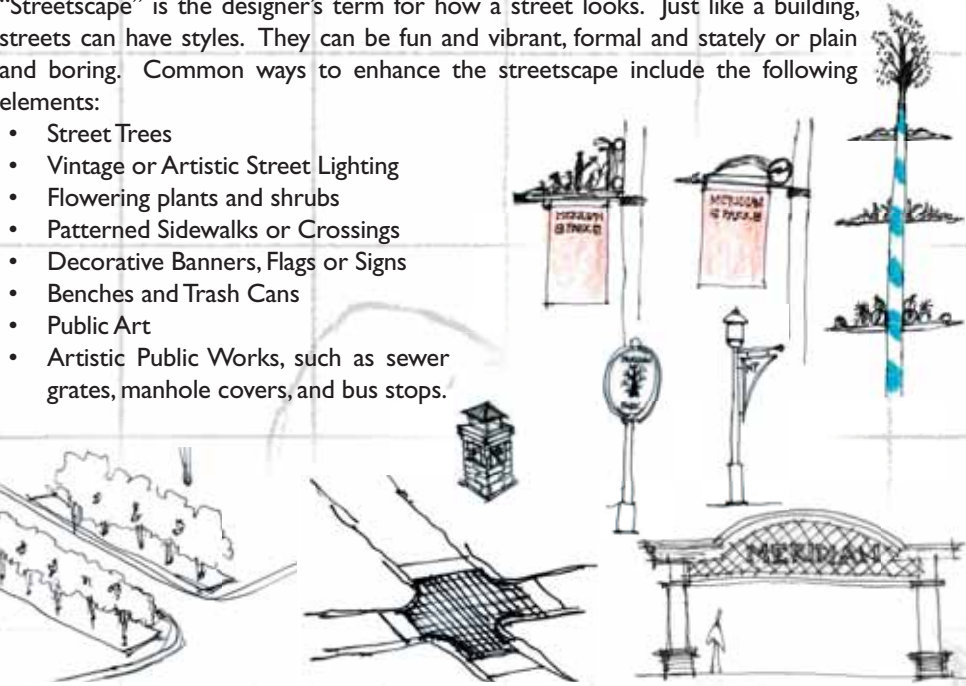


Beauty of the STREET CORRIDORS

ADDING CHARACTER TO THE STREET

“Streetscape” is the designer’s term for how a street looks. Just like a building, streets can have styles. They can be fun and vibrant, formal and stately or plain and boring. Common ways to enhance the streetscape include the following elements:

- Street Trees
- Vintage or Artistic Street Lighting
- Flowering plants and shrubs
- Patterned Sidewalks or Crossings
- Decorative Banners, Flags or Signs
- Benches and Trash Cans
- Public Art
- Artistic Public Works, such as sewer grates, manhole covers, and bus stops.



Street trees with spring flowers or great fall color, combined with colorful streetscape elements like flags or banners, add a dynamic atmosphere to the streetscape.



WHAT'S A GOOD STREET TREE?

There are dozens of great street trees, each with its’ own advantages and disadvantages. When choosing a street tree, it is important to note its soil, sunlight, and water preferences as well as its growth rate, maintenance requirements and tolerance of urban conditions and de-icing salt. Some characteristics are desirable, such as spring flowers and vibrant fall colors. Others, like fruits that may litter the ground, are undesirable. Also note that trees come in many varieties, so while one variety may be great for a street tree, another variety of the same species may not be!

Most importantly, no more than 10% of any one species of tree should be planted in a neighborhood. The American Elm, once the dominant street tree in the United States, was devastated by dutch elm disease. Today the Emerald Ash Borer threatens to do the same devastation to Ash trees. Biodiversity is extremely important in an urban forest. It is suggested that tree species be changed block by block or street by street. Trees are a long-term investment and steps must be taken to minimize the threat of insect and disease outbreaks that might harm that investment!

Below are four diverse street trees that are among the dozens that would thrive in Historic Meridian Park.



Japanese Zelkova: Fast growth, great red fall color, interesting peeling bark.



Autumn Gold Ginkgo: Leaf was common decorative element of Arts & Crafts movement, great gold fall color, urban tolerant.



Columnar Norway Maple: Stately columnar form, yellow fall color, highly urban tolerant.



Flowering Crabapple: Showy white spring flowers, yellow fall color, highly urban tolerant.



Adding street trees and colorful, artistic public works such as this bus shelter helps to create a strong and unique identity.



An artistic bus shelter and decorative flags identify the neighborhood as a unique place.

TAMING ALLEY TRAFFIC

Alleys are designed to only accommodate traffic from residents who live along it. They typically lack site distances, sidewalks, and other features that require cars to drive slower along them. Some alleys, especially the one that Delaware Street “dead-ends” into at 32nd Street, have become quasi-streets, creating unsafe conditions.

One idea, shown to the right, is to create a mid-block raised pedestrian crossing at Washington Court, in effect creating a large, “green” speed bump.

Another option, shown below, is to create “pockets” of raised landscaped plantings in the alley width, creating a slightly narrower and curvilinear path.

Bump-outs, described on the next page, could also be placed at the ends of the alley to narrow the “mouth” of the alley, making it appear narrower like a typical alley.

