



Lakewalk & Coastal Improvements

Allison Brooks, Project Coordinator

VIRTUAL INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION

2:00 – 4:00 PM

SEPTEMBER 3, 2026



Virtual Presentation Format

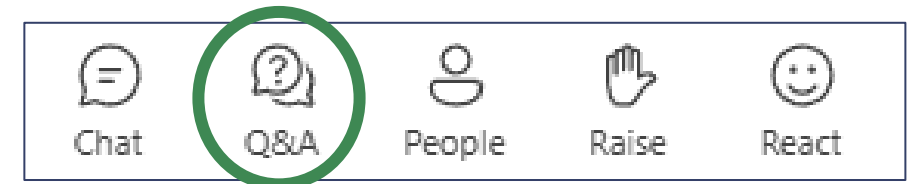
Agenda

- 2:00 PM Welcome & Introduction
- 2:05-2:15 Project Overview
 - How did this project come to be?
 - How is it funded?
 - What is the timeline?
- 2:15-3:00 PM Review Project Details
 - What will change and where?
- 3:00 PM Construction Progress 2026
- 3:05-4:00 PM Questions & Answers



Process

- This will be recorded and posted on project webpage
- All attendees will be muted until we open for questions
- Put questions in the “Q&A” at anytime
 - We will address them during Q&A
 - Helpful – use slide number



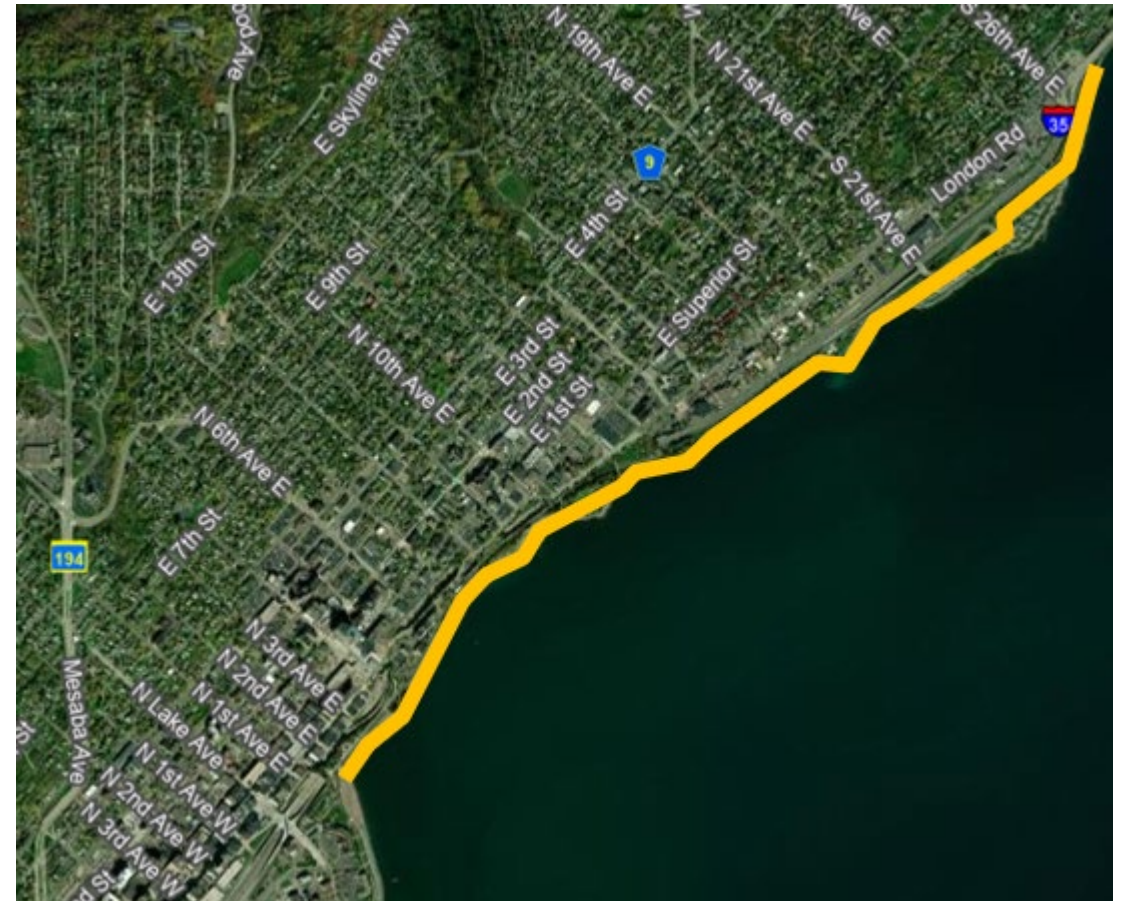


Project Overview

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



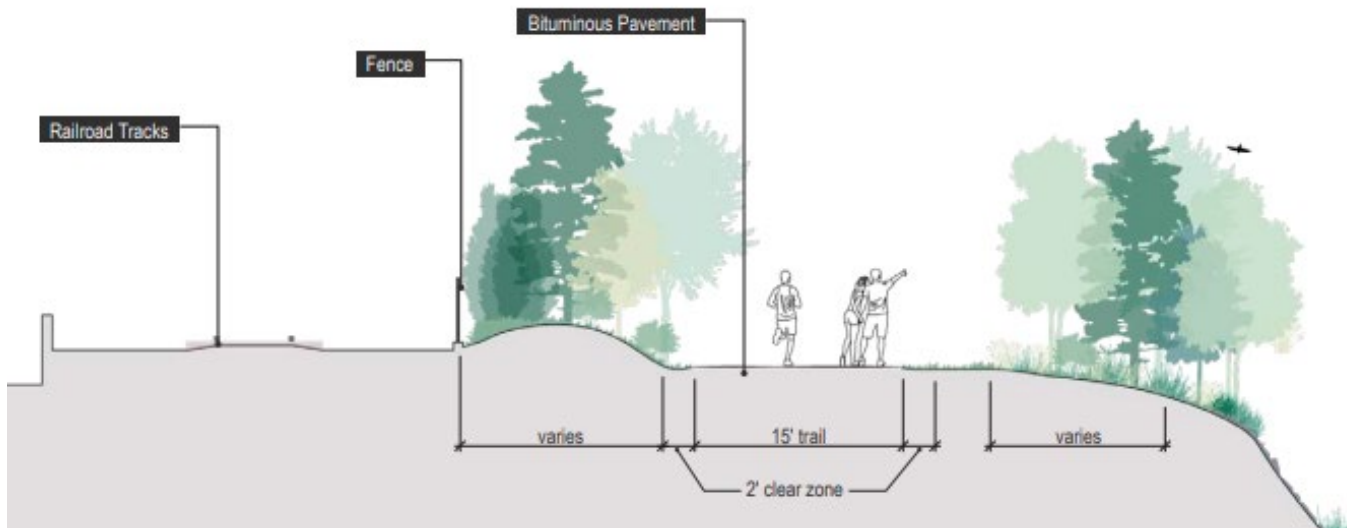
- History of significant storm damage
- Growing need to address poor pavement quality and improve safety
- A capital project to address deferred maintenance
- Brighton Beach & Lakewalk Resiliency Designs
 - Provided design guidance for retreating trail infrastructure and consolidating water access
- 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

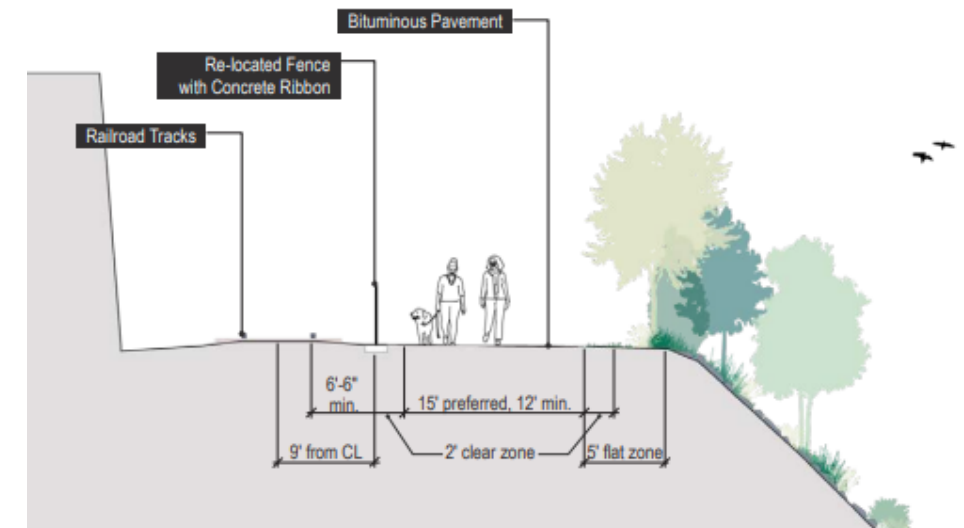
Brighton Beach & Lakewalk Resiliency Designs

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

Wide Condition



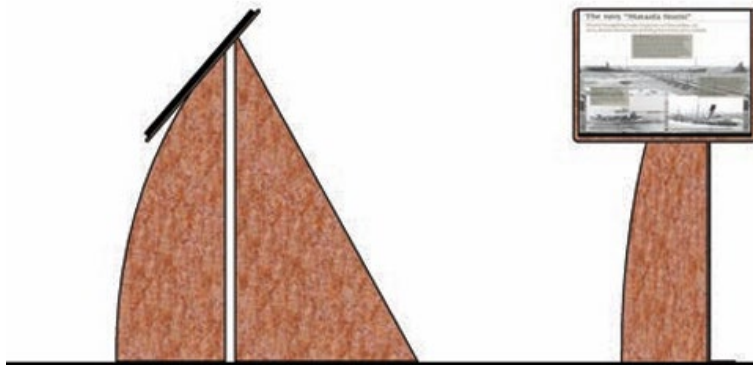
Constrained Condition



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

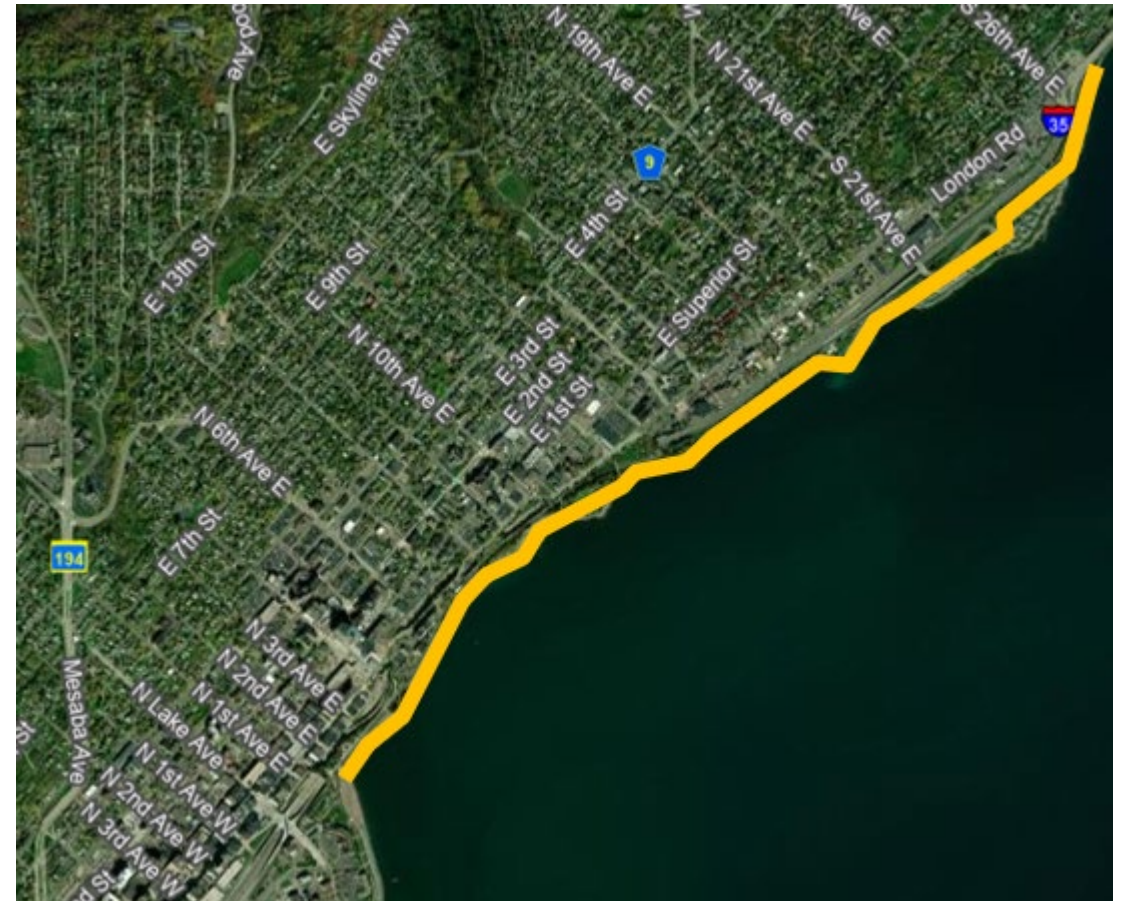
The broad arc of the Duluth Waterfront allows visitors expansive views of the water and sky as well as the ability to see the collection of landmarks that stretch out across the water. The different areas along the waterfront each have distinct qualities that reflect the rich history and geography of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





Project Scope

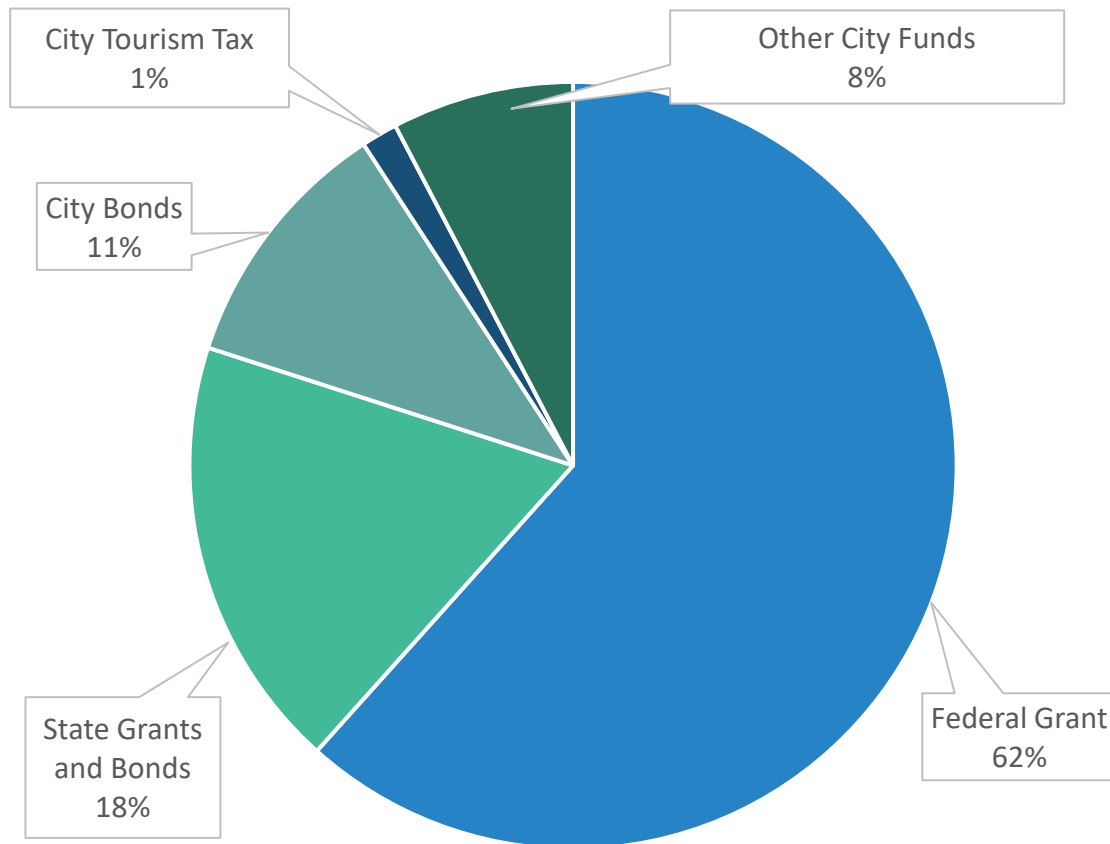
- Full trail reconstruction – repaving, replacing fencing, widening at key pinch points
- Retreating trail from shoreline where possible
- Improving sightlines, turning radius, and accessibility
- Coastal restoration – bank stabilization, consolidating and improving water access points
- New wayfinding and interpretive signage
- Updated pause areas and amenities – picnic tables, bike racks, and benches





Project Funding

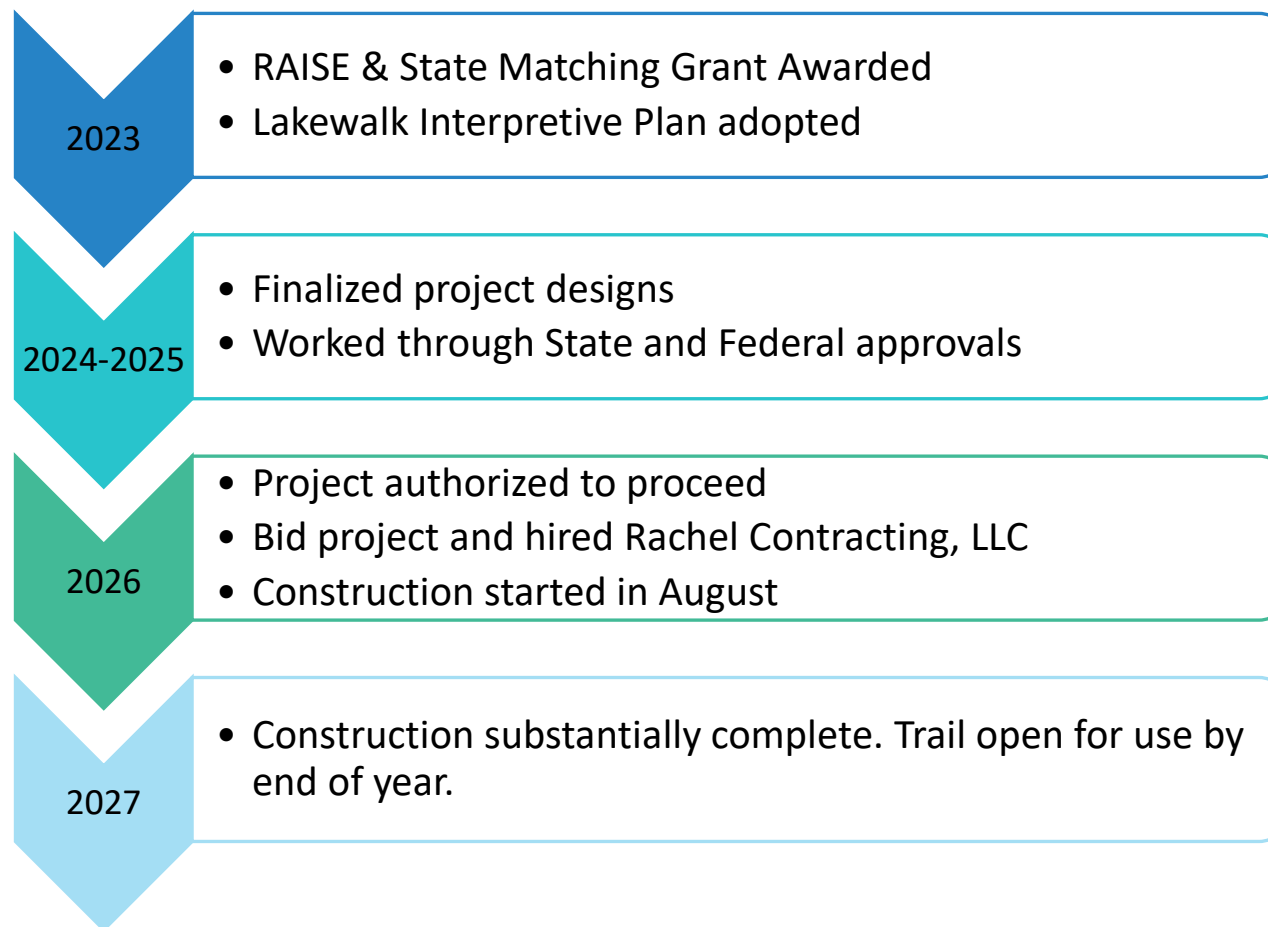
Funding	Source	Amount
Federal	RAISE Grant	\$8,196,234
State	Matching Grant	\$2,049,752
State	Bond	\$221,844
State	MN Historical Society Grant	\$165,725
City	Bond	\$1,440,453
City	Other Sources	\$1,019,737
City	Tourism Tax	\$203,000
Estimated Total Project Cost		~ \$13,296,745





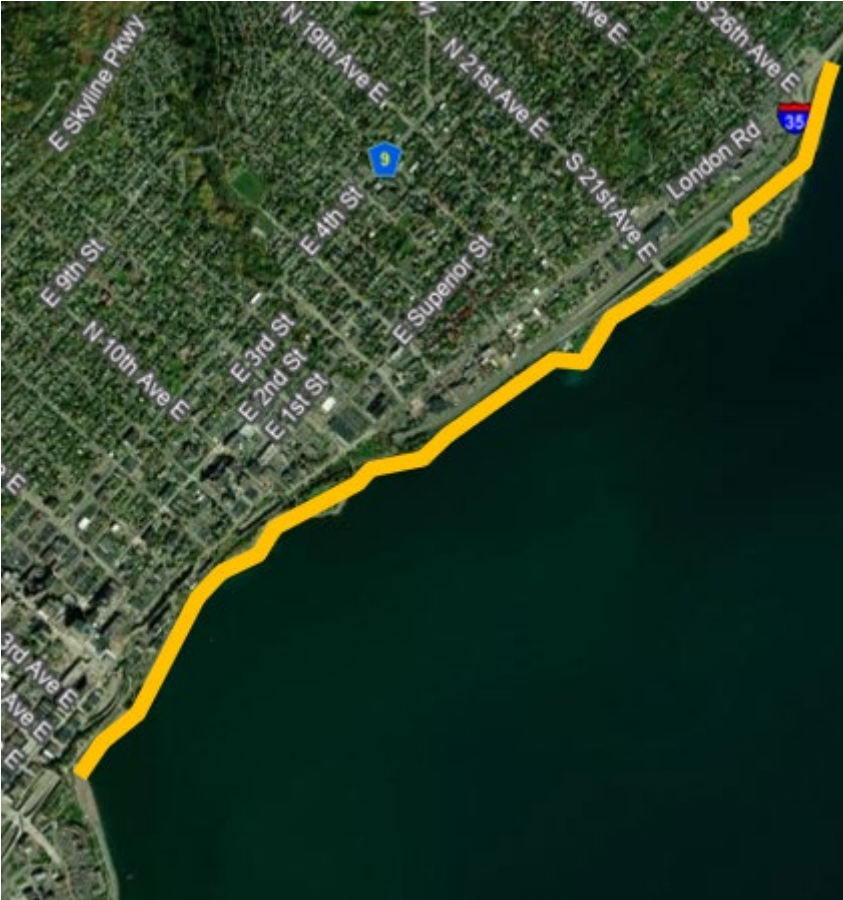
Timeline

- 2026 Construction August – October
 - Stick around for progress pictures!
- Construction will pause over the winter with Lakewalk open for use
- 2027 construction will occur in phases – not yet defined but will be posted on project webpage and detours will be posted
 - Sign up for email updates:
<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/g/cj0dVbVByK>





Diving into Project Details



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

- Full trail reconstruction, retreating trail from shoreline where possible, costal restoration, new signage and amenities

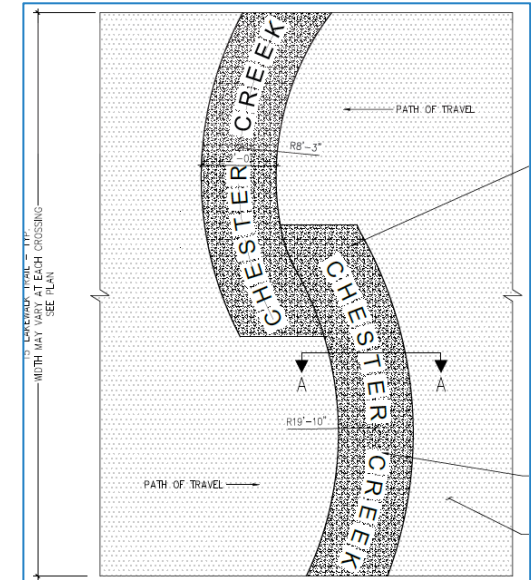
Next, we'll review the project plans to show what will change and where

- Typical details that are consistent across the project
- Site by site, west to east

Disclaimer: Plans shown are subject to change

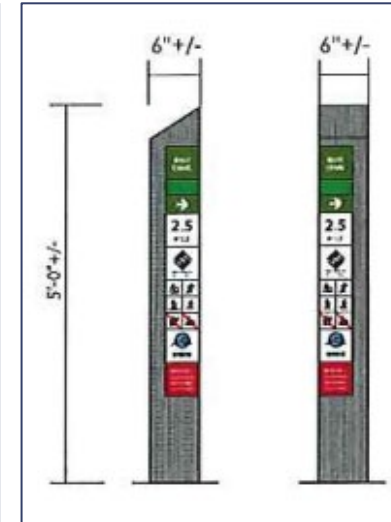
Typical Details

- Follows [MnDOT's Bicycle Facility Design Manual](#)
 - Standards for turning radius, sightlines, clear zones, steepness of slopes, and much more
- Pavement width of 12' with a painted centerline
 - Width currently varies between ~ 8-12'
 - Will return to 10' width east of London Road lake-side connector
- Identifying the 4 creek crossings with concrete inlay
 - Brewery, Grey's, Chester, and Oregon
- New site amenities
 - Updating for consistency and accessibility
 - Picnic tables, benches, bike racks, garbage/recycling



Signage

- Wayfinding signage includes maps, mile markers, and directional arrows
- Superior Street: adding sign at Lake Avenue (like what is at S 1st Ave E, pictured bottom left) and restoring Gichi-ode' Akiing metal arch
- After construction, will install interpretive signs



Lighting

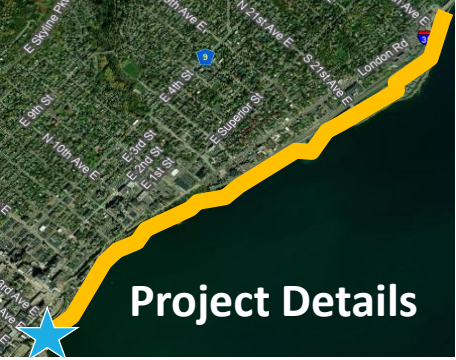
- Completed a lighting study for pole spacing and target illuminance
- Keeping lighting between Endion Station and Fitger's
- Updating lighting between Fitger's and Leif Erikson
 - Changing to amber – less disruptive to nature with a 50-60% reduction in sky glow impact per lumen from other Lakewalk lights
- New lighting along new trail route in Leif Erikson
- Finding balance between feeling safe and limiting shoreline light pollution



Water Access

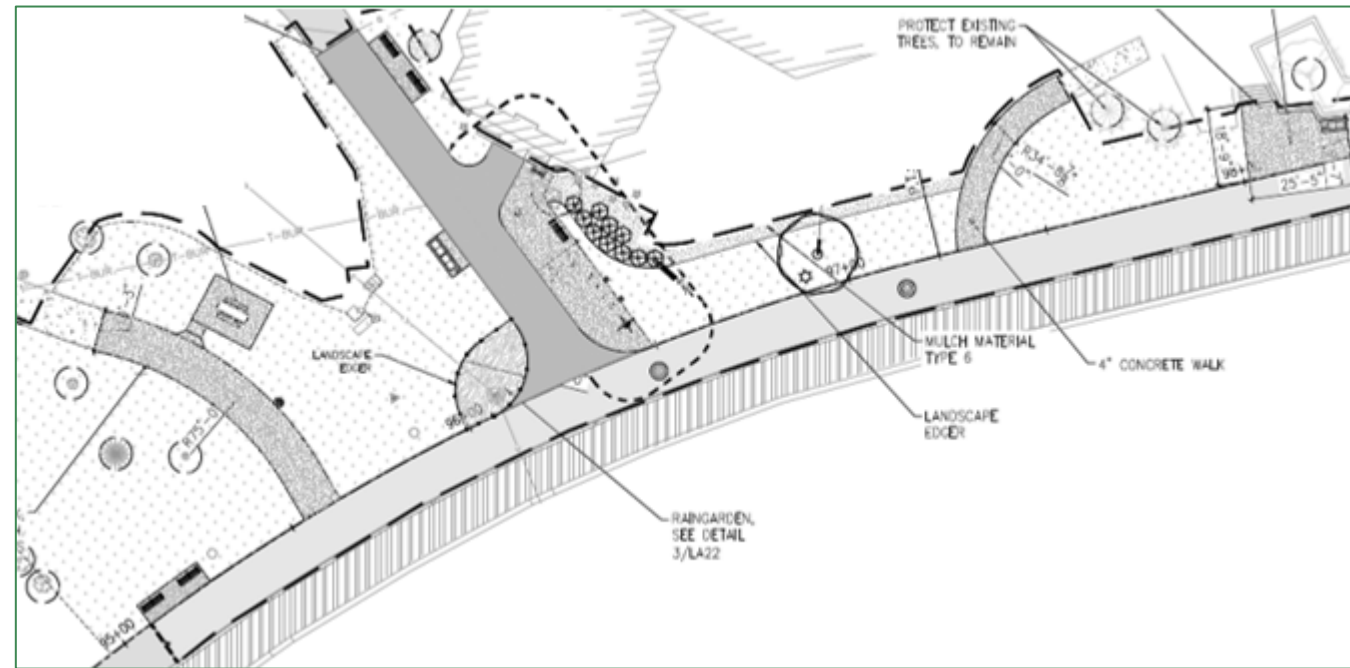
- “Social trails” are informal, community-created through repeated use
- Studied locations and impacts of existing formal and social trails
 - Degrading over time, erosion and needing to stabilize shore
- Consolidating to fewer, better water access trails – some will use timber and gravel, some connect to bedrock, and some will be stone
 - Crushed bluestone trails, 5' width

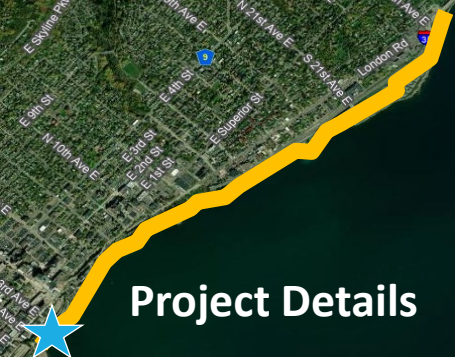




Endion Station

- Consolidating pavement and clarifying connections
- Will still have site amenities: water fountain, bike racks, bike repair station, benches, picnic tables
- Addressing stormwater problem

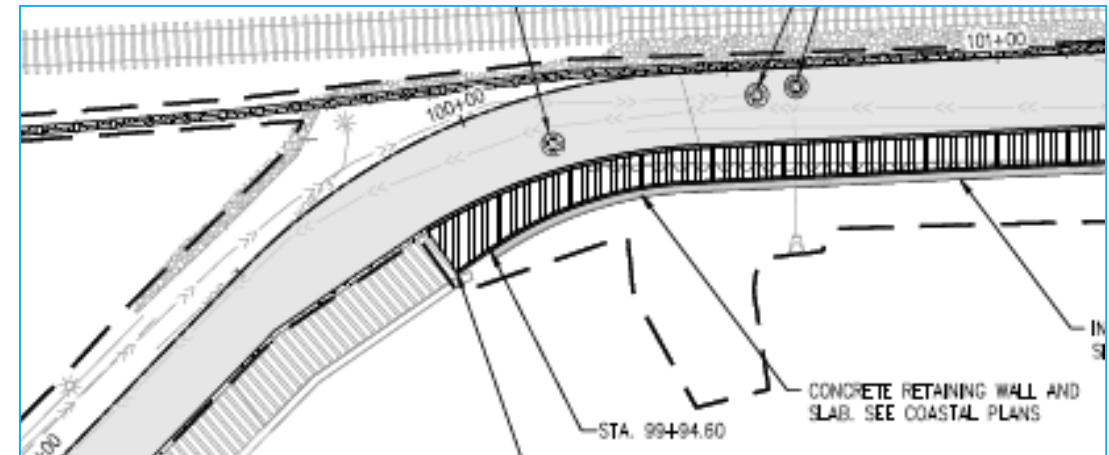




Below Gichi-ode' Akiing Corner of the Lake



- Current pinch point at 13' will be widened to pavement of 12' plus boardwalk of 7'
- Concrete ribbon between bituminous and boardwalk – like in Canal Park and below Fitger's
- New fencing between railroad and trail, and new railing between trail and Lake

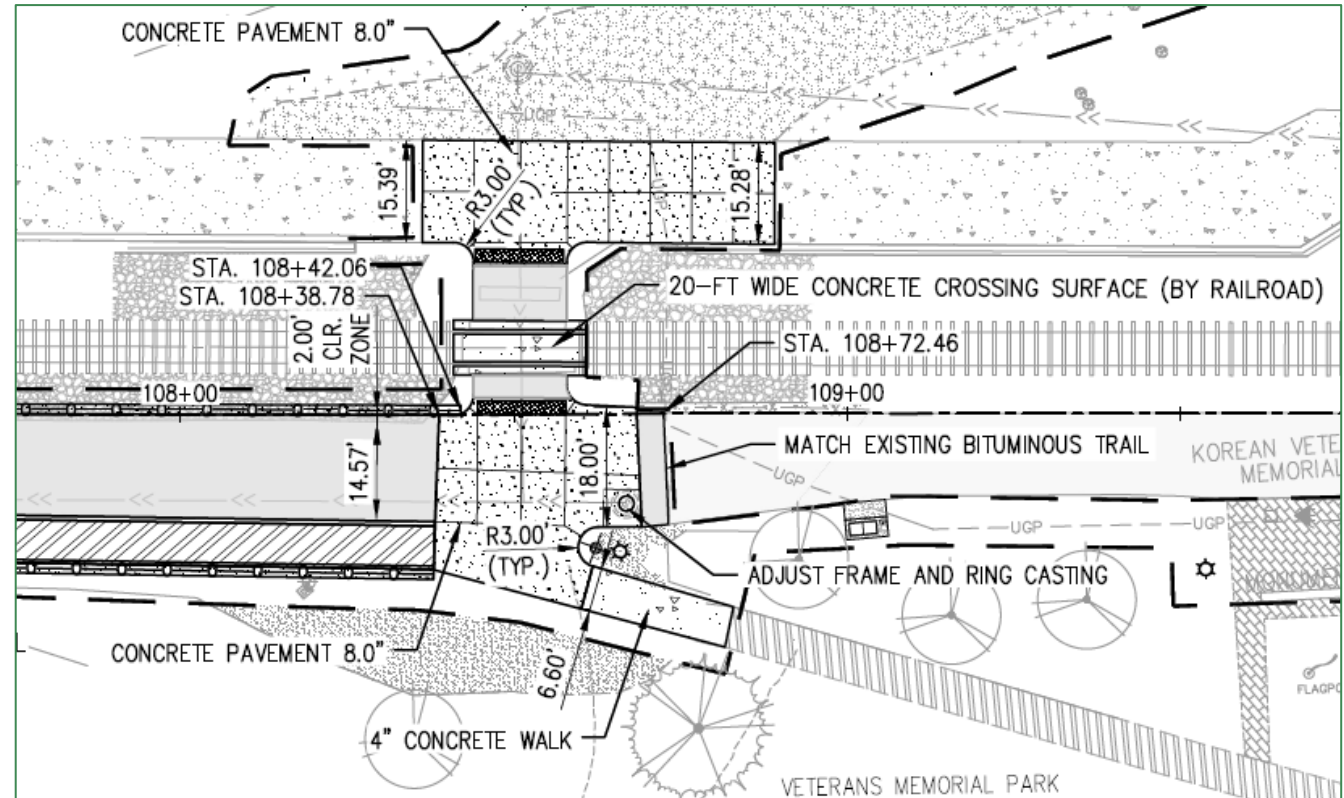
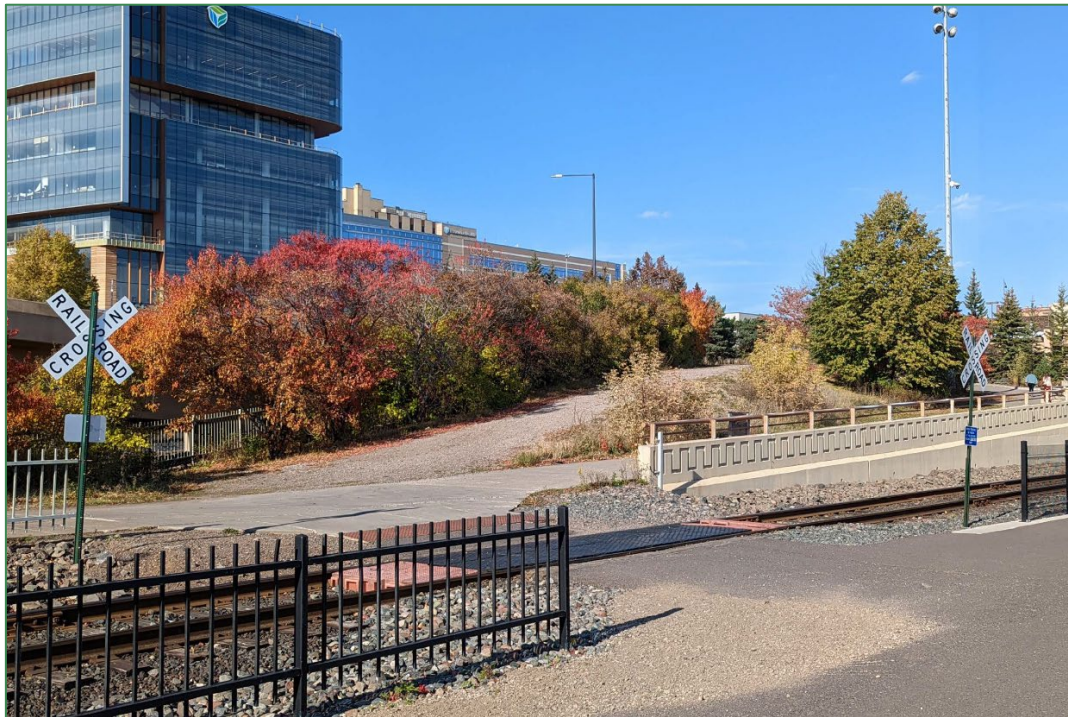




Connection to Gichi-ode' Akiing & Superior Street



- Concrete intersection and new railroad crossing
- Fencing replacement west to here

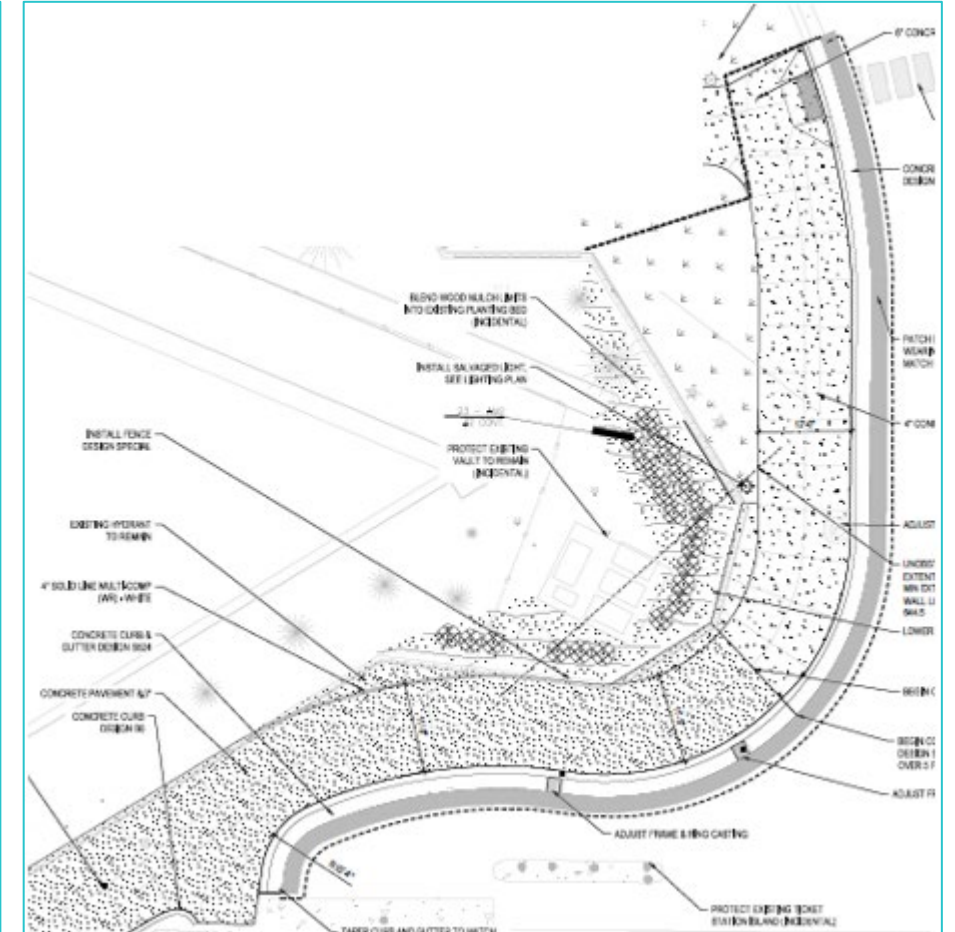
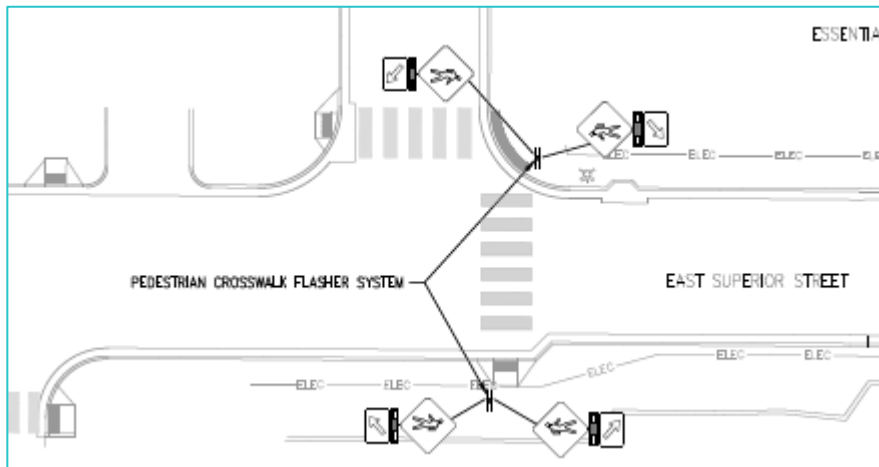


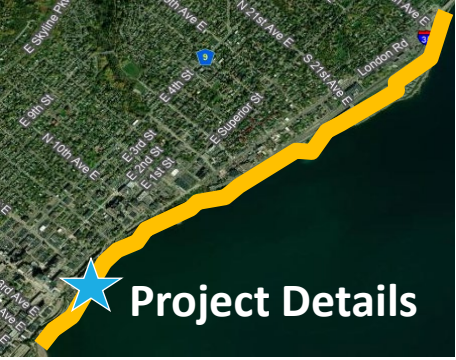


Connection to Superior Street



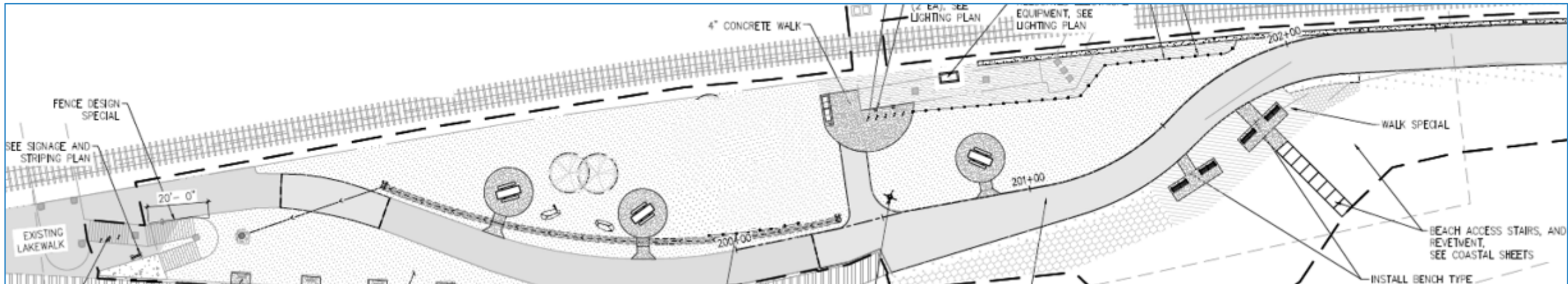
- Current pinch point of 5' and concrete walls limit sightlines
- New minimum width of 11' 8" and reducing wall height
- New pedestrian crosswalk at N 4th Ave E & Superior St intersection:

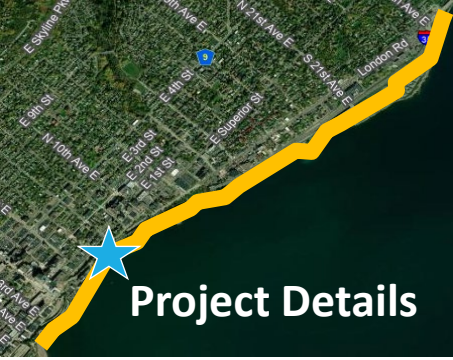




Below Fitger's

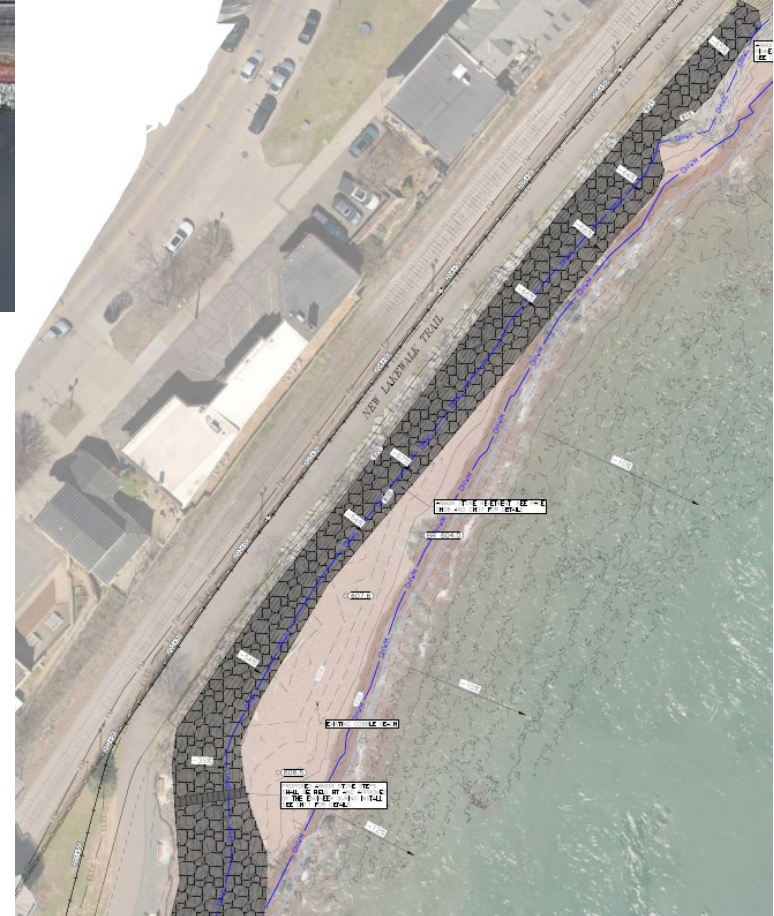
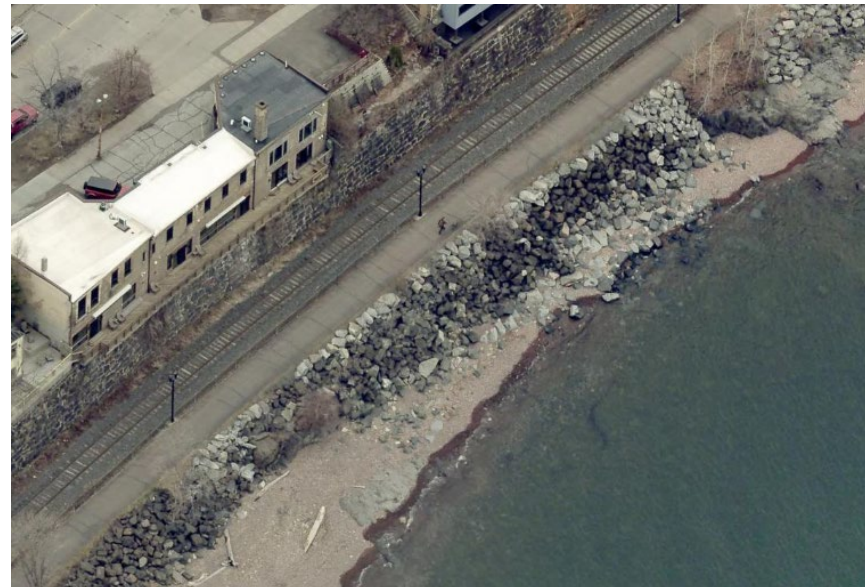
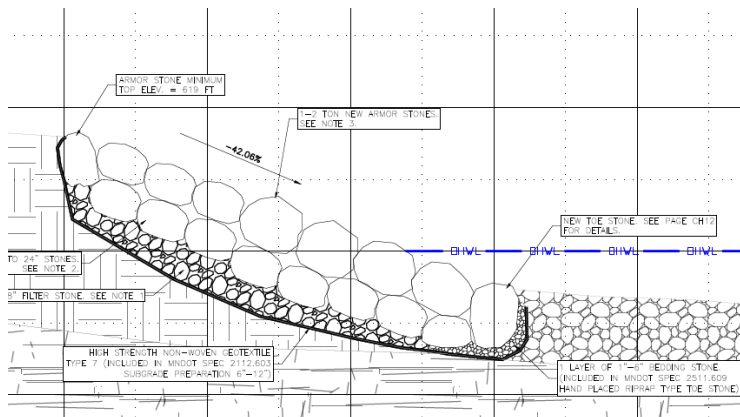
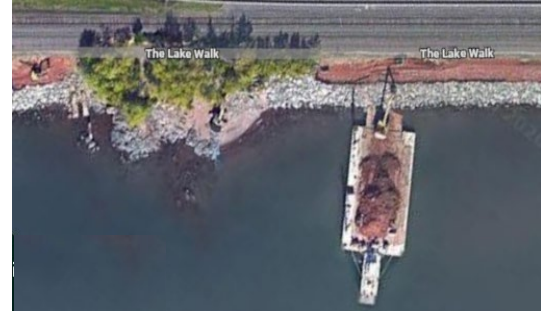
- Connecting to previous work with current project
- Addressing stormwater problems
- Adding picnic tables, landing zone for stairs to Malt Shoppe, and new beach access steps

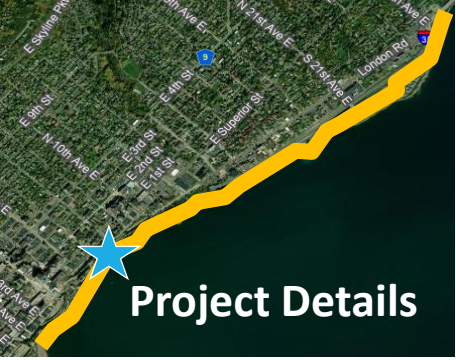




Below 7th Ave E

- Retreating from shore as much as possible
- Bank stabilization with stone revetment
- Revetment has been done on other stretches of the Lakewalk already – performing well

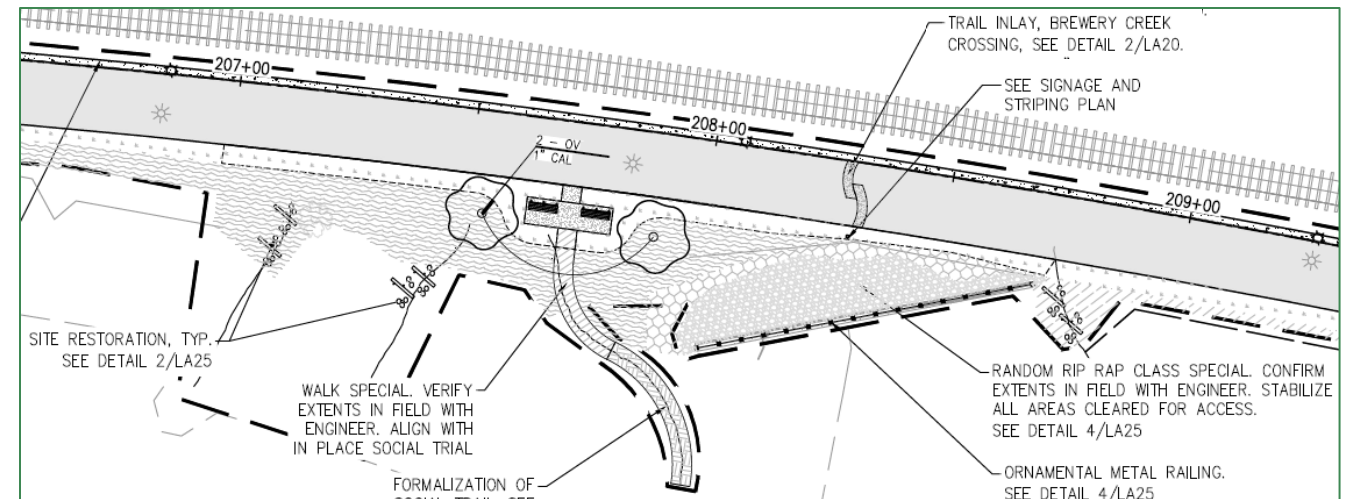


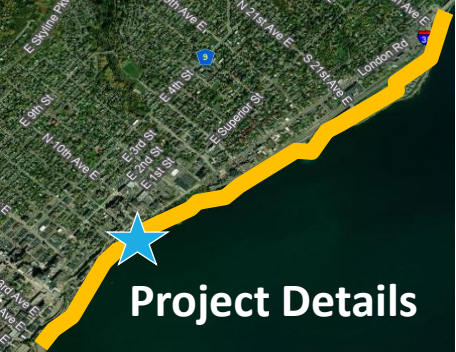


Below 8th Ave E Brewery Creek



- Retreating from shore as much as possible
- Bank stabilization

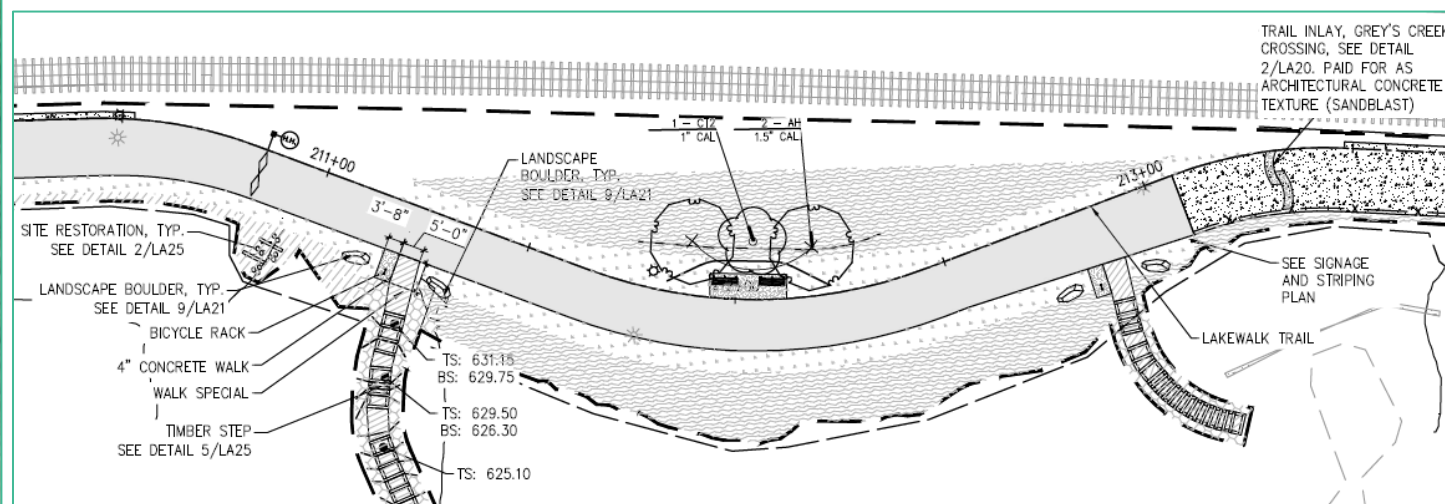


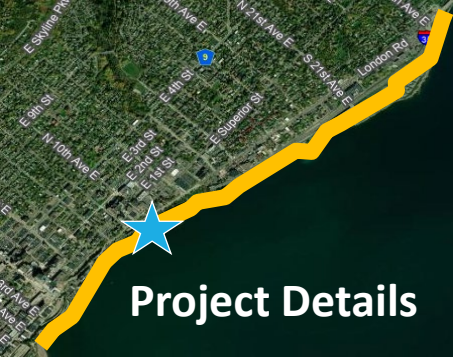


Below 9th Ave E



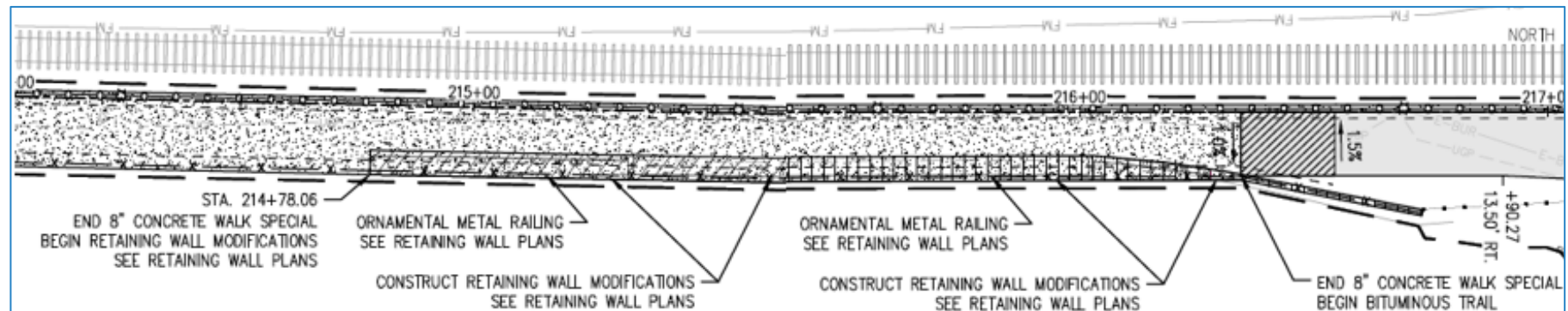
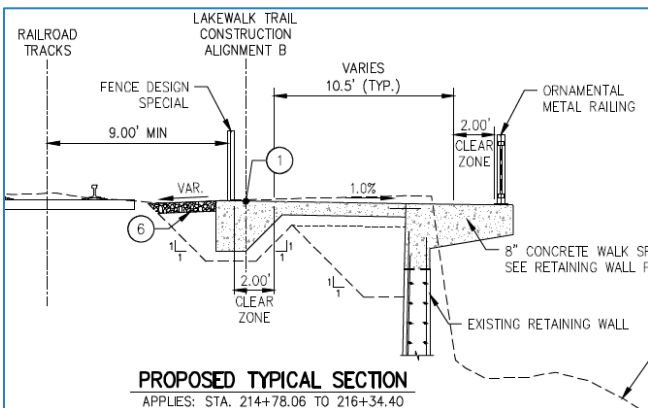
- Retreating from shoreline
- Restoration plantings and bank stabilization – paired with new steps for water access
- Addressing sightlines

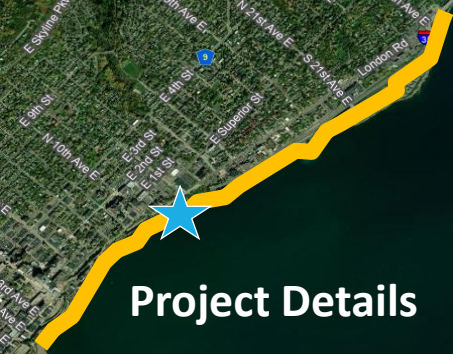




West of Leif Erikson Park

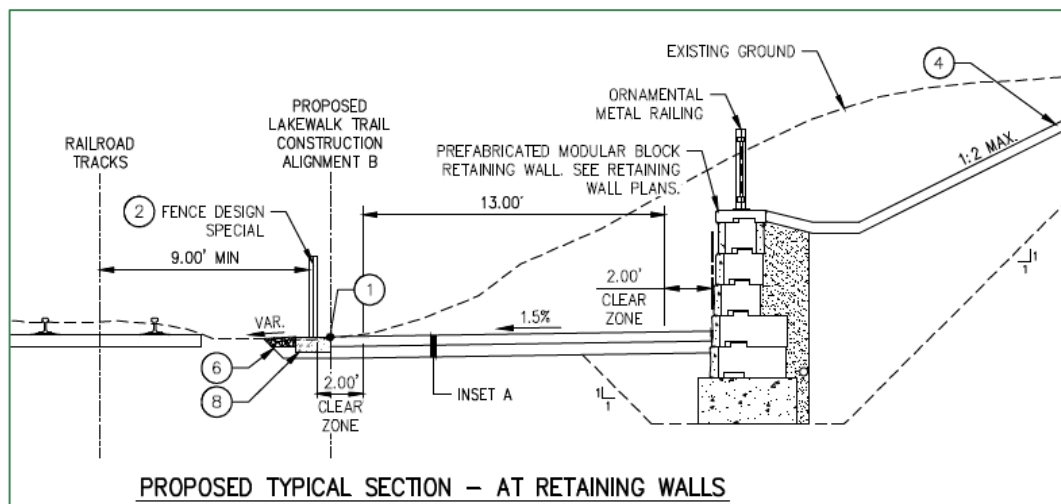
- Slightly widening from current minimum of 10' to 10.5' with 2' clear zones on each side, replacing fencing between railroad and trail and railing between trail and shore

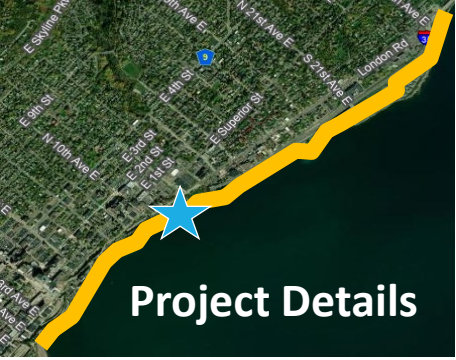




Leif Erikson Park

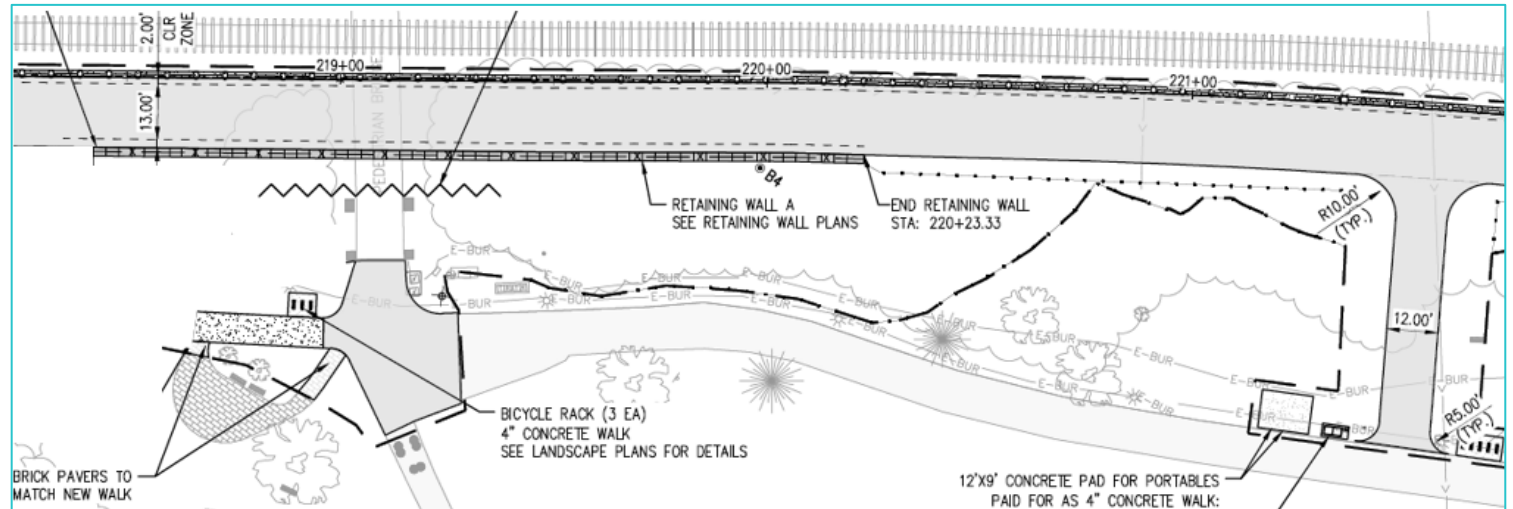
- New trail follows railroad tracks with retaining wall and accessible connection at center of park
- Reduce grade changes for Lakewalk travel
- Better define the park space and trail corridor

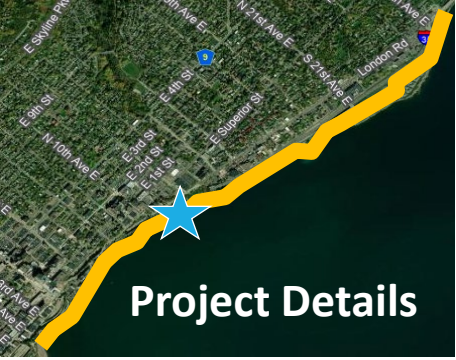




Leif Erikson Park (west)

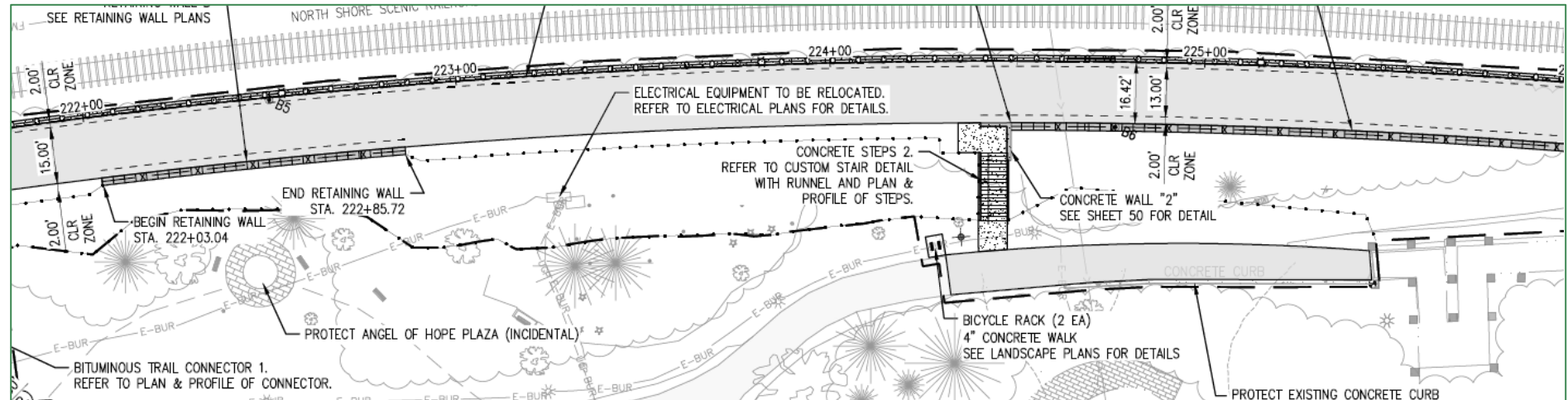
- New trail along railroad tracks with retaining walls
- New accessible connection in center of park - 4.6% incline from Lakewalk into park

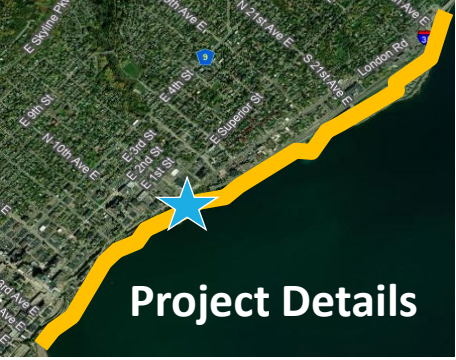




Leif Erikson Park (east)

- New trail along railroad tracks with retaining walls with new accessible connection in center of park
- Stairs to connect eastern bridge and trail – stairs include a runnel for bikes
- Angel of Hope memorial is protected

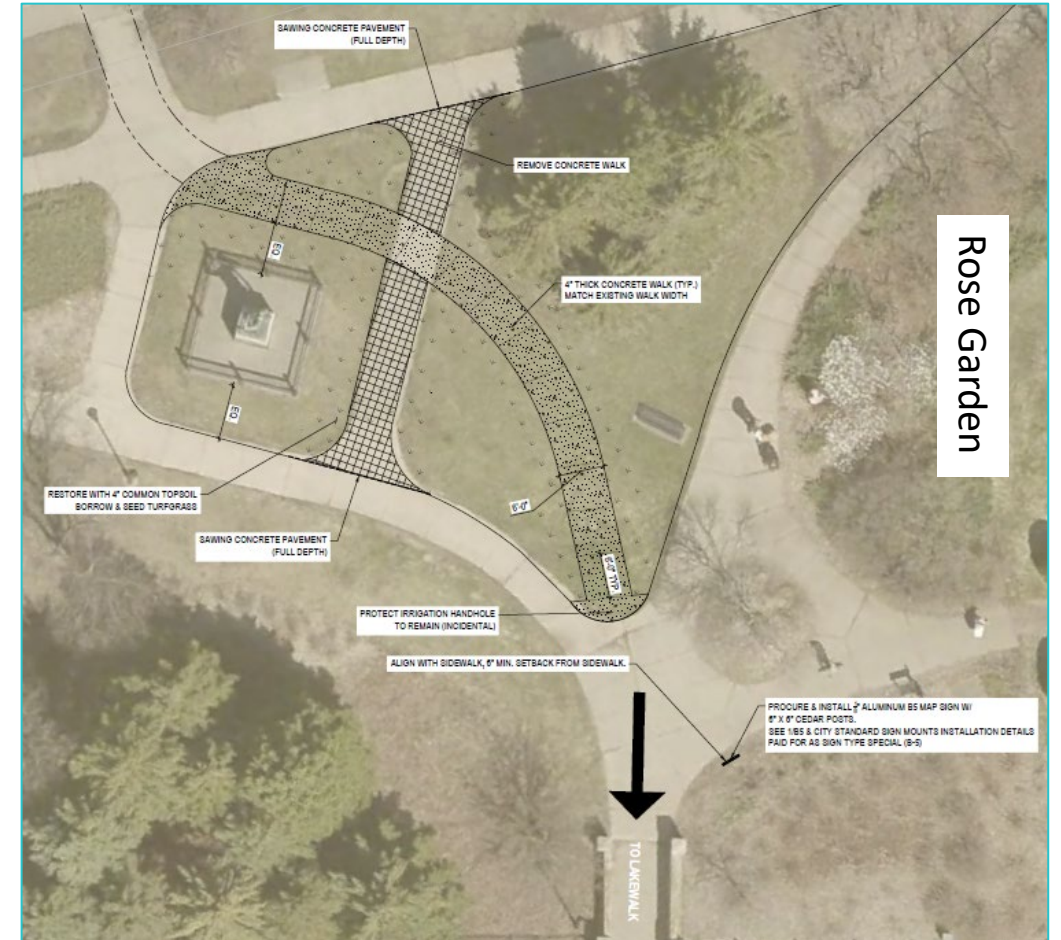
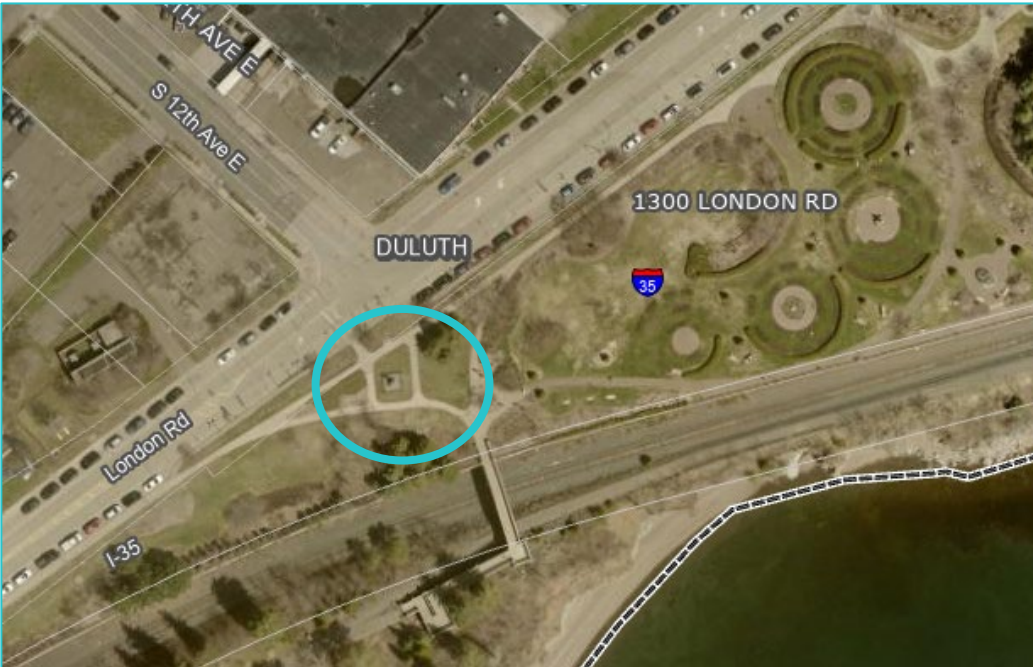


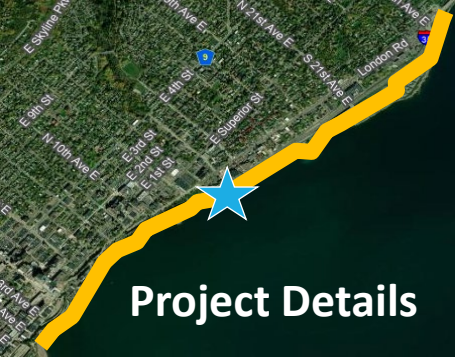


Community Connector Rose Garden to Leif



- Replacing duplicated sidewalk to provide smoother route from S 12th Ave E to Lakewalk
- New map by bridge

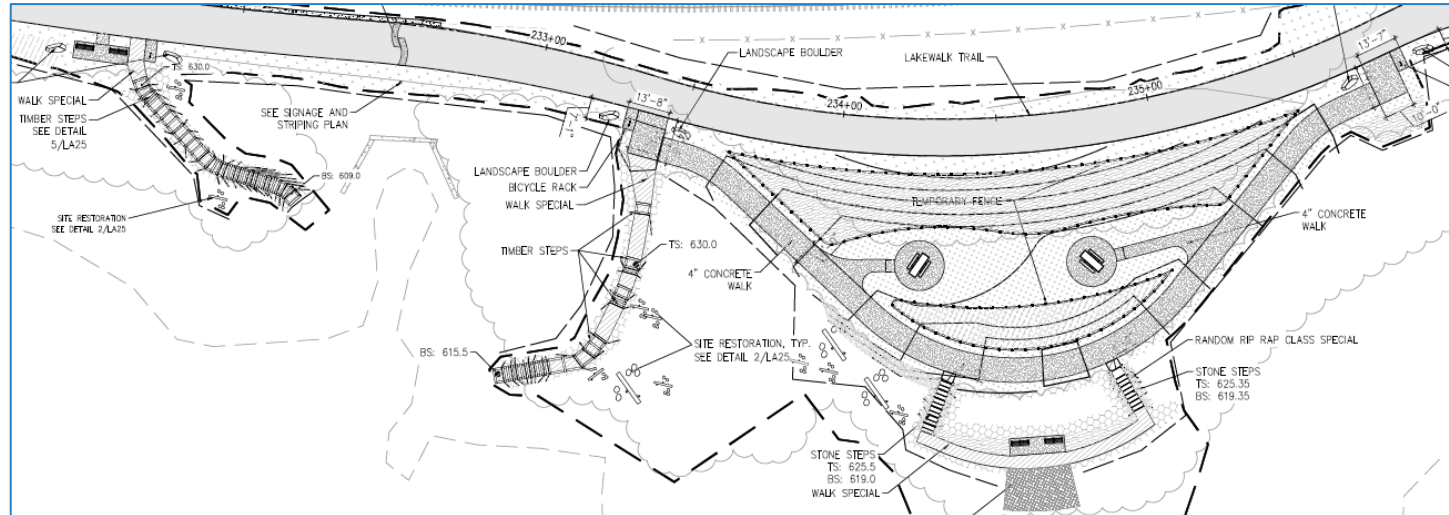


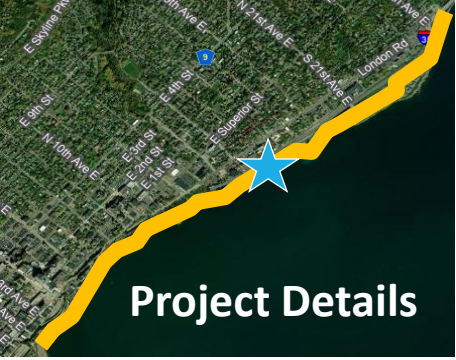


Project Details

- Retreating from shore, still providing pause point with Lake overlook, picnic tables, and benches
- Formalizing water access to improve safety and reduce erosion

Below 13-14th Ave E Chipmunk Hill

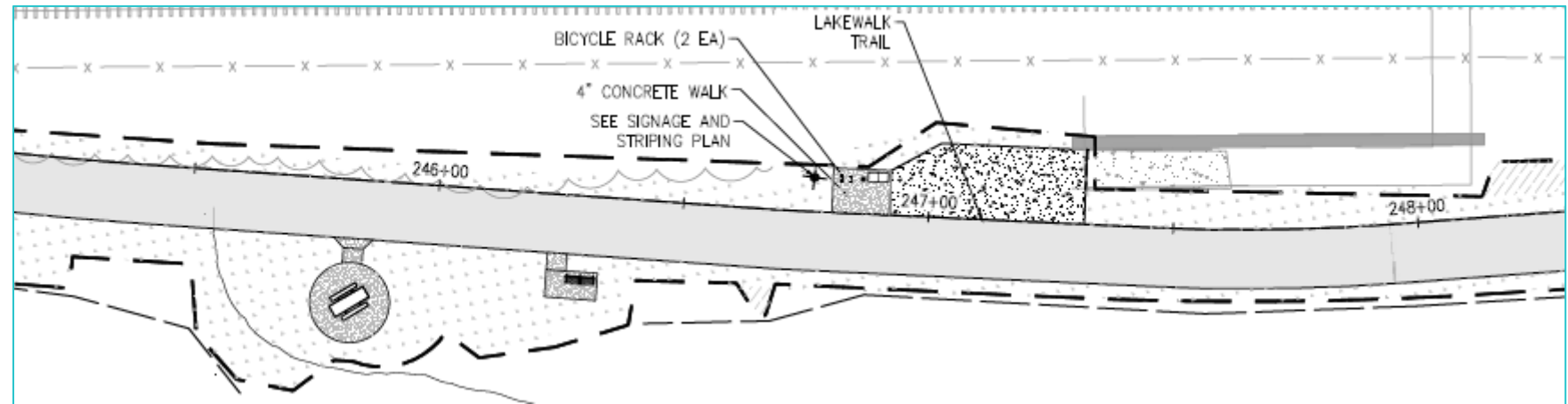


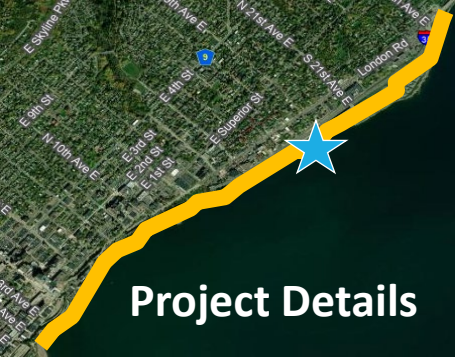


Below 16-17th Ave I-35 Pedestrian Overpass



- New amenities – picnic table, bike racks, wayfinding

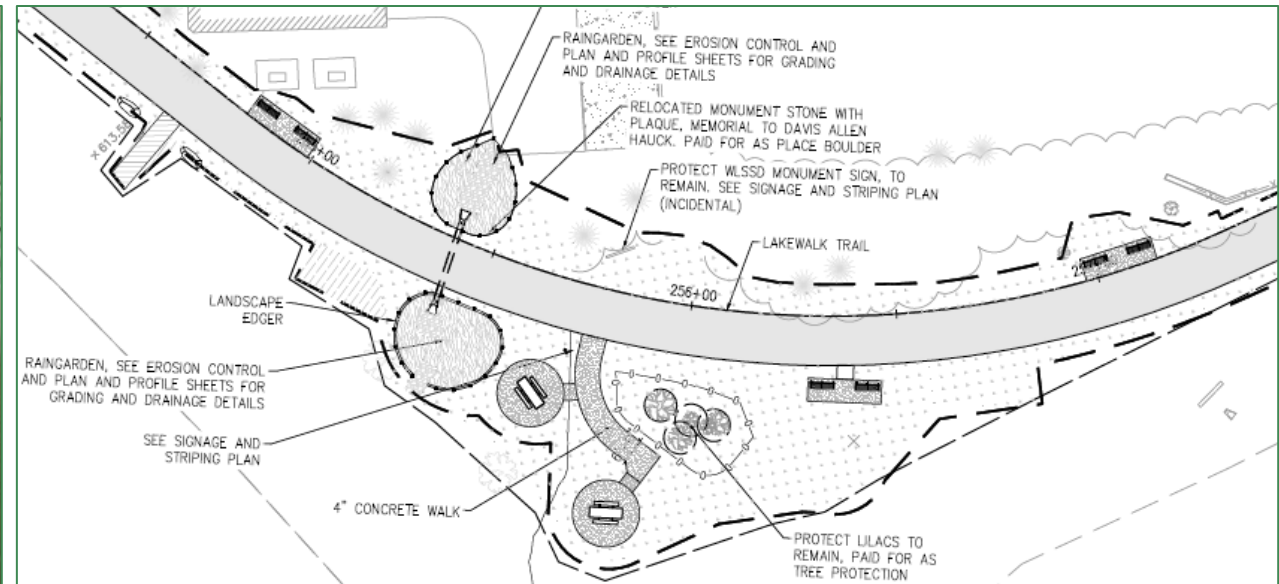


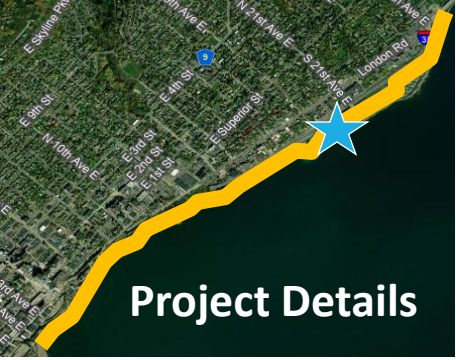


Resource Renew (WLSSD) Pump Station



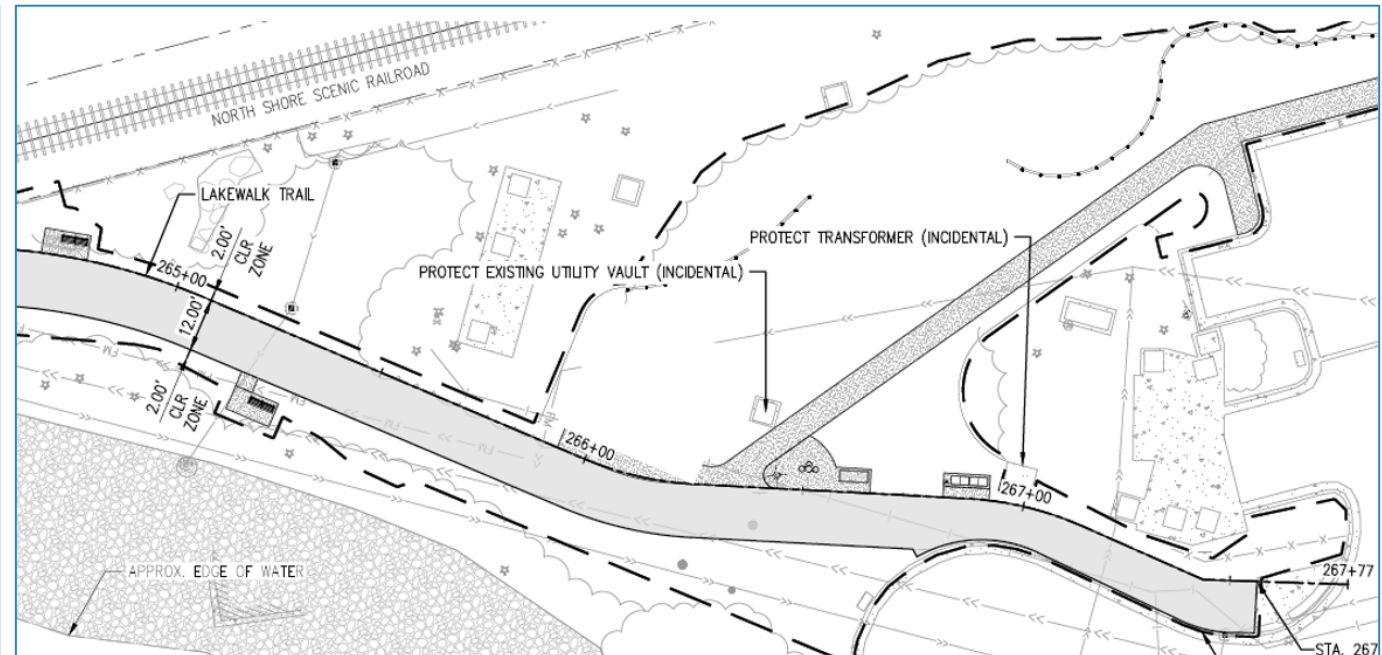
- Retreating amenities from shore and replacing deck with lower maintenance picnic area
- New amenities – picnic tables and benches with accessible connections
- Addressing stormwater problem

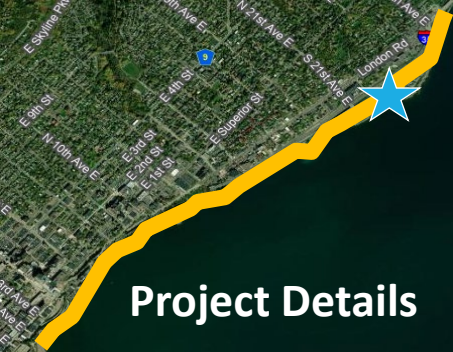




Water Street Trailhead

- Clarifying pavement connections and adding wayfinding
- Improvements here are limited due to shallow, below ground utility infrastructure



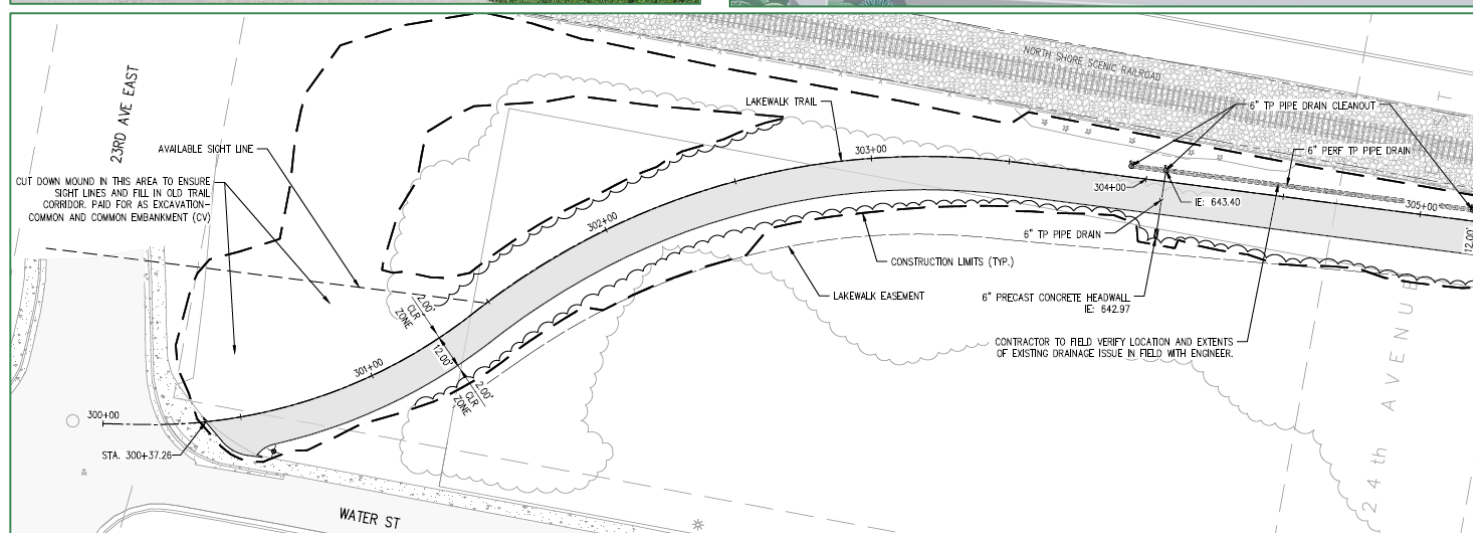
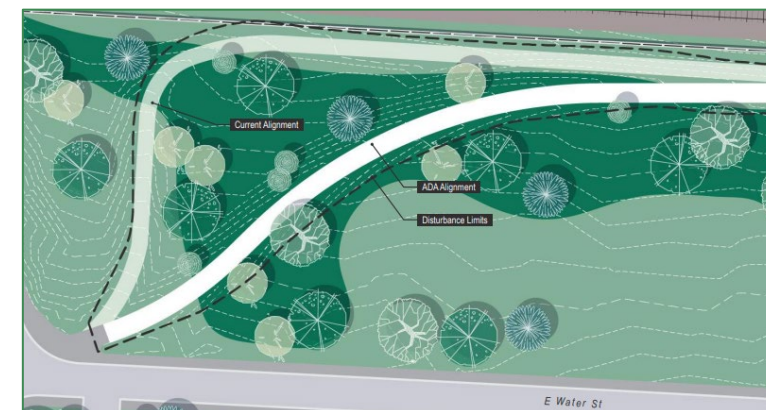
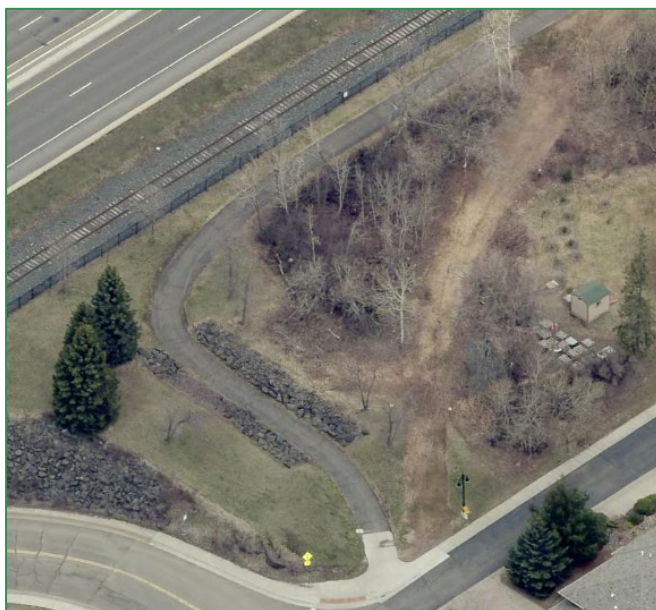


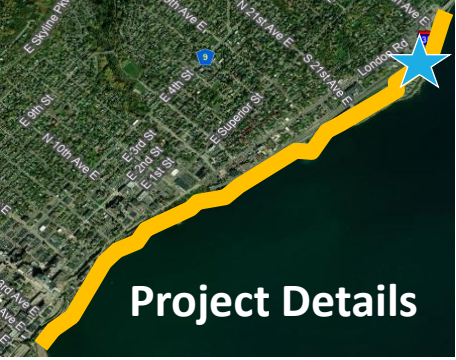
Project Details

S 23rd Ave E and Water Street



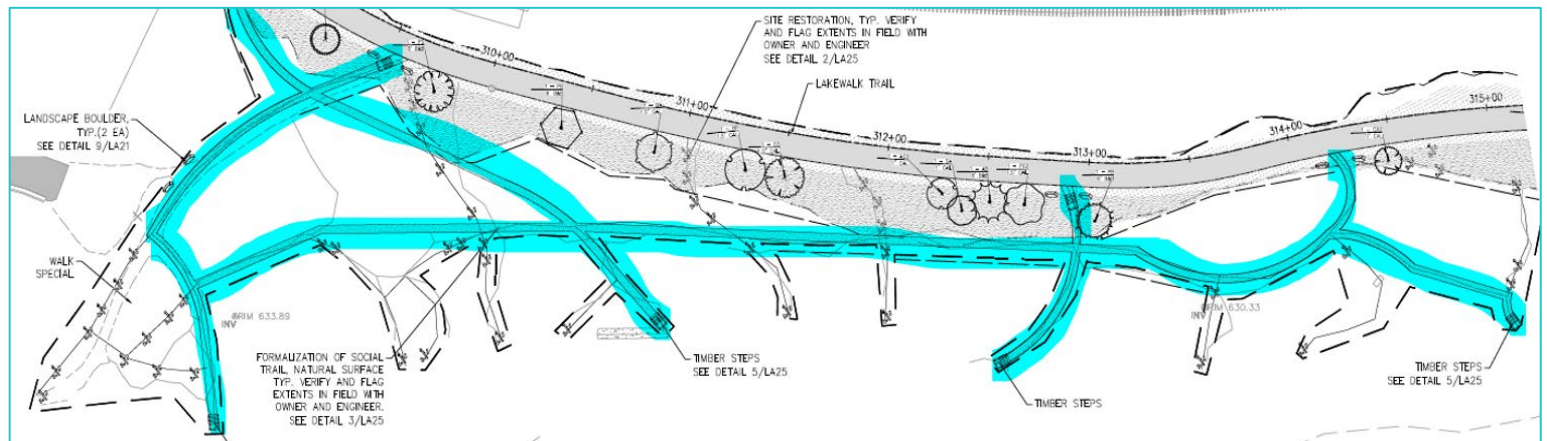
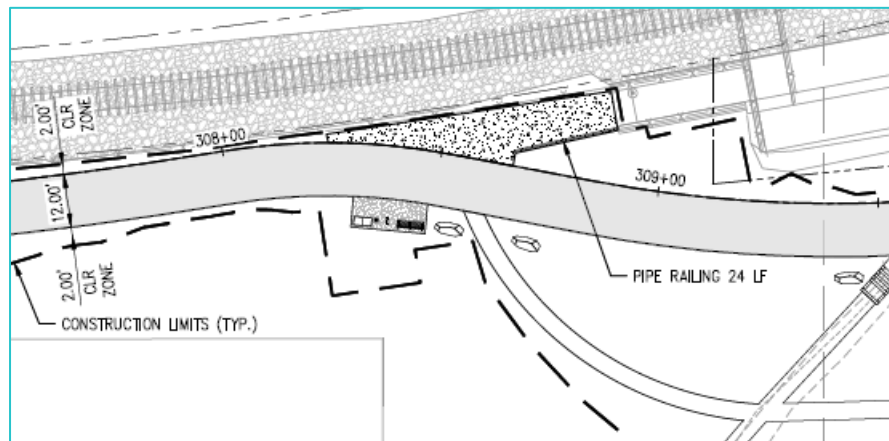
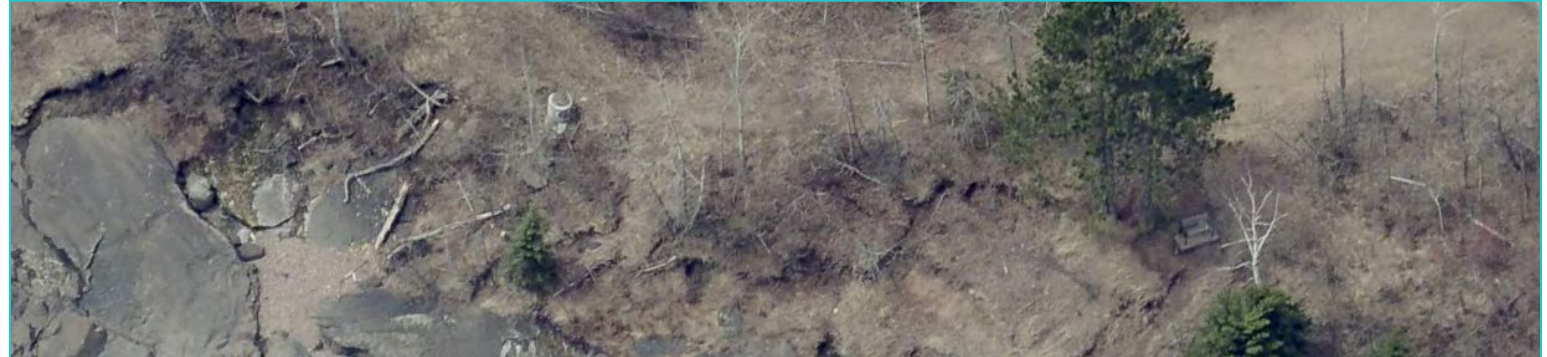
- Re-route to reduce grade and improve sightlines
- Addressing stormwater problem

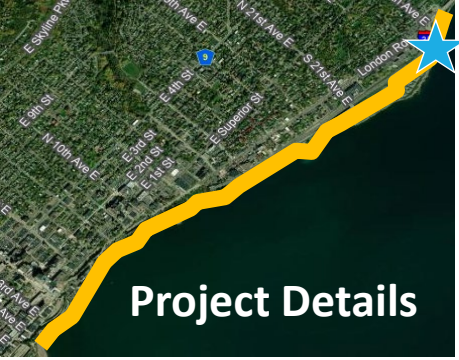




Below 25th Ave to Ledges

- Slight retreat paired with consolidating social trails and maintaining beach access

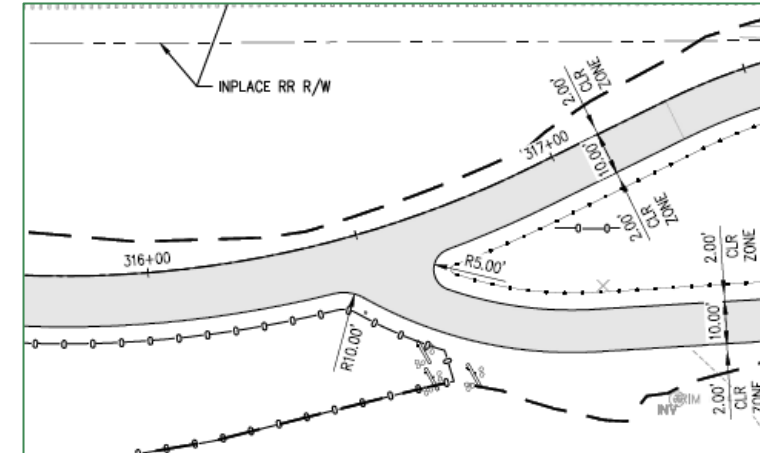
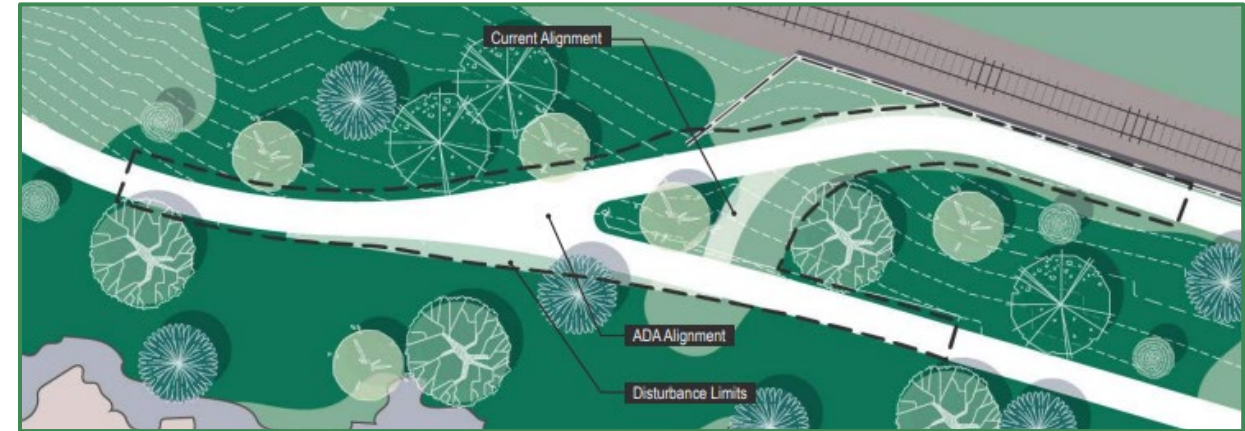


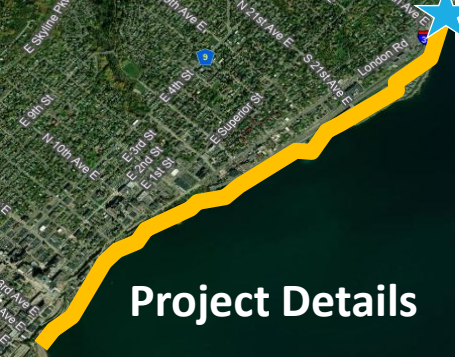


Connection to London Road sidewalk (lake-side)



- 12' width of Lakewalk west of here tapers to 10' width at intersection (current width is 10') and will typically remain 10' from here to eastern end of project
- Better route for majority of traffic along main Lakewalk and reduces grade, improves sightlines



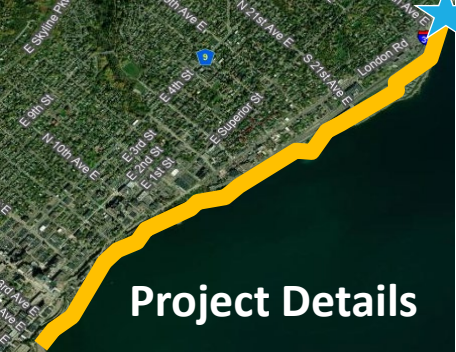


Alexander Street Switchback North of London Rd Tunnel



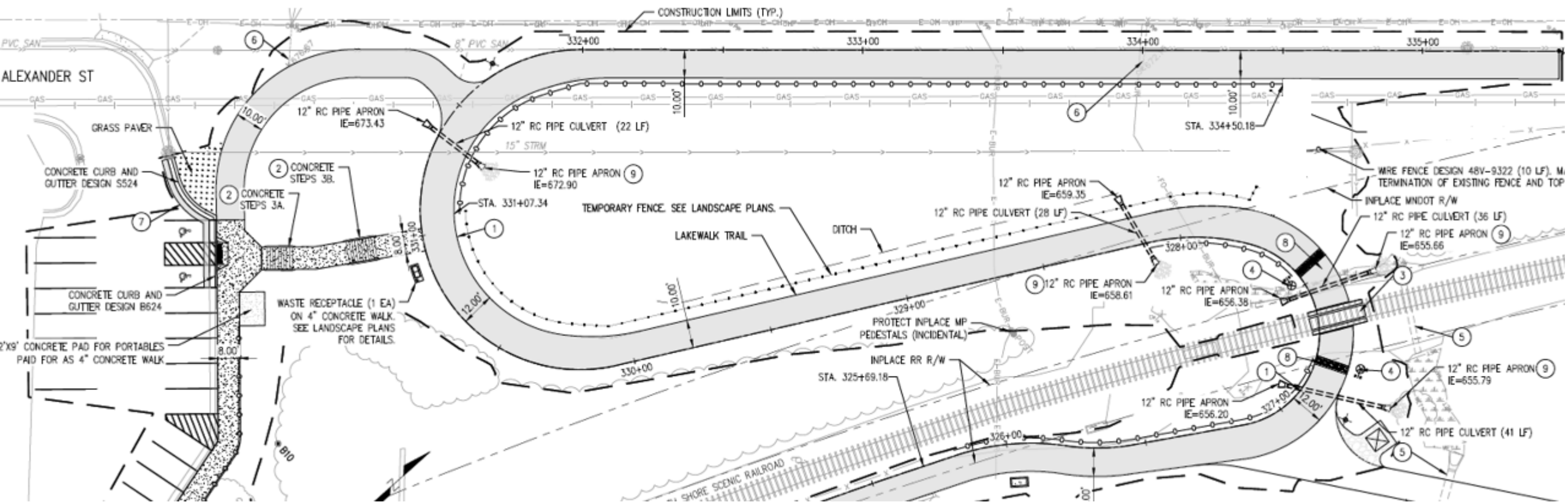
- Re-route to reduce grade and increase turning radius
- New railroad crossing with better sightlines
- Trail widens on curves to 12' width





Project Details

Alexander Street Switchback New Route





Lakewalk & Coastal Improvements



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

- Full trail reconstruction, retreating trail from shoreline where possible, costal restoration, new signage and amenities

Reminder: Construction Timing

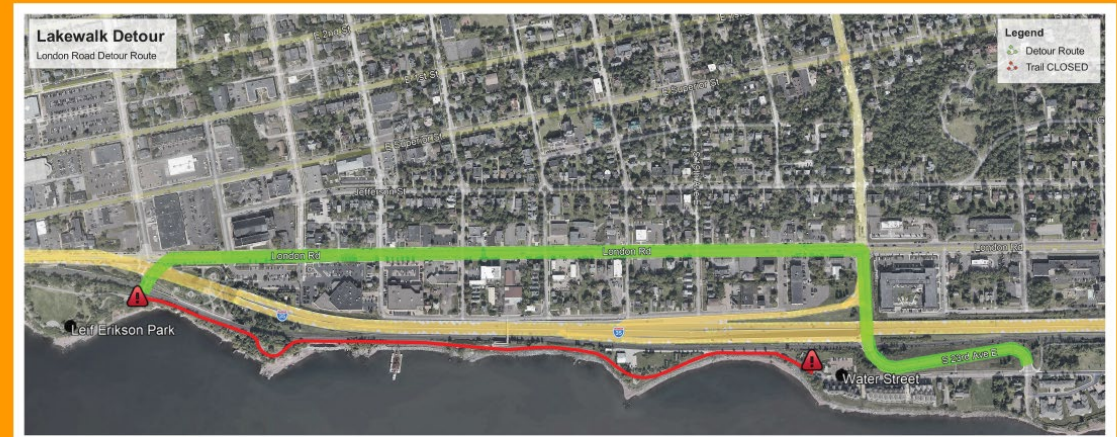
- Continues through fall pauses over the winter with Lakewalk open for use – new trail through Leif Erikson will be done
- 2027 construction will occur in phases – not yet defined but will be added to project webpage and detours will be posted

2026 Construction Update

- Lakewalk **closed** between Leif Erikson Park and Water Street
 - No trespassing – it is not safe!
- All work will be wrapped up before winter – some sections of pavement damaged within current closure, will be patched gravel



TRAIL CLOSED



Large equipment on site.
For your safety, please obey
closures and follow detours.



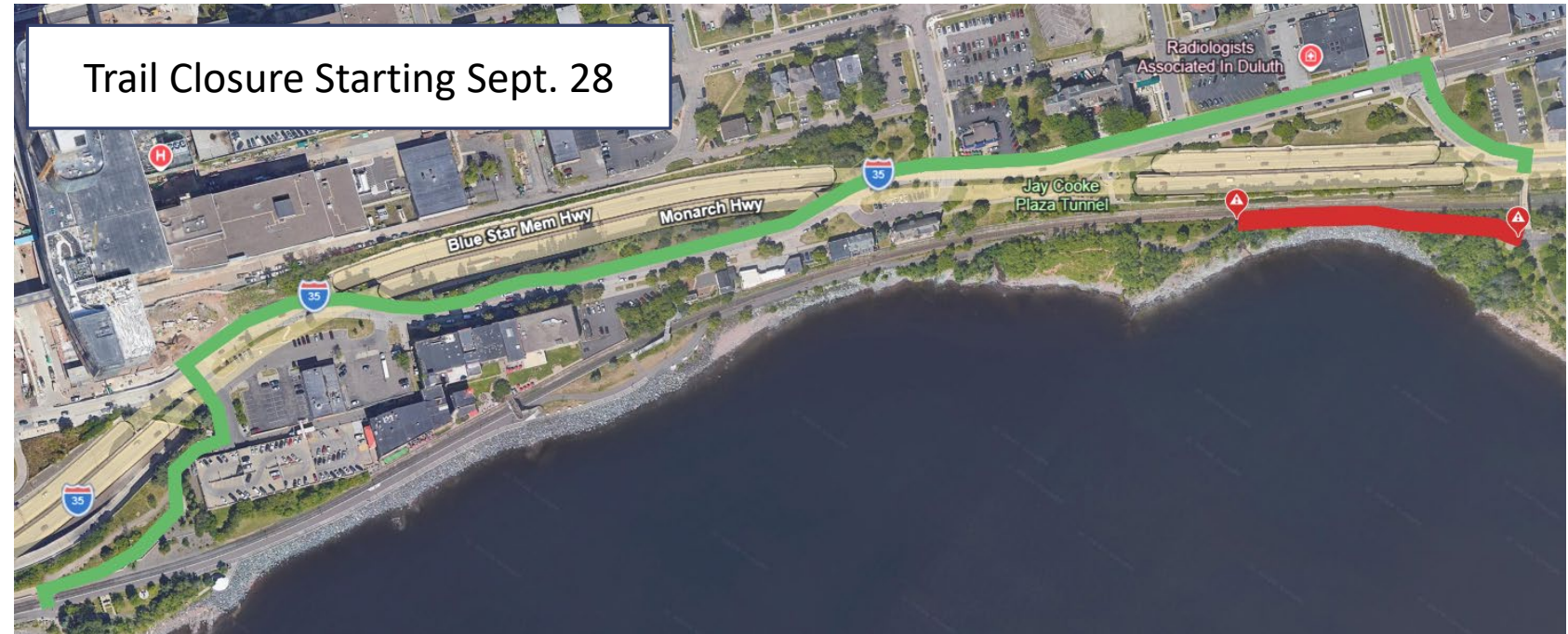
Construction – Leif Erikson Park

- Working on new bypass route – most clearing done, preparing for retaining walls, lots of hauling
- Expect to complete before winter



Construction – Upcoming Work

- Starting **September 28** – western trail into Leif Erikson will close for continued retaining wall work
- Detour via London Road and Superior Street to Veterans Memorial



Construction – Chipmunk Hill

- Cleared, staging area



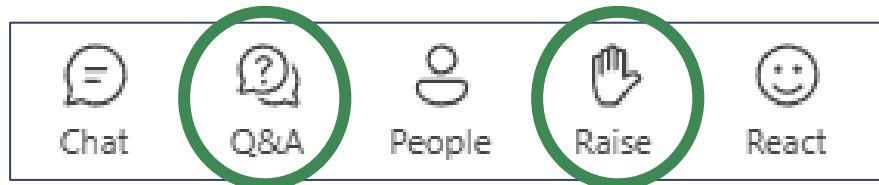
Construction – Near Pump Station

- Deck removal in progress



Questions about the Project?

- Either put your question in the “Q&A” or use the “raise hand” feature in the navigation bar at the top of your screen:



- Questions we didn’t get to or that come up later? Please use the comment form at the bottom of the project webpage.
- Sign up for emailed project updates:
<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/g/cj0dVbVByK>
- Visit the project webpage for more information
bit.ly/lakewalk-project or scan:

