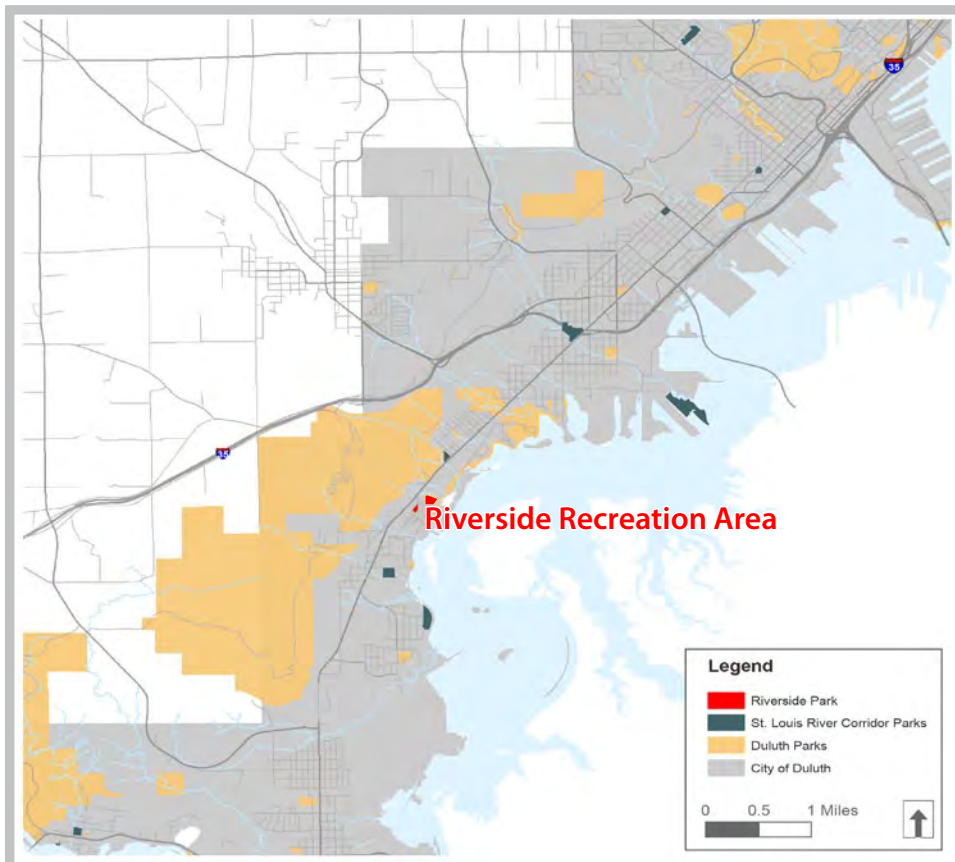




RIVERSIDE RECREATION AREA

Summary and Overview

Riverside Park and Riverside Community Recreation Area together make up the site for the Riverside Park Mini-Master Plan. The five-acre active park area is east of Riverside Drive, accessed by Manitou Street. The smaller one-acre community garden is located adjacent to and west of Riverside Drive. Both areas are located in the Riverside neighborhood in close proximity to Grand Avenue, and the Munger and Western Waterfront Trails. The Riverside Recreation Area is in need of updates and improvements to be more functional as a neighborhood park.



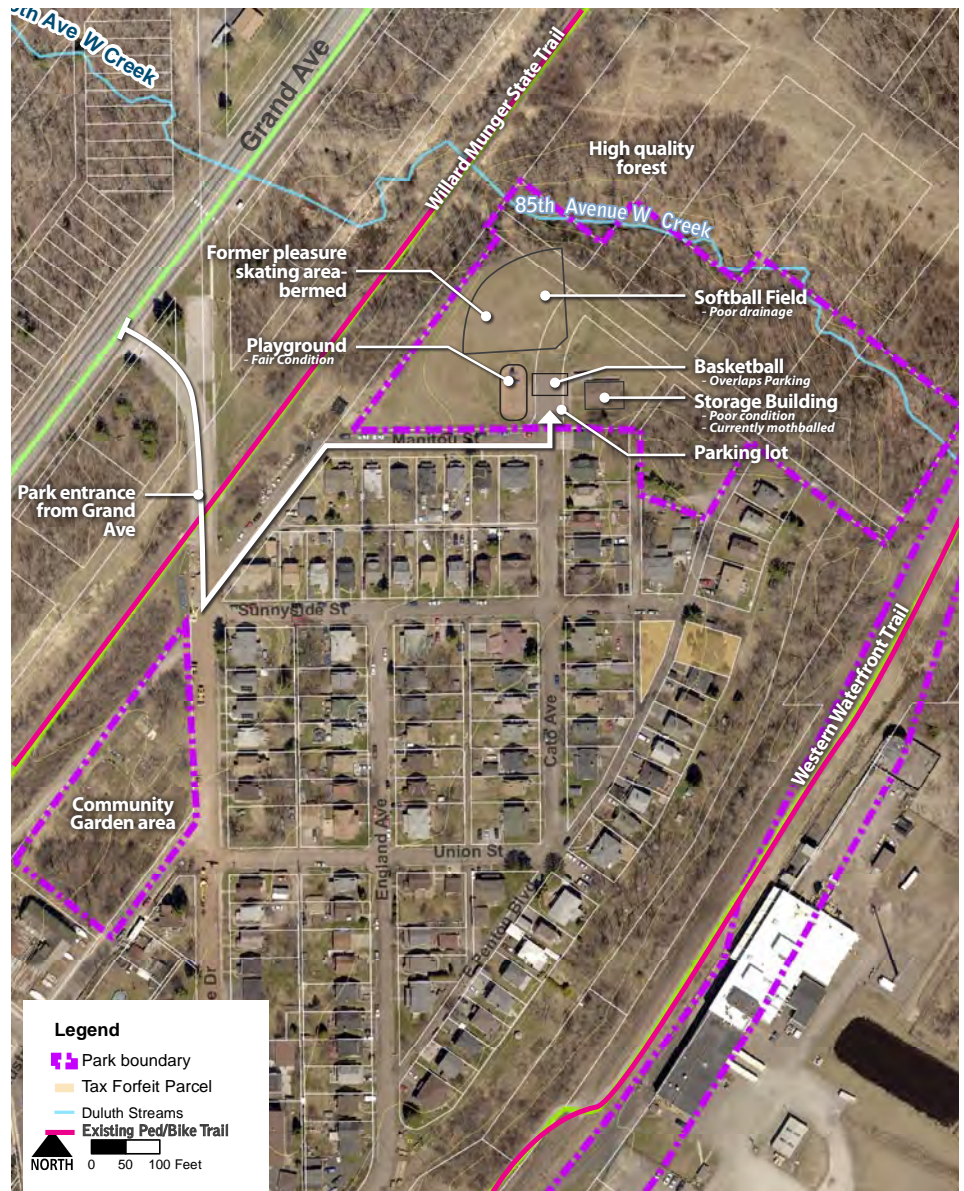
RIVERSIDE RECREATION AREA LOCATION MAP

STRENGTHS/ OPPORTUNITIES:

- » Park location is key for access to two major trails in west Duluth – the Munger State Trail and the Western Waterfront Trail – capitalize on location to trails
- » Natural setting is pleasant – 85th Ave W Creek, high quality forest on the northern and eastern sides of park
- » Open grassy space is nice for free play
- » The neighborhood is transitioning to younger families who would use a park often
- » The community garden site is well used and minor improvements to the fencing and water supply could be made

ISSUES:

- » Lack of seating and gathering space
- » Lack of shelter/shade, especially near playground
- » Lack of restrooms and drinking water
- » Building is an eye sore
- » Park is close to major trails, but trail connections to park do not exist
- » Playground is small and for young children only
- » Basketball hoop is in parking lot – not usable if cars are parked there
- » Softball field is bermed for old pleasure skate area – open space is not as usable as it could be if field was graded to be level and the backstop was removed



RIVERSIDE PARK SITE INVENTORY

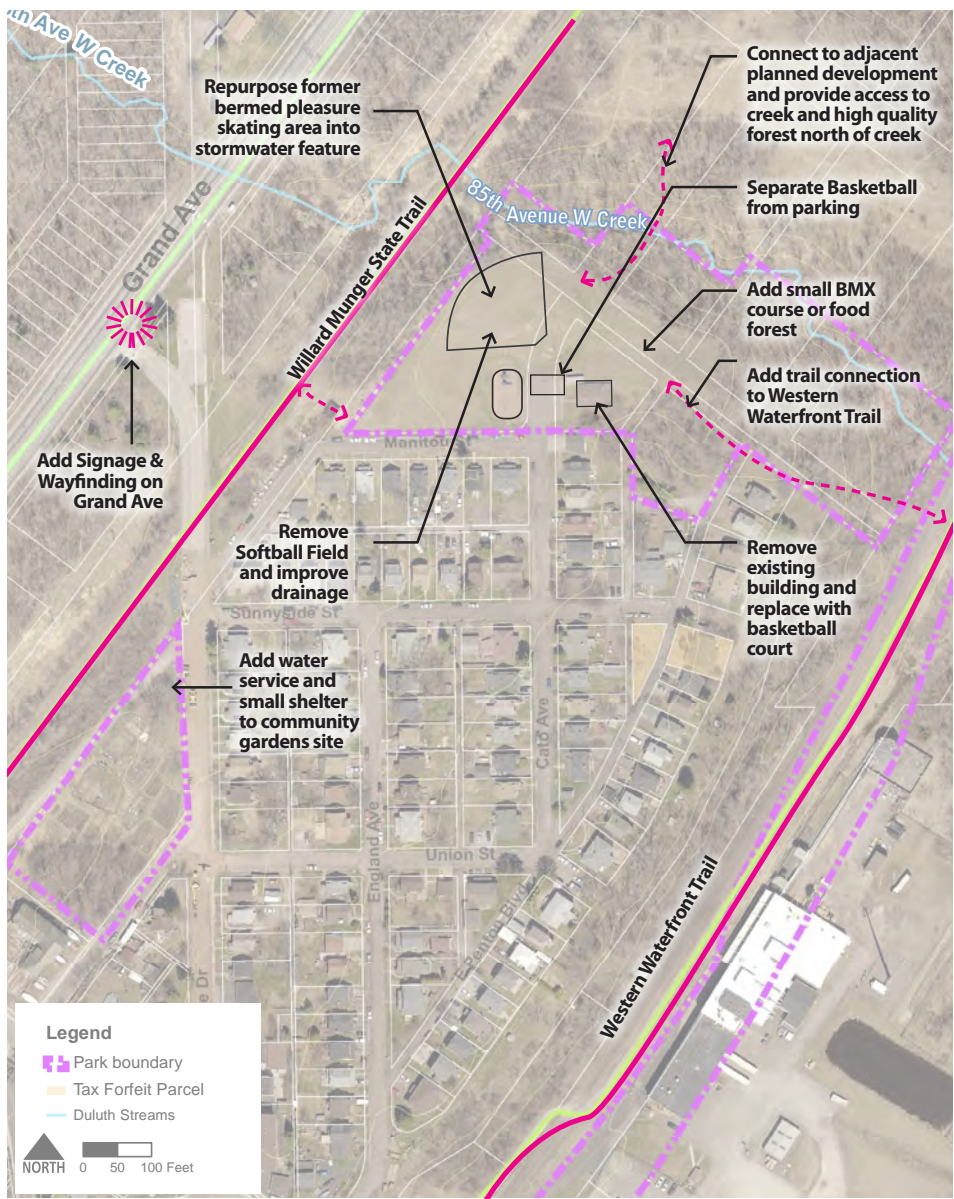
Existing Conditions

Riverside Park is bounded by the Munger State Trail corridor on the west, a residential street and homes on the south, the Western Waterfront Trail corridor on the east, and 85th Avenue W Creek on the north. A parking lot with a basketball hoop and a small playground are the two major features in Riverside Park. An old community center building in the park is today used only for storage. A softball backstop sits in the grassy open area of the park, but it is rarely used.

The community gardens are heavily used and maintained by the Duluth Community Garden Program.

Needs Assessment/Input Summary

At the stakeholder and community meetings, a desire was expressed for every park in the corridor to have basic amenities, including a bench, a picnic table, and a grill. These are items that are not located in Riverside Park today, but



RIVERSIDE PARK SITE ANALYSIS

are desired, especially in combination with a picnic shelter. Wayfinding and directional signage to each park, within each park, and to nearby trails are also desired as a way to promote the parks. There is a strong desire by the Riverside Community Club to include trailhead amenities and trail connections between the park and the Munger and Western Waterfront Trails. Wayfinding signage is needed along both trails to direct people to the park, and in the park to direct people to both trails.

Stakeholder and community meeting attendees expressed an interest in picnic facilities, such as a shelter, picnic tables, restrooms, and a drinking fountain. The community club members have expressed interest in promoting Riverside Park as a sustainable or “green” park with compostable toilets, solar lighting, and low maintenance furnishings. Community club members have also stated the desire for a healthy trail loop within the park that would include adult fitness stations. Overall maintenance and upkeep are desired in the park – residents would like to see the building removed, the softball backstop removed, and the basketball hoop moved to its own full basketball court.



The existing ballfield



The existing building is no longer utilized



The existing playground is in fair condition



The existing crossing of 85th Avenue W Creek

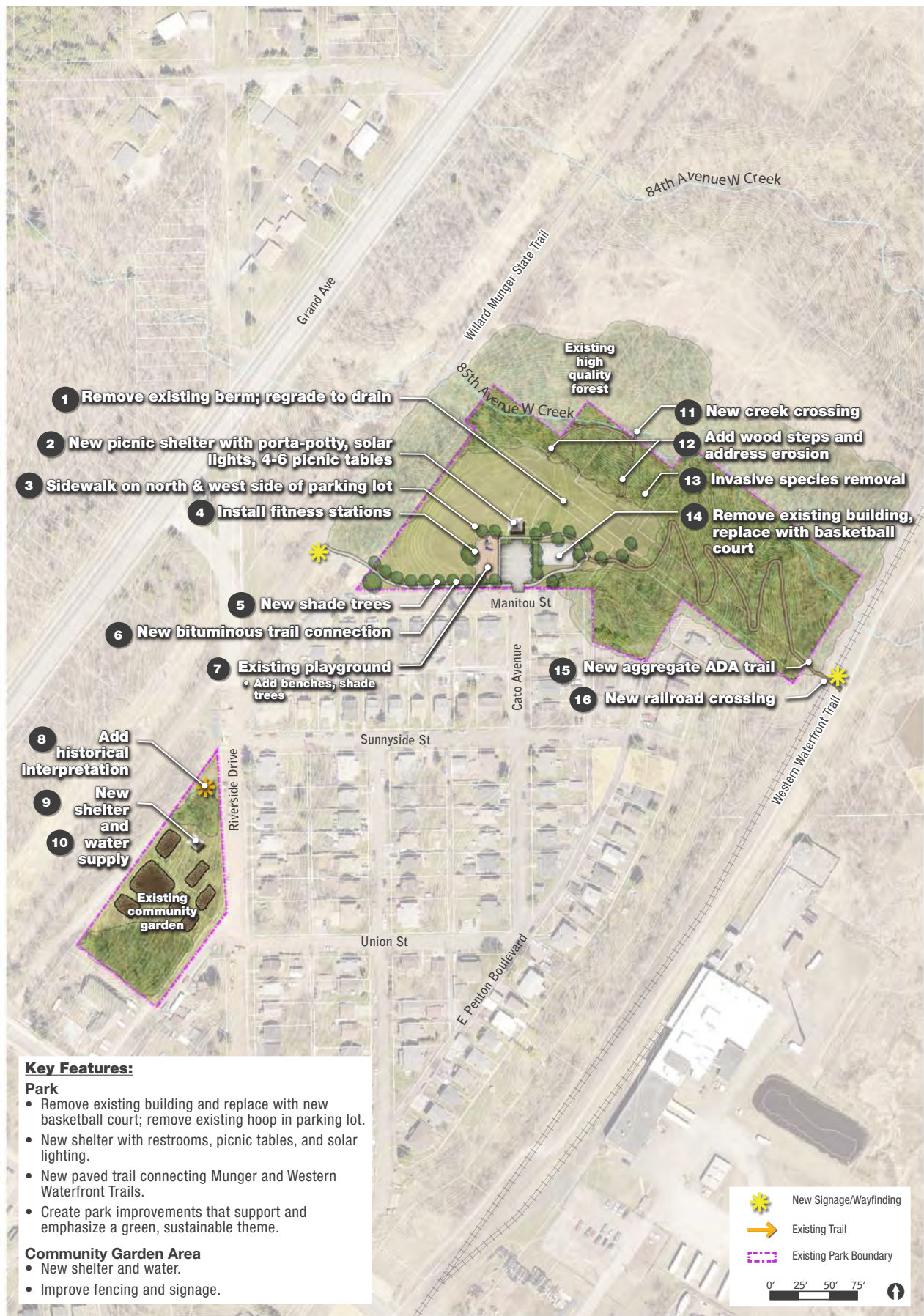


FIGURE 2.13 RIVERSIDE PARK MINI-MASTER PLAN CONCEPT

The community garden site needs taller, stronger fencing and a better, more permanent water supply shelter. There is also the potential for historical interpretation signage at the community garden site along Riverside Drive. The Riverside Neighborhood has a rich history of boat building and river industry.

Concept Plan & Recommendations

The concept plan for Riverside Park includes basic park facilities, such as a picnic shelter, trail connections, a new basketball court, habitat enhancement in the wooded areas, and new trees in the recreation area of the park. The community garden area concept includes new water supply and signage.

Phasing & Cost Estimates

PHASE 1: SHORT-TERM



FIGURE 2.14 RIVERSIDE PARK SHORT-TERM PHASING

ACTION			COST
#	CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	
1	Demolition	Remove Existing Berm and Seed	\$5,000
3	Circulation	Sidewalk on North & West Side of Parking Lot	\$7,800
4	Furnishings	Install Fitness Stations	\$5,000
5	Vegetation	New Shade Trees (27)	\$10,800
7	Furnishings	Install New Benches (2)	\$2,400
8	Circulation	Install New Historical Interpretation/Signage	\$2,500
11	Circulation	New Creek Crossing - 4' Pedestrian Bridge	\$2,400
12	Infrastructure	Build New Wood Steps	\$600
13	Vegetation	Remove Invasive species (buckthorn)	\$7,500
14	Demolition	Remove Existing Building	\$15,000
18	Furnishings	Install porta-potty with screen	\$2,500
Total Short-Term Improvement Costs			\$61,500

PHASE 2: LONG-TERM



FIGURE 2.15 RIVERSIDE PARK LONG-TERM PHASING

ACTION			COST
#	CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	
2	Buildings	Build new Picnic Shelter with Enclosed Porta-potty	\$75,000
2	Furnishings	Install New Picnic Tables (5)	\$10,000
6	Circulation	New Bituminous Trail Connection	\$40,000
7	Recreation	Build New Playground	\$150,000
9	Buildings	Build New Shelter at Community Garden	\$60,000
10	Infrastructure	New Water Line for Community Garden	\$40,000
14	Recreation	Build New Basketball Court - Full	\$50,000
15	Circulation	New Aggregate ADA Trail	\$11,000
16	Circulation	Create Pedestrian RR Crossing	TBD
17	Circulation	New Park Wayfinding Signage	\$2,000
Total Long-Term Improvement Costs			\$438,000
Total Short-Term Improvement Costs			\$ 61,500
Total Improvement Costs			\$499,500