

# Sauk Creek Corridor Plan Kick-off Meeting

6:30pm-7:30pm	Welcome, Operating Agreement (20 Min) Presentation (40 Min)
7:30pm-8:15pm	Large Group Input
8:15pm-8:25pm	Wrap Up & Outlook Review Operating Agreement
8:25pm-8:30pm	Opportunity to Respond to Values & Goals Questions in Person (We are also providing a link to do so online, if preferred)
8:30pm-8:45pm (unofficial)	<i>Extra opportunity to share comments and questions</i>



# Introductions

- Jojo O'Brien, Project Manager, Engineering Stormwater
- Janet Schmidt, Principal Engineer, Engineering Stormwater
- Renee Callaway, Pedestrian Bicycle Administrator, Traffic Engineering
- Maddie Dumas, Stormwater Vegetation Coordinator, Engineering Stormwater
- Ian Brown, City Forester
- Marion Riehemann, Facilitator

# What is intention of meeting?

- Begin the conversation
- Share the components of the corridor plan
  - Water, Land, People
- Share the corridor plan process
- Learn high-level values and goals from the community
- Obtain high-level input, understand community concerns, gather questions to be answered during corridor plan process

# What is not the intention of the meeting?

- Deciding if a bike path will be part of the Corridor Plan
  - West Area Plan is the process where transportation linkages are being discussed-it's most productive to share bike path input there
- Figuring out how many trees will be removed
  - Will be decided by the entire engagement process
- Sharing information that isn't yet available
  - No Final Recommendations from West Area Plan on paths
  - The Ecological and Channel Assessment isn't complete

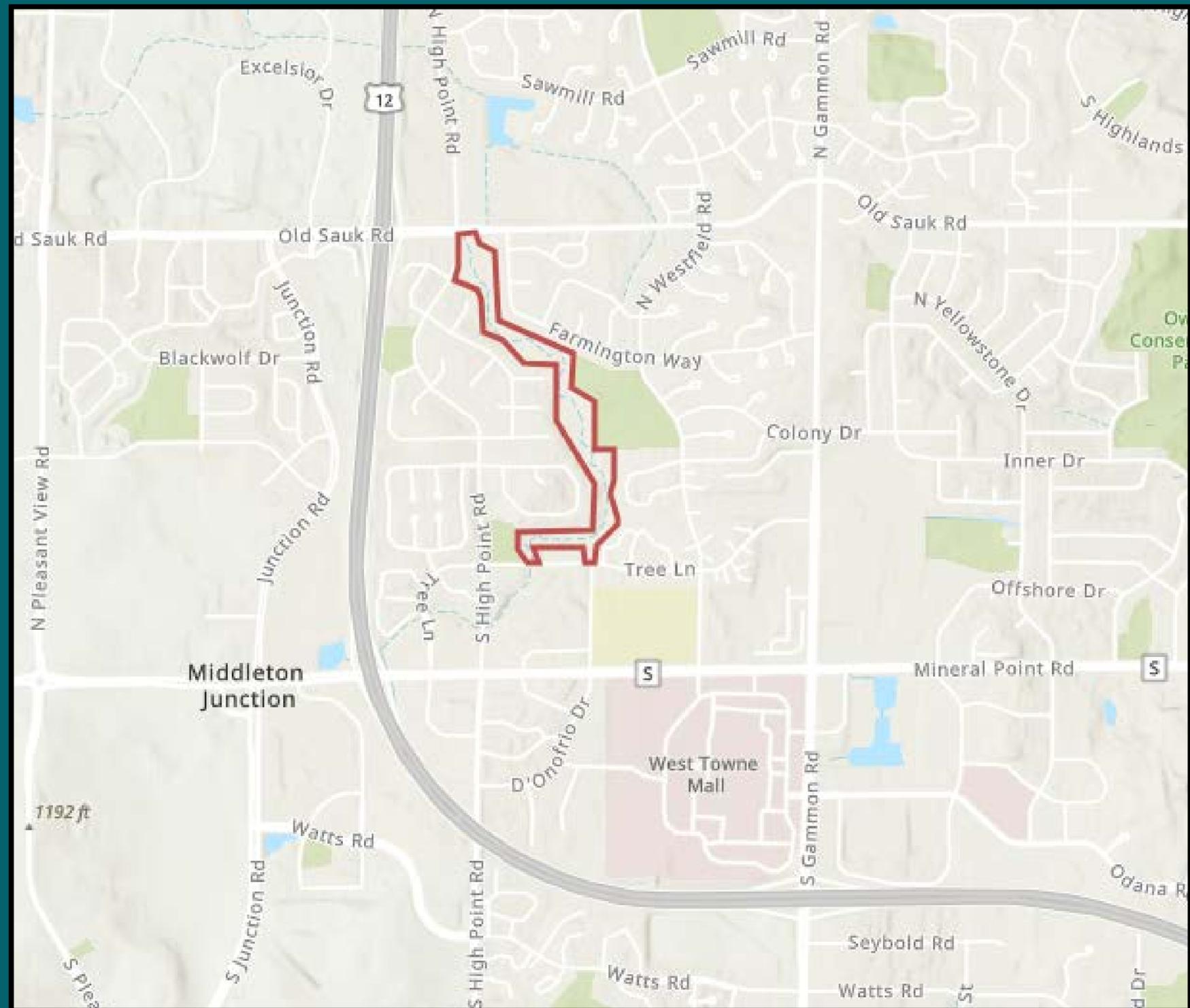
# Agenda

- 1 Operating Agreement
- 2 Greenway Location
- 3 Water, Land & People
- 4 Corridor Plan Process - What to Expect
- 5 Inclusive Engagement, Previous Plans
- 6 Questions we have for you
- 7 Large Group Input
- 8 *Informal opportunity-*
  - *Opportunity to answer City's values & goals questions*
  - *Let the City know what questions you want answered*
  - *Share additional comments*

# Clarifications

- This section of Sauk Creek has a variety of different characteristics than the sections behind Rocky Rococco's and Walgreens.
  - There will be a different design and outcome.
- The City does not have a design for the greenway. Over the next year, we will develop the corridor plan together which will be the conceptual design.
- The City prioritizes tree preservation, and we want your help.
  - This will be part of the corridor plan process
  - The City doesn't have restoration goals yet. We are getting a new ecological assessment, and will be using that information to get input from the community on how to move forward.
- Based on feedback from the community, we have modified our originally planned engagement process (from 2018) to provide more clear areas for community input. We will be looking for more input on the channel stabilization, and on any tree removals for ecological enhancement.

# Where are we?



# Location

Main Public access points:

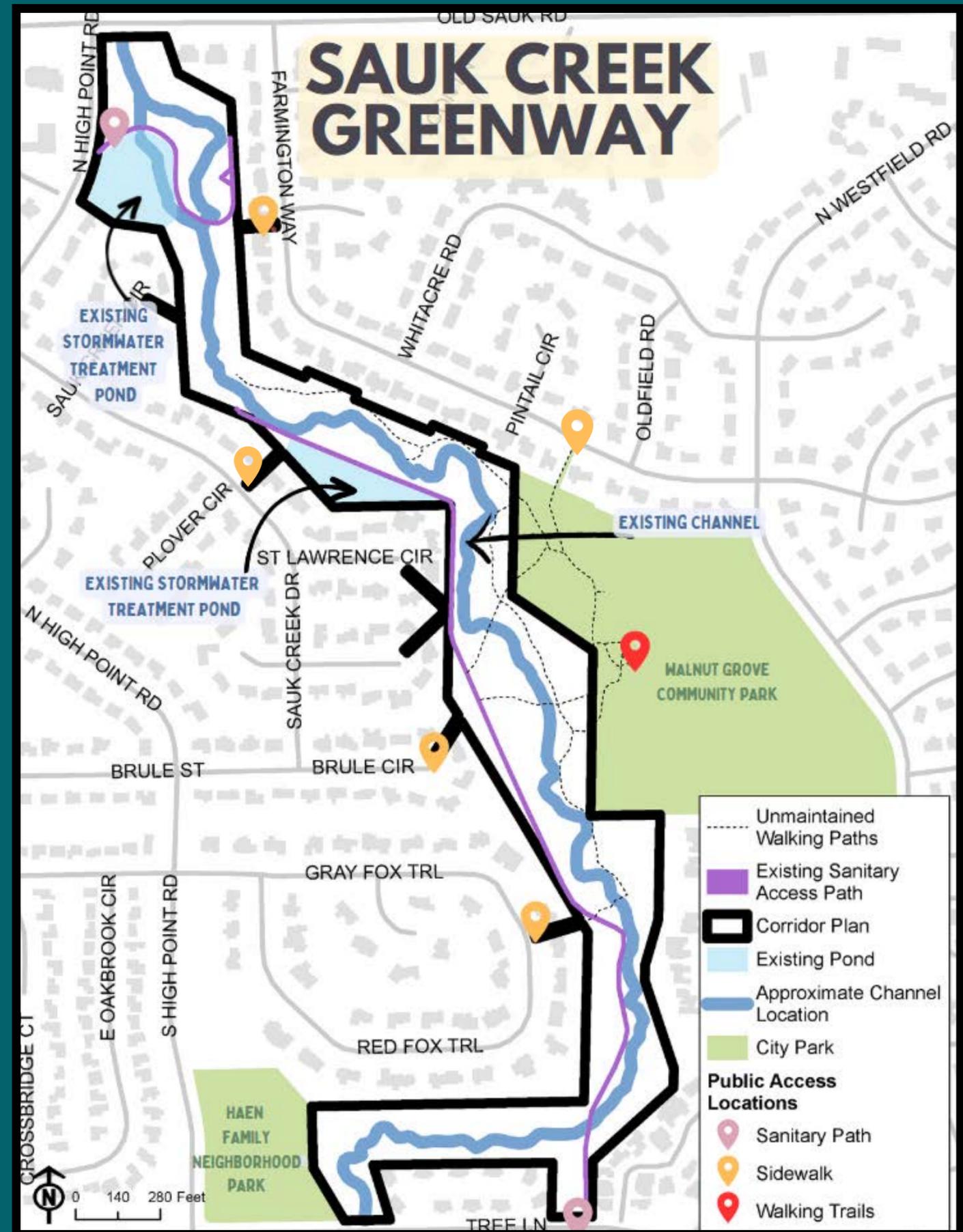
- Tree Lane and Randolph Dr
- Walnut Grove Community Park

Other Access Points:

- N High Point Rd
- Brule Circle
- Gray Fox
- Farmington Way (x2)
- Sauk Creek Dr

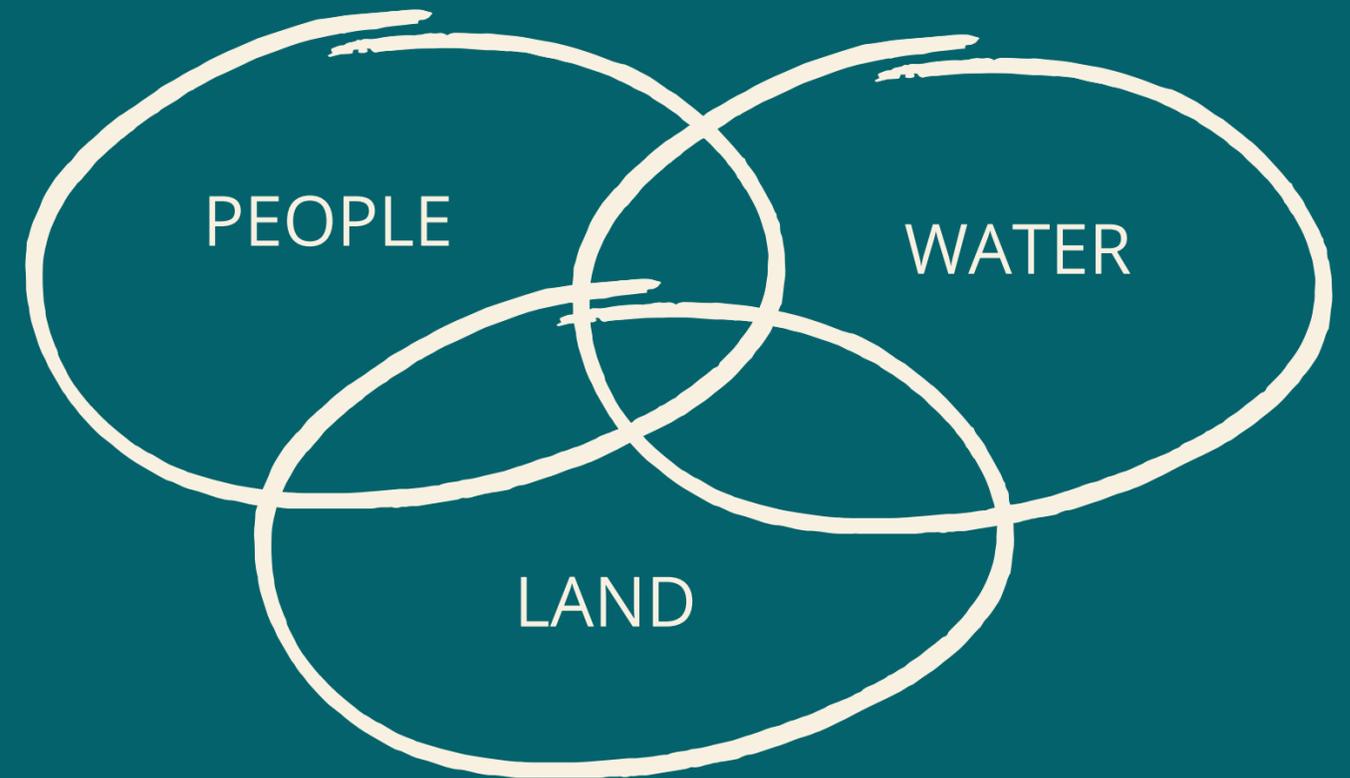
Existing facilities

- Sanitary access path (to maintain sanitary sewer and prevent back-ups)
- Stormwater Treatment ponds



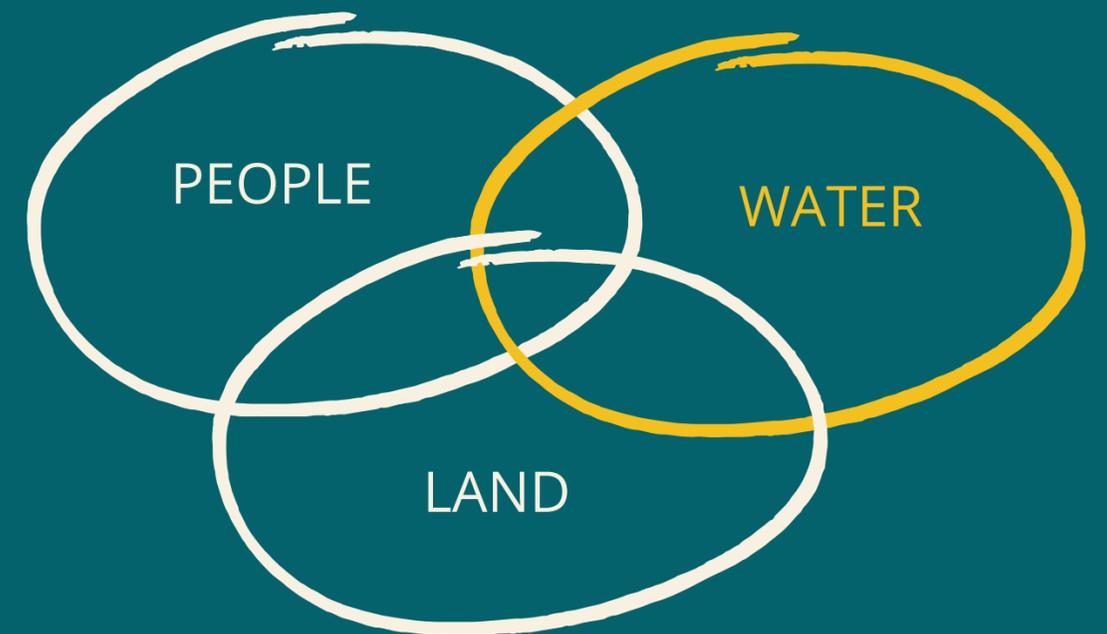
# Corridor Plan

- Changed term to “CORRIDOR” plan due to wider project area
  - Not because we are already considering it a transportation corridor
- Developing corridor plan with community will last all of 2024
- Corridor plan is a conceptual plan
- Construction projects to build the elements of the corridor plan wouldn't begin until late 2025 at the earliest



# Water

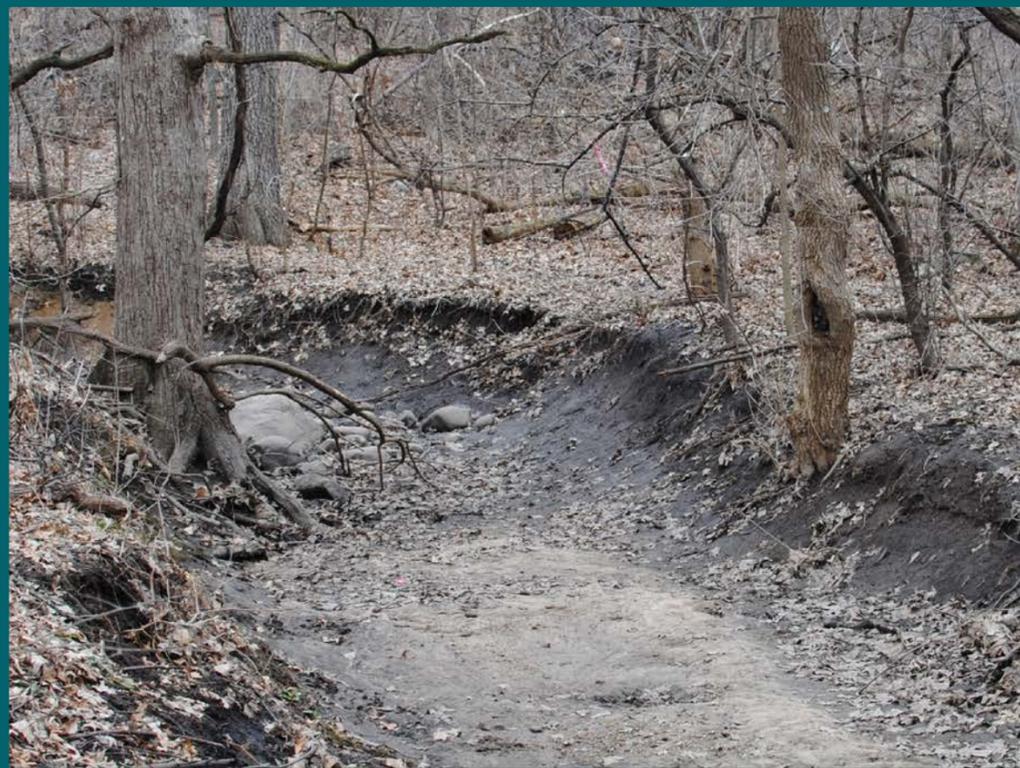
- Existing Greenway
- Flood Mitigation
- Channel Stabilization
- Maintenance Access
- Stormwater Treatment Ponds



# WATER - Existing Greenway

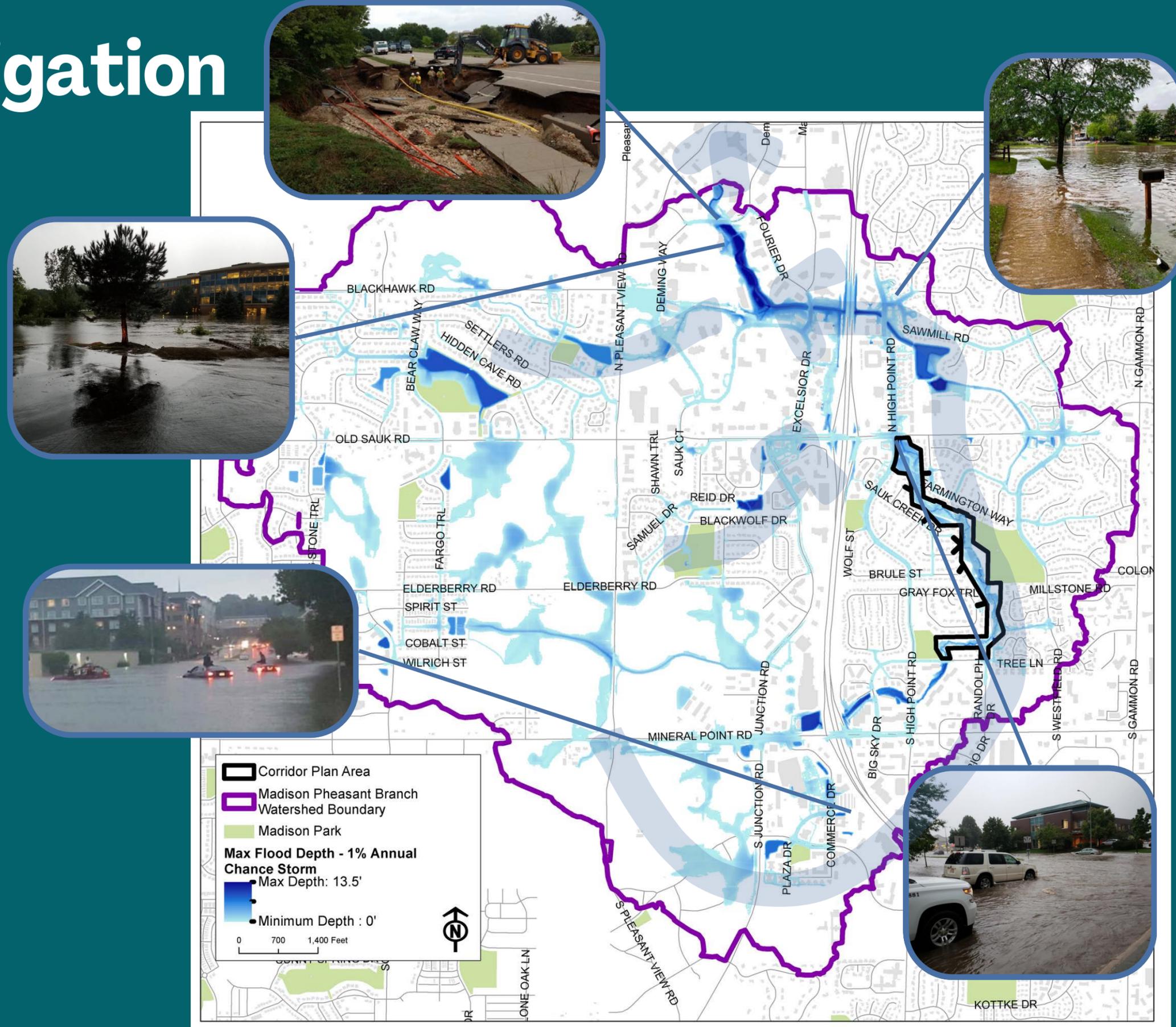
- Purpose of stormwater land: safely convey stormwater and/or remove pollutants before entering lakes
- Clearly defined channel
- Eroding, unstable banks
- Cannot access most of the channel to clear log jams, repair channel etc.

**\*\*This is the reason for the current project\*\***



# WATER - Flood mitigation

- Pheasant Branch Watershed Study provides master plan for watershed to reach flood targets
  - Roads accessible to emergency vehicles in 4% annual chance event
  - No structure flooding in 1% annual chance event
- Green infrastructure analysis completed and it cannot be used to reach flood targets
- Greenway channel needs to be stable in future, flood resilient conditions



# WATER - Channel Stabilization

- Channel must be stable per state and federal regulations
- Channel Assessment being completed by Consultant
  - In progress with completion January 2024 (will share at next meeting)
  - Will develop different cross section options and overview pros/cons of each option



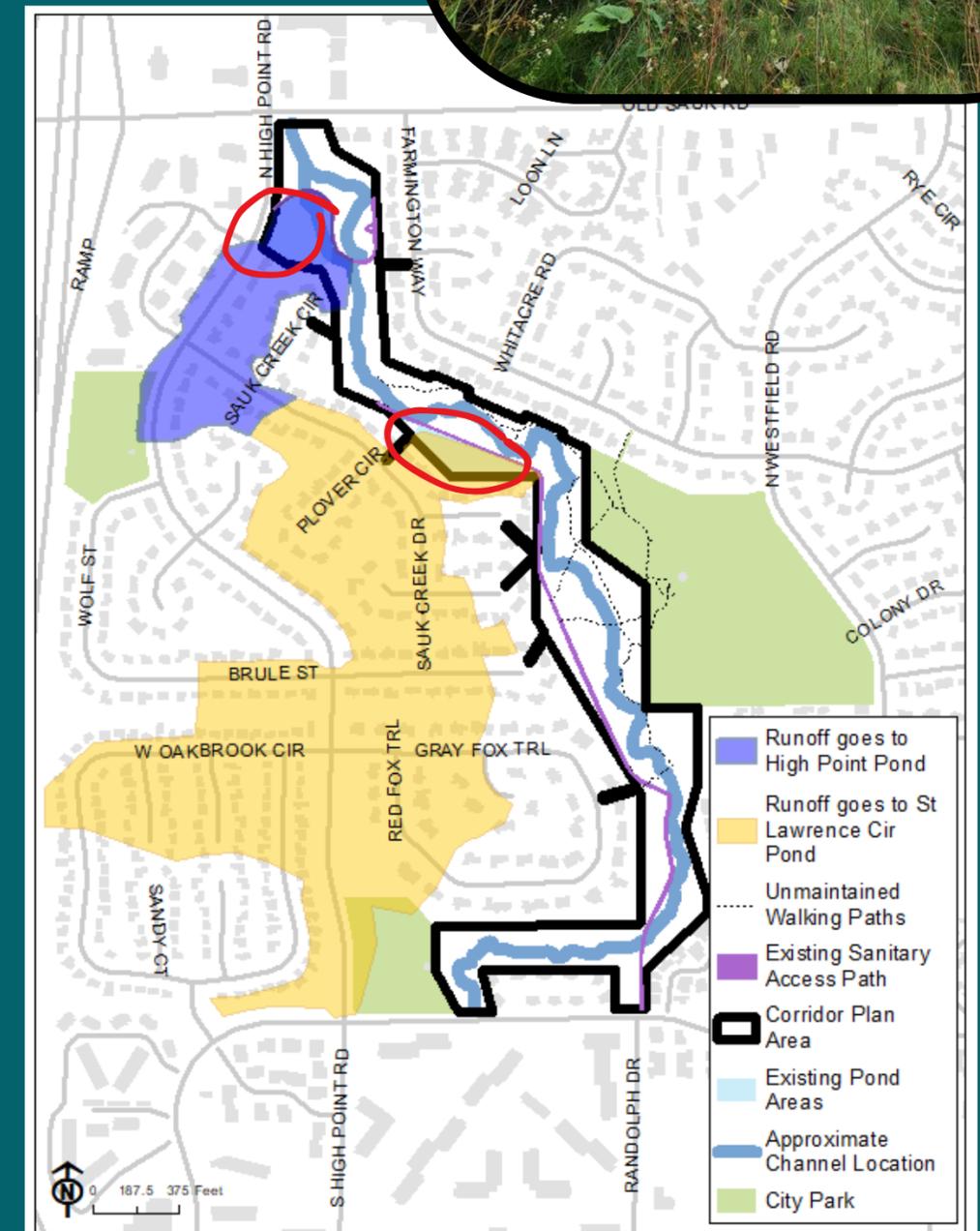
# WATER - Maintenance Access

- Designing in access will allow for maintenance and repairs of public infrastructure
- We will plan to utilize existing access wherever possible (from Sanitary access Path shown in purple on the right)



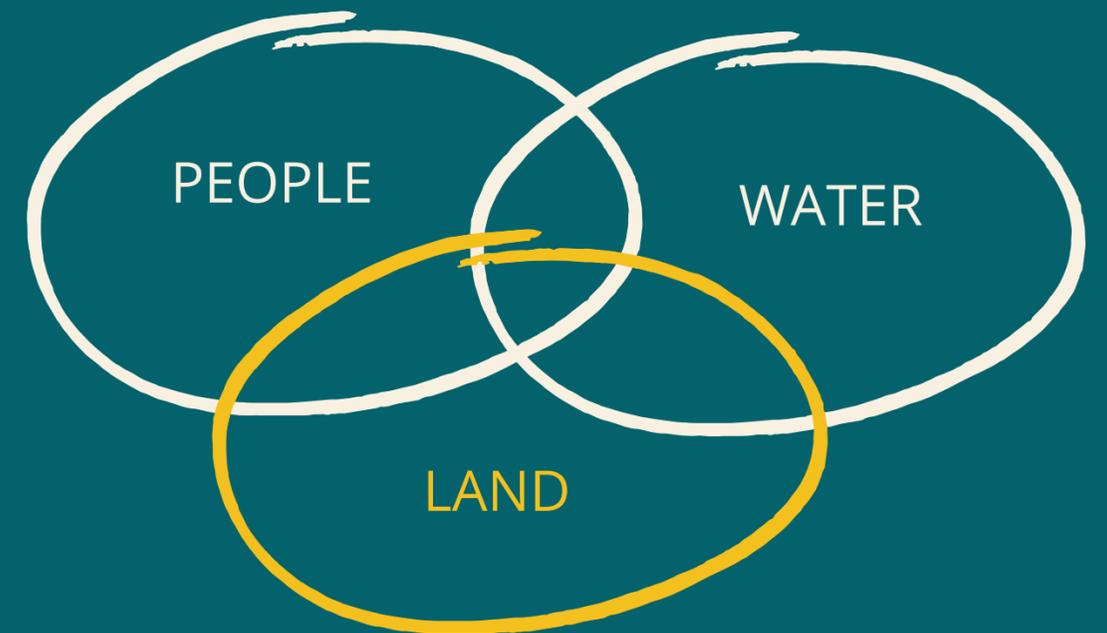
# WATER - Stormwater Treatment Ponds

- Existing stormwater treatment ponds are no longer effectively removing sediment and nutrients
- WI Dept of Natural Resources (WDNR) has changed regulations and prefer stormwater ponds don't take water from channel to treat it (as both ponds were designed to do)
- Ponds should treat stormwater entering from urban area
  - Options that could make ponds more effective at removing sediment
  - Potentially could reduce size of northern pond



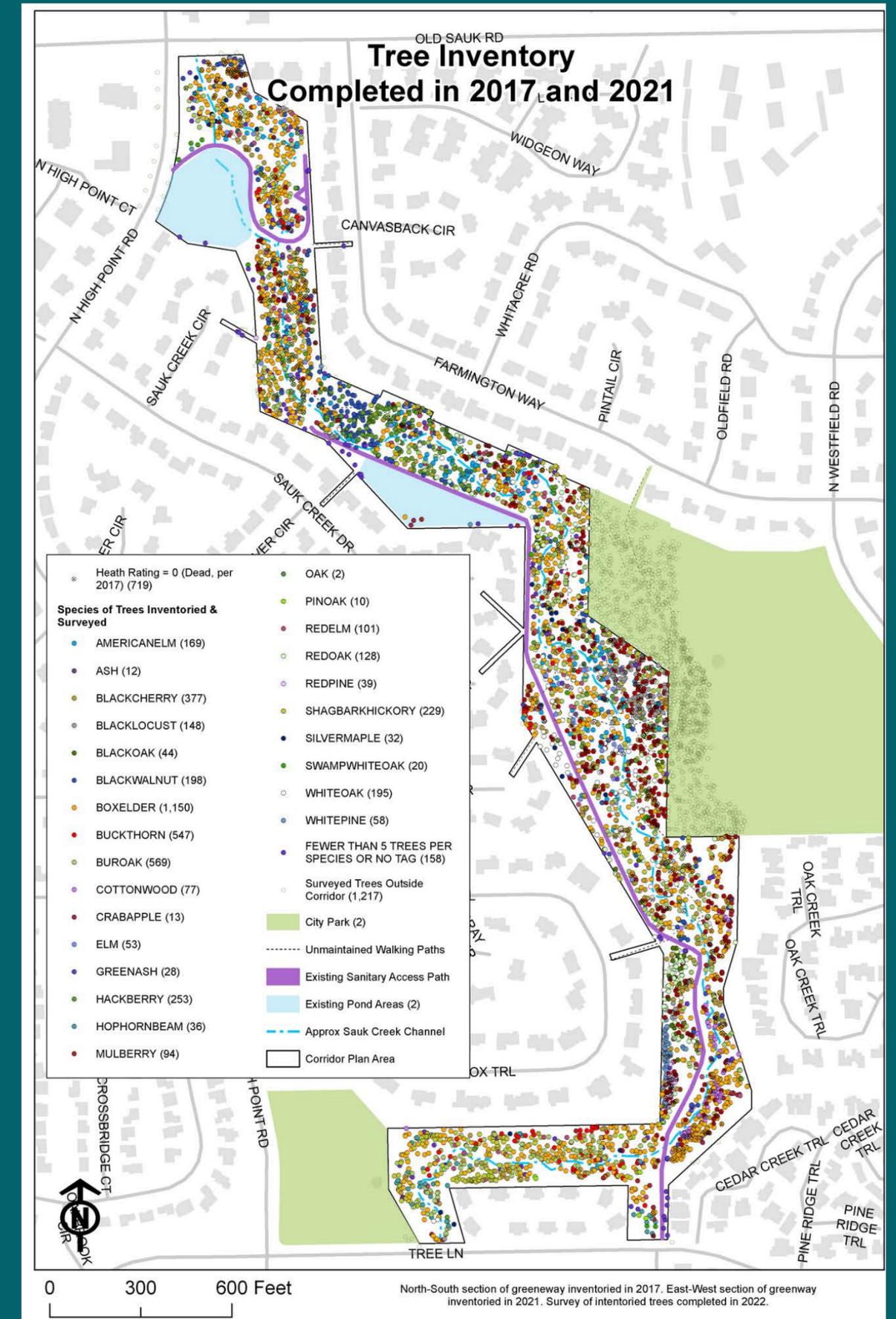
# Land

- Tree inventory
- Ecological Assessment



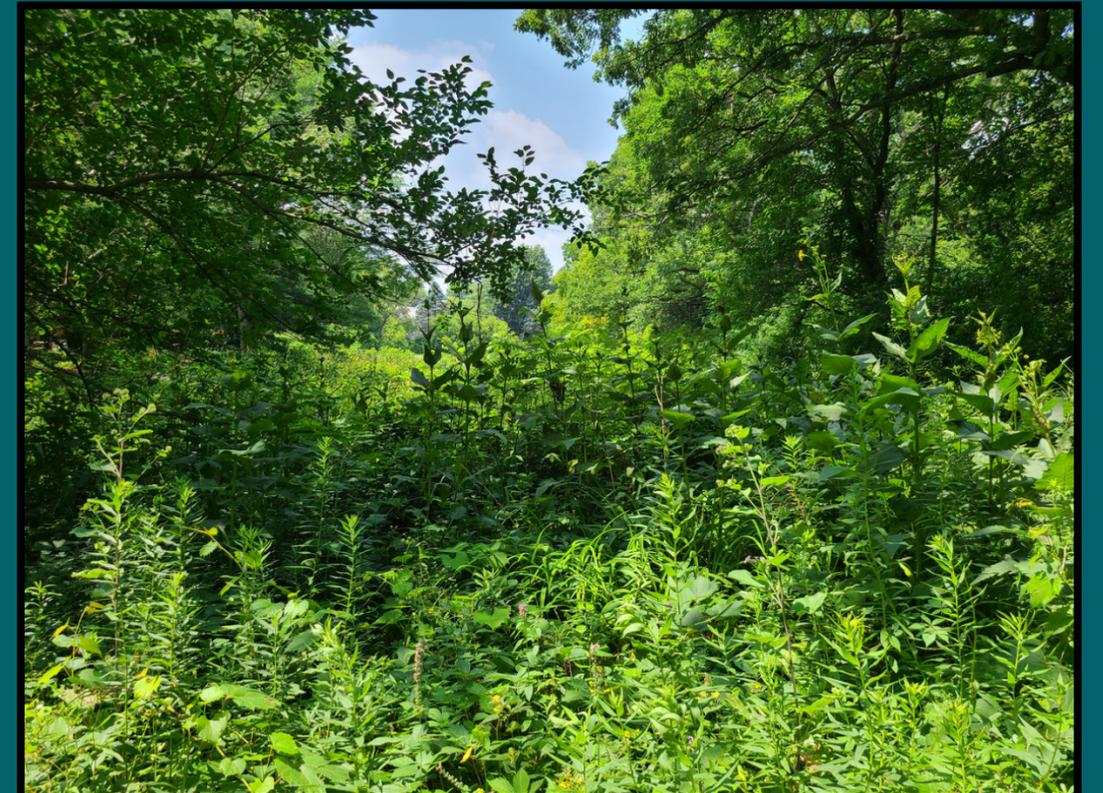
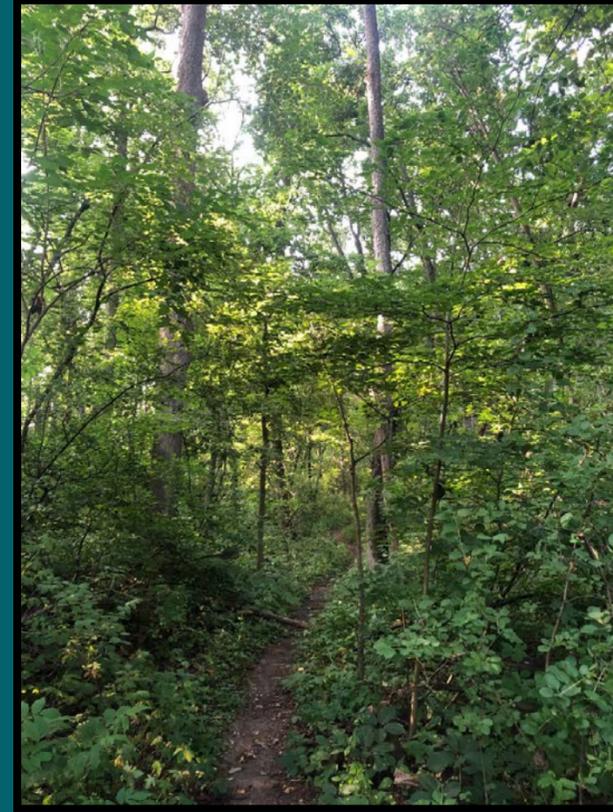
# LAND - Tree Inventory

- Tree inventory was completed in 2017 and 2021
  - 4,740 Trees in entire corridor
  - Tagged trees surveyed at same time as channel in 2021-2022
- Trees with tags have been inventoried! Please do not remove them
- Tree inventory doesn't show whole picture of the health of the greenway
  - Doesn't include herbaceous vegetation
  - Only captures a point in time



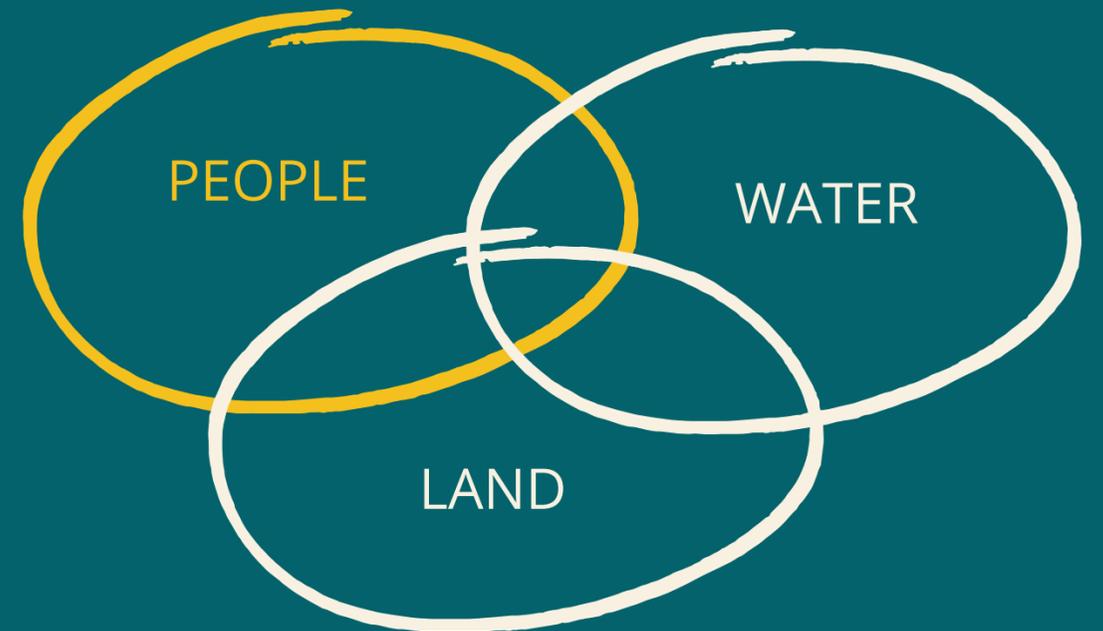
# LAND - Ecological Assessment

- Ecological and Channel Assessment by Consultant
  - In progress with completion January 2024
  - Will go beyond individual trees and look at the ecosystem community and its health
  - Woody vegetation (trees and shrubs), herbaceous vegetation, historical context, and trajectory for future
  - Will share results at next public meeting
- City does not have any specific restoration goals or plans



# People

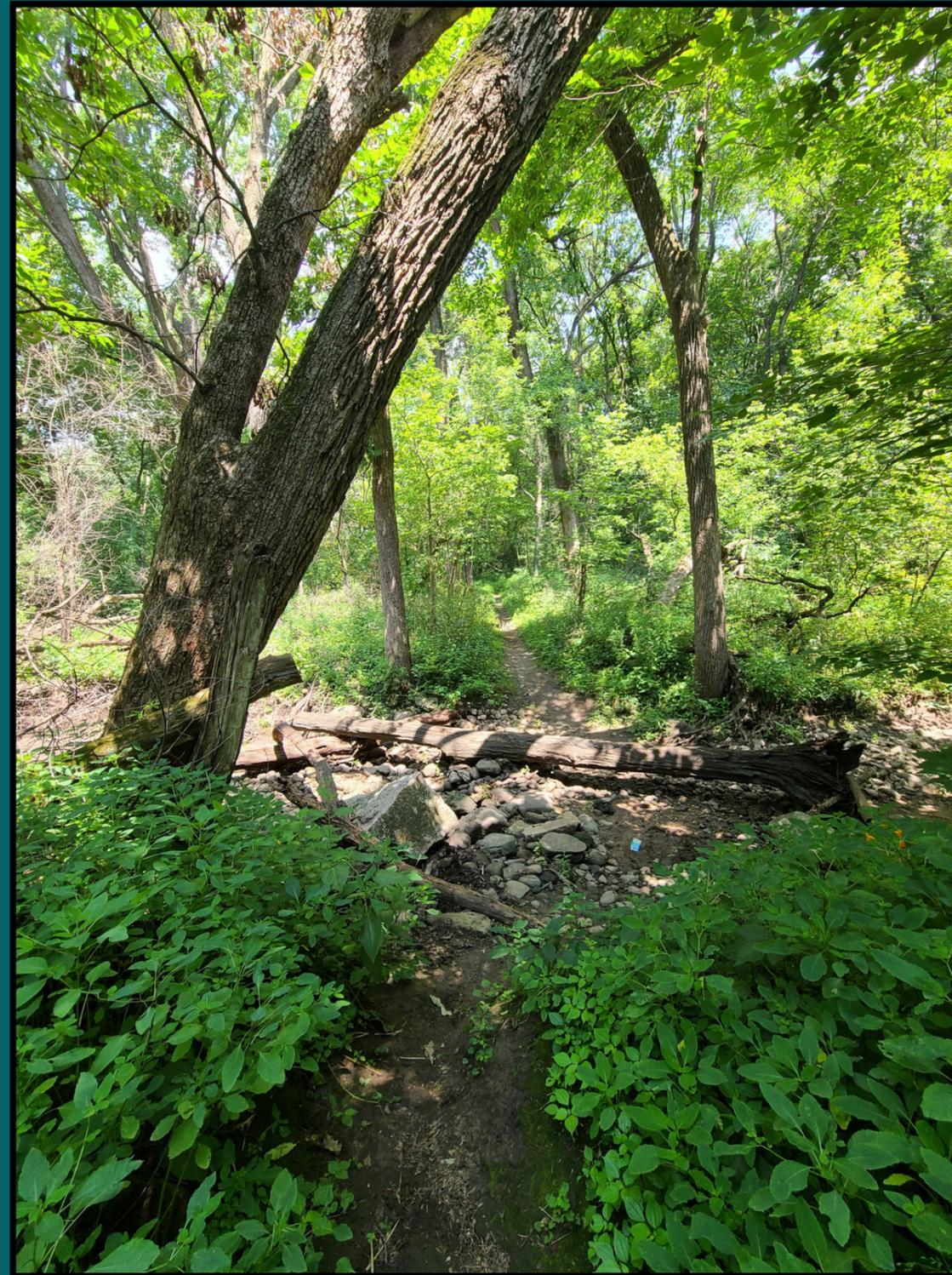
- Use
- Mobility
- Accessibility



# PEOPLE - Use

## How is the corridor used?

- Experience nature
- Bird watch
- Meditation/relaxation
- Walk
- Run
- Bike
- Bike/hike/trail running on natural surface trails
- Winter activities (ski, snowshoe)
- Passing through on commute (to school, park, work)
- Others?



Strava Running Heat Map

# PEOPLE - Mobility

- Plans since 1992 have included recommendations to improve mobility in and across Sauk Creek Greenway
- Currently greenway impedes east/west mobility
- The West Area Plan is currently looking at transportation connections in and across the greenway
- The Corridor Plan will build upon recommendations in the West Area Plan once available (if any) and look at how to address:
  - Mobility and accessibility needs
  - Design constraints
  - Community concerns
- The best place to provide specific input on the bike network, walking network and transportation safety is currently the West Area Plan.
  - Planning progress updates to commissions in December
  - Public meetings in January

## Subscribe to Email List

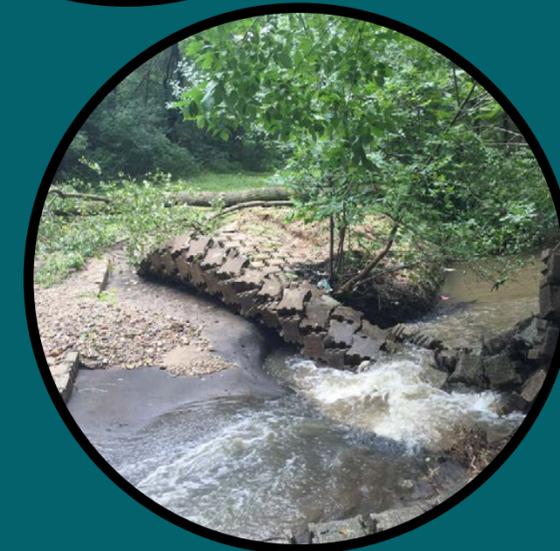
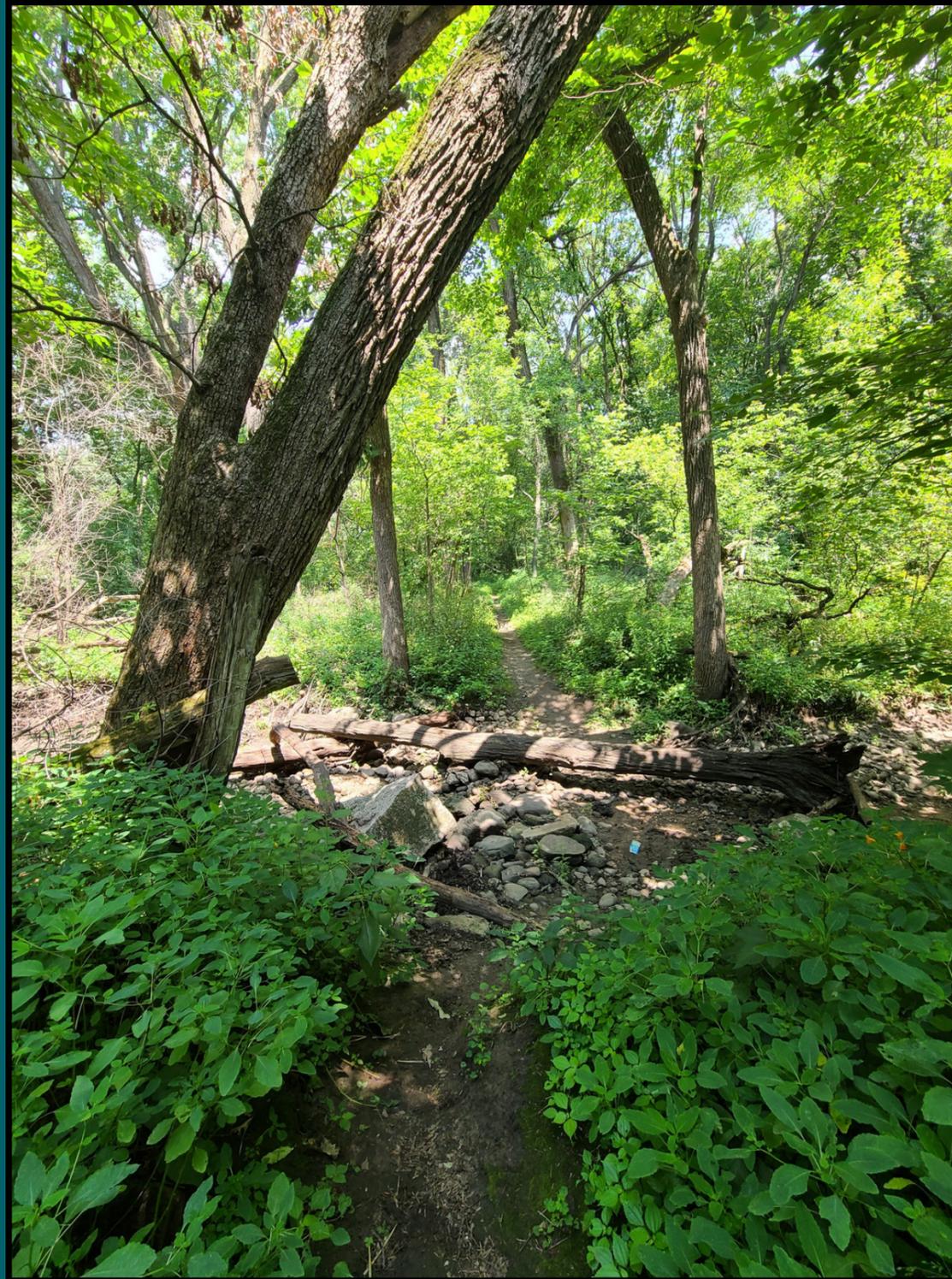
Subscribe to the West Area Plan email list:

Email:

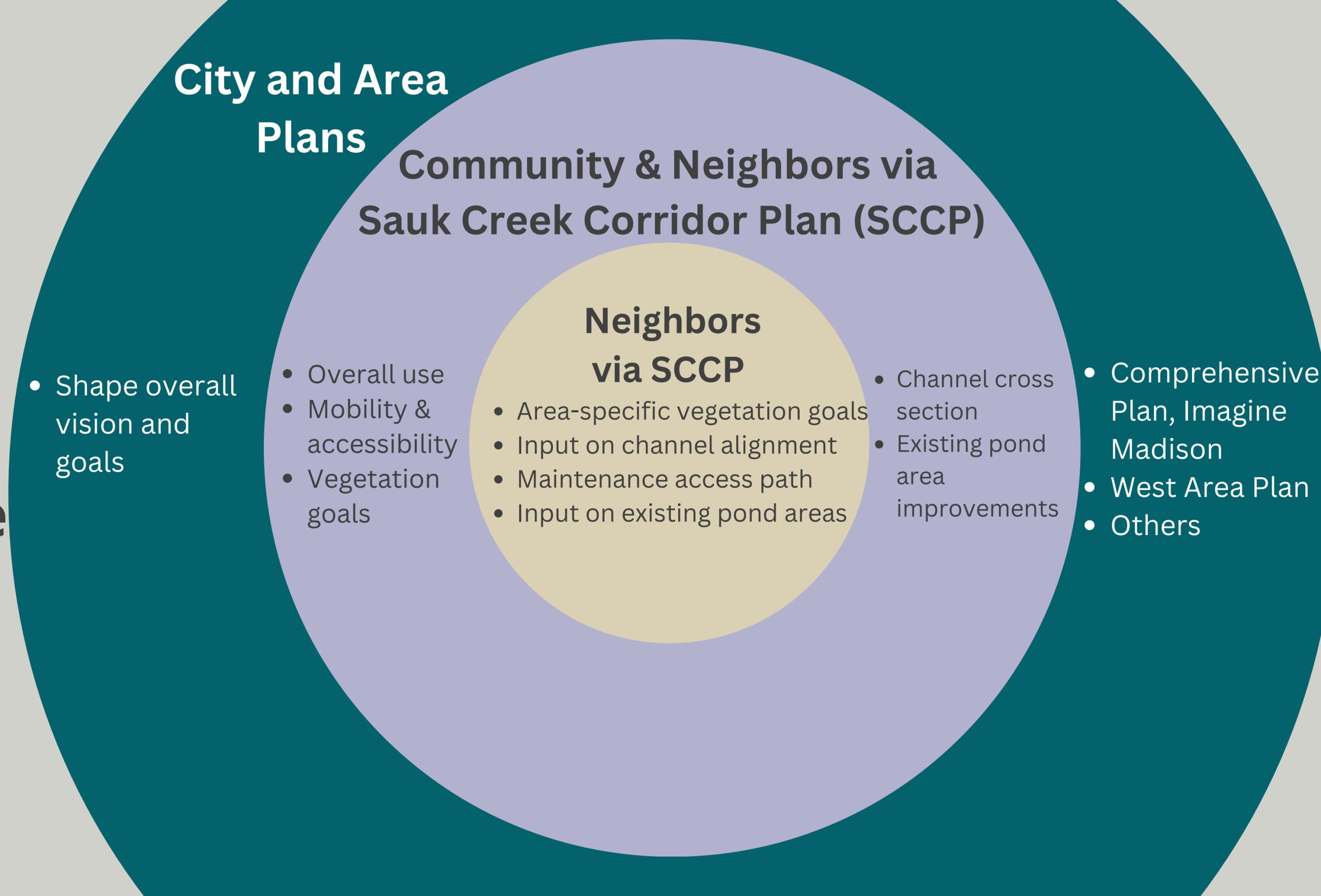
[www.cityofmadison.com/WestPlan](http://www.cityofmadison.com/WestPlan)

# PEOPLE - Accessibility

- Not ADA accessible
- Limits greenway usages
- Limits access from SC Neighborhood to Walnut Grove Park
- Makes many walking and biking trips longer
- Existing sanitary access crossing damaged in 2018 and needs to be fixed

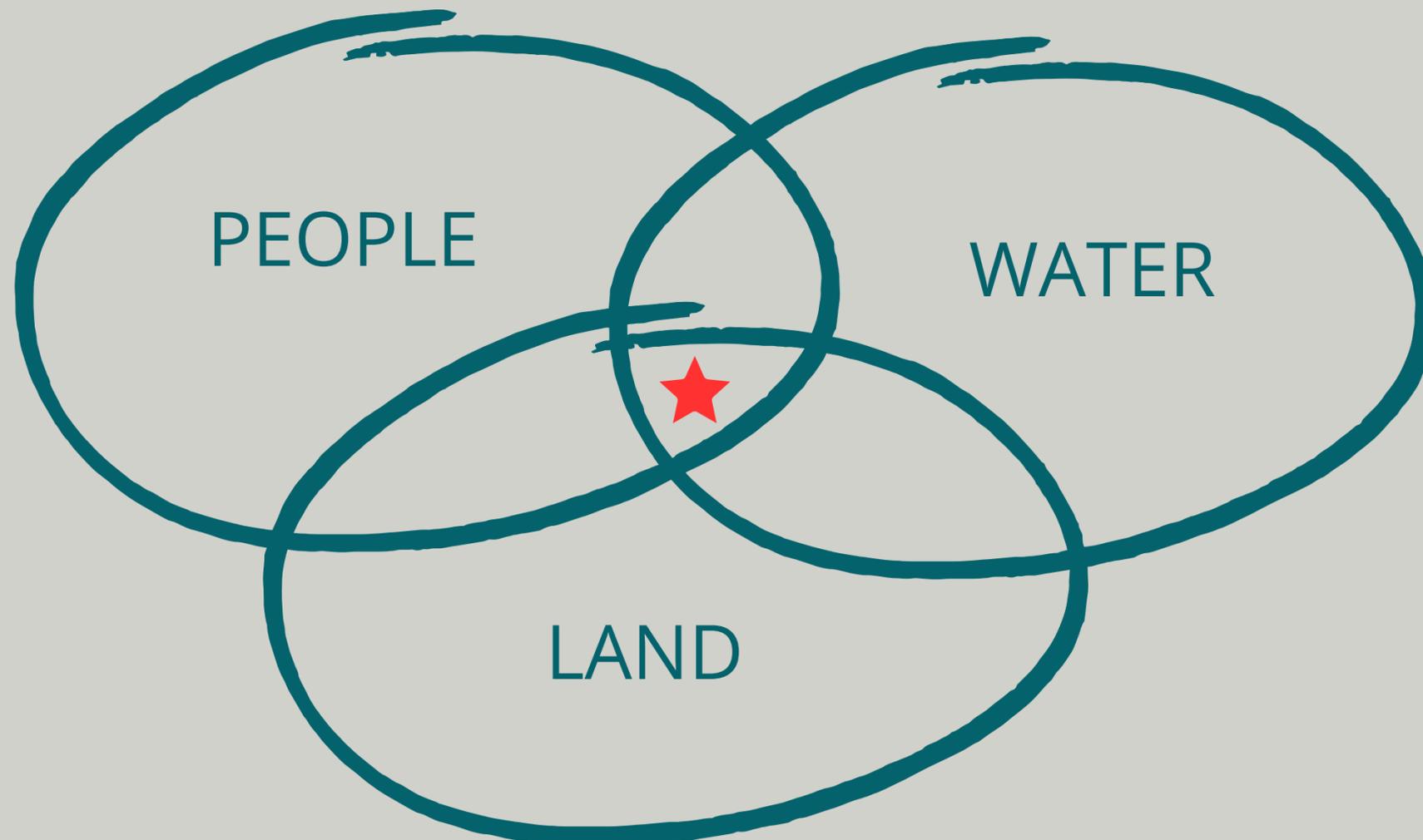


# Spheres of influence



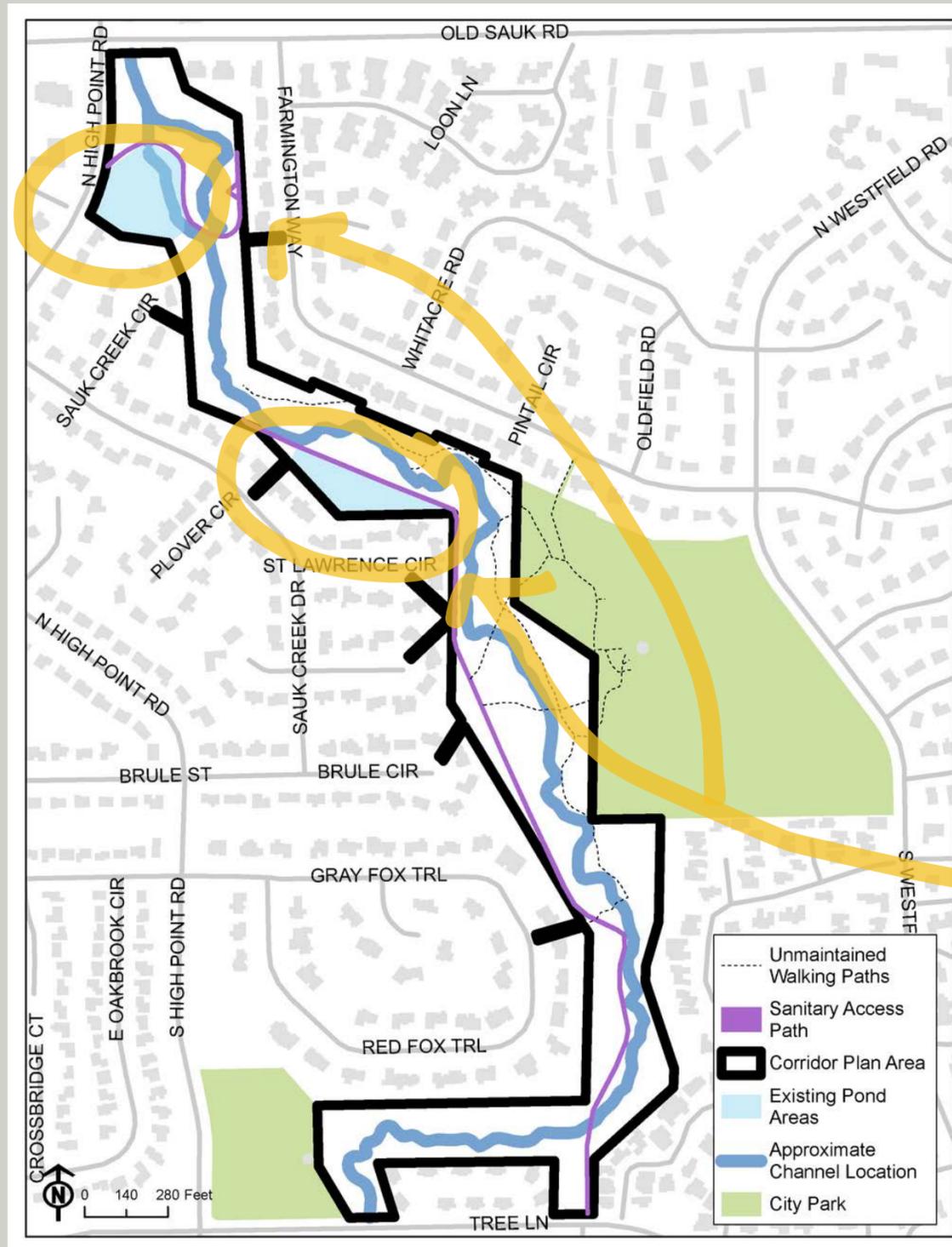
# FINDING BALANCE- Community Input

During the first public meeting, we want to get high level input to help guide the rest of the process



- What are your values?
- How do you currently use this space?
- How do you want to use the space?
- What should the goals be for corridor improvements?

# WATER - Community Input



EXISTING CHANNEL

- Options of cross sections that would create stable channel (Channel Assessment)
- What types of trees are given priority to shift channel and maintenance access path during design
- Cover type of maintenance access path (gravel, vegetated etc)
- Options to maximize stormwater treatment in pond areas and shrink the area needed for treatment
  - If existing ponds become more efficient and smaller, what should be done with the remaining pond space

# LAND - Community Input



**TREES WITHIN GREENWAY**

- Tree removals outside of construction limits as part of larger ecosystem improvements
- Replanting
- Input on stable channel cross section will impact the amount of trees that will be removed for channel stabilization

# PEOPLE - Community Input



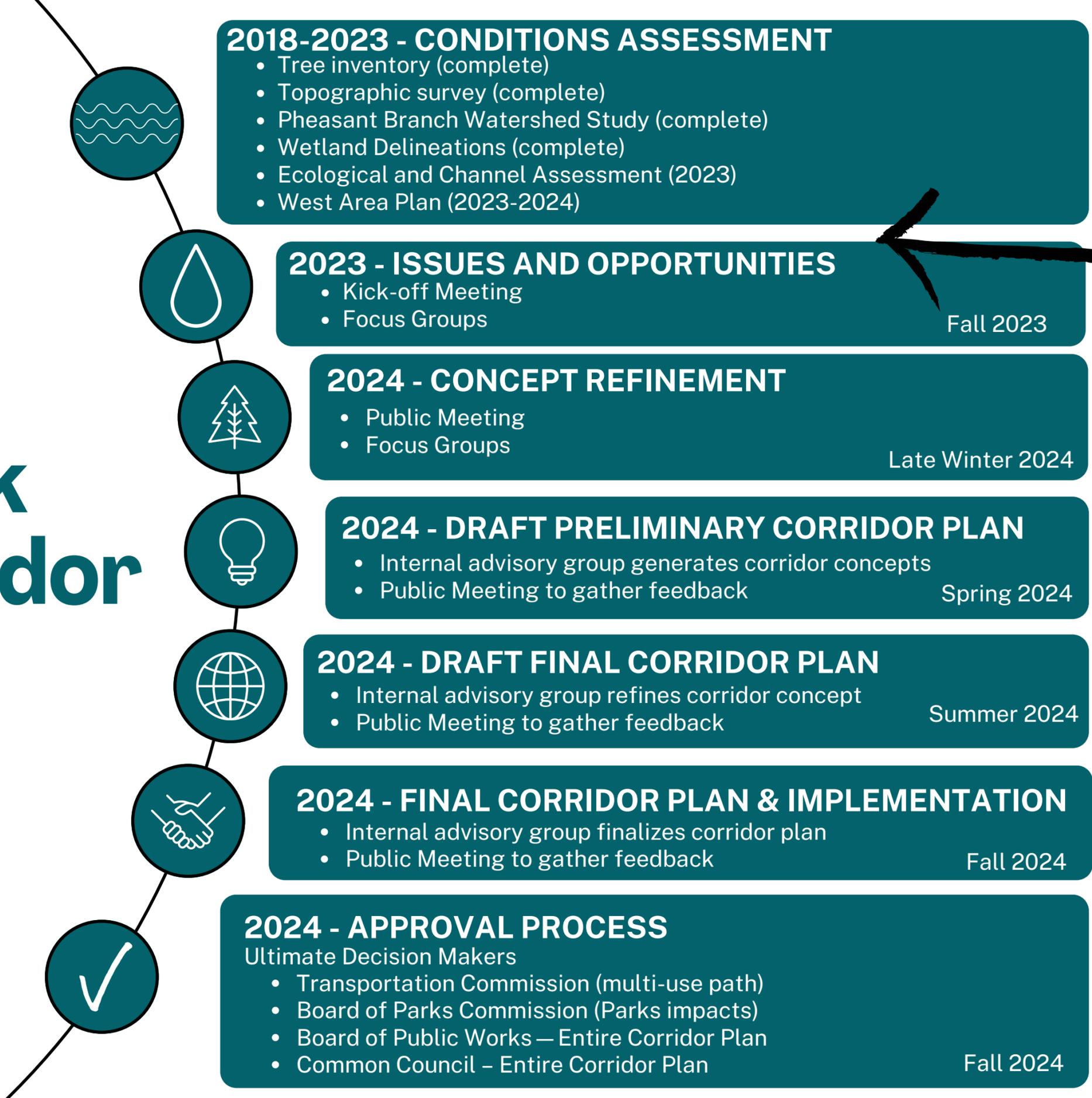
EXISTING WALKING TRAIL AT CREEK CROSSING

- Currently, best place to provide input on paths is the West Area Plan.
- Corridor Plan will include any recommended paths and connections included in the West Area Plan. If paths are included, we would look at how to address:
  - Mobility/accessibility needs
  - Design constraints
  - Community concerns
- What additional amenities could be considered to make corridor community asset. Examples:
  - Information signage -- Stormwater education
  - Wayfinding signs
  - Entrance signs
  - Benches
  - Bird or bat houses

# Sauk Creek Corridor Plan - Engagement Plan Key Takeaways

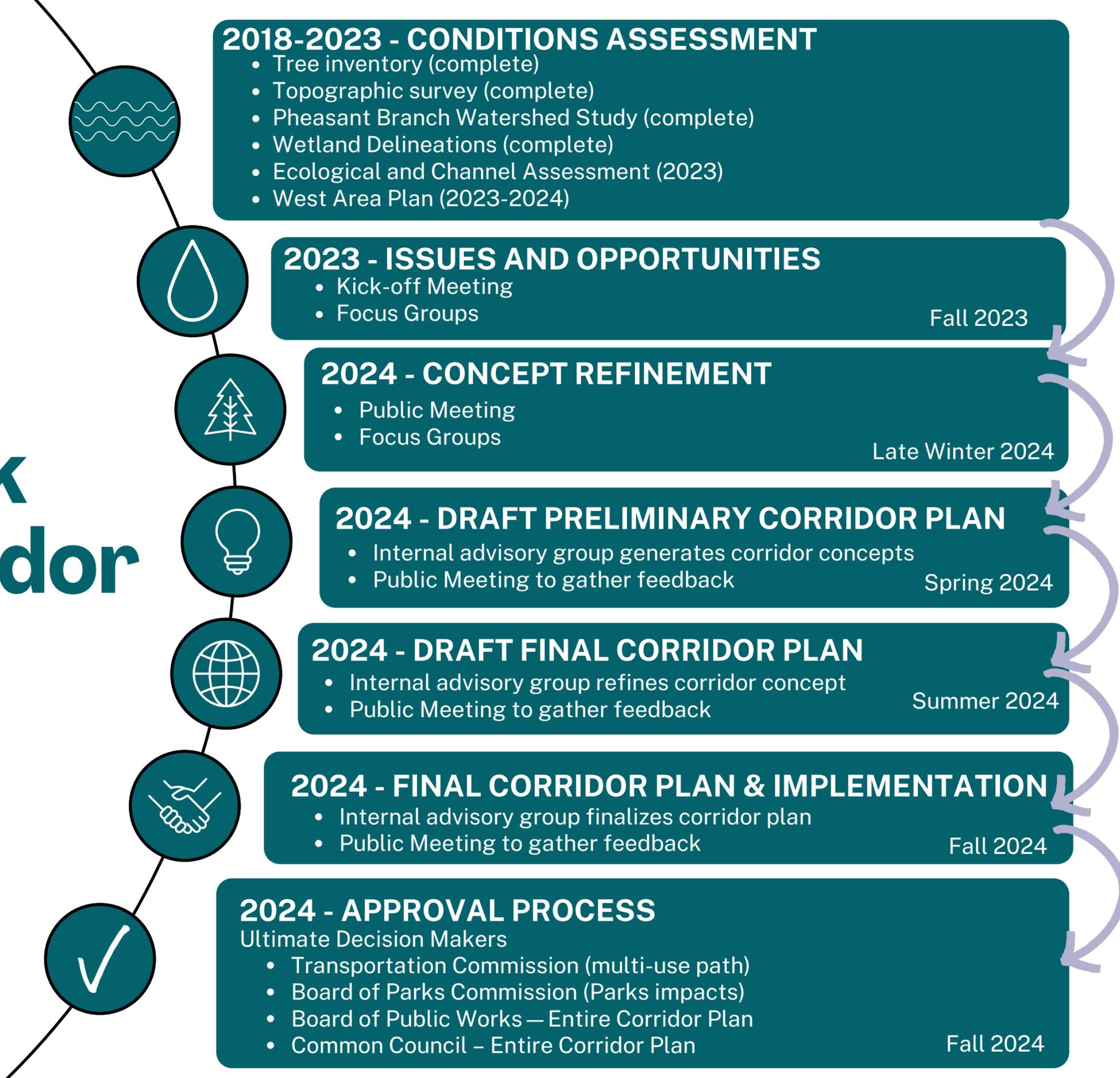
- Process will last through 2024
- Community engagement at each step
- This is a special engagement process designed due to neighborhood request for enhanced engagement

# Sauk Creek Corridor Plan



\*Developed using the City of Madison Racial Equity and Social Justice Public Participation Resource Guide

# Sauk Creek Corridor Plan



**2018-2023 - CONDITIONS ASSESSMENT**

- Tree inventory (complete)
- Topographic survey (complete)
- Pheasant Branch Watershed Study (complete)
- Wetland Delineations (complete)
- Ecological and Channel Assessment (2023)
- West Area Plan (2023-2024)

**2023 - ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

- Kick-off Meeting
- Focus Groups

Fall 2023

**2024 - CONCEPT REFINEMENT**

- Public Meeting
- Focus Groups

Late Winter 2024

**2024 - DRAFT PRELIMINARY CORRIDOR PLAN**

- Internal advisory group generates corridor concepts
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**2024 - APPROVAL PROCESS**  
Ultimate Decision Makers

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**Internal advisory group will meet between each phase to review input:**

- Stormwater Utility
  - Stormwater engineers
  - Landscape architect
  - Stormwater Vegetation Coordinator
- Transportation Engineering
- Traffic Engineering
- Forestry
- Parks
  - Operations
  - Conservation/Restoration
  - Landscape Architect, Planning
- Planning

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# Sauk Creek Corridor Plan



**After Corridor Plan is approved:**

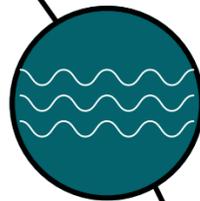
- Each section will have it's own design process for the detailed design effort, prior to construction
  - Will use corridor plan as guide for design
  - Will bring to community for feedback prior to completing plans to bid for construction



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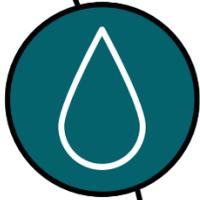
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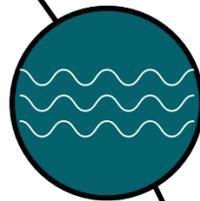
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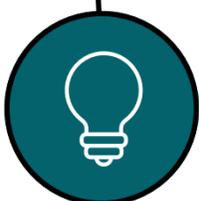
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### City shares:

- Corridor condition and history
- Corridor Plan process

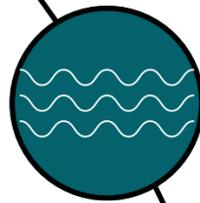
### Community input on:

- Values
- Project goals
- Corridor Use

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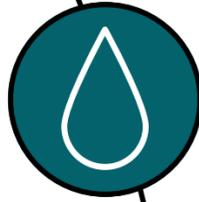
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### Groups:

- Park users
- Residents near Haen Family Park
- Schools/students/crossing guards
- After school programming
- Lussier Community Center
- Residents South of Mineral Pt – West Towne
- Residents North of Old Sauk Rd

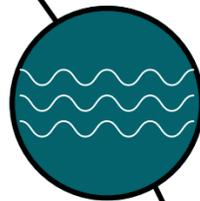
### Goals:

- Get general feedback to guide corridor plan from wider audience impacted by regional decisions
- Get more folks involved in planning process
- Increase awareness of public space

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### City shares:

- Ecological and Channel Assessment findings
- West Area Plan recommendations

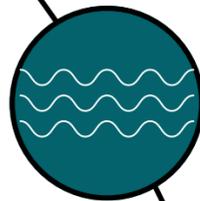
### Community input on:

- Tree removals outside of construction limits as part of larger ecosystem improvements
- Replanting
- Channel design options
- Any paths recommended in West Area Plan

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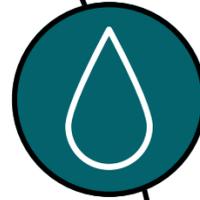
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### Groups:

- Residents that are closest to different sections of greenway to give input on vegetation
- Sections will be divided geographically and based on the results of the Ecological Assessment

### Goals:

- Hear more localized input about vegetation, channel, and maintenance access

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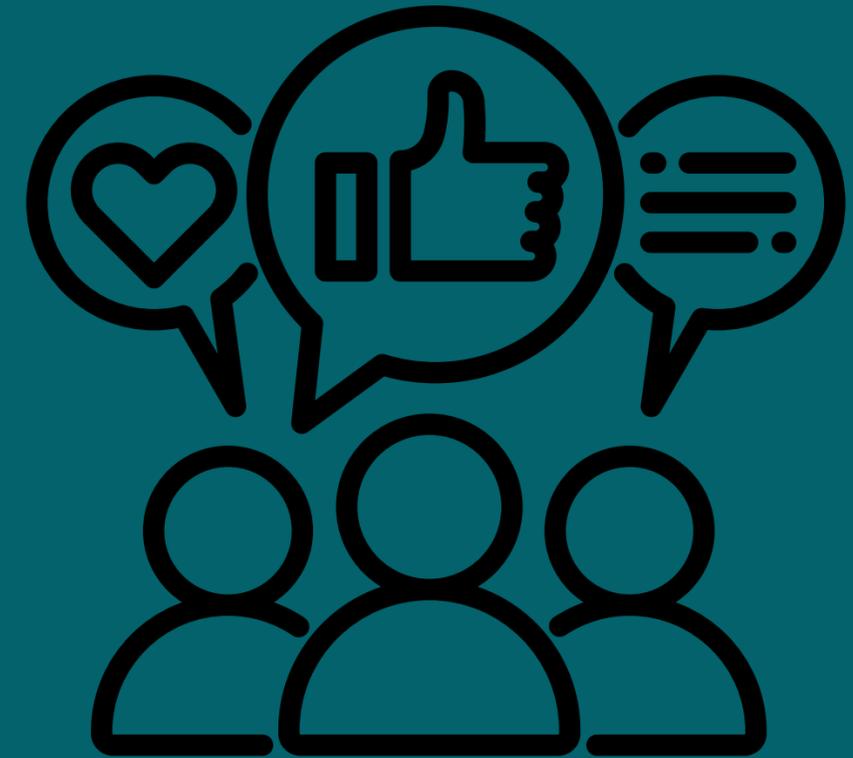
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**Public meetings to gather feedback on each iteration of draft plans**

\*Developed using the City of Madison Racial Equity and Social Justice Public Participation Resource Guide

# Inclusive Engagement

- Will consider recommendations from broader, inclusive planning efforts to bring all voices into the conversation
- Imagine Madison, Comprehensive Plan (August, 2018)
- West Area Plan (ongoing)



# Imagine Madison Comprehensive Plan

- >14,000 interactions to gather input and feedback
- Shows the collective values of the City, and due to the intentional, inclusive and deliberate engagement, the plan brought voices into the conversation that do not always have the time or ability to share their perspectives



Imagine Madison is a public listening campaign designed to gather the opinions of Madisonians in planning for the Madison of tomorrow – and beyond.

**Welcome.**  
**This is (y)our Plan.**

# Imagine Madison Comprehensive Plan

- Expand and improve the city's pedestrian and bicycle networks to enable safe and convenient active transportation.
- Ensure all populations benefit from the City's transportation investments.
- Improve lake and stream water quality.
- Improve and preserve urban biodiversity through an interconnected greenway and habitat system.
- Develop a healthy and diverse urban tree canopy.



# We want to hear about your values and goals!

We'd like to hear from you! Please respond to the following questions. Your responses will help shape the next steps of the corridor plan.



# Question 1 – Choose which values from Imagine Madison are important to you (select multiple)



- A. Ensure all populations benefit from the City's transportation investments.
- B. Expand and improve the City's pedestrian and bicycle networks to enable safe and convenient active transportation.
- C. Improve lake and stream water quality.
- D. Improve and preserve urban biodiversity through an interconnected greenway and habitat system.
- E. Develop a healthy and diverse urban tree canopy.

# Question 2 – Please choose what goals the Corridor Plan should address. The City's top 3 are in gold. Select multiple.



- **Stabilize channel**
- **Improve water quality**
- **Create maintenance access**
- Improve regional mobility
- Minimize tree loss
- Improve neighborhood accessibility and mobility East-West across greenway
- Make corridor accessible to kids, strollers, and those with mobility limitations
- Improve health of forest
- Improve conditions for native plant and tree species
- Promote biodiversity
- Increase resiliency to climate change
- Improve wayfinding and access
- Connect Haen Family Park to Walnut Grove park through greenway

# Question 3 – How do you currently use the corridor? (select multiple)



- Experience nature
- Bird watch
- Meditation/relaxation
- Walk
- Run
- Bike
- Bike/hike/trail running on natural surface trails
- Winter activities (ski, snowshoe)
- Passing through on commute (to school, park, work)

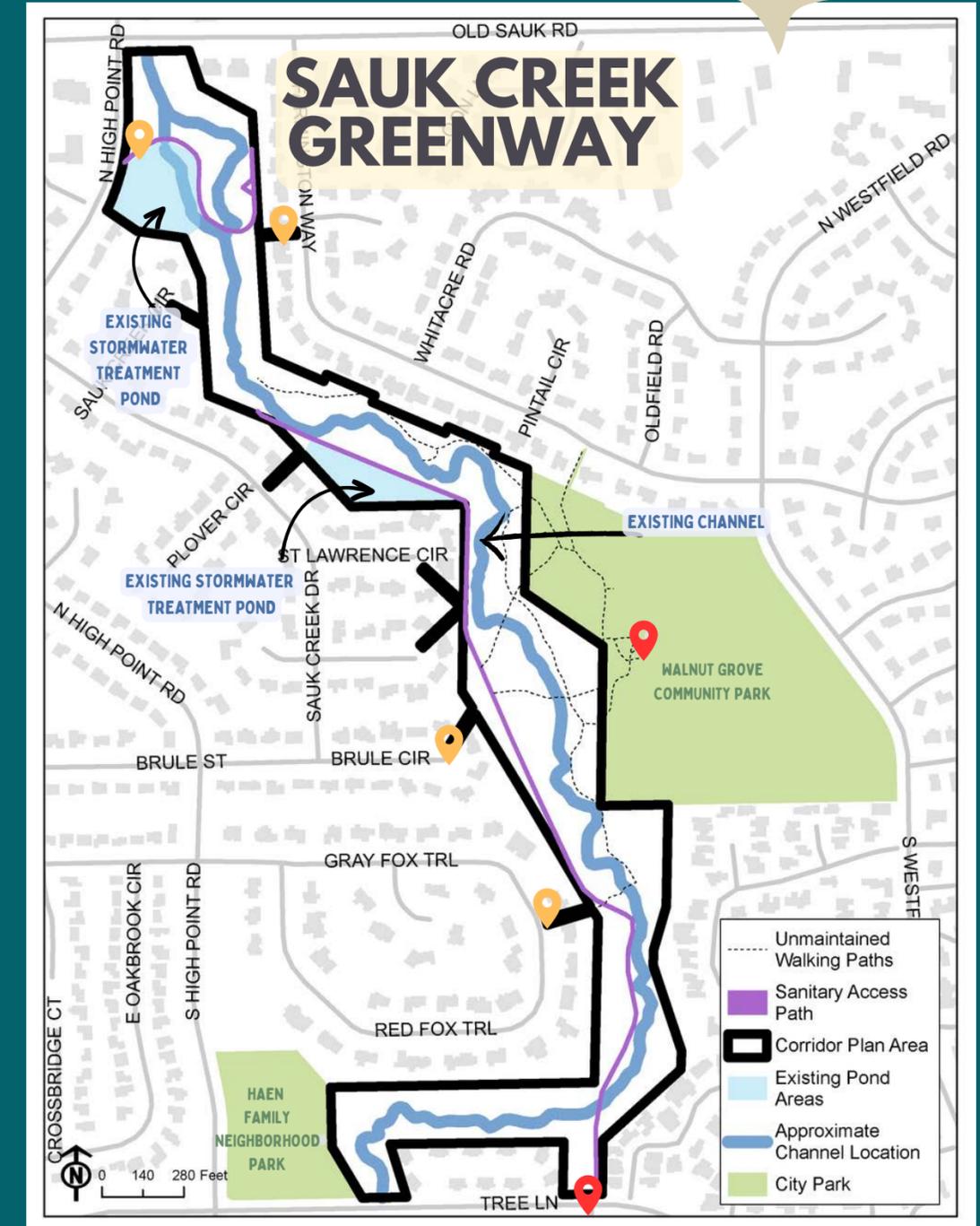
## Question 4 – How may you use the corridor in the future? (select multiple)



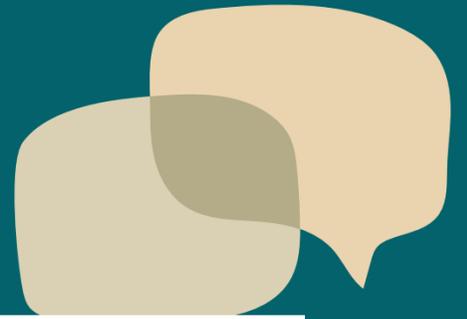
- Experience nature
- Bird watch
- Meditation/relaxation
- Walk
- Run
- Bike
- Bike/hike/trail running on natural surface trails
- Winter activities (ski, snowshoe)
- Passing through on commute (to school, park, work)
- Other

# Question 5 – How do you currently access the corridor? (you may select multiple)

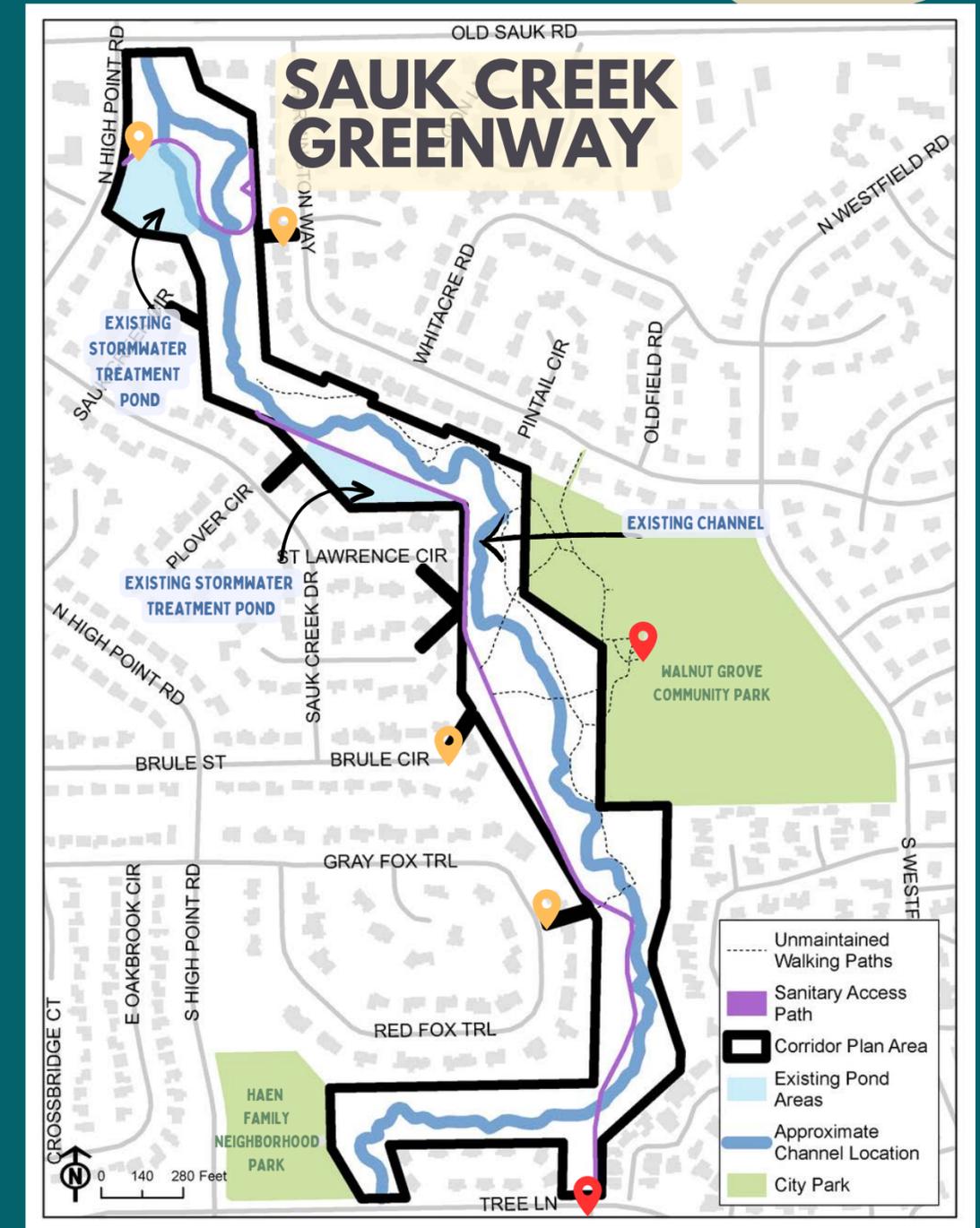
- From Walnut Grove Park
- Off Tree Lane and Randolph
- From Red Fox/Gray Fox
- From Brule Circle
- From Geneva Cir
- From Farmington Way
- From Sauk Creek Dr near Plover Cir
- From own backyard
- I do not access the corridor currently
- I did not know this was public property



# Question 6 – How would you like to access the corridor? (you may select multiple)



- From Walnut Grove Park
- Off Tree Lane and Randolph
- From Red Fox/Gray Fox
- From Brule Circle
- From Geneva Cir
- From Farmington Way
- From Sauk Creek Dr near Plover Cir
- From own backyard
- I'm not interested in accessing the corridor
- Other



# Keeping You Informed

## Other City Initiatives You May Be Interested In

### West Area Plan - ongoing

- [www.cityofmadison.com/WestPlan](http://www.cityofmadison.com/WestPlan)
- West Area Plan is the process where transportation linkages are being discussed, therefore this is currently the best avenue to provide input on bike paths
- Transportation recommendations will be starting point for Sauk Creek Corridor Plan

# Keeping You Informed

## Other City Initiatives You May Be Interested In

### Stormwater Utility Vegetation Management Plan - November kick-off

- [www.cityofmadison.com/StormVMP](http://www.cityofmadison.com/StormVMP)
- West Side Listening Session: November 20th, 6PM, [Sequoia Library](#).
- GOAL: Create a framework for sustainable and resilient vegetation management for citywide stormwater utility land.
  - The plan will reflect anticipated climate change impacts and respond to community concerns.
  - It will not look at individual ponds and greenways.

# Keeping You Informed

## Other City Initiatives You May Be Interested In

### City Sustainability Plan - ongoing

- [www.cityofmadison.com/sustainability\\_](http://www.cityofmadison.com/sustainability_)
- The City of Madison is updating its Sustainability Plan to reflect the City's achievements, work underway, and priorities for the future.
- The Plan's goals and actions aim to ensure that Madison is a green and resilient place to live today and for future generations.
- Open survey!

# Keeping You Informed

## Other City Initiatives You May Be Interested In

### Encroachment Ordinance, Proposed Revisions - ongoing

- [Legistar File 80362](#)
- Board of Public Works 11/8/23, Common Council 11/21/23
- Under existing ordinances, most greenway encroachments are not allowed.
- The proposed revision would create a limited exception and allow for some encroachments into greenways.
  - Types of items that may be allowed with notification and approval of City Engineer: gardens and temporary fencing
  - More extensive encroachments would require the granting of a greenway privilege when appropriate
    - Examples include: permanent fencing, retaining walls, stairs, outbuildings, hardscape and parking areas



# Contact Information & Resources

## CONTACTS

- Project Manager, Jojo O'Brien
  - Email: [jobrien@cityofmadison.com](mailto:jobrien@cityofmadison.com)
- Path Planner, Renee Callaway (if paths included in West Area Plan)
  - Email: [recallaway@cityofmadison.com](mailto:recallaway@cityofmadison.com)

## PROJECT WEBSITE

- [www.cityofmadison.com/SaukCreekGwy](http://www.cityofmadison.com/SaukCreekGwy)
  - Sign-up for project email updates on the website
  - Updates on plan status will be posted to the project website
  - Recording for virtual meeting (11/9), and meeting slides will be posted
  - *NOTE: City IT is doing web-maintenance this week and information posted this week may not be accessible on Thursday for a few hours. We appreciate your patience!*

Subscribe to Sauk Creek  
Greenway Restoration  
Updates

Email

SUBSCRIBE

# Large Group Input

# Next Steps

## Issues and Opportunities Focus Groups

- This fall & early winter, the City will be reaching out to specific focus groups to reach people that didn't attend these kick-off meetings

## Concept Refinement

- In late-winter, the City will host another public meeting to share the Ecological and Channel Assessment, review the West Area Plan Recommendations, and get input on more detailed design concepts

# Thank you for coming!

## Feel free to visit the Storyboards and let us know:

- What questions you'd like answered
- Your vision for each element of the corridor

## You can respond to the values and goals questions by:

- Writing your responses on the questions hung up around the room

**-OR-**

- Reply online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KJ7N8LK>

(we will email a link to the survey monkey to all who registered via Eventbrite)