



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

1



Northfield is on the cusp of making a tremendous opportunity to build on the four connected connector park segments on the town for a unified Regional Park Master Plan. This will build an environmental experience, recreation and connectivity to the Parkway for a local and regional park destination. Key potential partners include the Cannon River and State University, and the Cannon River Historical Partnership. Northfield is well-positioned to apply for federal designation as a Regional Park in 2024/2025.

Immediate Actions:

- Begin the establishment process with the goal of submitting by the June 2024, 2025 deadline.

2

ENHANCE + ACTIVATE YOUR RIVERFRONT PARKS

Key to a successful experience is activating, maintaining, regional park and the other scenic features and parks of recreational opportunities that create a park destination. The four sites within Northfield have very distinct character based on history, context, and proposed park user needs. With a common focus on the Cannon River, interconnected by trail systems, recreation and active nearby trails, Northfield's riverfront parks are the cornerstone of providing new recreational and ecologically restored spaces.

Immediate Actions:

- Develop all elements of Ames Park as a first priority.
- Start planning for multi-use facilities at Babcock Park.
- Require relocation of roads and signpost from Babcock Park.
- Develop canopy/shade solar areas.

ENHANCE



3

COMPLETE

COMPLETE YOUR LOCAL + REGIONAL TRAIL SYSTEM



All projects on the district quarter focus address the four site-based parks and the connections between them and to the regional trail system. It is necessary that the system of trails in the Cannon Valley and beyond complete the trail system, develop, and enhance connections to other parks, ensuring trails within the 100+ miles should be completed. Safe, local connections to surrounding neighborhoods and the village should be developed for users and visitors alike.

Immediate Actions:

- Finalize a comprehensive multi-use trail system.
- Connect Ames Park to Babcock Park.
- Complete the 100+ Miles State Trail.
- Add bike lanes to downtown bridges.
- Allow temporary trail on City land along west side of river.

3

4

EXPLORE AMES MILL DAM RECONSTRUCTION OPTIONS

There is movement building around the possibility that the Ames Mill Dam might offer an important role in restoring the health, aesthetics and safety of the Cannon River. The dam, designated as a wild and scenic river, has a long history of environmental degradation and human intervention. A reconstruction for the existing dam that the potential to be both a restorative design and significant recreational regional attraction.

Immediate Actions:

- Complete the dam study recommended by DNR staff.
- Research options for the future of the dam.
- Apply for grant funding design + construction.

EXPLORE



5

PROMOTE

PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT + TOURIST DESTINATION



Northfield is a beautiful and historic community, providing visitors that want to experience and feel home. The city has the opportunity to build on its economic and scenic capital to become a well-visited destination for recreation, nature, arts and culture. The city efforts to revitalize a public space, it is also an economic development strategy that benefits both the local community and visitors in regional tourism. Regional park improvements near along with Greater Regional Park Master Plan highlights.

Immediate Actions:

- Explore incentives to regenerate local side of downtown buildings.
- Work with local business to pilot projects.
- Apply for grant funding.

IT BEGAN WITH THE RIVERFRONT ENHANCEMENT ACTION PLAN

Adopted by Mayor and City Council in November 2020

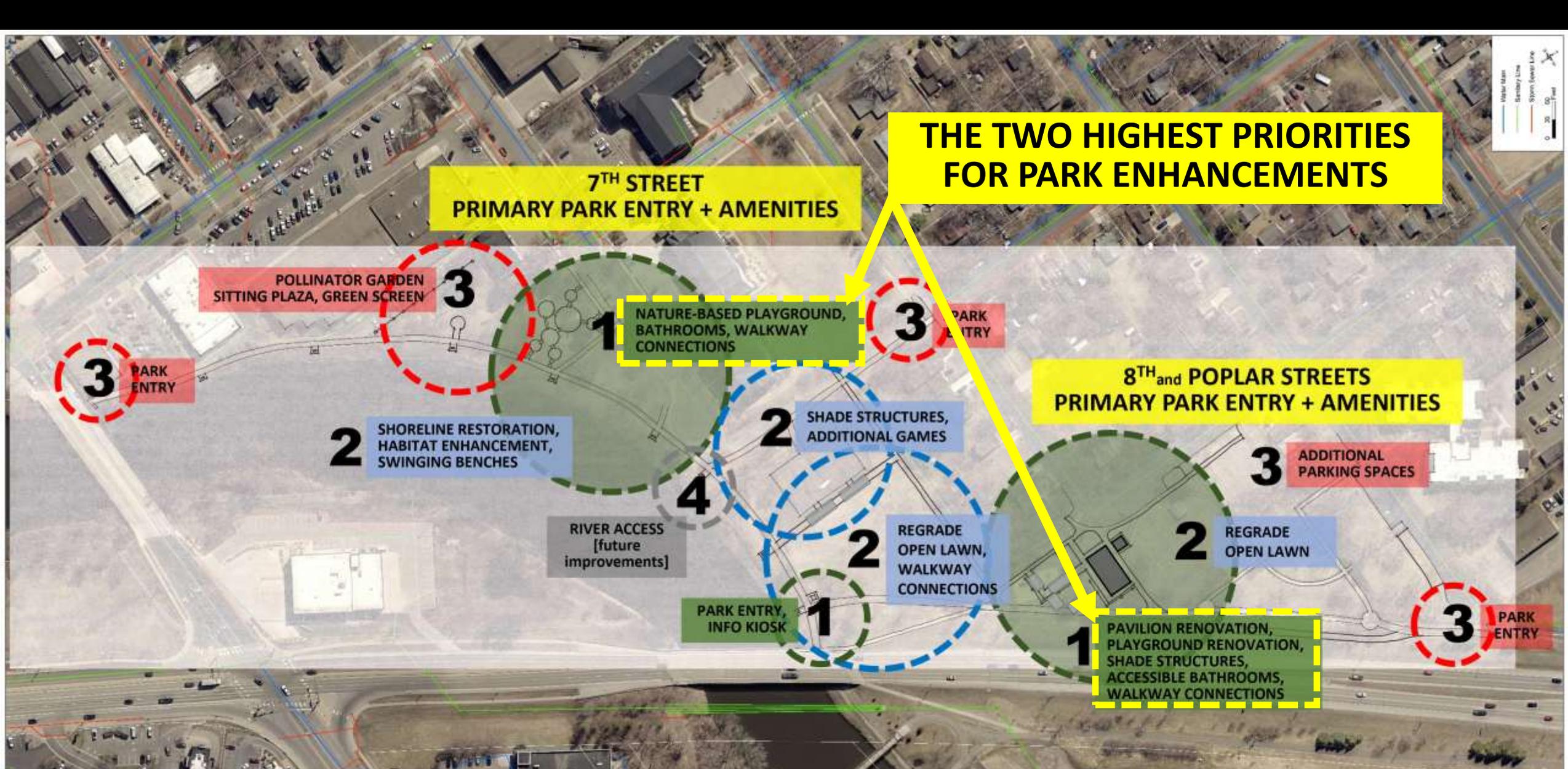


1. February 27th 2023 Kick-Off Meeting with Northfield Lions Club
2. June 14th 2023 Meeting with Village on the Cannon Residents
3. May 1st 2023 Meeting with DJJD Work Group + Carnival Vendor
4. May 31st 2023 Meeting with Northfield Area Veterans Memorial Reps
5. September 20th 2023 Park Work Group Workshop #1
6. October 11th 2023 Meeting with Northfield Garden Club Reps
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 + refine draft Master Plan
10. January 25th Neighborhood Open House – present draft Master Plan
11. February 5th Park and Recreation Advisory Board – review draft Master Plan
12. February 13th Council Work Session – review draft Master Plan
13. February 28th Park Work Group Workshop #5 – agree on final Master Plan
14. March 4th Park and Recreation Advisory Board – approve final Master Plan
15. April 2nd – Council Meeting – approve final Master Plan



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

RIVERSIDE LIONS PARK – Priority Projects
one project . . . two locations

Cannon River

Highway 3

1a

THE DISCOVERY ZONE
nature-based play space

RIVERSIDE LIONS PARK – THE DISCOVERY ZONE
review + approval of proposed nature-based play space



existing playground @ 7th Street



Proposed enhancements – focus on nature-based play elements with series of ‘Discovery Zone’ rooms.



RIVERSIDE LIONS PARK – nature-based playground @ 7th St.

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

refined concept northern play zone



Meandering trail featuring distinct nature play features on the interior

1 CANNON RIVER THEMED PLAY



2 PASSIVE PLAY RETREAT



3 PARENT PATIO



4 ROCK CLIMB



5 BLUFF REGION

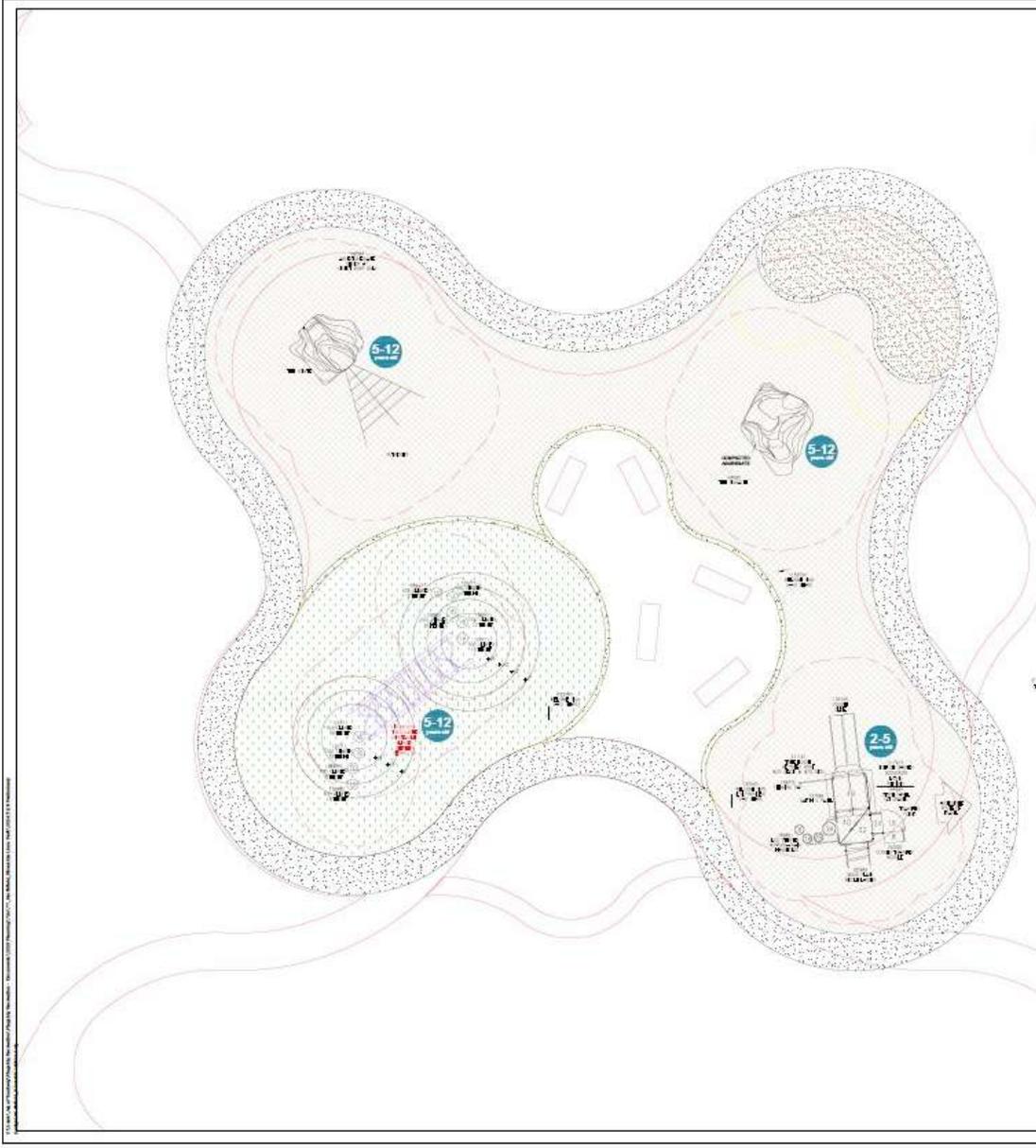


CONCEPT MEETING/ 2024



RIVERSIDE LIONS PARK – nature-based playground @ 7th St.

[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-T-L BE-TE	LE COMPONENT	3	0	0	0
T-T-L BE-TE	COMPONENT ACCESSIBLE BY RAMP	0	0	0	0
T-T-L BE-TE	COMPONENT ACCESSIBLE BY TRIM	3	0	0	0
T-T-L BE-TE	LE BALANCE LEAD COMPONENT	2	0	0	0
T-T-L BE-TE	IF SHOWN LEAD COMPONENT	2	0	0	0

5-12 AREA					
T-T-L BE-TE	LE COMPONENT	0	0	0	0
T-T-L BE-TE	COMPONENT ACCESSIBLE BY RAMP	0	0	0	0
T-T-L BE-TE	COMPONENT ACCESSIBLE BY TRIM	0	0	0	0
T-T-L BE-TE	LE BALANCE LEAD COMPONENT	12	0	0	0
T-T-L BE-TE	IF SHOWN LEAD COMPONENT	3	0	0	0



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



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 St.

[concept presented at Park and Recreation Advisory Board meeting – January 2025]

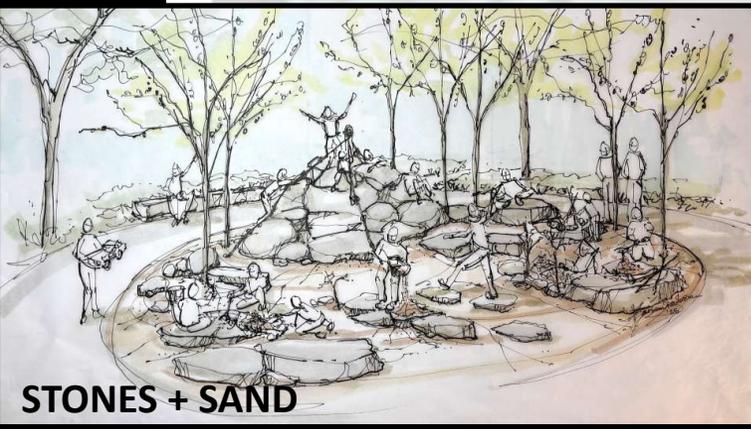




RIVERSIDE LIONS PARK – nature-based playground @ 7th St.

[concept presented at Park and Recreation Advisory Board meeting – January 2025]

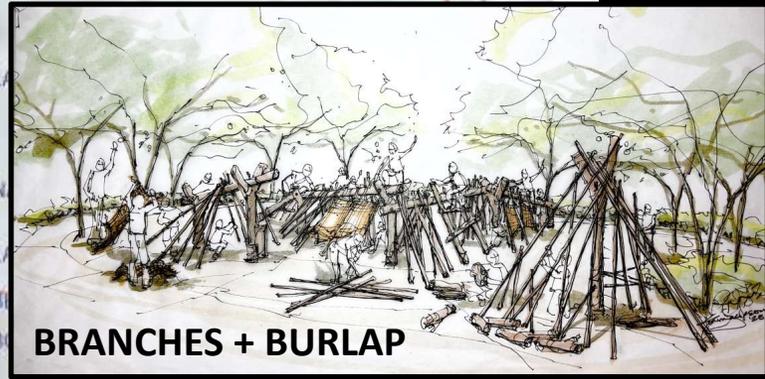
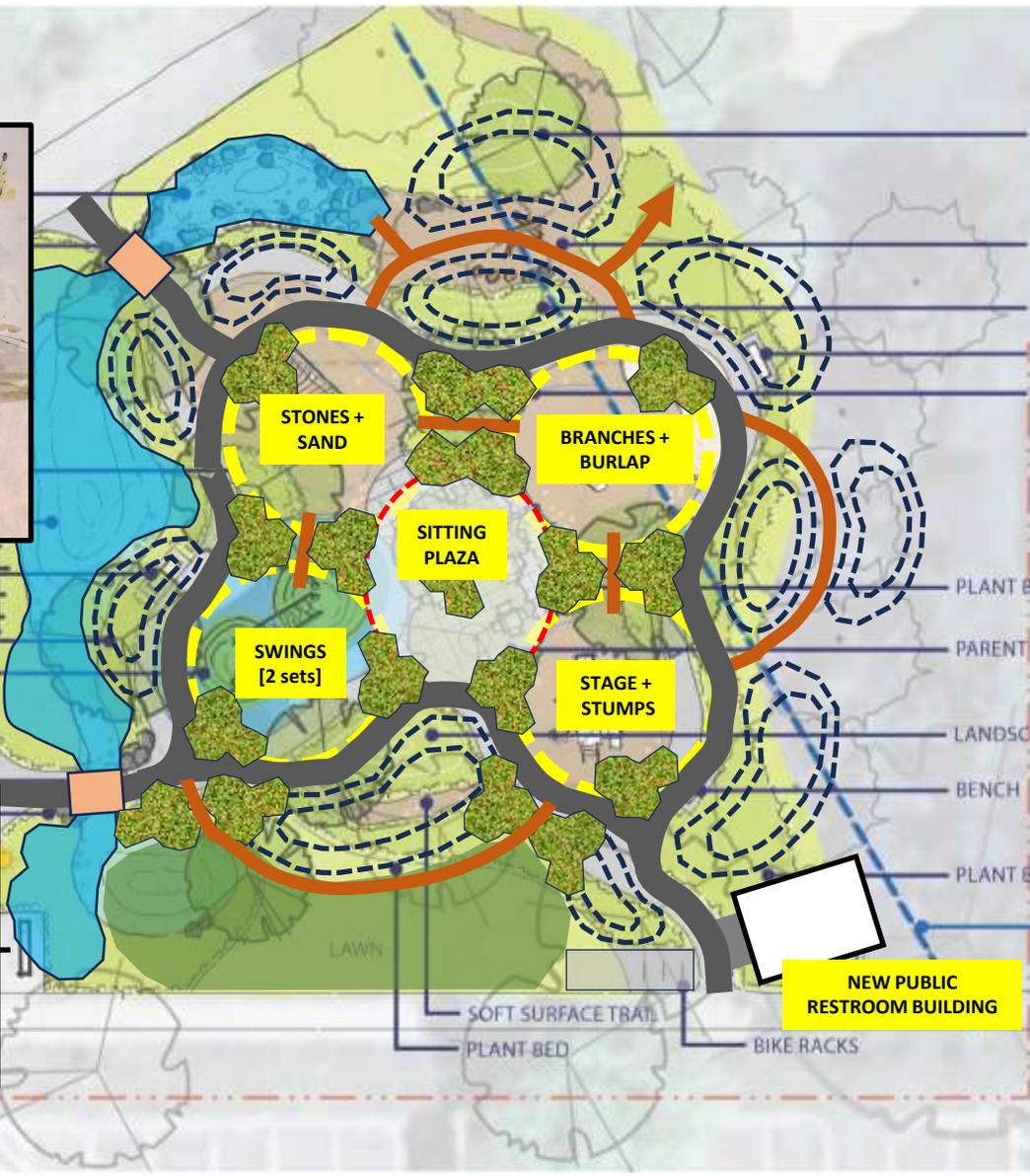
CANNON RIVER



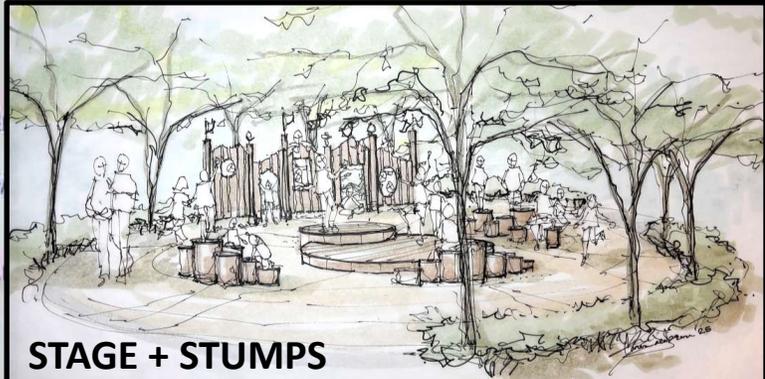
STONES + SAND



SWINGS
[toddlers and older kids]



BRANCHES + BURLAP



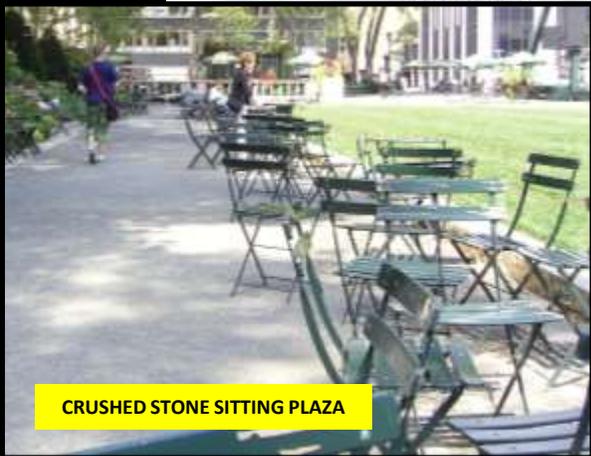
STAGE + STUMPS

1a – THE DISCOVERY ZONE

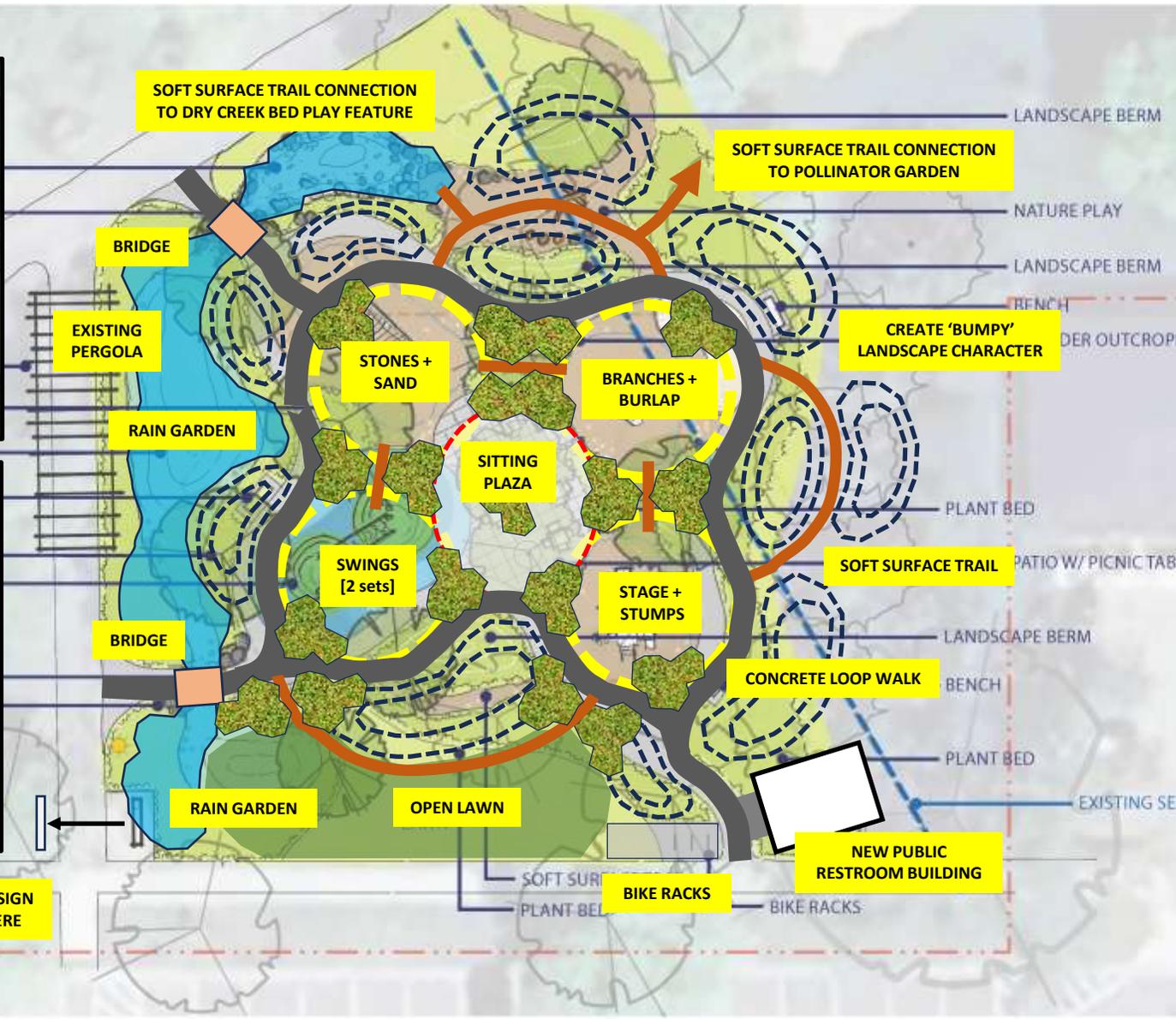
what we mean by 'nature-based' play



SIMPLE BRIDGE CROSSINGS



CRUSHED STONE SITTING PLAZA



MOVE SIGN TO HERE

SOFT SURFACE TRAIL CONNECTION TO DRY CREEK BED PLAY FEATURE

SOFT SURFACE TRAIL CONNECTION TO POLLINATOR GARDEN

BRIDGE

EXISTING PERGOLA

RAIN GARDEN

STONES + SAND

SITTING PLAZA

SWINGS [2 sets]

BRIDGE

RAIN GARDEN

OPEN LAWN

BRANCHES + BURLAP

STAGE + STUMPS

CONCRETE LOOP WALK

BIKE RACKS

CREATE 'BUMPY' LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

LANDSCAPE BERM

NATURE PLAY

LANDSCAPE BERM

BENCH

DER OUTCROPP

PLANT BED

SOFT SURFACE TRAIL

LANDSCAPE BERM

BENCH

PLANT BED

EXISTING SEW

NEW PUBLIC RESTROOM BUILDING



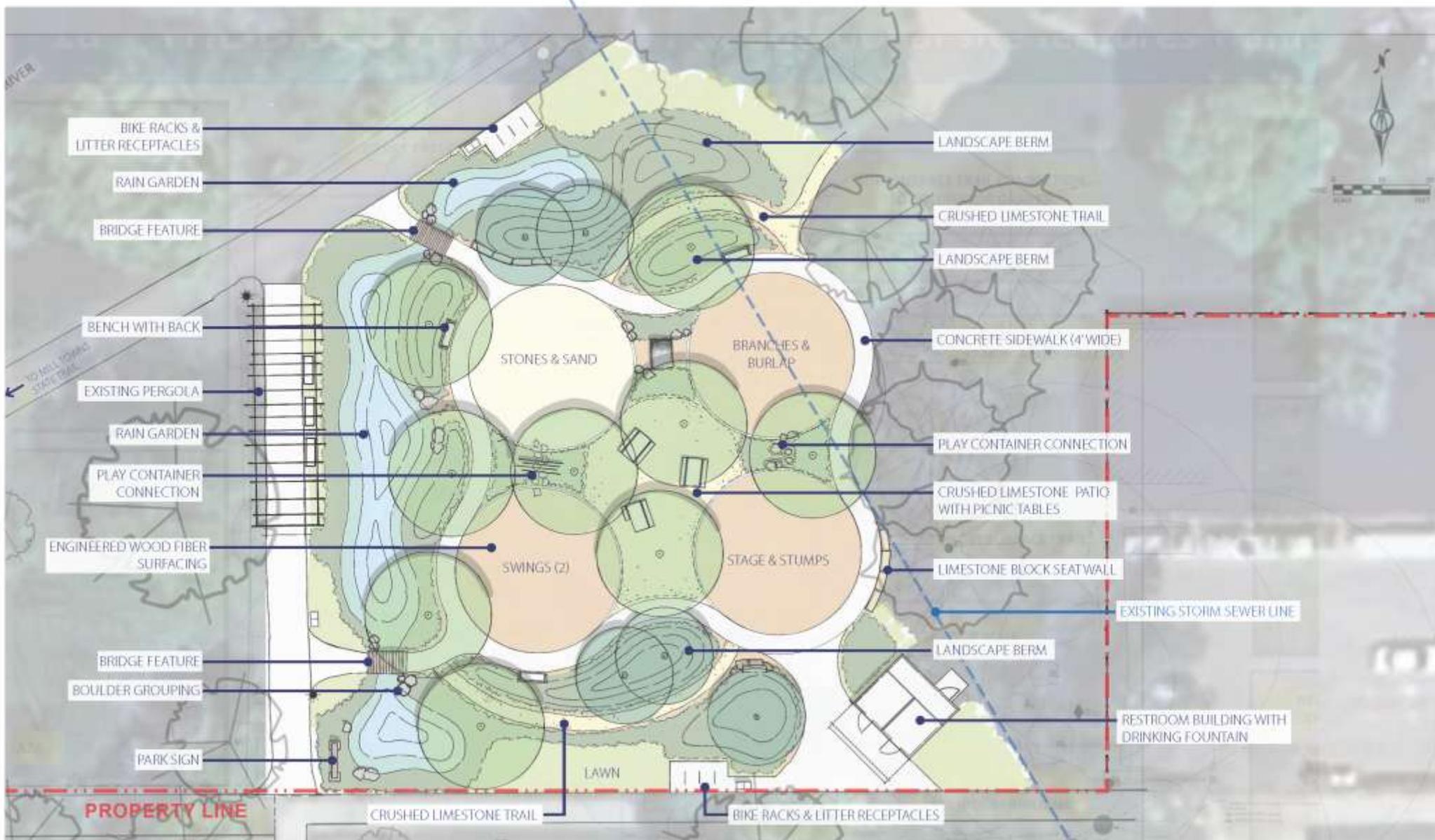
'BUMPY' LANDSCAPE CHARACTER



SOFT SURFACE TRAIL



NEW ACCESSIBLE RESTROOM BUILDING



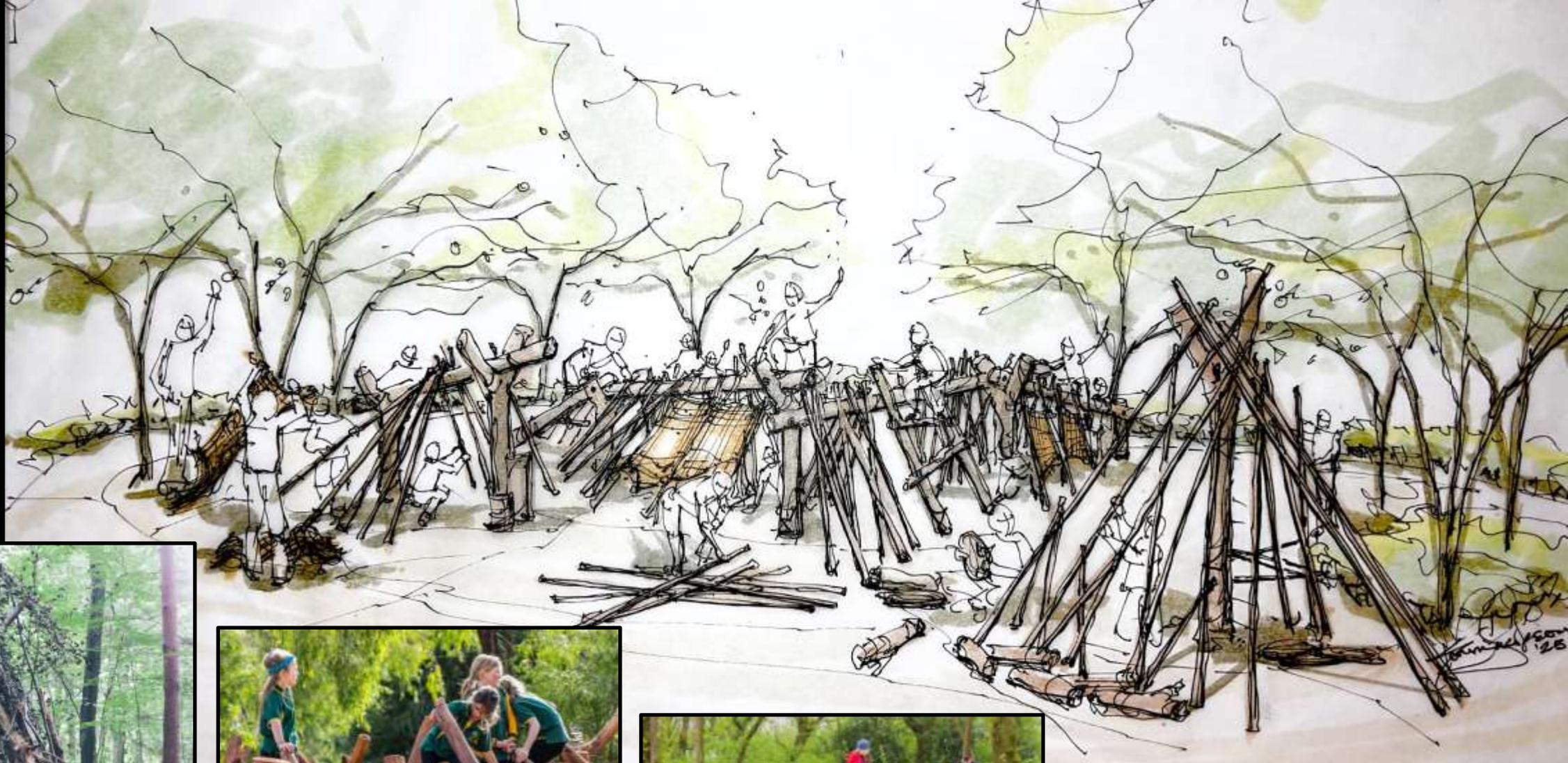
1a – THE DISCOVERY ZONE

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

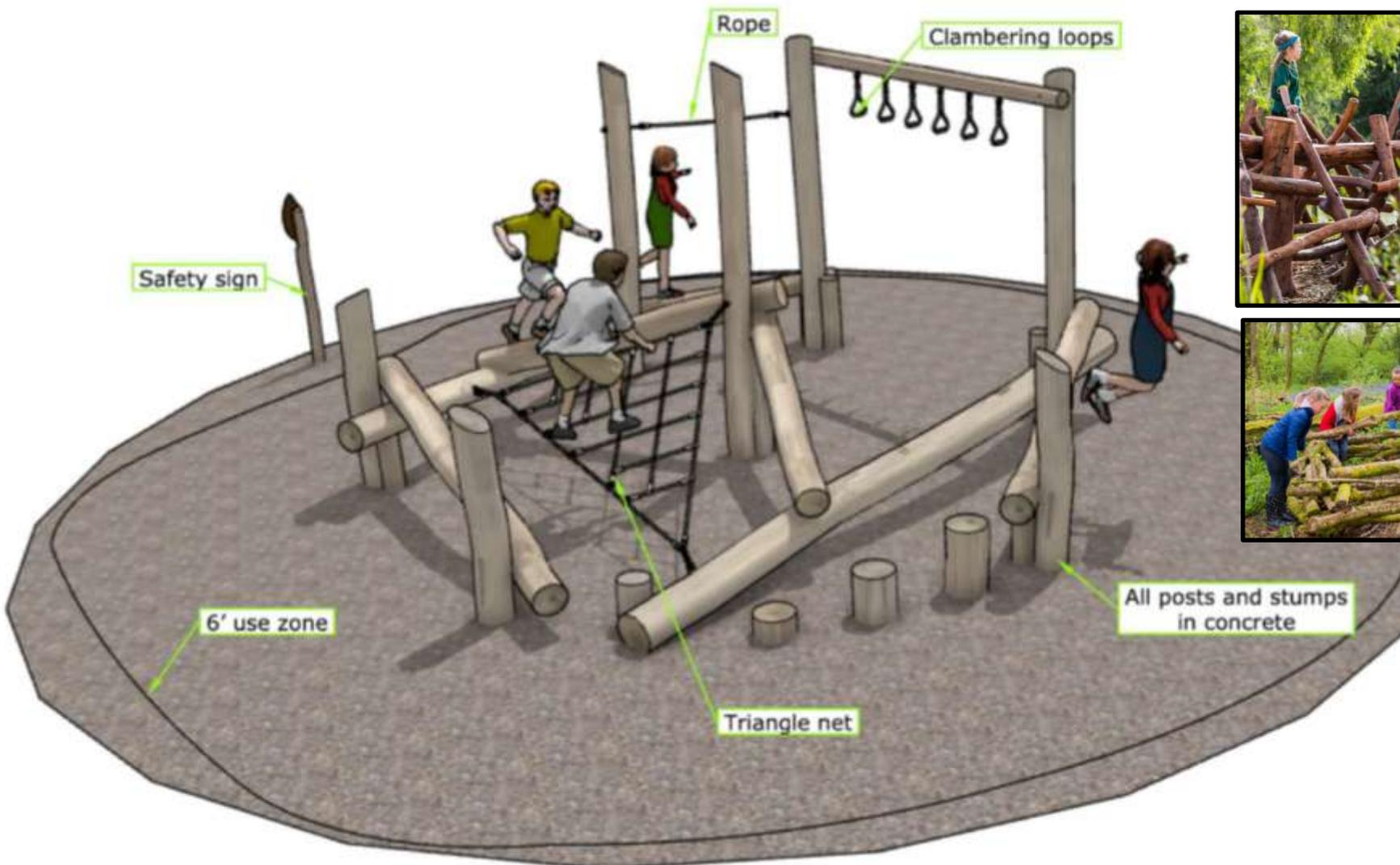


STONES + SAND
climbing and digging





BRANCHES + BURLAP
building and hiding



FINAL LAYOUT + DESIGN WOULD STILL INCLUDE MOVEABLE CREATIVE PLAY ELEMENTS SIMILAR TO THESE EXAMPLES

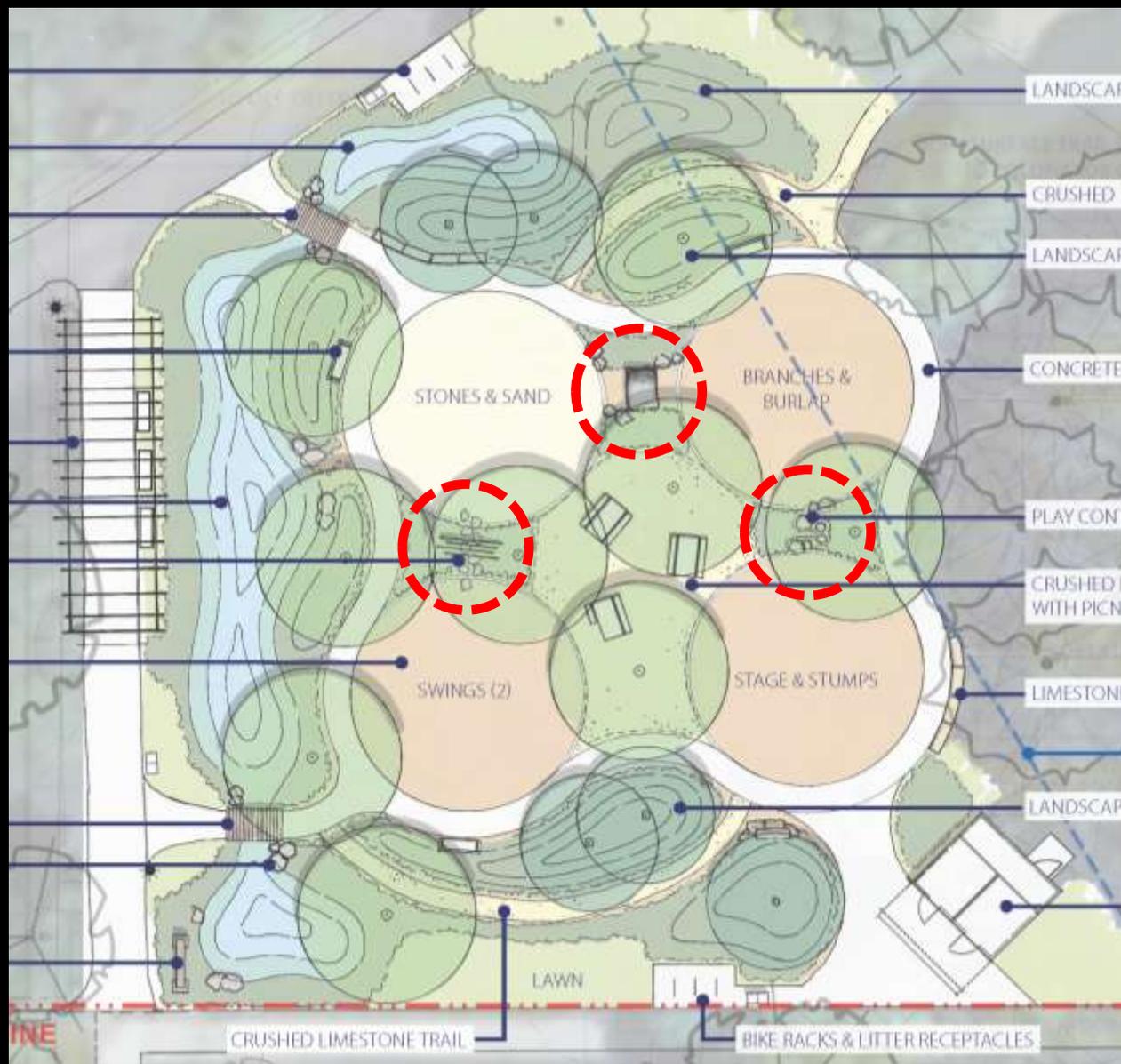
STAGE + STUMPS

performing and pretending





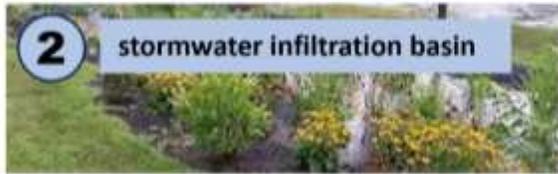
1a – THE DISCOVERY ZONE
swings for different age groups



1a – THE DISCOVERY ZONE
connections between play pods

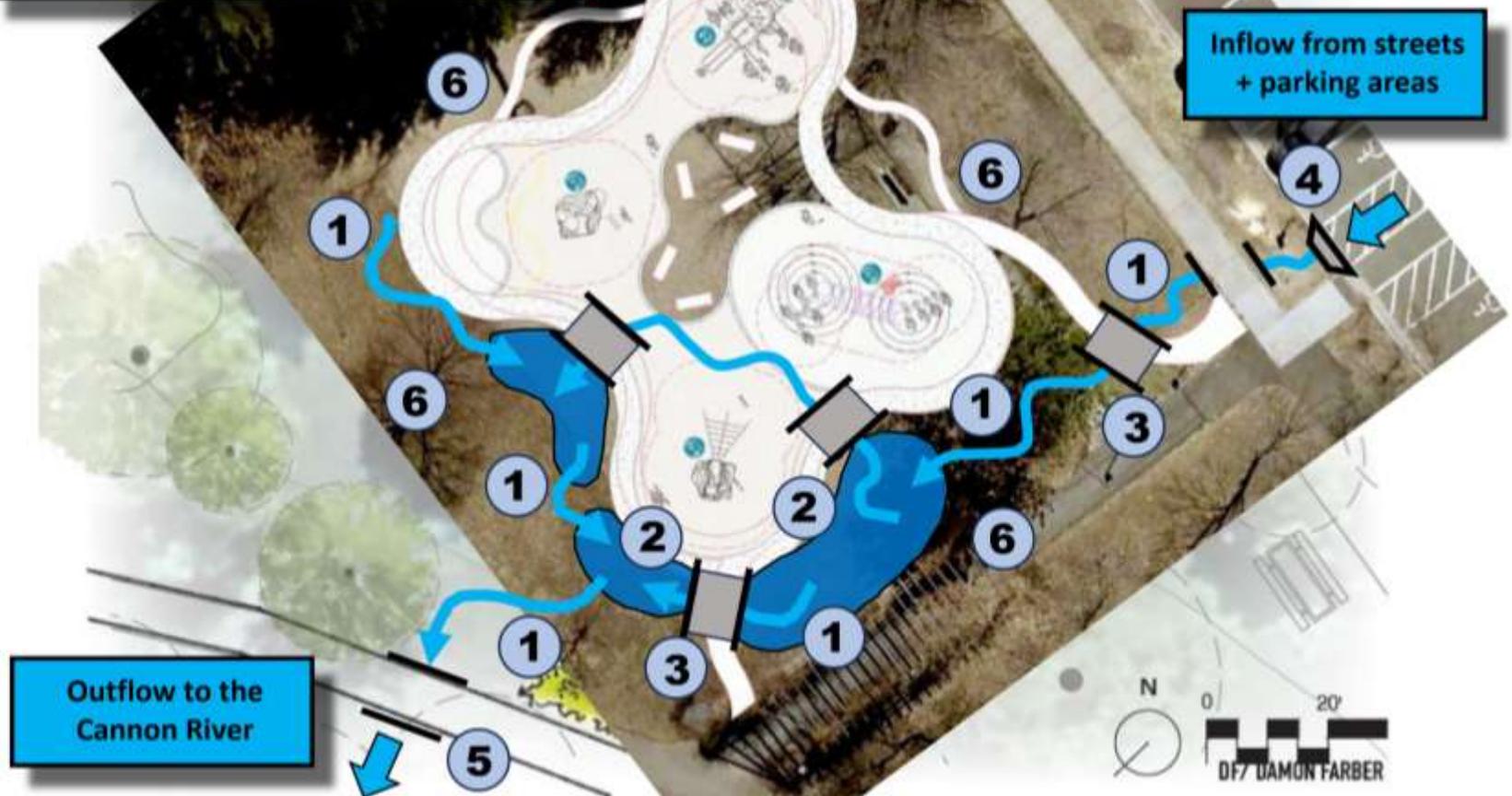


1a – THE DISCOVERY ZONE
central sitting area with picnic tables



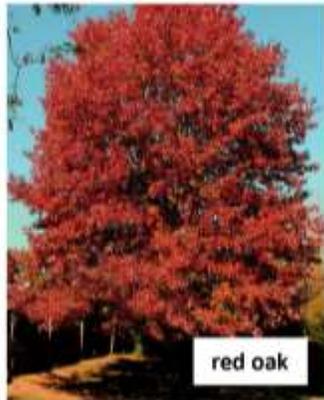
Add surface stormwater management system features, integrated with other play elements and park features.

GRANT APPLICATION FOCUS STORMWATER MANAGEMENT



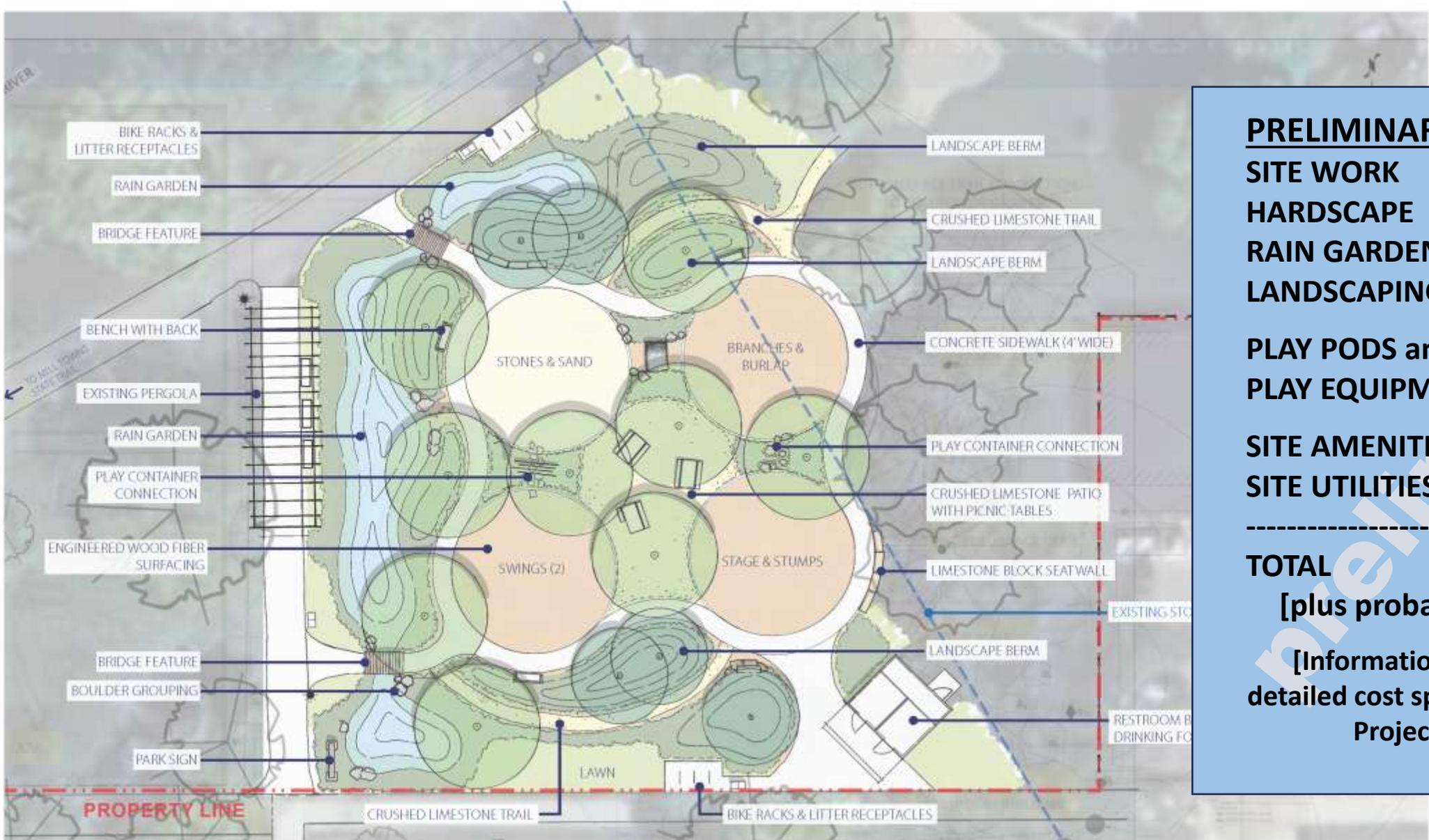
1a – THE DISCOVERY ZONE

Climate Action Plan response – natural systems demonstration project



1a – THE DISCOVERY ZONE

Immersion Landscape Concept – native plants + habitat creation



PRELIMINARY COST ESTIMATE

SITE WORK	\$ 60,000
HARDSCAPE	\$ 50,000
RAIN GARDENS	\$ 40,000
LANDSCAPING	\$ 40,000
PLAY PODS and PLAY EQUIPMENT	\$ 175,000
SITE AMENITIES	\$ 20,000
SITE UTILITIES	\$ 20,000

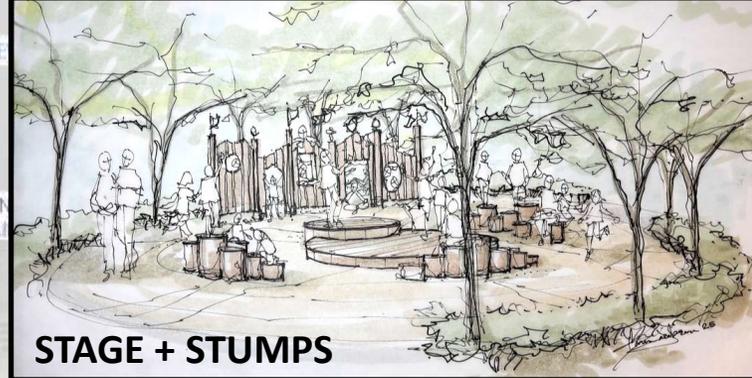
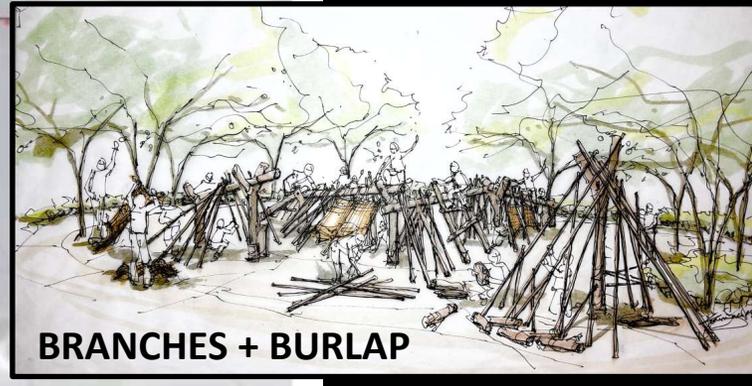
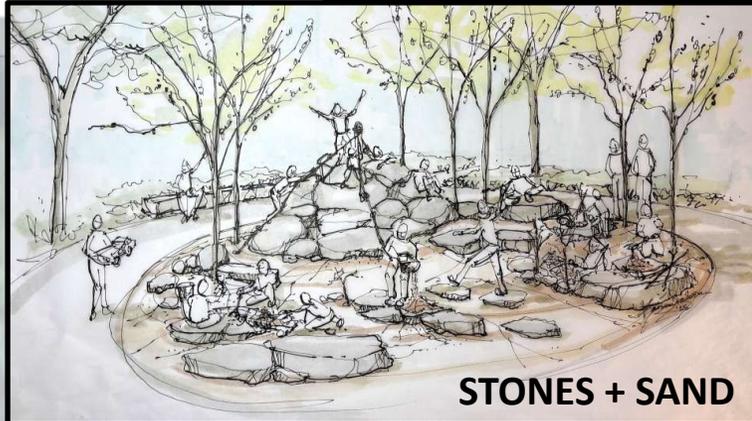
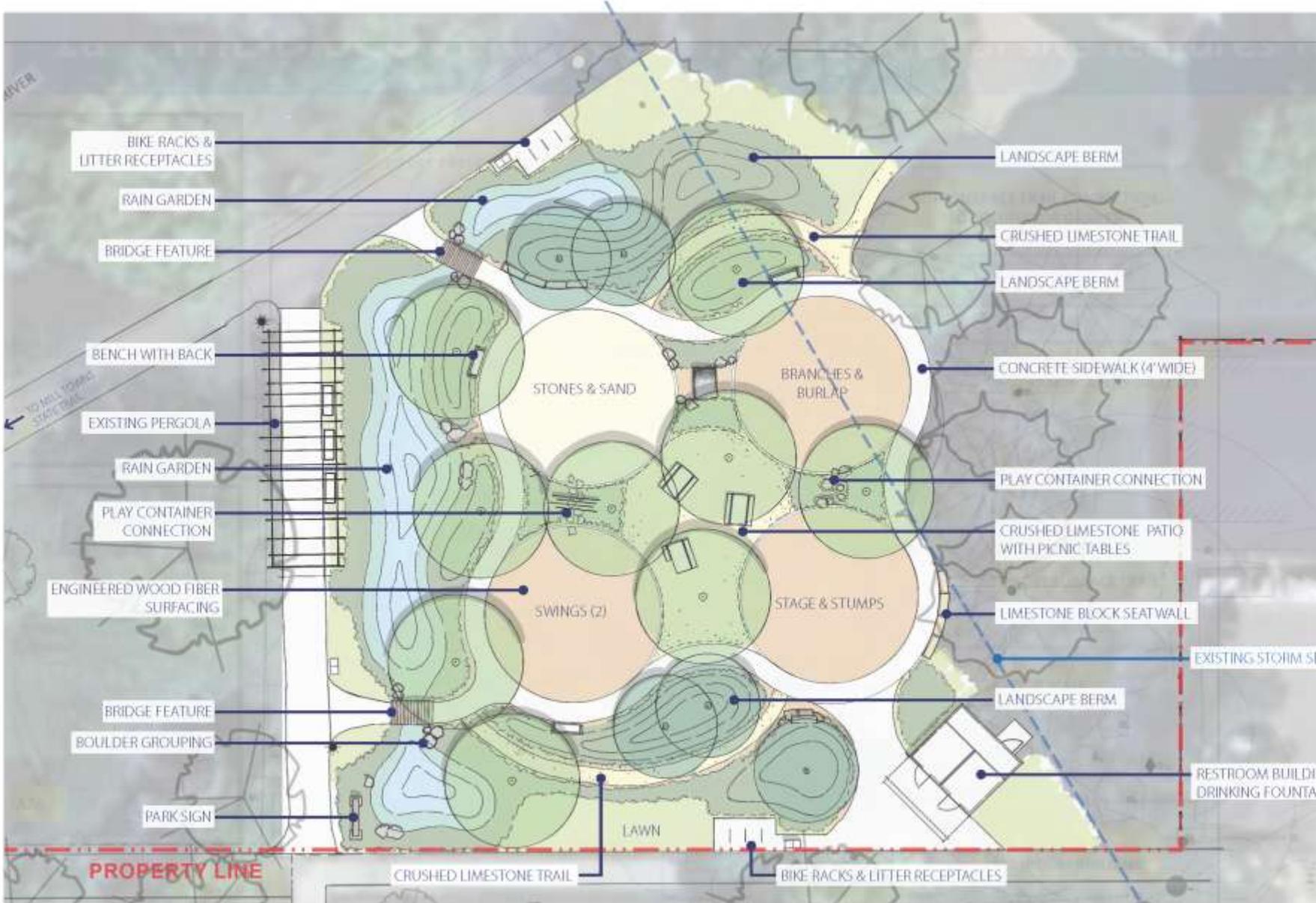
TOTAL **\$ 405,000**
 [plus probable contingencies]

[Information summarized from
 detailed cost spreadsheet prepared by
 Project Design Team]

NEXT STEPS TOWARD PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION



RIVERSIDE LIONS PARK – THE DISCOVERY ZONE
project implementation schedule



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 complete design & supply delivery to the site; installation can be 1-1.5 times the cost of the building package; estimated cost - \$300,000



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

RIVERSIDE LIONS PARK RESTROOMS

Option Two – stand alone prefabricated ADA restrooms



ESTIMATED COST: \$500,000

POTENTIAL COST SAVINGS OPTION
Vendor provides the basic 'box facility' delivered to site; City of Northfield contracts for additional building enhancements [roof, siding, etc.]

RIVERSIDE LIONS PARK RESTROOMS

Option Three – new prefabricated pavilion with attached ADA restrooms



RIVERSIDE LIONS PARK RESTROOMS

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)											
Seabier (shelter, table top, ADA)				\$ 1,000,000							
Seabier (gazebos replacement)				\$ 120,000							
Improvements to existing courts, fields and rinks (baseball/softball, soccer, ice)											
Replace outdoor rink / lights by ice Avenue				\$ 350,000							
Lighting and other improvements											
Riverside Lions trail lighting					\$ 150,000						
Seabier Trailway lot Maintenance					\$ 300,000						
Seabier Baseball Scoreboards			\$ 33,000		\$ 33,000		\$ 33,000		\$ 33,000		
Seabier replace field lights with LED			\$ 150,000		\$ 150,000		\$ 150,000		\$ 150,000		
Total investment by year	\$ 300,000	\$ -	\$ 382,000	\$ 1,470,000	\$ 1,032,000	\$ -	\$ 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 Picnic Shelter/Restrooms	\$ 1,000,000										
Riverside Lions Splash Pad	\$ 1,000,000										
Riverside Lions Plan implementation (3)					\$ 287,500						
Seabier Phase 1 implementation (4)			\$ 2,500,000								
Seabier Phase 2 implementation (5)									\$ 1,400,000		
Total investment by year	\$ 2,300,000	\$ 4,000,000	\$ 2,500,000	\$ 1,117,000	\$ 287,500	\$ 4,210,000	\$ -	\$ 1,400,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,814,500

**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 FUNDING GRANTS

+

PARK + TRAIL DEDICATION FEES

+

LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX

+

PHILANTHROPIC GIVING

+

ADVOCACY PARTNER INITIATIVES

+

VOLUNTEER EVENTS + FUNDRAISERS



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 Proposal



Minnesota's Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

Minnesota Constitution Art. XI, Sec. 14: "The assets of the fund shall be appropriated by law for the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's air, water, land, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources."

Summary

The Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) welcomes proposals for projects of all sizes that address the priorities and requirements described within this Request for Proposal (RFP) and that aim to protect, conserve, preserve, and enhance Minnesota's air, water, land, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources. The LCCMR reviews applications and makes funding recommendations to the Minnesota Legislature from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF). Approximately \$103 million is available from the Trust Fund through this RFP for projects beginning July 1, 2026. Most projects funded are two to three years in duration. Proposals must be submitted online at lccmrprojectgrant.leg.mn by March 19, 2025.

OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT PROGRAM

2025 PROGRAM MANUAL



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