Circulation and Connectivity

City Park’s circulation system of vehicular roads and pedestrian and bicycle trails contributes to the park’s historic character and spatial composition. The current system primarily follows the historic patterns, with some exceptions where roads have been removed, converted to another use, or trail sections are missing. Many circulation routes established in the 1880s remain today, including the curving path around Ferril Lake and through the center of the park. The physical condition of park roads and trails has deteriorated and is in fair condition. Pedestrian trails are in varying conditions and some original trails that connected destinations are missing. Interior park roads have generous widths (some more than 50 feet) that exceeds the width needed for parking, driving, and bicycling.

There are six vehicular access points into the park, three from East 23rd Avenue, one from East 17th Avenue at City Park Esplanade, and two from Colorado Boulevard. McLellan Gateway at East 22nd Avenue and York Street is egress only which limits access to the park for neighborhoods on the west side. Wayfinding for vehicles is challenging due to the circuitous routes created by the one-way road system that do not lead users directly to destinations.

The North Park Road along the Zoo perimeter presents conflicts between vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians and lacks established pedestrian trails. Access and parking in the northeast corner is challenging with high volumes of traffic entering and exiting the park and unclear wayfinding.

Entry experiences are variable depending upon which entrance is used and there is limited access from west and north. Safe pedestrian and bicycle access to and from the park, particularly along East 17th Avenue and York Street, is minimal and is one of the more frequently requested improvements. The south park road, which has been closed to vehicles for a number of years, retains the appearance of a vehicular road rather than as a pedestrian and bicycle promenade.
Circulation Analysis
**Vegetation and Ecology**

City Park’s vegetation is one of the primary defining features of the spatial composition and one of the principal interests of the community for preservation and enhancements. Trees were strategically planted in groups to define park spaces and forested groves were planted along the park boundaries to create a sense of refuge. The park has over 3,600 trees, with some dating to the park’s earliest designs in the 1880s. Most trees are in good condition with less than 250 trees in poor to very poor condition.

Pattern of tree allees along roads has diminished over time due to tree loss. This also diminishes the experience of moving through a wooded forest and defining the edges of adjacent meadows. The forested groves along Colorado Boulevard have lost trees which affects the feeling of refuge from the urban city within the park. Conifer trees that are salt sensitive show stress from the conversion of the irrigation system to recycled rather than potable water. Conifer trees create a transition at park entrances and road intersections and should be maintained for longevity.

City Park has a remarkable diversity of tree and shrub species from each period of development in the park’s history. Many of these plantings are associated with gardens and living collections. Gardens and living collections retain their historic character and materials but provide opportunities for improvement and repair to reestablish their intended design with additional plantings and repair of character-defining features such as stone walls in the Lily Pond or drop-structures in the Box Canyon Waterway.

The urban forest, gardens, and living collections provide ecological benefits to a variety of bird, insect, and small mammal species. There is opportunity for additional measures to enhance biological benefits.