



WELCOME!

COMO REGIONAL PARK LONG-RANGE PLAN DAC MEETING #2 - MAY 9, 2023

TODAY'S AGENDA

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Meeting Framework**
- 3. Project Overview**
- 4. Community Engagement**
- 5. DAC Meeting #1 + CE Key Takeaways**
- 6. Map Analysis - Existing and Proposed**
- 7. Small Group Discussion**
- 8. Crossing and Signage Precedents**
- 9. Assignment #2 and Next Steps**

INTRODUCTION

City of Saint Paul

Parks and Recreation

David Ronzani | Project Manager

Anne Gardner | Supervisor

Max Sell | Landscape Design Associate

Committee Members (listed alphabetically)

Britta Belden

Theodore Budd

Joni Chacich

Dillon Clements

Allison Cole

Grant Cooper

James Cowles

Kevin Dahm

Amy Gage

Sasha Mackin

Zach Mensinger

Dave Montgomery

Christopher Tabisz

Greg Williams

Han Zhang

Thank You For Being Here!

MEETING FRAMEWORK

In-person meeting

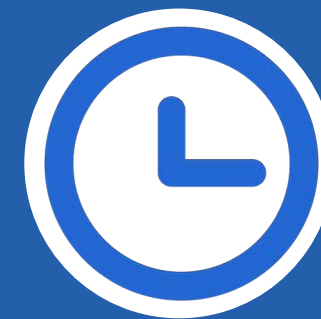
- Participation / best practices
- Content delivery

Continued Engagement

- Post meeting resources to DAC & Website
- www.engagestpaul.org/como-trail-master-plan

Discussion

- Meeting dates + times
- Virtual meeting option
- Other



5:00 – 7:00 PM

- Meeting #3: 7/11/23*

***Tentative time -
subject to DAC member approval**

PROJECT OVERVIEW | GOALS

Parks & Recreation:

- Plan will focus on reviewing and **improving the trail system** within Como Regional Park, particularly around Como Lake and its connections to **Saint Paul's Grand Round** trail network.
 - **Clarify** pedestrian, bicycle and mixed-use **routes** throughout Como Regional Park.
 - Identify and prioritize additional **amenities** for **future inclusion** within Como Regional Park.
 - **Goal:** Update guiding plan with changes for **adoption by Metropolitan Council**.
-

Metropolitan Council:

- For a park agency **to receive a grant** for acquisition or development, the proposed project must be consistent with a **Met Council-approved guiding plan**.
- Each regional park, regional trail, park reserve, and special recreation feature is **required** to have its own **guiding plan**.
- Project Funding: Legacy Grant, Met Council - **\$150,000**

PROJECT OVERVIEW | GUIDING PRINCIPLES

2040 Comprehensive plan:

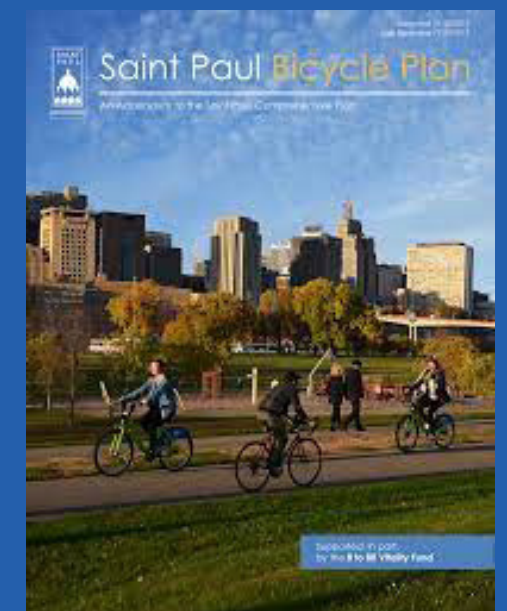
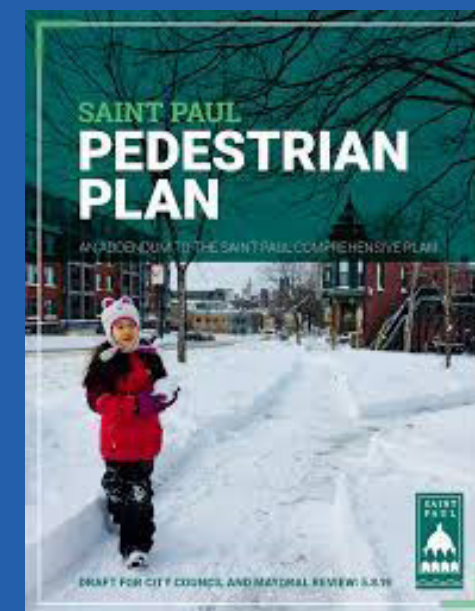
- Core Values: Celebrate parks, community/public health, transportation – safety and accessibility for all users, sustainable and equitable maintenance, environmentally- sustainable design.

2015 Bicycle plan (2023 is nearly adopted):

- 6.11- “Work to close gaps in the trail system to ensure seamless connections for bicycles and pedestrians of all ages”

2019 Pedestrian plan:

- Equity is at the foundation of the plan.



PROJECT OVERVIEW | NAME CHANGE

FROM METROPOLITAN COUNCIL -

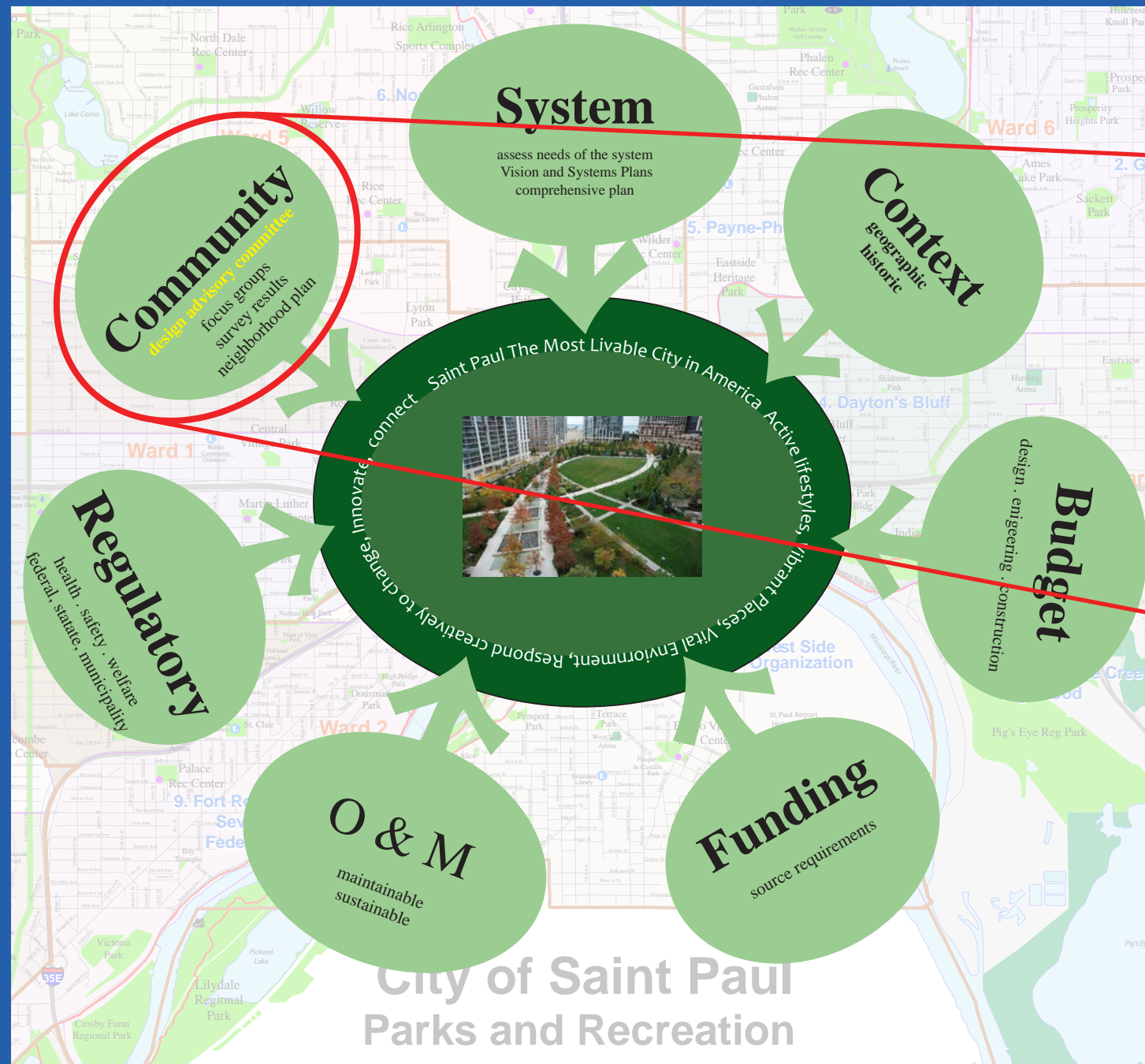
“Master plans” are referenced regularly throughout the Regional Parks Policy Plan and those words appear on the cover of most plans for units in the Regional Parks and Trails System.

There was a common understanding among the group that “master” has a negative connotation and has roots in slavery in the United States.

Council staff propose using “long-range plan” in place of “master plan” for all future planning efforts for the Regional Parks and Trails System.

This proposed change will also be reflected in the Regional Parks Policy Plan, part of the Council’s Regional Development Guide, to be considered for approval by Council committees and the full Council in late 2024.

PROJECT OVERVIEW | COMMITTEE ROLE



PROJECT OVERVIEW | DAC PRINCIPLES

Help to determine the **community needs** and desires for the site.

- Communicate with group(s) you are representing and solicit input.

Review plan concepts and **provide input** on **major design elements** and themes.

- Contribute constructive and respectful suggestions and feedback.

Bring suggestions from community, stakeholders, and respective organizations to the attention of the project team.

- Communicate via email and/or at meetings.

Help **communicate** project **progress** to community members.

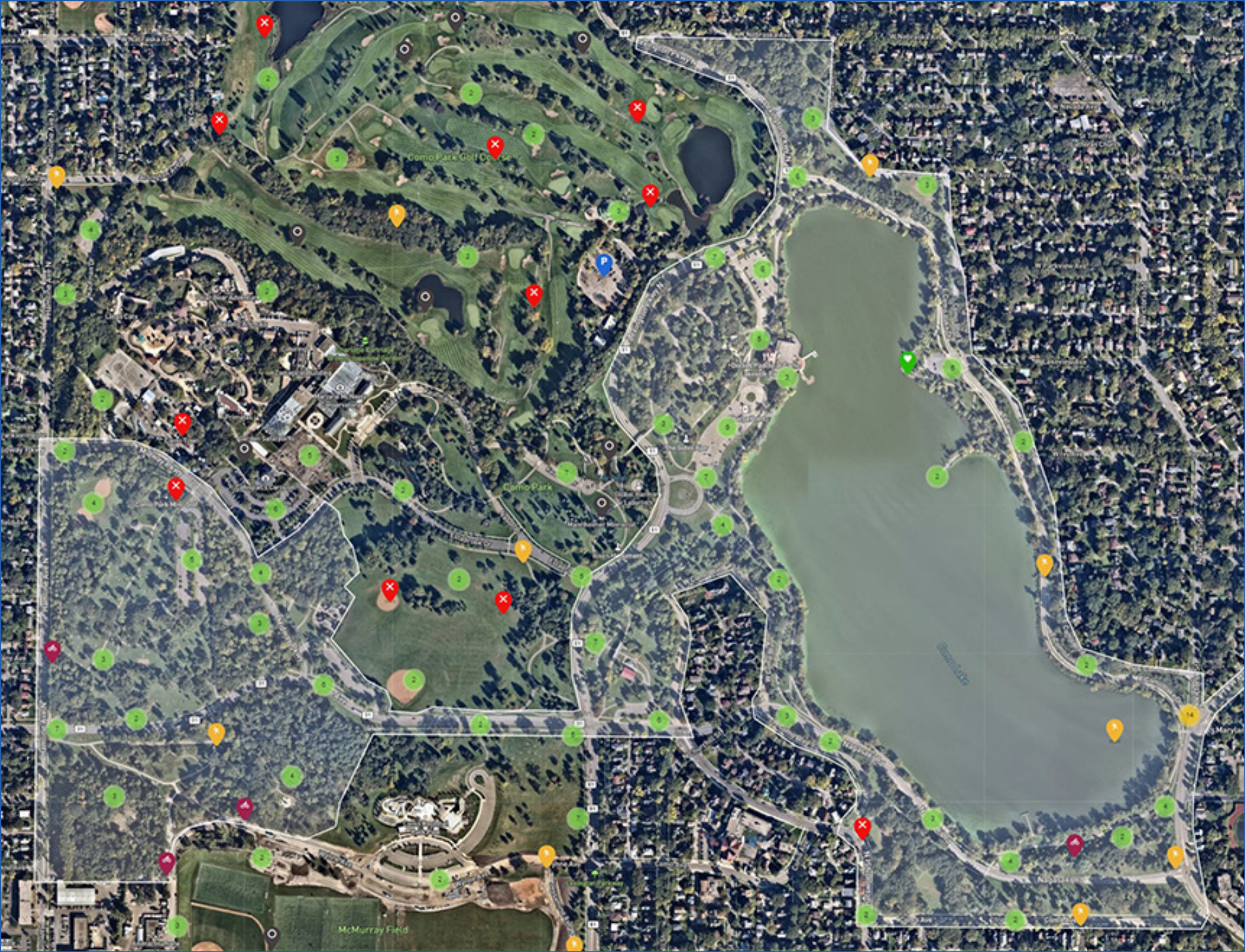
- Act as the **liaison** between project and community.

Provide guidance to City staff on final design recommendations for the project.

- Actively contribute through discussion at committee meetings.

Ensure that the full **range of issues** are discussed during the design process.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT | SUMMARY



- On-site + Neighborhood Events
- Engage Saint Paul
- Surveys
- Pin Map
- Site Signage
- Advisory Committees
- Targeted Engagement

114*
Surveys complete
*January close

715
Informed participants

337
Unique Pins

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT | SUMMARY

ENCOURAGE EXPLORATION

- Navigation And Safety
- Directional Signs, Intuitive Trail Marking (Paint)
- Information Kiosks

PEDESTRIAN

- Clear Signage, Information Kiosks
- Shade On East Side Of Lake
- Sidewalk Connections Out From Lake

TRAFFIC

- Traffic Calming Measures
- Vehicle Stopping Across Paths
- Speed Limit Signage

INTERSECTIONAL ISSUES

- East Como Lake Dr. Closure
- Pavement Condition
- On-Site Amenities Such As Restrooms And Trash Receptacles

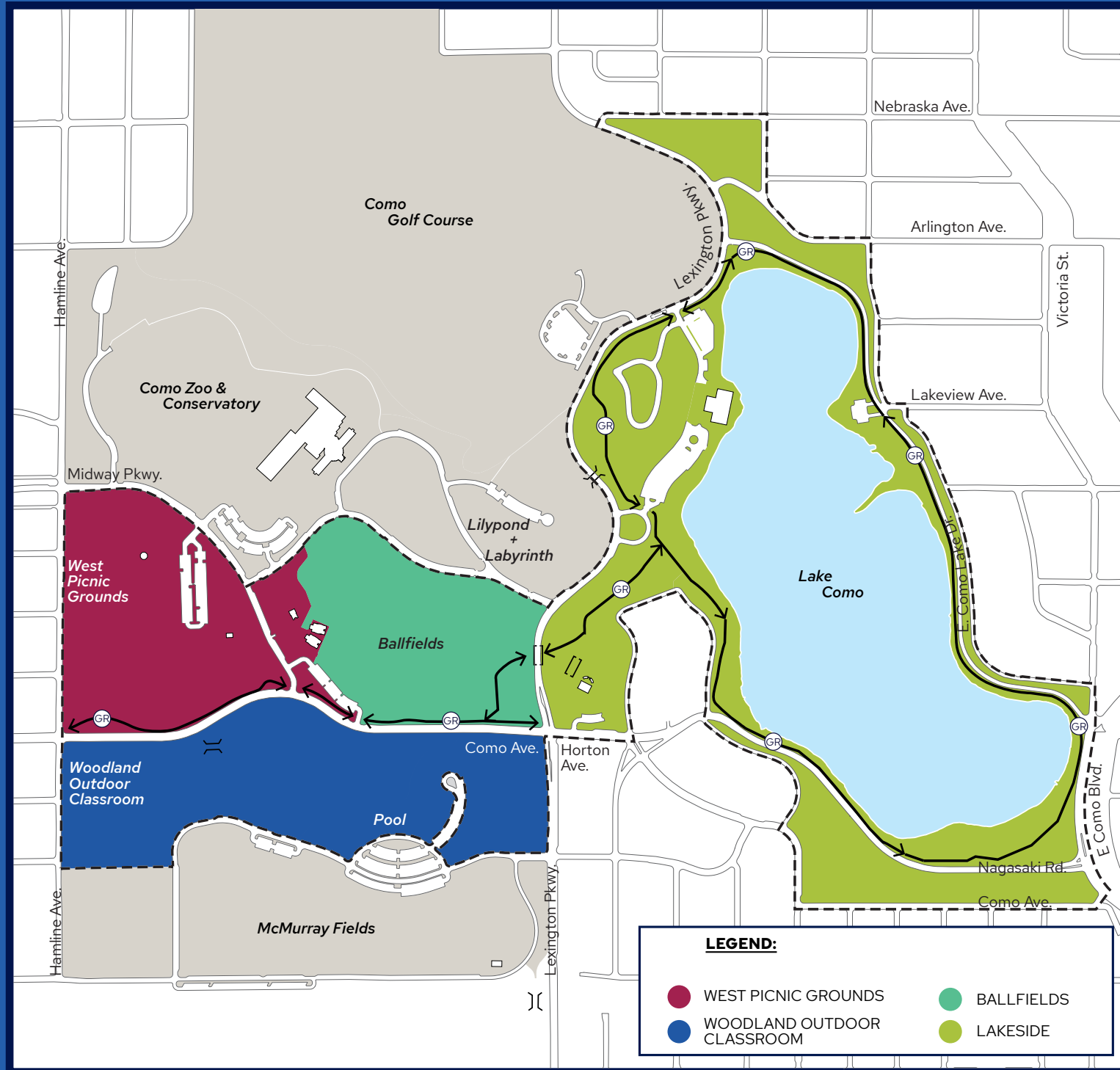
BICYCLING

- Two-Way Traffic Around Lake
- Pavement Crossings And Transitions
- Pavement Surfacing (Corners)

FURTHER CONSIDERATION

- Shoreline Restoration
- Dog Park
- Add Amenities -South Side of Lake
- Skills Course

PROJECT BOUNDARY

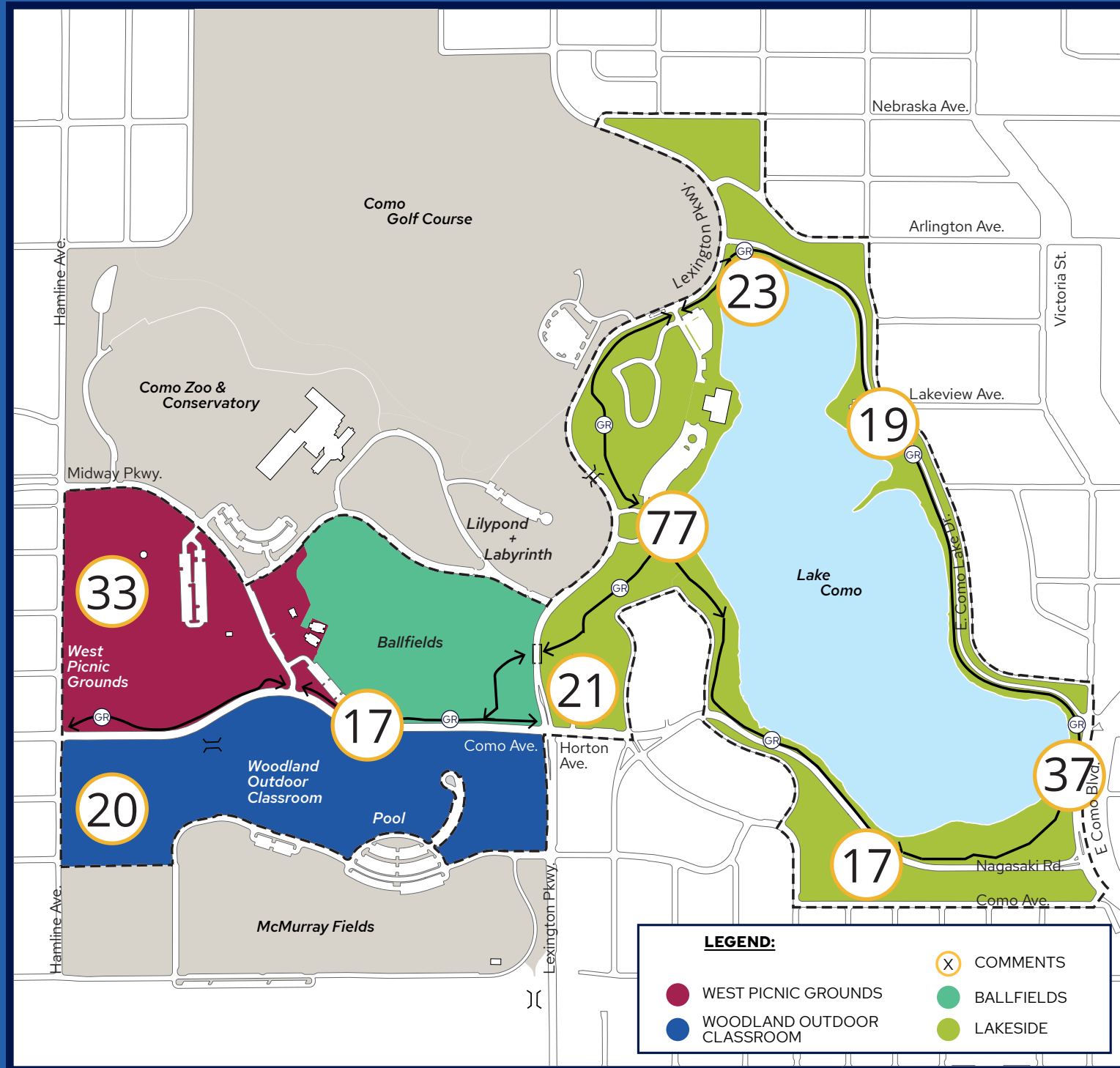


Areas Of Focus

- Lake
- Ballfields
- West Picnic Grounds
- Woodland Outdoor Classroom & McMurray Fields*
- Zoo And Conservatory*
- Golf Course*

*Not-included or partially not-included in analysis

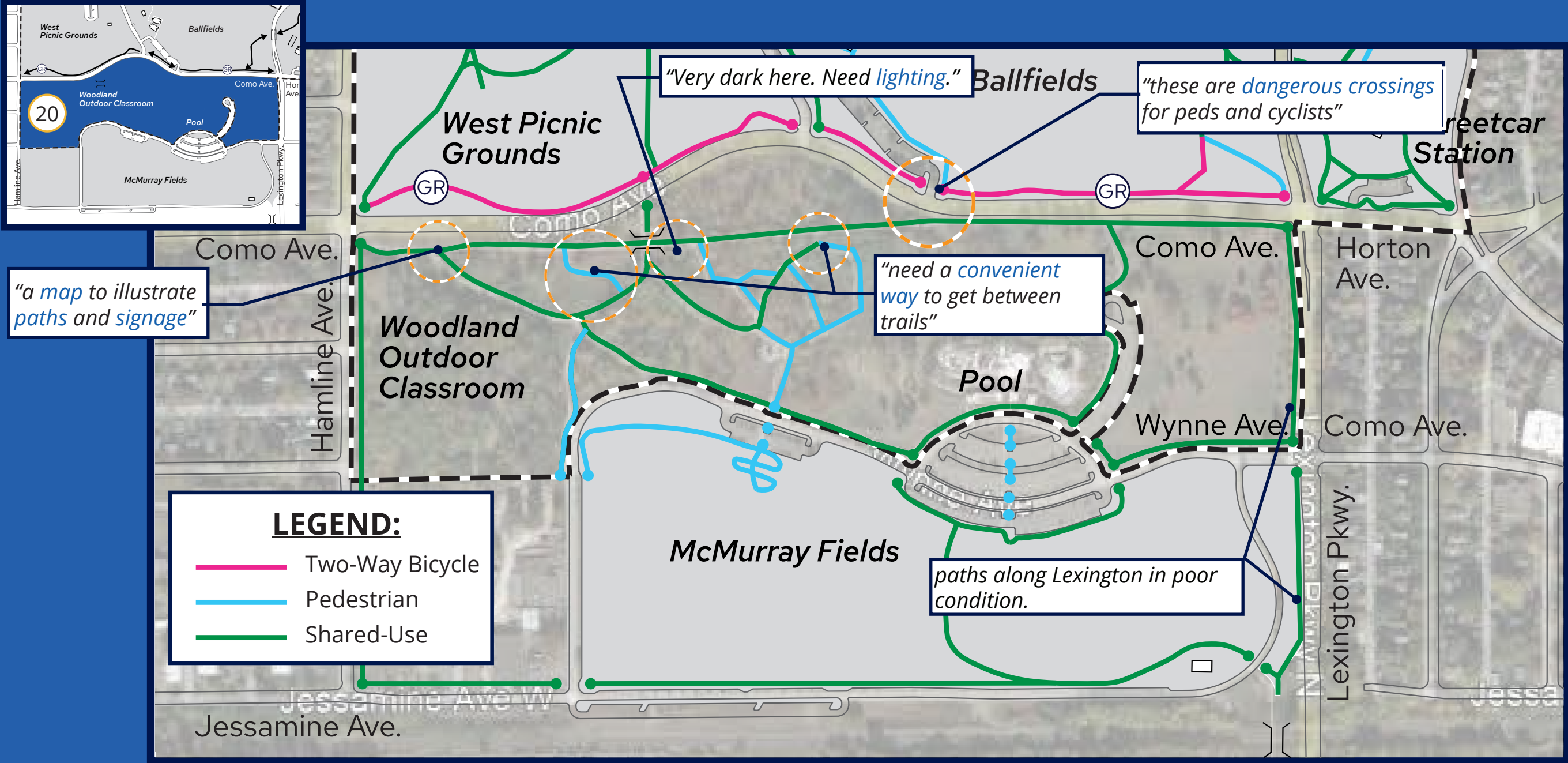
EXISTING | MAP COMMENTS



Frequent Parkwide Comments

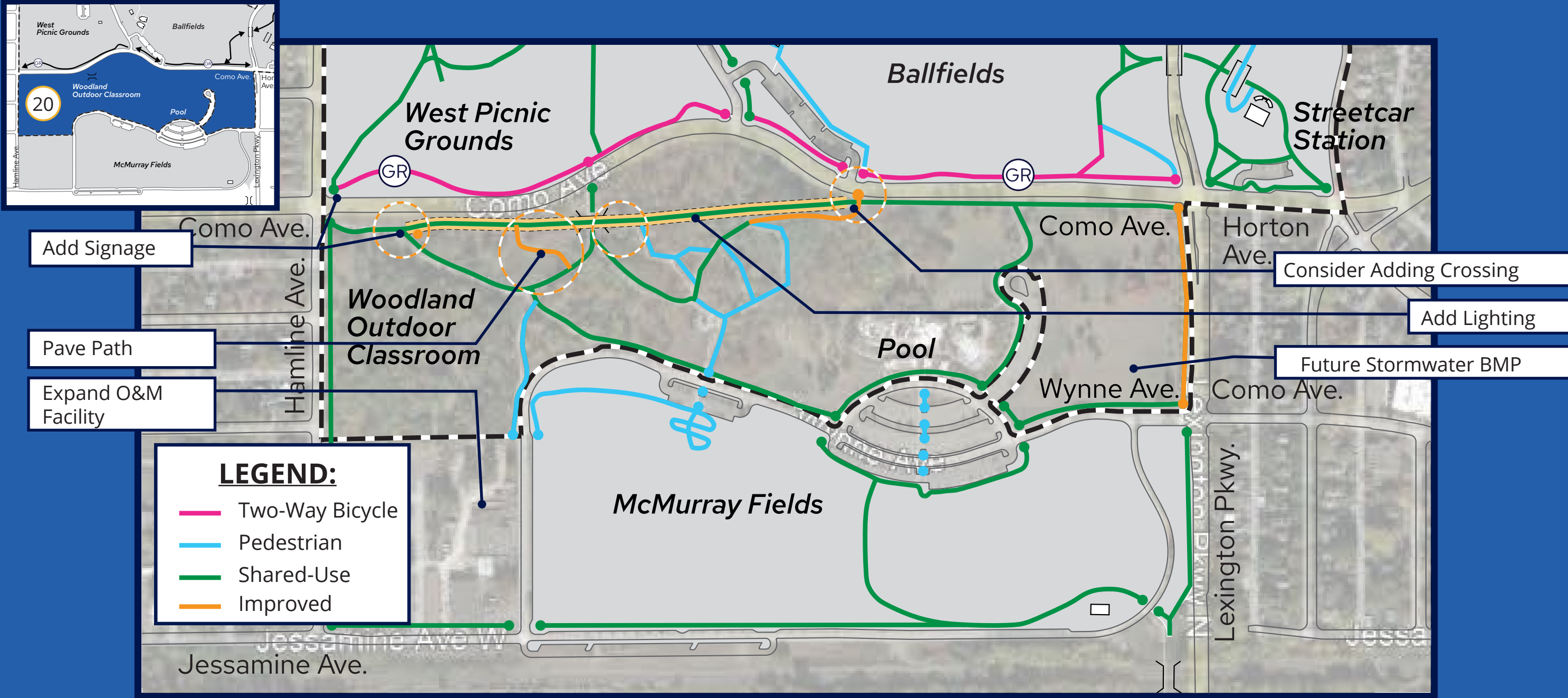
- Wayfinding/Signage
- Grand Round And Park Trail Improvements
- Pedestrian And Bicycle Crossings
- New Amenities
- New Paths And Connections

WOODLAND | EXISTING

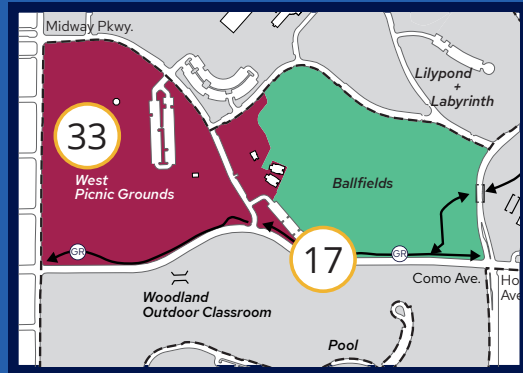


*Comments From Community Feedback

WOODLAND | PROPOSED



PICNIC AREA AND BALLFIELDS | EXISTING



"turn unused fields into dog park"

"Good site for history kiosk."

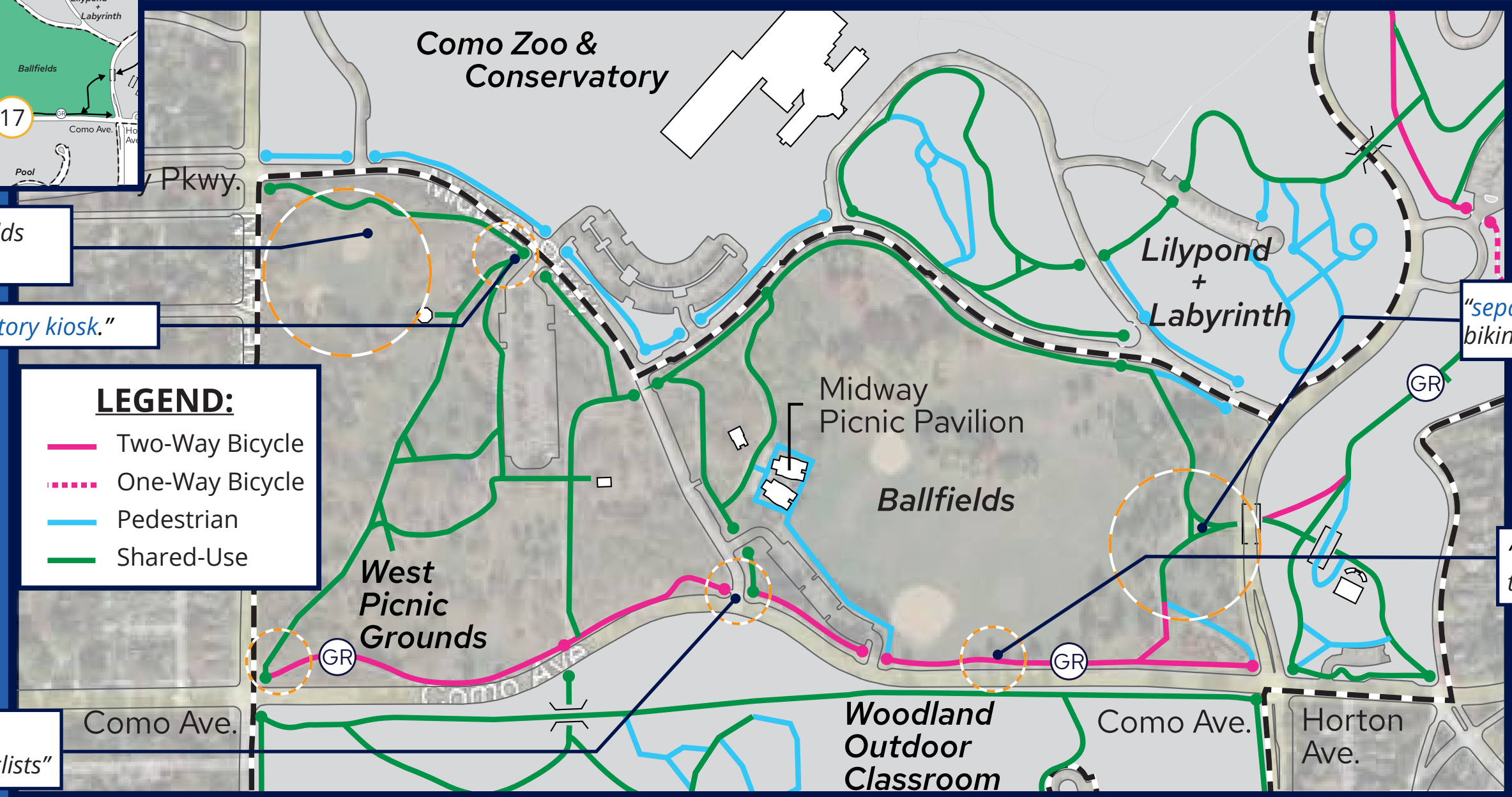
LEGEND:

- Two-Way Bicycle
- - - One-Way Bicycle
- Pedestrian
- Shared-Use

"separate walking and biking trails here"

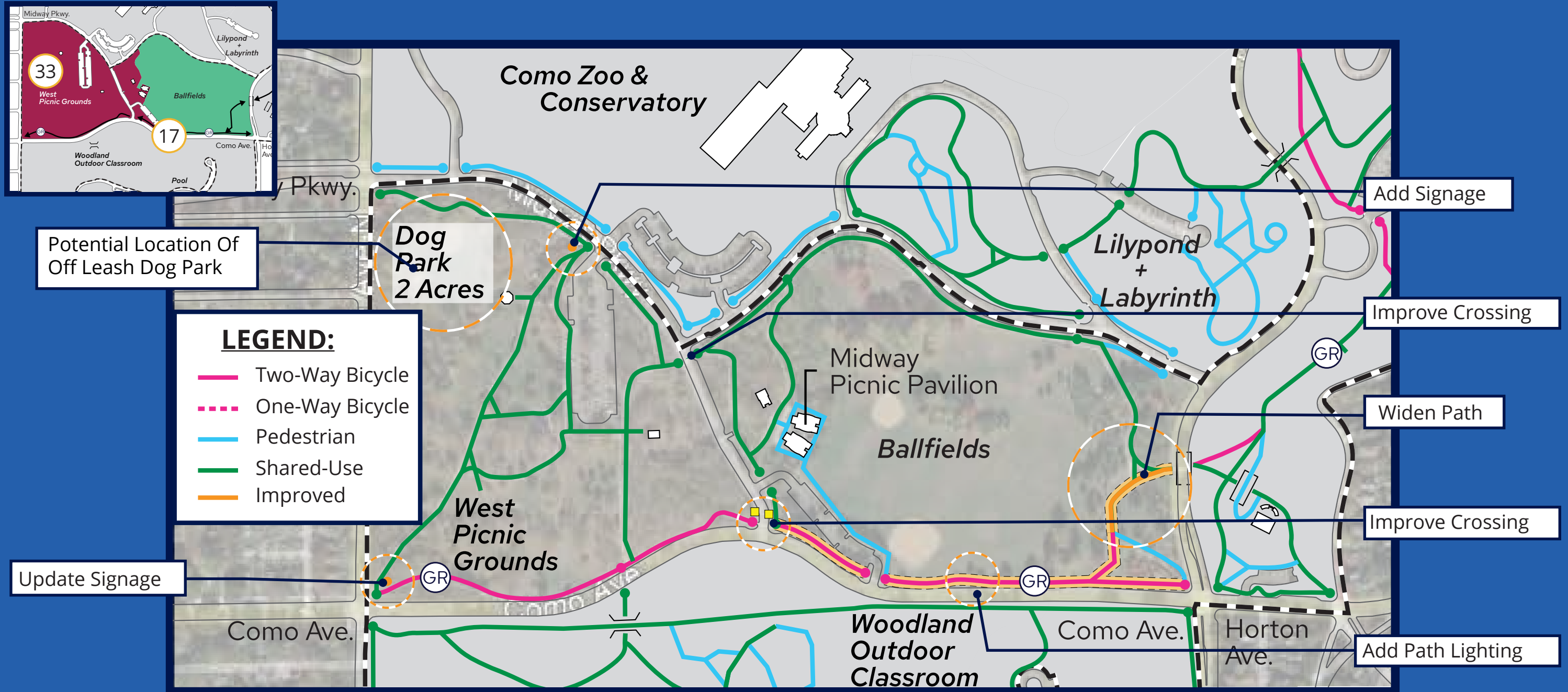
"path lights along this stretch"

"road crossing dangerous for cyclists"



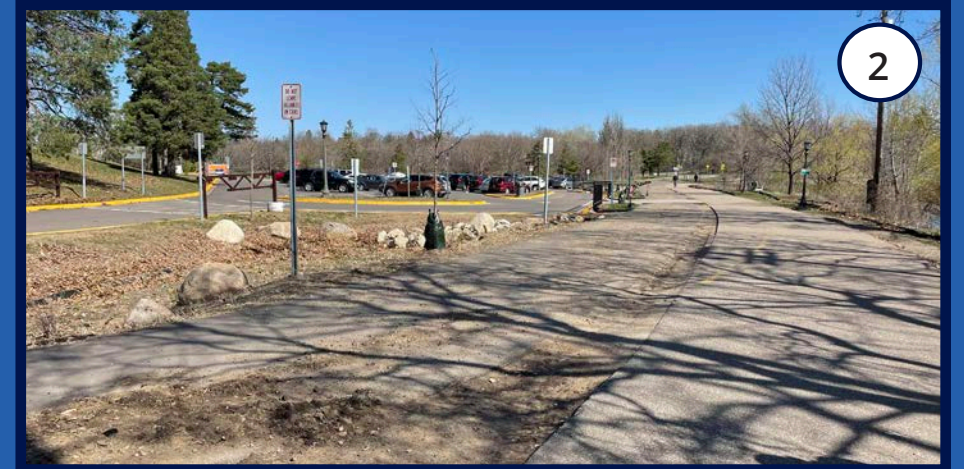
*Comments From Community Feedback

PICNIC AREA AND BALLFIELDS | PROPOSED



Note: Dog park footprint is shown only for scale. No design decisions for a dog park have been made at this time.

LAKE-NORTHWEST | EXISTING



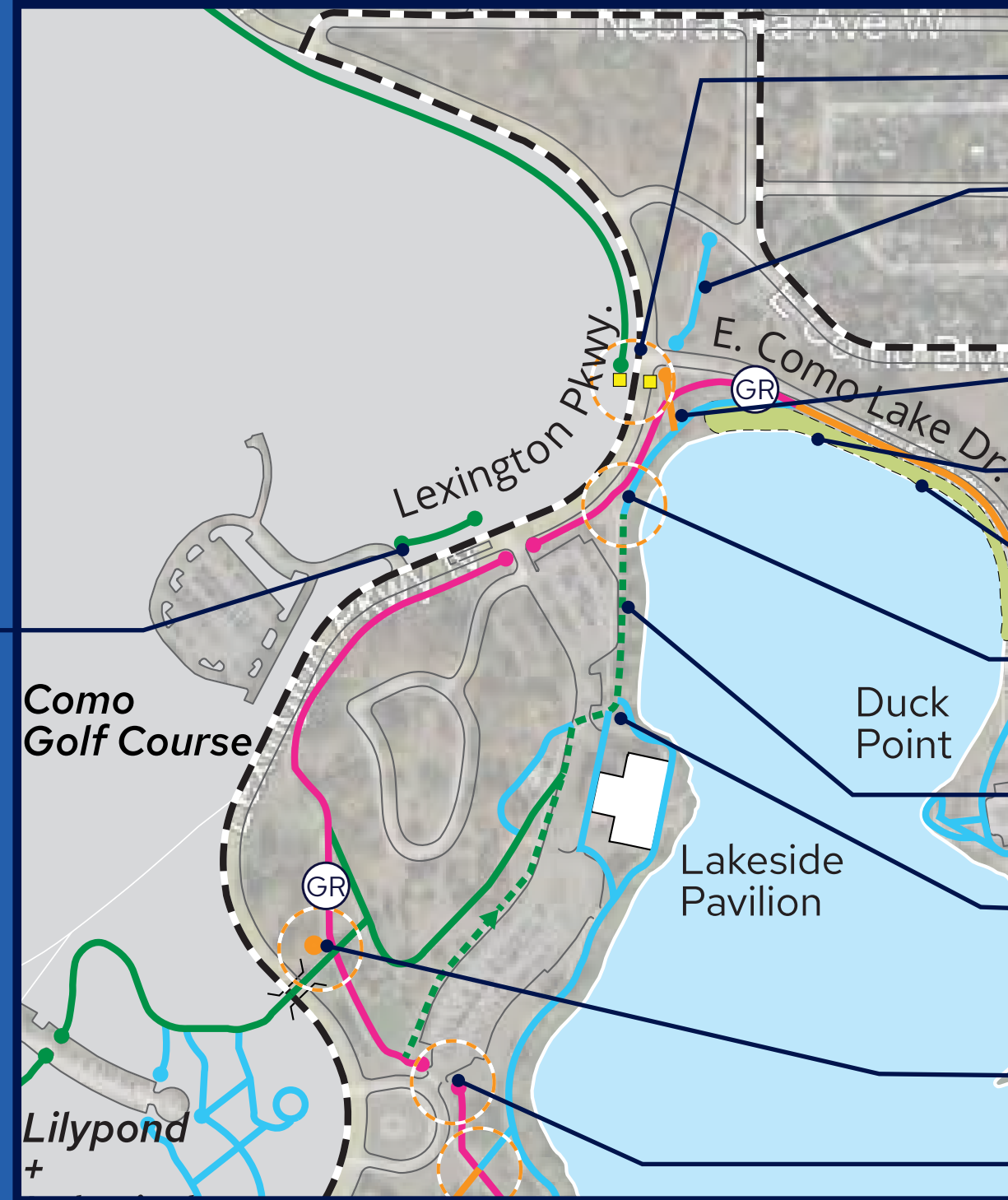
Isolated Segment
Difficult intersection for bikes and pedestrians

"bike path should be two way around lake"

Needs More Bike Parking

*Comments From Community Feedback

LAKE-NORTHWEST | PROPOSED



Connect Path Spur To Clubhouse, And At E. Como Intersection

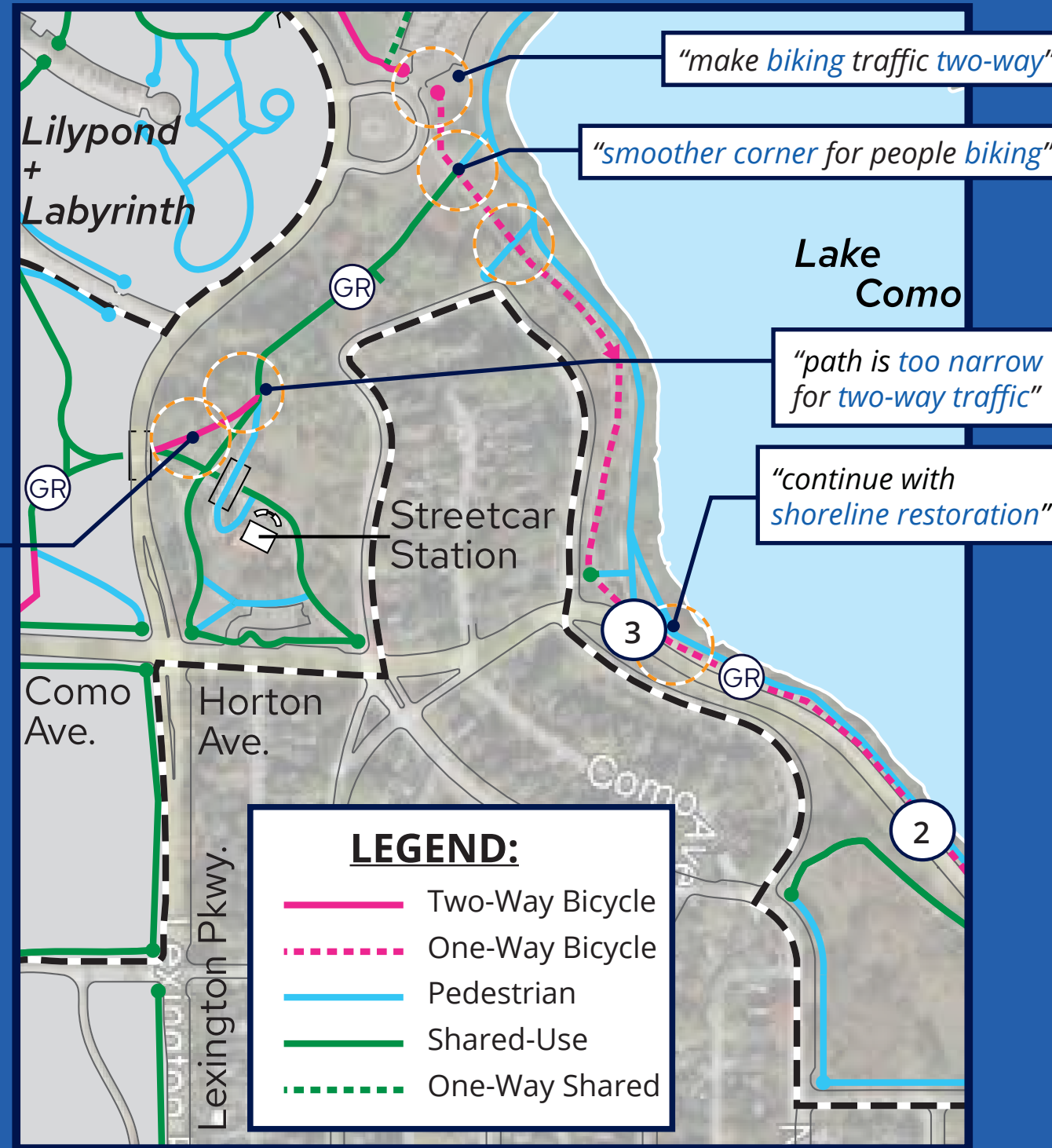
LEGEND:

- Two-Way Bicycle
- - - One-Way Bicycle
- Pedestrian
- Shared-Use
- - - One-Way Shared
- Improvements

- Improve Crossing
- Consider Extending Path To Nebraska Ave. W
- Improve Circulation At This Intersection
- Shared -Use Path
- *Shoreline Restoration
- Update Signage
- Add Path Markings
- Improve Circulation Around Pavilion. Improvements To Pavilion Also Needed.
- Provide Signage
- Two-Way Bike

**Coordinate Shoreline Restoration With CRWD*

LAKE-SOUTHWEST | EXISTING



"separate paths...corners and hills make for conflicts"

"make biking traffic two-way"

"smoother corner for people biking"

"path is too narrow for two-way traffic"

"continue with shoreline restoration"

LEGEND:

- Two-Way Bicycle
- - - One-Way Bicycle
- Pedestrian
- Shared-Use
- - - One-Way Shared

*Comments From Community Feedback

LAKE-SOUTHWEST | PROPOSED



Two-Way Bike

Improve Trail Alignment

Improve Pavement

Improve Pavement Quality And Site Lines

*Shoreline Restoration

Shared-Use Area

Add Lighting

Access To Lake Paths From Horton Needs Improvement

Widen Path

Add Signage

LEGEND:

- Two-Way Bicycle
- - - One-Way Bicycle
- Pedestrian
- Shared-Use
- - - One-Way Shared
- Improvements

**Coordinate Shoreline Restoration With CRWD*

LAKE-SOUTHEAST | EXISTING



*Comments From Community Feedback



LAKE-SOUTHEAST | PROPOSED



**Coordinate Shoreline Restoration With CRWD*

*Shoreline Restoration

Add Lighting

Widen Path To Meet Shared-Use Standard

Two-Way Bike

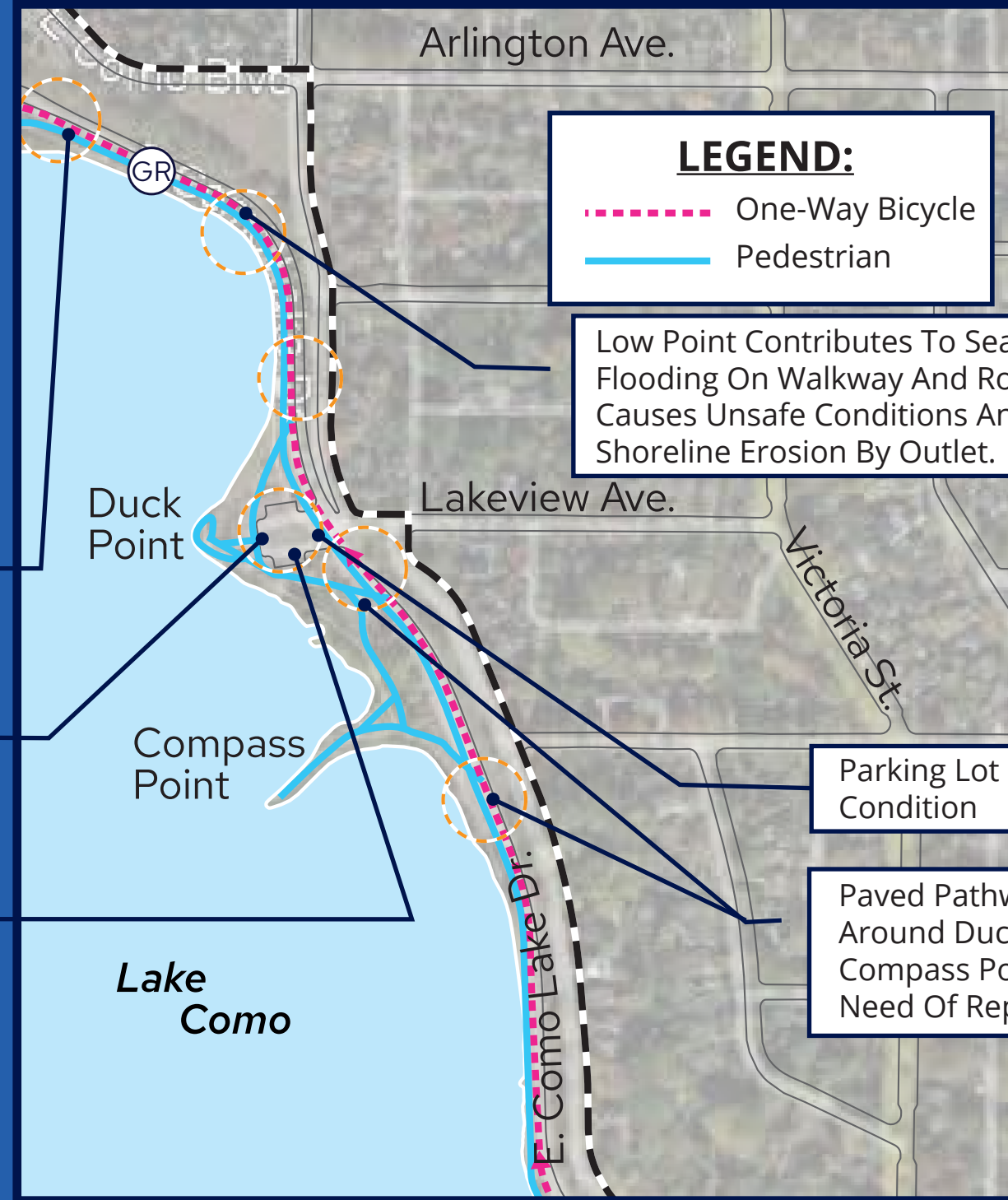
Improve Crossing

Improve Crossings At Intersection. Further Study Needed Regarding Potential Closure Of E. Como Drive. Study Needed To To Explore: Full Closure, Partial, Or Modification Of This Route To Improve Lake Water Quality, Non Motorized Circulation, And Safety At The Intersection.

New Path Alignment

Improve Crossings At Intersection. Consider Redesign Of Nagasaki Road And Intersection As Described In Grand Round Implementaiton Plan.

LAKE-NORTHEAST | EXISTING



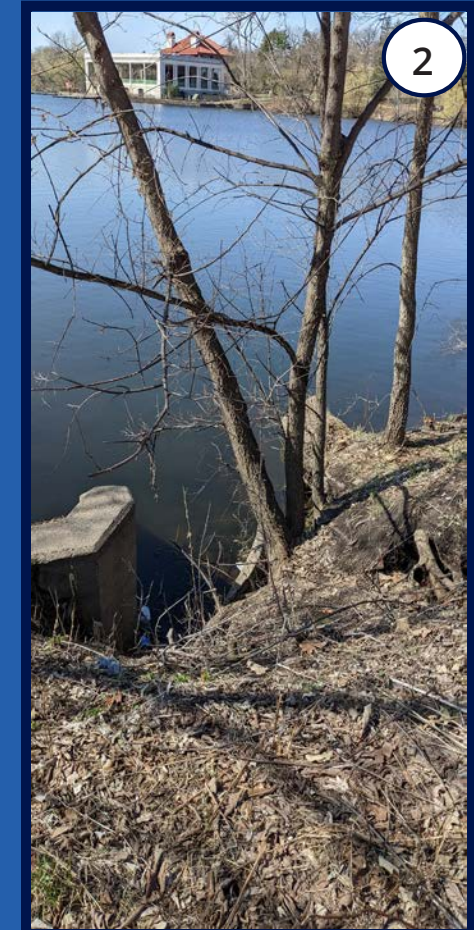
1
 One-Way Bicycle Route Often Used As Two Way, Resulting In Conflicts.

Directional And Wayfinding Signage Needed Around Parking Lot And Trails.

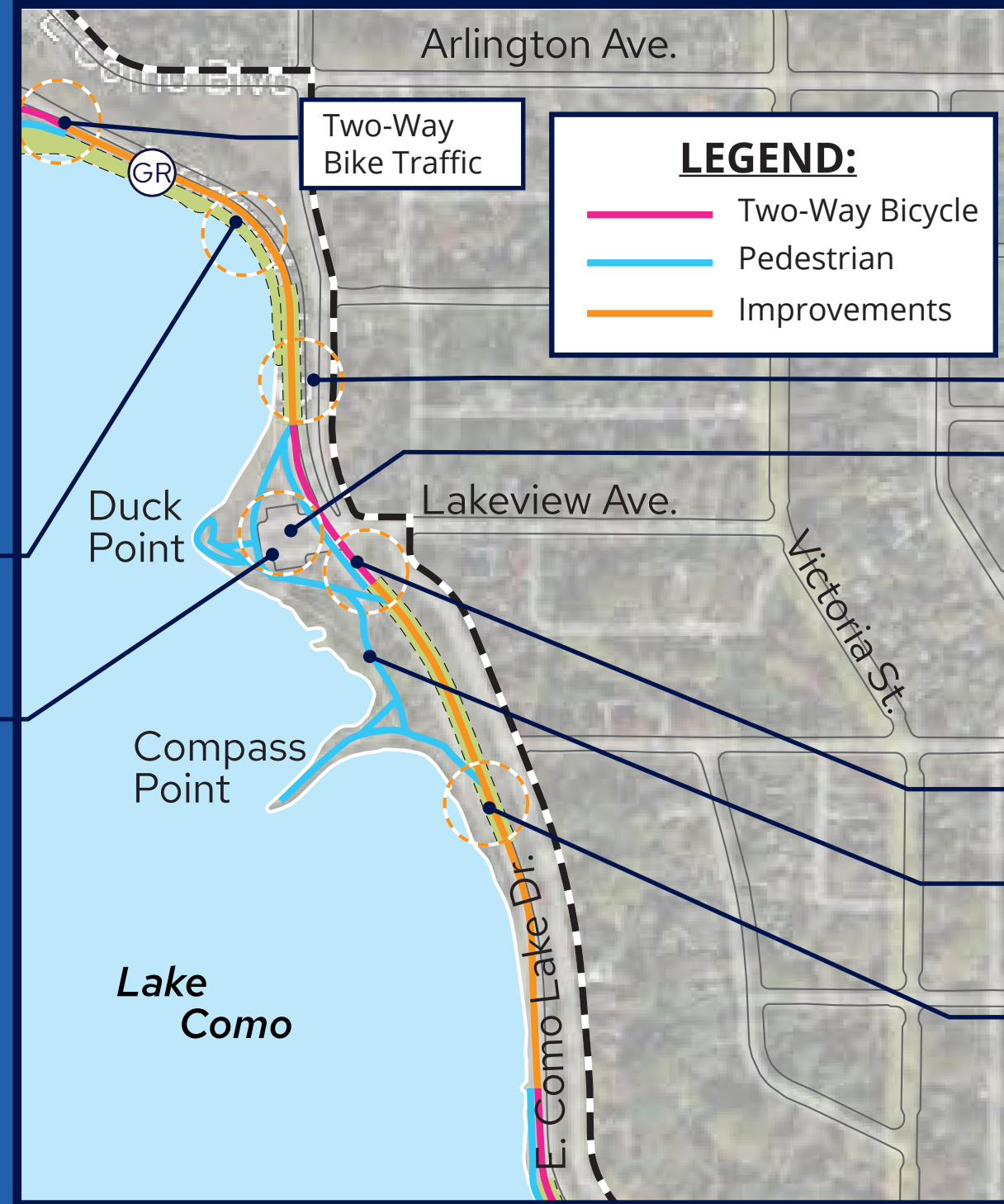
Informational Signage In Need Of Update

3
 Parking Lot In Poor Condition

Paved Pathways Around Duck And Compass Points In Need Of Repair



LAKE-NORTHEAST | PROPOSED



LEGEND:

- Two-Way Bicycle
- Pedestrian
- Improvements

*Shoreline Restoration, Update Storm Structures, Consider Adding Fishing Pier.

Work With CRWD To Update Informational Signage In Restoration And Stormwater Treatment Areas.

Add Trees

Resurface Parking Lot. Improve Signage In And Around Parking Lot.

Multi-Use Path

Improve Pavement Conditions Of Pedestrian Routes

Add Trees

**Coordinate Shoreline Restoration With CRWD*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

- 1. Please discuss which improvements that you like and why?**
- 2. What additional improvements would you like to include?**

CROSSINGS: TABLED CROSSINGS

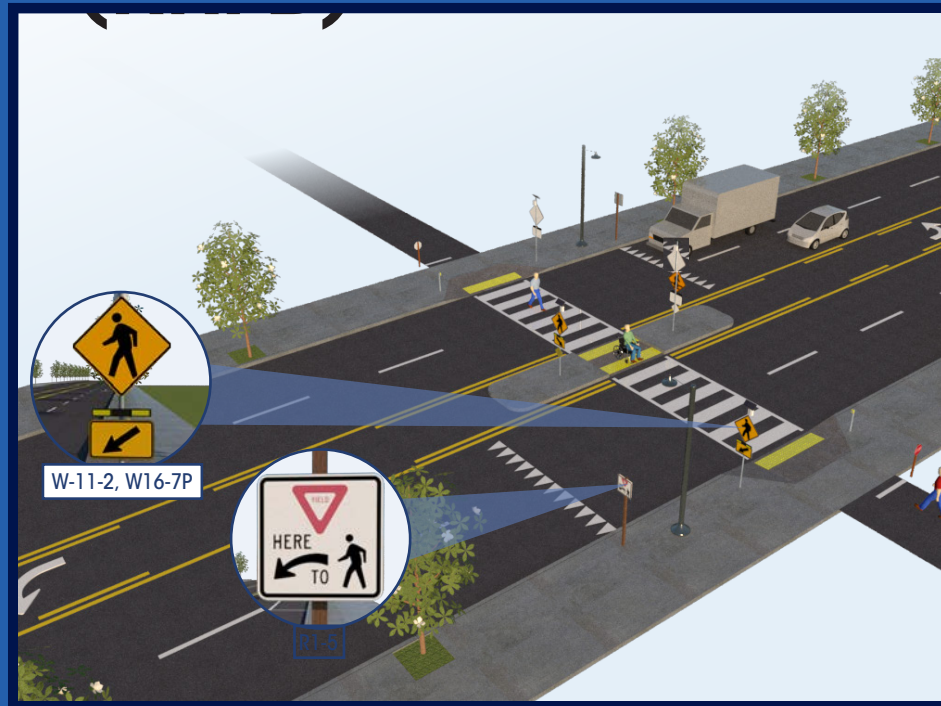


Along Wheelock Pkwy, Tabled Crossings Are Frequently Used along the Grand Round

Introducing A Tabled Crossing Requires Close Consideration Of Physical Constraints On Site, Including:

- Drainage
- Utilities
- Sight Lines
- Operating Speeds
- Sag And Crest Curves
- Maintenance Needs

CROSSINGS | RRFBS



What Are Rrfb's?

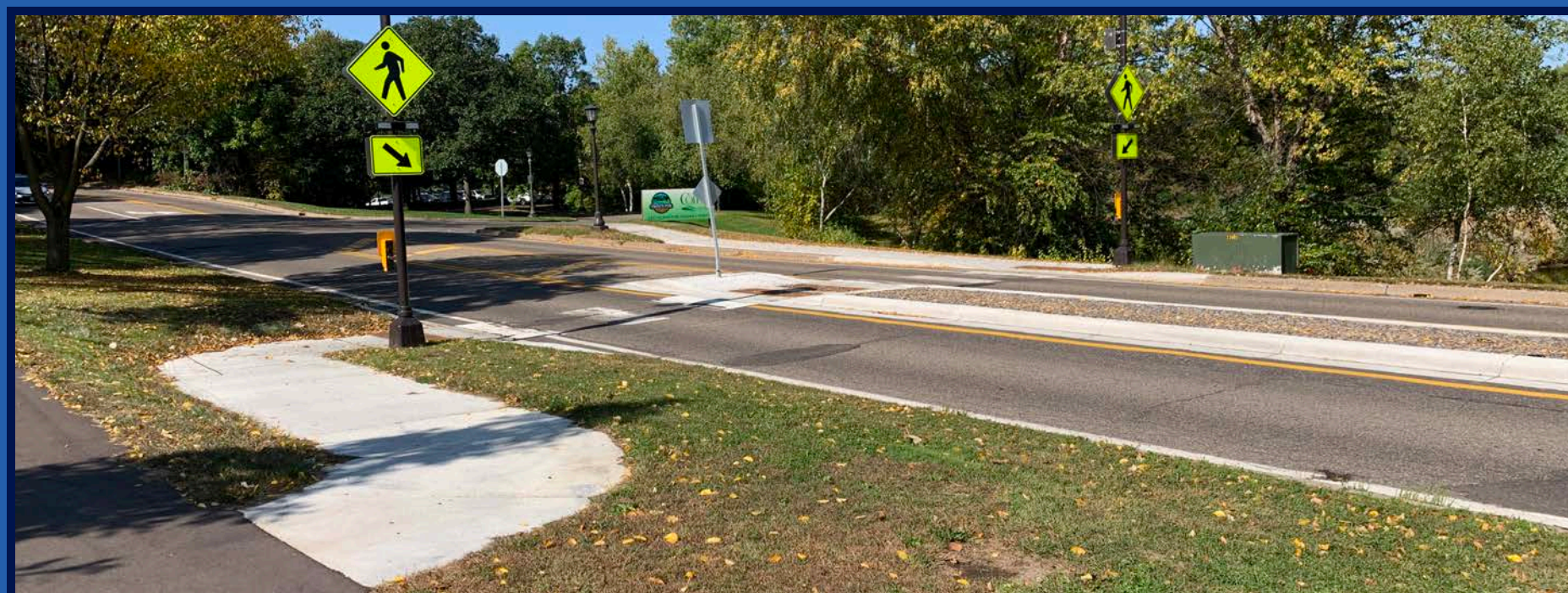
Rectangular Rapid-Flashing Beacons (Rrfb) Are **Visibility Enhancements** Used To Improve Safety At **Marked Crosswalks**.

Agencies Shall:

- Avoid **Overuse** Of RRFBs As It May **Diminish** Their **Effectiveness**.

Agencies Shall Not:

- Use Rrfbs Without The Presence Of A Crossing Warning Sign.
- Use Rrfbs For Crosswalks Across Approaches Controlled By Yield/ Stop Signs Or Traffic Control Signals.



U.S. Department of Transportation - Federal Highway Administration

SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING | SYSTEM



Kiosks

- Maps • History • Community Info



Blade Signs

- Attractions • Distances • Direction



Pavement Markings

- Use • Route • Direction

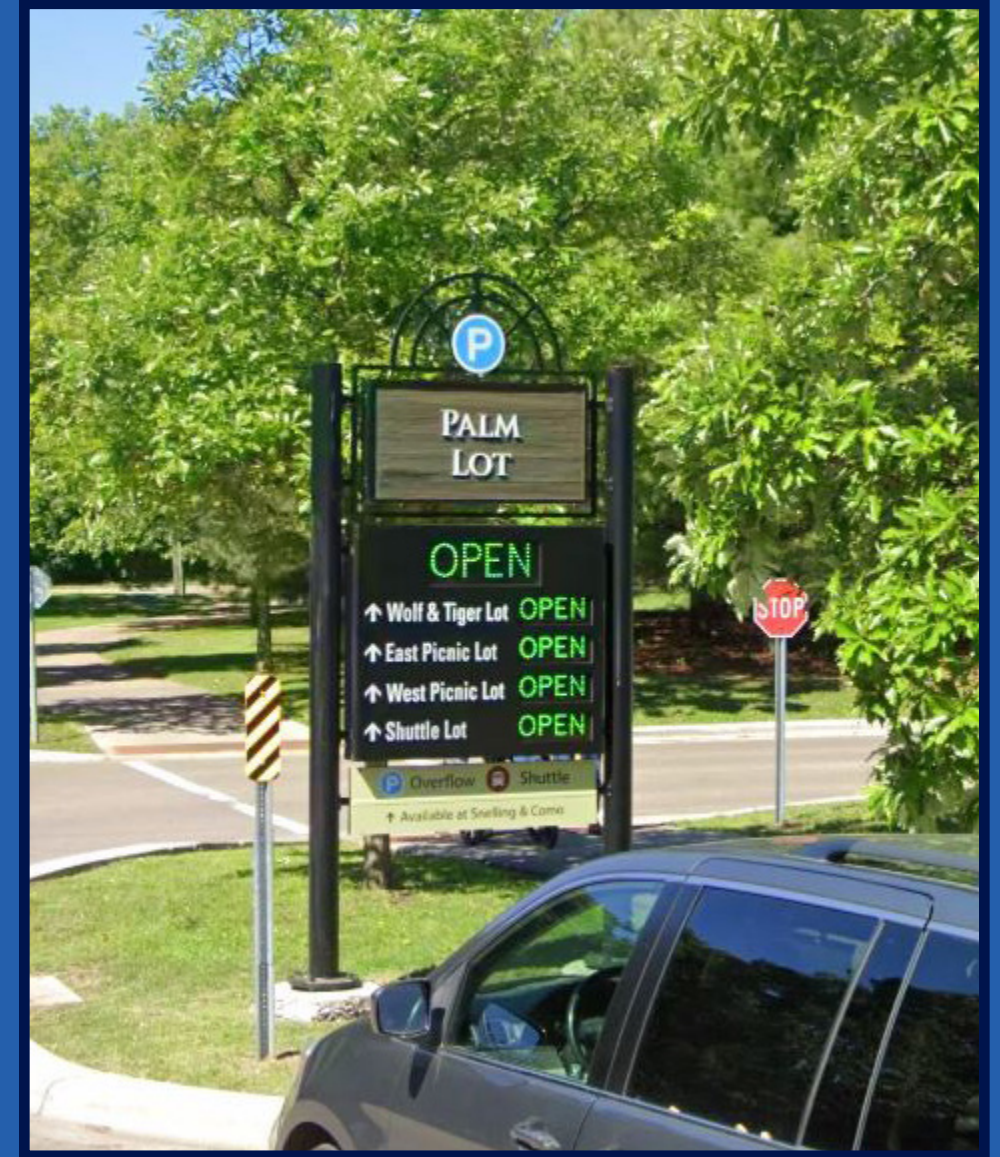
SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING | COMO PARK



Trail Signage
• Use • Direction



Pavement Markings
• Use • Route • Direction



Parking Areas
• Availability • Direction

SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING | CRWD + DNR



Water Quality

- Hydrological Cycle • Watershed Info



Shoreline Restoration

- Educational • Informational



Fishing Areas

- Invasive Species

NEXT STEPS

- **DAC Meeting #3 July 11, 2023 (tentative)-
Discuss updates to Concept Plan**
- **Open House - August 2023 (tentative)**
- **Target for Long-Range Plan Adoption-
December - June 2024**

THANK YOU!

David Ronzani (he/him)
Landscape Architect | Project Manager
City of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation
david.ronzani@ci.stpaul.mn.us |
651.266.6410

COMO REGIONAL PARK PLAN

<https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/design-construction/current-projects/como-regional-park-trail>

ASSIGNMENT #2

1. Share the meeting materials with your colleagues, provide feedback for Meeting #3.