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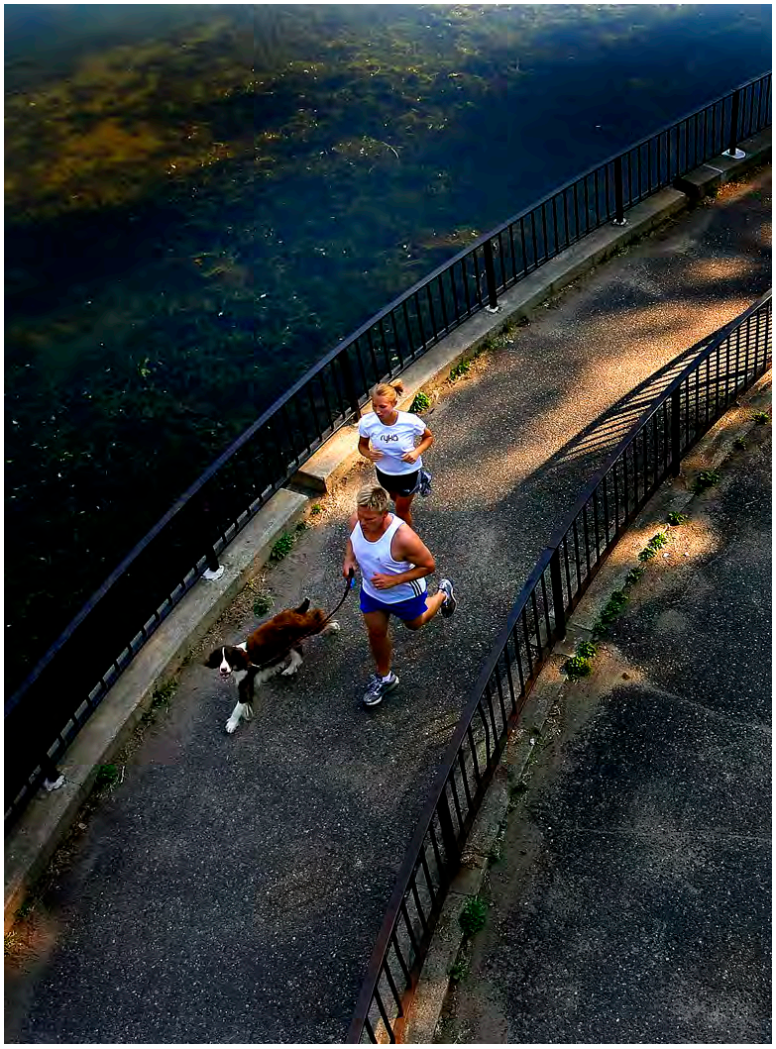
PARK PLAN

CHAPTER 5

5.1 OVERVIEW



Trails at Lake of the Isles

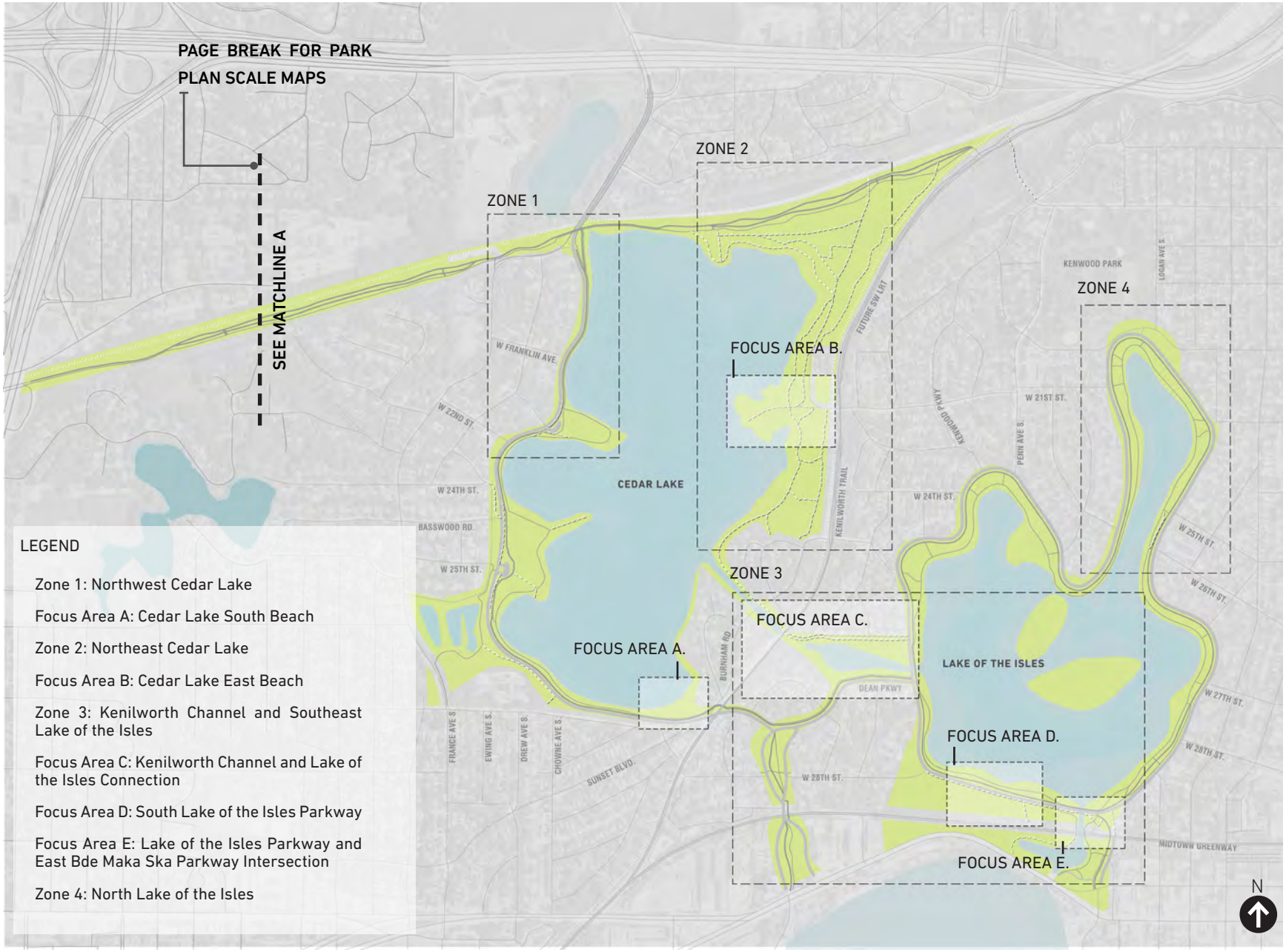
Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles are defined by their unique characters within the Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Regional Park that snakes through the heart of Minneapolis. Cedar is known as the wilder and more natural lake while Lake of the Isles has formal lawns with walking and biking trails. They are very different from their sister lakes to the south, Lake Harriet and Bde Maka Ska, and Brownie Lake to the north. This plan also includes the Kenilworth Channel, which connects Cedar and Isles via water, and Dean Parkway, known for its lawns, trails, and connecting Bde Maka Ska and Lake of the Isles. A portion of Cedar Lake Regional Trail is also in this plan, providing direct walking and biking access between St. Louis Park and the Mississippi River.

PLAN / CHAPTER ORGANIZATION

This chapter provides a detailed look at the next 20 to 30 years of proposed improvements for Cedar Lake, Lake of the Isles, the Kenilworth Channel, Dean Parkway, and a portion of the Cedar Lake Regional Trail. A vision and guiding principles for the project area lay the foundation for the recommendations in Section 5.2. Recommendations start in Section 5.3 with project-wide guidance, project-wide design follows in Section 5.4, and the chapter ends with detailed design recommendations for identified locations within the project area. See Figure 5.1 for the breakdown of zones and focus areas throughout the project area.

Recommendations, outlined at both the project-wide scale and through zones and focus areas, describe additional detail; prioritize improving water quality and preserve natural areas; aim to honor the unique character of each lake; and respond to CAC, community, staff, and agency feedback received throughout the planning process. Some improvements shown will require further site investigation to confirm feasibility prior to detailed design and construction.

Figure 5.1: Zones and Focus Areas



5.2 VISION AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

PURPOSE

The design aims to sensitively respond to feedback that was received during engagement phases, comment periods, surveys, CAC meetings, site walks, and workshops throughout the concept alternatives and preferred plan phases since 2019.

The Vision and Guiding Principles set the stage for concept development and initiatives. The **Vision** describes what the park will be in the future while the **Guiding Principles** suggest how the park will achieve that vision. Guiding principles embody core values and offer action statements for the project that guide decisions throughout the planning process.

VISION

Lake of the Isles and Cedar Lake, as part of the Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Regional Park, contribute to a vital, urban natural ecosystem with unique experiences that protect, connect, and sustain people, wildlife, and natural resources, while maintaining the health of the lakes.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The six guiding principles that embody core values for the Cedar-Isles Plan are:

PROTECT

Protect and enhance parkland and water bodies while adapting to a changing climate.

INVITE

Welcome diverse users by creating a sense of arrival, intuitive orientation, education for visitors, and safe connections to and through the park for both people and wildlife.

CONNECT

Create flexible, safe, and clear circulation networks for all transportation modes to clarify and improve links between people, wildlife, and natural resources

TELL STORIES

Acknowledge and respond to layers of history related to the land and lakes, and value authentic stories through education, interpretation, and stewardship.

ENGAGE

Create inclusive and equitable programs and activities that reflect the unique character of each lake and provide welcoming and safe spaces for visitors to experience the natural environment.

RESPECT

Honor the uniqueness of each lake by maintaining current uses and valued features across seasons, while accommodating desired improvements to strengthen relationships with the land and lakes.

Luminary Loppet on Lake of the Isles. Source: TEN x TEN

5.3 PROJECT-WIDE GUIDANCE

This section outlines high level policy guidance and recommendations for the Cedar-Isles Plan, informing the following designs in sections 5.4-5.6. Guidance is divided into the following topics: Water Quality, Natural Resources, Cedar Lake Park Natural Resources Management, Access and Circulation, Accessibility, Safety, Historic and Cultural Resources, and Program and Amenities. While guidance has been incorporated under each topic, the section should be reviewed holistically to account for the overlap across topic areas. Many sources informed the guidance for this section, including the Community Advisory Committee, subcommittees, working groups, community engagement, best practices, and existing MPRB policy documents.

WATER QUALITY

To comprehensively address current and future water quality improvement opportunities, the project team worked with a Water Quality Subcommittee of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) to develop water quality goals across three planning scales: lake, park plan, and watershed (listed smallest to largest scale). Learn more about the Water Quality CAC Subcommittee in the Community Engagement Chapter and view the final recommendations document in Appendix B.

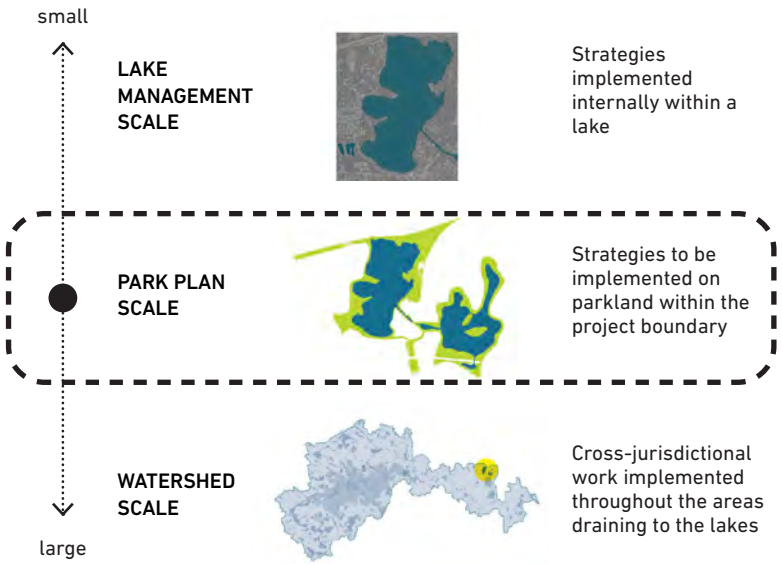


Figure 5.2: Water Quality planning at three scales.

LAKE-LEVEL GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

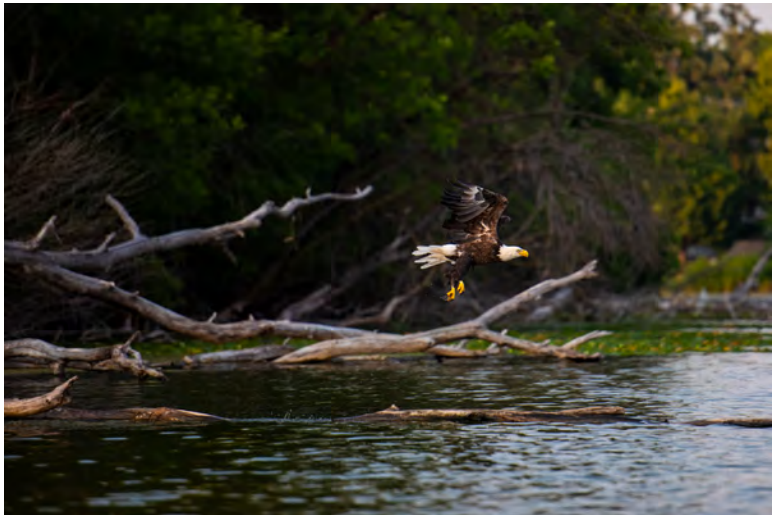
These goals and recommendations reference and build upon the Clean Water Partnership (CWP) goals (see Section 4.2), current water quality trends, and aim to mitigate effects of climate change.

Lake-Level Goal 1: Manage Lake of the Isles as an ecologically healthy, shallow lake and:

- Maintain phosphorus levels below 40 micrograms per Liter (ug/L).
- Establish and maintain diverse native and adapted, non-invasive aquatic plants.
- Establish and maintain aquatic food web.
- Prevent harmful blue-green algae blooms.

Recommendation 1A: Develop a lake management plan for Lake of the Isles to assess lake health and the drivers of water quality and to manage in-lake nutrients, the littoral zones, and shorelines.

Geese along Kenilworth Channel



Bald Eagle on Lake of the Isles

Lake-Level Goal 2: Manage Cedar Lake as an ecologically healthy, deep lake and:

- Bring phosphorus levels below 25 micrograms per Liter (ug/L).
- Establish and maintain diverse native and adapted, non-invasive aquatic plants.
- Establish and maintain aquatic food web.
- Prevent harmful blue-green algae blooms.

Recommendation 2A: Develop a lake management plan for Cedar Lake to assess lake health and the drivers of water quality and to manage in-lake nutrients, the littoral zones, and shorelines.

PARK PLAN-LEVEL GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Goals and recommendations at this scale are largely addressed within the park plan maps and design, which is outlined later in this chapter.

Park Plan-Level Goal 1: Address stormwater runoff from all hard surfaces on parkland.

Recommendation 1A: Treat stormwater runoff from paved surfaces on parkland including parkways and parking lots before it runs into the lake.

Recommendation 1B: Limit paved surfaces and, where appropriate, convert to pervious.

Recommendation 1C: Perform enhanced sweeping of all paved surfaces on park property.

Recommendation 1D: Restore soil health, including restoring compacted soil that currently provides limited infiltration.

Recommendation 1E: Eliminate exposed soil on park land except established beaches and turtle nesting areas.

Park Plan-Level Goal 2: Reduce chloride, trash, sediment, and other pollutants from entering the lakes.

Recommendation 2A: Reduce chloride (salt) use through continuing to condense maintained paths within the winter networks.

Recommendation 2B: Minimize, to the extent practical, use of chloride-based de-icing materials on hard surfaces within the park.

Recommendation 2C: Provide education to staff and the public around impacts of chloride and training on the best practices and timing for de-icing application.

Recommendation 2D: Perform enhanced sweeping of all paved surfaces on park property to remove trash, leaves, sediment, and other pollutants.

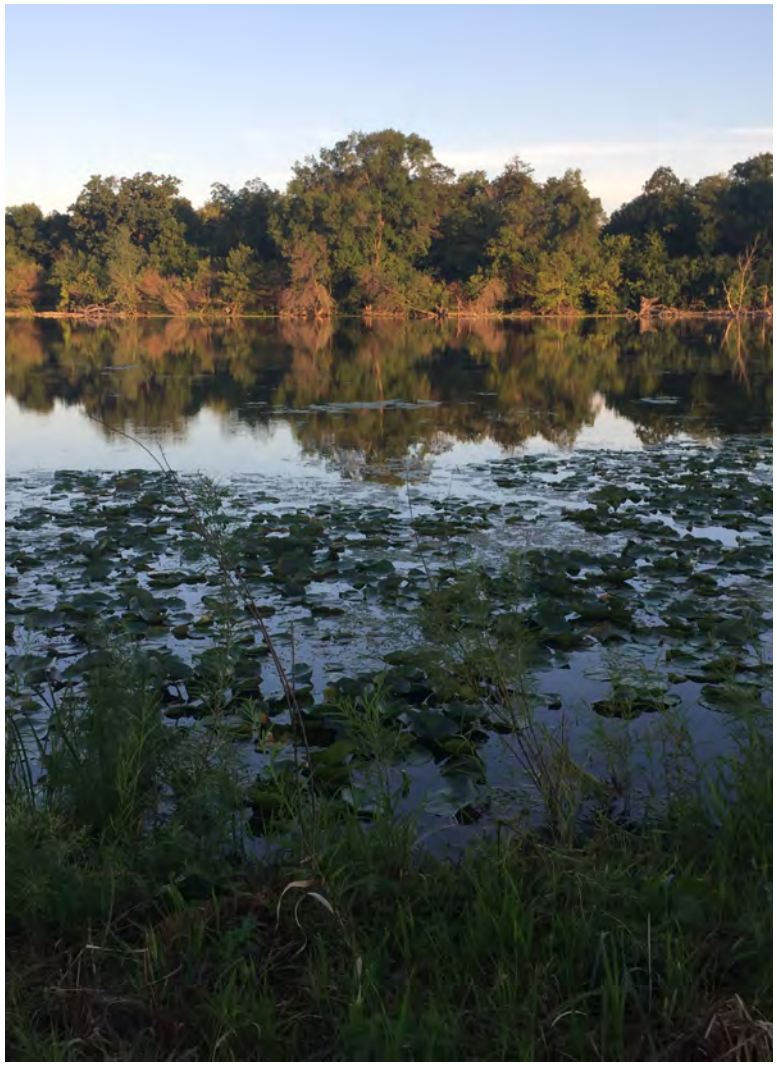
Park Plan-Level Goal 3: Maintain and stabilize shoreline with native vegetation in all areas except for formal access points and identified view sheds.

Recommendation 3A: Establish a naturalized lake buffer with a minimum height of one foot in all areas where water and land access is not needed (above shoreline).

Recommendation 3B: Naturalize the littoral fringe with emergent vegetation in all areas where lake access is not needed (below shore).

Recommendation 3C: Reduce sedimentation into the lake from adjacent erosion and runoff by ensuring park soils and slopes remain stabilized and vegetated.

Recommendation 3D: Formalize the location of water access points and clearly identify them.



Lake of the Isles shoreline. Source: EOR

Lake Water Quality Monitoring

Milfoil Harvesting

Park Plan-Level Goal 4: Maximize and restore habitat (terrestrial and aquatic) to improve health of the lake and have spaces for wildlife.

Recommendation 4A: Restore and improve natural areas that have no interaction with park visitors (ie: islands at Lake of the Isles) to higher functioning plant communities for improved wildlife habitat.

Recommendation 4B: Restore and improve natural areas that interact with park visitors (ie: northeast forest at Cedar Lake) to higher functioning plant communities.

Recommendation 4C: Consider fisheries sampling to routinely determine the Fish-based Index of Biological Integrity (F-IBI).

Recommendation 4D: Determine target wildlife species for each lake and develop a biological monitoring program.

Recommendation 4E: Reestablish native, non-invasive, and adapted rooted aquatic vegetation communities.

Recommendation 4F: Control invasive aquatic plant species including water milfoil and curlyleaf pondweed to improve water quality and maintain recreational access.

Park Plan-Level Goal 5: Continue to meet state aquatic recreation standards at Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles.

Recommendation 5A: Reduce water quality impacts from pets, geese, and anthropogenic sources.

WATERSHED-LEVEL GOALS

One of the primary drivers of water quality in these lakes is the watershed, or the water that enters the lakes from pipes upstream, sometimes from miles away. In order to make a significant impact on improving water quality for these lakes, watershed runoff must be addressed. Partnership and collaboration between relevant local, regional, and state agencies will be critical to achieving watershed-wide mitigation of polluted stormwater runoff.

Watershed-Level Goal 1: Utilize the water quality-focused Cedar-Isles Plan with specific measurable goals, objectives, and outcomes as a MPRB case study on how to track and evaluate implementation of a park plan.

Watershed-Level Goal 2: Formalize a committee with regional community and agency representation to continue monitoring and developing rapid solutions for water quality and quantity in the face of a changing climate.

Watershed-Level Goal 3: Reinvigorate the Clean Water Partnership (CWP) and renew efforts by partners to meet the CWP goals and assist the MPRB to achieve the lake water quality goals defined in this plan. This effort should include, but is not limited to, the following items:

Recommendation 3A: Establish new regulatory controls aimed at eliminating the introduction of pollutants into water bodies.

Recommendation 3B: Monitor and evaluate existing watershed infrastructure to ensure it's still working and has the capacity to convey runoff safely under a changing climate.

Recommendation 3C: Reduce all pollutants (chloride, phosphorous, trash, and sediment) from entering each lake.

Recommendation 3D: Conduct watershed water quality and quantity modeling studies to determine priority areas for reducing stormwater volumes and pollutant loading and identify new opportunities and locations to implement stormwater management strategies

Watershed-Level Goal 4: Achieve broad community knowledge and understanding about the health of each lake, the factors impacting lake health, and ways the public can help protect the lakes.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation A: Consistently address invasive species for existing and new landscape features.

Recommendation B: Develop and implement invasive species management strategy.

Recommendation C: Funding requests should include sufficient maintenance.

Recommendation D: Continue and/or expand water quality public education programming. Topics could include, but are not limited to the following:

- Salt impacts to water bodies.
- No feeding of waterfowl.
- Dog waste collection and environmental impacts from dog waste.
- Strategies about how to decrease waste and plastic pollution.

NATURAL RESOURCES

The following goals and strategies for natural resources are for the whole project area. There is also a "Cedar Lake Park Natural Resources Management" section which includes additional natural resources recommendations for Cedar Lake Park developed by a working group.

NATURAL RESOURCES GOALS

Goal 1: Prioritize protection of sensitive natural resources to foster resilient and biodiverse natural areas.

Goal 2: Utilize current conditions of soils and plant communities to inform recommendations; this is an urban forest with a history of disturbance which impacts restoration strategies.

Goal 3: Restore diversity by using the DNR's Native Plant Community Guides as the best model of pre-European plant communities containing high biodiversity and low human disturbances.

Goal 4: Maximize, improve, and restore habitat (both land- and water-based) to improve the health of the parkland and lakes.

Goal 5: Provide inclusive and innovative programming that builds community and connects diverse park visitors with each other and to nature while protecting the natural environment.

Goal 6: Retain historically significant lawns while also increasing natural areas.

NATURAL RESOURCES RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation A: Develop and implement Natural Resource Management Plans for Cedar Lake Park and Lake of the Isles.

Recommendation B: Protect and expand the tree canopy by preserving healthy trees as much as possible while also planting new trees.

Ducks on Lake of the Isles

Recommendation C: Continue to strengthen relationships with volunteers to enhance and increase management of natural areas.

Recommendation D: Educate staff and the community on critical issues facing the city and region, specifically:

- Indigenous acknowledgment, history, rights, culture and perspectives.
- Environmental and ecological issues.
- Health and wellness benefits of parks.
- Potential linkages between park investment, gentrification, and displacement.
- The benefits of, threats to, and care of the urban tree canopy, birds, and wildlife.
- Strategies about how to decrease trash and plastic pollution.
- Invasive species management and prevention.
- Climate change impacts and resiliency.
- Shared public responsibility for waste reduction, water quality, and city-wide tree canopy.
- Park safety and security.

Recommendation E: Reduce lawn areas and replace with other landscape types, as identified, to increase habitat and natural areas as well as improve water quality.

Recommendation F: Increase public and staff education about wildlife and ecology through interpretive and educational signage, classes, events, printed and digital media, and/or other strategies.

Recommendation G: Support a healthy urban ecosystem through monitoring and improving air, soil, water, and habitat quality.

Recommendation H: Mitigate harmful disruptions to the ecosystem by ensuring new and renovated lighting adheres to the following principles:

- Make sure that light fixtures are fully shielded and down-facing.
- Mount lighting as low as is practical.
- In sensitive areas, consider Certified Wildlife Lighting like Low Pressure Sodium (LPS) or narrow-spectrum amber LEDs with a wavelength longer than 560 nm.
- Where LED lighting is necessary, choose warm-white or filtered LEDs with a correlated color temperature (CCT) of 3,000K or less.
- Implement adaptive controls such as automatic timers, dimmers, and sensor-activated lighting.
- Consider dimming or turning off non-essential light fixtures when the park is closed.
- Utilize reflective striping on trails and reflective markers in other areas to supplement existing light sources without requiring additional ones.

Recommendation I: Expand amount of managed natural areas within project area.

Recommendation J: Identify existing trees during design and protect trees during construction in order to minimize tree loss, especially of very large trees.

Recommendation L: Provide signage and/or clear visual cues that direct park users to travel on formally designated trails through natural areas.

CEDAR LAKE PARK NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

During the park planning process, members of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) and the public formed a community-led working group to develop goals and recommendations divided across three planning levels (land management, park plan, high-level regional park) focused on protecting and enhancing land in Cedar Lake Park. While the goals and recommendations were presented and approved by the CAC, not all of them are included in the park plan document due to conflicts with MPRB policy direction and management practices. The goals and recommendations listed below are what has been carried forward either as originally written or in a modified form. View the Cedar Lake Park Working Group final recommendations as presented and approved by the CAC in Appendix B.

LAND MANAGEMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Cedar Lake Park-Level Natural Resources Management Goal 1: Manage natural resources in and adjacent to Cedar Lake Park as an ecologically healthy landscape for people, plants, and wildlife by developing and implementing (as stated in the Park Board's Phase II Natural Areas Plan) a detailed Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP) for Cedar Lake Park.

Recommendation 1A: Grow staff expertise and capacity to expand and enhance natural resources management through additional positions such as: ecologists, biologists, and other qualified technical personnel.

Recommendation 1B: Expand staff, institutional capacity, and skills to increase and sustain volunteer engagement in restoration and management.

Oak Savanna

Cedar Meadows Wetland

Recommendation 1C: Improve the health of existing tree stands and expand the tree canopy with native and adapted North American species.

Recommendation 1D: Establish diverse plants for each type of plant community.

Recommendation 1E: Support pollinators and other wildlife by minimizing use of pesticides to protect the food web.

Recommendation 1F: Use non-toxic best management practices to control invasive species whenever possible.

Recommendation 1G: Strengthen and protect a terrestrial and aquatic food web (including littoral zones) with diverse species of site-appropriate trees and plants.

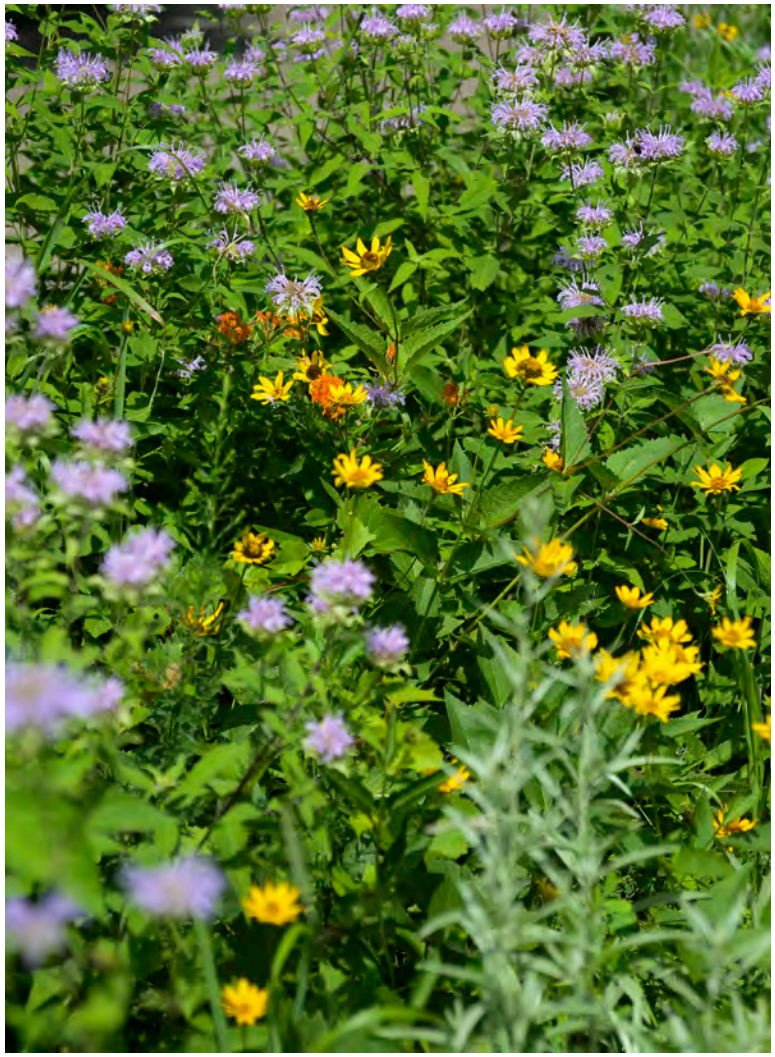
Recommendation 1H: Monitor informal trails and lake access points and take action when necessary to protect wildlife habitat and prevent or mitigate damage to the shoreline and plants.

Recommendation 1I: Acquire remnant SWLRT land for use as an undeveloped natural area.

Recommendation 1J: Consider the natural environment when determining scale, design, and materials of improvements and trails.

Recommendation 1K: Address trash and sanitation needs year-round with high-quality, well-maintained facilities. Provide access for people and vehicles while considering the park visitor experience.

Recommendation 1L: Develop an invasive species management strategy, in keeping with IPM principles, working with state, local, and academic partners advisory groups.



Prairie Grasses and Flowers

PARK PLAN-LEVEL GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Cedar Lake Park Natural Resources Management Park Plan-Level Goal 1: Maintain parkland to thrive ecologically and continue to provide natural resource-based recreational opportunities for park visitors.

Recommendation 1A: Maintain and protect plant communities and prevent erosion using trails, natural borders, and designated access points and activities.

Recommendation 1B: Design low-profile naturalistic signage to provide wayfinding and park guidelines.

Recommendation 1C: Formalize a natural/soft surface trail network for pedestrians that protects plant communities and wildlife habitat.

Recommendation 1D: Direct bikers to regional bike trails (Cedar Lake, Kenilworth, and Grand Rounds) with signage and other tools.

Recommendation 1E: Minimize built structures in the park, and design site amenities within the context of the natural environment and a natural shoreline.

Cedar Lake Park Natural Resources Management Park Plan-Level Goal 2: Maximize and restore habitat (terrestrial and aquatic) to improve the health of the parkland and lake and ensure healthy spaces for wildlife and nature-based recreation.

Recommendation 2A: Enhance natural areas to ensure high-functioning plant communities.

Recommendation 2B: Develop and update baseline data on wildlife in the parks, including birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, insects, fish, and invertebrates, using citizen science, Bio Blitzes, and other techniques.

Recommendation 2C: Establish and maintain natural areas in a manner that prioritizes the protection and enhancement of habitat for wildlife likely to use the areas.

Recommendation 2D: Apply best management practices to reduce threats to birds and other wildlife, with consideration for lighting and noise pollution, and expanded protections during nesting and migration periods.

Recommendation 2E: Apply science-based monitoring and protocols to minimize pesticide use.

Recommendation 2F: Provide alternative ways to experience the project area in areas where only natural surface trails exist or where trails cannot be made universally accessible.

Goldfinch in prairie flowers

Cedar Lake Park Natural Resources Management Park Plan-Level Goal 3: Provide inclusive and innovative programming that builds community and connects diverse park visitors with each other and to Nature while protecting the natural environment.

Recommendation 3A: Continue to use effective outreach and communication channels to inform visitors and the general public about events, programs, and other park activities.

Recommendation 3B: Use outreach and communication channels to connect and educate people about the park as a natural area.

Recommendation 3C: Maintain and support existing nature-based programs for youth (such as the DNR School Forest) that inspire, educate, and equip people to become stewards of our parks.

Recommendation 3D: Reduce barriers to program participation by people of all abilities.

Recommendation 3E: Partner with organizations to conduct outreach and offer programs, including nearby neighborhood associations (e.g., Cedar-Isles-Dean, Bryn Mawr, Kenwood), stewardship groups (e.g., Cedar Lake Park Association, Friends of Cedar Lake, Friends of Cedar Lake Point Beach), and others (such as the Loppet Foundation, Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis, and environmental justice organizations).

Recommendation 3F: Recognize and actively support volunteer Park Stewards and organizations in their efforts to positively impact ecological function.

HIGH-LEVEL CEDAR LAKE PARK GOALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES RECOMMENDATIONS

Cedar Lake Park Natural Resources Management High-Level Goal 1: Achieve broad community understanding and support of the environment and ecological challenges at Cedar Lake Park, factors impacting biodiversity, and ways people can help protect our parklands.

Recommendation 1A: Maintain pedestrian trail network with naturalistic signage, fencing, and other cues of care to protect plants and wildlife habitat.

Recommendation 1B: Implement strategies and practices to manage the spread of invasive species into natural areas.

Recommendation 1C: Partner with the community to develop and deliver site-specific and seasonal nature-based education programs and outdoor events (e.g., naturalist, birding, canoeing).

A group practicing paddling on land as part of a canoing program

Cedar Lake in the winter

Recommendation 1D: Promote enjoyment of Cedar Lake Park for its unique character as a naturalistic environment.

Recommendation 1E: Encourage and enable visitors to help protect Nature, manage trash, and reduce damage.

ACCESS AND CIRCULATION

The project team worked with a Circulation Subcommittee of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) who led the development of circulation and access goals and recommendations for the park plan. Recommendations not represented in the park plan maps in sections 5.4, 5.5, and 5.6 are included below. View the Circulation Subcommittee's full recommendations in Appendix B.

ACCESS AND CIRCULATION GOALS

Goal 1: Align circulation infrastructure and amenities with the park plan's vision and guiding principles.

Goal 2: Improve circulation and access for park visitors while protecting water quality and wildlife habitat and prioritizing visitor safety in this order: pedestrians, bicycles/roller skaters/skateboarders, electric micro-mobility (ex: scooters, bikes, hover boards), motorized vehicles.

Goal 3: Clarify circulation networks and links among people, wildlife, and natural resources with low-impact signage and other tools.

Goal 4: Preserve and protect natural and cultural assets to protect the regionally unique and character-defining features of the project area.

Goal 5: Provide clear, intuitive ways for people to move through the project area in light of the anticipated increase in visits from the new 21st Street Light Rail Station.

Goal 6: Expand mobility, access, and accessibility for people of all backgrounds, abilities, and choice of transportation.

Goal 7: Enhance user safety and reduce conflicts.

Goal 8: Enhance existing connections and thoroughfares frequently used to enter the park. Visitors should feel welcomed, engaged, and confident in navigating their route and experience upon entering the park.

ACCESS AND CIRCULATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation A: Formalize heavily-used ad hoc trails with soft or paved pedestrian and bicycle connections.

Recommendation B: Naturalize ad hoc trails that are not identified as formalized trails in the park plan.

Recommendation C: When possible, separate bike and pedestrian paths.

Recommendation D: Expand trail options to provide access to previously inaccessible or disconnected areas of parkland.

Recommendation E: Reconfigure, improve, and/or widen bicycle and pedestrian trails to accommodate increased user demand and provide better access to amenities.

Soft surface trail

Recommendation F: Create viewing areas for users to safely pull away from high-traffic zones.

Recommendation G: For paved trails, provide a minimum width of 8 feet for two-way bike paths and 6 feet for pedestrian paths with 10 feet for bike paths and 8 feet for pedestrian paths preferred.

INTERSECTION RECOMMENDATIONS

Many members of the public noted current conflicts with vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians at intersections, and as the park adds more users, potential conflicts could increase. To improve safety and reduce conflicts, a number of intersections have been identified for improvements. See Figure 5.8 in Section 5.4 for proposed enhanced intersection locations.

Recommendation A: Implement traffic calming strategies at intersections next to multimodal trails such as:

- Raised crosswalks or speed tables
- Enhanced crossing markings
- Narrowed crossings
- Curb extensions
- High visibility, mode-separate striping at crosswalks
- Forward stop bars at all stop signs
- Signage alerting drivers of trail crossings

Recommendation B: At roadway crossings of a trail, widen curb ramps and expand waiting areas to accommodate increased queuing at intersections.

Mode-separated striping at a crosswalk

TRANSIT RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation A: Following the opening of the light rail station at 21st Street, evaluate trail network for potential modifications to mitigate any potential negative impacts to the park and natural spaces.

Recommendation B: Provide well-located wayfinding signage identifying the nearest park or trail access points and attractions near frequently used transit stops to facilitate travel and help generate awareness of the park and trail area for transit riders.

Transit Recommendation C: When redesigning an intersection, consider the location of the current transit stop and ensure that it is sited in an ideal location; has easy, well-signed, ADA-accessible connections to the project area; and is designed with rider comfort in mind.

WAYFINDING AND SIGNAGE RECOMMENDATIONS

Implementation of a more robust wayfinding system can have a major impact on how comfortable visitors feel upon arrival at the park and while circumnavigating the lakes. Wayfinding can attract new visitors by making them aware of near-by destinations within the park.

New wayfinding will be especially important at welcome entry points and trail and parkway intersections, where the Grand Rounds, Cedar Lake Regional Trail, Midtown Greenway, and parkways connect to each other within the project area. Wayfinding will be essential at the new W 21st Street Station located between Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles and at the Bryn Mawr Station to welcome and orient visitors arriving via light rail.

Another important area for wayfinding signage will be at Cedar Lake throughout the natural areas to the north, east, and south of Cedar Lake East Beach, where formalized soft surface trails and a new soft surface bike connection aim to reduce user conflicts and protect the natural environment as much as possible.

In addition to the existing MPRB and Grand Rounds signage, Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles should expand its wayfinding to better serve its mix of neighborhood and regional users, who may not be familiar with local destinations, near-by recreation offerings, or resources related to safe uses of the lakes.

Recommendation A: Develop a wayfinding and signage plan to help design, site, and implement new signs.

Recommendation B: Evaluate the existing wayfinding network to ensure that signage is located at welcome entry points, access points, and on bridges.

Intersection of Lake of the Isles Parkway and Franklin Avenue

Intersection of Dean Parkway and Lake of the Isles Parkway

Recommendation C: Note nearby neighborhood business nodes, civic destinations, libraries, and parks on signage at welcome entry points, in order to connect trail users to the broader City.

Recommendation D: Show trail options that can include information about distances, accessibility, and difficulty levels so that trail users can cater routes to ability.

Recommendation E: For paddlers, provide information on distances, destinations, safety protocols, and water quality through online and/or on-site at formal water access points.

Recommendation F: To minimize shoreline erosion and disturbance, clearly delineate formal access points so that they are clear and understandable to visitors.

Recommendation G: Provide information on stewardship at formal water access points, soft surface trailheads, and/or beaches to help inform users of ways that they can help maintain Cedar Lake's and Lake of the Isles' natural resources, while still enjoying the parks.

Recommendation H: Ensure that signage is low profile and efficiently sited to avoid visual disturbance of the natural surroundings.

Recommendation I: Establish clear wayfinding and signage to discourage bicycle use on the soft surface trails (except for the designated trail in northwest Cedar Lake).

Recommendation J: Provide information in multiple languages to increase access for all users.

Enhanced Welcome Entry Point. Source: San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance

Enhanced Welcome Entry Point. Source: Landmark Signs

Recommendation K: Wayfinding and signage should be well-designed and placed, and work to:

- Help visitors find their way
- Clarify users for different trail types to reduce conflicts and promote both bicycle and pedestrian friendly environments
- Link resources, destinations, and amenities
- Enhance the park's unique identity
- Improve connections to and between the Lakes

Recommendation L: Accommodate digital wayfinding opportunities.

Recommendation M: Remove obsolete signs and replace old signs to achieve a unified signage look and aesthetic across the project area.

Grand Rounds wayfinding signage

ACCESSIBILITY

The number of people who have a disability is constantly in flux, for it's the one population segment that someone can join at any time. But accessibility is not just about meeting the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). A person born with a condition that impairs their mobility, someone with arthritis, a woman 8-months pregnant, a dog walker, a double-stroller wielding parent, and a senior or elder all have different needs when using parks and trails. Considering only a traditionally fit and able person when designing the park is very limiting. For this reason, it is important to provide both accessible and ADA accessible routes, amenities, and features that allow all people to feel welcome, safe, and comfortable accessing and using the Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles Park.

ACCESSIBLITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation A: Utilize design cues to clearly mark transitions to different surface materials.

Recommendation B: Provide even-footed, soft surfacing on trails to maintain permeability while providing accessibility to as many users as possible.

Recommendation C: Provide alternative ways to experience parkland in areas where only soft surface trails exist or where trails cannot be made universally accessible.

Recommendation D: Include information on maps and signage about trail slope and surface, as well as alternate accessible routes, loops, entrances, and exits.

Recommendation E: As intersections get safety upgrades, adjust crossings to be more accommodating of all users through proper alignment of curb ramps, adequate landing areas, and tactile warning strips for wheelchair users and the visually impaired.

Recommendation F: Locate pedestrian signal buttons so that they are reachable by wheelchair users, no higher than 42" from the ground.

Recommendation G: As individual projects get underway, assess seating and provide additional benches to fill in gaps in availability.

Recommendation H: Ensure that benches have back support and armrests to help users rise from a seated position.

Recommendation I: Locate seating near areas with other amenities, at viewing areas, and at no greater than 1/4-mile intervals.

Recommendation J: As park plan projects enter the design phase, assess the possibility of additional hookups for drinking fountains.

Recommendation K: Consider on-street designated accessible parking in key access-designated locations when intersections are upgraded.

Seating along a pedestrian trail

ESSENTIAL SERVICES RECOMMENDATION

Access to restrooms becomes more essential during certain life stages. Being uncertain about their availability along a trail is enough to prevent large segments of the population from being able to get out and enjoy the park. Having well-maintained restrooms available along trails makes a difference for pregnant women, families with little kids, and many older adults. The Cedar-Isles Plan calls for additional restroom facilities at:

- The athletic fields on the southern side of Lake of the Isles
- The canoe racks and dock on the northwest side of Lake of the Isles
- Near W 22nd Street and the parkway at the northern arm of Lake of the Isles
- A permanent restroom facility at Cedar Lake East Beach instead of the current temporary restrooms

While certainly an improvement, providing restrooms at these locations still falls short of the recommendations for similar MPRB facilities, such as the Central Riverfront and Above the Falls Regional Parks, which suggest permanent or portable restrooms at 10-minute walking intervals (about every 1/2-mile).

Recommendation A: Essential visitor services, such restrooms, drinking fountains, or seating, should be considered for inclusion at other areas within the project area as individual projects are identified for detailed design.

Soft Surface Trail with Edge of Natural Materials. Source: Lovers' Lane at the Presidio

SAFETY

Safety of park and trail users is always a top priority. Recommendations related to safety along parkway roads, trails, and at intersections are covered in those respective sections, however, there are some additional safety-related considerations that support park access and recreation as a whole.

SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS

Parkland within the project area must provide safe spaces and passage for those moving in and around the parks. While many areas feel completely safe during the day, at night, without proper lighting, they can feel unsettling or unsafe. Ensuring adequate access points, wayfinding, lighting, and/or trail markings are visible ways to improve safety for users and encourages a more positive perception of these areas.

During the community engagement process, along with safety improvements that are similar for everyone, there were safety topics that were shared from personal lived experiences. For example, more women reported feeling unsafe in the current hiking conditions within the forest near Cedar Lake than men. At Cedar Lake East Beach, people of color were more likely to report that the police presence did not make them feel safe, while many white and local residents reported that the police presence helped them feel safe. The Safety Recommendations aim to balance safety for as many people as possible.

Recommendation A: Provide lighting in accordance with The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) guidelines, including at the following locations:

- Areas with grouped amenities
- Along parkway roads
- Crosswalks
- Where paths intersect
- Where key signage is located

Recommendation B: Consider providing emergency buttons at locations that where less lighting is intended or in less traveled areas.

Recommendation C: Increase sight-lines through the forest to enhance visibility along paved and soft surface trails through removal of understory invasive species like buckthorn.

Recommendation D: Revisit safety conditions at Cedar Lake East Beach once the Southwest Light Rail line is up and running. Evaluate current park police presence, and consider other safety improvements, such as programming, lighting, signage, etc.

People spending time at Cedar Lake East Beach

HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles have a robust history, beginning with the indigenous communities who lived and utilized these lakes and natural areas, through the development of the railroads, the City Beautiful movement, and up to present day. It will be important to retain elements of the landscape and history from these many layers.

HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation A: Work with tribal advisors to connect people with the full story and broad history of the lakes, including indigenous history. Develop appropriate strategies to amplify indigenous stories, cultural practices, and connection to the land.

Recommendation B: Protect current and desired use of the landscape by indigenous people through:

- Working with indigenous community members to advise on land management and plant species
- Improved communication about approved harvesting

Recommendation C: Add culturally important plants through guidance by tribal representatives.

Recommendation D: Provide a connection to the exiled communities today by:

- Increasing partnerships and programming with tribes and indigenous community members
- Providing spaces for ceremonies and interpretation
- Creating events and experiences that invite indigenous community members to the area
- Considering indigenous land management
- Offering reduced or free parking, rentals, programming, and other costs associated with parkland

Recommendation E: Expand opportunities for Minnesota Dakota community members to connect with the lakes.

Recommendation F: Use Dakota language on site signs to improve understanding that this is Dakota homeland and help indigenous people feel more welcome.

Recommendation G: Preserve archaeological sites by discouraging visitor use at those locations. Some archaeological sites are currently in active use, so limit development and avoid ground disturbance in those areas.

Recommendation H: Consider incorporating native plants to improve ecological health while maintaining the historic waterbody outline that was created in the early 20th century.

Public Art at Bde Maka Ska

WPA Walls in Kenilworth Lagoon

Bridge and Channel to Lake of the Isles

Recommendation I: Complete documentation of historic features whenever they must be substantially altered or removed as part of plan implementation projects, such as WPA-era walls and other features.

Recommendation J: Appropriately document archaeological resources, including any below the water's surface, according to professional best practices, and conserve findings in accordance with applicable rules and laws.

Recommendation K: Repair the ecological condition and littoral edge of the lakes by improving habitat for animals and adding native plants.

Recommendation L: Protect significant cultural resources and historic features that characterize the design and development of the parks

Recommendation M: Retain the historic design intent of being able to travel between the lakes, either by water or other means.

Recommendation N: Preserve portions of the lawn around Lake of the Isles that are at key intersections and provide views across the lake, as seen in park plans.

Recommendation O: Maintain the historically created topography and contoured edge of Lake of the Isles.

AMENITIES AND PROGRAMMING

Programming and amenities, the features and/or facilities that are offered within the parks, are key elements that allow users to enjoy different experiences within the park system. They allow visitors to easily access and feel comfortable in a place.

The Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles area offers amenities and programming for activities both on land and water. In Minnesota, parks change significantly seasonally, with winter activities overlapping with land and water spaces throughout the parks, including skating rinks and ski trails.

Planning for year-round comfort, accessibility, and engagement is key to sustaining the energy and care felt for Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles for existing and future visitors.

Amenities are defined as features that help meet the basic needs of individuals. They can include desirable or useful features, facilities, or places.

Programming refers to the planned activities, events, and experiences at the parks that oftentimes take advantage of the amenities provided. Programming can help invite community members to a location that they would otherwise not visit and can adapt and evolve based on the needs of the public and MPRB over time.

AMENITIES AND PROGRAMMING GOALS

Amenities and Programming Goal 1: Take cues from how people use the parks and lakes today to maintain, improve, and in some cases, build upon existing amenities within the project area.

Amenities and Programming Goal 2: Retain existing year-round and seasonal activities and enhance safety at entry points and areas with grouped activities.

Amenities and Programming Goal 3: Honor the unique qualities of each lake and connect visitors to these distinct experiences.

Amenities and Programming Goal 4: Respect and celebrate the history of the landscape through programming and interpretation.

Amenities and Programming Goal 5: Balance protection of and access to previously disconnected areas of parkland with careful circulation, amenity, and wayfinding planning.

Formalized water access. Source: Sharon Brodwin, Twin Cities Outdoors

AMENITIES RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation A: Group and sensitively site amenities to reduce impact to viewsheds and open park areas.

Recommendation B: Formalize plan-identified water access points using strategies that blend with the natural environment and support non-motorized boat access, fishing, general viewing, monitoring and maintenance activities, informal experiences.

Recommendation C: Remove informal water access points not identified in the park plan and restore with land or water-based plant communities.

Recommendation D: Provide amenities that are flexible, light touch, and provide a mixture of informal and formal experiences.

Recommendation E: Provide temporary and permanent restrooms that make spending time at the lakes comfortable year-round.

Year-round permanent restroom. Source: Studio Room 11

Recommendation F: Provide and design spaces and amenities to support existing and future programming opportunities.

Recommendation G: Ensure all proposed and enhanced amenities fit within the character of their location, use appropriate natural materials, and include reference to appropriate history.

PROGRAMMING RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation A: Encourage and support existing and new MPRB-led and partner-led programming opportunities to promote social, multi-generational, and cross-cultural interaction.

Recommendation B: Strengthen human relationships with nature by continuing to provide and support nature-based programming, education, and/or experiences.

Recommendation C: Cultivate long-term relationships with community members and organizations to inform programming implementation.

Recommendation D: Continue to provide educational programming opportunities for youth within the DNR Friends School boundary.

Recommendation E: Collaborate with indigenous community members and tribes to create multigenerational experiences that honor their legacy.

5.4 PROJECT-WIDE DESIGN

OVERVIEW

This section describes the project-wide design across different topics, which will be implemented over the next 20 to 30 years. Water quality and natural areas have been centered within the design of this plan and include recommendations focused on stormwater runoff management, lake access, and natural resources. This is followed by recommendations for access, circulation, seasonal amenities, and programming.

Sections 5.5 and 5.6, which include areas identified with more detail, should be reviewed for additional detailed recommendations.

WATER QUALITY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Several improvements are proposed to address water quality, natural resources, and increased habitat within the project area. Design elements include treating stormwater runoff within the park, maintaining and stabilizing shoreline areas without formal water access, preserving and improving the tree canopy, and maximizing and restoring habitat (land- and water-based). Together, these recommendations work together to address water quality. They also provide additional ways for people and wildlife to enjoy the parks by creating, enhancing, or expanding habitat and nature-based recreational opportunities. Several of the plant communities and stormwater recommendations below have inherent flood mitigation benefits.

METHODS FOR MANAGING STORMWATER AND IMPROVING WATER QUALITY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Expanding, Enhancing, and Restoring Plant Communities: Diversifying plant communities expands habitat opportunities within parkland. Many plant communities contribute to filtering stormwater runoff from neighboring amenities, trails, and roads. As these different plant communities are expanded, enhanced, and/or restored over time, so will their ability to filter stormwater runoff and support wildlife. Enhancement and restoration involve activities such as removal of invasive species, establishment or re-establishment of existing or historic plant communities, timing seeding with nearby plant communities, and using a phased approach in implementation.

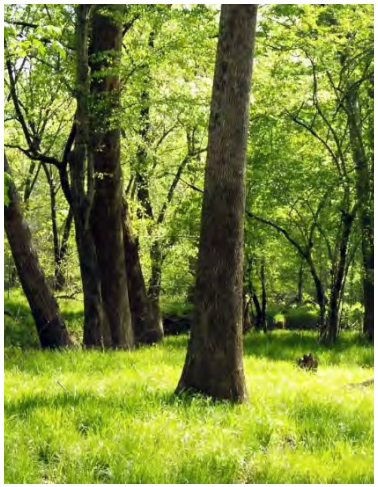
Additional details related to existing and future management of these plant communities is in the MPRB Natural Areas Plan Phase 2 or will be part of a future Natural Areas Management Plan. Target species within the proposed habitat improvements include Common Moorhen, Least Bittern, Virginia Rail, Blanding's Turtle, Western Harvest Mouse, Eastern Hognose Snake, Lark Sparrow, Acadian Flycatcher, Regal Fritillary, Smooth Green Snake, Grasshopper Sparrow, Rusty Patched Bumble Bee, and Cope's Grey Tree Frog. For more details about what and where plant communities are planned, review the Natural Resources Design Recommendations on page 150.

Floodplain Forest: Floodplain forests are low-lying forest plant communities that are often near bodies of water and are subject to flooding following heavy rainfall. They provide habitat and water quality benefits through flood storage and recharging groundwater. Floodplain forest will be restored in the southwest part of Cedar Lake near Cedar Meadows Wetland and the south parking lot. See Natural Resources Design Recommendations for details.[1]

Formal Lake Access: Formal lake access includes shoreline areas that have been formally designated and designed for park visitors to access the water. Reducing the quantity of lake access points that were informally created over time will minimize erosion, reduce nutrient loading, and reduce negative impacts on habitat and wildlife. See the Lake Access Recommendations for more details.

Lawn: Lawns are open, grassy areas that generally don't provide benefits to habitat; however, they can improve water quality when

1 Michigan Natural Resources Inventory, MSU extension: https://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/communities/description/10658/floodplain-forest



Floodplain Forest. Source: Mark Daniels

Formal Water Access. Source: PWP Landscape Architecture

Lawn at Lake of the Isles

Littoral Edge Expansion. Source: Aquagenix

compacted soils are restored and they are able to take in and filter stormwater. Lawns also provide views, access, and gathering areas for people who would like to use the park for formal and informal activities. Lawn will be retained in historic and well-used areas, mostly located at Dean Parkway and Lake of the Isles, as well as some areas around Cedar Lake. See Natural Resources Design Recommendations for more details.

Littoral Edge: A littoral edge is an improved vegetative edge beginning from the ordinary high-water mark and extending into permanently submerged shoreline. This collection of plants can provide habitat for wildlife and also help to reduce impacts from rain events, protect the shoreline, and filter stormwater runoff before it enters the lakes. The littoral edge will be expanded, enhanced, and restored at both lakes and is shown and described under the Stormwater Runoff Management Recommendations.

Marsh: A marsh is a type of treeless grassland that sits under water for long periods of time, often accompanied by rich soil deposits and biodiversity. Marshes provide important food and habitat spaces for land and water species. They also provide water quality benefit by reducing phosphorus loading and improving soil health. Additionally, marshes can reduce the risk of flooding. Marsh will be expanded, enhanced, and restored where there are existing marsh areas in northeast Cedar Lake, with small pockets of restoration at Lake of the Isles on the southern end and northwest side between Penn and Newton Avenues. See the Stormwater Runoff Management Design Recommendations for details.[2]

Mesic Oak Forest: Mesic oak forests are a mixture of leafy overstory trees and understory plants and shrubs. These areas support wildlife habitat for a variety of species, provide ample shade, and include many plants and trees to view and enjoy. Existing mesic oak forest areas on the west and a little on the east side of Cedar Lake will be enhanced and expanded. Additionally, most of the altered forest/

2 National Geographic Resource Library: https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/marsh

woodland areas on the west and east sides of the lake will build on what's there and be restored to mesic oak forest. At Lake of the Isles, there will be enhancements for the northern island and the area along the multi-use fields with restoration from altered forest/woodland on the southern island and land along Lake Street. For specific locations, see the Natural Resources Design Recommendations.

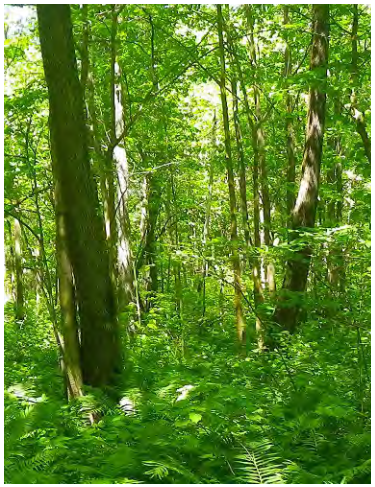
Oak Savanna: Oak savannas include large overstory trees, understory plants, and shorter grasses. Oak savanna restoration from primarily altered forest/woodland will cover Cedar Lake in the north and northeast portion of the park. To see the full extents, review the Natural Resources Design Recommendations.

Prairie: Prairies are a mixture of flowering plants and taller grasses that are densely grouped together. Today, the existing prairie along the Cedar Lake Regional Trail is home to a number of different species, which will expand with future enhancements. The prairie will be enhanced along the Cedar Lake Regional Trail and restored in a small segment on the east side of Cedar Lake near South Upton Avenue. For more details, see the Natural Resources Design Recommendations.

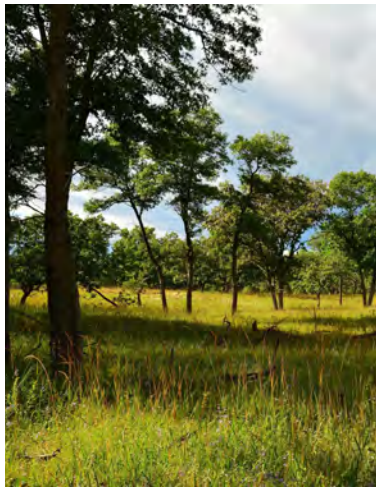
Prairie/Pollinator Plantings: Prairie/pollinator plantings often include dense groups of flowering plants that are beneficial to pollinators such as bees and butterflies. Once established, these plantings along with the existing prairie and rain gardens will create a chain of pollinator habitat connections. Prairie/Pollinator plantings are proposed in a few spots on the southwest side of Cedar Lake, linear stretches throughout Lake of the Isles, and large swaths along Dean Parkway. Pollinator plantings can include plants that thrive in anywhere from full sun to full shade depending on the plant type. See the Natural Resources Design Recommendations for details.

Rain Gardens: Rain gardens are a type of bioretention pond where soils and vegetation have been selected and established to support

Marsh Restoration. Source: MN Wetland Professionals Association

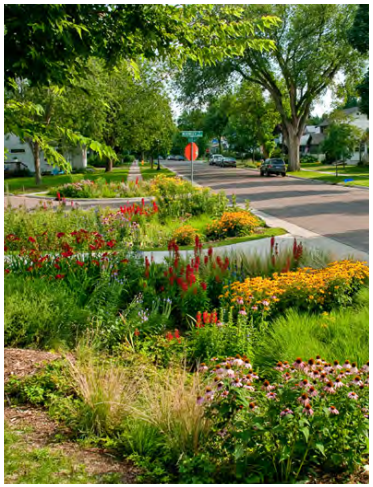


Mesic Oak Forest Restoration. Source: MN DNR

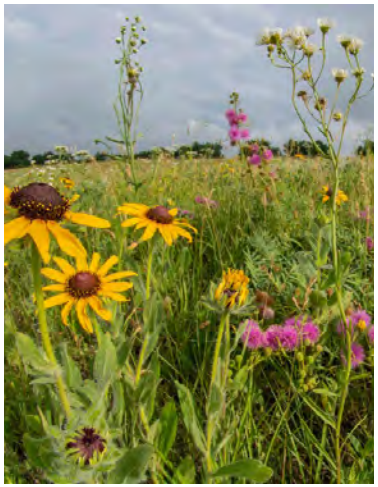


Oak Savanna. Source: Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve, Jacob Miller

Prairie



Rain Garden. Source: Capitol Region Water District



Pollinator Planting. Source: Chris Helzer, The Nature Conservancy

Shoreline Buffer. Source: East Otter Tail Soil & Water Conservation District

Cedar Meadows Wetland

groundwater recharge, pollutant removal and runoff detention. In addition to treating stormwater and improving water quality, they can also provide habitat benefits. Collectively, the proposed rain gardens and prairie/pollinator plantings will provide habitat patches that pollinators can utilize to expand their range(s). Rain gardens are located at Cedar Lake, Lake of the Isles, and Dean Parkway. See the Stormwater Runoff Management Recommendations for details.

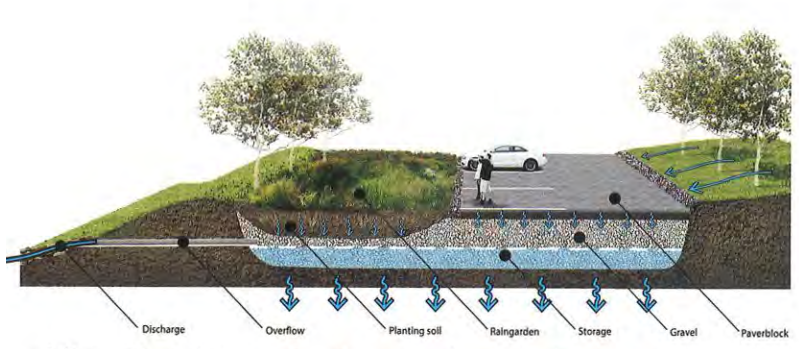
Shoreline Buffer: Shoreline buffers are enhanced vegetative areas varying in character located along the lakeshore. These areas can provide habitat for wildlife, help stabilize shorelines, minimize impacts from heavy rain events, and filter stormwater runoff before it enters the lakes. Some of the areas where the shoreline buffer has been expanded are to address areas of erosion from informal water access points. Shoreline buffers are featured at both lakes and along the Kenilworth Channel, which is shown and described under the Stormwater Runoff Management Recommendations.

Retrofits to Constructed Wetland: Cedar Meadows Wetland is a constructed wetland designed to help filter a large amount of stormwater before it enters Cedar Lake. Other benefits include flood storage, habitat for wildlife, and opportunities for enjoyment and education for people through signage and docks. Retrofitting this constructed wetland is one of the most effective and cost-effective ways to address runoff into Cedar Lake and will benefit from upgrades, or retrofits, to improve how well it functions. The details around what retrofits may be needed will be determined during detailed design and implementation. Cedar Meadows Wetland is located on the southwest side of Cedar Lake.

Tree Trenches: Tree trenches are an engineered landscape practice that uses a linear system of trees connected by an underground infiltration structure to manage stormwater. The underground portion of the system is designed to filter runoff, water trees, and slowly release water back into the ground, which helps to improve water quality and support the urban tree canopy. Tree trenches are often located near roads with one proposed along Cedar Lake Parkway and the majority planned along Lake of the Isles and Dean Parkways. See the Stormwater Runoff Management Recommendations for more details.

Underground Parkway Stormwater Treatment: Underground parkway treatments are designed to collect stormwater from impervious surfaces and bring it to underground storage units. Once there, water is filtered and slowly released into the lake or ground. Underground parkway treatments don't provide habitat directly, however utilizing this treatment option means parkland can be open to other uses. Underground parkway treatments are proposed along Cedar Lake Parkway in the northwest and south. At Lake of the Isles, smaller segments are proposed along the parkway in the southern half of the park and the northern arm. See the Stormwater Runoff Management Recommendations for exact locations.

Tree Trenches. Source: Minnesota Stormwater Manual



Underground Parkway Treatment. Source: Artful Rainwater Design, Echols and Maurer

Figure 5.3: Section of selected proposed improvements at western Lake of the Isles

STORMWATER RUNOFF MANAGEMENT DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS

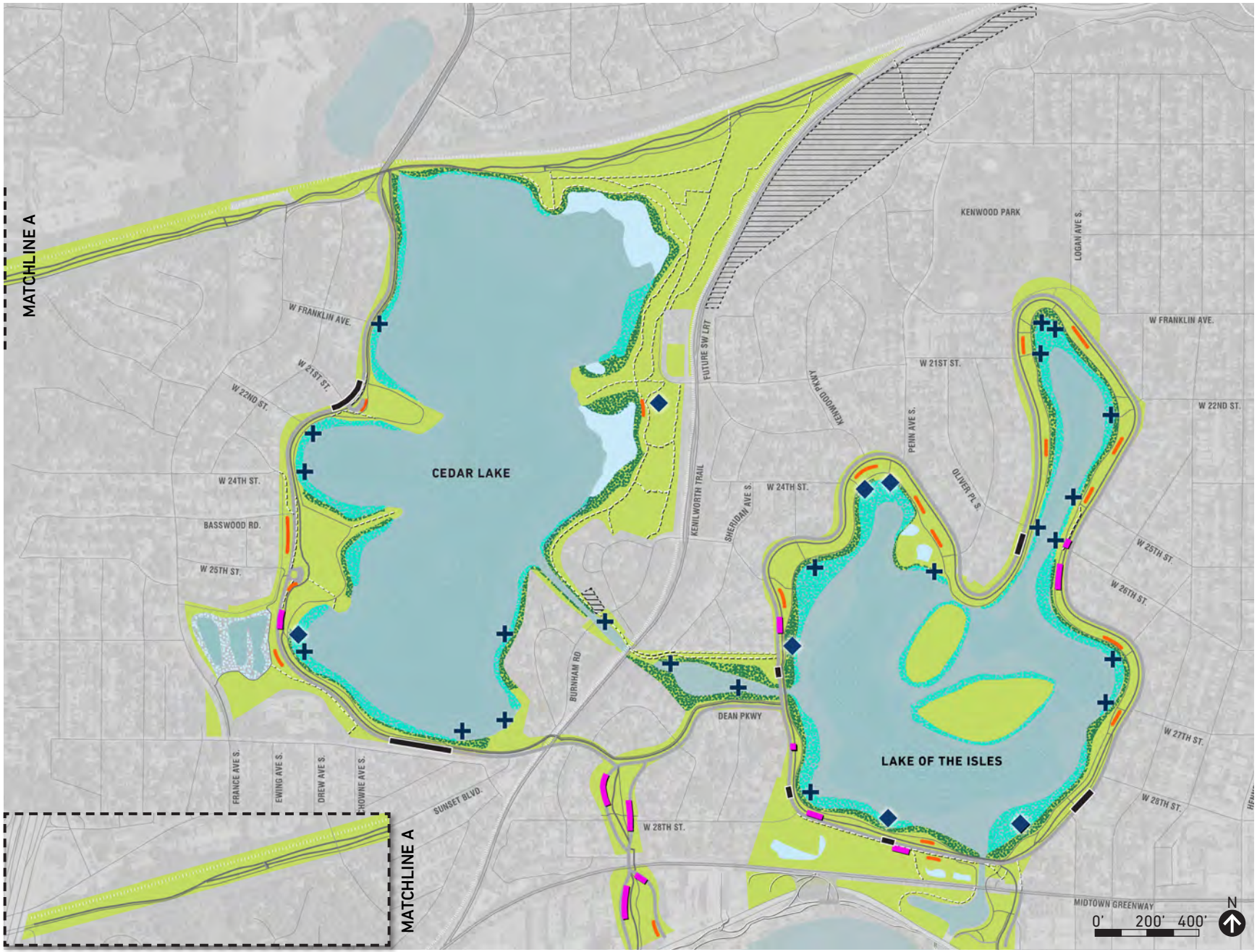
Today, the lakes are important spaces for a variety of recreational activities as well as home to wildlife. In order to continue to provide opportunities for activities and habitat into the future, several improvements are proposed to address stormwater runoff before it enters the lakes. Improvements are informed by the CAC Water Quality Subcommittee goals, located in areas that have the greatest opportunity to address volume and/or pollutant loads, and based on available space and existing topography.

At Cedar Lake, improvements will treat two outfalls generating stormwater from the watershed in addition to treating stormwater generated within the park. An expanded littoral edge and improved shoreline buffer is present throughout most of the lake's edge except for lake access locations or marsh restoration. The improved shoreline buffer is proposed in many of the same areas as the littoral edge and is also located where marsh restoration areas are located, such as the northeast side of the lake. There are a few rain gardens, mostly on the western side with one near Cedar Lake East Beach, which will address runoff from the outfall at that location. Along the parkway road, there are segments identified for underground parkway treatment in the northwest and southern parts of the park as well as a tree trench area near the Cedar Meadows Wetland. Retrofits to Cedar Meadows Wetland will improve how effectively stormwater is treated through this constructed system. Details on what the retrofits should be will take place during detailed design and implementation.

Lake of the Isles includes many of the same improvement types as Cedar Lake. Improvements will treat stormwater generated within the park as well as five stormwater outfalls from the larger watershed. The littoral edge is expanded around the lake and both islands, notably wider than Cedar Lake because Lake of the Isles is shallower. An improved shoreline buffer, varying in width, is proposed where shoreline plants exist today. Between these proposed improvements, one or both of them are present around most of the lake except for the water access spots (see map of lake access recommendations for locations). Marsh restoration for existing marsh areas is proposed near the multi-use fields, the lagoon, and in a few spots between Penn and Newton Avenues South. Rain gardens are incorporated at several locations around the lake, many pairing with prairie/pollinator plantings to enhance habitat opportunities. In areas with limited land available, segments of underground parkway treatment and tree trenches are proposed. Most of the underground treatment is in the southern half of the park with tree trenches along the western and southern portions of the park.

Dean Parkway will feature tree trenches along most segments of the parkway and rain gardens featured along the parking bays closest to Lake Street. The channel between Kenilworth Place and Dean Parkway includes an improved shoreline buffer that still provides lake access from both sides.

Figure 5.4: Stormwater Runoff Management Diagram



LAKE ACCESS DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS

The lakes are popular for many reasons, including the ability to access the water for a variety of activities like fishing, swimming, boating, stand up paddle boarding, or just general curiosity and enjoyment. Many of the existing ways people access and enjoy the lake will remain, including the beaches and boat launch on Cedar, and stone steps around Lake of the Isles. People also access the lakes today through informal water access points which impact water quality by causing erosion, nutrient loading, and potential negative impacts to habitat and wildlife. To address goals for improved water quality and the desire for continued lake access, some of the informal access points will be formalized and remaining informal water access points will return to habitat. The formalized water access points will be designed to curb erosion and accommodate a variety of previously noted existing uses.

At Cedar Lake, many of the informal water access points along the western and one on the northern side of Cedar will be formalized and a new dock will be added to the east of Cedar Lake South Beach. At Lake of the Isles, formalized water access points are spaced along the lake with a few more along the eastern side of the lake to accommodate the higher density visitor traffic. There's also a new dock proposed near W 27th Street which will provide a new type of access for the east side of the lake. At the Kenilworth Channel, existing water access will be preserved.

LEGEND

EXISTING

- Beach Water Access
- Boat Launch
- Dock
- Water Access: Stone Steps

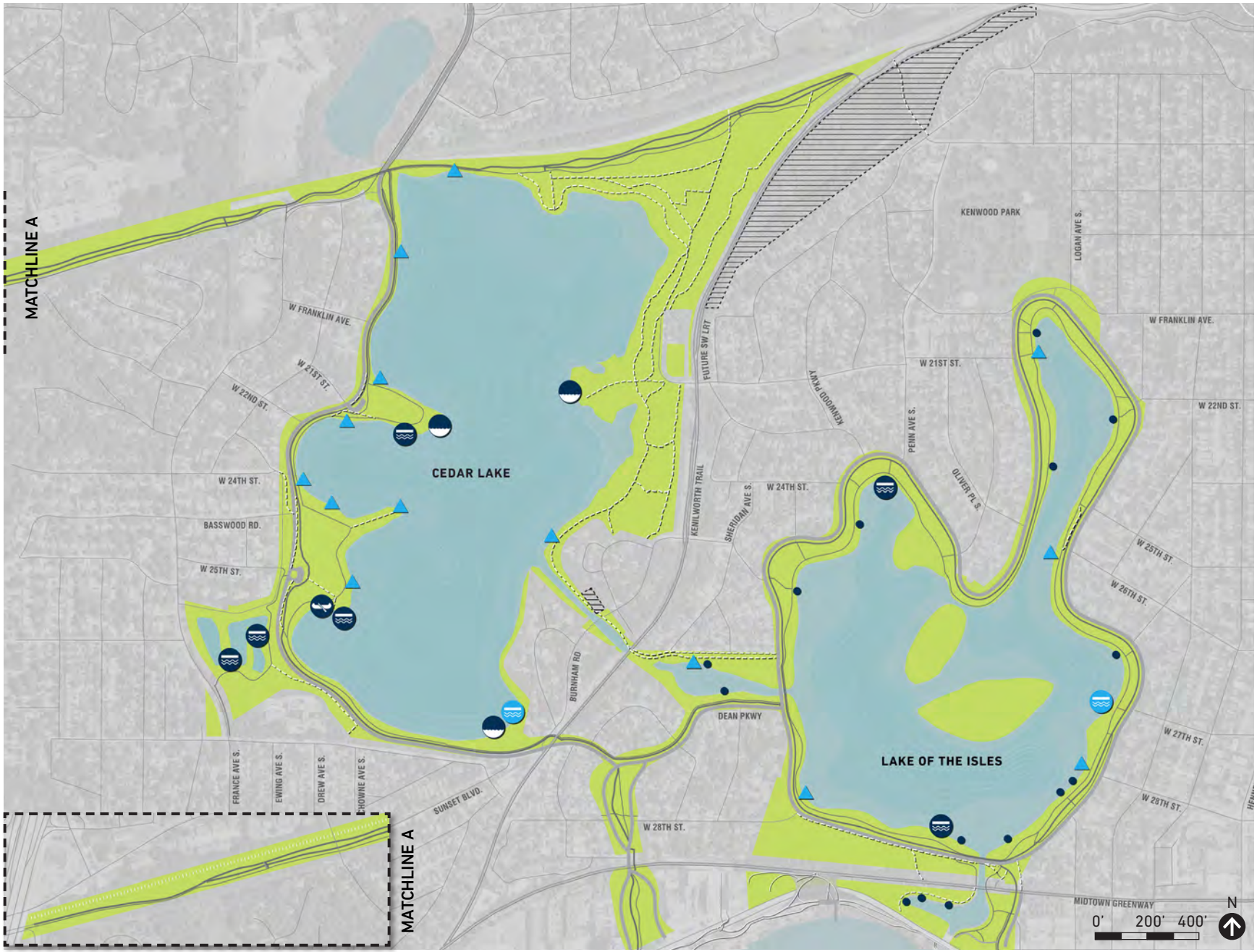
PROPOSED

- Dock
- Formalized Water Access
- Land Acquisition

Proposed Formalized Water Access. Source: Sharon Brodin, Twin Cities Outdoors

Proposed Dock

Figure 5.5: Lake Access Diagram



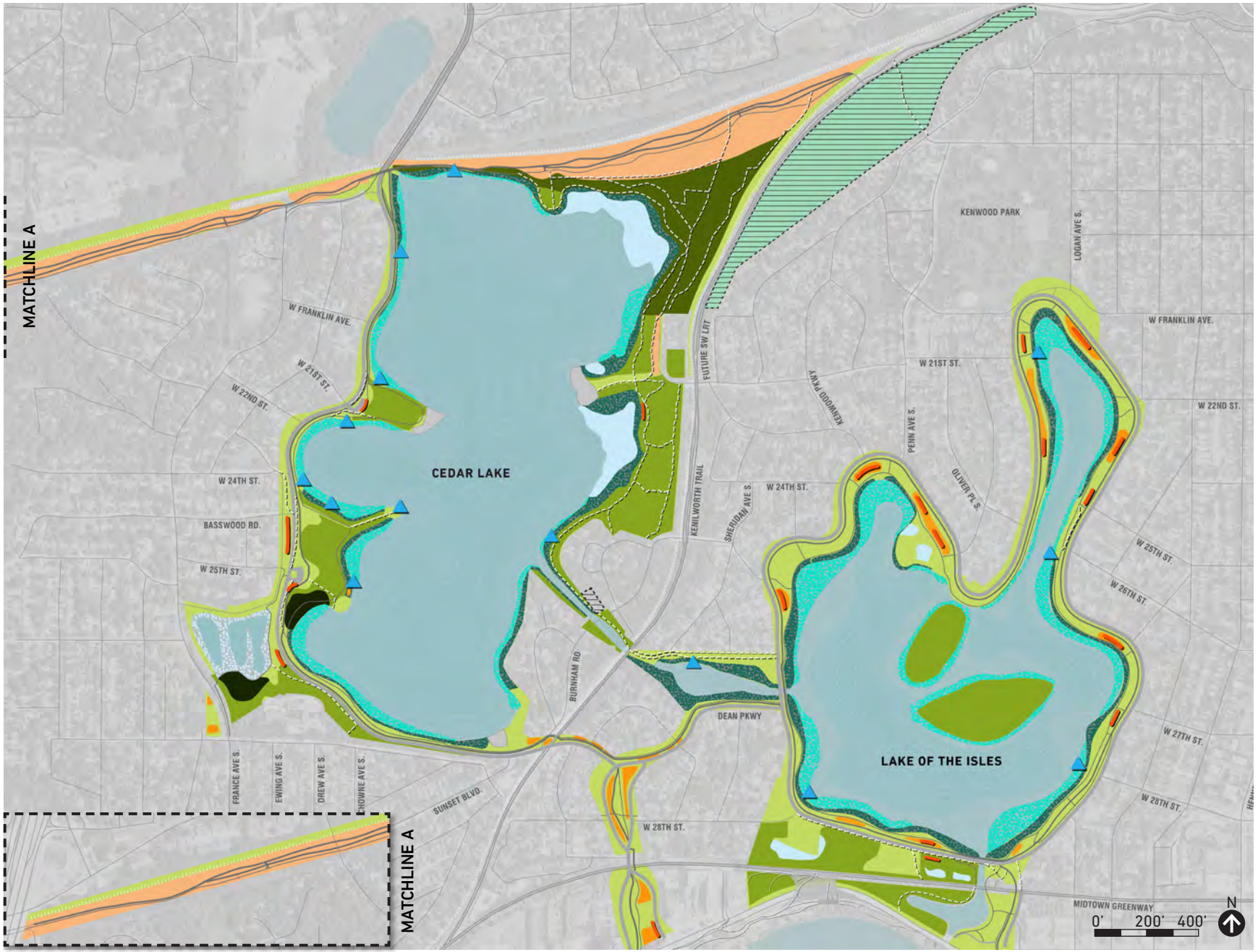
NATURAL RESOURCES DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS

Like the lakes, the landscape and natural resources found throughout the project area are enjoyed and beloved by many park visitors. Recommendations for the project area are informed by principles of biodiversity, existing soils, DNR native plant community guides, and community interest in building on and maintaining what exists today.

At Cedar Lake, the plan includes floodplain forest, mesic oak forest, and oak savanna. Mesic oak forest makes up most of the parkland area with the oak savanna concentrated in the northeast portion of the park and smaller areas of floodplain forest in the southwest. These areas will continue to provide shade, habitat, and opportunities for activities like birding and hiking. With the many active volunteers at Cedar Lake, it will be important to continue to partner on restoration and management projects into the future. Cedar Lake includes some pockets of lawn, allowing visitors to picnic at tables or on the ground, and partake in free play or other uses. The plan also identifies areas where the existing prairie could be enhanced along South Upton Avenue and a large swath of the Cedar Lake Regional Trail. A parcel of land adjacent to the forest on the northeast side of Cedar Lake, known as the "remnant lands" to many, is identified for MPRB acquisition. The future MPRB parkland is largely proposed to be preserved as a natural area which will be defined in greater detail during implementation. This area will also have a trail running through it, connecting the Kenwood neighborhood on the hill to the Cedar Lake and Kenilworth Regional Trails.

While Cedar Lake and the Cedar Lake Regional Trail include more natural area options and minimal lawn, Lake of the Isles contains historically significant lawn areas, which have been preserved along with strategically kept lawn spaces for informal activities. Several lawn areas shift to other uses, including rain gardens and prairie/pollinator plantings to address water quality, flooding, and pollinator connectivity. The southern portion of Lake of the Isles includes some marsh restoration areas near the athletic fields and the lagoon. This area also has mesic oak forest bordering the multi-use fields and dog park. Both islands have also been proposed mesic oak forest and will be retained as animal and bird sanctuaries.

Figure 5.6: Natural Resource Diagram



Dean Parkway will remain mostly lawn with large prairie/pollinator plantings added to the section north of the Midtown Greenway and smaller segments in the southern section where open lawn will remain in the center for continued formal and informal activities. The park area along Kenilworth Place and the Kenilworth Channel will continue to be mostly lawn with an expanded shoreline buffer.

Forest restoration will be completed in a phased approach, removing invasives and replanting with higher quality plant communities over time, with minimal impact to canopy cover, and ultimately increasing the diversity and number of healthy, old growth trees. The existing tree canopy should be maintained in preserved lawn areas.

TREE PRESERVATION AND IMPACT

Trees contribute to soil health, provide natural erosion control, create habitat, and sequester carbon. They also offer much needed shade and cooling in the parks. With these benefits, the tree population is one of the most valuable natural assets in the parks. The MPRB's Comprehensive Plan and Ecological System Plan documents outline goals and strategies to preserve a vibrant tree canopy along with strengthening ecological connections and increasing green space connectivity. During the Cedar-Isles park planning process, MPRB heard strong support for protection of old growth trees and increasing and enhancing forested natural areas within the project site.

The plan proposes enhancing natural areas and improving the tree canopy in large swaths of existing forested areas, including the forests around Cedar Lake, the islands at Lake of the Isles, and forest area south of Lake of the Isles. It also proposes improving the tree canopy in the future MPRB-owned "remnant lands" parcel. Improving tree canopy means that MPRB would actively improve these areas with higher quality tree species.

There are a number of areas that the plan proposes maintaining as is, which means that MPRB should continue to plant, preserve, and maintain trees within these locations per normal protocols. These areas include parkland along the Cedar Lake Regional Trail, Dean Parkway, the Kenilworth Channel and lawn areas around both lakes.

Figure 5.7 identifies areas where the proposed design may possibly impact existing trees based on the locations of trees at the time of plan adoption. These areas correspond with new or improved access and circulation that was deemed integral to the public and to improve accessibility within the parks. When designing the plan, the design team took great care to consider mitigation strategies and alternative options, minimizing potential tree loss, such as suggesting certain types of trails, consideration of boardwalks or other infrastructure to be able to navigate around tree roots, and in some cases, a deviation from trail standards. The two identified areas of possible tree impact travel through unmanaged forest area, which means that the tree species that may be impacted will most likely be invasive or of lower quality. All care should be taken in preserving old growth and higher quality trees in the implementation of the plan. Additionally, since this is a 20 to 30 year vision, it is difficult to truly assess which, if any, trees will still exist at the time of implementation and would be impacted.

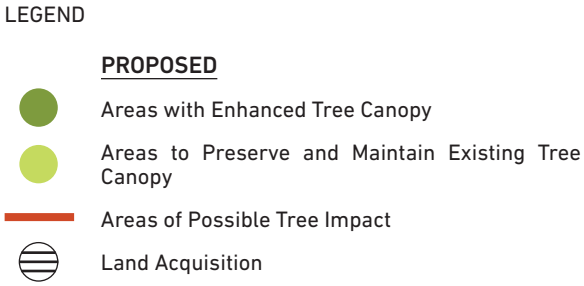
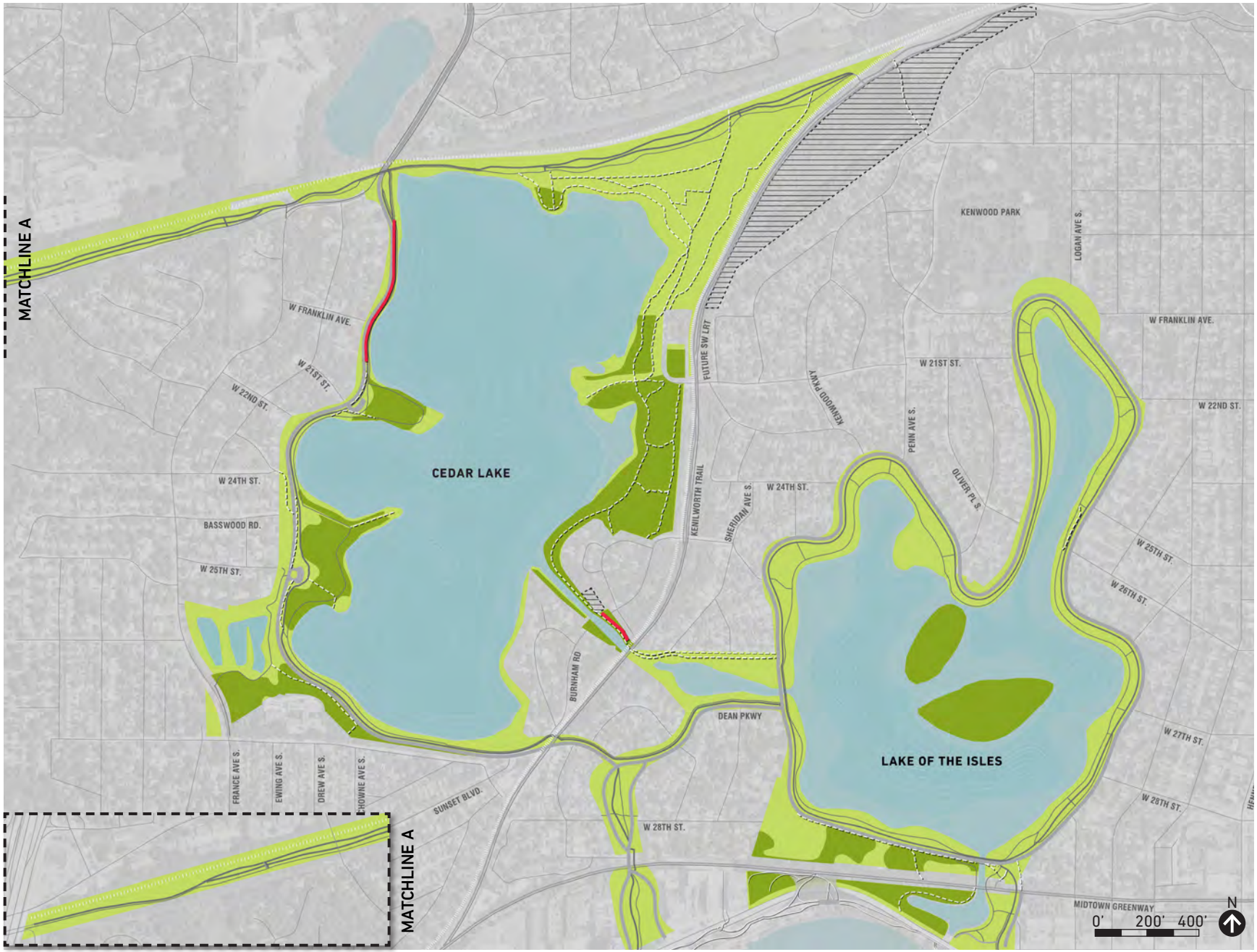


Figure 5.7: Tree Canopy Diagram



ACCESS AND CIRCULATION DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS

The paved trails, ad hoc forest trails, and parkways are beloved and well used by many park visitors. Access and circulation recommendations for the project area are designed to ensure people have ways to move through the park, support an anticipated increase in use, and expand access to existing and proposed amenities.

The plan formalizes a number of well-traveled ad hoc soft surface walking paths through the forest on the north, northeast, and east side of Cedar Lake. One formal soft surface trail for bicyclsts is also provided through the forest, beginning at Upton Avenue and traveling north to the Cedar Lake Regional Trail. Separating a bicycle trail from the walking trails accommodates an existing user group while reducing the potential for conflicts between modes.

A new pedestrian trail is proposed along the Kenilworth Channel between Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles, increasing park visitors' ability to connect between both lakes as was originally intended in the initial design of the park system. A small parcel of land on the north side of the channel has been identified for MPRB acquisition to complete this trail.

As noted in Chapter 4, Cedar Lake is one of the few lakes in the MPRB system that does not have a paved trail around the entire lake. The shoreline around all of Cedar Lake is owned by MPRB in varying widths, some as narrow as seven feet. The southeastern shoreline abuts residential properties. Many of these homeowners have legal, and in some cases illegal, encroachments with the MPRB for the parkland-owned shoreline adjacent to their private property. Historically, this has allowed homeowners to add infrastructure that communicates private use on public parkland such as docks, fencing, or storage. MPRB heard a desire from many residents over the course of the project to 'return public land back to public use.' To some, that meant rescinding the encroachments. To others, it meant redesigning the shoreline. And to others, it meant adding a publicly-accessible path around the lake. Though ideas to create a path around Cedar Lake were discussed during the engagement process, no trail connection is proposed due to the technical challenges that exist in making a full connection on land with the existing width of parkland available. This was coupled with strong opposition to adding a boardwalk from some members of the public. Ultimately, the CAC recommended adding an expanded littoral edge and improved shoreline buffer along the southeast shoreline. Existing encroachments would be removed at the time of project implementation and homeowners would have to apply to the Board of Commissioners for a new encroachment license if they were interested in using public land for private use again in the future. Once the shoreline is restored, MPRB should then assess whether a future path connection is possible amidst the shoreline restoration.

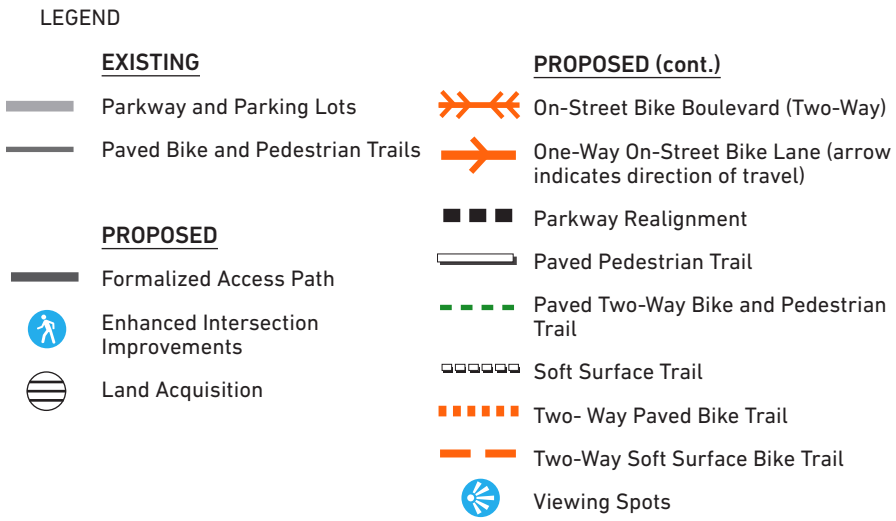
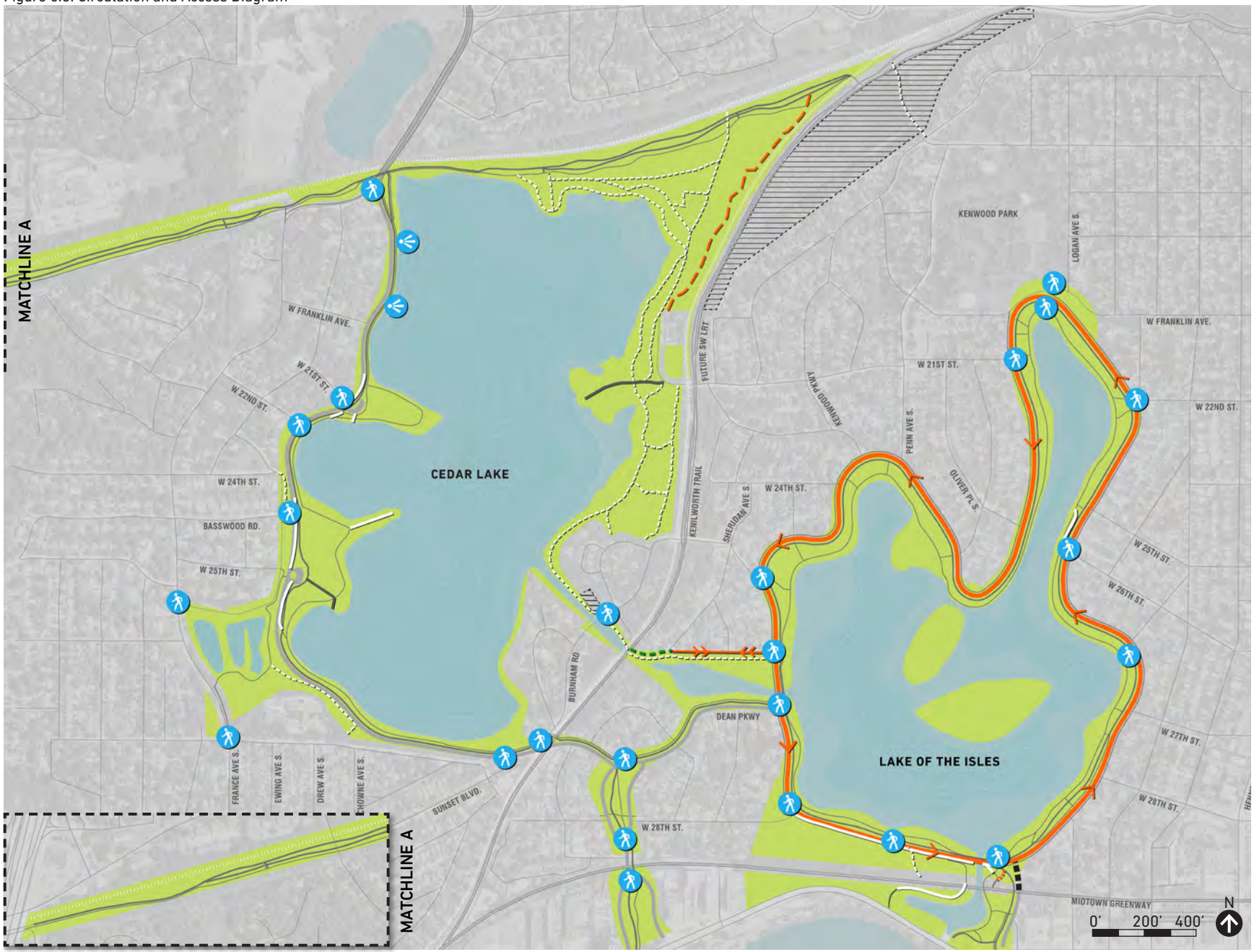


Figure 5.8: Circulation and Access Diagram



Along the west side of Cedar Lake, the plan proposes widening the walking and biking trails adjacent to Cedar Lake Parkway. Additional pedestrian-specific trail segments are proposed to give people walking direct access to trails and amenities. The parkway and parking lots will be retained to maintain vehicular access to the park. To improve safety for park visitors crossing the parkway, a number of enhanced intersections have been proposed.

Lastly, a parcel of land to the east of Cedar Lake is identified for future MPRB acquisition and designated as a natural area. The plan envisions a formalized pedestrian connection from the intersection of Douglas Avenue and Kenwood Parkway down to the Cedar Lake Regional Trail. This connection will improve access to the new Bryn Mawr light rail stop for people traveling from the Lowry Hill neighborhood. See Chapter 5.5 for more details about Cedar Lake circulation.

Lake of the Isles will retain the current paved bike and pedestrian trails, the parkway, and parking bays in their same general location. The existing paved bikeway will continue to be one-way, opposite vehicle traffic, and will be complimented with a one-way on-street bikeway traveling the same direction as vehicle traffic. The discussion of possibilities for two-way off-street bike traffic around Lake of the Isles was one of the top circulation and access topics throughout the process, with both strong support and opposition from the public. Through discussion, the CAC reached a compromise and recommended the stated configuration. The CAC also recommended that a raised counterclockwise bicycle path be considered around Lake of the Isles when the parkway is fully reconstructed. Lake of the Isles also has a number of enhanced intersection improvements around the park to connect people to parkland, amenities, and to improve safety.

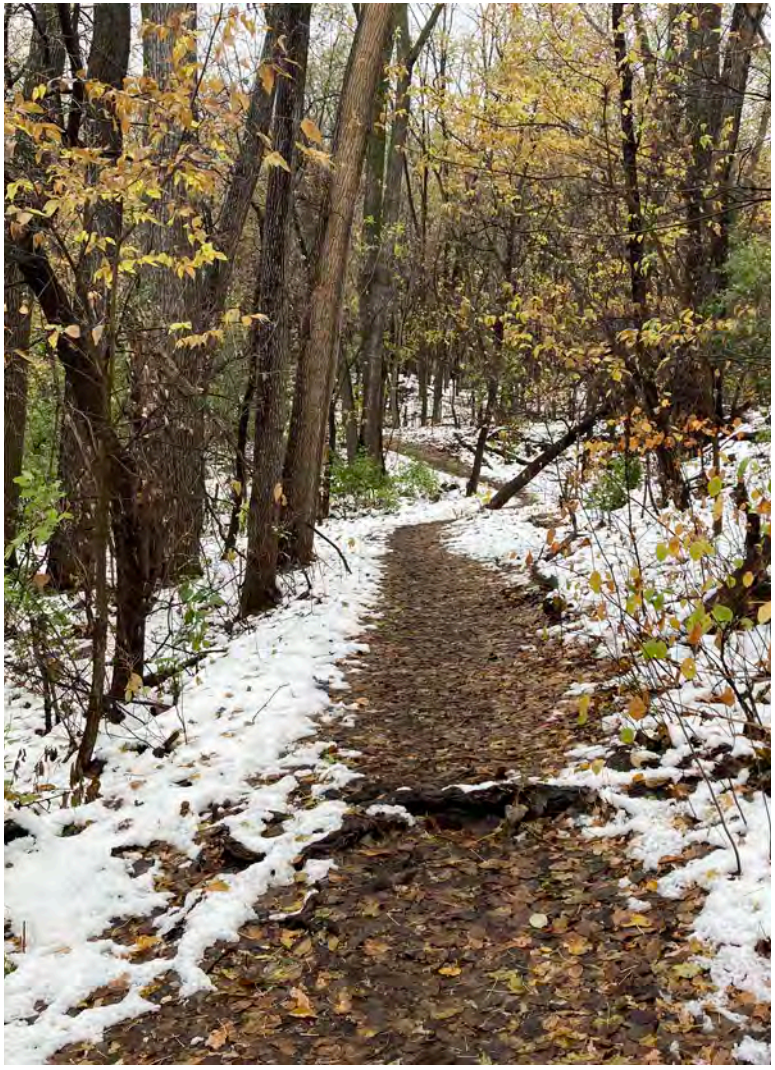
There are a few additional paved pedestrian trails planned, including a paved sidewalk on the south side of Isles to provide access to the multi-use fields and dog park, formalizing a paved connection of an existing ad hoc trail along the Lagoon between Isles and Bde Maka Ska and finally, a realignment of the existing trail near the seasonal warming house to allow access around the seasonal structure without having to trudge through the snow or grass in its current alignment. This realignment improves accessibility though winter and spring.

A new soft surface pedestrian connection will connect up to the Midtown Greenway adjacent to the dog park; this trail informally already exists. See Section 5.6 for more detail about what has been proposed.

The paved bike and pedestrian trails and parkway along Dean Parkway will be retained. In areas where possible, the trails should be widened to improve safety. The plan also proposes to improve safety for all transportation modes with enhanced intersection improvements where Dean Parkway intersects with Cedar Lake Parkway, Lake of the Isles Parkway, and on both sides of the Midtown Greenway.

No trail changes have been proposed for the Cedar Lake Regional Trail, although the new formal soft surface trails from the remnant lands and northeast forest will provide additional pedestrian access to this trail network.

In order to mitigate effects of seasonal flooding on circulation, all proposed trails will be designed at an elevation above seasonal flood levels. Existing trails will be raised to this level during routinely scheduled rehabilitation.



Area to formalize soft surface trails at Cedar Lake

Dean Parkway Trails

WINTER AMENITIES DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS

The project area is used for many winter activities including cross country skiing, ice fishing, ice skating, snowshoeing, community events, walking, and biking. All existing amenities for these activities will be retained. No new winter amenities are proposed at Cedar Lake, Dean Parkway, or the Cedar Lake Regional Trail, but there are a few changes at Lake of the Isles.

The seasonal warming house will remain in the same general location and is proposed to be updated with a new structure. To alleviate conflicts between where the warming house sits and the pedestrian path along the shoreline, the path will be re-routed around the temporary warming house location and run parallel to the bike trail for a short distance. Once rerouted, the old section of pedestrian trail will be removed.

Lake of the Isles will also have a new ice-skating ribbon that will extend north from the existing ice rink.

LEGEND

EXISTING

- Cross Country Ski Trails
- Ice Skating Rink

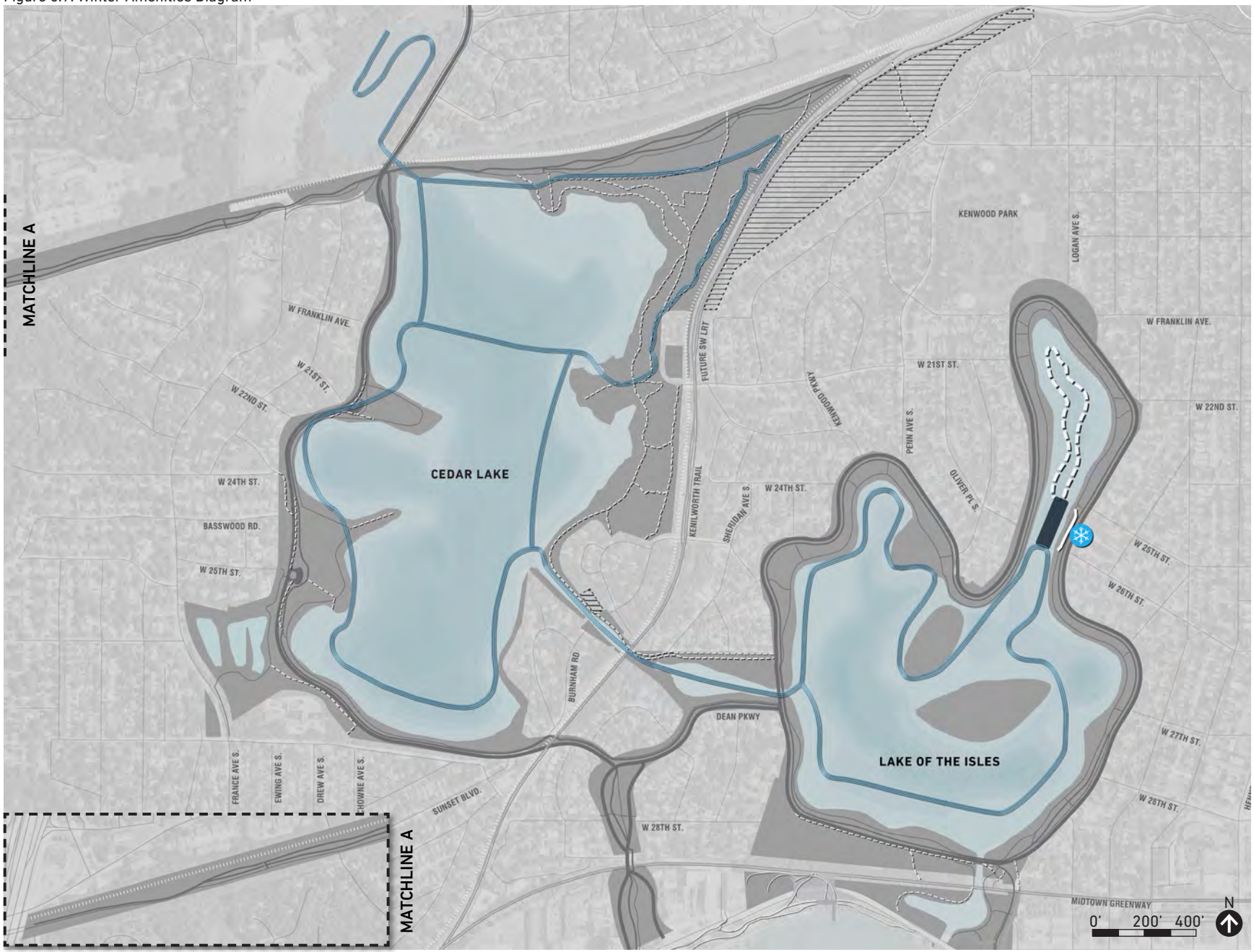
PROPOSED

- Ice Skating Ribbon
- Land Acquisition
- Paved Pedestrian Trail
- Upgraded Temporary Warming House

Ice Skating Rink at Lake of the Isles

Cross Country Skiing on Cedar Lake and Kenilworth Channel

Figure 5.9: Winter Amenities Diagram



PROGRAM AND AMENITIES DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS

Many of the existing amenities work as is and are enjoyed by people using the parks, trails, and lakes within the project area. To respond to consistent community feedback, the majority of the existing amenities are retained in their same general location. Existing amenities that are retained will be maintained and/or improved. While many current amenities work well, there are a few areas that could benefit from new or modified amenities to support increased access, accessibility, and programming.

Existing amenities at Cedar Lake include picnic areas, restrooms, canoe racks, a kiosk, and a variety of lake access opportunities. New amenities for Cedar Lake include a dock, several formalized water access points, viewing spots, a picnic area, and enhanced signage and welcome.

At Lake of the Isles, existing amenities include one year-round portable restroom and two seasonal (one in winter and one in summer) portable restrooms, canoe racks, kiosks, a variety of lake access opportunities, multi-use fields, and two adjacent dog parks (one for little dogs and one for larger dogs). New amenities include a dock, a few formalized water access points, some picnic areas, and enhanced signage and welcome.

With the many activities available through the project area, amenities that support comfort, accessibility, welcome, and the ability for people to stay in the park for longer periods of time, are important considerations for the future. One of the ways the plan supports these considerations is by modifying and expanding restroom options within the project area. Today, many of the restrooms throughout the project area are portable, with just one permanent restroom at Cedar Lake South Beach. The mixture of permanent versus portable restrooms and the overall number was a consistent topic

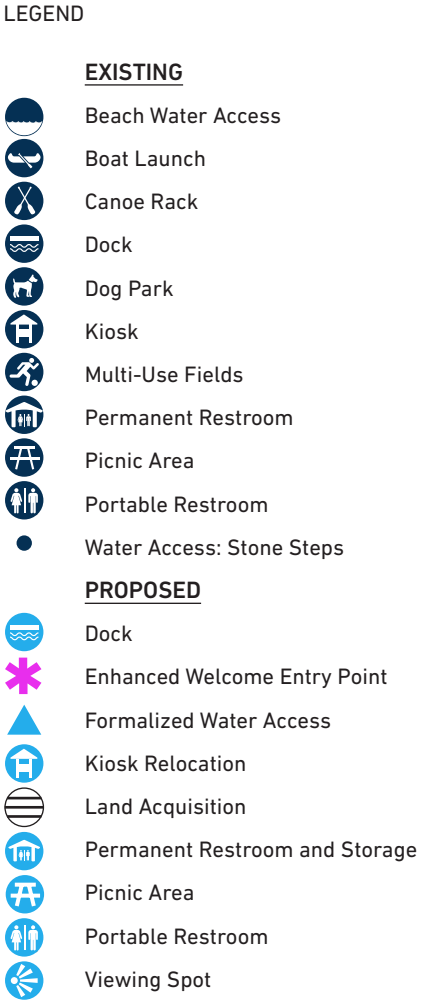
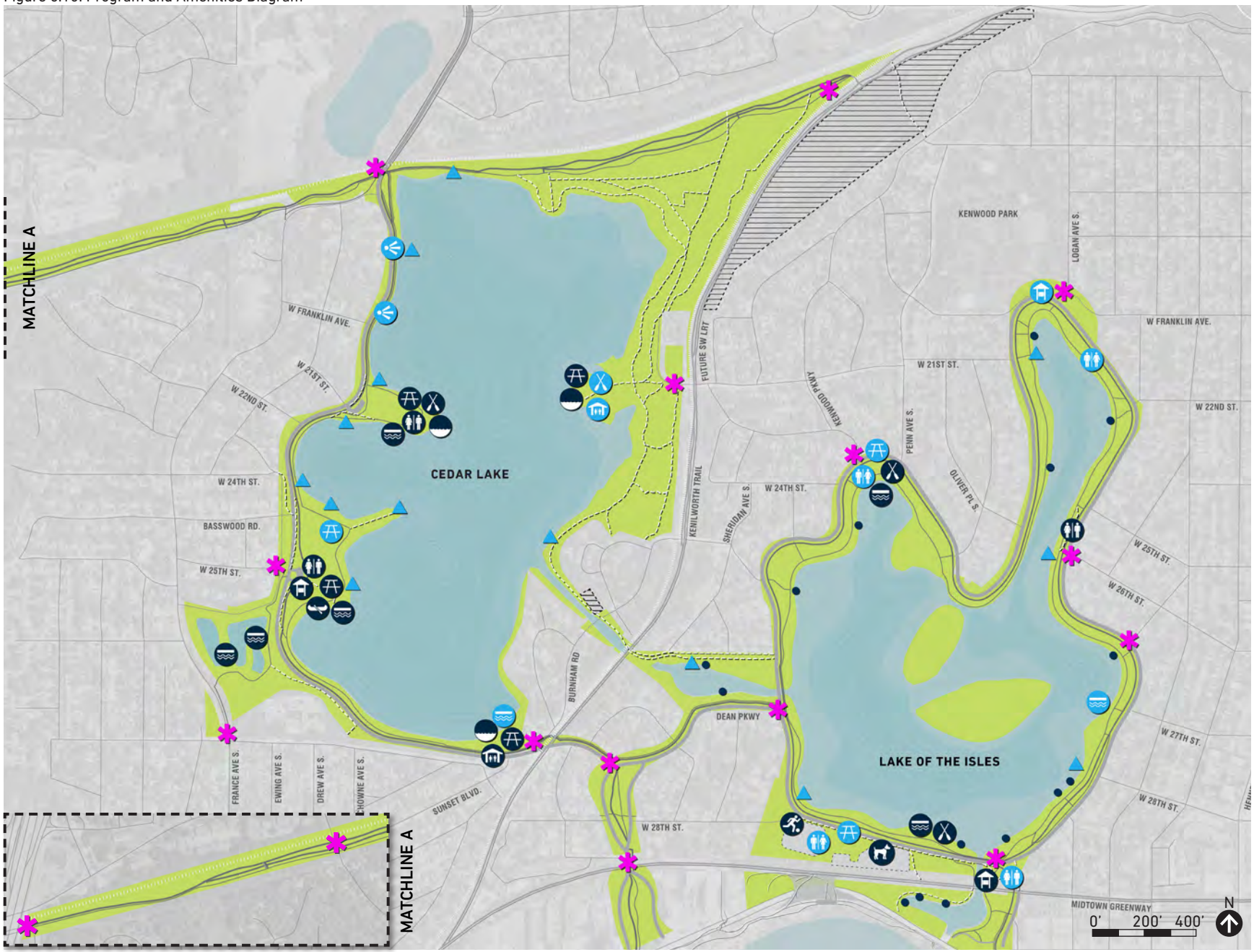


Figure 5.10: Program and Amenities Diagram



throughout engagement and there was not universal agreement about type or quantity. At Cedar Lake, existing restrooms are well spaced and in areas where groupings of amenities exist. A change from a portable to a permanent restroom is proposed at Cedar Lake East Beach where there are a variety of activities and programming, both recreational and educational, that could benefit from having a permanent option. For Lake of the Isles, the plan proposes to expand the number of restrooms near existing and proposed amenities; at the northern arm, near the dock at the northwest side of the lake, and the multi-use fields to the south. The restroom proposed at the northern arm was identified through further analysis of restroom access and availability following the 45-day public comment period.

Cedar Lake Regional Trail and Dean Parkway do not currently have any major amenities proposed outside of trails and roads. The plan adds a few enhanced welcome entry points which will support navigation through these transportation-heavy portions of the project area.

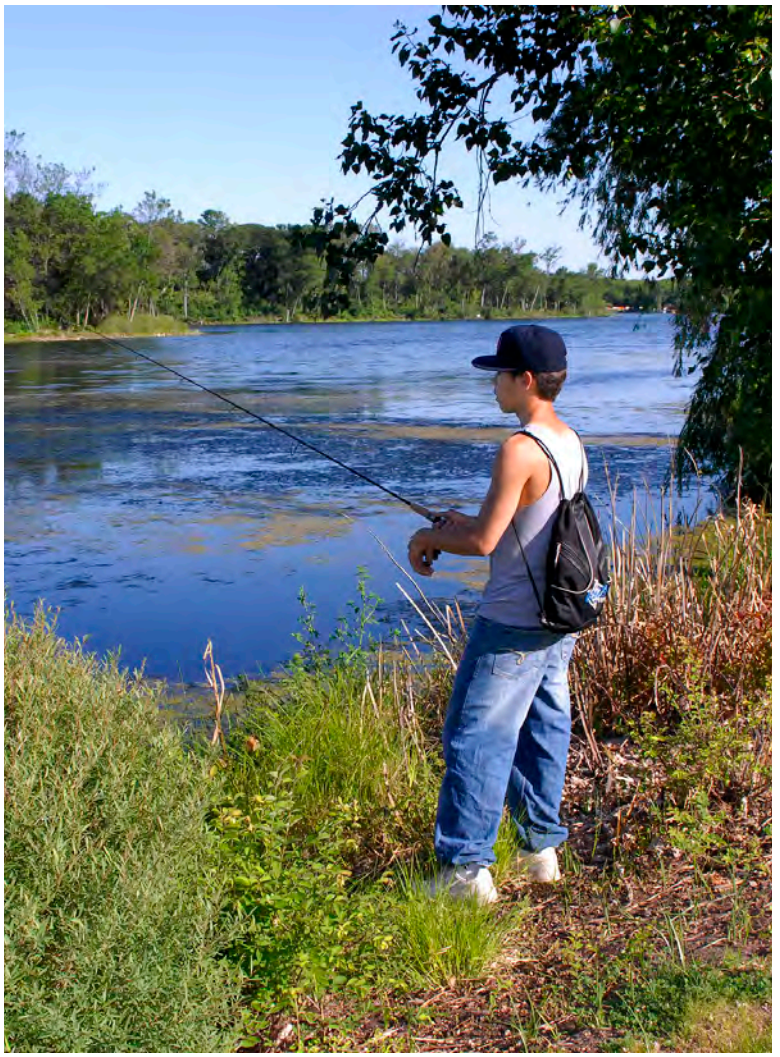
Viewing spots and lake access opportunities are retained with some additional spots are proposed, expanding the ways in which people will be able to enjoy the park. New or formalized locations are described in further detail under Access and Circulation Recommendations and Lake Access Recommendations but are included here to show the variety of available land and water activities these amenities support.

To welcome and guide people in and around the project area, many locations along road or trail intersections are proposed to have enhanced welcome entry points. These entry points will build upon existing signage and include welcome and wayfinding signage and some locations may include other amenities such as seating areas, bike racks, city bikes, gardens, and/or water fountains. There are sixteen enhanced welcome entry points throughout the project area including four along Cedar Lake Regional Trail, four around Cedar Lake, two along Dean Parkway, and six around Lake of the Isles.

People canoeing on Lake of the Isles

South Cedar Lake Beach

Dock on Lake of the Isles



Shore fishing at Lake of the Isles

INTERPRETATION

This section provides a framework for interpretation and cultural landscape and program recommendations throughout the Cedar-Isles Plan area.

Decades of settlement and urban development have significantly changed these lakes over time. Nevertheless, the power of the water and the seasonal cycles of diverse ecosystems remain. Today the lakes and surrounding parkland continue to attract wildlife and people. While park visitors circumnavigate the lakes and immerse themselves in various natural settings, there are few opportunities to discover, learn, and explore the natural resources, cultural legacy, and layered history of these places.

Any signage created for interpretation should also consider the guidance in Wayfinding and Signage outlined in Section 5.3.

Canoeing on Lake of the Isles 1913. Source: MN Historical Society

Snowshoe animal tracking at North Mississippi Regional Park

Loppet Winter Festival, Lake of the Isles. Source: Dan Anderson, Loppet Foundation

INTERPRETATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Each story thread offers a range of interpretive learning style opportunities that engage visitors through embedded design elements. Site-wide messaging spans the entire site and communicates that the lakes, trails, and parkland contribute to larger ecological systems and community networks. Refer to section 5.3 Interpretation for more detail on story threads, messaging, and themes.

Recommendations for site-wide messaging will include:

- Welcome Entry Points: interpretive feature or gateway element
- Water access points: Interpretive features, panels, or interactive elements
- Along trails: Interpretive signs, tactile elements, audio posts, or story walks
- At key plant community areas: interpretive panels

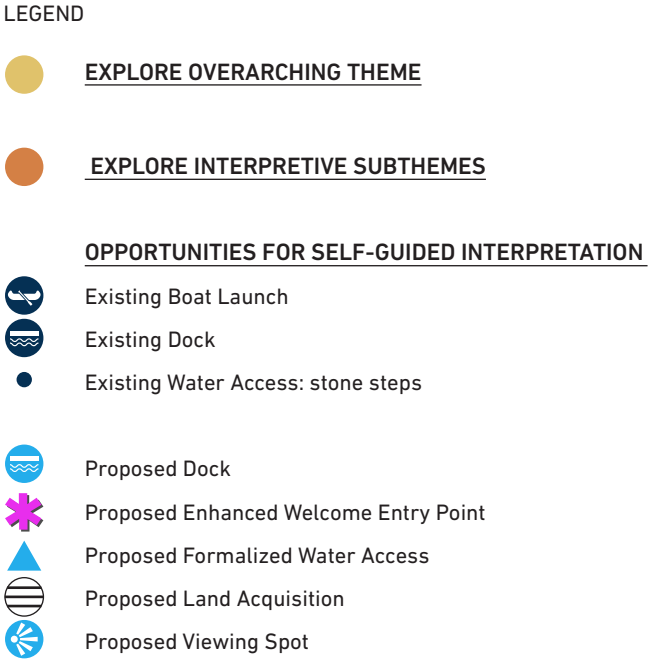
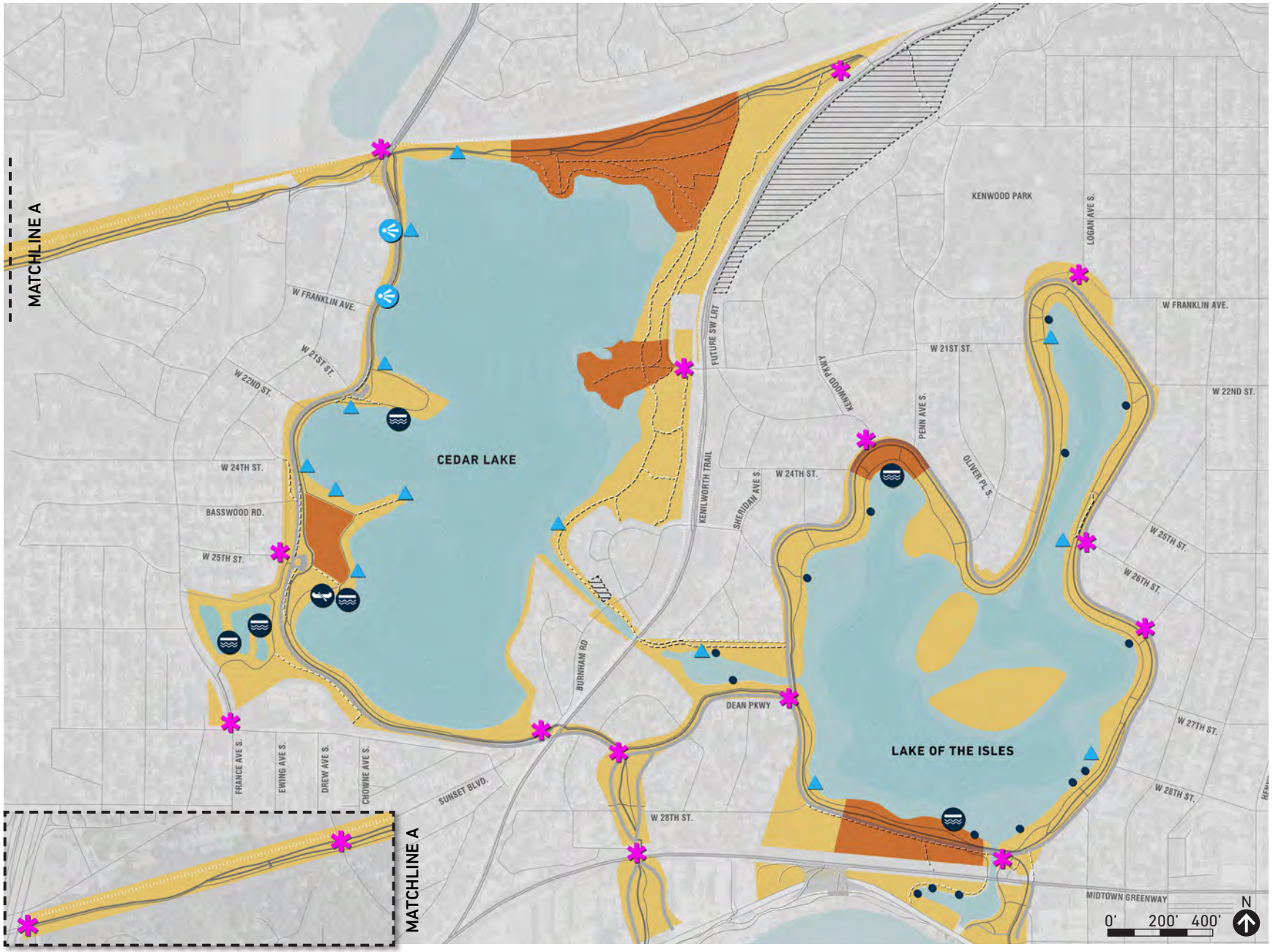


Figure 5.11: Interpretation Diagram



UNDERSTANDING INTERPRETATION

Interpretation forges emotional and intellectual connections between visitors and a place, story, or resource. Interpretation is a communication process that explains the meaning of something and deepens understanding. Interpretation answers the questions "What is this place about?" and "What does this place mean?" by defining an overarching theme and weaving stories and messages through the site that deepen and enrich that theme in various ways.

Stories and messages are intended to teach, to expand a visitor's capacity to imagine what this place was and could be, and to communicate complex—and at times challenging or painful—stories to increase empathy and understanding.

These two lakes hold many stories and many histories, including deep-history geological processes and ecosystem dynamics. Interpretation throughout the park will add depth to an already enjoyable experience by providing context, revealing complexities, and highlighting unique characteristics of the site. Different types of media, interactive features, signs, and places to gather will help to connect people to this place - the animals, birds, plants, waters - and to each other.

Interpretation and messaging is designed to help connect people to the site through stories, sensory engagement, and new perspectives. It is also an integral way of building community around stewardship and action, creating opportunities for awareness, intrigue, understanding, and compassion.

INTERPRETIVE GOALS

Interpretation Goal 1: Create a greater sense of welcome for a broader audience.

Interpretation Goal 2: Engage park and trail visitors with interactive installations that engage many senses and are relevant and memorable to diverse audiences.

Interpretation Goal 3: Honor the layered and honest history of this place as Dakota homeland.

Interpretation Goal 4: Celebrate the cultural landscape legacy.

Interpretation Goal 5: Provide opportunities for visitors to learn about natural resource restoration efforts in progress.

Interpretation Goal 6: Inspire stewardship and instill respect through engaging visitors with evidence and impacts of climate change within the project area.

Interpretation Goal 7: Strengthen connections between humans, the water bodies, the land and plants, and the animals and birds.

Interpretation Goal 8: Ensure interpretive experiences and elements are not intrusive to the natural environment.

Interpretation Goal 9: Provide a variety of interpretation features, varying from storytelling panels, overlooks for personal reflection, local public art, living history, media, and sensory native planting.

ORGANIZING THE EXPERIENCE

The plan is organized around two larger frameworks for interpretation: site-wide messaging that spans the entire site and focus-area messaging, that considers opportunities to engage with specific features and places in a more meaningful and powerful way. Within each framework, features will be sensitively integrated into the site to minimize disturbance to natural resources and wildlife.

Features will be located at areas where amenities already exist or are being proposed to consolidate interventions and places of human activity across the site.

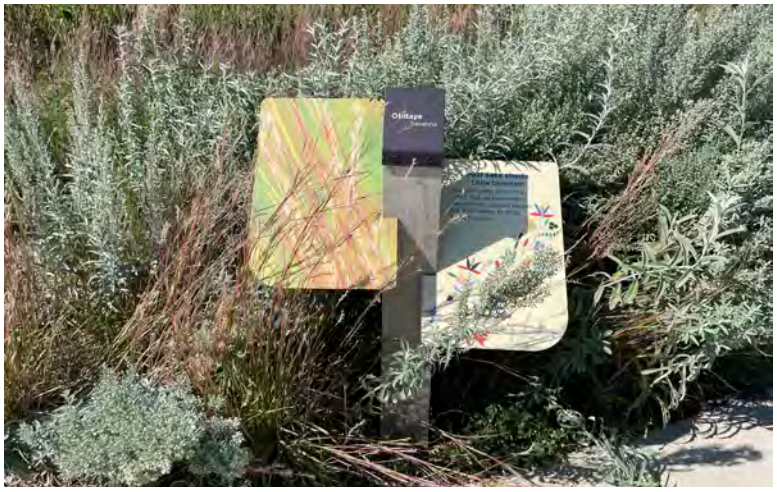
SITE-WIDE MESSAGING

The intention of Site-wide Messaging is to communicate that the lakes, trails, and parkland contribute to larger ecological systems and community networks. Enlightened behavior can emerge from a deeper understanding of the value and deep power of this place. Site-wide messaging will include interpretation integrated into welcome entry points, water access points, along trails, and within key plant community areas.

FOCUS-AREA MESSAGING

Messaging at focus areas throughout the site is an opportunity to encourage people to pause and reflection through focused features deeply tied to a particular place. These features will prompt people to slow down and seek out specific points of interest in the surrounding landscape and to awaken their sense of curiosity and imagination. This landscape, as part of the Grand Rounds, provides recreational opportunities and cultural resources that connect people with the past. Focus-Area Messaging will include interpretation integrated into culturally significant places (such as bridges, key viewpoints, along the channel), around gathering spaces (at beaches, lawn areas, the warming house, and picnic areas), and at places of pause (benches, overlooks, and art installations).

Example of signage materials and aesthetics. Sources: Heine Jones



Plant nations interpretation at Historic Fort Snelling at Bdote. Source: Brandon Stengel, TEN x TEN

INTERPRETIVE GUIDANCE

This section recommends interpretive themes, subthemes, stories, and messages and describe what they provide in terms of possible experiences for visitors.

Overarching Theme

A theme is a unifying message of all interpretation of a site. "The Lakes Remember," serves as an overarching interpretive theme for the MPRB plan for Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles. It emerged from stories and conversations that describe a human relationship to the land and a natural history that transcends time.

As the earth holds deep memories of what's happened through time, **the lakes remember** and offer many stories of our past worth hearing.

subthemes, stories, and messages

Subthemes support the theme. They help to organize the stories told and experiences that park users will have once the features are implemented. Stories bring to life memories, voices, smells, seasons, and express the dramatic transformations wrought on this landscape over time. The Lakes Remember is supported by four subthemes:

1. A Land of Lakes
2. Kinship and Connections
3. Resilience
4. Urbanization and Equity

Interpretive overlook railing at Historic Fort Snelling at Bdote. Source: Brandon Stengel, TEN x TEN

Viewing portals, an example of interactive interpretation. Source: hochC Landscape Architects, Gewerk Design

A LAND OF LAKES

Celebrate and protect the lakes by enhancing experience with their watery horizons and dynamic liminal edges.

On a map, the threshold between wet and dry is often collapsed into a thin line, obscuring the reality of a wider and more complex territory that often fluctuates between wet and dry. More than half of the Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles park space is comprised of water.

In the summer, the parks are a multi-modal network of bike, boat, and foot traffic where people enjoy the beaches, water, forests, and/or lawns. In the winter, the parks transform into a completely new space where the lakes become performative surfaces for skiing, skating, and exploring.

STORY THREADS

- The shallow lake (Lake of the Isles) and surrounding marsh
- Water is life, Mni (water in Dakota)
- Water quality partnership, challenges, algae, bacteria
- History of Flooding
- Aquatic plants and invasive species
- Fish and Wildlife
- Littoral zone, shoreline buffer, biodiversity

KINSHIP AND CONNECTIONS

Cultivate relationships between humans and nature to increase wellbeing and strengthen socio-ecological resilience.

Mitákuye Ows'in or "All of my relatives" is a teaching at the core of Dakota wicohan (ways of life). Dakota people have been taught that "all" includes "everything seen and unseen", including animals, plants, humans, rocks, earth, waters, and spirits. For many, it requires a significant shift in thinking to see all of creation as our relative and not as an object or property.

Appropriate stories shall be developed in collaboration with tribal advisors.

STORY THREADS

- Wita Topa, Settlement and Displacement, the 1805 Treaty
- Mitakuye Owasin, "we are all related", kinship (respect, interconnectedness, responsibility)
- Humans are related and interdependent with all forms of life (animals, plants, rocks, stars, etc.)
- Dakota world view (social + ecological resilience)
- Indigenous materials
- Cultural identity tied to place, collective memory
- Contemporary stories of how Dakota communities maintain a connection to these landscapes today
- Human connections to landscape through foraging (wild rice), harvesting, fishing, and stewardship
- Minorities and people of color have been restricted from these landscapes over time. There is a need to re-invite them to this place

RESILIENCE

Engage people in the transformation of the site's ecology over time to build a deeper understanding of resilience in the face of climate change.

The back-and-forth tension between natural systems and human intervention is easily observed in today's landscape. Two centuries ago, the lakes featured different landscapes dominated by open water, marshes, wetlands, and prairies. With climate change, these landscapes continue to evolve, and the future of some endemic species is uncertain. These lakes provide much needed wetlands, open water, and wooded areas for biodiversity and wildlife.

STORY THREADS

- Birds, migration, and threatened species due to climate change
- Geologic time, the River Warren, glaciers, floods, springs, and the Mississippi River
- Historic vegetation
- Culturally significant plants (protection, healing, sustenance)
- Native habitats (wetlands, marshes, lakes)
- Altered hydrology
- Remnant and protected ecological communities
- Foraging and harvesting plants and food within the park

URBANIZATION AND EQUITY

Invite exploration of how a layered history and the dynamics of urbanization affects the everyday life of this place.

Over time, the context surrounding these lakes has changed, as have the ecological forces acting upon them. This has shaped what this park has become and helps foreshadow the future. Urbanization can be a force for positive transformation provided it respects and promotes human rights. Interpreting these layers of change over time will invite audiences to consider how to balance sustainable growth, preservation, and equity in the built environment through a variety of lenses.

STORY THREADS

- Railroad construction from 1885-1882
- Cedar Lake's earthen causeway,
- Lake of the Isles' four original islands
- Design and planning legacy (City Beautiful Movement, H.W.S. Cleveland Park System Plan 1883)
- Lake of the Isles Dredging in the 1800's and early 1900's
- Navigable waterways, the canals and lagoons as "public necessity"
- Restrictive Covenants along the Kenilworth Channel and near Cedar Lake
- Demographics over time and property values around the lakes
- Human effects on the lakes, channels, and canals
- WPA improvements to the area, incorporating documentation of features that have been removed

MEDIA AND METHODS

Interpretation aims to offer different audiences a variety of mediums for engaging with interpretive information. Interpretation is divided into guided and self-guided methods that range from hands-on immersive experiences that offer visitors opportunities to walk, push, lift, or touch interpretive elements to reinforce the content shared, to fixed elements, experiences, programs, and events.

GUIDED INTERPRETATION

PROGRAMS

Interpretive programming includes regularly scheduled activities such as field trips, classes, guided tours, or lectures. They could take place at interpretive nodes such as the Cedar Lake East Beach formalized event area, other Cedar Lake beaches, Lake of the Isles lawns, or entry gateways. Guided programming can be led by MPRB staff, trained interpreters, or other partners.

Guided interpretive experiences aim to engage and inspire visitors, rather than educate, and can be presented in a variety of formats.

EVENTS

Special events and activities that are scheduled on an annual or one-time basis. Significant programming within the project area is led by the Cedar-Isles-Dean Neighborhood Association (CIDNA) and includes a series of music, performance, festivals, and other community events year-round.

SELF-GUIDED INTERPRETATION

Self-guided interpretation opportunities include interactive experiences at viewing spots, trail crossings, entry gateways, and places of pause. Each interpretive node can include tactile and multi-sensory elements, interpretive art, first-hand storytelling, as well as historical and ecological information.

- Interpretive Panels
- Interactive Signs
- Story Walks
- Audio Posts
- Tactile Elements
- Integrated Landscape Elements
- Mobile Apps

Indigenous walking tour at Stanley Park, Vancouver BC. Source: Viator.com

INTERPRETIVE PANEL

self-guided

Source: Geckogroup

Source: 3D Incrust

Source: PIC BOIS Group

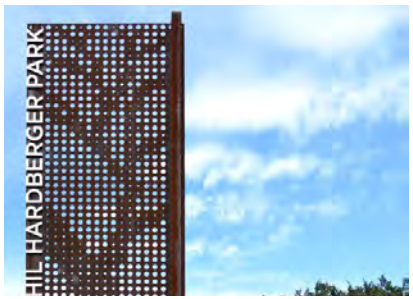
Tactile signs that enrich visitors' understanding of the lakes with hands-on elements or relevant facts.

ENTRY WELCOME POINTS

self-guided

Source: hochC Landscape Architects

Source: PIC BOIS Group



Source: Stimson Landscape Architects

Kiosk, seating, and bike racks, with integrated tactile elements, facts, and stories about the park.

GATHERING PLACES

guided

Source: Niagra College

Source: McKeever Environmental Learning

Source: TEN x TEN, Brandon Stengel

Gathering areas with descriptive information about the adjacent area, interpretive art, and hands-on elements.

INTERPRETIVE FEATURES

self-guided or guided

Source: Jane Irwin Landscape Architecture

Source: Gewerk design

Source: PIC BOIS Group

Unique outdoor features that focus on a specific topic and create opportunities for physical activity, interactive art, or other interactive interpretive elements.

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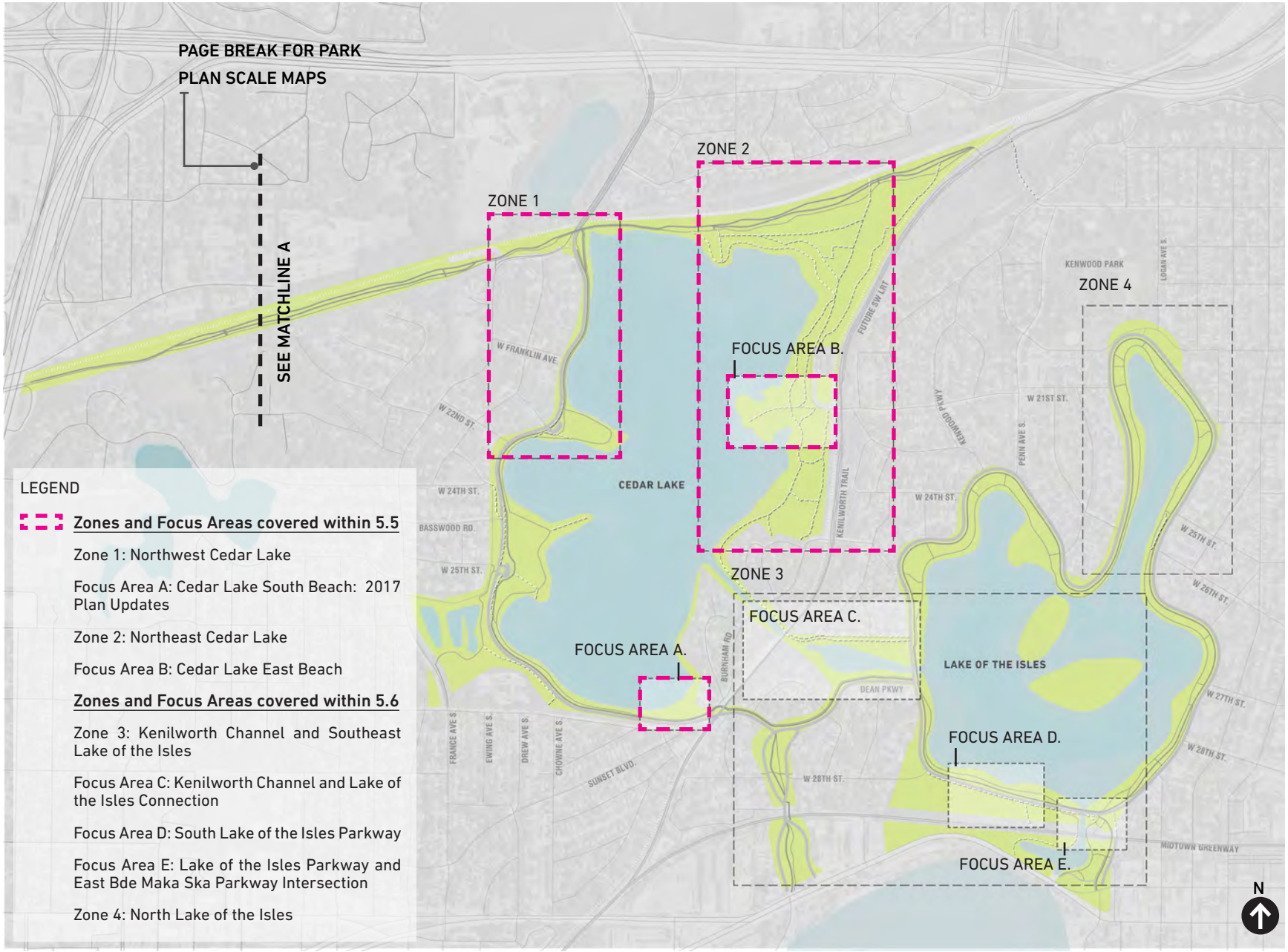
5.5 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CEDAR LAKE

OVERVIEW

This section provides a detailed look at improvements planned for Cedar Lake. Improvement projects described within the zones and focus areas include water quality, natural resources, access and circulation, and amenities.

Figure 5.12: Zones and Focus Areas



CEDAR LAKE

ZONE 1: NORTHWEST CEDAR LAKE

Zone 1 includes the northwest section of Cedar Lake up to the tunnel to Brownie Lake, Cedar Lake Parkway and trails, a portion of the Cedar Lake Regional Trail with walking and biking trails and established prairie, and Cedar Lake Point Beach with surrounding forest and amenities.

WATER QUALITY

Within Zone 1, there are two formal and well-used water access locations: the small dock at the southwest corner of Cedar Lake Point Beach and an area used as a boat launch south of the Cedar Lake Point Beach parking lot. Several informal access points used for swimming, launching watercraft, and fishing dot the shoreline around the Cedar Lake Point Beach peninsula and the north and northwest shores of Cedar Lake. The plan proposes retaining the dock and boat launch as formal water access locations and formalizes water access points at the most well-used locations.

The existing shoreline within Zone 1 generally has a steep grade and hosts unmanaged shrubs, trees, and plants. The north side of the lake includes a number of large boulders and rocks near the shoreline which may be from railroad construction during the 1880s. The plan enhances the shoreline buffer and adds a littoral edge to help stabilize the slopes and create a filter against stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces.

Due to the narrow width of parkland available to treat stormwater coming from Cedar Lake Parkway, an underground stormwater treatment has been proposed to capture stormwater from the parkway and adjacent parking lot. A new rain garden is also planned on the east side of the parking lot to filter additional water before entering the lake. Underground stormwater treatment should be constructed during the next parkway reconstruction project.

People at Cedar Lake Point Beach

Informal boat launch area near Cedar Lake Point Beach parking lot

NATURAL RESOURCES

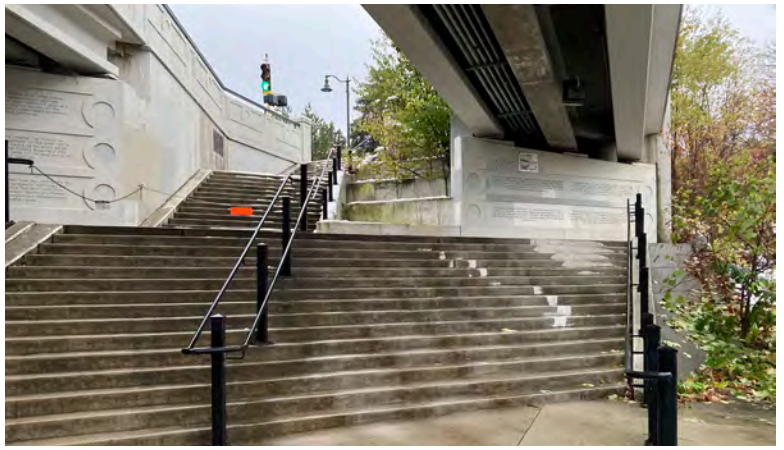
The forest in Zone 1 is identified as "unmanaged forest" in the MPRB Natural Areas Management Plan. The current forest fauna consists of ash, elm, and cottonwood trees. The understory includes invasive species such as buckthorn and non-native mulberry. The Cedar Lake Point Beach area consists of sand and turf, with areas on the south side of the beach that are eroded without vegetation. Volunteers actively manage much of the forest in this area, removing invasive species and planting native seeds, adding to the ever-increasing forest health and visibility within the understory of the tree canopy.

The plan proposes mesic oak forest restoration for the forest areas in this location, including invasive species removal and planting trees, shrubs, and plants that will gradually bring the forest ecological community closer to a mesic oak forest. The plan also proposes maintaining and restoring the beach and turf areas that are regularly used by park visitors.

Maintained pockets of prairie along the Cedar Lake Regional Trail are well established and will be retained and enhanced. The prairie should continue to be monitored and seeded to benefit an expanded list of animals and insects.

CIRCULATION AND ACCESS

Cedar Lake Parkway provides both recreational and commuter access for vehicles and bicyclists; it is one of the main routes to connect I-394 south to the Cedar Isles Dean Neighborhood and adjacent communities, to the Grand Rounds, and to Theodore Wirth Regional Park. The current walking and biking trails that run alongside Cedar Lake Parkway are narrow and are not typical MPRB trail widths. This is due to the limited available parkland for the trails and two-way parkway between adjacent properties and the steep slope along Cedar Lake. The intersection at Cedar Lake Road and Cedar Lake Parkway serves as an important connection between the Cedar Lake Regional Trail (CLRT) and Cedar Lake for bicyclists and



Stairs that lead down to the Cedar Lake Regional Trail from Cedar Lake Parkway

walkers. On the west side of the intersection, there are a set of stairs and sidewalk ramp to CLRT and on the east side is a split section of walking and biking trails leading up to the intersection and down to the underside of the bridge and trail. The trail connection here is similarly more narrow than a normal MPRB trail. The trails are also well-used for dog walking, jogging, and leisure walking. During engagement, MPRB heard concern for the narrowness of these trails and a desire to widen them, however, there was also concern about how to accomplish this due to the existing terrain and hillside. Proposed solutions such as, narrowing the parkway width, changing the parkway from two-way to one way, or building a boardwalk received mixed reactions from the community.

Ultimately, the CAC recommended maintaining two-way vehicle access on Cedar Lake Parkway and widening the existing bicycle and pedestrian paths from West 21st Street to Cedar Lake Road along the northwest edge of Cedar Lake to meet increased user demand and improve safety. The trail should be widened using the least intrusive methods possible and reach a minimum of 8 feet for

the two-way bicycle path and 6 feet for the pedestrian path. Design strategies may include, but are not limited to, paving to the curb line, introducing retaining walls, and, least desirably, boardwalks. The best strategy(s) will be defined during a future detailed design process and should take all possible care in preserving trees. Enhanced intersection improvements are proposed at the intersections of Cedar Lake Parkway and Cedar Lake Road, W 21st Street, and W 22nd Street, providing easy and safe pedestrian and bicycle access to parkland and helping to slow traffic. In conjunction with the recommended redesign of the bicycle and pedestrian trails, where space allows, the plan proposes two viewing spots to allow parks users to safely pause separately from walking, bicycling, and vehicle traffic. These viewing spots may include seating, trail bump outs, and interpretation and will provide improved movement along the rest of the trail. The plan identifies two general locations for the viewing locations, however, further assessment should be done at the time of design and construction to identify exact locations.

The walking and bicycle trails run south adjacent to the parkway until they arrive at the Cedar Lake Point Beach peninsula. At this location, the trails separate, with the bicycle trail continuing adjacent to the parkway road, and the pedestrian trail running along the edge of the shoreline. The general location and separation of these trails continues south until reaching Cedar Meadows Wetland where the trails combine along the shore again. From the Cedar Lake Point Beach parking lot and Basswood Road, the topography creates a steep slope of separation between the walking trail and bicycle trail. Several eroded connections exist in the grass to create direct pedestrian access to amenities and trails. This includes an ad hoc trail alongside the bicycle trail and additional connections from the Cedar Lake Point Beach parking lot to the walking trail and informal water access point.

The plan maintains the existing walking and bicycling trails and formalizes the existing ad hoc trails from the parking lot down to the

Participants in open swim club at Cedar Lake

Ad hoc trail from Cedar Lake Point Beach parking lot to be formalized. Source: EOR

walking trail and water access point. It also adds a direct pedestrian trail along Cedar Lake Parkway from where the bicycle and walking trails split near the parking lot south to W 21st Street. This ensures people who would like to walk along the parkway have a safe way to do so without walking on the bicycle trail. The plan adds a new soft surface trail along a portion of the parkland median between W 24th Street and Basswood Road and strategically places an enhanced intersection improvement at Basswood Road to help improve the connection between the Reserve Block 40 neighborhood park and Cedar Lake; this improved connection was identified in the South Service Area Master Plan adopted in 2020.

Parking in Zone 1 includes a paid parking lot at Cedar Lake Point Beach and street parking along the parkway between W 21st and W 22nd which will be retained. Parking is not allowed along most of the parkway in this area due to the narrow width of parkland.

PROGRAM AND AMENITIES

The main programmed space within this zone is Cedar Lake Point Beach, one of three beaches at Cedar Lake. Cedar Lake Point Beach is a popular destination for park visitors to gather, swim, fish, put in/take out watercrafts, and many other activities. It is also one of two locations in the park system that hosts the annual Open Swim Club program where folks swim between Cedar Lake Point Beach and East Cedar Lake Beach. Today, amenities in this area include a canoe rack, picnic area, year-round portable restroom, and dock. The plan retains all these existing amenities. Existing amenities that are retained will be maintained and/or improved.

The plan also proposes an enhanced welcome entry point at the intersection of Cedar Lake Parkway and the Cedar Lake Regional Trail, which is a hub for people traveling to and through the park system. The enhanced welcome entry point, which could include increased signage, wayfinding, or other amenities, will help orient visitors from the north to Cedar Lake and the Cedar Lake Regional Trail.

People at Cedar Lake Point Beach

Canoe rack at Cedar Lake Point Beach

Viewing Spot. Source: Carver County

Cedar Lake Point Beach

Formalized Water Access. Source: Harford County Government

Enhanced Welcome Entry Point. Source: hochC Landscape Architects

Figure 5.13: Zone 1 Northwest Cedar Lake

LEGEND

EXISTING

- Canoe Rack
- Dock
- Outfall Locations
- Parkway
- Parking Lot
- Paved Pedestrian Trail
- Picnic Area
- Portable Restroom
- Beach Water Access
- Paved Two-Way Bike Trail

PROPOSED

- Enhanced Intersection Improvements
- Enhanced Prairie
- Enhanced Welcome Entry Point
- Expanded Littoral Edge
- Formalized Water Access
- Improved Shoreline Buffer
- Mesic Oak Forest Restoration
- Paved Pedestrian Trail
- Rain Garden
- Underground Parkway Stormwater Treatment
- Viewing Spot
- Widened Separated Bike and Pedestrian Trails

FOCUS AREA A: CEDAR LAKE SOUTH BEACH

Focus Area A includes Cedar Lake South Beach, one of three Cedar Lake beaches, located on the southeast corner of the lake. South Cedar Beach is heavily used and visited by neighbors and regional park visitors alike to swim, fish, relax, and picnic, especially in the warmer months. This beach is the most visible of the three at Cedar Lake and has a visual connection from the Cedar Lake Parkway and Sunset Blvd intersection and nearby walking and biking trails.

Between 2014-2017, MPRB went through an extensive planning process for Cedar Lake South Beach that included community meetings, design charrettes, and a community advisory committee (CAC) that made final recommendations on the concept plan. This work was completed in partnership with the Cedar-Isles-Dean Neighborhood Association (CIDNA). The concept plan was approved in 2017 by the MPRB Board of Commissioners and many of the proposed improvements have been implemented, including the visitor shelter, concrete landing and stairs, and formal vegetation. Based on feedback heard during the community engagement process for the Cedar-Isles Plan, a few modifications to the concept plan have been proposed and are described below and shown on the graphic on page 179.

WATER QUALITY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Cedar Lake South Beach is nestled between open lawns on either side. The western lawn is smaller in size and less used by park visitors; it transitions to a dense forest area and shoreline. The lawn on the eastern side of the beach is used as a formal gathering area and includes an area to picnic and a variety of trees, such as sugar maple, cottonwood, crab apple, cherry, and hackberry. As the lawn continues east, several large shrubs, many of them invasive, create a buffer that informally deters public use to additional open park space north of the lawn. The beach provides a formal water access point for swimmers, people using watercrafts, and anglers.

An enhanced shoreline buffer is proposed for a portion of the western lawn along with an expansion of the littoral edge which will increase habitat and will also filter pollutants, reducing impact from large rain events. The plan removes the shrub buffer so that once the shoreline is established, visitors will have a better view of the shoreline ecosystem from the beach area. Additionally, the plan proposes protecting and enhancing the tree canopy, maintaining the beach, and restoring the formal lawn to help reduce erosion on the slope down to the lake.

CIRCULATION AND ACCESS

Within the last several years, much of the proposed circulation improvements that were approved within the 2017 concept plan were implemented, including reconfiguring and widening the bicycle and pedestrian trails along Cedar Lake Parkway and constructing a pedestrian landing north of the trails, which provides a space for people off the trail to rest, sit, relax, and view the water. New trees, shrubs, and plants were also planted as part of this work.

To further support access to Cedar Lake South Beach, the Cedar-Isles Plan proposes an enhanced intersection improvement at Cedar Lake Parkway and Burnham Road and the street crossing at South Cedar Lake Beach, creating safer access for people crossing Cedar Lake Parkway from the south. An enhanced welcome entryway at Cedar Lake Parkway and Burnham Road is proposed alongside the enhanced intersection improvements to provide enhanced welcome to park users and guide new and existing park users to park amenities.

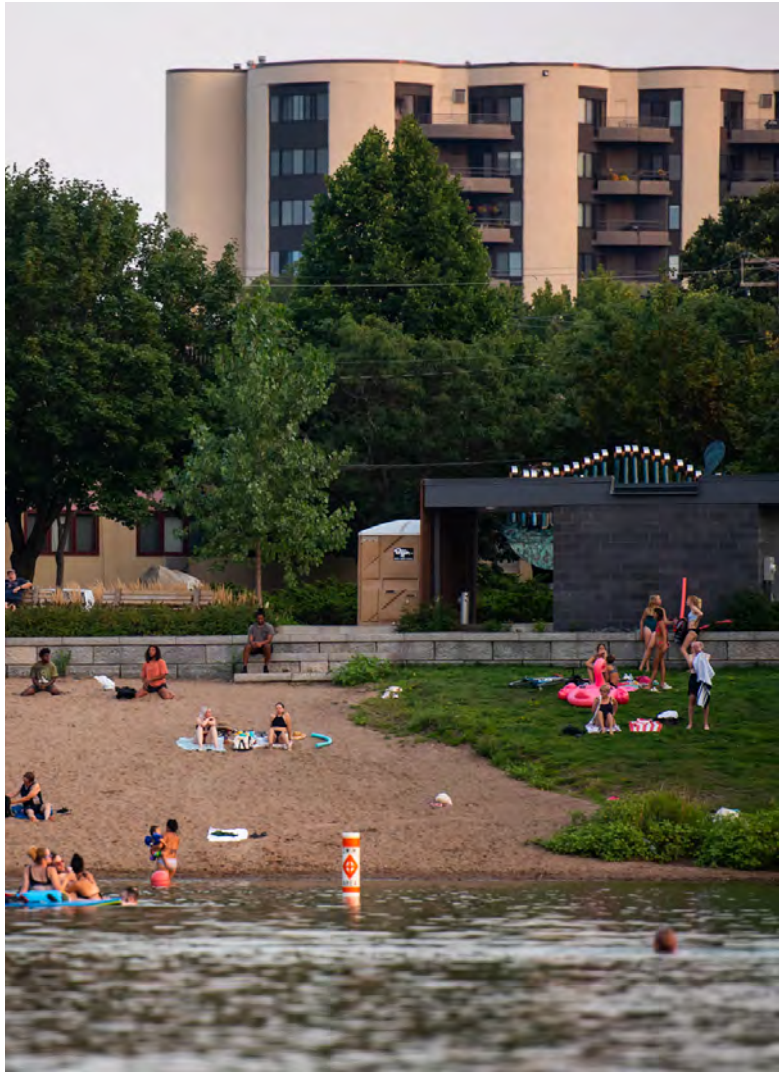
PROGRAM AND AMENITIES

Amenities implemented from the approved 2017 Cedar Lake South Beach concept plan include a comfort station that provides seasonal

access to a permanent restroom and drinking fountain, improved access to the beach, additional seating, and formal picnic area. Park users shared their appreciation for these improvements during the Cedar-Isles engagement process.

The most recently completed improvement is a nature-inspired mural painted on the side of the comfort station, which was completed in partnership with CIDNA. Some elements within the 2017 plan have not yet been implemented, such as an outdoor shower. Some volunteer activities and events also take place here, including beach cleanup and sand raking.

The Cedar-Isles Plan removes the canoe rack from the 2017 concept plan. Conversations between residents and MPRB concluded that the installation of the canoe rack would create further conflicts between uses along with structural challenges to install a canoe rack on a slope. To alleviate further conflict of uses, the Cedar-Isles Plan also moves the floating dock from the beach further east to the eastern lawn area, distancing fishing and watercraft access from beach goers.



Cedar Lake South Beach

Eastern lawn at Cedar Lake South Beach. Source: EOR

Cedar Lake South Beach

Cedar Lake South Beach benches and pedestrian landing

Cedar Lake Parkway crossing at Cedar Lake South Beach

LEGEND

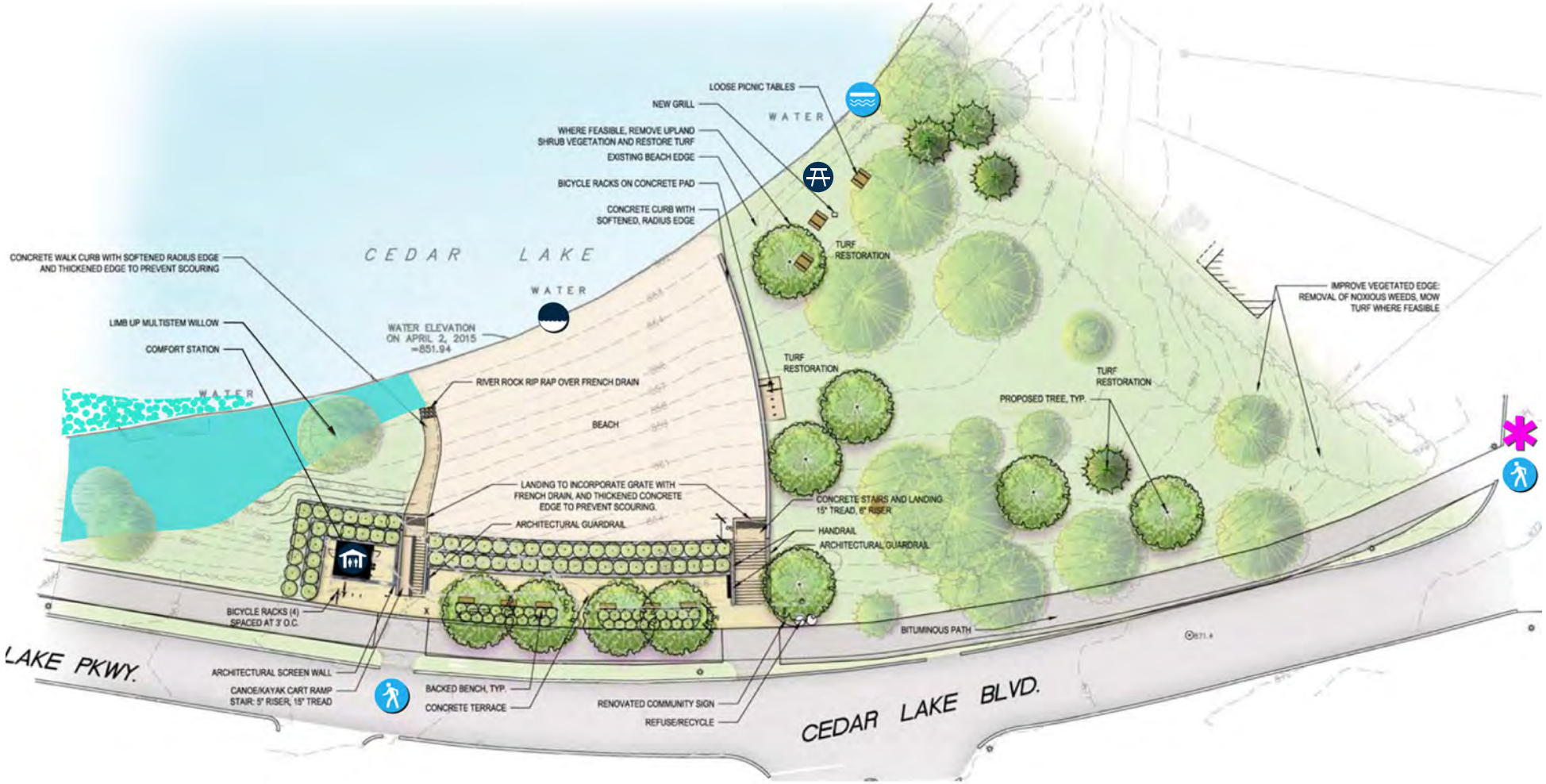
EXISTING

- Beach Water Access
- Permanent Restroom
- Picnic Area

PROPOSED

- Dock
- Enhanced Intersection Improvements
- Enhanced Welcome Entry Point
- Improved Shoreline Buffer
- Expanded Littoral Edge

Figure 5.14: Focus Area A Cedar Lake South Beach



This base map goes into more detail than other base images in the Cedar-Isles Plan because it is originally from the 2017 concept plan.

ZONE 2: NORTHEAST CEDAR LAKE FOCUS AREA B: CEDAR LAKE EAST BEACH

Zone 2 includes the northeast section of Cedar Lake, the prairie and trails within a portion of the Cedar Lake Regional Trail, and the forest along the eastern side of Cedar Lake running south to the mouth of the Kenilworth Channel. Zone 2 also includes Focus Area B: Cedar Lake East Beach, one of three beaches at Cedar Lake, located at the peninsula on the eastern side of the lake.

WATER QUALITY

The majority of shoreline in Zone 2 is naturalized with existing tree species of bur oak, cottonwood, elm, and green ash. The understory includes forbs, grasses, and non-native buckthorn. The largest existing marshes within the project area are located within Zone 2 to the north and south of the Cedar Lake East Beach peninsula. Currently, the beach is the only formal water access location within this zone. Informal water access points begin at the northern end of the map at a location known as the "mound" with additional informal access points dotting the shoreline sporadically all the way to the southern edge of the zone near the mouth of the Kenilworth Channel.

The plan retains the beach for water access and formalizes a frequently used informal water access point at the mouth of the channel. The plan also proposes an enhanced and expanded shoreline buffer along the entire length of the eastern shoreline. This is followed by marsh restoration and an expanded littoral edge, which alternate along the edge of shore on either side of the beach. This combination of strategies will prevent continued erosion from informal water access while filtering pollutants and reducing impact from large rain events. These areas will also provide critical bird and wildlife habitat to the species like the Blanding's turtle, green frog, and yellow headed blackbird.

A proposed rain garden south of the Cedar Lake East Beach area will address runoff into Cedar Lake from a stormwater outfall. The rain garden location sits within the DNR School Forest boundary and is an ideal location for educational signage about the benefits of addressing stormwater runoff.

Look out spot at Cedar Lake's northern shore

NATURAL RESOURCES

The forest areas in Zone 2 currently include the largest amount of MPRB-identified "altered forest" within the project area. Much of this area is actively managed by volunteers. Plant and tree species vary in some areas and species are not all desirable, but during the project plant inventory, ecologists noted that the forest in Zone 2 is also home to some of the highest quality plant communities within the project area; this is due to the work of volunteers working in partnership with MPRB staff. Tree species include cottonwood, walnut, juniper, and boxelder and some recently planted basswood and bur oak which need adequate room to grow. Shrub species include sumac, and non-native species of buckthorn and Tartatian honeysuckle. Other plants identified include big bluestem, walnut, bee balm, and poison ivy.

The northern portion of the forest will slowly be restored to an Oak Savanna community while the southern portion of the forest will be restored to a Mesic Oak community over time. Oak Savanna has more open areas and filtered sunlight than mesic oak forests and includes both bur and northern pine oak trees. Restoration will involve removing invasive species and planting a diversity of tree, shrub, and plant species. Proposed restoration efforts will require years of phasing and should take ongoing volunteer efforts into account. This process will include formalization and removal of select existing informal trails, invasive species, and establishment of a tree canopy and understory species. Removal of unwanted informal trail connections will reduce erosion and help preserve areas of the forest for wildlife.

Cedar Lake East Beach is a unique beach within the MPRB system. The beach is shaded by an extensive tree canopy that includes established cottonwoods. In previous decades, the beach was informally known as "Hidden Beach" as it was hidden away behind a wall of invasive understory. Over the last ten years or so, active neighborhood groups and residents have worked to improve the safety for beach goers at this location in partnership with MPRB. This included clearing out much of the unwanted and invasive understory to improve sightlines and visibility. Volunteers planted additional trees and shrubs and made way for regular beach clean-ups and family-friendly programming. Remaining cottonwoods are at risk of harm and failure from erosion and compaction due to an expanded beach area and lack of protection. The plan proposes proactive protection of the cottonwoods, which may include signage, protective fencing and planting of additional cottonwoods and other tree species to ease natural life cycle transitions.

The plan also proposes improvements to the existing prairie that includes the Cedar Lake Regional Trail to the north, increasing prairie species diversity with additional seeding and establishing a healthy habitat transition zone between prairie and oak savanna restoration areas. Additionally, a parcel of land to the east of the forest area known as the "remnant lands" has been identified for future MPRB acquisition to be designated as a natural area. Refer to Chapter 6.4 for additional detail.

CIRCULATION AND ACCESS

A new transit stop at the intersection of the Kenilworth Trail and 21st Street for the Green Line will increase projected visitors to this zone. While historically no formal trails have been developed in the wooded areas within the northeast section of Cedar Lake, there are numerous ad hoc soft surface trails created and maintained by community members. These ad hoc trails are not considered formal trails by MPRB and are minimally managed. The ad hoc trails are mostly used for walking or hiking throughout the eastern side of the park and there is also some bicycle traffic on the trails. Bicyclists use these trails primarily do so to connect to other bike amenities, such as the Cedar Lake Regional Trail, the Kenilworth Regional Trail, or the formal mountain bike trails at Brownie Lake or Theodore Wirth Regional Park. Some also use these trails for mountain biking. The trails are narrow and cannot accommodate multiple uses simultaneously which has created conflict between different user groups. While there was consensus by the public and CAC to address the existing walking and biking conflicts within the forest during the planning process, there was not consensus about how to accomplish this. Some requested to eliminate all biking in the forest and direct bicycles to the paved Kenilworth Trail. Others believed that if bicyclists were barred from the forest altogether, they would continue to bike on hiking trails with continued conflict, so they requested a bicycle trail through the forest. Others requested formal mountain bike trails within the forest.

Ultimately, the plan formalizes the most used and enjoyed trails throughout the eastern side of Cedar Lake and formally designates them for hiking and walking, decommissioning and re-naturalizing less traveled trails. The soft surface trails will create connections throughout the eastern side of the lake to the Cedar Lake Regional Trail, Cedar Lake East Beach, and the trail along Kenilworth Channel. These improvements will be especially important with the forthcoming 21st Street light rail station. The existing trail that runs adjacent to the water's edge was originally proposed to be removed to help address erosion, however, the community made it clear it was one of the most well traveled trails with the best viewing areas of the lake, and the advisory committee voted to preserve this trail. To help communicate that these are hiking trails, natural fences, signage, and other design elements may be used. The plan also provides bicyclists a separate two-way soft surface trail connection on the far east side of the forest by utilizing an existing ad hoc 10 foot wide trail that is currently used for skiing, walking, and biking, beginning at the Cedar Lake Regional Trail and traveling south to the Upton Avenue dead-end. This connection provides access to the new light rail station at 21st Street, creates a new way for bicyclists to experience the forest, eliminates the danger of crossing the light rail tracks, and mitigates walking and biking conflicts through giving each mode separate routes. No trees will be lost by formalizing this trail. Since there are many unknowns related to visitor projections at this location, MPRB should assess whether the proposed circulation improvements adequately address impacts to parkland once the southwest light rail line is up and running.

At the entrance of Cedar Lake East Beach, there is a gravel road that connects from Upton Avenue to the beach area. The road is primarily used for MPRB vehicles to access the beach site; public vehicle access or drop-off is not currently permitted. The road has a chain link gate at the Upton entrance meant to prevent vehicles from driving down to the beach, however, MPRB vehicles often drive around the gate for ease, which has created erosion to the lawn on both sides of the entrance. The existing metal gate creates an unwelcoming visual cue for visitors. The plan proposes formalization of the road down to the beach, with possible consideration of limited ADA parking spots or a drop-off area for programming and accessibility purposes. The gate will be redesigned to create a welcoming entrance for park visitors while providing clear vehicle and pedestrian access down to the beach.

There is no formal parking lot for Cedar Lake East Beach. Currently, vehicles may park on adjacent city streets and walk to the park. During engagement, some neighboring residents voiced concerns about the congestion during the summer months. The conversation about whether to add parking on parkland at this location was revisited several times during the planning process, but was ultimately decided against.

Ad hoc soft surface trail along shoreline of Cedar Lake

Gravel access road to Cedar Lake East Beach

PROGRAM AND AMENITIES

Existing amenities within the northeast forest include nature and art features and some benches, usually near a viewing lookout spot. These amenities were added either in partnership with MPRB or independently by community members. Some of the larger or more well-known community features are included on the map, though there are many others not on the map that exist on site. About 12 acres of the forest was designated as a School Forest in 2018, a formal designation through the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). This designation ensures the area is programmed in a way that promotes outdoor activities and learning for young people. School and neighborhood partners implement nature education and programming for young people in this location each year. In the winter, ski trails are groomed by volunteers and the Loppet Foundation along the Cedar Lake Regional Trail, through the eastern forest, and on Cedar Lake. MPRB should continue to support and leverage opportunities for nature education and programming.

Cedar Lake East Beach amenities include a canoe rack, picnic area, year-round temporary restrooms, and an informal event space for programming located on near the southern shore near the existing canoe racks. Oftentimes, volunteers provide movable chairs for additional seating at the beach and event areas that are stored off-site during winter months.

During the warmer months, community members and organizations host a number of family-friendly pop-up events that have included yoga, music, nature art collections, open mic poetry, and plays. Currently, there is no formally designated area for programming or storage, though the south side of the eastern peninsula is often used. Some reported they loved the area as is and were not interested in adding additional amenities to the beach. Others were interested in formalizing or adding additional amenities, which could include a formal event and program area, permanent restroom, changing area, drinking fountain, and/or access to food and drink, such as a

coffee kiosk or food truck. There is also funded park police presence at the beach during specified times and months of the year. The park police presence received mixed reviews during the community engagement; some reported an appreciation while others reported they felt less safe with them there.

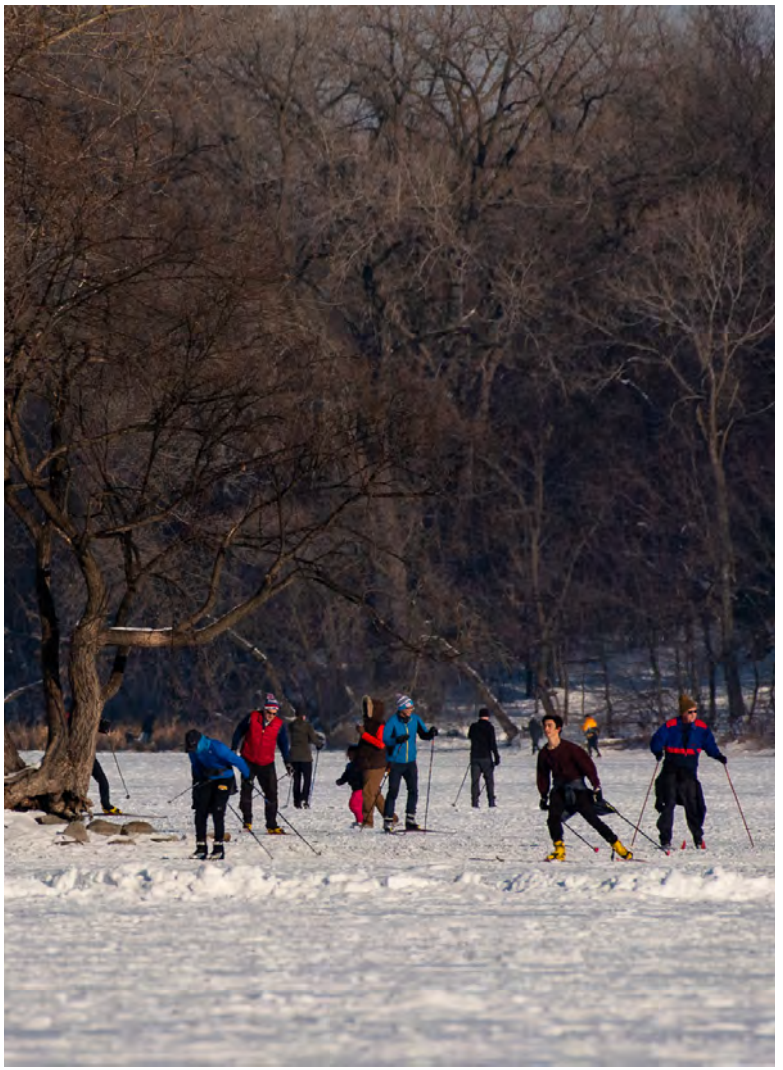
A formal event and concert area has been proposed in the area where existing programming typically takes place. In the interest of maintaining the existing natural feel on-site, design may include natural log or stone amphitheater seating and other light-touch elements. To reduce current conflicts between watercrafts, swimming, and programming, the canoe rack will be relocated to the north side of the beach.

To better accommodate existing and future uses near Cedar Lake East Beach, the plan provides a small, combined permanent restroom and storage facility, with the storage facility helping accommodate on-site programming. Though there was not consensus from the public about whether to add a permanent restroom at this location during the engagement process, the majority of advisory committee members communicated strong interest in providing a permanent restroom within the project area to increase accessibility and sense of welcome for visitors. Based on existing visitorship, uses in the area, and future visitor projections, Cedar Lake East Beach has been identified as the best location for this amenity. MPRB should take special care to utilize natural materials that feel in line with the rugged quality of the area and be sited carefully to avoid disturbing existing trees and vegetation and should also take into account safety and lighting needs during off-park hours. Additionally, design solutions should be considered that provide opportunities for the restroom to be open for as many months as possible throughout the year.

An enhanced welcome entry point has been proposed at the entry of Cedar Lake East Beach to welcome beach goers and provide helpful information to direct users about the trails and promoting stewardship of the natural areas. The plan also proposes signage to delineate trail modes, information about the natural environment, and the history of the site. An enhanced welcome entry point is also planned at the northeast corner of Zone 2 along the Cedar Lake Regional Trail, which will help orient and guide people to the project area from transit, trails, surrounding neighborhoods, and beyond. Design enhancements at this transition may include a water fountain, wayfinding signage or pavement markings, and bike racks.

Events at Cedar Lake East Beach Source: Kenwood Neighborhood Organization

Ad hoc soft surface trail at Northeast Cedar



Winter recreation on Cedar Lake

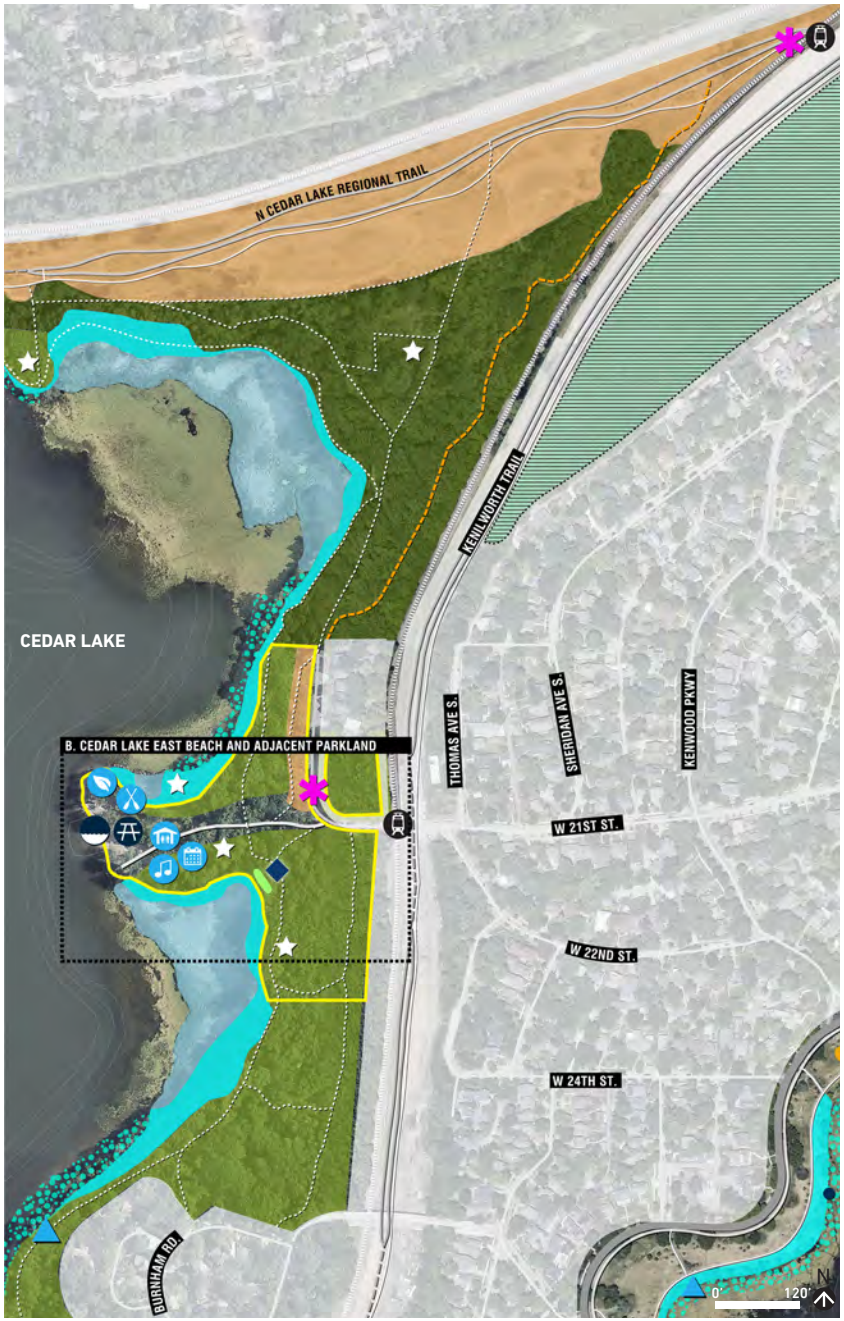
Prairie along Cedar Lake Regional Trail. Source: EOR

Cedar Lake Regional Trail

Forest bicycle connection. Source: Minneapolis Bicycle Alliance

Soft surface trails. Source: Chicago Park District

Figure 5.15: Zone 2 Northeast Cedar Lake



LEGEND

EXISTING

- Community Feature
- DNR School Forest Boundary
- Future LRT Station
- Outfalls Treated in the Plan
- Paved One-Way Bike Trail
- Paved Pedestrian Trail
- Picnic Area
- Beach Water Access
- Portable Restroom

PROPOSED

- Canoe Rack Relocation
- Cottonwood Protection Area
- Enhanced Prairie
- Enhanced Welcome Entry Point
- Expanded Littoral Edge
- Formalized Access Path
- Formalized Concert Area
- Formalized Event Area
- Formalized Water Access
- Improved Shoreline Buffer
- Land Acquisition
- Marsh Restoration
- Mesic Oak Forest Restoration
- Natural Area
- Oak Savanna Restoration
- Permanent Restroom and Storage
- Rain Garden
- Soft Surface Trail
- Two-Way Soft Surface Bicycle Trail

Oak Savanna. Source: Cedar Creek Science Reserve

Formalized event and concert area potential feature. Source: Hearst Connecticut Media

Example of permanent restroom. Source: Jacky Suchail Architects

Cedar Lake East Beach. MPRB

Shoreline restoration in progress. Source: Spring Lake Watershed District

Marsh restoration. Source: MN Board of Water and Soil Resources

LEGEND

EXISTING

- Beach Water Access
- DNR School Forest Boundary
- Future LRT Station
- Lifeguard Stand
- Mud Pit
- Outfalls Treated in the Plan
- Picnic Area
- Railroad Tracks
- Sand Beach Area

PROPOSED

- Formalized Access Path
- Canoe Rack Relocation
- Cottonwood Protection Area
- Enhanced Prairie
- Enhanced Welcome Entry Point
- Expanded Littoral Edge
- Formalized Concert Area
- Formalized Event Area
- Soft Surface Trail
- Gate Improvements
- Improved Shoreline Buffer
- Marsh Restoration
- Mesic Oak Forest Restoration
- Permanent Restroom and Storage
- Rain Garden

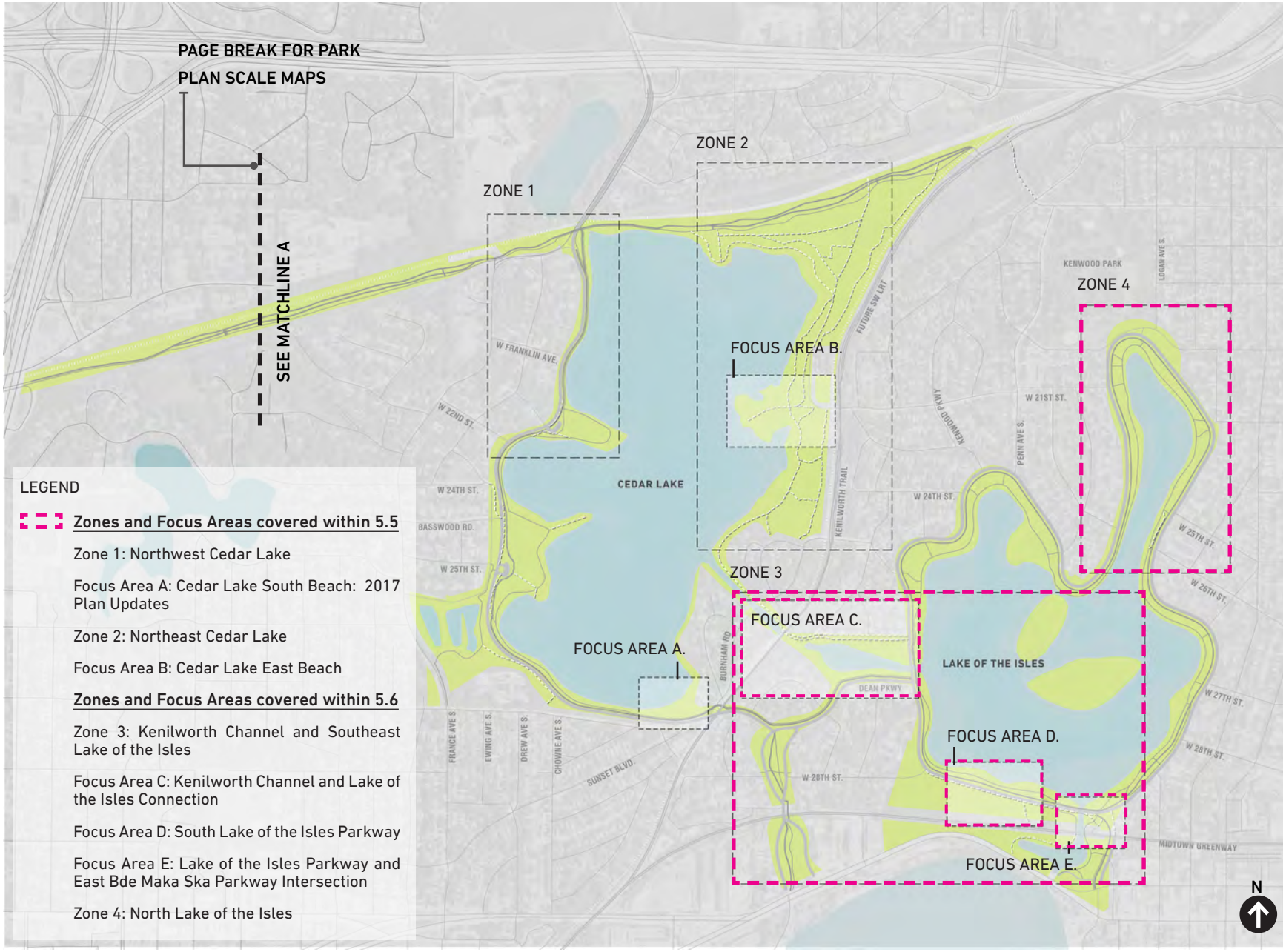
Figure 5.16: Focus Area A Cedar Lake East Beach

5.6 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LAKE OF THE ISLES, KENILWORTH CHANNEL, AND DEAN PARKWAY

OVERVIEW

This section provides a detailed look at improvements planned for Lake of the Isles, the Kenilworth Channel, and Dean Parkway. Improvement projects described within the zones and focus areas include water quality, natural resources, access and circulation, and amenities.

Figure 5.17: Zones and Focus Areas



ZONE 3: KENILWORTH CHANNEL AND SOUTHEAST LAKE OF THE ISLES

FOCUS AREAS C: KENILWORTH CHANNEL AND LAKE OF THE ISLES CONNECTION

D: SOUTH LAKE OF THE ISLES PARKWAY

E: LAKE OF THE ISLES PARKWAY INTERSECTION

Zone 3 includes the Kenilworth Channel from Burnham Road running east to Lake of the Isles, Dean Parkway, the southern portion of Lake of the Isles including the Lake of the Isles Lagoon and the intersection at Lake of the Isles and Bde Maka Ska parkways. Zone 3 has three focus areas: Kenilworth Channel and Lake of the Isles Connection, South Lake of the Isles Parkway, and Lake of the Isles Parkway Intersection.

.WATER QUALITY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Kenilworth Channel

The Kenilworth Channel is a human-made water connection between Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles. The channel is often used to travel between the lakes, primarily by watercraft or skis depending on season, and is surrounded by a variety of land covers. From the Kenilworth Regional Trail east to Lake of the Isles, the channel opens to a lagoon with well-established white water lily plantings, shoreline plants on both sides, some unmanaged forest areas and open lawn to the east of the Kenilworth Trail on the northern side. Tree species within the lawn area include river birch, sugar maple, and white pine. On both sides of the channel, among the lilies and shoreline plants, water access points are often used for fishing or launching watercrafts such as canoes, kayaks, and paddle boards.

The plan retains much of the lawn and shoreline areas, but widely expands the shoreline buffer width on both sides. The existing water access points have also been retained and a water access point primarily used for watercraft on the north side of the lagoon will be formalized.

Dean Parkway

Dean Parkway consists mostly of lawn, trees, paved parkways, and trails, and serves as a connector to the lakes for those traveling from Lake Street or the Midtown Greenway. The lawn at Dean Parkway consists of dozens of species of trees, both native and non-native. A recent volunteer initiative planted young trees to diversify the tree canopy. Dean Parkway also experiences flooding with heavy rains, specifically at the Midtown Greenway entrance.

To address flooding and water runoff from the parkways, tree trenches are proposed along specified portions of the parkways

Aquatic plants in the Kenilworth Lagoon. Source: EOR

along with pollinator planting areas to increase the park's ability to absorb and/or store and slowly release additional water from heavier rainfalls. A rain garden proposed near Lake Street serves as another way to capture stormwater runoff before it enters the lakes. The rain garden and pollinator plantings will also create rest stop points for bees, butterflies, and other pollinators to expand their range and available food sources. The design of these features will be integrated with the existing trees and trails.

South Lake of the Isles

A naturalized shoreline exists along the southern portion of Lake of the Isles. Plantings within the shoreline have grown taller than originally anticipated, both because original plantings and some undesirable plants, like phragmites, are thriving. While this has reduced lake views in some spots, the shoreline plantings have generally worked as anticipated to address short-term flooding issues. A number of birds and other species (such as barn and tree swallows and ring billed gulls) have made their home along these shorelines. Recently, MPRB completed a maintenance plan for the shoreline plants around the lake that aims to improve plant maintenance and in turn, improve viewsheds to the lake. The plan enhances and expands the shoreline buffer and littoral edge, providing additional water runoff filtration and habitat capabilities. These improvements will also address two outfalls, along W Lake of the Isles Parkway near Kenilworth Place and Bde Maka Parkway, that bring stormwater into the park from the larger watershed. During implementation, shorter plants are recommended to allow for increased visibility of the lake from the shore. The shoreline expansion will also address future projected flooding events.

Shoreline plants on the southern shore of Lake of the Isles

Throughout the naturalized shoreline along the south side of Isles, there are a few formal and informal water access spots, including stone steps, a dock near the canoe racks, and eroded informal access spots on the southwest side of the lake. The dock is used for launching watercrafts and as a fishing and casual seating spot. The plan retains the existing stone steps and dock and proposes a formalized water access point near the intersection of W 28th Street and Lake of the Isles parkway to accommodate existing use.

On land, some of the existing lawn areas along the trails will be converted to pollinator plantings and a rain garden to provide refuge to species such as the monarch butterfly and American bumble bee. The paved bump outs along the parking bays will become ornamental plantings and near Bde Maka Ska Parkway, the existing ornamental garden area, currently managed by volunteers, will expand next to a new lawn area.

There are two low-lying areas with marsh-like conditions, one directly south and east of the athletic fields and one between the dog park and lagoon. Marsh restoration has been proposed at both locations. To address stormwater runoff amidst minimal green space between Lake of the Isles Parkway and the lake, three underground parkway treatment areas are proposed near Kenilworth Place, 28th Street, and the dog park. Additionally, tree trenches are proposed near the athletic fields and dog park adjacent to the parkway.

CIRCULATION AND ACCESS

Kenilworth Channel

Though the Kenilworth Channel provides a connection for watercrafts between Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles, there is currently no formal walking and/or biking trail(s) along the Kenilworth Channel. However, there are informal connections via ad hoc trails that have been created along portions of the channel through community use. One connection exists from Burnham Road and runs west to Cedar Lake, and ultimately north to Cedar Lake East Beach. The connection currently travels through a privately-owned parcel, adjacent to Burnham Road on the northwest side. The privately-owned land is designed for informal public use, supporting current access along the north side of the channel. Another connection exists from the intersection at Kenilworth Place and Upton Avenue and runs west up to the Kenilworth Trail. Most users access this currently eroded, gravel path by foot, although some bicyclists also use the existing connection. CAC and community feedback communicated a desire for members of the public to access both Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles from the channel and the Kenilworth Regional Trail.

The plan adds a formal soft surface trail between Lake of the Isles and Cedar Lake, which would travel west along the channel, under the new light rail bridge, up to a crossing at Burnham Road, and again along the channel until it reaches the mouth of Cedar Lake. A small parcel of land will need to be acquired to complete this trail (See Boundary and Acquisition in Chapter 6). It's possible that a boardwalk or some other solution may be necessary to connect a portion of the trail underneath the new light rail bridge. Additional study will need to be completed at time of implementation to identify the best solution. In order to provide a more direct connection from the Kenilworth Regional Trail to Lake of the Isles, a shared, paved bicycle and pedestrian trail will be built between the Kenilworth Regional Trail and Kenilworth Place, connecting to the new soft surface trail and bicycle boulevard. MPRB will work with the city on

Watercraft traveling along the Kenilworth Channel

installation of the bicycle boulevard on Kenilworth Place as well as a new enhanced intersection at Kenilworth Place and Lake of the Isles Parkway.

Dean Parkway

Dean Parkway serves as a connector between Bde Maka Ska, Cedar Lake, and Lake of the Isles with two-way vehicle access and two-way walking and biking trails along its entire stretch. The northern portion of Dean Parkway between Cedar Lake Parkway and Lake of the Isles Parkway is an area where the bicycle and walking trails are adjacent to one another and none of the trails meet typical MPRB trail widths. The area of Dean Parkway that runs from Cedar Lake Parkway south to Lake Street has separated walking and trails through the entire length.

The plan proposes maintaining the parkway and trail network mostly as is in this area, but does recommend widening the trails along the northern section between Cedar Lake Parkway and Lake of the Isles Parkway, where possible, while also retaining all trees. Enhanced

intersection improvements are also proposed at major connection points to support moving to and through the park.

South Lake of the Isles

There are several community-created ad hoc trails within Zone 3. One of the most prominent ones is an eroded path adjacent to the south side of Lake of the Isles Parkway that connects the multi-use fields to the dog park and ultimately to the bridge over the Bde Maka Ska Lagoon. Ad hoc trails also connect from the dog park entrance through the forest to the east, creating a full connection around the west side of the Lagoon, exiting at W Lake Street. To better support and formalize these existing circulation patterns, a sidewalk will be added to the south side of Lake of the Isles Parkway, as well as a new soft surface trail connecting the Midtown Greenway to the dog park, and the existing partially paved trail that travels around the Lagoon will be completely paved. "Green" bump outs proposed near the dog park will slow vehicular traffic and provide additional ornamental planting space. A new enhanced crossing and paved connection down to the pedestrian trail near the dog park will provide a safer connection between the park areas on either side of the road. In addition to new pedestrian connections, a new on-street bike lane will travel in the opposite direction of the off-street bike trail around all of Lake of the Isles.

A significant redesign is proposed for the intersection of Bde Maka Ska Parkway and Lake of the Isles Parkway, including the bike and pedestrian ramps to the Midtown Greenway. At the intersection, the current design includes separated traffic lanes traveling north to Lake of the Isles Parkway and south to Bde Maka Ska Parkway. A large, planted boulevard separates the lanes on Bde Maka Ska Parkway. This configuration creates safety issues as it adds conflict points for pedestrians and bicyclists to navigate, depending on which trail they are walking towards, and gives vehicular traffic the perception that there is not a need to make a full stop onto Lake of the Isles Parkway. The bicycle and pedestrian trails at this location can also feel confusing, as there are currently separate bicycle and pedestrian trails that connect from Lake of the Isles Parkway to the Midtown Greenway, and connect south towards the Lagoon and Bde Maka Ska Parkway. There are also several community-created ad hoc trails connecting to paved trails and amenities at this location, such as the kiosk and restroom.

Ad hoc trail to be formalized that runs adjacent to the dog park and multi-use fields

To slow vehicular traffic and create safer crossings, a "T" intersection and enhanced intersection improvements are proposed for Lake of the Isles Parkway and Bde Maka Ska Parkway, creating one very visible crossing for pedestrian and bicyclists. Additionally, the plan separates bicycle and pedestrian traffic on the ramp to the Midtown Greenway and along adjacent sidewalks to provide a safer pedestrian experience. It also modifies the bicycle trail and adds pedestrian trail options to create direct connections and reduce the need to cross through the grass.

PROGRAM AND AMENITIES

Kenilworth Channel

The Kenilworth Channel is primarily a connector between Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles via watercraft or skis. This area is also used for picnicking and accessing the water for fishing or boating. No additional amenities are proposed.

Dean Parkway

Dean Parkway is used primarily as a connection for different transportation modes. To support this, welcome entry points have been added where Dean Parkway connects to Lake of the Isles Parkway, Cedar Lake Parkway, and the Midtown Greenway. These locations are major entry points for visitors, whether they are walking, bicycling, rolling, or driving and provide opportunities for wayfinding, interpretation, and moments of pause and education. Design solutions may include interpretive signage focused on the historic elements of this portion of the project area, wayfinding signage, or improved ornamental planting. The park also has wide swaths of lawn areas utilized by neighbors for community events. There is interest in continuing to use the lawn areas in this way. Even with the additional tree trenches, pollinator plantings, and rain garden proposed in the plan, the parkway retains large areas of lawn for gathering and formal events.

South Lake of the Isles

The southern portion of Lake of the Isles has some of the most actively used parkland around the lake. This includes the multi-use fields to the west, programmed through MPRB and community partners; the dog park that has frequent year-round use; and the Lake of the Isles and Bde Maka Ska Parkway intersection which supports bicycle, pedestrian, and vehicle traffic.

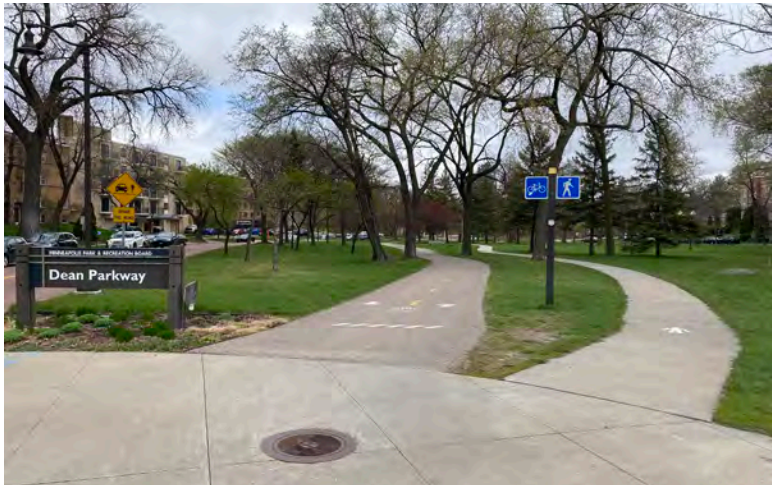
The plan retains and supports these existing uses with strategic amenities and modifications. A temporary restroom will be added near the multi-use fields. The exact location will take all possible care to not interfere with existing Lake of the Isles views while still providing clear access. There will also be a new picnic area between the multi-use fields and dog park to accommodate visitors that frequent this location. At Lake of the Isles Parkway and Bde Maka Ska Parkway, the temporary restroom will be relocated to better accommodate the updated trail network.

A welcome entry point near the intersection of Lake of the Isles and Bde Maka Ska Parkway will support the hub of activity. Design solutions may include interpretive signage focused on the historic elements of this portion of the project area, wayfinding signage, or improved ornamental planting.

Dog park at Lake of the Isles in winter

Example of on-street painted bicycle path. Source: Stantec Consulting Services

Multi-use athletic fields at Lake of the Isles



Dean Parkway separated bike and pedestrian trails

Lake of the Isles shoreline

LEGEND


EXISTING
Multi-Use Fields
Canoe Rack
Dock
Dog Park
Dog Park Boundary
Future Light Rail Station
Kiosk
Outfall Locations
Outfalls Treated in the Plan
Paved One-Way Bike Trail
Parkway
Paved Pedestrian Trail
Portable Restroom
Paved Two-Way Bike Trail
Water Access: Stone Steps
PROPOSED
Enhanced Welcome Entry Point
Expanded Littoral Edge
Formalized Water Access
Improved Shoreline Buffer
Enhanced Intersection Improvements
Land Acquisition
Marsh Restoration
Mesic Oak Forest Restoration
Natural Area
On-Street Bike Boulevard (Two-Way)
One-Way On-Street Bicycle Lane (arrow indicates direction of travel)
Parkway Reconfiguration
Paved Pedestrian Trail
Paved Two-Way Bike and Pedestrian Trail
Picnic Area
Prairie/Pollinator Planting
Rain Garden
Soft Surface Trail
Portable Restroom
Tree Trench
Underground Parkway Stormwater Treatment

Figure 5.18: Zone 3: Kenilworth Channel and Southeast Lake of the Isles

Enhanced Intersection improvements. Source: Weatherford Department of Public Works

On-street bike boulevard. Source: Milwaukee Department of Public Works

Informal water access

Soft surface trail. Source: Whidbey Camano Land Trust, Adam Schmuki

LEGEND

EXISTING

- Outfall Locations
- Outfalls Treated in the Plan
- Parkway
- Paved One-Way Bike Trail
- Paved Pedestrian Trail
- Paved Two-Way Bike Trail
- Water Access: Stone Steps

PROPOSED

- Enhanced Intersection Improvements
- Expanded Littoral Edge
- Enhanced Welcome Entry Point
- Formalized Water Access
- Improved Shoreline Buffer
- Land Acquisition
- Mesic Oak Forest Restoration
- On-Street Bike Boulevard (Two-Way)
- One-Way On-Street Bicycle Lane (arrow indicates direction of travel)
- Paved Two-Way Bike and Pedestrian Trail
- Prairie/Pollinator Planting
- Rain Garden
- Soft Surface Trail
- Underground Parkway Stormwater Treatment

Figure 5.19: Focus Area C: Kenilworth Channel And Lake Of The Isles Connection

Projects implemented north of the Midtown Greenway within or adjacent to **Focus Area D: South Lake of the Isles Parkway** will need consultation from the Tribal Historic Preservation Officers

Picnic area. Source: Forma6

Lake of the Isles dog park

Green Bump-Outs. Source: National Association of City Transportation Officials

Dock and canoe rack

LEGEND

EXISTING

- Canoe Rack
- Dock
- Dog Park
- Dog Park Boundary
- Outfalls Treated in the Plan
- Paved One-Way Bike Trail
- Parkway
- Paved Pedestrian Trail
- Water Access: Stone Steps

PROPOSED

- Enhanced Intersection Improvements
- Green Bump Outs
- Improved Shoreline Buffer
- Expanded Littoral Edge
- Marsh Restoration
- Mesic Oak Forest Restoration
- One-Way On-Street Bicycle Lane (arrow indicates direction of travel)
- Paved Pedestrian Trail
- Picnic Area
- Prairie/Pollinator Planting
- Rain Garden
- Soft Surface Trail
- Tree Trench
- Underground Parkway Stormwater Treatment

Figure 5.20: Focus Area D: South Lake of the Isles Parkway

Kiosk at Lake of the Isles

Lake of the Isles shoreline

Lake of the Isles Parkway intersection

Pedestrian trail over bridge at Lake of the Isles

LEGEND

EXISTING

- Kiosk
- Paved One-Way Bike Trail
- Parkway
- Paved Pedestrian Trail
- Paved Two- Way Bike Trail

PROPOSED

- Enhanced Intersection Improvements
- Enhanced Welcome Entry Point
- Expanded Littoral Edge
- Expanded Garden Bed
- Improved Shoreline Buffer
- Lawn
- Marsh Restoration
- One-Way On-Street Bicycle Lane (arrow indicates direction of travel)
- Parkway Realignment
- Paved Pedestrian Trail
- Portable Restroom
- Prairie/ Pollinator Planting
- Paved Two-Way Bike Trail
- Stop Sign

*A stop sign has been included at the mid-block crossing to communicate right-of-way, however, final trail crossing signage should be determined during project implementation

Figure 5.21: Focus Area E: Lake Of the Isles Parkway Intersection

ZONE 4: NORTH LAKE OF THE ISLES

Zone 4 is the northern arm of Lake of the Isles, including the intersection of Franklin Avenue and Lake of the Isles Parkway on the north to the intersections of Newton Avenue South and Euclid Place with Lake of the Isles Parkway on the southern end.

WATER QUALITY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The shoreline of Zone 4 has a narrow strip of naturalized plantings that are relatively high in quality. The shoreline plantings were added in the 2000s to help address flooding issues, along with infill to level portions of turf around the lake and trails. Over the last few years, portions of the trails in this area are again experiencing flooding during high rainfall events. MPRB received feedback to address flooding to both improve the trails and to ensure that the shoreline ecosystem thrives. Aquatic species observed in this area include Lady's Thumb, Eurasian watermilfoil (non-native), and American White Water-lily. Rice and canary grasses cover some areas near the shoreline. Volunteers help to manage much of the shoreline around Isles, which includes trash pick-up and removal of invasive species.

The plan proposes maintaining and expanding the already well-established shoreline buffer and littoral edge, helping to address future flooding and add additional habitat areas. Since this area of shoreline has fairly high-quality plant species established, it can serve as a precedent for other areas with less established shoreline communities throughout the project area. The northern arm also contains informal water access spots that have created erosion near the shoreline, and three sets of stone steps. A formalized water access spot is proposed at the intersection of W 21st Street and Lake of the Isles Parkway, providing improved access to the shoreline, and all stone steps have been retained. All other informal access spots will be removed and restored to habitat.

A majority of green space in Zone 4 is lawn, or turf grass, which is used for informal activities including picnicking. Tree species include green ash, hackberry, sandbar willow, and others. Large portions of the lawn have depressions that collect water during heavy rain events. These depressions are a byproduct of previous improvements that avoided infilling within a specified radius of established trees to avoid root damage. Rain gardens will take advantage of these existing basins, capturing and filtering stormwater, reserving surrounding turf for gathering and recreational uses. Where there are no existing depressions, rain gardens are strategically placed in areas less commonly used for gathering and recreation and where they will best be able to collect runoff from the parkway. Proposed pollinator plantings work in tandem with the rain gardens to provide habitat and add visual interest. These plantings also serve as opportunities for interpretation and engagement and are placed around the rain gardens, expanding habitat opportunities. Tree trenches are proposed in a narrow strip of land near W 26th Street and an underground stormwater treatment is proposed near the Oliver Place S., capturing stormwater from the adjacent parkway.

Depressions in the lawn

CIRCULATION AND ACCESS

Franklin Avenue is a major entry point for vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians to access Lake of the Isles Parkway and Lake of the Isles Park. There is currently no formal crossing across Franklin Avenue or Lake of the Isles Parkway for pedestrians or bicyclists arriving from the neighborhood, Logan Avenue, or Kenwood Park. Early design concepts proposed ideas such as closing portions of the parkway or reconfiguring the parkway and Franklin Avenue to increase habitat and provide safe connections for people walking and bicycling. The parkway reconfigurations were supported by some members of the public but due to concerns about the impact to traffic and parking from neighbors and some CAC members, these ideas didn't make it into the final plan. To improve safety and access, enhanced intersection improvements are proposed for crossing Franklin Avenue and Lake of the Isles Parkway, at the parkway entrance off of Franklin Avenue. An additional intersection enhancement is identified for W 21st Street, another frequently used crossing for park visitors accessing parkland.

Lake of the Isles includes a well-used pedestrian trail and one-way bicycle trail that circles the entire lake. The plan adds an on-street bicycle lane that would go in the same direction as the one-way vehicle traffic and would travel counter to the existing off-street bicycle trail.

Currently, the seasonal warming house is placed on top of the pedestrian trail in the winter and spring, forcing people walking around the structure and leave the paved trail, walking through the snow, mud, or grass. The plan redirects the pedestrian trail around the structure, fixing an accessibility issue and avoiding user conflicts.

PROGRAM AND AMENITIES

The northern arm of Lake of the Isles is primarily used for informal activities, such as picnicking, fishing, launching a watercraft, walking, bicycling, or driving around the lake. Two enhanced welcome entry points are proposed in Zone 4, one at the intersection of Franklin Avenue and Lake of the Isles Parkway and one at the intersection of Euclid Place and Lake of the Isles Parkway. These locations may include amenities to welcome and guide new and existing park users including bike racks, seating, water fountains, interpretation, and/or wayfinding. Additionally, the existing informational kiosk will be relocated from near W 21st Street to the parkway entrance off Franklin Avenue to serve a higher volume of visitors accessing the park. In this new location, the kiosk can be incorporated as part of the new enhanced welcome entry.

A seasonal warming house and restrooms, supporting winter activities, are also located within Zone 4. Initial concepts proposed a permanent warming house and restroom at this location to create a year-round destination. This idea was well-received by some in the community but many were strongly opposed to adding new structures of any sort to Lake of the Isles. Based on CAC discussion and feedback from community engagement, the plan maintains a seasonal warming house with improvements that could include a temporary or permanent deck structure for gathering. The plan upgrades the exterior style of the warming house to fit better with the unique, natural character of Lake of the Isles. Further detailed design decisions will be determined during design and construction.

The plan proposes one more portable restroom near W 25th Street. This restroom was added based on feedback during the 45 public comment and assessing how far a park visitor may need to travel to find a restroom.

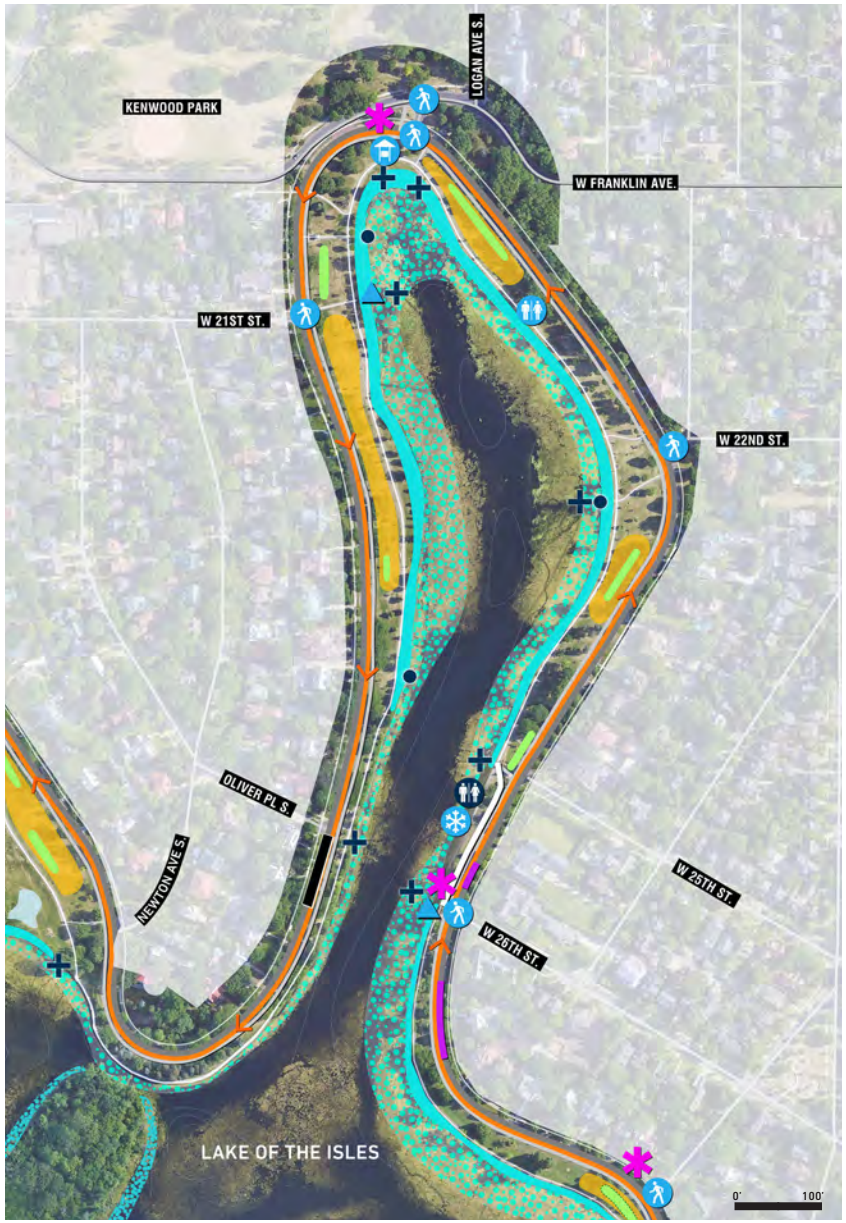
Example of an upgraded temporary warming house. Source: KES Group

Prairie/pollinator planting areas. Source: Phyto Studio

Example of enhanced welcome entry point. Source: MTWTF

Stone steps

Figure 5.22: Zone 4: North Lake of the Isles



LEGEND

EXISTING

- Outfall Locations
- Paved One-Way Bike Trail
- Parkway
- Paved Pedestrian Trail
- Portable Restroom
- Water Access: Stone Steps

PROPOSED

- Enhanced Intersection Improvements
- Enhanced Welcome Entry Point
- Expanded Littoral Edge
- Formalized Water Access
- Improved Shoreline Buffer
- Kiosk Relocation
- Marsh Restoration
- One-Way On-Street Bicycle Lane (arrow indicates direction of travel)
- Paved Pedestrian Trail
- Portable Restroom
- Prairie/Pollinator Planting
- Rain Garden
- Tree Trench
- Underground Parkway Stormwater Treatment
- Upgraded Temporary Warming House