

An aerial photograph of Como Regional Park in Saint Paul, Minnesota, featuring a large lake, a golf course, and a clubhouse. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter and white text. A horizontal white line is positioned below the word 'WELCOME!'.

WELCOME!

COMO REGIONAL PARK LONG-RANGE PLAN DAC MEETING #3 - July 19, 2023

TODAY'S AGENDA

1. Introduction

2. Project Overview

3. Community Engagement

4. DAC Meeting #2 Review

5. Focus Areas

6. Discussion

7. Next Steps

INTRODUCTION

City of Saint Paul

Parks and Recreation

David Ronzani | Project Manager

Anne Gardner | Supervisor

Katie Hamerlinck | 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!

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.

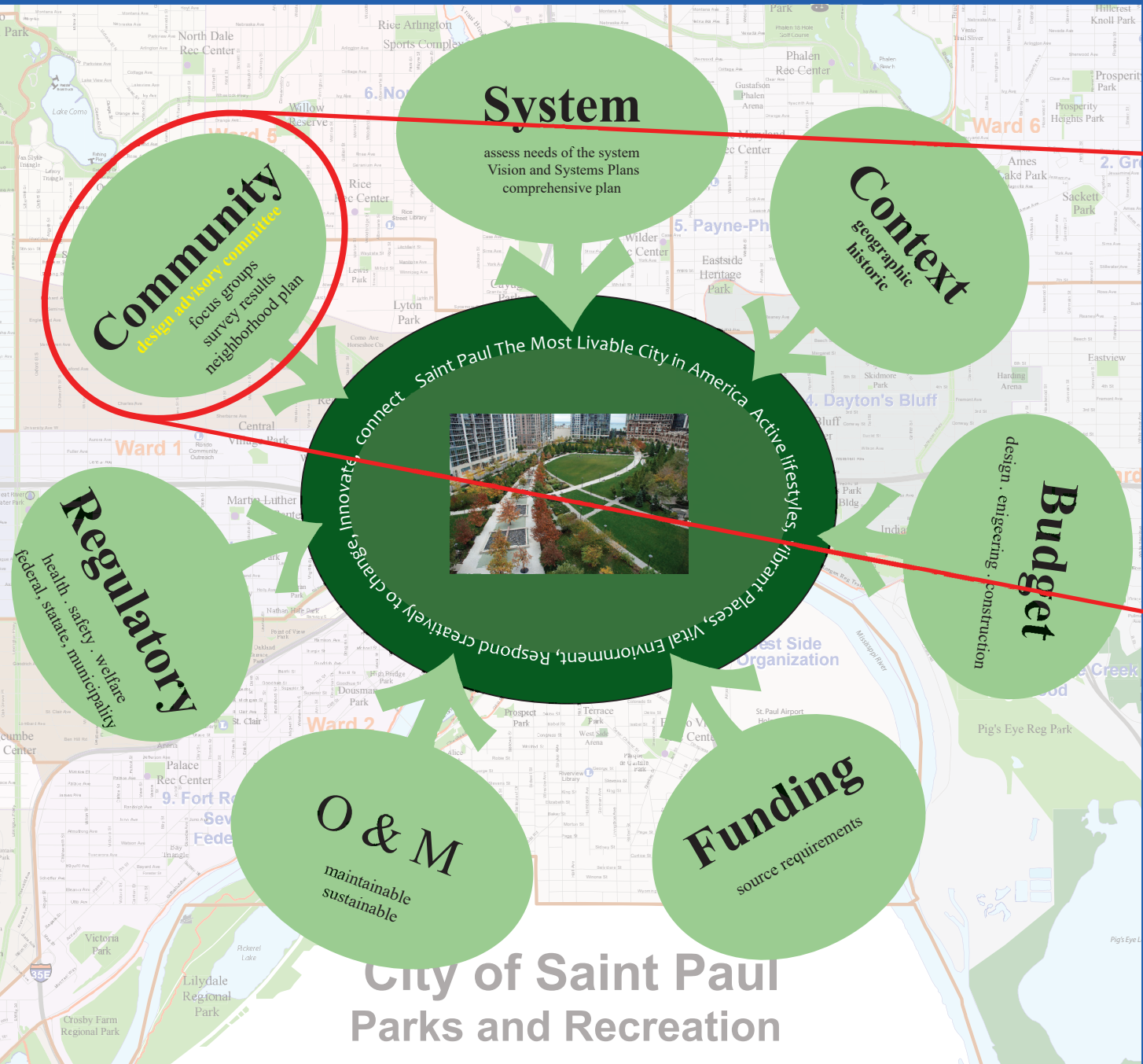
- Act as the **liaison** between project and community.

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.

PROJECT OVERVIEW | COMMITTEE ROLE



Community
 design advisory committee
 focus groups
 survey results
 neighborhood plan

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 Long Range Plan with changes for **adoption by Metropolitan Council**.
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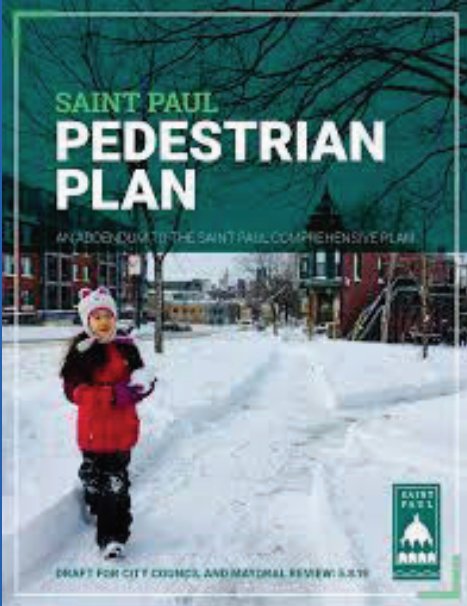
Metropolitan Council:

- 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

BIG IDEA

Como Regional Park is the largest, most visited Regional park in Saint Paul. Our Long Range plan will impart clarity in wayfinding for pedestrian and bicycles traffic, improve safety and accessibility for all users, enhance lake water quality, and promote equity in design to provide amenities that can be maintained sustainably and reflect the evolving recreational interests and diversity of park visitors.



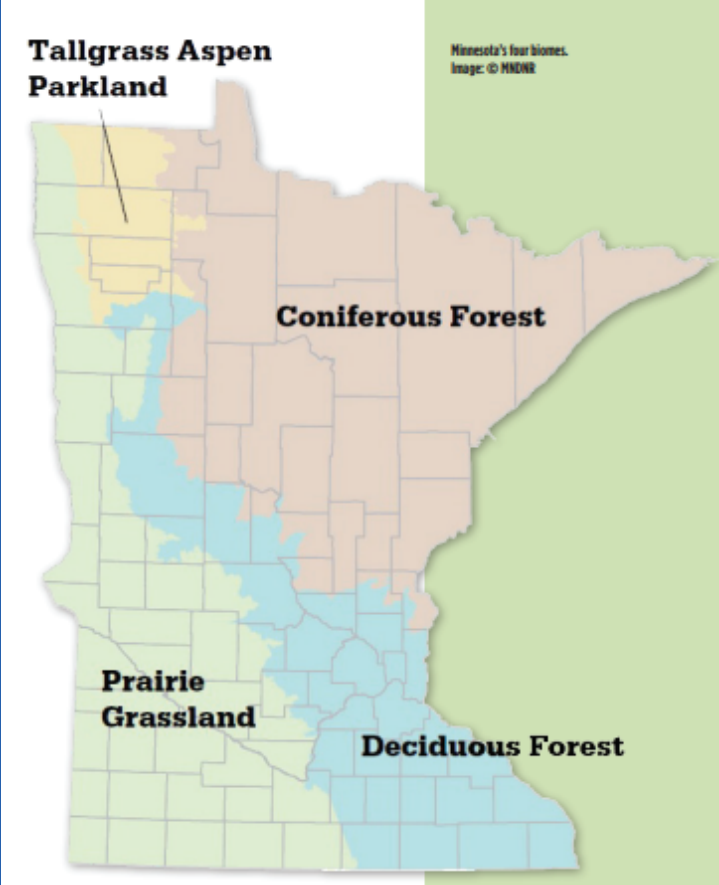
PROJECT OVERVIEW | GUIDING PRINCIPLES

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- Update trail system emphasizing safety, accessibility, convenience and comfort.
- Promote the ecological function of open space and unprogrammed areas,
- Improve the environmental sustainability and resiliency of Como Regional Park.
- Design, program, and maintain to promote year round activity.
- Embrace and integrate emerging cultural and recreation trends.
- Reduce barriers caused by financial, physical, language and perception issues.
- Provide interpretive elements to educate.
- Improve Wayfinding and Grand Round reinforcement and branding within the existing Como Regional Park wayfinding system
- Coordinate improvements with regulatory agencies, previous plans, and studies.

PROJECT OVERVIEW | HISTORY

CULTURAL HISTORY



INDIGENOUS SETTLEMENT OF NORTH AMERICA

PROJECT OVERVIEW | HISTORY

CULTURAL HISTORY

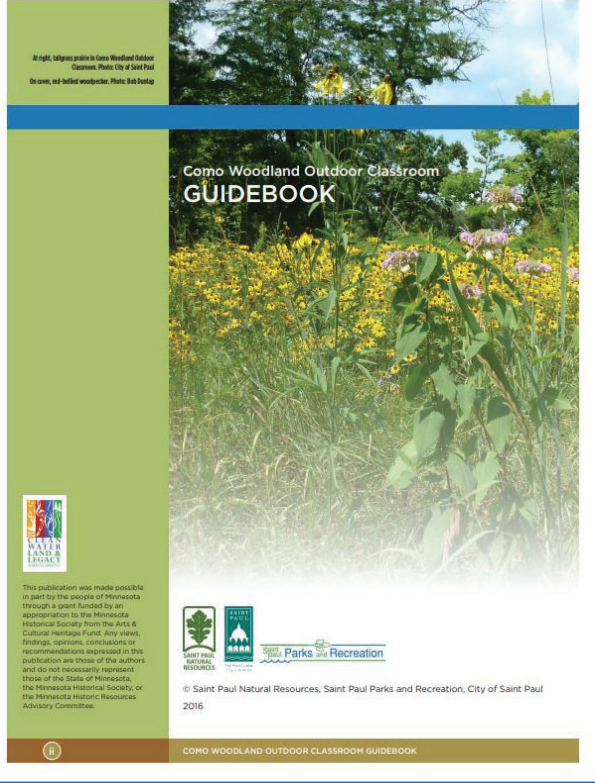


PARK PLAN FROM 1889-1890



COMO LAKE CIRCA 1870

A CHRONOLOGICAL ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF COMO PARK
 SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA
 BY TIMOTHY V. GABBAN



PROJECT OVERVIEW | CLARIFICATIONS

3 UNITS OF THE COMO REGIONAL PARK SYSTEM-

- Como Regional Park (Includes Como Pool)
- Como Zoo*
- Como Conservatory*

*Both Como Zoo and Como Conservatory are Special Recreation Features and require their own Long Range Plan.

Enterprise Facilities

- 2 enterprise facilities within Como Regional Park - Como Golf Course and McMurray Fields.
- Enterprise-fund recreation facilities include any facility that is expected to generate sufficient revenues to pay its own costs, such as golf courses, downhill ski areas, and water parks.
- These facilities **are not eligible for regional park funds** from the Council because enterprise-fund recreation facilities are expected to raise money for their development and operation in the same way as their private sector counterparts.



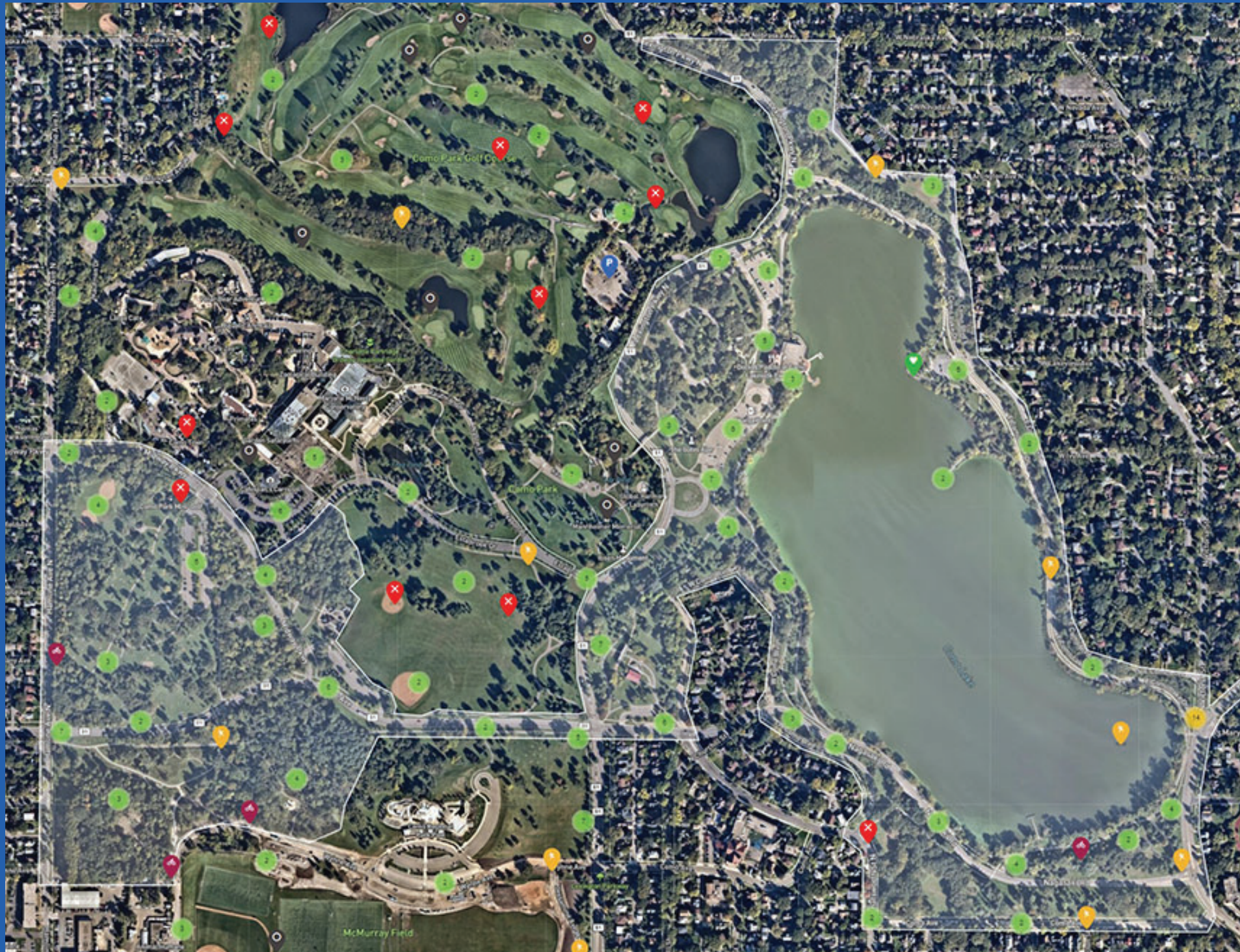
PROJECT OVERVIEW | CLARIFICATIONS

PRIORITY WATERS –Lake Como is considered a Priority Water

- The Metropolitan Council developed the Priority Waters List to help sustainably manage Twin Cities metro area waterbodies.
- Waterbodies classified as Priority Waters have been determined to be regionally significant based on the benefits these waterbodies provide
- The benefits to the region are based on seven categories: **recreation and tourism, healthy habitat, drinking water protection, tranquil connection, equity, industry and utility, and science and education.**

- The Priority Waters List:
 - Guides Met Council allocates resources.
 - Provides a key lens for developing policies and activities to include in the 2050 Water Resources Policy Plan (2050 WRPP).
 - Offers insights to other organizations as they prioritize projects and spend their resources.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT | UPDATE



- 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 | UPDATE

MAY TO JULY

COMPLETED OUTREACH

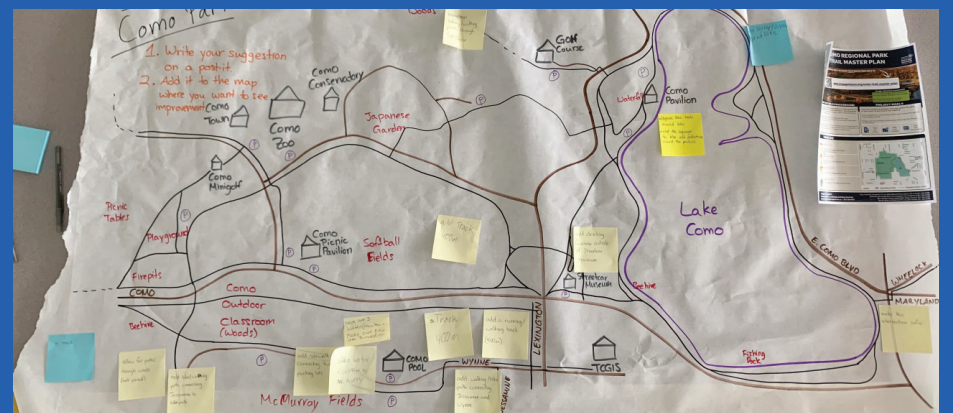
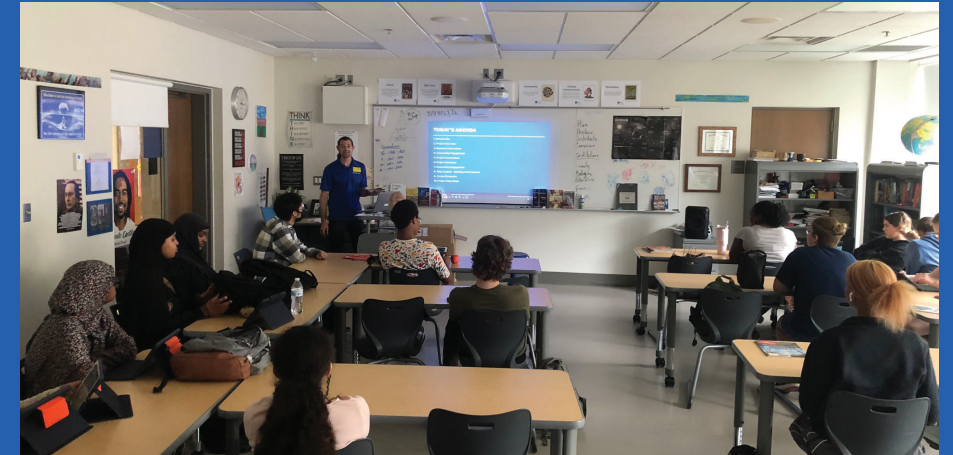
- Como Park High School (2 visits)
- Hmong College Prep Academy
- German Immersion School

EVENTS

- Ice Cream Social- District 10

ONGOING - Follow Up needed

- Hmong College Prep Academy
- German Immersion School
- Indigenous
- KOM
- Metro Deaf School



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT | SUMMARY

FEEDBACK SUMMARY

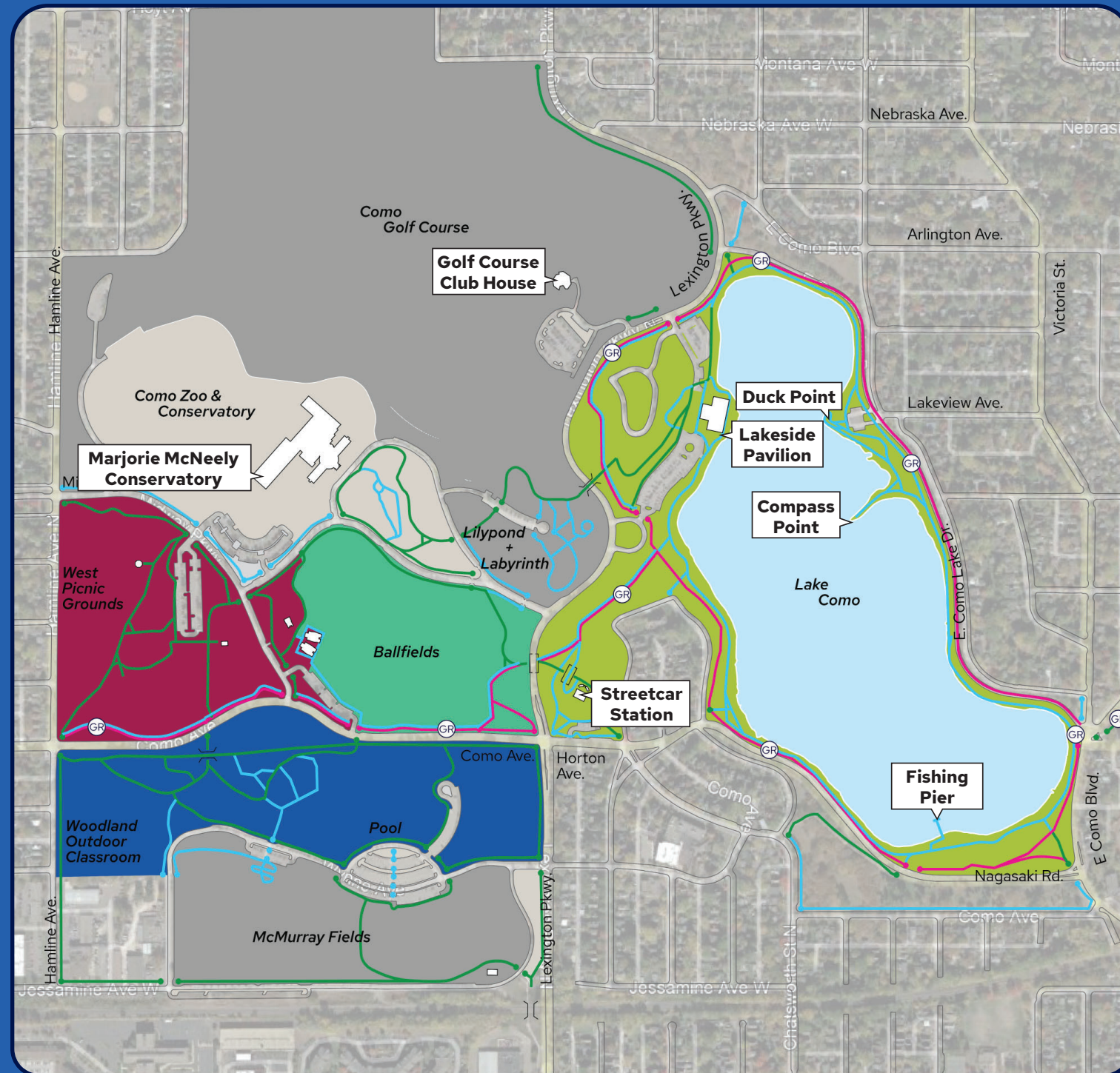
- Education about the Grand Round
- Attention to intersection crossings on E Como Blvd. and Lexington Ave.
- Wayfinding needed west of Lexington bridge (Ballfield Area) and past Streetcar Station
- Pickleball Courts
- Consider programming winter programming such as Skijoring
- Coffee Shop in the Pavilion and expanded hours
- Update Golf Clubhouse with the ability to be set up as a wedding venue. Include restaurant at club house.
- Provide access to lakeshore from pavilion
- Reserve areas within the park as flexible unprogrammed green space
- Community garden
- Close E Como Drive to improve Pedestrian and bicycle paths
- Add Drinking fountains and benches around the lake
- Add sidewalk connection between McMurray fields parking lots.

DAC MEETING #2 | REVIEW

ADDITIONAL IMPROVEMENT RESPONSES:

- Disc golf preferable instead of dog park
- Bike pump track or skills park
- Children's play area near pavilion
- Drinking fountains with water bottle filling stations
- Get rid of unneeded paved surfaces, such as former statue pads
- Murals on the walls of the tunnel under train tracks along Lexington (like Dodge Nature Center)
- Better secure bike parking
- Be sure to align Grand Round w/ new Bike Plan
- Organize/formalize community volunteer group for trail stewardship
- Fitness areas with pull up bars, etc.
- Replace grass with native gardens
- Close golf course, repurpose as mountain biking area
- Pavilion as warming area for ice skating in winter
- Pickleball courts
- Accommodation of different speeds of use – do we need separation/signage/consideration of different modes of transportation?
- Addition of more native prairie, maybe near ball-fields
- Public Art
- Playground near pavilion (maybe geared toward younger kids)

PROJECT BOUNDARY



PROJECT AREAS

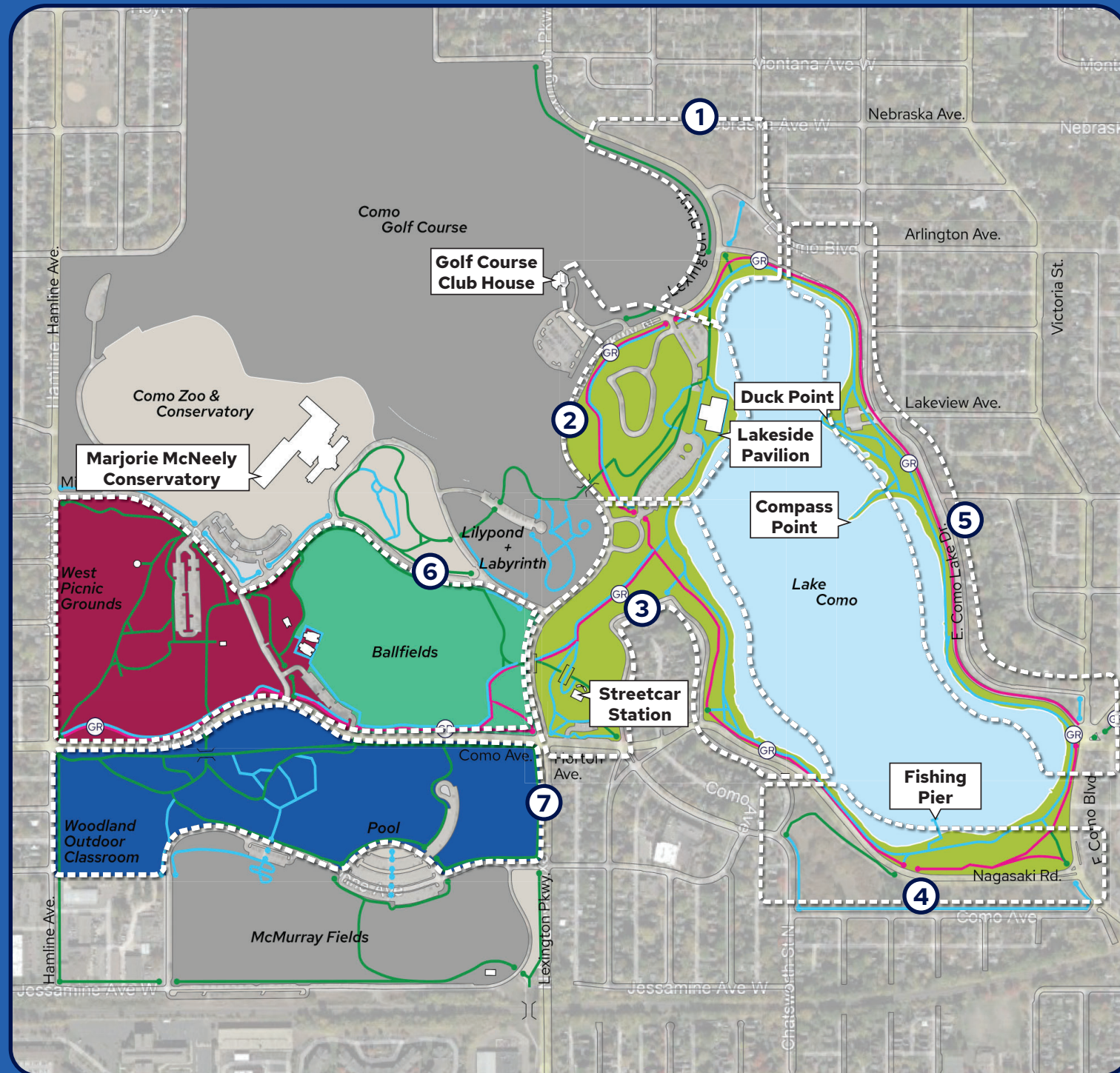
- Lake
- Ballfields
- West Picnic Grounds
- Woodland Outdoor Classroom
- Special Recreation Features
*Como Zoo & Conservatory**
- Enterprise Facilities
*Como Golf Course and McMurray Fields**

*Not-included or partially included in analysis

PROJECTWIDE IMPROVEMENTS

- Proposed changes for all areas within Specified boundary
- Additional lighting
- Improve crossings, improve ADA accessibility
- Clarify path types and uses; implement two-way bicycle facilities
- Trail and crossing improvements per the Grand Round Implementation Plan
- Re-align and widen paths to make trail more accessible
- Improve pavement conditions
- Work with CRWD to update informational signage in restoration and stormwater treatment areas
- Explore opportunities for stormwater BMPs and improved access to Lake. Coordinate with CRWD.

FOCUS AREAS | OVERVIEW



FOCUS AREAS

- ① Como Lake North
- ② Lakeside Pavilion Area
- ③ Historic Streetcar Station
- ④ Nagasaki Road
- ⑤ E Como Lake Drive
- ⑥ Picnic Grounds
- ⑦ Woodland Outdoor Classroom

IMPLEMENTATION TOOLKIT



Improve Wayfinding



Provide Consistent, Intuitive Trails



Implement Two-Way Bicycle Traffic Around the Lake per the Grand Round Implementation Plan



Update Existing Park Amenities



Improve Safety and Accessibility



Improve water quality, manage stormwater, and restore shoreline per CRWD's Watershed Management Plan

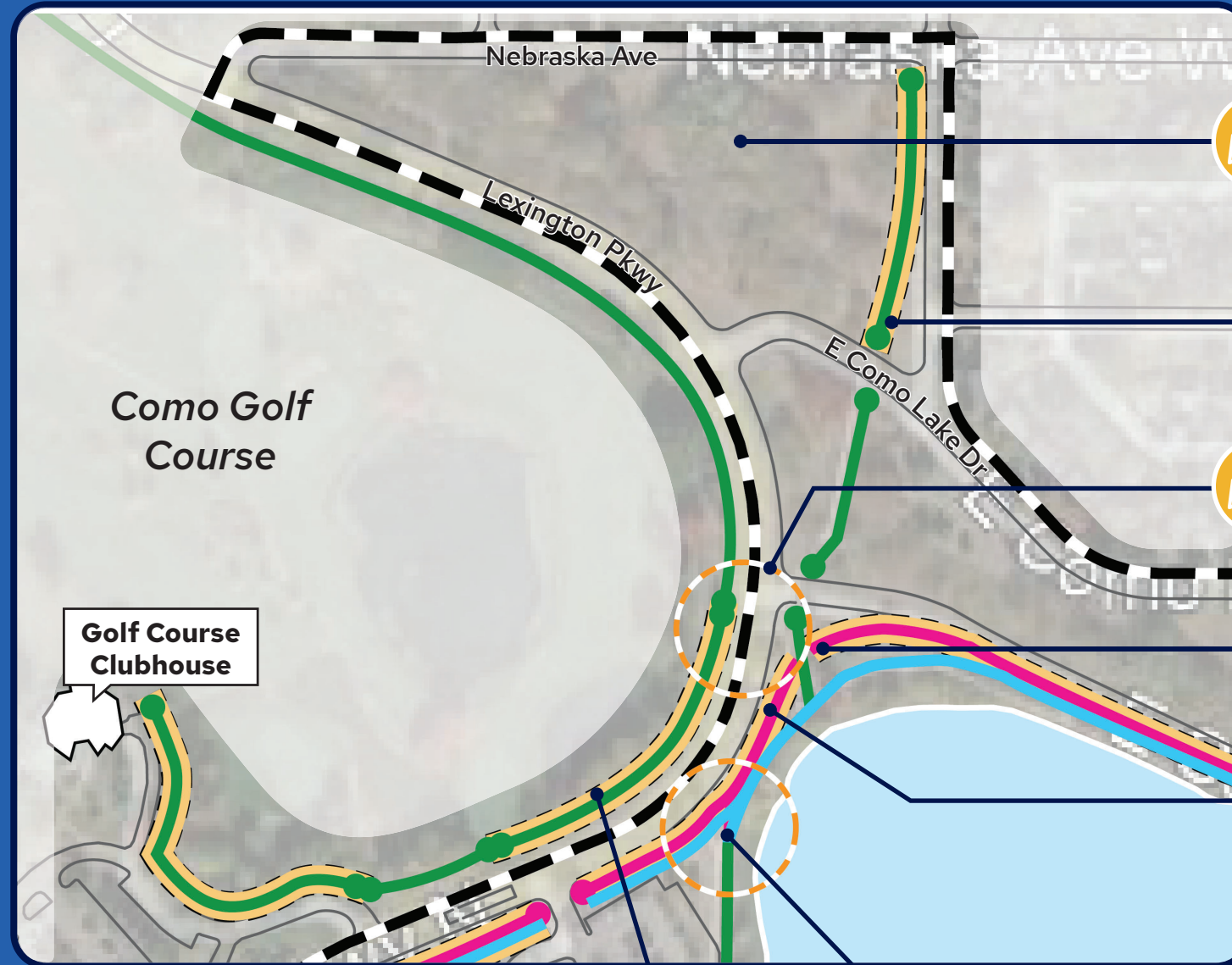
FOCUS AREAS | COMO LAKE NORTH



KEY MAP

LEGEND

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



Consider programming opportunities vs. maintaining existing condition. Consider wayfinding, signage, and other amenities.



Consider extending path to Nebraska Avenue W.



Improve crossing



Improve circulation at this intersection

Existing: One-way bike path
Proposed: Two-way bike path around Lake with adjacent pedestrian path where space allows



Update signage







Connect path spur to Clubhouse, and at East Como Ave intersection

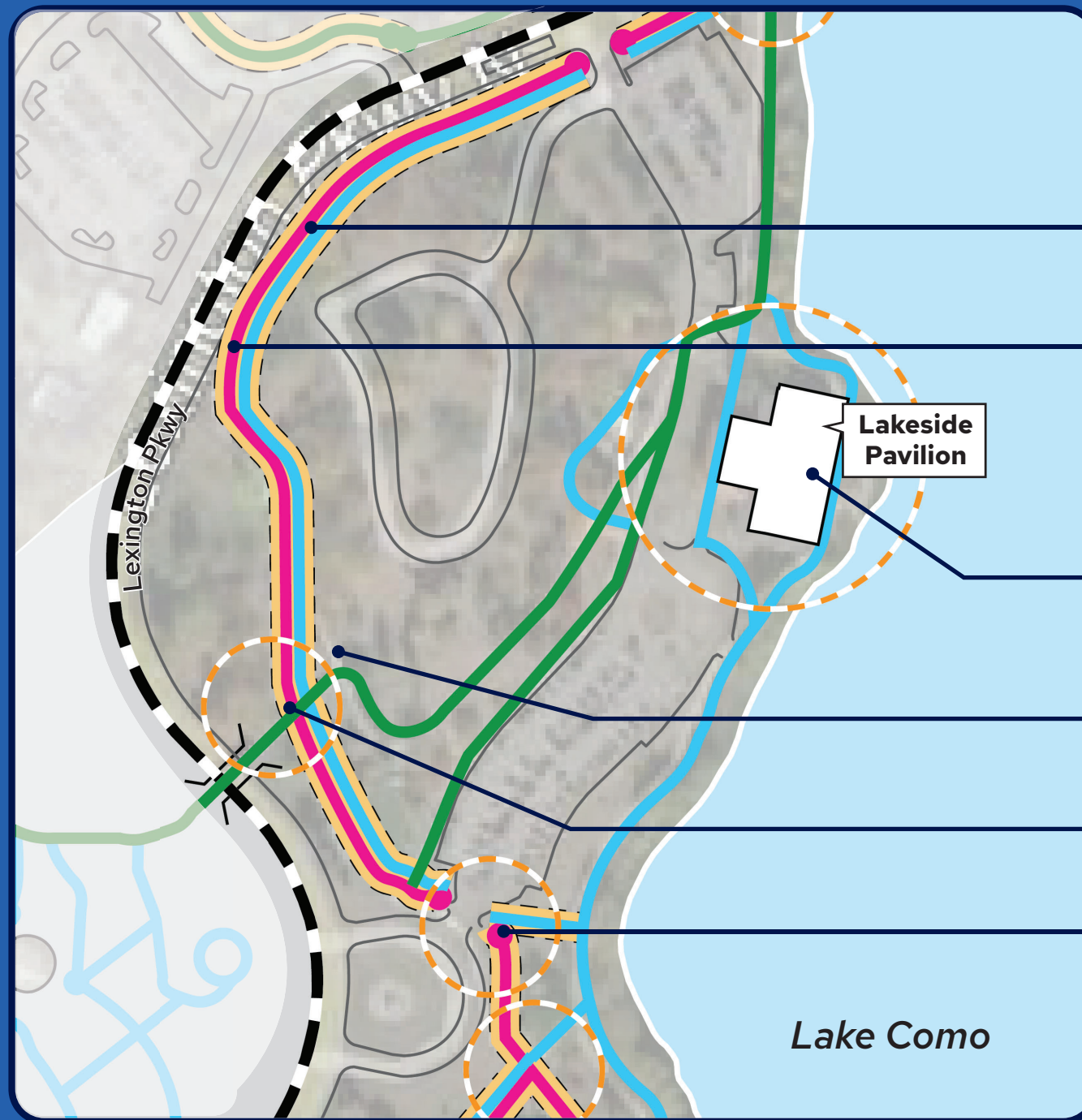
FOCUS AREAS | LAKESIDE PAVILLION



KEY MAP

LEGEND

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



Existing: One-way bike path
Proposed: Two-way bike path around Lake with adjacent pedestrian path where space allows

Add path markings

Improve circulation around pavilion. Improvements to pavilion also needed.
Lakeside Pavilion vision concept to be unveiled Summer 2023.



Remove redundant paths



Provide signage



Two-way bike

Lake Como

Lakeside Pavilion

Lexington Pkwy

FOCUS AREAS | STREETCAR STATION

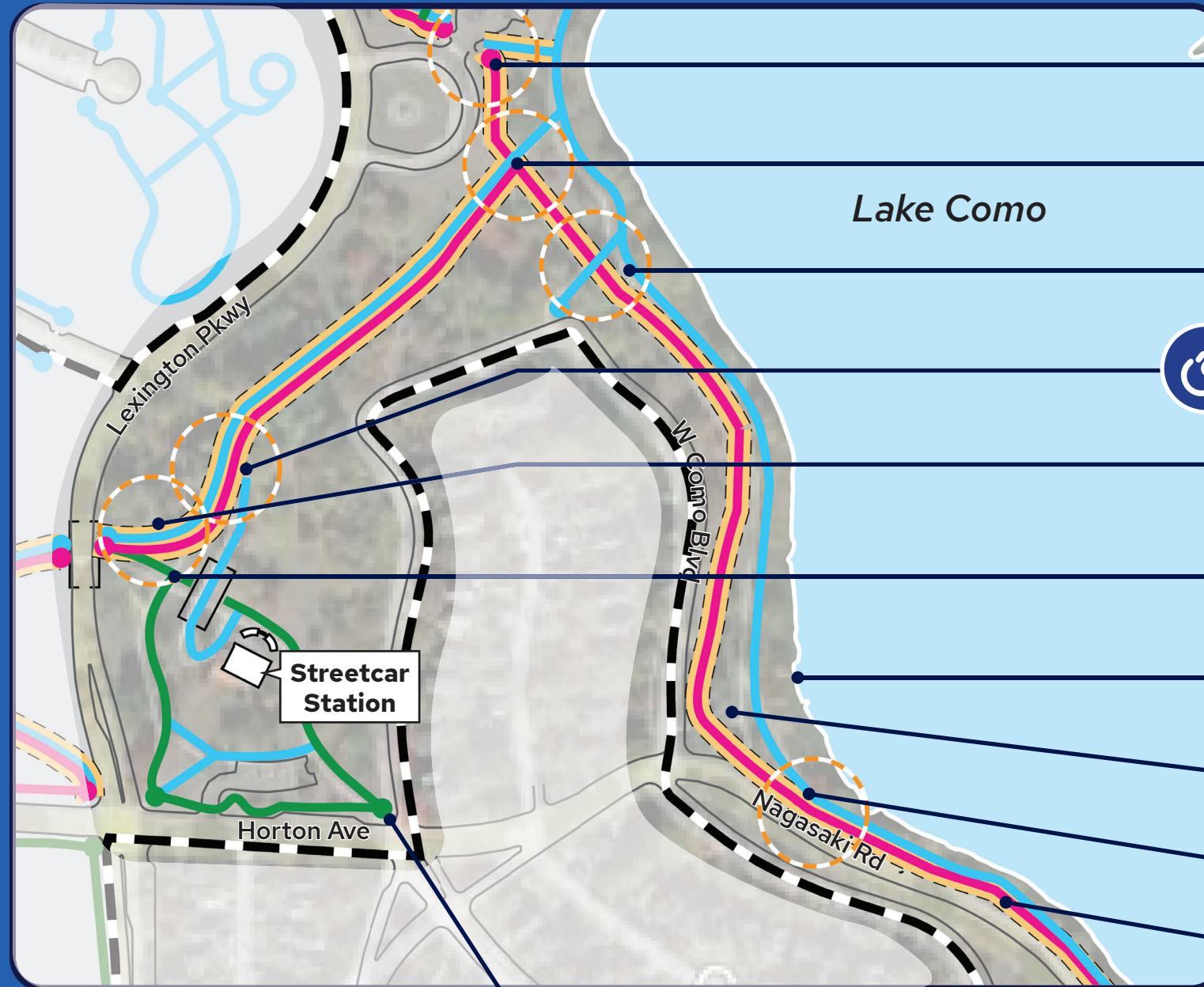



KEY MAP

LEGEND

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

*Coordinate Shoreline Restoration With CRWD



-  Two-way bike
-   Improve trail alignment
-   Improve pavement
-    Add signage
-   Add lighting
-   Improve pavement quality and sight lines
-  Shoreline restoration*
-  Remove redundant paths
-  Shared-use area
- Existing: One-way bike path*
Proposed: Two-way bike path around Lake
-     Access to lake paths from Horton need improvement

FOCUS AREAS | NAGASAKI ROAD

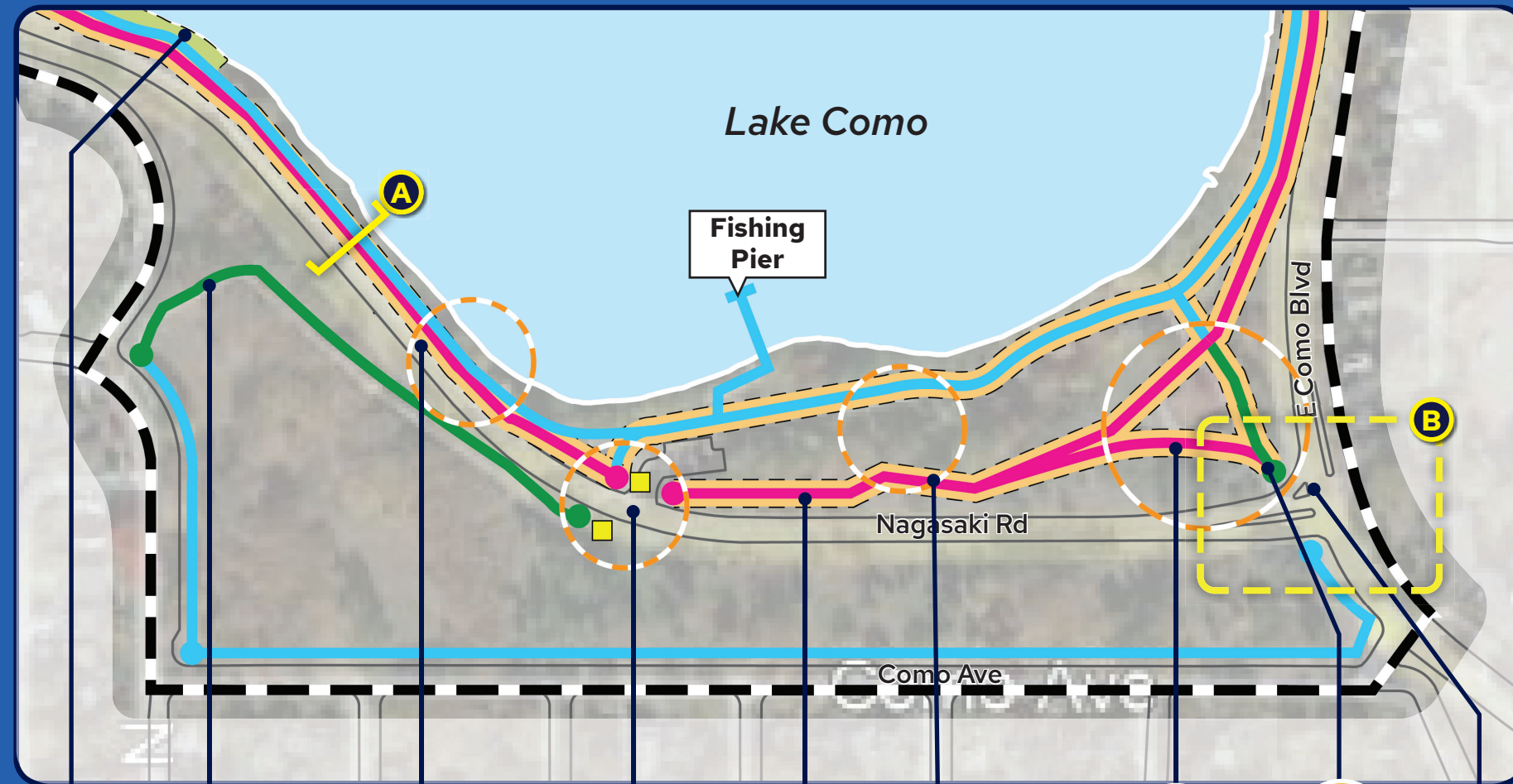


KEY MAP

LEGEND

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

*Coordinate Shoreline Restoration With CRWD



Shoreline Restoration*

Widen path to meet shared-use standard

Two-way bike

Improve crossing

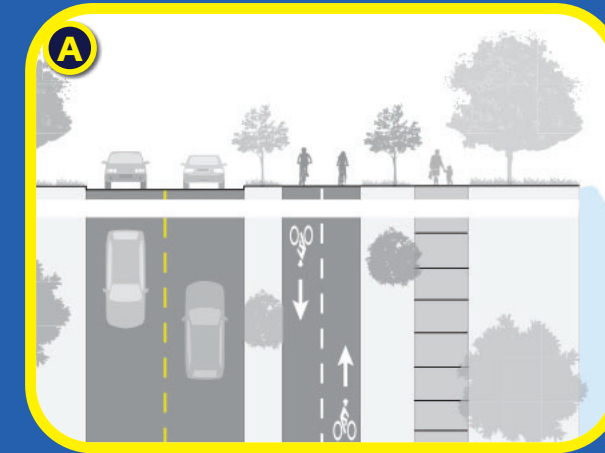
Add lighting

Existing: One-way bike path
Proposed: Two-way bike path around Lake

New path alignment

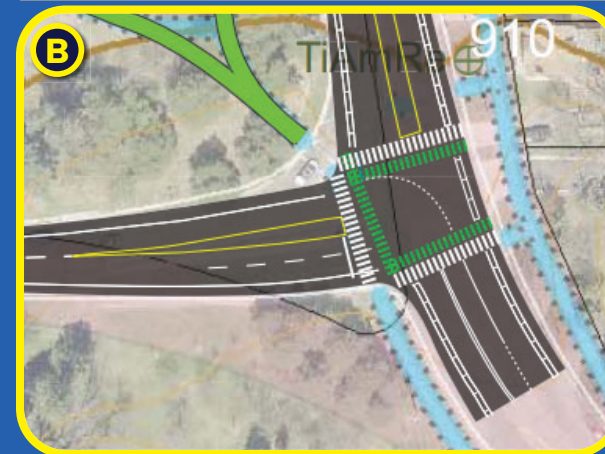
Add signage

Improve crossings at intersection.
Consider redesign of Nagasaki Road and intersection as described in the Grand Round Implementation Plan



Grand Round typical section along Nagasaki Road near Lake Como

Intersection re-alignment from Grand Round Implementation Plan



FOCUS AREAS | E COMO LAKE DRIVE



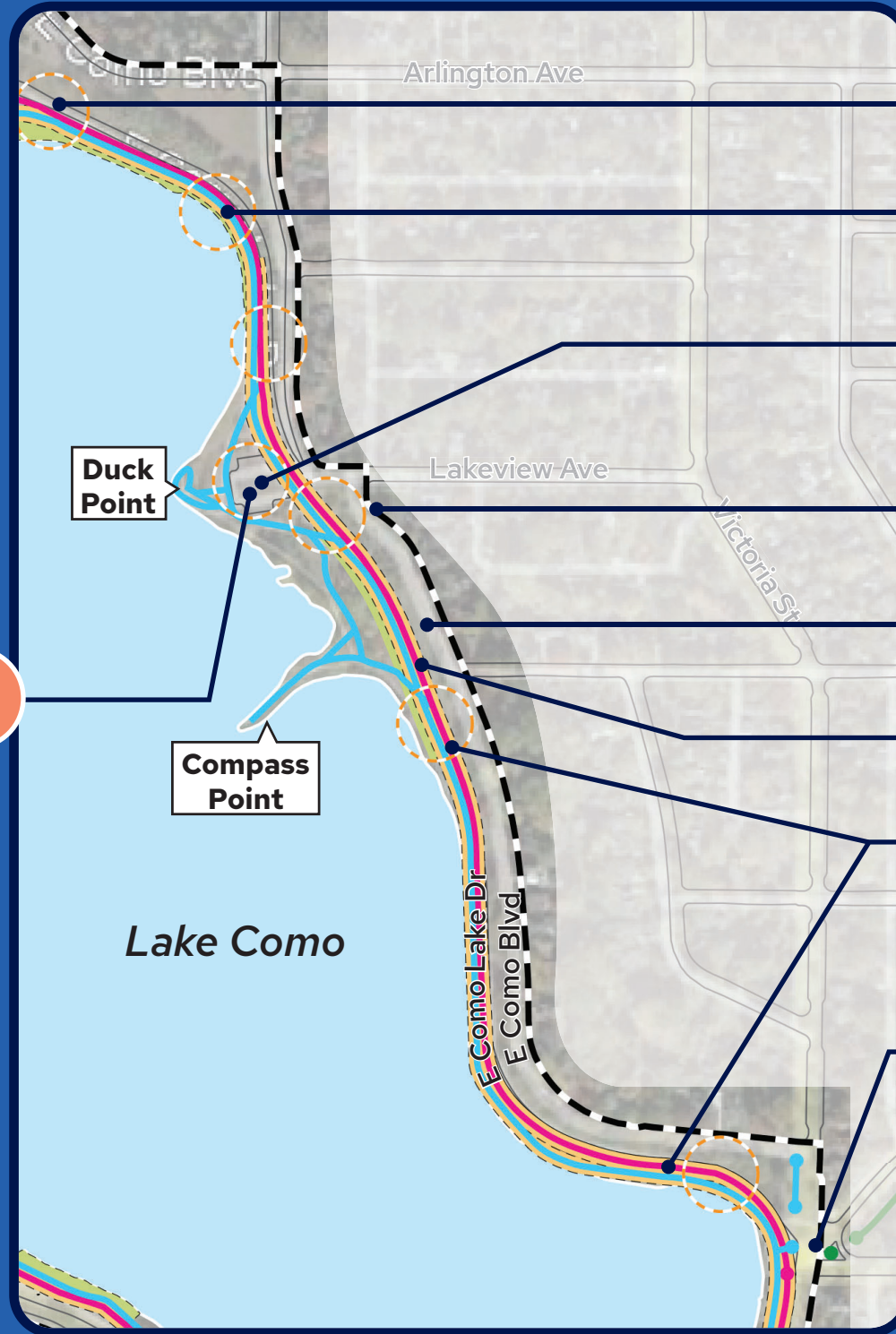
KEY MAP











Work with CRWD to update information signage in restoration and stormwater treatment areas

LEGEND

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

*Coordinate Shoreline Restoration With CRWD



-  Two-way bike traffic
-  *Shoreline restoration, update storm structures, consider adding fishing pier.
-  Resurface parking lot. Improve signage in and around parking lot.
-  Multi-use path
-  Improve pavement conditions of pedestrian routes
- Existing: One-way bike path*
Proposed: Two-way bike path around Lake
-  Add trees
-     Improve crossings at intersection. Further study needed regarding potential closure of East Como Drive. Study needed to explore: full closure, partial, or modification of this route to improve water quality, non motorized circulation, and safety at the intersection.

FOCUS AREAS | PICNIC GROUNDS



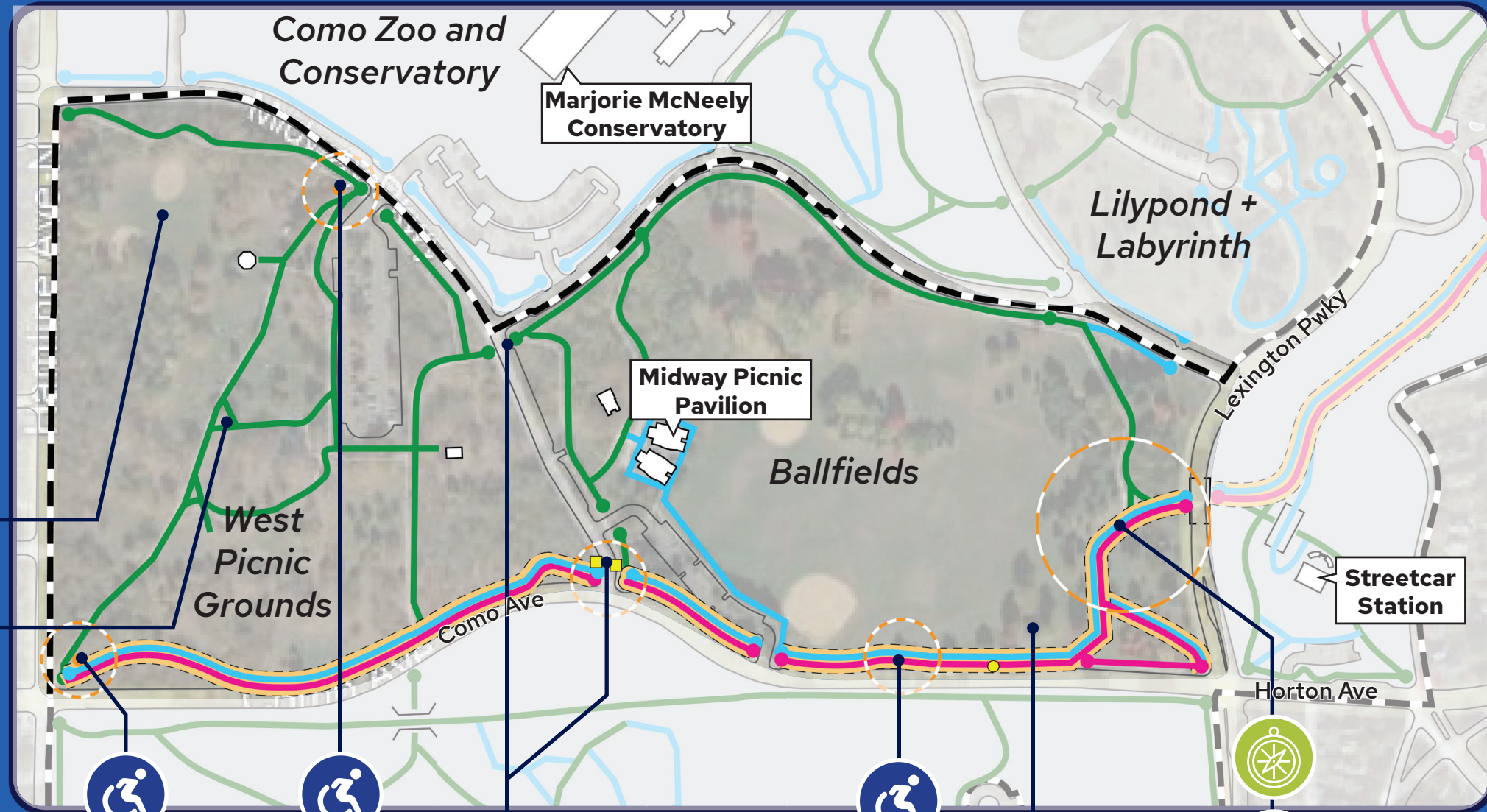
KEY MAP

Explore programming opportunities for underutilized space

Study trail use and type in this area to determine if more or different trails types are needed

LEGEND

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



Update signage

Add signage

Improve crossings

Add path lighting

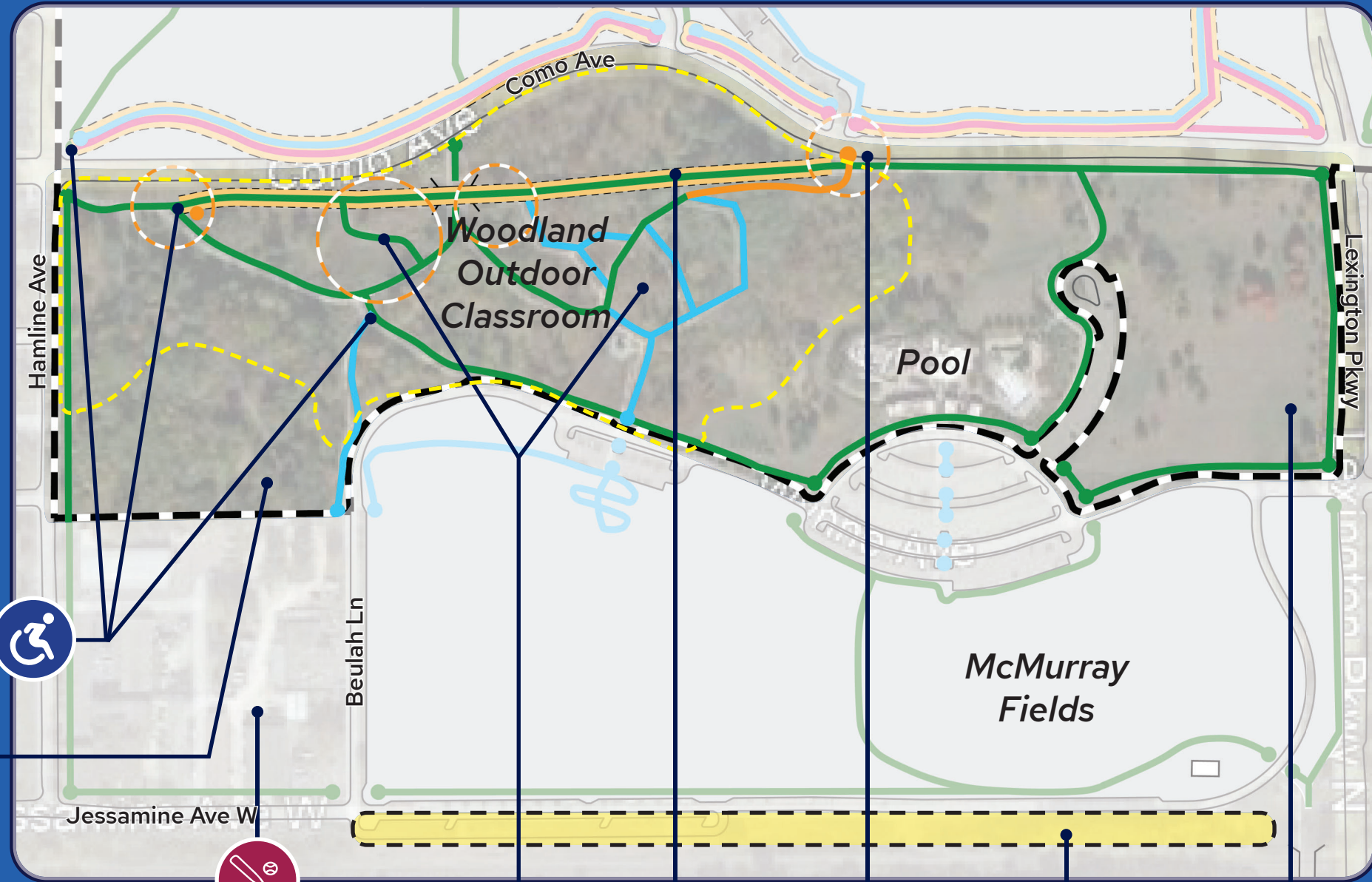
Widen path

Existing: Two-way bike path
Proposed: Adjacent pedestrian path where space allows per the Grand Round Implementation Plan

FOCUS AREAS | WOODLAND CLASSROOM



KEY MAP



Add signage



Explore potential locations for off-leash dog park



LEGEND

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

Expand Operations and Maintenance Facility

Maintain existing trail surface throughout Woodland Classroom

Consider adding path lighting

Consider adding crossing

Potential Acquisition Area

Future Stormwater Management

GROUP DISCUSSION

- **In your view, do Big Idea and Guiding principles describe the intent of the project?**

NEXT STEPS

- **Open House - August 2023 (tentative)**
- **Target for Long-Range Plan Adoption -
December - June 2024**

THANK YOU!

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COMO REGIONAL PARK PLAN

[https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/design-construction/
current-projects/como-regional-park-trail](https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/design-construction/current-projects/como-regional-park-trail)