



Figure 4.01: Afternoon Gardening at 100Wichita Community Gardens

100Wichita

Setting New Roots

100Wichita serves a model of innovative ideas to inspire additional downtown improvements by incorporating mixed use buildings, civic spaces, and amenities for existing development.



Background

100Wichita addresses the lack of residential amenities in the area. Because basic needs for residents are outside of a walking distance, the project emphasizes pedestrian use in both spatial organization and the proposed program.

100Wichita considers the difficulty of attracting people to the site while emphasizing walkability and sustainability within mixed-use development. Adapting to existing conditions also drove design decisions throughout the process.

Questions Considered

- What land uses will be most successful at 100Wichita?
- What types of community gardens would attract people?
- Is it feasible to close down Wichita Street without significantly disrupting traffic?

Contextual Conditions

- Retaining wall & service drive to Garvey Center
- Proximity of 100Wichita to downtown attraction points
- Adjacent streets & buildings
- Existing land use

Design Intent

- Strengthen community bonds
- Promote recreational activities
- Civic spaces catering to a variety of activities
- Define the urban edge

Methods of Design

- Site visit, analysis, & inventory
- Diagramming site conditions
- Study & digital modeling
- Final design solution

Outcomes

100Wichita addresses many possible improvements from the Project Downtown Master Plan including mixed used development, increased walkability, creating an urban environment, and catering to the needs of pedestrians. Wichita offers many opportunities for change and 100Wichita presents innovative solutions that can act as a catalyst for future development.

Illustrative Site Plan of 100Wichita

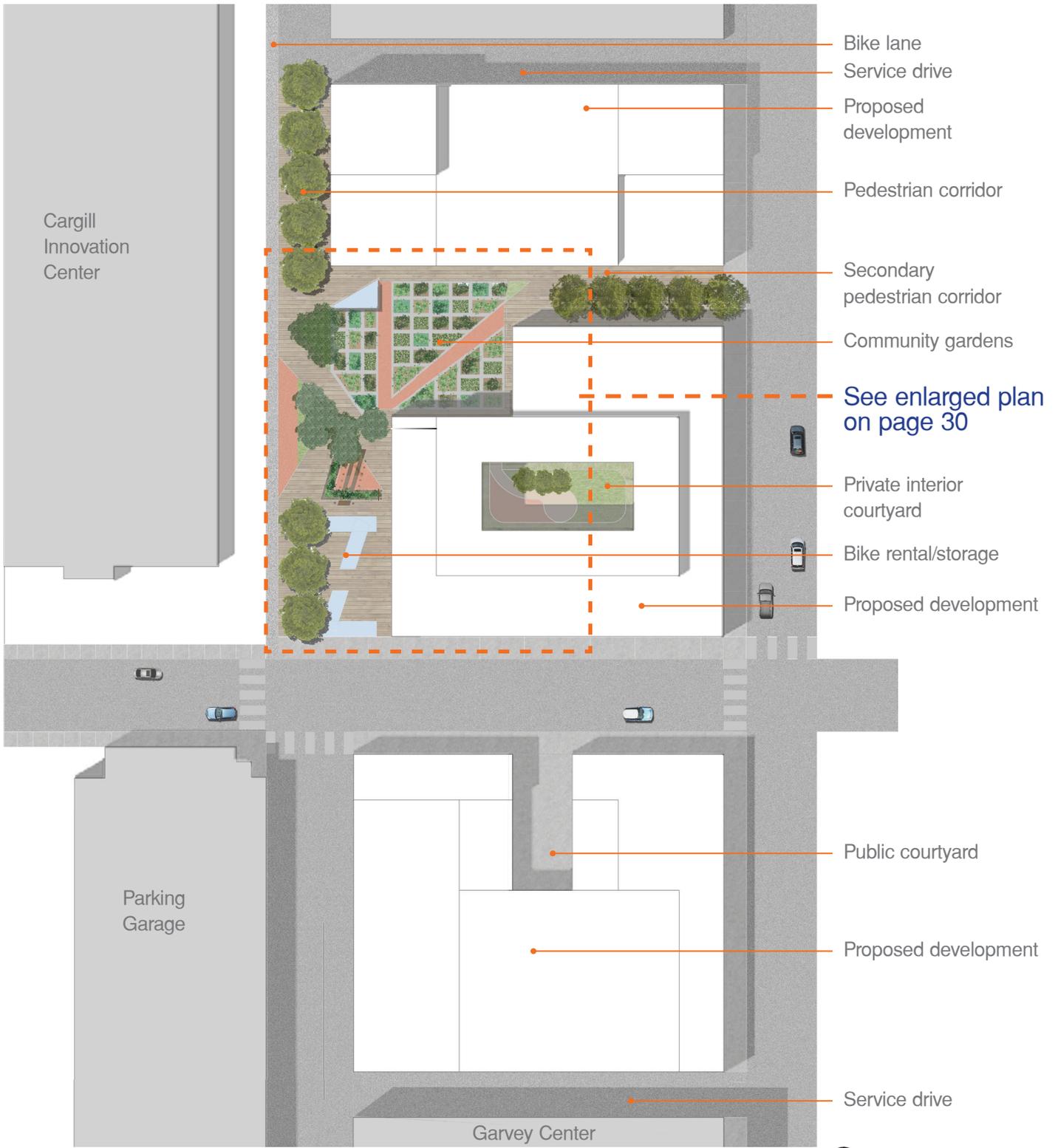


Figure 4.02: Illustrative Site Plan of 100Wichita

Scale: 1" = 100'



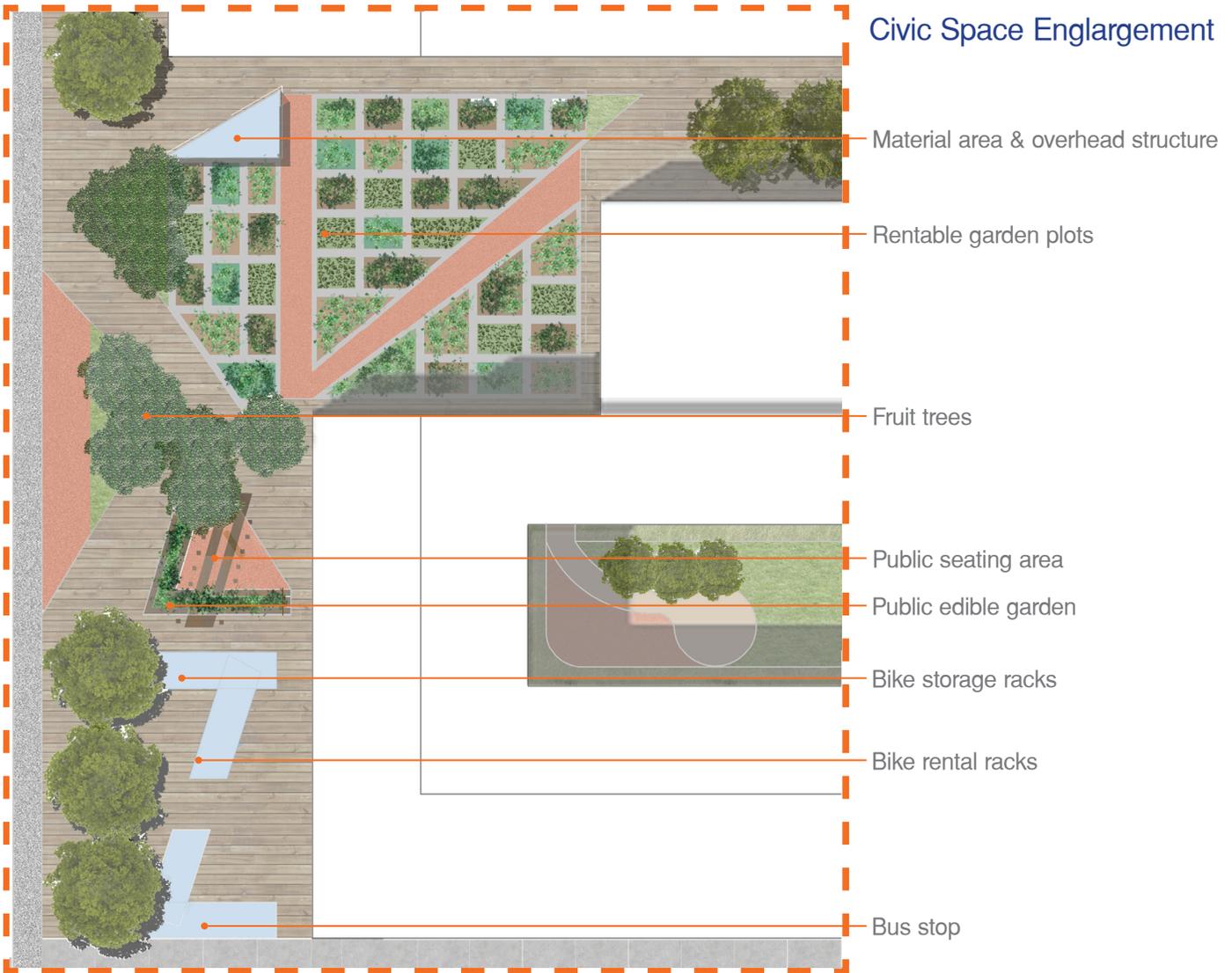


Figure 4.03: 100Wichita community gardens engage residents.

Scale: 1"=50'

Program



Figure 4.04: Improving downtown walkability.



Figure 4.05: Providing outdoor dining.



Figure 4.06: Giving nature lovers a garden.



Figure 4.07: Providing a bike lane.



Figure 4.08: Planning for new amenities.



Figure 4.09: Integrating a farmer's market.

The Living Wall

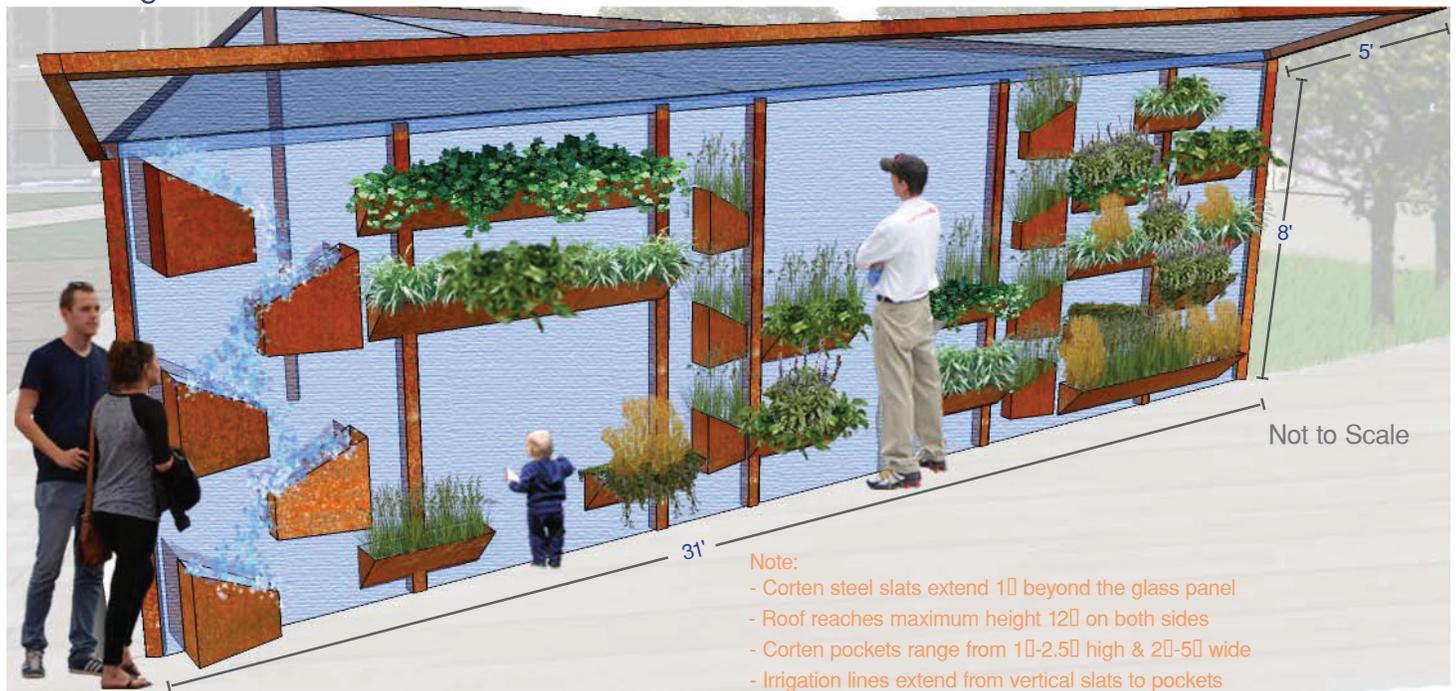


Figure 4.10: The Living Wall engaging pedestrians along the corridor both visually, audibly, and physically.

An artistic screen element engages users on the northwest boundary of *100Wichita* Community Gardens. This feature greets visitors traveling south along the pedestrian corridor. Vegetation grows from corten steel pockets, alluding to the garden behind the glass panel. Water trickles through a vertical fountain on one side of

the panel, providing an engaging audible background noise to visitors. A butterfly roof provides shade and captures rainwater for the vegetation and fountain. The vertical corten steel slats in the panel frame views for users, both children and adults. The frame, vertical slats, and pockets for the vegetation and water are corten steel.

The butterfly roof and vertical panel are constructed of colorful photographic paper between two panes of glass, allowing vibrant reflections from the sun through the glass to the ground plane. A pump fits behind a corten steel post to provide water to the vertical fountain and irrigate vegetation pockets when no rain water is present.

The Urban Harvest Fence



Figure 4.11: Urban Harvest Fence highlighting the gardens and providing a character to the community gardens.

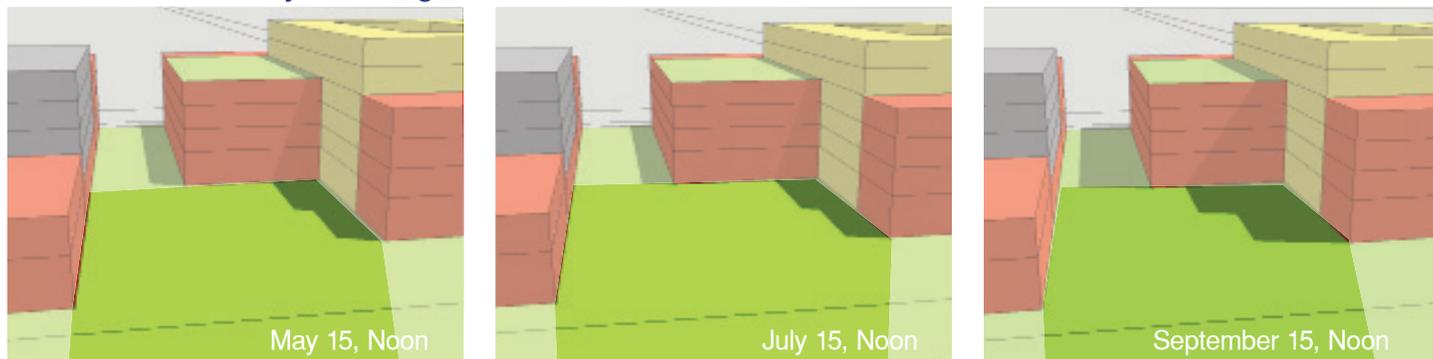
- Note:
- Vertical corten steel slats range in height from 3'-4'
 - Gate panels are 3.5' in height
 - Corten steel panel cut outs are 3' in height
 - Large glass panel is 3' in height

100Wichita proposes community gardens in a public plaza, so implementing a fence was crucial to keep the gardens for private use yet visible to the public. The gardens provide a destination point downtown Wichita currently does not possess. The designed fence allows people of

all heights, ages, and physical abilities to view the plots and encourages visitors to connect with the urban agriculture. Although only plot owners have access to the gardens, the slats are designed to keep the *100Wichita* Community Gardens highly visible.

Corten steel is the primary material choice for the fence, creating the slats, gates, and panels. To connect with the green wall overhead structure, colored accent glass panels fit between the corten steel slats. Patterns are cut from the corten steel panels to provide more views into the gardens.

Sun & Shade Study-Growing Season



Figures 4.12-14: The community gardens location has partial to full sun during the growing season (May to September).

Gardens and agriculture require large amounts of sunlight to be successful. The proposed location for the *100Wichita* Community Gardens, a semi-enclosed plaza on the north side of W First Street, was determined as a direct result of sun and shade studies on the entire site.

The study shows that the location of the community gardens take advantage of direct sunlight during the growing season, especially during July, the peak growing month. The location of the garden plots, shown in the Sun-Shade Study diagrams, receives sunlight during July between six and seven full hours per day.

Surrounding buildings provide partial to full shade in the morning and evening hours. These times prove ideal for plot renters to visit their gardens to perform necessary tasks such as watering, composting, or harvesting without being forced to endure direct intense summer sunlight.

Site Metrics & Land Use

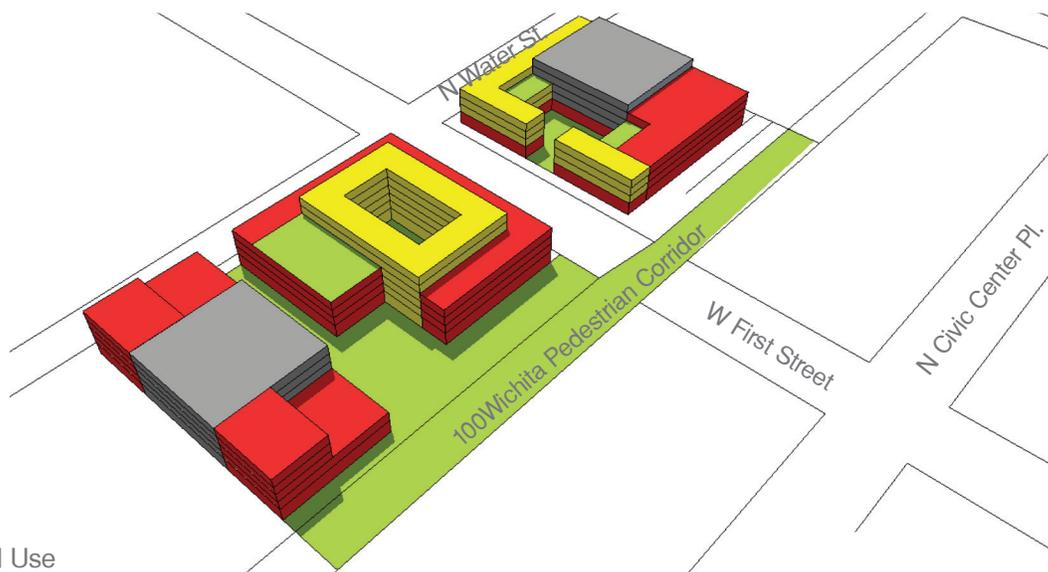


Figure 4.15: Land Use



Figure 4.16: *100Wichita* proposes develop integrating a wide array of land use, as proposed in the master plan.

Sun & Shade Study-Peak Growing Month

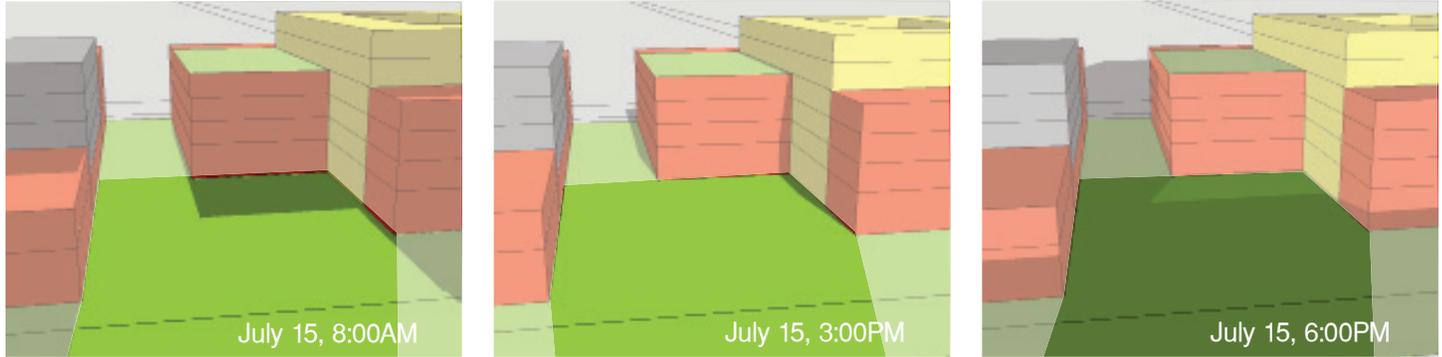


Figure 4.17-19: During July, the peak growing month, the community gardens site has partial to full sun from 8AM to 5PM.

Traffic Routing

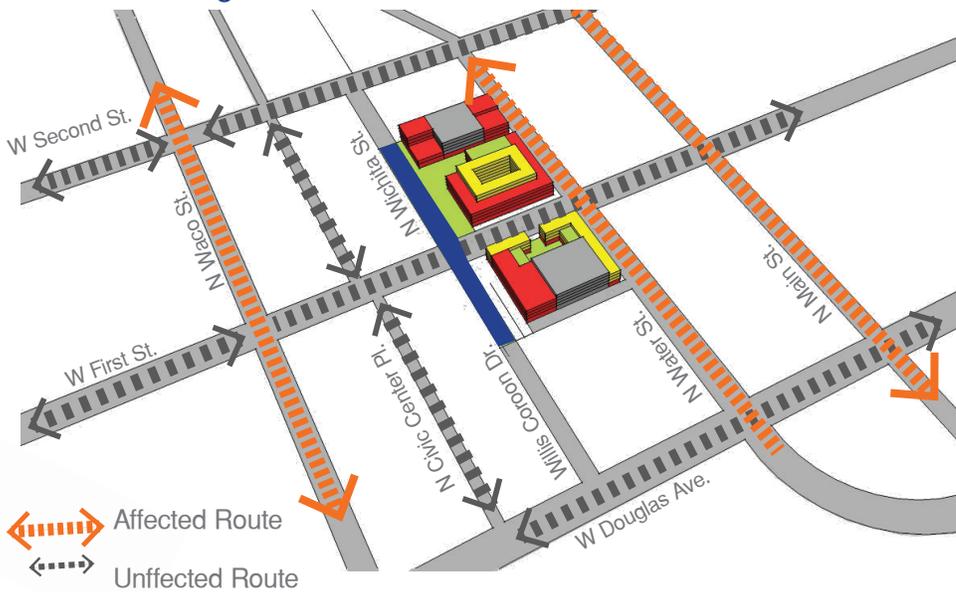


Figure 4.20: Waco, Water, and Main Streets handle traffic from vacated Wichita Street.

Traffic Volume

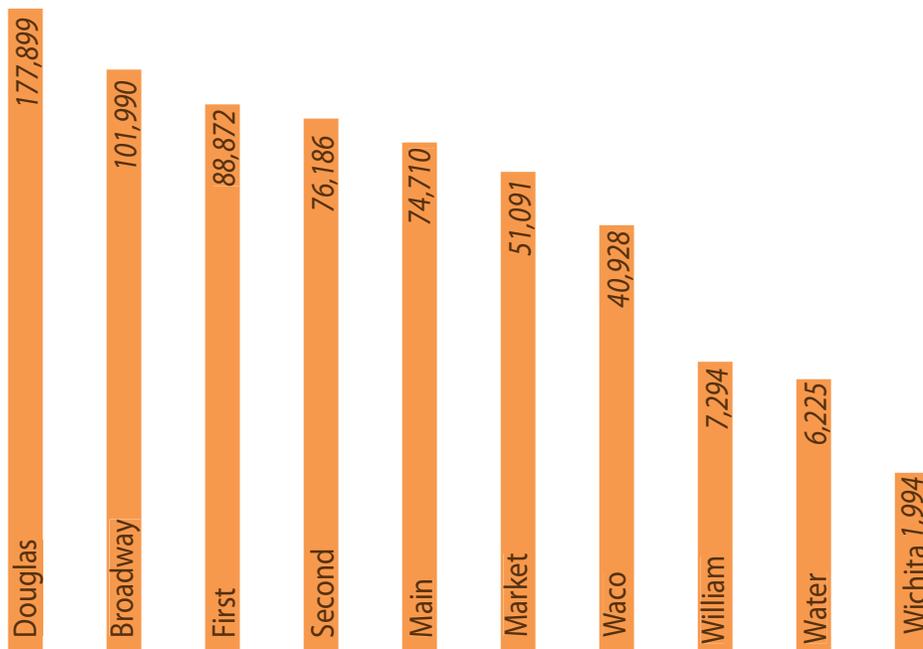


Figure 4.21: Wichita Street has low traffic volume compared to other streets in downtown Wichita. Source data: (Department of Transportation, 2010) (Department of transportation, 2013.)

Intensive studies of the traffic flow and volume of downtown Wichita, particularly surrounding the 100Wichita site, illustrate that vacating Wichita Street is not only feasible, but will also mitigate traffic confusion that Wichita Street with vehicles traveling between W First and W Second Streets.

Existing traffic occupies Wichita Street as a through street between one-way W First and W Second Streets. Traffic volume is significantly lower than several other roads in downtown, as delineated in the Traffic Volume diagram. Therefore, surrounding streets (such as N Waco, N Water, and N Main) can handle whatever traffic must be diverted in order to convert N Wichita Street to a pedestrian corridor. (Department of Transportation, 2010.) (Department of Transportation, 2013).

Proposed traffic flow uses Wichita Street as a pedestrian corridor, activating the 100Wichita block, promoting walkability, and creating a destination point the current downtown does not have. Traffic traveling between W First and W Second Streets can instead utilize north bound Water Street (adjacent to 100Wichita) or two-way Waco Street (two blocks west of 100Wichita).

Gardening on a Warm Saturday Afternoon



Figure 4.22: Afternoon Gardening at 100Wichita Community Gardens

Meandering Along the Pedestrian Corridor



Figure 4.23: The pedestrian corridor provides a sneak peek into the 100Wichita Community Gardens.

Eidetic Montage: Experience Rooted in Community



Figure 4.24: The feeling *100Wichita* provides for the image of downtown.

Renting a Bike for a River Ride



Figure 4.25: *100Wichita* integrates new transportation for downtown Wichita.



Figure 4.26: Meaningful words to *100Wichita*