Attic Angels Greenway Repair and Pond Sediment Removal

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING



2026 | CITY OF MADISON

Meeting Technical Housekeeping

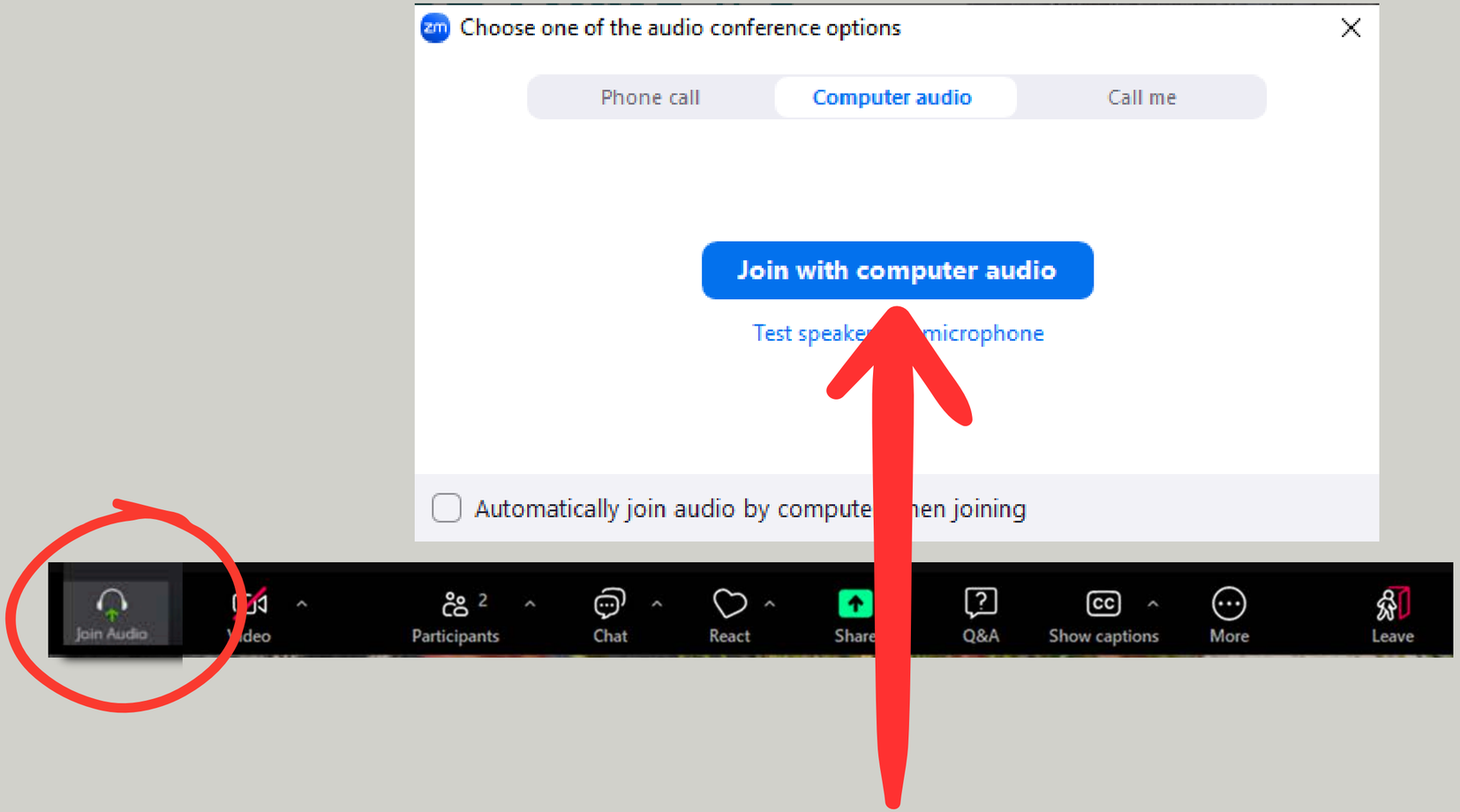
- This meeting will be recorded and posted to the project page.
- All attendees should be muted to keep background noise to a minimum.
- Use the "Q&A" button for technical issues with meeting to troubleshoot with staff to assist.
- Use the "Q&A" button to type questions about presentation.
  - Questions will be answered live after the presentation.
- Use the "raise your hand" button to verbally ask your question. You will be prompted to unmute when it is your turn.

THIS MEETING IS BEING RECORDED.

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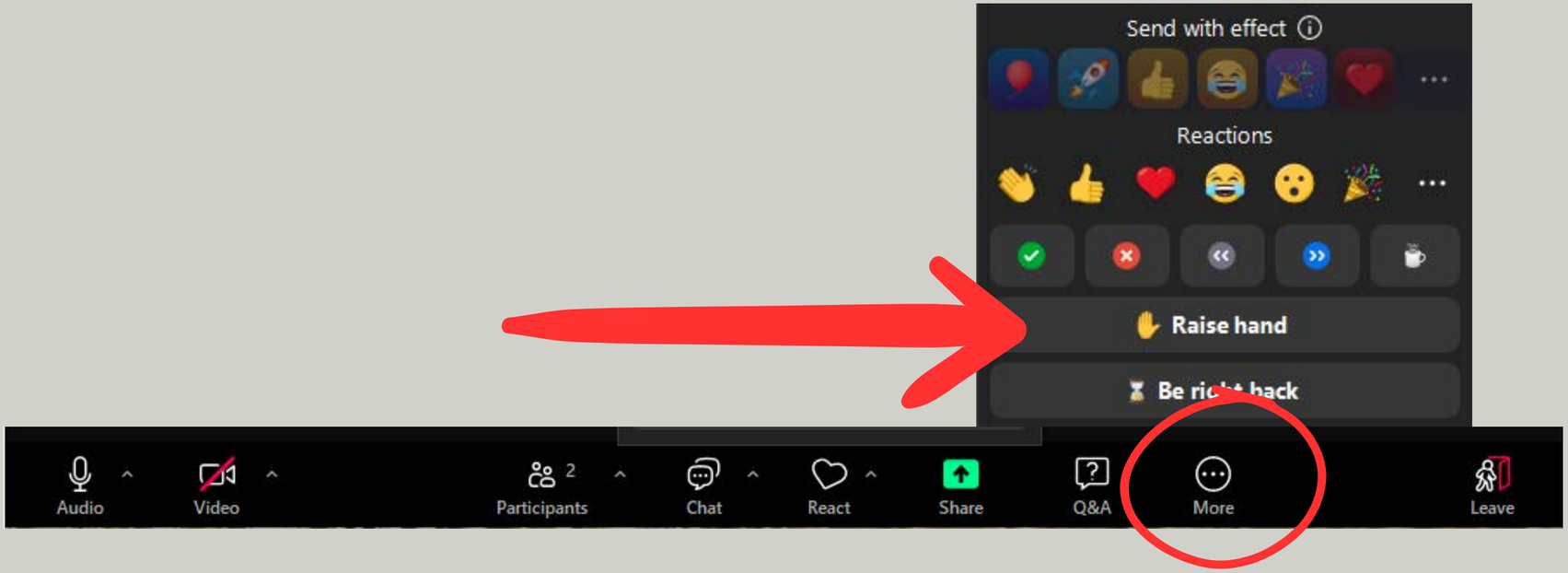
By continuing to be in the meeting, you are consenting to being recorded and consenting to this record being released to public record requestors.

How to Participate



Make sure to join audio

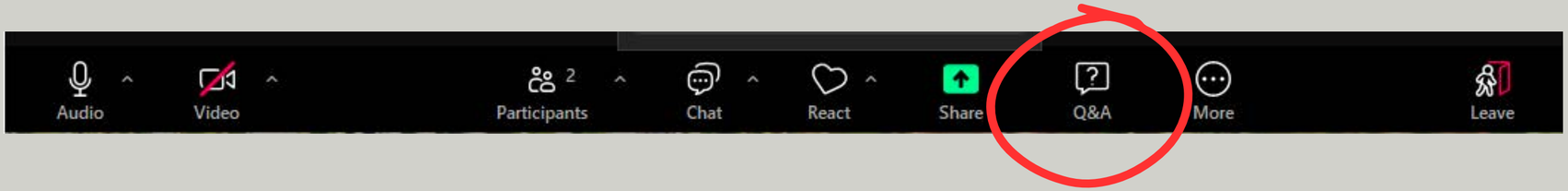
How to Participate



Raise your hand to be unmuted for comments or ask additional questions.

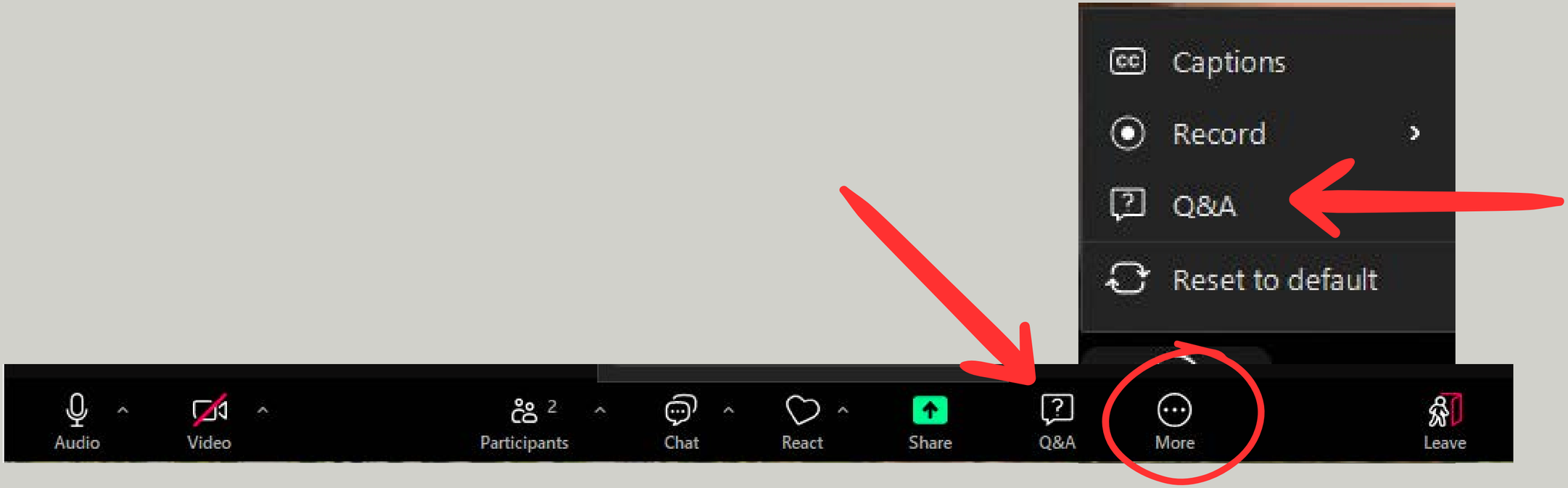
(click “More” for pop-up menu that includes “Raise Hand”)

How to Participate



Use Q&A if you have technical issues or need quick clarification during the presentation.

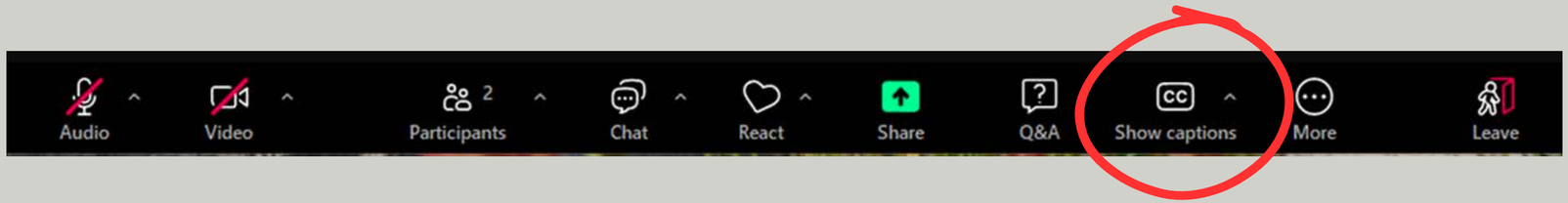
How to Participate



Use Q & A if you have questions.

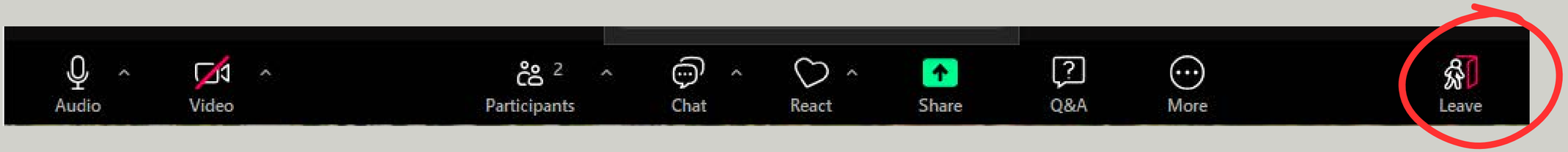
We will answer after the presentation.

How to Participate



Click “Show Captions” for zoom automated captions.

How to Participate



To leave the meeting click here

Our Team

Jojo O'Brien, PE - Project Manager, is a Water Resources Engineer and UW-Madison graduate with a B.S. Degree in Natural Resources and Environmental Engineering and Environmental Studies. She joined the City of Madison in 2016.

Maddie Dumas-Ecological Land Manager, M.S. Landscape Architecture from UW-Madison with an emphasis on ecological restoration. She joined the City of Madison in 2018.



Janet Schmidt, PE - Principal Engineer for the City Stormwater section, is a Civil Engineer and a 1994 UW-Madison graduate with a B.S. Degree in Civil & Environmental Engineering.

Agenda

1. Project location
2. Channel & pond condition
3. Maintenance
    a. Current maintenance
    b. Recent concerns and repairs
4. Proposed improvements
    a. Channel stabilization
    b. Maintenance Access
    c. Ecological restoration
5. Q&A

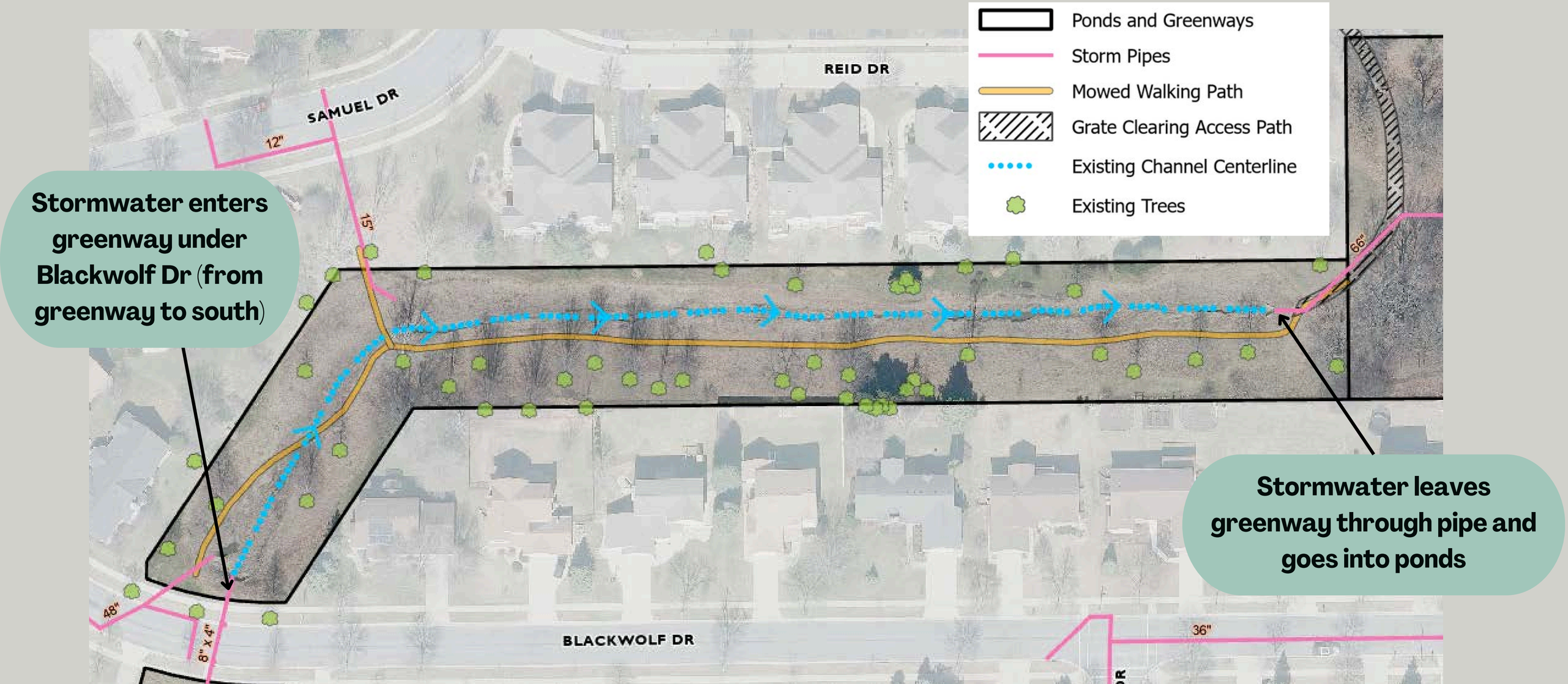


PROJECT LOCATION



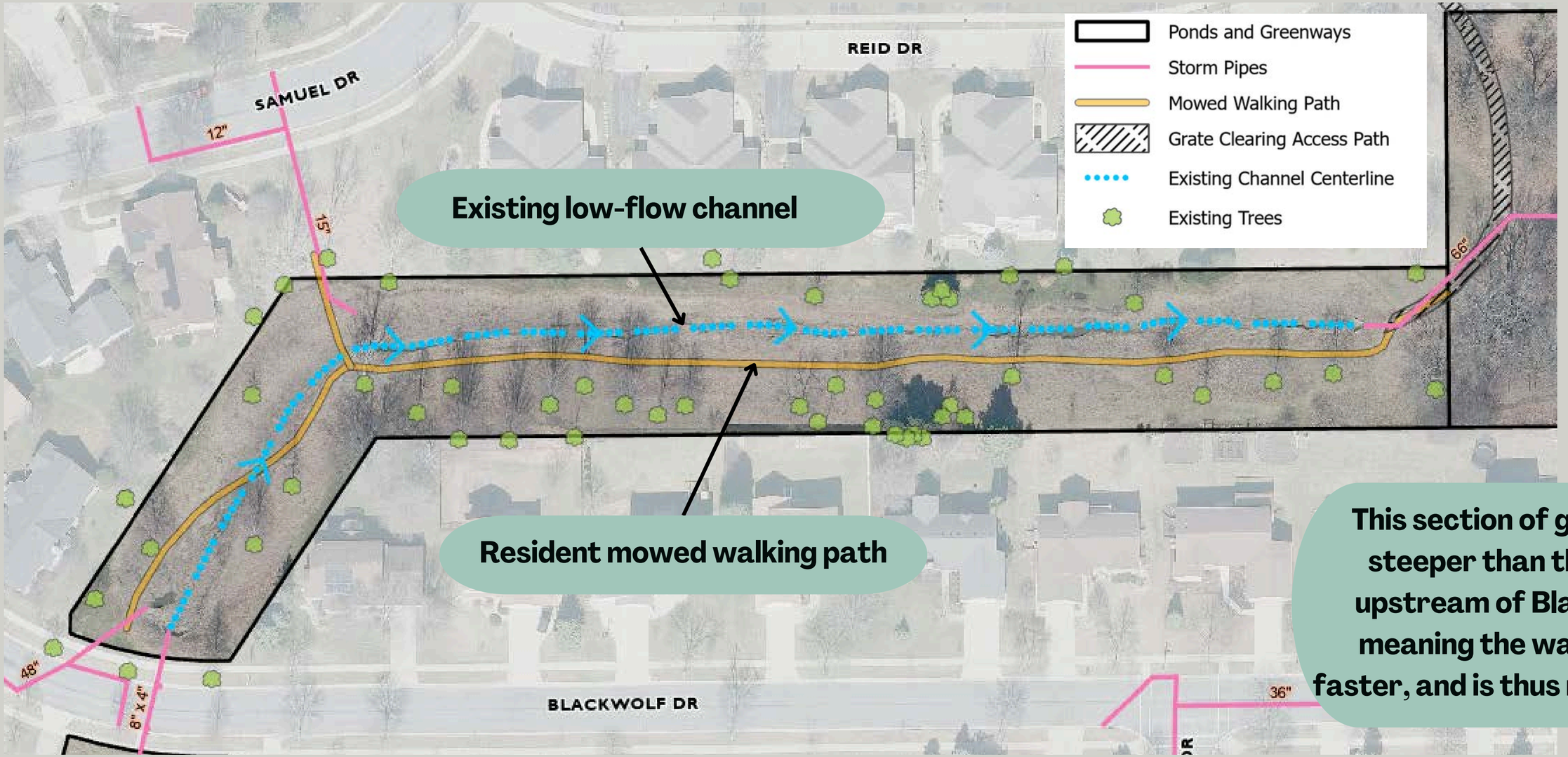
PROJECT LOCATION

Greenway we are focusing on is between Blackwolf Dr and the ponds.



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Greenway we are focusing on is between Blackwolf Dr and the ponds.



This section of greenway is steeper than the section upstream of Blackwolf Dr, meaning the water moves faster, and is thus more erosive.

CHANNEL CONDITION

The channel is eroding, and has a history of aggredation (sediment deposition) and erosion.





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CHANNEL CONDITION

The channel is eroding, and has a history of aggradation (sediment deposition) on upstream end and erosion on downstream half.







CHANNEL CONDITION

Significant downcutting near downstream end of channel.

~4' deep and >6' wide (February 2026)



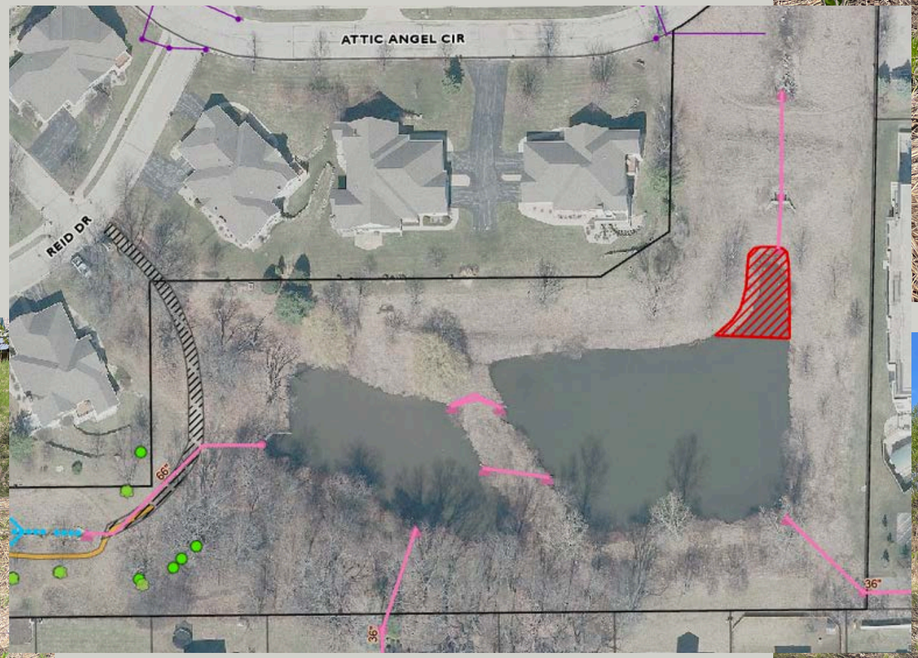


POND OUTLET CONDITION

Most downstream end (northeast corner) of eastern pond has sediment accumulating

- 1-2 feet of sediment needs to be removed near pipe outlet





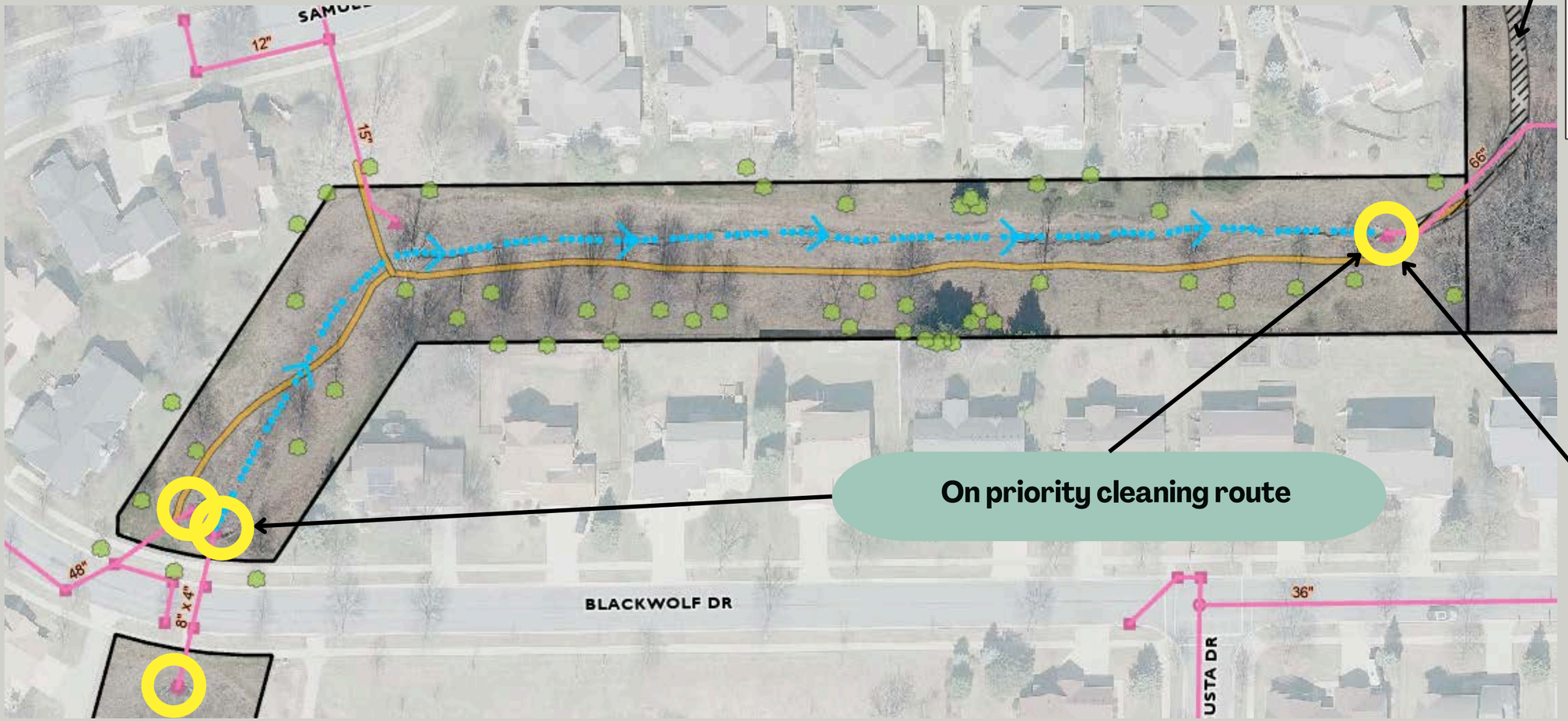




Current Maintenance

Pipe outlets in this area on priority cleaning route

- Cleaned before heavy rains and following all rain events
- Cleaned ~28x/year on average





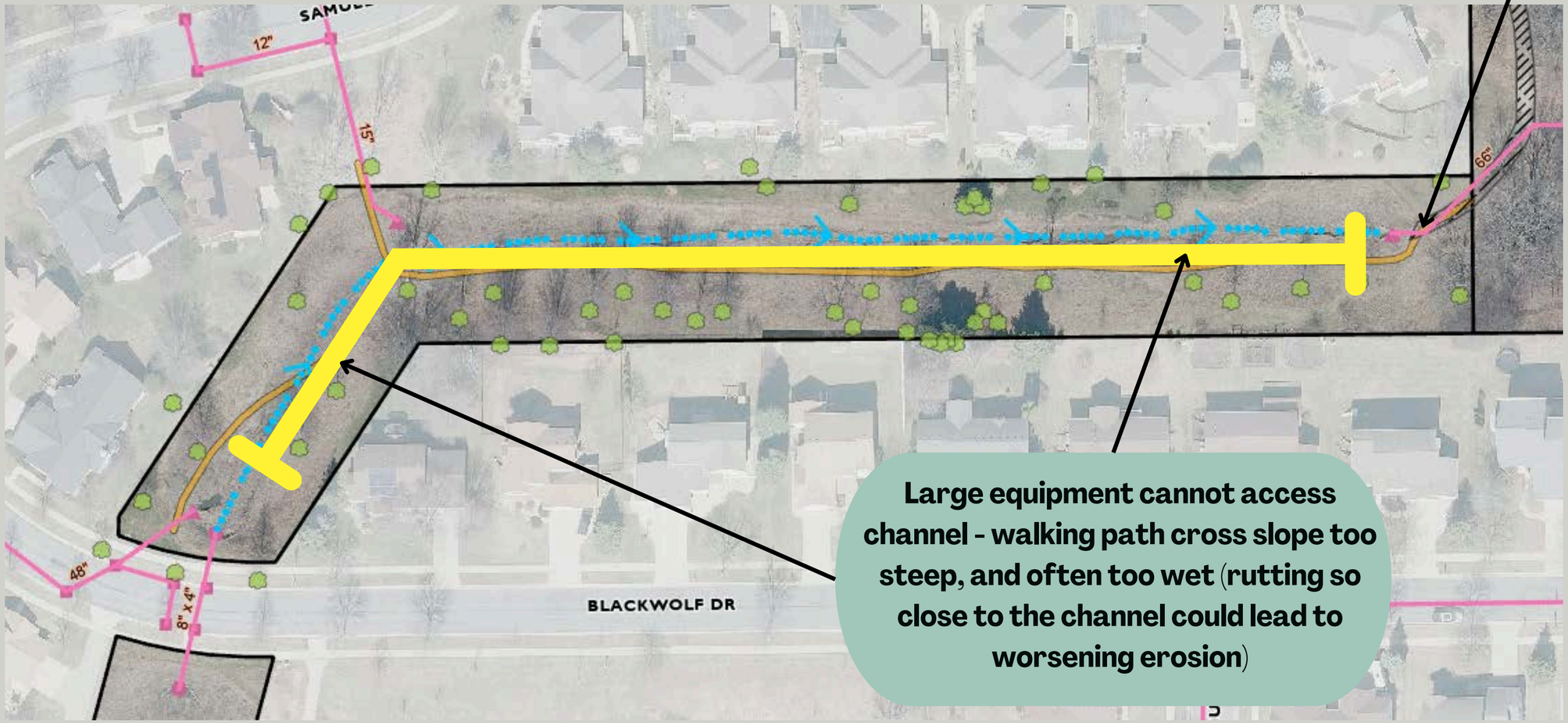
Built gravel access path in 2020 from Reid Dr to outlet pipe



Greenway outlet pipe that needs frequent cleaning

Current Maintenance

No large equipment is able to access to main portion of channel



Gravel access path (built in 2020) allows access to grate that frequently clogs, but there's no access beyond this point into the greenway

Large equipment cannot access channel - walking path cross slope too steep, and often too wet (rutting so close to the channel could lead to worsening erosion)

Recent Concerns and Repairs

Community has shared variety of concerns over the years, which City Engineering has been trying to address:

- Flooding
- Erosion in channel
- Erosion around channel outlet
- Debris being caught in downstream pipe and backing up water into greenway

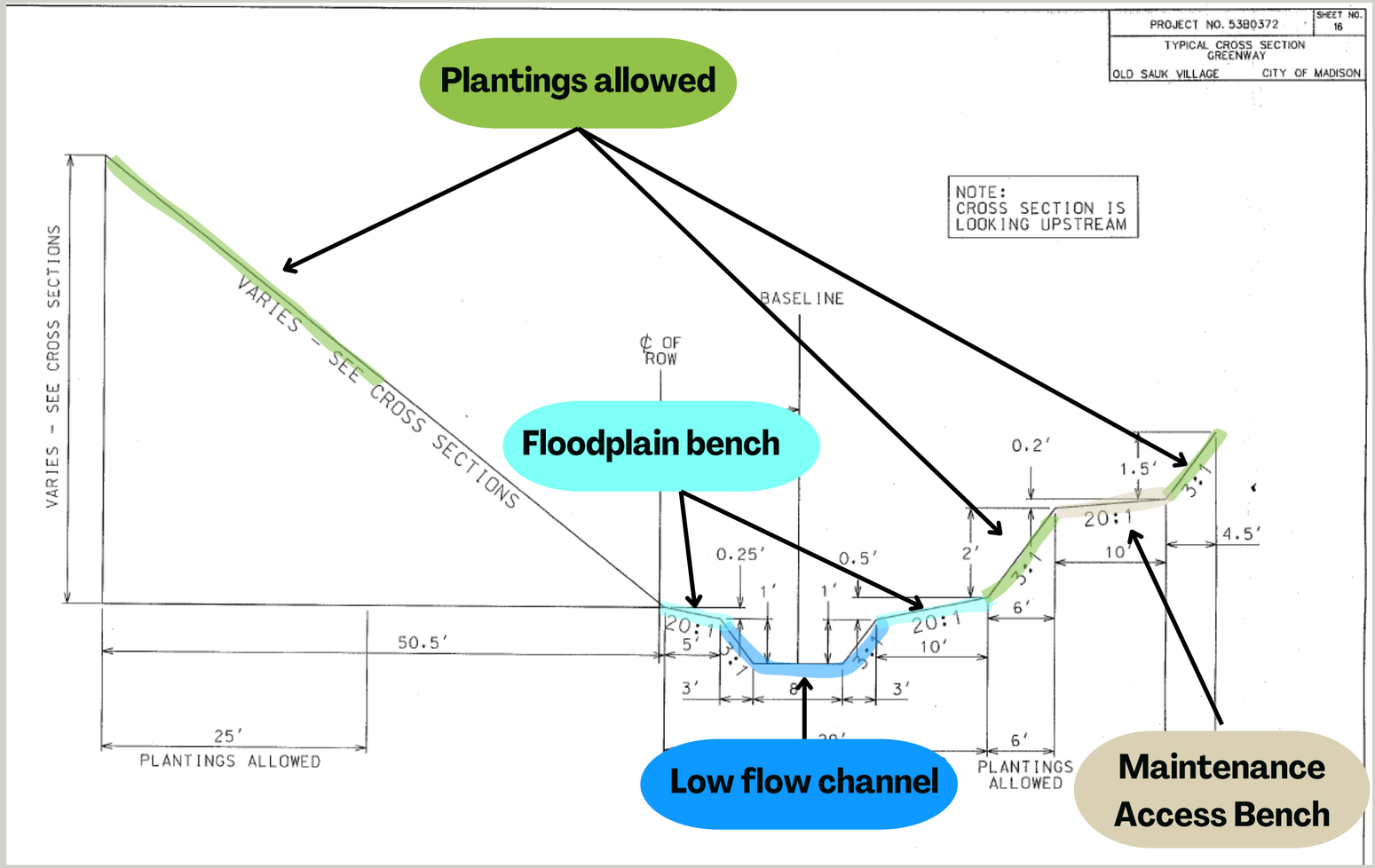
-Created ~200 ft access path off of Reid Dr in 2020 for easier preventative maintenance of downstream grate and improved emergency access. Now large equipment remove the large quantity of debris.
-Grates added to priority grate cleaning route

Attempted to fill eroded areas, but it keeps washing out

Placed a concrete/riprap mix surrounding the pipe inlet - this has held up pretty well

-Added maintainable grates on upstream side of Blackwolf Dr crossing (pulls up and cleans off)
-Added flip-up top grate on downstream end of greenway at the pond so pipe can be opened and allow flows into pond if clogged

ORIGINAL CHANNEL DESIGN



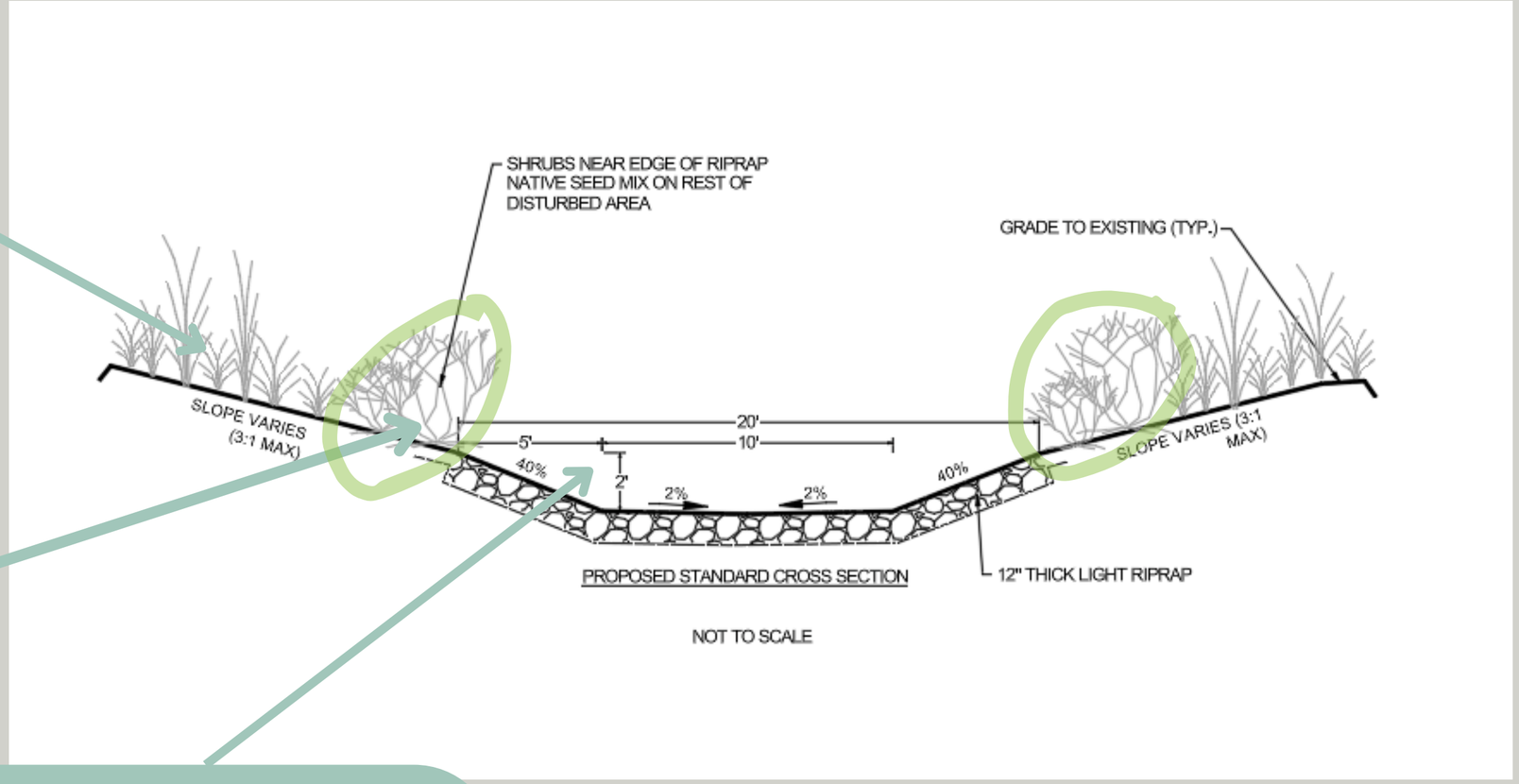
- Original design of the greenway included a low-flow channel, a floodplain bench, and a maintenance access bench. There were specific areas where plantings were allowed.
- The plantings were negotiated to be within the greenway (not standard process) with City Zoning to meet landscaping requirements for the development of this area with the agreement that it be privately maintained.
  - 2026 City found out the agreement wasn't valid
- The greenway construction and private plantings did **not** follow plans, so now we need to find a way to move forward.

PROPOSED CHANNEL IMPROVEMENTS

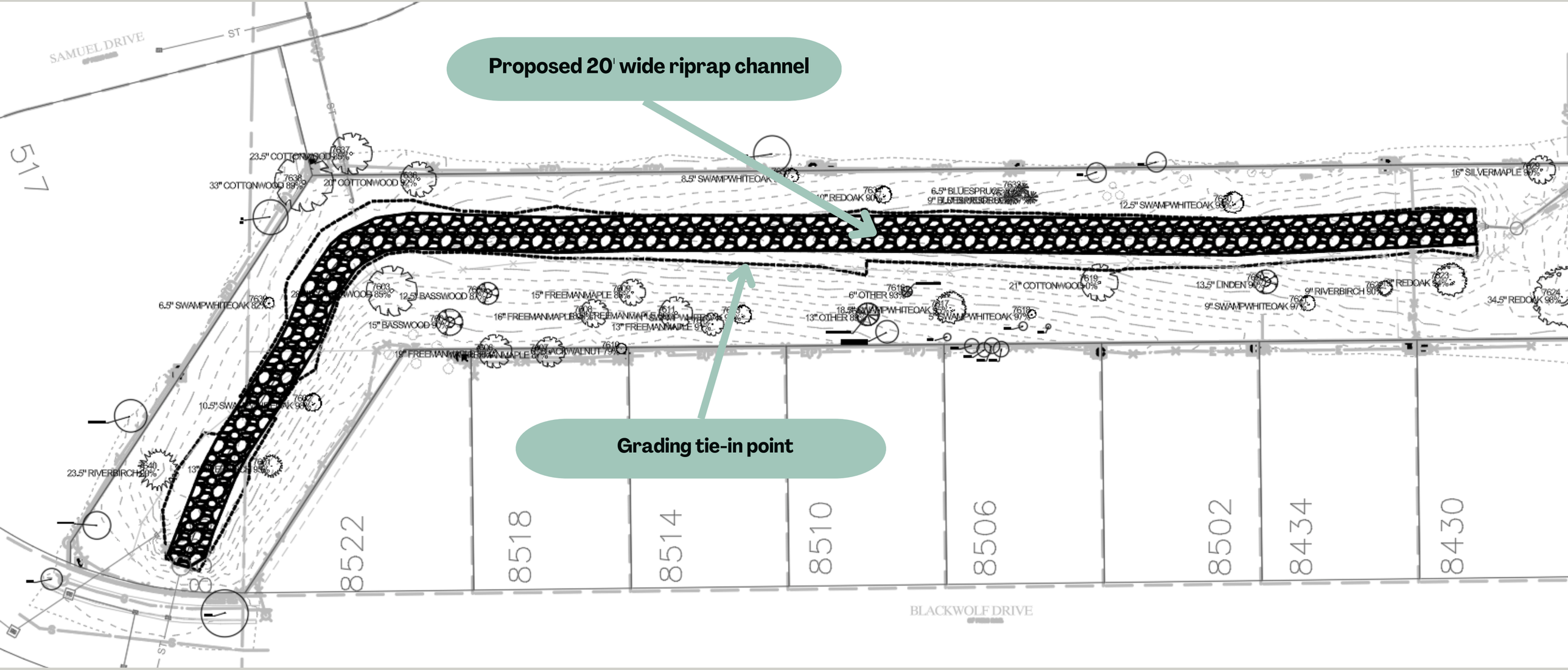
Will tie into existing greenway - any disturbance will be seeded with native vegetation

To minimize disturbance limits and impacts to trees, we are not proposing to create a floodplain bench (flat area) outside of the rock channel.
To minimize erosion at the rock/vegetation interface, we need to plant shrubs along the edge of the rock channel.

20 ft wide, 2 ft deep rock lined channel



PROPOSED CHANNEL IMPROVEMENTS



PROPOSED CHANNEL IMPROVEMENTS

Example of a riprap channel

*note, this project included a floodplain bench and these photos were taken in the spring as the new vegetation was getting established



Mendota Grassman Greenway



Mendota Grassman Greenway

PROPOSED CHANNEL IMPROVEMENTS

Example of shrubs next to riprap channel and native plants along the greenway



Mendota Grassman Greenway - newly planted shrubs planted along channel



Mendota Grassman Greenway - native vegetation along channel

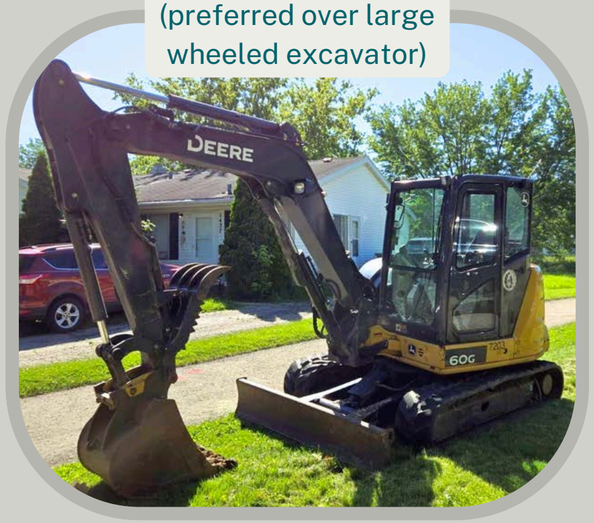
Proposed Maintenance

- Standard greenway repair projects involve creating an access path along the channel for channel and tree maintenance if one doesn't already exist
  - Allows us to respond quickly during a flood event or repair channel erosion issues before they become so large that we need to do a large reconstruction project
  - Greenways with access paths typically have a shorter response times for addressing issues
- Frequency of use: Typically mowed 1/year and then to address emergencies/repairs as needed



Bandit Chipper

Mini Excavator
(preferred over large wheeled excavator)





Tandem Axel Dump Truck


1-Ton

Track Bobcat



Wheeled Excavator



Proposed Maintenance

Later tonight we will ask you to vote on your preferred path restoration option

The proposed path will ***not*** look like the gravel path from Reid Dr.

Two different possibilities for restoration of the access path that **we'd like your input on**:

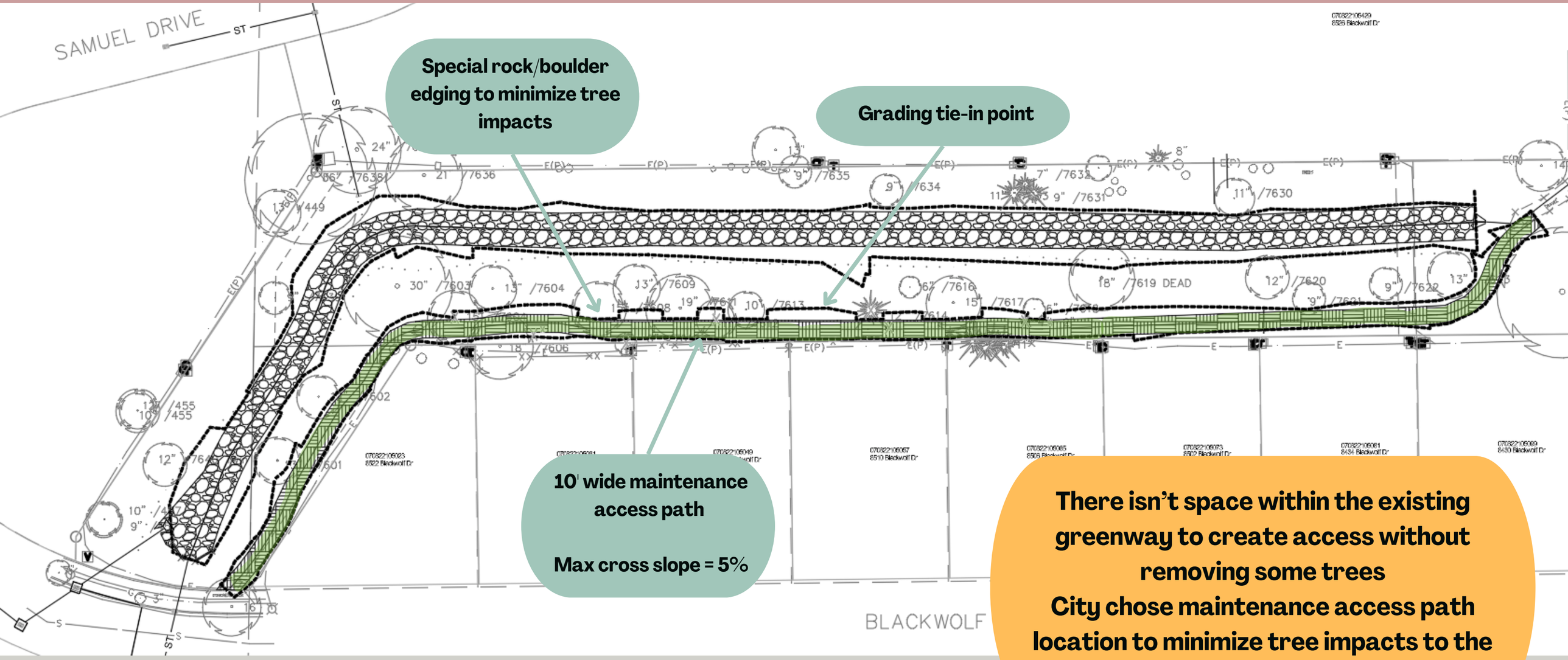


Robin Greenway (4609 Gregg Rd) - Example of **native plant cover**
No mowing occuring, but regular use of path by neighbors creates a low-impact path



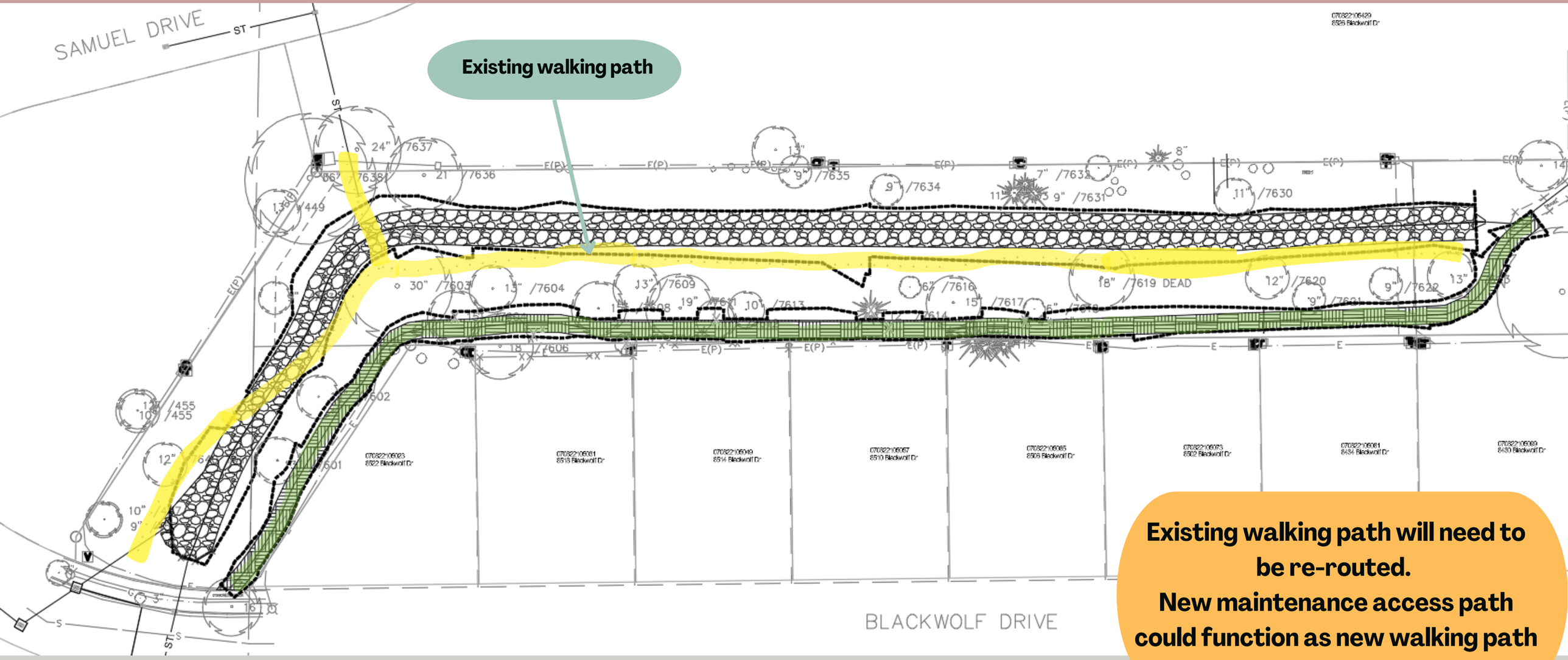
Wexford Greenway (1005 N High Point Rd) - Example of **lawn grass cover** that is mowed regularly by adjacent property owners (City only mows 1/year)

Proposed Maintenance



There isn't space within the existing greenway to create access without removing some trees
City chose maintenance access path location to minimize tree impacts to the greatest extent possible

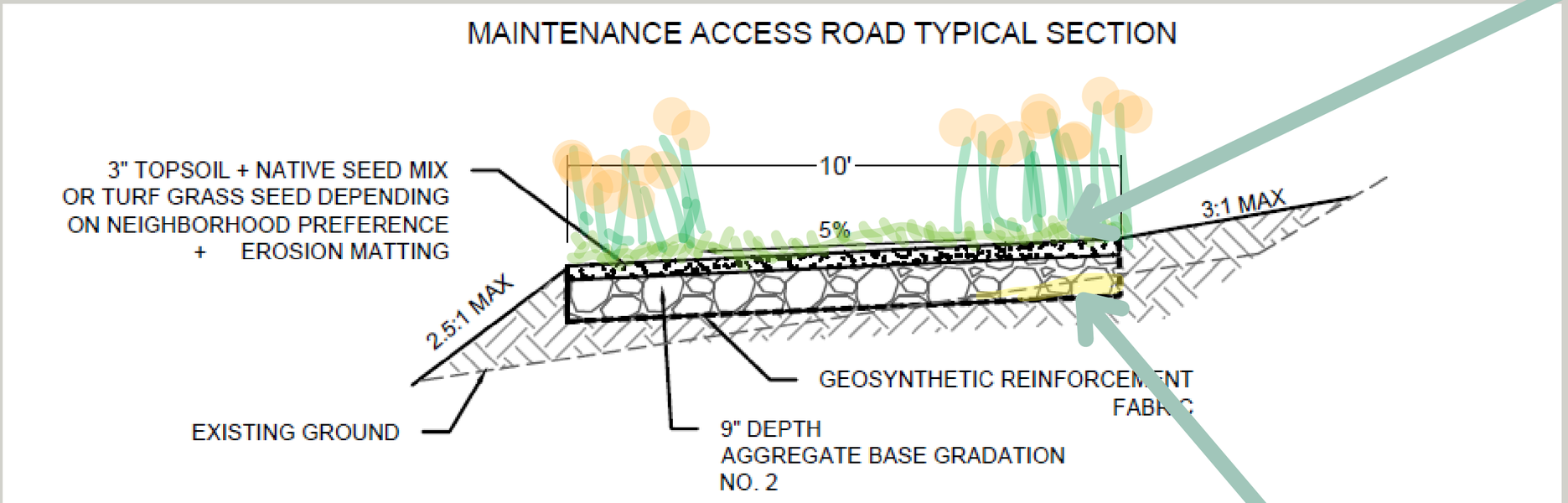
Proposed Maintenance



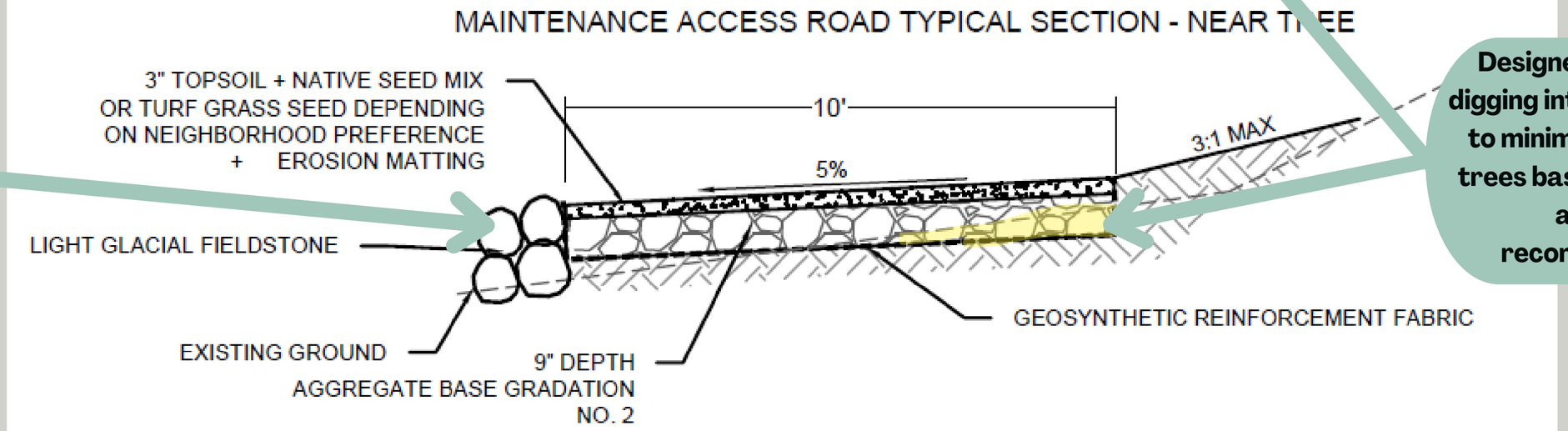
Existing walking path will need to be re-routed.
New maintenance access path could function as new walking path for residents!

Proposed Maintenance

Path will be level, walkable surface

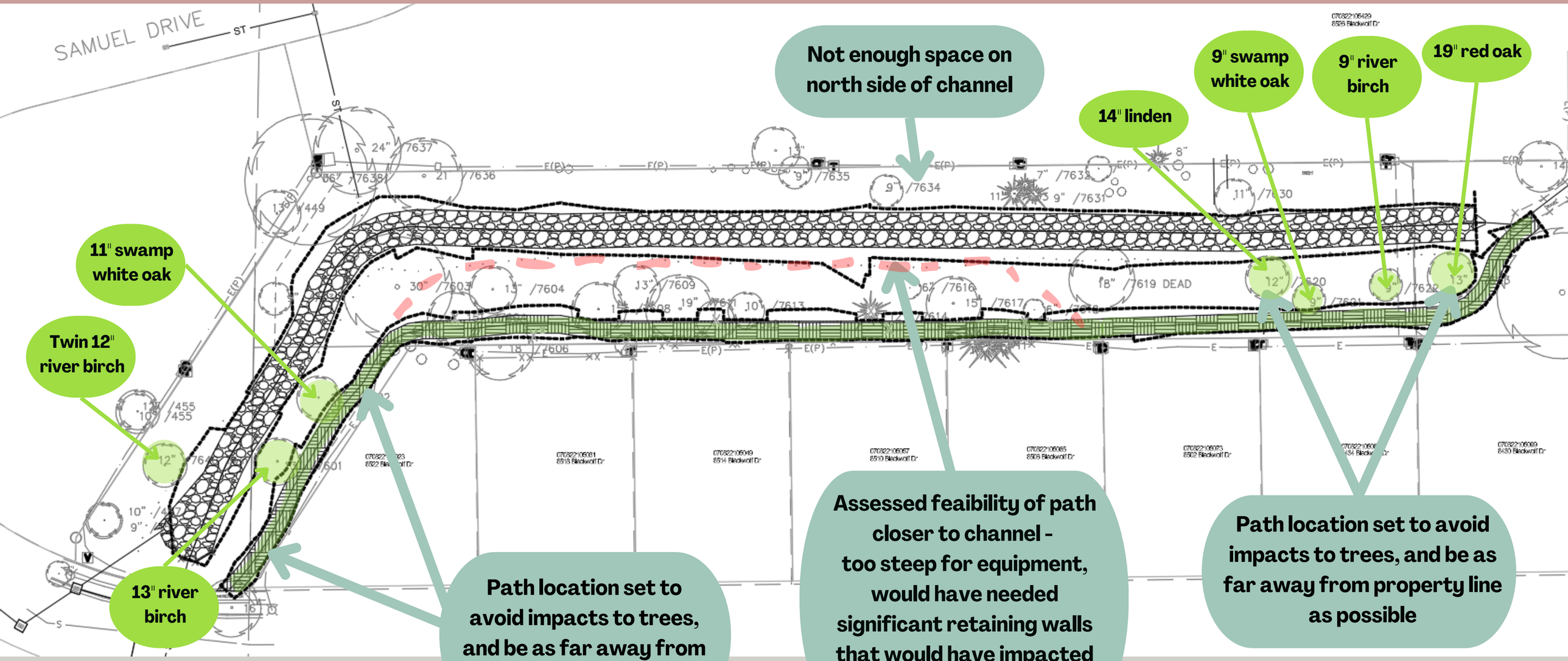


To minimize work near trees, we plan to add boulders to hold path in place where within tree dripline



Designed to minimize digging into existing slope to minimize impacts to trees based on certified arborist recommendation

Proposed Maintenance - Alternatives

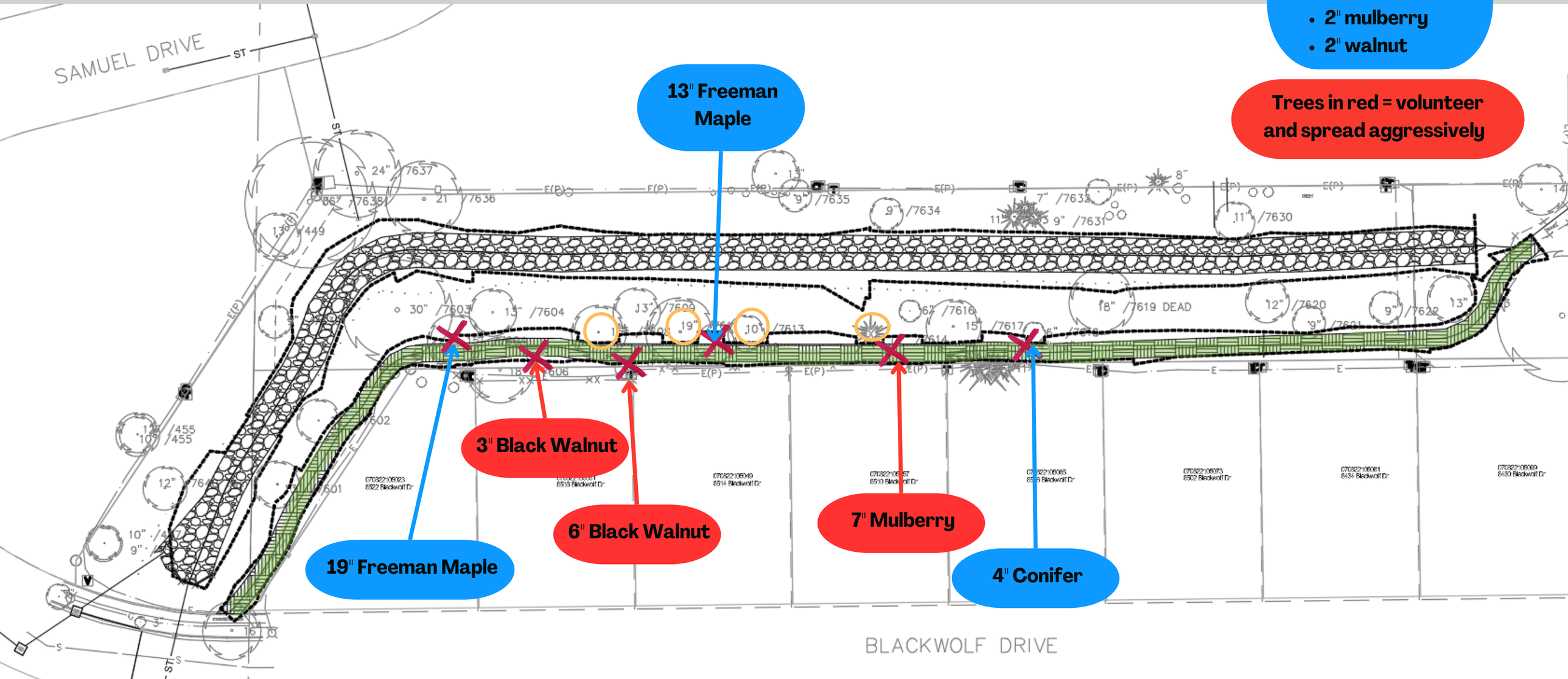


Proposed Maintenance

Will closely monitor -
13" Chinese Chestnut, 16" & 19" Freeman Maples, 10" Swamp White Oak

Additional Impacts
- ~3 shrubs
- 2" mulberry
- 2" walnut

Trees in red = volunteer and spread aggressively



Proposed Maintenance - Polling Question

Help decide what the greenway looks like!

What type of vegetative cover would you like to see on the maintenance access path?

(an option to select your answer will pop-up soon)



1. **Native Vegetation**

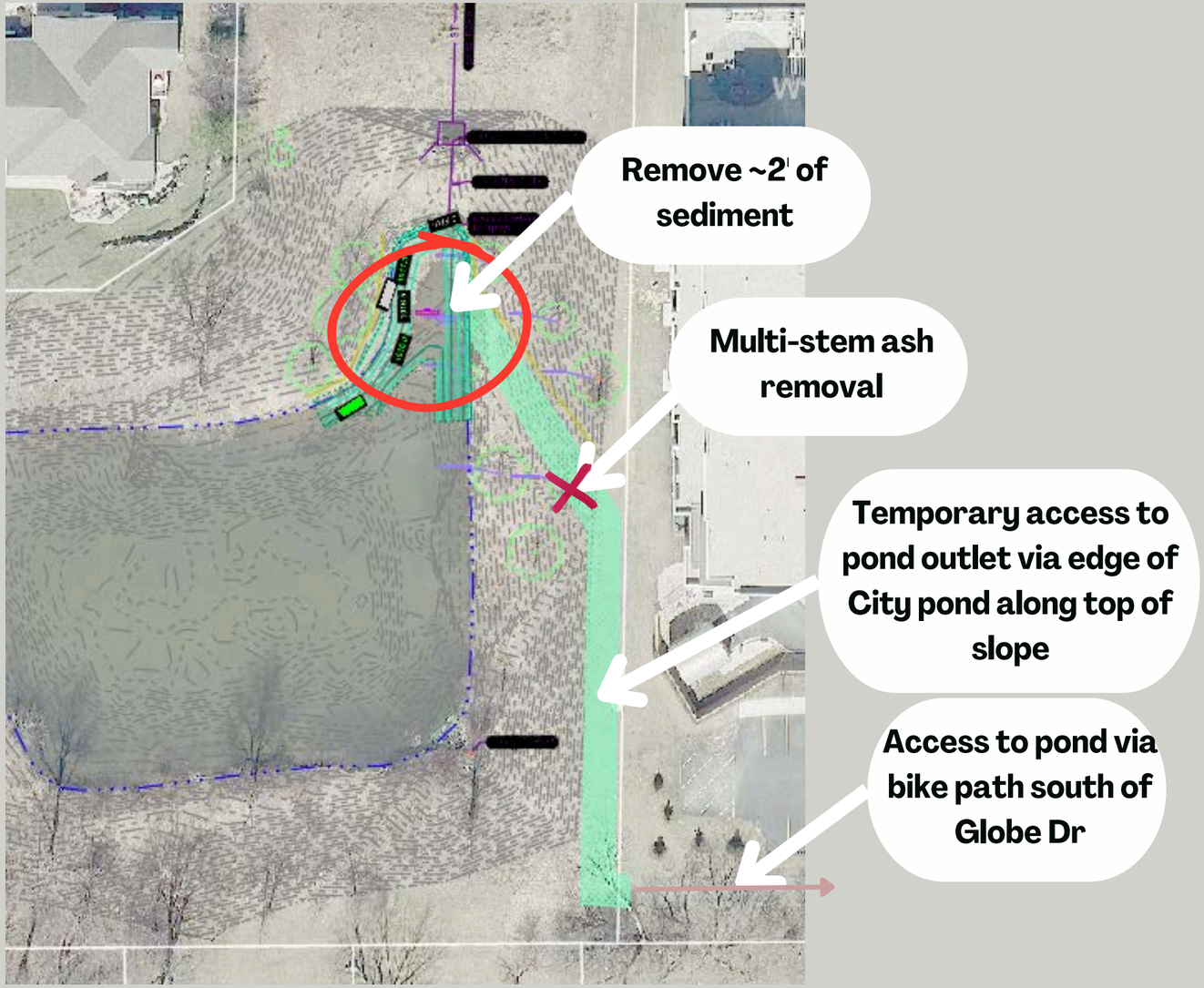


2. **Turf lawn / standard grass***

*A community member would need to mow the grass regularly for it to look like this

3. **No preference, I'm OK with either**

Proposed Pond Maintenance







Ecological Health of Greenway

- Area currently managed as Tier 1 vegetation
  - The conservation crew for the Stormwater Utility have invested considerable resources since 2018 in treating invasives, cutting/treating woody volunteers, hand digging invasives, contracting prescribed burns and reseeding and replanting in the Attic Angels system.

Attic Angels pond and greenway has been burned three times since 2019. Compare to the Stormwater Vegetation Management Plan standard of one burn every 5 - 7 years for Tier 1 Sites!

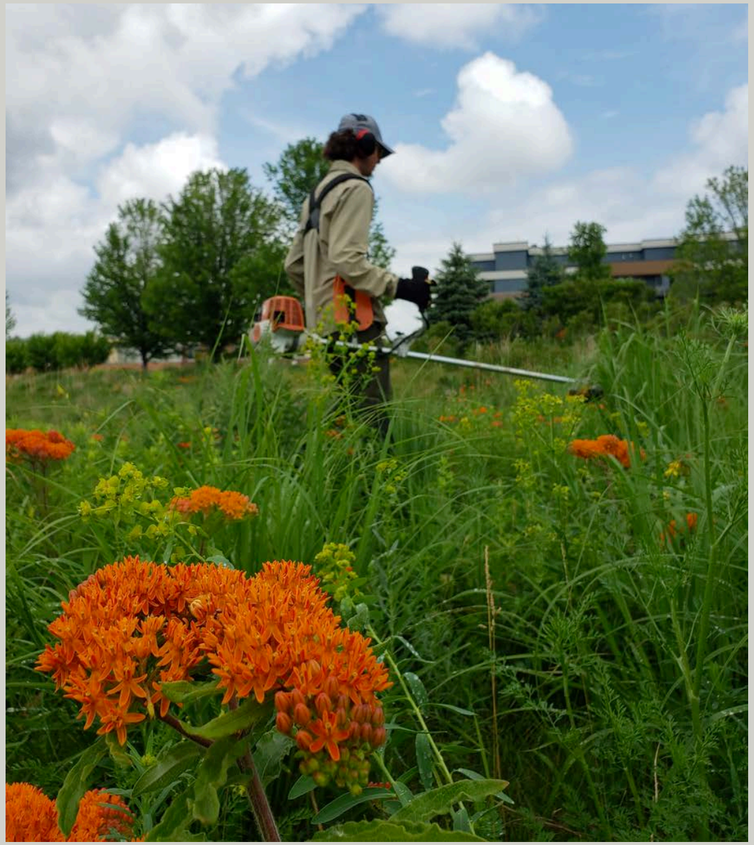
MANAGED MEADOWS	Tier 1	Tier 2
Conservation Maintenance Visit (weeding, spot mowing)	2x year	1x per year
Burn Frequency	1x, every 5-7 years	1x, every 5-7 years (only sites not annually mowed)
Invasive Brush Removal	1x, every 3 years	1x, every 3 years
Planting	Supplemental native trees, shrubs, plugs or seed	Supplemental native trees, shrubs, plugs or seed
Floral Survey Frequency	1x, every 3-5 years	1x, every 5-10 years
Annual Mow	None	Yes - Accessible areas only (for sites that are not on prescribed burn schedule)

From Stormwater Vegetation Management Plan



Ecological Health of Greenway

- Area is Impacted by the spread of invasives, erosion, and trees shading out native vegetation
- What the City is doing:
  - This project - repairing erosion
  - Continued maintenance of native ground cover
  - Supplemental seeding and replanting (plants, trees and shrubs)
  - Brush control efforts in partnership with neighborhood volunteers planned starting Fall 2026
- What you can do:
  - Continue volunteer efforts
    - Neighborhood volunteers have contributed significantly to improving the ecological health of the site by brush cutting, invasive plant control and picking up trash!
  - Control ornamental grasses
    - Pampas grass and Chinese silver grass are highly invasive. Consider native alternatives like Indian grass, or big bluestem.
  - Share your nature observations via iNaturalist or other citizen science platforms



Engineering Conservation Trainee performing invasive species control

Proposed Ecological Restoration Actions

During Construction

- Engineering is contracting with a certified arborist to assist pre-, during and post-construction
- Trees that are sensitive to construction and may have roots impacted by construction will be pre-treated with a growth hormone regulator
- The contractor will be required to install tree protection fencing around remaining trees
- Contractor tree removal plan will be approved by certified arborists and arborists will oversee removals
- Certified arborist will be on-site during grading around trees and will cut all roots
- Certified arborists will recommend post-construction tree treatment to help sensitive, impacted trees recover from nearby construction



Trees are fenced for protection during construction

Proposed Ecological Restoration Actions

Immediately Post-Construction

- Sow native seed mixes in areas disturbed by the project. Seed mixes will be tailored to anticipated post-construction site conditions.
- Plant native shrubs along rip-rap channel to help stabilize.
- For the first 3-5 years after construction, the project area will be maintained by an ecological restoration firm. Firms focus on invasive species control and targeted actions to foster native plant growth.

Ongoing Maintenance

- After the ecological restoration contract ends, the site will return to Engineering ecological staff to maintain as a Tier 1 site.
    - Control herbaceous invasive species especially reed canary grass, pampas grass, teasel, garlic mustard, dame's rocket, burdock, Japanese hedge parsley and others.
    - Ongoing control of invasive woody species
    - Supplemental seeding or shrub replanting as necessary

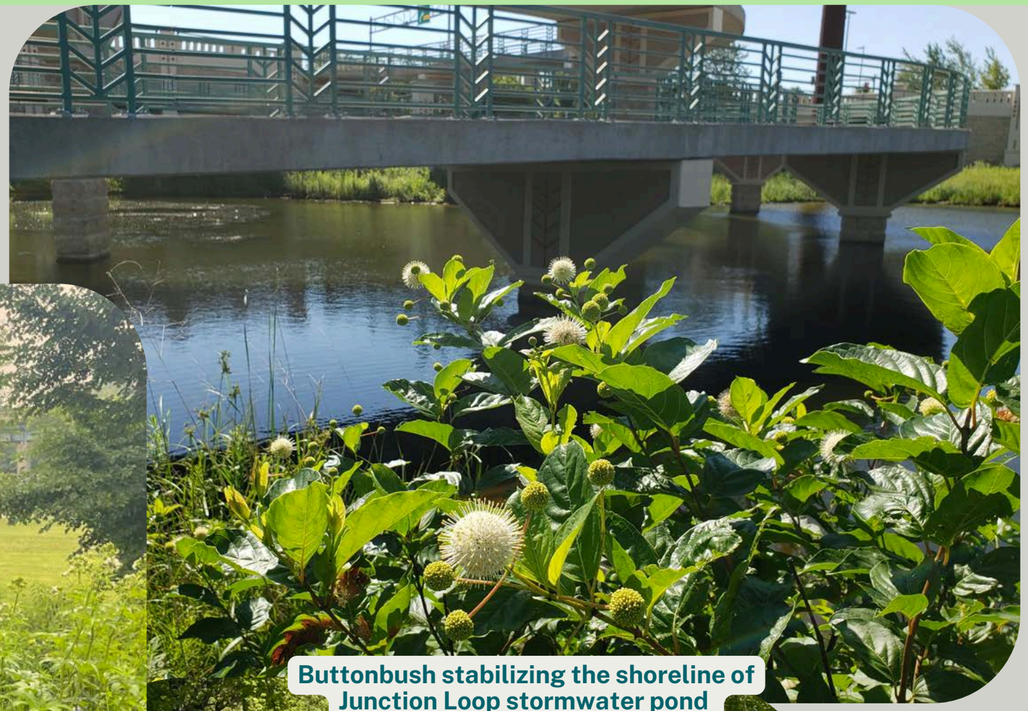


Native Canada anemone and Solomon's seal flourishing in a shady area of Attic Angel greenway. Seed mixes will be tailored to site conditions such as shade and moisture levels.

Proposed Ecological Restoration Actions

Post-Construction Native Planting

- Shrubs along edge of riprap to help hold soil in place as vegetation sown by seed establishes
- Types of shrubs may include:
  - Gray dogwood
  - Red osier dogwood
  - Elderberry
  - Silky dogwood
  - Alder leaf buckthorn (native!)
  - Sumac
  - Swamp rose
  - Meadow sweet
  - Hazelnut
  - Ninebark
  - Buttonbush
- Sow native seed across entire disturbed area.



Buttonbush stabilizing the shoreline of Junction Loop stormwater pond



Native elderberries provide large, hydrangea-like flowers for aesthetics and provide nutritious berries for birds and other wildlife



Red osier dogwood grows quickly in wet areas

Community Involvement in Ecological Improvements

Volunteer Efforts: Volunteers can assist in improving native plant diversity and controlling invasive plants on the pond and greenway.

- Connect with active Attic Angels pond and greenway volunteers!
  - Volunteers already cut invasive brush such as buckthorn and honeysuckle, and control invasive herbaceous plants such as garlic mustard and crown vetch.

- Citizen Science: post wildlife and plant sightings to the City of Madison Stormwater iNaturalist page; https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/stormwater-species-of-madison-wisconsin
  - Or participate in WI DNR Bumble Bee Brigade; https://wiatri.net/inventory/bbb/

Curb Encroachments: Area residents can reduce the threat of invasive species or horticultural plant spread into the greenway.

- Do not dump yard waste and brush onto public land.
- Do not plant invasive species such as pampas grass or Chinese silver grass. If you already have these species on your property, control them so they don't spread out of your yard.



Dumped grass clippings and other yard waste can smother native plants and introduce weed seeds.



Pampas grass has been spreading from ornamental plantings into the pond and greenway.

Ecological Resources

- **Native Landscaping**
  - WDNR and UW-Extension “Landscaping Alternatives for Terrestrial Invasive Flowers and Grasses”
  - Woody Invasives of the Great Lakes Collaborative (WIGL) “Landscape Alternatives for Invasives Trees, Shrubs & Vines”
  - Native and non-native root comparison chart

- **Invasive Plants**
  - Dane County Invasive Tree & Brush Removal
  - Woody Invasives of the Great Lakes Collaborative (WIGL)
  - Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin (IPAW)



Encroachments

MGO Chapter 8.15

The private use of City-owned or leased greenways and park lands is considered a public nuisance. Permissible improvements are allowed only in Stormwater Utility Owned properties with approval or agreements. No encroachments are allowed on City Park lands.

8.15 - REGULATION OF PRIVATE USE OF GREENWAYS, PARK LANDS, AND THE SOUTHWEST PATH.

(1) Greenways and Park Lands.

(a) Public Nuisance. Except as provided for in this Subsection, the private use of City-owned or leased greenways and park lands including, but not limited to, fences, retaining walls, outbuilding sites, dog runs, play equipment and gardens, storage of piers, boat hoists, firewood or other private personal property, disposal or dumping of yard waste or garbage, planting or pruning of trees and shrubs, mowing of grass on park lands, or chemical treatment of grass on park lands or greenways, is a public nuisance and is prohibited unless approval to use City-owned or leased greenways is obtained pursuant to Subdivision (b) or the private use is pursuant to a valid permit issued under Sec. 8.10 or Sec. 8.33, MGO. For the purposes of this Section, a greenway has the definition provided under Sec. 16.23(2), and also includes any lands managed by the Stormwater Utility. (Am. by Ord. 12,992, 1-25-02; Ord. 13,177, 11-5-02; ORD-10-00109, 11-17-10; ORD-13-00109, 6-12-13; Am. by ORD-18-00121, 12-3-18)









Permissable if meets criteria 100ft notification which includes the Alder

~Native Plantings or Invasive removals
~Vegetable Gardens
~Garden fences (temporary)



Allowable with Privilege in Greenway Agreement

~Fences
~Stairs
~Retaining Walls
~Outbuildings (sheds, chicken coops, garages)
~Hardscape
~Parking
~improvements that benefit the public
~Raised gardens
~Compost

Removal required; Notice will be sent

~Wood piles
~Dumping (garbage, yard waste, etc)
~Chemical Treatment
~Cutting or pruning City owned trees
~Seed or plant collection unless for non-profit
~Dog runs
~Storage of personal property
~Play equipment
~Pet underground fence
~Anything that impedes water or compromises safety or maintenance

Project Schedule and Next Steps

- Incorporate public feedback from tonight’s meeting into draft design plans
- Plan approval process
  - Tree removal hearing at Board of Public Works (~11/4/26)
  - Plan Approval at Board of Public Works (~11/4/26)
  - Plan Approval at Common Council (~11/24/26)
- Bidding - December
- Construction - Late winter and early spring of 2027.



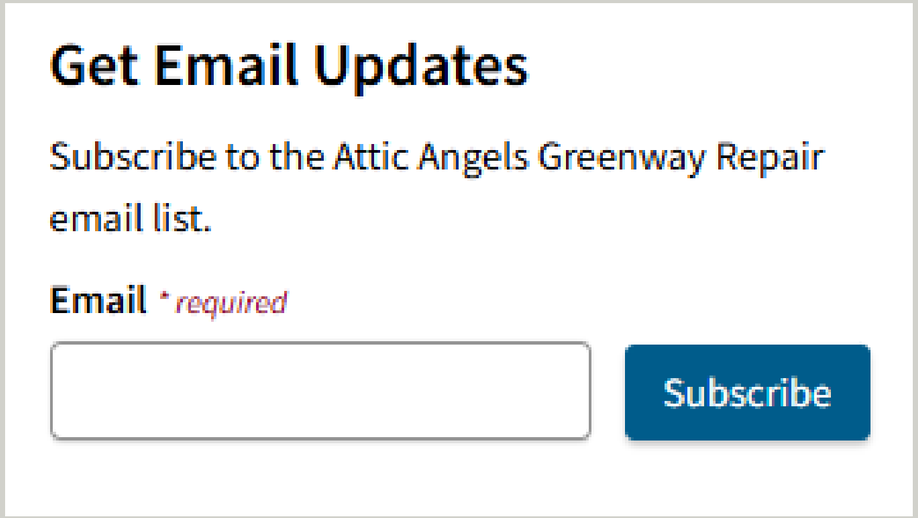
Board of Public Works (BPW) Meeting

- Members of the public can watch, register support/opposition, speak (3 minutes), and/or submit written comments.
- Subscribe to the email list on project webpage to get notification when BPW meeting registration opens.
    - Typically the Monday preceding the meeting around 12pm
- If you register to speak, make sure the name you display in Zoom matches the name you registered under so staff know who to unmute when it’s your turn.
- BPW meetings start at 4:30 PM but the public hearings for public works projects don’t start until 5:30 PM (or when the item under discussion at 5:30 PM finishes). You can join at any time.
- If you have any questions about registering for the BPW meeting, email boardofpublicworks@cityofmadison.com

Contact Information & Resources

Contacts

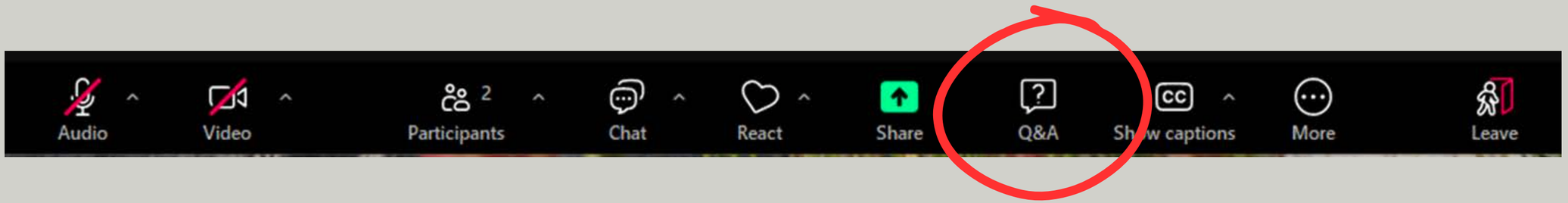
- Project Manager, Jojo O’Brien
  - Email: jobrien@cityofmadison.com
- Encroachment Questions: Janet Schmidt
  - Email: jschmidt@cityofmadison.com



Project website

- **https://www.cityofmadison.com/engineering/projects/attic-angels-greenway-repair**
  - Sign-up for project email updates on the website
  - Updates on plan status will be posted to the project website
  - Recording for virtual meeting, and meeting slides will be posted

Questions?



Use Q&A button, or raise your hand to be unmuted for comments or ask additional questions.

(click “More” for pop-up menu that includes “Raise Hand”)