PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
SPECIAL HYBRID MEETING AGENDA
Monday, October 20, 2025 at 5:00 PM

COMMISSIONERS
Chair Ashley Hay
Vice Chair Rory Westberg
Commissioners: Peter Struck, Jodi McCarthy, Don Cohen, Sara Marxen, and Mar Brettman

LOCATION
MICEC – Slater Room Council Chambers
and via Zoom
8236 SE 24th Street | Mercer Island, WA 98040
Phone: 206.275.7609 | www.mercerisland.gov

We strive to create an inclusive and accessible experience. Those requiring accommodation for meetings should notify the Staff Liaison's Office 3 days prior to the meeting at 206.275.7870 or by emailing ryan.daly@mercerisland.gov.

The virtual meeting will be broadcast live on Zoom and recorded and saved on the City Council's YouTube Channel

Registering to Speak: Individuals wishing to speak live during Appearances will need to register their request with staff at **206.275.7861** and leave a message or **email** before 4 PM on the day of the Commission meeting. Each speaker will be allowed three (3) minutes to speak.

Join by Telephone at 5:00 PM: Call **253.215.8782** and enter Webinar ID **884 6968 1778** and Password **641983**.

Join by Internet at 5:00 PM:
1) Click **this link**
2) If the Zoom app is not installed on your computer, you will be prompted to download it.
3) If prompted for Webinar ID, enter **884 6968 1778** and Password **641983**

Join in person at 5:00 PM: Mercer Island Community & Event Center - 8236 SE 24th Street, Mercer Island

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL – 5:00 PM

APPEARANCES
This is the opportunity for anyone to speak to the Commission about issues of concern.

STAFF LIAISON REPORT

1. **Staff Liaison Report and Planning Schedule**

REGULAR BUSINESS

2. **Approve the minutes for September 4, 2025 Regular Hybrid Meeting**
   Recommended Action: Approve minutes.

3. **PRC 25-11 Clarke and Groveland Beach Parks Joint Park Infrastructure Plan Update**
   Recommended Action: Receive project update and provide feedback on draft design concepts for Clarke and Groveland Beach Parks.

4. **PRC 25-12: Athletic Field Use Review and Discussion**
   Recommended Action: Receive report and provide input.

5. **PRC 25-13: Sport Court Use and Allocation Policy**
   Recommended Action: Provide input toward the development of the Sport Court Use and Allocation Policy.

6. **PRC 25-14: Letter of Appreciation to Paul West**
   Recommended Action: Approve the Letter of Appreciation to Paul West and direct staff to transmit.

OTHER BUSINESS

7. **Absences and Commissioner Reports**

ADJOURNMENT

City of Mercer Island Parks and Recreation Commission

Department Report
Oct. 20, 2025



Mercer Island 55+ Senior Golf

- Coordinated by volunteers
- Operates May-September
- Had 22 outings across 14 different courses
- 33 participants played a total of 274 rounds

We are looking forward to teeing it up again in 2026!



Roanoke Park Open for Play!

- Last week the City Council and Parks & Recreation Commission members celebrated the reopening of the renovated Roanoke Park playground.
- The park now features upgraded equipment, improved accessibility, new pathways, picnic amenities, and enhanced drainage—all funded by the 2022 Parks Levy.
- Staff also completed final touches including ADA parking stall striping, new signage, and landscaping.
- Thank you to the community for supporting this project. Have fun and play safe at Roanoke Park!





Mid-Autumn Festival

- On Sunday October 5, the Mercer Island Chinese Association partnered with the City to bring back the Mid-Autumn Festival to the MICEC.
- The event featured cultural performances, hands-on workshops, traditional games, and culinary traditions.
- With approximately 1,000 in attendance, it was a wonderful day filled with celebration and connection.
- City staff are grateful for this meaningful community partnership that showcases the rich cultural diversity of Mercer Island!



Photos provided by the Mercer Island Reporter



Upcoming Programs/Events

Arbor Day

- Come celebrate Arbor Day with the Mercer Island Natural Resources Team on Saturday, October 25 from 10 AM – 1 PM at Clarke Beach Park!
- Arbor Day is an annual event where we celebrate our urban canopy and help to create future healthier forests.
- This year, we'll be planting a couple hundred native plants in Clarke Beach Park.
- Registration is easy. Go to:
  https://volunteersignup.org/48JMA



Rotary
Mercer Island





“Rake and Roll” Leaf Art

Bring your own rakes and gloves. Come rain or shine!

Sunday, October 26 Noon - 4 pm

Rotary Park

Friends and Family invited

Town Center Trick-or-Treating

- Town Center Trick-or-Treating is right around the corner! Join us on Halloween, October 31, from 3:30-5:30 PM.
- Check out www.mercerisland.gov/halloween for a growing list of participating businesses and trick or treat map.
- Did somebody say **candy tractor**? Be on the lookout for friendly faces from the Recreation, Right-of-Way, Police, and Youth and Family Services teams- all gearing up to bring the fun Halloween spirit to downtown!
- City staff are excited to bring the community together for one central Halloween celebration, designed to offer a safe, festive, and memorable experience for families.




OPEN ART STUDIO
Mercer Island Community & Event Center
9:30am-11:30am
Sept 26
Poems & abstract watercolor
Oct 24
Watercolor in Autumn
Nov 21
Watercolor greeting cards
Irene will cover a unique subject for each session
Free. No registration required
All supplies provided
www.mercerisland.gov/parksrec





The Beauty of Negative Painting with Watercolor

with Yu-Yin Lin

Saturday
October 25th, 2 - 5 PM

For more information and to register go to www.mival.org/classes

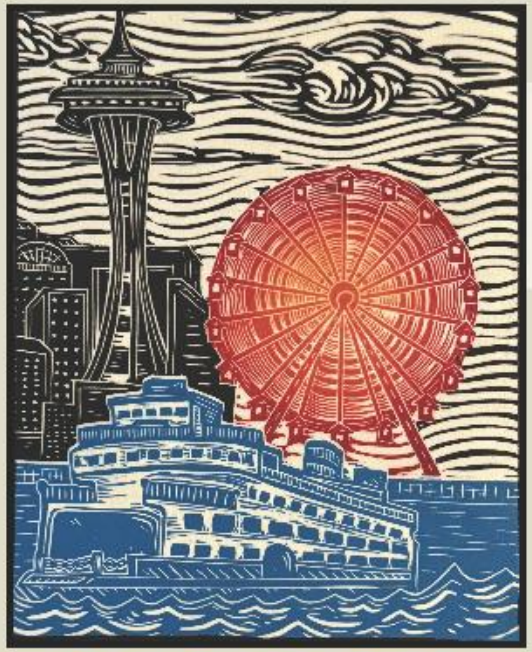
Learn how to use negative painting in your compositions to create depth and focus with instructor, Yu-Yin Lin. She is an experienced teacher who will teach you how to apply negative painting with watercolor as well as composition and lifting techniques in this fun 3 hour workshop



$110/$90 for MIVAL members

Mercer Island Community and Event Center
8236 SE 24th St, Mercer Island

MIVAL
MERCER ISLAND VISUAL ARTS LEAGUE



Jigsaw Block Printing

with Leslie Nan Moon

Saturday, Nov 22
1 - 4 PM

Cost: $100
$80 MIVAL Members

Discover Relief Printmaking through the Jigsaw Block Print

In this class students will learn the basics of designing and carving a single block and then take their newfound skills to the next level. Blocks will be cut into sections with each piece inked separately and then reassembled for printing creating bold multi-color impressions without the need for complex registration. Ideal for artists in any medium who want to explore new ways of working with color, texture, and design through the direct, hands-on process of printmaking.

Mercer Island Community and Event Center
8236 SE 24th St, Mercer Island

MIVAL
MERCER ISLAND VISUAL ARTS LEAGUE

For more information and to register, visit:
www.mival.org/classes

Autumn Programs

For our younger kiddos

Music Together with Mrs. Chrisi

Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday (AM & PM), Saturday (PM)
Class Times & Register at: https://www.musictogetherwithmrschrisi.com
More than just a music class. Music Together is about connecting--with music, with your child, and with other families in your community.

SuperTots Sports

Tuesday AM & Thursday AM
Class Times & Register at: https://skyhawks.com/supertots
Led by Skyhawks Instructors, children ages 18 months to 6 years use multi-sport activities to develop motor skills, physical fitness and instill a love for sports.

Art & Us

Thursday AM & Saturday AM
Class Times & Register at: https://www.petalsartclub.com
Designed for children ages 18 months to 5 years and their grown-ups to explore and create together. Join Becca and Bailey from Petals Art Club each week for rotating art stations and crafts.

Sing With Our Kids

Fridays, 10:30am, no registration needed
More info at: https://singwithourkids.com
A community project providing free songs and activities for kids up to 5 years. Come join Nancy Stewart and sing along.

Pre-Ballet

Friday PM
Class Times & Register at: https://emeraldballet-theatre.org
Led by instructors from Emerald Ballet Theatre, children ages 4-6 years use this joyful introduction to ballet, movement, and music to develop creativity and confidence.



Autumn Events

Mid-Autumn Festival

Sunday, October 5th, 2025 - 10am-2pm, Mercer Island Community & Event Center
In partnership with & hosted by the Mercer Island Chinese Association
Bring your family, friends, and neighbors to honor one of the most cherished Chinese traditions.

Town Center Trick or Treating

Friday, October 31st, 2025 - 3:30pm-5:30pm, Town Center Business District
In partnership with the Mercer Island Chamber of Commerce
Grab your costume and join the community in haunting your way through town center.

Holiday Events

(Save the dates)



Holiday Tree Lighting

Thursday, December 4th, 2025 - 5:30pm, Mercerdale Park
Sponsored by Mercer Island City Lifestyle Magazine
Join the City of Mercer Island lighting our Holiday Tree. Bring the whole family out and enjoy the sights and sounds of the High School Choir and Creation Dance Studio performances.



Holiday Makers Market

Saturday, December 6th, 2025 - 10am-3pm, Mercer Island Community & Event Center
In partnership with the Mercer Island Chamber of Commerce
75+ Vendors, kids activities, and holiday treats.



Argosy Christmas Ships

Friday December 19th, 2025 - 8:30pm-9pm, Luther Burbank Park Beach
Argosy Cruises Christmas Ship™ Festival is a ship-to-shore holiday celebration that has been a Northwest tradition since 1949. The Spirit of Seattle™, the Official Christmas Ship™, is decorated with hundreds of shimmery white lights and sails to different Puget Sound waterfront communities – around 40 in all. Choirs on board the Christmas Ship™ perform to guests aboard, to follow boats, and to communities gathered on shore.
Performance will occur at 8:40pm and viewed from the Luther Burbank Beach. Parking available at the Mercer Island Community & Event Center.

Parks and Recreation Commission Planning Schedule

November 6
- Deane's Children's Park Site Plan - Design Concepts Discussion
- Sport Court Allocation and Usage Policy

November 12 *Special Meeting w/ Open Space Conservancy Trust*
- E-bike Regulations

December 4
- Intro to the Parks Code (*Will be moved*)

January (DATE TBD)
- Deane's Children's Park Site Plan: Preferred Site Plan Discussion
- Athletic Field Use and Allocation Policy update

February 5
- Clarke and Groveland Joint Infrastructure Plan

Thank you!

TUES

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR HYBRID MEETING MINUTES
September 4, 2025

CALL TO ORDER
The Parks & Recreation Commission was called to order by Commissioner Struck at 5:02 pm.

ROLL CALL
Commissioners Peter Struck, Don Cohen, Rory Westberg, Sara Marxen, Ashley Hay, and Mar Brettmann were present and in-person for the Parks & Recreation Commission. Commissioner Jodi McCarthy attended remotely. City Council Liaison Craig Reynolds was present.

Recreation Manager Ryan Daly, Capital Parks Manager Shelby Perrault, and Recreation Specialist Raven Gillis were present.

APPEARANCES
No Public Appearances

Commissioner Marxen attended the meeting at 5:08pm

STAFF LIAISON REPORT

1. **Staff Liaison Report & Planning Schedule Update**
   Recreation Manager Ryan Daly reported on the following:
   - Project Updates
     - Roanoke Playground is Ready for Play!
     - Luther Burbank Park Sport courts are OPEN!
     - WSDOT I-90 Expansion Joint Replacement
   - Summer Recap
     - Summer Camp Success
     - Summer Celebration Recap
     - Mostly Music in the Park
     - Summer Events: Shakespeare in the Park, Juneteenth, Pride in the Park
   - Upcoming Events
     - Art Uncorked
     - Community Photography Show
     - Autumn Programs & Events
   - Parks and Recreation Commission Planning Schedule

REGULAR BUSINESS

2. **Approval of Minutes**
   Minutes from June 5, 2025, Regular Hybrid Meeting were presented.

   It was moved by Westberg; seconded by Hay to:

Approve the minutes from June 5, 2025, Regular Hybrid Meeting.

Passed: 7 – 0

3. PRC25-07: Commission Officer Elections

Westberg nominated Hay for Chair. There were no further nominations.

It was moved by Struck; seconded by McCarthy to:
Instruct the Staff Liaison to cast a unanimous vote for the nomination of Commissioner Hay for Chair.

Passed: 7 – 0

Commissioner Hay was elected Chair.

Upon election, Chair Hay took the chair.

Struck nominated Westberg for Vice Chair. There were no further nominations.

It was moved by Struck; seconded by Marxen to:
Instruct the Staff Liaison to cast a unanimous vote for the nomination of Commissioner Westberg for Vice Chair.

Passed: 7 – 0

Commissioner Westberg was elected Vice Chair.

4. PRC25-10: Deane's Children's Park Site Plan Update

Capital Projects Manager Shelby Perrault presented and led Commissioners and Staff on a tour of Deane's Children's Park. Commissioners asked questions during the site walk and upon return provided input to help staff refine the concepts into a single preferred plan.

Park Tour from 5:30pm to 7:14pm

Commissioner McCarthy left the meeting at 5:30PM.

OTHER BUSINESS

5. Absences and Commissioner Reports

Depending on the date of the October meeting, Cohen reported he may not be able to attend.

Marxen attended the most recent Bat Night event and found it to be well attended and really fun!

DRAFT

Westberg recommended that the Commission send a letter to recently retired Senior CIP Project Manager Paul West, recognizing his contributions to the Parks & Recreation Commission and extending best wishes for his retirement. Chair Hay suggested this be included as an agenda item at the next meeting for the Commission's consideration.

Cohen recognized Struck for his years of dedicated service as Chair. The Commission applauded his service.

Chair Hay asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

It was moved by Struck; seconded by Westberg to:
Adjourn the meeting.

Passed: 6 – 0

ADJOURNMENT at 7:41pm

DRAFT

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

PRC 25-11
October 20, 2025
Regular Business

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	PRC 25-11: Clarke and Groveland Beach Parks Joint Park Infrastructure Plan Update	☒ Discussion Only ☐ Action Needed: ☐ Motion ☐ Recommendation
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Receive project update and provide feedback on draft design concepts for Clarke and Groveland Beach Parks.	

STAFF:	Kellye Hilde, Deputy Public Works Director Shelby Perrault, Capital Parks Manager Sarah Bluvas, CIP Project Manager
EXHIBITS:	1. Project Location Map 2. Clarke Beach Park Design Concepts 3. Groveland Beach Park Design Concepts

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda bill is to update the Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) on the process to develop a joint infrastructure plan for Clarke and Groveland Beach Parks (Exhibit 1).

- On March 18, 2025, the Mercer Island City Council (City Council) authorized staff to proceed with developing a joint infrastructure plan for Clarke and Groveland Beach Parks. (AB 6642)
- The City Council approved $251,845 in the 2025-2026 Budget and Capital Improvement Program to support the joint planning effort
- The infrastructure plan will prioritize repair and/or replacement of the overwater structures and shoreline features; improvements to uplands infrastructure and amenities such as restrooms, trails, and parking will be considered for renovation in the future as resources allow.
- From May to August 2025, the project team analyzed the existing conditions and early community input to develop three preliminary design concepts for each park.
- Design concepts have been posted on Let's Talk with accompanying virtual "open house" presentations and a digital survey. The community is invited to review the concepts and provide feedback through November 3, 2025.
- During the Commission update on October 20, 2025, staff will provide an overview of the design concepts and share progress of community engagement efforts currently underway.
- This planning effort is anticipated to conclude by the end of Q2 2026. Project information, current engagement opportunities, and more details are available on Let's Talk at www.mercerisland.gov/cgip.
- Following adoption of the joint infrastructure plan, the City will begin work to implement improvements at Clarke Beach first. The City Council approved $150,000 to begin design in 2026.

BACKGROUND

The 2022 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (PROS Plan) identified the need for a joint planning effort to efficiently prioritize capital projects for Clarke and Groveland Beach Parks. On March 18, 2025, the City Council authorized staff to move forward with developing a joint infrastructure plan that prioritizes the repair and/or replacement of the parks' overwater structures and shoreline features and may address the following:

1. Dock and beachfront improvements
2. Shoreline erosion control and stabilization
3. ADA accessibility
4. Other amenities, such as restrooms, wayfinding/signage, and parking

At the May 1 Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) meeting, staff provided an update on the planning process, including key findings from preliminary site assessments and a background survey on community uses conducted between August 2023 and December 2024. (PRC 25-05)

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

PRELIMINARY DESIGN CONCEPTS

The existing site conditions and community feedback collected during the background survey informed the development of three design concepts for each park (Exhibits 2 and 3). Each concept generally represents a different level of investment in park features, with individual elements designed to be interchangeable. For example, a dock configuration shown in one Clarke Beach concept and a picnic area design from another could be combined in the preferred concept for the park.

Additionally, several features are consistent across all concepts for each park. An overview is provided below.

Clarke Beach Park

1. All concepts remove the existing concrete bulkheads and sheet pile swimming enclosure to restore the shoreline to a more natural condition, significantly enhancing fish habitat and the overall ecological health of the waterfront.
2. Each design reflects a shift toward a more passive, nature-oriented park use. Formal swimming amenities are not included; instead, Groveland Beach and Luther Burbank Parks are being considered for enhanced swimming facilities.
3. In alignment with the change of use, all concepts propose replacing the existing restroom with a smaller, modern facility featuring two gender-neutral stalls to better serve anticipated needs.

Groveland Beach Park

1. All concepts include removal of the existing concrete bulkhead to soften the shoreline and improve ecological function, consistent with the approach at Clarke Beach.
2. Each design proposes replacing the elevated pier with a new floating pier to improve swimmer access and calm wave activity in the designated swimming area.
3. All concepts include replacing the existing restrooms with an upgraded facility that includes gender-neutral stalls and changing rooms.

Staff will present the concepts in more depth during the October 20 meeting.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

An online survey (https://letstalk.mercergov.org/clarke-groveland-planning/surveys/cgip-concepts-survey) to collect community input on the draft design concepts is open on Let's Talk through November 3, 2025.

Community members have multiple opportunities to review the design concepts prior to completing the survey, including:

- **"Virtual Open House" Presentations**: The project team recorded presentations that outline the existing conditions and walk through each park's design concepts. Community members are encouraged to view the presentations through the "virtual open house," before taking the survey. Clarke Beach Park Virtual Open House |Groveland Beach Virtual Park Open House

- **Digital Concept Boards**: Each concept is also presented on digital boards on Let's Talk. Boards include overall plans and shoreline enlargements to provide greater detail on proposed waterfront features. These can be reviewed in advance or referenced while completing the survey.
  Clarke Beach Park Concept Boards – 1 | 2 | 3
  Groveland Beach Park Concept Boards – 1 | 2 | 3
- **Pop-Ups at Community Events**: Instead of hosting a stand-alone open house, staff are participating in existing community events throughout October 2025 to share information, promote the online survey, and collect input through a "vote with your own dollars" prioritization exercise. Staff attended the Mid-Autumn Festival at the Mercer Island Community and Event Center on October 5, and will participate in the Town Center Trick-or-Treat on October 31. Information on these and other pop-up events that may be added are available on Let's Talk.

Opportunities to learn more and provide feedback are being promoted across all City channels, including the MI Weekly e-newsletter, social media, and on-site signage posted in parks and at the Mercer Island Community and Event Center. Materials have also been shared with community organizations and outlets such as the *Mercer Island Reporter* and the Mercer Island School District, and a mailer to park neighbors (1,000 ft radius, 410 addresses) was sent the week of October 13.

Staff will provide an update on survey engagement during the October 20 meeting.

COMMISSION FEEDBACK ON DESIGN CONCEPTS

Staff seek the Commission's feedback on the design concepts, which will be combined with community input to inform the development of a preferred concept for each park. Questions below are intended to guide the discussion, assess how well the concepts reflect community input to date, and identify key areas for refinement.

1. Do the concepts reflect the community input received to date? If not, what's missing or needs further emphasis?
2. Are the proposed uses and amenities consistent with the intended character of each park? Are there any additions, removals, or adjustments the Commission recommends?
3. Are there specific features from different concepts that should be combined in the preferred design for each park?
4. Do the shoreline restoration and ecological enhancements align with the project's goals for sustainability and habitat enhancement?
5. Do the concepts support equitable access to amenities across all waterfront parks?
6. Does a single concept or a combination of elements best represent the Commission's preferred direction for each site?
7. Do the concepts represent appropriate levels of investment relative to the Commission's expectations for the joint infrastructure plan?

During the October 20 meeting, staff will collect input on these questions and any other design concept feedback from the Commission.

NEXT STEPS

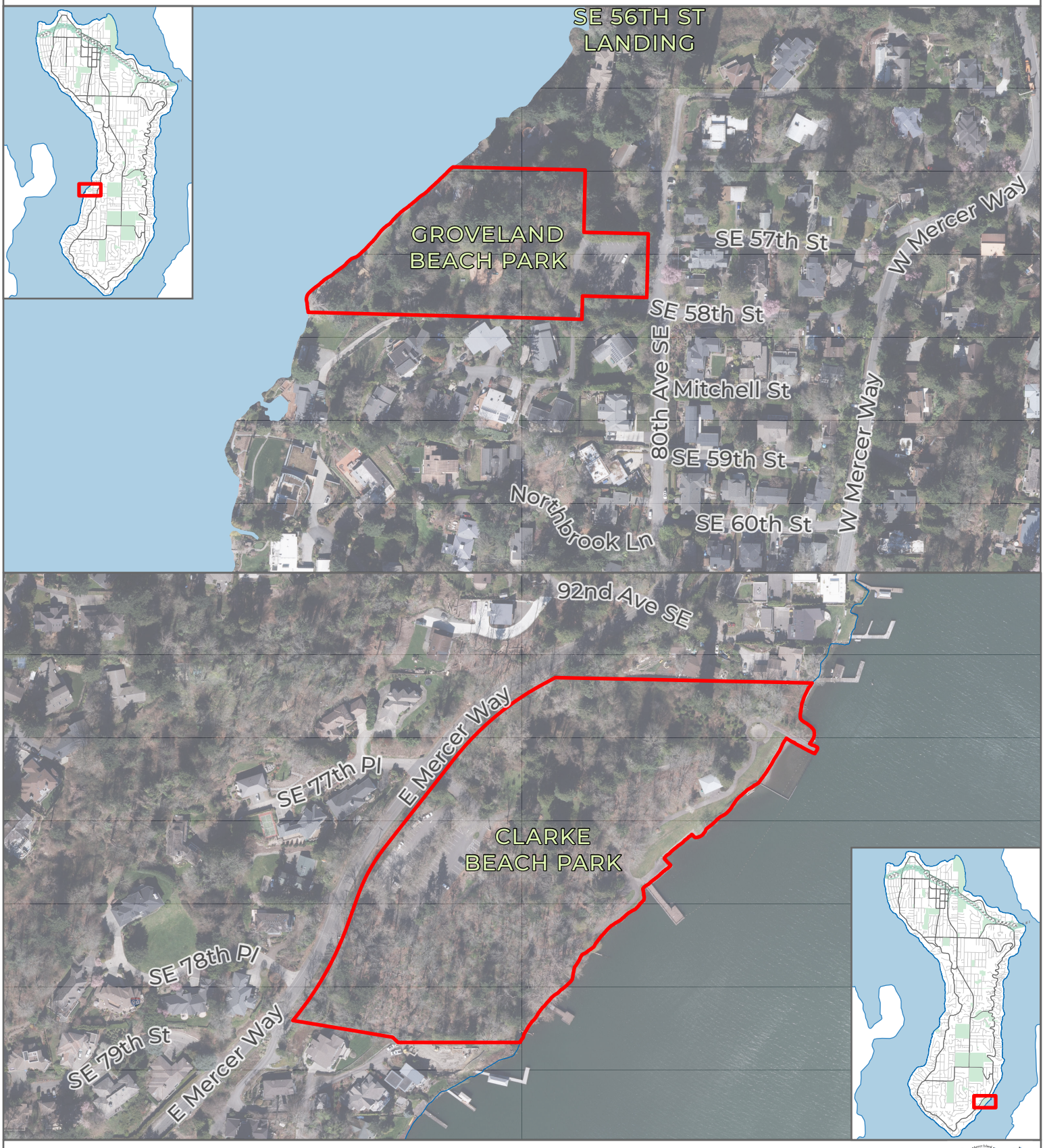
The design concepts survey is open through November 3, 2025. Feedback from the survey, in-person voting exercises, the PRC discussion, and any other engagement opportunities will inform the development of a preferred design concept for each park. Staff will present the preferred concepts to the Parks and Recreation Commission at the February 5, 2026, Regular Meeting. A recommendation from the Commission on the joint infrastructure plan is anticipated to be brought to the City Council in March or April 2026.

Project information, current engagement opportunities, and additional details will continue to be available on Let's Talk at www.mercerisland.gov/cgip.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Receive project update and provide feedback on preliminary design concepts for Clarke and Groveland Beach Parks.

90.25.0013 Clarke and Groveland Beach Parks Joint Infrastructure Plan



Project Area

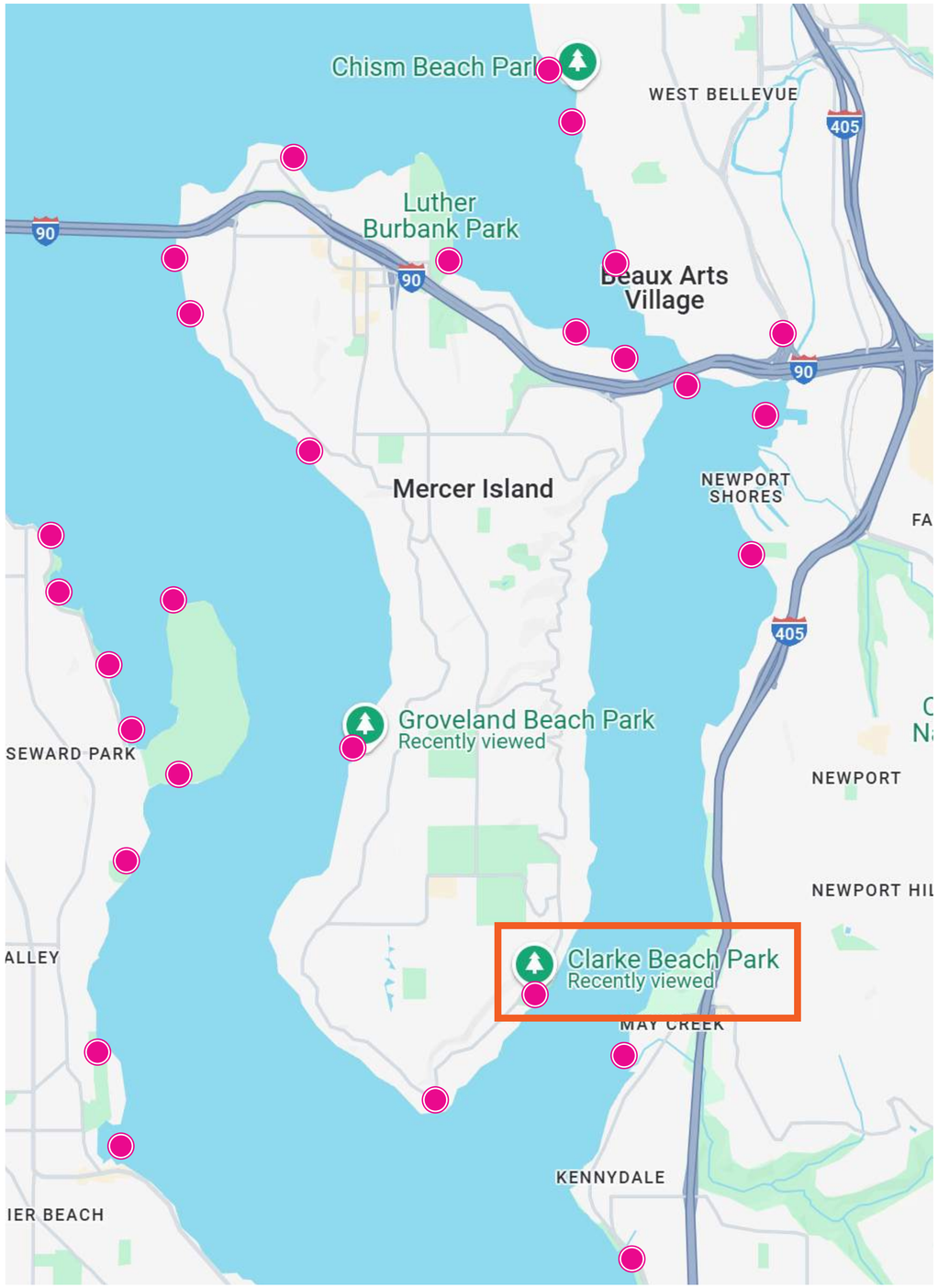
Disclaimer: No warranties of any sort including accuracy, fitness or merchantability accompany this map.

N IGS Information & Geographic Services

3/25/2024
2024ParksCIPMaps.aprx
PA0157 Map

CLARKE BEACH PARK

SITE CONTEXT AND TOPOGRAPHY





LAKES-TO-LOCKS WATER TRAIL SITES

CLARKE BEACH PARK
EXISTING PHOTOS













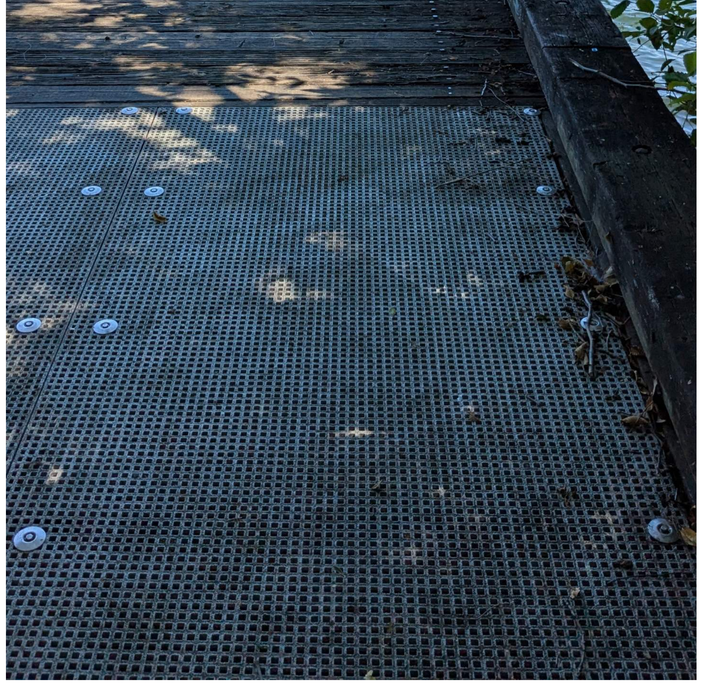
CLARKE BEACH PARK
EXISTING PHOTOS











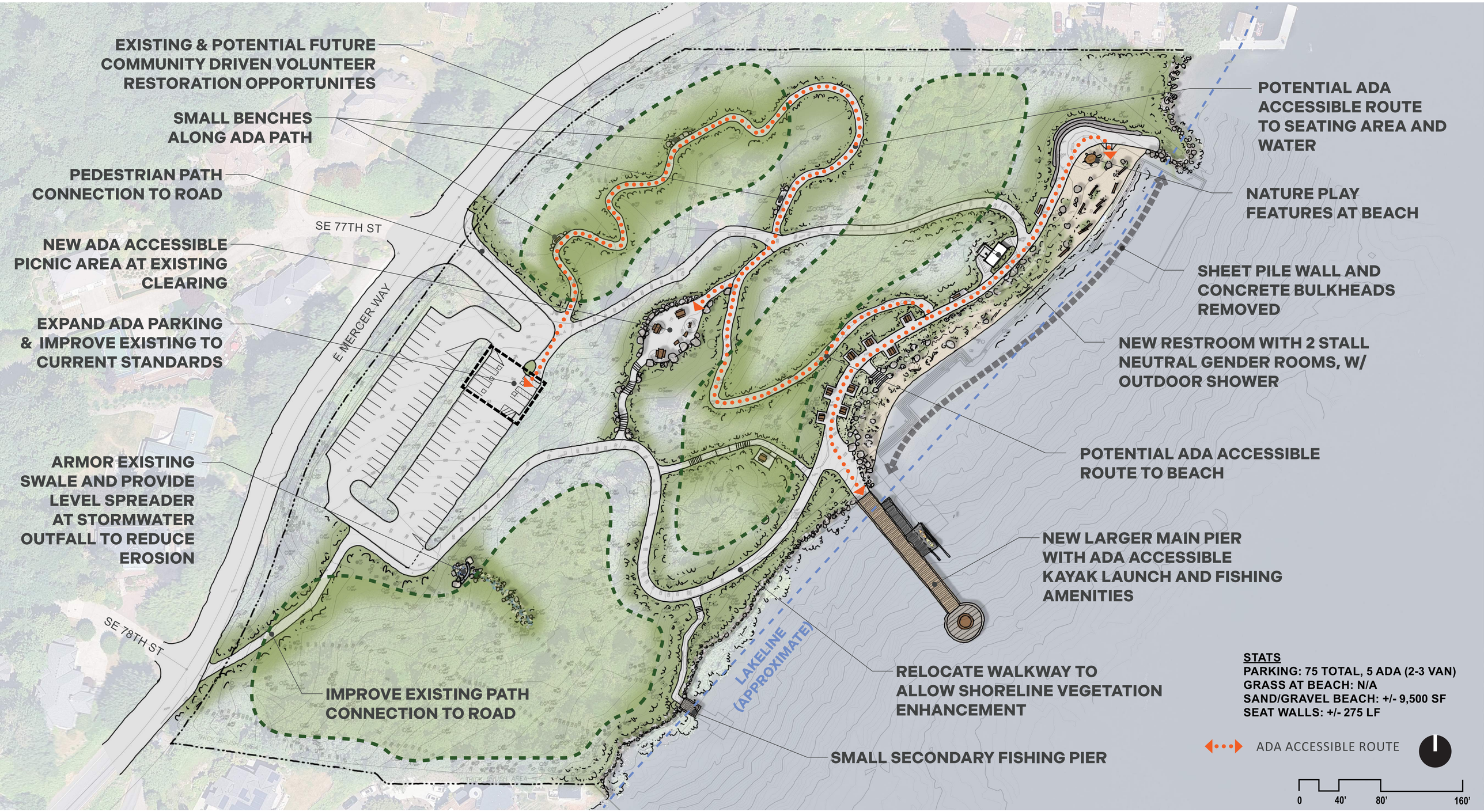


CLARKE BEACH PARK
EXISTING AERIAL



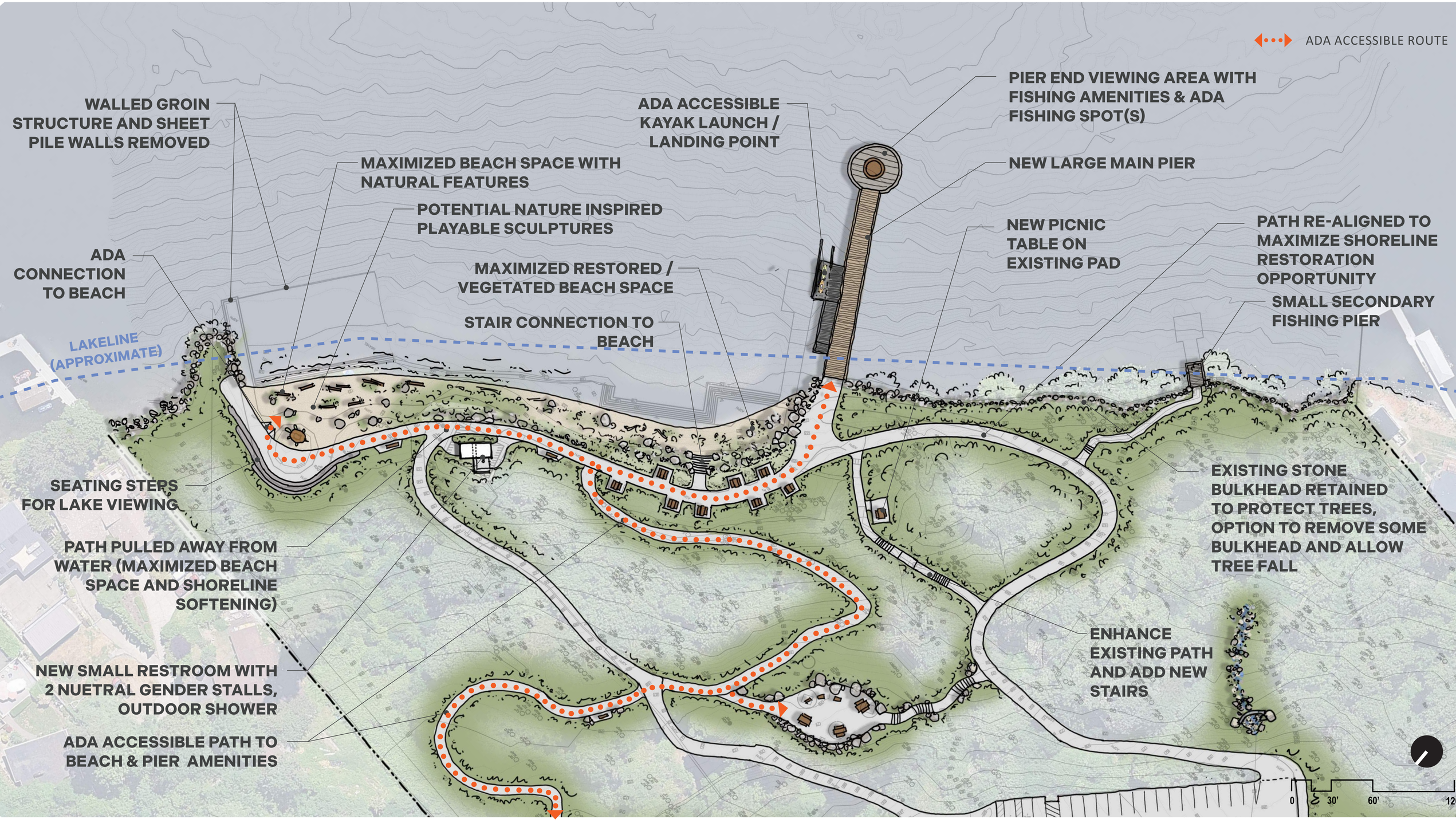
CLARKE BEACH PARK

CONCEPT DESIGN OPTION 1 - OVERALL PLAN



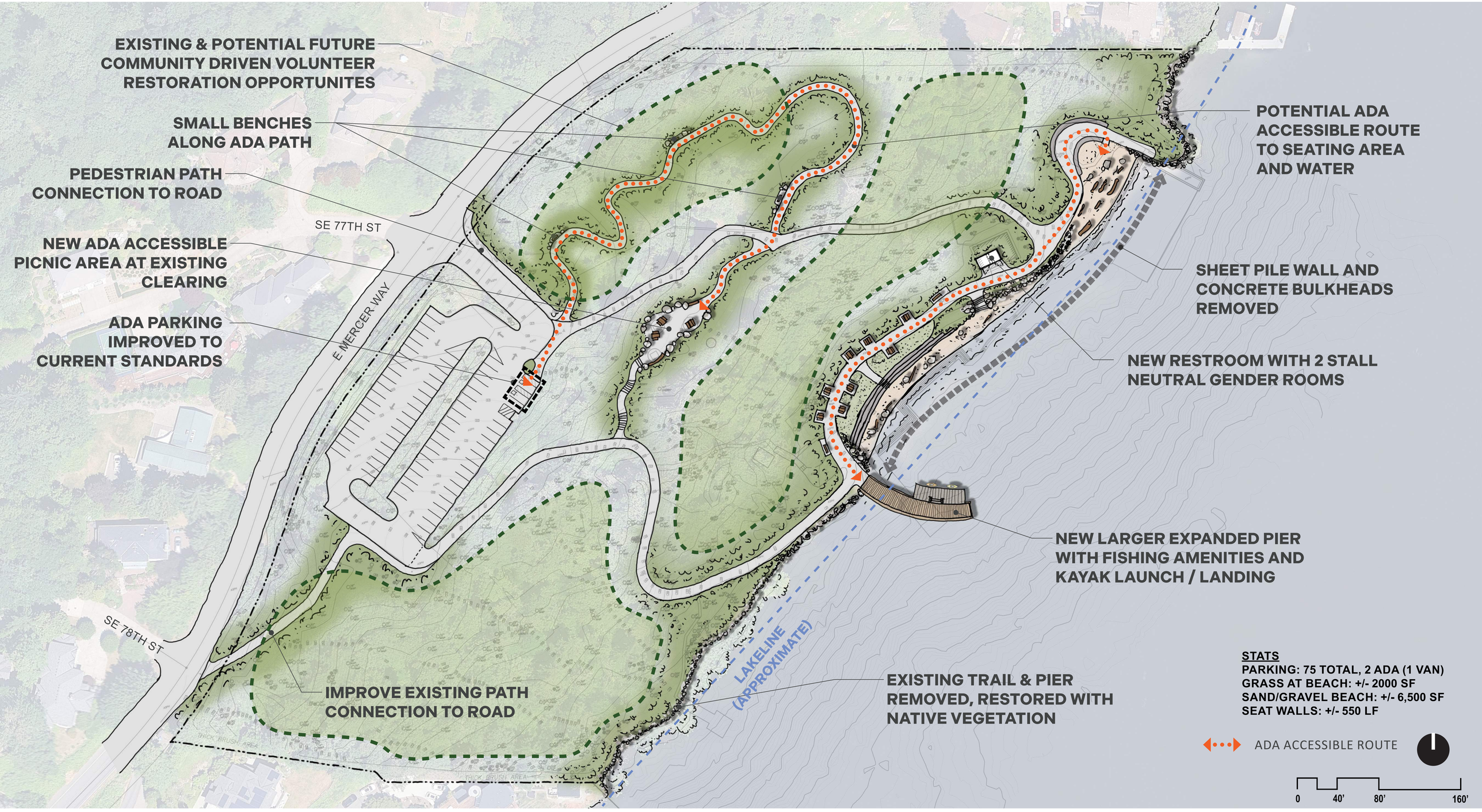
CLARKE BEACH PARK

CONCEPT DESIGN OPTION 1 - SHORELINE ENLARGEMENT



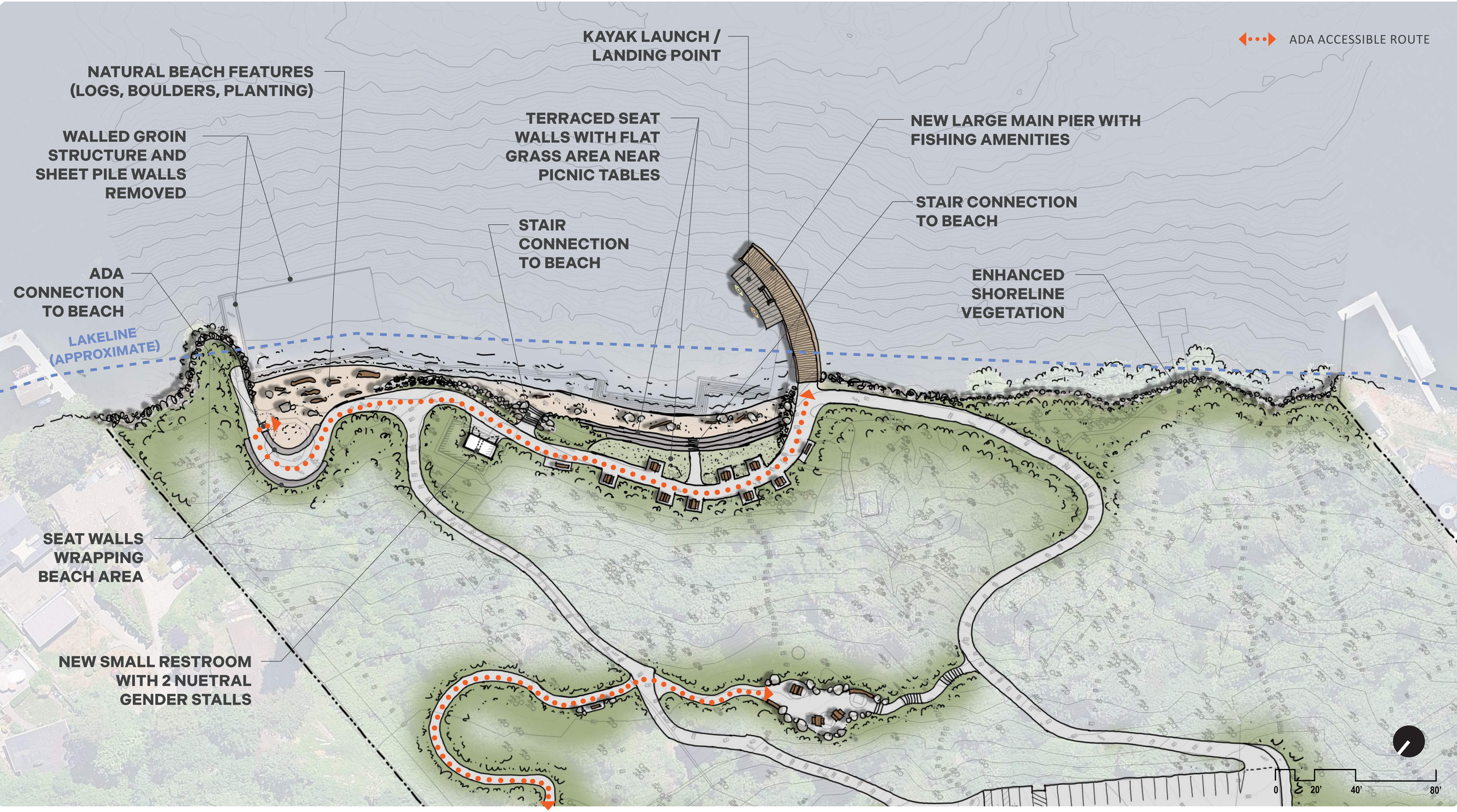
CLARKE BEACH PARK

CONCEPT DESIGN OPTION 2 - OVERALL PLAN



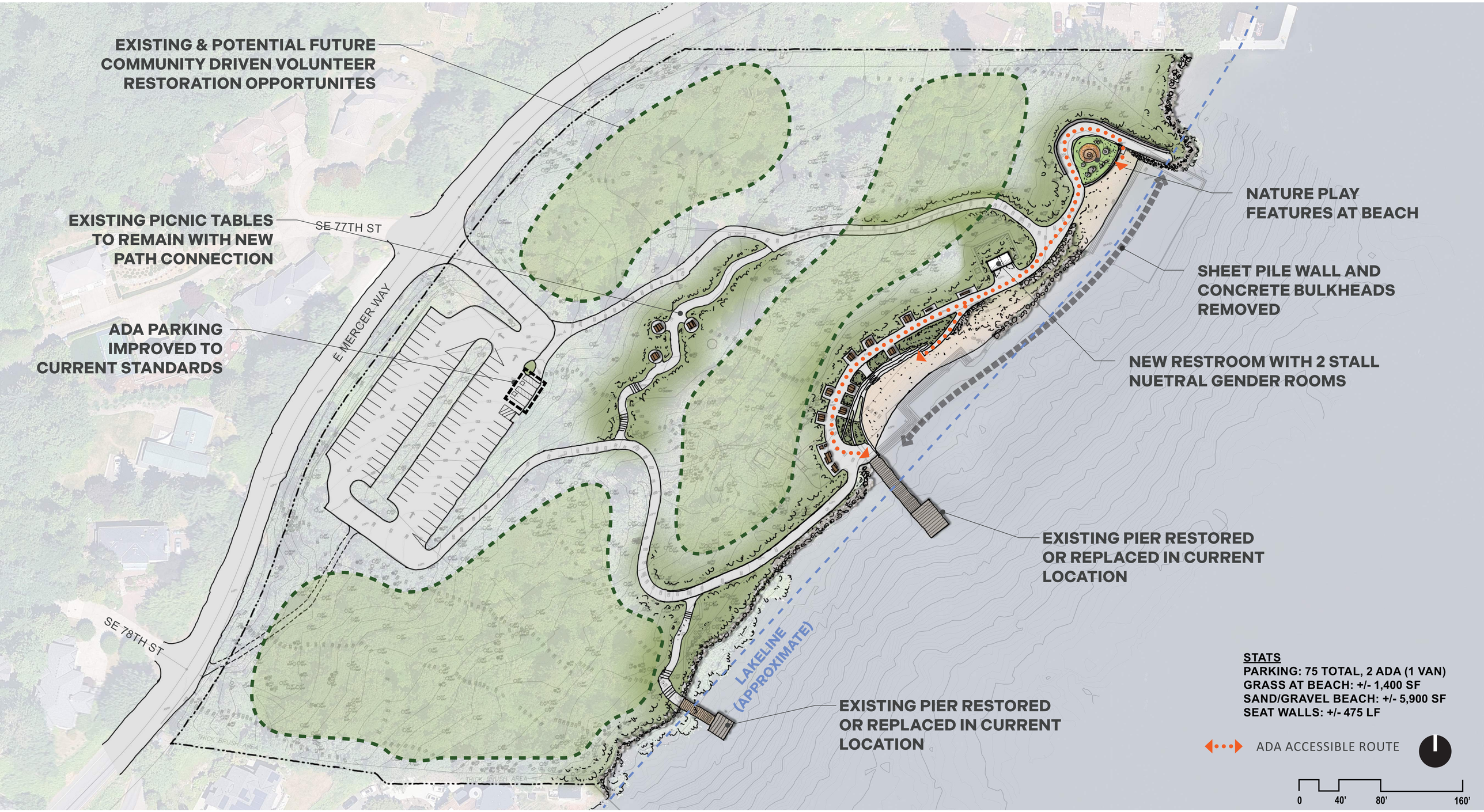
CLARKE BEACH PARK

CONCEPT DESIGN OPTION 2 - SHORELINE ENLARGEMENT



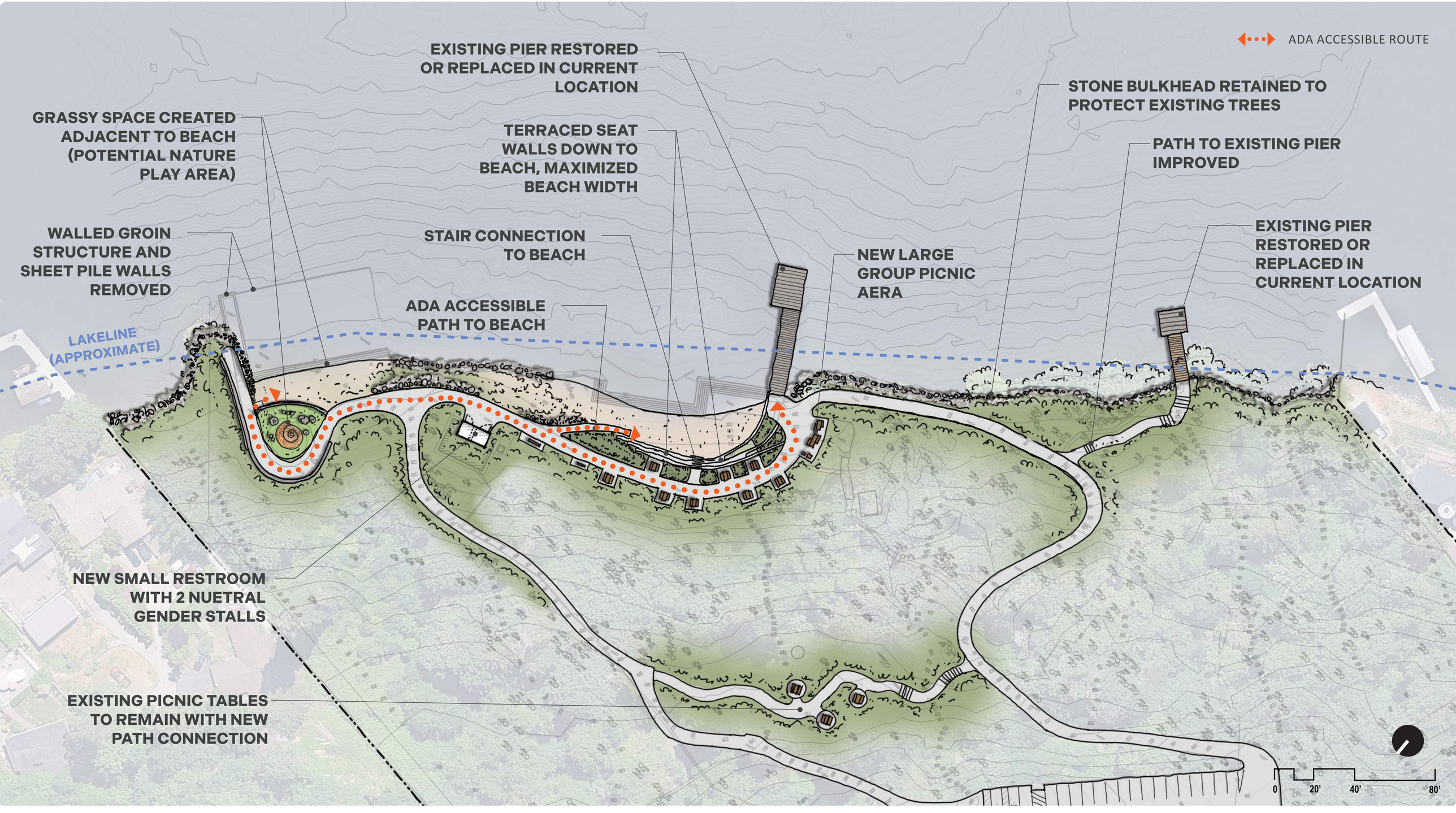
CLARKE BEACH PARK

CONCEPT DESIGN OPTION 3 - OVERALL PLAN



CLARKE BEACH PARK

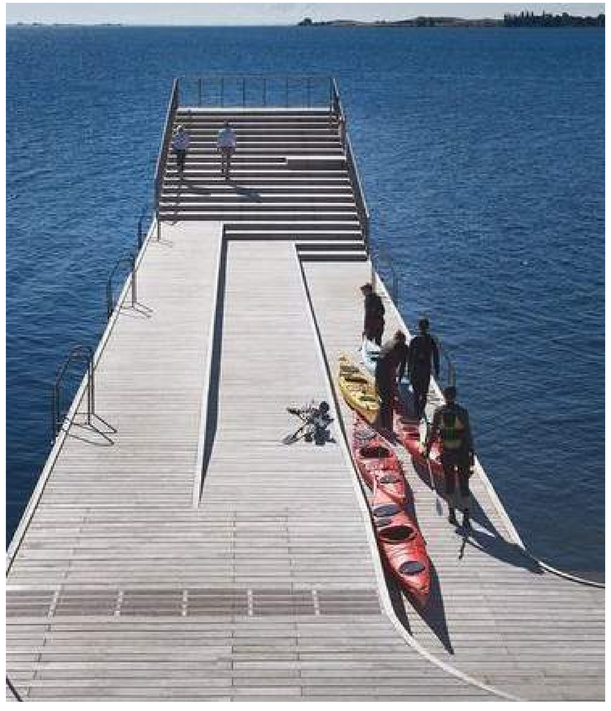
CONCEPT DESIGN OPTION 3 - SHORELINE ENLARGEMENT



CLARKE BEACH PARK

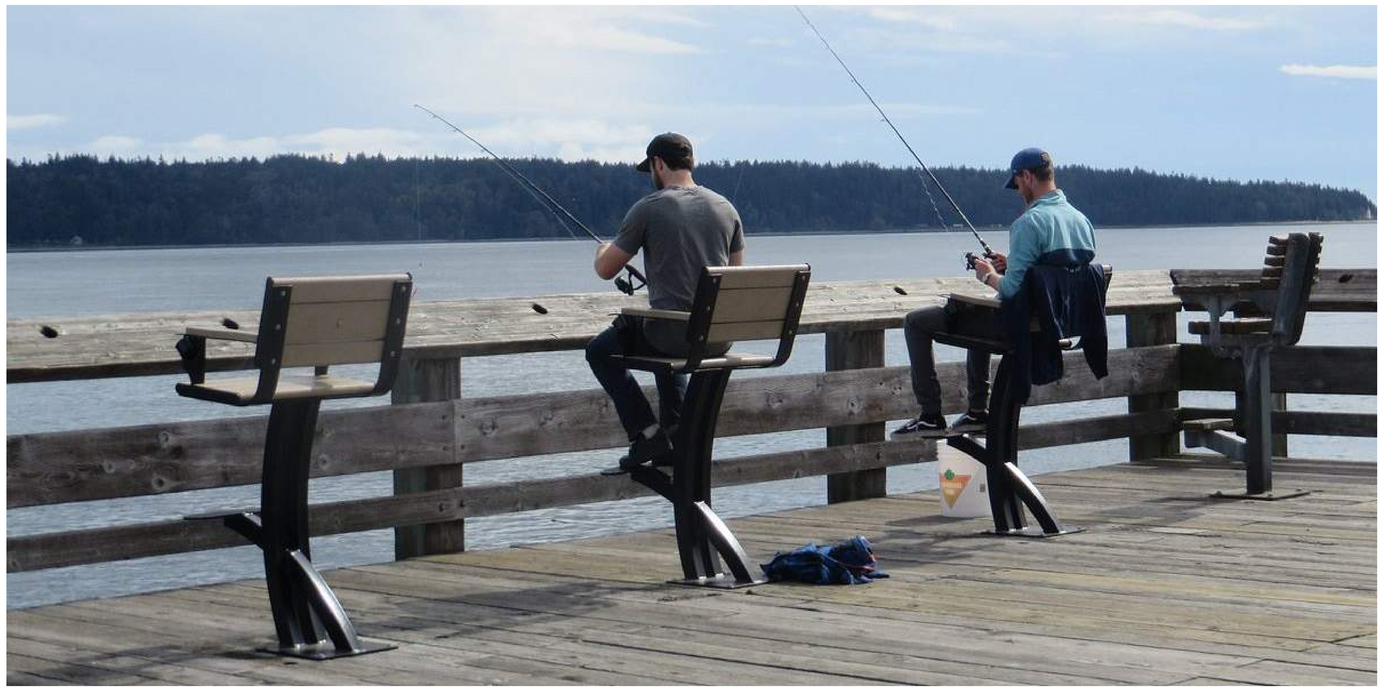
CONCEPT IMAGES: WATERCRAFT LAUNCH / PIER IMPROVEMENT









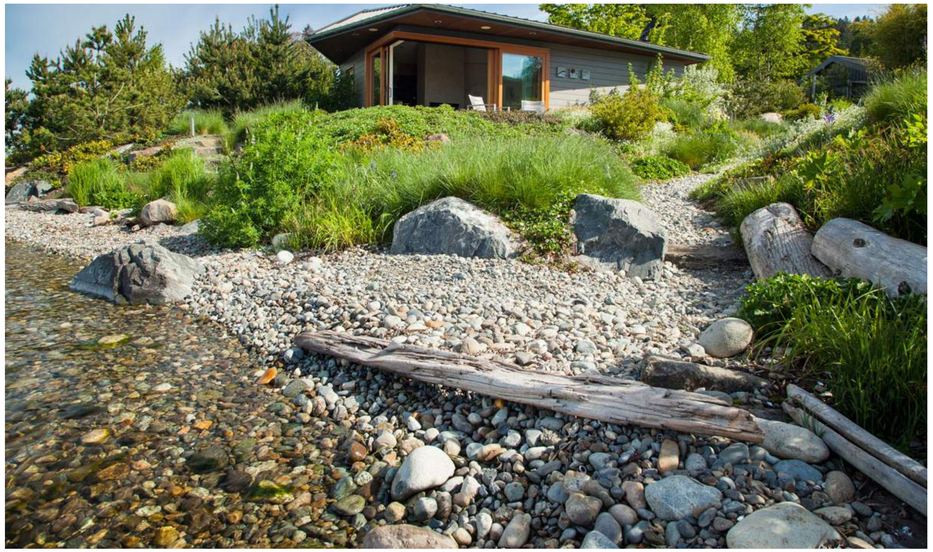


CLARKE BEACH PARK

CONCEPT IMAGES: NATURALIZED SHORELINE







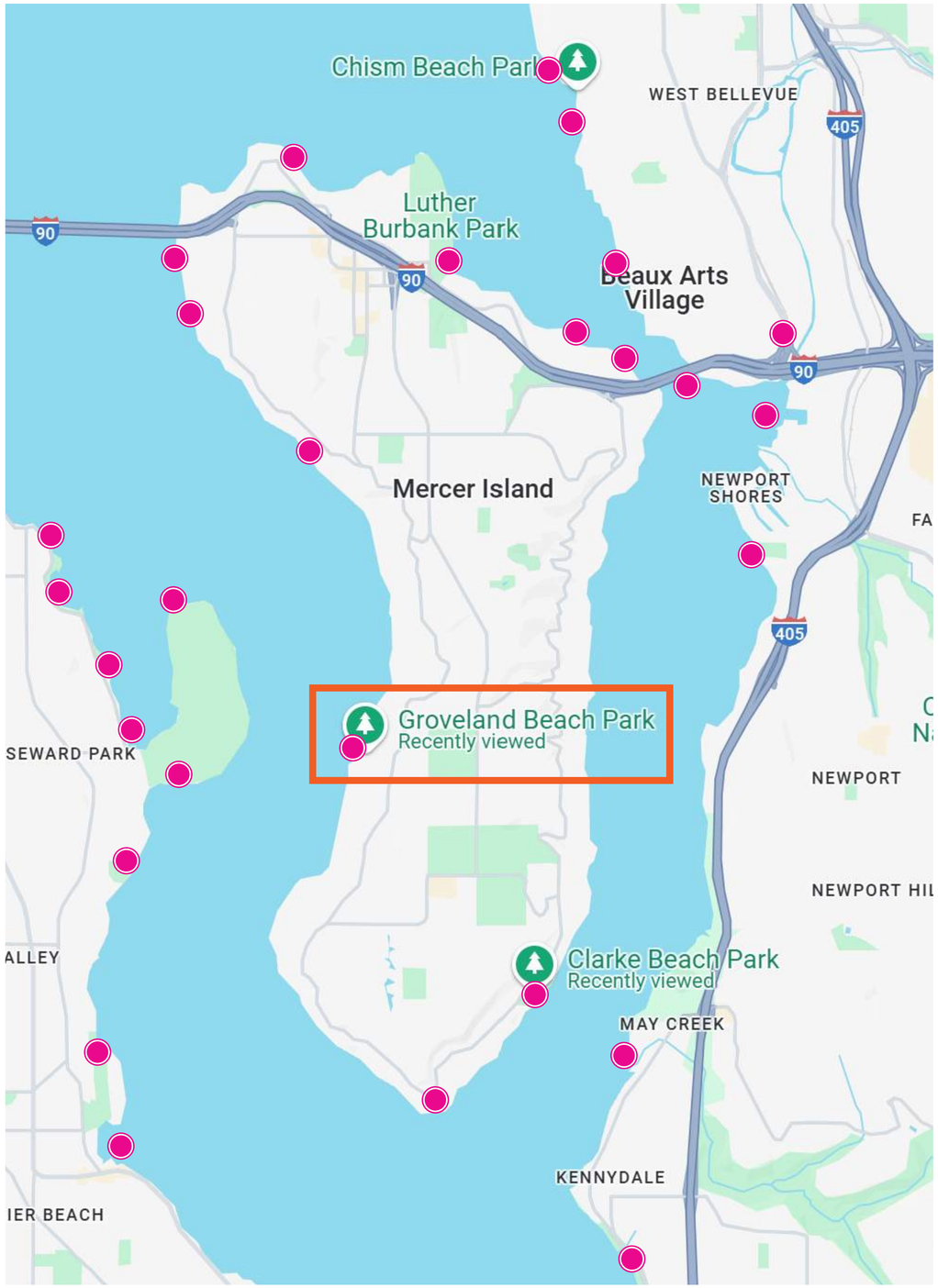






GROVELAND BEACH PARK

SITE CONTEXT AND TOPOGRAPHY





LAKES-TO-LOCKS WATER TRAIL SITES

GROVELAND BEACH PARK

EXISTING PHOTOS













GROVELAND BEACH PARK

CONCEPT DESIGN OPTION 1 - OVERALL PLAN



MERCER ISLAND PARKS: CLARKE & GROVELAND BEACH PARKS

DESIGN CONCEPT PACKAGE | 09.22.2025

GROVELAND BEACH PARK

CONCEPT DESIGN OPTION 1 - OVERALL PLAN

ADA ACCESSIBLE ROUTE

STATS
PARKING: 40 TOTAL, 2 ADA/VAN
GRASS AT BEACH: 3,500 SF
SAND/GRAVEL BEACH: +/- 3,750 SF
SEAT WALLS: +/- 330 LF

UPDATED / IMPROVED RESTROOM WITH GENDER NEUTRAL STALLS, LIFEGUARD SPACE / CHANGING ROOMS, IMPROVED UTILITY ACCESS

EXISTING STONE RETAINING WALL TO REMAIN

ADA ACCESSIBLE NATURE PLAY POCKETS

ADA ACCESSIBLE ELEVATED BOARDWALK 'CANOPY' WALK

EXISTING PIER REPLACED WITH FLOATING SWIM DOCK

BULKHEAD REMOVED

WIDE GRASS SEATING TERRACES

SE 57TH ST

DEERFORD RD

DEERFORD RD

IMPROVED WAY-FINDING SIGNAGE AT ROAD AND PARKING ENTRY

NATIVE POLLINATOR GARDEN WITH PICNIC TABLES / SEATING

POTENTIAL SHELTER STRUCTURE

IMPROVE & EXPAND SECONDARY TRAIL & STAIRS TO BEACH

DEERFORD RD

80TH AVE NE

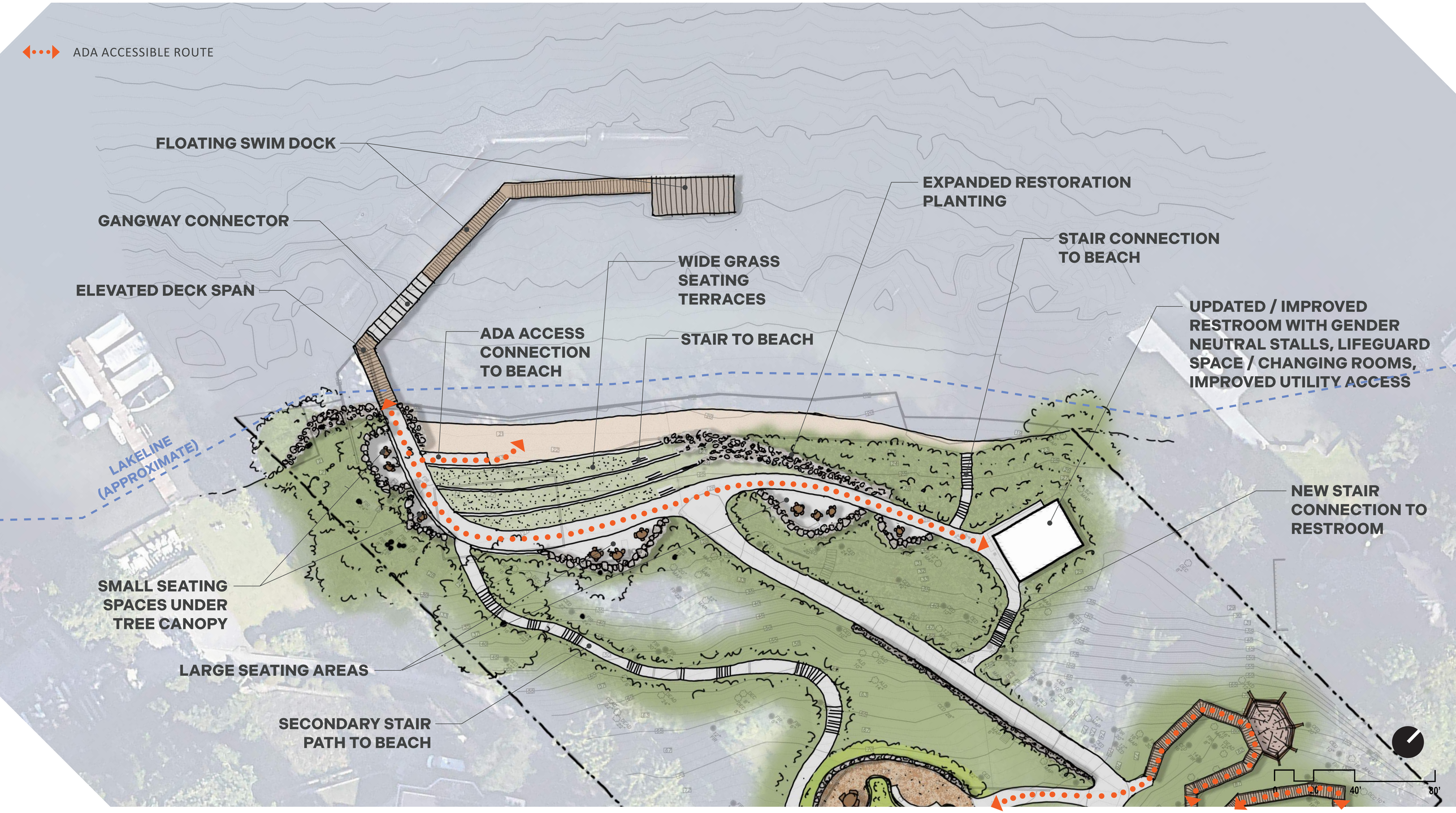
MITCHELL ST

LAKELINE (APPROXIMATE)

0 30' 60' 120'

GROVELAND BEACH PARK

CONCEPT DESIGN OPTION 1 - SHORELINE ENLARGEMENT



GROVELAND BEACH PARK

CONCEPT DESIGN OPTION 2 - OVERALL PLAN

ADA ACCESSIBLE ROUTE

STATS
PARKING: 40 TOTAL, 2 ADA/VAN
GRASS AT BEACH: 1,500 SF
SAND/GRAVEL BEACH: +/- 4,950 SF
SEAT WALLS: +/- 410 LF

UPDATED / IMPROVED RESTROOM WITH GENDER NEUTRAL STALLS, LIFEGUARD SPACE / CHANGING ROOMS, IMPROVED UTILITY ACCESS

EXISTING STONE RETAINING WALL TO REMAIN

ELEVATED DECK STRUCTURE WITH SEATING & LAKE VIEWS

DETACHED FLOATING SWIM DOCK WITH DIVING BOARD & WATER HAMMOCK

EXISTING PIER REPLACED WITH FLOATING SWIM DOCK

EXISTING GROIN STRUCTURE AND BULKHEAD REMOVED

SMALL PLAY POCKETS WITH NATURE ORIENTED PLAY FEATURES

LAKELINE (APPROXIMATE)

RELOCATED VOLLEYBALL COURT

IMPROVE & EXPAND SECONDARY TRAIL & STAIRS TO BEACH

IMPROVED WAY-FINDING SIGNAGE AT ROAD AND PARKING ENTRY

SE 57TH ST

DEERFORD RD

DEERFORD RD

DEERFORD RD

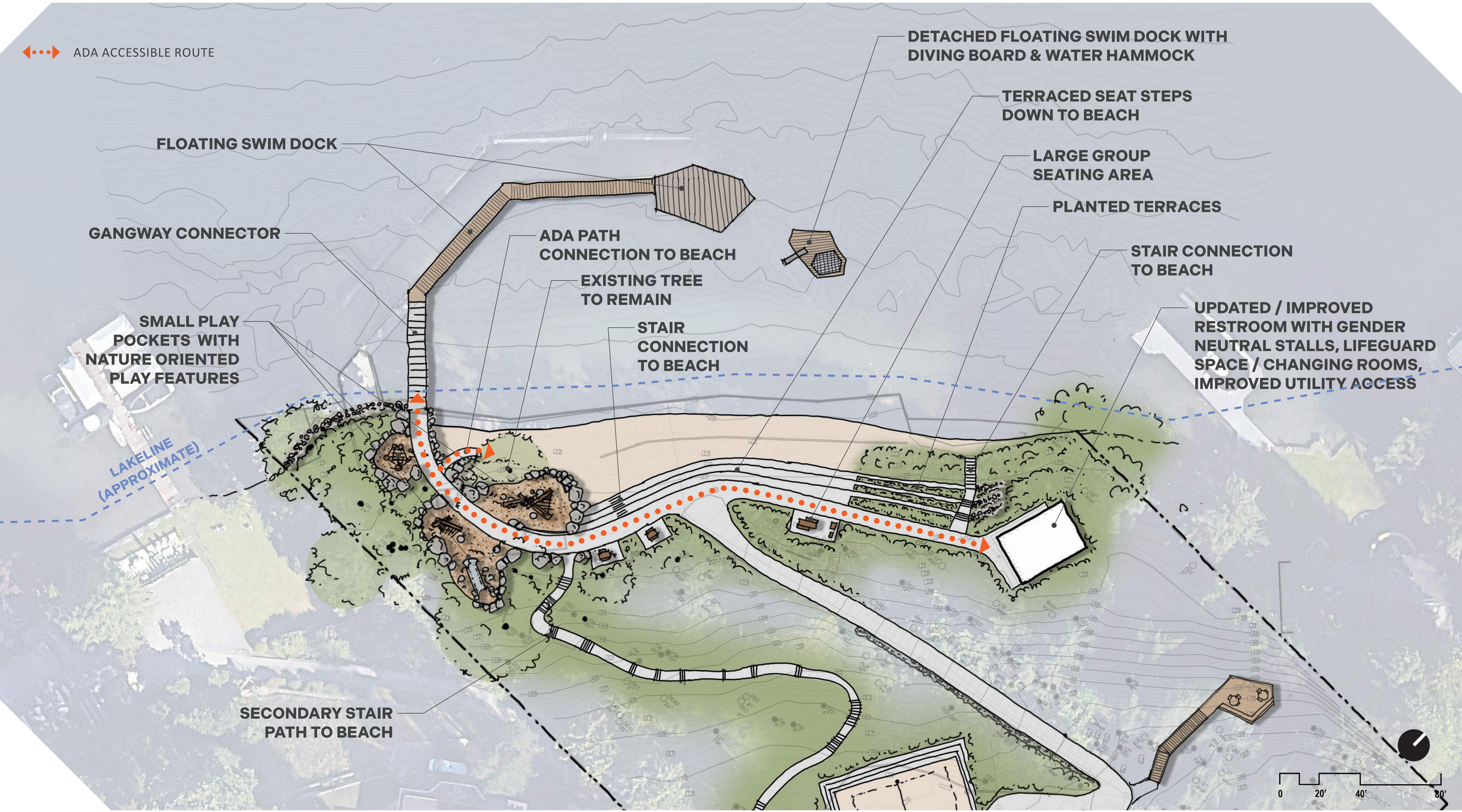
80TH AVE NE

MITCHELL ST

0 30’ 60’ 120’

GROVELAND BEACH PARK

CONCEPT DESIGN OPTION 2 - SHORELINE ENLARGEMENT



GROVELAND BEACH PARK

CONCEPT DESIGN OPTION 3 - OVERALL PLAN

ADA ACCESSIBLE ROUTE

STATS
PARKING: 40 TOTAL, 2 ADA/VAN
GRASS AT BEACH: 2,500 SF
SAND/GRAVEL BEACH: +/- 5,950 SF
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RESTROOM TO REMAIN IN EXISTING LOCATION

EXISTING STONE RETAINING WALL TO REMAIN

FLOATING SWIM DOCK

EXISTING GROIN STRUCTURE AND BULKHEAD REMOVED

SEATING AREAS WITH GRASS, ARTIFICIAL TURF OR OTHER SOFT SURFACING

LAKELINE (APPROXIMATE)

EXPAND SECONDARY TRAIL & STAIRS TO BEACH

ENHANCED PLAYGROUND WITH PLAY TERRACES

EXISTING SECONDARY TRAIL TO BE REMOVED

SE 57TH ST

DEERFORD RD

DEERFORD RD

DEERFORD RD

80TH AVE NE

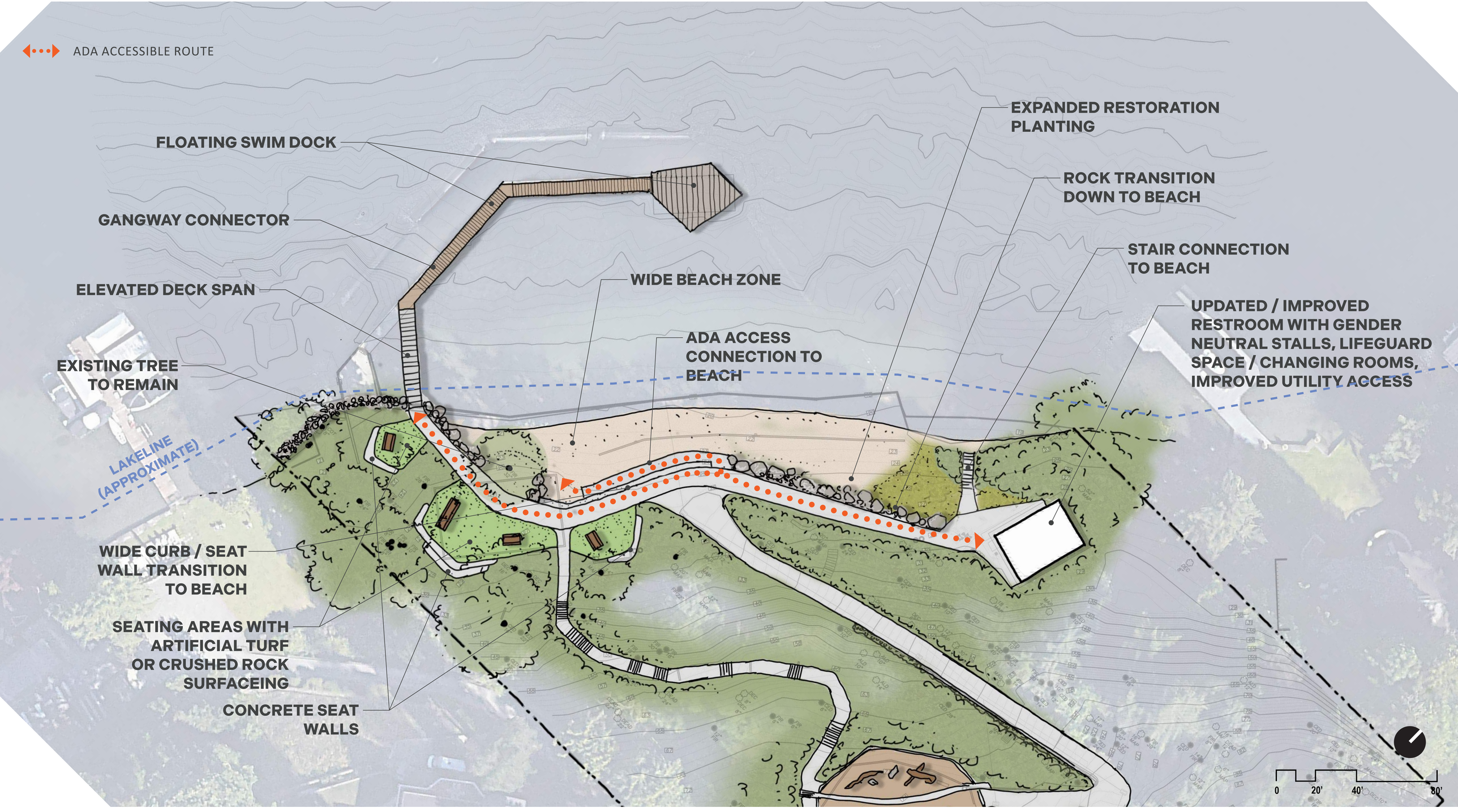
IMPROVED WAY-FINDING SIGNAGE AT ROAD AND PARKING ENTRY

MITCHELL ST

0 30’ 60’ 120’

GROVELAND BEACH PARK

CONCEPT DESIGN OPTION 3 - SHORELINE ENLARGEMENT



GROVELAND BEACH PARK

CONCEPT IMAGES: SWIM BEACH

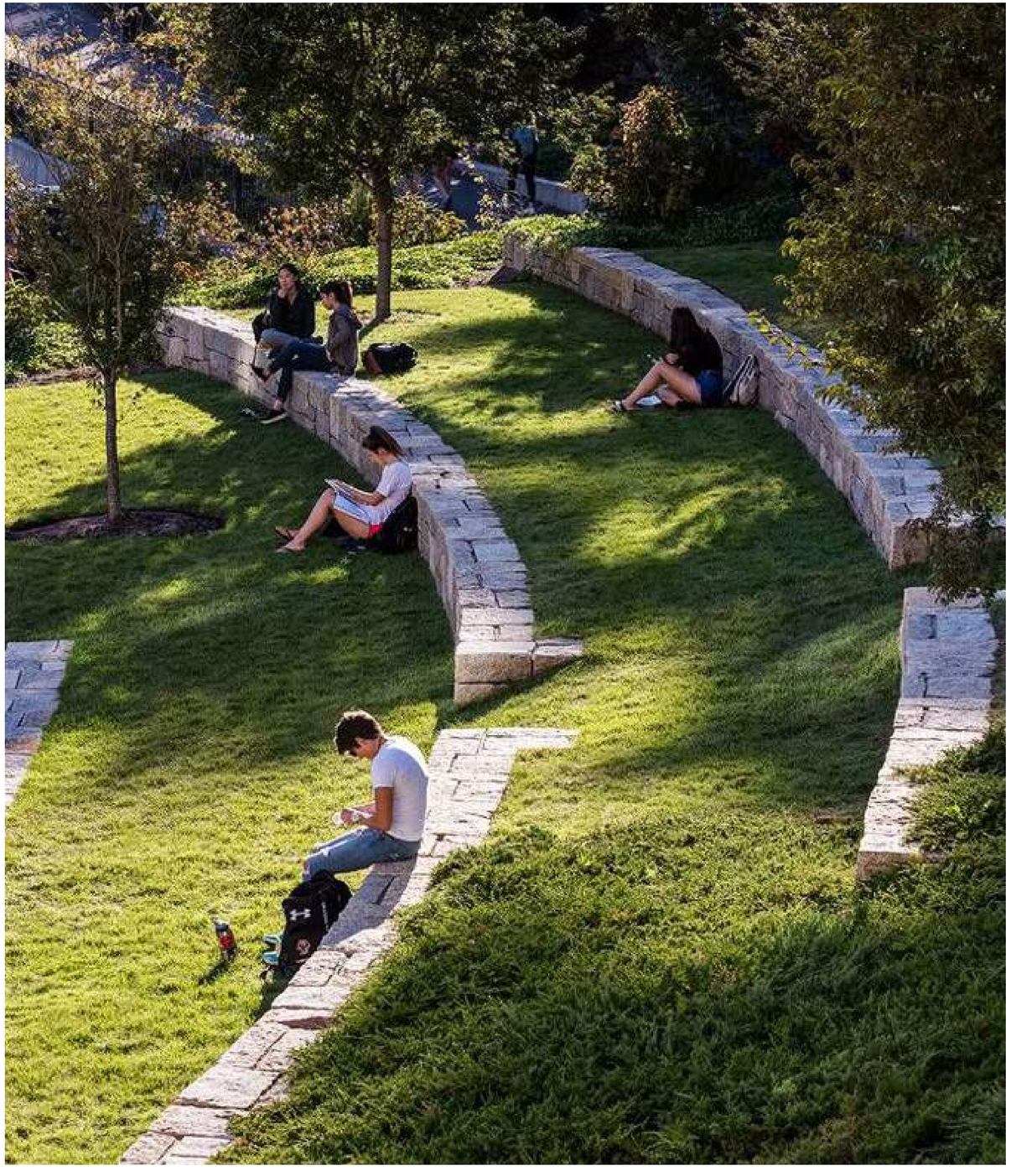


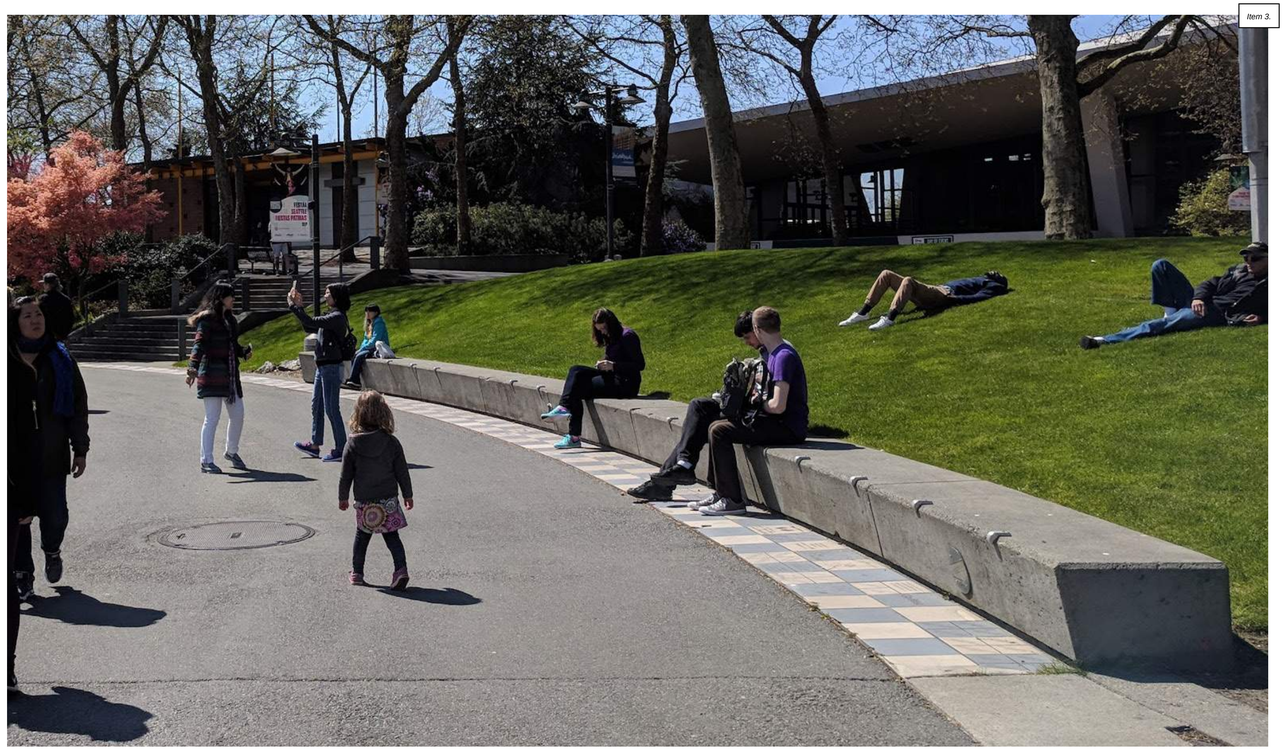




GROVELAND BEACH PARK

CONCEPT IMAGES: LAWN TERRACES / SEAT WALLS







GROVELAND BEACH PARK

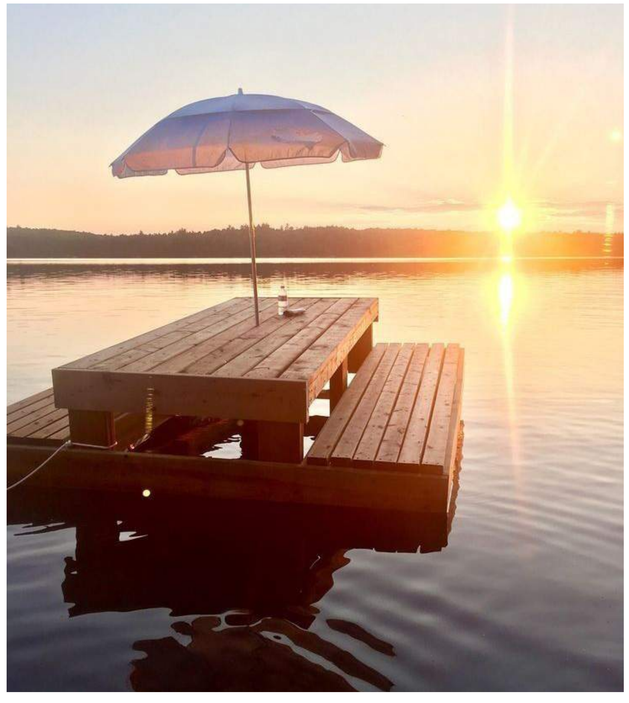
CONCEPT IMAGES: PIER/SWIMMING AMENITIES











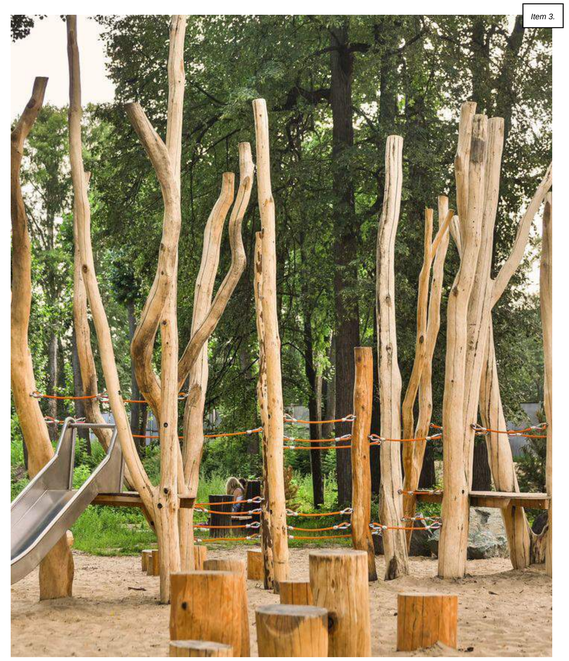


GROVELAND BEACH PARK

CONCEPT IMAGES: NATURE PLAY















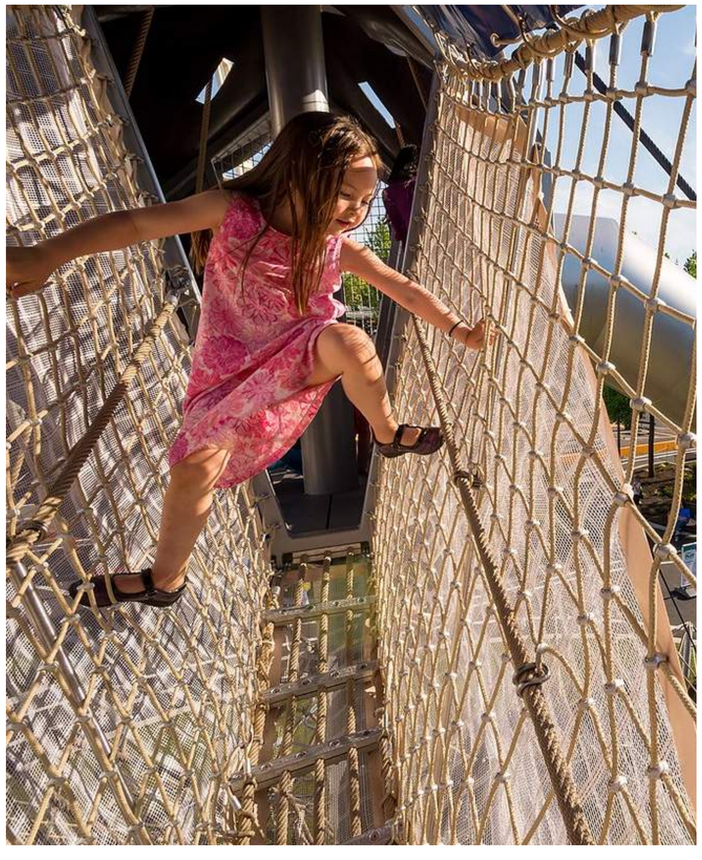
GROVELAND BEACH PARK

CONCEPT IMAGES: FOREST PLAY













Clarke and Groveland Joint Infrastructure Plan Update



RC 25-11 | October 20, 2025

Agenda

- Preliminary Design Concepts
  - Clarke Beach Park
  - Groveland Beach Park
- Community Engagement – Early Findings
- Design Refinement Discussion
- Next Steps

Project Schedule

Q1-Q2 2025

Pre-Design and Pre-Engagement

Q2-Q4 2025

Draft Plan Development

We are here!

Q1-Q2 2026

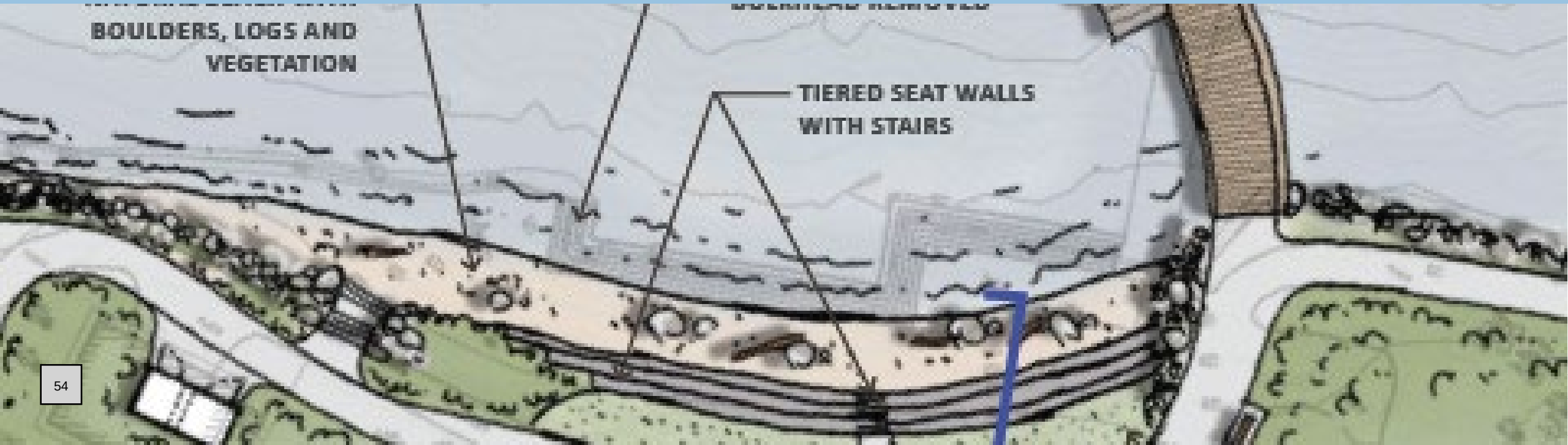
Plan Review and Adoption

Project information available at **www.mercerisland.gov/cgip**.

Purpose - Design Refinement Discussion

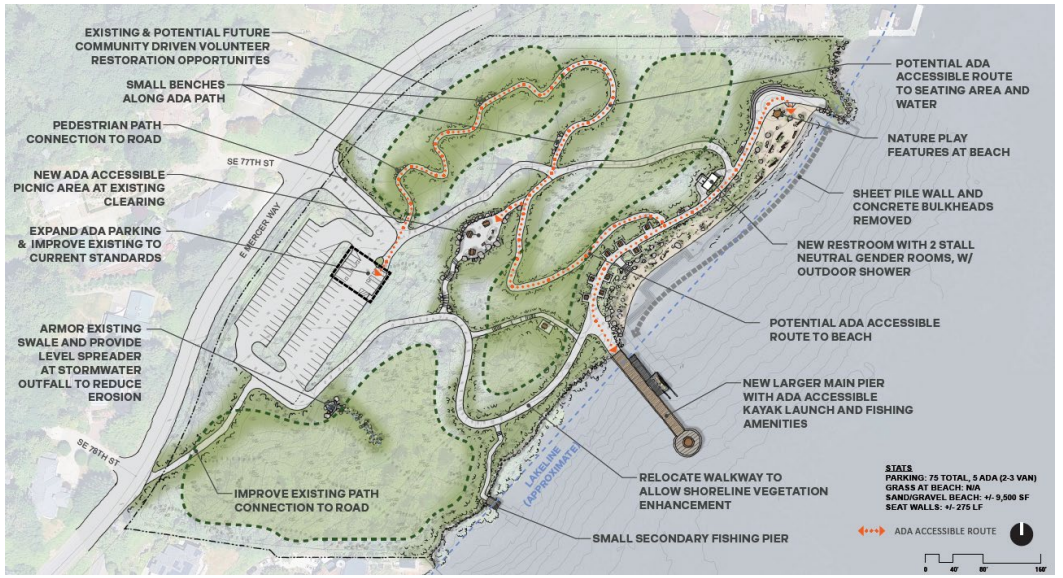
1. Do the concepts reflect the community input received to-date? If not, what's missing or needs further emphasis?
2. Are the proposed uses and amenities consistent with the intended character of each park? Are there additions, removals, or adjustments the Commission recommends?
3. Are there specific features from different concepts that should be combined in the preferred design for each park?
4. Do the shoreline restoration and ecological improvements align with the project's goals for sustainability and habitat enhancement?
5. Do the concepts support equitable access to amenities across all waterfront parks?
6. Does a single concept or combination of elements best represent the Commission's preferred direction for each site?
7. Do the concepts represent appropriate levels of investment relative to the Commission's expectations for the joint infrastructure plan?

Preliminary Design Concepts



Design Concepts Overview

- Three concepts were developed for each park.
- Each concept generally reflects a different level of investment in features.
  - Option 1 = High investment
  - Option 3 = Low investment
- Individual elements are interchangeable between concepts.
- The designs aim for a balanced approach for amenities between the parks.





Community Review and Input Opportunities

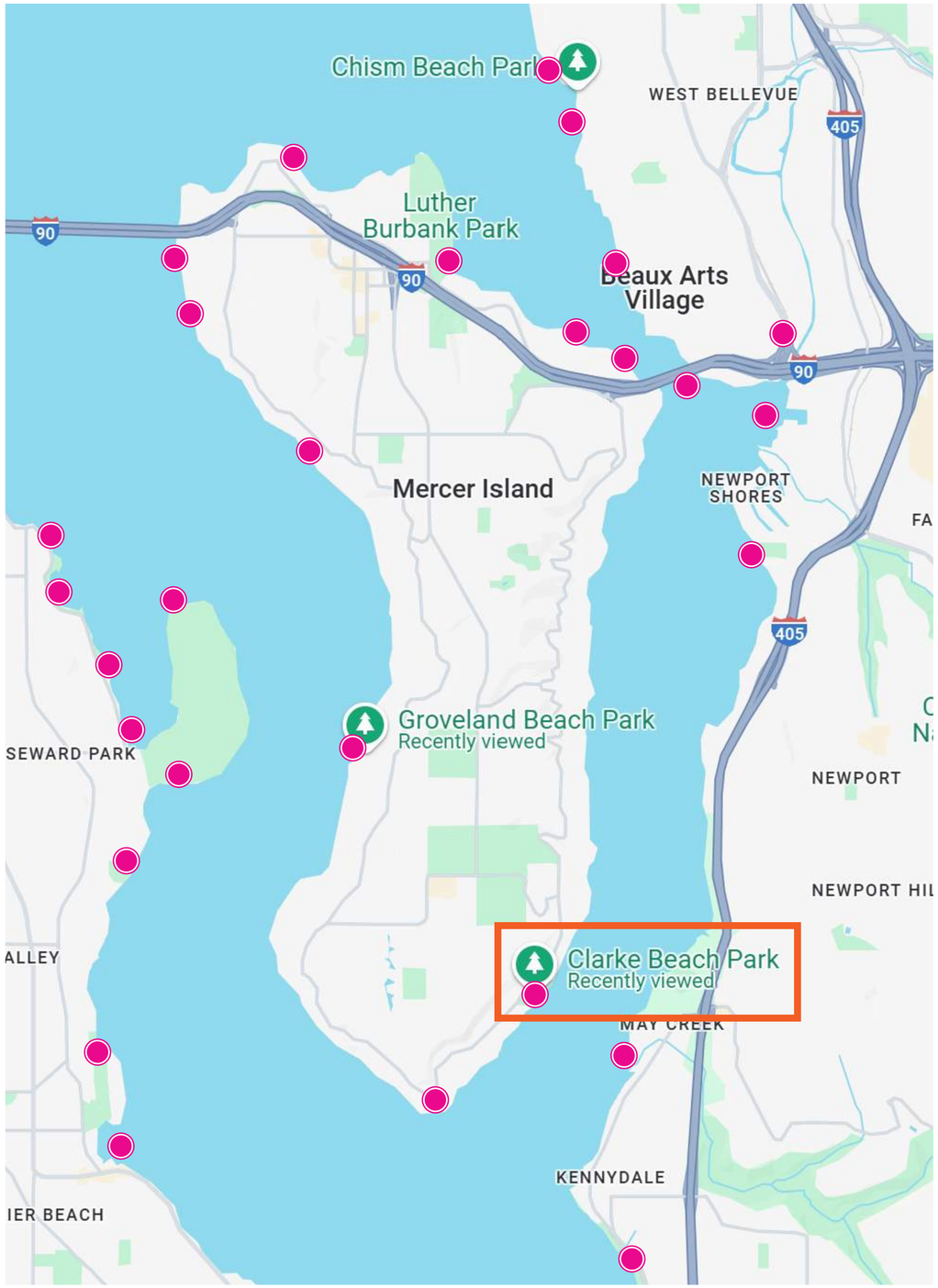
- Opportunities to review and comment on the design concepts are available on Let's Talk at www.mercerisland.gov/cgip:
  - Virtual Open House presentations
  - Digital concept boards
  - Online survey open October 3-November 3
- Community members can also view the concepts and provide feedback at upcoming community events:
  - Arbor Day: Saturday, October 25, 10am-1pm, Clarke Beach Park
  - Town Center Trick-or-Treat: Friday, October 31, 3:30-5:30pm, Near GHOSG

Clarke Beach - Design Consistencies

1. All concepts remove the existing concrete bulkheads and sheet pile swimming enclosure.
2. Each design reflects a shift toward a more passive, nature-oriented park use. Formal swimming amenities are not included (Groveland Beach and Luther Burbank Park being considered for enhanced swimming facilities).
3. All concepts replace the existing restrooms with a smaller, modern facility to better serve anticipated needs.

CLARKE BEACH PARK

SITE CONTEXT AND TOPOGRAPHY





LAKES-TO-LOCKS WATER TRAIL SITES

CLARKE BEACH PARK
EXISTING PHOTOS













CLARKE BEACH PARK

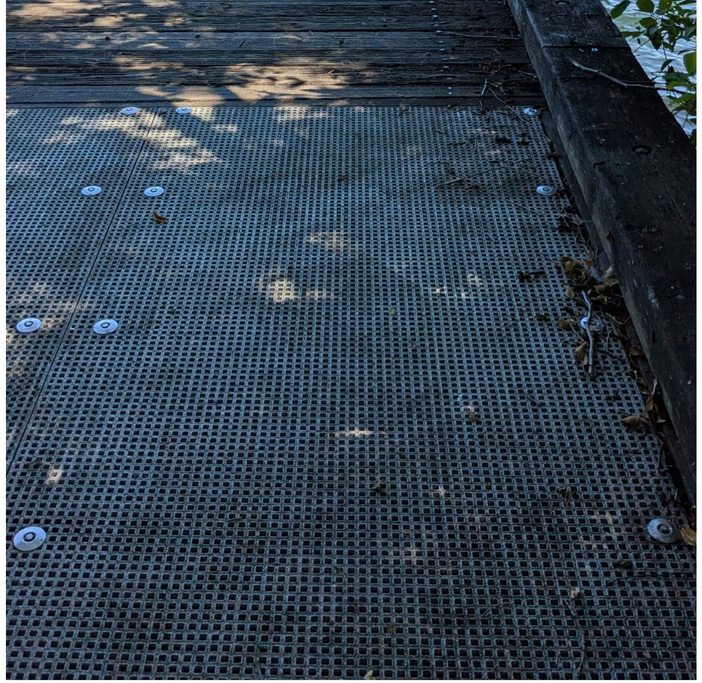
EXISTING PHOTOS











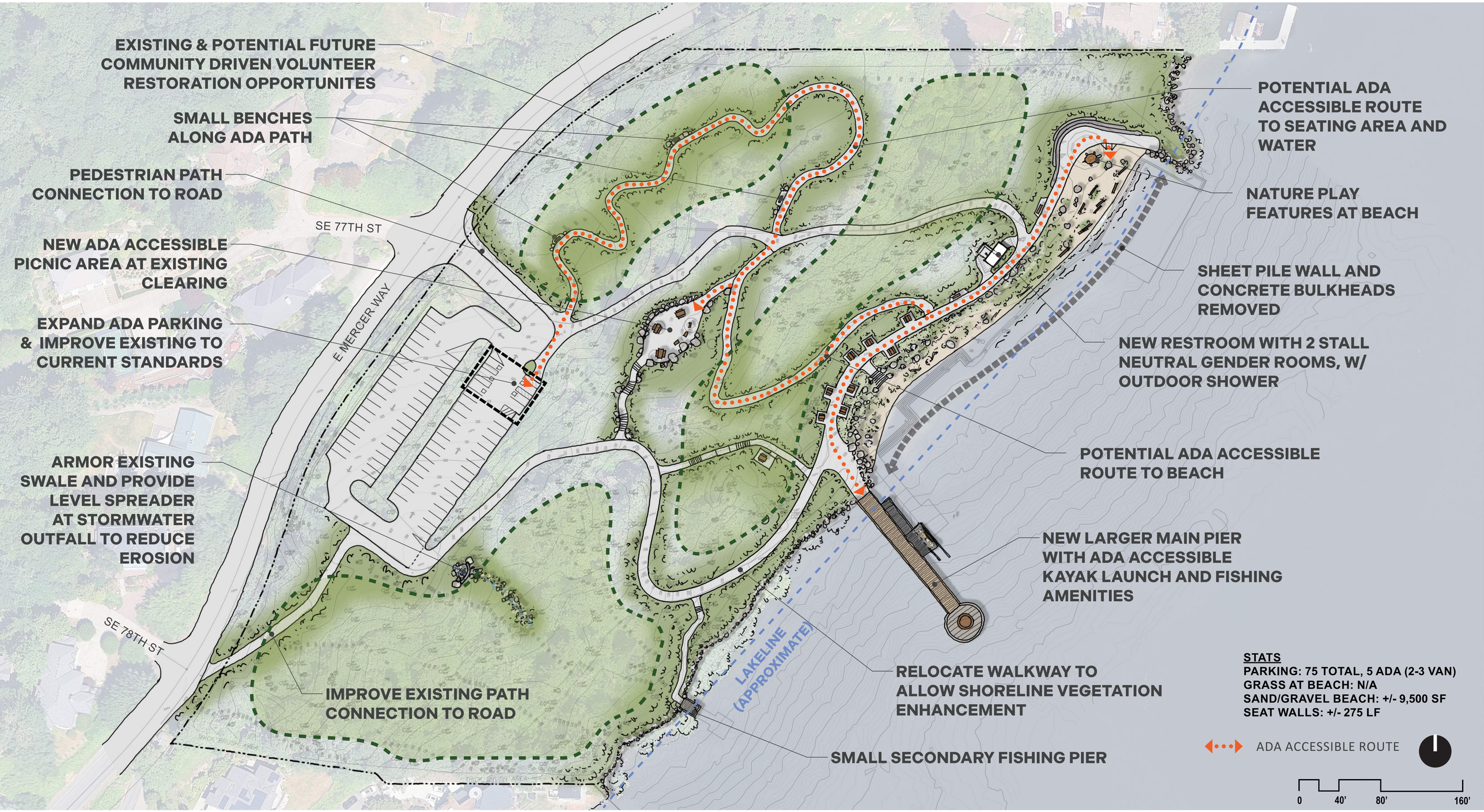


CLARKE BEACH PARK
EXISTING AERIAL



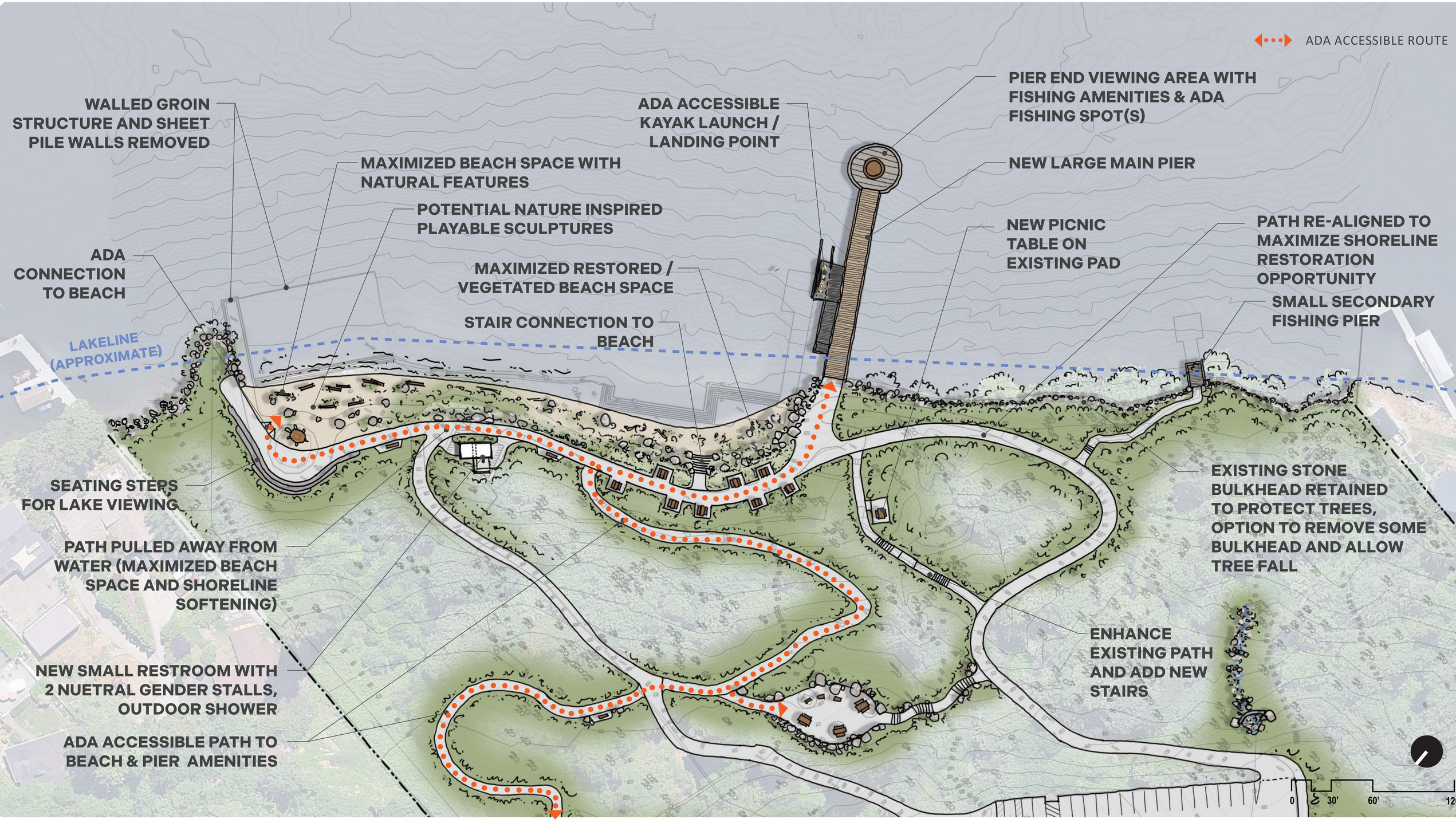
CLARKE BEACH PARK

CONCEPT DESIGN OPTION 1 - OVERALL PLAN



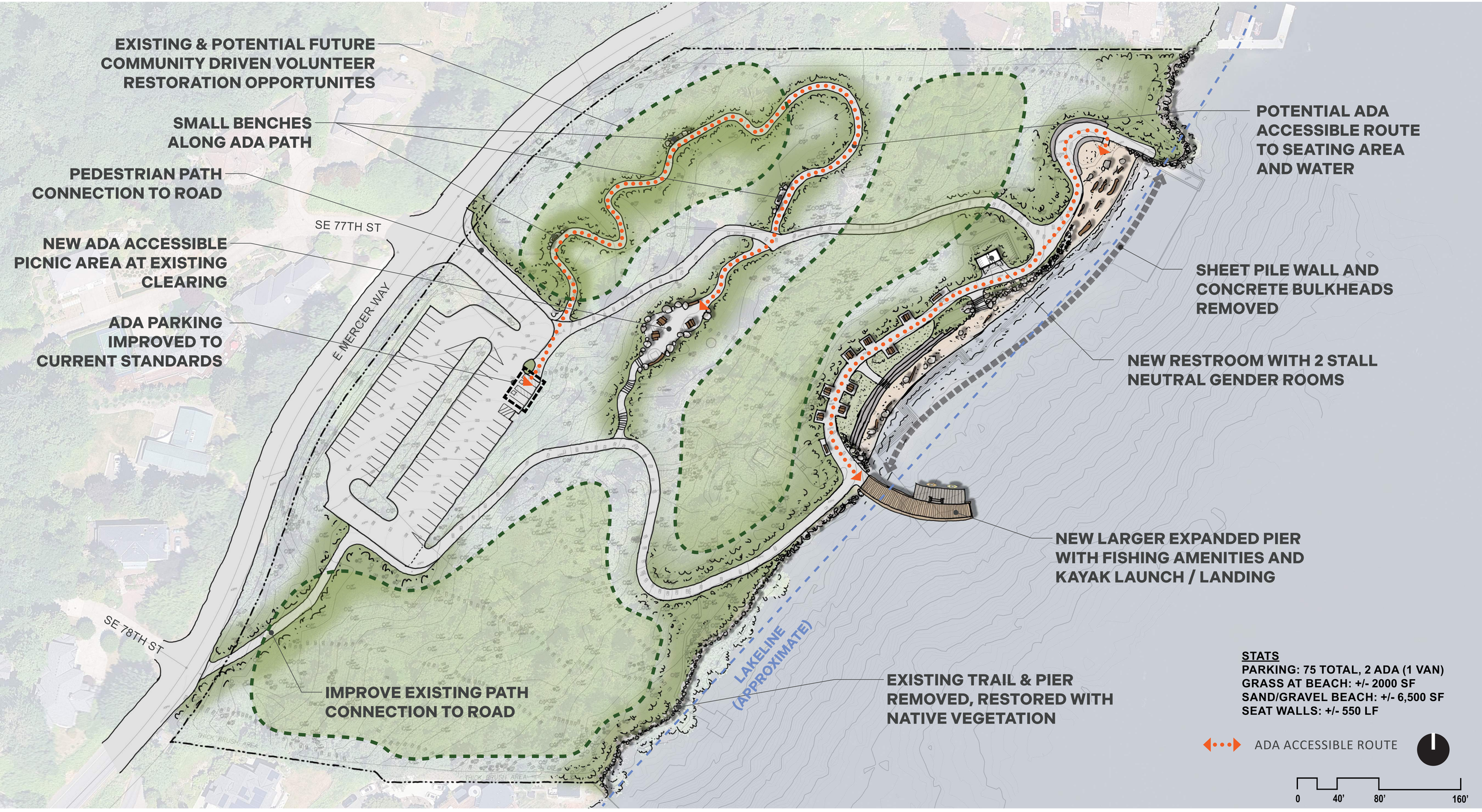
CLARKE BEACH PARK

CONCEPT DESIGN OPTION 1 - SHORELINE ENLARGEMENT



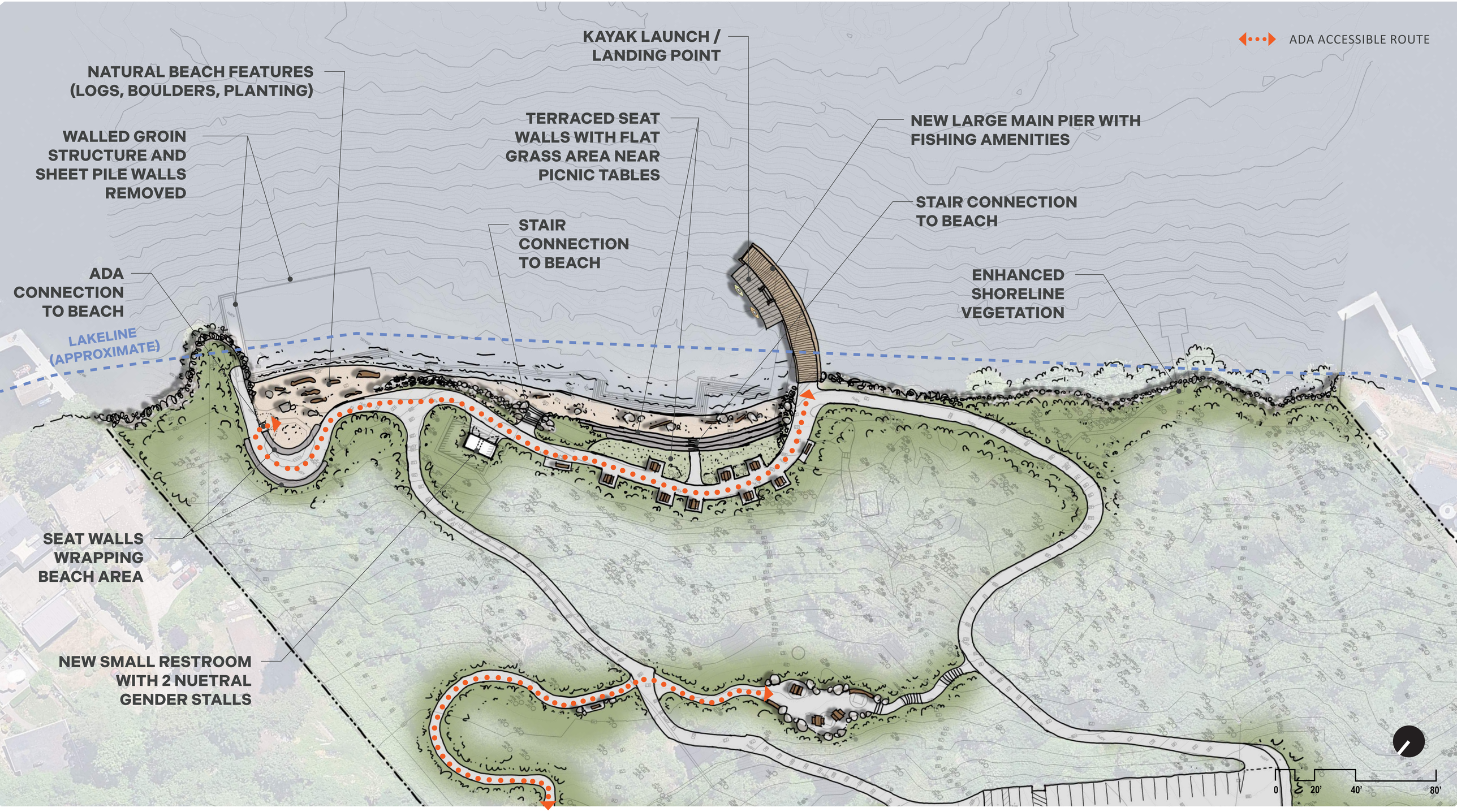
CLARKE BEACH PARK

CONCEPT DESIGN OPTION 2 - OVERALL PLAN



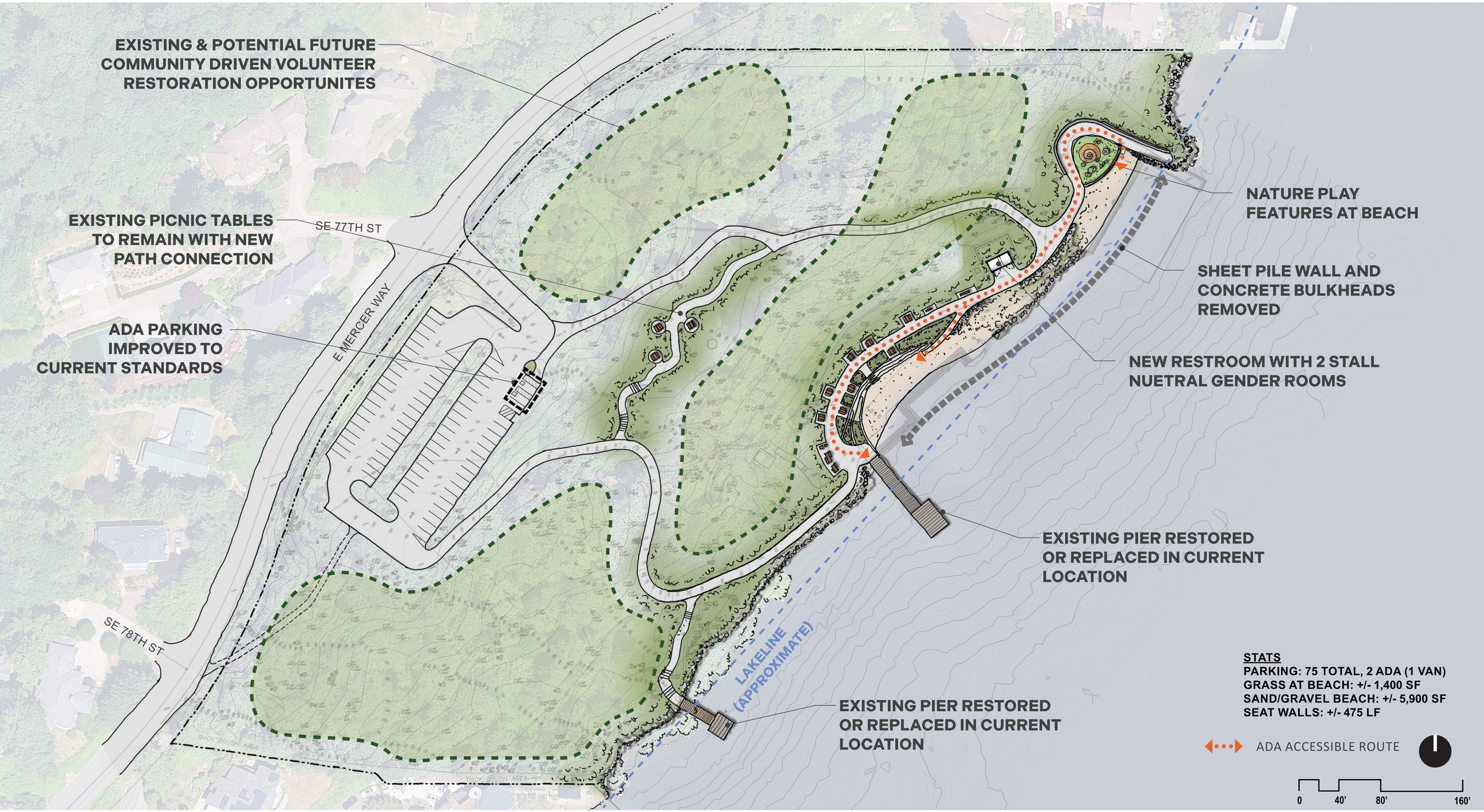
CLARKE BEACH PARK

CONCEPT DESIGN OPTION 2 - SHORELINE ENLARGEMENT



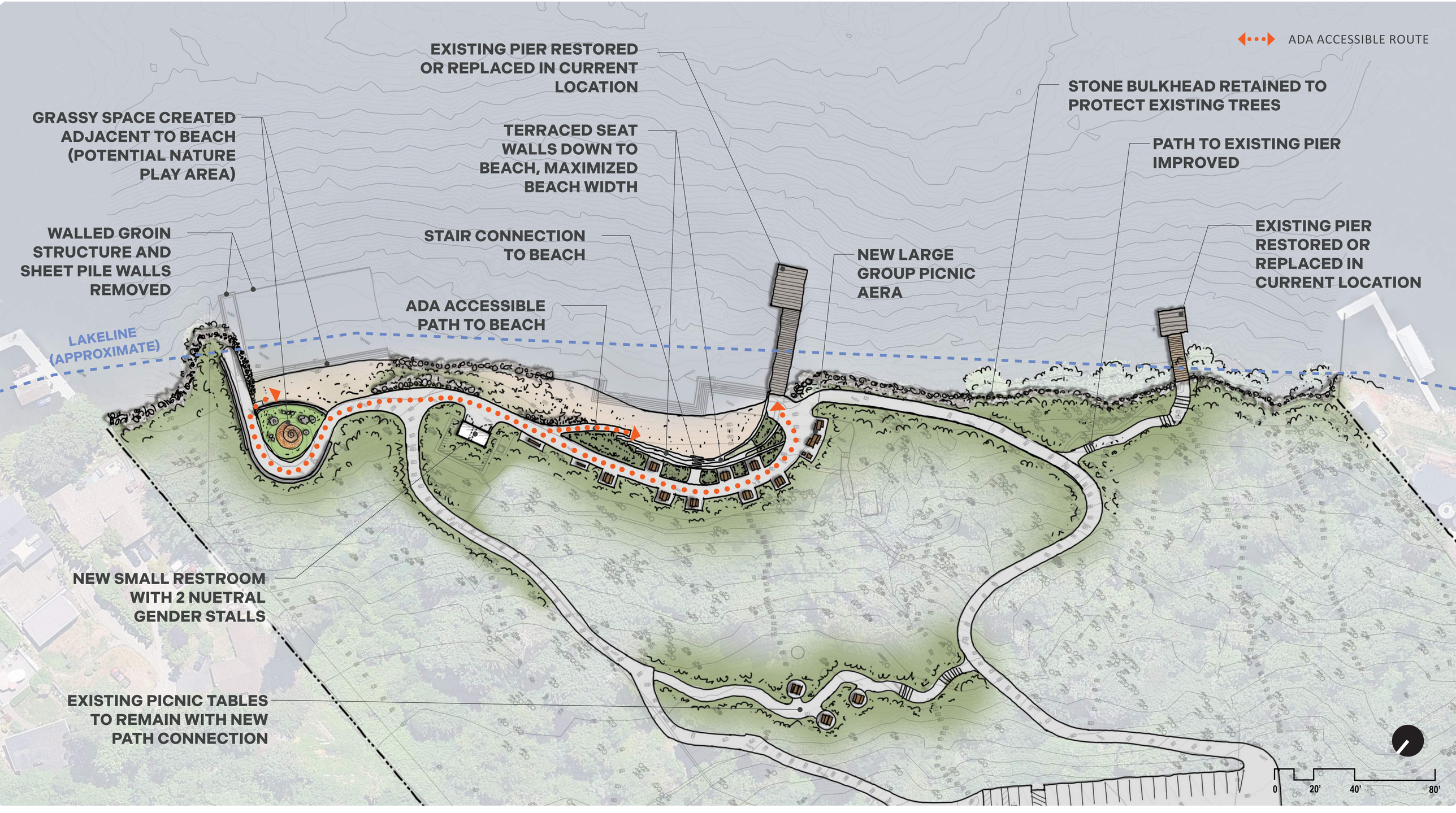
CLARKE BEACH PARK

CONCEPT DESIGN OPTION 3 - OVERALL PLAN



CLARKE BEACH PARK

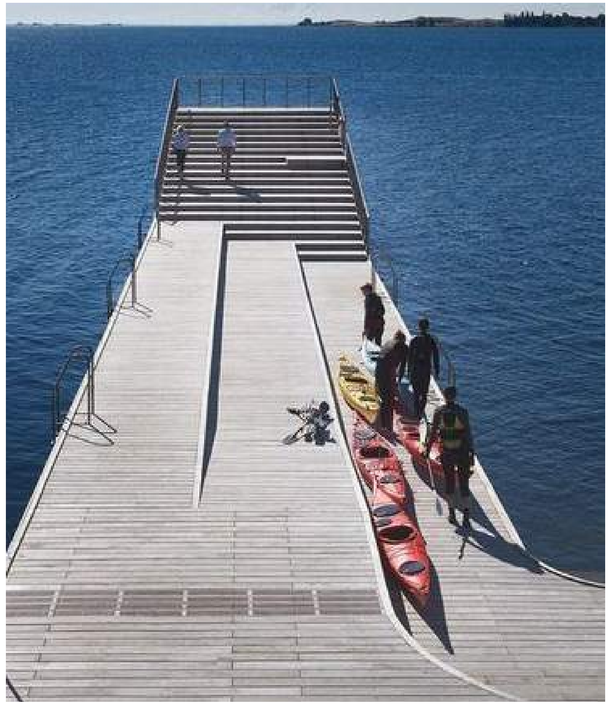
CONCEPT DESIGN OPTION 3 - SHORELINE ENLARGEMENT



CLARKE BEACH PARK

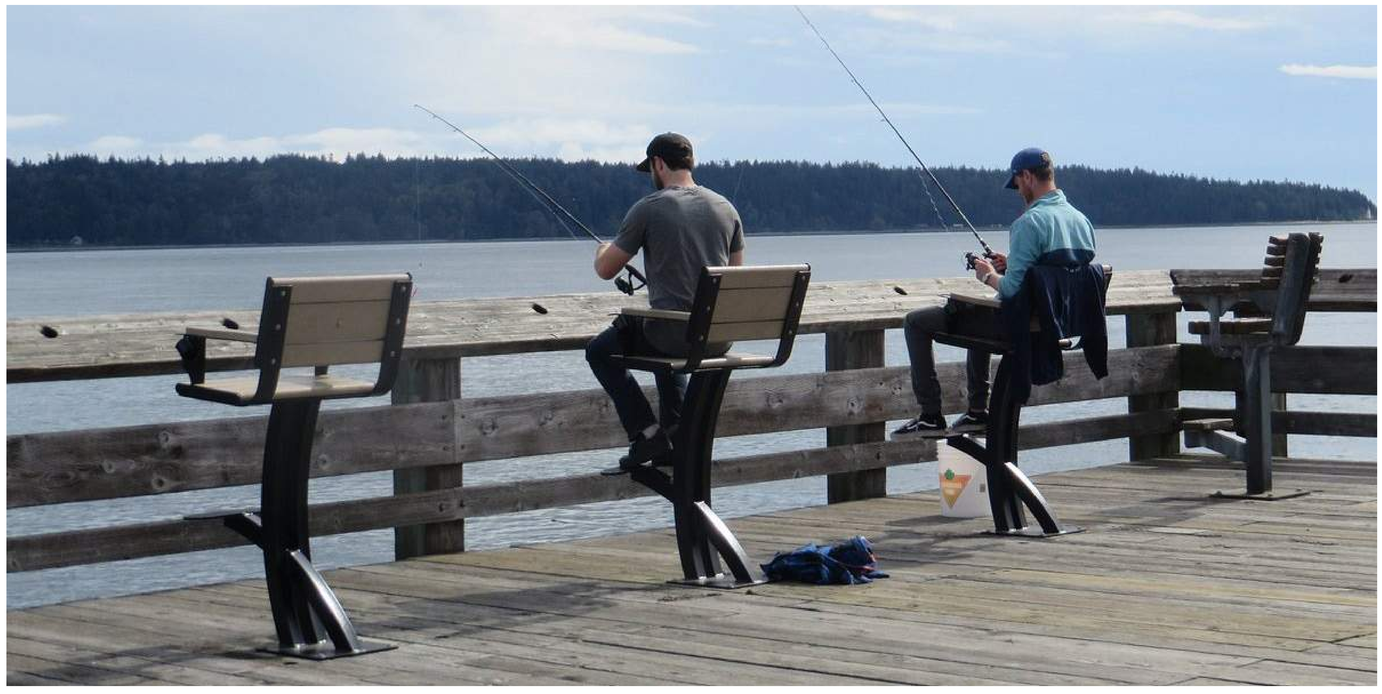
CONCEPT IMAGES: WATERCRAFT LAUNCH / PIER IMPROVEMENT









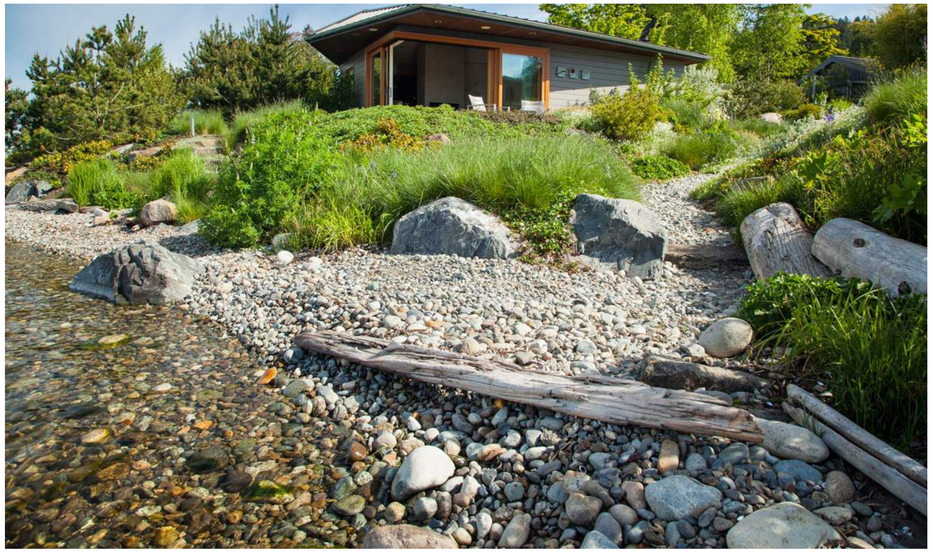


CLARKE BEACH PARK

CONCEPT IMAGES: NATURALIZED SHORELINE











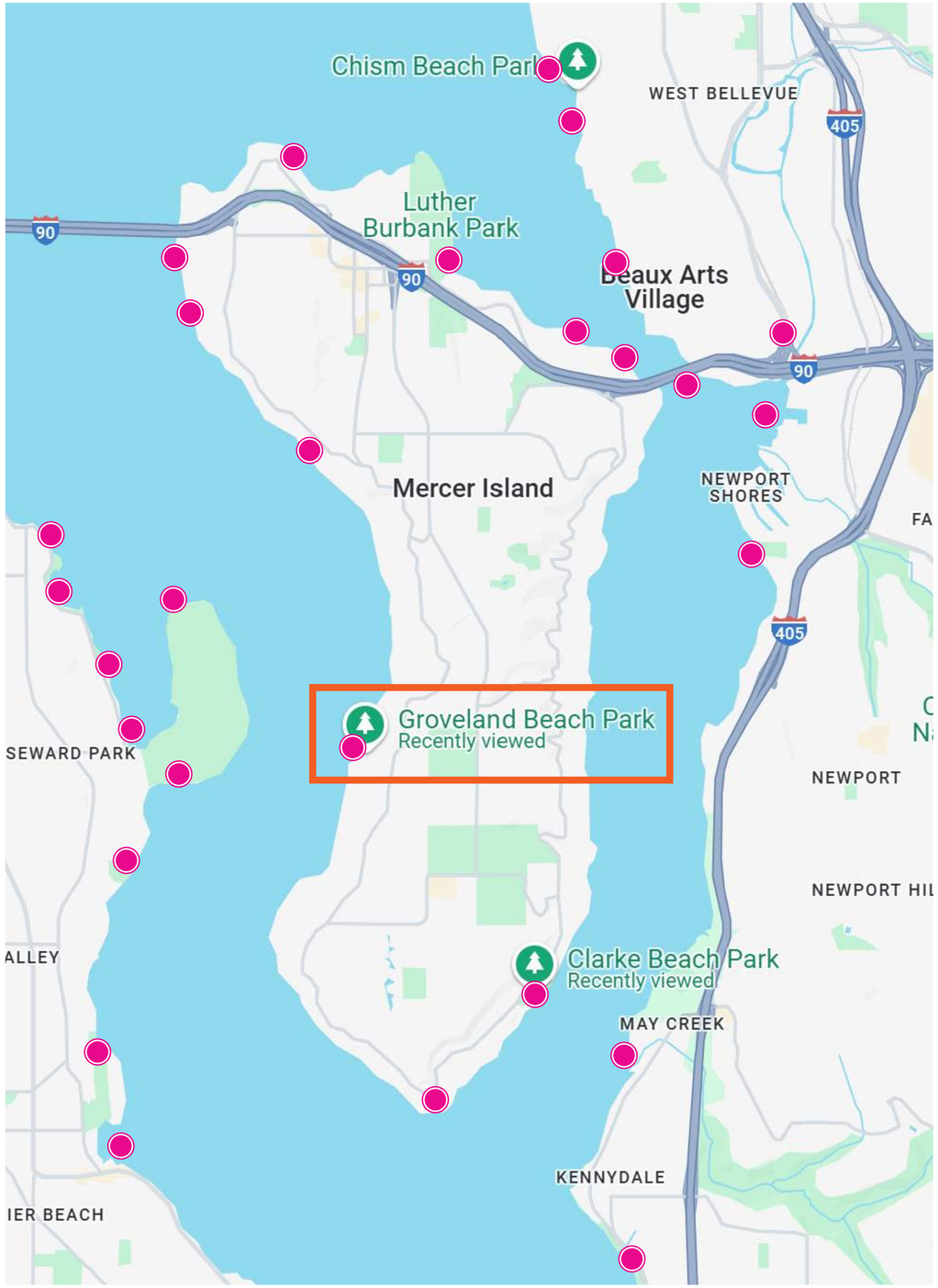


Groveland Beach - Design Consistencies

1. All concepts remove the existing concrete bulkhead.
2. Each design proposes replacing the elevated pier with a new floating pier.
3. All concepts replace the existing restrooms with an upgraded facility.

GROVELAND BEACH PARK

SITE CONTEXT AND TOPOGRAPHY





LAKES-TO-LOCKS WATER TRAIL SITES

GROVELAND BEACH PARK

EXISTING PHOTOS













GROVELAND BEACH PARK

CONCEPT DESIGN OPTION 1 - OVERALL PLAN

0 30’ 60’ 120’

STATS
PARKING: 40 TOTAL, 2 ADA/VAN
GRASS AT BEACH: +/- 14,600 SF
SAND/GRAVEL BEACH: +/- 3,200 SF
SEAT WALLS: N/A



GROVELAND BEACH PARK

CONCEPT DESIGN OPTION 1 - OVERALL PLAN

ADA ACCESSIBLE ROUTE

STATS
PARKING: 40 TOTAL, 2 ADA/VAN
GRASS AT BEACH: 3,500 SF
SAND/GRAVEL BEACH: +/- 3,750 SF
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WIDE GRASS SEATING TERRACES

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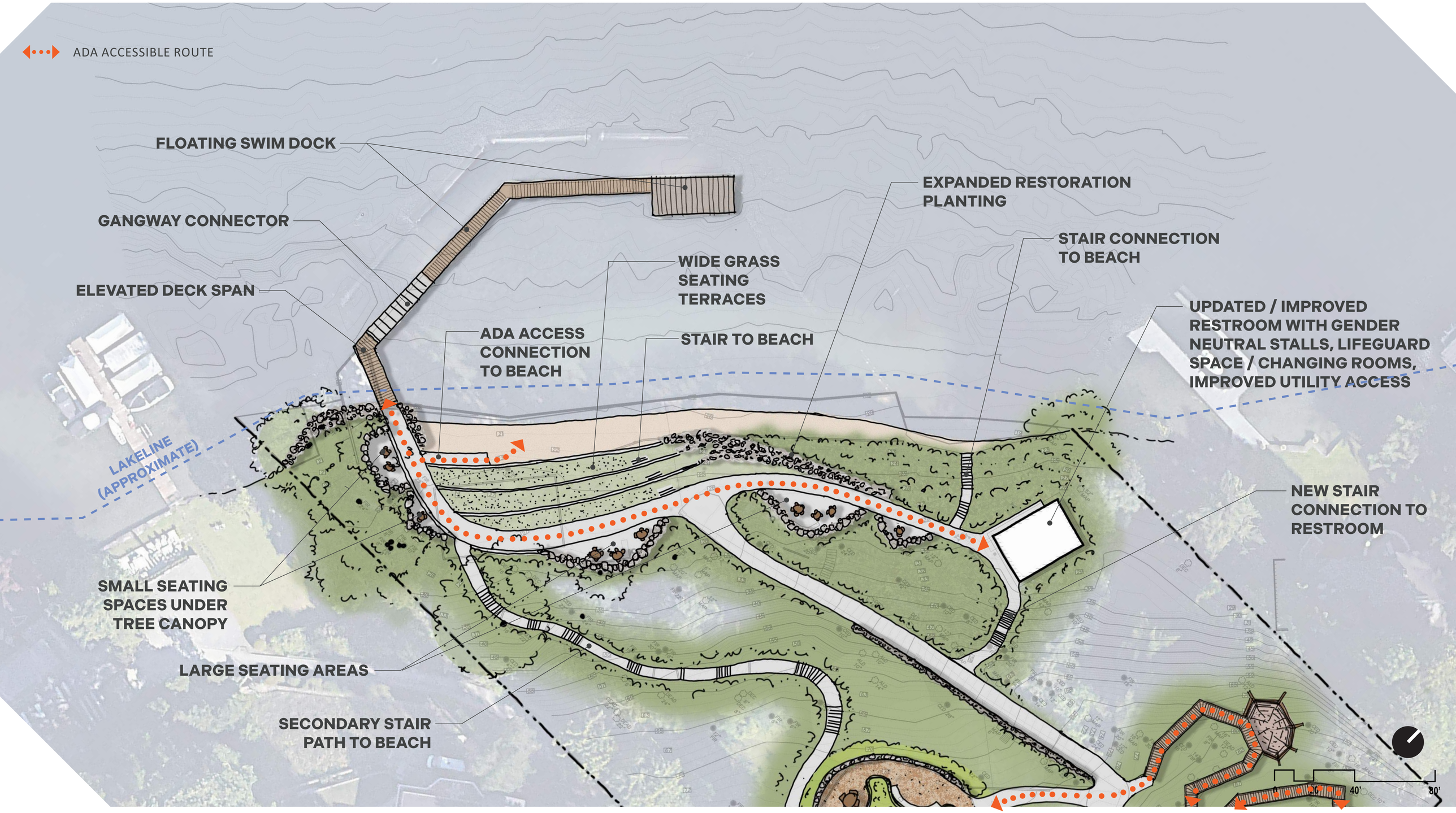
MITCHELL ST

LAKELINE (APPROXIMATE)

0 30' 60' 120'

GROVELAND BEACH PARK

CONCEPT DESIGN OPTION 1 - SHORELINE ENLARGEMENT



GROVELAND BEACH PARK

CONCEPT DESIGN OPTION 2 - OVERALL PLAN

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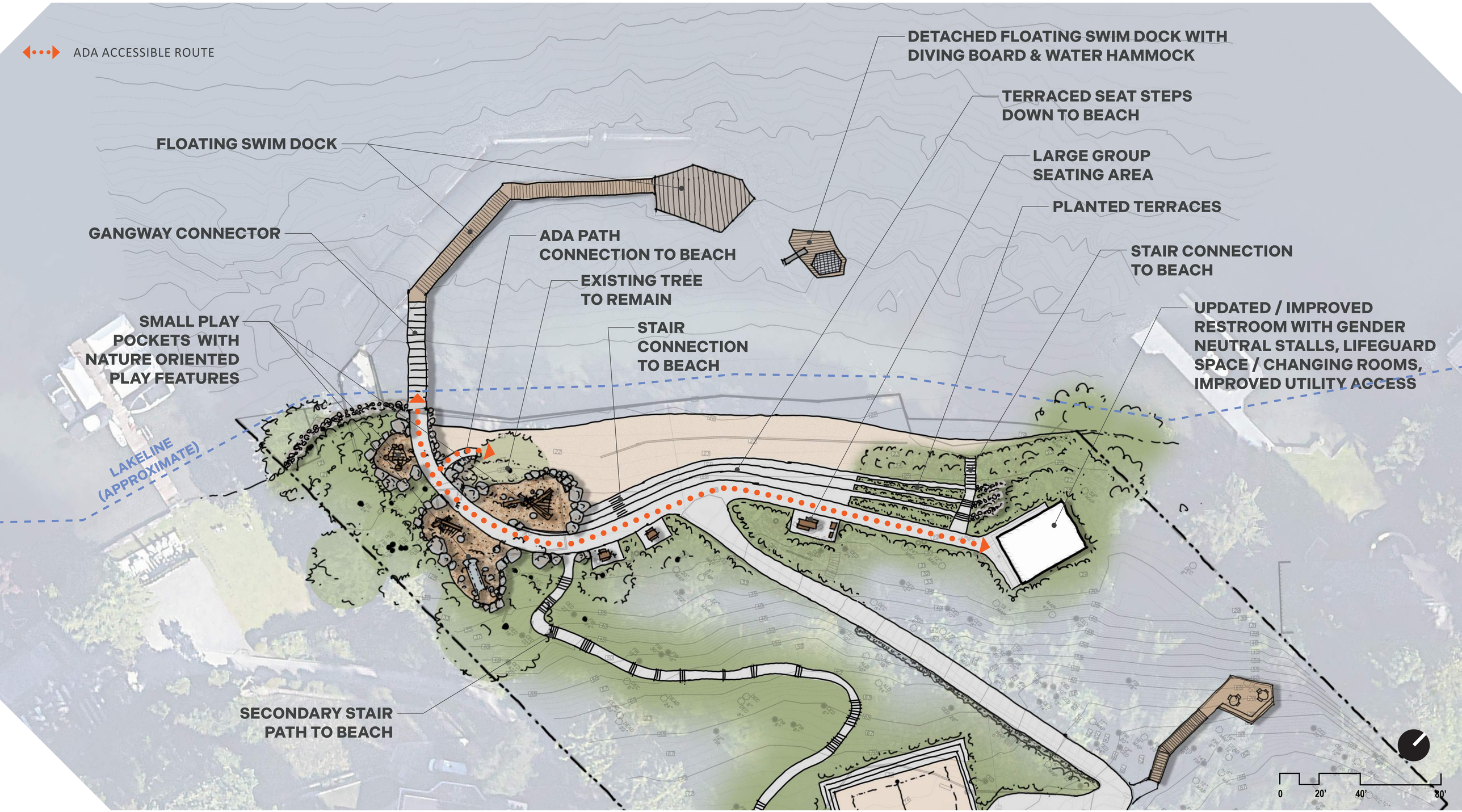
80TH AVE NE

MITCHELL ST

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GROVELAND BEACH PARK

CONCEPT DESIGN OPTION 2 - SHORELINE ENLARGEMENT



GROVELAND BEACH PARK

CONCEPT DESIGN OPTION 3 - OVERALL PLAN

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80TH AVE NE

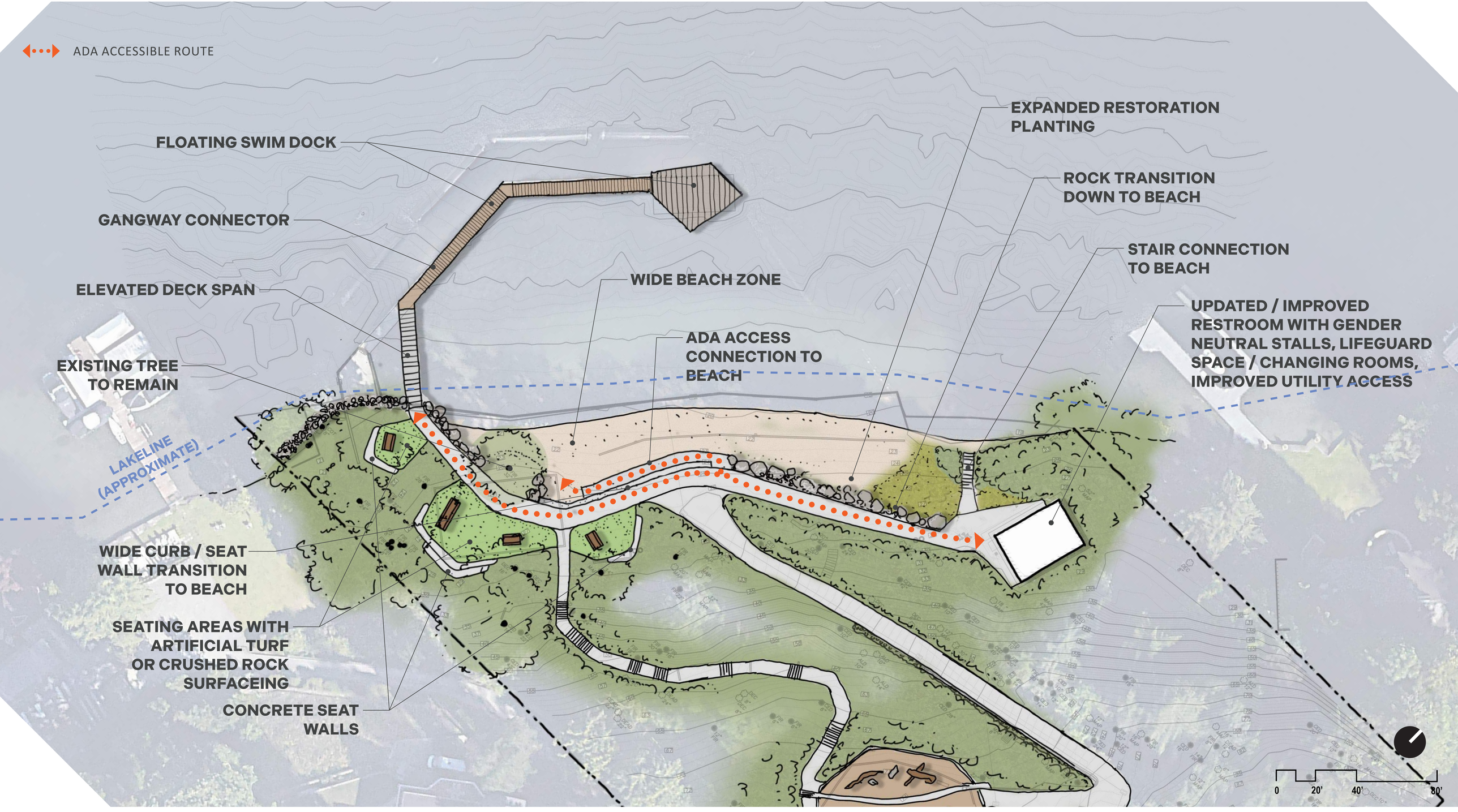
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MITCHELL ST

0 30’ 60’ 120’

GROVELAND BEACH PARK

CONCEPT DESIGN OPTION 3 - SHORELINE ENLARGEMENT



GROVELAND BEACH PARK

CONCEPT IMAGES: SWIM BEACH

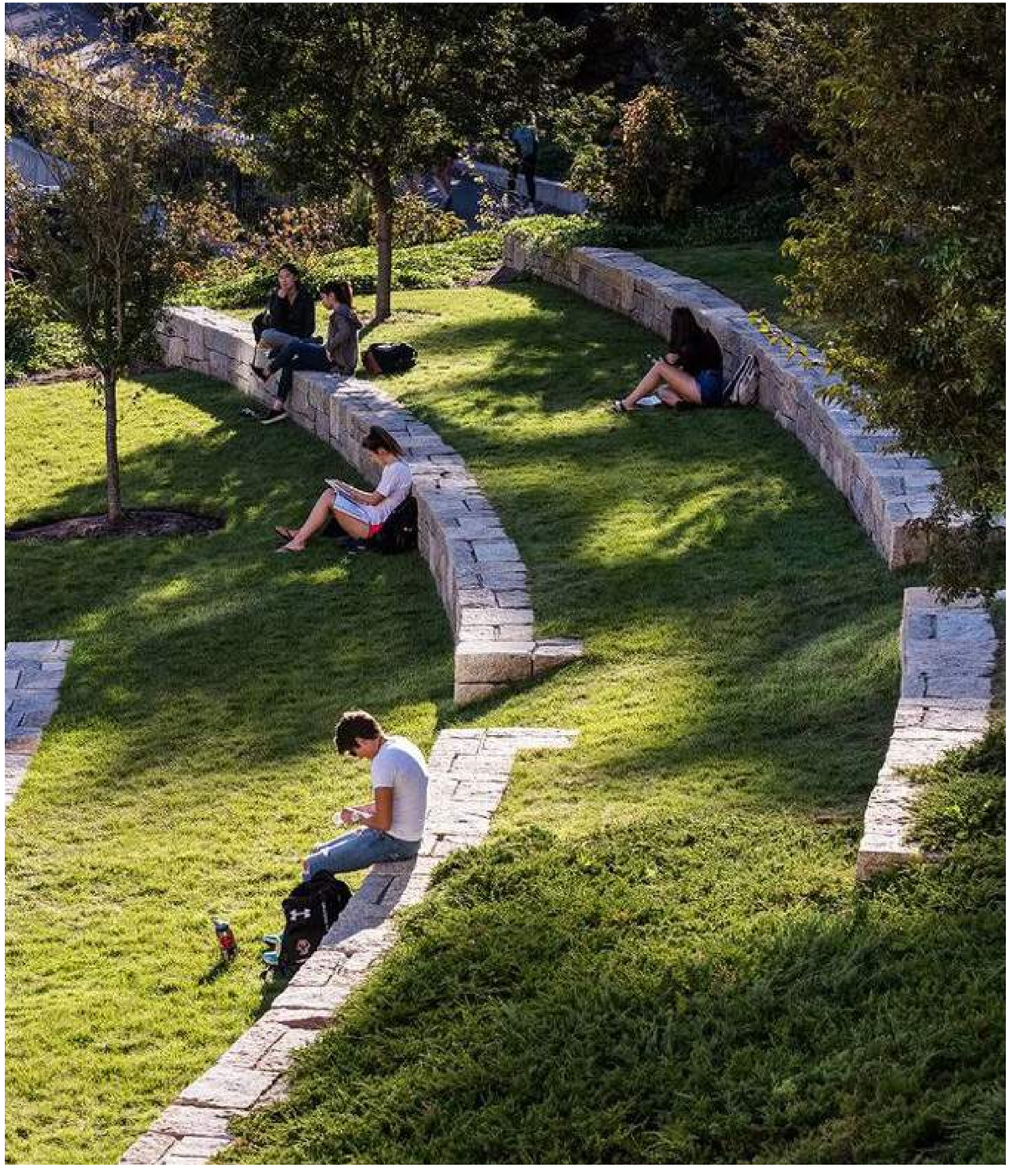


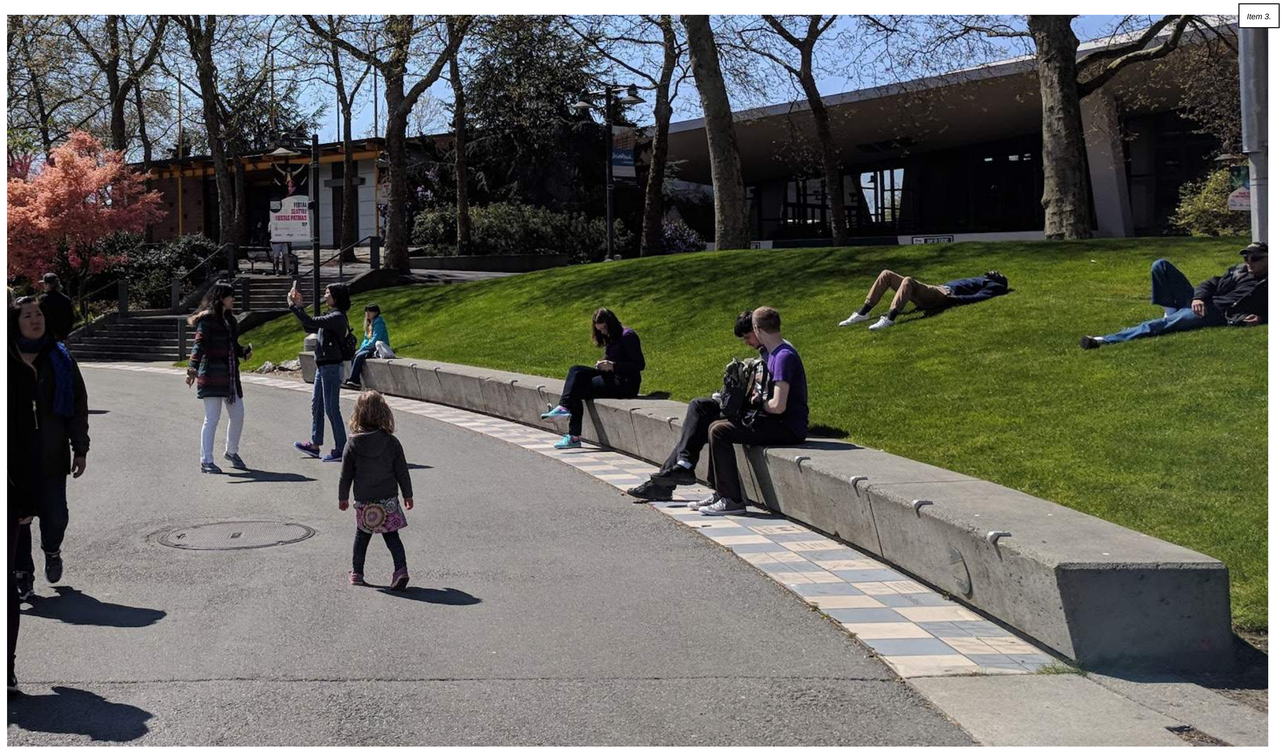




GROVELAND BEACH PARK

CONCEPT IMAGES: LAWN TERRACES / SEAT WALLS







GROVELAND BEACH PARK

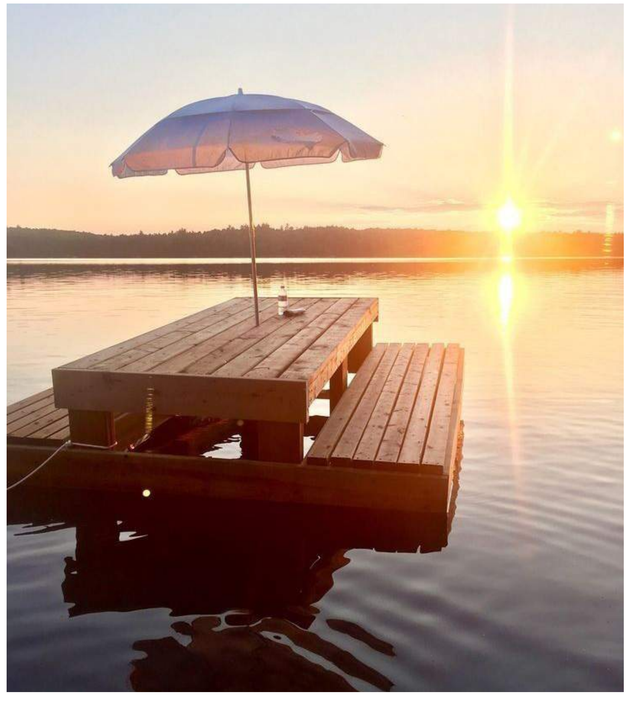
CONCEPT IMAGES: PIER/SWIMMING AMENITIES











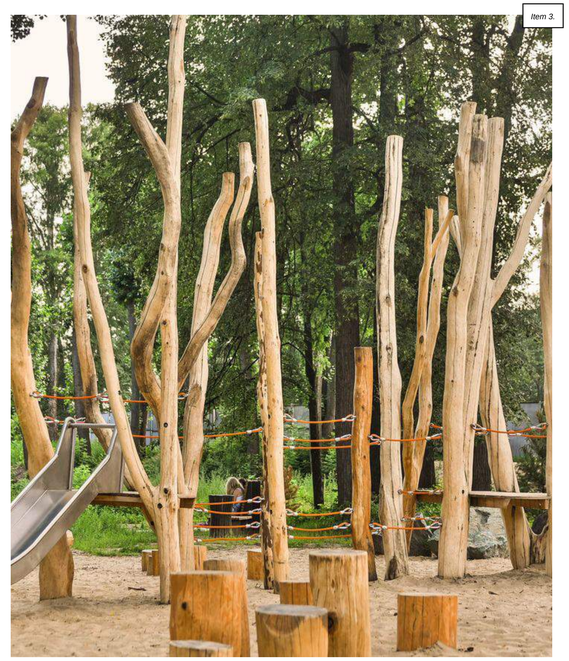


GROVELAND BEACH PARK

CONCEPT IMAGES: NATURE PLAY















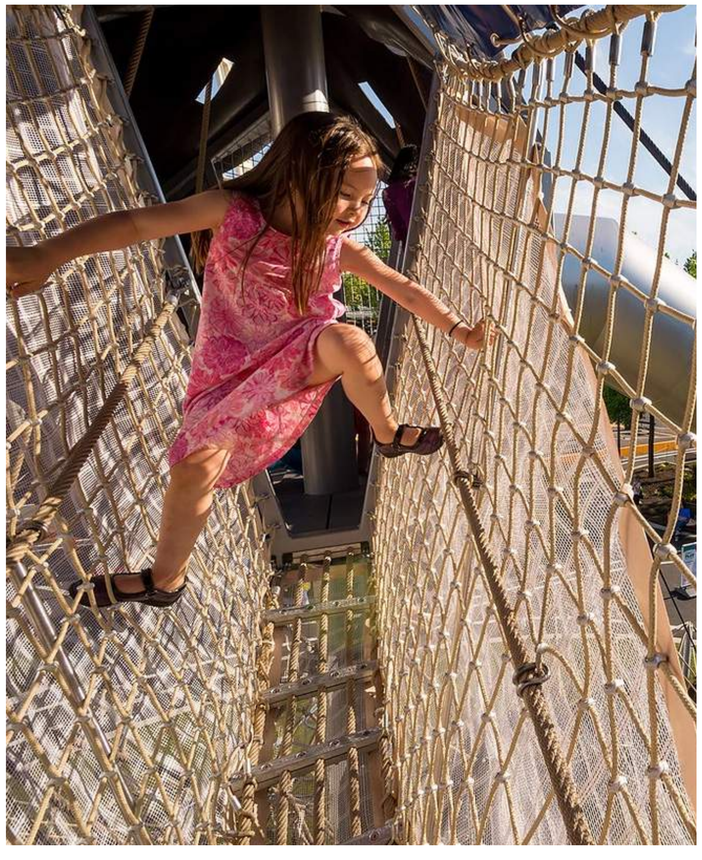
GROVELAND BEACH PARK

CONCEPT IMAGES: FOREST PLAY













Insert Berger Groveland Design Package Here

Community Engagement – Early Findings



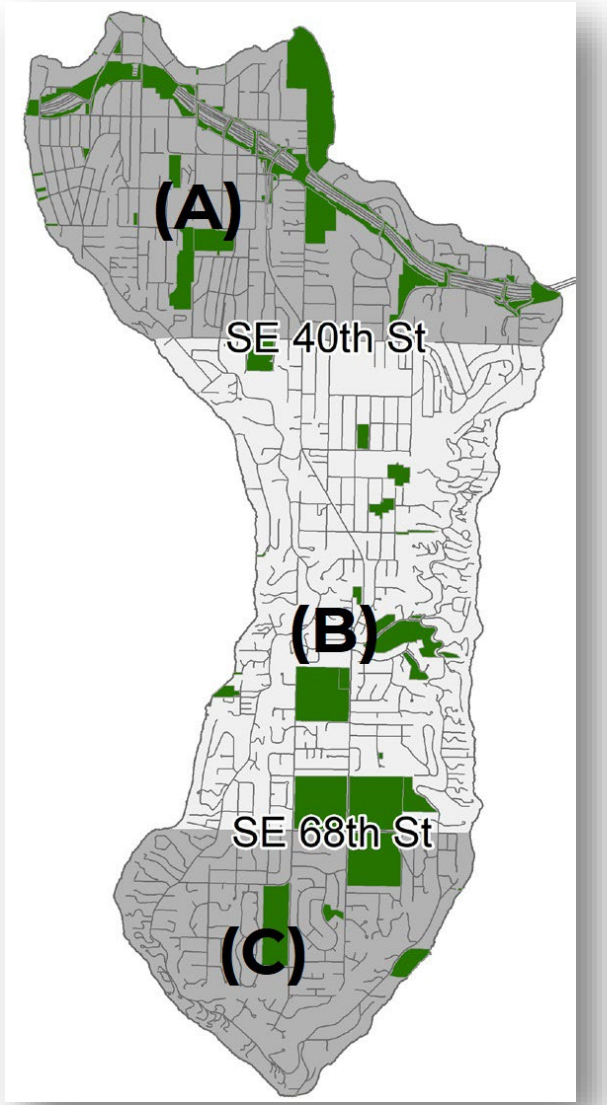
Early Engagement Overview

- Open October 3-November 3, 2025
- 104 total responses (as of 10/20)
- Promoted via:
  - Virtual Open House on Let's Talk
  - Posters in parks and at MICEC
  - MI Weekly and social media posts
  - Postcard mailer to park neighbors (1,000ft radius, 410 households)
  - Community partner cross-promotion (MISD, *Mercer Island Reporter*, etc.)
  - Tabling at community events



Survey Demographics

- Current response rates
  - 50% for Groveland
  - 21% for Clarke
  - 29% for Both Parks
- 60% of respondents live in Area B (between SE 40th and SE 68th).
- 39% are ages 45-54; 0% under 20.
- 50% do not have children under age 18 living in their household.



Preferences for Broader Site Features

- 63% of respondents value accessible paths to the waterfront and between amenities
- 69% support having a small watercraft launch point.
  - Only 40% said ADA-accessible launch is important.
- 52% find a rinse-off station outside the new restroom important.



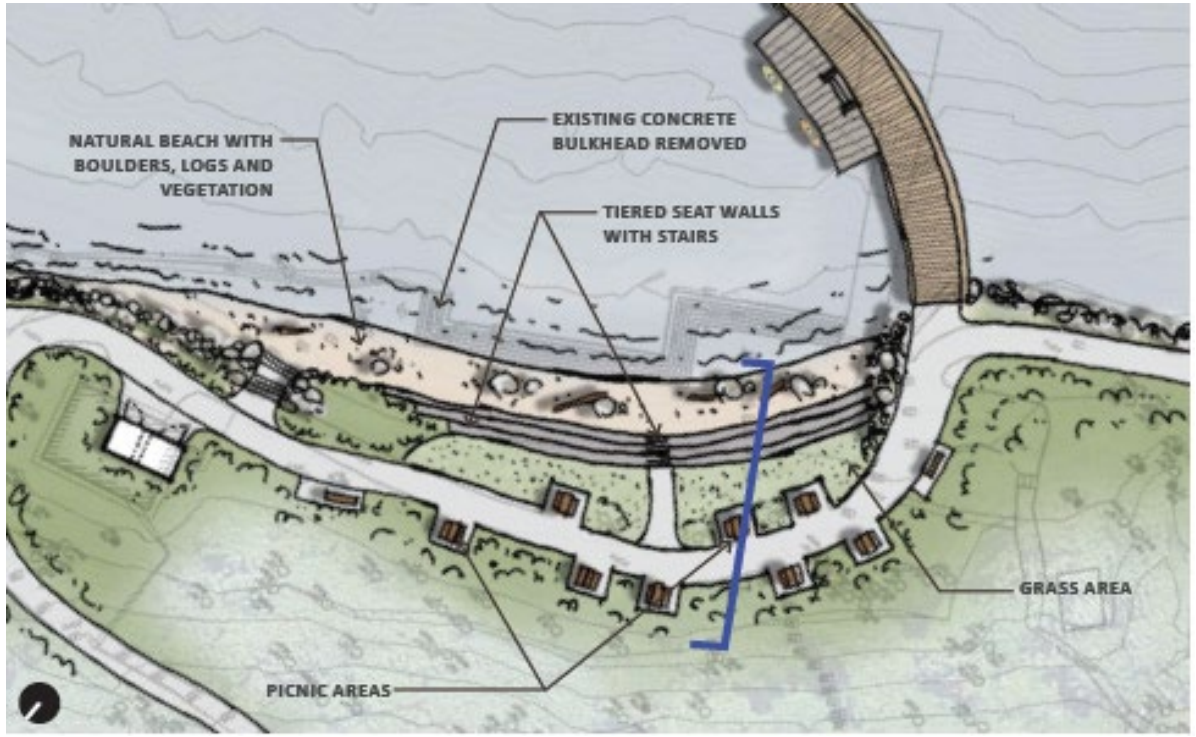
Waterfront Amenity Improvements

North Beach & Play Area



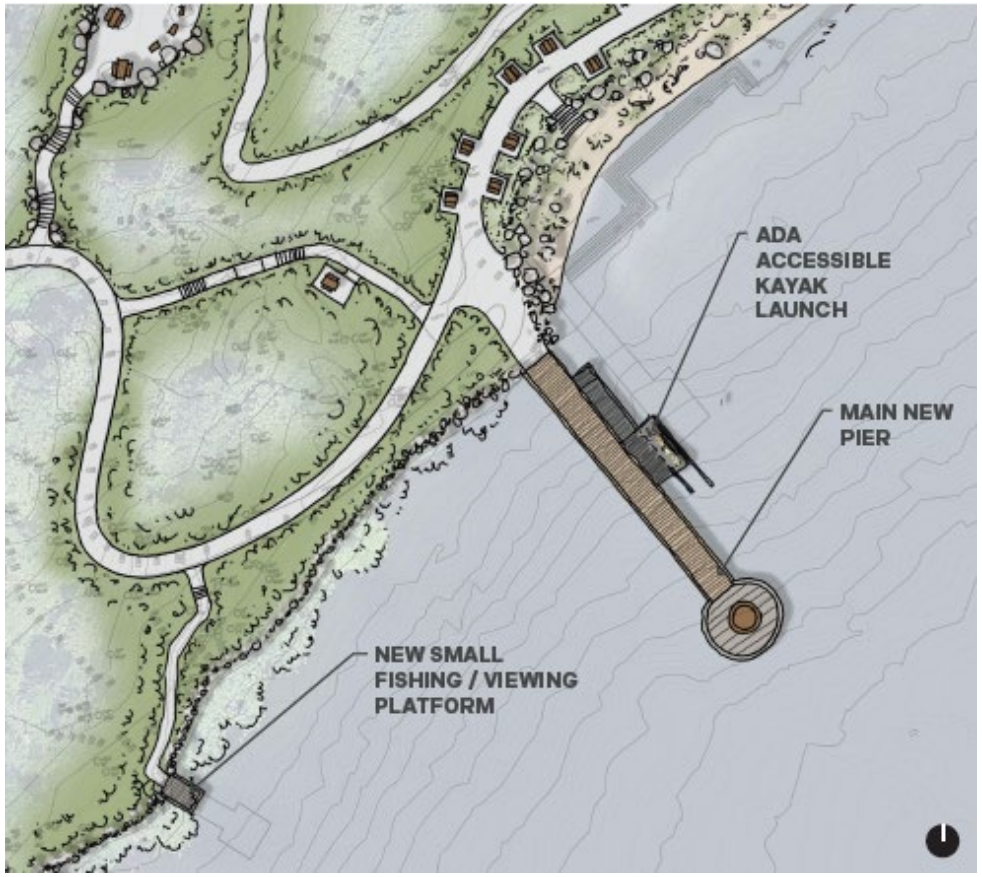
54% prefer Concept 1

Central Beach & Picnic Area

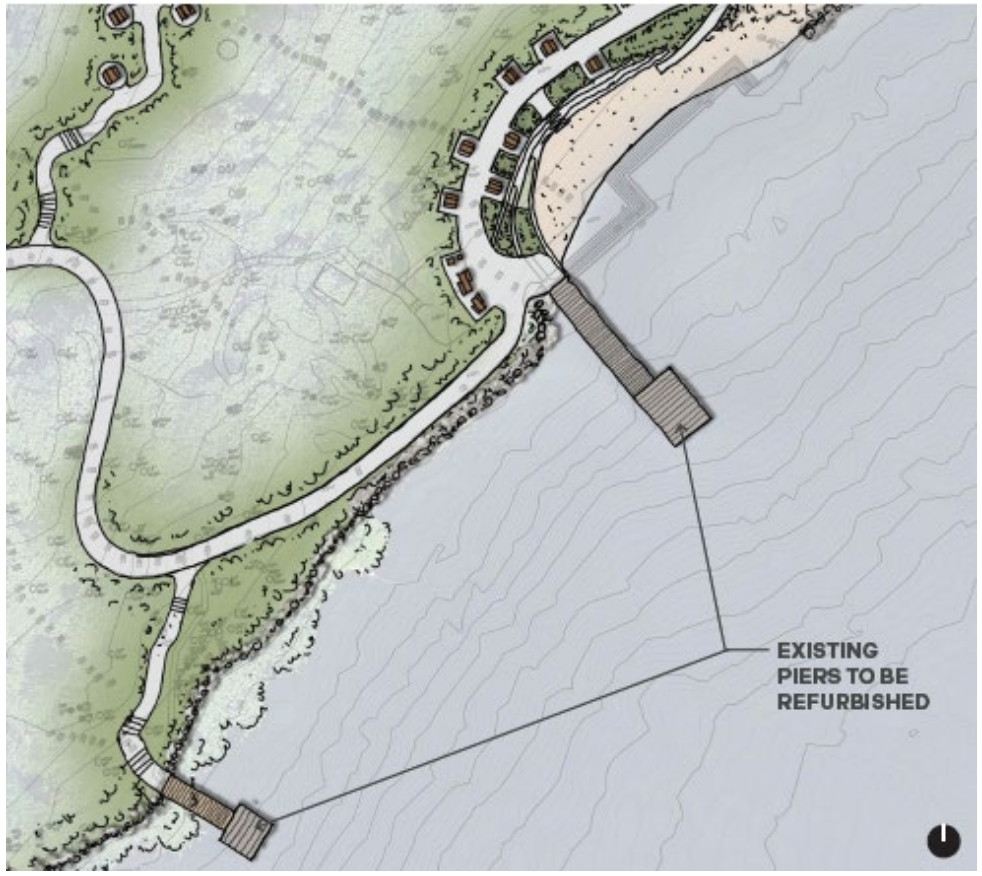


52% prefer Concept 2

Pier Configuration



37% prefer Concept 1



31% prefer Concept 3

Upland Improvements

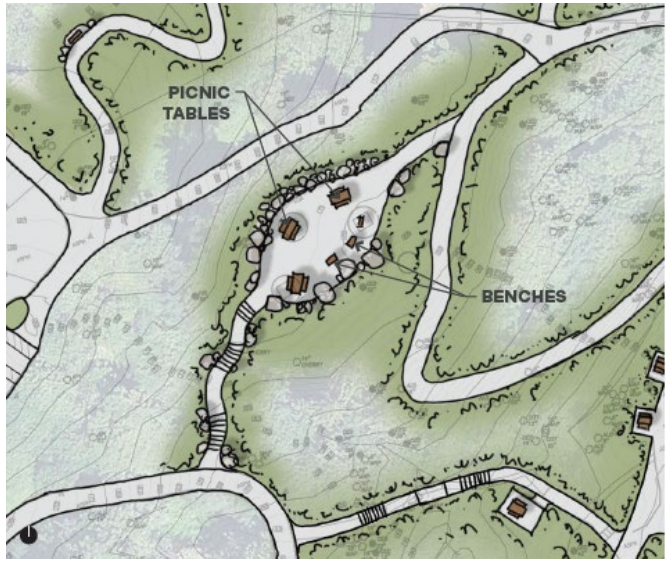
Seating Amenities

- 38% of responses are for a large group picnic area with multiple picnic tables (shown in Concept 1).
- 54% are for small areas with individual picnic tables (shown in Concept 3).
- 42% are for benches.

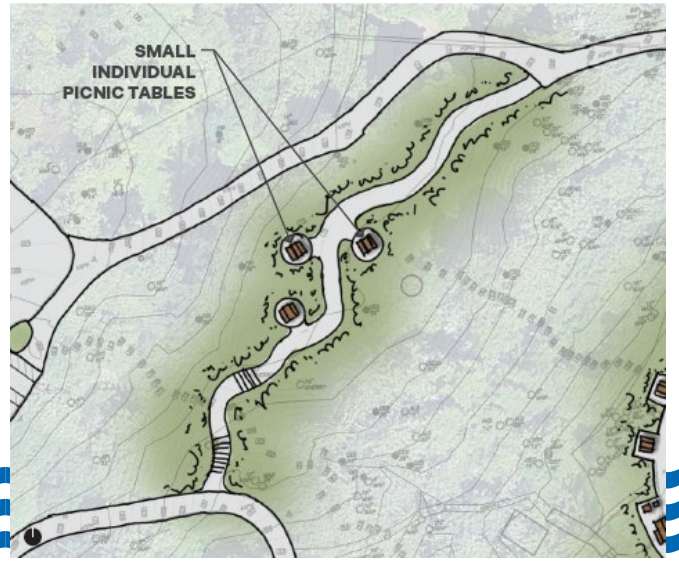
BBQ Amenities

- 27% of responses are for small BBQ stations for individual or family use.
- 10% are for a large group BBQ station.

Concept 1



Concept 3



Prioritizing Park Amenities

With limited funding, which park amenities would you prioritize for inclusion in the infrastructure plan? (1 = highest, 5 = lowest)

1. Dock/pier enhancements
2. Restroom upgrades
3. Accessible paths to beach and beach amenities
4. Gathering spaces and seating amenities
5. New play opportunities



Preferences for Broader Site Features

Volleyball Court

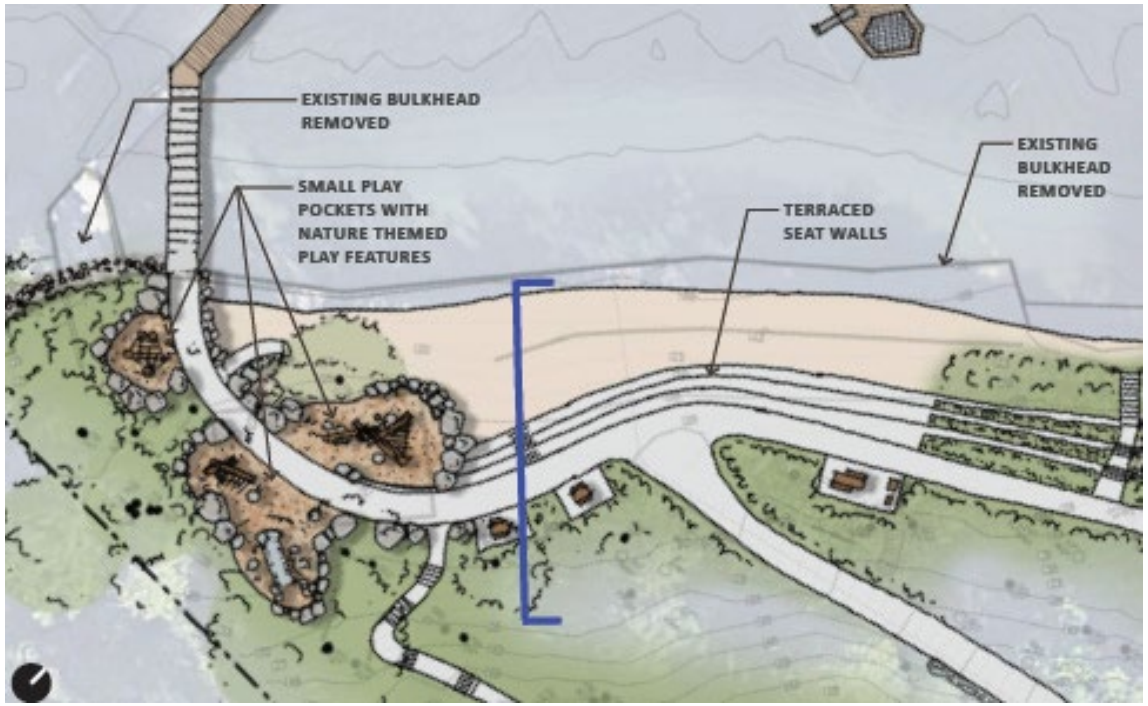
- 45% prefer to keep the sand volleyball court *(either in its current location or relocated in the park)* .
- 28% prefer that the sand volleyball court be removed.



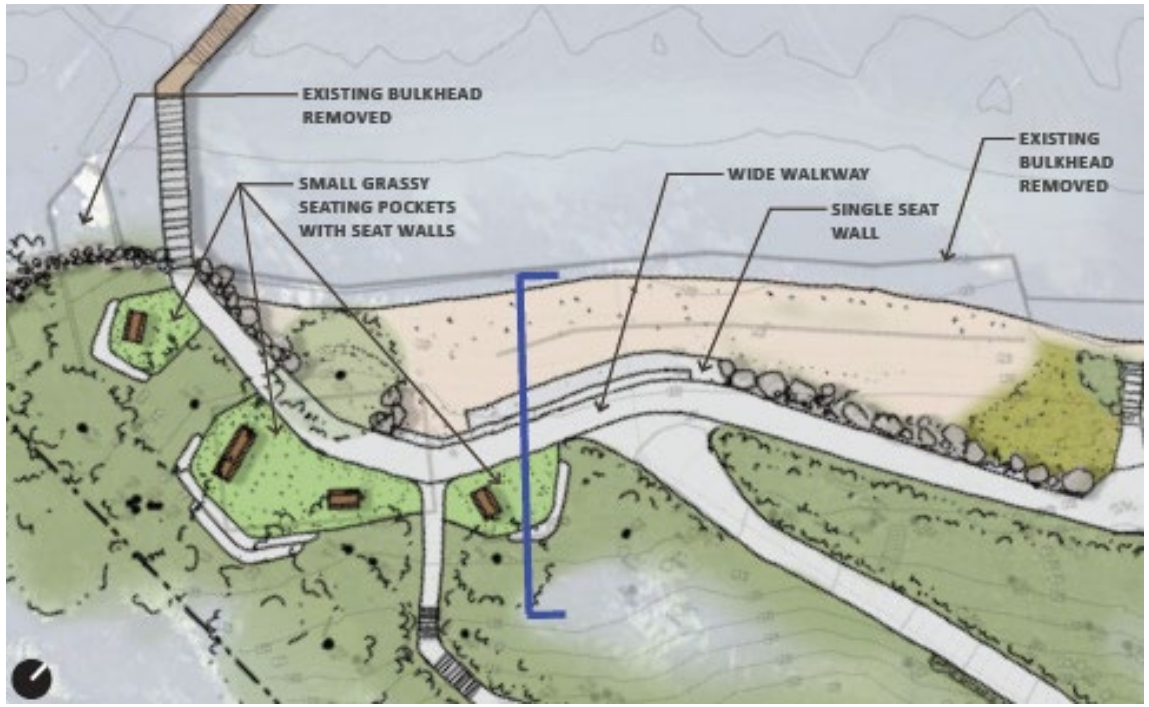
Restroom Facility Amenities

- 93% want an outdoor rinse-off station
- 42% want changing rooms
- 22% want small personal lockers
- 19% want an adult changing station

Waterfront Amenity Improvements



36% prefer Concept 2

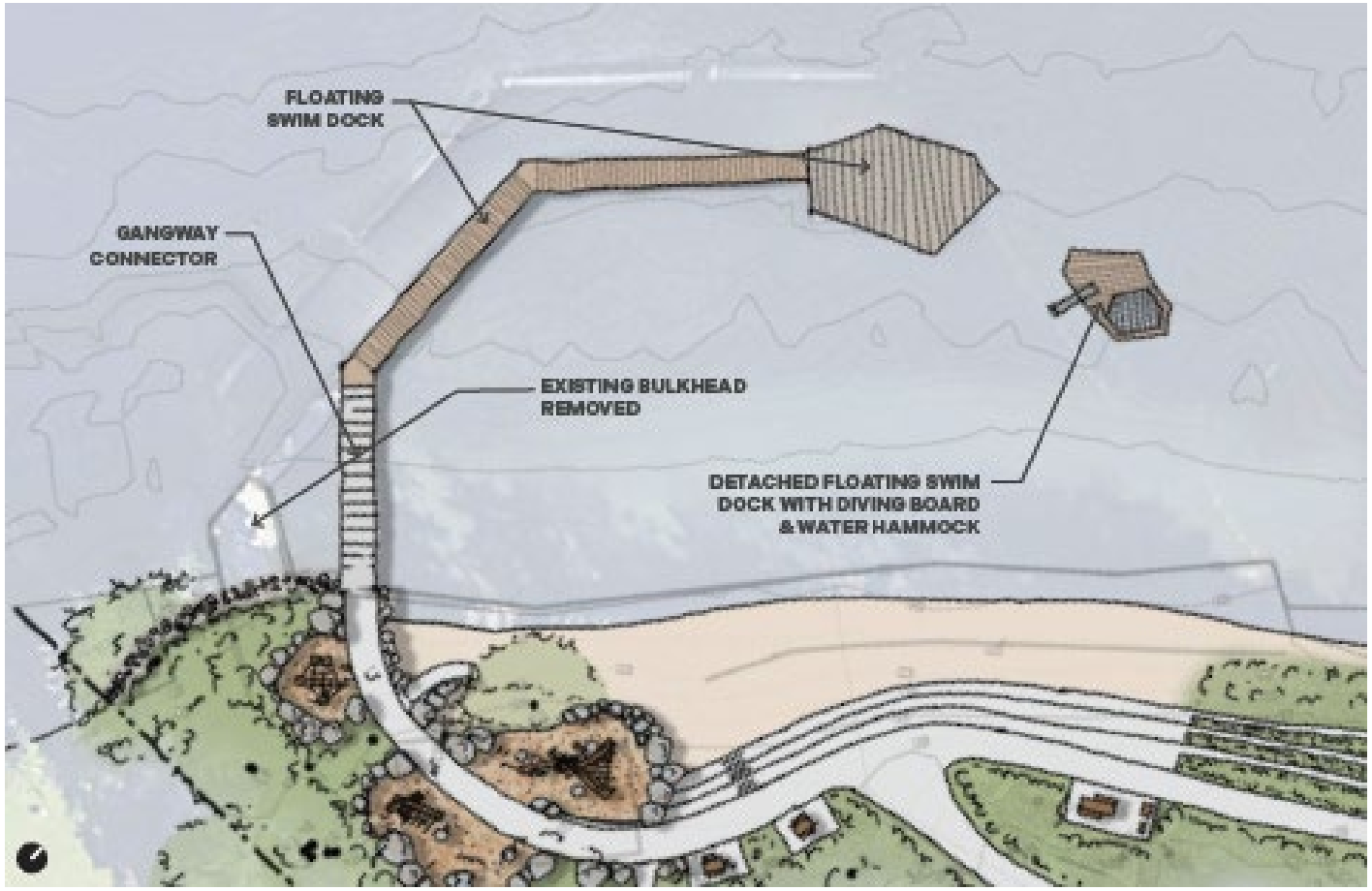


35% prefer Concept 3

Pier Configuration

53% prefer Concept 2

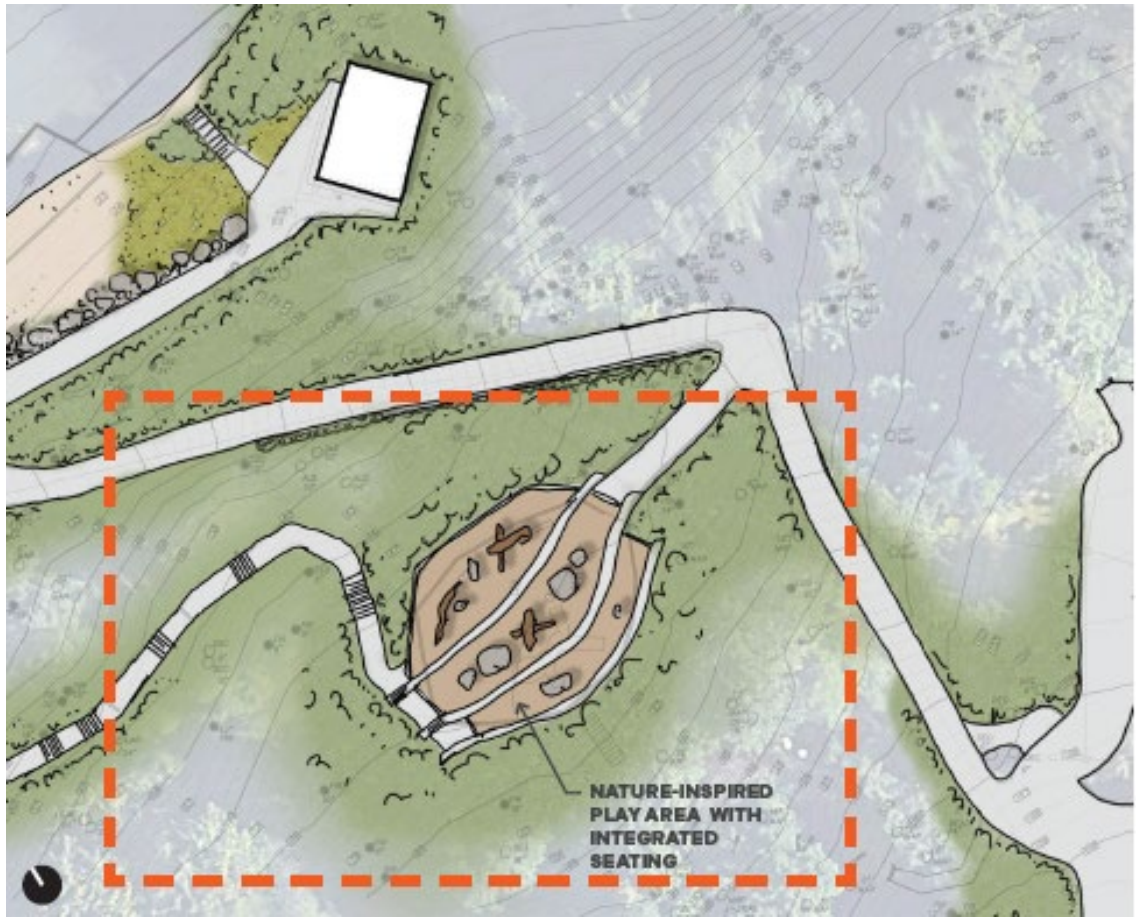
- Concept 1: 15%
- Concept 3: 26%



Upland Improvements

45% prefer Concept 3

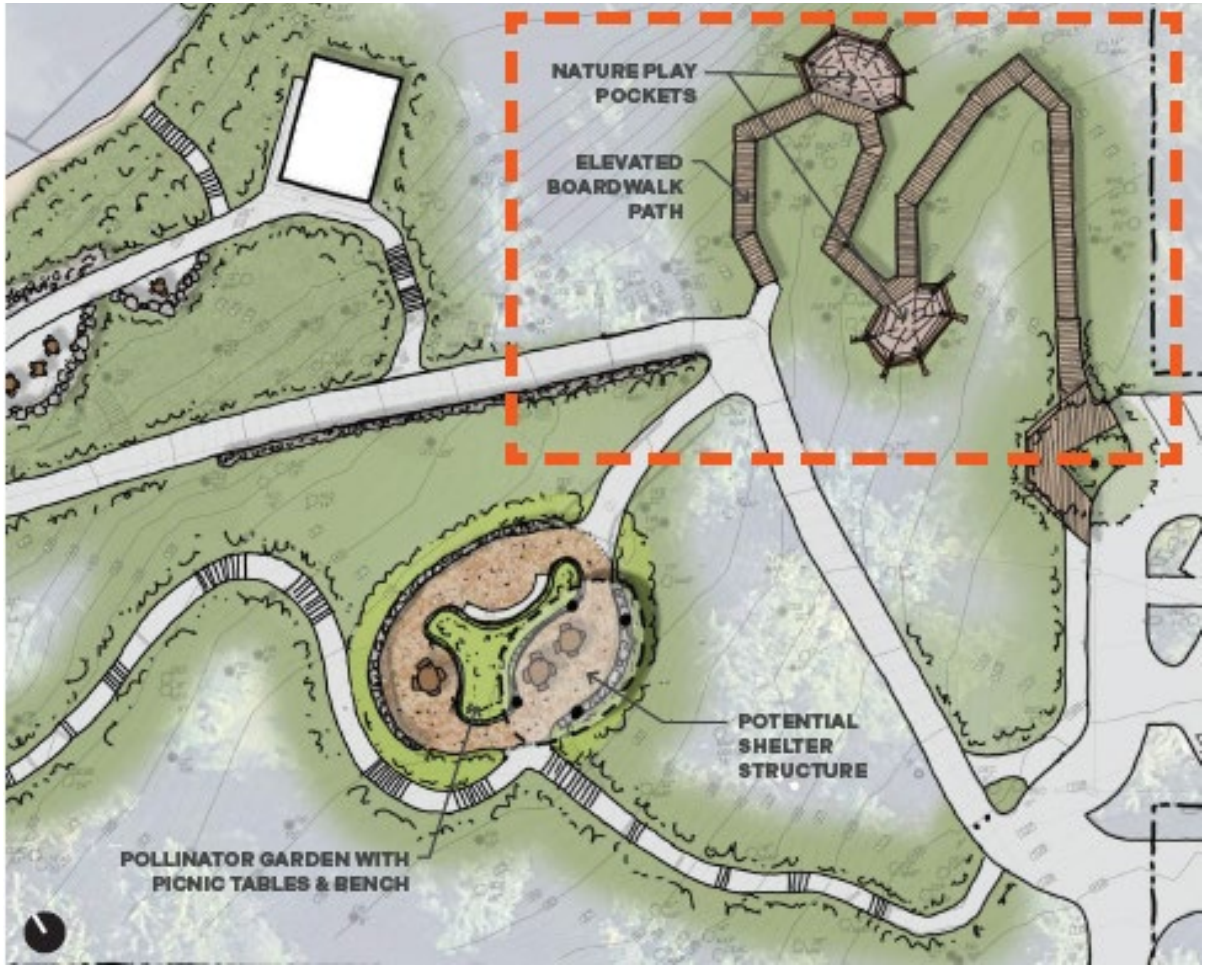
- Concept 1: 26%
- Concept 2: 26%



Prioritizing Park Amenities

Tree Canopy Boardwalk

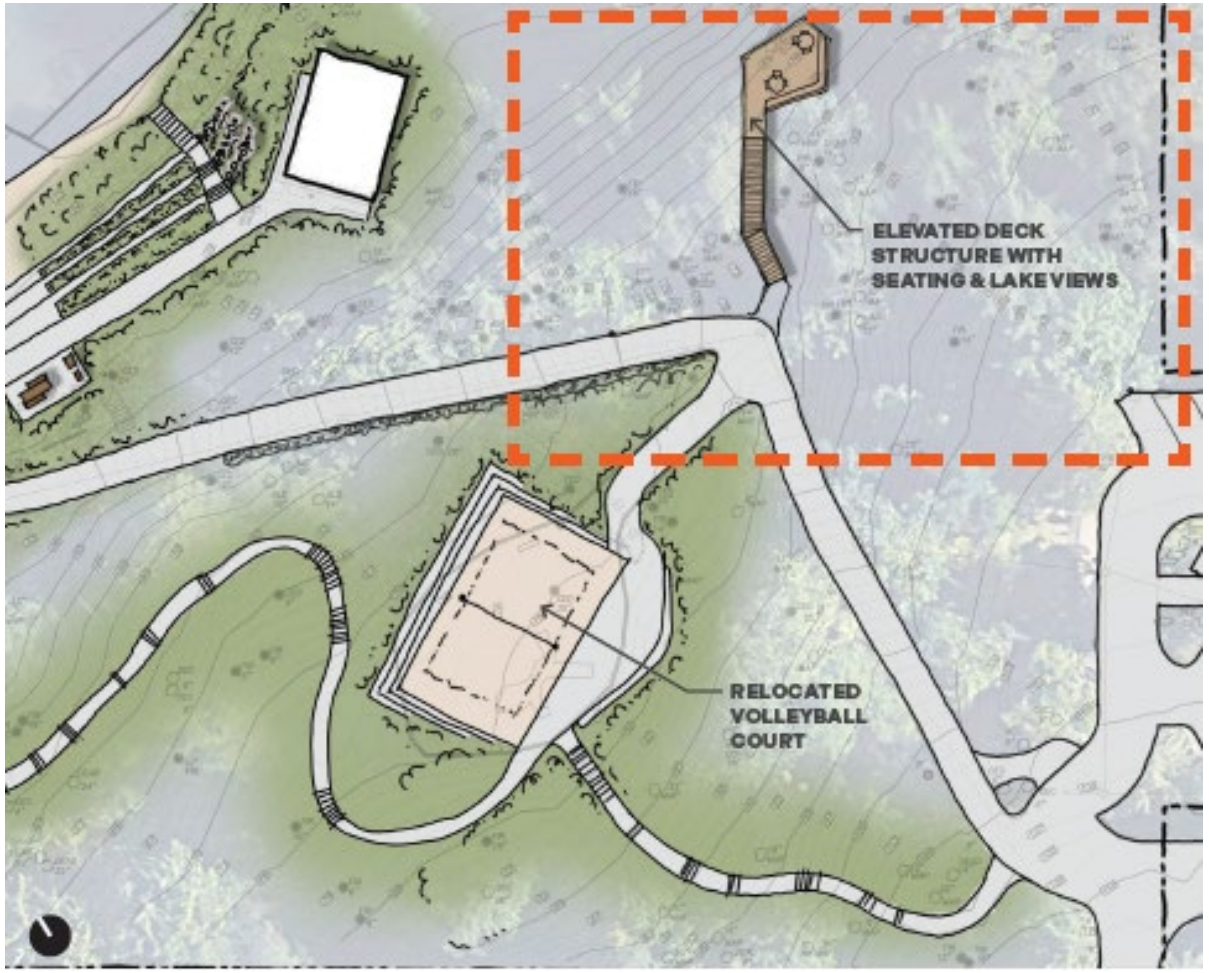
- 8% would prioritize before implementing other park improvements.
- 32% would prioritize after implementing other park improvements.
- 20% prefer not to include the tree canopy boardwalk or the elevated viewing deck



Prioritizing Park Amenities

Elevated Viewing Deck

- 6% would prioritize before implementing other park improvements.
- 29% would prioritize after implementing other park improvements.
- 20% prefer not to include the tree canopy boardwalk or the elevated viewing deck.



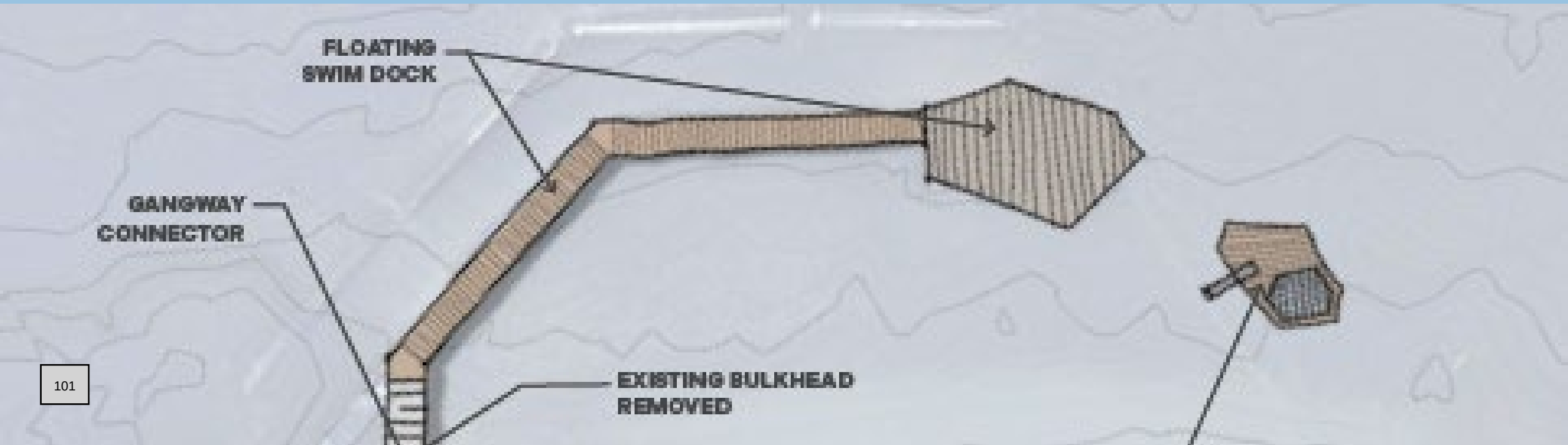
Prioritizing Park Amenities

With limited funding, which park amenities would you prioritize for inclusion in the infrastructure plan? (1 = highest, 5 = lowest)

1. Dock/pier enhancements
2. Restroom upgrades
3. Gathering spaces and seating amenities
4. New play opportunities
5. Accessible paths to beach and beach amenities



Discussion + Next Steps



Purpose - Design Refinement Discussion

1. Do the concepts reflect the community input received to-date? If not, what's missing or needs further emphasis?
2. Are the proposed uses and amenities consistent with the intended character of each park? Are there additions, removals, or adjustments the Commission recommends?
3. Are there specific features from different concepts that should be combined in the preferred design for each park?
4. Do the shoreline restoration and ecological improvements align with the project's goals for sustainability and habitat enhancement?
5. Do the concepts support equitable access to amenities across all waterfront parks?
6. Does a single concept or combination of elements best represent the Commission's preferred direction for each site?
7. Do the concepts represent appropriate levels of investment relative to the Commission's expectations for the joint infrastructure plan?

Project Schedule

Q1-Q2 2025

Pre-Design and Pre-Engagement

Q2-Q4 2025

Draft Plan Development

We are here!

Q1-Q2 2026

Plan Review and Adoption

Project information available at **www.mercerisland.gov/cgip**.

Thank You!



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

PRC 25-12
October 20, 2025
Regular Business

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	PRC 25-12: Athletic Field Use Review and Discussion	☒ Discussion Only ☐ Action Needed: ☐ Motion ☐ Recommendation
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Receive report and provide input.	

STAFF:	Ryan Daly, Recreation Manager Jeremy Jasman, Recreation Coordinator
EXHIBITS:	N/A

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda bill is to present an update on athletic field usage since the implementation of the Parks and Recreation Commission endorsed 2022 *Athletic Facilities Allocation and Use Policy*.

- The Recreation Division manages access to a diverse inventory of 26 athletic facilities/amenities across four parks and three elementary schools.
- Recreation Division staff dedicate approximately 1,500 hours annually to scheduling and allocating athletic facilities, maintaining user communication, and coordinating access and facility needs.
- Booked field hours have increased 45% since adoption of the policy in 2022.
- The existing three-tier, seven-sub-tier allocation framework requires significant administrative and review time.
- The changing landscape in youth sports is beginning to blend the lines between “select” teams and recreation-based teams.
- Some user groups have shared confusion regarding priority status and guaranteed access.
- Achieving the right balance between desired field times and efficient field allocation remains a central challenge.

BACKGROUND

The Recreation Division is responsible for the reservations of City managed athletic fields at 26 athletic fields/amenities across four parks and three elementary schools. These facilities accommodate a variety of athletic usages for all ages including soccer, baseball, boys and girls’ lacrosse, ultimate frisbee, softball, track and field, football, and flag football.

The City’s inventory of athletic fields/amenities includes:

- (9) grass multi-purpose fields
- (4) dirt/grass youth baseball/softball fields
- (3) synthetic turf multi-purpose fields
- (2) synthetic turf infield/grass outfields softball fields
- (1) synthetic turf softball field
- (1) synthetic turf t-ball field

- (1) synthetic turf full-size baseball field
- (1) dirt/grass full-size baseball field
- (2) batting cages
- (2) concession stands

Policy Development
City staff developed the current *Athletic Facilities Allocation and Use Policy* through extensive communication and collaboration with athletic field users. The goal was to create a policy that ensures consistent, equitable, and transparent access to athletic fields.

In December 2021, staff held an introductory virtual meeting via Zoom, inviting all athletic field users from the previous three years. During this meeting, participants reviewed the existing field application and allocation process and were informed of the City's intent to update the Field Use Policy. Following this, in April 2022, staff distributed a draft version of the updated policy to field users for review and feedback.

In May 2022, staff presented a revised draft that reflected both staff and user input. After further review and discussion during a Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) meeting, the City formally adopted the updated policy, renaming it the Athletic Facilities Allocation and Use Policy.

This updated policy was the product of extensive engagement with athletic field users and was designed to promote equitable, transparent, and efficient allocation and management of athletic field resources.

Key components of the current policy include:
- Supports cost recovery and diverse community use.
- Three-tier system based on residency, organization type, and recreation focus.
- Prioritization of youth and recreation-based organizations with 75% or more Mercer Island residents.
- Emphasis on fair access, safety, and responsible field stewardship.

Reservations
Annually, Recreation Division dedicate approximately 1,500 staff hours toward reviewing field use requests, allocating field time, communicating between user groups, and coordinating field-prep schedules and specialized maintenance. To support the reservation process, staff establish and communicate dates for priority booking periods. The priority booking period is the time frame in which any organization desiring field access may submit requests for the established season.

The procedure staff utilize to schedule fields is as follows (seasonally):
1. Notify all user groups who have booked in previous years about the upcoming priority booking window.
2. Collect booking requests by the identified submission deadline.
3. Organize all submissions by tier and sub-tier for review.
4. Allocations are entered into the recreation facility booking software, staff issue tentative rental agreements with a deadline for confirmation or requested changes.
5. Open online bookings for the remainder of the season.

Over the past year staff have implemented several strategies to improve communication and strengthen relationships with user groups by:
- Providing weekly field prep reminders, monthly invoices and hosting an end-of-the-year meeting with the user groups.
- Providing multiple reminders leading up to each priority booking window.
- Sending out field availability notices to user groups after cancellations occur.

- Improving coordination with Mercer Island School District to align maintenance schedules and field availability.
- Developing data tracking methods to support detailed reporting on trends in field use, participation, and facility demand.

Efficiency and ease of access have been key factors guiding staff toward operational improvements. Some of the most beneficial improvements implemented in the last two years are:

- Acceptance of requests through online submittal process (CivicOptimize).
  - Reducing e-mail and phone-based reservation requests.
  - Creating a uniform process for ease of staff review.
  - Establish consistency and structure for process.
- Consolidated booking windows.
  - Combining three seasonal periods (Spring, Summer, Fall/Winter) into two (Spring/Summer, Fall/Winter).
  - Extending booking windows for easier game and practice scheduling.
  - Reducing staff time spent on priority bookings.
- Implemented self-service online field bookings.
  - Enabling real-time availability viewing and instant booking.
  - Minimizing back-and-forth communication.
  - Reducing administrative workload.
- Optimized scheduling and rental stacking.
  - Minimizing gaps between reservations.
  - Increasing usable field time and scheduling flexibility.
  - Maximizing field utilization.
- Expanded use of reporting and data analysis.
  - Expanded reporting tools to track usage trends.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

Since implementation of the updated *Athletic Facilities Allocation and Use Policy* in 2022 athletic field bookings have increased annually. This increase is attributed to various factors which include ease of access to booking, a staff focus on promoting available times, online booking availability, and proactive scheduling.

Over the past three years, staff have observed changes in sports participation. The emergence of new sports, new teams, and organizations; along with a growing demand for athletic field access from both residents and non-residents. While youth and recreation-based organizations have historically met the needs of athletic participants, new trends are beginning to shift the amateur sports landscape. Increasingly, new teams and smaller organizations, adult leagues, and expanding high school sports have provided more diverse options for traditional service providers, increasing demand on facilities.

Staff are committed to a process of continuous improvement, striving to maximize access to athletic fields and meet community needs through the regular review of related policies. In addition to responding to local demand, staff recognize the value of expanding field use opportunities to generate additional revenues by hosting tournaments and accommodating non-resident organizations.

Tonight, staff will present an overview of athletic field usage trends from 2022 to 2025, identifying areas of success and opportunities for refinement.

Outcomes between 2022 and 2025:

- The number of field contract holders increased by 115% — from 46 to 99.
- Total field hours booked increased by 45% — from 7,930.50 to 11,482.25 hours.
- Tier 1 usage accounts for 83% of total hours — 31,103.25 hours
- Tier 2 usage accounts for 8% of total hours — 3,401 hours
- Tier 3 usage accounts for 9% of total hours — 3,144.25 hours
- Top 3 resident user groups:
    - Mercer Island Boys and Girls Club
        - 2022: 1,853.50 hours
        - 2023: 1,855 hours
        - 2024: 2,008.50 hours
        - 2025: 2,404.75 hours *(as of 10/1/25 report)*
    - Mercer Island School District
        - 2022: 1,908.75 hours
        - 2023: 1,829.25 hours
        - 2024: 1,905 hours
        - 2025: 1,586.50 hours *(as of 10/1/25 report)*
            - *Note: MIHS baseball and softball teams did not make it far into the post-season in 2025, resulting in reduced field usage*.
    - Mercer Island FC
        - 2022: 1,743 hours
        - 2023: 1,854 hours
        - 2024: 1,806 hours
        - 2025: 1,775.50 hours *(as of 10/1/25 report)*

- Since October 2024, 12% of all bookings have been completed through the self-service online booking option.
- Off-season use has risen modestly; reflecting flexible scheduling, expanded outreach, and increased access to synthetic turf fields.

Current Challenges & Opportunities:

- Complex tier structure: The current system includes three (3) tiers and seven (7) sub-tiers, requiring extensive staff review time.
- Emerging group types: Growth in “select” teams challenges existing recreation-based definitions.
- Public understanding: The current policy format blends principals, a tiered approach, and other considerations. Many users equate priority status with guaranteed time, creating mismatched expectations.
- Optimization vs. Equity: Balancing desired access with optimal field utilization.
- Seasonality: More sports are offering year-round programming and seeking year-round field time.

To assist in promoting discussion, staff have developed some key questions for PRC contemplation:

1. Tier Simplification: The current three-tier model with numerous sub-tiers requires significant administrative time.
   Would the Commission support simplifying or consolidating user categories? If so, what criteria do you feel are important in establishing priority?

2. Evolving Definitions: As “select” community teams increase (those which may cut players), *should staff adapt the definition of “recreation-based organizations” to better reflect and enable resident participation despite organization type?*

3. Allocation Criteria: *Should priority tier guarantee all requested times, or should staff maintain flexibility to optimize field schedules for the greatest community benefit? Should staff continue using multiple criteria (residency, age, type, participation level) when evaluating access, rather than relying solely on age and residency?*

4. Scheduling Efficiency: Staff have enhanced scheduling efficiency and field utilization by stacking user groups, enabling greater access and participation, but impacting specific requests.
   Does the Commission support this practice? Should it be better defined established in a policy update?

5. Cross-Field Flexibility:
   Would the Commission support a policy statement which allows staff to schedule groups to alternate fields when it allows multiple users to participate (e.g., relocating soccer to Homestead to accommodate baseball at ICP)?

NEXT STEPS

Following tonight’s discussion, coupled with Commission input, staff will be conducting a survey and soliciting input from user groups to better understand satisfaction with the current policy and procedures. Staff will utilize information gained through this engagement, to develop updates to the current policy and procedures.

Staff anticipate returning to the PRC in January seeking endorsement of policy updates and anticipating these updates would become effective in March 2026 in time for implementation during the Fall/Winter 2026 priority booking window, which opens in July 2026.

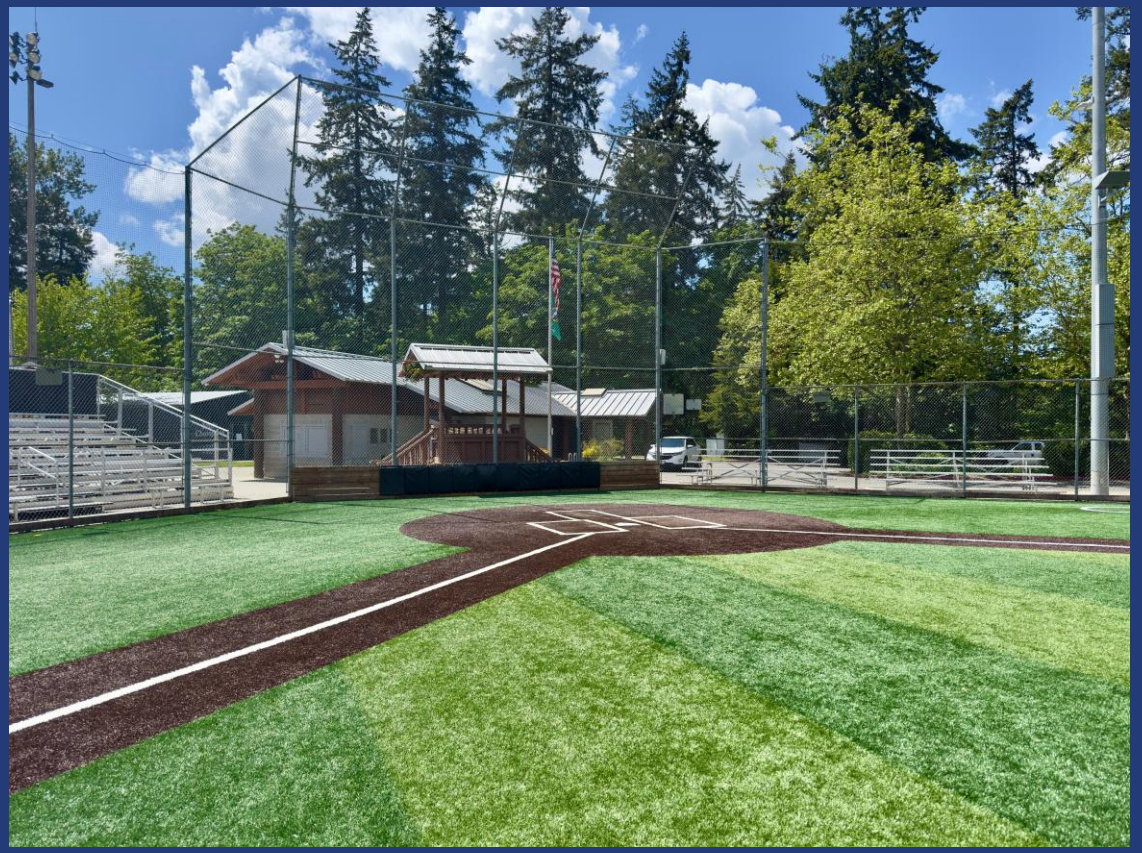
RECOMMENDED ACTION

Receive report and provide input.

Athletic Field Use Review and Discussion PRC 25-12

Parks and Recreation Commission

October 20, 2025



Agenda

- Background
- Booking Process
- Field Usage 2022-2025
- Key Takeaways
- Challenges & Opportunities
- Next Steps
- Discussion

Background

The Recreation Division is responsible managing 26 athletic fields/amenities across four parks and three elementary schools.

- **2016:**
  - A formal Field Use Policy was adopted and applied until 2022.
  - Created a system for field allocation that relied less on historical use.
- **December 2021:**
  - Staff hosted a virtual meeting (Zoom) with athletic field users.
  - Participants reviewed existing field application and allocation process.
  - Staff announced intent to update the City's Field Use Policy.
- **April 2022:**
  - Distributed a draft version of the updated policy to field users for review and feedback.
- **May 2022:**
  - Presented a revised draft incorporating staff and user input that focused principles on being benefits focused, support diverse use, equitable and fair, and demonstrate good stewardship of facilities.
  - PRC conducted review and discussion.
  - City formally adopted the current Athletic Facilities Allocation and Use Policy.

Booking Process

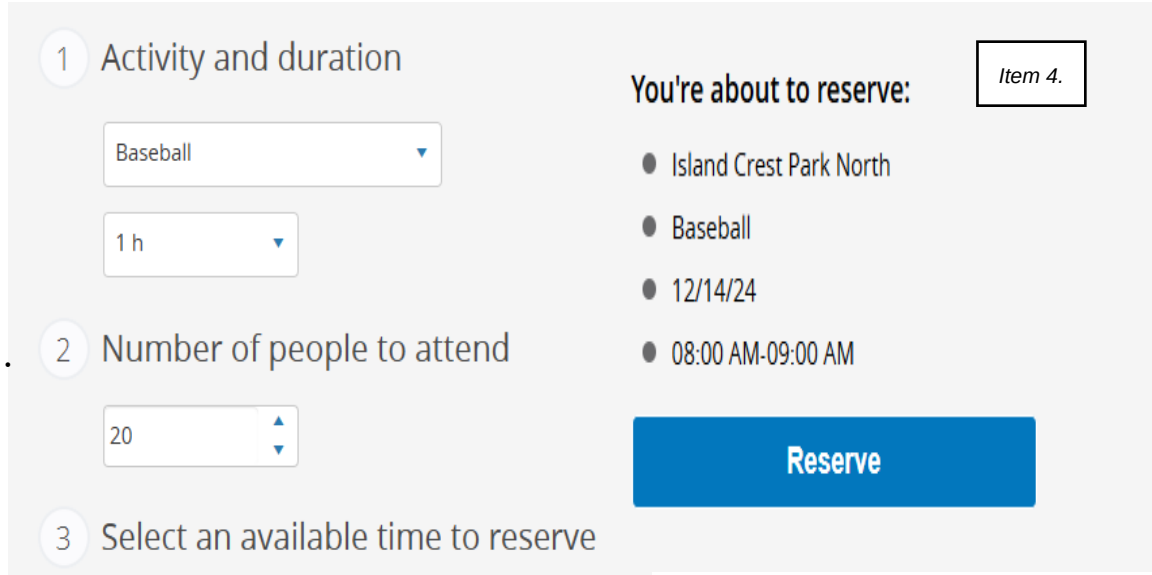
Staff dedicate approximate 1,500 staff hours annually:

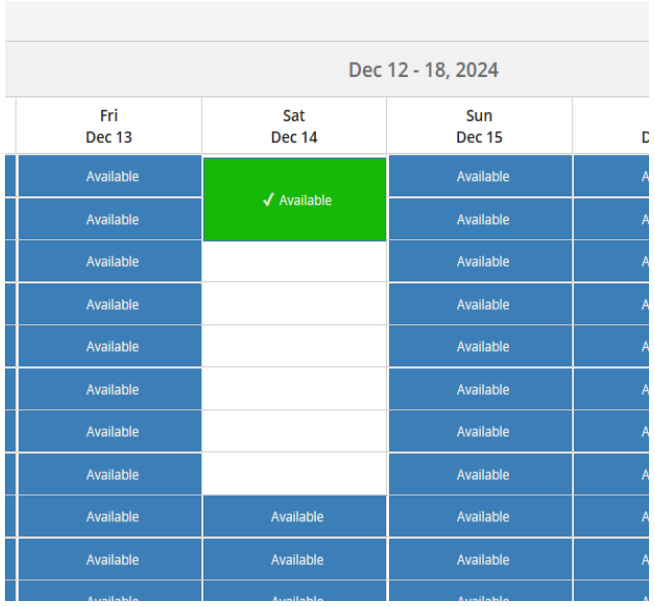
1. Notify all user groups of upcoming priority booking window and deadlines.
2. Collect booking requests.
   - (30-40 groups approximately requesting 5,000-6,000 hours).
3. **Organize/review submissions by tier and sub-tier.**
4. **Staff issue tentative rental agreements.**
5. Executed rental agreements are returned to staff.
6. Open online portal for self-service bookings.

Booking Process

Improvements implemented in last 2 years:

- Implemented web-based request system (CivicOptimize).
  - Reducing e-mail and phone-based reservation requests.
  - Creating a uniform process for ease of staff review.
- Established two priority booking windows.
  - Reducing staff time spent on priority bookings.
  - Extending booking windows for easier game and practice scheduling.
- Implemented self-service online field bookings.
  - Ease of access/significant reduction of staff time.
  - Reducing administrative workload.
- Optimized scheduling and rental stacking.
  - Increasing usable field time.
  - Maximizing field utilization.
- Expanded use of reporting and data analysis.
  - Tracking usage trends.





Practice of Stacking Rentals

Stacking during Priority Booking Period + Online Bookings After = Field Maximization

May 2022
2 Groups
19 hours of field usage

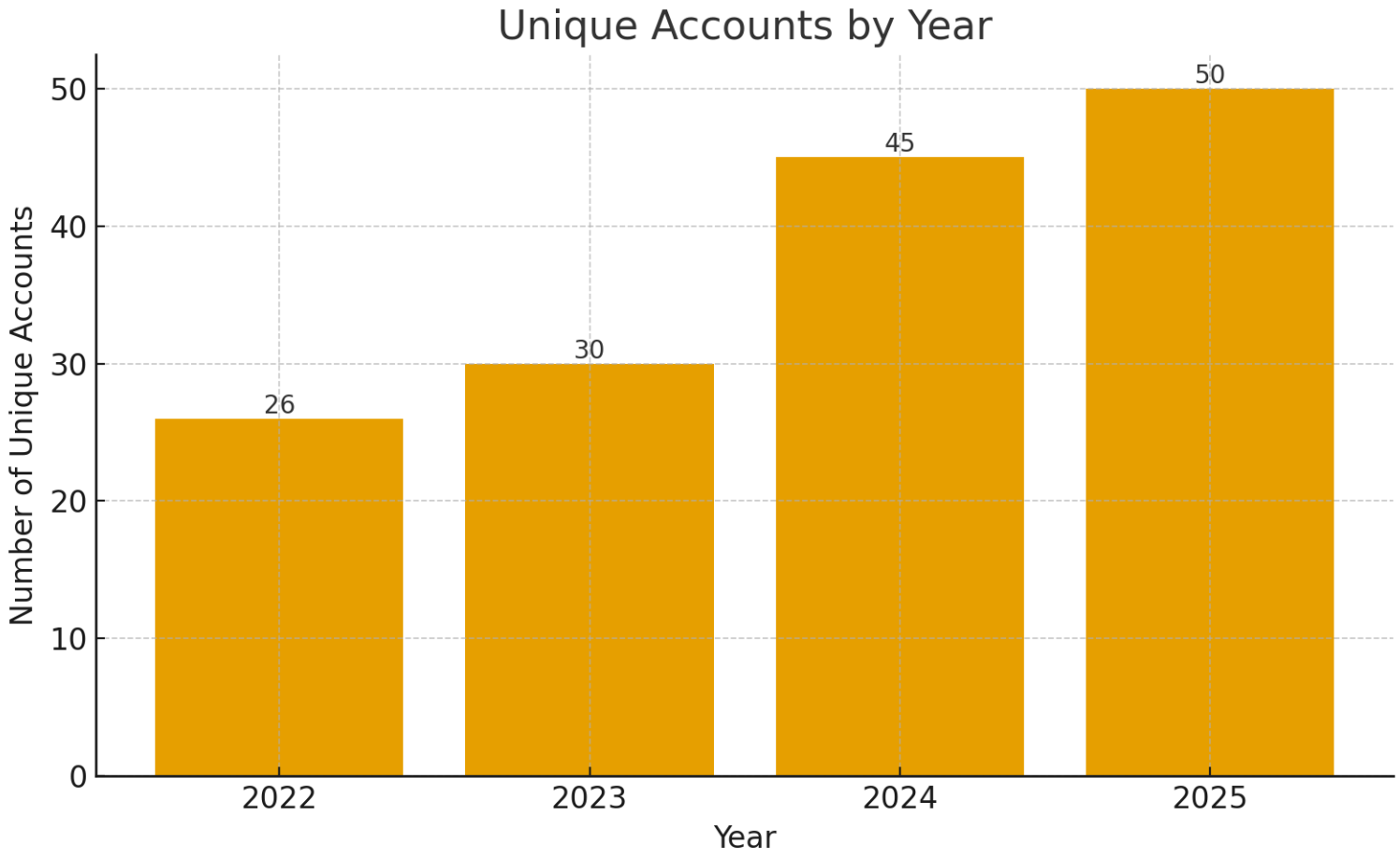
Time	SMP 1	SMP 2	SMP 3	SMP Turf	IMS Turf
9:00am					
	Group A	Group A	Group A		
Noon				Group B	Group B
4:00pm					
				Group B	
6:00pm					
9:00pm					

May 2025
6 Groups
42 hours of field usage

Time	SMP 1	SMP 2	SMP 3	SMP Turf	IMS Turf
9:00am	Group A	Group A	Group A	Group B	Group B
Noon					
	Group C			Group D	Group D Online
4:00pm					
				Group B	Group F Online
6:00pm					
			Group E		
9:00pm					

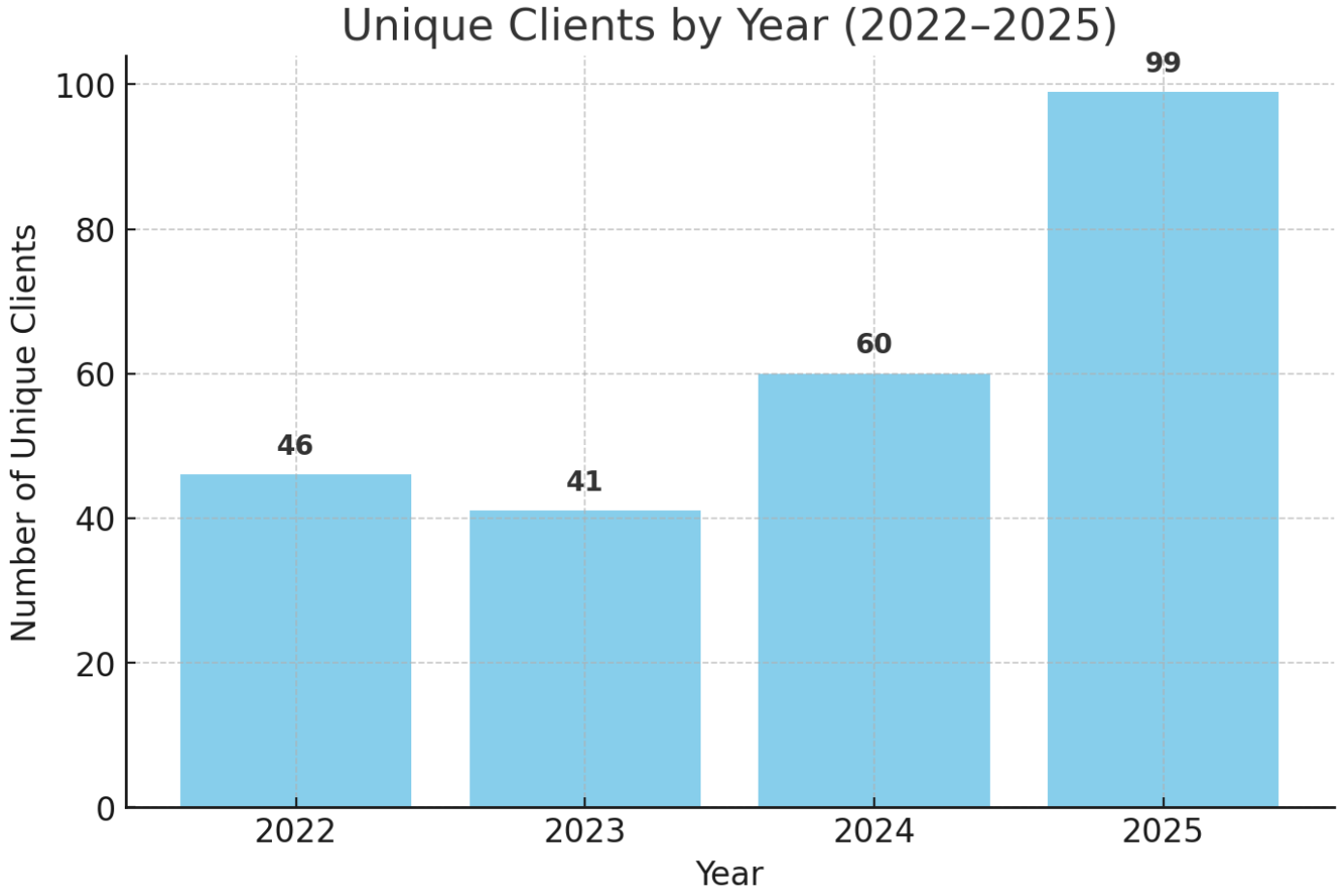
Current Usage

- Unique accounts are groups which may include numerous teams and/or coaches.
- Between 2022-2025 unique accounts have increased by 92%.



Current Usage

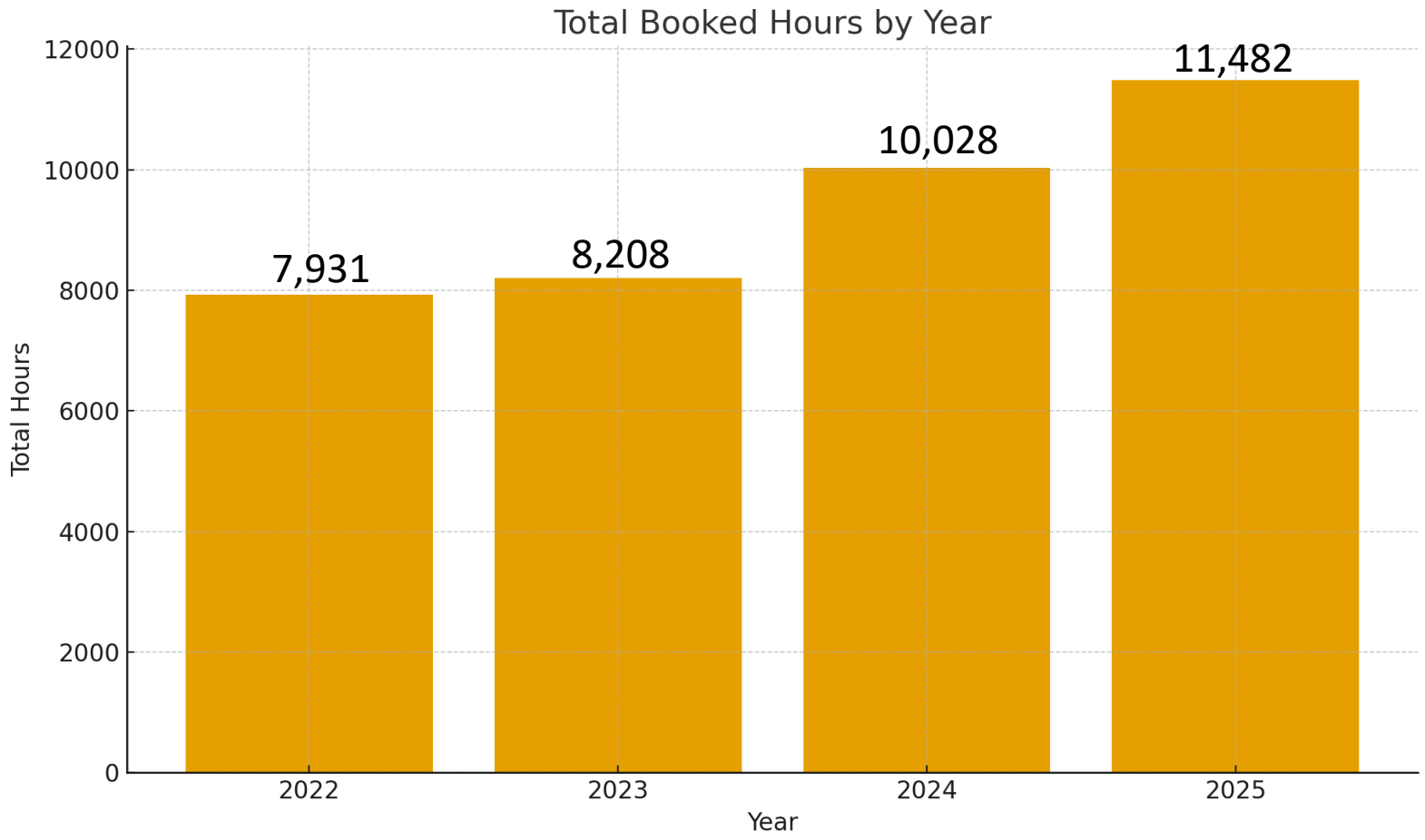
- Unique clients are individuals, which make up accounts.
- Between 2022-2025 unique clients have increased by 115%.



Current Usage

- Total field hours booked between 2022-2025 increased 45%.

2022-2025 Total Hours: 37,649



Current Usage 2022-2025

82.6% - Tier One - Resident:

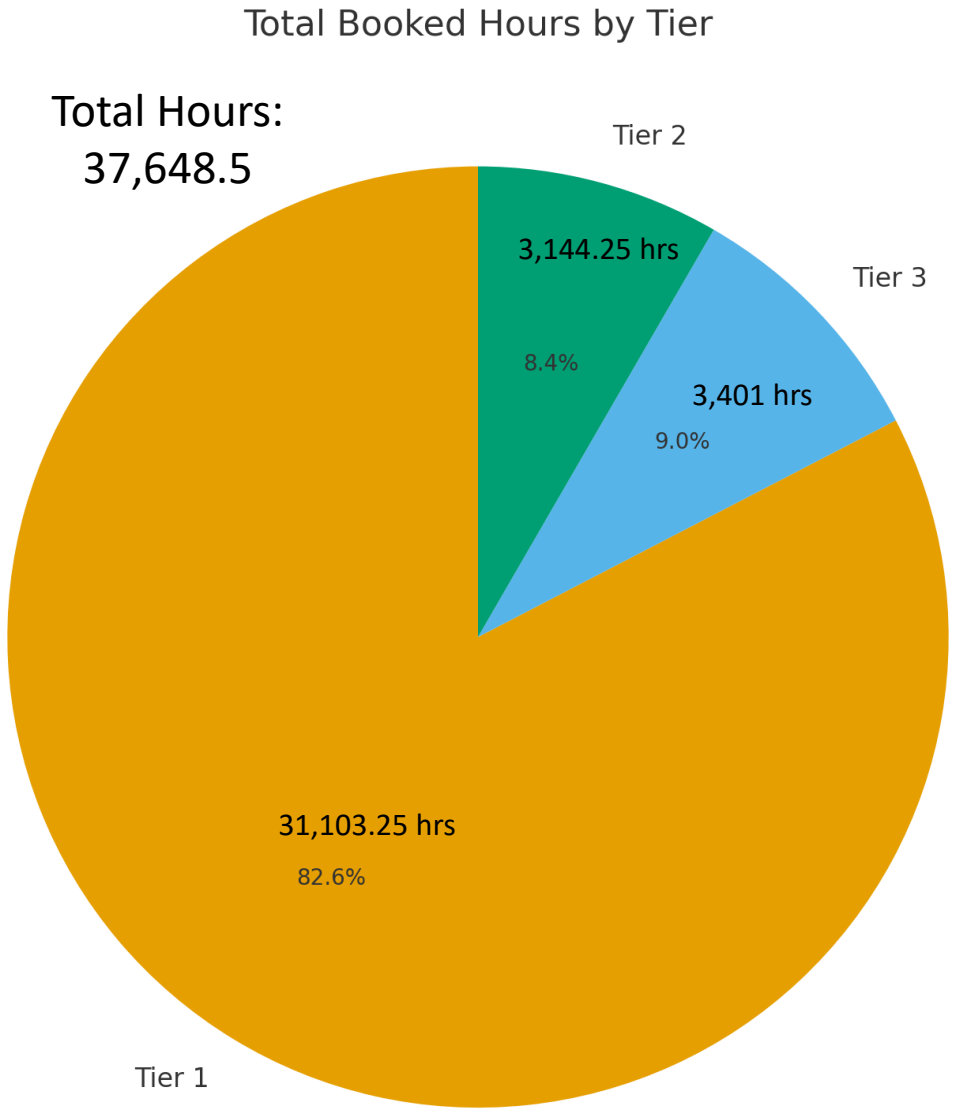
1. Non-profit youth, recreation-based organizations
2. Non-profit adult, recreation-based organizations
3. Non-profit youth and adult non-recreation-based organizations

8.4% - Tier Two – Non-Resident:

1. Non-profit youth, recreation-based organizations
2. Non-profit adult, recreation-based organizations

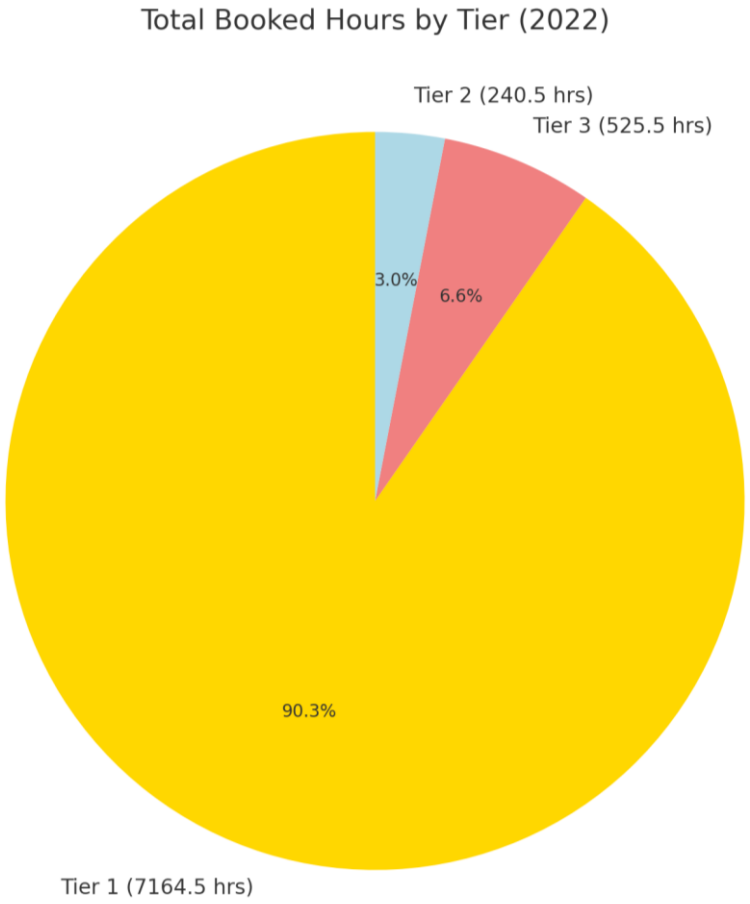
9% - Tier Three – Resident/Non-Resident For-Profit:

1. Youth
2. Adult



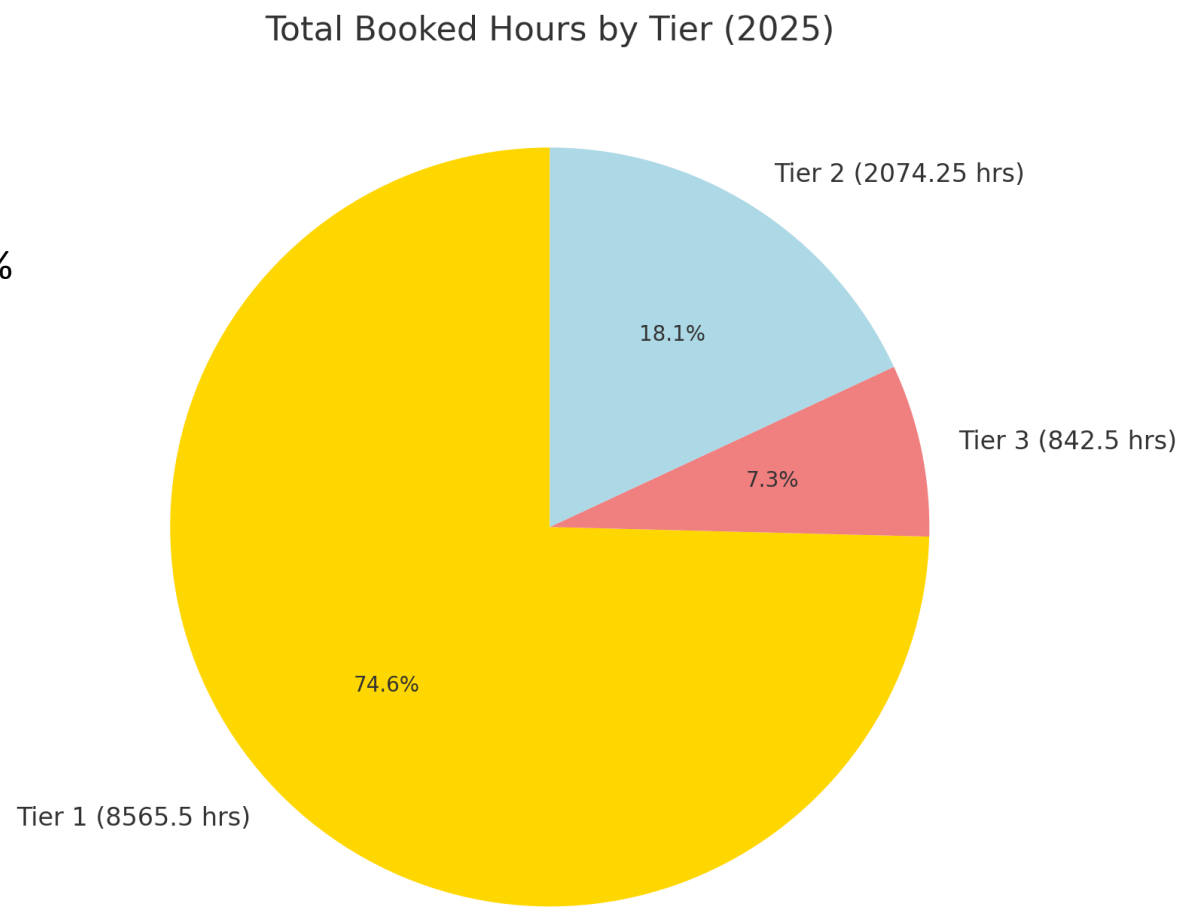
2022 vs 2025

2022 Total Hours: 7,930.5

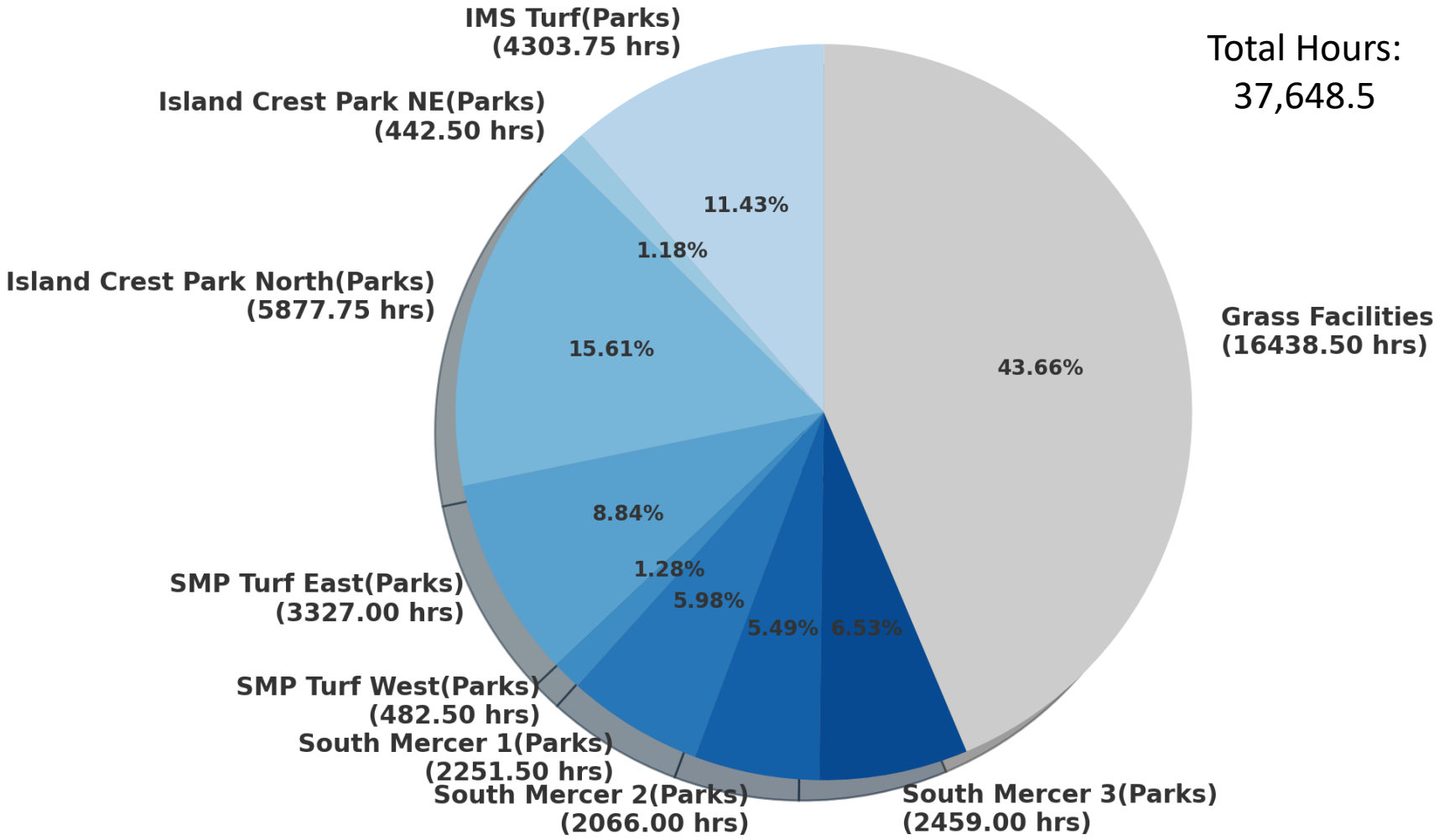


- Tier 1 increased 20%
- Tier 2 increased 762%
- Tier 3 increased 60%

2025 Total Hours: 11,482.25



Field Type Usage 2022-2025

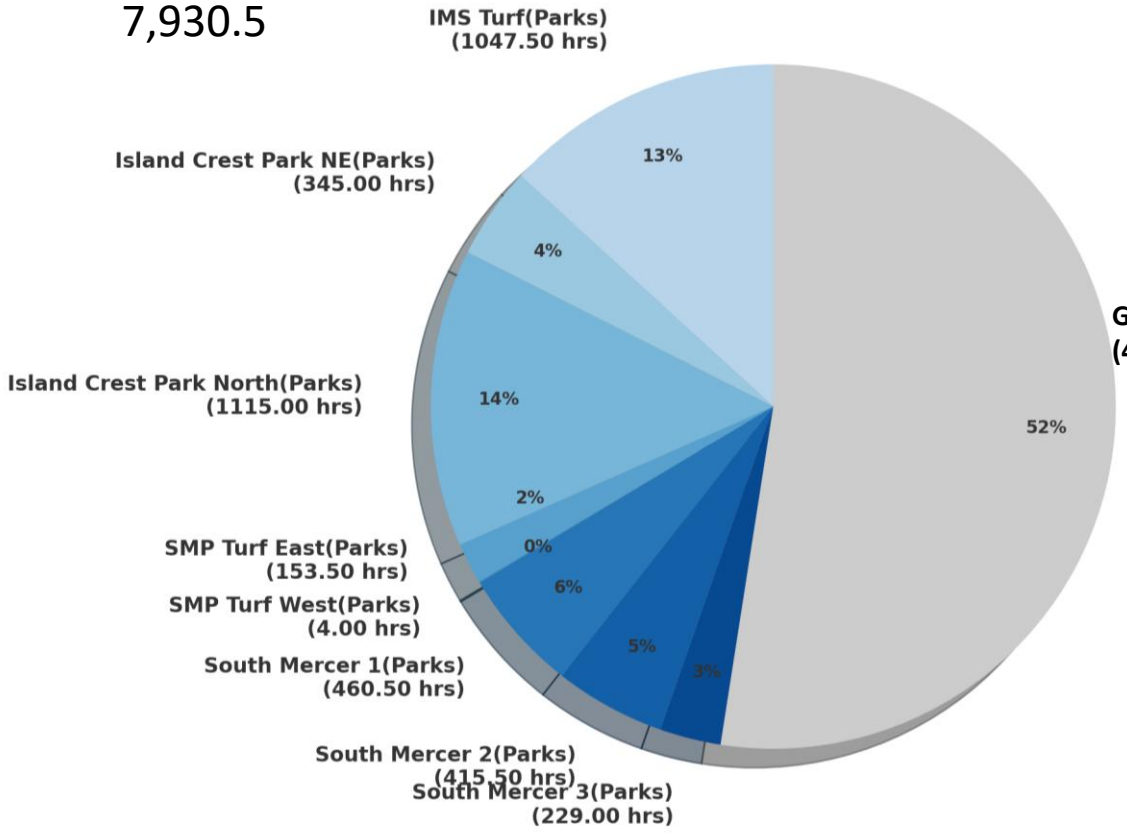


Total Hours:
37,648.5

2022 vs 2025 Field Type Usage

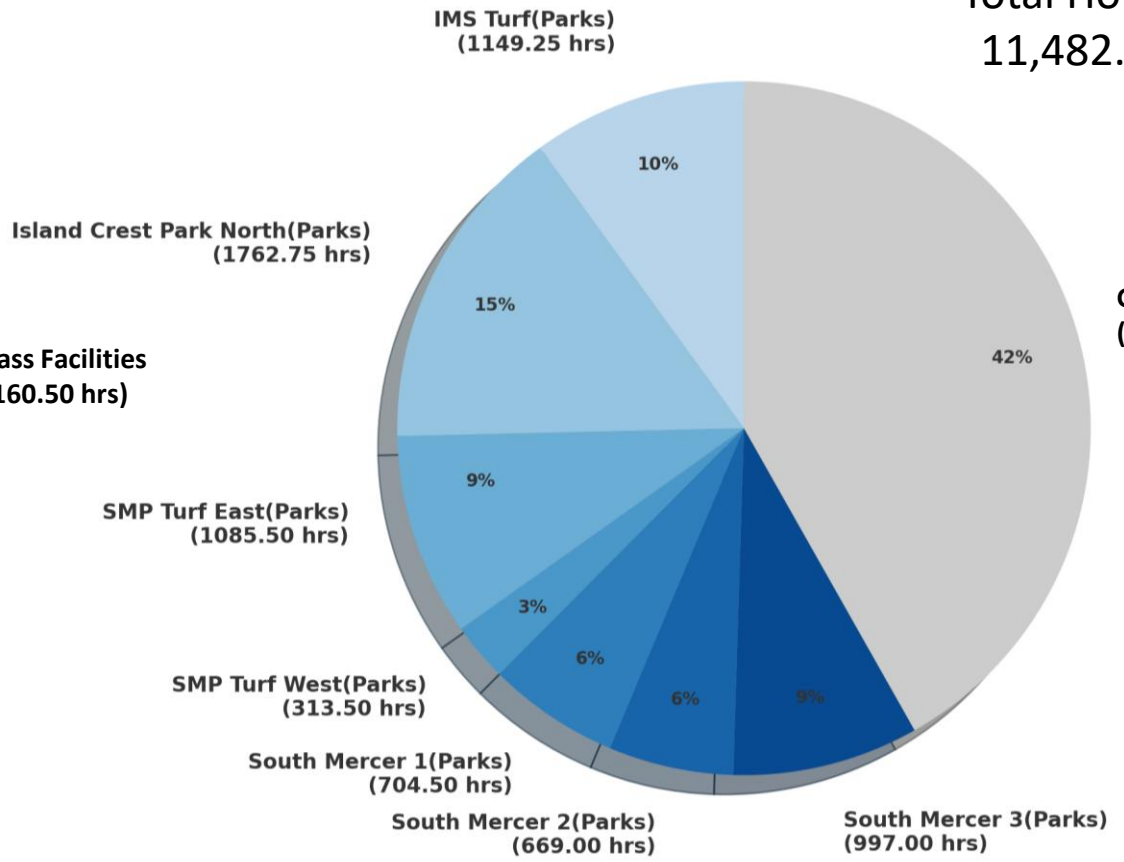
Total Hours:
7,930.5

2022



2025

Total Hours:
11,482.25



5 Key Takeaways

1. Booking hours and number of groups have risen.
2. Tier 1 (residents) make up the significant majority of use.
3. Synthetic turf fields/lights are more desirable.
4. Demand from new sports, adult leagues, and non-resident users has risen.
5. Year-round programming has increased.

Challenges & Opportunities

- Complex 3-tier/7-subtier structure.
- Growth of “select” teams blurring definitions.
- Increased year-round field demand (expanded seasons).
- Confusion between priority and guaranteed access.
- Balancing individual requests with efficient utilization.

Next Steps

- Conduct user surveys for policy feedback.
- Utilize commission and user input to develop updates to the current policy and procedures.
- Return to future Parks and Recreation meeting for endorsement of policy updates.
- Target adoption for March 2026, ahead of Fall/Winter booking in Jul 2026.

Discussion #1

Tier One - Resident:

1. Non-profit youth, recreation-based organizations
2. Non-profit adult, recreation-based organizations
3. Non-profit youth and adult non-recreation-based organizations

Tier Two – Non-Resident:

1. Non-profit youth, recreation-based organizations
2. Non-profit adult, recreation-based organizations

Tier Three – Resident/Non-Resident For-Profit:

1. Youth
2. Adult

Tier Simplification: The current three-tier model with numerous sub-tiers requires significant administrative time.

- ***Would the Commission support simplifying or consolidating user categories? If so, what criteria do you feel are important in establishing priority?***

Discussion #2



Evolving Definitions: “Select” community teams continue to request and seek field time.

- ***Should staff look for ways to increase this type of resident access?***

Discussion #3

Allocation Criteria:

- ***Should priority tier guarantee all requested times, or should staff maintain flexibility to optimize field schedules for the greatest community benefit?***
- ***Should staff continue using multiple criteria (residency, age, type, participation level) when evaluating access, rather than relying solely on age and residency?***

Discussion #4

Scheduling Efficiency: During priority booking, staff have enhanced scheduling efficiency and field utilization by stacking user groups, enabling greater access and participation, but impacting specific requests.

- ***Does the Commission support this practice? Should it be better defined established in a policy update?***

Discussion #5



Cross-Field Flexibility:

- ***Would the Commission support a policy statement which allows staff to schedule groups to alternate fields when it allows multiple users to participate (e.g., relocating soccer to Homestead to accommodate baseball at ICP)?***

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

PRC 25-13
October 20, 2025
Regular Business

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	PRC 25-13: Sport Court Use and Allocation Policy	☒ Discussion Only ☐ Action Needed: ☐ Motion ☐ Recommendation
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Provide input toward the development of the Sport Court Use and Allocation Policy.	

STAFF:	Ryan Daly, Recreation Manager
EXHIBITS:	N/A

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda bill is to solicit input from the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) toward the development of a policy to guide the allocation and use of outdoor pickleball and tennis courts (Sport Courts) managed by the City of Mercer Island (City).

- The City offers access to Sport Courts across multiple parks, serving a diverse demographic of community users.
- Parks and Recreation staff manage the maintenance, operations, and reservations of City managed Sport Courts.
- Currently there is no formal policy guiding the use and allocation of Sport Court facilities and to date staff have managed reservations absent a policy.
- Growing demand, especially for pickleball, necessitates a policy framework for equitable and efficient management and use.
- Lack of consistency has the potential to cause confusion and access challenges between drop-in play, organized use, and events.
- Staff have conducted ongoing community engagement and reviewed usage patterns over the past two years, including this past summer permitting the Rotary Club of Mercer Island to host a tournament which provided insight into park and patron impacts of such an event.

BACKGROUND

The City of Mercer Island provides public access to Sport Courts across multiple parks that serve a diverse and growing community of pickleball and tennis players. The management, maintenance, and reservation of these facilities are administered by Parks and Recreation staff.

The City's existing sport court facilities include:

- Luther Burbank Park – 8 Pickleball Courts (*Jake Jacobson Pickleball Courts*)
- Aubrey Davis Park – 4 Tennis Courts
- Homestead Park – 4 Tennis Courts
- Island Crest Park – 2 Tennis Courts
- Roanoke Park – 1 Tennis Court

Current Practice

At present, the City does not have a formal policy to guide the allocation and use of Sport Courts. General rules are posted at each facility to help users understand acceptable conduct, rotation expectations, and time limits.

While these guidelines promote fair and equitable access for drop-in users, they do not establish clear criteria for the reservation or permitting of organized activities, including tournaments, instructional programs, or events.

Despite the absence of a formal policy, Recreation Division staff currently manage limited court reservations, designated to Homestead Park and Aubrey Davis Park. Staff have endeavored to accommodate these uses while maintaining reasonable drop-in access for the public. These reservations have historically been infrequent and limited to:

- Mercer Island High School Tennis Team
- City-coordinated summer camps
- Third-party instructional programs
- Occasional individual patrons

The Recreation Division's Workplan, as approved by the City Council within the 2025–2026 Biennial Budget, includes the following item:
1.1.4 – *Develop and implement a Sport Court Allocation and Use Policy to address the priority use of pickleball and tennis courts, for endorsement by the Parks and Recreation Commission by Q2 2025.*

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

Tonight, staff will engage the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) to seek initial input that will inform the development of a *Sport Court Allocation and Use Policy.* This policy will be presented at a future PRC meeting for endorsement.

As community demand for court use, particularly for pickleball, continues to grow, the City aims to establish a policy framework that provides clear, equitable, and consistent guidance for the use of Sport Court facilities.

Currently, use and scheduling practices vary by site and activity. The lack of a unified policy can lead to confusion, inconsistent access, and challenges balancing drop-in use with organized programs, private instruction, and tournaments.

Staff have engaged frequently with both tennis and pickleball players over the last two years, reviewed court usage patterns, and observed the impacts of different activities, including tournaments. Input received has reflected a diverse range of user perspectives and priorities.

Pickleball
Pickleball has continued to grow in popularity- seeing increased numbers of players annually. Since the Jake Jacobson Pickleball Courts at Luther Burbank Park opened, they have seen outstanding use. At times the courts exceed capacity and see long waits to access courts- especially on weekends, while at other times the courts are easily accessible. The City does not have demographic data on the use of outdoor pickleball courts, however data reflects for MICEC drop-in use is that 50% of MICEC pickleball players are Mercer Island residents.

Last winter, *Dink on Mercer Island*—a local non-profit organization—conducted a member survey focused on the Luther Burbank Pickleball Courts (Jake Jakejacobson Pickleball Courts). The survey received 69 responses, many of which are regular players at this site.
Note: The City of Mercer Island did not participate in the development or distribution of this survey; results were voluntarily shared with staff and include responses from both residents and non-residents without demographic breakdown.
Key findings from the survey included:

- 26% supported allowing paid coaches to reserve courts for lessons
- 50% supported allowing sponsored tournaments; 35% were uncertain; 15% opposed

- 55% favored hosting two tournaments per spring/summer season
- 30% preferred one tournament per season
- 15% opposed tournaments entirely

Additional input received by staff in the field emphasized:

- Courts are extremely busy during weekends and summer evenings
- Exploring revenue opportunities through private events or permitted use
- Providing timeslots/opportunities for differing skill levels
- Creating predictable play windows to reduce overcrowding
- Offering structured programming for beginners (clinics, camps, and lessons)

In August 2025, the City permitted a pickleball tournament at the Luther Burbank Pickleball Courts hosted by Rotary Club of Mercer Island as a fundraiser. This event provided a valuable opportunity for staff to evaluate the application, coordination, and facility impacts of tournament use.

Key takeaways from the tournament included:

- Coordination with tournament organizers required significantly more staff time than other tournaments the City has permitted in the past (Lacrosse, Baseball, Soccer).
- Parking limitations at Luther Burbank Park affected concurrent user groups (notably City summer camps).
- Parking limitations also created management challenges for the Mercer Island Community and Event Center (MICEC), requiring staff to actively manage the lot to ensure parking availability for MICEC patrons.
- Recreation Division revenues were negatively affected, as staff restricted most MICEC and Luther Burbank Park picnic shelter rentals during the tournament.

Tennis

Tennis court usage across Mercer Island remains steady and consistent, primarily serving individual and casual users. It is assumed that approximately 60-70% of the tennis court users are Mercer Island residents. Tennis users have traditionally been less engaged, and less apt to provide input- often reaching out when court conditions impact use. The number of tennis courts across various locations- provides ample access.

Primary concerns and feedback regarding tennis court use include:

- Unauthorized private instruction occurring on public courts
- Pickleball players marking or modifying tennis courts for dual use without authorization
- Individuals or groups monopolizing courts, limiting fair access for others

Discussion

Staff suggests the following to guide the development of a *Sport Court Allocation and Use Policy*:

- Establish clear categories of use:
  - Drop-in Play: Informal, first-come, first-served use of courts.
  - Hourly Reservations- A scheduled, short-term court use (e.g., for practice, instruction, or private play), limited to designated courts and timeframes.
  - Special Events- Organized programming such as tournaments or leagues which occupy multiple or all courts at a facility.
- Preserve drop-in play as the primary use at all Sport Court facilities.
- Limit events which may adversely impact other park patrons or adjacent facilities by predetermining the allowed size and number of events to be offered annually and monthly.
- Identify specific courts, at specific parks, which may be reserved hourly to enhance access.
- Limit events during peak periods to enable community drop-in access and minimize park impacts.
- Exempt activities coordinated by the City of Mercer Island from the policy.

Discussion questions:

- Should drop-in play be prioritized over other uses?
- Should courts be available for hourly rental by the public or private instructors?
    - Should certain court facilities (or portions of) be dedicated for rentals and others for drop-in use only?
    - Should court reservations be limited to certain times?
- Should tennis or pickleball courts be used for commercial purposes or to conduct fundraising?
- Should reservations and events be restricted during certain seasonal periods?
- Should City coordinated uses be exempt from the policy?

NEXT STEPS

Following tonight's discussion, staff will move forward with developing a draft *Sport Court Use and Allocation Policy* for future review and endorsement by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Provide input to inform the development of the *Sport Court Use and Allocation Policy*.

Sport Court Use and Allocation Policy

PRC 25-13

Parks and Recreation Commission -October 20, 2025



Agenda

- What is a Sport Court Use and Allocation Policy
- Background
- Current Practice
- Who’s using the court facilities
- What are we hearing/experiencing
- Discussion Questions
- Next Steps





What is a *Sport Court Use and Allocation Policy*?

- Establishes fair, consistent, and transparent guidelines for how sport courts are scheduled and used.
- Defines priorities of use, criteria, and restrictions on reservations or permits.
- Provides clear framework for staff decision making and community understanding.
- Reduces user conflict, over crowding, and adverse impacts to other amenities/facilities.

Background

- **The City's existing Sport Court facilities include:**
  - Luther Burbank Park – 8 Pickleball Courts
    - *Jake Jacobson Pickleball Courts*
  - Aubrey Davis Park – 4 Tennis Courts
  - **Homestead Park – 4 Tennis Courts***
  - **Island Crest Park – 2 Tennis Courts***
  - Roanoke Park – 1 Tennis Court

*Currently- Homestead and Island Crest Park are the only locations we currently permit hourly reservations.

Current Practice

- The City does not currently have a policy in place to guide the allocation and use of Sport Courts.
- Sport Courts are primarily available for drop-in play during stated park hours.
- General Rules are posted at the facilities- but do not provide criteria or guidelines for reservations.
- Staff do manage limited reservations on tennis courts.
- Staff permitted a single Pickleball Tournament in August, but have otherwise declined all reservation requests for pickleball until a policy can be developed.

Who's using the Courts Currently

Tennis:

- Staff estimate 60-70% of users are Mercer Island residents
- Less engaged user group
- Demographics tend to skew to a younger age population.
- Unauthorized instructors
- Limited rentals have included:
  - Mercer Island High School Tennis Team
  - City-coordinated summer camps
  - Third-Party Instructors (private lessons)
  - Individual patrons (very rare)



Who's using the Courts Currently

Pickleball:

- Staff estimate 40-50% of users are Mercer Island residents
- Diverse demographics of users
- Engaged and vocal user group
- Unauthorized instructors
- Only one reservation has been permitted
  - Rotary Club held a 3-day tournament-fundraiser



What are we hearing



Pickleball:

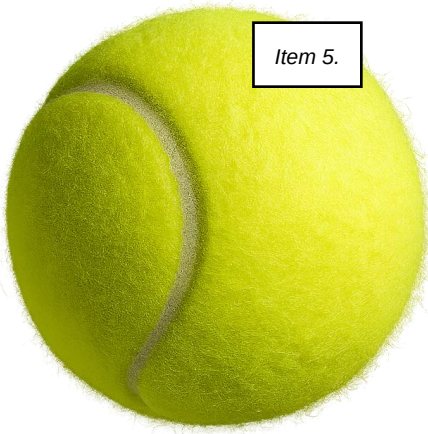
Survey Respondents (Administered by Dink on Mercer Island):

- 26% supported allowing paid coaches to reserve courts for lessons
- 50% supported allowing sponsored tournaments; 35% were uncertain; 15% opposed
  - 55% favored hosting two tournaments per spring/summer season
  - 30% preferred one tournament per season
  - 15% opposed tournaments entirely

Additional input received by staff in the field emphasized:

- Courts are extremely busy during weekends and summer evenings
- Support exploring revenue opportunities through private events or permitted use
- Providing timeslots/opportunities for differing skill levels
- Creating predictable play windows to reduce overcrowding
- Offering structured programming for beginners (clinics, camps, and lessons)

What are we hearing



Tennis:

- It is assumed that approximately 60-70% of the tennis court users are Mercer Island residents. Tennis

Primary concerns and feedback from tennis:

- Unauthorized private instruction occurring on public courts.
- Pickleball players marking or modifying tennis courts for dual use without authorization.
- Individuals or groups monopolizing courts, limiting fair access for others.

Discussion

Staff suggestions for policy development:

- Establish clear categories of use: (Drop-in, Hourly Reservations, Special Events)
- Preserve drop-in play as the primary use at all Sport Court facilities.
- Limit events which may adversely impact other park patrons or adjacent facilities by predetermining the allowed size and number of events to be offered annually and monthly.
- Identify specific courts, at specific parks, which may be reserved hourly to enhance access.
- Limit events during peak periods to enable community drop-in access and minimize park impacts.
- Exempt activities coordinated by the City of Mercer Island from the policy.

Discussion Questions

- Should drop-in play be prioritized over other uses?
- Should courts be available for hourly rental by the public or private instructors?
  - Should certain court facilities (or portions of) be dedicated for rentals and others for drop-in use only?
  - Should court reservations be limited to certain times?
- Should tennis or pickleball courts be used for commercial purposes or to conduct fundraising?
- Should reservations and events be restricted during certain seasonal periods?
- Should City coordinated uses be exempt from the policy?

Next Steps

- Staff will compile PRC input
- Develop a draft “Sport Court Use and Allocation Policy”
- Return to a future PRC meeting to review and seek endorsement of the draft policy.



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

PRC 25-14
October 20, 2025
Regular Business

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	PRC 25-14: Letter of Appreciation to Paul West	☐ Discussion Only ☒ Action Needed: ☒ Motion ☐ Recommendation
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Approve the Letter of Appreciation to Paul West and direct staff to transmit.	

STAFF:	Ashley Hay (Chair) Rory Westberg (Vice Chair)
EXHIBITS:	1. Letter of Appreciation to Paul West

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this Agenda Bill is to introduce a letter (Exhibit 1), drafted by Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) Chair Ashley Hay and Vice Chair Rory Westberg, to be approved by the PRC and transmitted to Paul West.

BACKGROUND

At the September meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission, several members expressed strong support for sending former Paks and Recreation employee Paul West a letter congratulating him on his June 18, 2025retirement.

Paul dedicated 24 years of service to the Mercer Island community through various roles within the Parks and Recreation Department. He began his career with the City of Mercer Island as a part-time, contract arborist and went on to hold multiple key positions, including Natural Resources Manager, Parks Superintendent, and most recently, Senior CIP Project Manager.

Throughout his career, Paul's influence has been deeply embedded in the City's park system. His work reflects a steadfast commitment to the stewardship of public lands, the preservation and enhancement of the natural environment, and the creation of meaningful outdoor experiences for Mercer Island residents.

Paul consistently demonstrated a strategic and resourceful approach to project management, often securing grant funding to advance critical park and infrastructure improvements. Paul valued community input and sought ways to reflect that in his projects. His leadership was instrumental in the success of numerous high-impact projects, including (but definitely not limited to):

- Luther Burbank South Shoreline Restoration
- Lincoln Landing Shoreline & Stormwater Enhancement
- Aubrey Davis Park Master Plan
- Luther Burbank Boiler Building Restoration
- Aubrey Davis Park Trail Safety Improvements
- Mercerdale Park Playground Renovation
- Initiation of the Luther Burbank Dock Replacement Project

Paul's legacy is visible in the vibrant, sustainable park network that continues to enrich the quality of life for the Mercer Island community. His leadership, vision, and passion have left an enduring impact on both the landscape and the people who enjoy it.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

Tonight, the Parks and Recreation Commission will review a letter to Paul West prepared by Chair Ashley Hay and Vice Chair Rory Westberg. The letter is intended to extend the PRC's gratitude for the outstanding contributions Paul made to the Mercer Island Parks System during his 24-year career with the Parks and Recreation Department.

NEXT STEPS

Once approved and directed, staff will place the letter on City letterhead and transmit to Paul West at his personal residence.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve the Letter of Appreciation to Paul West and direct staff to transmit.

Exhibit 1

Paul West Retirement/Recognition Letter

October 20, 2025

To: Paul West

From: Mercer Island Parks & Recreation Commission

Dear Paul,

On behalf of the Mercer Island Parks and Recreation Commission, we extend our deepest gratitude for your 24 years of dedicated service. Across multiple positions including Natural Resources Manager, Parks Superintendent, and most recently as a Senior CIP Project Manager- your leadership and commitment have left a lasting mark on our community and our parks.

The Commission is grateful for your patience and thorough explanations during the board's initial meetings in 2019, which established a strong foundation for our work. From that point forward, the relationships you cultivated with commissioners have led to thoughtful recommendations to City Council, which you in turn implemented and have benefited the entire community.

Throughout your tenure, you provided stewardship that shaped the quality, accessibility, and enjoyment of Mercer Island's public spaces. Among many accomplishments, your guidance was central to the construction of the Mercerdale Playground, the Island's first fully accessible playground. This project set a new standard for inclusiveness and continues to be a neighborhood treasure for families both near and far.

The Luther Burbank Park Dock Improvements and Boiler Building Renovations will stand as lasting contributions under your supervision. Though not yet complete, your foresight and ability to obtain grants ensure enhancements that will enrich waterfront access and provide lasting benefits for future generations, supporting the vibrant use of our shorelines.

Your patience was particularly evident during the Aubrey Davis Trail Safety Improvement Project. Through numerous meetings, you demonstrated an understanding of financial constraints and geographic challenges while thoughtfully balancing diverse community input. Your guidance led the Commission to a recommendation that ultimately benefits all park users.

DRAFT

Your ability to oversee complex capital projects with vision and care has strengthened our entire parks system. We are grateful for the thoughtful planning, problem-solving, and collaboration you brought to every initiative.

As you retire, please accept our heartfelt thanks and best wishes for this well-deserved next chapter. May your retirement bring you fulfillment and the same joy you have helped foster across Mercer Island's parks.

Sincerely,

Mercer Island Parks & Recreation Commission
Chair- Ashley Hay
Vice Chair- Rory Westberg
Don Cohen
Jodi McCarthy
Mar Brettmann
Peter Struck
Sara Marxen

DRAFT