

SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL DISTRICT STREETSCAPE MASTER PLAN A PRESCRIPTION FOR THE CITY OF DALLAS

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Texas Trees Foundation

URBAN HEAT IN DALLAS

Surface Paving Area Across Dallas (% of ½ km² grid cell)



Tree Canopy Cover Across Dallas (% of ½ km² grid cell)



US Forest Service recommends an average tree canopy cover of 40%

Dallas has 28% <mark>SWMD has 7%</mark>





TEXAS TREES FOUNDATION

MANAGING URBAN HEAT

Warm Season [May-Sept.] (Average Daily High Temp)





URBAN TREES = A COOLER FUTURE FOR DALLAS





SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL DISTRICT AS AN URBAN HEAT CASE STUDY



- 37,000 Employees
- 2.8 million annual visits to clinics & ERs
- 3,600 students/ residents/fellows
- 16+ miles of transportation corridors
- 35,000-45,000 vehicles per day projected on Harry Hines



EXISTING CONDITIONS: TREE CANOPY





EXISTING CONDITIONS: TREE CANOPY ALONG STREETS





EXISTING CONDITIONS: TREE CANOPY ALONG STREETS



Provides an appropriate distance for separation, trees and soil.



55%



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EXISTING CONDITIONS: MISSING SIDEWALKS

ANALYSIS MISSING SIDEWALK







EXISTING CONDITIONS: STORMWATER MANAGEMENT





EXISTING CONDITIONS: ACCOMMODATING ALTERNATE TRANSPORTATION







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ISSUES IMPACTING GROWTH AND HEALTH

- Hardscape Conditions
 - Original roads built for industrial users few street trees
 - Several industrial buildings scraped to foundation
 - Acres of surface parking
- Drainage Challenges
- Changing Development Patterns
 - Recently opened DART light-rail stations
 - Former industrial sites giving way to new multi-family communities
 - Proximity to major employment centers, including the UTSW Clements University Hospital, New Parkland Hospital, and Love Field Airport
- Limited Public Right-of-Way Along Roads





ISSUES IMPACTING GROWTH AND HEALTH

- Pedestrian Safety
 - Hit and miss street and pedestrian lighting
 - Six-lane, 40 mph thoroughfares define medical district
- Moving Around
 - Sidewalk-crosswalk network is poorly developed
 - Street grid defined by super blocks
 - Roadways are not cyclists friendly
- Health and Aesthetics of a Medical District
 - No exercise paths or exercise stations
 - Limited views of greenery from patients' rooms
 - Broad open space locations are restricted
 - Development patterns discourage walking
 - Overhead utility lines dominate views
- Center of Medical District is a 1960s Cloverleaf





BETTER INFRASTRUCTURE CAN LEAD THE WAY!

Benefits of the Plan:

- Transforms and brings continuity and connectivity to the area
- Improves the safety and well-being of visitors, patients, health care workers and neighborhoods and incentivizes future recruits to the medical staff
- Mitigation of urban heat
- Effective engine of economic growth in the area
- Creates a "sense of place" that no other medical district in the country experiences – national/world model
- Creates a healthy environment, establishes healthy ecosystems, encourages healthy lifestyles
- Advances the City of Dallas Complete Streets Manual



DESIGN FRAMEWORK DIAGRAM



GREEN SPINE

- Link all primary destinations together through green corridor
- Preserve and enhance existing tree canopy creating a healthy boulevard
- Develop a true complete green street network of mobility
- Slow traffic within the District
- Enhance green space views from hospital rooms





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GREEN SPINE: HARRY HINES





GREEN HEART

- Anchor the District
- Transform an undesirable space into the nucleus
- Form the ecological center of the District
- Unite four quadrants of the District
- Create an iconic destination





CURRENT & PROJECTED TRAFFIC VOLUMES



TRAFFIC VOLUMES

1. <u>HARRY HINES BLVD</u> - 33,000 Average Daily Trips

- 35,000 - 45,000 (2045 ADT)

2. INWOOD ROAD

- 49,000 Average Daily Trips - 52,000 - 69,000 (2045 ADT)
- 3. Majority of traffic travels through the intersection with only limited use of the interchange





POSSIBLE PARK PROGRAM TEXAS TREES FOUNDATION | GREEN HEART VISION PLAN



When fully realized the SWMD Urban Streetscape Master Plan will transform the district with:

- 23 acres of streets reclaimed for pedestrian use, including wider sidewalks, shared-use paths, park space and sidewalk cafes
- 6.5K trees planted within the public realm
- 21 miles of sidewalk added along streets, in addition to the existing 12 miles of sidewalk
- 73% of streets with a 6' or greater pedestrian buffer, creating a safer and more comfortable walking environment
- 80% (16.8 miles) of streets that support integrated bicycle infrastructure
- 1.2 million cubic feet of rain captured and treated by rain gardens.



POLICY ISSUES

Hindsight is 2020:

- Lack of street grid requirements has resulted in a disconnected district that increases the burden on the few arterials that exist in the district. This is difficult to reverse.
- We need better alignment between land use regulations and vision for street improvements in the District.
 - Require consistent streetscape development as development occurs
 - Ensure development that is compatible with the vision

Looking forward:

• U.S. Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson has tasked us with identifying and inventorying additional policy challenges that inhibit ideal project design

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