



A Green, Beautiful, and Vibrant City Center

Invest in great design, activation, and abundant landscaping for parks, plazas, and sidewalks throughout Downtown.

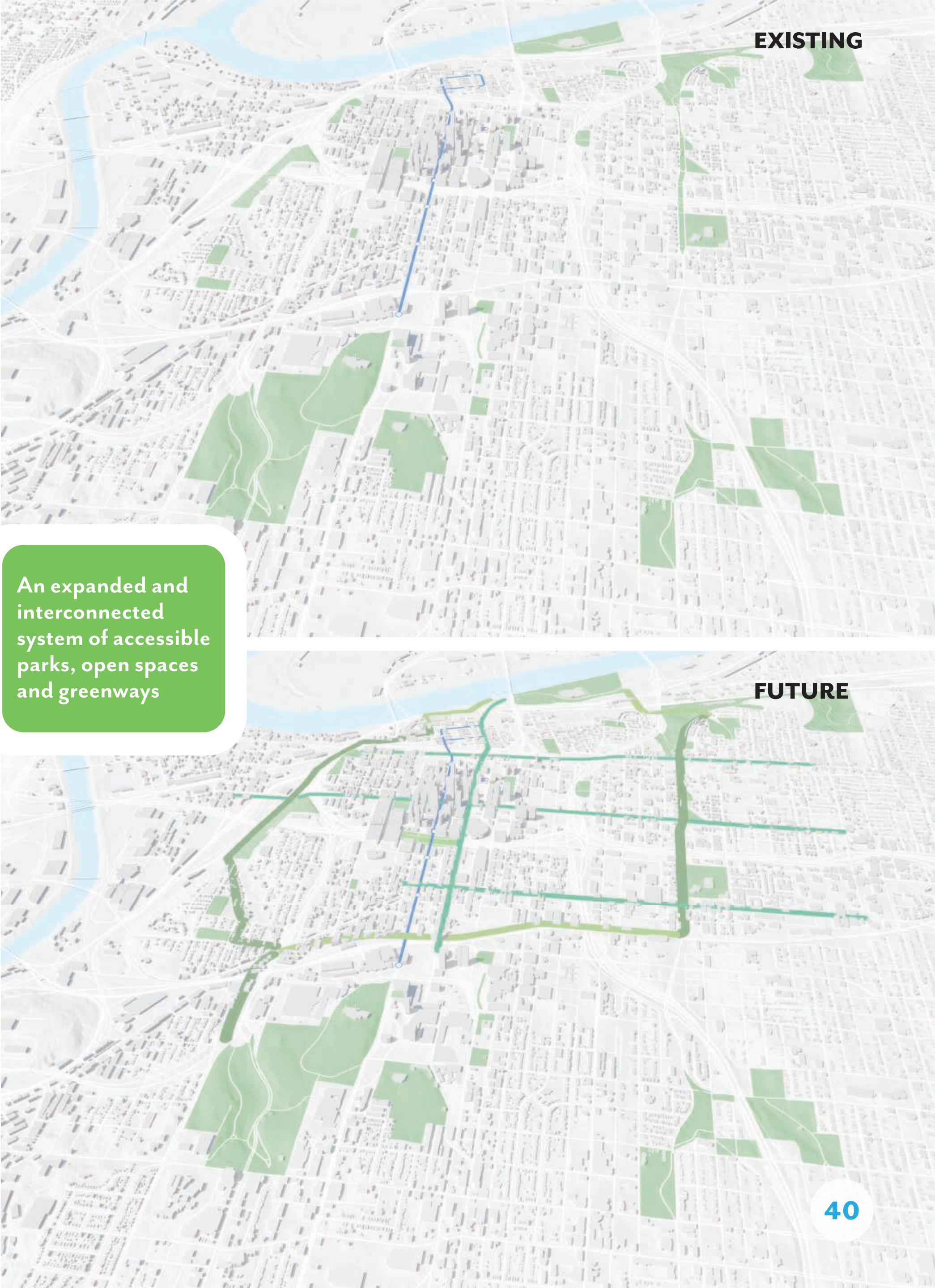
THE OPPORTUNITY

Kansas City has a long and proud history of investment in boulevards and parks and is known as the City of Fountains. Unfortunately, not all Downtown neighborhoods shared the benefits of these historic investments. Existing parks and plazas are not used to their full potential and they suffer from a lack of activation, pedestrian access barriers, outdated design, and deferred maintenance. A green and walkable Downtown is necessary to attract and retain residents, workers, and visitors, and high-quality, well maintained, and programmed parks are needed by residents of all ages for play and relaxation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

D1 PLANT MORE TREES AND FLOWERS.

- D1a** Continue implementation of an aggressive tree planting and tree maintenance program in Downtown neighborhoods through close working relationships with the Kansas City Department of Parks and Recreation and non-profits like Bridging the Gap.
- D1b** Encourage property owners to plant trees in front of their buildings and help them to navigate City regulations.
- D1c** Start a hanging flower basket program.
- D1d** Partner with the Community Improvement District, within its boundaries, to maintain trees and flowers.





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RECOMMENDATIONS

D2 PRIORITIZE RENOVATING PARKS IN UNDERSERVED NEIGHBORHOODS.

D2a Support neighborhood improvements to public spaces, parks, and landscaping in every Downtown neighborhood. Review and contemporize the Greenspace plan developed by the Kansas City Design Center.

D2b Prioritize eliminating pedestrian access barriers and increasing walking and bicycle access to neighborhood parks in the City capital budget.

D3 DEVELOP ADDITIONAL SUPPORT AND FUNDING FOR PARK ACTIVATION AND MAINTENANCE.

D3a Plan for the development of a parks conservancy that would support the revitalization, activation, and maintenance of Downtown parks, plazas, and open spaces and the creation of new green spaces.

D3b Partner with Downtown residents to develop “Friends of” organizations for parks in residential neighborhoods.

D3c Support neighborhood community events by providing connections to potential sponsors and developing a Downtown-wide calendar of community events.

D4 REIMAGINE AND REINVIGORATE PARKS AND PLAZAS.

D4a Identify underutilized parks that could be locations for community gardens, wildlife habitat and ecological restoration and help communities to find funding and implement innovative new programs.

D4b Consider adding park activation and management programs to the CID business plan.

