



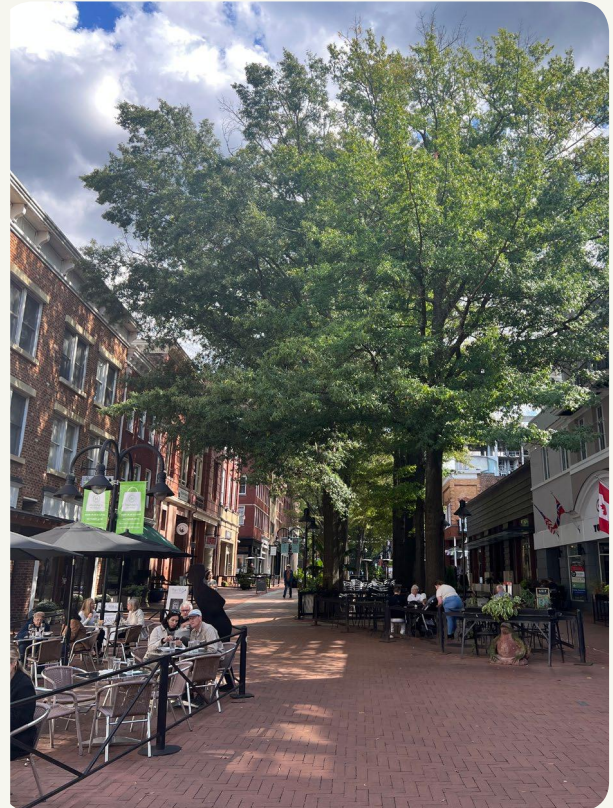
Charlottesville Downtown Mall **TREE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

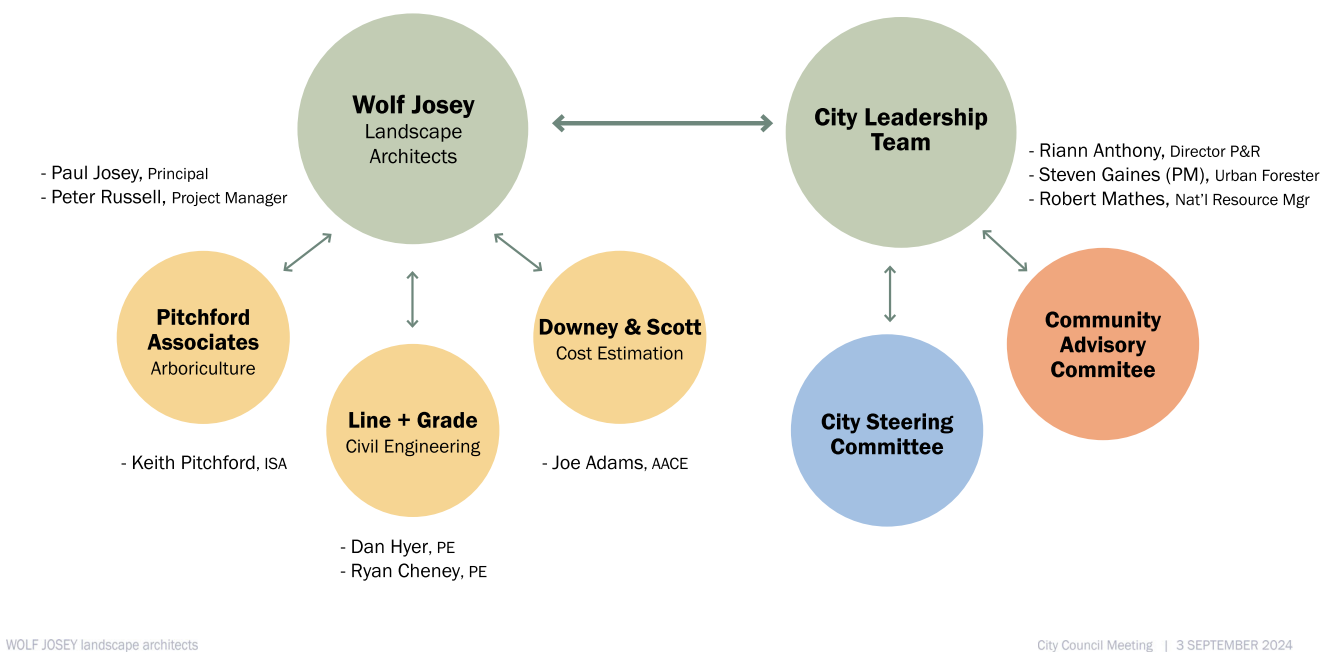
September 3, 2024

Agenda

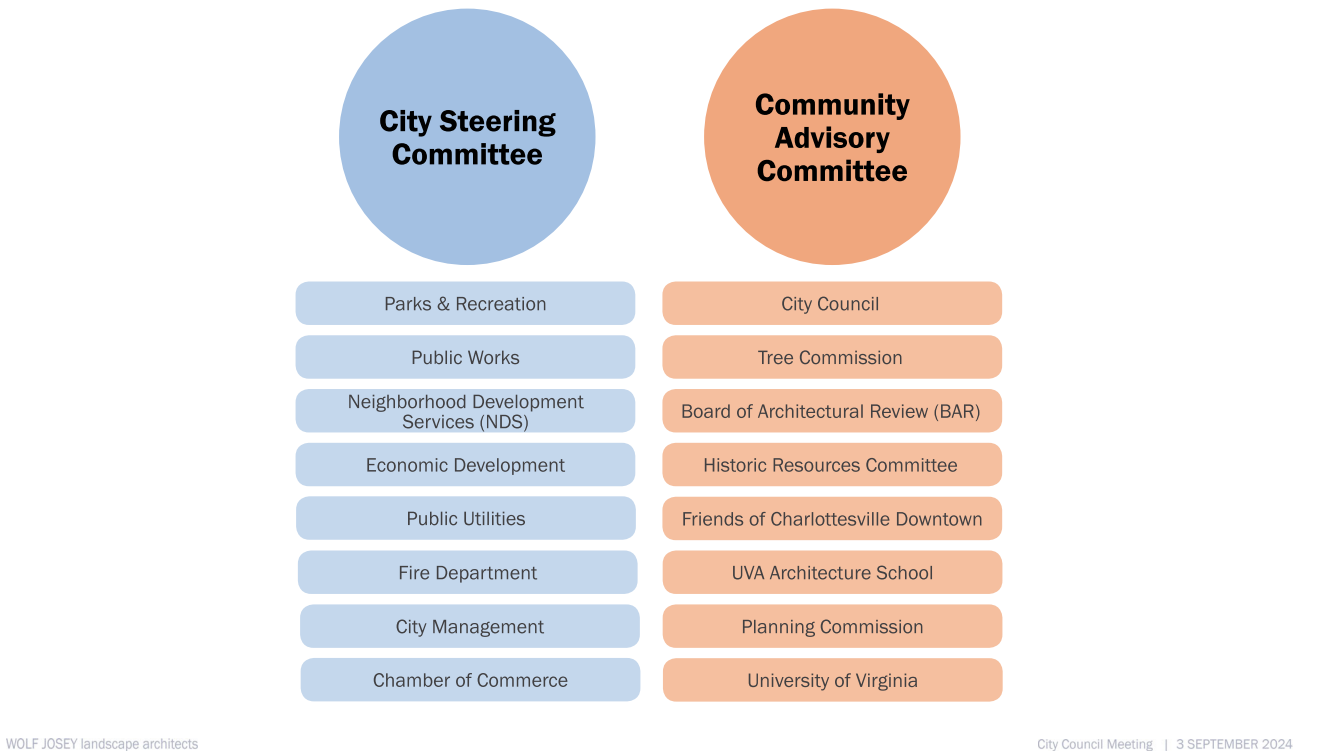
1. Schedule & Project Scope
Historical Context
2. Phase 1 Recommendations
Long Term Recommendations & Phasing



Project Team

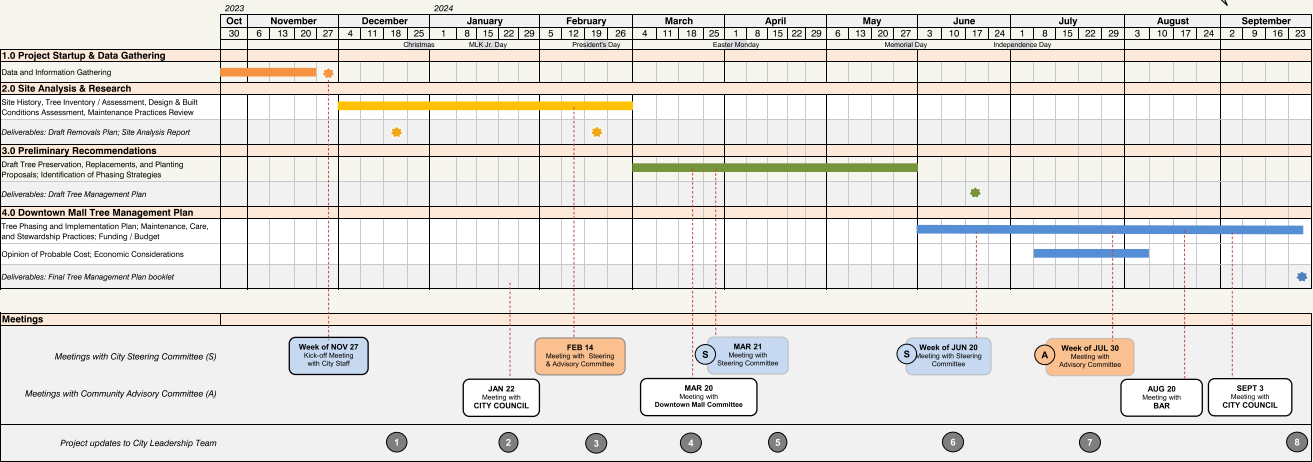


Consensus Building | Committees



Project Schedule

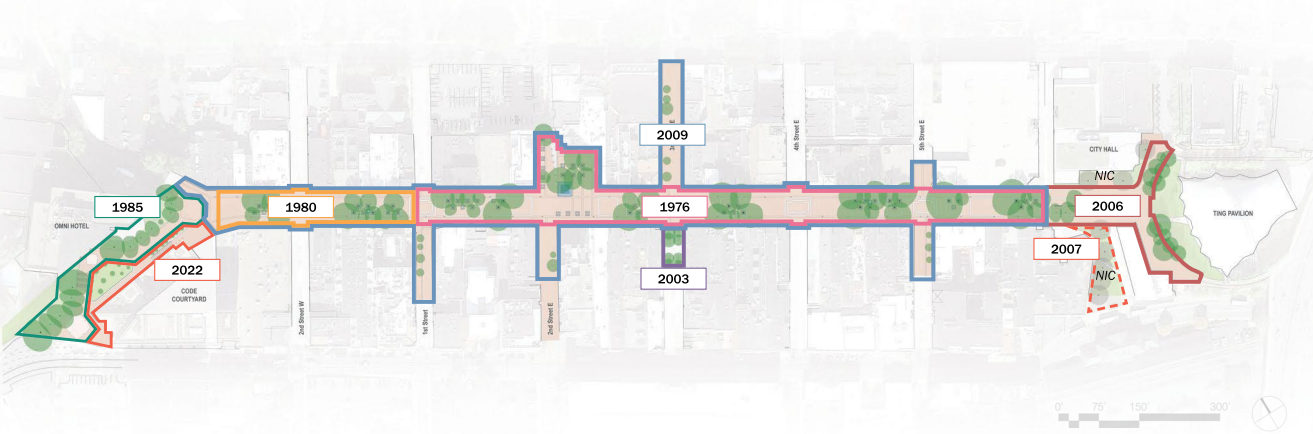
WE ARE HERE!

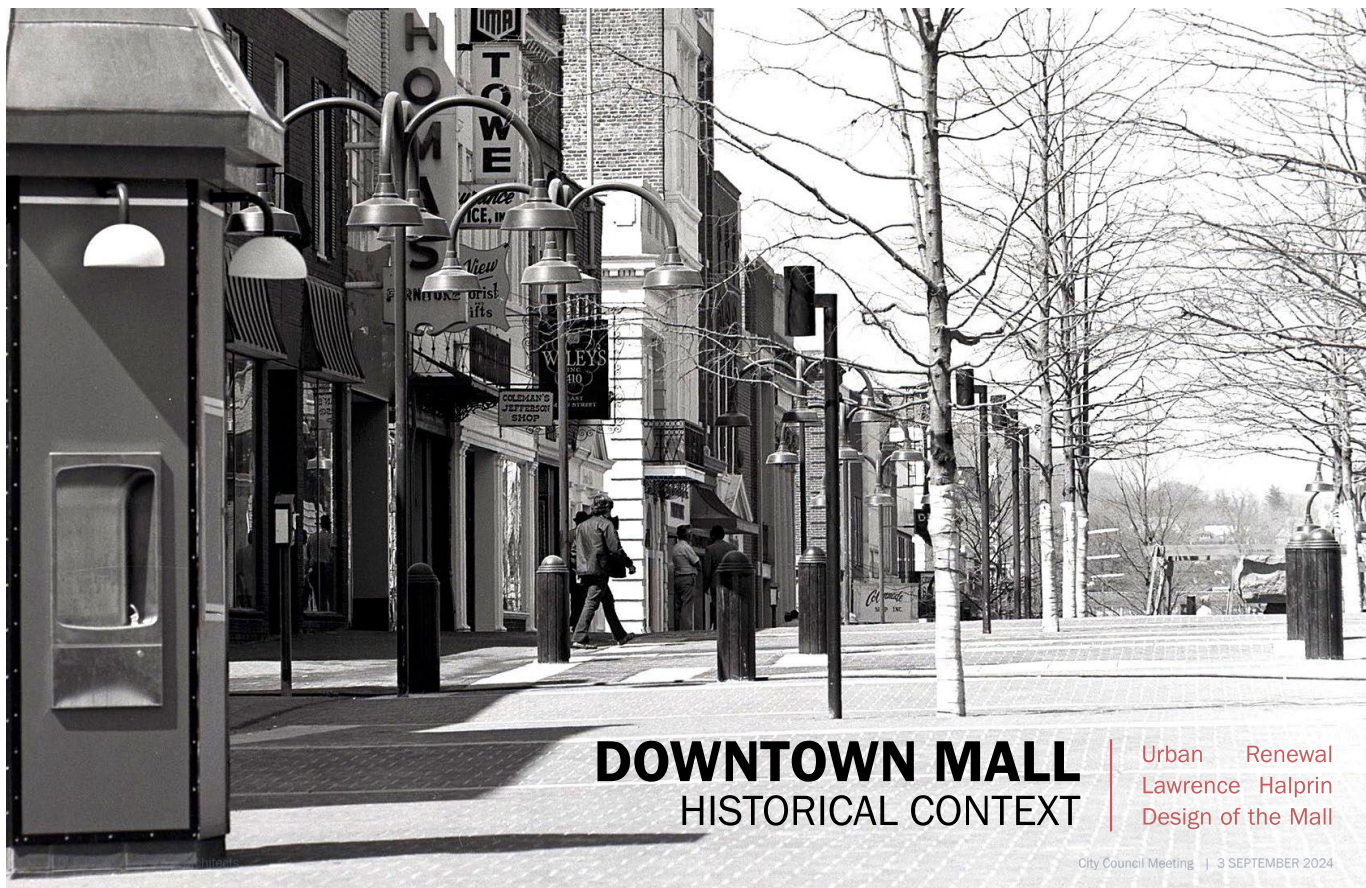


- PHASES**
- DATA GATHERING
 - SITE ASSESSMENT
 - RECOMMENDATIONS
 - MALL TREE MGMT PLAN

- COMMITTEES**
- CITY STAFF STEERING COMMITTEE
 - COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Site Plan | Historic Tree Planting Context





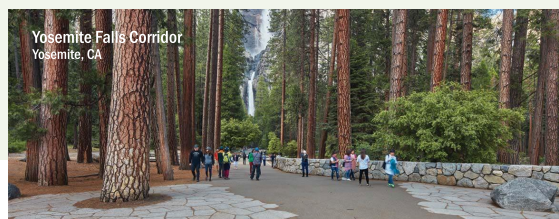
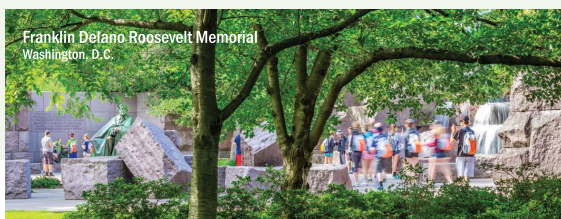
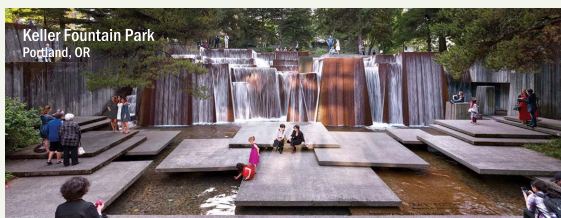
DOWNTOWN MALL HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Urban Renewal
Lawrence Halprin
Design of the Mall

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2

Lawrence Halprin (b.1916-d.2009) and the work of a master



Halprin pioneered participatory design and mastered the ability to integrate the needs and experiences of people with artful, environmentally sensitive, and ecologically associative design. He built consensus in urban public environments in the 1960s and 70s when communities struggled for civil rights.

2 Lawrence Halprin and the significance of the Mall



The Downtown Mall is on the National Register of Historic Places for its design innovation and high artistic value.

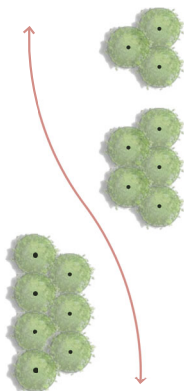
The Downtown Mall represents Halprin's only remaining work in Virginia and his only existing pedestrian mall.

Of the 132 pedestrian malls constructed in U.S. cities between 1959 and 1974, only 43 remain.

Charlottesville's downtown mall is 8-blocks long, making it the longest in the country

3 The character-defining features of the Design of the Mall

The Choreography of Space



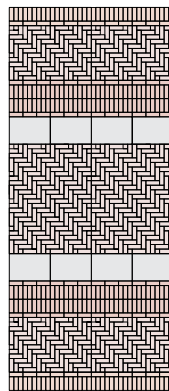
Layout

The Tree Bosques



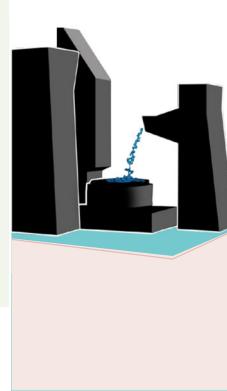
Vegetation

The Urban Floor



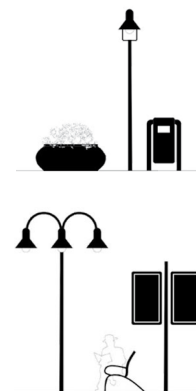
Paving

Water



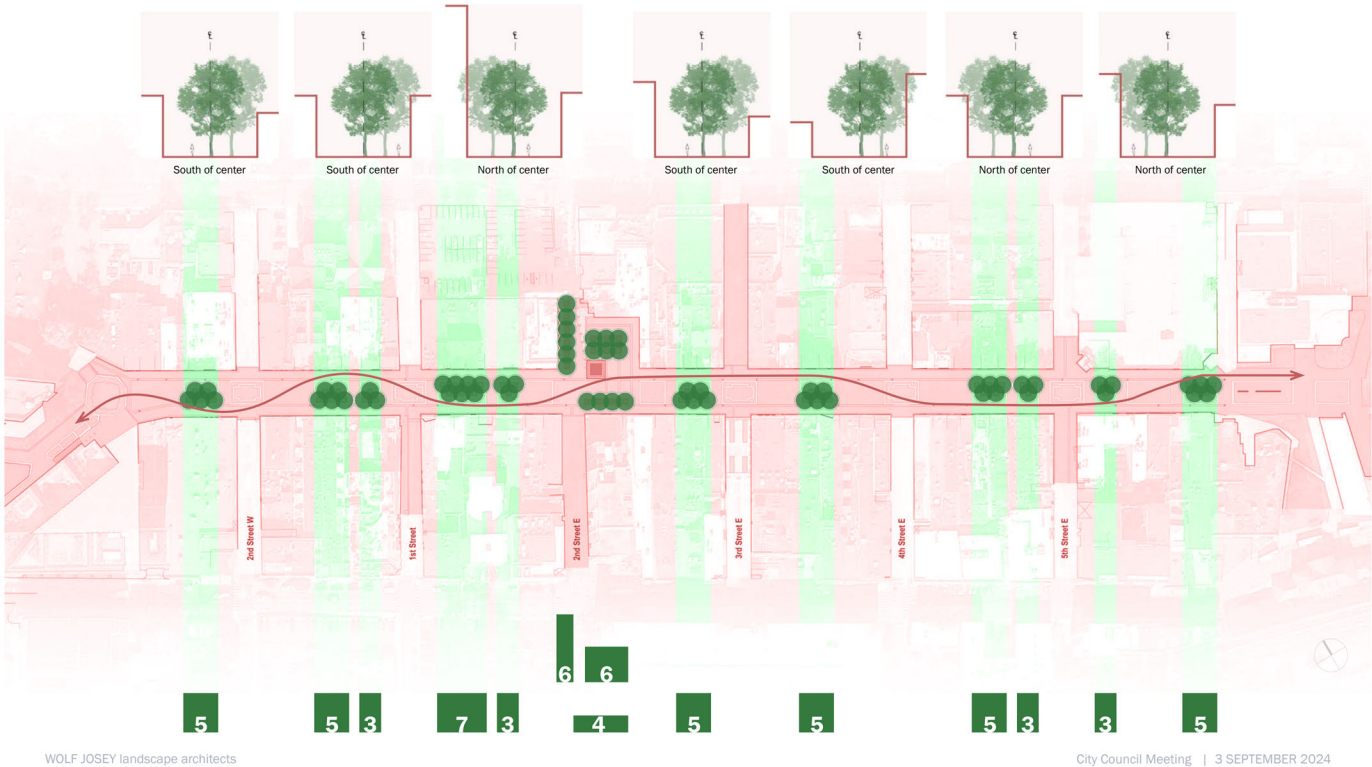
Fountains

Small-Scale Elements



Furnishings

The Choreography of Space



Recommendations: Phase 1

Recommendations

Phase 1: Protect & Restore Existing Trees

A. Replace Central Place & Nearby Trees

- Reinvest in the neglected and declining areas

B. Grates & Paving at Base of Trees

- Grate Modification
- Grate Replacement

C. Side Street Improvements

- Tree replacements and unique conditions

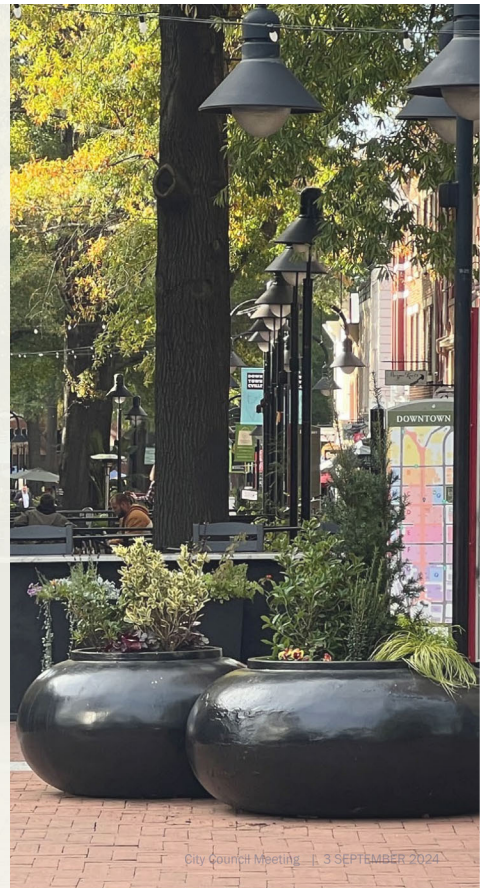
D. Fencing & Fountain Improvements

- Improve café fencing for visibility and access to trees/fountains
- Fountain access

E. Tree Maintenance & BMP Recommendations

- Existing tree maintenance
- BMP documents to limit disturbance of mature trees
- Building height recommendations for tree health

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Existing Trees | Inventory

- 109 trees
(not including 15 removed trees)

OMNI HOTEL

CODE
COURTYARD

2nd Street W

1st Street

2nd Street E

- Existing trees
- Adjacent trees not in study area

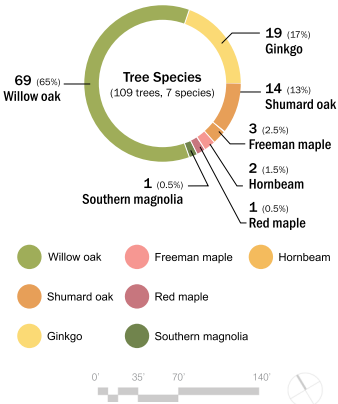
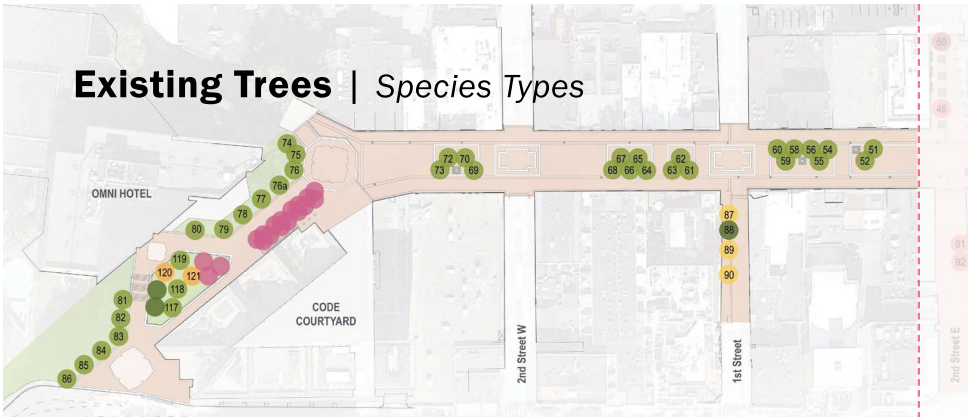
0' 35' 70' 140'



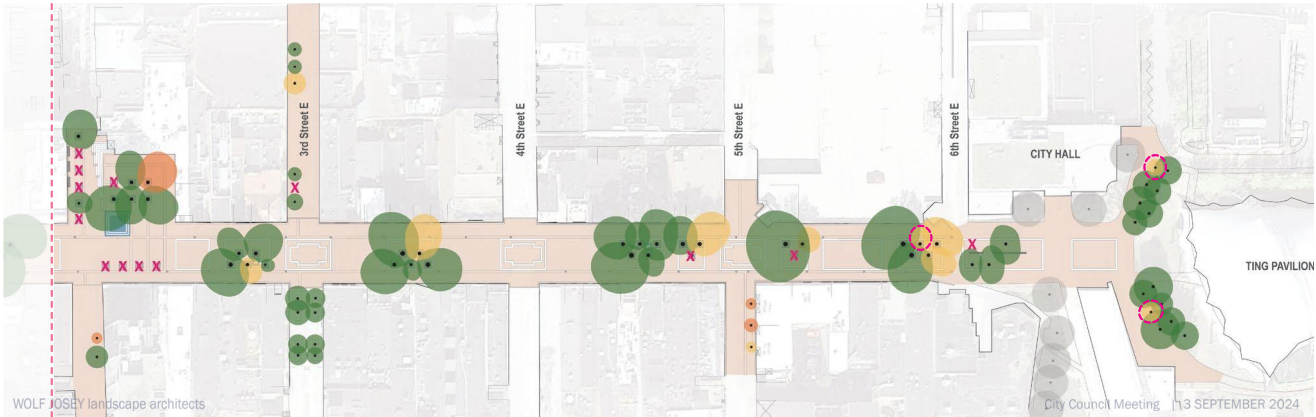
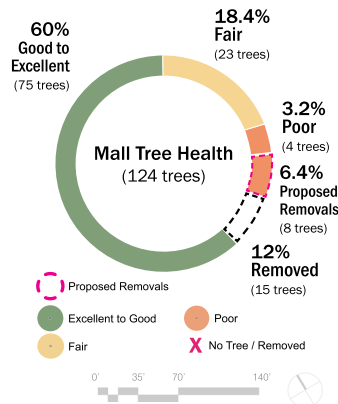
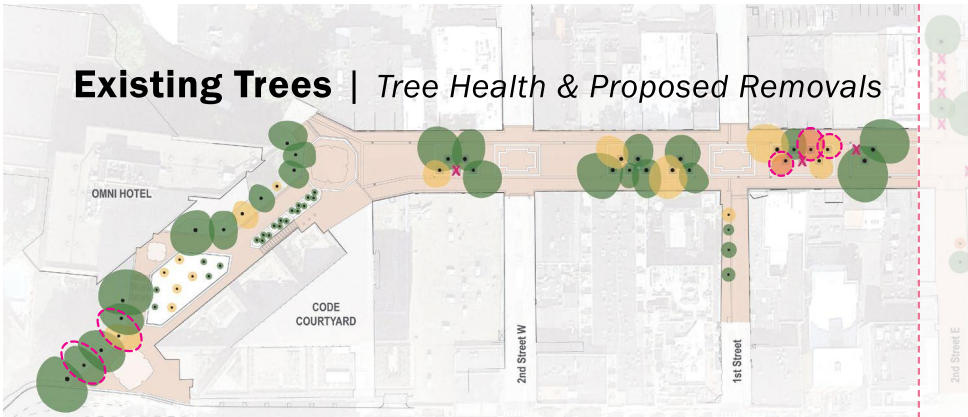
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Existing Trees | Species Types



Existing Trees | Tree Health & Proposed Removals



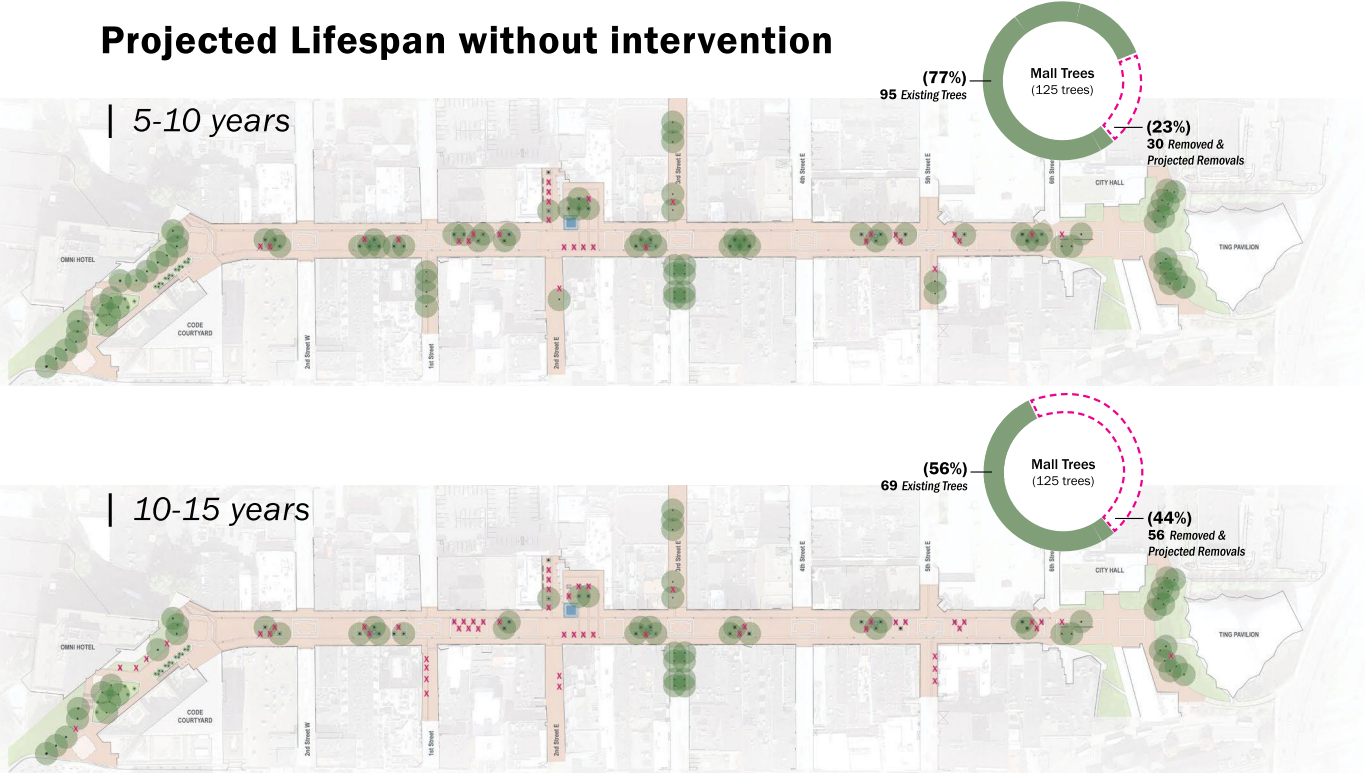
Current & Proposed Tree Removals



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Projected Lifespan without intervention



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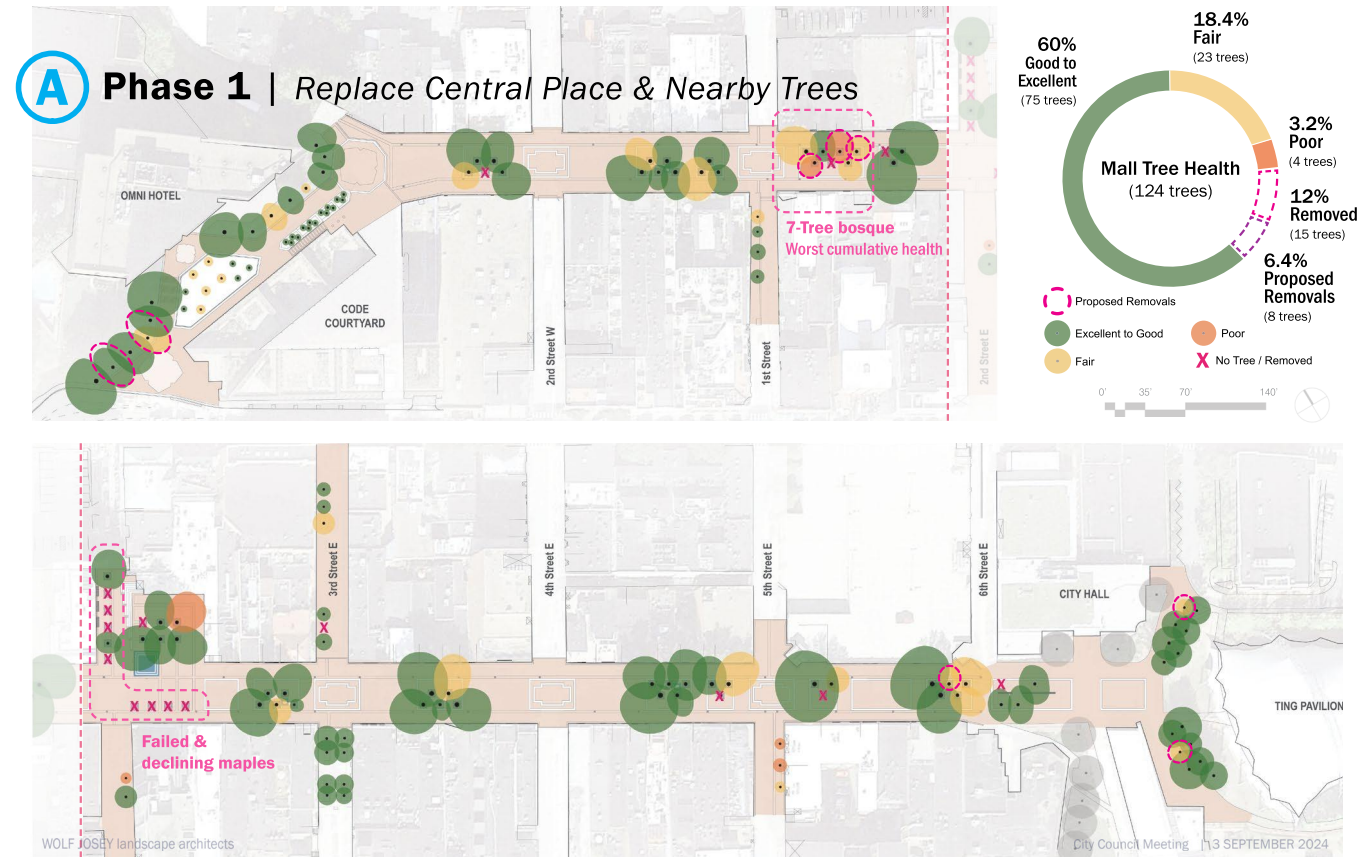
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Projected Lifespan without intervention



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Phase 1 | *Replace Central Place & Nearby Trees*



LIMITED SOIL VOLUME

- Minimal soil volume between building foundation soils and step footers
- Planted maples have limited urban adaptability and lead to high mortality



SATURATED SOILS

- No drainage infrastructure and location has lead to higher saturated soil levels

A **Phase 1** | *Replace Central Place & Nearby Trees*

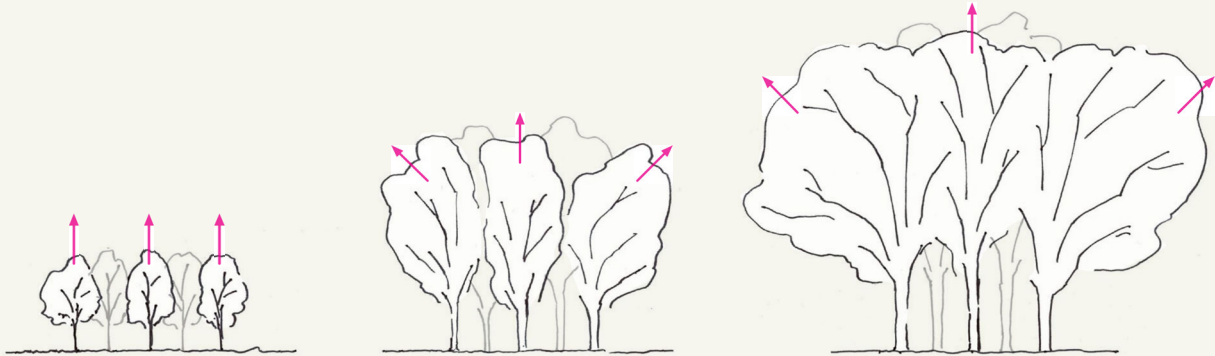


Phase 1: Partial Replacement of Central Place & Jefferson Theater Groves



Replacement Trees | Uniform Grove Replacement *(proposed)*

- Trees planted at the same time grow together as a single form

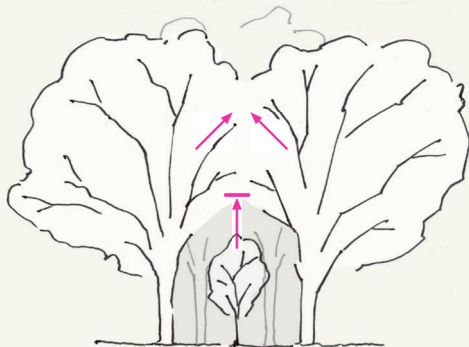


- As the trees mature, the perimeter trees are pruned allowing more light to interior trees



Replacement Trees | Single Tree Replacement *(not proposed)*

- Young trees struggle to develop in the shade of other trees for irregular growth rates



- Mature trees and new trees compete to fill light gaps from removed trees



A Grove Cost Alternatives | Planter Replacement A1

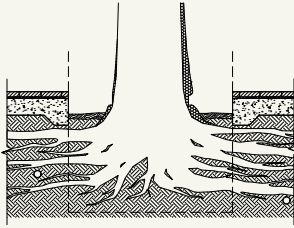
Planter Replacement (250 cu ft/tree)

8'x8' soil box + trees replaced

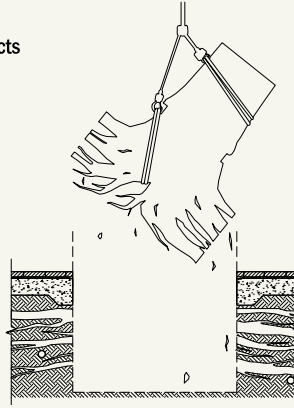
- Cost effective
- Minimal disturbance of existing soils, paving

Constraints

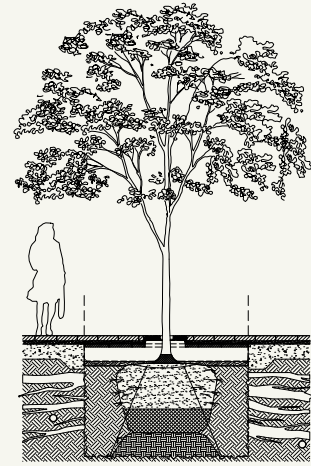
- Limited lifespan / less soil (~50-60 years)
- Slower growth rate
- Future utility conflicts



- ① • Remove grates
• Remove soil with air tools



- ② • Saw cut roots
• Crane out root ball



- ③ • New tree planting
• New grate & brick pavers

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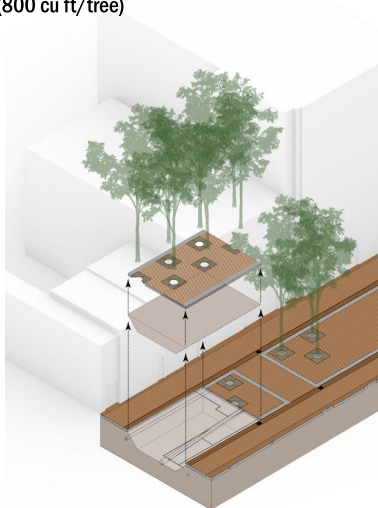
A Grove Cost Alternatives | Slab & Soil Replacement A2

Soil & Slab Replacement (800 cu ft/tree)

- Longer tree lifespan / greater soil volume (80+ years)
- Utility improvements

Constraints

- Expensive
- Longer construction window



- ① Demo trees/pavements & remove existing soil for possible reuse



- ② Update water and gas laterals, install structural columns and planting soil



- ③ Install hidden paver grate, pavers, irrigation and trees

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B Grate Modification | Grate Impacts Overview



Halprin Design: Hidden Paver Grate

- Benefits:
 - Continuous paving to trunk creates uniform ground plane and contiguous appearance

Preferred approach



2009 Design Modification: Surface Grate

- Benefits:
 - Girdling by surface grate is more visually apparent.
 - Removes brick masonry modification



B Grate Modification | Grate Impacts



Tree #13

- Tree girdled by grate support beam



Tree #14

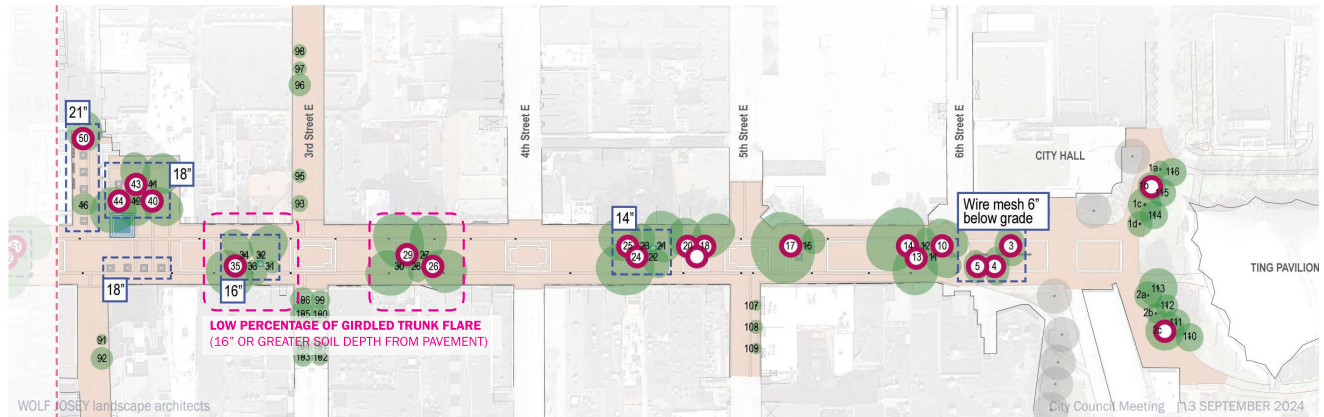
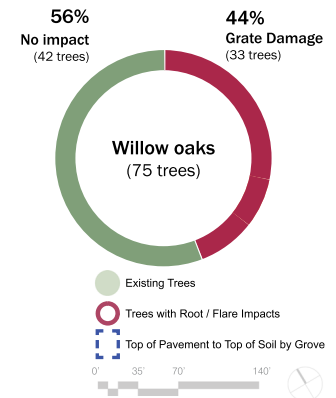
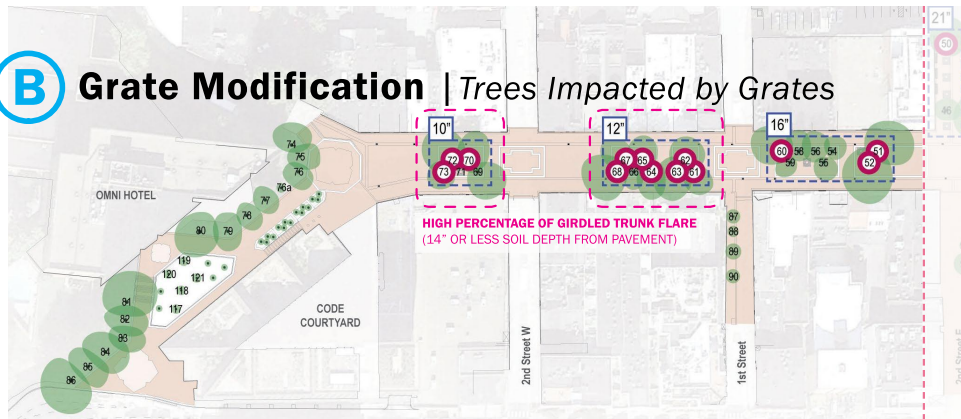
- Visible damage to trunk from grate
- Root flare girdled by both surface grate and structural grate support
- Grate not designed for expansion



Tree #66

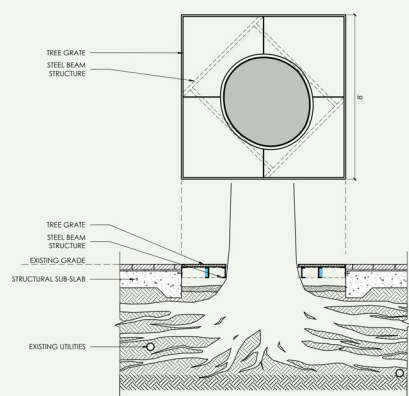
- Tree girdled by grate support beam
- Future light fixture conflict visible at left of image

B Grate Modification | Trees Impacted by Grates

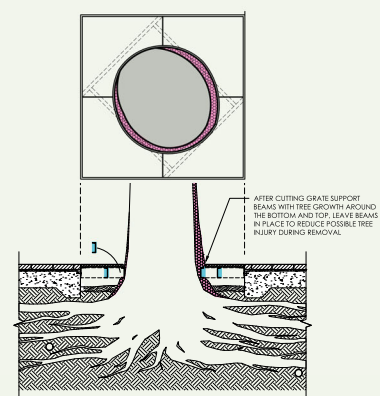


B Grate Modification | Grate Frame Expansion

Existing Condition

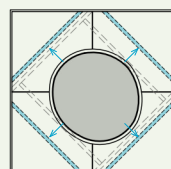


- Trunk flare without girdling by grate beam supports

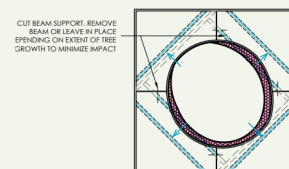


- Tree trunk growing over grate beam support

Proposed Modification



- Modify grate beams to reduce future conflict

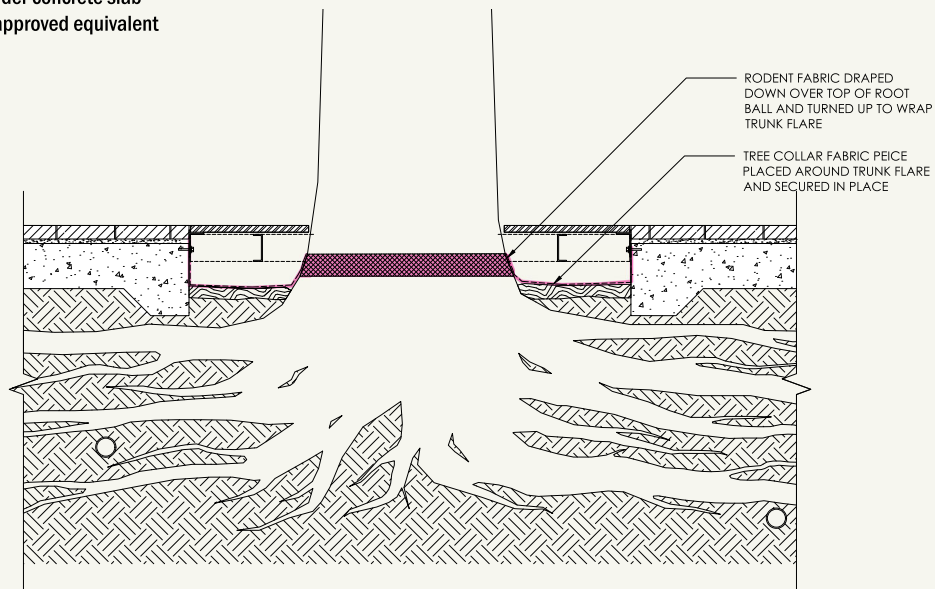


- Modify grate beams as needed to reduce future conflict

Grate Modification | Rodent Barrier

Rodent Barrier

- Prevent rats and other rodents from using tree wells to travel under concrete slab
- Xcluder GEO or approved equivalent



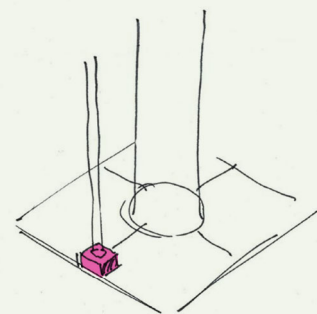
Grate Modification | Light Relocation

Modify light and driver relocation

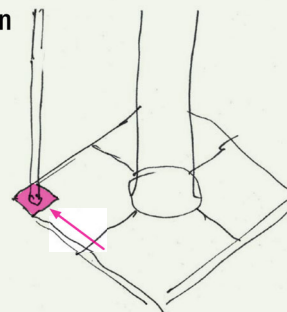
- Locate Fixture in corner for greatest distance from tree trunk
- Fixture footing to be flush with grate to reduce trip hazard



Existing Condition



Proposed Modification



B Brick Replacement | Brick paving replaces grate

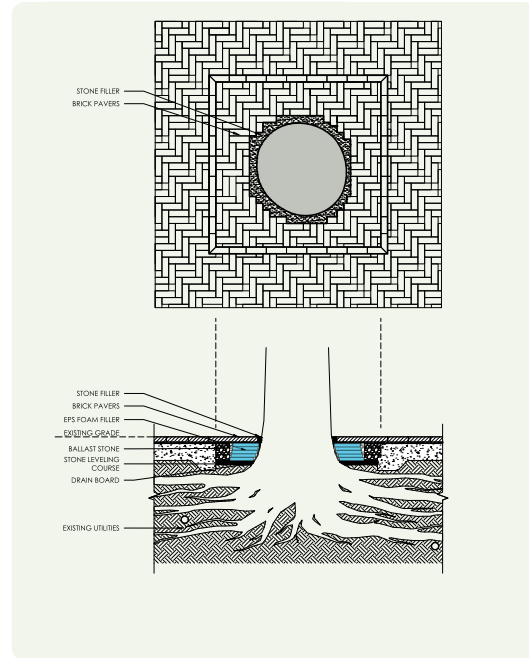
Replace grates with pavement and foam support structure

- Restore original design intent
- Transition detail to be applied to proposed trees replacements when grates are outgrown
- Paver grates from new tree planting to be replaced with foam support after 30 years



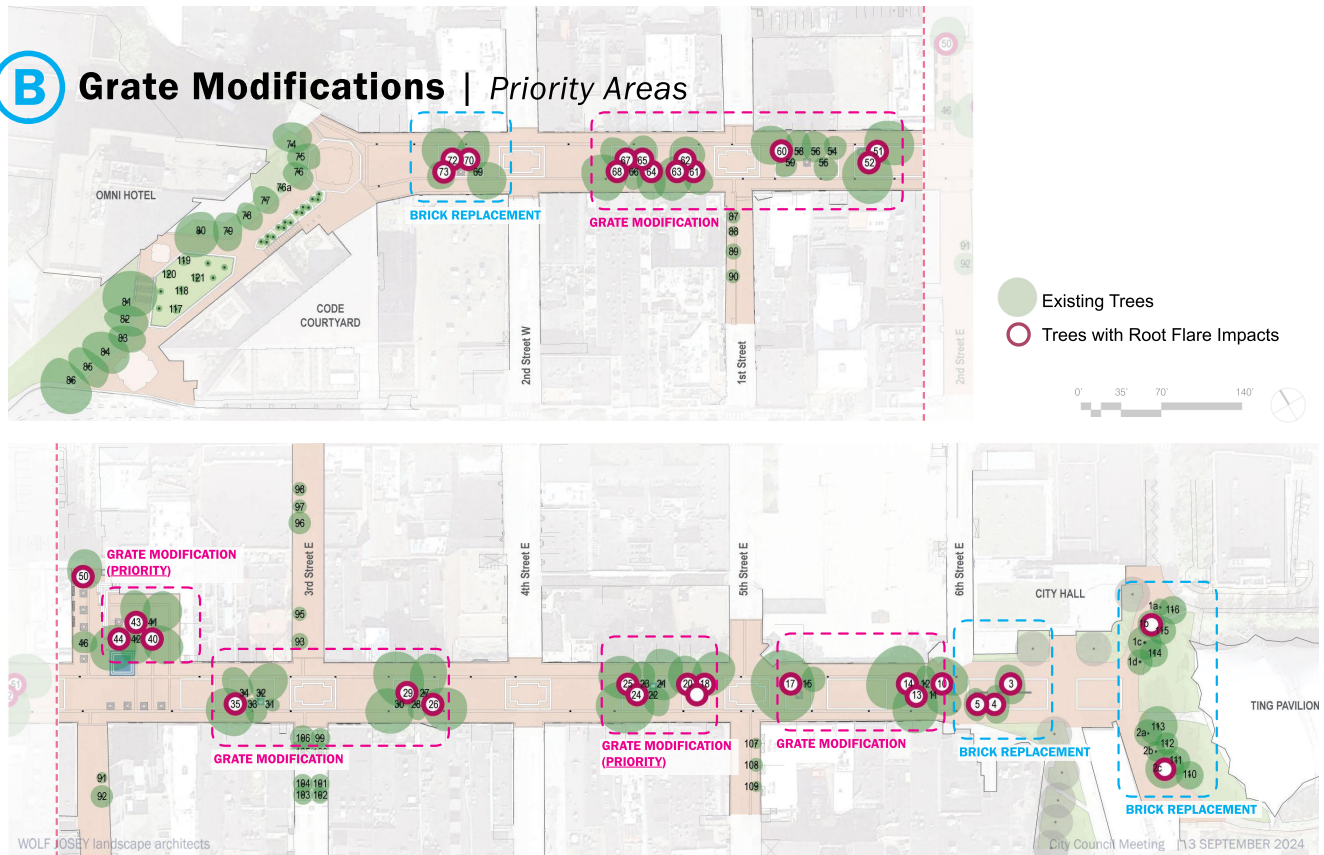
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Proposed Replacement Detail



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B Grate Modifications | Priority Areas



C Unique Conditions & Side Streets

1st Street

- Redesign opportunity
- No proposed changes

3rd Street E

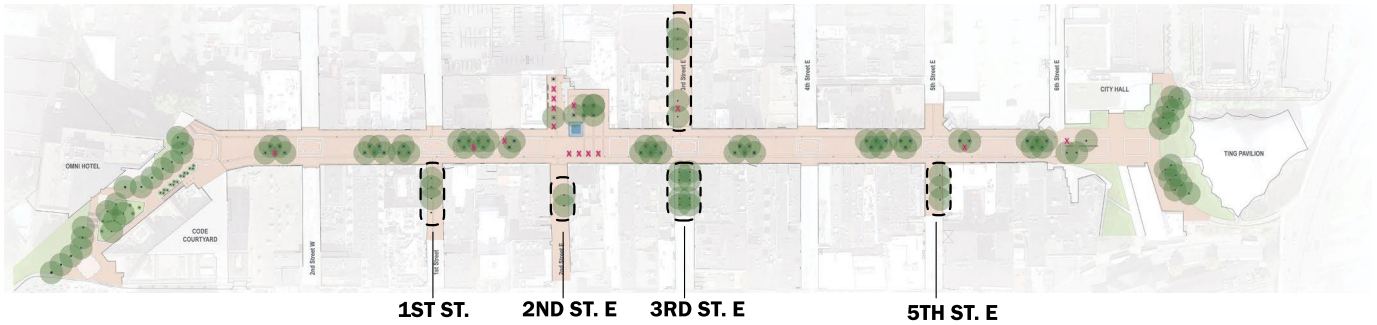
- Northern gingkos to have grate modified
- Southern gingkos to have soil remediation and ground cover replacement

2nd Street E

- Add structural slab
- Tree replacement

5th Street E

- Tree replacement
- Redesign opportunity



C Unique Conditions & Side Streets

OAKS AT OMNI HOTEL

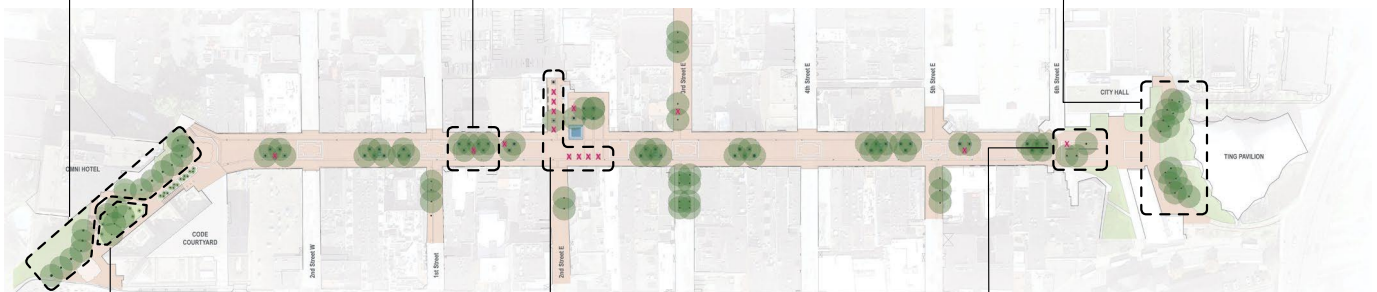
- Poor soil conditions
- Canopy crowding

7 TREE GROVE

- High canopy competition

OAKS AT TING PAVILION

- Severely compacted soils
- Low nutrient holding capacity
- Canopy competition



CODE BUILDING PLANTER

- Poor soils / Saturated soils
- Poor drainage

CENTRAL PLACE TREES

- Limited soil volume
- Saturated soils (minor)

OAKS AT FREEDOM OF SPEECH WALL

- Pavement grate structure failing
- Surface roots buckling pavement

Unique Conditions | Oaks at Omni Hotel



CANOPY CROWDING

- Selectively prune and thin trees to reduce crown competition and building conflicts
- Trees are generally healthy



POOR SOIL CONDITIONS

- Apply mulch or chips to exposed soils reducing compaction / improve nutrient holding

Unique Conditions | Freedom of Speech Wall Oaks



OVERALL CONDITIONS

- Trees are generally healthy



GRATE CONFLICTS

- Surface roots between slab and pavers leading to trip hazards
- Hidden steel paver grate girdling trees

Short Term: Modify Grates

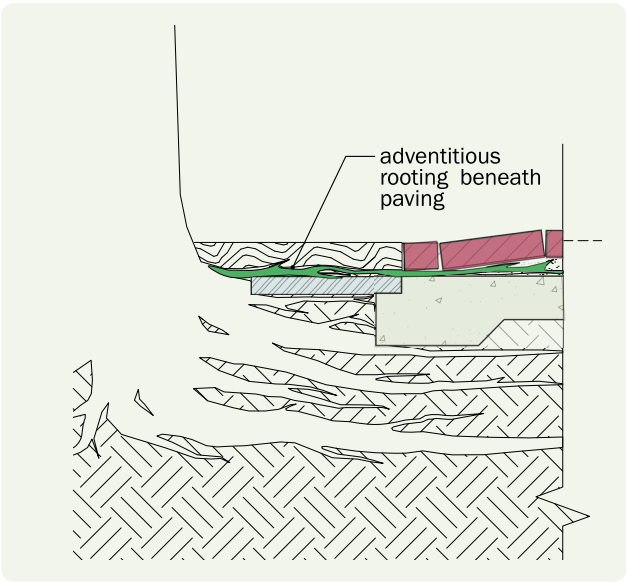
- Replace hidden paver grates
- Prune adventitious roots beneath pavers and reset pavers on slab

Unique Conditions | Freedom of Speech Wall Oaks

Tree Paver Grate Modification

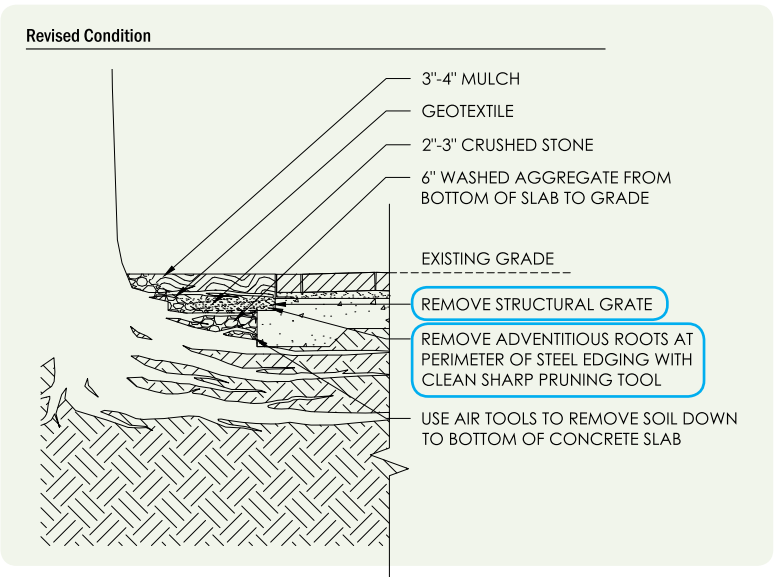
Existing tree grate conditions below grade at the Freedom of Speech Wall are unknown and based on suspected conditions.

A structural steel hidden paver grate appears to be girdling the tree with adventitious roots growing between the grate and pavement, causing pavers to raise and buckle



Unique Conditions | Freedom of Speech Wall Oaks

Tree Paver Grate Modification



Unique Conditions | Oaks at Ting Pavilion



POOR SOILS

- Heavy compaction from events
- Poor nutrient holding



PAVER GRATE CONFLICTS

- Steel frame of hidden paver grates girdling trees



CANOPY CROWDING

- Selectively prune & remove trees to reduce crown competition.
- Trees are generally healthy

Unique Conditions | Ting Pavilion Soil Remediation

Short Term: Mulching

Add mulch around trees to reduce compaction and moisture retention

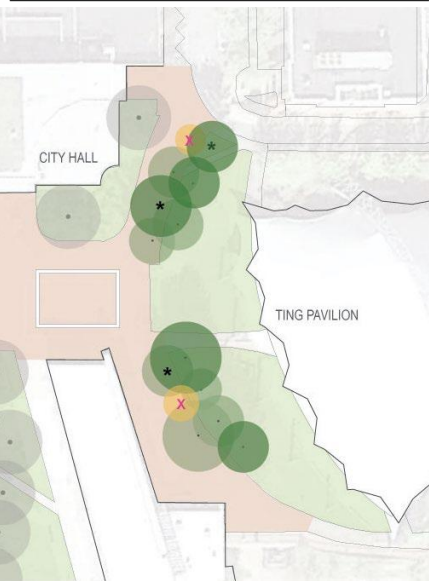


Unique Conditions | Ting Pavilion Tree Thinning

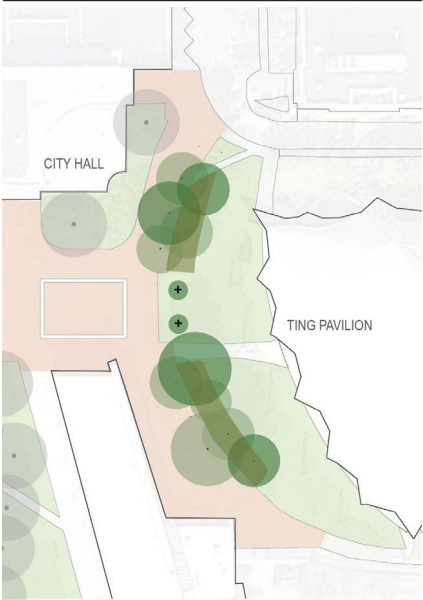
Short Term: Thinning/Planting

- Thin the groves by removing select trees, to reduce competition and improve long term health of the existing healthy trees
- Plant two new canopy trees to provide additional summer shade on the lawn from the west

Existing



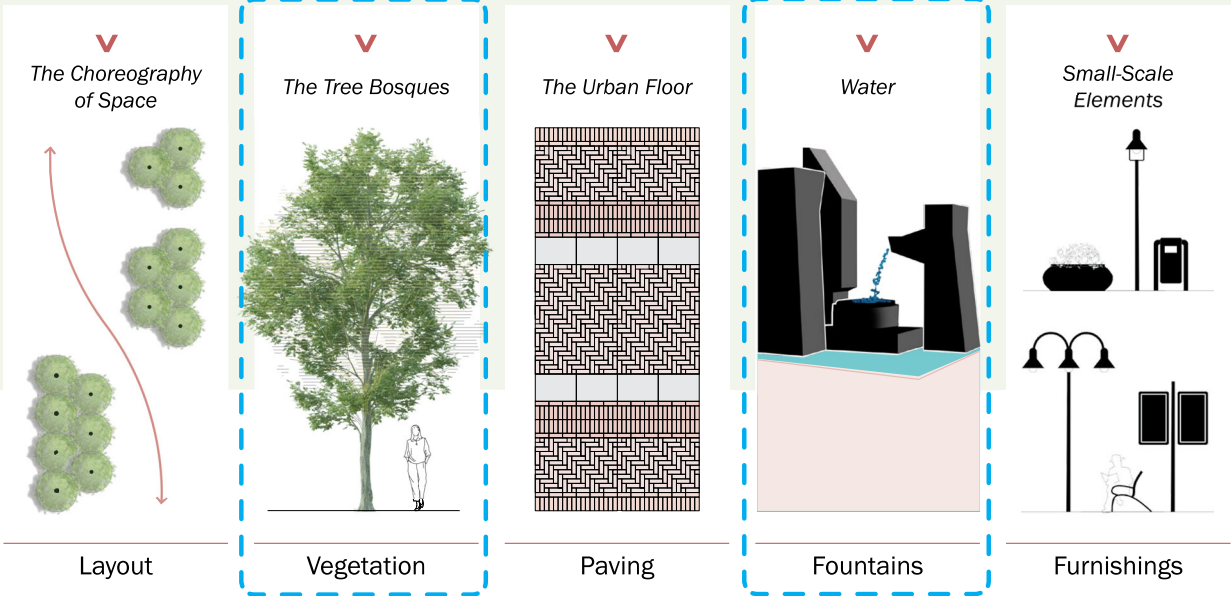
Proposed



*Monitor trees as they develop, consider removal

D Restore Historic Design Intent

The character-defining design elements of the Design of the Mall



Restore Historic Design Intent | *Tree Visibility & Café Fencing*



Clear views of the trunks emphasize the public nature of trees

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Cafe zones generate economic revenue but declare the trees as private

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Restore Historic Design Intent | *Trunk/Paving Interface Obscured*



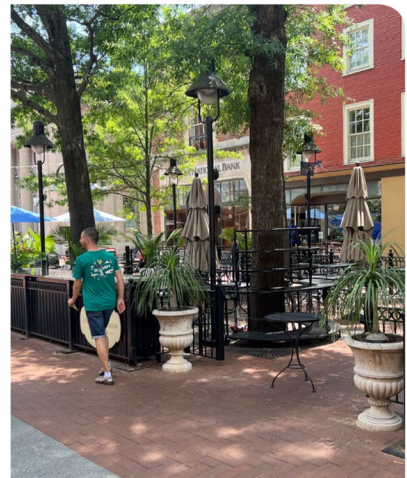
Potted Trees

- Tall vegetation (small trees) enclose and obscure base of trees
- Extensive use of pots obscures base of trees



Cafe Fencing / Counters

- Solid fencing obscures base of trees
- Solid counters obscure base of trees



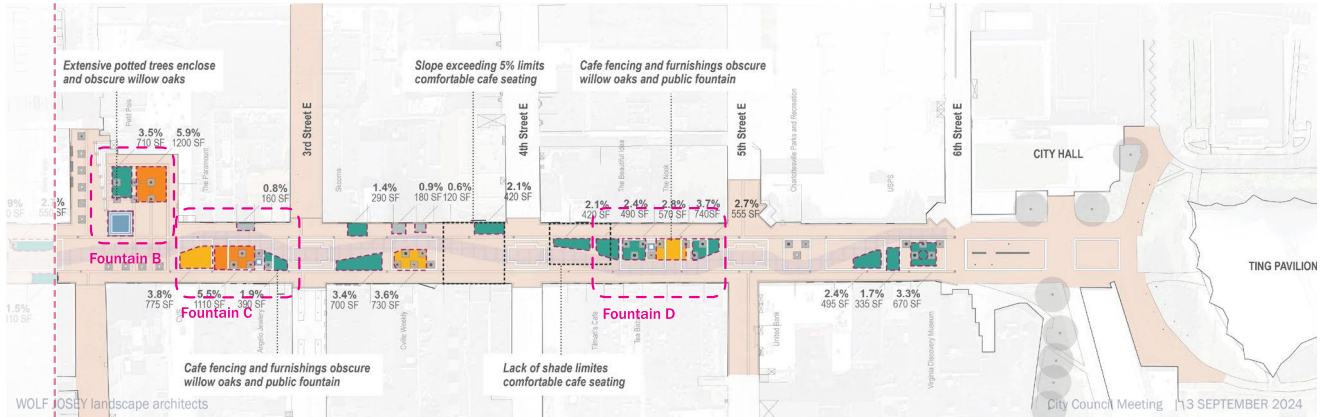
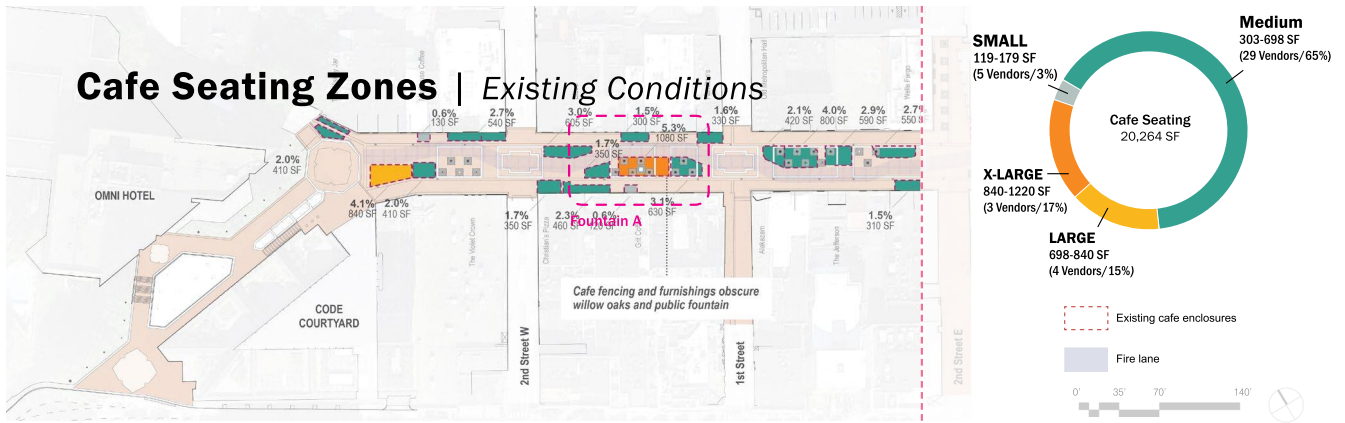
Cafe Furnishings

- Tall cafe furnishings such as metal racks obscure base of trees

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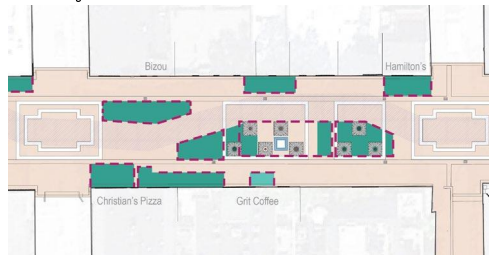
Cafe Seating Zones | Existing Conditions



Cafe Seating Zones | Recommended Conditions

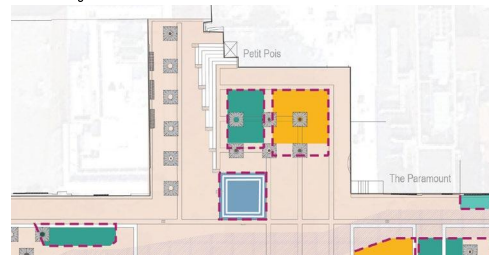
Fountain A

- Reveal fountain and trunks within grove of willow oaks
- Net change: -595 SF



Fountain B

- Reveal first row of willow oaks, increase public area
- Net change: -273 SF



Fountain C

- Reveal fountain and willow oaks from east
- Net change: -927 SF



Fountain D

- Reveal fountain and trunks within grove of willow oaks
- Net change: -690 SF



Cafe Seating Zones | Recommended Conditions

OMNI HOTEL

CODE COURTYARD

The Willows Grove

2nd Street W

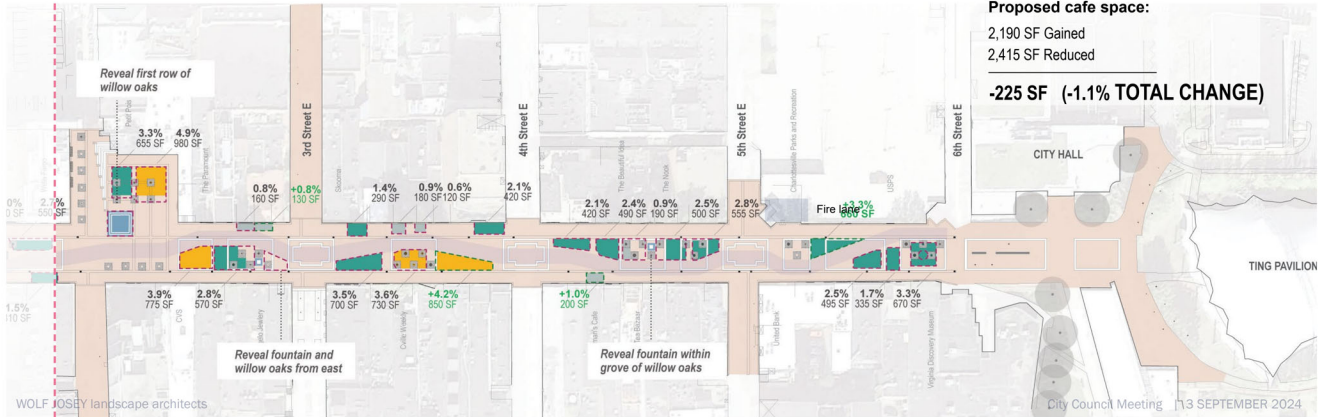
1st Street

2nd Street E

Reveal fountain within grove of willow oaks

Seating Zones and Recommended Conditions:

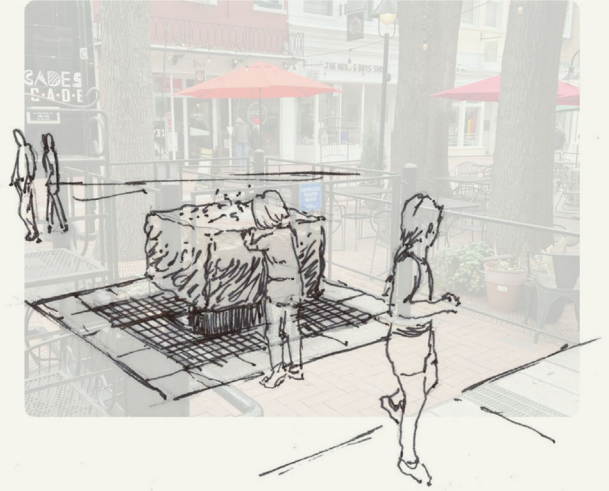
- 0.6% 130 SF
- 2.7% 540 SF
- 3.0% 605 SF
- 1.5% 300 SF
- 2.4% 490 SF
- 1.6% 330 SF
- 2.1% 420 SF
- 4.0% 800 SF
- 3.0% 550 SF
- 2.7% 550 SF
- 2.1% 410 SF
- 4.2% 840 SF
- 2.0% 410 SF
- +1.8% 350 SF
- 1.7% 350 SF
- 2.3% 460 SF
- 0.6% 120 SF
- 3.1% 630 SF
- 1.5% 310 SF



Restore Historic Design Intent | *Access & Visibility of Fountains*

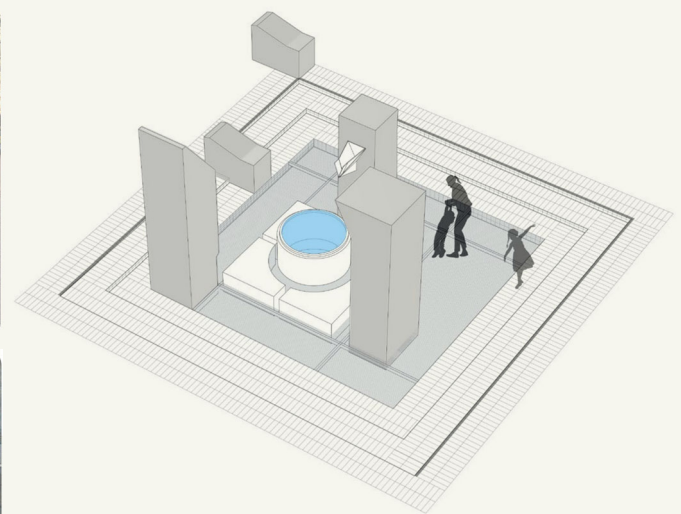
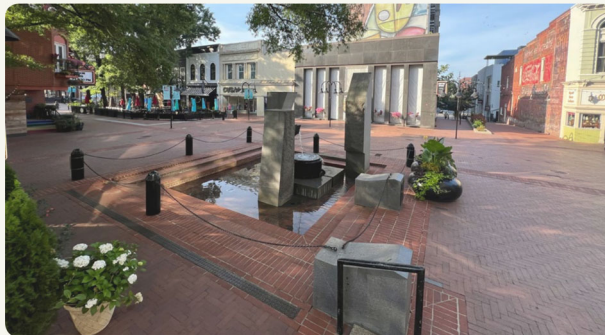


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Restore Historic Design Intent | *Access & Visibility of Fountains*



Recommendation:

- Add level and accessible stainless grate over basin
- Add safety nosing at stairs (remove bollards)
- Add nearby seating for visitors/families

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Preserve Existing Trees | Tree Maintenance



Preserve Existing Trees | Tree Maintenance Manual

Recommendations

Maintenance recommendations for all reviewed trees to be provided in final report

Takeaways

Every tree needs specific and individualized care

The most important pruning objective are to reduce risk of failure and to set the stage for long-term maintenance by maintaining and developing strong structure


Four essential age classes of trees on the downtown mall
Pruning should be by life stage

STAGE: Young-to medium-aged trees

- 1) 6 yrs old, beside the Omni and Code Building
- 2) 20-25 yrs old, along side streets and near the pavilion
 - Structural pruning to reduce potential for limb failure
 - Encourage strong center leader
 - Defect corrections
 - Create good limb spacing

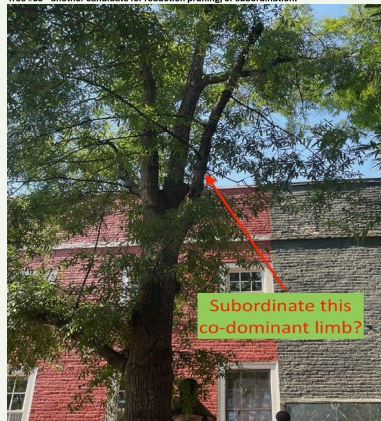
STAGE: Mature - to over mature trees

- 3) 40-45 yrs old, Willows in front of the Omni
- 4) 55-60 yrs old, primary trees along the mall
 - Most have good structure and very little pruning is required
 - Maintaining tree vigor and safety are the two most important goals for these trees

 CHARLOTTEVILLE DOWNTOWN MALL TREE CARE RECOMMENDATIONS - June 2024			72	Willow oak	No pruning required
			73	Willow oak	No pruning required
			74	Willow oak	No pruning required
			75	Willow oak	No pruning required
			76	Willow oak	No pruning required
			76a	Willow oak	No pruning required
			77	Willow oak	No pruning required
			78	Willow oak	No pruning required
			79	Willow oak	No pruning required
			80	Willow oak	No pruning required
			81	Willow oak	No pruning required
			82	Willow oak	No pruning required
			83	Willow oak	Consider removal for poor form
			84	Willow oak	No pruning required
			85	Willow oak	Consider removal for poor form
			86	Willow oak	No pruning required
			87	Ginkgo	Elevation pruning over walkway
			88	Southern magnolia	Elevation pruning over walkway
			89	Ginkgo	Elevation pruning over walkway
			90	Ginkgo	Structural pruning
			91	Norway maple	No pruning required
			92	Norway maple	No pruning required
			93	Ginkgo	Structural pruning
			94	Ginkgo	Structural pruning
			95	Ginkgo	Structural pruning
			96	Ginkgo	Structural pruning
			97	Ginkgo	Structural pruning
			98	Ginkgo	No pruning required
			99	Ginkgo	No pruning required
			100	Ginkgo	No pruning required
			101	Ginkgo	No pruning required
			102	Ginkgo	No pruning required
			103	Ginkgo	No pruning required
			104	Ginkgo	No pruning required

Preserve Existing Trees | Tree Maintenance

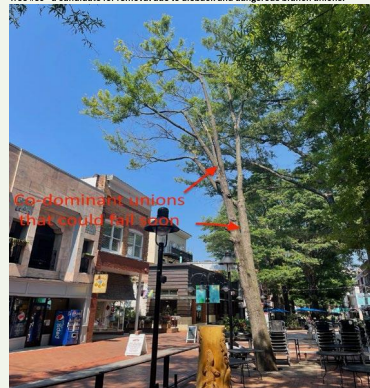
Tree #33 – another candidate for reduction pruning, or subordination.



This limb in tree #33 has been poorly pruned. This is a heading cut that is detrimental to the tree. It is probably best to prune the limb back to the branch collar at the trunk and accept that there would be a wound larger than is desired but understand that we are eliminating a co-dominant stem.

Some trees are in such an advanced stage of decline that trying to retain them seems futile. They may also represent an unacceptable level of risk. Trees #54 and 59 are in this condition now and should be considered for removal.

Tree #59 - a candidate for removal due to dieback and dangerous branch unions.

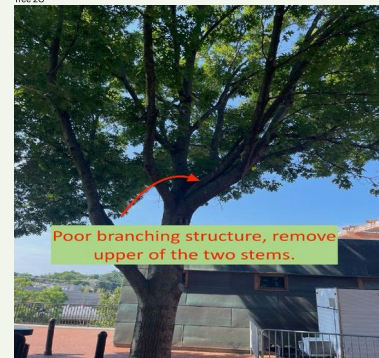


This tree is declining in vigor rapidly as evidenced by the extensive amounts of dead wood. What is most concerning is the occurrence of two areas of bark inclusion. Due to the lean of this tree, the weight of the limbs and bark inclusions, this tree could fail in multiple locations at any time.

For tree #113, a decision must be made regarding which limbs to retain, and how best to undertake restoration pruning with the least amount of damage. It might be possible to improve the branching structure, but it might involve 10 years of incremental pruning. Early structural pruning would have produced a better tree and saved thousands of dollars of pruning costs.

A similar example is found in tree #2C near the pavilion where two limbs are growing in close proximity. Poor pruning in the nursery led to this defect. Exaggerated weight loading on the trunk from these two limbs makes it more likely that limb failure will occur. Therefore, the upper limb of these two should be incrementally subordinated and removed.

Tree 2C



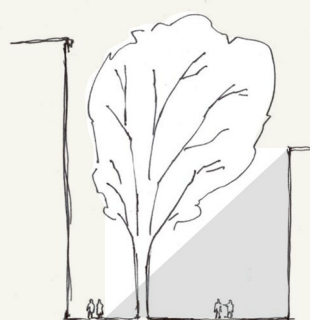
* For further details, see separate report

Preserve Existing Trees | Zoning & Light Preservation

Zoning: Building Height

Zoning changes allow for increased height and density along the downtown mall. Increased building heights could have unintended consequences for existing and proposed trees.

Existing Condition

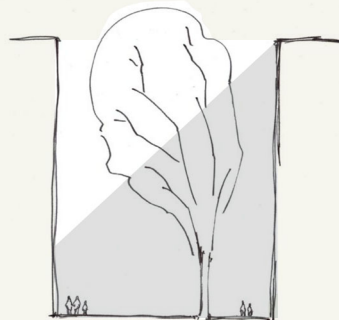


Currently, tree canopies grow above buildings for sunlight

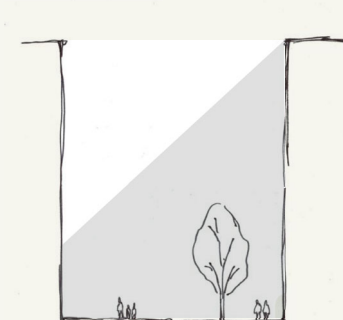
*Charlottesville Development Code (Adopted 12/18/2023)

- Allowable building height for Downtown Mixed Use (DX) see section 2.5.6
- Building transitions and step-backs see Section 2.10.7 & Div. 4.7

Allowable Condition (See next page for specific heights)



Existing large trees may still access sunlight depending on size of trees and building height increases



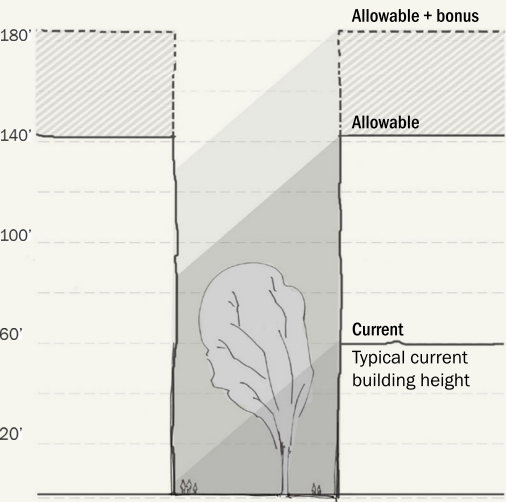
With building height increases, new trees will be challenged to grow in full shade

*Willow oaks do not grow in shade

Preserve Existing Trees | Zoning & Light Preservation

Allowable Condition

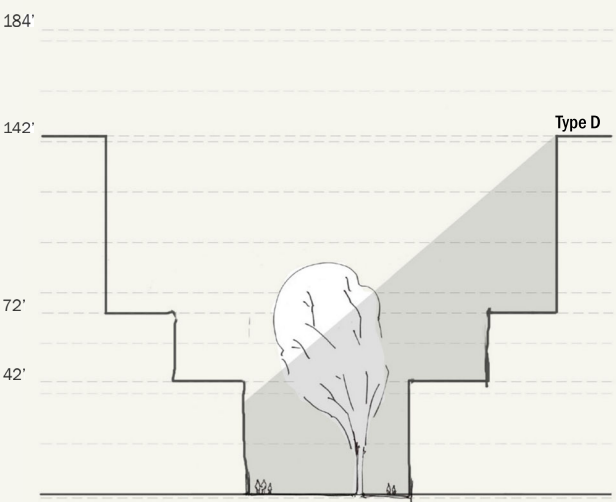
Existing large trees may still access sunlight depending on size of trees and building height increases



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Recommended code modification

Add transition type D for Downtown Mall corridor. Required step-back will allow light into corridor for trees and pedestrians.



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Preserve Existing Trees | Zoning & Light Preservation

Existing Precedent: CODE Building



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Recommendations: Long Term

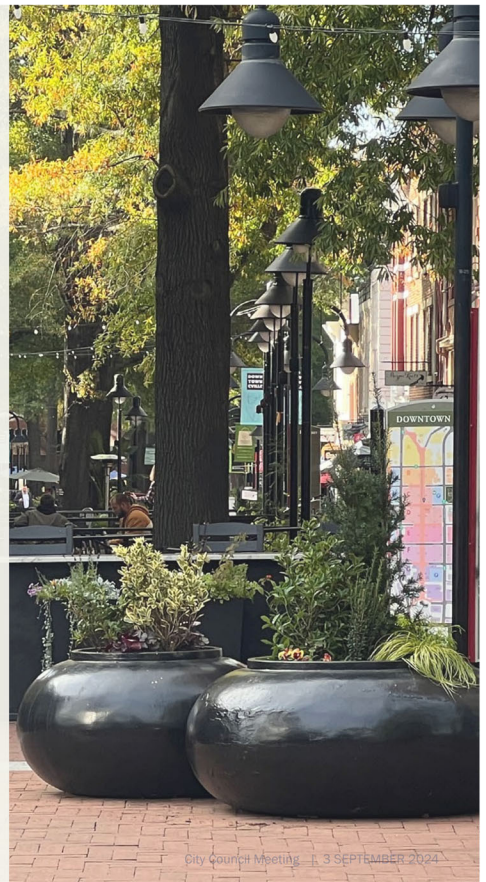
Recommendations Long-Term: Phases 2, 3 & 4

A. Tree Selection

- Size, form, urban resilience, climate, growth rate, fruit and color

B. Phasing

- Tree replacement phasing along mall
- Interim suggestions for newly installed trees



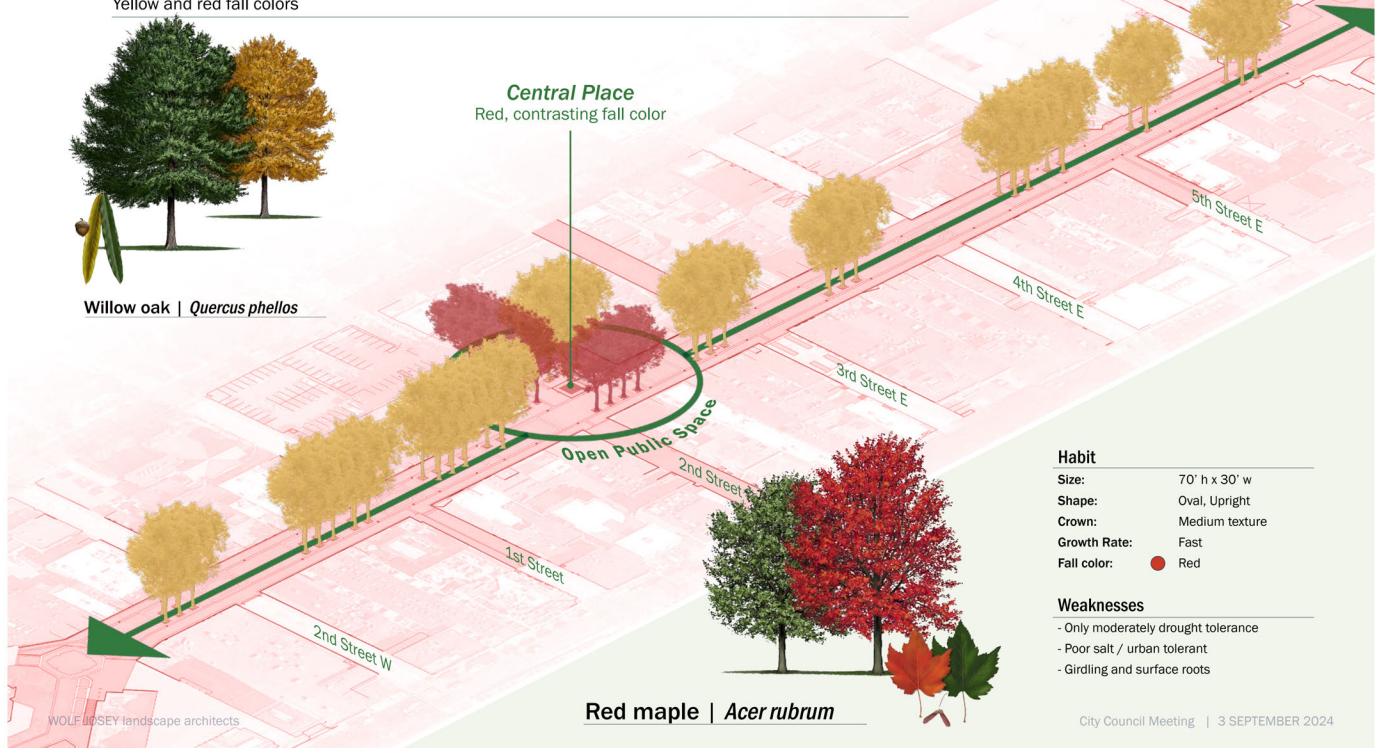
Next Generation | Existing Tree Species

Yellow and red fall colors



Willow oak | *Quercus phellos*

Central Place
Red, contrasting fall color



Red maple | *Acer rubrum*

Habit

Size:	70' h x 30' w
Shape:	Oval, Upright
Crown:	Medium texture
Growth Rate:	Fast
Fall color:	Red

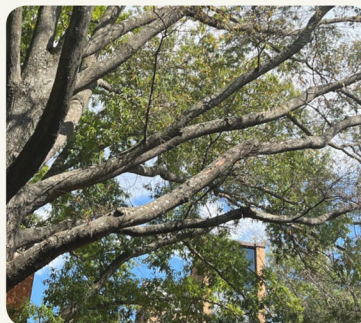
Weaknesses

- Only moderately drought tolerance
- Poor salt / urban tolerant
- Girdling and surface roots

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Next Generation | Criteria for Tree Selection



HEALTH

- Drought Tolerance*
- Climate Change Resilience
- Diseases & Pests
- Urban / Disturbance Tolerance
- Structural Vulnerability

PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES

- Form & Habit*
- Average lifespan*
- Fruit size / drop hazard*
- Growth Rate
- Leaf Size
- Fall Color

LOCALITY

- Regionally Native
- Pollinator & Habitat

* critical trait multiplier applied

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Next Generation | Recommended Tree Selection

DOWNTOWN MALL


WILLOW OAK
Quercus phellos



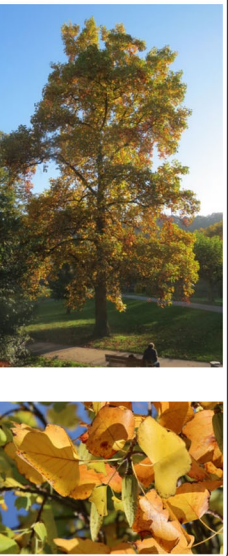
SWAMP WHITE OAK
Quercus bicolor



JEFFERSON ELM
Ulmus americana 'Jefferson'

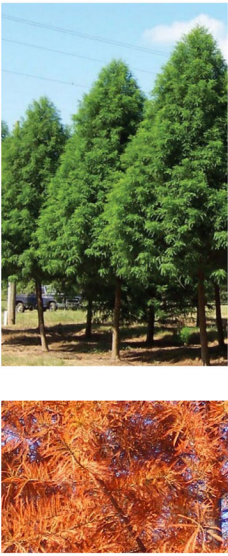


TULIP POPLAR
Liriodendron tulipifera



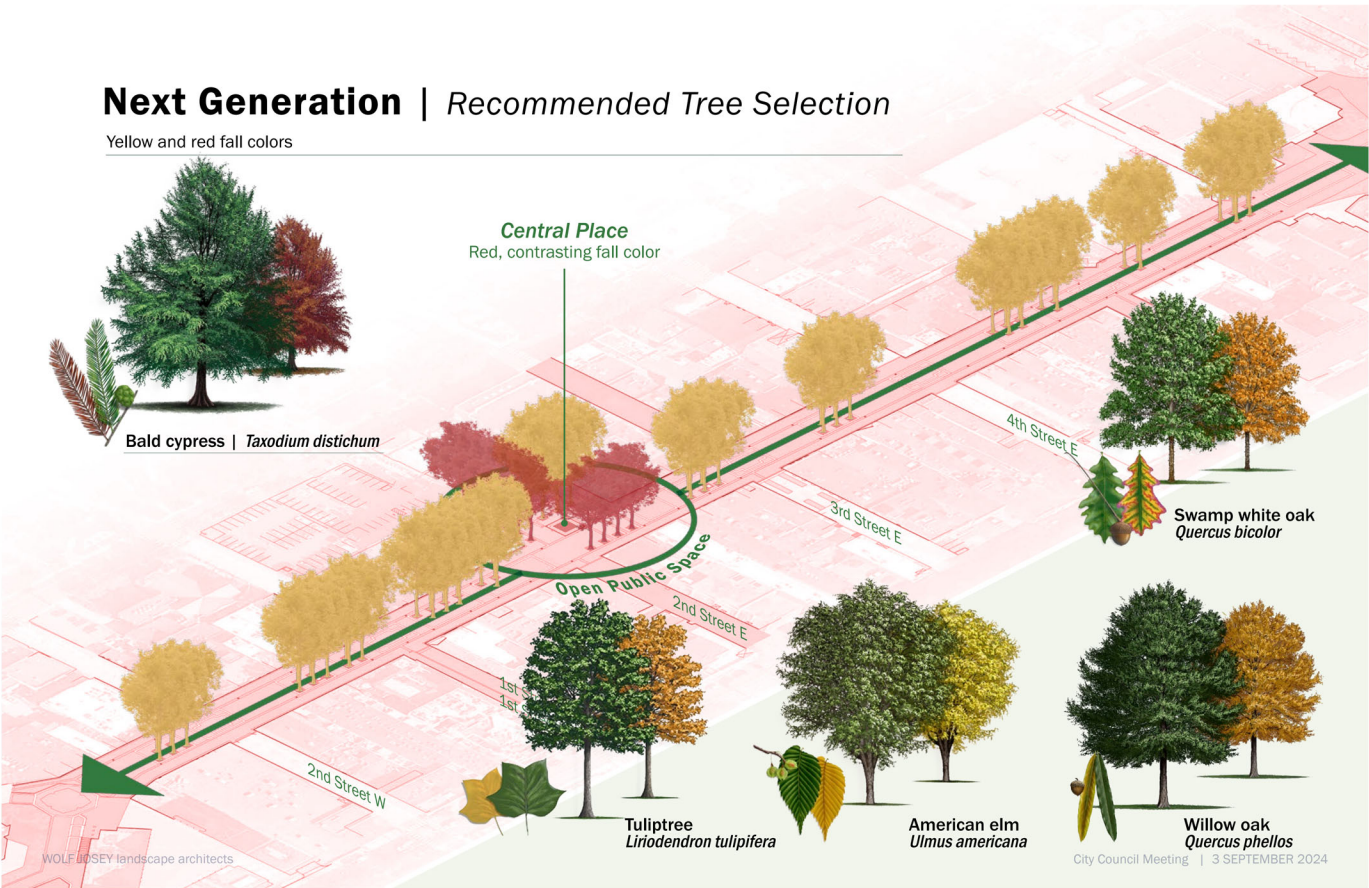
CENTRAL PLACE

BALD CYPRESS
Taxodium distichum
'Autumn Gold'



Next Generation | Recommended Tree Selection

Yellow and red fall colors



Phasing Plan Strategy

1) Current Tree Health

- Protect the healthy trees
- Prioritize replacing unhealthy bosques

2) Stepped Approach (not all at once)

- 4 phase plan over 20 years to keep the mall shaded and active through the duration of the replacement
- Strategically replace bosques to reduce negative impacts to businesses

3) Location

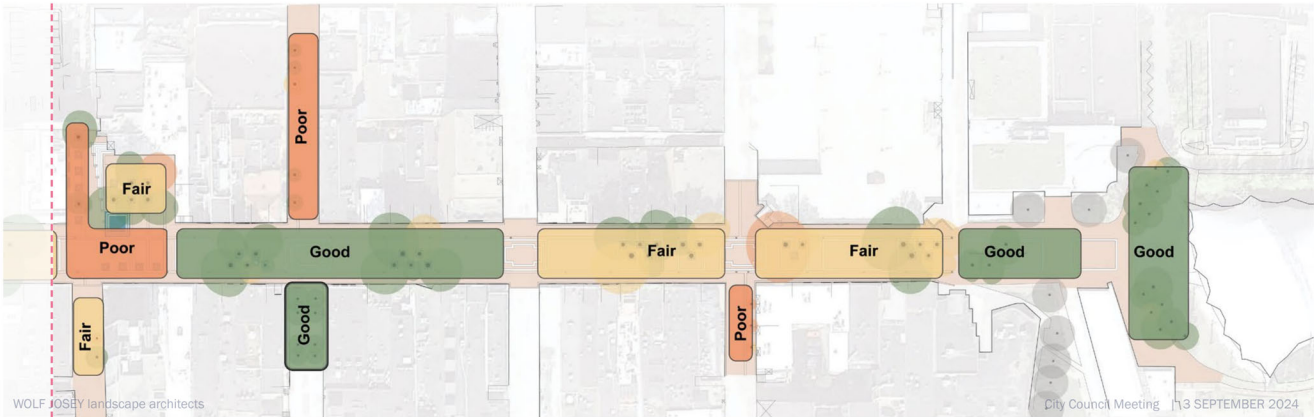
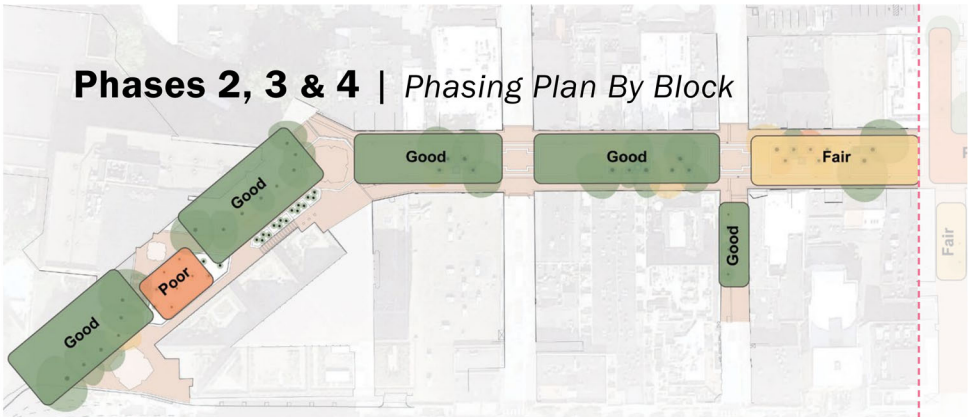
- Begin with Central Place maple replacement and least healthy bosque to introduce project and inform public of the process

Phases 2, 3 & 4 | Staggered Phasing Plan

Phase 1 Year 5 Phase 2 Year 10 Phase 3 Year 15 Phase 4 Year 20



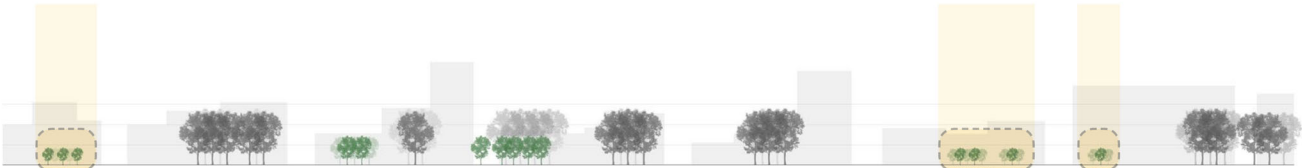
Phases 2, 3 & 4 | Phasing Plan By Block



Next Generation | Phasing Plan



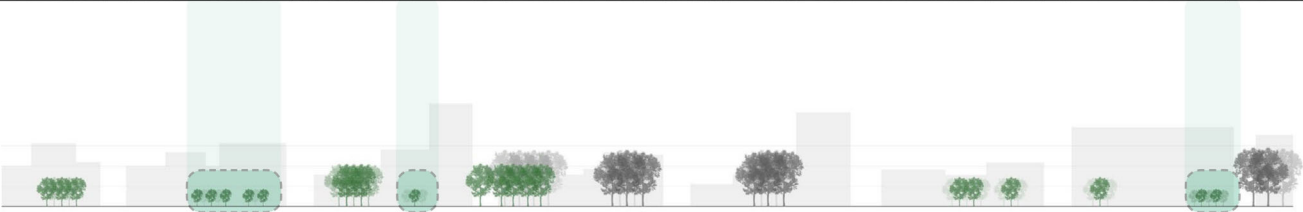
Phase 1: Year 5



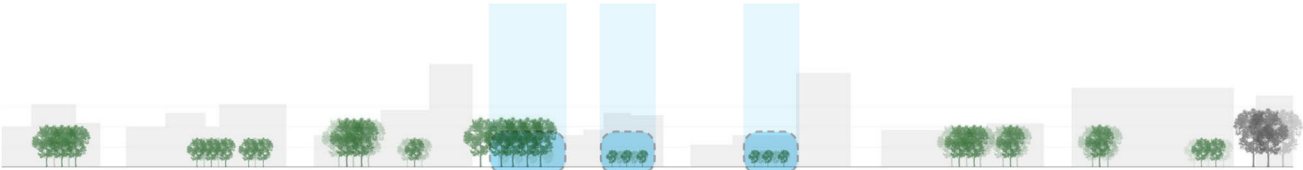
Phase 2: Year 10



Next Generation | Phasing Plan



Phase 3: Year 15



Phase 4: Year 20

Next Generation | Phasing Plan



Year 5
Phase 1



Year 10
Phase 2



Year 15
Phase 3



Year 20
Phase 4



Year 50+

Next Generation | Transitioning Spaces



Janet Echelman
Current
2023

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Claude Cormier
18 Shades of Gay
2011

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Projected Lifespan without intervention

| Today



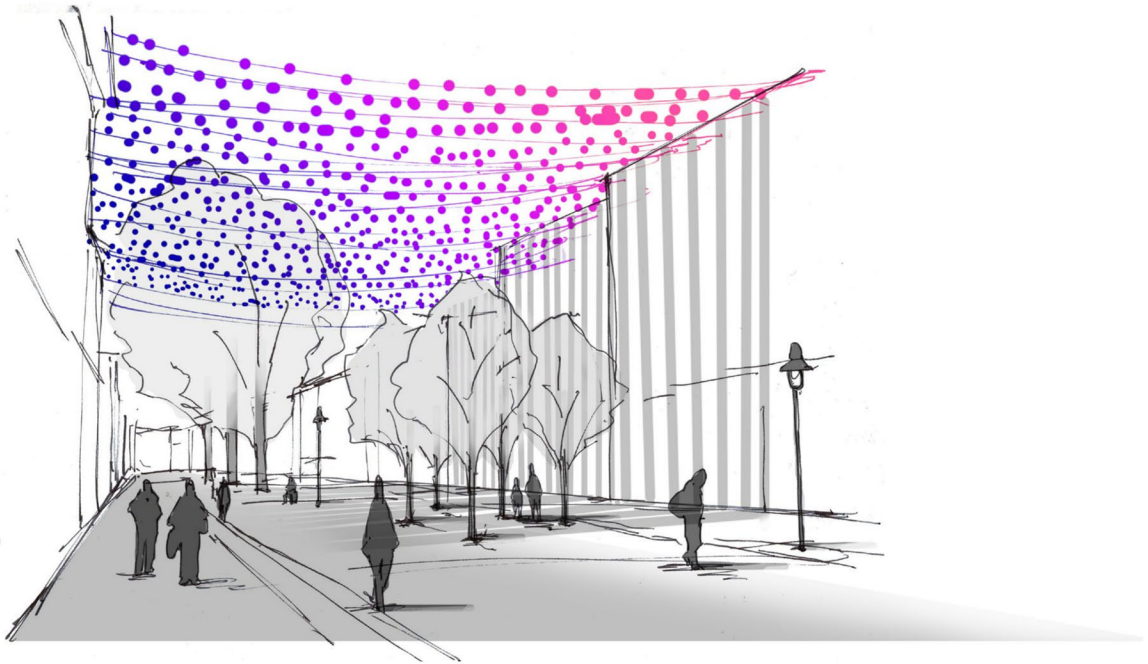
| 10-15 years



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Investing in the Next Generation | Charlottesville Downtown Mall



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Questions?