



ST JAMES PARK  
**REMEMBER**  
**IMAGINE**

SUBMITTED OCTOBER 2016



500 Third Street, Suite 215  
San Francisco, CA 94107  
www.cmgsite.com

Willett Moss, Principal  
wmoss@cmgsite.com  
t 415.495.3070

Team:  
Haley Waterson  
Charly Nelson  
Paul McGehee  
Si Zheng  
Alex Liu

## FUTURE CITIES LAB

2325 Third Street, Suite #229  
San Francisco, CA 94107  
www.future-cities-lab.net

Jason Kelly Johnson,  
Co-Founder and Design Principal  
jason@future-cities-lab.net  
t 415.255.4879

Team:  
Nataly Gattegno  
Ripon Deleon  
Alan Chiang  
Jeff Maeshiro  
Emily Saunders  
Ji Ann



275 Post St., 5th Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94108  
www.mjmmg.com

Mary McCue, President & CEO  
MJM Management Group  
mmccue@mjmmg.com  
t 415.684.9889

Team:  
Jim Chappell  
Tessa Dela Rea

## PAGE & TURNBULL

417 Montgomery Street, 8th Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94104  
www.page-turnbull.com

H Ruth Todd, FAIA, AICP, LEED AP  
ruthtodd@page-turnbull.com  
t 415.362.5154

Team:  
Jay Turnbull, FAIA  
Greg Yanito, AICP  
Jonathon Rusch  
Josh Bevan

## ARUP

ARUP  
560 Mission St # 700  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
www.arup.com/  
t 415.957.9445

Structural:  
Jan-Peter Koppitz  
jan-peter.koppitz@arup.com  
Adrian Crowther  
adrian.crowther@arup.com

Facade and Materials:  
Felix Weber  
felix.weber@arup.com

Acoustics:  
Shane Myrbeck  
shane.myrbeck@arup.com

Lighting:  
Toby Lewis  
toby.lewis@arup.com  
Elizabeth Cooper  
elizabeth.cooper@arup.com

## Oppenheim | Lewis

Oppenheim Lewis, Inc.  
2742 17th Street  
San Francisco CA 94110

Scott Lewis  
scott@oppenheimlewis.com  
t 415.621.6067

## steelblue

580 Howard St., Suite 204  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
www.steelblueinc.com

O'Brien Chalmers  
obrienchalmers@steelblueinc.com  
t 415.590.7156

Team:  
Brian Campbell

## LEAH NICHOLS

Leah Nichols, Filmmaker  
leahnichols@gmail.com

ST JAMES PARK  
**REMEMBER**  
**IMAGINE**

SUBMITTED OCTOBER 2016







# PARK VISION

Urban parks are for urban people that are diverse in both demographics and interests. Just as there is not only one type of urban person, there is not one type of park that will satisfy all. Yet all interests can be held together, unified by a structure or framework, that supports urban life. St. James Park can be a park that accommodates and supports a wide variety of interests and activities, a park that unifies the future with the past, a world class park at the center of a region positioning itself for the future, and a neighborhood transforming itself in the present.

REMEMBER | IMAGINE is a wonderful opportunity to rejuvenate St. James Park in honor of its 150th anniversary and to reassert the function and value of this central open space in the St. James District. Rehabilitation of St. James Park must be pursued with an attitude that enables open space goals—cohesive yet differentiated, undivided yet accessible, situated within an urban context yet separated from it – it wants to once again be the place to see and be seen in San Jose.

REMEMBER | IMAGINE maintains and enhances the unique historic aspects of the park and re-organizes the now largely undefined central open space into outdoor rooms with distinct character, including the Levitt Pavilion. Bridging the past with the future is the Park Paseo, a generous path that unites existing and future monuments and activities, and where neighbors can take their evening strolls.

REMEMBER | IMAGINE re-brands St. James Park and creates an open space that becomes the center point and valued living room in this multi-cultural community within the constellation of city districts from SOFA to San Pedro Square. No opportunity should be missed to celebrate the milestone achievement of the St. James Park's 150 years and the collective commitment to see it last another 150 years.

# HISTORIC CONTEXT



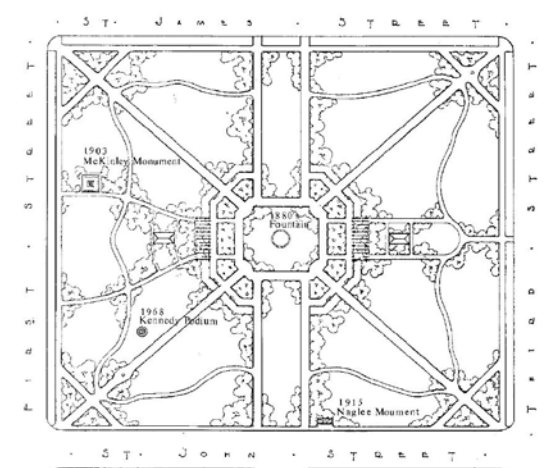
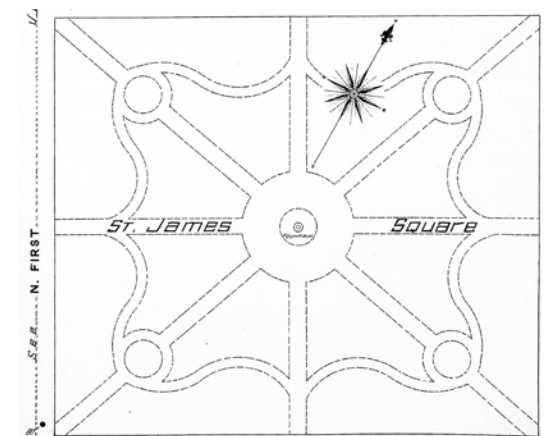
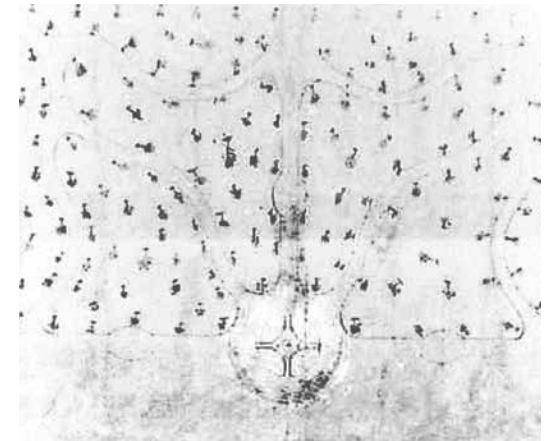
In the early 1890s, St. James Park emerged from its redesign as the premier civic green space in San Jose. The park's lush landscape and undulating paths brought users to the park's noteworthy central fountain. Source: History San Jose via The San Jose Blog, 24 June, 2014. <http://www.thesanjoseblog.com/2014/06/san-jose-historic-photos.html>

For well over a century, St. James Park has served as a significant public landscape and urban refuge in the center of San Jose. Through San Jose's remarkable evolution from Spanish pueblo to seat of Silicon Valley, St. James Park has adapted to meet the changing needs and aspirations of San Jose's citizens. The park is grounded in the city's history, yet it simultaneously points to the future. A complex and multi-layered urban space, St. James Park continues to convey the historic, aesthetic, and civic values that have defined a city experiencing constant transformation.

Beginning with its emergence as central San Jose's premier urban park in the 1860s, St. James Park provided the stage where San Jose's citizens put themselves and their urban environment on display. The Santa Clara County Courthouse was the first civic temple placed facing the square, and it was followed by magnificent churches, social clubs, and other urban institutions that presented an image of power and cultural refinement to the public. Within the park itself, dense and lush vegetation fostered a place where citizens escaped the surrounding city to stroll, be seen, and experience urban sophistication. St. James Park has also served as a hub of social memory in San Jose, where the story of the city has been commemorated with public monuments and civic events.

While St. James Park has proven to be an adaptive urban space throughout the city's successive historic eras, it has also encountered challenges that are inherent in a city experiencing rapid growth and transformation. As San Jose as a whole prepares for the future, efforts to plan for St. James Park's next century should recapture its primacy in central San Jose. By looking at the past, St. James Park can be reintroduced within downtown San Jose as the focus of a promising new era.

As a basis for design, REMEMBER I IMAGINE builds upon the foundation of character defining features that describes St. James Park's period of significance. While the park has enjoyed a long period of prosperity, along with degradation, in the past 150 years, the most significant features carry on, stemming from the 1891 Ulrich Plan. These features are both referenced and embraced in the REMEMBER I IMAGINE design in pronounced and subtle ways, through preservation, reconstruction, or inspiration for new features and amenities.



William O'Donnell's plan for St. James Park (1867); Sanborn-Perris Fire Insurance Survey (1891); City of San Jose's plan for St. James Park (1920)

# PARK PRINCIPLES

In anticipation of its 150th anniversary, the opportunity is now to recast St. James Park as delightful public open space that implores use by a multitude of San Jose residents. To achieve this and frame all design decisions, we have established a series of principles. Each principle identifies clear goals the park design must fulfill. This means there is not one design solution but an overall design that satisfies all principles.

## CELEBRATE

**IDENTIFY, PRESERVE AND REHABILITATE SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC RESOURCES AND PROVIDE A VENUE FOR COMMUNITY CULTURAL EXPRESSION.**

## ACTIVATE

**INVITE VISITORS WITH ENHANCED EXISTING FEATURES AND A VARIETY OF ADDED AMENITIES AND EVENTS THAT ATTRACT AND SUPPORT A DIVERSE PARK USER GROUP.**

## INTEGRATE

**INTEGRATE THE PAST WITH THE PRESENT AND FUTURE, AS WELL AS DIVERSE CULTURES AND COMMUNITIES; INTEGRATE MANAGEMENT, PROGRAMMING AND SAFETY PRACTICES THAT ARE MUTUALLY SUPPORTIVE.**

# DESIGN STRATEGY

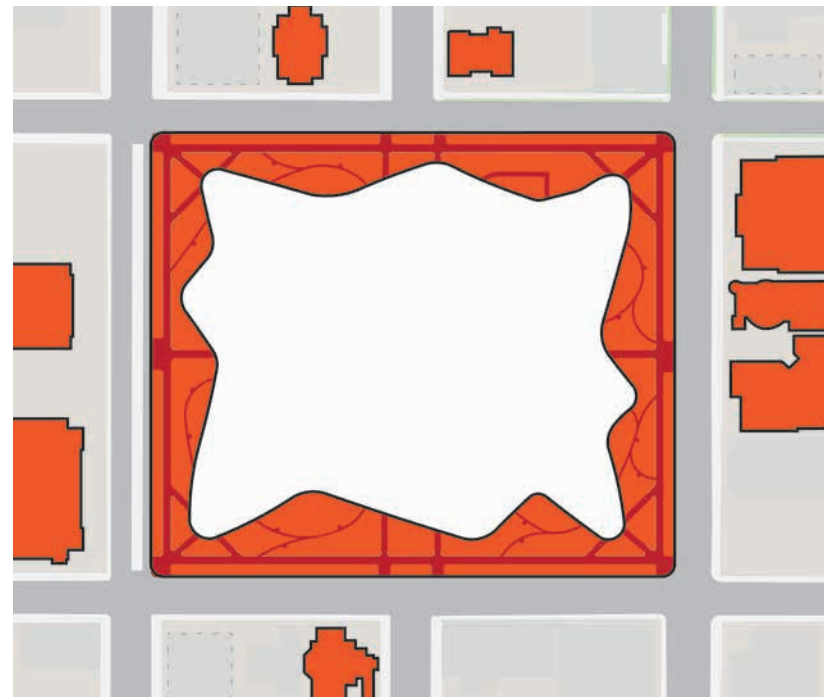
The design of St. James Park is predicated on a few simple design ideas that in combination create a rich and varied environment. The park is to be a place neighbors want to return to day after day. The park is to be safe, functional, durable, and valued by the community as a desirable place to visit for activity or relaxation. It is to have memorable design features that locals are proud of and that attract new visitors. The following design strategies build upon the park design principles.





# CELEBRATE

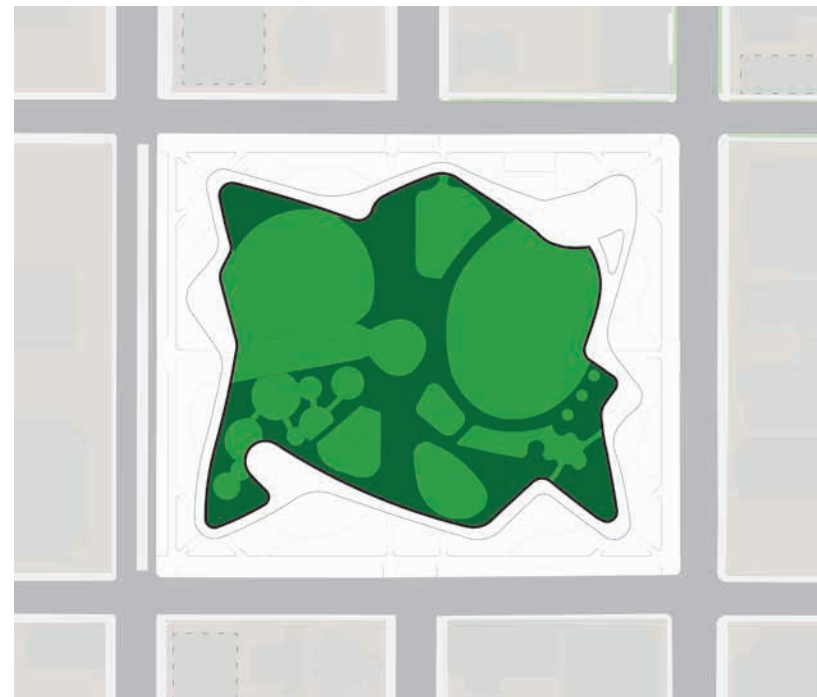
## HISTORIC EDGE



Successful urban squares provide visual pleasure as well as physical separation from the urban context. San Jose has an incredible climate uniquely suited to growing lush gardens—its agricultural history is a testament to this. The Historic Edge maintains established heritage trees and expands upon the original arboretum with new climate appropriate planting that defines the park and its gateways, provides shade, and is a buffer shielding the new park core from surrounding streets. The Victorian passion for collections is recalled in the curated mass-planting of the perimeter of the park with an immersive Victorian garden with garden plantings and Victorian benches and lights which recall the late 19th century park design by Ulrich. The lush arboretum becomes a venue for local stewardship through gardening.

# ACTIVATE

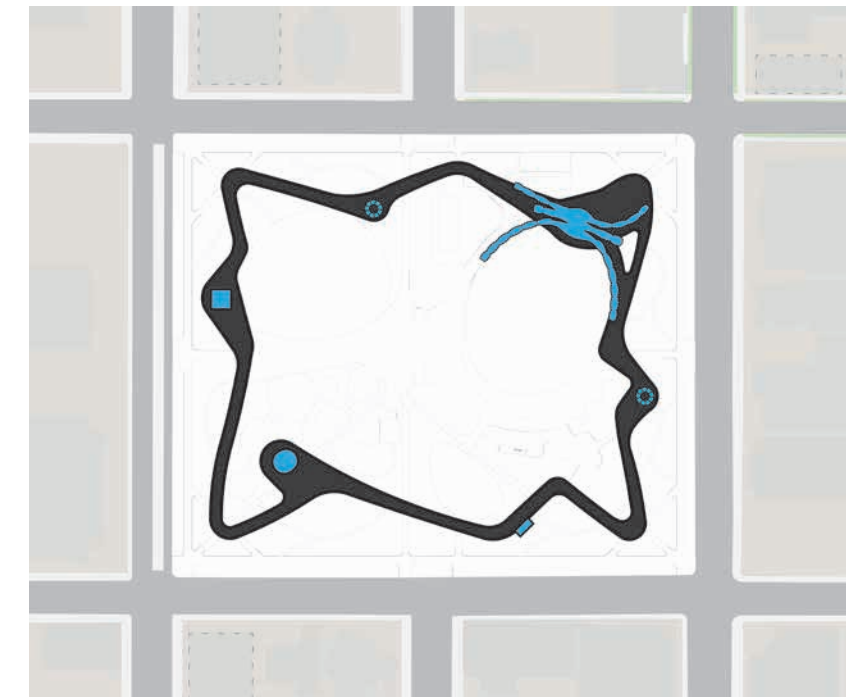
## CONTEMPORARY CORE



The interior of the park is organized with a variety of “rooms”, elements, and facilities. These consist of areas for passive and active uses, including a playground, picnic grove, dog park, multi-use fields, café, and the Levitt Pavilion. The pavilion is located on the Park Paseo where the path morphs to become the stage under the proscenium. The cutting edge design and materiality of the pavilion speak to being in the heart of Silicon Valley. The pavilion’s utility ensures concerts happen regularly and the stage is available by reservation to anyone in the community for story time, dance or performance. The pavilion will become a San Jose icon.

# INTEGRATE

## PARK PASEO



A generous, meandering path recalls the Victorian era perimeter walk and is a loop connecting the existing historic monuments with the new Levitt Pavilion, and includes space for future memorials; a promenade linking the past with the future. The Park Paseo also organizes the entire layout of the park by connecting and integrating the Contemporary Core with the Historic Edge and providing access throughout the park.





# PARK FEATURES

The park includes a variety of experiences and amenities. These program areas and spaces can each stand-alone—playground, dog run, Levitt Pavilion—but the park design maximizes the value and utility of each with careful consideration of how one part relates to another, how each piece of the park is mutually supportive of others. The organization of the park is to accommodate a range of uses. Framed by the Victorian gardens of the Historic Edge are two large multi-use lawns, suitable for soccer or lounging in the sun, and a plaza for food trucks and festivals. The Levitt Pavilion overlooks The Lawn, is adjacent to the Park Café and restrooms, and is opposite the picnic grove that can function for events as a VIP and hospitality area. The playground, dynamic fountain, dog park and picnic area are all collocated to benefit from and maximize social interaction.

**AS A RESULT, THE PARK IS GREATER THAN THE SUM OF ITS PARTS.**

# PARK PASEO

The generous looping path—a stroll through time—highlights history, organizes the park circulation, and presents a framework for installation of future memorials. The walk physically connects the McKinley, Kennedy, and Naglee monuments and Levitt Pavilion (a monument to the community) and provides space for future memorials. The path itself deforms to become the stage at the Pavilion and a plaza in front of the Kennedy monument. The Park Paseo is a place for an evening stroll, as well as an exercise path that delineates various use areas in the park.

## HISTORIC ANALYSIS

### TRADITION OF MEMORIALIZATION IN THE PARK

#### CDF CURRENT CONDITION:

- Several memorials have been placed in the park to commemorate significant speeches and individuals associated with the park's history:
  - McKinley Memorial (1903)
  - Naglee Memorial (1915)
  - Robert F. Kennedy Memorial (1968)
  - Fireman's Memorial relocated to St. James Park (1994)

#### DESIGN RECOMMENDATION:

- Develop a consistent framework for existing and future memorials to be placed -- as has become tradition in St. James Park.





# LEVITT PAVILION

St. James Park will include an iconic pavilion and cutting-edge concert venue for San Jose. The Levitt Pavilion will support informal park functions and spontaneous events and will be a dramatic backdrop for urban dwellers. Residents can walk around and through a unique open space in the neighborhood. The pavilion becomes a monument to the community, a flexible open space that accommodates multiple programs like film festivals, puppet shows, dance performances, informal jam sessions, or experimental theater productions, with an online calendar allowing individuals or groups to reserve the stage to present neighborhood shows. During Levitt Pavilion concerts, the structures and lawn rapidly transform into a high-quality venue for enjoying music in a relaxed park setting. The adjacent cafe will provide drinks and snacks in the evening to further activate the park and pavilion.

Tucked away under trees, but adjacent to the Levitt Pavilion is the Park Café. It is a small structure, with kitchen, dining area, and restrooms. The dining area opens directly onto a tree shaded terrace that looks out over the Levitt Pavilion and The Lawn.





\*tree canopy not shown

# THE LAWN

The elliptical turf field is large enough to accommodate large crowds attending a concert, or informal soccer games, multiple groups playing, and individuals lounging in the sun. The southern edge of The Lawn is a gentle sloped embankment that creates the effect of a bowl for the Levitt Pavilion audience.



Urban Movie Night



Kids Programming



Urban Living Room Precedents



Community Activity Precedent

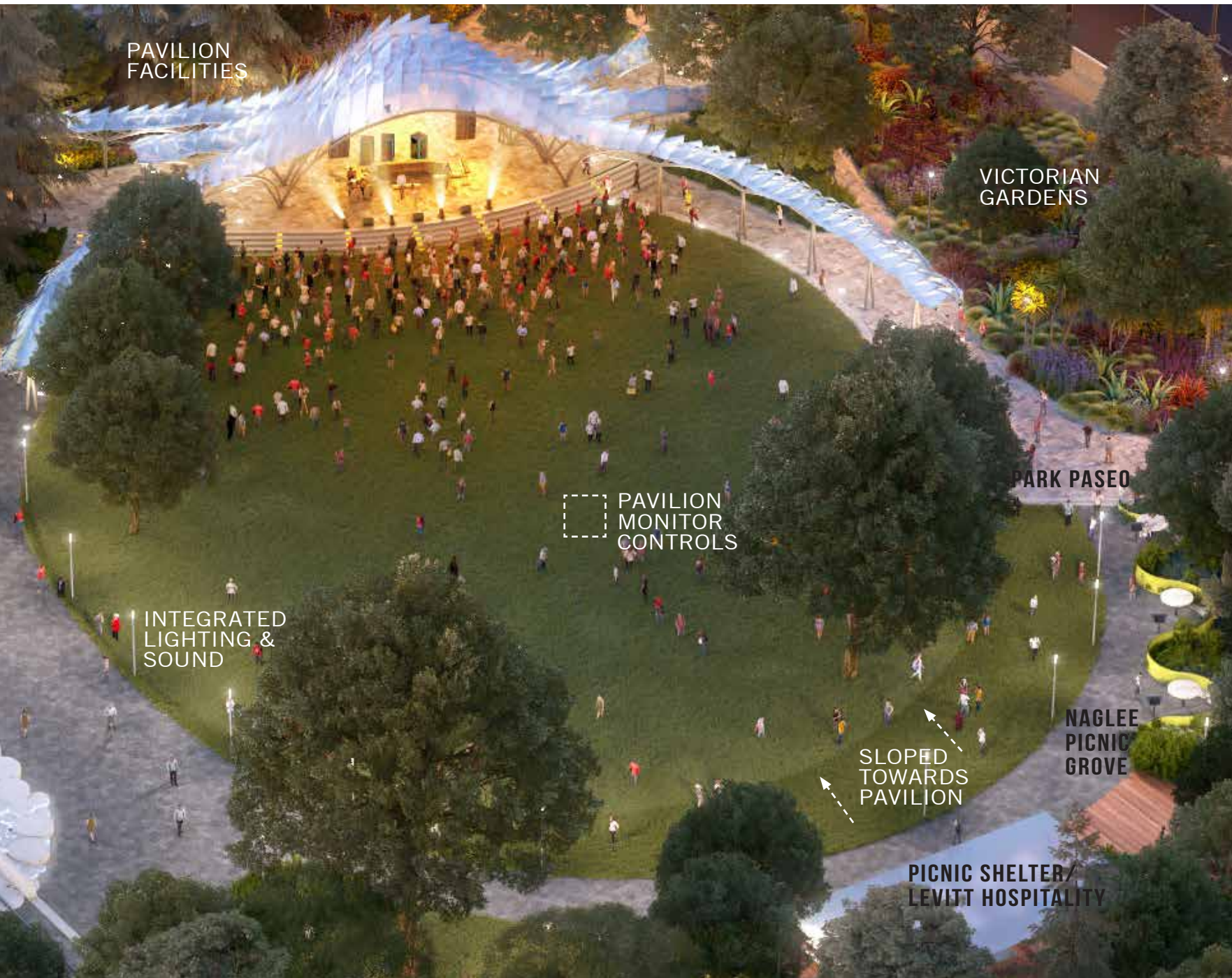


CAFE &  
RESTROOM

RAIL  
BARRIER

FOUNTAIN





# NAGLEE PICNIC GROVE & DOG PARK

The adjacency of the picnic area, picnic shelter with restrooms, and the dog park maximizes social interaction. Large canopies of new and existing trees provide ample shade over each area, and the planting of the historic edge jumps the monument walk to provide a verdant enclosure for these outdoor rooms. The picnic grove is oriented and sized to overlook the Levitt Pavilion and The Lawn and provides space for a concert VIP area and other event-related amenities and viewing.

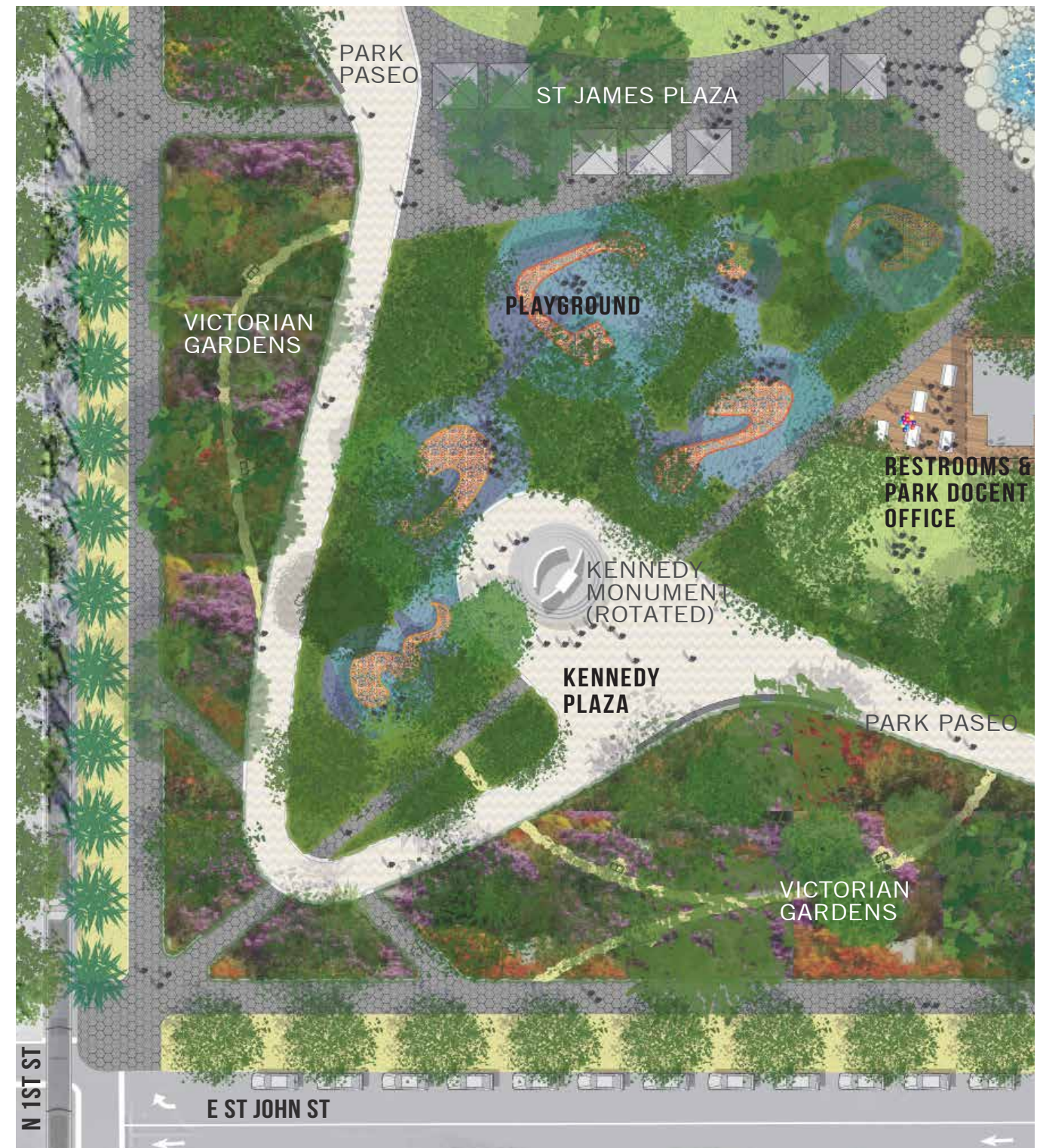


\*tree canopy not shown



# PLAYGROUND

A destination playground is nestled within the planting surrounding the Kennedy Memorial, and is adjacent to bathrooms, park docent office, and small enclosed lawn for children celebrations. The playground will be a one-of-a-kind environment serving toddlers to youth. The central location of the Kennedy Memorial presents the history of the park directly to the children and becomes a place for adults to congregate and socialize as they watch over their children. To maximize social interaction and eyes on the space, the play area is adjacent to McKinley Plaza, where kids can run to grab a popsicle from a stall and return to the playground while parents circulate festival tents and teens kick a soccer ball on the meadow.





Precedent playground images



# MCKINLEY MEADOW & ST. JAMES PLAZA

Complementing the specific park features such as the Levitt Pavilion and Playground are generous multi-use spaces. These include the McKinley Meadow and The Lawn. The McKinley Meadow accommodates a variety of uses from individuals lounging in the sun, to small and large group gatherings, to informal games.

A multipurpose paved area accommodates children learning to ride bikes and scooters, festivals with tents, food trucks, and more. The plaza sits at the intersection of various amenities including the Playground, McKinley Meadow, and the Fountain. In this location the plaza becomes a social hub.

## HISTORIC ANALYSIS

### McKINLEY MONUMENT

#### CDF CURRENT CONDITION:

- The monument has remained in its original location since 1903 and is commonly referenced as a key feature in the park. It is also the park's first memorial in a series of memorials that have been placed within the park since 1903.

#### DESIGN RECOMMENDATION:

- McKinley Monument should will remain in its historic location, allowing the monument to continue to represent the most significant event in the park's history and its connection to a nationally significant historic event.



McKinley Statue, May 1942. Photographed by Russell Lee. Library of Congress.





# FOUNTAIN

A dynamic fountain is located in the center of the park to recall the historic fountain of the Ulrich Victorian park. A single metal fish is relic of the 1980's fountain that honored the original Victorian fountain that also included fish figures. The new fountain is made from multiple casts of the fish, each of which playfully emits water. The fountain basin is a durable, accessible, sculptural surface to collect the streams of water, and allow people to play in. A cloud of soft fog-like mist is emitted in the basin whenever a train passes by. The play element of the fountain is set far from the train tracks, and integrated barriers stop access to the tracks. The basin surface appears to be stone, but is made of concrete infused with fiber optics to emit light. The entire basin softly glows at night, along with the reflections off the fish and mist. The fountain becomes a new glowing heart and central attraction in the park.

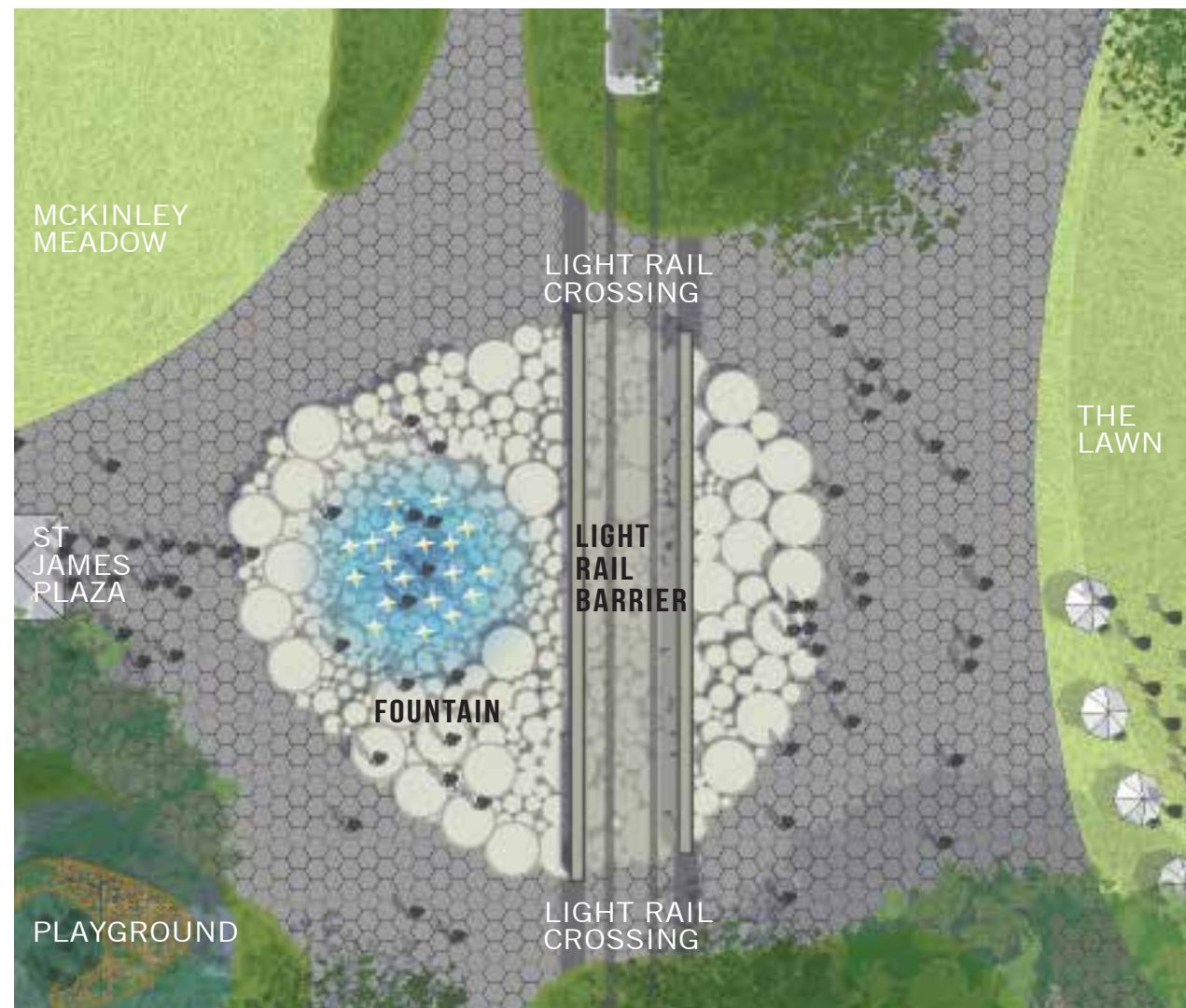


Photo of the original St. James Park fountain ca. 1900-1905, courtesy of San Jose Public Library Digital collections



