# ST. LOUIS RIVER CORRIDOR PARKS MINI-MASTER PLANS

**DRAFT** APRIL 2016

THE CITY OF DULUTH MINNESOTA

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**THIS PLAN WAS ADOPTED BY THE CITY OF DULUTH ON XXXXX X$^{TH}$, 2016.**


## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Arrowhead Youth Soccer Association

COGGS – Cyclists of the Gitchee Gumee Shores

Daughters of the American Revolution (Greysolon Chapter)

Duluth Archaeology Center

Duluth Girls Fastpitch League

Fond du Lac Community Club

Harrison Community Club

Irving Community Club

Merritt Community Club

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Morgan Park Community Club

Norton Park Community Club

Piedmont Community Club

Piedmont Youth Hockey Association

River Corridor Coalition

Riverside Community Club

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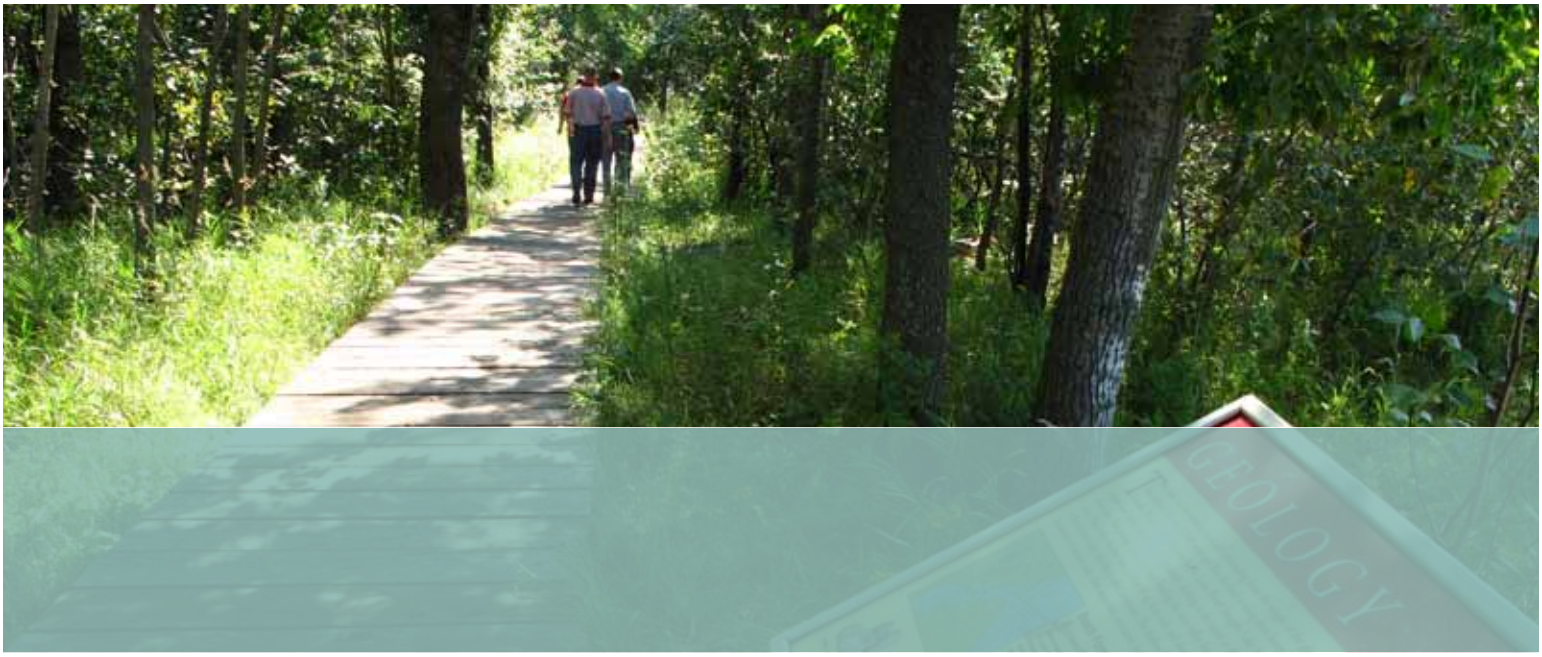

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ST. LOUIS RIVER AS SEEN
FROM GRASSY POINT PARK

# 01. PROJECT BACKGROUND

## Project Purpose and Background: St. Louis River Corridor Neighborhood Parks Grant Fund

Since 2011, the City of Duluth has increased planning and investment along the St. Louis River Corridor. Coordinated efforts of environmental cleanup, new job creation, increased housing options, and investment in infrastructure are underway. In 2014, the City passed the St. Louis River Corridor ½ and ½ Tourism Tax to fund improvements in the corridor. In recognition that parks and recreation are important components of the St. Louis River Corridor tourism experience, St. Louis River Corridor parks qualify for up to $50,000 of ½ and ½ tax funding by securing a 1:1 match. In order to receive grant funding, each park must have a completed mini-master plan from which to prioritize improvements.

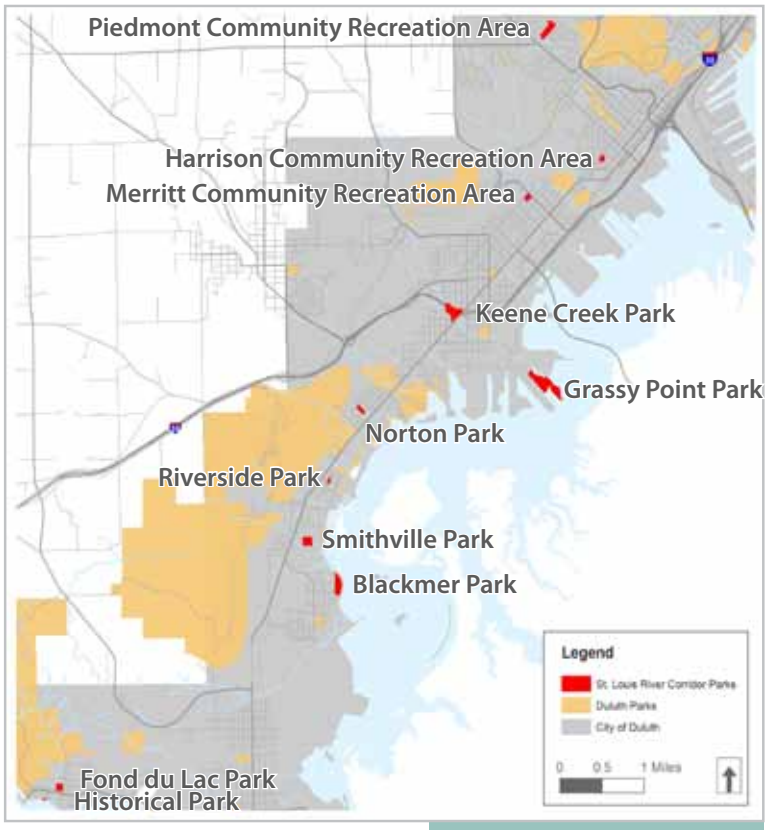



FIGURE 1.1 ST. LOUIS RIVER CORRIDOR PARKS

## Project Summary & Context

This document is a compilation of mini-master plans for 11 neighborhood and multi-use parks in the St. Louis River Corridor. Each park's mini-master plan is a chapter in the document. The parks, from west to east, are: Historical Park, Fond du Lac Park, Blackmer Park, Riverside Park, Smithville Park, Norton Park, Grassy Point Park, Keene Creek Park, Merritt Community Recreation Area, Harrison Community Recreation Area, and Piedmont Community Recreation Area. Each park is unique in setting, context, use, issues, and needs.

The mini-master plans combined will serve as a long range plan to meet the St. Louis River Corridor's park and recreation needs. Plans for the parks have been developed in order to balance the desires of each neighborhood with recreation needs in the St. Louis River Corridor and the City as a whole, and be consistent with the overarching vision for the St. Louis River Corridor, the 2010 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, and the 2011 Trail and Bikeway Plan.

**Public Engagement Summary:**

» Stakeholder Meetings – Sept 17-18, 2015

- Fond du Lac, Historical, Blackmer, Smithville, Riverside Parks – September 17, 2015
- Merritt, Harrison, Piedmont – September 17, 2015
- Norton, Keene Creek, Grassy Point – September 18, 2015

» Community Meetings – Oct 28-29, 2015

» Online Input – November 2015

- During the month of November, an online survey was posted on the Duluth Parks website. There were 288 responses combined for all parks.

» Community Meeting to Review Draft Mini-Master Plans – Feb 4, 2016

» Online Input – spring 2016

# Planning Process and Timeline

The mini-master plans are based on input from city staff, city officials, and the general public. The mini-master planning process engaged the community and stakeholders thruough community meetings and online review. The plans focus on pragmatic solutions to replacing park infrastructure, addressing safety and ADA accessibility issues, access and connectivity, natural resource management, and improving aesthetics in each park. Improvements that are economically and environmentally sustainable over the long-term are paramount. Capital costs, maintenance and operations costs are identified in each chapter. Phasing has been identified according to three categories:

» Short term (1-2 years) – outdoor facilities, site improvements, and natural resource improvements that can attract matching funds for the St. Louis River Corridor ½ and ½ Tourism Tax dollars; no building improvements are identified as short term

» Long term (2-10 years) – park improvements that may take more funding and coordination to complete

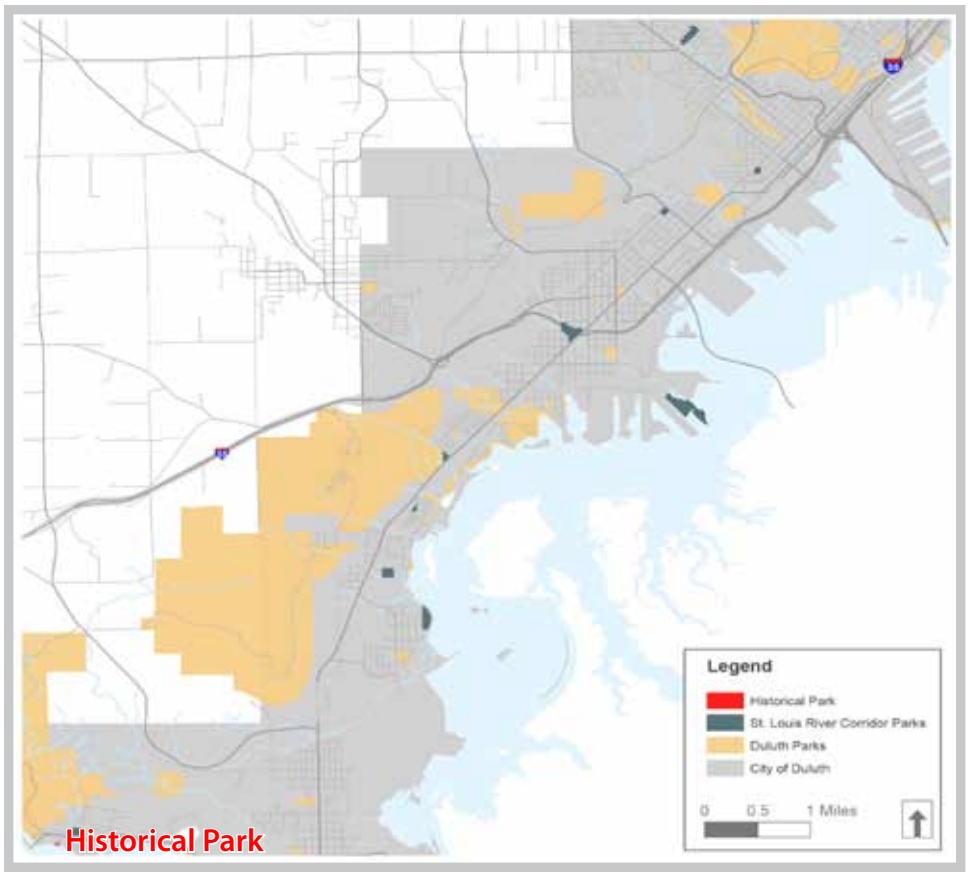
» Visionary (10+ years) – elements that are high in capital and maintenance costs that are not high priorities for the future of the park

# 02. PARK MINI-MASTER PLANS

## HISTORICAL PARK

### Summary and Overview

Historical Park is a relatively unknown park in the Fond du Lac neighborhood of west Duluth. It is a half-acre park, surrounded by a residential neighborhood, on the banks of the St. Louis River. It is located south of Hwy 23, less than ¼ mile from Fond du Lac Park. The park was formerly called Jacob Astor Park, and it was gifted to the City of Duluth from the Daughters of the American Revolution.




HISTORICAL PARK LOCATION MAP

Historical Park is a site that represents a larger surrounding area of cultural and historical significance. The following historical sites and features are located within or near the park:

- An American Fur Company post
- The first railroad, LS&M Railroad, entered town on the north side of Hwy 23
- The oldest house in Duluth is nearby
- Old depot
- An Ojibwe village
- A steamboat landing
- A Hotel was on the island across from the park
- It was the first flat ground below the rapids
- The head of navigation on the St. Louis River
- A Cemetery
- The Montauk passenger excursion boat used to stop here
- The first jail in Duluth was nearby

**STRENGTHS/OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Great location for pelican viewing – potential to create and define bird watching areas
- Panoramic views of the river exist in the park
- History of the site includes many opportunities for interpretation
- Potential location for river access, possible stop along the water trail
- Opportunity for carry down canoe/kayak launch
- Potential enhanced fishing access
- Potential path and small clearing in the woods to encourage passive recreation in the park

**ISSUES:**

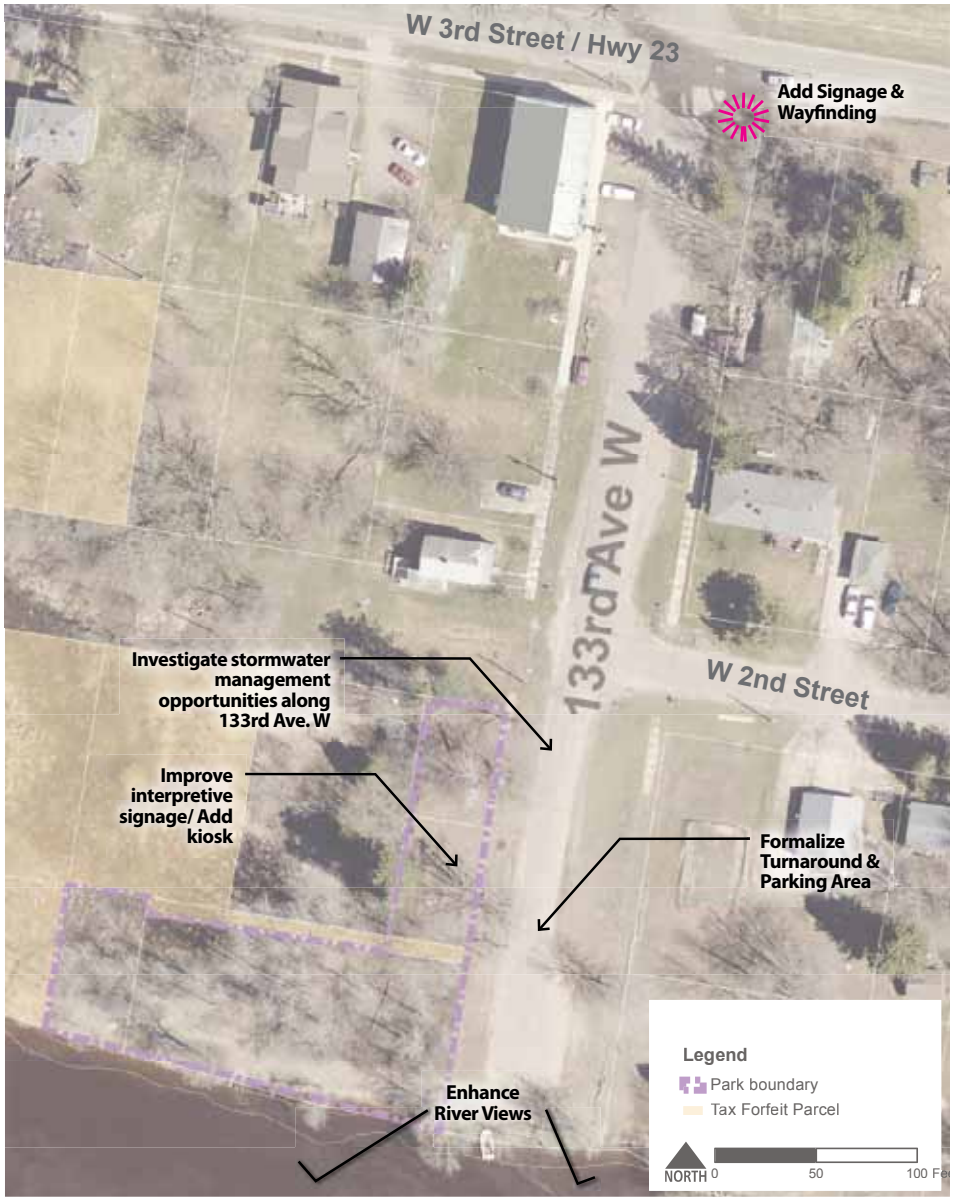
- Lack of identity and interpretive signage in the park
- Sensitivity to adjacent land owners, clarify property boundaries visually
- Wooded parcel is overgrown with buckthorn
- Street and sidewalk infrastructure are deteriorating; lack of defined parking areas
- Lack of wayfinding (At intersection of Hwy 23 and 133rd Ave)
- Eroding river bank could be stabilized with in-water habitat structures to improve fish habitat such as eddy creating structures, habitat logs, etc.
- Stormwater runs off the street directly into the St. Louis River without treatment

HISTORICAL PARK SITE INVENTORY

## Existing Conditions

At the southern end of 133rd Ave W, Historical Park covers a small piece of wet and wooded land adjacent to the river. There are no formal features to the park other than a small mown area adjacent to road that features granite benches, a flagpole, and a plaque commemorating the history of the park.

In December of 2015, an Archaeological Phase I Survey for Historical Park was completed in coordination with the Duluth Archaeology Center and the City of Duluth Department of Parks and Recreation. Historical and archaeological findings from this report will be considered during any future improvements to the park.




HISTORICAL PARK SITE ANALYSIS

*Existing features include benches, a flag, and a historical monument*

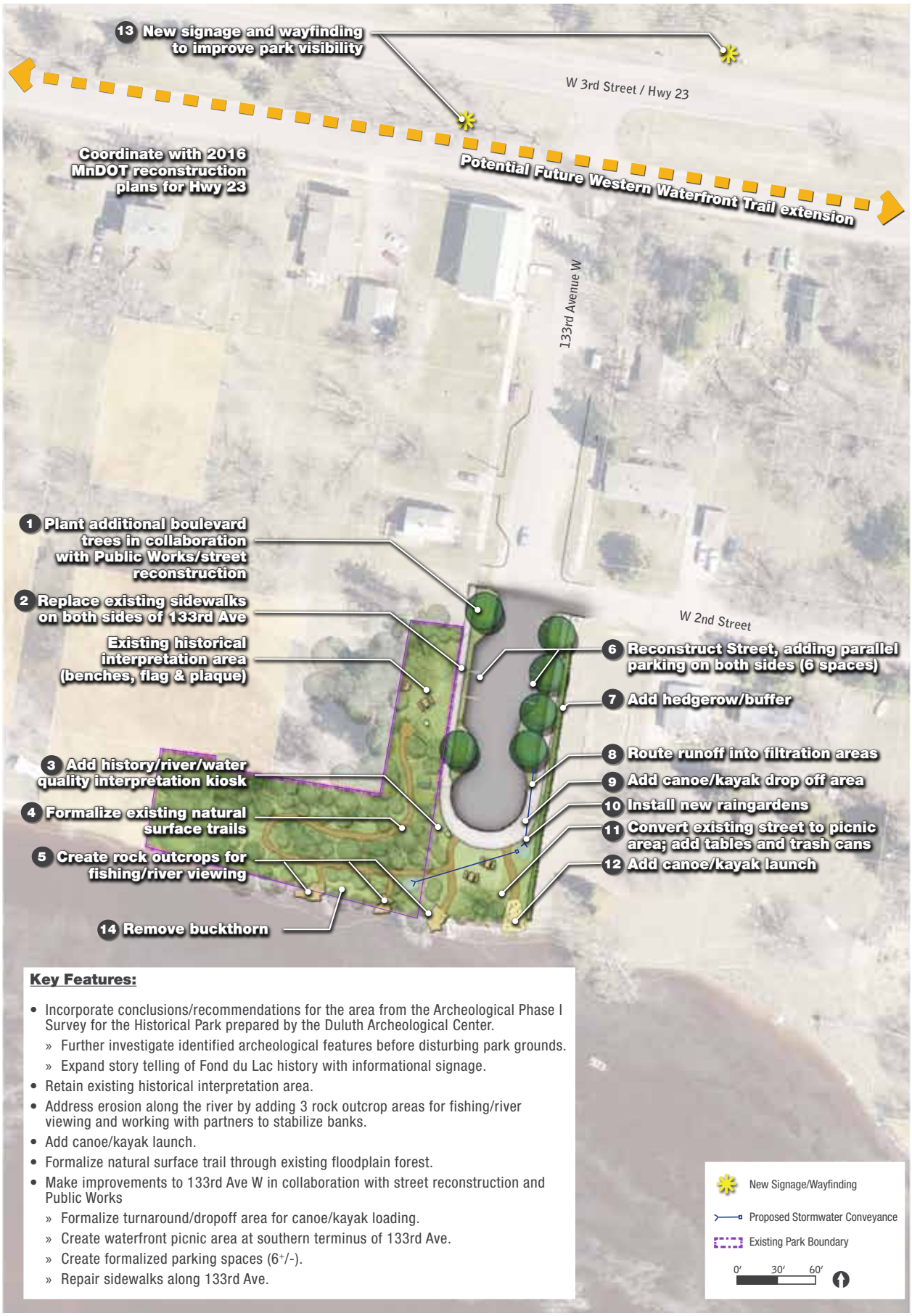
*Current natural surface trails*

*Historical Park provides river access and is a local fishing spot*

## Needs Assessment/Input Summary

At the stakeholder and community meetings, a desire was expressed for every park in the corridor to have basic amenities, including a bench, a picnic table, and a grill. Wayfinding and directional signage to each park, within each park, and to nearby trails are also desired as a way to promote the parks. Historical interpretation and archaeological considerations are important to this site.

A desire was expressed by stakeholders to clarify the name and provide identity to the park. The name "Historical Park" is new and unfamiliar to many residents. As part of Minnesota's Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment, there is a potential to write a grant for historical interpretation, art, and wayfinding elements for Historical Park.




**Key Features:**

- Incorporate conclusions/recommendations for the area from the Archeological Phase I Survey for the Historical Park prepared by the Duluth Archeological Center.
  - » Further investigate identified archeological features before disturbing park grounds.
  - » Expand story telling of Fond du Lac history with informational signage.
- Retain existing historical interpretation area.
- Address erosion along the river by adding 3 rock outcrop areas for fishing/river viewing and working with partners to stabilize banks.
- Add canoe/kayak launch.
- Formalize natural surface trail through existing floodplain forest.
- Make improvements to 133rd Ave W in collaboration with street reconstruction and Public Works
  - » Formalize turnaround/dropoff area for canoe/kayak loading.
  - » Create waterfront picnic area at southern terminus of 133rd Ave.
  - » Create formalized parking spaces (6+/-).
  - » Repair sidewalks along 133rd Ave.

FIGURE 2.1 HISTORICAL PARK MINI-MASTER PLAN

# Concept Plan & Recommendations

The concept plan for Historical Park addresses identity, wayfinding, natural resources, and recreation improvements. Emphasis was placed on interpreting the history of the site, addressing river access, and providing small areas for gathering and enjoying the natural location along the St. Louis River.

# Phasing & Cost Estimates

### PHASE 1: SHORT-TERM

FIGURE 2.2 HISTORICAL PARK SHORT-TERM PHASING

| ACTION | | | COST |
|---|---|---|---|
| # | CATEGORY | DESCRIPTION | |
| 3 | Circulation | Install New Kiosk | $7,500 |
| 4 | Circulation | Formalize Existing Nature Surface Trails | $2,100 |
| 7 | Vegetation | Add hedgerow/buffer | $1,600 |
| 12 | Recreation | Build New Canoe/Kayak Launch | $5,000 |
| 13 | Circulation | Install New Park Wayfinding Sign | $2,000 |
| 14 | Vegetation | Remove buckthorn and other invasive species | $5,000 |
| | | Total Short-Term Improvement Costs | $23,200 |

## PHASE 2: LONG-TERM

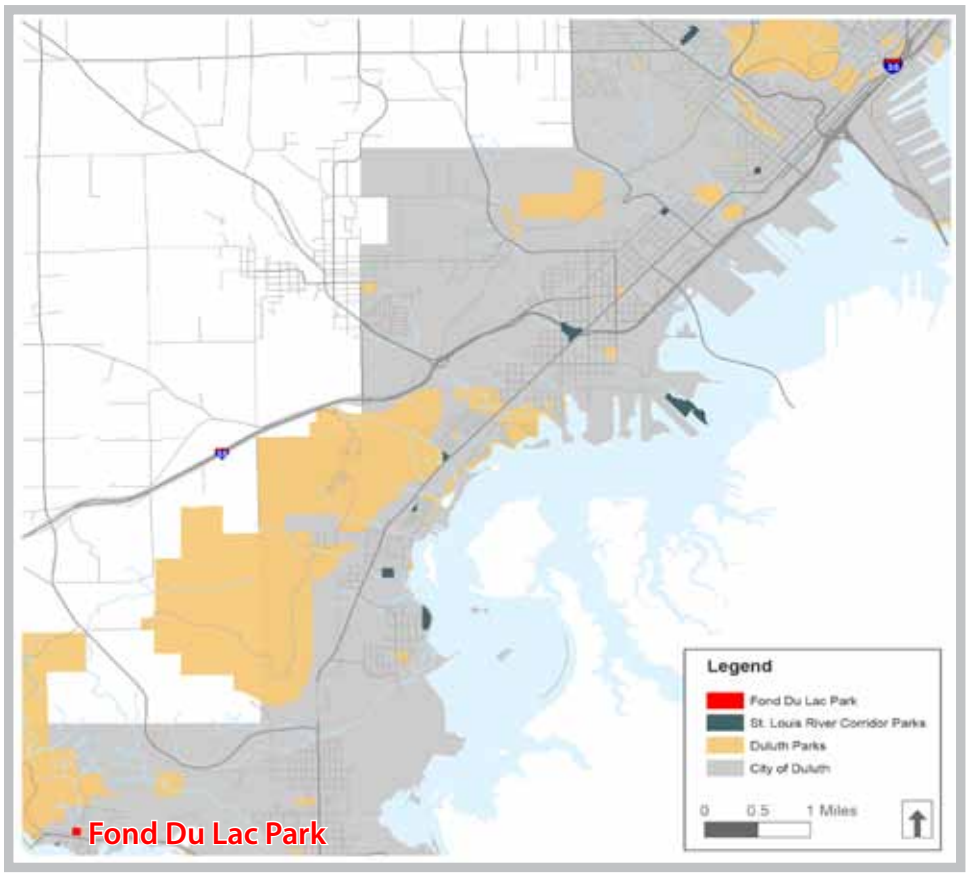
FIGURE 2.3 HISTORICAL PARK LONG-TERM PHASING

| ACTION | | | COST |
|---|---|---|---|
| # | CATEGORY | DESCRIPTION | |
| 1 | Vegetation | Plant Additional Boulevard Trees | $2,800 |
| 2 | Circulation | Replace Existing Sidewalk on 133rd Ave | $21,000 |
| 5 | Recreation | Create Rock Outcrop for Fishing/Viewing | $60,000 |
| 6 | Infrastructure | Reconstruct Street | $- |
| 8 | Stormwater | Route street runoff into parkland | $6,750 |
| 9 | Stormwater | Install New Raingarden/Filtration Areas | $6,750 |
| 10 | Circulation | Add New Canoe/Kayak Drop-Off Area | $5,600 |
| 11 | Furnishings | Convert Existing Street Into Picnic Area - Add Picnic Tables & Trash Cans | $5,000 |
| | | Total Long-Term Improvement Costs | $105,100 |
| | | Total Short-Term Improvement Costs | $ 23,200 |
| | | Total Improvement Costs | $128,300 |

# FOND DU LAC PARK

## Summary and Overview

Fond du Lac Park is a 5-acre neighborhood park located on the far west side of Duluth. The park is bounded by Hwy 23 on the south and 131st Ave on the east side. Mission Creek forms the western boundary of the park. It is a channelized creek whose former alignment traveled from northwest to southeast through the park. This natural flow path has impacted stormwater drainage in the park. The flooding in 2012 damaged several park elements, including sediment deposits over the fields and play areas. The playground has been refurbished since then, and in 2014, new basketball and tennis courts were installed. The large, flat grassy area on the west side of the park, which has been used as a soccer field up until flood damage occurred, is a rarity in Duluth. It is important to maintain this usable recreation space. About ¼ mile north of the park there is access to the Superior Hiking Trail and mountain bike trails.



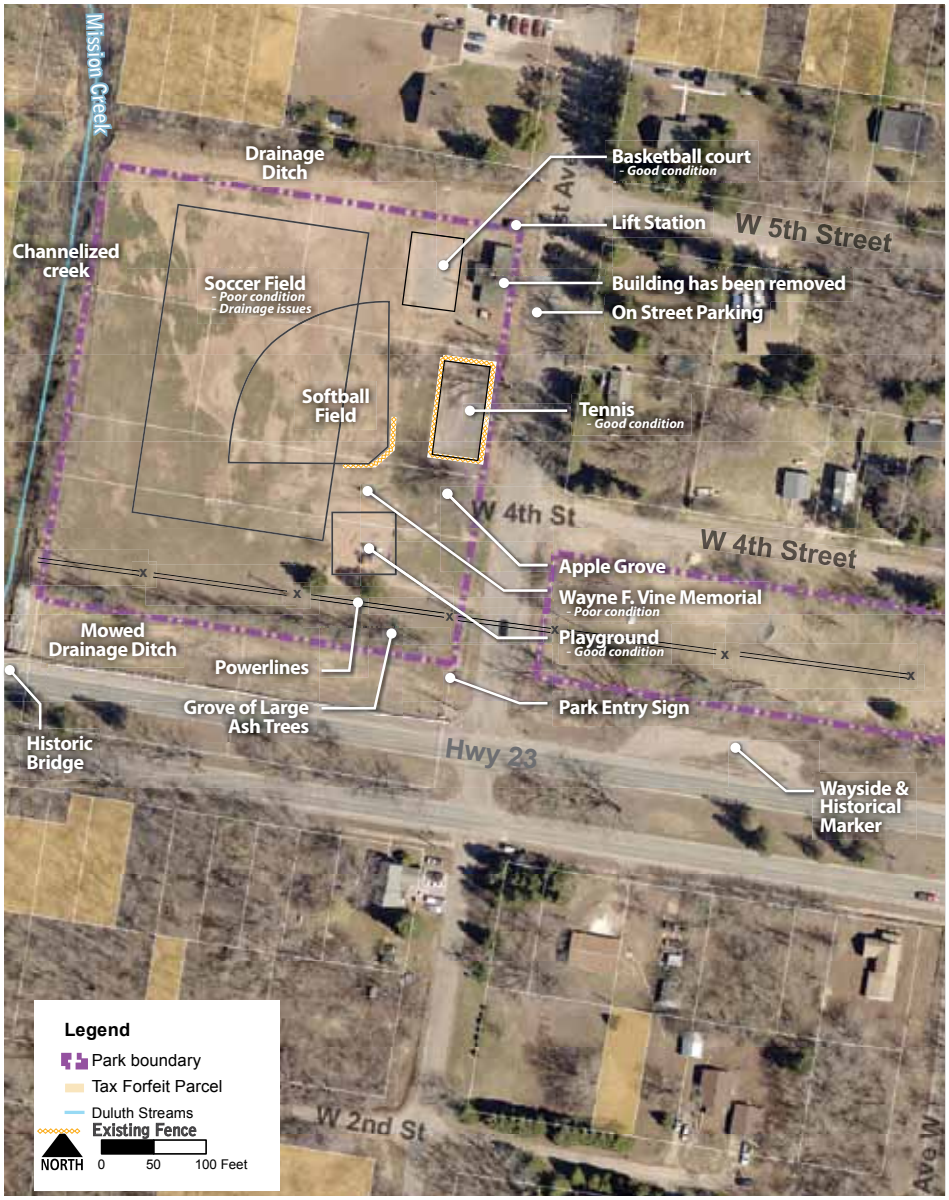

FOND DU LAC PARK LOCATION MAP

### STRENGTHS/ OPPORTUNITIES:

- Park facilities are in good condition: playground, basketball court, tennis court
- Open field is nice asset, but opportunity for improved turf conditions
- Park is in a good location for hosting mountain biking and trail running events – opportunity to make improvement to allow for even staging including parking, field improvements, and power supply
- Mission Creek is a nice asset in the park – opportunity to improve its banks with native landscape buffer
- Drainage ditches exist on the north and south sides of the park – opportunity to improve stormwater infiltration and filtration with native plants

### ISSUES:

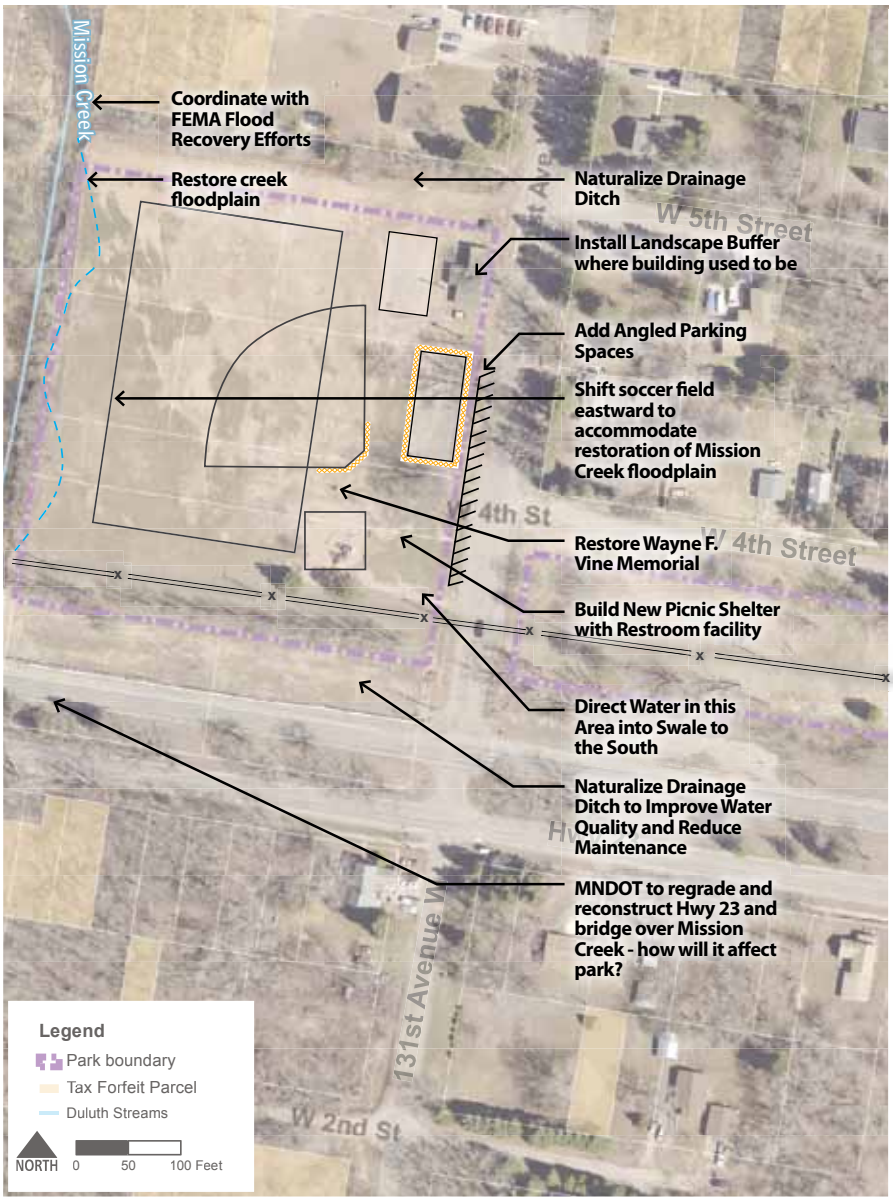
- Memorial has been damaged – missing a piece
- Stormwater drainage is an issue throughout the park, field damage still exists from 2012 flooding
- Some ATV traffic through the park has been an issue




FOND DU LAC PARK SITE INVENTORY

## Existing Conditions

Fond du Lac Park contains a playground, basketball court, and tennis court, which are all in good condition. Overlapping soccer and softball fields are in need of regrading and improved turf conditions. A park building was recently removed. An apple tree grove and memorial are located near the playground. The park has good vehicle access from Hwy 23 and pedestrian access for residents who live north of Hwy 23. Powerlines and poles run along the southern edge of the park between the recreation area and Hwy 23. An existing wayside and historical marker along Hwy 23 are part of the eastern portion of the park, which is unused today. Hwy 23 is currently being reconstructed by MNDOT.




FOND DU LAC PARK SITE ANALYSIS

*View of the park looking south from the existing soccer field*

*Mission Creek passes through the western side of the park*

*The historic bridge over Mission Creek will be replaced with the Hwy 23 reconstruction in 2016*

*The existing play equipment is in good condition*

## Needs Assessment/Input Summary

At the stakeholder and community meetings, a desire was expressed for every park in the corridor to have basic amenities, including a bench, a picnic table, and a grill. Wayfinding and directional signage to each park, within each park, and to nearby trails are also desired as a way to promote the parks.

A desire was expressed by representatives of Arrowhead Youth Soccer to improve the soccer field conditions. The organization stopped using the field for practice after the flood damage occurred.

Since the park building has been removed, neighbors would like a picnic shelter to provide shade and be a gathering space in the park. A shelter could also be a good feature for housing power supplies for potential events in the park. A temporary bathroom is desired and was listed as a priority in the online survey.

**Key Features:**

- Create accessible floodplain with two-stage ditch, allowing for access to Mission Creek and flood storage.
- Add fence around existing orchard utilizing existing grant funding, and explore the option of expanding the orchard in partnership with community organizations.
- Remove existing fence on north and west sides of park.
- Provide an interpretive kiosk with area trail map and historical/hydrologic information about Fond du Lac (Native Americans, fur trade, ski jump, flood, etc).
- Improve existing soccer field drainage.
- Retain existing playground, ash trees, and recently renovated tennis and basketball courts.
- Provide new portable restroom and enclosure.
- Naturalize swale between the park and Hwy 23, treating runoff from 131st Ave and coordinating improvements with Hwy 23 reconstruction if possible.

FIGURE 2.4 FOND DU LAC PARK MINI-MASTER PLAN

# Concept Plan & Recommendations

The concept plan for Fond du Lac Park addresses stormwater and natural resources, athletic field improvements, and new facilities. Emphasis was placed on maintaining and enhancing the neighborhood quality of the park, improving the general aesthetics and usability, and providing features needed for potential event users.

Natural resource improvements include restoring the streambank vegetation and creating an accessible floodplain, which would widen the area the stream flows through and provide a floodplain bench. While reducing the bank slope would mean losing a bit of the flats in the upland part of the park, it would make the stream much more accessible to anglers as well as kids just wanting to explore the stream.

FIGURE 2.5 FOND DU LAC PARK SHORT-TERM PHASING

| ACTION | | | COST |
|---|---|---|---|
| # | CATEGORY | DESCRIPTION | |
| 2 | Vegetation | Improve Creek Buffer with Woodland Establishment-Saplings, Shade, and Understory Trees | $ 9,500 |
| 3 | Recreation | Improve Existing Soccer Field | $- |
| 4 | Demolition | Remove Existing Miscellaneous Fence Components | $ 2,500 |
| 5 | Vegetation | Naturalize Drainage Swale (South | $ 1,600 |
| 6 | Infrastructure | Improve playground drainage | $10,000 |
| 7 | Vegetation | Naturalize Drainage Swale (North) | $ 1,600 |
| 8 | Vegetation | Plant New Shade Trees West of Basketball Court | $ 2,000 |
| 9 | Vegetation | Create Landscape Buffer | $ 1,600 |
| 12 | Demolition | Remove Existing Backstop | $ 500 |
| 14 | Buildings | Build New Port-a-Potty Enclosure | $ 2,000 |
| 15 | Infrastructure | Build New Decorative Wood Fence | $- |
| 16 | Circulation | Install New Park Wayfinding Sign | $ 1,000 |
| 18 | Circulation | Install New Kiosk | $ 7,500 |
| 19 | Circulation | Install New Park Sign & Wayfinding Sign | $ 6,000 |
| 21 | Vegetation | Remove invasive species | $ 5,000 |
| | | Total Short-Term Improvement Costs | $50,800 |

## PHASE 2: LONG-TERM

Improve creek buffer- I am not sure what was meant by this, but if it meant

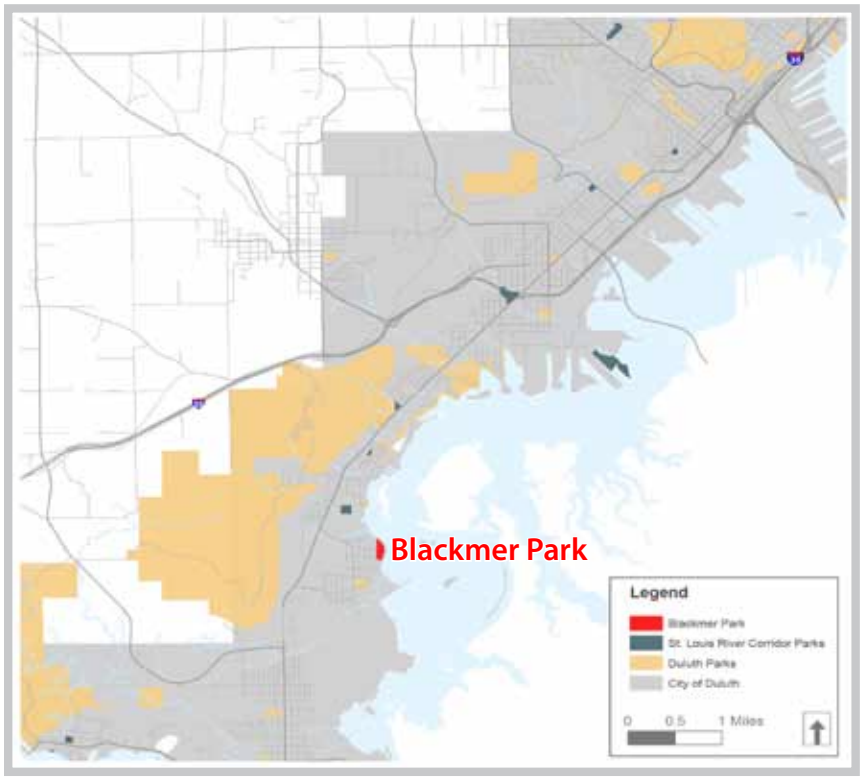
FIGURE 2.6 FOND DU LAC PARK LONG-TERM PHASING

| ACTION | | | COST |
|---|---|---|---|
| # | CATEGORY | DESCRIPTION | |
| 1 | Natural Resources | Restore Streambank and Create Accessible Floodplain | $150,000 |
| 10 | Furnishings | Additional Picnic Tables (4) | $ 8,000 |
| 11 | Parking | Create On-street Angled Parking | $ 70,000 |
| 13 | Public Art | Restore Wayne F. Vine Memorial | $- |
| 17 | Buildings | Build new Picnic Shelter | $ 60,000 |
| 20 | Circulation | Add Pedestrian Crossing Amenity | $ 10,000 |
| | | Total Long-Term Improvement Costs | $148,000 |
| | | Total Short-Term Improvement Costs | $ 50,800 |
| | | Total Improvement Costs | $198,800 |

# BLACKMER PARK

## Summary and Overview

Blackmer Park is a 10-acre park in the Morgan Park neighborhood. The park is heavily used for youth soccer and softball games. Much of the park is wooded and the entire eastern edge of the park is adjacent to the St. Louis River with panoramic views through the trees. There is the potential for the future Western Waterfront Trail to travel along the river side of the park and connect to natural corridors that exist to the north and south. Today the Lake Superior & Mississippi rail line exists along the river's edge and hosts a historical train route tour on the weekends.



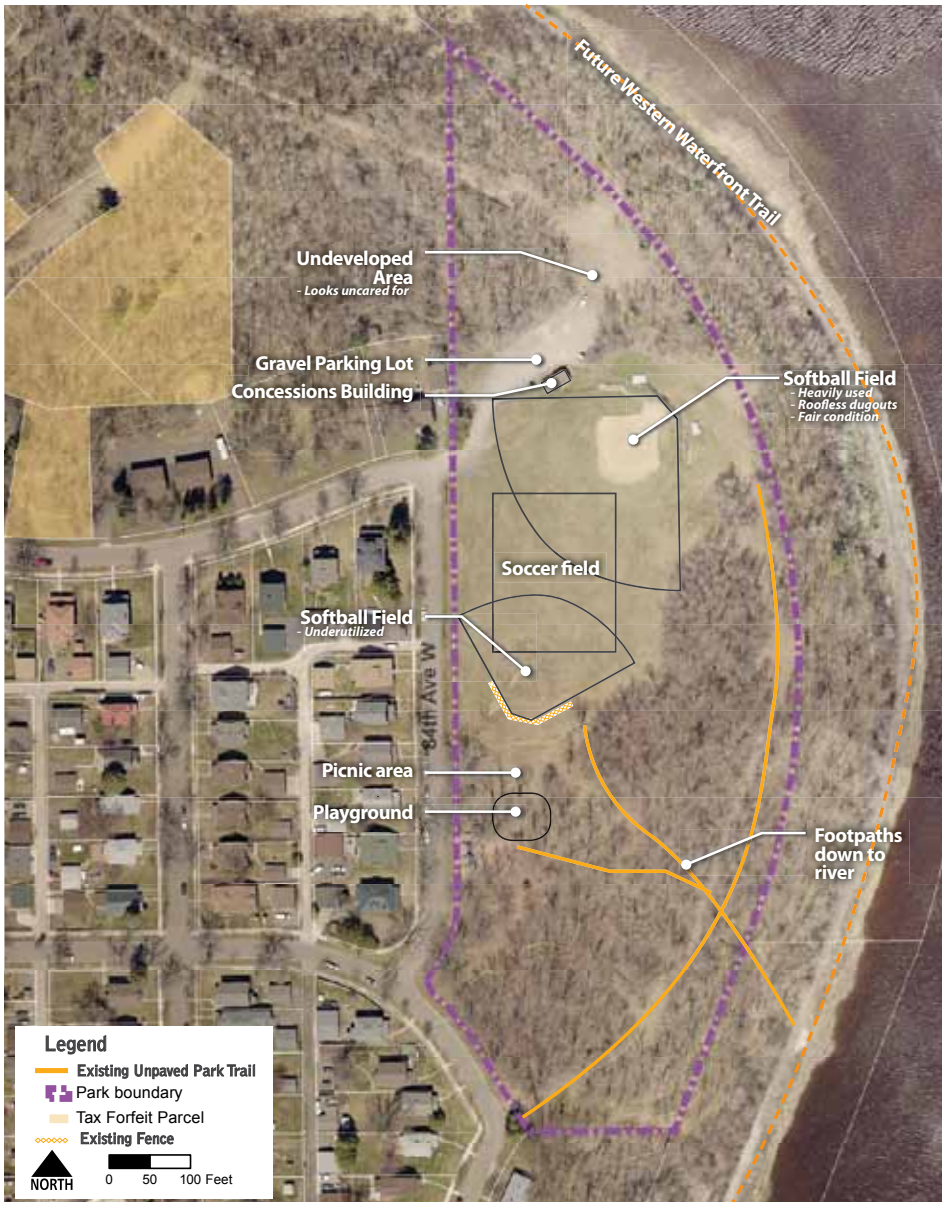

BLACKMER PARK LOCATION MAP

**STRENGTHS/ OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Park is well-used and loved by neighbors – there is an opportunity to spruce it up and make minor improvements to improve functionality
- Softball field is in fair condition, but could use minor improvements, including addition of ag-lime on the infield and new dugouts with rooves
- Wooded area is a nice asset to the park – invasive tree thinning could benefit the existing native trees, new trees could be planted near playground
- Playground is in a pleasant setting with natural shade trees – opportunity to replant trees that have died in past years

**ISSUES:**

- Parking is unorganized and unregulated – gravel parking lot needs improvements
- Undeveloped, open space north of the gravel parking lot is an eye sore
- Access to the river is limited and informal/unsafe
- Some erosion exists along footpaths that lead down to the river
- Lack of permanent restroom and drinking water




BLACKMER PARK SITE INVENTORY

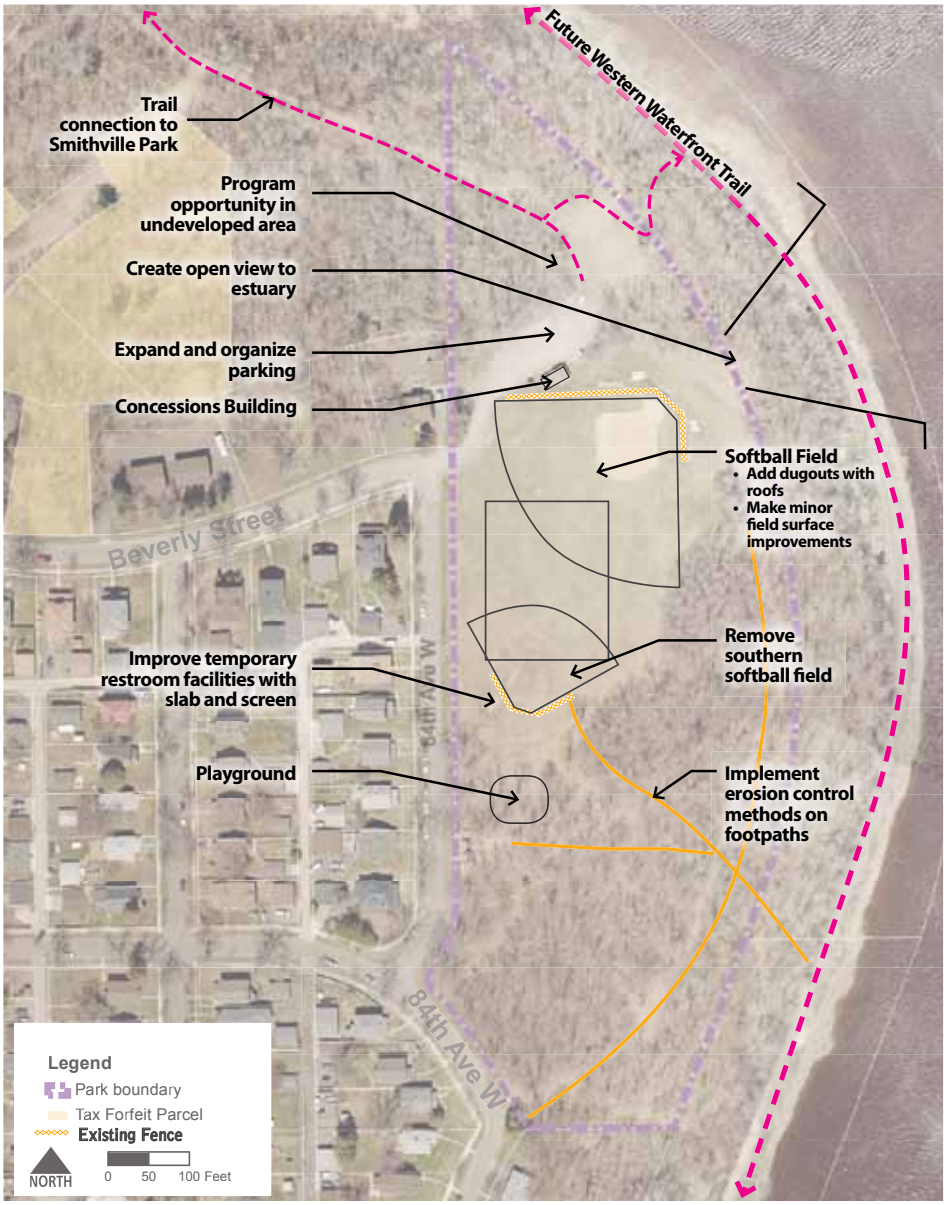
## Existing Conditions

Blackmer Park contains one well-used softball field with a small concessions building and gravel parking lot. In the fall, soccer fields are set up overlapping the outfield. The soccer and softball associations work well together managing the seasons and usage of the fields. A small playground exists south of the athletic fields surrounded by large oaks and maples. Several footpaths lead down the slope through the woods to the river's edge.

## Needs Assessment/Input Summary

At the stakeholder and community meetings, a desire was expressed for every park in the corridor to have basic amenities, including a bench, a picnic table, and a grill, which do exist in Blackmer Park. Maintaining and updating these basic amenities is desired. Wayfinding and directional signage to each park, within each park, and to nearby trails are also desired as a way to promote the parks.

Some basic infrastructure and facility improvements are needed in Blackmer




BLACKMER PARK SITE ANALYSIS

*The existing playground has new equipment*

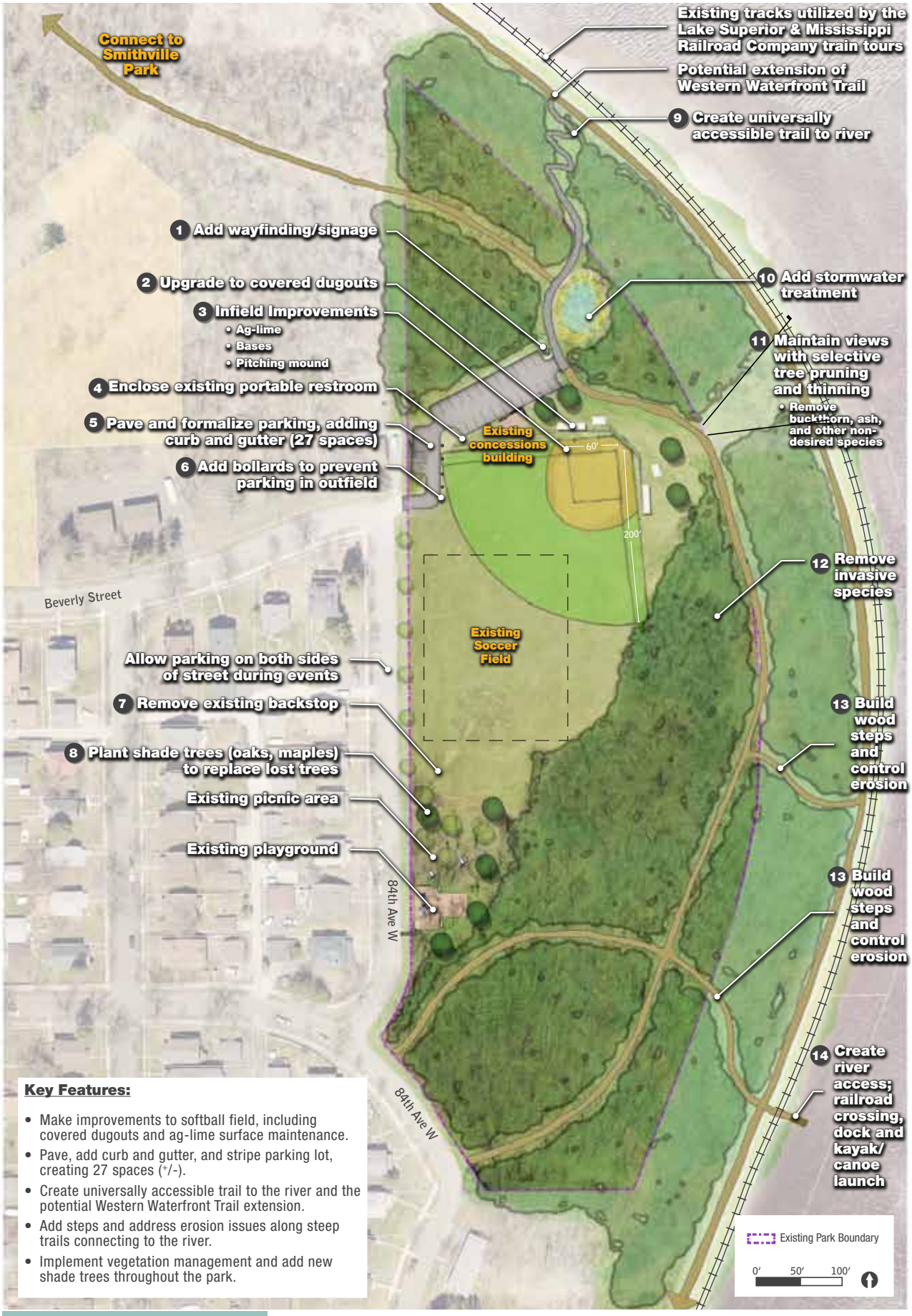
*The softball field at Blackmer is heavily used*

*Soft surface trails connect visitors to the river*

*The existing rail corridor on the banks of the St. Louis River*

Park. There is a desire to maintain restroom facilities at the park, either with a structure to house a temporary porta-potty or with the addition of a permanent restroom building. The current parking lot is gravel and unmarked – there is a desire to pave the lot and add barriers between the park and parking lot to prevent cars from parking on the grass. Athletic field improvements are desired, such as grading the fields, updating surfaces, and providing dugouts on the softball field.

Area residents access the river today using informal footpaths through the woods. Some of these paths are in need of erosion control improvements, accessible steps to traverse steep areas, and formalized river viewing locations. There is a desire from park neighbors to provide a safe crossing of the rail line to a new dock on the river for fishing, wildlife viewing, and kayak/canoe launching. Neighbors also welcome a future trail connection to Smithville Park. Park users like the large oaks, maples, and basswood that surround the playground/picnic area and – they would like more of these trees planted to provide future growth when older trees die. Management of the entire forested area is desired.




**Key Features:**

- Make improvements to softball field, including covered dugouts and ag-lime surface maintenance.
- Pave, add curb and gutter, and stripe parking lot, creating 27 spaces (+/-).
- Create universally accessible trail to the river and the potential Western Waterfront Trail extension.
- Add steps and address erosion issues along steep trails connecting to the river.
- Implement vegetation management and add new shade trees throughout the park.

FIGURE 2.7 BLACKMER PARK MINI-MASTER PLAN

# Concept Plan & Recommendations

The concept plan for Blackmer Park addresses athletic field improvements, river access, and natural resources in the park. Priorities include maintaining and enhancing the good functionality of the park today and formalizing some of the informal features in the park.

# Phasing & Cost Estimates

### PHASE 1: SHORT-TERM

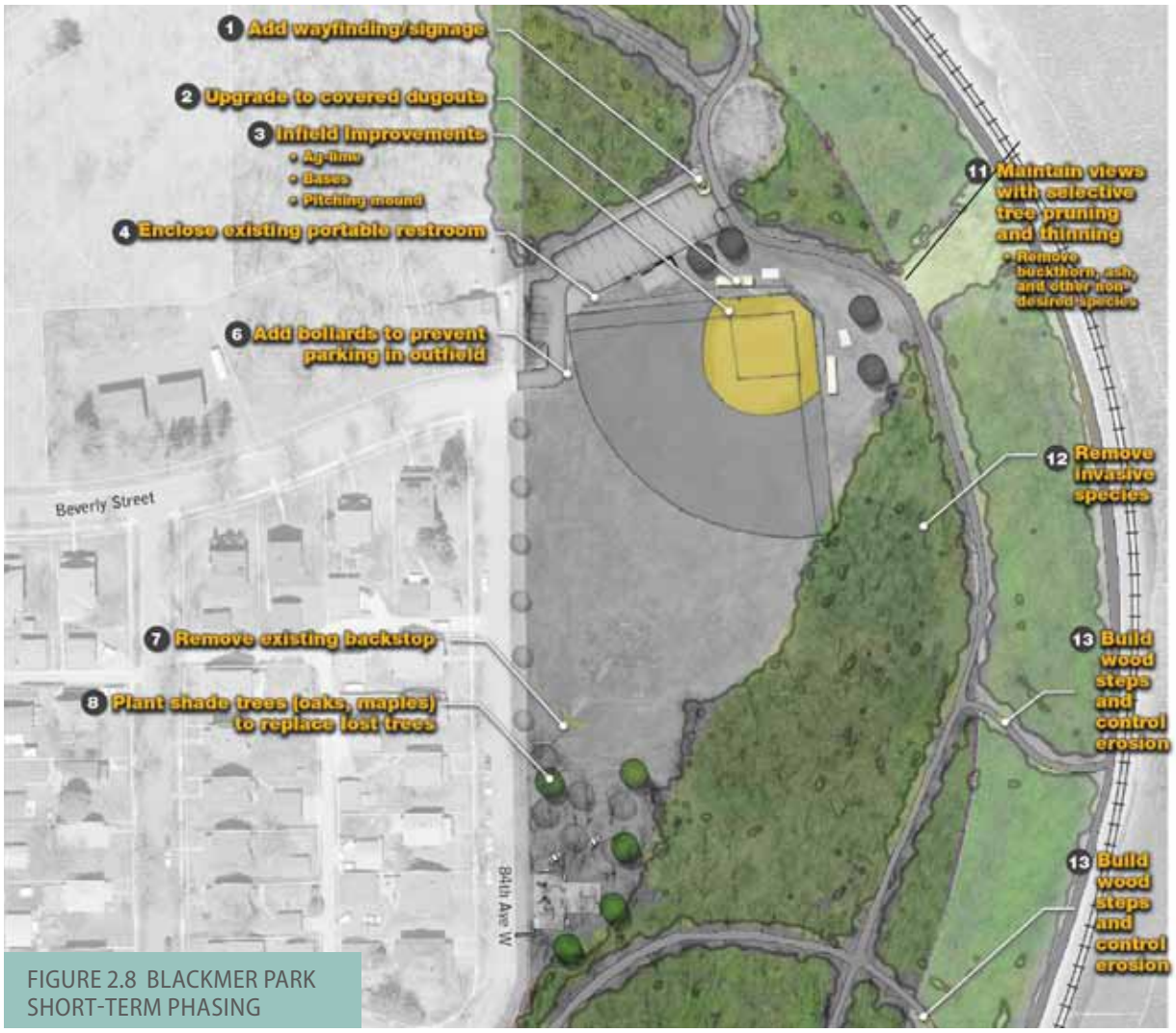



FIGURE 2.8 BLACKMER PARK SHORT-TERM PHASING

| ACTION | | | COST |
|---|---|---|---|
| # | CATEGORY | DESCRIPTION | |
| 1 | Circulation | Install New Park Wayfinding Sign | $1,000 |
| 2 | Recreation | Build New Covered Dugout | $30,000 |
| 3 | Recreation | Improve Infield | $5,000 |
| 4 | Buildings | Build New Port-a-Potty Enclosure | $2,000 |
| 6 | Infrastructure | Install New Bollards | $2,500 |
| 7 | Demolition | Remove Existing Backstop | $500 |
| 8 | Vegetation | Plant New Shade Tree | $2,000 |
| 11 | Vegetation | Prune and Thin Existing Trees to Create View | $5,000 |
| 12 | Circulation | Build New Wood Steps | $1,200 |
| | | Total Short-Term Improvement Costs | $49,200 |

## PHASE 2: LONG-TERM

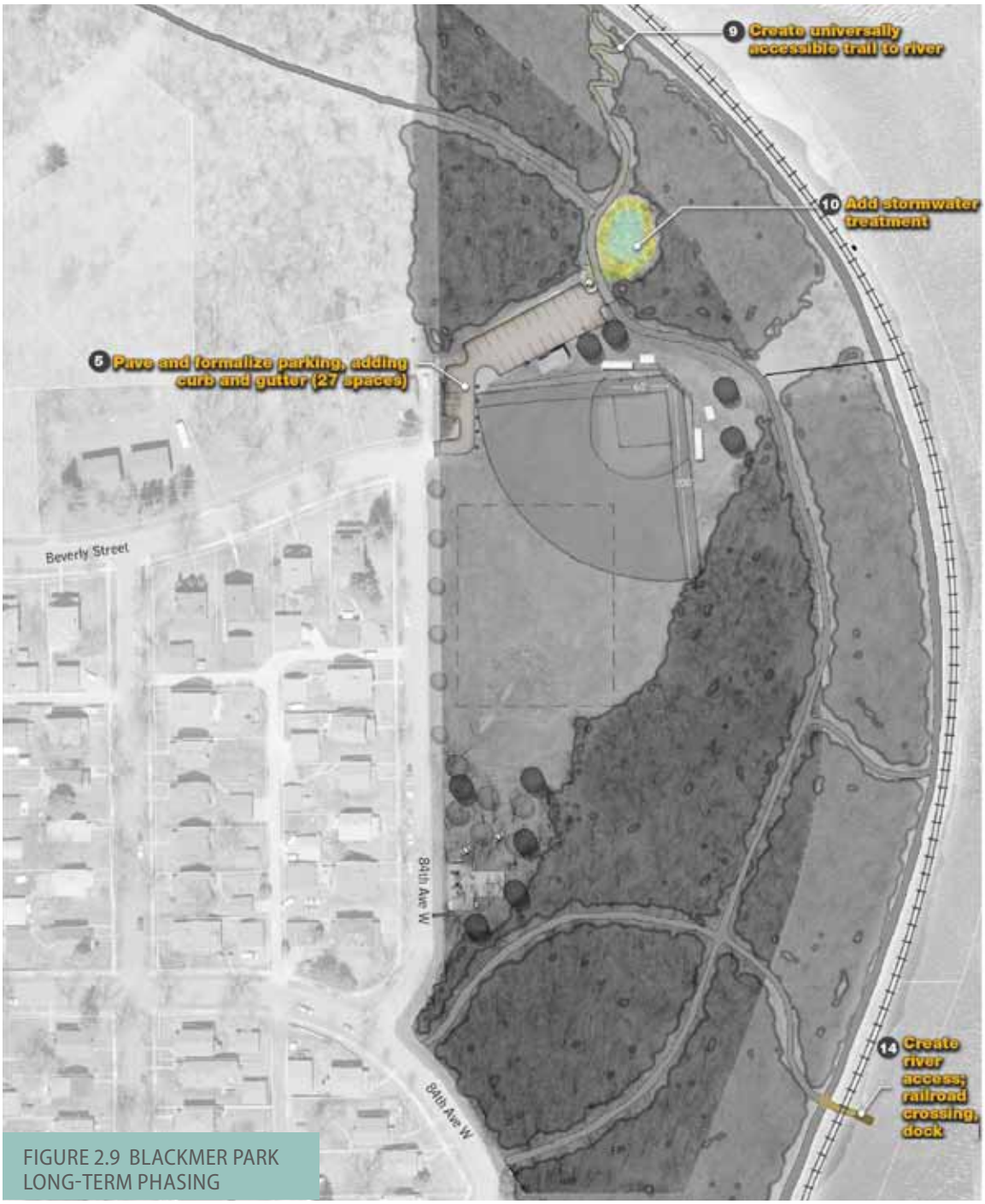


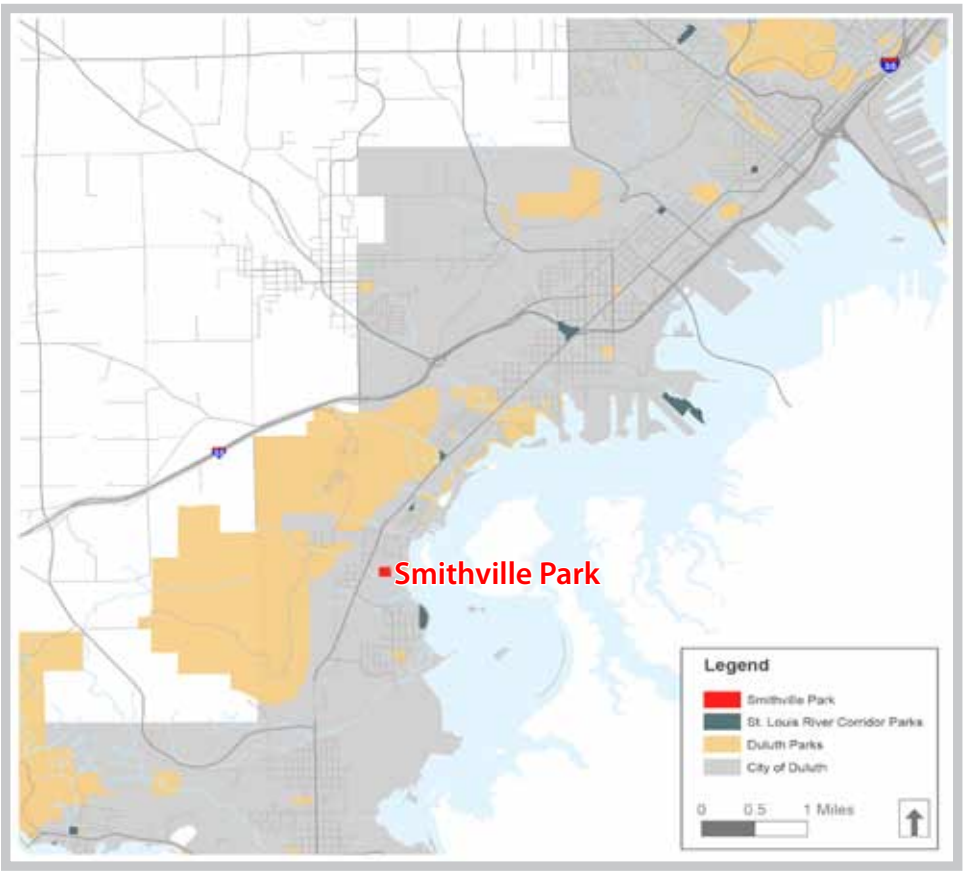

FIGURE 2.9 BLACKMER PARK LONG-TERM PHASING

| ACTION | | | COST |
|---|---|---|---|
| # | CATEGORY | DESCRIPTION | |
| 5 | Circulation | Build New Paved Parking Lot | $94,500 |
| 9 | Circulation | Build New 6' Gravel Trail | $5,000 |
| 10 | Stormwater | Install New Raingarden | $67,500 |
| 13 | Recreation | Build New Fishing Pier | $50,000 |
| | | Total Long-Term Improvement Costs | $217,000 |
| | | Total Short-Term Improvement Costs | $49,200 |
| | | Total Improvement Costs | $266,200 |

# SMITHVILLE PARK

## Summary and Overview

Smithville Park is a relatively unknown, unused, and undeveloped seven-acre park in the Smithville neighborhood just east of Grand Avenue.



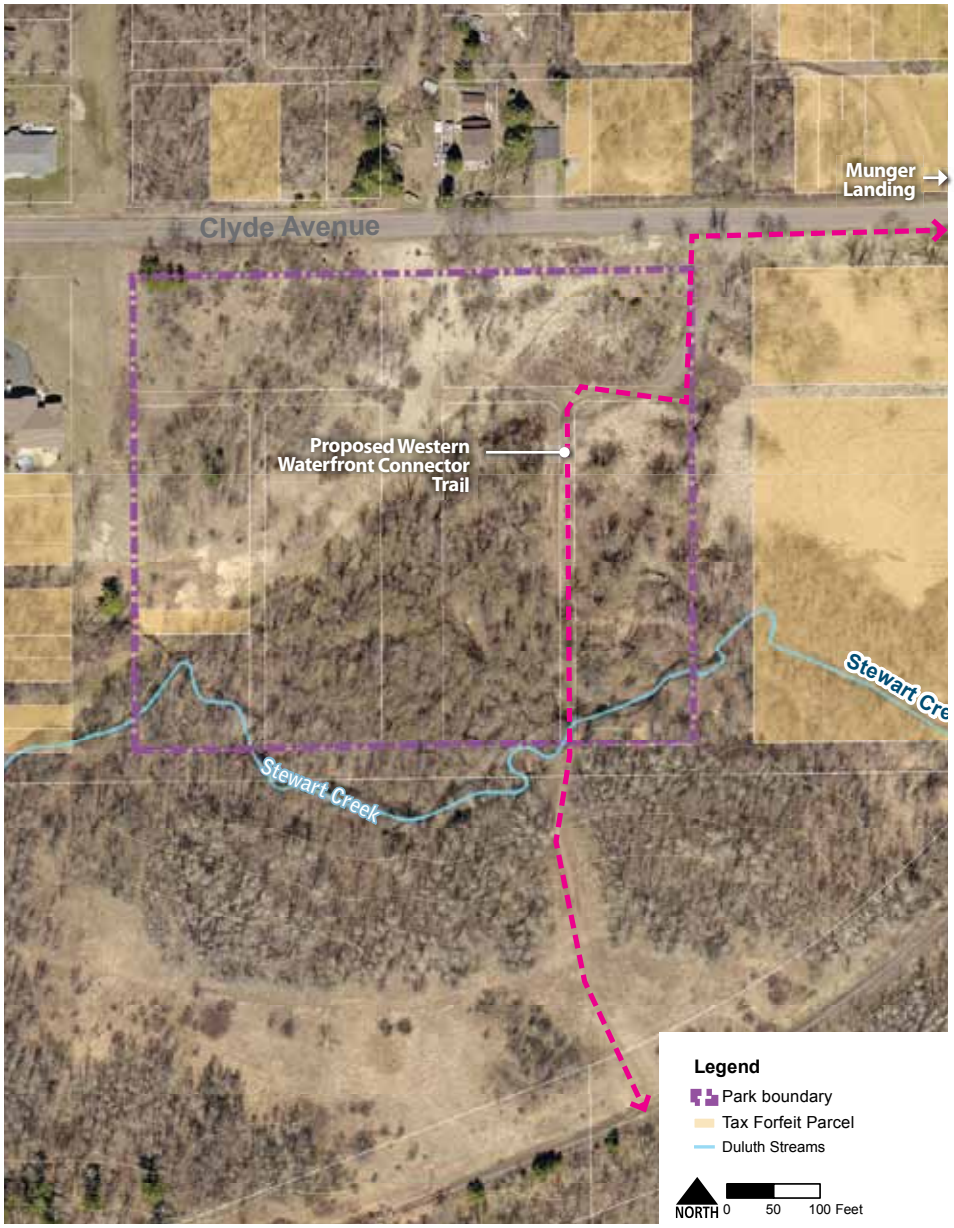

SMITHVILLE PARK LOCATION MAP

**STRENGTHS/ OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Park provides natural corridor with potential for trail connections to Blackmer Park and future residential development along Grand Ave
- Preserved natural space
- The park could serve as a trailhead for the future Western Waterfront Trail

**ISSUES:**

- Lack of awareness that park exists
- Soft surface trail exists, but Stewart Creek is not crossable



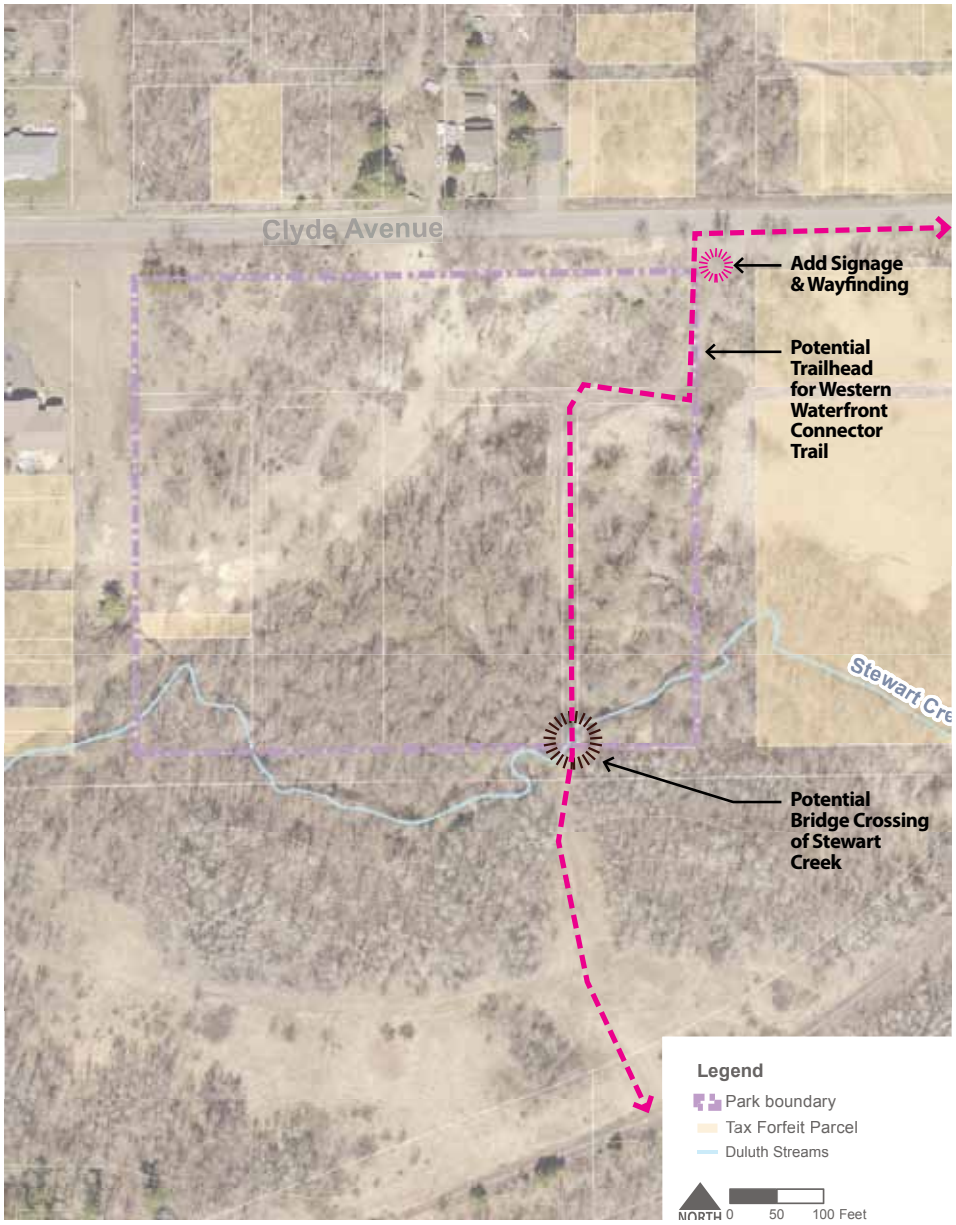

SMITHVILLE PARK SITE INVENTORY

## Existing Conditions

Today Smithville Park is covered by woods and wetlands. An informal, soft surface trail traverses the park from Clyde Ave at the northeast corner of the park to the southeast corner where Stewart Creek forms a natural barrier along the trail.

## Needs Assessment/Input Summary

At the stakeholder and community meetings, a desire was expressed for every park in the corridor to have basic amenities, including a bench, a picnic table, and a grill. Smithville Park may have the need for a bench when the trail is developed in the near future, but picnic facilities will likely not be provided at Smithville until the park becomes more used. Wayfinding and directional signage to each park, within each park, and to nearby trails are also desired as a way to




SMITHVILLE PARK SITE ANALYSIS

promote the parks. Wayfinding signage would likely be provided when the trail is developed through the park.

Stakeholder and community meeting attendees expressed an interest in picnic facilities and basic park amenities at Munger Landing, which is east of Smithville Park. In coordination with future park improvements, consideration should be given to existing and desired amenities at Munger Landing and Smithville Park together.

Area residents would like the quiet nature of Smithville Park to be maintained as it is today. Natural resources maintenance is desired. There is no desire to develop the park as an active recreational area.

*Stewart Creek runs through Smithville Park*

*Invasive species in the park include Tansy and Spotted Knapweed*

*The existing soft surface trail provides a nice walking path*

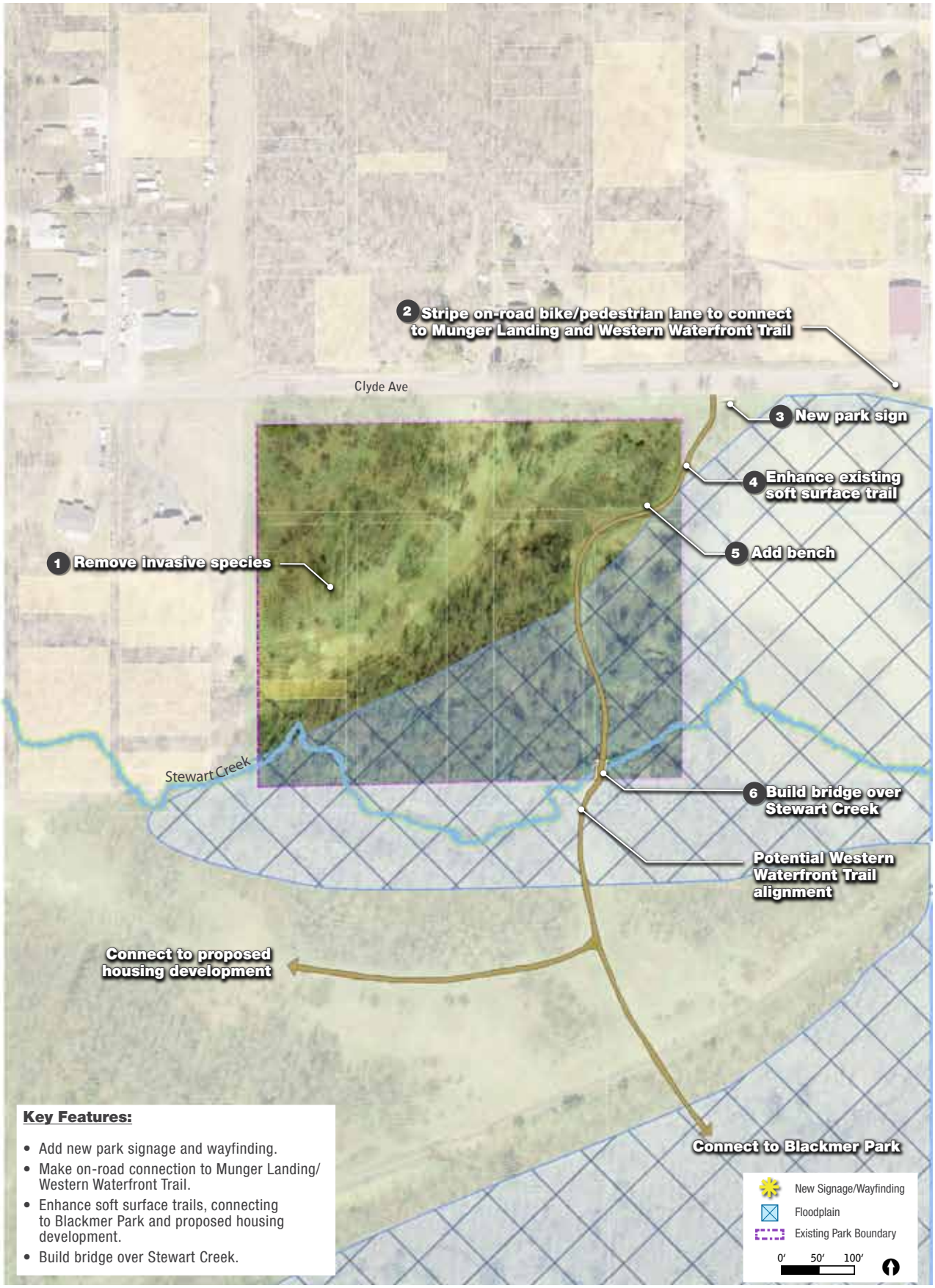



FIGURE 2.10 SMITHVILLE PARK MINI-MASTER PLAN CONCEPT

## Concept Plan & Recommendations

The concept plan for Smithville Park identifies the planned alignment for the Western Waterfront Trail along with necessary minor improvements, such as a bridge over Stewart Creek, signage, and a bench. Natural resource management of invasive species and wetland enhancement are potential improvements in the park.

## Phasing & Cost Estimates

### PHASE 1: SHORT-TERM

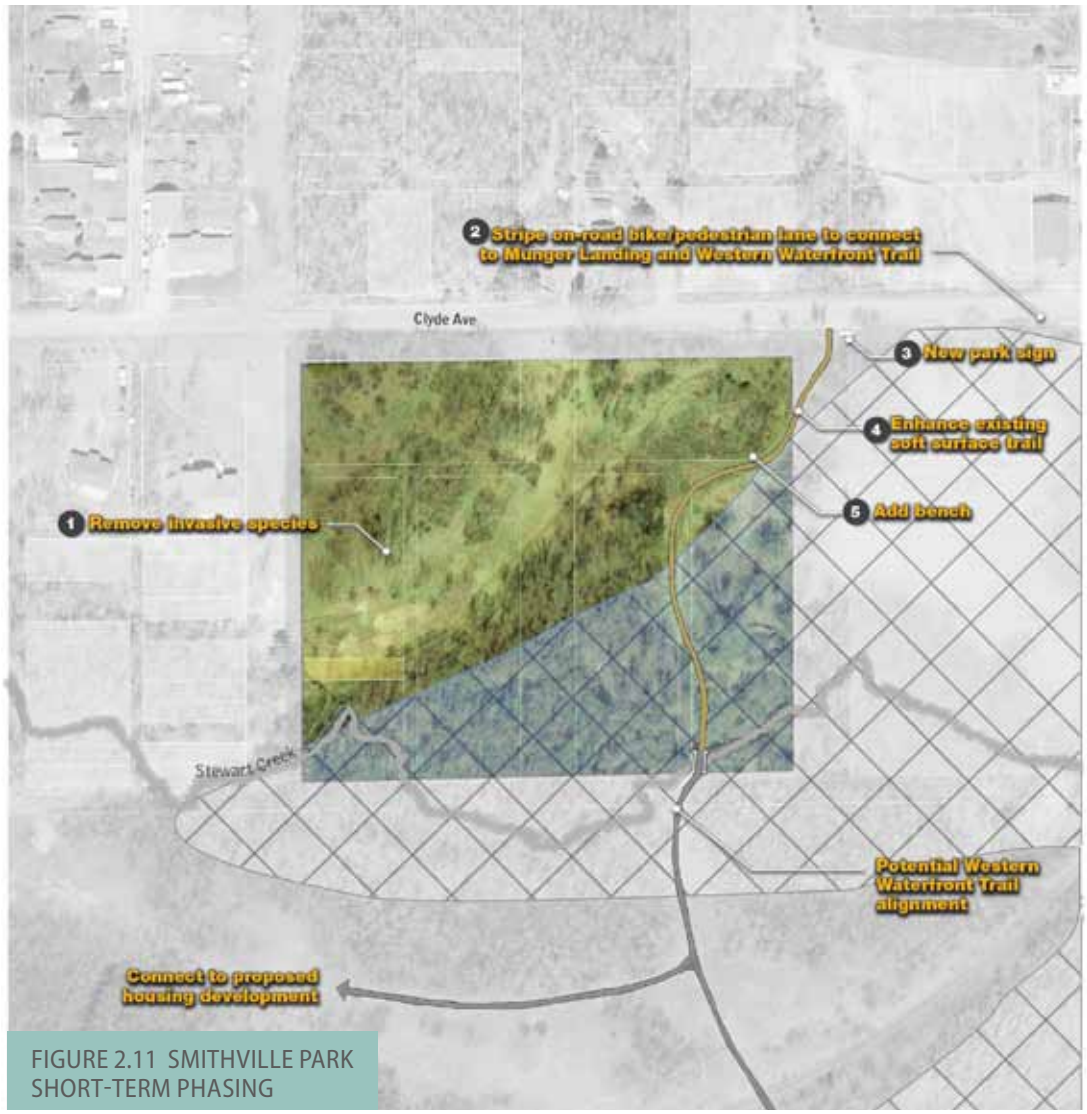



FIGURE 2.11 SMITHVILLE PARK SHORT-TERM PHASING

| ACTION | | | COST |
|---|---|---|---|
| # | CATEGORY | DESCRIPTION | |
| 1 | Vegetation | Remove Invasive Species | $21,000 |
| 2 | Circulation | Stripe On-Street Bike Path | $2,175 |
| 3 | Circulation | Install New Park Sign | $5,000 |
| 4 | Circulation | Improve Existing Soft Surface Trail | $2,600 |
| 5 | Furnishings | Install New Bench | $1,200 |
| | | Total Short-Term Improvement Costs | $31,975 |

## PHASE 2: LONG-TERM

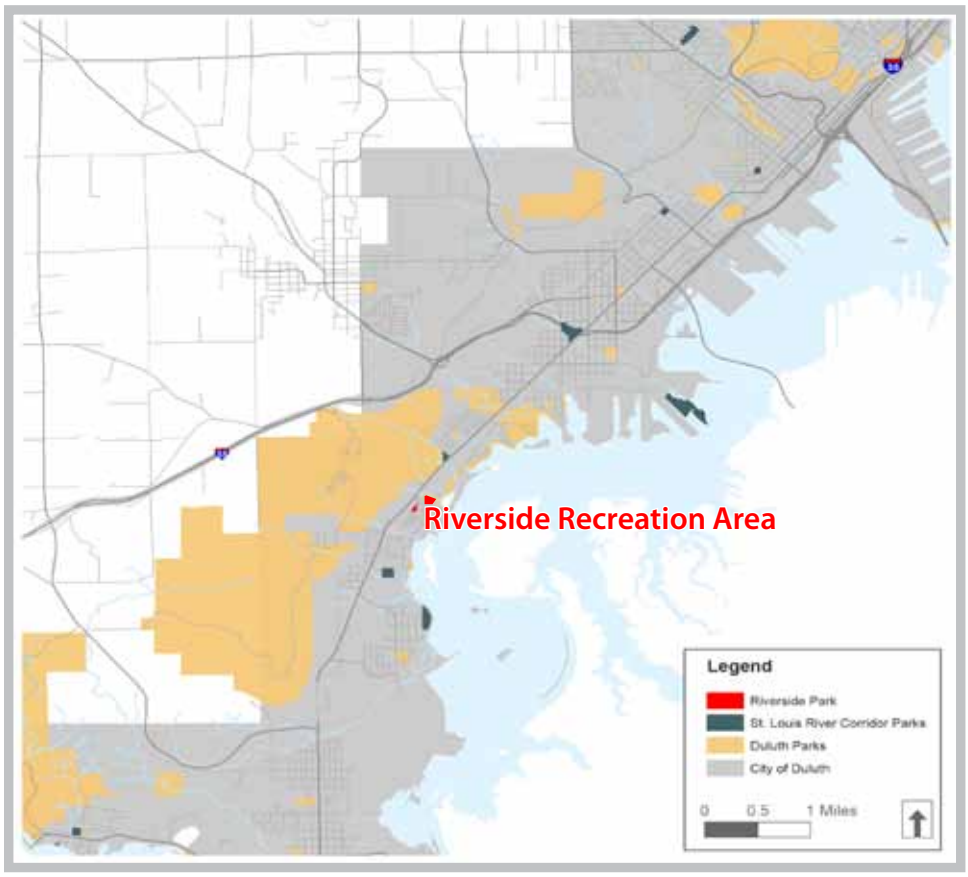
FIGURE 2.12 SMITHVILLE PARK LONG-TERM PHASING

| ACTION | | | COST |
|---|---|---|---|
| # | CATEGORY | DESCRIPTION | |
| 6 | Circulation | Build New 6' Bike/Pedestrian Bridge | $30,000 |
| | | Total Long-Term Improvement Costs | $30,000 |
| | | Total Short-Term Improvement Costs | $31,975 |
| | | Total Improvement Costs | $61,975 |

# RIVERSIDE RECREATION AREA

## Summary and Overview

Riverside Park and Riverside Community Recreation Area together make up the site for the Riverside Park Mini-Master Plan. The five-acre active park area is east of Riverside Drive, accessed by Manitou Street. The smaller one-acre community garden is located adjacent to and west of Riverside Drive. Both areas are located in the Riverside neighborhood in close proximity to Grand Avenue, and the Munger and Western Waterfront Trails. The Riverside Recreation Area is in need of updates and improvements to be more functional as a neighborhood park.



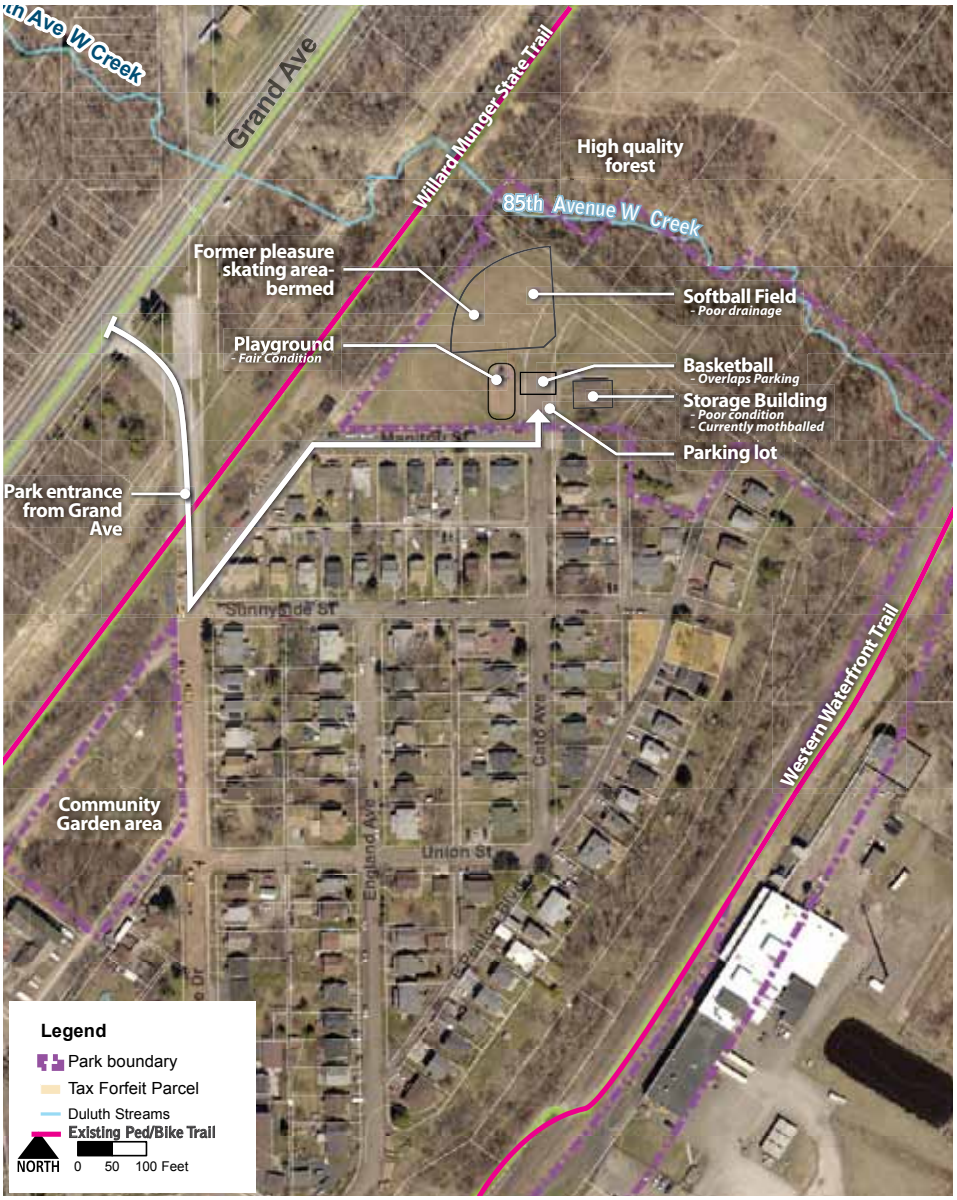

RIVERSIDE RECREATION AREA LOCATION MAP

**STRENGTHS/ OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Park location is key for access to two major trails in west Duluth – the Munger State Trail and the Western Waterfront Trail – capitalize on location to trails
- Natural setting is pleasant – 85th Ave W Creek, high quality forest on the northern and eastern sides of park
- Open grassy space is nice for free play
- The neighborhood is transitioning to younger families who would use a park often
- The community garden site is well used and minor improvements to the fencing and water supply could be made

**ISSUES:**

- Lack of seating and gathering space
- Lack of shelter/shade, especially near playground
- Lack of restrooms and drinking water
- Building is an eye sore
- Park is close to major trails, but trail connections to park do not exist
- Playground is small and for young children only
- Basketball hoop is in parking lot – not usable if cars are parked there
- Softball field is bermed for old pleasure skate area – open space is not as usable as it could be if field was graded to be level and the backstop was removed




RIVERSIDE PARK SITE INVENTORY

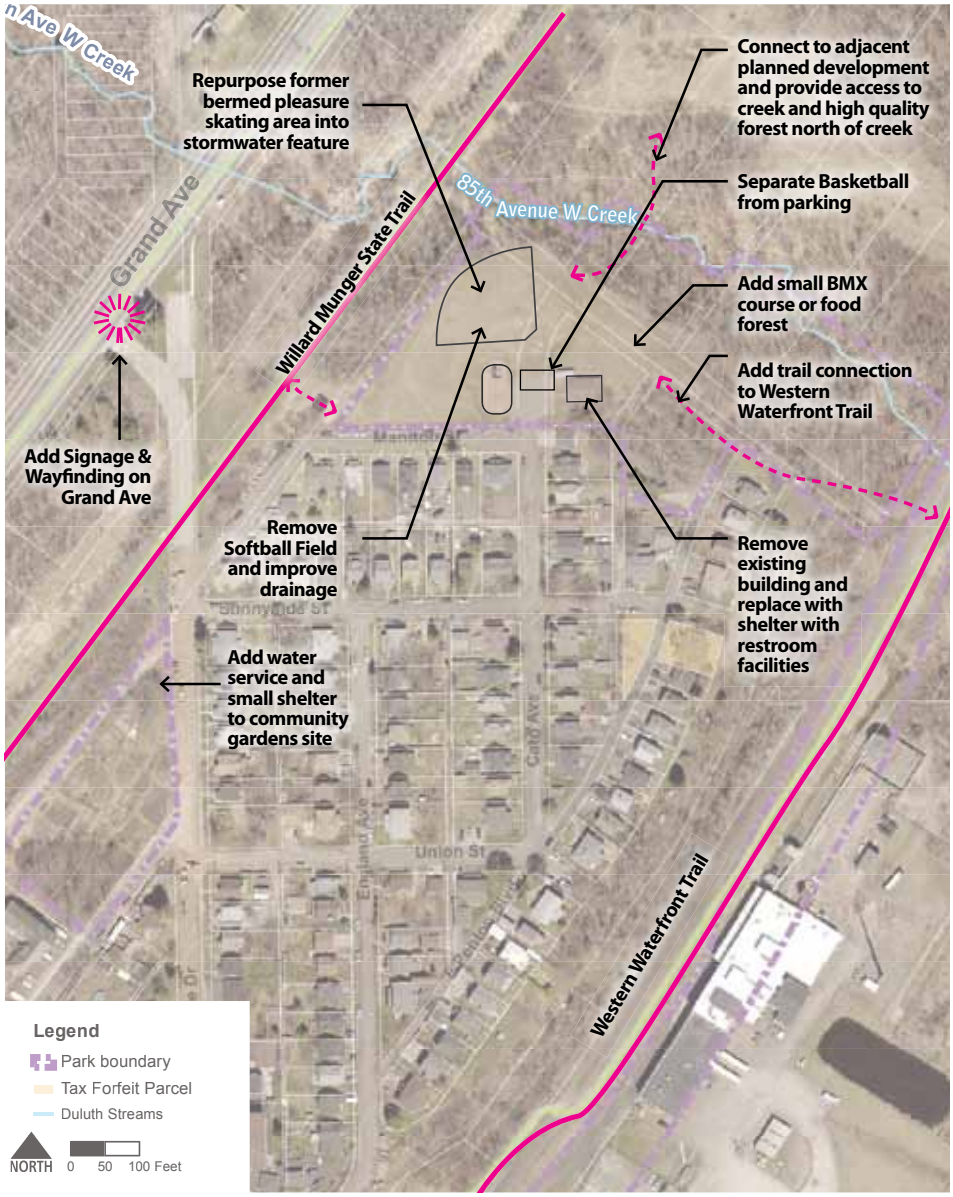
## Existing Conditions

Riverside Park is bounded by the Munger State Trail corridor on the west, a residential street and homes on the south, the Western Waterfront Trail corridor on the east, and 85th Avenue W Creek on the north. A parking lot with a basketball hoop and a small playground are the two major features in Riverside Park. An old community center building in the park is today used only for storage. A softball backstop sits in the grassy open area of the park, but it is rarely used.

The community gardens are heavily used and maintained by the Duluth Community Garden Program.

## Needs Assessment/Input Summary

At the stakeholder and community meetings, a desire was expressed for every park in the corridor to have basic amenities, including a bench, a picnic table, and a grill. These are items that are not located in Riverside Park today, but




RIVERSIDE PARK SITE ANALYSIS

are desired, especially in combination with a picnic shelter. Wayfinding and directional signage to each park, within each park, and to nearby trails are also desired as a way to promote the parks. There is a strong desire by the Riverside Community Club to include trailhead amenities and trail connections between the park and the Munger and Western Waterfront Trails. Wayfinding signage is needed along both trails to direct people to the park, and in the park to direct people to both trails.

Stakeholder and community meeting attendees expressed an interest in picnic facilities, such as a shelter, picnic tables, restrooms, and a drinking fountain. The community club members have expressed interest in promoting Riverside Park as a sustainable or "green" park with compostable toilets, solar lighting, and low maintenance furnishings. Community club members have also stated the desire for a healthy trail loop within the park that would include adult fitness stations. Overall maintenance and upkeep are desired in the park – residents would like to see the building removed, the softball backstop removed, and the basketball hoop moved to its own full basketball court.

*The existing ballfield*

*The existing building is no longer utilized*

*The existing playground is in fair condition*

*The existing crossing of 85th Avenue W Creek*

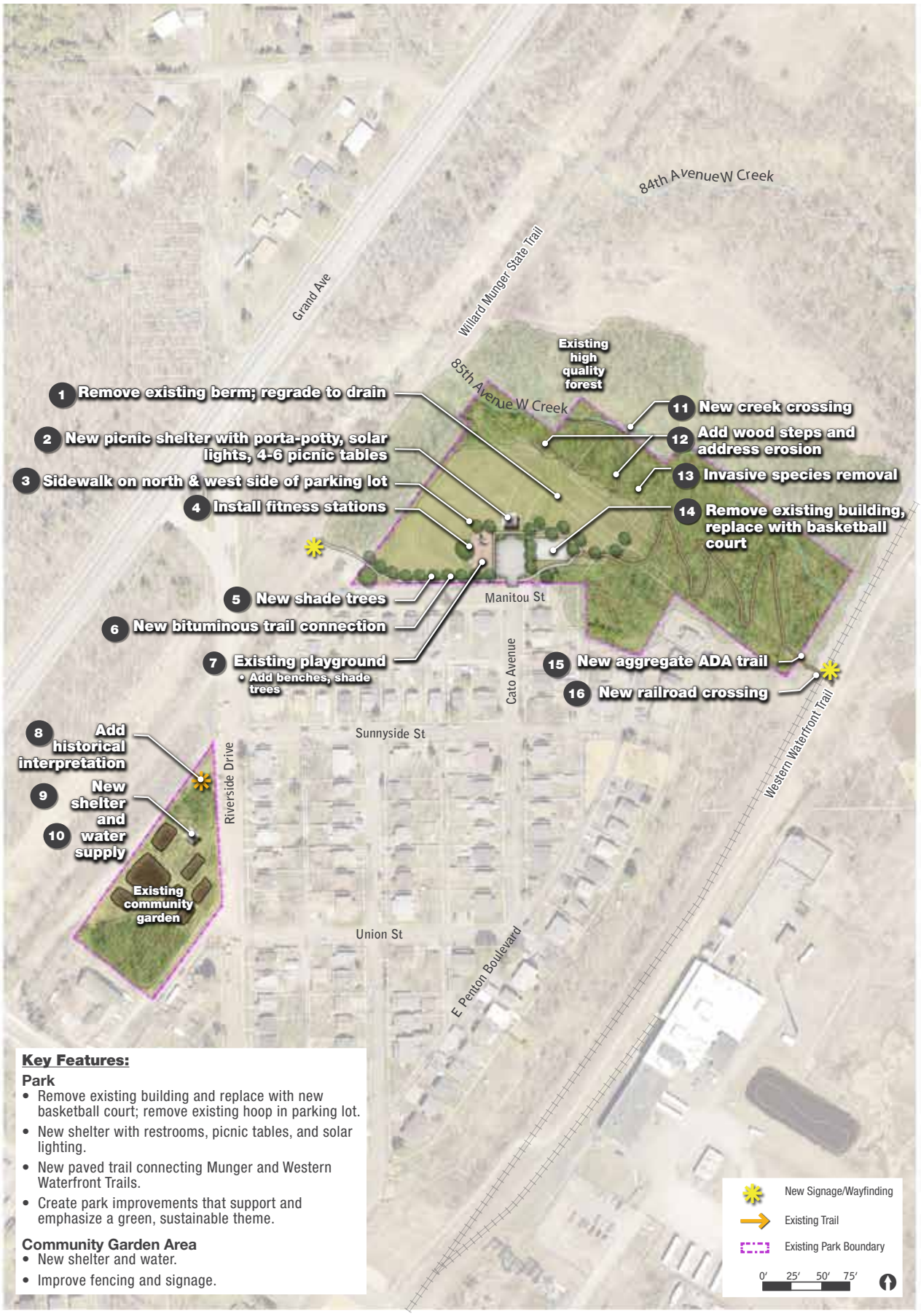



FIGURE 2.13 RIVERSIDE PARK MINI-MASTER PLAN CONCEPT

The community garden site needs taller, stronger fencing and a better, more permanent water supply shelter. There is also the potential for historical interpretation signage at the community garden site along Riverside Drive. The Riverside Neighborhood has a rich history of boat building and river industry.

## Concept Plan & Recommendations

The concept plan for Riverside Park includes basic park facilities, such as a picnic shelter, trail connections, a new basketball court, habitat enhancement in the wooded areas, and new trees in the recreation area of the park. The community garden area concept includes new water supply and signage.

## Phasing & Cost Estimates

### PHASE 1: SHORT-TERM

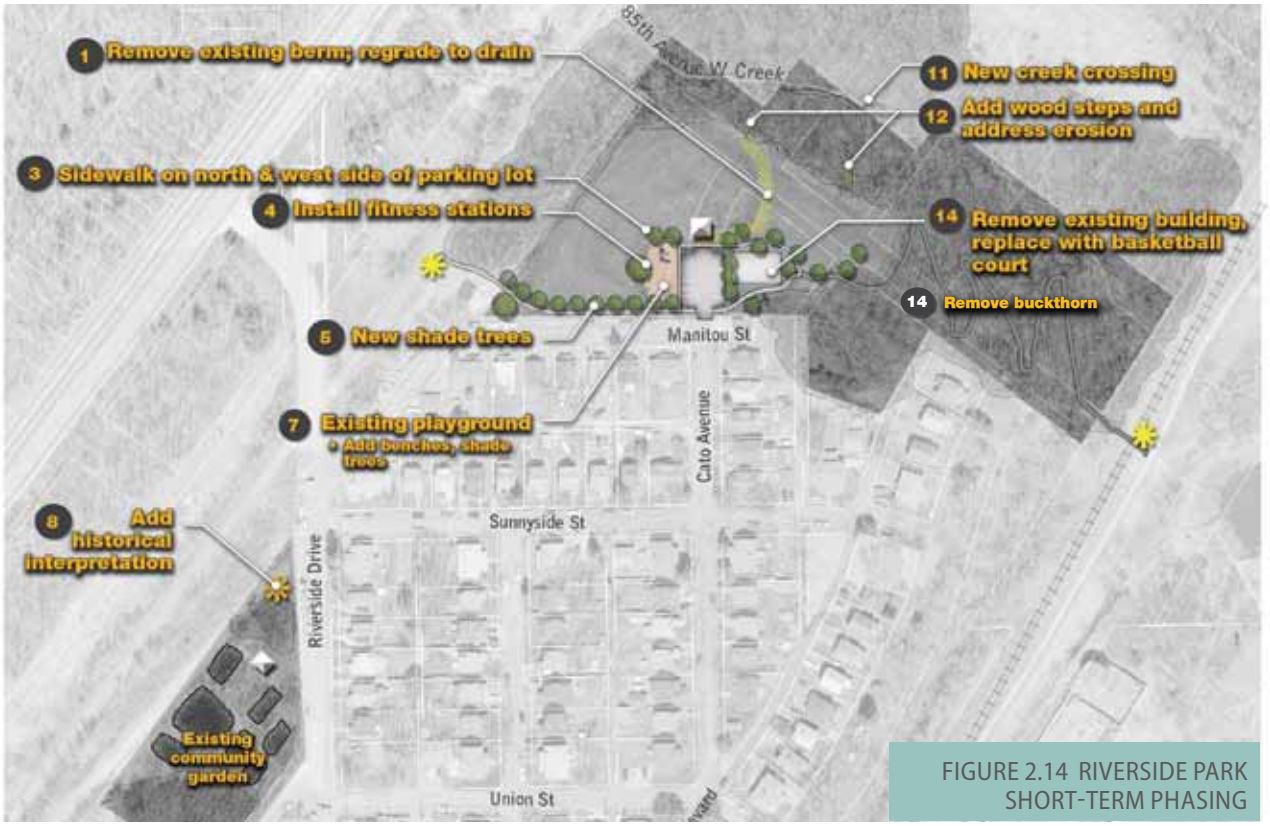



FIGURE 2.14 RIVERSIDE PARK SHORT-TERM PHASING

| ACTION | | | COST |
|---|---|---|---|
| # | CATEGORY | DESCRIPTION | |
| 1 | Demolition | Remove Existing Berm and Seed | $5,000 |
| 3 | Circulation | Sidewalk on North & West Side of Parking Lot | $7,800 |
| 4 | Furnishings | Install Fitness Stations | $5,000 |
| 5 | Vegetation | New Shade Trees (24) | $10,800 |
| 7 | Furnishings | Install New Bench | $2,400 |
| 8 | Circulation | Install New Historical Interpretation/Signage | $2,500 |
| 11 | Circulation | New Creek Crossing - 4' Pedestrian Bridge | $2,400 |
| 12 | Infrastructure | Build New Wood Steps | $600 |
| 14 | Demolition | Remove Existing Building | $15,000 |
| 18 | Furnishings | Install porta-potty with screen | $2,500 |
| | | Total Short-Term Improvement Costs | $54,000 |

## PHASE 2: LONG-TERM

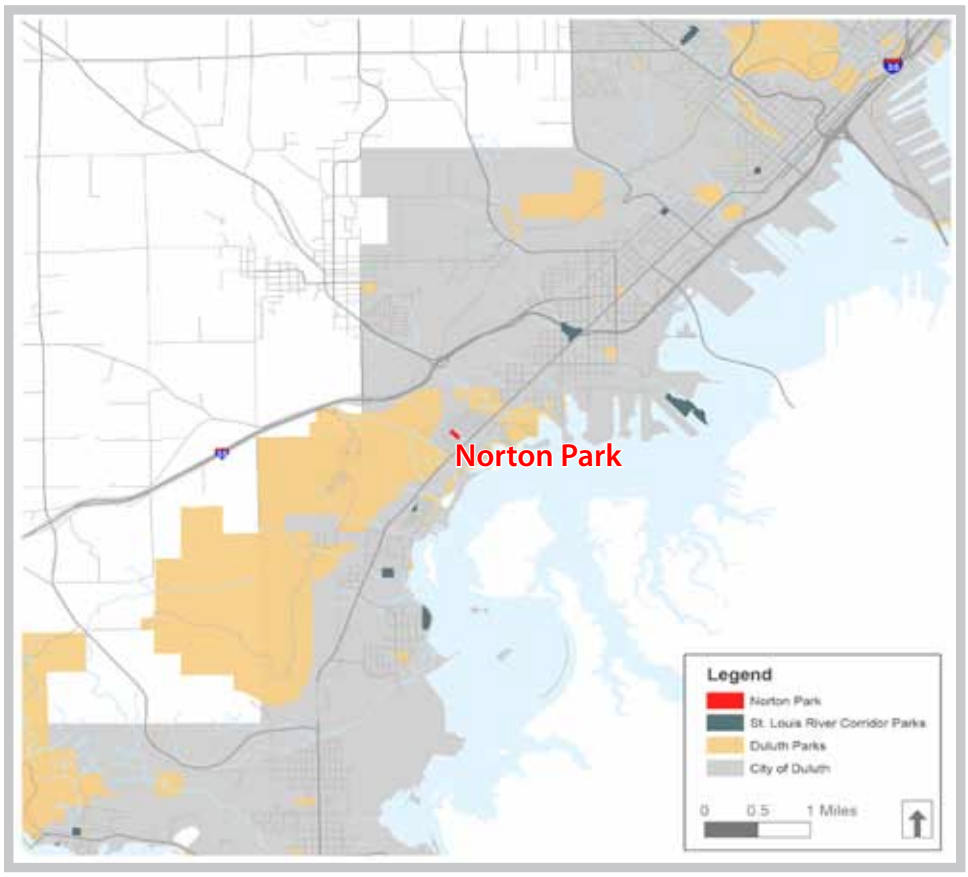
FIGURE 2.15 RIVERSIDE PARK LONG-TERM PHASING

| ACTION | | | COST |
|---|---|---|---|
| # | CATEGORY | DESCRIPTION | |
| 2 | Buildings | Build new Picnic Shelter with Enclosed Porta-potty | $75,000 |
| 2 | Furnishings | Install New Picnic Table | $10,000 |
| 6 | Circulation | New Bituminous Trail Connection | $40,000 |
| 7 | Recreation | Build New Playground | $150,000 |
| 9 | Buildings | Build New Shelter at Community Garden | $60,000 |
| 10 | Infrastructure | New Water Line for Community Garden | $40,000 |
| 13 | Vegetation | Remove Invasive Species | $7,500 |
| 14 | Recreation | Build New Basketball Court - Full | $50,000 |
| 15 | Circulation | New Aggregate ADA Trail | $11,000 |
| 16 | Circulation | Create Pedestrian RR Crossing | $- |
| 17 | Circulation | New Park Wayfinding Signage | $2,000 |
| | | Total Long-Term Improvement Costs | $445,500 |
| | | Total Sort-Term Improvement Costs | $ 54,000 |
| | | Total Improvement Costs | $499,500 |

# NORTON PARK

## Summary and Overview

Norton Park is a three acre neighborhood park in the Norton Park Neighborhood northwest of Grand Avenue. The park is a valuable asset that is centrally located in the generally isolated neighborhood, which is surrounded by Grand Avenue, the Lake Superior Zoo, Spirit Mountain and forested land. The park is characterized by significant topography which forms three separate levels or areas of the park, including a playground, basketball court, park building, softball field, and a wooded creek corridor.



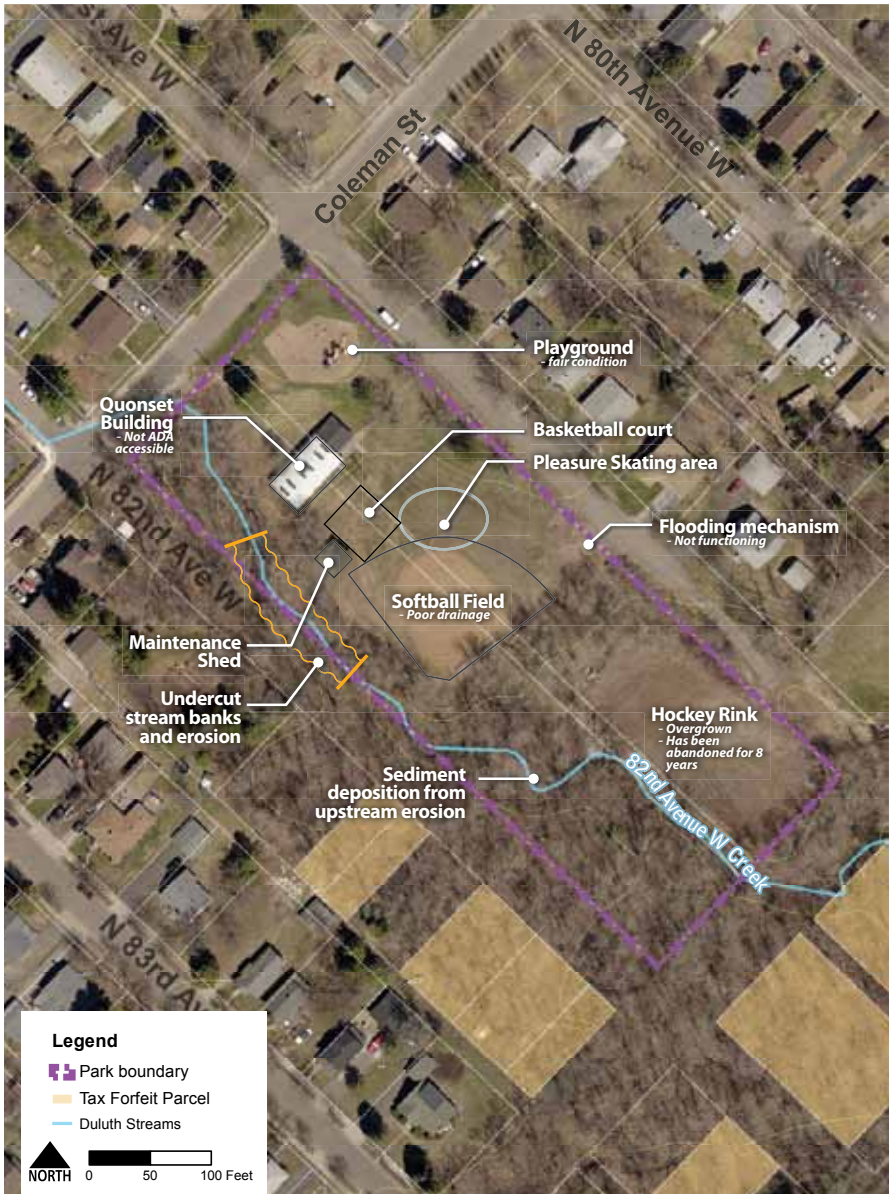

NORTON PARK LOCATION MAP

**STRENGTHS/ OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Park is well used and loved by neighborhood residents
- The 82nd Ave Creek and topography provide the park with a unique, natural setting
- Park location is ideal for potential trail connections to Munger State Trail, Cross City Trail, and Zoo
- Potential for new use at abandoned hockey rink site – restored wetland, open space

**ISSUES:**

- 82nd Ave Creek has severe erosion and undercutting of stream banks
- Overgrown hockey rink is unusable space
- The Quonset Hut is not ADA accessible
- Flooding mechanism for the pleasure rink on the softball field frequently malfunctions
- The softball field has poor drainage



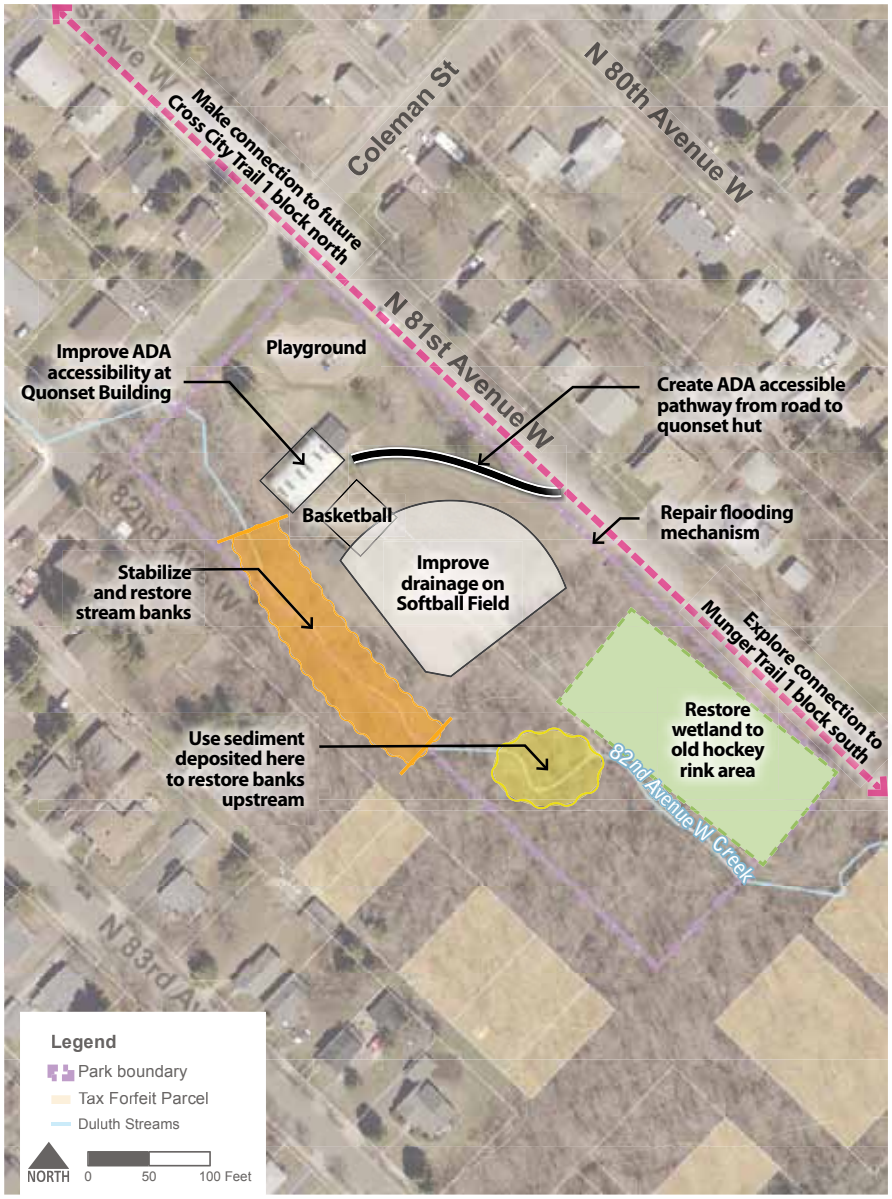

NORTOM PARK SITE INVENTORY

## Existing Conditions

The edges of Norton Park are Coleman Street, N 181st Ave W, the 82nd Avenue W Creek, and residential back yards. The creek passes through the southwestern and southeastern edges of the park. The three levels of Norton Park form three distinct recreational areas within the park. The upper level is adjacent to Coleman Street and N 181st Ave W and contains a playground and the closest access to neighborhood residents. The middle level contains the Quonset Hut park building, a maintenance shed, a basketball court and a softball field. The softball field backs up to the wooded creek corridor and faces homes across N 181st Ave W. On the lower level of the park, the remnants of an overgrown and abandoned hockey rink exist.

## Needs Assessment/Input Summary

At the stakeholder and community meetings, a desire was expressed for every park in the corridor to have basic amenities, including a bench, a picnic table, and




NORTON PARK SITE ANALYSIS

*The existing playground is in fair condition*

*A quonset hut serves as the neighborhood community center*

*Erosion issues along 82nd Ave W Creek in the park*

*The existing ballfield has poor drainage*

a grill. One or two picnic tables do exist in Norton Park, but upgraded furnishings and a formalized picnic area is desired. Wayfinding and directional signage to each park, within each park, and to nearby trails are also desired as a way to promote the parks. Signage to direct park users to the Munger Trail and the future Cross City Trail is desired.

The Norton Park Community Club is currently active in the park by providing programming and access to the building. Updated playground equipment is desired as well as better picnic tables and benches near the playground. There is a strong desire to update the building with an ADA accessible trail from 181st Ave W. The sidewalk along 181st Ave W is also in need of repair and extension for proper ADA access to and in the park. Overall upkeep and maintenance is desired throughout the park.

Natural resources improvements that are needed include stream bank restoration to repair erosion and undercutting along the creek; steep slope and drainage swale vegetation on the north side of the park; tree thinning on the

**Key Features:**

- Provide ADA access to building.
- Restore stream bank in two areas, utilizing sediment from deposition area downstream in upstream restoration.
- Create new infiltration basin on northern end of park.
- Improve drainage of existing ballfield and improve infield.
- Potential for community partners/organizations to provide future programming

FIGURE 2.16 NORTON PARK MINI-MASTER PLAN CONCEPT

lower slope to improve views in the park and remove invasive species; and improving the abandoned hockey rink surface by removing the remaining bituminous material and invasive herbaceous species.

## Concept Plan & Recommendations

The concept plan for Norton Park prioritizes accessibility issues to the building, general maintenance and upgrades, and natural resources improvements to the creek, steep slopes, and lower area of the park.

## Phasing & Cost Estimates

### PHASE 1: SHORT-TERM

FIGURE 2.17 NORTON PARK SHORT-TERM PHASING

| ACTION | | | COST |
|---|---|---|---|
| # | CATEGORY | DESCRIPTION | |
| 1 | Circulation | New Park Signage | $5,000 |
| 2 | Stormwater | Create infiltration Basin, and Divert Street Runoff into Basin | $18,000 |
| 3 | Stormwater | Add Swale Feature to Improve Drainage | $5,250 |
| 7 | Furnishings | Upgrade Picnic Tables | $4,000 |
| 9 | Circulation | Extend Sidewalk | $6,900 |
| 10 | Circulation | Create ADA Walkway to Building | $9,600 |
| | | Total Short-Term Improvement Costs | $48,750 |

## PHASE 2: LONG-TERM

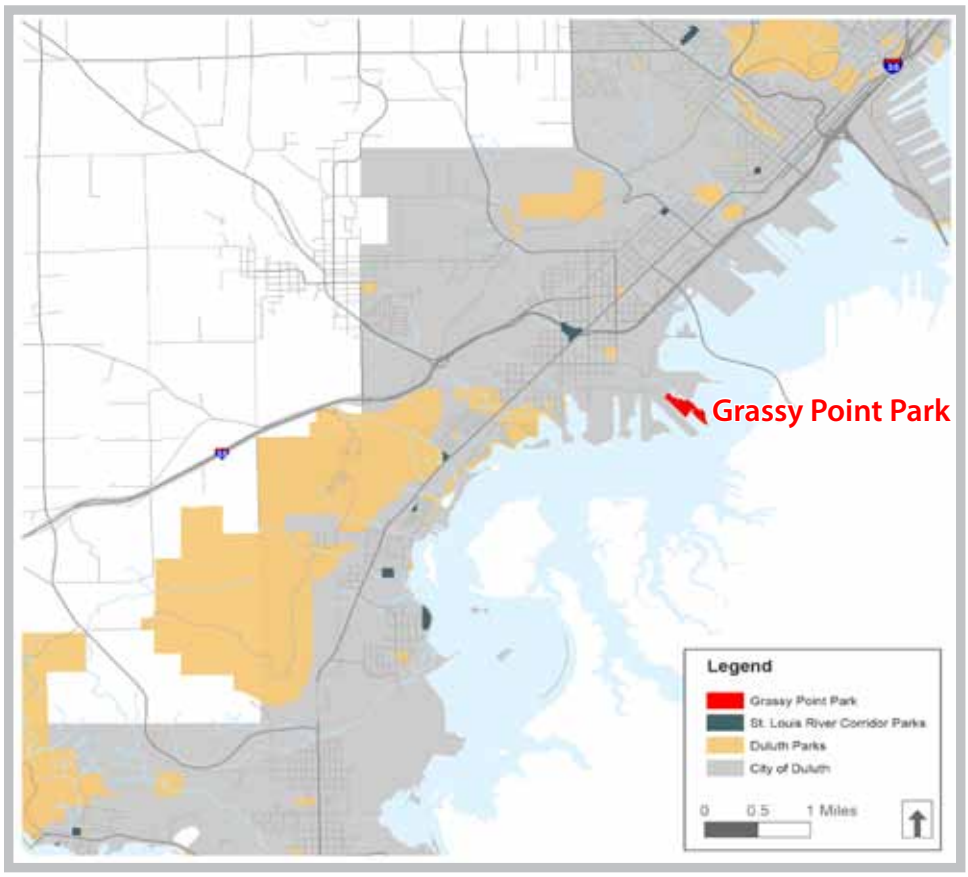
FIGURE 2.19 NORTON PARK LONG-TERM PHASING

| ACTION | | | COST |
|---|---|---|---|
| # | CATEGORY | DESCRIPTION | |
| 4 | Natural Resources | Stream Restoration Work at Norton | $55,000 |
| 5 | Circulation | Repair Existing Steps | $- |
| 6 | Circulation | Replace and Extend Existing Sidewalk - 6' concrete trail | $15,000 |
| 10 | Vegetation | Convert Turf on Steep Slope to Native Plantings | $50,400 |
| 11 | Recreation | Improve Drainage | $- |
| 12 | Vegetation | Remove Invasive Species and Thin Woodland | $800 |
| 13 | Vegetation | Create informal Lawn Area | $22,000 |
| 14 | Circulation | New Park Signage | $1,000 |
| 14 | Lighting | New Street Lighting | $6,000 |
| 15 | Recreation | Upgrade play equipment | $75,000 |
| | | Total Long-Term Improvement Costs | $225,200 |
| | | Total Short-Term Improvement Costs | $ 48,750 |
| | | Total Improvement Costs | $273,950 |

# GRASSY POINT PARK

## Summary and Overview

Grassy Point Park is a 26 acre linear park and boardwalk trail that is located in the Irving Park Neighborhood. It is isolated from residential areas as it is surrounded by the industrial, port area of the St. Louis River estuary. It also lacks connectivity to other trails, which makes it a destination trail to be accessed typically by car. The park and trail itself has river access, wildlife viewing opportunities, and a fishing dock. Recent sinking of the boardwalk has made the trail inaccessible.



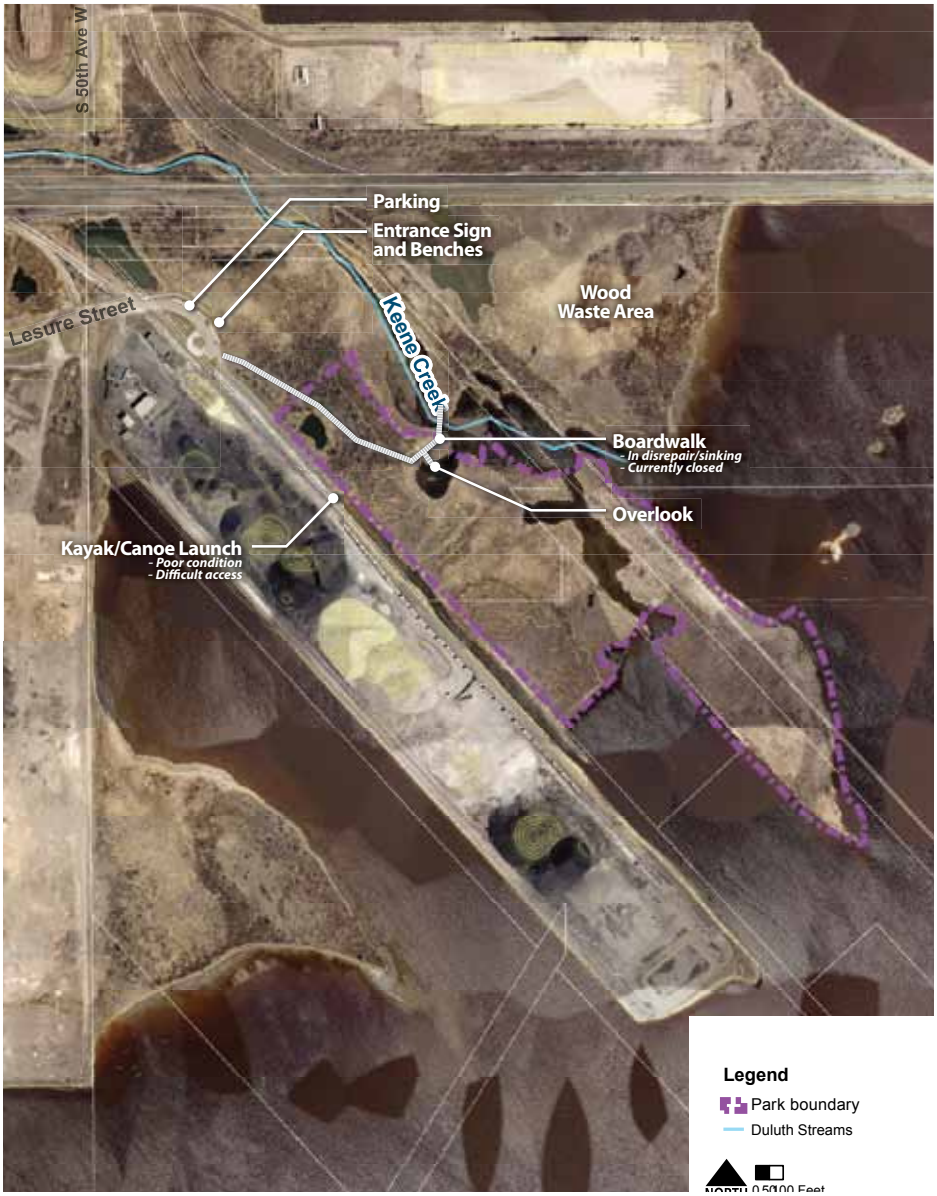

GRASSY POINT PARK LOCATION MAP

**STRENGTHS/ OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Good birding location
- Good fishing at the dock
- The MNDNR is managing and planning for habitat and vegetation restoration, in coordination with the MPCA, the EPA Area of Concern, and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative – the document "Conceptual Design Plan: Grassy Point Project" identifies restoration areas and initiatives
- Park entrance has benches and signage, but the opportunity exists to make it more of a gathering space with better informational signage

**ISSUES:**

- Park is difficult to find in the industrial neighborhood
- Parking is limited
- Informal canoe/kayak launch is difficult to find and far from the parking area
- Boardwalk is under water in areas and inaccessible
- The isolated location of the park makes it attractive to vandalism and unintended users
- Invasive species exist throughout the park
- Better signage is required to describe the features and access points of the park and trails




GRASSY POINT PARK SITE INVENTORY

## Existing Conditions

Grassy Point Park is located at the end of a dead end road surrounded by river industry. Most of the park is marsh land at the mouth of the Keene Creek to the St. Louis River. The site was part of the sawmilling industry in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and contains many areas of piled up wood waste materials. Invasive vegetation exists throughout the park, but there are beautiful views of the river and wildlife. The existing boardwalk trail is about ¼ mile long and in current disrepair. An informal canoe/kayak launch exists southeast of the park entrance area. Much of the park area is inaccessible.

The Wheels On Trails organization completed a report in 2008, in which it evaluated several trails in Duluth, including Grassy Point Trail, for ADA accessibility. The report identified the entire boardwalk as accessible with areas of dangerous drop-offs, where the boardwalk does not have the appropriate edges for wheelchairs. The organization has advocated for improvements, such

GRASSY POINT PARK SITE ANALYSIS

*Existing wayfinding*

*Most segments of the existing boardwalk have edges to improve wheelchair safety along the trail*

*The existing overlook provides great views of the river*

*The floating boardwalk is becoming unstable, sinking with applied weight*

as an accessible boardwalk, at Grassy Point Park, which were installed. Since that time, the boardwalk has sunk in areas making in inaccessible to all trail users.

## Needs Assessment/Input Summary

At the stakeholder and community meetings, a desire was expressed for every park in the corridor to have basic amenities, including a bench, a picnic table, and a grill. Benches exist at the entrance to the park, but should be added along the boardwalk trail at appropriate viewing stops. A picnic area does not exist at Grassy Point Park today, but may be needed in coordination with canoe/kayak launch improvements. Wayfinding and directional signage to each park, within each park, and to nearby trails are also desired as a way to promote the parks. Wayfinding and directional signage is a need in and around Grassy Point, as it is difficult to find in the neighborhood. Information signage is also needed to describe the park amenities at the entrance to the park.

FIGURE 2.20 GRASSY POINT PARK MINI-MASTER PLAN CONCEPT

Other desires from the community include adding bird blinds, fishing docks, and a more formalized canoe/kayak launch. The trails should be repaired to be usable and functional in all four seasons, with the potential addition of snowshoe trails, cross country ski trails, or ice skating trails.

## Concept Plan & Recommendations

The concept plan for Grassy Point Park prioritizes and identifies the natural resource and habitat restoration improvements that are currently being planned by the MN DNR and MPCA. Other improvements include trail repair and accessibility, and canoe/kayak launch improvements. Close coordination with the DNR will ensure proper installation of improvements.

## Phasing & Cost Estimates

### PHASE 1: SHORT-TERM

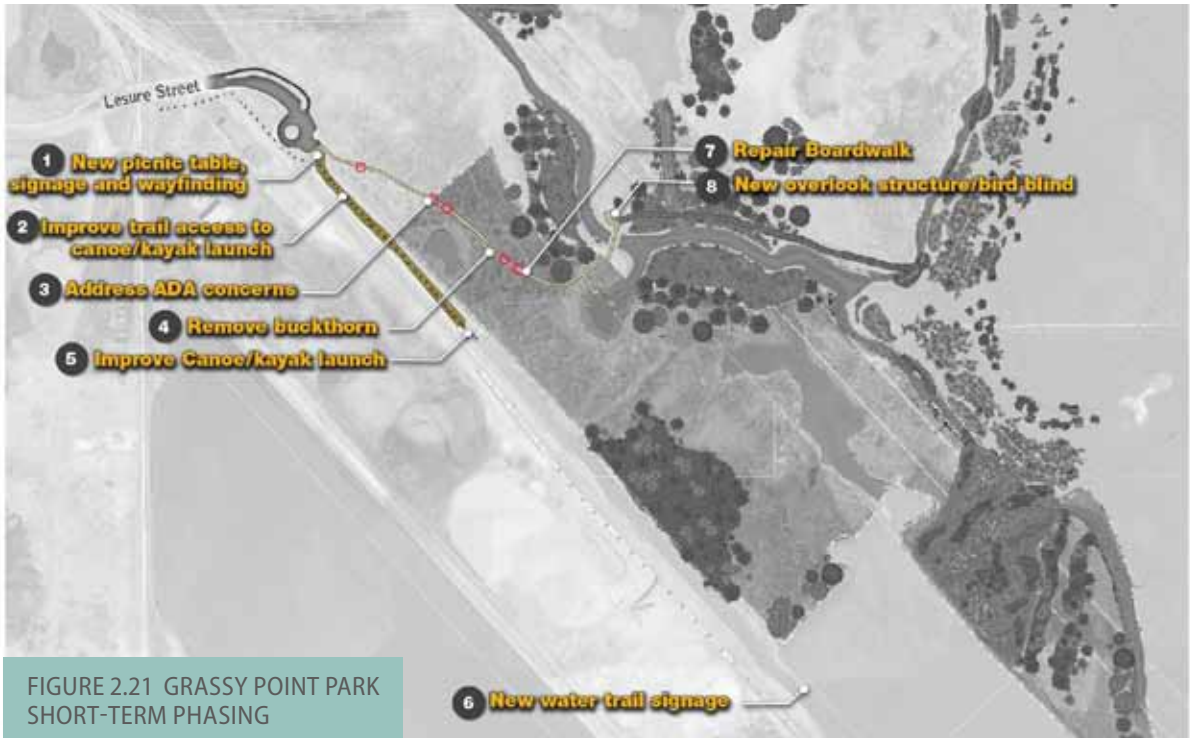



FIGURE 2.21 GRASSY POINT PARK SHORT-TERM PHASING

| ACTION | | | COST |
|---|---|---|---|
| # | CATEGORY | DESCRIPTION | |
| 1 | Circulation | Install New Park Sign | $5,000 |
| 1 | Circulation | Install New Park Wayfinding Sign | $2,000 |
| 1 | Furnishings | Install New Picnic Table | $2,000 |
| 2 | Circulation | Improve Trail Access to Canoe/Kayak Launch | $6,000 |
| 3 | Circulation | Address ADA Concerns on Boardwalk | $- |
| 4 | Vegetation | Remove buckthorn | $6,000 |
| 5 | Recreation | Improve Canoe/Kayak Access | $5,000 |
| 6 | Circulation | New Water Trail Signage | $1,000 |
| 7 | Circulation | Repair Boardwalk | $1,500 |
| 8 | Recreation | New Overlook Structure/Bird Blind | $12,500 |
| | | Total Short-Term Improvement Costs | $41,000 |
| | | Total Improvement Costs | $41,000 |

## PHASE 2: LONG-TERM

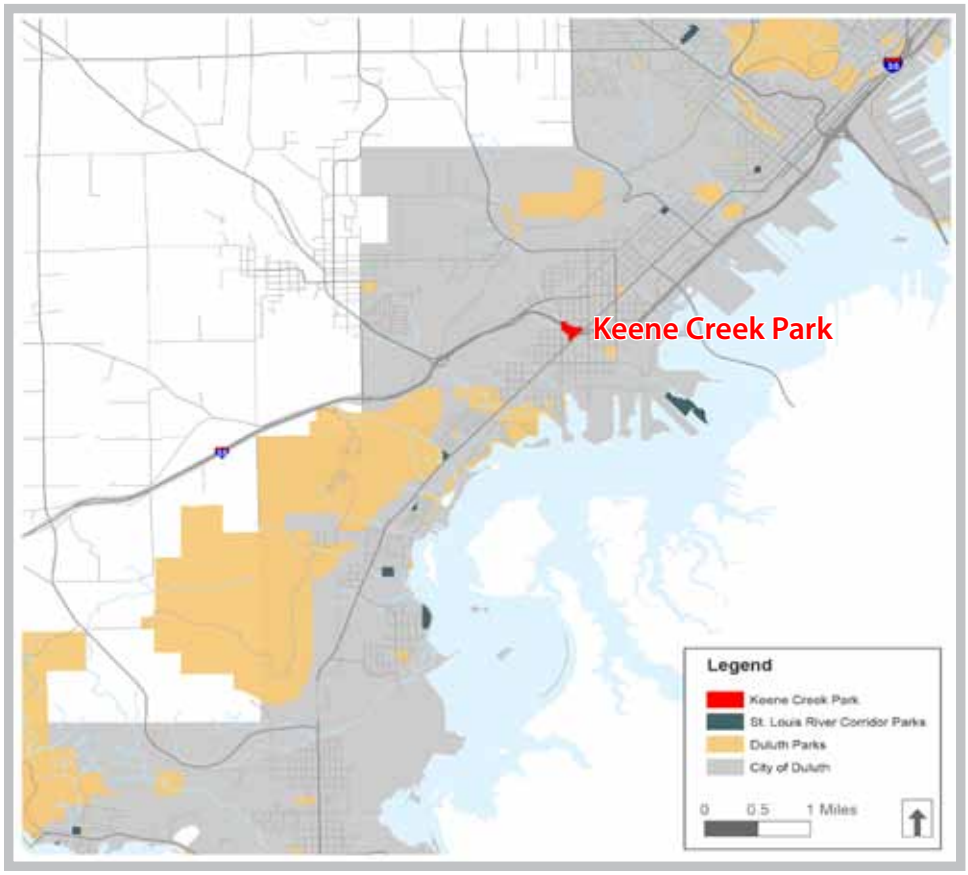
FIGURE 2.22 GRASSY POINT PARK LONG-TERM PHASING

Long-term improvements at Grassy Point Park to be made in collaboration with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

# KEENE CREEK PARK

## Summary and Overview

Keene Creek Park is a 13 acre urban park in the Fairmount Neighborhood. It is in a unique location under Interstate 35 bridge decks and adjacent to Grand Avenue, surrounded on all other sides by local streets and single-family homes. Two branches of Keene Creek run through the park and join together at the southeastern edge of the park to travel through a culvert under Grand Avenue. Keene Creek Park contains many recreational features, including a dog park, basketball court, tennis courts, playground, skate park, and several paved trails.



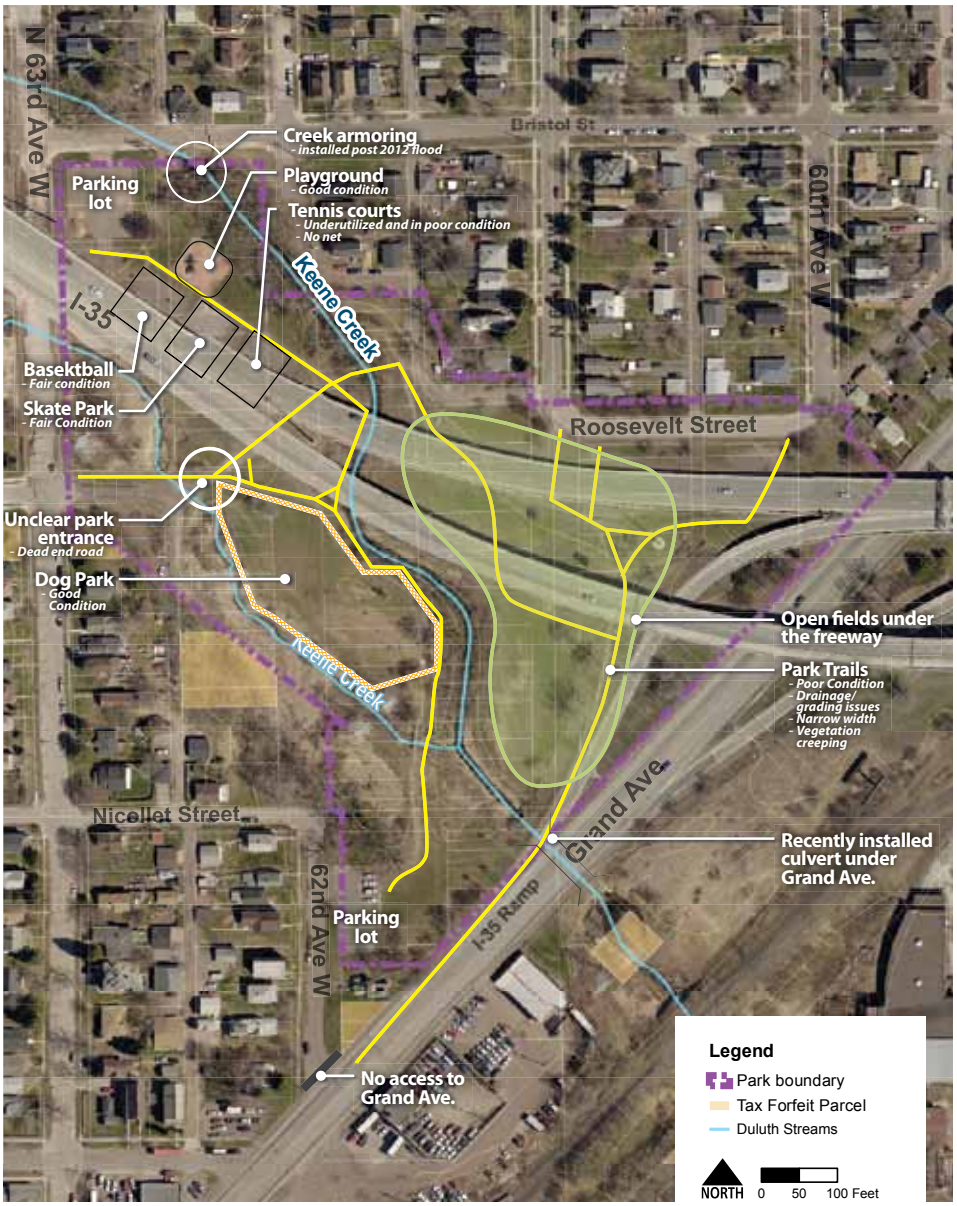

KEENE CREEK PARK LOCATION MAP

## STRENGTHS/OPPORTUNITIES:

- Popular dog park could benefit from minor improvements and possible expansion
- Skate park is popular, and could be expanded
- Playground is popular and edging was recently updated, equipment could be expanded
- The Cross City Trail may pass through the park, providing opportunity for a trailhead at the northwestern parking lot
- The I-35 bridge provides a unique environment and opportunity for art interpretation
- Keene Creek is a nice natural feature in the park, there is the opportunity to improve vegetation by removing invasives along the streambanks

## ISSUES:

- Basketball court surface is uneven
- Tennis courts are underutilized and in disrepair
- Paved trails are in poor condition, sagging and eroding from stormwater issues
- Lack of access from Grand Avenue
- Lack of drinking water and restrooms
- 2012 flood damage is still visible in the park – more cleanup is needed
- Lack of shelter/pavilion for picnic tables and gathering
- Lack of lighting for night time safety
- Lack of ADA accessibility throughout the park
- Garbage and park furnishings are sometimes found in the creek
- Weedy/unkempt areas of the park are unsightly




KEENE CREEK SITE INVENTORY

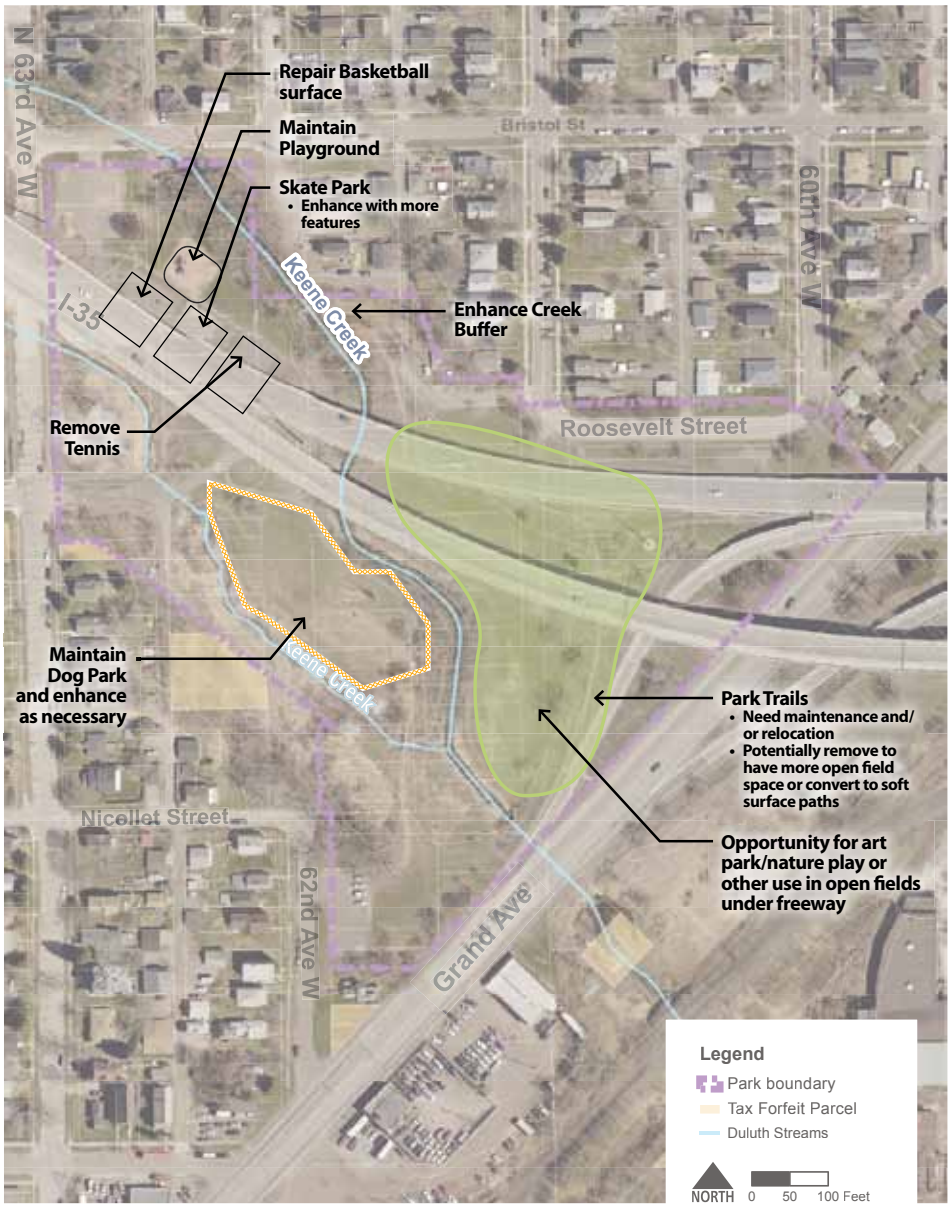
# Existing Conditions

Keene Creek Park is a popular, multi-use park. Several recreational features are located in the northwestern corner of the park, which include an updated playground popular with neighborhood residents, a well-used basketball court, two tennis courts in poor condition, and a skate park.

Keene Creek is a designated trout stream and its wooded banks line the northern edge and run through the center of the park.

I-35 bridge decks and pillars run through the center of the park from west to east, which provide shade, but also make portions of the park feel dark and cold at times.

Parking lots exist in the northwestern and southern corners of the park. Vehicle access to the park is not provided from Grand Ave., but from local streets in the neighborhood.




KEENE CREEK PARK SITE ANALYSIS

*The existing surface of the basketball court is in poor condition*

*Recent improvements to the Keene Creek Dog Park include signage and a bag dispenser*

*Many existing trail surfaces are in poor condition*

*Keene Creek is a major feature of the park*

# Needs Assessment/Input Summary

Keene Creek Park contains basic amenities, including benches, picnic tables, and grills, but a desire for a picnic shelter or pavilion was expressed. Wayfinding and directional signage to each park, within each park, and to nearby trails are also desired as a way to promote the parks. Keene Creek has many trails that could benefit from wayfinding signage. With the potential addition of the Cross City Trail, a kiosk sign and directional signage to area businesses and community locations should be added in the park.

An overall interest in basic upkeep, flood cleanup, and the addition of basic park amenities, such as drinking water and restrooms, was expressed at stakeholder and community meetings. There is a desire for improved maintenance of the grassy areas—weed removal, increased mowing, and better stormwater management to reduce standing water in the park and on the trails. The deteriorating bituminous trails are in need of repaving, grading, and potential realignment in order to avoid further degradation from stormwater drainage issues. There is a need throughout the park for improved safety features—lighting, sight lines, and better circulation.

Dog park improvements are desired, including new drinking water for dogs, lighting, a rear entrance, and better parking/wayfinding signage to the entrance of the dog park.

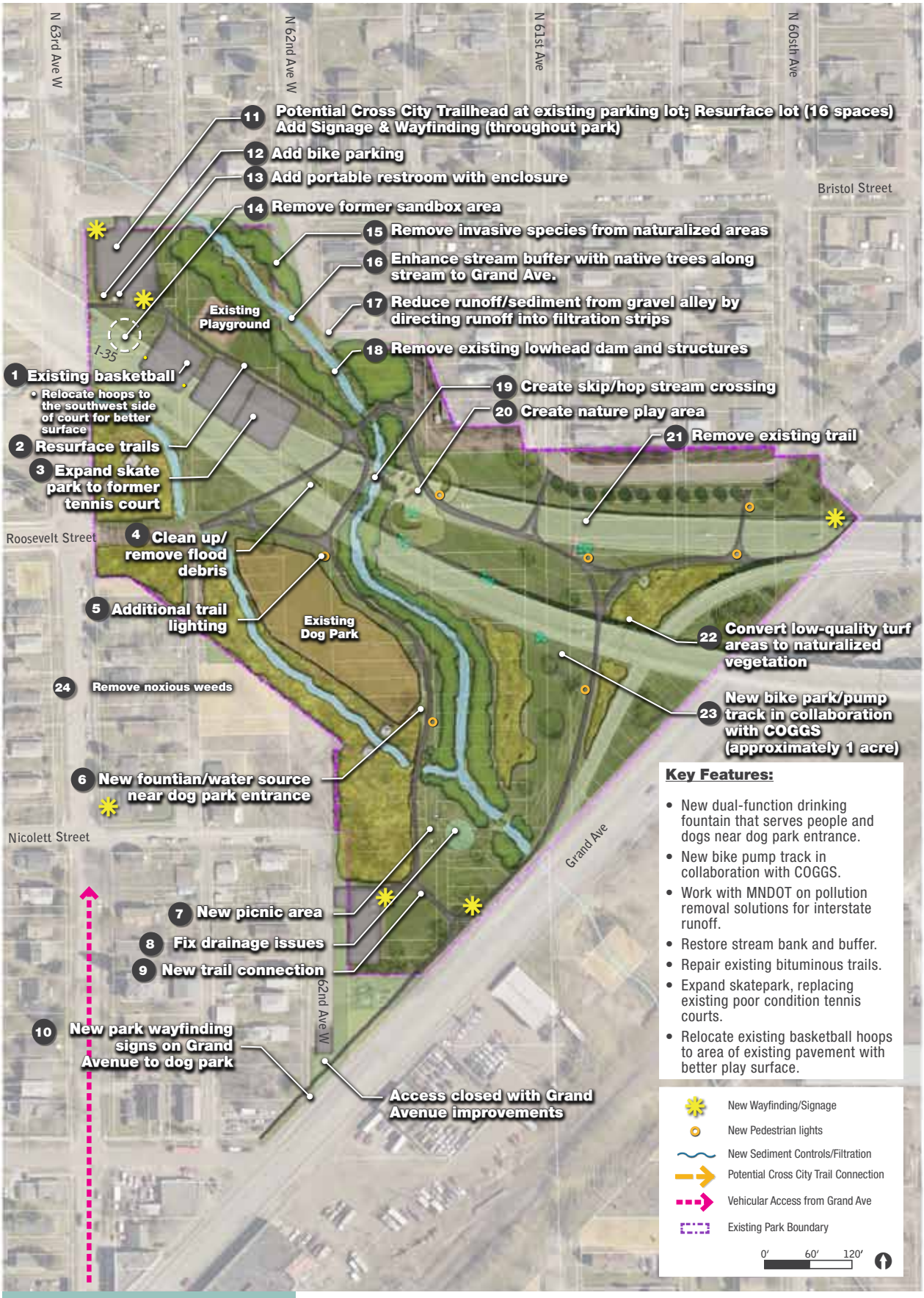



FIGURE 2.23 KEENE CREEK PARK MINI-MASTER PLAN CONCEPT

# Concept Plan & Recommendations

The concept plan for Keene Creek Park identifies several deferred maintenance items that need to be completed to make the park function better: improved stormwater management and drainage, creek vegetation management and cleanup, trail grading and repaving, and signage and circulation improvements. Priorities include the addition of restrooms, drinking water, basic park furnishings and amenities (trash cans, lighting, and shade), and an enhanced picnic area.

Coordination and partnership with the DNR to make natural resource improvements along Keene Creek will be important to the future functionality of Keene Creek and the surrounding vegetation. Items 15-19 are key partnership improvements:

» Increase streamside shading just above the Highway 23 culvert. This is a very open area which is likely increasing water temperatures. Adding trees to the stream riparian corridor would be very desirable for trout survival in this area as well as downstream.

» The full tree canopy should be left over the creek to keep stream temperatures cool enough for trout. Despite the fact that there is not a lot of undergrowth at this site, there is also no evidence of any significant erosion, as the tree root densities seem to be very high through this reach, and are doing a good job of protecting the banks.

» Remove the existing lowhead dam and structures. This project would require some significant design and channel work downstream and should be coordinated closely with the DNR. The skip-hop stream crossing might be achievable within the dam removal design.

# Phasing & Estimates

## PHASE 1: SHORT-TERM

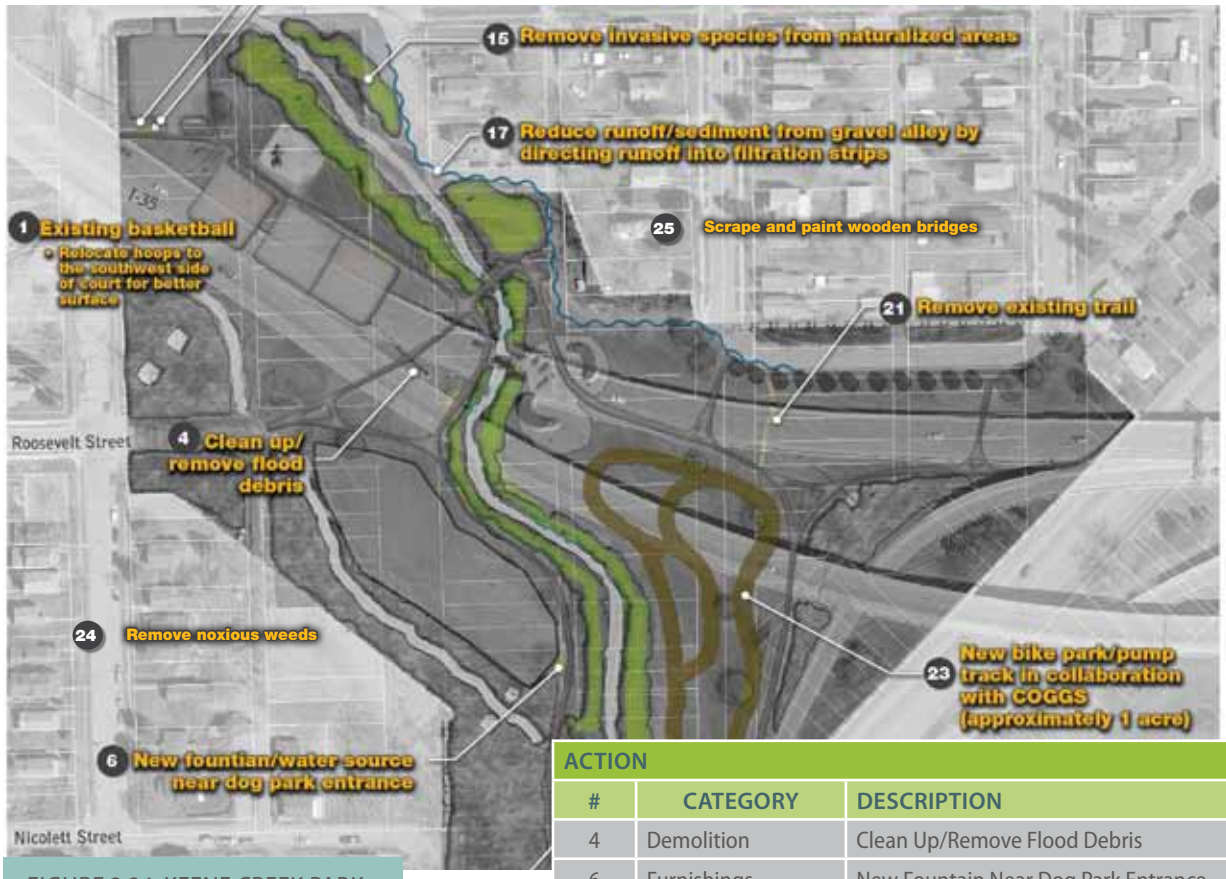



FIGURE 2.24 KEENE CREEK PARK SHORT-TERM PHASING

| ACTION | | | COST |
|---|---|---|---|
| # | CATEGORY | DESCRIPTION | |
| 4 | Demolition | Clean Up/Remove Flood Debris | $1,500 |
| 6 | Furnishings | New Fountain Near Dog Park Entrance | $6,000 |
| 6 | Infrastructure | New Water Line for Source Near Dog Park | $40,000 |
| 17 | Stormwater | Reduce Runoff/Sediment From Alley | TBD |
| 21 | Demolition | Remove Existing 6' Bituminous Trail | $900 |
| 24 | Vegetation | Remove noxious weeds | $ 2,500 |
| 25 | Furnishings | Scrape and paint wooden bridges | $ 2,500 |
| | | Total Costs of Short-Term Improvements | $53,400 |

## PHASE 2: LONG-TERM

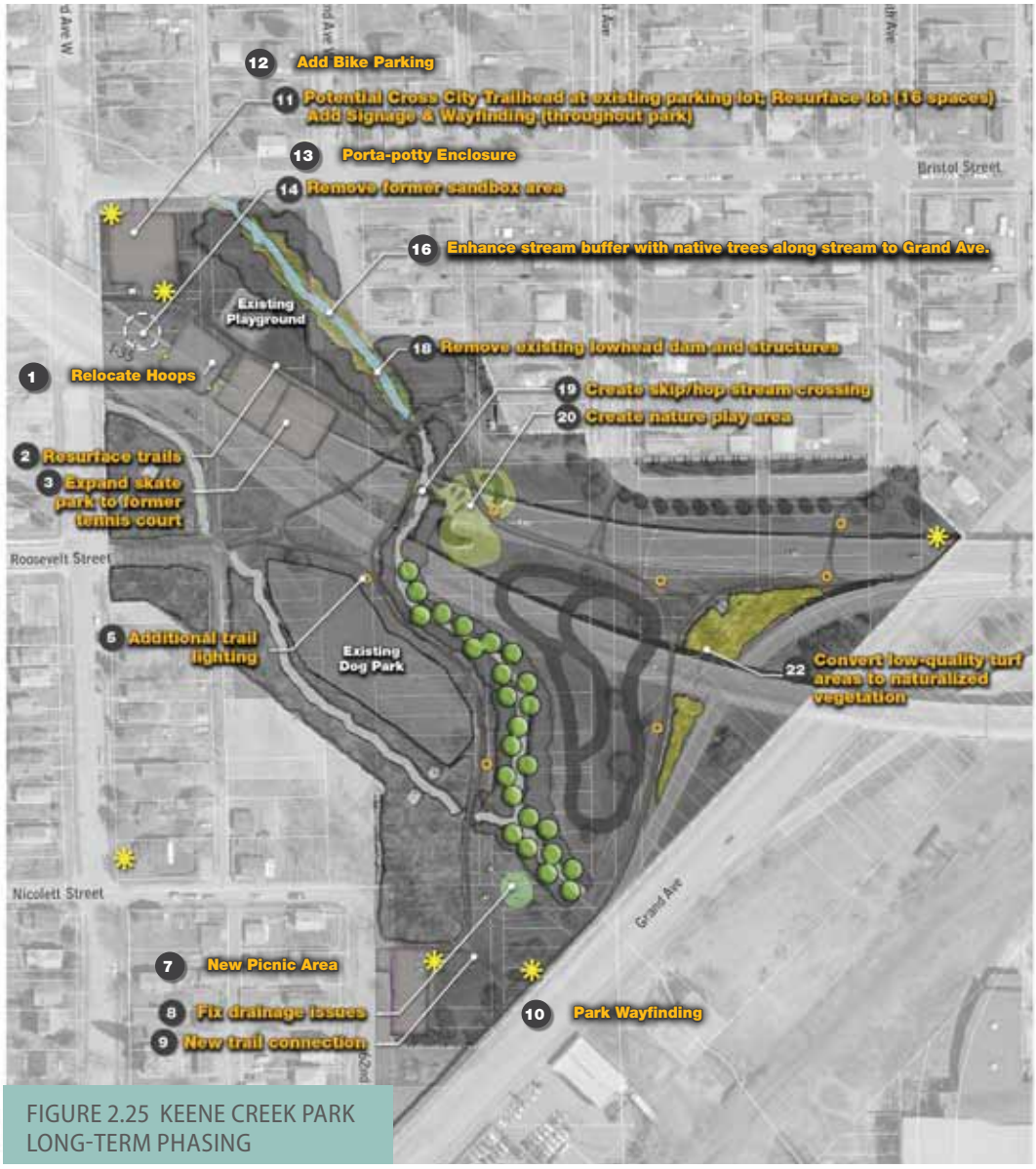



FIGURE 2.25 KEENE CREEK PARK LONG-TERM PHASING

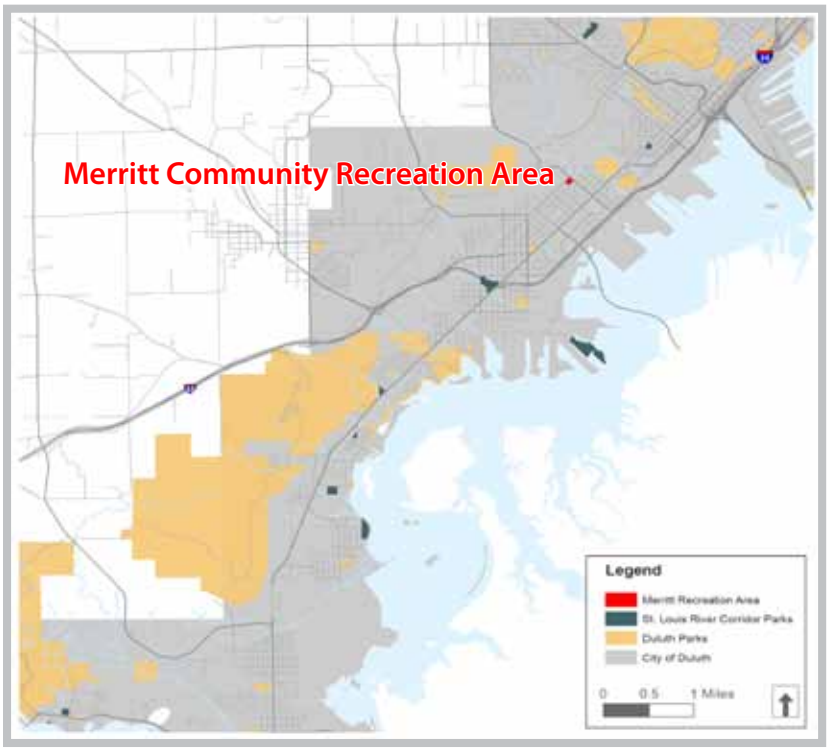
| ACTION | | | COST |
|---|---|---|---|
| # | CATEGORY | DESCRIPTION | |
| 1 | Recreation | Relocate Hoops | $5,000 |
| 2 | Circulation | Resurface Existing 6' Bituminous Trail | $85,000 |
| 3 | Recreation | Expand Skate Park | $45,000 |
| 5 | Lighting | Additional Trail Lighting | $28,000 |
| 7 | Furnishings | New Picnic Area - Picnic Tables | $4,000 |
| 7 | Furnishings | New Picnic Area - Grill | $1,000 |
| 8 | Stormwater | Fix Drainage Issues - New Raingarden | $30,000 |
| 9 | Circulation | New Trail Connection - 6' Bituminous Trail | $4,400 |
| 10 | Circulation | Install New Park Wayfinding Sign | $2,000 |
| 11 | Circulation | Install New Park Sign & Kiosk at Trailhead | $12,500 |
| 11 | Circulation | Resurface Existing Parking Lot | $24,000 |
| 12 | Furnishings | Add Bike Parking | $3,000 |

| ACTION | | | COST |
|---|---|---|---|
| # | CATEGORY | DESCRIPTION | |
| 13 | Buildings | Build New Port-a-Potty Enclosure | $2,000 |
| 14 | Demolition | Remove Former Sandbox Area | $5,000 |
| 16 | Vegetation | Enhance Stream Buffer | $15,000 |
| 18 | Natural Resources | Remove Existing Lowhead Dam | TBD |
| 19 | Circulation | Create Skip Hop Stream Crossing | $1,500 |
| 20 | Recreation | Create Natural Play Area | $50,000 |
| 22 | Vegetation | Convert Low-Quality Turf Areas to Naturalized Vegetation | $2,750 |
| | | Total Costs of Long-Term | $320,150 |
| | | Total Costs of Short-Term | $53,400 |
| | | Total Costs of All Improvements | $373,550 |

# MERRITT COMMUNITY RECREATION AREA

## Summary and Overview

Merritt Community Recreation Area is a three acre, one-block park in the Lincoln Park Neighborhood. It is bounded on all sides by local, residential streets: W 8th St., N 40th Ave. W, W 7th St., and N 41st Ave W. The park is generally a recreational park with a softball field, ice rink, basketball court, park building, and playground. The park sits on a sloped field, which creates some drainage issues around the building, softball field, and play area. The softball field and ice rink are used for an adult softball league and broomball league, respectively. The building is underutilized and planned for removal by the City. Several apple trees were recently planted in the north corner of the park.



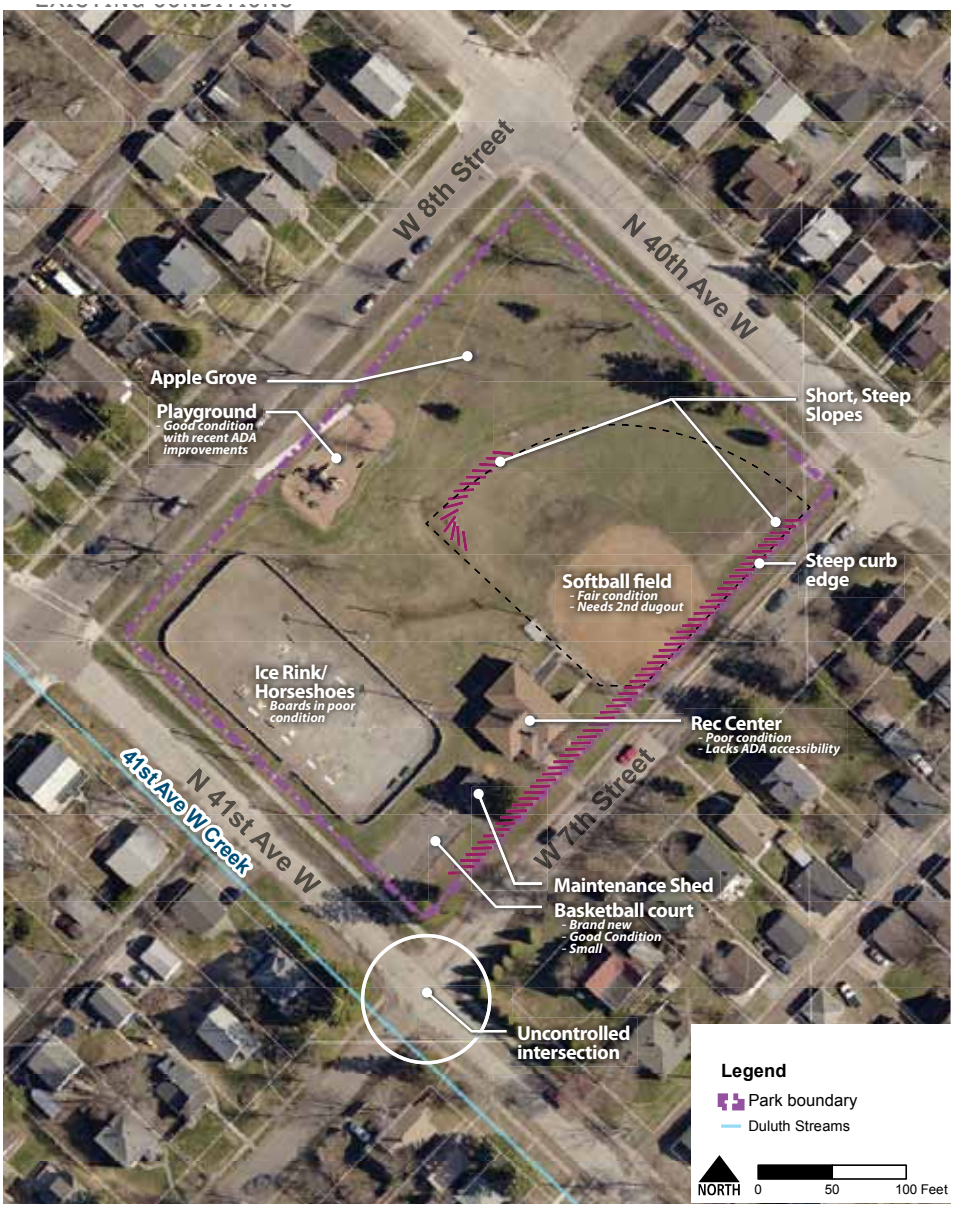

MERRITT COMMUNITY RECREATION AREA LOCATION MAP

### STRENGTHS/ OPPORTUNITIES:

- Brand new basketball court is in good condition, opportunity to add fencing along south corner of park to prevent balls from going into the street where there is an uncontrolled intersection
- The park is in a good location for the neighborhood with good access on all sides to residents, opportunity to improve street crossings and sidewalks
- The softball field and hockey rink are well used features for summer and winter recreation, but both could use minor improvements
- Opportunity to improve stormwater management with rain gardens or native vegetation areas

### ISSUES:

- Park building is in poor condition, lacks ADA accessibility, and is rarely open to the public/park users
- The ice rink lights are controlled on a timer in the building and not reliable to be on when needed
- Hockey boards are in poor condition – no money to replace
- Stormwater drainage issues exist throughout the park—on the playground and softball field there are several areas that pond
- A warming house is needed for skating




MERRITT COMMUNITY RECREATION AREA SITE INVENTORY

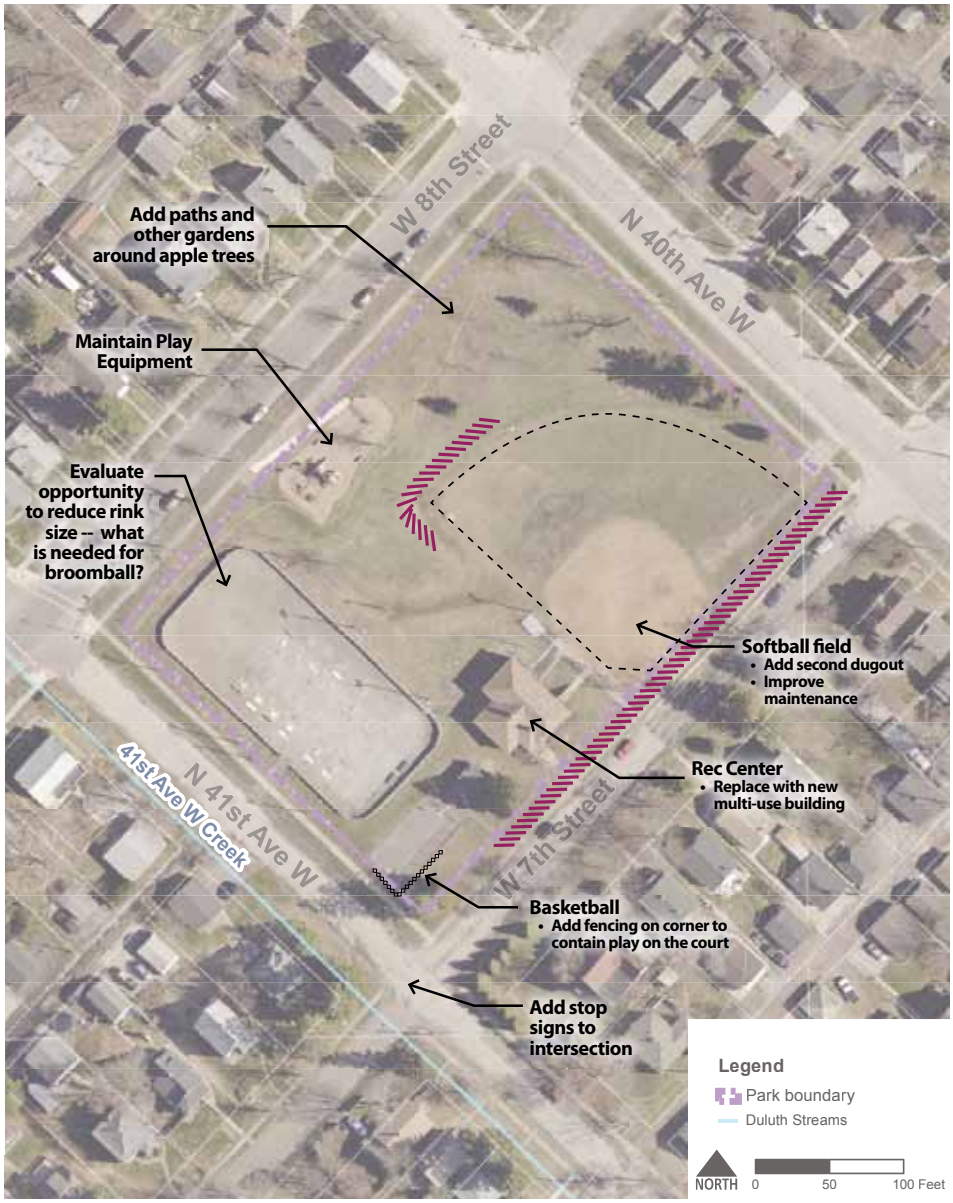
## Existing Conditions

The facilities in Merritt are generally in fair to good condition. A few recent updates have been made to the playground area and basketball court. Some features are on their last legs for usability and will need to be updated soon.

The basketball court is smaller than a typical regulation court, relatively new, and in good condition. The softball field is well used with an infield that could use some resurfacing. The softball field has one chain link dugout, bleachers, and lights. The hockey boards stay up all year and are in poor condition. Horseshoe pits are located in the hockey rink area, but they are scheduled for relocation to Wheeler Park. The playground has had recent ADA accessibility improvements, but the benches and some of the equipment are in poor condition.

The park building is in poor condition. It has not been updated in years, is not ADA accessible, and is not able to be easily updated.

Overall grading and drainage issues exist, especially on and around the softball




MERRITT COMMUNITY RECREATION ARE PARK SITE ANALYSIS

*The existing play equipment includes accessible elements*

*The community orchard is well cared for*

*Boards at the existing broomball rink are in fair condition*

*The ballfield lacks a second dugout*

field. The area in the center of the park, between the hockey rink, building, and softball field, is not well graded and is unusable space.

## Needs Assessment/Input Summary

At the stakeholder and community meetings, a desire was expressed for every park in the corridor to have basic amenities, including a bench, a picnic table, and a grill. The benches at Merritt are in poor condition, and picnic tables and grills would be welcomed amenities. Wayfinding and directional signage to each park, within each park, and to nearby trails are also desired as a way to promote the parks. A central kiosk sign with ability to post neighborhood information is also desired.

The public input process revealed the desire for a new community building or pavilion that would be open to park users during regular hours every day.

FIGURE 2.26 MERRITT COMMUNITY RECREATION AREA MINI-MASTER PLAN CONCEPT

Some form of community gathering space and identity feature is desired to bring the community together and encourage engagement in the park.

Overall, updates to the existing park features are necessary to continue the functionality of the park. The softball field needs resurfacing, drainage pipe in the outfield, and a second dugout. The hockey rink needs new boards and better managed lighting for dark winter nights. The hockey rink is voluntarily maintained by Northwoods Children's Services. A shade structure with benches and picnic tables is desired near the existing playground. The playground container and equipment needs to be updated to remove safety hazards.

Infrastructure and safety improvements on the adjacent sidewalks to the park should be completed with future street reconstruction as part of public works improvements. Crosswalks on adjacent streets and stop signs should be improved and added at surrounding intersections.

## Concept Plan & Recommendations

The concept plan for Merritt Community Recreation Area includes overall drainage improvements, minor recreational improvements, and park gathering spaces, including a pavilion and building replacement. and accessibility, and canoe/kayak launch improvements.

## Phasing & Cost Estimates

### PHASE 1: SHORT-TERM

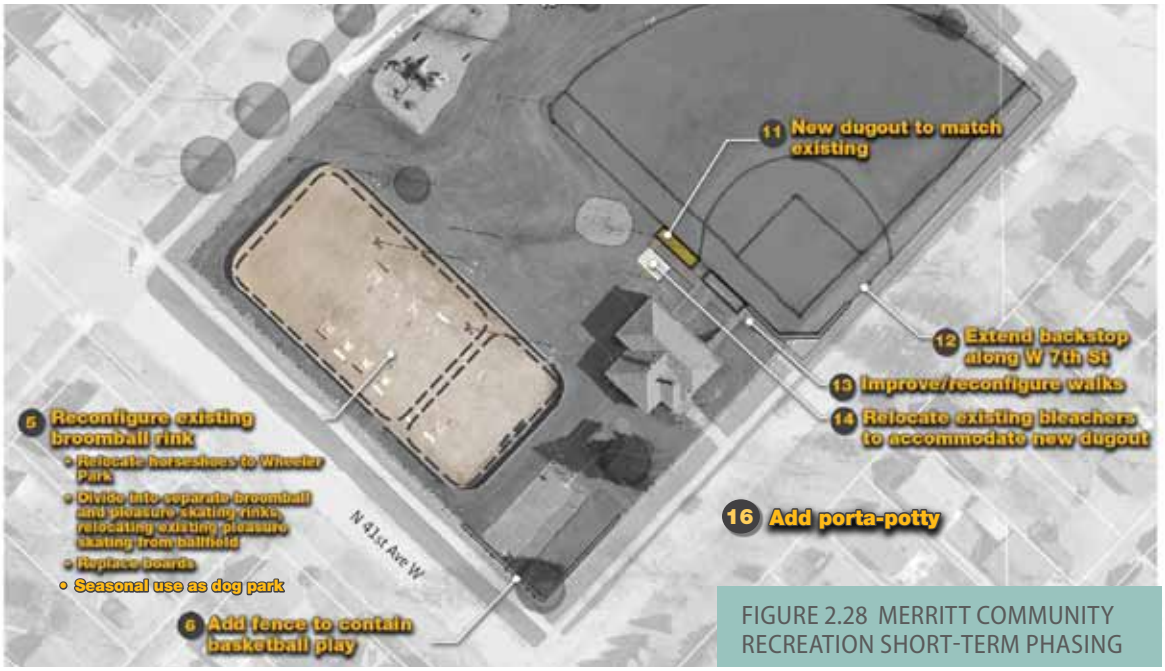



FIGURE 2.28 MERRITT COMMUNITY RECREATION SHORT-TERM PHASING

| ACTION | | | COST |
|---|---|---|---|
| # | CATEGORY | DESCRIPTION | |
| 5 | Demolition | Remove/Relocate Existing Horseshoes | $- |
| 5 | Recreation | Partition Existing Rink with Boards | $- |
| 6 | Infrastructure | Install New Chain Link Fence | $10,800 |
| 11 | Recreation | Build New Chain Link Fence Dugout | $3,500 |
| 12 | Recreation | Extend Existing Backstop | $6,000 |
| 13 | Circulation | Improve/reconfigure walkways | $9,100 |
| 16 | Furnishings | Add porta-potty | $2,500 |
| | | Total Short-Term Improvement Costs | $31,900 |



FIGURE 2.27 MERRITT COMMUNITY RECREATION AREA: SHORT-TERM

## PHASE 2: LONG-TERM

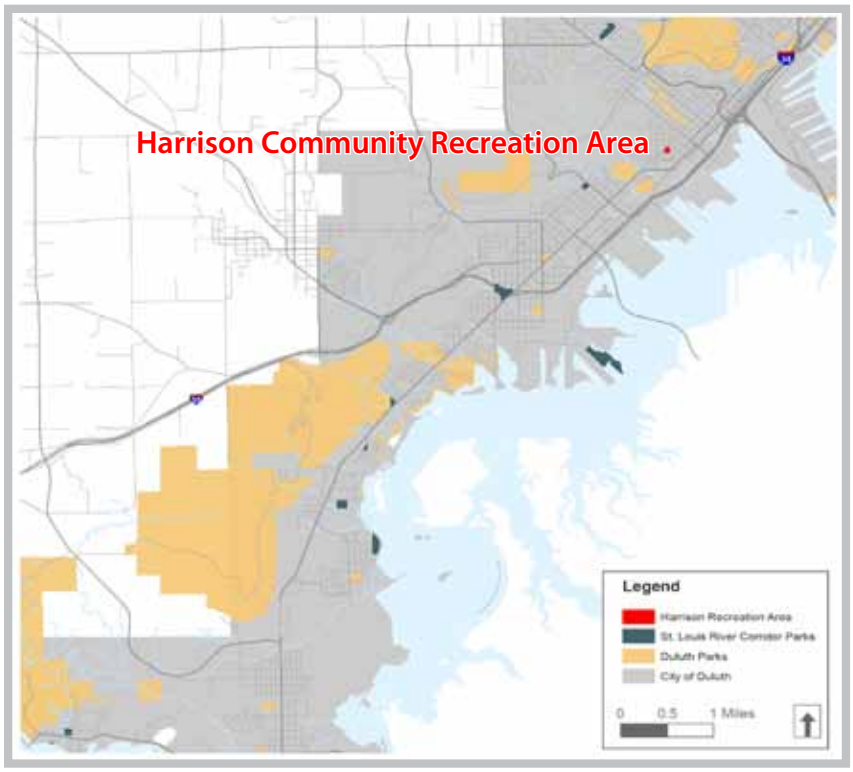
FIGURE 2.29 MERRITT COMMUNITY RECREATION LONG-TERM PHASING

| ACTION | | | COST |
|---|---|---|---|
| # | CATEGORY | DESCRIPTION | |
| 2 | Buildings | Build New Picnic Shelter | $30,000 |
| 3 | Furnishings | Improve Seating - New Benches | $3,600 |
| 4 | Circulation | New Sensor-Activated/Automatic Pedestrian Crossing | $10,000 |
| 7 | Circulation | New Four-Way Stop - Signs | $4,000 |
| 8 | Circulation | Add Children At Play Signs | $5,000 |
| 9 | Demolition | Relocate Existing Apple Tree | $750 |
| 10 | Recreation | Improve Field Drainage & Condition | $- |
| 10 | Stormwater | Install New Raingarden | $25,500 |
| 15 | Demolition | Remove Existing Building | $- |
| 15 | Buildings | Build New Community Building | $500,000 |
| | | Total Long-Term Improvement Costs | $578,850 |
| | | Total Short-Term Improvement Costs | $31,900 |
| | | Total Improvement Costs | $610,750 |

# HARRISON COMMUNITY RECREATION AREA

## Summary and Overview

Harrison Community Recreation Area is a two acre park in the Lincoln Park Neighborhood. It is located on W 3rd Street, adjacent to single-family homes and small businesses. The park is busy and active with a playground, community center building, basketball court, tennis courts, softball field, and Miracle Field. A farmers market takes place once a week in the park during the summer months. The park building is heavily programmed. The "front" area of the park along 3rd Street is well-used, while the "back" area of the park (tennis courts and softball field) is underutilized.



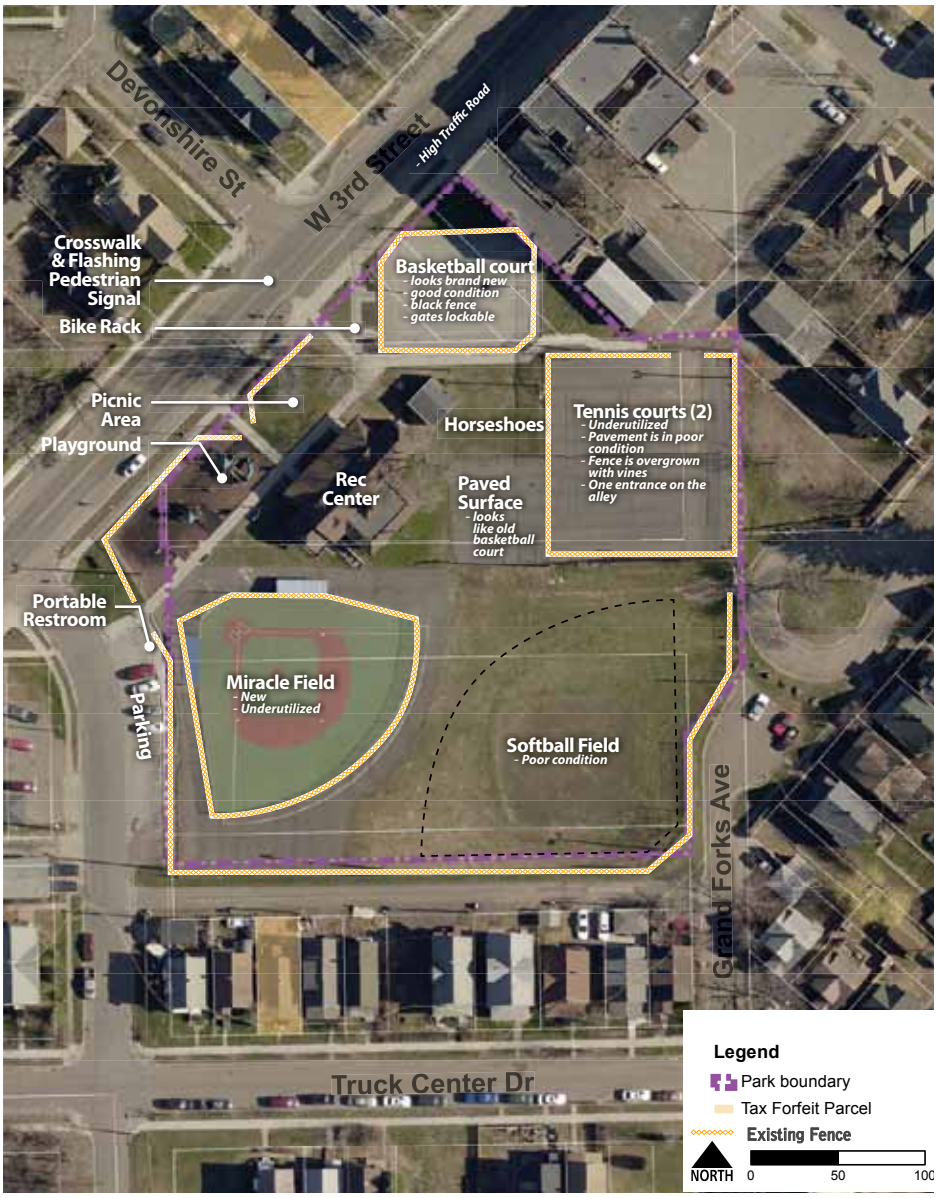

HARRISON COMMUNITY RECREATION AREA LOCATION MAP

### STRENGTHS/OPPORTUNITIES:

- New basketball court is in good condition
- The Miracle Field is in good condition and has the opportunity for more scheduled programming
- Recreation building is well used, opportunity to improve outdoor space for picnics/ gatherings
- Large, flat grassy area where softball field is located is rarity in west Duluth, opportunity to better utilize this space for open play
- Lighting exists on tennis courts and softball field
- Farmers market is opportunity to expand food program with community garden plots, demonstration gardens, or greenhouse
- Stone walls, ornamental fencing, and park building provide welcoming feel to the park

### ISSUES:

- Softball field is underutilized and in poor condition
- Fencing creates barriers to circulation
- Tennis courts are in poor condition and underutilized
- Recreation building has water issues in the basement
- Playground surface is unsafe
- Lack of parking during events and large gatherings
- Lack of clear circulation/ connectivity through the park
- Some invasive species (Japanese knotweed) and weedy areas exist along fencing




HARRISON COMMUNITY RECREATION AREA SITE INVENTORY

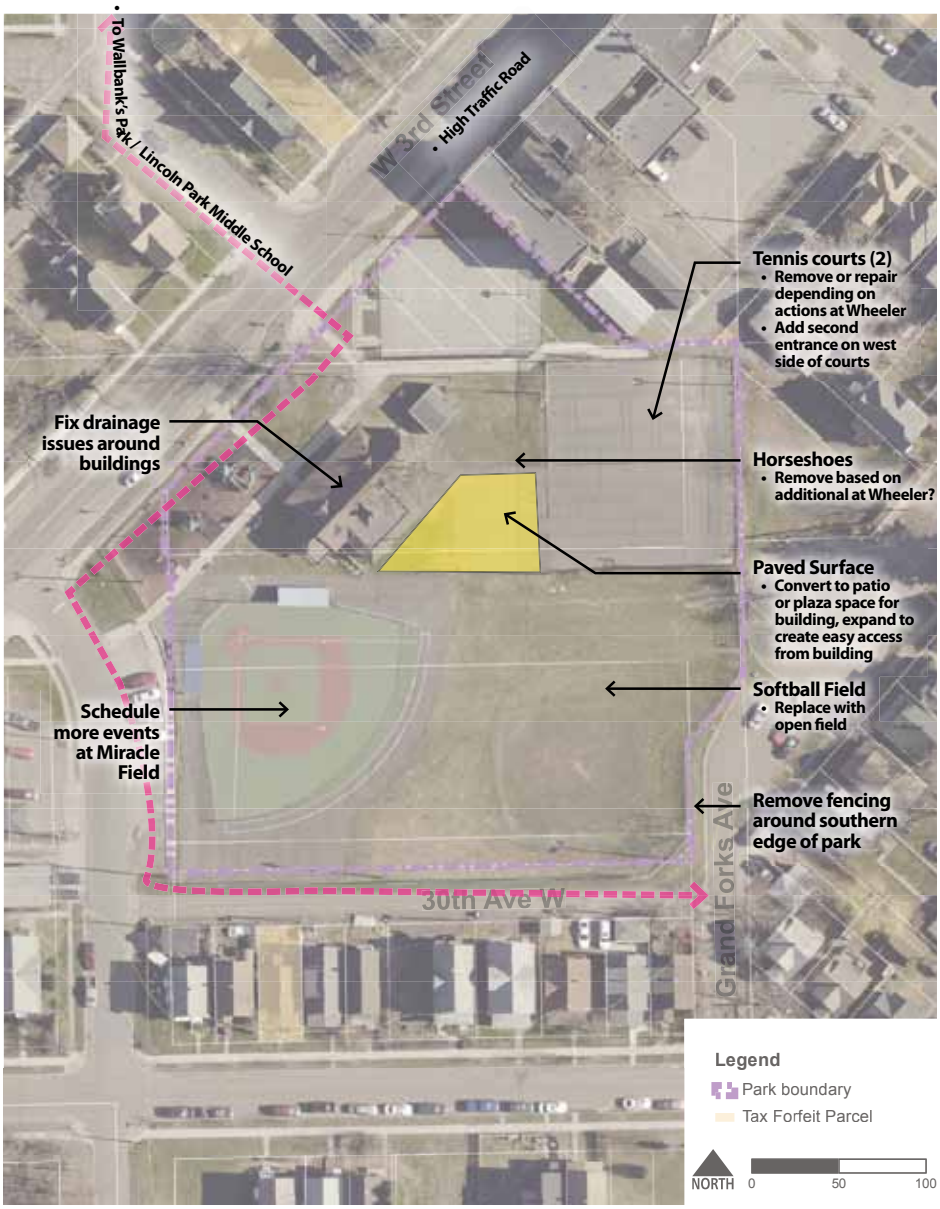
## Existing Conditions

The northwestern half of Harrison Recreation Area is generally in good condition: the playground, park building, basketball court, and Miracle Field are all well used and maintained. The southeastern half of the park is underutilized and has not been updated in years: the softball field, tennis courts, and former basketball court pavement are in fair condition, but could use major improvements if further use is to continue.

The park has lots of fencing, which makes it feel isolated and enclosed. The fencing along with dead-end streets and alleys on the south and east sides of the park make it a barrier to connectivity in the neighborhood.

## Needs Assessment/Input Summary

At the stakeholder and community meetings, a desire was expressed for every




HARRISON COMMUNITY RECREATION ARE PARK SITE ANALYSIS

park in the corridor to have basic amenities, including a bench, a picnic table, and a grill. Harrison does have the need for additional benches, picnic tables, and grills, especially in coordination with an outdoor patio and gathering space adjacent to the recreation building. Wayfinding and directional signage to each park, within each park, and to nearby trails are also desired as a way to promote the parks. Trail connections and better connectivity to schools around Harrison are desired. Although an enhanced crossing exists across 3rd Street, some residents still find it dangerous to cross the street there.

Public input focused on the need to better utilize the spaces in the park, especially the tennis courts and softball field. There is a desire for an improved playground, more open play space for free, active recreation, as well as more park amenities. Lighting is desired throughout the park.

Community gathering space and garden plots are desired to increase access to fresh food in the neighborhood. Paved areas should be removed and more greenery added throughout the park.

*The basketball court is in new condition*

*The community center is highly utilized*

*The open space north of the community center is utlized for a farmer's market*

*The miracle field is highly utilized*

FIGURE 2.30 HARRISON COMMUNITY RECREATION AREA MINI-MASTER PLAN CONCEPT

## Concept Plan & Recommendations

The concept plan for Harrison includes the removal of the tennis courts and softball field for the addition of community gardens, a picnic area, a new trail connection, and space for a potential greenhouse to be managed by a partnership organization. The removal of fencing and addition of shade trees should improve the overall appearance and feel of the entire park. Additional minor improvements are noted throughout the park.

## Phasing & Cost Estimates

### PHASE 1: SHORT-TERM

FIGURE 2.31 HARRISON COMMUNITY RECREATION AREA SHORT-TERM PHASING

| ACTION | | | COST |
|---|---|---|---|
| # | CATEGORY | DESCRIPTION | |
| 5 | Demolition | Remove/Relocate Existing Horseshoes | $- |
| 6 | Vegetation | Plant New Ornamental/Fruit Tree | $2,800 |
| 8 | Vegetation | Community Garden Plots | $15,000 |
| 11 | Vegetation | Add demonstration garden | $15,000 |
| 13 | Circulation | Install New Park Wayfinding Sign | $2,000 |
| 15 | Vegetation | Plant New Shade Tree | $9,600 |
| 16 | Demolition | Remove Existing Miscellaneous Fence Components | $2,500 |
| 17 | Circulation | Stripe On-Street Bike Path | $1,800 |
| 19 | Furnishings | New Picnic Tables | $10,000 |
| | | Total Short-Term Improvement Costs | $58,700 |

## PHASE 2: LONG-TERM

FIGURE 2.32 HARRISON COMMUNITY RECREATION AREA LONG-TERM PHASING

| ACTION | | | COST |
|---|---|---|---|
| # | CATEGORY | DESCRIPTION | |
| 1 | Circulation | Add Pedestrian Crossing Amenity | $10,000 |
| 2 | Stormwater | Improve Building Drainage | $- |
| 2 | Circulation | Improve ADA Access to Building | $- |
| 3 | Recreation | Replace Play Surface with Poured-In-Place Rubber Surface | $63,000 |
| 4 | Circulation | New Sidewalk - 4' Concret | $29,500 |
| 4 | Circulation | Build New Ped Ramp/Curb | $9,000 |
| 5 | Recreation | Create Natural Play Area | $50,000 |
| 6 | Vegetation | Plant New Ornamental/Fruit Tree | $2,800 |
| 7 | Building | Space for new Greenhouse | $- |
| 9 | Circulation | New Walkways - 10' Concrete Connection from Patio | $3,375 |
| 10 | Lighting | New Pedestrian Lights | $16,000 |
| 12 | Vegetation | New Pollinator Gardens | $5,850 |
| 14 | Circulation | New Paved Trail Connection - 6' Concrete | $26,400 |
| 18 | Demolition | Remove Existing Tennis Courts, Fence, and Pavement | $- |
| 20 | Circulation | New Patio | $49,500 |
| 21 | Vegetation | Open Lawn | $72,000 |
| | | Total Long-Term Improvement Costs | $337,425 |
| | | Total Short-Term Improvement Costs | $58,700 |
| | | Total Improvement Costs | $396,125 |

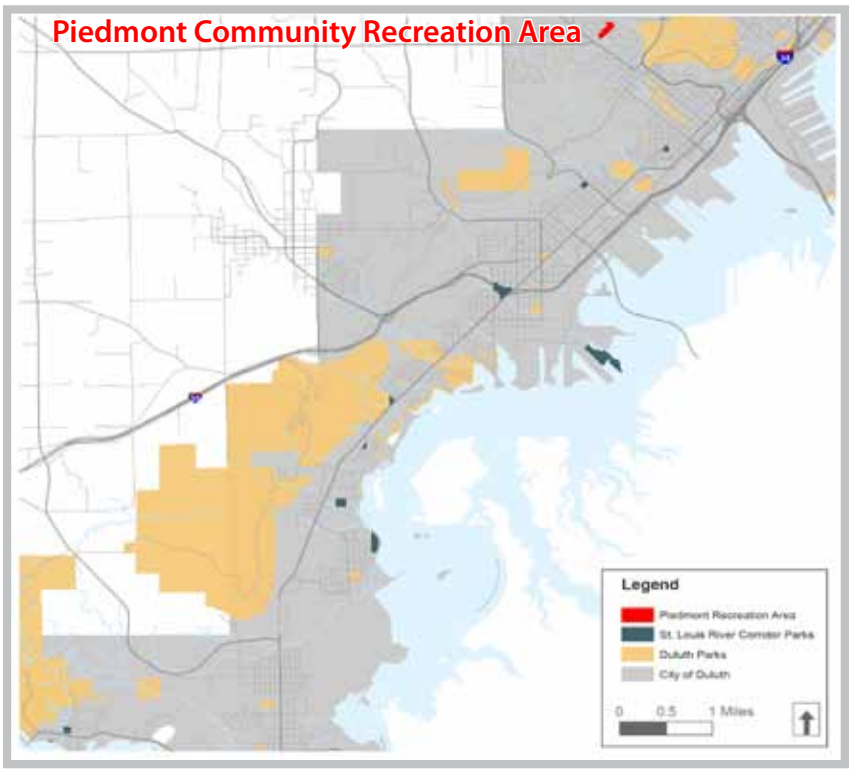
# PIEDMONT COMMUNITY RECREATION AREA

## Summary and Overview

Piedmont Community Recreation Area is a 12-acre park in the Piedmont Heights Neighborhood. The park is relatively hidden in the neighborhood as it is surrounded by single-family homes with street access on W 23rd Street and from an alley between N 22nd and 23rd Avenues. It is a heavily used hockey park with two hockey rinks and a community building that serves as a warming house. A softball field and play area also exist in the park. Significant topography exists which create multiple levels throughout the park. Wooded areas and rock outcroppings on the north side of the park create a buffer between the softball field and residential backyards.

## Existing Conditions

Access points to the park are limited: the main entrance is on W 23rd St., which dead ends at the park entrance. The other entrances are a foot path through the woods on the north side of the park and at the ends of N 22nd and 23rd Avenues. A small parking lot is located at the southwestern entrance to the park.




PIEDMONT COMMUNITY RECREATION AREA LOCATION MAP

Recreation features in the park include a community building, two hockey rinks, a pleasure skating area, a playground, and a softball field. The lower hockey rink is a brand new, high quality rink and in excellent condition. The upper rink is in fair condition with boards that need replacing. The playground is in good condition, and the softball field is in poor condition with drainage issues, weedy infield, and leaning fencing.

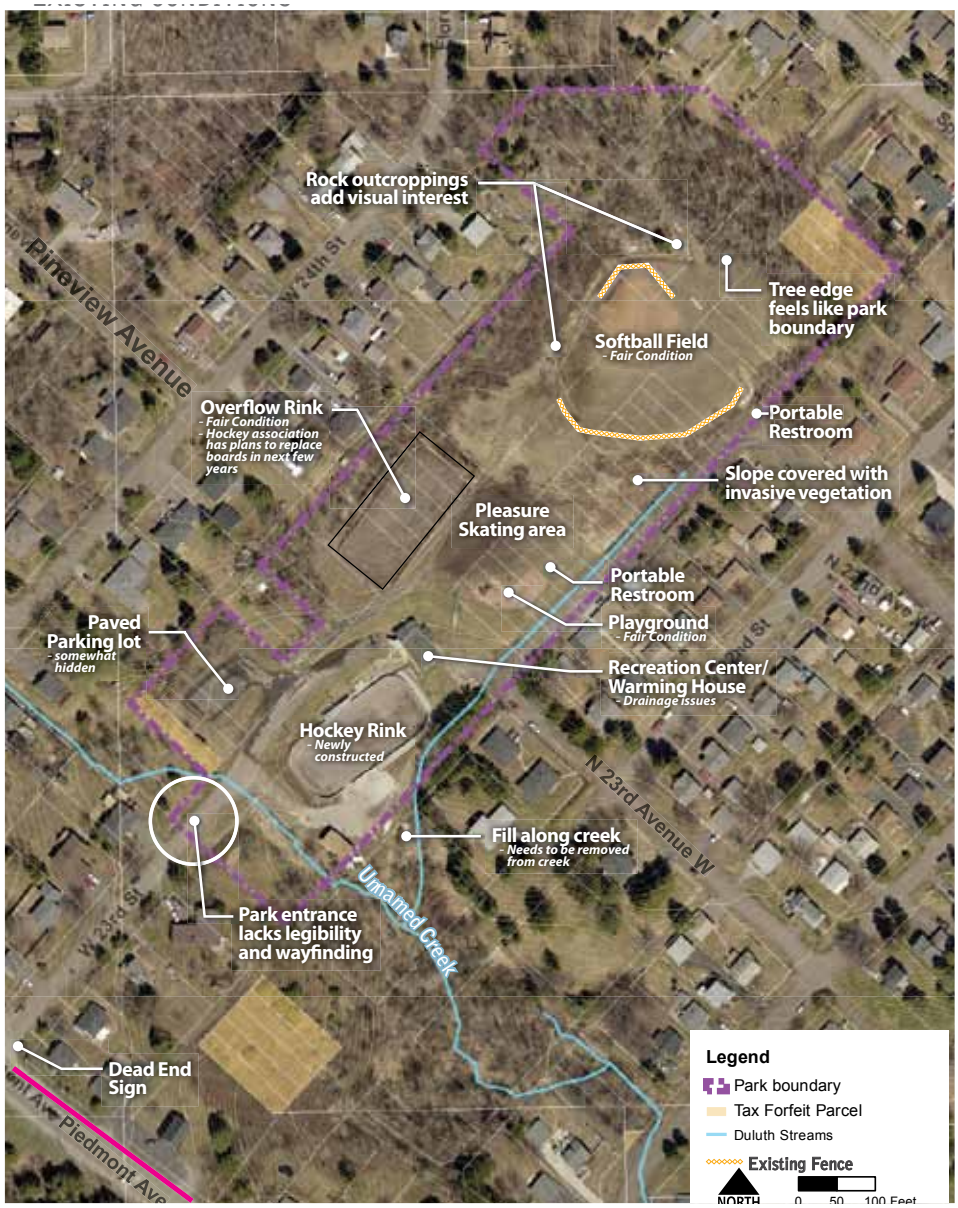
The Piedmont Hockey Association is very involved in the development and maintenance of the park facilities. Volunteers with the association have made updates to the park building and recently built the brand new lower rink.

**STRENGTHS/ OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Brand new hockey rink on lower level of park with bleachers, lights
- Piedmont Hockey Association families are very involved in maintaining and improving the park
- Active softball association
- Rock outcroppings and forested area create a pleasant, natural setting

**ISSUES:**

- Major stormwater drainage issues exist throughout the park—during rain events, water creates deep channels, which undercuts and damages paved driveways and surfaces
- Lack of parking for events, cars park on the alley between N 22nd and 23rd Avenues
- Invasive tansy covers the upper slope between the softball field and pleasure skate/playground area
- Softball field fencing is leaning
- Softball field has poor drainage
- Lack of recreation opportunities beyond hockey and softball
- Lack of ADA accessibility throughout the park
- Playground lacks sight lines from softball and hockey areas
- Circulation and access for vehicles and pedestrians within the park need improvement



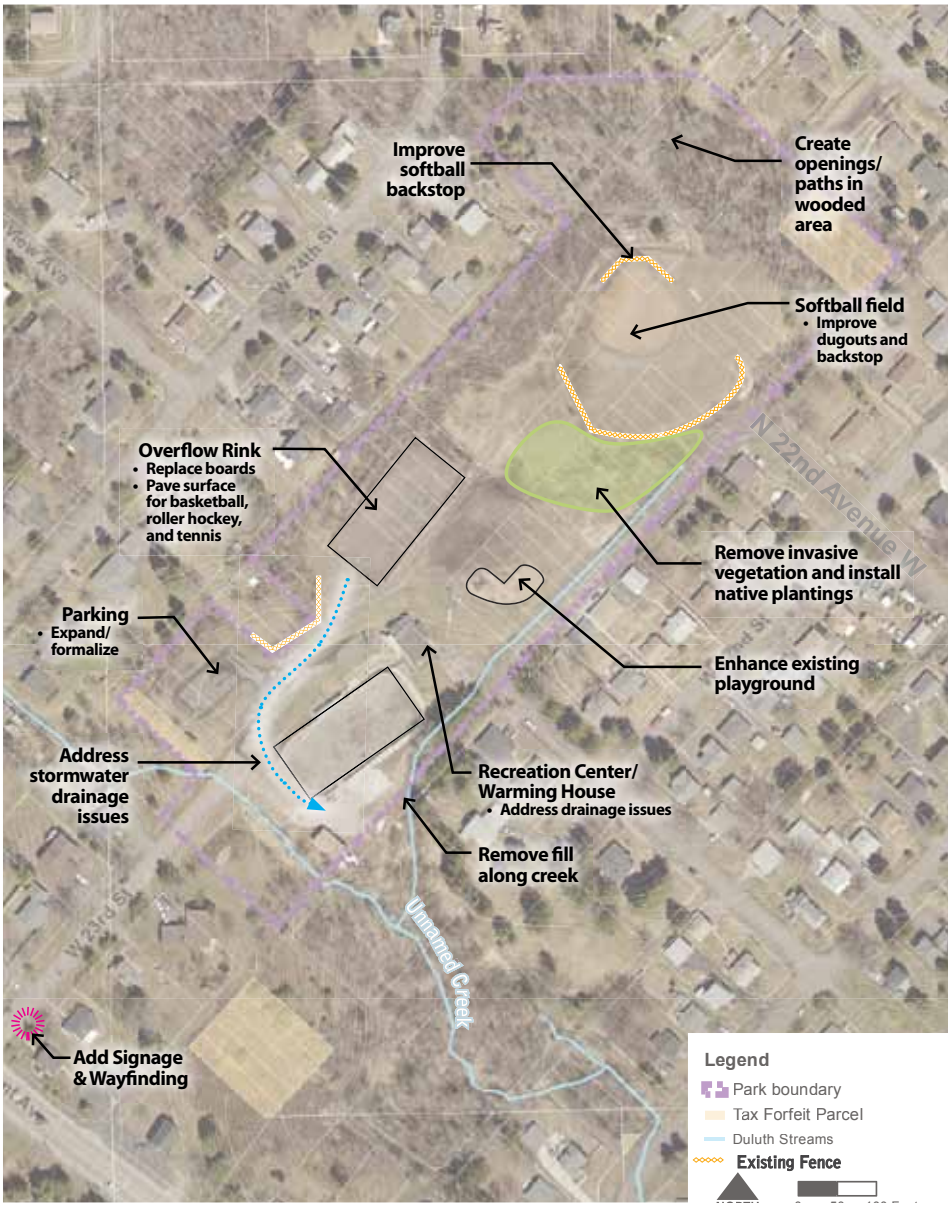

PIEDMONT COMMUNITY RECREATION AREA SITE INVENTORY

## Needs Assessment/Input Summary

At the stakeholder and community meetings, a desire was expressed for every park in the corridor to have basic amenities, including a bench, a picnic table, and a grill. Public input did not reveal the desire for these specific amenities in Piedmont. Wayfinding and directional signage to each park, within each park, and to nearby trails are also desired as a way to promote the parks.

There was a desire expressed to make the two hockey rinks usable in the summer season—potentially use the lower rink for a small dog park and pave the upper rink for basketball or other court sports.

Overall updates needed to the softball field include: improved fencing, new dugouts with paved surface, improved infield that can be used for slow pitch and fast pitch softball leagues, and improved drainage. Electricity service at the field is desired for pitching machines. Parking is needed near the softball field for games.




PIEDMONT COMMUNITY RECREATION ARE PARK SITE ANALYSIS

*The lower rink is in new condition*

*Erosion in the park is a major concern and poses a threat to public safety and water quality*

*Poor stormwater management results in saturated conditions and unusable space*

*The softball field currently lacks dugouts*

Circulation and access to the park from the neighborhood and between the upper and lower levels of the park need to be improved. The soft surface trail that runs along the upper rink to the softball field could be graded better and the surface improved. The park entrance at W 23rd St. lacks legibility and wayfinding—this area should be organized to provide clear direction to parking and walking paths. The pleasure rink space needs to be graded to improve circulation in the summer months.

The Piedmont Hockey Association has identified several desired improvements in the park: expanded parking, improved drainage, sound/technology and comfort upgrades, improved accessibility from lower to upper rink, expand park options beyond hockey and baseball. They would also like to see increased funding from the City of Duluth and a full time on-site manager. The association has plans to complete the following improvements: connect lower and upper level of building with an inside staircase, install rubber floor mats upstairs, connect sound system to penalty box, expand parking between garage and neighboring property, expand parking outside upper warming house back entrance, new

rink and boards at upper rink, new energy efficient lighting system for both rinks, replace concrete at both entrances to building, install sound system at upper rink, pave the upper rink for court sports, install roof over lower rink, update lighting system in lower level warming house.

## Concept Plan & Recommendations

The concept plan for Piedmont prioritizes stormwater management and infrastructure improvements. Without these fixes, the park will not be able to function for recreation. Other circulation and recreational improvements are identified throughout the park.

A second community engagement process was conducted to discuss the balance of needed stormwater infrastructure improvements with the desire for near-term facility upgrades. At this meeting, members from the two largest park users (softball and hockey) communicated the strong desire for the enhancement of the following features prior to the start of their respective next seasons. These key aspects from the community include:

» Enhanced accessibility, parking, and signage

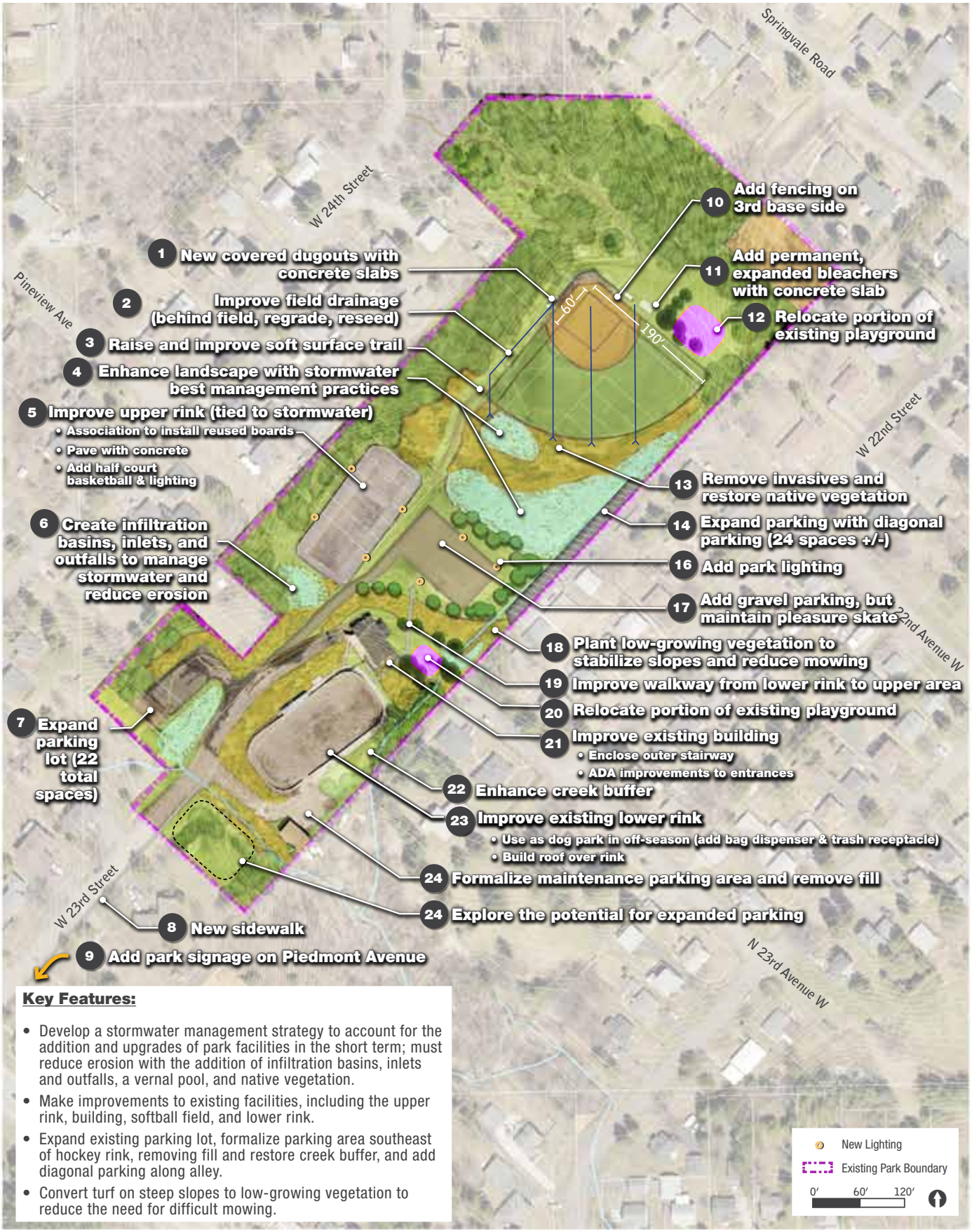
» Development of the sport court on the upper rink (concrete paving, reusing the boards)

» Improvements to the softball field (including addressing drainage)

Each of these key features comes with significant investment in stormwater infrastructure and require a permitting and review process of construction documents prior to commencement of any built work. To expedite the timing, the Piedmont community is planning to move forward in developing a more detailed storm water treatment strategy/ plan for the anticipated work. As of today there is no city funding allocated for the stormwater treatment improvements needed and grants were brought up as a potential source of funding, including County Soil and Water Conservation District and Coastal Grants.

The Piedmont community group has indicated they intend to move forward by working directly with an outside engineering firm to develop a schematic plan to align necessary structural improvements (sport court paving, parking improvements, field enhancements) with stormwater runoff needs, then submit a project proposal to the City of Duluth Facilities Department for review and approval. The timing of the construction of these improvements will be determined by the combination of available funding and approved design and permitting.

*The upper rink requires improvements*




**Key Features:**

- Develop a stormwater management strategy to account for the addition and upgrades of park facilities in the short term; must reduce erosion with the addition of infiltration basins, inlets and outfalls, a vernal pool, and native vegetation.
- Make improvements to existing facilities, including the upper rink, building, softball field, and lower rink.
- Expand existing parking lot, formalize parking area southeast of hockey rink, removing fill and restore creek buffer, and add diagonal parking along alley.
- Convert turf on steep slopes to low-growing vegetation to reduce the need for difficult mowing.

FIGURE 2.33 PIEDMONT COMMUNITY RECREATION AREA MINI-MASTER PLAN CONCEPT

# Phasing & Cost Estimates

## PHASE 1A: SHORT-TERM (WITHOUT STORMWATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES)

FIGURE 2.34 PIEDMONT COMMUNITY RECREATION AREA SHORT-TERM IMPROVEMENTS (NO SW)

| ACTION | | | COST |
|---|---|---|---|
| # | CATEGORY | DESCRIPTION | |
| 1 | Recreation | New Covered Dugouts - Provide Concrete Slab | $2,304 |
| 8 | Circulation | New Sidewalk - 4' Concrete | $24,000 |
| 9 | Circulation | Add Park Signage on Piedmont Avenue | $1,000 |
| 11 | Recreation | Add Permanent, Expanded Bleachers | $10,000 |
| 13 | Vegetation | Remove Invasives and Restore Native Vegetation | $900 |
| 18 | Vegetation | Plant Low-Growing Vegetation to Stabilize Slopes and Reduce Mowing | $6,800 |
| 19 | Circulation | Improve Walkway from Lower Rink to Upper Area - 4' Concrete | $4,000 |
| 21 | Buildings | Improve Existing Building - ADA Improvements to Entrances | $- |
| 21 | Buildings | Improve Existing Building - Enclose Outer Stairway | $- |
| 23 | Furnishings | Improve Existing Lower Rink - Add Bag Dispenser | $750 |
| 23 | Furnishings | Improve Existing Lower Rink - Add Trash Receptacle | $1,000 |
| 24 | Circulation | Formalize Maintenance Parking Area | $7,500 |
| | | Total Short-Term Costs (without Stormwater) | $58,254 + Building Improvement Costs |

## PHASE 1B: SHORT-TERM (WITH STORMWATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES)

FIGURE 2.35 PIEDMONT COMMUNITY RECREATION AREA SHORT-TERM IMPROVEMENTS (WITH SW)

| ACTION | | | COST |
|---|---|---|---|
| # | CATEGORY | DESCRIPTION | |
| 2 | Recreation | Improve field drainage (behind field, regrade, reseed) | $100,000 |
| 4 | Stormwater | Create Vernal Pool and Enhance Wetland Vegetation | $25,000 |
| 5 | Recreation | Improve Upper Rink - Pave with Concrete + Install Reused Boards + Install Half-court Basketball and lighting (tied to #6) | $92,000 |
| 6 | Stormwater | Create Infiltration Basins, Inlets and Outfalls to Manage Stormwater and Reduce Erosion | $100,000 |
| 10 | Recreation | Add 3rd Base Fencing | $5,000 |
| 12 & 20 | Recreation | Relocate portions of existing playground (edging, footings, play surface) | $15,000 |
| 14 | Circulation | Expand Parking with Diagonal Parking (gravel, stormwater, signage) | $34,000 |
| 16 | Lighting | Add Park Lighting | $12,000 |
| 17 | Circulation | Add gravel parking (mid-terrace) | $21,000 |
| 24 | Circulation | Explore potential for expanded parking | - |
| | | Total Short-Term Costs (with Stormwater) | $404,000 |
| | | Total Short-Term Costs | $462,254 (+ building improvement costs) |

## PHASE 2: LONG-TERM

FIGURE 2.36 PIEDMONT COMMUNITY RECREATION AREA LONG-TERM IMPROVEMENTS

| ACTION | | | COST |
|---|---|---|---|
| # | CATEGORY | DESCRIPTION | |
| 3 | Circulation | Raise and Improve Soft Surface Trail - 8' | $2,000 |
| 7 | Circulation | Expand Parking Lot + stormwater | $21,000 |
| 22 | Natural Resources | Improve Creek Buffer | $10,000 |
| 23 | Recreation | Build New Roof Over Existing Rink | $50,000 |
| | | Total Long-Term Costs | $83,000 |
| | | Total Short-Term Costs | $462,254 (+ building improvement costs) |
| | | Total Costs | $545,254 (+ building improvement costs) |

# 03. IMPLEMENTATION

## Overview

The St. Louis River Corridor parks will be improved according to the mini-master plans in this document. Priorities will be given to improvements that have been identified as short term before any long term improvements.

Short term improvements include those identified to be completed within a 1-2 year time frame in line with grant applications from park and neighborhood organizations.

Long term improvement are those actions identified to be completed within a 3-10 year time frame in line with potential future funding availability.

All cost estimates are planning level estimates to be used for general budgeting purposes. Detailed cost estimates should be developed as projects are ready to be constructed.

## St. Louis River Corridor Initiative

The Neighborhood Parks grant fund is one of many strategic initiatives that are part of the larger St. Louis River Corridor action plan. The City of Duluth plans to direct approximately $18 million from the 1/2 and 1/2 tourism tax to St. Louis River Corridor projects. A portion of this money, approximately $ 2.7 million will be used for Grand Avenue and Neighborhood Parks projects. The money for the projects identified in this document will be distributed as matching dollars for approved projects. A maximum amount of $50,000 will be allocated to each park.

### EXAMPLE LIST OF MATCHING DONATIONS

| DONATION | MATCHING $ |
|---|---|
| Donated equipment and furnishings in park | Cost of equipment |
| Trees/Shrubs | $150/tree; $40/shrub |
| Materials for picnic shelter, tables, benches | Cost of materials |

## Partnerships & Funding

St. Louis Corridor Neighborhood Parks grant funding will be given to parks on a first come, first served basis. The City of Duluth encourages residents and neighbors of the St. Louis River Corridor parks to seek out partnerships with area businesses, recreational organizations, and neighborhood groups in order to provide matching donations and labor for the Neighborhood Park Grant Funding.

## Volunteer Opportunities

In all parks, there are opportunities for neighborhood members and interested volunteers to provide labor and services that can be used as matching for the St. Louis River Corridor Neighborhood Grant Fund. A list of potential volunteer improvements is below:

| VOLUNTEER TASK | MATCHING $ |
|---|---|
| Remove invasive species through hand-pulling, cutting, and spraying | $20/person/hr |
| Plant new trees/shrubs | |
| Install new equipment and furnishings | |
| Tree trimming | |
| Build / Repair / Paint park pavilion structure, benches, picnic tables | Cost of materials and labor |