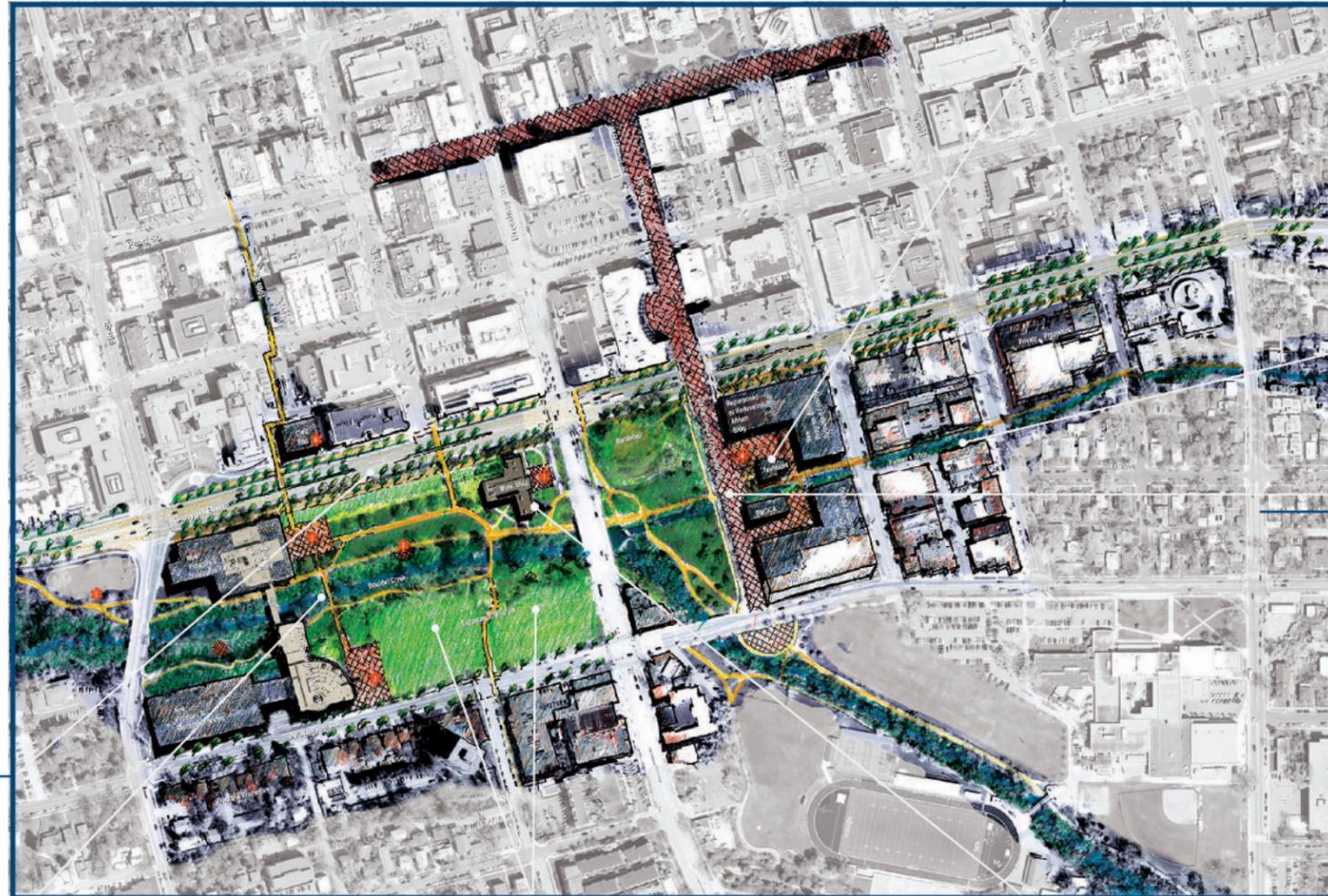




Draft Public Realm Plan

Boulder's Civic Area will be a place for everyone—a lively and distinct destination that reflects our community's values, where people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds feel welcome to recreate, socialize, deliberate, learn and access city services. The green space and beauty along Boulder Creek will provide significant open space and park spaces and will be the spine of a unifying design theme that weaves existing and potential new facilities with a rich diversity of civic, recreational, artistic and cultural amenities and programs, creating a true civic heart for the Boulder community.



HISTORIC STRUCTURES



Designated and eligible landmarks (the municipal, city moving and storage (BMOCA), and Teahouse buildings and the Bandshell) enrich the area and reflect its history.

TRANSIT CONNECTIONS



Enhance the transit function & connections around civic area.

FARMER'S DITCH

Farmer's Ditch provides a linear water amenity to walk, bike and relax along and continues into Goss Grove neighborhood.



FARMERS' MARKET



The tradition and exuberance of the Farmers' Market continues and is expanded to keep pace with its popularity.

ENHANCED ACCESS



Bike and pedestrian paths connect the area's assets to each other and to surrounding neighborhoods.

CANYON BOULEVARD



Enhance Canyon Boulevard from 9th to 17th Street to become a complete street, with ample space and amenities for pedestrians, bikes, and transit.

PLACE FOR ARTS

Public art, in the form of sculpture, plazas and gathering spaces, contributes beauty and interest to the area.

Focal Points

- Sister City Plaza
- Library Plaza
- Peace Garden
- Teahouse Plaza
- Heartling Sculpture Garden
- Civic Pad

CIVIC PARK + CREEK



Boulder's Civic Park and Boulder Creek remain a natural corridor. Other features like significant trees and creekside vegetation augment the natural character of the area.

LIFE SAFETY



Improve life and property safety by removing existing buildings (New Britain and Park Central) and surface parking from the High Hazard Flood Zone.

CIVIC HEART



City services embody the civic nature of the area. Once Park Central and New Britain buildings are removed from the HHZ, functions housed in those buildings will relocate within the Civic Area or near by in downtown.



Just imagine what it could become

Civic Park Improvements

Over half of the 27 acres -- and the heart of the Civic Area -- is parkland with access to Boulder Creek. The parkland aspect of the Civic Area may expand as the defining feature of the area through the relocation of parking and structures from the High Hazard Flood Zone to other places. The outdoor urban park provides relief to the busy and built up downtown; it provides spaces to gather, recreate, relax, learn, and enjoy views.

The parks are well loved and a little tired, with old playground equipment and shuffleboard courts. Through this planning effort many ideas have surfaced to restore the Boulder Creek channel and manage access, add kiosks to activate the park, add gardens and play equipment, provide additional programmed activities to make the park welcoming and inclusive for all, add public art, improve night lighting, and add cohesive signage and a consistent look and feel for the area. Additional park master planning/site planning will be necessary to refine specific park program elements and their location.



Creek edge play



Active park with informal amphitheater



Art walk along Canyon east of library

Possible Park Program Elements:

North of the Creek:

North of the creek is a great lawn for gathering and open space for music and events. It could be better programmed.

South of the Creek:

South of the creek is a more natural space with intimate and shaded areas for nature exploration, education, and play. In addition, the larger expansive area where parking is could accommodate a future relocation of the band shell or Farmers' Market -- should those choices make sense -- or other outdoor recreational or social uses.

Central Park:

Central park contains large and notable trees, the bandshell, and train tracks. Improve appearance of the park and relationship to Farmers' Market, and provide additional seating and spaces along the Farmer's Ditch for gathering and eating. (See bandshell key choices.)

Considerations:

Activating the parks will increase inclusiveness in the area and a sense that the Civic Area is exciting, fun, safe, family-friendly, and welcoming. Some considerations to move forward with site design include:

- Parks need adjacent "eyes on the park" and they need activity.
- Spaces should improve relationship with surrounding uses (e.g., Library).
- Spaces should feel safe, inclusive.
- Should create a variety of scales of spaces -- intimate and large gathering spaces.

What will it take to improve the park?

Additional site planning. Investment Strategy. Partnerships with organizations to provide programming. Coordination with Homeless Planning Group. (See Near-term Improvements.)