



Project Update: Lakewalk & Coastal Improvements

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PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
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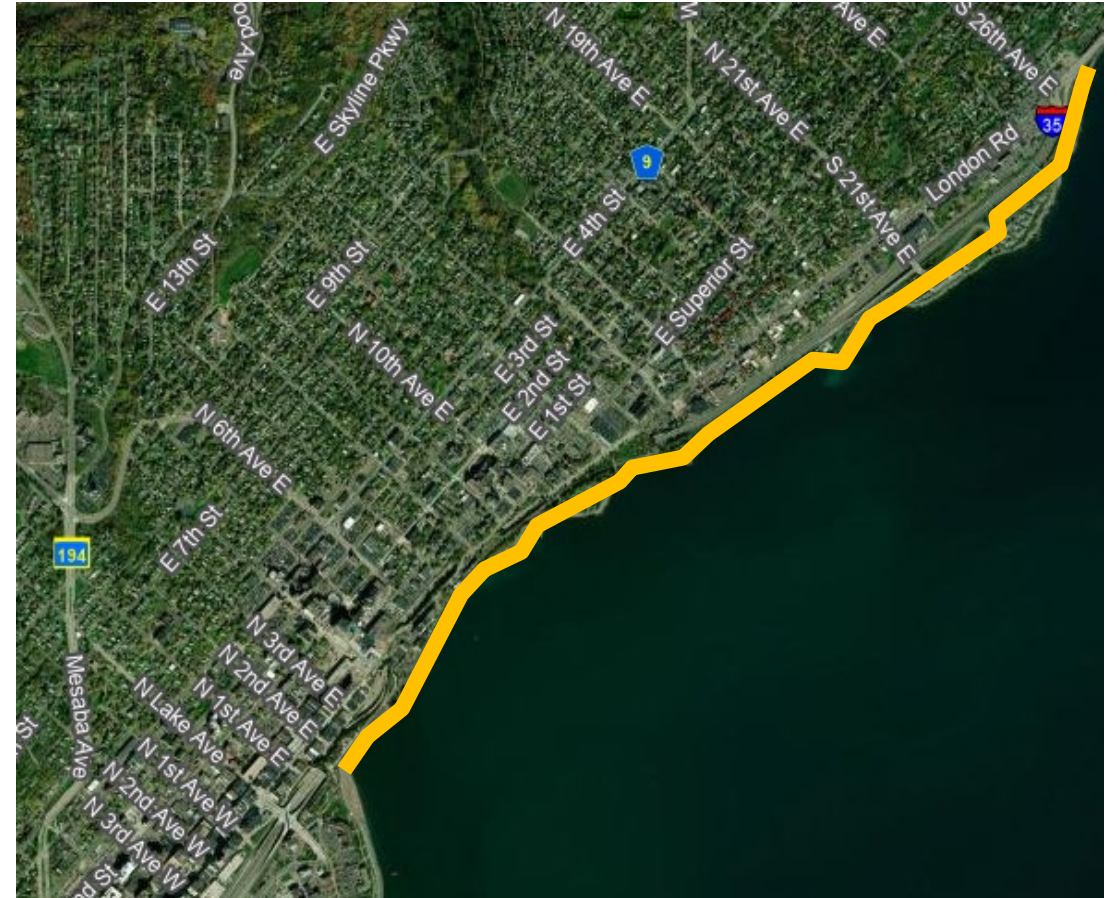


Lakewalk Project Overview

Where: Endion Station to 27th Ave E

The Why:

- Highly popular public greenspace and critical transportation route
- Protecting the trail and downtown from Lake Superior storms
- Addressing safety and access problems while improving user experience



Project Background



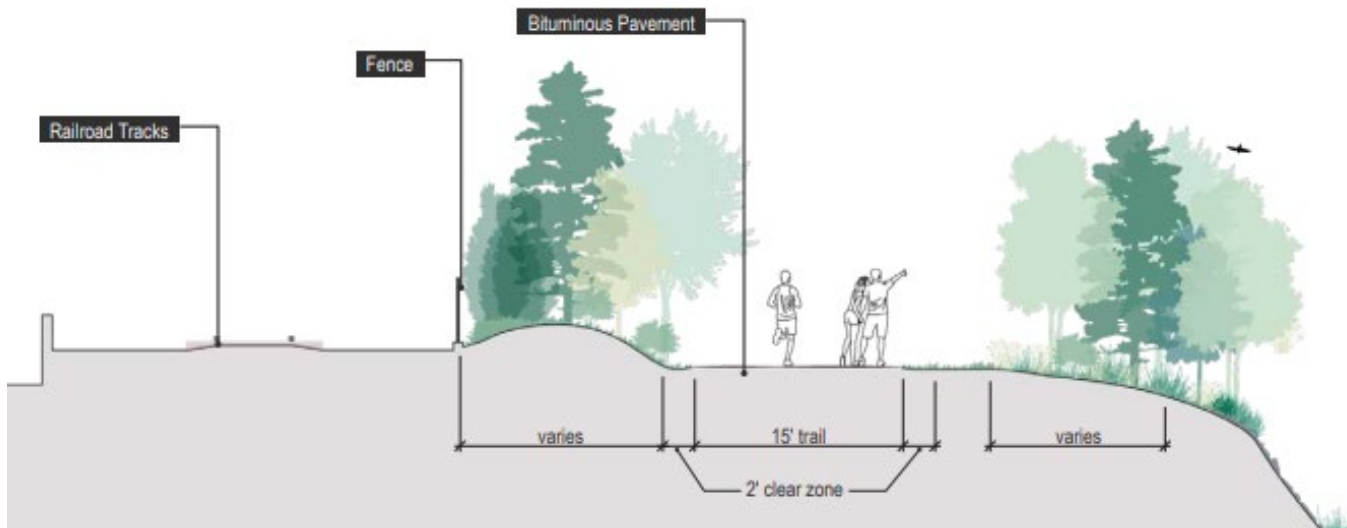
- History of significant storm damage
- Growing need to address poor pavement quality and improve safety
- A capital project to address deferred maintenance
- Brighton Beach & Lakewalk Resiliency Designs
 - Provided design guidance for retreating trail infrastructure and consolidating water access
- 2023 Lakewalk Interpretive Plan
 - Envisioned “experience districts” to create a more cohesive and connected Lakewalk
 - Identified key locations to improve connections
 - Designed interpretive elements

Background – Lakewalk Resiliency

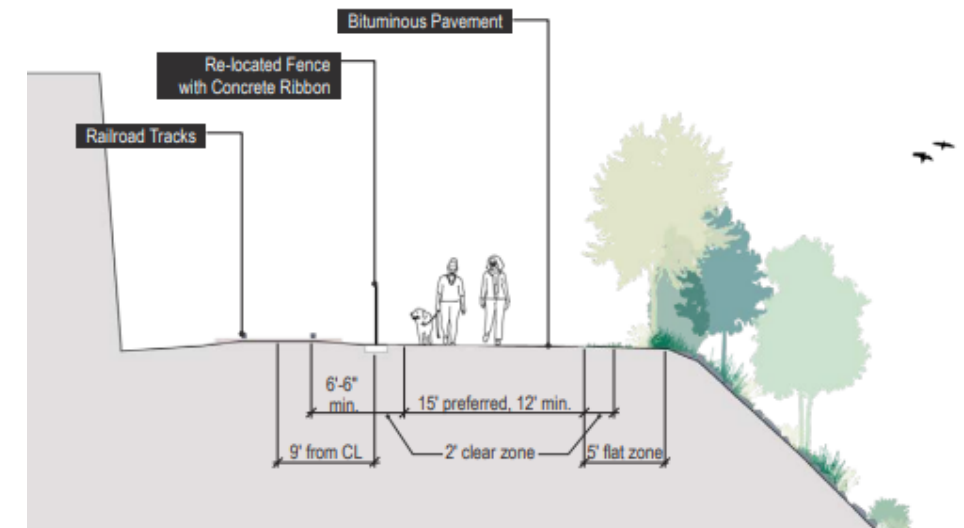
Brighton Beach & Lakewalk Resiliency Designs

- Design guidance for trail reconstruction – typical cross sections and alignments to improve accessibility

Wide Condition



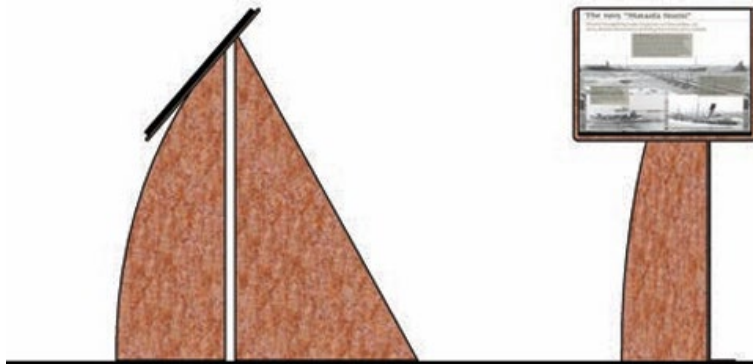
Constrained Condition



Background – Interpretive Plan

Lakewalk Interpretive Plan

- Adopted June 2023
- Identified key locations to improve connections
- Designed interpretive elements



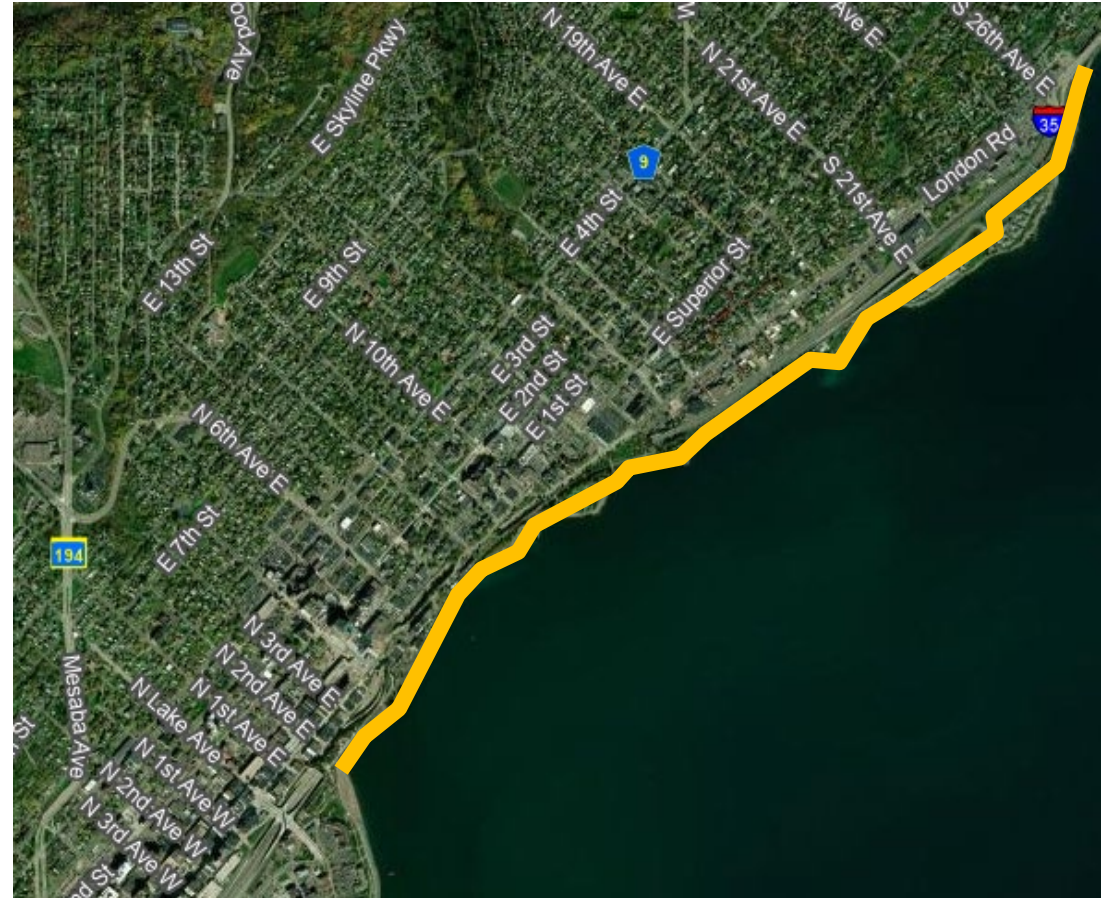
Lakewalk Interpretive Plan Connecting the Downtown Waterfront

The broad arc of the Duluth Waterfront allows visitors expansive views of the water and sky as well as the ability to see the collection of landmarks that stretch out across the water. The different areas along the waterfront each have distinct qualities that reflect the rich history and geography of this unique place. When viewed in sequence these districts reveal a layered story of how the waterfront has been shaped and changed over time.



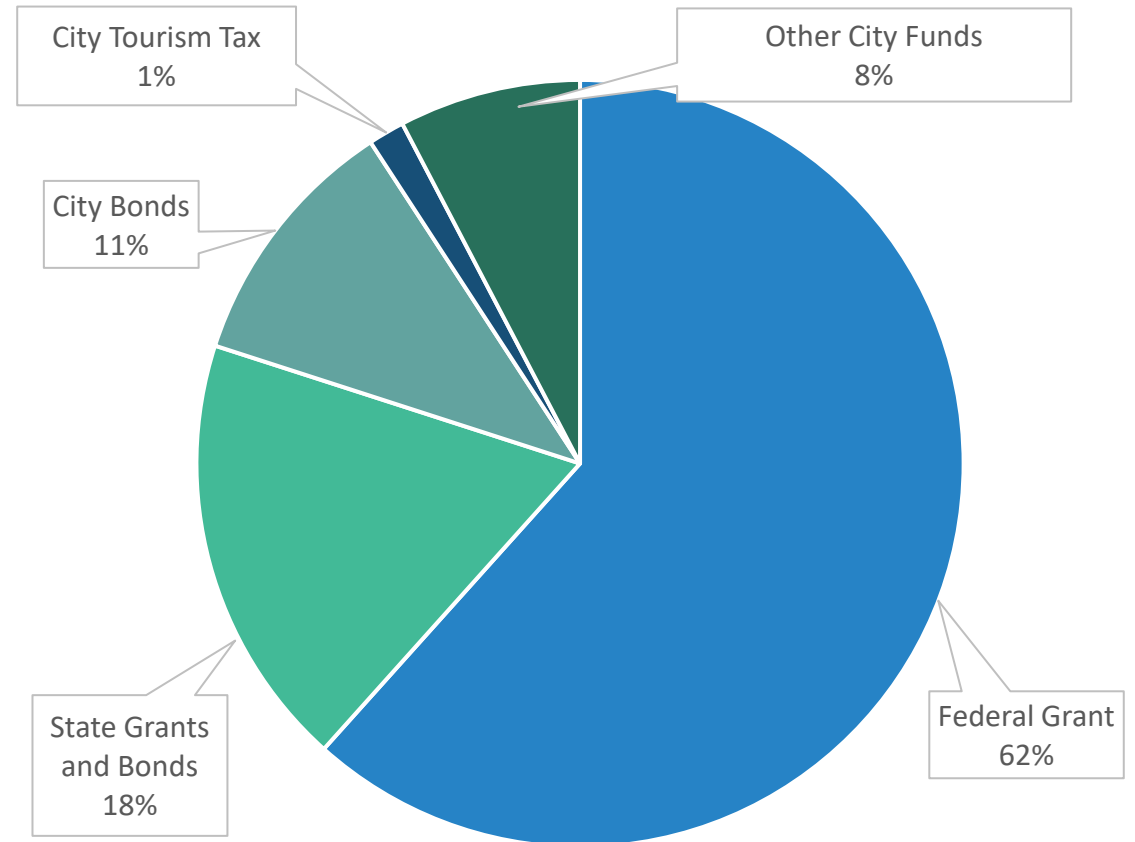
Lakewalk Project Scope

- Full trail reconstruction
- Coastal revetment and restoration
- Safety and access improvements
 - Intentional re-routes at 4 locations
 - Widening at key pinch points
- Updating pause areas and new amenities
- Wayfinding
- Interpretive signage



Lakewalk Project Funding

Funding	Source	Amount
Federal	RAISE Grant	\$8,196,234
State	Matching Grant	\$2,049,752
State	Bond	\$221,844
State	MN Historical Society Grant	\$165,725
City	Bond	\$1,440,453
City	Other Sources	\$1,019,737
City	Tourism Tax	\$203,000
Estimated Total Project Cost		~ \$13,296,745



Timeline

- Rachel Contracting, LLC has been hired for construction
- Work starts this fall
- In process of determining construction timing, duration, and closures
- Going into construction
 - Critical transportation route
 - Detours and closures have few alternatives and will be inconvenient
 - Important to communicate closures and project purpose



Project Details

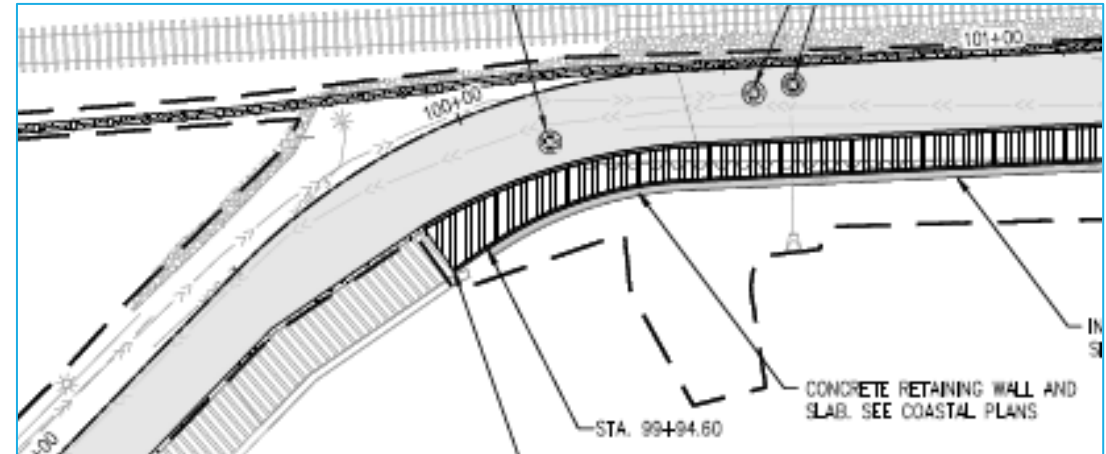


Addressing safety and access problems while improving experiences and protecting the trail and downtown.

- Safety and access improvements
 - Full trail reconstruction
 - Resurfacing, replacing fencing, select re-routes, and widening at key pinch points
- Coastal revetment and restoration
 - Consolidating and improving water access
 - Retreating the trail where possible
- Improving experiences
 - Wayfinding, interpretive elements, and updating pause areas

Trail Reconstruction

- Retreat from shoreline where possible
- Widening at key pinch points
- Reducing tight turns and improving sight lines
- New fencing along railroad and improve 2 crossings



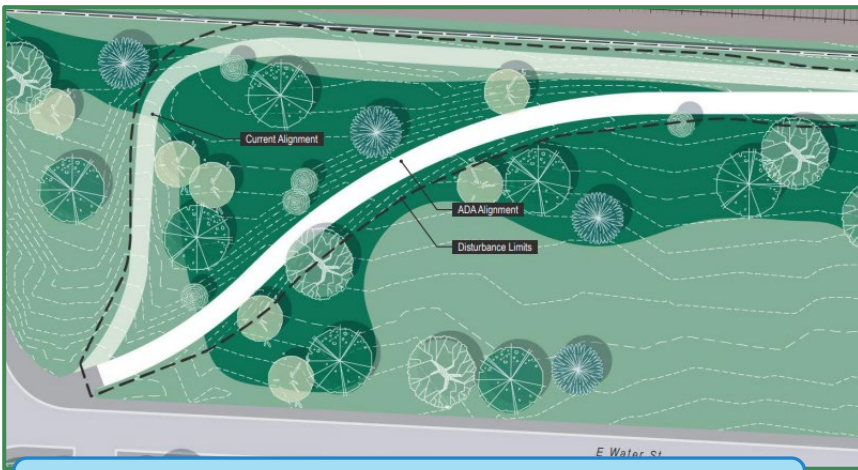
Trail Reroutes – Leif Erikson

- New trail along railroad tracks with retaining wall
- Better define park space and trail corridor
- Reduce grade changes for Lakewalk travel
- Provide accessible connection

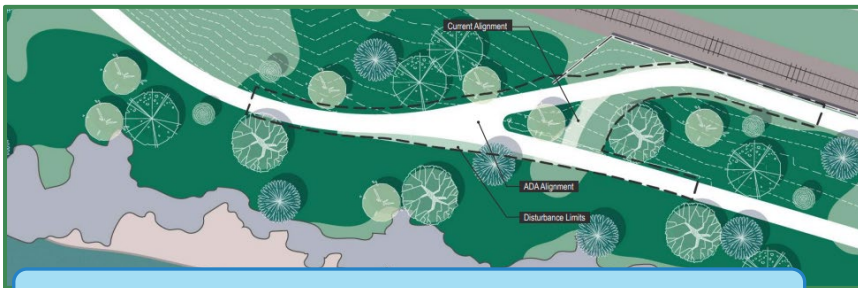


Trail Reroutes

- Improving turning radius, sightlines, and grade changes
- Meeting ADA requirements and MnDOT trail standards



1 – Near 23rd Ave E and Water Street



2 – Lakeside London Road Connector



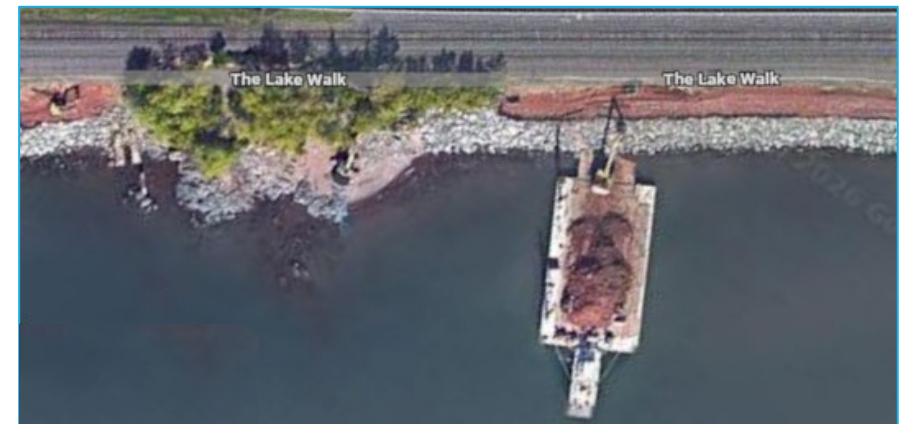
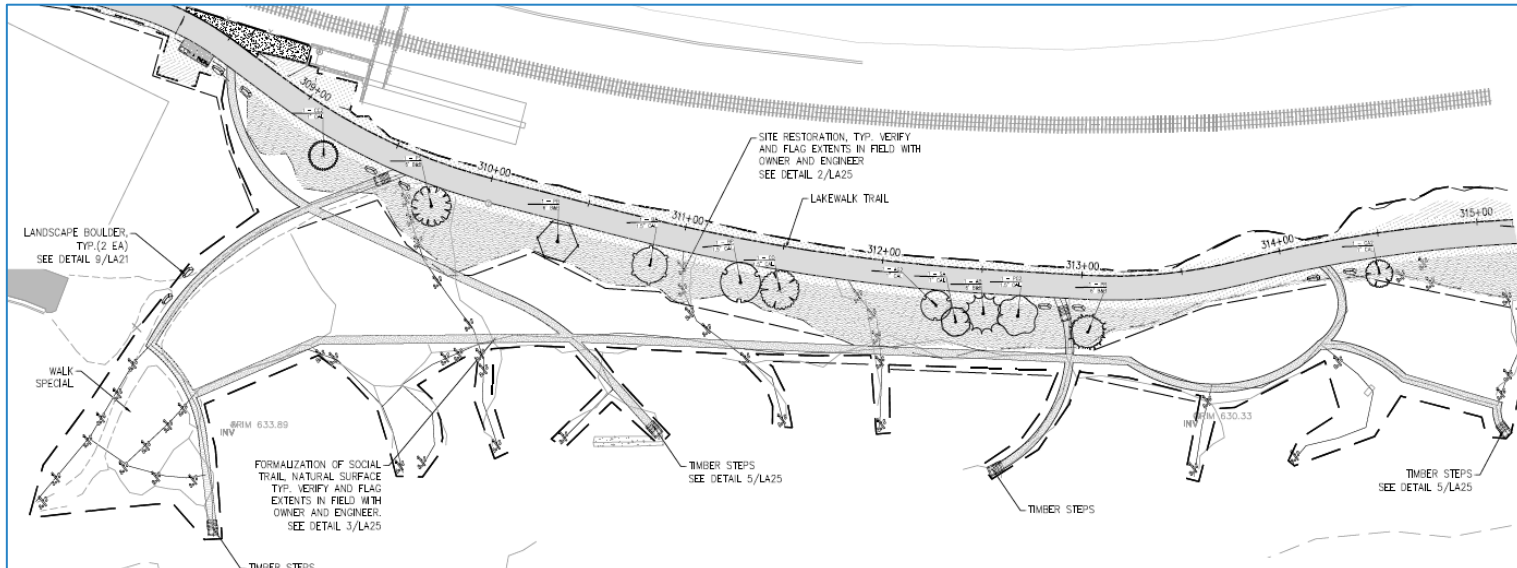
3 – Alexander Street Switchback



Coastal Protection

Coastal revetment and shoreline restoration

- Revetment where trail cannot be retreated (below Va Bene)
- Formalize and consolidate water access to provide better access and reduce erosion – example “Ledges” below:



Pause Areas

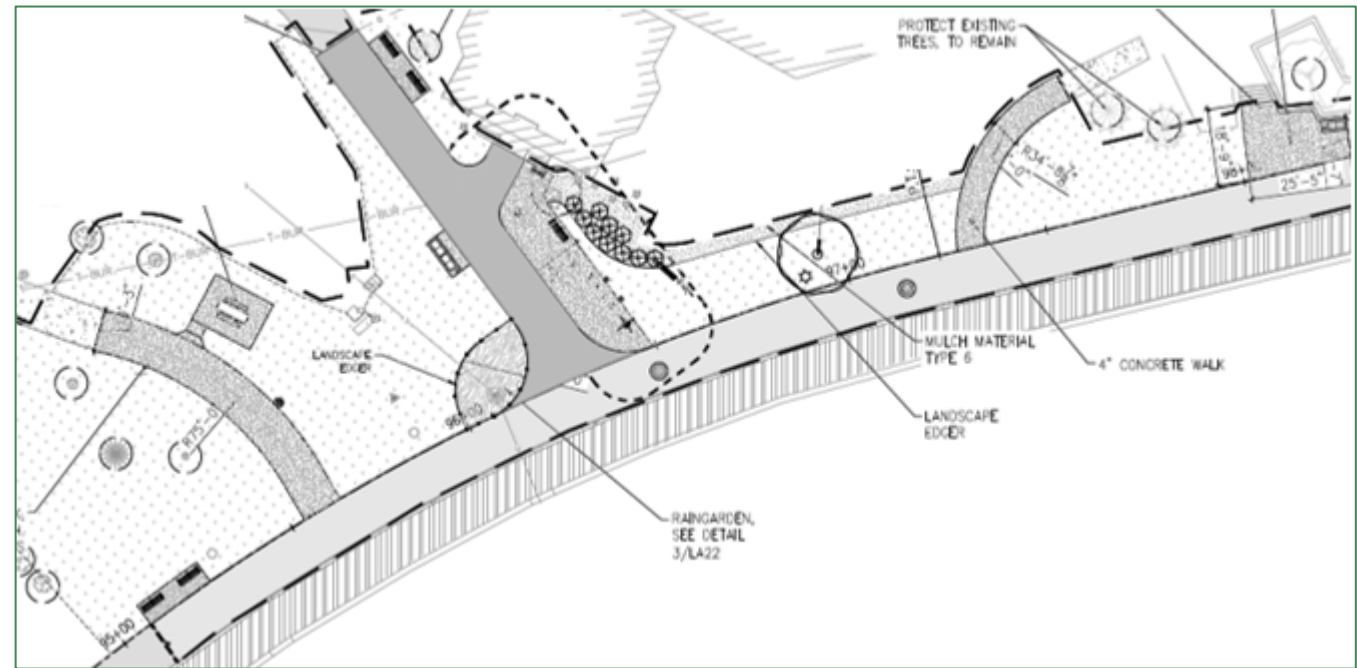
Pause areas exist along the trail – places to sit and resting space at connection points

- Trail safety and access improvements required relocation or redesign of some sites
- Transitioning to more accessible amenities – installing new picnic tables, benches, and bike racks
- Retreating trail and amenities from shore



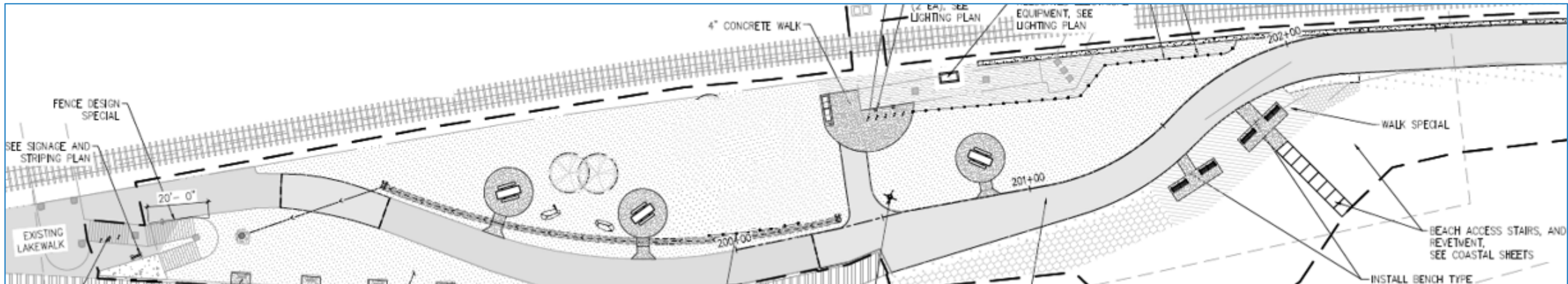
Pause Areas – Endion Station

- Connecting to previous work with current project
- Consolidating pavement and clarifying connections
- Addressing stormwater problem



Pause Areas – Below Fitger's

- Connecting to previous work with current project
- New amenities – picnic tables, bike racks, wayfinding



Wayfinding & Connections

- Better orient people to the Lakewalk and improve connectivity to downtown businesses and activities
- Primarily signage
 - New maps and directional arrows
 - Restoring Gichi-ode' Akiing arch



Next Steps



UPCOMING LAKEWALK IMPROVEMENTS

From Endion Station to 27th Ave E

The Lakewalk is in need of changes to address safety and access problems while improving experiences and protecting the trail and downtown.

Improvements:

- Full trail reconstruction
- Resurfacing, replacing fencing, select re-routes, and widening at key pinch points
- Wayfinding, interpretive elements, and updating pause areas
- Coastal revetment and restoration

Visit bit.ly/lakewalk-project or scan for updates:



- Posters, press releases, and social media to alert folks about the project
- Finalizing timeline for construction and sharing with the public and stakeholders
- Project webpage will be updated as more information is available: <https://duluthmn.gov/parks/parks-trails/current-projects/lakewalk-coastal-improvements/>
- Questions can be directed to:

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