



8.0

WALKABILITY AND OPEN SPACE

INTENT

“Walkable Complete Streets” is one of the Project Goals and guiding principles directing the focus of this Master Plan. Pedestrian friendly streets are designed to include a number of comfortable urban amenities (seating, lighting, art), that enhance the user experience and accommodate all user groups. Contributing factors include user comfort, safety, convenience, connectivity, access to a mixture business and retail amenities and access to open space.

Key walkable corridors have been developed to encourage connectivity between the Central Business District and each of the districts adjacent to downtown. Greenspace has been identified as a key contributor to encourage walkability in downtown Peoria. The plan identifies existing open space and proposes a series of additional greenspaces that connect people with nature. Greenspace offers Peorians a number of health benefits along with enhancing the general quality of life.

8.1

WALKABILITY AND OPEN SPACE

GENERAL RECOMMENDATION

“Each additional hour spent in a car per day was associated with a 6% increase in the odds of being obese, while each additional kilometer walked per day was associated with a 4.8% reduction in the odds of being obese.”

R.E. Andersen, 2003, from the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services

“A walk has to satisfy four main conditions: it must be useful, safe, comfortable, and interesting.”

Walkable City, How Downtown Can Save America One Step at A Time, Jeff Speck

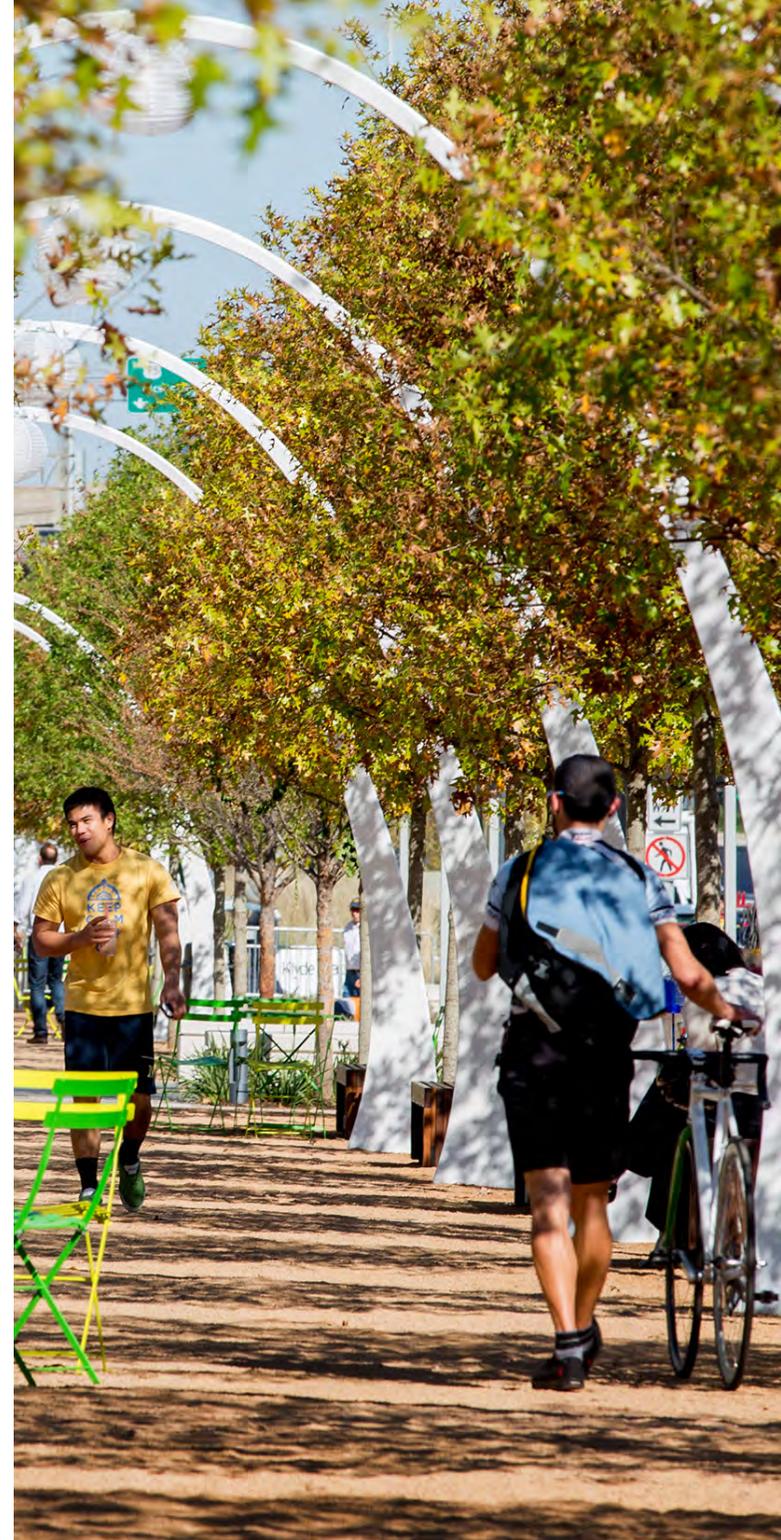
WALKABILITY

1. The average pedestrian walks approximately 3'-4' per second. This translates to about 2.0 to 2.75 miles per hour.
2. The average person will walk a maximum of 700' or 3-4 minutes.
3. Safe pedestrian streetscapes have roadway speeds of 25 mph or less.
4. Great streets should consider grade, cross slope, comfortable width, passing space, vertical clearance, and changes in level, grates and gaps, be free of obstacles and protruding objects and employ a comfortable walking surface.
5. Physical comfort definition and boundaries.
6. Concentrate amenities near corners and mid-block crossings.

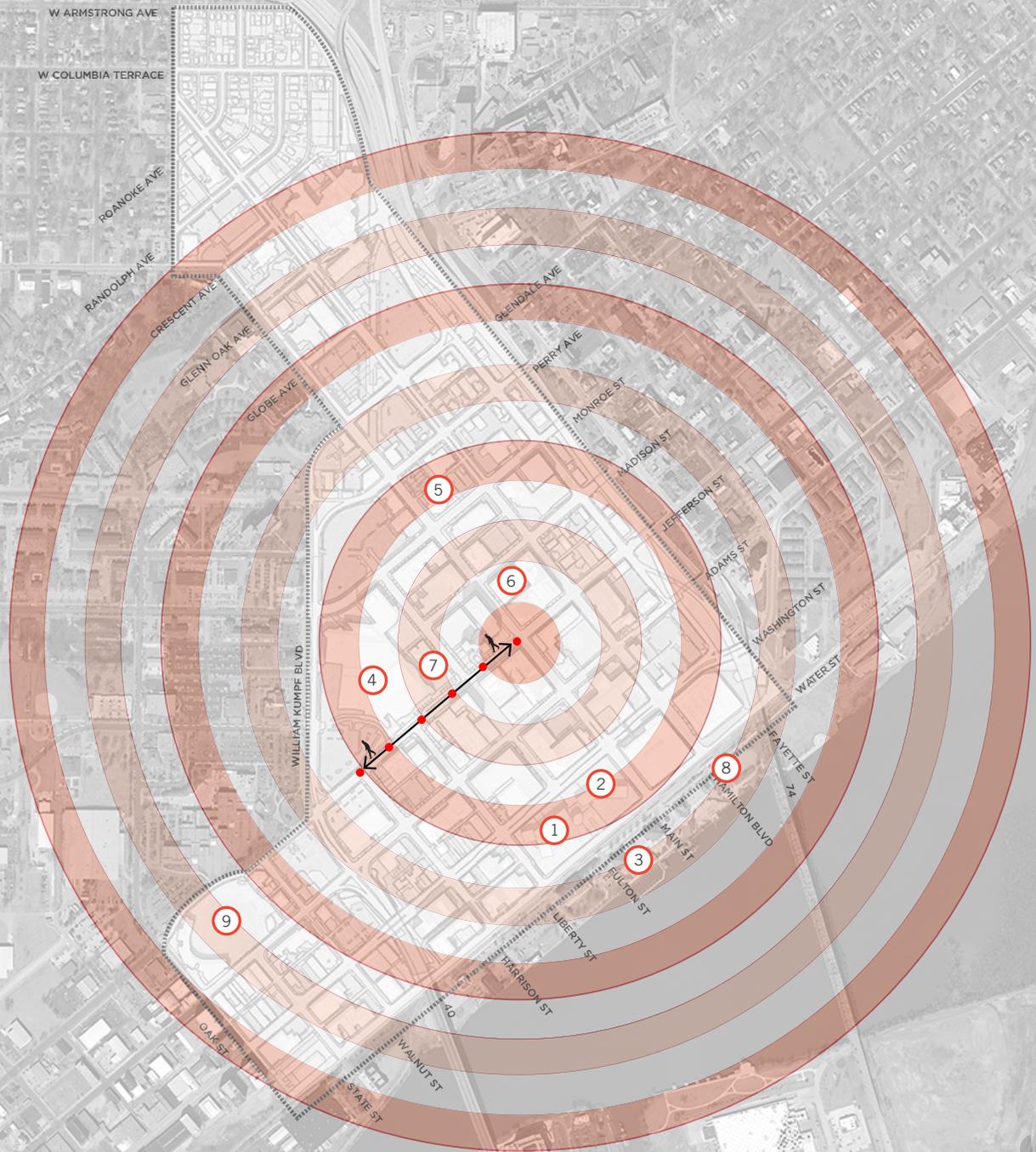
OPEN SPACE/ GREEN SPACE

1. Spaces should be safe, comfortable and interesting - they must give people a reason to walk.
2. Spaces must provide people with a sense of place, community, identity and pride, and may be found in distinctive architecture and landscapes, which can make a place unique, special and attractive.
3. Street trees and planting to be used to create sense of enclosure and comfort on sidewalks and streets.
4. Green space networks can include parks and recreation system.

5. Animal habitats, plant growth zones, production lands, recreation experiences and wetlands are open and green spaces that support quality of life experiences.
6. Minimize exposed surface parking lots.
7. Open space to contribute to the (CSO) Combined Sewer Outflow water management strongly.
8. Streetscape Principles.
9. Defined Streetscape Zones, Cart Path, Amenities Zone, Pedestrian Realm and Building/Retail Zone.
10. Smooth comfortable walking surfaces.
11. Landscaping in both the vertical and horizontal streetscape.
12. Comfortable lighting levels for both the roadway traffic lanes (1 foot-candle/10 lux) and the pedestrian realm (.5 foot-candle/5 lux).
13. Comfortable amenities and street furnishings include benches, waste receptacles, bike racks, specialty design features and landscaping.
14. Convenient facilities, signalization, environmental graphics, transit shelters.
15. Streetscape/retail zones that offer, context, opportunities for enhanced movable seating and landscaping, people watching, nightlife opportunities and a layering of street richness.



WALKABILITY DIAGRAM



 5 min. Walking Radius

-  1 Peoria Riverfront Museum
-  2 Caterpillar Visitors Center
-  3 Spirit of Peoria
-  4 Civic Center
-  5 Peoria Public Library
-  6 County Courthouse Plaza
-  7 Peoria City Hall
-  8 Gateway Building
-  9 Dozer Park

OPEN SPACE DIAGRAM

-  CSO Management
-  Existing Median
-  Proposed Planted Median
-  Proposed Parks
-  Existing Open Space
-  Proposed Open Space





“The availability of park and recreation facilities is an important quality-of-life factor for corporations choosing where to locate facilities and for well-educated individuals choosing a place to live“

Why America Needs More City Parks and Open Space, Paul M. Sherer





RECREATION



EXPERIENCE



INTEREST



CONVENTION CENTER PARK



- | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|---|------------------|---|----------------------|----|---------------|
| 1 | Travel Lane | 4 | Planted Median | 7 | Architectural Canopy | 10 | Water Feature |
| 2 | Accessible Parking | 5 | Street Trees | 8 | Sculpture | 11 | Event Lawn |
| 3 | Cross Walk | 6 | Ornamental Trees | 9 | Courtyard | | |





MEDICAL CENTER PARK WEST

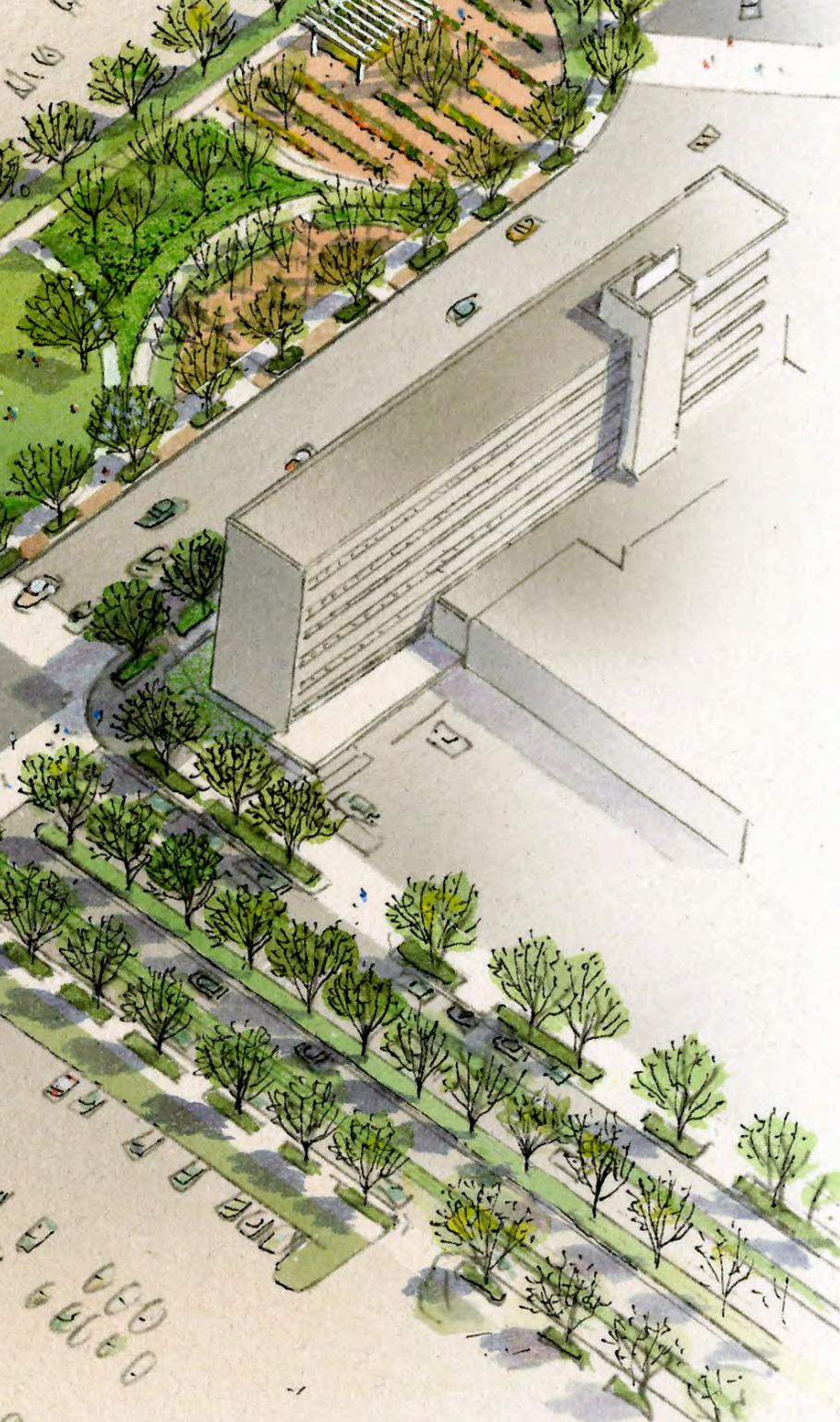


- | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|---|----------------|---|---------------------|----|----------------------|
| 1 | Travel Lane | 4 | Bike Lane | 7 | Ornamental Trees | 10 | Courtyard |
| 2 | Accessible Parking | 5 | Planted Median | 8 | Ornamental Planting | 11 | Children's Play Area |
| 3 | Cross Walk | 6 | Street Trees | 9 | Sports Field | 12 | Event Lawn |

MEDICAL CENTER PARK EAST







Medical Center Park

LIBRARY SQUARE



- | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|---|----------------|---|---------------------|----|----------------------|
| 1 | Travel Lane | 4 | Bike Lane | 7 | Street Light | 10 | Architectural Canopy |
| 2 | Accessible Parking | 5 | Planted Median | 8 | Ornamental Trees | 11 | Event Lawn |
| 3 | Cross Walk | 6 | Street Trees | 9 | Ornamental Planting | 12 | Courtyard |





