



Silver Lake Park Master Plan



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Implementation

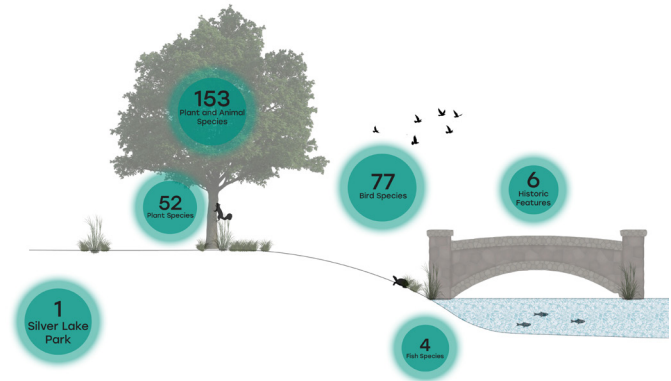
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Executive Summary

Silver Lake Park spans 134 acres in the heart of Rochester, Minnesota. The park has existed within the city since 1937 and has served as a hub for community gathering. Silver Lake Park provides a place for people to connect to Rochester's urban nature, as well as spend time with family and friend. This Silver Lake Park Master Plan reflects the desires of the Rochester community, providing opportunity for recreation, play, opportunities to access the water on boardwalks or by boat, and gather while celebrating the history, ecology, and diversity that makes Silver Lake Park a key destination in Rochester.



Research and Engagement

An evaluation of existing conditions was compiled at the beginning of the planning process to create a baseline for ecological diversity, existing amenities, circulation, and community use of Silver Lake Park. A Site History and Inventory of Silver Lake Park, prepared by New History, also informed the planning process by providing information on the history of the site. These findings helped guide the design process to find the best way to preserve the integrity of the park's historic features while integrating them into future uses of the park.

This vision also integrates the City's planned Dam Modification project, which, upon implementation, will provide additional lands for park uses. The Dam Modification Project involves the removal of the existing dam at Silver Lake Park and provides an opportunity to create trail connectivity shown along the north shore line and under Broadway Ave. As a result of that project, more land at the northwest section of the park will become available for park improvements.

With such a diverse range of uses and users at Silver Lake Park, community engagement was key to the planning process. There were twenty-two engagement touchpoints, including tabling at Rochester events, community surveys, stakeholder meetings, and focus groups.

Guiding Principles

Based on existing condition research and community engagement, the project team developed six Guiding Principles as the basis for design and planning:

- 1 Encourage active recreation and wellness**
Opportunities for play and gathering for all age groups and abilities.
- 2 Promote a healthy environment for wildlife and people**
Prioritizing water quality, natural spaces, and habitat preservation.
- 3 Expand opportunities to interact with water**
Adding boat launch points, accessible boat rentals, and promoting water quality.
- 4 Showcase Silver Lake Park's cultural and environmental history**
Prioritizing the interpretation of natural areas and historical features.
- 5 Catalyze year round activity at Silver Lake Park**
Providing year round activities to attract visitors in the colder months.
- 6 Ensure that Silver Lake Park is welcoming, inclusive, and accessible to all visitors**
Adding multi-lingual signage, improved circulation and spaces for prayer, meditation, and a gathering and ceremonial space for Indigenous communities.

Vision

The future vision for Silver Lake Park is a hub of activities, a gathering place, passive and active recreation, and a place of nature restoration. These co-exist throughout the park, providing a diversity of uses for park visitors. Silver Lake Park not only has the potential to be a place of play, nature restoration, and community building for residents but also an inclusive and accessible place for visitors from the nearby Mayo Clinic and elsewhere. The planning process centered inclusivity in each step to ensure that each proposed feature of the park was engaging to a diversity of park visitors. Cultural inclusivity can be seen in addition of multi-lingual signage, foot washing facilities, prayer and meditation spaces, and Indigenous recognition through gathering and ceremony spaces. Accessibility is addressed in playgrounds, splash pads, and restroom and shelter facilities. Accessible trails that wind throughout the park provide an opportunity for active recreation as well as connectivity to the City of Rochester. Maintaining the natural feel and focusing on environmental preservation was a priority for Rochester residents. Some areas throughout the site have been solely dedicated to preservation while others have integrated natural features for play and education opportunities. Implementation of the Silver Lake Park Master Plan is divided into four phases, with funding opportunities available for each phase of the project.



Legend

- Separated Bike and Pedestrian Path
- Shared-use Path
- Pedestrian-only Path
- Boardwalk
- Lawn
- Understory
- Wetland
- Prairie Restoration
- Play Areas
- Parking and Vehicular Roadways
- Water
- Special Paving
- Site Furnishing
- Existing Tree
- Proposed Tree



16th St.. NE

3rd Ave NE

14th St.. NE

N. BROADWAY AVE

W. SILVER LAKE DRIVE NE.

7th St. NE

E. SILVER LAKE DR.

1

2

3

4

32

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16

24

Overall Master Plan

Key

- 1 Pedestrian Bridge
- 2 History Plaza
- 3 Kayak Play Area
- 4 Water Play Interactive Fountain
- 5 Kayak Launch
- 6 Trail Connection to N. Broadway
- 7 Wetland Steps and Kayak Launch
- 8 Fishing Pier
- 9 Pier
- 10 Picnic Area
- 11 Expanded Nature Play
- 12 Mulch Trail and Public Art Opportunity
- 13 Peninsula Scenic Overlook
- 14 Expanded Lake Area
- 15 Gateway Sign/Art
- 16 Fitness Station
- 17 Hillside Slides
- 18 Splash Pad
- 19 Basketball Court
- 20 Skate park Expansion
- 21 Picnic Grove
- 22 U12 and U10 Soccer Fields
- 23 Prairie Art Walk
- 24 Indigenous Gathering Space
- 25 Food Truck Pull-in
- 26 Picnic Plaza
- 27 Hillside Seating
- 28 Inclusive Play
- 29 Dog Park
- 30 Nature Play
- 31 Native Plant Exhibit
- 32 Proposed Parking

This master plan utilized the findings from the existing conditions report, the public engagement results, and the guiding principles to propose a series of planned activities and amenities. This overview highlights the proposed major attractions of recreation, play, nature, and community gathering and culture envisioned in the Silver Lake Park Master Plan Vision chapter of this report.

With both historic and proposed site elements, a revised circulation plan and a focus on creating equitable spaces that welcomes all Rochester residents, this plan presents an exciting vision for the future of Silver Lake Park. For a more detailed overview of the proposed park master plan, see the Master Plan Vision Chapter on pages 52-103. For an overview of how this master plan will translate vision of Silver Lake Park into reality, see the Implementation Chapter on pages 106-113.

A scenic view of a park. In the foreground, there is a pond with water reflecting the surrounding greenery. The middle ground features a grassy area with a wooden bench and several large, mature trees with dense foliage. In the background, a paved path and a white car are visible through the trees. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

Master Plan Process



Master Plan Schedule + Timeline

Schedule Overview

The Silver Lake Park Master Plan process began in April 2022 and was completed in October 2022, lasting a total of seven months. The master plan process was divided into four phases: **UNDERSTAND**, **ENGAGE**, **ENVISION**, and **ACT**.

During the **UNDERSTAND** phase, the project team investigated the existing conditions of the park and surrounding community in order to understand opportunities and constraints for improvements.

The **ENGAGE** phase ran the duration of the project, with engagement touchpoints timed to inform the other three phases. A final engagement period was added, which extended the original project timeline.

	MONTH	March				April				
	WEEK	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1
1: UNDERSTAND										
Existing Plan and Recommendation Review										
Historical Facility Review										
Existing Conditions Report and Presentation										
2: ENGAGE										
Round One										
Round Two										
Round Three										
3: ENVISION										
Draft Conceptual Designs										
Preferred Concept Development										
4: ACT										
Draft Silver Lake Park Master Plan										
Final Silver Lake Park Master Plan										

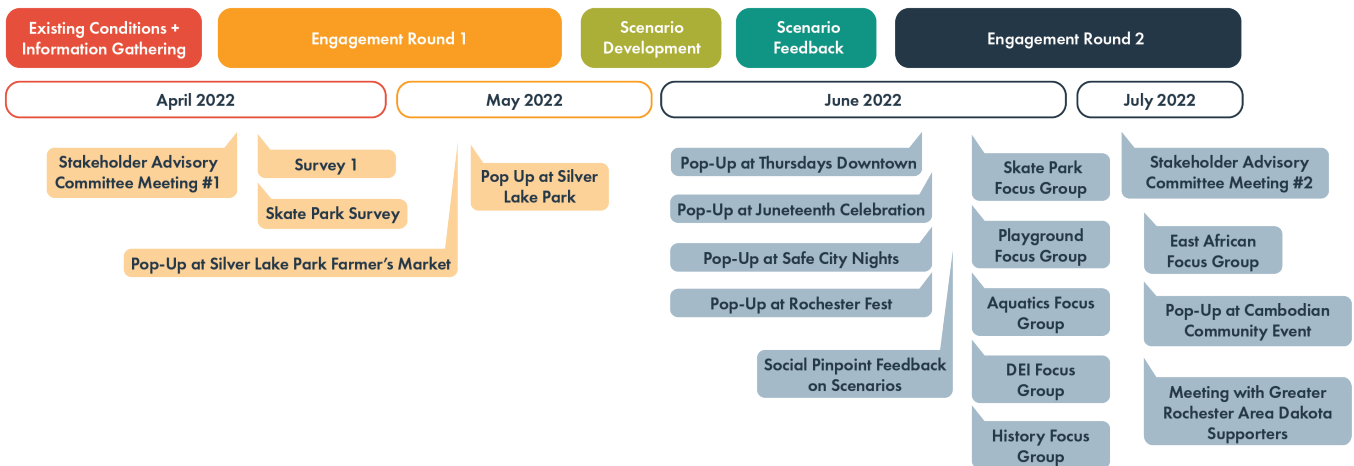
Community Engagement

Overview

Community engagement for the Silver Lake Park Master Plan was broken into two rounds, which informed distinct phases of the master plan process. **Round One** focused on understanding how Rochester residents and visitors currently use the park and what would improve their experience. The project team used this information, along with the findings of the Existing Conditions document, to develop two “feedback scenarios” which were used in **Round Two** of engagement to solicit preferences on overall vision and distinct design options. The second round of engagement also included six focus groups that dug deeper into specific topics and the preferences of specific user groups.

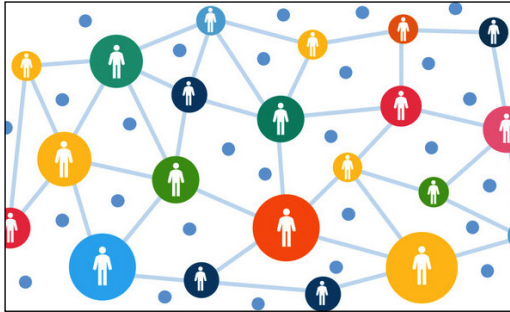


Engagement Time line



2,000+

ENGAGEMENT TOUCHPOINTS



20+

Stakeholder Advisory Committee participants at three meetings



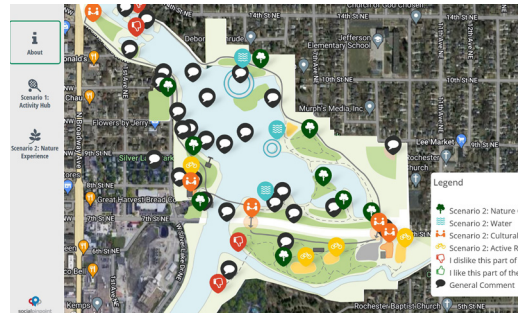
1,400

Community Survey responses



234

Skate Park Survey responses



548

Social Pinpoint comments



200+

Focus group participants at seven focus groups



200+

Conversations at pop-up events

Engagement Round One

The first round of engagement focused on introducing the public to the Silver Lake Park Master Plan process and gathering initial feedback on how people use the park and what would make the park more usable, enjoyable, accessible, and welcoming to all users.

Engagement touchpoints in Round One included:

- Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting #1 (27 total attendees between a morning session and an evening session)
- Pop-up at Silver Lake Park Farmers Market
- Pop-up in Silver Lake Park
- Community Survey (1,400 responses)
- Skate Park Survey (234 responses)

The Community Survey, hosted on the Polco platform, was advertised to registered Polco users, through the Rochester Public Library list-serv, on City of Rochester social media channels and project website, and on 16 multi-lingual yard signs posted throughout Silver Lake Park. The 1,400 survey responses informed the creation of the two "feedback scenarios" used in Engagement Round Two. (See Appendix for more detailed survey results and Skate Park Survey results).

Selected Survey Results

70%

of survey respondents **WALK** to Silver Lake Park

84%

of survey respondents identified as **WHITE**

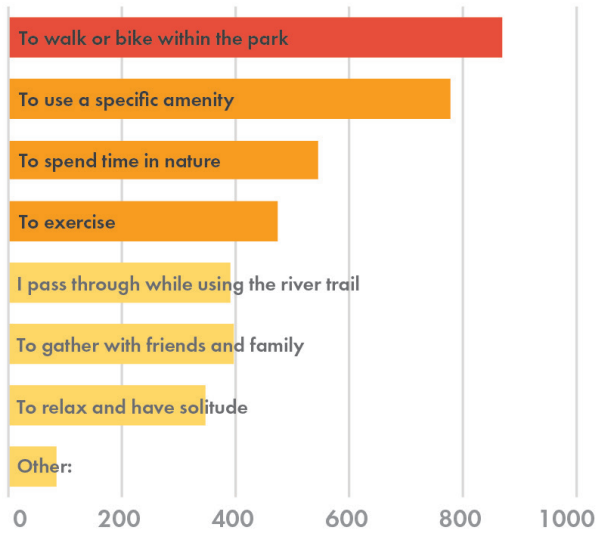
69%

of survey respondents identified as **FEMALE**

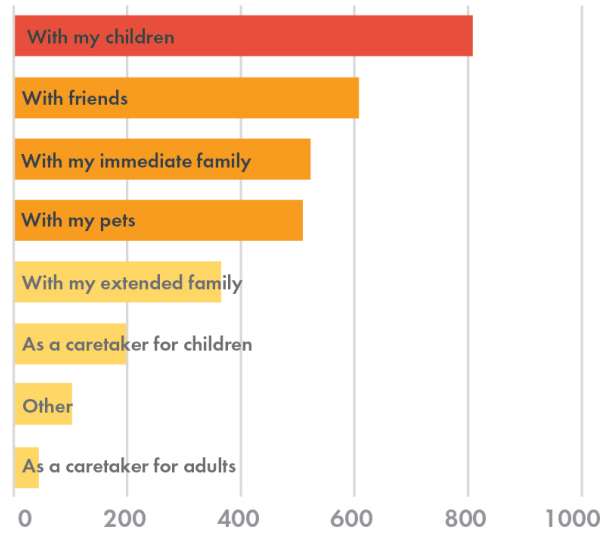
Respondents Top 5 Activities:

- 1** Walking along the trails
- 2** Bringing kids to the playground
- 3** Spending time in nature
- 4** Spending time with family and friends
- 5** Swimming at the pool

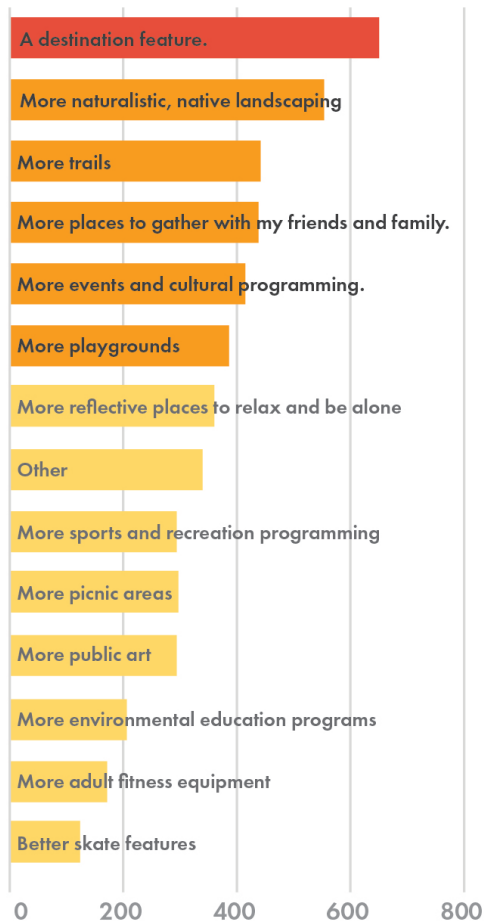
Why do you visit the park?



Who do you come to the park with?



What programs or features would encourage you to visit Silver Lake Park more often?



Which of the following is keeping you from using Silver Lake Park more often?



Engagement Round Two

The focus of Round Two of engagement was to hone-in on public and stakeholder preferences for Silver Lake Park. Based on findings from Engagement Round One and Existing Conditions research, the consultant team developed two "feedback scenarios," high-level conceptual examples of what the park master plan could look like. One feedback scenario envisioned the park as an "Activity Hub" and presented a vision of a more activity-filled, activated park. The other feedback scenario focused on the park as a place to enjoy "Nature Experiences."

These two scenarios were presented for feedback at five pop-up tabling events, where participants could voice their preference for selected elements of each scenario by voting with dot stickers. Scenarios were also presented at seven focus groups, and on the online engagement platform Social Pinpoint which received 548 comments from the public. Additionally, a second Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting was held.

Tabling events included:

- Thursdays Downtown
- Juneteenth Celebration
- Safe City Nights
- Rochester Fest
- Cambodian Community Event

Focus group meetings were conducted for the following topics and/or groups:

- Recreation and Wellness
- Playgrounds

- Aquatics
- Skate park
- Historic Preservation and Cultural Representation
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility
- East African Community
- Greater Rochester Area Dakota Supporters (GRADS)



Dot Voting Results

Activity Hub

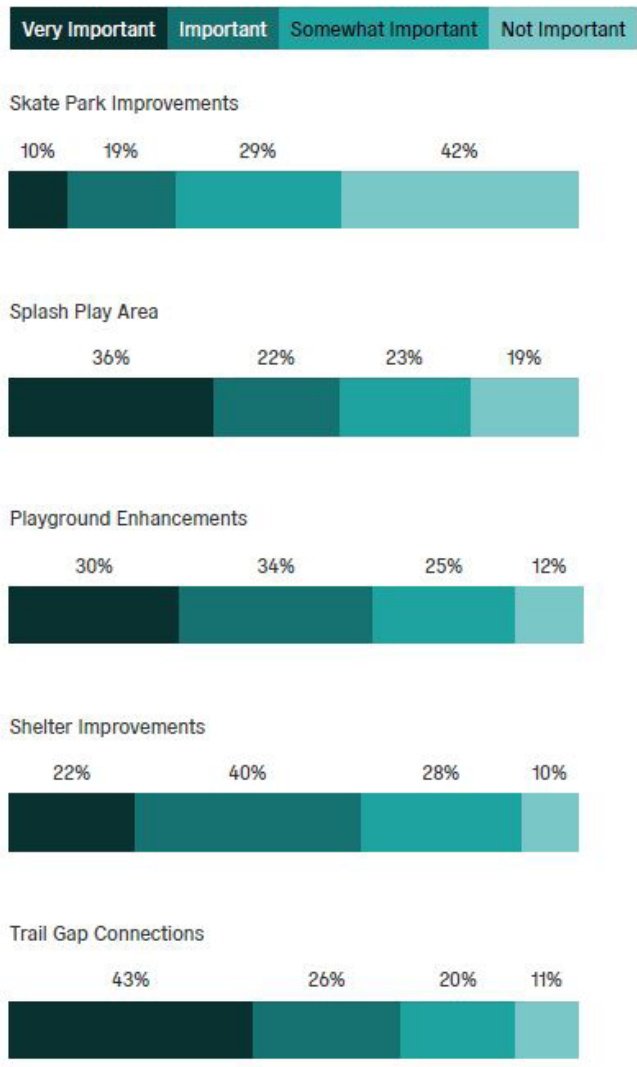
Nature Experience



Engagement Round Three

After the second round of engagement, the two design scenarios were refined into one final design concept. The focus of Round Three of engagement was to receive feedback on the final design. This feedback was solicited via a Polco survey, which received 555 responses. Example questions and summarized responses are below -

The plan outlines planned improvements to Silver Lake Park. Please indicate how important, if at all, the planned improvements are to you.



Please share any feature or amenity you had hoped to see in the Silver Lake Master Plan that does not appear to be included.

Top Answers:

- Pickleball Courts
- Swimming Pool
- Remove vegetation
- Bicycle Pump Track

Response: Pickleball Courts, Swimming Pool, and a Bicycle Pump track are already planned improvements for other parks within the Rochester Park System. Vegetation along the shoreline of Silver Lake is necessary for wetland mitigation credits and MS4 requirements, as well as other water quality benefits required by the state.

Please share any items in Phases 2, 3 or 4 that you would like to see moved to Phase 1.

Top Answers:

- Bike Racks
- Dog Park
- Separated Paths
- Kayak Launch
- Nature Play

Response: These elements could be used to Phase 1 if additional funding becomes available.

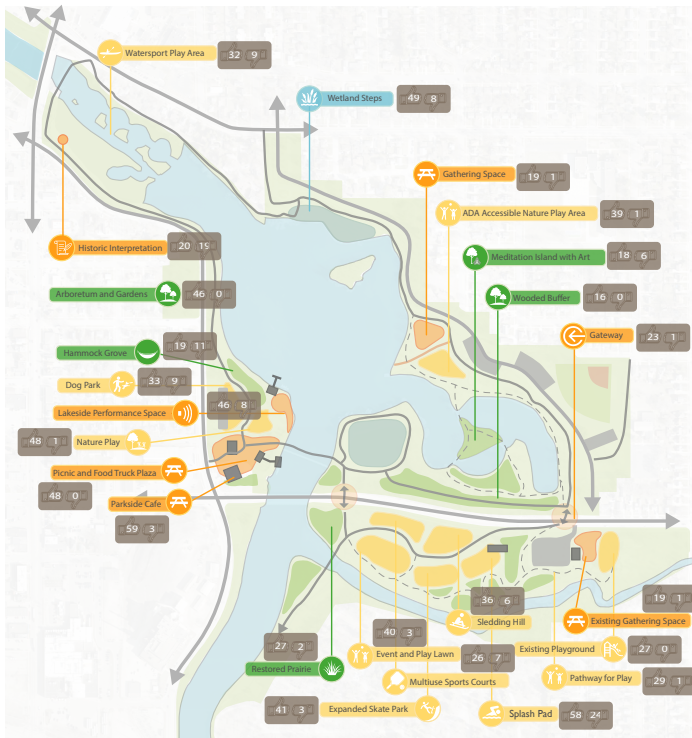
There are various improvements proposed as part of the skate park enhancements. Please note anything that is not shown that you had hoped would be included.

Top Answers:

- Water Fountain
- Shade
- Lighting
- Security Cameras

Response: These improvements have been added to the skate park area.

Social Pinpoint Results: Activity Hub Scenario



Feature	Likes	Dislikes
Watersport Play Area	32	9
Historic Interpretation	20	19
Arboretum and Gardens	46	0
Wetland Steps	49	8
Gathering Space	19	1
ADA Accessible Play	39	1
Dog Park	33	9
Lakeside Performance Space	46	8
Hammock Grove	19	11
Nature Play	48	1
Picnic and Food Truck Plaza	48	0
Parkside Café	59	3
Restored Prairie	27	2
Gateway	23	1
Event and Play Lawn	40	3
Multi-use Sports Courts	26	7
Sledding Hill	36	6
Expanded Skate Park	41	3
Splash pad	58	24
Pathway for Play	29	1
Existing Playground	27	0
Existing Gathering Space	18	4
Wooded Buffer	16	0
Meditation Art Island	18	6



Social Pinpoint Results: Nature Experiences Scenario



Feature	Likes	Dislikes
Historic Interpretation	10	28
Restored Wetland	37	9
Arboretum and Gardens	63	0
Wetland Boardwalk and Fishing Pier	64	3
Restored Wetland Edge	31	3
Wooded Picnic Area	41	2
Dog Park	45	9
Picnic and Food Truck Plaza	60	3
Wooded Buffer	22	1
Savanna Walk	44	5
Gateway	27	9
Expanded Rowing Area	71	5
Prairie Art Walk	34	13
Expanded Skate Park	56	4
Splash pad	71	13
Existing Playground	32	1
Existing Gathering Space	22	3
Wooded Buffer	20	0
Woodland	22	2
Meditation Island	34	11

Top 5 Features

Focus Groups: Key Takeaways

Recreation and Wellness

- The old fire station is currently used by the Adaptive Day Camp and the Rowing Club, who would like to maintain and expand use of this building.
- Expanded boat rental facilities was suggested, along with bike rentals.
- There was a desire for the splash pad and potential pool facility to have good visibility for safety reasons.

Playground

- There is a desire for challenging, non-traditional, unique, nature play elements that are accessible.
- Shady places for parents and caregivers to sit while kids play are desired, specifically by the Three Links playground.
- Easy, safe connections between aquatic features and play areas is desired.

Aquatics

- Aquatic facility should include areas for varying levels of comfort with water, including a zero depth entry and areas for full submersion. Spray features, a slide, and dump buckets were also mentioned.
- There is a desire for a natural-looking splash pad to blend in with the park's landscape.
- Parents expressed the importance of separating the splash pad from the skate park for safety reasons.

- The community conveyed a desire for additional pool facilities, but funding constraints require a focus on splash facilities.

Historic Preservation and Cultural Representation

- There was consensus that historic designation for the park should be pursued.
- Participants noted the importance of including Indigenous history as part of the historic interpretation in the park. Suggestions included a space for ceremonial use, and native planting labelled with native names.
- Participants expressed that historically, Silver Lake Park has seen a variety of uses and served a variety of needs. The park's multi-use nature should be carried forward within the master plan.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility

- There is a desire from the Muslim community for facilities to accommodate prayer in the park. These would include a place to wash hands and feet before prayer, family restrooms, and an area in the park to pray, that would be open to anyone seeking a meditative space. These amenities would allow Muslim visitors to stay longer at the park.
- It was noted that play areas and splash pads should go above and beyond the bare minimum of ADA accessibility; facilities must be engaging and interesting for people of varying abilities.

- Trails, especially those around the lake, are highly utilized and important to residents, but crossing 7th street is unsafe. Safer crossings at 7th street are necessary.

Skate Park

- The current skate park suits intermediate riders well, but there is no area for beginners. Future design should provide different zones for a range of skill levels.
- Designs should ensure that the park is adequately lit and includes shaded areas.
- Skaters desire more amenities adjacent to the skate park, including water fountains and benches.

East African Focus Group

- Desire for prayer facilities was reiterated; prayer area needs signage prohibiting dogs.
- Many people in this community bring their children to play at Three Links Park. Places to sit
- Children enjoy playing soccer and basketball, and parents would like their kids to be exposed to other sports like tennis or volleyball.
- Outdoor exercise equipment was more popular in this focus group than in others.



Project Context

Existing Conditions





Aerial of Silver Lake Park circa 1940



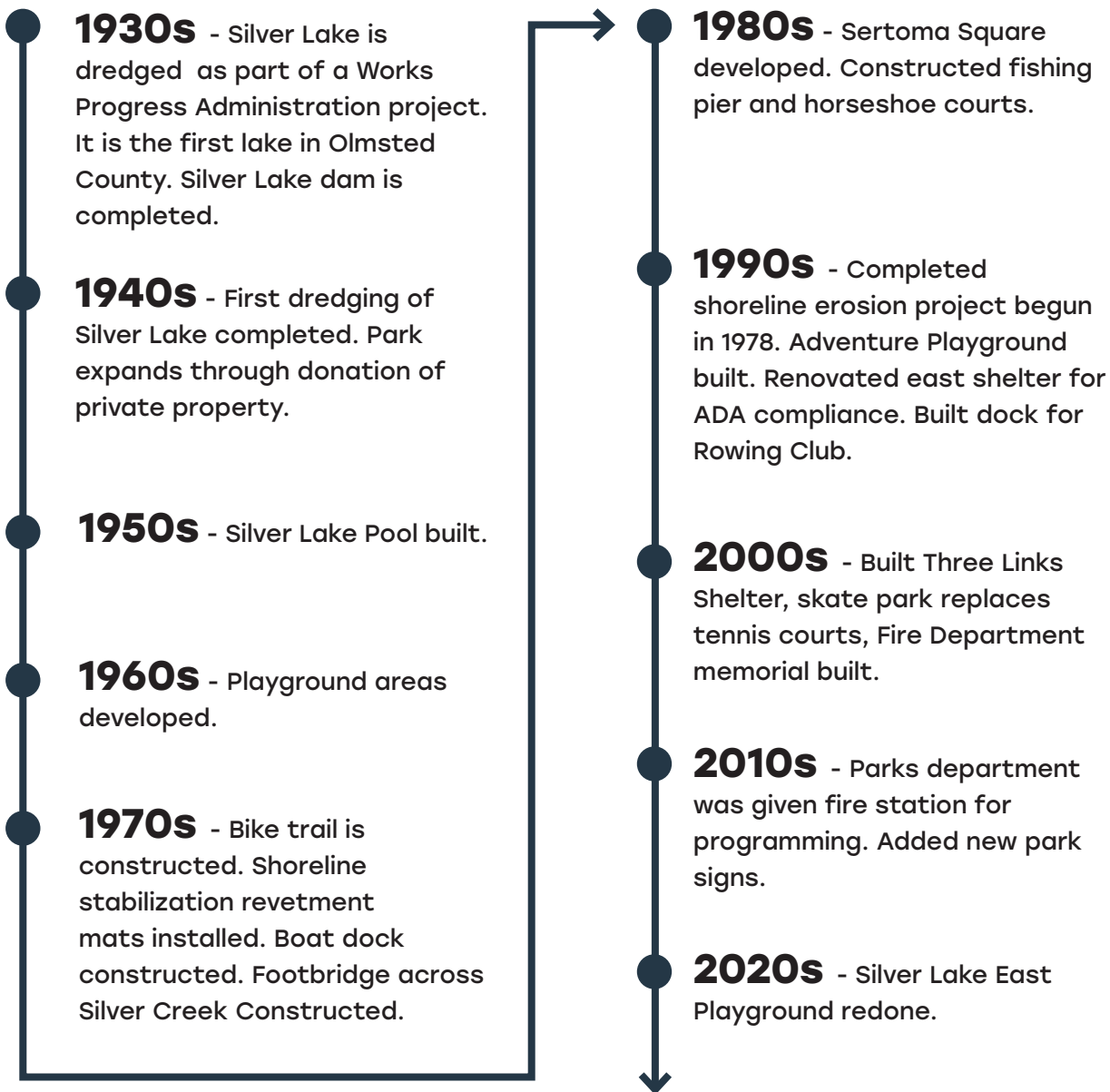
Dredging of Silver Lake in the 1930s



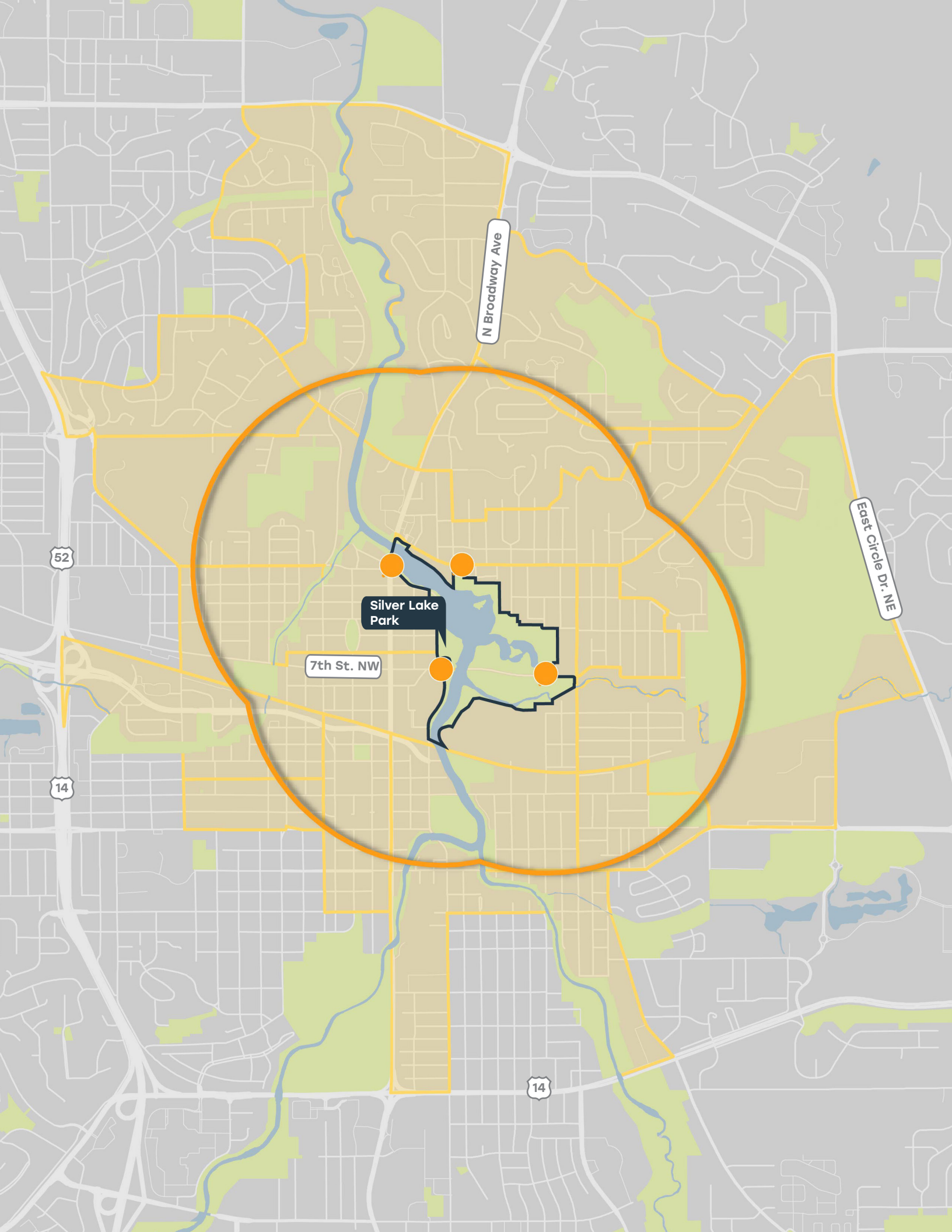
Historic postcard of Silver Park park featuring historic stone bridges

History | Timeline

Silver Lake Park is an ever-evolving Rochester recreation destination.



Silver Lake Park Master Plan



N Broadway Ave

East Circle Dr. NE

Silver Lake Park

7th St. NW

52


14


14

Community | Demographics

Silver Lake Park is a community resource.

Demographics for census block groups within a 15-minute walk from Silver Lake Park are shown below.

 Indicates where the block groups within a 15-minute walk are notably HIGHER than the City of Rochester

 Indicates where the block groups within a 15-minute walk are notably LOWER than the City of Rochester

Race	Block groups within 15-min. walk	City of Rochester
White	73.91%	73.23%
Black/African American	9.83%	8.89%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.70%	0.44%
Asian	5.97%	7.86%
Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.11%	0.06%
One other race	2.70%	2.93%
Two or more races	6.78%	6.60%
Ethnicity		
Hispanic or Latino (any race)	6.58%	6.59%

Source: 2020 Census.








Age	Block groups within 15-min. walk	City of Rochester
Under 18	16.8%	24%
Gen.. Z Adults (18 to 24)	9.8%	8.2%
Millennials (25 to 39)	24.5%	23%
Gen. X (40 to 59)	24.5%	30.7%
Boomers (60 to 74)	14.1%	13.4%
Greatest Gen. (75 and older)	10.4%	7%

Source: American Community Survey (ACS) 2016-2020 5-year Estimates.

Housing Tenure	Block Groups within 15-min walk	City of Rochester
Owner-occupied	57%	67%

Source: American Community Survey (ACS) 2016-2020 5-year Estimates.

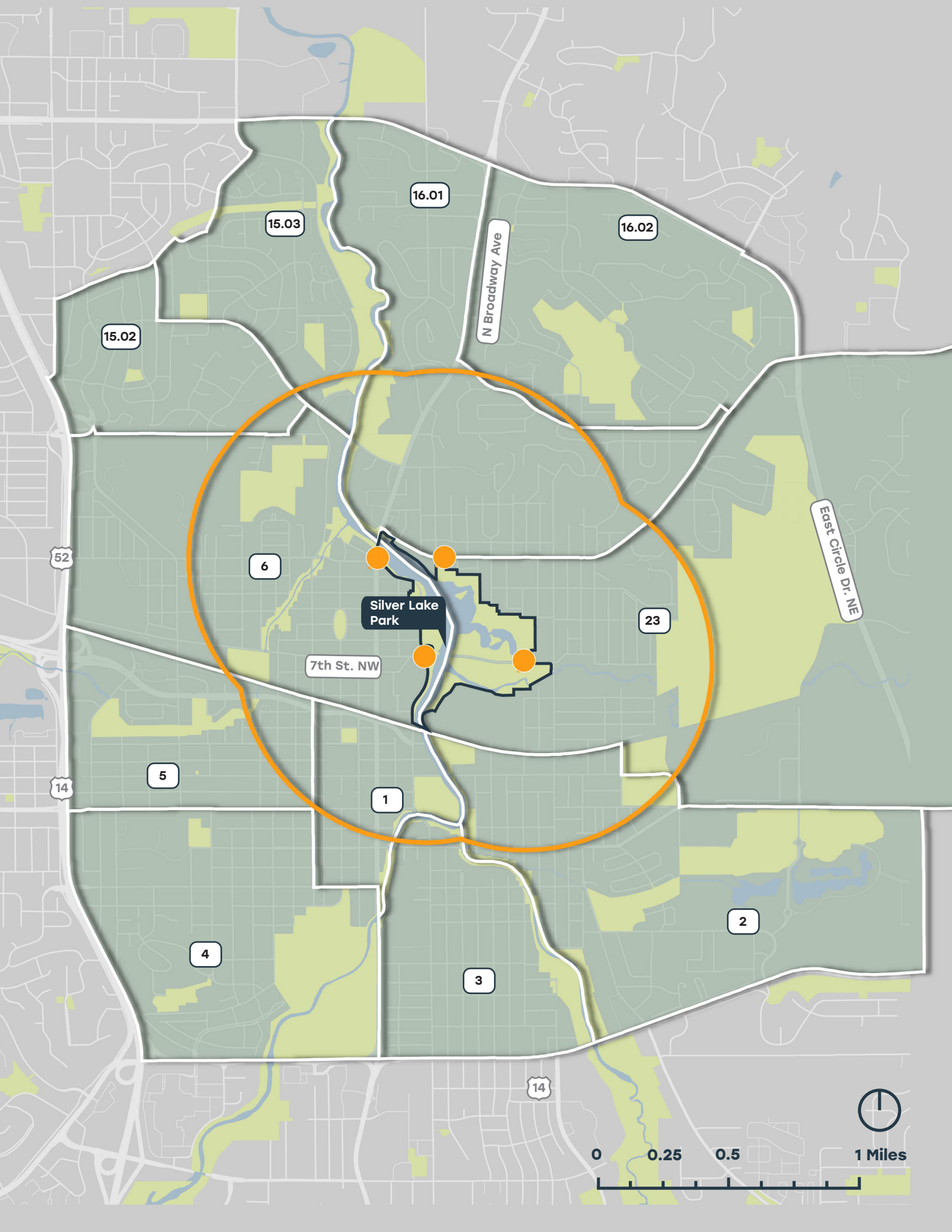
Legend

-  Major Intersections
-  3/4-mile Buffer from major intersections (15-minute walk)
-  Census Block Groups intersecting 3/4-mile Buffer
-  Roads
-  Study Area
-  Park Areas
-  Water

Map Data Sources:
City of Rochester, Olmsted County,
US Census Bureau

Compared to the City of Rochester, the highlighted block groups:

- Are similar regarding race and ethnicity
- Have a lower percentage residents under 18 and Gen. X residents, and a higher percentage of residents 75 and older
- Have a lower percentage of homeowners



15.02

15.03

16.01

16.02

N Broadway Ave

52

6

Silver Lake Park

23

7th St. NW

East Circle Dr. NE

14

5

1

4

3

2

14

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles



Community | Health

Community health in the neighborhoods surrounding Silver Lake Park is variable.

Health outcomes for census tracts fully or partially within a 15-minute walk of Silver Lake Park:*

High Blood Pressure	Cancer	Asthma
21.6% Lowest: Tract 5	4.4% Lowest: Tract 5	7% Lowest: Tract 23
27.2% Average: All tracts	7.4% Average: All tracts	7.9% Average: All tracts
46.4% Highest: Tract 1	13.2% Highest: Tract 1	8.8% Highest: Tract 3
Coronary Heart Disease	COPD	Diabetes
4.2% Lowest: Tract 5	3.3% Lowest: Tract 4	6.8% Lowest: Tract 4
6.3% Average: All tracts	5.1% Average: All tracts	9.2% Average: All tracts
16.6% Highest: Tract 1	11.2% Highest: Tract 1	18.7% Highest: Tract 1
High Cholesterol	Obesity	Mental Health not good for ≥ 14 days
25.6% Lowest: Tract 5	20.4% Lowest: Tract 4	7.9% Lowest: Tract 4
31.2% Average: All tracts	30.8% Average: All tracts	10.4% Average: All tracts
42.8% Highest: Tract 1	41.9% Highest: Tract 1	12.8% Highest: Tract 5

Parks and Community Health

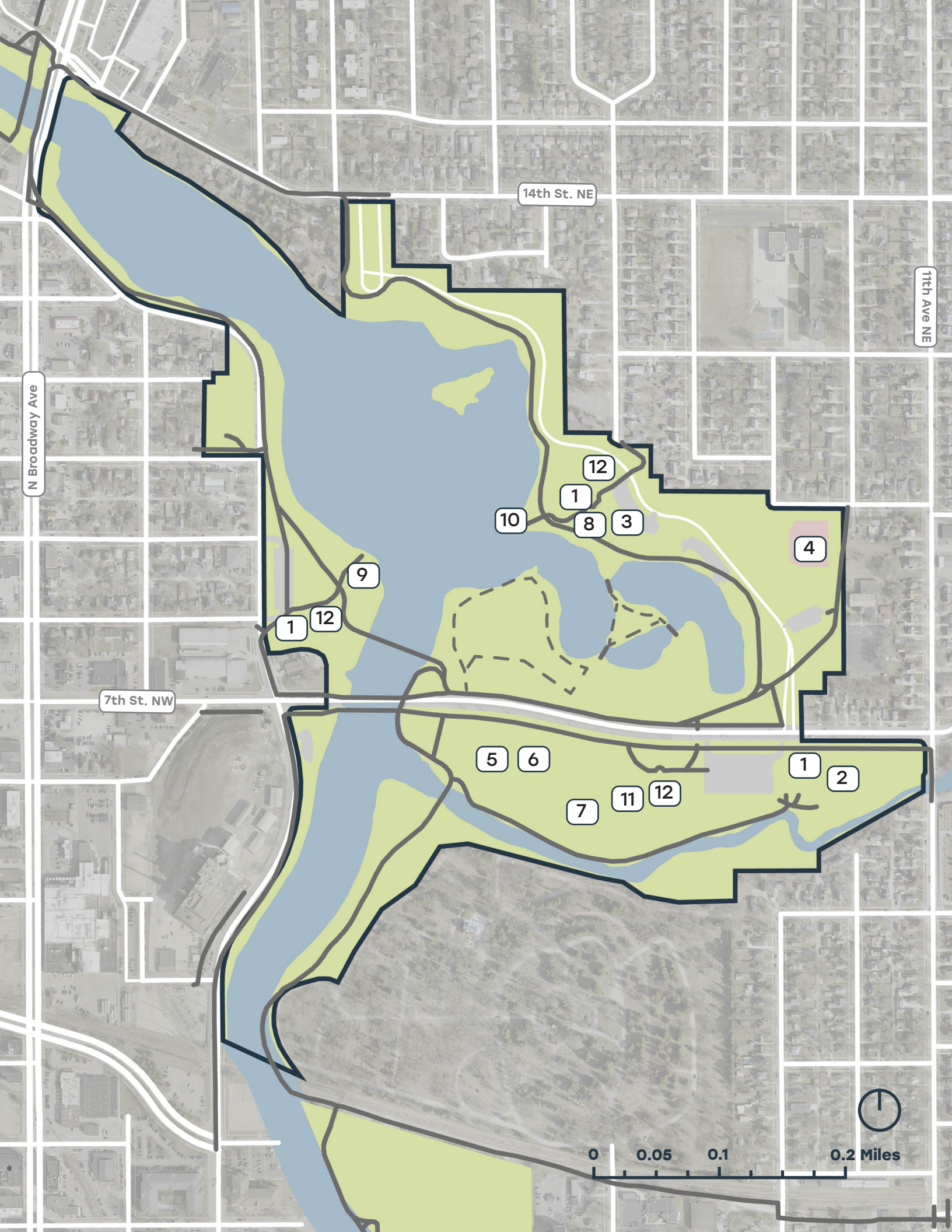
Close-to-home parks play critical roles in supporting community health, and have been shown to reduce the prevalence of heart disease, depression, asthma, diabetes, and other chronic health conditions in the communities they serve. In addition to encouraging physical activity, parks can relieve stress and enhance mental health by providing contact with nature, as well as space to relax and be social, which can reduce stress and improve immune system function. Trees and vegetation within parks enhance environmental health by filtering asthma-triggering air pollution and reducing urban heat island effect through shading and evaporative cooling.

Legend

- Major Intersections adjacent to park
- 3/4-mile Buffer (15-minute walk) from major intersections
- Census Tracts intersecting with 3/4-mile Buffer (15-minute walk)

- Roads
- Study Area
- Park Areas
- Water

Map Data Sources: City of Rochester, Olmsted County.
 *Health Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 500 Cities and PLACES Data, 2019. Numbers indicate the estimated % of respondents with a given health indicator. Estimates are generated using a multilevel statistical modeling framework using primary source data from the CDC Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (telephone survey), Census 2010 population, and American Community Survey estimates.



N Broadway Ave

7th St. NW

14th St. NE

11th Ave NE

1

1

9

12

5

6

7

11

12

10

1

8

3

12

1

2

4

0 0.05 0.1 0.2 Miles






Current Use | Park Amenities

Silver Lake Park provides a wide range of activities for Rochester's residents.

- 1 3 Picnic shelters
- 2 Playgrounds at south shelter
- 3 Playgrounds at east shelter
- 4 Baseball field
- 5 Football/soccer field
- 6 Open play field
- 7 Skate park
- 8 2 Horseshoes courts
- 9 Boat rental (Private facilities and vendor)
- 10 Fishing area
- 11 Swimming
- 12 3 Restrooms

Legend

-  Study Area
-  Park Areas
-  Water

Map Data Sources: Pictometry International, City of Rochester, Olmsted County

Site History and Inventory: Silver Lake Park, Rochester, MN New History, January 2022

"The central position of the lake surrounded by parkland is a character-defining feature of the site. The concentration of recreational facilities and amenities on the south halves of East and West Silver Lake and the physical connection of the park's various areas and facilities via East and West Silver Lake Drives are also character-defining features..."

Rochester Recreation Center Amenities:

- 1 Building Facility
- 1 Rentable Space
- 1 Events and Programs
- 1 Paved Trail
- 2 Basketball Courts
- 1 Swimming Pool
- 1 Ice Skating Rink
- 2 Hockey Rinks

Indian Heights Park Amenities:

- 1 Cultural Site
- 1 Unpaved Trail
- 1 Nature Area

Northern Heights Park Amenities:

- 1 Unpaved Trail
- 1 Nature Area
- 1 Baseball/Softball Field
- 2 Tennis Courts
- 1 Ice Skating Rink
- 1 Hockey Rink

Silver Lake Park Amenities:

- 3 Picnic Areas
- 3 Restrooms
- 3 Rentable Spaces
- 4 Playgrounds
- 1 Nature Play Element
- 1 Open Play Field
- 1 Paved Trail
- 1 Nature Area
- 1 Baseball/Softball Field
- 1 Football/Soccer Field
- 2 Horseshoes Areas
- 1 Swimming Facility
- 1 Lake
- 1 Fishing Area
- 1 Boat Launch
- Outdoor Art

Cooke Park Amenities:

- 1 Picnic Shelter
- 1 Restroom
- 1 Rentable Space
- 1 Playground
- 1 Open Play Field
- 1 Paved Trail
- 1 Baseball/Softball Field
- 2 Horseshoes Areas
- 1 Sand Volleyball Court
- 6 Pickle ball Courts

Goose Egg Park Amenities:

- 1 Playground
- 1 Horseshoes
- 2 Tennis/Pickle ball courts

Rev. Dr.. Martin Luther King Jr. Park Amenities:

- 1 Picnic Shelter
- 1 Rental Space
- 1 Playground
- 1 Open Play Field
- 1 Paved Trail
- 1 Sports Complex - Outside
- 1 Baseball/Softball Field
- 2 Basketball Courts
- 1 Disc Golf Course
- 3 Football/Soccer Fields
- 16 Horseshoes Areas
- 1 Sand Volleyball Court
- 1 Education Garden
- Future Restroom/Shelter improvements

Mayo Memorial Park Amenities:

- 1 Building Facility
- 1 Paved trail
- 1 Baseball/Softball Field

Central Park Amenities:

- 1 Picnic Shelter
- 1 Restroom
- 1 Rentable Space
- 1 Horseshoes Area

Mayo Memorial Park Amenities:

- 1 Playground
- 1 Open Play Field
- 1 Paved Trail
- Outdoor Art

0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles



Current Use | Adjacent Amenities

Silver Lake Park provides more amenities than many other nearby parks.

Several schools exist nearby that may provide additional amenities.





Amenities at Silver Lake Park



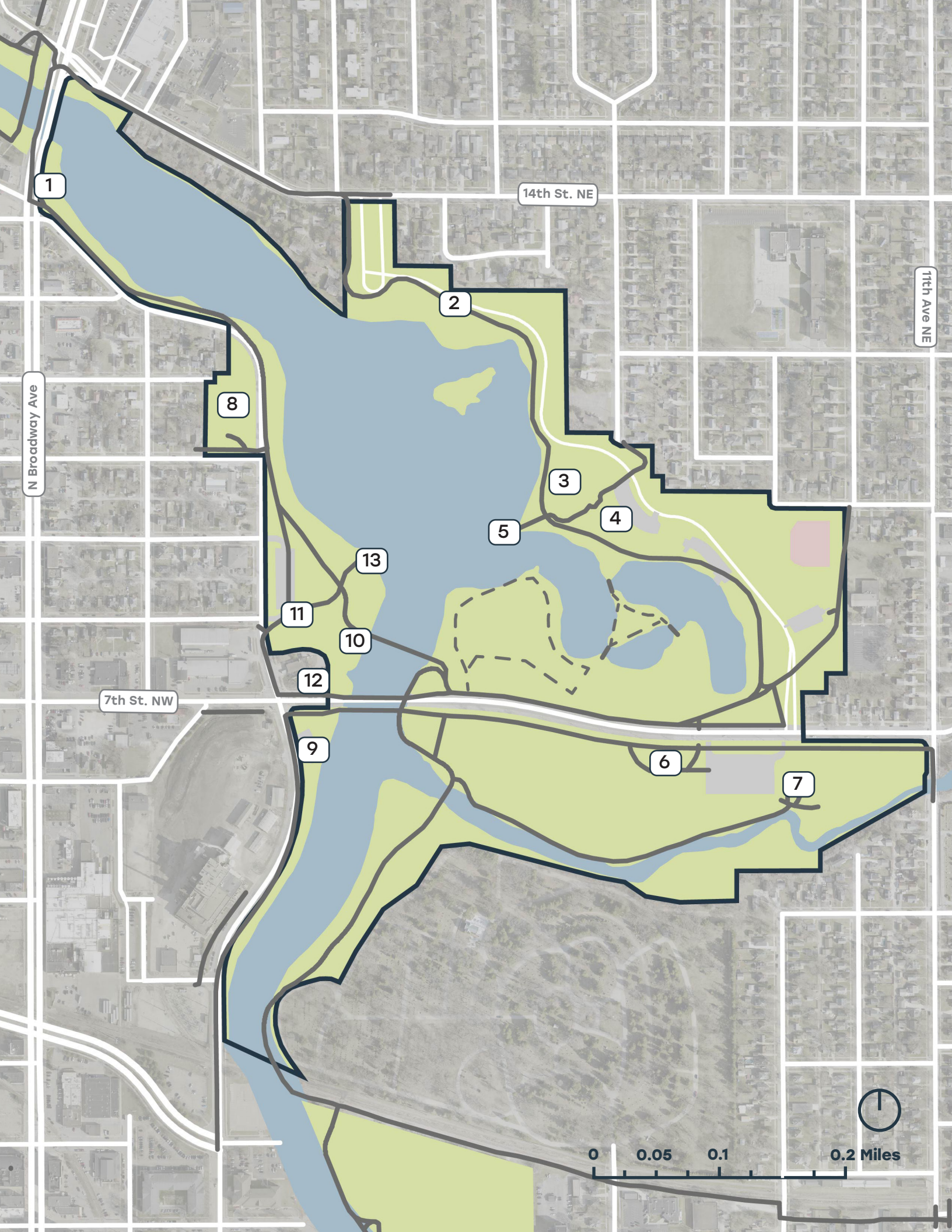
Amenities at other nearby parks



Legend

-  School Locations
-  Study Area
-  Park Areas
-  Water

Map Data Sources: City of Rochester, Olmsted County



1

14th St. NE

11th Ave NE

2

N Broadway Ave

8

3

4

5

13

11

10

7th St. NW

12

9

6

7

0 0.05 0.1 0.2 Miles






Current Use | Existing Structures

Older structures at Silver Lake Park are a window into Rochester's past.

- 1 Overlook with stone walls*
- 2 East stone wall*
- 3 East stone steps*
- 4 East shelter building*
- 5 Concrete pier*
- 6 Bath house*
- 7 South shelter building
- 8 Small wood picnic shelter
- 9 Pump house
- 10 Rowing Club and boat rental shed
- 11 West shelter building*
- 12 Former fire station*
- 13 Boat rental

Legend

-  Study Area
-  Park Areas
-  Water

Map Data Sources: Pictometry International, City of Rochester, Olmsted County

* Indicates structures of potential historic or cultural interest.

Existing Structures



1
Overlook with stone wall*



2
East stone wall*



5
Concrete pier*



6
Bath house*



9
Pump house



10
Rowing Club and boat rental sheds

* Indicates structures of historic or cultural interest.



East stone steps*



East shelter building*



South shelter building



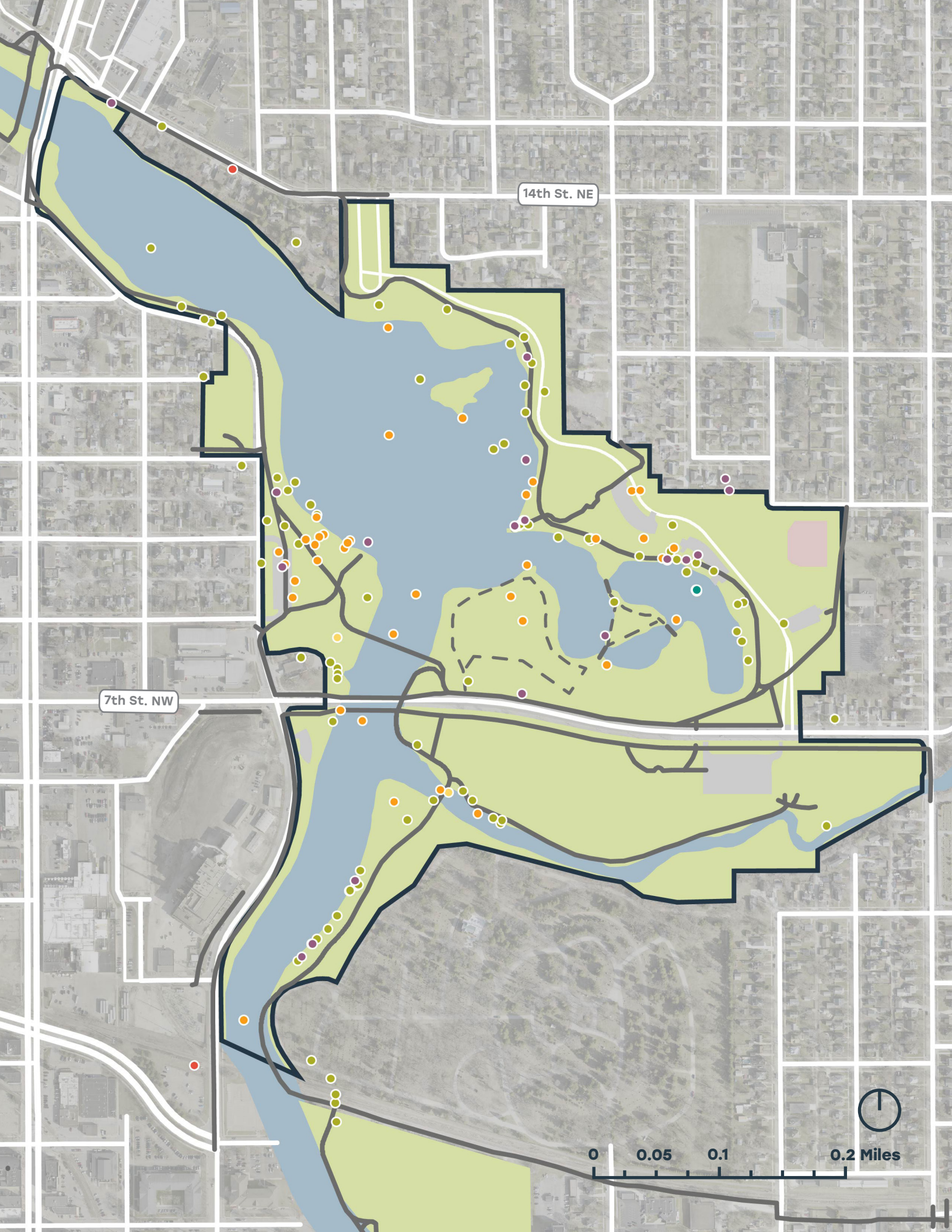
Small wood picnic shelter



West shelter building*



Former fire station*



14th St. NE

7th St. NW

0 0.05 0.1 0.2 Miles



Ecology | Diversity

Silver Lake Park provides a place for people to connect with a diversity of the region's plants and animals.

At least **153** species of plants and animals have been recorded at Silver Lake Park.

4

species of fish are listed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources: Bluegill, Black Crappie, Yellow Perch, and Largemouth Bass.

77

species of birds were observed in 2021 and 2022 by users of ebird.com, an app developed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Species with the highest counts included Canada Goose, Mallard, and American Coot. For the full list, see the Appendix.

17

species of insects*

2

species of mammals*

52










species of plants*

2

species of reptiles*

*Data collected by users of the citizen science phone application iNaturalist. For the full list, see the Appendix.

Legend

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
|  Reptile Sighting |  Mammal Sighting |  Plant Sighting |  Water |
|  Insect Sighting |  Bird Sighting |  Fish Sighting |  Roads |
| | | |  Study Area |

Map Data Sources: iNaturalist.com

Mammals



American Beaver / *Castor canadensis*



Eastern Gray Squirrel / *Sciurus carolinensis*

Insects



Eastern Tiger Swallowtail / *Papilio glaucus*



Two-striped planthopper / *Acanalonia bivittata*

Plants



Cup Plant / *Silphium perfoliatum*



Bur Oak / *Quercus macrocarpa*

Reptiles



Eastern Spiny Softshell / *Apalone spinifera*



Red-sided Gartersnake / *Thamnophis sirtalis infernalis*

Birds



Willet / *Tringa semipalmata*



Spotted Sandpiper / *Actitis macularius*

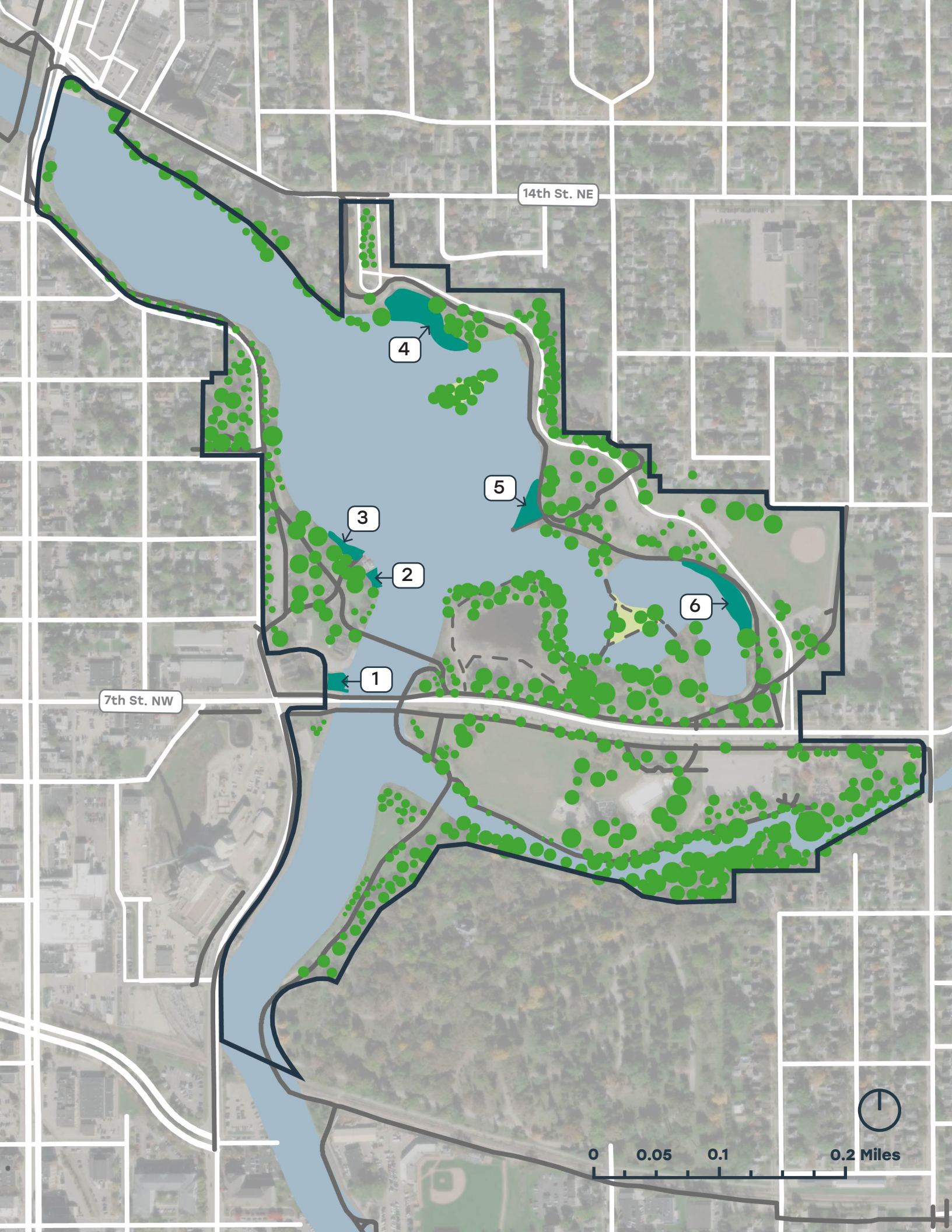
Fish



Largemouth Bass / *Micropterus salmoides*



Bluegill / *Lepomis macrochirus*



14th St. NE

7th St. NW

4

5

3

2

6

1

0 0.05 0.1 0.2 Miles



Ecology | Vegetation

Silver Lake Park has ample tree coverage that cools visitors in the summer and buffers winter winds.

- Tree species in the park include American Hazelnut, Amur Maple, Bur Oak, Eastern Black Walnut, and Trembling Aspen. For full list of observed plants, see Appendix.
- Restored wetland buffers provide water quality benefits for the lake by slowing down stormwater and filtering water.



Vegetation

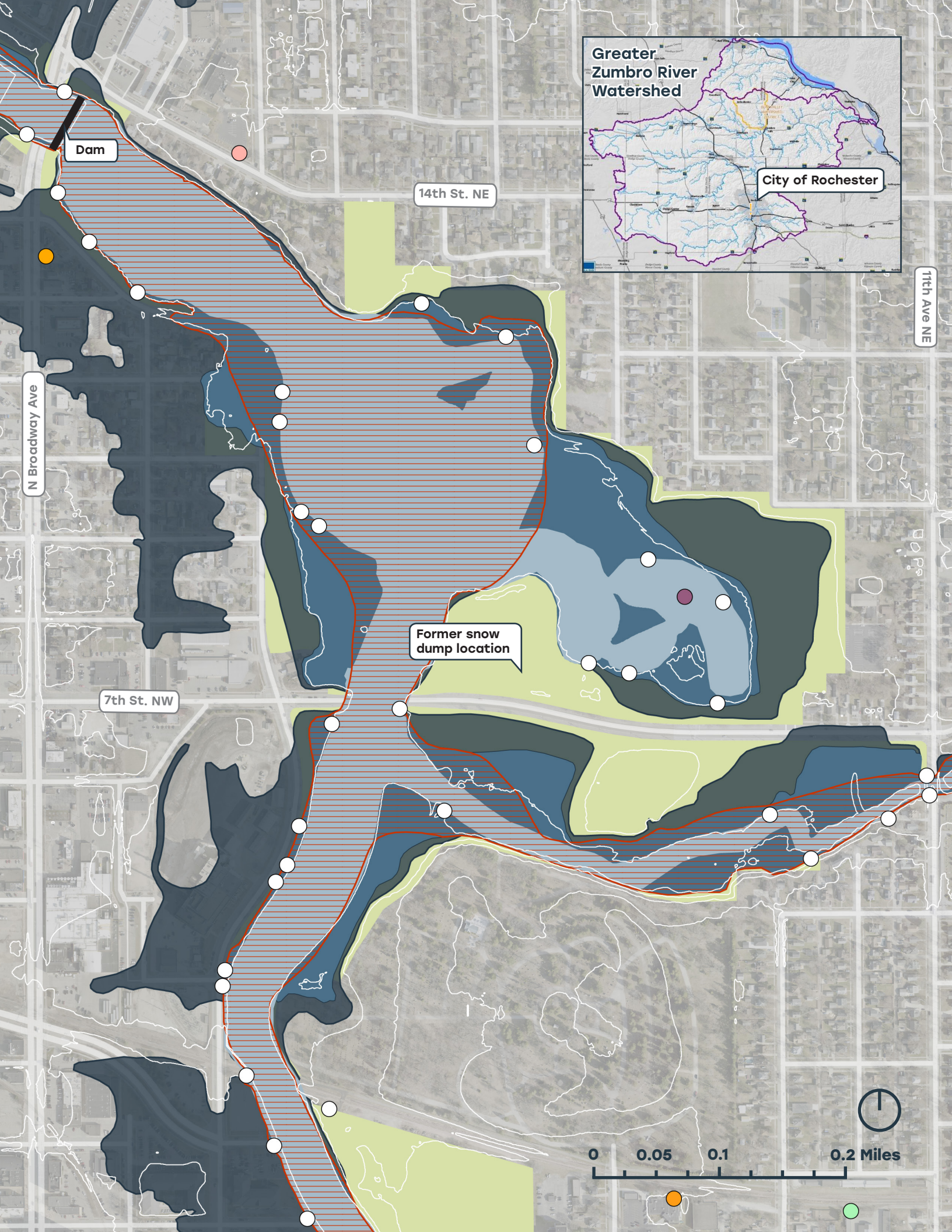
● Tree

■ Restored Wetland Area

■ Water

■ Roads

□ Study Area



Greater
Zumbro River
Watershed

City of Rochester

Dam

14th St. NE

11th Ave NE

N Broadway Ave

7th St. NW

Former snow
dump location

0 0.05 0.1 0.2 Miles












Hydrology

Water is a central feature and a major draw to Silver Lake Park.

- Significant portions of the park are within the 100-year or 500-year floodplains
- Numerous storm water outlets are sited on the lake's edge.
- Water recreation amenities include Silver Lake Boat and Bicycle Rental and the Silver Lake Swimming Pool.



Hydrology

-  Floodway
-  100-year Floodplain
-  500-year Floodplain
-  10-Foot Elevation Contours
-  Storm water Outlets
- MS4 Storm water BMPs
 -  Small Basin
 -  Rain Garden
 -  Infiltration Trench
 -  Small Basin
-  Roads
-  Park Areas
-  Water

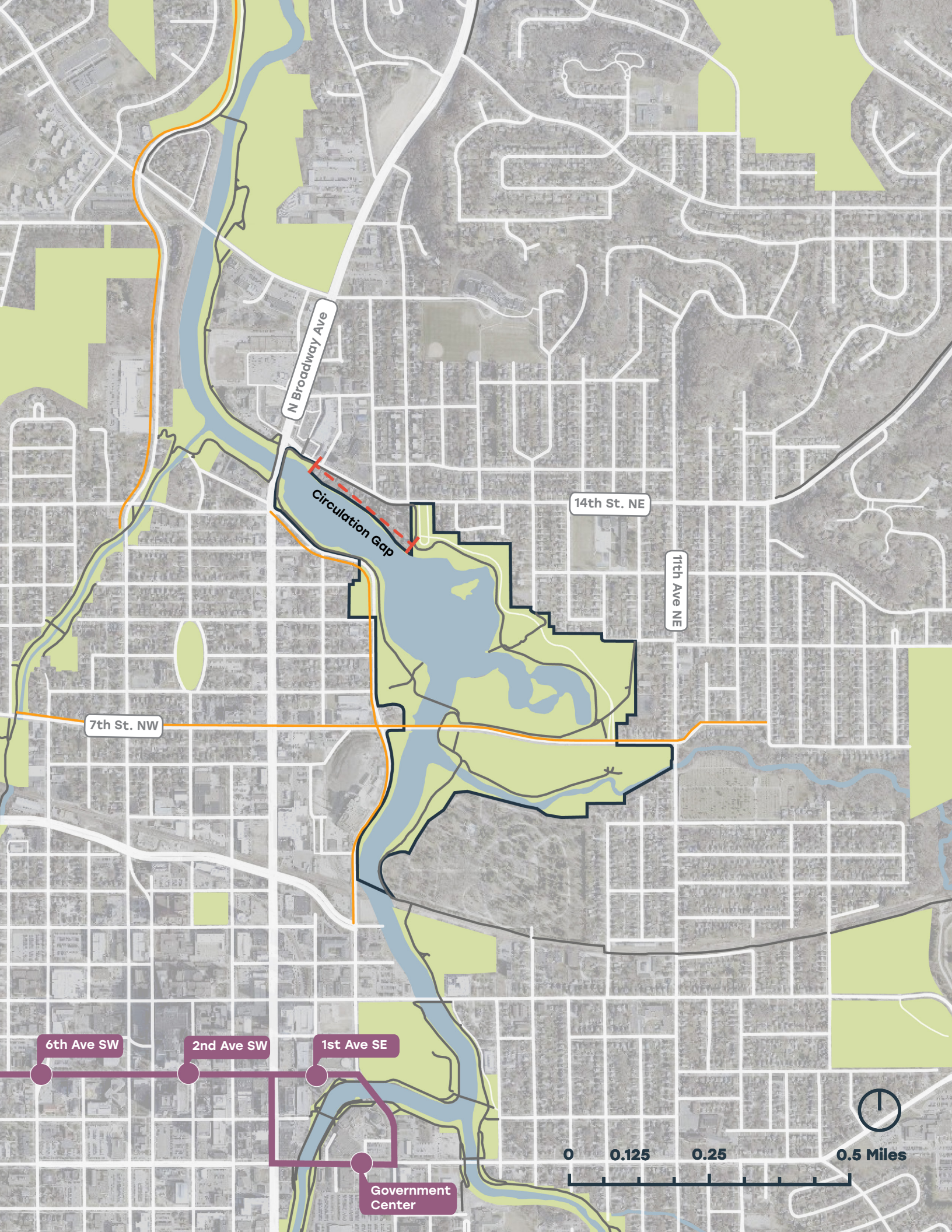
Map Data Sources: Pictometry International, City of Rochester, Olmsted County, FEMA

Silver Lake Sediment Removal and Dam Modification Project

The main goals of this project are to eliminate the cost of maintenance and repairs of the existing dam, improve safety and accessibility, improve fish habitat, and create both land and water recreational opportunities. Land will become available on the south side of the channel near the dam when the dam is removed, as indicated on the map. Removing the dam will allow wildlife, in particular fish, to more easily move along the river corridor. The water level in Silver Lake will remain unchanged.

Climate Change and Flooding

Many climate models indicate that rainfall will happen with less frequency but with more intensity, causing flash flooding. For this reason, we have included the 500 year floodplain on this map.



N Broadway Ave

14th St. NE

11th Ave NE

7th St. NW

6th Ave SW

2nd Ave SW

1st Ave SE

Government Center

Circulation Gap

0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles



Circulation | Connectivity

Silver Lake Park is accessible by multiple modes of transportation.

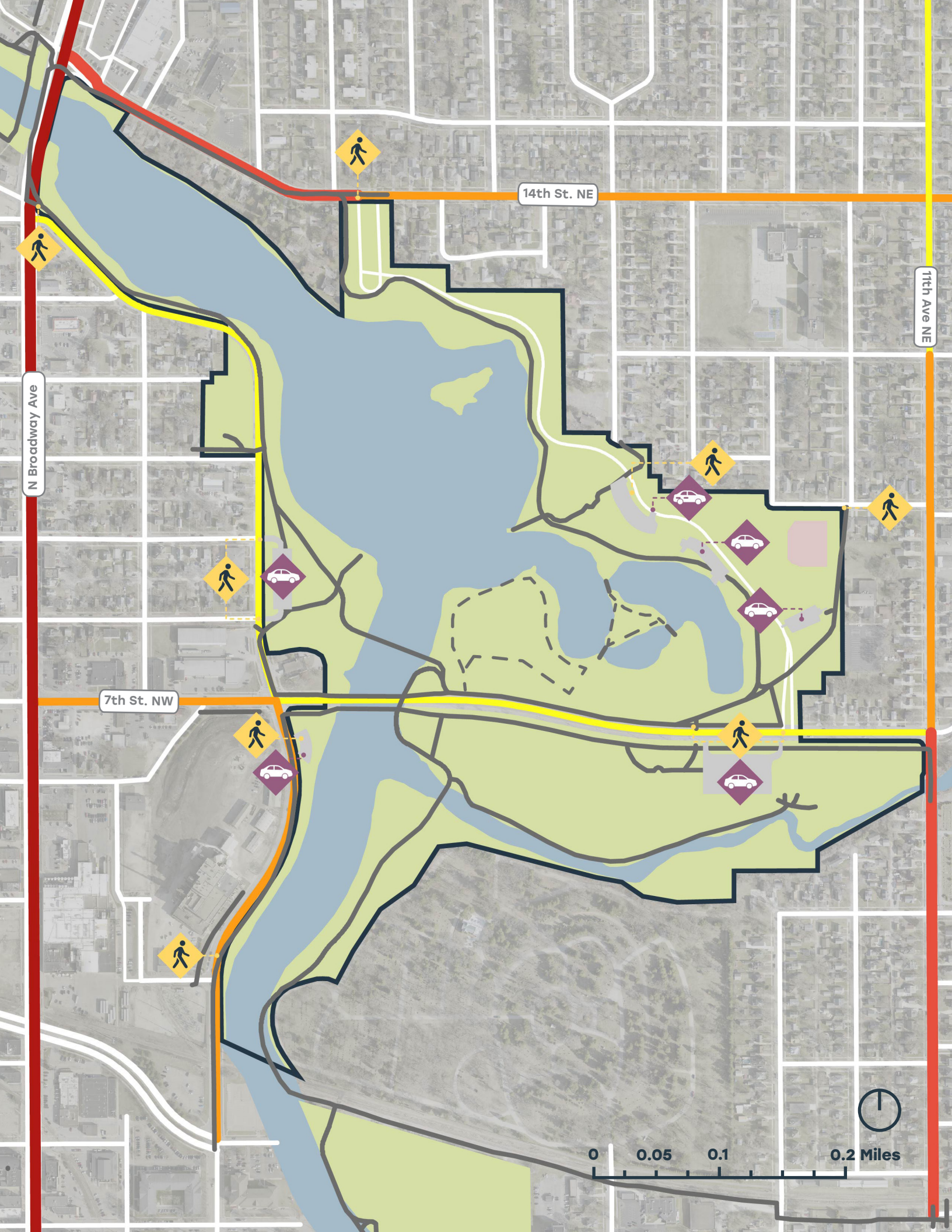
- Silver Lake Park is part of a network of paved off-street paths along the Zumbro river
- There is a gap in the paved off-street path network that circulates around the park, on the north side between 1st Ave NE and 3rd Ave NE. A proposed path connection is included in the Silver Lake Dredging and Dam Modification Project
- Major bus routes run near the park on Broadway Ave, 14th St., 11th Ave, and Center St.. There are numerous stops along these routes adjacent to, or within a few blocks of, the park.
- On-street bicycle lanes run adjacent to the park along W. Silver Lake Drive NE and 7th St. NE.
- The proposed BRT line will stop within several blocks of the park

Legend

- Paved Off-Street Paths
- On-Street Bike Lanes
- Proposed BRT Route
- Proposed BRT Stops
- Streets
- ▭ Study Area
- Park Areas
- Water

Sources: City of Rochester, Olmsted County





N Broadway Ave

14th St. NE

11th Ave NE

7th St. NW



0 0.05 0.1 0.2 Miles








Circulation | Internal Circulation



Silver Lake Park is easily navigated on foot or on bike.





- There are 8 pedestrian access points into Silver Lake Park.
- There are 6 vehicular access points into Silver Lake Park, and 6 parking lots.
- A network of paved and unpaved paths allows pedestrians to walk around inside the park. There is a gap in the paved off-street path network that circulates the park, on the north side between 1st Ave NE and 3rd Ave NE. A proposed path connection is included in the Silver Lake Dredging and Dam Modification Project
- Traffic volumes on W. Silver Lake Park Dr., 7th Street, 14th St., and 11th Ave are below the threshold for a two-lane cross-section. Pavement on 7th St. is wider than necessary for the street's AADT (see Best Practices box below).

Circulation

-  Vehicular Access Points
-  Pedestrian Access Points
-  Paved Paths
-  Sidewalk
-  Parking

Average Annual Daily Traffic (2016-2018)

-  20,300-26,500 AADT
-  9,000-10,000 AADT
-  7,200-7,800 AADT
-  6,900 and lower AADT

-  Streets
-  Study Area
-  Park Areas
-  Water

Sources: Pictometry International, City of Rochester, Olmsted County, MNDOT



Best Practice: Road Capacity

From The Highway Capacity Manual: Sixth Edition (Transportation Research Board):

- 2 lane local street: 1,000 vehicles per day based on livability
- 2 lane (w./ left turn lanes): 18,300 vehicles per day
- 4 lane (w./ left turn lanes): 36,800 vehicles per day
- 6 lane (w./ left turn lanes): 55,300 vehicles per day

From the NACTO Urban Street Design Guide:

- A 3-lane cross-section can function effectively with volumes of up to 25,000 vehicles per day



Silver Lake Park Master Plan Vision



Key

- 1 Dam Area
- 2 North Area
- 3 North of 7th Street
- 4 South of 7th Street
- 5 Confluence Area
- 6 West Shelter Area
- 7 Pocket Arboretum

Legend

- Separated Bike and Pedestrian Path
- Shared-use Path
- Pedestrian-only Path
- Boardwalk
- Lawn
- Understory
- Wetland
- Prairie Restoration
- Play Areas
- Parking and Vehicular Roadways
- Water
- Special Paving
- Site Furnishing
- Existing Tree
- Proposed Tree

N. BROADWAY AVE

16th St.. NE

3rd Ave NE

14th St.. NE

10th St.. NE

W... SILVER LAKE DRIVE NE.

E SILVER LAKE DR.

7th St.. NE



Overall Master Plan

Overview

Dam Area

Planned future improvements to this area will see the removal of the current dam. Information about the Dam Modification Project can be found at the [City of Rochester's website](#). In tandem with that project, new interweaving boardwalks in this area will bring visitors to the water, and a water play loop located adjacent to the water will provide children with cooling summertime fun.

This area is also the location of a new history plaza, which will host a series of interpretive signs and sculptures illustrating the history of the park, from the Indigenous tribes that once lived in this area to the Works Progress Administration project.

North Area

The North Area is located just southeast of the Firefighter's memorial, and is envisioned to be a restored wetland area with "steps" that visitors can descend to connect with the water below. There is also a new bridge that connects to the island just south of the water's edge.

North of 7th Street

This area is defined by a series of natural pedestrian-only paths that provide a meditative connection with nature for visitors of the park. Three existing historic bridges connect to the island just north of this area, which has been updated to include new paths, benches, and public art. A section of the bermed land that encloses the former snow dump area has been removed to create a suitable distance for the lake's rowers.

South of 7th Street

The area just south of 7th Street is a cluster of active recreation and outdoor fun. The old aquatics area has been transformed into an exciting new splash pad area, with the option for integrating a pool, if determined to be a priority for this location and if funding is provided. The skate area has been expanded to include new bowls and street features, and new sports courts, including two soccer fields and a basketball court have been added.

Confluence Area

The point of the confluence of Silver Creek and the Zumbro river will see the development of a space for local members of the Dakota tribe to use as a gathering or ceremony space. This location has been set aside as part of this plan, but will be co-designed with members of the Indigenous people in the future.

West Shelter Area

The West Shelter area is located closest to downtown Rochester, and as such is one of the most activated spaces in the park. This area will see a picnic plaza adjacent to the existing updated playgrounds, a new pocket dog park, and design interventions that help to manage nuisance geese populations.

Pocket Arboretum

Pocket Arboretum is envisioned as a serene "pocket arboretum" that includes a circular landscaped area with native Minnesota plants labeled with their Dakota names as a garden exhibition. It also includes a small, circular play area at the sound end of the Square.

Key

- 1 History Plaza
- 2 Bridge
- 3 Boardwalk Overlook
- 4 Kayak Play Area
- 5 North Loop Trail
- 6 Kayak Launch
- 7 Seat Hill
- 8 Water Play Loop
- 9 Angled Parking

N Broadway Ave

14th St. NE

W. Silver Lake Dr. NE

Legend

- | | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| | Separated Bike and Pedestrian Path | | Prairie Restoration |
| | Shared-use Path | | Play Areas |
| | Pedestrian-only Path | | Parking and Vehicular Roadways |
| | Boardwalk | | Water |
| | Lawn | | Special Paving |
| | Understory | | Site Furnishing |
| | Wetland | | Existing Tree |
| | | | Proposed Tree |



Dam Area

Overview

History Plaza (Historic West Overlook)

This area will be a plaza with interpretive installations that will explain the history of Silver Lake Park, from the Indigenous communities that lived in this area to the federal relief construction project during the 1930s that crafted the lake and dam as they are today.

Bridge

In tandem with the planned dam modification project, this bridge will be constructed as a pedestrian and bicyclist path over Silver Lake Park to provide a safer and more pleasant crossing than the narrow sidewalk on N. Broadway Ave.

Reference Map



Boardwalk Overlook

This area will be a series of interwoven boardwalks that will bring visitors close to the water to view the kayak play area and restored riparian areas. Two overlooks will provide the best views of the water.

North Loop Trail

Using the reclaimed land that will become available after the dam modification, this path will travel along the water's edge to create a completed loop path around Silver Lake. As part of the dam modification this trail segment will become easier to construct. In the event the dam project does not occur the trail will remain an important component for completion.

Kayak Play Area

The wave channel that will be created as part of the dam modification project will create rapid-like features in this section of the lake, which can be enjoyed in kayaks and other watercrafts.

Seat Hill

The slope of this hill will be embedded with stone or concrete benches so visitors can relax on this hill and enjoy views of the lake.

Kayak Launch

Kayaks and other watercrafts can launch from a dock placed at the shoreline.

Water Play Loop

This play feature will be embedded into the ground so that kids can reach into the water and play. It will use water from the city's water system.

Precedent Imagery



Historic Signage



Kayak Play Area



Water Play Loop



Boardwalk with Overlooks



Bridge



Seat Hill

Key

- 1 North Trail Loop
- 2 Firefighter's Memorial (existing)
- 3 Wetland Steps and Kayak Launch
- 4 Historic Stone Walls
- 5 Boardwalk to Island
- 6 Fishing Pier
- 7 Historic Stone Steps



Legend

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Separated Bike and Pedestrian Path | Prairie Restoration |
| Shared-use Path | Play Areas |
| Pedestrian-only Path | Parking and Vehicular Roadways |
| Boardwalk | Water |
| Lawn | Special Paving |
| Understory | Site Furnishing |
| Wetland | Existing Tree |
| | Proposed Tree |



North Area

Overview

North Trail Loop

This North Trail Loop is a continuation from the trail that will connect the proposed bridge at N. Broadway. In this location, it is likely the path will need to be a boardwalk due to topographical constraints.

Wetland Steps and Kayak Launch

Wooden or concrete "steps" will lead visitors down through restored wetland vegetation to interact with the water. A kayak launch will also be placed here with a separate path for visitors to embark on a kayak or canoe adventure.

Reference Map



Historic Stone Walls

These stone walls flank E. Silver Lake Dr.. and are assumed to have been built in the 1930s, during the park's original development. The plan recommends that the walls be repaired, with damaged stones replaced to match the existing.

Boardwalk and Fishing Pier

A new boardwalk will bring visitors to the small, previously inaccessible island, for exploration and fishing off the south end of the island.

Historic Stone Steps

These stone steps leading to the Issak Walton Historic Cabin were constructed during the 1930's Work Progress Administration timeline of the park's development. The plan recommends that they be repaired, with damaged stones replaced to match the existing.

Goose Mitigation

In this area, and throughout the park, design interventions will be placed to prevent geese from entering areas of gathering, like playgrounds, picnic areas, and seating areas. Strategically placed vegetation, low walls, and fencing will prevent them from entering these activity areas, and overhead shade structures may also prevent them from landing. This topic will be addressed in more detail in the "Wildlife Mitigation" Chapter.

Precedent Imagery



Wetland Steps



Wetland Restoration



Fishing Pier



Boardwalk Trail Connection to N. Broadway







Scenic Wetland Kayak Route



Kayak Launch

North of 7th Street

Legend

-  Separated Bike and Pedestrian Path
-  Shared-use Path
-  Pedestrian-only Path
-  Boardwalk
-  Lawn
-  Understory
-  Wetland
-  Prairie Restoration
-  Play Areas
-  Parking and Vehicular Roadways
-  Water
-  Special Paving
-  Site Furnishing
-  Existing Tree
-  Proposed Tree



Key

- 1 Picnic Area
- 2 Expanded Nature Play
- 3 Baseball Field (Existing)
- 4 Raised Intersection
- 5 Bike Rack
- 6 Land Removal Area at former snow dump
- 7 Scenic Overlook
- 8 Pier
- 9 Meditation Walk
- 10 Public Art
- 11 Stone Bridges (Existing)



0 100 Ft 200 Ft



North of 7th Street

Overview

Expanded Nature Play

Additional nature play elements will be integrated into the existing play areas at this location.

Raised Intersection

A raised intersection with colored pavement that contrasts with existing road pavement will create a safer crossing environment for pedestrians.

Bike Rack

Many of the trails in this area are pedestrian-only, so adding well-placed bike racks will allow bicyclists to lock their bikes so they can explore on-foot.

Raised Intersection and Crosswalks

A Raised Intersection with pavers at 7th Street and Silver Lake Drive will signal to drivers to slow down. Crosswalks at strategic locations along 7th Street will provide safe crossing areas for pedestrians. Roadway improvements require further coordination with the Department of Public Works. The raised intersection is a minimum recommendation mitigation strategy.

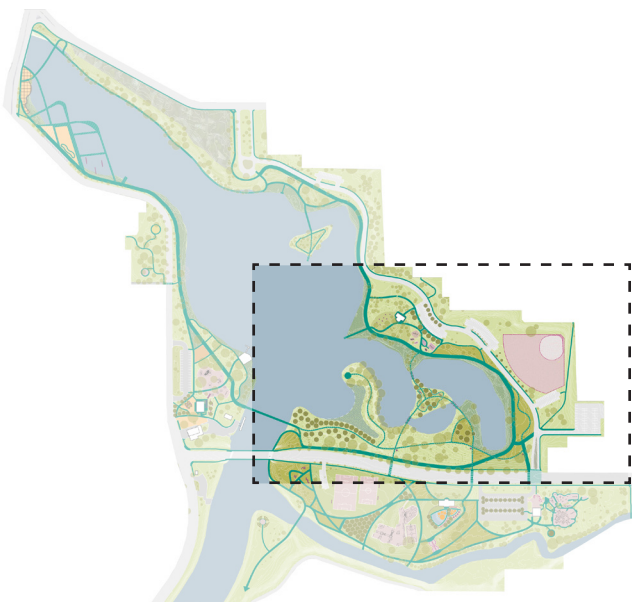
Land Removal Area at Former Snow Dump

This area was formerly used as a snow dump area by the City of Rochester. Currently, the land is enclosed by a berm. To reflect more of the historical/original creek boundary in this area and to create more lake surface for rowing, paddle boat, or other water activities, a crescent-shaped segment of this berm is proposed to be removed. Ideally, it should be returned to its historic configuration, with a shoreline that is the same or similar to the conditions of the 1940s. This work to remove the embankment is planned on being performed with the dredging operation of the Lake and thus is not included in the phasing or cost estimates.

Scenic Overlook

This secluded overlook will provide a place to rest and enjoy views over the water and to Indian Heights.

Reference Map



Pier

The current concrete pier at this location will be replaced with a wooden pier for fishing and overlooking the water.

Meditation Walk

Visitors can cross the three Works Progress Administration stone bridges on a pedestrian-only to explore Silver Lake's largest island and reflect on the art located there.

Public Art

The island will be a peaceful, contemplative location with an informal mulch trail that weaves through the island's trees, leading visitors to seating areas and several sculptures scattered throughout the island.

Scenic Overlook

This area takes advantage of the topography at the edges of the snow dump area to create a scenic overlook to Indian Heights. This plan recommends maintaining the existing vegetation in these areas that historically had minimal tree coverage.

Stone Bridges

There are existing stone bridges that connect the mainland of the park to a small island. These bridges were built in the 1930's, during the park's original development. They were not evaluated as part of the structural assessment, but appear to be in good shape and are recommended to be retained and repaired as necessary in the future.

Pedestrian-only Pathways

In this area, a series of dedicated pedestrian only paths provide access to the scenic overlook and lead visitors on a meditation walk through Silver Lake's largest island. These 6' wide trails are to be comprised of a compacted decomposed granite to reflect the character of the scenery around it.

This topic will be addressed in further detail in the "Interior Circulation" Chapter.

Precedent Imagery



Mulch Trail



Crosswalks



Nature Play



Kayaking and Rowing



Meditation Walk



Boardwalk



Public Art



Lawn Seating



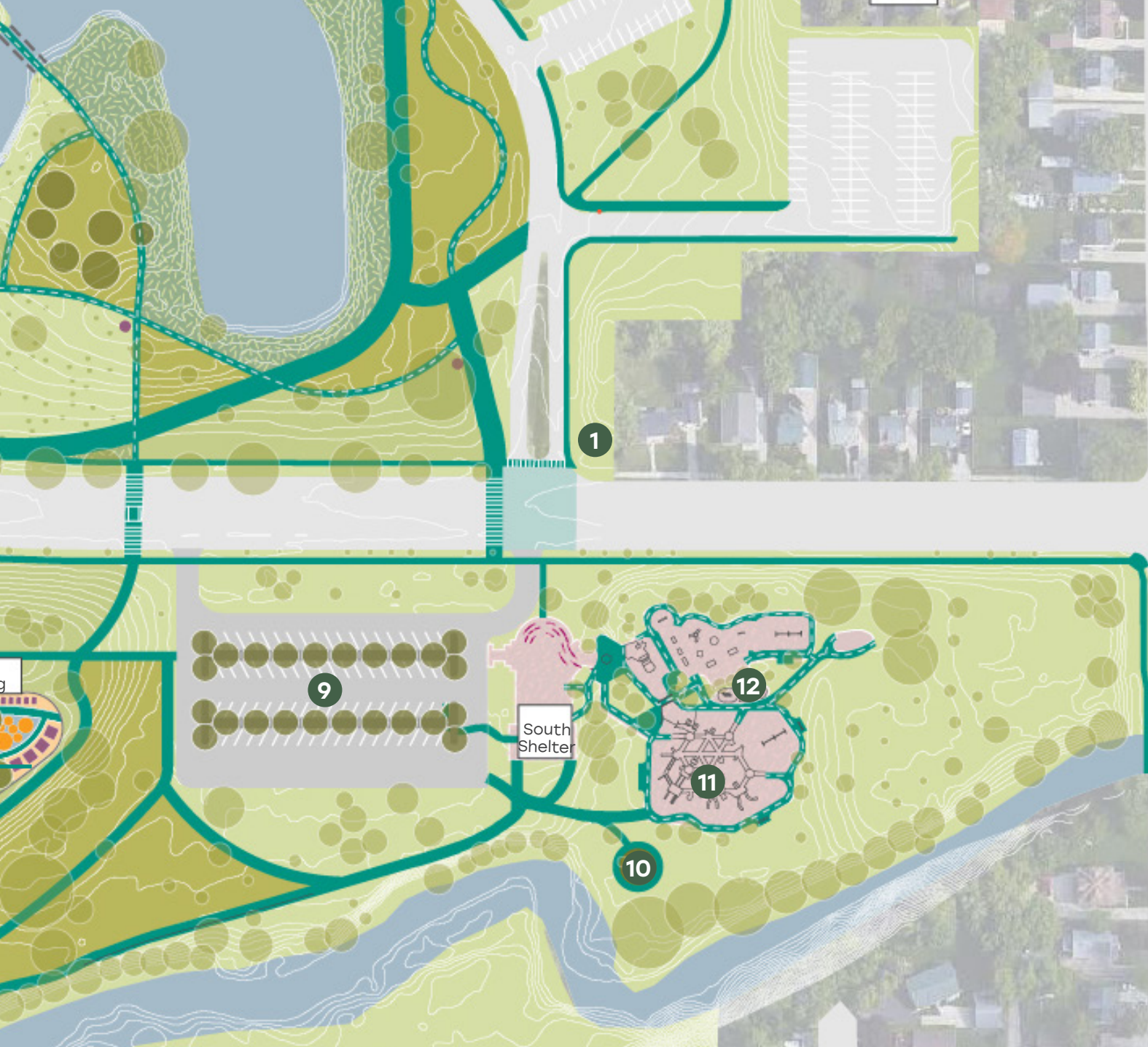
Seasonal Planting



7th STREET

Pool Building

South of 7th Street Enlargement

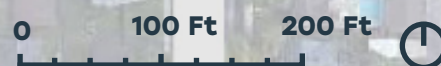


Key

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Gateway Sign/Art | 7 Hillside Slides |
| 2 Prairie Art Walk | 8 Splash Pad |
| 3 U12 and U10 Soccer Fields | 9 Updated Parking Lot |
| 4 Picnic Grove | 10 Meditation Garden |
| 5 Skate park Expansion | 11 Existing Play |
| 6 Basketball Court | 12 Fitness Station |

Legend

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Separated Bike and Pedestrian Path | Prairie Restoration |
| Shared-use Path | Play Areas |
| Pedestrian-only Path | Parking and Vehicular Roadways |
| Boardwalk | Water |
| Lawn | Special Paving |
| Understory | Site Furnishing |
| Wetland | Existing Tree |
| | Proposed Tree |



South of 7th Street

Overview

Gateway Sign/Art

The intersection of 7th Street and 11th Ave NE and the bridge over the Zumbro river are great opportunities to welcome pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicles into the park area.

Prairie Art Walk

This prairie art walk provides a meandering path for visitors to enjoy Minnesota's native ecosystem and contemplate large-scale public art.

Picnic Grove

A picnic grove will provide shade and gathering spaces to families seeking to eat a meal at the park.

Basketball Court

A basketball court will provide community members a place to play pick-up basketball.

Reference Map



Skate Park Expansion

This updated skate park includes new bowls, street skate features, as well as seating integrated along the perimeter of the park. Lighting, water fountains, and a shade structure are also recommended here.

Hillside Slides

Hillside slides utilize the area's existing topography to add a thrilling feature for kids and adults at this area of the park.

Splash Pad

This splash pad integrates a lawn area for towels and blankets, pool chairs, rentable cabanas, a toddler splash pad area, and a zero-depth splash pad area that could become a full pool if determined to be a priority for this location and if funding is provided.

Meditation Garden

This meditation garden will provide a secluded place for Rochester community members to meditate or pray. It will be especially welcoming to City's Muslim community so they may practice their salat, or prayers. This area will be fenced to disallow dogs from entering. Updates to the South Shelter should also be made to include a Wudu station so they may wash prior to performing prayers.

Fitness Station

Several stationary outdoor fitness equipment pieces will be placed here overlooking the playground so parents can work out while watching their children play.

Precedent Imagery



Gateway Art



Prairie Art Walk



Bioswale in Parking Lot

Precedent Imagery



Splash Pad



Splash Pad with Pool



Basketball Court



Meditation Garden



Skate park



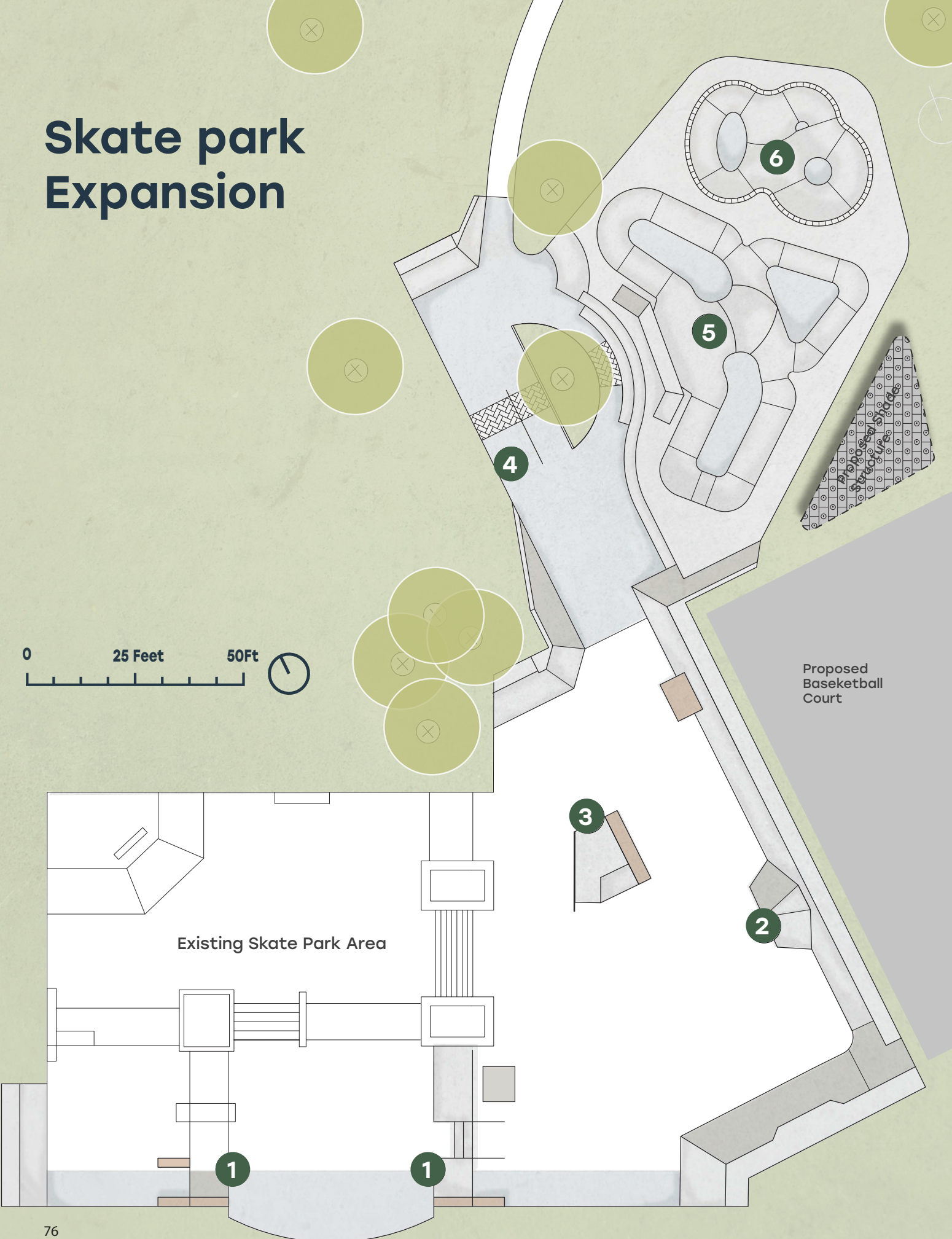
Hill Slides

View from Splash Pad





Skate park Expansion



Precedent Imagery



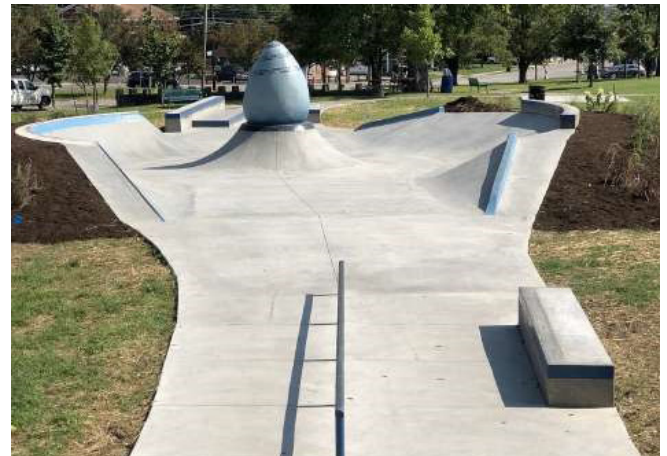
1 South Stage Extensions



2 Banked A-Frame



3 Manual Pad / Ledge / Rail Combo



4 Street Area Extension and Entry Path/Seating



5 Flow Bowl



6 Amoeba Bowl

Splash Pad

Key

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Existing Pool House | 6 6+ Years Play Area |
| 2 Picnic Area | 7 Zero Depth Entry |
| 3 2-5 Years Play Area | 8 Potential Pool Area |
| 4 Rentable Shelters | 9 Shade Grove |
| 5 Lounge Chairs | 10 Towel Lawn |
| | 11 Perimeter Fencing |



Precedent Imagery



3 2-5 Year Play Area



4 Rentable Shelters



4 Pool Deck



6 6+ Years Play Area



7 Zero Depth Entry



8 Potential Pool Area



Key

- 1** Indigenous Gathering Space
- 2** Native Plant Landscape Beds

7th STREET

W. SILVER LAKE DRIVE NE.

Zumbro River

Silver Creek

Connection to
Zumbro River Trail
(Existing)

Legend

- | | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
|  | Separated Bike and Pedestrian Path |  | Prairie Restoration |
|  | Shared-use Path |  | Play Areas |
|  | Pedestrian-only Path |  | Parking and Vehicular Roadways |
|  | Boardwalk |  | Water |
|  | Lawn |  | Special Paving |
|  | Understory |  | Site Furnishing |
|  | Wetland |  | Existing Tree |
| | |  | Proposed Tree |

80

0 100 Ft 200 Ft



Confluence Area

Overview

Indigenous Gathering Space

This location at the confluence of the Zumbro River and Silver Creek will be set aside to be designed with Dakota community members as a ceremony and gathering space. It will also include a land acknowledgement plaque to remind visitors that this land is this historic home of Dakota and other Indigenous communities. The name of this location will also be determined in collaboration with Dakota and other Indigenous community members.

Precedent Images



Unity Park in Winona, Minnesota



Land Acknowledgement Plaque

Reference Map



Key

- 1 Rain Garden
- 2 Dog Park
- 3 Play Area
- 4 Existing Play
- 5 Hillside Seating
- 6 Food Truck Pull-In
- 7 Tree Buffer
- 8 Picnic Plaza

W. Silver Lake Dr.

Boat Rental

West Shelter

Rowing Club

Silver Lake Station

7th STREET

Legend

- | | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
|  | Separated Bike and Pedestrian Path |  | Prairie Restoration |
|  | Shared-use Path |  | Play Areas |
|  | Pedestrian-only Path |  | Parking and Vehicular Roadways |
|  | Boardwalk |  | Water |
|  | Lawn |  | Special Paving |
|  | Understory |  | Site Furnishing |
|  | Wetland |  | Existing Tree |
| | |  | Proposed Tree |



West Shelter Area

Overview

Rain Garden

The rain garden will capture storm water runoff from the large parking lot along W. Silver Lake Dr..

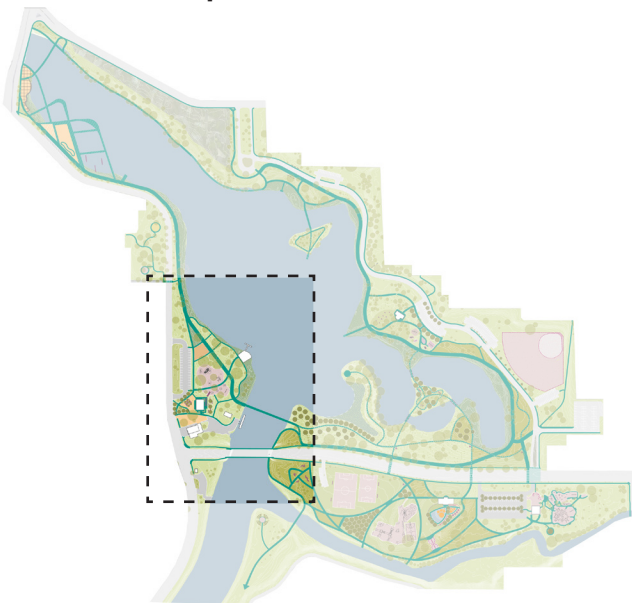
Dog Park

This is a small, urban dog park that will provide a fenced area for visitors to let their dogs off-leash.

Play Area

The existing play will be enhanced with new play features. This area will be lined with a low seat wall and entry gates to prevent geese from entering.

Reference Map



Hillside Seating

Stone seats embedded into the hill behind the West Shelter will activate the space behind the shelter and tie that area to views of the water.

Food Truck Pull-In

The existing pavement in this area will be replaced with the same paving in the picnic plaza, creating one cohesive area. During events or festivals, this area will host food trucks.

Rowing Club and Boat Rental

This plan recommends upgrades to the areas dedicated for private bike/boat rentals and the rowing club to match the quality of the planned upgrades to the park.

Picnic Plaza

This picnic area will have a paved plaza with three long banquet-style picnic tables that are shaded by trees for family and friends to host small events.

West Shelter and Silver Lake Station

This plan recommends modest improvements to the West Shelter and Silver Lake Station to preserve existing assets. Operational activities and other improvements to the Silver Lake Station are based on the Leadership Greater Rochester plan.



Modern Rowing Club Boathouse



Dog Park



Play Area

Precedent Imagery



Food Truck Pull-in



Tree Buffer Separating Pathways



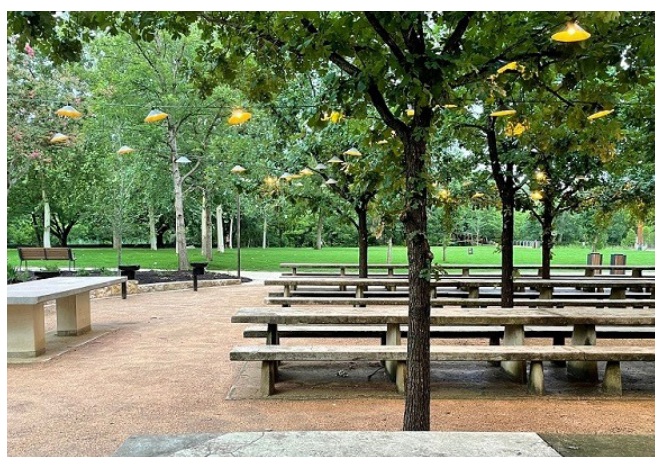
Hillside Seating



Rain Garden



Low Profile Wetland Vegetation



Banquet-style Picnic Table

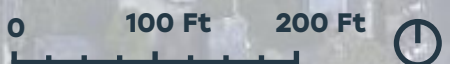


Key

- 1 Native Plant Exhibition
- 2 Existing Shelter
- 3 Nature Play
- 4 Crosswalk

Legend

- Separated Bike and Pedestrian Path
- Shared-use Path
- Pedestrian-only Path
- Boardwalk
- Lawn
- Understory
- Wetland
- Prairie Restoration
- Play Areas
- Parking and Vehicular Roadways
- Water
- Special Paving
- Site Furnishing
- Existing Tree
- Proposed Tree



Pocket Arboretum

Overview

Native Plant Exhibition

This native plant exhibition will be a circular garden bed planted with native Minnesotan flowers and grasses, each with a plant tag bearing the name of the plant's name in the Dakota language, as well as the common name and botanical name.

Arboretum

This area is already home to a diverse group of coniferous and deciduous trees. These trees can be labeled to promote awareness of the many tree species in the area.

Nature Play

The existing play area in this location will be removed and replaced with small nature play elements to serve the surrounding neighborhood. This include features like a log walk, tree cookies, or shelter-building activity.

Reference Map



Precedent Imagery



Dakota Name Tag



Arboretum Tree Tags



Nature Play Tree Cookies

Site Elements





History

Overview

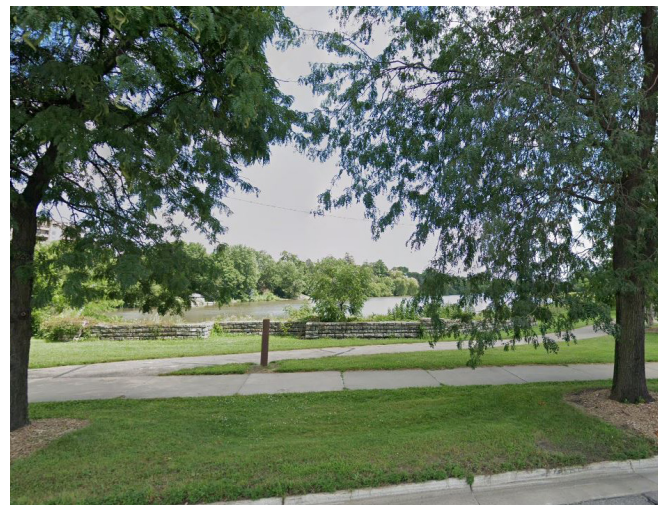
A **Site History and Inventory** of Silver Lake Park conducted by historical consultants New History determined that Silver Lake Park is historically significant as a notable example of federal relief construction in Rochester. The City of Rochester developed the park between 1932 and 1937 using federal relief funds from agencies such as the Works Progress Administration (WPA), and it appears to be the largest WPA-funded project in Rochester.

The manual labor of hundreds of workers dammed the Zumbro River to create Silver Lake, and to redevelop the surrounding land into a city park. Work included excavation of the future lake area, construction of the dam, and improving the surrounding landscape with vegetation, roads, parking lots, and structures like stone walls and bridges. Between 1937 and 1941, WPA funding was also used to complete several small additions and improvements to the park, including the West Overlook and the East Shelter.

Like many other Minnesota parks built or improved under federal work relief programs, Silver Lake Park was constructed with native building materials and labor-intensive construction methods. Park structures built during the 1930s, such as the East Shelter, stone bridges, and the West Overlook, display the National Park Service Rustic architectural style, with hand-crafted elements intended to harmonize with the natural environment.

Extant features, buildings and structures that were developed as part of the federally-sponsored park project (1937 - 1941) include:

- Silver Lake (1937)
- Silver Lake Dam (1937; reconstructed in c. 1990)
- Stone Bridges (1937)
- Stone Walls and Steps (assumed c. 1937)
- West Overlook (1938)
- East Shelter (1941)



Historic Interpretation Recommendations

Incorporating historic interpretation into Silver Lake Park has been identified as an important aspect of the Master Plan. Because the park is historically significant as a notable example of federal relief construction in Rochester, interpretative displays or other formats of interpretation could include information on the site’s development during the 1930s, connecting the history of this park to the national context of federal relief construction during the Great Depression.

We recommend a historical interpretive display at the West Overlook as identified on the illustrative plan. The display could include plaques or stands along the stone overlook wall, presenting information and topics including but not limited to:

- Previous efforts to develop a man-made lake in Rochester during the late nineteenth century and early twentieth centuries
- Details on the design and construction of Silver Lake Park, including:
 - » Workforce, such as laborers, trades, and communities that were engaged in the construction
 - » Design and landscape architect
 - » Construction, including methods, tools, challenges, sequence, and cost
 - » Partnership between local government and federal agencies
 - » Specific events, such as the grand opening in 1937

- Historic context of federal relief agencies involved in the park’s development, like the Works Progress Administration (WPA)
- Physical changes to the park since its original construction

This display could be supplemented by smaller displays or plaques throughout the park, for example identifying historic structures such as the stone bridges and shelters.



Historic Interpretation Signage



Historic Interpretation Sculptures

Indigenous History and Culture

While the period of historical significance identified for the park is clearly documented for the period directly after its creation, there is a long history of Indigenous people living in the area that is now Rochester, and a strong desire to uplift and highlight this history. The city is planning to undertake an ethnographic study of Indigenous communities in Rochester, which may uncover additional information about use of the site by Indigenous communities that could be included in historic interpretation within the park. Interpretation of Indigenous history should be developed collaboratively with local Indigenous communities and organizations, as they are willing and able.

In recognition that Indigenous people continue to live throughout Minnesota and in the Rochester area, the Silver Lake Park Master Plan includes a ceremonial space intended for use by Indigenous communities, but open to use by all park visitors. The space is proposed at the confluence of the Zumbro River and Silver Creek and is circular in nature; proximity to water and circular shape are important characteristics for a ceremonial space, in particular for the Dakota people. Detailed design of this space must be co-developed in partnership with the Dakota community and other Indigenous communities that may be interested in participating in the design and future use of the space.



Unity Park in Winona, Minnesota



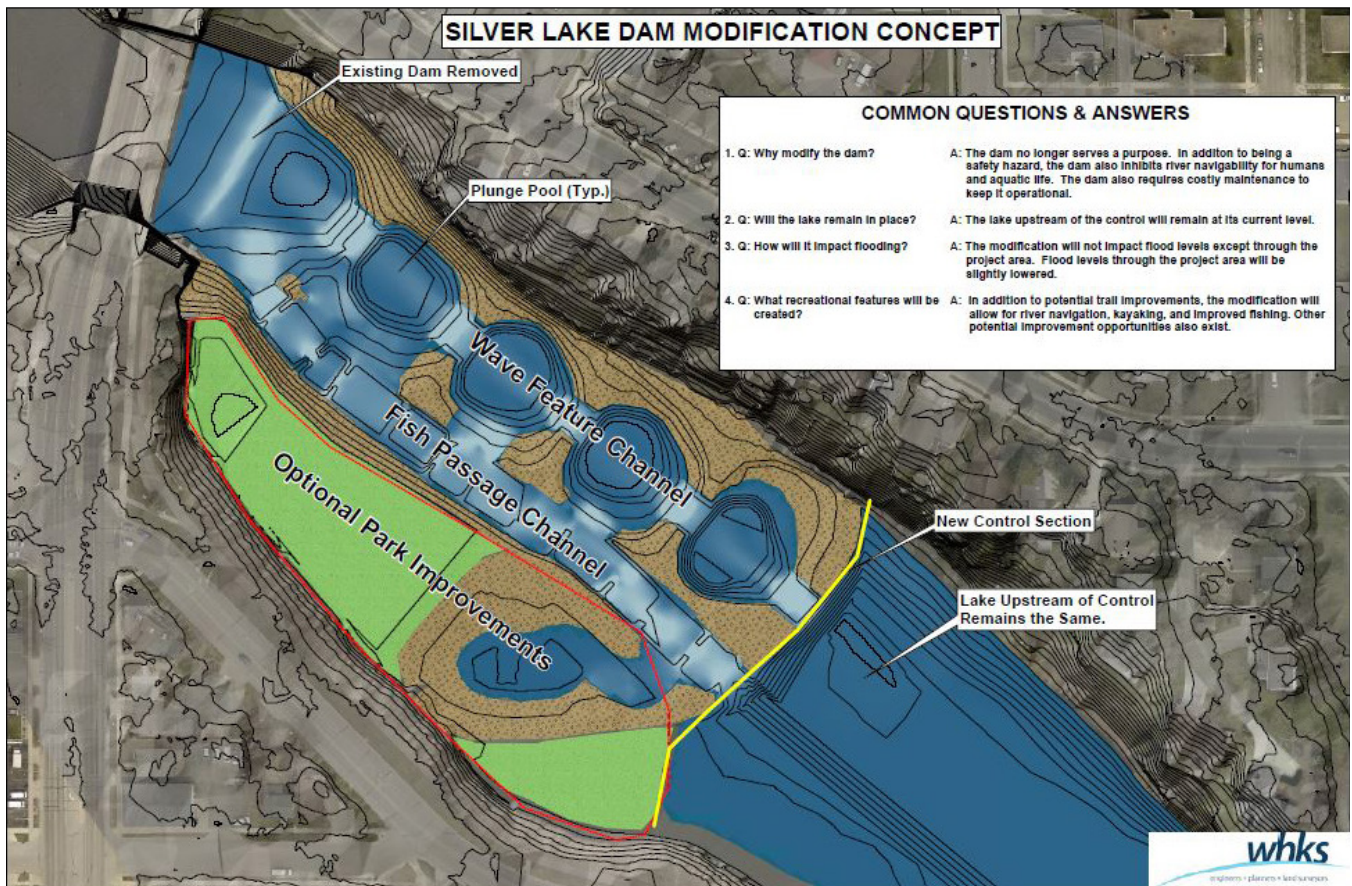
Image from the Great Dakota Gathering at Unity Park in Winona, Minnesota

Historic Significance and Dam Modification

Silver Lake Park is on the City of Rochester’s list of potential local landmarks, and could be nominated for local landmark designation. To be designated, the nomination would be evaluated by the Rochester Heritage Preservation Commission to see if it meets the Designation Criteria in the city’s Preservation Ordinance. In light of this possibility, there is expressed concern that the proposed Dam Modification Project will impact the historic integrity of the park.

According to the Site History and Inventory completed by New History, the dam itself does not retain historic integrity due to its

reconstruction in 1990. However, the presence of a dam in its current location is a character-defining feature of the park because a dam structure allows the lake to retain its current and historic shoreline. The proposed Dam Modification Project would replace the current dam with a series of cascading pools, which would retain most of the lake’s current shoreline and depth, with the exception of a strip of land along the south bank adjacent to the proposed cascading pools.



Interior Circulation



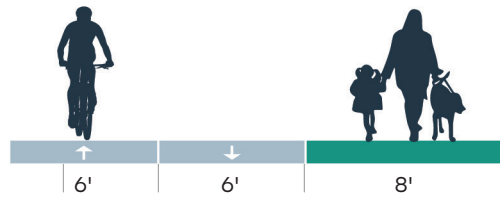
An intentional hierarchy of paths and trails through Silver Lake Park will allow for coherent movement for every user type to key destinations throughout the park. This hierarchy reduces confusion and congestions for pedestrians and cyclists. We are proposing 4 main pathway types for Silver Lake Park.

7th Street NE

This map shows crosswalks and a raised intersection to calm traffic on 7th street, however further attention and studies are recommended in this area to create a safe and pleasant walking experience from one side of the park to the other.

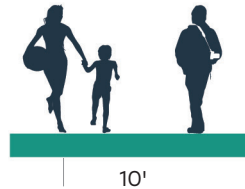
1 Silver Lake Loop - 20'

The signature, dedicated paved loop trail surrounding Silver Lake provides ample space for all users, including a 8' pedestrian path and 12' bi-directional bike path.



2 Shared Use Path - 10'

The most common path type in the park. These paved concrete accessible pathways are to be shared between all user types.



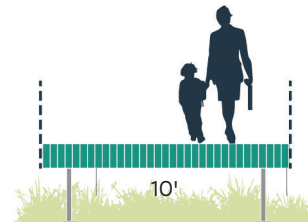
3 Pedestrian Only Path - 6'

Dedicated pedestrian only paths in explorative and contemplative areas of the park. Trails are to be made of decomposed granite.



4 Boardwalk - 10'

The boardwalk will allow shared user access and interaction with the lake, while protecting the delicate wetland area below.



Structures



The structural integrity of fourteen existing park structures was assessed to propose maintenance and renovation recommendations. The following table provides recommendations for these structures in order to maximize both the character of the park and public safety.

Structure	Historic Character?*	Design Recommendation	Structural Recommendation
1 Stone Wall Overlook	No	Location for interpretive signage describing the creation of the park, dam, and subsequent history. Re-landscape the area in a way that is compatible with landscape style of that area in a sustainable manner. Provide seating.	Remove vines from the wall and monitor for deflection
2 East Stone Walls	Yes	Repair the walls and retain as much of the original pieces as possible. Replace damaged stones to match the existing.	Replace the foundation and rebuild with wet-set stone wall to match the existing.
3 East Stone Steps	Yes	Repair the steps and retain as much of the original pieces as possible. Replace damaged stones to match the existing.	Close steps to the public and replace them
4 East Shelter Building	Yes	Maintain and improve, consider adding a plaque or sign	Tuckpoint any open or eroded joints, entire perimeter and columns near the pavement
5 Concrete Pier	No	Remove and replace with boardwalks	Replace guard rail immediately and entire pier within 2-4 years
6 Stone Bridges	Yes	Maintain	N/A
7 South Shelter Building	No	Maintain. Provide Wudu facilities for Muslim community members.	Avoid de-icing chemicals near steel and diligently protect and maintain the protective coating on the steel columns. Apply new protective paint coating at all doors.
8 Pool Building	No	Maintain and Update	Install downspouts on tan brick at drain holes, and repair the green brick entry. Immediately repair the spalled mortar at window head lintels. Full re-roof in the next 5-10 years, adding tapered insulation to promote drainage.
9 Pump house	No	Remove	N/A
10 Former Fire Station	No	Support current use by camps and the rowing club. Use internally by parks department for programmatic uses and outside agencies. Consider a re-use study to assess layout and future use.	Repair corner cracks in foundation by chipping off loose/spalled corners, doweling in new bars to each direction and form/pour new corners. Repair the girder immediately. Make minor repairs immediately and plan to re-roof in the next 5 years.
11 West Shelter Building	No	Maintain	Repair cracked CMU mortar joints by tuck-pointing within 2-5 years. Replace/add joint sealants in the next year and plan to replace windows in the next 10-15 years. Faulty fasteners should be removed and replaced.
12 Rowing Club Sheds	No	These facilities are privately owned. The City should work with the Rowing Club to upgrade these facilities in keeping with the park renovations	Replace south sheds in approximately 8-10 years. Repair/replace and paint the eaves in the next 2-4 years. Perform routine maintenance on door hinges
13 Boat Rental Sheds	No	These facilities are privately owned. The City should work with the Rowing Club to upgrade these facilities in keeping with the park renovations	Replace kayak lean-to structure immediately
14 Small Picnic Shelter		Maintain	Repair or replace fascia and barge board and paint to match structure.

*Historic character was determined by referencing the **Site History and Inventory** report completed in January 2022.

Vegetation

Overview

Landscape and plants connect us to place. The landscape strategy for Silver Lake Park is based on regional plant communities that provide a rich composition of vegetation. Rochester, Minnesota is located within the Rochester Plateau area of Minnesota in the western part of the rolling hills of the Driftless Area. This region was originally covered with a mosaic of prairie, forest, and transitional savanna. Ridge tops and drier upper slopes supported tallgrass prairie and oak savanna while more moist areas supported oak forest.

Views to Silver Lake

The open water of Silver Lake is the jewel of the park, and views of the lake should be maximized from key areas of the trail, roads, boardwalks, and overlooks. Several proposed trails bring visitors closer to Silver Lake, and views of the water are especially important here. Although many plants native to this ecosystem, such as Cup Plant (*Silphium perfoliatum*) can reach up to eight feet tall, views to the water are important for community members. Various areas around the lake should strive for maintaining views through the use of vegetation management that has vegetation in the 3-4 foot height range. In the "wetland" section of this chapter, we suggest low-growing plants that provide vegetation of the shoreline without obscuring views.

Understory



Wooded areas in Silver Lake Park can provide a sense of enclosure, exploration, and adventure. Layer understory herbaceous perennials, shrubs, ferns, and grasses underneath large canopy trees. These species and their planting density may differ based on desired visibility, light availability, and soil moisture.

Plants:

- Red Chokeberry: *Aronia arbutifolia*
- Dogwood: *Cornus spp.*
- Blue Phlox: *Phlox divaricata*
- Lady Fern: *Athyrium filix-femina*
- Tall coneflower: *Rudbeckia grandiflora*
- Trillium: *Trillium spp.*
- Virginia Bluebells: *Mertensia virginica*

Implementation: Planting understory plants depends largely on the tree species present and their canopy sizes. Different plants will tolerate different amounts of sunlight coming through the tree canopy.

Wetland / Shoreline



Wetland and shoreline areas at Silver Lake Park should be composed of grasses, sedge and rush communities as showy forb species. Avoid planting species that will exceed a height of 4' to maintain views of Silver Lake. A long-term management strategy should be developed in cooperation with the Department of Public Works to maintain these views.

Plants:

- Common Lake Sedge: *Carex lacustra*
- Nodding Pink Onion: *Allium cernuum*
- White False Indigo: *Baptisia alba*
- Meadow ragwort: *Tephrosieris palustris*
- *Blunt Spike Rush: Eleocharis obtusa*
- Tussock Sedge: *Carex stricta*

Implementation: Wetland establishment can be difficult due to erosive water conditions and herbivory from wildlife. Consider planting plugs and other hardy live planting that can handle the intermittent moisture conditions. In addition, planting areas may need to be protected with strategies that deter water fowl, fish, and turtles.



Prairie

Tallgrass prairies once grew in Rochester and provided water infiltration and erosion control. They are dominated by grasses such as big bluestem, indiagrass, and sideoats grama. Various forbs species also are present in different upland prairie areas, dependent on moisture type.

Plants:

- Big Bluestem: *Andropogon gerardii*
- Indiagrass: *Sorghastrum nutans*
- Sideoats Grama: *Bouteloua curtipendula*
- Goldenrod: *Solidago*
- Silky Aster: *Symphyotrichum sericeum*
- Western Ragweed: *Ambrosia psilostachya*

Implementation: Using seed mixes to establish plant communities is a cost effective way to implement a prairie. Many prairies need to burn in order to renew and be able to continue to thrive. There are alternatives to burning such as mowing that are effective for areas where burning is not possible. At Silver Lake Park, yearly or biannual mowing will help maintain the prairie landscape.

Special Planting



Special planting areas can be made up of showy perennial native plants. This planting requires more maintenance but can serve as a beautiful focal point in the park. Plants can include larger native plants as well as seasonally significant plants.

Plants:

- Prairie Dropseed: *Sporobolus heterolepis*
- Blazing Star: *Liatris*
- Bee Balm: *Monarda didyma*
- Serviceberry: *Amelanchier spp.*
- Dogwood: *Cornus spp.*
- Purple coneflower: *Echinacea spp.*

Implementation: Special plantings are installed using containers or plug plants. These plants are at a relatively mature state while they are in their container, although they will grow and spread when fully established. These plantings require maintenance including watering, trimming, and weed pulling. Focus on planting showy, native perennials that will return year after year.

Trees

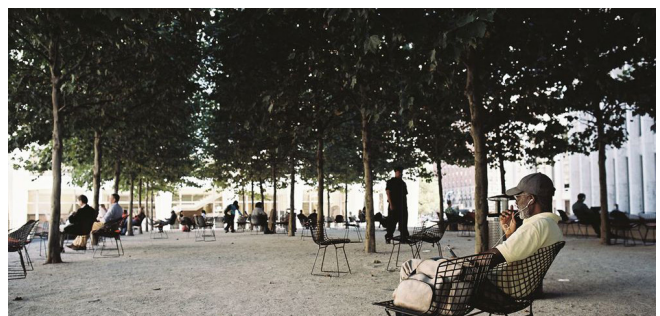


There are two types of tree planting at Silver Lake Park. The first is a more formal, geometric arrangement of trees, such as the picnic grove in the South of 7th Street Area or within the picnic plaza at the West Shelter. The second is a looser arrangement of trees meant to provide the experience of woods or provide a buffer from adjacent traffic.

Plants:

- Bur Oak: *Quercus macrocarpa*
- Northern Pin Oak: *Quercus ellipsoidalis*
- Quaking Aspen: *Populus tremuloides*
- Red Maple: *Acer rubrum*
- American Elm: *Ulmus americana*

Implementation: Trees should be obtained as container grown material. If a larger tree is desired, consider obtaining material based upon caliper size, rather than container size.



Trees in a more formal arrangement

Lawn



Various species can make successful lawns in Rochester and choosing which ones to use is dependent on maintenance and cost. When seeding the lawn space, different varieties of fescues work well for a durable, low cost lawn. If existing grass is highly damaged, sodding will be more successful. One final consideration around maintaining and installing lawn is Silver Lake Park's ongoing goose management issues. Geese tend to congregate in lawn areas. Therefore, minimizing lawn areas may be preferred to manage the presence of geese and also for sustainability concerns.

Plants:

- Kentucky bluegrass: *Poa pratensis*
- Tall fescue: *Festuca arundinacea*
- Fine fescue: *Festuca spp.*
- Ryegrass: *Lolium spp.*

Implementation: Seeding and sodding are both successful techniques for planting a lawn. Seeding is much cheaper but takes more time and maintenance to grow initially. Sodding creates an “instant” lawn but at a price.

Wildlife Management

Goose Exclusion Strategies

With rising numbers in the avian flu epidemic and concerns over the water quality of Silver Lake, strategies have been put in place to control the population of Canada Geese at Silver Lake Park. The goal of these strategies is to protect the Canada Goose population as well as ensure the health and safety of Rochester residents and visitors to the park.

City of Rochester Goose Management Techniques

The City of Rochester Parks and Recreation Department enacted a Goose Management Plan in 2021. Although these recommendations fit all the parks within the City of Rochester, they are especially important for Silver Lake Park. Silver Lake has over five times more nesting sites than other parks in the system. In addition, Silver Lake Park has been affected by the avian flu epidemic and is responsible for at least 24 cases of the disease.



Geese at Silver Lake Park
Source: City of Rochester Goose Management Plan

The following are goose management strategies currently practiced by the City of Rochester Parks and Recreation Department:

Habitat modification

Geese need water access and prefer to nest near the water. Restricting access to the water can reduce their habitat. This may include physical barriers such as rocks or landscape barriers such as tall plantings.

Redistribution techniques

Geese can be redistributed through disruption by individuals on foot and people walking dogs through the area. Predator decoys, such as 2D and 3D dogs and coyotes can be placed intermittently. These exhibit periodic motion due to wind gusts and can be effective at deterring geese.



Predator Decoy
Source: City of Rochester Goose Management Plan

Nesting management

Removal of eggs from nesting sites is a possible but highly regulated strategy for goose management and can only be carried out under specific circumstances. This practice is currently taking place at Silver Lake Park and eggs are replaced with decoys.

Silver Lake Park Recommendations

The following recommendations are made to manage goose populations at Silver Lake Park. A more detailed study and plan for humanely managing geese at Silver Lake Park is recommended.

Inform the public

Informing the public is an effective way to reduce the goose population at Silver Lake Park. In community surveys done as a part of this plan, there was a mix between people that saw the Canada Goose population as both important to the culture of Silver Lake Park, but also those that saw them as a barrier to enjoying the park. Informing the public on the risks to human and animal health, such as avian flu, as a result of feeding can be a useful strategy to manage the population and reduce these risks.

Landscape techniques

Different types of plantings can be chosen to be less appealing to geese and help control their movement within the park. Shoreline vegetation prevents geese from entering onto the land from the water. There is currently a gap in vegetation north of the bike and boat rental by the west shelter area. Vegetation should be planted here to prevent goose entry into the park from the open water. While on land, geese also cannot walk through tall grasses and prairie plantings, so those plantings can be used to control their movement on land.

Tolerance zones

Tolerance zones allow geese to have a space that they can occupy without conflict. While deterring geese from other areas of the park, there can be areas that are suited for nesting and grazing where geese are allowed to gather. This will make other areas of the park less attractive to the geese.

Physical barriers

Preventing geese from wandering into playgrounds and other heavily utilized sites can be achieved through seat walls and fencing. Installing fences prevents them from accessing an area since they are unable to fly over them. Shade structures and trees can also be used to make flying in difficult.

Further Resources

- [Solving Problems With Canada Geese, The Humane Society](#)
- [Promoting Smarter Wildlife Management, The Humane Society](#)
- [Resolve conflicts with Canada geese Economically, humanely without controversy, Geese Peace](#)



Implementation



Phasing

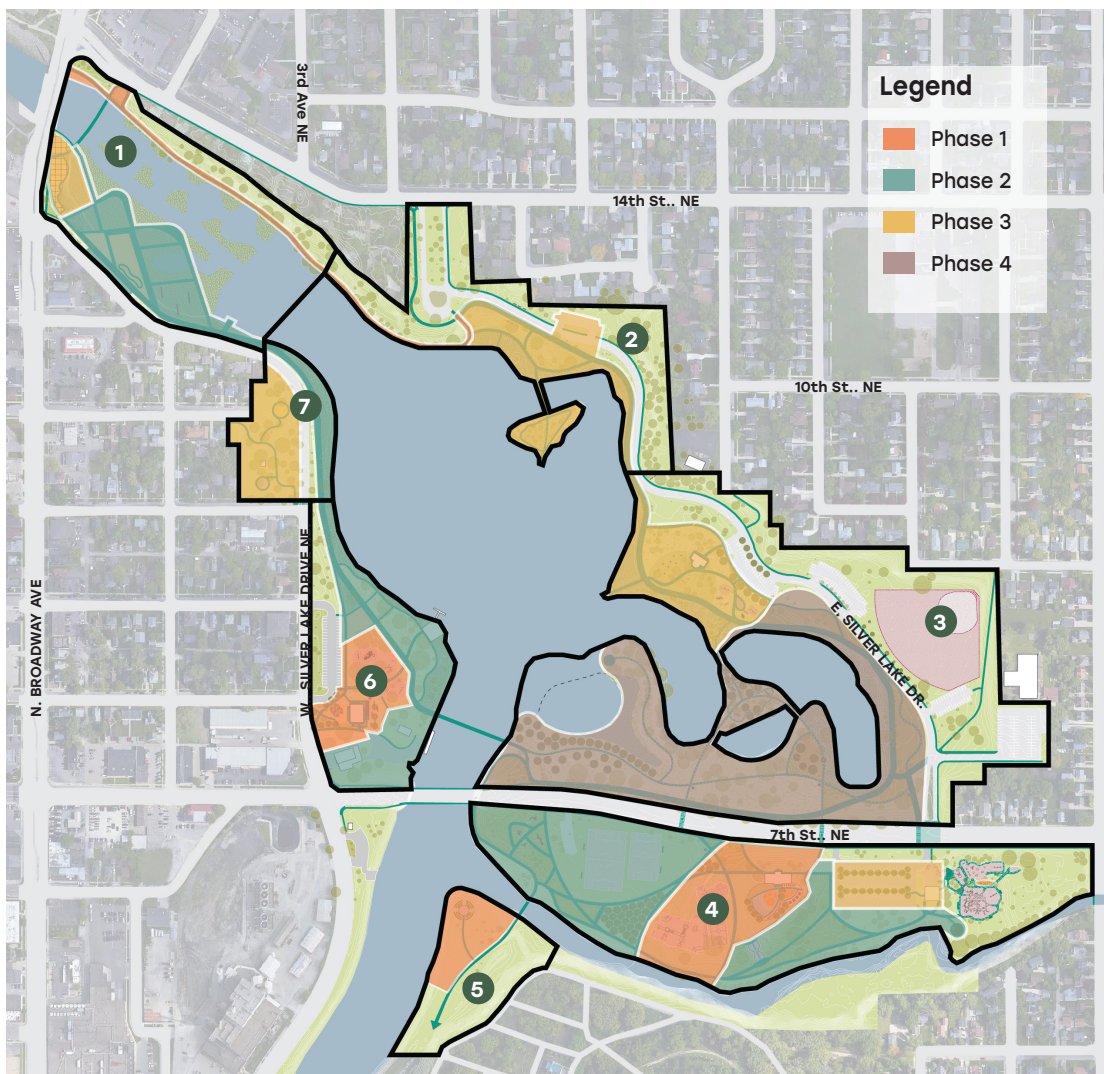
This phasing plan was developed according to available funding, and immediate and long-term community desires.

Key

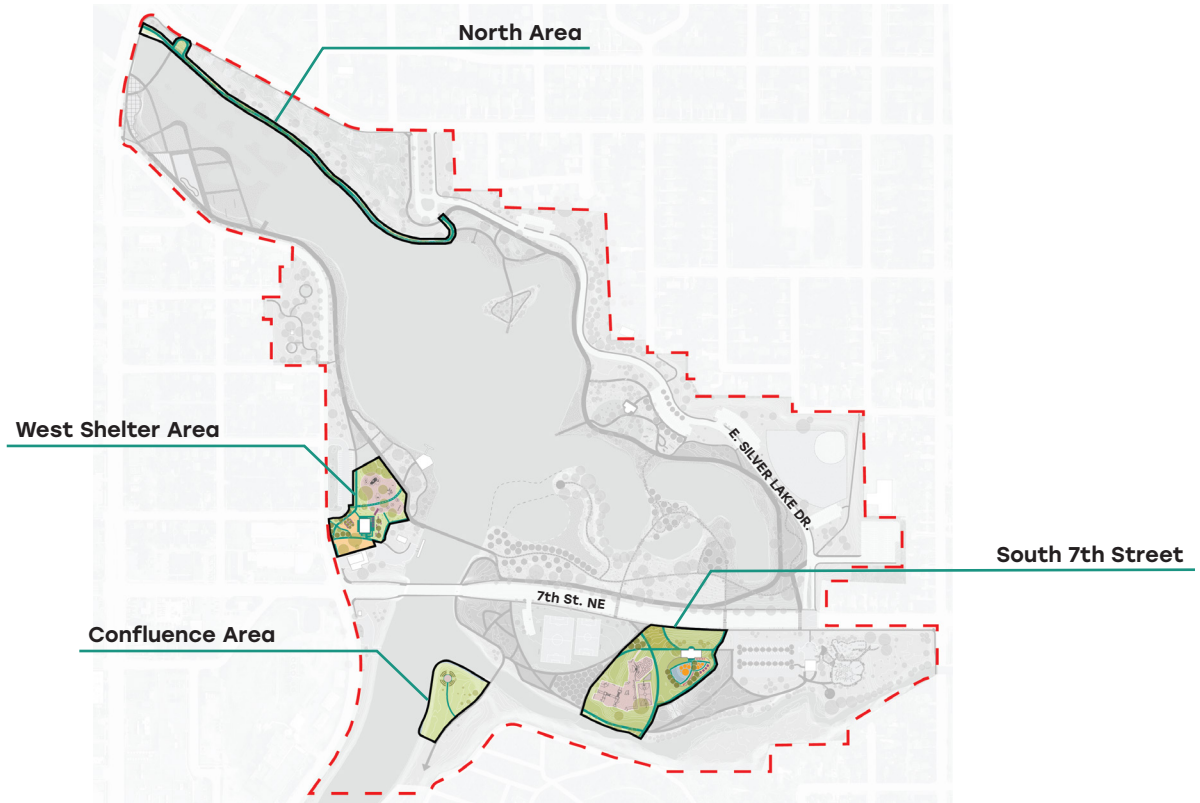
- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Dam Area | 5 Confluence Area |
| 2 North Area | 6 West Shelter Area |
| 3 North of 7th Street | 7 Pocket Arboretum |
| 4 South of 7th Street | |

This opinion of probable construction costs, Phase 1 - Phase 4, does not include the following items:

- Consultant Fees
- Dam Modification and North Trail costs
- Road Modifications on 7th Street NE, including pedestrian crossings which are to be further developed in collaboration with Public Works

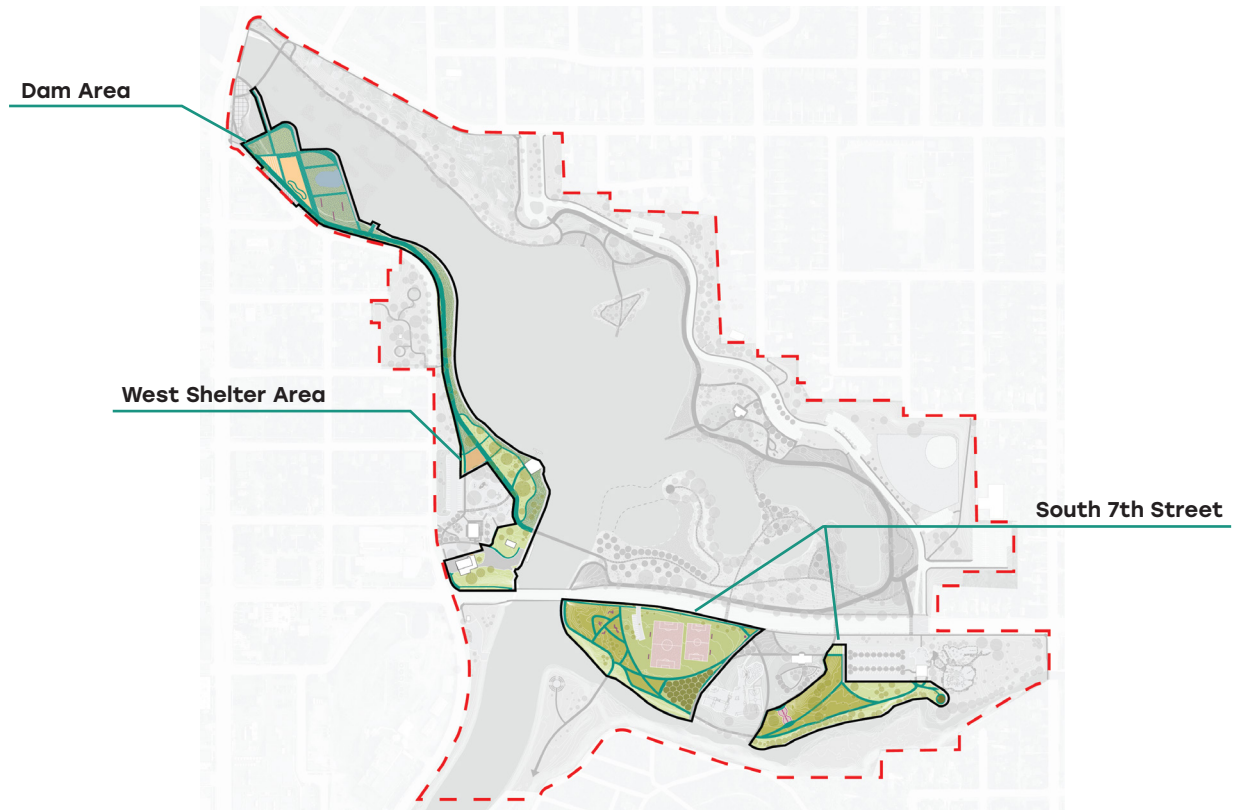


Phase 1



Phase 1	
Location	Feature
South 7th Street	Splash pad
	Skatepark + Lighting
	Basketball Court
	Pool Building
West Shelter Area	Play Area
	Picnic Plaza
	West Shelter
	Food Truck Pull-In
Confluence Area	Signage
	Indigenous Gathering Space
	Pedestrian trails
North Area	North Trail Loop
TOTAL RANGE	\$6-6.5 Million

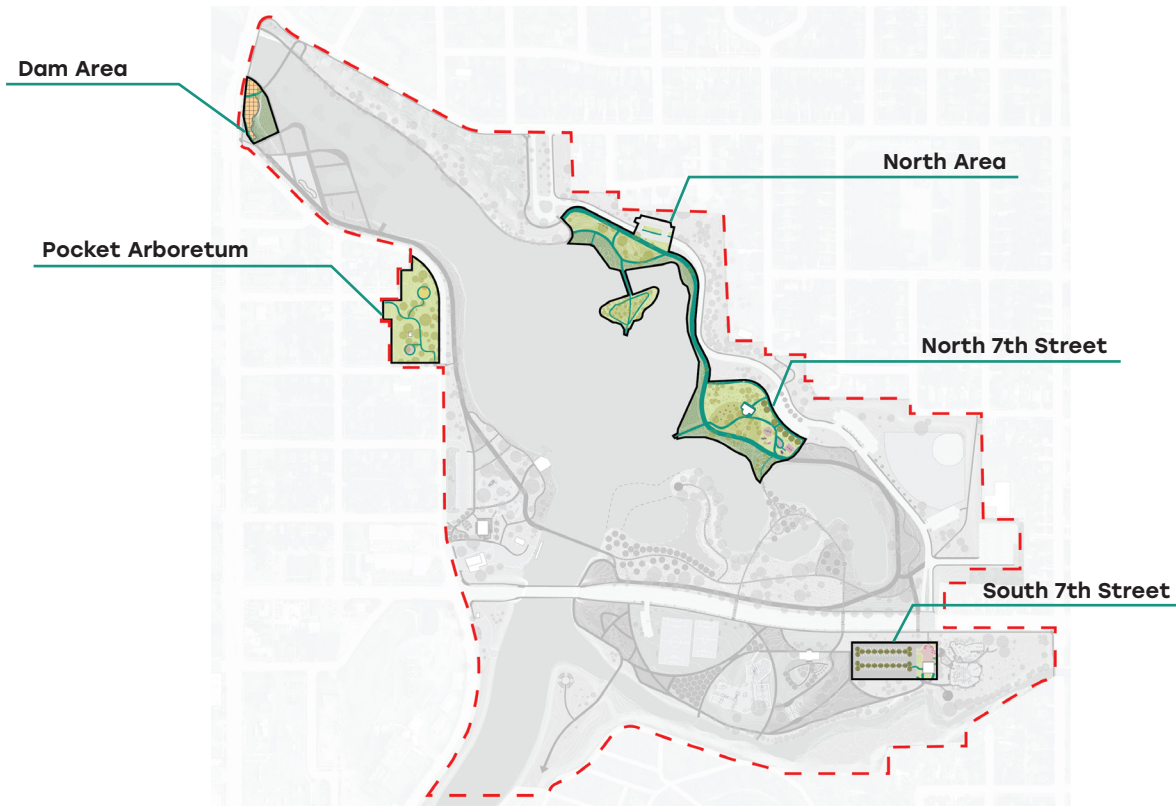
Phase 2



Phase 2	
Location	Feature
South 7th Street	Parking Lot - Shade Trees
	Parking Lot - Paving and Curbs
	Soccer Fields
	Play Hill and Hill Slide
	Multi-use trails (10' width)
	Prairie art walk (10' width)
	Picnic Grove
	Skatepark Shade Structure + Seating
	Meditation garden
West Shelter Area	Silver Lake Station improvements
	Dog Park
	Hillside seating
	Pedestrian Paths (6')

	Muilt-Use Paths (10')
	Separated Paths (20')
	Wetland Planting
	Proposed Trees
	Understory planting
	Rain Garden
Dam Area	Angled Parking
	Kayak Launch
	Kayak Play Area
	Boardwalk
	Separated Paths
	Wetland Planting
	Special Paving
	Concrete Steps
	Water play loop
	Seat Hill
TOTAL RANGE	\$4.5-\$5 Million

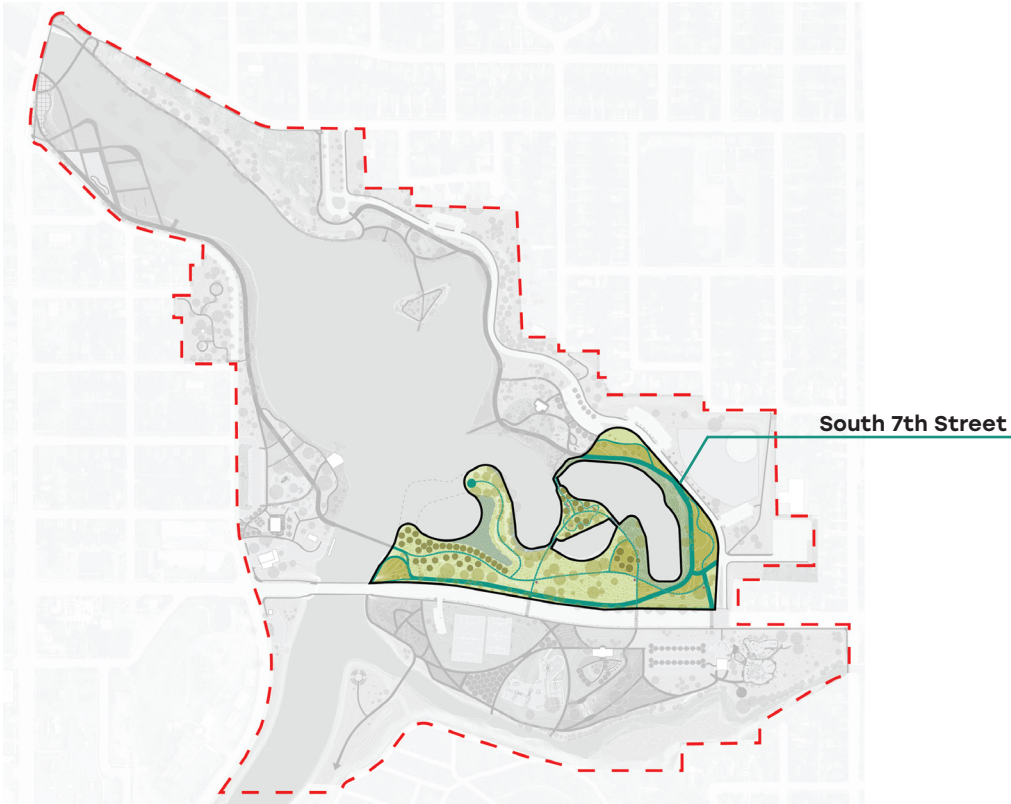
Phase 3



Phase 3	
Location	Feature
North 7th Street	Pier / Boardwalk
	East Shelter improvements
	Nature play area
	Picnic Area
	Wetland Planting
	Pedestrian Only (6' width)
	Multi-use trails (10' width)
North Area	Separated Bike and Ped Trail (20' width)
	Kayak Launch
	Wetland Steps
	Separated Bike and Ped Trail (20' width)
Dam Area	Multi-use trails (10' width)
	Pedestrian Only (6' width)
	Pedestrian Only (6' width)

	Wetland planting
	Fishing Pier
	Historic Stone Steps Restoration
	Historic Stone walls
South 7th Street	Adult fitness
	Proposed trees
	Parking lot vegetated swale
	South Shelter Entry Art Panels
	Gateway signage
	South Shelter Improvements
Dam Area	History Plaza
	Stone Wall Overlook
Pocket Arboretum	Pedestrian Paths (6')
	Nature Play
	Special planting exhibit
	Crosswalk
	Picnic Shelter
TOTAL RANGE	\$2.5-\$3 Million

Phase 4



Phase 4	
Location	Feature
North 7th Street	Pedestrian-only Paths
	Separated Bike and Ped Trail
	Prairie Planting
	Scenic Overlook
	Artistic seating
	Proposed Trees
	Bike Racks
	Art Installations
	Benches
	Mulch trail
TOTAL RANGE	\$1.5-\$2 Million

Future Analysis

Silver Lake Park Recommended Studies

Several recommendations contained within this report require further analysis before implementation can begin. These recommendations are long-term and ongoing improvements that require cooperation between several different community and governmental organizations.

Traffic Calming

At all roadways throughout and adjacent to the park, traffic calming measures and pedestrian crossings should be reviewed to provide better safe access points. This plan recommends adding, at a minimum, raised pedestrian intersections on 7th Street. Further analysis of local traffic conditions along with a suitability study of potential safety measures, such as pavement width reductions or enhanced street crossings, should be conducted. Traffic calming measures should be planned in conjunction with the Department of Public Works.

Land and Water Quality

This plan recommends ongoing monitoring of land and water quality preceding, during, and following any alterations to Silver Lake Park. Long-term strategies should be investigated and reviewed to enhance the water quality both upstream and within the park.

Coordination with the Department of Public Works is necessary.

Vegetation Management Plan

Development of a vegetation management plan is necessary to maintain and enhance strategic views of the lake. Ongoing analysis of best maintenance practices along with a key understanding of public interest is needed.

Funding

Development of a funding stream to continue to support integral programs such as a vegetation management plan is vital to the successful implementation of this plan. Coordination of this management is needed with the Department of Public Works to meet their long-term strategies associated with MS4 Permitting.

Funding Opportunities

Name	Source	Type	Purpose
Historic Interpretation			
Minnesota Historical Society Legacy Grants	Minnesota Historical Society	Grant	To preserve and enhance access to Minnesota's cultural and historical resources and to support projects of enduring value for the cause of history and historic preservation across the state.
Skate Park			
Minnesota Skate Park Grant Program	Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission	Grant	To help Minnesota communities build, improve, and update skate parks.
The Skate park Project Grants	The Skate park Project	Grant	To fund organizations seeking to build free, public, concrete skateparks in under served communities.
Cultural/Arts/Placemaking			
Our Town Placemaking Grants	National Endowment for the Arts	Grant	To fund projects that integrate arts, culture and design into strategies for strengthening communities.

Eligibility	Amount	Time line	Relevant Project Components
Minnesota-based organization or institution	"Small grant <= \$10,000 Large grant >\$10,000"	"Small grant application deadlines quarterly in January, April, July and October Large grants are available yearly"	Historic interpretation, related research and writing
Local government unit	"2021 maximum award was \$125,000 2022 award not specified Required match with non-state funds greater than or equal to the grant amount."	Not specified	Skate park
State or local agency or public charity in an "under served" city or county. Park area may or may not qualify as "under served" based on criteria. Further research needed.	"Minimum \$1,000 Maximum \$300,000"	Rolling; decisions made quarterly	Skate Park
Partnership between nonprofit and local government, with one entity being a cultural organization	"Minimum \$25,000 Maximum \$150,000 with Cost share greater than or equal to grant amount"	Application due August 2022 (assume similar for 2023)	Prairie Art Walk, Indigenous gathering space, prayer/meditation space

Name	Source	Type	Purpose
General Recreation			
Parks and Trails Legacy Grant Program. Park or trail plan must first apply and be awarded designation of "Regionally Significant."	Minnesota DNR via Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission	Grant	To provide funding for parks and trails of regional significance outside of the seven county metropolitan area.
Trails			
Local Trail Connections Program	Minnesota DNR	Grant	To provide grants to local units of government to promote relatively short trail connections between where people live and desirable locations, not to develop significant new trails. Trail linkages include connecting where people live (e.g. residential areas within cities, entire communities) and significant public resources (e.g. historical areas, open space, parks and/or other trails).
Federal Recreational Trail Program	Minnesota DNR		To encourage the maintenance and development of motorized, non-motorized, and diversified trails by providing funding assistance
Water Recreation			
Public Water Access Sites - Partnership Funding	Minnesota DNR	Not specified	To provide financial and technical assistance for eligible public water access and state water trail projects, including acquisition, development and/or improvement of public carry-in and trailer boat access sites including parking lots, docks, launching ramps and state water trail campsites, rest areas and portages.

Eligibility	Amount	Time line	Relevant Project Components
Local government unit. Park or trail plan must first apply and be awarded designation of "Regionally Significant."	Varies	Application due July 2022 (Assume similar for 2023)	Trails
Local government unit	"Up to 75% of total eligible costs Minimum award \$5,000, Maximum award \$250,000."	Grants reviewed in the spring	New trail connection along north side of park
Government unit, preferably in cooperation with a local trail organization	"20% cash or in-kind match. Minimum award \$2,500 Maximum award \$250,000 "	Grants due in February 2022 (Assume similar for 2023)	Trails
Local government unit	Varies	Not specified	Canoe/kayak launches

References

Map Data Sources:

City of Rochester

Olmsted County

US Census Bureau 2020 Census

American Community Survey (ACS) 2016-2020
5-year Estimates

iNaturalist.com

FEMA MNDot

Report Sources:

Health Data Source - Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention, 500 Cities and Places
Data 2019.

City of Rochester, Goose Management Plan

Site History and Inventory of Silver Lake Park,
New History, January 2022