



SIMS PARK MASTER PLAN

PROJECT SUMMARY

PRESENTATION OUTLINE

1: PROJECT BACKGROUND

2: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: OPEN HOUSE #1

3: PROJECT GOALS

4: EXISTING CONDITIONS

5: PRELIMINARY CONCEPT PLANS

6: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: OPEN HOUSE #2 AND ONLINE SURVEY

7: PREFERRED MASTER PLAN

1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

PROJECT AREA AND PROJECT SCOPE



BIG IDEA: DEVELOP A COHERENT VISION THAT WILL SERVE AS A ROADMAP FOR THE PHASED IMPLEMENTATION OF IMPROVEMENTS AT SIMS PARK

- LOCATE A NEW PLAYGROUND AT A LOCATION THAT BEST LEVERAGES THE PARK AND PARK CONTEXT TO ENHANCE THE PLAY EXPERIENCE
- RECONFIGURE AND EXPAND PARKING TO BETTER SUPPORT THE PARK
- ENHANCE THE PARK ARRIVAL EXPERIENCE
- IMPROVE CONNECTIVITY AND ACCESSIBILITY TO AND THROUGHOUT THE PARK
- REIMAGINE THE BLUFFTOP VISTA SEATING
- IMPROVE THE HENN MANSION FUNCTION AND PRESENCE
- MODIFY THE DISC GOLF COURSE TO ACCOMMODATE THE MASTER PLAN WHILE ENHANCING THE DISCO GOLF EXPERIENCE

1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

PARALLEL TRACKS FOR ENGAGEMENT AND FEEDBACK

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- OPEN HOUSE #1: WEDNESDAY, 6 November 2024
- OPEN HOUSE #2: SATURDAY, 1 FEBRUARY 2025
- ONLINE SURVEY: 24 FEBRUARY – 11 March 2025

STEERING COMMITTEE

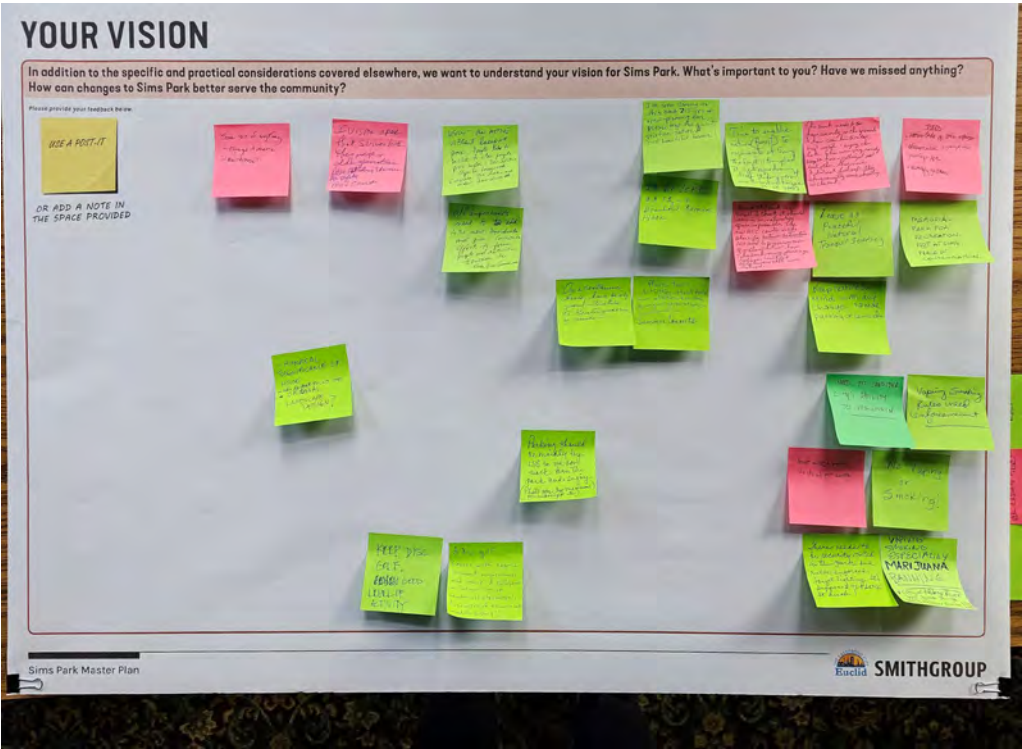
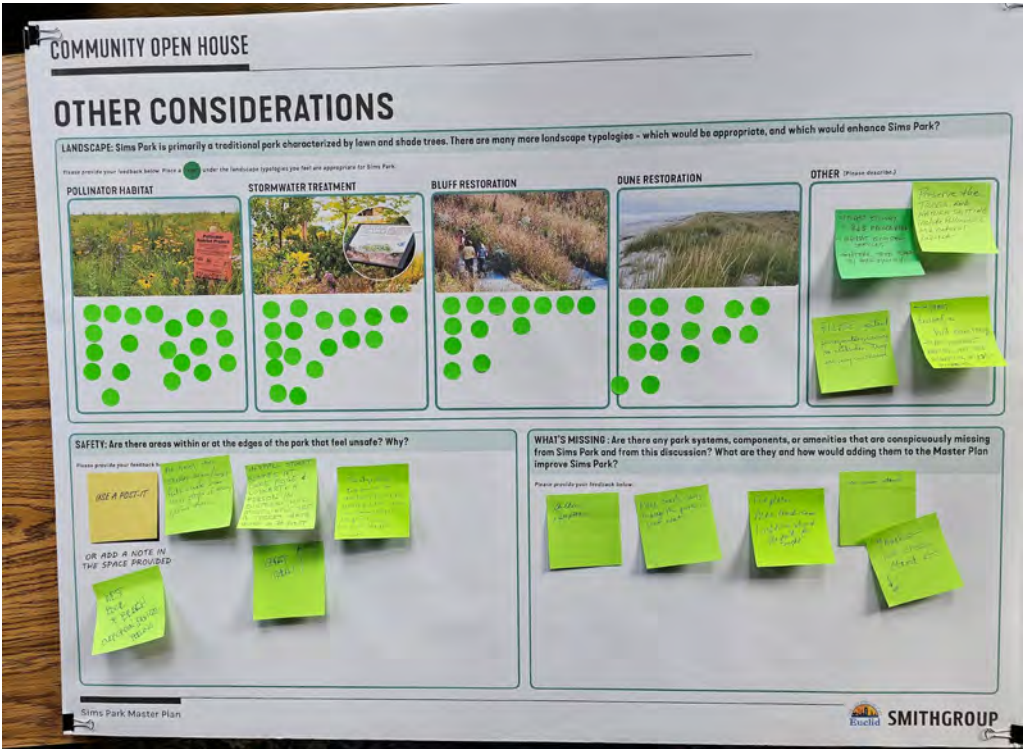
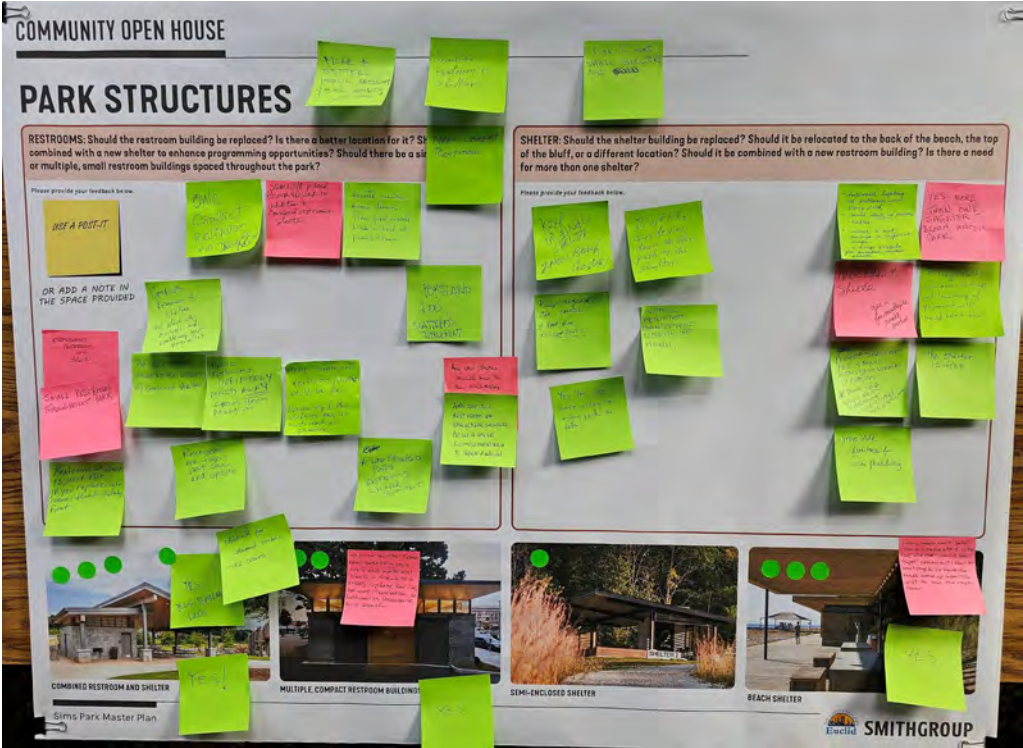
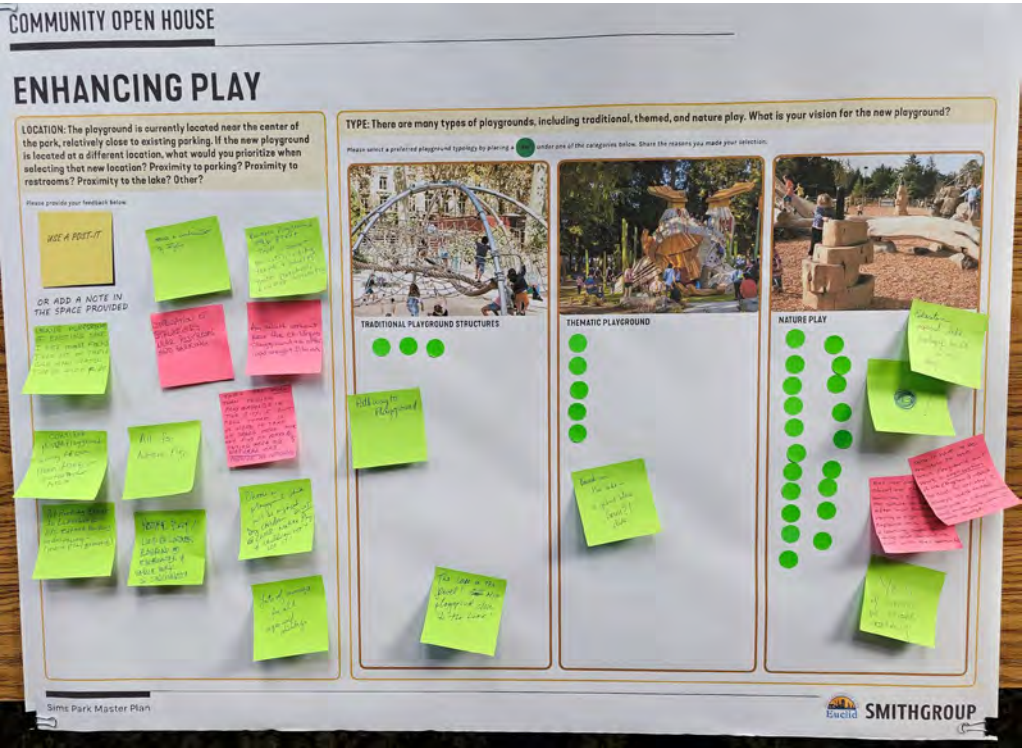
- CITY LEADERSHIP
- CITY STAFF
- HENN MANSION

STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

- DOWNTOWN BUSINESS GROUP
- CLEVELAND METROPARKS
- COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP
- RESIDENT GROUP
- DISC GOLF GROUP

2 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE #1 WEDNESDAY, 6 NOVEMBER 2024



3 PROJECT GOALS

THE FOLLOWING PROJECT GOALS WERE DEVELOPED BASED ON COMMUNITY FEEDBACK RECEIVED AT THE FIRST COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE.

- **ENHANCE THE PARK AS A NATURE EXPERIENCE**
 - DON'T OVER-DEVELOP THE PARK
 - RESTORATION IS IMPORTANT
 - MAINTAIN THE EXISTING PARK'S EXISTING CHARACTER AND EXISTING TREES
- **IMPROVE THE ARRIVAL EXPERIENCE AND ENHANCE THE PARK'S PRESENCE AND IDENTITY AT LAKESHORE BLVD**
 - CREATE A VISUAL CONNECTION FROM LAKESHORE BLVD AND THE SOUTH HALF OF THE PARK TO LAKE ERIE
 - BETTER CONNECT PEDESTRIANS AND CYCLISTS TO THE LAKE, BEACH, AND LAKESHORE TRAIL
- **IMPROVE AMENITIES**
 - EXPAND PARKING
 - IMPROVE THE DISC GOLF EXPERIENCE WHILE MINIMIZING DISC GOLF'S IMPACT ON SENSITIVE HABITAT AREAS
- **DISTRIBUTE PARK AMENITIES MORE EVENLY, AND CLARIFY THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE PARK AND HENN MANSION**
- **ADDRESS SAFETY CONCERNS**

SITE ANALYSIS



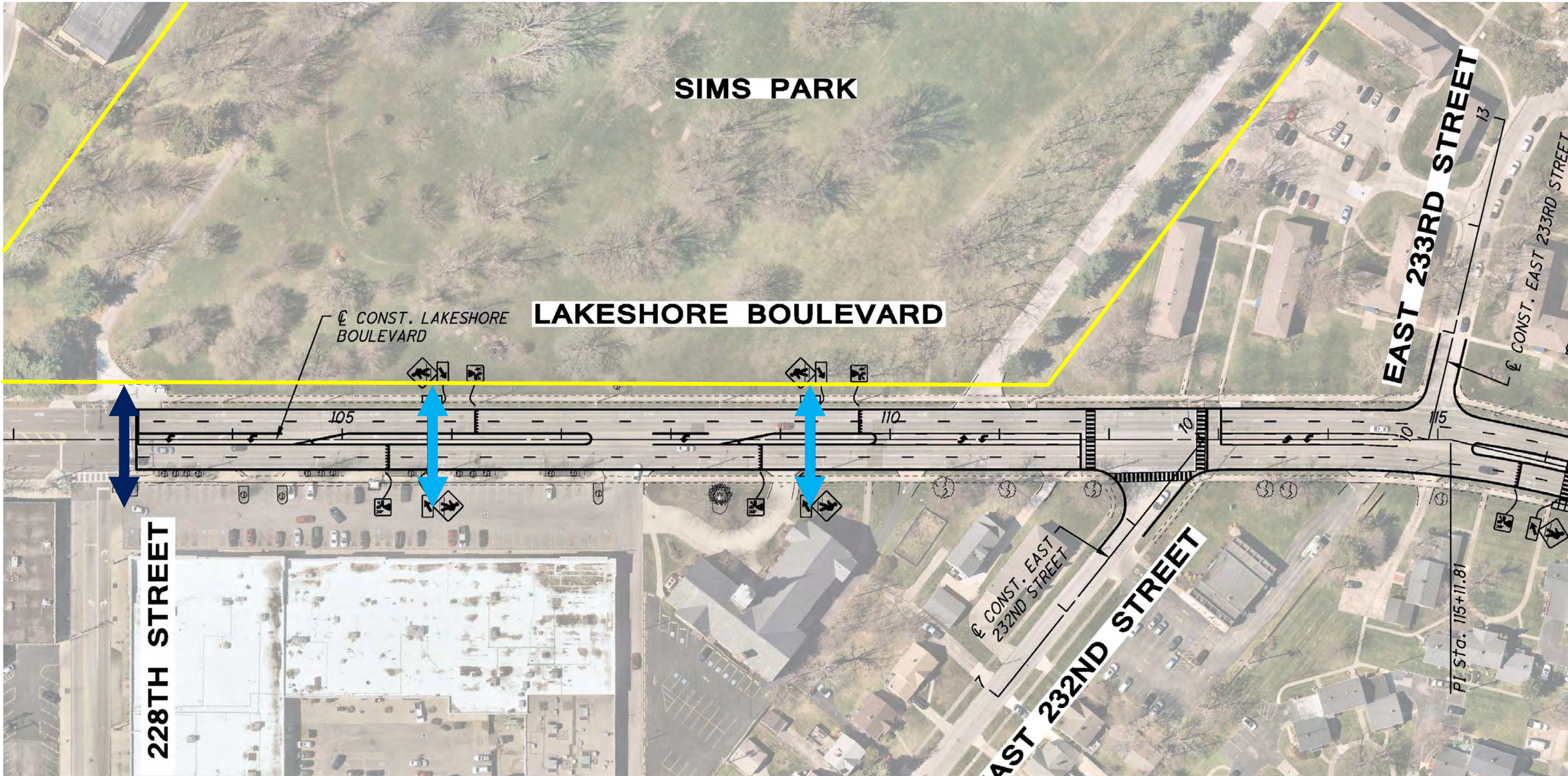
4 EXISTING CONDITIONS

DISC GOLF



4 EXISTING CONDITIONS

LAKESHORE BOULEVARD MEDIAN IMPROVEMENTS



4 EXISTING CONDITIONS

NEIGHBORING PROJECTS

TOP OF THE TANK



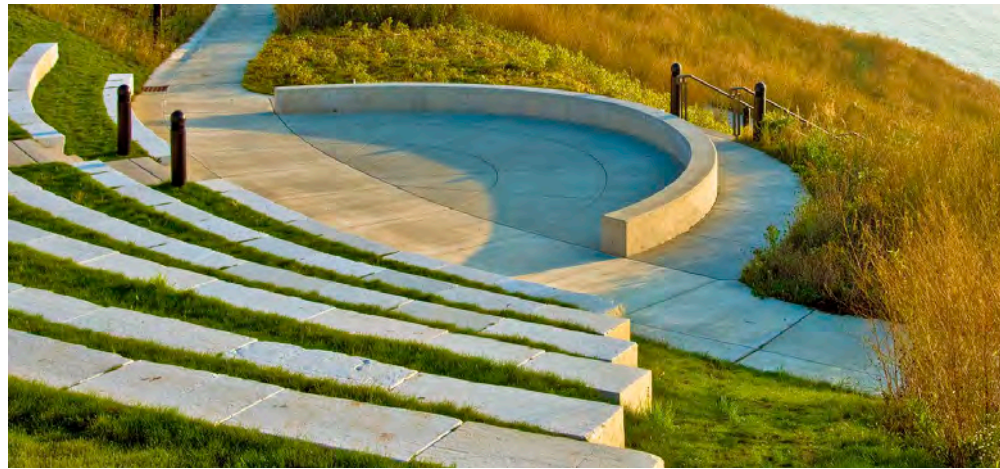
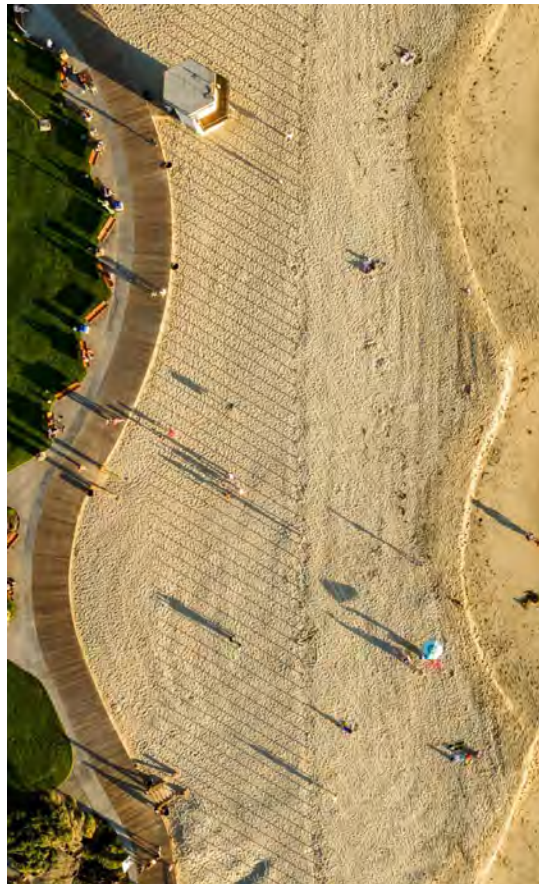
UPLAND SIMS PARK EXPANSION



5 PRELIMINARY CONCEPTS

CONCEPT A

- REALIGNED VEHICULAR ENTRANCE SWEEPS WEST OF ALLEE
- PARKING LOOP DISTRIBUTES PARKING
- WATER ACCESS DROP-OFF AT NORTH END OF HENN MANSION PARKING LOT
- HENN MANSION DROP-OFF AT HENN'S FRONT DOOR
- NEW PED/BIKE 'SPINE' EAST OF ENTRY DRIVE
- CENTRALLY-LOCATED, COMBINED SHELTER/RESTROOM BUILDING
- PLAYGROUND IS PAIRED WITH SOUTH RAVINE
- BACK BEACH IS ACTIVATED WITH A BOARDWALK AND SEATING



5 PRELIMINARY CONCEPTS

CONCEPT B

- ENTRY DRIVE ALIGNMENT REMAINS, EXPANDED PARKING EXTENDS TOWARD NW CORNER OF PARK
- WATER ACCESS DROP-OFF AT PARKING EXTENSION
- HENN MANSION DROP-OFF AT HENN'S EAST DOOR
- NEW PED/BIKE 'SPINE' EAST OF ENTRY DRIVE
- CENTRALLY-LOCATED RESTROOM BUILDING
- 2 SHELTERS: ONE AT WEST BLUFF, ONE COMBINED SHELTER/STAGE AT HENN LAWN
- PLAY AT BEACH RAVINE
- BLUFF ACCESS WITH OVERLOOK ANTICIPATES FUTURE LAKEFRONT TRAIL EXTENSION
- EXISTING RAVINE EXTENDED TO ENHANCE ARRIVAL, TREAT STORMWATER, ENHANCE NATURE EXPERIENCE

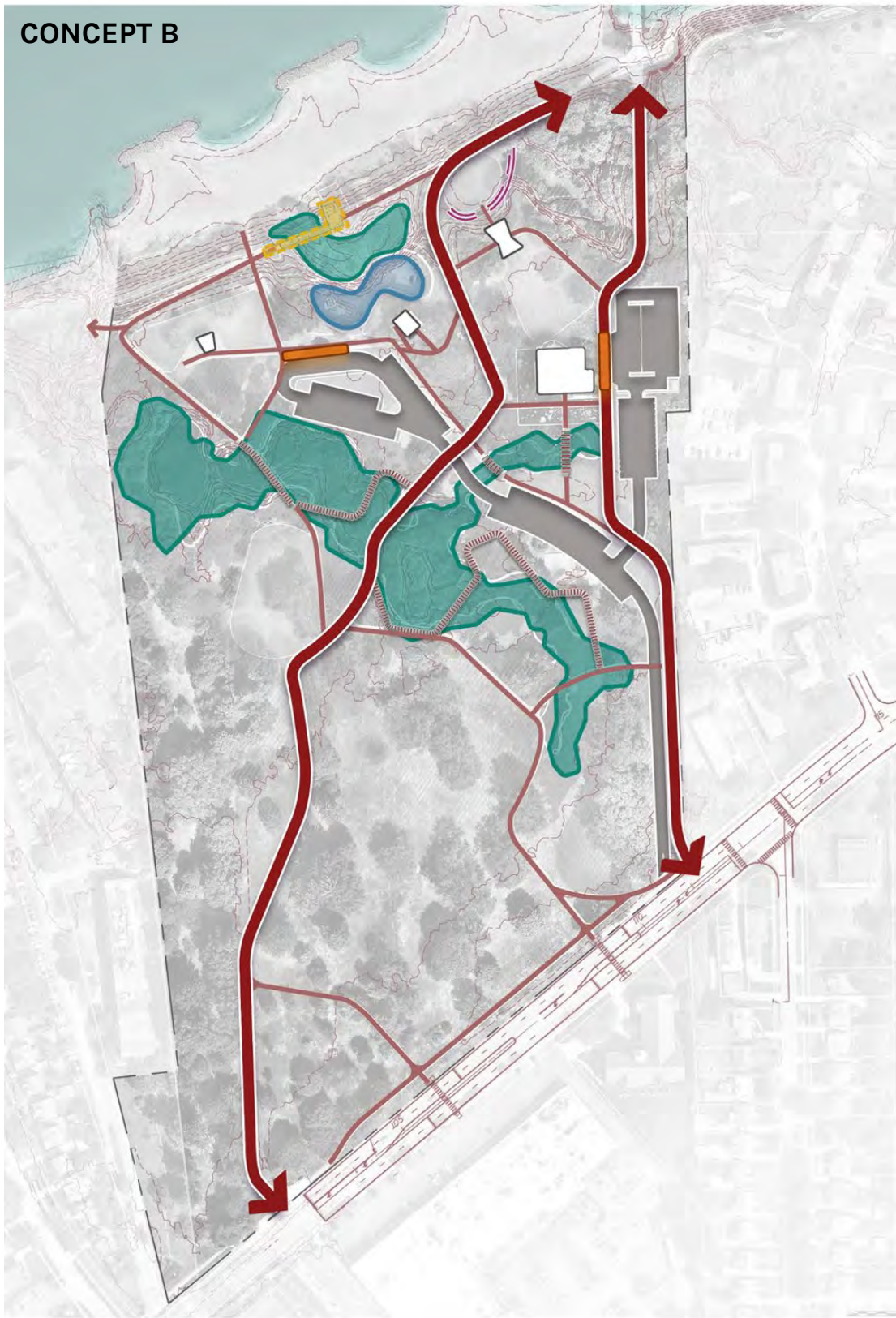
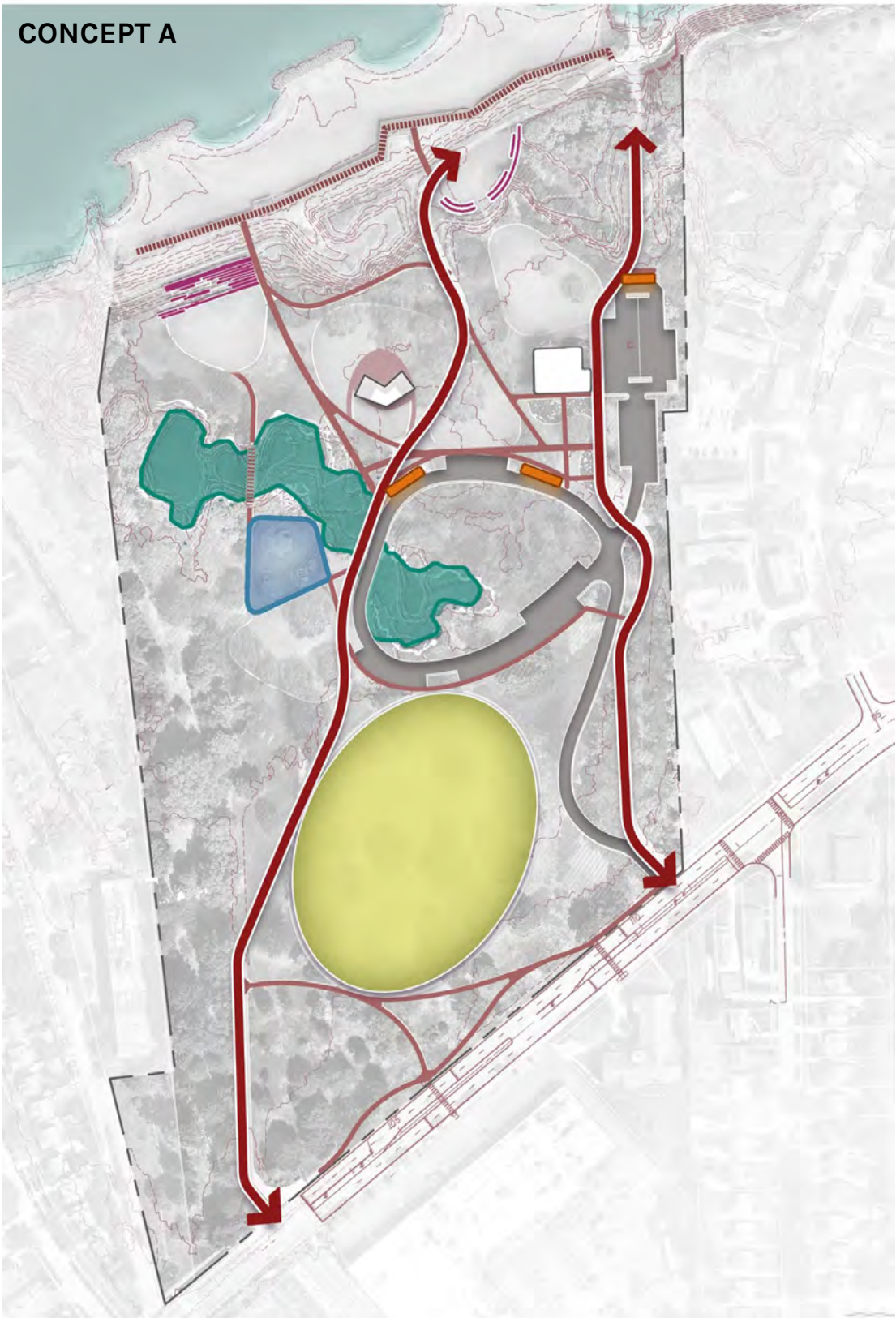


5 PRELIMINARY CONCEPTS



5 PRELIMINARY CONCEPTS

CONCEPT DIAGRAM COMPARISON



- PRIMARY PEDESTRIAN / BICYCLE PATHWAY
- OTHER PATHWAY
- BEACH BOARDWALK OR RAVINE NATURE WALK
- STEPPED SEATING
- OVERLOOK
- VEHICULAR DROP-OFF
- ACTIVATED OR EXPANDED RAVINE
- PLAYGROUND
- BUILDING
- COMMUNITY LAWN

6 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

OPEN HOUSE #2
SATURDAY, 1 FEBRUARY 2025



6 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

OPEN HOUSE #2
SATURDAY, 1 FEBRUARY 2025

PLAYGROUND: Where do you think the playground should be located?

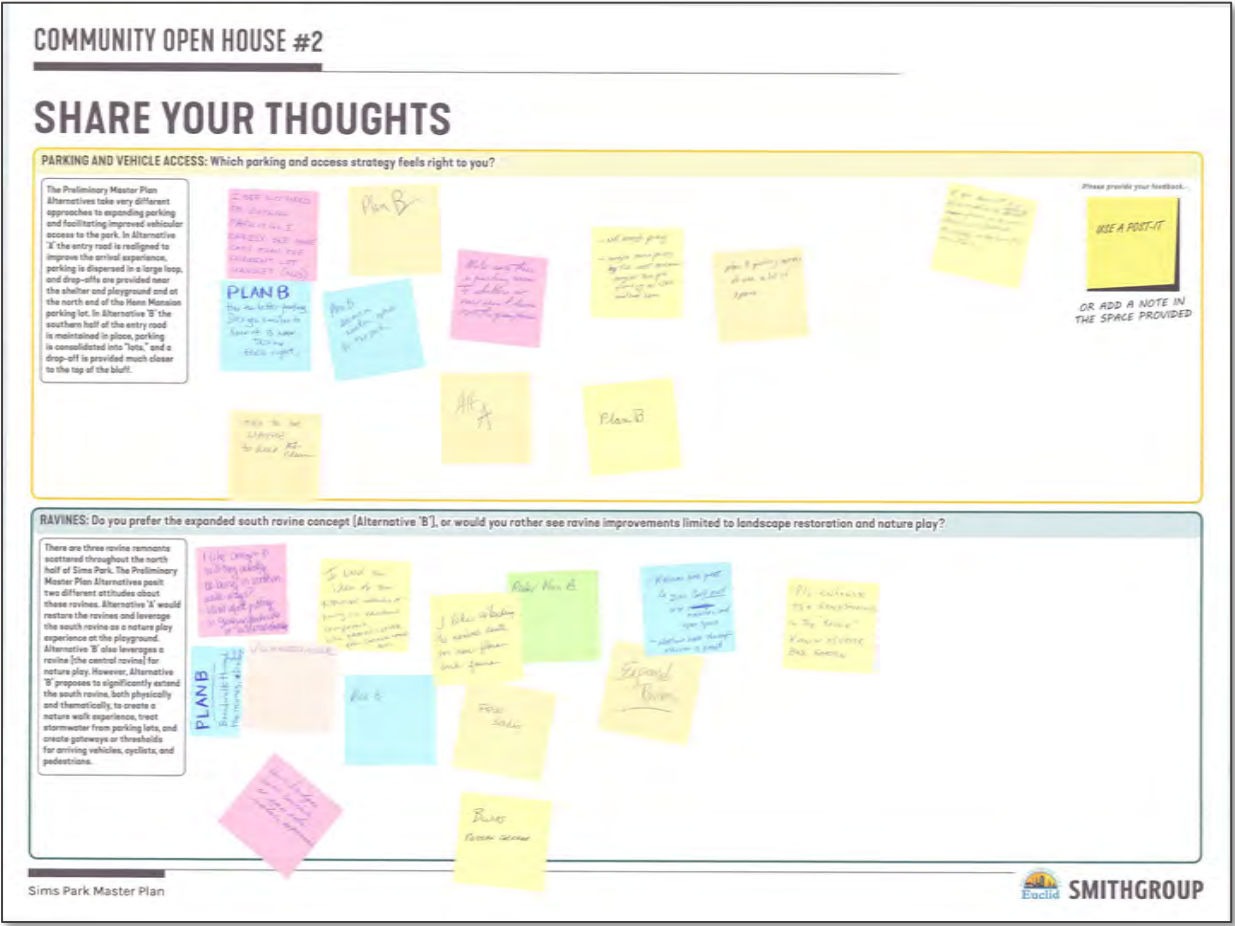
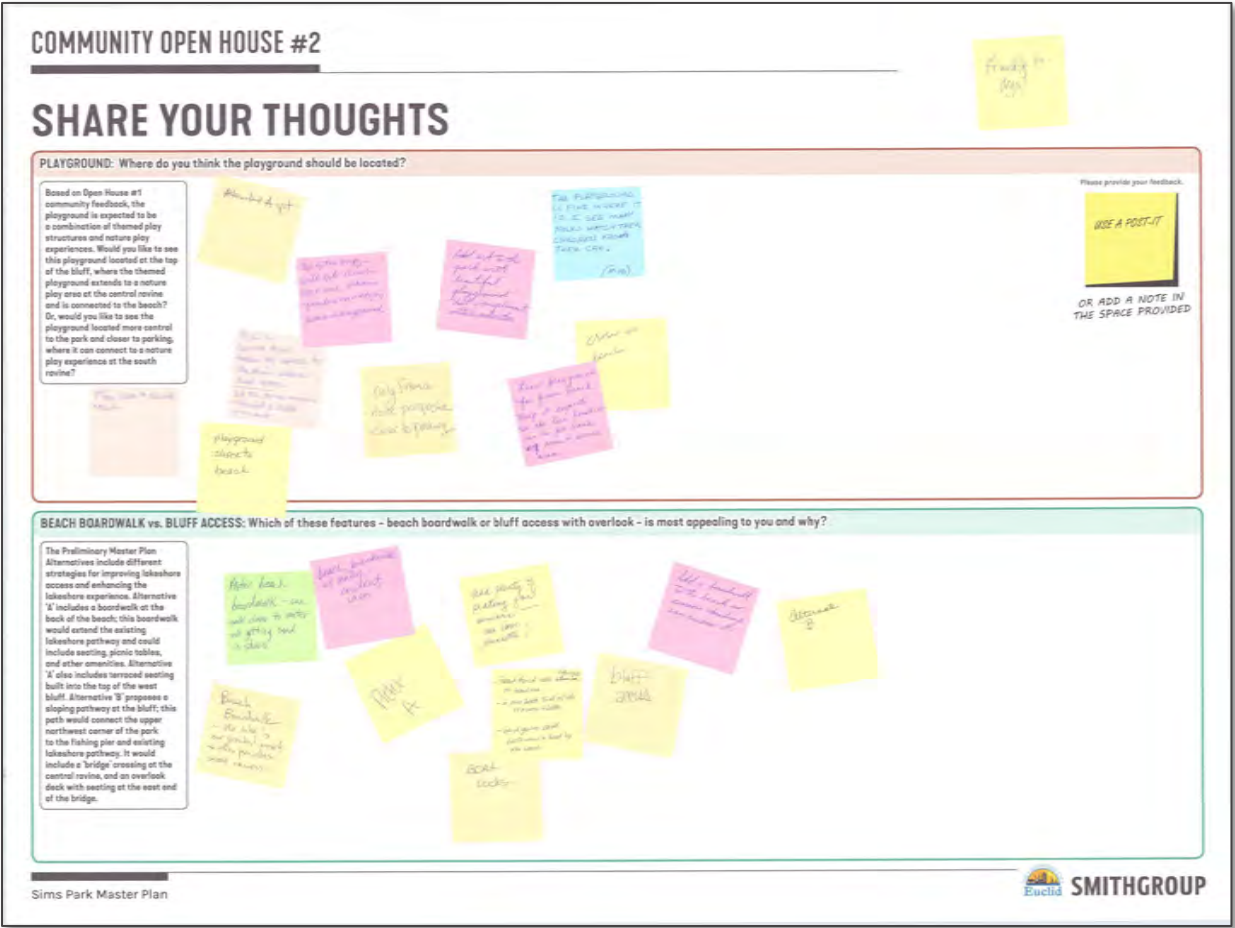
BEACH BOARDWALK vs. BLUFF ACCESS: Which of these features - beach boardwalk or bluff access with overlook - is most appealing to you and why?

PARKING AND VEHICLE ACCESS: Which parking and access strategy feels right to you?

RAVINES: Do you prefer the expanded south ravine concept (Alternative ‘B’), or would you rather see ravine improvements limited to landscape restoration and nature play?

COMMUNITY LAWN vs. RESTORATION: Do you feel a large, flexible community lawn space is important at the south half of Sims Park?

PARK BUILDINGS: Which building types do you prefer? Where would you like to see future park buildings located?

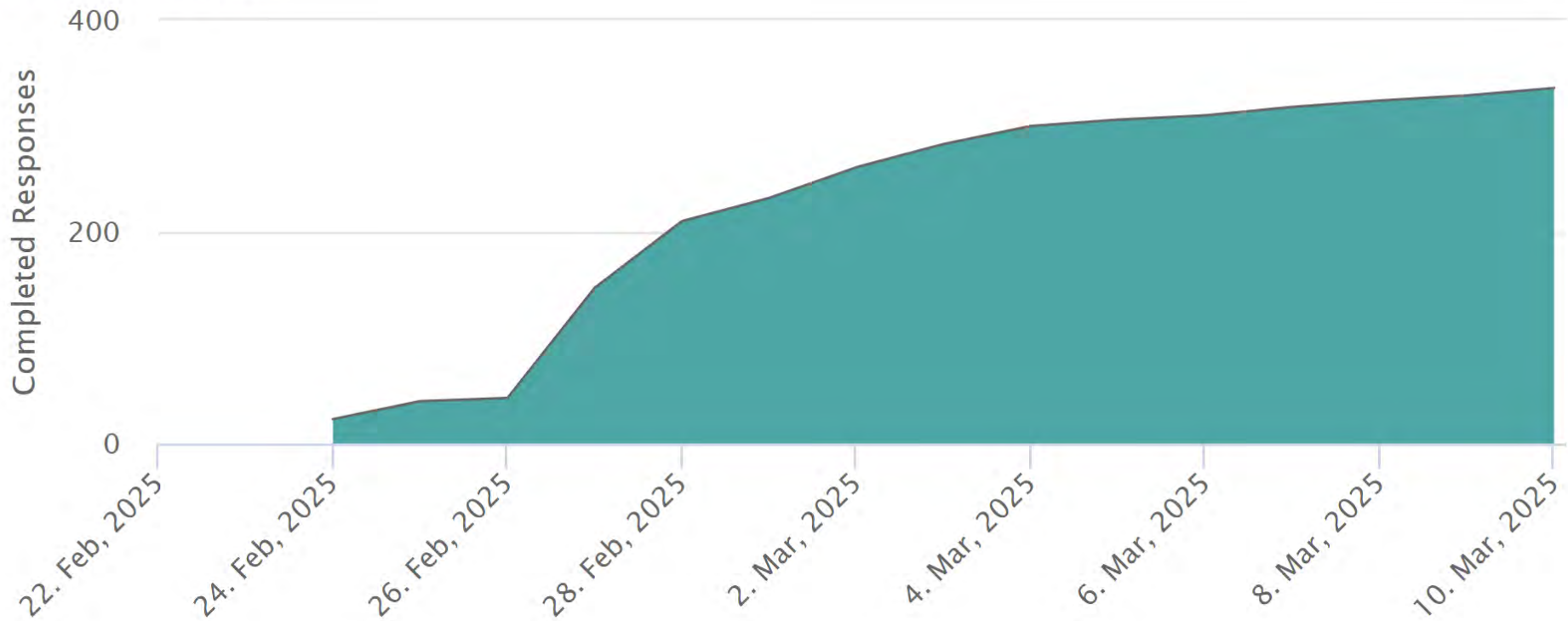


6 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

ONLINE SURVEY
24 FEBRUARY – 11 MARCH 2025

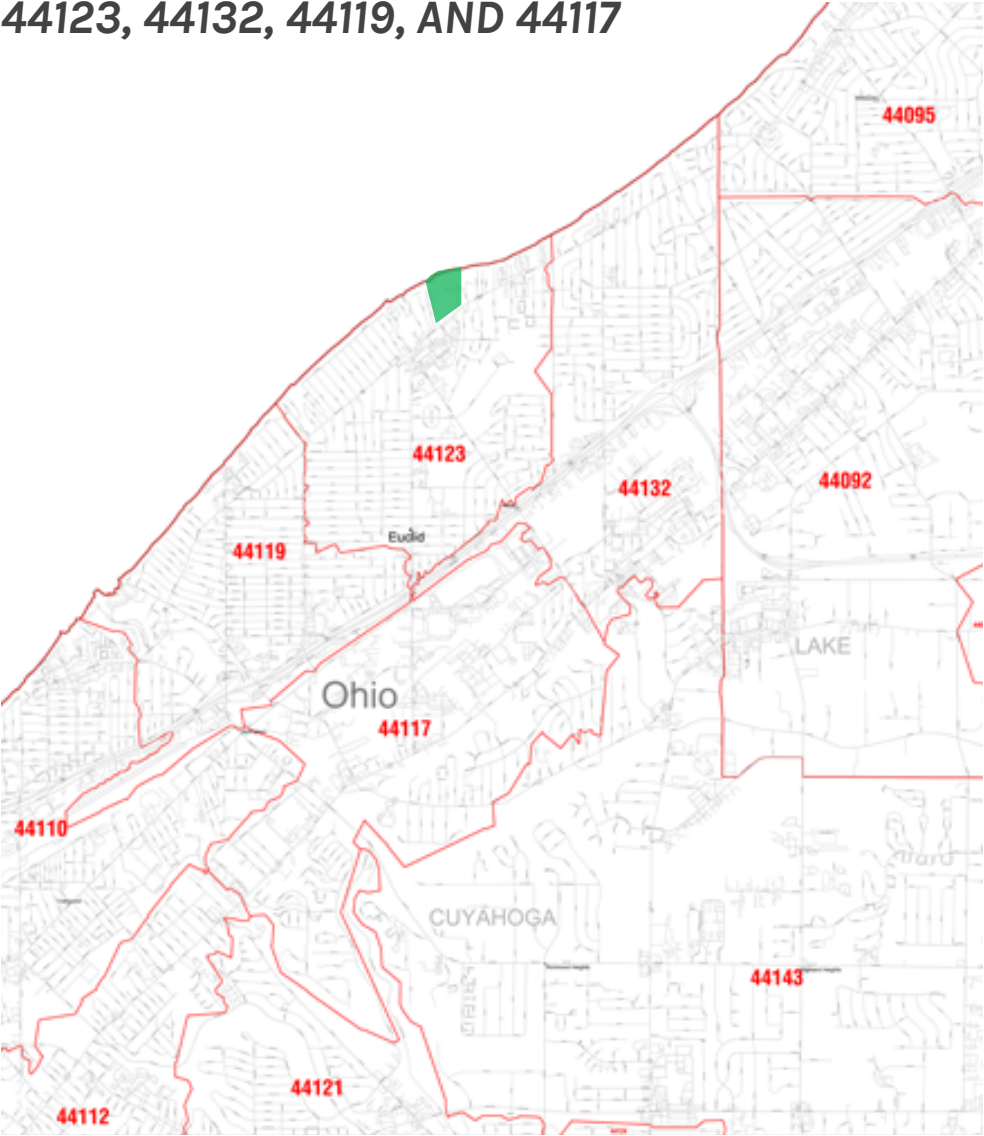
- THE SURVEY WAS OPEN FOR 16 DAYS
- THERE WERE 687 RESPONSES
- 336 RESPONSES WERE COMPLETE*

Response Activity



539 OF THE RESPONDENTS LIVED IN THE FOLLOWING ZIP CODES:

44123, 44132, 44119, AND 44117



* “COMPLETE” RESPONSES ARE THOSE FOR WHICH ALL OF THE SURVEY QUESTIONS WERE ANSWERED. ALL RESPONSES, INCLUDING PARTIAL RESPONSES, CONTRIBUTED TO THE SURVEY RESULTS.

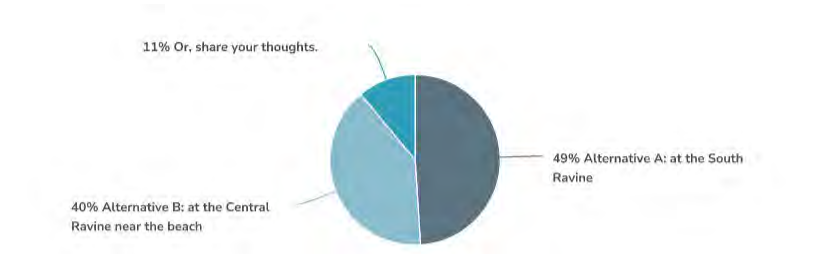
6 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

ONLINE SURVEY 24 FEBRUARY – 11 MARCH

SURVEY RESULTS:

ALT A: PLAY AT SOUTH RAVINE

5. PLAYGROUND: Where do you think the new playground should be located?Explanation: Based on Open House #1 community feedback, the playground is expected to be a combination of themed play structures and nature play experiences. Would you like to see this playground located at the top of the bluff, where the themed playground extends to a nature play area at the Central Ravine and is connected to the beach? Or, would you like to see the playground located more central to the park and closer to parking, where it can connect to a nature play experience at the South Ravine?



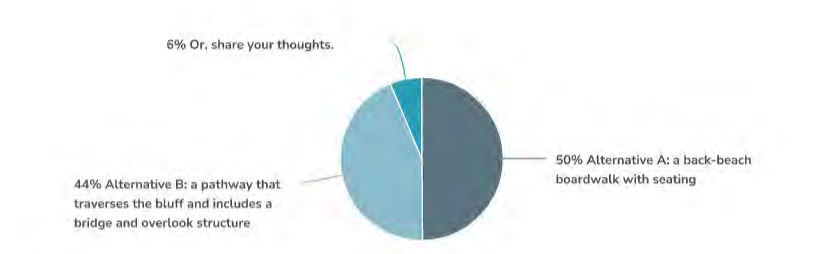
Value	Percent	Responses
Alternative A: at the South Ravine	49.0%	169
Alternative B: at the Central Ravine near the beach	40.0%	138
Or, share your thoughts.	11.0%	38
Totals: 345		

Or, share your thoughts.	Count
Assuming it's not too late, can this park be turned over to Cleveland Metroparks?	1
Before you make ANY decision, make sure you have a plan to maintain the final product. Security and day to day clean-up of the area. Unlike the islands that were placed on Lakeshore. Build them, then forget them. DO NOT NOT do that!!!	1
Children should not be close to the lake	1
Closest the shelter for Parents/Guardians to watch and close to rest rooms. Most important is proximity for safety forces to easily observe the playground.	1
Totals	38

12

ALT A: BACK BEACH BOARDWALK

6. BEACH BOARDWALK VS BLUFF PATHWAY: Which of these features - beach boardwalk or bluff pathway with overlook - is most appealing to you?Explanation: The Preliminary Master Plan Alternatives include different strategies for improving lake access and enhancing the experience of the shoreline. Alternative A includes a boardwalk at the back of the beach; this boardwalk would extend the existing lakeshore pathway and could include seating, picnic tables, and other amenities. Alternative A also includes terraced seating built into the top of the west bluff. Alternative B proposes a sloping pathway at the bluff. This path would connect the upper northwest corner of the park to the fishing pier and existing lakeshore pathway. It would include a 'bridge' crossing at the Central Ravine, and an overlook deck with seating at the east end of the bridge.

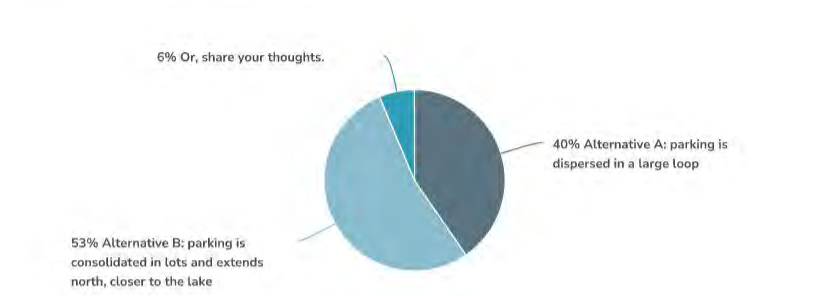


Value	Percent	Responses
Alternative A: a back-beach boardwalk with seating	49.9%	167
Alternative B: a pathway that traverses the bluff and includes a bridge and overlook structure	43.9%	147
Or, share your thoughts.	6.3%	21
Totals: 335		

15

ALT B: PARKING IS CONSOLIDATED AND EXTENDS TOWARD LAKE

7. PARKING AND VEHICLE ACCESS: Which parking and access strategy feels right to you?Explanation: The Preliminary Master Plan Alternatives take very different approaches to expanding parking and facilitating improved vehicular access to the park. In Alternative A the entry road is realigned to improve the arrival experience, parking is dispersed in a large loop, and drop-offs are provided near the shelter and playground and at the north end of the Henn Mansion parking lot. In Alternative B the southern half of the entry road is maintained in place, parking is consolidated into lots, and a drop-off is provided much closer to the top of the bluff.



Value	Percent	Responses
Alternative A: parking is dispersed in a large loop	40.4%	135
Alternative B: parking is consolidated in lots and extends north, closer to the lake	53.3%	178
Or, share your thoughts.	6.3%	21
Totals: 334		

Or, share your thoughts.	Count
I like the idea of dispersed parking but I worry about removing a ton of trees to do so. Sims park is great because it is semi natural lots of grass and trees. Ultimately B option might mean more natural less paving so that wins out to me.	1
A looped style parking would likely be best for safety forces to keep eyes on the going-ons in the Park.	1
Alternative B preferred because it seems less invasive, less demanding of area.	1
B	1
Totals	21

18

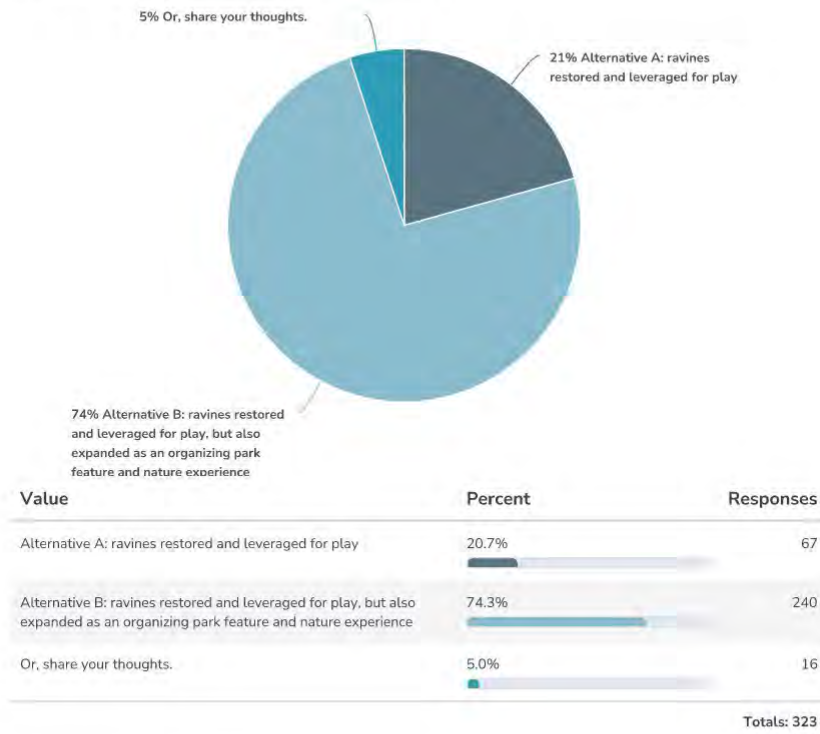
6 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

ONLINE SURVEY
24 FEBRUARY – 11 MARCH

SURVEY RESULTS:

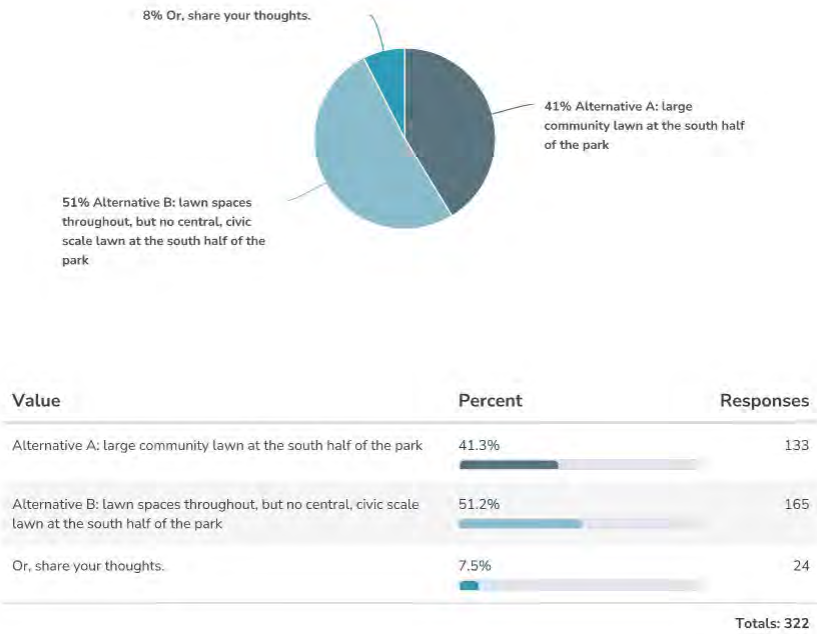
ALT B: EXPANDED RAVINE

8. RAVINES: Do you prefer the expanded south ravine concept (Alternative B), or would you rather see ravine improvements limited to landscape restoration and nature play? Explanation: There are three ravine remnants scattered throughout the north half of Sims Park. The Preliminary Master Plan Alternatives posit two different attitudes about these ravines. Alternative A would restore the ravines and leverage the South Ravine as a nature play experience at the playground. Alternative B also leverages a ravine (the Central Ravine) for nature play. However, Alternative B proposes to significantly extend the South Ravine, both physically and thematically, to create a nature walk experience, treat stormwater from parking lots, and create gateways or thresholds for arriving vehicles, cyclists, and pedestrians.



ALT B: DISPERSED LAWN SPACES

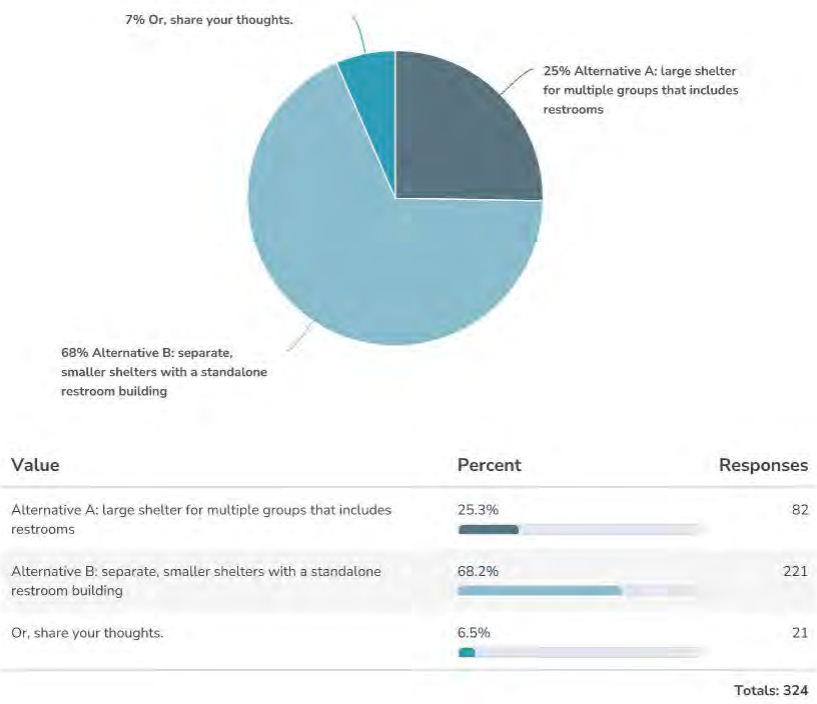
9. COMMUNITY LAWN VS RESTORATION: Do you feel a large, flexible community lawn space is important at the south half of Sims Park? Explanation: Both of the big ideas for Sims Park include functional lawn areas at the north half of the park. There was strong support for landscape restoration and the renaturalization or rewilding of the park at the first Community Open House; this support was echoed in the stakeholder engagement process. Based on this feedback, both Preliminary Master Plan Alternatives assume significant landscape restoration in areas that are not shown as lawn in the plans; this includes the bluff, the existing ravines, and the disc golf course (the disc golf stakeholder group has confirmed that restoration areas will enhance the disc golf experience). Alternative A, however, does propose a large "Community Lawn" at the south half of the park. Do you feel this flexible community space is important? Do you have any concerns about the landscape restoration strategy, or would you prioritize things differently?



Or, share your thoughts.	Count
A	1
Alternative B as I don't feel a large community lawn will be utilized like that	1
Are there specific ideas on how the community lawn would be used?	1
Totals	24

ALT B: SEPARATE, SMALLER SHELTERS

10. PARK BUILDINGS: Which building types do you prefer? Where would you like to see future park buildings located? Explanation: Both the city and the community have communicated the limitations of and problems with the existing picnic shelter, including lack of visibility, competition for use, and difficult access from existing parking areas. We have also heard the restrooms could be improved. Being a master plan, the project is considering the most appropriate way to update the park buildings when they reach the end of their useful lifespan. Alternative A proposes a large, centrally located shelter with two "wings" and attached restrooms. Alternative B proposes two smaller shelters – one at the top of the west bluff, and one at the lawn north of Henn Mansion (this shelter could also double as a covered stage for concerts). In Alternative B the restrooms would be a standalone structure located at the center of the north end of the park.



7 PREFERRED MASTER PLAN











7 PREFERRED MASTER PLAN



- PROPOSED PATHWAYS
- EXISTING PATHWAYS
- PROPOSED VEH DRIVES AND PARKING
- EX PARKING
- BOARDWALK

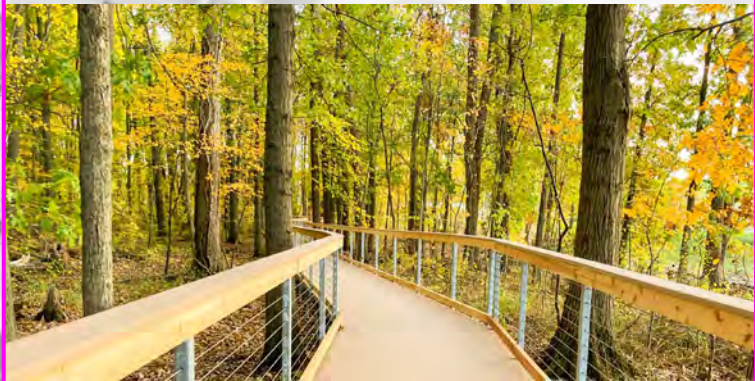
7 PREFERRED MASTER PLAN



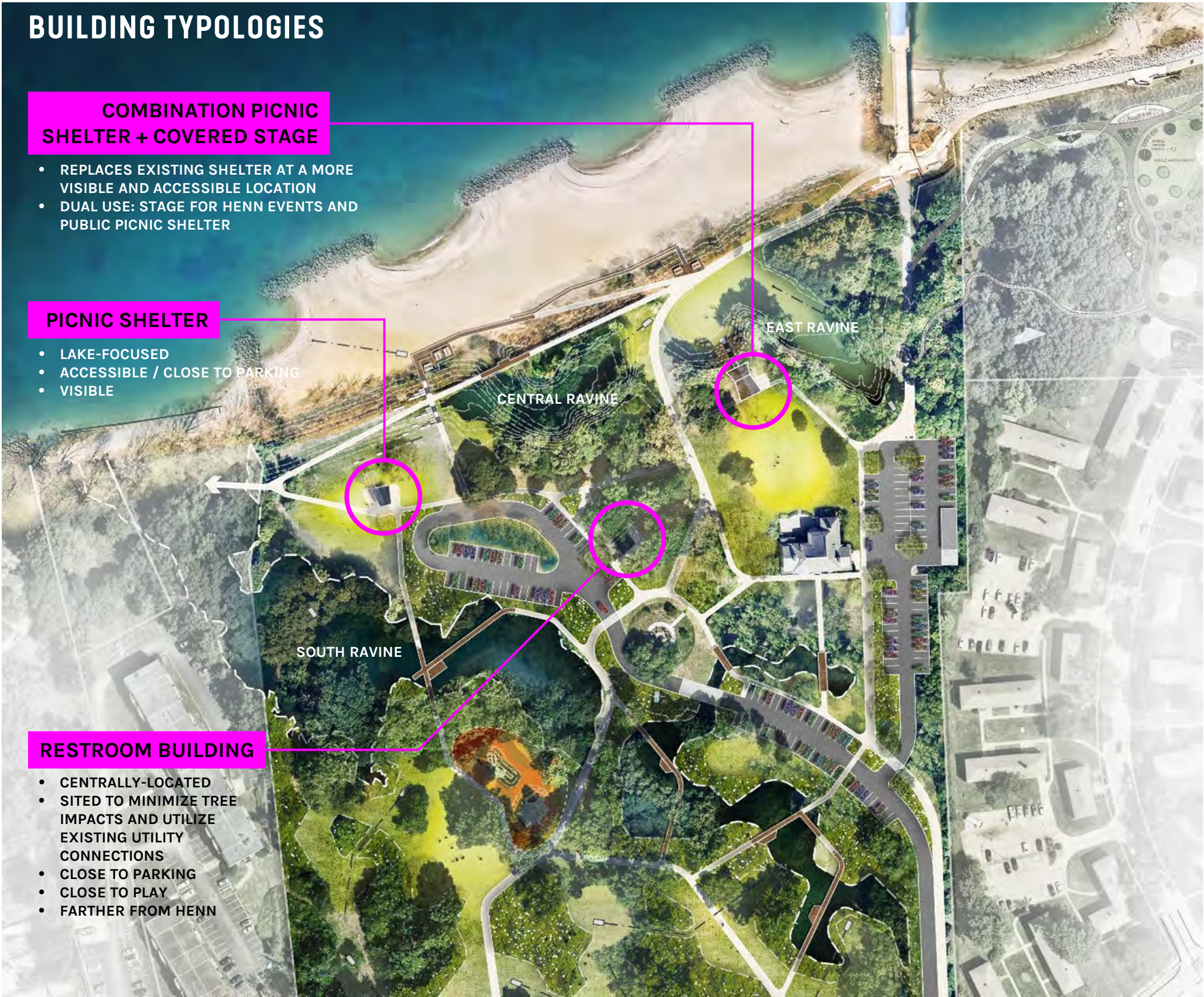
-  DUNE RESTORATION
-  BLUFF RESTORATION (PRAIRIE)
-  WOODLAND RESTORATION
-  RAVINE (WOODLAND RESTORATION, STORMWATER CONVEYANCE, POTENTIAL FUTURE CREEK DAYLIGHTING)
-  LAWN*
-  STORMWATER PLANTER
-  EXISTING NATIVE PLANT GARDEN WITH AREA FOR EXPANSION
-  SAVANNA RESTORATION

*ONLY LAWNS INTENDED AS GATHERING SPACES AND PAIRED WITH PROPOSED AMENITIES ARE SHOWN. ALL AREAS NOT HIGHLIGHTED AS A CATEGORY LISTED ABOVE ARE INTENDED TO REMAIN AS MOWN TURF.

7 PREFERRED MASTER PLAN



7 PREFERRED MASTER PLAN



PICNIC SHELTER EXAMPLES



RESTROOM BUILDING EXAMPLES



7 PREFERRED MASTER PLAN



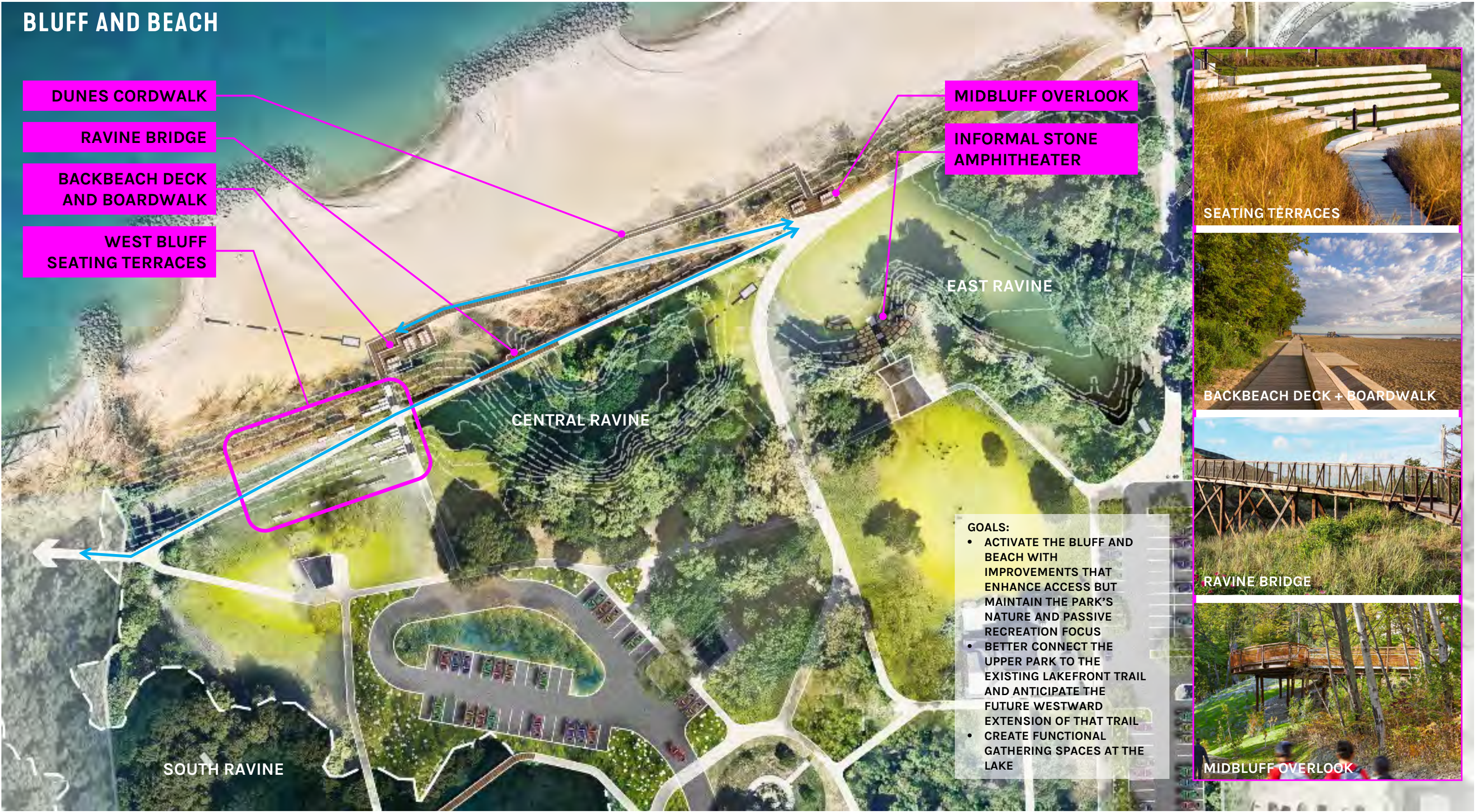
THEMATIC PLAY STRUCTURES (PRIMARY PLAY EXPERIENCE)



NATURE PLAY (EXTENDS PRIMARY PLAY EXPERIENCE)



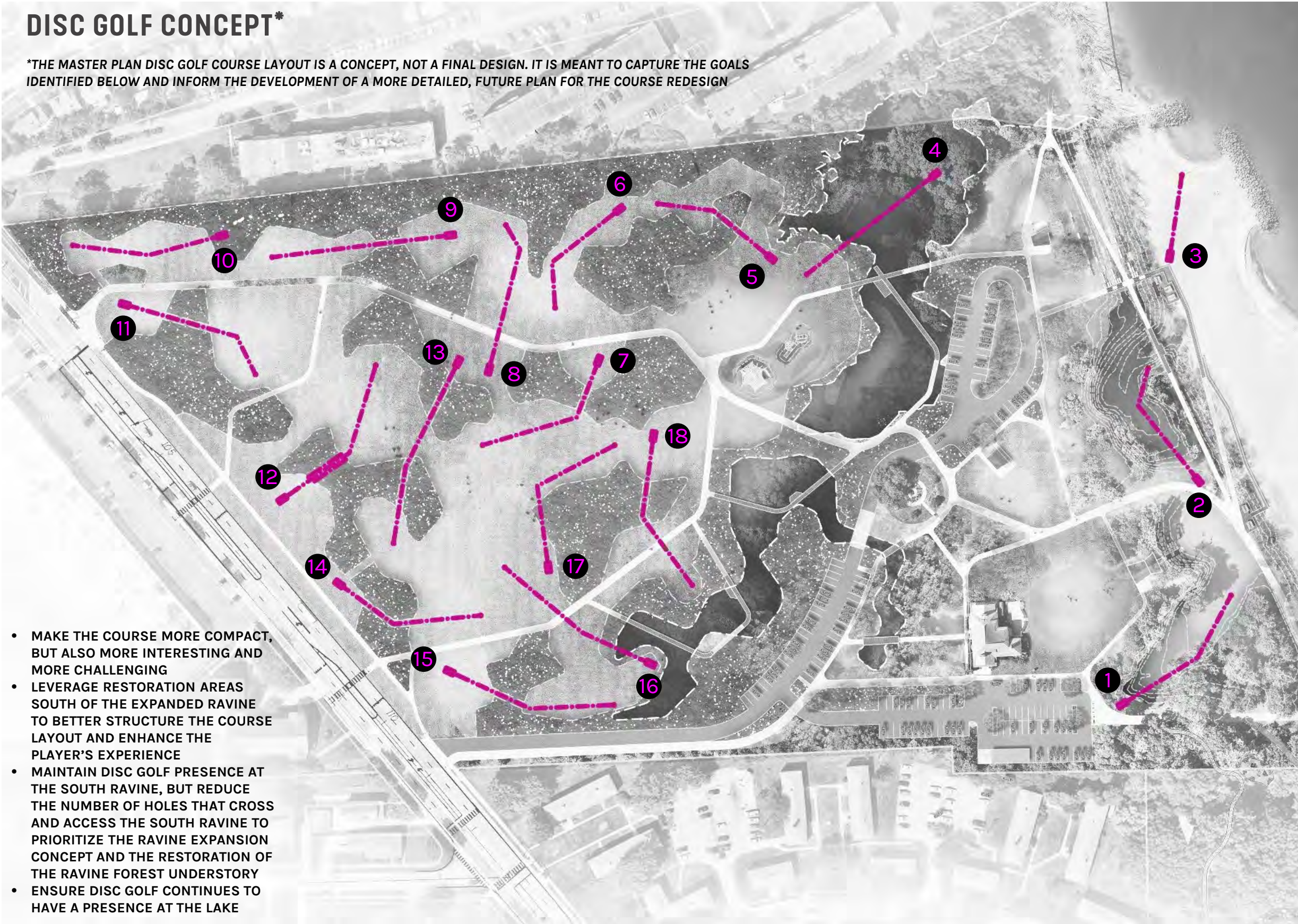
7 PREFERRED MASTER PLAN



7 PREFERRED MASTER PLAN

DISC GOLF CONCEPT*

*THE MASTER PLAN DISC GOLF COURSE LAYOUT IS A CONCEPT, NOT A FINAL DESIGN. IT IS MEANT TO CAPTURE THE GOALS IDENTIFIED BELOW AND INFORM THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MORE DETAILED, FUTURE PLAN FOR THE COURSE REDESIGN



- MAKE THE COURSE MORE COMPACT, BUT ALSO MORE INTERESTING AND MORE CHALLENGING
- LEVERAGE RESTORATION AREAS SOUTH OF THE EXPANDED RAVINE TO BETTER STRUCTURE THE COURSE LAYOUT AND ENHANCE THE PLAYER'S EXPERIENCE
- MAINTAIN DISC GOLF PRESENCE AT THE SOUTH RAVINE, BUT REDUCE THE NUMBER OF HOLES THAT CROSS AND ACCESS THE SOUTH RAVINE TO PRIORITIZE THE RAVINE EXPANSION CONCEPT AND THE RESTORATION OF THE RAVINE FOREST UNDERSTORY
- ENSURE DISC GOLF CONTINUES TO HAVE A PRESENCE AT THE LAKE

PROPOSED COURSE CHARACTER



EXISTING PARK



MASTER PLAN



MASTER PLAN



MASTER PLAN (NO TREES SHOWN)

