

# Lake City Floodplain Park

A new green space in Lake City designed with and for the community

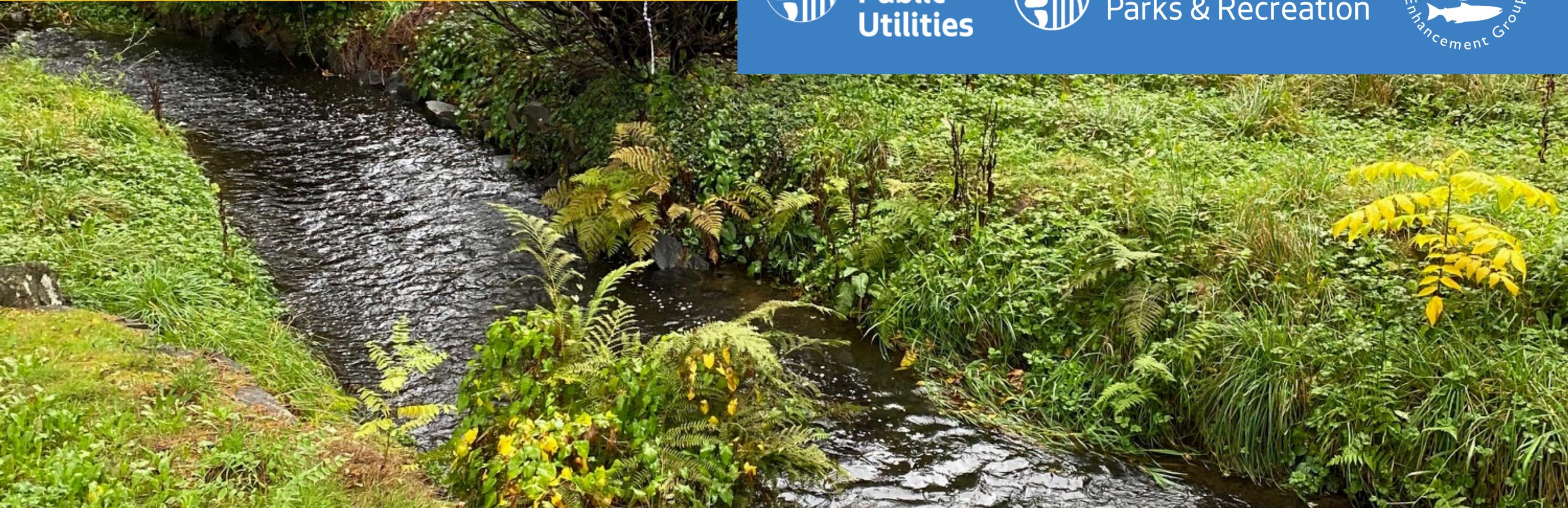
Seattle Design Commission



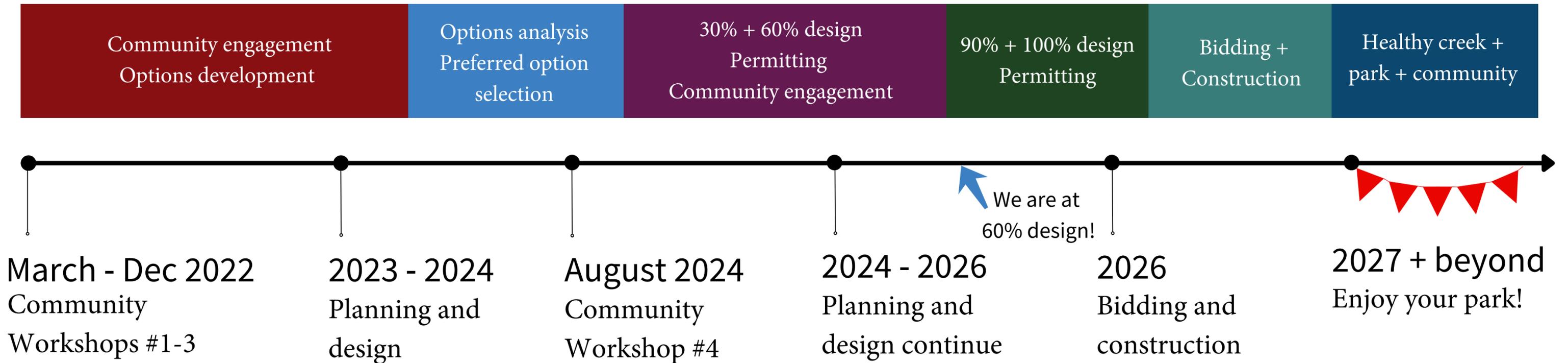
Seattle  
Public  
Utilities



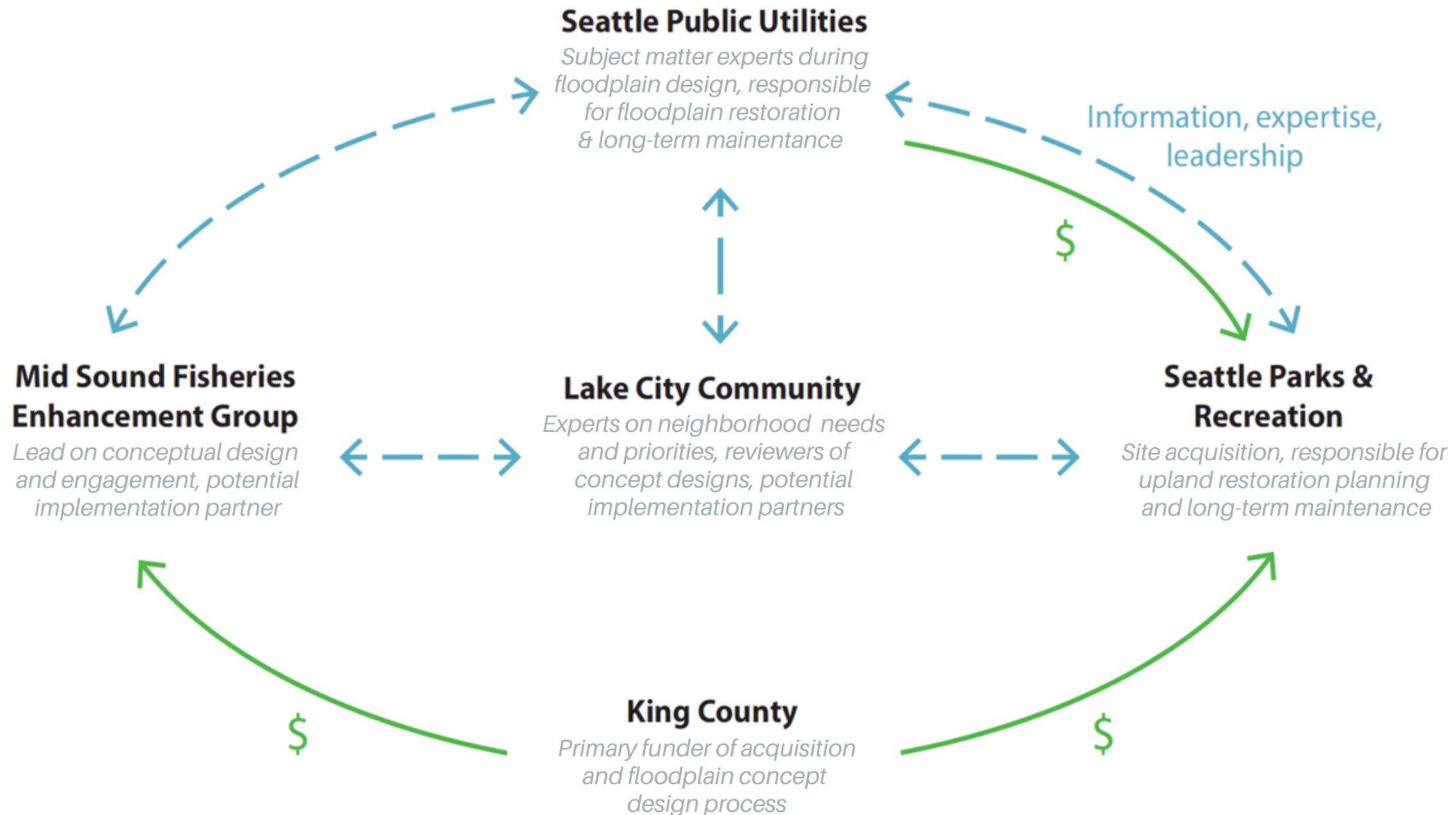
Seattle  
Parks & Recreation



# Introductions Project Team



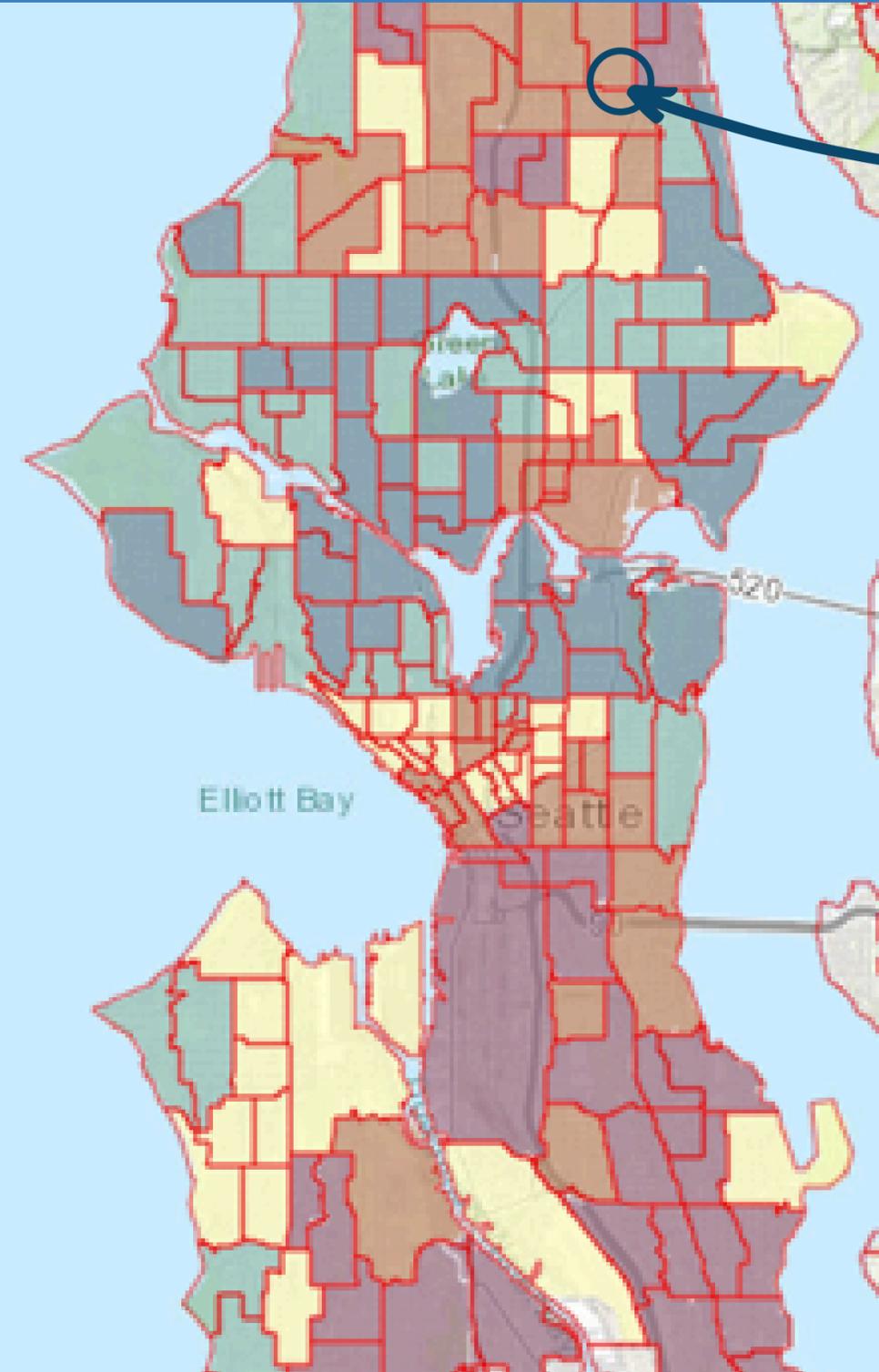
# Partnership Model



# Neighborhood Demographics

## Racial and Social Equity Composite Index

- Lowest Disadvantage
- Second Lowest Disadvantage
- Middle Disadvantage
- Second Highest Disadvantage
- Highest Disadvantage



## Lake City

Highest Disadvantage + Second Highest Disadvantage Composite Index Scores

## Race, English Language Learners, and Origins Index

ranks census tracts by an index of three measures weighted as follows:

- Persons of color (weight: 1.0)
- English language learner (weight: 0.5)
- Foreign born (weight: 0.5)

## Socioeconomic Disadvantage Index

ranks census tracts by an index of two equally weighted measures:

- Income below 200% of poverty level
- Educational attainment less than a bachelor's degree

## Health Disadvantage Index

ranks census tracts by an index of seven equally weighted measures:

- No leisure-time physical activity
- Diagnosed diabetes
- Obesity
- Mental health not good
- Asthma
- Low life expectancy at birth
- Disability

# Site Orientation

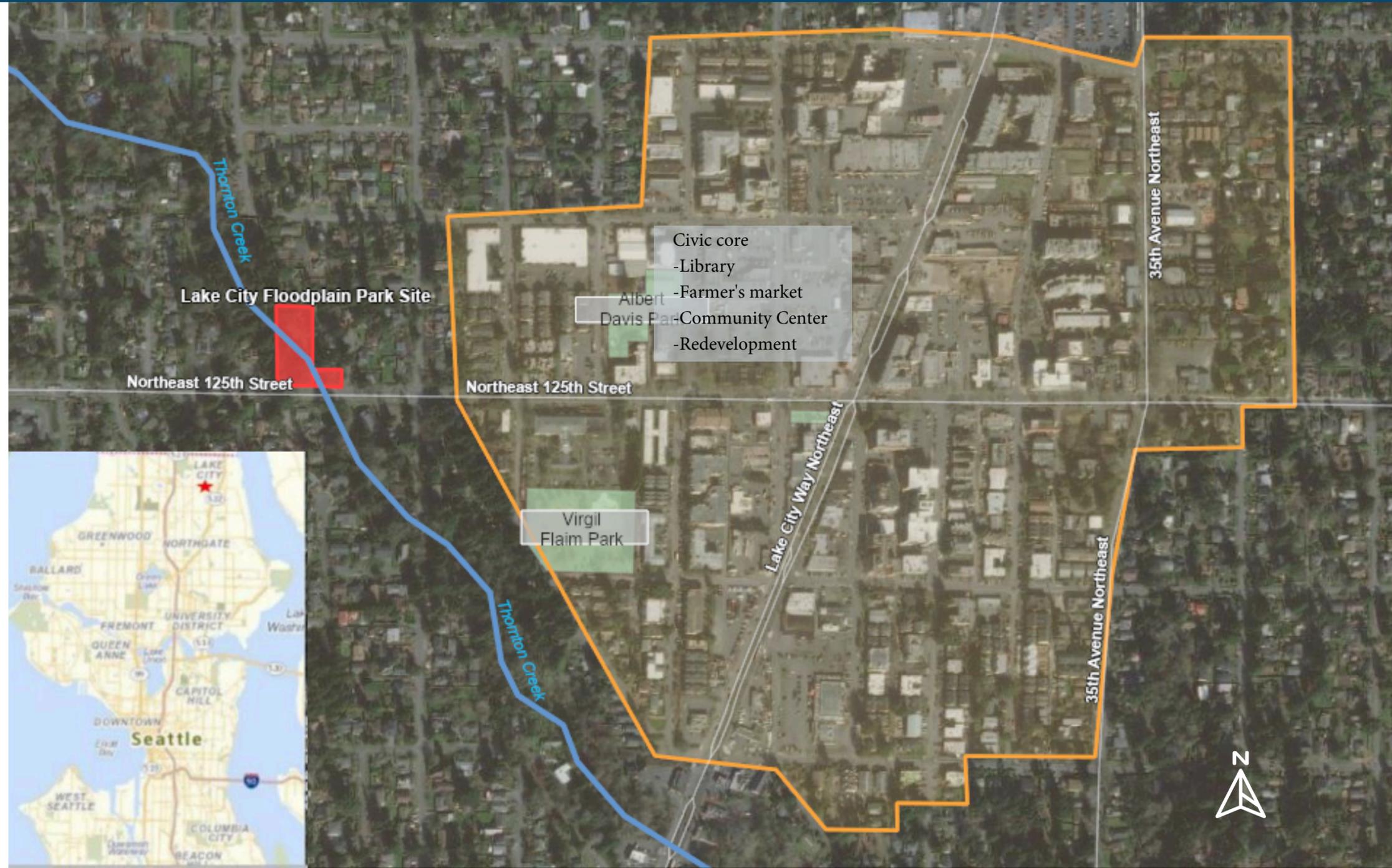
Project site address  
2318 NE 125th Street  
Seattle, WA 98125



NE 125th Street near 24th Ave NE

West of the Lake City branch of  
the Seattle Public Library

North Branch of Thornton Creek

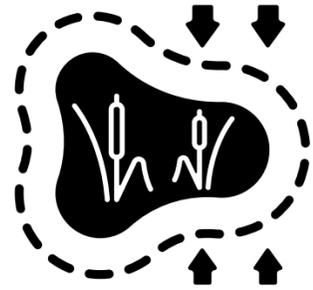
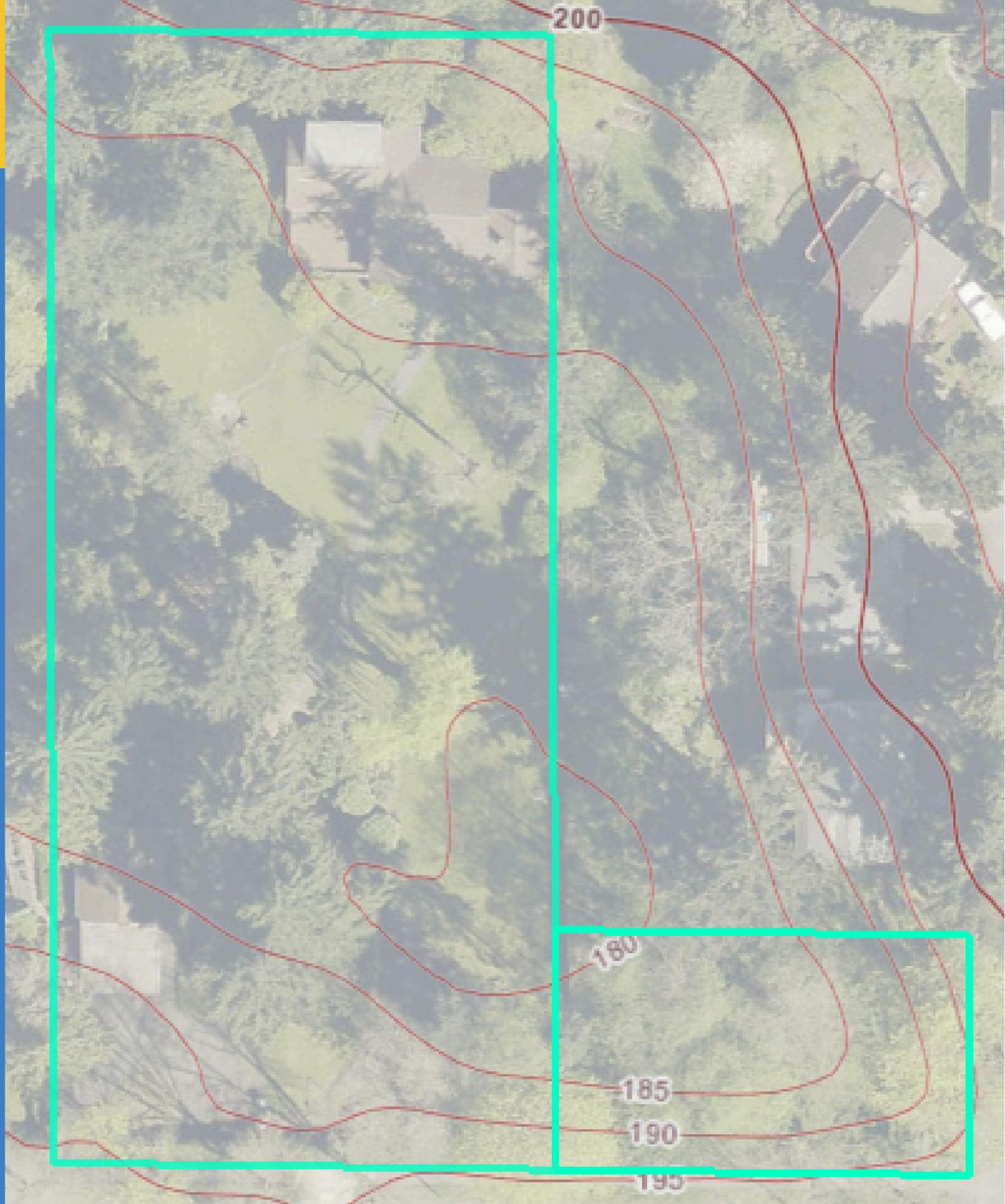


# Site Context

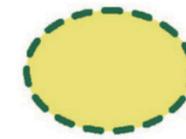
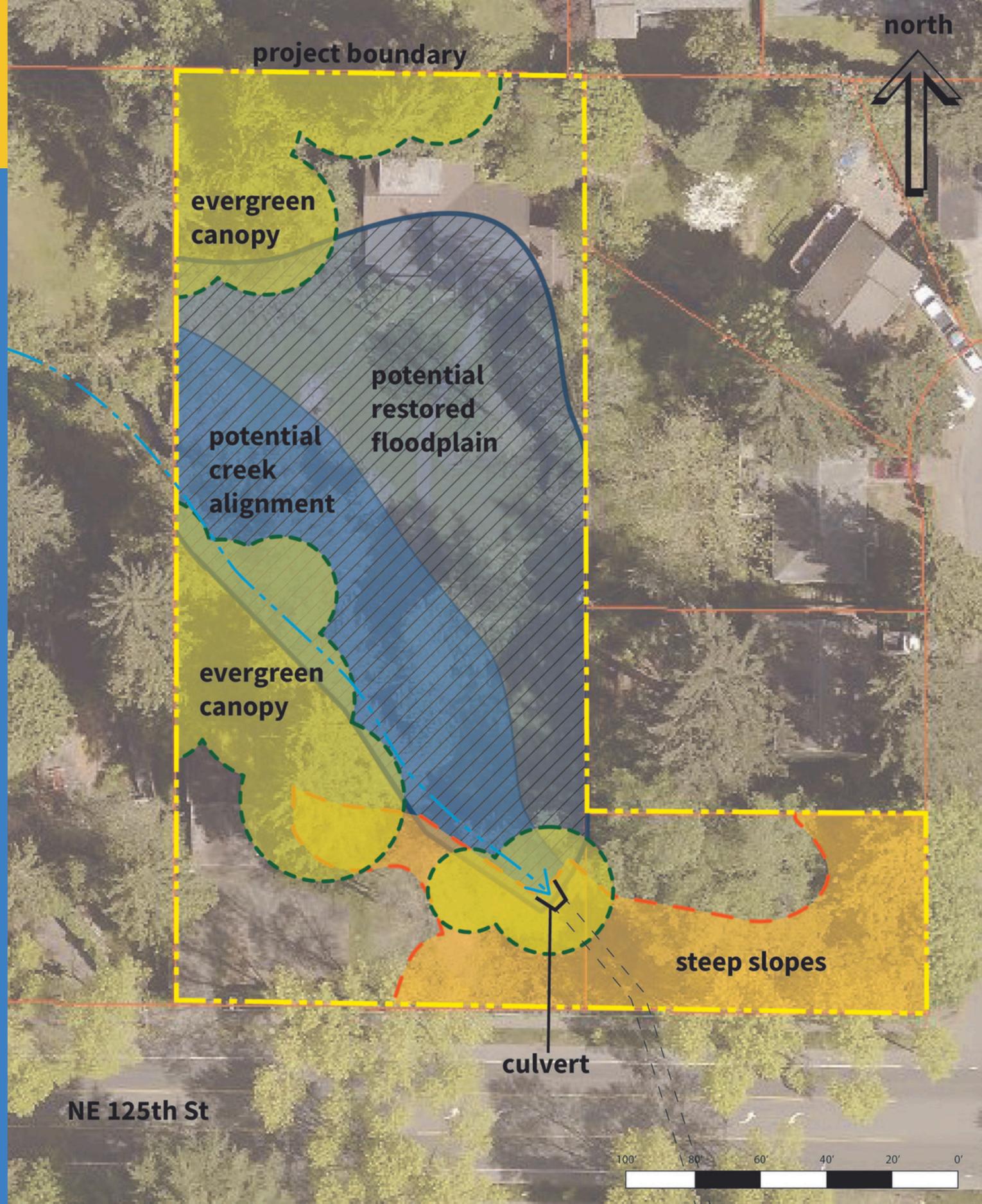


- Site is bordered by private property on the north and west sides and most of the east side.
- There is no through street bordering the north end of the site.
- Current access to the property is from NE 125th St.
- 24th Ave NE is a short cul du sac street.
- The SE corner hosts some of the steepest slopes on the site.

# Site Topography



# Site Characteristics



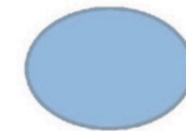
### Evergreen Canopy

Large and mature existing trees provide evergreen canopy and shade all year round. Extensive digging within the canopy can damage sensitive tree roots.



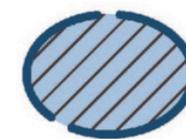
### Steep Slopes

The ground is steeply sloped making it difficult to access or traverse the area. Steep slopes are at higher risk of erosion.



### Potential Creek Alignment

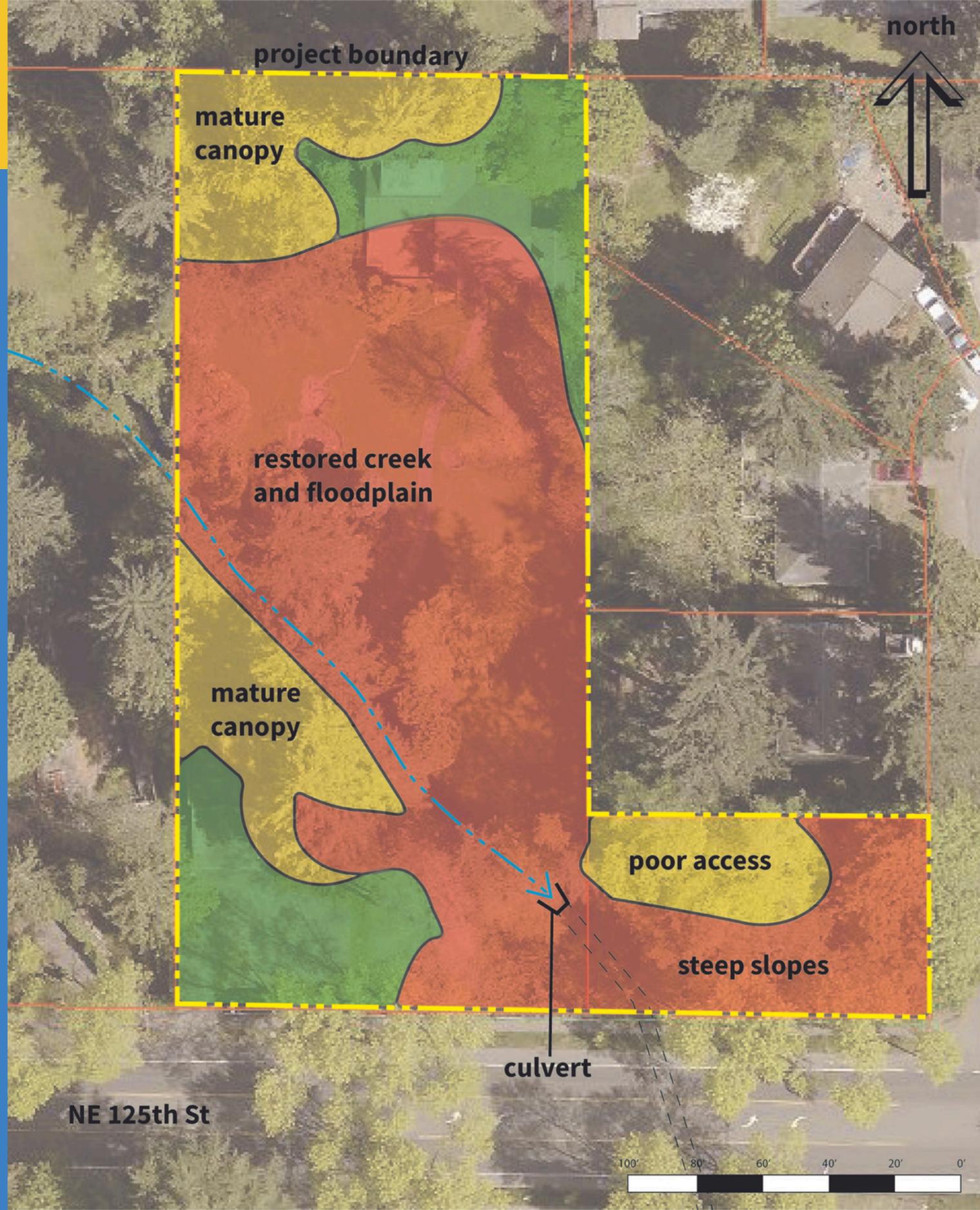
Based on engineering studies, the creek and its banks may be realigned within this area. Once restored, this area will be regularly flooded. The actual creek alignment will be set later on in the project.



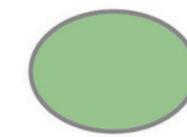
### Potential Restored Floodplain

The floodplain may be restored within this area. If restored to floodplain, the area will have wet soil and experience seasonal flooding. The actual floodplain extent will be set later on in the project.

# Site Feasibility

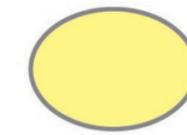


## Feasibility for Placement of Park Ideas



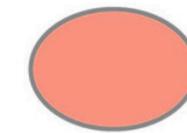
### High Feasibility

Open or disturbed spaces that are outside of regulated critical areas and their buffers, especially areas that are easy to access and have low likelihood of flooding.



### Moderate Feasibility

Areas that may have regulatory limitations, are not easily accessible, or contain sensitive features, like trees, that must be considered.



### Low Feasibility

Areas with substantial regulatory restriction, are inaccessible, experience regular or frequent flooding, or contain critical infrastructure that will not be modified as part of this project, such as the culvert.

# Project Goals



Create a space that connects a diverse Lake City community to an improved, accessible natural area.



Restore Thornton Creek on the property to a more natural state to reduce large-scale flooding.



Create and restore healthy habitat for salmon and wildlife.

# Scope: Creek Floodplain



Reduce peak flows and channel incision



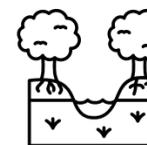
Sediment diversity and transport



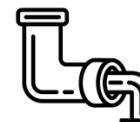
Instream hydraulic complexity



Adequate base flows



Riparian area improvements



Works with underground infrastructure



Long-term O&M

# Scope: Park Amenities



Create a sustainable, passive park where residents can immerse themselves in nature without leaving the city



Celebrate the diverse Lake City Community in the design



Limit impervious surfaces



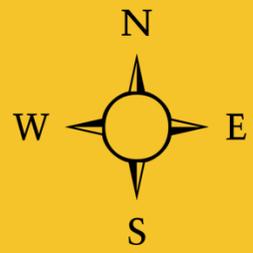
Promote safety through environmental design and enhancing visibility from roads and nearby properties



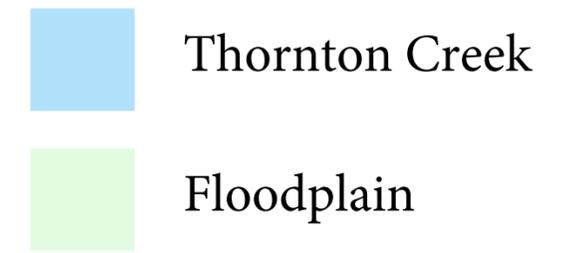
Integrate Green Stormwater Infrastructure



Provide opportunities for environmental education



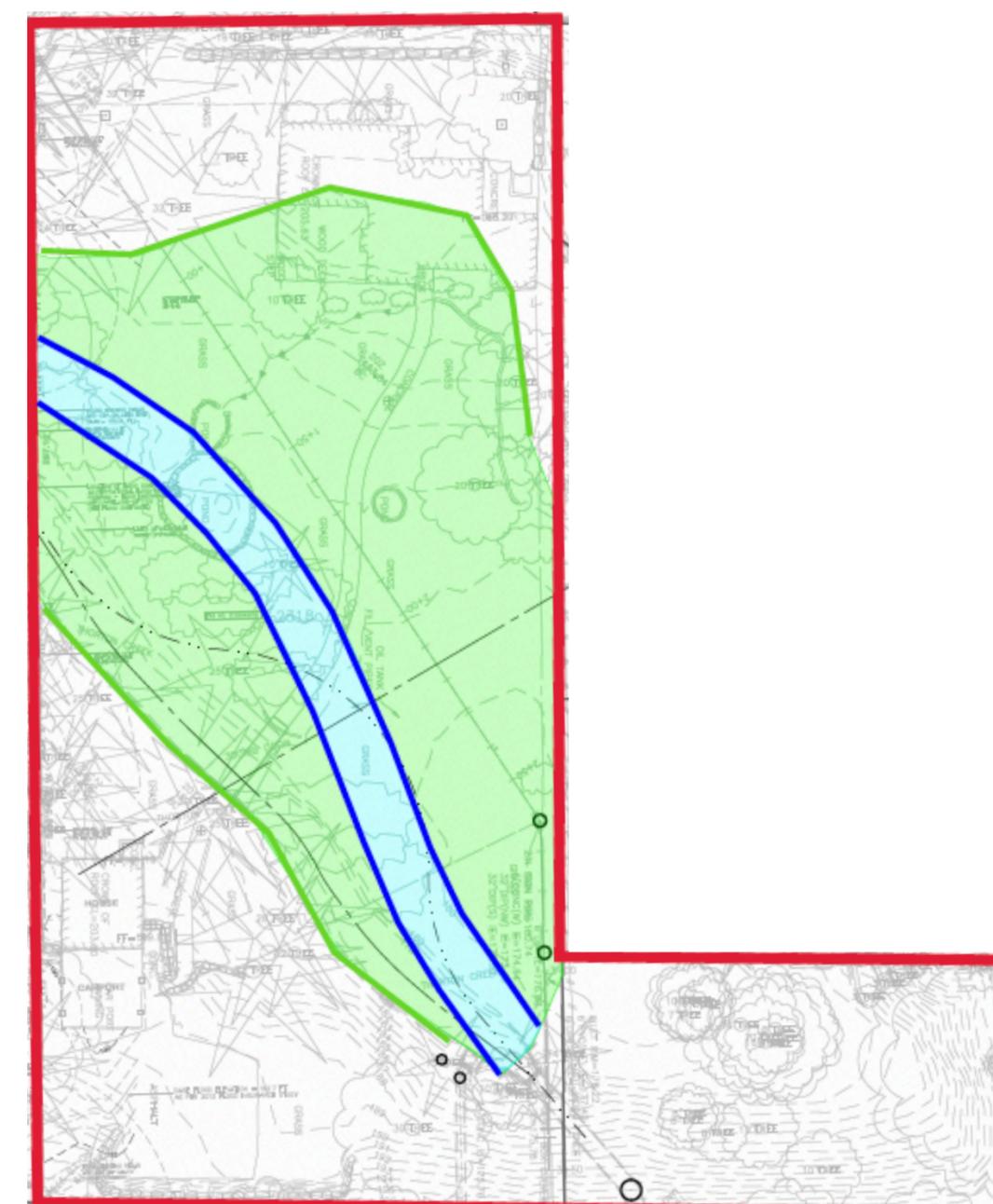
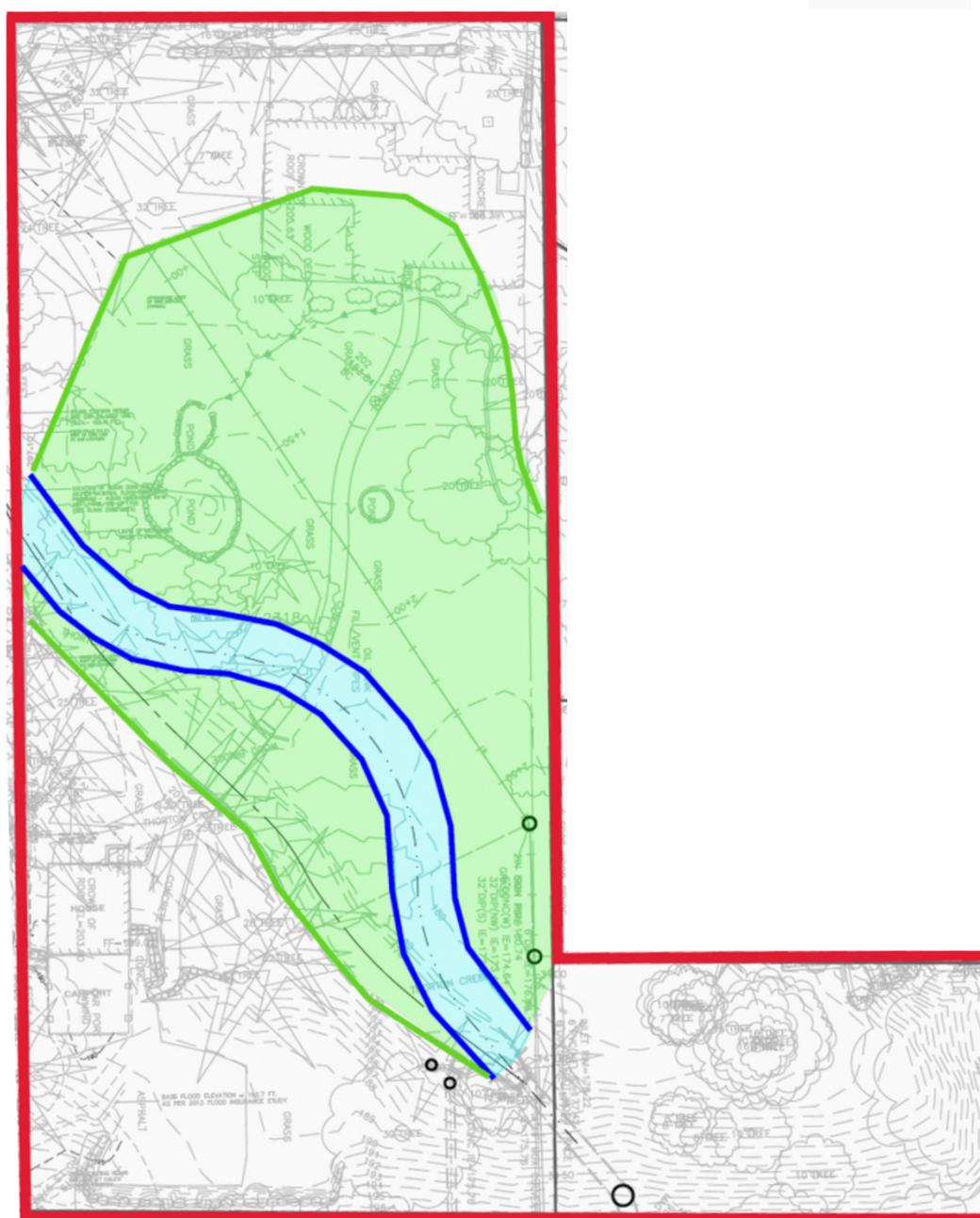
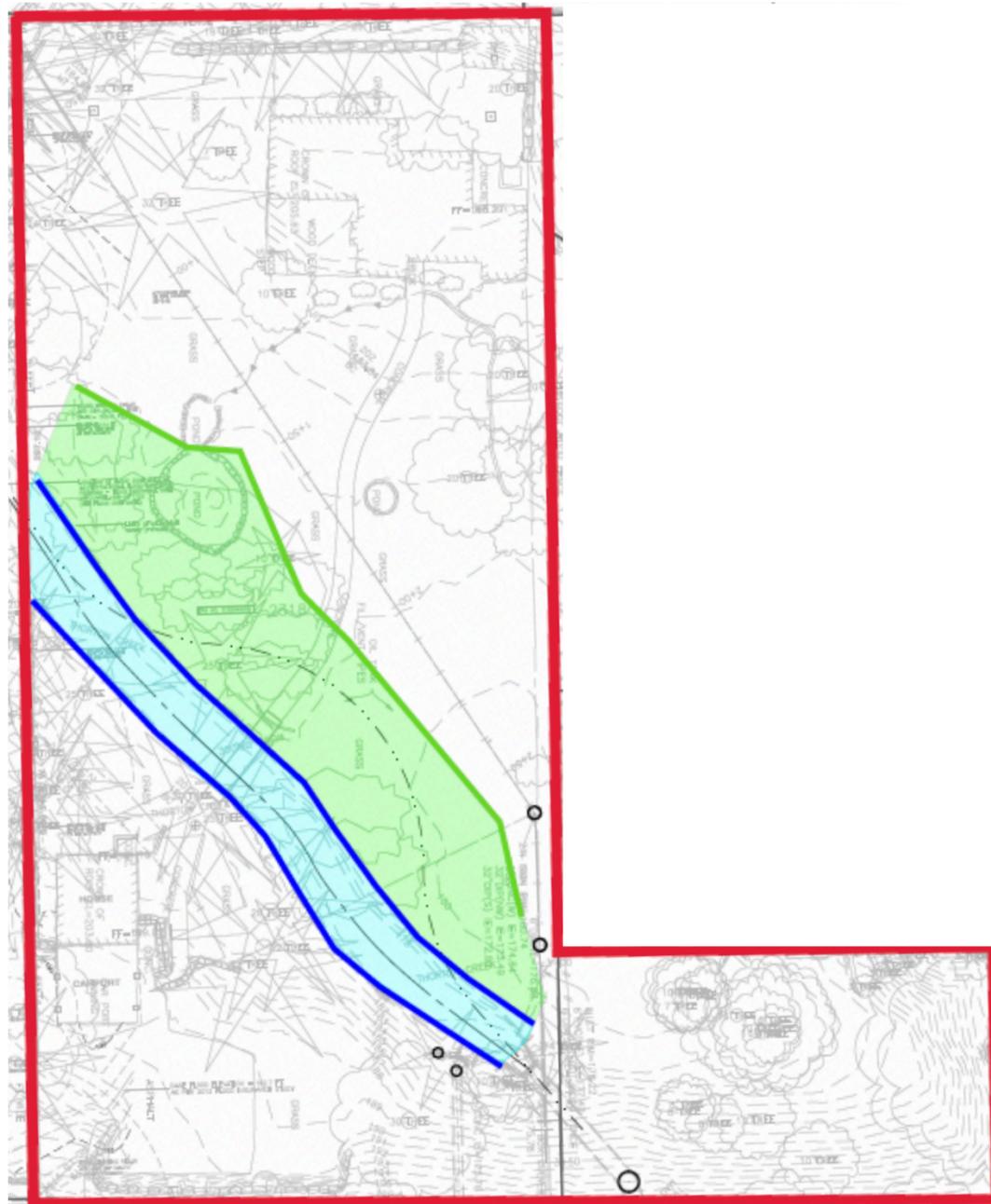
# Creek Alignment Options



Option 1: Basic alignment

Option 2: Meander/park site only

Option 3: Meander/easement

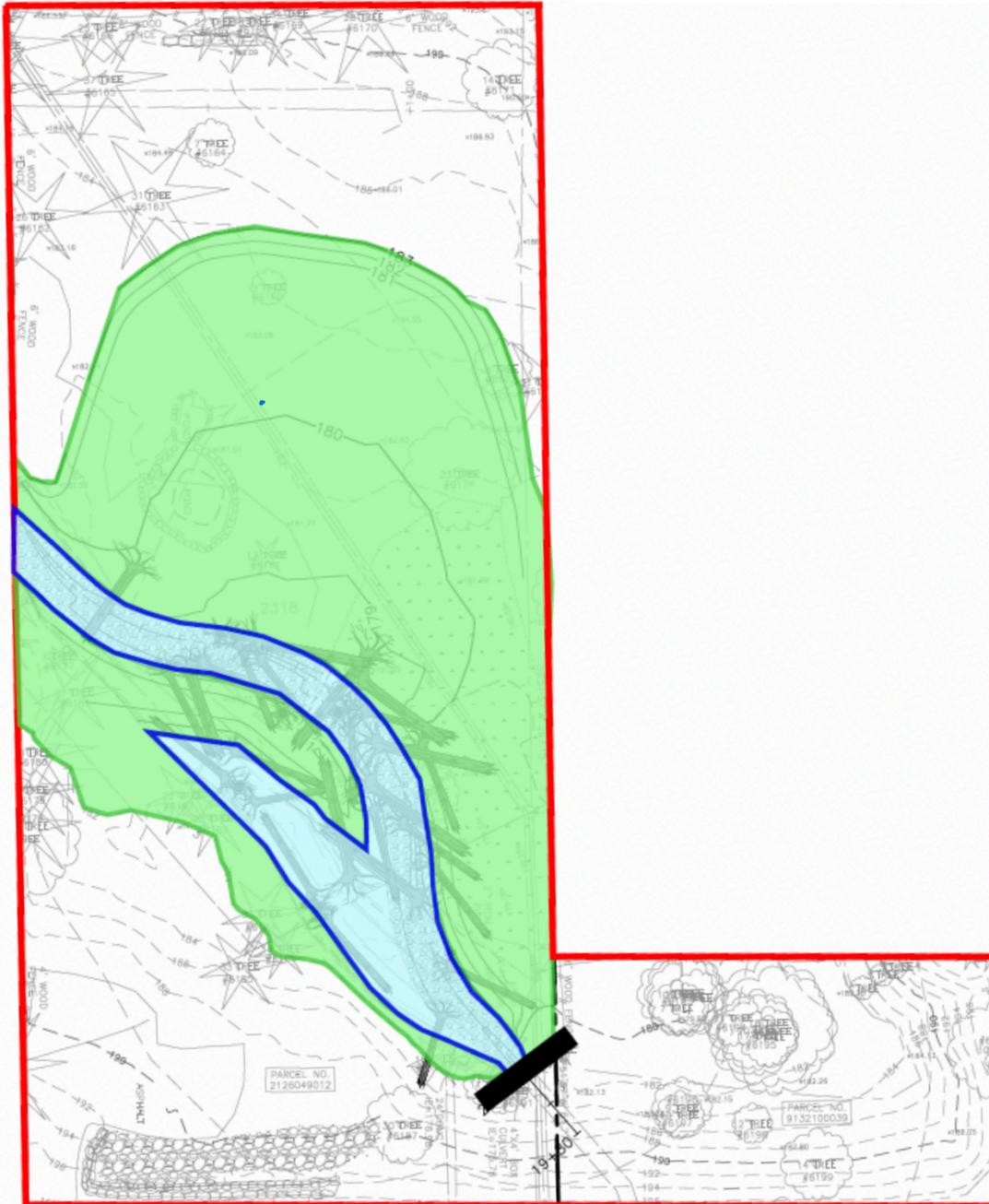




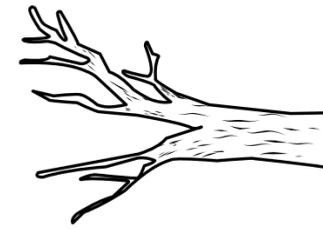
# Creek Alignment Selected

-  Thornton Creek
-  Floodplain
-  Culvert

## Option: Meander



Adds creek length + back channel



Maximizes large woody material in channel



Retains as many native trees as possible



Increases flood storage onsite



Maximizes hyporheic exchange

# A Creek and Community Centered Approach

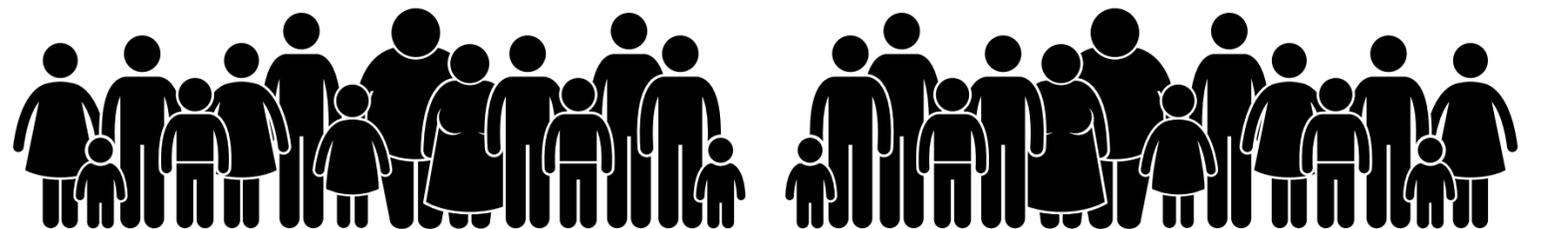


The community is an important stakeholder to whom we are accountable.

We communicate clearly, with integrity and transparency, for connected relationships.

We go into the community to reach people where they are.

We do regular equity check-ins and hold equity-focused meetings to ensure that we continually adapt to community needs.





potential activity history street animals **thornton** viewing banks bike sense calming  
camping canopy **natural** cars trash children light concerns possible connected  
**creek** culvert **design** discussion wetland dog **walk** ecology educaton  
encampments environement **traffic** experience explore fish flood **floodplain**  
flow work green **habitat** health **water** **restoration** playground improve increase  
information **city** interest worried land **passerby** level local **trees** management  
neighbors boardwalk meadowbrook map **native** runs secure **neighborhood**  
nice birds **access** help **opportunity** beautiful outdoor **paths** picnic  
**plants** play environmental pond open gathering preserved quality public  
road **homeless** learn salmon schools **safety** maintenance share signage **sit** speed  
stream **community** benches free kids **structure** drug tents **trails**  
**vegetation** observe **wildlife** visitors lake volunteer house watershed

# Community Feedback

from Workshop #1



Nature Appreciation and Viewing



Native plants



Walking Trails



Walking



Quiet



Boardwalks



Seating



Wildflowers



Art



Interpretive (signs/exhibits)



Wildlife Watching



Bike Rack



Nature Exploration



Scenic Overlook



Restoration / Conservation

from Workshop #1

# Community Feedback Park Ideas

1



Discuss ideas

2



Place tiles and comments

3



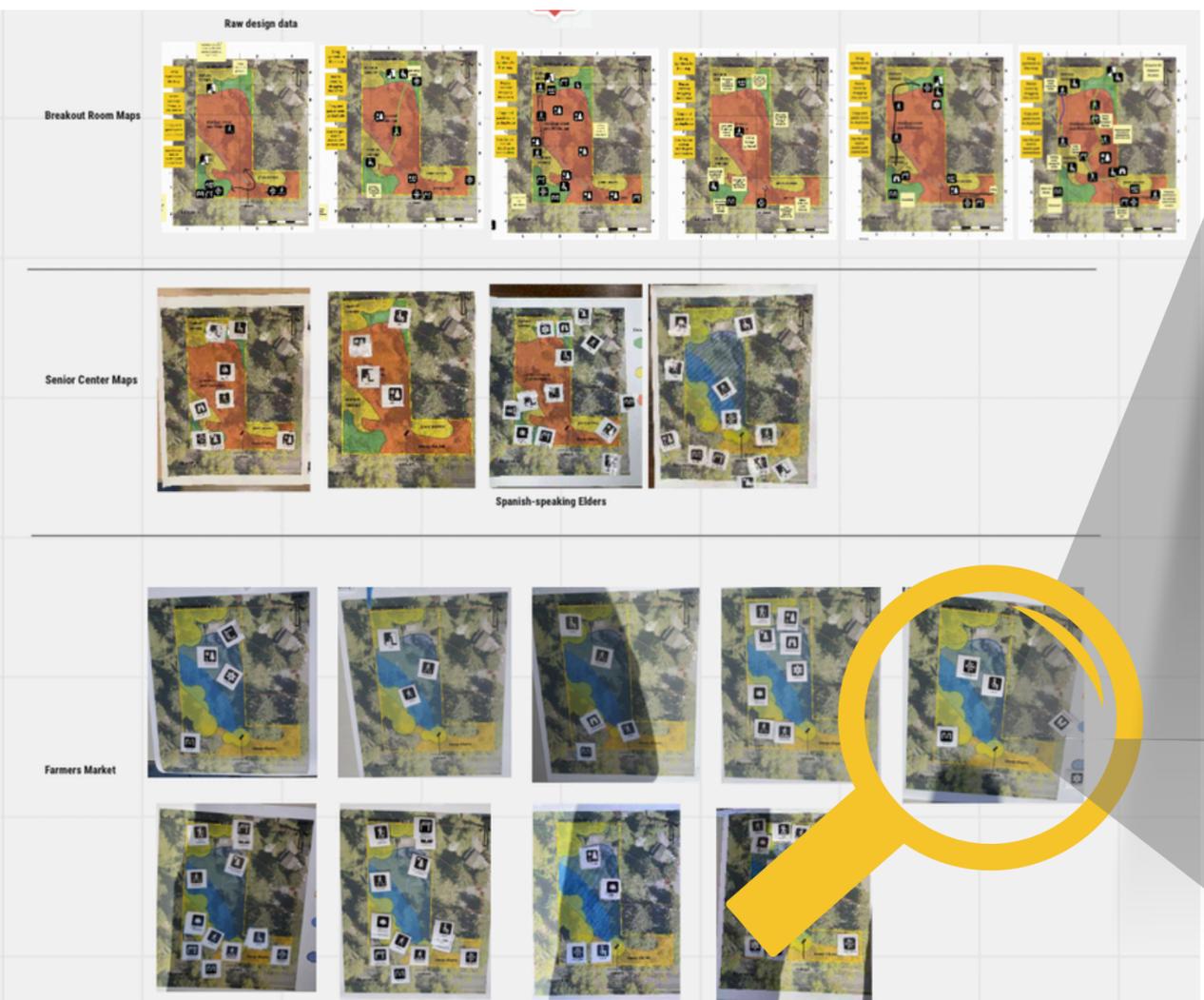
Discuss design and refine ideas



Build Your Park exercise with community members  
Lake City Farmers Market, Thursday, June 16, 2022

Round #2

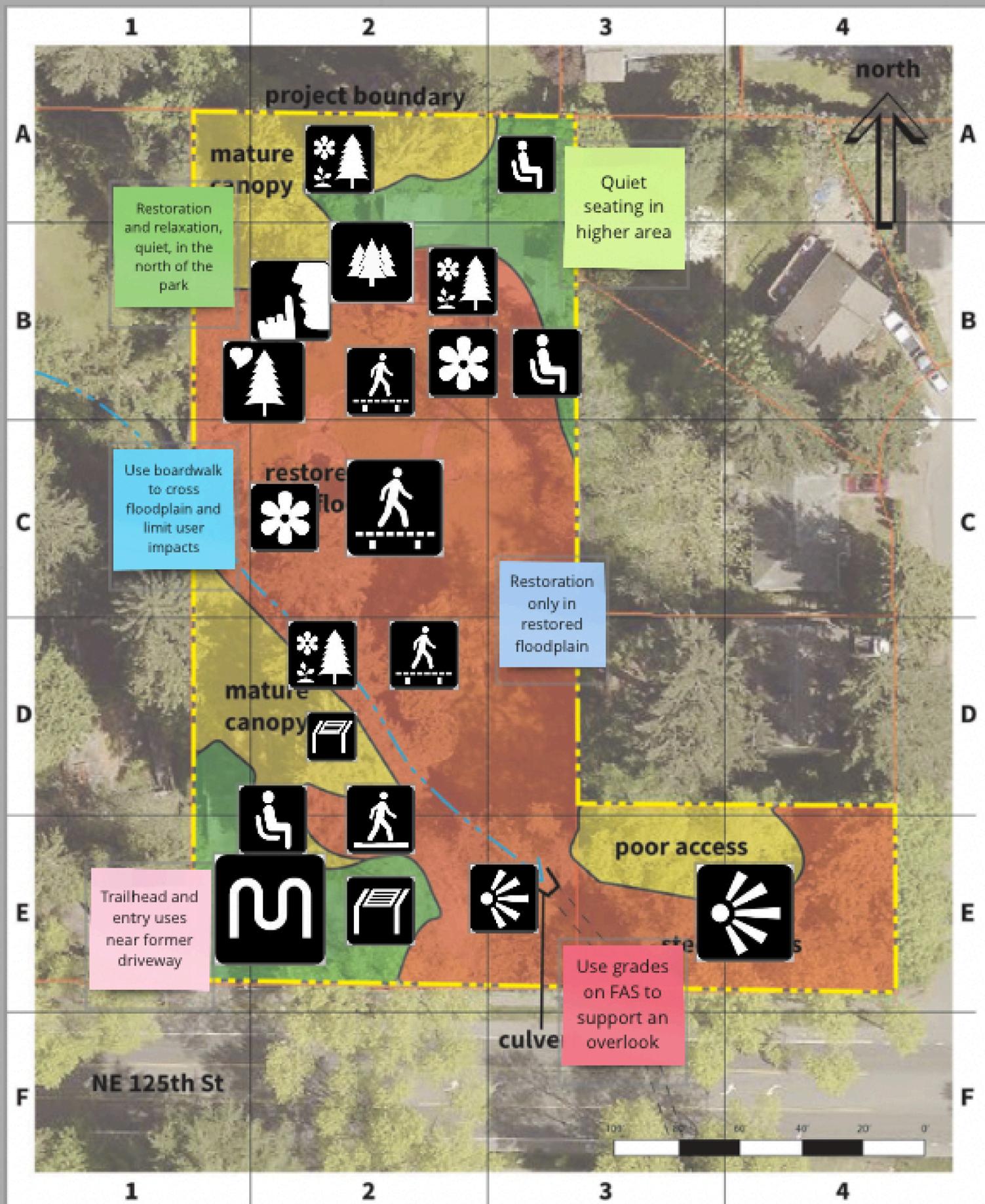
# Build Your Park



from Round #2

# Community Park Designs

# Diagrammatic Plan



## Consensus Point

Restoration only in creek buffer

Use boardwalk to cross floodplain and limit user impacts

Restoration and relaxation, quiet, in the north of the park

Quiet seating in higher area

Use grades on FAS to support an overlook

Trailhead and entry uses near former driveway

## Design Options

Public art installation

Bridge

Future trail connections

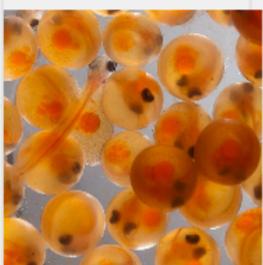
Interpretive exhibit format, construction, themes

Year-round use facilities

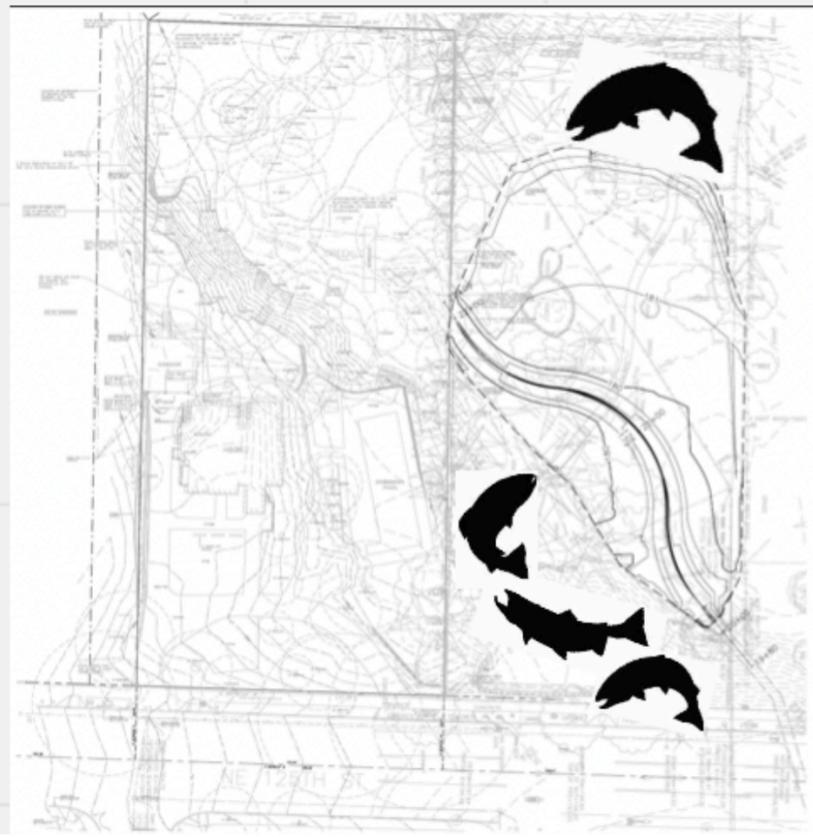
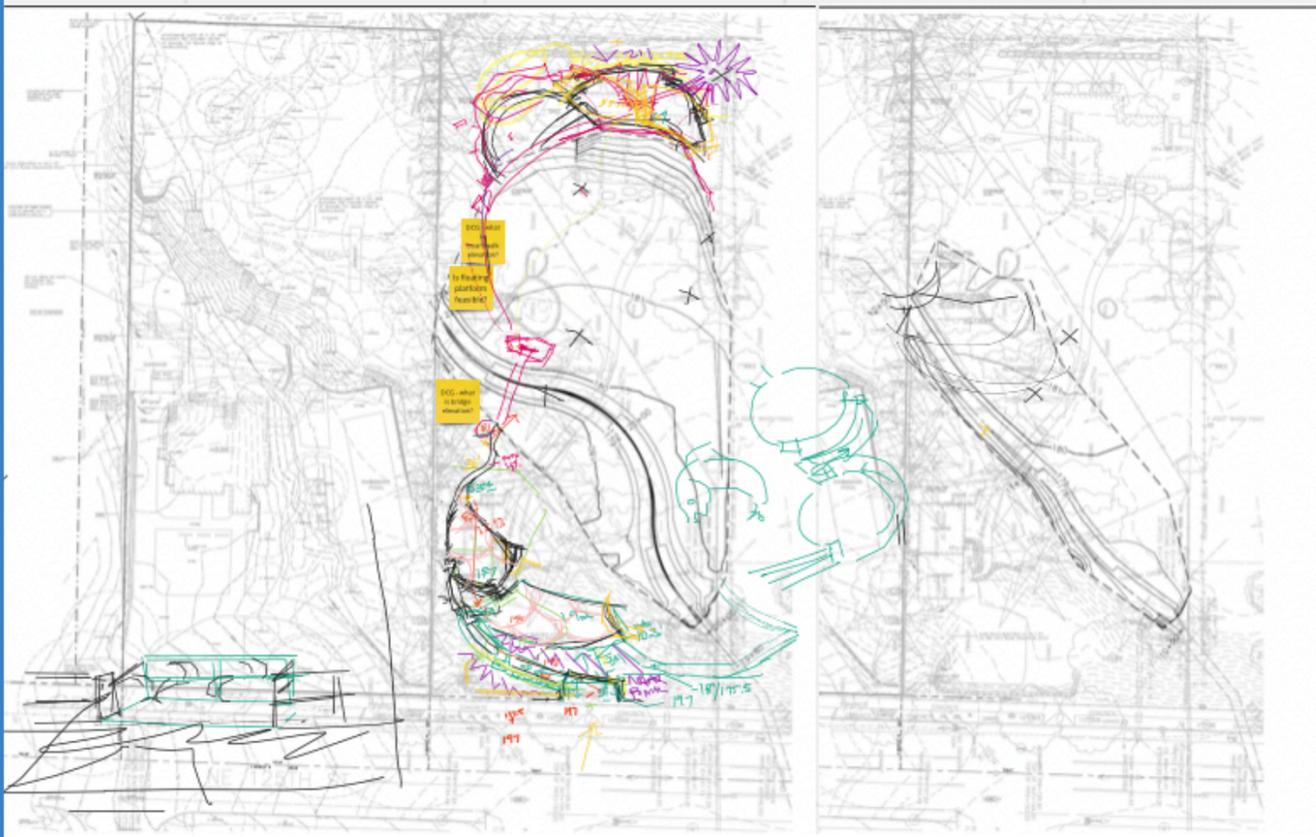
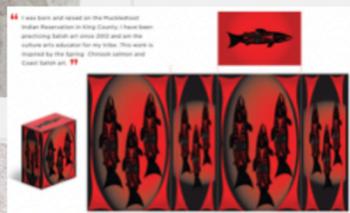
Seasonal closures of select facilities

# Inspiration

## Design Inspiration



## Materials Precedent





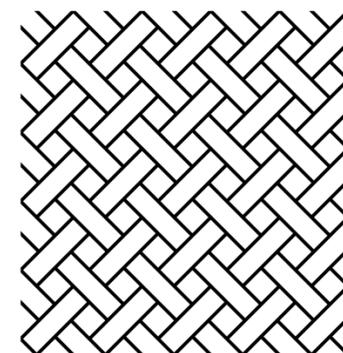
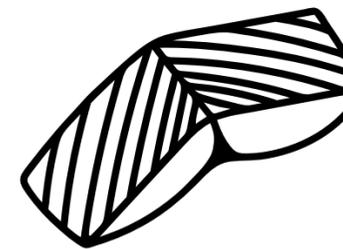
# Conceptual Design Options

# Inspiration



INSPIRATION

CONCEPT | Herringbone



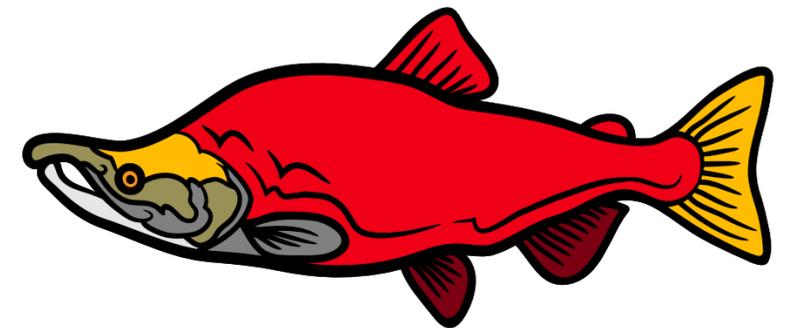
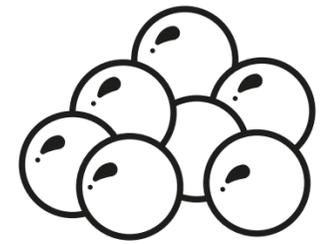
Herringbone

# Inspiration



INSPIRATION

CONCEPT | Salmon lifecycle

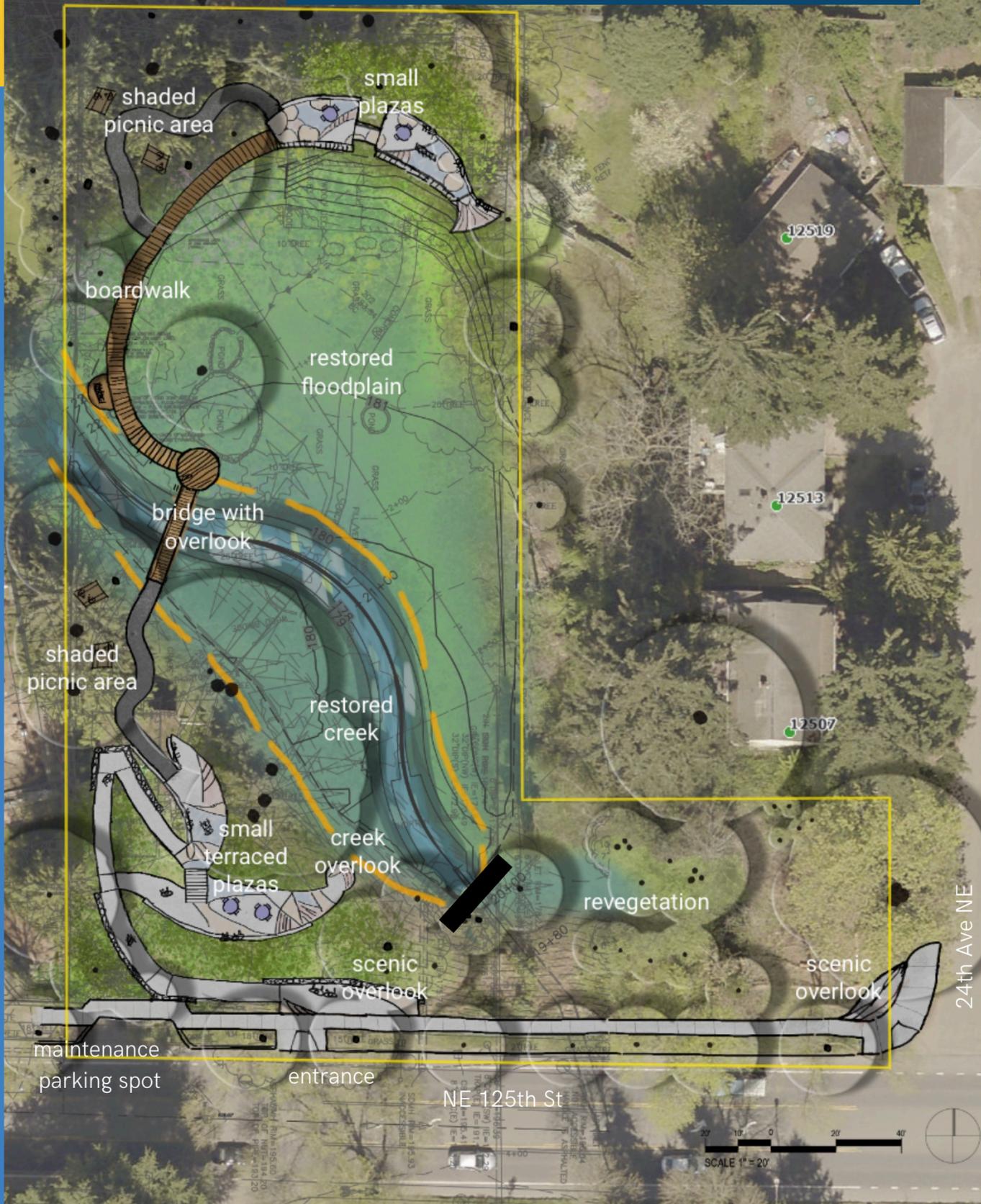


Salmon lifecycle



# Example Concepts

## Solitude | Lower Impact

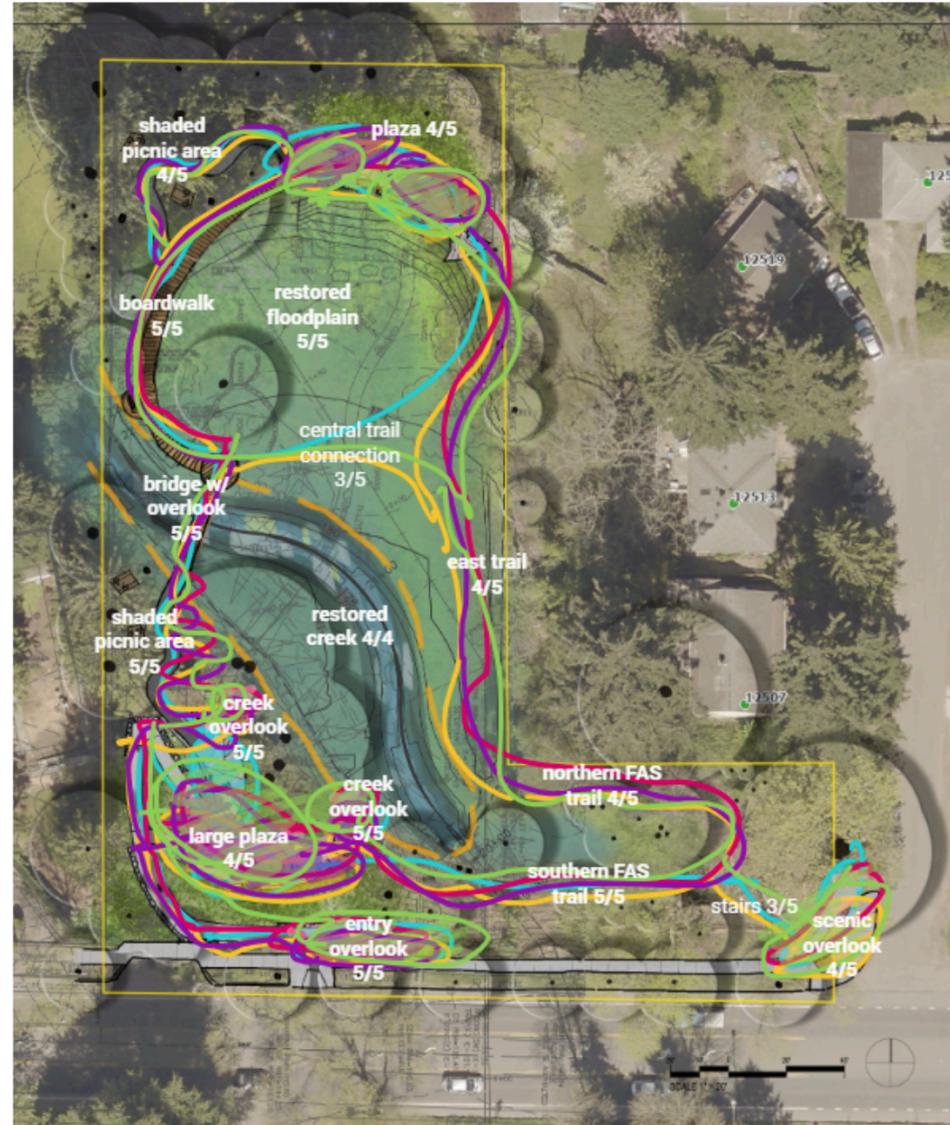


## Gathering | Higher Impact



## Consolidated Community Co-created Design

Balanced amenities and impacts



### Highlights of the consolidated design:

- Amenities and impacts are balanced between two earlier options.
- Placement of new amenities is focused on areas of prior disturbance.
- Amenities accommodate both small and large group experiences.

### Consensus

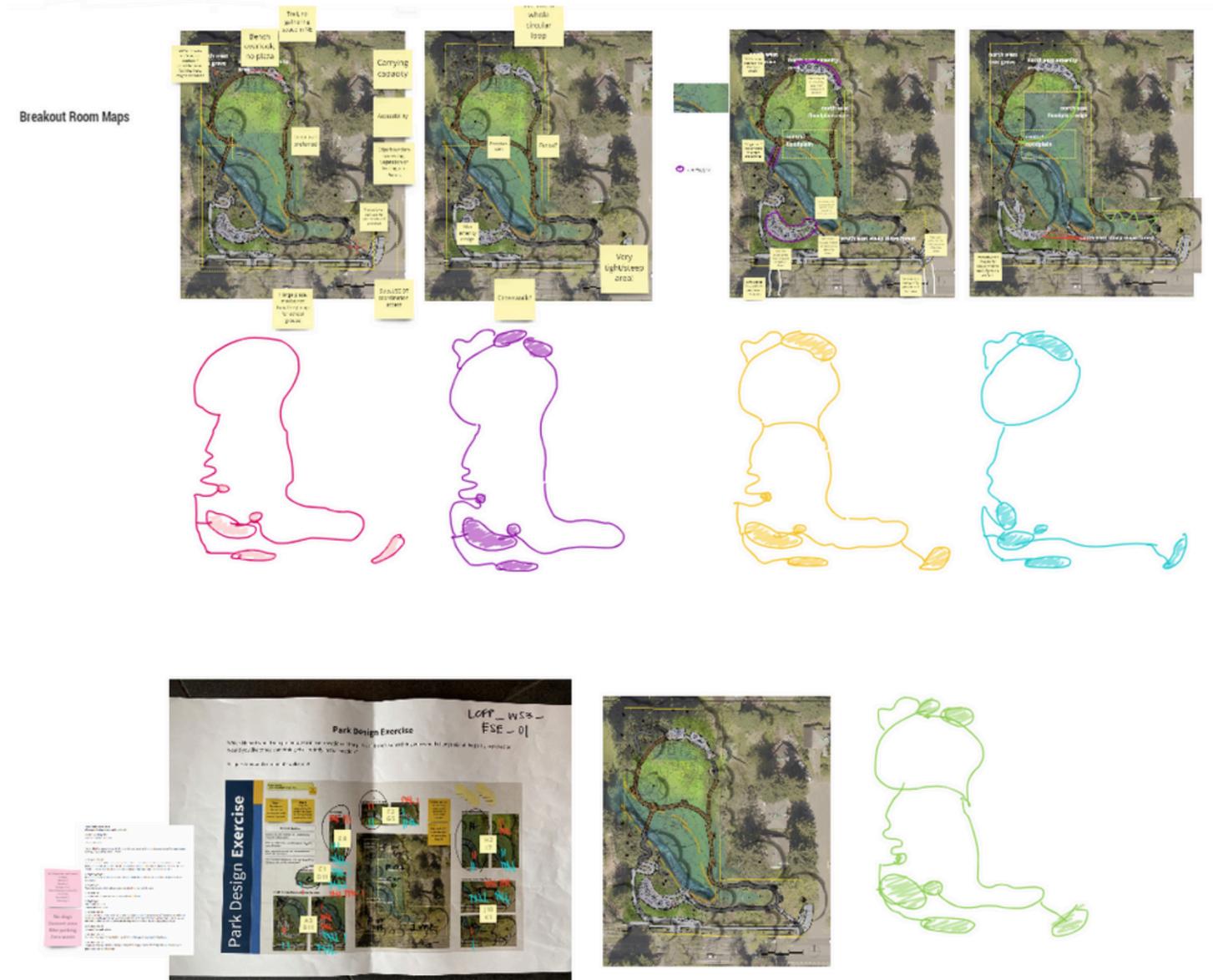
<b>Loop trail</b>	Seating (benches, tables)	Accessible trails
<b>Bridge</b>	Gathering	Walking trails (inc. bridge)
<b>Creek Restoration</b>	Revegetation	Overlooks

### Divided

Central trail connection	Southeast stair climb	Size of NE plaza
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### Other feedback, concerns, ideas:

Art integration  
Crosswalks  
Fencing  
Bathroom  
Camping concerns



from Workshop #3

# Community Feedback

# Conceptual Design

CONCEPT & KEY TO VIGNETTES



## Project features



Two gathering spaces



Walking paths



Provides opportunities for nature immersion



Maximizes creek restoration



Minimizes impact to existing wetland



Retains as many native trees as possible

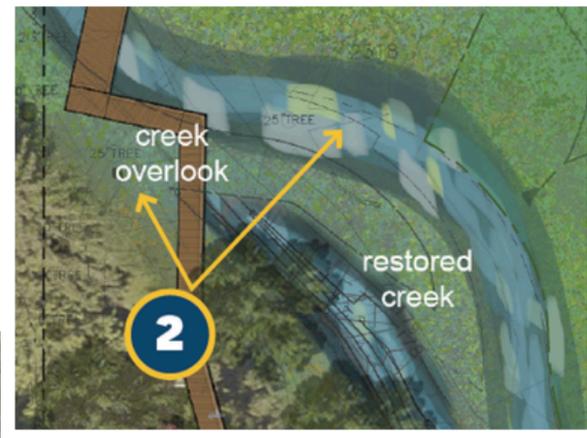


The project team is considering a trail connection here (exact path and trail type to be determined) IF it would not overly impact environmentally sensitive areas

# Design Vignette



# Design Vignette

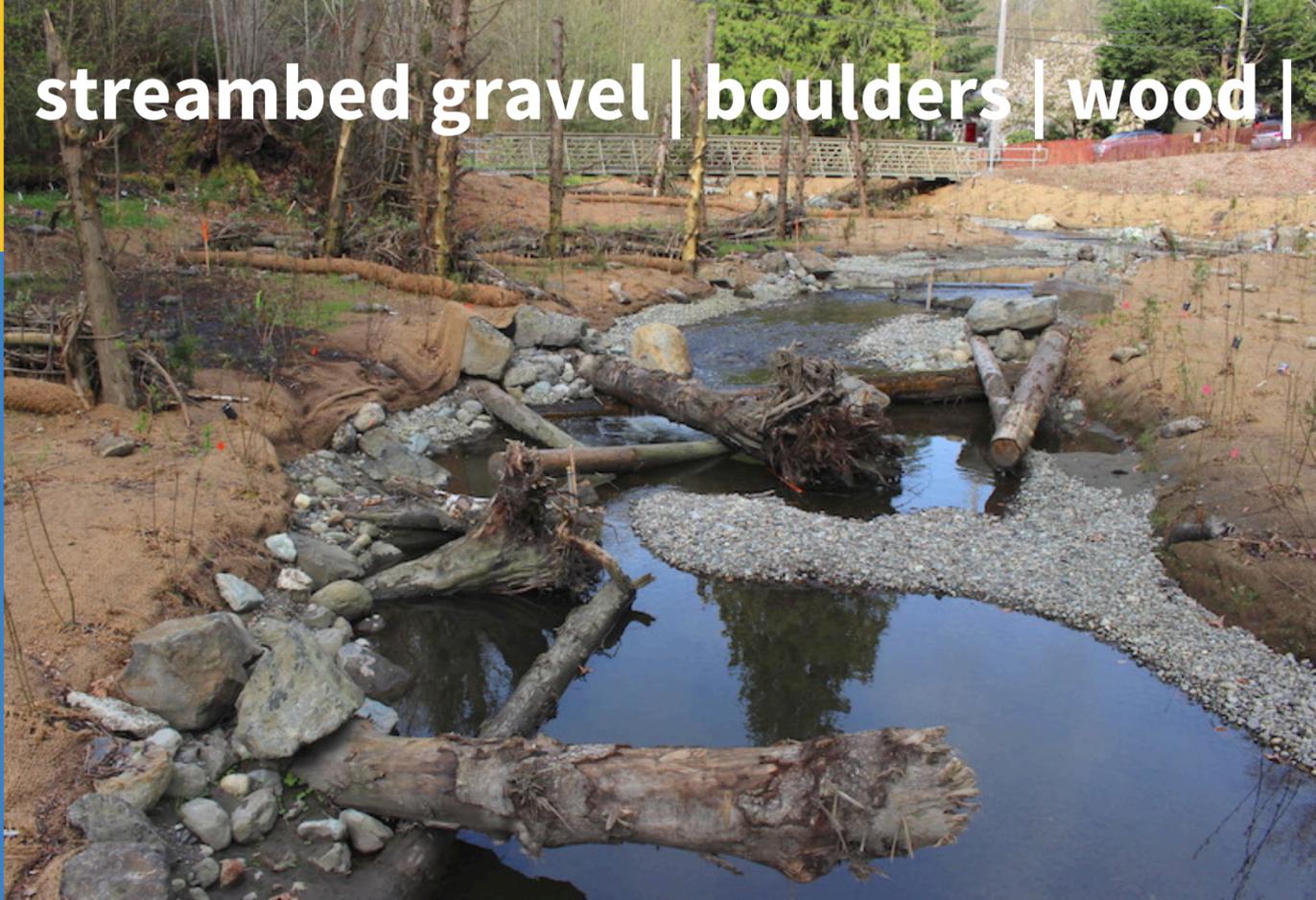


# Design Vignette



# Habitat Elements

streambed gravel | boulders | wood | creek channel



native plants | wetland | floodplain | slope forest

## Seattle Design Commission Comments

### 1. ACCESS

- Commissioners would like more information on pedestrian and vehicular access to the site, to better understand how people will arrive to the site.  
--Primary access to the park will be by foot. Neighborhood residents may walk or roll to the park. Others may arrive by bus. There is a bus stop ½ block from the park entrance.
- More information should be provided on how onsite access will occur for site operations and maintenance crews, including the role of the ROW versus onsite access in achieving this work.  
--Maintenance access is being worked out right now. It may not be safe to provide maintenance access from the ROW. It may be provided on 24<sup>th</sup> Ave NE or through an agreement with a neighboring property owner.
- Commissioners support a 2nd access point to the site, with the understanding that topography provides challenges to accomplish that goal  
--Tried hard to make SE access work, but there were conflicts with ECA and infrastructure. Couldn't make it work. Agree with SDC, it would be ideal.
- A slide should be provided to illustrate how visual and physical access will occur from the abutting public realm, including any vegetation or tree management to accomplish this. This should include information on existing trees and topography (existing conditions) with design options FROM THE STREET.  
--See next slide.
- SDOT should be included and engaged in all ROW solutions for access and circulation, including crosswalks and other ROW improvements.  
--Agreed. SDOT has been engaged.
- Explore partnerships on abutting properties for trail easements, including properties from the north.  
--Abutting property owners are not interested in allowing public access on their properties.

**Will add planting plan information here**

## 2. SAFETY

- More information should be provided on how safety will be enhanced through the size and scale of circulation and site lighting.

--Safety will be enhanced through site lines into the park from the street and abutting properties as well as through site activation. Lighting is not included in this project.

- Dead ends should be reconsidered as they can affect safety within the park area.

--We have provided a loop.

- Where long stretches of walkway occur, there should be improvements that allow people to pass each other with ease.

-All path widths accommodate easy passing.

- Make sure widths of paths will support all types of users (passing strollers etc.).

--Agreed. Done.

### 3. PHASING

- Phasing of site improvements and culvert installation are the key to a successful outcome. Without this integration and coordination, the Commission is concerned about how the project can proceed. If coordination on project delivery isn't possible, a plan should be developed to show the reality of installing the culvert after implementation of the park portion of the project.

- Drawing that shows your thinking around phasing in light of culvert

- No major planting on FAS parcel is planned.

- We agree that it would be good to have a design for the culvert replacement, but the City will not have the money for that project for 20+ years.

- Conceptually, this team is thinking about it and avoiding major park infrastructure in areas of likely future disturbance due to culvert replacement.

- Creek modeling is taking consideration that the culvert will be upsized.

#### 4. DESIGN

- Commissioners commented that the 3 design options shown may be only one option and that it would be nice to see the team explore other design language and/ or concepts that might help them solve some of the problems that currently exist with access and safety.

- Done as shown on a previous slide.

- Site is constrained by ECAs at surface and underground infrastructure. In addition, we have to be responsive to community process.

- Update each design option to show vehicular access – on and offsite – integrated into project design.

- There is no vehicular access to the site for park visitors. The park is small (just about one acre) and entirely within ECAs. There is no space to provide a parking lot.

- SDOT's project on 125<sup>th</sup> includes a buffered bike lane; there is no space for on-street parking.

## 5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Work with the Office of Arts and Culture on opportunities to integrate Art at the site.

--OAC has limited capacity to work with us. We are continuing the conversation with them at the same time that we are exploring other art options.

- Continue to work and expand on the public engagement strategies to inform project designs.

--We have done this consistently. We are following SPR's engagement process and have completed all major engagement milestones. There is the potential for an event around ground breaking and definitely a ribbon cutting.

- Continue community involvement via on-site walk-throughs with diverse population representing all local communities.

--We couldn't have people on site -- no bridge, ground uneven, no hand rails.

# Thank you to our Funders



**King County**



**KING COUNTY  
FLOOD CONTROL  
DISTRICT**



**Seattle  
Parks & Recreation**



**King County**

Department of Natural Resources and Parks  
**Wastewater Treatment Division**



**Seattle  
Public  
Utilities**



DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECOLOGY**  
State of Washington



WASHINGTON STATE  
Recreation and  
Conservation Office

