

Village of Machesney Park

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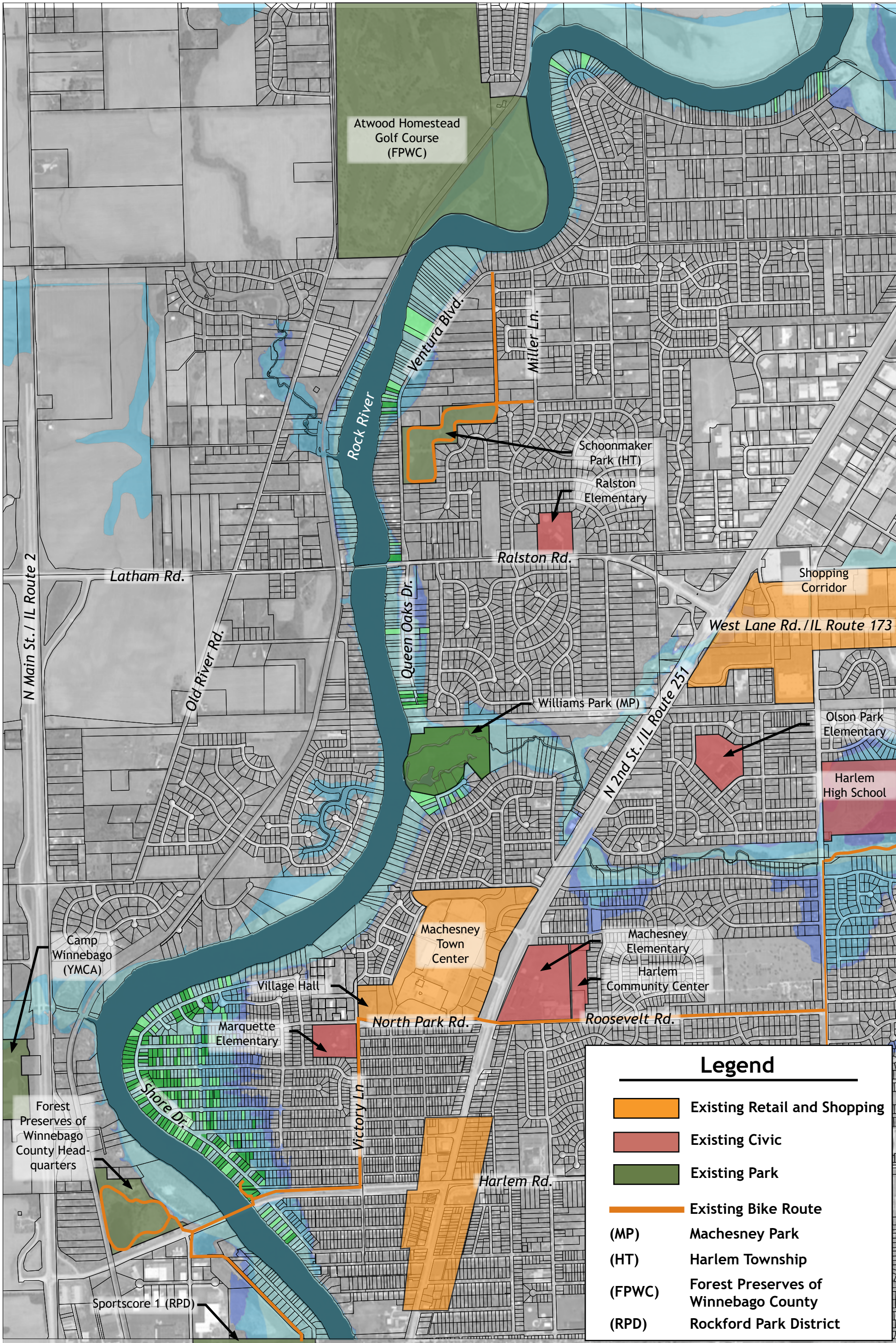
ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL

03/16/2020

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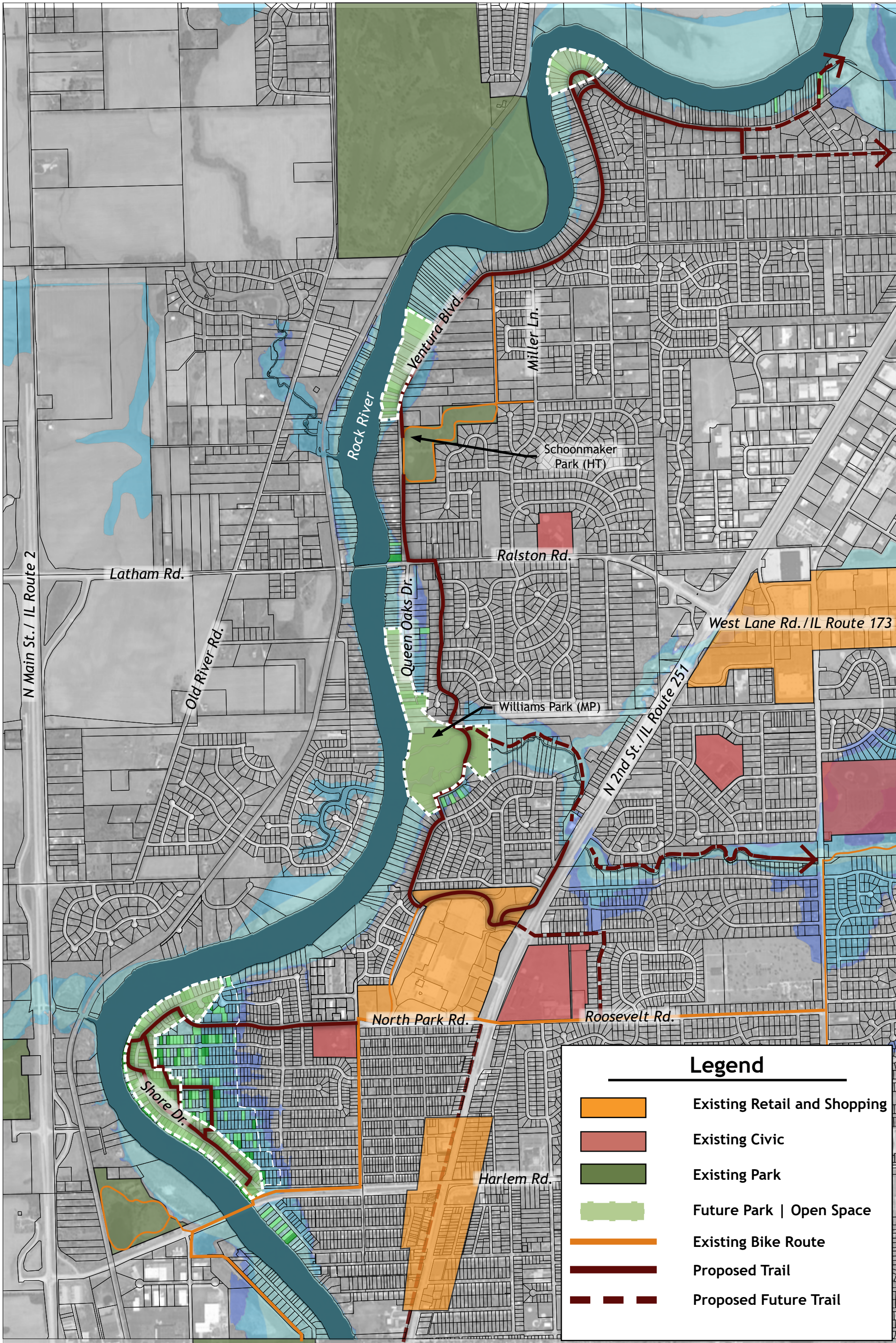
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Site Analysis

Rock River Parks and Open Space Plan

03/16/2020



Existing and Future Parks and Trails Rock River Parks and Open Space Plan

03/16/2020



Rock River Activity Area - The Rock River is the main focus of the new park area. Activities that encourage interaction with the river are recommended along the entire length of the park shoreline. River viewing platforms, fishing access points, a shoreline walking path and seating areas are all items that are recommended to be located along the riverfront. It is recommended that this spot, located at the west point of the park, be home to a dual purpose fishing pier and observation platform that will serve as the initial river front feature of the park. Any feature along the river will need to be durable and constructed to withstand the flooding which will periodically inundate the area.



On Street Parking - To provide for convenient parking for the proposed features of the park it is recommended that small (5-10) parking areas be added along Shore Drive in close proximity to these activities. The parking areas will be placed on the west side of the street to avoid conflict with the proposed recreation path. The parking areas will consist of nose in or parallel parking adjacent to the existing roadway dependent of the conditions of the available sites.



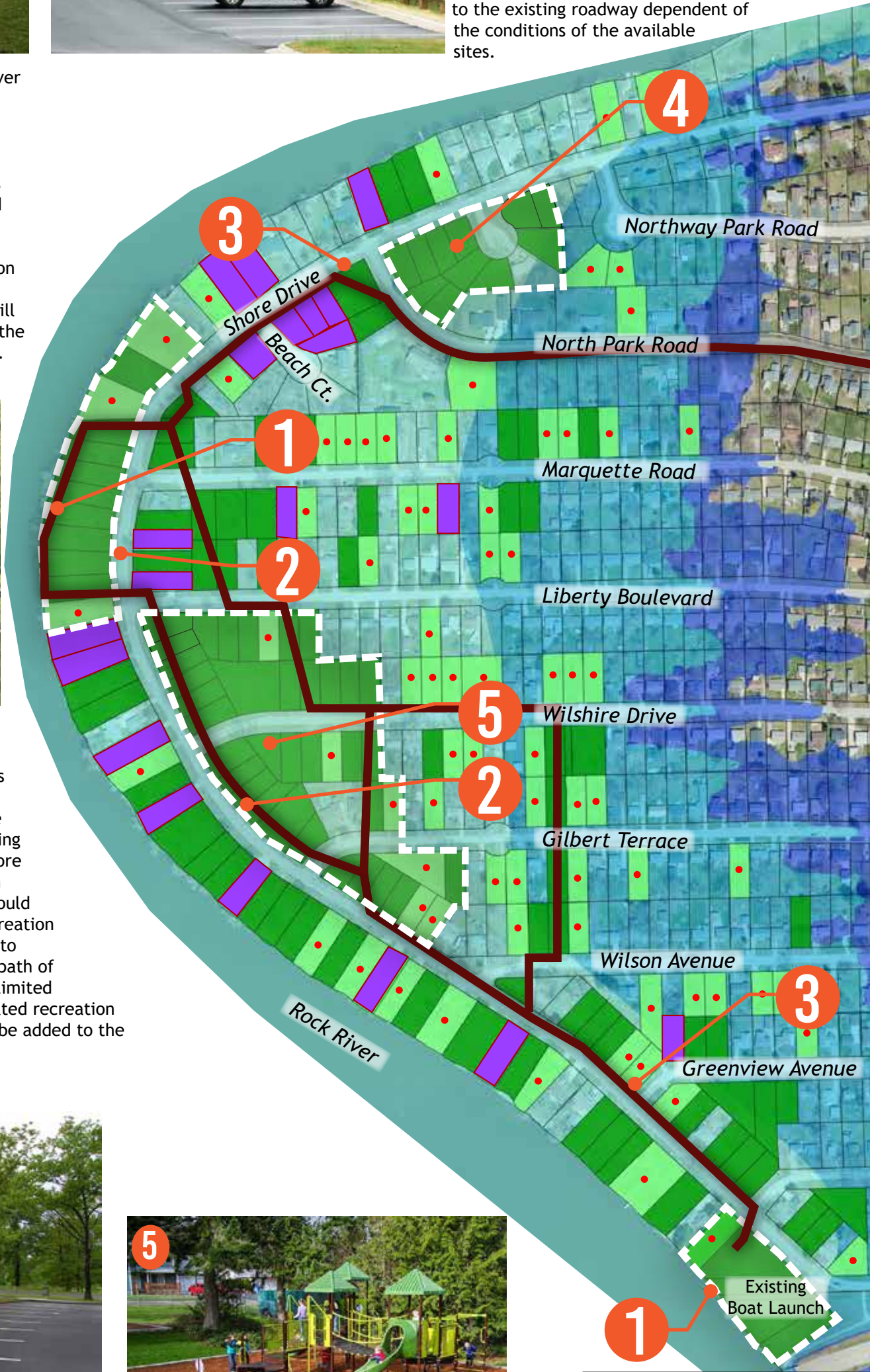
Park Drive/Recreation and Bicycle Path - Shore Drive currently serves as the main circulation route through the new park area and is recommended to continue in that function. It will serve as the main park drive as it will connect the proposed features of the park. In addition to moving cars through the area, it is recommended that Shore Drive also be utilized to provide a recreation path corridor through the park. This recreation path would provide a direct connection to the Rock River Recreation Trail and points south and would align to connect to Williams Park and points north. To provide a safe path of travel for both pedestrian and bicycle users with limited conflicts with car traffic, an 8' min. width designated recreation path with path trail markings is recommended to be added to the east side of the street.



North Park Entrance/Park and Trail Head Parking - This location, conveniently located at the west end of North Park Road, presents itself as the logical north entrance to the new River Park area. Creating an attractive off-road parking facility at this location will help establish an entrance experience for this north entrance that will balance the de facto south entrance, the already established boat launch facility. This location consists of several contingent properties that are under Village ownership that may be easily converted to an off-road parking lot. This lot can be used as a trail head for the suggested bike and recreation paths, and will help prevent potential parking conflicts caused by an increase in park users arriving in vehicles.



Active Play Space - Located at the center of the new park, it is recommended that this area be used for active recreation activities. A new playground with a small off-street parking area will serve as the centerpiece of the area. The surrounding properties are recommended to be maintained as turf grass for other outdoor activities. This area would also be used for small to mid sized gatherings and events. These spaces are also good locations for pollinator friendly plantings that can be integrated into the designs of playgrounds or other active areas.



| Legend | |
|--------|--------------------------------------|
| | Floodway |
| | 100 Year Flood Area |
| | 500 Year Flood Area |
| | Future Park |
| | Program Participant Signed Up (NOVI) |
| | Village Owned Parcel |
| | Elevated Structures |

River Park

Rock River Parks and Open Space Plan

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Williams Park Connection - Williams Park is a Village owned property that is centrally located along the Village's riverfront making it a key component in the open space plan. It is recommended that on-street parking for park users be added to the area along with a multi-use recreation path that would connect the north and south riverfronts. The area lends itself to be considered for future nature inspired activities such as nature trails, boardwalks and bird watching structures.



Recreation and Bicycle Path - A key component to the success of the Parks and Open Space Plan is creating a "green" corridor that connects the parks and features as it runs along the Rock River. It is recommended that a recreation path be established through Williams Park to connect areas north and south of Ritter Drive. The area is a wooded, low area that will require structures such as bridges or boardwalks to traverse, however, once installed it will provide the crucial link to the connection of the parks and open spaces.



On Street Parking - As is the case for other areas of the park open space system, a small (10-15 car) parking area is recommended to be added along Ritter Drive. The addition of this lot will allow for park users to have a designated parking spot that does not conflict with the other functions of the area. When the path is added through the park, the parking area will be a useful trail head for bicyclists and rec path users. Other parking areas should be added as park usage increases.



Passive Recreation Area - The properties along the north edge of Ritter Drive abuts the established park's south edge. The natural state of the park suggests that the area should be kept as a passive, nature oriented space. To that end, it is recommended that these lots be established primarily as a pollinator friendly meadow, with short prairie grass, flowers and forbs occupying the majority of the space. Maintained lawn is suggested along the streetfront with mowed paths through the meadow area for park users to interact with nature.

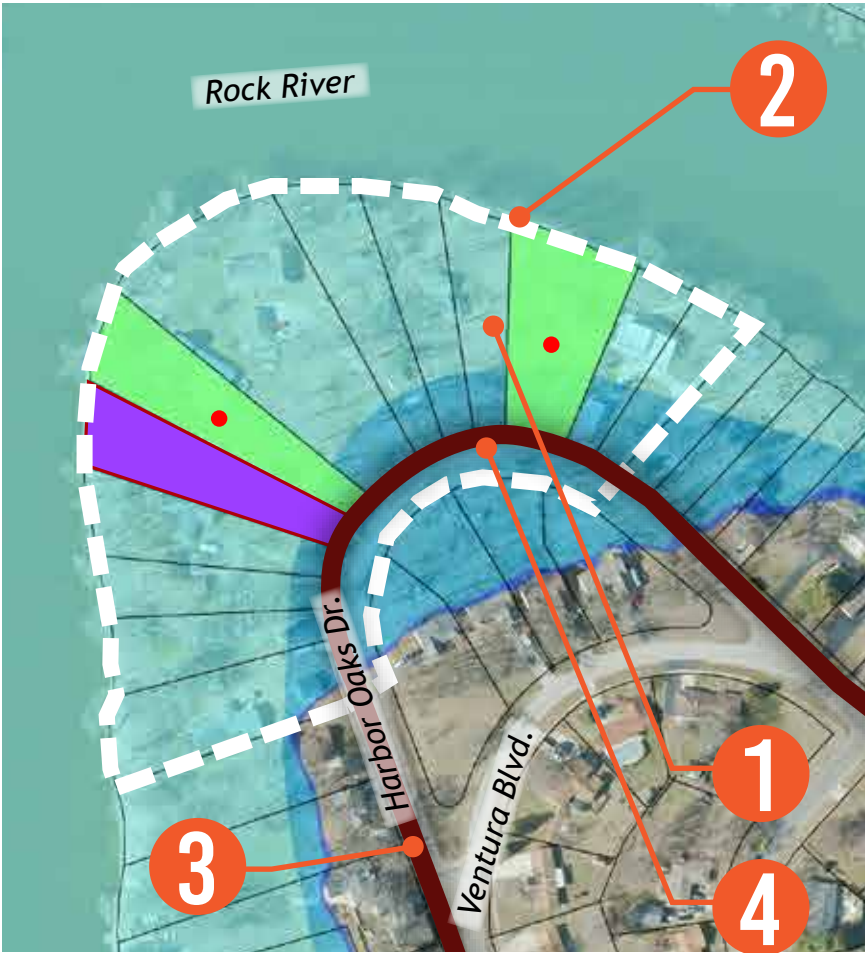


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Williams Park

Rock River Parks and Open Space Plan

03/16/2020



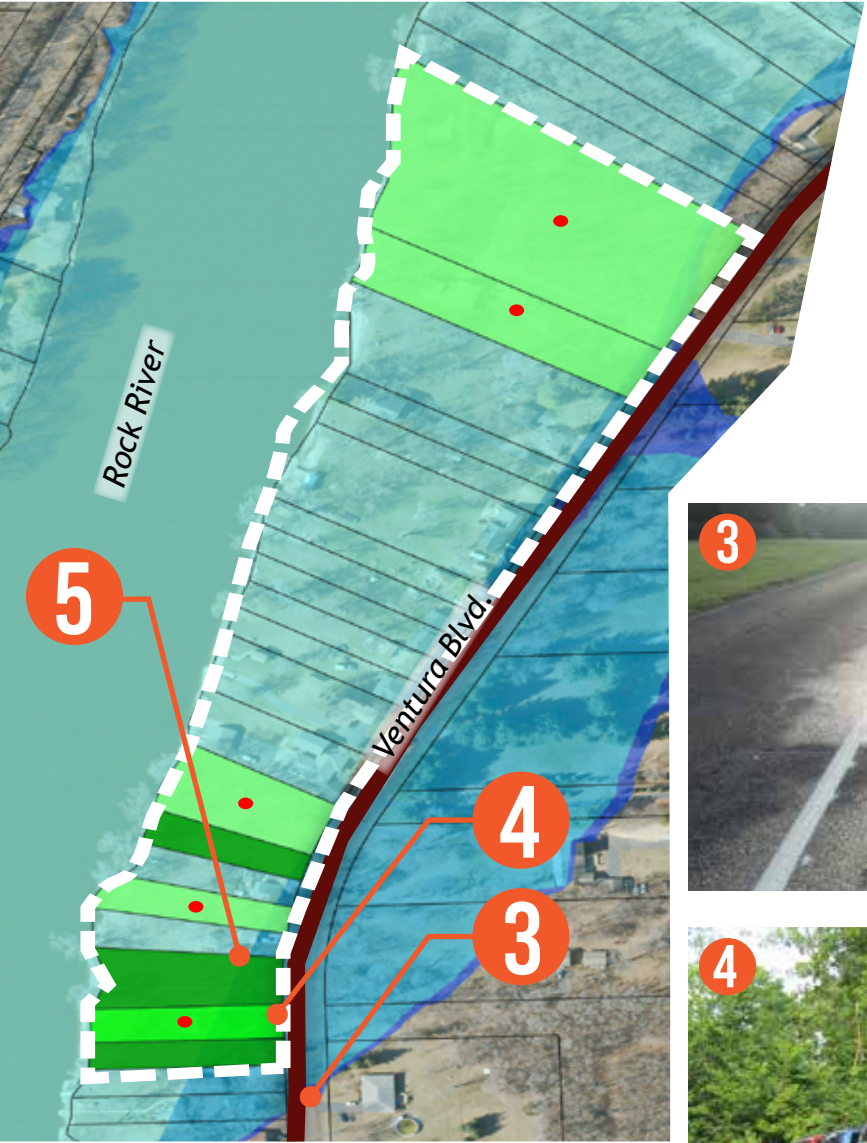
Harbor Oaks Park



Passive Recreation/Wooded Nature - Harbor Oaks Park occupies the northern tip of the open space area. It is unique in that it is primarily a wooded area with Oak Savanna characteristics. It is recommended that this area’s wooded environment be preserved and promoted by saving and possibly adding to the tree stand. The addition of a pedestrian scaled nature path (6’ wide) with seating and interpretive signage is suggested. Adding river overlooks to this nature oriented path in the future is also suggested. As this area is developed, a small on-road parking area off of Harbor Oaks Drive is recommended.



Rock River Activity Area - As with many areas of the Machesney Park Open Space System, the Rock River is a major influence of the this area. Activities that encourage interaction with the river are recommended along this stretch of shoreline including: River viewing platforms, fishing access points, a shoreline walking path and seating areas. These items are recommended to be added once there are enough adjacent properties included in the program that a path is reasonable to establish.



Ventura Park



Recreation and Bicycle Path - Much like Shore Drive to the south, Ventura Blvd. is the main artery for path users to access the park facilities. It is recommended that a dedicated 8’ width recreation and bicycle path be added along the length of the roadway to connect these northern parks and to provide a link to regional attractions north of the Village. The connection through Williams Park to the south opens up use of the Rock River Recreation Trail system to the south.



On Street Parking - The properties south and east of Ventura Blvd. are likely to remain residential for a long time, Thus, it is important that parking facilities for park users to be added to avoid potential conflicts with the neighbors in the surrounding areas. It is recommended that small (5-10 car) parking areas be added at points of interest and at regular intervals, (approx. 1/4 mile), once the properties have been added and developed as parks. A small lot to service the starter loop at the south end of this area is recommended to be added when the path is installed.

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Passive Recreation/Natural Open Space
 - The properties in this area are long narrow lots that stretch from Ventura Blvd. to the Rock River. The area is low and mostly open in nature. It is recommended that the open nature of the area is preserved and accentuated by establishing low maintenance, wet tolerant plantings that occupy the majority of the area. A maintained lawn strip (25’-30’ wide) is recommended to be retained along the street-front. Due to the structure of the lots, several adjacent lots will be needed before additional improvements should be considered. Eventually, when these properties are aquired, a pedestrian focused path loop is recommended to be placed along the riverfront from parking areas along Ventura Blvd.

Plan Enlargements

Rock River Parks and Open Space Plan

TYPICAL LOT TEMPORARY IMPROVEMENTS

As lots are aquired through the program there will be instances where temporary improvements will be necessary. Below is a list of improvements are recommended for these lots.

Removals: Remove structures, walks, drives, undesirable trees and plantings, and other on site fixtures.

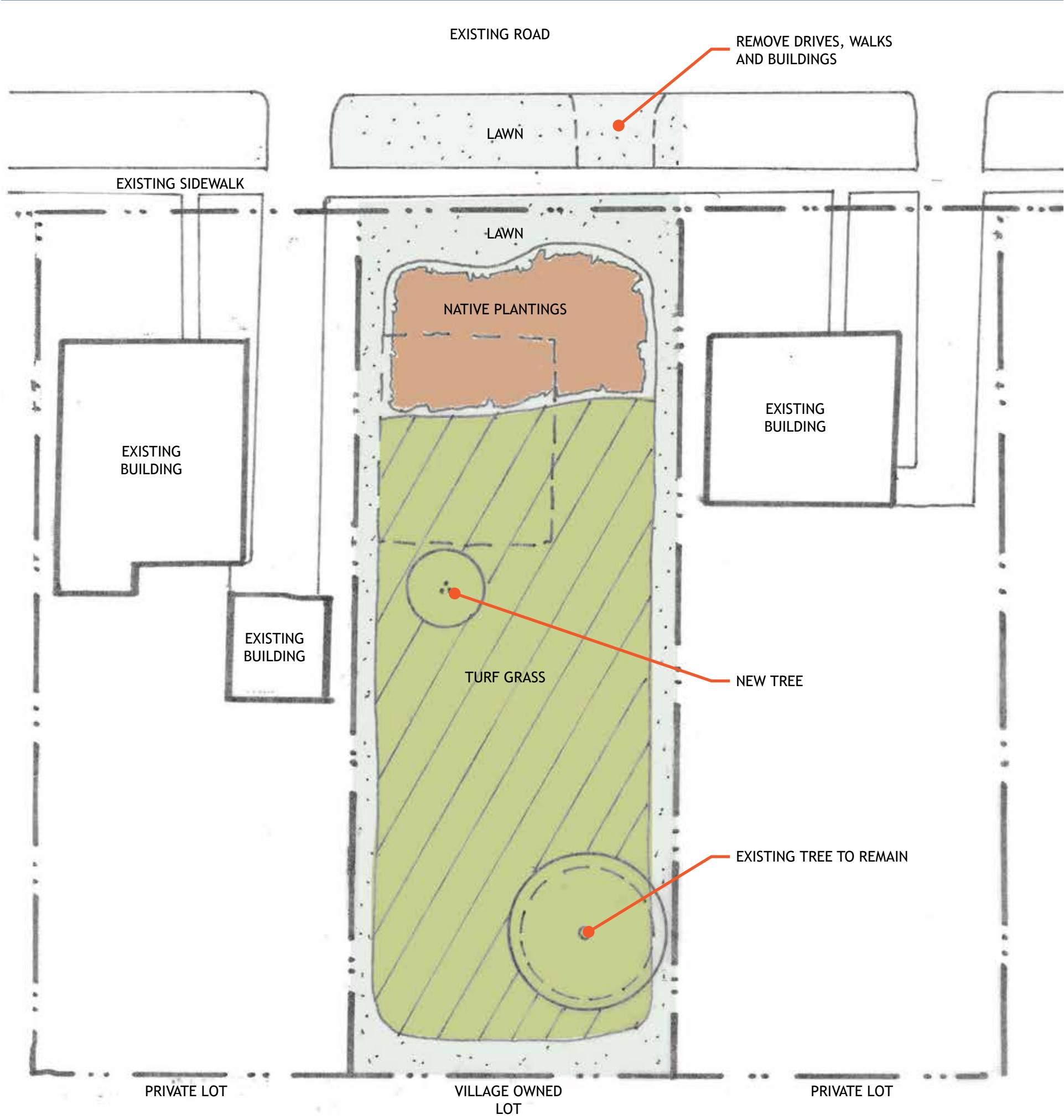
Establish Lawn: Approximately 15% of the lot is to be established as lawn, ensuring the parkway and front of lot have a maintained appearance. A mown buffer of approximately 5’ in width around the perimeter of the lot is also recommended to be maintained as lawn.

Native Plantings: A pollinator friendly native planting area should be established toward the front of the lot facing the existing road. These plantings should occupy approximately 10% of the lot for aesthetics and low maintenance.

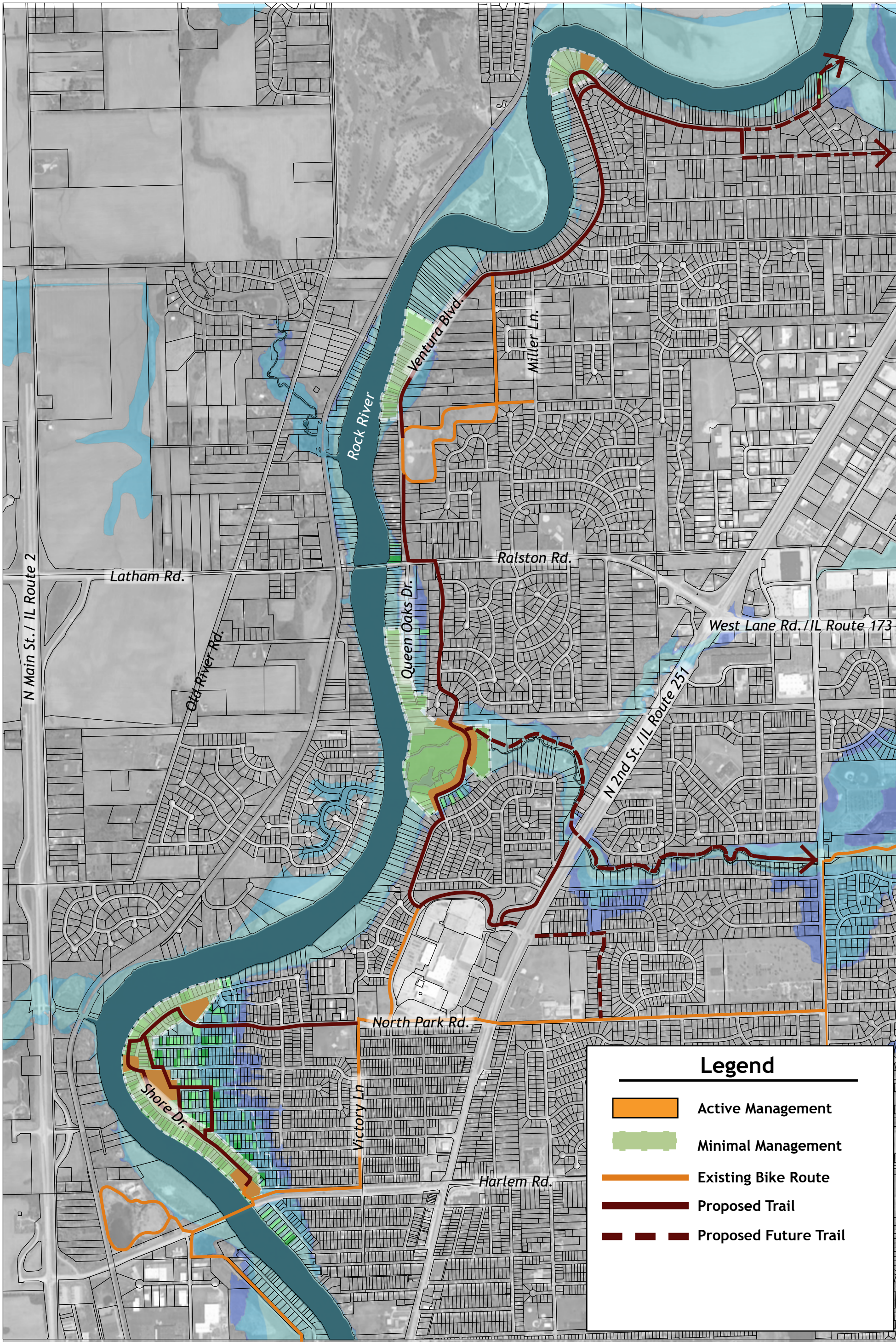
Low Maintenance Grass: Approximately 75% of the lot is recommended to be established with a low maintenance grass.

New Trees: New trees may be planted at the discretion of the Village staff.

Existing Trees: Desirable species of trees that are in good health are recommended to be retained.



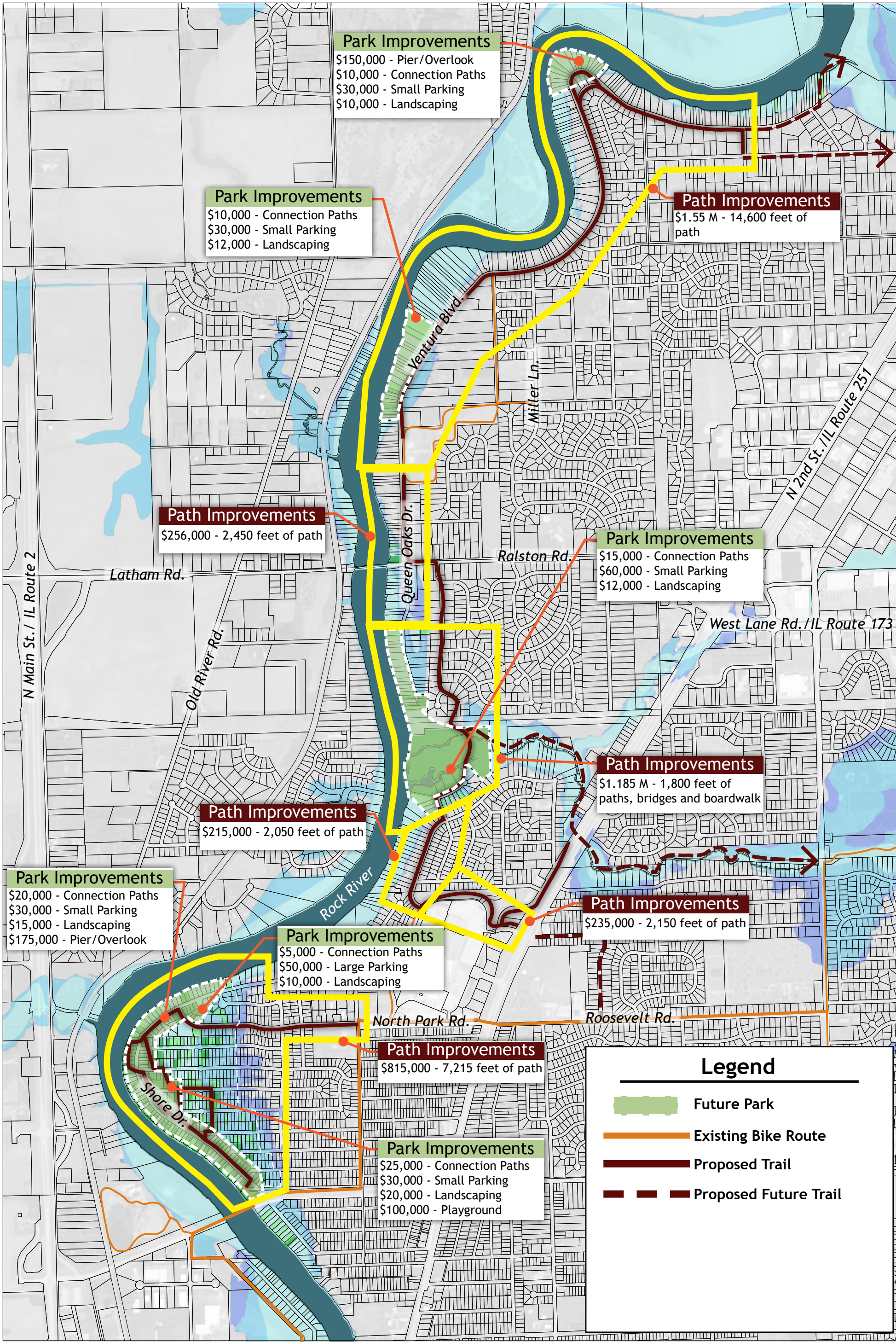
Typical Temporary Lot Redevelopment
Rock River Parks and Open Space Plan



Park Maintenance

Rock River Parks and Open Space Plan

03/16/2020



Improvement Estimate as of 2019

Rock River Parks and Open Space Plan

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