

Trekell Park Renovations

City of Eloy



The Drachman Institute

College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

MISSION STATEMENT

The Drachman Institute is the research and public service unit of the College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture at the University of Arizona dedicated to environmentally sensitive and resource-conscious development of neighborhoods and communities. The Drachman Institute focuses its research and outreach activities on the proposition that housing is the building block of neighborhoods and neighborhoods are the building blocks of communities.

The work of the Drachman Institute therefore targets the development of demographically diverse neighborhoods, rich in environmental amenities and built from good-quality, well-designed, regionally-appropriate housing that conserves land, energy, and water. It is our contention that good quality and innovative architectural design and technology, sensible community planning, and a landscape architecture that fosters beautiful and healthy private and public space is the cornerstone of this work. We engage our students, our staff, our faculty, and our citizens in a collaborative, research-based outreach enterprise to make our communities healthier, safer, more equitable and more beautiful places to live.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PARTNERSHIP PLANNING AND DESIGN CENTER

The Community Planning and Design Workshop (CPDW) has functioned as a public service/community outreach arm of the Drachman Institute since 1969. It brings the skills and knowledge of the students, faculty, and staff of the College to communities in need throughout Arizona. CPDW accomplishes this by applying its expertise and knowledge in architecture, planning, landscape architecture, and urban design to community service and outreach projects. CPDW accepts projects requested by Arizona communities and various organizations with funding from the Drachman endowment and the College of Agriculture and Life Science's Cooperative Extension or by special contract.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Cooperative Extension, the outreach arm of The University of Arizona, is "taking the university to the people." Extension serves as a statewide network of knowledgeable faculty and staff that provides lifelong educational programs for all Arizonans. Cooperative Extension is a nationwide educational network of scientists and educators who help people solve problems and put knowledge to use. Arizona Cooperative Extension provides a link between the university and the citizens of this state. Cooperative Extension is a statewide, nonformal, education network bringing research-based information into communities to help people improve their lives. For 85 years Cooperative Extension has delivered educational programs to the people of Arizona. The efforts of the Cooperative Extension are made possible by a cooperative effort between the Federal Government, the University of Arizona's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and each of the counties we serve.



City of Eloy





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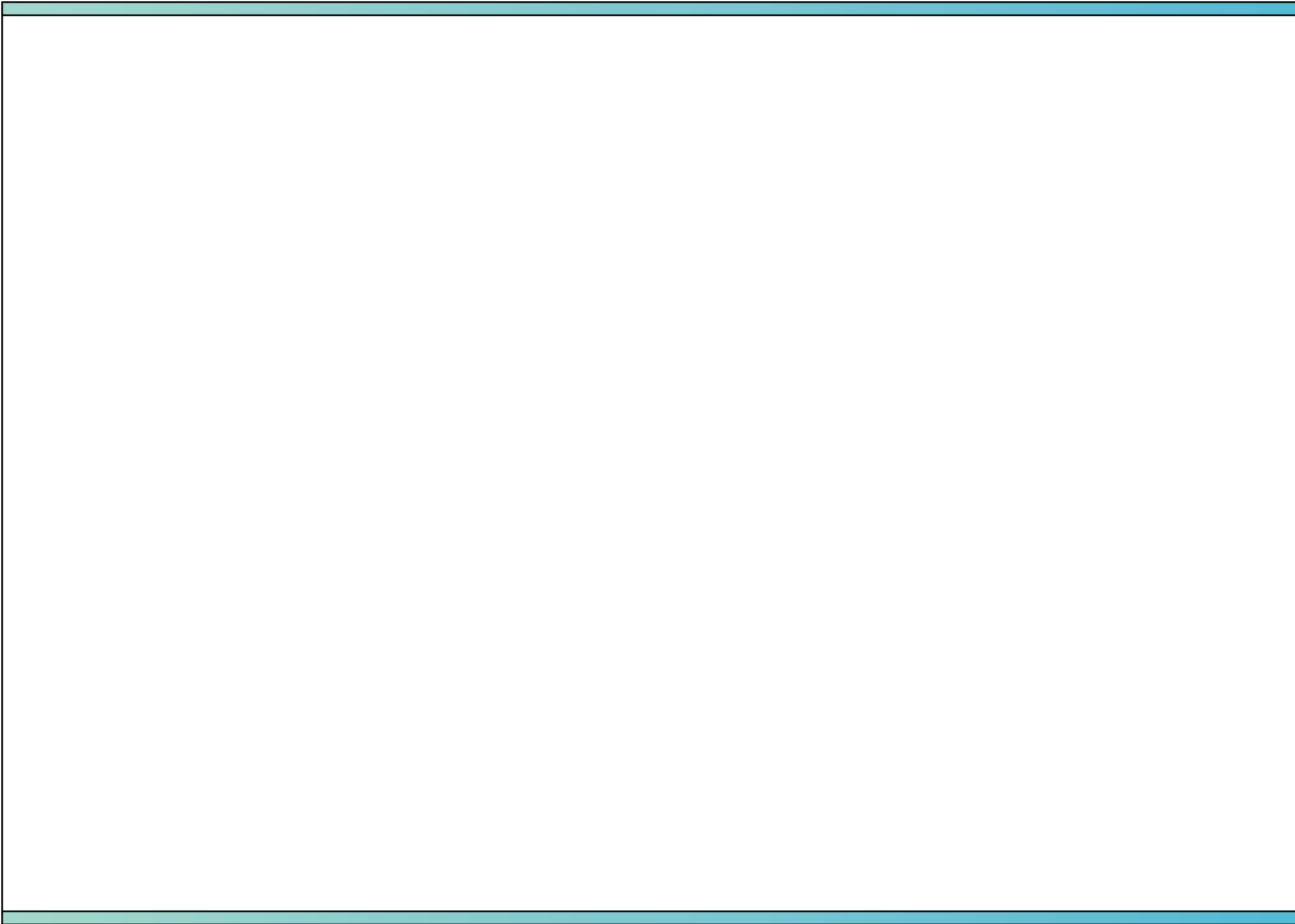
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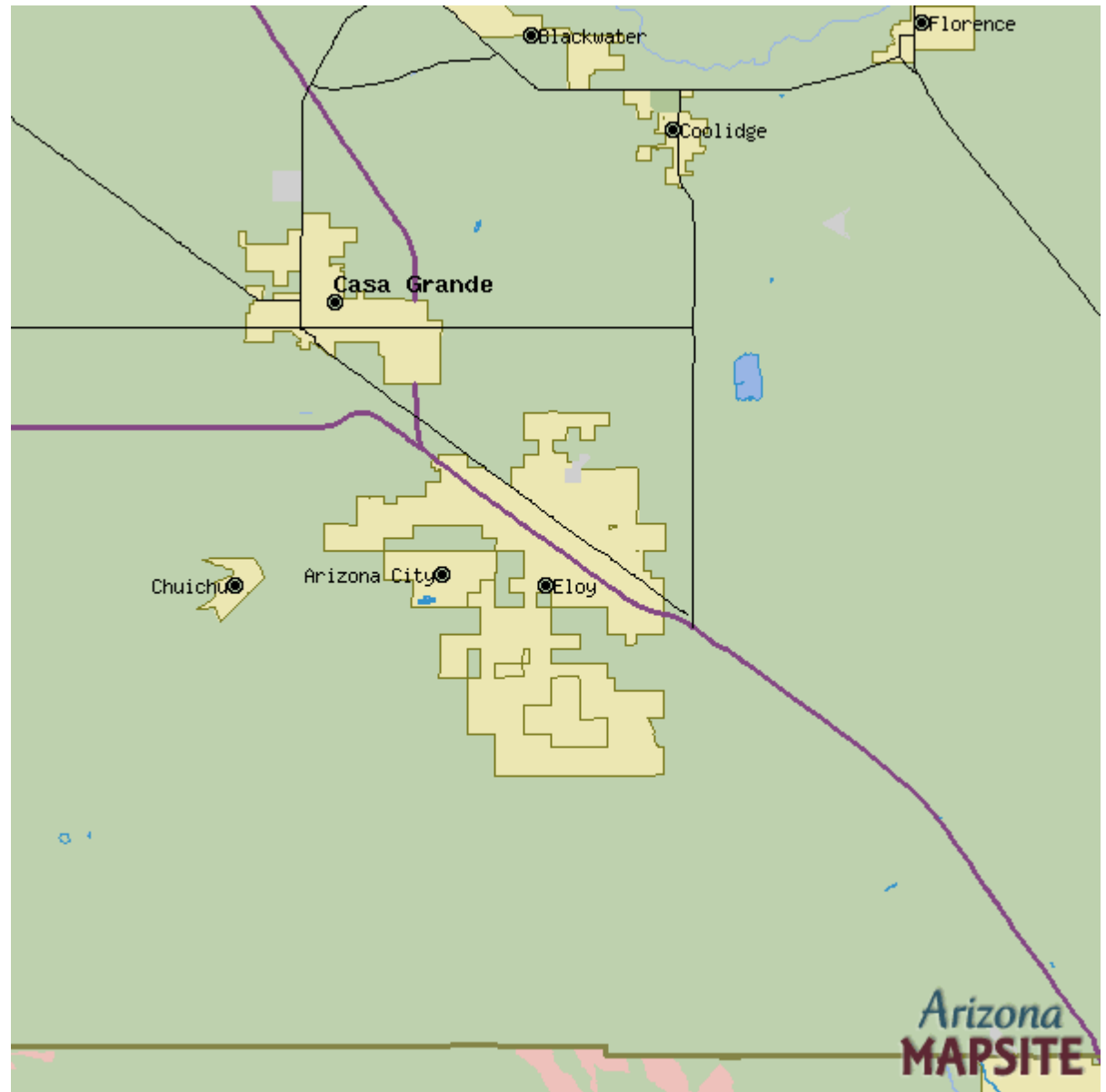


Introduction

Eloy, Arizona is an isolated rural agricultural community located along the golden corridor of the I-20 Interstate between Phoenix and Tucson. The City of Eloy approached the Drachman Institute in 2005 with a proposal for the renovation of Trekell Park. This project grew out of active neighborhood and community involvement and was spearheaded by the ACTION Zone Committee, comprised mainly of members of the neighborhood Block Watch group.

Overall, the community of Eloy has a 71.4 % low to moderate income level with a 2004 census population of 10,375.

This document, completed by the Drachman Institute, provides conceptual design and planning for the renovation of Trekell Park.



Contextual Analysis

Trekell Park is located south of the railroad tracks in one of the oldest neighborhoods in the city of Eloy. The targeted ACTION Zone neighborhood covers just over 1/3 sq. mile and is home to 1,219 residents, or 12% of the total population of Eloy. 72.4% of the neighborhood residents are Hispanic, with a median household income of \$12,109, resulting in 47% of the residents falling below the poverty level.

“Current conditions find the neighborhood underdeveloped and underprivileged with documented findings that display higher poverty, lower education attainment, poorer housing, more crime, and fewer services than the city as a whole. The neighborhood has a higher percentage minority population than the city and the state.”

Eloy Parks Department



City of Eloy Boundaries

Surveys conducted by the Parks and Recreation Department find the area lacking in after school and summer activities for children. Assistance programs for low-income families are also needed. Low cost improvements to the area's community services are a high priority for area residents, officials, and stakeholders.

Project Description

Trekell Park is an existing 2.25 acre site centrally located in Eloy, AZ. The park offers recreational and picnicking opportunities for neighborhood residents. Amenities consist of a grass field, shade trees, softball diamond, and the Troy Thomas Community Center that houses the City's Parks and Recreation Department offices.

Surveys conducted by the Parks and Recreation Department reveals a need for more restrooms, drinking fountains, more shade trees/ shade structures and the availability of public pay phones. Additional needs include new benches and bleachers, new playground equipment and an upgraded irrigation system. The Troy Thomas Center is looking to expand to include new restroom facilities, tutoring and classroom space, a computer training centers, a teen center and additional storage.



Trekell Park Existing Amenities

Site Analysis Entry

The existing entry experience to Trekell Park would be greatly enhanced with the addition of several key entry features.



Trekell Park Existing Entry Experience

VO1 The southeast corner has been identified as the primary entry corner for Trekell. This location could be improved with welcoming signage and colorful vegetation that announces your arrival to the



park.
VO2 The Thomas Center could use a more obvious front entry. The planned building expansion should take this entry into consideration.



VO3 Screening of dumpsters and pump station would help to beautify the entry.



VO4 The colorful Marenco mural is blocked by vehicular parking. This area could be enhanced with vegetation and seating.

Site Analysis *Vegetation and Shading*

Trekell Park has some significant mature trees on site that will be incorporated into the final design. The park would benefit from increased tree canopy and shade structures. Irrigation upgrades are required throughout the park to extend tree and turf longevity.



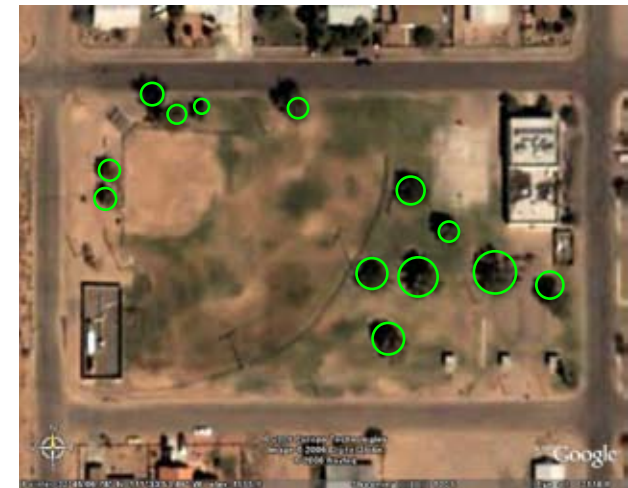
Deciduous trees are recommended to provide summer shade and winter sun.



Upgrades are recommended for existing shade structures.



Mature shade trees increase microclimates and comfort zones throughout the park.



Trekell Park existing tree canopy.



Increasing vegetation around the Troy Thomas Center will enhance the appeal of the building.

Site Analysis Existing Amenities

The overall organization of the park would be better expressed by linking together new and existing amenities. Increasing the variety and durability of the amenities will also help attract users to the park.



Existing play equipment can be upgraded and include more shade.



A variety of durable seating options will attract users to the park.



Trekell Park existing amenities.



The existing basketball court can be expanded to regulation size and include more lighting.



The stark appearance of the Troy Thomas Center can be softened with vegetation and awnings. The new building addition should include windows and shaded overhangs to create a welcoming effect.

Site Analysis *Edge and Open Space*

The existing boundaries of Trekkel park and subtly defined which allows vehicles to easily enter the park. Motorized vehicles in the park causes pedestrian/ vehicular conflict and degrades the existing turf areas. Open space within the park could benefit from increased shade and amenities.



A low curb currently separates the street from the park. Edge alternatives should be discussed ot limit vehicular access to the park.



Open space could be better utilized within the park.



The northwest corner of the park has the potential to attract large numbers of visitors for sporting events.

Potential Improvements

Path System

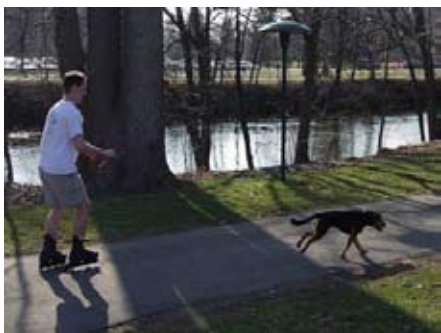
Natural
Track
Nodes



Variety of Surface Materials



Natural Type of Trail System



Hard Surface Multi-Use Track



Lighting Options for Extended Use

Entry
Signage
Courtyard



Mini-oasis Area at Entry



Courtyard with Seating at Entry



Welcoming Signage at Entry

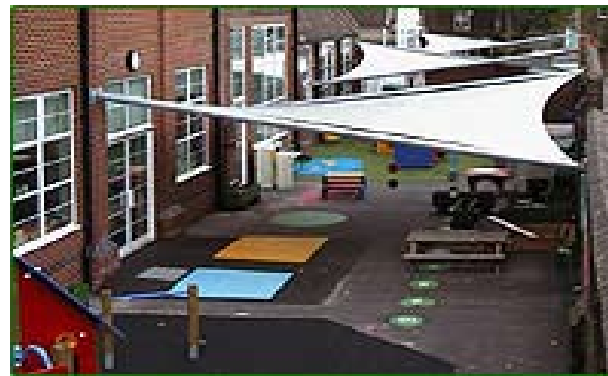
Potential Improvements

Vegetation and Shading

Existing Trees
Built Shade Grove
Flowering Plants



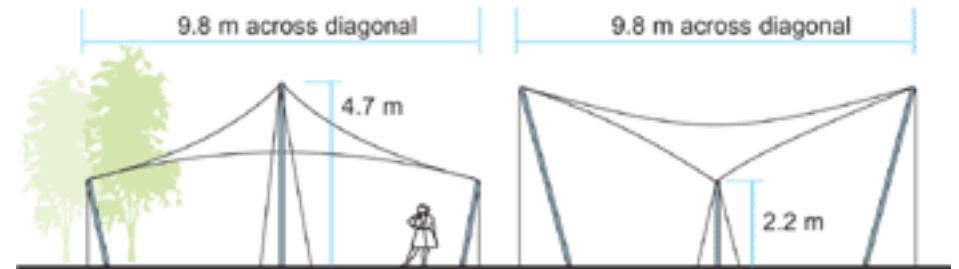
Eye-catching Shade Structures Can Announce Important Areas



Courtyards can be Created Between Buildings Using Tensile Structures



Summer Shading Over Seating Areas



Temporary Fabric Structures Can be Set Up and Taken Down as Needed



Flowering Plants Announce Entry



Vegetation Can Create a Shady Grove



Utilizing Existing Vegetation on Site

Potential Improvements

Edge Treatments

Berms

Bollards



Building up Edge of Park with Vegetated Berms



Using Boulders to Secure Edge



Artistic Bollards at Edge of Park



Removable Bollards for Safety

Lighting

Walkways

Solar

Up-lit

Fields



Lighting Along Pathways



Up-lighting Trees



Solar Lighting



Improved Lighting on Field

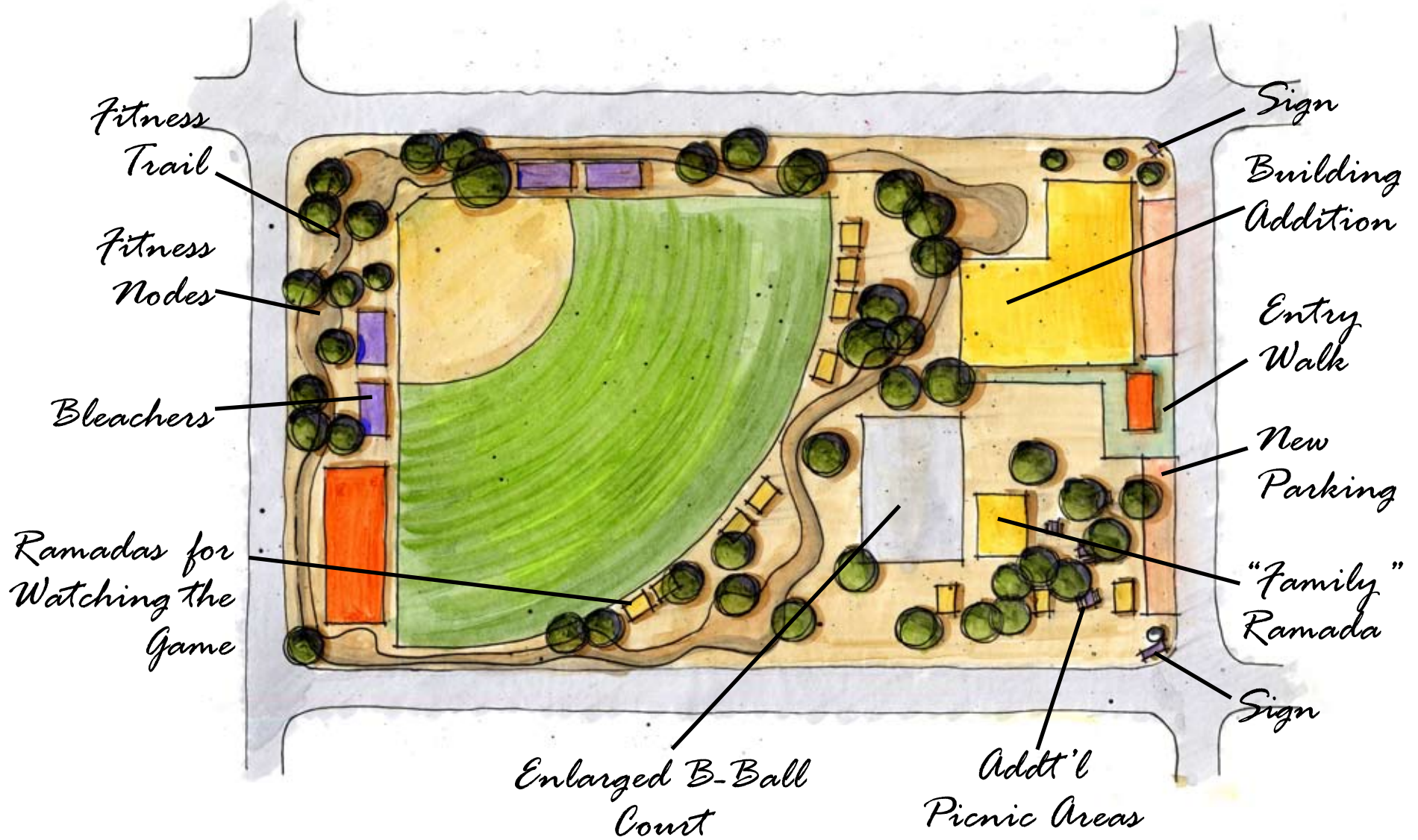
Alternative Concept 1

Alternative Concept 1 uses xeriscape and desert design principles to give Trekell Park a “naturalistic” renovation.

The major elements included in this alternative are:

- Remove a majority of the existing turf and replace it with low water-use, low maintenance vegetation.
- Attach the building addition to the existing structure creating an “L” shaped courtyard.
- Enlarge and move the existing basketball court to a more central location.
- Place ramadas around outfield and family ramada adjacent to basketball court.
- Design a fitness trail that encircles the park and has fitness stations located along the path.
- Upgrade softball field and bleachers.

A Naturalistic Park



Alternative Concept 2

Alternative Concept 2 updates existing amenities while focusing on sports and fitness options.

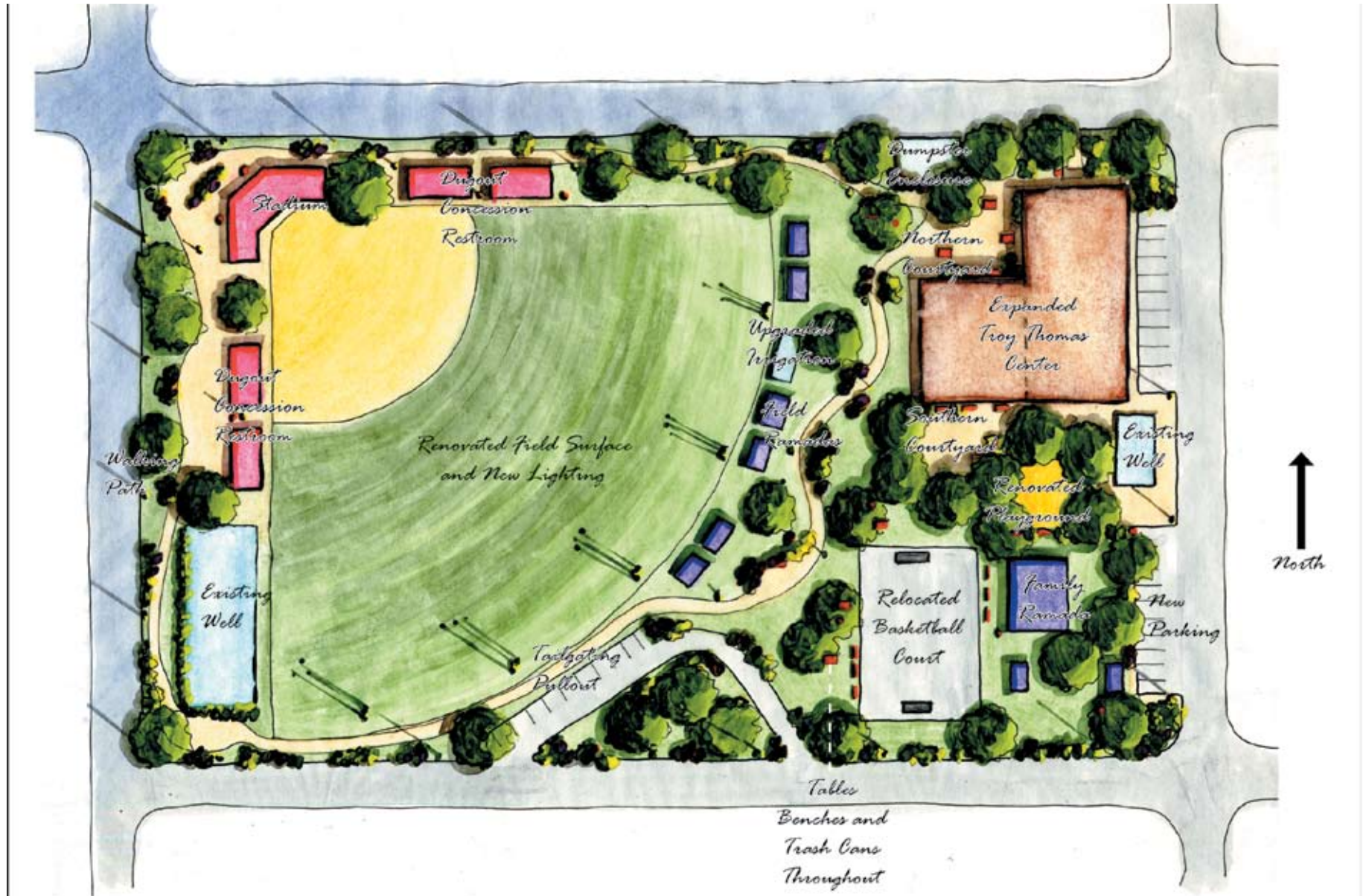
The major elements included in this alternative are:

- Concentration of turf areas in high-use zones thereby reducing maintenance needs.
- Detached building addition encloses entry plaza and play area.
- Tailgating areas around outfield allows for limited vehicular access into the park.
- Fitness oriented jogging and skating track encircles the park.
- Enlarge basketball court to allow for regulation games.
- Upgrade softball field and bleachers.

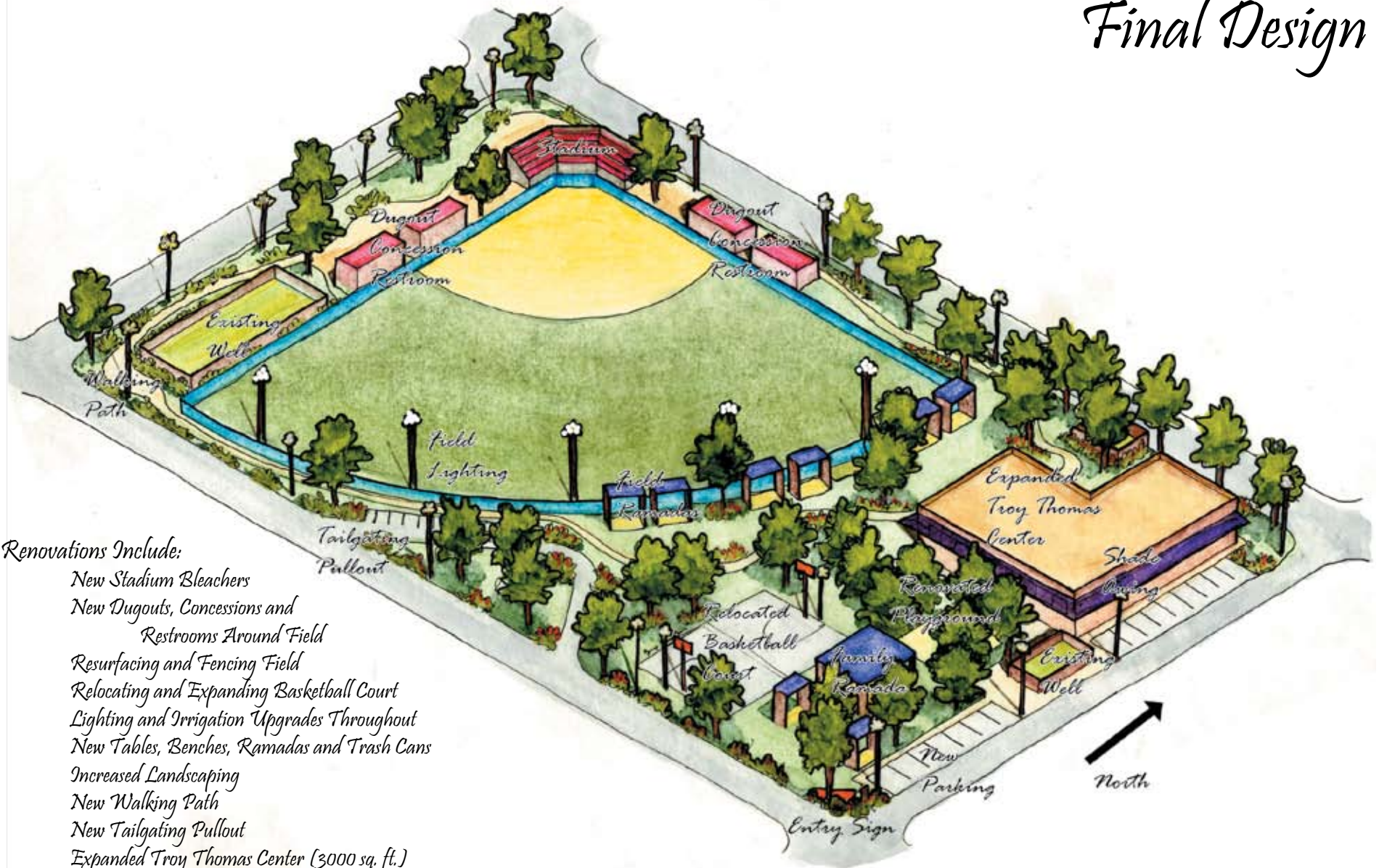
Sports and Fitness



The final plan is the result of feedback given by the client, which called for a synthesis of the two preliminary concepts. The purpose of this plan is to garner support for the Trekell Park renovation project



Final Design



Renovations Include:

- New Stadium Bleachers
- New Dugouts, Concessions and Restrooms Around Field
- Resurfacing and Fencing Field
- Relocating and Expanding Basketball Court
- Lighting and Irrigation Upgrades Throughout
- New Tables, Benches, Ramadas and Trash Cans
- Increased Landscaping
- New Walking Path
- New Tailgating Pullout
- Expanded Troy Thomas Center (3000 sq. ft.)
- Upgraded Playground
- Entry Signage
- Dumpster Enclosure