

Boulder Civic Area

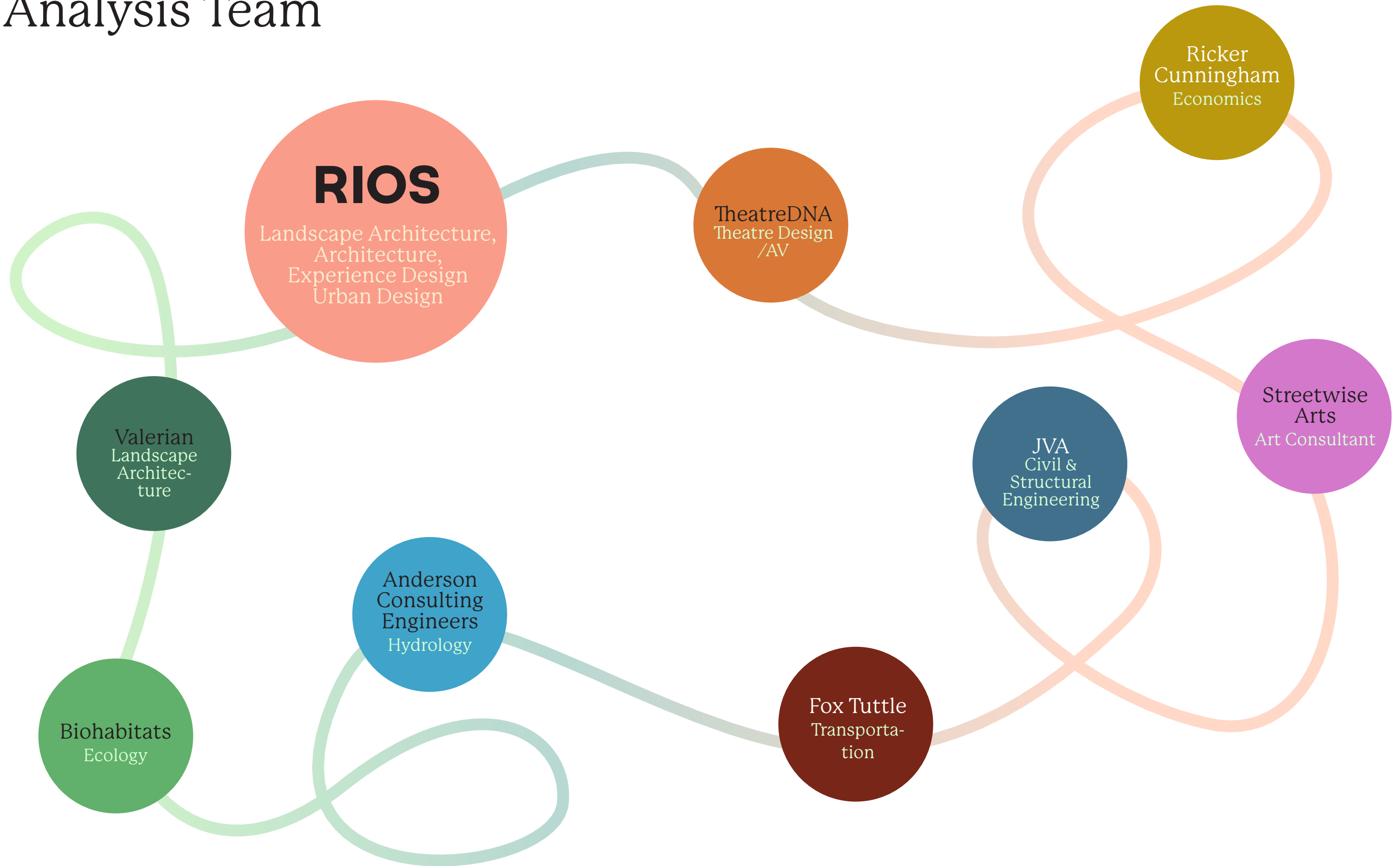
SITE ANALYSIS



RIOS

Introduction

Site Analysis Team





Guiding Framework

Sustainability, Equity and Resilience Framework
Civic Area Plan 7 Guiding Principles
The Park Management Model



Sustainability, Equity and Resilience Framework



The Sustainability, Equity and Resilience Framework establishes the strategic groundwork for Boulder’s city policies, programs, and projects, forming the backbone of the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan, annual budget, and organizational planning efforts. It aims to realize a future in Boulder characterized by equitable access to health, prosperity, and fulfillment, irrespective of race, ethnicity, age, gender, ability, religion, sexuality, or socioeconomic status. The community is committed to readiness, adaptation, and resilience in addressing present and emerging social, economic, and environmental challenges, prioritizing core service delivery and tackling systemic inequities through city policies, practices, programs, and financial decisions.

Goals & Objectives:

Safe

- Positive neighborhood and community relations
- Public infrastructure is well maintained and reliable
- Natural resources, like water, air and land, are protected

Healthy and Socially Thriving

- Access to abundant recreation, cultural and educational opportunities
- Enjoy social, physical and mental well-being

Livable

- Infrastructure that accommodate a diverse set of community needs for working, learning, playing, and living

Accessible and Connected

- Multimodal transportation system

Environmentally Sustainable

- Care for ecosystems
- Support clean energy
- Increase access to and participation in local climate actions
- Reduce the proliferation of non-reusable materials, toxins, and hazardous products

Responsibly Governed

- Strategic decision-making with opportunities for accessible community engagement in multiple languages and timely & reliable data and analysis

Economically Vital

- Promotes creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship, and provides support for small businesses and community-based

Guiding Framework

2015 Civic Area Plan



The Civic Area Plan provides a road map for how the Civic Area can transform into an even more extraordinary place that reflects the community's shared values as well as its diversity.

2015 Civic Area Plan - 7 Guiding Principles

The 2015 Civic Area Plan establishes seven (7) main principles to guide design and development, inclusive of values identified by a rigorous planning process, public engagement effort, and City Council approval.

1 The Civic Heart of Boulder

City Center. Unified Public Space. Space for All.
Boulder’s Civic Area has symbolic, geographic, and functional importance and should serve as an inclusive place for people to interact with each other and with government. The area should be complementary to Pearl Street and Downtown.

2 Life & Property Safety

Flood Safety. Secure and Protected Environment for All.
Boulder’s Civic Area is located within the 100-year flood-plain, with much in the High Hazard Zone (HHZ). Existing conditions within the Civic Area can create unsafe experiences for those visiting, special consideration should be placed

3 Outdoor Culture & Nature

Cohesive Green Space. Creek Access. Recreation.
Boulder’s Civic Area is a central place to enjoy the outdoors in the middle of the city. The linear “green” along Boulder Creek will be a unifying focus, providing natural beauty, ecological function and connection to nature.

4 Celebration of History & Assets

Integrated & Inclusive History. Celebrate Historic Assets.
Boulder’s Civic Area has a historical focus and many long-standing functions and facilities highly valued by the community, such as the library, Sister City Plaza, Farmers’ Market and Teahouse. Historical stories should be celebrated

5 Enhanced Access & Connections

Connected & Multi-modal. Universal Access.
Boulder’s Civic Area has well-used bicycle and pedestrian amenities and convenient transit connections, serving as both an important destination and connector. Travel within and access to the area will continue to be improved to

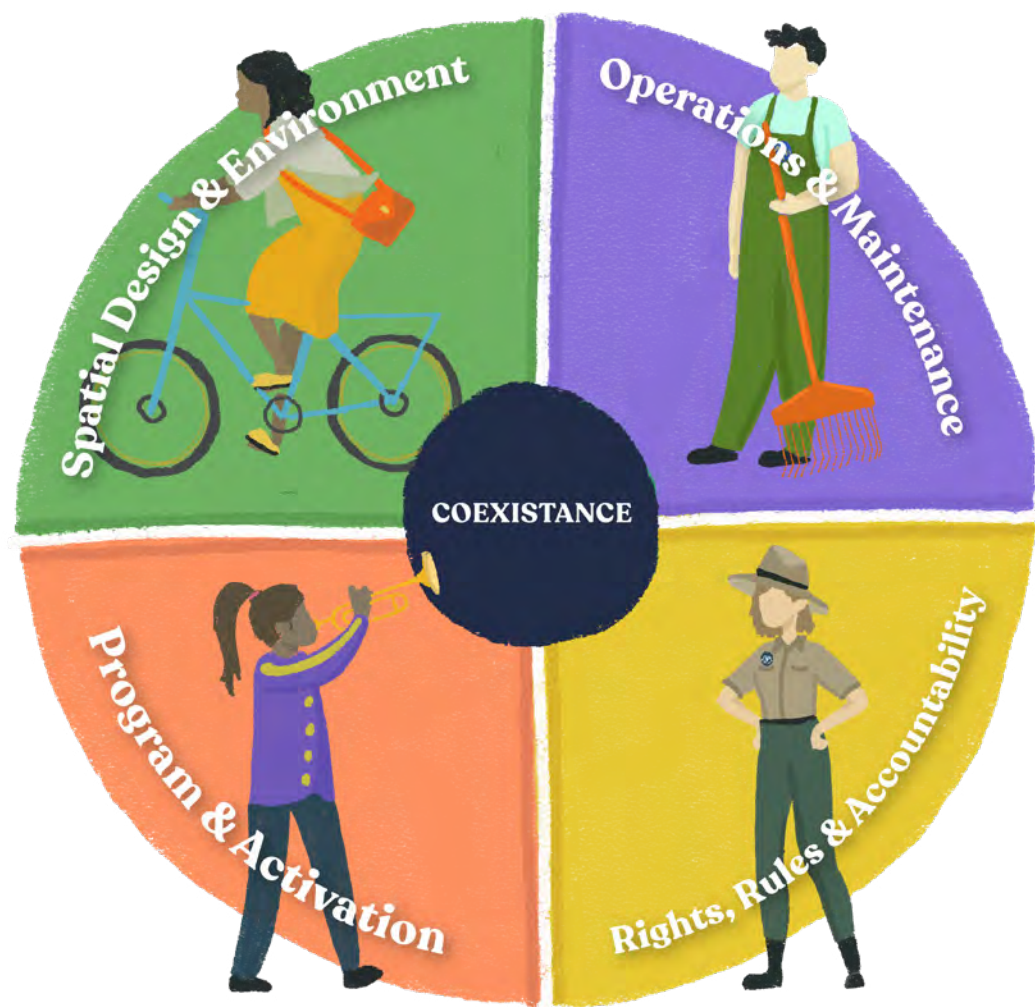
6 Place for Community Activity &

Cultural Hub. Arts and Entertainment. Consistent Activation.
The Civic Area offers potential to become the cultural center of Boulder, fostering cultural, arts, science, educational or entertainment amenities that are otherwise lacking in the community.

7 Sustainable & Viable Future

Environmentally & Economically Sustainable.
All future uses and changes in Boulder’s Civic Area’s public properties will exemplify the community’s sustainability values (i.e., economic, social and environmental).

The Park Management Plan Model



In 2020, SPUR (San Francisco Bay Area Planning and Urban Research Association) partnered with urban design firm Gehl on a long-term research project on San José's largest urban green space, Guadalupe River Park. The Boulder Parks and Recreation Department has identified the Park Management Model as a useful tool for the Boulder Civic Area Phase 2 Project. The Site Analysis has been organized around these four topics, as part of an effort to continually consider the many different factors, systems, and roles that come together to shape a vibrant, successful, equitable public space like the future Boulder Civic

Placemaking

Spatial design and the physical features that give shape to a place

Space Activation

The programming, uses and activities that draw people into a space

Taking Care of What We Have

The maintenance, operations and stewardship of a place

Social Behaviors

The standards that create a shared civic life through rules, rights and ac-



CIVIC AREA PARK PLAN

Site Analysis Key Findings

Site Context
Project Site
7 Guiding Principles: Opportunities & Constraints



Site Context

Boulder City Limits + Boulder Creek



Site Context

Boulder Context



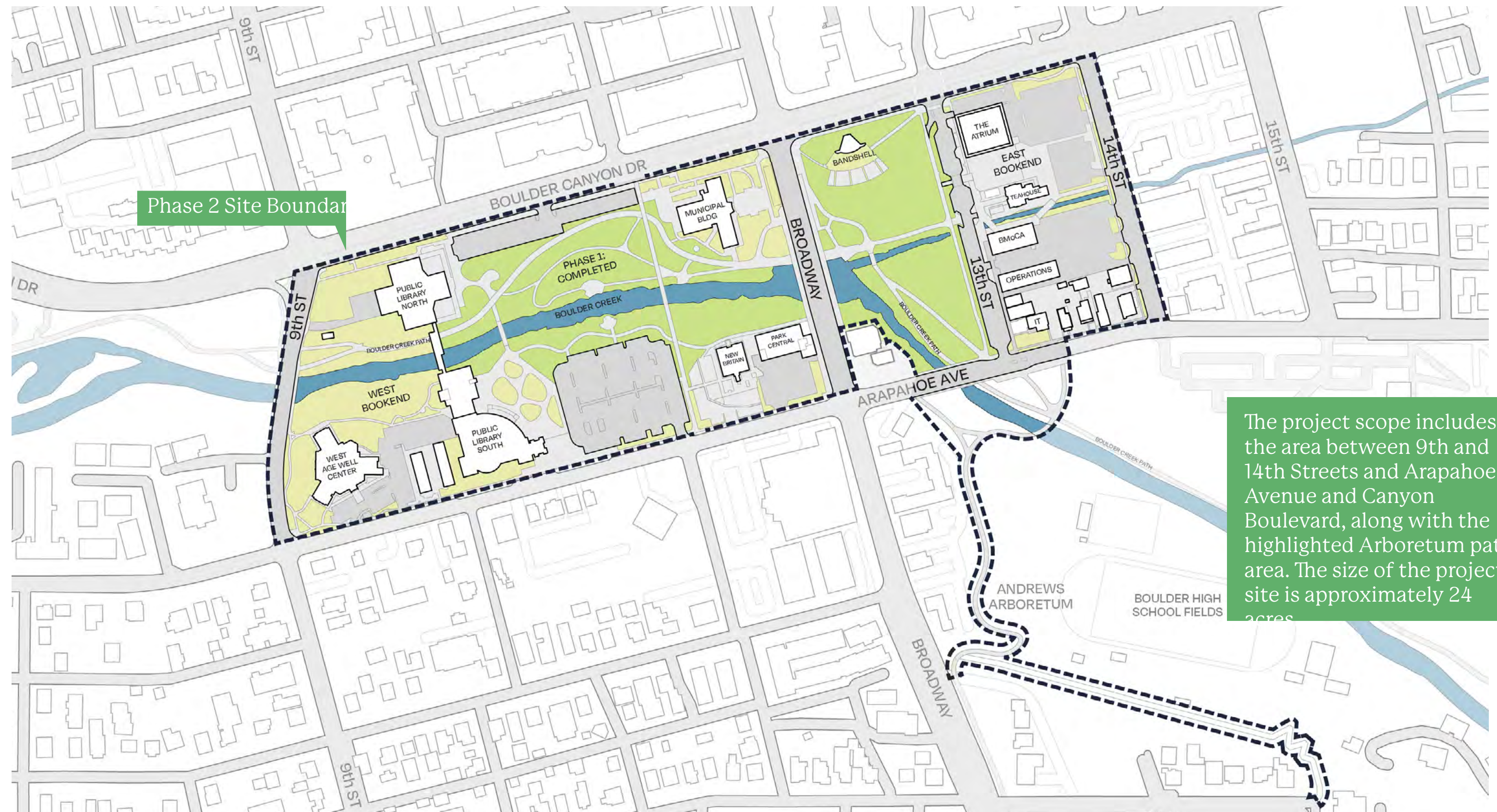
Site Context

Downtown Boulder



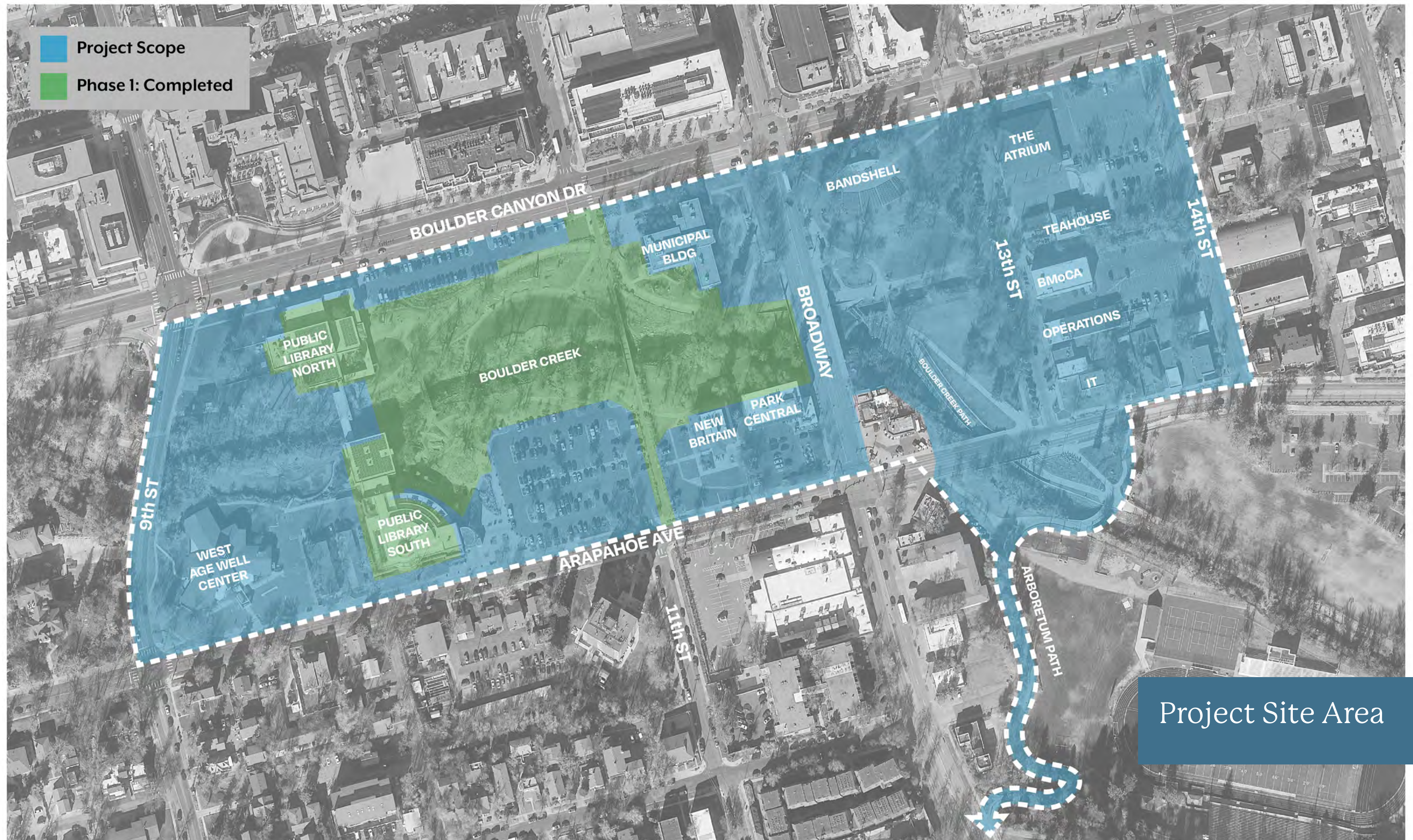
Site Context

Phase 2 Site Boundary



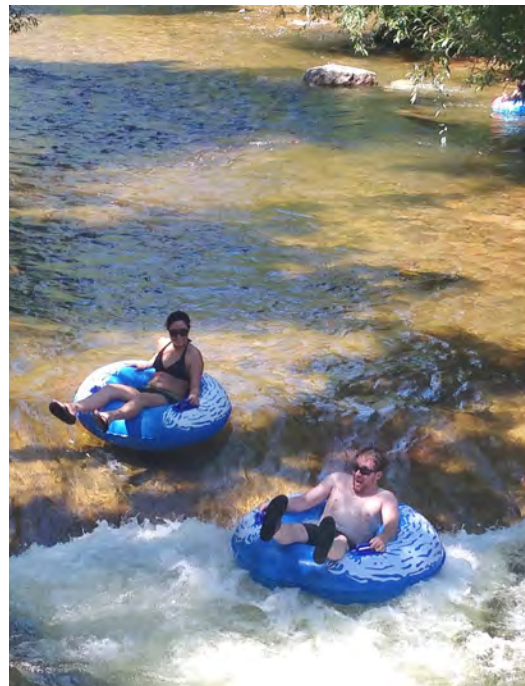
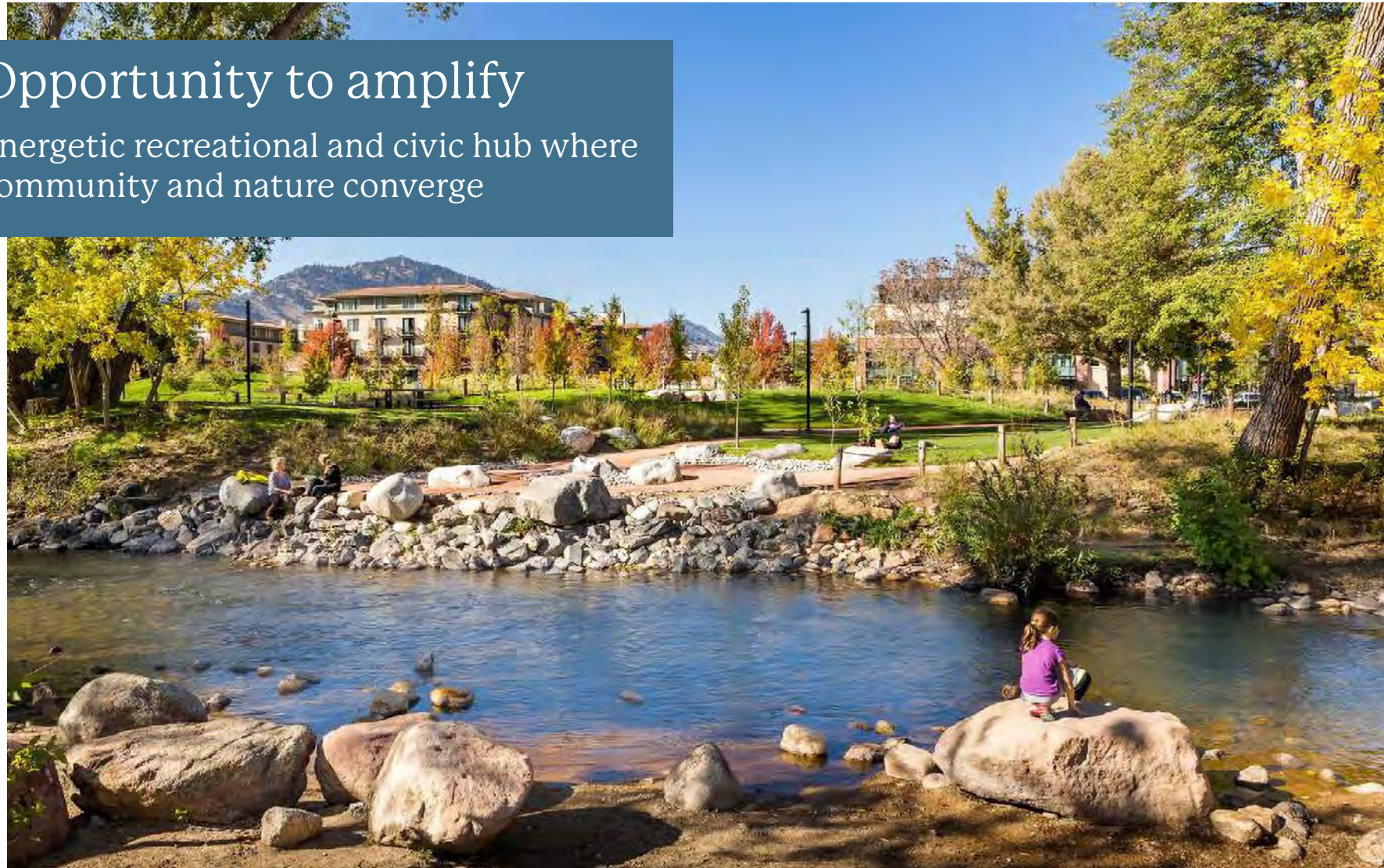


The Civic Area today



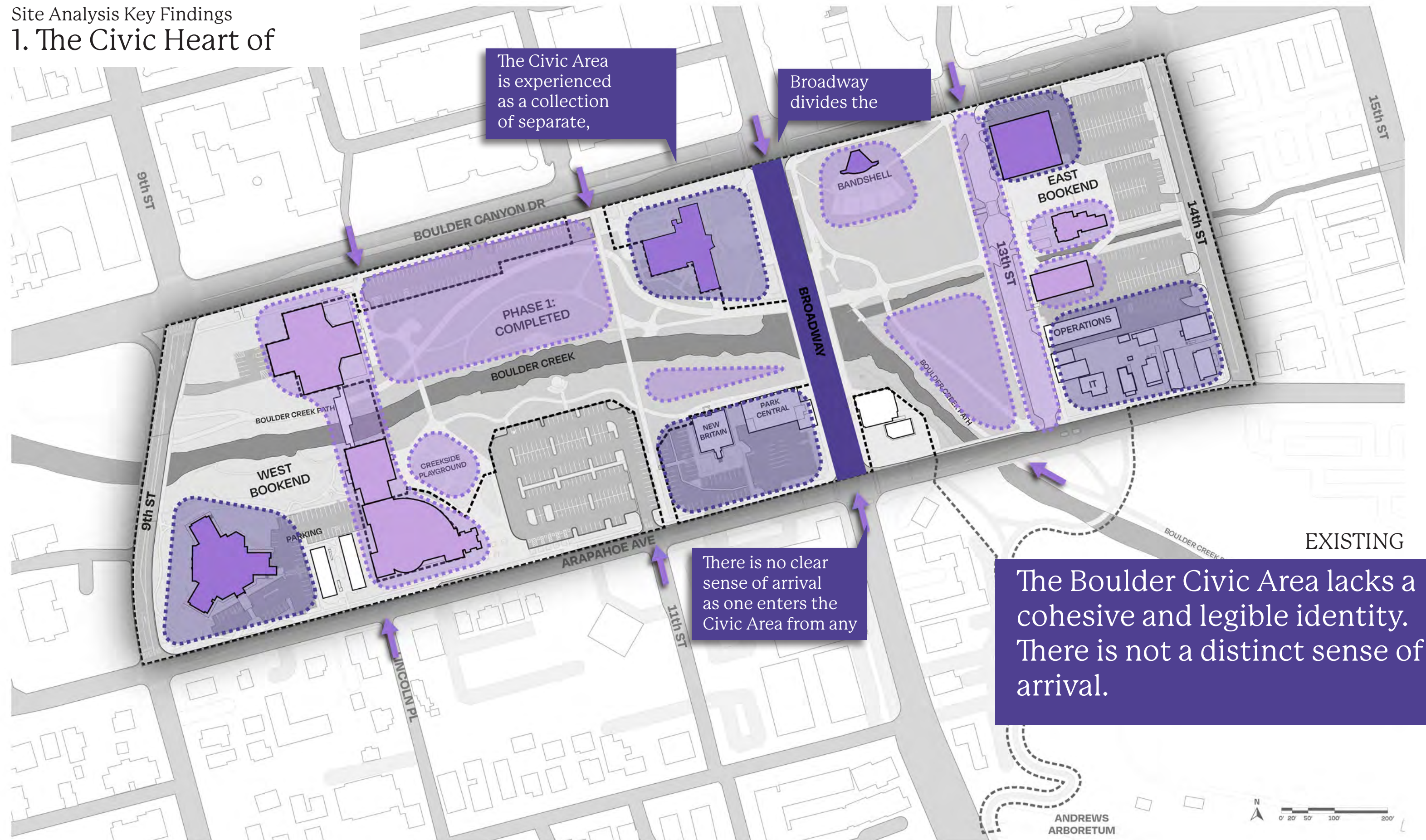
Opportunity to amplify

Energetic recreational and civic hub where community and nature converge



Site Analysis Key Findings

1. The Civic Heart of



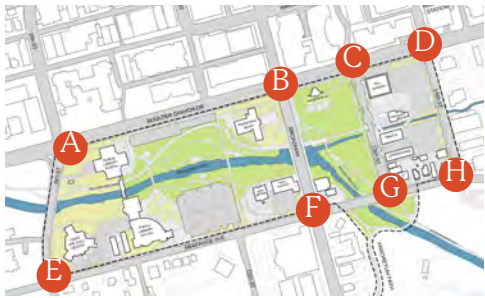
Site Analysis Key Findings

1. The Civic Heart of



Site Analysis Key Findings

1. The Civic Heart of



There is a lack of a “sense of arrival” at the edges and potential gateways into the Civic Area.



A 9th & Canyon Blvd



B Broadway & Canyon Blvd



C 13th & Canyon Blvd



D 14th & Canyon Blvd



E 9th & Arapahoe Ave



F Broadway & Arapahoe Ave



G 13th & Canyon Blvd



H 14th & Arapahoe Ave

Site Analysis Key Findings

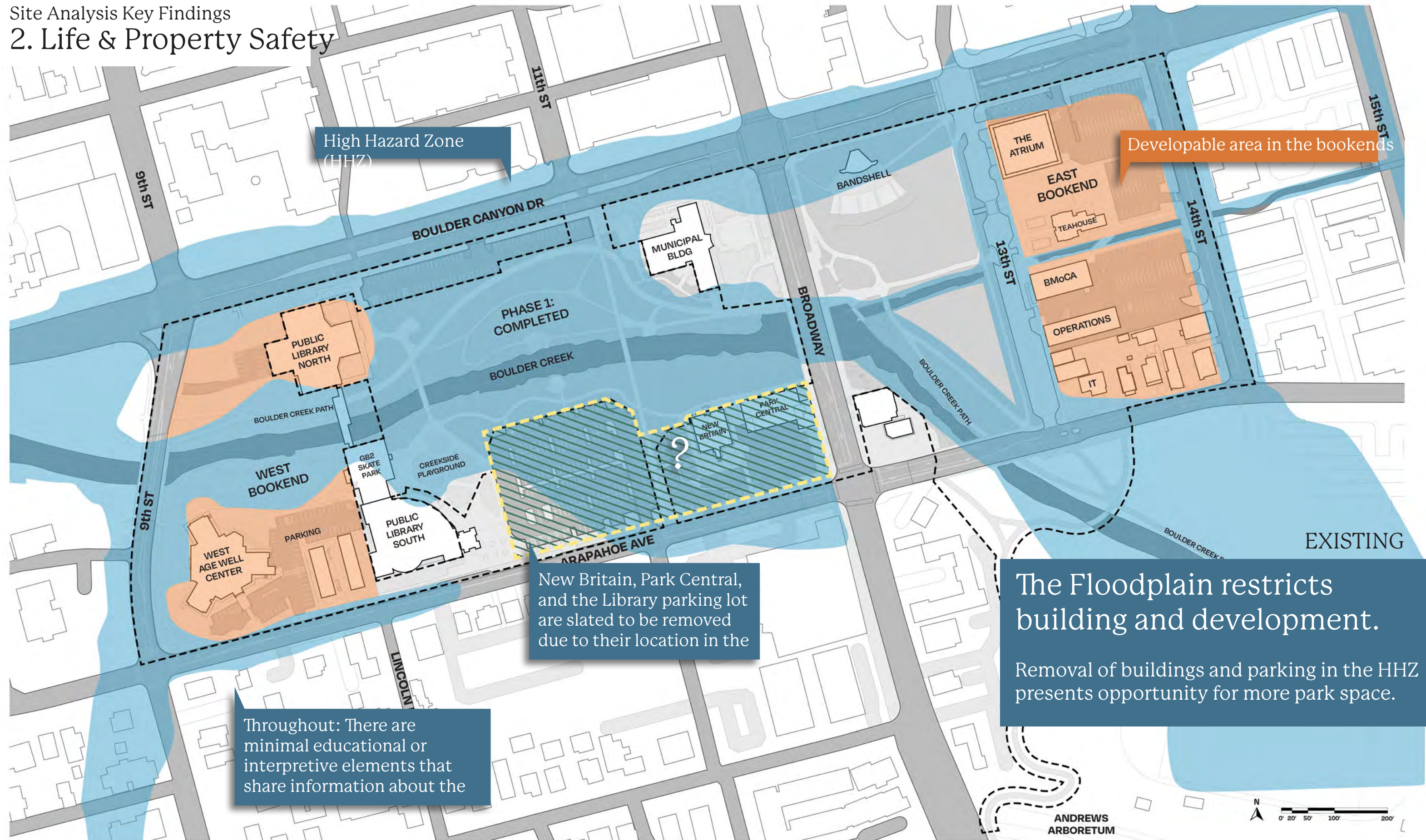
1. The Civic Heart of Boulder

Building upon its central location and diverse assets, the Civic Area is poised to become a green, civic hub.



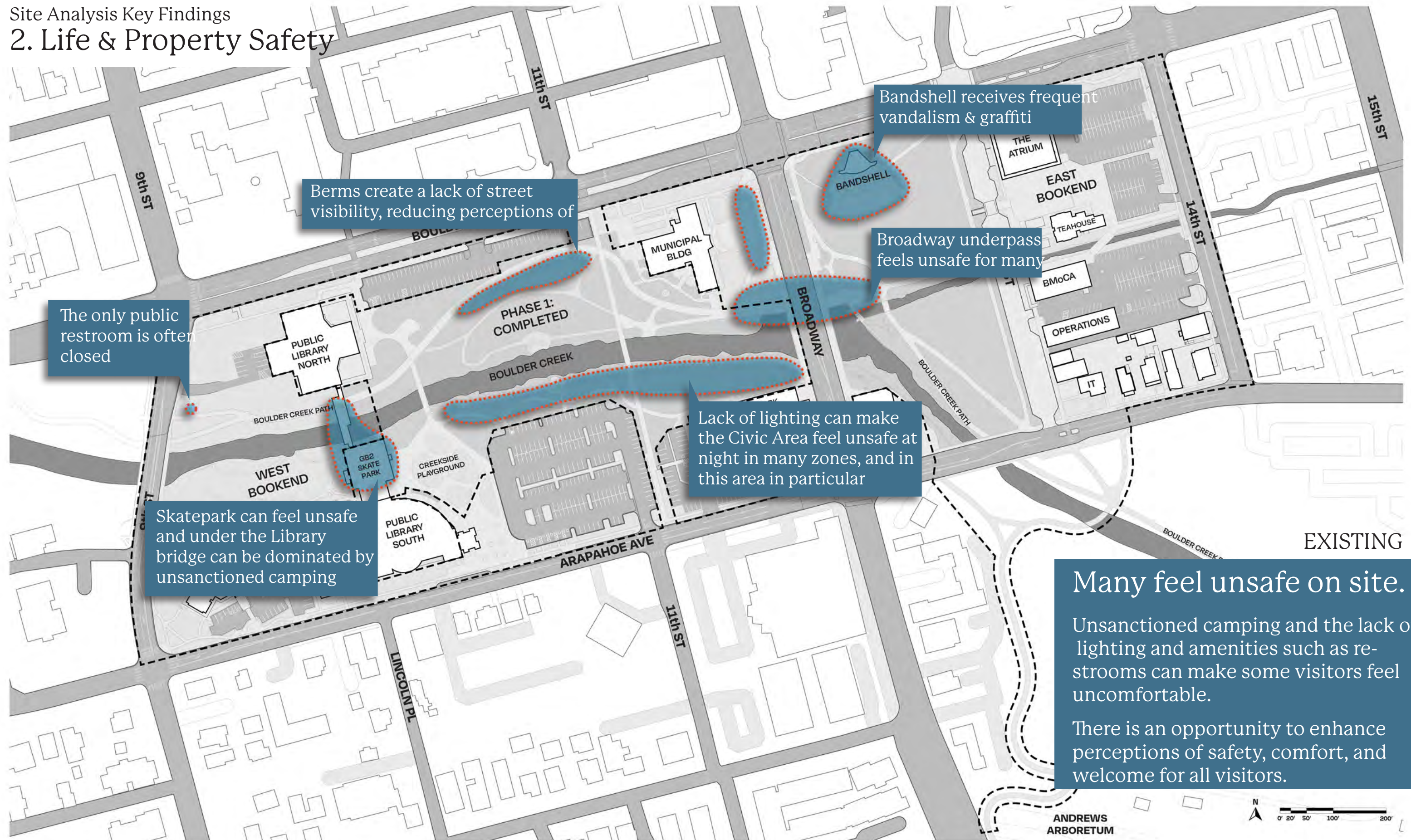
Site Analysis Key Findings

2. Life & Property Safety



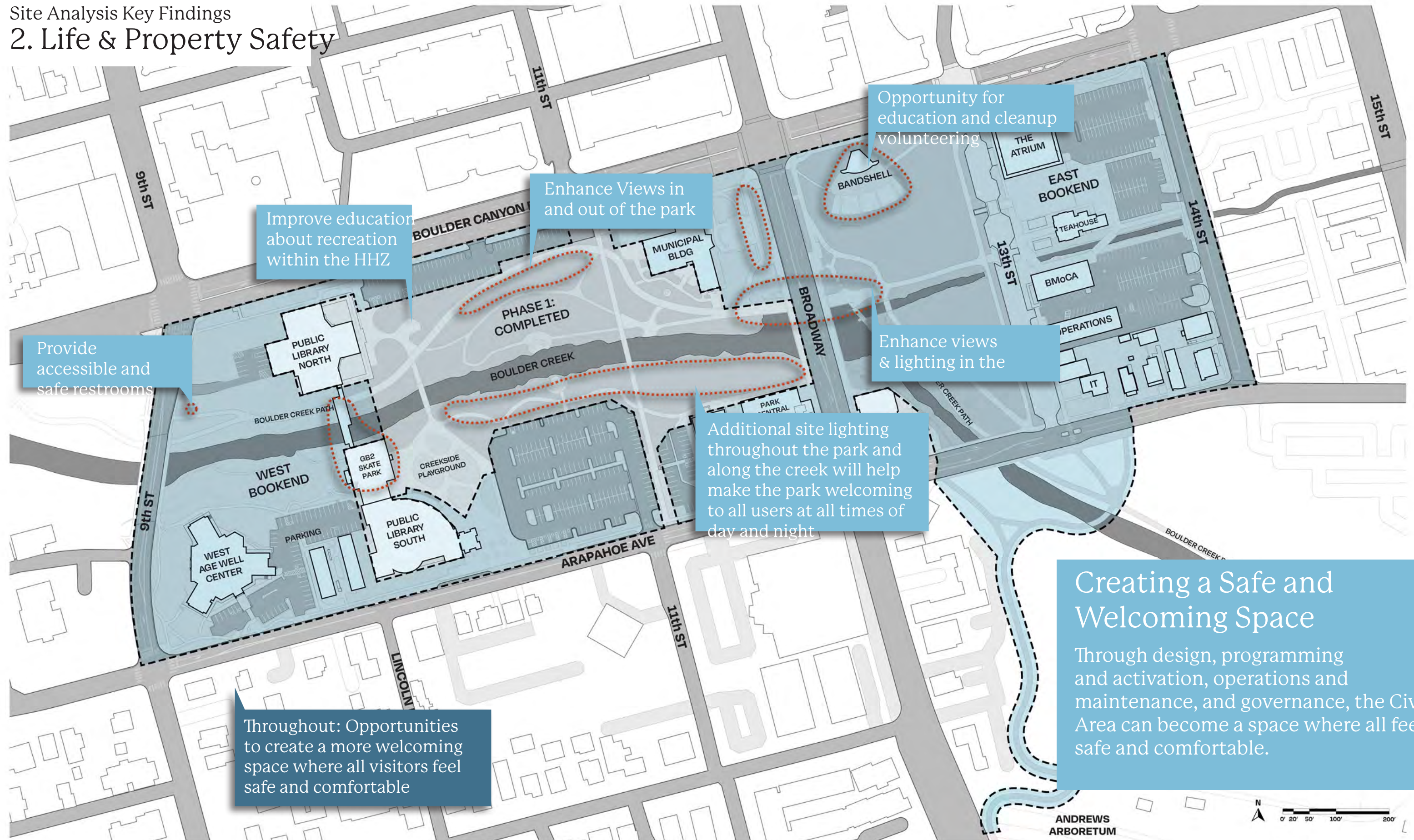
Site Analysis Key Findings

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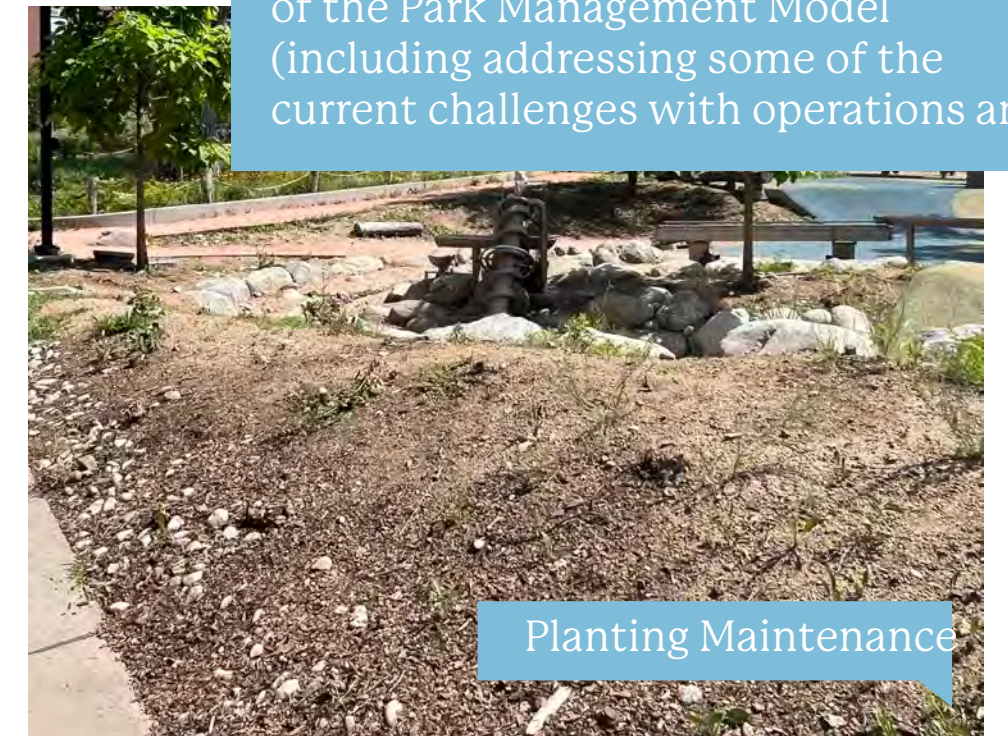
Site Analysis Key Findings

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Site Analysis Key Findings

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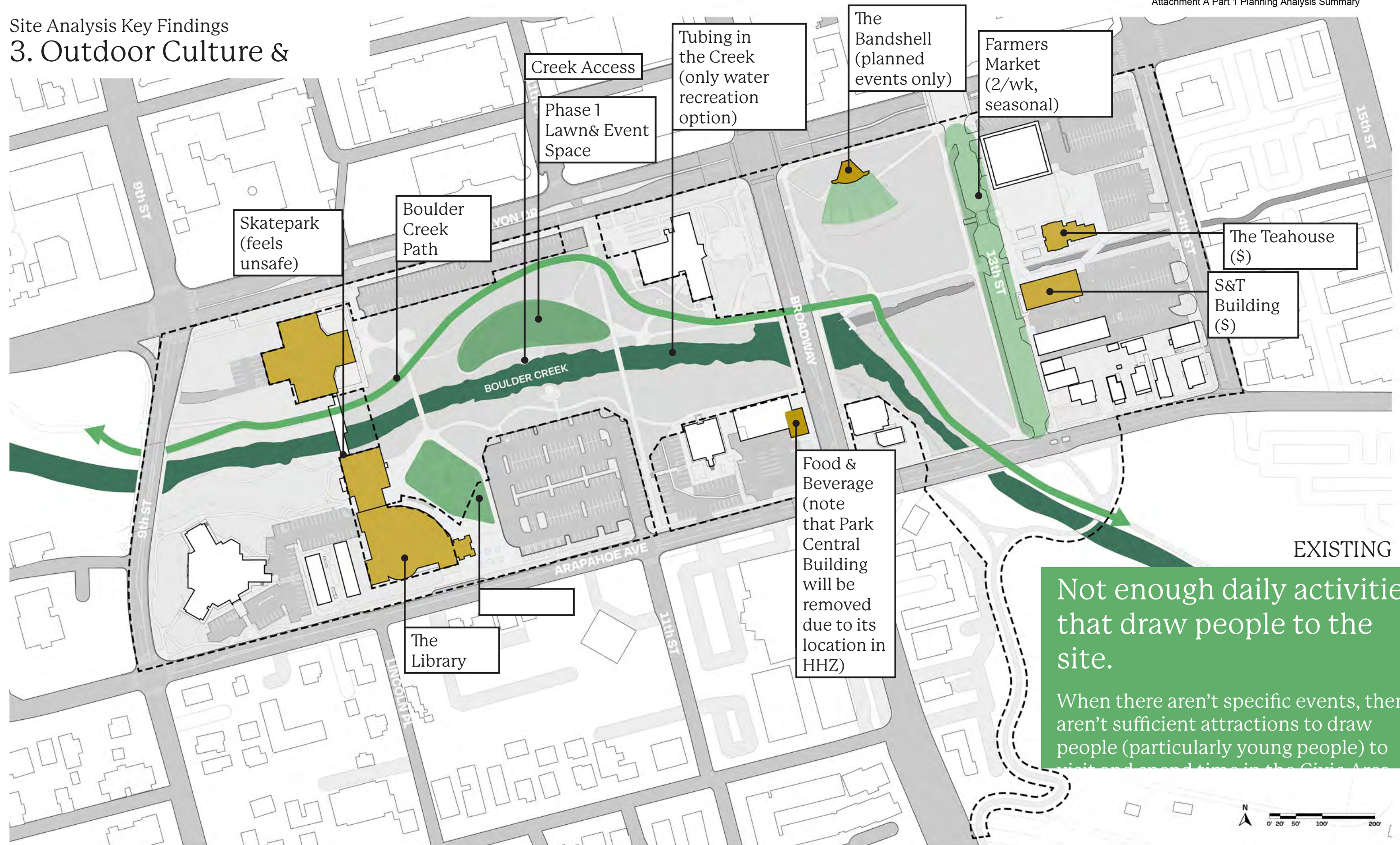


Creating a safe and welcoming space will include efforts in all 4 facets of the Park Management Model (including addressing some of the current challenges with operations and



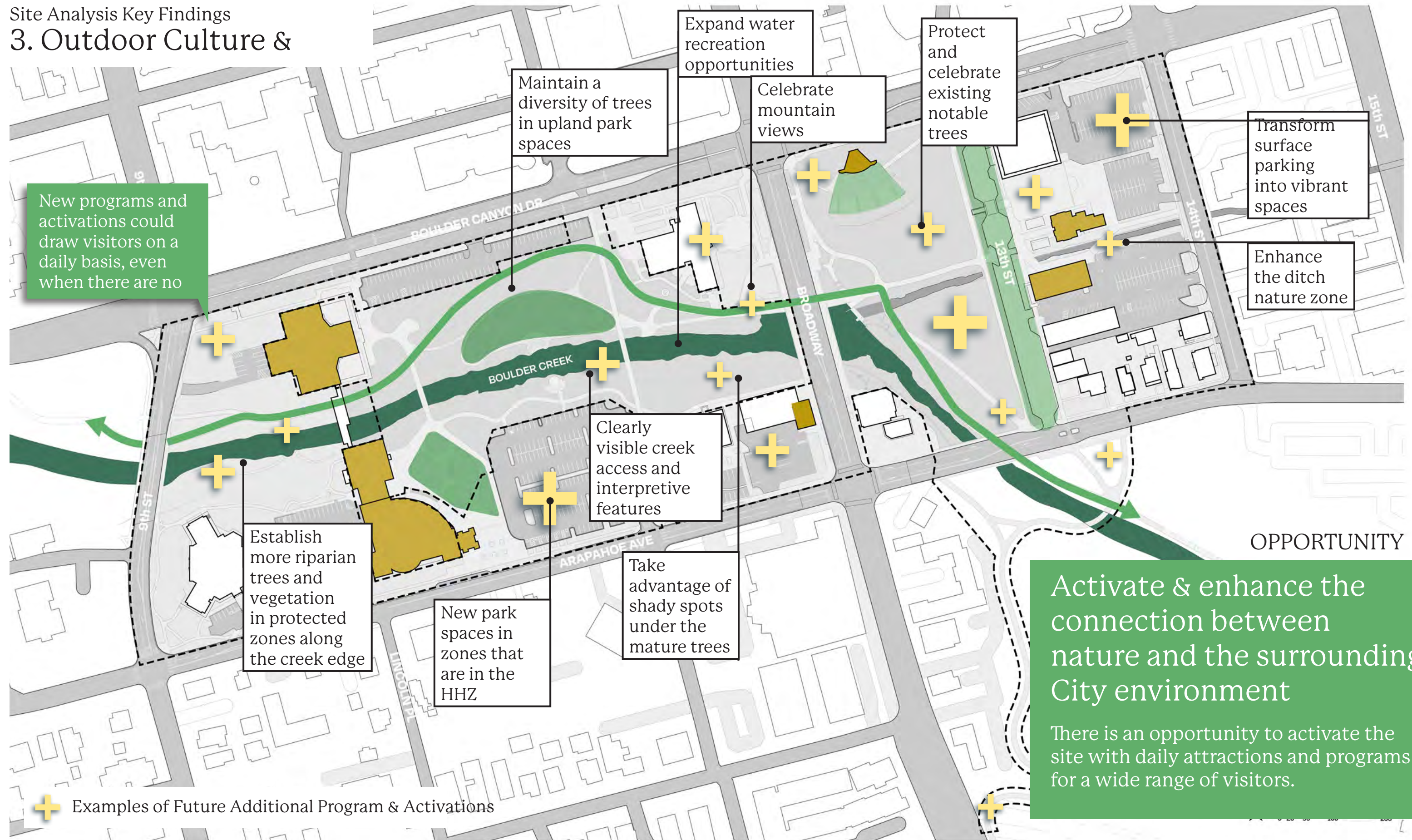
Site Analysis Key Findings

3. Outdoor Culture &



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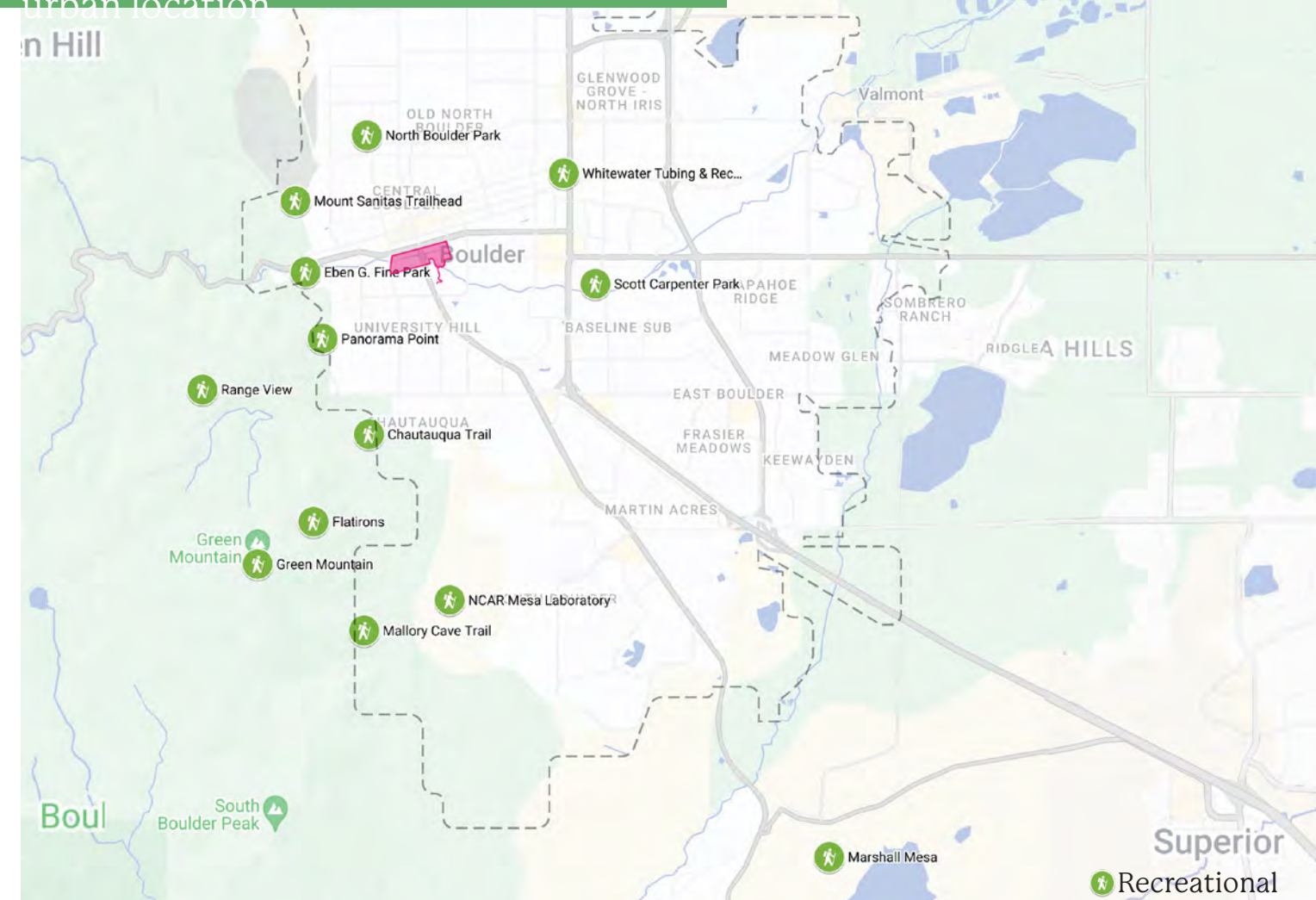


Site Analysis Key Findings

3. Outdoor Culture &

Boulder Attractions —
Recreational

The Civic Area exists in an ecosystem of Boulder's varied outdoor recreation opportunities; it should complement and offer a unique outdoor experience, especially leveraging its historical & cultural significance and urban location



Chautauqua Park



Scott Carpenter Park



The Flatirons



Panorama Point



North Boulder Park



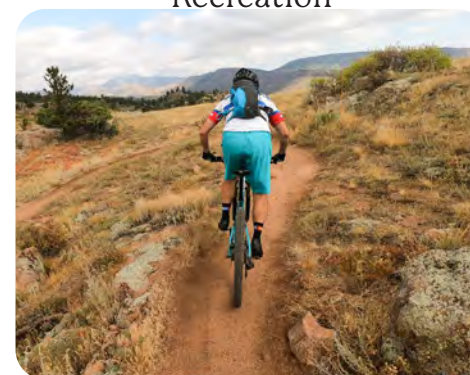
Eben G. Fine Park

Whitewater Tubing &
Recreation

Boulder Reservoir



Marshall Mesa Loop



Bike Trails



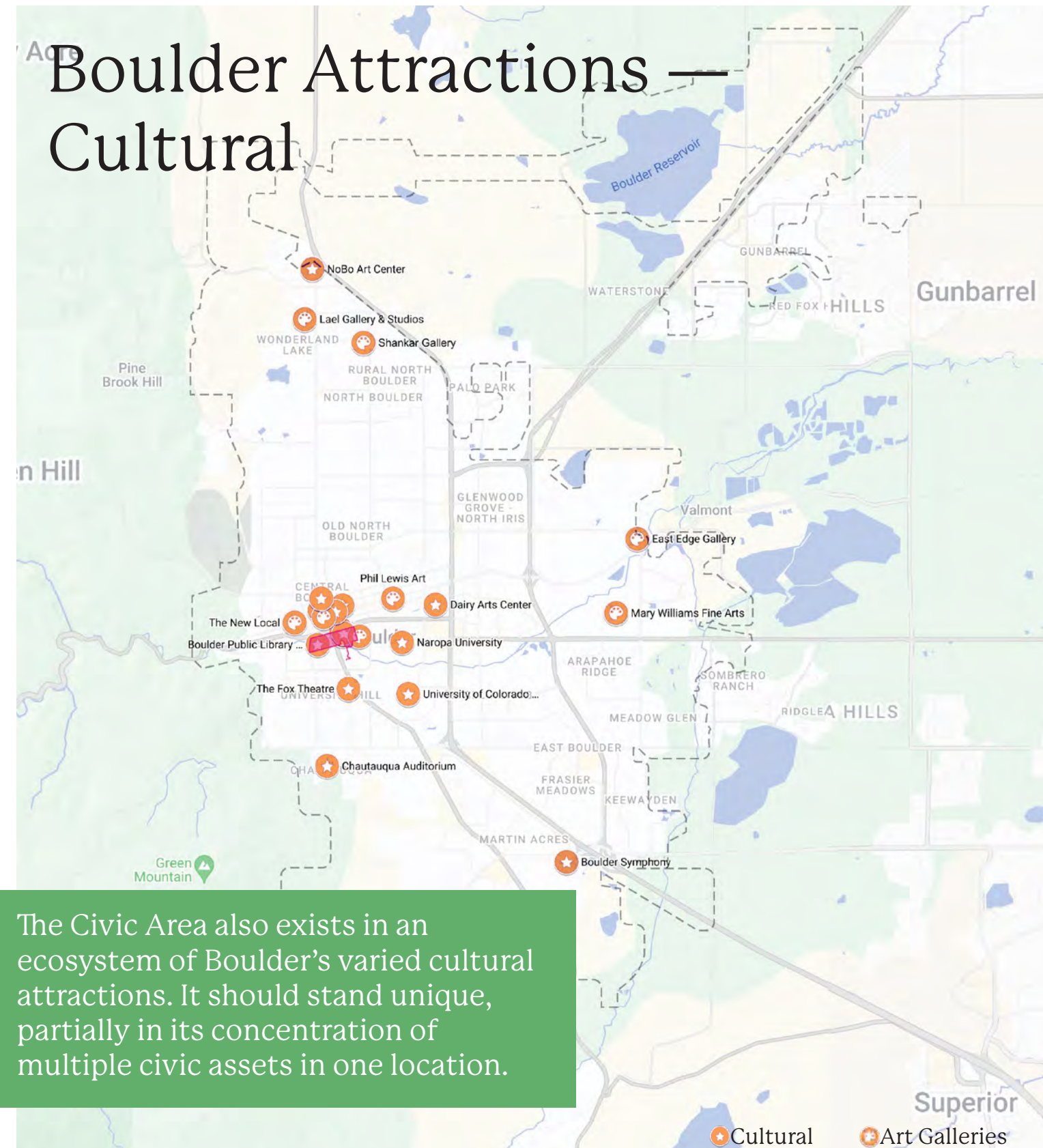
Mount Sanitas Trail



Mallory Cave Trail

Site Analysis Key Findings

3. Outdoor Culture &



Pearl Street Mall



Boulder Dushanbe Teahouse



Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art



Museum of Boulder



Boulder Farmers Market



The Dairy Arts Center



CU Boulder



North Boulder's (NoBo) Art



Boulder Theater



The Fox Theater



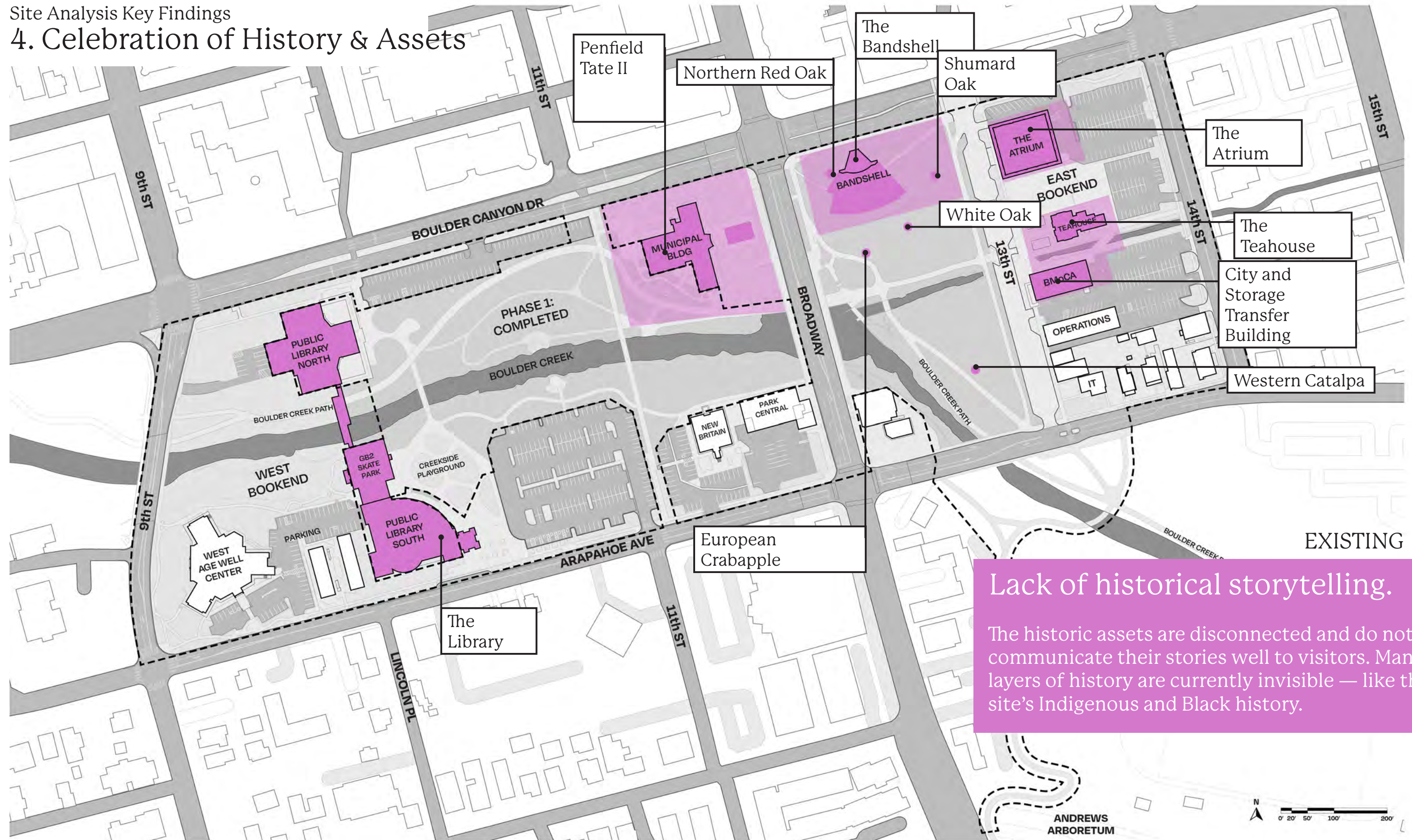
Mackey Auditorium



Chautauqua Auditorium

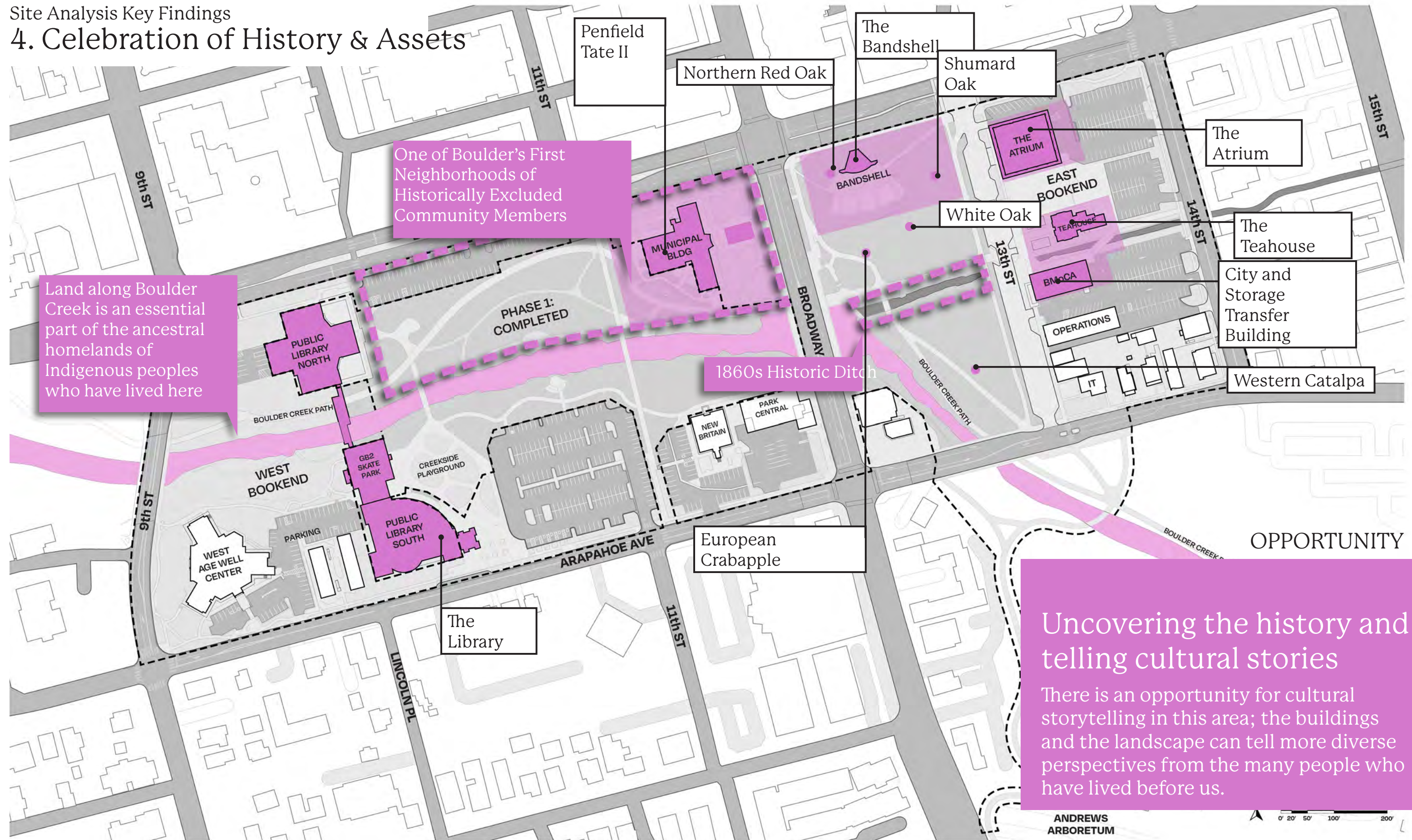
Site Analysis Key Findings

4. Celebration of History & Assets



Site Analysis Key Findings

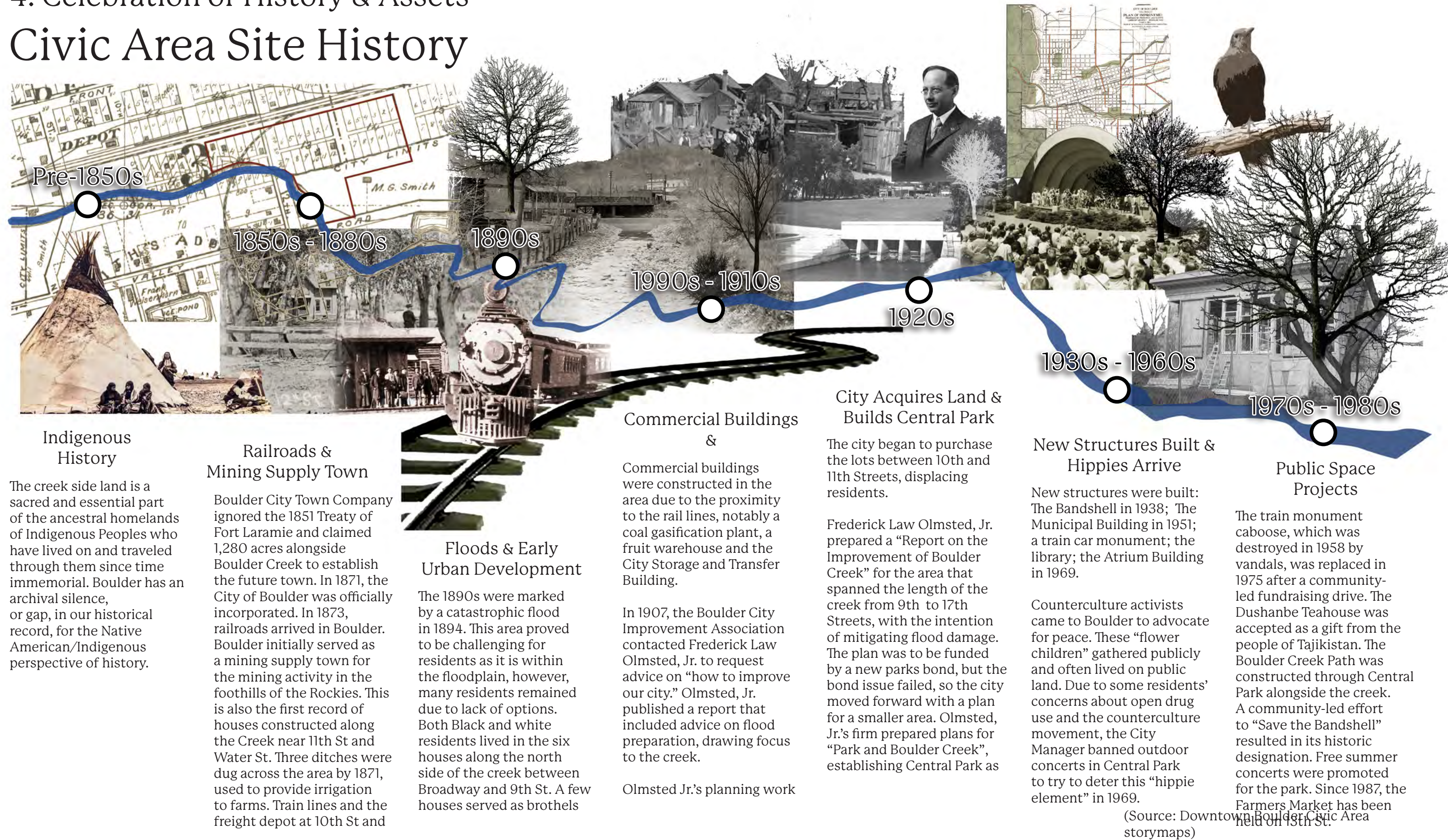
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Site Analysis Key Findings

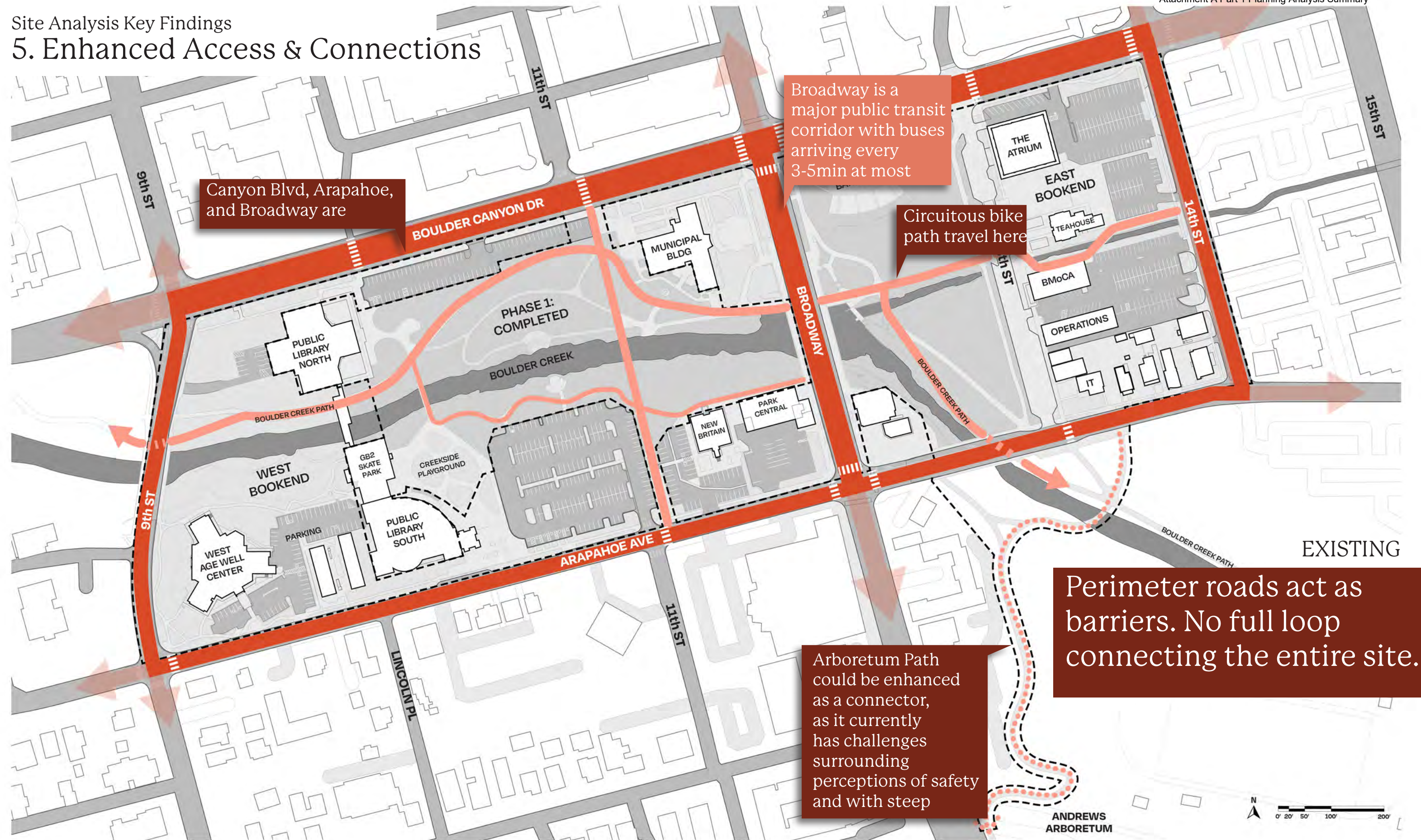
4. Celebration of History & Assets

Civic Area Site History



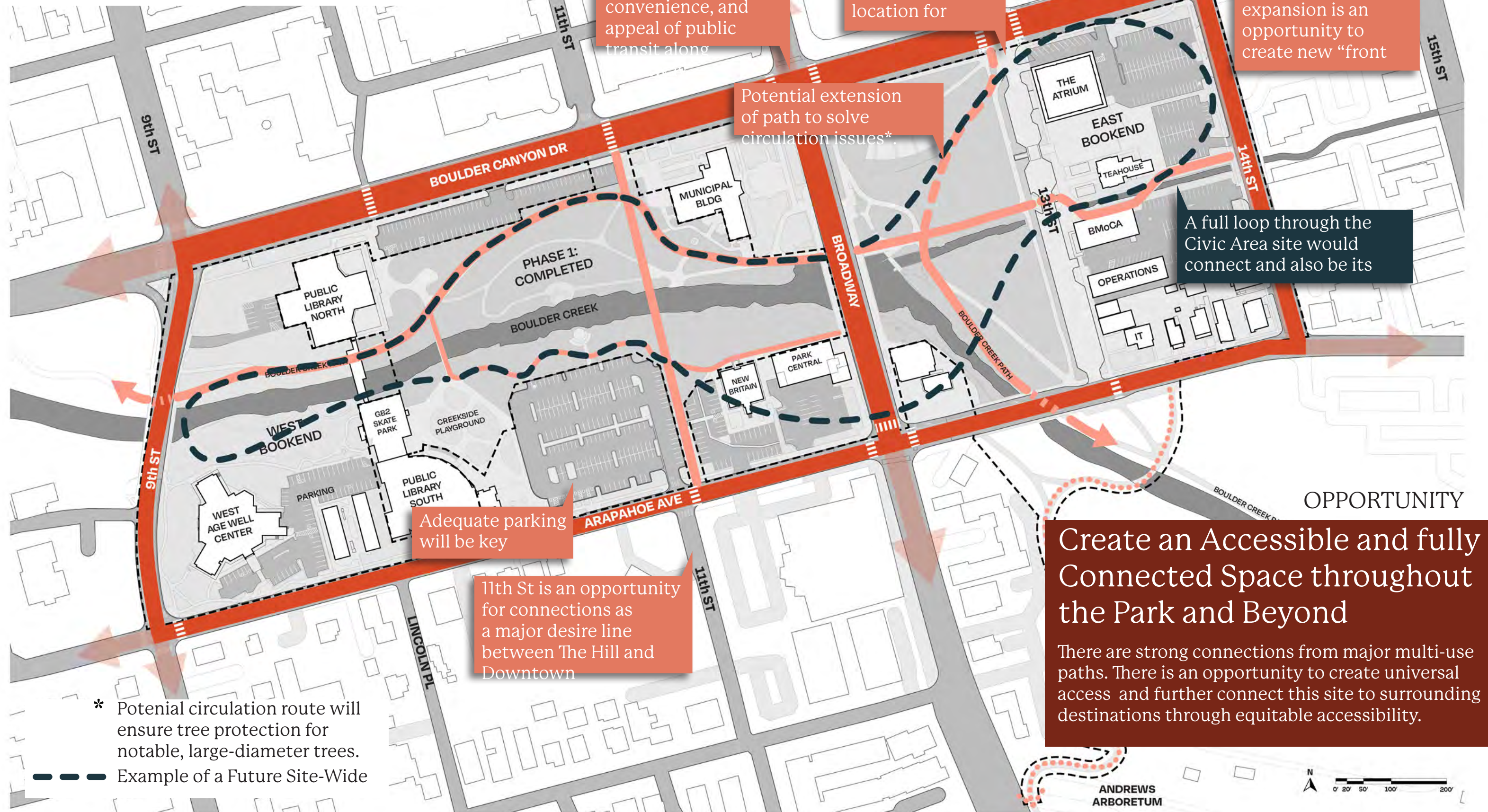
Site Analysis Key Findings

5. Enhanced Access & Connections



Site Analysis Key Findings

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Site Analysis Key Findings

5. Enhanced Access & Connections

Transportation & Mobility Summary

This summary below outlines major transportation and mobility issues facing the Boulder Civic Area. These include addressing barriers posed by adjacent roadways, enhancing connections to transit stations, and optimizing multi-modal access while preserving park space.

Issues Summary

1. Universal and Equitable Access

- Major roadways adjacent to the Park function as access barriers to the site as well as disrupting views and causing noise issues. A review of crossing treatments and signal operations at key crossings should be undertaken. It should be determined whether any new crossing treatments should be added. Streetscape enhancements which would screen the site from these roadways should be also be considered.
- ADA circulation as well as access to programming and amenities should be studied for all disabilities to create a cohesive and welcoming space for all.
- The cost of parking for the park is a barrier. There have been community requests for a free shuttle that accesses the library, park, and Pearl Street to help lower barriers for all community members

2. A strong connection is needed between the Civic Area & the RTD Station.

The additional transit facilities on 14th Street, adjacent to the site, will help provide this connection. The site design should connect 14th Street to the east end with walking and bicycling facilities.

3. There is excellent multi-modal connection to the park from two major multi-use paths which pass through the Civic Area and intersect.

These facilities present an opportunity for enhanced non-motor vehicle access to the site. However, determinations will have to be made about how those facilities move through the site and serve their transportation function while minimizing impact on park space. There is an unresolved decision on the need for and alignment of a direct connection to the 13th and Canyon intersection.

4. 13th Street within the Park has been identified as a key location for change.

Options include a shared street, an event street or a car-free space. In addition, changes to 13th Street's transportation use may influence bicycle facilities and parking need. Decisions about 13th Street need to be made in consideration of those challenges and opportunities.

5. Adequate parking will be key to successful access to the Park.

Some existing parking will be removed and some new land uses will generate additional parking. In addition, the demand for parking at the RTD station and the station's current supply of parking in determining the parking needs for the Park. Parking structures are likely going to be needed to accommodate parking demand.

6. The Arboretum Path connects the Civic Area and the new hotel/conference center at the University of Colorado.

The people using the center provide a great opportunity for new users of the Park. However, it will be important to make sure that the connection between the two sites feels safe and comfortable for people walking and biking between them. A sense of wayfinding will be needed to make connections to the Civic Area, and beyond to Pearl Street and the rest of



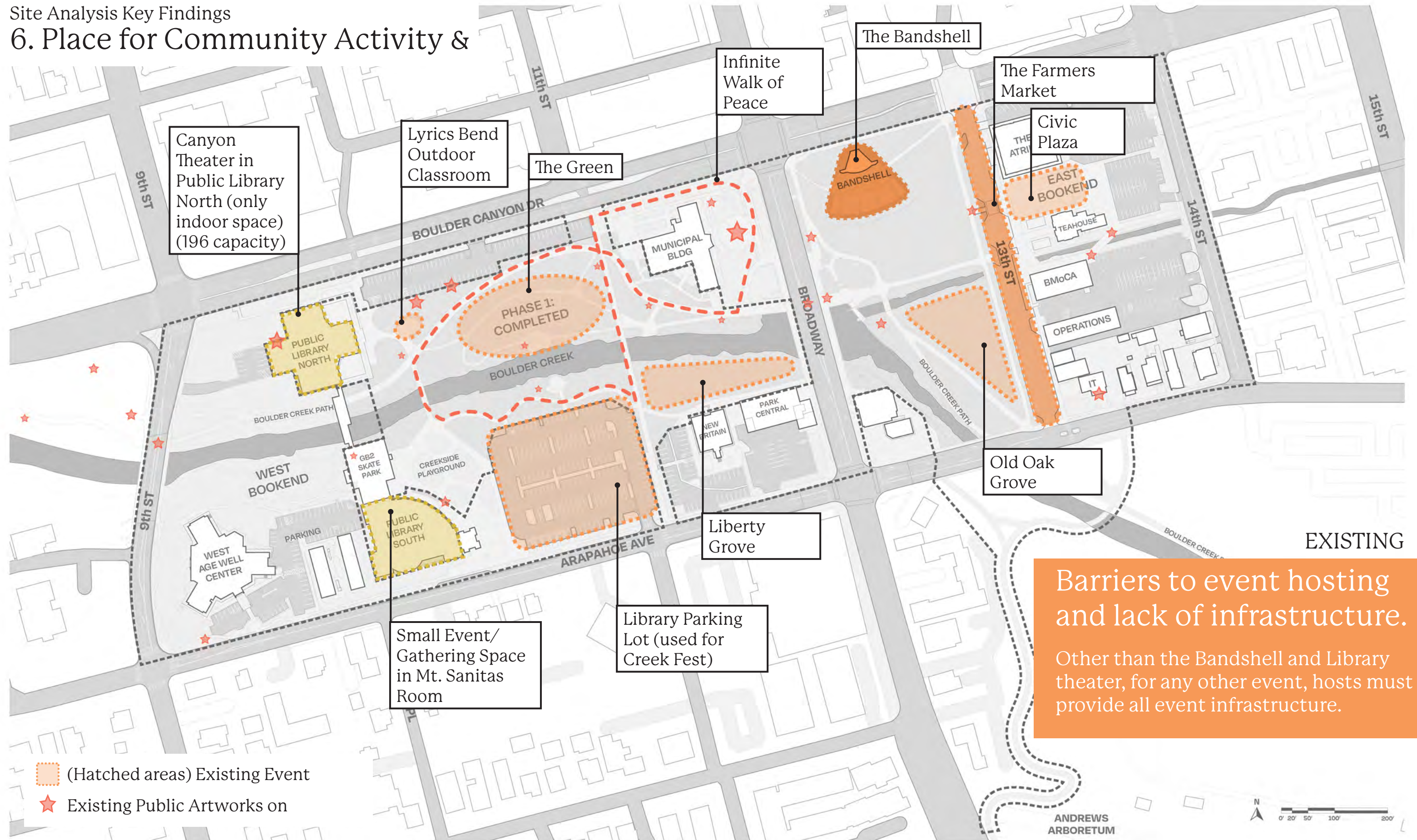
Intersection of Canyon Blvd & Broadway



Phase 1 Multi-Modal Path

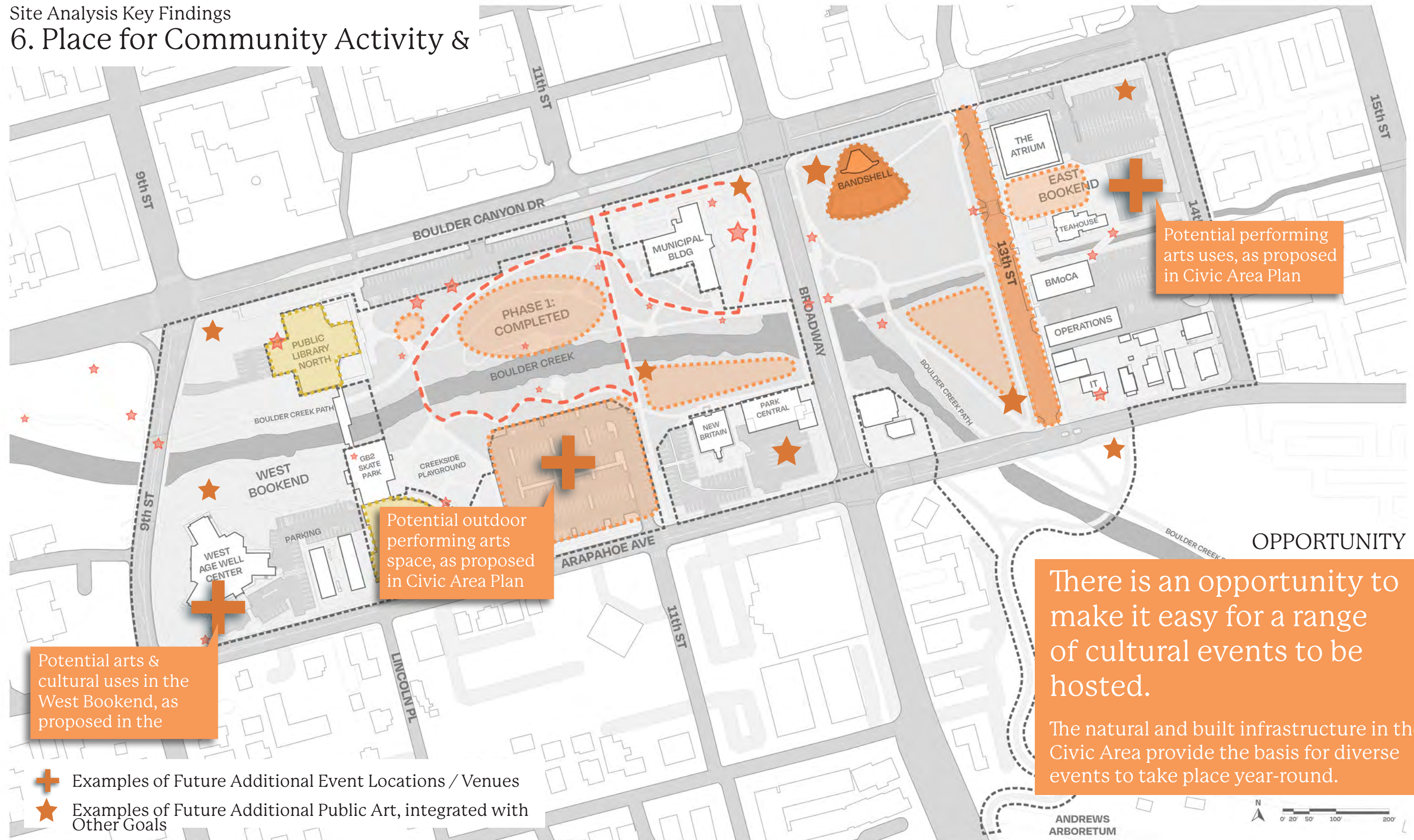
Site Analysis Key Findings

6. Place for Community Activity &



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Site Analysis Key Findings

6. Place for Community Activity & Programming & Activation Summary

A number of challenges make hosting events within the Civic Area challenging for many groups. There is an opportunity to make it easier for a wide range of diverse events and programming to take place on site.



Current Bandshell users include:

- City of Boulder Arts in the Park Program
- Boulder Creek Festival
- Boulder Symphony
- Boulder Art & JazzFest
- LatinX Colorado Festival
- Colorado Brazil Fest
- Boulder Arts Outdoors
- Boulder PrideFest
- Myriad of civic concerts and performances
- Boulder Ballet
- Food and clothing giveaways
- Movie nights
- Boy's Club
- Political rallies
- Local bands

Current Civic Area Permittable Locations:

- Bandshell
- 13th Street (Farmers Market)
- Civic Plaza
- Old Oak Grove
- Liberty Grove
- Library Parking Lot
- The Green
- Canyon Theater in Public Library

Civic Area Events Permitting Overview:

- Events in the Civic Area are permitted by Boulder Parks and Rec, with coordination levels required by BPR dependent on the class of event.

Challenges Summary:

- Permitting process can be cumbersome, especially for smaller events
- People experiencing homelessness deters event producers
- Cost of the permit deters event producers
- Need better facilities for trucks to park, can't be on turf or under drip-lines
- At Bandshell, only enough for 1-2 food trucks
- Lack of electrical hookups for food trucks, only at Bandshell
- No restrooms, high cost and high vandalism to rent
- Ability to secure Bandshell would mitigate problems

Opportunities Summary:

- Additional facilities for larger events
- Improved infrastructure for events (restrooms, electrical hookups, parking pads for food trucks)
- Improved permitting process
- Expansion of Arts in the Park program
- Upgrade security of Bandshell

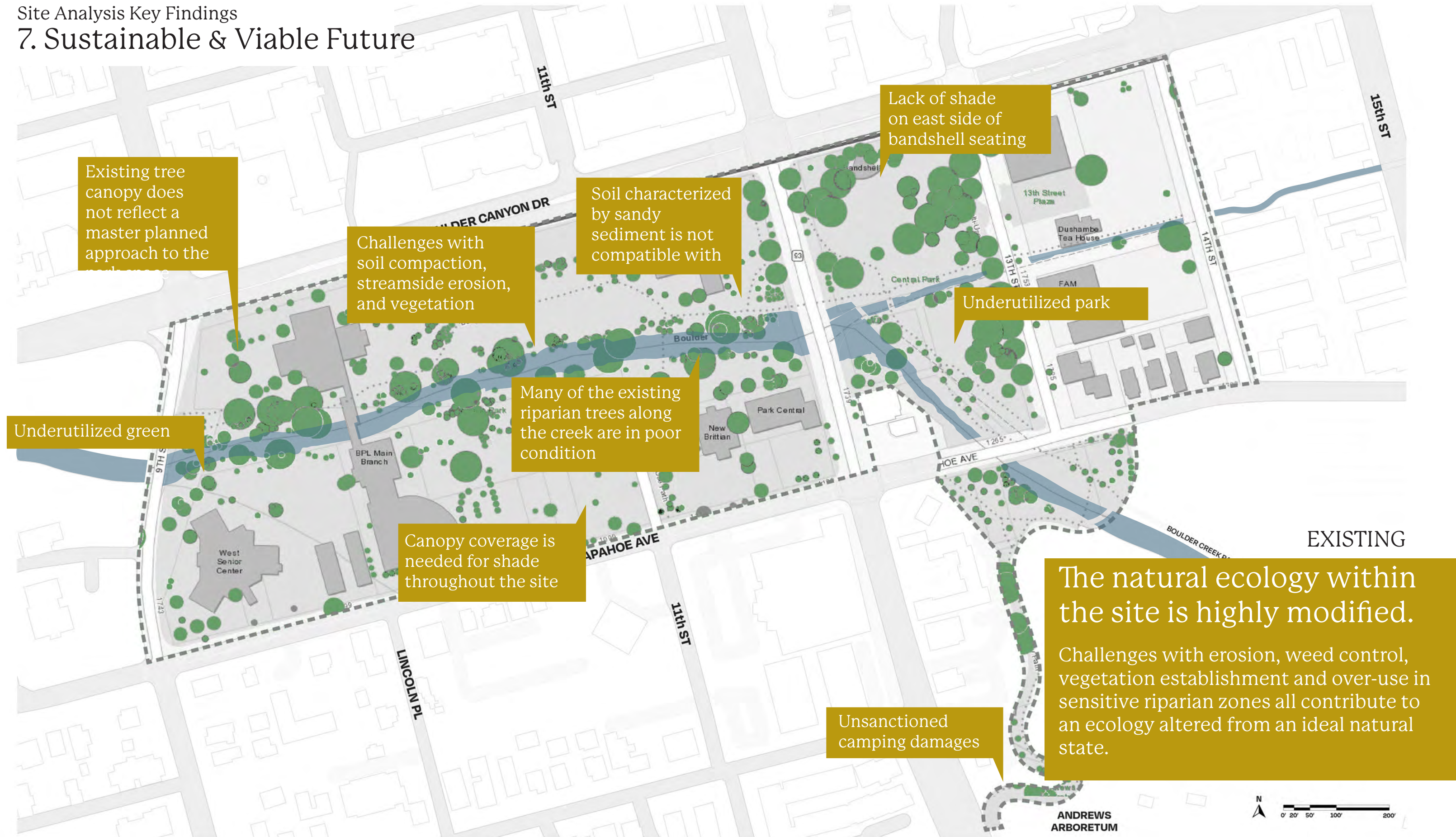
Site Analysis Key Findings

6. Place for Community Activity & Programming & Activation Summary



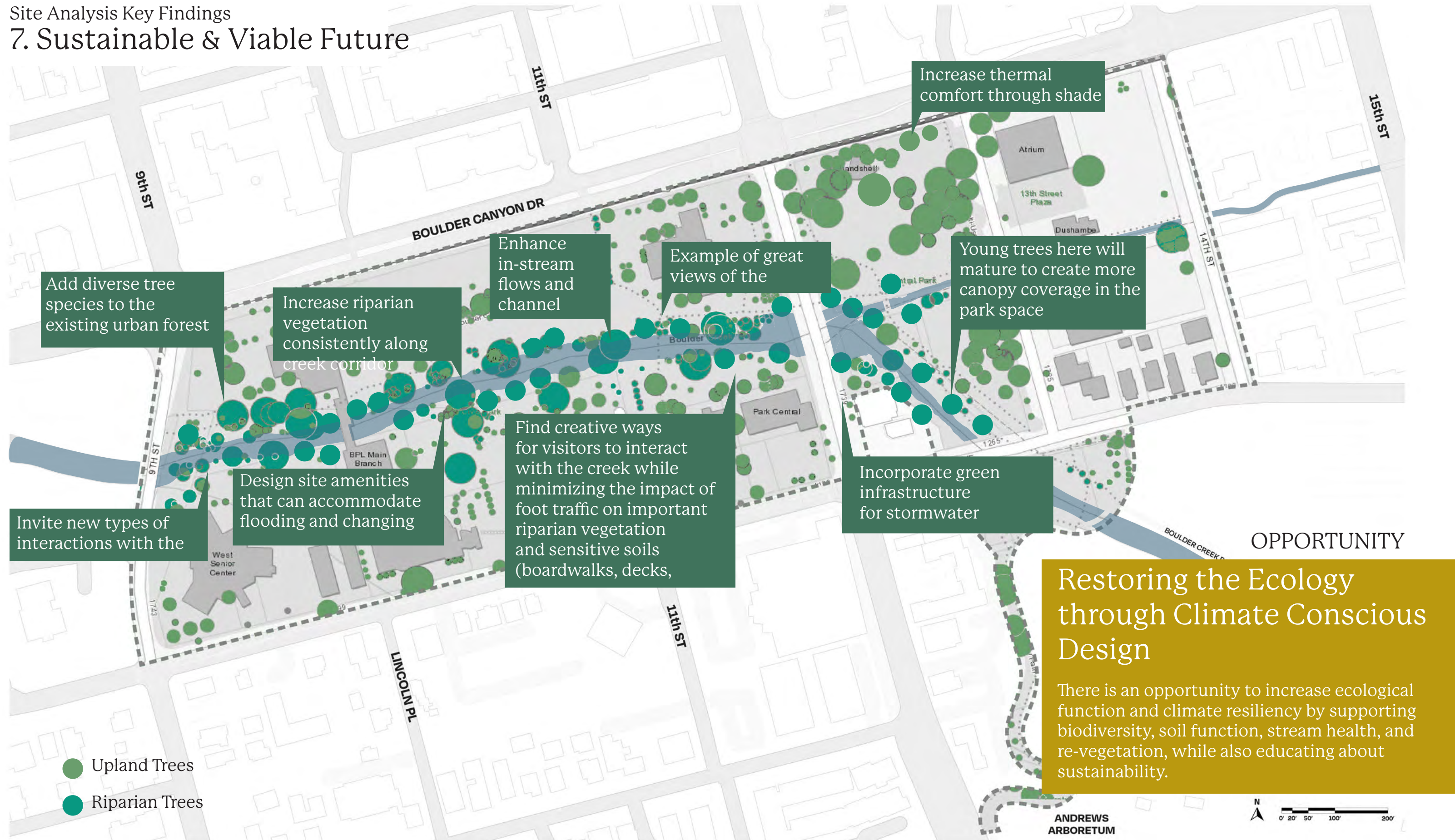
Site Analysis Key Findings

7. Sustainable & Viable Future



Site Analysis Key Findings

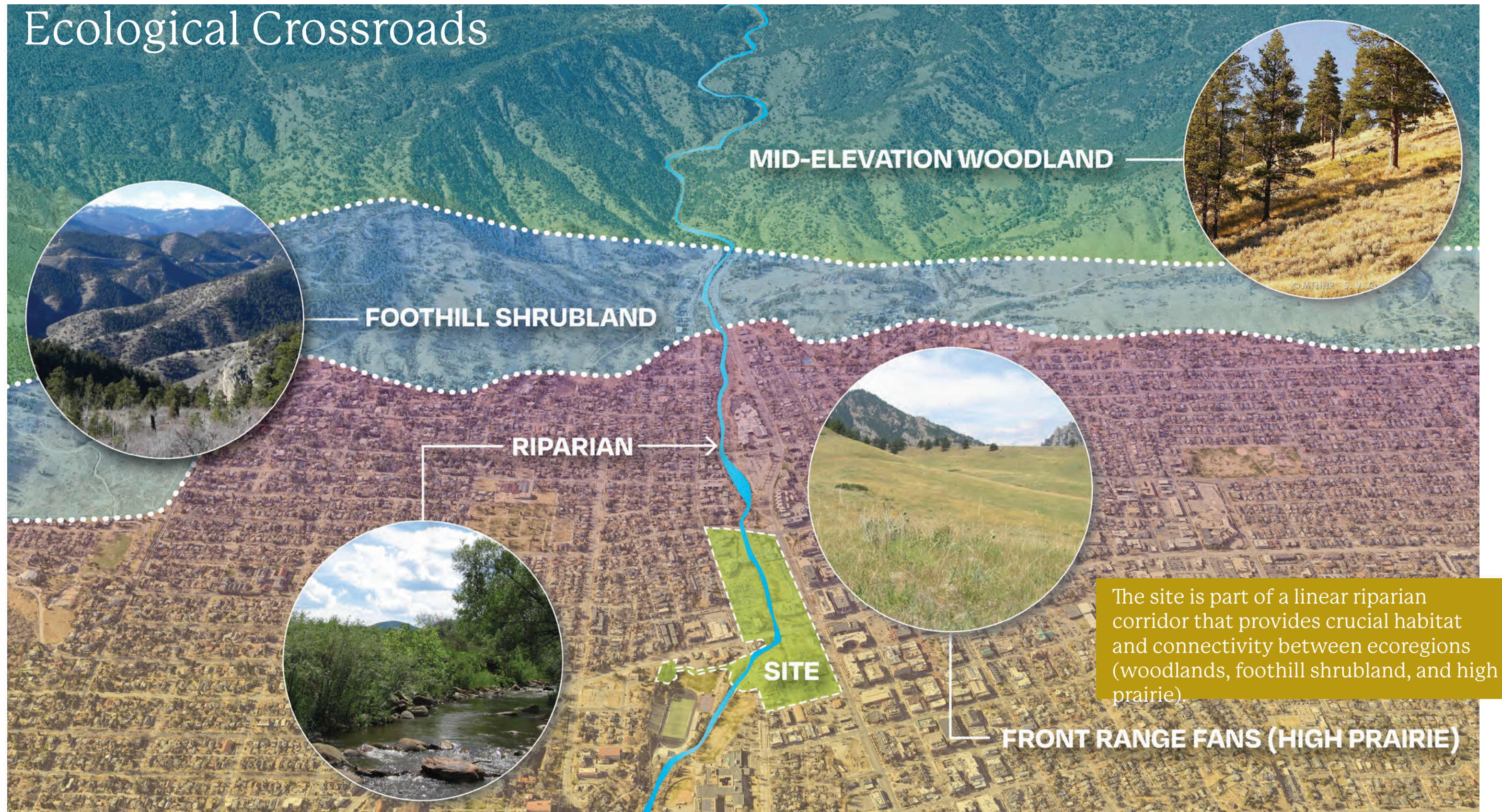
7. Sustainable & Viable Future



Site Analysis Key Findings

7. Sustainable & Viable Future

Ecological Crossroads



Site Analysis Key Findings

7. Sustainable & Viable Future Flora & Fauna

These species rely on riparian habitat. Riparian zones have been significantly impacted/reduced due to development and changes to

FLORA

1. Rocky Mountain maple
2. Grey alder
3. Red birch
4. Cottonwood
5. Peachleaf willow
6. Willow
7. Red osier dogwood
8. Silver sagebrush
9. Sedge
10. Spikerush
11. Switchgrass
12. Western wheatgrass
13. Bulrush
14. Ute ladies'-tresses *
15. Cattail

FAUNA

16. Long-eared owl
17. Colorado hairstreak butterfly
18. Virginia's warbler
19. Lazuli bunting
20. Green-tailed towhee
21. Blue-grey gnatcatcher
22. Preble's meadow jumping mouse*
23. Bivalves and mussels
24. Northern redbelly dace
25. Plains topminnow
26. Brassy minnow
27. Orangespotted sunfish
28. Northern leopard frog
29. Common shiner
30. Freshwater mollusks

* This illustration includes examples of species that can be found in riparian zones of this ecoregion.



Site Analysis Key Findings

Civic Area Site Analysis Key Findings



1 The Civic Heart of Boulder

The Civic Area can benefit from a cohesive identity that supports a sense of arrival and a welcoming and inclusive space that is a green and civic hub.



5 Enhanced Access & Connections

The pedestrian and bike experience on site can be improved by better connecting to surrounding destinations.



2 Life & Property Safety

The floodplain poses a number of restrictions on development, and there is a need for all visitors to feel safe and welcome on site.



6 Community Activity & Arts

Civic Area can become a more accessible event host, providing diverse spaces for community activity, arts, and culture.



3 Outdoor Culture & Nature

There are opportunities to further promote a vibrant outdoor culture and site activities by supporting habitat and introducing more activities for a range of users.



7 Sustainable & Viable Future

There is an opportunity to increase ecological function and climate resiliency in Civic Area, serving as a model.



4 Celebration of History & Assets

Boulder's rich history and Civic Area assets can be celebrated by featuring more historical storytelling in the site's design and programming.