

Mixed Use on Central between 3rd & 4th

Development of a Mixed Use Project along the west side of Central Avenue between Fourth Street and Third Street.

Increased housing in downtown Osseo is important to the downtown area and the community at-large. Construction of higher density housing adjacent to the area is supportive of downtown businesses by providing the ability to walk downtown for shopping, dining or entertainment, which is increasingly popular with a specific segment of the housing market, particularly empty nesters and young professionals. Here, the City of Osseo owns portions of the existing parking lot on the west half of the block and the remaining area consists of smaller buildings and unorganized surface parking, making this block a strong redevelopment option. Infrastructure improvements to sanitary sewer, water main and stormwater ponding would need to occur in conjunction with this project, as well as coordination on a district-wide parking approach for the downtown. Rectifying the infrastructure and parking issues through this catalyst project could allow for additional commercial redevelopment projects of various scales throughout the Downtown Core District.

Correlation to Vision and Guiding Principles

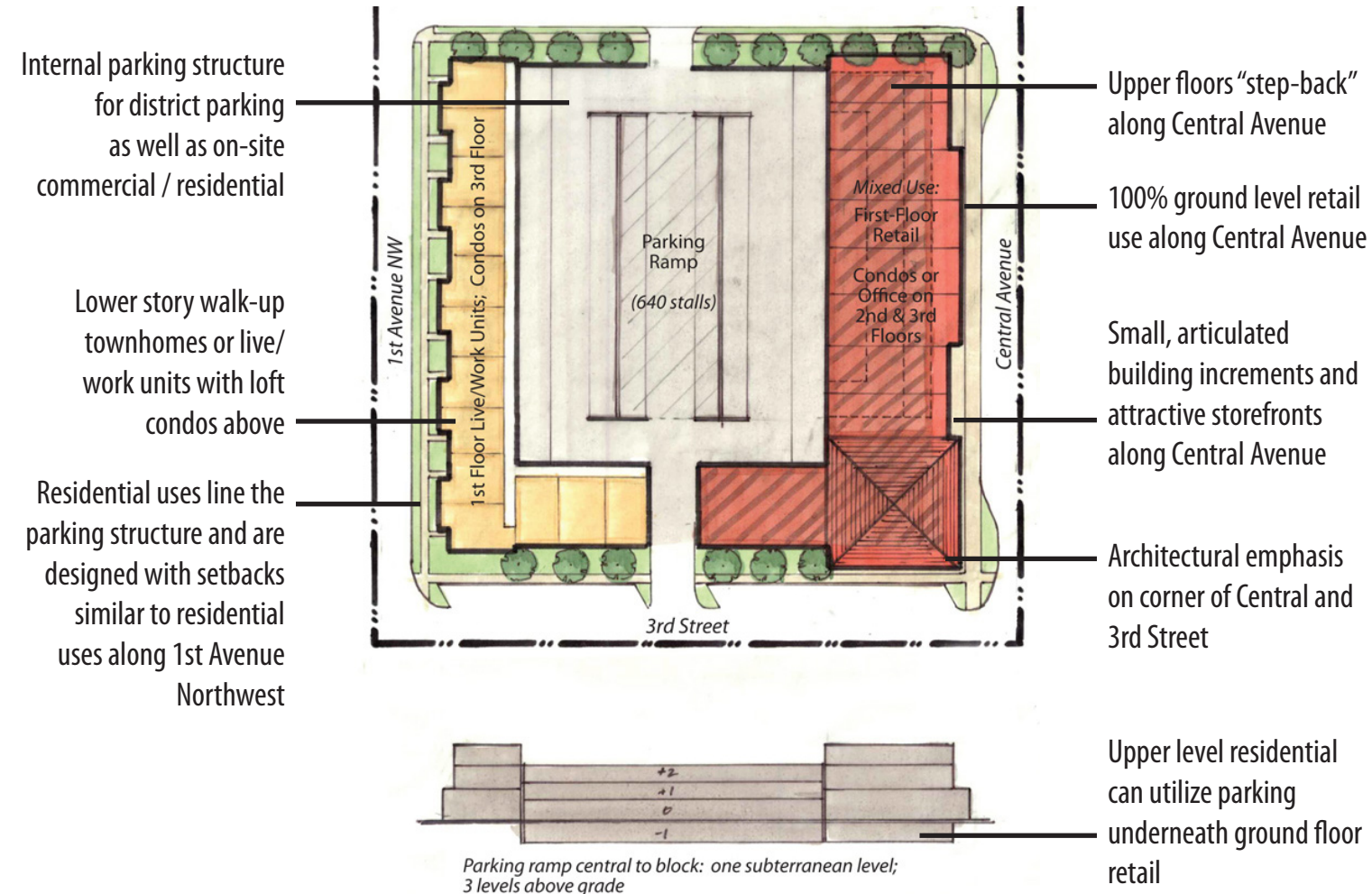
- Stimulate redevelopment and economic growth.
- Add new housing choices.
- Encourage healthy community design.
- Enhance Osseo's downtown identity.
- Create an exceptional walking and biking environment.

Key Concepts and Directives

- Intensification of commercial/residential development.
- Develop street-facing retail and residential.
- Design small increments along building facade.
- Create attractive storefronts along Central Avenue.
- Move existing businesses into new buildings.
- Increase retail square footage.
- Design for accessibility and affordability.
- Utilize "green" materials.
- Develop internal parking.
- Utilize shared parking (surface lots or structure) for the district.

Public & Private Responsibilities

- Financial assistance.
- Assistance in ownership or control of remaining parcels.
- Public parking facility for downtown.
- Utility improvements (sanitary sewer, watermain/stormwater treatment).
- Creative design of structures for appropriate users.

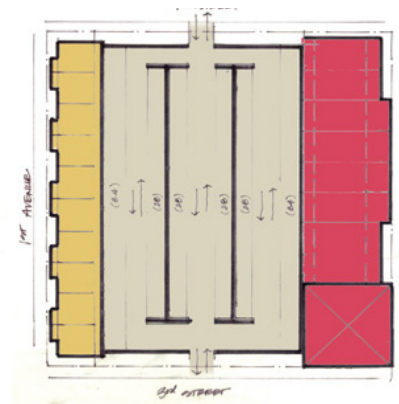


Alternative Study 1 - Additional commercial space

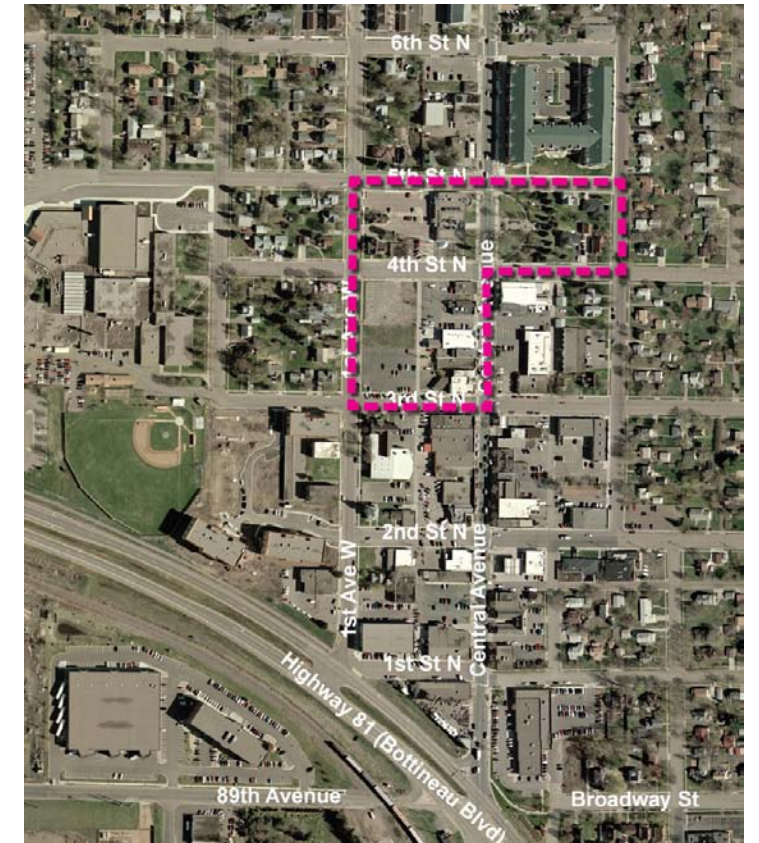


Block Alternative 1:
 29,500 SF first-floor retail
 40,000 SF office on 2nd & 3rd floors
 18 residential units
 Parking needs: 446 stalls
 Ramp accommodation: 408 stalls
 On-street parking: 60 stalls

Alternative Study 2 - Maximizing District Parking



Block Alternative 2:
 15,000 SF first-floor retail
 40 residential units
 Parking needs: 180 stalls
 Ramp accommodation: 720 stalls
 On-street parking: 60 stalls



Catalyst Site Location

Mixed use development showing ground level retail with upper stories of residential set back from the street.



Mixed Use at Central Avenue Gateway

Development of a Mixed Use "Gateway" project along the west side of Central Avenue north of County Road 81 intersection

The highway visibility and access to the site off of County Road 81, coupled with shifting 1st Avenue South and the conversion of the street to one-way traffic allowing for more development area, make this site attractive for retail and office redevelopment. Much of the site is comprised of unorganized surface parking lots, under-utilized buildings and uses that do not fit the downtown. Here opportunities exist to strengthen the vitality of downtown through the addition of commercial activity, to create a parking structure through the addition of commercial activity, to create a parking structure the entire downtown district can utilize and to develop an iconic entry for the downtown and city of Osseo along County Road 81 in the form a great urban plaza / gateway space.

Correlation to Vision and Guiding Principles

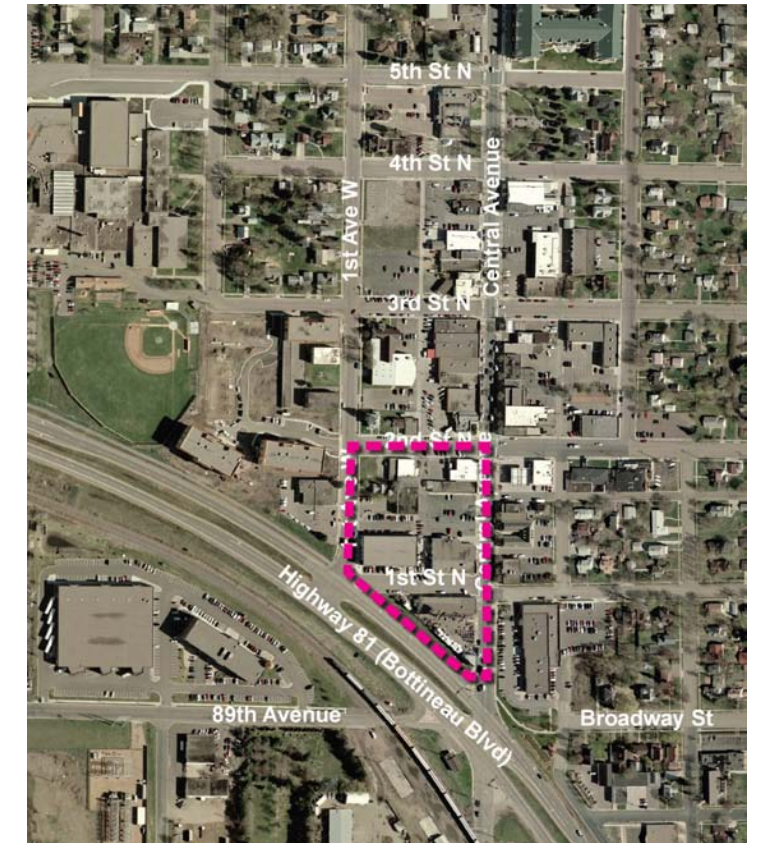
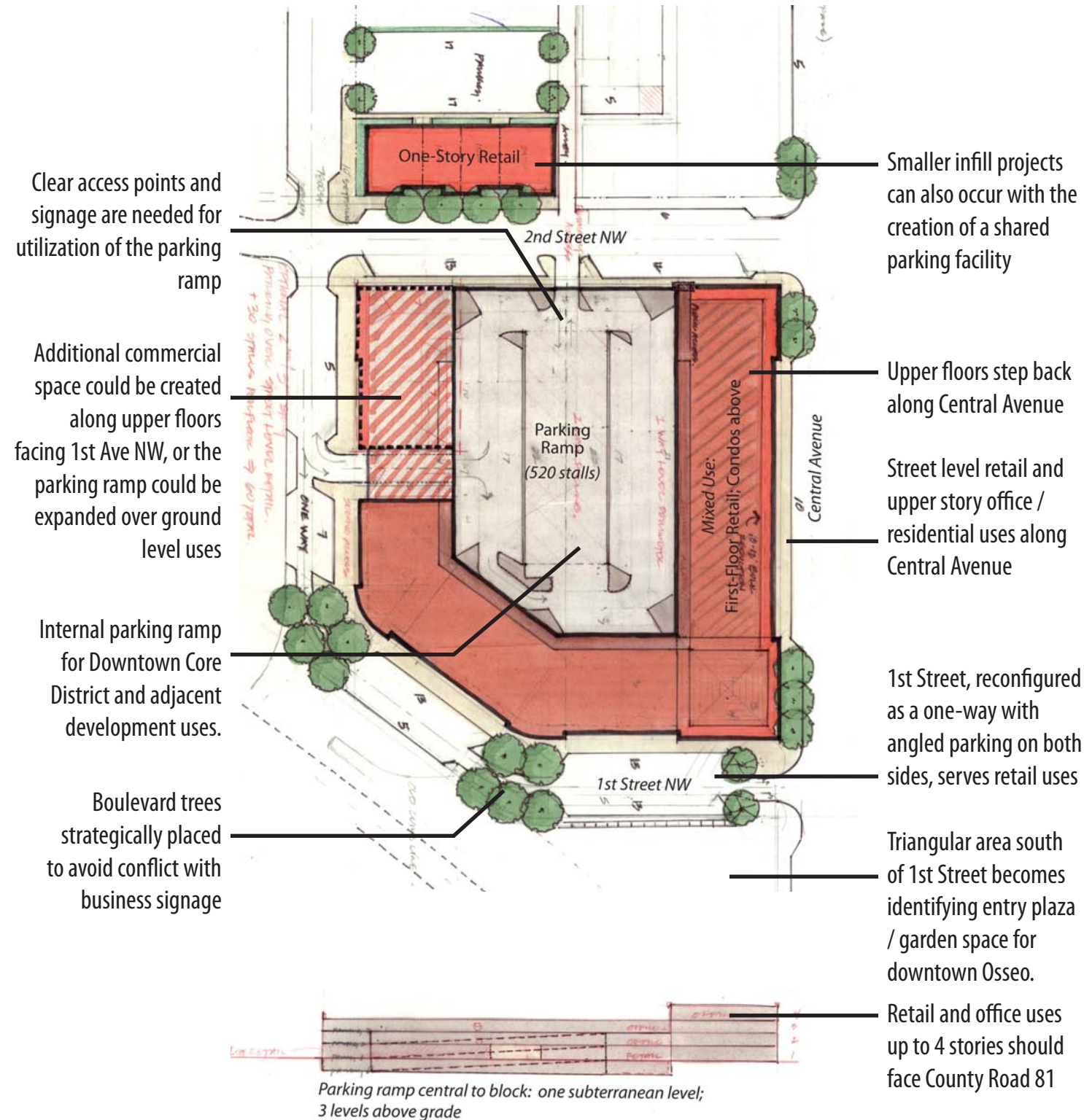
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- Create attractive storefronts along Central Avenue.
- Move existing businesses into new buildings.
- Increase retail square footage.
- Design for accessibility and affordability.
- Utilize "green" materials.
- Develop internal parking.
- Utilize shared parking (surface lots or structure) for the district.
- Realign 1st street and utilize angled parking for storefronts.
- Develop plaza space in remaining triangular area to the south as a gateway element for Downtown Osseo.

Public & Private Responsibilities

- Financial assistance.
- Assistance in ownership or control of remaining parcels.
- Public parking facility for downtown.
- Utility improvements (sanitary sewer, water main & stormwater treatment).
- Creative design of structures for appropriate users.



Catalyst Site Location



Angled parking serves ground level retail uses



Upper floors should be utilized for office or residential uses



NoBo Commons

Development of a highway-oriented commercial district at the intersection of 4th Avenue and County Road 81.

The future reconstruction of County Road 81 will ultimately close numerous existing access points to many of the businesses along the corridor and focus all the access to the intersection of 4th Avenue. With a mix of older commercial buildings, highway visibility and future transportation changes in this area, the potential exists to create a small, well-organized commercial district focused on uses which require more square footage and direct automobile access than uses found in downtown. Office showrooms, franchise restaurants, and drive thru chains require high visibility, convenient access and parking turn over. NoBo Commons is envisioned to serve these uses, but to still be planned and designed into a "village" like setting with buildings of similar architectural character and strong pedestrian connections.

Correlation to Vision and Guiding Principles

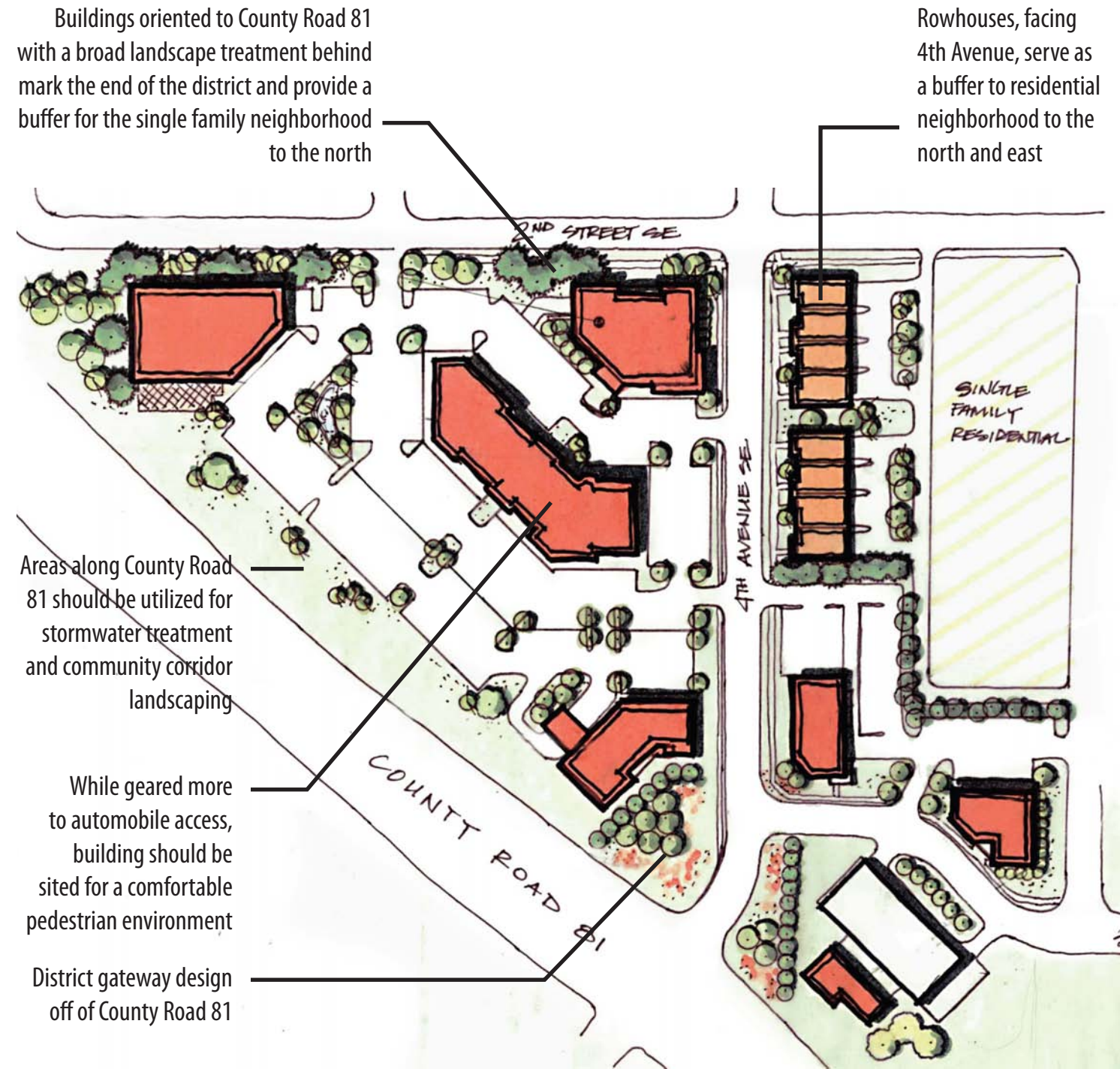
- Stimulate redevelopment and economic growth.
- Add new housing choices.
- Encourage healthy community design.
- Create an exceptional walking and biking environment.

Key Concepts and Directives

- Allow for commercial development in Osseo for uses which are not compatible with downtown's "Main Street" environment.
- Increase highway-oriented commercial square footage.
- Fit buildings, parking and service into well-organized site design.
- Utilize design guidelines to create architectural character for district.
- Design for accessibility and affordability.
- Utilize "green" materials.
- Develop organized/shared parking.
- Focus access locations based on existing grid pattern.
- Utilize rowhouses as transition to single family residential uses.
- Creatively treat stormwater in areas along/adjacent to County Road 81.
- Enhance the County Road 81 corridor with landscaping/screening; treatments which could be applied community wide.

Public & Private Responsibilities

- Financial assistance.
- Assistance in ownership or control of remaining parcels.
- Utility improvements (stormwater treatment).
- Coordination of County Road 81 and local access improvements.
- Creative site plans and buildings for appropriate users.



Catalyst Site Location



Creative stormwater treatment methods such as rainwater gardens should be utilized to treat surface water runoff.

Commercial buildings should be of similar design character and sited to ensure strong pedestrian movement.



Central Avenue "Main Street" Redevelopment

The Idea:

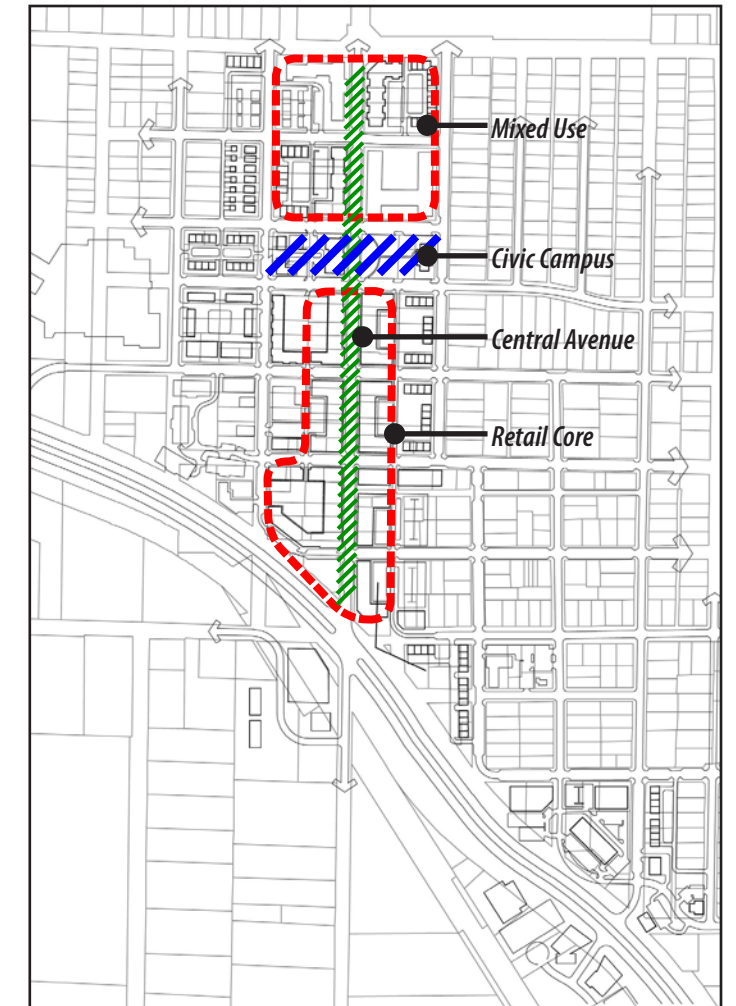
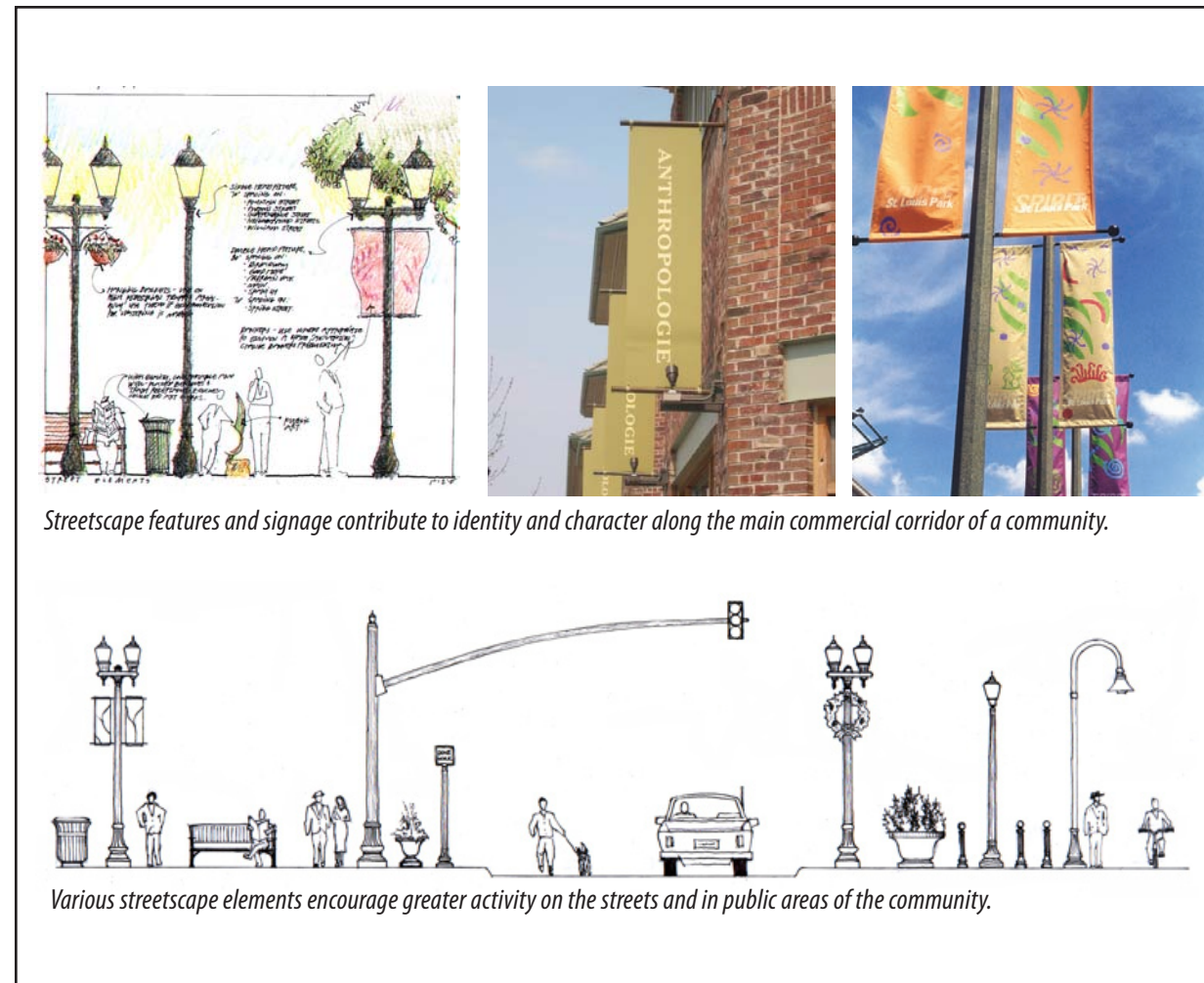
Central Avenue already possesses a walkable character and pedestrian-friendly retail environment. The idea for redevelopment along Central Avenue is to build on the existing character and enhance its identity as the heart of Osseo's commercial and civic activity. Attention to architectural style, streetscape, and urban design will be essential for revitalizing the city's "Main Street": Central Avenue.

Key Concepts & Guidelines:

- Streetscape amenities such as trees, wide sidewalks, pedestrian-scaled streetlights and benches will establish a comfortable and safe walking environment.
- Retaining street parking along Central Avenue provides an extra buffer between pedestrians on the sidewalk and moving vehicles.
- Building facade and infrastructure improvements that include vibrant storefronts add vitality and identity to the streets creating a more desirable place to be.
- Public art along Central Avenue will add interest and life to the pedestrian experience.
- Raised pedestrian crosswalks, curb "bump outs" and other similar traffic calming measures will make drivers more aware of pedestrians and increase safety.
- Add outdoor plazas and public gathering spaces, particularly on block corners.
- Focus streetscape elements currently missing from Central Avenue.

Challenges & Potential Issues:

- Redevelopment project aesthetics will play a significant role in determining the character of the street; proposals will need careful consideration.
- Costs for infrastructure improvements will affect timing and implementation.



Where it fits in Osseo



Mixed-use building with landscaped street frontage. (photo source: Metropolitan Design Center Image Bank)



Streetscape elements define the pedestrian space of the street.



The right streetscape elements can create an inviting sidewalk cafe.



Planters and seating create a welcoming environment.



High amounts of window space on the first floor contribute to greater indoor/outdoor interaction and transparency.



Varied building facades and architectural features, like awnings, break up building bulk along the street. (photo source: Metropolitan Design Center Image Bank)



The Idea:

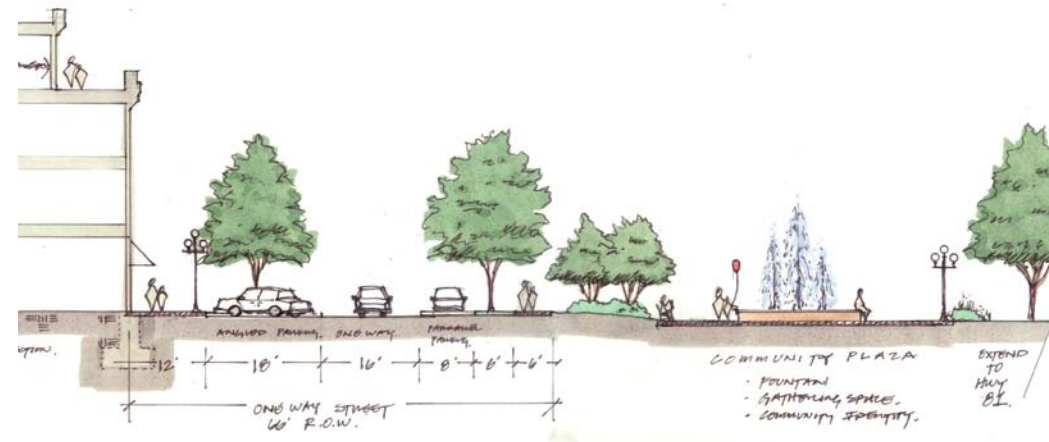
The city's identity and economy would benefit from having more attractive and visible gateway features at major entries into the city. The county's planned redesign of Bottineau Boulevard (County Road 81) and the City's redevelopment planning presents a unique opportunity to identify the city's gateways and design these areas as major public spaces that bolster the city's identity and highway visibility.

Key Concepts & Design Guidelines:

- Gateway areas should reflect the Main Street character of Central Avenue and Osseo's small town character in general.
- Where feasible, gateway areas should encompass both sides of the road entrance.
- Gateways should incorporate some degree of public open space, such as urban plazas, small parks, planted boulevards, monument/signage and landscaping, etc.
- Buildings within and adjacent to gateway areas should be oriented to the street and gateway open space to enhance street vitality.
- Vertical landmark elements, public art should be used to enhance identity and visibility.

Challenges & Potential Issues:

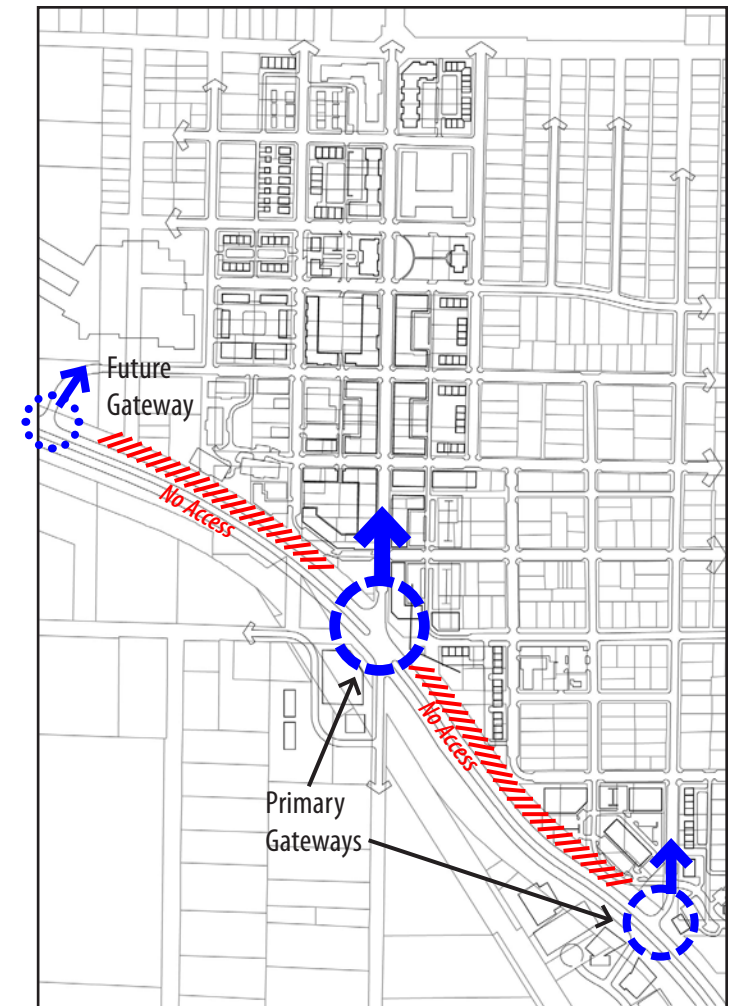
- Need for coordination with Hennepin County since all of the gateway areas are adjacent to county roads.
- Use of the limited amount of land zoned for commercial uses for public open space.
- Gateway land uses may not generate tax revenues.
- Gateway areas typically require regular maintenance by the city and increase the city's public works costs.



Community Gateway / Plaza



Community Plaza in Burnsville



Where it fits in Osseo



Vertical elements signal a place and provide for easy identification.



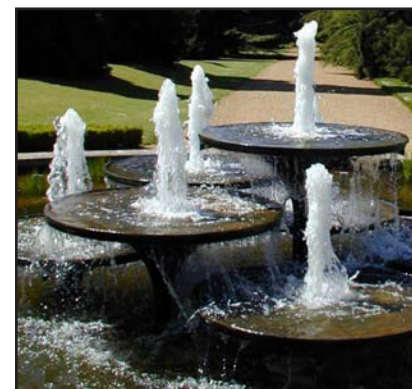
Public art and sculpture can help enhance identity.



Street lighting and banner poles identify the district.



Fountains are inviting and add movement and visual interest to a public space.



Community plaza character.



Community-wide identity along County Road 81 should include signage and landscape treatments.

The Idea:

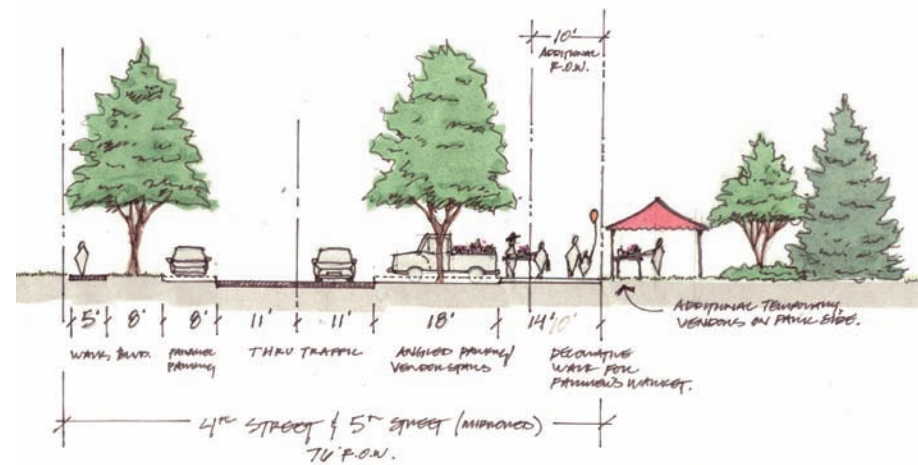
To optimize the compactness, economic vitality and pedestrian environment of Central Avenue, the City needs to have a comprehensive downtown parking strategy that addresses the parking needs of the various types of downtown businesses, customers, employees and residents. The location and design of parking areas should enhance the downtown environment to support a compact, vibrant & visually attractive downtown with parking well-screened or enclosed.

Key Concepts & Guidelines:

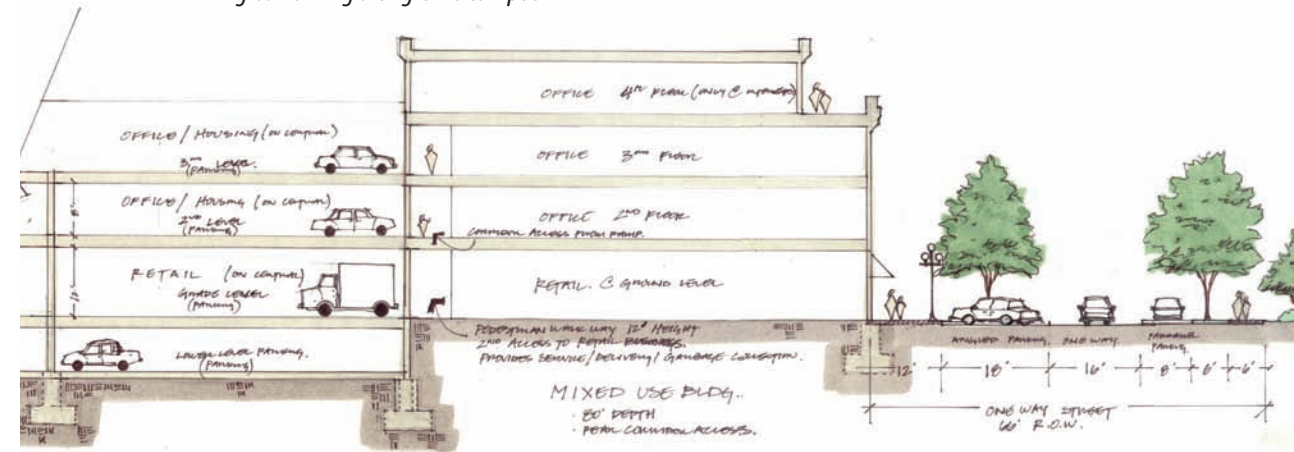
- Structured parking should be considered for all new multi-family residential buildings.
- Encourage the establishment of shared parking areas for businesses that draw at different times of the day.
- Consider diagonal parking on streets connecting directly to Central Avenue.
- Off-street parking areas should not front onto Central Avenue.
- Improve the visual impact of off-street parking areas by requiring landscaping and screening.

Challenges & Potential Issues:

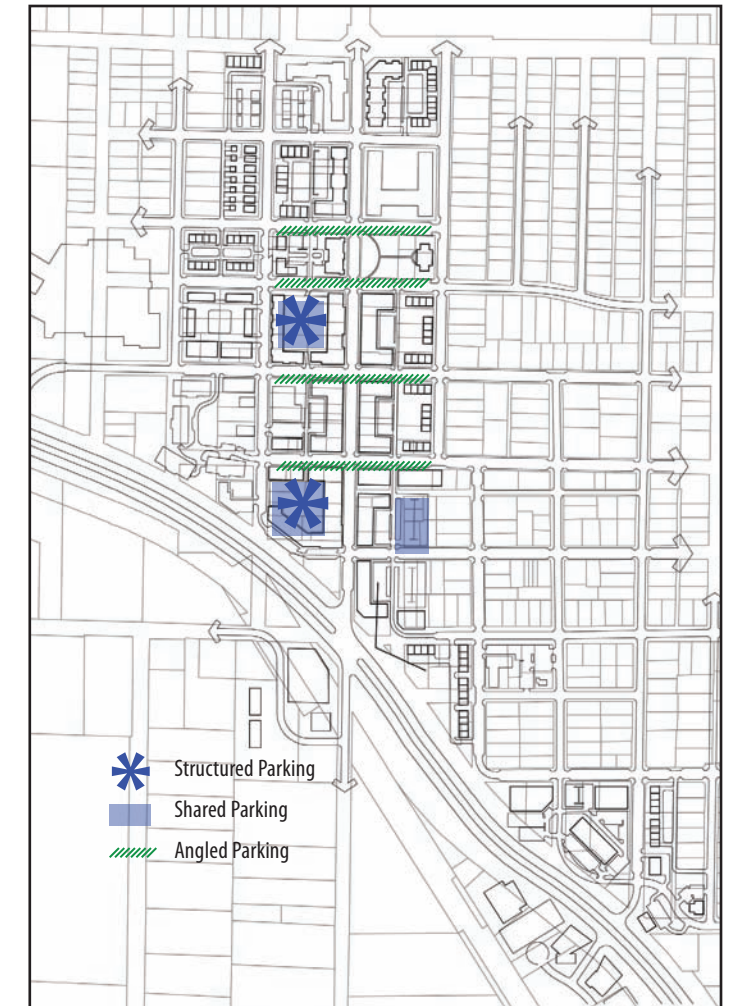
- Perceptions of a parking shortage in downtown may persist even though adequate parking areas are available.
- Increased costs associated with providing enclosed parking versus surface parking.



Angled Parking along Civic Campus



Downtown Parking Structure



Where it fits in Osseo



Angled parking proposed on side streets.



Landscape elements of surface parking lots.



Linear commercial building around parking structure with active uses above. (photo source: Metropolitan Design Center Image Bank)



Shared parking structures for the downtown core.



Underground parking for residential uses. (photo source: Metropolitan Design Center Image Bank)



Clear signage to and from surface parking lots.

The Idea:

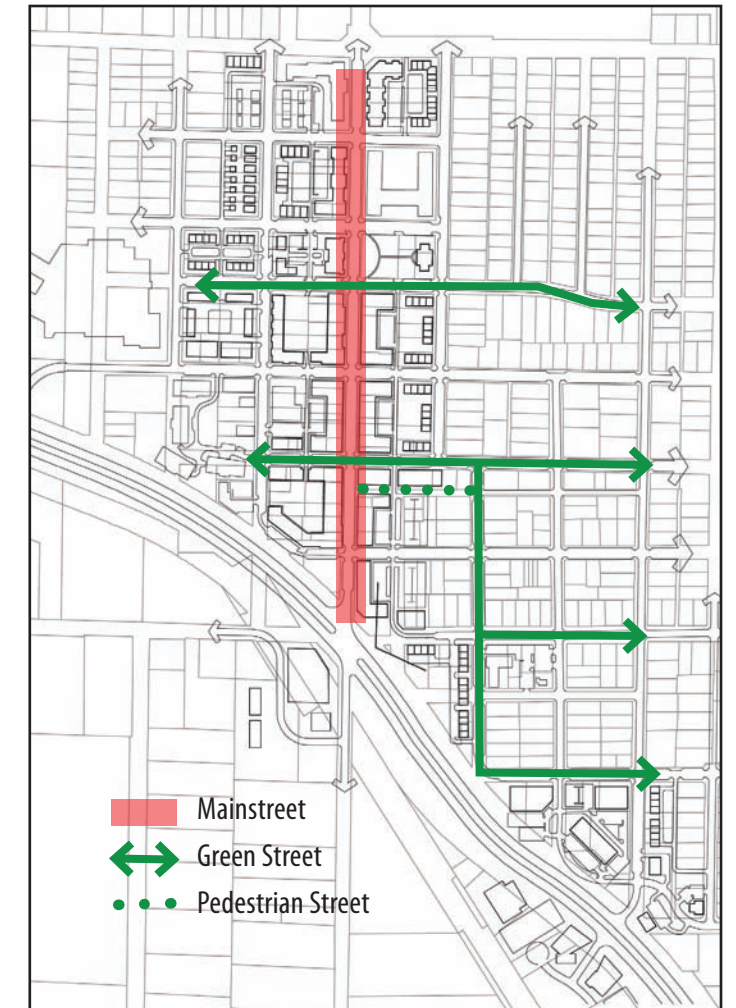
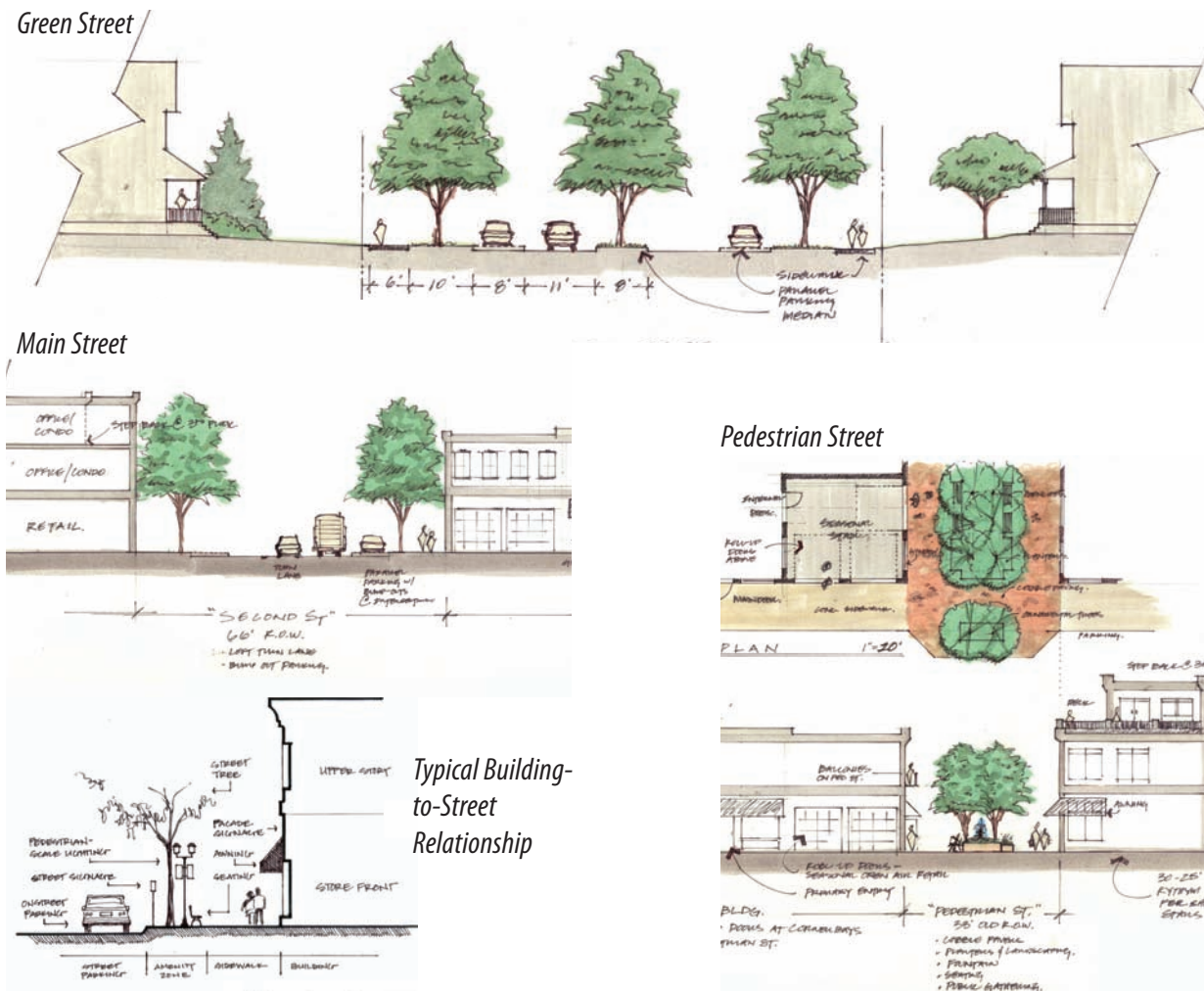
The City of Osseo's identity can be portrayed through different aesthetic along the street. Providing lighting, benches and landscaping can enhance the City's small town character and provide a pedestrian friendly environment. Streetscapes can also be applied to redevelopment opportunities. With an existing downtown core along Central Avenue, redevelopment should enhance the Main Street character. Buildings along the street should reflect the small town character and at a scale that id pedestrian friendly and creates a vibrant streetscape.

Key Concepts & Guidelines:

- Streetscape amenities should be applied, including cross streets off Central Avenue, to the walking/biking loop.
- Amenities such as lighting, benches and landscaping should reflect the Main Street character of Central Avenue and Osseo's small town character in general.
- Buildings should have street level windows, balconies, street level retail and architectural character reflecting the Main Street character of Central Avenue and Osseo's small town character in general.
- Streetscape landscaping should include street trees and rain gardens.

Challenges & Potential Issues:

- Streetscape amenities, such as benches, trees and lighting would be required by the city to maintain.
- Adjustments to existing curb and gutter should be accommodated as budget allows.



Where it fits in Osseo



Streetscape amenity zone.



Special pavement and architectural features.



Landscape amenities with street drainage.



Pedestrian zone.



Active streetscape.



Planters and landscaping separate pedestrian space from parking, bike and drive lanes.

The Idea:

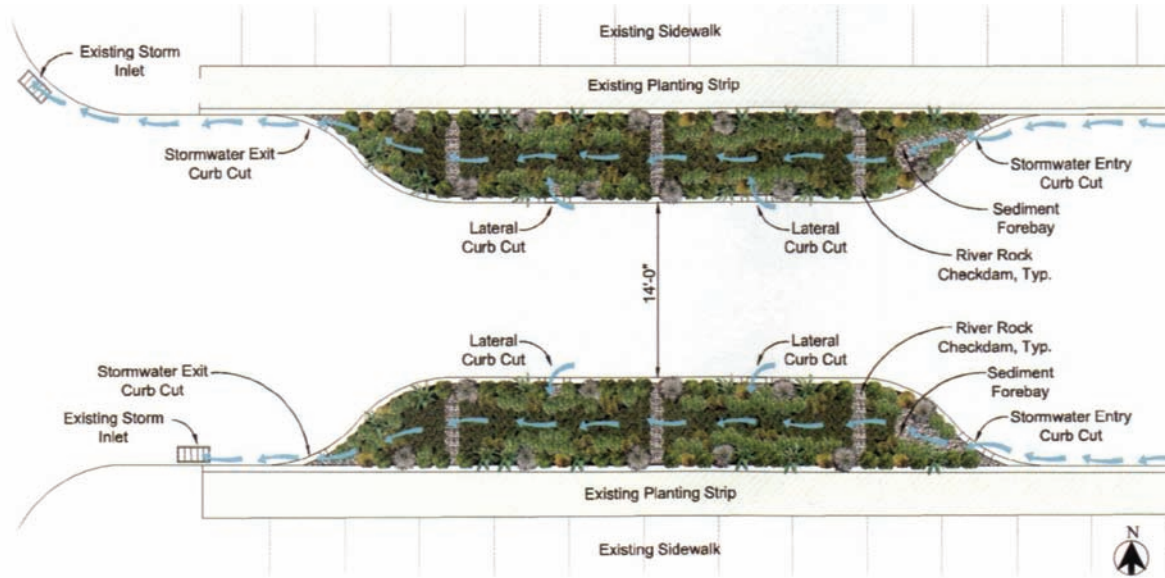
Establishing a healthy network of green infrastructure enhances the livability of Osseo and contributes to overall goals for sustainable development. Osseo can benefit from linked systems of green corridors, stormwater infiltration areas and parks and trails. Open space should be preserved, conserved and rehabilitated for establishing a community-wide green infrastructure system.

Key Concepts & Design Guidelines:

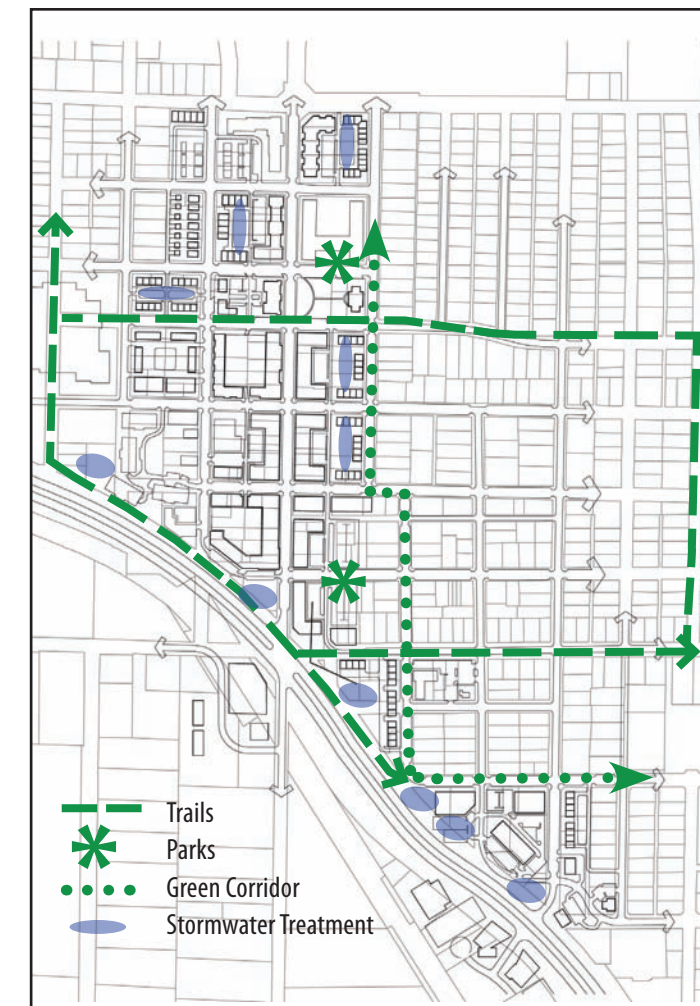
- Elements of green infrastructure can exist on both public and private land.
- Green areas and open space should be connected to establish a green system.
- Areas of intense paving, such as parking lots, can be mitigated with landscaping and progressive stormwater treatment, contributing to the overall green infrastructure.
- Areas used for stormwater infiltration can double as a community amenity and be coupled with the development of trails, community gardens or other compatible active uses.
- Public/private partnerships will increase opportunities for rehabilitating open space.

Challenges & Potential Issues:

- Existing development may pose barriers to implementing a connected system of green infrastructure in some locations.



Filter strips along streets. (Images from Landscape Architecture Magazine.)



Where it fits in Osseo



Green roof..



Pervious pavement for parking areas..



Raingardens enhance suburban-style office campuses and parking lots and could be used in redevelopment like that proposed in the NoBo and SoBo districts.



Raingarden along a residential street.



The Idea:

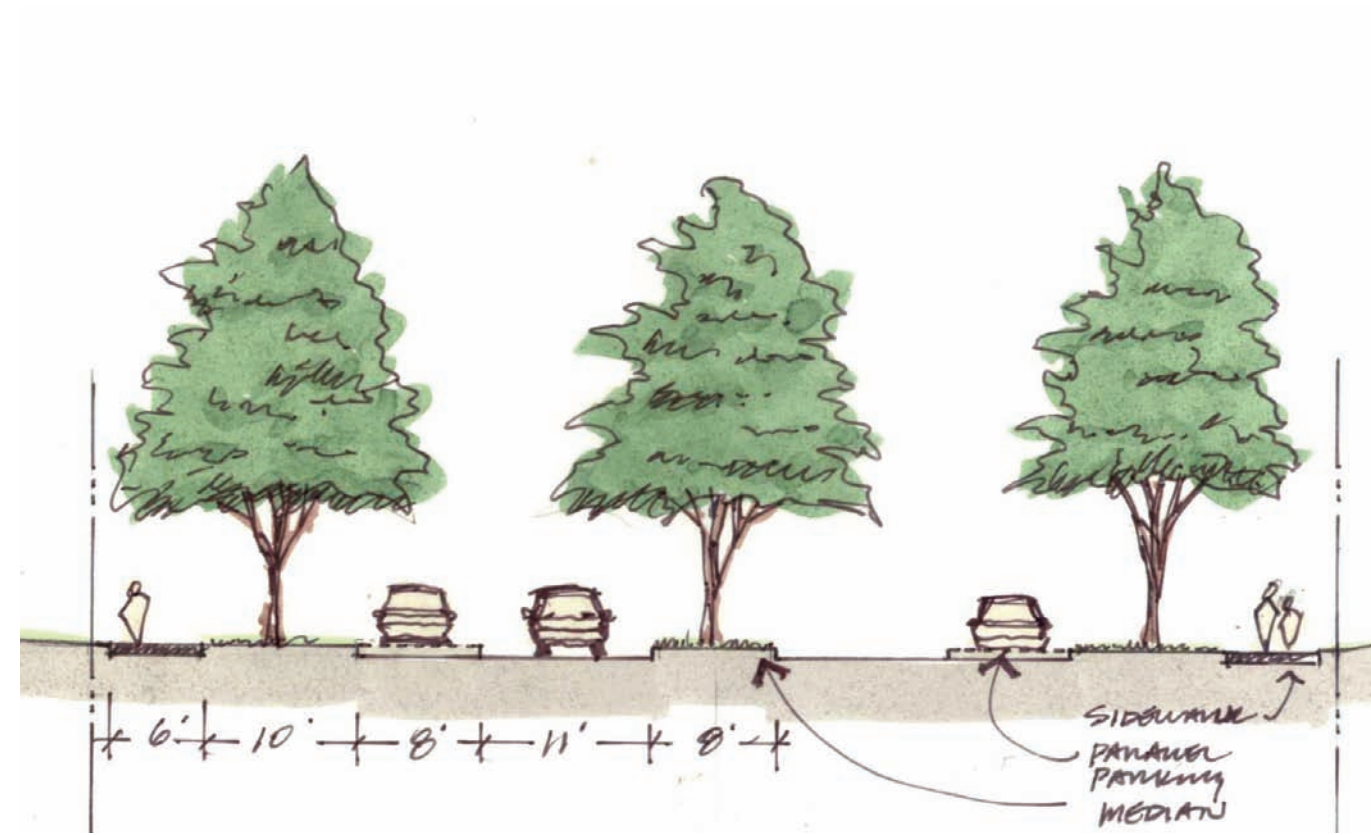
Providing a safe pedestrian pathway will promote an active living lifestyle within the city. A walking/biking loop will allow residents to enjoy the outdoors as well as access their schools, employment and shopping needs. The walking/biking loop would be designed to allow pedestrians accessibility from one point in the community to another safely and conveniently. The loop could serve as the official parade or band route for civic and school events.

Key Concepts & Guidelines:

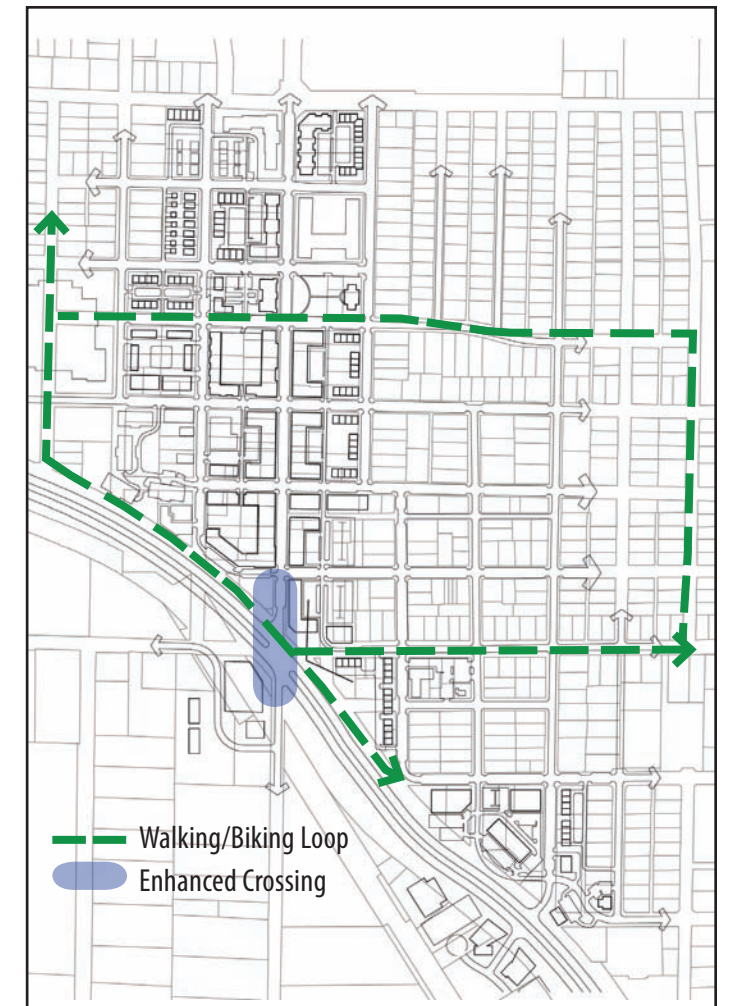
- Pedestrian pathways are well-maintained with aesthetic features to make for a pedestrian friendly environment
- Bike pathways are clearly indicated as bike lanes on busy streets
- Way-finding strategies need to be provided to help guide pedestrians to destinations & connections
- A regional connection should be made to provide better accessibility to regional biking trails and parks

Challenges & Potential Issues:

- County Road 81, Trunk Highway 169 and the railroad serve as pedestrian barrier
- Regular maintenance would be required to maintain an aesthetically pleasing and safe walking/biking loop
- Central Avenue may not provide the safest route for biking



Typical street section with clearly-defined areas for walking and biking.



Where it fits in Osseo



Clear bike and pedestrian lanes.



Safe places for children to ride and walk.



Trail corridor along Bottineau Boulevard.



Bike racks.



Public art also functions as bike racks.



Clear signage.



Comfortable pedestrian zone.

The Idea:

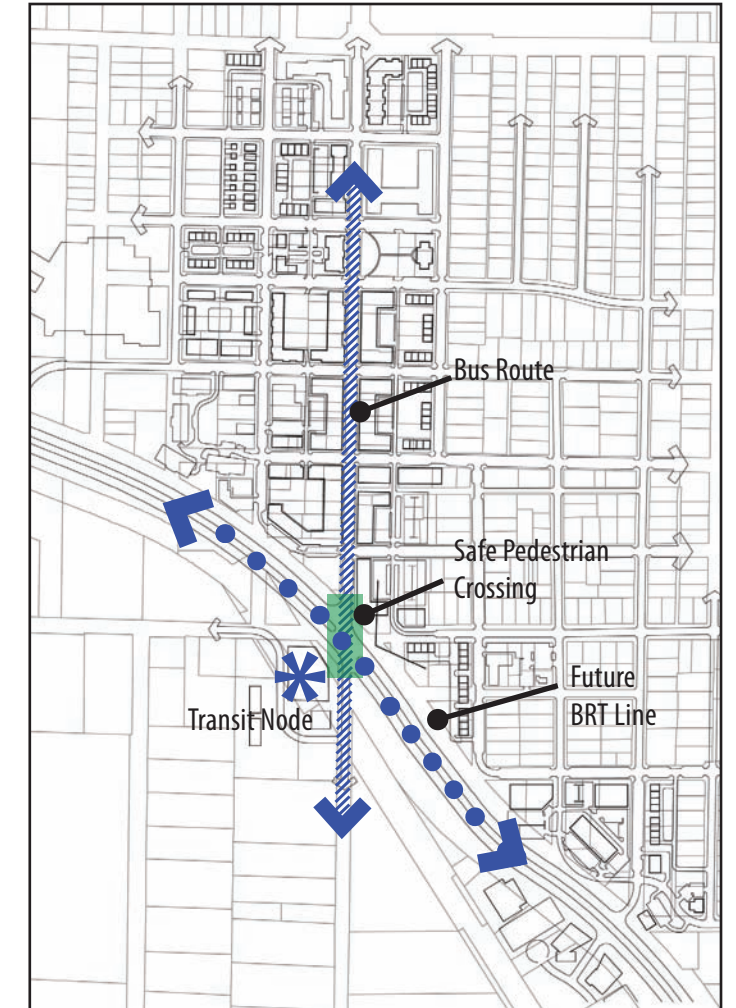
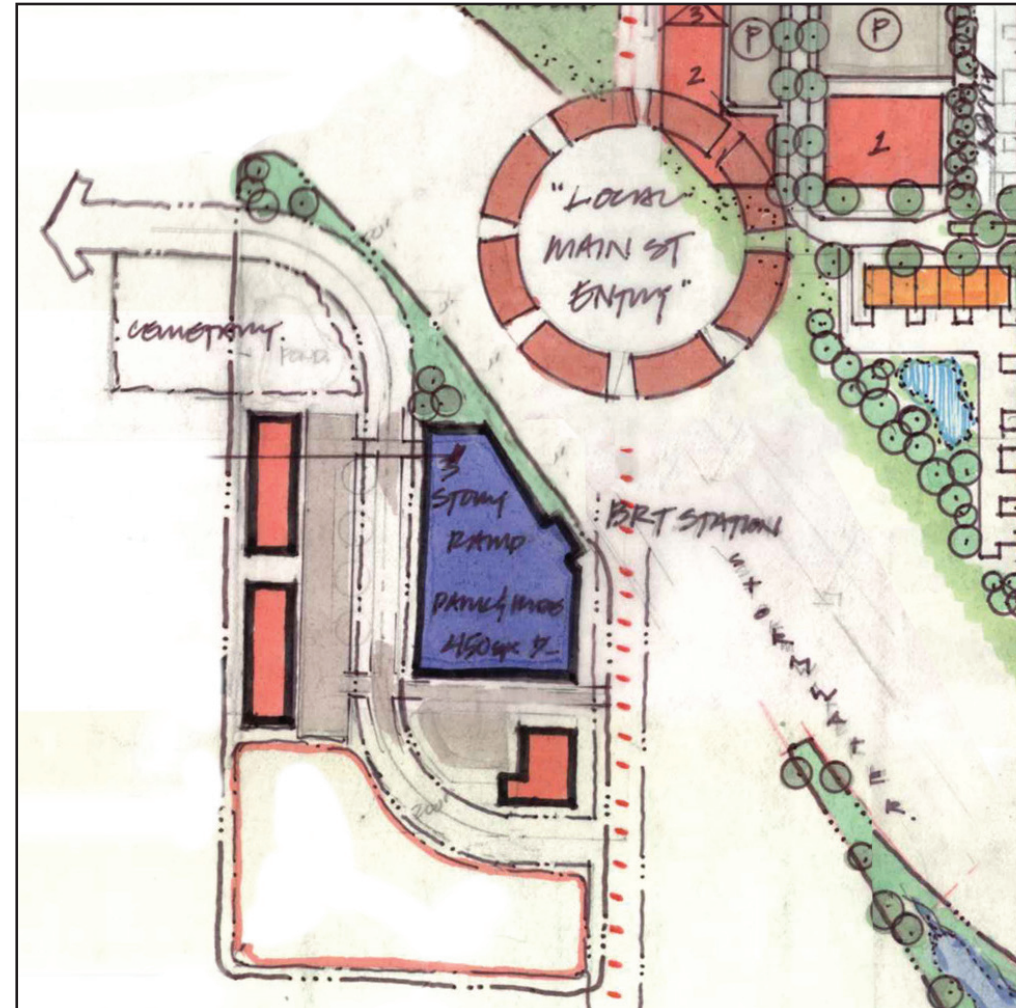
Transit nodes would benefit the City of Osseo by providing the community with multi-modal transportation options. A transit node would consist primarily as a center for people to safely access transit and/or park-and-ride facilities by car, foot, bike or bus. By providing options rather than single occupancy vehicle use, will create a healthier environment by reducing air pollutants, traffic congestion and car accidents. Transit nodes can provide redevelopment opportunities for commercial and residential uses. Higher density residential and service oriented business, such as post offices, dry cleaners and convenience stores are common developments located around transit nodes.

Key Concepts & Guidelines:

- Pedestrian and bicycle routes should be linked with transit nodes.
- Transit nodes and redevelopment around the nodes should reflect the Main Street character of Central Avenue and Osseo's small town character in general.
- A transit node should be compliant with the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) regulations and guidelines.
- A transit node should be pedestrian friendly and accessible by all modes of transportation.

Challenges & Potential Issues:

- Need to coordinate with Metro Transit and Hennepin County on future transit locations for the Bottineau Boulevard BRT.
- 2-3 acres needs to be provided for a park-and-ride facility.
- Establish safe routes for pedestrians crossing railroad tracks.
- Funding sources at this time have not been identified for future transit facilities.
- Crossing Highway 81 to Downtown Osseo needs to be safe with strong pedestrian environment and safe lighting.



Where it fits in Osseo



Transit station can incorporate structured parking.



Architecturally attractive transit shelter



Bus rapid transit (BRT) is a potential transit option on Bottineau Blvd.



Transit station with combined retail services.



Bus transit.



Transit station.



The Idea: Mixed-Use Housing/Downtown Housing

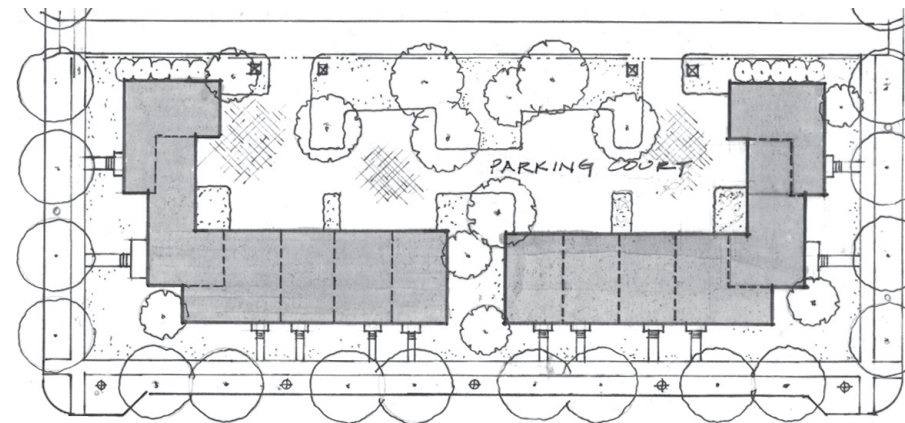
Osseo's existing small town character and walkable downtown would be attractive amenities for the growing market of people who desire to live in maintenance-free, higher-density housing in a downtown environment, including attached rowhouses, apartment buildings, and apartments above retail. New housing options would be located within walking distance of shopping, services and entertainment on Central Avenue. Osseo's existing street grid, small blocks and neighborhood street character create an attractive walkable environment for residents of the new housing. An increased residential population near Central Avenue would also provide a larger market of customers for local businesses.

Key Concepts / Guidelines:

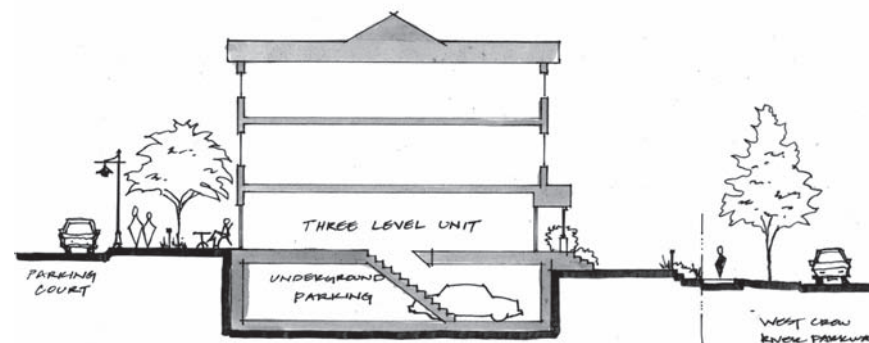
- Higher-density, multi-story residential buildings should complement the small town character and scale of existing adjacent buildings on Central Avenue.
- Retail store fronts should be located at street level along core downtown streets like Central Avenue.
- Residential buildings should be oriented to the street to enhance street vitality.
- Parking for new residential buildings should primarily be located in parking structure rather than surface parking lots.
- Well-designed public outdoor spaces should be located near higher-density housing, including sidewalks, trails, urban plazas, and parks.
- Stormwater runoff should be managed in an ecological and aesthetic manner.

Potential Issues:

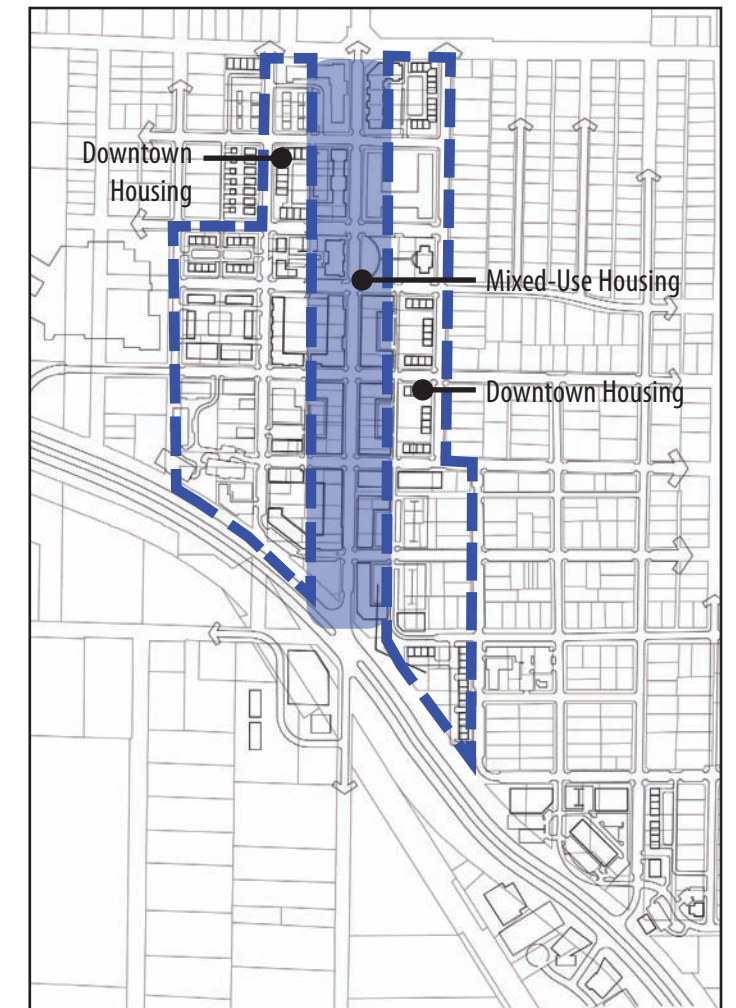
- New higher-density, multi-story residential buildings could negatively impact the small town character and scale of Central Avenue's existing commercial buildings.
- Providing enclosed parking rather than surface parking raise development costs.
- Mixed-use commercial/residential buildings can be more difficult to finance and manage.



Example of downtown housing layout in plan.



Example of downtown housing layout in section.



Where it fits in Osseo



Higher-density apartments and condos are mixed with retail uses and services at the heart of the downtown core.



Mixed Use.



Apartment and Condos.



Rowhouses.



Townhomes.

Traditional Housing Reinvestment

The Idea:

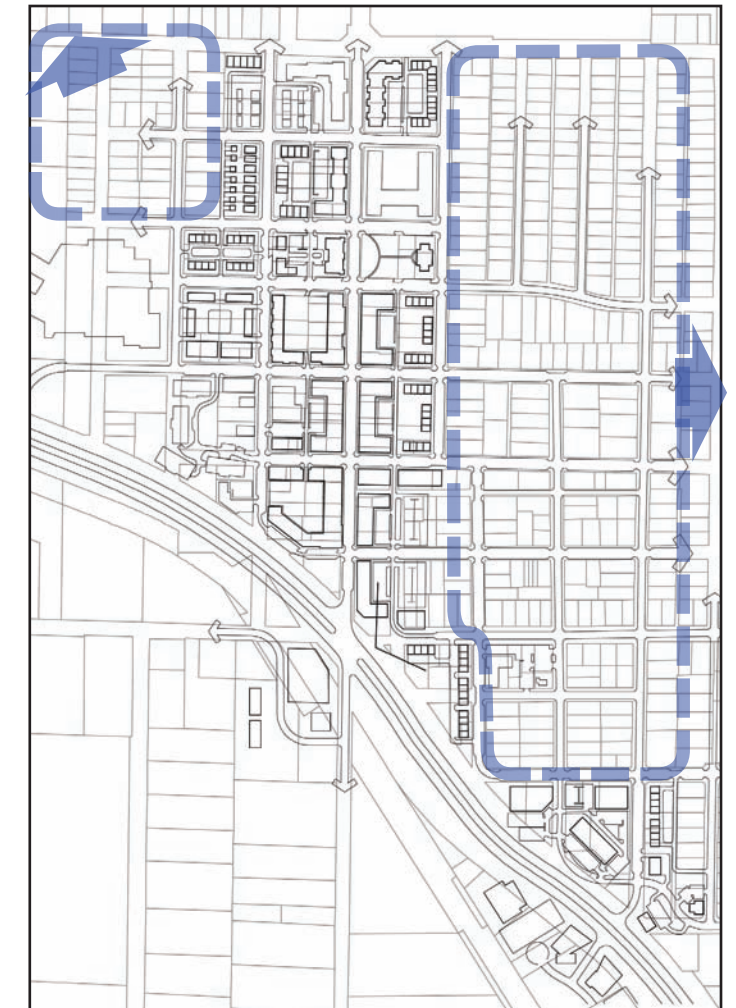
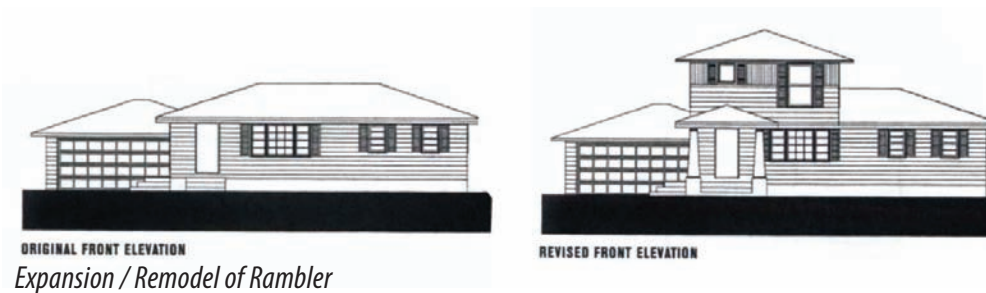
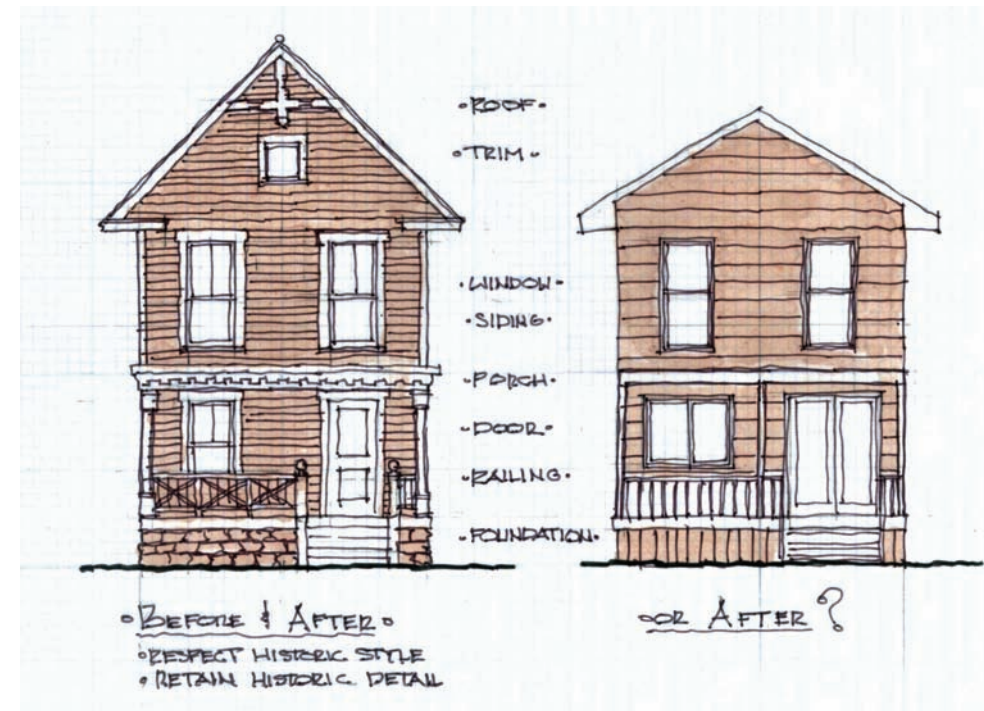
Osseo is largely made up of traditional single-family detached homes but is starting to increase its housing mix with other options, including townhomes, condominiums and mixed-use living choices. While a mix of housing types is important for a community, reinvestment in existing housing is equally significant to ensure it remains in good physical conditions, retains the neighborhood's traditional small town character, and meets contemporary living needs. Existing single family detached homes can benefit from reinvestment in structural maintenance, improvements, expansions, remodeling and landscaping.

Key Concepts / Guidelines:

- Home improvements to traditional older housing should capitalize on their attractive "small town" character.
- Updating utilities, such as electrical, sewer and water, will maintain the livability and resale value of the homes.
- Maintenance and improvements to landscaping, both private and public, will help revitalize tired-looking properties and neighborhood streets.
- Remodel older homes to meet contemporary living needs, e.g. expand garage, add a second story, front porch, expand the kitchen, add a family room.

Challenges & Potential Issues:

- Costs of major reinvestment can be daunting for home owners; public financial incentives will help overcome economic challenges to housing reinvestment.
- Use of older detached houses as rental homes can result in continuing deterioration of property and less reinvestment.
- To preserve the traditional character and scale of older neighborhoods, home expansions and remodels require more creativity and architectural expertise.
- Competition for limited public redevelopment funds between downtown redevelopment and neighborhood reinvestment.



Where it fits in Osseo



Single-family detached homes.



Post WWII single family homes dominate Osseo's housing stock.



Well-maintained homes.



Older traditional homes need maintenance and investment.



Enhanced landscaping will help both private properties and neighborhood streets.



Single-family homes help define the character of Osseo.



The Idea:

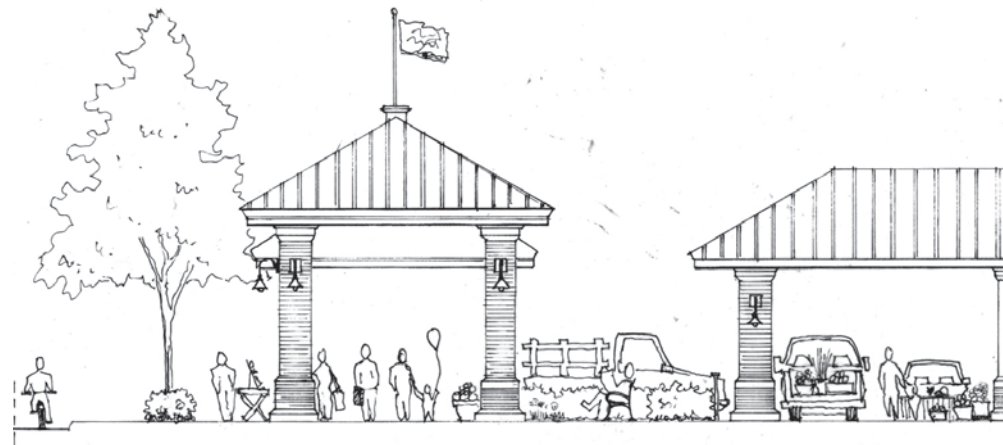
To create attractive, inviting, multi-functional and flexible public gathering spaces, plazas and outdoor markets as a part of Central Avenue's "Main Street" environment. The addition of well-designed public spaces will attract more people to hang out downtown and support the businesses and activities of Central Avenue. Developing a program of regular outdoor markets (farmers, art or flea) provides another reason for people, both residents and visitors, to visit downtown Osseo on a regular basis and provide an increased customer market for downtown businesses.

Key Concepts / Guidelines:

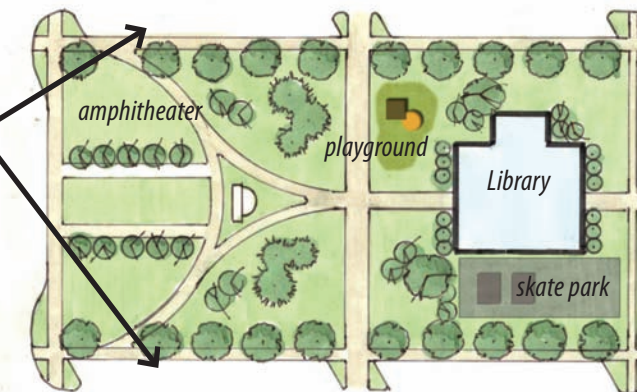
- Creating public gathering spaces will help shape the image and identity of Osseo.
- Designing public gathering spaces and plazas that allow a variety of possible activities, e.g. a fountain, café or food vendor, quiet sitting areas, moveable tables & chairs, public art, markets, etc. will increase outdoor activity.
- Surrounding public gathering spaces with attractive buildings that contain active uses that spill out into the outdoor open space, e.g. stores, eating places, library, etc. will also increase outdoor activity and liveliness.
- Provide important people amenities in or adjacent to the public open space, such as benches, trash cans, water fountain, shade from the sun, pathways, bike racks, convenient auto parking, etc.

Challenges & Potential Issues:

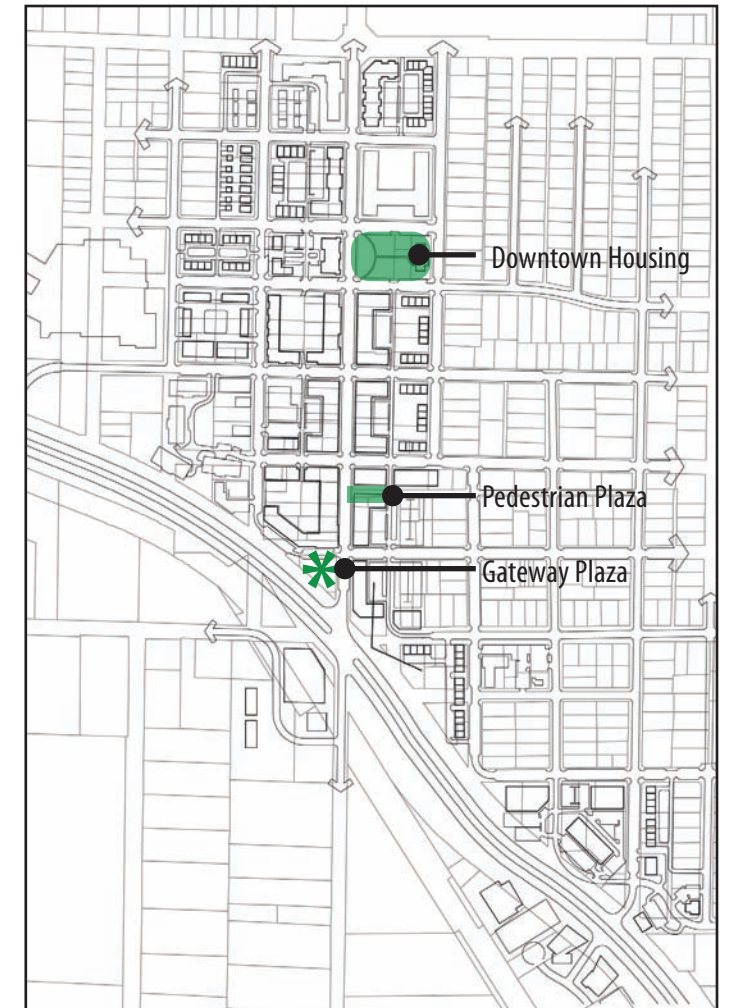
- Public gathering spaces will not function well if they are not well connected and supported by surrounding businesses and activities.
- Designing public gathering spaces along a busy street (Central Avenue) that support safe and enjoyable experiences.
- The costs of a well-managed and maintained public gathering space may require supplemental funding beyond a city's typical parks or public works department, so the city may benefit from partnering with private partners.



Example sketch of a public farmers market.



Public Market space along north and south edges of expanded Boerboom Park; part of civic campus.



Where it fits in Osseo



Public markets share space with existing uses, such as surface parking lots.



Public markets can be incorporated into mixed-use retail districts.



Public markets work well in pedestrian-oriented streets and plazas.



Retail-oriented plaza.



Pedestrian plaza with landscaping and muraling.



Performance space within a public market.



Public market with an art focus.



The Idea:

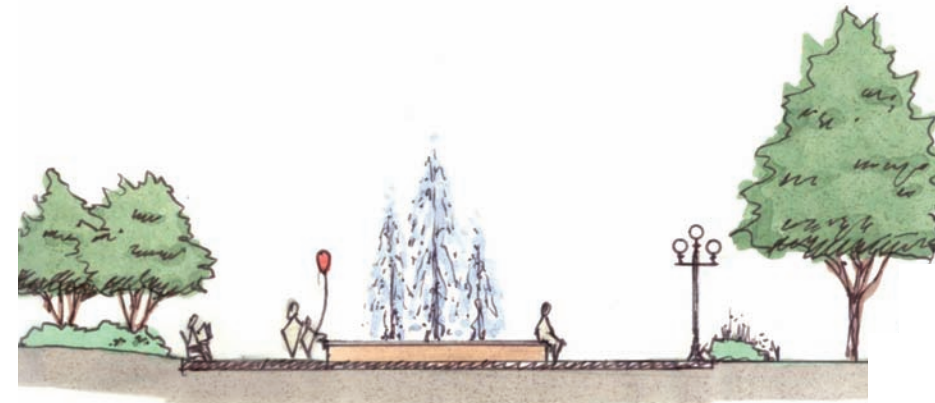
Downtown Osseo has the potential to become a known destination in the area for arts, culture and entertainment. Its location along County Road 81 provides excellent visibility and access for entertainment-related businesses, such as new eating and drinking venues, theaters, outdoor performance and other similar establishments. The existing character of a smaller-scale downtown presents an attractive setting for a walkable and pedestrian-oriented entertainment district. Development that includes and supports practices such as shared parking structures and transit would also add to the attractiveness of this area for arts, culture and entertainment.

Key Concepts & Guidelines:

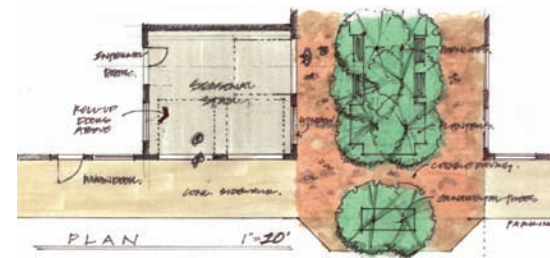
- Seek development and redevelopment that enhances a pedestrian-scale environment, including sidewalk eating, pedestrian alleys, public art and lighting.
- Increase the number of street festivals and fairs located downtown.
- Establishing a public market downtown will increase regular outdoor activity on the streets.
- Efforts to establish shared parking districts will accommodate a variety of downtown retailers and residents.
- Working with partners to increase frequency and efficiency of transit service to Osseo will provide greater access for people to come to downtown Osseo and also relieve pressure on parking in the area.
- Entertainment should serve a variety of groups, including seniors, families and teens.

Challenges & Potential Issues:

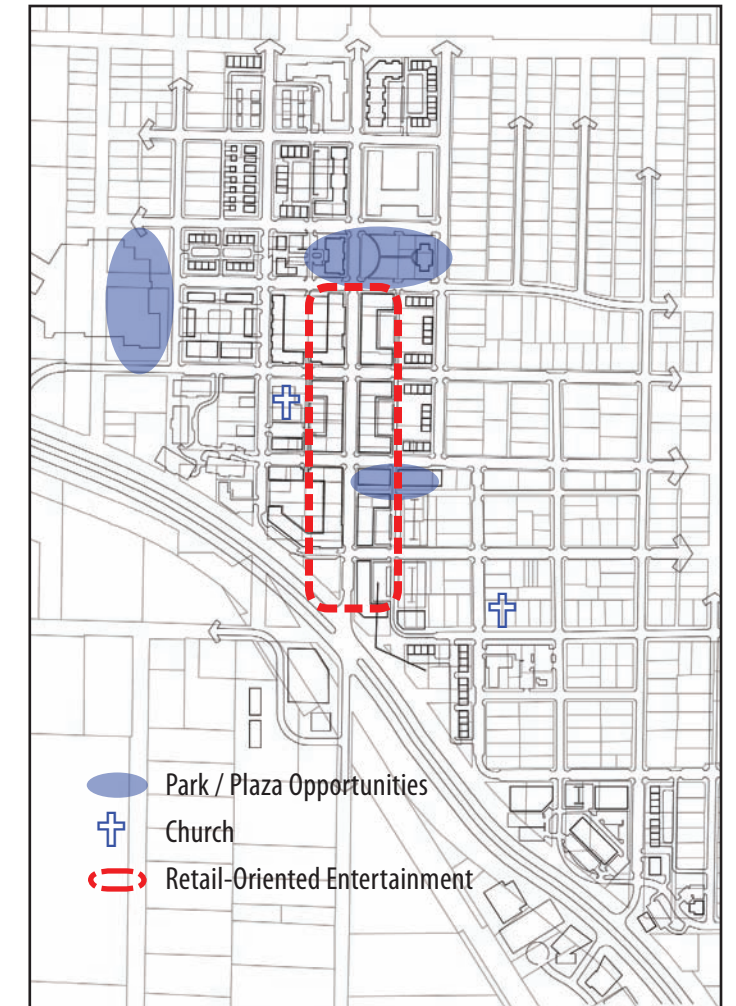
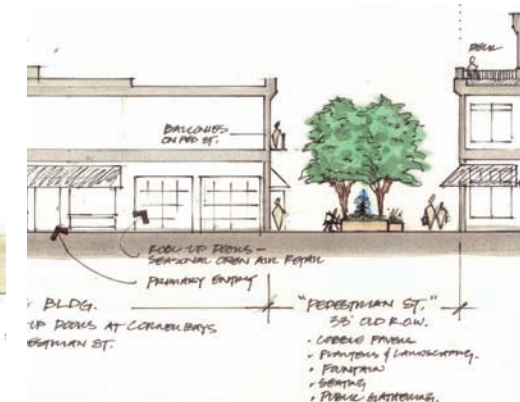
- City parking requirements will likely require revisions.
- Zoning ordinances may need revisions.
- Entertainment uses may pose conflicts to residential mix-use proposed in the area.



COMMUNITY PLAZA
 • FOUNTAIN
 • GATHERING SPACE
 • COMMUNITY IDENTITY



Pedestrian Street and Plaza (plan and section)



Where it fits in Osseo



Community Arts Center and Gallery



Outdoor Eating and Sidewalk Cafés



Civic and Faith-based Destinations



Public Art



Community History Center



Public Markets and Art Festivals



Film and Cinema
 (photo source: Metropolitan Design Center Image Bank)



Community Theater
 (photo source: Metropolitan Design Center Image Bank)



The Idea:

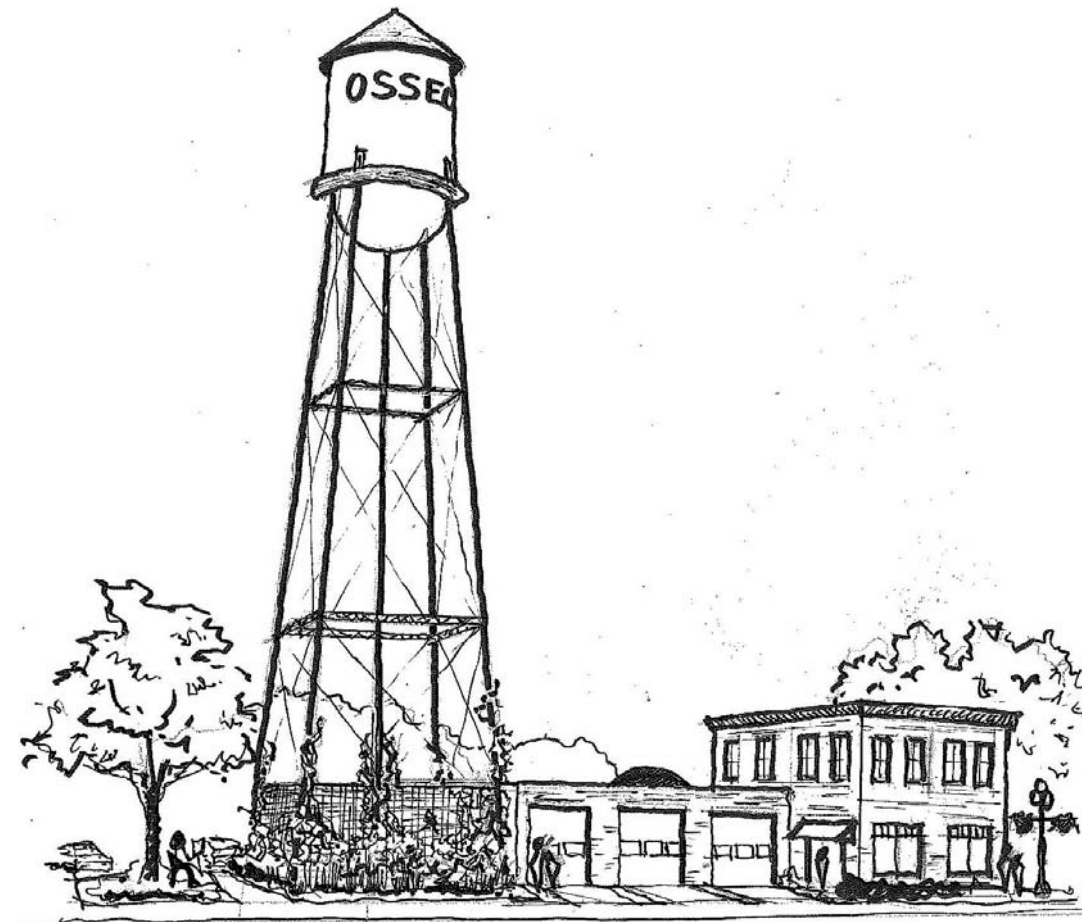
Osseo can benefit from efforts to increase beautification of public spaces and presence of public art. Quality design of public infrastructure, such as sidewalks and landscaping, contribute to the overall aesthetic of the community. Additionally, public art is seen as an important ingredient of a strong and welcoming community. Community art programs are usually driven by a desire to have art in key public or private locations and are implemented in public-private partnerships between cities, developers and foundations. Public art can play a role in enhancing Osseo as a destination and contribute to its unique identity and character. Public art can also acknowledge and celebrate the city's history through commemorative art, memorials and interpretive projects.

Key Concepts & Design Guidelines:

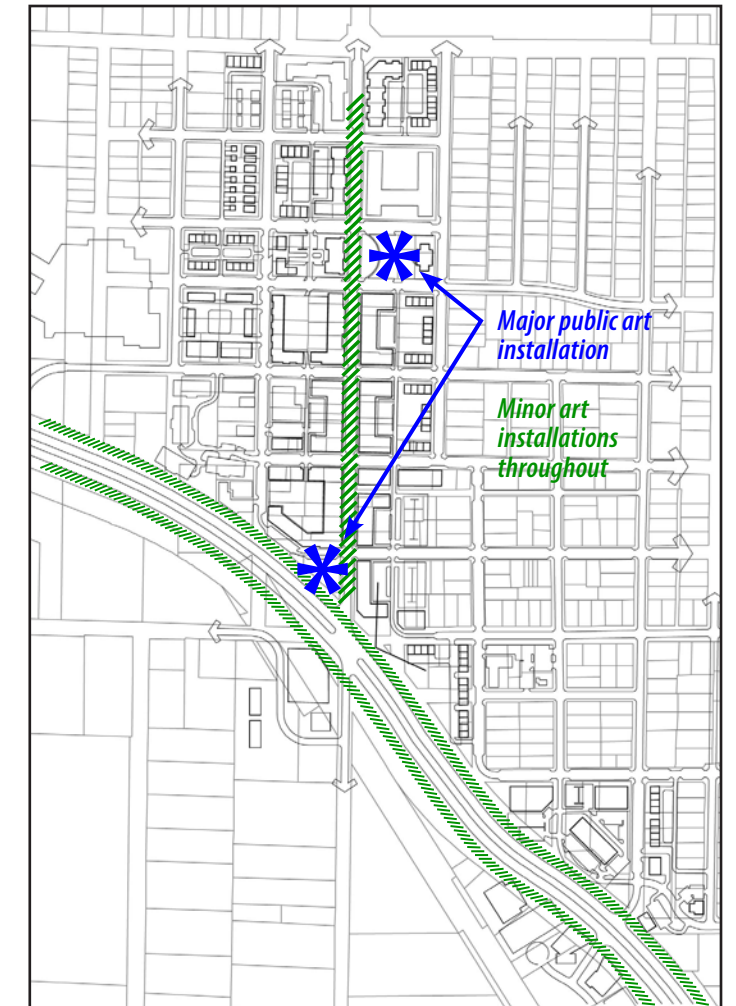
- A community-wide public arts strategy will make the process of implementing beautification public art a collaborative effort.
- A public art works review board could facilitate the process of implementing and increasing public art and art programs.
- The city should select locations to provide physical space for art events, activities, permanent and temporary art installations. Areas may include the Highway 81 corridor, Central Avenue, within a gateway plaza or expanded park area.
- A small community museum can help celebrate the rich history of Osseo and provide public space for community events.
- Developing public/private partnerships can provide new opportunities for beautifying public space.

Challenges & Potential Issues:

- Ensuring an on-going financial resource for public arts.
- Costs of infrastructure improvements and art installations will affect timing and implementation.



Sketch of water tower used as community rose garden at newly renovated civic center.



Where it fits in Osseo



Outdoor and Sidewalk Seating



Public space accented by landscaping and murals.



Brick paving and landscaping accent pedestrian areas.



Public fountains and water features



Public art accents street islands



Modern sculpture as public art



Clock towers act as community focal point and amenity

The Idea:

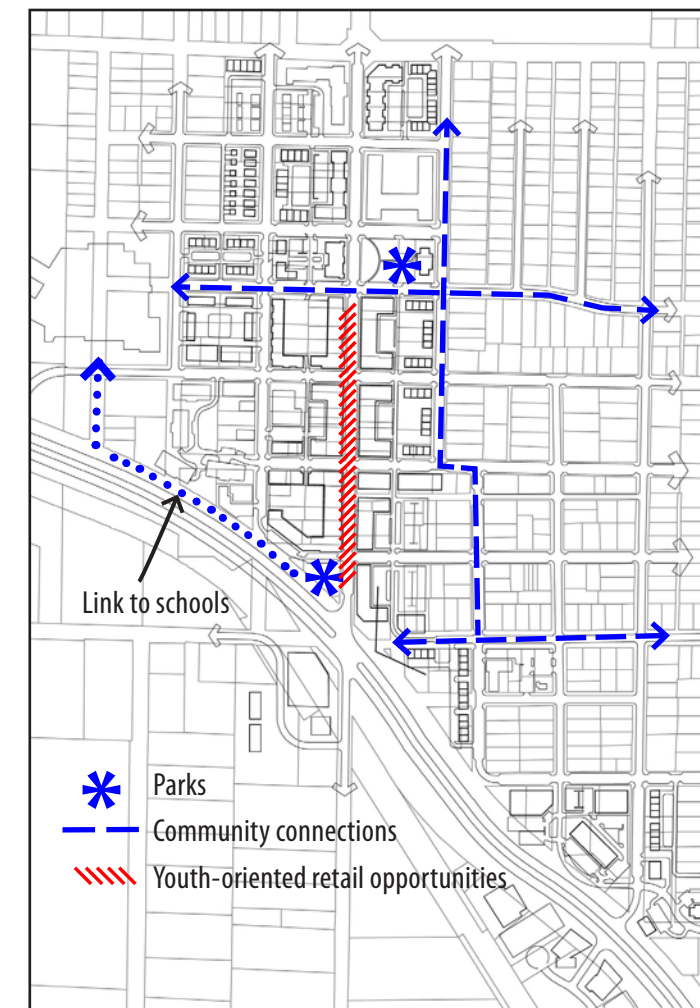
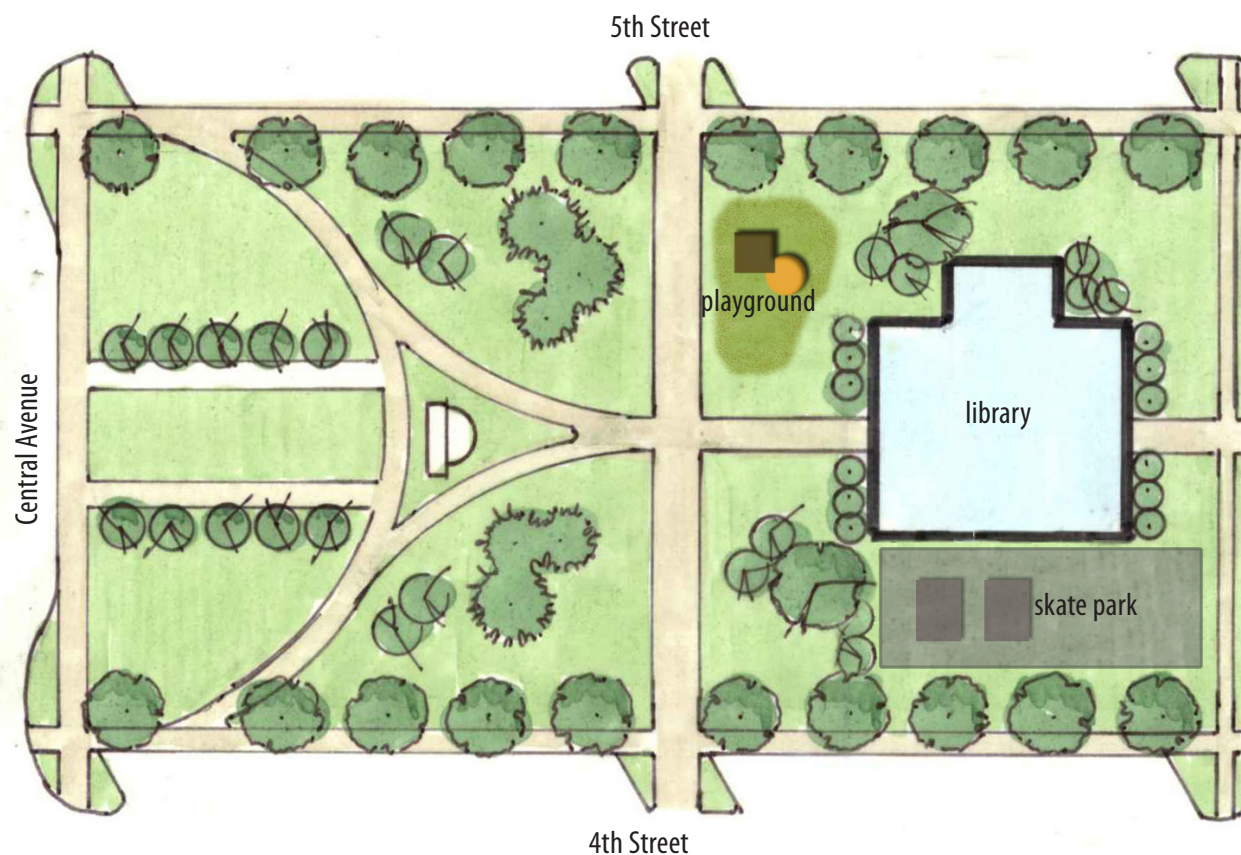
Osseo is home to many families with kids as well as schools that serve students of all grade levels, K-12, including the well-respected Osseo High School. Initiatives should support increased youth-oriented places and activities within the city, including public gathering places, active recreation facilities, biking and walking paths, stores and casual eating places.

Key Concepts & Guidelines:

- Outdoor recreational areas ranging from playground facilities and play courts to a skate park provide a needed variety of recreational opportunities.
- Safe biking and walking routes designed in a loop system promote physical activity.
- Retail stores and eating places geared toward youth activities such as sandwich shops, pizza, ice cream, and coffee houses provide a local destination to gather and support downtown.
- Public plazas should be developed with gathering areas in mind.
- Expanded library services and facilities that attract kids.

Challenges & Potential Issues:

- Funding options for parks, plazas and gathering spaces are limited.
- There is a limited amount of land which could be devoted to open space.
- The currently lacks a safe walking and/or biking loop system throughout the community to connect to parks, schools and other youth destinations, including regional trails, stores and eating places.
- There is strong competition from neighborhood communities.



Where it fits in Osseo



Environmental programs for kids.



Playgrounds and play areas.



Retail shops oriented to children.



Water features.



Skate park.



Skate park designed as urban plaza.

