Flatiron Park
Public Design Workshop
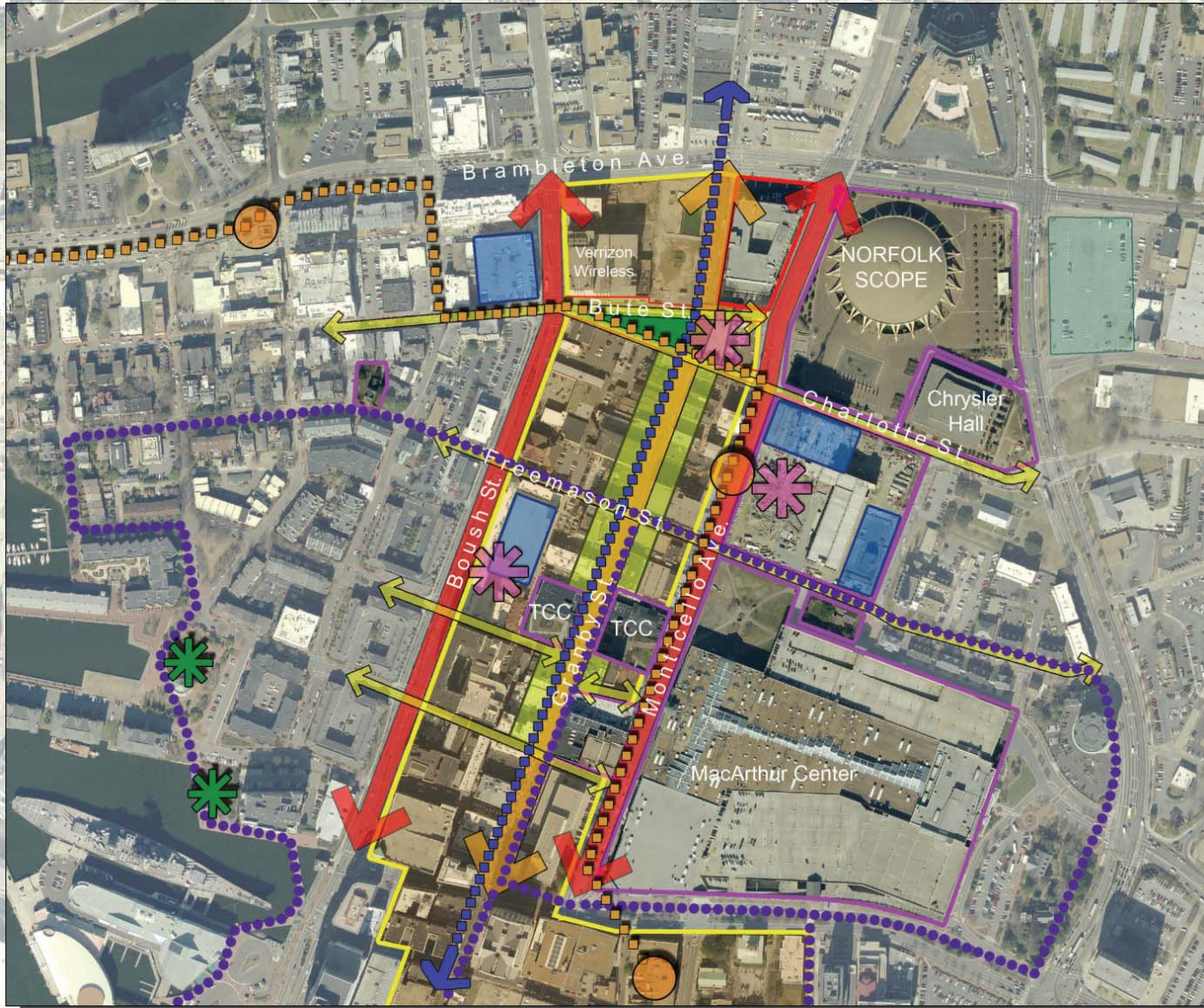
City of Norfolk, VA

Meeting Objectives

- Gain an understanding of the sites long term constraints and immediate improvement needs.

- Provide vital input for the development of the park in the long term and short term

Evening Agenda

- Contextual and Site Information

- Background

- Group Discussions / Brainstorming

- Group Summaries & Next Steps

Flatiron Park

Legend:

- FLAT IRON PARK SITE
- KEY ATTRACTION
- GRANBY MALL
- PARKING GARAGE
- HISTORIC DISTRICT
- PRIMARY VEHICULAR CIRCULATION
- SECONDARY VEHICULAR CIRCULATION
- TERTIARY VEHICULAR CIRCULATION
- HRT BUS ROUTE
- LIGHT RAIL ROUTE
- NEW AND/OR PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL
- PUBLIC PARK
- LIGHT RAIL STATION

Brambleton Ave.

Verrizon Wireless

Bute St.

NORFOLK SCOPE

Chrysler Hall

Charlotte St.

Freemason St.

Boush St.

Granby St.

Monticello Ave.

TCC

TCC

MacArthur Center
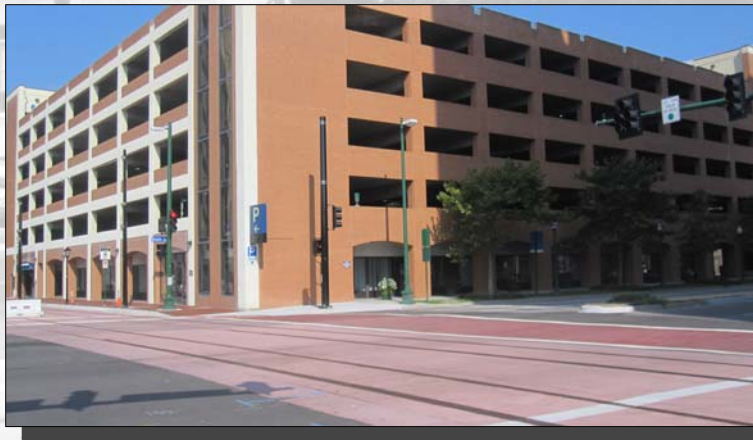
Flatiron Park

- Context
  - Granby Street Corridor

Flatiron Park

- Context
  - Destinations

Flatiron Park

- Context
  - Charlotte Street Corridor

Flatiron Park

Flatiron Park

- Adjacent Land Uses
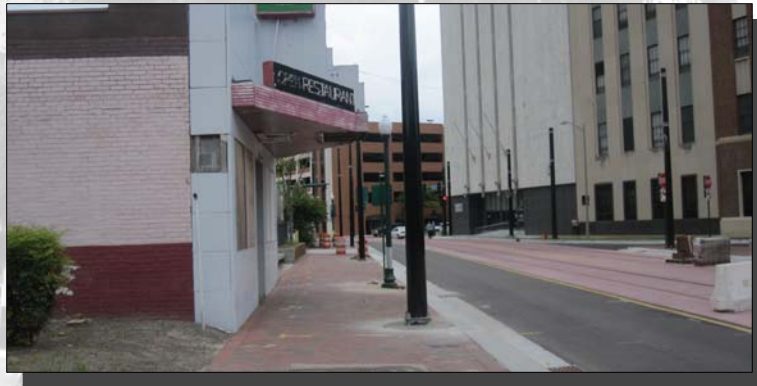
Flatiron Park

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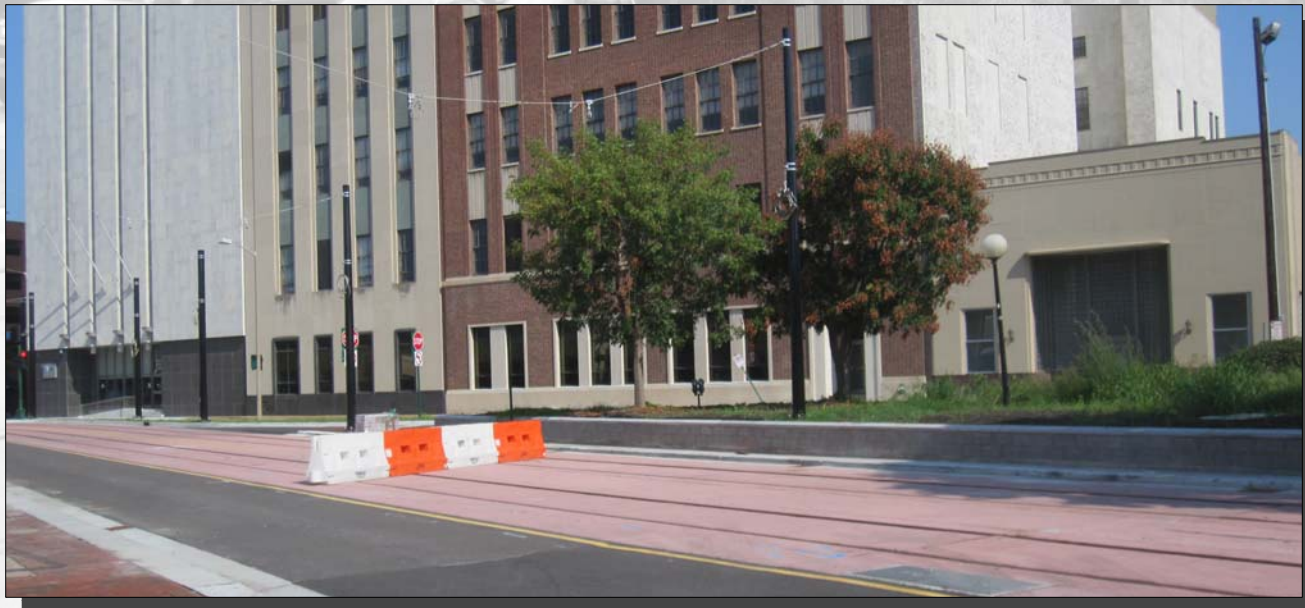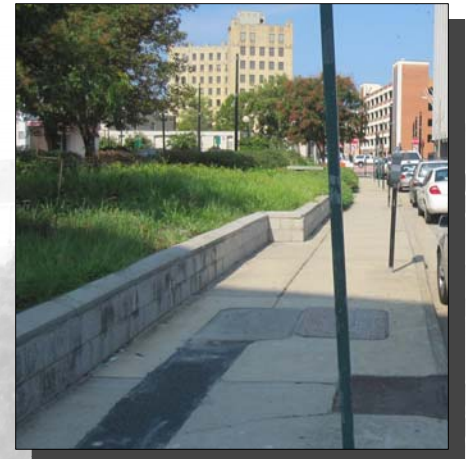
Flatiron Park

Flatiron Park

- History
  - Harbor and Shipping Control Board

Images Courtesy of:

Ann P. Stokes Landscape Architects

Background Info Foundation for Discussion

- Long Term Development and Use of the Site unknown
  - Federal Courthouse Expansion
  - Funding for Improvements
    - Small pot of money
    - Site conditions
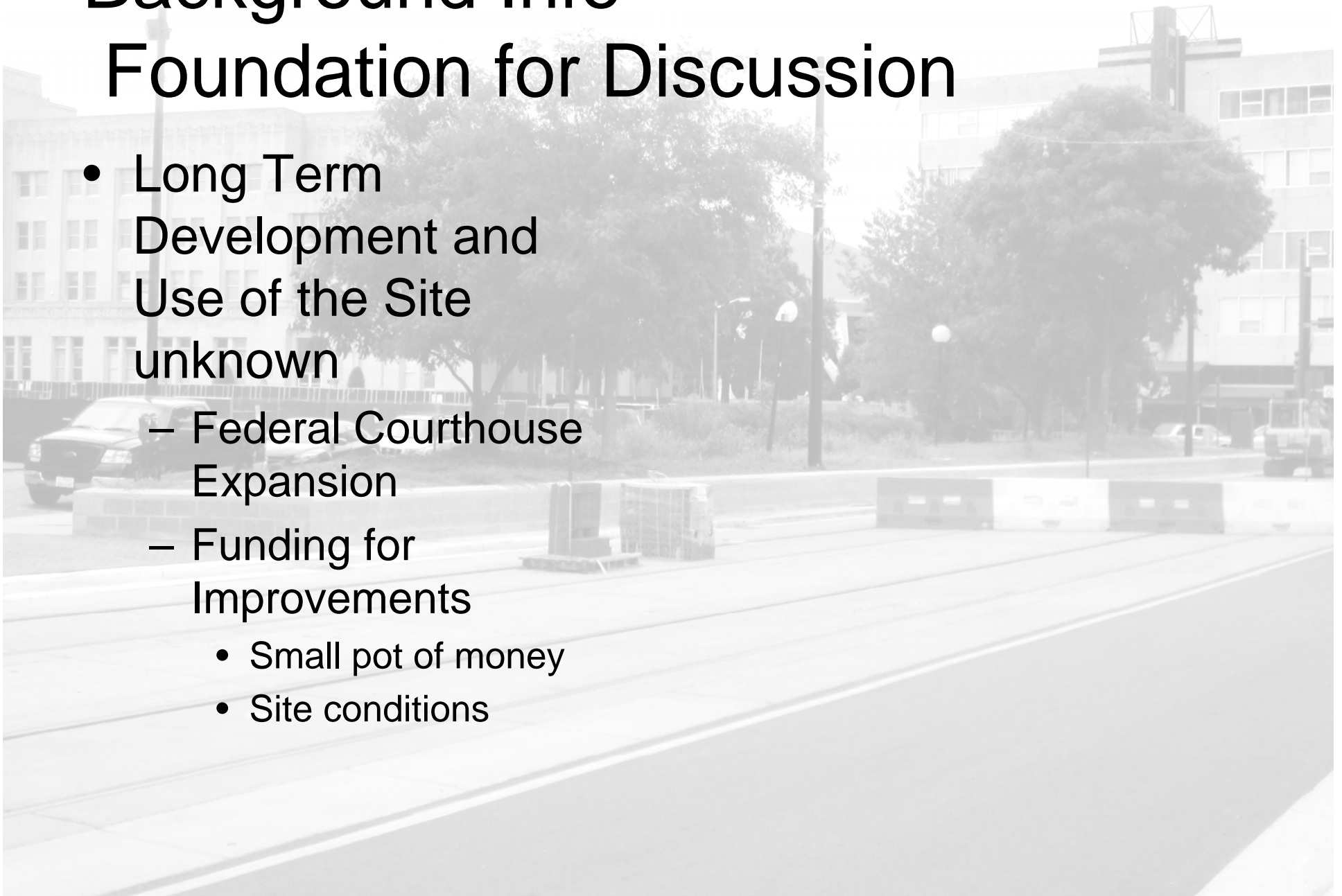
Background Info
Foundation for Discussion

- **HRT Site Modifications**
  - Footings for Utilities
  - Utility Box
  - Impact to the Wall

Background Info
Foundation for Discussion

- ## City's Plan for the Site
  - Visual Attraction
  - Low Cost
  - Does Not Impact Unknown Variables
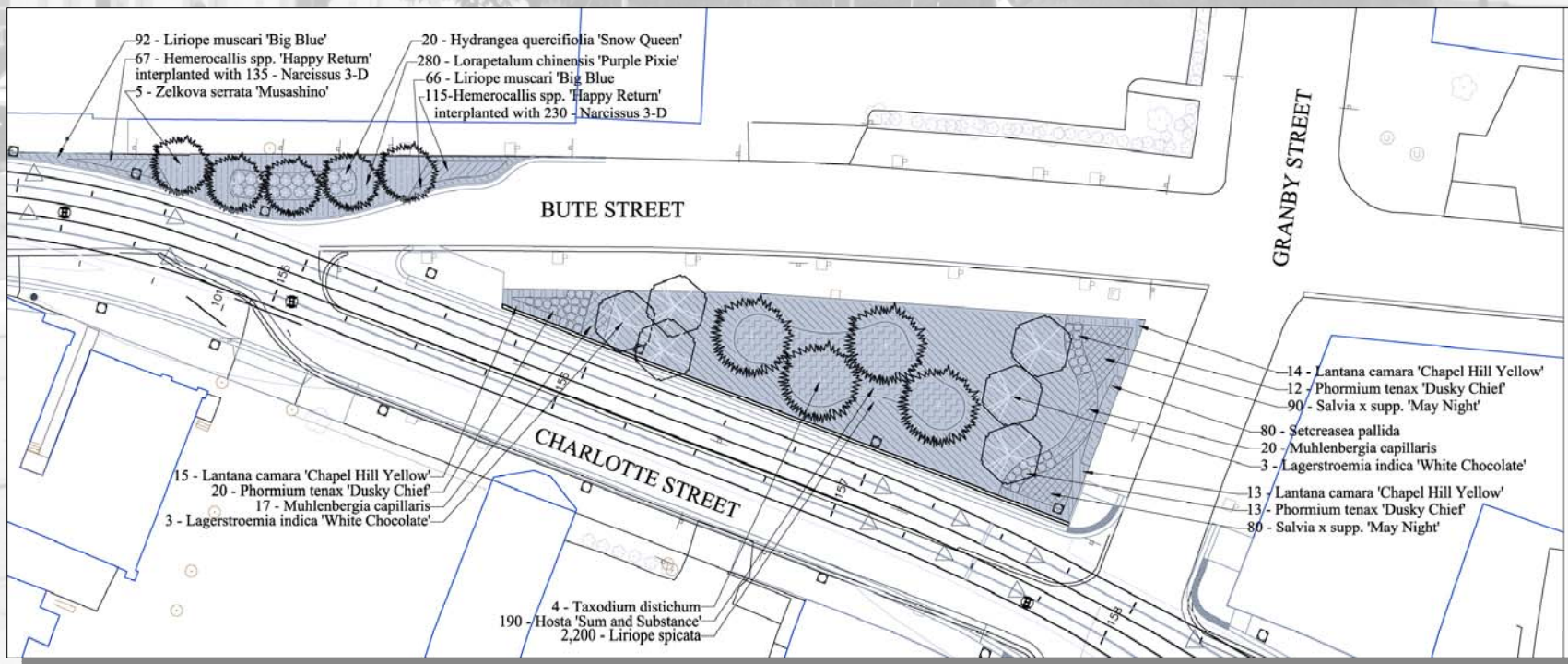
Background Info Foundation for Discussion

- Citizens Desire for the Site
  - Useable Public Space
  - Sacred Space

Monticello Hotel, 1898

The Monticello Hotel, which opened at the corner of City Hall Avenue and Granby Street on September 27, 1898, was the largest and finest hotel in Norfolk for over 60 years. The hotel was built on filled land. By 1885 Town Back Creek had been filled to Granby Street. Construction of the hotel spurred additional development along the new City Hall Avenue. The hotel suffered a devastating fire on January 1, 1918. In addition to the flames, fire fighters had to deal with bitter cold and ice. When it reopened in 1919, two additional floors had been added, including a large dining room and horseshoe-shaped ballroom known in later years as the Starlight Room. This became a favored location for balls, dances, and community events. The grandly appointed mahogany bar doubled as a billiards parlor during Prohibition. During the 1933 hurricane, the hotel and a broad area of downtown suffered considerable flood damage. The Monticello Hotel was the first building in Norfolk to be imploded in January 1976 to make way for the Norfolk Federal Building now on this site.

CITY OF NORFOLK

Urban Public Spaces – Best Practices

- Placemaking Elements
  - Ownership
  - Connectedness

Urban Public Spaces – Best Practices

- Urban Parks are many things
  - Serve Community Life Functions
    - Public Markets
    - Recreational (Passive and Active) Activities
    - Community Events
  - Establish Community &/or Site Identity
    - Art Expression
  - Attract a Wide Variety of People and Encourage Them to Return Again and Again
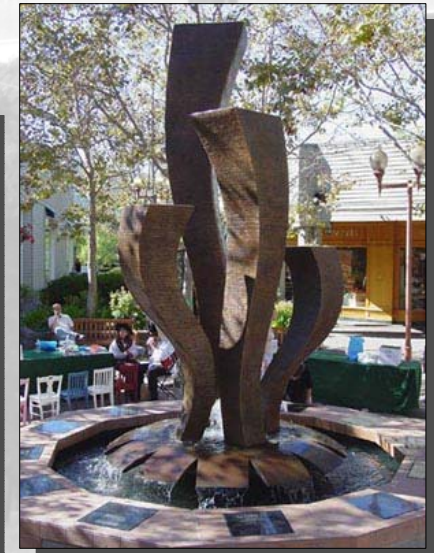
Urban Public Spaces – Best Practices

- Essential Component in transforming and enriching urban areas

- Catalysts for community redevelopment and enhancement

Urban Public Spaces – Best Practices

- Tap into the areas inherent assets the talented and passionate people who live and work there.

- Explore the long term vision for the park and input related to immediate improvement needs.

Group Discussions

- **Contextual and Site Features**
  - Imp historic elements

- **Site Vision**

- **Identification of Desired**
  - Activities – Themes – Elements

- **East End Improvements**

- **Presentation of Group Ideas**