

Colorado Springs Veterans Memorial Master Plan & Structural Assessment

PARKS BOARD

May 11, 2023

Project Background

- Members of the American Legion Post 5 noticed that, after over 50 years in existence, the condition of the Veterans Memorial have deteriorated: visible cracks in the monument and dilapidated pavement.
- Post 5 Commander made a formal presentation to City Council on September 14, 2021. City Council agreed that the memorial should be restored to the condition it deserves as such an important living memorial in Colorado Springs.

Project Background

- City Council Member Tom Strand engaged Colorado Springs Parks to administer the rehabilitation project (PRCS had originally administered the Memorial construction in 1968).
- Parks Department hired Stream Landscape Architecture & Planning to complete a master plan, along with a structural assessment of the central monument performed by investigative structural engineers at Martin/Martin.

Project Milestones & Timeline

1ST STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP WITH VETERANS GROUPS

gather ideas / vision



FEBRUARY 3, 2022

2ND PUBLIC MEETING

present design concept



APRIL 28, 2022

PARKS BOARD / MASTER PLAN COMPLETION

issue master plan



APRIL 13, 2023

TODAY!

CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS & BIDDING

design development



SUMMER & FALL 2023

CONSTRUCTION FOLLOWED BY COMMEMORATION EVENT

consultant hired



2024

Site Background & Memorial History



“American Legion to Spark Veterans New Memorial”

April, 1968



“Recreation Director Outlines Memorial Role in Park Plan”

May, 1968



“Huge Crowd Attends Veterans Memorial Dedication”

November 11, 1968

Site Background & Memorial History



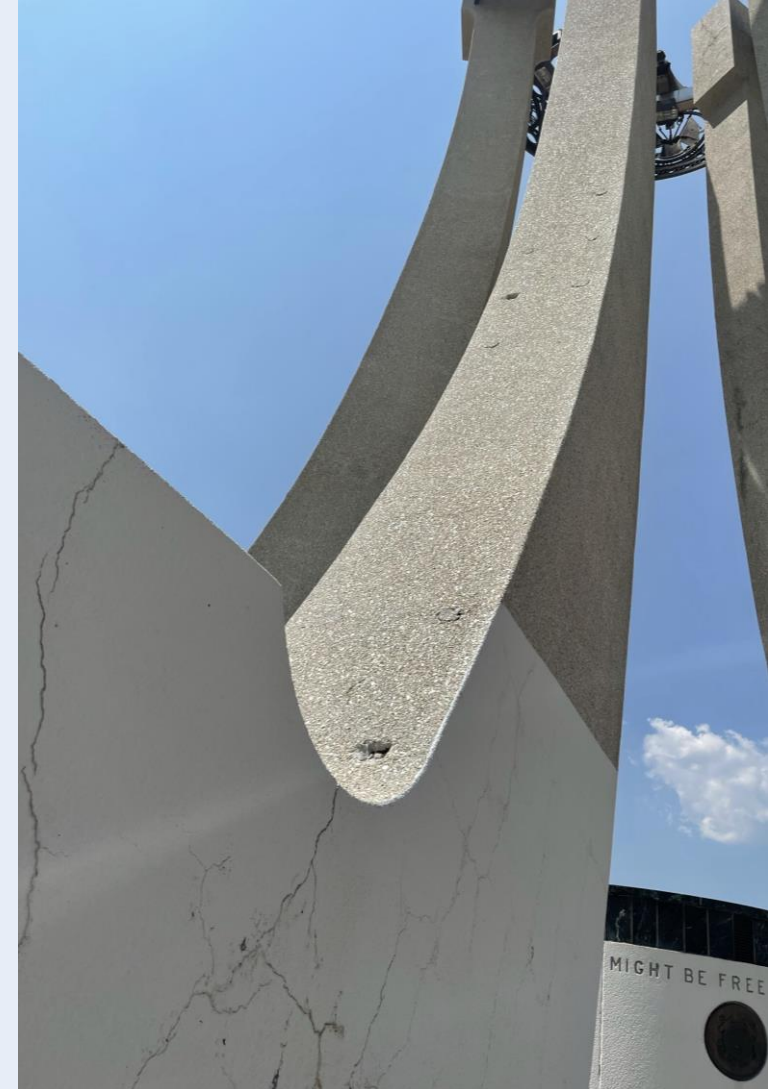
The plaza, which will accommodate several thousand people, is to be beautified with landscaping that will provide screening from the recreation area of the park.

Colorado Springs
Gazette, 1968

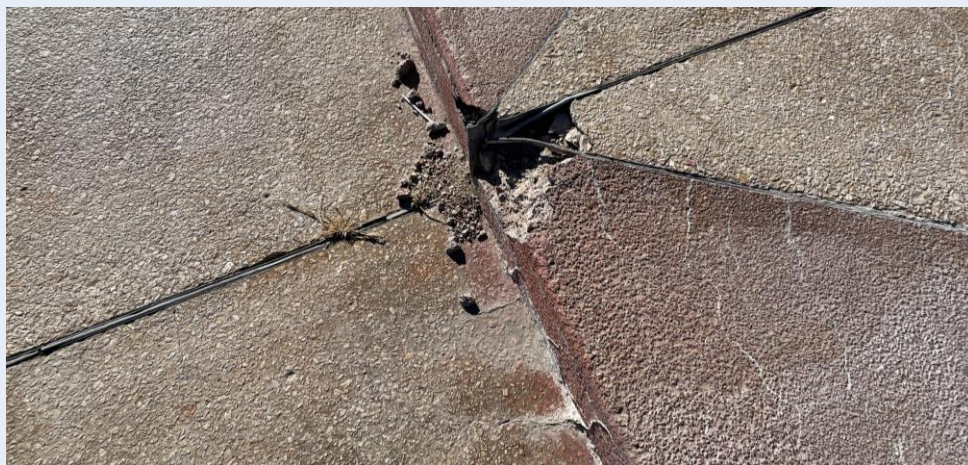
Site Background & Memorial History



Current Conditions: *Structure*



Current Conditions: *Site / Plaza*

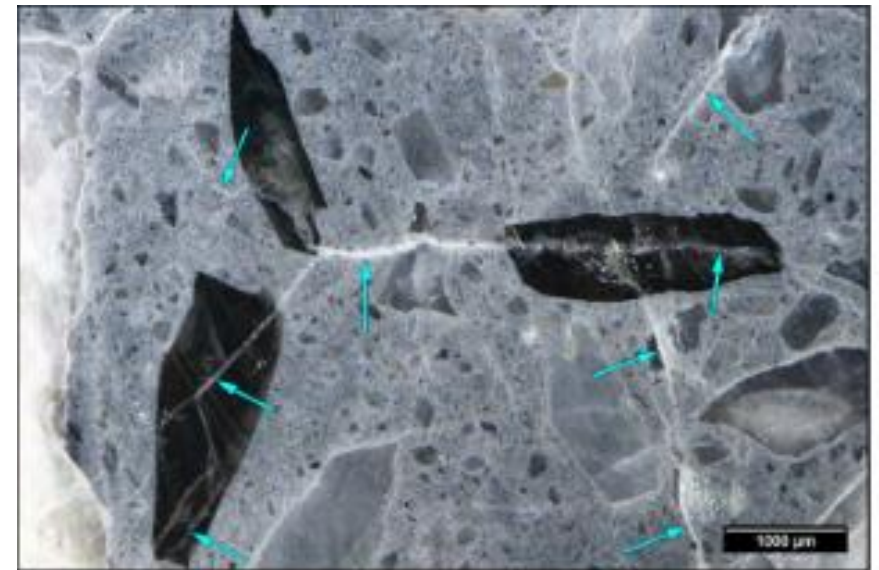


Project Goals

- **STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY:** Rehabilitate the central monument structure and repair crumbling concrete paving and other dilapidated site features.
- **CIRCULATION & ACCESSIBILITY:** Allow for universal access to the memorial spaces for all visitors.
- **MAINTAINABLE & EXPANDABLE:** Enable future additional monuments in an organized overall design and ensure maintainability.
- **ENHANCED EXPERIENCE:** Flexible design to accommodate group events, solitary / contemplative experience, or both.

Structural Assessment: UPDATE

- Initial Assessment Winter 2021/2022
Follow-up January of 2023
- Concrete deterioration is due to a chemical reaction between the cement and the aggregate (ASR)
- ASR is triggered by presence of water
- On-going testing of limited samples indicates low potential for continued ASR



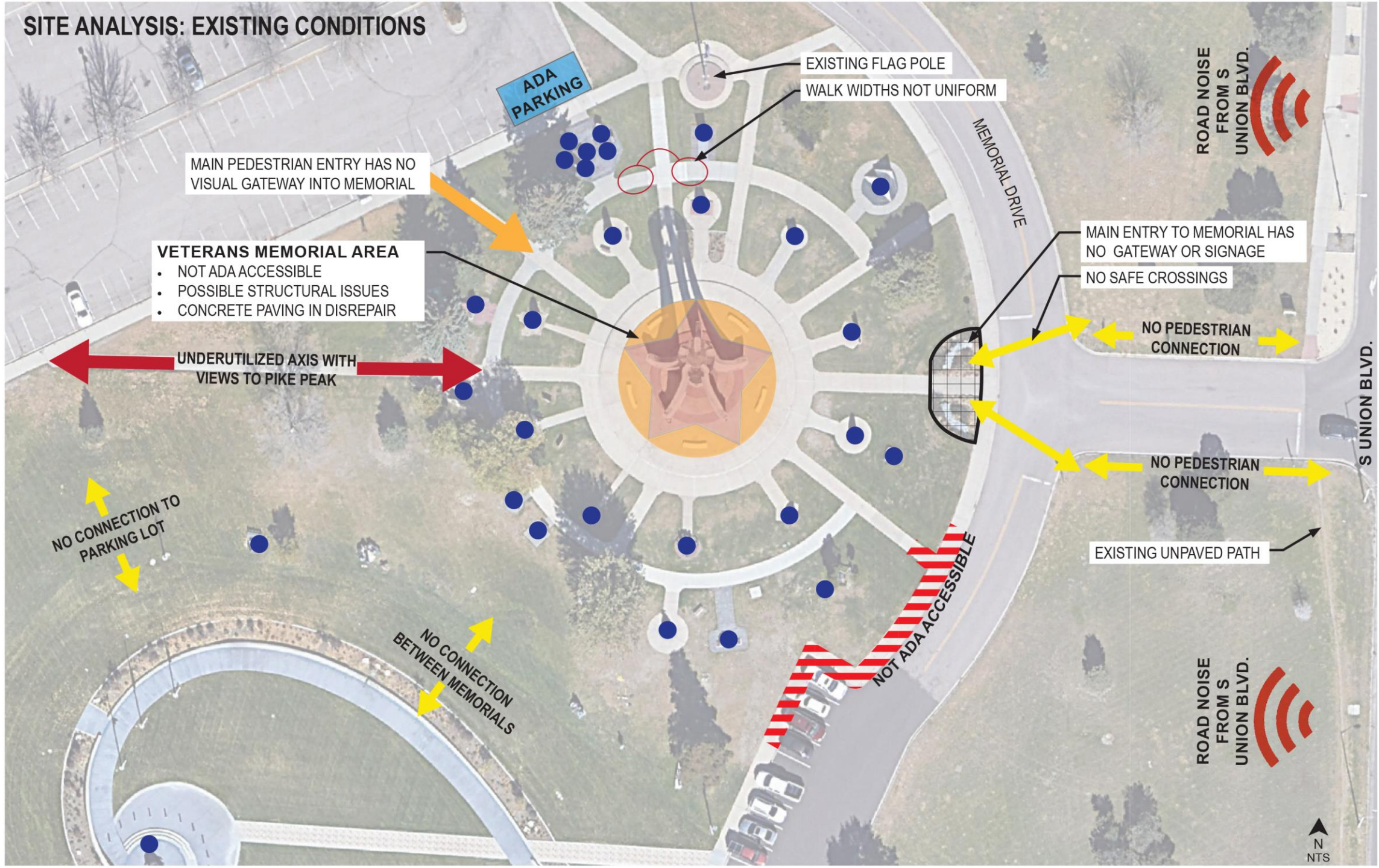
Structural Assessment: UPDATE

Recommendations – Three Options

- Best: Replace the Concrete Columns
- Better: Repair damaged concrete and install weather protection including coatings and flashing. May extend the life of the structure up to 20 yrs. Will alter the appearance somewhat.
- Good: Repair damaged concrete in areas not visible. Install non-visible water repellent and flashing. May extend the life of the structure 10 years. Least impact on current appearance.



SITE ANALYSIS: EXISTING CONDITIONS



ADA PARKING

EXISTING FLAG POLE
WALK WIDTHS NOT UNIFORM

ROAD NOISE FROM S UNION BLVD.

MAIN PEDESTRIAN ENTRY HAS NO VISUAL GATEWAY INTO MEMORIAL

VETERANS MEMORIAL AREA

- NOT ADA ACCESSIBLE
- POSSIBLE STRUCTURAL ISSUES
- CONCRETE PAVING IN DISREPAIR

MAIN ENTRY TO MEMORIAL HAS NO GATEWAY OR SIGNAGE
NO SAFE CROSSINGS

UNDERUTILIZED AXIS WITH VIEWS TO PIKE PEAK

NO PEDESTRIAN CONNECTION

NO CONNECTION TO PARKING LOT

NO PEDESTRIAN CONNECTION

NO CONNECTION BETWEEN MEMORIALS

EXISTING UNPAVED PATH

NOT ADA ACCESSIBLE

ROAD NOISE FROM S UNION BLVD.



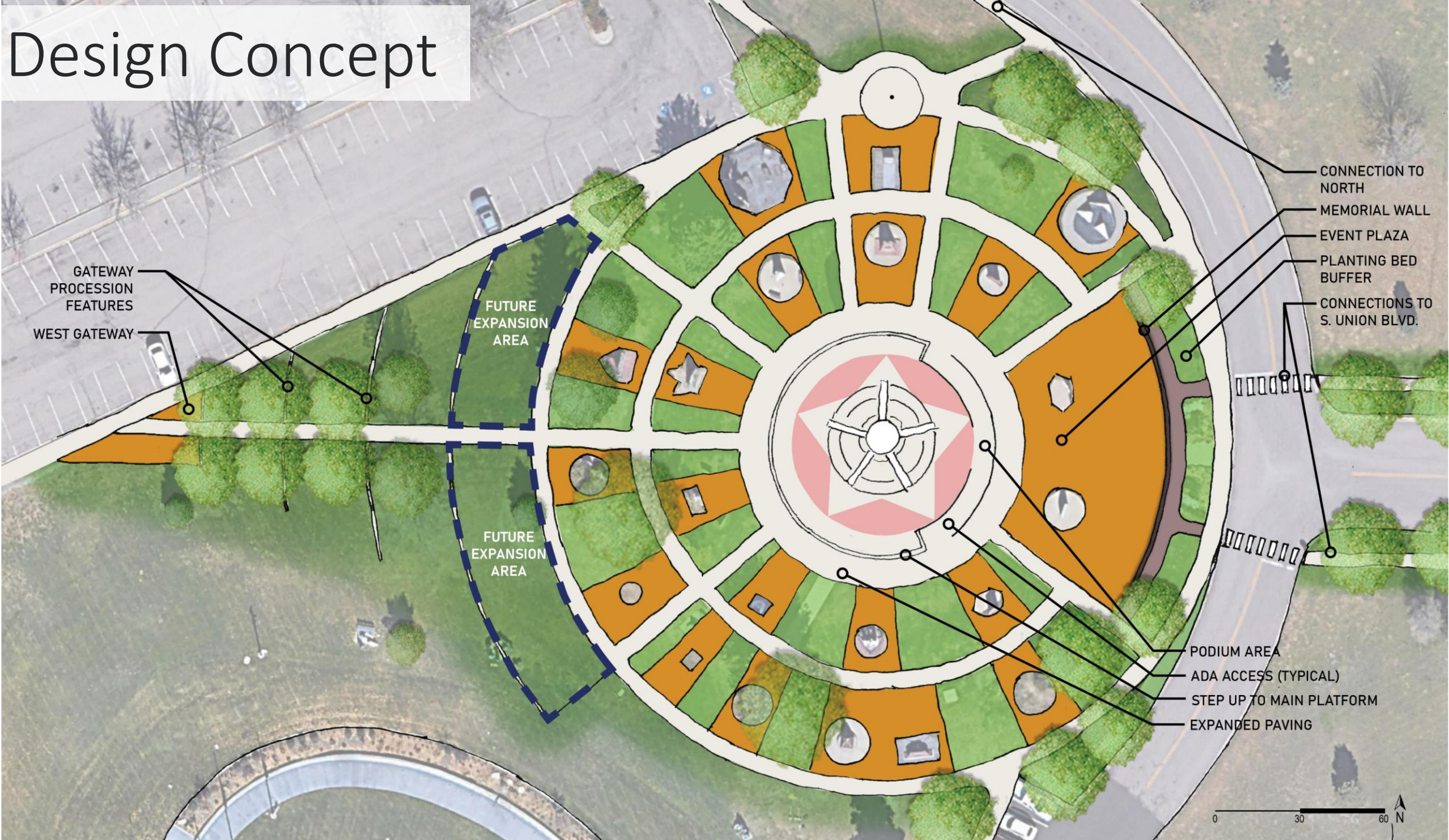
What We Heard at the Veterans Stakeholder Meeting

How the site is being used:

- Large Veterans Events (200-300 people for Veterans Day & Memorial Day events)
- Smaller Veterans Meetings & Events, throughout the year
- General public use: families, small groups and individuals



Design Concept



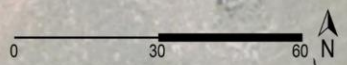
GATEWAY
PROCESSION
FEATURES
WEST GATEWAY

FUTURE
EXPANSION
AREA

FUTURE
EXPANSION
AREA

CONNECTION TO
NORTH
MEMORIAL WALL
EVENT PLAZA
PLANTING BED
BUFFER
CONNECTIONS TO
S. UNION BLVD.

PODIUM AREA
ADA ACCESS (TYPICAL)
STEP UP TO MAIN PLATFORM
EXPANDED PAVING





VETERANS
MEMORIAL









VETERANS
MEMORIAL

Next Steps

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WORKSHOP WITH
VETERANS GROUPS**

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SUMMER & FALL 2023

NEXT

**CONSTRUCTION
FOLLOWED BY
COMMEMORATION EVENT**

consultant hired



2024

MEMORIAL IDENTIFICATION

- ① CLOCK TOWER MEMORIAL
- ② 104TH INFANTRY DIVISION "THE TIMBER WOLVES" MEMORIAL
- ③ CADET WING AND STAFF MEMORIAL
- ④ COLORADO SPRINGS VETERANS MEMORIAL
- ⑤ UNITED STATES AIR FORCE IN THE PIKES PEAK REGION MEMORIAL
- ⑥ 71ST INFANTRY DIVISION MEMORIAL
- ⑦ 89TH INFANTRY DIVISION AT CAMP CARSON MEMORIAL
- ⑧ PURPLE HEART MEMORIAL
- ⑨ FAC MEMORIAL
- ⑩ FAC NAMES WALL MEMORIAL
- ⑪ FAC BENCH MEMORIAL
- ⑫ FAC BENCH MEMORIAL
- ⑬ TACP MEMORIAL
- ⑭ MISTY MEMORIAL
- ⑮ CANADIAN AND UNITED STATES FORCES MEMORIAL
- ⑯ SPECIAL FORCES MEMORIAL
- ⑰ FREEDOM MEMORIAL
- ⑱ KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL
- ⑲ POW/MIA/EX-PRISONERS OF WAR MEMORIAL
- ⑳ VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL
- ㉑ AEROSPACE DEFENSE MEMORIAL
- ㉒ SUBMARINER MEMORIAL
- ㉓ MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
- ㉔ IN HONOR OF SAILERS & MARINES MEMORIAL
- ㉕ FT. CARSON FALLEN MEMORIAL
- ㉖ FUTURE SITE MEMORIAL
- ㉗ BUFFALO SOLDIERS MEMORIAL
- ㉘ WAR DOG MEMORIAL
- ㉙ PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL
- ⑩ UNKNOWN - TO BE CONFIRMED
- ⑪ FLAG POLE

②⑨

S UNION BLVD.



Proposed Motion

A motion to recommend repair option #2, which would repair cracking to limit moisture penetration and install surface coating. Subject to further funding, the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board also recommends the additional design elements identified by Stream Landscape Architecture.