



26th Avenue North Overlook and Ole Olson Park Trail Connection

Public Hearing and Concept Approval

September 7, 2022 – Planning Committee, MPRB

Presentation Overview

- Filling the Gap
- Above the Falls and RiverFirst
- Pre-European Settlement Conditions
- Recent Past and Current Conditions
- Community Engagement
- Design Statement and Goals
- Concept Plan
- Aligning Design Solutions with Goals
- Trail User Safety
- Transition to New (Old) Landscape
- Partner Support
- Land Access
- Public Hearing

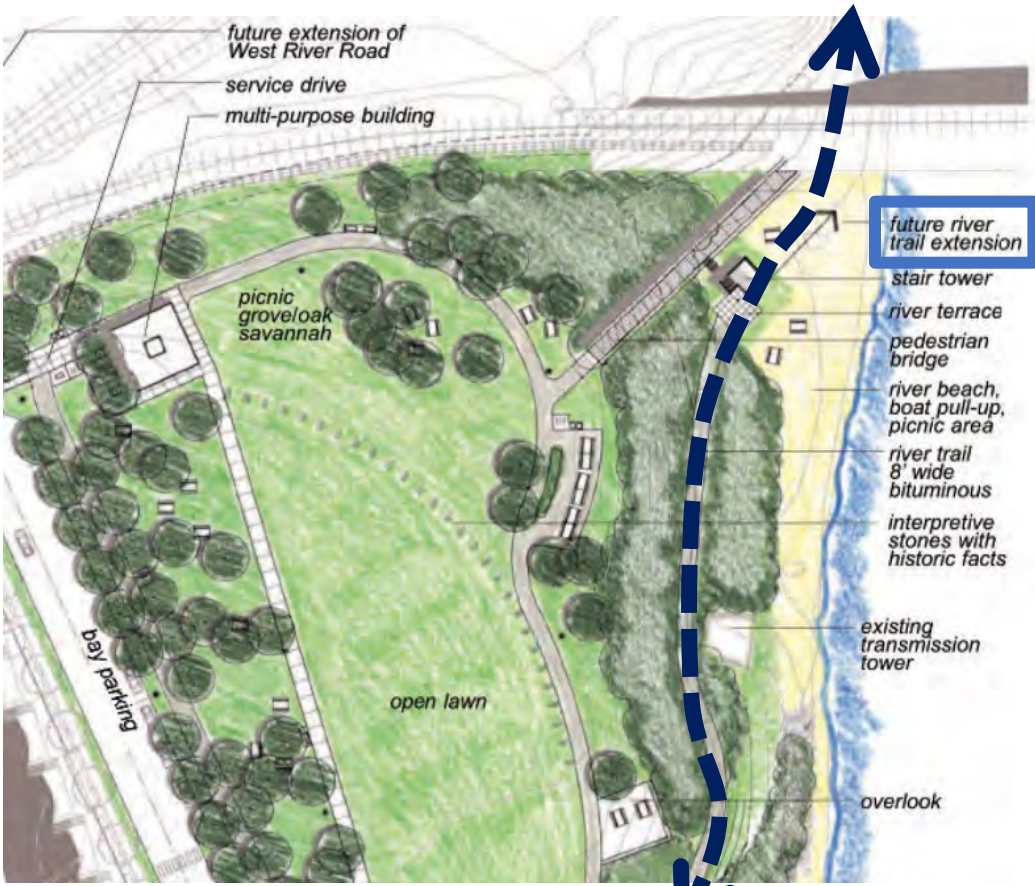


Filling the Gap

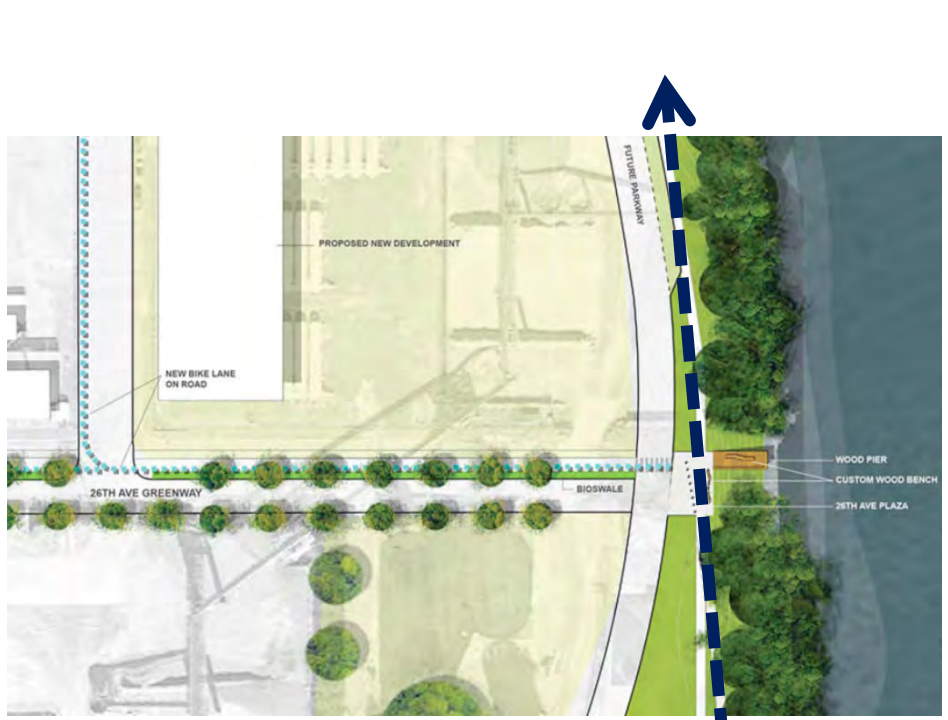


- Connect 26th Avenue North Overlook to Orvin “Ole” Olson Park.
- 1000-foot distance.
- Pedestrians, cyclists, and other non-motorized means.

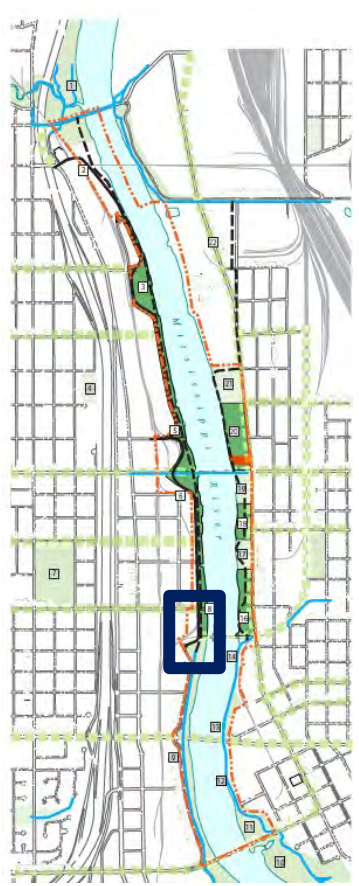
Above the Falls and RiverFirst



2006 ATF Phase One Plan



2013 RiverFirst Initiative

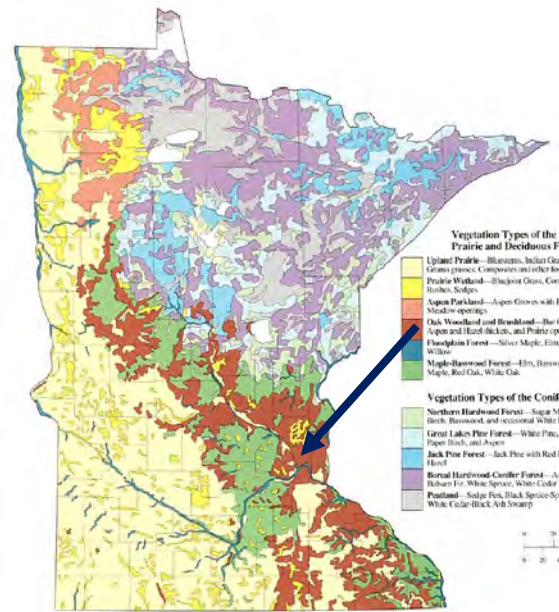


2019 ATF Master Plan

Pre-European Settlement Conditions



Watercolor Painting by Seth Eastman, Mapmaker and Illustrator, US Army



Natural Vegetation of Minnesota 1847-1907
(Bur and pin oak, aspen, hazel thickets, and prairie openings)



Current Managed Vegetation Downstream

Recent Past and Current Conditions



Narrow, Steep Corridor



Steep Hill Adjacent to Bridge, Grape and Virginia Creeper Vines

Railyard and Roundhouse, 1955

Community Engagement

Getting the Word Out:

- Mailing to over 1,700 households and businesses.
- Contact with several organizations, schools, and news outlets.
- Intro meetings at neighborhood organizations.
- Intro meetings with BNSF Railway and Continental Cement Co.
- Table at Redeemer Church/Venture North event.

Surveys:

- General comment form (50 responses).
- Concept Plan survey (18 responses).

Public Meetings:

- Four open houses (two virtual, two on-site).
- One on-site meeting with neighbors.
- Two Bicycle Advisory Committee meetings.
- One Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting.

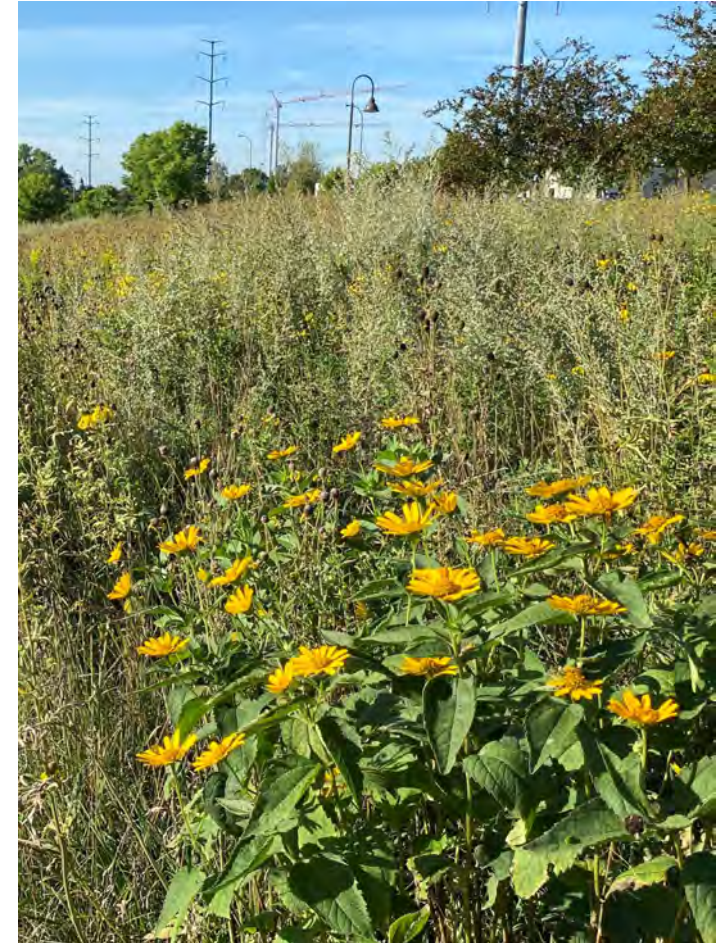
Overwhelming support for the project.



Design Statement and Goals

Design Statement

- This project seeks to connect neighborhoods via safe and direct trail experiences along the Mississippi riverfront while reversing industrial impacts and urbanization.
- The design solution shall be more aligned with what might have been here years ago.



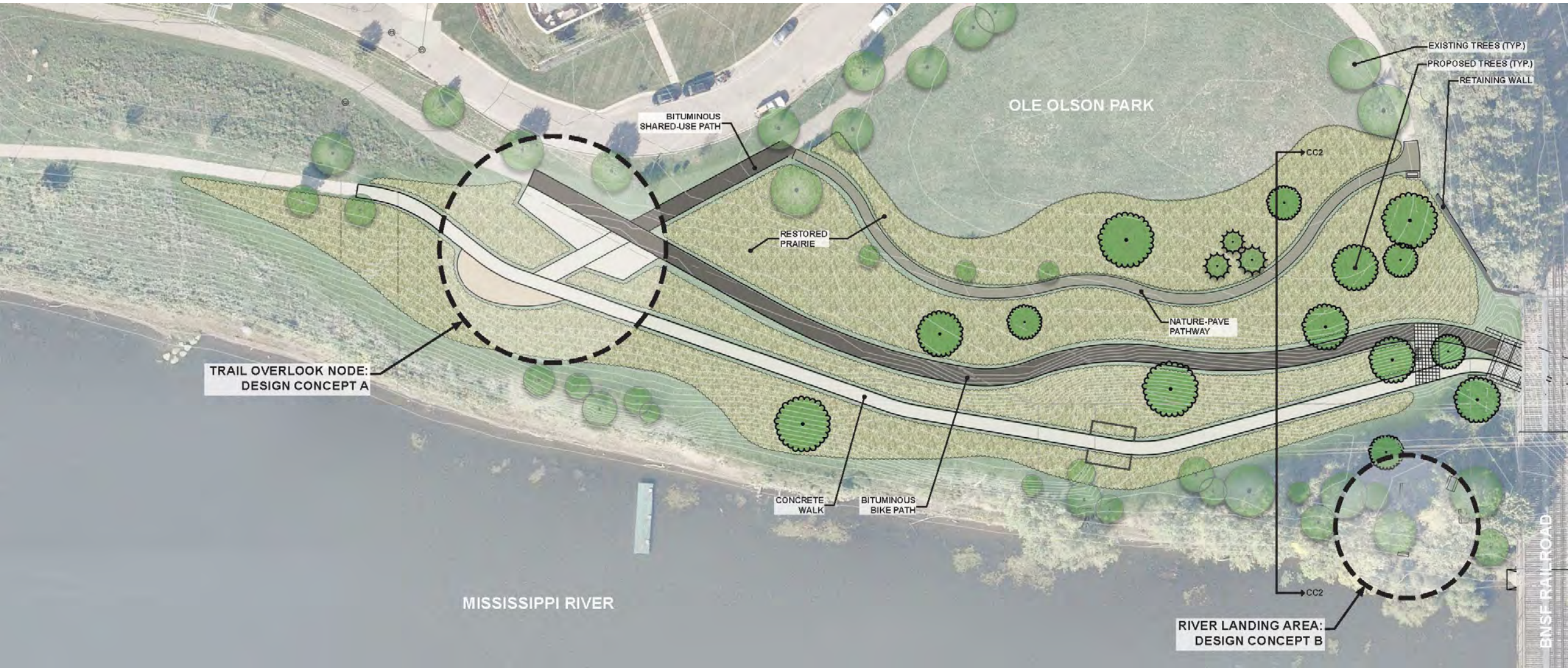
Design Statement and Goals

Design Goals

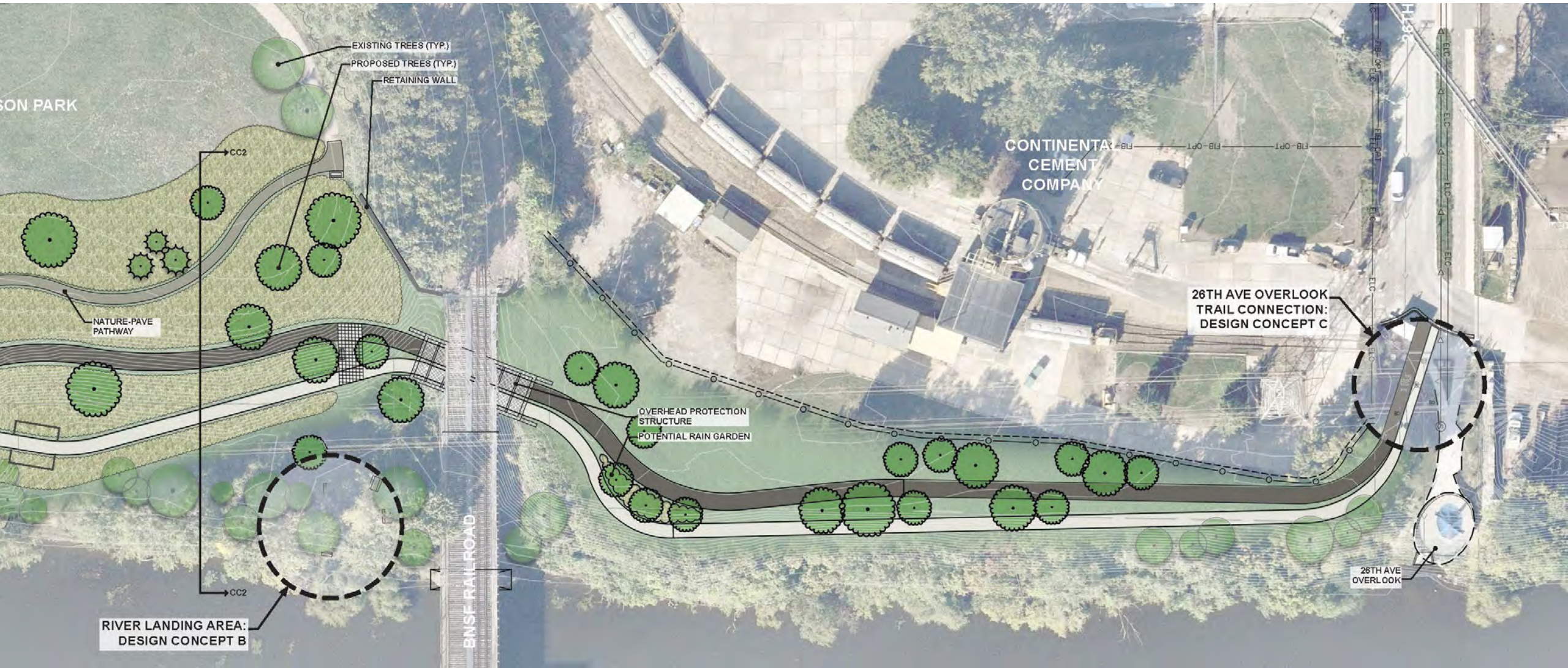
- Connect Ole Olson Park to 26th Avenue North Overlook.
- Provide a safe trail experience.
- Make it easy to maintain and access.
- Minimize structures.
- Create gathering spaces.
- Connect Ole Olson Park to the river.



Concept Plan (south)



Concept Plan (north)



Aligning Design Solutions with Goals

Create separate bike and pedestrian trails that connect the two parks.



Aligning Design Solutions with Goals

Light the trail corridor.



Aligning Design Solutions with Goals

Existing steep slopes are prohibitive.



Aligning Design Solutions with Goals

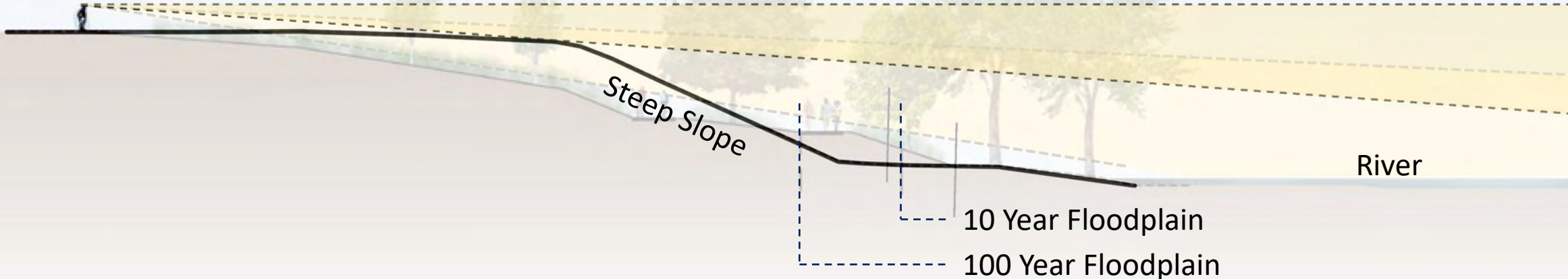
Flatten steep slopes to increase views to trail, increase planting area, minimize retaining walls, and connect Ole Olson Park to river.



Aligning Design Solutions with Goals

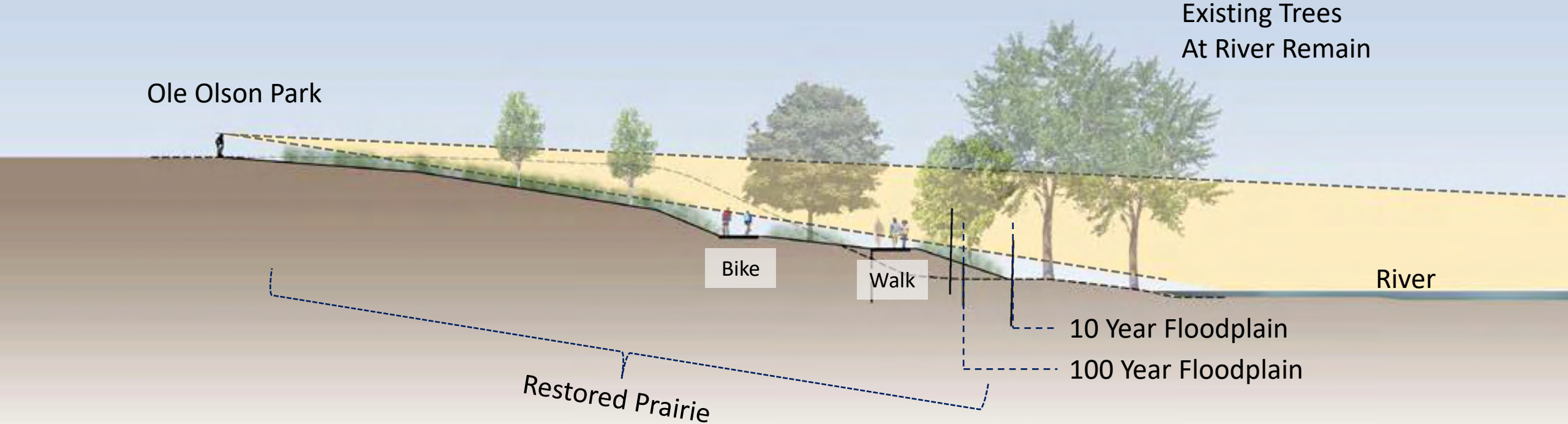
Existing steep slopes are prohibitive.

Ole Olson Park



Aligning Design Solutions with Goals

Flatten steep slopes to increase views to trail, increase planting area, minimize retaining walls, and connect Ole Olson Park to river.



Aligning Design Solutions with Goals

Design trail to withstand emergency and maintenance vehicles up to a pickup truck.



Aligning Design Solutions with Goals

Existing prairie ends on south side of Ole Olson Park.



Aligning Design Solutions with Goals

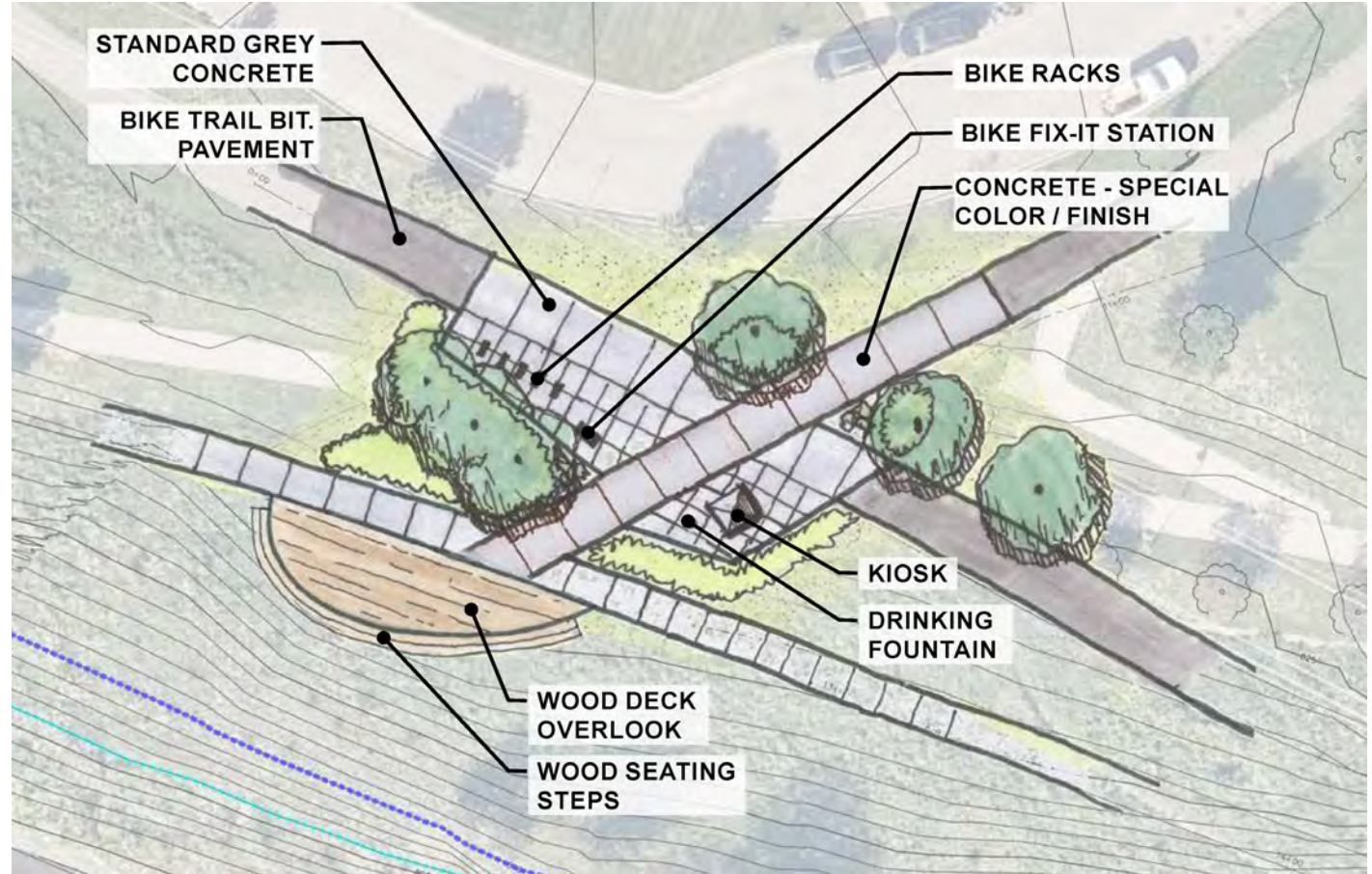
Expand prairie landscape further north.



Aligning Design Solutions with Goals

Gathering Area A

- Low profile, does not block views from Ole Olson event lawn area.
- Seating, bike loops, drinking fountain.
- Deck sitting within prairie area.



Aligning Design Solutions with Goals

Gathering Area B

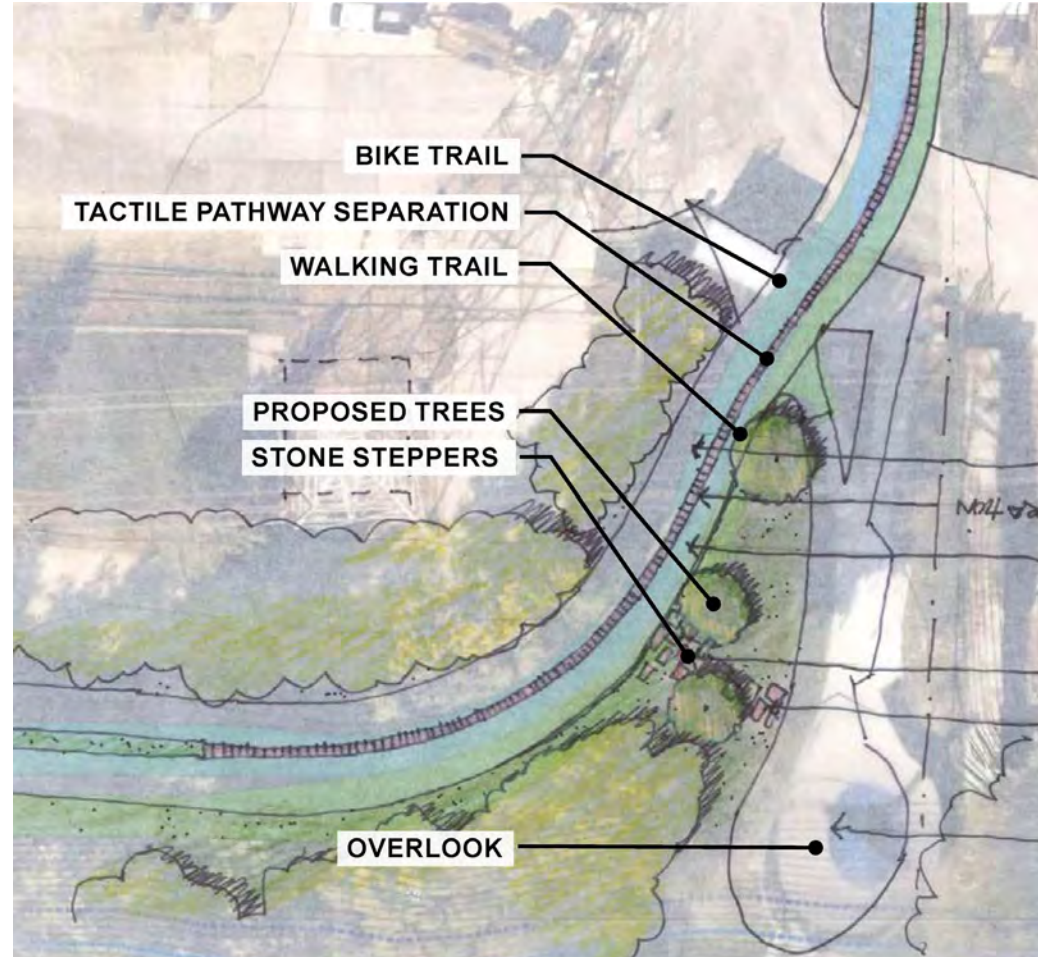
- Simple improvement of mowed space and sand.
- Screening under bridge.
- Simple, floodable, seating including logs, boulders, and picnic tables.
- Canoe/kayak launch.



Aligning Design Solutions with Goals

Gathering Area C

- Connection to existing trail along 26th Avenue North.
- Skirts side of existing Overlook.
- Includes informal walkway to Overlook.



Transition to New (Old) Landscape

Pros

The transition:

- increases safety/visibility,
- allows for greater plant diversity and ecological benefit, and
- allows for few retaining walls.

Cons

The transition:

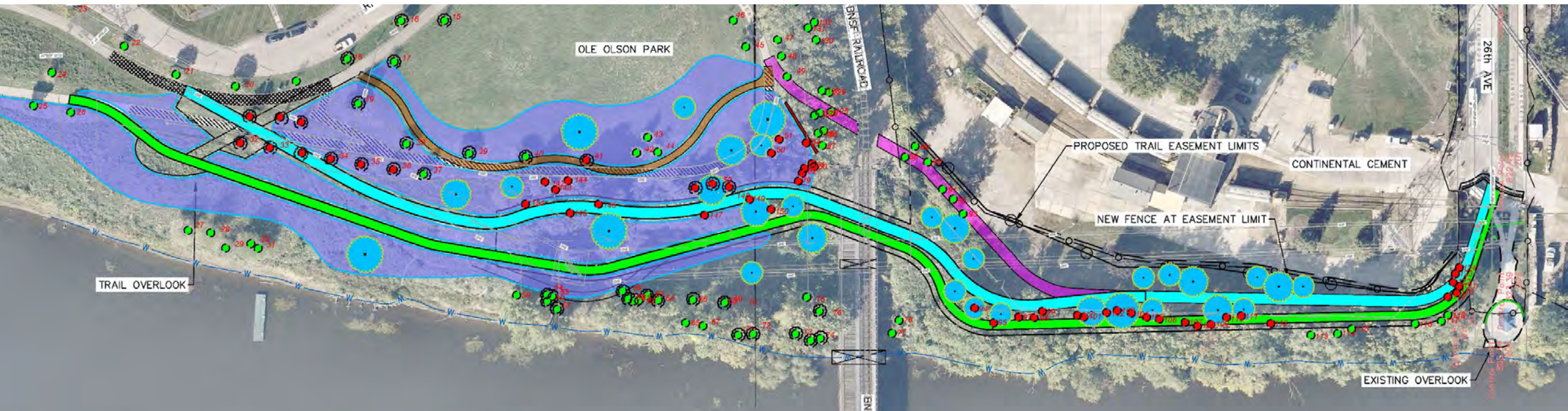
- requires the removal of trees.

Transition to New (Old) Landscape

Tree inventory by Professional Arborist:

- Most trees to be removed are low quality or in poor shape.
- About 50 trees will be removed according to concept plan.

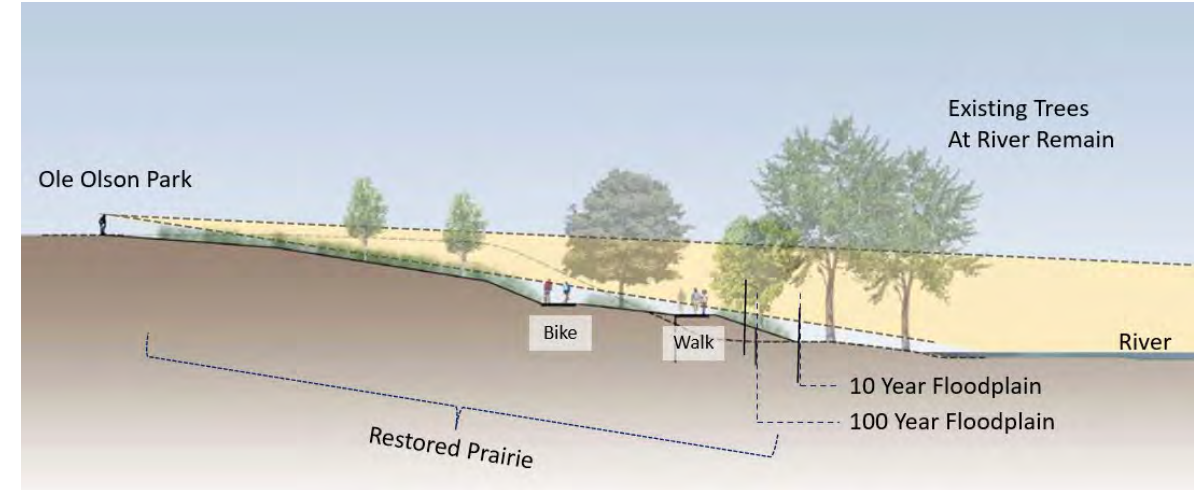
Regardless of design, trees are required to be removed if project is to proceed.



Transition to New (Old) Landscape

Pro: Trail User Safety is Enhanced by:

- allowing for better sightlines (shallower slopes, see-through prairie),
- lighting trails,
- allowing emergency vehicle access,
- increasing the number of people visiting park/trails,
- legitimizing uses under bridge,
- adding barriers limiting access under bridge (fence and vegetation), and
- no longer having dead end trails.



Transition to New (Old) Landscape

Pro: Greater Plant Diversity and Ecological Benefit is Created by:

- increasing space for prairie areas and historic landscape character,
- increasing diversity of plant species,
- adding habitat for birds and animals,
- adding pollinator species for butterflies and insects, and
- sequestering carbon underground.



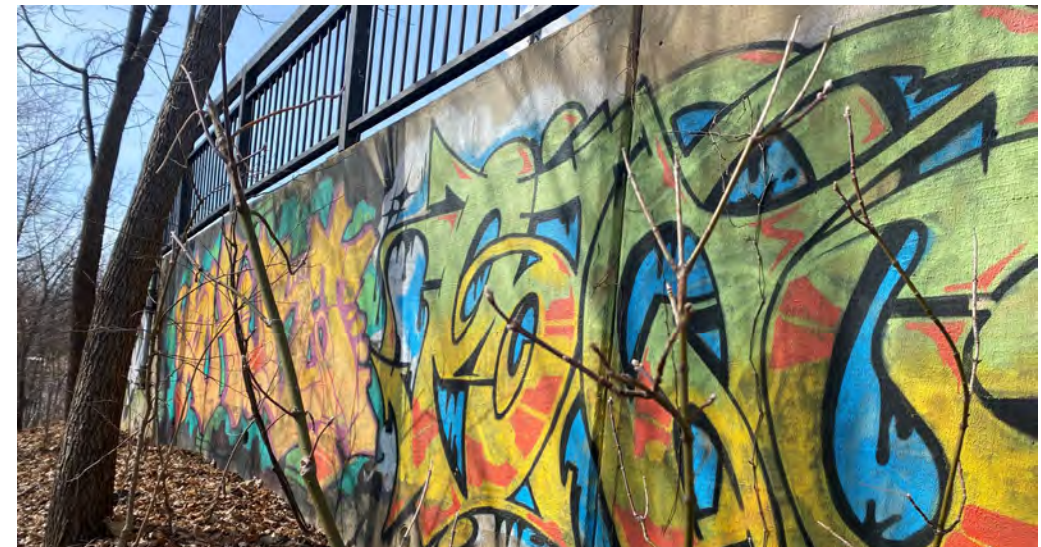
Transition to New (Old) Landscape

Pro: Fewer Retaining Walls, which:

- are expensive,
- contribute to hidden spaces,
- require a two-foot buffer (trails are wider),
- require maintenance,
- can attract tagging, and
- require tree removals.



www.redi-rock.com



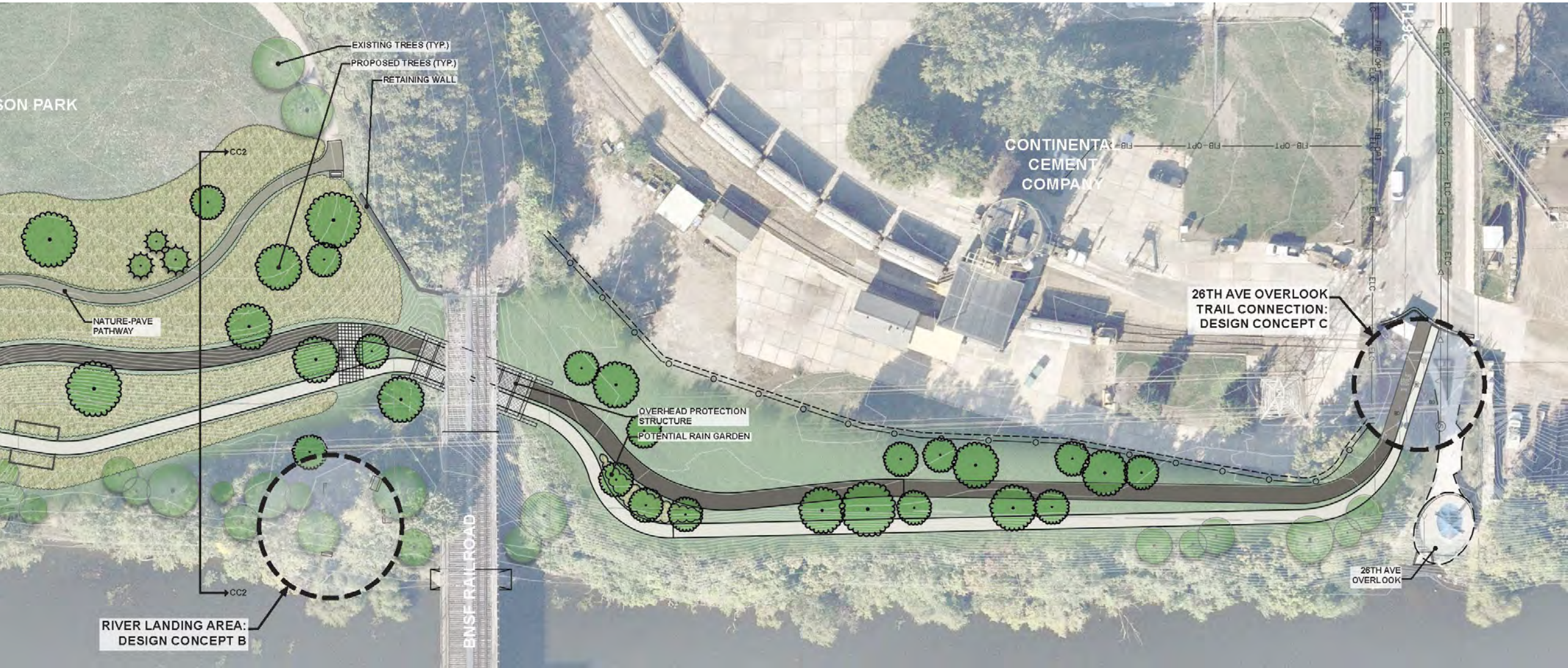
Wall at West River Parkway and Lake Street

Partner Support

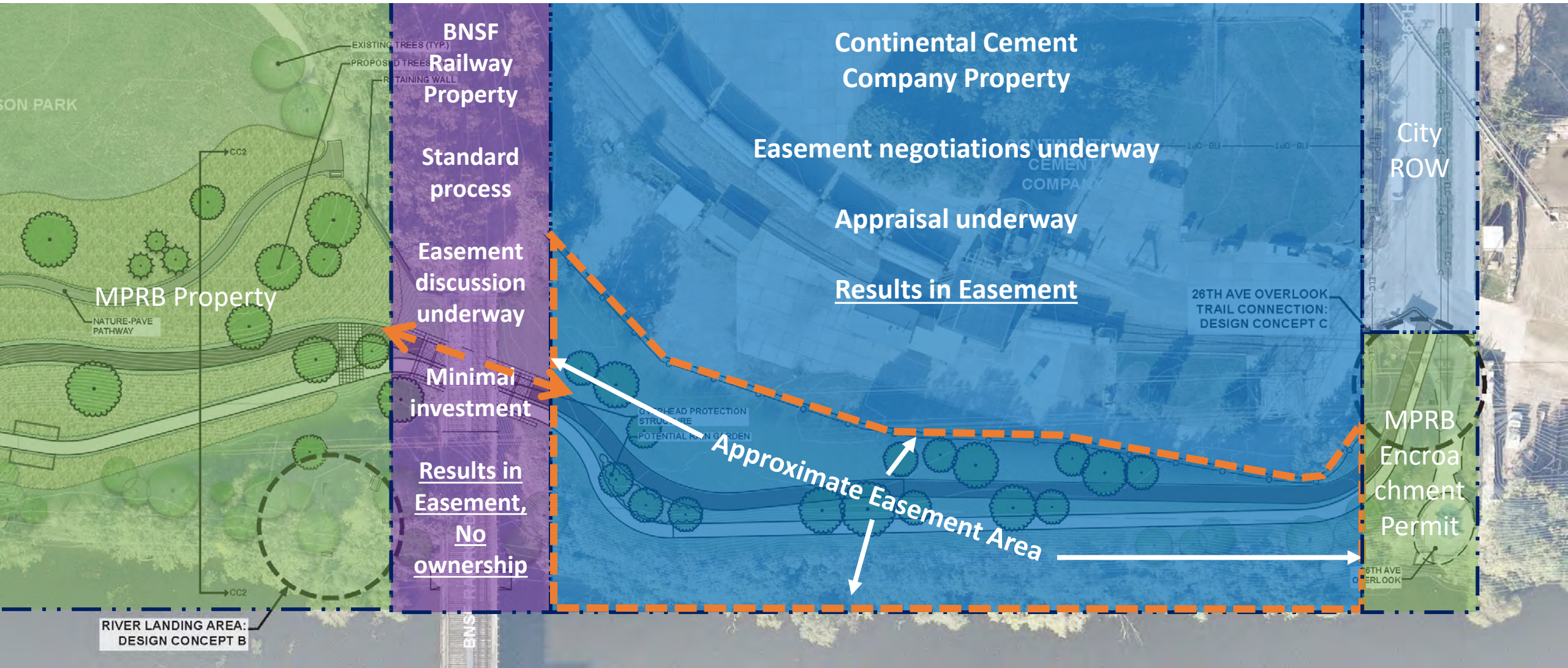
- Continuing Partnerships
 - FMR supportive of plan.
 - FMR will expand their maintenance area to cover new prairie.
 - City's BAC and Great Northern Greenway support the project.
 - Minneapolis Parks Foundation advocacy.



Land Access



Land Access





Public Hearing

Thank You.