



# Lake Monona Waterfront Master Plan Presentation

**MADISON  
PARKS  
SASAKI**

Transportation Commission  
January 31, 2024



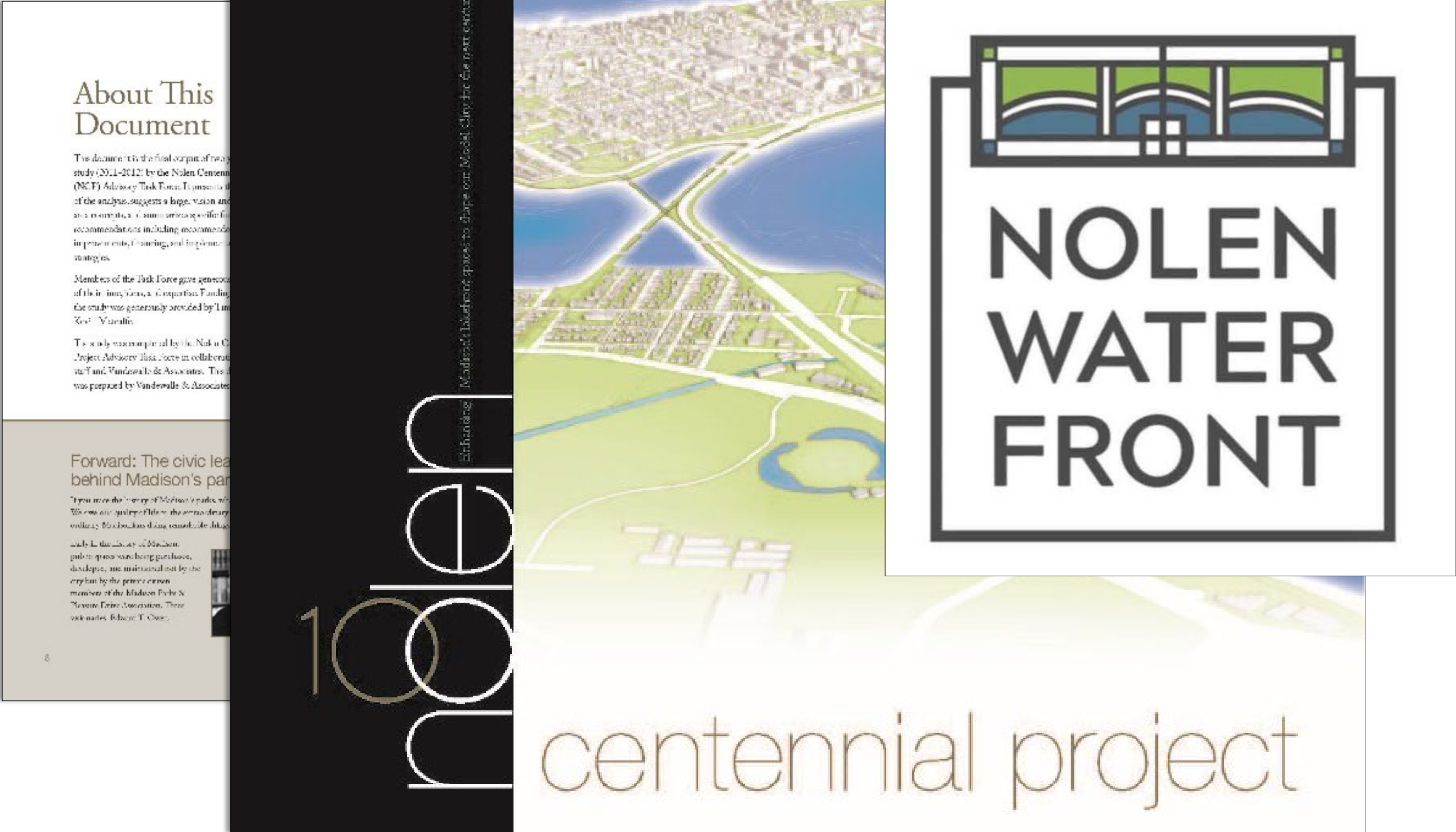
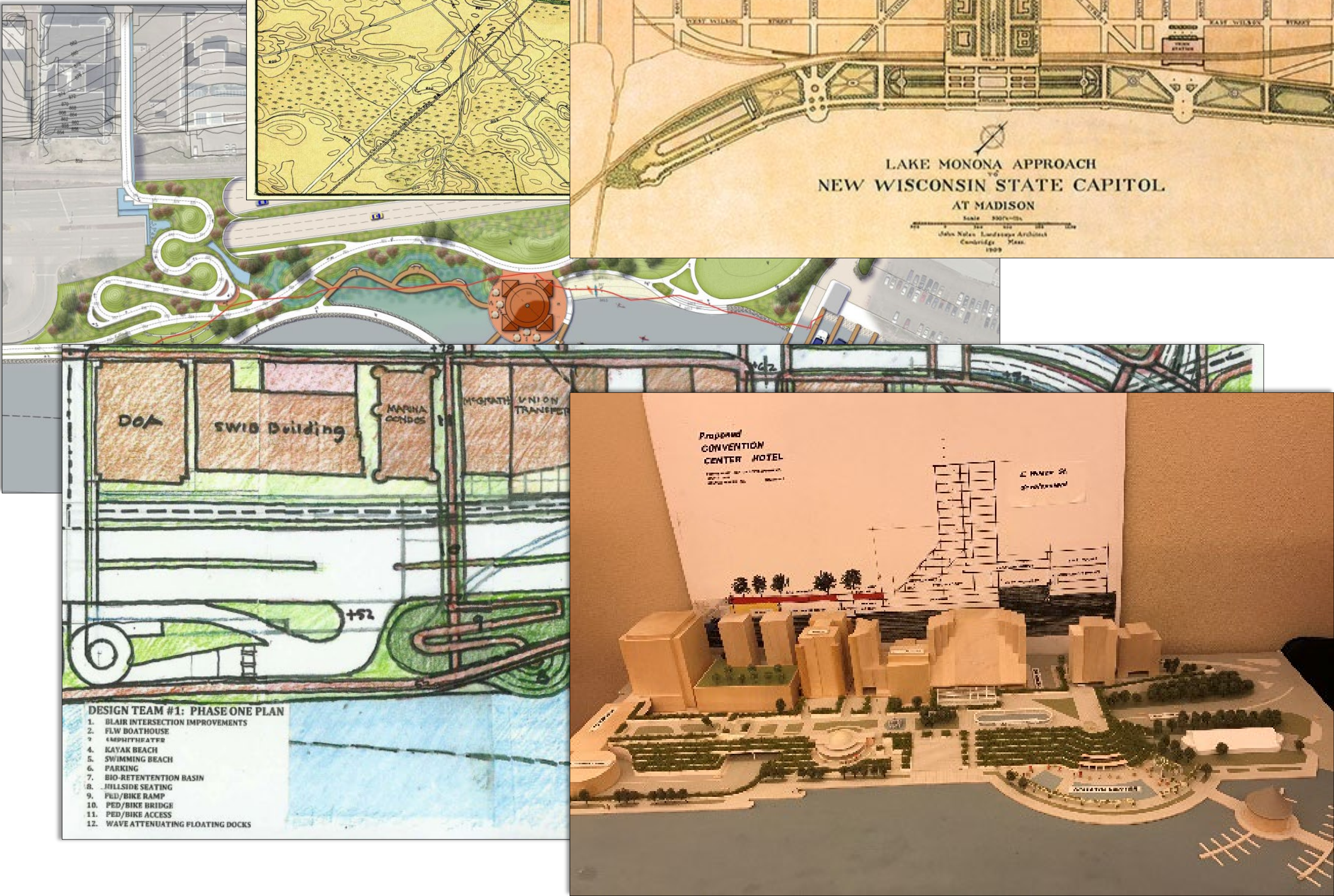
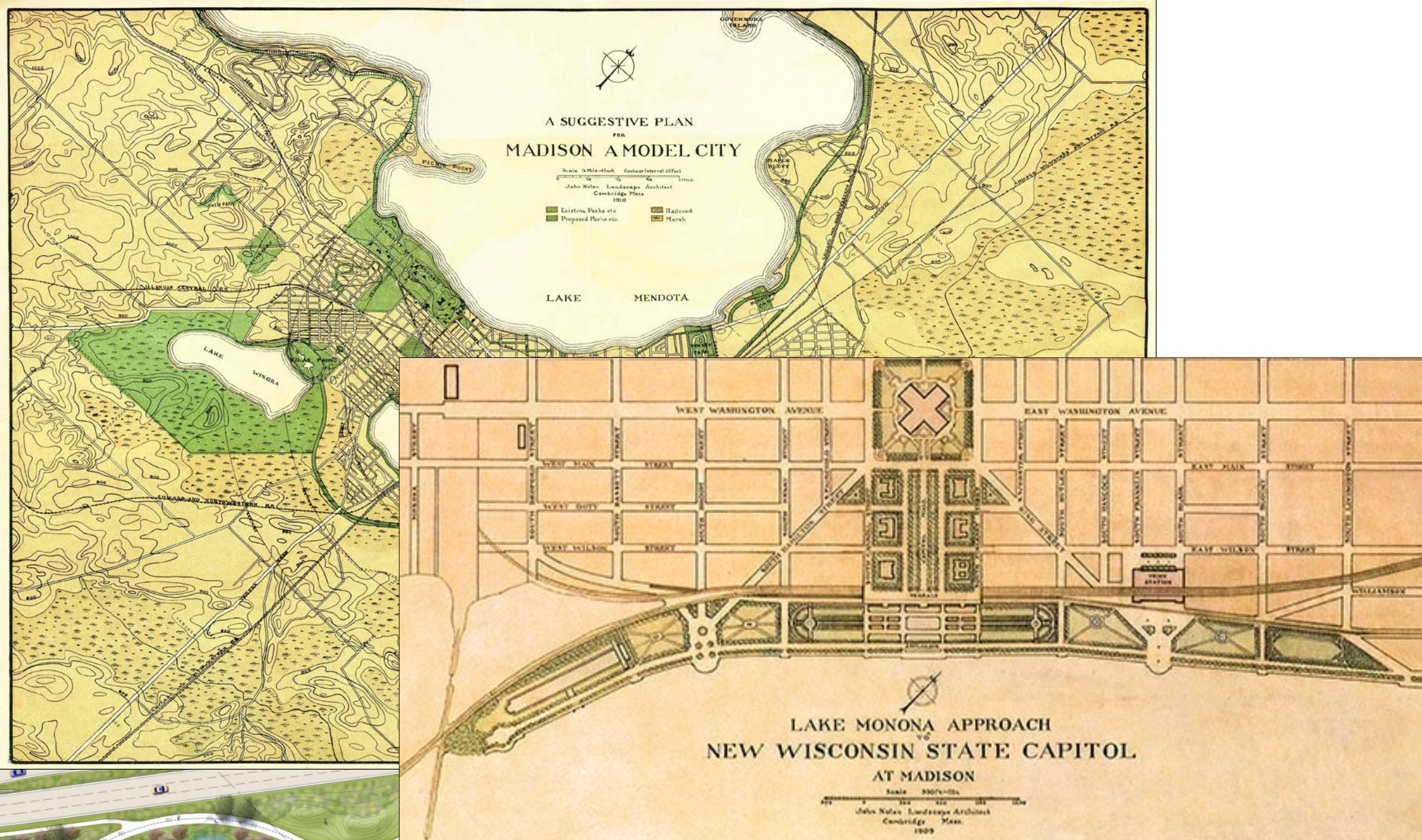


**A once-in-a-generation  
opportunity to shape  
the future of Madison's  
urban waterfront.**





# Master Plan – Prior Plans and Advocacy



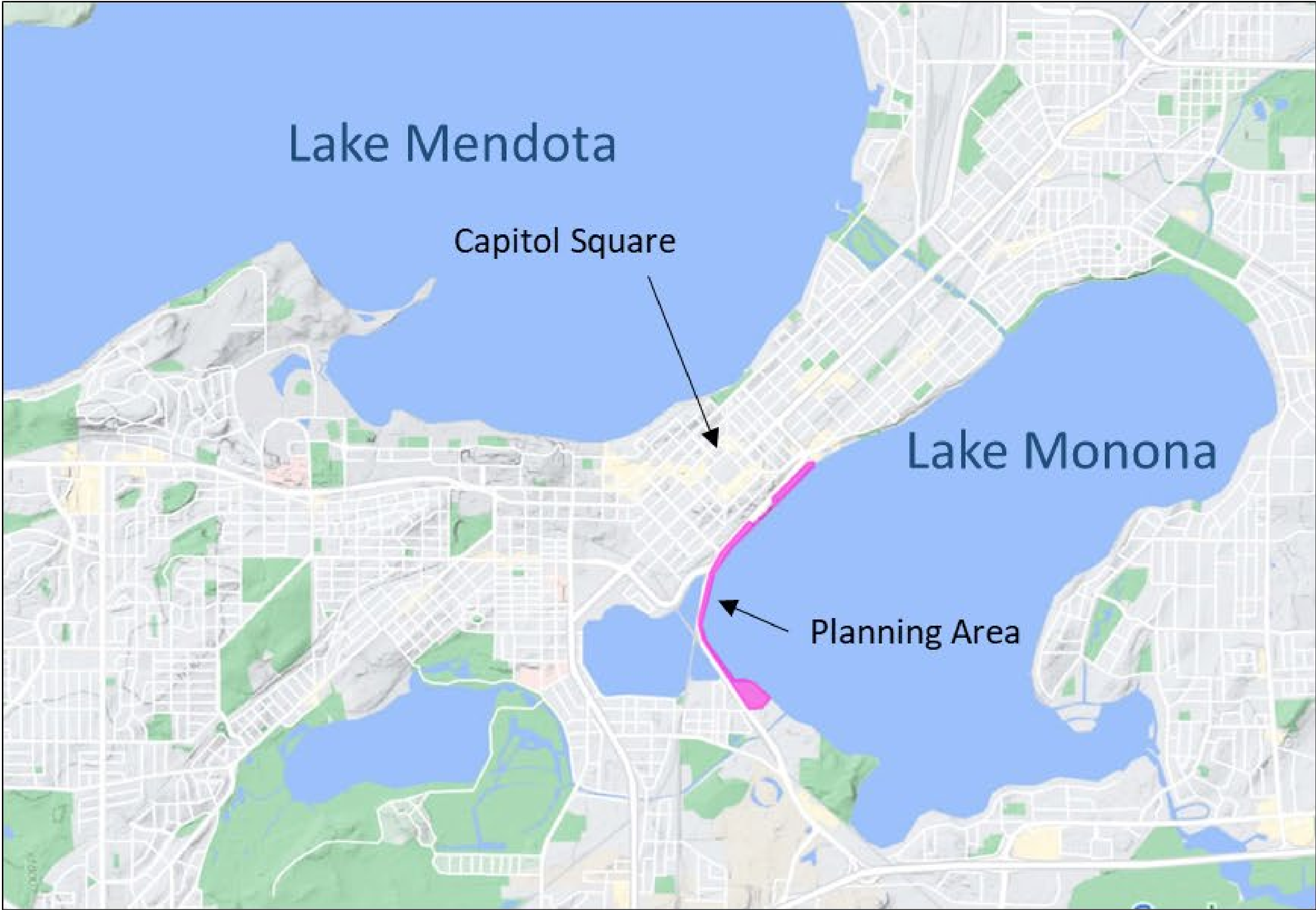


# Master Plan – Definition

- **Are dynamic long-term planning documents that provide a framework for future site development and improvements.**
- **Embody community goals for the planning area and establish the spatial layout of desired amenities.**
- **Are conceptual in nature. The identified improvements and amenities require further design development and public and regulatory review prior to implementation.**



# Lake Monona Waterfront – Planning Area





# Lake Monona Waterfront – Planning Area





# Overall Plan Development



2019 – Common Council authorizes development of a pre-design Preliminary Report for the planning area

2021 – Preliminary Report Completed

2022 – Common Council authorizes formation of Lake Monona Waterfront Ad-hoc Committee and holding a master plan design competition

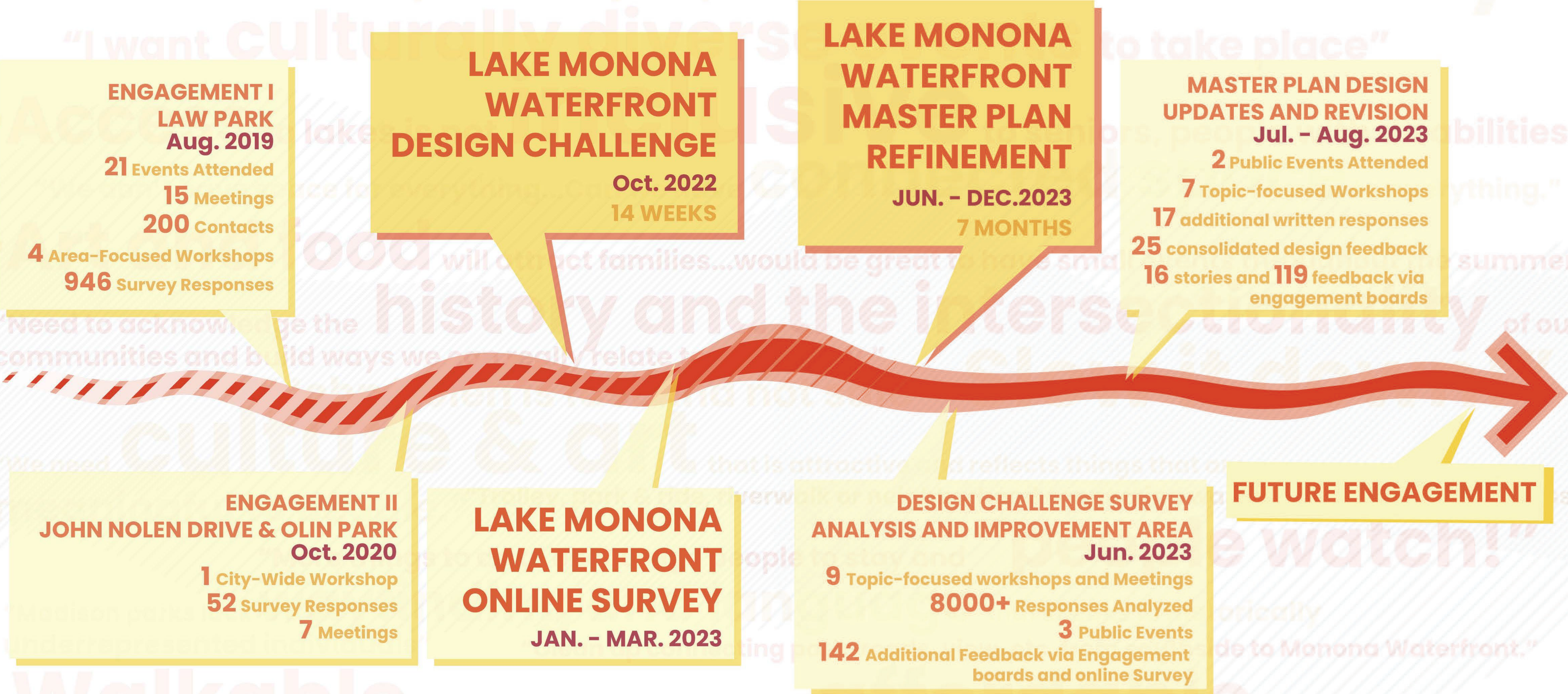
2022 to 2023 – Madison Parks holds the Lake Monona Waterfront Design Challenge

2023 – The Ad-hoc Committee selects the Sasaki Team to proceed with Master Plan refinement

2023 – The Ad-hoc Committee unanimously approves the draft Master Plan for introduction to the Common Council

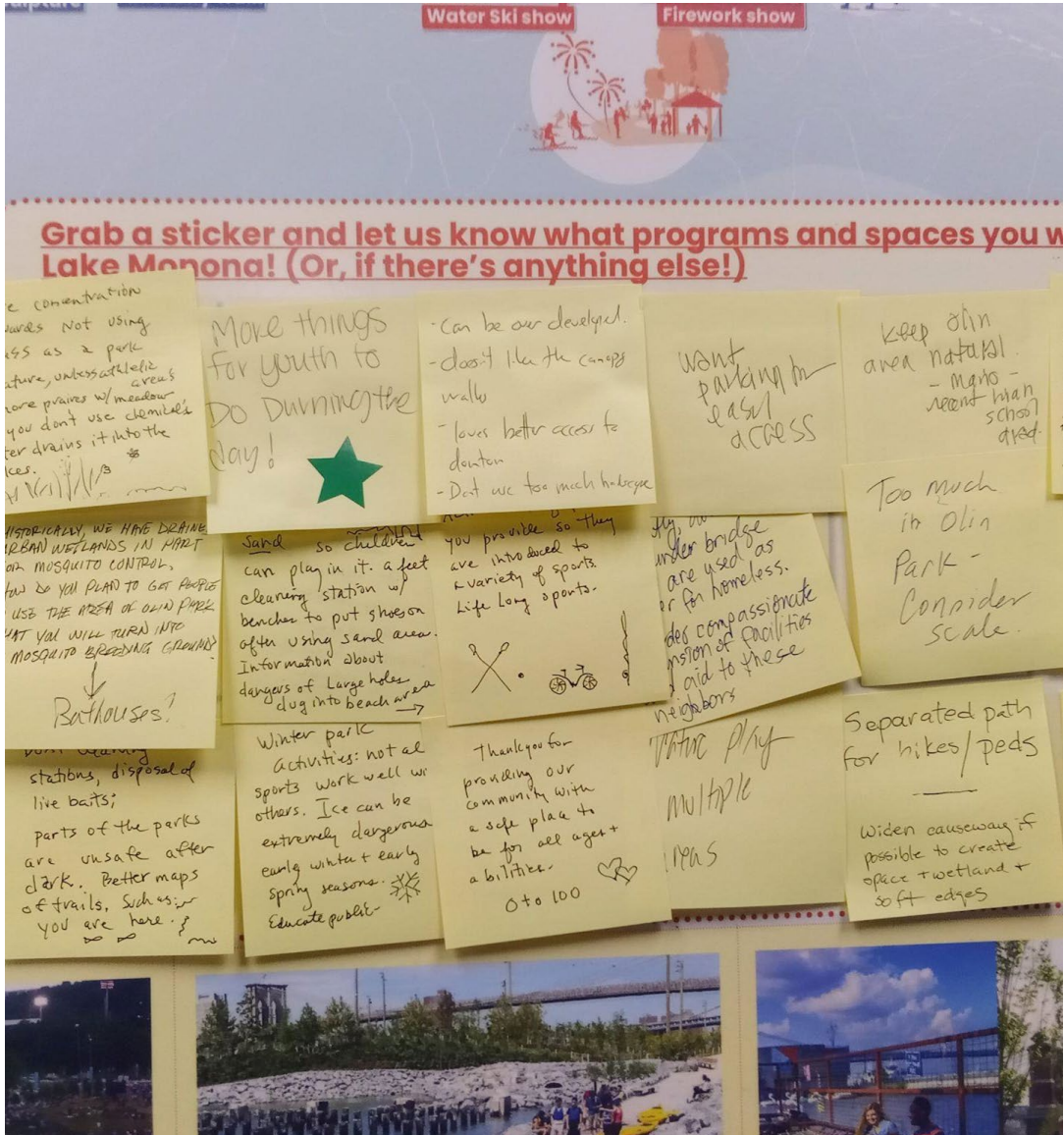


# Community Engagement





# Engagement Methods



**What are your top 3 areas we should study further?**  
Cuales son tus tres areas principales que necesitan ser estudiadas?  
Koj qhov kev tsom xam peb sab saum toj yog dab tsi?

Area	Study Area	Priority
A	Interpretive and Beach Configuration Study	High
B	Amphitheatre Accessibility Study	High
C	Overlook Accessibility Study	High
D+E	Walking Fishing Pier	High
F	Crossing Study at S. Hamilton St.	High
G	At-grade Connection at S. Hamilton St.	High
H	Overlook Design	High
I	Extended Deck and Fishing Pier Study	High
J	Water Quality and Stormwater Impact Study	High
K	Kayak Dock and Beach Accessibility Study	High
L	Gate Park All-grade Path Study	High

Platforms and Fishing Pier

Amphitheatre and Winter Lake Access

Kayak Launches and Boat Docking

Lakeside Gathering Place

Lawn and Food Truck

Nature Playground and Outdoor classroom

Wetland, Fish Habitat and Boardwalk

Overlook and Canopy Walk

Arts and Story Walk

Gateway Underpass Corridor

Accessible Trails Separated by Speed

Cafes and Small Restaurants

**CHANCE OF MINOR OR CHANGING LENDING SCHEMATIC COLLECTION TO #23 (TOWN WATER SCHEMATIC)**

**PRIORITIZE LOCAL ART**

**2D ART CONSIDERATIONS**

**URBAN LEARNING (MORE PUBLIC IN REACTIVE ART)**

**PLAN REPRESENTATION OPTION A**

The Low Park Ledge design takes advantage of the air and water, creating a park on structure over the roadway and railway, significantly enhancing connectivity and accessibility between East Wilson Street and the Lake Monona Waterfront, creating the opportunity for more open spaces for public use. The design aims to establish an inviting and vibrant waterfront, complete with diverse programs like a waterplay area, an amphitheater, an adventure playground, and a beach area to provide several unique engagement opportunities for the entire community.



# Engagement Methods



# Lake Monona Waterfront Ad-hoc Committee

## Committee Members

- 7 – Community Representatives
- 1 – Member of the Board of Park Commissioners
- 1 – Professional Civil/Structural Engineer
- 1 – Member of the Madison Parks Foundation
- 1 – Member of the Monona Terrace Board
- 1 – Member of the Friends of Nolen Waterfront
- 1 – Member of the Board of Public Works

\*One of the above also a Professional Landscape Architect

**19 months + Over 40 meetings**



# Lake Monona Waterfront Design Team



Multi-disciplinary design team that includes local consultant support

Selected by the Ad-hoc Committee through the Design Challenge process

The Design Challenge was a 14-week design competition held by the City

Sasaki provided regional, national and international expertise to the master plan development process



city

community

lake





# Voices of the Lake Monona's Waterfront

## Guiding Principles



Water Dialogue  
**Create a Living  
Edge along  
Lake Monona's  
Shoreline**



Nature Dialogue  
**Inspire  
Generational  
Stewards**



City Dialogue  
**A Place for All  
to Connect &  
Be Connected**



Community Dialogue  
**Enhance Equitable  
Access to Parks**



Culture Dialogue  
**Starting with  
the Sacred  
Voices**

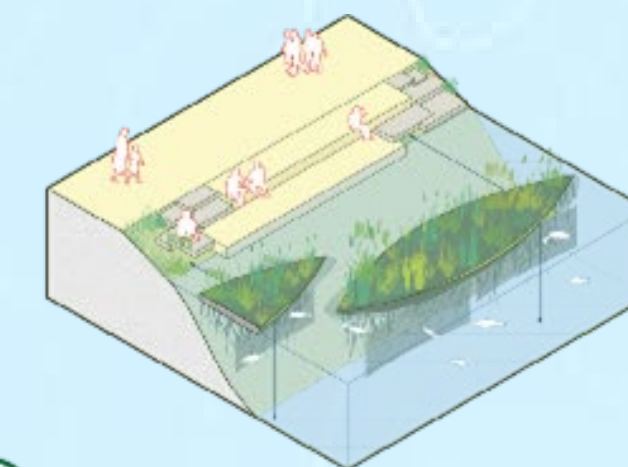
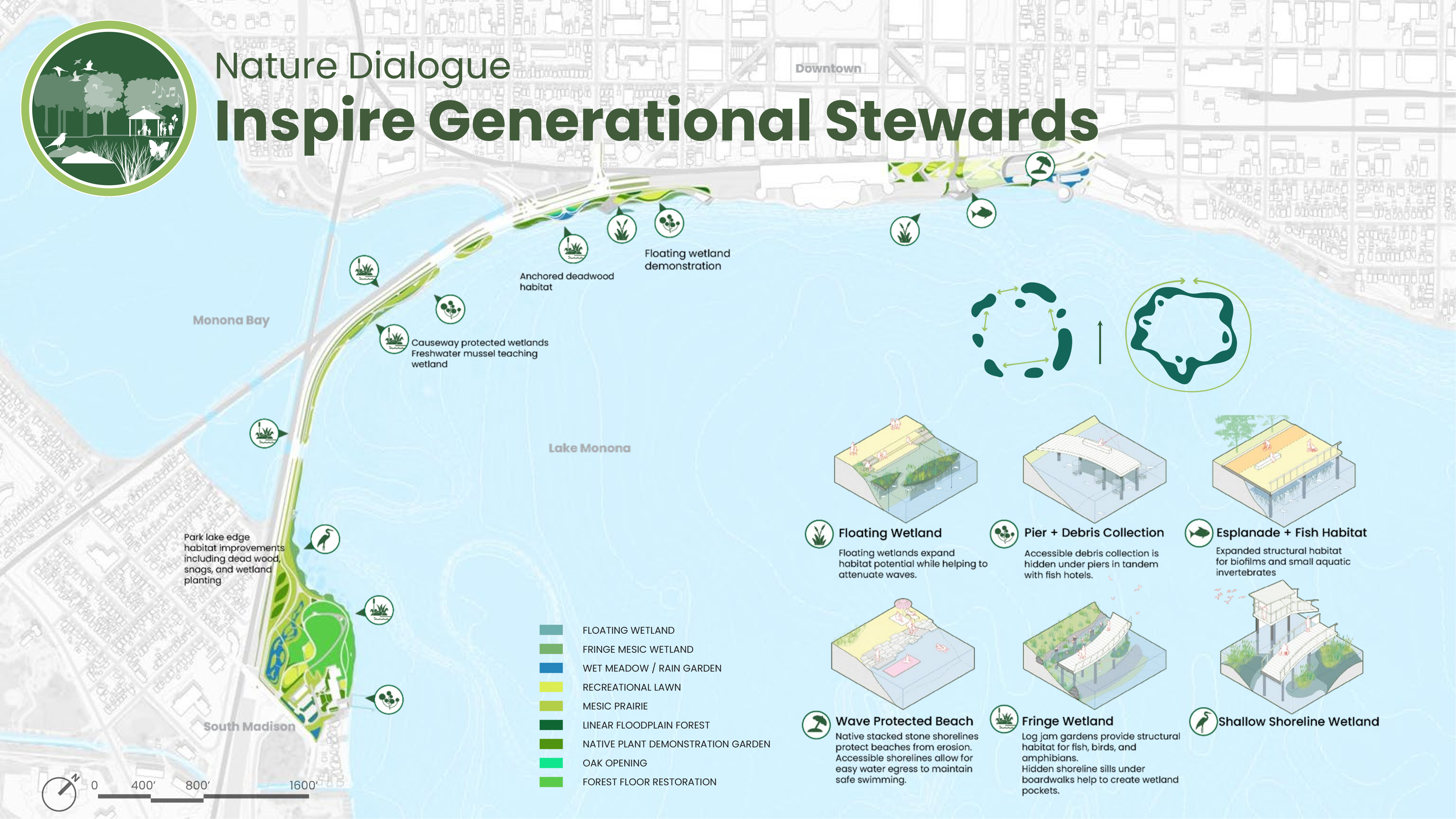


Architecture Dialogue  
**A Balanced  
Perspective**



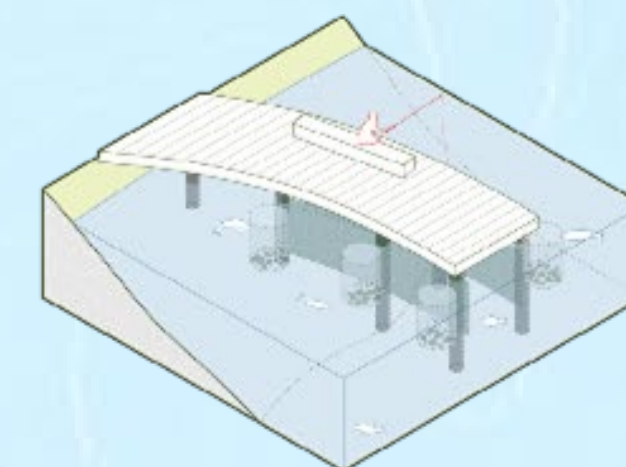


# Nature Dialogue Inspire Generational Stewards



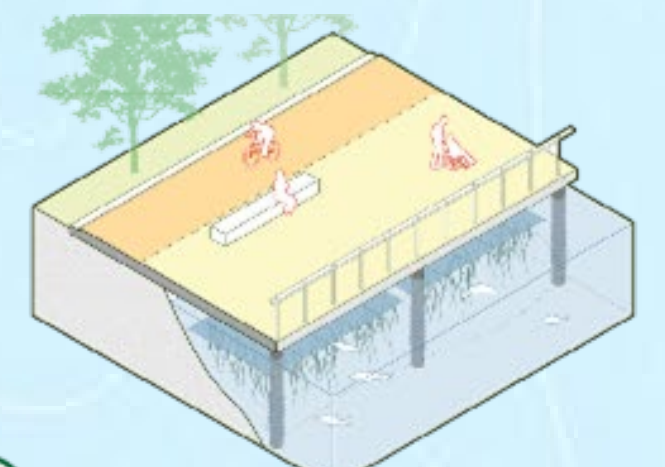
## Floating Wetland

Floating wetlands expand habitat potential while helping to attenuate waves.



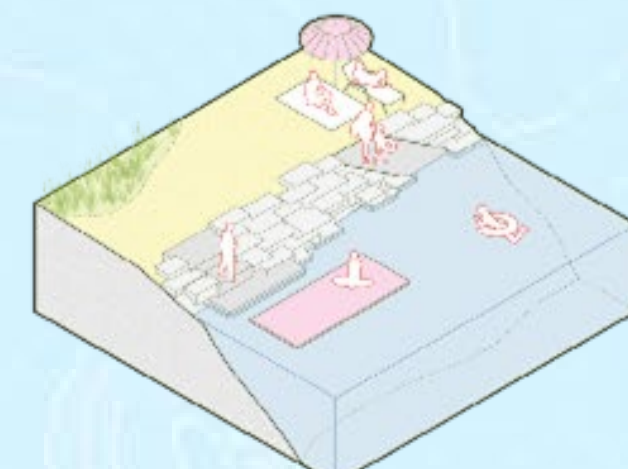
## Pier + Debris Collection

Accessible debris collection is hidden under piers in tandem with fish hotels.



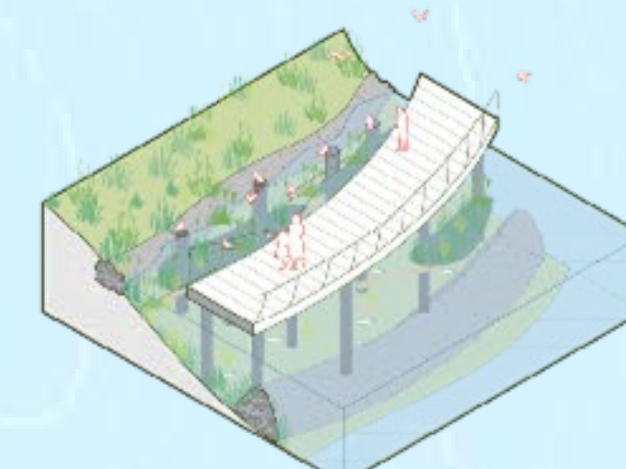
## Esplanade + Fish Habitat

Expanded structural habitat for biofilms and small aquatic invertebrates



## Wave Protected Beach

Native stacked stone shorelines protect beaches from erosion. Accessible shorelines allow for easy water egress to maintain safe swimming.



## Fringe Wetland

Log jam gardens provide structural habitat for fish, birds, and amphibians. Hidden shoreline sills under boardwalks help to create wetland pockets.



## Shallow Shoreline Wetland

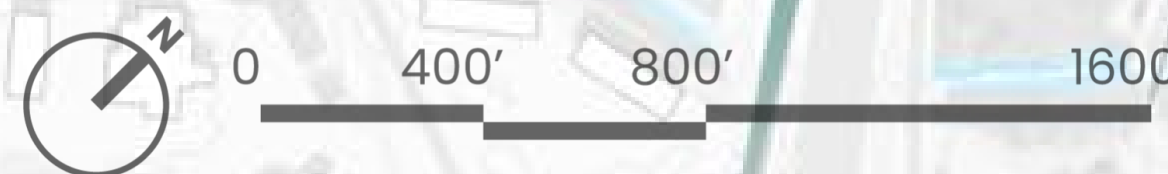
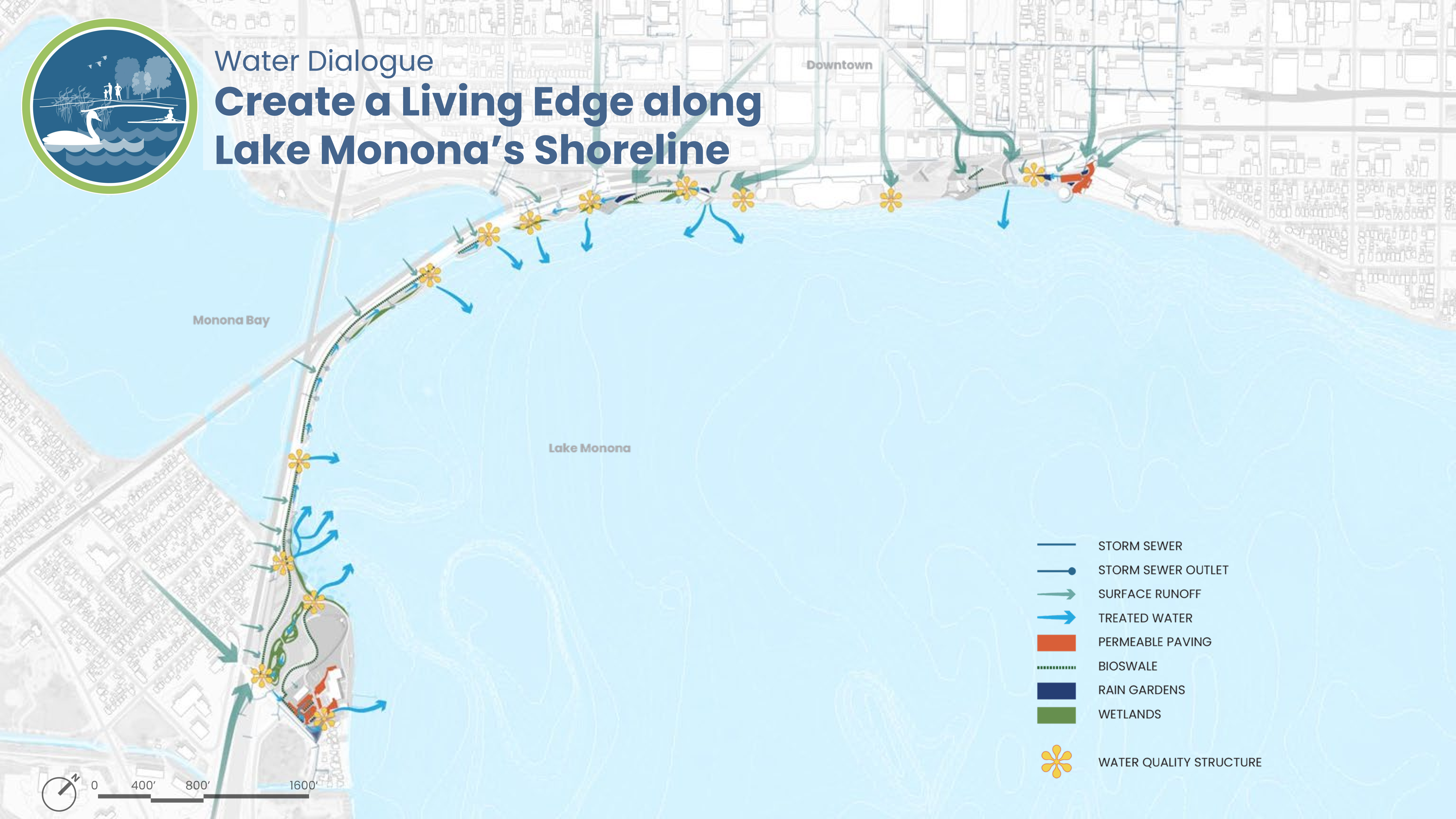
- FLOATING WETLAND
- FRINGE MESIC WETLAND
- WET MEADOW / RAIN GARDEN
- RECREATIONAL LAWN
- MESIC PRAIRIE
- LINEAR FLOODPLAIN FOREST
- NATIVE PLANT DEMONSTRATION GARDEN
- OAK OPENING
- FOREST FLOOR RESTORATION





Water Dialogue

# Create a Living Edge along Lake Monona's Shoreline







# Community Dialogue Enhance Equitable Access to Parks





- **A place** for gift, prayer and offering to the water spirits. A quiet and meditative place.

# Starting with the Sacred Voices

Culture Dialogue



- **Harry Whitehorse** came into this world in a wigwam near the Indian Mission in Black River Falls, Wisconsin, the traditional home of the Ho-Chunk people.

- The life of Harry Whitehorse from his website

“ This project is a touch point to incorporate thoughts on culture and history of people that came before us. ”

**Chloris Lowe Jr.**  
Ho Chunk Nation

- **Imagine** what that timeless view would look like if the buildings were not there and the mounds remained.

- from an Interview with Samantha C. Skenandore,  
Tribal Law Attorney

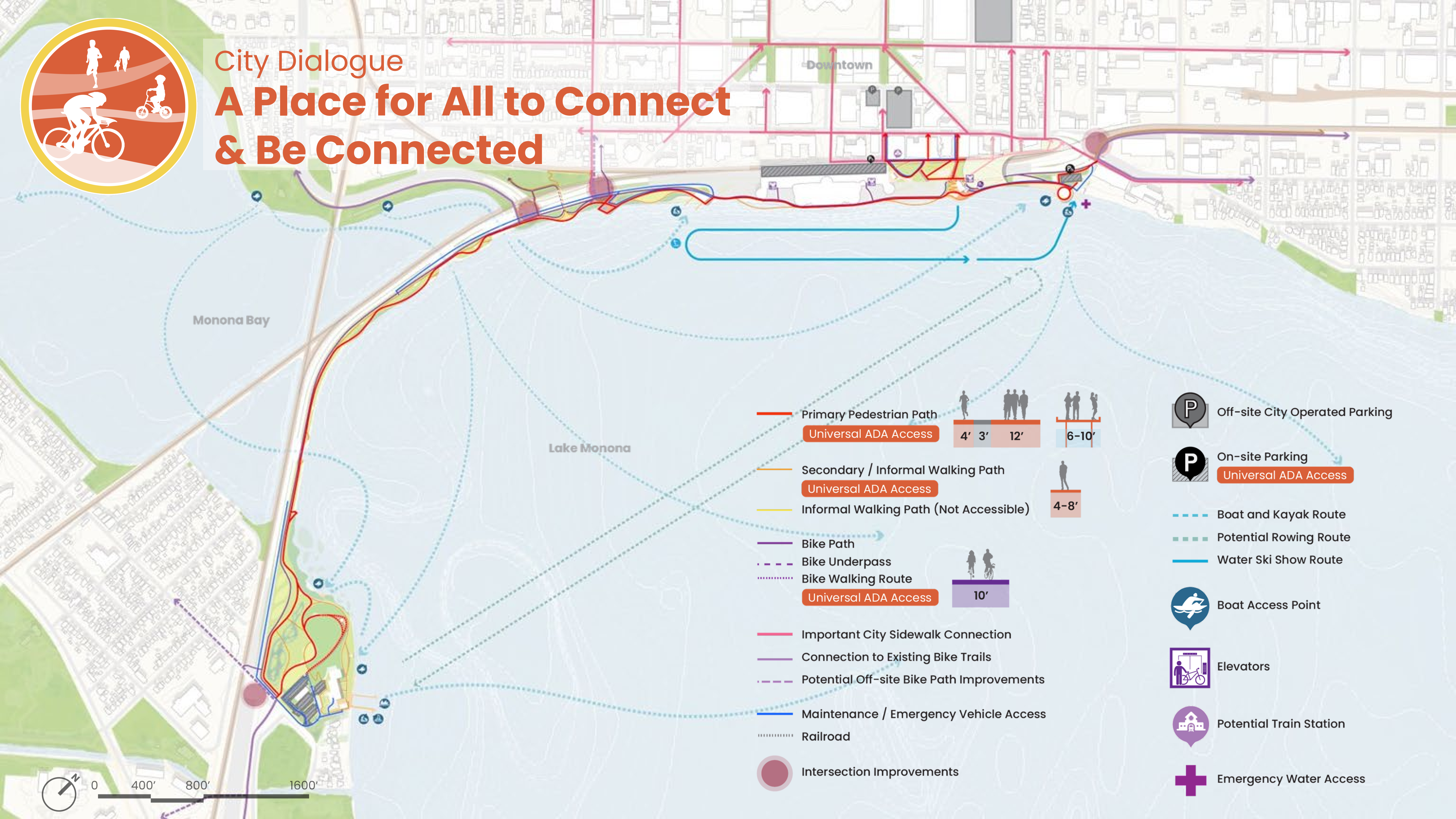
- **If** I have a religion, it must be canoeing...I canoe wherever there's water. It puts me in a totally different state of mind and provides all I need to exist.

- Truman Lowe





# City Dialogue A Place for All to Connect & Be Connected



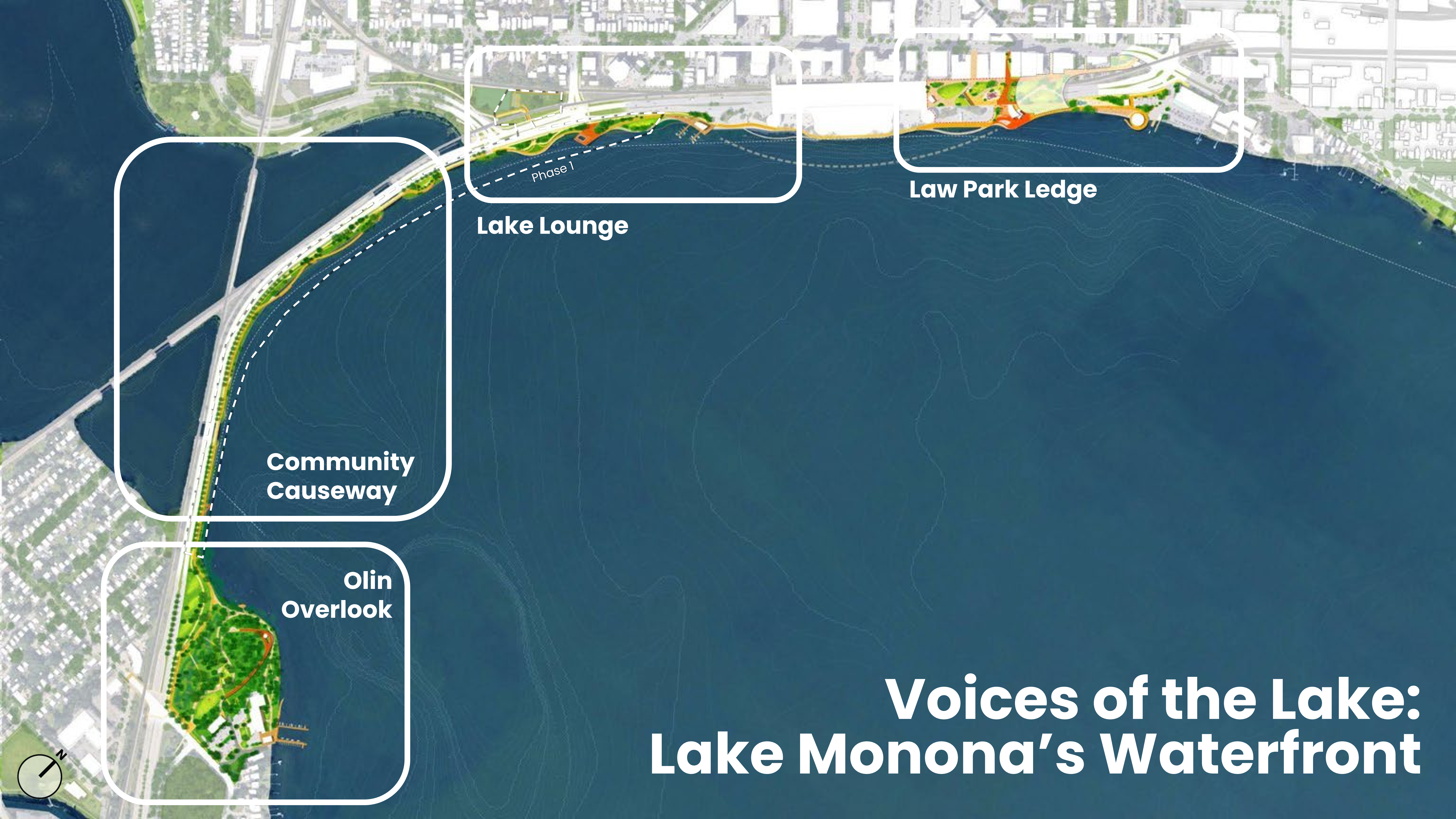
- Primary Pedestrian Path  
Universal ADA Access  
4' 3' 12' 6-10'
- Secondary / Informal Walking Path  
Universal ADA Access
- Informal Walking Path (Not Accessible)  
4-8'
- Bike Path  
Bike Underpass  
Bike Walking Route  
Universal ADA Access  
10'
- Important City Sidewalk Connection
- Connection to Existing Bike Trails
- Potential Off-site Bike Path Improvements
- Maintenance / Emergency Vehicle Access
- Railroad
- Intersection Improvements
- Off-site City Operated Parking
- On-site Parking  
Universal ADA Access
- Boat and Kayak Route
- Potential Rowing Route
- Water Ski Show Route
- Boat Access Point
- Elevators
- Potential Train Station
- Emergency Water Access



# Lake Monona Waterfront Master Plan







**Lake Lounge**



**Law Park Ledge**



**Community  
Causeway**



**Olin  
Overlook**

# **Voices of the Lake: Lake Monona's Waterfront**





**Community  
Causeway**

Phase 1

“

*When I first moved to  
Madison, I drove in on John  
Nolen and saw the city and  
the lake. It was just like, oh  
my god, I love living here.*

”

**Katie Nash**  
Madison Resident



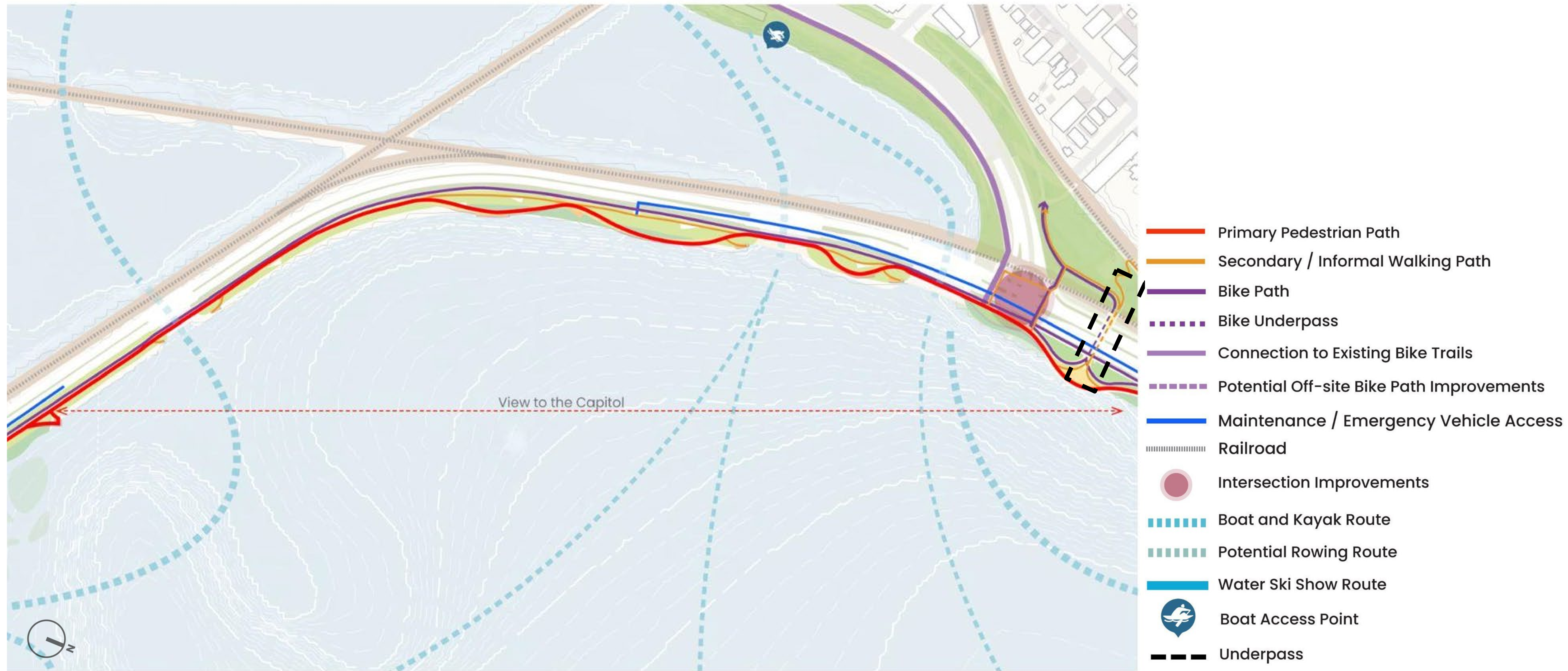


- 1 Dedicated Bike Lane
- 2 Jogging Path
- 3 Walking Path
- 4 Boardwalk (with seating along JND)
- 5 Storage
- 6 Flexible Lawn
- 7 Capital Overlook Seating Area
- 8 Street Trees Preserving View Corridor towards the Capitol
- 9 Bioswales & Rain Gardens
- 10 Fishing Terrace
- 11 John Nolen Drive Improvement
- 12 Capitol View Plaza
- 13 Fishing Pier
- 14 Wave Protected Fringe Wetland

# Community Causeway



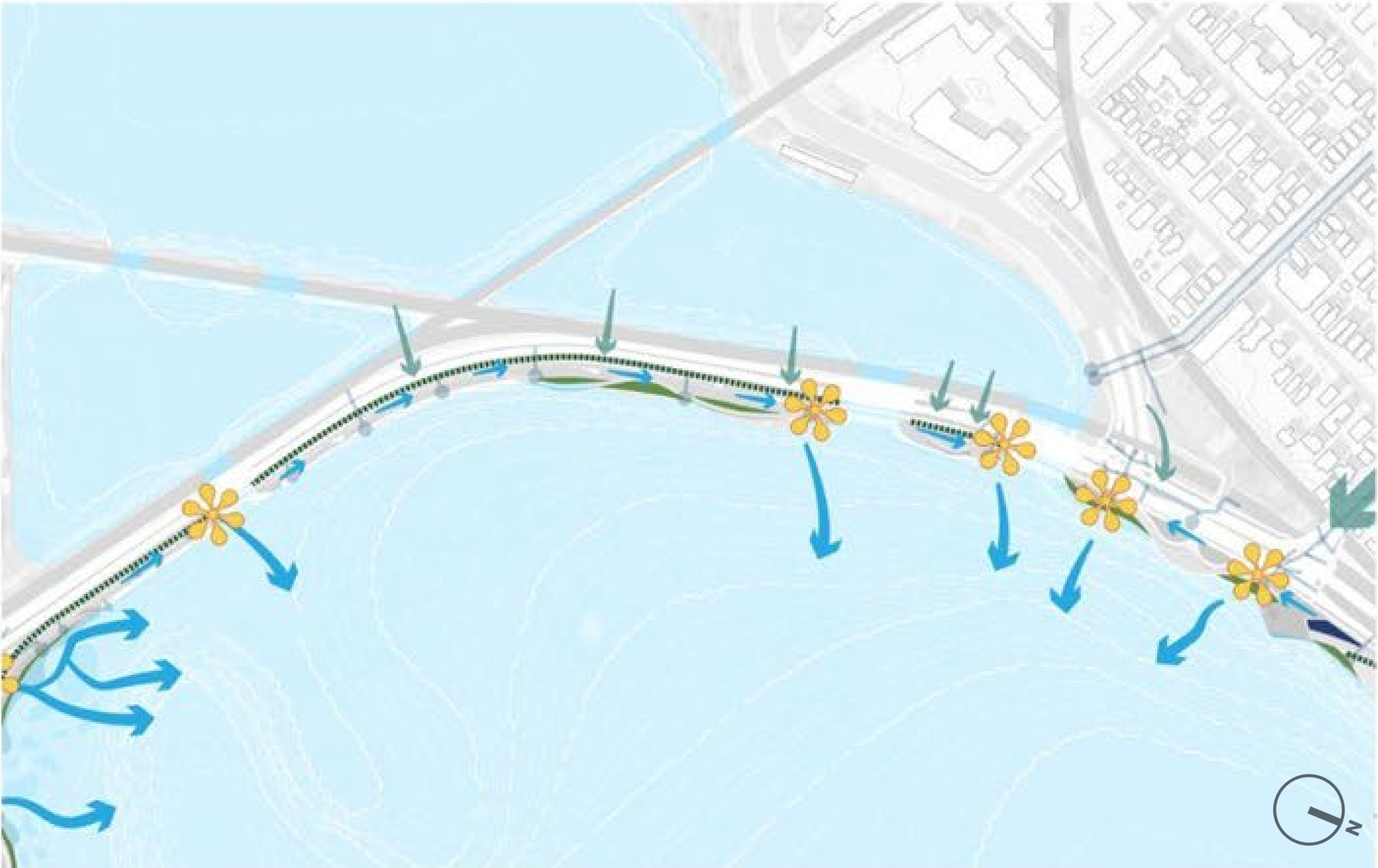
# Circulation





# Hydrology and Ecology

Hydrology



- |                        |                           |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| — STORM SEWER          | ..... BIOSWALE            |
| —●— STORM SEWER OUTLET | ■ RAIN GARDENS            |
| → SURFACE RUNOFF       | ■ WETLANDS                |
| → TREATED WATER        | ✿ WATER QUALITY STRUCTURE |
| ■ PERMEABLE PAVING     |                           |

Ecology



- |                            |                                     |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ■ FLOATING WETLAND         | ■ LINEAR FLOODPLAIN FOREST          |
| ■ FRINGE MESIC WETLAND     | ■ NATIVE PLANT DEMONSTRATION GARDEN |
| ■ WET MEADOW / RAIN GARDEN | ■ OAK OPENING                       |
| ■ RECREATIONAL LAWN        | ■ FOREST FLOOR RESTORATION          |
| ■ MESIC PRAIRIE            |                                     |



# Public Art Opportunities



View Framing Art



Small Scale Eco Art



Sustainable Art



Kinetic Art





# What can it look like?



Fishing Pier



Bioswale and Rain Garden



Trail for All Speeds



Wetland and Fish Habitat



Boardwalk



Fishing Terrace



# Community Causeway

Multi-use Trail

Fishing

Wave  
Protected  
Fringe  
Wetland

Story Walk  
Art Piece







# Community Causeway





## Lake Lounge



*It is a great opportunity, as best as we can with the space limitation and all the constraints we are facing, building in a way that has true improvement on enviornmental quality. We want to make this waterfront a national model for green infrastructure.*



**Paul Dearlove**  
Clean Lake Alliance



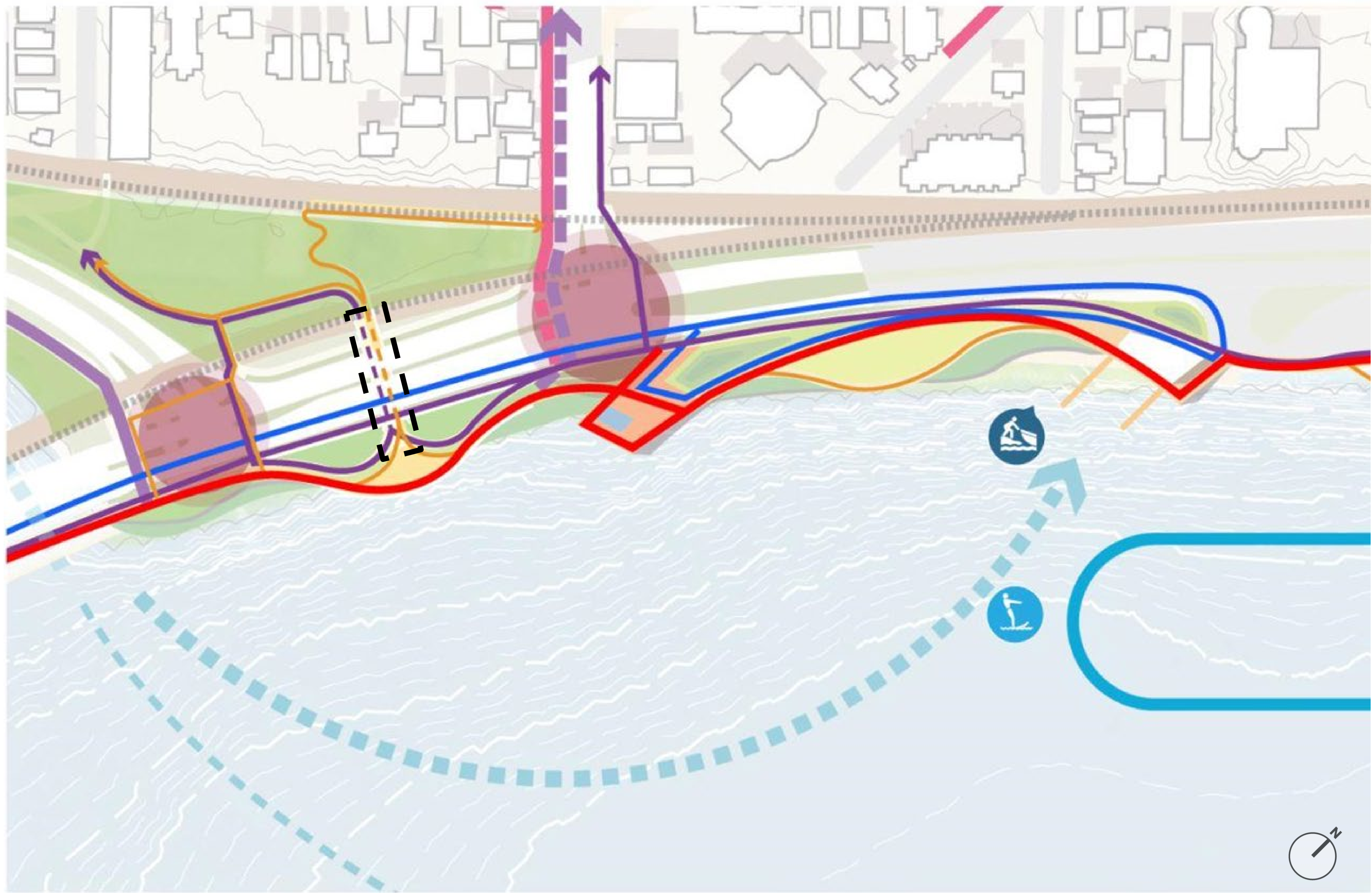


- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1 Ice Walk                                | 9 Improved Intersection             |
| 2 Fishing Pier                            | 10 Hamilton Pier Plaza              |
| 3 Boat Vendor with Paddle Craft Livery    | 11 Bike Repair Station              |
| 4 Rain Garden                             | 12 Pedestrian and Cyclist Underpass |
| 5 Floating Piers for Transient Boats      | 13 Underpass Gateway Plaza          |
| 6 Lakefront Promenade (Vehicular Grade)   | 14 Fringe Wetland and Boardwalk     |
| 7 Flexible Lawn & Food Truck Staging Area | 15 Improved Intersection            |
| 8 Bike Lane                               |                                     |

**Lake Lounge**



# Circulation

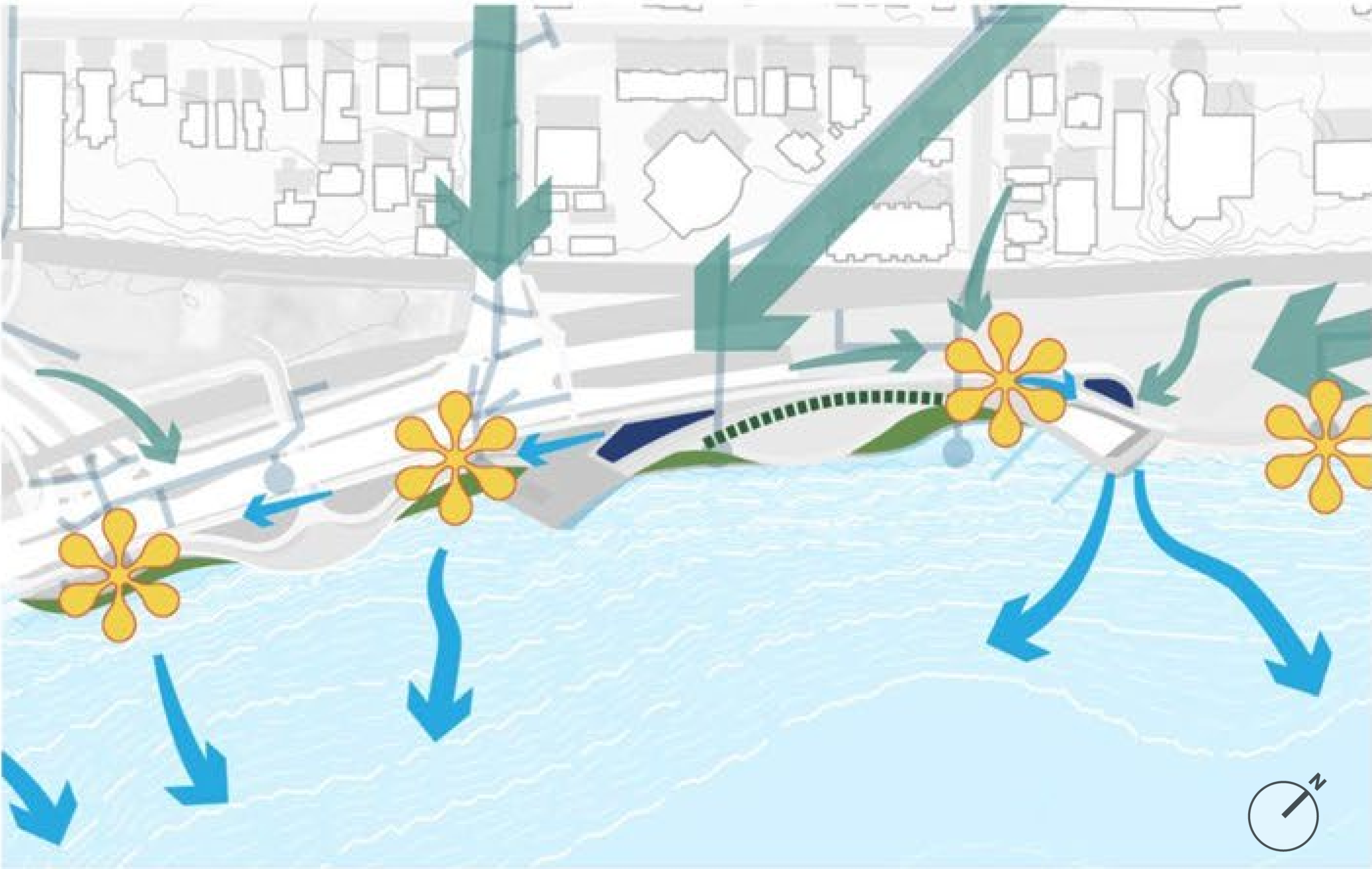


- Primary Pedestrian Path
- Secondary / Informal Walking Path
- Bike Path
- Bike Underpass
- Connection to Existing Bike Trails
- Potential Off-site Bike Path Improvements
- Maintenance / Emergency Vehicle Access
- Railroad
- Intersection Improvements
- Boat and Kayak Route
- Potential Rowing Route
- Water Ski Show Route
- Boat Access Point
- Underpass



# Hydrology and Ecology

Hydrology



- |                      |                           |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| — STORM SEWER        | ..... BIOSWALE            |
| ● STORM SEWER OUTLET | ■ RAIN GARDENS            |
| → SURFACE RUNOFF     | ■ WETLANDS                |
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Ecology



- |                            |                                     |
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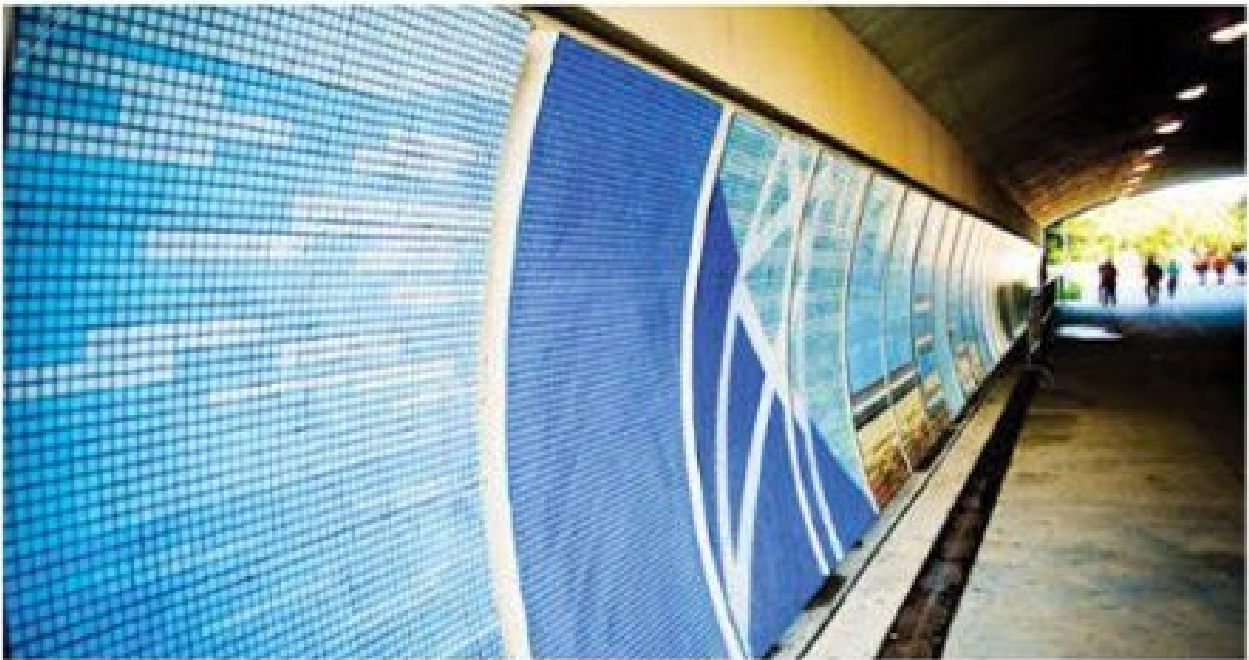
# Public Art Opportunities



Pavement Design/Embedded Wayfinding



Sun Inspired Art



Underpass Art



Light and Color Inspired Installations



## View Framing Art

Sun Tracking  
Frame Views  
Capitol  
Lake

## Art on Paths/Surfaces

Embedded Wayfinding  
Color-coded  
Connected Narratives

## Underpass Art

Light Installation  
Sound  
Skylight  
Wall Tiles  
View

## Nature Inspired

Simple Kinetic Light  
Weather Mood Ring  
Sound Color-changing  
High Impact  
Contemplative



# What can it look like?



Arts and Lake View Swing Sets



Food Trucks



Wetland, Fish Habitat and Boardwalk



Underpass



Boat Launch



Lakeside Gathering Place



# Lake Lounge



Visual Connection with the  
Wisconsin State Capitol

Lighting

Swing

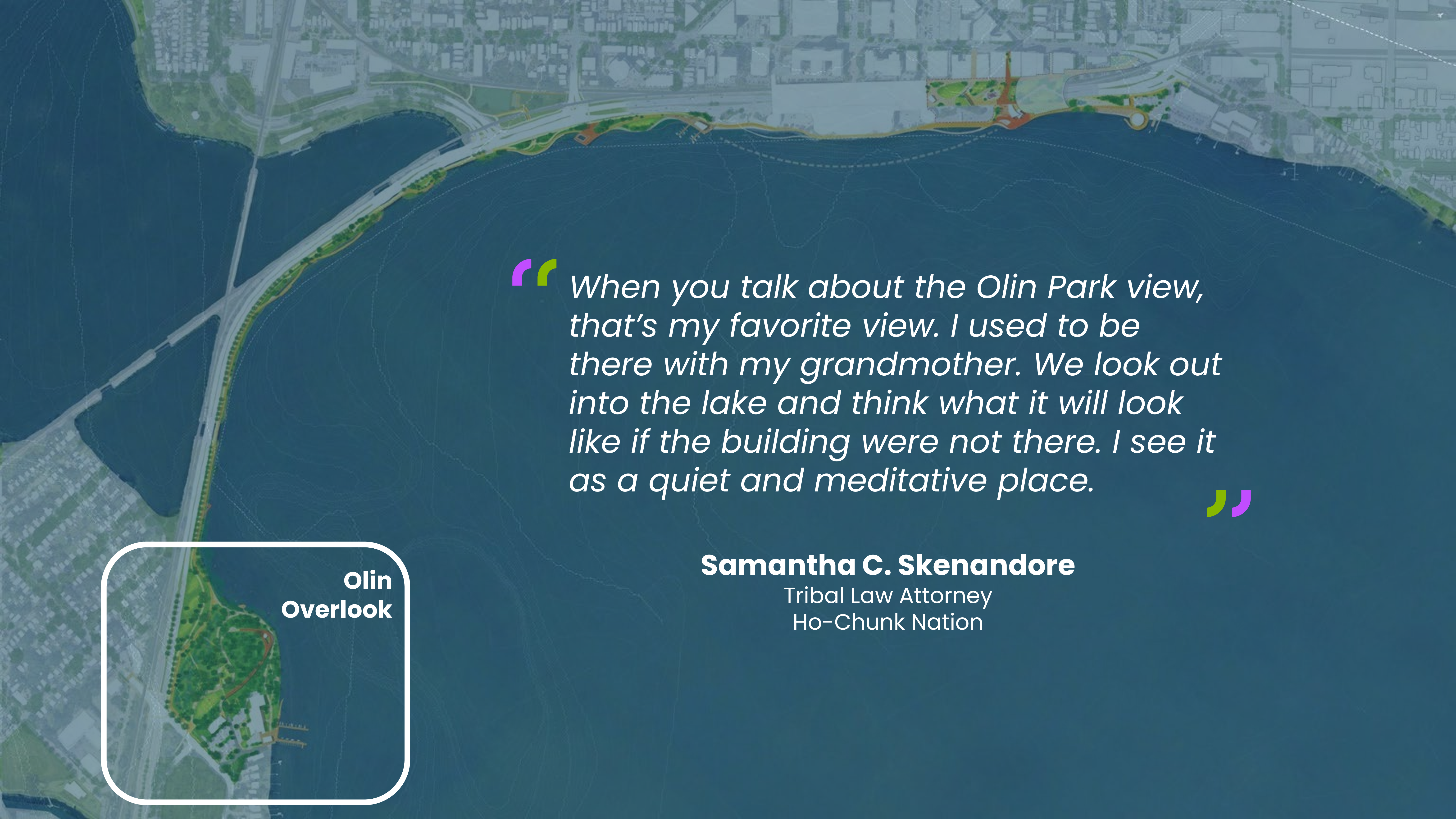
Kinetic Art

Plaza Pier Seating

Native Plant  
Demonstration  
Garden

HA TON R PLAZA  
WE LOVE MADISON  
TO BE HEARD  
THE NATURE HERE IS TIMELESS



An aerial photograph of a waterfront area. A road runs along the water's edge, with a park area featuring green spaces and trees. Buildings are visible in the background. The water is a deep blue color.

*“When you talk about the Olin Park view, that’s my favorite view. I used to be there with my grandmother. We look out into the lake and think what it will look like if the building were not there. I see it as a quiet and meditative place.”*

**Olin  
Overlook**

**Samantha C. Skenandore**

Tribal Law Attorney  
Ho-Chunk Nation



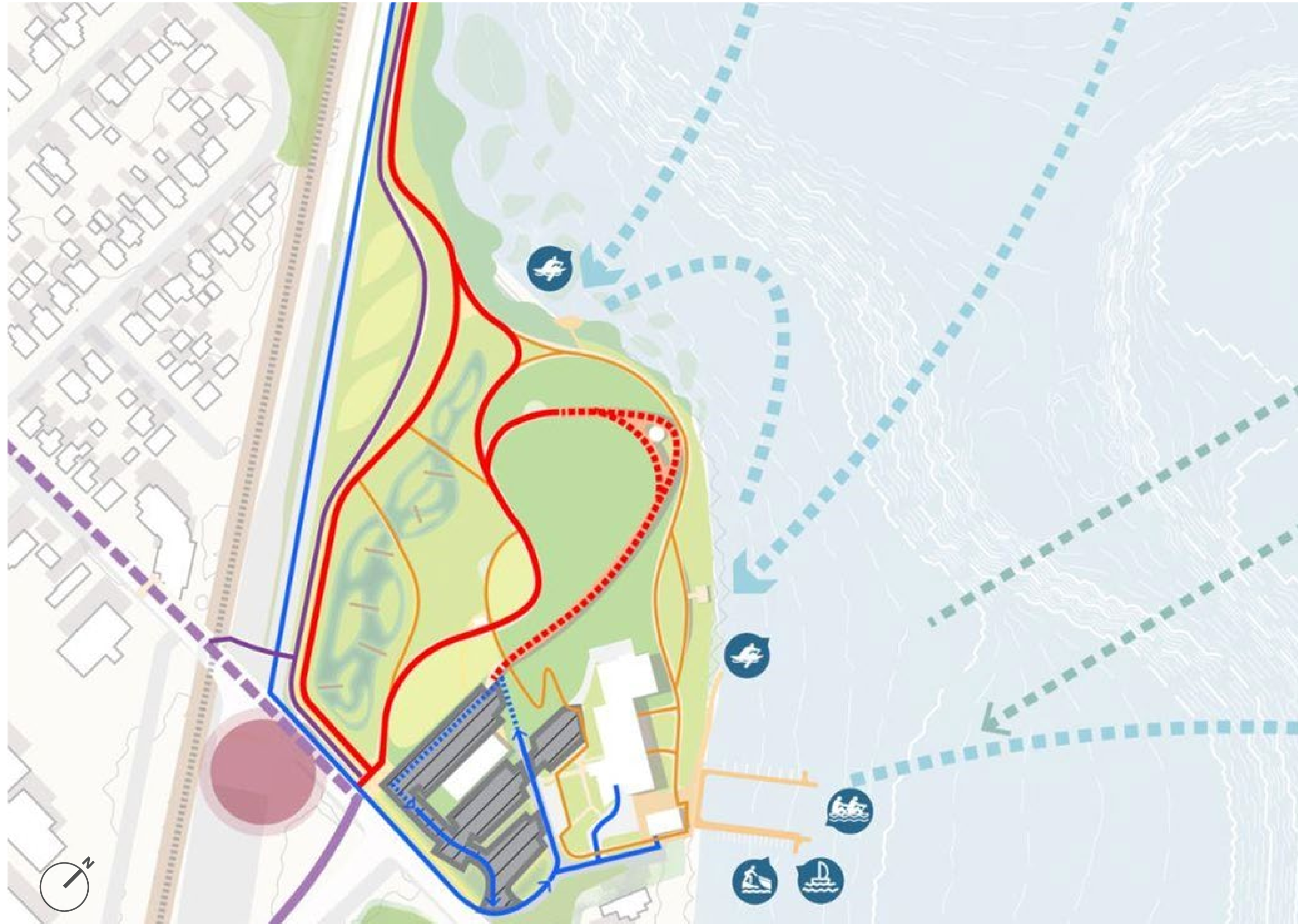
# Olin Overlook

- 1 Canopy Walk
- 2 Event Lawn
- 3 Bike Lane
- 4 Boat Dock
- 5 Landscape Berm for Noise Attenuation
- 6 Constructed Wet Mesic Prairie
- 7 Permeable Parking & Stormwater Treatment
- 8 Boardwalk
- 9 Forest Restoration
- 10 Waterfront Plaza
- 11 Nature Playground
- 12 Picnic Lawn
- 13 Play Feature / Art Installation
- 14 Kayak Launch
- 15 Overlook Deck
- 16 Nature Center / Art Studio
- 17 Treehouse
- 18 Boathouse
- 19 Park support facility, reservable community space
- 20 Restroom
- 21 Picnic Shelters





# Circulation



- Primary Pedestrian Path
- Secondary / Informal Walking Path
- Bike Path
- Connection to Existing Bike Trails
- Maintenance / Emergency Vehicle Access
- Railroad
- Intersection Improvements
- Boat and Kayak Route
- Potential Rowing Route
- Boat Access Point
- On-site Parking



# Hydrology and Ecology

## Hydrology



## Ecology





# Public Art Opportunities



Environmental Art



Large Scale Land Art



Art Center and Maker Space



Cultural Art along Trails



Nature-Inspired Structures





# What can it look like?



Nature Trails



Multi-use Lawn



Outdoor Classroom



Nature Playground



Canopy Walk



Waterfront Plaza and Picnic Area



Kayak Launch



Wetland, Fish Habitat and Boardwalk





Reservable Community  
Space

Nature Center/Art and  
Culture Center

Boat Dock

Picnic Lawn

Forest Restoration

Wet Mesic Prairie &  
Outdoor Classroom

Canopy Walk &  
Overlook

Landscape Berm for  
Noise Attenuation

specimen  
Tree

Kayak  
Launch

Fringe Mesic Wetland

Olin Overlook





Wildlife Habitat

Canopy Walk

Forest Restoration

Tree House

Spring Ephemeral  
Wildflower Plantings

Interpretive  
Nature Trails

Olin Overlook





**Law Park Ledge**

*“What we heard a lot is that, for a place like this, there are going to be lots of different people. So it’s really important to think about how you can create co-existence (of features and programs).”*

**Annette Miller**

Chief Executive Officer, EQT by Design



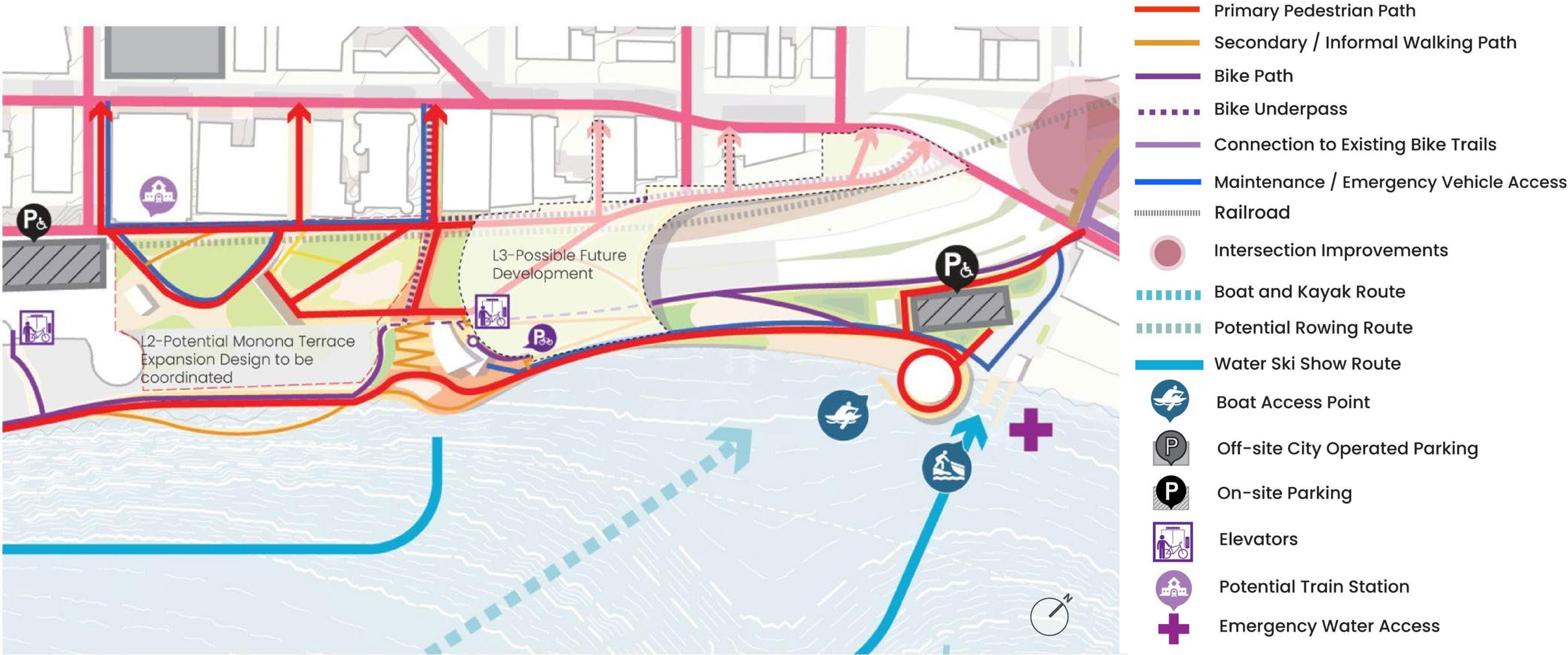


- |  |                            |   |
|--|----------------------------|---|
| ① Emergency Boat Storage and Access      | ⑩ Lakefront Promenade      | ⑲ Flexible Lawn                                     |
| ② Managed Boat Ramp                      | ⑪ Bike Lane                | ⑳ Lake Themed Adventure Playground                  |
| ③ Parking (ADA) and Stormwater Treatment | ⑫ Elevator Connection      | ㉑ E Wilson St Connection – per City access easement |
| ④ Monona Boathouse                       | ⑬ Concession and Restrooms | ㉒ E Wilson St Connection – pending                  |
| ⑤ Kayak Launch                           | ⑭ Event Stage              | ㉓ Green Roof and Outdoor Amenities                  |
| ⑥ Public Upland Beach with Water Access  | ⑮ Waterfront Amphitheater  | ㉔ Winter Garden                                     |
| ⑦ Restrooms and Changing Rooms           | ⑯ Accessible Ramp          |   |
| ⑧ Rain Garden                            | ⑰ Water Terrace            |   |
| ⑨ Water Play                             | ⑱ Fishing Pier             |   |

# Law Park Ledge

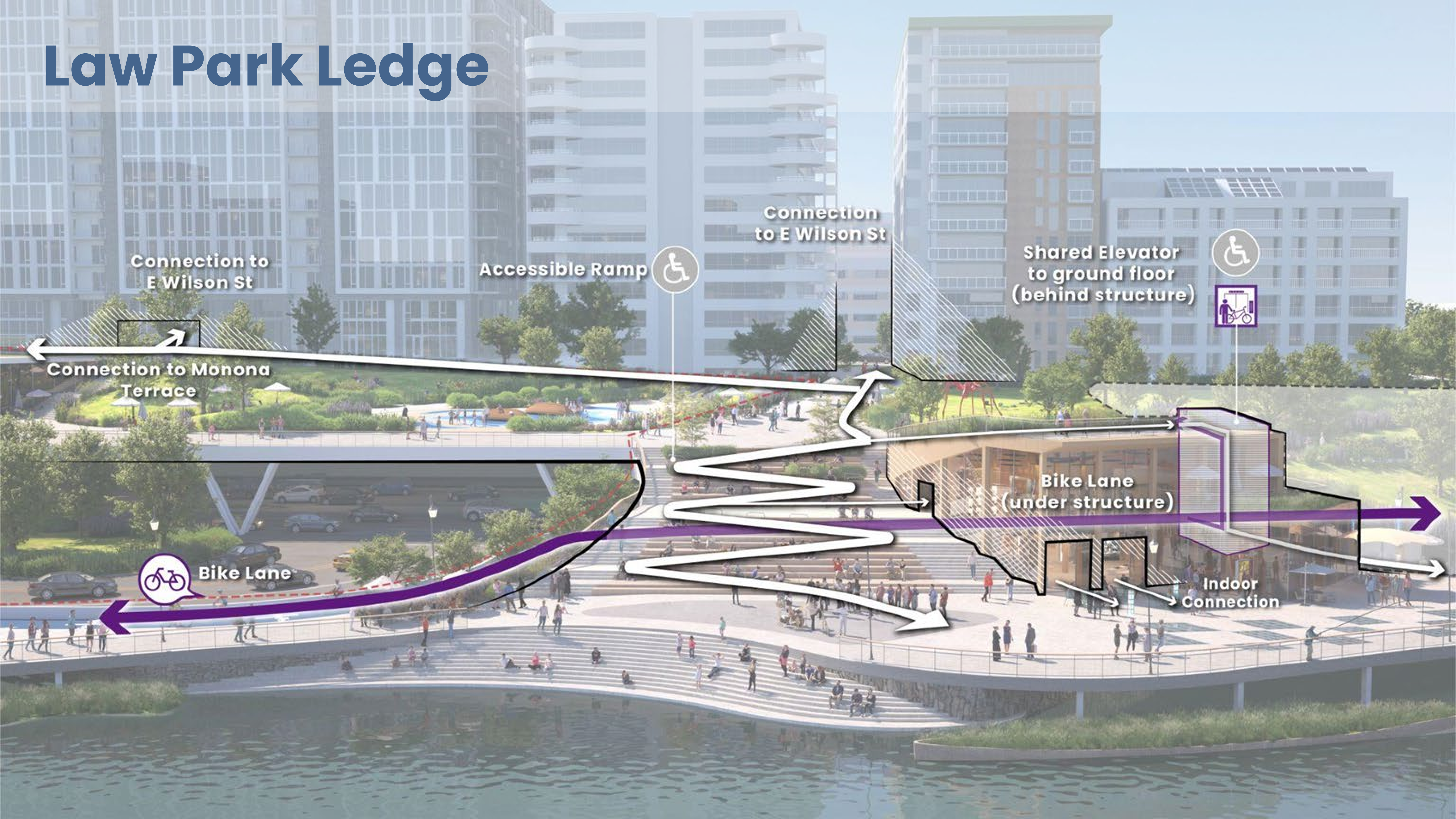


# Circulation





# Law Park Ledge



Connection to  
E Wilson St

Accessible Ramp

Connection  
to E Wilson St

Shared Elevator  
to ground floor  
(behind structure)

Connection to Monona  
Terrace

Bike Lane  
(under structure)

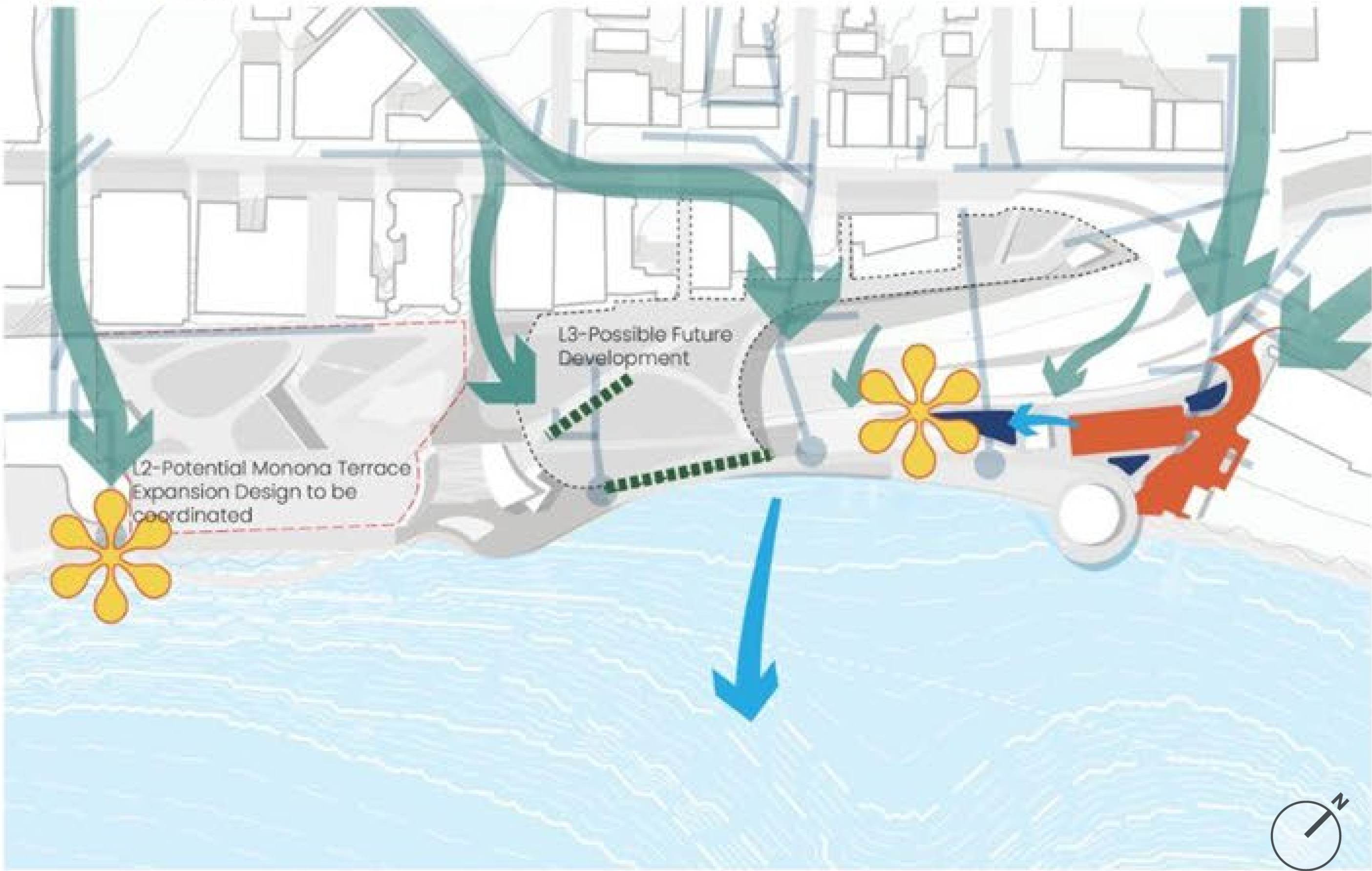
Bike Lane

Indoor  
Connection



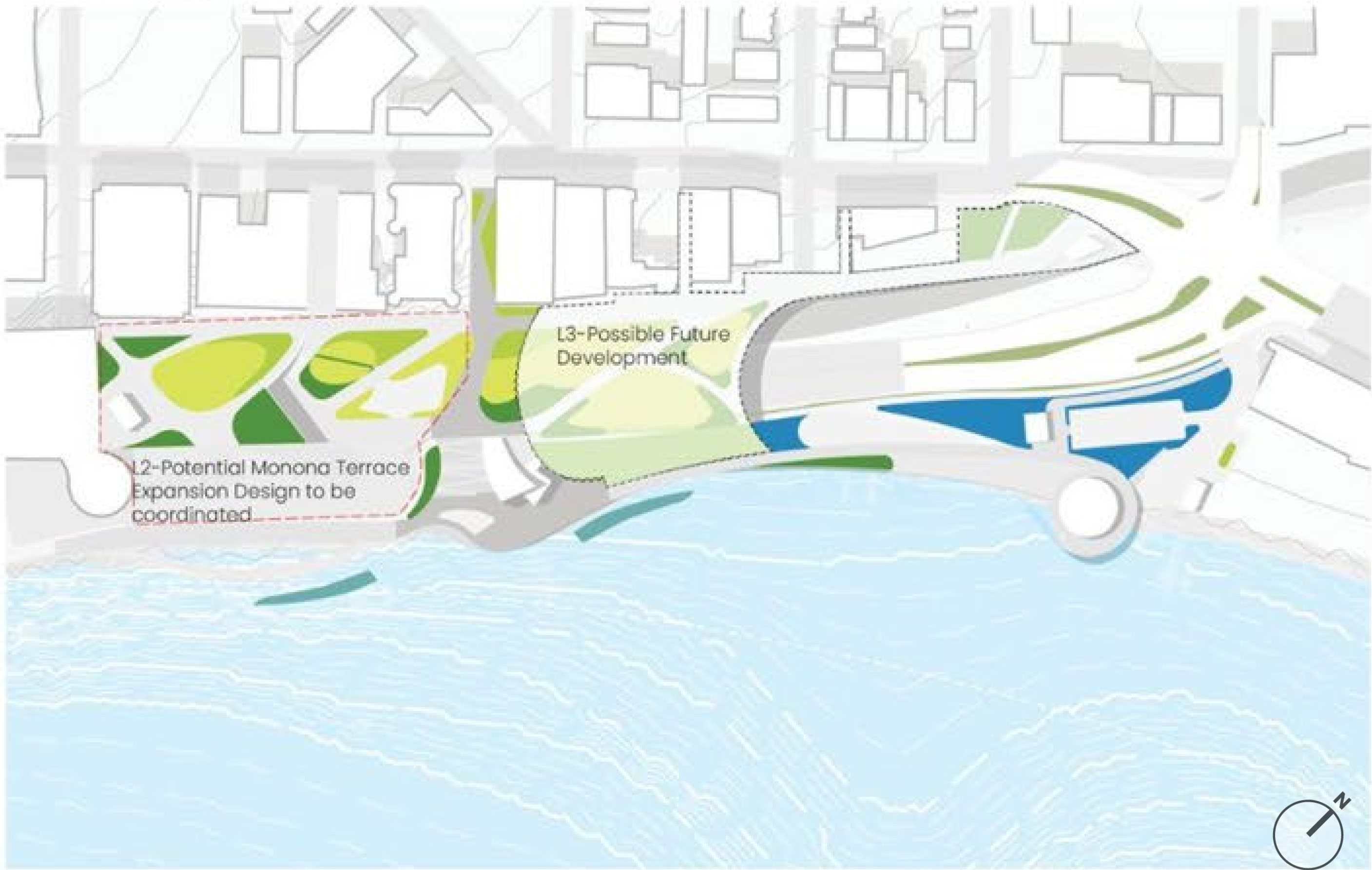
# Hydrology and Ecology

## Hydrology



- STORM SEWER
- STORM SEWER OUTLET
- SURFACE RUNOFF
- TREATED WATER
- PERMEABLE PAVING
- BIOSWALE
- RAIN GARDENS
- WETLANDS
- WATER QUALITY STRUCTURE

## Ecology



- FLOATING WETLAND
- FRINGE MESIC WETLAND
- WET MEADOW / RAIN GARDEN
- RECREATIONAL LAWN
- MESIC PRAIRIE
- LINEAR FLOODPLAIN FOREST
- NATIVE PLANT DEMONSTRATION GARDEN
- OAK OPENING
- FOREST FLOOR RESTORATION



# Public Art Opportunities



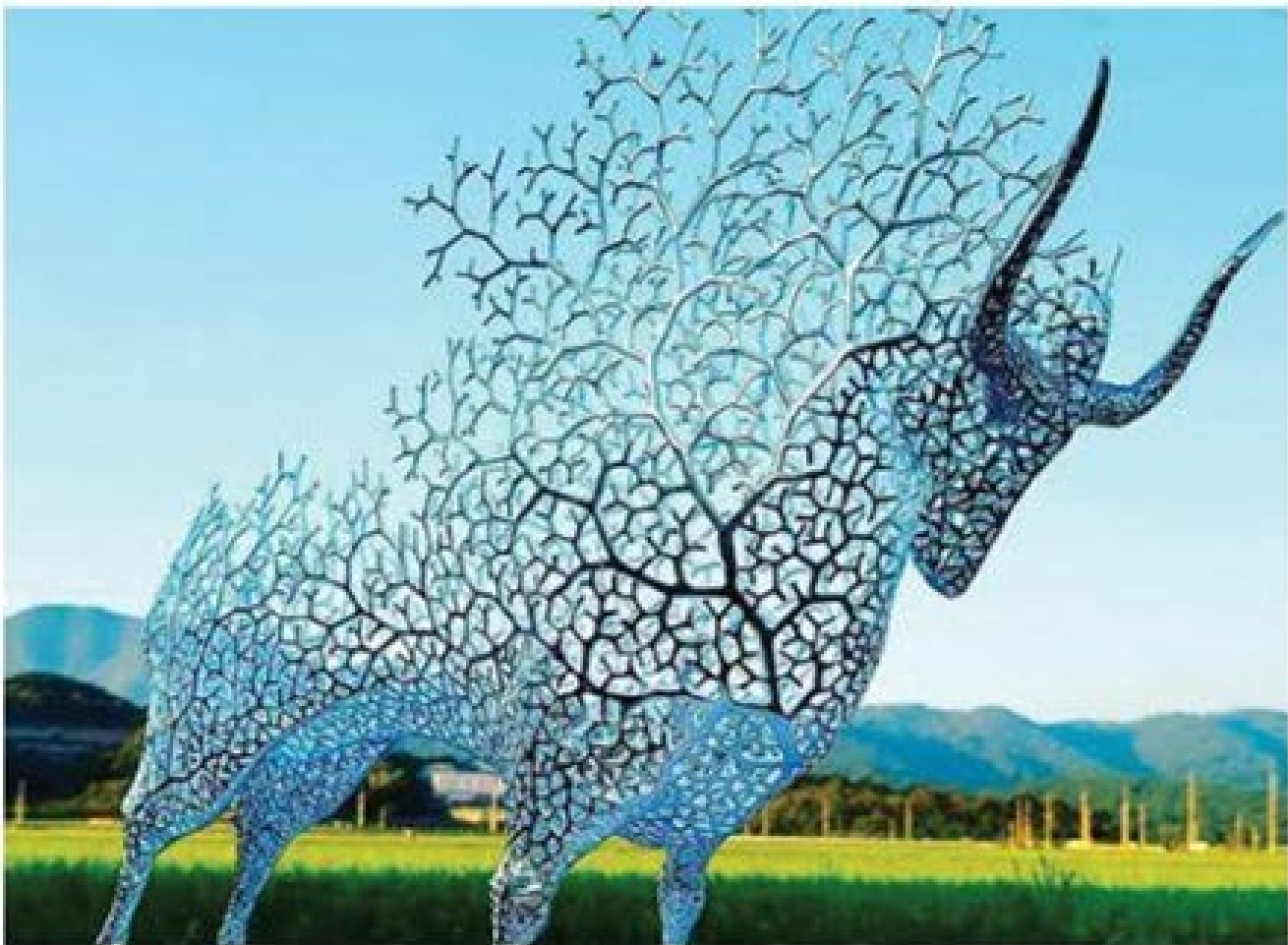
Modern Art



Temporary Art Installations



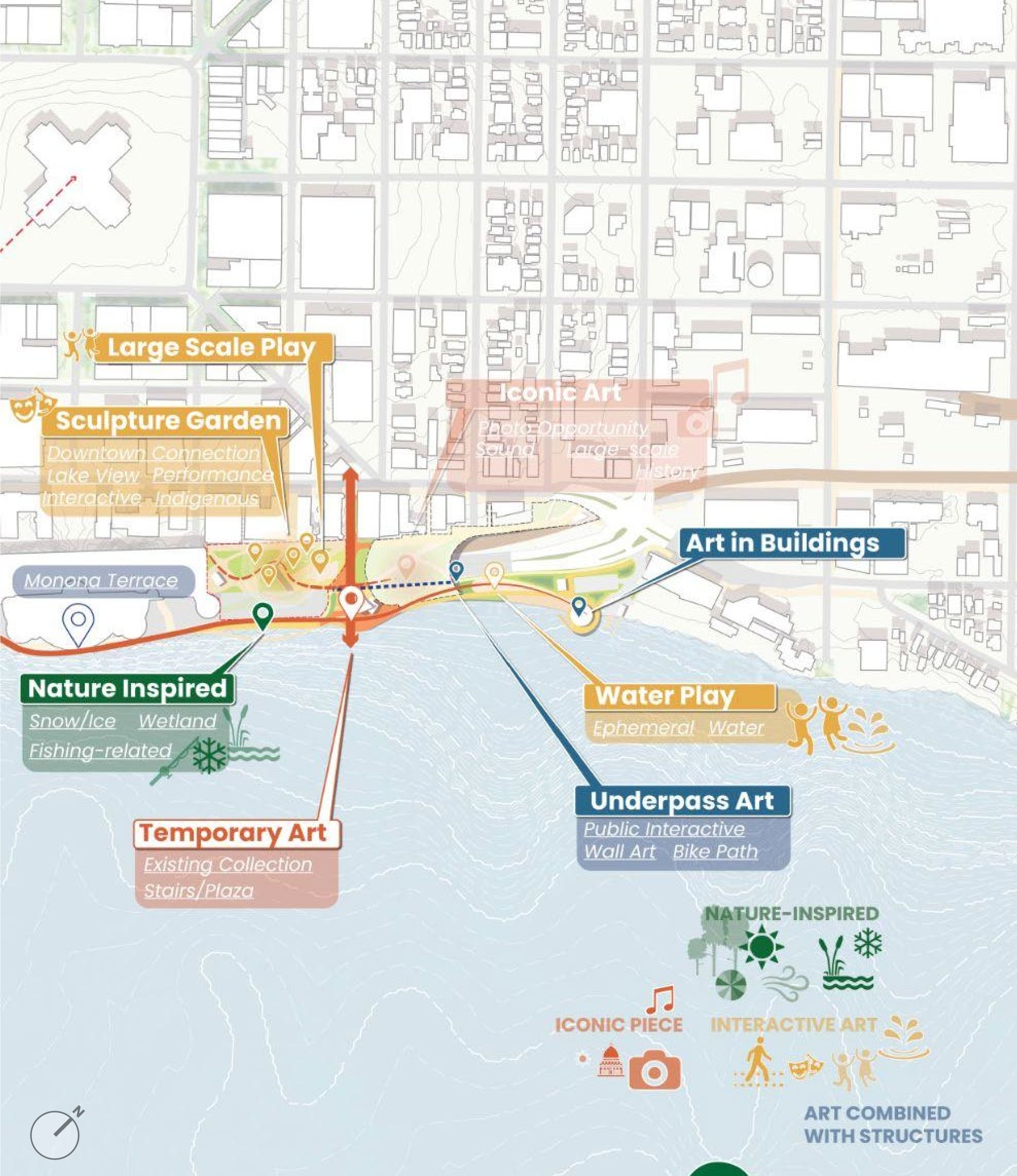
Art with Play



Sculpture Garden



Local Art Installation





# What can it look like?



Flexible Lawn



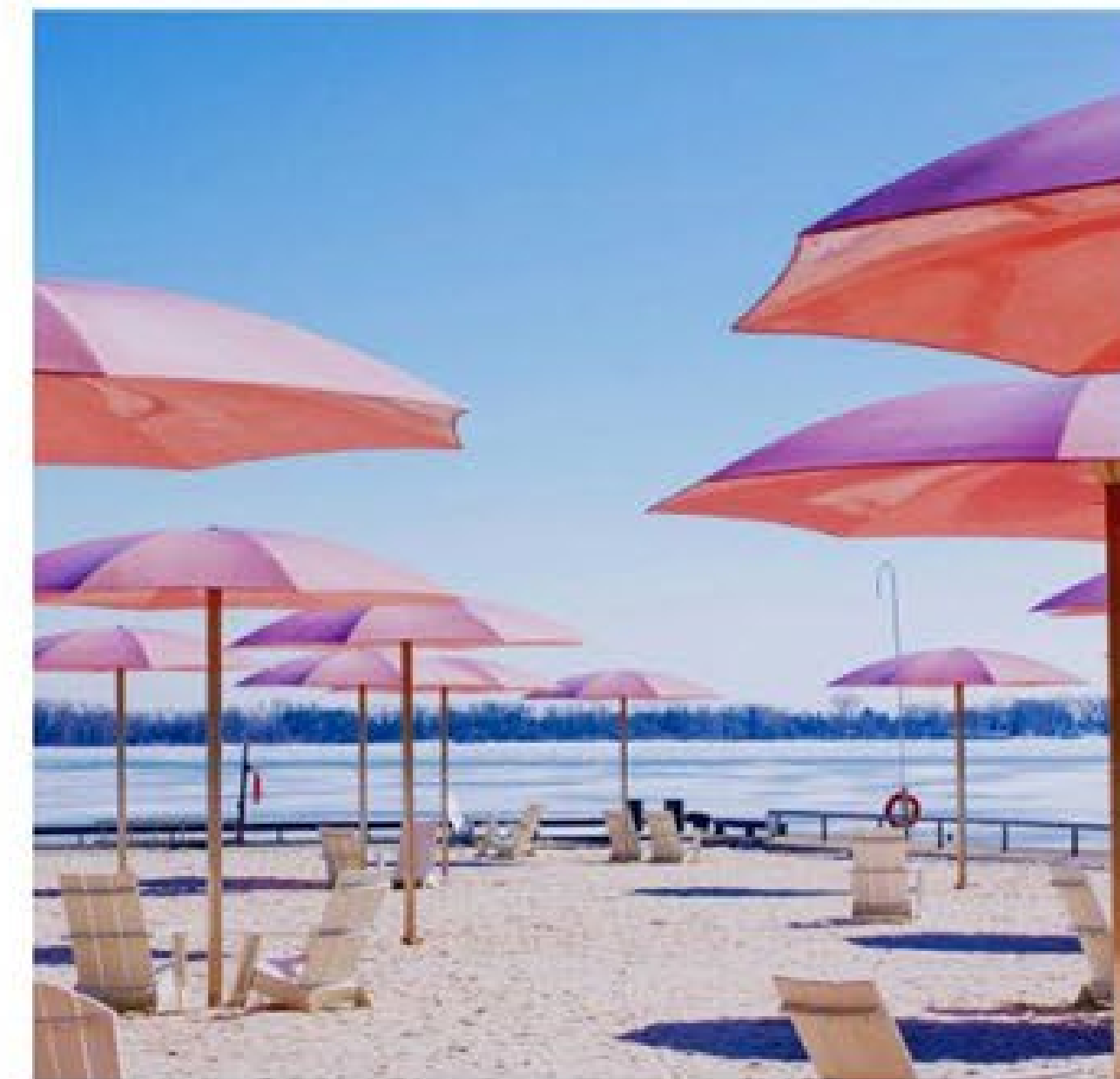
Fishing Pier



Waterfront Promenade with Concession



Waterfront Amphitheater



Upland Beach



Water Play



# Law Park Ledge



E. Wilson Upper  
Connection  
(City Easement)

Upper Plaza,  
Lawn and Art

Playground

L2 - Potential Monona Terrace  
Expansion Design to be Coordinated

Amphitheatre

L3 - Possible Future  
Development

Concession  
and Elevator

Bike Path

STAGE AND  
STEPS TO ICE WALK

Floating  
Wetlands



# Law Park Ledge



E. Wilson Upper Connection  
(City Easement)

Boat House

Upland Beach

L3 - Possible Future Development

Concession and Elevator

Floating Wetlands

Playground

Amphitheatre

L2 - Potential Monona Terrace  
Expansion Design to be Coordinated

STAGE AND  
STEPS TO ICE WALK

E. Wilson Upper Connection  
(Pending)





**Lake Lounge**



**Law Park Ledge**



**Community  
Causeway**



**Olin  
Overlook**



**Thank you!**