EMERALD VIEW PARK
REGIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

City of Pittsburgh
Department of City Planning
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The establishment of Emerald View Park was made possible by the collective effort of many. The *Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan* builds upon decades of planning, design, and implementation by dedicated organizations and individuals. We thank those who committed their time, energy, and resources to reforest the hillsides, build trails, refurbish the parks, protect available parcels, and inspire the next generation of stewards of this land.

The land included in Emerald View Park and the neighborhoods adjacent to the park owe their existence and vitality to generations whose lives and energy influenced this current moment in time. The *Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan* acknowledges that the land defined as Emerald View Park today is the ancestral land of the Shawnee and Osage People. The Master Plan pays respect to their elders, past and present, and considers the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement.

The *Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan* process began in the summer of 2020 in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of the risks and additional demands of the pandemic, many stakeholders did not have the time or the ability to dedicate to this planning effort. The project team acknowledges this bias in the master plan process and made every effort to provide alternative outlets for review and input. The diversity of community engagement strategies employed are outlined in the pages ahead.

The *Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan* was financed in part by a grant from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program (Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund and/or Environmental Stewardship Fund) under the administration of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation.

LETTER FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING

We are pleased to publish this *Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan*, a unique community-driven plan for a unique regional park. The master plan, like the park itself, has been a collaborative effort, a long time in the making. Since Emerald View Park formed in 2005, many individual park improvements and plans have helped to shape the park and make it the eclectic public space we know today. However, the park lacked a cohesive and comprehensive plan, which includes everything from recreation facilities and neighborhood playgrounds to overlook viewing platforms and woodland trails. Fortunately, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources awarded the City of Pittsburgh a grant to complete a master plan.

This plan is the result of over a year of work led by the Department of City Planning, the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, and our consultant team, led by Merritt Chase landscape architects, along with a dedicated Advisory Committee and public input from residents and park users. The project kicked off in a time of high uncertainty, as the global coronavirus pandemic began. Despite the limitations of many components typical to a planning process, such as group site visits, in-person public meetings, and direct engagement in the parks, we believe we were able to make up for the challenges with modified methods. We held virtual site visits and public workshops over zoom, and made use of the City's new EngagePGH website with online surveys and virtual tools. We supplemented virtual tactics with physical signage, in-person engagement, and site walks in the park when possible. This plan is built on the great input and feedback we have received.

The component spaces of Emerald View Park are an amalgamation of different park types and uses, much of which was preserved as otherwise undevelopable, steep land on the margins of Mt. Washington. Generations of Pittsburghers worked to save these spaces for recreation and nature. Picture the diversity of activities available in Emerald View Park: a family going to the neighborhood pool, tourists taking in the spectacular views from Grandview Avenue, people walking their dog before work, residents from different parts of the city going for an urban hike, or local kids shooting some hoops. That said, it was important that this plan provided a roadmap both for continued upkeep of those neighborhood amenities and for bold investments to enhance the park's regional character and attraction.

Through the planning process, we found that most areas of Emerald View Park, especially the formal parks, have fairly "good bones" with obvious historical attention to function, form, and site details. However, there are needs for better connections within the park and to the adjacent neighborhoods, linking different parts of the park and establishing it as a cohesive entity. Most people also preferred upgrades to existing park and trail amenities as opposed to dramatic overhauls of park uses, programming, or site layouts. Therefore, much of the master plan focuses on better site access, connections and circulation, more attractive entrances and gateways, renovated historical site elements, better signage, updated facilities, improved trails and trailheads, improved pedestrian experiences, and more ecological stewardship. The community vision is essentially a better version of the existing Emerald View Park, with much-needed investment in an already great city park, to the benefit of all residents and visitors. Though a park like Emerald View is never "finished", we hope this master plan serves as a foundational document to help us collectively achieve that vision and as a useful tool to implementers.

Thank you to the many people who helped shape this master plan, to those who love Emerald View Park, and to those who will continue to use it and improve it for many years to come!

"Immediately across the Monongahela are the high and rugged hillsides of Mount Washington and Duquesne Heights...The outlook along the river with its varied activities to these hills immediately beyond would be notable in any part of the world. ...any provision close to the heart of the city, whereby the people can have the enjoyment of these mighty landscapes, is of particular importance. There is no doubt that the area in question should be preserved intact for all time as a monumental example of the Pittsburgh landscape."

-Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr.
Report to the Pittsburgh Civic Commission, 1910

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INTRODUCTION

MASTER PLANNING CONTEXT

Emerald View Park is a 257-acre regional park located in the City of Pittsburgh's Mount Washington, Duquesne Heights, and Allentown neighborhoods. Emerald View Park includes a variety of public open spaces, greenways, trails, Grandview Avenue (part of the Grand View Scenic Byway), and multiple neighborhood parks (Olympia Park, Mt. Washington Park, Grandview Park, Bigbee Field, Eileen McCoy Playground, and Ream Park). The *Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan* (the Master Plan) will guide the future of the park. The goal is to connect the park's ecology, history, and culture in order to preserve the park's significance as a collection of neighborhood amenities and elevate its role as a regional destination.

Planning History

Created in 2005 and named a regional park in 2007, Emerald View Park has undergone a remarkable transformation over the years. The Mount Washington of the mid-1700s was so heavily mined for bituminous coal that it was known as Coal Hill. Two centuries later, remediation and reforestation efforts began. Denuded and forgotten, the park was plagued with illegal dumping of cars, tires, and parts of demolished buildings.

Today, visitors of Emerald View Park find winding trails, wooded hillsides, and surprise vistas. Historic spaces within the park feature picnic areas, playgrounds, ballfields, overlooks, and Depression-era sandstone steps and walls. Thanks to the continued efforts of groups including the Mount Washington Community Development Corporation (MWCDC), the City of Pittsburgh, and partners in the community, the land has been reclaimed as a park through capital improvements, clean-ups, and habitat restoration. Past planning efforts have included the Master Implementation Plan (2005) and the Master Trail Plan (2010). The *Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan* builds upon these past efforts.

PITTSBURGH'S REGIONAL PARK CONTEXT

Planning Need

The *Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan* presents a unique opportunity to continue to support the community vision of an iconic and community centered, connected public space. While individual projects have been planned and implemented over the last century, Emerald View Park has never had a comprehensive Master Plan. The Master Implementation Plan for the Grand View Scenic Byway Park (2005) was a pivotal document that spearheaded the formation of Emerald View Park but the plan does not include Emerald View Park's anchor parks (e.g., Olympia Park). Additionally, while Emerald View Park is the newest Pittsburgh Regional Park, the Regional Parks Master Plan (2000) and Update (2012) and the OpenSpacePGH plan (2013) did not include Emerald View Park in anticipation of the *Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan.*

Planning Purpose

The purpose of this Master Plan is to communicate the community's vision for a cohesive regional park. The Master Plan has been developed through a planning process that has included community engagement, ecological review, and design of beautiful, functional spaces. This planning process builds upon the efforts of dedicated citizens and the work of multiple past plans for the park in order to coordinate a contemporary, comprehensive master plan to define the next generation of Emerald View Park. The Master Plan is a guide for Emerald View Park's future physical development with conceptual design recommendations, phasing plans, and cost estimates. The Master Plan ensures that individual park improvements and day-to-day decisions fit within a larger vision, and that fundraising and implementation are properly sequenced and contribute to long-term goals. With a comprehensive master plan for Emerald View Park, funding opportunities will be easier to pursue for individual projects that are recommended. The Master Plan also helps to inspire local stewardship and build momentum for future project implementation.

Planning Scope

Emerald View Park is comprised of many different geographies that were included in the Master Plan scope including:

- **Greenways + trails -** the open spaces and trails along the park's steep hillsides including the former Duquesne Heights Greenway, the Saddle, and Overlook Park.
- **Grandview Avenue** - the public realm district at the northern edge or "front" of the hill overlooking Pittsburgh's downtown. The overlooks along Grandview Avenue, as part of Grandview Overlook Park, are one of the most popular tourist destinations in Pittsburgh. Beginning at P.J. McArdle Roadway and 10th Street, Grandview Avenue is part of the Grand View Scenic Byway.
- **Anchor parks** - the larger individual parks within Emerald View Park. These parks include Olympia Park, Mt. Washington Park, and Grandview Park (including Bigbee Field). They were established at the beginning of the 20th century and attract both residents and visitors from around the Pittsburgh region.
- **Neighborhood parks** - the smaller parks popular within the Duquesne Heights and Mount Washington neighborhoods. These parks include Eileen McCoy Playground and Ream Park.

Public Engagement

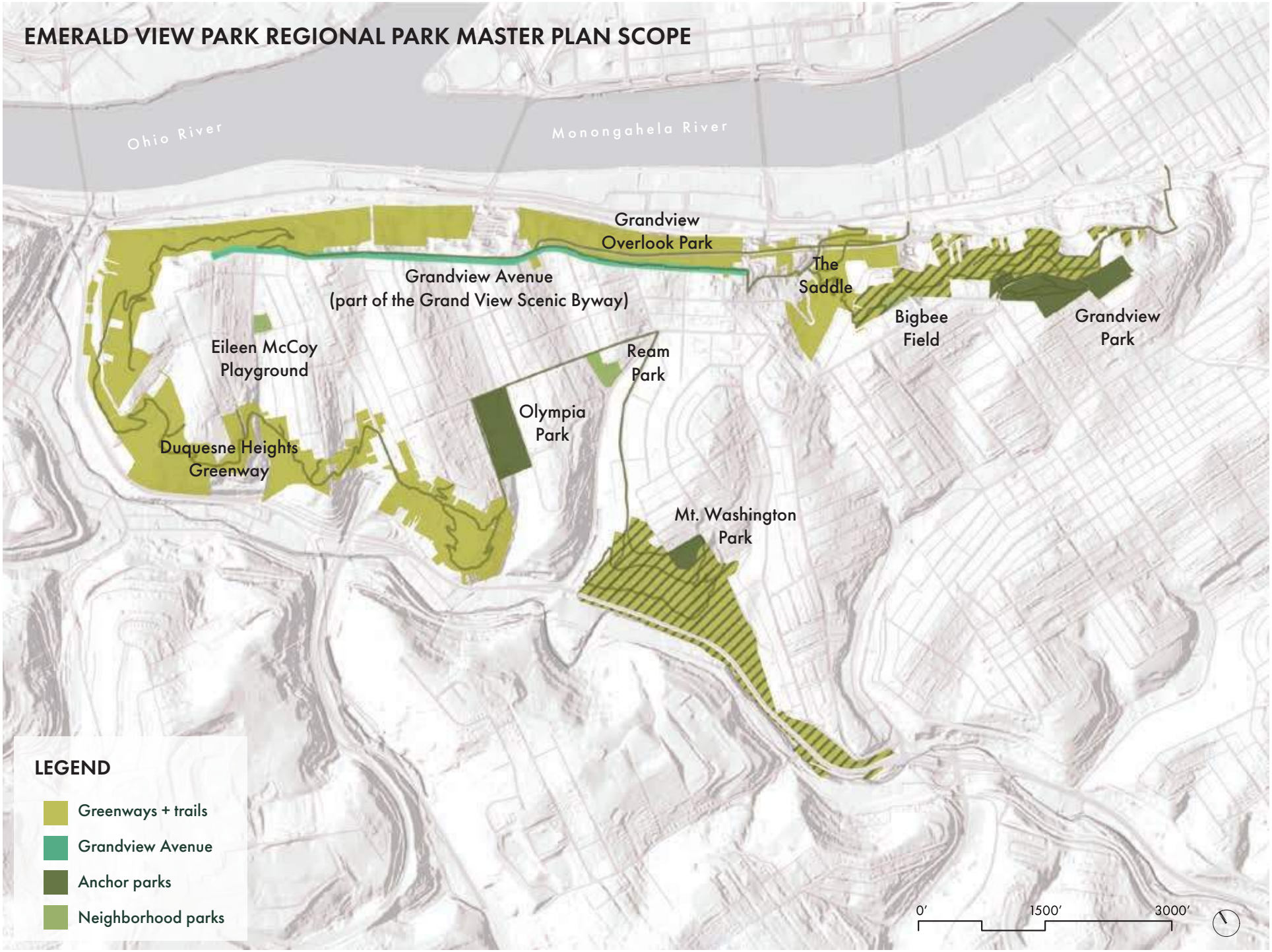
Master plans not only guide the transformation of physical spaces but provide the opportunity to collectively build trust as a community and define paths toward implementation. Through an engaging and inclusive design process, the *Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan* builds momentum toward the future physical improvement of Emerald View Park. The Master Plan is a culturally significant, implementable road map for the future of the park; a plan that is thoughtful and expressive, and that connects and defines the community. The Master Plan process included robust public engagement, including a specially tailored outreach and engagement process that met the goals and criteria of the City of Pittsburgh's Public Engagement Guide. The principles for engagement during this planning process included principles adopted by the City of Pittsburgh for city-wide community engagement:

- **Transparency and open communication** - legitimate processes and credibility built through transparency, and open communication with all stakeholders.
- **Building a foundation of trust** - reconcile historic inequities to build a new foundation based on trust.
- **Centering of equity and fairness** - acknowledgment of systematic issues and intentional efforts to address equity considerations throughout the engagement process.
- **Valuing of relationships** - recognition that human relationships with the community foster respect and increase engagement from representative community groups and residents.
- **Maximized participation** - design of thoughtful engagement processes maximize participation of residents and stakeholders.

The Master Plan process began in the summer of 2020 and concluded in the summer of 2021. Over the course of a year, the project team, the advisory committee, community members, and stakeholders participated in a variety of virtual and in-person activities in order to shape the *Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan.* The project team was comprised of representatives from the City of Pittsburgh's Department of City Planning, the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, and the consultant team, led by Merritt Chase landscape architects. The advisory committee included participants from neighborhood community organizations, local non-profits, city departments, elected officials, and neighborhood residents.

A timeline of public engagement for the project and descriptions of public engagement activities are described in more detail on the following pages. For the full Public Engagement Plan for the *Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan*, see Appendix A.

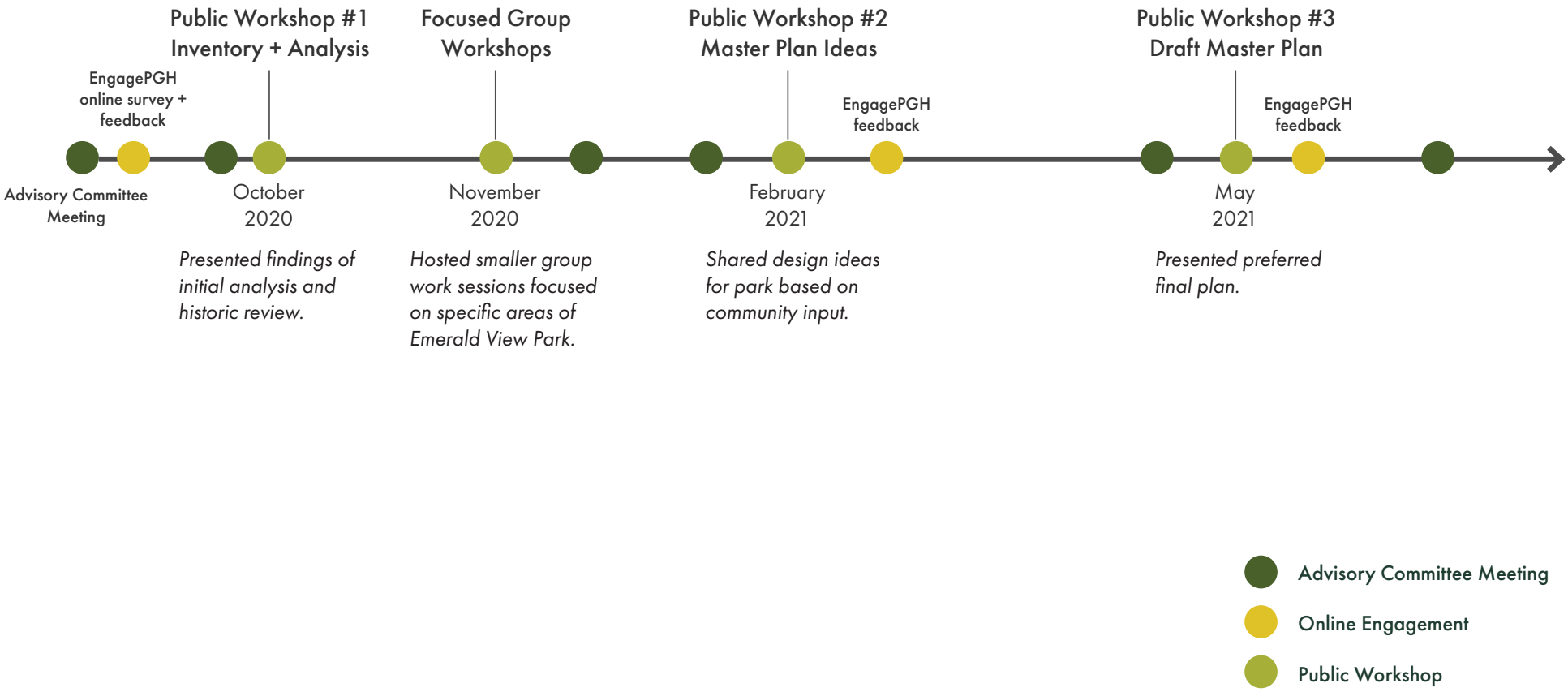
EMERALD VIEW PARK REGIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN SCOPE



2019, *Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan* project team site visit

Image Credit: Merritt Chase

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT TIMELINE



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Beginning in July 2020, the Master Plan project team met regularly with an Advisory Committee. The Committee represented a diverse group of individuals who use the park regularly and will be involved in the future implementation of the Master Plan. The organizations and communities represented in this committee included the Mount Washington Community Development Corporation (CDC), the Allentown CDC, Neighbors on the Mount, Mount Washington Community Recreation Center, Mount Washington Community Garden, and Council Districts 2 and 4. The Advisory Committee reviewed project progress, participated in virtual and in-person site visits, and advertised the public workshops to their respective networks. Throughout the Master Plan process, the Advisory Committee served as a conduit between the project team, residents, and local community organizations. The Committee members provided local knowledge about Emerald View Park, spread the word about the Master Plan to their various communities, and shared their own ideas on design, engagement, and outreach.

SOCIALLY DISTANCED COMMUNICATION

The COVID-19 pandemic necessitated an altered engagement strategy for the *Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan* process. Given the severity and realities of the COVID-19 virus, socially distanced engagement was required. The project team used socially distanced surveys, virtual site visits, and virtual meetings to communicate with as many residents and community members as reasonably possible.

While a majority of engagement occurred through virtual methods, the project team understood the potential limitations of digital engagement and aimed to reach members of the public who did not have access to a computer or the internet. Analog communication methods included hanging posters in individual parks, local grocery stores, and other popular neighborhood destinations. Socially distanced intercept surveys were completed in the individual parks, and paper surveys were provided to community organizations. Door hangers with information about the master planning process were hung at residences adjacent to the individual anchor parks.

IN-PERSON + VIRTUAL SITE VISITS

Throughout the Master Plan process, the project team conducted site visits virtually and in person, as social distancing requirements would allow. The process spanned over a year. The project team documented seasonal changes in Emerald View Park and learned how the park is used year-round by local residents and tourists. In-person site visits included ecological observations, guided walks with local experts, and conversations with local residents.

In the summer of 2020, as larger tours were not possible due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the project team held several virtual site tours with members of the Advisory Committee and local residents to learn about key features in the park, ongoing projects, existing uses and circulation patterns, and important needs and desires in the park. These virtual visits were held on Zoom using Google Earth and online sketching tools. Each tour focused on a specific aspect of Emerald View Park, including individual parks, the greenways and trails, recreational programming, business districts, and hillside landslides.

ENGAGEPGH ACTIVITIES

The project team connected with residents and community members through online engagement in addition to virtual meetings. In the fall of 2020, EngagePGH (www.engage.pittsburghpa.gov) became the City of Pittsburgh's online engagement platform for ongoing planning and design projects, including the *Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan*. EngagePGH hosted project updates and virtual engagement activities for residents to stay up-to-date on project progress and upcoming public workshops.

The *Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan* EngagePGH project page included public surveys, notifications for upcoming public workshops, and recordings of public workshops. In addition, the website hosted several engagement activities to collect public feedback. Activities included a worksheet for children to draw their dream park, a poll for favorite memories in Emerald View Park, and an interactive map to locate current activities in the park and suggestions for future improvements.

The EngagePGH project page for the *Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan* reached over 3,000 visitors, with over 5,000 page views.

PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

Three public workshops were held during the Master Plan process to gain public feedback on the project's progress. The public workshops were held virtually. The project team used breakout rooms and virtual pin-up boards to encourage conversation and gain informal feedback from participants.

The first public workshop was held in October 2020, and focused on introducing the Master Plan project, reviewing the project team's initial analysis, and presenting a historic review of Emerald View Park. This public workshop gathered participants' initial feedback on goals for the park. The second public workshop was held in February 2021. The project team presented a draft of the Master Plan's goals and design strategies. During this meeting, participants split into breakout rooms for conversation on specific geographies of the park, including Mt. Washington Park and Olympia Park, Ream Park and Eileen McCoy Playground, Grandview Avenue and Grandview Park, and the Duquesne Heights Greenway and Trails. The third public workshop was held in May 2021 to review a draft of the final Master Plan.

PUBLIC FOCUSED GROUP WORKSHOPS

Emerald View Park is comprised of many individual parks within several different neighborhoods. Because of the park's geographic complexity, the project team held public focus group workshops to gather deeper feedback on specific geographies from stakeholders.

Following the first public workshop in October 2020, the project team held focus group workshops for each individual park within Emerald View Park. These workshops were more focused and included a presentation of the project team's initial inventory and analysis for each park. Input from residents and other stakeholders who were most familiar with each individual park was received. Feedback included specific needs and goals of the park, existing uses and circulation patterns, historical features, and ideas for creating more accessible and inviting parks.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SURVEY

In September 2020, the *Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan* project team launched a survey to gather initial public input. The survey collected information on how the park is currently used and what goals and visions should be included for the future. The survey was publicly available on EngagePGH and print copies were distributed within the park and to nearby community centers and businesses. The survey was open from September - November 2020 and received 310 responses.

The survey was split into five sections to better understand respondents' relationship to the park, ideas, and concerns:

- **Demographics** - included questions related to zip code, age, gender, race, and income level.
- **Park Overview** - included questions to understand general knowledge and perception of Emerald View Park and how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected park use.
- **Your Experiences** - included questions to understand how the park is currently used and which areas and activities are most popular.
- **Your Concerns** - included questions to identify concerns about the park, including environmental and maintenance concerns.
- **Your Ideas** - included questions to understand what respondents envision for the park.

To reach as many people as possible, the project team posted flyers throughout the individual parks and neighborhood destinations, provided paper surveys to community organizations, participated in socially distanced in-person surveys, and placed door hangers on residences adjacent to the individual parks. Flyers and door hangers provided directions to EngagePGH.

Demographics of the survey respondents:

- 60% lived in the Mount Washington or Duquesne Heights neighborhoods, 9% lived in the Allentown neighborhood, and the remaining respondents lived throughout Pittsburgh.
- 30% were between the ages of 30-40.
- 51% identified as female, 46% as male, and 3% as non-binary or preferred not to say.
- 97% identified as white, 3% as Hispanic/Latino, 3% as Black/African American, and 1% as Asian.

Key takeaways from the survey informed the Master Plan process. Responses helped to shape the Master Plan goals and recommendations. Takeaways included:

- Over 30% of respondents said they first think of the trails and the views of the city when they think of Emerald View Park.
- 77% of respondents either walk or run to Emerald View Park, and 35% drive to the park. (The survey question allowed respondents to select multiple options; totals exceed 100%).
- Within Emerald View Park, the most popular areas are the trails, followed by Grandview Avenue and the overlooks and Grandview and Olympia parks.
- The most popular activities for respondents are hiking, walking, and visiting the overlooks. Respondents also relax, run, visit the dog parks, and picnic in the park.
- The key concern for most respondents centered around the maintenance of Emerald View Park and its trails.
- When asked how Emerald View Park could be more accessible and welcoming, respondents recommended having better signage, making the park more well known in the city, and improving the parking and ADA accessibility for visitors.
- Many respondents' ideas for Emerald View Park focused on the trails: create more connections between the existing ones, improve their condition, and create new trails. Respondents suggested having more places to gather as large groups for more community focused events.

For the full results of the public engagement survey, see Appendix B.

"We adore EVP. Mount Washington immediately felt like home for our dogs, us, and kiddo because of the trails at EVP."

"A city treasure kept secret from most Pittsburghers. Not like Frick or Schenley Parks in terms of immediate recognition, but no less wonderful."

"Wonderful trails and overlooks, an amazing local benefit, though not treated or kept up properly."

"I love that it feels like you are out in the forest away from everything, but then you turn a corner and you can see downtown."

"Excellent nature experience nestled deep in the heart of a historical and unique city environment."

What comes to mind when you think about Emerald View Park?

Basketball courts
In constant repair
Shortcut
Scattered
Well kept secret
Small parks
Open space
Greenleaf Trail
Coal Hill
Kids love it
Historic houses
Unstable slopes
Concerts
Difficult to navigate
Pool
Fun times
Olympia Park
Yoga
Trail system
Biking
Unique hiking trails
Nice space for dogs
Hills
Green canopy
History
Unaware it existed
Greenery
Hillside
Running
Great trails
Unknown
Litter and trash
Wildlife
Wasted space
Mountain biking
Forest
Dog walking
First time here
Water tanks
Duquesne Heights
Grandview Ave
Trails
Hiking
Mount Washington
Trails with potential
Dilapidated playgrounds
Woods
Open
Point of View Park
Grandview Park
Views
View of the city
Overlooks
Outdoors
Got engaged here
Underrated
Hard to access
Dog park
Best views
Home
Trees
Walking
Family walks
Recreation
Beautiful view
Trail around Mount Washington
Green areas close to city
Escape from the city
Steep
Beautiful park
Mt. Washington Park
Emerald View Trail
Close to home
Nature
Undiscovered gem
Got married here
Greenways
Separate sections
Jogging
Nothing
Challenging trails
Views of West End
Huge old trees
Scenic
Playgrounds
Nature trails
Diverse trails
Narrow
Steps
Health
Incomplete
Underused economic opportunity
Neighborhood park
Exercise
Urban climbing
Bigbee Field
Relaxing in nature
Off the beaten path
Commute
Incline
Usually well maintained
Isolation
Community
Good hike
Rustic
Family parks

Dream big! What is your big idea for the future of Emerald View Park?

Big Cool Swings at Grandview Park
More Picnic Space
Interactive Fountain
Bridge Over Unprotected Crossings
Shelter at Grandview Park
Park Tour App
Rest Areas Along Trails
Habitat Restoration
Playground and Court Updates
Larger Pool
Steps Improvements
Architecturally Stimulating Facilities
Welcome Center
Rock Climbing
Central Park of PGH
Add Former Edge Property
Connectivity to Adjacent Neighborhoods
More Welcoming to Everyone
Connectivity to Bottom of the Mount
Parking
Well-Marked Trails
Concession Stands for Games
Arboretum
More Mountain Biking Trails
Complete Trail Loop
Regular Maintenance
Protect Street Crossings
Fireworks
Large Lawn with View of City
More Trails
Better Signage
Trail Connectivity
Expand Trail System
Dog Park Improvements
Forest Rehabilitation
Wider Trails
Mini playgrounds
Tennis
Dog Friendly
Trail Improvements
More Events
Unobstructed View of PGH
Education of Coal History
Better Playgrounds
Food Trucks
Spray Park
Self-guided Hikes
More Community Focused Events
Live Music
Connectivity to South Side
Connectivity to PGH Destinations
Dedicated Rangers
Nature Play Areas
Keep It Natural
Park Connectivity
Sidewalk Improvements
Updates to Facilities
Connectivity to Bike Trails and Roadways
Reinvest in Trails
Summer Concerts
Field Improvements
Direct Riverfront Access
Partner with Local Businesses
Skyway System
Development of Vacant Lots
More Benches
Boardwalk on Grandview Ave
Wildlife Management
Commercial Activity
Drone Videos to Promote
Variety of Difficulty Levels
Scavenger Hunt
Hand Railings on Steeper Trails
Easier to get to
Sponsorship of Trees on Hillside

Word clouds were produced from public survey responses. More frequent responses are shown with larger text.

NFF

INVENTORY + ANALYSIS

INVENTORY & ANALYSIS

The inventory and analysis process for Emerald View Park included observation of existing conditions through field visits, stakeholder interviews, and mappings. The varied existing conditions of Emerald View Park necessitated an inventory and analysis of the park as a whole as well as an inventory and analysis of individual parts.

The inventory and analysis on the following pages summarizes the project team's findings categorized into four themes. Individual park findings are illustrated in the Master Plan Recommendations section.

- History
- Community
- Connectivity
- Ecology

1911, Indian Trail Steps

Image Credit: University of Pittsburgh, Historic Pittsburgh

HISTORY

Park Evolution

Emerald View Park includes 257 acres of land that have been pieced together into a comprehensive park over a span of more than a century. The park's unique shape around the hillside of Mount Washington is the result of decades of planning efforts and city acquisitions that have resulted in the preservation of the hillsides, investments in parks, and building of trails.

As evident from Emerald View Park's evolution, much of the planning work was spurred by local residents seeking change within their neighborhoods. The involvement of local residents in Emerald View Park's creation continues today in the collaborative partnerships between the many organizations working on different projects in the park. Ongoing special projects are listed on the following pages and include known projects within Emerald View Park as of May 2021. These projects have been spearheaded by the Mount Washington Community Development Corporation (MWCDC), different departments in the City of Pittsburgh, the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, the Mount Washington Community Recreation Center, and the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, among others. Many of these organizations have collaborated together on the noted projects. In its creation, its evolution, and its future work, Emerald View Park has been a collaboration between many individuals and organizations, demonstrating the vast amount of time and effort spent to make this park what it is today. For a full, detailed history of Emerald View Park, see Appendix C.

Past and Ongoing Planning Efforts

The *Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan* follows many decades of planning for the Mount Washington, Duquesne Heights, and Allentown neighborhoods. As such, the inventory and analysis process for this project included review of past planning efforts and consolidating plans' recommendations into a single document. This study revealed a layered history of Emerald View Park and its important role in the development of the City of Pittsburgh.

Emerald View Park and its surrounding neighborhoods played significant roles in Pittsburgh's growth as a major industrial city. The park's full history, presented in the appendices, reveals the many connections between the hillsides and the City's various industries at the end of the 19th century. The park's history also reveals how Mount Washington was valued, decades later, as having open space potential for residents' enjoyment and environmental impact, aiding in the City's return from being considered the "Smoky City."

Emerald View Park is located along the hillsides of Mount Washington. Prior to colonization, "The Mount" was home to indigenous cultures residing near the rivers of western Pennsylvania. The area later became a strategic position for armies in the French and Indian War and the Civil War. Perhaps most significant to Pittsburgh's growth, the formation of Mount Washington 440 million years ago produced the bituminous coal that led to the City of Pittsburgh's industrial growth and the neighborhood's nickname as "Coal Hill." Mount Washington was home to many European immigrant communities who came to Pittsburgh to work in the mines and factories on the riverfronts.

As Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. urged in his 1910 *Report on Main Thoroughfares and the Downtown District*, the Mount Washington hillsides should be "treated with respect as a vital part of the great landscape of the City. It should be protected from defacement and its earthy portions should be reclothed with the beauty of foliage." Mount Washington became the site of resident-led environmental conservation efforts, ultimately paving the way for Emerald View Park as a forested regional park that serves several Pittsburgh communities. In addition to conservation efforts, the hillsides were saved from development because of their steepness and inability to be developed due to the underground mines.

Emerald View Park Planning and Design

1943	Historical Data for Pittsburgh Public Parks
1970	Mount Washington-Duquesne Heights: A Study for the Department of Parks & Recreation
1972	Mount Washington-Duquesne Heights: A Program for Implementation
1995	Grandview Avenue Corridor Urban Design & Development Study
1995	Conceptual Design for the Grandview Walk, Jennifer Higgins
2002	Mount Washington's Emerald Link Plan, MWCDC
2005	Grand View Scenic Byway Park Master Implementation Plan
2005	Grand View Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan
2005	City Council Votes to Create Park
2007	Mayor Names Emerald View Park as a regional park
2007	A Study on Grandview Park, Student Conservation Association
2008	The McArdle Roadway Improvement Project
2008	Grand View Scenic Byway Signage Meeting
2008	CEC Habitat and View Restoration in Emerald View Park
2010	Grand View Scenic Byway Park Trail Plan
2010	Grand View Scenic Byway Park renamed Emerald View Park
2011	Declared Eligible for Regional Asset District Funding by Allegheny Regional Assetts District (ARAD) Board
2011	Olympia Park, R. Paul Manion Recreation Center Analysis
2013	Mount Washington Abandoned Mine Drainage Assessment + Report
2013	Land Use History of Emerald View Park (Summer Research Project)
2013	Greenleaf Trailhead Concept Design
2014	Grand View Scenic Byway Point of View Landscape Project
2014	Emerald View Park Preliminary Archaeological Survey
2015	Emerald View Park User Surveys
2015	Emerald View Park Trail Naming
2015	Summary and Analysis of Data Concerning Olympia Park
2016	Wetland Delineation & Stream Evaluation Report
2016	DCNR Fort Pitt Tunnel Trail Connector Project
2019	Park Listening Tour (part of Restoring Pittsburgh Parks Plan)
2019	Emerald View Park Phase 1 Signage Design and Installation (continuned on page 24)

EMERALD VIEW PARK EVOLUTION

1897 Grandview Park

The City first acquired Grandview Park in 1897, which originally consisted of 18 acres of the Robinson Farm on the hillside. The park is one of the highest points in the city.

1908 Olympia Park & Mt. Washington Park

In 1908, both Olympia Park and Mt. Washington Park were acquired by the City after nearby residents voiced their desire for a local neighborhood park.

1950s Grandview Avenue

Grandview Overlook Park was established when the railroad donated land to the City with a deed restriction for its creation. The 50 acres provided the famous urban vista that earned the Pennsylvania State Scenic Byway designation.

1980s Duquesne Heights Greenway

Neighborhood groups on Mount Washington identified the Duquesne Heights Greenway was a greenway project. 56 acres were designated as the greenway.

2000s Emerald Link and Grand View Scenic Byway

In 2001, a Mount Washington Community Development Corporation (MWCDC) task force led the effort to establish the northern hillside of Mount Washington as the "Emerald Link," kick-starting the work to connect the hillsides into one large open space. In 2002, the task force succeeded in designating Grandview Avenue, P.J. McArdle Roadway, and E Sycamore Street as a State Scenic Byway.

Emerald View Park Today

In 2005, Grand View Scenic Byway was created, and in 2007, the park was designated as one of Pittsburgh's five regional parks. In 2010, the park was renamed Emerald View Park in a city-wide renaming competition. Today Emerald View Park spans 257 acres in Duquesne Heights, Mount Washington, and Allentown.

HISTORY

(continuned from page 22)

Neighborhood Plans

1997	Virginia/Shiloh Avenue Development Plan
2008	Mount Washington Commercial Business District Improvement Plan
2010	MWCDC Ten Year Neighborhood Housing Strategy
2017	MWCDC Strategic Plan 2018-2022
2019	Allentown Vision 2030

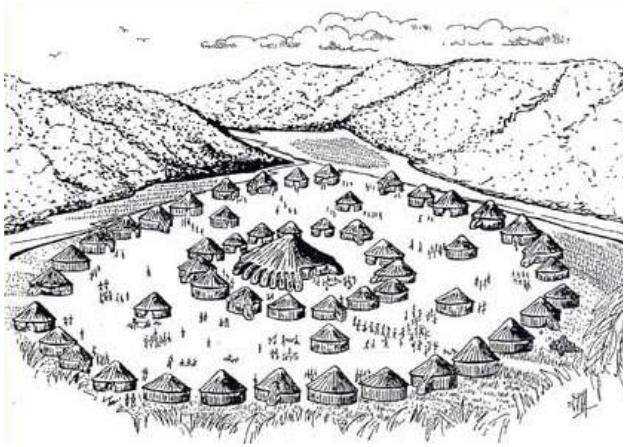
Pittsburgh Open Space Planning

2012	Regional Parks Master Plan Update
2013	OpenSpacePGH
2017	Greenways for Pittsburgh Guide
2018	Regional Parks Signage Manual Update
2019	Restoring Pittsburgh Parks Plan
2020	ForgingPGH Comprehensive Plan

GEOLOGIC FORMATION

440 Million Years Ago - 12,000 B.C.

The geologic formation of Mount Washington was formed by continental collisions and periods of massive sediment erosion. Between 220-300 million years ago, the Pittsburgh area was covered by swamps and home to a hot, humid climate. This environment produced lush plant growth that transformed, with bacteria, pressure, and heat, into the bituminous coal that later led to Pittsburgh emergence as an industrial city.



INDIGENOUS SETTLEMENT
12,000 B.C. - 1650

Before white settlers colonized the land now known as western Pennsylvania, many different indigenous cultures resided near the rivers in the region. The Adena, Hopewell, and Monongahela cultures each resided in this area between 12,000 B.C. into 1650. Living in the river basin, the Monongahela culture lived in clustered villages like the one illustrated above.

COLONIAL ESTABLISHMENT
1750s

When white settlers arrived in what is now Pittsburgh in the early 18th century, indigenous tribes, including the Shawnee and Osage People, occupied the land after being forced from their homes further east. Conflict arose between the French and the British, leading to the French and Indian War, during which both sides built a large fort at the confluence of the three rivers. Following the war, the indigenous tribal land was signed over to the British and coal mining began on the informally named "Coal Hill."

CITY GROWTH & COAL HILL
1780s - 1850s

As William Penn began to sell farmland and mining rights on Mount Washington, the City of Pittsburgh was established. Coal Hill became home to coal mines, glass factories and coke ovens, as well as German and Irish immigrants who worked in these industries and formed small communities at the top of the hill.

HISTORY

THE SMOKY CITY
1850s - 1900s

Iron and steel production for railroads around the country spurred the coal industry in Pittsburgh as it became a nationally recognized industrial powerhouse. On Mount Washington, inclines were built to ease transport up and down the steep slopes alongside the famous "Indian Trail" that traversed the now barren hillside.

MOUNT WASHINGTON DEVELOPMENT
1900s - 1930s

With a growing population on the hilltop of Mount Washington, roads including Grandview Avenue, McArdle Roadway and Shiloh Street were paved, the first parks on the hillsides were established, and elementary and high schools were opened. Plans for the City of Pittsburgh also began to identify Mount Washington's hillsides as a place to preserve and restore the landscape in order to attract city visitors.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
1930s - 1980s

Led by the Women's Club of Mount Washington, the City began to restore the hillsides by regulating coal mining and replanting the barren slopes through events such as the annual Arbor Day. In this time, Mount Washington residents worked to preserve nearby parks and the two remaining inclines. Hillside stabilization and work was perfeormed in the 1950s-1980s.

GRANDVIEW AVENUE
1990 - 2000

With the establishment of the Mount Washington Community Development Corporation (MWCDC), several projects were initiated along Grandview Avenue, including a corridor study by Bohlin Cywinski Jackson and the conceptual design for Grandview Walk by Jennifer Higgins at Machian, MacLachlan Cornelius & Filoni.

EMERALD LINK & GRAND VIEW SCENIC BYWAY
2001 - 2007

The MWCDC led the effort to link the northern hillside of Mount Washington into one large open space. With the designation as a State Scenic Byway in 2005, the Grand View Scenic Byway became a city park and the MWCDC continued to work to unite all of the hillsides of Mount Washington.

EMERALD VIEW PARK
2007 - Present

In 2007, the park was designated as one of Pittsburgh's five regional parks. Key land acquisitions were led by Allegheny Land Trust in 2009 and 2011. In 2010, the park was renamed Emerald View Park in a city-wide renaming competition. Today Emerald View Park spans 257 acres in Duquesne Heights, Mount Washington, and Allentown.

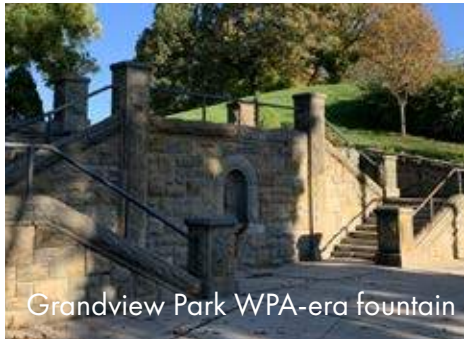
HISTORY

Historic Features

Mount Washington's hillsides hold many features that make the history of Pittsburgh's development visible. The hillsides tell the story of indigenous life, early colonial settlement, industrial growth, and fortification during the Civil War. Visitors can travel across former incline sites that once connected the bottom and top of the hillside. Redoubt earthworks, constructed during the Civil War, can be found next to foundations of houses built while Mount Washington was widely known as "Coal Hill." Trails constructed by the Works Progress Administration during the Second New Deal program can be hiked today. The Bigham House, located in Chatham Village adjacent to Olympia Park, was a stop along the Underground Railroad and is now a cultural destination. The historic sites begin to connect the park's fragments into a varied and layered history. These and other cultural features weave throughout the park and its neighborhoods to provide glimpses of the past and to inform Emerald View's evolution as a regional park.

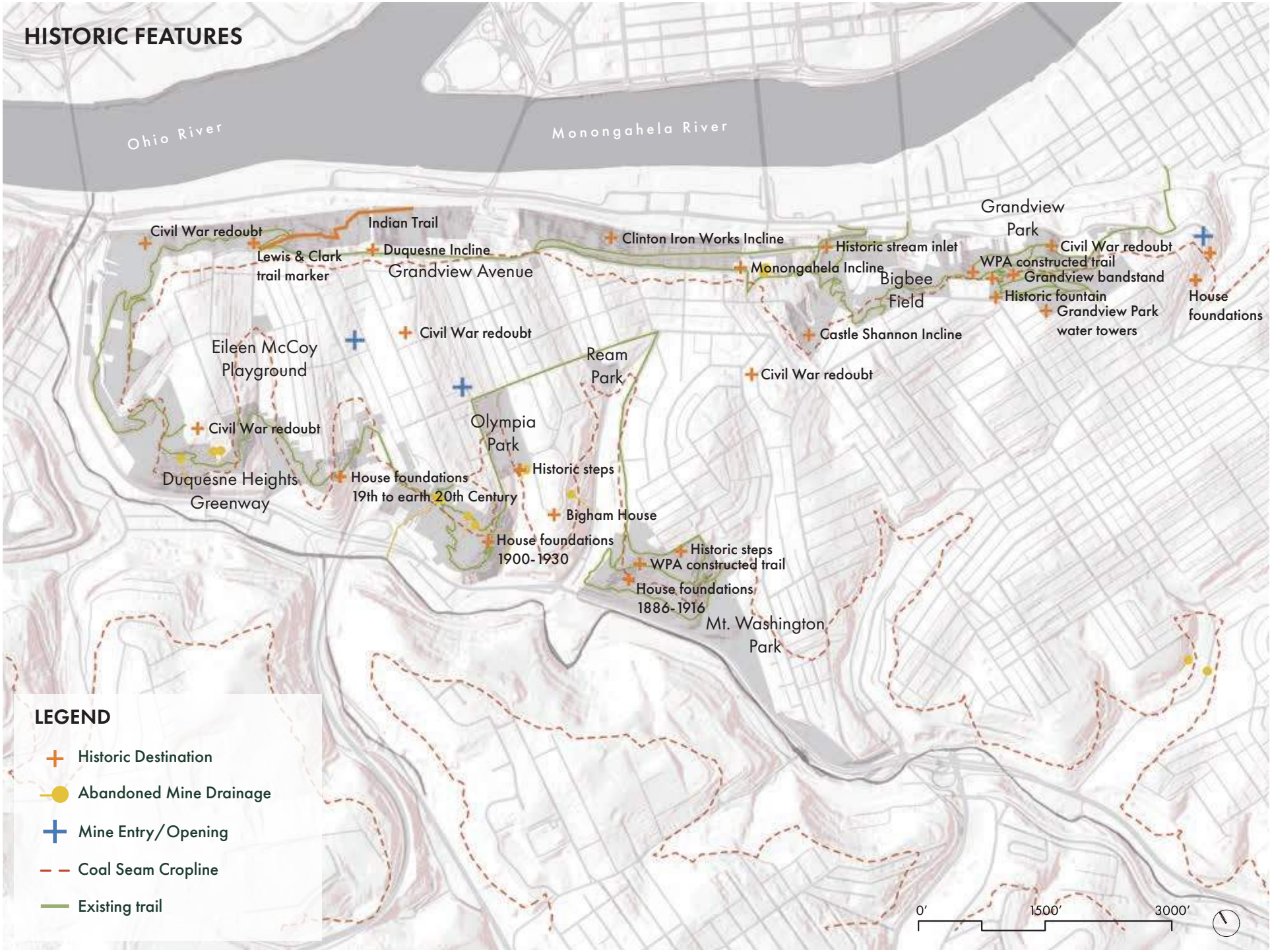
Historic foundation

Historic foundation


Grandview Park WPA-era fountain

Indian trail steps

HISTORIC FEATURES



HISTORY

Ongoing Special Projects

Mount Washington Community Development Corporation

- Developer's Guide: how to reduce stormwater impact
- Development Committee Curb appeal project
- Grandview Park: replanting planters
- Application to WPC Treevitalize program for neighborhood street trees
- Woodruff and Warrington: entrance plantings

Penn Department of Transportation

- Replanting and restoration on Shaler Street (vehicle staging area)

Pittsburgh Department of Mobility and Infrastructure

- Grandview Ave: overlook rehabilitation (Regional Asset District (RAD) funding and Department of Public Works partnership)
- Grandview Ave: painting railings and light poles, additional sidewalk repairs
- Grandview & Wyoming: retaining wall repair
- Saddle area: landslide area projects (William St, McArdle and Arlington)
- Greenleaf area: landslides and modular wall project

Pittsburgh Department of Innovation and Performance

- Trail data collection (with Department of City Planning)

Pittsburgh Department of Public Works

- Olympia Park Shelter

Pittsburgh Department of Public Works - Forestry Division

- Grandview Park: Invasive species removal, viewshed requests, and reforestation
- 2030 city tree canopy goal (increase by 50%)
- Greenleaf area: landslides and modular wall project

Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy

- Neighborhood Partnership Program (NPP) Activities: Park promotional activities, trails, ecological restoration
- Grandview Park viewshed and habitat restoration project (in partnership with Mount Washington Community Development Corporation (MWCDC) and Pittsburgh Department of Public Works - Forestry Division)
- Garden maintenance: Anchor Green, Republic St Rain Garden, Grandview Park Entry

Pittsburgh Public Safety Department - Park Rangers

- Papoose Conservation Wildlife Fund grant for pollinator garden in Olympia Park (in partnership with MWCDC)

Mount Washington Community Recreation Center

- Olympia Park walking track proposal

Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

- Saddle area and Grandview Park slope: Native tree planting through the Redbud Project

2021, Members of the Explorers Club of Pittsburgh rappel from the Grandview Avenue overlook as part of the 28th annual Emerald View Park cleanup event in Mount Washington, in partnership with the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy.

Image Credit: Pittsburgh City Paper, Jared Wickerham

COMMUNITY

Emerald View Park serves both local and regional communities of Pittsburgh. The park is physically located within three neighborhoods south of Downtown Pittsburgh, including Duquesne Heights, Mount Washington, and Allentown. The park is also adjacent to the Beltzhoover neighborhood. The communities surrounding Emerald View Park are each unique and distinct from the larger Pittsburgh region.

Demographics

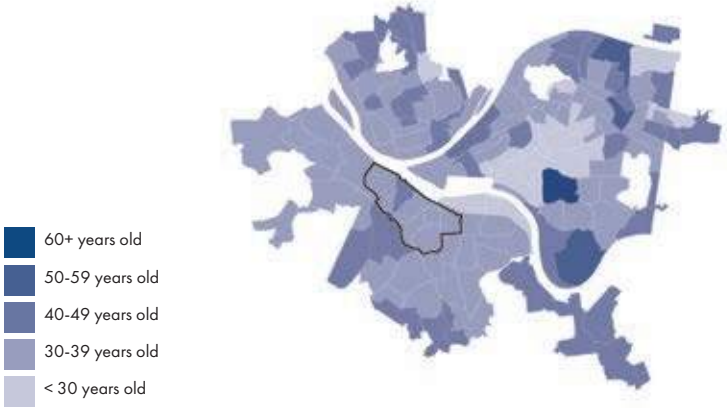
According to the 2010 U.S. Census and the 2017 American Community Survey (ACS), the population living adjacent to Emerald View Park consists largely of single-family households. Neighboring residents consist of families who have lived in these communities for decades as well as younger families who have recently moved to the neighborhoods.

15% of respondents to the 2020 public survey completed for the Master Plan process said they worked in downtown Pittsburgh. 13% of respondents said they were retired, and another 15% work in Mount Washington, Duquesne Heights, or Allentown. The remaining responses worked in other areas of the Pittsburgh region. These results speak to the need for residents to connect within the Emerald View Park communities and to connect to Pittsburgh's downtown and other areas of the city.

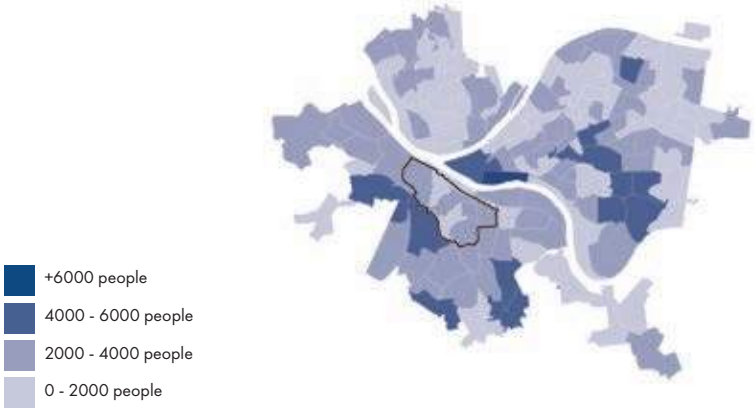
Across the Emerald View Park neighborhoods, as shown with the 2017 American Community Survey data, there is a divide between the eastern and western neighborhoods close to Emerald View Park, both in race and income. The Mount Washington and Duquesne Heights neighborhoods are largely white and reported a higher median income relative to the larger Pittsburgh area. The Allentown and Beltzhoover neighborhoods are largely people of color and reported a lower to medium median income level relative to the City.

DEMOGRAPHICS

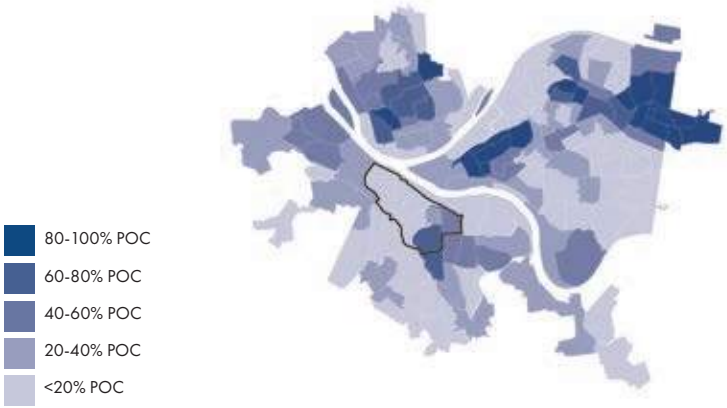
The median age of residents near Emerald View Park is **35 years old.**



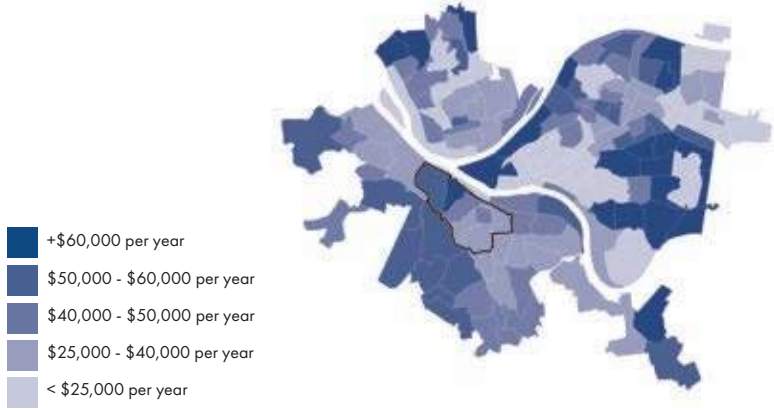
The total population of residents near Emerald View Park is **about 14,500 people.**



73.64% of Emerald View Park's nearby residents are white, and a majority live in the Mount Washington and Duquesne Heights neighborhoods. **26.36% of residents are people of color** and a majority live in the Allentown and Beltzhoover neighborhoods.



The median income of residents near Emerald View Park is **$46,700 per year.** Median income is higher in the Mount Washington and Duquesne Heights neighborhoods and lower in the Allentown and Beltzhoover neighborhoods.



COMMUNITY

Land Use

Emerald View Park surrounds largely residential land uses, with a few small business districts interspersed between. Nearly every edge of the zoned Park and Open Space is adjacent to residential uses, which underscores the need to communicate park entrances and to distinguish between private land and public land.

The land use zoning for Emerald View Park has undergone several changes over many decades. Originally, individual parks were acquired by the City, including Grandview Park, Olympia Park, and Mt. Washington Park. In 1939, the City Planning Commission refused to include properties on slopes greater than 25% into the public sale process. This process effectively protected the Mount Washington hillsides from further development. In 1958, a new zoning classification for Special Areas (S) covered the steep hillsides and identified allowable uses to include overlooks, scenic drives, and conservation and recreation areas. In 1998, City Planning consolidated the (S) classification and the Open Space (OS) classification into the Hillside (H) classification, which sought to promote infill development, particularly on steeper slopes. Today, the Parks and Open Space (P) classification intends to provide and maintain the City's park system and accommodate for passive and active recreation.

Business Districts

Emerald View Park is adjacent to six business districts that cater to both local residents and tourists.

- **Republic Street and Greenleaf Street** - A small commercial corridor housing a local hair salon.

- **Bigham Street** - Between both Olympia Park and Ream Park, this area is popular with nearby residents. This area includes Cafe Cravings and Bigham Tavern.

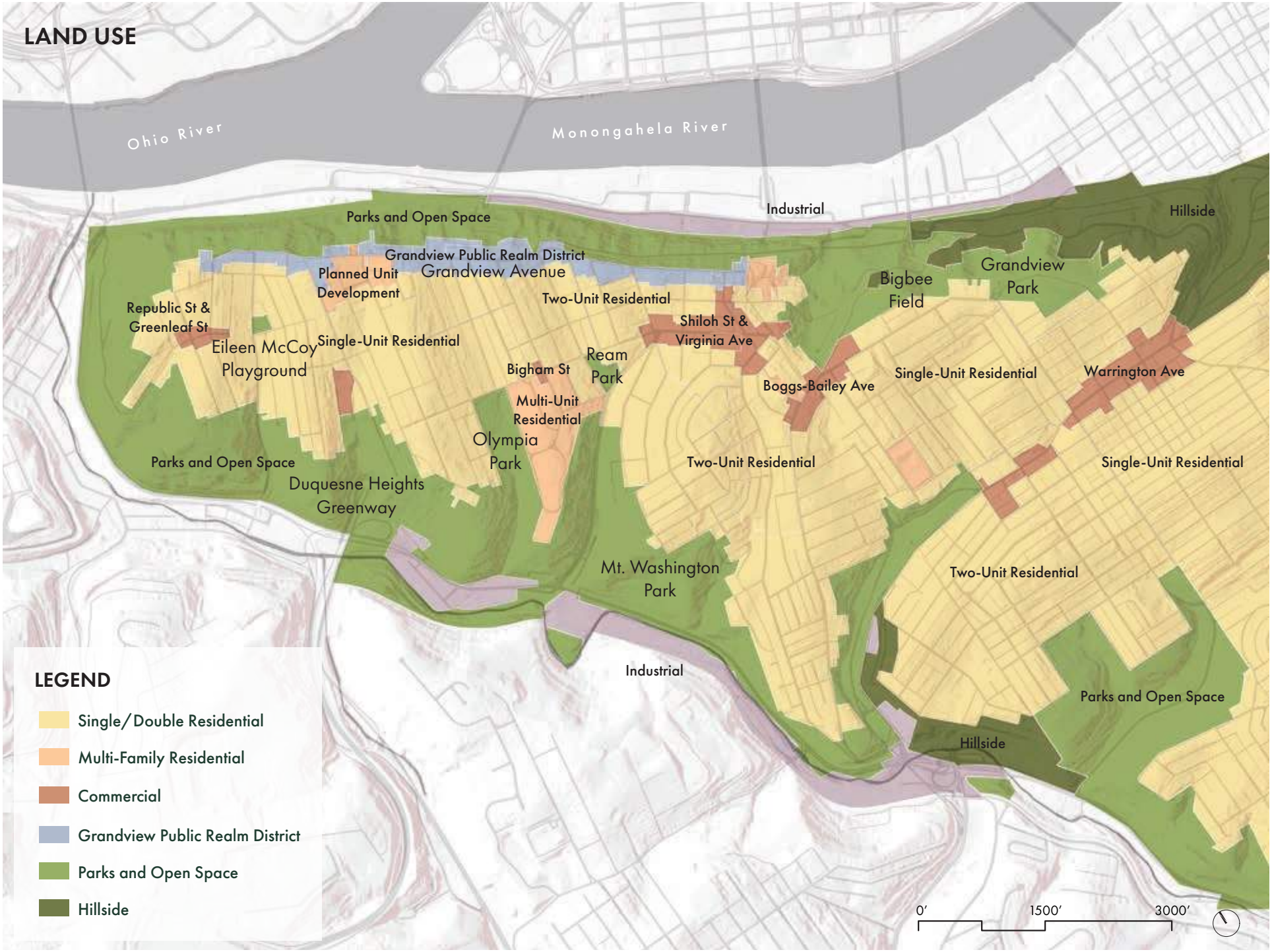
- **Shiloh Street and Virginia Avenue** - This area is the biggest district near Emerald View Park and the most frequented by visitors. This area includes several restaurants, bars, and public art. The intersection between Shiloh Street and Grandview Avenue serves as a gateway into the district and could help to connect visitors on Grandview Avenue and the overlooks to these local businesses and the surrounding neighborhood.

- **Grandview Public Realm District** - This area is a specified zoning district and is bounded by East Sycamore Street and Republic Street. Its main commercial area is at the western end close to the Duquesne Incline, known as "Restaurant Row," and includes high end restaurants overlooking the city.

- **Boggs-Bailey Avenue** - This business district intersects Wyoming Street and William Street and extends south along the 43 bus line. It offers a few restaurants, a pharmacy and other small businesses.

- **Warrington Avenue** - This district, located in Allentown, is a popular center for restaurants, bars, art and community services. In the center of Allentown with connections to Beltzhoover, this is a commercial corridor that can help to connect the various parts of Emerald View Park.

LAND USE


Ohio River
Monongahela River
Parks and Open Space
Industrial
Hillside
Grandview Public Realm District
Grandview Avenue
Planned Unit Development
Two-Unit Residential
Bigbee Field
Grandview Park
Republic St & Greenleaf St
Eileen McCoy Playground
Single-Unit Residential
Shiloh St & Virginia Ave
Ream Park
Bigham St
Boggs-Bailey Ave
Single-Unit Residential
Warrington Ave
Multi-Unit Residential
Olympia Park
Parks and Open Space
Duquesne Heights Greenway
Two-Unit Residential
Single-Unit Residential
Mt. Washington Park
Two-Unit Residential
Industrial
Parks and Open Space
Hillside
LEGEND
Single/Double Residential
Multi-Family Residential
Commercial
Grandview Public Realm District
Parks and Open Space
Hillside
0'
1500'
3000'

COMMUNITY

Cultural Destinations

Emerald View Park is in close proximity to, and intersects with, many unique cultural destinations. These include, historic elements, public art, schools, educational centers, restaurants located in adjacent business districts, and tourist attractions, as identified by residents and organizational leaders. It would be beneficial to provide additional trails or on-street connections to destinations located outside of the park boundaries.

Destinations in Emerald View Park

- **Grandview Park bandstand** - located in Grandview Park, currently supports movie nights and yoga, future suggestions include additional music and live performances, and restrooms.
- **Olympia Park Shelter** - located in Olympia Park, currently not in use due to fire damage, but being renovated to provide community functions.
- **Grandview Avenue overlooks** - one of the most popular tourist venues in Pittsburgh, panoramic views of the city.
- **Duquesne and Monongahela Inclines** - popular tourist destinations with potential to support pedestrian travel to Emerald View Park.

Destinations outside of Emerald View Park

- **Skookum Field** - popular sports field that connects into Emerald View Park's trail network.
- **South Hills Junction** - current T-stop with potential as a regional connection for Emerald View Park.
- **Seldom Seen Greenway** - forested area in the adjacent Beechview neighborhood with potential to connect with Emerald View Park across Saw Mill Run Boulevard.
- **McKinley Park** - a popular community park in the Beltzhoover neighborhood.

Grandview Park Bandstand

Olympia Park Shelter

Shiloh Street

Grandview Avenue Overlooks

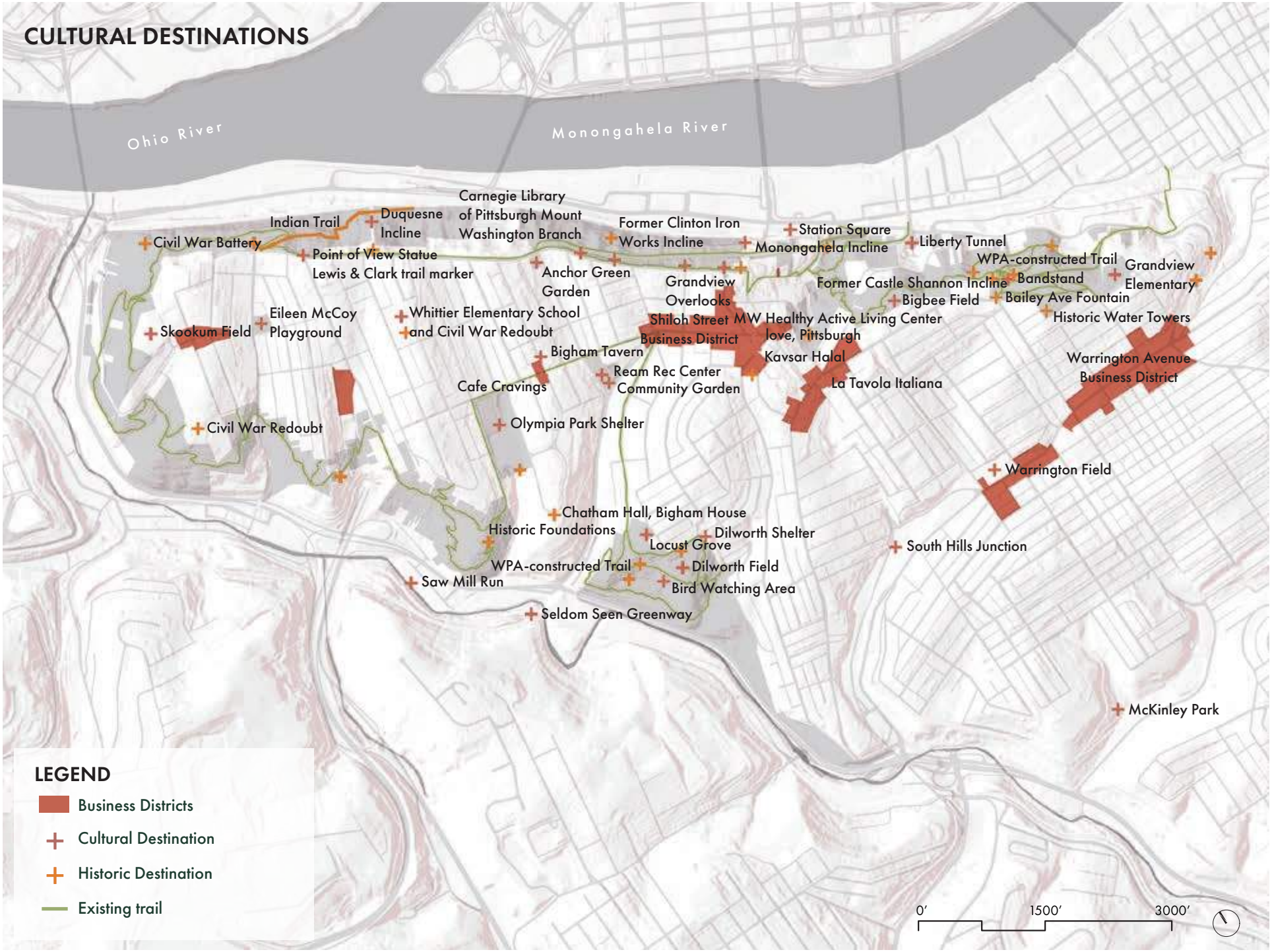
Warrington Avenue

Seldom Seen Greenway

McKinley Park

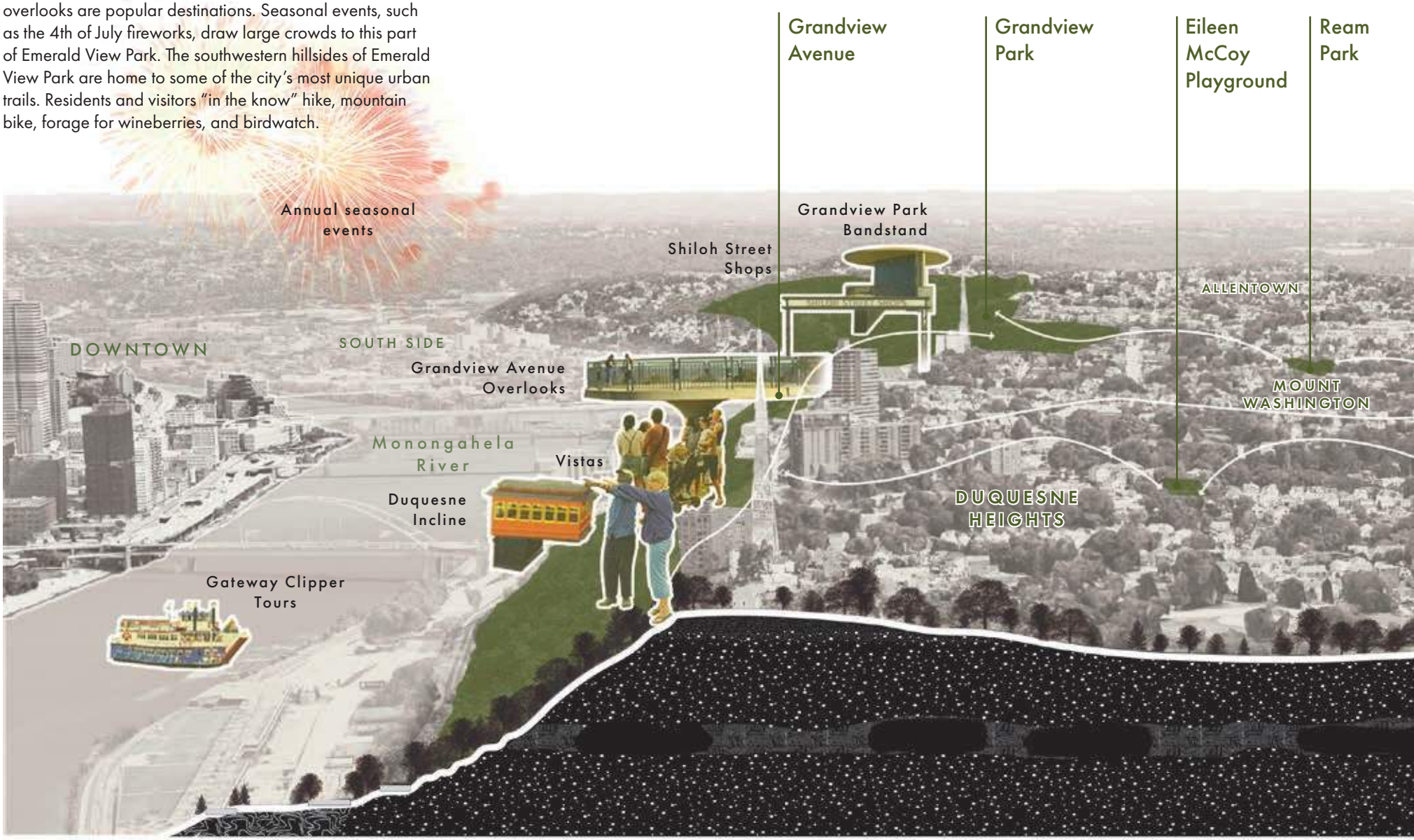
Point of View Statue

CULTURAL DESTINATIONS



CULTURAL DESTINATIONS

Emerald View Park includes destinations for visitors and residents alike. The dramatic vistas along the park's northeastern "front" edge along Grandview Avenue attract tourists and residents year-round. The Duquesne Incline, the Monongahela Incline, and the Grandview Avenue overlooks are popular destinations. Seasonal events, such as the 4th of July fireworks, draw large crowds to this part of Emerald View Park. The southwestern hillsides of Emerald View Park are home to some of the city's most unique urban trails. Residents and visitors "in the know" hike, mountain bike, forage for wineberries, and birdwatch.



Olympia Park
Mt Washington Park
Duquesne Heights Greenway
BELTZHOOVER
BEECHVIEW
RIDGEMONT
Birdwatching
Mountain biking
Hiking
Wineberry picking

COMMUNITY

Programming

Throughout Emerald View Park, visitors can find a wide variety of activities and programs, ranging from organized recreational sports to passive relaxation in the park. Sports, including soccer, ultimate frisbee, kickball, and baseball are largely organized by the Pittsburgh Sports League (PSL) or the Washington Heights Athletic Association (WHAA), and cater to youth leagues as well as adult leagues. Year-round youth recreation occurs at the Mount Washington Community Recreation Center. More informally, mountain biking is popular on the park trails, particularly to the south of Olympia Park and through the Duquesne Heights Greenway.

There are several noted spots for bird watching and wineberry foraging, especially in the trails on the south side of Mount Washington. The dog park at Olympia Park is very popular with residents. Visitors to Emerald View Park enjoy the playgrounds at each of the individual parks: Olympia Park, Mt. Washington Park, Grandview Park, Eileen McCoy Playground, and Ream Park. Annual events take place within Emerald View Park, primarily in the flatter parts of the park where people can easily gather. These events include Arbor Day, July 4th at Grandview Avenue, vintage baseball games, the Community Day Picnic and the Turkey Bowl.

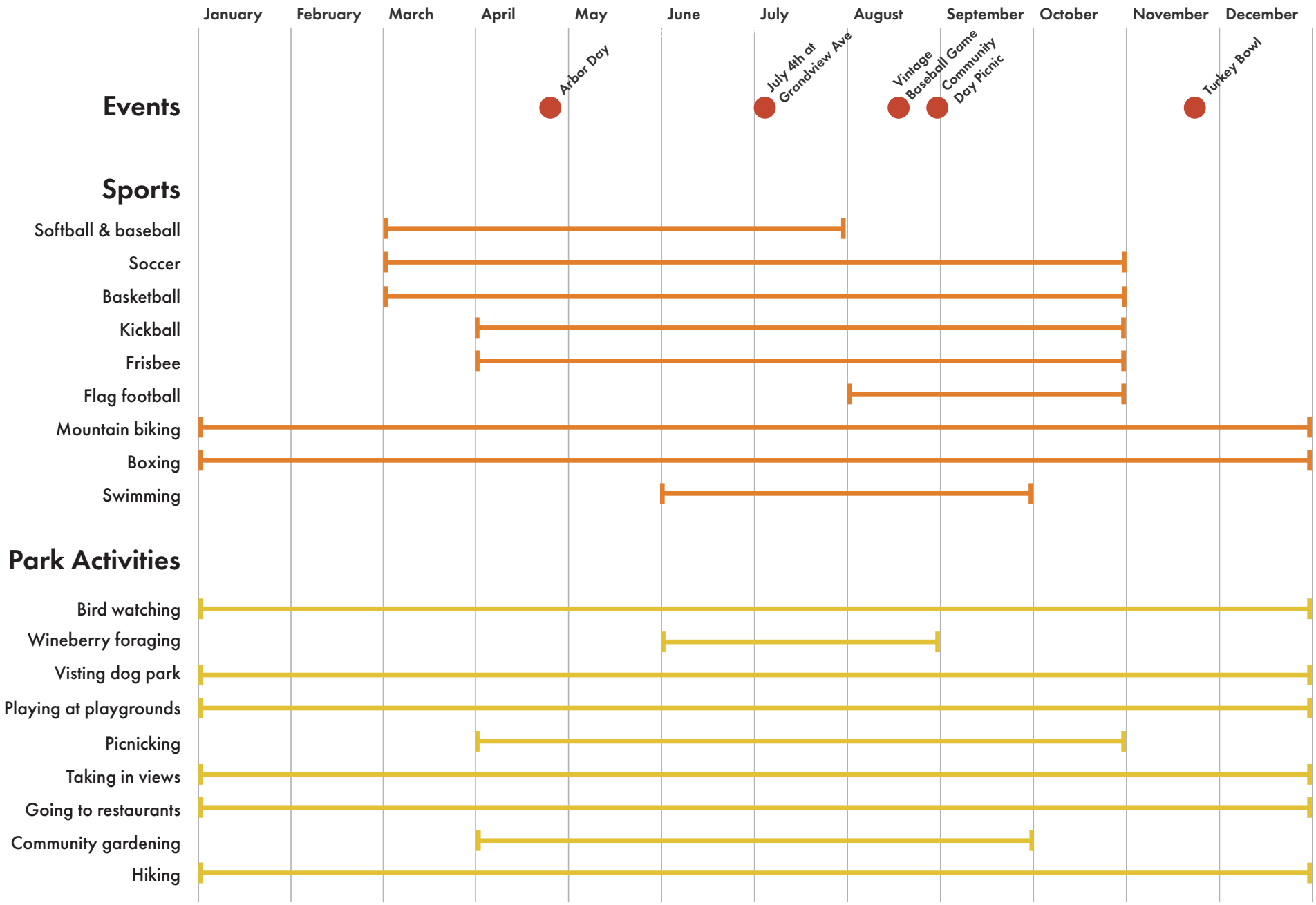
These programs illustrate the wide diversity of experiences in Emerald View Park. While the public survey completed in November 2020 revealed that most visitors come to the park to hike and walk along the park trails, a variety of programming is desired to continue to engage with Emerald View Park's surrounding communities.

Movie Nights at Grandview Park

Yoga at Grandview Park

Swimming at Ream Pool

EXISTING PROGRAMMING CALENDAR



COMMUNITY

Unauthorized Activities (observed fall 2020)

Several unauthorized activities were observed within Emerald View Park in the fall of 2020, including dumping, graffiti, encampments, motorized vehicular trail use, and tree-mounted hunting stands. The activities were primarily located along the trail system in the hillsides and less often located within individual park areas.

There was little evidence of significant garbage dumping throughout the park. Dumping was largely limited to yard and building debris pushed from the cliffs near Chess Street and Southern Avenue near Mt. Washington Park.

Little vandalism was observed over all; however, graffiti was widespread throughout vertical concrete surfaces within the park. In many cases the graffiti was only visible at close range.

Hunting is currently not allowed within City of Pittsburgh parks; however, numerous tree-mounted deer hunting stands were observed. Most tree-mounted hunting stands were observed on the southwestern slope of the park.

Most of the unauthorized activities occur on the edges of the park that are not as heavily populated as the interior individual parks. With improved trail conditions and more frequent maintenance of the park, these unauthorized activities could be deterred.

Dumping

Hunting tree stand

Vandalism

UNAUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES (OBSERVED FALL 2020)

CONNECTIVITY

Connectivity within Emerald View Park and its surrounding neighborhoods, as well as within the City of Pittsburgh and its larger region, is a focus of the Master Plan. Emerald View Park does not have one main entrance that can be easily discerned from a map. Because of the park's large geographic area and unique shape, the park can be entered from various points including individual park entrances and seventeen different trailheads.

Neighborhood Connectivity

For residents of the neighborhood, there are two primary types of connections to the park: the larger, well-marked entrances—typically with street parking—that may also be used by visitors from outside the neighborhood, and smaller, less-visible entrances that may only be known to people who live in close proximity. Many entrances have a historic connection to the original neighborhood parks that are now part of the larger Emerald View Park, and may hold significance to people in the neighborhood.

Of the seventeen existing trailheads to the park, six do not have street parking or parking available. Most of these entrances are local, neighborhood entrances, unlikely to be used by people from outside the neighborhood. Of the eleven trailheads with parking, six of them are used mostly by residents nearby, not by visitors from the city or region. The trailheads are mostly on auxiliary streets with little traffic.

Overall, pedestrian access to the park is limited. Many entrances are only accessible to the immediately surrounding residents who know of the entrances or to visitors who do not need to park a car. Many entrances are unmarked or feel too close to residences. Visitors are unsure if they are on public or private property. The semi-hidden, locals-only feel of these entrances can be a positive aspect, however, and something for the park to potentially build upon. This culture allows for city residents to park at the larger entrances, while offering local neighborhood residents a unique connection to the park. These types of entrances could be enhanced and expanded to better connect the neighborhood to the park.

CONNECTIVITY

City Connectivity

Emerald View Park can be reached by car in an approximate 10-12 minute drive from most nearby residential areas. Access from lower elevations to Emerald View Park is available by driving up key streets or taking the inclines. There are bicycle paths connecting the park to its surrounding neighborhoods, though these connections could be improved and more well defined for bicyclists to use. The City of Pittsburgh's Department of Mobility and Infrastructure (DOMI) identified strategic bicycle and pedestrian routes throughout the Emerald View Park neighborhoods in the Bike+ Plan. The Emerald View Park neighborhoods are well served by bus service. Signage at bus stops could direct visitors to the closest park entrance.

There are two trailheads with gravel parking lots, and three paved parking lots. Two of these are on the northern side, where most people enter while coming to the park from downtown or the North Side. A third entrance with a parking lot is on the southwestern side at Greenleaf Street. In total, these parking lots hold between 25-35 cars, roughly split between the two lots on the north, and the larger lot in the southwest.

Currently, there is no coordinated primary entry point to the park for visitors coming from the city. When searching for Emerald View Park on Google Maps, visitors are directed to the Bailey Avenue entrance to Grandview Park, miscommunicating that Emerald View Park is limited to Grandview Park's area. Additional desirable entrance locations to the park for citywide visitors could include the Sweetbriar Street North entrance and the Bigbee Street entrance with views framing the city and the river.

More visitation to the park from citywide residents, and tourists staying in downtown hotels, should be encouraged. However, the goal should also be to avoid increased automobile traffic in the neighborhood. An opportunity to allow parking at the foot of the incline and have pedestrian visitors arrive into the park via the incline may be an alternative. Additionally, a more clearly defined visitor experience of the park is needed. This may require programing entrances into Google Maps and other online mapping sources. Strategic thinking about how cars move through the neighborhoods should be considered as well.

Regional Connectivity

Regional connections to the park are available for visitors within a 25-30 minute car ride to the park or via bus or T transit. Visitors have similar issues as citywide visitors, however they are less likely to know a local landmark, and may be more hesitant to venture onto trails that do not feel like public property, especially where the distinction between private and public land blurs at trailheads. Several trailheads fall into this category, mostly at the smaller entrances at the end of residential streets.

Regional visitors are likely more reliant on online maps to provide directions to the park. Typically, regional visitors will use the same vehicular entrances to the park as the citywide visitors.

Views to the city and access to adjacent business districts and unique features such as the inclines provide strong draws to the park and the surrounding neighborhoods for regional visitors. The well-known city views are on the north side of the park, where most of the citywide and regional traffic would be coming into the neighborhood via vehicles. Finding ways to reduce traffic and the need for parking in the neighborhood, while increasing the opportunity for visitors to come to the park would be ideal for future projects.

Accessibility

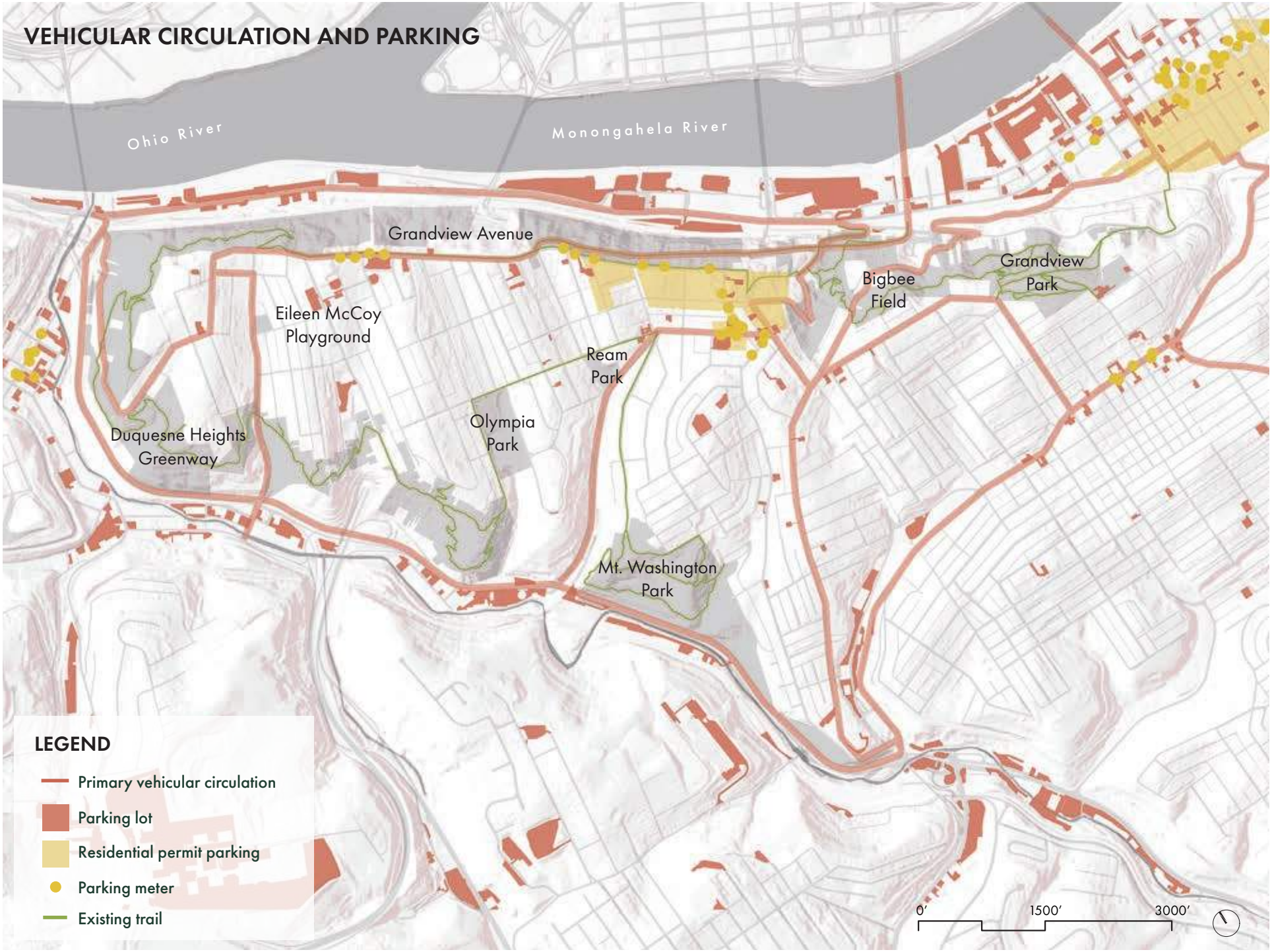
Because of its topography and location on existing steep hillsides, Emerald View Park has limited accessible entrance. A majority of the trail network, trailheads, and park entrances do not meet the 5% slope requirement for ADA access. Many trail paths are not wide enough to accommodate people to comfortably pass each other.

The lack of accessibility signals a need for more accessible entrances and pathways leading into both individual parks and into the trail network where possible with existing slope conditions.

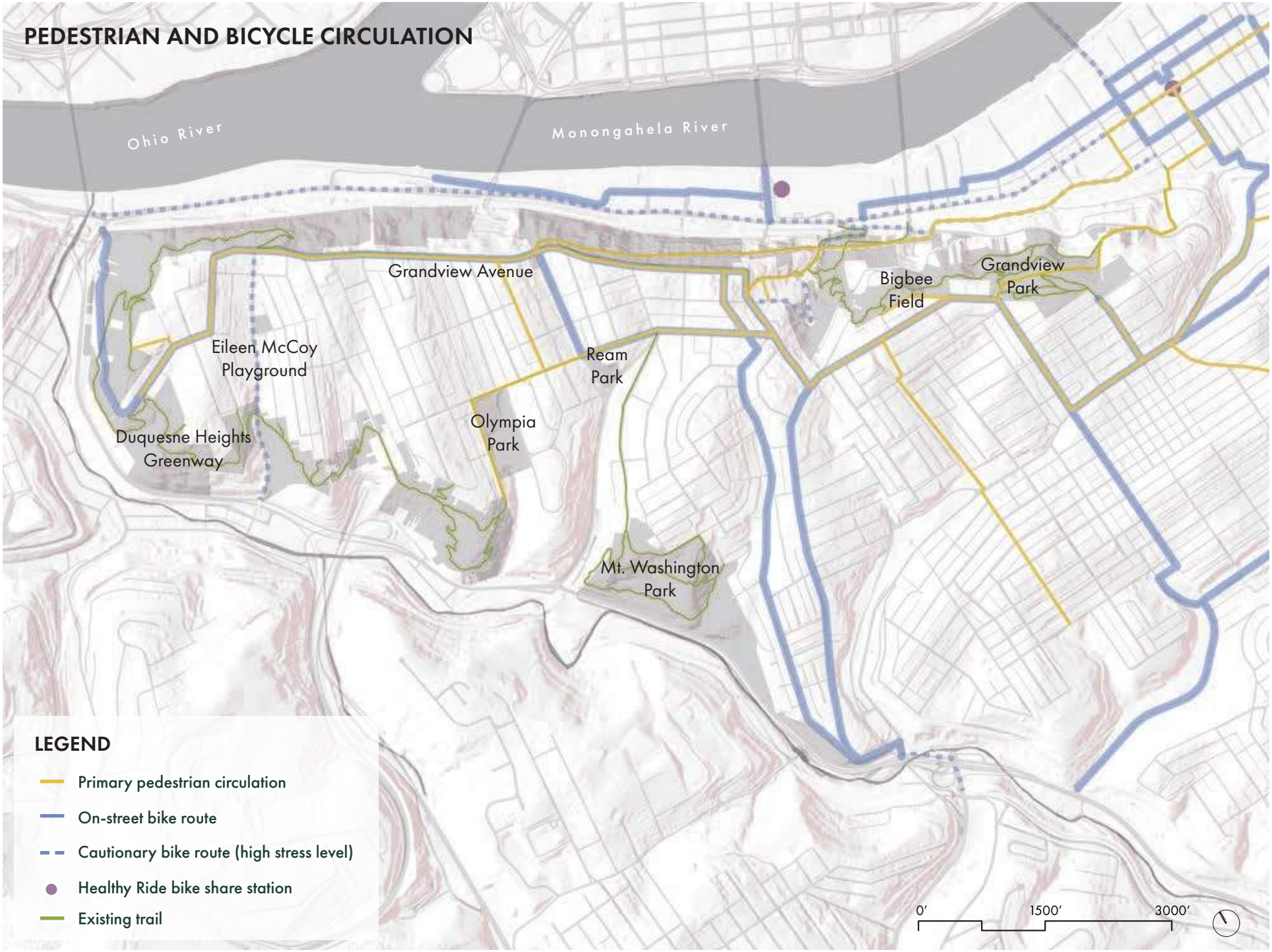
Trail Conditions

Emerald View Park includes miles of urban hiking trails. The trails offer a variety of experiences, ranging in difficulty from easy to intermediate to advanced. A majority of the trails are categorized as intermediate or advanced. The trails vary in width and construction, with some trails formally constructed with crushed stone or compacted dirt, while others are more minimal "cow path" forged trails. Observed maintenance issues are noted on the Trails + Trailhead Conditions map. Trailheads are in varying states of disrepair.

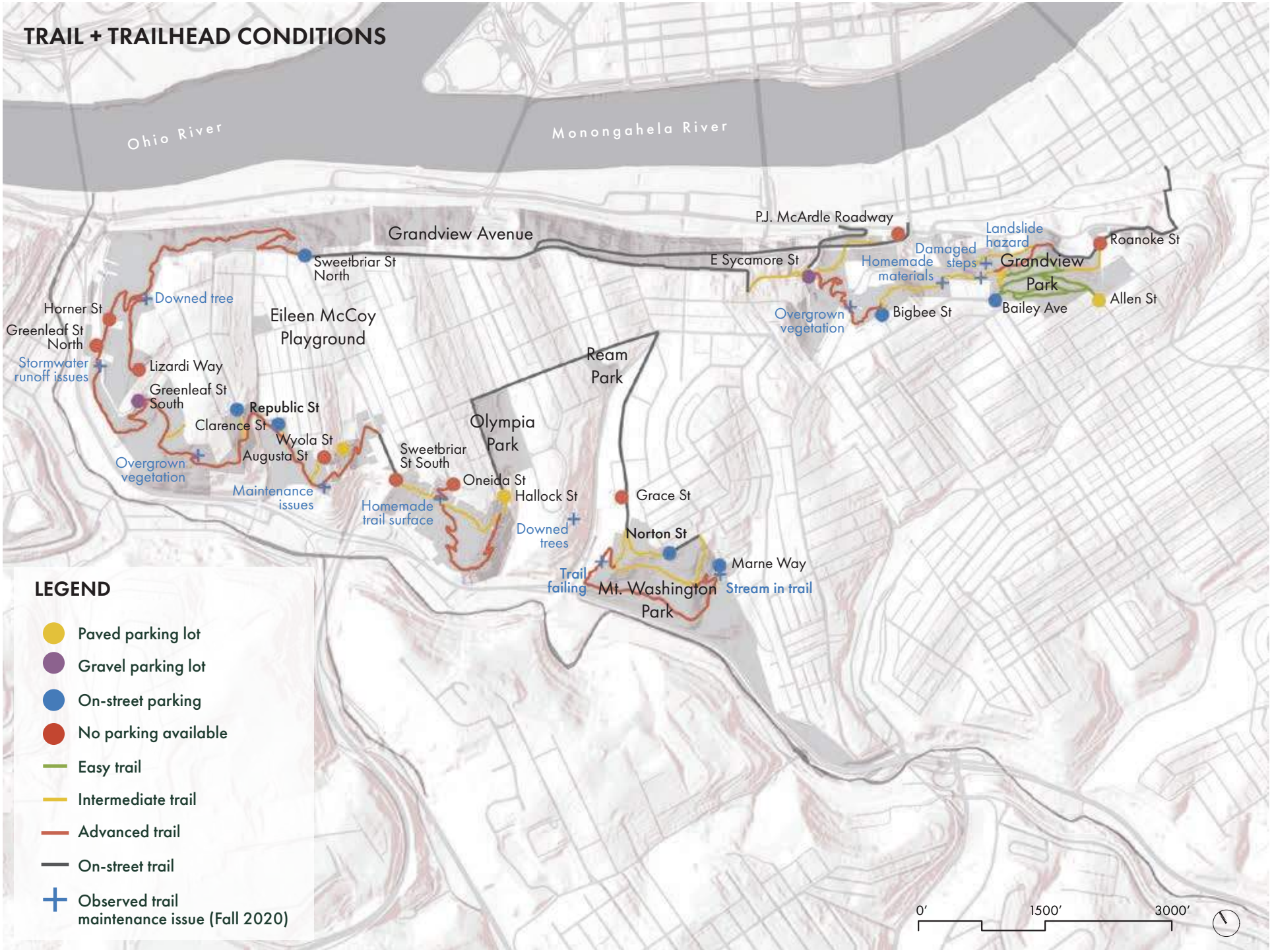
VEHICULAR CIRCULATION AND PARKING



PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE CIRCULATION



TRAIL + TRAILHEAD CONDITIONS



Allen Street

The Allen St entrance is the only existing paved parking entrance to the park. There are no signs indicating it is the entrance to the park, however, the parking area has the standard traffic markings of a public parking area, and a basketball court to the rear of the lot. There are enough visual cues that most visitors would recognize this as a public space.

The space is open and visible, and located in proximity to the commercial district in the area. It has a more urban condition that many of the other entrances, and feels connected to the commercial, retail, and institutional life of this part of the neighborhood.

Bailey Avenue

Bailey Avenue is the grandest of the existing entrances to the park, with a historic stone step integrated into a historic wall. The existing sign reads Grandview Park, one of the historic parks assembled into Emerald View Park, with a recognition of Emerald View Park on the same sign.

There is ample street parking at this entrance, it is highly visible, and clearly reads as a public space. The foundation of the historic steps/wall is in need of repair, and the vehicular driveway is not fully integrated into the site, although does provide an accessible route into the park not offered by the steps.

Bigbee Street

The Bigbee Street entrance is an informal entrance into the park, and appears to be more of a service access road, although there are signs of repeated pedestrian use. The location is offers good views of the city and is in close proximity to the commercial districts in this part of the neighborhood.

There is plenty of street parking in the area, although the street may be too narrow if street parking increased dramatically in this area. The entrance offers open spaces, with plenty of visibility, and eyes from the adjacent residential housing offering a feeling of safety.

Clarence Street

The entrance at Clarence Street is secluded at the end of a street, with no room for parking. The street that leads to the entrance has low-density housing and is essentially a long, disconnected cul-de-sac. To a visitor not familiar with the entrance, it would not immediately be clear that this is the entrance to a public park, rather than private land.

This informal entrance would mostly be used by pedestrians in the neighborhood or cyclists. The entrance is not marked, but offers a small gathering space, where bicycle parking may be placed.

East Sycamore Street

The East Sycamore Street entrance features a gravel parking lot for cars. It has signage, but no formal entrance markers. There are no sidewalks along the street—and the street is relatively narrow for the speed of the vehicles—making pedestrian access to this entry difficult.

The entrance is in proximity to the commercial districts in this part of the neighborhood. Public parking in the commercial districts could support the use of this entrance if pedestrian access was improved. The entrance clearly denotes that this is a public park, and not private land.

Grace Street

Grace Street is a small, unmarked entrance, yet clearly visible from the street. To an uninitiated visitor, it would not appear to be a private drive or private property, but it also does not appear to be a public park. It is paved, and could potentially appear to be an access road for utilities.

There is no parking, and no sidewalks on the adjacent streets, making this entrance difficult to access. However, the traffic on this street is light, and pedestrians familiar with the area would feel comfortable walking the shoulder of the street to the entrance. It does not have adjacent residences to promote a feeling of safety, and visibility to and from the entrance to housing is limited.

Greenleaf Street - North

The entrance at this part of Greenleaf Street is simply a pedestrian crosswalk that connects into a trail in the woods. The small pedestrian crossing sign is a clear indicator that there is a trail in the area, even though the trail itself is not easily seen.

There is no parking at this entrance, and no sidewalks for pedestrian access. There are no residences in this area, however, the views are open. This entrance is more of a crossing of the trail over Greenleaf Street than a viable park entry point.

Greenleaf Street - South

This entrance has an open, informal gravel parking lot surrounded by fencing. A small sign at the opening in the fence indicates the entrance to the trail, otherwise there are no larger signs indicating the entrance from the street. Residential housing across the street, and an open space with views to and from the street create a sense of safety for the entrance.

This entrance is easily identifiable as a public space, and most resembles a rural trailhead at a state park, with less signage.

Hallock Street

The Hallock Street entrance is a small entrance adjacent to a park, clearly indicating that this is a public space. However, the informal street parking in this area is less easy to interpret. Some of these parking areas could be seen as more service parking areas, rather than for park users.

The entrance to the trail is a small paved pathway that winds in close proximity to several residences, potentially blurring the visitor's understanding of whether or not this is a private trail or part of the public park. There are no clear signs at this entrance to indicate where to park, the nature of the trail, or other visitor information.

Horner Street

The entrance at Horner Street is at the end of a dead-end road, along a utility line. There are no sidewalks, and no parking at this entrance. This is a very remote entrance, and most people would not likely know this is the entrance to a park, as there are no signs or other indicators that this is a public access point.

There are few residences along the entry road, with one house somewhat overlooking the entrance. The remoteness of the entrance may actually contribute to the feeling of safety, at least during daylight, as it is unlikely that anyone other than local residents within a few blocks would use this entrance.

Lizardi Way

This is an informal entrance in a low-density neighborhood, without any signs or other clear markings indicating this is a trailhead. For visitors outside of the neighborhood, this entrance may not seem public.

There seems to be little parking in this area. This entrance is likely mostly used by people in the immediate vicinity.

Marne Way

Marne Way is an informal and somewhat hidden entrance to the trail system in this area. A small wooden fence and gravel clearing indicated the entrance, and it is located on a low traffic street.

There is opportunity for street parking, however the residential housing adjacent to the entrance have back yards that flow into the street.

Norton Street

The Norton Street entrance is adjacent to a park, and feels like a public space. However, there are no signs marking the entrance to the trail, and the path into the woods seems well-traveled, but it may be unclear to a new visitor if this is a public entrance.

There is ample street parking, and the main part of the entrance is within view of several residences, giving it a feeling of safety.

Republic Street

The entrance at Republic Street has a small sign posted on wooden fencing, and some standard No Parking signs and other indications of care near the entrance. It is not a highly visible entrance, but clearly reads as a public entrance into a park or trail system.

There is street parking adjacent to the entrance, and some residential housing, but it is relatively far away from activity and eyes on the street. There are sidewalks on the streets—and the streets are hosting slower traffic—so pedestrian access from the immediate neighborhood would be good.

Roanoake Street

The entrance at Roanoke Street is not marked, nor is there any parking on the street or otherwise. The entrance does not have indications that this is a public trail, or entrance, and the pathway runs in close proximity to several residences, with some parts of the path being only 10′ away from front entrances.

It is a bit hidden, and does not promote a feeling of safety or eyes on the street, mostly being a trail that winds under a large canopy. The trail itself offers excellent views of the city and the river, and is likely used primarily by local neighbors in the immediate vicinity.

Sweetbriar Street - North

The Grandview/Sweetbriar entrance is not listed as a formal entrance to the park, and no signs indicate its connection to Emerald View Park. However, there is a formal overlook, with excellent views of the city and the river, and a small stone paved plaza with the Point of View sculpture and interpretive signage.

There is little, if any, parking at the entrance, although there is parking on streets nearby. The entrance is open—and clearly identified as a public space—with lot of views to and from the site to residential housing.

Sweetbriar Street - South

The entrance at Sweetbriar Street is at the end of a long cul-de-sac without cross streets, and no street or public parking. There are no sidewalks, however the traffic is light and most people would feel comfortable walking in the street or on the shoulder to the entrance.

A wooden fence is a small indication that this is a public access point to the trail and park system, along with No Parking signs, but other than that there is very limited signage. There are residences with clear views of the entrance, and an open area due to overhead power lines, to promote a feeling of safety. This is likely a trailhead for local neighbors in the immediate vicinity.

CONNECTIVITY

Wayfinding & Signage

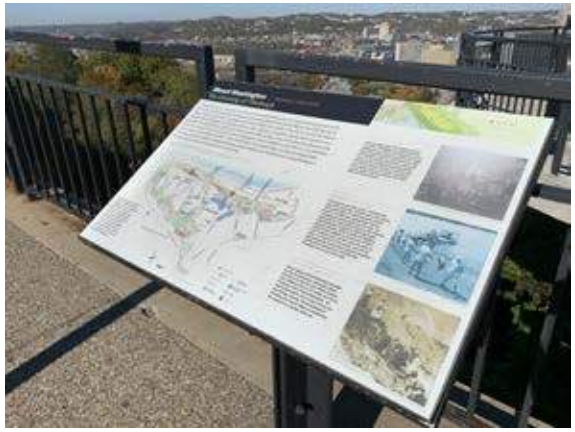
There are a variety of signage types in Emerald View Park. Signs are primarily located along the trail network and at trailheads and park entrances. Trail signage includes trail markers and on street transition signs at some trailheads, connector trail signs, and 1/5th mile markers. At individual park entrances, City of Pittsburgh regional park signage standards have been adopted for Emerald View Park. Regional park signs include the park name, rules & regulations, park hours, and a map of Emerald View Park. Additionally, there are interpretive signs along Grandview Avenue as part of the Grand View Scenic Byway. These signs describe the history and current development of Mount Washington. The interpretive sign standard used for the Grand View Scenic Byway predates the City's standards, and will continue to be a unique character element of the Byway, commensurate with other such special locations designated by the Commonwealth.

Current signage is helpful for those who live nearby or those who are familiar with Emerald View Park. However, signage is often hidden and not readily visible. It is not clear how the park is connected as a trail network and how the individual parks fit into the larger regional park. While the existing signage is helpful, the park could benefit from additional signage to connect individual areas and highlight existing entrances.

Many trailheads do not have signs, particularly on the southern entrances of the park and along the Saddle area to the north. In addition to marking the trails at these entrances, some visitors also suggested that it would be helpful to have signage illustrate and describe trail lengths and difficulty. Interpretive trail signage could additionally highlight the historic and natural features along the trail network.

1/5th Mile Marker

On Street Transition Signs



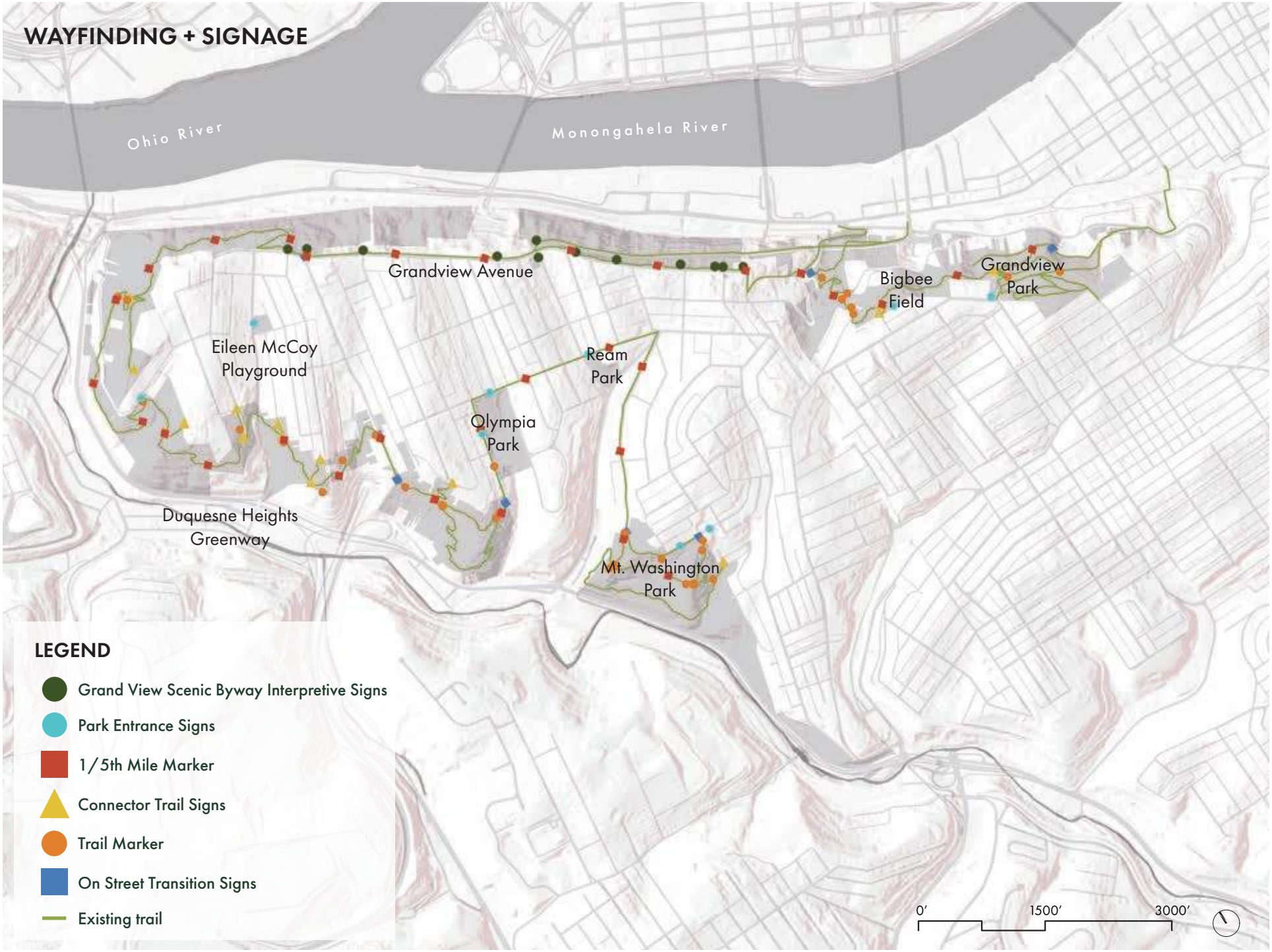
Grand View Scenic Byway Interpretive Signs

Trail Marker

Park Entrance Signs

Connector Trail Signs

WAYFINDING + SIGNAGE



ECOLOGY

Topography

Emerald View Park has the most topographical change of any of Pittsburgh's regional parks. The steepness of the park provides excellent views of the city and creates a celebrated sense of remoteness, but also creates many challenges related to connectivity, accessibility, and landslides.

86% of Emerald View Park's area is located on a 25% or steeper slope. According to the accessed LiDAR information, the topography of Emerald View Park ranges from approximate elevation of 740ft to the north, at the intersection of East Carson Street and Arlington Avenue, to an elevation of 1160ft, at the northwest corner of the park, above Saw Mill Run Boulevard (Route 51). The park in its entirety consists of existing slopes with little to no flat or relatively flat grades. The flatter portions of the park are primarily to the south, at or above the elevation of the Pittsburgh Coal seam. The park slopes from Grandview Avenue down to Carson Street with slopes generally steeper than 66%. From the westernmost park limits to the park's southeastern terminus along Saw Mill Run Boulevard, the slopes are generally between 33% and 66%, with the exception of the steep rock faces and embankments directly adjacent to Saw Mill Run Boulevard.

The majority of the 25% or steeper slopes exist along the northern park limits, near Carson Street and to the west at the lower elevations near Saw Mill Run Boulevard; however, several steep slopes are noted throughout the park at varying elevations. The slopes steeper than 33% along Carson Street and Saw Mill Run Boulevard are likely the result of excavations for roadway construction.

In addition to the slopes on the northern and southern faces of the park, Emerald View Park's topography also ripples from west to east, creating large swales that cut into the surrounding neighborhoods and impact the park's stormwater drainage as well as circulation between the east and west sides of the park.

Several small ephemeral and intermittent streams were observed throughout the park in 2020. Many of these streams appear to be isolated channels without direct connection to streams further downhill. Many streams within Pittsburgh were incorporated into the combined storm sewer system when the storm sewers were initially constructed. As a result, most streams within Emerald View Park lose channelization and wash out in the upland forest or flow into a drain inlet before reaching a larger stream.

The existing trails were designed with the existing topography in mind by including switchbacks where appropriate to reduce the overall grade of trails. The condition of the existing trails is good and mostly functional. Well maintained, wood bridges are located over wet areas in certain locations.

Soils

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) soil survey for Allegheny County, Pennsylvania indicates that the majority of the near-surface site soils belong to the Gilpin, Weikert, and Culleoka channery silt loam. The Gilpin, Weikert, and Culleoka series consist of fine-loamy and acid fine-loamy residual soils weathered from sandstone, shale, and siltstone. According to the USDA soil survey, the depth to a water-restricting feature at the site (fragipan or bedrock) typically ranges from approximately 14 to more than 80 inches below ground surface (bgs), and the water table is more than 80 inches bgs.

Around the perimeter of the park, the soils belong to the Urban Land- complex series. The Urban Land soil series consists of areas covered by pavement, buildings, or other human-transported materials.

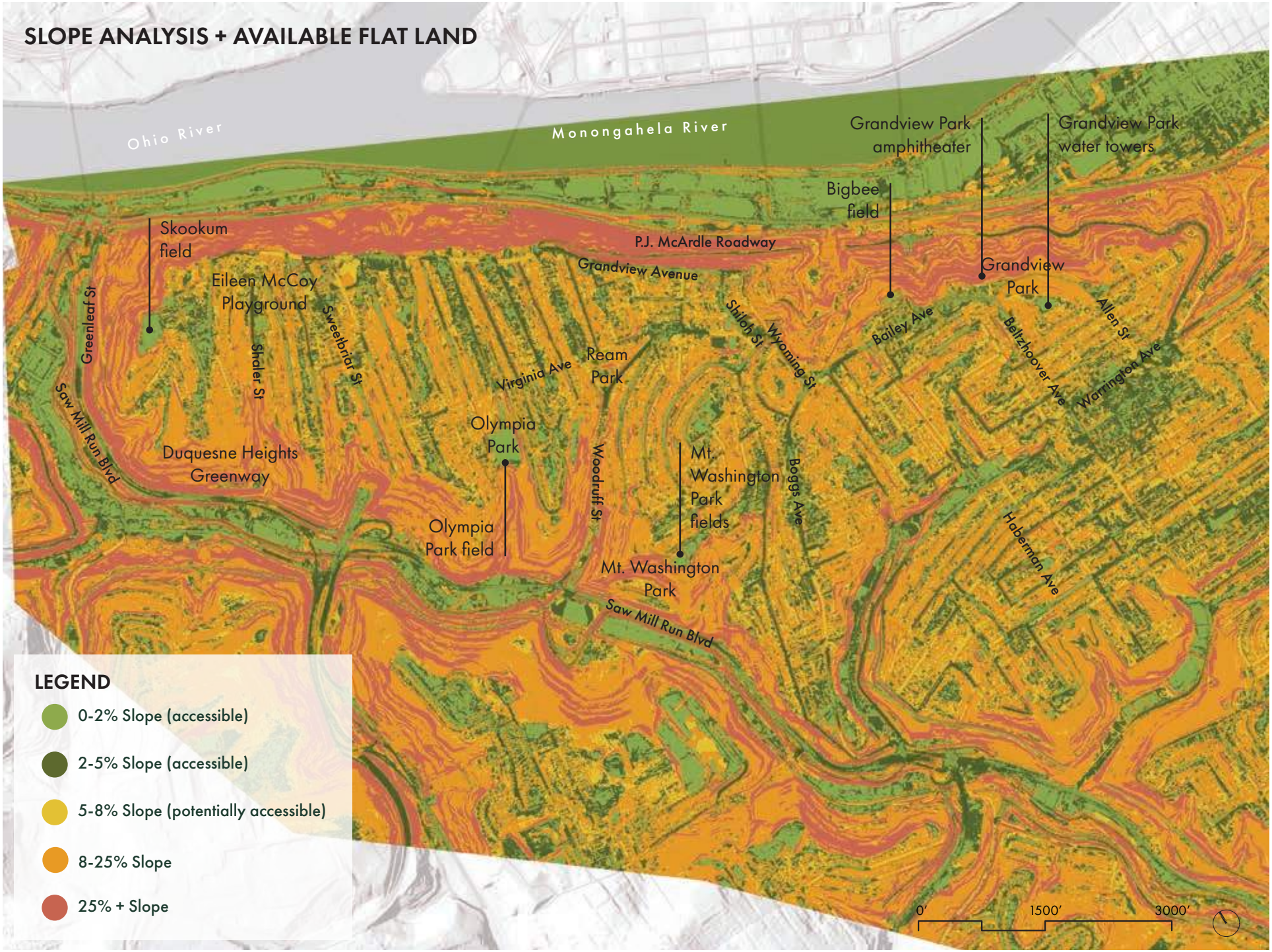
Bedrock

The United State Geological Survey (USGS) digital map indicates the bedrock along the upper elevations of the park belong to the Monongahela Group with the majority of the park belonging to the Casselman Group. The Monongahela Group is Pennsylvanian in age and consists of cyclic sequences of limestone, shale, sandstone, and coal.

The base of the Monongahela Formation is at the bottom of the Pittsburgh Coal. The separation of the two geologic units is at the base of the outcropping Pittsburgh Coal, which is mapped on the upper park slopes at elevations ranging from 1020 to 1070 feet. The Casselman Group, also Pennsylvanian in age, consists of cyclic sequences of shale, siltstone, sandstone, red beds, thin, impure limestone, and thin, nonpersistent coal. Red beds, which are associated with landslides, are mapped as outcropping along the park slopes, primarily below the elevation of the Pittsburgh Coal. Nearly all of the park slopes consist of outcropping red beds at or near the ground surface. The base of the Casselman Formation is at the top of Ames Limestone.

For the full geologic assessment of Emerald View Park, see Appendix E.

SLOPE ANALYSIS + AVAILABLE FLAT LAND



ECOLOGY

Landslides

Past and future landslides are of great concern to visitors to Emerald View Park and to those living on and near the steepest slopes. The City of Pittsburgh has worked to mitigate landslides on these hillsides, and continues to work to alleviate the stress on the slopes. In 2020, the project team reviewed past records and recent LiDAR data to discern the condition of Emerald View Park's slopes.

According to the referenced Allegheny County Landslide Portal (ACLP) and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) landslide maps, the majority of Emerald View Park's slopes have been labeled as slopes with moderate to severe susceptibility to landsliding due to the outcropping red beds. Red beds include zones of weak claystone and indurated clay in which abundant, ancient, and recent landsliding has occurred. It should be recognized that claystone and red beds weather and decompose rapidly when exposed to air and water. As the red beds weather and decompose, they experience a significant loss of strength. Slopes in these materials can erode and/or slump and slide over time, resulting in downslope instability and deposition of weathered claystone and clay along the base of the slope. Development plans should account for the issues associated with red beds, including the potential for weathering over time.

Based on the review of the site geology and the USGS and ACLP maps, red beds, which are commonly associated with slope instability, are mapped along nearly all of the existing slopes below the elevation of the outcropping Pittsburgh Coal seam. The USGS and ACLP references identifies 17 areas labeled as prehistoric landslides with 11 areas identified as active or recent landslides.

According to the USGS and ACLP references, prehistoric landslides are characterized by uneven, hummocky ground surfaces and slump benches that are relatively stable in an undisturbed state, but can be reactivated by excavation, loading, or changes in water conditions. Active landslides show more visible signs of slope instability as of the publication date of the references. The ACLP reference also indicates three "reported landslides" exist within the limits of the park. The ACLP reference defines the reported landslides as being part of a database prepared by the Allegheny County Emergency Services (911) and the Allegheny County Department of Public Works. Additionally, two large areas of the existing slopes above Carson Street have been identified by the USGS and ACLP references as steep slopes most susceptible to rockfalls.

The USGS and ACLP reference indicated a total of four areas of "man-made fill." Three of the man-made fill locations are mapped within the west and south park limits, at elevations primarily above the outcropping red beds. One area of mapped man-made fill is located just north of the southeastern park limit, which could affect development within the limits of the park, to the south of the mapped fill. The man-made fills are described as heterogeneous soil and rock material with variable susceptibility to slope failure dependent upon the nature of the fill, foundation soils, design, and placement.

The areas of mapped man-made fill consist of soil and bedrock placed to raise the elevation of a site. When fill is placed on slopes and not properly keyed (notched into competent underlying soils or rock), placed in uniform lift thicknesses, and adequately compacted, it is classified an uncontrolled fill. Slopes may be instable if they were constructed entirely of uncontrolled fill, especially when overlying red beds. The thickness and consistency of the man-made fills, as well as the underlying foundation soil and bedrock, should be evaluated prior to any major development in these areas. Because man-made fill placement is not usually publicly documented, other deposits of man-made fill may exist within the limits of the park.

Multiple landslide features were identified on the slopes throughout the park. The identified landslides have the possibility of being activated and/or re-activated by construction activities (fill placement, excavation, addition of building loads, etc.), changing runoff patterns resulting from development above the landslide, and from increased surface and subsurface water due to the removal of vegetation. These areas should be avoided to reduce the risk of re-activating the landslides or development should include addressing the landslide risk. Should development be proposed in these areas, an investigation is recommended to obtain additional information and develop recommendations for addressing the potential risks.

Coal & Mining

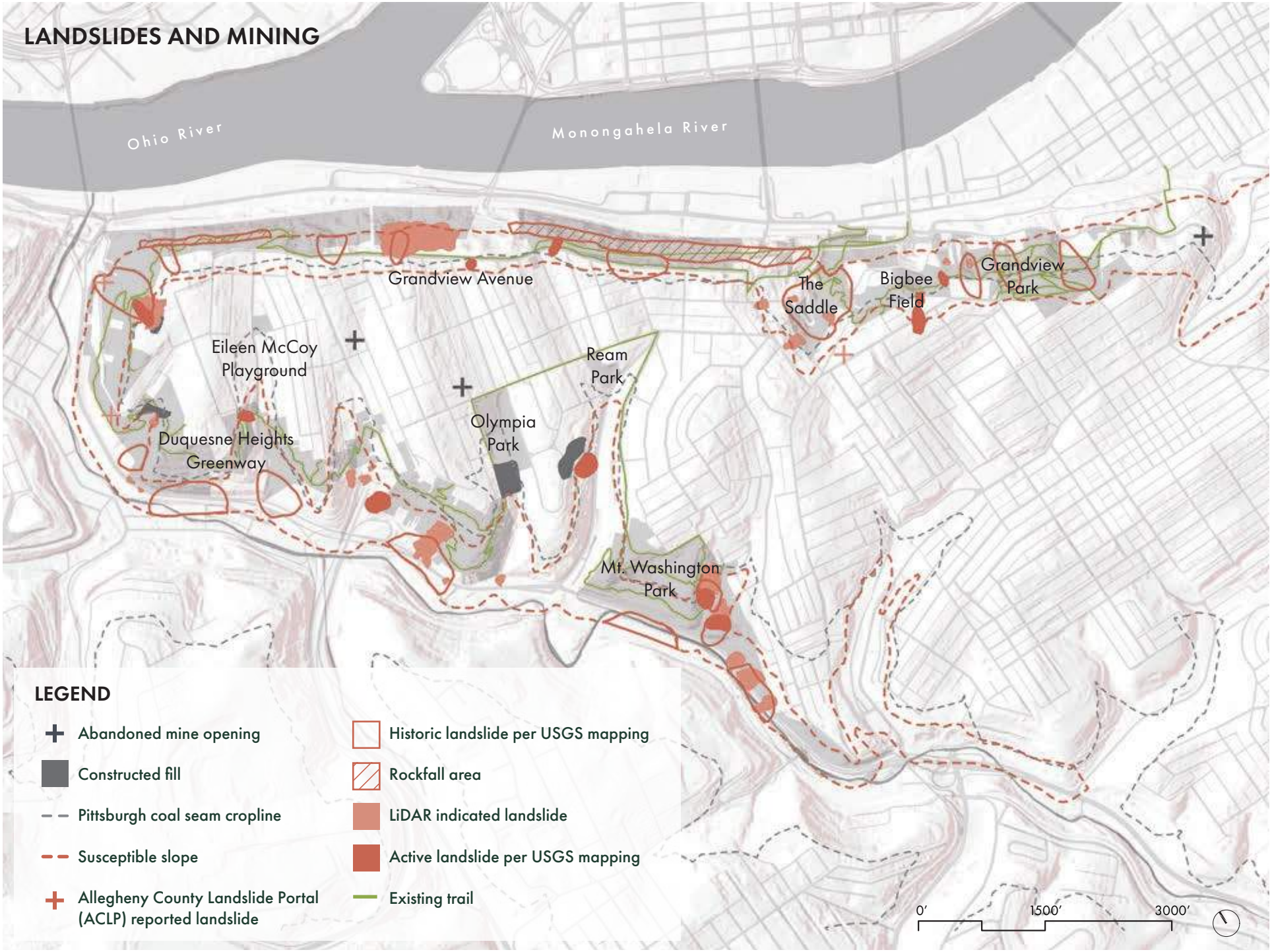
Emerald View Park's history atop the infamous "Coal Hill" necessitates an understanding of the effects of past mining in the area, particularly as it affects future development.

The Pennsylvania Geological Survey "Coal Resources of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania," and the WPA Project No. 4483 (Carnegie Sheet No. 3) indicate that underground mining has occurred within the vicinity of Emerald View Park, above the outcrop elevation of the Pittsburgh Coal seam. Based on the mapped outcrop of the Pittsburgh Coal seam, between approximate elevations 1020 feet to 1070 feet, it appears that deep mining has occurred at or beneath higher elevations of the park.

Detailed mine maps that include mining techniques or other mine features such as entrances, shafts, or haulage ways are not publicly available, due in large part to the age of the mine. It is likely that several drift mines (mine entrances which accessed the coal seam outcrop) are likely to exist on the upper portions of the slopes in the vicinity of the Pittsburgh Coal outcrop elevations. Drift mine entrances are unlikely to exist as open shafts and have been sealed by caving soil/bedrock or were previously covered with mine tailings after they were abounded. This is an indication that the slopes below the mining operations, within the limits of the park, may contain remnants of mining operations such as mine spoils.

Abandoned mine drainage is a legacy effect of the mines. Drainage can be acidic and classified as acid mine drainage when water flows through abandoned mines and reacts with pyrite and other minerals to form acidic metal-laden discharges. In March 2013, the Mount Washington

LANDSLIDES AND MINING



ECOLOGY

Community Development Corporation (MWCDC) commissioned a report to identify and characterize the mine drainage with in Emerald View Park. The report summarized that the identified mine drainage discharges were acidic and contained elevated concentrations of metals. Treatment recommendations included continued monitoring and construction of Drainable Limestone Beds (DLB) in strategic locations.

Stormwater

Emerald View Park is located in two watersheds, the Saw Mill Run watershed and the Ohio/Monongahela River Basin watershed. A majority of the park's stormwater flows into the Saw Mill Run watershed. Stormwater from the Duquesne Heights Greenway, Eileen McCoy Playground, Olympia Park, Ream Park, and Mt. Washington Park flows south into the Saw Mill Run watershed. Stormwater from Grandview Avenue, Grandview Overlook Park, the Saddle, Bigbee Field, and Grandview Park flows north into the Ohio/Monongahela River Basin watershed.

A number of Emerald View Park's existing conditions influence the existing stormwater flows and future stormwater strategies. Due to historic undermining of the park's subsurface, there is concern about water infiltration as it relates to abandoned mine drainage and potential landslides, the park's steep topography, and the presence of subsurface drainage infrastructure. The neighborhoods' rolling topography in the North-West to South-West direction also creates distinct valleys that direct stormwater into natural low points. The low points are located on main streets and Emerald View Parks individual parks.

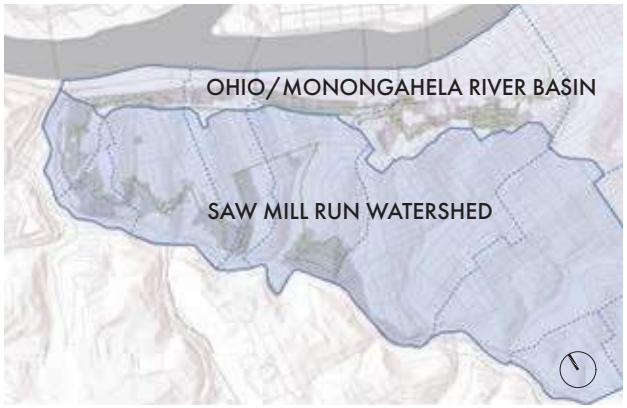
The greatest opportunity for neighborhood stormwater management may be outside the limits of Emerald View Park's boundaries. Several streets carry large amounts of water down the southern side of the park's neighborhoods into Saw Mill Run, through both subsurface and surface channels. The local combined stormwater and sewer system running along Sawmill Run overflows contaminated water into Sawmill Run during heavy rains. There may be an opportunity within the Seldom Seen Greenway on the other side of Sawmill Run Boulevard to capture some of this water, away from abandoned mine drainage and landslide issues.

Another opportunity outside of the park is to capture runoff in the local neighborhood streets. There are some opportunities to direct this runoff into park areas, but not all of it can be managed in park spaces. The places where water can be directed to the park from the city streets, underground drainage system, or captured on-site within the park itself could help mitigate some of the larger stormwater issues facing Pittsburgh, including overflow of contaminated water into the rivers and the adjacent neighborhoods. The park areas with programs such as sports fields, playgrounds, and other developed spaces that have been regraded offer the easiest opportunities to incorporate stormwater management into the site.

There are opportunities to use funds for stormwater management—with the aim of reducing the contaminated water overflowing into rivers and streams from the combined stormwater and sewer system—to upgrade the park spaces while storing stormwater. For example, a basketball court or soccer field could be upgraded through stormwater funding to accommodate a large amount of runoff. These projects must be carefully designed, with underdrains and other engineered features to prevent water infiltration and abandoned mine drainage.

Sawmill Run - there are several sites along Sawmill Run that could potentially be prime locations for stormwater management. The area at the foot of Woodruff Street, across Saw Mill Run Boulevard in the Seldom Seen Greenway is a prime example. This area does not have the same issues with abandoned mine drainage, and has open land that could be used to detain and clean water before it enters the storm system. Disconnecting some of the drains upstream would likely be needed.

Eileen McCoy Playground - while more of a neighborhood park, this playground offers an opportunity to redirect stormwater from the streets into the playground area. Redeveloping the basketball court into a combination



court/stormwater facility could manage large amounts of stormwater, and reduce the burden of pipes downstream.

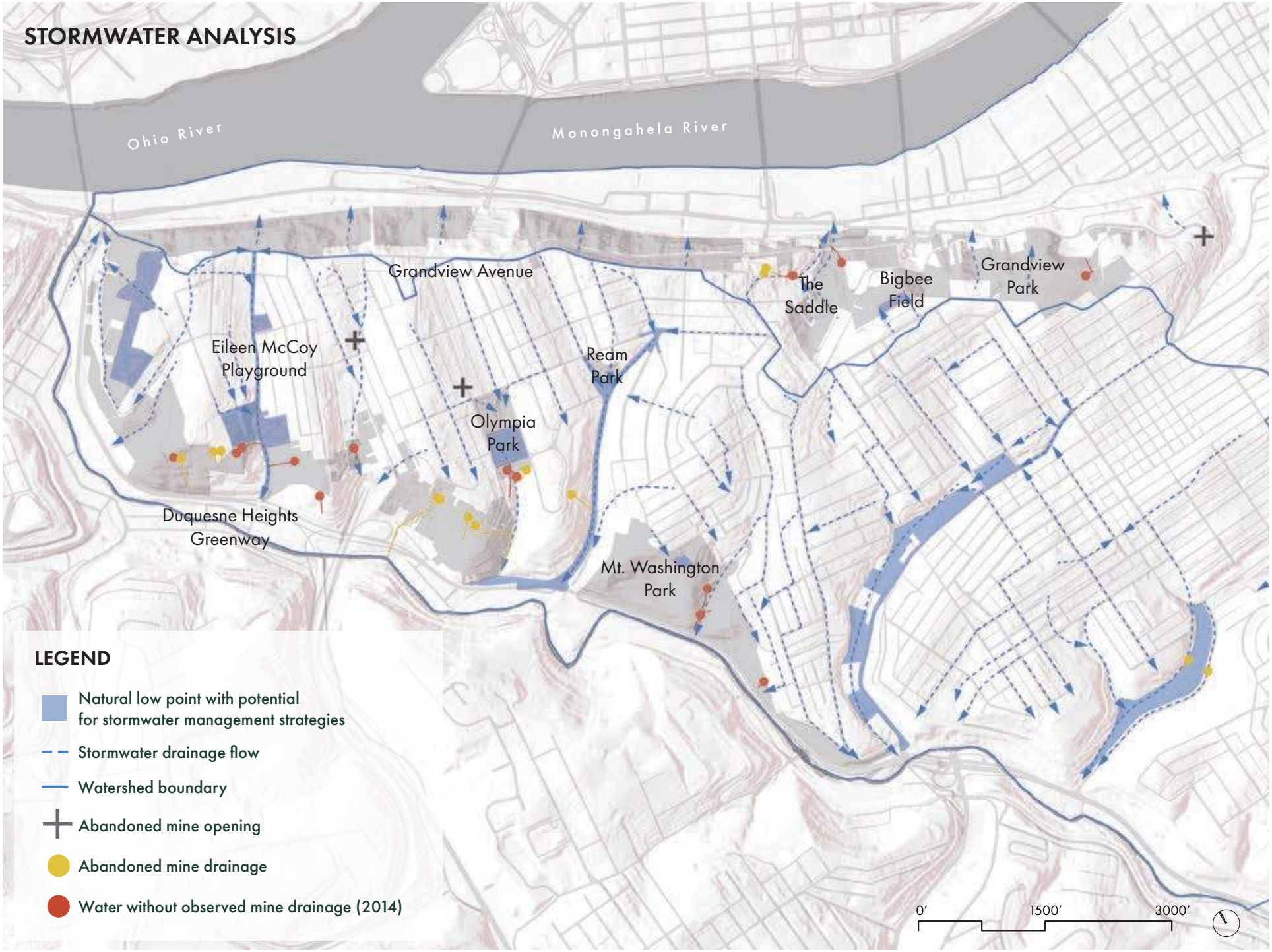
Ream Park - the park has small areas of open space that could be adapted to stormwater management, including a renovation of the play area with a focus on capturing and treating stormwater.

Grandview Avenue - along the edge of Grandview Avenue there are opportunities to capture the stormwater coming off of the street. Any minor renovations to the street itself, or new entry plazas, could incorporate stormwater management.

Mount Washington Park - the existing lower baseball field currently floods and could be renovated to include subsurface R-tanks for stormwater storage.

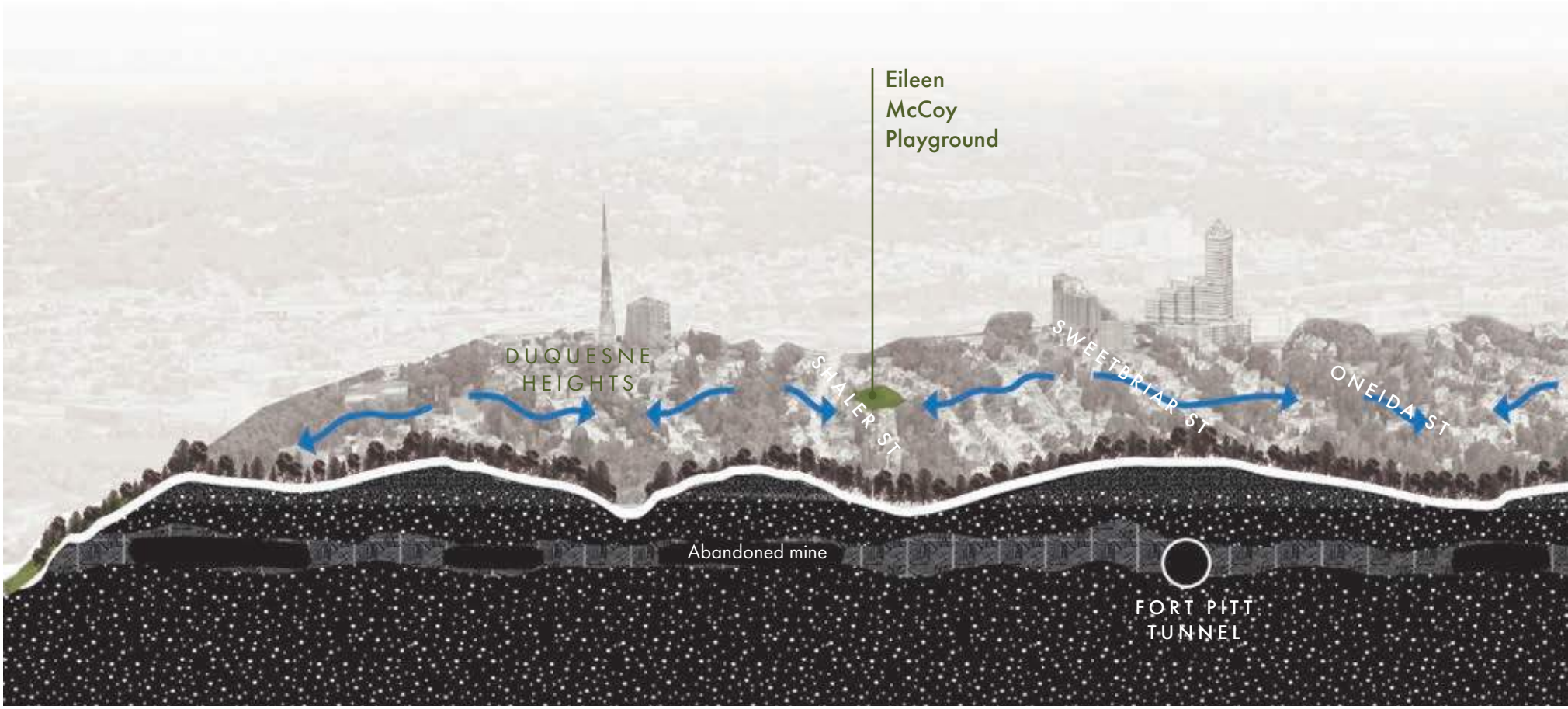
Olympia Park - the existing baseball field could be renovated to include subsurface R-tanks for stormwater storage.

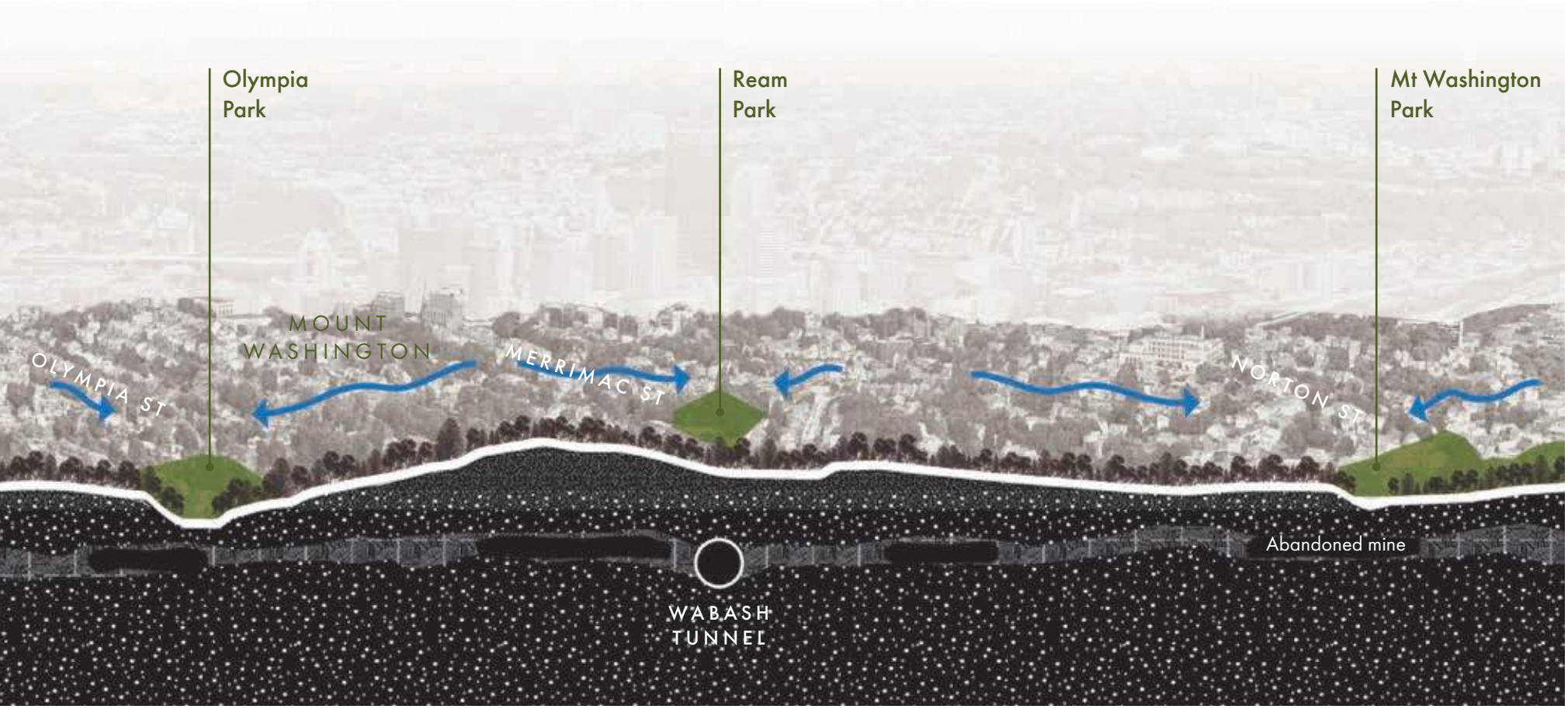
STORMWATER ANALYSIS



STORMWATER

The undulating topography of the Duquesne Heights, Mount Washington, Allentown, and Beltzhoover neighborhoods creates distinct ridge and valley stormwater flow patterns. Major streets (e.g., Shaler Street, Olympia Street, Merrimac Street, Woodruff Street, and Bogg Avenue) follow the valleys. Many of Emerald View Park's individual parks (e.g., Olympia Park, Ream Park, and Mt. Washington Park) are located within the valleys. Emerald View Park stormwater strategies could capitalize on naturally occurring stormwater flow into the parks.




Olympia Park
Ream Park
Mt Washington Park
MOUNT WASHINGTON
OLYMPIA ST
MERRIMAC ST
NORTON ST
Abandoned mine
WABASH TUNNEL

ECOLOGY

Forest Health

In 2005, the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC) conducted an extensive forest study of Emerald View Park. According to their study at the time, the park's approximately 250 acres was 65.9% forested, 13.9% woodland, 15% developed land, 2.7% shrubland, 1.5% open field, and less than 1% sparsely vegetated cliff (WPC, 2005). In 2020, the project team reassessed the park and confirmed that the findings of the 2005 study remained largely accurate. Differences in forest composition observed were the result of increases in the number and density of non-native and invasive plants and the loss of ash trees due to the emerald ash borer infestation.

The project team used the WPC forest study data and observed the following key differences between the 2005 forest survey and 2020 the site conditions:

- The white ash (*Fraxinus americana*)-mixed hardwood forest adjacent to Route 51 observed in 2005 has transitioned to a black cherry (*Prunus serotina*) woodland dominated by a dense undergrowth of invasive plants.
- The emerald ash borer infestation has resulted in the loss of green ash (*Fraxinus pensylvanica*) throughout southwestern Pennsylvania and the park. In 2005, green ash were observed in low densities within most areas of Emerald View Park and the loss of this species has not affected forest quality.
- The highest quality habitat observed was the oak dominated forest on the southwestern side where the forest is mature, and a lower density of invasive species is present.
- An overabundance of white tail deer has led to the destruction of sub-canopy vegetation and has limited tree regeneration throughout the park. Overgrazing was observed within the higher-quality forests on the southwestern slopes as well as the invasive dominated steep northeastern slopes.
- Planted trees were observed in small clusters near trailheads and appeared to be healthy. This attempt at reforestation through tree planting has not resulted in a detriment to forest health; however, it has not resulted in a measurable benefit.

Invasive Plant Species

Invasive species are introduced plants and animals that negatively affect their new environment. Environmental damage can occur through prolific reproduction of these new species, resulting in their competition with native species and the infection, damage, and death of native species.

The project team observed many black locusts (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) were in poor health due to age and stress and confirmed large areas of the forest were dominated by Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*). Many areas of the park were dominated by other non-native species, which include Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*), wineberry (*Rubus phoenicolasius*), and tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*). Multiple utility rights-of-ways (ROW) near Pittsburgh's West End have acted as distribution corridors for herbaceous invasive species resulting in non-native species out competing native species on the western side of the park.

The invasive species that pose the greatest threat to Emerald View Park are oriental bittersweet, Japanese knotweed, and potentially kudzu if not removed immediately). Extensive populations of oriental bittersweet, particularly on the northeastern slope of the park, pose an immediate threat to the existing forest community as the growth strategy of this plant is to climb, cover, strangle, and kill the existing trees. Japanese knotweed populations are extensive throughout the park and cause the greatest issue around trailheads and in utility ROWs. Japanese knotweed forms dense thickets that smother native vegetation that would otherwise help to control runoff and reduce erosion. During winter, brittle brown stems are left behind, often revealing garbage and debris that accumulated throughout the year.

Natural Resource Features

Many natural resources are present within Emerald View Park including rock outcrops, wetlands, seeps, small streams, and small waterfalls. Most of the rock outcrops are on the northeastern slope along existing trails, and many are obscured behind dense vegetation.

Most water features are located on the southwestern slope of the park, relatively near or crossing existing trails; however, seeps and small waterfalls were observed above the cliffs near Pittsburgh's West End away from existing trails. The water quality of the streams within the park varies from clean to contaminated with abandoned mine drainage.

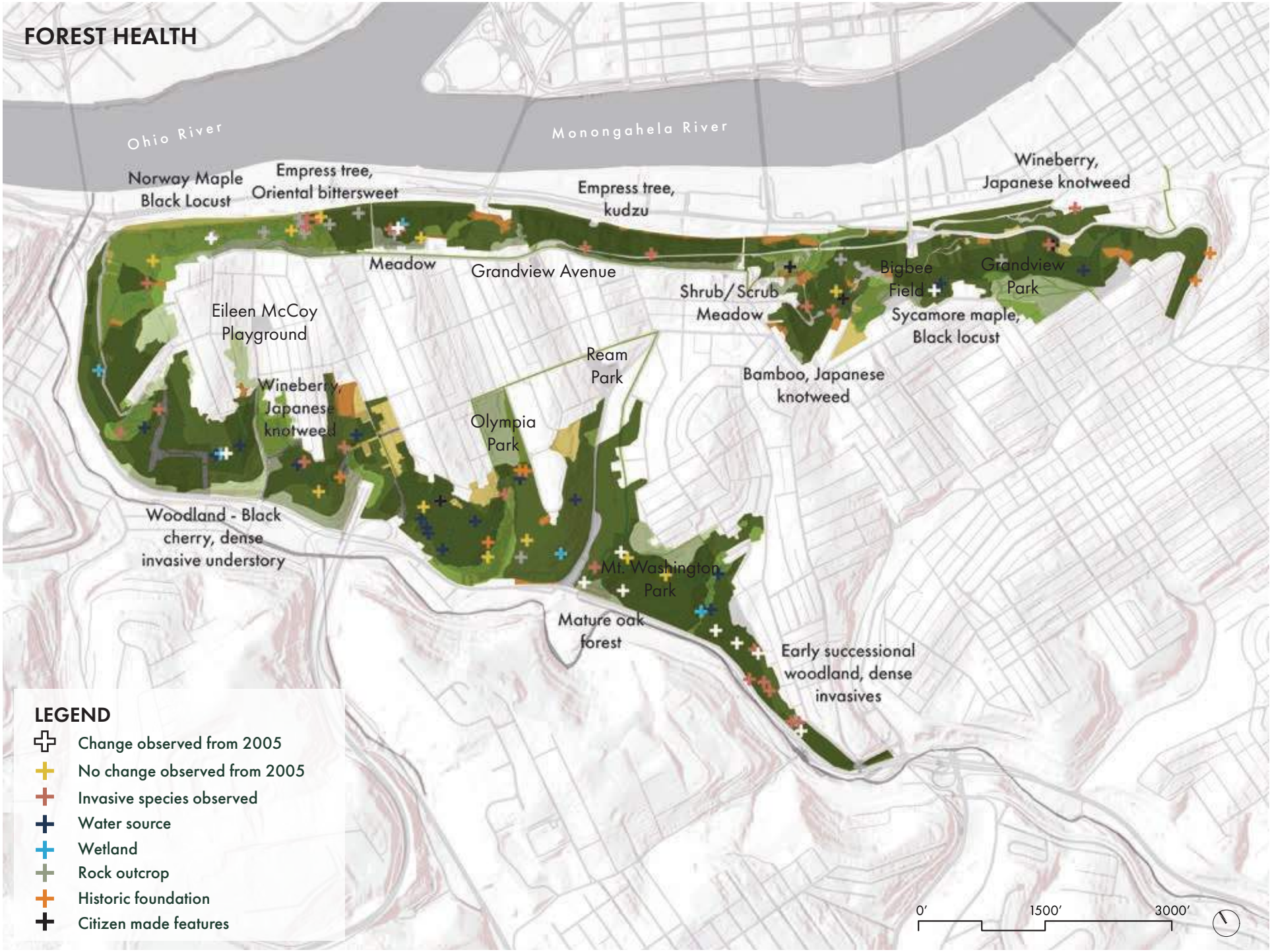
Wildlife

Emerald View Park provides habitat for white tailed deer, wild turkeys, and migratory songbirds. Although not directly observed, it is assumed Emerald View Park would also provide habitat for other eastern woodland/urban species including opossums, eastern cottontails, woodchucks, gray squirrels, red fox squirrels, eastern chipmunks, coyotes, red foxes, grey foxes, raccoons, skunks, and porcupines as well as migratory and resident song bird species.

In addition to invasive plant species, Emerald View Park is home to invasive pests. The spotted lantern fly has been observed recently and should be continued to be monitored as a threat to forest health.

For the full ecological assessment of Emerald View Park, see Appendix D.

FOREST HEALTH



GOALS + STRATEGIES

GOALS + STRATEGIES

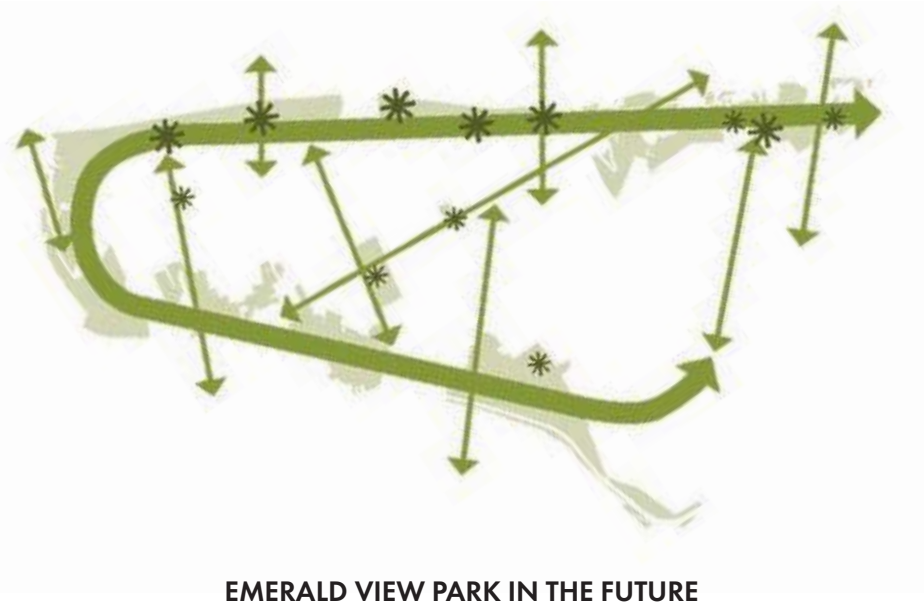
The *Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan* is driven by five goals and corresponding design and policy strategies. The goals build from the mission, vision, and strategy statements of past Emerald View Park planning efforts, and the collective input from the Master Plan advisory committee, community stakeholders, and neighbors.

Today, Emerald View Park is a constellation of amenities including large parks, wild trails, awe-inspiring views, and neighborhood gathering places. Each individual amenity supports the community in many ways, but connections between these special places remain disjointed and lack collective identity and clear circulation. The vision for Emerald View Park is fundamentally about connectivity: culturally, physically, and ecologically. The Master Plan's goals and strategies support a vision for an inclusive Emerald View Park that connects the park's ecology, history, and culture, preserves the park's significance as a collection of neighborhood amenities, and elevates its role as a regional destination.

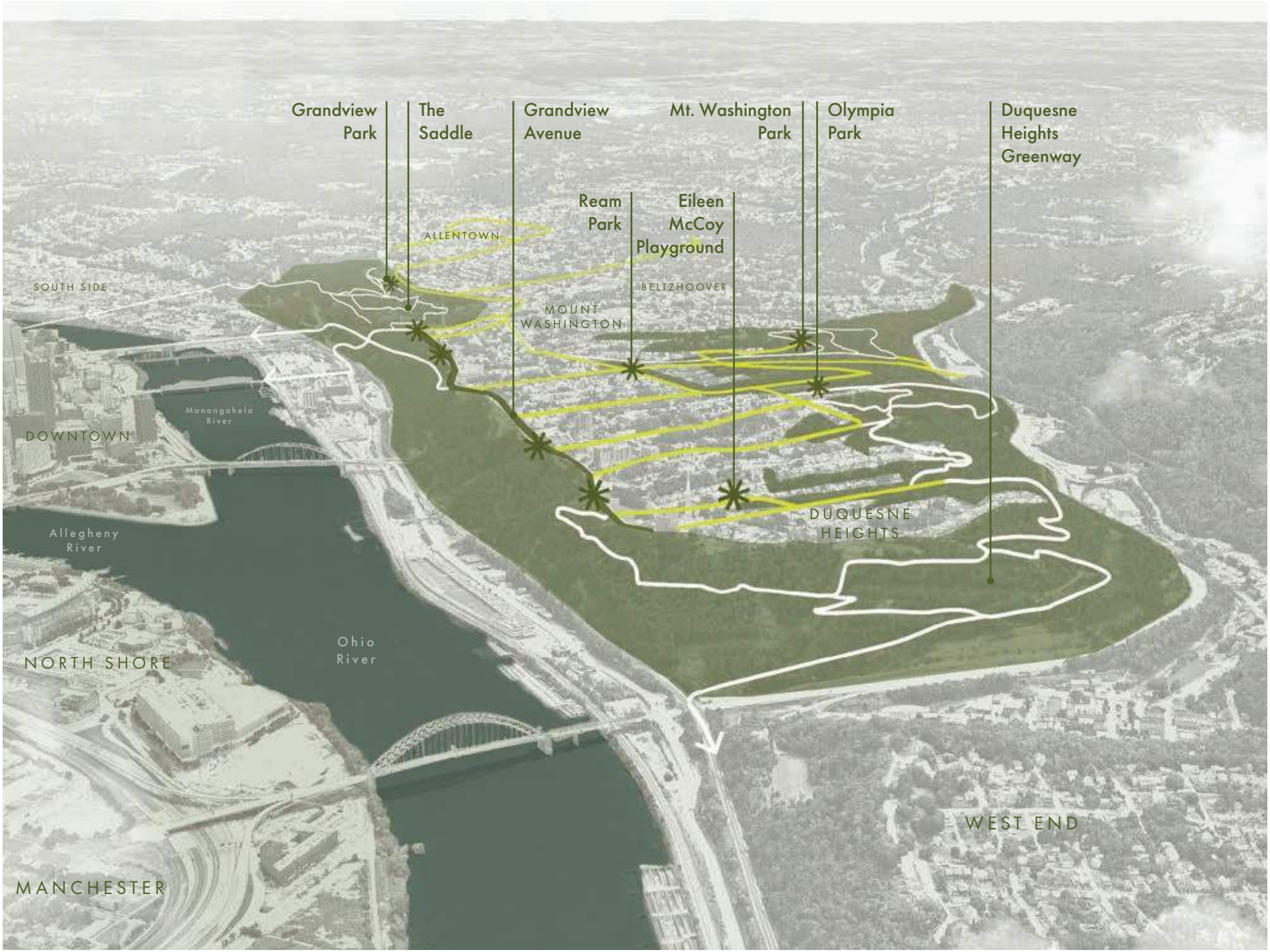
The five Master Plan goals and their associated geographies are included below. Goals and strategies are described in further detail on the following pages:

- Goal 1 | PARKS - Preserve the park's significance as a collection of neighborhood amenities
- Goal 2 | GRANDVIEW AVENUE - Elevate the park's identity as a regional destination
- Goal 3 | TRAILS + CONNECTIONS - Connect individual features into a safe and accessible park system
- Goal 4 | ECOLOGY - Maximize the park's ecological performance
- Goal 5 | PHASING + IMPLEMENTATION - Build momentum for the future of the park

EMERALD VIEW PARK TODAY



EMERALD VIEW PARK IN THE FUTURE


Grandview Park
The Saddle
Grandview Avenue
Mt. Washington Park
Olympia Park
Duquesne Heights Greenway
Ream Park
Eileen McCoy Playground
ALLENTOWN
BELTZHOOVER
MOUNT WASHINGTON
SOUTH SIDE
Monongahela River
DOWNTOWN
Allegheny River
DUQUESNE HEIGHTS
Ohio River
NORTH SHORE
WEST END
MANCHESTER

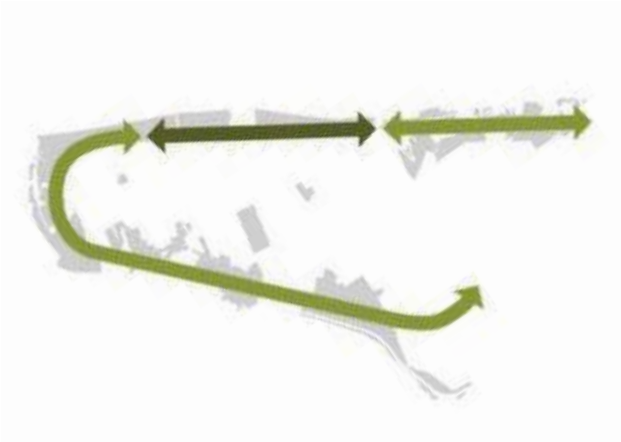
GOALS + STRATEGIES

GOAL 1 | PARKS

Preserve the park's significance as a collection of neighborhood amenities

Strategies*

- Renovate existing park amenities
- Introduce new park amenities in keeping with historical character
- Define park entrances
- Simplify site geometries and materials
- Identify available flat land for large gathering spaces
- Improve park edges and connections to immediate neighbors
- Consider parks as trailheads
- Improve park accessibility
- Design contemplative spaces
- Prioritize pedestrian circulation
- Introduce additional signage

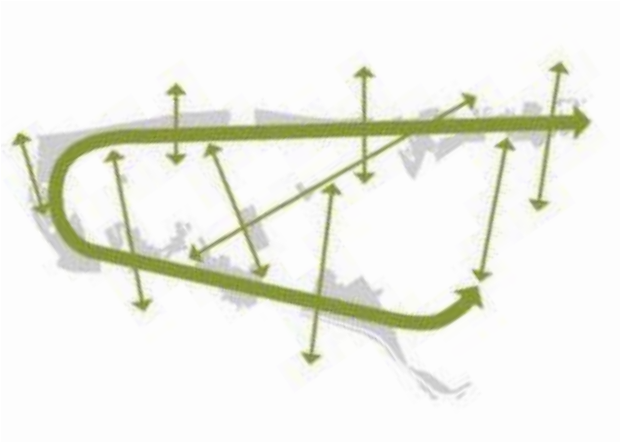


GOAL 2 | GRANDVIEW AVENUE

Elevate and enhance the park's identity as a regional destination

Strategies*

- Expand the Grandview Avenue visitor experience from East to West
- Improve the pedestrian experience of Grandview Avenue
- Promote connections to business districts
- Visualize park identity with regional park signage and unique Emerald View Park wayfinding
- Connect Grandview Avenue to the larger trail network



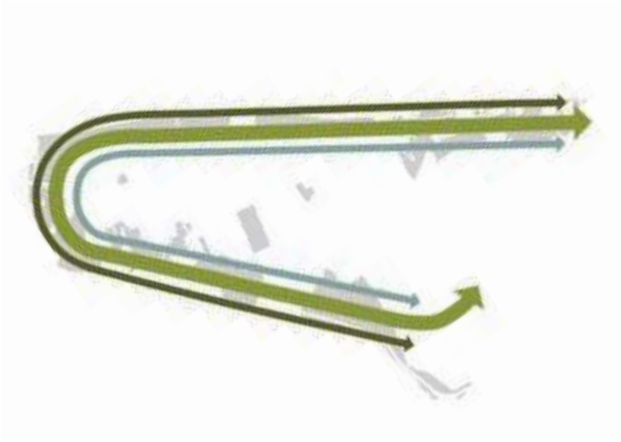
GOAL 3 | TRAILS + CONNECTIONS

Connect individual features into a safe and accessible park system

Strategies*

- Connect missing links in trail networks
- Establish stronger park connections through neighborhoods
- Provide welcoming, regional connections to adjacent neighborhoods
- Design urban hiking loops to highlight history and public art
- Create stronger connections with neighborhood cultural institutions
- Design for accessibility
- Define trailheads and crossings
- Improve trail materials for a variety of uses
- Connect park to public transportation hubs
- Develop parking strategy

*For detailed descriptions of individual strategies, see Master Plan recommendations starting on page 76.

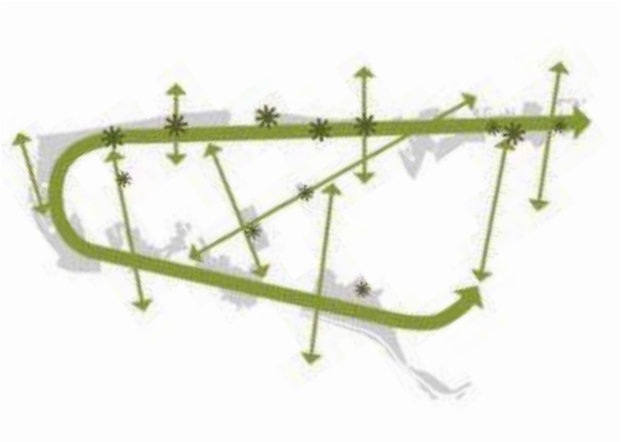


GOAL 4 | ECOLOGY

Maximize the park's ecological performance

Strategies*

- Manage stormwater and abandoned mine drainage (AMD) in parks
- Manage stormwater in streets
- Identify locations for forest and habitat restoration
- Select plantings to create a unique sense of place
- Balance conservation and viewshed management
- Incorporate educational opportunities
- Manage invasive species
- Mitigate erosion and landslide issues



GOAL 5 | PHASING + IMPLEMENTATION

Build momentum for the future of the park

Strategies*

- Develop phasing plan
- Develop cost estimates
- Prioritize first phase projects
- Test design ideas with temporary projects
- Identify programming strategy and responsibilities
- Build capacity with local existing and new partnerships

*For detailed descriptions of individual strategies, see Master Plan recommendations starting on page 76.

RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS

The *Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan* is the guide for Emerald View Park's future physical development. The following pages include recommendations for the park's future physical development supported by conceptual design strategies, phasing plans, and cost estimates. These recommendations ensure that individual park improvements and day-to-day decisions fit within a larger vision, and that fundraising and implementation are properly sequenced and contribute to long-term goals. The following pages include recommendations for Emerald View Park in its entirety and for individual geographies within the park.

The five Master Plan goals and their associated geographies provide the organizing structure for the Master Plan recommendations.

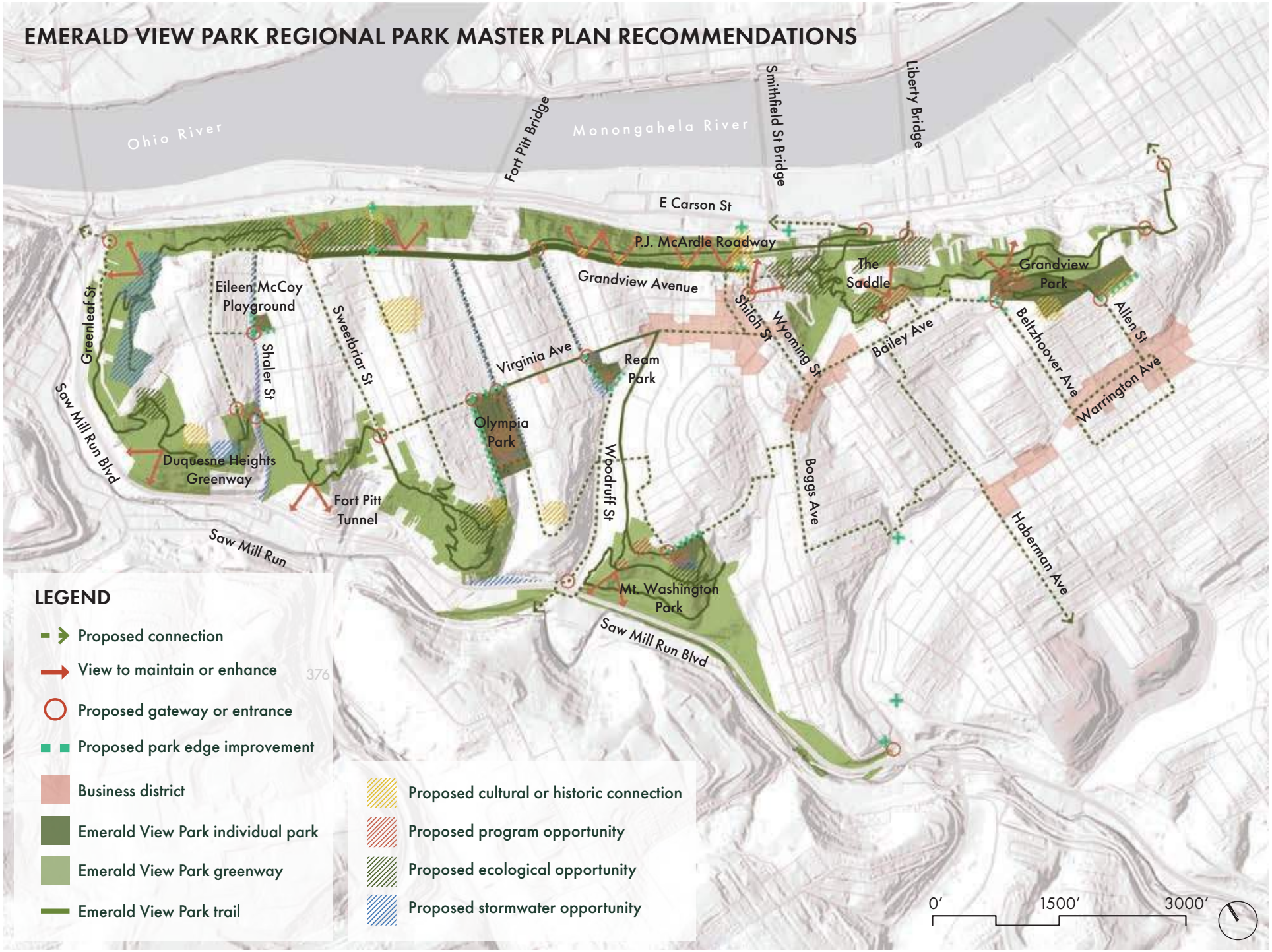
- Goal 1 | PARKS
- Goal 2 | GRANDVIEW AVENUE
- Goal 3 | TRAILS + CONNECTIONS
- Goal 4 | ECOLOGY
- Goal 5 | PHASING + IMPLEMENTATION

Detailed description of the strategies associated with each goal/geography are included in each recommendations section. Specific recommendations include strategies for renovated amenities in the individual parks, proposed connections within Emerald View Park and across neighborhoods, proposed gateways, view maintenance, park edge improvements, connections to business districts, opportunities to highlight historic features, space provided for new and existing programs, ecological restoration, and stormwater management. Design recommendations for these strategies are summarized on the map on the following page and elaborated in more detail by geography in the following recommendations sections.

Recommendation for Grandview Park Allen Street entrance

Recommendation for proposed trailhead

EMERALD VIEW PARK REGIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS



RECOMMENDATIONS

GOAL 1

PARKS

GOAL 1 | PARKS

Preserve the park's significance as a collection of neighborhood amenities

Some of Emerald View Park's most loved neighborhood assets are its individual parks. The individual parks include the Emerald View Park anchor parks (Olympia Park, Mt. Washington Park, and Grandview Park) and the Emerald View Park small neighborhood parks (Ream Park and Eileen McCoy Playground). These spaces function in many ways as parks within the park. These parks support the daily life of Pittsburgh's residents by providing important amenities such as walking paths, community centers, picnic pavilions, playgrounds, dog parks, and recreational fields. The first goal of this Master Plan is to preserve the park's significance as a collection of these neighborhood amenities.

While each individual park maintains its unique history and current use, collectively these spaces share many similarities and needs for future improvement. This section of the *Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan* includes both recommendations for strategies that are consistent for all the individual parks and site specific strategies for each individual park.

Renovate existing park amenities

The structural bones of Emerald View Park's individual parks are very good. Flat areas are used for fields, main circulation routes logically follow the realities of topography, and overlooks take advantage of stunning views. Over the years, however, materials have degraded, renovations with budgetary constraints have created short-term solutions, and convenient vehicular access has become a priority over the comfort of people on foot or bike. As presented in more detail in the following pages for each individual park, the Master Plan recommends the renovation of many existing park amenities. These projects include renovation of existing structures, including the Olympia Park Shelter House, the Grandview Park bandshell and amphitheater, and the Mt. Washington Park Shelter. Additionally the renovation of recreational assets is recommended. This would include the renovation of playground structures, basketball courts, lawns, community gardens, and parking lots.

Introduce new park amenities in keeping with historic character

In addition to the renovation of existing park amenities, the Master Plan recommends the introduction of new park amenities to compliment existing assets and the historic character of the park. New park amenities include new overlooks, multi-purpose fields for large gatherings, picnic groves, yoga lawns, slopes for winter activities, wetland walks, and playful hillsides. Use of historic precedent materials and forms in a contemporary style is recommended. Design recommendations and examples images are provided in the pages ahead.

Define park entrances

Emerald View Park's individual parks function as parks within the park, and there is often confusion regarding a cohesive Emerald View Park identity. Additionally, many of the existing park entrances are underutilized, cluttered, and lack the dignified stature of an entrance to a regional park. The Master Plan recommends defining park entrances to be cohesive in their material character. The use of landscape elements including stone walls, signage, concrete paving,

Existing park amenity
Olympia Park Shelter

and visual branding to identify Emerald View Park is recommended. Renovation of historic sandstone walls and steps at many entries is recommended. New walls or stairs should take inspiration from the historic materials and incorporate stone and Belgian block.

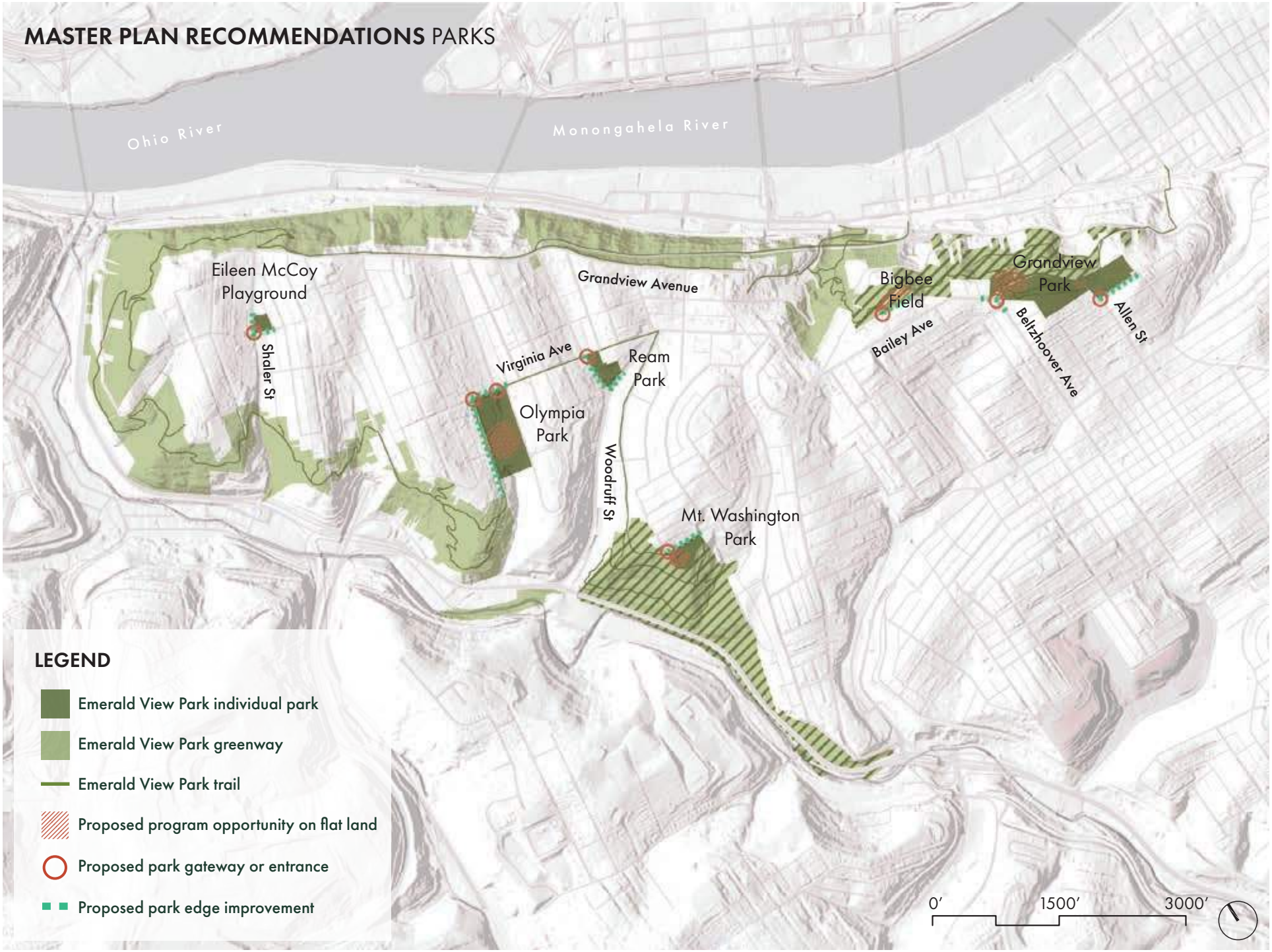
Consider parks as trailheads

Each park in Emerald View Park is also connected to the Emerald View Park trail and greenway network. In addition to improving the formal entrances to the individual parks, the Master Plan recommends considering the parks themselves as trailheads. By leveraging the parks' locations and ability to draw residents to park amenities, each park could be considered a trailhead itself by providing clear signage and clear circulation routes to the larger trail network.

Improve park edges and connections to immediate neighbors

Currently, many of Emerald View Park's edges are unclear, unsafe, and inaccessible. The Master Plan recommends improving the park edges and connection to immediate neighbors with investment in streetscape improvements and gateways. Streetscape improvements should include new sidewalks at least 5'-8' wide, street trees that meet the City of Pittsburgh street tree standards, underground utilities, marked pedestrian crossings, and bike lanes where feasible. Where steep topography creates sharp differences

MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS PARKS



in grade change between streets and parks, ornamental fencing should be considered. Gateways should include signage in keeping with the regional park signage standard. Site features such as walls should be consistent with other Emerald View Park entrance materials.

Introduce additional signage

New signage for Emerald View Park has been introduced across the park. However, multiple signs at many park entrances clutter visitors' views and compete for attention. Consolidation of existing signage is recommended. Pittsburgh's regional park signage standards have been adopted for Emerald View Park and should be used. The interpretive sign standard used (and approved by the City of Pittsburgh's Art Commission) for the Grand View Scenic Byway pre-date the City's standards, and will continue to be a unique character element of the Byway, commensurate with other such special locations designated by the Commonwealth.

Simplify site geometries and materials

Emerald View Park site materials have been subjected to decades of wear and tear. While park maintenance occurs regularly throughout the park, the age and consistent use of park facilities is evident in worn down paving materials, crumbling walls, patched utility fixes, and over used lawn and seating areas. The Master Plan recommends resurfacing of circulation routes through the parks using a

Flat land in Olympia Park

Existing park entrance
Grandview Park Allen Street entrance

palette of asphalt, concrete, and crushed stone. On main circulation routes, incorporation of reclaimed Belgian blocks along path edges is recommended. This paving treatment references historic paving throughout the park. In many places paving repair jobs or deteriorating edging have created overly complicated paving patterns. The Master Plan recommends editing and simplifying path layouts to incorporate consistent widths and appropriate radii on curves. Replacement of site furniture throughout the parks is recommended. Use of City of Pittsburgh standard benches, lighting, trash cans, bike racks, and other amenities is recommended. Unnecessary chain link fencing should be removed. New fencing, where needed, should meet City of Pittsburgh regional park standards.

Prioritize pedestrian circulation

Convenient vehicular access has become a priority over the comfort of people on foot or bike throughout Emerald View Park's individual parks. While each park requires maintenance and emergency vehicle access on primary circulation routes, the Master Plan recommends that these routes are renovated to prioritize pedestrian circulation and experience. Main walks should be narrowed to the minimum vehicular requirements (10') and turning radii reduced accordingly. Use of pedestrian-scaled materials, including stone and Belgian block edging, is recommended.

Improve park accessibility

86% of Emerald View Park is on land that is 25% or higher in slope. The steep topography requires a strategic and intentional plan for integrating ADA-accessible paths and amenities where feasible. The Master Plan recommends the incorporation of ADA accessible paths, trails, entrances, and parking in the individual parks.

Identify available flat land for large gathering spaces

In addition to strategically planning for accessible access within Emerald View Park's steep slopes, the Master Plan identifies available flat land for large gathering spaces. Many survey respondents commented on the need for areas for large community events. Currently most flat land in the park is used for formal recreational fields. The Master Plan recommends continued use of the fields for recreation while incorporating design details to allow for multi-functional gathering. Turf profiles designed for high traffic use and maintenance that correlates with recreational schedules are recommended.

Design contemplative spaces

The scenic nature of Emerald View Park's anchor parks lend themselves well to providing small scale spaces for contemplation. Smaller trail loops, seating areas and groves away from high traffic areas are recommended to diversify the types of park uses available.

Existing Grandview Park sandstone entrance

Existing Mt. Washington Park steps

Existing Grandview Park steps

Historic Olympia park with Belgian block

Existing Belgian block

Regional park signage standards

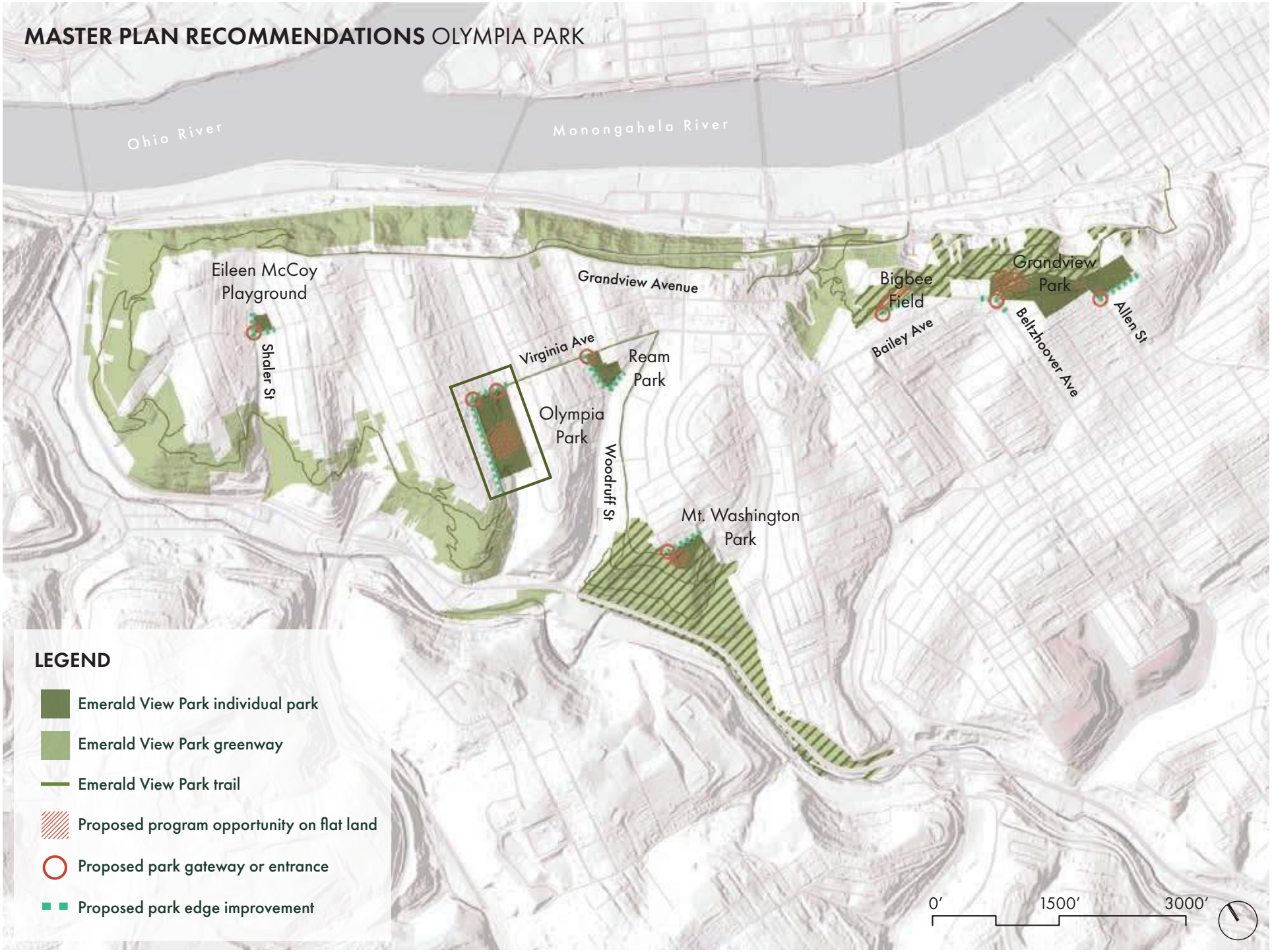
Paving and stone wall example

Paving example

Paving example

OLYMPIA PARK
Duquesne Heights
Mount Washington

MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS OLYMPIA PARK



OLYMPIA PARK

Olympia Park, located on the southwestern slopes of the Duquesne Heights neighborhood, is one of the largest individual parks in Emerald View Park. The park is currently home to the Olympia Park Shelter House, a dog park/ Off-leash Exercise Area (OLEA), playgrounds, recreational courts, baseball field, and trail connections.

History

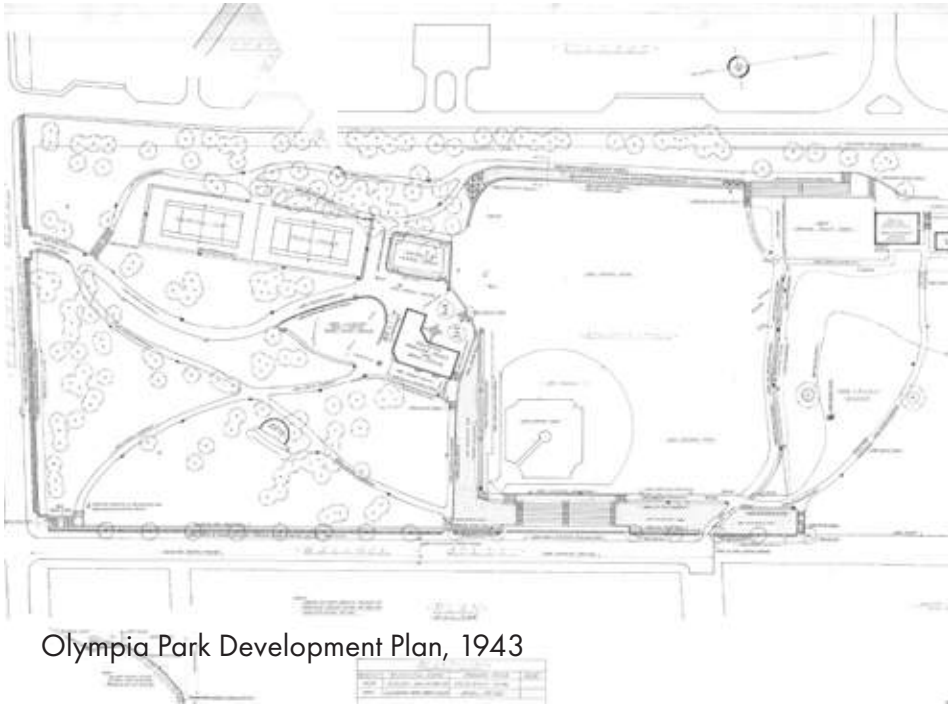
Olympia Park was first acquired by the City of Pittsburgh in 1908, after local residents voiced their desire to have a neighborhood park. It was named Olympia Park in reference to the center of public recreation in ancient Greece. The park focused on athletic uses, containing a ball field, a recreation center, and a playground for young children. At one point in time, the park included a swimming pool and bath house. The ballfield was flooded in the winter and converted into a skating rink.

Prior to its acquisition and the development of the Mount Washington neighborhood, Olympia Park was agricultural farmland owned by Thomas Bigham and his family. The Bigham family house still stands in neighboring Chatham Village. Bigham was a known abolitionist lawyer, and his home had been a stop on the Underground Railroad.

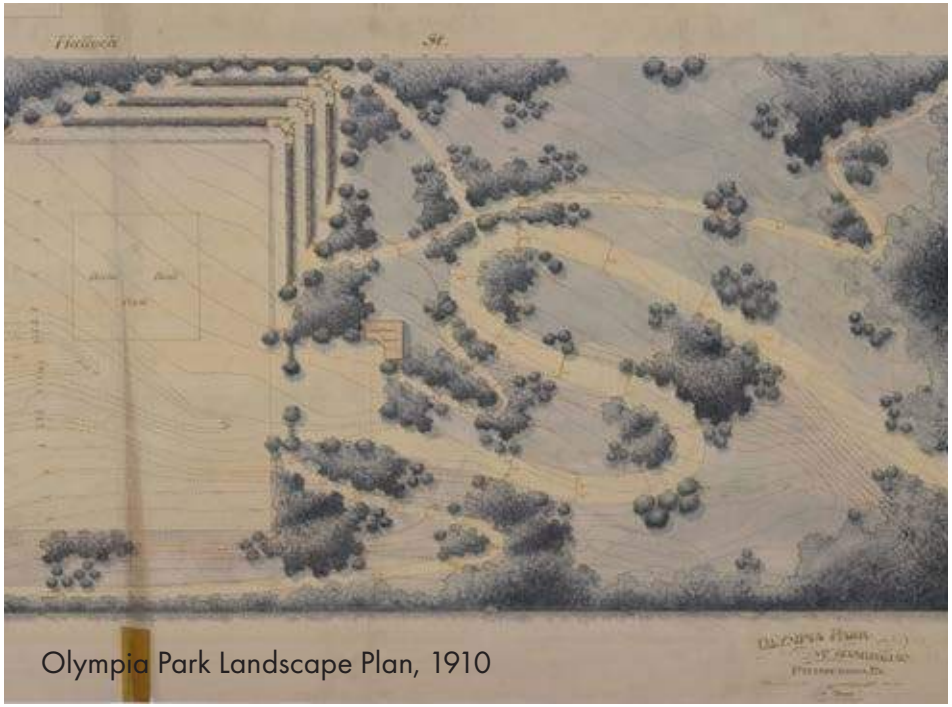
The Olympia Park Shelter House was built in the 1914. In 2009, the building suffered a fire which closed its operations. The Department of Public Works worked on repairs since, including a roof replacement and interior demolition and stabilization work. In 2015, the Mount Washington Community Development Corporation (MWCDC) hosted community meetings to determine the future of the building and its role in the park. The City of Pittsburgh is moving forward with a renovation of the facility starting in May 2021. The Master Plan builds on those efforts.

Existing Conditions

Olympia Park sits in a small valley between Olympia Road and Hallock Street. The park's main entrance is on



Olympia Park Development Plan, 1943



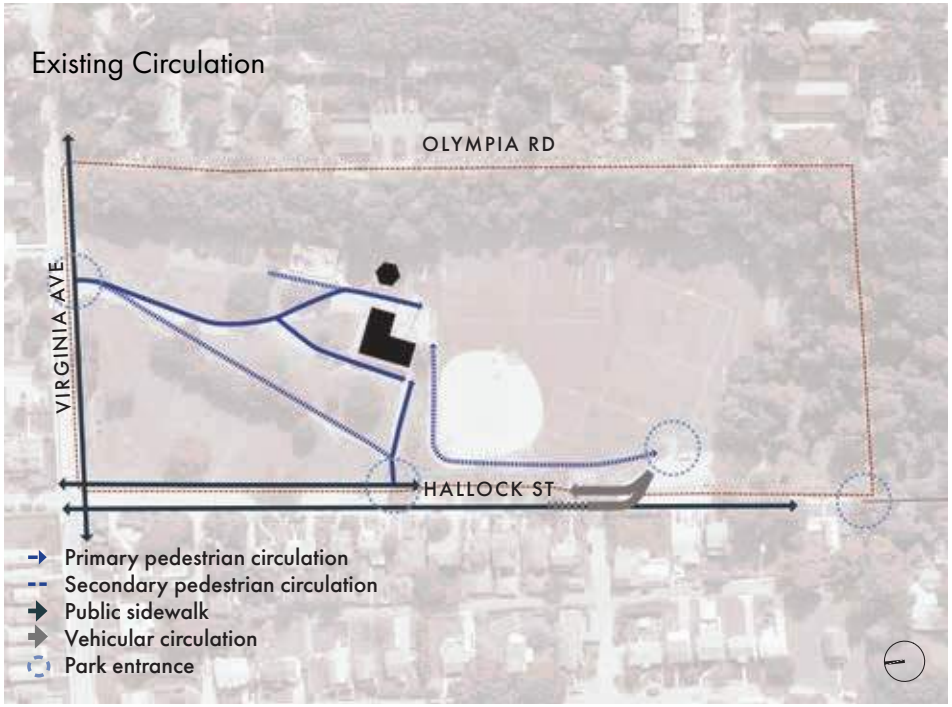
Olympia Park Landscape Plan, 1910

Virginia Avenue near the intersection of Olympia Street. Chatham Village, located along the park's eastern side, is a private community. Fencing and steep slopes currently prohibit connections between Chatham Village and the park. Connections to the Duquesne Heights Greenway trails currently exist at the end of Hallock Street.

Circulation through the park consists of a primary route that runs north to south through the middle of the park from the Virginia Avenue entrance to the Shelter House. This primary route supports maintenance vehicles and vehicular access to the shelter. The route has attributes of a road with wide asphalt paving and large street signs indicating speed limits. Secondary circulation is provided on smaller concrete and asphalt paths along the dog park/OLEA's edge and from the middle of Hallock Street to the shelter. A public sidewalk continues along Virgina Avenue and halfway down Hallock street where it abruptly ends at the entrance to the park. Parking is available at the southern end of Hallock Street. The parking lot is not striped and feels informal. ADA-accessible parking spots are not indicated. Currently there is no pedestrian access on the southern and eastern edges of the park due to lack of trails, steeper slopes, and existing vegetation. The southern end of the park includes available space for future contemplative programs, stormwater management, and trail access. The eastern edge of the park could be maximize for access and connections to the trail network and the existing playground.

A diversity of land use and programs currently occupy the park. The Olympia Park dog park/OLEA is a popular destination for residents. The dog park is located on the western slope of the park. The existing dog park lawn is worn down but maintained annually. Entrances to the dog park are also worn down and often muddy due to stormwater collecting at low points near the entrances. Seating is limited in the dog park and grass surfaces and pavements are worn down and often muddy.

Passive open space, with lawn planting and trees, transitions from the dog park to the playground and courts. The playground was recently renovated and the courts are in fair condition. Site furniture including benches and trash cans are worn down.



Existing primary circulation

Existing field

Existing playground + courts

Existing Hallock St. entrance

Existing Virginia Ave. entrance

Existing dog park entrance

Existing Olympia Park Shelter

Existing Olympia Park Shelter`

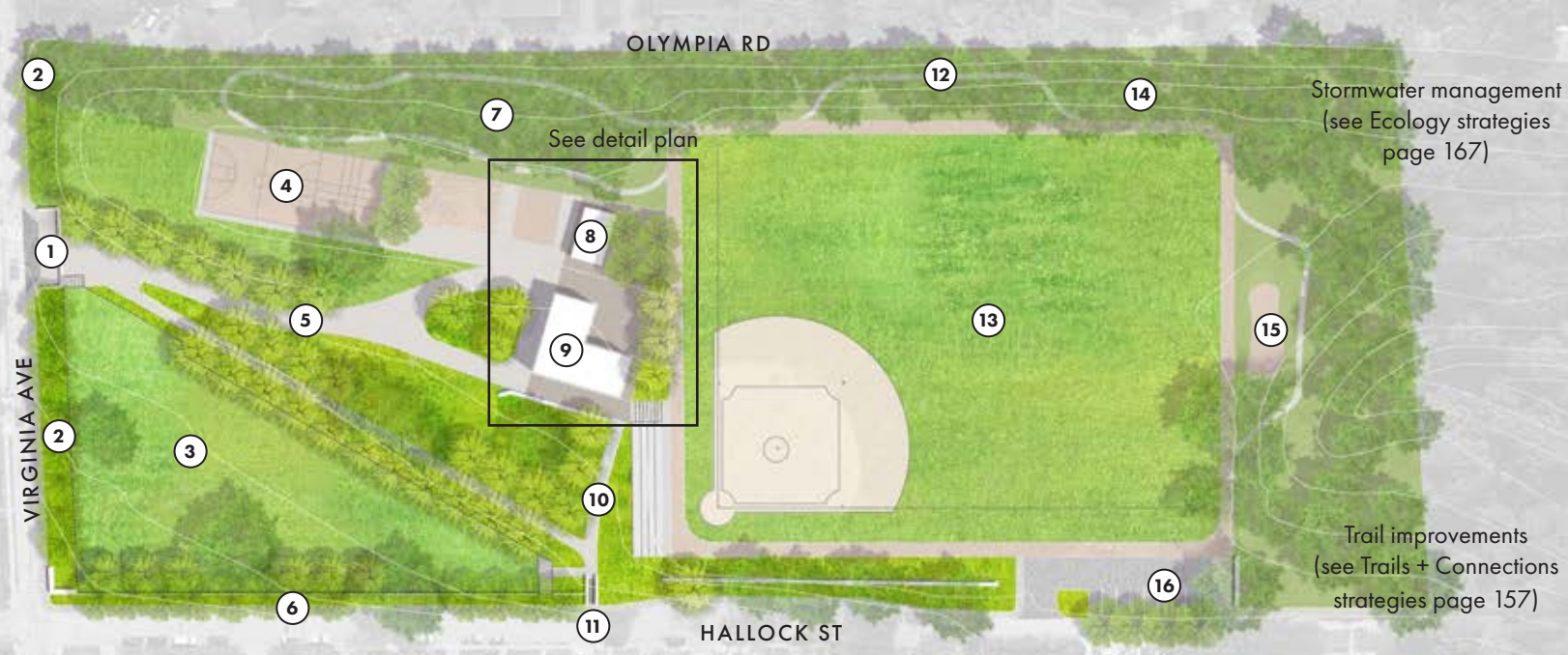
Existing pavilion

OLYMPIA PARK COMMUNITY INPUT + OBSERVATIONS

COMMUNITY INPUT

Site specific community input was gathered during Master Plan public workshops and focus group meetings. The focus group meetings allowed for smaller group discussions on specific needs for individual parks.

OLYMPIA PARK RECOMMENDATIONS



PROJECTS

1. Virginia Avenue entrance
2. Virginia Avenue streetscape
3. Dog park/Off-leash Exercise Area
4. Playground and courts
5. Primary circulation loop
6. Hallock Street streetscape
7. Play area
8. Picnic shelter
9. Olympia Park Shelter + plazas
10. Secondary circulation
11. Hallock Street entrance
12. Hillside trails
13. Multi-purpose field and walking track
14. Stormwater management
15. Contemplative space
16. Hallock Street parking lot

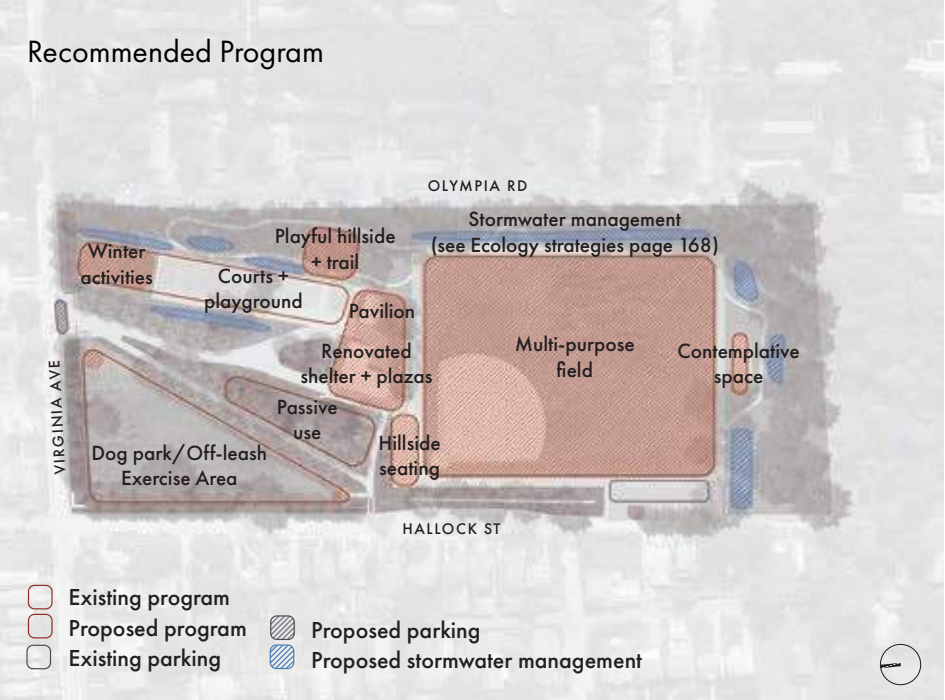
The baseball field is currently well used by neighborhood recreational groups. Surrounding site walls and site furniture are worn down. Spectator seating is very limited.

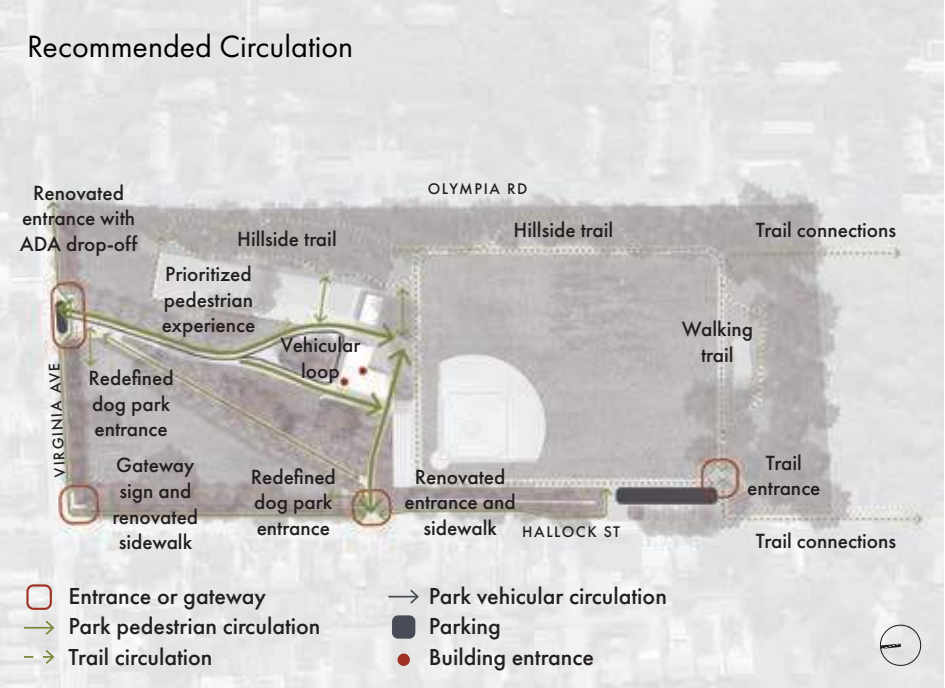
The picnic pavilion is a hexagonal open-air structure resting on a concrete slab on grade, constructed of painted steel structure (posts and roof framing), wood roof decking and asphalt shingle roofing. The seating is accommodated by fixed painted metal tables/benches and low precast knee walls. The ceiling of the pavilion (underside of wood deck) is painted and requires upkeep. The condition of the pavilion is good.

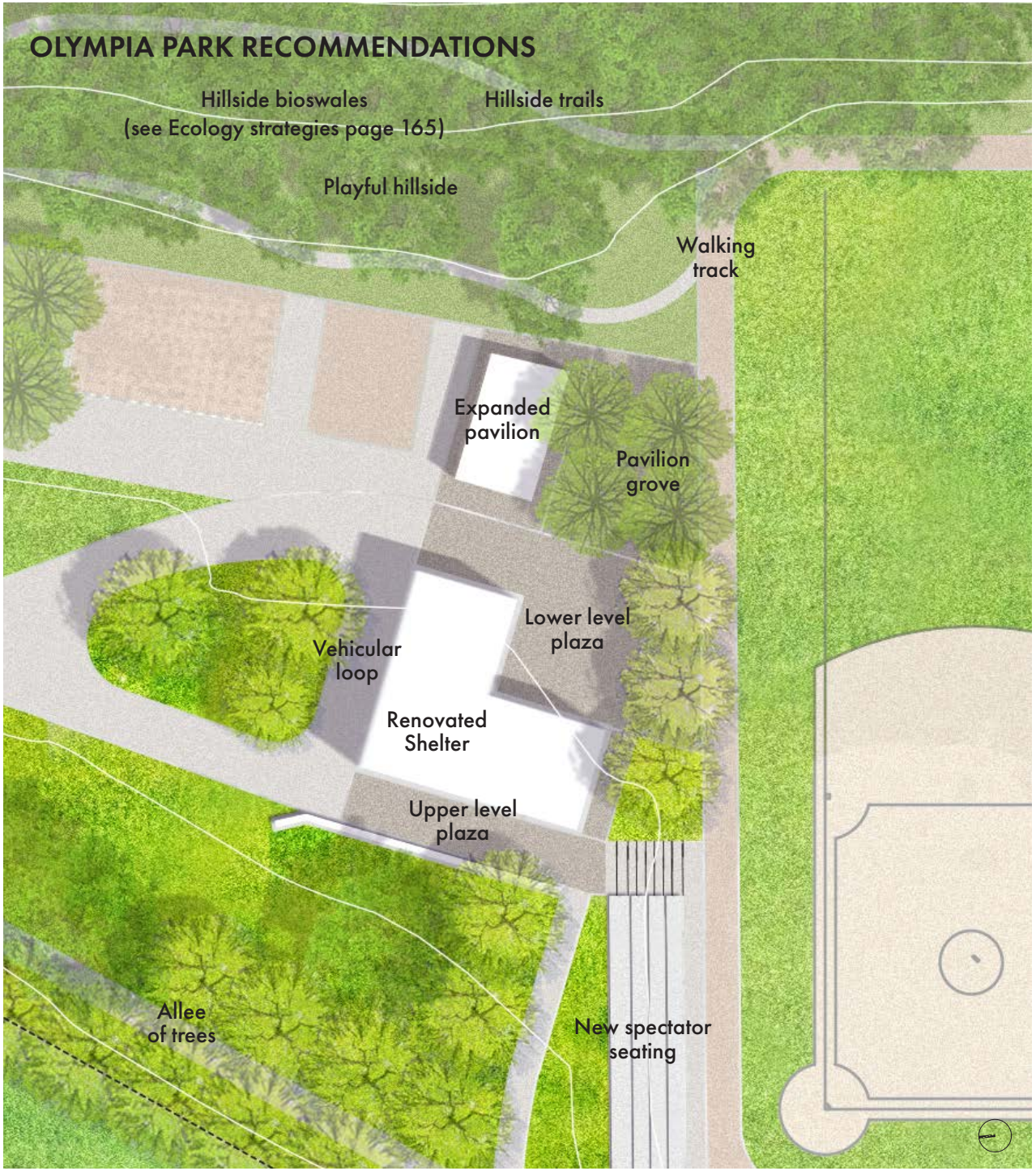
Recommendations

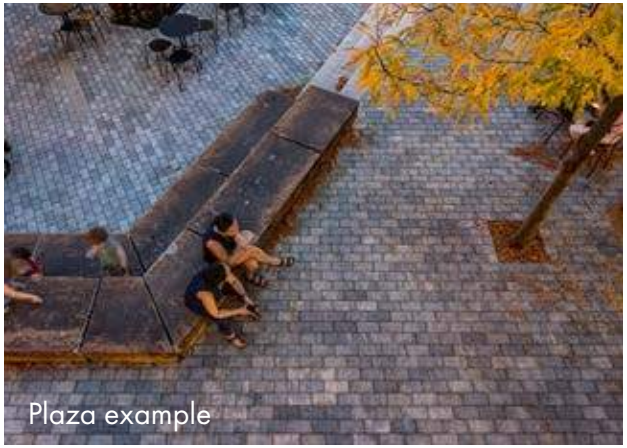
The *Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan* recommends a series of park improvements as described below. For further detail on project phasing and implementation, see Phasing + Implementation, page 173.

1. Virginia Avenue entrance - Expand entry and improve streetscape. The entry includes access to the renovated primary circulation route, new fencing, new regional park standard signage, new stone entry walls, new concrete unit paving with an Emerald View green brick threshold, and an ADA accessible drop-off.
2. Virginia Avenue streetscape - Renovate concrete sidewalks with underground utilities (as possible), street trees, and metal fence.
3. Dog park/Off-leash Exercise Area - Relocate entries with new fencing, new concrete paving, improved drainage to avoid stormwater issues, and better connections to park circulation routes.
4. Playground and courts - Replace and relocate playground equipment and courts (as needed).
5. Primary circulation loop - Improve pedestrian experience from the Virginia Avenue entrance to the Olympia Park Shelter. Renovate with new asphalt paving and Belgian block edging. Update layout of the circulation loop to allow limited vehicular access to the Olympia Park Shelter House. Improve the view of the Olympia Park Shelter House, along the primary








Plaza example

Plaza example

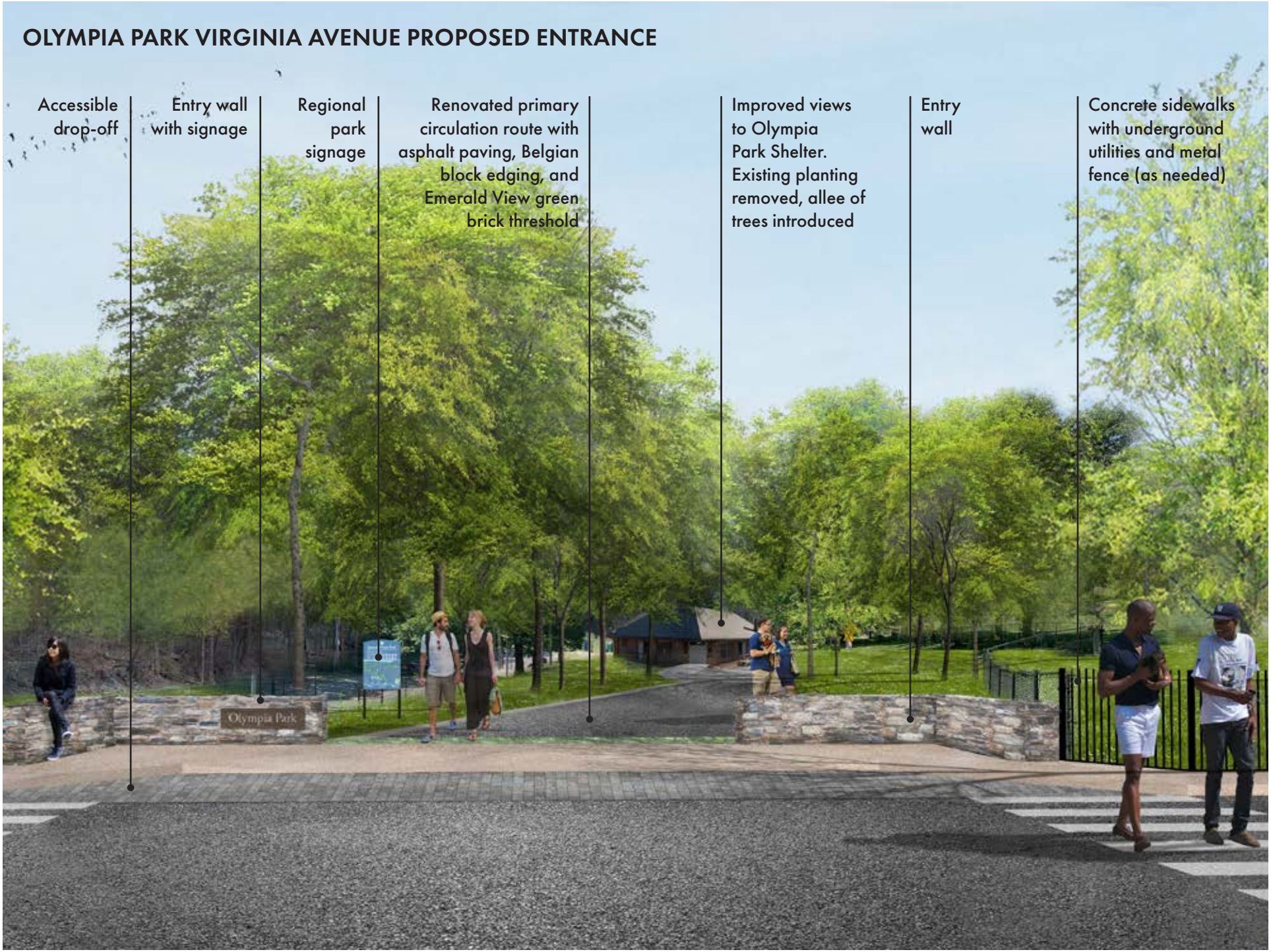
Pavilion example

circulation route, by removing existing planting and introducing an allee of trees.

6. Hallock Street streetscape - Renovate concrete sidewalks with underground utilities (as possible), street trees, and metal fence.
7. Play area - The new play area is located on the eastern hillside. Integrate play into the natural environment on the hillside and connect to new hillside trails.
8. Picnic shelter - Create strong visual terminus to the primary circulation loop and better connections among the playground, the Olympia Park Shelter, and the baseball field. Include new picnic shelter, concrete unit pavers, new trees, and a new edge between the picnic shelter and the baseball field.
9. Olympia Park Shelter + plazas - Olympia Park Shelter is currently being redesigned. Provide a better pedestrian experience around the shelter, establish better connections among the shelter, the park, and the baseball fields, and limit vehicular parking directly in front of the shelter. Introduce an upper and lower plaza and include concrete unit pavers, new seating, trees, and restored stone walls.
10. Secondary circulation - Renovated paths are recommended from the Hallock Street entrance, the dog park, and the Olympia Park Shelter. Restore stone walls and steps, asphalt and/or concrete paving, and introduce new trees.
11. Hallock Street entrance - The Hallock Street entrance improvements include restored stone walls and stairs, new regional park signage, and new site furniture.
12. Hillside trails - Provide alternative access from existing trails through Olympia Park with additional trails on the southern and eastern edges of the park.
13. Multi-purpose field and walking track - Renovate and reside the baseball field. Create a multi-purpose field that can be used for sports and community gathering. High performance turf is recommended. Include a 1/4 mile walking track around the multi-purpose field. Incorporate new concrete spectator seating into the hillside between the Hallock Street entrance, the Olympia Park Shelter, and the baseball field.
14. Stormwater management - Include stormwater management strategies throughout the park. Design bio-swales and raingardens along the base of

Existing Virginia Ave. Entrance

OLYMPIA PARK VIRGINIA AVENUE PROPOSED ENTRANCE



the eastern hillside and R-tanks underneath the multi-purpose field.

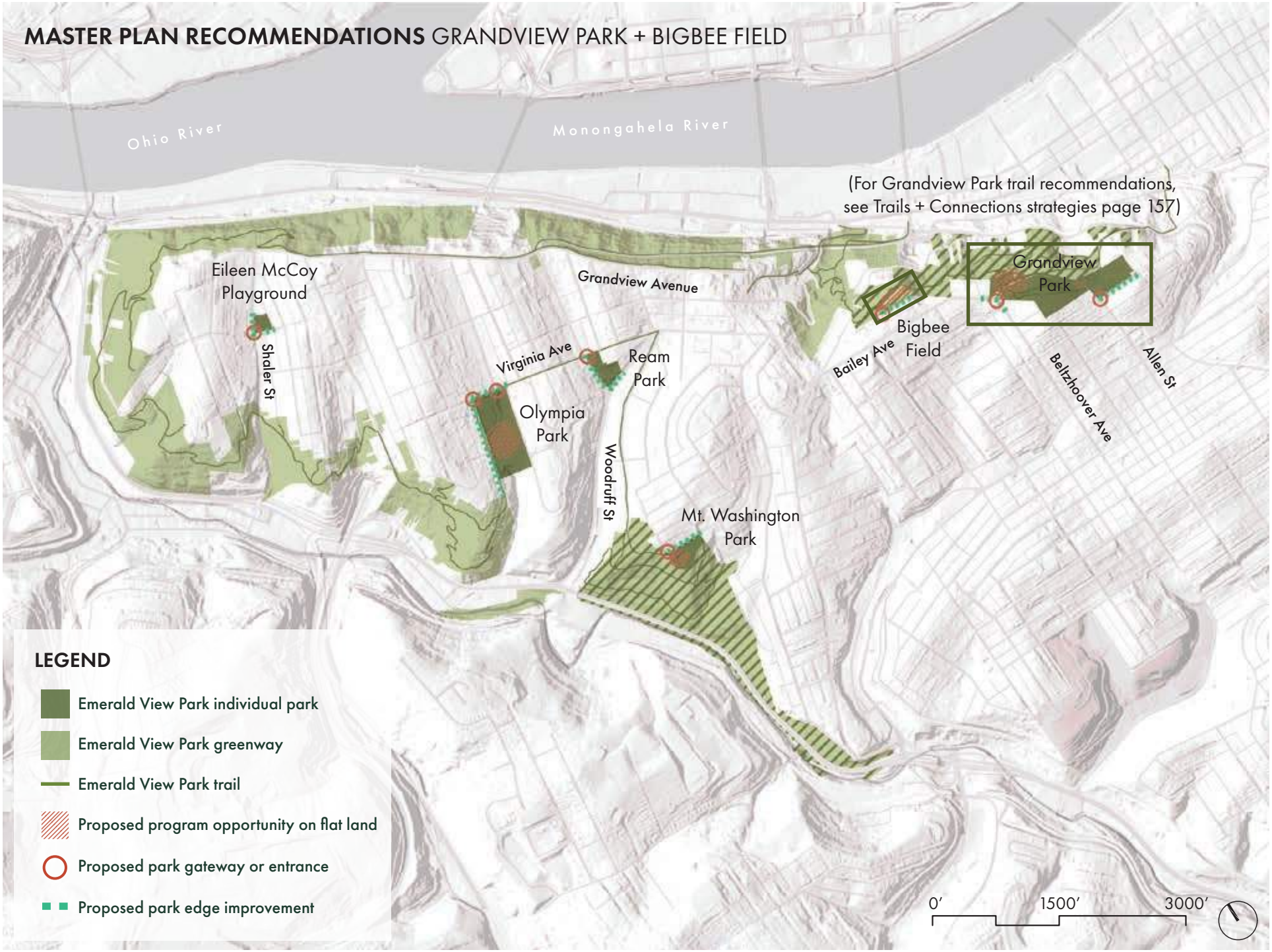
15. Contemplative space - Provide a quiet, contemplative space along the southern edge of the park as a respite in the heavily programmed park. Include seating, shade, and a focal point.
16. Hallock Street parking lot - Renovate the parking lot with newly aligned parking spaces along the multi-purpose field with access to the park and the Hallock Street trailhead. Pave parking lot with asphalt and include ADA accessible parking spaces, new regional park signage, new stone walls, and trees.

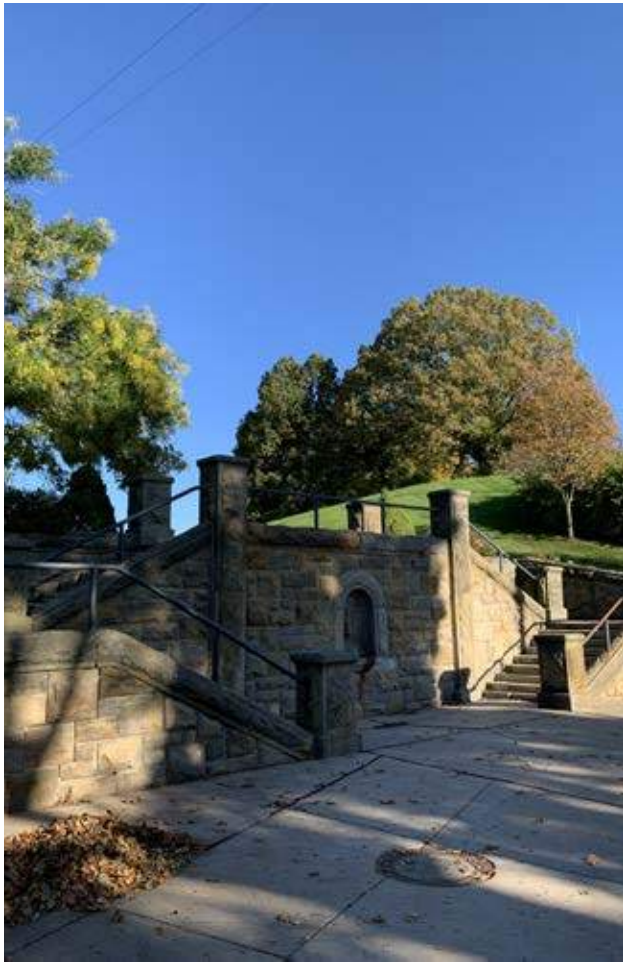
Existing Olympia Park Shelter

OLYMPIA PARK SHELTER PROPOSED LANDSCAPE

GRANDVIEW PARK
South Side
Mount Washington

MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS GRANDVIEW PARK + BIGBEE FIELD





GRANDVIEW PARK

Grandview Park connects the Mount Washington neighborhood with the Allentown neighborhood on the northeastern slopes of Emerald View Park. It is one of the largest individual parks in Emerald View Park. The park is currently home to a bandshell and overlook, park landscapes, a playground, courts, parking, and trail connections. Pittsburgh Grandview Pre-K School is located adjacent to the park at the Allen Street entrance and shares the Allen Street parking lot and playground amenities. Grandview Park additionally includes Bigbee Field along Bigbee Street.

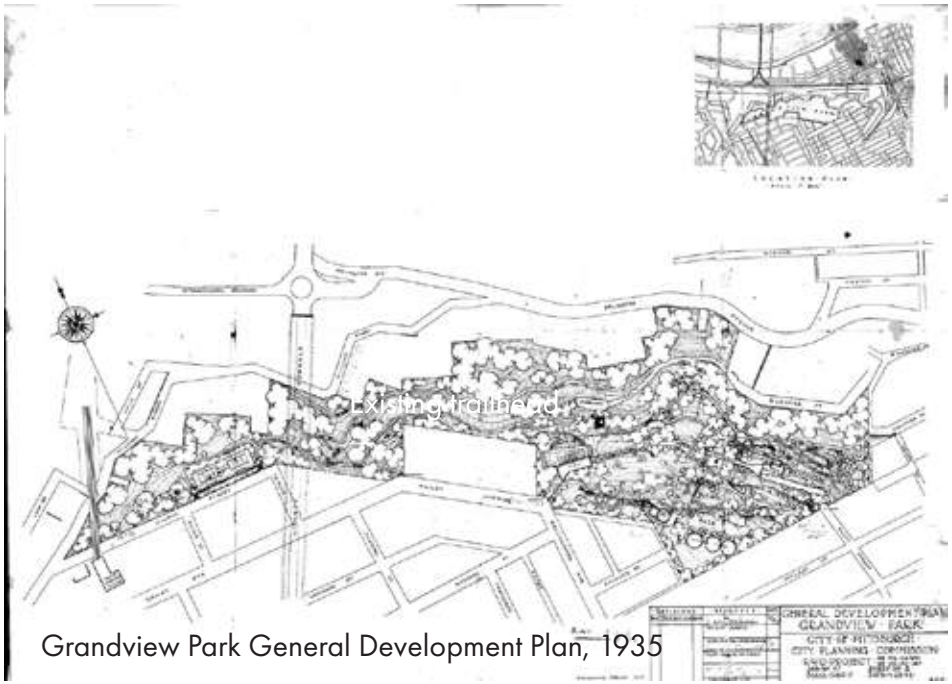
History

Grandview Park was the first portion of Emerald View Park acquired by the City of Pittsburgh. Purchased in 1897 from the Robinson family, the park originally contained eighteen acres of hillside land. A picnic shelter and a merry-go-round were built in the park in 1913. The merry-go-round operated until 1946 and was designed by Thomas Scott. It depicted animals including horses, lions, tigers, deer, giraffes, ostriches, kangaroos, and goats.

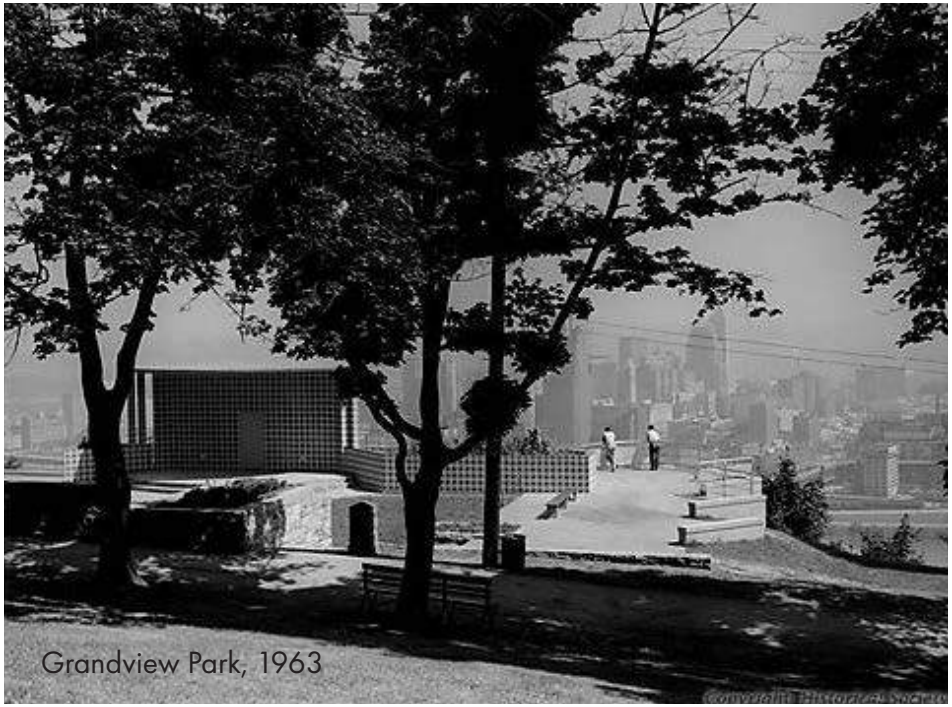
In 1909, the City acquired two water towers that exist in the park today. The towers were originally owned by the Monongahela Water Company. The two towers provide rudimentary water service to Allentown and Mount Washington residents.

As one of the highest points in the city, at 1255 feet above sea level, Grandview Park has been used as a base for the topographical survey of Pittsburgh. An overlook was constructed in 1958 which has been used as a platform for band concerts and for theatre performances.

Pittsburgh Grandview Pre-K School was established at the eastern side of Grandview Park in 1961. In 1996 a playground was constructed next to the school in the park, The current location of the playground is approximately where the original shelter house was located.



Grandview Park General Development Plan, 1935

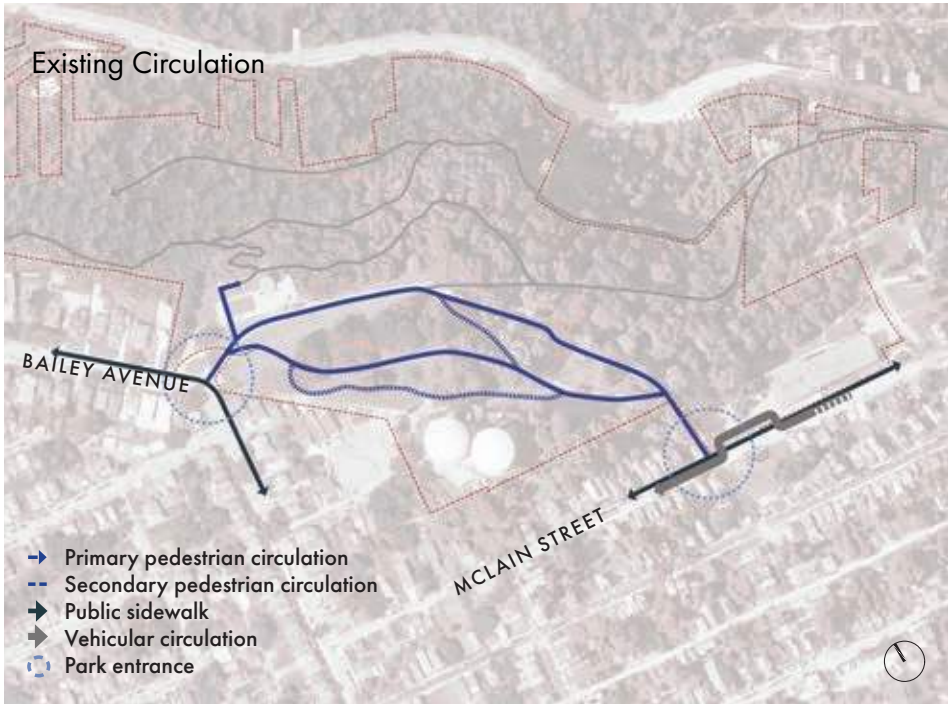

Grandview Park, 1963

Existing Conditions

Grandview Park sits on the northeastern slope of Emerald View Park. The park's main entrance is located at the end of Bailey Avenue. A secondary entrance is located at the end of Allen Street. The Bailey Avenue entrance is the main pedestrian entrance and includes historic sandstone stairs and a fountain, currently in disrepair. The entrance includes a prominent vehicular entrance for park maintenance vehicles. Multiple signs are located at this entrance.

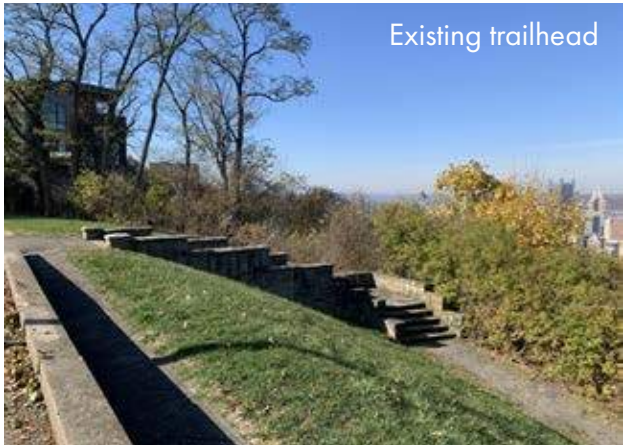
Circulation through the park consists of a primary route that runs north west to south east between the Bailey Street and Allen Street entrances. This primary route supports maintenance vehicles and vehicular access between the parks entrances. The route feels like a road with wide asphalt paving. Secondary circulation is provided on smaller concrete and asphalt paths on the sloped hillside. The Allen Street entrance includes a parking lot that is shared with the elementary school. The parking lot is not striped. ADA-accessible parking spots are not indicated. Connections to the Emerald View Park trail network exists in multiple locations in the park.

The existing open-air bandshell in Grandview Park was designed in the same era as the Grandview Avenue overlooks in the late 1960s. The bandshell is of mid-century modern design and cast-in-place concrete construction. There is a large circular concrete lid over full height concrete walls. Behind the bandshell, there is an occupiable platform that overlooks the city, protected by a continuous metal guardrail. The bandshell includes a service space within, locked from public access. There is minimal lighting and AV functionality. The bandshell is perched on the edge of the hillside, supported by an approximate 10'-0" concrete retaining wall. A park trail runs adjacent to the retaining wall at a slightly lower elevation and is largely hidden from public view. The concrete of the bandshell walls, lid, and retaining wall are painted. Being fully exposed to the elements (UV, rain, snow, salt, etc), the paint requires continuous upkeep to maintain. The retaining wall at the back is largely hidden from view and is covered in graffiti. (continued on page 102)



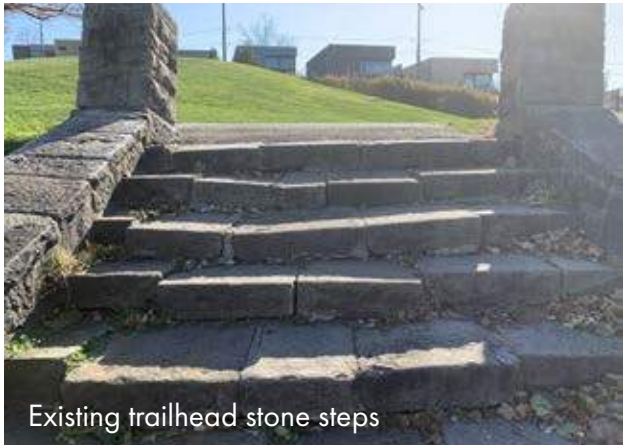
Existing Bailey Avenue entrance

Existing Allen Street entrance


Existing trailhead

Existing amphitheater lawn

Existing Amphitheater

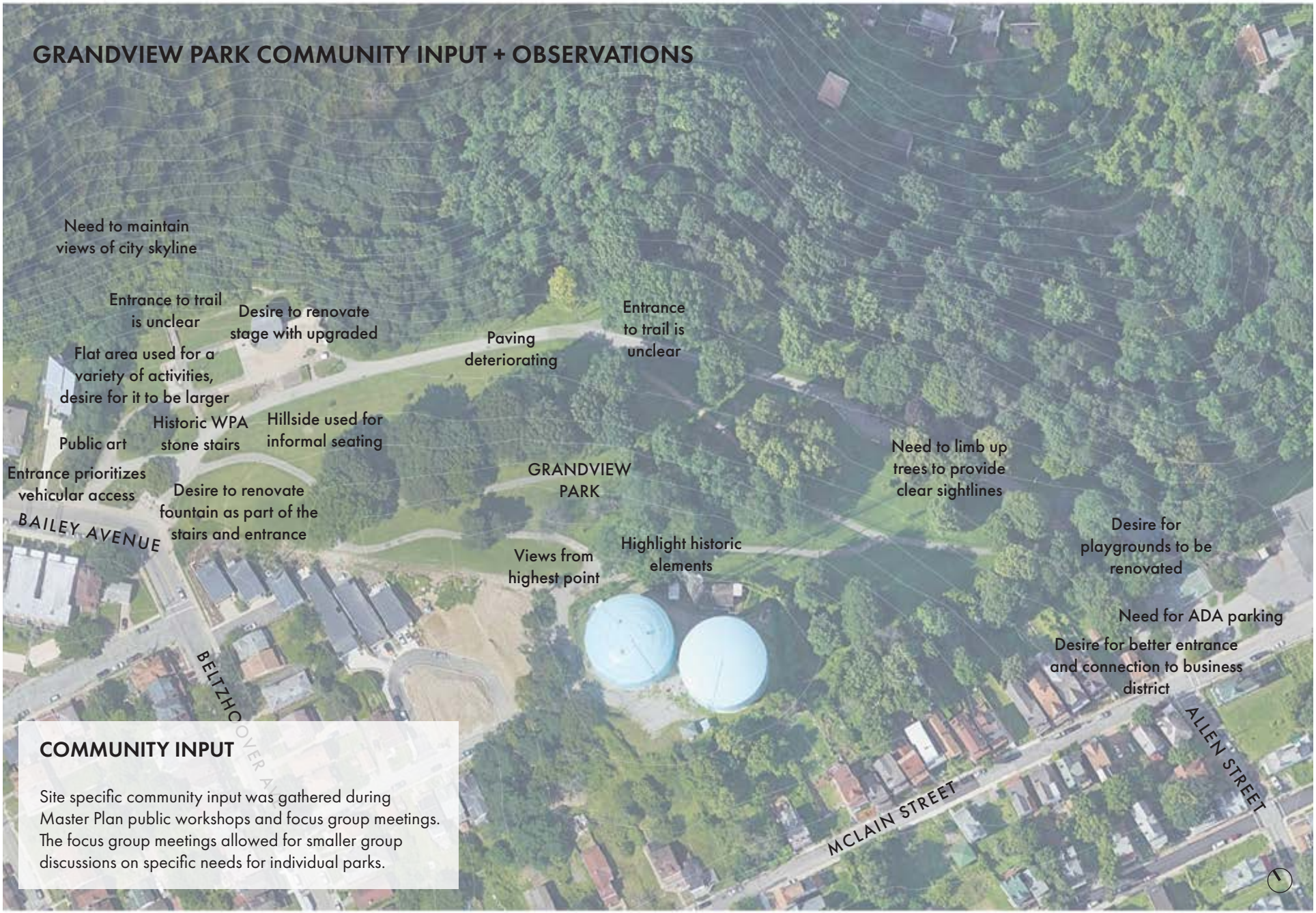

Existing trailhead stone steps

Existing Olympia Park Shelter

Existing Olympia Park Shelter`

Existing pavilion

GRANDVIEW PARK COMMUNITY INPUT + OBSERVATIONS



COMMUNITY INPUT

Site specific community input was gathered during Master Plan public workshops and focus group meetings. The focus group meetings allowed for smaller group discussions on specific needs for individual parks.

GRANDVIEW PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

PROJECTS

1. Bailey Avenue entrance
2. Amphitheater landscape
3. Bandshell
4. Terraced lawn
5. Historic overlook
6. Primary circulation
7. Trailhead
8. Water tower overlook
9. Playground
10. Court
11. Allen Street entrance
12. Allen Street parking lot

(continued from page 98) There is a cast concrete amphitheater adjacent to the bandshell that is served by stone steps. The steps are cracked, misaligned, and settling. Between the amphitheater and the bandshell is concrete hardscape, which is cracked and/or patched in multiple areas. There are portable restrooms situated at the edge of the hardscape.

The bandshell and surrounding hardscape would benefit from renovation. The benefit of the improvements is potential higher use as a community amenity and/or a revenue generator, increased variety of programs, and increased safety for visitors.

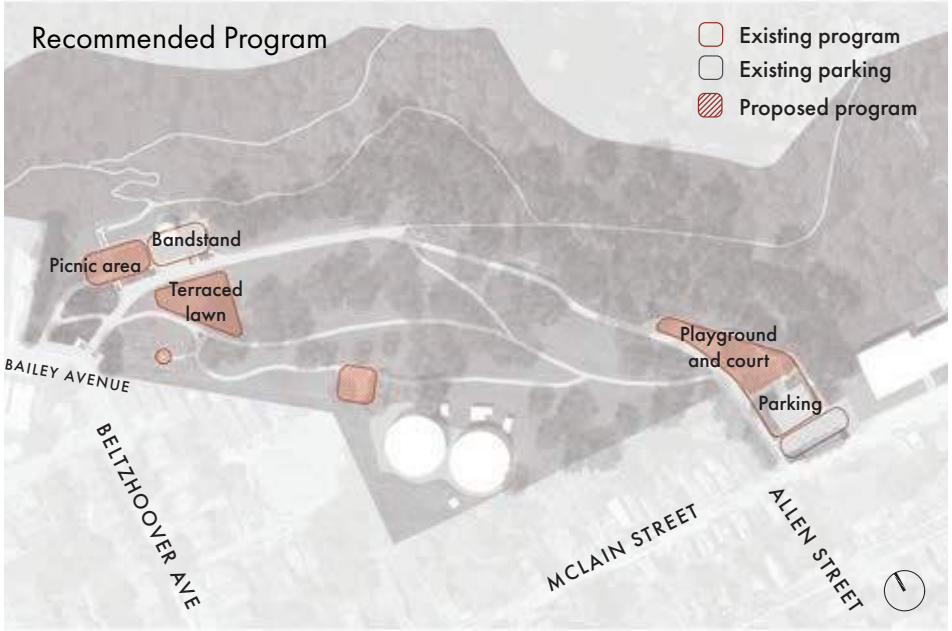
The existing playground and basketball courts are well worn and in need of site improvements and equipment replacement.

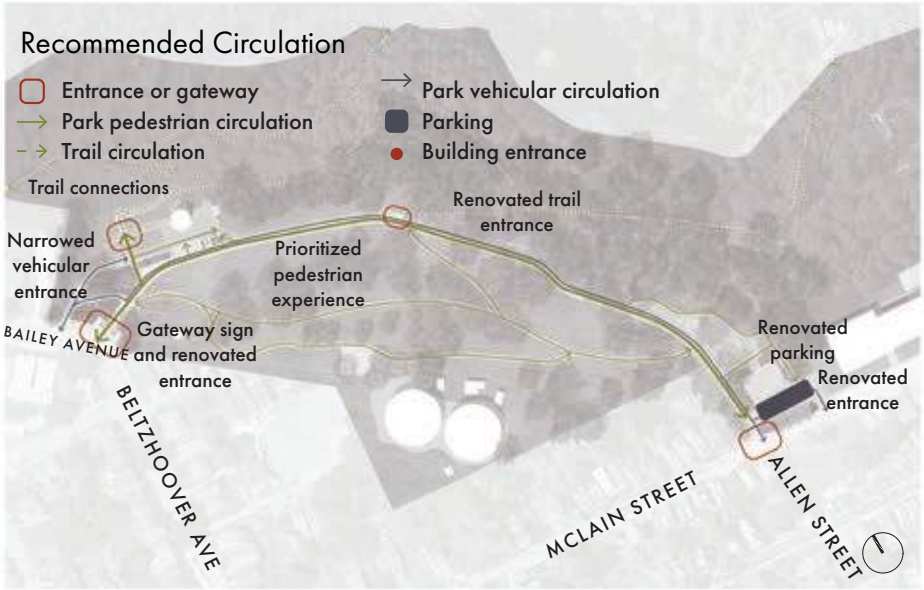
Limited site furniture including benches, picnic tables, and trash cans, are located throughout the park and are in various states of disrepair.

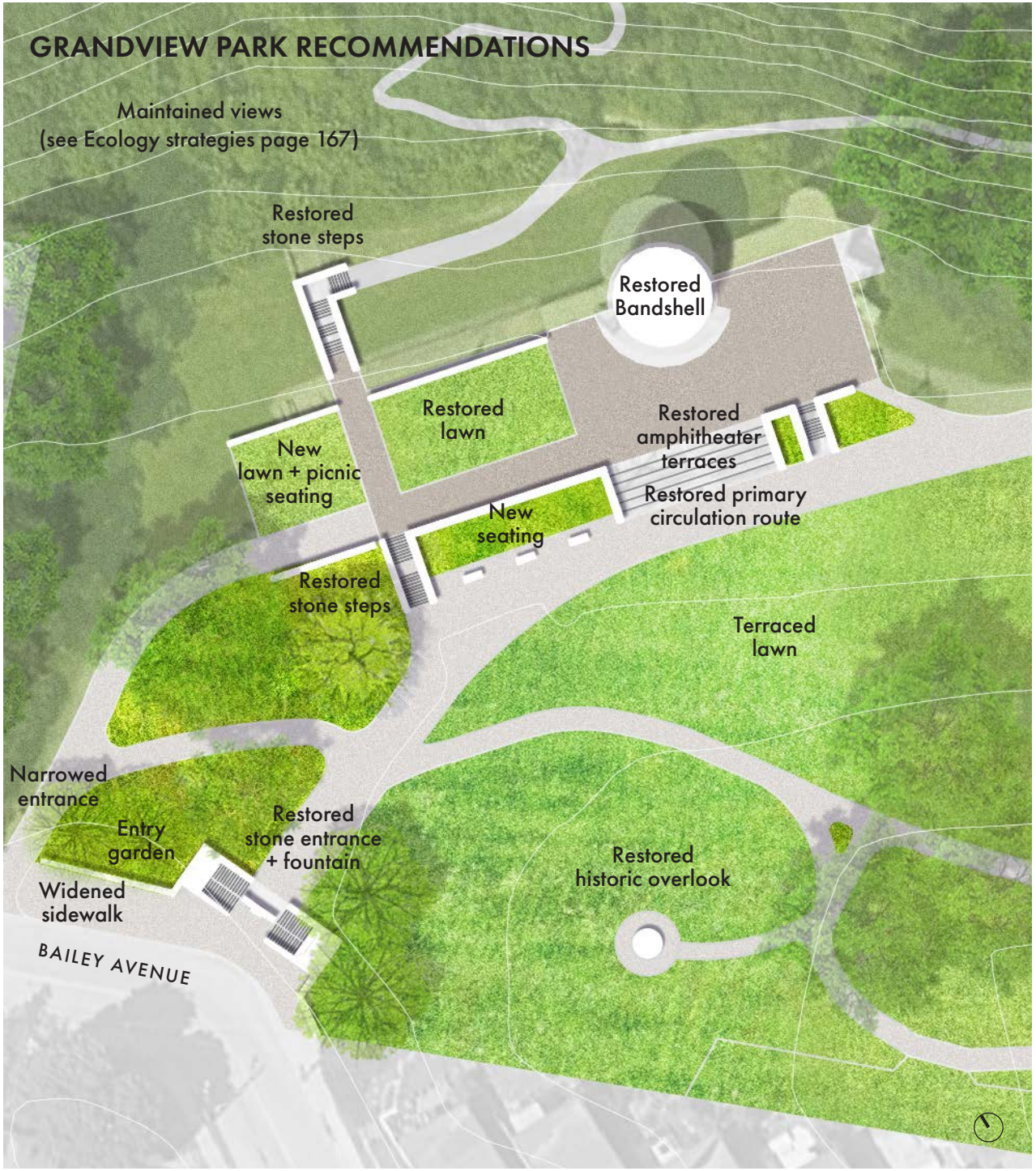
Recommendations

The *Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan* recommends a series of park improvements as described below. For further detail on project phasing and implementation, see Phasing + Implementation, page 173.

1. Bailey Avenue entrance - Restore stone entrance and fountain, incorporate additional stone retaining walls, widen sidewalk along Bailey Avenue with an Emerald View green brick inlay, narrow vehicular entrance, introduce an expanded entry garden, and consolidate regional park signage.
2. Amphitheater landscape - Restore stone steps and walls, introduce new seating areas, expand picnic areas, renovate amphitheater terraces, and manage vegetation to provide framed views of Downtown Pittsburgh and the Monongahela River.
3. Bandshell - Renovate existing bandshell with architectural improvements including but not limited to







Grandview Park movie night

Terraced lawn example

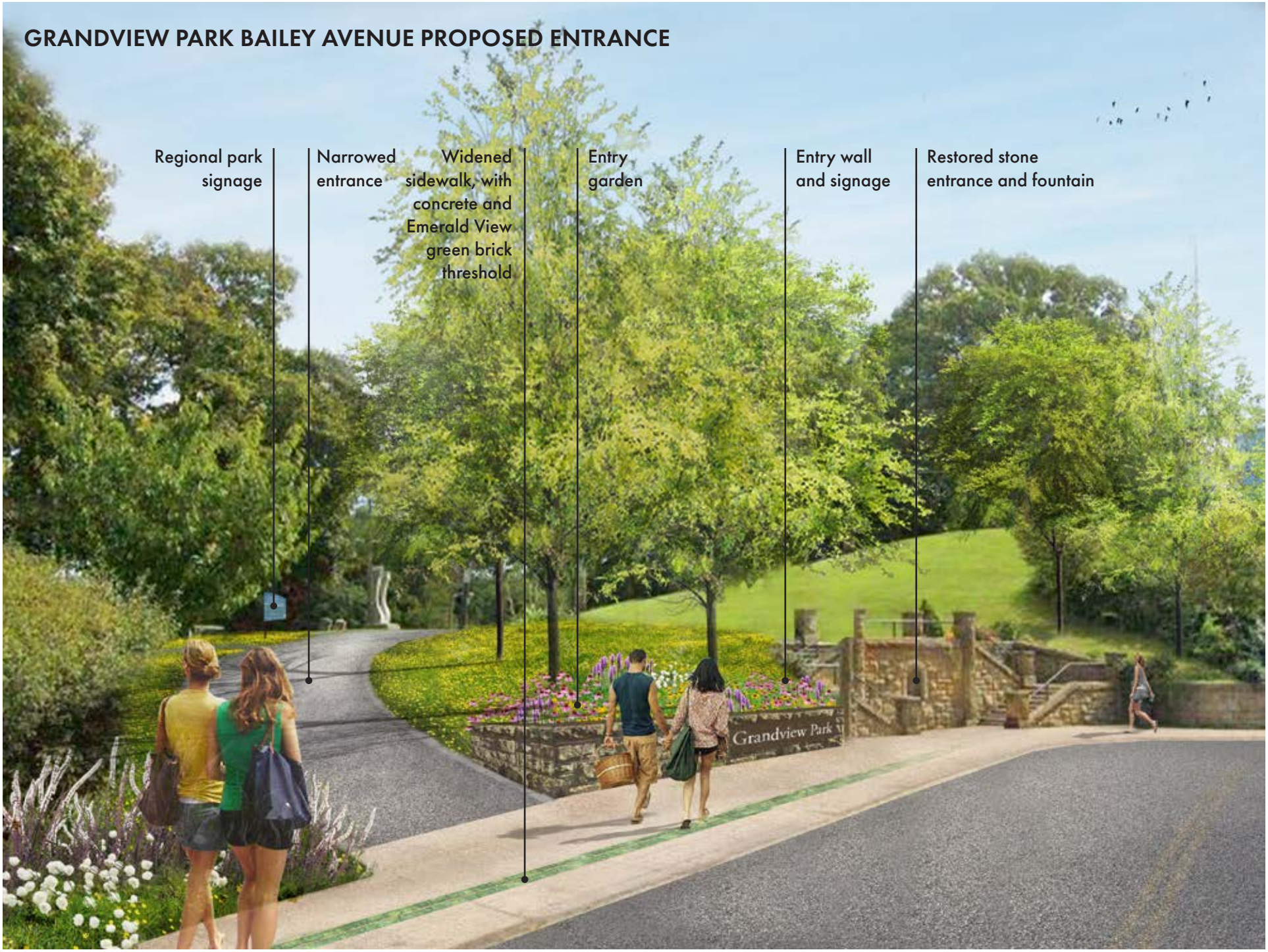
Picnic seating example

opening of the solid stage backdrop and audio/visual upgrades. Design new restroom as a separate building in close proximity to the bandshell and amphitheater landscape.

4. Historic overlook - Restore historic overlook to take advantage of one of the Grandview Park's highest elevations. Include new paving, seating, and planting.
5. Trailhead - Introduce new site walls and signage to clearly identify the trailhead along the primary circulation route.
6. Water tower overlook - The addition of a new overlook takes advantage of another of Grandview Park's highest elevations. Incorporate new paving, seating, and planting. Its location and geometries reference the original merry-go-round location.
7. Playground - Renovate with new playground equipment, new safety surfacing, site furniture, regional park signage, and better connections to the primary circulation route.
8. Court - Include new surfacing, new site walls, and new regional park signage.
9. Allen Street entrance - Renovate Allen Street entrance and include an improved layout with asphalt paving, Belgian block edging, and an Emerald View green brick threshold, new regional park standard signage, and new stone entry walls.
10. Allen Street parking lot - Renovate with new paving, striping, signage, and trees.

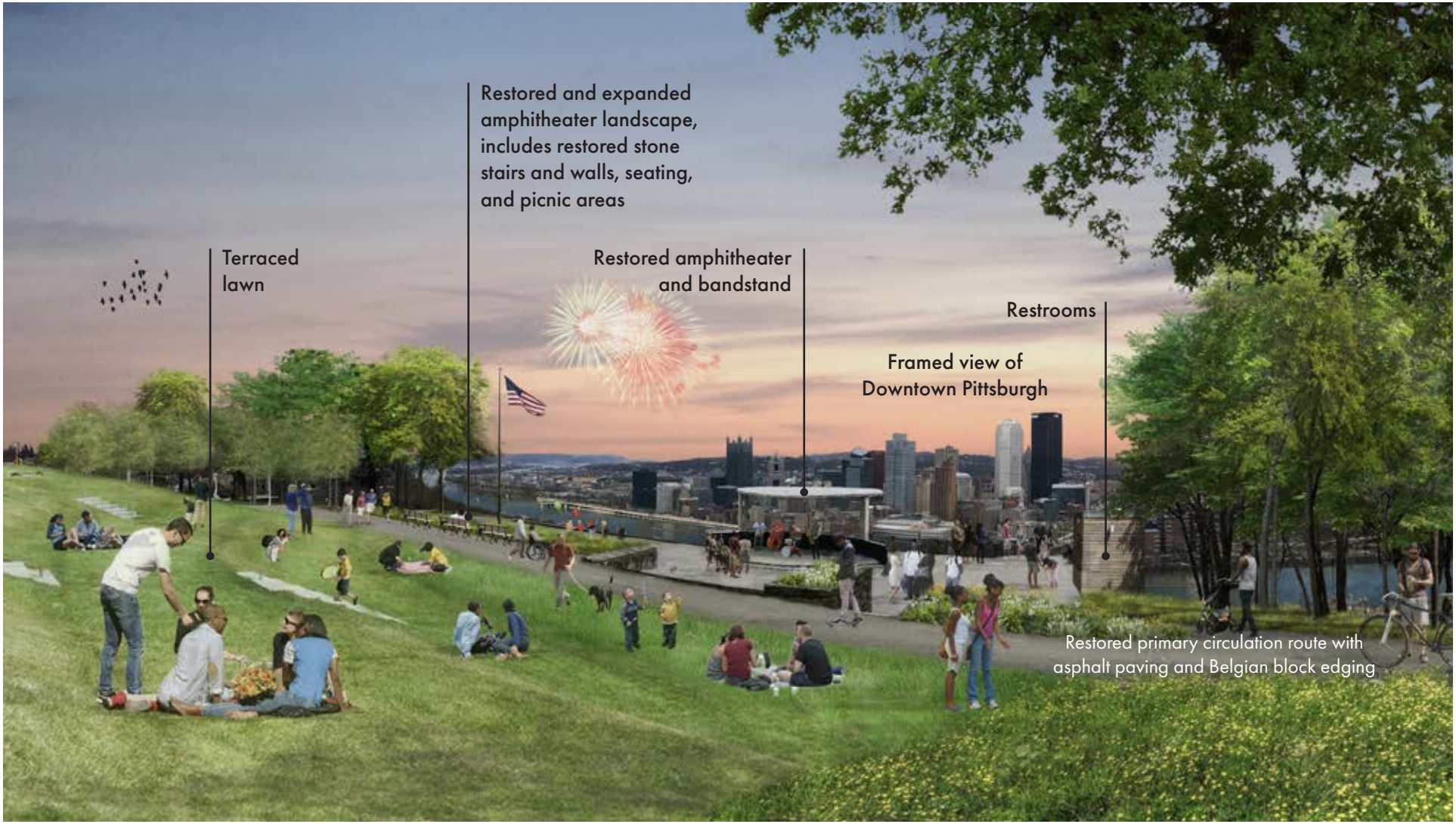
Existing Bailey Ave. Entrance

GRANDVIEW PARK BAILEY AVENUE PROPOSED ENTRANCE



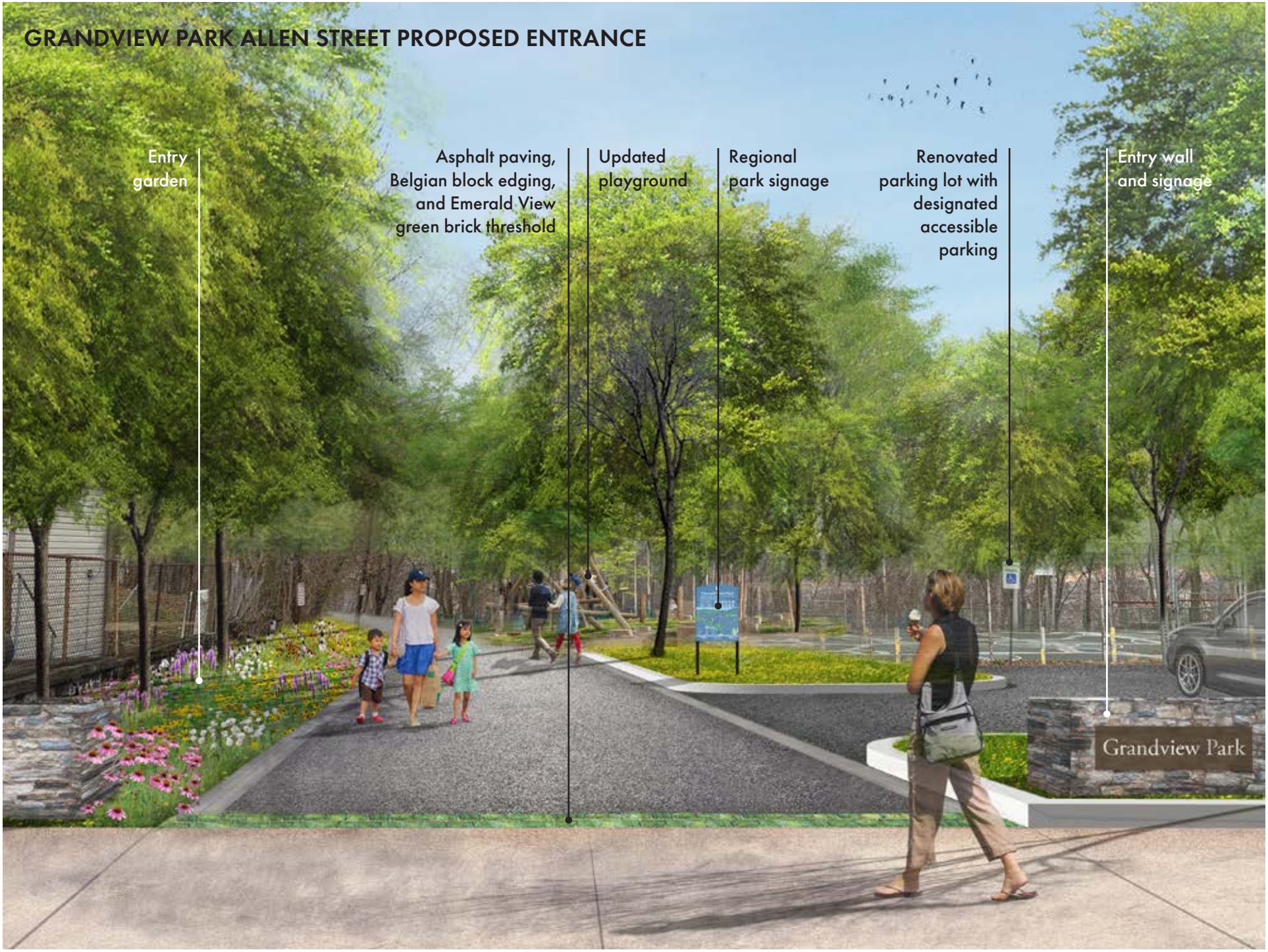
Existing Grandview Park Bandstand

GRANDVIEW PARK PROPOSED BANDSTAND



Existing Allen Street Entrance

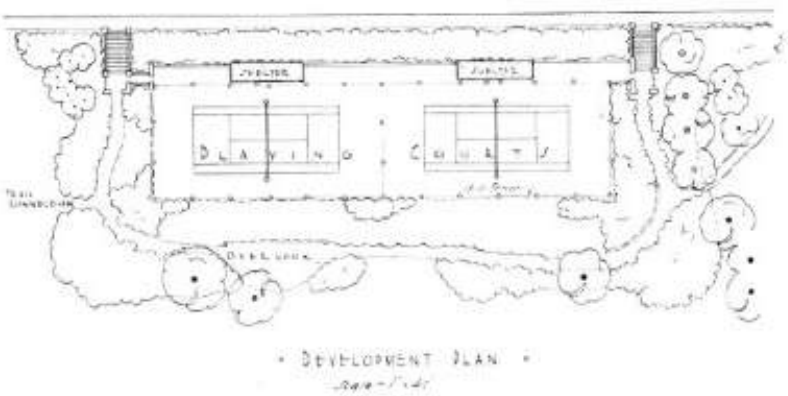
GRANDVIEW PARK ALLEN STREET PROPOSED ENTRANCE



Recommendations

The *Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan* recommends a series of park improvements as described below. For further detail on project phasing and implementation, see Phasing + Implementation, page 173.

1. Multi-purpose field - Renovate existing multi-purpose field. Include new fencing, renovated site walls (as needed), new signage, and site furniture are included.
2. Bigbee Street overlook - Introduce a formalized gathering space above Bigbee Field with new concrete paving, site furniture, and new regional park signage.
3. Bigbee Street streetscape - Renovate concrete sidewalks with underground utilities (as possible) and metal fence. Plant street trees at the ends of Ailine Street and Etta Street to provide visual cues and a sense of identity. The street trees should not obscure key views.
4. Bigbee Field entrance - Relocate entrance and include new steps and a new trailhead connection.
5. ADA accessible path - Introduce an ADA-accessible path with a sloped concrete walk and new plantings.



Bigbee Field Development Plan, 1935

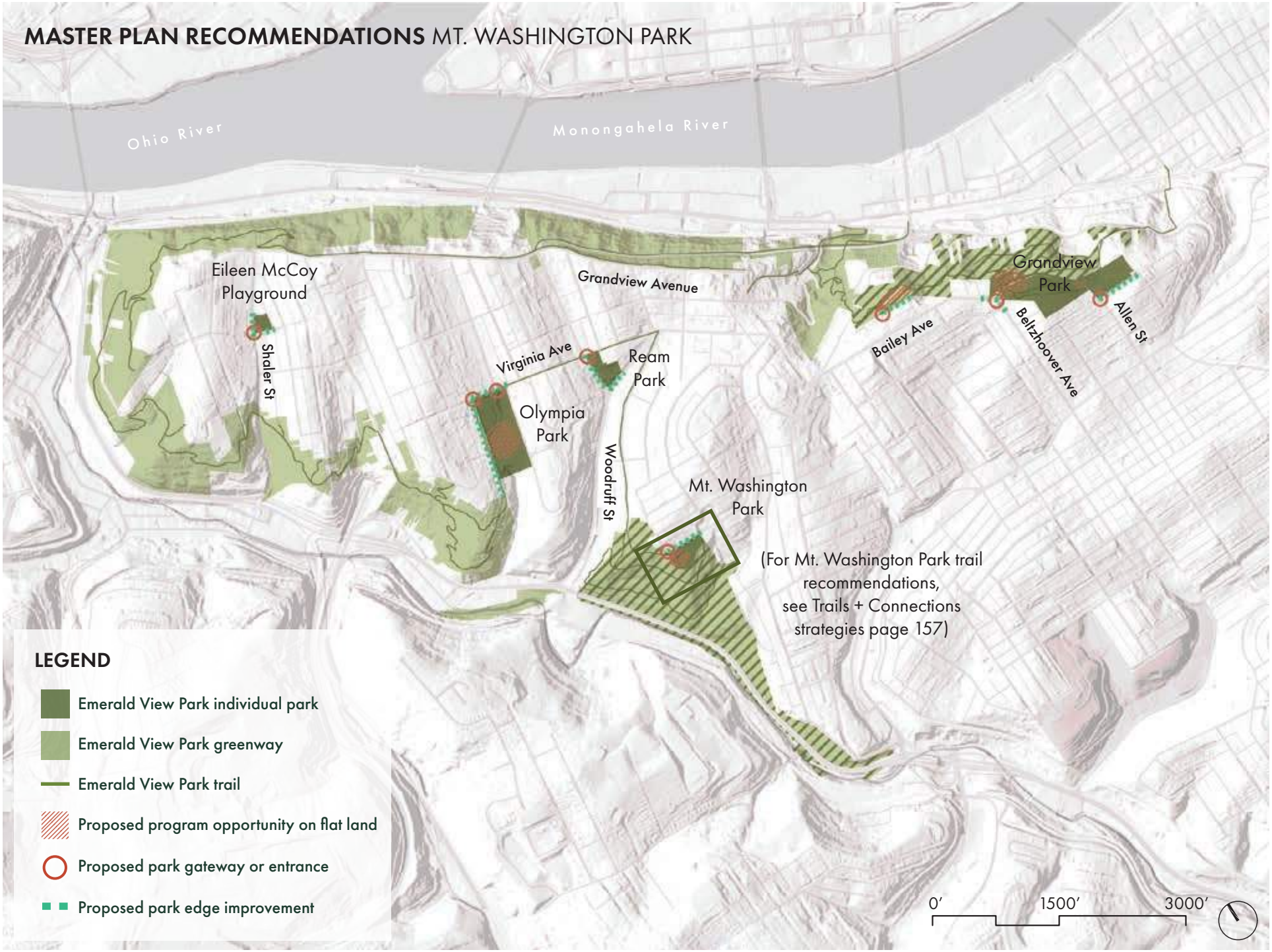
BIGBEE FIELD RECOMMENDATIONS

PROJECTS

1. Multi-purpose field
2. Bigbee Street overlook
3. Bigbee Street streetscape
4. Bigbee Field entrance
5. ADA accessible path

MT. WASHINGTON PARK
Mount Washington

MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS MT. WASHINGTON PARK



MT. WASHINGTON PARK

Mt. Washington Park is located on the southernmost point of Emerald View Park in the Mount Washington neighborhood. The park is currently home to the Mount Washington Shelter, Dilworth Field, playgrounds, a court, and the large southern hillside with trail connections.

History

Mt. Washington Park was established in 1908, at the request of local citizens. Once productive farmland, the parkland initially included approximately fifteen acres of the hillside.

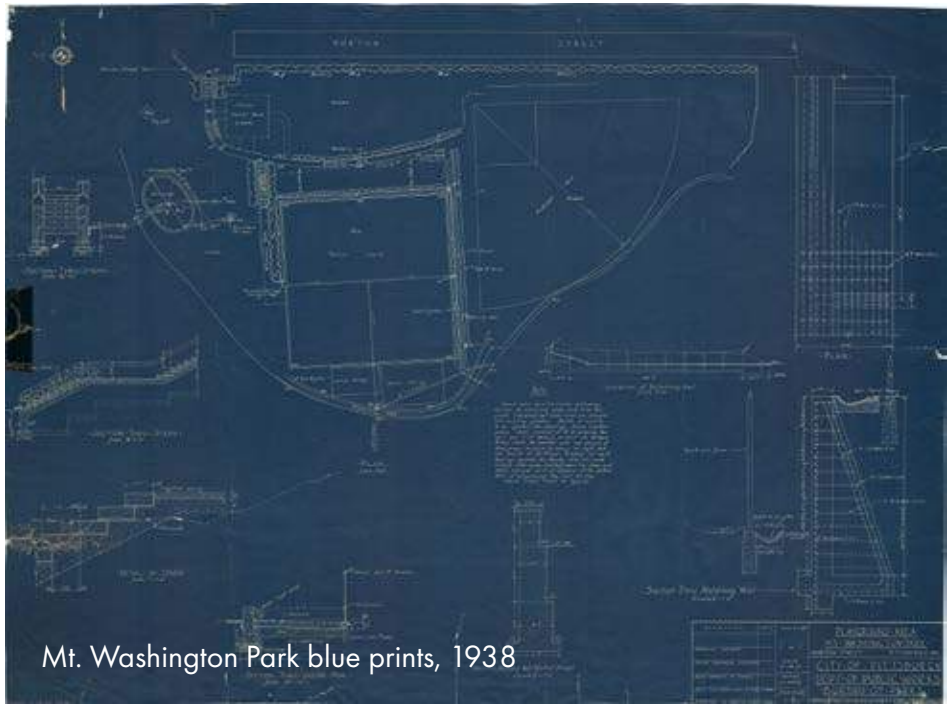
Due to its steep topography, the park was nicknamed "goat park." The park has also gone by the name of Wilbert's Grove and Dilworth Park. In 2009, the Pittsburgh Boxing Club opened in Mt. Washington Park's Dilworth Shelter House.

Existing Conditions

Mt. Washington Park's main entrance is located at the intersection of Ennis Street and Norton Street with access to park amenities provided at multiple locations along Norton Street. The Ennis Street entrance includes historic sandstone stairs and trail access. Additional trail access is currently hidden behind the shelter. The park can be accessed at the end of Grace Street with a short trail connection up to Ennis Street and Norton Street.

Circulation through the park consists of a primary route that runs parallel to the sidewalk along Norton Street. Steep grade change creates divisions between circulation to the fields and the sidewalk. Existing retaining walls are in good condition but would need further investigation to determine lifespan and need for replacement.

Dilworth Field occupies a majority of the park landscape. Due to steep topography two baseball fields are located at two different elevations and separated by a large retaining wall. Flooding in the outfield of the lower field has made the field unusable. Spectator seating for the fields is



Mt. Washington Park blue prints, 1938

Mt. Washington Park topography, 1908

difficult to navigate and in disrepair. Simplification of the seating and integration of seating into the existing hillside is recommended.

The shelter is a one-story enclosed facility constructed of stone walls with wood framed roof structure and asphalt shingle roofing. The windows throughout are secured with metal bar grating. The entry doors are metal, and badly worn. There appear to be overhead doors for vehicular access into the facility, at both the front and the rear. The facility is symmetrical from front to back.

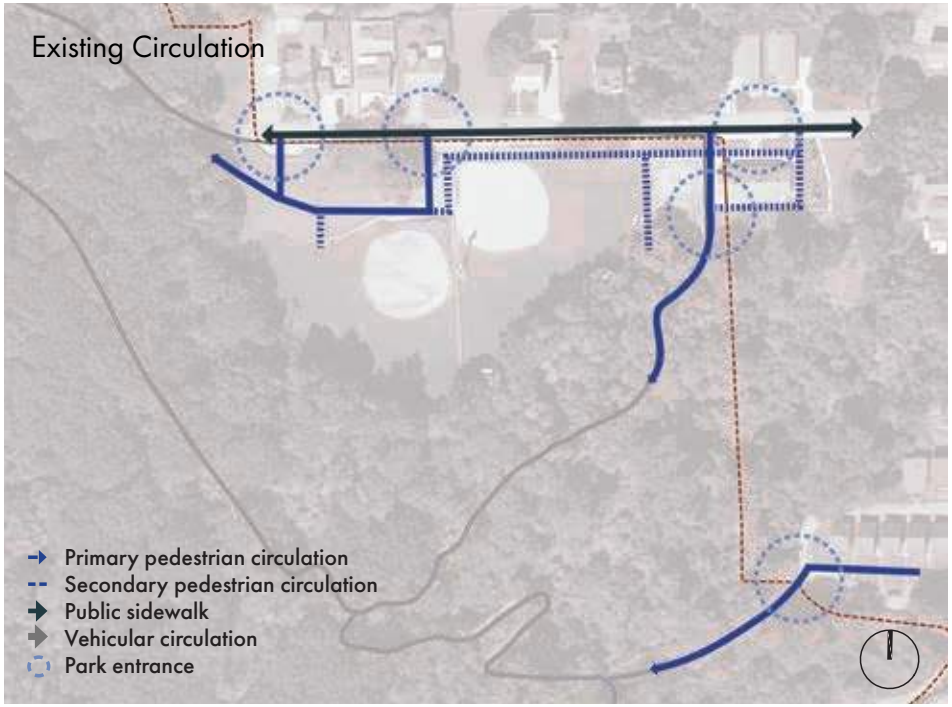
Due to the width and lack of opacity through the facility, sightlines across and around the building are not available. Safety concerns regarding the area behind the shelter have been raised and observed. As the facility is one-story, it accommodates ADA accessibility. The facility is open to community groups for long term rentals. It is currently occupied by the Pittsburgh Boxing Club. There does not appear to be visual or programmatic connection between the existing facility and the adjacent spaces (basketball court, play structure, etc). The play structures to the side and the rear of the facility have been recently renovated.

The facility and surrounding hardscape would benefit from renovation and increased security measures. Renovated lighting, paving, planting, signage, and potential use of security cameras (at the discretion of the City of Pittsburgh) are recommended. The benefit of the improvements is increased use of a community amenity, increased variety of programs, and increased safety for visitors.

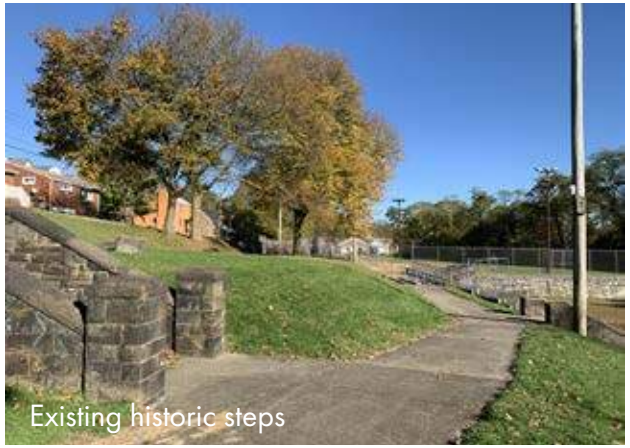
Recommendations

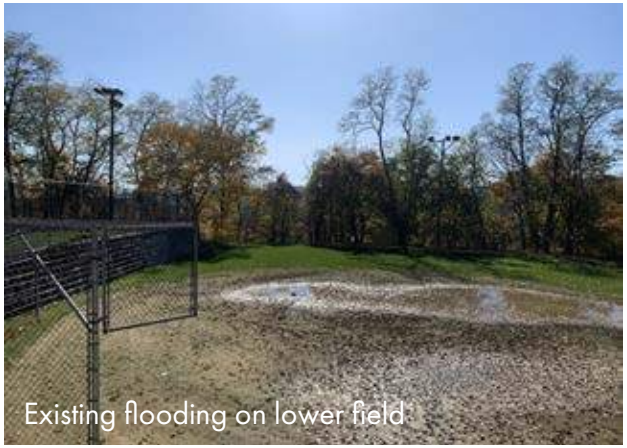
The *Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan* recommends a series of park improvements as described below. For further detail on project phasing and implementation, see Phasing + Implementation, page 173.

1. Ennis Street entrance - Restore stone steps and walls, introduce new regional park signage, new concrete paving, and improved access to the Ennis Street trailhead. (continued on page 120)



Existing sloped lawn


Existing historic steps


Existing flooding on lower field

Existing dugout

Existing pedestrian route

Existing basketball court

Existing playground

Existing shelter and plaza

Existing shelter and playground

MT. WASHINGTON PARK COMMUNITY INPUT + OBSERVATIONS

Community Input

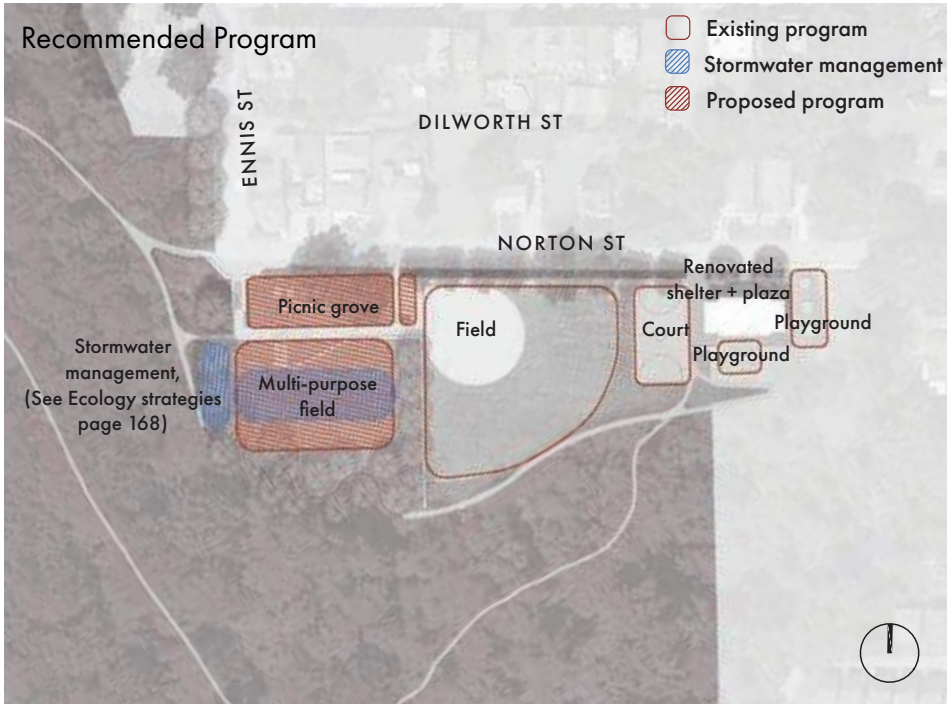
Site specific community input was gathered during Master Plan public workshops and focus group meetings. The focus group meetings allowed for smaller group discussions on specific needs for individual parks.

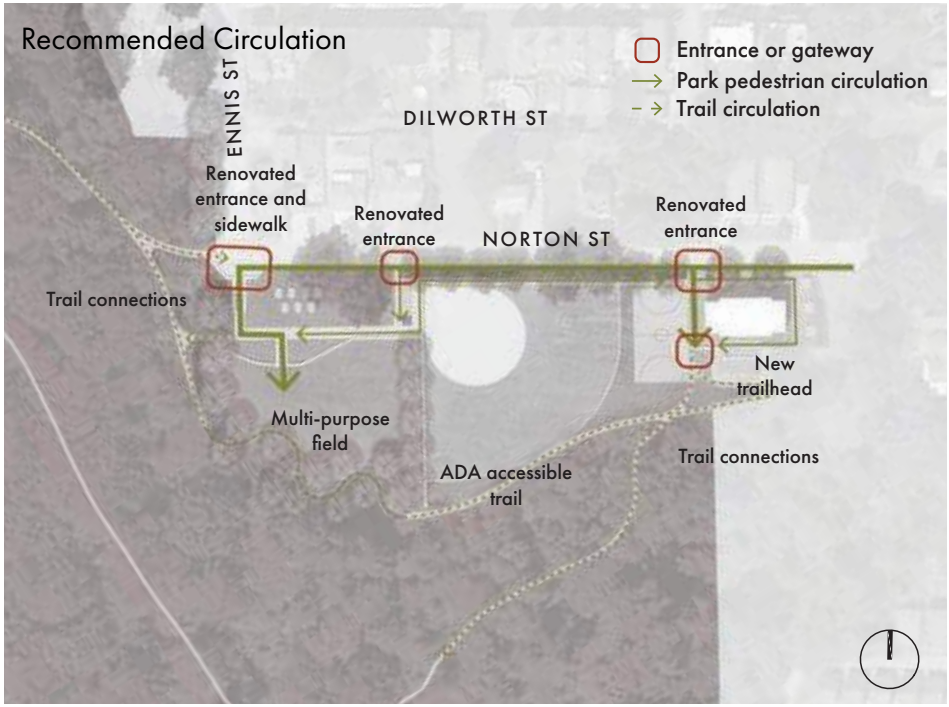
MT. WASHINGTON PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

PROJECTS

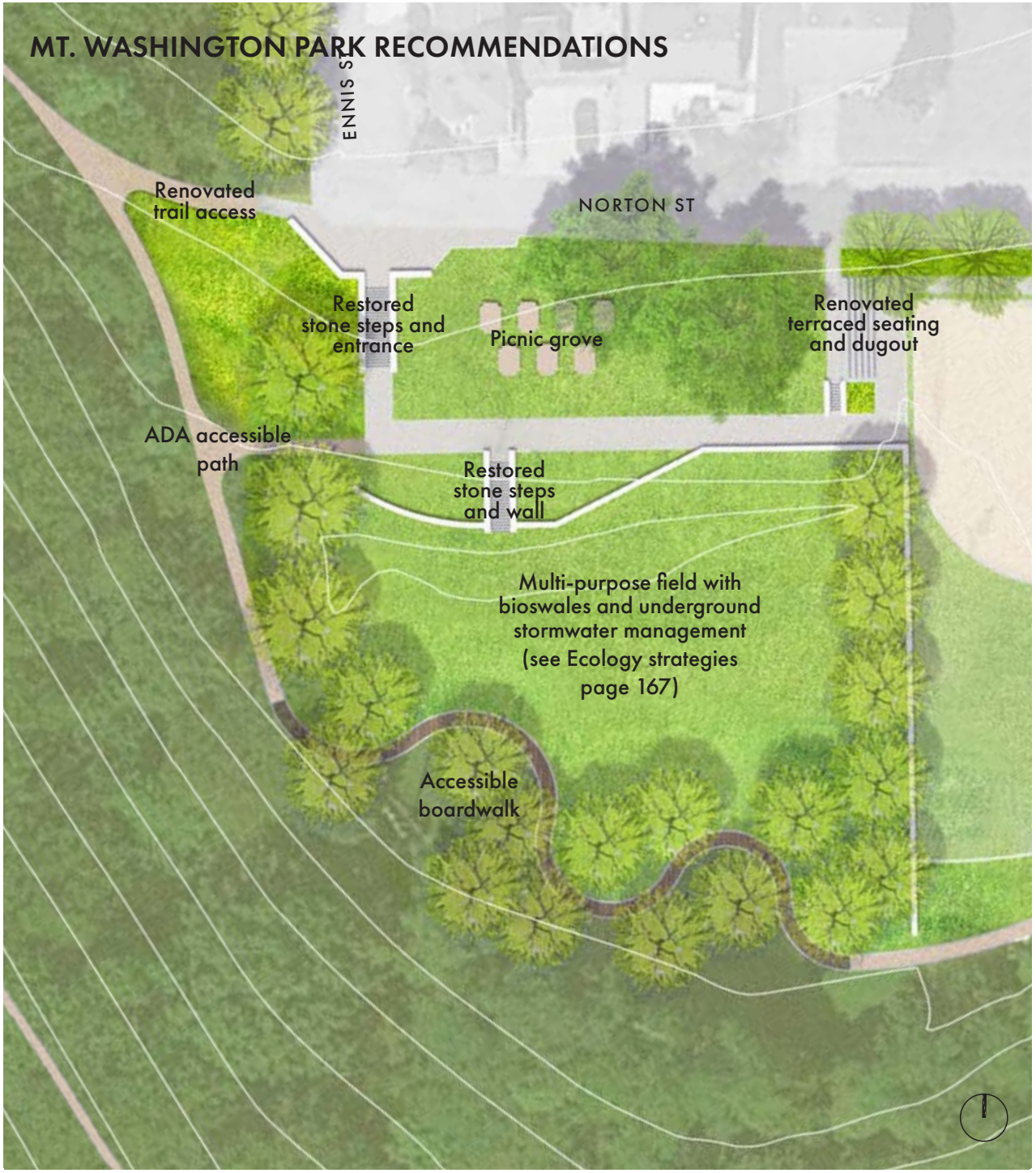
1. Ennis Street entrance
2. Ennis Street entrance landscape
3. Picnic grove
4. Multi-purpose field
5. ADA accessible walk
6. Spectator seating
7. Secondary circulation
8. Norton Street streetscape
9. Shelter plaza
10. Mount Washington Shelter
11. Norton Street entrance

2. (continued from page 116) Ennis Street entrance landscape - Renovate lawn areas with picnic tables under large existing trees, renovate concrete walks, and restore stone steps and walls.
3. Picnic grove - Formalize the existing meadow clearing beyond the Ennis Street trailhead with picnic tables and site furniture.
4. Multi-purpose field - Renovate the existing field to include high-performance turf for informal games and large gatherings. Integrate stormwater management strategies into field improvements. Include bioswales along the edges and R-tanks under the field.
5. ADA-accessible walk - Provide a new ADA-accessible trail route through Mt. Washington Park. Locate the walk between the Ennis Street and Norton Street trailheads and include crushed stone and wooden boardwalk components.
6. Spectator seating - Replace existing bleachers and site furniture with concrete terraced seating integrated into the hillside between the Ennis Street entrance landscape and Dilworth Field.
7. Secondary circulation - Renovate concrete walks to connect the Ennis Street entrance landscape and Dilworth Field.
8. Norton Street streetscape - Renovate concrete sidewalks with underground utilities (as possible), street trees, and metal fence.
9. Shelter plaza - Renovate the gathering space between Norton Street and the Mount Washington Shelter and include new concrete paving, planting, lighting, site furniture, and regional park signage.
10. Mount Washington Shelter - Renovate the interior and exterior of the shelter. Incorporate restrooms.
11. Norton Street entrance - Improve access to the trailhead behind the Mount Washington Shelter. Include new concrete paving, regional park signage, site furniture, and stone walls.





MT. WASHINGTON PARK RECOMMENDATIONS



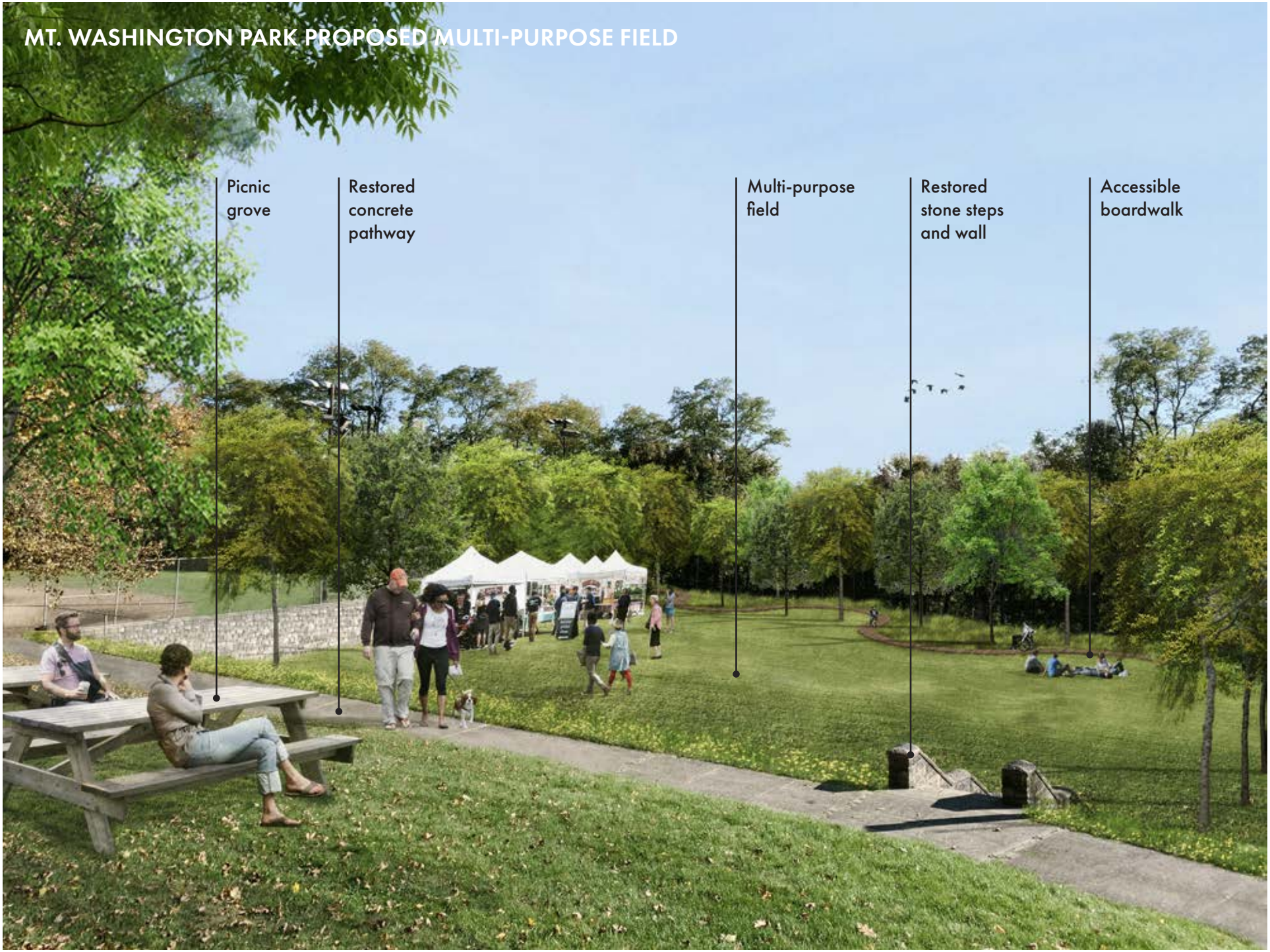
Terraced lawn example

Multi-functional lawn example

Accessible boardwalk example

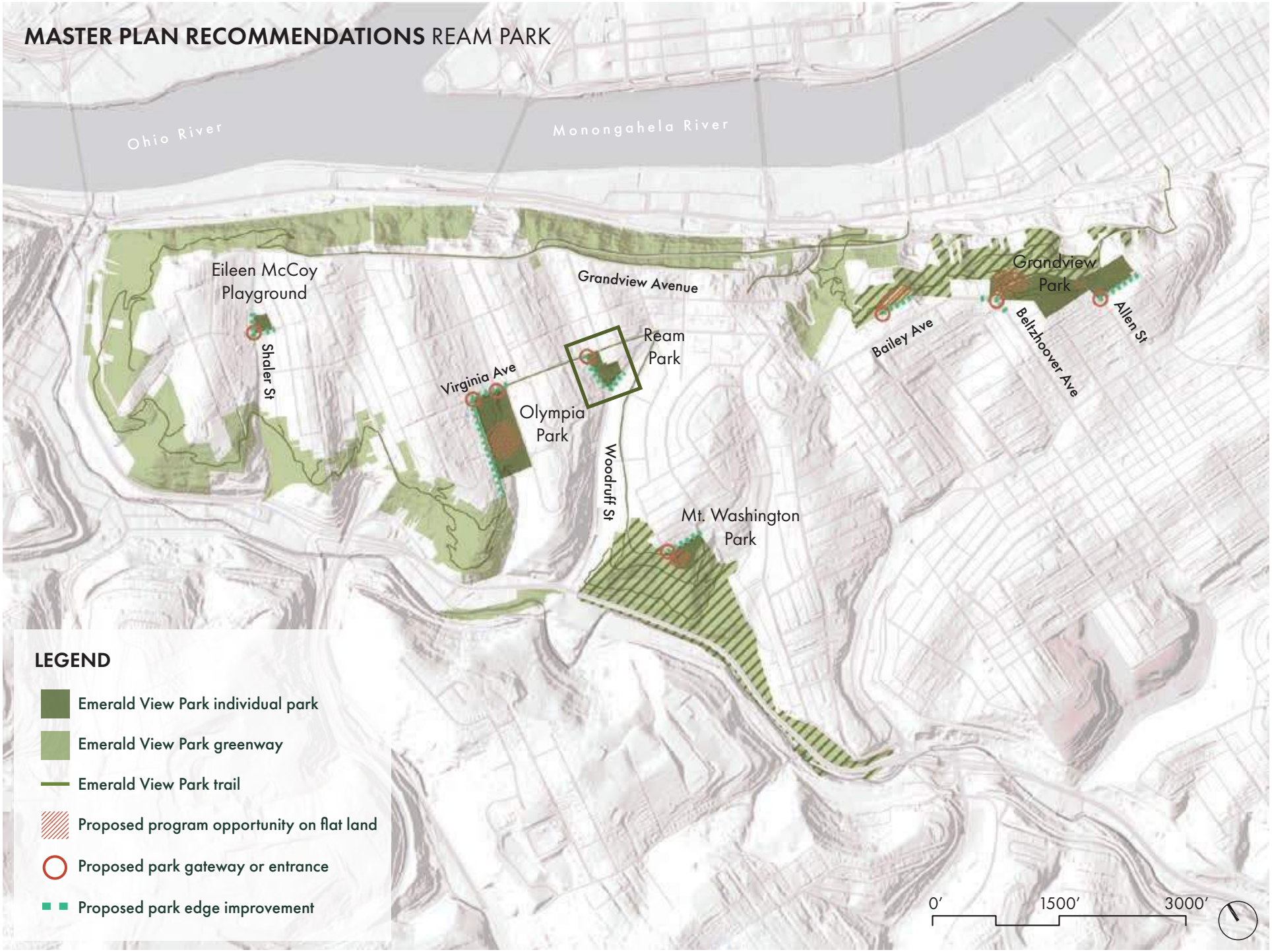
Existing Mt. Washington Park Field

MT. WASHINGTON PARK PROPOSED MULTI-PURPOSE FIELD



REAM PARK
Mount Washington

MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS REAM PARK



REAM PARK

Ream Park, located in the Mount Washington neighborhood at the intersection of Merrimac Street, Virginia Avenue and Woodruff Street, is one of Emerald View Park's small neighborhood parks. The park is currently home to the Mount Washington Community Recreation Center, Ream Pool, a playground, and the Mount Washington Community Garden.

History

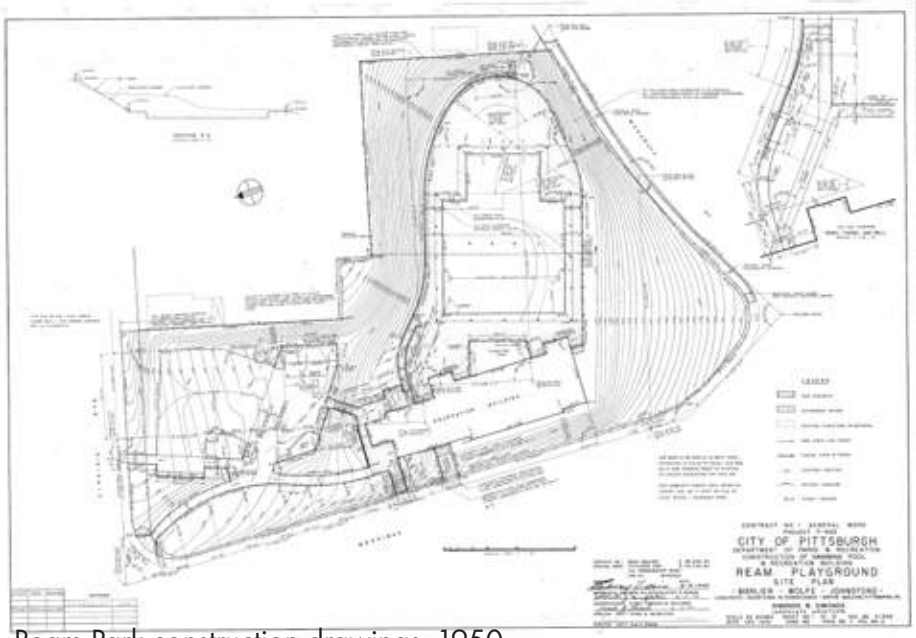
The Ream Playground was established between 1910-1923 and named after its former landowner C. Ream. The original recreation center and swimming pool was built in 1940 and quickly became a popular spot for local Mount Washington residents.

In 2007, the Mount Washington Community Recreation Center was officially established as a non-profit organization and re-opened the center at the park, which had been closed since 1995. A year later, the playground was renovated. Today, Ream Park hosts many recreational activities for local youth, including a community garden at the southern corner.

Existing Conditions

Ream Park's main entrance is located at the intersection of Virginia Avenue and Merrimac Street with access to different park amenities provided at multiple locations along Merrimac Street. Woodruff Street anchors the southern end of Ream Park. Steep grade change from north to south creates challenging access to the park. The lack of trees on Merrimac Street also creates an unpleasant pedestrian experience.

Because of the topographic change, Ream Park is divided into three main areas, the entrance and playground, the Recreation Center and pool, and the community garden. While some playground equipment has been upgraded, site furniture, paving, and amenities are in need of replacement. Playground equipment is mismatched in color. The tree canopy in the playground provides ample shade. Access



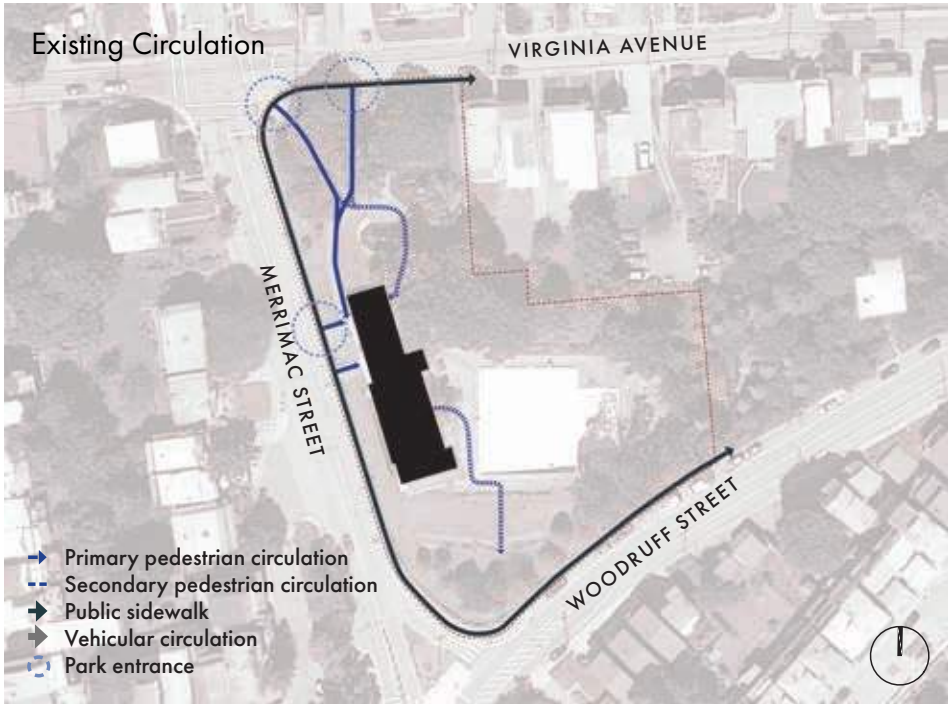
Ream Park construction drawings, 1950

Ream Pool, 1935

to the Recreation Center is located along Merrimac Street. The entrance also provides access to the pool. Access to the Recreation Center's garage is also located along Merrimac Street. The community garden is highly visible at the intersection of Merrimac Street and Woodruff street but access is only available from the pool.

The Mount Washington Community Recreation Center and pool are existing facilities situated within Ream Park, built in 1940. The Recreation Center is currently in use by multiple community groups. The Recreation Center was included in the 2017 City of Pittsburgh Facilities Optimization Plan, conducted by Massaro Corporation. The plan identified the proposed renovation of the Recreation Center for use as office space and an addition of an elevator for accessibility. Alternate opportunities that were identified included providing a new detached restroom building for the spray park or selling the Recreation Center. The conceptual estimate of cost for the renovations was estimated at $550,000 (2017 estimate). The conceptual cost of building a new restroom building was $40,000 (2017 estimate). The Optimization Plan identified that the Recreation Center is in fair condition and has a lot of space, but it is very underutilized because of its location.

The Recreation Center, pool, and surrounding hardscape would benefit from improvement. The benefits of the improvements include potential higher use as a community amenity and/or a revenue generator, increased variety of programs, and increased accessibility.



Existing sloped lawn and paths

Existing access to pool from playground

Existing access to Recreation Center

Existing playground

Existing seating and paths

Existing playground

Existing Virginia Avenue entrance

Existing community garden

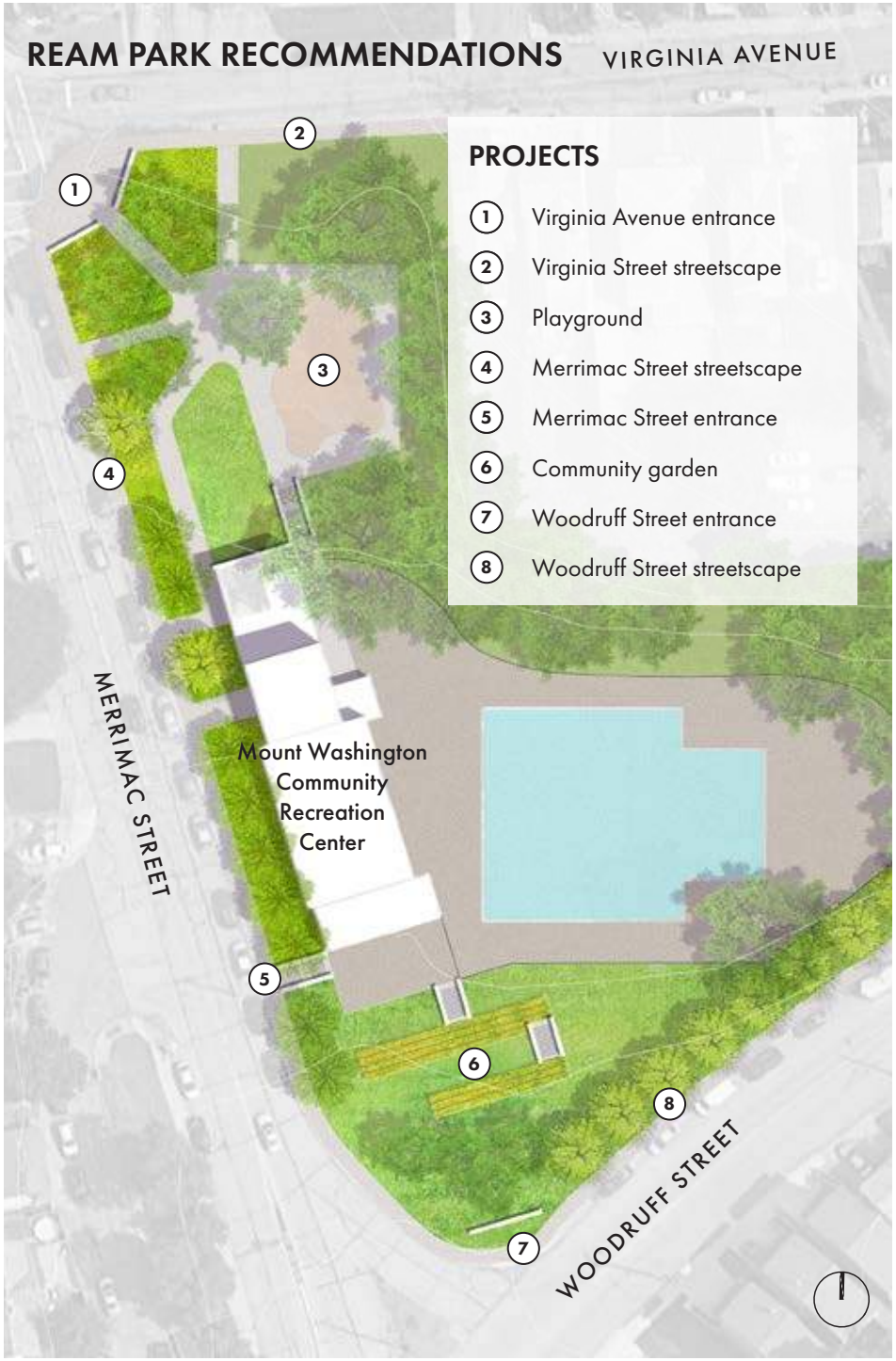
Existing streetscape

REAM PARK COMMUNITY INPUT + OBSERVATIONS

Community Input

Site specific community input was gathered during Master Plan public workshops and focus group meetings. The focus group meetings allowed for smaller group discussions on specific needs for individual parks.

REAM PARK RECOMMENDATIONS



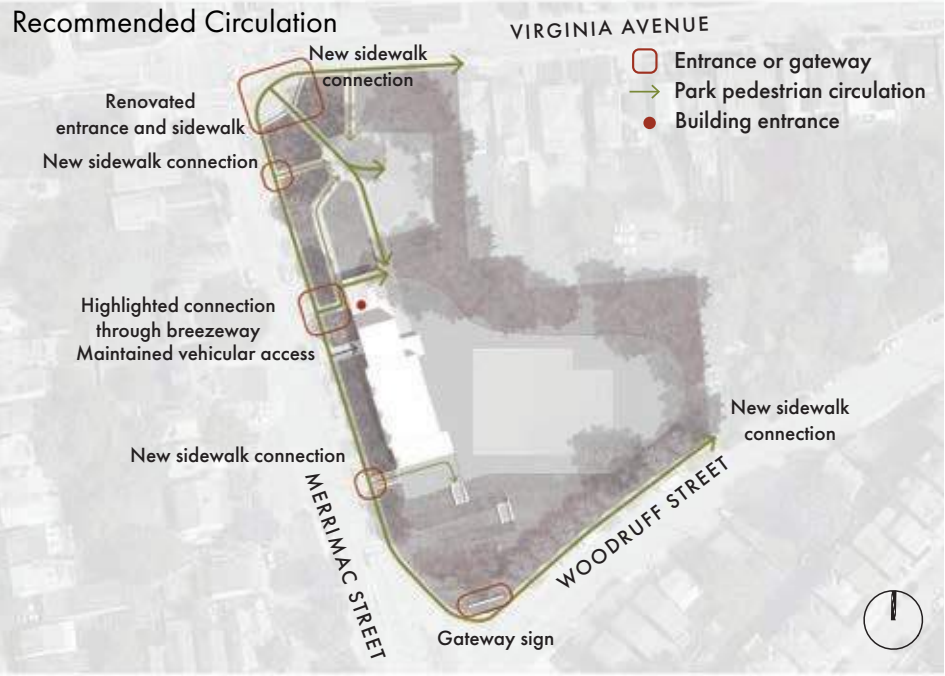
PROJECTS

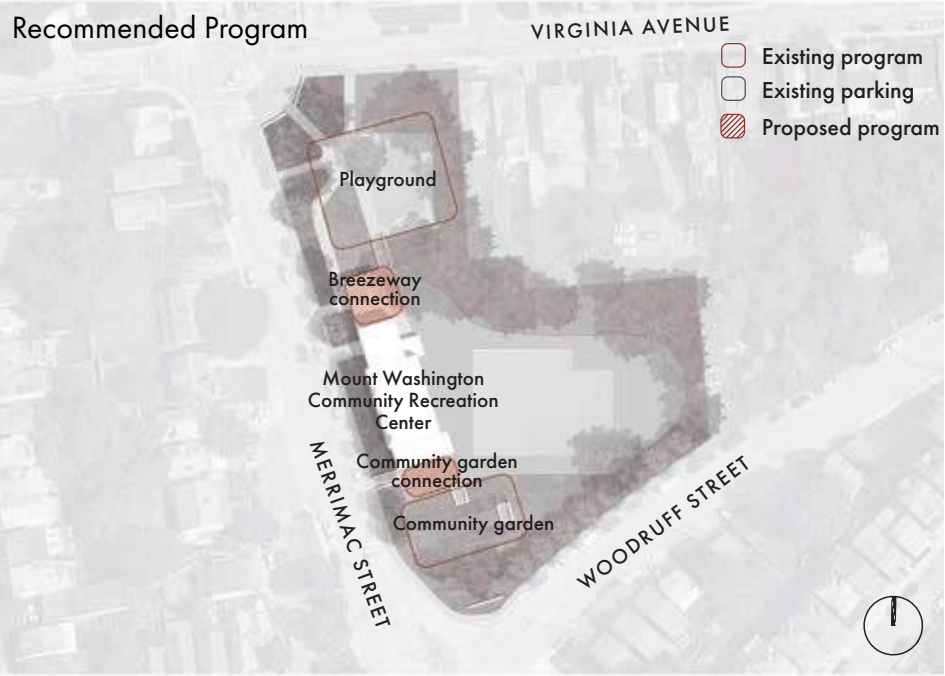
1. Virginia Avenue entrance
2. Virginia Street streetscape
3. Playground
4. Merrimac Street streetscape
5. Merrimac Street entrance
6. Community garden
7. Woodruff Street entrance
8. Woodruff Street streetscape

Recommendations

The *Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan* recommends a series of park improvements as described below. For further detail on project phasing and implementation, see Phasing + Implementation, page 173.

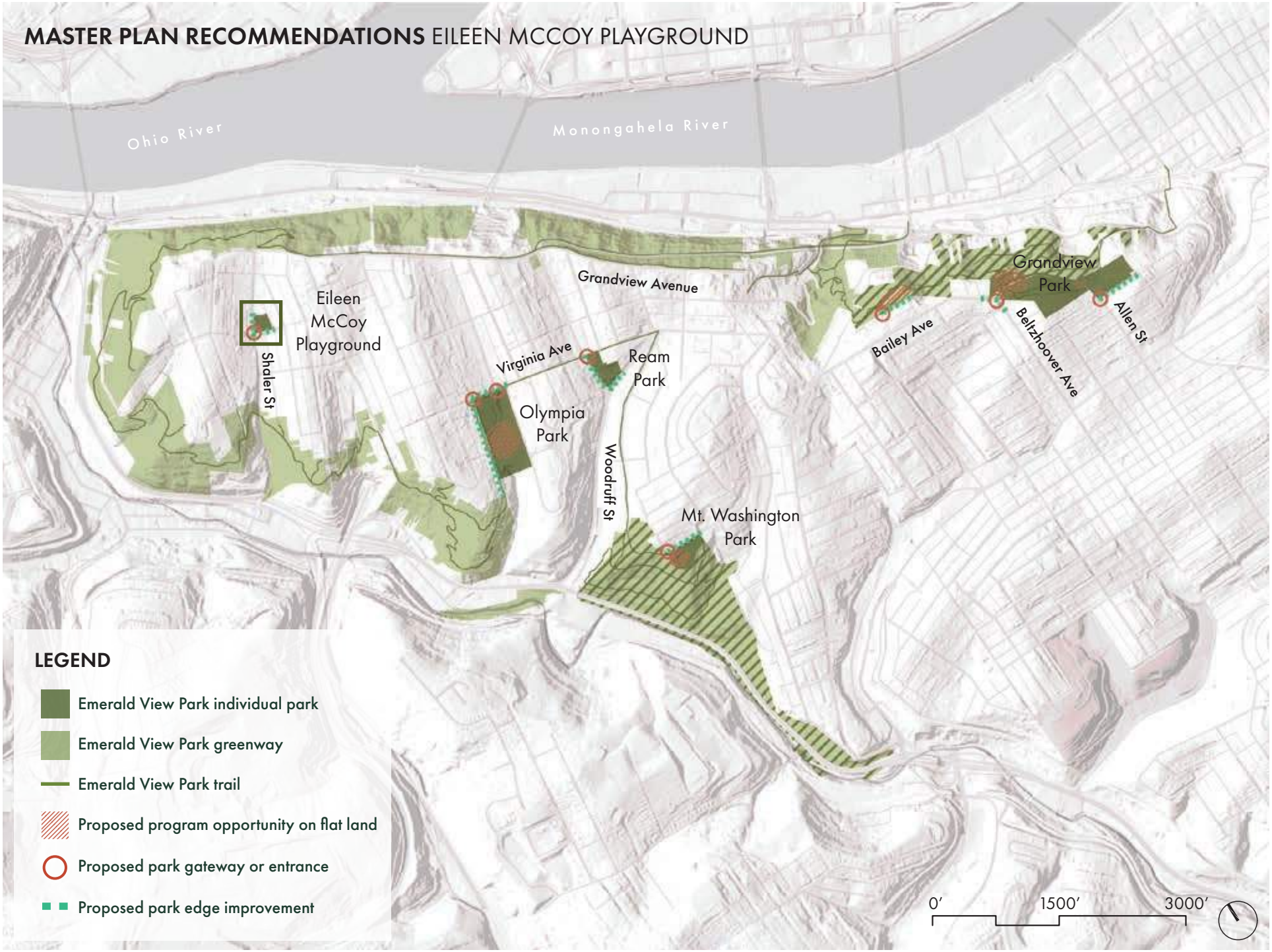
1. Virginia Avenue entrance - Improve with new concrete paving, new stone walls, regional park signage and better connections to park circulation.
2. Virginia Street streetscape - Renovate concrete sidewalks with underground utilities (as possible) and street trees.
3. Playground - Update playground equipment, include new surfacing, and site furniture.
4. Merrimac Street streetscape - Renovate concrete sidewalks with underground utilities (as possible) and street trees.
5. Merrimac Street entrance - Introduce new steps to provide additional access to the pool and the community garden.
6. Community garden - Renovate with better circulation, new paths and steps, and new raised planting beds.
7. Woodruff Street entrance - Introduce new gateway signage, trees, and planting.
8. Woodruff Street streetscape - Renovate concrete sidewalks with underground utilities (as possible) and street trees.





EILEEN MCCOY
PLAYGROUND
Duquesne
Heights

MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS EILEEN MCCOY PLAYGROUND



EILEEN MCCOY PLAYGROUND

Eileen McCoy Playground, located in the Duquesne Heights neighborhood at the intersection of Shaler Street and Greenleaf Street, is one of Emerald View Park's small neighborhood parks. The park is currently home to playgrounds, a splash pad, swings, half basketball court, and a deck hockey court.

History

The land that is now the Eileen McCoy Playground sits on former hillside farmland owned by the Shaler family. In the 1930s, this small park was left open to become a future playground, which is now named after Eileen McCoy, a Duquesne Heights resident. The playground has several different play structures, courts, and a water spray feature for children to explore.

Existing Conditions

Eileen McCoy Playground's main entrance is located along Shaler Street. A secondary vehicular entrance is located on Greenleaf Street.

The majority of the park is dedicated to playground equipment. Some playground equipment has been replaced recently but the spray fountain, site amenities, and deck hockey court are in disrepair. A sloped lawn at the intersection of Shaler Street and Greenleaf Street is underutilized and could be used for picnicking, gathering, or gateway signage. Greenleaf Street lacks a sidewalk. Access to the park is hard to navigate on foot. Existing wooden steps connect Greenleaf Street and could be replaced to make a safer connection to the playground.

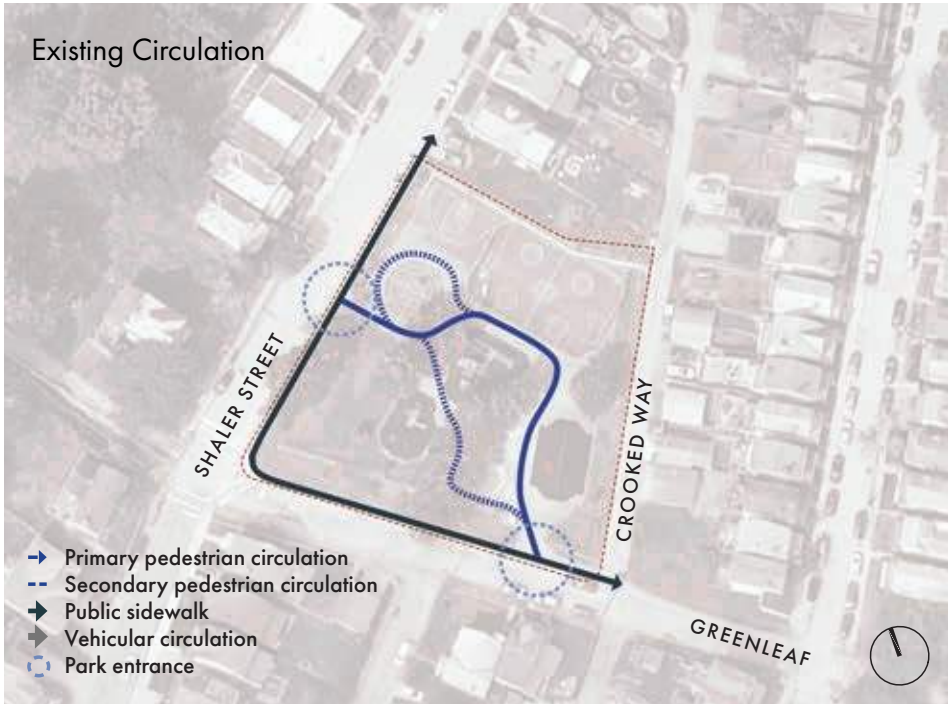
Eileen McCoy Playground tree planting

Eileen McCoy Playground tree planting

Recommendations

The *Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan* recommends a series of park improvements as described below. For further detail on project phasing and implementation, see Phasing + Implementation, page 173.

1. Shaler Street streetscape - Streetscape improvements include renovated concrete sidewalks with underground utilities (as possible) and street trees.
2. Shaler Street entrance - Entrance improvements include stone site walls, new paving, site furniture, and new regional park signage.
3. Gateway sign - Improvements include new gateway signage, trees, and planting.
4. Basketball court - Improvements include expansion of the existing half basketball court with new surfacing and equipment.
5. Picnic area - The picnic area improvements include new lawn planting and site furniture including picnic tables.
6. Deck hockey court - Improvements include renovation of the deck hockey court with new surfacing, fencing, and site furniture.
7. Playground - Playground improvements include updated playground equipment, new surfacing, and site furniture.
8. Greenleaf entrance - Entrance improvements include new stone site walls, new paving, site furniture, and new regional park signage.
9. Greenleaf streetscape - Streetscape improvements include renovated concrete sidewalks with underground utilities (as possible) and street trees.



Existing Greenleaf Street entrance

Existing Greenleaf Street entrance

Existing court

Existing playground

Existing play equipment

Existing play equipment

Existing play equipment

Existing court

Existing Greenleaf Street streetscape

EILEEN MCCOY PLAYGROUND COMMUNITY INPUT + OBSERVATIONS

Community Input

Site specific community input was gathered during Master Plan public workshops and focus group meetings. The focus group meetings allowed for smaller group discussions on specific needs for individual parks.

EILEEN MCCOY PLAYGROUND RECOMMENDATIONS

PROJECTS

1. Shaler Street streetscape
2. Shaler Street entrance
3. Gateway
4. Basketball court
5. Picnic area
6. Deck hockey court
7. Playground
8. Greenleaf entrance
9. Greenleaf streetscape

Recommended Circulation
SHALER STREET
CROOKED WAY
GREENLEAF STREET
Renovated entrance
Renovated steps
Gateway sign and renovated sidewalk
Renovated entrance
Entrance or gateway
Park pedestrian circulation

Recommended Program
SHALER STREET
CROOKED WAY
GREENLEAF STREET
Extended basketball court
Renovated deck hockey court
Picnic space
Playground
Existing program
Proposed program

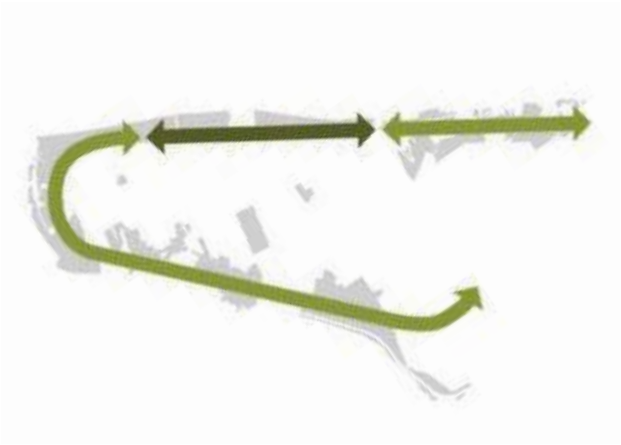
RECOMMENDATIONS

GOAL 2

GRANDVIEW AVENUE

GOAL 2 | GRANDVIEW AVENUE

Elevate and enhance the park's identity as a regional destination



Grandview Avenue is Emerald View Park's regional destination. As part of the Grand View Scenic Byway, it is a local, regional and national asset. Originally paved as a road in the late 1800s, Grandview Avenue, along with P.J. McArdle Roadway and East Sycamore Street, received designation as a State Scenic Byway from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 2003. With stunning views of Downtown Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh's three rivers, and the city's surrounding landscape, Grandview Avenue is one of the city's most memorable streets. As the city's front porch, Grandview draws tourists and residents alike.

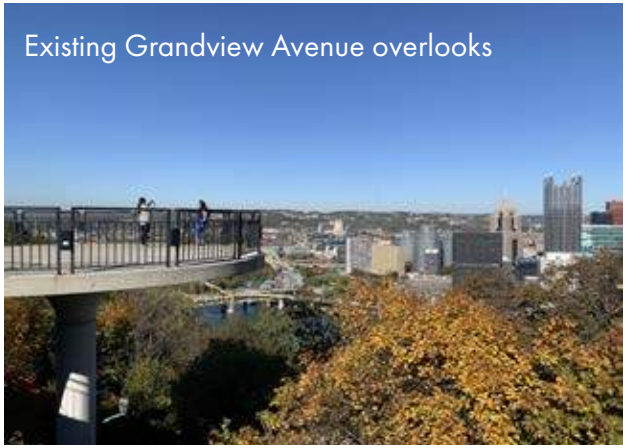
This section of the Emerald View Master Plan includes recommendations for strategies along Grandview Avenue to continue to elevate and enhance the park's identity as a regional destination.

Expand the Grandview Avenue Experience from East to West

Grandview Avenue is enjoyed by many but the visitor experience has the potential to be expanded. Grandview Avenue has a strong association with many community focused events throughout the year, giving the avenue a reputation as a memorable place in the city. Already a popular destination for city visitors, the corridor is rich in amenities including restaurants with city views, the inclines, the public library, and the business districts.

These amenities and recent renovations along Grandview Avenue, however, are not consistent along the entire length of the avenue and are not well connected as a cohesive pedestrian experience. Investment in the streetscape and renovation of overlooks is ongoing along Grandview Avenue's eastern end. Grandview Avenue's central core and western end suffer from poor streetscape conditions and pedestrian comfort should be improved.

Renovations are planned for the existing Grandview Avenue overlooks along Grandview Avenue's eastern end. Investment in the renovation of the Point of View statue as an updated overlook is recommended. An expanded platform, additional seating, viewing areas, planting, paving, lighting, and trailhead signage is recommended.


Existing Grandview Avenue overlooks

Improve the pedestrian experience of Grandview Avenue

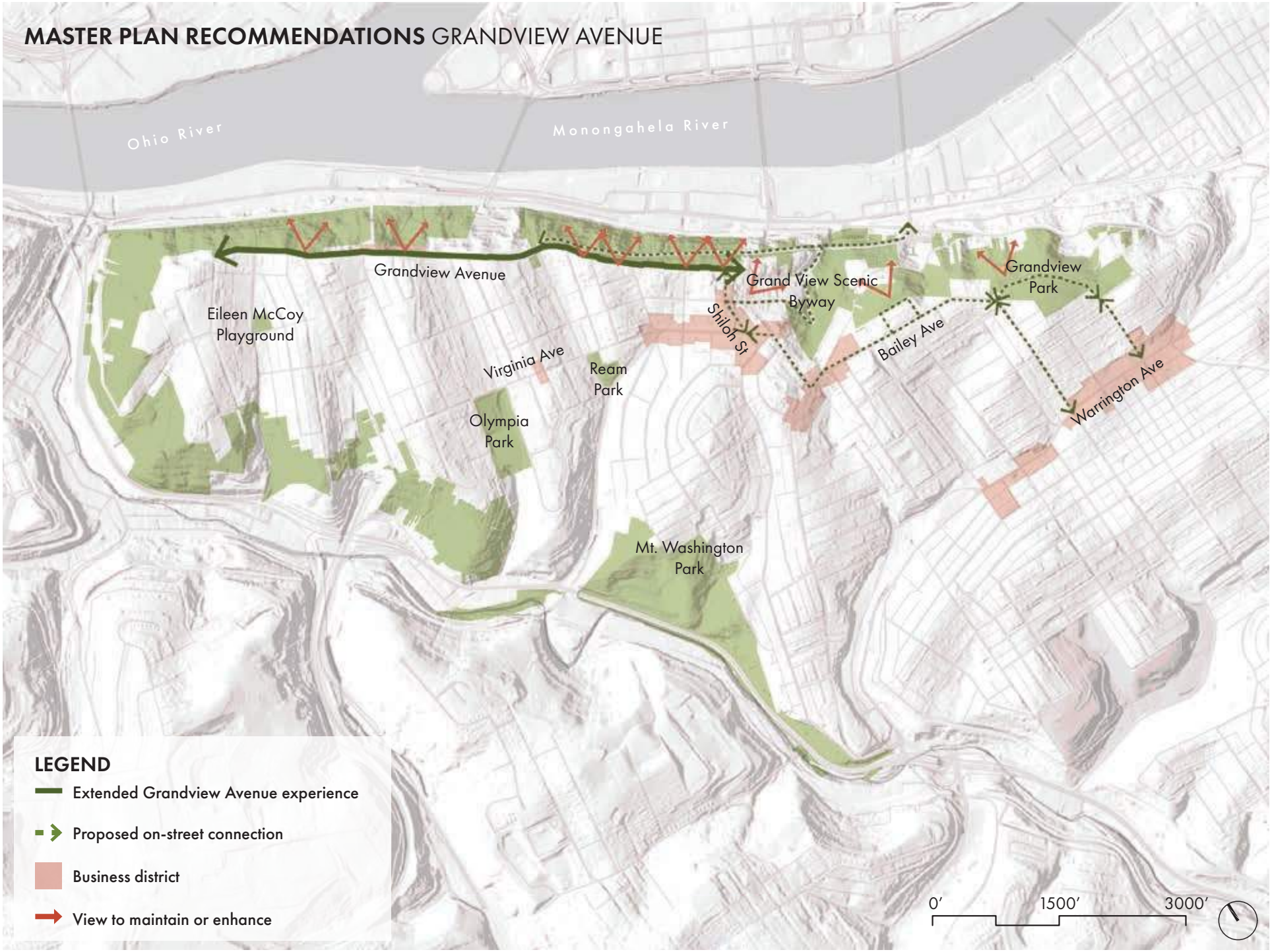
The Master Plan recommends expanding the Grandview Avenue experience to include streetscape improvements along the entirety of the avenue to improve the pedestrian experience. Currently vehicular lanes are wide, sidewalks are narrow, and shade is limited. Streetscape improvement recommendations include reduced vehicular travel lanes, specialty paving, clearly defined crosswalks, wider sidewalks, underground utility lines, repaired historic railings, and street trees where trees would not conflict with desired views.

Promote connections to business districts

Grandview Avenue benefits from close proximity to multiple business districts including Shiloh Street and "Restaurant Row" within central core of Grandview Avenue between Meridan Street and Oneida Street. Continued promotion of connections to the business districts is recommended. Streetscape improvements, gateways, signage, and programming to link Grandview Avenue to its business districts are recommended.

Additional connections through Emerald View Park to adjacent neighborhood business districts are recommended. Streetscape and wayfinding improvements to connect Grandview Avenue to the Bailey Avenue business district

MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS GRANDVIEW AVENUE



and from Grandview Park along Beltzhoover Avenue and Allen Street to Allentown's Warrington Street business district are recommended.

Visualize park identity with regional park signage and unique Emerald View Park wayfinding

Grandview Avenue is a popular destination for residents and visitors alike. However, it is currently unclear that Grandview Avenue and the Grand View Scenic Byway is part of Emerald View Park. A cohesive park identity that incorporates the City's regional park Signage Standards and additional visual cues is recommended. The interpretive sign standard used (and approved by the City of Pittsburgh's Art Commission) for the Grand View Scenic Byway pre-date the City's standards, and will continue to be a unique character element of the Byway, commensurate with other such special locations designated by the Commonwealth. Emerald View Park medallions currently mark specific points along Grandview Avenue but the medallions are often easy to miss. Additional visual cues, including a trail of green bricks and interpretive signage could create a easily identifiable route along Grandview Avenue and within Emerald View Parks individual parks.

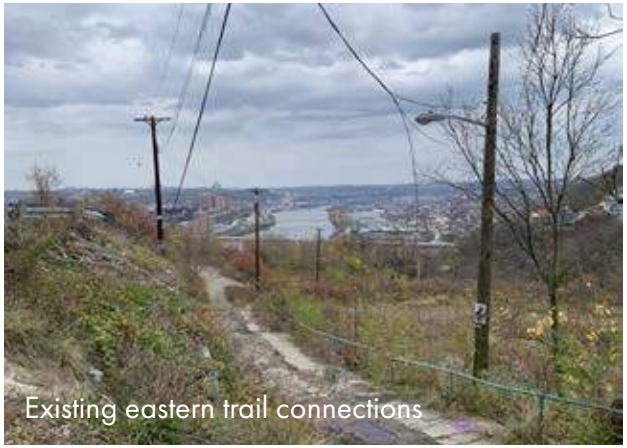
Connect Grandview Avenue to the larger trail network

The western and eastern ends of Grandview Avenue currently provide access to Emerald View Park's expansive trail network. However, the trailheads are not prominently marked and are difficult to find. There is opportunity to attract a larger, broader audience to the trail system as a regional destination. Trailhead renovations, including updated signage, site walls, native planting, and trail materials would define entrances and provide safer access to the trails.

Existing eastern overlooks

Existing Shiloh Street gateway

Existing eastern trail connections


Existing eastern trail connections

Existing Point of View statue

Existing western trail connections

GRANDVIEW AVENUE

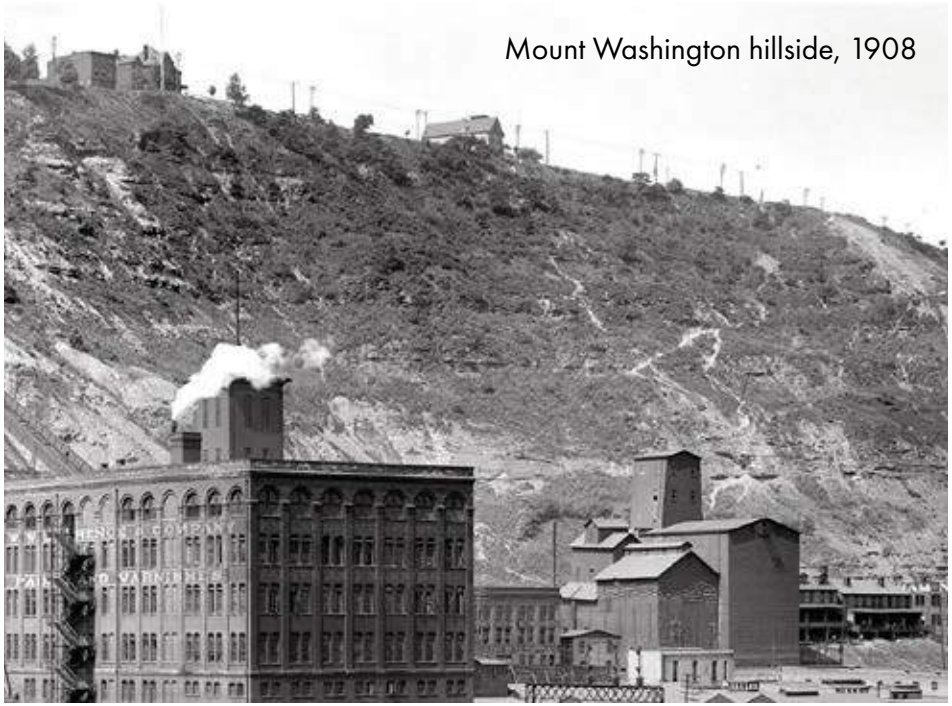
History

For its first fifty years, Grandview Avenue served as a neighborhood street, used by workers to access the inclines for mill, mine, and railroad jobs on the river. Houses faced the street, not the city, because the city view was obscured by smoke from the prosperous mills. Grandview Avenue was first paved in 1890. Decades later, as the industrial boom declined in the City of Pittsburgh, the smog cleared along Grandview Avenue showcasing the views of Downtown and the city's three rivers. In the 1950s, Grandview Overlook Park was established when the railroad donated land to the City with a deed restriction for the park's creation. The park's 50 acres provided the famous urban vista that earned a Pennsylvania State Scenic Byway designation in 2003.

Federal highway funds were used in 1963 to develop the eastern end of Grandview Avenue into a tourist destination, including restoration of the Monongahela Incline at the eastern most edge. These funds were also used to build the four observation platforms and install new lighting, fencing, park benches and street trees. The western end of Grandview Avenue was later improved to include the restoration of the Duquesne Incline and the installation of the Point of View statue. The hardscape renovation around the statue and installation of interpretive signage and sitting stones was completed in 2014.

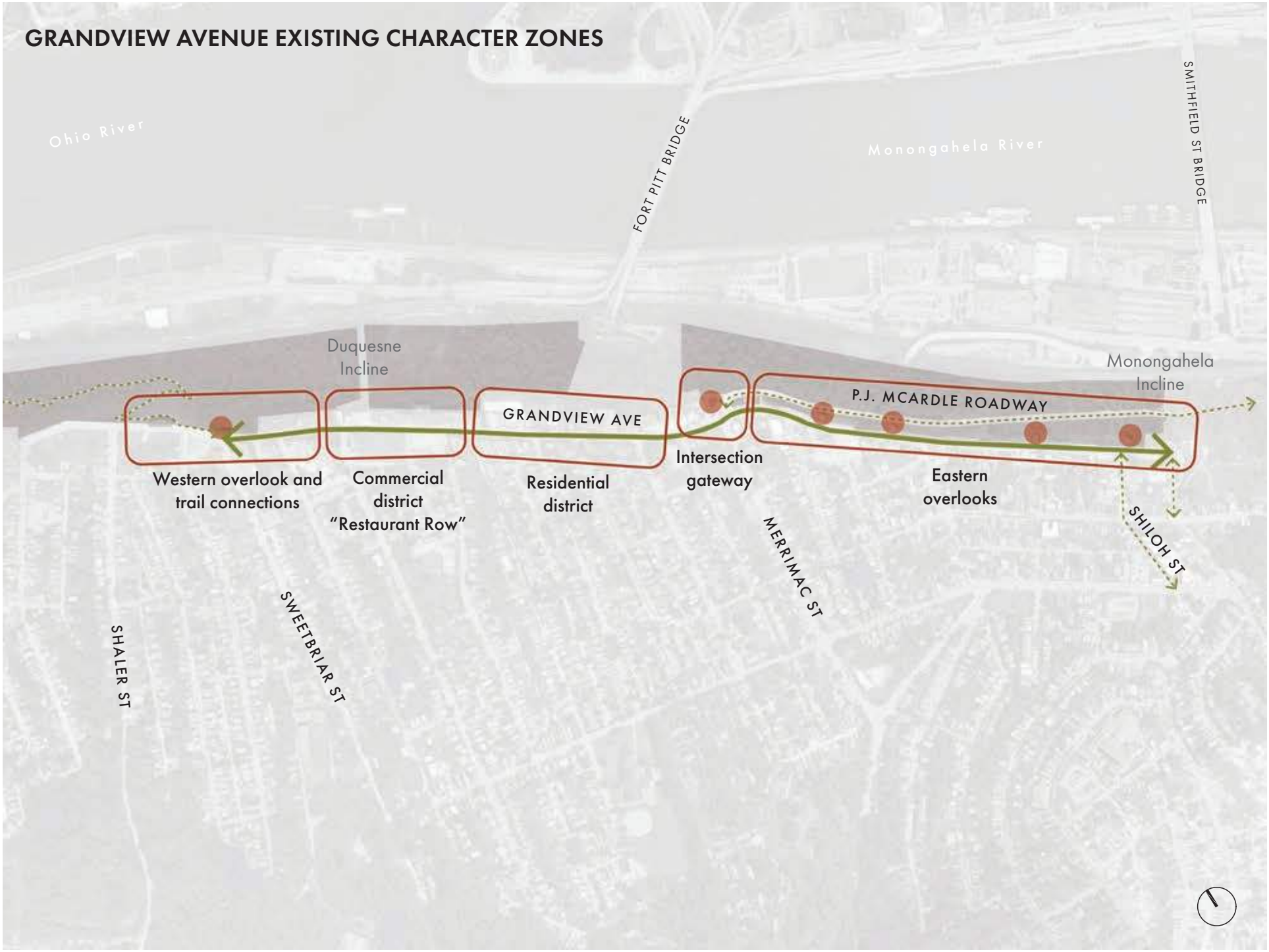
In 2019, the City of Pittsburgh's Department of Mobility and Infrastructure (DOMI) renovated three sections of elevated sidewalks along Grandview Avenue. The projects included replacing of the deteriorated precast concrete beams with new precast concrete. The Grandview Avenue overlooks are slated for renovated by DOMI and will include the rehabilitation of the four overlooks, painting of railings, minor repairing of concrete walls adjacent to the parking bumpouts, and new light poles along Grandview Avenue's western end.

Grandview Avenue overlook construction, 1967



Mount Washington hillside, 1908

GRANDVIEW AVENUE EXISTING CHARACTER ZONES



Eastern overlooks

Eastern overlooks

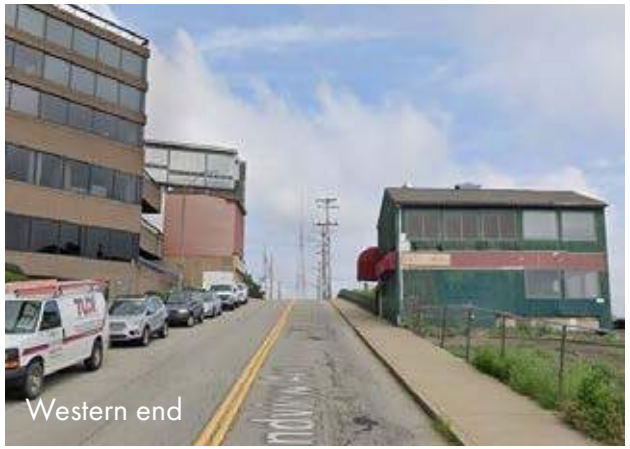
P.J. McArdle Intersection/gateway

Residential district

Residential district

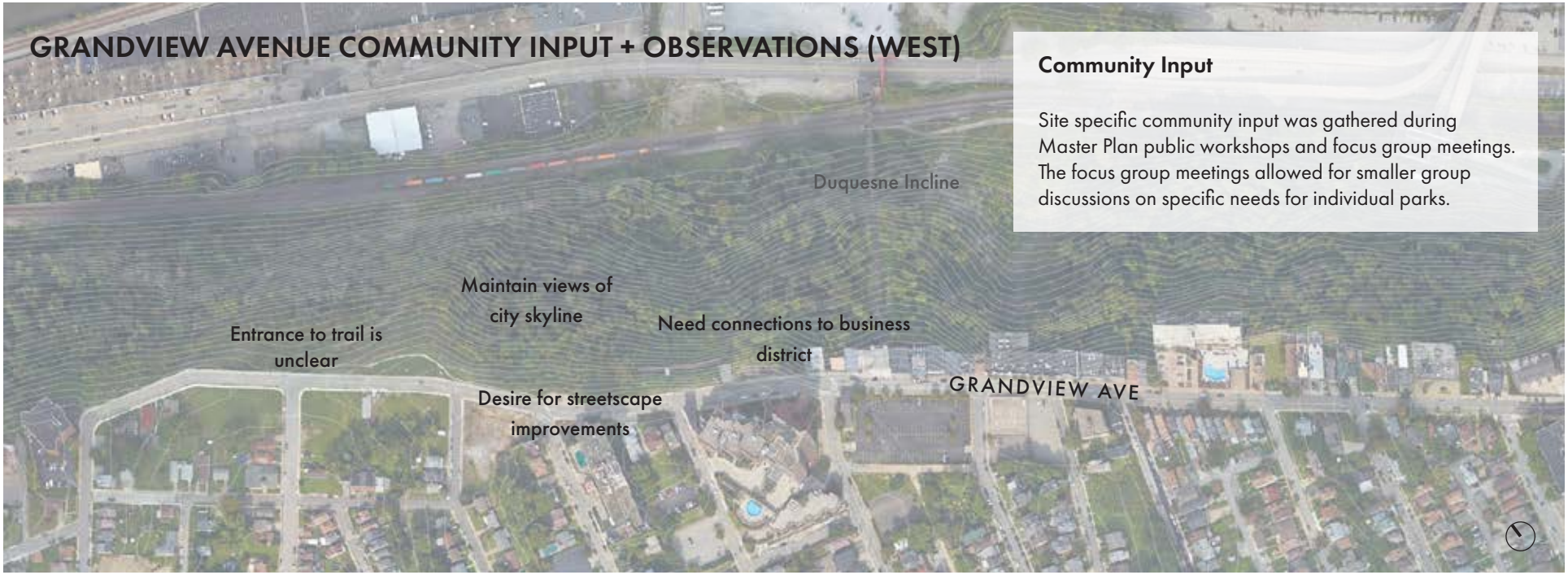
Commercial district

Commercial district


Western end

Western overlook

GRANDVIEW AVENUE COMMUNITY INPUT + OBSERVATIONS (WEST)



Community Input

Site specific community input was gathered during Master Plan public workshops and focus group meetings. The focus group meetings allowed for smaller group discussions on specific needs for individual parks.

Existing streetscape

Existing Point of View Statue

GRANDVIEW AVENUE COMMUNITY INPUT + OBSERVATIONS (EAST)

Existing streetscape

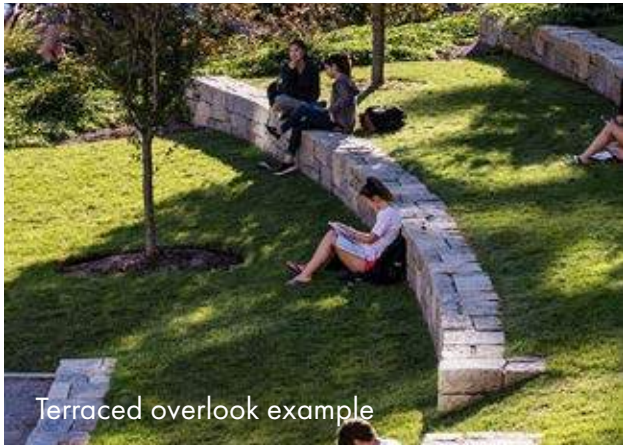
Existing streetscape

PROJECTS

1. Point of View statue overlook
2. Trailhead
3.
3. Grandview Avenue West streetscape
4. Grandview Avenue Central streetscape

Overlook example

Trail material example


Terraced overlook example

GRANDVIEW AVENUE RECOMMENDATIONS (EAST)

PROJECTS

4. Grandview Avenue Central streetscape
5. P.J. McArdle Roadway gateway plaza
6. Grandview Avenue East streetscape

Streetscape example

Visual identity example

Visual identity example

Existing Grandview Avenue West streetscape

Recommendations

The *Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan* recommends a series of improvements as described below. For further detail on project phasing and implementation, see Phasing + Implementation, page 173.

1. Point of View statue overlook - Renovation of the Point of View statue overlook includes an expanded plaza overlook with new concrete unit pavers, stone walls, seating, site furniture, and plantings.
2. Trailhead - The renovated trailhead includes new site walls and signage to clearly identify the trailhead beyond the Point of View Statue overlook.
3. Grandview Avenue West streetscape - Streetscape improvements include renovated, widened sidewalks with underground utilities (as possible) and an Emerald View Park green brick inlay, street trees (located where city views are not obscured), restored historic fencing, custom site furniture, improved crosswalks, and updated lighting. Two material options are shown on the following pages.
4. Grandview Avenue Central streetscape - Streetscape improvements include renovated, widened sidewalks with underground utilities (as possible) and an Emerald View Park green brick inlay, street trees (located where city views are not obscured), restored historic fencing, custom site furniture, improved crosswalks, and updated lighting. Two material options are shown on the following pages.
5. P.J. McArdle Roadway gateway plaza - Gateway plaza improvements include new seating, planting, regional park signage, and guard rails.
6. Grandview Avenue East streetscape - Streetscape improvements include renovated, widened sidewalks with underground utilities (as possible) and an Emerald View Park green brick inlay, street trees (located where city views are not obscured), restored historic fencing, custom site furniture, improved crosswalks, and updated lighting. Two material options are shown on the following pages.

PROPOSED STREETSCAPE GRANDVIEW AVENUE (WEST) - OPTION 1

PROPOSED STREETSCAPE GRANDVIEW AVENUE (WEST) - OPTION 2

Existing Grandview Avenue East streetscape

PROPOSED STREETSCAPE GRANDVIEW AVENUE (EAST) - OPTION 1
Street furniture
Repaired fencing
Improved crosswalks
Widened sidewalks with new paving and Emerald View green brick wayfinding
Managed views
(see Ecology strategies page 167)

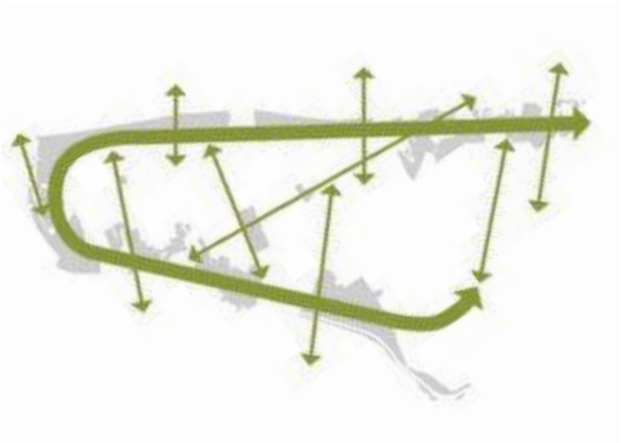
PROPOSED STREETSCAPE GRANDVIEW AVENUE (EAST) - OPTION 2
Improved streetscape
Street furniture
Repaired fencing
Widened sidewalks with flush curbs, new paving and Emerald View green brick wayfinding
Managed views
(see Ecology strategies page 167)

RECOMMENDATIONS

GOAL 3
TRAILS + CONNECTIONS

GOAL 3 | TRAILS + CONNECTIONS

Connect individual features into a safe and accessible park system



Emerald View Park's trail network is a hidden gem in the City of Pittsburgh. Because Emerald View Park consists of mostly steep slopes with little to no flat grades, the primary way to enjoy the park is via its trails. Emerald View Park's trails include the Duquesne Heights Greenway trails, trails through the Saddle, and trails connected to Olympia Park, Grandview Park, and Mt. Washington Park. Most of the dominant trails within Emerald View Park are in good condition. Community stewards of the park have provided maintenance and ongoing improvements over the years.

This section of the Emerald View Master Plan includes recommendations for trail and connection strategies to connect individual features into a safe and accessible park system. These recommendations build off of the recommendations from the 2010 Emerald View Park Trail Plan.

Connect missing links in trail networks

While many miles of trails have been added to Emerald View Park in recent years, there are still gaps in the trail network. The Master Plan recommends connecting those missing links in order to finalize a cohesive trail network across the park.

One area of particular focus is the Saddle, the region of the park connecting Grandview Avenue, Bigbee Field, and Grandview Park. Between Wyoming Street and East Sycamore Street (location of the former Vinecliff Steps), the Saddle trail is fragmented by private and abandoned properties. Maintaining easements for trail access on private property is recommended in this location. As private development pressures continue on this land, the Mount Washington Community Development Corporation (MWCDC) and other advocacy organizations should continue to advocate for public access in community development agreements. Between East Sycamore Street and Bigbee Field, the Saddle trails appear to be highly used and in need of maintenance. A crosswalk and clear trailheads with signage on both sides of East Sycamore is recommended.

An additional missing trail link is located between Mt. Washington Park and Olympia Park across Woodruff Street and through Chatham Village's private property. The Master Plan recommends working in partnership with Chatham Village to allow trail access through the property to fully connect the trail system between two of the park's most valuable assets.

Establish stronger park connections through neighborhoods

Today, Emerald View Park's trail network follows the park's steep hillsides along the outer edges of the park. This Master Plan recommends locations for strategic on-street urban trails to additionally connect across Duquesne Heights, Mount Washington, and Allentown neighborhoods. While these streets are out of the explicit boundaries of Emerald View Park, the perpendicular connections they could provide would allow for greater access to the park and more opportunities for connections through the neighborhoods. Streets for on-street trails were selected based on a selection criteria that included grade change, ability to connect key park destinations, alignment with park entrances or gateways, and proximity to cultural institutions and business districts.

Provide welcoming, regional connections to adjacent neighborhoods

The Master Plan recommends connecting Emerald View Park's trails to adjacent neighborhoods by making welcoming regional connections. Key connections to the West End neighborhood, Seldom Seen Greenway, the Southside, and Station Square are recommended. Physical improvements include streetscape improvements, gateway signage, and pedestrian crossings.

Create stronger connections with neighborhood cultural institutions

The neighborhoods of Emerald View Park benefit from a wide array of cultural institutions including schools, public libraries, and business districts. The Master Plan recommends the inclusion of new trails and urban hiking loops to facilitate stronger connections with these cultural institutions.

MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS TRAILS + CONNECTIONS

Design for accessibility

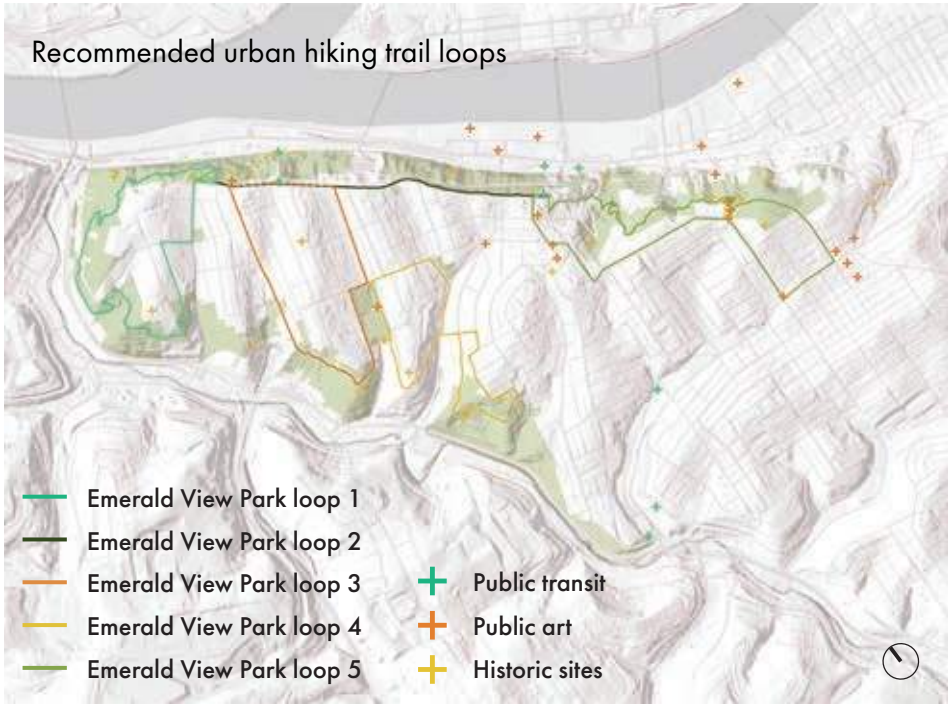
86% of Emerald View Park is on land that is on 25% or steeper slopes. The steep topography necessitates strategic and intentionally planning for the integration of ADA accessible paths and amenities where feasible. The Master Plan recommends the incorporation of ADA accessible paths, trails, entrances, and parking where possible, prioritizing parking and access to key trailheads. Although most trails are not accessible due to existing challenging topography, trailheads with seating and gathering areas should be designed to be accessible.

Define trailheads and crossings

Most trailheads in Emerald View Park are located at the ends of neighborhood streets. Improved signage and clear trailheads would increase park usage. The Master Plan assessed each trailhead within Emerald View Park. Thoughtfully designed landscapes utilizing native tree and shrub species for low maintenance plantings near trailheads would create intentional and inviting trailheads that are clearly branded as entrances to Emerald View Park. Incorporation of stone walls, gathering spaces, parking (where necessary), wayfinding, and unique seasonal plantings are recommended.

Because trailheads are often located at the ends of neighborhood streets and co-located with utility ROWs, the trailheads also present corridors for invasive species into the park. Invasive species are thus present near many trailheads and are often dense enough to make the trailhead uninviting. Trailheads should be a targeted area for invasive species control (including replanting) because they present invasion corridors and in many cases effective control can be achieved in a relatively well defined area. Because trailheads are often collocated with utility rights of way, multiple objectives can be combined, such as providing pollinator habitat.

In addition to trailhead improvements, trail crossings over major roads are in need of improvements. Steep slopes and lack of clear signage or direction currently create dangerous crossings for trail users on East Sycamore Street



and Shaler Street. Trail crossing recommendations include vegetation clearing to provide clear lines of sight for drivers, pedestrian crossing markings, signage, and defined trailhead markers with stones or walls.

Improve trail materials for a variety of uses

Generally Emerald View Park's trails are in good condition and are maintained by volunteers, park rangers, and the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy in partnership with Landforce (when grant funding allows). There are opportunities to improve or restore trail materials for a variety of uses including hiking, mountain biking, cross country running. Building off of the recommendations in the 2010 Emerald View Park Trail Master Plan, OpenSpacePGH, and the City's Greenways for Pittsburgh Resource Guide, trail widths and materials should be determined by trail slope and proximity to seeps and streams. Integration of boulders, wood decking, and wooden railings to stabilize trail edges, create seating areas, and provide safe stream/seep crossings are recommended. The Emerald View Park Trail Master Plan should be referenced for further detail regarding trail surfacing and sustainability standards and recommendations.

Design urban hiking loops to highlight history and public art

Emerald View Park is home to miles of hiking trails through steep greenways and hillside forests. In addition to improving and expanding access in the wilder areas of the park, the Master Plan recommends adding urban hiking loops to the trail network. The urban hiking loops include on-street trails and park trails and are strategically aligned to highlight neighborhood history, culture, and public art.

Connect park to public transportation hubs

Emerald View Park benefits from close proximity to a variety of public infrastructure transportation types: inclines, buses, light rail, bike share, bike lanes. The Master Plan recommends adding on-street and park trails to provide more convenient and comfortable access to public transportation hubs including the Duquesne and Monongahela Inclines, bus lines, and the South Hills Junction T stop.

Develop parking strategy

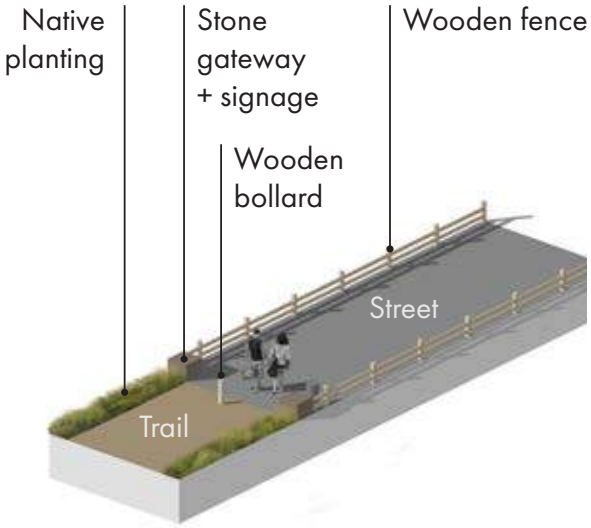
The Master Plan recommends improvements to trailhead parking in addition to renovations of existing parking lots in individual parks. Expansion or clarification of parking areas would increase park usage. Green infrastructure techniques could be used when updating or adding new parking areas.

Existing Lizardi Way trailhead

Existing Shaler Street trail crossing

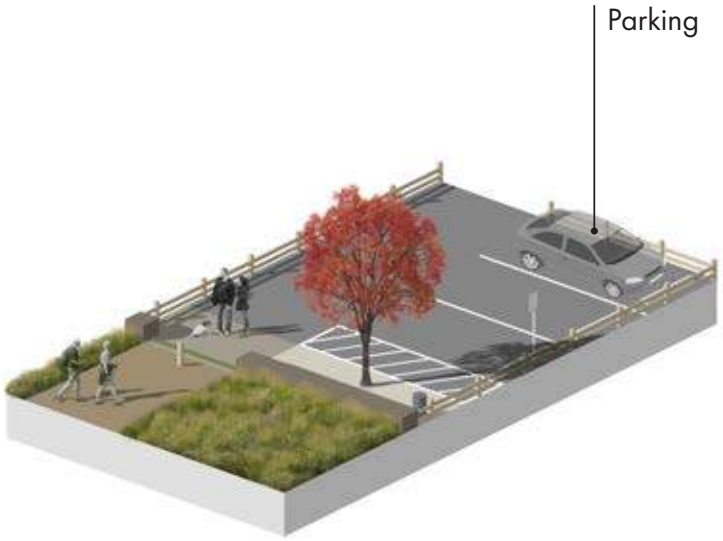
Existing E. Sycamore Street trail crossing

PROPOSED TRAILHEAD OPTIONS



Typical trailhead

Typical trailhead
with gathering space



Typical trailhead
with gathering space + parking

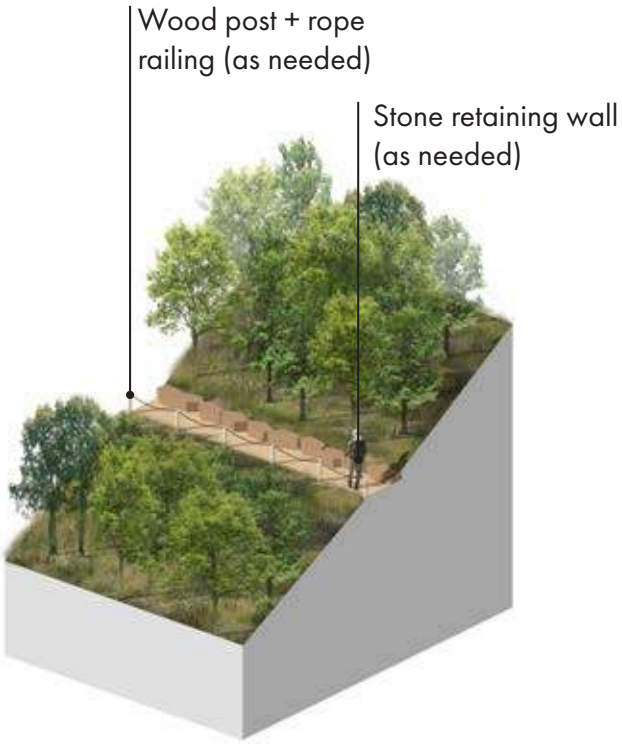
Trailhead example

Trailhead example

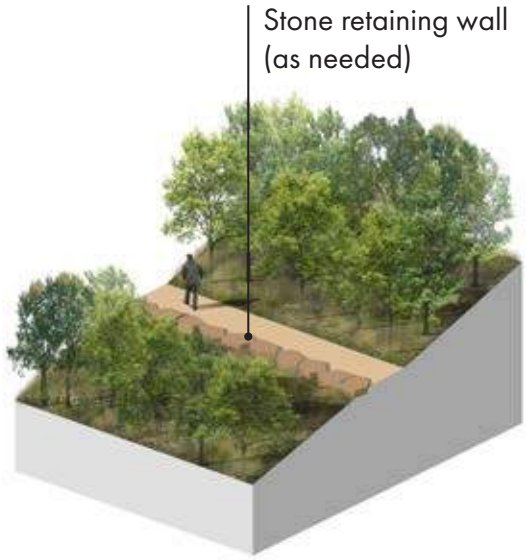
Trailhead example

PROPOSED TRAILHEAD
Native planting and invasive species management (see Ecology strategies page 167)
Wooden bollard to prevent vehicular access
New stone gateway and wooden fence

PROPOSED TRAIL MATERIALS



Advanced Trail (<20% slope)



Intermediate Trail (5-10%)

Easy Trail (0-5%)

Trail material example

Trail material example

Trail material example

PROPOSED TRAIL MATERIALS

Stepping Stone Trail

Wood Boardwalk Trail

Sidewalk Trail with Stormwater Management
(see Ecology strategies page 167)

Trail material example

Trail material example

Trail material example

RECOMMENDATIONS
GOAL 4
ECOLOGY

GOAL 4 | ECOLOGY

Maximize the park's ecological performance

Emerald View Park is an extensive ecological resource for the City of Pittsburgh. The park manages stormwater, filters air pollution, and maintains habitat for local flora and fauna. Many efforts in recent years have included projects to maximize the ecological performance of the park. Ecologically focused initiatives include innovative approaches to managing stormwater, soils, wildlife habitat and planting, in addition to the responsible use of regional materials for site work. The Master Plan aims to continue this work and strategically align any future investment in ecological resources with placemaking aspirations. To maximize the park's ecological performance, the Master Plan layers multiple benefits within each recommendation. Ecological strategies and their locations were based on their ability to be co-designed to include benefits to trails, parks, recreation, and placemaking.

Manage stormwater and abandoned mine drainage (AMD) in parks

There are a number of existing conditions of Emerald View Parks surrounding context that drive the development of a stormwater strategy for the park. Concerns about water infiltration as it relates to abandoned mine drainage and potential landslides are a primary concern. The steep topography is another. The presence of subsurface drainage infrastructure, and limited opportunities to direct water flowing downhill into the park spaces is yet another. Incorporation of bioswales and rain gardens with native plants and educational signage into park landscape improvement projects is recommended. Due to park's history with abandoned mine drainage and undermining, designing the green infrastructure to slow down peak flows during rain events with weirs and surface detention as opposed to infiltration is required.

There are opportunities to use funds for stormwater management—with the aim of reducing the contaminated water overflowing into rivers and streams from combined stormwater and sewer system—to upgrade the park spaces while storing stormwater. For example, park recreational facilities in the anchor parks, such as the baseball fields in Olympia Park and Mt. Washington Park, could be upgraded through stormwater funding to accommodate a large amount of runoff. The use of bioswale, rain gardens, or subsurface retention tanks (r-tanks) could be integrated to provide maximum stormwater benefit to a recreational upgrade. These projects must be carefully designed, with underdrains and other engineered features to prevent water infiltration and abandoned mine drainage. However, these are standard techniques that are not difficult to implement.

In addition to incorporating larger stormwater management strategies into renovation projects in the larger anchor parks, the smaller neighborhood parks including Eileen McCoy Playground and Ream Park offer opportunities to redirect stormwater from the streets into playground and court areas area. Redevelopment of basketball courts or hockey decks into a combination court/stormwater facility could manage large amounts of stormwater, and reduce the burden of pipes downstream.

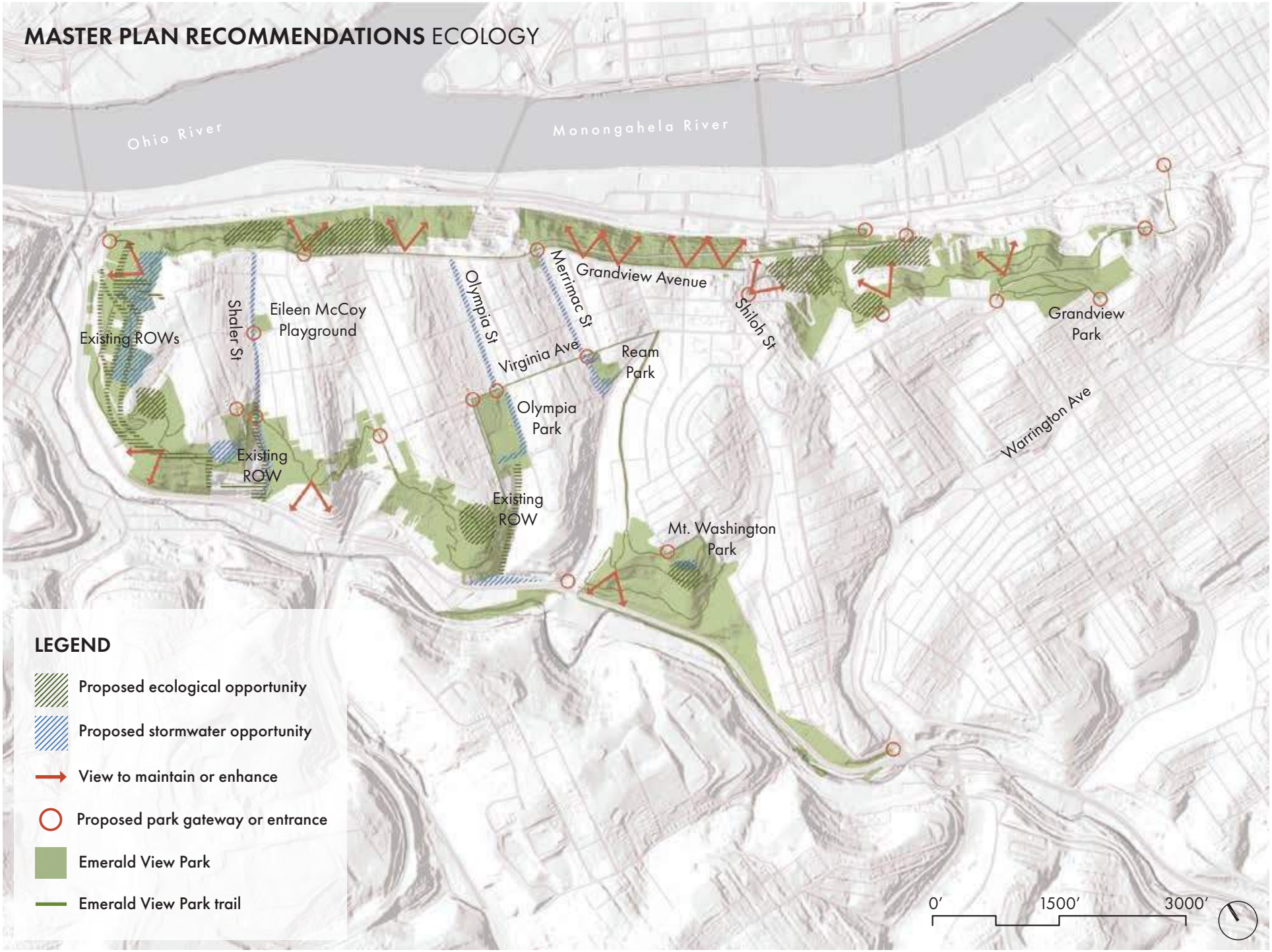
Manage stormwater in streets

The greatest opportunity for stormwater management in the neighborhood may be outside of the limits of the park, and the scope of this plan. Several streets carry large amounts of water down the northern side of the neighborhood into Sawmill Run, through both subsurface and surface channels. The local combined stormwater and sewer system running along Sawmill Run overflows contaminated water into Sawmill Run during heavy rains. There may be an opportunity within the Seldom Seen Greenway on the other side of Sawmill Run Boulevard to capture some of this water, away from abandoned mine drainage and landslide issues.

There are several sites along Sawmill Run that could potentially be prime locations for stormwater management. The area at the foot of Woodruff Street, across Saw Mill Run Boulevard in the land dedicated to the Seldom Seen Greenway is a prime example. This area does not have the issues with abandoned mine drainage, and has open land that could be used to detain and clean water before it enters the storm system. Disconnecting some of the drains upstream would likely be needed.

Another opportunity outside of the park is to capture runoff in the neighborhood streets. There are some opportunities

MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS ECOLOGY



to direct this runoff into park areas, but not all of it can be managed in park spaces. The places where water can be directed to the park from the city streets, underground drainage system, or captured on-site within the park itself could help mitigate some of the larger stormwater issues facing Pittsburgh—including overflow of contaminated water into the river and streams—and the neighborhood. The park areas with programs such as sports fields, playgrounds, and other developed spaces that have been graded offer the easiest opportunities to incorporate stormwater management into the site. The Master Plan recommends the integration of green infrastructure techniques into the neighborhood streetscapes as streets are renovated or repaved. Acknowledging that parking can be perceived as a limited resource, use of permeable pavers in existing parallel parking spot and/or the use of bump out rain gardens are recommended.

Identify locations for forest and habitat restoration

Previous reforestation attempts have been relatively small and in isolated locations. Due to their scale, they have had limited effect in improving forest health and habitat within the park as a whole. A comprehensive, ecological restoration approach is needed to build a scientific foundation that includes invasive species control measures as well as replanting plans.

A large proportion of the park is comprised of an urban forest community, dominated by invasive tree species like Norway maple and tree of heaven. These forests largely lack a suitable understory, limiting their habitat value and reducing their potential to absorb stormwater runoff when compared to a forest with a healthy understory and ground vegetation layers. In parallel with the recommended invasive species control plan, a comprehensive forest stewardship and restoration plan should be developed that considers the long-term sustainability and resilience of the park's forest communities and how they can best be managed to provide multiple benefits such as climate resilience, stormwater attenuation, and wildlife habitat.

One of the few gently sloping areas within Emerald View Park is the result of a large historic landslide near the Duquesne Incline. This area could be cultivated into a pollinator meadow habitat or reforested in tree planting but utilizing this area for new access points, passive recreation, or a shelter is not recommended.

Select plantings to create a unique sense of place

In addition to the close management of invasive species, the selection of new plantings that are reflective of local ecology and culture is recommended. Aligning the ecological goal of using native species with the cultural goal of creating a sense of place could be achieved with native plant palettes that celebrate seasonal leaf color or flowers, unique textures, and elements of surprise.

Balance conservation and viewshed management

Pittsburgh is a rare city whose skyline can be admired from within the city limits. Emerald View Park is uniquely located to offer many scenic overviews of Pittsburgh neighborhoods, including downtown Pittsburgh, Oakland, and the West End; however, many key vistas that were once visible are now obscured by dense vegetation. It is recommended that vegetation, at limited strategic locations, should be managed to maintain important vistas. The goal of the viewshed management recommendations is to focus on removal of invasive tree species and retain native tree species where possible, and to limit the number of trees removed overall.

To improve vistas, trees and tall shrubs should be removed below view lines and replanted with native shrub species that will not grow to a height that would obscure the view in the future. The Master Plan recommends suggested locations to manage views. These suggested locations build off of viewshed management work that has been completed in the past at the Point of View statue, Bigbee Field, and Grandview Park. The suggested locations need detailed review and analysis prior to starting work. Some additional revegetation may be required in certain areas. Planting of shrubs and trees is intended to maintain views by keeping shorter species (e.g., chokeberry) toward the top of slopes, medium tall species (e.g., red buckeye) toward the middle and taller species (e.g., redbud and serviceberry) toward the bottom. The spacings should be approximate and variable, and edges between zones should be blended.

Incorporate educational opportunities

Educational opportunities to teach Emerald View Park users about the ecology of the park are recommended. These opportunities could include interpretive signage, educational programs, and information in park literature (digital and physical).

Manage invasive species

Many woody and herbaceous invasive species were observed in Emerald View Park and different management techniques are required for different species and population densities. Empress tree (Paulownia tomentosa) and kudzu (Pueraria montana) occur in small, isolated locations and should be targeted for immediate eradication as these species could be controlled if action is taken soon. Both species have high potential to threaten forest health if allowed to spread through wide areas of the park. Populations of Norway maple, Japanese knotweed, and oriental bittersweet are extensive throughout Emerald View Park and require well planned control measures. Norway Maple is a dominant tree species within the park in many areas, and cannot be removed en masse without causing widespread deforestation. Strategic removal of individual trees and planting of quick-growing native trees that survive well in urban environments may enable a forest transition.

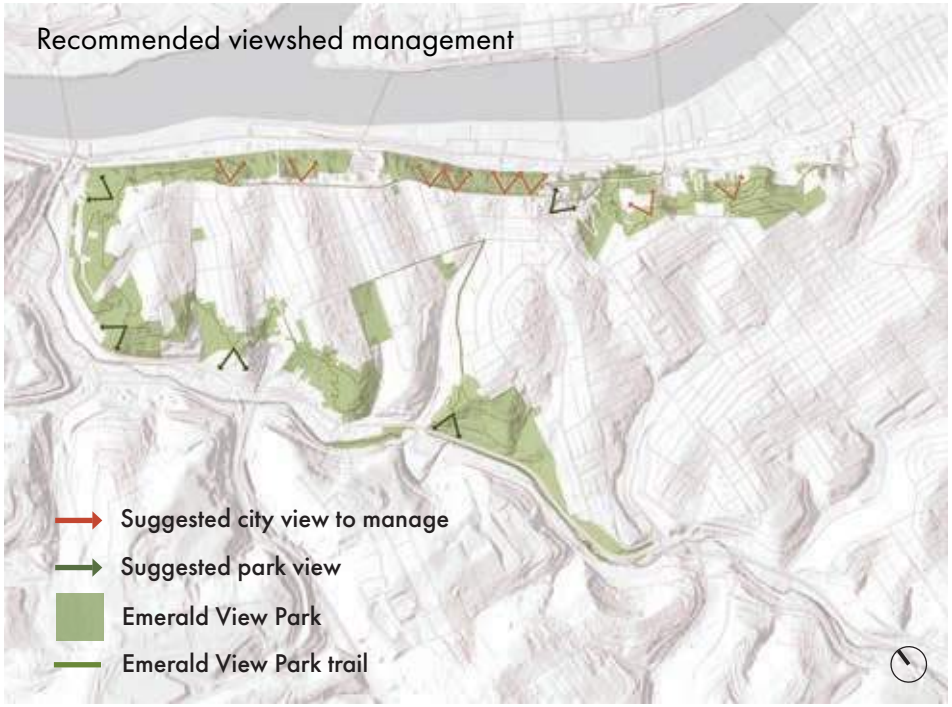
The invasive species that pose the greatest threat to Emerald View Park are oriental bittersweet and Japanese knotweed (and potentially kudzu if not removed immediately). The populations near trailheads should be removed first to increase accessibility to the park. A comprehensive invasive species control plan should be developed for the park. Due to the scale of the problem, this plan will almost certainly require chemical control with herbicides, applied by specialized and licensed applicators, and an appropriate revegetation plan that reduces likelihood of invasive species recolonization.

Several methods of invasive species control are effective under different circumstances and for different species. Some examples are:

- Goats
- Forestry mulcher (mower)
- Hand control
- Chemical control
- Vegetation re-establishment

Most invasive species problems require a combination of the above approaches. It is generally advisable to concentrate invasive species removal intensively in well-defined areas where a high level of control can be achieved, rather than a distributed or haphazard approach that creates work but does not lead to effective control.

Open ROWs that are free of tall trees and shrubs are required for the safe operation and maintenance of utilities including water lines, electric lines, and natural gas pipelines. Multiple utility ROWs occur throughout Emerald View Park. In many cases, existing ROWs have acted as distribution corridors for herbaceous invasive species, resulting in them outcompeting native species within the ROWs, most notably in the western side of the park. With the cooperation of the utility companies, the invasive species in the ROWs should be removed and replaced with native deep-rooted pollinator species. Once established the deeper roots of native species hold more of the soil column in place and transpire more water from the soil than invasive species which may help limit slumps and smaller landslides. Native grasses and wildflowers provide food for native pollinator species like bees, butterflies, and moths. Further pollinator habitat enhancements in the form of cut logs or brush piles could be added to the ROW edge for deadwood-nesting pollinator species. The utility ROWs cannot be removed, but through partnerships with groups like the Rights-of-Way as Habitat Working Group, North American Pollinator Protection Campaign, and Pollinator Stewardship Council, they can be transformed from eyesores dominated by invasive species to functional wildflower meadows that support native wildlife. Once controlled, spot treatments of invasive species with ROWs should be part of an annual maintenance plan to avoid populations from reestablishing. Periodic mowing to limit



woody species from establishing should be conducted early spring, before migratory birds return, to avoid disrupting nesting and to maintain overwintering habitat for winter-resident species.

Mitigate erosion and landslide issues

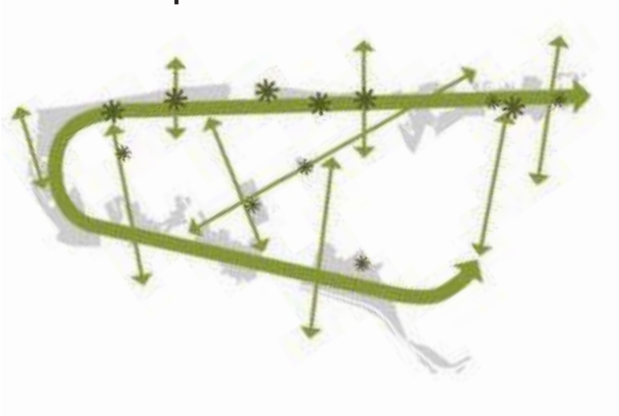
Multiple landslide features were identified on the slopes throughout the park. The identified landslides have the possibility of being activated and/or re-activated by construction activities (fill placement, excavation, addition of building loads, etc.), changing runoff patterns resulting from development above the landslide, and from increased surface and subsurface water due to the removal of vegetation. These areas should be avoided to reduce the risk of re-activating the landslides or development should include addressing the landslide risk. Should development be proposed in these areas, an investigation is recommended to obtain additional information and develop recommendations for addressing the potential risks.

RECOMMENDATIONS

GOAL 5
PHASING + IMPLEMENTATION

GOAL 5 | PHASING + IMPLEMENTATION

Build momentum for the future of the park



The *Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan* synthesizes large amounts of data, community input, and field research into implementable goals and strategies. The Plan is a multi-year guiding tool for the City of Pittsburgh and the Emerald View Park stakeholders.

This section of the Master Plan recommends a series of strategies to build momentum for the future of the park through phasing and implementation.

Develop phasing plan

The Master Plan includes a multi-year phasing plan that identifies short-term, medium-term, and long-term projects. The phasing plan was determined by input from community residents and City of Pittsburgh staff. A selection criteria was based on feasibility, cost, and need. Short-term projects were determined based on their ability to be quickly implemented, lower costs, consistent feedback from stakeholders of the immediate need for improvements, and high visibility. Short-term projects are intended to be completed in zero to six years. The six year time frame was selected to align with the City of Pittsburgh's capital improvement budgeting timeline. Medium-term projects were determined based on the feasibility of implementation, funding, and implementation coordination. Medium-term projects are intended to be completed in six to ten years. Long-term projects were determined based on the aspirational vision from stakeholders and the feasibility of implementation, higher costs, and implementation coordination. Long-term projects are intended to be completed in ten or more years. Efforts were made to predict appropriate phasing time frames but it is acknowledged that work completed by the City of Pittsburgh depends on yearly budget allocations with a variety of needs and changing circumstances. Phasing time frames are provided as estimated references only.

Prioritize first phase projects

The Master Plan phasing plan identifies short-term, medium-term, and long-term projects. First phase projects signal an appetite to move from the Master Plan to tangible physical improvements. First phase short-term projects were determined based on their ability to be quickly implemented, lower costs, consistent feedback from stakeholder of the immediate need for improvements. Short-term projects additionally leverage projects that are all ready underway or have funding currently allocated. The Master Plan recommends a series of first phase, short-term projects that immediately build momentum for all five goals of the Master Plan.

Park entrance improvements and trailhead renovations signal investment across the entirety of Emerald View Park while elevating the visual identity of the park as a regional destination and providing opportunities to make highly visible ecological improvements. Completion of currently missing trail connections would complete the Emerald View Park trail loop and connect individual features into a safe and accessible park system. Improvement of existing park amenities including the renovation of the Olympia Park Shelter and the Grandview Park amphitheater have been long-sought after by community advocates and would provide necessary community gathering space and facilities.

Test design ideas with temporary projects

While funding, partnership building, and continued analysis and design is needed for multiple medium-term and long-term projects, momentum can be built for projects in the short-term. Temporary projects can generate excitement for projects, build community interest, and test design ideas to understand the best use of space.

The streetscape recommendations for Grandview Avenue could be tested with day-long pop-up events to illustrate, in real-time, the impact of wider sidewalks, additional seating, and programming. Temporary signage could build momentum for on-street urban trails by highlighting the proposed urban hiking loops that connect to business districts, historic sites, and public art.

Identify programming strategy and responsibilities

While the Master Plan recommends physical strategies for park improvement, the success of Emerald View Park is also based on the activation of the park through programming of events on a weekly and yearly basis. A coordinated programming calendar of events that maximizes the use of all of Emerald View Park is recommended. It is recommended that visitor or tourist programming be focused on the Grandview Avenue and Grandview Park corridor. Programming aligned with neighborhood needs should be focused on the anchor parks and smaller neighborhood parks.

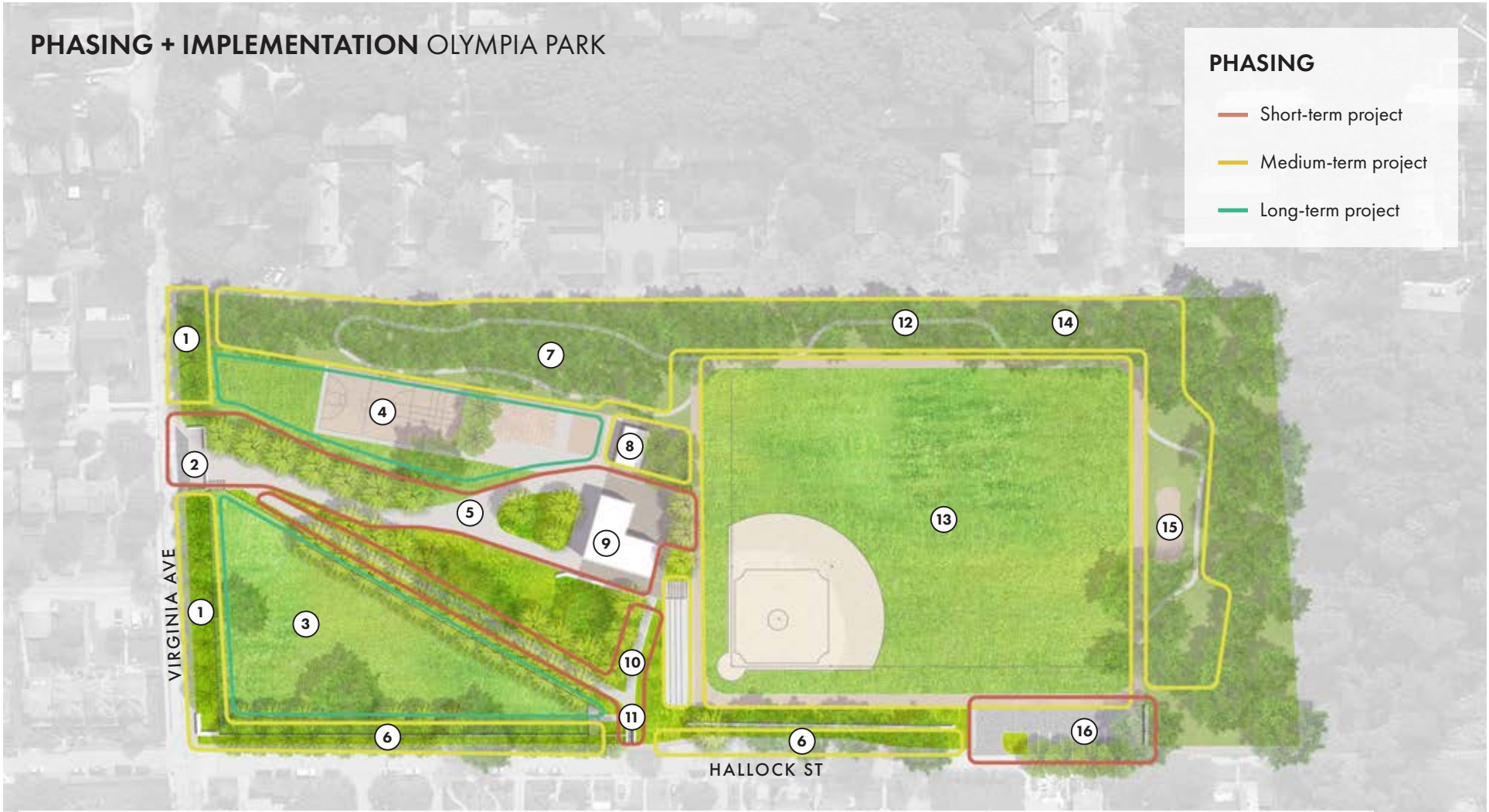
Build capacity with local existing and new partnerships

Emerald View Park exists because of the deep commitment of local partners, residents, and organizations. The Master Plan recommends, through the phasing strategy, continued capacity building with local existing partners and the potential of new partners to facilitate implementation.

Develop cost estimates

Cost estimates for improvements across Emerald View Park provide a grounding of the realities of implementation and orders of magnitude for fundraising efforts. Relative project costs, based on phasing, are included in this section. Detailed, line-item cost estimates for individual projects and park geographies are included in Appendix F. Cost estimates are based on conceptual plans and are highly variable. Site surveys and detailed geotechnical reports are recommended before implementation of any work. Site surveys were not completed as part of the Master Plan.

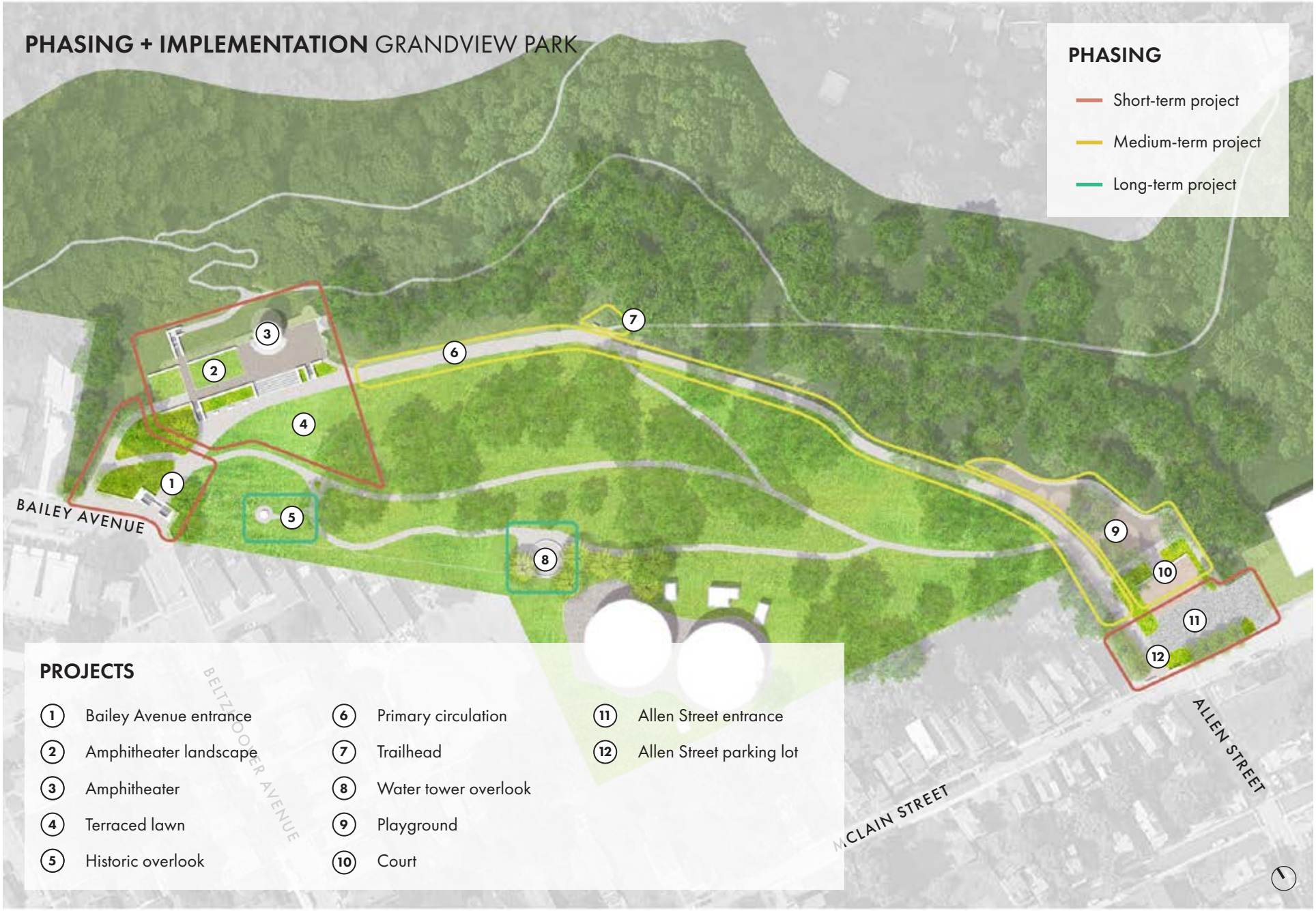
PHASING + IMPLEMENTATION OLYMPIA PARK



PROJECTS

1. Virginia Avenue entrance
2. Virginia Avenue streetscape
3. Dog park
4. Playground and courts
5. Primary circulation loop
6. Hallock Street streetscape
7. Play area
8. Picnic shelter
9. Olympia Park Shelter + plazas
10. Secondary circulation
11. Hallock Street entrance
12. Hillside trails
13. Multi-purpose field and walking track
14. Stormwater management
15. Contemplative space
16. Hallock Street parking lot

PHASING + IMPLEMENTATION GRANDVIEW PARK



PHASING

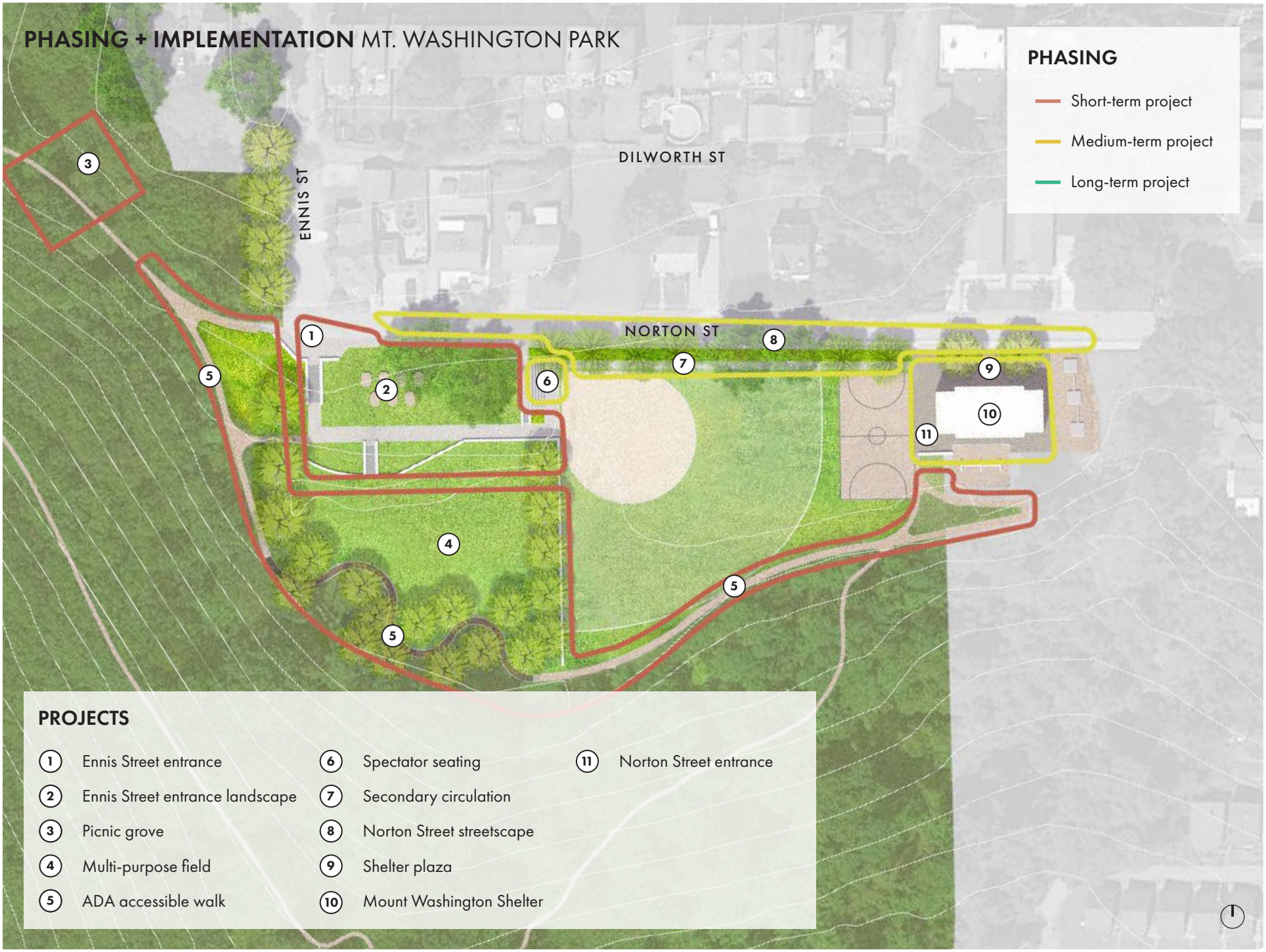
- Short-term project
- Medium-term project
- Long-term project

PROJECTS

1. Bailey Avenue entrance
2. Amphitheater landscape
3. Amphitheater
4. Terraced lawn
5. Historic overlook
6. Primary circulation
7. Trailhead
8. Water tower overlook
9. Playground
10. Court
11. Allen Street entrance
12. Allen Street parking lot

PHASING + IMPLEMENTATION BIGBEE FIELD

PHASING + IMPLEMENTATION MT. WASHINGTON PARK



PHASING

- Short-term project
- Medium-term project
- Long-term project

PROJECTS

1. Ennis Street entrance
2. Ennis Street entrance landscape
3. Picnic grove
4. Multi-purpose field
5. ADA accessible walk
6. Spectator seating
7. Secondary circulation
8. Norton Street streetscape
9. Shelter plaza
10. Mount Washington Shelter
11. Norton Street entrance

PHASING + IMPLEMENTATION
REAM PARK

PHASING

- Short-term project
- Medium-term project
- Long-term project

PROJECTS

1. Virginia Avenue entrance
2. Virginia Street streetscape
3. Playground
4. Merrimac Street streetscape
5. Merrimac Street entrance
6. Community garden
7. Woodruff Street entrance
8. Woodruff Street streetscape

PHASING + IMPLEMENTATION
EILEEN MCCOY PLAYGROUND

PHASING

- Short-term project
- Medium-term project
- Long-term project

PROJECTS

1. Shaler Street streetscape
2. Shaler Street entrance
3. Gateway sign
4. Basketball court
5. Picnic area
6. Deck hockey court
7. Playground
8. Greenleaf entrance
9. Greenleaf streetscape

PHASING + IMPLEMENTATION GRANDVIEW AVENUE

PROJECTS

1. Point of View statue overlook
2. Trailhead
3. Grandview Avenue West streetscape
4. Grandview Avenue Central streetscape

PHASING

- Short-term project
- Medium-term project
- Long-term project

PHASING + IMPLEMENTATION GRANDVIEW AVENUE

PROJECTS

4 Grandview Avenue Central streetscape

5 P.J. McArdle Roadway gateway plaza

6 Grandview Avenue East streetscape

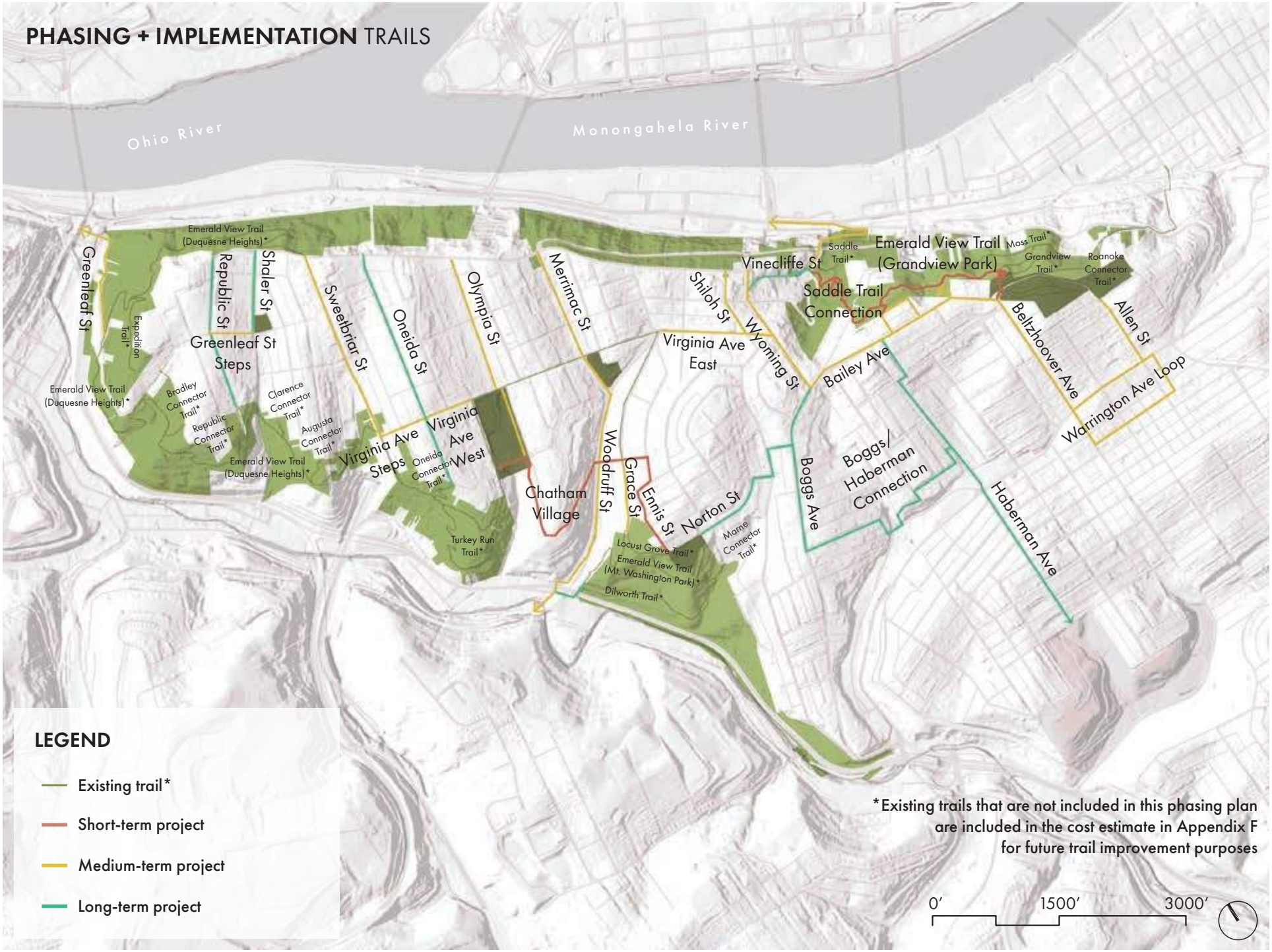
PHASING

Short-term project

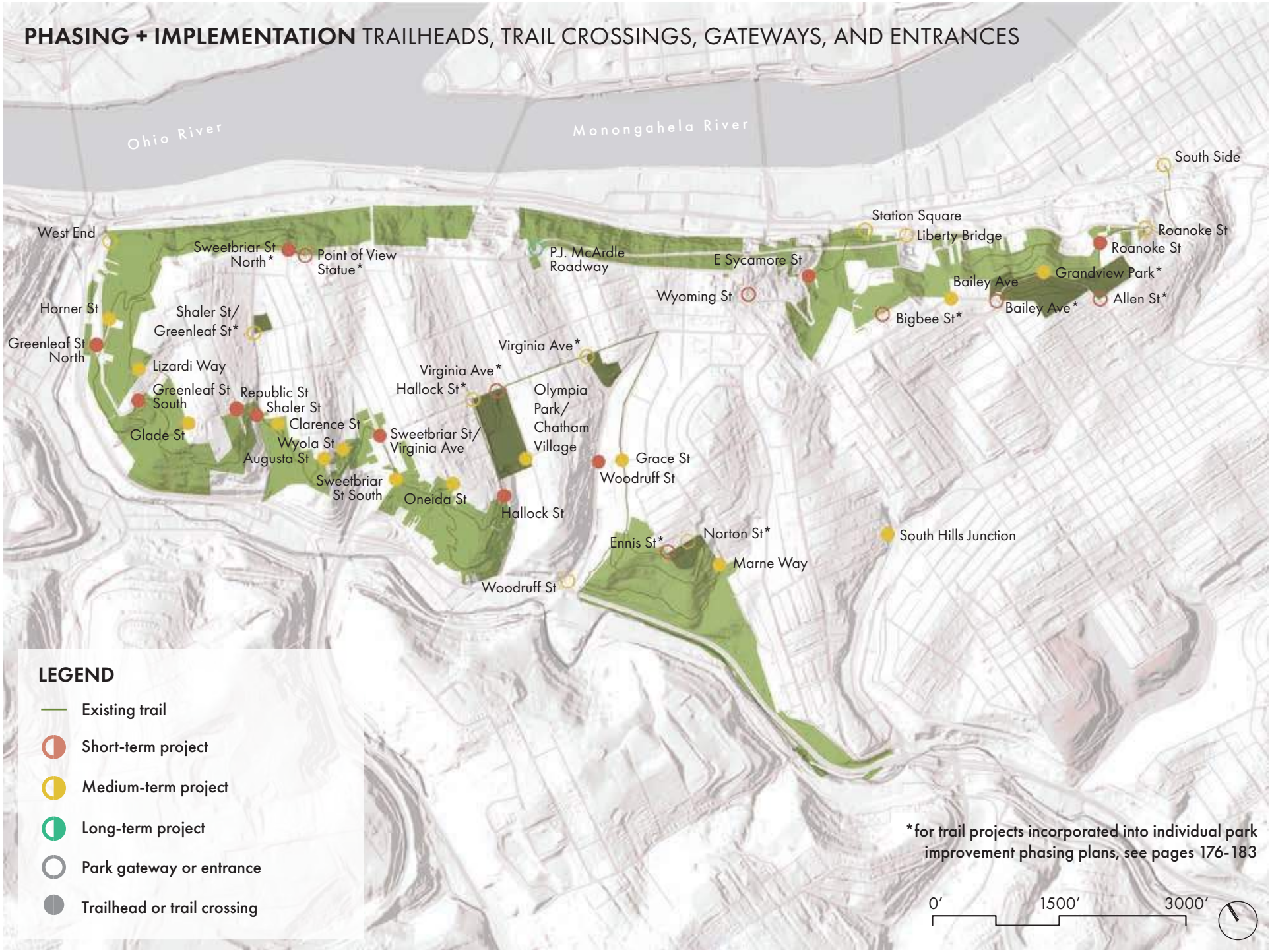
Medium-term project

Long-term project

PHASING + IMPLEMENTATION TRAILS



PHASING + IMPLEMENTATION TRAILHEADS, TRAIL CROSSINGS, GATEWAYS, AND ENTRANCES



PHASING STRATEGY SHORT-TERM PROJECTS

Project Name	Cost*	Potential Project Partners**
Short-term Projects		
Trails		
Chatham Village trail connection	$	Chatham Village (lead), City of Pittsburgh Department of Public Works (DPW), Landforce
Emerald View Trail and stone steps	$	DPW (lead), Landforce
Saddle trail connection and wood steps	$	DPW (lead), Landforce
Trailheads		
E Sycamore Street	$$	DPW (lead) , Landforce
Greenleaf Street - North	$	DPW (lead) , Landforce
Greenleaf Street - South	$$	DPW (lead) , Landforce
Hallock Street	$	DPW (lead) , Landforce
Republic Street	$	DPW (lead) , Landforce
Roanoake Street	$	DPW (lead) , Landforce
Sweetbriar Street - North	$$	DPW (lead) , Landforce
Sweetbriar Street/Virginia Avenue steps	$$	City of Pittsburgh Department of Mobility and Infrastructure (DOMI)
Wyoming Street	$	DPW (lead) , Landforce
Trail crossings		
E Sycamore Street crossing	$	DOMI
Shaler Street crossing	$	DOMI
Woodruff Street crossing	$	DOMI
Park gateways		
Wyoming Street	$	DOMI
Park entrances		
Bigbee Field | Bigbee Street entrance and ADA accessible path	$$	DPW (lead), Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy (PPC)
Grandview Avenue | Point of View statue overlook	$$	DPW (lead), DOMI, PPC
Grandview Park | Bailey Avenue entrance and Allen Street entrance and parking	$$$	DPW (lead), PPC, Allentown Community Development Corporation (CDC)
Mount Washington Park | Ennis Street entrance and landscape	$$$	DPW (lead), PPC
Olympia Park | Virginia Avenue entrance	$$	DPW (lead), PPC
Park streetscape		
Grandview Avenue West streetscape	$$$$	DOMI

*For detailed, line-item cost estimates, see Appendix F

**When multiple parters are listed, lead partner is noted, additional partners are included for potential planning, advocacy, fundraising, construction, and maintenance support

Project Name	Cost*	Potential Project Partners**
Short-term Projects		
Parking		
Grandview Park | Allen Street entrance and parking lot	$$	DPW (lead), PPC, Grandview Elementary School, Allentown CDC
Olympia Park | Hallock Street parking lot	$$	DPW
Park Amenities		
Bigbee Field | Multi-purpose field, Bigbee Street streetscape and	$$	DPW
Eileen McCoy Playground | Basketball court	$$	DPW
Eileen McCoy Playground | Deck hockey court	$$	DPW
Grandview Park | Bandshell, amphitheater landscape, and terraced	$$$	DPW (lead), PPC, Allentown CDC
Mount Washington Park | Multi-purpose field and stormwater management	$$$$	DPW (lead), PPC, PWSA
Mount Washington Park | Picnic grove	$	DPW
Olympia Park | Olympia Park Shelter plazas and primary circulatio	$$	DPW (lead), PPC
Ream Park | Community garden and entrance	$$	DPW (lead), PPC, Mount Washington Communtity Recreation Center,
Additional Studies		
Forest habitat and restoration plan (Emerald View Park overall)	$$	DPW (lead), PPC, MWCDC
Stormwater management capacity plans (individual parks and streets)	$$	DPW (lead), PWSA

*For detailed, line-item cost estimates, see Appendix F

**When multiple parters are listed, lead partner is noted, additional partners are included for potential planning, advocacy, fundraising, construction, and maintenance support

PHASING STRATEGY MEDIUM-TERM PROJECTS

Project Name	Cost*	Potential Project Partners**
Medium-term projects		
Trails	$-$$	DPW (lead), PPC
Trailheads		
Augusta Street	$	DPW (lead), Landforce
Bailey Avenue	$	DPW (lead), Landforce
Clarence Street	$	DPW (lead), Landforce
Glade Street	$	DPW (lead), Landforce
Grace Street	$	DPW (lead), Landforce
Horner Street	$	DPW (lead), Landforce
Lizardi Way	$	DPW (lead), Landforce
Marne Way	$	DPW (lead), Landforce
Olympia Park/Chatham Village	$	DPW (lead), Landforce
Oneida Street	$	DPW (lead), Landforce
South Hills Junction	$	DPW (lead), Port Authority
Sweetbriar Street - South	$	DPW (lead), Landforce
Wyola Street	$	DPW (lead), Landforce
Park gateways		
Liberty Bridge gateway	$	DOMI (lead), Southside Streets, Port Authority
Roanoke Street	$	DOMI
South Side gateway	$	DOMI (lead), Southside Streets
Station Square gateway	$	DOMI (lead), Southside Streets, Port Authority
West End gateway	$	DOMI
Woodruff Street gateway	$	DOMI
Park entrances		
Mt. Washington Park | Norton Street Entrance, Shelter, and Entry La	$$	DPW (lead), PPC
Olympia Park | Hallock St Entrance and Walk	$$	DPW (lead), PPC

*For detailed, line-item cost estimates, see Appendix F

**When multiple parters are listed, lead partner is noted, additional partners are included for potential planning, advocacy, fundraising, construction, and maintenance support

Project Name	Cost*	Potential Project Partners**
Medium-term projects		
On-street trail streetscape		
Allen Street	$	DOMI (lead), MWCDC
Bailey Avenue	$$	DOMI (lead), MWCDC
Beltzhoover Avenue	$$	DOMI (lead), MWCDC
Greenleaf Street	$$	DOMI (lead), MWCDC
Greenleaf Street steps	$$	DOMI (lead), MWCDC
Merrimac Street	$$	DOMI (lead), MWCDC
Olympia Street	$$	DOMI (lead), MWCDC
Shiloh Street	$	DOMI (lead), MWCDC
Sweetbriar Street	$$	DOMI (lead), MWCDC
Virginia Avenue East	$$	DOMI (lead), MWCDC
Virginia Avenue steps	$$	DOMI (lead), MWCDC
Virginia Avenue West	$	DOMI (lead), MWCDC
Warrington Avenue Loop	$$	DOMI (lead), MWCDC
Woodruff Street	$$	DOMI (lead), MWCDC
Wyoming Street	$$	DOMI (lead), MWCDC
Park streetscape		
Eileen McCoy | Greenleaf Street and Shaler Street streetscape and entrances	$$	DOMI
Grandview Avenue Central streetscape	$$$$	DOMI
Mount Washington Park | Norton Street streetscape	$$	DOMI
Olympia Park | Viginia Avenue and Hallock Street streetscape	$$$	DOMI
Ream Park | Virginia Avenue entrance, Merrimac Street and Woodruff Street streetscape	$$	DOMI
Park Amenities		
Grandview Park | Playground and court	$$$$	DPW (lead), PPC
Grandview Park | Primary circulation	$$	DPW
Grandview Park | Trail entrance	$	DPW (lead), PPC, Landforce
Mount Washington Park | Spectator seating and secondary circulation	$	DPW
Olympia Park | Hillside trails, play area, contemplative space, and stormwater management, Chatham Village trailhead	$$$$	DPW (lead), PPC, PWSA, Landforce, Student Conservation Association (SCA)
Olympia Park | Multi-purpose field and walking track	$$$	DPW (lead), PPC, Mount Washington Communtity Recreation Center
Olympia Park | Picnic shelter	$	DPW (lead), PPC

*For detailed, line-item cost estimates, see Appendix F

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PHASING STRATEGY LONG-TERM PROJECTS

Project Name	Cost*	Potential Project Partners**
Long-term projects		
Trails	$-$$	DPW
On-street trail streetscape		
Boggs Avenue	$$	DOMI
Boggs/Haberman Connection	$$	DOMI
Haberman Avenue	$$	DOMI
Norton Street	$$	DOMI
Oneida Street	$$	DOMI
Republic Street	$$	DOMI
Shaler Street	$$	DOMI
Vinecliffe Street	$$	Private land owner (lead), MWCDC
Park gateways		
P.J. McArdle Roadway Intersection and Gateway	$$	DOMI
Park streetscape		
Grandview Avenue East streetscape	$$$$	DOMI
Park amenities		
Eileen McCoy Playground | Picnic area	$	DPW
Eileen McCoy Playground | Playground	$$$	DPW
Grandview Park | Historic overlook	$	DPW (lead), PPC
Grandview Park | Water tower overlook	$	DPW (lead), PPC
Olympia Park | Dog park	$$	DPW (lead), PPC
Olympia Park | Playground and courts	$$$	DPW (lead), PPC
Ream Park | Playground and circulation	$$$	DPW

*For detailed, line-item cost estimates, see Appendix F

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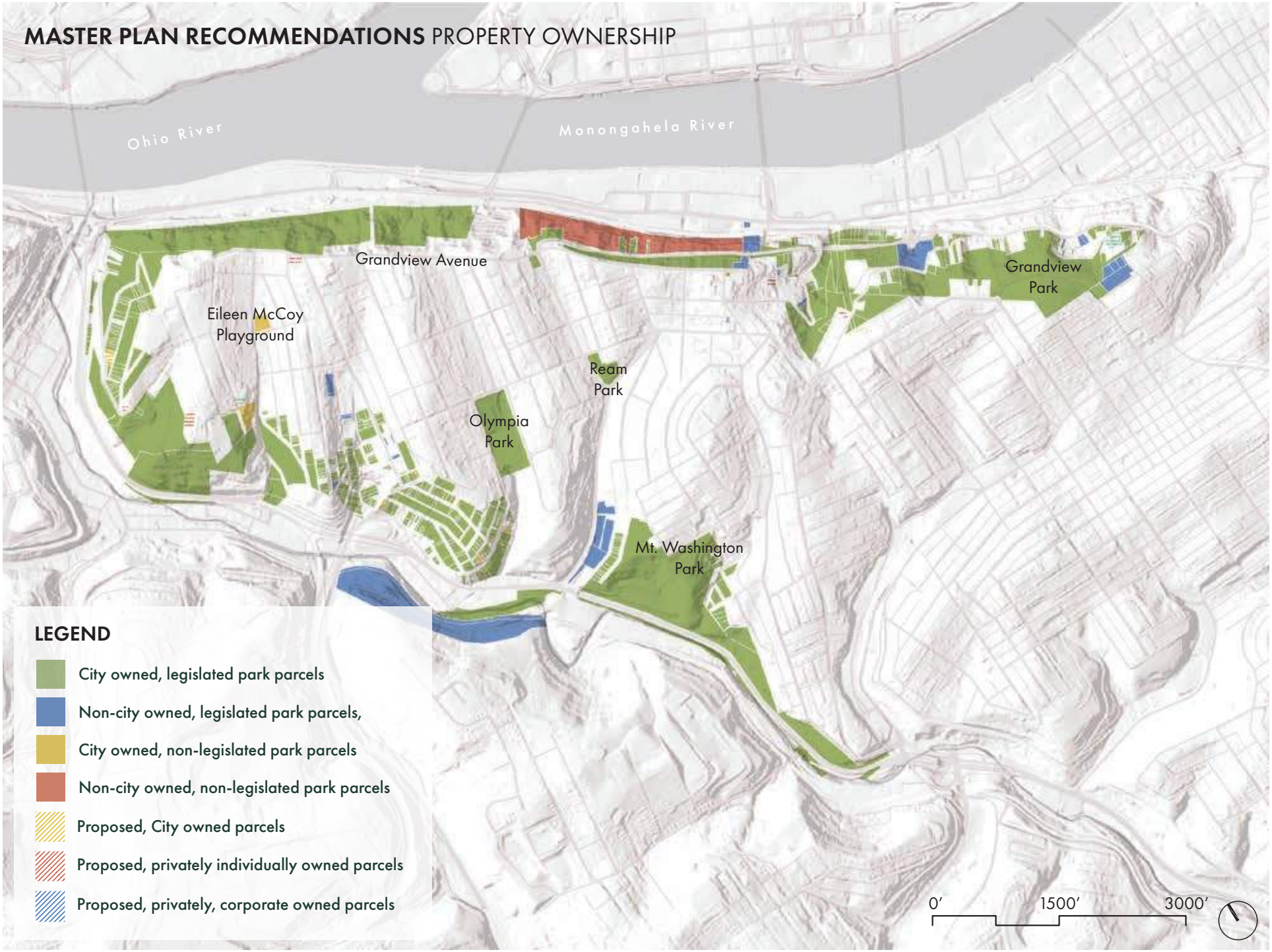
MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS PROPERTY OWNERSHIP



APPENDICES

See supplemental *Emerald View Park Regional Park Master Plan* Appendices document for appendices A-F:

- Appendix A: Public Engagement Plan
- Appendix B: Public Survey Results
- Appendix C: Emerald View Park History
- Appendix D: Ecological Assessment
- Appendix E: Geologic Assessment
- Appendix F: Cost Estimates