



Public Space

April 16, 2009

Vision Goals for Public Space

1. Vision Plan Area Character: Maintain a village character unique to Menlo Park.
2. East-West Connectivity: Provide greater east-west, town-wide connectivity.
3. El Camino Real Circulation: Improve circulation and streetscape conditions on El Camino Real.
4. Neighborhood Context: Ensure that El Camino Real development is sensitive to and compatible with adjacent neighborhoods.
5. Vacant and Underutilized Parcels on El Camino Real: Revitalize underutilized parcels and buildings.
6. Train Station Area: Activate the train station area.
7. Santa Cruz Avenue Pedestrian Character: Protect and enhance pedestrian amenities on Santa Cruz Avenue.
8. Downtown Vibrancy: Expand shopping, dining and neighborhood services to ensure a vibrant downtown.
9. Housing: Provide residential opportunities in the Vision Plan Area.
10. Open Space: Provide plaza and park spaces.
11. Pedestrian and Bicycle Circulation: Provide an integrated, safe and well-designed pedestrian and bicycle network.
12. Parking: Develop parking strategies and facilities that meet the commercial and residential needs of the community.

Plazas, Parks, Sidewalks and Streets

Public space is comprised of plazas, parks, sidewalks and streets, and they are the places where the social life of a community takes place.

Existing Plazas and Parks



There are limited plazas or parks in the downtown area

Public spaces in downtown enhance community character and create an identity

Examples of Plazas and Parks



Santana Row, San Jose



Jamison Square, Portland, OR



Downtown Redwood City



Pioneer Square, Portland, OR



Downtown Pasadena

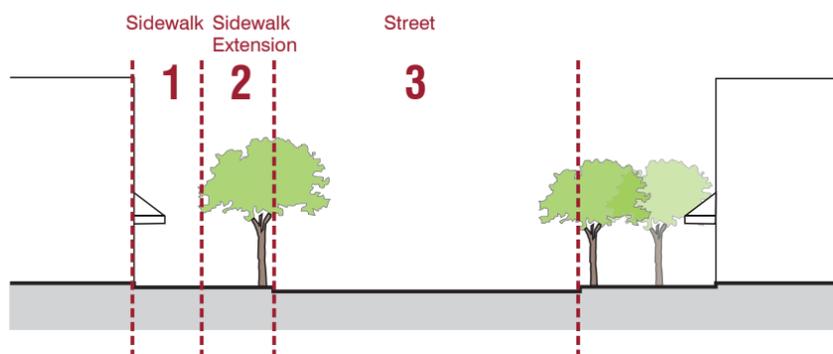


Downtown Concord

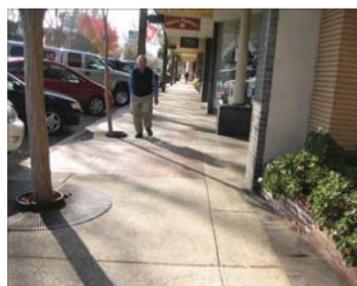
Sidewalks and Streets

“Sociability is a large part of why cities exist and streets are a major if not the only public place for that sociability to develop”

- Alan Jacobs



Sidewalks as Connectors



Downtown Menlo Park

Downtown Examples

Sidewalk Extensions as Public Spaces



Menlo Park

Palo Alto

Redwood City

Noe Street, San Francisco

Santana Row

“...streets are places of social and commercial encounter and exchange. They are where you meet people - which is a basic reason to have cities in any case.”

- Alan Jacobs

Streets as Public Spaces



Santa Cruz Avenue, Menlo Park

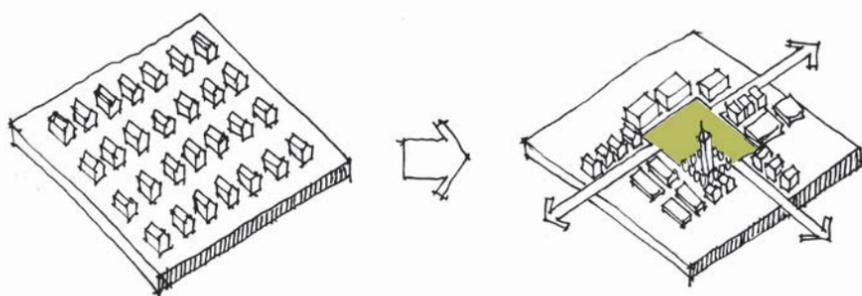
Downtown Mountain View

Maiden Lane, San Francisco

Ferry Building, San Francisco

Land Use Efficiency + Public Space

Efficient use of land provides opportunity to integrate public space within development



Development spread over a larger area

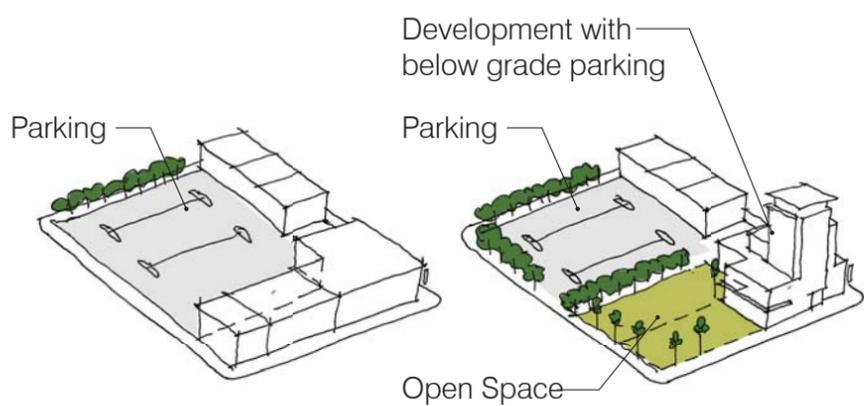
Compact development

Existing public parking in downtown

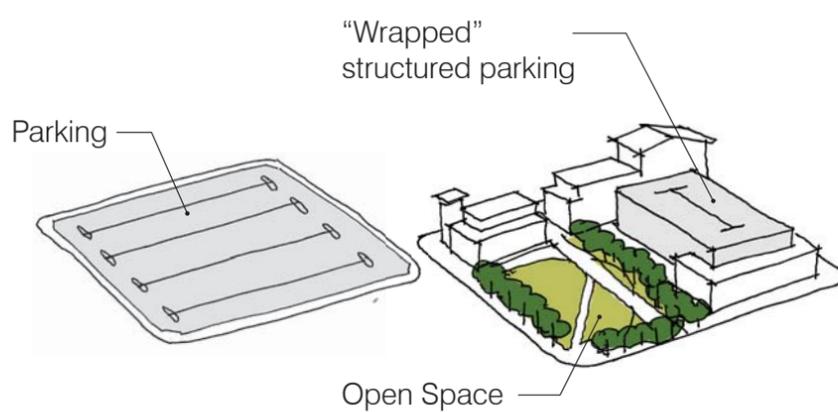


Removal of some on-street parking and surface parking (i.e. parking plazas) provides opportunities for additional public space downtown.

Taller, more compact buildings provide opportunities for public space

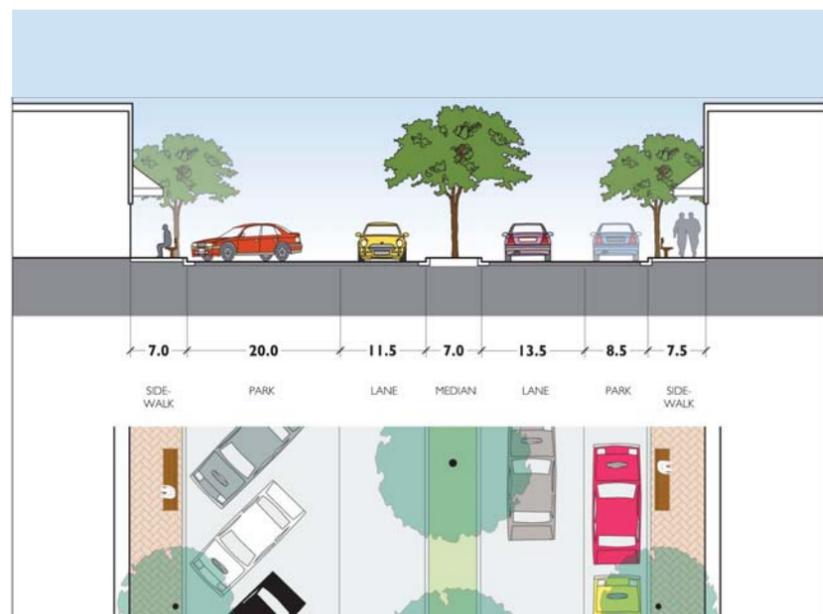


As compared to surface parking, structured parking allows for public space and other uses

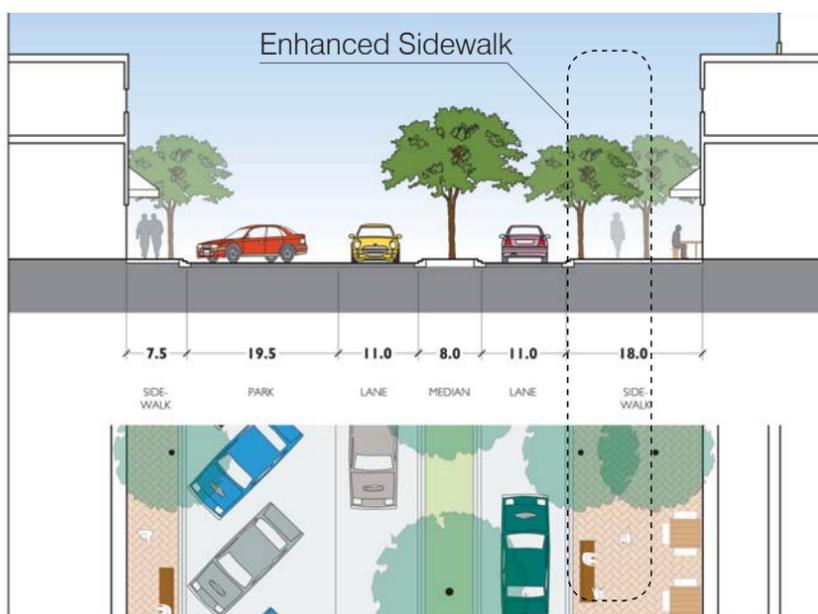


Phase I Vision Plan: Santa Cruz Avenue

Existing street section/plan



Proposed street section/plan





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Record Your Thoughts ...

1. What activities would you like the public spaces in downtown to accommodate?

2. Would you give up some parking spaces to gain public space and wider sidewalks in downtown?

Yes

No

3. Are you willing to allow for additional development in order to gain public space?

Yes

No