

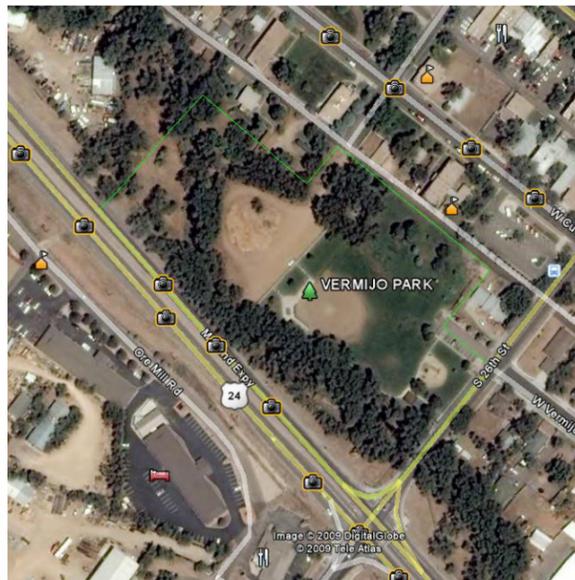
SECTION FOUR: Unique Areas and Elements

The unique areas being affected by US 24 West Corridor improvements are Vermijo Park, the rock face adjacent to Red Rock Canyon Open Space, Midland Greenway (See Appendix. This plan was produced as part of a separate greenway planning effort) and the trail and walls adjacent to Safeway just west of 31st Street. Unique elements include trails, site furnishings and lighting.

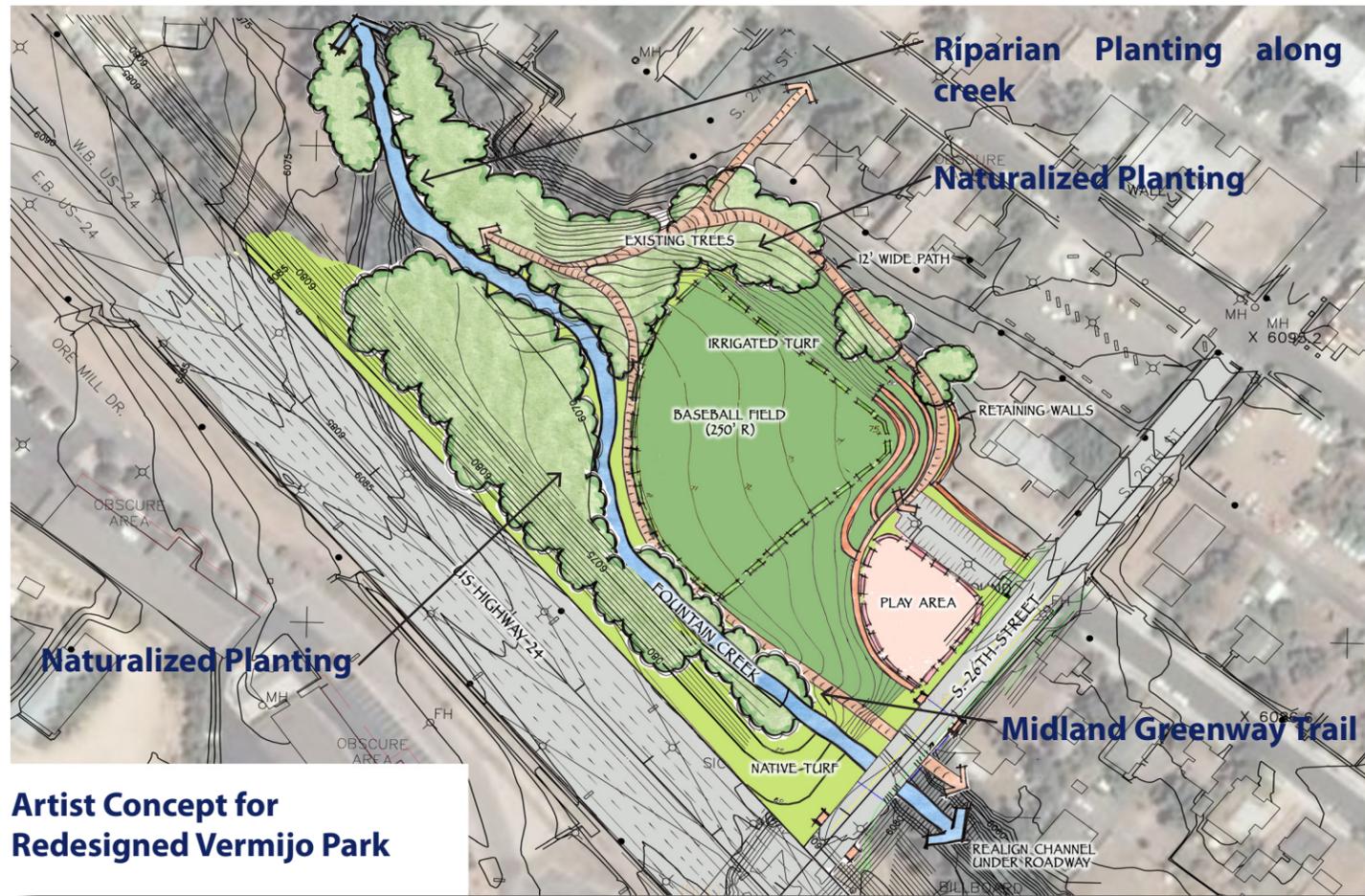
Unique Areas

1. Vermijo Park

Presently Vermijo Park is situated northwest of US 24 at its intersection with 26th Street. The park is lower in elevation than US 24. Fountain Creek runs between the southern edge of the park and the highway and provides a natural buffer between vehicular traffic and the park. The park contains a tot lot area, baseball field, multi-use field and parking. Vehicular access to the park is off of South 26th Street.



The park currently sits adjacent to US 24 Right-of-Way. Due to the proposed highway improvements, an additional travel lane is being added for both east and west bound traffic, it has become necessary to move Fountain Creek farther north into the park. As a result, the



**Artist Concept for
Redesigned Vermijo Park**

park and creek will be redesigned, resulting in a change from their present locations.

One concept for the proposed park involves shifting the ball field, parking, tot lot and creek channel to the north. The creek channel will be realigned to pass beneath South 26th Street. In an effort to accommodate the proposed infrastructure changes, some of the existing vegetation associated with the creek riparian areas will be removed. Grading of the new ball field will necessitate the addition of retaining walls around the backstop. The proposed retaining walls will allow for the addition of a paved 12' wide trail to meander around the ball field, eventually paralleling Fountain Creek to the south. These retaining walls should be constructed to match the stone bridges across Fountain Creek. See Page 19. Additional concepts for the park will be generated with input from neighbors and park and recreation staff.

Landscaping will focus on restoring the disturbed areas within the park. To bring it back to its natural native appearance, riparian plantings should be used along Fountain Creek. Supplemental deciduous and ornamental trees and deciduous and evergreen shrubs

should be provided to help unify the new park within its residential surroundings.

These plants should be selected from the Naturalized Plantings schedule in the Appendix. Native seeding of the graded and disturbed areas is essential to control erosion.