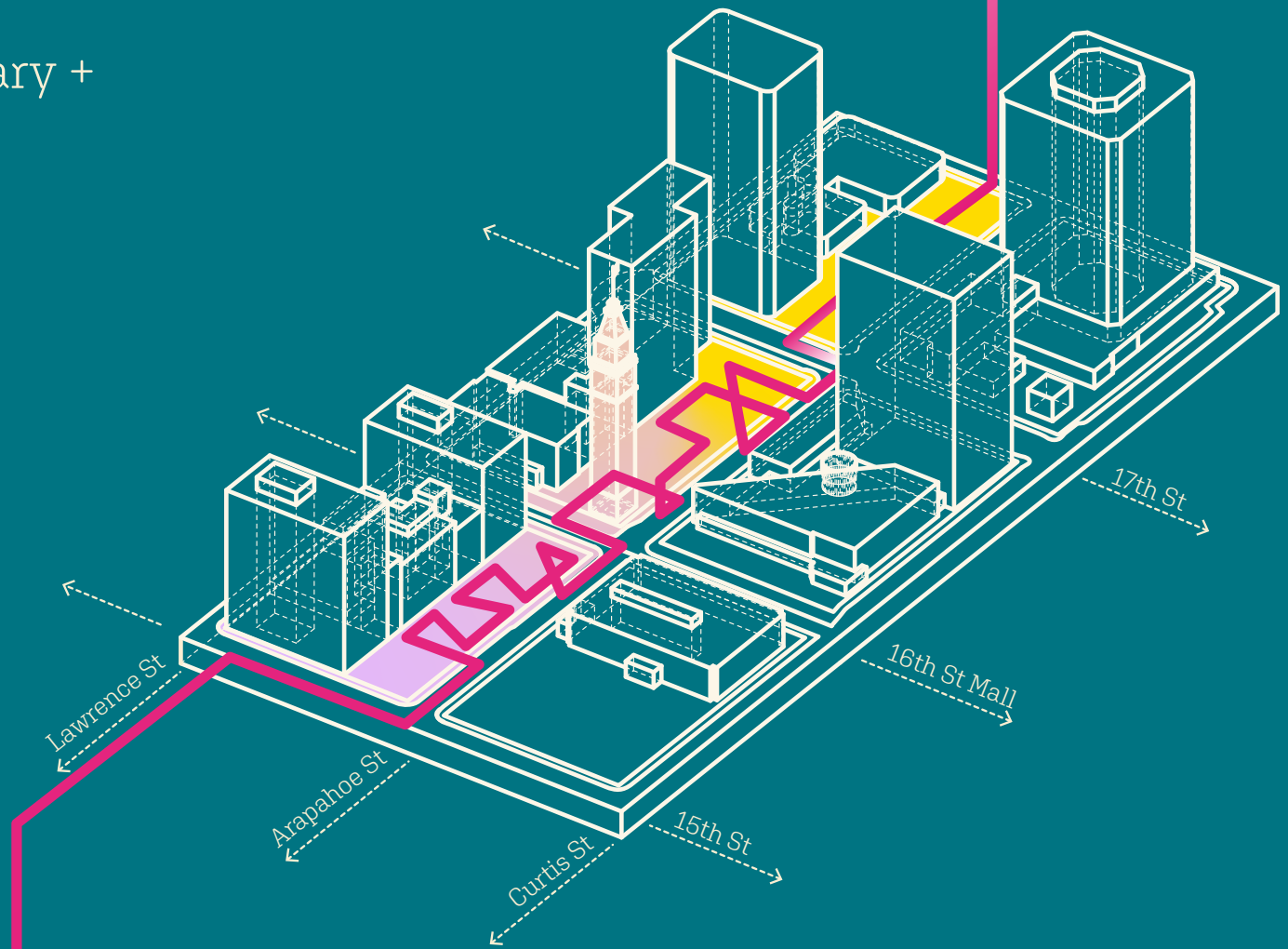


Skyline Park Improvements

Public Workshop #3
Engagement Summary +
Final Concept Plan

Summer/Fall 2021





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Final Concept Plan + Next Steps

- 1 Final Concept Plan
- 2 Next Steps

**Public Workshop #3
Engagement
Summary**

1. Engagement Process

Workshop #3 Engagement Process Components

743 participants provided feedback during this outreach effort.

Stakeholder Committees

Executive Leadership Team (ELT) | 6/18/2021 | **13 participants**

Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) | 6/29/2021 | **25 participants**

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) | 6/29/2021 | **19 participants**

D&F Tower Projection & Yard Signs

In conjunction with Downtown Theater District and the Downtown Denver Partnership, Denver Parks & Recreation was able to advertise the workshop by projecting onto the D&F Tower. Yard signs with QR codes were also posted in Skyline Park.

Focus Group

PEOPLE + PLACE + LIFESTYLE Joint Focus Group | 6/30/2021 | **15 participants**

Virtual Public Workshop #3

Public Workshop | 6/30/2021 | **61 participants**

Online & Paper Survey

7/1/2021 - 8/1/2021 | **610 participants**

2,373+
channels of
public input

during all 3 phases of
the Skyline Park Public
Engagement Process

331 voices participated in
Stakeholder and Focus Groups

291 people joined for the
Online Public Workshops

1,750 online + paper
survey responses

50 people participated
in extended engagement
conversations

Skyline Park People. Place. Lifestyle.

Virtual Public Workshop #3

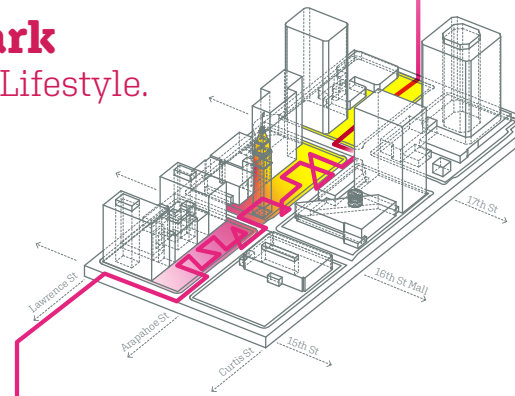
Wednesday,
June 30, 2021
5:30-7:00pm

Join us on Zoom:
rebrand.ly/skyline

Take our survey:
surveymonkeys.com/r/skylinesurvey3

Learn more about
the project:

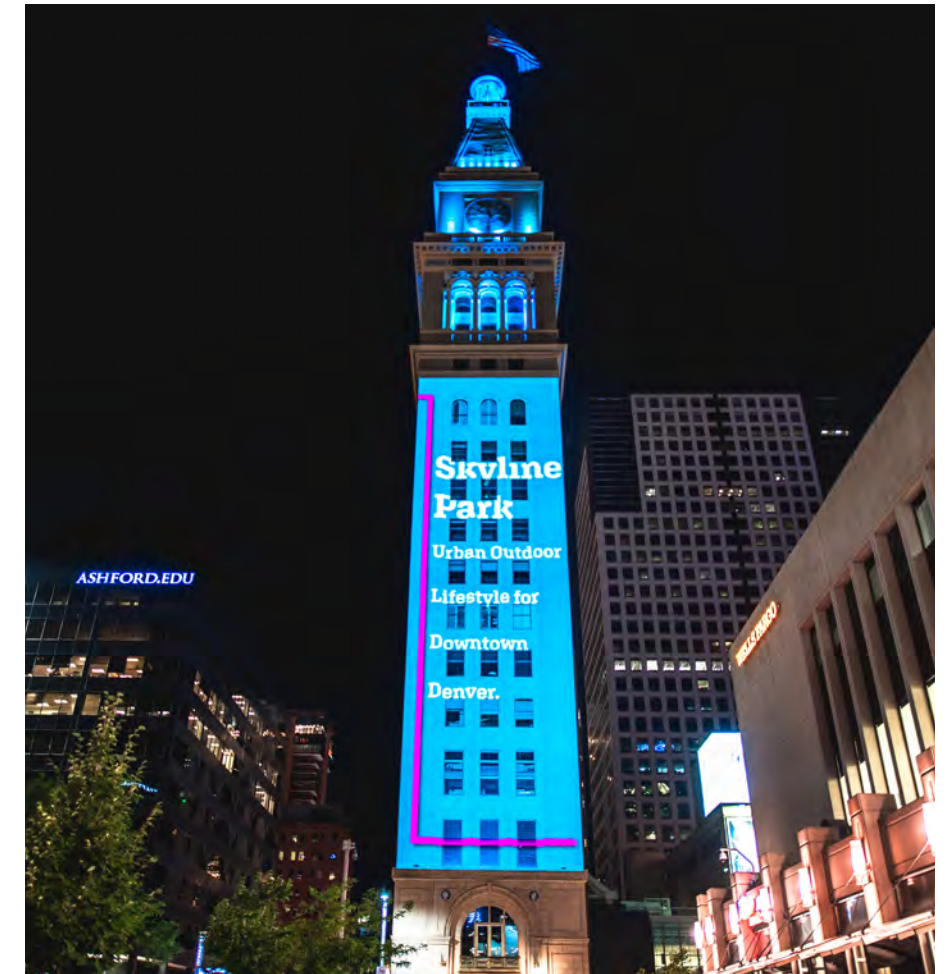
[www.denvergov.org/
theoutdoordowntown](https://www.denvergov.org/theoutdoordowntown)



Join us for our third public workshop for the reimagining of Skyline Park! We will present the draft final concept for all three blocks of the park and gather your feedback.

The Skyline Park Improvements Project will create a new concept design for all three blocks of the park and develop a design for construction of Phase 1, which is located within Block 2 (adjacent to the D&F Tower). This project is funded by the Elevate Denver Bond Program.

Para pedir interpretación al español, por favor mande un correo electrónico a parksandrecreation@denvergov.org. A sign language interpreter or CART will be provided upon request. Three business days notice is requested. Contact signlanguageservices@denvergov.org. For any other accommodation requests/concerns contact disabilityaccess@denvergov.org.



2. Vision + Goals

Vision

Skylines Park will be an authentic and contemporary expression of Denver's urban outdoor lifestyle.

Goals

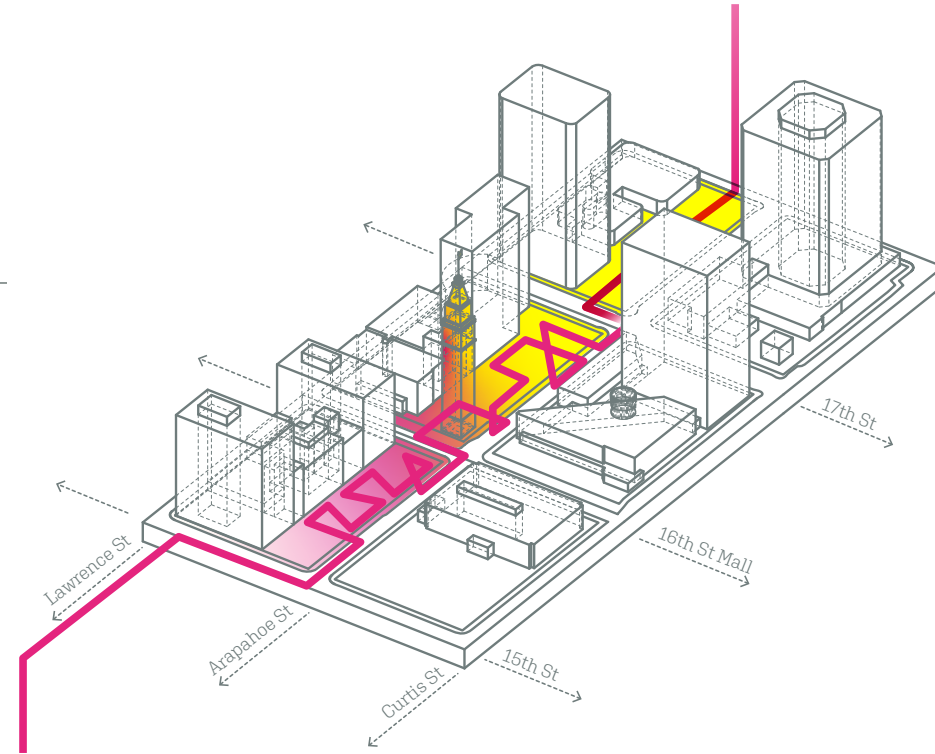
A **welcoming destination** that equitably brings diverse people together through a mix of unique events as well as everyday outdoor experiences

A **cultural icon** that celebrates the arts, culture, and community of Denver

A **connected place** that integrates with its edges and plays an active role in the downtown multi-modal network

A **resilient oasis** for respite that improves ecological health and individual wellness, while connecting visitors to the outdoors

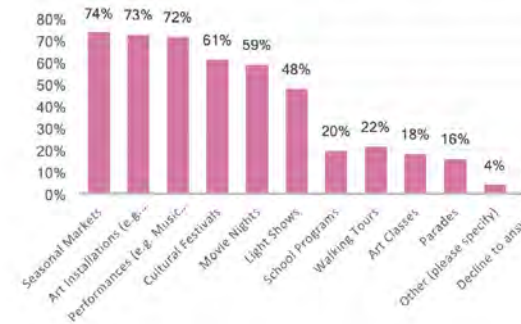
A **catalytic spark** that contributes to an active, thriving, and vibrant downtown



3. Program Priorities

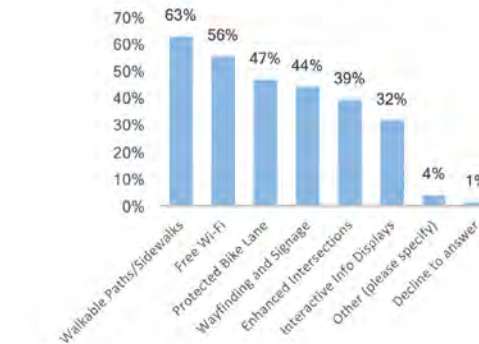
The feedback from Public Workshop #1 suggested a mix of potential **program priorities**:

Which **CULTURAL** elements and experiences would you include in the next Skyline Park?

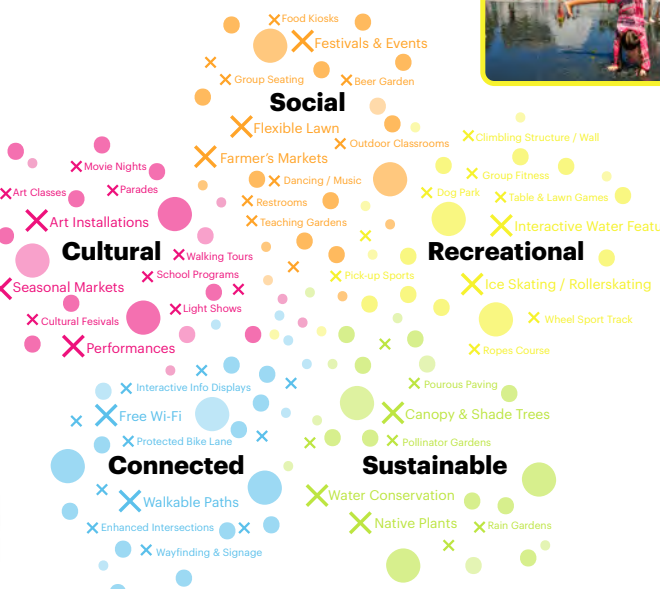


"I appreciate any park that has interactive art exhibits as well as an iconic landmark to identify that city. I also appreciate a stage for live music and performances."

Which **CONNECTED** elements and experiences would you include in the next Skyline Park?



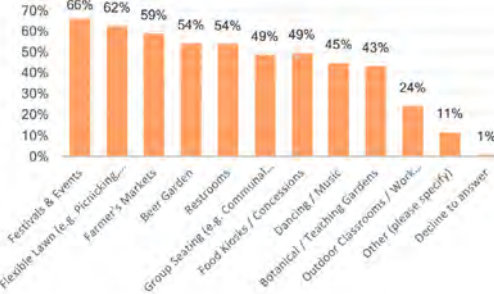
"An element of adventure (outdoor adventure/healthy lifestyles), something that is unique and new, not a duplicate of other features elsewhere... Climbable sculpture!"



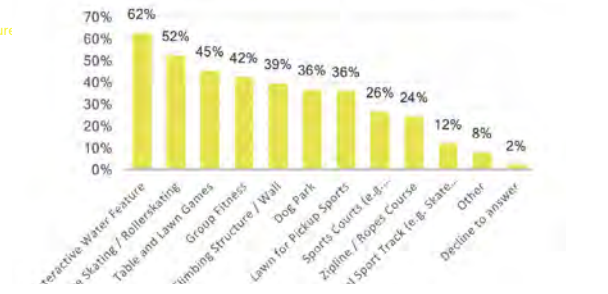
"More trees! More shade! Too much concrete for a park. Make it more green."



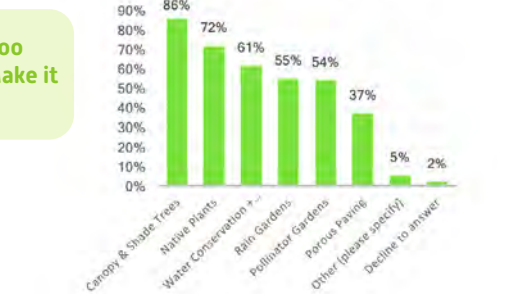
Which **SOCIAL** elements and experiences would you include in the next Skyline Park?



Which **RECREATIONAL** elements and experiences would you include in the next Skyline Park?



Which **SUSTAINABLE** elements and experiences would you include in the next Skyline Park?



4. Workshop #3 Preferred Concept Design: Feedback Summary

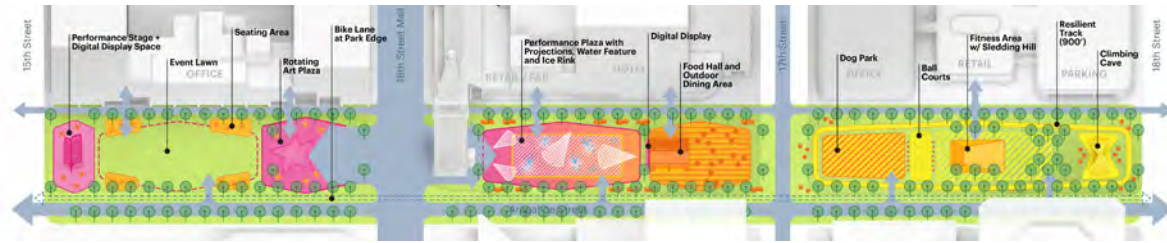
Building upon the program priorities from Workshop #1, Workshop #2 put forward a Basis of Design—a set of design principles that would apply to any new program or spatial form for the park. The Basis of Design stated that Skyline Park needs iconic experiences to invite diverse audiences and draw visitors to all three blocks. Some of these experiences could be built around existing and re-contextualized elements of the past, while others could be new inventions supporting contemporary life and also leaving room for future uses.

The Preferred Concept Plan shared in Workshop #3 creates a unified park “fabric” that is woven from flowing ribbons of hardscape and vegetation across all three blocks. This fabric is pushed and pulled to make central activity spaces and shady areas of respite along the edges. Together this tapestry combined with activity nodes brings together diverse park users and connects them to Denver’s rich history and contemporary cultural offerings.

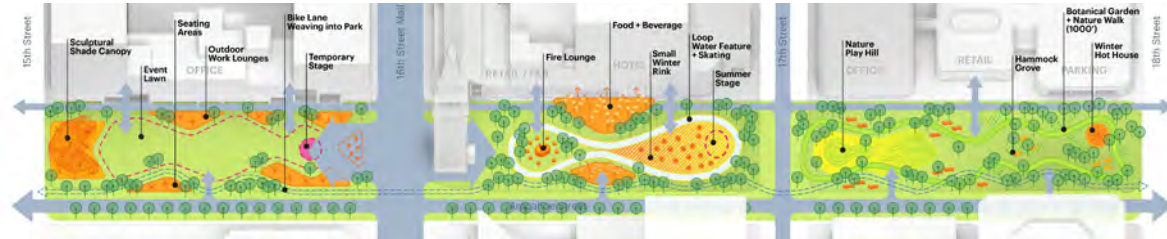
Workshop #2: Basis of Design



Workshop #2: Concept Option A



Workshop #2: Concept Option B



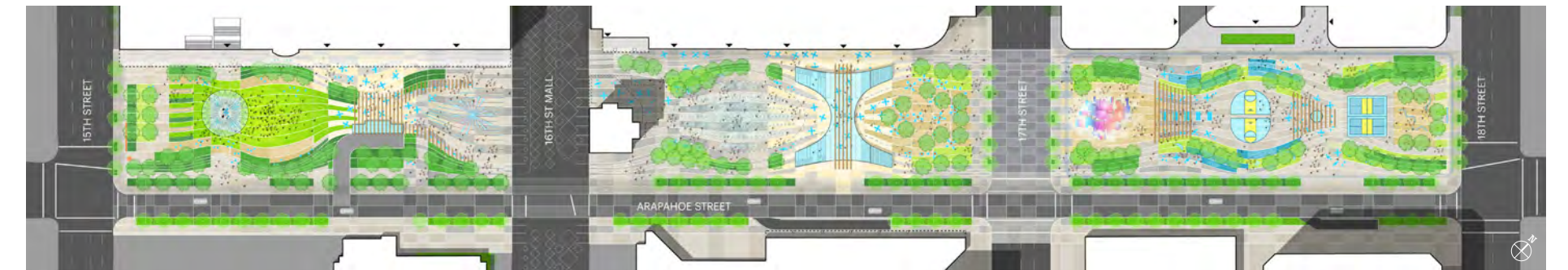
Community feedback from Workshop #1 suggested the importance of providing cultural, social, and recreational programming that is both connected and sustainable. Feedback also reinforced that the park design and programming should balance flexibility and specificity, while serving different audiences at different times of day, week, and year.

Building upon that community input, and with the Basis of Design in mind, the design team created two initial concept options. Option A featured a more “formal” organization of space, with a range of spaces that support different types of activation and programming. Option B provided more flexible park spaces, centering on nature, recreation, and passive uses.

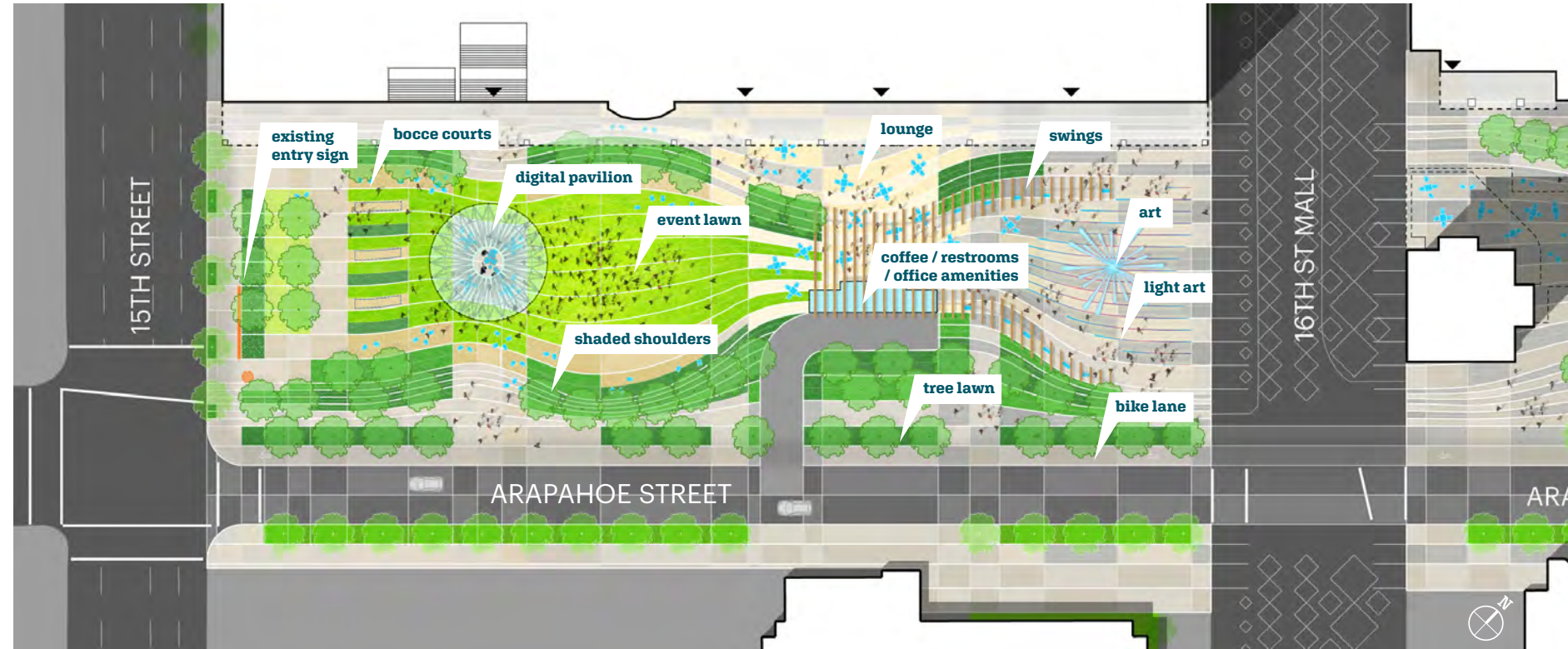
Community feedback from Workshop #2 uncovered a number of important takeaways, including: support for a cohesive, unified park; desire for more greenery and shade; and support for activation, unique experiences, and programming in all blocks; support for arts/cultural programming in Block 1; support for landscape-integrated Food & Beverage and a “loop” water/skate feature in Block 2; and support for active uses in Block 3.

The design team worked with this community input to synthesize a Preferred Concept Plan for all three blocks of Skyline Park, which was shared for public comment and community feedback during Workshop #3.

Workshop #3: Preferred Concept Plan Presented at Workshop #3



Block 1 Preferred Concept Plan Presented at Workshop #3



Block 1—as presented at Workshop #3—featured three major areas: an event lawn with a central pavilion; an outdoor work lounge with amenities at the narrows mandated by the subsurface garage ramp; and an art plaza along the 16th Street Mall framed by shaded swings.

The event lawn was presented to accommodate festivals and gatherings of up to 1,500 people, as well as smaller gatherings such as lunchtime music performances and informal busking. The pavilion acted as a shaded canopy and band shell for a variety of gathering sizes.

The outdoor work lounge would adapt the existing restroom and retail building to include a shade structure and other amenities to support office workers that want to work from the park, including internet and power, fans and heaters to stretch the seasons, and a small coffee shop.

The art plaza would host rotating installations, markets, and exhibitions. When there is not a special use there, the ground would be animated by a light installation or projection that interacts with the surrounding swings.



Perspective sketch, standing in the park close to 15th Street, looking towards the proposed event lawn and pavilion.



Perspective sketch, standing in the art plaza close to 16th Street, looking towards the in-ground light installation and surrounding swings.

Block 1 Feedback: Themes

Survey respondents' feedback about the Block 1 conceptual design was analyzed by common themes.

- Elements respondents **LIKED** are shown in **green**.
- Elements respondents felt **COULD BE IMPROVED** are shown in **gray**.
- The size of the circle corresponds to the number of comments that addressed these topics as referenced numerically in parenthesis.



Block 1 Feedback: Representative Excerpts

What do you like about the conceptual design of Block 1?

I like the ability for people to work outside and heaters/fans to help with the weather. The coffee shop is also a very nice touch and will bring in a lot of young people. The swing feature is also really cool!

I like the multiple uses. It seems there will always be activation and activity in this block.

The use of passive, semi-passive, and active spaces that can be converted/transformed by the needs of the user/city.

I like the diverse space, including the swings which will make a great social media centerpiece, the digital art installation seems interesting, & trees and greenery which is good for the soul.

Love all of the green open space and the space feels very inclusive.

Event/show space with lawn is great.

I like the interactive art and the swings are really cool.

The coffee/restroom area, the shaded areas, and the trees.

What is missing or could be improved?

Adding as much greenery (little cement) and shade as possible to make the summer bearable.

I am happy that shade is a prominent feature and design element but I would encourage even more, i.e. maybe an additional layer of trees along the event lawn to fully shade the circulation areas around.

Are there enough benches/chairs/seating for people either working, or grabbing coffee and hanging out?

It would be nice to see fountains or a water feature included.

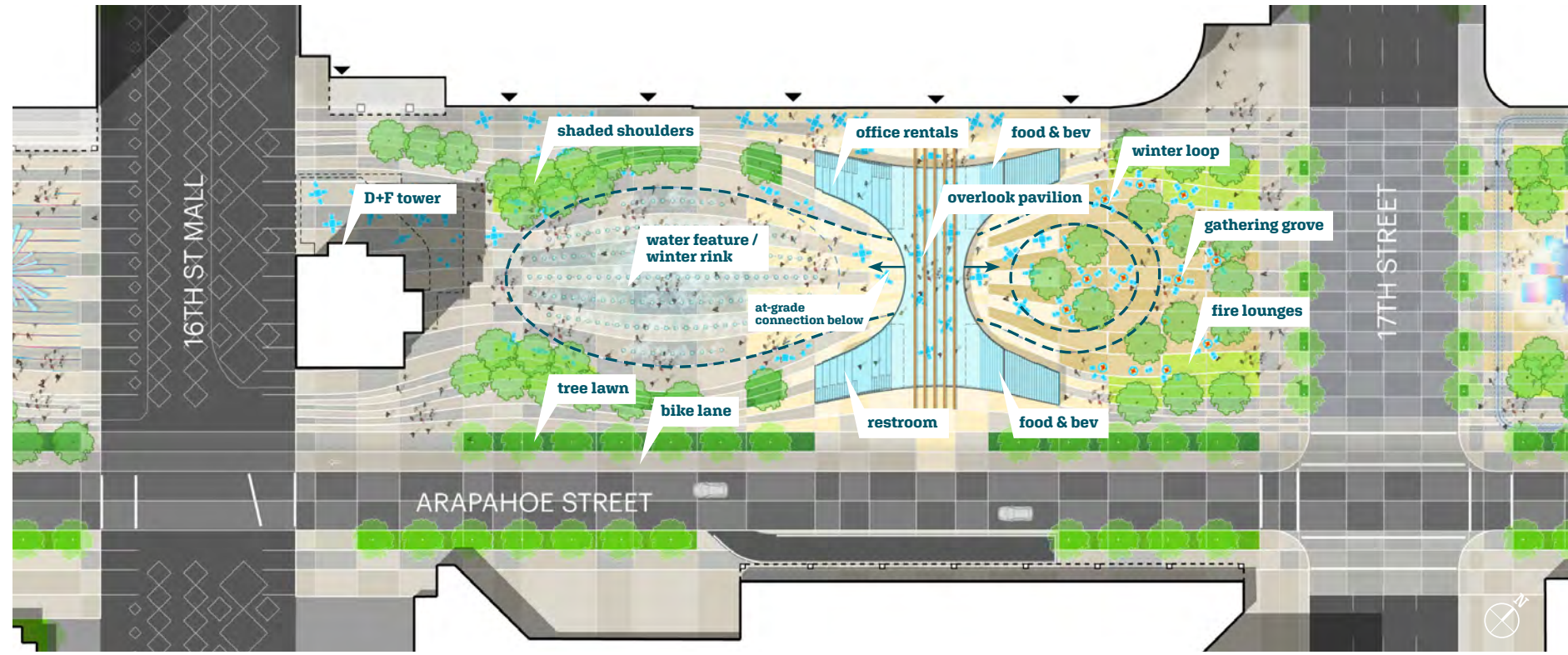
What will the maintenance costs be for this?

I don't know if the swings are necessary? I guess maybe if each one was big enough for two people to comfortably share.

How will we maintain safety and security in the space?

High-quality urban bicycle parking [is needed].

Block 2 Preferred Concept Plan Presented at Workshop #3



Block 2 was presented to have three major areas: an interactive water feature next to the D+F Tower that becomes a skating rink in the winter; an Overlook Pavilion with kiosks below in front of the Westin Hotel; and a gathering grove along 17th Street.

The interactive water feature was presented to feature dynamic programming that would integrate water and light. The summertime water feature would then transform into an ice skating rink in the winter. The skating rink could receive projections, as well, so the skaters became part of the performance.

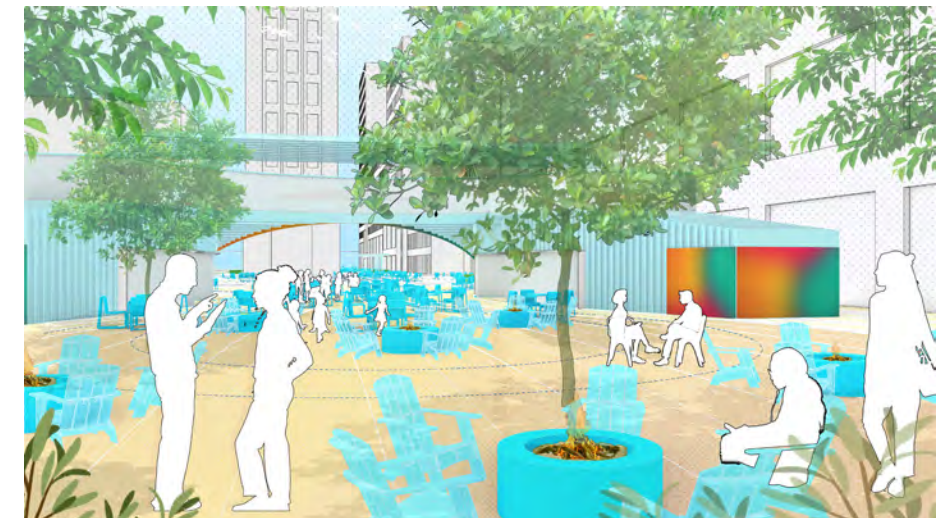
The Overlook Pavilion crossing over the center of the block would allow elevated views over Skyline Park. Underneath the canopy, the kiosks would contain food & beverage offerings, restrooms, Parks operations space and skate rentals.

The Preferred Concept presented in Workshop #3 suggested the lifting and relocation of the Halprin fountain from Block 2 to Block 3, right across 17th Street. In its place, the design team studied the addition of an ice skating loop to the main rink ("Winter Loop"), woven through a gathering grove.

The gathering grove on the northeast end of the block would provide generous spaces to enjoy the food & beverage offerings from the kiosks in a garden-like setting, complete with fire lounges and shade trees.



Perspective sketch, standing in the park close to the D+F tower, looking towards the water feature and the bridge canopy in the distance.

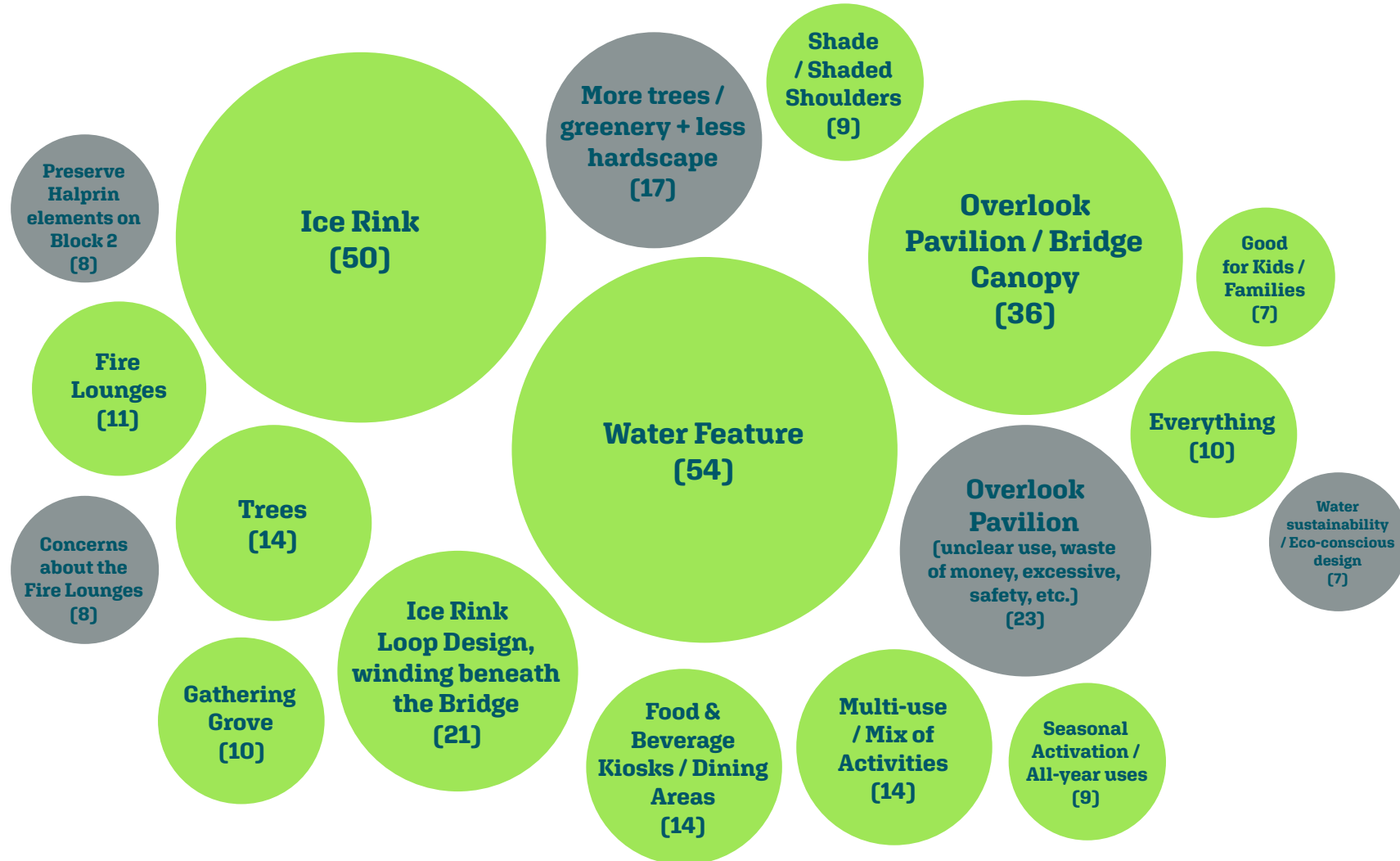


Perspective sketch, standing in the gathering grove, looking through the fire lounges and at the bridge canopy and D+F tower in the distance.

Block 2 Feedback: Themes

Survey respondents' feedback about the Block 2 conceptual design was analyzed by common themes.

- Elements respondents **LIKED** are shown in **green**.
- Elements respondents felt **COULD BE IMPROVED** are shown in **gray**.
- The size of the circle corresponds to the number of comments that addressed these topics as referenced numerically in parenthesis.



Block 2 Feedback: Representative Excerpts

What do you like about the conceptual design of Block 2?

Love the idea of the loop for the water feature. Bridge is also great.

Water park / skating rink -- great idea.

I love this. The bridge gives the park depth and I love a water feature. The skating loop is also really cool and I hope it happens.

I like the idea of the bridge structure to gather and also look over the crowd or ice skaters and would look lovely decorated in winter with lights.

The trees in the grove - it would be nice to be able to imitate some of the natural gathering spaces that tree stands of more established parks provide.

Gathering places, food, and drink year-round.

Ice rink is great because it will enliven the place in the winter as well which is much rarer. Fire pits will help too.

Space for kids to have fun.

What is missing or could be improved?

I'm not sure about the bridge structure. Seems like it may be unnecessary and expensive.

I know this is conceptual but the number of trees in the grove feel a little short on supply. I wonder if there is a way to "over-plant" the grove to provide adequate shading in the area that will make the space usable even in early stages of build out.

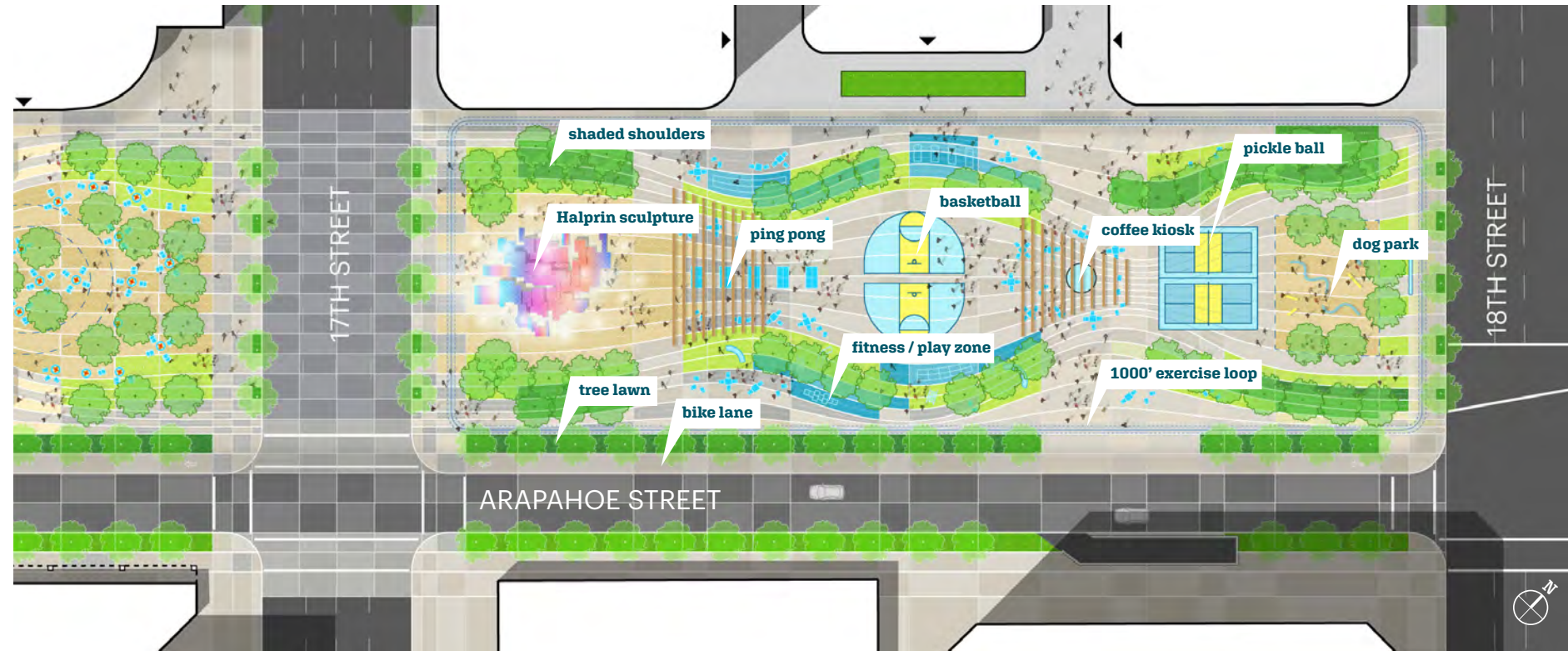
Again, lots of greenery and shade and little cement.

The Halprin in fountain in Block 2 should be retained in Block 2 instead of the proposed move to Block 3. It could be a focal point of a seating area that supports the coffee shop and use of this portion of the block. I think it's important to keep one of the last remaining pieces of Halprin's work in place.

I do wonder how the fire lounges would be operated or started when in use. I would just want to make sure safety concerns are taken into consideration in how those work/are used by the public.

Providing an overview of any water sustainability built into the water feature design could further improve optics and reduce potable water use.

Block 3 Preferred Concept Plan Presented at Workshop #3



Block 3 featured a variety of active uses supporting downtown residents, including: fitness and play zones; a shade canopy surrounding a coffee kiosk; a dog park; and a re-contextualized Block 2 Halprin fountain, as a significant sculpture at grade, re-imagined with new dynamic ways to experience the work.

The outdoor fitness and play zones were presented as flexible spaces that would support the daily uses of downtown and surrounding neighborhood residents. The design team presented this as an outdoor extension of the 20th Street Recreation Center, with basketball, pickleball, ping pong tables, fitness areas, play elements, and a dog park. This block also featured an additional small kiosk for snacks and beverages.

The design team proposed a re-contextualization of the most significant of the remaining Halprin elements, the Block 2 Fountain, as a significant sculpture at grade and re-imagined with mist and light to provide new dynamic ways to interact with the work. This would be an attraction to draw people to cross 17th Street and explore the third block of Skyline Park. At the end of Workshop #3, the design team also set out to study whether this sculpture could remain closer to its original location on Block 2, while still being lifted up to sidewalk level.



Perspective sketch, standing at the corner of Arapahoe and 17th Streets, looking towards Halprin sculpture and shaded shoulders on Block 3.



Perspective sketch, standing in the middle of Block 3, looking towards the basketball courts, with shaded ping pong and the Halprin sculpture in the distance.

Block 3 Feedback: Themes

Survey respondents' feedback about the Block 3 conceptual design was analyzed by common themes.

- Elements respondents **LIKED** are shown in **green**.
- Elements respondents felt **COULD BE IMPROVED** are shown in **gray**.
- The size of the circle corresponds to the number of comments that addressed these topics as referenced numerically in parenthesis.



Block 3 Feedback: Representative Excerpts

What do you like about the conceptual design of Block 3?

I love that this is fitness focused.

Fitness loop and exercise stations are great, trees and shade are appreciated.

Sooooo happy the dog park is included in the plan, so important for our neighborhood and the people who actually live downtown.

I love how active it is with a wide variety of physical activities. The track is fantastic and I would be so thrilled to see a restored and reinvigorated version of the Halprin sculpture... hopefully still with water and light. I want to enjoy that every time I go down 17th. I also really appreciate a dedicated dog park in that part of downtown.

I like the spaces for active play and activity from downtown residents. The park near us with ping pong gets a lot of use from the neighborhood.

Reinterpretation of the Halprin Sculpture sounds like a great idea, especially with misting and elements that can create a cooler micro-climate in the summers.

Places for kids to play.

Basketball and sport courts sounds like a great idea if you can pull it off to be inclusive and the fences / walls aren't too intrusive to the flow of the circulation.

What is missing or could be improved?

It is too structured. Parks are supposed to be flexible. Basketball is fine, but ping pong and pickle ball courts are too specific. More grass, more trees.

Perhaps the exercise loop could go around all 3 blocks?

Why not create just a sitting/garden park with this fountain sculpture? We have so few areas in the city that promote peace and beauty.

More adaptable sports field so it's not locked into just basketball and pickle ball.

More trees, flowers, bushes.

Sorry to focus on this, but security...is critical if this space is to make downtown desirable again.

There should be more restrooms.

In kids play area would be great to have some kid play structures like slides and climbing things/tunnels/swings etc.

As much as I think it's cool to see so many activities allocated space on the block, it also comes across as crowded and slightly disjointed.

**Final Concept Plan
+ Next Steps**

1. Final Concept Plan

Recap of Basis of Design

In order to make a welcoming, functioning, successful park, we concluded that the following design principles are not negotiable – that they must apply to whatever program or physical form is proposed for the park.

The next Skyline Park should be UNIFIED by a tapestry of lawns and plantings, plazas and pathways.

All circulation routes should be brought up to sidewalk level to allow intuitive wayfinding, universal access, and eliminate visual and physical barriers.

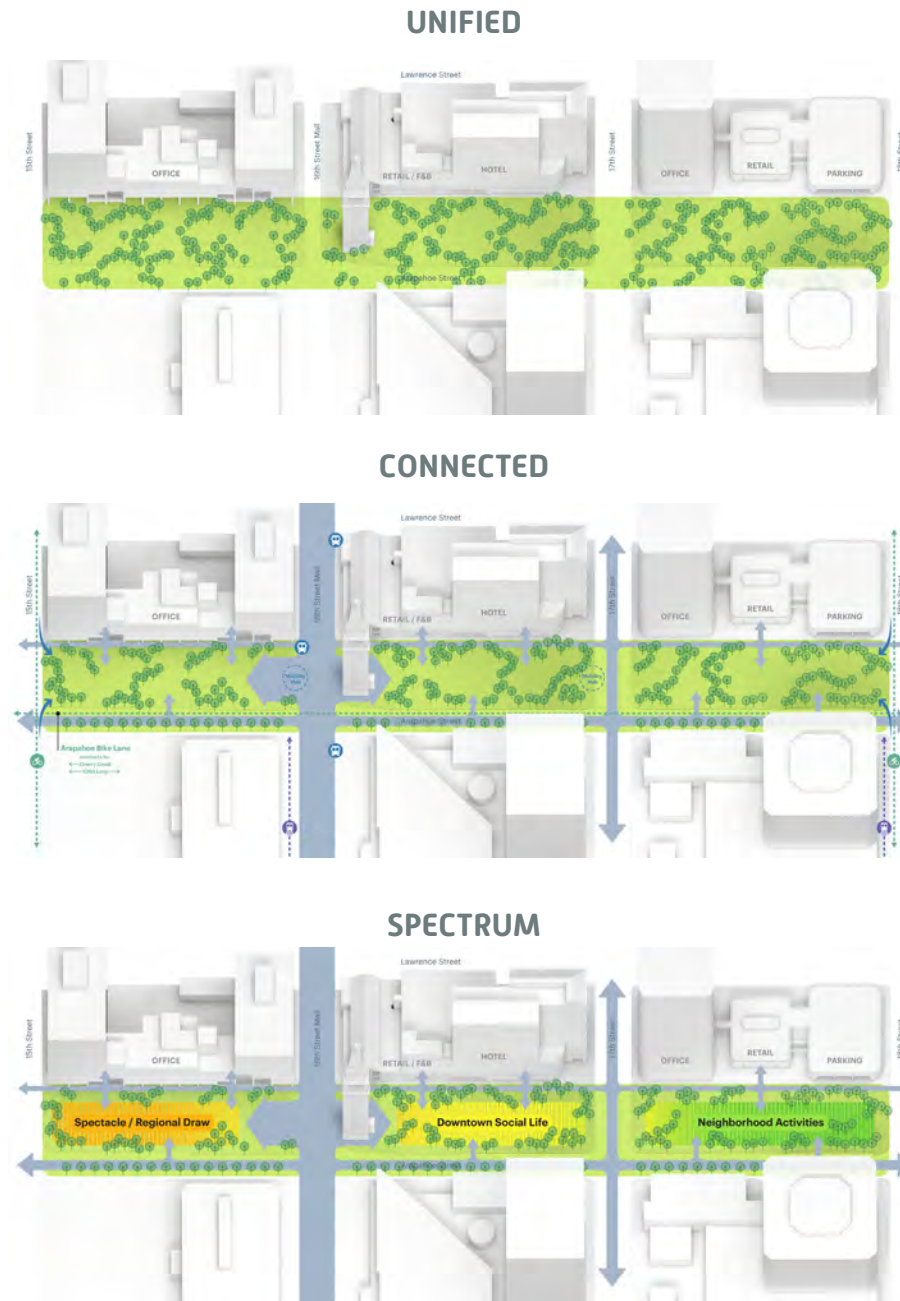
The next Skyline Park should be fully CONNECTED with surrounding streetscapes and ground floor uses.

Its corners should be inviting gateways, its edges transparent and activated. The park should be a mobility hub, inviting connections to transit and cycling.

We should work with adjacent property owners to open up into the park with more engaging lobbies, outdoor workplace amenities and greater transparency between indoors and out. We should also expand the park into adjacent streetscapes, especially Arapahoe Street, to dramatically improve conditions for pedestrians and cyclists.

The next Skyline Park should offer a SPECTRUM of experiences to attract a diverse community.

Skyline Park needs to serve a range of audiences—neighbors, students, residents from other neighborhoods, out of town visitors, conventioners, office workers, shoppers, etc. Today, each block has unique spatial characteristics to can host a spectrum of experiences for this diverse user group.



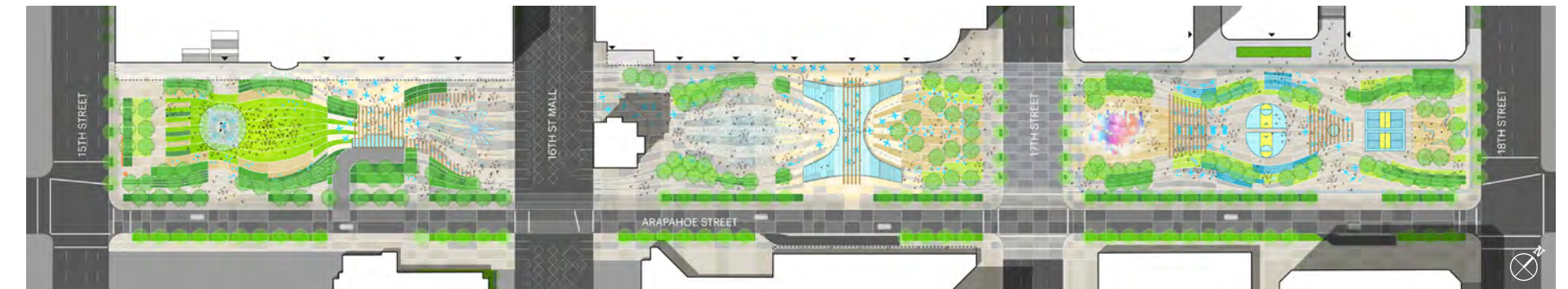
Moving from the Preferred Concept Plan to Final Concept Plan

In response to the valuable insights that came out of the Workshop #3 community engagement process, the design team has adapted the Preferred Concept Plan shown at Workshop #3, resulting in the Final Concept Plan shown below. *See the Final Concept Plan in greater detail on the following page!*

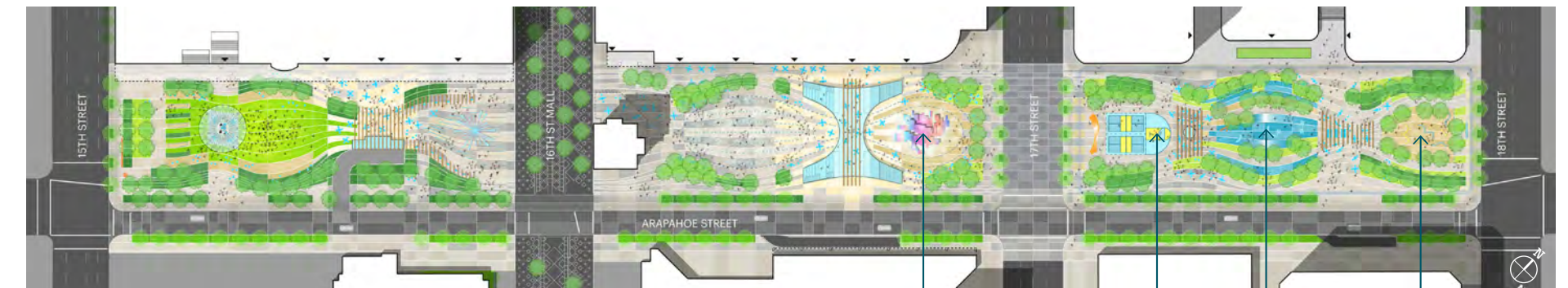
The key feedback takeaways which guided the refinements were:

- Retain elements of the original Halprin Sculpture on Block 2
- Reduce the quantity of elements on Block 3
- Add additional trees and shade

Preferred Concept Plan



Final Concept Plan



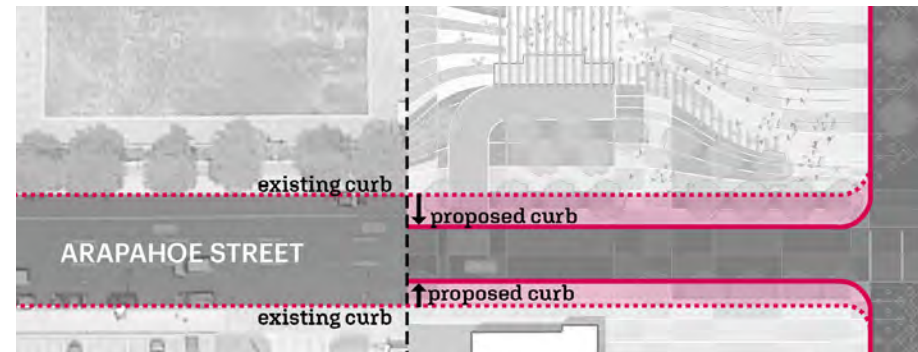
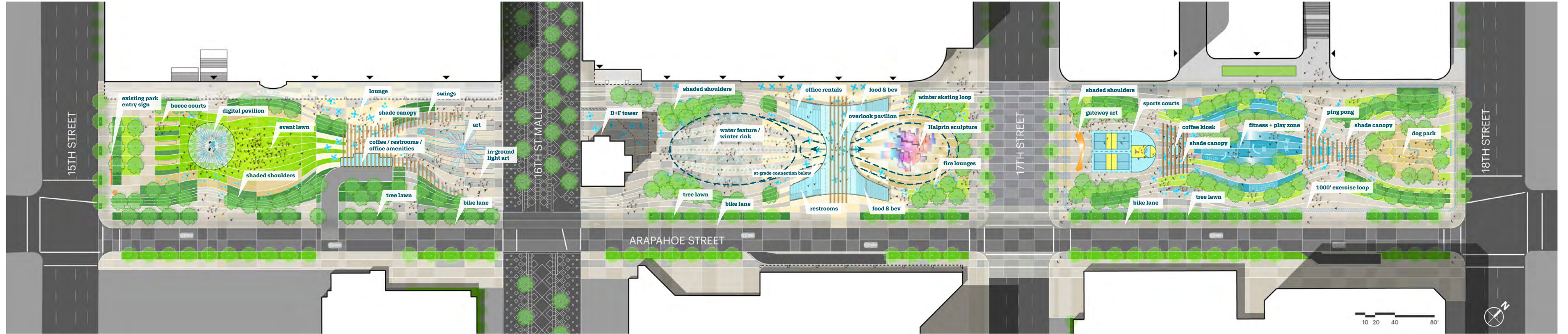
Halprin sculpture retained on Block 2 (rather than being moved to Block 3). It will still be re-imagined at-grade with elements like mist and light.

Sports courts and coffee kiosk moved towards 17th St., along with new gateway artwork, as lively attractions to draw visitors across from Block 2.

Expanded fitness and play zone in the center of the block, shaded by trees and shade canopies on the sides.

Expanded dog park, with added green space and additional shade trees.

Skyline Park Final Concept Plan



Above: The Skyline Park Final Concept Plan creates a unified park “fabric” that brings together diverse park users and connects them to Denver’s rich history and contemporary cultural offerings.

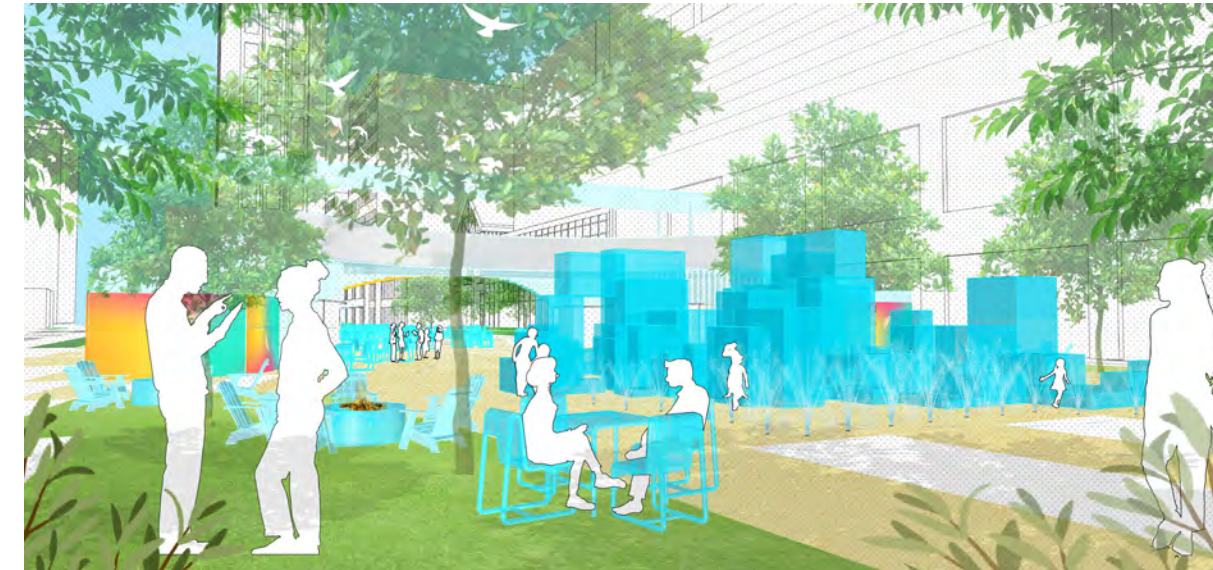
Left: The expanded park footprint is made possible by reducing the width of Arapahoe Street (as illustrated in the diagram to the left), reclaiming additional public space for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Final Concept Plan Illustrated Axonometric

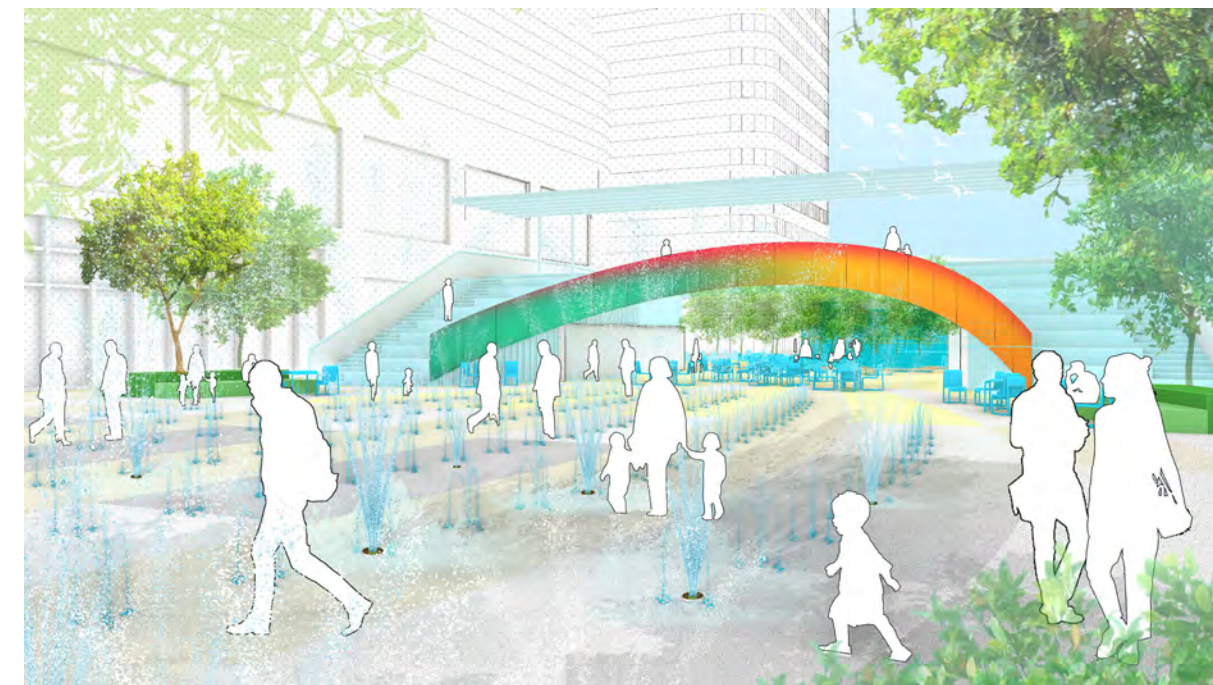


Revised axonometric illustrated site plan resulting from the valuable insights that came out of the Workshop #3 community engagement process.

Final Block 2 Perspective Sketches



Revised perspective sketch, standing in the gathering grove, looking at the re-contextualized Halprin fountain and fire lounges, with the Overlook Pavilion and D+F tower in the distance.



Revised perspective sketch, standing in the park close to the D+F tower, looking towards the interactive water feature and Overlook Pavilion, with a peak of the re-contextualized Halprin fountain visible beneath the Overlook in the distance.

2. Next Steps

The three-block concept design presented in this document will form the basis of future phases of construction, including a final design for Phase 1 construction, funded by the Elevate Denver Bond Program.

To stay up to date and for more project information please visit: www.denvergov.org/theoutdoordowntown

