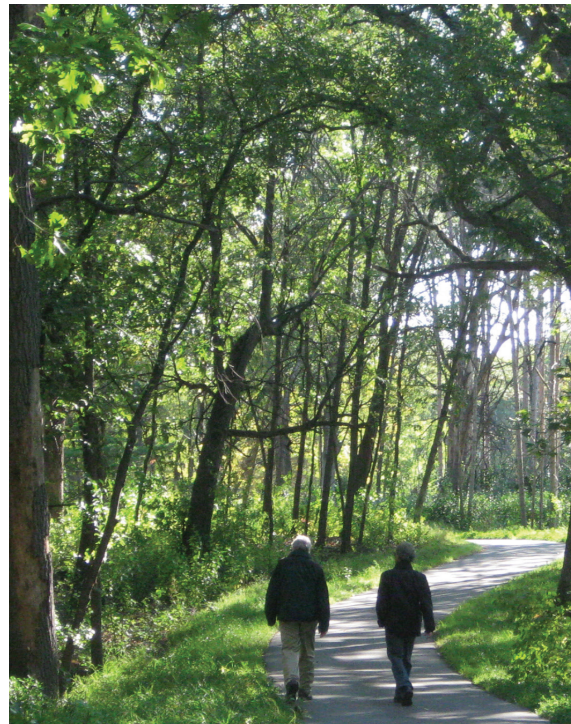


CITY OF RAMSEY

Public Places + Vibrant Community



Multiple Initiatives and Measurable Benefits...
*Encourage Investment + Promote Healthy Living +
Connecting Natural Resources & People = QUALITY OF LIFE*



You Are Here...

The intersection of a desired rural character with inviting urban amenities.



An imperative for designing and implementing a variety of public spaces that offer basic people needs - places to sit, sun and shade, food and beverage, and a place to interact with neighbors.



Encourage private sector investment that meets The COR economic development objectives.

“An attractive public realm continues to be a major catalyst for private investment, creating signature addresses for a variety of new development projects.” - John LeTourneau, Mayor of Ramsey

Circle of Ramsey Greenway

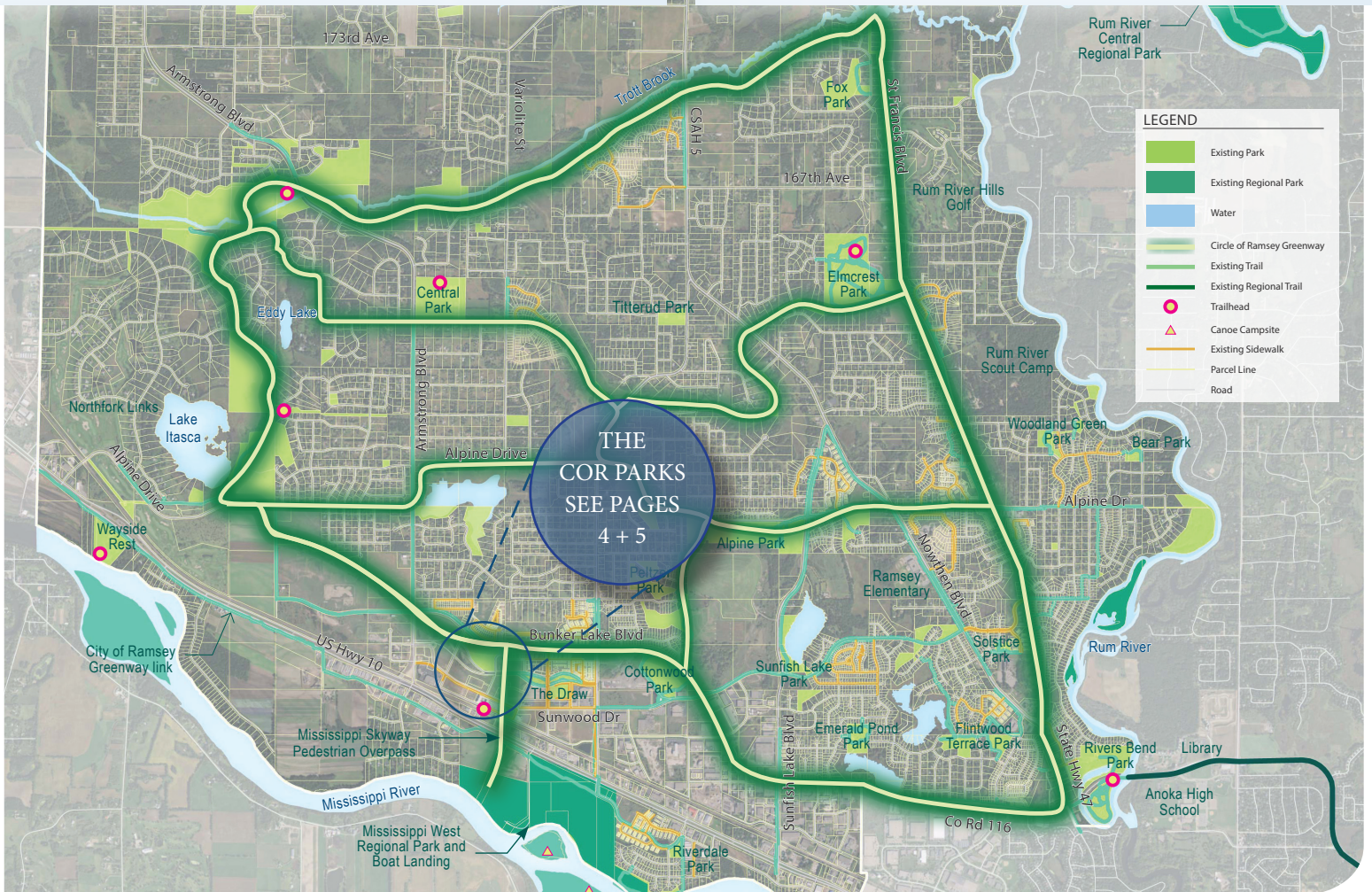
A continuous loop trail that connects neighborhoods to destinations, amenities and regional systems



Continue to build a connected network of local and regional trails



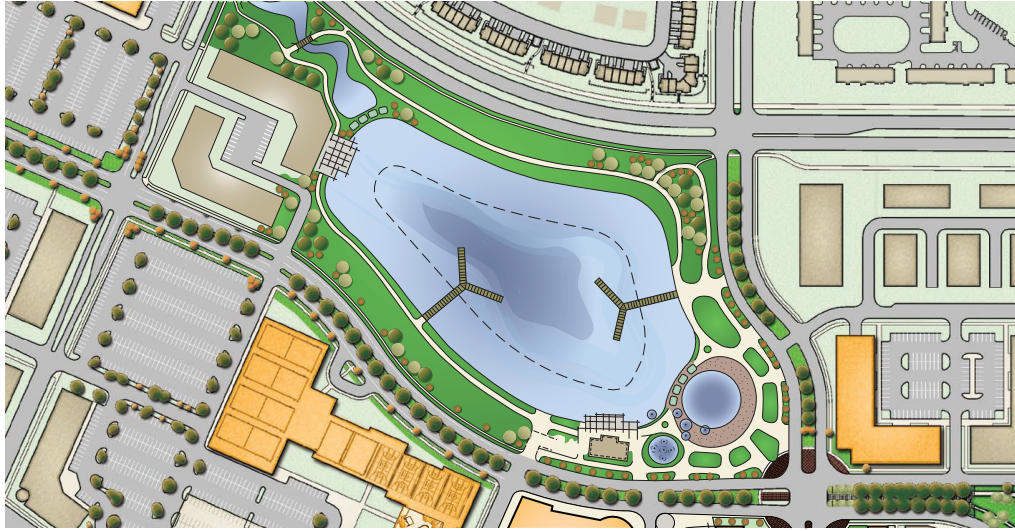
Respect for, and connections with, valued natural resources



“A mix of uses and quality amenities that serve residents will become a regional destination” - James Steffen, Economic Development Authority Chair

URBAN AMENITIES

The COR plan is built on recent success and future opportunity - creates great places for people!



The Waterfront

As the major public amenity illustrated in the Development Plan 6.0, Lake Ramsey Commons will become a spectacular water-centric addition to the emerging park and trail system that connects the whole community. It holds a key position as the connecting hub between The Draw to the east, the proposed Greenway Trail Connection to the west, the Municipal Plaza and Commuter Rail Station to the south, with the proposed Mississippi Skyway linking the regional park and trail to The COR.



Municipal Plaza

In each of the many different planning frameworks over the years, the Municipal Plaza has been identified as the primary civic space at the very heart of The COR. Located directly across Sunwood Drive from Ramsey City Hall, this crucial public amenity will serve as the central gathering space for day-to-day activities and will certainly attract heightened private sector interest in development of adjacent properties.



Lake Itasca and Greenway Connection

Various scenarios and alignments were studied and, each in their own way, serve to illustrate the strategic opportunity to connect amenities in The COR with Lake Itasca to the west via a public greenway trail. The greenway provides visual continuity east-west through The COR, and becomes the preferred access route for the hundreds of residential units between Lake Itasca and the retail destinations within The COR—strengthening the vitality of these commercial enterprises.

CONNECTING NEIGHBORHOODS

A Park System Plan built on a foundation of existing natural features integrated with a growing, connected system of public parks, trails and open space, including the following elements:

Mississippi Skyway

The Mississippi Skyway pedestrian bridge will provide a critical direct pedestrian and bicycle connection between the City of Ramsey's pedestrian-oriented COR development, the Ramsey Northstar Station, Ramsey Park & Ride and the resources associated with the Mississippi River and attendant regional amenities. The Mississippi Skyway project is about overcoming boundaries to safe bicycle and pedestrian circulation while expanding and enhancing multi-modal transportation, economic development and recreational options to promote a livable, vibrant region and community.



Amphitheater at The Draw

The Draw is a blend of natural and planned open space for programmed activities, hardscape, and passive uses. Located in the heart of The COR (acronym for City of Ramsey), park components include; recreational green space, natural stormwater filtration/reuse, established wildlife corridor and trail connections. The Draw provides an attractive combination of water and landscape as a welcome visual relief and aesthetic experience that contributes to the long-term livability and lasting vitality of the Downtown District and the City.



Trott Brook Greenway

Parks and natural open space are vital to the quality of life in Ramsey and in many ways define the community. Ramsey is fortunate to have retained many natural resources within its boundaries. One such example is Trott Brook with its associated wetlands and uplands, creating a natural greenway spanning the northern third of the City. Future completion of this important community amenity will provide a significant east/west connection in terms of trail use, but will also preserve, protect and enhance of the regions important natural areas.

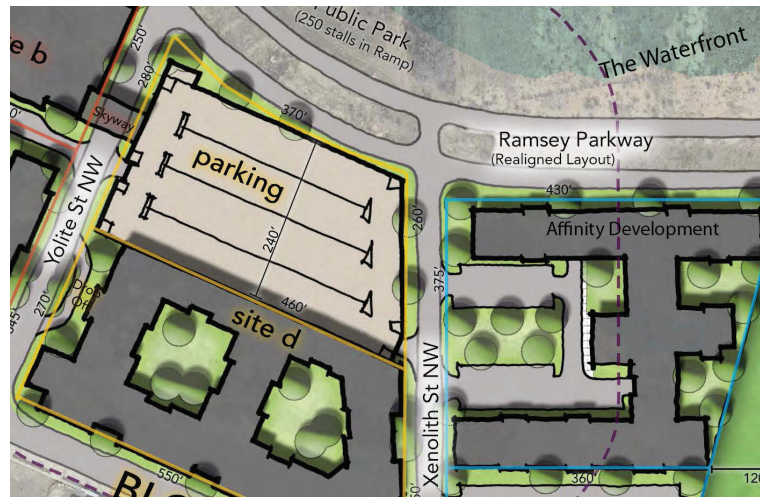


The Waterfront supports a range of both active and passive uses emphasizing variety in terms of outdoor spaces (rooms), including mown turf/open lawn areas within prairie, woodland, lake edge and other natural landscapes.

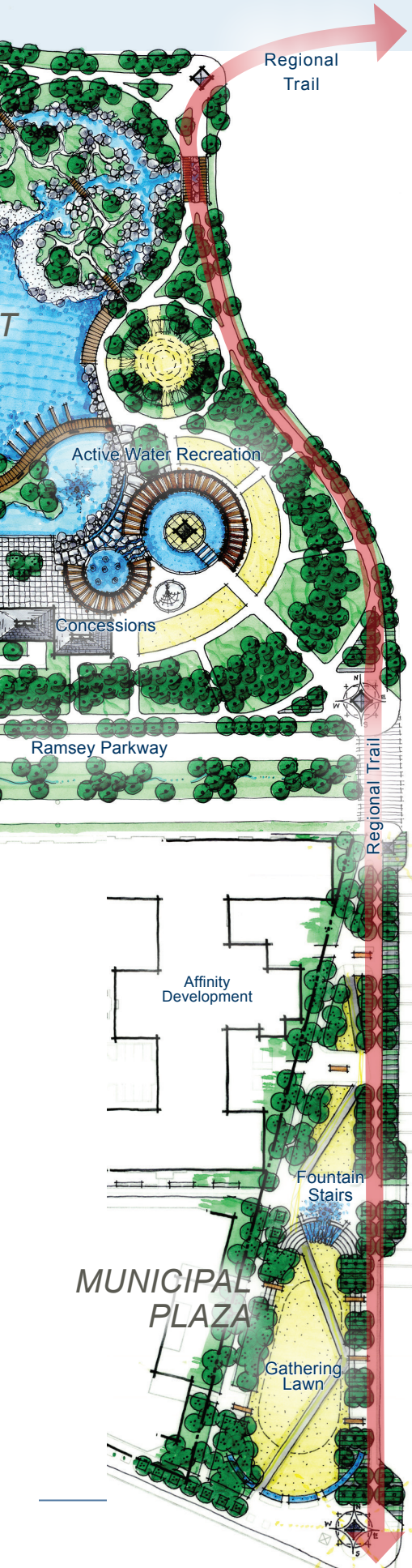


The Waterfront introduces a series of natural outdoor spaces that recreate and interpret native Minnesota landscapes both as an overall design aesthetic but also as a hands-on, immersion experience for park visitors.

District parking strategies will be explored and pursued to address issues related to vehicle movement, convenient access, and to provide maximum benefit for mixed-use development throughout The COR—and this is true for the park spaces too. While district parking is likely to begin with centrally located surface lots, over time, as new development intensifies, these surface lots will be converted to structured parking, either as stand-alone facilities or fully integrated within creatively designed development sites.



THE WATERFRONT + MUNICIPAL PLAZA



Municipal Plaza will become a signature destination, leveraging private-sector investment with specific focus on adjacent, plaza-frontage uses (such as brew pub, coffee house, with roof terrace) that contribute to the intensity and vibrant street life that characterize successful placemaking

Municipal Plaza will continue to support special events such as the community Happy Days festival, providing a recognized central gathering space for special events, music performances, art shows and other family-friendly activities.



The Central Anoka County Regional Trail (along the east edge of Municipal Plaza) creates an important north/south public promenade through The COR connecting The Draw, North Commons and the Mississippi Regional Park via the Mississippi Skyway (known as the pedestrian bridge over Highway 10).

MUNICIPAL PLAZA

Municipal Plaza is an important component of The COR Public Realm Framework. It is the place to meet, the orientation point for wayfinding in The COR, and the primary gateway connection to other public amenities and attractions nearby. Poised at the crossroads of strong civic presence, residential density, transit options and an expanding variety of retail storefronts, this location brings together all the elements of innovative and sustainable city-building.



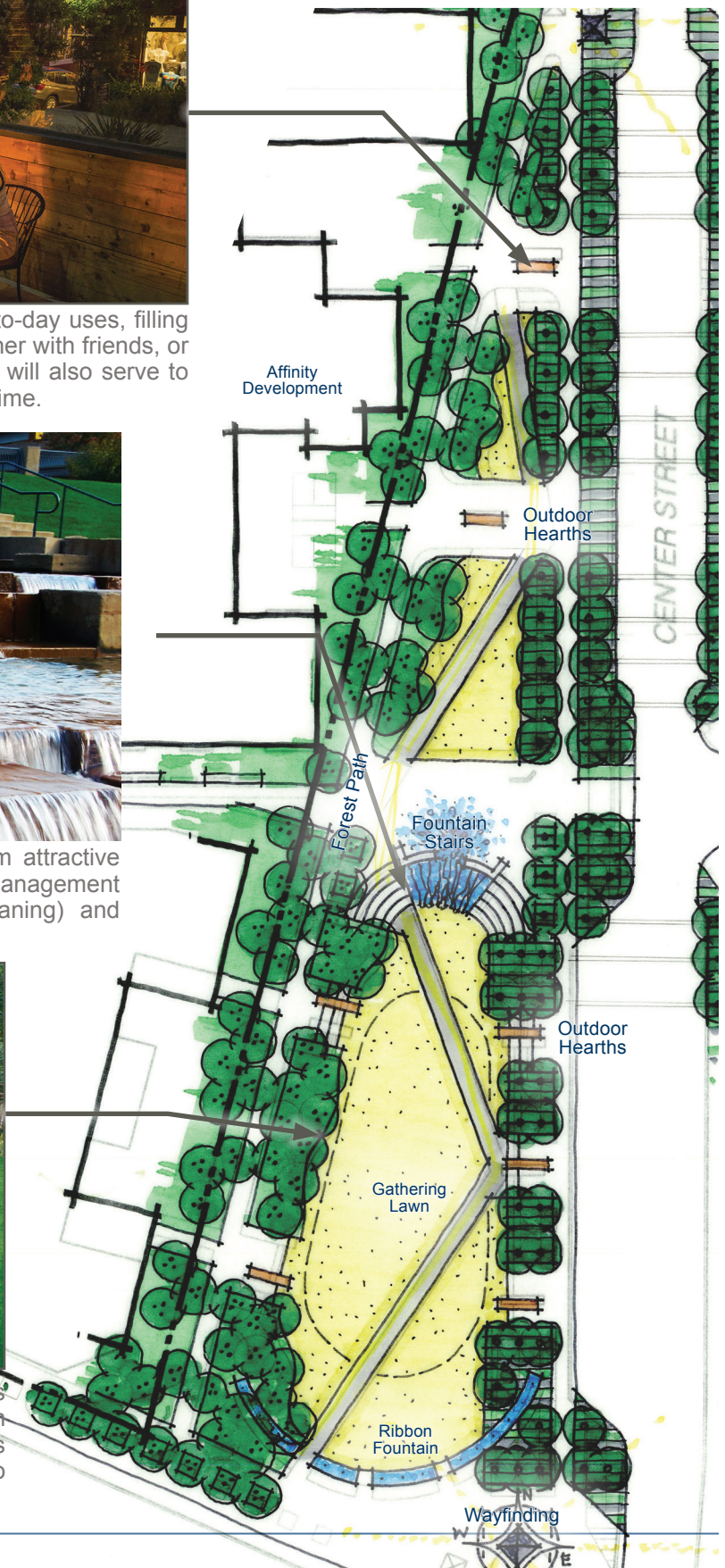
Municipal Plaza will become a magnet for spontaneous day-to-day uses, filling the need for a comfortable place to enjoy a cup of coffee, gather with friends, or otherwise pass the time around the community hearth. This will also serve to extend park hours to encourage evening activities and social time.



Municipal Plaza will incorporate water in various ways, from attractive surface features such as interactive fountains, to stormwater management system components such as infiltration areas (water cleaning) and underground storage vaults for water reuse purposes.



Municipal Plaza will take advantage of subtle level changes and landscape plantings to create a safe buffer/separation from the street and promote a unique character that defines various outdoor spaces and uses, connected by ramps and stairs to ensure universal accessibility.



CENTER STREET

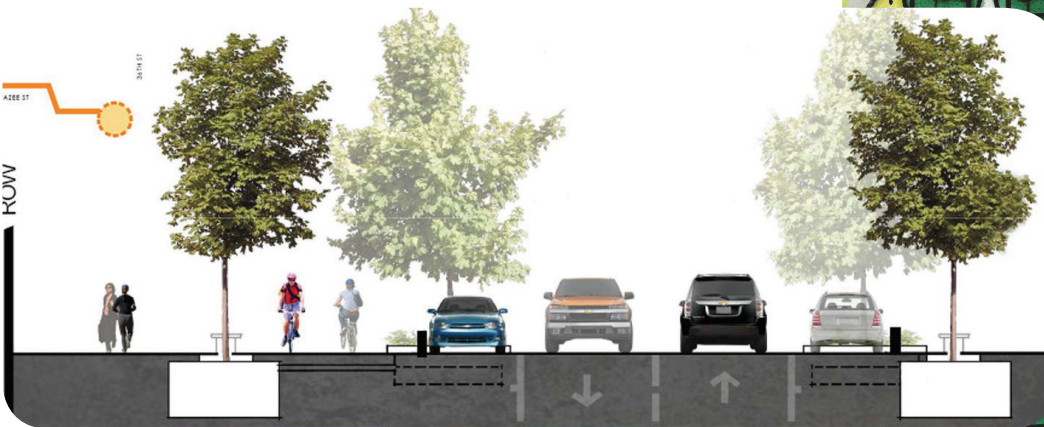
A linear park and civic space that expands Municipal Plaza to best accommodate special events.



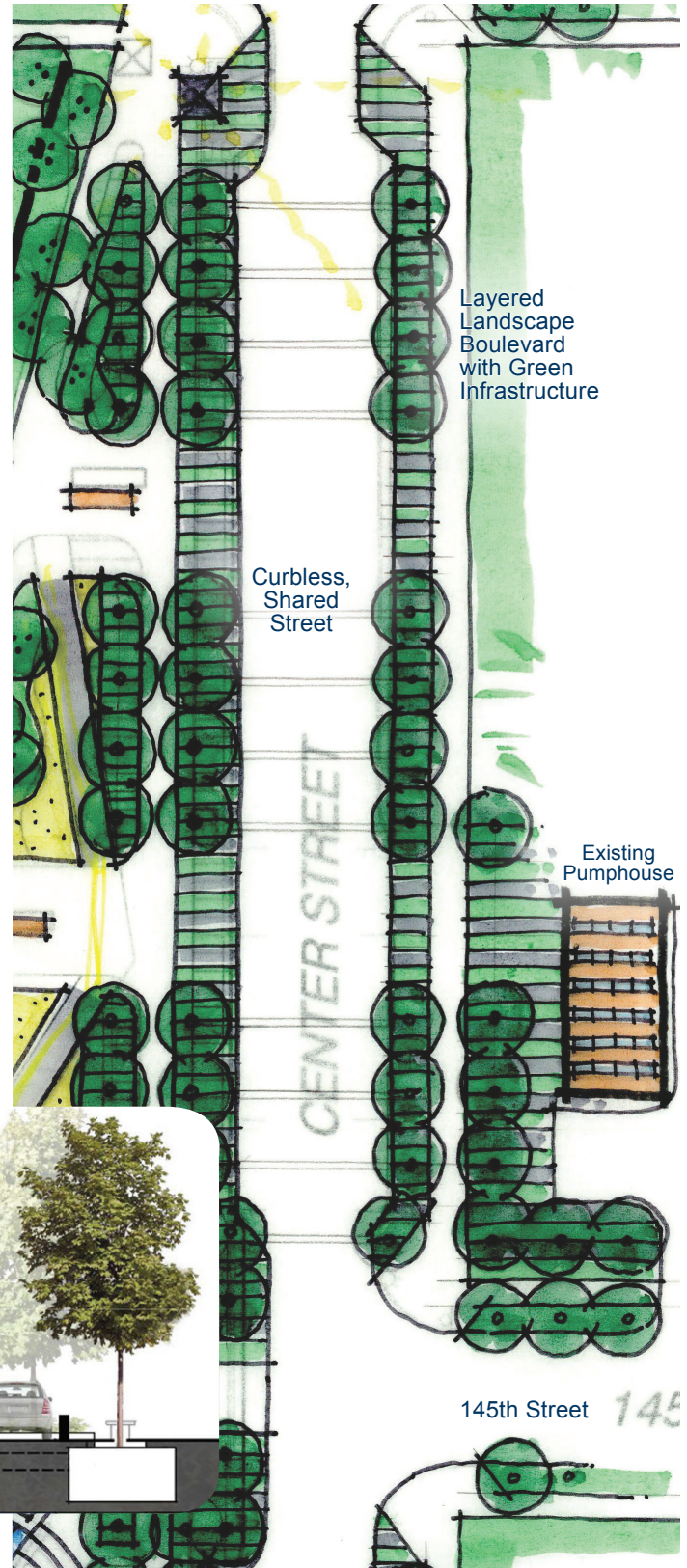
Mixed mode street design promotes 'pedestrian first' amenities.



Additional park uses and activity areas seamlessly blend within street right of way.



Typical street cross section.



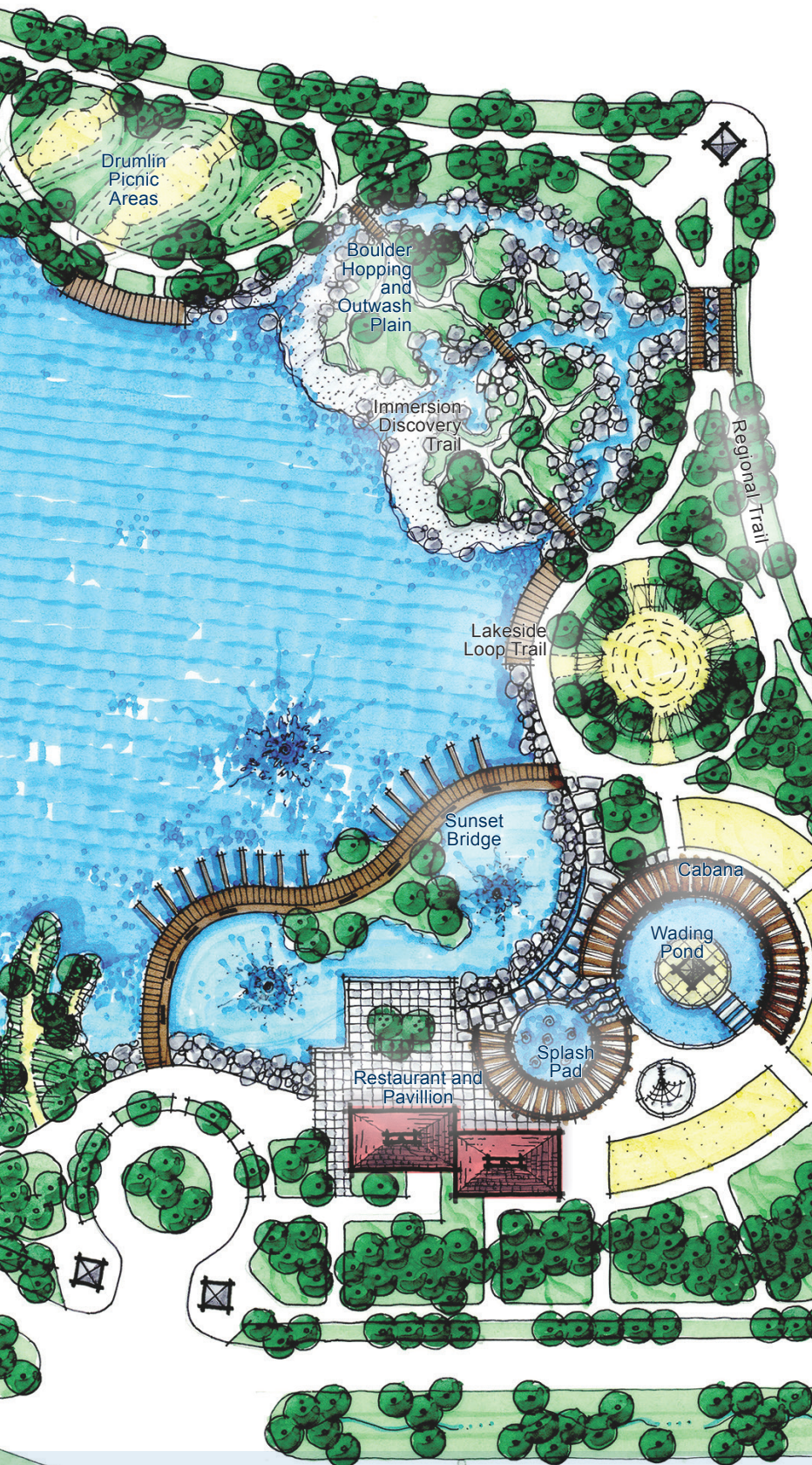


Walkways, paths, boardwalks and benches will be located throughout The Waterfront, promoting universal access to park amenities.

The Water Play Area will also be home to the first waterside concession/restaurant in the City; learning from area examples (such as Tin Fish and Sea Salt in Minneapolis), This exciting opportunity will grow to become a full-service food venue attracting both community residents and a regional audience - as well as providing a local venue for business incubation.

THE WATERFRONT: WATER PLAY AREA

As a major new public amenity, The Waterfront will fulfill a list of community-desired objectives related to water-oriented recreational uses within a native/natural landscape that characterizes the entire park. Along with the proposed wading pond and splash pad, additional facilities such as concessions/restaurant building, pavilion, pergola/cabana and other amenities, will further enhance the Water Play Area as a significant community destination.



The Water Play Area will promote a high level of activity throughout the day, providing places to sit in the shade (beneath the cabana) in proximity to primary play spaces.



The Water Play Area will feature two primary amenities: a concrete-lined wading pond and a multizoned splash pad designed to attract children of all ages and abilities to The COR.



MULTIPLE INITIATIVES + MEASURABLE BENEFITS

Investing in a system of public parks, trails and open space that support high quality recreational amenities, and promotes other healthy living objectives remains a high priority for the City. Creative approaches to design of public places can positively impact energy consumption, air quality, carbon reduction, property prices, recreation and other elements of community health and vitality that have monetary or other social value. In short, it is this network of connected spaces that attracts private development interest, defines the qualities and character of The COR as a vibrant, dynamic, must-experience local and regional destination that brings measurable triple-bottom-line benefits maximizing the City's return on their investment. Multiple benefits and measurable value as highlighted in this diagram and the brief descriptions below.



SOCIAL

Improved Quality of Life and Aesthetics - many studies have shown the positive impacts on quality of life in urban areas from improved aesthetics/ people-comforts, increased recreational space, and a connection to the natural environment. This has a direct bearing on increased job satisfaction, lower crime rates, decreased stress and, when combined with transportation improvements that increase walking and biking, significant public health benefits are realized.



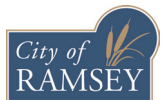
ECONOMIC

Multi-Function Public Space, Green Technology and Increased Property Values – green technologies integrated within public space reduce costs and offset the need to build and maintain additional conventional infrastructure. Well-documented research suggests that proximity to parks, trails and open space amenities at a minimum stabilizes, and in many cases increases, property values. In addition, new technologies and approaches to public space and infrastructure systems have spurred a new wave of job opportunities across the spectrum of design, construction, maintenance and ongoing operations.



ENVIRONMENTAL

Captured Stormwater, Reduced Pollution and Habitat Creation - strategies to capture and clean stormwater will help reduce system volume, reduce pollutant loadings to area waterways, and increase the level of service of the City's stormwater infrastructure. Integrated approaches to the design of public parks, trails and open space provide opportunities to create multiple-function, natural systems and wildlife habitat; ponds, wetlands and other water-resource related features create and enhance the unique setting and ecological benefit derived from a more innovative approach to public places design.



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