

Park Master Plan

Park Planning Goals

Cheesman Park has been described as one of the finest urban spaces in America. Today, Cheesman Park is the center of Denver's densely populated Capitol Hill neighborhood. Its undulating topography, mountain vistas, green lawns, and stately trees offer an oasis of shade and refuge from the busy City.

The original plan for Cheesman Park was first conceived in 1898 and its design was completed in 1902. Since then, no subsequent comprehensive planning has occurred for the park as a whole.

This Park Master Plan is the first master planning process for determining park improvements and restoration priorities to be undertaken.

The Park Master Plan proposes rehabilitating Cheesman Park as a historically and architecturally significant public place that provides a safe and enjoyable park experience for all. The Park Master Plan presents a holistic approach that will guide future improvement of Cheesman Park by balancing park use with the preservation of Cheesman Park's rich legacy.

Future park design will build upon fundamental planning goals that include historic preservation; visual and physical connections to the neighborhood; reduction in crime; reduction in the volume and speed of vehicles within the park; and the creation of an accessible park with a pedestrian focus.

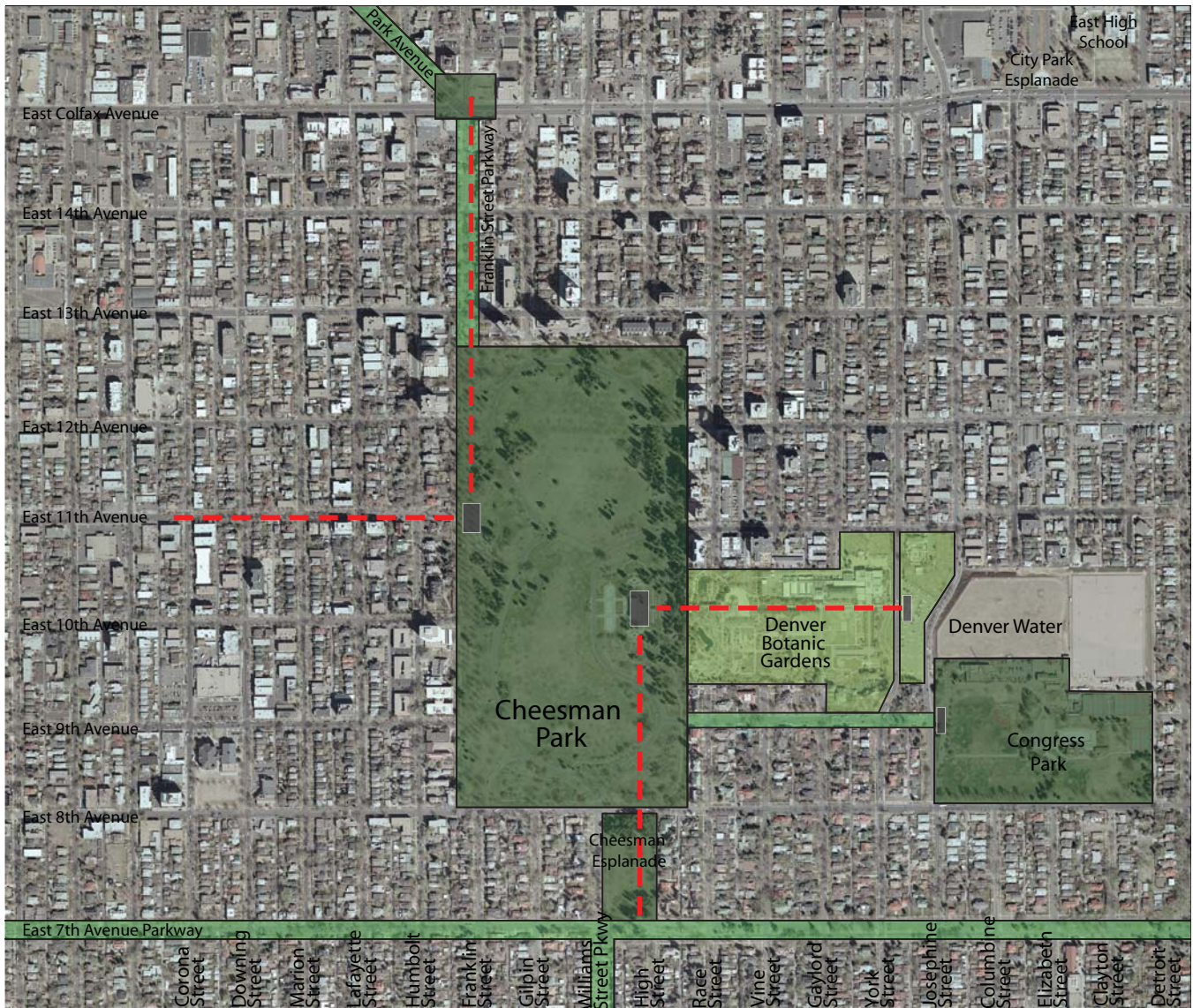
Four planning goals were developed to guide the master planning process and to evaluate potential modifications or additions to Cheesman Park.

- 1) Restore Cheesman Park's legacy through historic preservation;
- 2) Create a safe and enjoyable park experience for all users;
- 3) Create an accessible park with a pedestrian focus;
- 4) Reduce crime, vehicular volume and speed, noise and pollution.

Capitol Hill Connections

Denver's Capitol Hill is a great urban neighborhood. It is the most densely populated neighborhood in the City. It is Denver's most economically and socially diverse community, and boasts a rich historic fabric of streets, homes and civic places. Cheesman Park is one of these important civic places. Along with Congress Park and the area's parkways and boulevards, Cheesman Park defines the character of east Denver.

Cheesman Park is envisioned as the central park in the interconnected system of parks and civic spaces for the Capitol Hill neighborhood. Following in the grand tradition of Denver's original parks and parkway system, Cheesman Park will be connected to the neighborhood's civic institutions and parks by green urban parkways. Some are new to the system, and the others—those with historic roots—will be reestablished. Cheesman Park will also be linked to the neighborhood by new green spaces of trees and plantings that will extend from the park edge to Race Street and High Street along the streets.



Capitol Hill Connections

Cheesman Park's connection to Denver's dedicated parkway system will be strengthened. Williams Street Parkway provides the connection to the south, and is also the connection to East 7th Avenue Parkway, the Denver Country Club parkways, and eventually to East 1st Avenue Parkway and Speer Boulevard. To the north, Franklin Street will be established as a key segment in the parkway system, providing the connection to East Colfax Avenue and the historic Park Avenue. A new urban civic space will mark the connection with Colfax Avenue where it connects with Park Avenue.

Cheesman Park and Congress Park are great complementary park spaces. Cheesman Park primarily provides passive park activities such as picnicking, children's play, and running and walking. In contrast, Congress Park provides active park experiences including outdoor swimming, tennis, and sports fields for soccer, football and baseball. A strong visual and physical pedestrian connection between the two parks will be established along East 9th Avenue between Cheesman Park's eastern edge and Josephine Street.

Together, Denver Botanic Gardens and Cheesman Park create a large, green open space in the heart of the City and the Capitol Hill neighborhood. The two civic spaces will retain their own unique identities, but will become better connected through stronger visual linkages and physical connections.

The objectives of the Capitol Hill Connections is as follows.

- Reconnect Cheesman Park with Denver's parks and parkway system.
- Establish Franklin Street as a dedicated parkway to connect Cheesman Park with Park Avenue.
- Establish a civic park space at the intersection of East Colfax Avenue, Franklin Street and Park Avenue.
- Establish a new parkway along East 9th Avenue between Cheesman Park and Congress Park to provide a strong pedestrian connection and a visual linkage.
- Restore visual linkages from the Cheesman Pavilion to key civic spaces surrounding the park including Denver Botanic Gardens to the east, Cheesman Esplanade to the south, and East 11th Avenue to the west.
- Strengthen the physical connection between Cheesman Park and the Denver Botanic Gardens with new gardens.
- Establish new, green spaces of trees and plantings as entrances or "green park fingers" that extend into the neighborhood surrounding Cheesman Park along the urban streets.



Cheesman Park Master Plan

Cheesman is Unique

Cheesman Park is unique within Denver’s regional park system. At 80 acres, it is Denver’s smallest regional park. Cheesman Park is a one-sided park, bounded on three sides—its northern, eastern and western edges—by residential property that is a mix of houses, and condominium and apartment buildings. The eastern park edge is also bounded by the prominent Denver Botanic Gardens.

This configuration is in contrast to other regional parks such as Sloan’s Lake and Washington Parks that have exterior perimeter City streets in addition to their interior park roads. The exterior City streets are usually neighborhood and local streets that provide physical and visual access to each park, as well as its destinations and parking. They also provide a separation between the adjacent neighbors and park users. The only public visual access into Cheesman Park occurs along East 8th Avenue, a heavily used one-way westbound arterial street, that defines the park’s southern edge.

Because Cheesman Park is a one-sided park, the road takes on a greater role. It provides the primary access to park destinations (in most cases the only access).

Many of Denver’s regional parks, like Cheesman Park, serve as civic space in the City’s extensive parks and parkway system. Cheesman Park serves a unique role in this system as it is both a park and a parkway. The park road within Cheesman Park connects historic Williams Street Parkway with historic Park Avenue.



Cheesman Park, one-sided park



Sloan's Lake Park, four-sided park



Washington Park, four-sided park



1 See page 49 for text

Cheesman Park Composition

Park Composition

Original Features Remain

Many of Cheesman Park's original architectural features and site elements remain. Original components include the Cheesman Memorial and its distinctive views to the Rocky Mountains, and the recently restored Rustic Shelter.

The park composition of park roads, a few trails, characteristic topography, and open-historic lawns, are original features that remain are still in place.

Restore the Park Composition

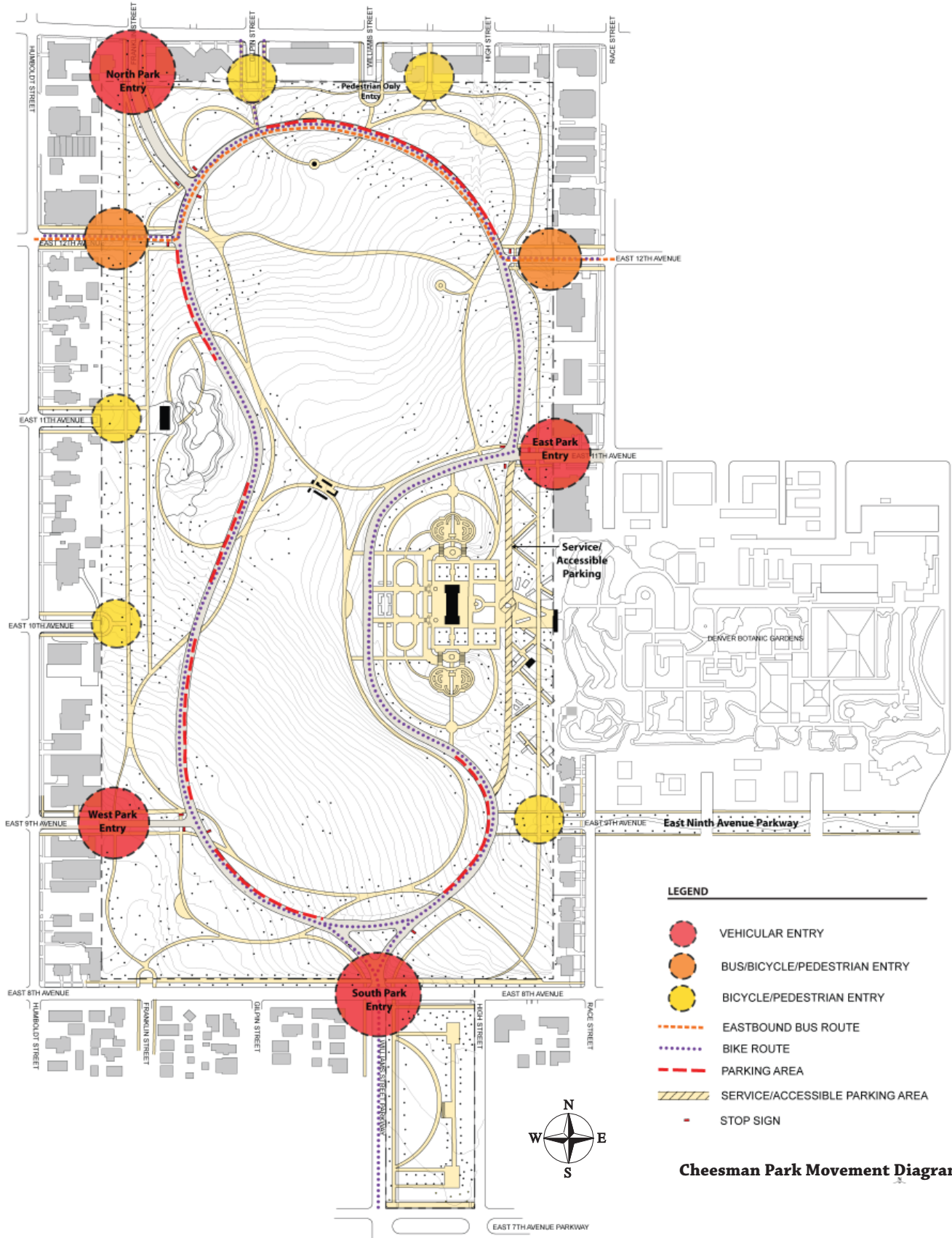
Reinhard Schuetze's original park composition was characterized by a central axis oriented northeast to southwest. The simple composition was expressed by two balanced park spaces, and a distinct hourglass shape created by the park road, strengthened by topography and trails. The restoration of the park composition is key to reestablishing Cheesman Park as a premier urban park. Specific recommendations are to:

- 1** Restore Reinhard Schuetze's symmetrical arrangement along the original northeast to southwest axis.
- 2** Restore the balanced composition of two major park spaces, one formal in character and the other naturalistic.
 - Rehabilitate the Cheesman Memorial to reestablish it as the large, formal civic space originally intended by Schuetze. Rehabilitate the pavilion and gardens.
 - Create a new, smaller civic space (Linden Meadow) as originally intended by Schuetze. It will be naturalistic in character and will include the existing Lily Pond.
- 3** Restore the park's original hourglass form by realigning the western park road at the play area and by providing new trails to converge at the Meadow Overlook. These trails follow the original road alignment.
 - Create a hierarchy of movement with the park road and trails to reinforce the park composition.



Schuetze's original park plan, 1898, courtesy DPL-WHC

- 4** Establish park spaces at each end of the Unter den Linden.
 - Restore the American Linden grove at the Franklin Street Entry in accordance with S.R. DeBoer's landscape plan.
 - Restore DeBoer's ornamental tree grove and open lawn at the southern end of the Unter den Linden.
- 5** Restore the original alignment of the Unter den Linden, including the four rows of American Lindens and the accompanying walks.
- 6** Restore visual linkages between the Memorial and the Cheesman Esplanade to the south. Orient the visual linkage to align the centerline of the Pavilion with the center line of the formal space in the Esplanade flanked by Downy Hawthorns.
- 7** Restore the visual connection between the Pavilion and the Denver Botanic Gardens. Orient the visual access to align the centerline of the Pavilion with the center line of the Botanic Gardens main east-west walkway.



Cheesman Park Movement Diagram

Circulation and Movement

Cheesman Park is envisioned as a pedestrian friendly park where vehicular access is for park use, park destinations are easily accessed, and a variety of park experiences are enjoyed. This plan recommends a balanced approach that organizes vehicular access and adds new trails to improve park safety and to enrich the park experience.

Park Road

The Cheesman Park road provides access to all park destinations and is a key feature of the park's composition. The park road is on dedicated parkland, and it plays a critical role in making the park accessible to all. It also provides a linkage in the City-wide parks and parkway system. This role requires that the park road remain open to a managed level of vehicular traffic. Specific recommendations are to:

- Narrow the park road to an uniform thirty-foot width to provide a consistent aesthetic throughout the park.
- Install stop signs at each three-way intersection.
- Install pedestrian tables at key locations where trails cross or intersect the park road to improve pedestrian accessibility.



Proposed West 11th Avenue Park Entry, for pedestrians.



Proposed West 9th Avenue Park Entry, for pedestrians and vehicles

Parking

Parking for park-related activities will be accommodated at strategic locations throughout the park. Parallel parking along the park road will be signed and striped. The proposed locations for parking are illustrated on the Movement Diagram (page 50). Specific recommendations are to:

- Accommodate 168 parking spaces within Cheesman Park. This is the number of existing parking spaces within the park. This number adequately serves park activities and special events at Denver Botanic Gardens.
- Locate parking spaces in close proximity to park destinations.
- Reallocate parking spaces in areas noted on the Movement Diagram to better serve park destinations.
- Remove the existing parking area located just south of the Cheesman Memorial.



Proposed East 8th Avenue Allee

Vehicular Entry

Access into Cheesman Park will be modified to allow one vehicular entry point at each of the four cardinal directions. One point of vehicular access will be provided on each side of the park. Specific recommendations are to:

- 1) Establish two primary vehicular entries into Cheesman Park, one from the south from East 8th Avenue and the other from the north along Franklin Street.
 - Reconfigure the Franklin Street entry and add a three-way stop where it intersects with the park road.
 - Install new traffic signal improvements including a pedestrian crossing with striping at East 8th Avenue and Williams Street to provide safer crossing for pedestrians and a clearer entry into the park.
 - Remove the existing light and crossing at High Street.
- 2) Establish two secondary vehicular entrances, one at East 9th Avenue on the west and one at East 11th Avenue on the east.
 - Reconfigure each road as a narrow two-lane road with a median.
 - Provide monummentation in keeping with the character of the park at each entry.
- 3) Convert other existing vehicular entrances into pedestrian and bicycle entrances. Four vehicular entrances will remain, as described above.

Bus Traffic

Reduce bus traffic within Cheesman Park by eliminating the bus stop near the Rustic Shelter; by locating all bus stops at park edges; and by reducing the number of buses traveling through the park during off-peak hours. Specific recommendations are to:

- Provide cleaner and quieter buses to ensure a better quality park experience. Hybrid buses are preferred over the Detroit Diesel models.
- Work with RTD to ensure that bus drivers reduce speed, and yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and bicyclists while in the park.
- Reconfigure the east and west entries into the park from East 12th Avenue as bus, bicycle and pedestrian-only entrances to reduce commuter traffic through the park. Install new paving and controls to indicate the change in use.

Pedestrian Entry

One of the primary goals of this master plan is to create a pedestrian-oriented park. To achieve this, several vehicular entrances will be converted to pedestrian-only use. The new pedestrian entrances will extend to the adjacent neighborhood as green spaces that connect the park visually and physically with the neighborhood and adjacent residential streets. Specific recommendations are to:

- Add seven pedestrian only entrances to provide safe pedestrian access.



Proposed East 8th Avenue Entry



Cheesman Park Trail Hierarchy Diagram

- Install plantings, park signs or public art, at each location.
- Provide a pedestrian crossing at East 8th Avenue and Williams Street Parkway
- Narrow streets using a center, planted median to provide a pedestrian-scaled space and a transition between the neighborhood and the park.

Trail Hierarchy

Schuetze's original park plan included miles of trails for park users to experience the beauty of Cheesman Park and its magnificent views. Over time, most of these trails have been removed. Those that remain are in poor or deteriorating condition. Runners, walkers and bicyclists continue to enjoy Cheesman Park, but trail activity is primarily along the perimeter soft surface trail.

A new hierarchy of trails will promote greater pedestrian and bicycle experiences within Cheesman Park. The trail hierarchy will reestablish a pedestrian focus and use. The trail network will cross the park road often. Raised crossings, or pedestrian tables, will be installed at key locations where the trail intersects the park road. Raised crossings will elevate pedestrians above the street grade thereby improving the visibility and safety of park users.

Specific recommendations to create a trail hierarchy are to:

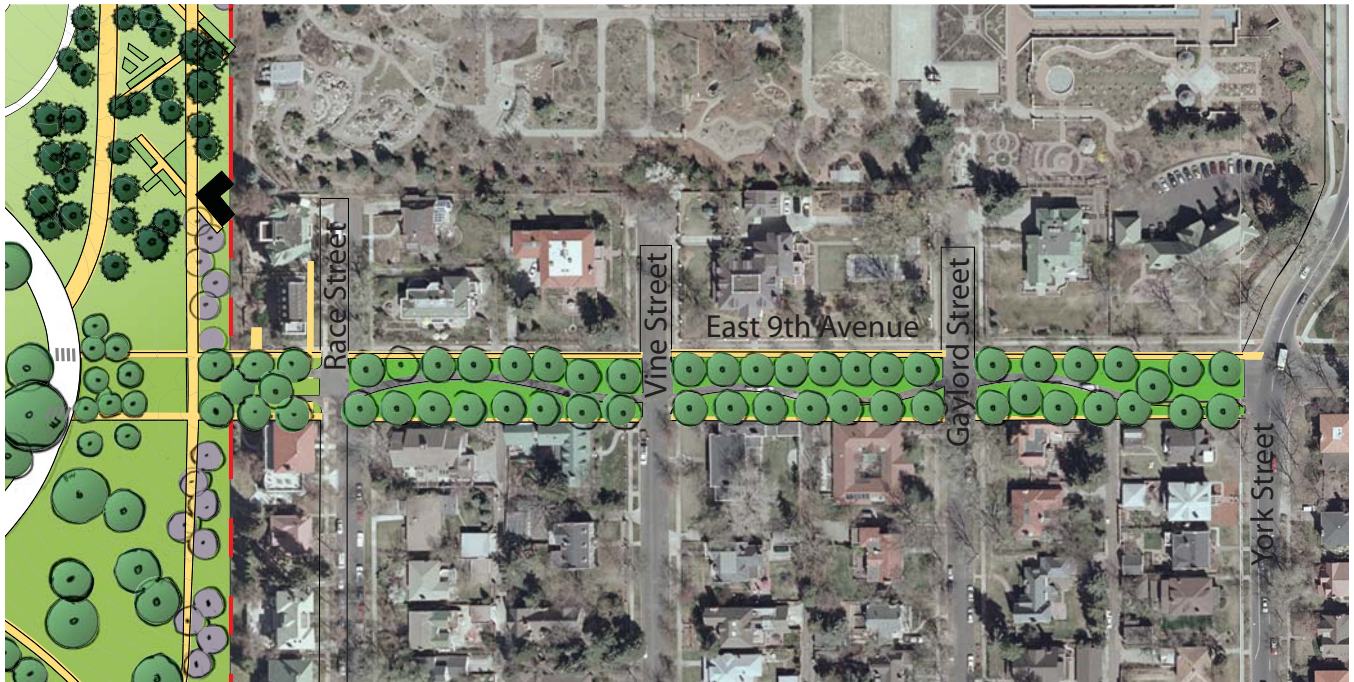
- Create a trail network to connect park destinations to one another and with the adjacent neighborhood. Repair existing trails such as the popular perimeter trail and the historic Unter den Linden trails as a part of the trail hierarchy.
- Add four miles of new trails to provide more opportunities for pedestrian use on a greater variety of trails.
- Add a broad variety of trail experiences. Trails will vary from five-foot wide running paths to 12-foot wide multiple use trails.
- Add new paving materials to better accommodate desired uses and are maintenance friendly. Soft surface paving will be for active uses such as the running trail along the park perimeter.
- Add new paving materials for the Cheesman Memorial and Cheesman Esplanade.
- Add raised crossings and stop signs to provide traffic calming by slowing traffic speeds and controlling traffic movement.



Example of pedestrian table at Sloan's Lake Park, courtesy MBD



Proposed Park Road



Proposed East 9th Avenue Parkway

East 9th Avenue's New Parkway Connection

A new parkway is envisioned east of Cheesman Park along East 9th Avenue to physically and visually connect with Congress Park. The two parks complement each other in character and use.

Congress Park is an active park with outdoor swimming and tennis courts, and sports fields for soccer, football and baseball. In contrast, Cheesman Park is a passive park with mountain views, sunset watching, gardens, concerts, picnicking, running and walking.

East 9th Avenue Parkway will become a pedestrian-oriented experience with broad walks, green lawns, shade trees and a central winding street that will continue to provide vehicular access for residents. The new parkway will encourage pedestrian and bicycle use between the two parks. Opportunities for informal play will be provided. Low traffic speeds will remain and will be signed and enforced.

Existing vehicular connections at side streets will remain, and a turn-around will be provided where East 9th Avenue terminates at Cheesman Park. Access into all existing private driveways will remain.

Intersection improvements at York Street and Josephine Street will be necessary to provide safe pedestrian and bicycle crossing. At a minimum, modifications to both York and Josephine Streets will be needed to improve the road alignment for better visibility and to slow traffic.

East 9th Avenue Parkway will serve as one of Cheesman Park's primary pedestrian entrances. A new green park space with pedestrian walks, trees and lawns will extend from Cheesman Park to Race Street. New plantings and park signs will provide a transition into Cheesman Park from the neighborhood.



East 9th Avenue Park Entry



East 9th Avenue Park Entry



1 See page 59 for text

Vegetation Restoration Diagram

Vegetation Restoration

Cheesman Park boasts an amazing 1,880 existing trees and more than 57 different tree species. The Park includes rows of American Lindens, groves of Douglas Fir and Blue Spruce, and specimen American Elm, Black Walnut and Green Ash trees. A number of unique trees are also present including Magnolias and several State Champion Trees including a Columnar English Oak. A few aggressive trees such as Russian Olive and Tamarisk exist as well.

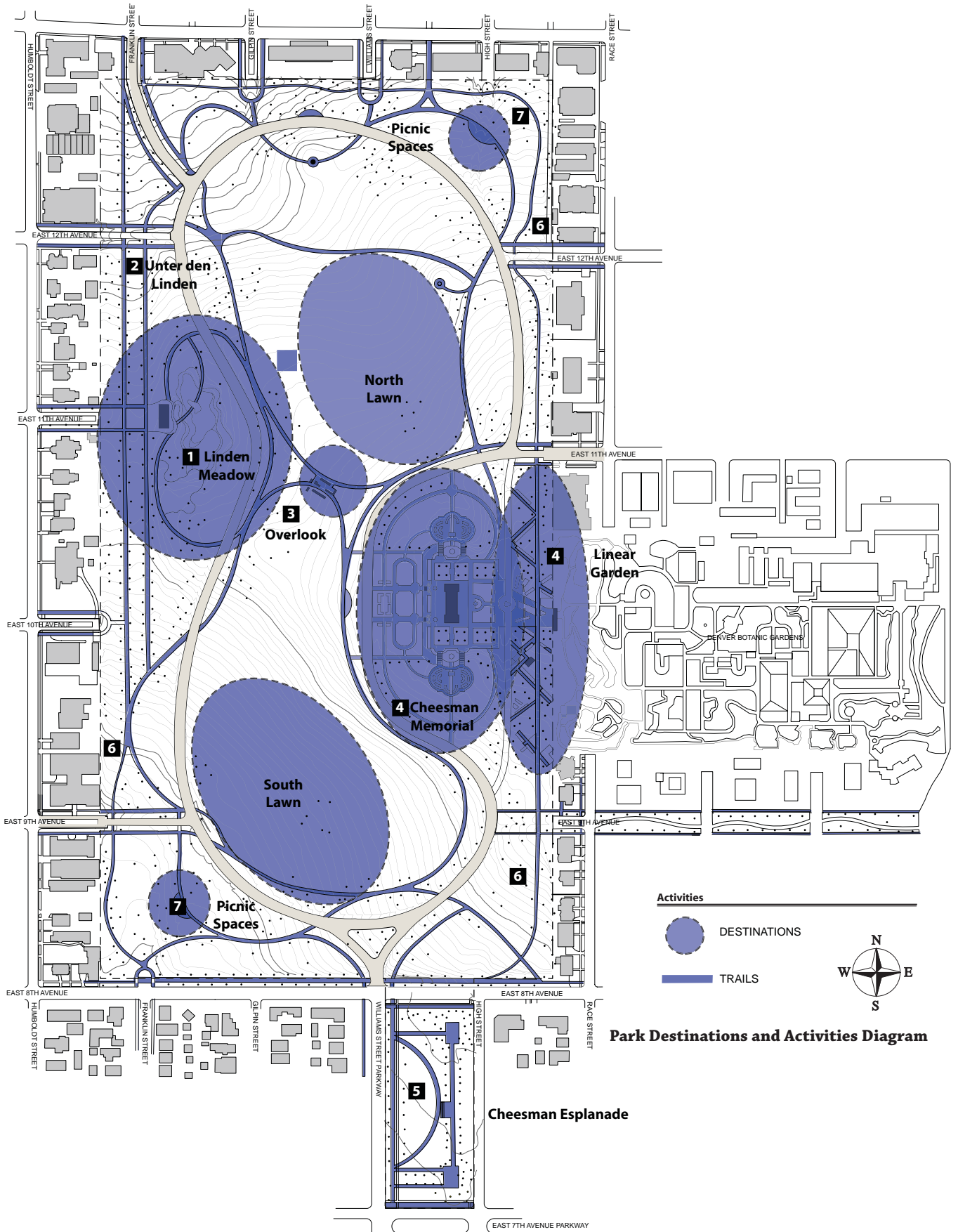
Many of the Park's historic original trees remain, defining park spaces, providing shade and completing the park composition as originally intended. Many are nearing the end of their life span. Others have been removed and new trees have been planted. Some new plantings are consistent with the historic tree placement.

The restoration of the vegetation in Cheesman Park is illustrated in the Vegetation Restoration Diagram (page 58) and will:

- Restore original planting arrangements to reinforce the park composition, including the Unter den Linden and the East 8th Avenue American Elm Allee.
- Preserve extant historic trees and tree patterns. Infill missing trees with the same or similar species.
- Replace significant original trees and tree patterns with in-kind species that retain the same or similar spacing and alignment of the original trees.
- Remove weedy trees including Russian Olive and Tamarisk.
- Add new trees to reinforce the park composition, including completing the park edge with ornamental trees and accenting the park entries.
- Use ornamental trees in place of shrub massings to balance aesthetics and safety.

Recommendations for the vegetation restoration for specific areas include:

- 1** Unter den Linden: Restore the American Linden rows in the Unter den Linden by preserving extant, healthy trees and infilling missing trees with new American Lindens. Restoration includes following the original planting arrangement for alignment and placement of trees.
- 2** East 8th Avenue Allee: Restore the East 8th Avenue American Elm Allee. Preserve the existing significant American Elm trees. Infill missing trees with new disease resistant American Elm species. Follow the original alignment and spacing. Remove or move tree species other than American Elms including newly planted or overmature trees.
- 3** South Park Entry: Reinforce the southern park entry with a mass planting of Downy Hawthorn trees. Infill existing groves with new trees.
- 4** Restore the original ornamental tree pattern to the west of the Pavilion. Plant new Downy Hawthorn trees to define the newly planted garden and along the park road. Add ornamental trees in a symmetrical arrangement on the north and south sides of the Pavilion, similar to the original pattern.
- 5** Cheesman Esplanade: Restore the formal plantings in the Cheesman Esplanade to reflect the original Olmsted Brothers composition. Preserve the extant original trees including the groves of evergreen trees and the Downy Hawthorn trees that line the central walk. Replant the evergreen trees with in-kind species. Restore the allee of Downy Hawthorns by planting new trees of the same species to replace missing trees. Follow the original alignment and spacing.
- 6** Restore DeBoer's American Linden grove at the north end of the Unter den Linden, and the ornamental trees at the south end.



Park Destinations and Activities Diagram

New Park Spaces

Park users greatly enjoy Cheesman Park's existing amenities, especially the loop trail around the park's perimeter, the children's play area, and of course the Cheesman Memorial with its distinct Pavilion and garden setting.

The addition of the new trail hierarchy will provide new park experiences and bring more park users into the center of the park just as Reinhard Schuetze envisioned more than 100 years ago. The new trails will create walking, biking, and running opportunities. New park spaces will offer an enriched park experience in keeping with the park's passive character.

A series of new park spaces will provide much needed park amenities including a children's play environment, a natural area, a linear garden, and an overlook. These new park spaces will be fully integrated with the park's overall composition. They will play an important role in reestablishing the original flowing composition that has made Cheesman Park one of the country's best urban places. New structures and buildings will be limited to those described in this section. Recommendations for new park spaces include the following:

- 1 **Linden Meadow** is a new informal space that builds upon the site's original topography and complements the formal Cheesman Memorial area. A children's interactive play environment will replace the existing playground. A new pavilion/shelter and restroom building will provide a much needed amenities as well as a visual presence for this space.
- 2 **Unter den Linden / Pedestrian Mall**: The original American Linden rows designed by Reinhard Schuetze as the western edge of the park will be reestablished as a formal pedestrian-oriented space with new linear walkways. In-fill trees will replace missing American Lindens and the central lawn will be rehabilitated and better defined by two walks that follow the alignment of the historic walks.
- 3 **Meadow Overlook**: A new pedestrian area will be created where two new trails will converge. The overlook will offer views of the park and distant peaks.
- 4 **Cheesman Memorial and Linear Garden**: The Cheesman Pavilion and its surrounding landscape will be rehabilitated as the grand formal park space envisioned by Reinhard Schuetze and designed by George Kessler. New plantings and a terrace will activate the space and increase safety. Historic views will be reconnected, and Cheesman Park will be more strongly connected with the Denver Botanic Gardens west entrance. The evergreen backdrop will remain.
- 5 **Cheesman Esplanade**: The restoration of the Cheesman Esplanade will reconnect this park space with Cheesman Park. Its restoration will reestablish the Cheesman Esplanade as a neighborhood park.
- 6 **Park Edges along the Park Perimeter**: The undergrounding of utilities, installation of new understory plantings, and addition of aesthetically pleasing walls and fences will transform the park edges into green park settings that are comfortable, safe, and aesthetically pleasing.
- 7 **Picnic Spaces**: Two new picnic spaces will be created at the northeast and southeast corners of the park. The picnic spaces will help meet a growing demand for picnicking and other events such as birthday parties. Small-scale shade structures, similar in scale and equal in design excellence to the Rustic Shelter are recommended for these spaces.



Proposed Linden Meadow play area and gardens



Proposed shelter and restroom building at the Linden Meadow

Linden Meadow

Reinhard Schuetze's original composition balanced two major park spaces diagonally across from one another. The larger of the two, the Cheesman Memorial, was fully realized. The second and smaller space was graded and planted, but was never fully completed. It included the undulating bowl of the Lily Pond, but the pond was never filled.

Affectionately known for years as the 'ski bowl' by the community, this second major park space will be completed to serve as a major park destination and to complete Schuetze's distinct park composition.



The Proposed Linden Meadow

The overall composition of the Linden Meadow will be organic in form with a naturalistic character. The Linden Meadow will be defined by a new trail and topography, and will be integrated into the Unter den Linden at East 11th Avenue. The original topographic landform of the Lily Pond will be preserved. The northern portion of the Lily Pond that serves as the 'ski bowl' will remain for informal use. The southern portion will be restored and planted as a passive natural meadow with indigenous and hardy ornamental vegetation. Specific recommendations for the Linden Meadow are to:

- 1** Create a new park shelter/restroom building and park terrace sited to terminate the view at the East 11th Avenue park entry on the edge of Unter den Linden. Follow the Denver Park Restroom Master Plan for guidelines on the floor plan, function and interior of the restroom. Design the exterior in keeping with the character of the park and to be subordinate to its historic buildings.
- 2** Create a naturalistic meadow planted within the historic topography of the Lily Pond.
- 3** Create a new lawn in the 'ski bowl' with a new trail to connect the park road with the multiple use trail.
- 4** Create a new interactive children's play environment on the south edge of the Linden Meadow.
- 5** Preserve the numerous mature deciduous shade and evergreen trees including American Elms and Colorado Spruces.
- 6** Create a new trail to define the composition and provide a pedestrian connection to other park spaces.



The restored Unter den Linden

Unter den Linden / Pedestrian Mall

The original park edge along the western side of Cheesman Park was Franklin Street, a linear boulevard. Inspired by Berlin's historic boulevard known as the Unter den Linden, Reinhard Schuetze designed Franklin Street with a double allee of American Linden trees and linear walkways that flanked a central street. When the road was closed to traffic in the early 1900s, City landscape architect S.R. DeBoer transformed the City street into a linear lawn. He added a grove of American Lindens to end the lawn on the north, and a mass planting of ornamental trees and shrubs to the south. He called this space the 'pedestrian mall.'

Schuetze's formal Unter den Linden and S.R. DeBoer's pedestrian mall will be re-established as a key park space and will include:

- Restoring the formal alignment, spacing and features of the Unter den Linden including the double allee of American Linden trees, central lawn and flanking walks.
- Adding park amenities including benches, lighting and trash receptacles.
- Restoring the four linear rows of American Linden trees (see the Vegetation Restoration Diagram).
- Adding walks to flank the American Linden allees. The walks will be a soft surface for multiple use. The surface will either be crusher fines or resilient asphalt paving, lined with a granite, brick or concrete edge.



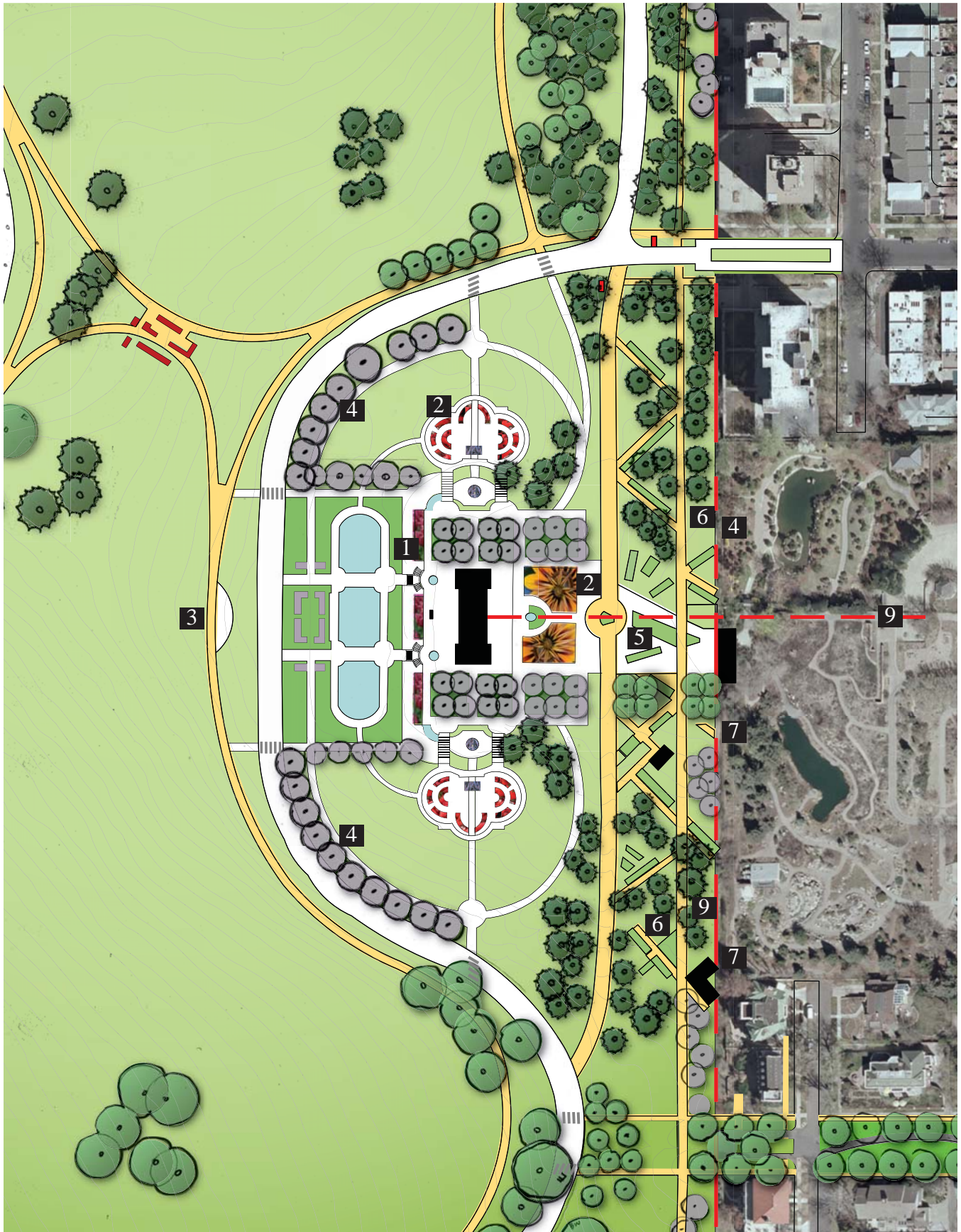
Meadow Overlook

Meadow Overlook

A key element of Schuetze's original park composition was the characteristic spacial organization and topography created by the hourglass form of the original park road. The central portion of the hourglass that connected the east and west park roads was removed in the 1970s. This road segment will not be restored due to traffic concerns. In its place, two trails will roughly follow the original road alignment. The two trails will converge at a natural point between the north and south lawns.

The Meadow Overlook will serve as a central refuge for park users. To the north is the north lawn and views to Longs Peak. To the south are vistas across the south lawn and Pike's Peak. The Meadow Overlook will include:

- New trails to redefine the original hourglass form of the original park composition, and convey that the north and south lawns are two distinct park spaces.
- Seating and park amenities to provide opportunities for play, picnicking, relaxing and people-watching.



1 See page 67 for text

Proposed Cheesman Memorial

The Cheesman Memorial

The Cheesman Memorial, including its grounds and the Pavilion, will be restored to their original grandeur.

- 1** The plinth that originally defined the front of the pavilion will be restored.
 - The slope will be removed. The original formal staircases will be reconstructed. The walls will be restored and a new balustrade will be added.
 - The pavilion gardens and fountains at the base of the plinth will be restored.
 - New paths will be created along the original walkway alignments and will provide universal access to all of the gardens.
- 2** New gardens or turf and a fountain set on the visual access between the Pavilion and Denver Botanic Gardens will be added to the east of the Pavilion. Two rows of ornamental trees will flank the north and south sides of the Pavilion. The rose gardens on both the north and south sides of the Pavilion will be restored.
- 3** The two trees on the west side of the road that currently obstruct views to and from the Pavilion will be removed. A small terrace that is compatible with the formal character and consistent with the historic plan of the Pavilion will be added.
- 4** New ornamental trees will be planted to enhance and frame views to the west. The eastern edge of the Cheesman Memorial will become a new linear garden.
- 5** A connecting plaza with formal ornamental plantings and a water feature will connect the Cheesman Memorial with the Botanic Gardens.
- 6** Views into the Botanic Gardens will occur at select locations to visually “borrow” its rich garden landscape and to provide views into the Park from the Botanic Gardens.
- 7** The visual connection between the pavilion and the Botanic Gardens along the east-west center-line of the Pavilion will be restored by selectively thinning vegetation.
- 8** The original backdrop of evergreen trees that provide the distinct backdrop for the Pavilion will be preserved.
- 9** A restroom will be provided. It will be in keeping with the function, floor plan and interior of the standard restroom building according to the Denver Park Restroom Master Plan. It will be integrally sited and designed to be a part of the linear garden. Its size, mass and form will be subordinate to the Cheesman Memorial.



“Linear Garden next to Denver Botanic Gardens”



Cheesman Esplanade

Cheesman Esplanade

In 1912, the Olmsted Brothers designed the Cheesman Esplanade as the formal transition between the Williams Street Parkway and Cheesman Park. Using topography, plantings and walkways, the Olmsted Brothers created a small park and visually connected it to the Cheesman Memorial along the north-south axis of the Pavilion. Over time, the walkways have been removed, and plantings have died and not been replaced.

The Cheesman Esplanade will be rehabilitated as a formal park space. It will once again serve as a transition between Williams Street Parkway and Cheesman Park. The Cheesman Esplanade will include:

- 1** Restoring the original north-south axis line between the Pavilion and the Esplanade by opening up the view at its northern edge.
 - This will require pruning and possible removal of evergreen trees.
 - A small terrace will be added to the existing opening.
- 2** Creating a formal park space to the west of the linear walk that respects the original Olmsted Brothers design.
 - The space will be symmetrically arranged along the east-west axis that will be sited equidistant between the two existing openings, currently defined by evergreen plantings.
 - A curvilinear walk and re-grading of the topography will create a symmetrical open lawn.
 - A new double walk and new trees, planted to infill missing trees, will define the southern edge of the space. New trees will be in-kind species.
 - A new walk will be added on the western side of the Esplanade.
 - New trees will be planted to replace missing trees on Williams Street Parkway.

- 3 Restoring the north-south linear walkway to reinforce the axis and flanking the Downy Hawthorn trees.
 - A terrace that aligns with the new formal park space will be added.
- 4 Restoring the original open space at the southern end of the north-south axis. A small terrace will be added in the existing opening.

Park Edges

Existing park edges don't clearly indicate entry into the park from the neighborhood. Along the park perimeter, the park edge is not clearly defined. The character of the edge varies dramatically, dependant on the adjacent neighborhood. Several of the edges are unsightly and the view into the adjacent properties detracts from the park experience.

- Overhead utilities will be buried.
- Park edges will incorporate a series of fences and walls as decorative elements.
- New understory trees will be planted in patterns that relate to the character of the park.
- Park edges will be aesthetically pleasing and will be safe park spaces.
- Universally accessible routes will be provided at all park entrances.



Proposed Park Edge