

The Peace Garden

The approach on this concept is to provide an aesthetically pleasing space based on the traditional concept approved by City Council. While diagonally oriented like the others, this layout focuses the plaza closer to the middle of the site which results in open, usable space on all sides of the plaza. As per the approved City Council layout, all access points are of equal status.

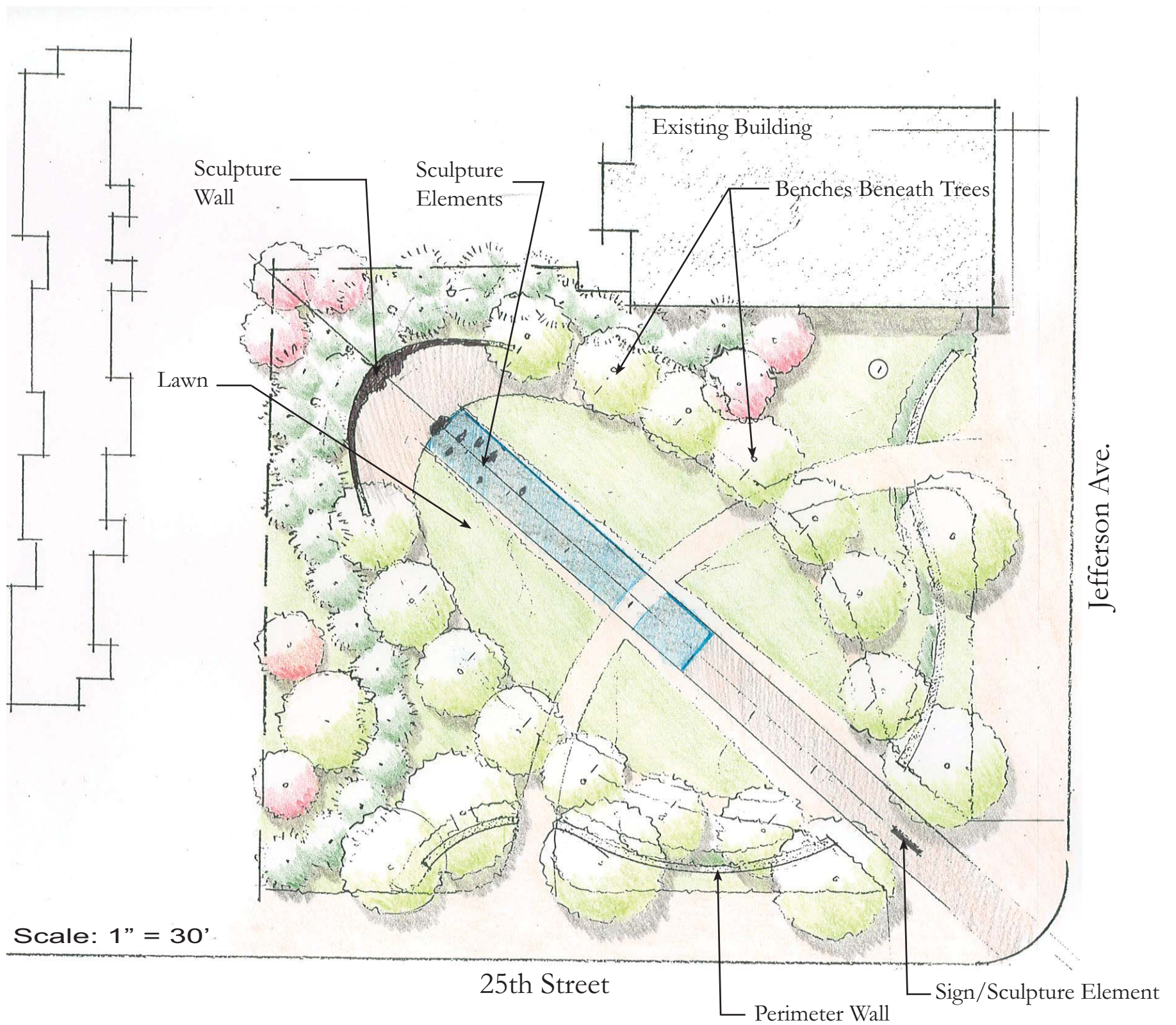
The sidewalks at the street corner are united with a sign-wall and a tightly grouped cluster of shade and flowering trees. This teardrop shaped lawn panel could be raised up from the surrounding environment and/or become the location for a future water feature. The sign-wall is mimicked in form and material at the bus stop areas.

Progressing further into the site, visitors are greeted by a statue of Dr. King, which is located in the center of the plaza. The plaza is encircled by a very columnar tree species that is a different species than those at the park's entrance. A seat-wall, again, similar to the other walls could contain inscriptions of Dr. King's speeches or messages that speak of his legacy. Benches located along the pathways also provide spaces for individual seating and reflection.

Concept A ~ The Peace Garden Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park / Plaza

Jan. 9. 2006

Scale: 1" = 30'



The Unfinished March

In remembering the many marches that Martin Luther King, Jr. led, this concept is hoped to inspire the community that the marches, or the journeys, have not yet ended. It empowers one to take his place in the march and continue to pave the way for others.

As one enters the park from the intersecting street corner, a linear path unfolds in front. The leading figure, in the distance, is Dr. King. Several other figures, unfinished in sculptural detail (to allow one to imagine their own character on such figures) follow. At the top of the oval path, a reflective wall has etching of other life-size figures on it. Some of the figures could be of a bas-relief to suggest the figures are 'walking' out of the wall. The large concave wall of these figures creates a sense that a mass of other people are all continuing the march that Dr. King set forth over fifty years ago. The central path could be of several different materials to strengthen the design concept. It could be of a refined or polished material from the wall to Dr. King indicating that the way has been made clear because of Dr. King's determination. While the remainder of the path could be of a coarser or rougher material reminding us that the continuation of the journey is unfinished and the way needs refinement. The actual grading of the path might also be a progression up to Dr. King from the wall and then a gentle descending out toward the City, signifying how Dr. King has, again, made the way much easier for all.

The secondary perimeter walkway forms a ring around the main path which would be lined with shade trees and seating offering visitors time for reflection and contemplation.

Concept B ~ The Unfinished March Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park / Plaza

Jan. 9. 2006

Scale: 1" = 30'



Breaking Barriers

The main objective in this concept is to recognize the obstacles and barriers Martin Luther King, Jr. overcame. The linear swath cut through the trees symbolizes his unwavering and steadfast mission to create social justice for all citizens. Each low wall rises out of the ground and is cut at its apex, approximately 24" high, before diminishing back into the ground. The cut at the peak signifies how Dr. King confronted, and triumphed over, these issues at some of the most difficult places of his time. These walls, in addition, to having referenced inscriptions of poverty, segregation, and voting rights on them, would also be set into the landscape such that when entering the site, these obstacles could be seen but as one reached the circular plaza and looked back toward the park's entrance, the walls would not be visible. Dr. King cleared the obstacles for many. A statue of Martin Luther King, Jr. would be located at the plaza, which reminds us that one common man was able to accomplish uncommon achievements. A circular seat-wall would also encompass the plaza which could expand on how the removal of such barriers created opportunities for all.

The layout and elements of this space could also be modified to create another concept which displays Dr. King's ideals, a timeline of his means and methods which put these ideals into action, and a conclusion of his lasting legacy to this country. The entrance to the park could display markers, or pillars, which identify Dr. King's ideals. They may be simple words such as 'Peace' or 'Equality' or, perhaps, they may be referenced via quotes from the great leader. In any event, these are placed at the front of the park such that visitors are made aware of these principles.

As visitors pass through the park's primary entrance, they are placed on a very linear passageway which identifies significant dates, marches, or events that involved Dr. King's earlier principles to overcome injustices. Linear bands in the landscape are inscribed with quotes, places or references before terminating at the base of stately trees. The progression through the park continues by ascending to a circular plaza which is enveloped by a sentinel of trees. The central figure in this space is Dr. King.

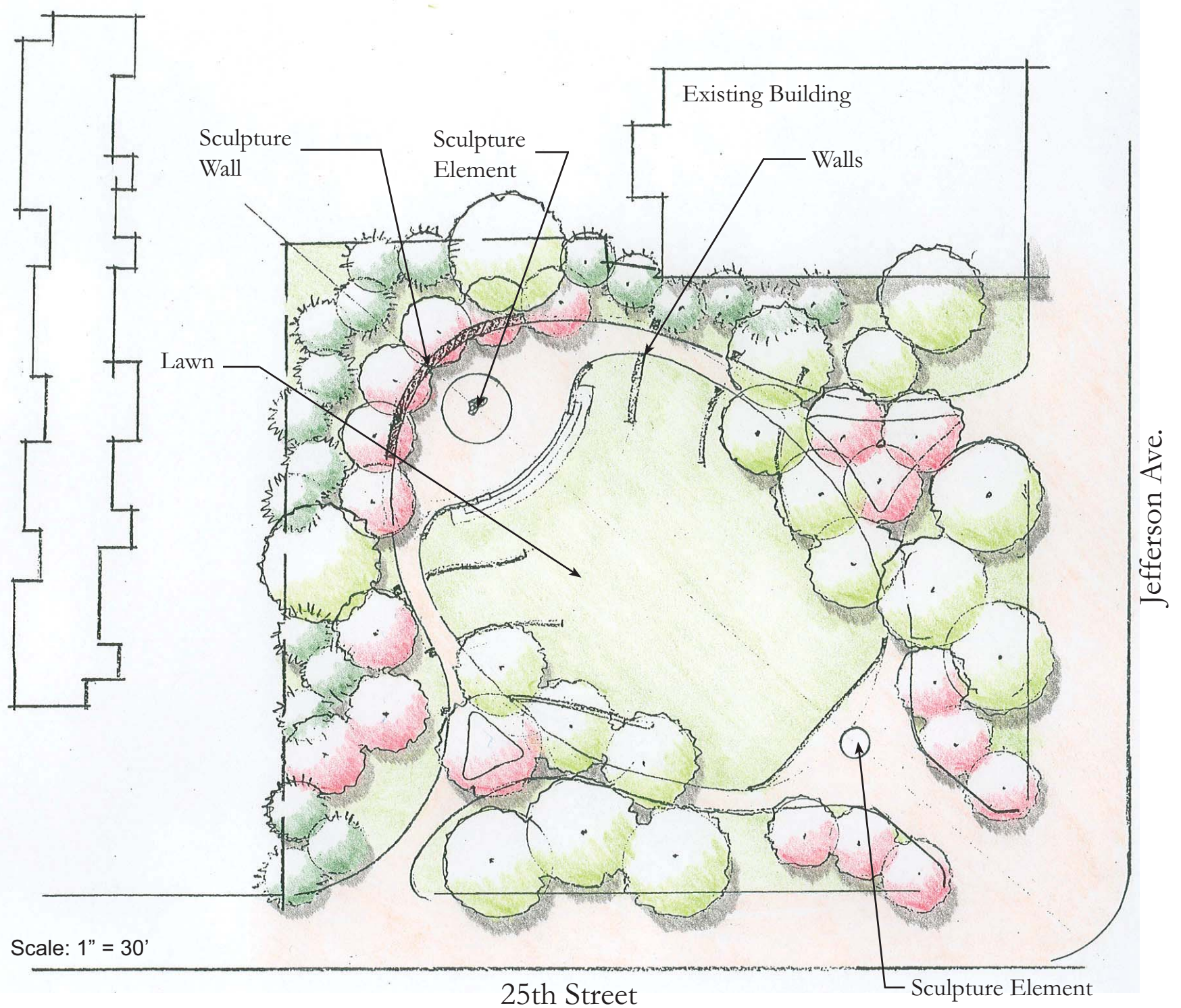
Contrary to what is shown on the concept plan, additional trees could be located along the linear walkway such that the tree canopy is full upon entering the site which then thins out as one advances to the plaza where Dr. King is located. Certain users might draw conclusions as to how one enters the space in a darker environment, which transitions into an area of more light that ultimately unfolds onto a plaza which is in full light. This is quite reminiscent of how this country came out of the darkness and into the light during the Civil Rights movement. As Dr. King stated "The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light".

Concept C ~ Breaking Barriers

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park / Plaza

Jan. 9, 2006

Scale: 1" = 30'



The Mountaintop

Inspired by Dr. King's 'I've been to the Mountaintop' speech relating to his journey, this concept is envisioned to provide visitors a chance to travel to a symbolic mountaintop where they can be empowered by descending from a mountain with a similar objective as Dr. King.

Entering the park, visitors are immediately engaged with a sculpture of Dr. King as he is sitting before the open lawn. In the background, a sculpture representative of a mountain is placed high above a plaza area. As one travels from the sculpture of Dr. King to the other sculpture, walls bisect the walks. These walls, which you pass through, are representative of the obstacles Dr. King brought down during his lifetime. At the apex of the site, where the mountaintop sculpture is located, one can look out, toward the City and park's entrance from where they entered, and understand that they too must descend the mountaintop ready to continue the legacy set forth by the man who sits before them.

Concept D ~ The Mountaintop Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park / Plaza

Jan. 9, 2006

Scale: 1" = 30'