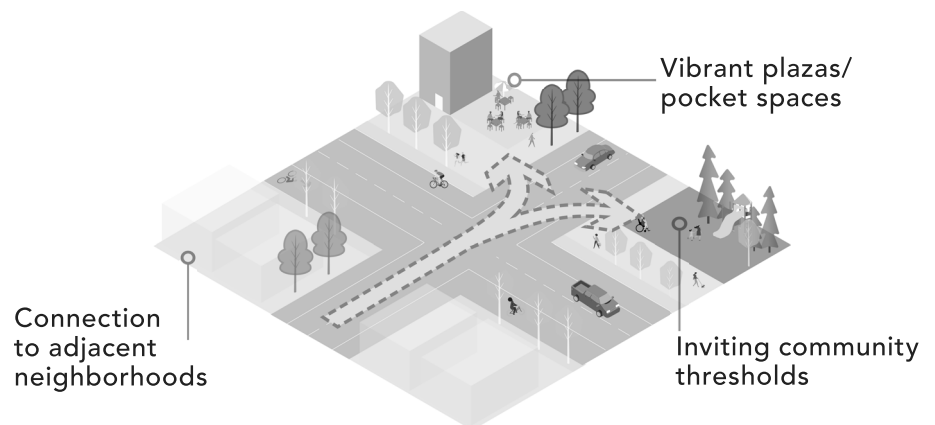


14.1 Create small “pause places” on routes to parks and between Downtown destinations.

Along Watson Avenue, immediately north and south of Farmington Road/Broadway Street, the City of Beaverton has installed benches, trees, and sidewalk treatment to create small pockets of space for passersby to pause, rest, and gather in small groups – a successful precedent that can be expanded across Downtown. In particular, the future Downtown Loop (especially SW Watson Street) and Beaverton creeks are ideal locations for siting pause places.

Along pedestrian routes to parks, these small public spaces – even smaller than a pocket park – offer moments of rest along a busy street or visual access to water and nature. Pause places could occur at intersections, remnant parcels, or rights-of-way. They can contain amenities that are needed across the area like a seating area with a simple bench, signage and orientation kiosk, and bike racks. They could also expand to a more programmed space with art, a small play feature, shade, or fitness equipment. Pause places can support outdoor comfort, enhance recreation, appreciation of natural areas, mitigate stress and fatigue, and create identity.

Pause places are important not just for creating moments of respite and interest, but also for improving the journey between destinations. SW Watson Avenue, along the future Downtown Loop, is a clear area for pause places due to its pedestrian scale and ability to connect key destinations of the Library and City Park to 1st Street and further to Broadway Street restaurants and shops, the Round, and the PRCA. This north-south connection should be complemented by similar pause places connecting east-west links, such as along trails near the creeks, 1st Street, and Broadway Street. As BURA-owned properties are redeveloped north of Canyon Road, there may be chances to use redevelopment to reimagine some of these vehicle-oriented areas to create streets that are more pedestrian-friendly with pause places along them.





14.2 Strive to maintain universal accessibility to all Downtown parks.

Existing and new parks should integrate design, maintenance, and upkeep that meets ADA guidelines and standards, such as ensuring accessible pathways, ramps, parking spaces, restrooms, playgrounds, and other facilities that are usable by individuals with disabilities. Additionally, parks should provide inclusive amenities and programs that cater to a wide range of abilities. This could include features such as sensory gardens, inclusive playground equipment, accessible seating, and programs that are designed to be inclusive and welcoming to people of all abilities. In determining these specific amenities for each park, the agencies should collaborate and partner with disability advocates and experts who understand the needs of park users of all abilities, and can involve these individuals in the decision-making process to ensure that parks are designed, developed, and maintained in a way that is inclusive and accessible for all.



14.3 Create and expand connections to surrounding neighborhoods.

Access to Downtown parks does not always start in Downtown. There are many residents that live adjacent to Downtown Beaverton and urban parks and open spaces are important resources for them. Improving the connections to and from these adjacent neighborhoods is valuable to those who are walking or biking, and making these connections safer and more inviting can improve residents' experience and relationship to Downtown. Additionally, these connections can serve as inviting community thresholds with clear wayfinding when entering Downtown.



14.4 Improve pedestrian/bike connections to surrounding community spaces and public facilities per Downtown Development Code.

Potential strategies to implement improved connections should always be aligned with the Downtown Development Code and the existing Downtown brand. Strategies may include installing mid-block connections through publicly accessible pathways and alleys or introducing gateways to announce major entry points into Downtown which also include opportunities for placemaking.¹¹ Other strategies might include creating wider sidewalks or pedestrian-only zones, adding street furniture such as benches, lighting, and planters to enhance the pedestrian experience, and integrating parks and open spaces such as pause places or pocket parks.

Existing and Potential Downtown Gateways and Connections

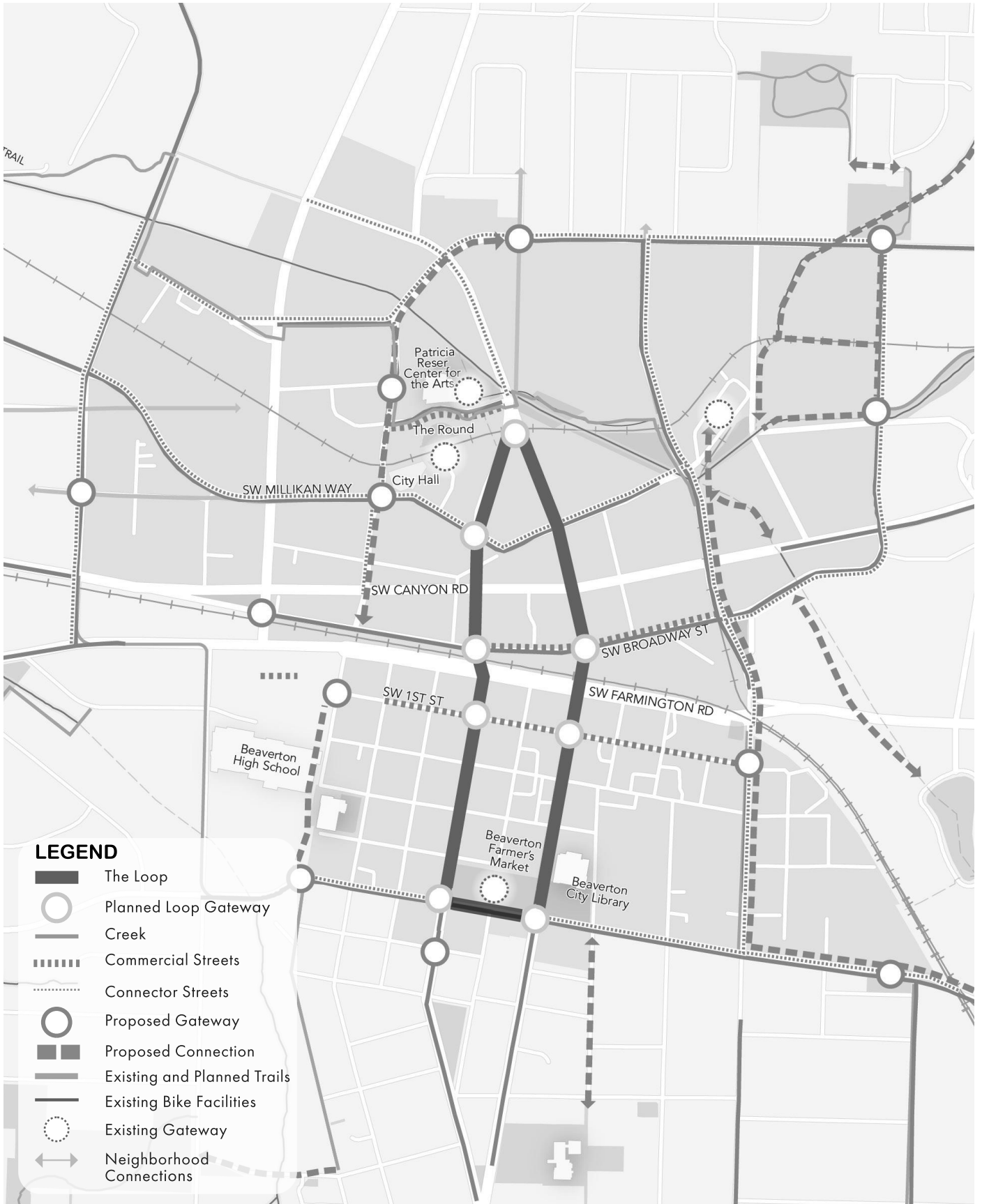


Figure 1.32 New gateways along key connector and commercial streets have the potential to create a welcoming entry into Downtown.

15 Expand the existing brand, wayfinding, and gateway system to support navigation of Downtown Beaverton's parks and open spaces.



15.1 Expand the branded wayfinding identity for Downtown parks and open spaces, ensuring that directional signage strategies are accessible and inclusive for all.



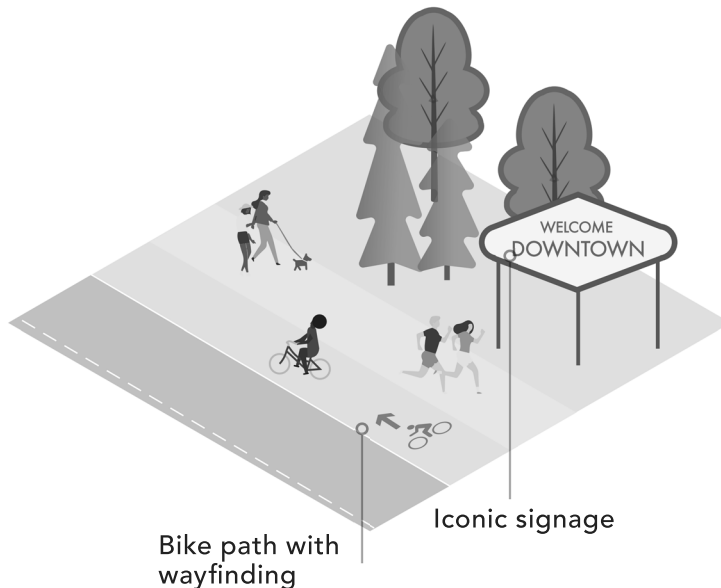
In expanding the existing wayfinding and gateway system in Downtown, it is important to ensure that wayfinding materials are inclusive of all ages and multiple languages and abilities. Potential strategies could include accessible maps and signage that provide information that is multi-language and available in different formats, such as braille and audio. Signage should also be clear, and easy-to-read, with high-contrast colors and larger fonts. The City and THPRD should work together to establish the signage character for parks and open spaces Downtown that are unique to Downtown in order to reinforce the urban character.



15.2 Provide directional signage along trails and to support navigation between Downtown destinations and parks.



Directional signage that is clear, consistent, and inclusive to all should be a priority along on-street and off-street trails and pathways between Downtown destinations and parks. The City's existing wayfinding system should be expanded to include new parks, trails and open spaces. Consistent directional signage can also help to define Downtown, and can be integrated with other elements such as public art, distinctive buildings, and landscape features.



IMPLEMENTATION



“
Covered spaces [allow for] fun
outdoor events with no risk of
cancelling due to weather.”

- Online survey response

STRATEGY

“We would like to see sensory sensitive areas for kids that are functional for all ages and abilities.”

- Focus Group participant



IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

For each of the actions identified in the Plan, it is important to identify information that will create ownership and allow these actions to move toward implementation. The matrix below outlines implementation strategies for the City, THPRD, and other partners to achieve the shared vision for downtown parks outlined in this report. For each Theme, Goal and Strategy outlined in the Framework earlier in the report, the matrix identifies: the group or groups with whom responsibility for implementation would lie; other key partners who can aid in the process; a realistic timeframe within

which to expect realization; means of understanding when the goal has been achieved; potential funding sources; any major plan and/or code considerations related to implementation; and concrete actions required. Post installation or construction needs such as maintenance, management or operations are not included in the implementation strategy. The table should be used as a device for tracking progress toward the Plan's goals. Within a year, the agencies will work together to develop metrics for these actions.

Recommendation	Community Priority	Responsible Party	Key Partners	Time Frame	Potential Funding Sources	Major Plan and Code Considerations	What action does this require?
Gather Community: Provide spaces for community to come together							
Goal 1: Locate and design new Downtown parks and open spaces to close gaps in the network of open spaces, provide safe pedestrian access, and align with planned urban growth.							
1.1		THPRD/City	BURA, Developers	ongoing	Parks SDCs, Grants, Metro Parks/Nature Bond		Coordination, Planning, Design
1.2	X	THPRD/City/BURA	City/THPRD, BURA	Near-term	City Parks SDCs, Grants, Development agreements (for BURA projects)	Community Vision Plan (2016), Beaverton Downtown Equity Strategy, THPRD Parks Functional Plan, THPRD Vision Action Plan	Coordination, Planning, Design, Installation
1.3	X	THPRD/City	THPRD/City, BURA	ongoing	Parks SDCs, Grants, City		Coordination, Planning, Design, Installation
Goal 2: Create open spaces and amenities of an urban character that allow for multiple ways to gather.							
2.1	X	City	THPRD, Business owners	Near-term	City, THPRD, BDA	Beaverton Downtown Equity Strategy, Loop Project, City Development Code (60.11. Food Cart Pod Regulations)	Planning, Design, Installation, Programming
2.2	X	City	Business owners, BURA	Near-term	City, Business owners	Beaverton Downtown Equity Strategy, Loop Project, City Development Code (60.11. Food Cart Pod Regulations)	Planning, Design, Installation
2.3	X	THPRD/City	City, BURA, THPRD	Near-term, ongoing	N/A	Beaverton Downtown Equity Strategy, Loop Project, City Development Code (60.11. Food Cart Pod Regulations), THPRD 2023 Comprehensive Plan	Coordination, Planning, Design, Installation
2.4		THPRD/City	BURA, Developers, City, THPRD	Mid-term, ongoing	Developers, Parks SDCs, Metro Parks/Nature Bond	Beaverton Downtown Equity Strategy, Loop Project, City Development Code (60.11. Food Cart Pod Regulations)	Planning, Design, Installation

Recommendation	Community Priority	Responsible Party	Key Partners	Time Frame	Potential Funding Sources	Major Plan and Code Considerations	What action does this require?
Goal 3: Continue to enhance and support 1st Street as a vibrant, pedestrian friendly street from Beaverton High School to Lombard Avenue.							
3.1 Consider seasonal or permanent public outdoor dining and gathering spaces in the vicinity of 1st Street and potential partnerships for long-term operational sustainability.	X	City	THPRD, BDA	Near-term	Business owners	Beaverton Downtown Equity Strategy, Loop Project, City Development Code (60.11. Food Cart Pod Regulations)	Planning, Design, Installation
3.2 Introduce colorful pedestrian amenities and beautification elements along the full extent of 1st Street in Downtown.	X	City	Business owners	Near-term	Business owners	Beaverton Downtown Equity Strategy, City Development Code	Planning, Design, Installation
Goal 4: Collaborate with developers to provide accessible parks and open space.							
4.1 Consider changes to the City Development Code that incentivize new development to include public open space.		City	BURA	Mid-term, ongoing	N/A	City Development Code (60.35 Planned Unit Development, 70.20 Downtown Design Guidelines and Standards)	Coordination, Design, Policy
4.2 Use THPRD's System Development Charge (SDC) incentive program to increase the number of privately provided public spaces.		THPRD/City	BURA, Developers, City	Mid-term, ongoing	Developers, Parks SDCs, Metro Parks/Nature Bond	City Development Code (60.35 Planned Unit Development, 70.20 Downtown Design Guidelines and Standards)	Outreach, Development, Policy

Welcome & Celebrate: Build on Downtown's vibrancy and cultural diversity

Goal 5: Support programming and design for multicultural, family-oriented events of varying scales throughout Downtown.

5.1 Expand on the success of the existing Farmer's Market and Night Market to develop more multicultural and multigenerational festival experiences that are co-produced with community organizations and local non-profits.	X	THPRD/City	City, Community Organizations	ongoing	Grants	Beaverton Downtown Equity Strategy, Community Vision Plan (2010, 2016), THPRD Vision Action Plan	Planning, Coordination, Programming, Market manager(s), Parking
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Goal 6: Make parks more welcoming, accessible, and inclusive by building comfort, basic needs, and places to rest into the fabric of Downtown.

6.1 Integrate more wifi hotspots and charging stations across Downtown's parks and open spaces.	X	THPRD/City	City	Near-term	City, BDA, THPRD	City Development Code (70.20 Downtown Design Guidelines and Standards), City Downtown Equity Strategy, Beaverton Comprehensive Plan	Coordination, Planning, Installation
6.2 Create a unified standard of furnishings and site amenities for Downtown Beaverton's parks and open spaces that include more benches, water stations, and restrooms.	X	THPRD	City	Mid-term	THPRD SDCs, Grants	BURA Downtown Loop Plan, Beaverton Active Transportation Plan, THPRD Parks Functional Plan (Art Strategy), Public Improvements (T3) Public Improvements (T3.16), Comm. Development (T9.05)	Design, Installation, Marketing

	Recommendation	Community Priority	Responsible Party	Key Partners	Time Frame	Potential Funding Sources	Major Plan and Code Considerations	What action does this require?
6.3	Ensure all Downtown parks and open spaces are designed and maintained for universal accessibility and inclusive programming.	X	THPRD/City		Long-term	THPRD, City	Beaverton Downtown Equity Strategy, Community Vision Plan (2010, 2016), THPRD Vision Action Plan, Parks Functional Plan	Planning, Design, Development, Coordination, Installation, Programming
Goal 7: Expand and improve permanent event infrastructure to support a wide range of public programs Downtown.								
7.1	Adapt existing event spaces to better support event use.	X	City	City/THPRD	Mid-term	City, Grants	Beaverton Downtown Equity Strategy, Community Vision Plan (2010, 2016)	Coordination, Programming, Marketing
7.2	Collaborate to cross-promote/-support events and open spaces in Downtown.		THPRD	City	Near-term			Planning, Design, Development, Coordination, Marketing, Upkeep
7.3	Locate new events near parking, transit, and appropriate amenities.	X	THPRD/City	City	Ongoing		Beaverton Downtown Equity Strategy, Community Vision Plan (2010, 2016)	Planning, Development, Coordination
Goal 8: Reduce barriers to pop-up activation and short-term parks and open space projects.								
8.1	Work to reduce regulatory barriers to create interim parks and open spaces on underutilized lots.		City	City, BURA, THPRD	Near-term	BDA	Beaverton Downtown Equity Strategy, Community Vision Plan (2010, 2016)	Planning, Coordination, Policy
8.2	Consider programming opportunities during site design to ensure that existing and future parks and open spaces have adequate infrastructure and amenities for short-/mid-term activation by community groups.		THPRD/City		ongoing		Community Vision Plan (2010, 2016)	Planning, Design, Development, Installation, Programming
Goal 9: Celebrate Beaverton's cultural diversity by expanding art in public places, including creative placemaking initiatives, site-specific artworks (both temporary and permanent), and performances and experiences.								
9.1	Expand the murals around Broadway and 1st Street and create a Downtown mural walk or interactive public art tour.	X	THPRD/City	City/Beaverton Arts Commission (BAC)/ BDA, Private Property Owners	Near-term, ongoing	City/Beaverton Arts Commission (BAC)/ BDA, Grants, Fundraising	Community Vision Plan (2010, 2016), Public Improvements (T3) Public Improvements (T3.16), THPRD Parks Functional Plan (Art Strategy), THPRD Vision Action Plan	Planning, Design, Installation, Funding/ Fundraising
9.2	Incorporate artistic elements that enhance accessibility and improve orientation (universal access or multi-language).	X	City	City/BDA/BAC	Near-term, ongoing	City/BDA/BAC	BURA Downtown Loop Plan, THPRD Parks Functional Plan (Art Strategy), Community Vision Plan (2010, 2016), Public Improvements (T3) Public Improvements (T3.16), Comm. Development (T9.05), Beaverton Downtown Equity Strategy, THPRD Vision Action Plan	Planning, Design, Installation, Funding/ Fundraising

	Recommendation	Community Priority	Responsible Party	Key Partners	Time Frame	Potential Funding Sources	Major Plan and Code Considerations	What action does this require?
9.3	Incentivize and encourage private property owners and developers to incorporate art in publicly-accessible open spaces.		City	City, BURA, Developers, BAC	Mid-term, ongoing	Developers, Parks SDCs	City Development Code (60.35 Planned Unit Development, 70.20 Downtown Design Guidelines and Standards), THPRD Parks Functional Plan (Art Strategy)	Planning, Marketing, Development, Design, Installation, Policy, Funding/Fundraising

Protect & Reflect Nature: Amplify Beaverton's natural qualities in its Downtown parks and open spaces

Goal 10: Integrate nature into Downtown parks and plazas where it can thrive and fit the park or plaza's purpose.

10.1	Introduce nature play experiences to Downtown playgrounds.	X	THPRD/City	City/THPRD	Near-term	Fundraising, Philanthropy, Metro Parks/Nature bond	N/A	Programming, Design, Installation
10.2	Celebrate and preserve the unique Ponderosa pine stand in City Park.		City	City/ THPRD, Beaverton City Library, Public Works: Urban Forestry Dept.	Near-term	City	N/A	Design, Marketing, Installation
10.3	Continue to bring the THPRD nature programming to City Park and expand opportunities to bring it to sites north of Farmington.		THPRD	City, DBA	ongoing	THPRD, Business Owners, Grants	THPRD Vision Action Plan	Marketing, Coordination
10.4	Prioritize natural planting palettes that reduce maintenance needs and create connections to regional ecology.	X	THPRD/City	CWS, Business owners, BURA	ongoing	Public-Private Partnerships	Beaverton Climate Action Plan (BCAP)	Planning, Coordination, Design, Installation, Policy(?)

Goal 11: Raise community awareness of Beaverton's creeks and natural systems.

11.1	Coordinate with the recommendations of the future Downtown Stormwater Strategy to integrate environmental education and/or public access in combination with stormwater projects.		City	CWS, THPRD, Others?	ongoing	Bond Measures, Grants	Downtown Stormwater Strategy, CWS: East Basin Master Plan	Planning, Coordination, Policy
11.2	Create moments for nature education and awareness of indigenous lands and practices through interpretation.	X	THPRD/City	Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians, Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, PSU: Indigenous Nations Studies Dept.	Near-term	City, THPRD, SDC funds, Grants, Metro Parks/Nature Bond		Education, Coordination, Design, Marketing, Installation
11.3	Use art to connect people to their environment.	X	THPRD/City	Beav. Arts Commission (BAC)	Near-term, ongoing	BURA, City, CWS, Grants		Design, Marketing, Installation

	Recommendation	Community Priority	Responsible Party	Key Partners	Time Frame	Potential Funding Sources	Major Plan and Code Considerations	What action does this require?
Goal 12: Expand shade, covered shelters, and water access in Downtown parks and open spaces.								
12.1	Prioritize expanding tree canopy in parks and streets in areas with high amounts of impervious surface and low existing canopy to meet climate goals and lower heat island effects.	X	THPRD/City	Beaverton Climate Action Task Force, Depave PDX, BURA	Near-term, ongoing	City, Public-Private Partnerships, Bond Measures	Beaverton Climate Action Plan (BCAP)	Planning, Installation
12.2	Provide opportunities for water access (play, water fountains, mist tents).	X	THPRD/City		Mid-term	Fundraising, Social Services Funding Committee (SSFC), THPRD SDC Fund Metro Parks/Nature Bond, Grants		Programing, Development, Design, Installation
12.3	Create shade and all-weather protection with elements such as trees or shade structures.	X	THPRD/City	Beaverton Climate Action Task Force, Business owners, Developers, BURA	Mid-term	City, BURA, Public-Private Partnerships, THPRD SDC, Grants	Beaverton Climate Action Plan (BCAP)	Development, Design, Installation
Goal 13: Work toward enhancing public access and views along Beaverton, Hall, and Messenger Creeks.								
13.1	Explore opportunities to locate new pocket parks and pause places along creeks and wetlands.	X	THPRD/City	City/THPRD	ongoing	SDC funds, Grants, Fundraising	Public Improvements (T3.10),	Planning, Coordination, Design, Development, Installation, Programming, Fundraising
13.2	Strive to daylight piped creek segments when/where feasible.	X	City	CWS	ongoing	Grants, Fundraising, Bond Measures	Downtown Stormwater Strategy	Planning, Coordination, Advocacy, Education, Policy(?)
13.3	Provide pause places with moments of physical and/or visual access to water and wetland park access at key intervals along the creek and trail system.	X	THPRD/City	City/THPRD	Mid-term	SDC Funds, Grants, Metro Parks/Nature Bond	THPRD Functional Trails Plan, City of Beaverton Comprehensive Plan Ch 6: Transportation Element; Public Improvements (T3.07),	Planning, Design, Development, Fundraising, Installation, Programming
13.4	Design development and infrastructure projects to provide visual or physical access to creeks.	X	City	BURA, Developers	ongoing	Grants, Fundraising, Metro Parks/Nature Bond, SDC funds		
13.5	Create clear and safe bike and pedestrian access in proximity to the creek system.	X	THPRD/City/Developers	CWS / Bicycle Advisory Committee	Long-term	SDC Funds, Grants, Fundraising, Metro Parks/Nature Bond	THPRD Functional Trails Plan, City of Beaverton Comprehensive Plan Ch 6: Transportation Element; Public Improvements (T3.07), THPRD Vision Action Plan	Planning, Development, Design, Installation

Recommendation	Community Priority	Responsible Party	Key Partners	Time Frame	Potential Funding Sources	Major Plan and Code Considerations	What action does this require?
Connect: Ensure safe access to Downtown parks and open space for all							
Goal 14: Improve and enhance neighborhood access into and around Downtown parks and open spaces.							
14.1 Create small "pause places" on routes to parks and between Downtown destinations.	X	THPRD/City	BDA, BURA	ongoing	City/ BACC/ Grants/ Public-Private Partnerships	Downtown Beav. Regional Center Community Plan, Public Improvements (T3.0 & T3.06), Comm. Development (T9.05), Licenses, Permits, and Business Regulation (T7.05 & 7.06)	Planning, Design, Development, Installation
14.2 Strive to maintain universal accessibility to all Downtown parks.	X	THPRD/City	ODOT/ Bicycle Advisory Committee	Long-term	City/ THPRD/ ODOT/ Grants	THPRD Functional Trails Plan, Downtown Loop Plan, City of Beaverton Comprehensive Plan Ch 6: Transportation Element; Public Improvements (T3.07), Comm. Development (T9.05), THPRD Vision Action Plan	Planning, Development, Installation
14.3 Create and expand connections to surrounding neighborhoods.	X	THPRD (trails)/City (ROW)	NACs, relevant city and THPRD committees, ODOT	Long-term	Grants	Downtown Loop Plan, THPRD Functional Trails Plan, City of Beaverton Comprehensive Plan Ch 6: Transportation Element; Public Improvements (T3.07)	Planning, Community coordination, Development
14.4 Improve pedestrian/bike connections to surrounding community spaces and public facilities per Downtown Development Code.	X	THPRD (trails)/City (ROW)	THPRD, ODOT, Bicycle Advisory Committee	Mid-term, Ongoing	Grants	Downtown Loop Plan, THPRD Functional Trails Plan, City of Beaverton Comprehensive Plan Ch 6: Transportation Element; Public Improvements (T3.07)	Planning, Community coordination, Development, Installation
Goal 15: Expand the existing brand, wayfinding, and gateway system to support navigation of Downtown Beaverton's parks and open spaces.							
15.1 Expand the existing brand, wayfinding, and gateway system to support navigation of Downtown Beaverton's parks and open spaces	X	City	BDA, THPRD	Near-term	City	Downtown Loop Plan, Downtown Beav. Regional Center Community Plan, Public Improvements (T3) Public Improvements (T3.16), Comm. Development (T9.05)	Design, Installation, Marketing
15.2 Provide directional signage along trails and to support navigation between Downtown destinations and parks.	X	THPRD	City	Near-term	THPRD/ City	Public Improvements (T3), THPRD Vision Action Plan, and Trails Functional Plan	Planning, Design, Installation

GLOSSARY

AAPI	Asian, Asian American, Pacific Islander
ADA	The Americans with Disabilities Act
ACMA	Arts and Communication Magnet Academy
BAC	Beaverton Arts Commission
BACC	Beaverton Chamber of Commerce
BDA	Beaverton Downtown Association
BIPOC	Black, Indigenous, and people of color
BURA	Beaverton Urban Redevelopment Agency
CBO	Community-based organization
City	City of Beaverton
CWS	Clean Water Services
MYAB	Mayor's Youth Advisory Board
ODOT	Oregon Department of Transportation
ROW	Right-of-way
SDC	System Development Charges
THPRD	Tualatin Hills Parks & Recreation District
THRIVE	Teaching Healthy Responsible Individuals Values and Education
USA	Urban Services Agreement

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Endnotes

- 1 Active Living Research. "The Economic Benefits of Open Space, Recreation Facilities and Walkable Community Design." May 2010.
- 2 Harnik, P. "From Fitness Zones to the Medical Mile: How Urban Park Systems Can Best Promote Health and Wellness." Trust for Public Land. 2011.
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- 5 Bloomberg.com. "Can Cities Combat 'Green Gentrification'?" November 10, 2022. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2022-11-10/a-challenge-for-cities-going-green-without-the-gentrification>.
- 6 Beaverton Downtown Design Project, October 2018, p. 15.
- 7 "This is Kalapuyan Land | Five Oaks Museum - Website." Accessed May 22, 2023. <https://fiveoaksmuseum.org/exhibit/this-is-kalapuyan-land/>
- 8 THPRD Park category Description, Parks Functional Plan, 2019
- 9 Beaverton Climate Action Plan, City of Beaverton, 2019.
- 10 Census QuickFacts: City of Beaverton, <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/beaverton-cityoregon/INT100220#INT100220>.
- 11 Beaverton Downtown Design Project, October 2018, p. 61.

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