

Parks, Recreation and Cultural  
Resources

# Nash Square Public Realm Plan

City Council Work Session  
September 8, 2026



Raleigh

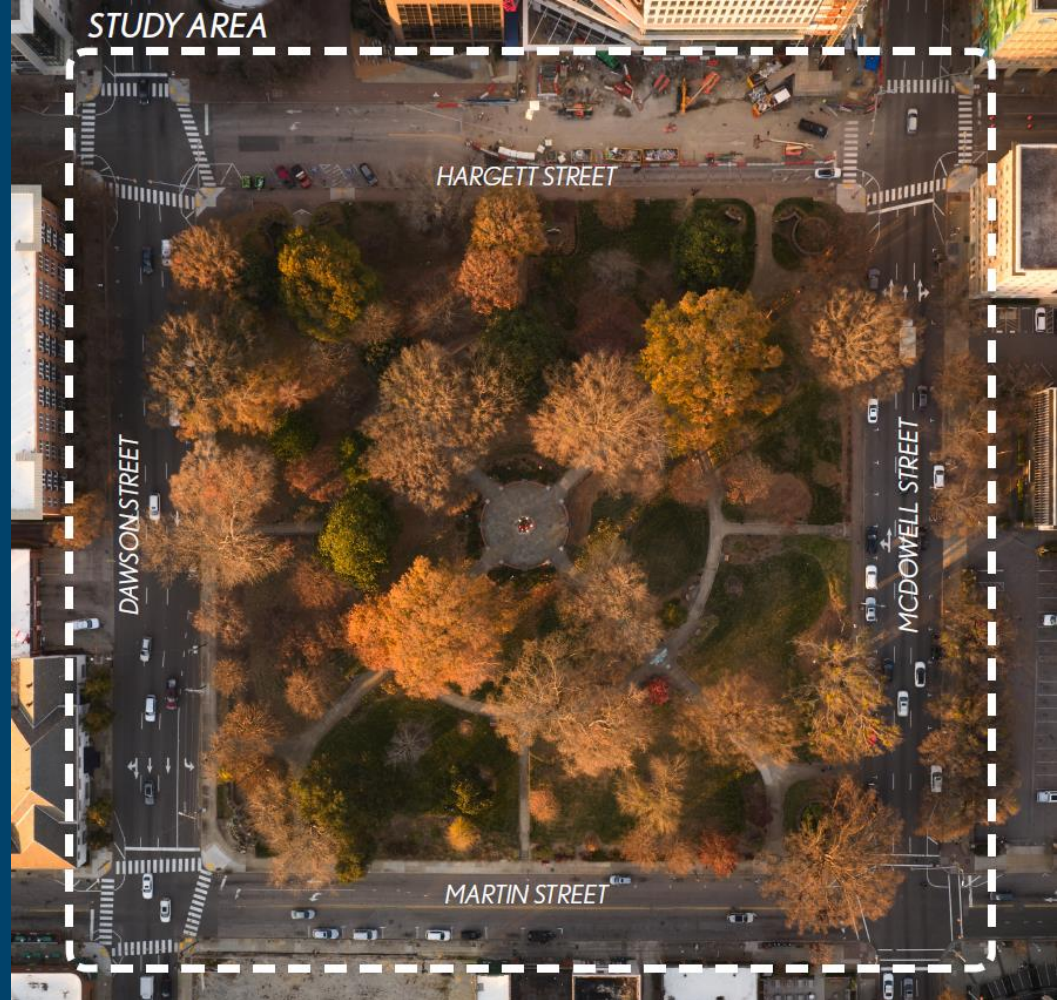


# Nash Square Public Realm Plan

**Project Scope**  
Master Planning

**Current Status**  
Draft Concept Review

**Anticipated Completion**  
Spring 2027



# Project Timeline

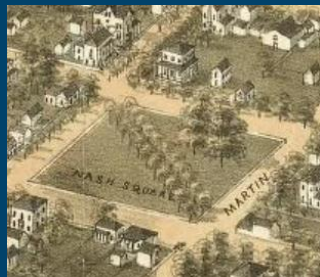
Spring  
2026

Summer  
2026

Fall  
2026

Winter  
2026

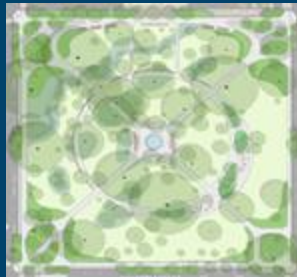
Spring  
2027



**Phase 1:**  
Site Analysis &  
Initial Input



**Phase 2:**  
Alternative  
Concepts



**Phase 3(a):**  
Draft Concept  
*Technical Review*



**Phase 3(b):**  
Draft Concept  
*Public Review*



**Phase 4:**  
Final Plan  
*Review & Approval*

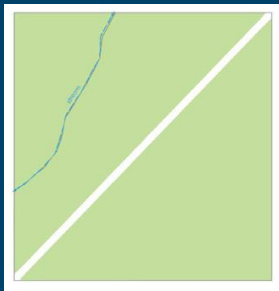


# Nash Square

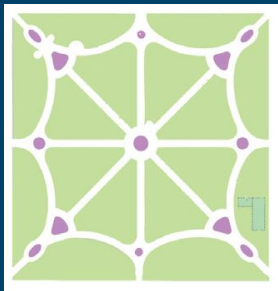
## Public Realm Plan

### Historic Context

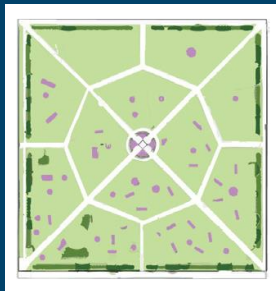
1850



1896



1929



1955



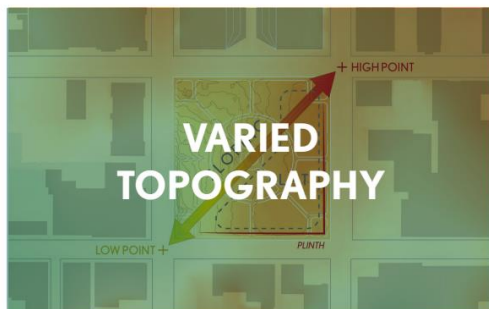
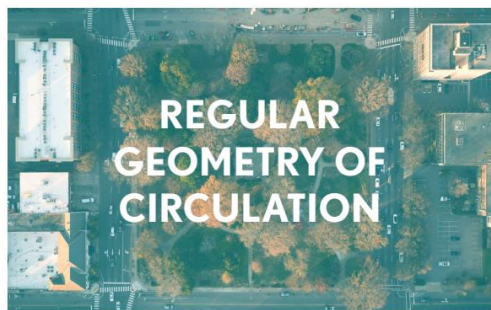
Today



*Proposed*







- Kickoff Party (150+ attendees)





# Nash Square Public Realm Plan Community Engagement Highlights

- Kickoff Party (150+ attendees)
- Tuesdays in the Square (200+)





# Nash Square Public Realm Plan Community Engagement Highlights

- Kickoff Party (150+ attendees)
- Tuesdays in the Square (200+)
- *A New Nash Bash* Block Party (250+)



# Nash Square Public Realm Plan Community Engagement Highlights

- Kickoff Party (150+ attendees)
- Tuesdays in the Square (200+)
- *A New Nash Bash Block Party (250+)*
- Focus Groups & Online Surveys



Nash Square should not be as "activated" as Moore Square is. Nash has beautiful trees and grassy areas for casual sitting in the shade, and it should stay as organic as possible.

Please keep it peaceful.

## DON'T OVER-PROGRAM THE SQUARE

It's a small park -- but I'd still love to get lost in it.

I love that it's NOT an event space.

I highly value the squares that provide green space in downtown Raleigh. As the buildings get taller and empty lots are developed, these squares will provide a crucial break in the human-made landscape.



It's old, simple charm is what makes it special.

The stately trees, comfortable greenspace, and organic flow of the trails through park are all special and should be preserved.

Refurbish, restore but leave it's soul alone.

## MAINTAIN THE SQUARE'S CHARACTER & IDENTITY

Nash Square is beautiful and inviting as it is. The greenery, sunlight cascading through the trees, the drop in temperature as soon as you step into the park on a summer day - it's a square of heaven in a city setting.

I want Nash to retain its own identity.

City destination for reflection and heritage [is] important.



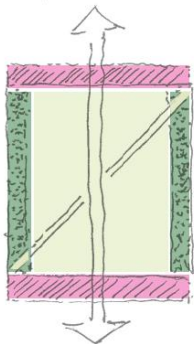


# Nash Square Public Realm Plan

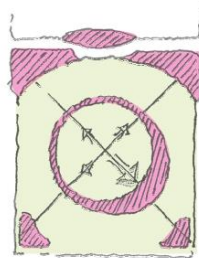
## Top Community Priorities

- Protect & Renew Tree Canopy
- Honor Historic Character
- Extend the Square
- Reimagine Hargett Street
- Support Flexible Everyday Use

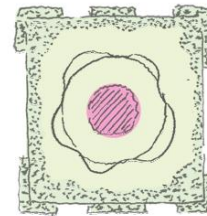




BIG IDEA 1: UPDATE



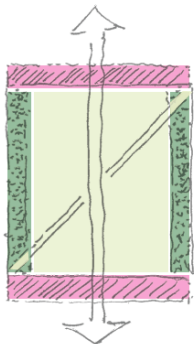
BIG IDEA 2: SHIFT



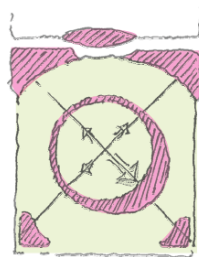
BIG IDEA 3: RECENTER



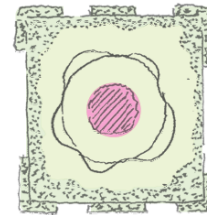




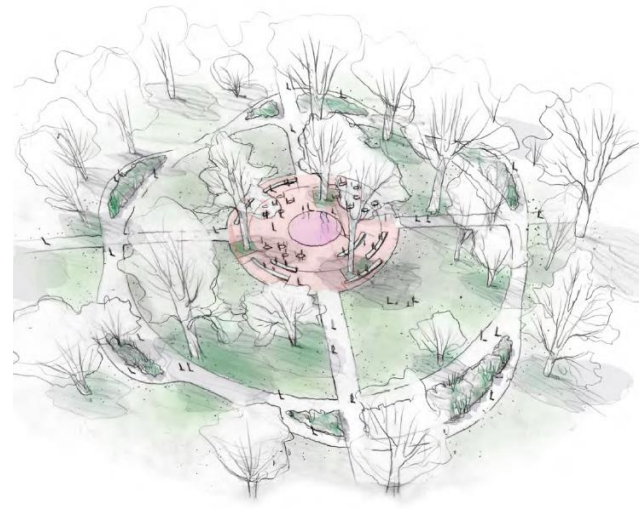
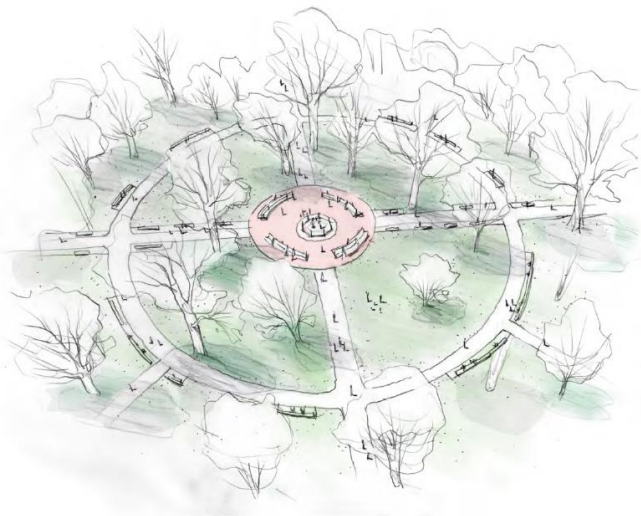
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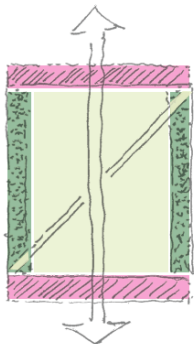


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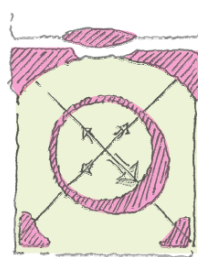


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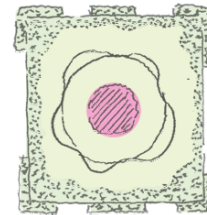




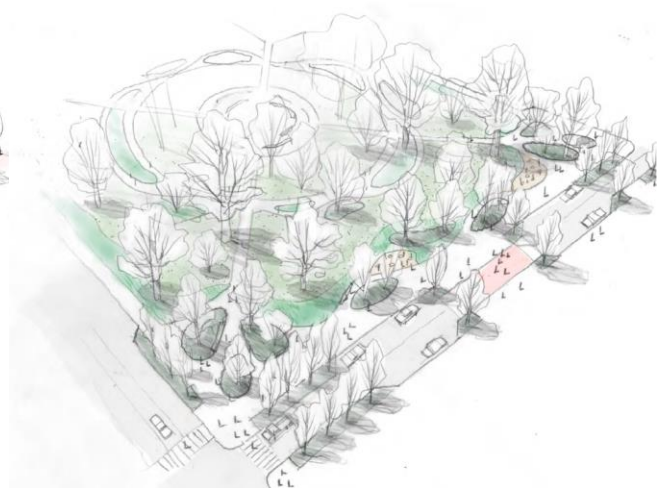
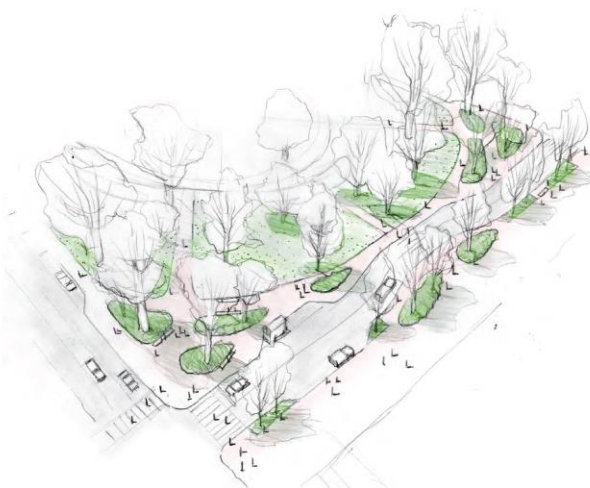
BIG IDEA 1: UPDATE



BIG IDEA 2: SHIFT



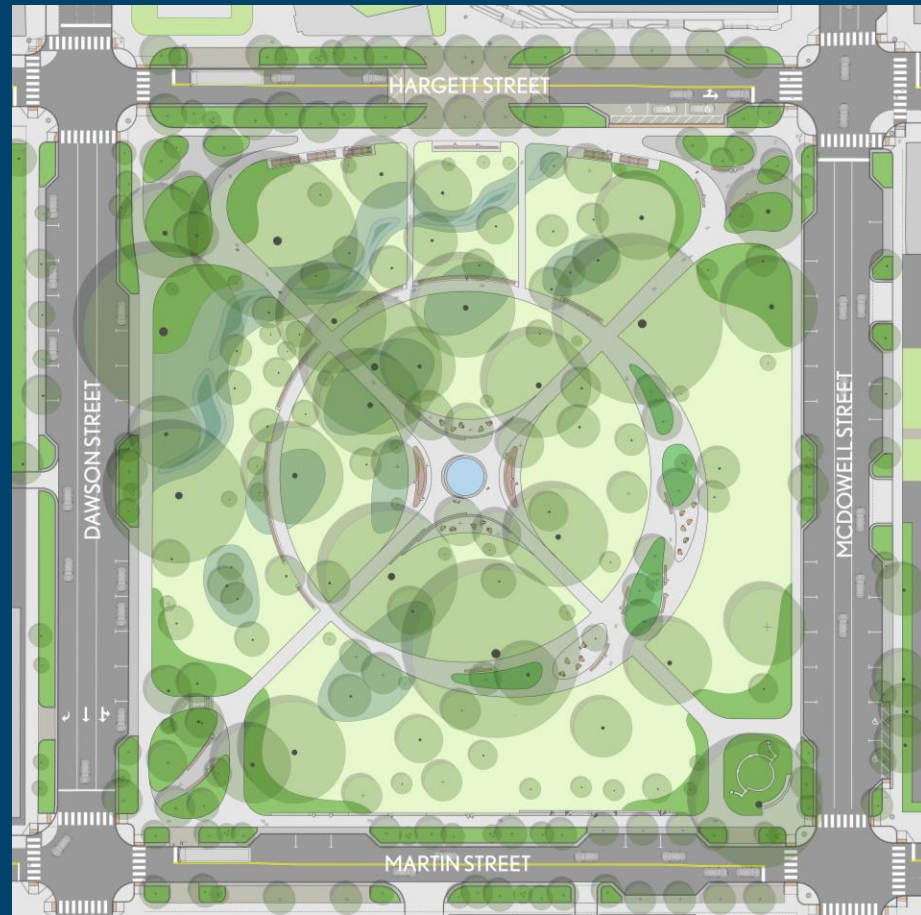
BIG IDEA 3: RECENTER







Existing Conditions



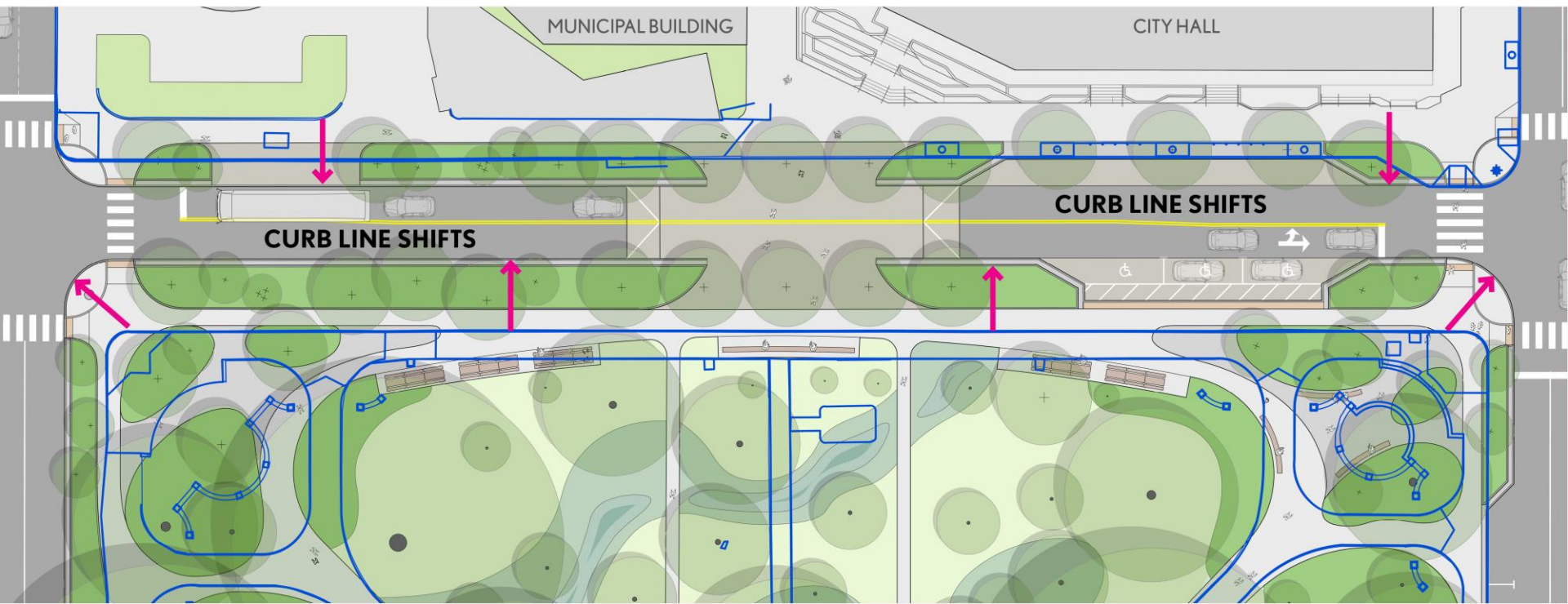
Proposed Draft Concept

# HARGETT STREET





# HARGETT STREET | Existing Conditions Overlay





# HARGETT STREET MID-BLOCK: EXISTING



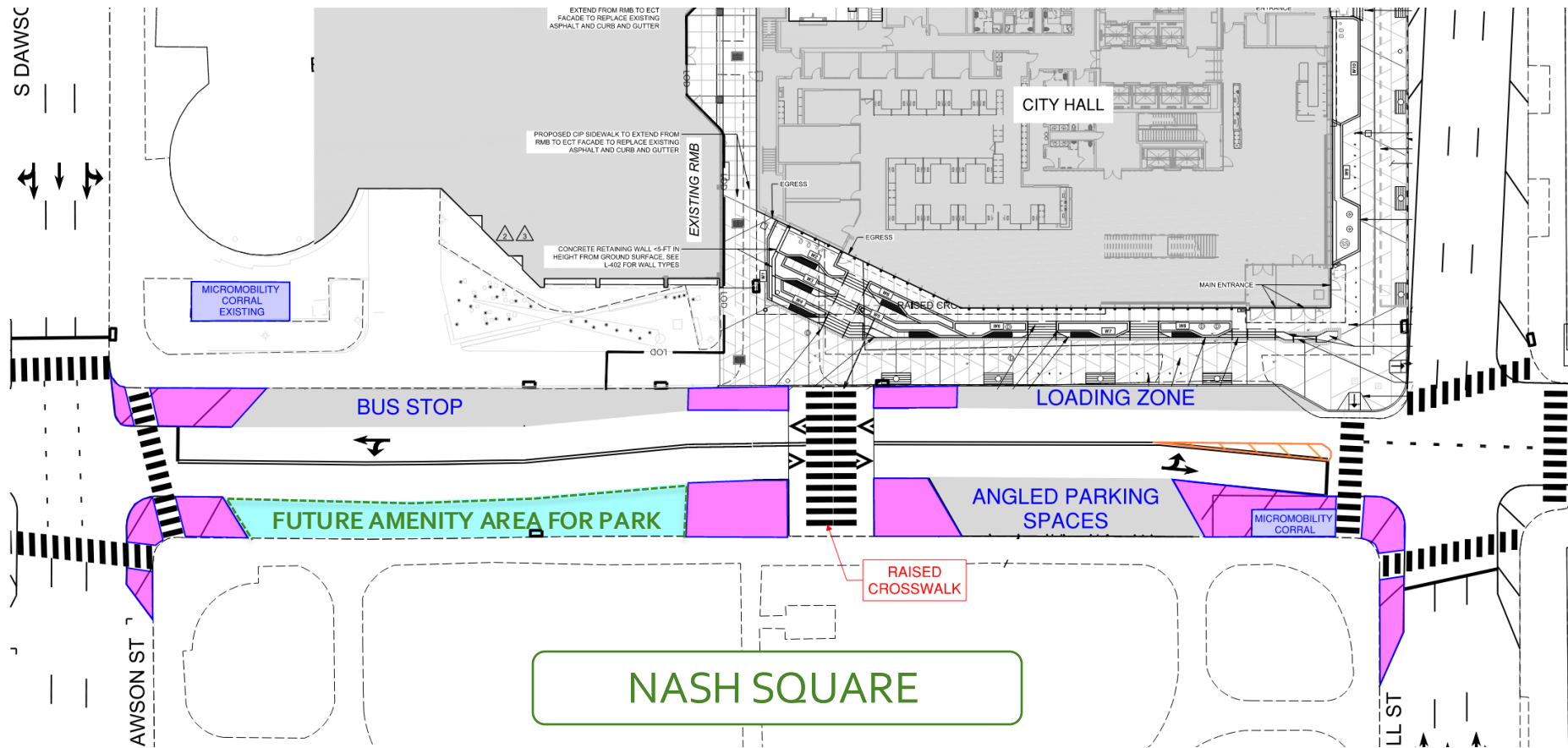


# HARGETT STREET MID-BLOCK: PROPOSED





# HARGETT STREET | Draft Concept for Interim Restriping







Turning Point | Union Square, Manhattan



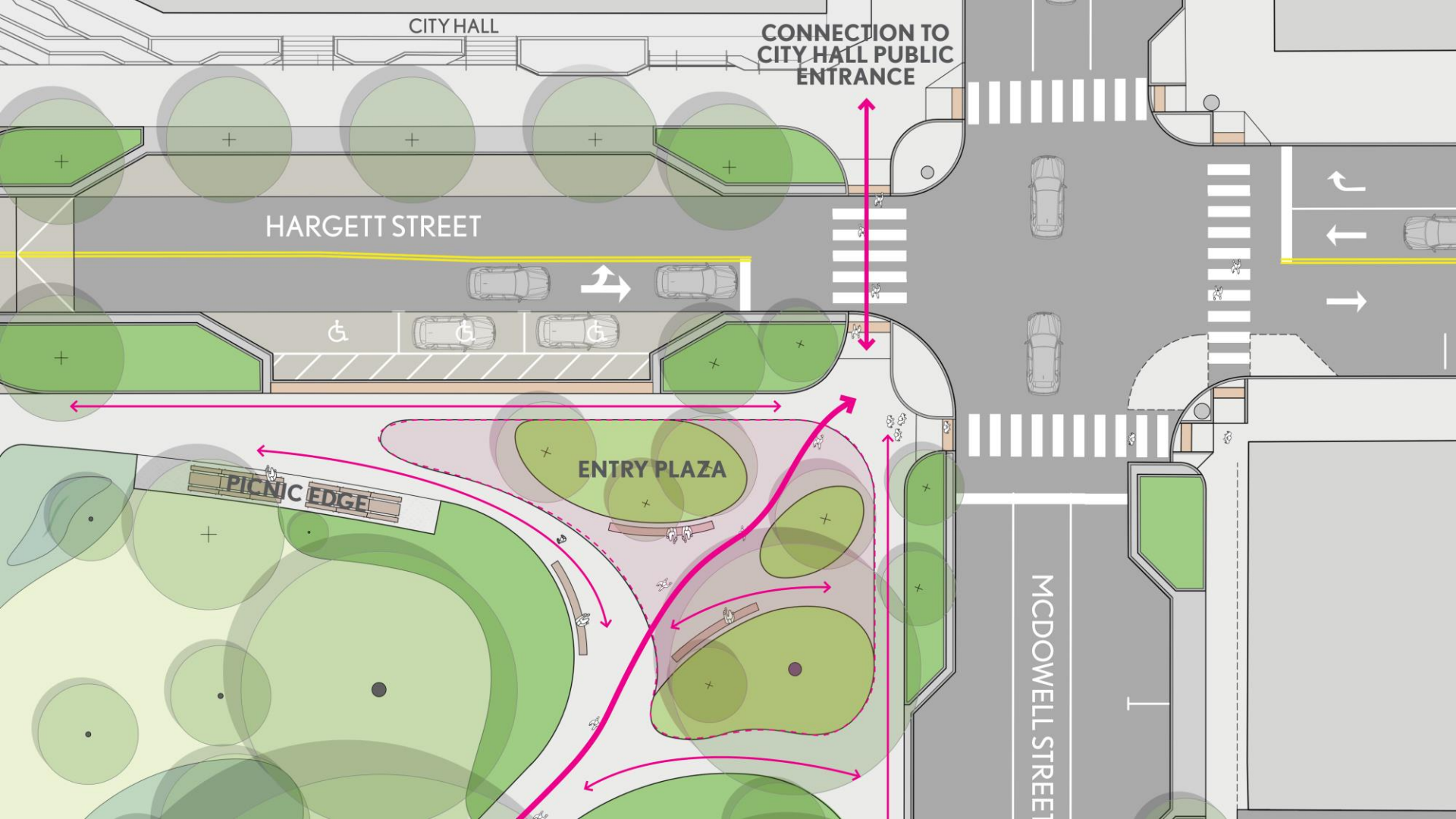
As Above, So Below | Varick Street, Manhattan



Turning Point | Union Square, Manhattan



Terrain Park | Brooklyn





## CORNER OF HARGETT & MCDOWELL: EXISTING



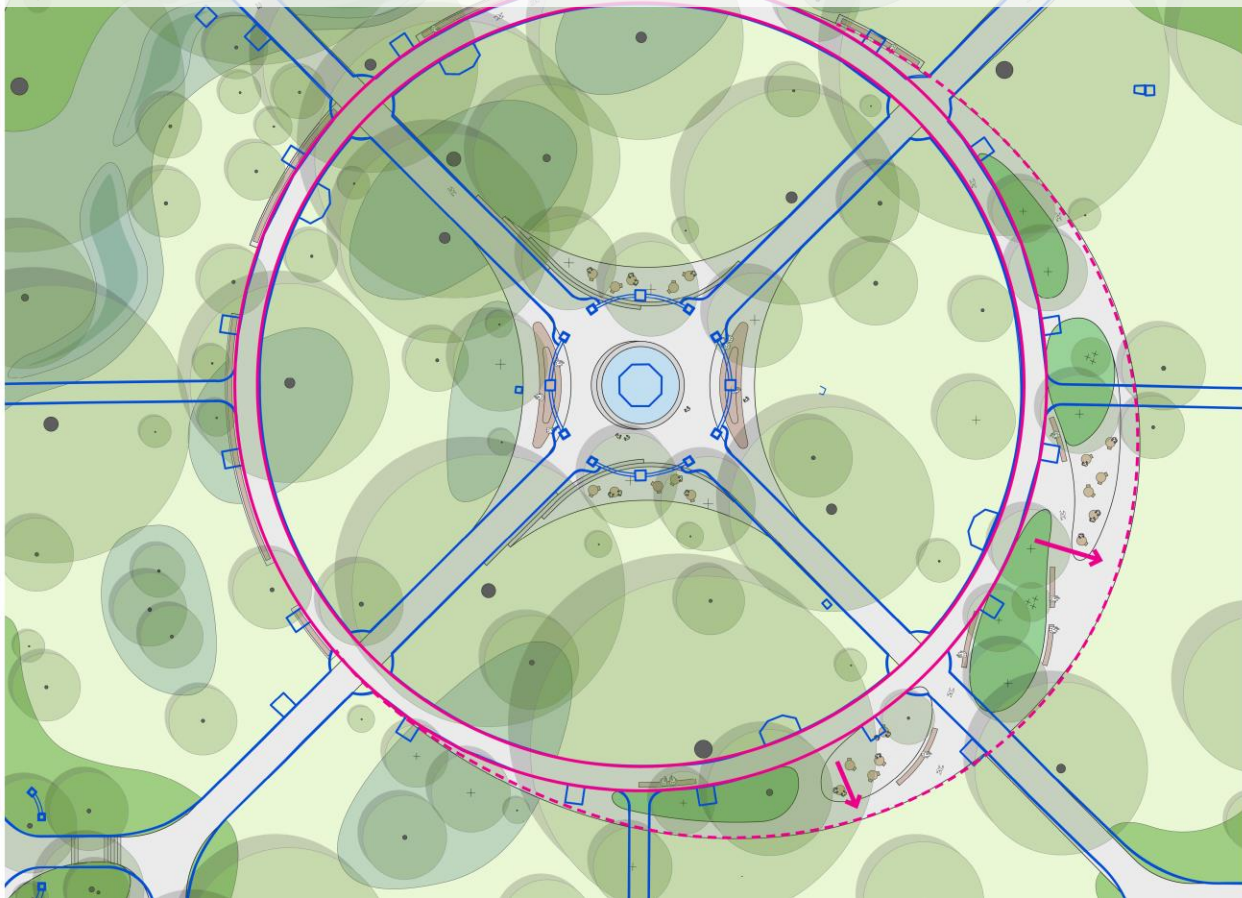


## CORNER OF HARGETT & MCDOWELL: PROPOSED

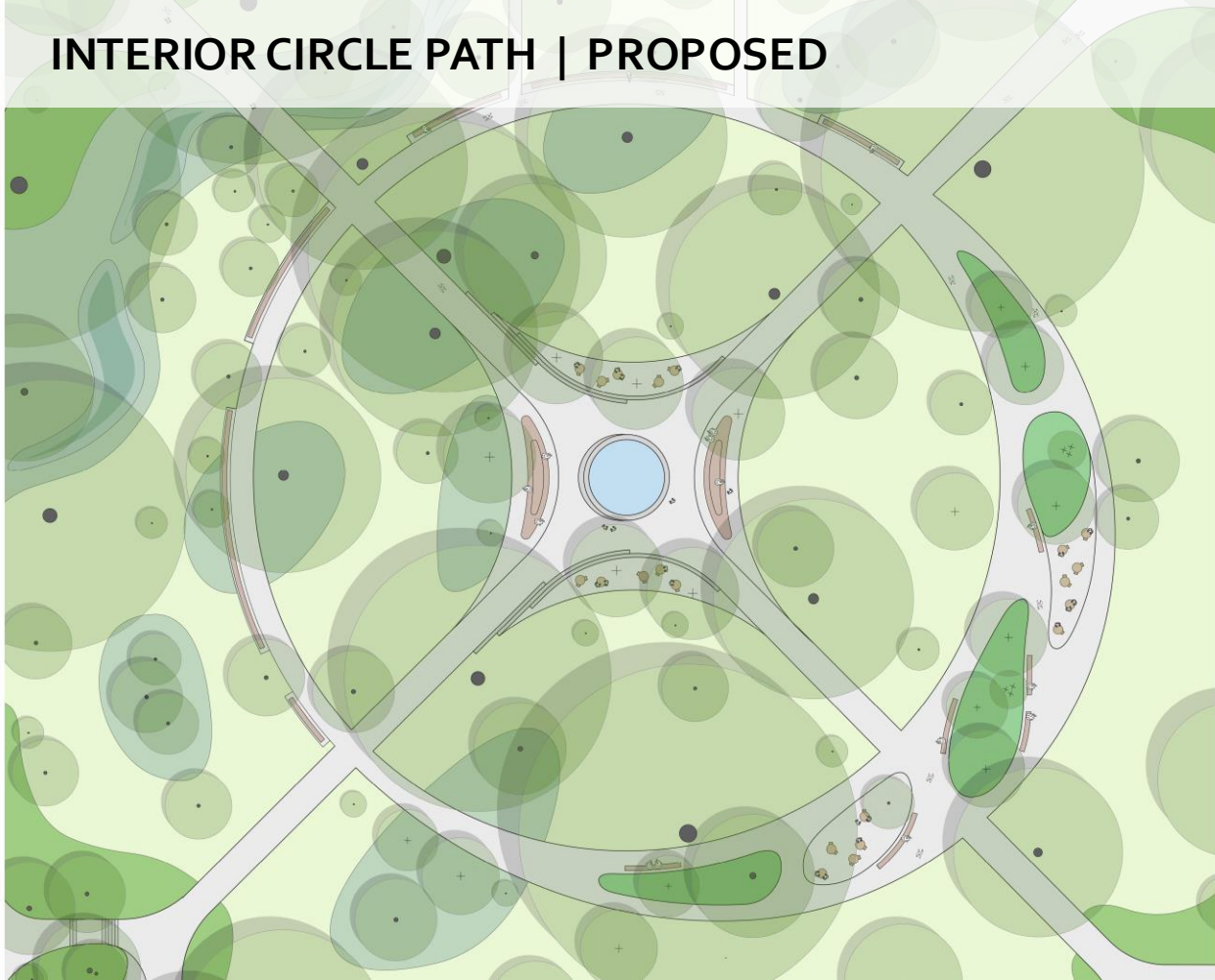




## INTERIOR CIRCLE PATH | Existing Conditions Overlay

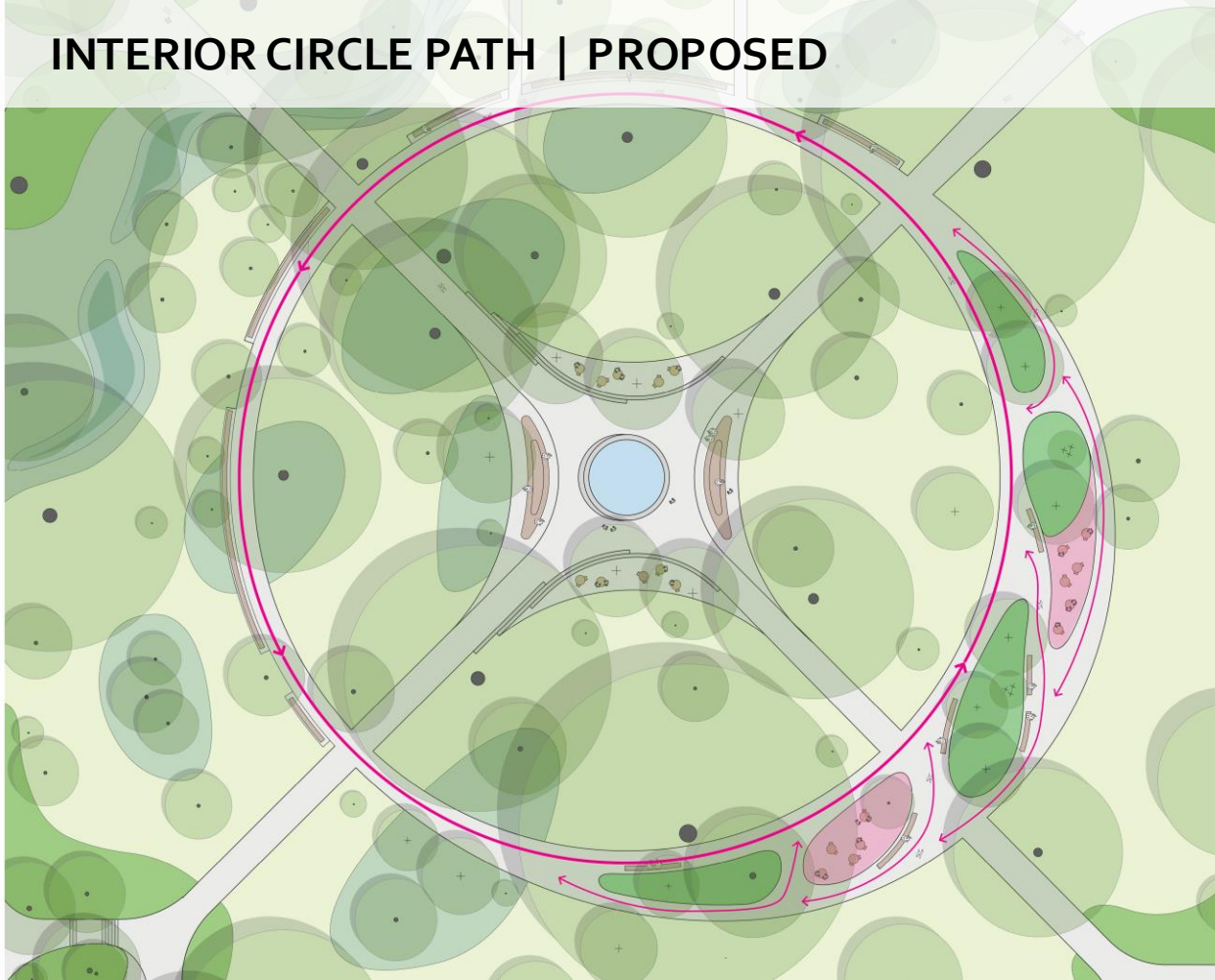


## INTERIOR CIRCLE PATH | PROPOSED





## INTERIOR CIRCLE PATH | PROPOSED





## INTERIOR CIRCLE PATH: EXISTING



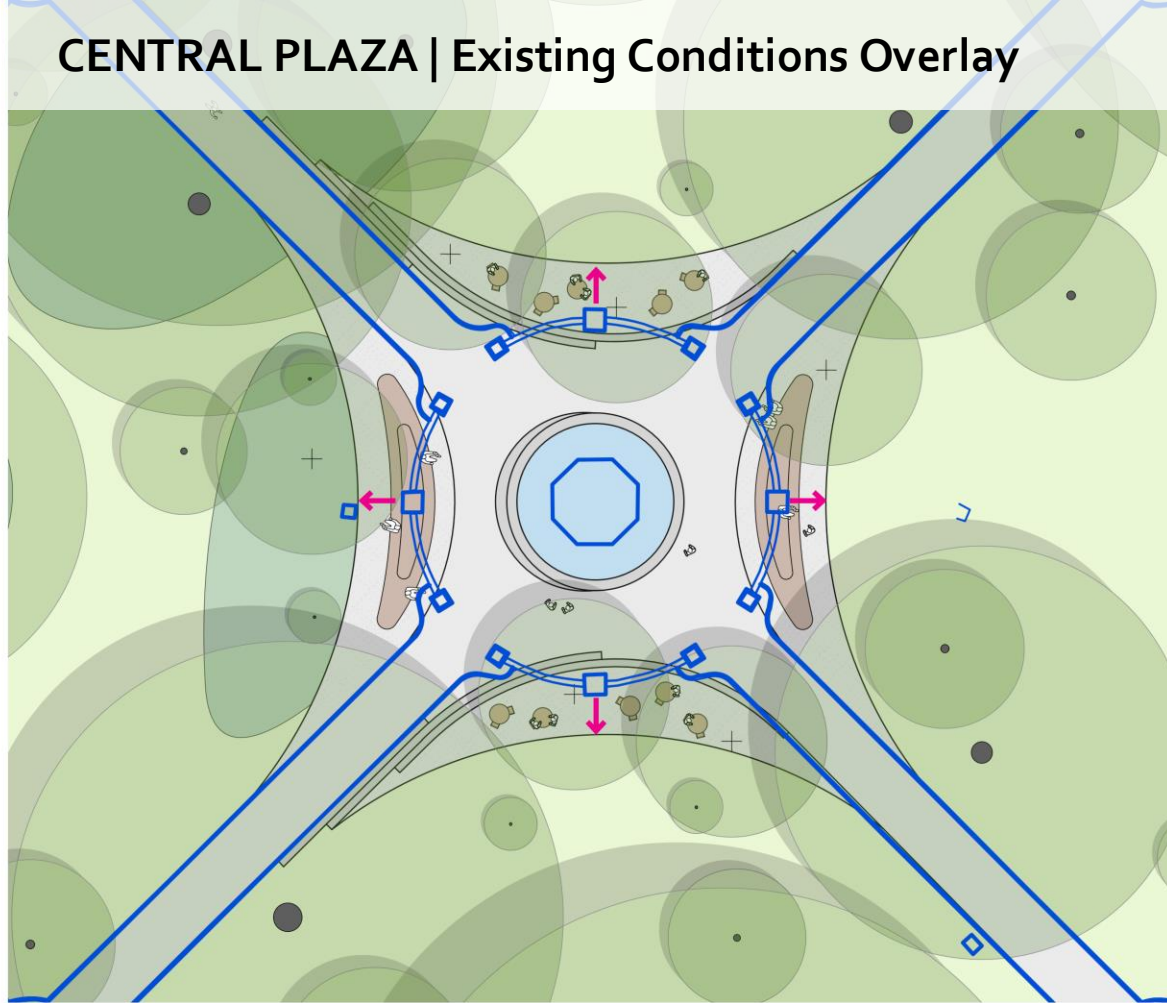


## INTERIOR CIRCLE PATH: PROPOSED



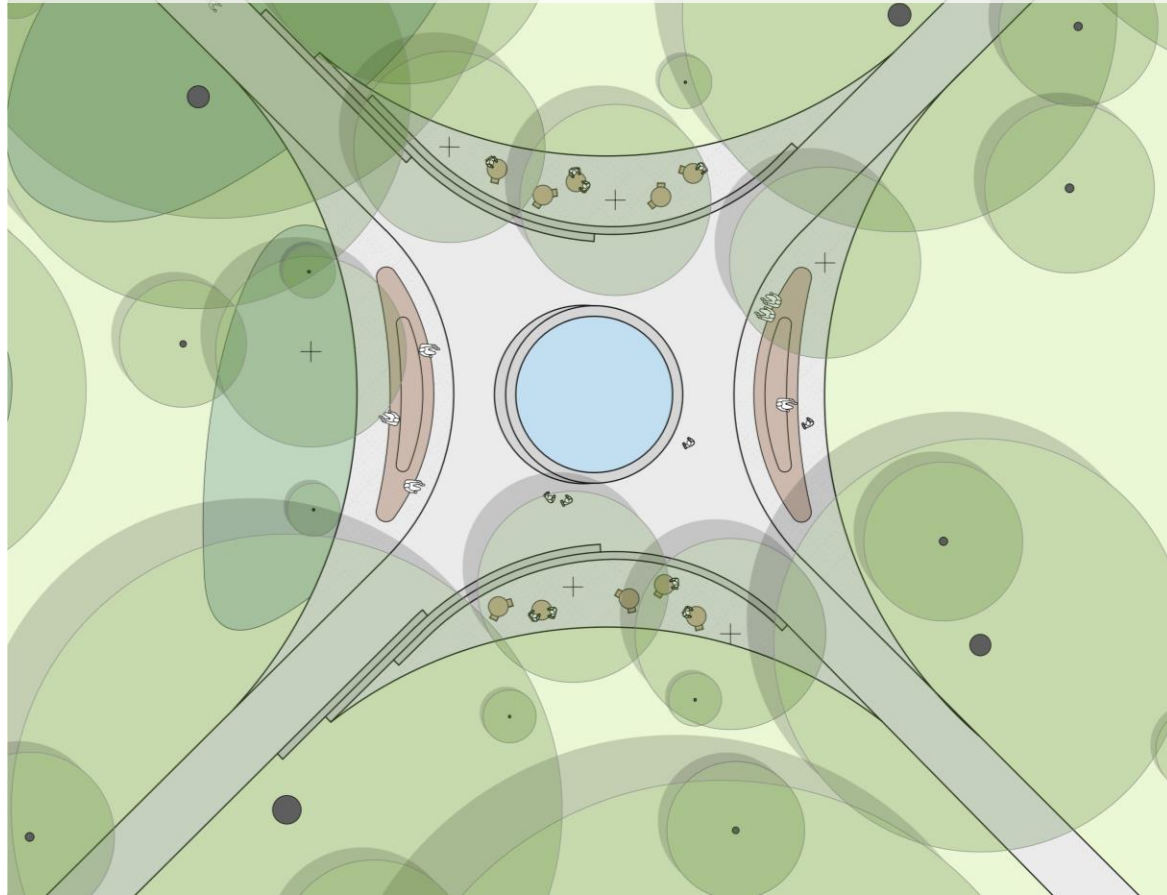


## CENTRAL PLAZA | Existing Conditions Overlay

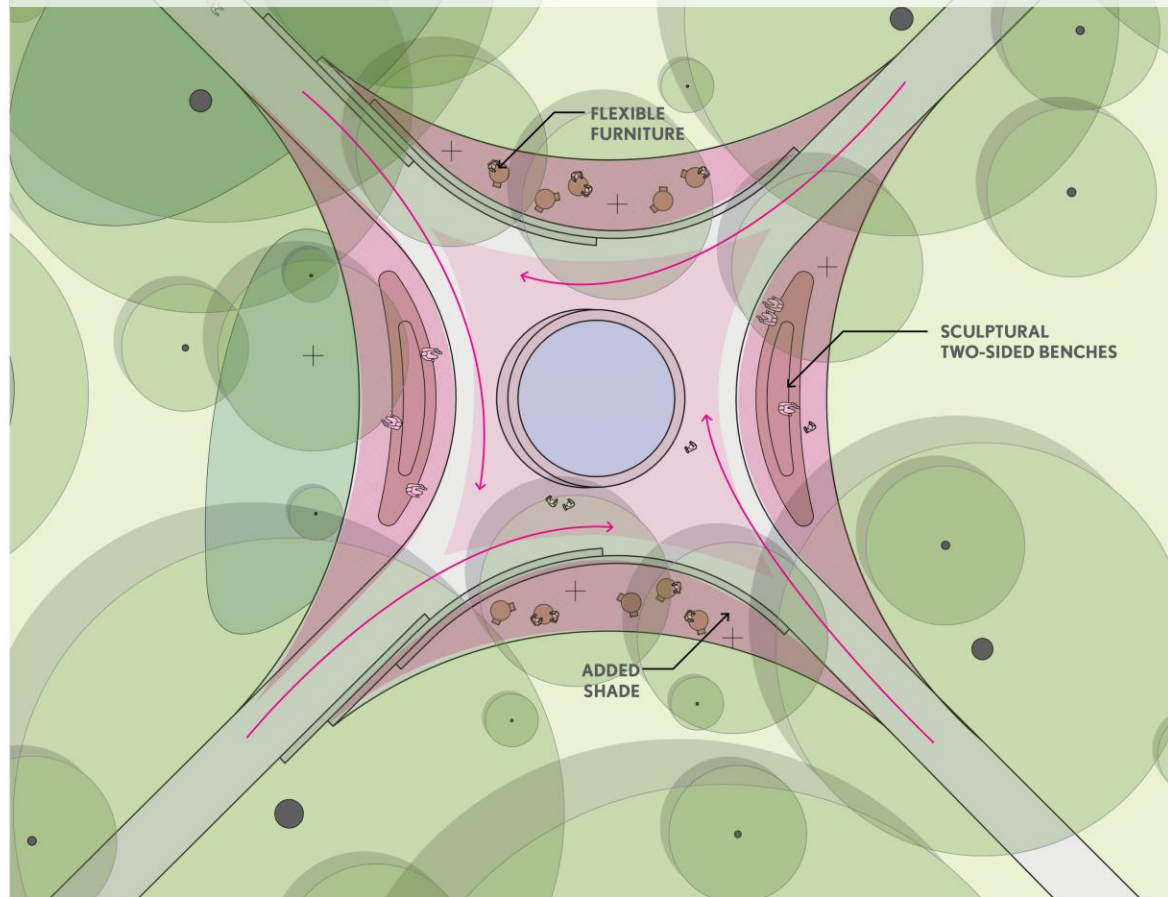




## CENTRAL PLAZA | PROPOSED



# CENTRAL PLAZA | PROPOSED



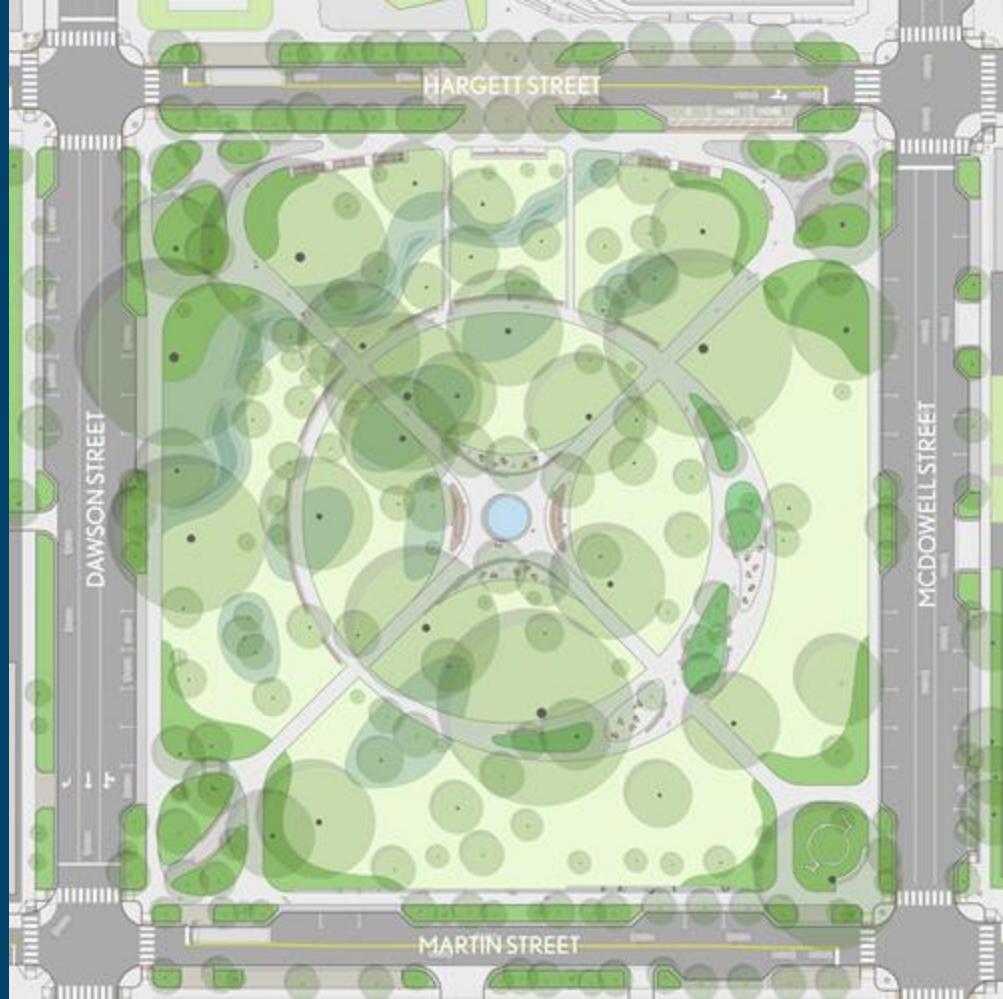


# Nash Square

## Public Realm Plan

### Next Steps & Areas for Further Study

- Hargett St interim improvements
- NC Firefighters Memorial
- Stormwater and utility infrastructure
- Site furnishings, lighting, and safety
- Design & construction cost estimates



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