



GRAN CANYON ^(t)



Tucson is well known for its mountainous terrain that surrounds the city. Hiking into the canyons of the Santa Catalina, Santa Rita or Tucson ranges is a popular pastime for both locals and tourists alike. This unique geology acts as inspiration for the design of a new streetscape park on Grant Road serving the historic Jefferson Heights neighborhood just to the north of the University of Arizona with the goal of bringing a little bit of what is special about the surrounding mountains down into the city.

Beginning at the western entrance of the park visitors are meant to feel as though they are entering a canyon trailhead. Angular forms of planting beds and bench seating throughout mirror the jagged boulders found along the mountain paths. Strategically placed small-scale retaining walls of weathered steel allow for slight topographical changes along the edges of the path and guide users through small openings in the landscape before opening up into a series of larger gallery spaces for gathering and play. Plantings throughout the western portion of the site were chosen for their architectural shapes and are again, meant to be reminiscent of plantings found along a mountain trail.

If the west side of the park is the rough climb up a canyon trail, the east side is a secluded valley found along the way. Paths are still angular, in an effort to maintain balance/symmetry with the west side, but become narrower, offering more privacy and opportunities for quiet contemplation. Plantings become more lush as many of the beds on the east side are slightly sunken below grade to take advantage of water runoff on site. A denser tree canopy shades visitors as they stroll gently through the park and stumble upon small gathering spaces beneath the trees.

