

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**  
650 SOUTH KING STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

FRANK F. FASI  
MAYOR



REC'D

WALTER M. OZAWA  
DIRECTOR

ALVIN K.C. AU  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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November 26, 1991 OEQC OF SA  
QUALITY CONTROL

Mr. Brian J. J. Choy, Director  
Office of Environmental Quality Control  
State of Hawaii  
Central Pacific Plaza  
220 South King Street, Fourth Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

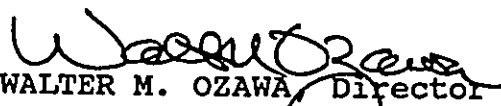
Dear Mr. Choy:

Subject: Environmental Assessment and Negative  
Declaration for Thurston Triangle (Also known  
as Ala Wai Triangle or Kapahulu Triangle)  
Tax Map Key 2-6-29: 1

The Department of Parks and Recreation has prepared  
an Environmental Assessment for Thurston Triangle  
improvements and has determined that the project will  
not have any significant environmental impact. Please  
publish the Negative Declaration in the next OEQC  
Bulletin. OEQC Form 91-1 and four copies of the  
Environmental Assessment are enclosed.

Please contact me at 527-6343 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

  
WALTER M. OZAWA, Director

WMO:ei

Attachments

Department of Land Utilization

216

1991-12-08-0A-FAA

**FILE COPY**

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

AND NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR

\* THURSTON TRIANGLE (AKA ALA WAI TRIANGLE, KAPAHULU TRIANGLE)\*  
IMPROVEMENTS

Honolulu, Oahu, Hawaii

TMK: 2-6-29: 1

This document was prepared pursuant to Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and Chapter 200 of Title 11, State Environmental Council Environmental Impact Statement Rules.

NOVEMBER 1991

PROPOSING AGENCY: City and County of Honolulu  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
650 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

CONTACT: Walter M. Ozawa, Director  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
Telephone: 527-6343

CONSULTED PARTIES: Department of Transportation Services

I. PROPOSED PROJECT

A. SUMMARY

The City Department of Parks and Recreation proposes to develop landscaping improvements and a fountain at Thurston Triangle.

B. TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Thurston Triangle is a traffic island at the intersection of Ala Wai Boulevard and Kapahulu Avenue in Waikiki. (See Figures 1 and 2) The 5,663 square foot site is State land under Executive Order to the City for park use.

The park site is now relatively level. Pedestrians crossing Ala Wai Boulevard between the Waikiki-Kapahulu Library and Thomas Jefferson Elementary School use a sidewalk along the Kapahulu Avenue side of Thurston Triangle. (See Figure 3) Park landscaping currently consists of a grass lawn and mature monkeypod, coconut palm, and satinleaf trees.

Proposed improvements consist of a gently sloping, circular, grassed earth mound with a fountain at its center; a new meandering sidewalk covered with tile pavers; three curvilinear areas planted with low hedges; removal of two satinleaf trees (from treewells); and relocation and additional planting of coconut palms. (See

Figures 4 and 5)

### C. SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

The project's purpose is to beautify one of the "gateways" to Waikiki.

### D. ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Proposed improvements will cost about \$200,000. Costs will be shared between the City and the State.

Construction will commence in spring 1992 and be completed within 180 days including maintenance of landscaping.

### E. APPLICABLE LAND USE CONTROLS

The project site is:

- . within the Urban District;
- . designated Parks and Recreation on the Primary Urban Center (PUC) Development Plan (DP) Land Use Map;
- . within parts of Kapahulu Avenue and Ala Wai Boulevard designated for street widening on the PUC DP Public Facilities Map (but not shown as required street right-of-way on the Department of Transportation Services Planning Area Map for Waikiki-Diamond Head);
- . within the Waikiki Special District Public Precinct (25-foot height limit);
- . within the Diamond Head Special District outside the Core Area (0-foot height limit);
- . outside the special management area (SMA); and
- . within Flood Insurance Rate Map Zone X (outside the projected 500-year flood plain)

Waikiki and Diamond Head Special District minor permits are required for proposed park improvements. No district boundary amendment, DP amendment, zone change, SMA use permit, flood hazard variance, or other discretionary permit is needed.

## II. SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

### A. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

The project area is a landscaped traffic island in a busy intersection at the mauka-Diamond Head corner of Waikiki. (See Figure 2) Ala Wai Boulevard has one-way traffic in the northwest (Ewa-bound) direction, while Kapahulu and Paki Avenues have two-way traffic. Street widening is not justified by existing traffic on any of these roads. If Kapahulu Avenue must be widened to accommodate future traffic increases, then it might be desirable to use the southeast (Diamond Head) side of Thurston Triangle for additional road right-of-way.

Across the street, the closest adjacent land uses include a public library, public elementary school, and public fire station. There are no rare or endangered species of plants or animals; streams, wetlands, or estuaries; potable ground water resources; or known archaeological resources in the area where development is proposed.

#### B. LAND USE

Thurston Triangle is currently not used for active recreation.

#### III. SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

During construction, pedestrians will be routed to the other side of the intersection and cross Leahi and Paki Avenues rather than Ala Wai Boulevard. Other short term construction related impacts including noise and dust will be mitigated with standard State and City requirements.

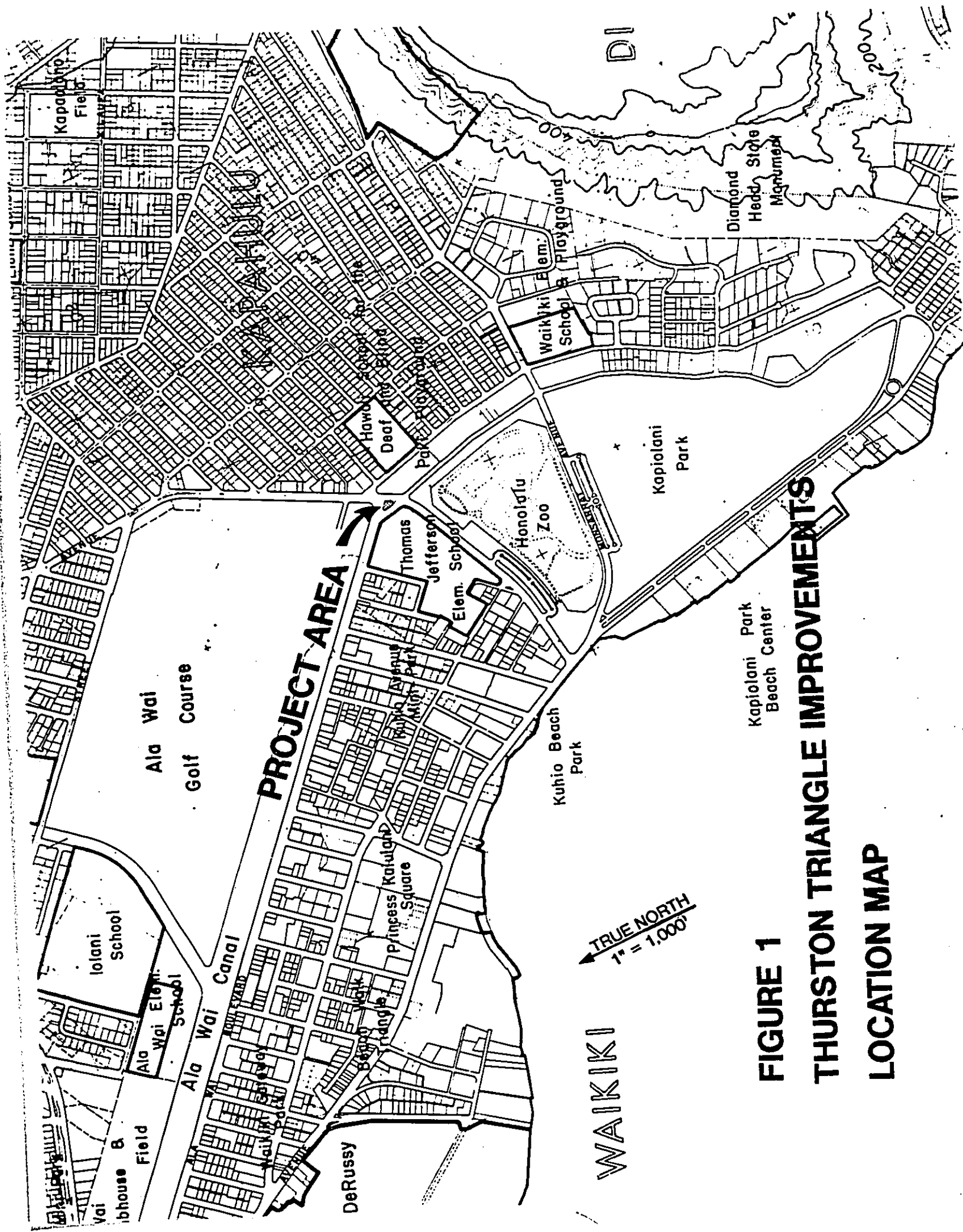
In the long term, Thurston Triangle will be more aesthetically pleasing with a fountain and landscaping improvements. No other environmental impacts are anticipated. Given the setting, it is unlikely that proposed improvements will encourage active recreational use of Thurston Triangle.

#### IV. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The "no action" alternative was rejected as less attractive than proposed improvements. Beautification is appropriate because the Ala Wai Boulevard/Kapahulu Avenue intersection is a heavily traveled gateway to Waikiki.

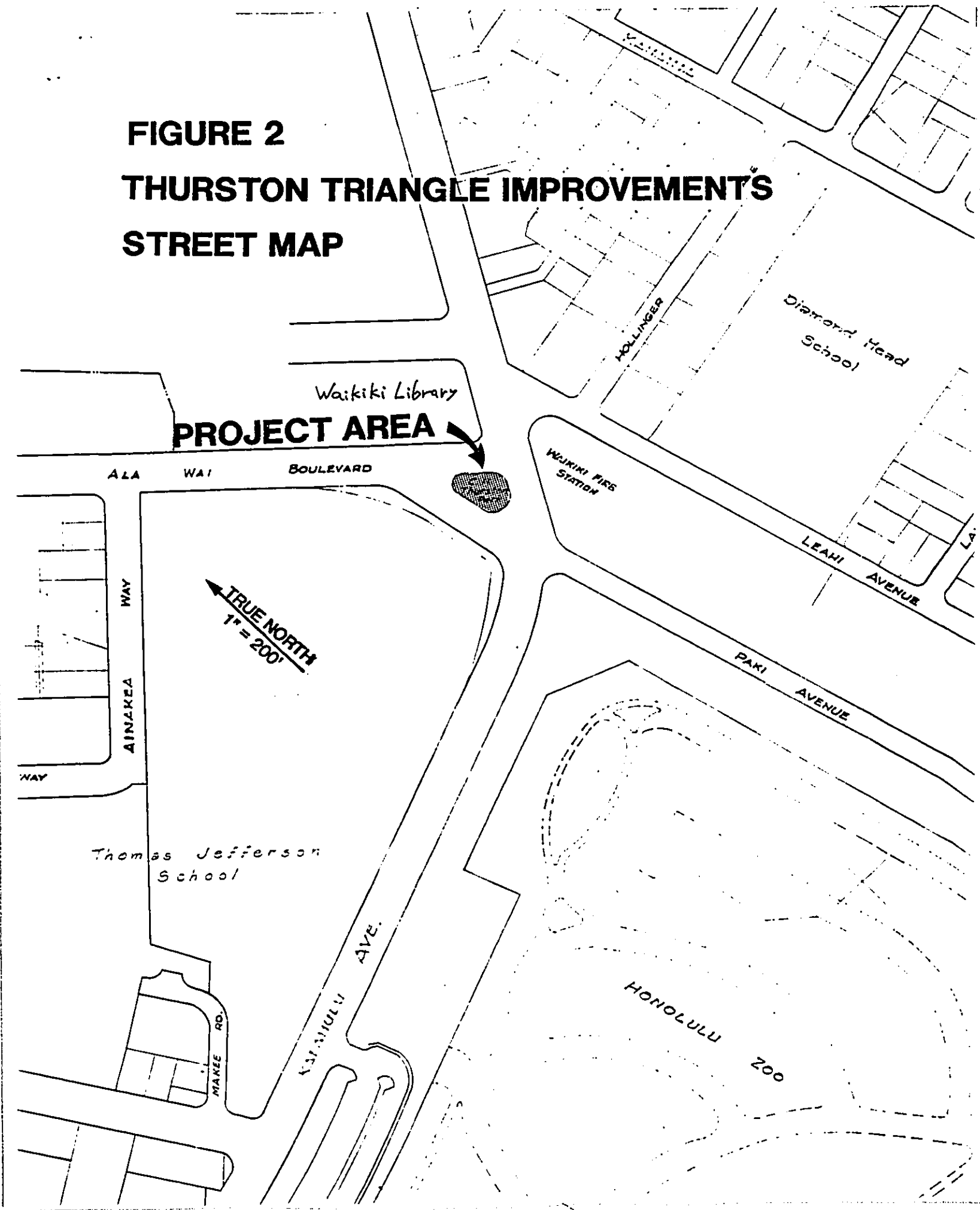
#### V. DETERMINATION

An environmental impact statement is not required. The proposed action will not result in direct, indirect, or cumulative environmental impacts which are significant under the criteria set by Section 11-200-12, Environmental Impact Statement Rules.

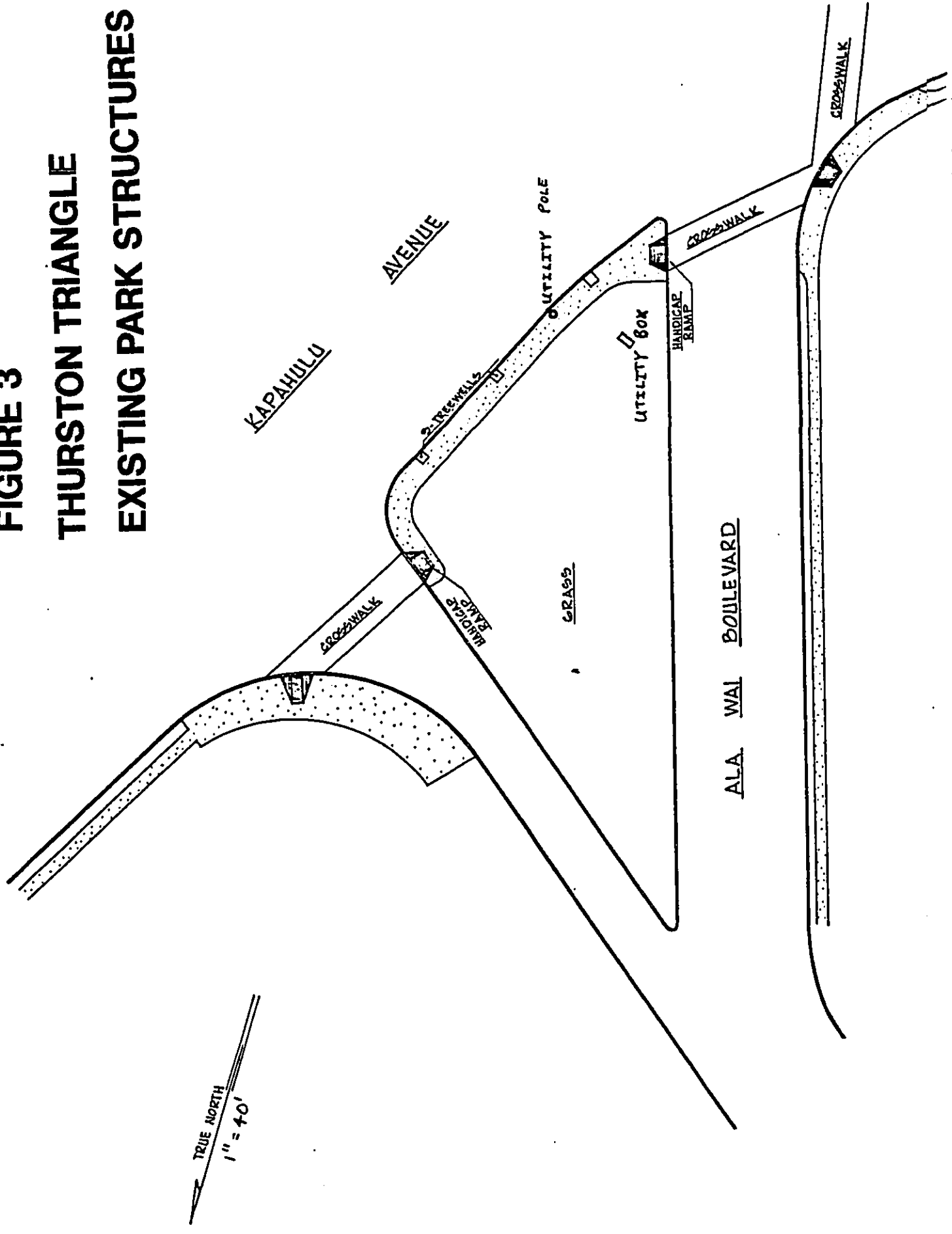


**FIGURE 1**  
**THURSTON TRIANGLE IMPROVEMENTS**  
**LOCATION MAP**

**FIGURE 2**  
**THURSTON TRIANGLE IMPROVEMENTS**  
**STREET MAP**

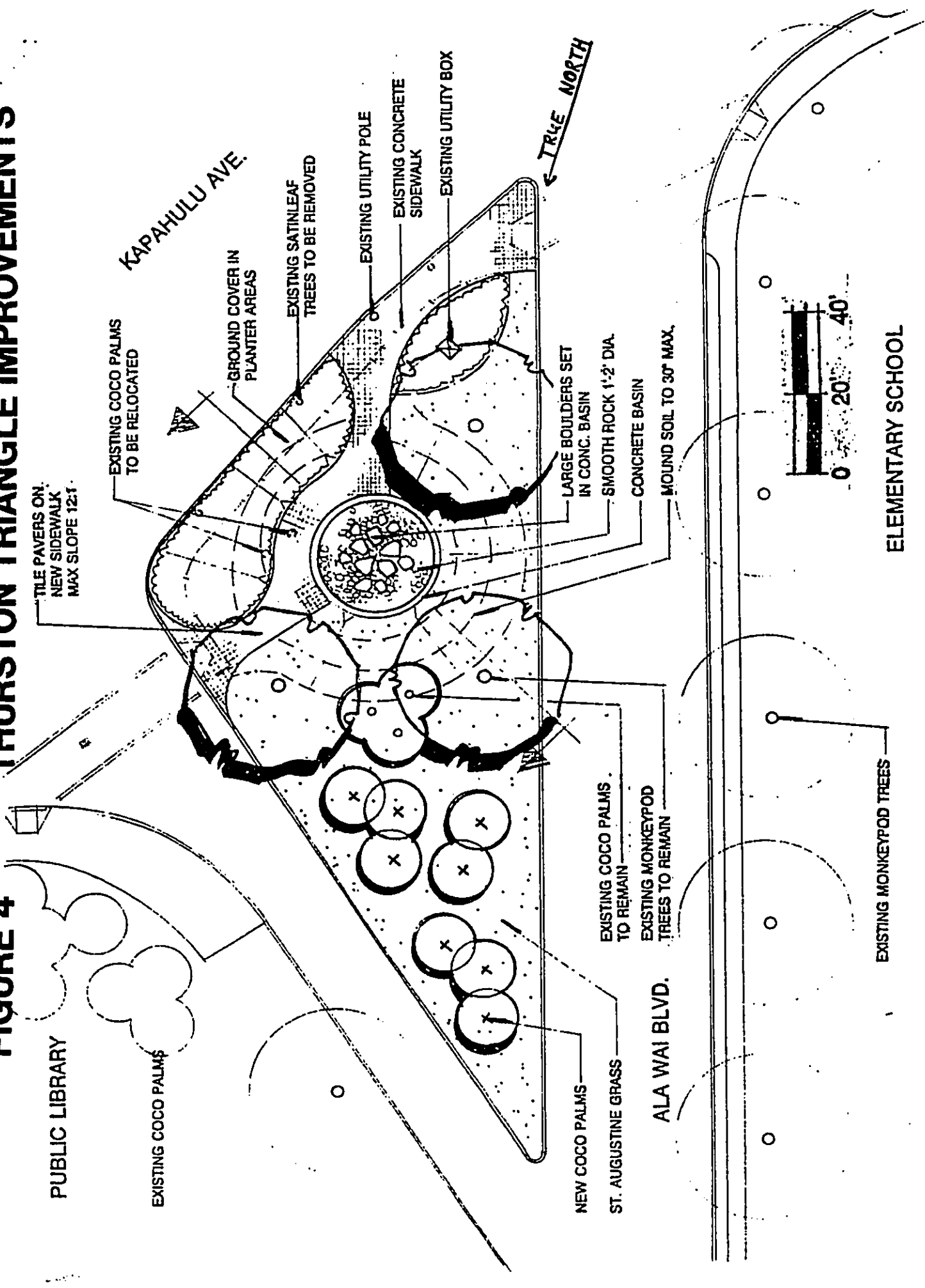


**FIGURE 3**  
**THURSTON TRIANGLE**  
**EXISTING PARK STRUCTURES**



**FIGURE 4**

**THURSTON TRIANGLE IMPROVEMENTS**





**FIGURE 5**  
**LANDSCAPING DETAILS**

