

# STATE CAPITOL STATE PARK



*Draft* Parkwide Plan

2010



# A New State Park at the Capitol: Chapter One

## Introduction

State Capitol State Park became a new state park, in 2008, through Senate Bill 632. The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) was given the responsibility for managing the two “super blocks” at the capitol building and the mall to the north. The new park includes three smaller, existing “parks”, Willson Park on the west, Capitol (East) Park to the east and Capitol Park Mall to the north of the capitol building.

OPRD added the park to its Cascades District, along with the State Fairgrounds and Expo Center, Silver Falls State Park and Detroit Lake State Recreation Area. The park is overseen by a state park manager who leads an experienced and dedicated state park crew.

The mandating legislation for the creation of the park also asked OPRD to complete a plan that could direct the use, management and improvement of the park into the future. This document fulfills that request.

## Vision and Values

The vision for State Capitol State Park is to provide a more park-like setting and memorable experiences.... for a broad set of visitors..... at the seat of state government.... within the heart of Salem; and to use the existing park layout and features as the basis for conveying more meaning to visitors about the history and purpose of the place and enhancing their experience.

Many improvements have already been made to the park since OPRD began managing it, including the Tribal Walk of Flags, Fallen Workers’ Memorial, Sprague Fountain plantings, pruning overgrown vegetation, replacing worn out landscaping, returning the fountains to seasonal operation, and adding new signage and seating. At the same time, two new public restroom buildings were constructed by the Department of Administrative Services within the park. But there is much more to do.

Determining the future of a park begins with understanding the values the park stands for. State Capitol State Park is valued for being:

- *The Site of the Seat of State Government*  
The park’s buildings, layout and features were placed in a way that highlights and connects the central functions of state government with each other and with the citizens of Oregon. We plan to enhance the meaning of the park.
  
- *A Great Urban Park for Salem*  
We have an opportunity for this state park to contribute to the network of parks and open spaces in this part of Salem. We plan to make the park feel more connected to the city and to be a more popular place to spend some time outdoors.

- *A Place for Welcoming a Diversity of Visitors*  
A broad set of visitors use the park now, including neighborhood residents, school groups, vacationing travelers to Salem, cyclists and pedestrians who are passing through, people coming to events, state workers, the legislature, the Governor and their staffs. We plan to offer more of what our visitors are looking for.
- *A State Park at the Capitol*  
Having a state park at the Capitol is a great place for OPRD to show off the high quality of park management and improvements that are typical for an Oregon State Park. We plan to show what OPRD can do to provide for memorable park experiences.

### **What Will the Plan Do?**

This document outlines a park-wide management plan for State Capitol State Park. Based on the vision and values for the park, the plan provides an understanding of and direction about:

- Park history and context, features and function,
- site improvement objectives, concepts, standards and themes for way-finding, interpretation, park layout and plantings, and
- operational strategies for a variety of management concerns.

The site plan links up with the site's history and with the City of Salem's plans for the downtown and surrounding area; and attempts to dovetail with plans that have previously been completed for the State Capitol Building and Court Street, the west end of Willson Park, the Department of Transportation Building site, Willamette University's Master Plan and the Department of Administrative Services Capitol Mall Area Plan.

The plan completion process provides a forum for discussing what direction the plan should go in, with our partners and other interested groups. We have been working with a large Stakeholder Group that represents many city, state government, neighborhood, Willamette University and other interest groups. We have also reached out to a larger mailing list of technical and administrative contacts that can help to assure that the plan will fit within the parameters and constraints that apply to it.

In the end, the plan is the vehicle for OPRD to seek agreement with and approval from our partners at the City of Salem and city advocacy groups, and with the various state government commissions, committees and boards that oversee state lands in Salem.

### **The Planning Process**

In late 2009, OPRD staff invited a Stakeholders Group to join the planning process. In January, 2010, the Stakeholder Group met with OPRD and was briefed on the planning project. They were asked to describe what the State Park might mean to them and how it might be improved for all. A Technical Advisory Group was identified and invited to offer written comments. Comments were collected and summarized.

Appendix A lists organization and governmental group representation in the Stakeholder and Technical Advisory Groups.

Both groups provide comments on the draft plan document in May 2010. The final draft plan will go before the Capitol Planning Commission and the Capitol Project Review Board this summer. A final plan will go before the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission at their November 2010 meeting, for their approval. OPRD staff will also visit with the City of Salem, the Salem Vision 2010 group and other groups as requested.

Comments covered a number of issues, including:

- who visits the park
- security
- improvements to related city streets and crossings
- neighborhood concerns
- park context, interconnectedness and way-finding
- interpretation themes for the site
- how to manage monument requests
- what the park means, what it should become and what each group needs

Appendix B outlines the comments received.

### **Park History, and Context, Features and Function**

The park's historic importance as the "seat of state government" and its position within the context of the city contribute to an understanding of what this place is all about. This document highlights the progression of the site from the earliest concept of the place as a state capitol site to today, and discusses the relevance of the park within its surroundings.

The visual and spatial qualities of the park's features and the way the park functions are essential for providing enjoyable, visitor experiences of the place. The plan maps and assigns value to these qualities, to ensure that park improvement proposals will enhance, rather than diminish, that experience.

### **Interpretation and Way-finding**

This plan includes a special consideration of how to actively improve visitor understanding of the park through interpretation, and through improved orientation, also known as "way-finding".

### **Site Improvement Recommendations**

Site improvement recommendations are based on a set of objectives that attempt to balance the existing qualities and meaning of the park with the aim of fulfilling the vision for the future of the place. The following *General Park Plan* map lays out what the park would look like when all of the recommendations are complete. (Faint lines show the existing layout and location of features that are proposed to be changed.) The Site Recommendations Chapter offers the map in a larger scale for easy viewing of more of the proposed park details. It also offers Site Furnishing and Planting Objectives and Development Standards.

## **Site Improvement Objectives**

### **Park-wide**

1. Provide an improved park use experience for a varied audience
2. Protect the open space and enhance the layout of “three parks within the park”
3. Honor the existing character of each park
4. Provide for interpretation and way-finding
5. Support better connections across key street intersections
6. Better accommodate the Winter and Chemeketa Street bike routes
7. Recognize and incorporate: Capitol Building Master Plan, Greenworks Plan for west end of Willson Park, ODOT site plan, Willamette Univ. master plan, city way-finding strategy and bike routes
8. Keep the park safe and welcoming, no places to hide
9. Offer spaces for vendors and tables
10. Provide spaces for events and gatherings
11. Rehab plantings and add color spots/ground cover to enliven space/views
12. Provide attractive benches, tables, trash cans and lighting
13. Keep view open along east/west axis from Capitol to Commerce Building and to Executive Services Building

### **Strategic Park Management**

The plan outlines objectives and guidelines for park managers and staff to base their day-to-day activities on, in an objective and highly organized manner. This allows them to chart a course through the changing seasons, legislative sessions, events and future demands while keeping intact what is important and meaningful about this place. It becomes a basis for budgets and staffing needs, project implementation and discussions with the many overlapping authorities and partners associated with the park.

The primary objectives are:

- Sustainability and protection of important park qualities, features and functions
- Safety for workers and visitors
- Management consistency over time and among partners
- Clarity of purpose and the basis for decision-making
- Efficiency and effectiveness of time, effort, funding and staffing

Strategic topic areas include:

- Management understandings with DAS, ODOT, Capitol Management
- Memorials Policy
- Safety and Security
- Facility Use and Events
- Special Permits
- Maintenance Standards
- Staffing and Budget Benchmarks
- Working with Partners and Volunteers

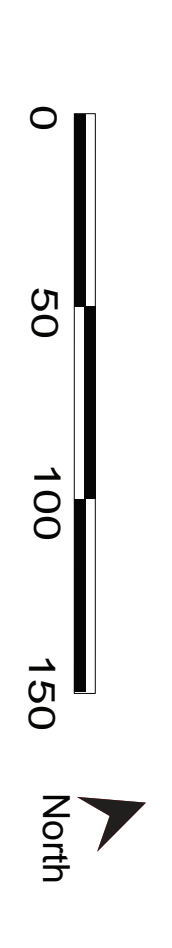


# State Capitol State Park

## Site Improvement Plan



- KEY**
- Interpretation Panels
  - Orientation Signs
  - Other Site Features (Statues, Fountains)
  - Buildings
  - Project Code
  - Paved Plazas
  - Fine Graveled Areas / or Paving
  - Existing Trees
  - New Trees
  - Trees to be Removed
  - Color Spot Planting Beds
  - Groundcover and Shrubs
  - Grass



## History of the Park Site: Chapter Two

This chapter gives us a broad understanding of the chronology of the changing face, character and function of the “site of the seat of state government”. Understanding the history of the park can guide what to protect for the future while integrating site improvements into the park. It also provides information to support interpretation for the public to better understand the meaning of the place.

This historical overview is based on several key sources of information, including the Salem Library Historic Photo Collection, Salem History On-line, State Archives photos and maps and the National Register of Historic Places Nomination. There is much more research that could and should be done to illustrate how the changes unfolded and why. This research becomes one of the priority projects to be undertaken following the completion of the plan.

### 1850-1935

The state capitol site was a part of the original vision for the City of Salem, as it was laid out by William Willson, a former, lay member of the Methodist Mission and prominent Salem citizen, in his 1850 plat. Many of Salem’s most important mid-19<sup>th</sup> century institutions were located within this plat, including the Methodist Church, Oregon Institute (later Willamette University), county courthouse, post office and Capitol site. At the heart of the plat was a three-block-long, open space known as “Willson Avenue”, with a plot clearly marked for the “Capitol building” at one end and a plot for the “county courthouse” at the other. “Willson Avenue” included three city blocks measuring approximately 300 feet by 1100 feet and was bounded by Court, Church, State and Capitol Streets. This was the beginning of the vision for the seat of state government.

Willson donated Block 84, indicated on his plat for the Capitol, to the Territory for the construction of the 1853 Territorial Statehouse. By 1855 the Statehouse had burned down and it was not until 1876 that the second Capitol building was constructed on the site. During this period the 1853 Statehouse, and then the 1876 State Capitol, were oriented to face west toward the Willamette River and the Marion County Courthouse site. The courthouse was constructed in 1873, just west of Church Street. In 1903 the first federal post office was erected on the west end of “Willson Avenue”. (The courthouse was rebuilt in 1952 and the post office building was replaced with a modern structure in 1937 that later became the state Executive Services Building.)

To the east, across Waverly Street from the early Capitols’ site, the Supreme Court Building was completed in 1913, the Agriculture Building (later the Commerce Building) in 1929 and the Justice Building in 1930, creating a tri-building, eastern terminus to the state layout.

Oregon’s early Capitols followed conventional patterns for the statehouses of their day. The 1850’s building was a simple, rectangular, Greek revival style. The upper and lower bodies of the legislature were housed on separate floors. The second building located the



House and Senate at opposite ends of the main story in a much larger Italian Renaissance Revival style building.

A painting of the 1853 Capitol shows the two story, wooden building, with a west-side entrance walk that must have led from Summer Street, then a dirt road, set within wide open, grassy meadows with a lone tree on its south side. Only one other building is shown in the distance against an extensive woodland, with Mount Hood silhouetted on the horizon.

A planting plan, dated 1872, the same year that the second Capitol was funded for construction, shows a few oval, paisley and circular planting beds that are presumed to have been planned for the second Capitol site. A plan map of the building and site for the second Capitol shows a centrally located building with entrances on the west and east that meet slightly curving diagonal walkways and a strong east-west walkway axis. The map shows dozens of trees and shrubs with a numbering system linked to a species list with 64 different types of trees and shrubs. Later photos of the west entrance of the building show these trees grown up to the height of the second story roof. Many of these trees would have been removed for the construction of the third Capitol that superimposed a portion of the earlier site. However, some trees have been identified that may remain from the late 1800's in Capitol Park. Tree dating could help to confirm which trees these are. In 1880, the 90 foot wide Summer Street was vacated in front of the second capitol building and was added to the capitol grounds.

Willson conveyed the rest of "Willson Avenue" to the City of Salem in 1853, as a city park. At some point, "Willson Avenue" was renamed Willson Park. The park was undeveloped at that time. By 1870, "Willson Avenue" was surrounded by a white board fence and had the appearance of a cow pasture. Young street trees can be seen along Court and State Streets in a photo looking across the park to the residential neighborhood that had grown up on its north side. A bird's eye perspective of Salem, in 1876, also shows street trees planted around Willson Park with an open meadow filling the interior of the park.

Three photos, taken from the dome of the second jCapitol and looking west along Willson Park to the courthouse and later post office, dated from 1894 to 1915, show a progression from a simple, narrow north/south walkway across the park, to a large circular and "x" pattern walk, to finally a strong, central, east-west walk with a gazebo. The park is filled with dozens of young coniferous and deciduous trees. A 1900-1915 photo, looking east from Cottage Street toward the Capitol, with the Breyman Fountain in the foreground, shows a strong east-west walkway, with curving diagonal walks, maturing trees and a gazebo.

An early aerial photo of the second Capitol site with only a building foundation and stairs remaining, presumably following the fire, shows Willson Park and the Capitol site grounds as one cohesive layout with east-west walkway and a series of curving, crossing diagonal walkways along it. The original Waite Fountain, installed in 1912, is in place,

in this photo, where Winter Street intersected with the park. The gazebo appears to be placed in the middle of the main walkway in the middle of Willson Park at this time.

The Breyman Fountain was placed near Cottage Street, in 1904, on a direct line from the doorway of the second Capitol building at the other end of Willson Park. It is the only remaining historic object from this period remaining in Willson Park today. The fountain was a gift to the city from a prominent businessman, Werner Breyman, to honor Oregon's pioneers.

The "Circuit Rider" statue was commissioned by an early State Highway Commissioner as a memorial to his father, a Methodist Episcopal minister who died in 1917. It was completed and installed, in 1923, at the west front of the old Statehouse, close to State Street on the south side. The statue was placed in such a prominent location due to the establishment of the city by missionaries. It was relocated for the construction of the third Capitol to a central location in Capitol Park where it remains today.

### **Construction of the Third Capitol**

After the second Capitol burned in 1935, the state considered several sites in Salem for a much enlarged building. Bush's Pasture (later to become a park), Willamette University and Candelaria Heights sites were considered. A fairly detailed concept was worked out for the university site just to the south of the current Capitol site. The concept abandoned the west-facing orientation of the first two Citols and turned to face north. When it was determined that the university site would not be available, the Capitol Reconstruction Commission addressed how they might apply the new concept to the Capitol grounds already owned by the state.

In addition to the north-facing orientation, the Capitol Reconstruction Commission was interested in a ceremonial approach to the new Capitol entrance within a formal grouping of flanking buildings. This type of approach had been introduced at the Columbia Exposition in Chicago in 1893, and was known as the Beaux Arts Style or City Beautiful Movement. The national Capitol and mall are also based on this style of building and street placement. The City of Salem offered a portion of Willson Park to the state to increase the size of the available Capitol site, and the last parcel fell into place when the two blocks to the north between Winter and Capitol Streets were pursued for acquisition. The resulting site could easily accommodate the Beaux Arts approach with a north-facing entrance.

The State Capitol Reconstruction Commission held a national design competition for the third Capitol Building and its site, with a required north-facing entrance and strong interest in the Beaux Arts layout. The winning design was a "stripped-down", modernistic style, based in classical form, with Art Deco embellishments, that was submitted by the firm of Trowbridge and Livingstone, out of New York. It was constructed in the depression, at the height of the Art Deco period, with funding assistance from the Public Works Administration. The State Library, Public Services and Transportation Buildings were eventually built on the blocks to the north in the same Art Deco style to match the third Capitol and its site plan. The third Capitol Building was

completed in 1938 and the State Library Building was completed in 1939. The Public Services Building was constructed in 1950 and the Transportation Building the next year. The second post office building, across the street from the west end of Willson Park, was constructed in 1937, in a matching style. Later to become the state Executive Services Building, it would provide that western terminus to the state layout.

George Otten, the State Highway Department landscape engineer, completed the landscaping plans for the new Capitol mall, working with the Capitol architectural firm Trowbridge and Livingstone and the local firm, Whitehouse and Church. It is assumed that this design focused on the north mall, keeping Capitol and Willson Parks much as they had been since the second Capitol had burned.

The site plan included a central sunken plaza with a grassy terrace and surrounding walkways, across Court Street from the Capitol entrance and south of Chemeketa Street. Low stairways led down to the sunken plaza and were also used for the approach to the Capitol at its north, east and west entrances. The plaza replaced Summer Street from where it had run north-south between the two residential blocks that had been acquired for the project. East and West Summer Streets were created flanking the plaza, with at-grade, head-in parking along them. This portion of the plan was completed in 1938. Two more blocks, farther to the north were eventually acquired and cleared. East and West Summer Streets were extended one additional block to the north with flanking trees, walks and parking. Chemeketa Street remained, running east-west across the grounds. The result was a wide and unimpeded view of the north face of the Capitol from Center Street.

“Reinforcing the staircases in the landscape were adjacent ramps of privet hedge. Privet, in fact, was used liberally in the landscape scheme because it could be shaped so easily into cubic borders complementing the building’s geometric volumes. Whereas box hedges were used to line sidewalks and staircases, the foundation plantings eventually introduced were generally native shrubs, such as rhododendrons, azaleas and the State Flower, Oregon grape. The latter carried the precedent of proclaiming State identity from the building to the surrounding landscape. In east and west park areas on either side of the Capitol, areas of lawn are enriched by native conifers and a variety of specimen trees, the former including Douglas fir, spruce, red cedar, and Port Orford cedar; the latter including linden, ginkgo, horse chestnut and Empress trees. Maples and holly also were staples of the informal landscape plan.” National Register Nomination, Elizabeth Potter.

The “Circuit Rider” statue was moved to its current location in Capitol Park where it remains as the focal point for that portion of the park. The gazebo was removed to make way for the new Capitol’s west entrance.

### **Changes After the 1930’s**

The statues of Jason Lee, founder of the Methodist Mission in Oregon and Dr. John McLoughlin, ranking official at the original Fort Vancouver, were installed in Capitol

Park, in 1953, west of “The Circuit Rider”, flanking the east-west axis walkway on opposite sides. These statues are duplicates of bronzes installed in the national Capitol in 1952. “The Circuit Rider” was turned 180 degrees to the west to face the two new statues. The statues are joined by a placement of portions of columns from the demolished second Capitol.

“In the intervening space between the Lee and McLoughlin statues and ‘The Circuit Rider’ stands an arrangement of column sections from the Corinthian-style porticos of the old Statehouse of 1876. The arrangement is divided into two separate groups, on the south and north sides of East Park walk. The fragments were gathered to the site from places elsewhere in the city where they had been discarded as rubble after the Statehouse fire in 1935. They were permanently mounted, some upright, some horizontally as though recently toppled, so that their composition of radially-set brick with a fluted veneer of cast stone might be displayed.”

The 1962 Columbus Day storm had a devastating effect on the trees in Willson Park. There was, reportedly, less damage in Capitol Park, although “The Circuit Rider” was knocked over and had to be reinstalled and repaired. The City of Salem attempted to rehabilitate Willson Park, but within a few years the city deeded the park to the state to become part of the state Capitol grounds, without making much progress. This created the Capitol grounds between Waverly and Cottage Streets.

Storm damage to the park was so extensive that the park was redesigned, rebuilt and largely replanted by the state under contract by Lloyd Bond and Associates. Much of the current layout of walkways, lawn panels and plantings are the result of that plan, except for a few remaining trees. The east-west axis walkway was replaced by a central grass oval. The original, cylindrical Waite Fountain that once stood along the axis was replaced by a low, modernistic pool and fountain. A new layout of curvilinear walkways and geometric exposed aggregate panels at the west end was installed.

In 1982, a new gazebo was installed, in the spirit of the original gazebo that had stood in various locations in Willson Park since before the turn of the century.

The Sprague or Capitol Fountain was installed at the north end of the mall in 1980.

### **Capitol Park Mall Redevelopment**

The mall between Court and Center Streets was redeveloped for an underground parking garage in 1991. The grassy panel, and East and West Summer Streets were excavated and rebuilt. Trees were removed or moved, except for those that stand within the grounds immediately surrounding the four state office buildings. Sprague Fountain was relocated. The Wall of Water and its paved plaza were installed as part of the new project.

The access to the parking garage was provided by routing Chemeketa Street underground, leaving an unbroken, two-block, formal, grassy mall between Court and Center Streets upon completion.

“The plan for landscaping the parking structure surface adhered to the strict bilateral symmetry and the long approach centered on a focal point”... the north entrance to the Capitol building. “Eight small, formally-placed, plate-glass enclosed, temple-form stair/elevator...pavilions have a bronze-finished structural framework which echoes door and window fittings in the historic building group” surrounding the mall. “The open lawn that was traditional for the long axis of the mall was re-established along with bordering sidewalks and an additional element, diagonal walks to facilitate cross-mall pedestrian traffic. A tree planting scheme was devised for the east and west margins of the mall to frame the vista to the Capitol’s north front. In place of the sunken terrace of lawn, the south half of the south block of the mall adjacent to Court Street was configured as a depressed plaza of unitized pavers. Approximately 150 square feet, the paved plaza is primarily a public gathering space, but, visually, it recreates the function of the original sunken terrace in heightening the vista of the monumental building at close range. It is furnished with a water feature consisting of three staggered rows of colossal straight spouts paralleling the street front. The mall re-landscaping preserves the spirit of the historic axial plan in featuring a central two-block-long green bordered by trees and a forecourt to enhance the front of the Capitol.”  
National Register Nomination, Elizabeth Potter.

### **Recent Additions**

Since the parking garage construction there have been a few minor additions to the park, including two restroom buildings on the east side of the mall above the Chemeketa Street entrance. The Walk of Flags surrounding the large grass oval and the Tribal Walk of Flags fronting the west steps to the Capitol in Willson Park were installed in the last few years. Several small statues and monuments have also been installed throughout the park. A map inventory of these features is being completed.

### **National Register of Historic Places**

A portion of the current state park was nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in 1988. The center of the nomination is the 1935 Capitol. The current Capitol is the only Art Deco style Capitol building in the country. The boundary of the nomination encloses 14.5 acres, including the “super block” the Capitol located on with its parks on the east and west, and the south half of the mall, roughly between Chemeketa Street and Court Street. The third Capitol was constructed by October 1938 and its site still includes the traditional site of Oregon’s Capitols since the Territory period, commemorative works of art and landscape characteristics that contribute to the significance of the property. The area also includes the remaining portion of the original, public open space “Willson Avenue” that was depicted on the 1850 town plat.

The historic period of significance for the nomination covers the four years of the current Capitol’s planning, design and construction, 1935-1938. The north plaza is the key

landscape element for the north-facing Capitol. The external grand stairway, with its free-standing bas-relief panels or stelae, are also important contributing elements to the nomination.

“In addition to the Capitol Building, several related landscape elements are counted as separately contributing features of the nominated area. These are as follows: 1) the set of colossal sculptural stelae commemorating the Lewis and Clark Expedition and Oregon Trail migrations carved by Leo Friedlander and situated at the base of the Capitol’s front steps, 2) the north plaza, or sunken terrace opposite the front of the Capitol, including street rights of way on east, south and west sides comprising a total of 3.42 acres, 3) the Capitol grounds, an area of 11.07 acres containing the last vestige of historic Willson Park remaining in public open space, 4) “The Circuit Rider,” an heroic bronze equestrian statue produced by noted American sculptor Alexander Phimister Procter which has been associated with the Capitol site since its installation there in 1923, and 5) the Breyman Fountain, a memorial to pioneers erected in 1904 on the west axis which let to the front of the old Statehouse..

Objects in East (Capitol) Park important in the Capitol’s history are the statues of Dr. John McGloughlin and the Reverend Jason Lee which are duplicates of bronzes in Statuary hall in the nation’s Capitol, and a grouping of column sections from the old Statehouse of 1876. However, because these features represent commemorative activities post-dating the historic period of significance chosen for this nomination, they are not counted as contributing features at present. Their significance is nonetheless verified by inclusion in the discussion.” Elizabeth Potter, National Register Nomination.

## **Conclusions**

This brief historic overview has led to a few important conclusions about which features and areas of the park should be protected for the future.

1. First, the Capitol superblock with its east-west axis (including the sites of the first two Capitols and the original Willson Avenue) and the mall with its north-south axis represent the full extent of the Capitol’s history. The open spaces and axes associated with these areas should be protected from intruding, large scale installations, especially anything that might overpower the views of the Capitol along the axes. The open space of the north plaza and grassy panels, and the flanking East and West Summer Streets should also remain.
2. The character of Capitol Park with its leafy canopy, some remaining trees from prior to the third Capitol, early walkway layout and “The Circuit Rider” should remain, allowing only minor changes that are compatible with that character. This is the site of the first two Capitols. The column remnants sit very near the location of the first two Capitols, making their setting a prime spot for telling the story of those earlier buildings. The site of the two commemorative statues of

Lee and McGloughlin is also relevant for the interpretation of periods earlier than that of the current Capitol Building.

3. The current character of Willson Park, based on a design and construction from the 1960's, is about 50 years old now and is relatively intact. The current layout continues to preserve an east-west visual axis that connects the current Capitol with the very early and contributing Breyman Fountain and the Executive Building (former post office building). Only minor changes to better accommodate present day use and circulation should be considered.
4. The grand, north Capitol stairway and its stelae are important to presentation of and access to the building, and should continue in a compatible manner into the future. Proposals to enhance this approach and connection to the sunken plaza would be in keeping with this intent.
5. Some trees, apparently, still exist within the park from early periods. Although it is impossible to keep trees forever, it would be helpful to present day interpretation to better understand which trees these may be. These trees might be given extra-ordinary attention and special measures for protection and longevity.
6. The arboretum-like collection of plantings in Capitol Park from an early period, and in Willson Park from the 1960's with some remaining older trees should continue as the basis for future plantings and plant replacement. The more formal, geometric plantings on the mall should also continue, although from a much more recent period. This is because the plantings fit well with the current Capitol building's formal site layout, and because of the huge popularity of the cherry trees. The fountains, Sprague and Wall of Water, have also become "new traditions" with great popularity that adds a lot to the liveliness and beauty of the mall.



EXTENT OF SALEM AS  
 LAID OFF IN 1850 BY  
 WILLIAM H WILLSON

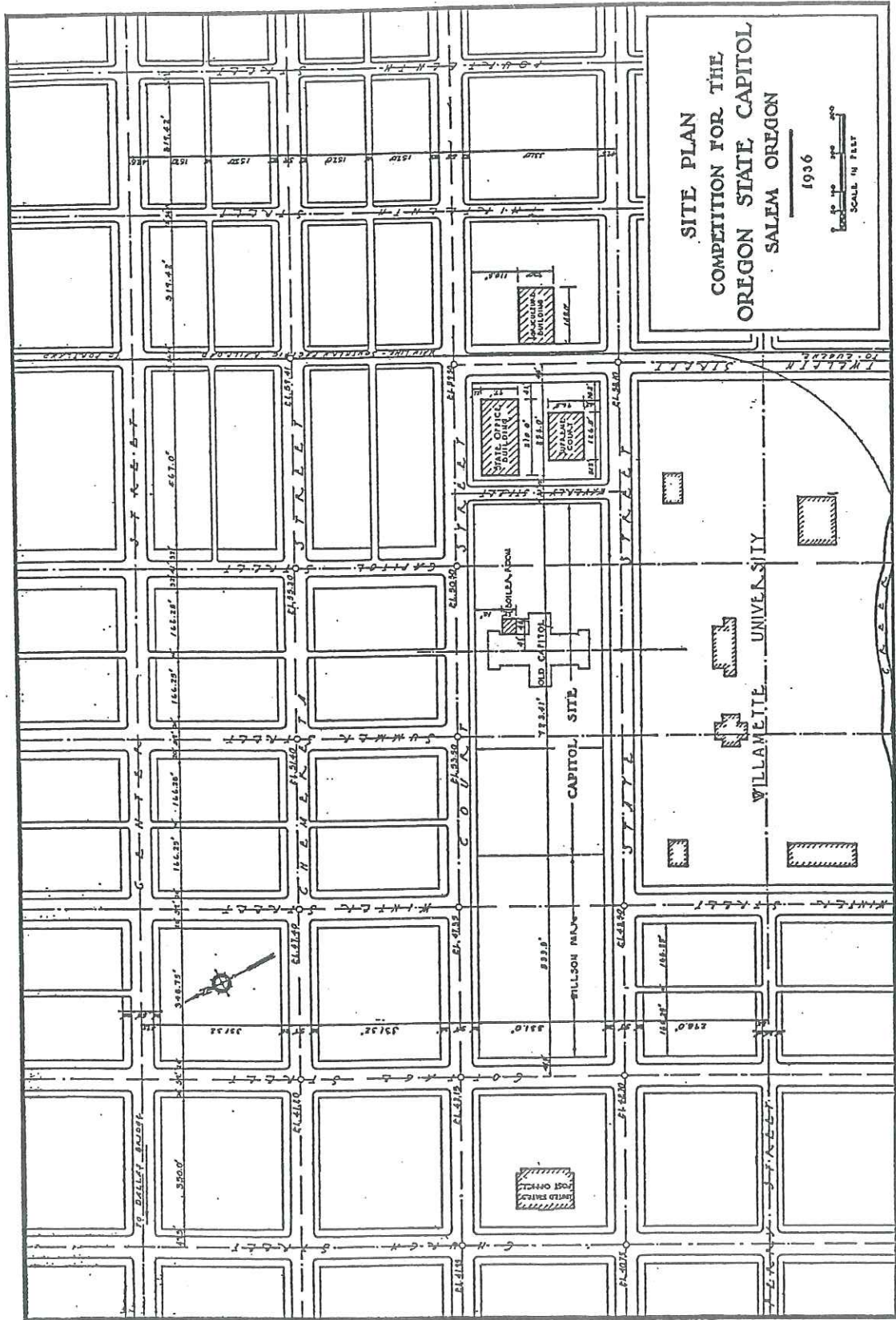
BOOK OF TOWN PLATS 2 P. 20-21 MARION COUNTY



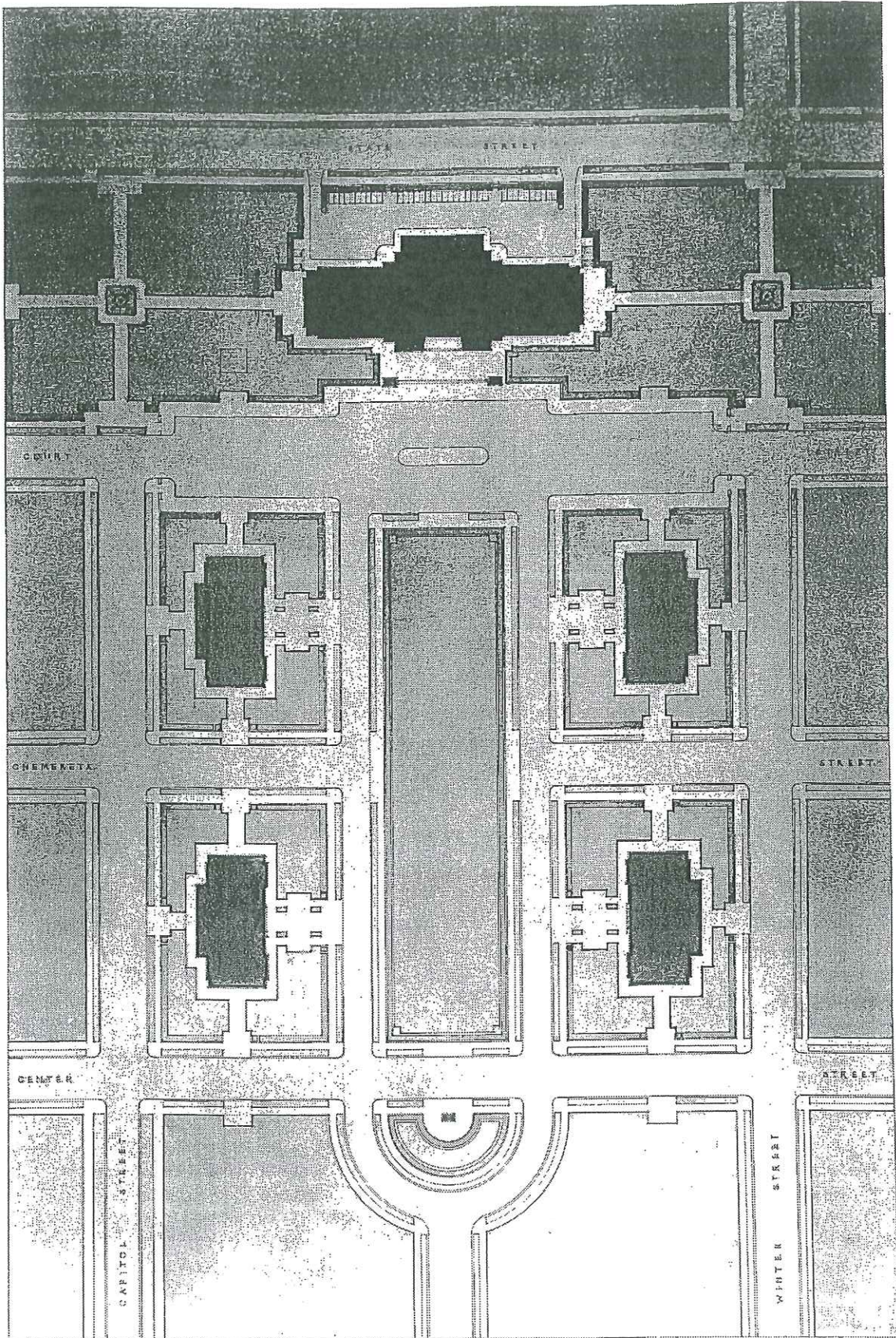








Conditions existing in 1936 were shown in this site plan included in the program for competition to select an architect for the new capitol. Carl F. Gould, F.A.I.A., serving as technical advisor to the State Capitol Reconstruction Commission, recommended competitors assume property north of Court Street would be acquired and suggested block plans in the competition drawings be developed on a north axis.



BLOCK PLAN  
SCALE ONE SIXTY FOURTH INCH EQUALS ONE FOOT  
OREGON STATE CAPITOL  
COMPETITION





# **Park Context: Chapter Three**

## **Location in the City**

The original location for the state Capitol was selected on a low rise, looking to the west to the Willamette River, not far from the other early settlements and institutions of the day. This initial arrangement has served the new State Park well, as the city has grown up around the Capitol site. It is still an important part of the center of Salem, benefiting from and contributing to surrounding buildings, parks and activities.

The State Park is situated to the east of the downtown hub, and north of Willamette University, Mission Mill, Bush Park and the hospital grounds. Church Street, to the west of the park, is aptly named with four major churches including the historic Methodist Church. Several other major churches dot the city center. The popular Saturday Market is held on state parking lots to the north of the park. Several state buildings line Summer Street to the north of the park. All of these places contribute to interest in visiting the park.

Residential neighborhoods surround and support the park to the east and north, beyond the now extensive campus of state government buildings. The historic south central and Fairmont neighborhoods lie to the south beyond the university and hospital. These neighborhoods look to the park as part of their route to work, walking and biking, and a place to relax and recreate.

State Street is the major arterial running past the park. The state highway is a couple of blocks to the south and several blocks to the west, connecting the city center to the coast, Portland and the rest of the Willamette Valley.

## **The Park and Open Space Network**

This part of Salem is rich in parks, open space and riparian corridors for recreation and habitat. State Capitol State Park becomes the easternmost element of that network and is the jumping off point for boulevard connections farther to the east and north.

To the south, Bush Park frames the city center network of parks. The grounds of Willamette University and the hospital offer pleasant, public, open space for cycling and walking, and connect the city center with the residential districts beyond. The redevelopment of the State School for the Blind will, hopefully, contribute even more open space and will allow access along the creek.

To the west, the Mill Race links the southern areas, by trail, to City Hall Park, and will soon continue under Liberty Street to Waterfront Park through the residential redevelopment of the Boise Cascade complex. Waterfront Park frames the park network on the west side of city center. In the next few years, a bike/pedestrian bridge will connect Waterfront Park across the slough to Minto-Brown Park with many miles of cycling, mountain biking and walking paths.



Existing and proposed Salem bike routes converge on State Capitol State Park from the north via Winter and Summer Streets, from the east and west via Chemeketa Street and from the south via Winter Street. These routes and others provide leafy, attractive routes for pedestrians out for exercise, trips to shop and eat out, and getting to and from work each day. The State Park becomes a cross roads, of a sort, for the cycling and pedestrian routes in this part of downtown.

### **The State Park Can Dovetail with Surrounding Plans**

Salem is also rich in plans for improving each of the other sectors of the city center area, and for linking them with the State Park and related state complex.

- **Salem's Vision 2020**

This is a multi-partnership effort to enliven the downtown and to improve the experience for visitors and shoppers to the city center through events, furnishings and signs, gathering spaces and making better connections. The partnership has made great strides toward that aim in the last couple of years. One of the goals they have is to better connect the downtown with the river, the neighborhoods and with nearby and adjacent parks and open space. They are looking for strong connections between the State Park and the city's bike and walking routes, along with better orientation and support amenities like bike racks and signs. They want to improve the routes through and around the State Park. OPRD is working toward those ends.

- **State Capitol Master Plan**

A new master plan for the expansion and retrofit of the Capitol Building was released recently by the State of Oregon. This work determined that building expansion would not result in an extended footprint on the State Park site, but rather would be contained underground and within other spaces in the building. The underground rehabilitation work would occur at the north entrance to the Capitol, and would include a reworking of the stairway, drop off zone, and Court Street pavement and cross-section. These proposals appear to be consistent with the historic elements and design intent for the Capitol Mall and the State Park, and could greatly improve the visual and pedestrian connection between the building and the mall. Our Park-wide Plan recognizes and includes those proposals as good guidance for the future.

- **Willamette University Master Plan**

The university is also working on a new master plan for its campus. It is to include some type of campus "gateway" improvement at Winter Street's intersection with State Street. This happens to also be the city bike route and a popular walking route for commuting workers to the state campus. There is an opportunity to better define that intersection to support cycling and walking, and to also be a gateway from the south into the State Park. Some type of "mini-crossing plaza" with special paving and a narrowed cross-section could be explored with the university and city.

- **City Bike Routes Planning**

The Winter Street bike route enters the State Park at the intersection of Winter and Court Streets, just to the opposite side of the park from the proposed Willamette University gateway. The Winter and Court Street intersection could have the same kind of surface and cross-section treatments as might be done at the Winter and State Street intersections, complimenting each other, and conforming with the design intent of the Capitol's north plaza extension.

The Chemeketa Street bike route runs across the State Park, as the street itself drops underground. The current route through the park is hampered by the placement of two new restroom buildings that visually block the view from the neighborhood to the downtown through the park. This also creates sight distance problems and near collisions between cyclists and pedestrians who cannot see each other very well. Moving the restrooms back, potentially with one on the other side of the park, would resolve both of these problems.

- **Capitol Mall Area Plan**

The state's Department of Administrative Services (DAS) oversees the completion of plans for each of the major state building campuses in Salem, under the guidance of the Capitol Planning Commission. Their Capitol Mall Area Plan pertains to the new State Park, and the OPRD plan for the park needs to be consistent with the goals, building criteria and development policies outlined in the Area Plan. The following are paraphrased excerpts from the Capitol Mall Area Plan.

Planning and development of the Oregon State Capitol Mall began in 1935 after the second statehouse was destroyed by fire. The responsibility for the planning and reconstruction of the Capitol was assigned to the State Capitol Reconstruction Commission. Later, to guide the growth of additional state buildings in the mall area, the Capitol Planning Commission was established in 1949. The Commission was given authority over all state lands in Salem, in 1973, and their role was more clearly defined. This group's responsibilities were recently renewed through legislation.

The Commission is charged with establishing and implementing development plans and standards for state properties in Salem, and with approving all building proposals for compliance, prior to inclusion in the Governor's budget.

The goals, standards and criteria in the Area Plan pertain largely to proposals for the placement of new buildings, rather than to small scale elements, such as landscaping, site furnishings, walkway layout and lighting. Here are some of the goals that are relevant to the State Park:

1. Preserve and enhance the Capitol Mall as the symbolic and functional center of the legislative, judicial and executive branches of state government.
2. Encourage planned development of the Capitol Mall.
3. Preserve and maintain areas of the natural environment that are unique to the Mall's setting.
4. Preserve those features that are special and unique to the Capitol Mall while being responsive to changing needs and conditions.

5. Preserve and maintain the traditional relationship and architectural character of historic buildings and grounds that define the Formal Capitol Mall.
6. Provide conservation and development guidelines for the orderly and efficient use of the Capitol Mall area.
7. Encourage compatible relations of the Capitol Mall with the surrounding community while maintaining its identity as a significant place.
8. Provide a balanced transportation system in the Capitol Mall area in cooperation with state, city and regional transportation planning agencies.
9. Achieve an environment that is attractive and responsive to the basic needs of all the people who will use the Capitol Mall.
10. Provide a basis for coordination of state government with the city of Salem, neighborhood groups, Salem Area Mass Transit District and other public and private entities affected by Capitol Mall development.

All future development in the Formal Mall should consider, respect, and reinforce the existing design elements of the Mall and associated parks. The Formal Mall includes the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government housed in the Capitol, Executive, Supreme Court, Justice, State Library, Public Services, Transportation, Labor and Industries Buildings, the two block long Mall Plaza and Green, and the parks east and west of the Capitol Building. The Commerce Building (originally the Agriculture Building) is a significant feature of the building group clustered around the Mall, and its west entry is on a straight axial alignment with the original east door of the Capitol Building.

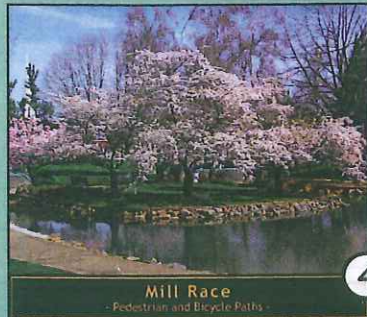
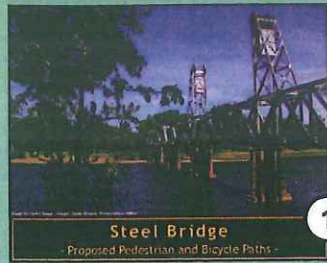
This Formal Mall highlights the importance of good pedestrian and visual connections between the State Park and the Justice/Supreme Court buildings, and a visual connection to the Commerce Building, to the east across Waverly and 12<sup>th</sup> Streets; and to the Executive Building to the west across Cottage Street.

Previous development within the Capitol Mall has established organizational patterns which are based on the historic plan for the Mall. The primary north/south and east/west axes which intersect at the center of the Capitol Building have been the basis for development of buildings, places and features within the Mall. New development has the responsibility to clarify and reinforce the primary organizational structure while also being responsive to the individual needs and conditions of the State Park plan. Balance, cohesiveness and order were the intentions of the original architect and these are the continuing architectural and landscaping foundations the Capitol Mall area should be based on.

There must be a continuity of design elements for landscaping, signage, paving and street accessories. Consistency of color, materials and detail can unite dissimilar elements within the Mall and with interconnecting streets.

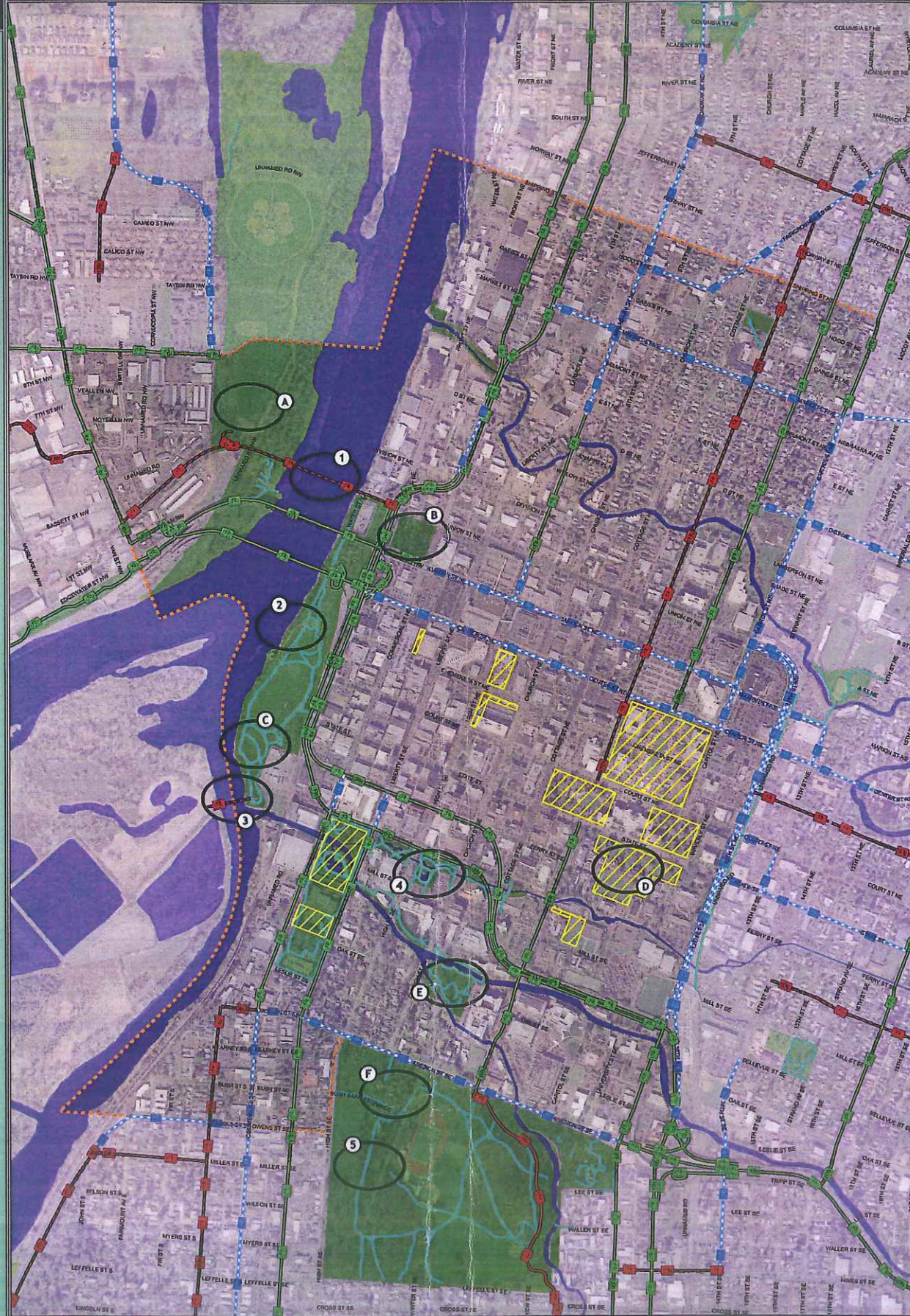
Recognized landmarks or features include: Willson Park, Waverly (Capitol) Park, the mall plaza, Capitol (Sprague) Fountain, War Memorial Plaque, Liberty Bell Replica, three statues in Capitol Park, marble stelae and steps and landings on the Capitol's north, east and west sides.

- Trails -  
- Paths and Routes -



**Parks and Open Space**  
Vision 2020

Salem Community Development Department



**LEGEND**

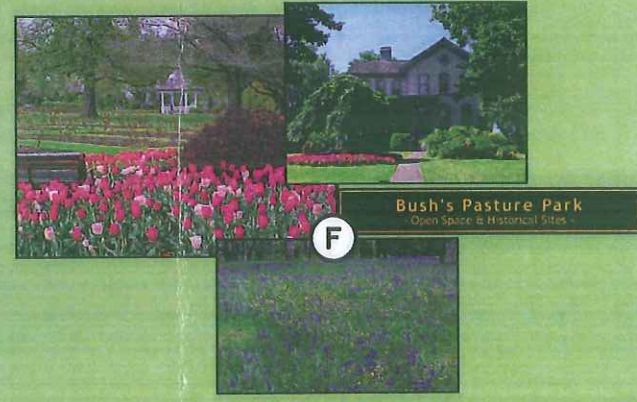
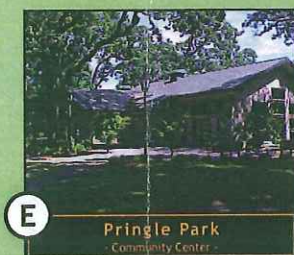
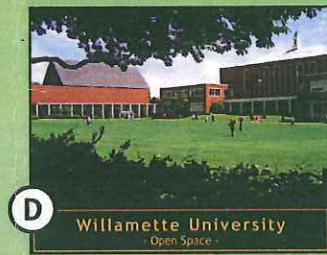
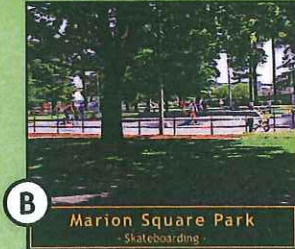
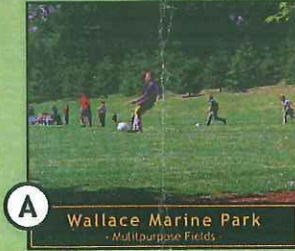
- Parks
- Open Space
- Water Features
- Existing Bike Lane
- Proposed Bike Lane
- Existing Bike Route
- Proposed Bike Route
- Pedestrian Paths
- Core Boundary

0 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 Feet

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**CITY OF SALEM**  
AT YOUR SERVICE

- Parks -  
- Open Space -



## Park Assessments: Chapter Four

Various aspects of the park have been identified and analyzed to better understand the opportunities and constraints for improvements to the park. This has included:

- Circulation
- Views
- Historic spaces and features
- Gathering spaces
- Infrastructure
- Vegetation
- Monuments and features

Map diagrams that illustrate each of the analyses are found at the end of this chapter.

### Circulation

Major arterials run east/west adjacent to the north and south boundaries of the park on Center and State Streets. The major north/south arterials are a few blocks away. This allows for easy vehicular access to the site and enjoyment of it in passing, while keeping the noise, fumes and congestion on the fringes. Court Street currently runs west, while State and Center run only east. According to the City of Salem public works Court Street is not nearly as heavily travelled as State and Center, causing a lesser impact on park enjoyment. It is a three lane street, however, and can be intimidating to cross for pedestrians and cyclists. Winter, Capitol and Waverly Streets are relatively, very little travelled by vehicles. Since Chemeketa Street passes under the park, it has a fairly light impact on park use, as well. It is a two way, two lane street that is easily crossed at Winter and Capitol Streets. Summer Street, a major arterial from the north, dead ends at the north boundary of the park at Center Street. The intersection of Summer and Center is a difficult and intimidating crossing for pedestrians and cyclists. East and West Summer Streets are reserved for service and emergency vehicles only, and end up serving as additional walkway for pedestrians and cyclists.

Salem has three bike routes that intersect the park. The Winter Street route runs along the west side of the mall block and then across Willson Park, veering around the central oval to reach the intersection with State Street, before continuing through the Willamette University campus. The intersection of the bike route with State Street is intimidating to cross. The Chemeketa Street route is the east/west route. One third of its traffic is reported to be bicycles, making it a major bike route, indeed. This route is currently partially blocked by the placement of the new restroom buildings. Moving them back would solve this problem. The Summer Street route enters the park from the north along West Summer Street and intersects with the Chemeketa Street route, and then with the Winter Street route. These routes meet where there is plenty of space for turning and interaction.

There are four bike/pedestrian crossing areas associated with the park that could benefit from traffic calming to improve the crossing experience and increase safety for all. The foremost is the crossings at West/East Summer Streets and Court Street. Others include Winter Street bike route and State Street, Winter Street bike route and Court Street and Summer and Center Streets.

Each of these intersections could be narrowed and repaved with pavers or other surfacing that can alert drivers to the potential and right of way for pedestrians and bikes.

## **Views**

There are basically three levels of important views at the park. The first is the major north/south view along the Park Mall, looking to and from the Capitol. This view is enhanced by the openness of the mall, and uniform rows of cherry trees. There is no terminus at Summer Street currently. In the future a new state building will be erected on the corner opposite the Revenue Building and may have a bank of cherry trees to match those on the mall. Even with this new building, the view will continue up Summer Street. Street trees and broad, comfortable sidewalks on Summer Street, as it passes through the north mall of the state campus, will enhance that view.

The second level of views is the two east/west axes looking to and from the Capitol. These are historic axes and views that originated with the first and second Capitols. In Capitol Park the view is emphasized by the straight east/west walkway through the center of the park, and centering on the east door of the Capitol. Looking east, the view from the Capitol historically ran between the Supreme Court and Justice Buildings and centered on the Commerce Building. Enhancing the pedestrian space between the Supreme Court and Justice Buildings would support and enhance this view. Keeping the view open to the Commerce Building is important. In Willson Park the view is mainly through a large, sunny open space with flanking walks. Historically this view was centered on the courthouse, and later intervening post office which eventually was replaced by the state Executive Services Building. It is important to keep this view open.

The third level of key views is along the two major bike routes through the park. The view along the Chemeketa Street route is currently obscured by the new restroom buildings. Moving them back would open up the view. The Winter Street route through Willson Park is visually obscured by dense, broadleaf and deciduous shrubbery, making the route unclear for first-time-users and resulting in near collisions with pedestrians and other cyclists as they negotiate the multiple intersections around the central oval. Opening up the shrubbery, even partially, and moving the plantings back somewhat from the walkways will improve this situation tremendously.

## **Historic Analysis**

The Park History Chapter gave us a good basis for this analysis. The most important historic feature in the park is, of course, the Capitol itself, with its north/south and east/west views along central axes. The north facing axis is predominate in size and effect, and because it relates to the front entrance of the current Capitol building. The east/west axes are secondary today, but were historically primary, especially on the west side of the Capitols. These axes and their views through open space, all three, need to be preserved into the future. Willson Park, the original park in Salem and original open space associated with the original Capitol must be recognized as an on-going park. Within Willson Park, the Breyman Fountain is the only remaining artifact from the second Capitol and should be protected and restored. Capitol Park with its leafy canopy, some trees from an earlier era and the three statues should likewise be protected for the

future. The sunken terrace, the north stairway and its marble sculptures, and the east and west stairways, should also be protected.

## **Gathering Spaces**

There are a series of important gathering spaces in the park that should be recognized and preserved from excessive plantings, furniture or buildings that could impair their use and enjoyment.

- The most intensive gathering space is the north entrance stairway and drop off area for the Capitol. It is the scene of legislative, educational and tour dramas throughout the year, climaxing during the legislative session. This space could benefit from improved disabled access and pedestrian crossing of Court Street. Parking at the drop off area mars the potential beauty and function of this space for gathering. Parking should be moved out and replaced with plaza paving.
- The companion space to the Capitol stair plaza, just across Court Street to the north, is the sunken terrace with the Wall of Water. This space is used, with or without the temporary closure of Court Street, for events of all kinds. The space is extremely popular in warm weather when the Wall of Water is operating. This space needs to be kept open for tents and other support equipment for large events. The space could benefit from turning the adjacent portion of Court Street into a plaza that is visually continuous with terrace paving and can be closed to traffic for events. It could also use more support amenities such as tables and benches, perhaps to be located within the adjacent garden alcoves.
- The grassy mall with Sprague Fountain on the north, and the six flanking shady garden alcoves or “keys” can also be used for events and event overflow, but are more often used by park visitors during walks, lunches and tours. It is important to preserve the mall and the “keys” for these uses and for the view of the Capitol.
- Willson Park has two main gathering spaces. The first is the Walk of Flags oval that is used by school groups from the nearby nursery schools. This space needs to be kept open for views and free play. The other gathering space is the west end of the park between Waite Fountain, the gazebo and the historic fountain. This space could benefit from some better spatial definition and routing of walkways. Greenworks completed a plan for this area for just this purpose a few years ago. Our Parkwide Plan should recognize and incorporate the Greenworks recommendations. The wooded area to the north of the western open space at Willson Park could be put to dedicated use as a “natural play area” for nursery school and other children. Complimentary fencing could enclose it to aid the supervision of children using the space. The open space to the south is used by teenagers and young adults, centering on the gazebo, who are sometimes seen as disruptive and intimidating. Improving the adjacent open space should support the right kind of behavior in this area, and attract more families and walkers.
- Capitol Park has three gathering areas within the trees. The foremost centers on “The Circuit Rider” statue and its accompanying statues of Lee and McGlouglin, and remnants of the columns from the second Capitol. The space is intimate, but somewhat disjointed. It needs

to be opened up somewhat through careful removal of shrubbery, better defined by the placement of ground covers and united by pavement to unite the elements better. Two other gathering spaces, to the north and south, are usually used by individuals and small groups lunching and relaxing on the many scattered benches under the trees. Occasionally, groups use these areas for barbeques and office gatherings. Ground cover plantings and some selective tree removal could enhance the use of these spaces. The area around the Garden Pride maintenance building should be planted and somewhat obscured to enhance the use of the nearby gathering spaces.

- The final gathering spaces are the two secondary stairways and landings at the east and west ends of the Capitol, the small entrance plazas of each of the four state buildings on the mall, and the ODOT entrance court on Capitol Street. These spaces should continue to be defined by mostly open pavement backed by surrounding low to moderate height shrubbery. Benches should be placed here for workers without interfering with the main access to each of the buildings.

### **Infrastructure Constraints**

Two areas of major infrastructure constraint need to be mentioned. The first is the unique structural and utility-related constraints of the underground parking garage below the Mall. Any major changes to the trees, pavement or structures will need to be compatible with the limitations of this infrastructure. The second is the area proposed for the Capitol to improve its HVAC system, by opening up the north entrance stairway and completely rebuilding it. Care should be given in replacing it in a way that functions and looks much like it does now, with improved disabled access and protection of the magnolia trees and marble stelae.

### **Vegetation**

State Capitol State Park is not a typical state park in that all of the trees, shrubs, flowers, ground cover and grass have been planted at some time by people, rather than occurring naturally as part of a habitat. This makes the park unique, but by no means less interesting or beautiful. Staff have completed an inventory of the tree locations and species in the park, to be used as a basis for determining which trees need to be pruned or removed, which older trees need special attention and where some new trees might be planted. The attached map shows trees to be retained in dark lines, and trees proposed to be removed in light lines and the locations of a few new trees.

The park has 76 different types of trees, showing the modern day park to be as much or more of an arboretum than the original parks were. This tradition and planting approach should continue. However, each of the three park areas has a very different character in the species they contain and how they are arranged. The Mall is planted in a very straight-line, bilaterally symmetrical geometry with an emphasis on the single species of flowering cherry, with their understory of various flowering shrubs. The open lawn in the mall should continue outside of the treed areas and flower beds, except for a few garden alcoves that might be graveled or paved.

Willson Park's character is more curvilinear with rounded, open spaces of grass down the center, flanked by large specimen shade and coniferous trees, with little understory, allowing visitors to wander about. Many secondary flowering trees are found among the larger trees offering



seasonal interest and helping to screen the park from the adjacent busy street. Some areas of shrubbery have become thick and heavy, in contrast to the openness of the rest of the site, and should be thinned out and opened up.

Capitol Park's character is shadier, with more shrubbery and small trees creating smaller, more intimate areas among the trees. Some of these areas are so shady that little grows there. Some trees are crowded together. These areas could benefit from selected tree removal that keeps the diversity of species intact and brings a bit more sunshine into the spaces. Shade-loving ground covers could be planted as well. Some of the oldest trees remain in this park and could benefit from as much care as is feasible to keep them around as testament to the past.

Finally, many trees are located on the grounds of the four state office buildings on the mall block. Most are quite large and attractive. Some are smaller and not so attractive. Selective removal and replacement of those that don't enhance the area is recommended. Foundation plantings around the Capitol and these buildings should continue to be based on the classic, formal approach in form and species selection.

The question of whether to bring in more native species prompted some interesting discussions. Oregon grape, the "state flower" is planted in all three parks, but does not thrive in the Mall, probably due to competition with cherry roots. In this area Oregon grape may need to be replaced with another species that can do better there. Oregon grape can be used effectively in Capitol Park where more dense vegetation is the intent of the design. Many other natives may be problematic to cultivate or do not have the refined appearance that is characteristic of Willson Park and the Mall. Making a major change to native species would not be in keeping with the exotic (non-native) arboretum design intent of all three "parks".

### **Memorials and Other Features**

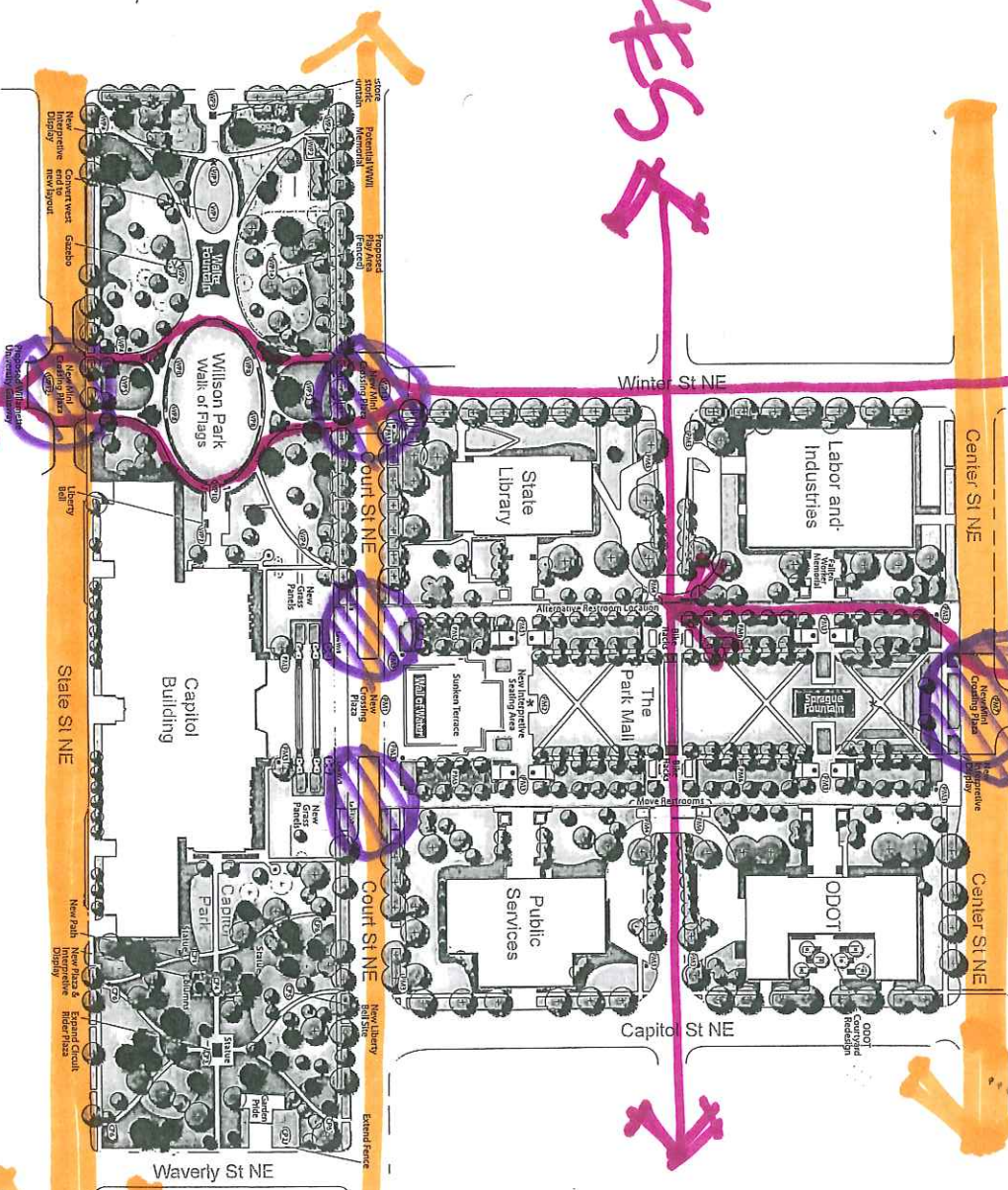
There are several major memorials or features in the park that should be protected in their current location due to their size and popularity, and for some due to their historic importance. These include the Sprague, Waite and Breyman Fountains and the Wall of Water, The Circuit Rider, Lee and McGloughlin statues, the stelae, The Fallen Workers Memorial and selected memorial trees. Other smaller sculptures and features should be retained, but could be relocated including "The Beaver Family", the children's sculptures and the Liberty Bell.

PEDESTRIAN

BUSES

CARS + BUSES

### State Capitol State Park Site Improvement Plan



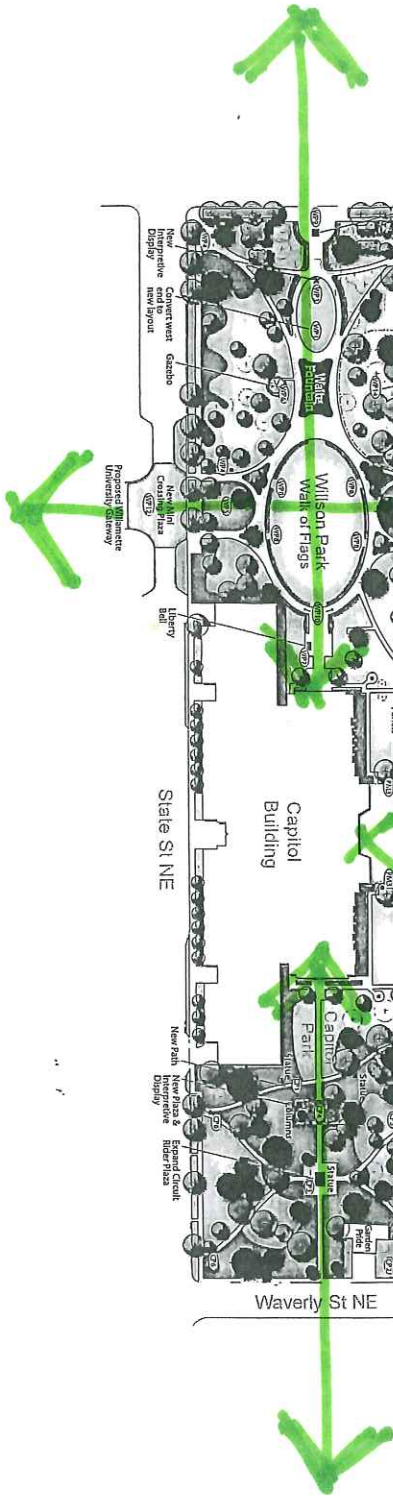
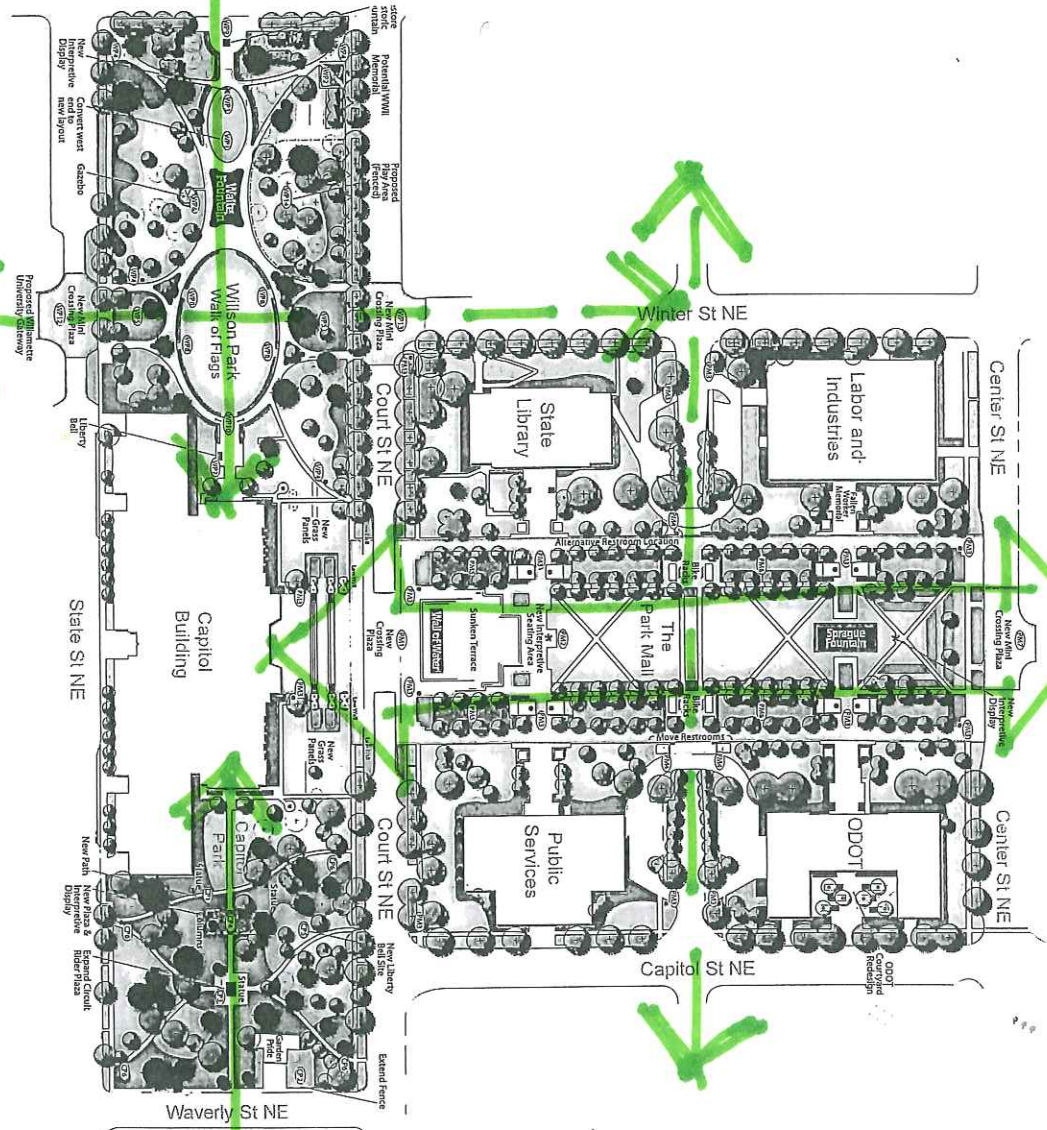
- KEY
- Interpretation Panels
  - Orientation Signs
  - Other Site Features (Statues, Fountains)
  - Buildings
  - Project Code
  - Paved Plazas
  - Fine Graveled Areas / or Paving
  - Existing Trees
  - New Trees
  - Trees to be Removed
  - Color Spot Planting Beds
  - Groundcover and Shrubs
  - Glass



CIRCULAR

# State Capitol State Park Site Improvement Plan

- KEY**
- ☒ Interpretation Panels
  - Orientation Signs
  - ▣ Other Site Features (Statues, Fountains)
  - ▣ Buildings
  - ▣ Project Code
  - ▣ Paved Plazas
  - ▣ Pine Gravelled Areas / or Paving
  - ▣ Existing Trees
  - ▣ New Trees
  - ☒ Trees to be Removed
  - ▣ Color Spot Planting Beds
  - ▣ Groundcover and Shrubs
  - ▣ Grass



VIEWS

CAPITAL

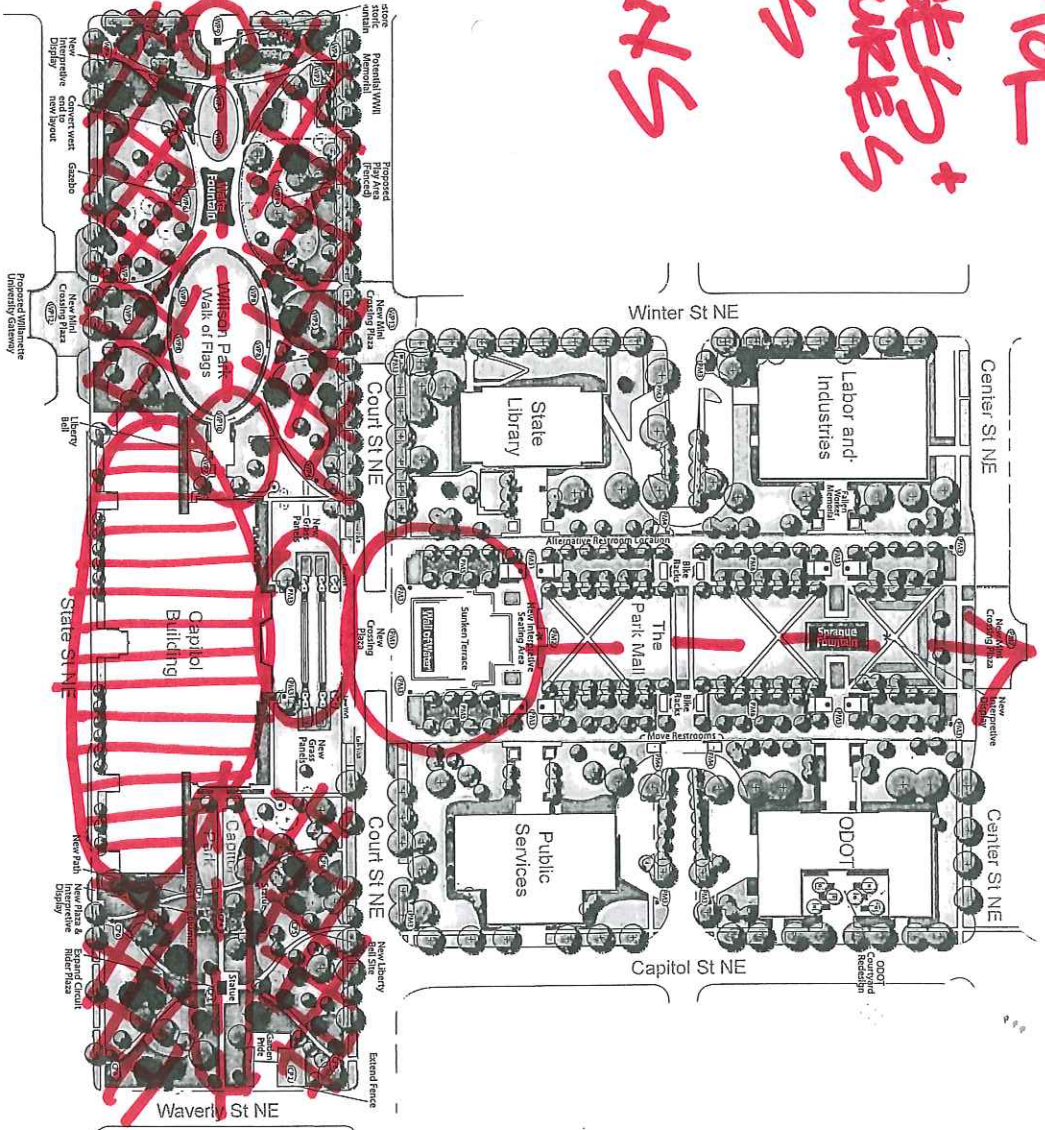
SPACES + FEATURES

PARKS

YIELDS

EXECUTIVE SPACES

HISTORIC ARTISTS



- KEY
- ☒ Interpretation Panels
  - Orientation Signs
  - Other Site Features (Statues, Fountains)
  - ▭ Buildings
  - Ⓜ Project Code
  - ▭ Paved Plazas
  - ▭ Fine Gravelled Areas / or Paving
  - ☎ Existing Trees
  - ☎ New Trees
  - ☒ Trees to be Removed
  - ▭ Color Spot Planting Beds
  - ▭ Groundcover and Shrubs
  - ▭ Grass

State Capitol State Park Site Improvement Plan

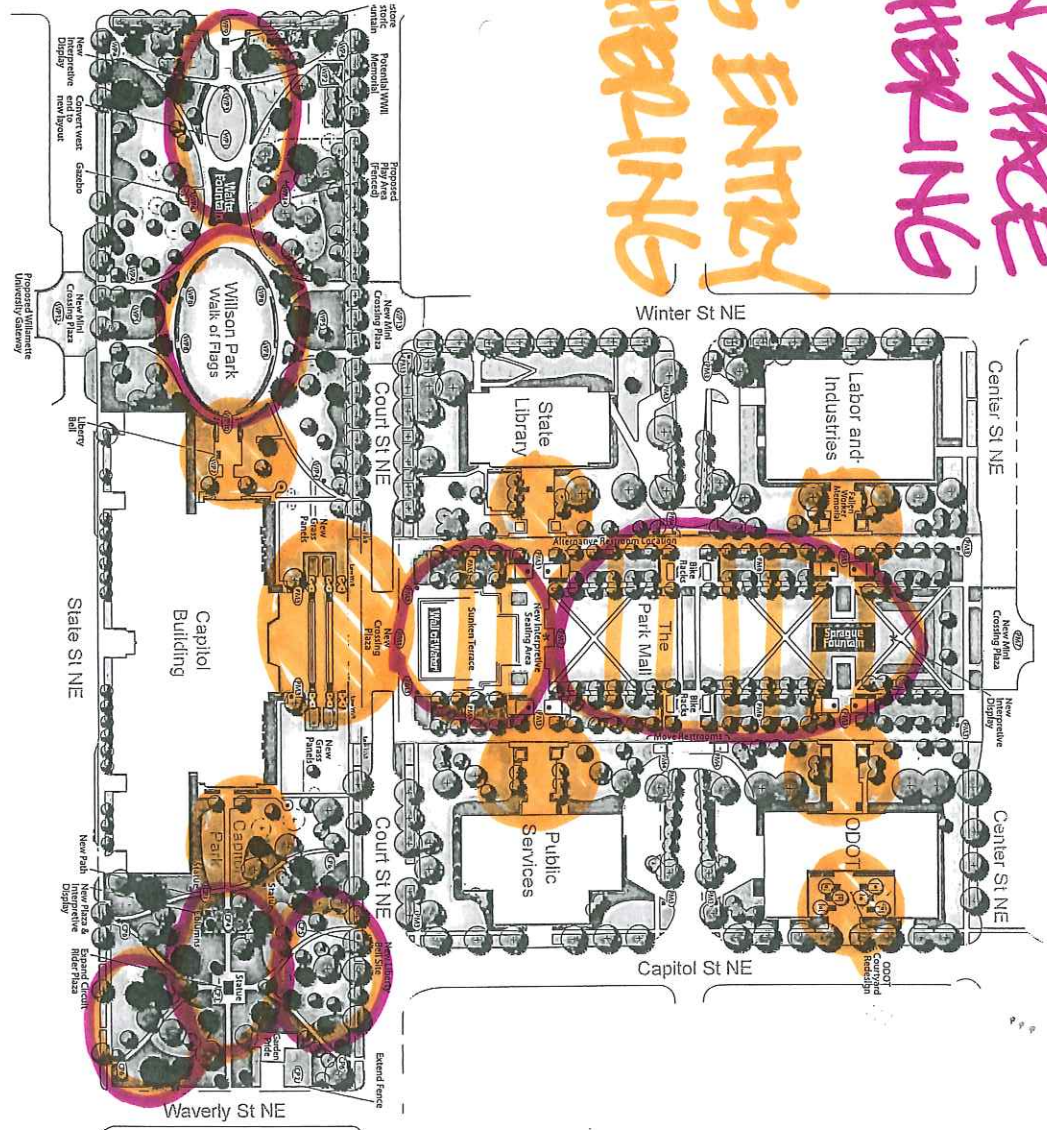
JURISDICTION

EXECUTIVE SPACES

COURT

OPEN SPACE  
GATHERING

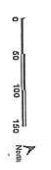
BIG ENTRY  
GATHERING



GATHERING SPACES

State Capitol State Park  
Site Improvement Plan

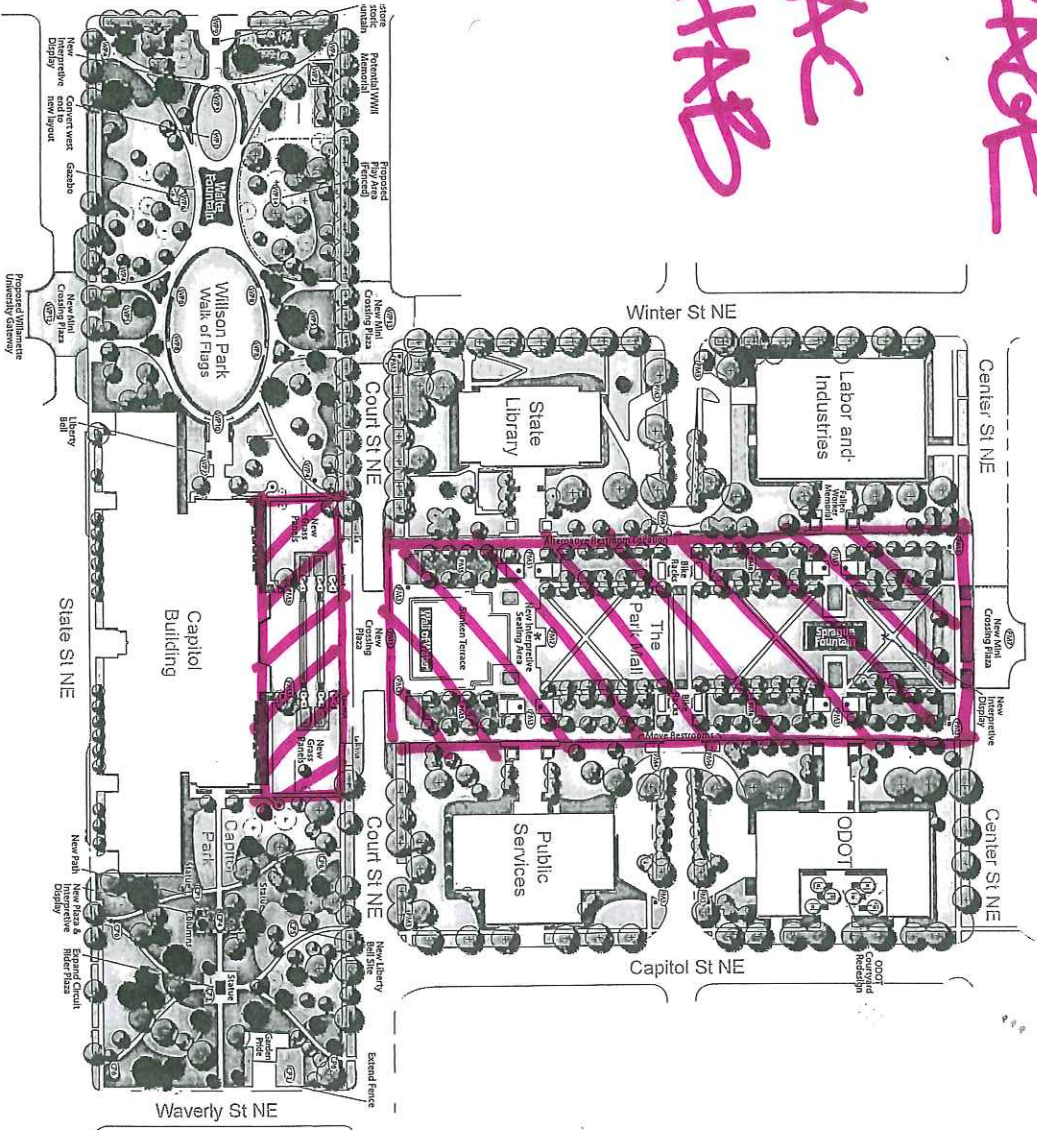
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  - Buildings
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  - Paved Plazas
  - Fine Graveled Areas / or Paving
  - Existing Trees
  - New Trees
  - Trees to be Removed
  - Color Spot Planting Beds
  - Groundcover and Shrubs
  - Grass



PAVING  
GRASS

HYAC

REBAR



State Capitol State Park  
Site Improvement Plan

- KEY
- ☒ Interpretation Panels
  - ☐ Orientation Signs
  - ☐ Other Site Features (Statues, Fountains)
  - ☐ Buildings
  - ☐ Project Code
  - ☐ Paved Plazas
  - ☐ Fine Gravelled Areas / or Paving
  - ☐ Existing Trees
  - ☐ New Trees
  - ☐ Trees to be Removed
  - ☐ Color Spot Planting Beds
  - ☐ Groundcover and Shrubs
  - ☐ Glass



HYFRK STRUCTURE  
CON STRAINTS

CON STRAINTS

# State Capitol State Park

## Tree List

Abgr	Abies grandis	Grand Fir
Acca	Acer campestre	Hedge Maple
Acgi	Acer ginnala	Amur Maple
Acpa	Acer palmatum	Japanese Maple
Acpl	Acer platanoides	Norway Maple
Acps	Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore Maple
Acru	Acer rubrum	Red Maple
Acsa	Acer saccharinum	Silver Maple
Aehi	Aesculus hippocastanum	Horse Chestnut
Alru	Alnus rubra	Red Alder
Cabe	Carpinus betulus	European Hornbeam
Cade	Calocedrus decurrens	Incense Cedar
Ceat	Cedrus atlantica 'Glauca'	Blue Atlas Cedar
Cede	Cedrus deodara	Deodar Cedar
Chla	Chamaecyparis lawsoniana	Port Orford Cedar
Chob	Chamaecyparis obtusa	Hinoki False Cypress
Chpi	Chamaecyparis pisifera	Sawara Falsecypress
Cofl	Cornus florida	Pink Dogwood
Coko	Cornus kousa 'Julian'	Julian Chinese Dogwood
Cr x la	Cretaeagus x lavalley 'Carrierei'	Lavalle Hawthorn 'Carrierei'
Crja	Cryptomeria japonica	Japanese cryptomeria
Cuse	Cupressus sempervirens	Italian Cypress
Dio	Diospyros	Persimmon
Fasy	Fagus sylvatica	European Beech
Gibi	Ginkgo biloba	Ginkgo
Ha sp.	Hamamelis species	Witch Hazel
Juni	Juglans nigra	Black Walnut
List	Liquidambar styraciflua	Sweet Gum
Litu	Liriodendron tulipifera	Tulip Tree
Made	Magnolia denudata	Yulan Magnolia
Magr	Magnolia grandiflora	Southern Magnolia
Mako	Magnolia kobus	Kobushi Magnolia
Mali	Magnolia liliiflora	Lily Magnolia
Malu sp.	Malus species	Crab apple
Maso	Magnolia soulangiana	Saucer Magnolia
Mast	Magnolia stellata	Star Magnolia
Megl	Metasequoia glyptostroboides	Dawn Redwood
Nysy	Nyssa sylvatica	Black Tupelo

Pape	Parrotia persica	Persian Ironwood
Pham	Phellodendron amurense	Amur Cork Tree
Piab	Picea abies	Bird's Nest Spruce
Pien	Picea englemannii	Engelmann Spruce
Pimo	Pinus monticola	Western White Pine
Pinus	Pinus species	Pine
Pior	Picea orientalis 'Barnes'	Barnes Oriental Spruce
Pipu	Picea pungens 'glauca'	Colorado Blue Spruce
Pisi	Picea sitchensis	Sitka Spruce
Pl x ac	Platanus x acerifolia	London Planetree
Prse	Prunus serrula	Birch Bark Cherry
Prsu	Prunus subhirtella 'pendula'	Weeping Higan Cherry
Prun sp.	Prunus Species	Flowering Cherry
Prye	Prunus yedoensis 'Akebono'	Yoshino Cherry
Psme	Psuedotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir
Pyca	Pyrus calleryana Autumn Blaze	Autumn Blaze Pear
Pypy	Pyrus pyrifolia	Chinese Pear
Quco	Quercus coccinea	Scarlet Oak
Quma	Quercus macrocarpa	Burr Oak
Qupa	Quercus plaustris	Pin Oak
Quro	Quercus robur	English Oak
Quru	Quercus rubra	Northern Red Oak
Segi	Sequoiadendron giganteum	Giant Sequoia
Sese	Sequoia sempervirens	Coast Redwood
Soau	Sorbus aucuparia	European Mountain Ash
Soja	Sophora japonica	Japanese Sophora
Stja	Styrax japonicus	Japanese Snowbell
Stko	Stewartia koreana	Korean Stewartia
Thdo	Thujaopsis dolabrata	Elkhorn Cedar
Thpl	Thuja plicata	Western Red Cedar
Ti x Eu	Tilia x euchlora	Crimean Linden
Tico	Tilia cordata	Little Leaf Linden
Tipl	Tilia platyphyllos	Large-leaved Linden
Toca	Torreya californica	California nutmeg
Tsca	Tsuga canadensis	Canadian Hemlock
Ulam	Ulmus americana	American Elm
Ulca	Ulmus camperdownii	Camperdown Elm
UNK	Unknown	



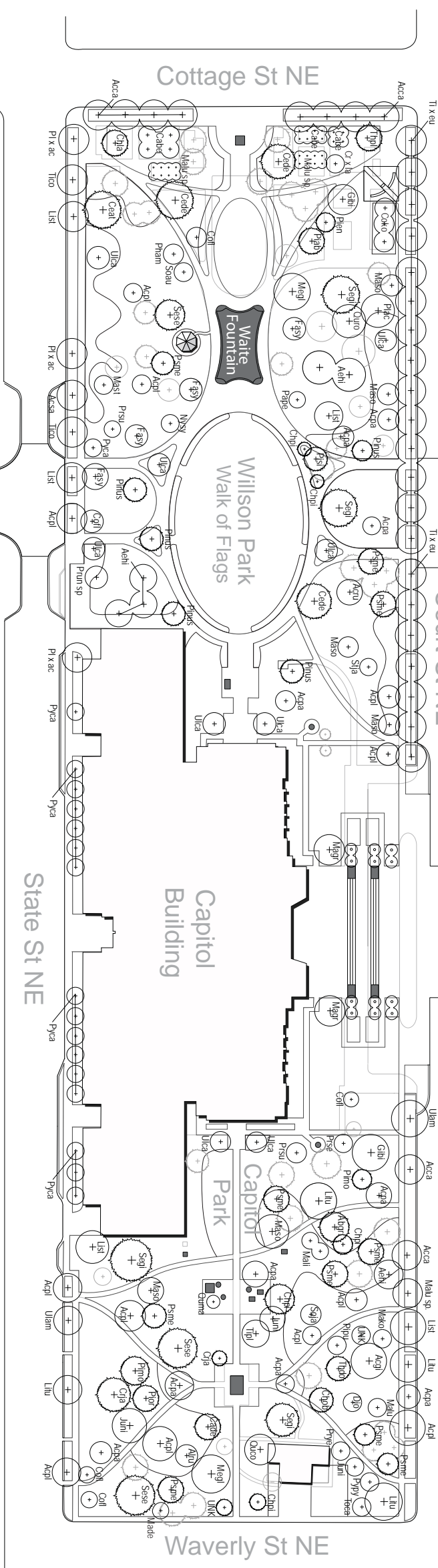
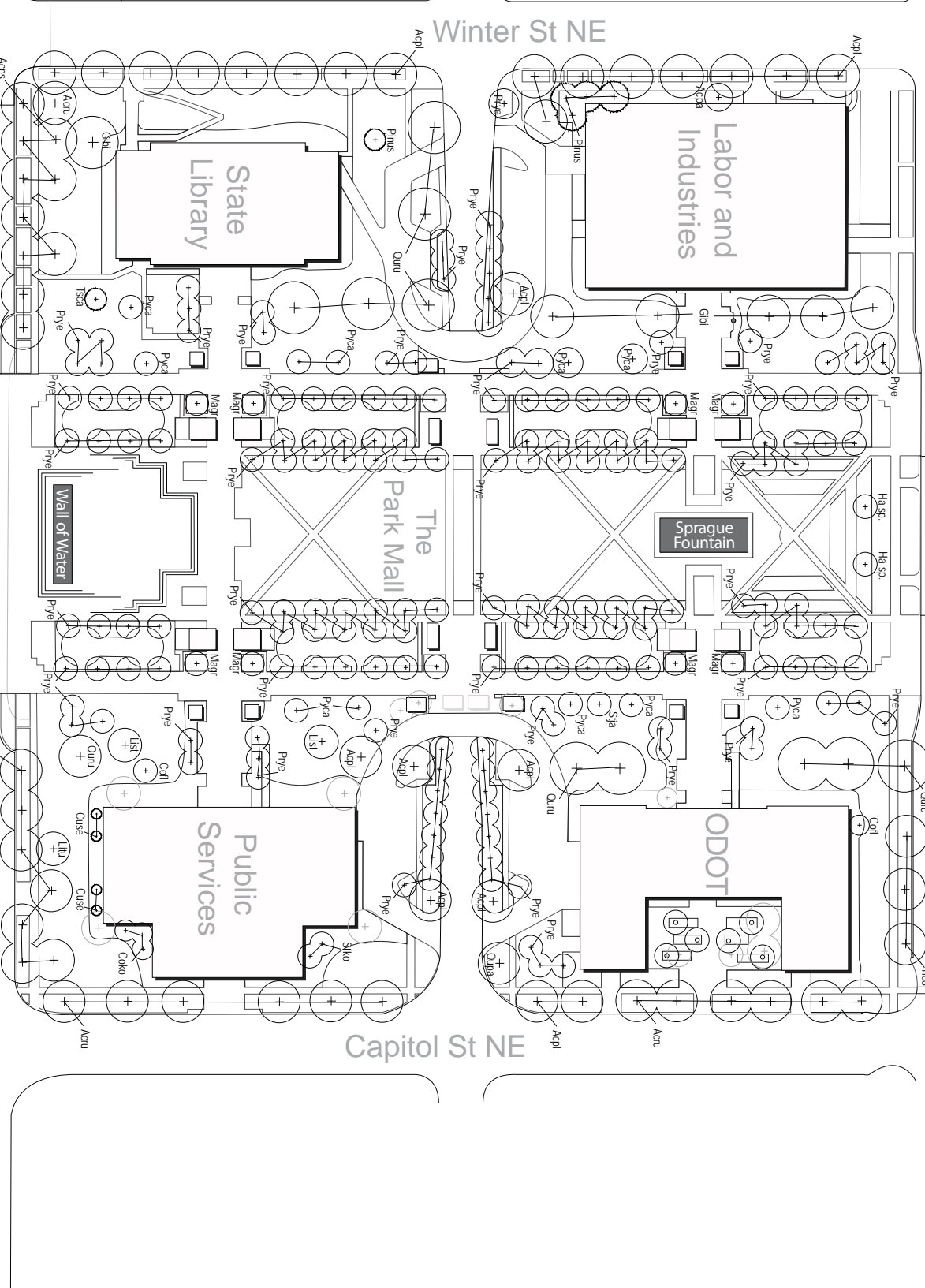


Center St NE







Center St NE

# State Capitol State Park

## Vegetation Plan



### KEY

-  Other Site Features (Statues, Fountains)
-  Buildings
-  Existing Evergreen Trees
-  Existing Deciduous Trees
-  Trees to be Added
-  Trees to be Removed



## Park Interpretation: Chapter 5

The interpretive plan is being developed in concert with the completion of this *State Capitol State Park, Park-wide Plan*, as Chapter 5. This chapter includes:

- Interpretive Goals, Objectives and Desired Outcomes
- Interpretive Plan Introduction
- Theme Hierarchy
- Visitor Experiences After Implementation
- Implementation Plan
- Design Concepts for Delivery Strategies
- Cost Range Estimates

Audience Profiles, Interpretive Parameters and the Interpretive Opportunity Inventory can be found in Appendix C.

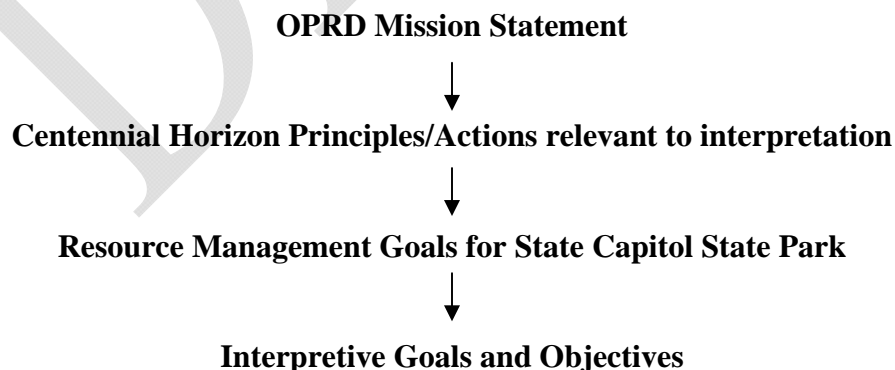
The *Park-wide Plan* is being developed in-house by OPRD staff. This is consistent with Principle 7, Action 4 of the Centennial Horizon Principles/Actions, which is to Use comprehensive cross-discipline planning techniques in developing plans for new acquisitions.

When the interpretive plan and *Park-wide Plan* are complete, projects will be selected based on a 10-year implementation schedule and implemented when funding becomes available.

The OPRD *Regional Interpretive Framework* ranks the interpretive “level of service” for each park. The proposed Interpretive Service Level is three for the State Capitol State Park. The interpretive opportunities in Level 3 parks are typically self-guided. The interpretive strategies may include outside interpretive structures such as kiosks or signage, and may offer seasonal or event-based programs and guided tours.

### Goals and Objectives

The goal hierarchy contained in this chapter reflects the following structure:



The goals are developed in this manner to link the recommended actions associated with developing a network of orientation and interpretive opportunities and the mission statement and resource management activities of OPRD.

**OPRD Mission Statement:**

*To provide and protect outstanding natural, scenic, cultural, historic, and recreational sites for the enjoyment and education of present and future generations.*

The features in State Capitol State Park reflect an important aspect of Oregon history and present and future affairs. The site is also important in the history of Salem.

**Centennial Horizon Principles/Actions relevant to interpretation**

From an interpretive perspective, the primary action affecting this plan is Principle 3, Action 8. The relevant part of the action statement is: Redefine the character of the grounds of the Oregon State Capitol State Park through signage, markers, and landscape improvements.

**Resource Management Goals**

Since this park was just established it does not yet have a Management Plan with articulated Resource Management Goals.

**Interpretive Goals and Objectives**

Goals reflect the end results of the improvements to State Capitol State Park that can be accomplished through implementing an effective network of orientation, way finding and interpretive strategies. They should, in total, answer the question as to why OPRD is investing in an information network for the park.

Measurable objectives are changes in visitor attitudes and behaviors that indicate that the goals have been achieved. Since the intent of communication is to cause change, determining success will require both a pre- and post-implementation study to determine if desired change was achieved.

**Goal 1: Create a user-friendly and interesting Visitor Experience in State Capitol State Park that appeals to more people than the current experience.**

This goal will be accomplished in part by physical improvements designed to create a more welcoming atmosphere. The interpretive network will contribute by enriching the potential visitor experience, but more importantly by providing an effective orientation and way finding system for the park, which will make it more user-friendly.

**Goal 2: Increase people’s awareness of, value for and support of Oregon’s State Parks, the connections they provide to our special places and the meaningful and enjoyable experiences they can offer.**

Support for efforts at State Capitol State Park can be accomplished in part simply by upgrading the interpretive and recreational opportunities available to the public. Support for OPRD comes from making visitors aware that the opportunities they are enjoying are made possible by OPRD.

**Goal 3: Support Sustainable Tourism and the local economy.**

Support for the local economy through tourism can be accomplished in part simply by upgrading the interpretive and recreational opportunities available to the public, which increases the

attraction and holding power of the park as a component of a visitor experience. It can also be accomplished in part by piquing interest in cultural history and making visitors aware of other interpretive opportunities in the area, which increases the number of visitors to other sites and increases the attraction and holding power of historic Salem as a visitor destination.

#### **Goal 4: Help to preserve Oregon’s rich cultural history.**

Whereas the other goals and objectives focus on creating a good orientation, way finding and interpretive network in general, this goal dictates the focus of the interpretive efforts – Oregon’s rich cultural heritage.

### **Introduction to the Interpretative Plan**

This interpretive plan is a blueprint for the interpretive network – interpretation, orientation and way finding information – necessary to support the visitor experiences at State Capitol State Park. The plan section consists of the following key parts:

- 1. Themes:** These are the key messages to be communicated. The interpretive stories are selected and developed to communicate the themes.
- 2. Delivery strategies:** These are the media – signs, exhibits, publications, etc. – and other strategies for communicating the interpretive stories and the orientation and wayfinding information.
- 3. Implementation Plan:** This is the schedule for developing the components of the information network.

### **Theme Hierarchy**

The elements of the theme hierarchy in this plan reflect the direction for theme development in Oregon State Parks. There are four types of themes in this hierarchy:

#### **Primary Theme**

This is the key concept reflecting the significance of the park. The primary theme links the key tangible resources of the park with intangible concepts to convey the major reasons why a particular property is significant and why it is a park. The primary theme is intended to answer the questions, “why is this park?” and, “what is significant about this park?” The intent of communicating the primary theme is to establish a sense of value among users of the park so they practice stewardship in using the park and so they support the work of OPRD.

In State Capitol State Park the key tangible resources are the buildings and landscapes that make up the state capital, especially the Capitol Building. Secondary tangible resources are features such as the statues, friezes, and other added features that are within the park.

#### **Themes**

These are the ideas or concepts that together support the Primary Theme. Ideally, all visitors will understand at least one of the themes based on their specific area of interest (cultural history,

natural history, etc.) The themes are selected to answer the key questions and convey the key points about the place and its meaning.

### **Sub-themes**

These are the ideas or concepts that support a theme.

### **Supporting Stories**

These are the stories that communicate a sub-theme or theme.

*The themes are still in development. Once ready for review they will be made available.*

### **Visitor Experience**

The following narrative describes what a visitor experience could be after implementing the interpretive plan. The following map shows the location of fixed components identified in this narrative. All interpretive opportunities are included in the narrative and summarized at the end of this section. Complete design concepts are included in the final section.

### **Potential Visitor Experience**

For those planning a trip to the park the **State Capitol State Park Web Site** provides a description of the array of interpretive and recreational opportunities along with suggested itineraries. It also provides up to date information on events and happenings as well as basic orientation and wayfinding information to guide them to parking and on to the grounds. They download the Self-guided Walking Tour Map Brochure or download the Application for the GPS-based tour, download the Guide to Plants and set out.

After arriving in the park, whether by way of the underground parking, by foot or on bicycle, all visitors encounter a **SCSP Site Orientation Panel** at the perimeter of the park. Primary entryways have a primary version of the panel while secondary entryways have a smaller version. The panel orients visitors to all the features of the park, the buildings associated with the site, key amenities and interpretive opportunities.

Regardless of the section of the park visitors enter – Willson Park, Capitol Park or the Mall – they are attracted to a cluster of interpretive panels. The interpretive panel clusters, interpretive pavers and the self-guided walking tour, motivate visitors to explore the entire park.

**Willson Park Interpretive Panel Cluster**, located at the west end of that park section.

**Capitol Park Interpretive Panel Cluster**, located near the center of that park section.

**Park Mall Interpretive Panel Cluster**, located near the plaza.

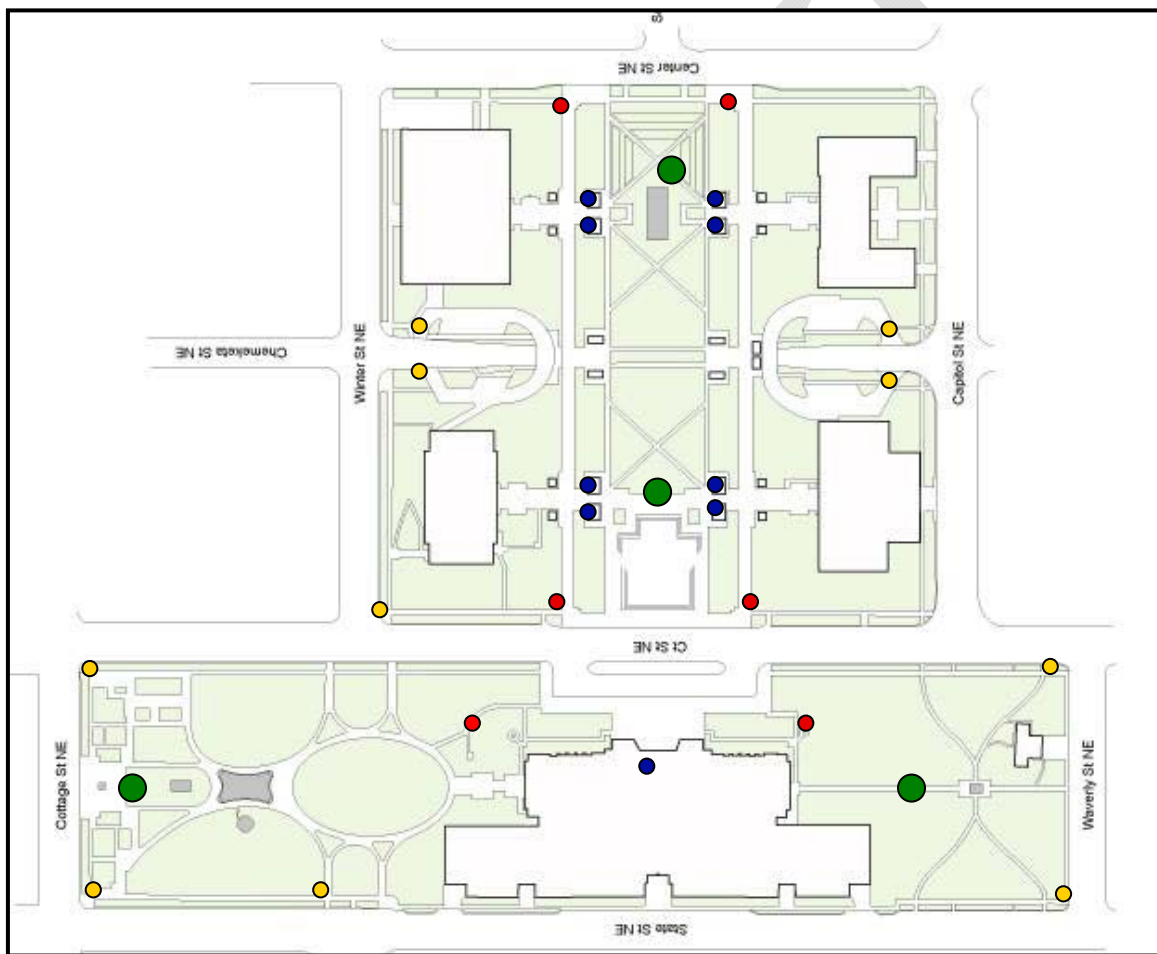
**Interpretive Pavers**, located in all parts of the park.

**Self Guided Walking Tour**, available using **GPS technology** or using a **brochure**, guides them around the grounds and into the capitol building where they can take advantage of the interpretive and educational opportunities in that space.

Bicyclists are motivated to take advantage of the **Historic Salem Bike Tour** that includes not only the State Capital, but also historic downtown Salem, Willamette Heritage Center, Willamette University and other historic features in the nearby area. Those interested in plants pick up the **Guide to Plants** to find out more about the different species planted on the site and the reasons for the different approaches to landscaping the grounds.

All visitors are motivated to return for **Special Events**, during which time they will be able to take a **Guided Tour** of the exterior.

### Fixed Interpretive and Wayfinding Elements



- Major SCSP orientation panels
- Minor SCSP orientation panels
- Interior site orientation panels/exhibits
- Interpretive Signs

## **Summary of Interpretive and Way-finding Opportunities**

### **SCSP Web Site**

The Web Site provides orientation, wayfinding and interpretive information designed to motivate viewers to visit the park and guide them to parking and/or entryways, and to provide links to additional information. It also offers the opportunity to download the appropriate Application for the GPS-based Self-Guided Walking Tour, the Guide to Plants, and the basic Self-Guided Walking Tour Map/Brochure.

### **SCSP Orientation Panel**

This panel, with the OPRD logo and a “Welcome” to the State Capitol State Park at the top, features a map drawn from an oblique aerial perspective to give the buildings a 3-dimensional appearance. It contains all features, buildings and interpretive opportunities in the park area. The location of these panels is depicted on the site plan.

### **Self Guided Walking Tour**

The tour uses key features, landscapes and views to communicate and reinforce the themes and sub-themes identified for the park. Ideally this walking tour would include sites within the Capitol building accessible without a personal guide. Delivery strategies include a brochure with map and a GPS based audio version.

### **Capitol Mall Interpretive Panel Cluster**

*The themes for these panels are still in development.*

### **Interpretive Pavers**

The “paver” project will be expanded with new pavers focusing on Oregon’s unique character as exemplified in actions and events over the years. New pavers include tidbits on events, quotes reflecting the differences, and other facts of interest. The pavers will be located in all parts of the park, not just the Capitol Mall section.

### **Guide to Plants**

This publication, organized by section of the park for easy reference, includes identification information along with interpretive tidbits focused on historic approaches to landscaping and reasons for the selection of certain species.

### **Exterior Guided tours**

These will be offered only during Hoopla or other special events.

### **Historic Salem Bicycle Tour**

This tour, using a GPS system tied to an Application on smart phones or other device, will include the self-guided walking tour of the park plus Willamette University, the Willamette Heritage Center and downtown Salem at a minimum. A map will be necessary to accompany the audio delivery of information. This would be a collaborative venture with other entities.

## **Interpretation Implementation Plan**

A key issue with implementing this plan is that, to function effectively as a network, all basic strategies must be designed to pique interest in the other strategies. That is difficult if not all basic strategies are implemented at the same time. Consequently, we recommend the following phased approach.

### **Phase 1: Basic Network**

This phase includes the following actions:

1. Implement the following strategies, which represent the basic wayfinding, orientation and interpretive network for the park.
  - **SCSP Orientation Panels** (these could be fabricated and installed in batches, but cost savings can be realized by doing them all at the same time.)
  - **Capitol Mall Interpretive Panel Cluster**
  - **Willson Park Interpretive Panel Cluster**
  - **Capitol Park Interpretive Panel Cluster**
  - **Self Guided Walking Tour – both the map/brochure version and the audio version.**
2. Establish a task force of partners and begin planning the Historic Salem Bicycle Tour.
3. Work with the Oregon State Capitol Foundation to develop an interior exhibit orienting visitors to both the park and the interior of the Capitol Building.
4. Identify pavers to be replaced with interpretive pavers and design the new pavers.
5. Develop a preliminary web site with information on what is being developed in addition to trip planning information.

### **Phase 2: Expanded Network**

This phase includes the following actions:

1. Install new interpretive pavers.
2. Develop the Guide to Plants.
3. Develop the final park web site.



# Design Concepts for Delivery Strategies

## Web Site

### Objective

The primary intent of the web site is to:

- Motivate viewers to visit the park (which will include making them aware of the interpretive opportunities and special events);
- Guide visitors to parking or entry points.

In other words, it is first and foremost a marketing and wayshowing site. As a secondary objective it should offer links to additional information or resources for people looking for detail on the history or any of the key stories introduced in the interpretive network.

### Key Themes/sub-themes/storylines

All themes can be included in the links, but the primary themes guiding the development of the *home page* should be marketing themes, such as, “*You can spend a whole day enjoying an array of opportunities at the State Capital.*”

### Description and Concept

The home page must market the SCSP experience, but also market the Web Site in order to motivate viewers to keep moving through it. To do so, the home page and every linked page must be captivating and user friendly. The home page should be dominated by visuals of different types of visitors enjoying different opportunities associated with the a visit to the State Capital, such as taking the tour, perusing the interpretive panels, attending a special event, etc. Captions should be brief, identifying the opportunity and providing a link on where to get more information about that opportunity. The home page could also have “didjacks” to pique interest in the interpretive stories told at SCSP. Links should provide access to the remainder of the information on the site, including:

- Driving and parking directions and printable map;
- Downloadable version of the SCSP Walking Tour Map/Brochure;
- Downloadable version of the Guide To Plants;
- Overviews of the key stories included in the interpretive network;
- Upcoming events;
- Contact information;
- Directions on how to download the Application for the GPS-based Self-Guided Walking Tour;
- Information about interpretive and educational opportunities and events in the State Capitol Building (through a link).

## Self Guided Walking Tour

### Objective

This is the focal point of the interpretive opportunities associated with the park. In other words, it is the strategy with the most detail and coverage of the stories. It is intended to:

- Motivate visitors to explore all parts of the park;
- Motivate visitors to visit the interior of the Capitol Building;
- Pique interest in the stories so visitors are motivated to go to other sources (such as the web page) for more information.

As a secondary objective it is intended to motivate people to visit other historic sites in the area, including historic Downtown Salem and the Willamette Heritage Center.

### Key Themes/sub-themes/storylines

All themes will be communicated within the tour.

### Description and Concept

The tour will focus on information associated with key features, landscapes and viewscapes to reinforce the themes and sub-themes identified for the park. Key stops include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Dr. John McLaughlin Statue
- Circuit Rider statue
- Liberty Bell replica
- Jason Lee statue
- Parade of Flags (with a focus on the flags of the Native American tribes)
- Friezes
- Location with view of the Capitol Building
- Location with view of Willamette University
- Location with view of Supreme Court Building
- Columns

Ideally this walking tour would include sites within the Capitol building accessible without a personal guide.

### Comments

The tour will be available in a map/brochure format and in audio format through GPS-based technology designed to be used with a personal listening device, such as a smart phone with an Application.

## SCSP Orientation Panel

### Location

Major and minor access points into the park. See the Site Map on page 10.

### Objectives

The intent of this strategy is make visitors:

- Feel welcome to the park;
- Aware that it is a park;
- Feel comfortable in their ability to find their way around;
- Aware of the interpretive opportunities;
- Curious enough to visit at least one of those opportunities.

### Key Themes/sub-themes/storylines

No interpretive themes, except those that might be communicated within interpretive tidbits.

### Description and Concept

This panel, with the OPRD logo and a “Welcome” to the State Capitol State Park at the top, features a map drawn from an oblique aerial perspective to give the buildings a 3-dimensional appearance. This is important for this park because visitors are most likely to orient themselves by visible features, especially the Capitol Building. The map will highlight the park and include names of the specific sections (Willson Park, Capitol Mall, and Capitol Park) but within a context that includes all approaches, Willamette University, Willamette Heritage Center, and the edge of the Salem Downtown Historic District. All buildings will be labeled as well as all statues, fountains and significant features. Each panel will be identified by the entry point, such as Center Street North, or Willson Park NW. An inset map would show the park in the context of the greater neighborhood, which includes the downtown, Willamette University and Willamette Heritage Center. The primary version of this panel will include a sidebar containing a historic photo relating to the area or point of interest around that particular panel along with a tidbit of information. The sidebar will also make visitors aware of the walking tour and the opportunities in the Capitol Building.

### Comments

A primary and secondary version of this panel will be used. The primary version will be located at major entry points as depicted on the site plan on Page 10. The secondary version will be located at secondary entry points.

The shape of these panels and/or the interpretive panels could be customized to reflect the shape of the Capitol Building or the State or Oregon to provide additional attraction power.

## Interpretive Panel Clusters

### **Location**

The approximate site of the Parking Garage Panel (see Site Plan)

### **Objective**

*Currently under development.*

### **Key Themes/sub-themes/storylines**

*Currently under development.*

## Interpretive Pavers

### **Location**

Various locations in each of the 3 sections of the park.

### **Objective**

The intent of the pavers is to:

- Pique visitors' interest in the interpretive opportunities;
- Instill pride in Oregonians.

### **Key Themes/sub-themes/storylines**

All themes could be used to provide tidbits of information on the pavers.

### **Description and Concept**

The "paver" project will be expanded with new pavers focusing on what has made Oregon unique and different over the years. It will include events, quotes reflecting the differences, and other facts of interest.

### **Comments**

The paver project should be expanded to include other historic sites in Salem, including Willamette Heritage Center, Willamette University, and historic downtown Salem.

## Guide to Plants

### **Objectives**

The intent of the publication is to:

- Satisfy those who are interested in finding out more about the plants while piquing their interest in the history of the evolution of the park grounds.

### **Key Themes/sub-themes/storylines**

- **Theme 3:** The grounds, buildings and features reflect evolution through different eras of history when different groups held power.

### **Description and Concept**

This simply publication is intended to be a reference guide rather than an actual tour. It should be arranged in such a way that it is easy for visitors to find the information on a plant in which they are interested. One possible approach is to label the plants so that visitors can simply look up the species. Another possibility is to use bed maps, but that would require updating the booklet every time a planting scheme was altered.

In the introduction to each section of the park, interpretive information could be included that focuses on historic approaches to landscaping and reasons for the selection of certain species.

## **Historic Salem Bicycle Tour**

### **Objectives**

The intent of this tour is to:

- Provide easily accessible information to a specific user group;
- Pique interest in the cultural history associated with the site;
- Motivate users to visit other historical sites in the area.

### **Key Themes/sub-themes/storylines**

All themes and sub-themes would be used to guide development of the tour. Additional themes might be necessary to interpret historic features and sites outside the park area.

### **Description and Concept**

This tour, using a GPS system tied to an Application on smart phones or other device, will include the self-guided walking tour of the park plus Willamette University, Willamette Heritage Center and historic downtown Salem at a minimum. A map will be necessary to accompany the audio delivery of information. This would be a collaborative venture with other entities.

### **Cost Range Estimates**

As with construction of anything from an exhibit to a house, accuracy of the estimate is relative to the accuracy and detail of the design. An interpretive plan does not include designs, but rather design concepts, and those are limited to the interpretive strategies rather than infrastructure. Consequently, it is not possible to develop estimates with any meaningful degree of accuracy. However, it is possible to make some basic assumptions for interpretive panels and other strategies in order to develop cost range estimates that can be useful for budgeting.

### **Interpretive Panels**

A typical, digitally produced, laminate panel containing about 6 square feet of surface (2' x 3'), with powder coated steel frames and posts will cost between \$3500 and \$5000 for all design, text writing and fabrication. Shipping and installation are not included because those costs vary significantly with location of the site. The variation in cost is primarily due to the design. Signs with original artwork and complex text are going to cost more than signs with embedded photos and limited text. Interactive and 3-dimensional elements negate this price range. Replacement panels with the same design will cost between \$300 and \$350 (2009 prices). The posts cost about \$500 (2009 prices) so additional panels with posts, such as duplicate site orientation panels, would cost between \$800 and \$850 (2009 prices).

### **Audio Listening Posts**

The hardware for an audio listening post, including the chip, can be obtained for as little as about \$1500-\$2000. However that does not include the cost of recording the message, which can be relatively inexpensive if done in-house, and very expensive if a professional voice is hired and the work done in a recording studio.

### **Brochures**

Publications are virtually impossible to price without more specific design information because there are so many variables that significantly affect the cost, such as number of pages, folds, binding, colors, source of text, type of artwork, and other variables.

### Specific Cost Range Estimates

The following are cost range estimates based on the information available at this time. They include design development and fabrication. All panels include design, layout, resource acquisition, text writing, digital file preparation, graphic production and mounting system. Costs are based on 2009 material prices. We are in the process of obtaining updated information. The final project cost will vary depending on the length of time that passes prior to the project moving ahead.

Strategy	Unit Cost	#	Cost	Comments
Site Orientation Map/Brochure				
Self-Guided Walking Tour Booklet				
Web Site				OPRD can do this one in-house
Special Events				Depends on the event and what you want to set up and offer.
Exterior SCSP Orientation Panels	\$3,500 - \$5,000			Assumes duplicates will cost about \$1000 for additional sign, a change in the “you are here” and the post
Interior SCSP Orientation Panels	\$500	8	\$4000	Assumes it will be attached to structure and that it is the same design as the exterior version
Interior SCSP Orientation Exhibit				Depends on how extensive the exhibit is and where it is located, which depends on the agreement reached with the State Capitol Foundation. If they choose to have it also serve as orientation to the interior, they may cover part of the cost.
GPS-based tour				Currently researching the cost
Willson Park Interpretive Panel Cluster	\$3,500 - \$5,000	3	\$10,000 – 14,000	
Capitol Mall Interpretive Panel Cluster	\$3,500 - \$5,000	3	\$10,000 – 14,000	
Capitol Park Interpretive Panel Cluster	\$3,500 - \$5,000	3	\$10,000 – 14,000	

## **Glossary of Terms**

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The following terms are used in this document:

### **Visitor Information Network**

This refers to all of the information that supports a visitor's experience in State Capitol State Park. Components of such a network typically include:

- Interpretation – informal education strategies, such as signs, exhibits and presentations that typically focus on history, natural history and management.
- Orientation – strategies designed to provide overall orientation to a visitor to a location and increase awareness of visitor opportunities in that area. This is typically in the form of a map.
- Way finding – strategies focused on guiding that person to all interpretive sites and features, i.e., showing them the way. It includes maps, directional signs, orientation panels and similar strategies.

### **Strategy or opportunity**

This refers to a sign, brochure, presentation or some other technique for communicating information.

### **Universal Design Standards**

This is a set of standards for the design of facilities, sites, products, services and environments that accommodate the widest range of potential users, including people with mobility, visual and auditory impairments and other special needs.



## Site Improvements: Chapter Six

OPRD has completed site improvement recommendations for the park. They have been based on a set of site improvement objectives that were completed for this plan, and on the concepts and strategies that evolved from the park history, park context and park assessment. The objectives attempt to balance the existing qualities and meaning of the park with the aim of fulfilling the vision for the future of the place.

### Recommendations are shown in three forms:

1. Concept description
2. Project development matrix
3. Site Improvement Plan

### Site Improvement Objectives

#### Park-wide

1. Provide an improved park use experience for a varied audience
2. Enhance open space and layout of “three parks within the park”
3. Honor the existing character of each park
4. Support interpretation and way-finding
5. Support better connections across targeted street intersections
6. Better accommodate the Winter and Chemeketa Street bike routes
7. Recognize and incorporate: Capitol Building Master Plan, Greenworks Plan for west end of Willson Park, ODOT site plan, Willamette University Master Plan, Salem way-finding strategy and bike routes
8. Keep the park safe and welcoming, no places to hide
9. Offer spaces for vendor/café related tables
10. Provide spaces for events and gatherings
11. Rehab plantings and add color spots/ground cover to organize space/views
12. Provide consistent, attractive benches, tables, trash cans and lighting
13. Keep view open along east/west axis from Capitol to Commerce Building and to Executive Services Building

### Planting Plan and Site Furnishings Objectives

#### Park-wide

1. Honor the open spaces and enhance their use for park purposes
2. Use plant palettes characteristic of each of the three “parks”
3. Eliminate blind spots and dead spots, replace old plants
4. Add season color at ground level in targeted spots
5. Enhance groundcover where bare, extend to define spaces
6. Create consistent look for furnishings
7. Plan for long-term tree replacement needs
8. Remove/thin selected trees that are crowded

## Building Foundation Plantings

- a. Use medium maximum height evergreen shrubs (coniferous & broadleaf) against building foundations, with more height at corners
- b. Keep window views open
- c. Replace failing/aging plants
- d. Add ground cover in bare areas
- e. Continue rhododendron rehab around Capitol Building & replace columnar yews
- f. Provide low evergreen and blooming shrubs around Labor and Industries Building, due to continuous “porch”
- g. Recognize and incorporate ODOT planting plan

## Project Matrix

Project number codes are shown on the Site Improvement Plan.

No.	Project	Type	Description
<b>Park-wide Improvements</b>			
<b>P1</b>	Replace trees and shrubs, where needed	Rehab	Identify trees and shrubs that are in poor condition or have been damaged. Prune to improve, if possible. Replace in kind if conditions allow, or replace with new species that match design intent for the area of the park.
<b>P2</b>	Remove marked trees	Rehab	Certain trees have been identified for removal without replacement, where they are too closely spaced.
<b>P3</b>	Add ground cover	New	Complete a planting plan for ground cover areas shown on the plan. Select species that are appropriate for the design intent and conditions and install within areas shown on the site plan. Bed shapes and extent may be fine-tuned in the field.
<b>P4</b>	Add color spots	Rehab/ New	Complete planting plan for existing and new “color spots” that could include annual and/or perennial flowering, low growing plants. Plan for year round color in various beds. Try to avoid high maintenance.
<b>P5</b>	Rehab foundation plantings	Rehab	Identify trees and shrubs at the base of major buildings that are in poor condition, have overgrown the windows and doors, or have been damaged. Replace with species of a form and type that matches classic, formal foundation planting intent. (Tall on corners and at large wall areas w/o window, moderate height at windows and between taller plants. Do not use low, small species that are not in scale with the buildings.) Use varieties that will not outgrow their positions too quickly and require annual pruning.
<b>P6</b>	Site furnishings	Rehab	Select one bench, trash can and table design and provide it throughout the park. Choose style with simple lines to fit in all three sub-parks. Add where-ever needed. Use paver base to allow easy changes of location over time.
<b>P7</b>	Lighting	Rehab	Continue to use modern style in mall and “historic” style in Willson and Capitol Parks
<b>P8</b>	Cherry trees	Rehab	Work with an arborist and a structural engineer to determine the best approach for long term replacement of the trees, only as needed.
<b>Park Mall Improvements</b>			
<b>PM1</b>	Court St. crossing plaza	Rehab	Capitol Master Plan and City of Salem Project: Redo north Capitol stairway as per plan or similar. Preserve magnolia trees and marble stelaes, include ADA ramps. Remove parking. Install paver-based plaza across Court Street to Wall of Water. Reduce lanes.
<b>PM2</b>	Extend plaza for interp. signs	Rehab	Construct small plaza extension at north end of terrace, as per plan or similar, to contain interpretive panels as looking south at Capitol. Plaza should be large enough to contain moderate size group.
<b>PM3</b>	Way-finding signs	New	Locations are shown on the plan with red dot. Final design and installation method to be determined. Work with City of Salem.

<b>PM4</b>	Relocate restrooms	Rehab	Two restroom buildings flanking Chemeketa Street bike route need to be moved back off of the travel lane. One could be placed on the other side of the mall, if desired and feasible.
<b>PM5</b>	Add eating areas	New	Add small tables and seating in up to 2 garden alcoves, adjacent to Wall of Water. Lawn may be converted to compacted material or pavers.
<b>PM6</b>	Add café seating	New	Add movable tables and seating in up to 2 garden alcoves for café or food cart customers where shown on plan. Make arrangements for seasonal removal and storage with vendors.
<b>PM7</b>	Center St crossing plaza	Rehab	City of Salem/DAS Project: Redo intersection of Center and Summer to better accommodate pedestrian crossing, similar to Court St crossing.

### **Willson Park Improvements**

<b>WP1</b>	West end redesign	New	Remove the existing pathways and plazas at the west end that do not conform to the site plan. Install new pathways and planting panels as per the plan. Complete a planting plan for the new beds.
<b>WP2</b>	Potential memorial	New	This location may be under consideration for a potential memorial site.
<b>WP3</b>	Extend plaza for interp. signs	New	Create a small plaza extension, as per the plan, to contain several interpretive signs, to be viewed facing the Capitol.
<b>WP4</b>	Way-finding signs	New	Locations are shown on the plan with red dot. Final design and installation method to be determined. Work with City of Salem.
<b>WP5</b>	Open Winter St. view	Rehab	Thin and move back shrubbery blocking views along Winter Street through the park.
<b>WP6</b>	Gazebo improvements	Rehab	Design and add an ADA ramp and foundation plantings.
<b>WP7</b>	Liberty Bell	Rehab	Restore and relocate the Liberty Bell replica. Per plan or other.
<b>WP8</b>	Lawn access	Rehab	Create openings in Walk of Flags for easier lawn use, per plan but placed to work with existing flag placement.
<b>WP9</b>	Restore fountain	Rehab	Restore fountain to historic appearance. Make operate, if feasible.
<b>WP10</b>	Add low fence	New	Add low fence, similar to fence around Waite Fountain except with straight profile, at base of Tribal Flags. Deter cutting through.
<b>WP11</b>	Natural play area	New	Add fence similar to fence at Waite Fountain, except with straight profile around area per plan with one gate. Move children's statues into this area. Add sand play area, benches, tables.
<b>WP12</b>	Winter & Court Xing	New	City of Salem/DAS Project: Redo intersection to better accommodate pedestrian crossing, similar to Court St crossing.
<b>WP13</b>	Winter & State Xing	New	City of Salem/DAS Project: Redo intersection to better accommodate pedestrian crossing, similar to Court St crossing.

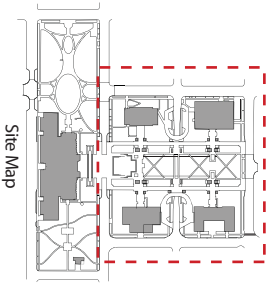
### **Capitol Park Improvements**

<b>CP1</b>	Add walkway	New	Add pathway from State to Court Street, as per plan.
<b>CP2</b>	Garden Pride	Rehab	Extend fencing at Garden Pride building similar to plan. May add gate. Remove small paths around building. Improve shrub screening.
<b>CP3</b>	Enlarge Circuit Rider plaza	Rehab	Remove shrubs except at plaza corners. Extend pavement as per plan. Remove every other lamp post so that they alternate from one side of the walk to the other.
<b>CP4</b>	New plaza at columns	New	Design and install new plaza pavement as per plan, to contain column remnants and interpretive panels.
<b>CP5</b>	Liberty Bell	Rehab	Move Liberty Bell to appropriate site in this park.
<b>CP6</b>	Way-finding signs	New	Locations are shown on the plan with red dot. Final design and installation method to be determined. Work with City of Salem.

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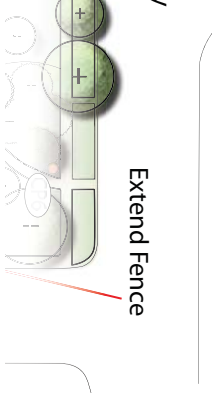
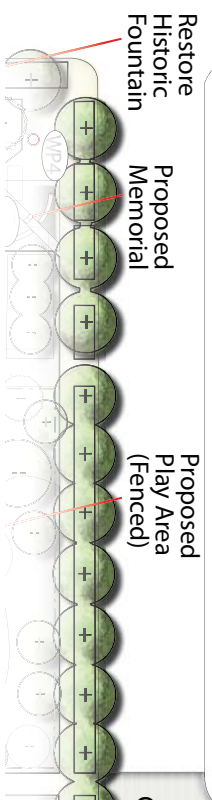
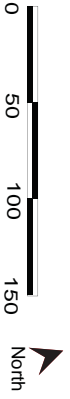
# State Capitol : North Area

## Site Improvement Plan



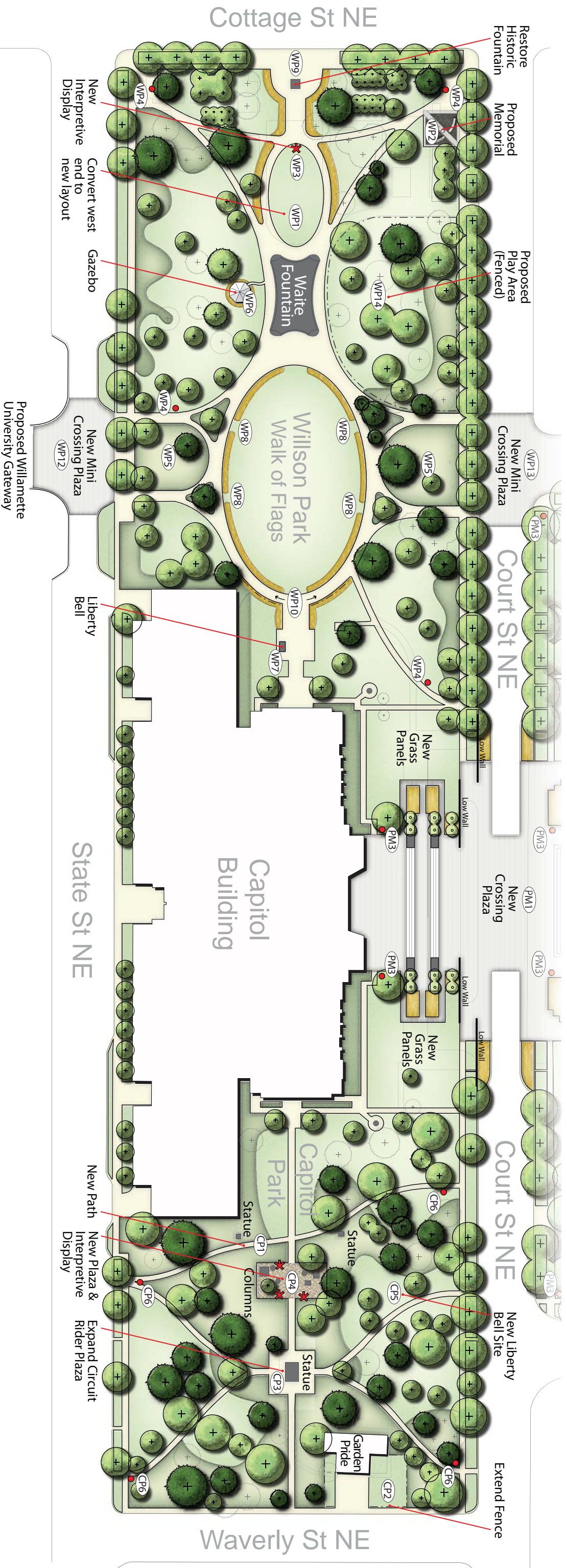
### KEY

- Interpretation Panels
- Orientation Signs
- Other Site Features (Statues, Fountains)
- Buildings
- Project Code
- Paved Plazas
- Fine Graveled Areas / or Paving
- Existing Trees
- New Trees
- Trees to be Removed
- Color Spot Planting Beds
- Groundcover and Shrubs
- Grass

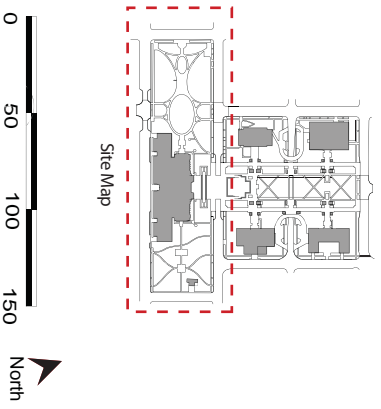


# State Capitol: South Area

## Site Improvement Plan



- KEY**
- Interpretation Panels
  - Orientation Signs
  - Other Site Features (Statues, Fountains)
  - Buildings
  - Project Code
  - Paved Plazas
  - Fine Graveled Areas / or Paving
  - Existing Trees
  - New Trees
  - Trees to be Removed
  - Color Spot Planting Beds
  - Groundcover and Shrubs
  - Grass



# Strategic Park Management: Chapter Seven

This chapter outlines objectives and guidelines for park managers and staff to base their day-to-day activities on, in an objective and highly organized manner. This allows them to chart a course through the changing seasons, legislative sessions, events and future demands while keeping intact what is important and meaningful about the place. It becomes a basis for the preparation of budgets, fulfilling staffing needs, project implementation and discussions with the many overlapping authorities and partners associated with the park.

## The primary objectives are:

- *Sustainability and protection of important park qualities, features and functions*  
Manage for the long-term in a manner that recognizes the inherent maintenance needs of the features, spaces and plantings, with an eye to life-cycle considerations and environmentally benign practices and products.
- *Safety of workers and visitors*  
Employ work practices that do not place workers or visitors at risk, day-to-day and in the long run.
- *Management consistency over time and among partners*  
Use the *Park-wide Plan* as the guide for completing detailed design, policies and standards, and for implementing projects and discussing options with others.
- *Clarity of purpose and the basis for decision-making*  
Be purpose-driven in decision-making, based on the *Park-wide Plan*.
- *Efficiency and effectiveness of time, effort, funding and staffing*  
Find ways to make best use of existing staff, time and funding, and find ways to leverage them with outside support.

## Management Strategies

There are a number of topical areas where OPRD plans to more thoroughly address management strategies that are relevant to the park.

### 1. Management Understandings with Other Landowners or Partners

OPRD will complete MOU's with DAS, ODOT and the Capitol Administration to define the tasks and areas that OPRD will cover in management of the grounds. The MOU's may be amended periodically.

### 2. Memorial Proposals

There are 30 memorial plaques in the park, not counting the major features such as the fountains. The following map of identified memorials and commemorative features shows that the park is quickly filling up with them.

Ten are located in Willson Park; two in the Park Mall and the rest are in Capitol Park. Presumably, most of them are on the Capitol block due to a desire, by the requestor, for them to be close to the Capitol.

They include memorial trees or large shrubs or benches with a plaque. Most of them have been installed in the last 30 years. Other than the larger commemorative features, this type of memorial has no known historic tradition on the Capitol grounds.

The major, commemorative features in the park include the Sprague, Waite and Breyman Fountains, the Moon Tree, Liberty Bell, statues of Lee, McGloughlin and The Circuit Rider, the Fallen Worker Memorial, Walk of Flags, Tribal Walk of Flags and Medal of Honor flag posts. Other memorials have ended up off of the park, but within the larger state grounds.

There are several issues involved in the approval, location, design and maintenance of these memorials. Some are historic and are recognized as being important remnants of earlier Capitol sites. The statues and non-operating fountain pose only minor maintenance issues. The Waite and Sprague Fountains have major maintenance and operational issues, but have been accepted as important features in the park. This is also true of the flag post installations. The trees, benches and small plaques, however, have a limited life that may make not an appropriate choice for commemoration.

OPRD will provide a process for consideration of memorials proposals.

### **3. Safety and Security**

This is of the utmost importance. In practice, it boils down to strategies such as security patrol timing, selecting hours of park operation, keeping vegetation trimmed, selecting furniture that doesn't attract overnight or long day time use, imposing vagrancy rules, etc.. OPRD will continue to work closely with security personnel to define and implement the appropriate actions for the park.

### **4. Facility Use and Events**

The park is the site of a number of annual events including Hoopla, cycling events and others, and has various new requests each year. Some uses or events "spill over" from the Capitol steps that are related to legislative and political gatherings and demonstrations. OPRD will complete a policy or working guidelines for considering the type, size, location, support requirements, fees, scheduling and other considerations for existing and future requests.

### **5. Special Permits**

This involves uses that are unusual for the park, such as special investigations, weddings, etc. OPRD will determine whether the department's Miscellaneous Use Permit, or other equivalent, will be used to consider and approve these uses.

### **6. Maintenance Standards**



Standards for the maintenance of vegetation, in the short and long term, would be helpful for calculating staff and funding needs, each year. Standards should be selected that can be feasible to implement with existing staffing levels, if possible. General standards for shrubbery and ground cover, trees, special trees such as the cherries and historic trees are under development.

**7. Staffing and Budgets**

Under development.

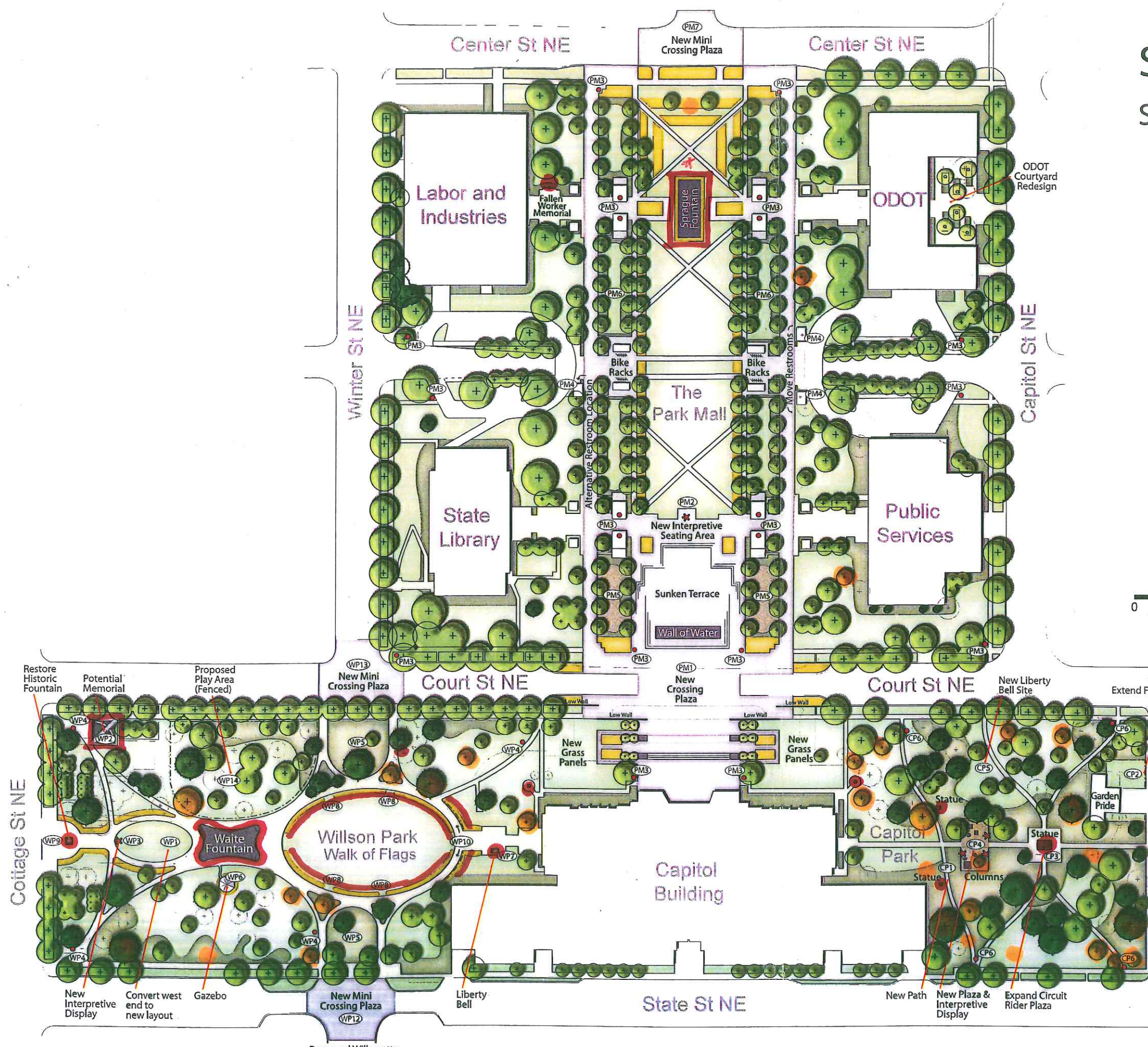
**8. Working with Partners and Volunteers**

Under development.

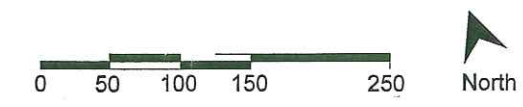
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# State Capitol State Park

## Site Improvement Plan



- KEY**
- Interpretation Panels
  - Orientation Signs
  - Other Site Features (Statues, Fountains)
  - Buildings
  - Project Code
  - Paved Plazas
  - Fine Graveled Areas / or Paving
  - Existing Trees
  - New Trees
  - Trees to be Removed
  - Color Spot Planting Beds
  - Groundcover and Shrubs
  - Grass



**MEMORIALS**

- TREES + BENCHES
- COMMEMORATIVE FEATURES

Proposed Willamette University Gateway

# Appendices

## A. Stakeholder and Technical Advisory Groups

### Stakeholder Group

1. Department of Administrative Services (DAS)
2. Willamette University
3. Go Downtown Salem!
4. Oregon Capitol Foundation
5. Legislative Administration
6. Salem Chamber of Commerce
7. Steve Dickey, Salem Keizer Cherriots
8. Can Do Neighborhood Association
9. City of Salem Public Works
10. City of Salem, Vision 2020 staff representative
11. Capitol Mall Patrol
12. Mission Mill
13. North Central Neighborhood Association
14. Salem Planning and Facilities

### Technical Advisory Group

1. Oregon Dept. of Transportation Building
2. Labor and Industries Building
3. Public Services Building
4. State Library Building
5. DAS Parking
6. Salem Landmark Commission
7. State Historic Preservation Office
8. DAS Facilities and Planning
9. DAS Facilities Management
10. Marion County Historical Society
11. Wilbur Bluhm, Horticulturalist
12. Tribal Commission
13. Travel Salem
14. Salem cycling

## B. Stakeholder and Technical Advisory Group Comments Summary

1. Who visits the park:
  - Political rallies, recreation groups like cyclists, fountain users, Frisbee/volleyball matches, local resident “yard”, sitting/relaxing, lunch area.
  - Look at surveying users and potential users on site through student volunteers. Ask them what kind of experiences they want. Why are they coming now? Could access state workers through email.
  - Look at Travel Salem data on visitation.

- Easiest way to get more visitors is to look at who is coming now, and expand on that, or offer attractions that existing groups would want.
  - Need to find out what the Farmers Market organizers are thinking for the future when their site will be cancelled by building construction. Courtney will provide a contact.
2. Security:
- Can be a scary at Willson and Capitol Park when dark, due to gatherings of indigents and youth groups. More lighting and opening up some vegetation could help. Improve the circulation through these areas to encourage more pass-through traffic.
3. Improvements to related city streets and crossings:
- City has bond funding for re-paving in 2012 and could redo crosswalks between park and university. Supports crosswalk improvements.
  - City is considering making some one way streets into two way to improve vehicle access. Would create a different pedestrian crossing situation at crosswalks due to the need to then look both ways.
  - City is open to closing Chemeketa for events. The traffic volume is not high enough to disallow that.
4. Neighborhood Association issues:
- Don't like the restroom placement on Chemeketa site line from neighborhood to the downtown. Were not consulted by DAS before restrooms were installed. Blocks the view and creates a choke point, and a sense that this is where transients would sleep. (Doors are locked at night.)
5. Park context, interconnectedness and way-finding:
- Important to consider the park in context and to recognize the many opportunities for pedestrian and bicycle connections, and street orientation improvements that are consistent with the rest of the downtown and university plans.
  - Winter and Chemeketa are the main cycling and walking routes through or adjacent to the park. Riverfront via Union Street connection is important too.
  - Look at the Vision 2020 Infrastructure, Design and Signage work. Travel Salem Task Force addressed way-finding including coming in from I-5. Vision 2020 area is bounded by Shipping, Capitol, Edgewater and Bush Park.
  - Goal for this park could be to bridge the gap from the mall to downtown.
  - OPRD supports the Vision 2020 effort.
  - Currently buses have trouble dropping off on Court due to direction of one way street relative to the bus door.
  - Want to raise the level of heritage tourism for Salem. Work with Mission Mill, Capitol Foundation and Vision 2020 (Virginia Green) and SHPO heritage experts. Join in the completion of a walking tour map.
  - Look at the new pedestrian promenade along the railroad as a model for better pedestrian/bike connections.

- University will be building one more building on State Street, creating even more need for open space next door.
  - Willson Park corner funnels university student pedestrians to downtown shopping mall. Needs improvement to work better. Proposed improvement will be coming out in February in the university plan. The Greenworks redesign appears to solve this problem.
  - Use orientation to inform visitors about attractions in state buildings such as restaurants and art installations, museums, etc..
6. Interpretation and symbolism/themes for the site:
- This park is the site for the seat of Oregon's government. Need to convey this to visitors and that it is the main reason why people come to the place. The state is trying to find ways to educate Oregonians about government...what the structure and purpose are. Many citizens don't know.
  - Connect with the museums and spaces in the public buildings at the park.
7. Monuments, memorials and art works:
- New request coming through for a WWII memorial on the mall.
  - Salem is creating art walks and installations that could happen in park.
  - Need a way to manage proposed installations for location and design, and even to manage whether they are allowed or not.
8. Answers to the "three questions" posed to stakeholders, (What does the State Park mean to you? What do you want to see this place become? What does it need to do for your group or interest?):
- The State Capitol is a reflection of the whole government of the state. All Oregonians should be able to see it as "My Capitol/Capital"
  - Making it more park-like means making it more user friendly, more welcoming to all.
  - Generate more activity by providing support facilities and attractions.
  - Encourage families to use the area by supporting picnicking, play and education.
  - Plan needs to speak to its context and connectivity with it.
  - Remember the majority of patrons are state workers, and the majority of visitors are coming to the Capitol Building.
  - Concentrate on good management and maintenance to encourage responsible visitor behavior.
  - Look at improved lighting to brighten dark areas and to avoid creating shadows that could add to the perception of a security problem.
  - Now that OPRD is managing the park, more local residents appear to be using the place as a park. Keep doing what is attracting them, i.e. running the fountains seasonally, allowed Frisbee and volleyball, etc..
  - Support the goal of completing design review standards for future proposals for the park, and more signage for orientation & interpretation.
  - Recognize that the park is a major connector for getting people from east to west in that part of the city. Concentrate on improvements to enhance the flow and experience.

- The capitol is the “people’s building” so this should be the “people’s park”.
- All three branches of government are located within or adjacent to the park (legislative, judicial and executive). Find ways to convey this to visitors about how the site represents decision-making for the citizens of Oregon, in a tangible manner on site.
- Look to the park’s context to solve the larger parking problem. Two new parking garages are proposed for the red and yellow lots. Take parking off of Chemeketa and Court where you can.
- Need to come up with a clear design strategy for the landscaping. Right now it is a mixed bag with little purpose. Think about how landscape design should convey the symbolism of the site, support the buildings and support the goal of being sustainable.

## C. Audiences, Parameters and Features

### Target Interpretive Audiences

Visitors to the park are segmented based on differences that affect the identification and development of interpretive, orientation and way finding strategies to serve those visitors. Key factors used to segment the target audiences were:

#### Mode of travel:

- Pedestrian
- Bicycle
- Personal Vehicle
- Bus

#### Purpose: Transit Corridor

- Locals passing through
- Visitors to government offices
- State and legislative workers accessing buildings

#### Purpose: Leisure

- Visitors coming to the park specifically because it is a park or open space to recreate.
- Government employees using it for break or lunch or after work
- Those attending special events, such as Hoopla.

#### Purpose: Education

- School groups coming to visit the Capitol Building
- Independent travelers coming to learn about the Capitol.

#### Purpose: Assembly in relation to politics and government

- Public attending rallies or announcements
- Organized groups staging a protest or show of support

## **Provisions for Full Access**

All of these user groups are assumed to have members who have disabilities. The intent of ADA provisions is to promote equal access to the built environment for those with impairments. Braille and audio supposedly address the needs of those with visual impairments; elevators, lifts, grade and surface of trails, and other modifications to the physical environment address the needs of those with mobility impairments; and visuals and text, including captioned multi-media programs, address the needs of those with auditory impairments. However, most of the ADA provisions focus on physical access to information, not content. They also do not address the needs of these audiences at the experiential level. We prefer to use a **universal design approach**, which focuses on creating experiences that can be enjoyed by all parts of the target audience, including those with impairments. This approach involves integration of multiple delivery strategies that include all senses. The result is an overall experience with opportunities that meet the needs of the few while enhancing the experience of everyone.

A Universal Design Approach also benefits our aging population because it is physical limitations that are the core of the issues that seniors have with interpretive and recreational experiences, such as deteriorating eyesight, hearing and physical capabilities, not their age. When this project moves to the design phase, a universal design approach should be used by the designer.

## **Parameters**

Parameters are those conditions under which an interpretive program must be developed, such as monetary constraints, and under which it must function, such as climate.

- 1. The park is in an urban setting with multiple entry points – no restricted access.** There is no single location where basic orientation, way finding and interpretation can be located that will be easily accessible to everyone entering the park. Basic orientation and way finding must be located at several points around the perimeter of the park.
- 2. The park is trisected.** Court Street divides the north and south sections of the park. The Capitol Building further divides the south section into what is known as Willson Park to the west and Capitol Park to the east. Basic interpretive information should be available in each of the 3 sections of the park in order to increase the probability of reaching every visitor to the park with the basic story.
- 3. Each section of the park has multiple pathways.** The orientation and way finding network will need to focus on direction based on key features such as buildings instead of relying on people taking a specific pathway.
- 4. The park is within a historic district.** It will be important to maintain both historical integrity and visual integrity. Signage and interpretive structures (kiosks) must be placed so it is easy to access and clearly visible to users while minimizing intrusion into the viewscape.

5. **The park will not have staff dedicated to interpretation.** The basic interpretive network will be self-guided, although interpreters could be used during special events when a significant number of visitors are drawn to the park.
6. **Court Street is a key barrier separating the park from a visual perspective and functional perspective.** The orientation, way finding and interpretive network must increase the perception of benefit for crossing the street to visit the other parts of the park.
7. **Plans are being developed to modify the entry plaza and steps to the State Capitol Building and to the Willson Park section.** The interpretive plan must take these potential improvements into consideration during the 10-year horizon.
8. **The area in front of the Capitol Steps, extending across Court Street into the Mall, is used for public gatherings and events.**
9. **The Capitol Building offers a number of interpretive opportunities, including a guided tour and exhibits. They also have a teacher's packet for the school groups who visit.** The interpretive program on the grounds should complement what is offered in the State Capitol Building.
10. **The grounds are within a historic district tied to the founding of Oregon and of the City of Salem.** The interpretive network should take the larger picture into consideration by tying significant features outside the park boundary to the interpretive story. .
11. **The City of Salem would like the park to connect functionally with the downtown, which contains a designated Historic District.**
12. **The Capitol Mall currently contains pavers with interpretive information.**
13. **Because it is in an urban area with no restricted access, potential for vandalism must be a consideration.** Distribution of materials for self-guided opportunities is an issue.
14. **Funding for developing the interpretive and way finding network for this park is likely to be very limited.** Low cost, low maintenance information delivery strategies are likely to be the only strategies considered at this time.
15. **The capital complex is proximate to Willamette University, Saturday Market and residential areas.** Connections with all of those should be facilitated to the extent possible.



## Key Interpretive Features

1. **Capitol Building:** Though not in the park, it is the visual focal point from every point in the park. The statue of the Pioneer on top is the focal part of the building as is the entry plaza and steps.
2. **The Mall:** This is an extension of the Capitol Building from a visual perspective. The design of the mall is patterned after the Capitol Mall in Washington D.C. Key features include the cherry trees lining the east and west sides of the Mall and the keyhole areas located towards the perimeter from the cherry trees.
3. **The government buildings lining the Mall:** Though not in the park, these buildings are integrally connected to the mall and help to create an aura of “government.” The layout is also patterned after Washington D.C.
4. **The variety of plant species, especially in Willson and Capitol Parks.** The species include native and well as exotics. The species in the collection are connected to historical approaches to landscaping the grounds of seats of government.
5. **Willamette University:** Although not in the park, the facility is integrally tied to the State Government and to the founding of Oregon. It is also clearly visible from the top of the dome (which is accessible during tours of the building).
6. **Columns from previous Capitol Building:** These reflect one point in the history of the state capital and the influences in power at the time.
7. **The statues in the park (Circuit Rider, Jason Lee, and Dr. McLaughlin):** The statues represent key figures and forces that shaped Oregon’s history.
8. **Parade of Flags:** This includes flags of the Native American tribes in Oregon and thus reflects the relationship with those governments and the concept that this is a government of all the people in the state.
9. **Friezes and other exterior features:** These reflect an array of different influences in power at the time the feature was created. Some of the features, such as the friezes, reflect a desire to have a capital that reflects Oregon specifically.
10. **The replica of the Liberty Bell:** This reflects ties to and influences by the United States.