

Chapter 4: PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND STREETScape

A. INTRODUCTION

This chapter of the Community Plan provides goals, policies and actions that guide the design and maintenance of parks, open spaces, and streetscapes in the Community Plan Area. Along with urban form and the transportation system, this is the other key physical design component that shapes and activates the Downtown Neighborhoods. The network of public space is composed of parks and open spaces, interconnected by the various streets, and their associated streetscapes, that define city blocks.

In contrast to the notion that open space needs to be vast in scale, such as a sports field or greenways, the Downtown Neighborhoods are characterized by a variety of small and large parks. Each park and open space provides identity to the buildings and land uses that front it, creating variety, interest, and living choices for neighborhood residents. But for these parks and recreational facilities to be truly successful, they must be safe for all users. Accordingly, the Plan supports pedestrian accessible and properly staffed parks that are adequately supervised with structured activities that provide constructive alternatives to high risk behavior, allow park staff to build bonds with the community, and lower law enforcement needs. Fresno has had a tradition of excellence in such highly used, well staffed parks – such as Fresno’s Holmes and Romain Parks.

Street trees create a spatial connection between one side of the street and the other, generate a general sense of place and identity, and provide shade during the summer – and in the case of deciduous trees – allow sunlight to penetrate in the winter. Street tree selection for the Plan Area’s street is coordinated within the Regulating Plan of the Downtown Development Code to support the intended physical character, land use activity, and mobility needs of each subarea. Through a hierarchy of diverse streetscapes, the Downtown Neighborhoods are distinguished from one another, while addressing residents’ needs for shade, comfort, and recreation.

A unique quality of the Downtown Neighborhoods is their proximity to Fresno’s rich agricultural land, coupled with the presence of many undeveloped urban lots within them. The Plan supports urban agriculture in urban lots and front yards in order to provide access to fresh food and to reinforce Fresno’s historic and existing connection to its productive farmland.

The parks, open space, and streetscape system is carried forward through this Plan’s goals and policies. As with other components of this Community Plan, this system is multi-faceted and in direct response to and support of the community’s vision.

B. CONTEXT

This section provides an overview of the existing parks, open space, and streetscapes in the Downtown Neighborhoods.

1. **Parks and Open Space.** The quality, quantity, and type of parks and open spaces in the Plan Area is unbalanced and access to existing park space in many areas is limited. The Plan Area contains Roeding Park, located in the Jane Addams neighborhood, one of Fresno's three regional city parks. It is home to the Chaffee Zoological Gardens, Storyland and Playland amusement parks. The Plan Area also contains Courtyard Park, a civic park in the center of Downtown, as well as many neighborhood parks dispersed throughout. See **Figure 4-1** (Existing Open Space). In addition, Downtown Neighborhoods are serviced by many schools that have playing fields and playgrounds on the premises. Southeast residents living near Burroughs Elementary School have forged a joint-use agreement with Fresno Unified School District to gain access to the school's playing fields and playground during non-school hours.

Population data suggests Fresno residents are both young and aging – demographic groups that are best served by amenities that are within walking distance of their homes, i.e. within a quarter mile. This pedestrian-friendly distance encourages increased use and fosters important social interaction with neighbors at playgrounds and picnic areas, at pickup games in parks, during evening strolls on sidewalks, and among neighborhood festivals. Moreover, walkable destinations lead to an increase in people's physical fitness and good health.

2. **Streetscape.** The Plan Area contains a wide variety of streetscapes, ranging from urban streets with trees in tree wells in Downtown, to tree-lined streets in its pre-World War II residential neighborhoods, to treeless stretches along most of its auto-oriented corridors. See **Figure 4-2** (Existing Street Tree Coverage)

- **Lack of neighborhood and district character.** Many of the Plan Area's neighborhoods, particularly to the east of State Route 41 are difficult to differentiate from one another, primarily because the corridors that define and surround these neighborhoods lack a unique character. The identity of each subarea of the Downtown Neighborhoods can be greatly enhanced through unique streetscape improvements, particularly along these major thoroughfares.
- **Lack of street character.** The Plan Area's major thoroughfares have largely been designed to accommodate automobiles. They are lined by buildings that have, more often than not, placed parking lots between the building and the sidewalk, they lack street trees and planting strips, and are of similar character along their entire length.
- **Limited access to open space.** The Downtown Neighborhoods currently has approximately 2.8 acres of park space per one thousand people, which is slightly lower than the City as a whole at 3.1 acres of parks per one thousand people¹. However, approximately three quarters of the total parks acreage is in Roeding Park. If Roeding Park is not included in the calculation, the parks per one thousand ratio is significantly lower than the City as a whole. Noticeably absent are public parks within the eastern half of the Plan Area. In addition, the majority of the residents in the Downtown Neighborhoods are located further than 1/2 mile from a usable park or open space area. Finally, there are many schools within the Plan Area, but access to their playing fields is limited to the children attending the schools and only during school hours.
- **Lack of funding.** As with many cities, Fresno has seen its budgets for introducing new parks, open spaces, street trees, and maintaining existing parks and street trees reduced over the years. Currently the average street tree in Fresno is maintained once every 16 years. Some parks will go without staffing and accordingly may be closed due to staffing budget restrictions.

C. KEY DEFICITS

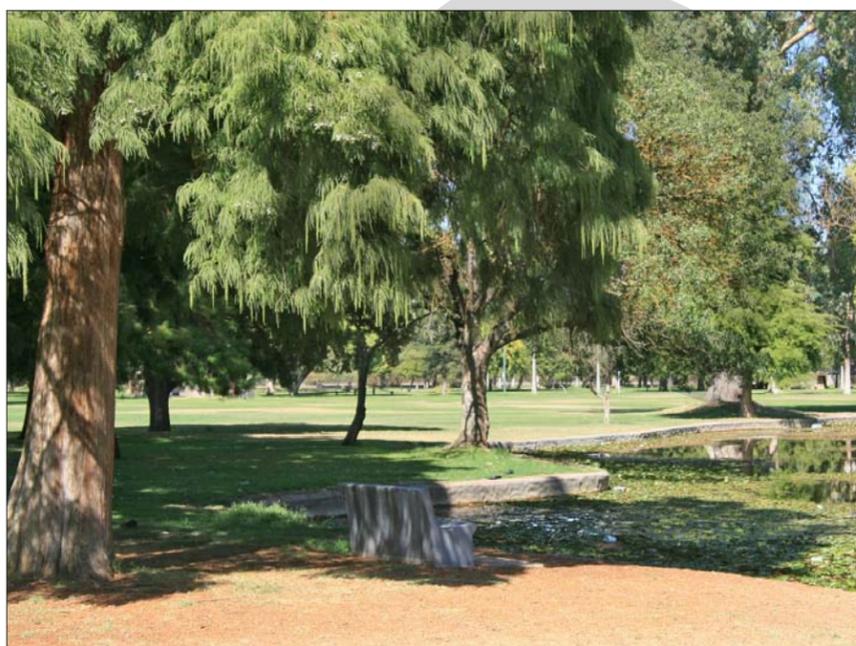
This section provides an overview of the key deficits for park, open space, and streetscapes in the Downtown Neighborhoods.

- **Lack of street tree coverage.** The neighborhoods and districts south of State Route 180, including the Downtown District, have a relatively good street tree presence, with many of the streets having more than 50 percent of their length lined by trees. Street trees are notably absent from most of the streets within the Jane Addams Neighborhoods as well as the areas zoned for manufacturing and industrial uses. Significant challenges to introducing street trees include lack of funding for planting new street trees, the maintenance of existing and new ones, lack of irrigation, and dwindling water supplies.

D. VISION FOR CHANGE

Shaded, inviting public streets and parks generate a walkable environment, establish a unique identity for each street and neighborhood, promote healthy lifestyles, and increase property values. Tree-lined streets enhance their multi-modal character, promoting walkability and cycling, while slowing down vehicular traffic. Neighborhood schools, playing fields, and tot lots, which currently are used only during school hours, are made accessible to nearby residents after school and on weekends. Urban agriculture, including community gardens and front yard vegetable gardens, is enabled.

¹ Health Impact Assessment: Downtown Neighborhoods Community Plan - Raimi + Associates and Meredith Laser, March 2011.



Roeding Park provides a variety of open spaces that accommodate both leisure and recreational activities.



Street character in Southwest Fresno is created by the spacing, arrangement, and species of street trees.



FIGURE 4-1 - EXISTING OPEN SPACE

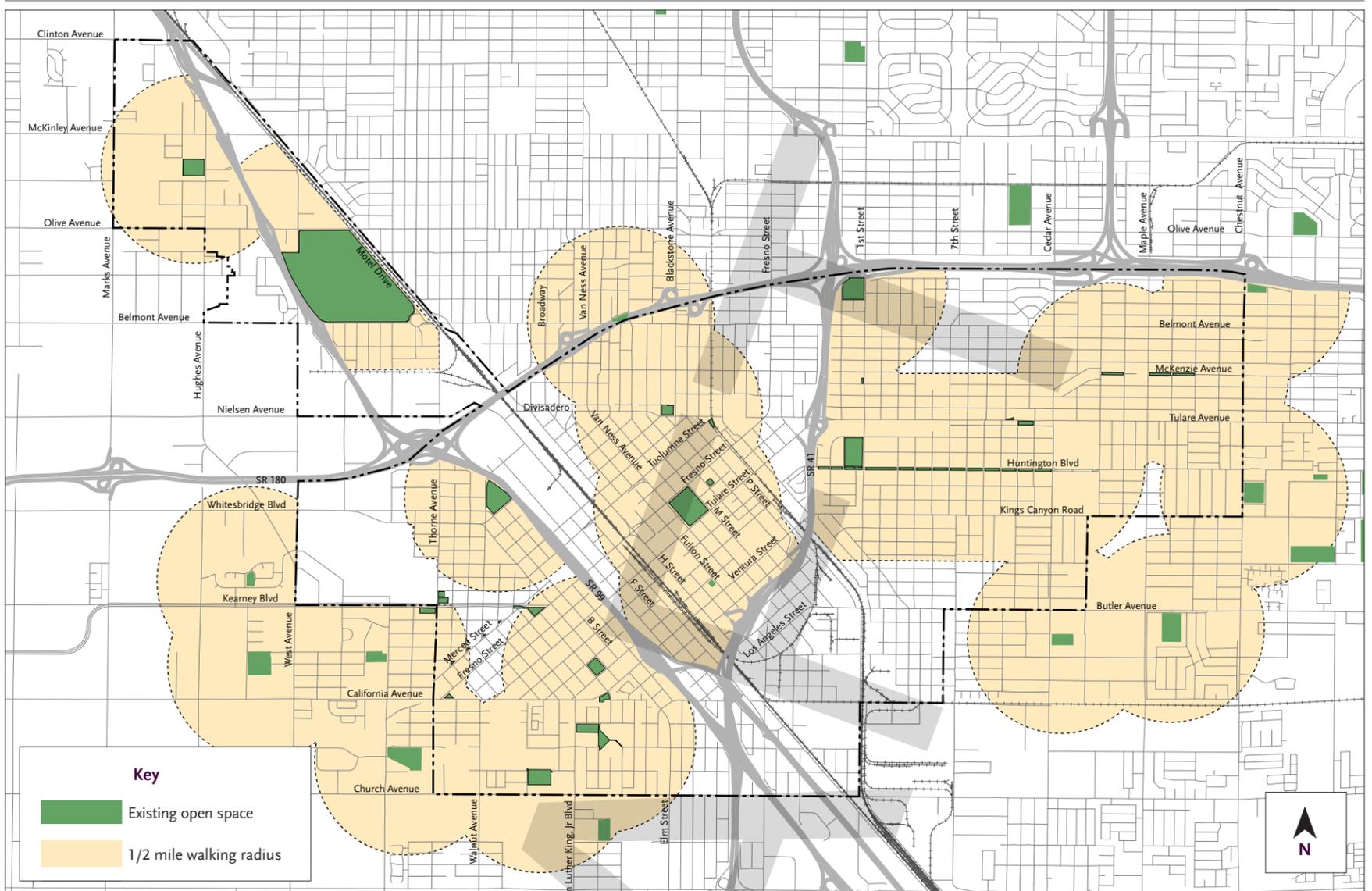
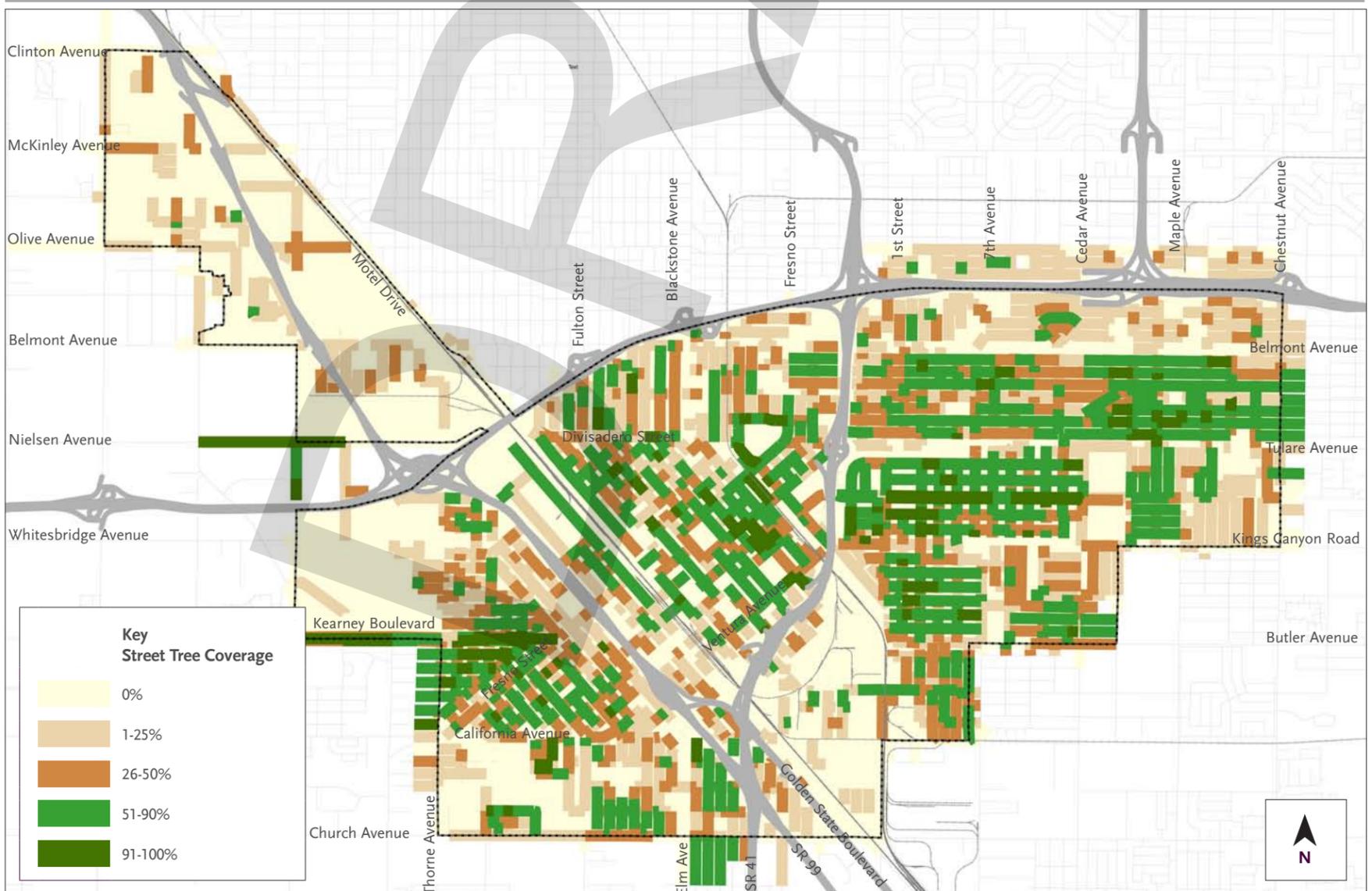


FIGURE 4-2 - EXISTING STREET TREE COVERAGE



E. GOALS AND POLICIES

4.1 Use landscaping to generate unique and distinct character for each of the Plan Area's various neighborhoods, districts, and corridors.

Intent: To use landscape and street trees to give each neighborhood, district, and corridor a unique and easily identifiable character, to engender neighborhood pride, and to aid in navigation for drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians.

- ▶ **4.1.1** Infill missing street trees according to the unique character of each of the Plan Area's neighborhoods, districts, and corridors as shown in **Figure 4-3** (Neighborhood Street Landscape Character) and **Figure 4-4** (Corridor Landscape Character). Recommended street trees for neighborhood streets are described in **Table 4.1** (Neighborhood Street Tree Planting List) and for corridors in **Table 4.2** (Corridor Street Tree Planting List). See **Figure 4-5** (Street Tree Infill Strategies) for one possible strategy for introducing street trees on a block by grouping trees of one species at street intersections and infilling between intersections with a different species. Other strategies may be employed as long as the use conforms to the recommended character shown in **Figure 4-3** and **Figure 4-4** and described in **Table 4.1** and **Table 4.2**.
- 4.1.2** Continue to coordinate street lighting spacing with street tree spacing according to the FMC by placing them at least 20 feet from trees.
- 4.1.3** Complete the planting of existing parks in order to enhance their appearance, and to maximize their recreational offerings.
- 4.1.4** Use street trees and landscape to define principle gateways into each subarea within the Downtown Neighborhoods.

4.2 Regenerate the urban forest to promote ecological sustainability, increase human comfort, and reduce energy costs.

Intent: To introduce new and replace missing street trees in order to provide shade; reduce solar heat gain and local ambient air temperature; reduce stormwater runoff; extend the life of the streets they cover; improve local air, soil, and water quality; reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide; provide wildlife habitats; increase property values; and enhance the attractiveness and walkability of the community.

- 4.2.1** Introduce new and reintroduce missing street trees in the Plan Area's neighborhoods, districts, and corridors with the goal of providing a minimum of 50 percent landscape canopy cover (the layer of leaves, branches, and stems that cover the ground when viewed from above) for each street in the Plan Area within 15 years. Trees should provide shade, visual identity for residents, and reflect the individual character of each community. Trees planted within the Chandler Airport Overlay area shall be planted in conformance with Federal Aviation Regulations Part 77, particularly in terms of height and potential to attract wildlife. The recommended street trees for the Plan Area's neighborhood streets are shown in **Figure 4-3** (Neighborhood Street Landscape Character) and described in **Table 4.1** (Neighborhood Street Tree Planting List). The recommended street trees for each of the prominent corridors in the Plan Area are shown in **Figure 4-4** (Corridor Landscape Character) and described in **Table 4.2** (Corridor Street Tree Planting List).
- ▶ **4.2.2** Partner with as many private, public, or non-profit groups as possible to support tree planting and maintenance.
- ▶ **4.2.3** Require the retention and protection of existing, mature non-agricultural trees within the Downtown Neighborhoods. (Edison p. 52)

4.2.4 Encourage the use of large shade street trees by implementing broad parkways, structural soils, or other systems to accommodate their root systems.

- ▶ **4.2.5** Encourage the proper tree selection for the site in response to above ground or underground infrastructure and parkway constraints (such as telephone wires).

4.2.6 Use a well-balanced variety and uniform spacing of deciduous or evergreen trees to establish visual continuity for streetscapes, to help reduce energy costs of adjacent buildings, and to define unique public or private open spaces. (CAP Urb 6-1, modified 2011)

4.2.7 Spread the cost of tree planting and maintenance among a variety of entities and funding sources, including special improvement districts, permit fees and surcharges, an optional customer-directed one-year or multi-year maintenance cycle paid by adjacent property owners, Adopt-a-Tree or Adopt-a-Street programs, a community tree and street tree endowment, and/or donations from businesses, utility companies, service clubs, and individuals.

- ▶ **4.2.8** Continue to apply the City's 50 percent shade tree ordinance on all surface parking lots.

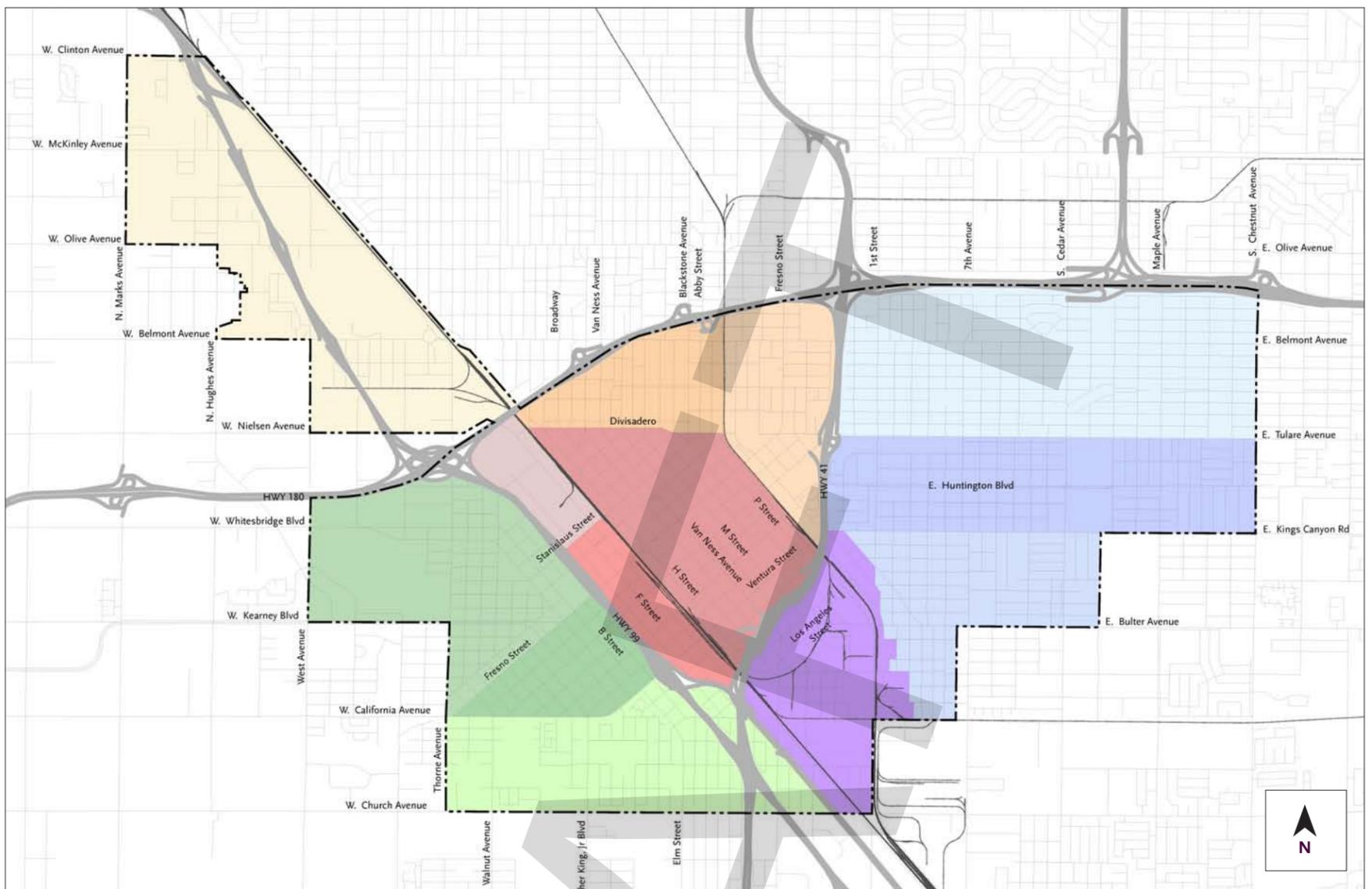
- ▶ **4.2.9** Ensure a long life for the urban forest through proper soil drainage and by limiting the installation of lights, hardscape, and amenities in and around trees.

4.3 Promote sustainable landscapes, native habitats, and natural hydrological function.

Intent: Use landscape and hardscape to enhance the character of both the public and private realms, respond to Fresno's climate, improve human comfort, reduce energy costs, facilitate sustainable water use and drainage strategies, and reduce energy costs.

- 4.3.1** Introduce pervious surfaces within parks and open spaces to reduce storm water runoff.
- 4.3.2** Incentivize property owners to use drought tolerant adaptive and native landscapes to reduce water usage and decrease reliance on fertilizers and pesticides. Possible strategies include:
 - Working with the City of Fresno's Water Division to educate property owners about the cost savings that drought tolerant plants produce;
 - Creating a rebate program that incentivizes property owners to replace turf and/or water-hungry landscape with drought-tolerant landscape.
- 4.3.3** Provide access to sun and shade in public parks and open spaces by introducing climate attenuation elements such as deciduous canopy trees and trellises.
- 4.3.4** Encourage green walls and rooftop landscapes to reduce heat sink islands in the Plan Area's office and commercial districts.
- ▶ **4.3.5** Incorporate Low Impact Development (LID) stormwater management facilities into the landscape of new parks.
- ▶ **4.3.6** Where possible, use reclaimed water over potable water in order to extend drinking water supplies, reduce the need for additional potable water facilities, reduce the amount of treated wastewater discharged, reduce reliance on costly imported water supplies, and increase the reliability of the water supply.

FIGURE 4-3 - NEIGHBORHOOD STREET LANDSCAPE CHARACTER



Key

- Jane Addams
- Southwest Fresno north of Fresno Street
- Southwest Fresno between Fresno Street and California Avenue
- Southwest Fresno south of California Avenue
- Lowell Neighborhood
- Jefferson Neighborhood
- Southeast Neighborhoods between SR 180 and Tulare Avenue
- Southeast Neighborhoods between Tulare Avenue and Ventura Avenue/ King Canyon Road (Huntington Boulevard District)
- Southeast Neighborhoods south of Ventura Avenue/ Kings Canyon Road
- Chinatown (see FCSP)
- Downtown (see FCSP)

E. GOALS AND POLICIES (Continued)

TABLE 4.1: NEIGHBORHOOD STREET TREE PLANTING LIST						
Neighborhood	Concept	Character	Botanical Name	Common Name	Tree Form	Size
Jane Addams	Trees are identified with Roeding Park, and are large and park-like patterned with flowering trees.	Evergreen	<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>	Camphor	round	large
			<i>Pinus eldarica</i>	Mondell Pine	conical	large
			<i>Quercus virginiana</i>	Southern Live Oak	round	large
		Deciduous	<i>Acer campestre</i>	Hedge Maple	round	small
			<i>Cercis canadensis</i> 'Oklahoma'	Redbud	round	small
			<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>	Golden Rain	round	medium
			<i>Pistacia chinensis</i>	Chinese Pistache	round	large
			<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i> 'True Green'	Chinese Elm	round	large
			<i>Zelkova serrata</i> 'Village Green'	Sawleaf Zelkova	round	large
		Accent	<i>Cedrus deodara</i>	Cedar Tree	conical	large
<i>Lagerstroemia</i> 'Indian Varietals'	Indian varieties of Crape Myrtle		round	small		
Southwest Fresno north of Fresno Street	Trees are identified with Kearny Boulevard as well as trees that are rural in character like those that line California Avenue. Trees planted within the Chandler Airport Overlay area shall be planted in conformance with Federal Aviation Regulations Part 77, particularly in terms of height and potential to attract wildlife.	Evergreen	<i>Arbutus marina</i>	Marina Strawberry Tree	round	small
			<i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i>	Manna Gum	round	large
			<i>Geijera parvifolia</i>	Australian Willow	round	medium
			<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	Coast Live Oak	round	large
			<i>Quercus suber</i>	Cork Oak	round	large
		Deciduous	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Tupelo	conical	medium
			<i>Pistacia chinensis</i>	Chinese Pistache	round	large
			<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pin Oak	conical	large
		Accent	<i>Quercus robur</i> 'Fastigiata'	English Oak	conical	large
			<i>Cercidium floridum</i> 'Desert Museum'	Blue Palo Verde	round	medium
Southwest Fresno between Fresno Street and California Avenue	Trees are identified with good neighborhood shade canopy streets with pattern planting of flowering trees and tall slender trees on important streets. Deciduous trees are planted in order to take advantage of winter's southern exposure provided by Southwest Fresno's street grid that is based on the railroad. Color comes mostly in spring and fall leaf colors.	Deciduous	<i>Celtis australis</i>	Hackberry	round	large
			<i>Cercis Canadensis</i> 'Oklahoma'	Eastern Redbud	round	small
			<i>Fraxinus</i> 'Autumn Applause'	Ash	round	large
			<i>Lagerstroemia</i> 'Indian Varietals'	Crape Myrtle Indian Varieties	round	small
			<i>Quercus lobata</i>	Valley Oak	round	large
			<i>Sophora japonica</i>	Japanese Pagoda	round	medium
			<i>Zelkova serrata</i>	Sawleaf Zelkova	round	large
		Accent	<i>Tillia cordata</i>	Little Leaf Linden	round	medium
			<i>Paulownia kawakamii</i> 'Sapphire Dragon'	Sapphire Dragon	round	small
Southwest Fresno South of California Avenue	Trees are identified with good neighborhood shade canopy streets. Deciduous trees are planted on east/west streets and either deciduous or evergreen trees are planted on north/south streets.	Evergreen	<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>	Camphor	round	large
			<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> 'Russet'	Southern Magnolia	round	large
			<i>Pinus canariensis</i>	Canary Island Pine	conical	large
			<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holly Oak	round	large
			<i>Quercus virginiana</i>	Southern Live Oak	round	large
		Deciduous	<i>Celtis sinensis</i>	Chinese Hackberry	round	large
			<i>Paulownia kawakamii</i>	Sapphire Dragon	round	small
			<i>Ulmus Parvifolia</i> 'Drake'	Chinese Elm	round	large
		Accent	<i>Zelkova serrata</i> 'Green Vase'	Sawleaf Zelkova	round	large
			<i>Cedrus deodara</i>	Cedar	conical	large
Lowell Neighborhood	Trees are identified with stately large canopy trees already existing in the neighborhood. Enhance the landscape character by planting flowering trees and tall slender trees on Blackstone Avenue.	Evergreen	<i>Chionanthus retusus</i>	Chinese Fringe	round	small
			<i>Arbutus marina</i>	Marina Strawberry	round	small
			<i>Cedrus deodara</i>	Cedar	conical	large
			<i>Laurus nobilis</i>	Sweet Bay	round	small
		Deciduous	<i>Quercus virginiana</i>	Southern Live Oak	round	large
			<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	American Persimmon (male species)	round	small
			<i>Fraxinus</i> 'Autumn Applause'	Ash	round	large
			<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Tupelo	round	medium
			<i>Prunus blireiana</i>	Hybrid Flowering Plum	round	small
		Accent	<i>Prunus cerasifera</i> 'Atropurpurea'	Purple-Leaf Plum	round	small
	<i>Olea europaea</i> 'Swan Hill'	Fruitless Olive	round	medium		

TABLE 4.1: NEIGHBORHOOD STREET TREE PLANTING LIST

Neighborhood	Concept	Character	Botanical Name	Common Name	Tree Form	Size
Jefferson Neighborhood	Trees are identified with stately, large canopy street trees already existing in the neighborhood. The landscape character is enhanced by planting flowering trees and tall slender trees on Abby Street.	Evergreen	<i>Pinus eldarica</i>	Mondell Pine	conical	large
			<i>Pinus canariensis</i>	Canary Island Pine	conical	large
			<i>Quercus virginiana</i>	Southern Live Oak	round	large
		Deciduous	<i>Celtis sinensis</i>	Chinese Hackberry	round	large
			<i>Chionanthus retusus</i>	Chinese Fringe Tree	round	small
			<i>Ginkgo biloba</i> 'Fairmont'	Maidenhair Tree	conical	large
			<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>	Golden Rain Tree	round	medium
		Accent	<i>Sophora japonica</i> 'Regent'	Japanese Pagoda Tree	round	medium
<i>Lagerstroemia</i> 'Indian varieties'	Indian varieties of Crape Myrtle		round	small		
Southeast Neighborhoods between State Route 180 and Tulare Avenue	Trees are identified with stately, large canopy street trees found on Jefferson's neighborhood streets. A mix of tall, slender trees and flowering trees are introduced on important streets.	Evergreen	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> 'Russet'	Southern Magnolia	round	medium
			<i>Pinus canariensis</i>	Canary Island Pine		large
			<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holly Oak	round	large
		Deciduous	<i>Lagerstroemia</i> 'Indian Varietals'	Indian varieties of Crape Myrtle	round	small
			<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Tupelo	round	medium
			<i>Pistacia chinensis</i>	Chinese Pistache	round	large
			<i>Ulmus Parvifolia</i> 'Drake'	Chinese Elm	round	large
			<i>Zelkova serrata</i> 'Green Vase'	Sawleaf Zelkova	round	large
		Accent	<i>Cedrus deodara</i>	Cedar	round	large
			<i>Cercis Canadensis</i> 'Oklahoma'	Eastern Redbud	round	small
Southeast Neighborhoods between Tulare Avenue and Ventura Avenue/Kings Canyon Road (Huntington Boulevard District)	Trees are identified with good neighborhood shade canopy streets and stately trees already existing in the district with pattern planting of flowering trees amongst established trees.	Evergreen	<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>	Camphor	round	large
			<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> 'Russet'	Southern Magnolia	round	medium
			<i>Pinus canariensis</i>	Canary Island Pine	conical	large
			<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holly Oak	round	large
		Deciduous	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Eastern Redbud	round	small
			<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>	Golden Rain	round	medium
			<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Tupelo	round	medium
			<i>Lagerstroemia</i> 'Indian varieties'	Indian varieties of Crape Myrtle	round	small
			<i>Pistacia chinensis</i>	Chinese Pistache	round	large
		Accent	<i>Chionanthus retusus</i>	Chinese Fringe	round	small
Southeast Neighborhoods south of Ventura Avenue/ Kings Canyon Road	Trees are identified with good neighborhood shade canopy streets and stately trees already existing in the district.	Evergreen	<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>	Camphor	round	large
			<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> 'Russet'	Southern Magnolia	round	medium
			<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	Coast Live Oak	round	large
			<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holly Oak	round	large
		Deciduous	<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	American Persimmon (male species)	round	small
			<i>Lagerstroemia</i> 'Indian varieties'	Indian varieties of Crape Myrtle	round	small
			<i>Pistacia chinensis</i>	Chinese Pistache	round	large
			<i>Prunus cerasifera</i> 'Atropurpurea'	Purple-Leaf Plum	round	small
			<i>Ulmus Parvifolia</i> 'Drake'	Chinese Elm	round	large
		Accent	<i>Sapium sebiferum</i>	Chinese Tallow	round	medium
<i>Geijera parvifolia</i>	Australian Willow		round	medium		

E. GOALS AND POLICIES (Continued)

FIGURE 4-4 - CORRIDOR LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

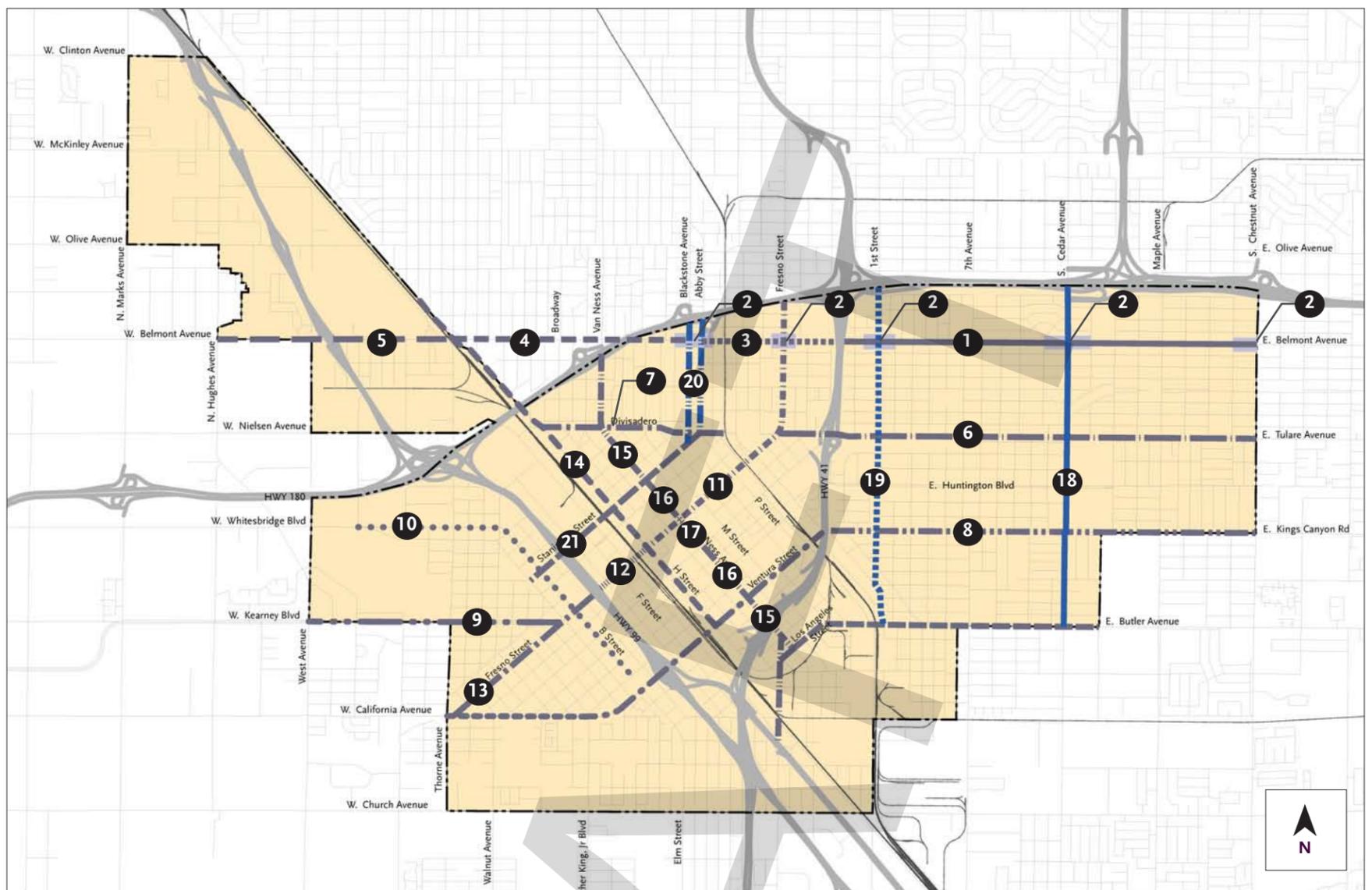
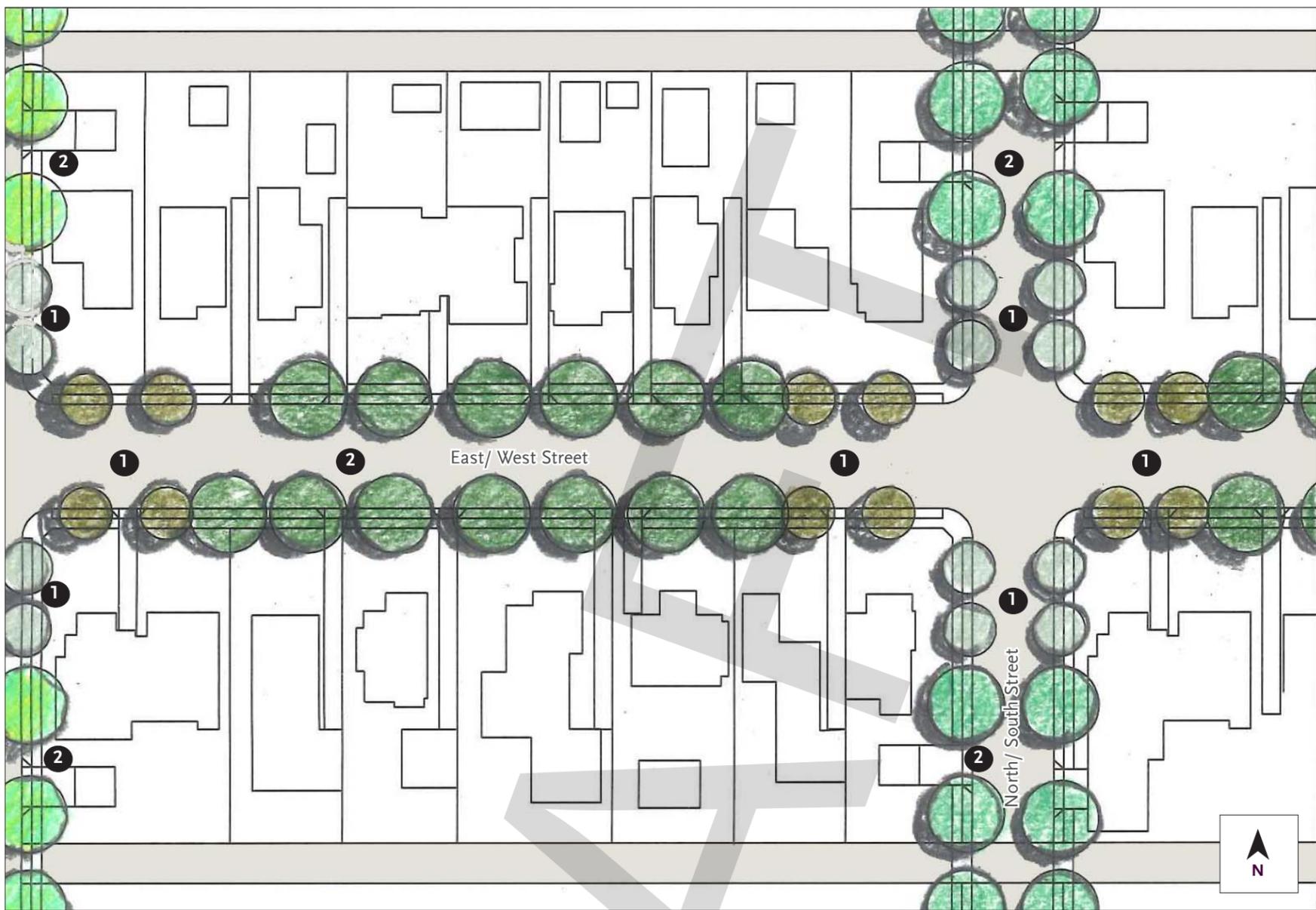


TABLE 4.2: CORRIDOR STREET TREE PLANTING LIST

	Botanical Name	Common Name	Spacing and Notes
1	<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>	Chinese Evergreen Elm	40 foot spacing
2	<i>Cedrus deodara</i>	Himalayan Cedar	in medians
3	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	Fairmont Maidenhair	30 foot spacing
4	<i>Diospyros virginiana</i> <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	American Persimmon (male species) Sour Gum	40 foot spacing; alternating
	(alternate) <i>Phoenix canariensis</i> (Existing) <i>Chionanthus retusus</i>	Canary Island Date Palm Chinese Fringe	Alternating
5	<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>	Camphor Tree	40 foot spacing
6	<i>Pinus canariensis</i>	Canary Island Pine	40 foot spacing
7	<i>Fraxinus Americana</i>	Autumn Applause	35 foot spacing
8	<i>Zelkova serrata</i> <i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>	Green Vase Indian Variety	40 foot spacing; alternating
	<i>Zelkova serrata</i>	Green Vase	40 foot spacing
	<i>Zelkova serrata</i> <i>Cercis Canadensis</i>	Green Vase 'Oklahoma' Eastern Redbud	40 foot spacing; alternating
9	Existing street character of palms, eucalyptus's, and oleanders to remain		
10	<i>Quercus robur</i> <i>Arbutus marina</i>	Fastigiata Marina Strawberry	40 foot spacing; alternating
11	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> <i>Quercus ilex</i>	Sour Gum Holly Oak	30 foot spacing; alternating
	(alternate) <i>Phoenix dactylifer</i> <i>Platanus acerifolia</i>	Date Palm Columbia Plane	30 foot spacing
12	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	Fairmont Maidenhair	35 foot spacing
13	<i>Zelkova serrata</i>	Green Vase Sawleaf	35 foot spacing; in medians and parkways
14	<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i> <i>Cedrus deodara</i>	Golden Rain Himalayan Cedar	40 foot spacing; alternating
15	<i>Tilia cordata</i>	Littleleaf Linden	35 foot spacing
16	<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i> <i>Chionanthus retusus</i>	Golden Rain Chinese Fringe	30 foot spacing; alternating
17	<i>Cupressus arizonica</i> <i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Blue Pyramid Eastern Redbud	40 foot spacing; alternating
18	<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holly Oak	40 foot spacing
19	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	'Russet' Southern Magnolia	35 foot spacing
20	<i>Pinus canariensis</i> <i>Cercis Canadensis</i>	Canary Island Pine 'Oklahoma' Eastern Redbud	40 foot spacing; alternating
21	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> <i>Cercis Canadensis</i>	Sour Gum 'Oklahoma' Eastern Redbud	40 foot spacing; alternating

FIGURE 4-5 - STREET TREE INFILL STRATEGIES



An example of a street tree infill strategy to reinforce a neighborhood's character through the use of trees.

Key

1 Neighborhood character trees

Groupings of four trees at each end of a typical residential block. The groupings of selected character trees shall continue for the entire length of street within a Neighborhood. Street trees located between the character trees may vary from block to block over the length of a street.

2 Street trees

One street tree species shall be selected for each block. When existing street trees occur for the entire length of a street (e.g. all blocks along the entire length of the street), use the Street Tree Coverage Calculation at right to determine the percentage of coverage. For streets that have less than 30 percent of the length of their entire block planted with existing trees, a new tree species may be selected from **Table 4.1** (Neighborhood Street Tree Planting List) for that street. For streets that have more than 30 percent of their entire length planted with existing trees, plant the remaining portion of the street with the predominant species or predominate mature species. The street tree species can vary over the length of a street but should be the same species on a block by block basis.

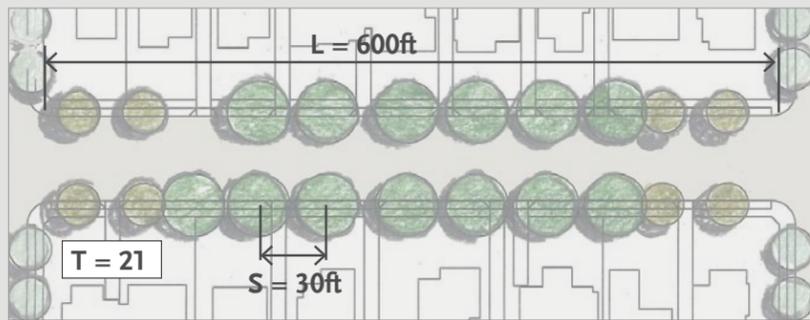
Street trees should be reasonably aligned with each other from one side of the street to the other. In cases where alignment is not possible due to obstructions such as lights, telephone poles, and driveways, adjust the position of trees to fit as best as possible. Where adjustment is not possible, it is acceptable to have a "missing tooth" within the street tree composition. The massing of the street tree species and eventual canopy is more important than alignment.

For solar exposure in the winter and summer months, it is encouraged to plant north/south streets predominately with evergreen trees and east/west streets with deciduous trees. This allows for maximum protection from the western setting sun and allows more sun access during winter months when the sun angle is low.

Street Tree Coverage Calculation (using the diagram below as an example)

- 1) Measure length of the street (L) and multiply by 2
 $2 \times L = 2L$
 $[2 \times 300\text{ft} = 600\text{ft}]$
- 2) Count the number of trees (T) on each side and multiply by the tree spacing width (S)*
 $T \times S = TS$
 $[21 \times 30\text{ft} = 630\text{ft}]$
- 3) Divide #1 by #2
 $TS/2L$
 $[630\text{ft} / 600\text{ft} = 0.952]$
- 4) Multiply #3 x 100 to find percentage
 $100 \times (TS/2L) = \%$
 $[100 \times 0.952 = 95\%]$

* Assume 30 foot spacing for neighborhood streets and 40 foot spacing for commercial/arterial four-lane streets



E. GOALS AND POLICIES (Continued)

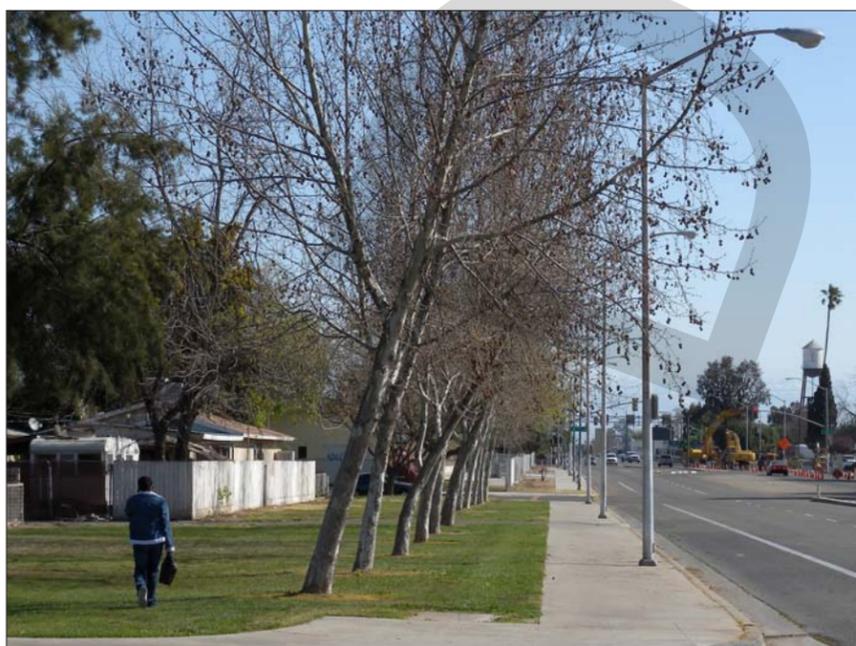
4.4 Increase access to parks and open spaces, aiming for all residences to be within walking distance of a park or open space facility.

Intent: To increase park use, foster important social interaction with neighbors, beautify the city, increase property values, promote good health through increased opportunities for physical activity.

4.4.1 Increase access to existing and new parks, tot lots, and playing fields with the goal of having all residents within a 1/2 mile walk distance (a ten minute walk) of a park or publicly accessible open space. See **Figure 4-6** (Potential Access to Open Space with Joint-Use of Existing School Playfields, Vacant Land, and Drainage Basins). Prioritize the location of new parks and open spaces to areas lacking park space within 1/2 mile, as generally shown in **Figure 4-1**. Methods of increasing access include:

- ▶ • Establishing joint-use agreements with the Fresno Unified School District to share school fields, playgrounds, gyms, auditoriums, and aquatic facilities in order to provide a wider range of recreation programs and maximize the efficient use, maintenance, and supervision of public facilities (RCP 1-15.8). These additional facilities can increase the amount of park amenities without the need to purchase and develop additional park facilities.
- Working with the Department of Public Utilities and the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District to introduce parks, tot lots, and playing fields on/or adjacent to ponding/recharge basins.
- Utilizing current city-owned vacant land for park uses. The transformation of vacant land into parks can be phased over time.
- Introducing new small, active-use parks in order to provide open space for surrounding residents and employees. The parks could be developed by the City or as part of individual development projects.
- Prioritizing the development of new park sites in substantially developed areas. (RCP 1-15.3)
- Negotiating with Caltrans (and other public agencies or private property owners) to develop remnant parcels along the freeway corridors.
- Evaluating other underutilized parcels (such as the abandoned railroad spur track northwest of the Tulare Street and Cedar Avenue intersection) for potential mini-park sites or landscaped public areas. (RCP 1-15.4)

- ▶ **4.4.2** Where feasible, surround existing parks with development that includes front doors and windows that face the park, so that building occupants can see the park and provide a feeling of safety and deter criminal activity.
- ▶ **4.4.3** Promote safety, accessibility and compatibility between parks and adjacent residential areas through creative design, adequate maintenance, and enforcement of regulations regarding littering and consumption of alcohol in public parks. (RCP 1-15.9)
- 4.4.4** Require the installation of security lighting for parking, points of access, and building areas at all public recreation and park sites. (RCP 1-15.10)
- 4.4.5** Ensure that tot lots, informal greens, playing fields, plazas, and recreation programs and services, meet the diverse needs of users including seniors, youth, non-English speaking groups, and special needs groups.
- 4.4.6** Improve existing parks in the Downtown Neighborhoods to a level that meets the physical activity, leisure, and social needs of area residents and employees.
- 4.4.7** Use parks to protect resources and wildlife, enhance water and air quality, and improve sustainability for new and existing parks. Develop smart irrigation systems using the latest Certus Management Information System (CMIS) data, plan to use reclaimed water systems for parks where and when available, limit turf grass to recreational areas, and offset water needs by using low water plant material in non-recreational areas.
- ▶ **4.4.8** On an on-going basis, develop a variety of funding and financing sources to pay for the construction and maintenance of new parks, tot lots and playing fields.
- 4.4.9** Use parks as a redevelopment tool. Parks enhance property values, contribute to healthy and productive work forces, and help attract and retain businesses.
- 4.4.10** Low water use plant materials shall be determined by the latest published list of Water Use Classification of Landscape Species (WUCOLS) for the Central Valley Fresno area.
- 4.4.11** User satisfaction, high user participation, and a high rate of female users is the ultimate validation for a park. Conduct regular surveys of the local park system, attendance by time of day, attendance per park activity, gender of participants, and local demographics for inclusion into a City-Wide Park Plan. Encourage community gardens where appropriate.

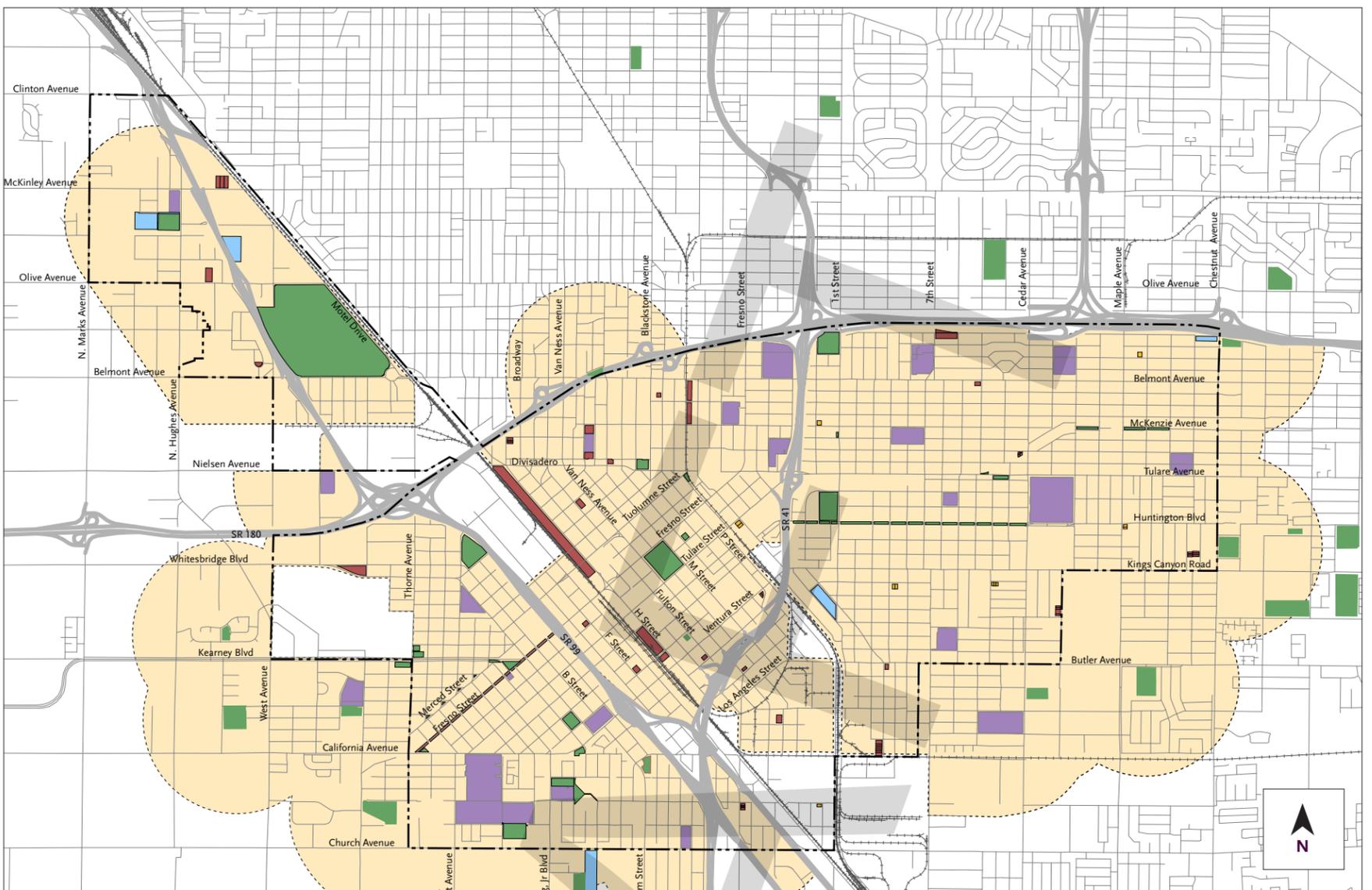


Deciduous trees are planted on east-west streets to take advantage of winter solar access.



Evergreen trees are planted on prominent streets or locations where their full presence is encouraged in all seasons, as seen in Courthouse Park.

FIGURE 4-6 - POTENTIAL ACCESS TO OPEN SPACE WITH JOINT-USE OF EXISTING SCHOOL PLAYFIELDS, VACANT LAND, AND PONDING/ RECHARGE BASINS



Key

- Existing open space
- Existing school parcels with accessible open space
- Existing ponding/ recharge basins
- Potential new open space location
- Potential new open space location
- 1/2 mile walking/bicycling radius

DRAFT

E. GOALS AND POLICIES (Continued)

4.5 Provide a network of multi-use trails and linear parks in the downtown neighborhoods in conformance with the 2010 City of Fresno Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trails Master Plan (BMP).

Intent: To provide an off-street trail system that is integrated into the City’s transportation network while also providing opportunities for recreation and access to nature.

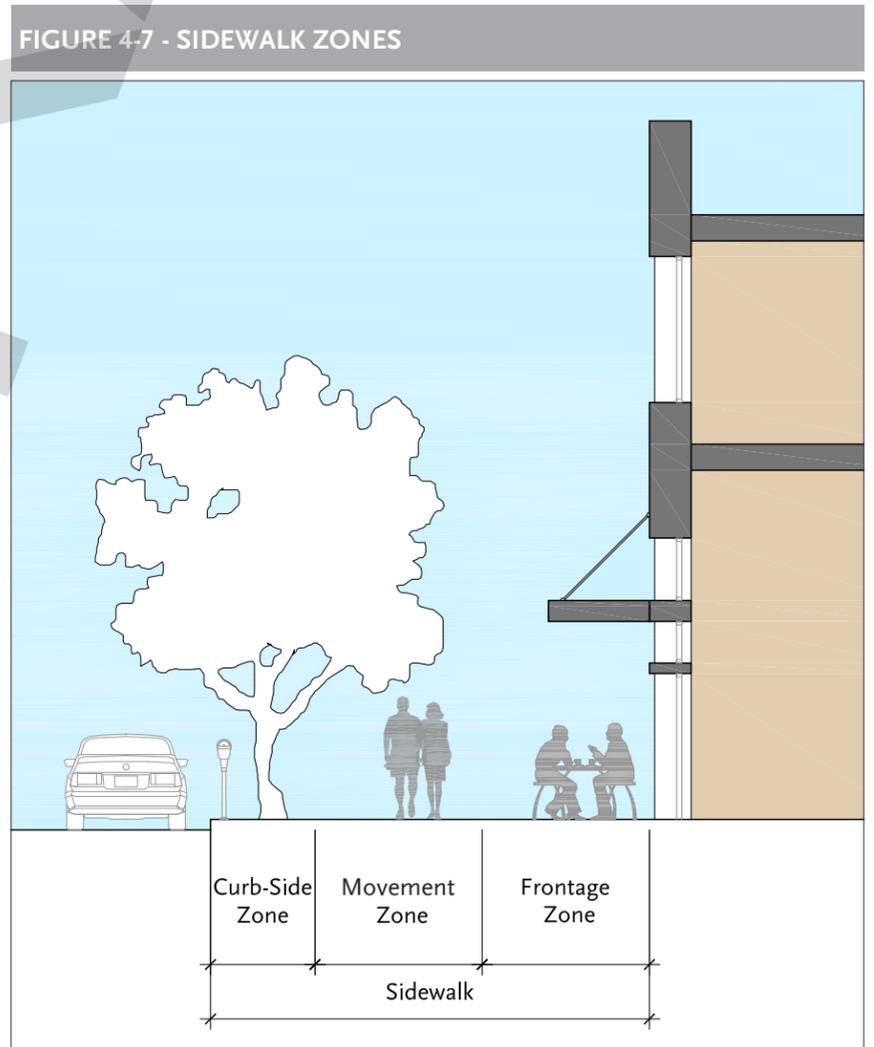
- ▶ **4.5.1** Establish a network of multi-use trails utilizing creeks, canal banks, utility power line easements, railroad right-of-ways, and highway and street corridors to maximize the community’s recreational and open space resources. Refer to the BMP for a map of these bike facilities. (RCP 1-16)
- 4.5.2** Pursue multi-use trails along the Fresno Irrigation District (FID) canal right-of-ways.
- 4.5.3** Introduce regional trails via the TreeTOPS Opportunities for Regional Trails program, specifically in the following locations:
 - The Kearney Park Trail from Kerman to Sanger via Kearney Boulevard;
 - Ventura Street and the railroad spur east along California Street; and
 - The Golden State Trail (along Golden State Boulevard, H Street, and Weber Street).
- 4.5.4** Explore the Union Pacific railroad right-of-way as a potential linear park, community garden, or recreational open space. If redeveloped as public space, utilize sustainable stormwater strategies, such as vegetated swales and curb cuts to cleanse and recharge water.
- 4.5.5** Transform the wide median along McKenzie Avenue between Barton Avenue and Jackson Avenue and between Maple Avenue and Backer Avenue into more inviting park space.
- 4.5.6** Create a running/biking path around the Fairground’s perimeter.

4.6 Generate a safe, inviting, interconnected walkable environment.

- ▶ **4.6.1** In commercial settings, establish a continuous frontage along sidewalks with pedestrian-scaled ground floors with large storefronts.
- ▶ **4.6.2** In order to accommodate pedestrians in commercial settings, divide sidewalks into three distinct zones (see **Figure 4-7** (Sidewalk Zones) as follows:
 - A curb-side zone that buffers pedestrians from vehicular movement and contains lighting poles, street trees, parking meters, and other street furniture. Locate utility boxes and equipment within this zone.
 - A movement zone that accommodates a free and open pathway for the free flow of foot traffic. This zone shall be free of obstructions.
 - A frontage zone between the pedestrian zone and each building for window shopping, sidewalk cafes, and other private enhancements.
- ▶ **4.6.3** Enhance pedestrian comfort through shading from continuous street trees, arcades, and awnings, as well as through pedestrian-scaled lighting, street furniture, and enhanced paving.
- 4.6.4** In commercial settings, encourage sidewalk cafes and similar active uses of the public realm.
- ▶ **4.6.5** Provide an accessible path of travel for all sidewalk users, including people with disabilities.
- ▶ **4.6.6** Prioritize pedestrian access and movement over the location needs of utility boxes and equipment.
- ▶ **4.6.7** Whenever possible, incorporate streetscape improvements into capital improvement projects.



Playground equipment provides a place for neighborhood children to play.



A sidewalk is divided into three pedestrian zones: a curb -side zone, a movement zone, and a frontage zone.