



Legislation Text

Motion 2025-106

File #: 25-457, Version: 1

City Council Meeting Date: August 19, 2025

To: Mayor and City Council
City Administrator

From: Andrew Tussing, Streets & Parks Manager

Consider Motion approving the Riverside Park Playground Improvement Plan.

Action Requested:

Consider Motion approving the Riverside Park Playground Improvement Plan.

Summary Report:

The City has been working with Bruce Jacobson (Landscape Architect) and Bolten & Menk, Inc. to replace the playground off Seventh Street in Riverside Park. The playground replacement has been discussed multiple times at the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board; staff also held neighborhood meetings with users, and nature-based playground was the decision for replacement. The nature-based design better complements the existing green space within that area of Riverside Park. Staff has been working with Age Friendly Northfield to get input on making sure this park is not only ADA accessible, but accessible for all ages.

Bruce Jacobson will present the final play feature and final plan. Once approved by Council, staff will move forward on constructing a bid package to send out and request bids to complete this project.

The specific plans for approval at tonight's meeting (attachment 1) and the overall presentation (attachment 2) are attached. The construction document plan for approval tonight is consistent with the Riverside Lions Master Plan (attachment 3).

Alternative Options:

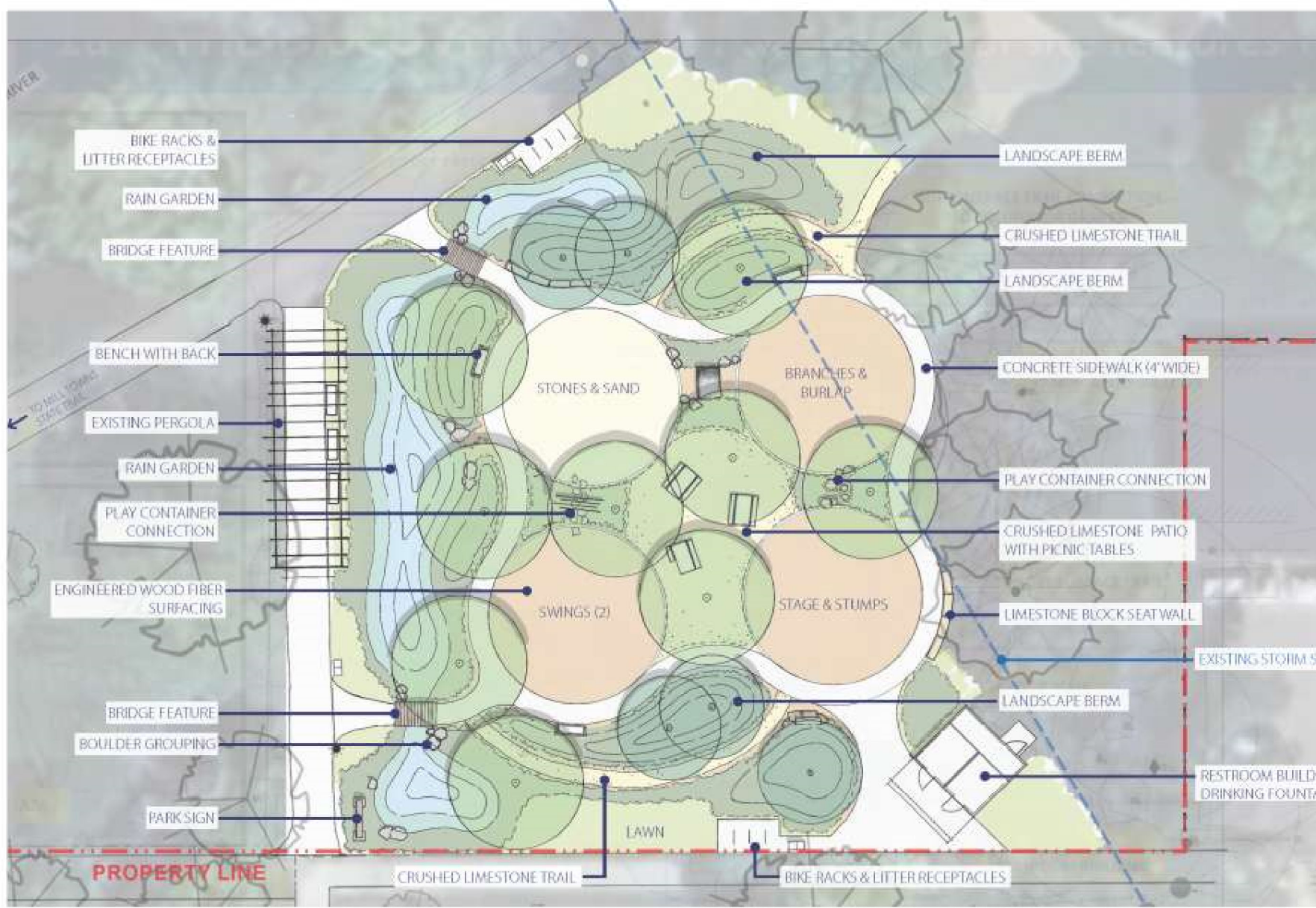
NA

Financial Impacts:

Riverside Lions Park replacement \$405,000 out of the Park Fund, which was approved as part of the CIP adoption.

Tentative Timelines:

- No further action by City Council after plan adoption.
- After approval, detailed construction documents and bidding will proceed forward in 2025-2026.
- Project to start Spring 2026



BRANCHES + BU

STAGE + STUMPS



1a – THE DISCOVERY ZONE
REQUEST APPROVAL OF THIS REFINED CONCEPT DESIGN

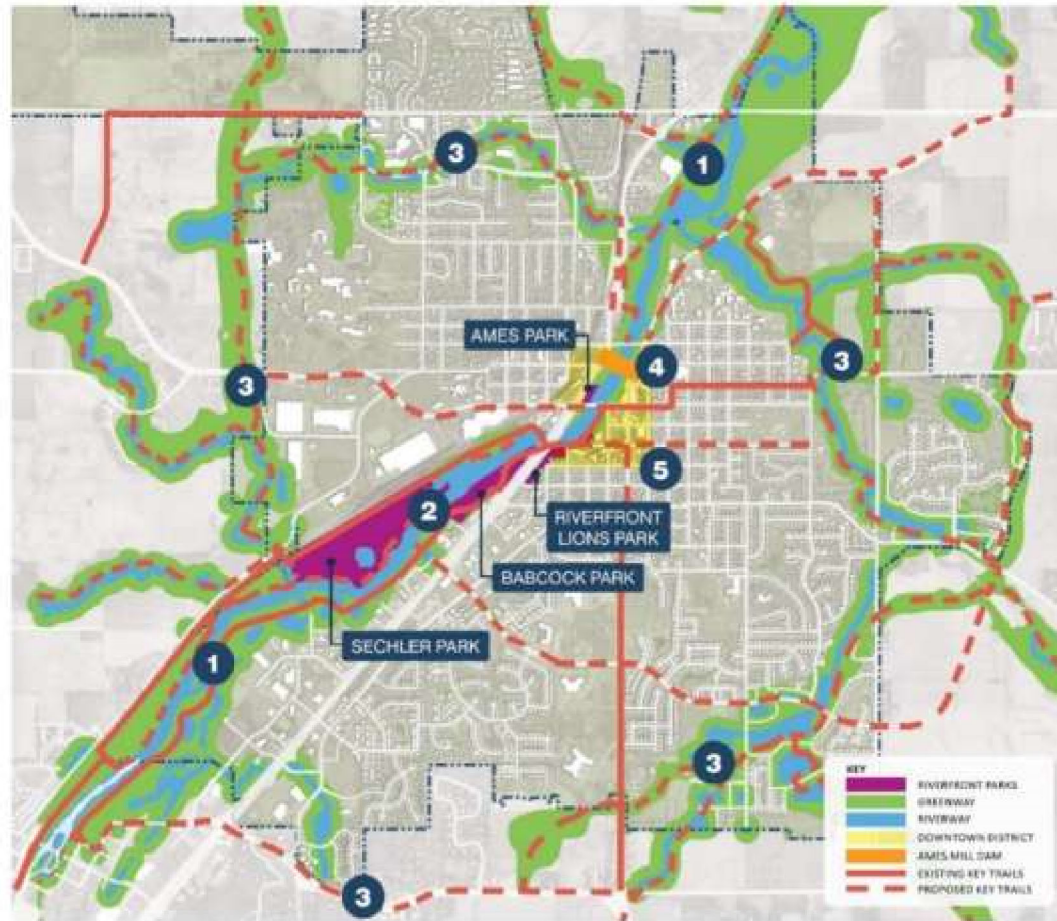


NORTHFIELD RIVERSIDE LIONS PARK – THE DISCOVERY ZONE

MAYOR and CITY COUNCIL MEETING . . . August 19th 2025



NORTHFIELD'S CANNON RIVER REGIONAL PARK EXPERIENCE



ESTABLISH

ESTABLISH NORTHFIELD'S CANNON RIVER REGIONAL PARK

Northfield is on the cusp of making a transformative opportunity to build on the rich natural resources and park resources on the town for a world-class Regional Park. This will build an environmental, economic, and community for the future for a local and regional park system. Key project areas include the Ames Mill Dam and Sechler Park, and the Cannon River Regional Park. Northfield will continue to apply for State Designation as a Regional Park in future years.

Immediate Action:

- Apply for State Designation as a Regional Park in future years.

ENHANCE

ENHANCE + ACTIVATE YOUR RIVERFRONT PARKS

Key to a successful park system is activating, enhancing, and connecting the parks. The five sites within Northfield have very distinct settings, based on topography, history, and existing park uses. With a common goal of the Cannon River Regional Park, Northfield will continue to work with the community to activate, enhance, and connect the parks. Northfield will continue to work with the community to activate, enhance, and connect the parks.

Immediate Action:

- Develop all elements of Ames Park as a first priority.
- Start planning for multi-use facility at Babcock Park.
- Review utilization of water and碧green from Babcock Park.
- Develop canoe/kayak rental area.

COMPLETE

COMPLETE YOUR LOCAL + REGIONAL TRAIL SYSTEM

All projects in the district are critical to the success of the Cannon River Regional Park. It is important that the quality of trails in the Cannon River valley be improved. The trail system will be improved, connecting, and enhancing the trail system. The trail system will be improved, connecting, and enhancing the trail system.

Immediate Action:

- Develop a comprehensive trail system.
- Connect Ames Park to Sechler Park.
- Complete the Ames Mill Dam Trail.
- Add bike lanes to downtown boulevard.
- Make temporary trail on City land along west side of the river.

EXPLORE

EXPLORE AMES MILL DAM RECONSTRUCTION OPTIONS

There is a historic building around the possibility that the Ames Mill Dam might also be an important site in restoring the health, aesthetics, and safety of the Cannon River. The dam is a historic and important part of the town's history. The dam is a historic and important part of the town's history.

Immediate Action:

- Conduct the dam study recommended by the staff.
- Review other options for the future of the dam.
- Apply for grant funding design + construction.

PROMOTE

PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT + TOURIST DESTINATION

Northfield is a beautiful and thriving community, providing visitors with a unique experience. The town is on the cusp of making a transformative opportunity to build on the rich natural resources and park resources on the town for a world-class Regional Park. This will build an environmental, economic, and community for the future for a local and regional park system.

Immediate Action:

- Explore opportunities to improve use of downtown buildings.
- Work with local businesses on pilot projects.
- Apply for grant funding.

IT BEGAN WITH THE RIVERFRONT ENHANCEMENT ACTION PLAN

Adopted by Mayor and City Council in November 2020

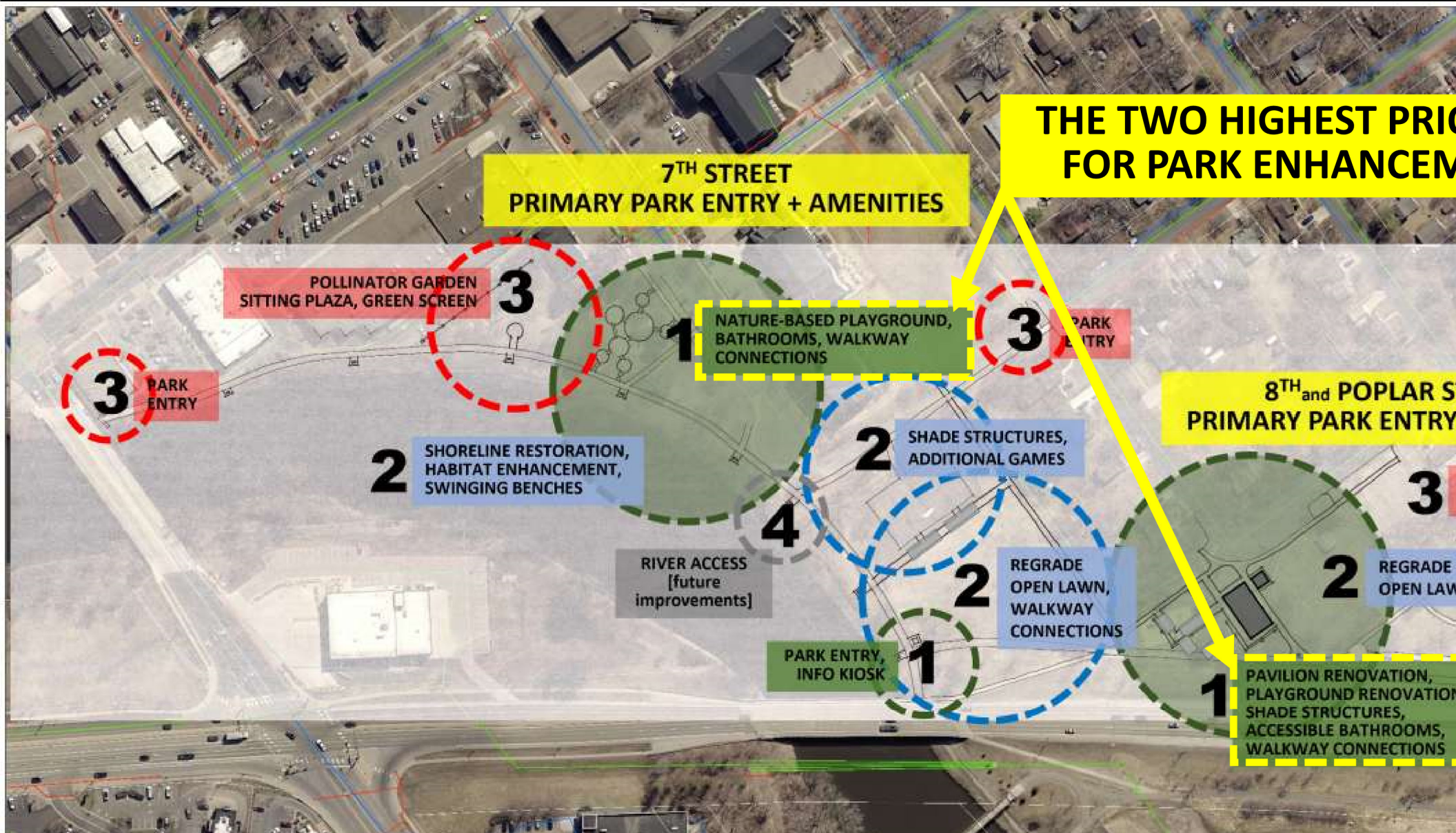


1. February 27th 2023 Kick-Off Meeting with Northfield
2. June 14th 2023 Meeting with Village on the Cannon R
3. May 1st 2023 Meeting with DJJD Work Group + Carniv
4. May 31st 2023 Meeting with Northfield Area Veteran
5. September 20th 2023 Park Work Group Workshop #1
6. October 11th 2023 Meeting with Northfield Garden C
7. November 2nd 2023 Park Work Group Workshop #2
8. November 29th 2023 Park Work Group Workshop #3
9. January 17th Park Work Group Workshop #4 – discuss
10. January 25th Neighborhood Open House – present o
11. February 5th Park and Recreation Advisory Board – r
12. February 13th Council Work Session – review draft M
13. February 28th Park Work Group Workshop #5 – agre
14. March 4th Park and Recreation Advisory Board – app
15. April 2nd – Council Meeting – approve final Master P



RIVERSIDE LIONS PARK – Long-Range Park Master Plan

approved by Mayor and City Council April 2024



RIVERSIDE LIONS PARK – Long-Range Park Master Plan
recommended project priority areas

Cannon River

Highway 3

1a

THE DISCOVERY ZONE
nature-based play space

1b

RIVERSIDE LIONS PARK PAVILION
existing structure + playground



Cannon River

Highway 3

1a

THE DISCOVERY ZONE
nature-based play space



existing playground @ 7th Street



Proposed enhancements – focus on nature-based play elements with series of ‘Discovery



RIVERSIDE LIONS PARK – nature-based playground @ 7th Street

[concept presented at Park and Recreation Advisory Board meeting – March 2022]

refined concept northern play zone



Meandering trail featuring distinct nature play features on the interior

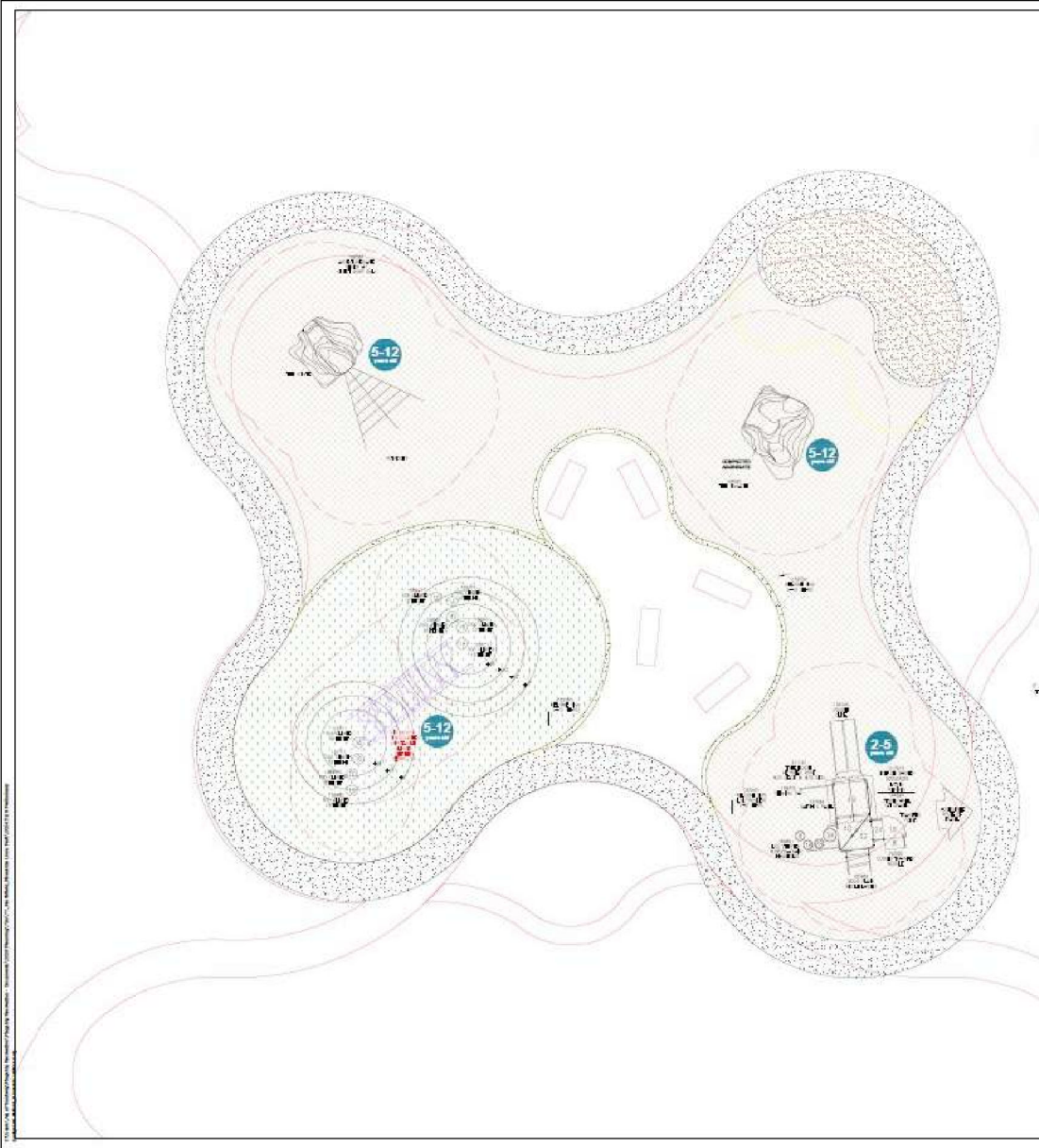


CONCEPT MEETING/ 2024

RIVERSIDE LIONS PARK – nature-based playground @ 7th S

[concept presented at Park and Recreation Advisory Board meeting – August 2024]






CONTAINER DETAILS	
TOTAL WOOD FIBER AREA	2454 SF
TOTAL SAND AREA	226 SF
TOTAL ARTIFICIAL TURF AREA	984 SF
EDGING TYPE	CONCRETE CURB, BY OWNER
FINISH GRADE	TOP OF CURB


- **SITE PREPARATION REQUIREMENTS:**
- MAXIMUM OF 1% GRADE CHANGE ACROSS CONTAINER
 - NO PRE-INSTALLED DRAIN TILE OUTSIDE OF 4 FEET OF PERIMETER
 - DRAIN TILE STUB TO BE PROVIDED IF DRAIN TILE IS REQUIRED
 - NO DRAINAGE AGGREGATE PRE-INSTALLED
 - NO FABRIC PRE-INSTALLED
 - MINIMUM CONTAINER SIZE NEEDED DENOTES THE INSIDE OF CURB DIMENSION

2-5 AREA	
T-TL BLE-TE-LE COMPONENT	3
T-TL BLE-TE COMPONENTS ACCESSIBLE BY RAMP	0
T-TL BLE-TE COMPONENTS ACCESSIBLE BY TRAMP	0
T-TL BLE-TE-LE APPROX LE DL COMPONENT	0
T-TL INF-ET-THE IF SOUND LE DL COMPONENT	1

5-12 AREA	
T-TL BLE-TE-LE COMPONENT	0
T-TL BLE-TE COMPONENTS ACCESSIBLE BY RAMP	0
T-TL BLE-TE COMPONENTS ACCESSIBLE BY TRAMP	0
T-TL BLE-TE-LE APPROX LE DL COMPONENT	0
T-TL INF-ET-THE IF SOUND LE DL COMPONENT	1



FLAGSHIP RECREATION
 11123 UPPER 33RD ST N
 LAKE ELMO, MN 55082
 763-550-7860
 FLAGSHIPPLAY.COM
 @FLAGSHIPPLAY



lsc
landscape structures

THIS PLAY AREA & PLAY EQUIPMENT IS DESIGNED FOR AGE RANGES AS NOTED ON PLAN.

Riverside Lions Park

NORTHFIELD, MN

SALES REPRESENTATIVE:
 Tim Truelson

DESIGNED BY:
 JLZT
 12/11/24

3/16" = 1'-0"

SHEET
LS101

RIVERSIDE LIONS PARK – nature-based playground @ 7th S

[concept presented at Park and Recreation Advisory Board meeting – January 2024]

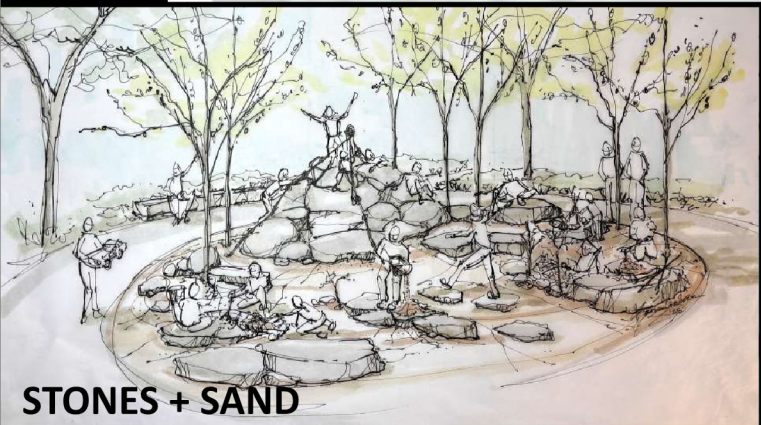




RIVERSIDE LIONS PARK – nature-based playground @ 7th S
[concept presented at Park and Recreation Advisory Board meeting – January 202



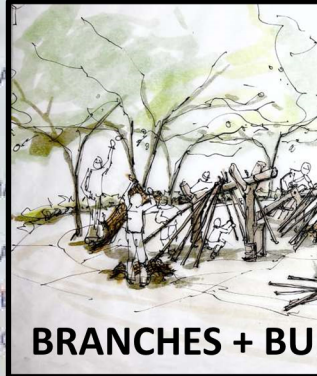
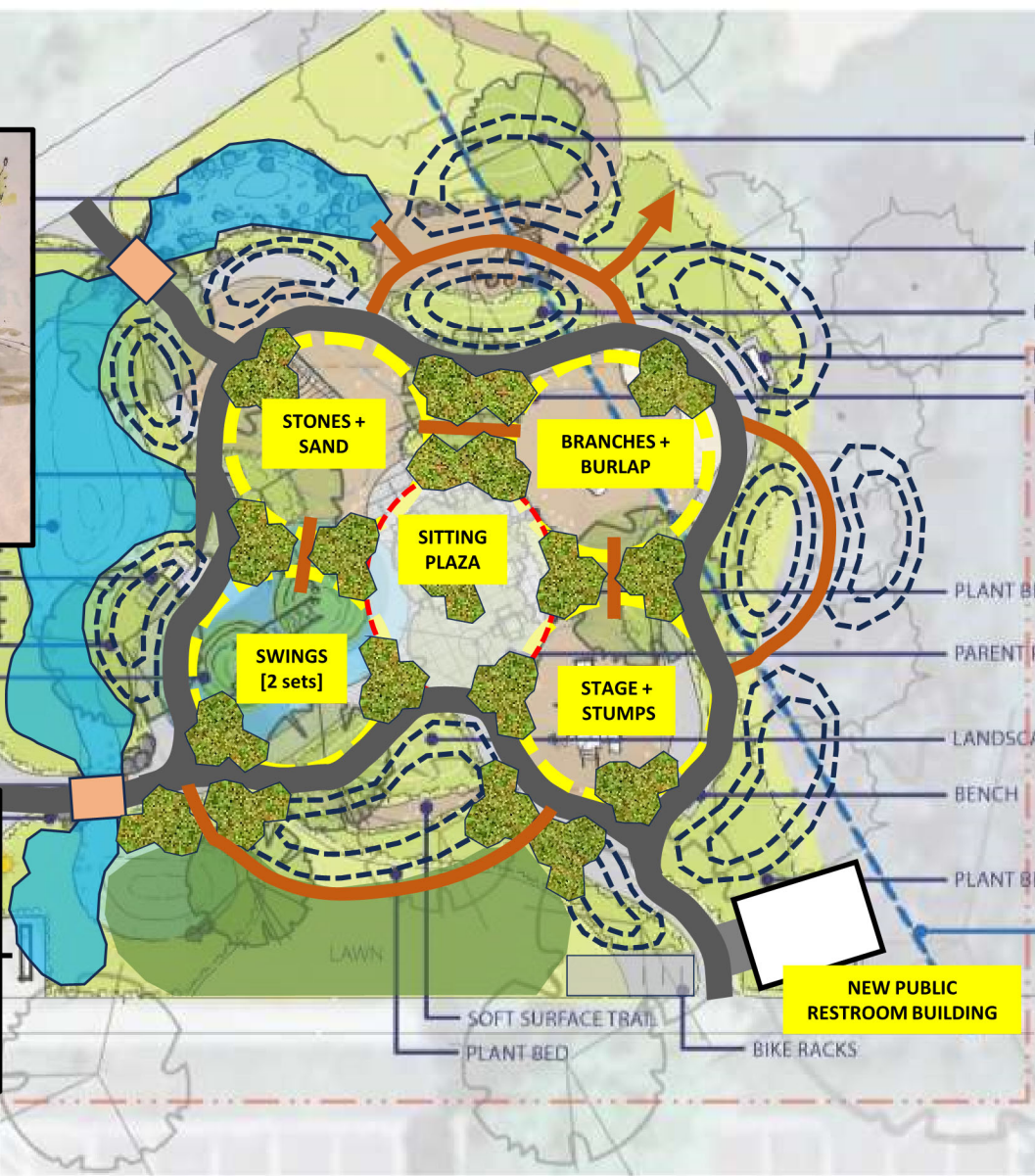
CANNON RIVER



STONES + SAND



SWINGS
[toddlers and older kids]



BRANCHES + BURLAP



STAGE + STUMPS

1a – THE DISCOVERY ZONE

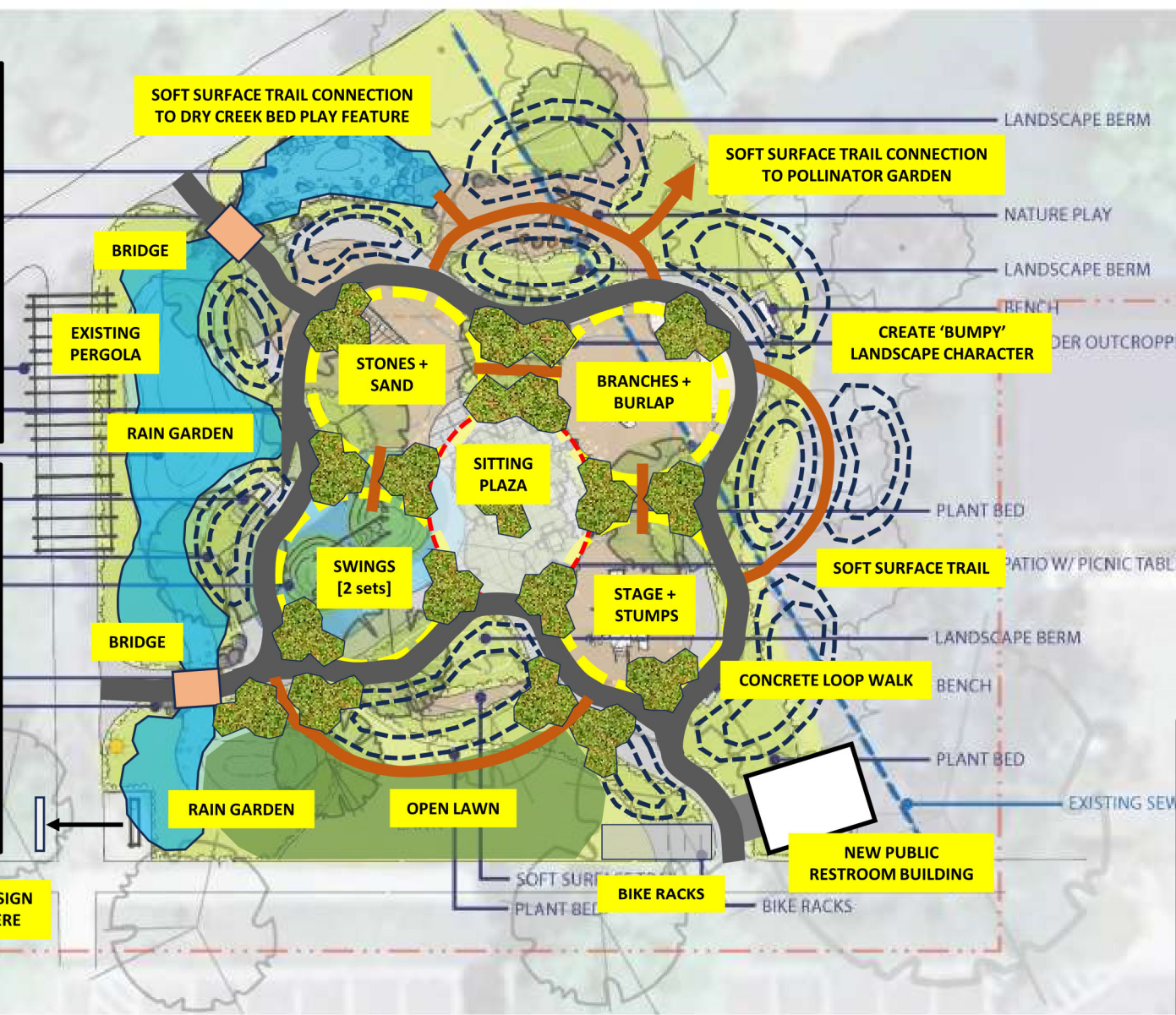
what we mean by 'nature-based' play



SIMPLE BRIDGE CROSSINGS



CRUSHED STONE SITTING PLAZA



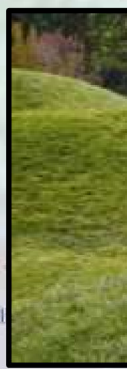
MOVE SIGN TO HERE

PROPERTY LINE

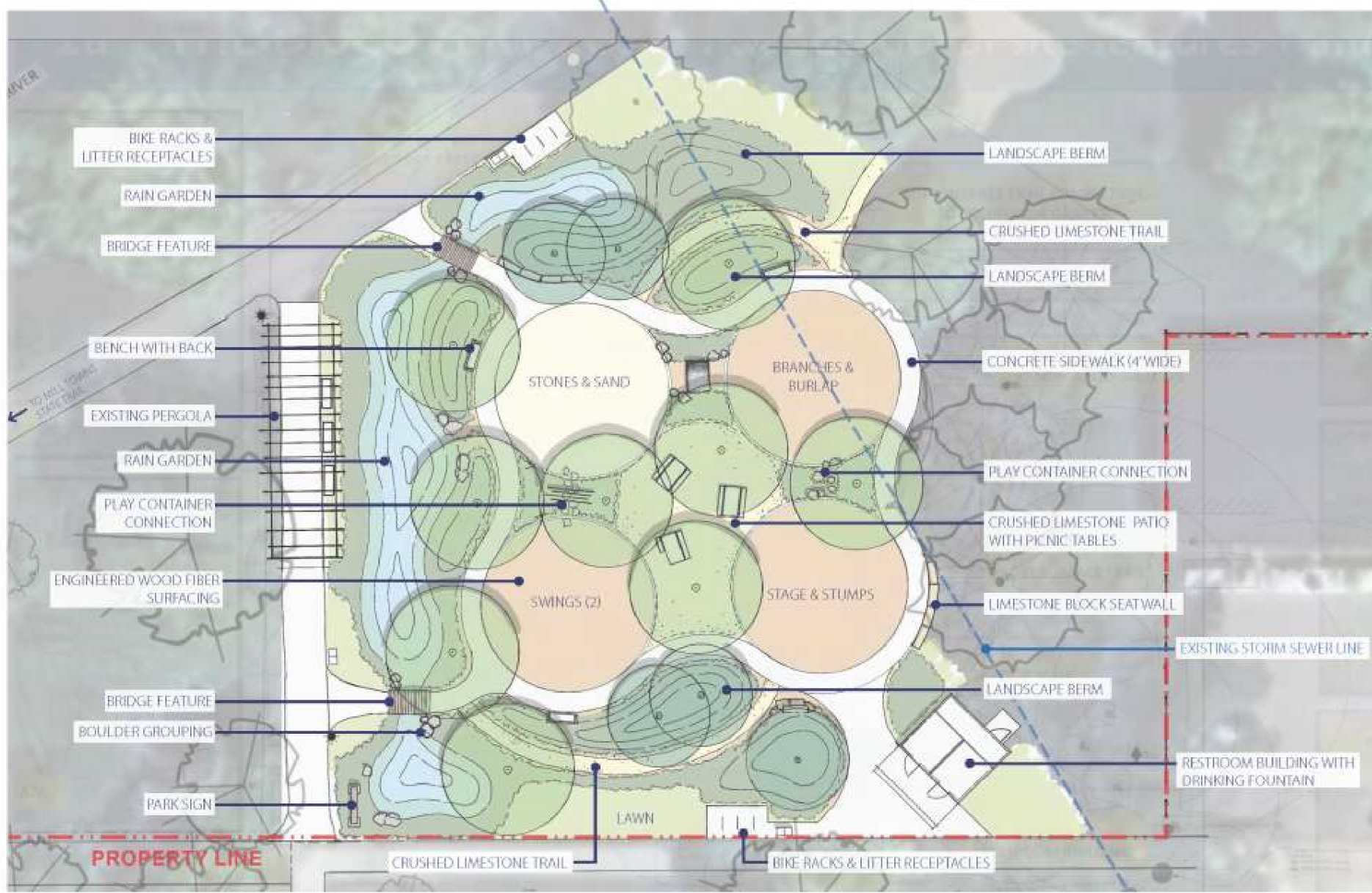


1a – THE DISCOVERY ZONE

additional site features + amenities



NEW A RESTROOM



1a – THE DISCOVERY ZONE

current refined concept design . . . for review + comment + approval

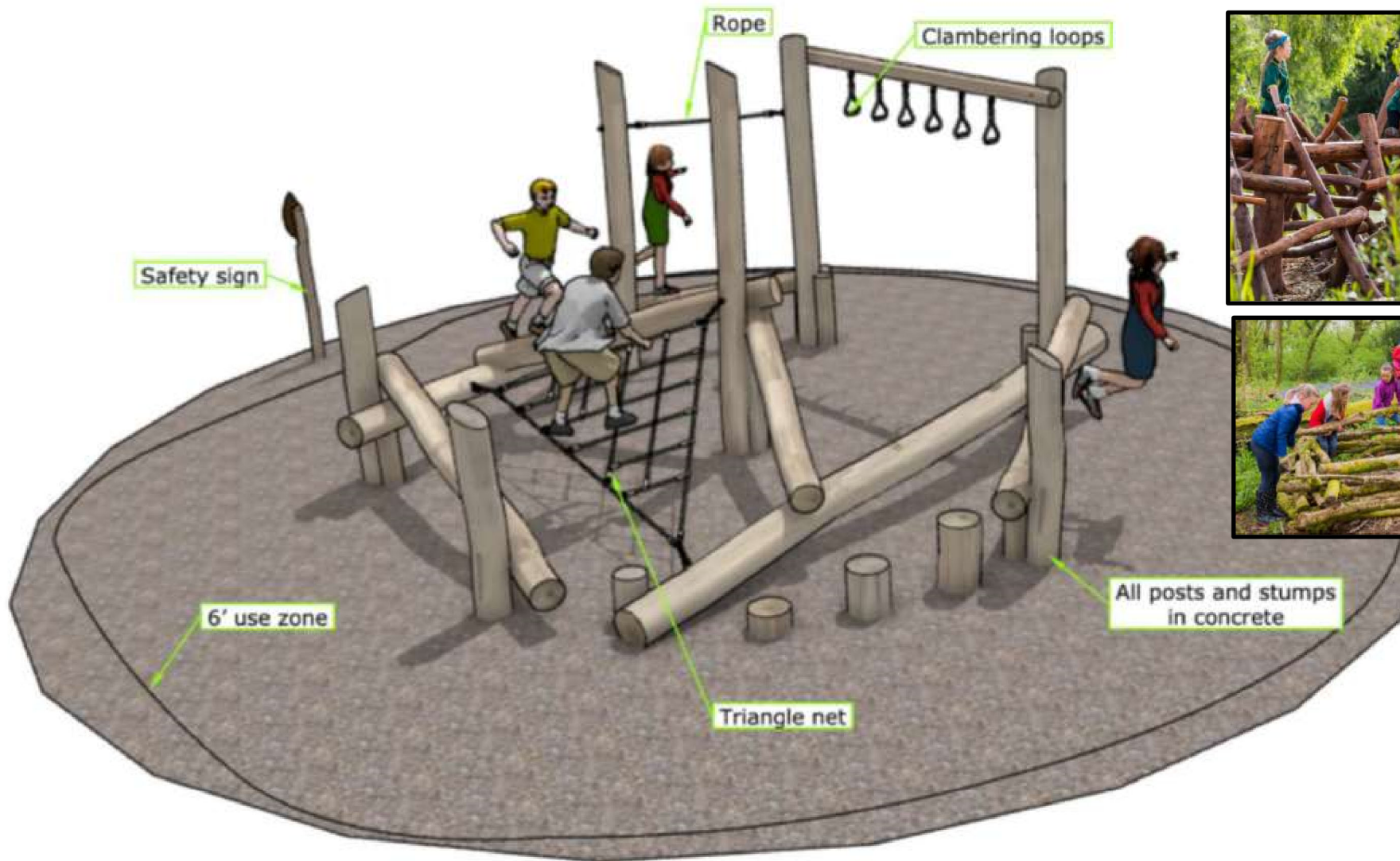


STONE
climbing





BRANCH
build



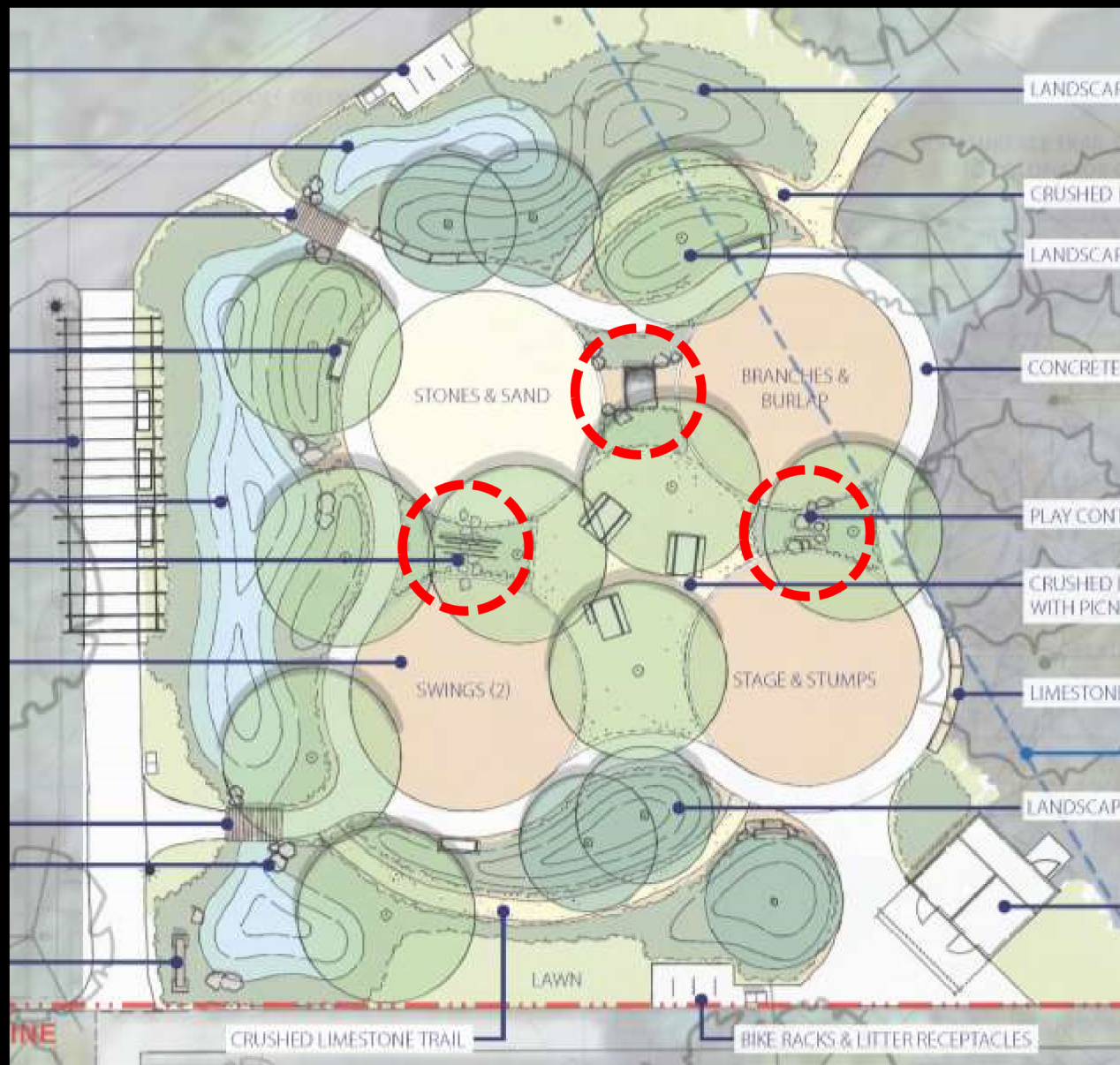
**FINAL LAYOUT -
INCLUDE MOV
ELEMENTS SIMIL**

STA
perform



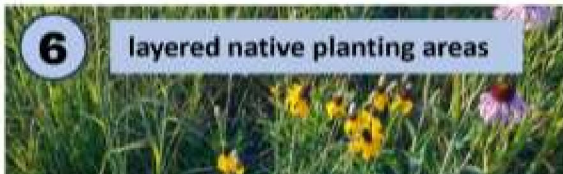
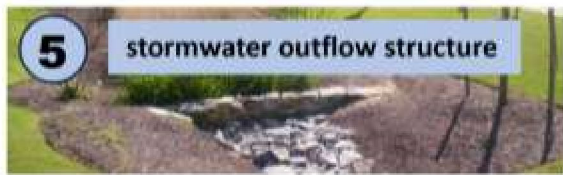
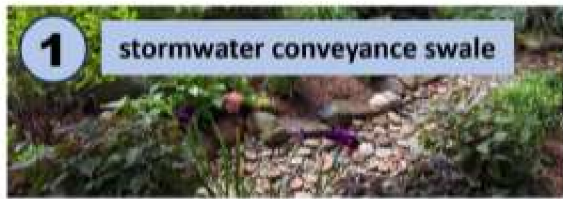


1a – THE DISCOVERY ZONE
swings for different age groups

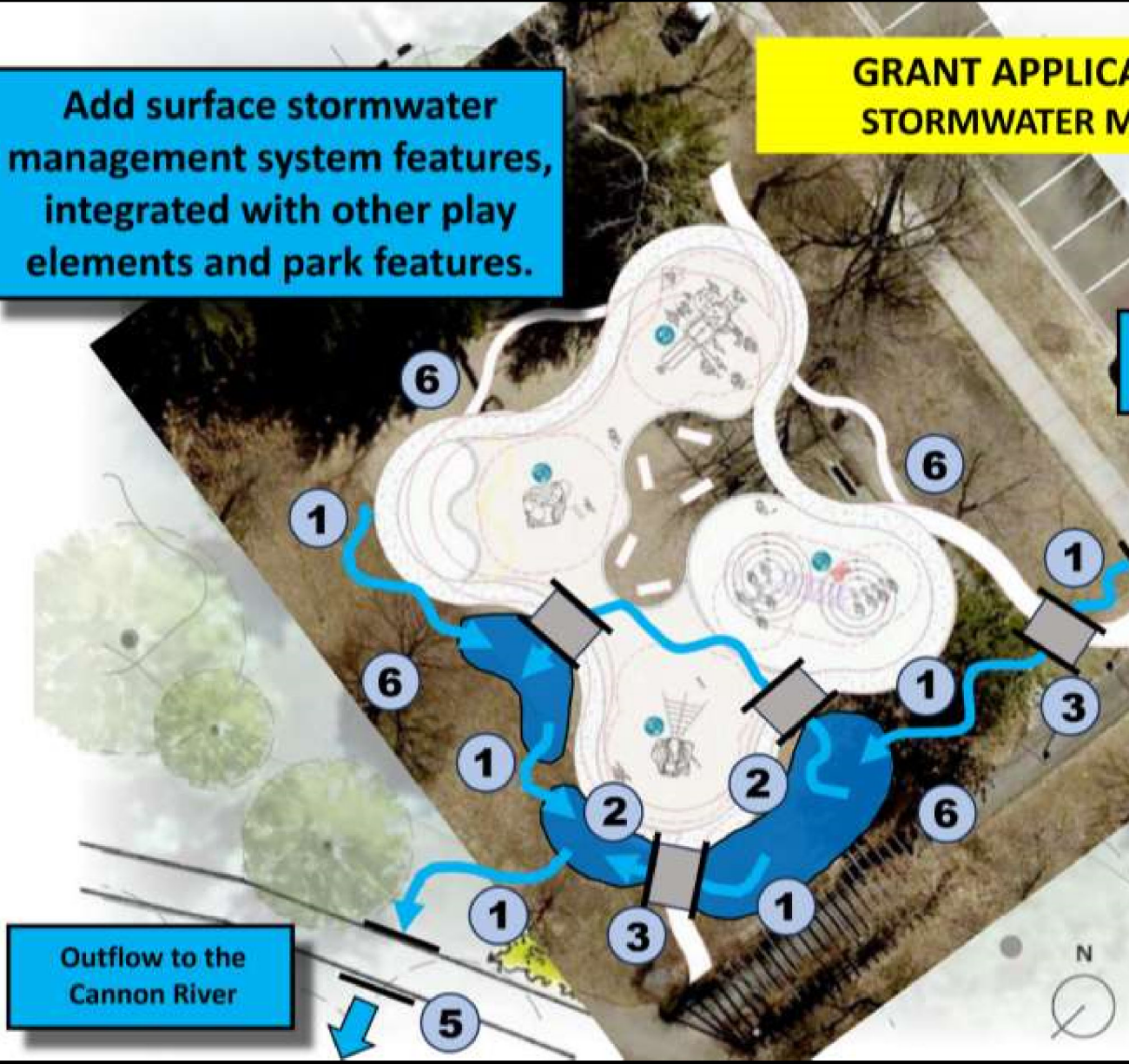


1a – THE DISCOVERY ZONE
 connections between play pods



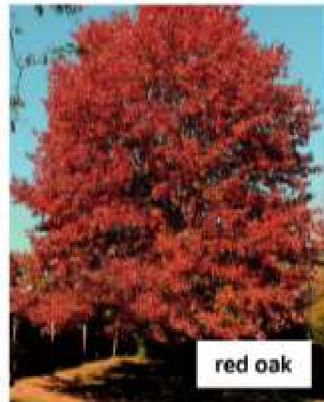


Add surface stormwater management system features, integrated with other play elements and park features.



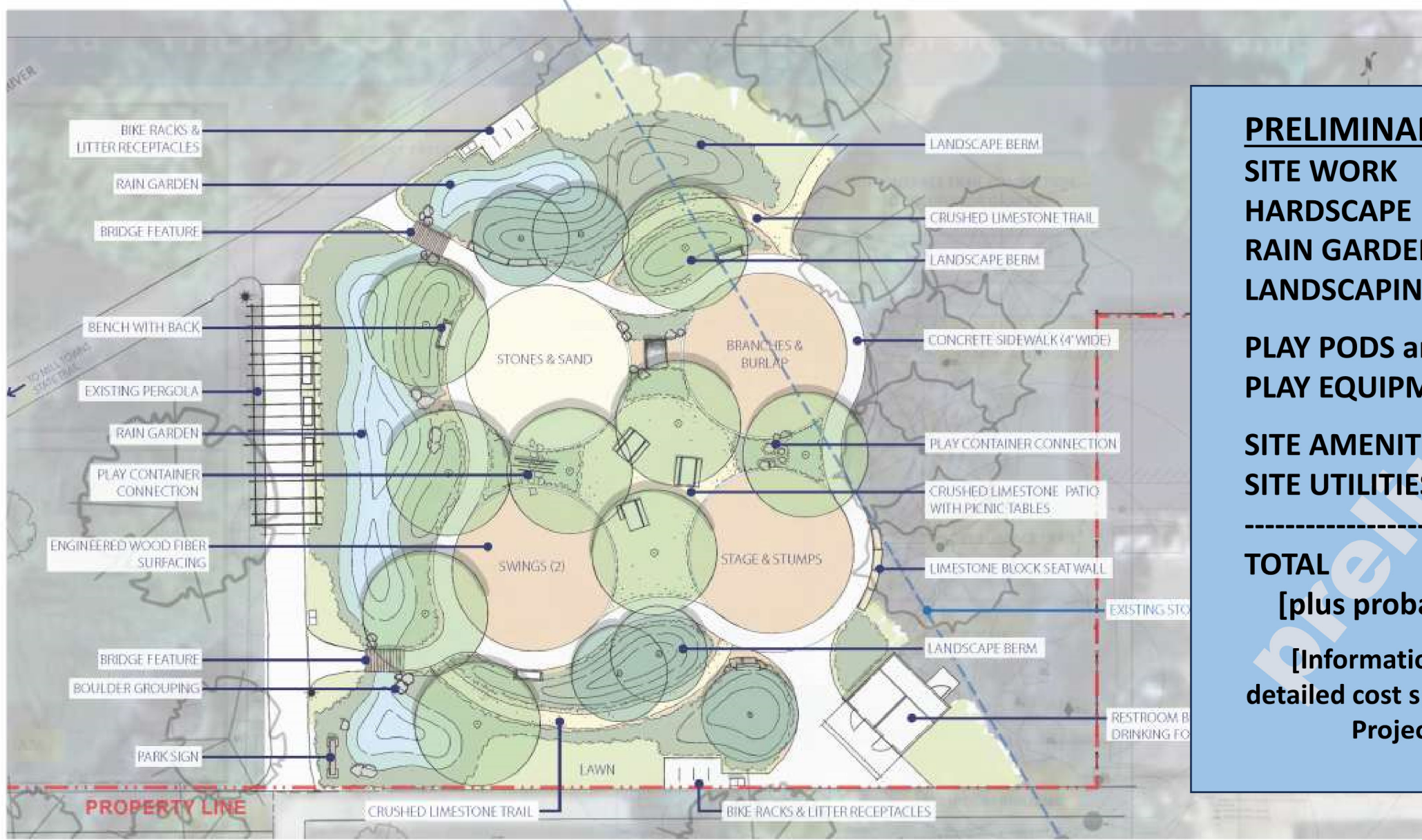
1a – THE DISCOVERY ZONE

Climate Action Plan response – natural systems demonstration project



1a – THE DISCOVERY ZONE

Immersion Landscape Concept – native plants + habitat creation



PRELIMINARY
SITE WORK
HARDSCAPE
RAIN GARDENS
LANDSCAPING
PLAY PODS and
PLAY EQUIPME
SITE AMENITIES
SITE UTILITIES

TOTAL
 [plus probable
 [Information
 detailed cost spr
 Project



1a – THE DISCOVERY ZONE
 current refined concept design + preliminary cost estimate

NEXT STEPS TOWARD PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

**MASTER PLAN
REVIEW +
APPROVAL**

**[PRAB + MAYOR /
CITY COUNCIL]**

**APPROVED
APRIL 2024**

**REFINED CONCEPT
DESIGN +
RESTROOM
OPTIONS**
[design + costs]

**WORK-IN-
PROGRESS**

**WORKING GROUP
MEETING**

**REVIEW +
COMMENT**

**CONVENED
JUNE 2025**

**PARK and
RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD**

**REVIEW +
APPROVAL**

JULY 2025

**MAYOR and
CITY COUNCIL**

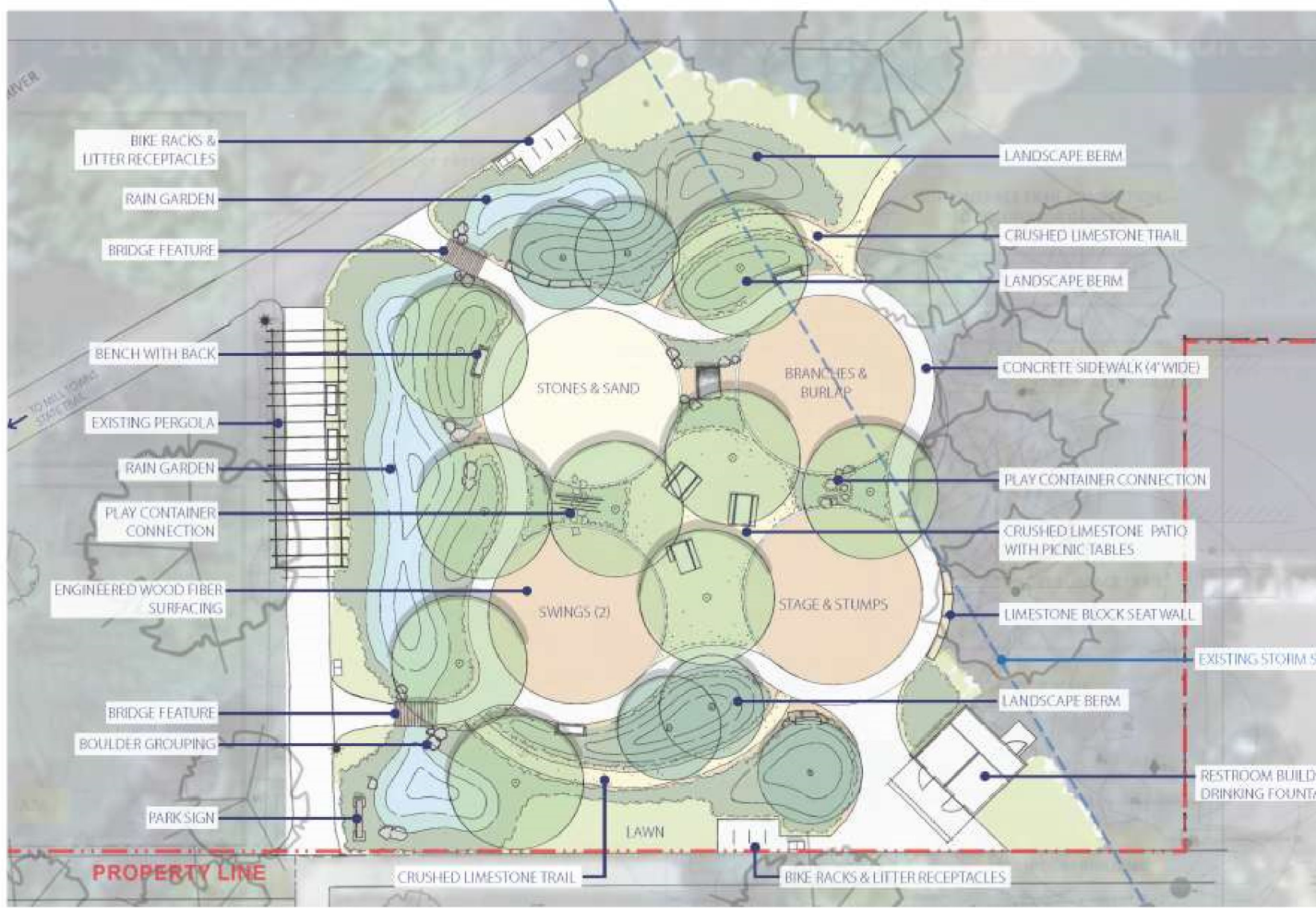
**REVIEW +
APPROVAL**

AUGUST 2025

**COMPLETE
DETAILED DESIGN
+ CONFIRM
PROJECT BUDGET
and FUNDING**

**FALL/WINTER
2025**

RIVERSIDE LIONS PARK – THE DISCOVERY ZONE
project implementation schedule



1a – THE DISCOVERY ZONE
REQUEST APPROVAL OF THIS REFINED CONCEPT DESIGN

Cannon River

Highway 3

1a

THE DISCOVERY ZONE
nature-based play space

1b

RIVERSIDE LIONS PARK PAVILION
existing structure + playground

RIVERSIDE LIONS PARK – UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE RESTROOMS

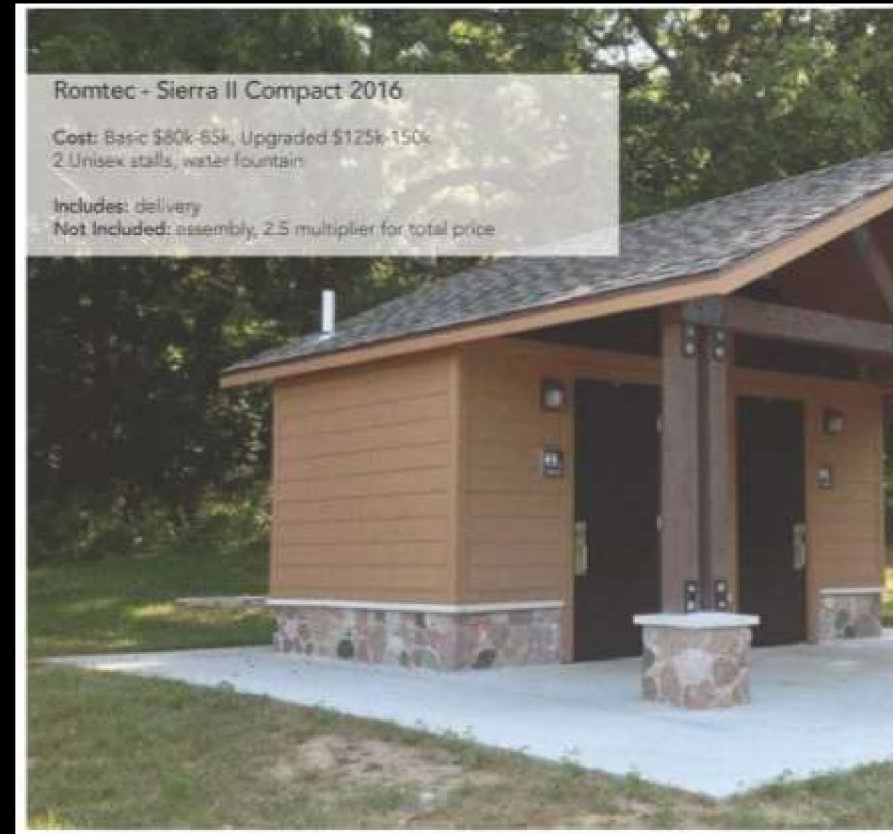
two unisex bathrooms at each location – exploring options + costs



Cost for this structure is \$132,000 for supply delivery to the site; installation is the cost of the building package; estimated

POTENTIAL COST SAVINGS OPTION

Vendor provides the basic 'box facility' delivered to site; City of Northfield contracts for additional building enhancements [roof, siding, etc.]; total cost for this building was \$100,000



Romtec - Sierra II Compact 2016

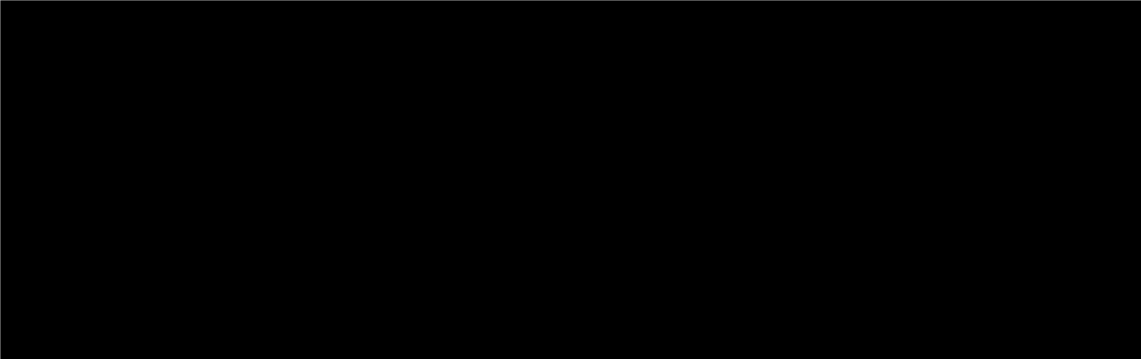
Cost: Basic \$80k-85k, Upgraded \$125k-150k
2 Unisex stalls, water fountain

Includes: delivery

Not Included: assembly, 2.5 multiplier for total price

RIVERSIDE LIONS PARK RESTROOM

Option Two – stand alone prefabricated ADA restroom



ESTIMATED COST

POTENTIAL COST
Vendor provides the basic building to site; City of Northfield provides building enhancements



RIVERSIDE LIONS PARK RESTROOM

Option Three – new prefabricated pavilion with attached ADA restroom



RIVERSIDE LIONS PARK RESTROOM

Option Four – on site construction of new restroom building

NORTHFIELD CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN

City of Northfield Capital Improvement Plan for Parks, Open Space, Trails and Recreation Facilities

PRIORITY INITIATIVES

Location or Area	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	10-yr total
RIVERFRONT PARK MAINTENANCE											
Replacement of dated playground equipment to serve a wider age range and address accessibility											
Riverside Lions (playground 1)	\$ 300,000										
Riverside Lions (playground 2)					\$ 300,000						
Replacement/rehabilitation of dated park structures (gazebos, pavilions or warming houses)											
Seidler (shelter, canopies, ADA)				\$ 1,000,000							
Seidler (gazebo replacement)				\$ 170,000							
Improvements to existing courts, fields and rinks (baseball/softball, soccer, ice)											
Replace outdoor rink / lights by ice arena				\$ 350,000							
Lighting and other improvements											
Riverside Lions trail lighting					\$ 150,000						
Seidler Parking Lot Maintenance					\$ 500,000						
Seidler Baseball Scoreboards			\$ 33,000		\$ 33,000		\$ 33,000		\$ 33,000		
Seidler replace field lights with LED			\$ 150,000		\$ 150,000		\$ 150,000		\$ 150,000		
Total investment by year	\$ 300,000	\$ -	\$ 382,000	\$ 1,470,000	\$ 1,022,000	\$ -	\$ 382,000	\$ -	\$ 382,000	\$ -	\$ 3,348,000
RIVERFRONT ENHANCEMENT ACTION PLAN PARK IMPROVEMENTS											
Implement Riverfront Enhancement Action Plan											
Bridge Square Phase 1 - Design	\$ 300,000										
Bridge Square Phase 2 - Construct		\$ 4,000,000									
Ames Plan implementation (1)				\$ 1,117,000							
Subwood Plan implementation (2)						\$ 4,210,000					
Riverside Lions Park Shelter/Restrooms	\$ 1,000,000										
Riverside Lions Splash Pad	\$ 1,000,000										
Riverside Lions Plan implementation (3)					\$ 287,500						
Seidler Phase 1 implementation (4)			\$ 2,500,000								
Seidler Phase 2 implementation (5)								\$ 1,475,000			
Total investment by year	\$ 2,300,000	\$ 4,000,000	\$ 2,500,000	\$ 1,117,000	\$ 287,500	\$ 4,210,000	\$ -	\$ 1,402,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,811,500

AND
AGGRESSIVELY
PURSUE ALL
CO-FUNDING
OPTIONS

FIND WAYS TO INTEGRATE PARK IMPROVEMENTS WITH OTHER CITY PROJECTS/BUDGETS SUCH AS STREETS, UTILITIES, SIGNAGE, LIGHTING, PUBLIC ART, RIVER ECOLOGY, AND OTHERS.

VARIOUS PARK + TRAIL P



PARK + TRAIL DEDI



LOCAL OPTION S



PHILANTHROPI



ADVOCACY PARTNE



VOLUNTEER EVENTS +



RIVERSIDE LIONS PARK – potential fu

evaluate costs/budget/funding sources [Park and Recreation Advisory



FIVE STAR AND URBAN WATERS RESTORATION GRANT PROGRAM

2025 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Full Proposal Due Date: **January 30 2025, by 11:59 PM Eastern Time**

Habitat Enhancement Landscape Program [through BWSR]

HELP supports efforts to restore and enhance strategically located diverse native habitats found in Minnesota’s natural areas, conservation lands, and open spaces to benefit declining populations of bees, butterflies, dragonflies, birds, and other wildlife species that are essential for ecosystems and food production. HELP prioritizes large-scale initiatives on the landscape that support these declining populations, with an emphasis on protecting pollinators. With HELP, BWSR intends to build new partnerships and fill gaps left by other conservation programs.

- \$3.5 million available in grant funding
- Eligible applicants: tribal governments, soil and water conservation districts, watershed districts, watershed management organizations, local government joint powers boards, counties, municipalities, non-government organizations, park districts and contractors
- Applicants can apply for a minimum of \$50,000 and a maximum of \$500,000
- Applications will be accepted through June 27, 2024

Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources 2026 ENRTF Request for Proposals

Minnesota's Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) is established under Minnesota Constitution Art. XI, Sec. 24: "The assets of the fund shall be appropriated for the conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's air, water, land, fish, and wildlife resources."

Summary

The Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) will review applications for funding that address the priorities and requirements described within this Request for Proposals (RFP) to protect, conserve, preserve, and enhance Minnesota's air, water, land, fish, and wildlife resources. The LCCMR reviews applications and makes funding recommendations to the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF). Approximately \$10 million is available through this RFP for projects beginning July 1, 2026. Most projects have a maximum project duration of 5 years. Proposals must be submitted online at lccmrprojectsmgmt.leg.mn.gov.

OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT PROGRAM

2025 PROGRAM MANUAL



RIVERSIDE LIONS PARK – Budget + Funding Sources current + future grant applications

CITY OF NORTHFIELD, MN
CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2024-040
APPROVING RIVERSIDE LIONS PARK
MASTER PLAN

- WHEREAS, Riverfront Enhancement Action Plan prioritized projects and strategies that may allow for the maximization of riverfront enhancements that would fulfill desired outcomes such as “enhanced tourism” and “expanded downtown” within the “Economic Development: A Community That’s Economically Thriving” Strategic Priority Area; and
- WHEREAS, the Riverfront Enhancement Action Plan provides a framework to advance strategic priorities, guide future actions and realize an exciting regional experience, and
- WHEREAS, the 2020 Riverfront Enhancement Action Plan Sequence Chart has identified Enhancing and Activating Your Riverfront Parks as a key initiative in the plan; and,
- WHEREAS, the City hired the team of Bruce Jacobson, Bob Close, and Teresa Jensen to prepare the Master Plan for Riverside Lions Park; and
- WHEREAS, the Master Plan for Riverside Lions Park complements and expands upon the City Parks, Open Space and Trail System Plan and shall serve as the vision to guide long term development and improvements; and,
- WHEREAS, stakeholder and public input was received on the different options for development of the park and there was general support for the Master Plan; and,
- WHEREAS, the master plan guides stewardship and help ensure that park features and amenities reflect the needs of the communities they serve; and,
- WHEREAS, establishing a vision will help ensure long-term financial sustainability through playful private and public improvements; and,
- WHEREAS, the Park and Recreation Advisory Board passed a motion recommending approval of the final master plan on March 4, 2024

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THAT:

1. The Riverside Lions Park Master Plan is approved;
2. Establishes a vision to guide long-term development and improvements;
3. Prioritization and programming of improvements identified in the Master Plan will be carried out annually through the annual development and approval of the City Budget and Capital Improvement Plan.

PASSED by the City Council of the City of Northfield on this 2nd day of April, 2024.

ATTEST

Amelia Peterson
City Clerk

Chanda Powell
Mayor

VOTE: Y POWNELL Y HOLMES Y NESS Y PETERSON WHITE
Y REISTER Y SOKUP Y ZUCCOLOTTO



RIVERSIDE LIONS PARK – Final Illustrative

Mayor + City Council Meeting – Tue

