



# IMAGINE MUSKEGON LAKE

## A PLAN FOR OUR WATERFRONT





# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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**MUSKEGON AREA FIRST**  
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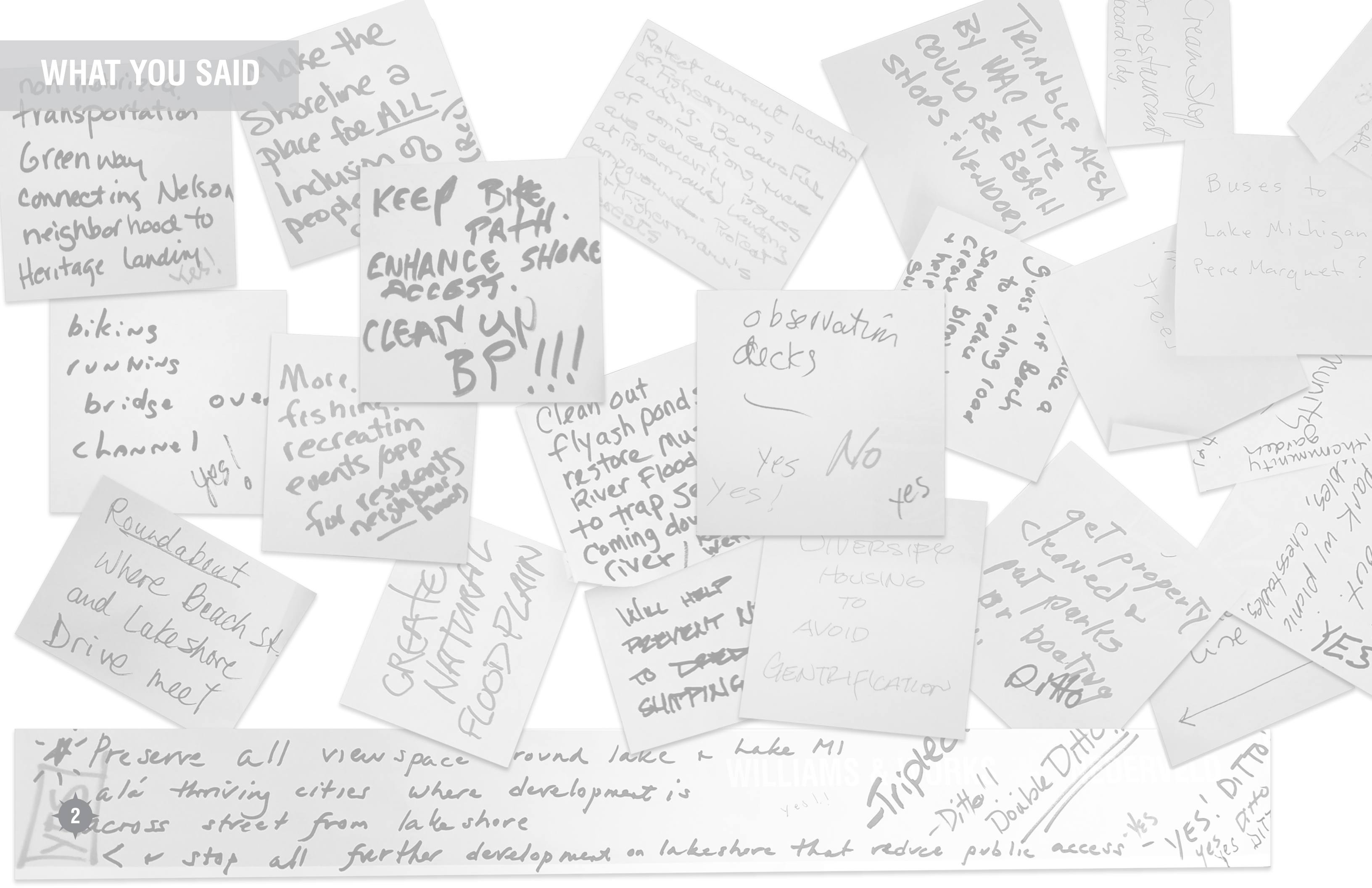


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## WHAT YOU SAID



non-motorized transportation  
Greenway connecting Nelson neighborhood to Heritage Landing

Make the Shoreline a place for ALL-Inclusion of people

KEEP BIKE PATH.  
ENHANCE SHORE ACCESS.  
CLEAN UP BP!!!

Protect current location of Fisherman's Landing. Be careful of connections, there are nearby trails at Fisherman's Landing Campground. Protect Fisherman's

Trimbles Alley  
MACTAC Beach  
could be vendors shops

Cream Shop  
restaurant  
board bldg.

Buses to Lake Michigan  
Perre Marquet?

biking  
running  
bridge over channel

More fishing.  
recreation events pop for residents  
neighborhood

Clean out flyash pond  
restore mud  
River Flood  
to trap sediment  
coming down river

observation decks  
Yes No  
yes! yes

grass along road  
create bike lane  
help

Roundabout  
Where Beach St.  
and Lakeshore Drive meet

CREATE NATURAL FLOOD PLAIN

WILL HELP PREVENT  
TO DREDGE SHIPPING

DIVERSIFY HOUSING TO AVOID GENTRIFICATION

get property cleaned & put parks or boat ramp  
Ditto

community garden  
park w/ picnic tables, chess tables  
out. tree

2  
Preserve all view space round lake & Lake MI  
thriving cities where development is across street from lake shore  
< & stop all further development on lakeshore that reduce public access  
Triple  
Ditto!!  
Double Ditto  
YES! DITTO  
yes yes DITTO



# CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION





# A PLAN FOR OUR WATERFRONT

Muskegon has passion, pride, and determination in her people. While these people make this place, so too does Muskegon Lake. The Lake beckons, invigorates, and teases.

The Lake is an inspirational old soul that provides tranquility, beauty, exhilaration, and wonder.

The Lake is the City, and the City is her Lake. Intertwined and symbiotic.

The Lake is opportunity. The Imagine Muskegon Lake Plan is about that opportunity.

The citizen-influenced Plan is guided by the collective **SUSTAIN**, **ADVANCE**, **CONNECT**, and **CONVENE** themes that seek to accentuate this symbiotic relationship with city, water, and people by balancing the natural and the urban along the lakeshore. This balance is about creating broad opportunities to experience, activate, recreate, and touch the lake. It is a plan to bring people to the water and to connect water to the people with both small scale, short-term interventions and big idea dreams for the future.

The balance between the city and her lake will be about making choices that can achieve continued port enterprise, enhanced tourist activities, robust development potential and broad public access. The Imagine Muskegon Lake Plan provides tactics, strategy, and recommendations to inform these choices. New development, increased tourism activity, and continued port enterprises are encouraged for their economic sustainability and for their ability to activate a place and bring vibrancy.

Public access is encouraged for the same reasons - and to ensure that all have the opportunity to share in the tranquility, beauty, exhilaration, and wonder... today, and tomorrow.

The Imagine Muskegon Lake Plan envisions a polycentric city and waterfront that consists of a series of distinct centers along the diverse shoreline.

These multiple centers, while individual and unique, work holistically to strengthen the City and its connection to the water. The polycentric nature of these places provides for nuanced redevelopment, activation, and connection that is place-based and incremental within a sustainable, well-balanced urban structure.

The Plan organizes this polycentric fabric into six Sub-Area Design Districts that extend along the entire lakeshore from Pere Marquette Beach to Veterans Memorial Park. Each Design District includes a series of graphic plans that focus the lakeshore's future, along with intersection repair recommendations at Lakeshore Drive and Moses J. Jones Parkway to better connect people to the water and three-year implementation strategies to provide measurable steps to make the Imagine Muskegon Lake Plan a reality.

*“A lake is the landscape’s most beautiful and expressive feature. It is earth’s eye; looking into which the beholder measures the depth of his own nature.”* Henry David Thoreau



# PREVIOUS PLANS AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The City of Muskegon cares about its community. The City has dedicated a lot of time and energy towards visioning and planning. As part of the planning process, the aspirations and directives from previous planning documents were reviewed and coalesced into four themes, each with a goal statement and objectives for achieving the goal. These are our guiding principles. All of the strategies outlined in this document relate to one or more of these themes, and achieve one or more of the objectives.

- 1997 City of Muskegon Master Plan
- 1999 City of Muskegon Waterfront Redevelopment Plan
- 2003 Imagine Muskegon Community Design Workshop
- 2004 Muskegon Area-wide Plan
- 2006 Lakeside Business District Redevelopment Plan
- 2008 Downtown Lakeshore Plan
- 2014 Lake Michigan Water Trail Plan
- 2015 Muskegon Form Based Code
- 2016 Muskegon Lake Vision 2020
- 2016 Muskegon Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- 2017 WATCH mUSkeGOn Perceptions Research

## SUSTAIN

TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY, PRESERVE AND ENHANCE NATURAL FEATURES AND BUILD A CONNECTED NETWORK OF GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

- Filter municipal decision-making through a sustainability lens, recognizing the role the lakes and shoreline play in the advancement of the City
- Restore critical natural features and sensitive habitat areas along Muskegon Lake as well as the adjacent riparian areas
- Preserve the history and character of the shoreline area
- Establish and maintain greenways which provide opportunities that combine direct connection to nature with low impact development and green infrastructure

## ADVANCE

TO GROW RESIDENTIAL AND PORT-RELATED INDUSTRY WHILE ENHANCING TOURISM AND RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Allow for a mix of housing opportunities (types and price) near the shoreline, while ensuring views are preserved and water access is maintained or enhanced
- Maintain and support shipping and deep port industries
- Support tourism in all forms by recognizing and promoting port-related and nature-based educational and recreational activities
- Leverage proximity to downtown with shoreline amenities, festivals, recreation opportunities, and employment areas
- Continue to activate the downtown and neighborhood business and entertainment districts by building physical and perceptual relationships between them and the shoreline

## CONNECT

TO LINK ALL MODES OF TRANSPORTATION TOGETHER AND ACCESS OUR COMMUNITY’S ASSETS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Expand access to recreational areas along the shoreline
- Connect the city and her neighborhoods to the shoreline, and connect the shoreline to the city and her neighborhoods, ie. symbiosis
- Consider existing forms of transportation (bike, walk, bus, trolley, car, boat) and new forms (bikeshare, boat taxi, kayak)
- Create safe, multi-modal connections from the downtown and neighborhoods to the shoreline, and bolster the connection between Lake Michigan and Muskegon Lake
- Incorporate natural connections to the shoreline, including Beidler Creek, Ruddiman Creek, and the many branches of the Muskegon River
- Enhance signage and wayfinding both in print and digital formats
- Accessible connectivity to the shoreline and beyond

## CONVENE

TO RECREATE AND BE ACTIVE ALONG THE SHORELINE

- Ensure pockets of access along the shoreline
- Make the shoreline accessible to residents and visitors alike, all ages and at all times of the year
- Preserve, maintain and accentuate existing access and continue to build new access to the shoreline through existing park facilities, public access easements, and through other city-owned lands
- Increase shore side amenities for visits of varying durations
- Activities include fishing, boating and kayaking (transient and long-term), cruise ships and tourism
- Enhance regional focal point as festival and event destination

# EXISTING CONDITIONS

In order to improve connections along Muskegon Lake’s waterfront, we need to fully understand the infrastructure, amenities, and natural features in place today. Many of these are assets which can be better leveraged to create a dynamic and varied waterfront experience for residents and visitors.

## PUBLICLY-OWNED LAND

Waterfront properties provide essential community facilities such as parks, event spaces, marinas, and more. Muskegon currently has approximately 140 acres of publicly-owned land on Muskegon Lake.

## PRIVATE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Many private marinas and yacht clubs have sprung up ringing around the Muskegon Lake waterfront, taking advantage of the area’s premier boating location.

## MULTI-USE PATHS & TRAILS

Multi-use paths and trails include all off-street walking and biking paths. Muskegon currently has a little over 8 miles of multi-use paths and trails along its shoreline.

## BIKE LANES & PAVED SHOULDERS

Bike lanes and paved shoulders include Muskegon’s on-street bicycle facilities. Currently, the City only contains 2.4 miles of unprotected bike lanes and paved shoulders along Southern, Division, and Lakeshore Dr.

## TRANSIENT DOCKS

Transient docks are locations where boaters can dock their boat for short-term use (typically hourly) while they can get out and enjoy shopping, restaurants, or other attractions around the City. Currently, Harbor 31 and Hartshorn Marina contain some transient docks.

## SHIPPING CORRIDORS

These are the routes and terminals where freight enters and leaves Muskegon Lake. Cruise ship and cross-lake ferry routes are also included.

## SWIMMING BEACHES

While Pere Marquette provides some of the area’s most popular swimming spots, Harbour Towne Beach provides an alternative to the frequently crowded beaches in the City.

## STEEP SLOPES

Major topographic features can be found near the Bluffton neighborhood and Ruddiman Creek.

## FISHING PIERS

Formal pier locations for fishing include the channel and the dock at Grand Trunk Launch.

## FISH CLEANING STATIONS

While there are many formal and informal places to fish along the waterfront, there is currently only one fish cleaning station in the City at Fisherman’s Landing.

## PUBLIC BOAT SLIPS

Muskegon’s municipal marina, Hartshorn, provides a lower-cost option for boating enthusiasts to enjoy Muskegon’s maritime amenities. The marina currently has 150 total slips (transient, traditional slips, and mooring slips) available to the public.

## DEEP WATER PORTS

Muskegon’s economy is very reliant on the deep water ports located along the lakeshore and the private entities which utilize them.

## PUBLIC KAYAK LAUNCHES

While kayakers can be launched at any of the City’s public boat launches, Rotary Park boasts the area’s only ADA-accessible launch solely dedicated to kayakers. Richard’s Park also contains a launch for small watercraft.

## PUBLIC BOAT LAUNCHES


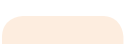














Currently, there are four public boat launch locations in the City of Muskegon; Cottage Grove, Grand Trunk, Hartshorn Marina, and Fisherman’s Landing.

## HIGHEST VEHICLE CRASH DENSITIES

Intersections and road segments with high crash rates are highlighted with size indicating magnitude of the number of accidents occurring over this time period. In the last five years, there have been almost 6,000 vehicle crashes in the city with 11 involving fatal injuries.

## CRITICAL DUNE AREAS

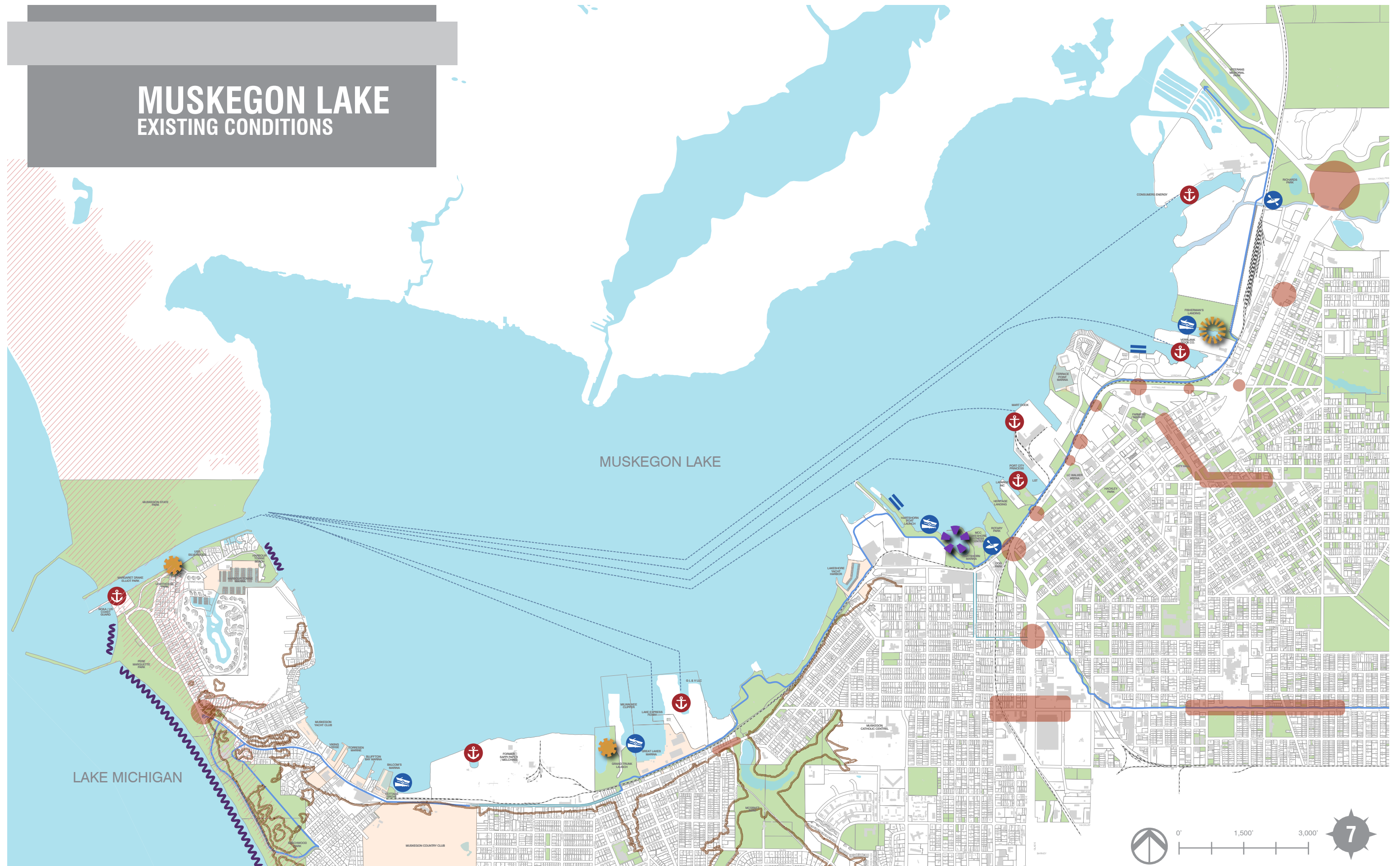
Critical dune areas represent the tallest and most spectacular dunes along Lake Michigan’s shoreline. There are just over 230 acres of critical dune areas in the City.

-  PUBLICLY-OWNED LAND
-  PRIVATE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES
-  MULTI-USE PATHS & TRAILS
-  BIKE LANES & PAVED SHOULDERS
-  TRANSIENT DOCKS
-  SHIPPING CORRIDORS
-  SWIMMING BEACHES
-  STEEP SLOPES
-  FISHING PIERS
-  FISH CLEANING STATIONS
-  PUBLIC BOAT SLIPS
-  DEEP WATER PORTS
-  PUBLIC KAYAK LAUNCHES
-  PUBLIC BOAT LAUNCHES
-  HIGHEST VEHICLE CRASH DENSITIES (2012-2016)
-  CRITICAL DUNE AREAS



# MUSKEGON LAKE

## EXISTING CONDITIONS



0' 1,500' 3,000'

# METRICS AND MEASURABLES

The public amenities and facilities situated along Muskegon’s shoreline today should be the minimum standard moving forward. This plan establishes a baseline for the provision of things like public kayak launches, bike lanes, fishing piers and other public facilities along Muskegon Lake. However, the intent of this plan is to allow for flexibility. For instance, if publicly-accessible land along the shoreline is sold or its development rights transferred, other lands must be acquired or enhanced to ensure the thresholds as established by this plan are met. The goal of these metrics is to ensure existing levels of service are maintained and accessibility to the shoreline and activity centers is enhanced with future amenities.

	SUSTAIN	ADVANCE	CONNECT	CONVENE
Publicly-accessible land along the waterfront	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Publicly-accessible shoreline	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Multi-use paths and trails	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Bike lanes/paved shoulders	<div></div>		<div></div>	<div></div>
Public boat slips/transient slips/mooring slips		<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Public watercraft launches		<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Fishing piers		<div></div>		<div></div>
Fishing cleaning stations	<div></div>	<div></div>		<div></div>
Complete intersections			<div></div>	<div></div>
Swimming beaches	<div></div>	<div></div>		<div></div>
Waterfront Development		<div></div>		

Relates to theme     Strongly promotes theme     Accomplishes theme

### PUBLICLY-ACCESSIBLE LAND ALONG THE WATERFRONT

acres of land held by the City or other public or private entities adjacent to the water with public access easement

WHAT WE HAVE TODAY:

140 acres

OUR FUTURE GOAL:

NO LESS THAN  
140 acres

WHAT THE PUBLIC SAID...



*“Keep and expand public land holdings on Muskegon Lake and expand public access.”*

*“Love the idea of improving access from neighborhoods and downtown to the lakeshore.”*

#2

(tied) public comment priority

### PUBLICLY-ACCESSIBLE SHORELINE

linear distance in miles of shoreline held by the City or other public or private entities with public access easement

WHAT WE HAVE TODAY:

4.6 miles

OUR FUTURE GOAL:

NO LESS THAN  
4.6 miles

WHAT THE PUBLIC SAID...



*“Need to balance public and private access to the water.”*

#2

(tied) public comment priority

### MULTI-USE PATHS & TRAILS

linear distance in miles of off-street multi-use pathway facilities

WHAT WE HAVE TODAY:

8.4 ALONG THE SHORELINE  
11.9 TOTAL IN CITY

OUR FUTURE GOAL:

10.0 ALONG THE SHORELINE  
16.0 TOTAL IN CITY

WHAT THE PUBLIC SAID...



*“Extend trails to Pere Marquette Park.”*

#3

public comment priority

### BIKE LANES & PAVED SHOULDERS

linear distance in miles of on-street bike lanes or paved shoulders (both directions)

WHAT WE HAVE TODAY:

2.4 MILES

OUR FUTURE GOAL:

8.0 MILES

WHAT THE PUBLIC SAID...




*“More connectivity and safer streets including bike lanes!”*



HARTSHORN BOAT SLIPS

number of municipally-owned boat slips for lease, for transient use, or mooring slips at Hartshorn

WHAT WE HAVE TODAY: 150 (32 TRANSIENT, 50 MOORING, AND 68 FOR LEASE) OUR FUTURE GOAL: 225 (70 TRANSIENT, 75 MOORING, AND 80 FOR LEASE)

WHAT THE PUBLIC SAID...  "Build transient boat docks and fuel tanks downtown and at Hartshorn."

TRANSIENT DOCKS

linear distance in feet of public tranient dock space

WHAT WE HAVE TODAY: 160' (AT HARBOR 31) OUR FUTURE GOAL: 480' (AT 3 ADDITIONAL LOCATIONS INCL. HARTSHORN MARINA)

WHAT THE PUBLIC SAID...  "Shopper docks will provide additional way for tourists to get into the city." "We need a downtown waterfront to facilitate boats visiting the downtown area."

FISH CLEANING STATIONS

number of fish cleaning station facilities

WHAT WE HAVE TODAY: 1 station OUR FUTURE GOAL: NO LESS THAN 3 stations

WHAT THE PUBLIC SAID...  "Several other lakeshore communities have multiple fish cleaning spots. Why only one here?"

SWIMMING BEACHES

number of designated, publicly-accessible sandy swimming beaches


WHAT WE HAVE TODAY: 2 beaches OUR FUTURE GOAL: NO LESS THAN 3 beaches

WHAT THE PUBLIC SAID...  "We've put so much time into cleaning up Muskegon Lake; let's use it!"

WATERCRAFT LAUNCHES

number of boat and kayak launches at city parks


WHAT WE HAVE TODAY: 4 BOAT LAUNCHES 5 KAYAK LAUNCHES OUR FUTURE GOAL: 5 BOAT LAUNCHES (1 NEW AT RICHARD'S PARK) 8 KAYAK LAUNCHES (5 ENHANCED) (3 NEW: HARBOUR TOWNE BEACH, THE FORMER TANK FARM SITE AND THE MCC LAKESHORE FITNESS CENTER - 1 NEW TO BE ADA-ACCESSIBLE)

WHAT THE PUBLIC SAID...  "More kayak launches need to be like the new one at Rotary Park."

FISHING PIERS

number of designated, improved locations open to the public for fishing

WHAT WE HAVE TODAY: 2 piers OUR FUTURE GOAL: 5 piers

WHAT THE PUBLIC SAID...  "There are many members of the community rely on catching fish in Muskegon Lake for their diet."

COMPLETE DOWNTOWN INTERSECTIONS

number of intersections connecting to the waterfront from downtown with the following: sidewalks on all sides of the road, striped crosswalks on all sides, and ADA-compliant curb cuts within 1/4 mile of shoreline

WHAT WE HAVE TODAY: 6 COMPLETE INTERSECTIONS OUR FUTURE GOAL: 10 COMPLETE INTERSECTIONS


WHAT THE PUBLIC SAID...  "Love intersection changes to be more pedestrian-friendly!"



WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT

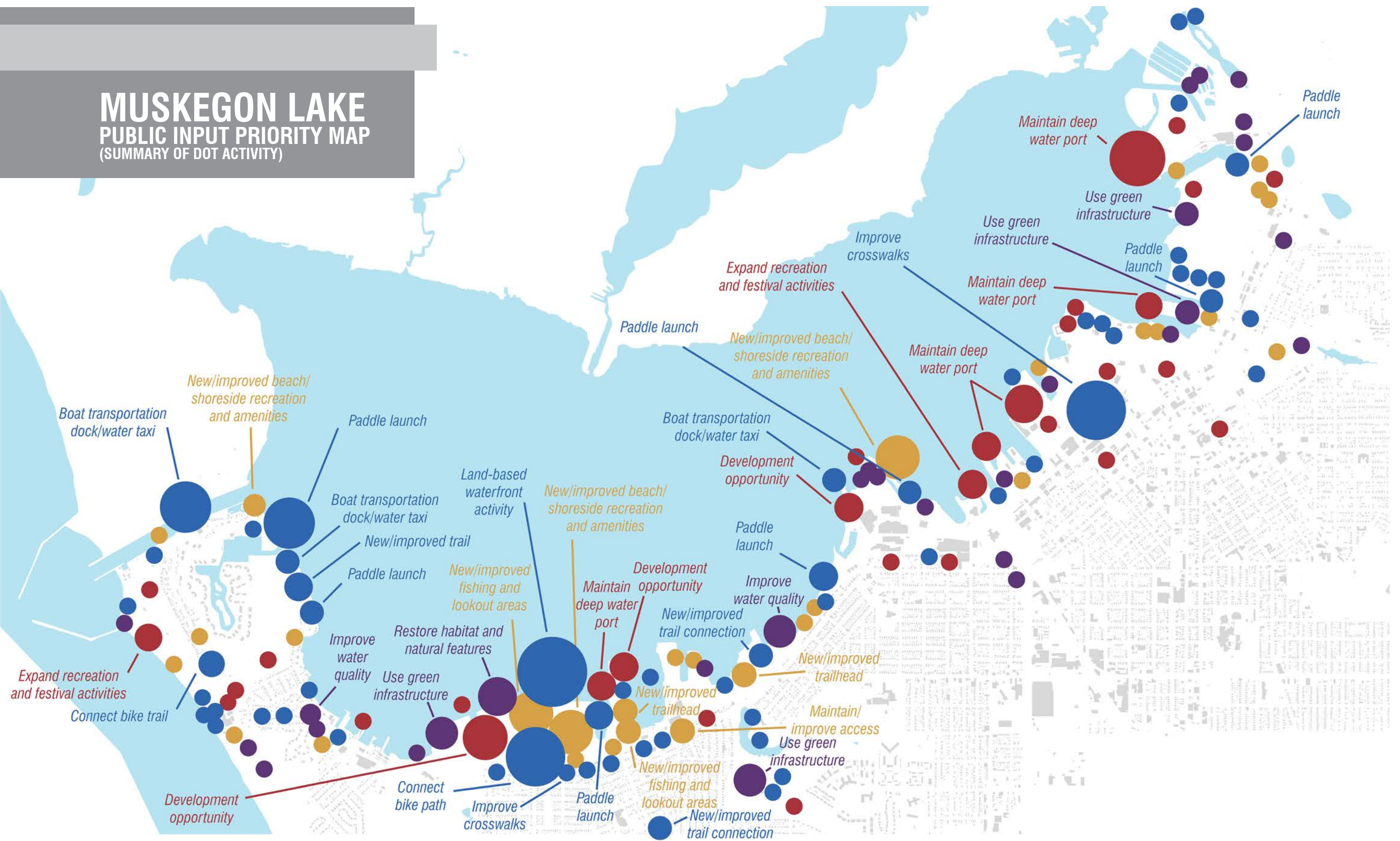
in general, the amount of private development along the Muskegon Lake shoreline

WHAT WE HAVE TODAY: Ample land for private development/ redevelopment OUR FUTURE GOAL: INCREASE HIGH-DENSITY, MIXED-INCOME HOUSING INCLUDING ATTACHED SINGLE-FAMILY AND MULTI-FAMILY AND INCREASE MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT

WHAT THE PUBLIC SAID...  "So much of the lakeshore is underutilized." "We can't have more of the same development in Muskegon. Time for something new and innovative."



# MUSKEGON LAKE PUBLIC INPUT PRIORITY MAP (SUMMARY OF DOT ACTIVITY)



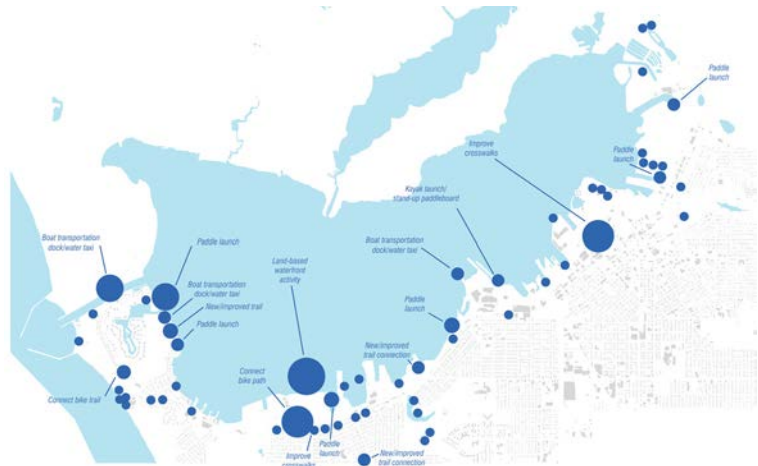




**SUSTAIN** icons represented restoration of natural habitat, using green infrastructure, and improving water quality



**ADVANCE** icons represented new development opportunities, employment areas, deep water ports, and expanding recreation opportunities



**CONNECT** icons represented improved crosswalks, trail connections, new kayak launches, water taxi connections, and water-based activity sites



**CONVENE** icons represented new fishing areas, improved shoreline amenities and activities, better access, new trail heads, and future waterways

# PUBLIC INPUT PRIORITY MAP

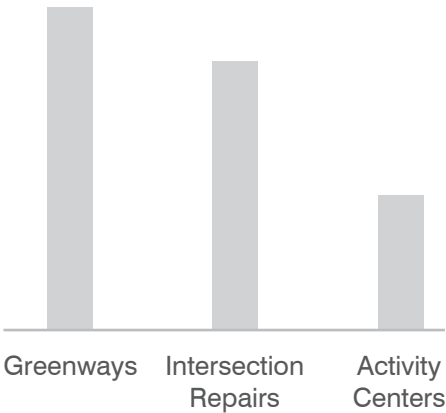
At the October 30, 2017 design workshop, over 120 participants identified locations where various activities and events could occur. Unlabelled circles represent one colored dot related to the applicable theme. Comments have been summarized to synthesize and analyze.

The base map included existing public lands and pathways, as well as existing water recreation and shipping facilities to better orient the participant and to enable them to better plan for the future to public spaces within the City and along the shoreline.

## EXIT SURVEY COMMENTS

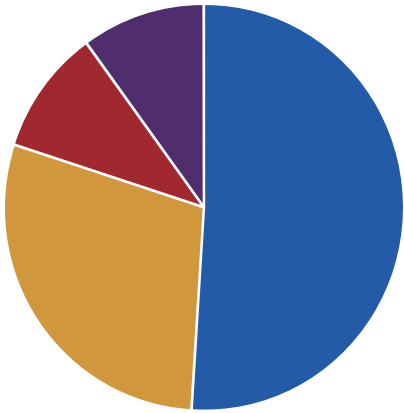
Improve intersection crossings	11
Increase public access around Muskegon Lake from various parts of the city	10
More walking and bike trails	8
Natural landscaping	5
Create more shopping and businesses Downtown	5
Connect trails to Pere Marquette Park	4
Some sort of access across channel	4
Relocate Western Avenue to connect with Lakeshore	3
Educate public to protect lake	2
Extend 1st street through to Terrace Point	2
Protected bike lanes on Lakeshore Drive and Western Avenue	2
Traffic calming	2
Improve McCracken trail head	2
Marina for visitors of Muskegon	2
Kayaking launches	2
Keep Cobb Plant towers (observation deck)	1
Beach at Windward Pointe	1
Connect trails to P.J. Hoffmaster State Park	1
Connect trails to Lakeshore trail	1
Create beautiful Trailhead Park (ex. Petosky Clock Tower)	1
Create outdoor music venue by Grand Trunk/Lakeside	1
Ensure access to Lake Express to increase tourism/access to Downtown	1
Use Richard Park for kayaking/activity center	1
Swimming beach and boardwalk in front of Frincanos	1
Shoreline Drive safety	1
Annual bike/walk from park to park to raise money	1
Swimming lessons (free)	1
Harbour Towne beach - add ropes back	1
Improve vehicle access to Fishermans landing	1
Art	1
Signage to attractions	1
Water taxi that goes to each marina and water front shops/restaurants	1
Improve Vehicle access to beach	1
Create arboretum, aviary, and nature center	1
Universal designs	1
Greenway at Biedler Creek	1

## PROJECT PRIORITIES

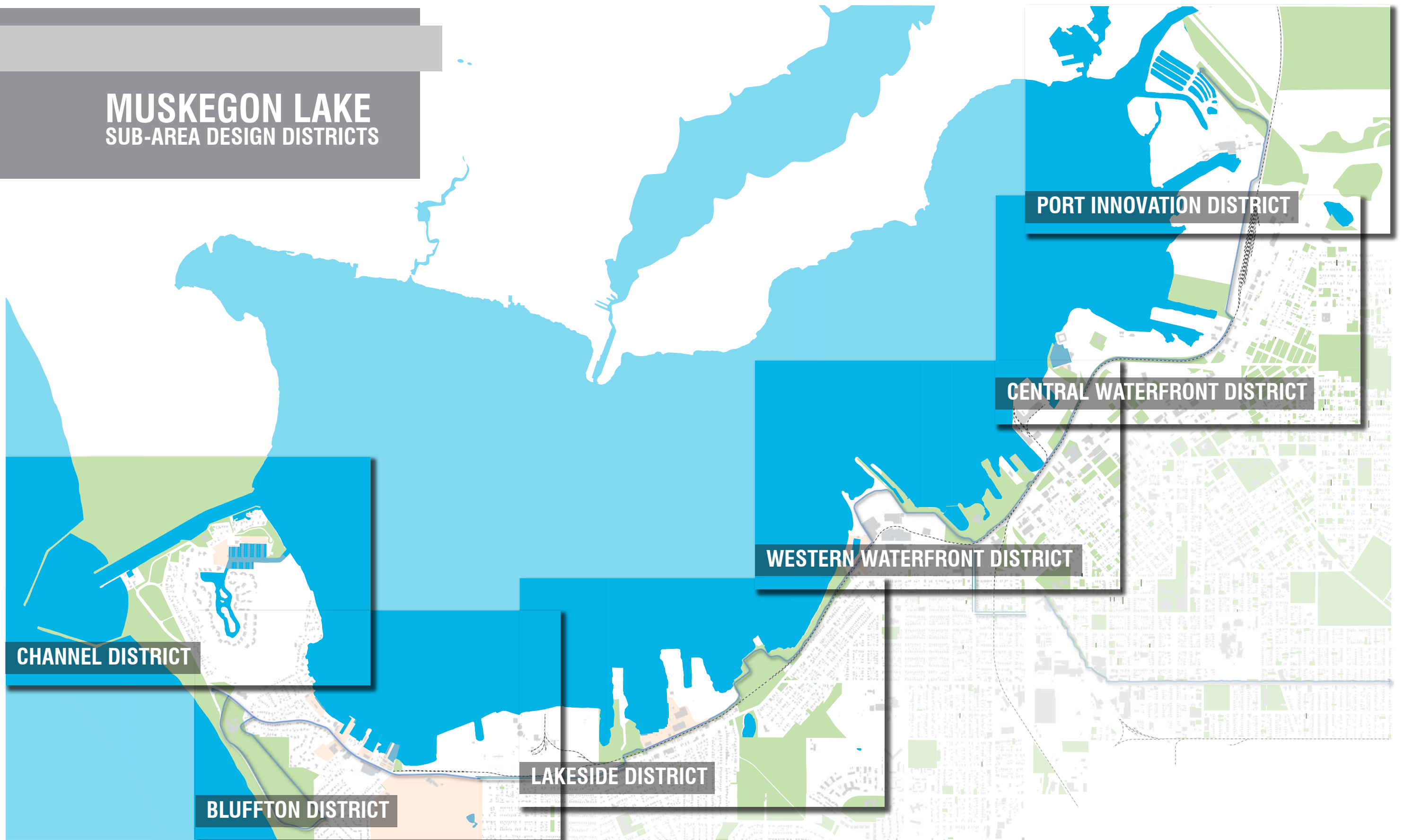


### KEY

- CONNECT - 51%
- CONVENE - 29%
- ADVANCE - 10%
- SUSTAIN - 10%



# MUSKEGON LAKE SUB-AREA DESIGN DISTRICTS





# SUB-AREA DESIGN DISTRICTS

The Sub-Area Design Districts are located along the length of Muskegon Lake, in which area specific designs will highlight themes and opportunities, indicating where proposed projects, enhancements, and strategies will be located within the project area. Each Design District includes implementation strategies organized by the identified themes, **SUSTAIN**, **ADVANCE**, **CONNECT**, and **CONVENE**.

## CHANNEL DISTRICT

Famous for its deep water ports and miles of spectacular public beaches, the Channel District is a popular destination for tourists and locals alike. Building on the thriving beach-based activity, the addition of a central activity hub and cross lake multi-use connections could only add to the value of this already brilliant place. Additional festival grounds, expanded restaurant and retail space, bike rentals and a non-motorized transportation connection to the Muskegon State Park would link the beach to the city, and provide additional entertainment and recreational opportunities for the community.

## BLUFFTON DISTRICT

Nestled between Muskegon's two premier waterfronts, the Bluffton District is a place of calm serenity and indescribable natural beauty. With some of the best views in the city, extensive trails take you from the boardwalks of Kruse Park to the towering forest paths of Beachwood. Proposed multi-use path connections and enhanced crossings transition people from the beach to Lakeside. The neighborhood is quiet, with the lively nature of the private clubs contained at the water's edge.

## LAKESIDE DISTRICT

With small town charm, lively marinas and a vibrant community, the Lakeside District has a distinct flavor that locals love and visitors crave. The Lake Express Ferry and Great Lakes Marina bring tourists from all over the region right to the heart of Lakeside's quaint business district. Future bike share programs, improved streetscape elements and enhanced trails will encourage travelers to explore the expansive Muskegon shoreline. McGraft Park, situated just East of the neighborhood, features towering oaks, active and passive recreation spaces, and picturesque views to the restored Ruddiman Creek. Through the reclamation of the former tank farm site, the park experience will be continued to Muskegon Lake, providing a new scenic point of public access for the district.

## WESTERN WATERFRONT DISTRICT

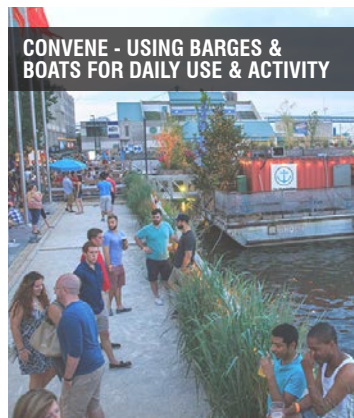
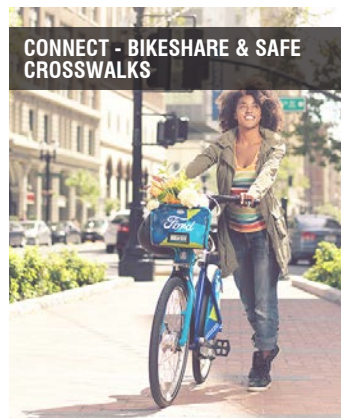
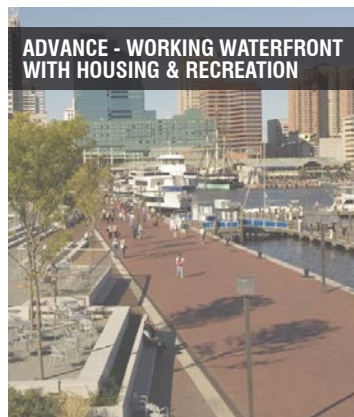
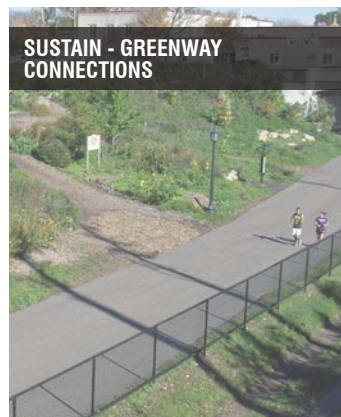
Like the tide, the Western Waterfront District is not unfamiliar with the ebb and flow of activity. Downtown Muskegon and the festival grounds like Heritage Landing and Hackley Park are places of excitement and transformation. The Western Waterfront District has a thriving core, but is surrounded by an ample source of untapped potential. Connecting and expanding this activity is a primary goal of this district, creating new housing, shopping, and recreational opportunities along the shoreline. Through the development of the land neighboring Hartshorn Marina and potential investment at the Mart Dock property, the Western Waterfront shoreline can begin to feel complete. Enhanced crossings along Shoreline Drive will begin to bridge the downtown and the waterfront, mending that connection.

## CENTRAL WATERFRONT DISTRICT

The Central Waterfront is a place of transitioning from the urban core of downtown to the tranquil shores of the northeastern Muskegon Lake. Proposed enhancement of Terrace Point and Viridian Drive will aid in the evolution of the existing lake front businesses, while mixed-use infill and new housing have the ability to bridge the gaps along the corridor. Through the creation of safe crossings along Shoreline Drive, proposed trails from the popular Smith Ryerson Park through the Green Acres Park will help to connect the nearby neighborhoods to the multi-use path, Fisherman's Landing and north to Richard's Park. Through the linking of these key public greenspaces, the Central Waterfront District can provide a more accessible route for locals to experience the waterfront.

## PORT INNOVATION DISTRICT

Once a symbol of the city, the B.C. Cobb plant defined the northeastern shore of Muskegon Lake for over half a century. Moving into a new era, the Port Innovation District has been imagined as a place where future, industry can thrive employing sustainable practices and green techniques to further the restoration of Muskegon's fragile habitat. Strategically located at the mouth of the Muskegon River and a little over a mile from Lake Michigan, this district is a key point where nature and trade have the opportunity to meld. Verdant forests, winding trails and productive fishing sites can transform this once iconic industrial district into a truly transcendent harbor.





## WHAT YOU SAID



Solar - Electric  
Water  
Taxi  
Downtown, to  
Pere Marquette  
and to  
State Park

Hotel  
NO

Preserving  
the natural  
beauty +  
the existing  
park greenspace  
YES!

Ice Cream Shop  
and/or restaurant  
by kiteboard bldg.

6L/  
Education  
Center

Triangle Area  
By Mac Kite  
could be beach  
shops + vendors

Picnic Area  
Amphitheater for  
Ovals.  
No camping or  
Hotels

Camping

picnic area  
skating area  
or bike path  
booth for  
Food

BRIDGE  
BAD  
IDEA!

How about  
a Tunnel  
under  
Channel?  
+ charge \$

Camping @  
The Ovals  
and/or  
Kruse Park  
area

Walking  
Bridge from  
across  
channel

No Hotel  
or condo  
at Pere M  
Beach  
No Pd Parking  
YES!

Solar - Electric  
Water Tax 1 From  
Downtown to  
Harbortown/  
Silver Sides

Preserve  
the natural  
beauty!

Roundabout  
where Beach St.  
and Lakeshore  
Drive meet

create green in  
help filling in  
on Beach

along road  
Beach  
a

restaurant  
ice cream shop  
and bldg

AS IT IS NOW IT IS  
A VACANT SPACE  
OR UNIMAGINATION  
USING!

USE  
OVALS  
FEEL  
PICKUP  
PAPER ETC

house +

14000



A scenic photograph of a body of water, likely a harbor or bay. In the foreground, a wooden pier with a blue railing extends from the left. A sailboat with a white sail is in the middle ground. Several seagulls are visible, some flying in the sky and others on the water. The background shows a line of trees and a rocky shore. The sky is a mix of blue and green, suggesting a sunset or sunrise.

## CHAPTER 2 THE CHANNEL DISTRICT

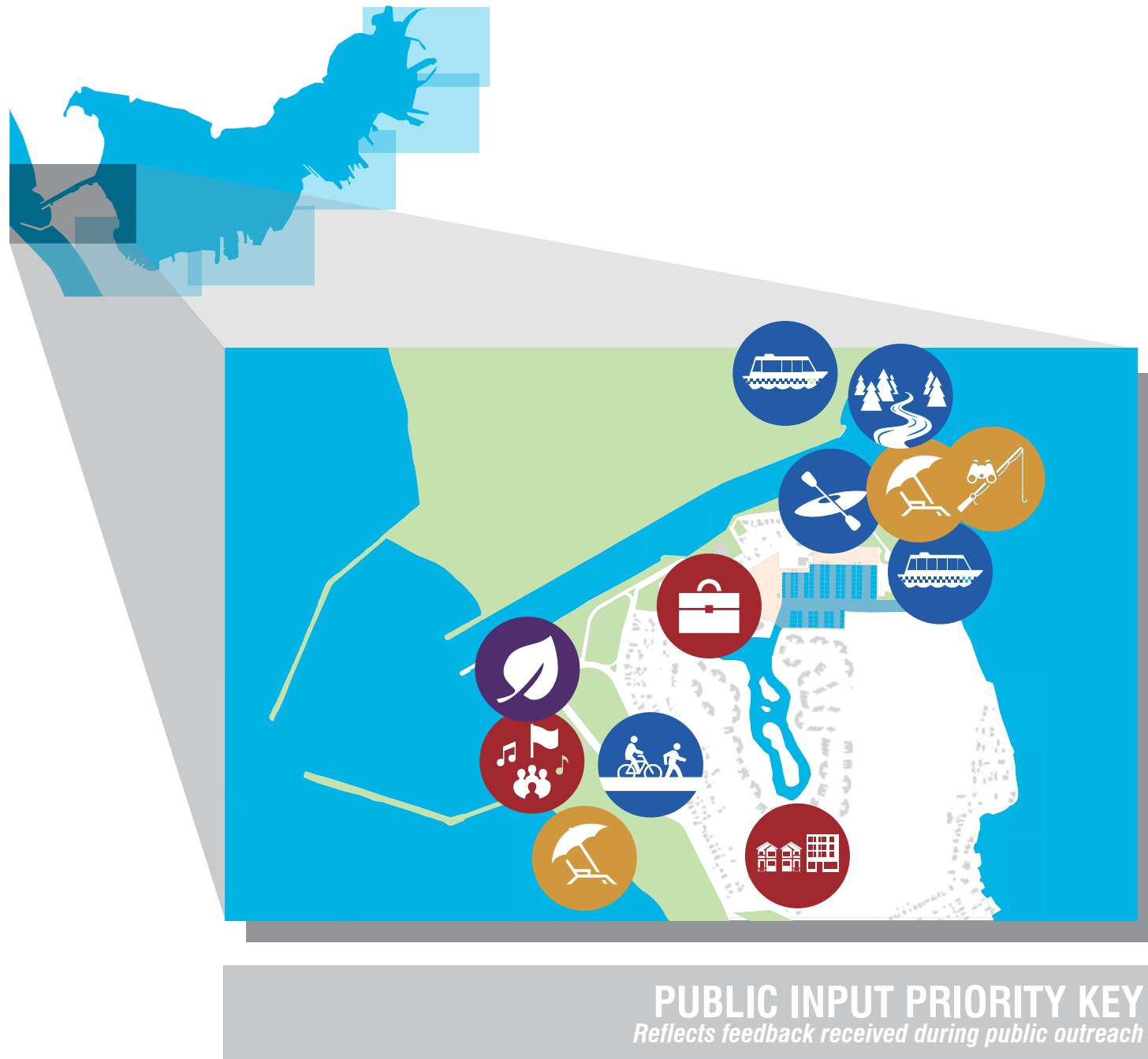
Famous for its deep water ports and miles of spectacular public beaches, the Channel District is a popular destination for tourists and locals alike.

Building on the thriving beach-based activity, the addition of a central activity hub and cross lake multi-use connections could only add to the value of this already brilliant place. Additional festival grounds, expanded restaurant and retail space, bike rentals and a non-motorized transportation connection to the Muskegon State Park would link the beach to the city, and provide additional entertainment and recreational opportunities for the community.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Rumored to stand 300' high and covering 40 acres, Pigeon Hill was once one of the largest coastal dunes in the world. The dune was mined for sand starting in 1925, but still remains an iconic symbol of the channel area.





## SUSTAIN

With thought and careful placement of activity areas, we will sustain the delicate dune formations along the waterfront and their associated ecosystems which they depend upon while continuing to offer beachgoers amenities. The City's administration of the dune overlay zoning provisions returns local control to this important natural asset and key destination at the western terminus of the lakeshore.

## ADVANCE

New housing and new opportunities for existing housing to maximize view corridors supports the City's tax base, enabling growth in areas with high demand. Access to both Muskegon Lake and Lake Michigan offers residents two different waterfront experiences.

## CONNECT

Linking both sides of the channel is recognized as an essential part of a continuous network for bikes and pedestrians, helping connect the City of Muskegon with the state park and North Muskegon. Enhancing trailhead features through the placement of bike repair stations and other bike-friendly amenities will help make this district a prime location to begin or end your lakeshore exploration by bike or foot.

## CONVENE

"The Ovals" becomes a hub of activity beyond just the summer season with pop-up temporary shops, bike share, and spaces to accommodate food trucks, seating and entertainment. A kayak launch at Harbour Towne beach and improved beach amenities (such as shade, trash receptacles, and restrooms) give users an alternative to Lake Michigan, especially during rough waters.

- RESTORE HABITAT AND NATURAL FEATURES
- USE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE
- IMPROVE WATER QUALITY

- NEW DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY (RESIDENTIAL AND MIXED USE)
- MAINTAIN DEEP WATER PORT
- EXPAND RECREATION AND FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES
- EMPLOYMENT CENTER (NEW OR EXISTING)

- CONNECT MULTI-USE TRAIL
- KAYAK LAUNCH/STAND UP PADDLE BOARD (NEW OR IMPROVED)
- BOAT TRANSPORTATION DOCK/WATER TAXI (NEW OR IMPROVED)
- IMPROVE CROSSWALK
- NEW OR IMPROVED TRAIL CONNECTION/ NATURAL CONNECTION

- NEW OR IMPROVED BEACH/SHORESIDE RECREATION AND AMENITIES
- NEW OR IMPROVED FISHING AND LOOKOUT AREAS
- NEW OR IMPROVED TRAILHEAD

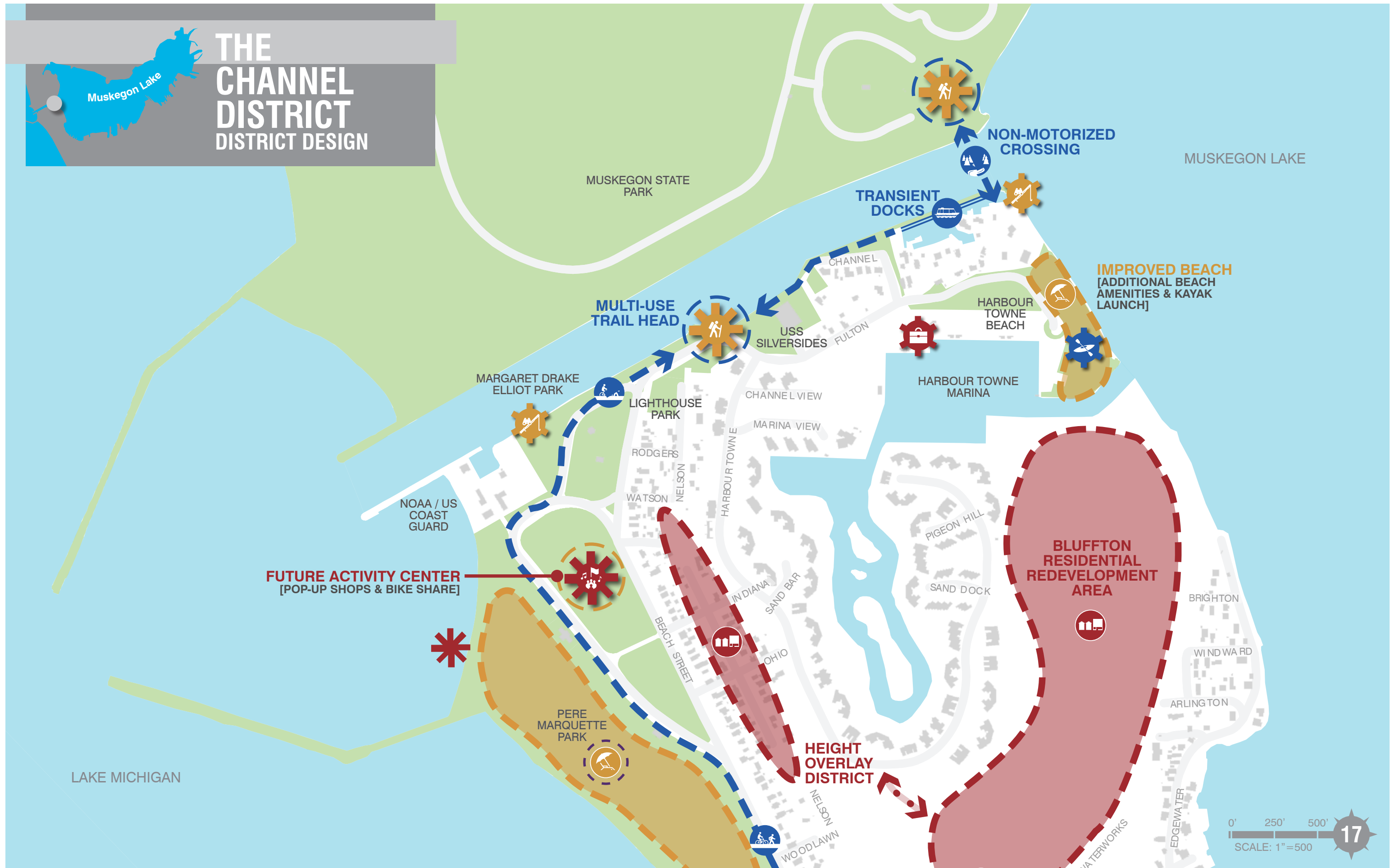
- CENTRAL GOAL [THEME DETERMINES COLOR]
- MAJOR GOAL [THEME DETERMINES COLOR]
- SECONDARY GOAL [THEME DETERMINES COLOR]

- PUBLICLY OWNED LAND
- DOCK IMPROVEMENTS
- EXISTING RAIL LINE
- EXISTING MULTI-USE TRAIL
- PROP. MULTI-USE TRAIL
- PROP. PEDESTRIAN TRAIL
- PROP. STREET IMPROVEMENT





# THE CHANNEL DISTRICT DISTRICT DESIGN







**A** TEMPORARY COTTAGES CREATE A POCKET NEIGHBORHOOD NEAR THE WATER



**B** THE PEDESTRIAN STREET STRENGTHENS CONNECTIONS & ACTIVATES THE BEACH



**C** THE PIER ACTS AS A TERMINAL VISTA AND POINT OF INTEREST, HIGHLIGHTED AS AN EXTENSION OF THE PEDESTRIAN STREET



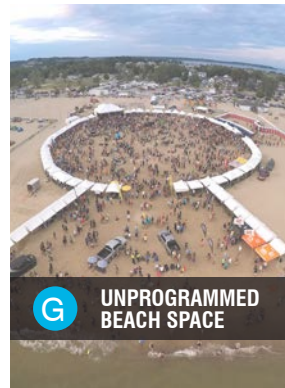
**D** BIKE SHARE OR BIKE RENTAL



**E** PUBLIC BEACH PICNIC AREA



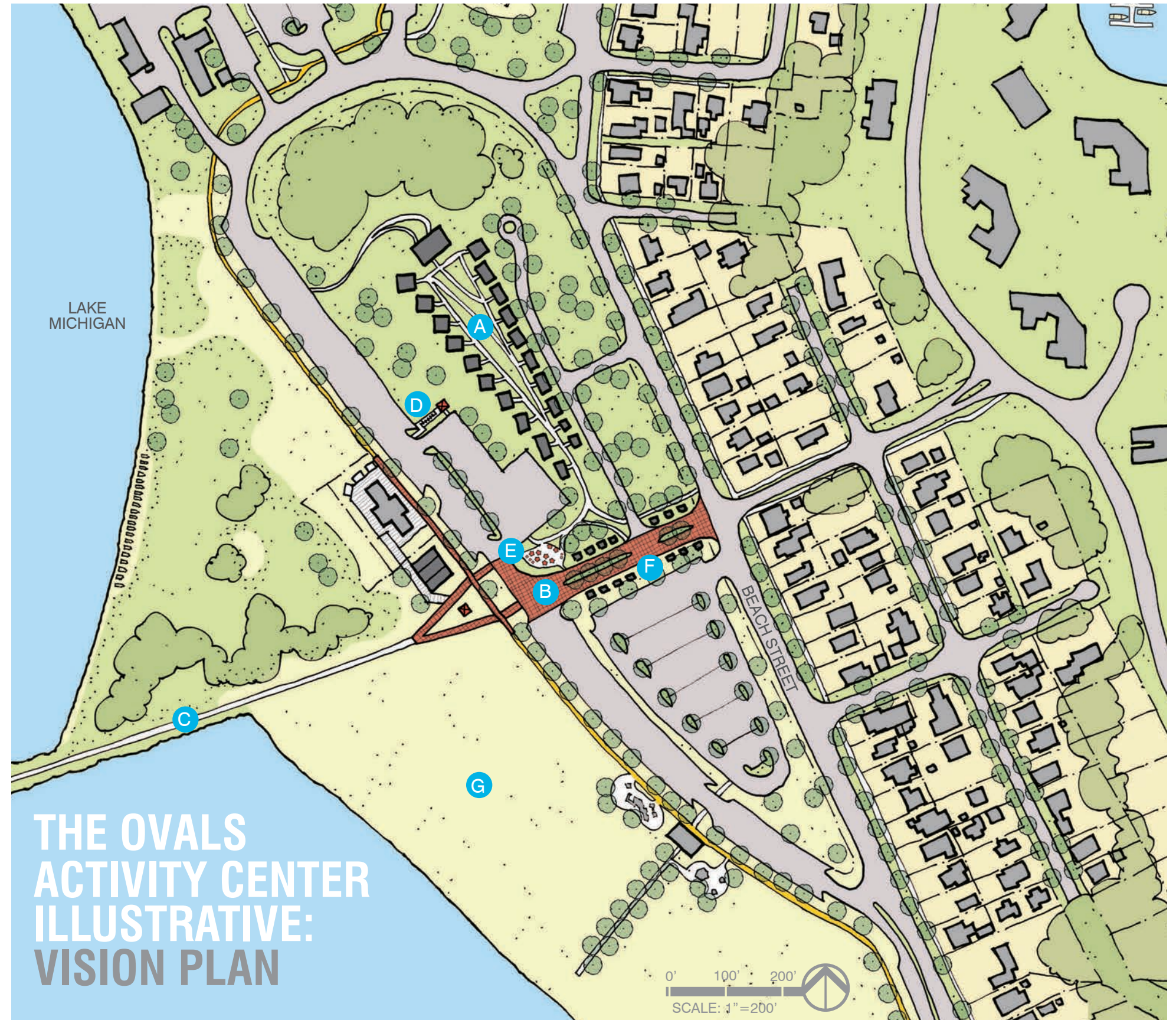
**F** MICRO CHALETS FRAME THE PEDESTRIAN STREET



**G** UNPROGRAMMED BEACH SPACE

Pere Marquette beach is Muskegon's shining jewel and most popular public park. With miles of unprogrammed shoreline, the recreational opportunities are endless. The ovals are a major node of activity, and a strong point for enhancement. The proposed pedestrian street, temporary shops and cottages, bike rental and expanded restaurant space build on the draw of the beach and highlight the existing amenities, like the lighthouse and playgrounds.

- DRAWING KEY**
- SIDEWALK
  - ROADWAY
  - MULTI-USE TRAIL
  - POINT OF INTEREST / TERMINATED VISTA
  - RESIDENTIAL LOT
  - EXISTING BUILDING
  - PROPOSED INFILL





# IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES: THE CHANNEL DISTRICT

## SUSTAIN

Adopt a Critical Dune Overlay ordinance.

### SUCCESS METRIC

Submit Critical Dune Overlay ordinance to Michigan DEQ for review and approval.

Critical dune oversight is returned to City of Muskegon.

## CONNECT

Formalize the bike pathway connection through Pere Marquette Park and connecting to Harbour Towne Beach.

### SUCCESS METRIC

Install pavement markings and wayfinding, as well as trailhead amenities at Lighthouse Park to demarcate the end/beginning of the multi-use path system.

Route maps are updated, wayfinding signs placed, and bike repair station installed.

Study the feasibility of a non-motorized transportation connection between Muskegon State Park and Pere Marquette Park.

### SUCCESS METRIC

Convene a meeting of the DNR, City of Muskegon, Army Corps of Engineers, West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission and officials representing the Port of Muskegon. Establish a “Channel Transportation Committee” to design a process to study the feasibility of a non-motorized connection.

Joint meeting occurs followed by the formation of a committee to complete a feasibility study.

## ADVANCE

Utilize unique topographic conditions (height and proximity to water) to enable context sensitive development.

### SUCCESS METRIC

Amend the City’s zoning ordinance to include a building height overlay along Nelson Street that allows increased height with a 3rd story step back and gables oriented toward the water, as well as allowing for temporary buildings within the Ovals to support beach-related activities as a means of enhancing and prolonging the summer season.

Ordinance amendment is adopted.

## CONVENE

Enhance Harbour Towne Beach to include ADA accessible kayak launch, transient boat docks and fishing.

Amend the City’s Parks and Recreation Master Plan to include park enhancement projects and apply for Department of Natural Resource funding.

### SUCCESS METRIC

Updated 5-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan adopted and approved by the DNR. Applications for grants are submitted, which may include: DNR Trust Fund Development grants, Land and Water Conservation Fund, Recreation Passport grant, Boating Infrastructure Grant, and the Recreation Trails Program grants.

## WHAT YOU SAID

DIVERSIFY  
HOUSING  
TO

Observation  
Decks  
Platforms

Bring Bike  
down near  
the water to  
get people into  
this new development

**MAKE SURE  
BIKE LANES  
ON ALL OF  
THE STREETS  
CONNECTING  
IN THESE  
INTERSECTIONS**

20

Make the  
Shoreline a  
place for  
Inclusion  
people &  
disability

Marinas

Coffee Shop!  
@ Windward  
Pointe

Fe  
non motorized  
green sp ways  
to connect  
people to lake

Integrate Aquatic  
& Terrestrial Natural  
Habitat with New  
Development.

NO  
Parking  
meters

Keep  
Parking  
Free

Fishing pier  
nice park in  
lakeside on city  
owned property  
by Milwaukee  
Clipper.

**ALL Ready  
has 2 There**

More hiking  
trails through  
the natural  
areas

Slow down  
traffic by  
lakeside  
town area

Preserving  
the natural  
beauty &  
the existing  
park greenspace  
**YES!**

Triple  
Ditto!  
Double Ditto!

No hotels  
Condo's etc.  
on Lake MI  
Beach Front  
at Pere Marquette

**FREE PARKING  
at Beach**

yes  
yes!

Re  
w/ L  
Mar  
housing  
@ Windward  
Pointe



## CHAPTER 3 THE BLUFFTON DISTRICT

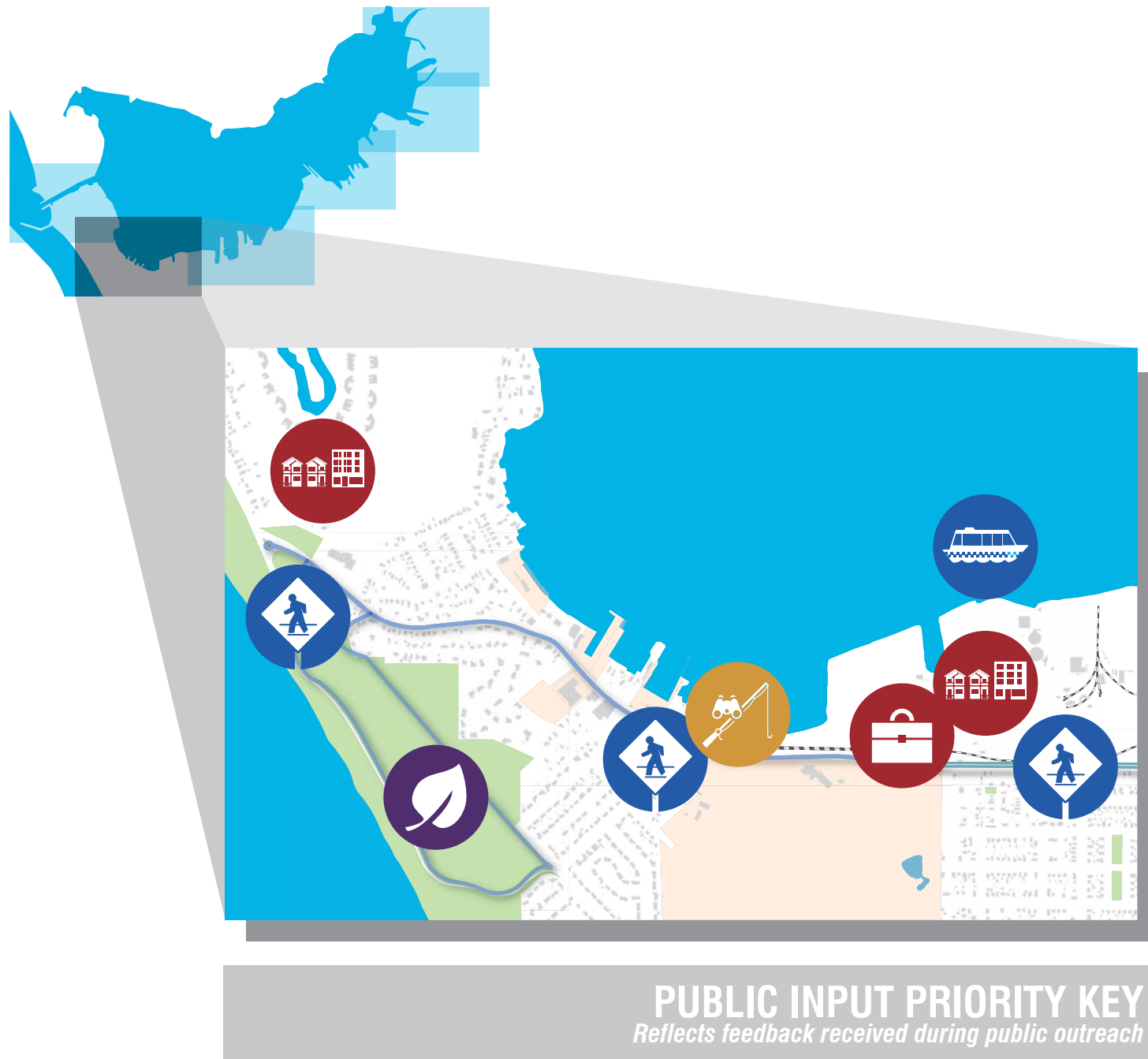
Nestled between Muskegon's two premier waterfronts, the Bluffton District is a place of calm serenity and indescribable natural beauty.

With some of the best views in the city, extensive trails take you from the boardwalks of Kruse Park to the towering forest paths of Beachwood. Proposed multi-use path connections and enhanced street crossings transition people from the beach to Lakeside. The neighborhood is quiet, with the lively nature of the private clubs contained at the water's edge.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The Bluffton District is home to the last commercial fisherman families in Muskegon, the Petersens and Jensens, who have partnered in recent years to fish the open waters of the Muskegon Area.





## SUSTAIN

Beachwood Park is highlighted as an area to sustain as it contains critical dunes which warrant careful attention. These dunes provide passive recreational opportunities and aesthetic views for the surrounding neighborhood and may be an important asset should redevelopment of the golf course be realized.

## ADVANCE

Growth and development associated with the Windward Pointe project, including potential redevelopment of the Northern edge of Muskegon Country Club, will provide the Bluffton area an important activity hub. Continuing the existing street grid south of Lakeshore Dr. into Windward Pointe provides a continuation of the residential block pattern, helping to connect the neighborhood to the Bluffton lakeshore.

## CONNECT

The often-lamented on-street section of the multi-use path shifts to an off-street facility in the Bluffton District with the Windward Pointe project. This multi-use path provides important east to west connections, and for some, is a more scenic and safer experience than biking on a city street. A potential round-a-bout is conceived for the intersection at Lakeshore Drive and Beach Street to provide an attractive gateway to Pere Marquette park.

## CONVENE

With new, publicly-accessible amenities at Windward Pointe, as well as the existing social clubs and the Cottage Grove Boat Launch, the Bluffton District will welcome new recreation amenities to support a growing waterfront residential community.

- RESTORE HABITAT AND NATURAL FEATURES
- USE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE
- IMPROVE WATER QUALITY
- NEW DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY (RESIDENTIAL AND MIXED USE)
- MAINTAIN DEEP WATER PORT
- EXPAND RECREATION AND FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES
- EMPLOYMENT CENTER (NEW OR EXISTING)
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- NEW OR IMPROVED FISHING AND LOOKOUT AREAS
- NEW OR IMPROVED TRAILHEAD

- CENTRAL GOAL [THEME DETERMINES COLOR]
- MAJOR GOAL [THEME DETERMINES COLOR]
- SECONDARY GOAL [THEME DETERMINES COLOR]

- PUBLICLY OWNED LAND
- DOCK IMPROVEMENTS
- EXISTING RAIL LINE
- EXISTING MULTI-USE TRAIL
- PROP. MULTI-USE TRAIL
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- PROP. STREET IMPROVEMENT



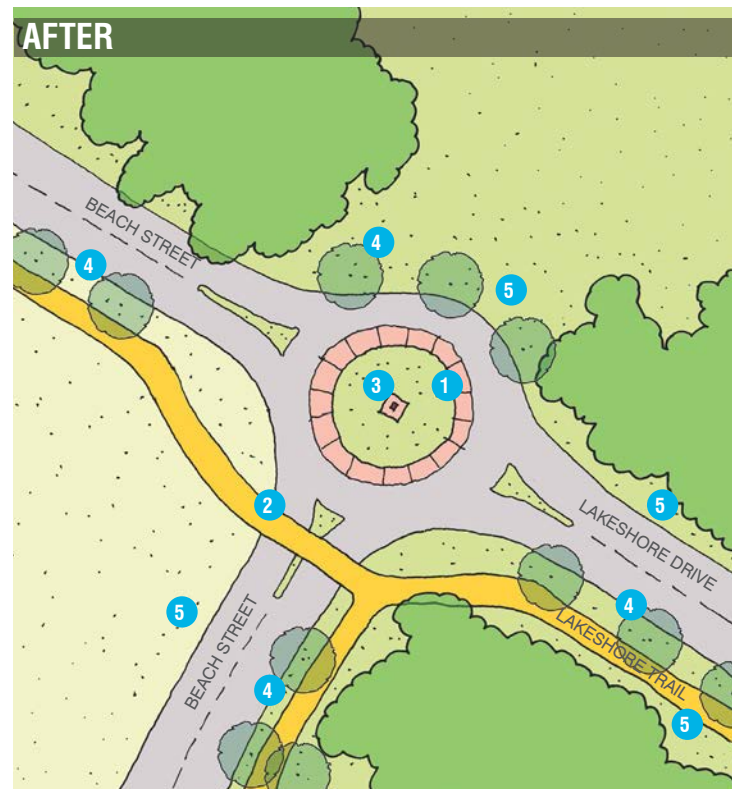
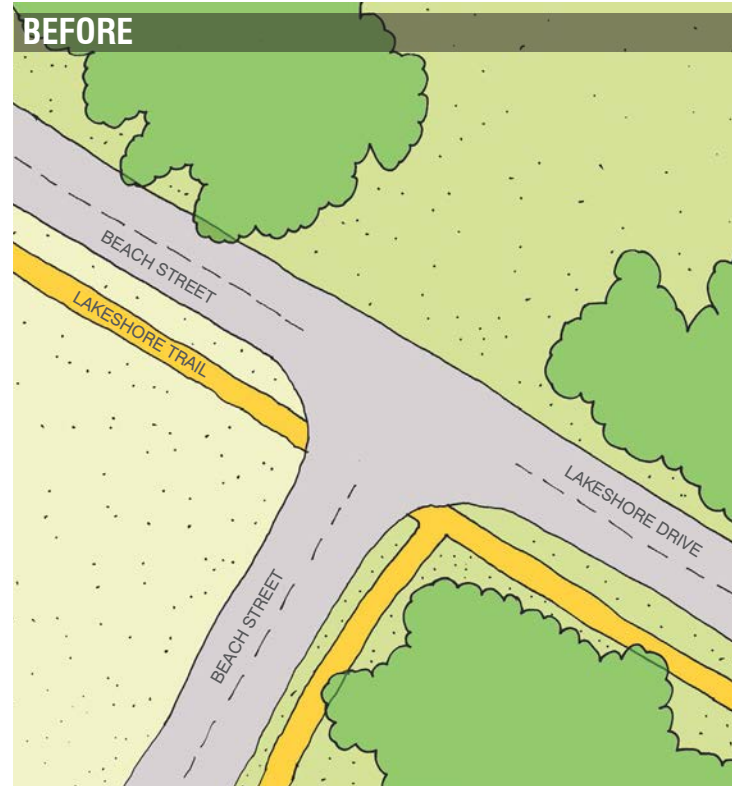
# THE BLUFFTON DISTRICT DISTRICT DESIGN





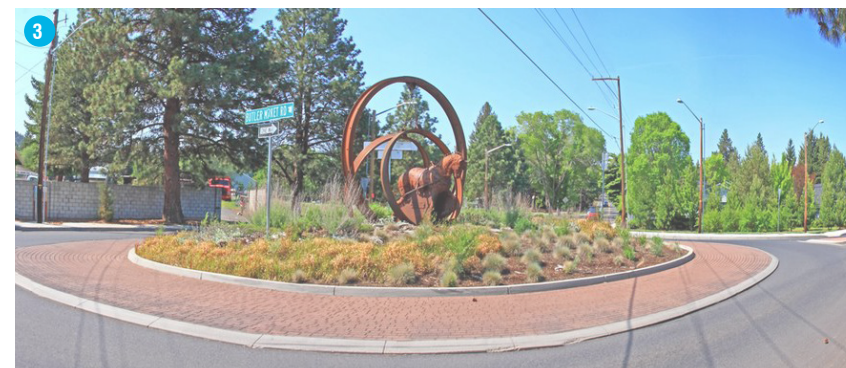
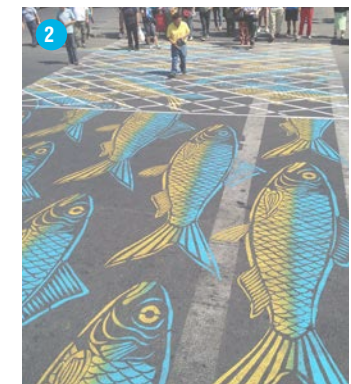
# INTERSECTION REPAIRS

EXISTING INTERSECTION



## BEACH STREET + LAKESHORE DRIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Construct round-a-bout at Beach Street and Lakeshore Drive intersection to alleviate beach traffic congestion on busy days, manage traffic flow, and slow down traffic
- 2 Connect non-motorized path (Lakeshore Trail) with enhanced street crossing using artistic or painted crosswalk at Beach Street crossing
- 3 Place sculpture, signage, or terminated vista element to orient people using the round-a-bout and to act as a potential gateway to the Lake Michigan shoreline
- 4 Plant street trees to provide spatial enclosure, mark an important intersection, reduce traffic speeds, and make the pedestrian experiencing more charming
- 5 Enhance street edges with native plantings and dune grass at beach/sand area to build sustainable and connected natural landscapes while heightening gateway aspects as drivers enter the lakeshore area, protecting the fragile beachscapes





# IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES: THE BLUFFTON DISTRICT

## SUSTAIN

Preserve critical dune land through local planning and zoning regulations.

### SUCCESS METRIC

Audit zoning ordinance to determine whether adequate protections are in place for protecting dunes, while offering creative zoning solutions to cluster development.

Zoning Ordinance Audit for critical dune and shoreline development incentives.

## CONNECT

Relocate multi-use trail from Lakeshore Drive to an off-street facility.

Work with Windward Pointe development team to place multi-use path internal to the redevelopment site.

### SUCCESS METRIC

Multi-use path to extend into Windward Pointe, with temporary bollards or other techniques utilized to provide better separation between the vehicular travel lane and existing on-street bike lane. Note that due to varying development and construction schedules, pursue temporary off-street alignment versus waiting until development is complete.

## ADVANCE

Support the redevelopment of sites along Muskegon Lake through zoning provisions that encourage a diverse mix of housing types.

### SUCCESS METRIC

Amend the City’s zoning ordinance to include incentives for public access along the shoreline, for example increased building height, expedited review, waived submittal fees or waived utility hook-up fees.

Ordinance amendment is adopted.

## CONVENE

Enhance Cottage Grove boat launch, and connect launch to bike pathway system. Utilize launch site as future bike share and water taxi connection point.

### SUCCESS METRIC

Redesign launch site to include space for bike share and water taxi, provide wayfinding and other amenities such as bike repair.

Public boat launch includes ADA accessible kayak launch, as well as bike facilities including bike share docking, bike repair, and wayfinding.

## WHAT YOU SAID

Observation  
Decks  
Platforms

WATER TAXI  
FROM DOWNTOWN  
TO  
LAKESIDE

KEEP BIKE  
PATH.  
ENHANCE SHORE  
ACCESS.  
CLEAN UP  
BP!!!

Slow down  
traffic by  
lakeside  
downtown area:

Remove  
Line Rail



NO  
Parking  
meters

Keep  
Parking  
Free

Yes!  
Great idea

NAME SOME  
BIKE LANES  
ALL OF  
STAPETS

Yes!

get proper  
cleaned &  
put parks  
in. boating  
Ditto

Stormwater retention  
and green infrastructure  
in large nodes if  
possible

Bring Bike  
near  
to  
development

More hiking  
trails through  
the natural  
areas

More  
fishing.  
recreation  
events opp  
for residents  
neighborhood


Additional  
Public  
restroom

red. Stimulus  
Please!

Much better  
use of lakeside  
space

Safe  
non motorized  
green sp  
to connect  
Ppl to  
the lake  
up &  
neighborhood





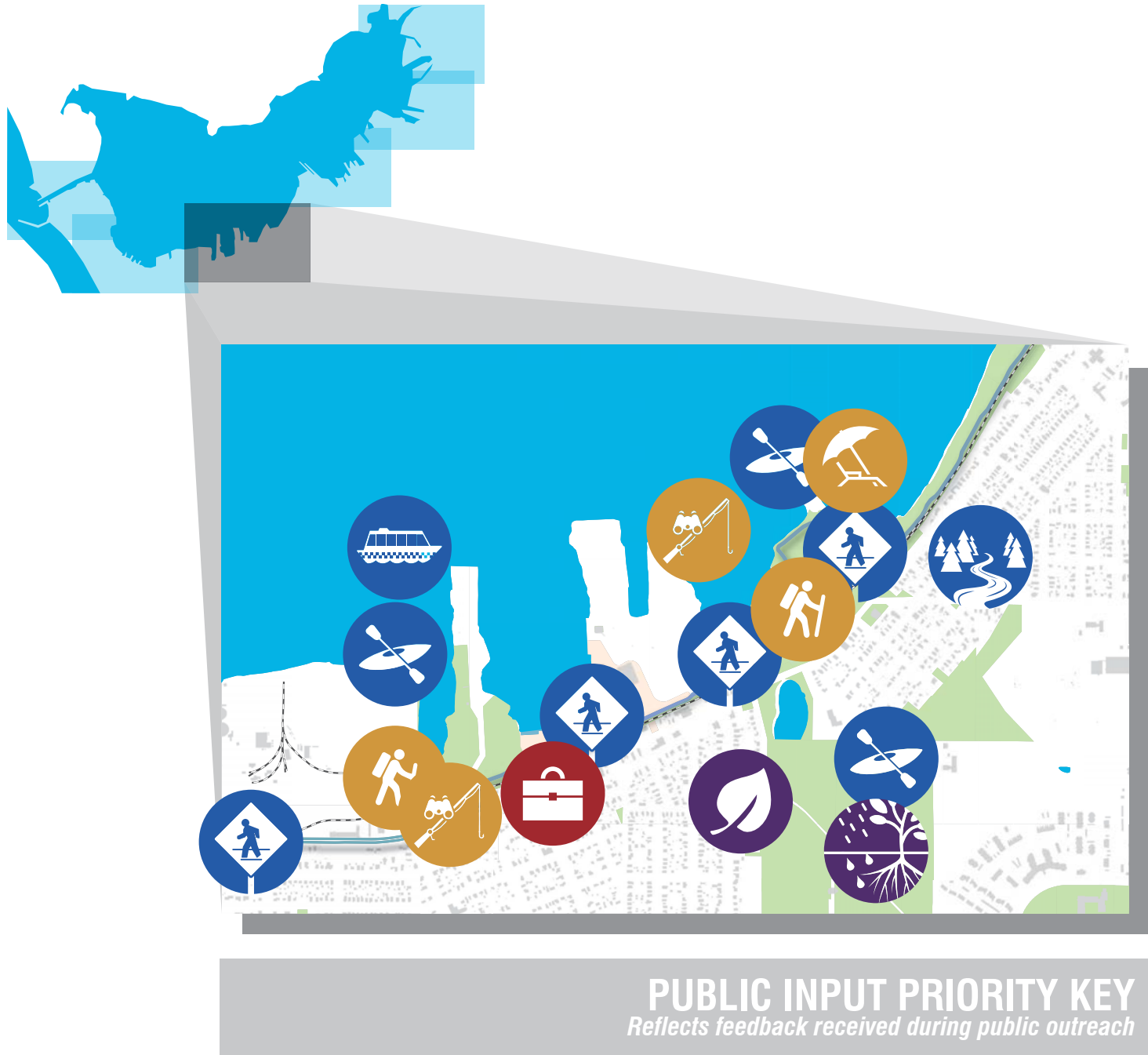
## CHAPTER 4 THE LAKESIDE DISTRICT

With small town charm, lively marinas and a vibrant community, the Lakeside District has a distinct flavor that locals love and visitors crave.

The Lake Express Ferry and Great Lakes Marina bring tourists from all over the region right to the heart of Lakeside's quaint business district. Future bike share programs, improved streetscape elements and enhanced trails will encourage travelers to explore the expansive Muskegon lake front. McGraft Park, situated just East of the neighborhood, features towering oaks, active and passive recreation spaces, and picturesque views to the restored Ruddiman Creek. Through the reclamation of the former tank farm site, the park experience will be continued down to the waterfront, providing a new scenic point of public access for the district.

### DID YOU KNOW?

In 1888, Lakeside was incorporated into the City of Muskegon and at the time was known as one of the wealthiest areas in the state.



## SUSTAIN

The former tank farm site is central to achieving the sustainability objectives of the Lakeside District. By reclaiming the former industrial site, nearby residents are provided safe and convenient access to the multi-use path and Muskegon Lake by foot, bike or kayak. Shoreline restoration and environmental remediation returns this once contaminated area to its natural splendor.

## ADVANCE

To support the Lakeside business district and enhance its identity, streetscape improvements offer an opportunity to narrow the streetspace to provide wider sidewalks to encourage shopping and strolling, slower traffic, and consolidated parking which can free up valuable development sites helping to add vibrancy with new business potential.

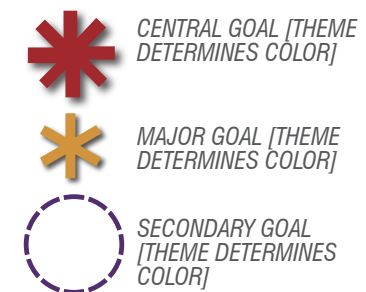
## CONNECT

With the Lake Express ferry, the Milwaukee Clipper and the Grand Trunk launch, the Lakeside District is a hub of activity catering to the boating public. A water taxi and new kayak launches connect the boating public to shoreside amenities. At the former tank farm site, street intersections are reconstructed to provide enhanced walkability from the Lakeside, Nims, and Glenside neighborhoods to the lakeshore.

## CONVEEN

The Lakeside, Nims and Glenside neighborhoods have historically had limited access to Muskegon Lake because Lakeshore Drive acts as a physical barrier and previous industrial uses along the water were a deterrent.

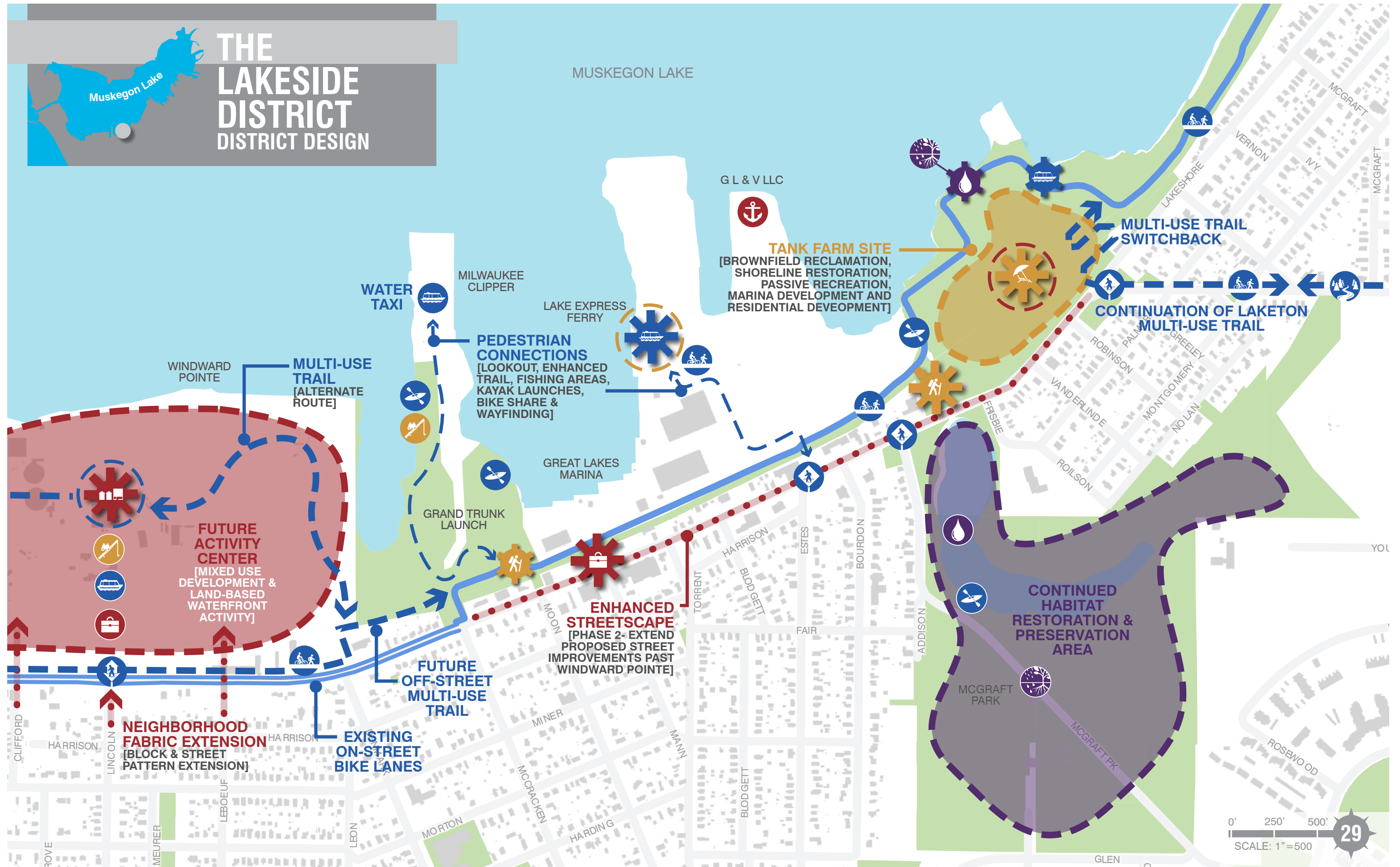
Now that the City owns the former tank farm site, opportunities exist to provide meaningful, abundant and safe public access, offering places for fishing, hiking, and kayaking.



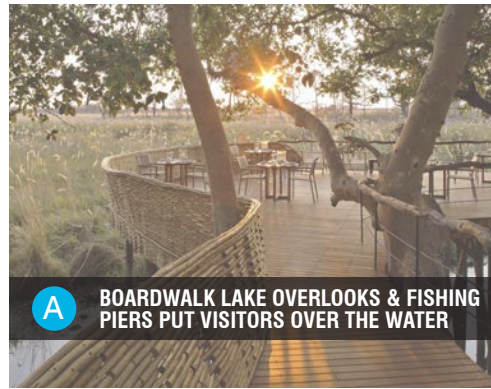




# THE LAKESIDE DISTRICT DISTRICT DESIGN







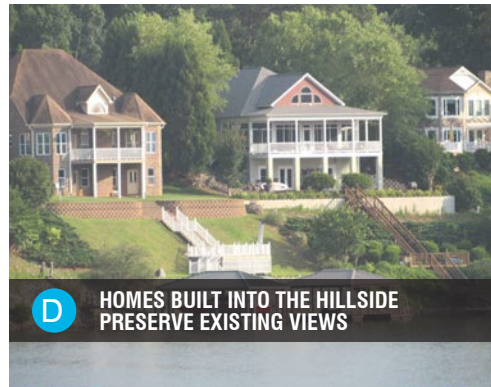
**A** BOARDWALK LAKE OVERLOOKS & FISHING PIERS PUT VISITORS OVER THE WATER



**B** A NEW MARINA ACCOMMODATES ADDITIONAL WATER BASED ACTIVITY



**C** SWITCHBACK TRAILS EXPAND THE MULTI-USE PATH INTO THE PARK AND CONNECT THE NEARBY NEIGHBORHOODS TO THE WATERFRONT



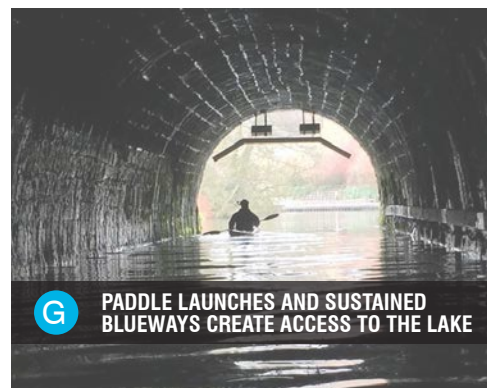
**D** HOMES BUILT INTO THE HILLSIDE PRESERVE EXISTING VIEWS



**E** CURVILINEAR BOARDWALKS MEANDER THROUGH THE RESTORED WETLANDS



**F** WETLAND RESTORATION PROVIDES HABITAT AND HELPS CLEAN THE WATER



**G** PADDLE LAUNCHES AND SUSTAINED BLUEWAYS CREATE ACCESS TO THE LAKE

0' 100' 200'  
SCALE: 1"=200'

- DRAWING KEY**
- SIDEWALK
  - ROADWAY
  - MULTI-USE TRAIL
  - POINT OF INTEREST
  - RESIDENTIAL LOT
  - EXISTING BUILDING
  - PROPOSED INFILL



## TANK FARM SITE

Once remediated, the former tank farm site offers great opportunity for a multitude of uses. As an extension of the neighborhood fabric and existing greenway, this site becomes an ideal location for sustainable public access to Muskegon Lake. After a comprehensive rehabilitation of the land, the former industrial site will provide passive recreational trails and active water recreational spaces, in addition to the carefully placed low density housing which hugs the hillside and activates the park.



# IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES: THE LAKESIDE DISTRICT

## SUSTAIN

Utilize McGraft Park as a greenway connection from the Lakeside, Nims and Glenside neighborhoods to Muskegon Lake and connecting to the former tank farm site across Lakeshore Drive.

### SUCCESS METRIC

Complete design plan for the connection to the former tank farm site, including an update of the City's Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Seek DNR development grant for implementation.

Preliminary design concepts are complete for the greenway connection to the former tank farm site, grant request submitted to DNR and Coastal Zone Management program for project implementation.

## CONNECT

Consider and plan first-mile/last-mile connections that include bike share, water taxi, and pedestrian walk ways that connect the Grand Trunk Launch, Lake Express Ferry, and McGraft Park to the multi-use path.

### SUCCESS METRIC

Begin with tactical and temporary enhancements that demarcate pedestrian connections from boat launch areas to the multi-use path and the Lakeside business district. Remove chain link fences because they are not welcoming or inviting along prime waterfront areas. Conduct a bike share and water taxi feasibility study that includes a business plan and financial strategy.

Fencing removed, pathways demarcated (through physical and artistic means) and feasibility studies completed.

## ADVANCE

Implement traffic calming and public realm beautification along Lakeshore Dr. through the Lakeside Business district to create a walkable, safe and business-friendly corridor. Explore the potential for a form-based code to be implemented guiding new development in the district.

### SUCCESS METRIC

Redesign Lakeshore Drive with on-street parking, bulb-outs and potentially widened sidewalks.

Lakeside business owners have mutual understanding about shared parking within the district, which supports a park-once, walkable business district. The redesign is to be permitted followed by the development and adoption of a Form-Based Code.

## CONVENE

Pursue the greenway extension across Lakeshore Drive utilizing the former tank farm site (1490 Lakeshore Drive) and adjoining properties (1296, 1300, 1654, 1682, and 1737 Lakeshore Dr.) as public waterfront resources for new marina, kayak launch, fishing areas, and trailhead, and as development opportunity sites.

### SUCCESS METRIC

Pursue local, state and federal grants to restore natural shoreline conditions at former tank farm site for public use and access.

Submit request for coastal zone management grant for the revitalization of the urban waterfront and increasing recreational opportunities along Muskegon Lake, connecting to Lake Michigan. Submit grant.

## WHAT YOU SAID

No gated  
Communities  
Please!

This area has  
a lot of potential  
One of most beautiful  
Sunset / water front  
area

Expand  
Plan  
Greenway

Move  
behind  
Building  
more  
space

Bring Bike  
down near  
the water to  
get people  
this near

Reside  
(con)

non motorized  
transportation  
Greenway  
connecting Nelson  
neighborhood to  
Heritage Landing

utilize / expand  
writing  
↳ transient  
boat docks  
& fueling station

DIVERSIFY  
HOUSING  
TO  
AVOID  
GENTRIFICATION

More  
space  
of lakeside

### Art work

~~the~~ Paintings on  
side of ~~the~~ Cole's  
building, heading  
North on Lakeshore.  
- Paintings on the ~~the~~  
closed up buildings  
on western, viewed  
from Lakeshore →

Community  
Center  
for community  
classes  
led by various  
org, city, mission  
groups

Water Taxi  
CONNECTING  
SOUTH SIDE  
w/ DOWNTOWN  
LAKESIDE

CONSIDER  
SWITCHBACK  
CONNECTION  
AT THE END  
WASHINGTON AVE.

FRANKLIN  
& WESTERN:  
IMPROVED PED  
CONNECTIONS + FACILITIES

Beidh  
Creekway  
Greenway  
From Nelson Park  
School to Dog  
School to Harts  
to Harts

Observation  
points  
at Farm

REMOVE BARBED  
WIRE FENCE ON  
MCC PROPERTY

the  
behind car





## CHAPTER 5 WESTERN WATERFRONT DISTRICT

Like the tide, the Western Waterfront District is not unfamiliar with the ebb and flow of activity. Downtown Muskegon and the festival grounds like Heritage Landing and Hackley Park are places of excitement and transformation.

The Western Waterfront District has a thriving core, but is surrounded by an ample source of untapped potential. Connecting and expanding this activity is a primary goal of this district, creating new housing, shopping, and recreational opportunities along the lakeshore. Through the development of the land neighboring Hartshorn Marina and potential investment at the Mart Docks, the Western Waterfront shoreline can begin to feel complete. Enhanced crossings along Shoreline Drive will begin to bridge the downtown and the waterfront, mending that connection.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Heritage Landing is one of Muskegon's premier county parks, hosting popular events like Unity Christian Music Festival, Shoreline Jazz Festival, Moose Fest and the Michigan Irish Musical Festival.









# WESTERN WATERFRONT DISTRICT DISTRICT DESIGN





# WESTERN WATERFRONT ACTIVITY CENTER ILLUSTRATIVE: EXISTING CONDITIONS

The west side of the Western Waterfront District boasts numerous existing opportunities to engage the waterfront including Heritage Landing, Lakeshore Yacht Harbor, Hartshorn Marina, and the Hartshorn Boat Launch.

These destinations are joined by key economic and destination centers including Fricano Place, MCC Lakeshore Fitness Center and Coles Quality Foods Bakery.

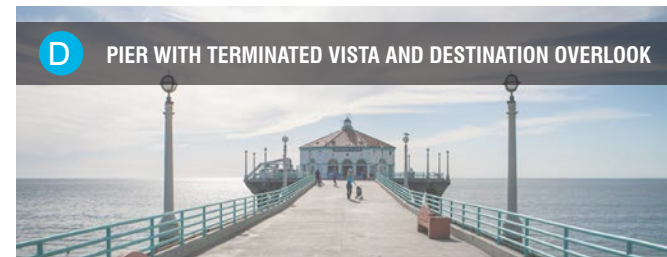
A great deal of potential for waterfront reinvestment and activation exists in the large Kirksey and Makary former industrial sites. Future redevelopment should be combined with the removal of the existing railroad tracks starting at the intersection of Seaway Drive and Western Avenue.



- DRAWING KEY**
- SIDEWALK
  - ROADWAY
  - MULTI-USE TRAIL
  - POINT OF INTEREST / TERMINATED VISTA
  - RESIDENTIAL LOT
  - EXISTING BUILDING
  - PROPOSED INFILL

0' 175' 350'  
SCALE: 1"=350'





- E** MARINA WITH ADJACENT RESIDENTIAL REDEVELOPMENT
- F** CRUISE SHIP DOCK AT HERITAGE LANDING
- G** SMALL BLOCK SIZES WITH PARKING INTERNAL TO THE BLOCK TO HUMANIZE STREET SPACES
- H** RE-ALIGNED WESTERN AVENUE TO DEFLECT AND TURN INTO MICHIGAN AVENUE - FOCAL BUILDING AT DEFLECTED TURN
- I** INFILL FOCUSED ON RESIDENTIAL HOUSING VARIETY
- J** TRANSIENT BOAT DOCKS
- K** BOAT STORAGE CONDOMINIUMS INTERNAL TO THE BLOCK AND SHIELDED FROM THE NEW STREET WITH BUILDINGS
- L** MULTI-USE TRAIL DEFLECTION TO PROVIDE ALTERNATE ROUTE ALONG LAKESHORE AS TRAIL CHANGES TO PROMENADE
- M** INTERSECTION REPAIR AT DIVISION ST. + WESTERN AVE. - SIMILAR TO 7TH STREET REPAIR (REFER TO INTERSECTION REPAIRS IN THIS CHAPTER)
- N** ENHANCED CROSSWALK AT DOG PARK - SIMILAR TO ITEM #1 FOR 3RD STREET REPAIR (REFER TO INTERSECTION REPAIRS IN THIS CHAPTER)
- O** INTERSECTION REPAIR TO CONNECT WESTERN AVENUE ACROSS SEAWAY/SHORELINE DRIVE - SIMILAR TO 1ST STREET REPAIR (REFER TO INTERSECTION REPAIRS IN CHAPTER 6 CENTRAL WATERFRONT DISTRICT)
- P** ENHANCED STREETScape TO PROVIDE HIGH QUALITY PUBLIC REALM AND A GATEWAY FEATURE INTO RESIDENTIAL AREA
- Q** WADABLE KAYAK LAUNCH (EXACT LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED THROUGH PARTNERSHIP WITH LOCAL SHORELINE ORGANIZATIONS)
- R** KAYAK LAUNCH

# WESTERN WATERFRONT ACTIVITY CENTER ILLUSTRATIVE: VISION PLAN



Illustrative Plans depict one potential redevelopment scenario in order to convey the Imagine Muskegon Lake Master Plan vision. The Plan recognizes that redevelopment may take various forms along the lakeshore and intends to provide the flexibility for future redevelopment as opportunities and market dynamics shape the development pattern.

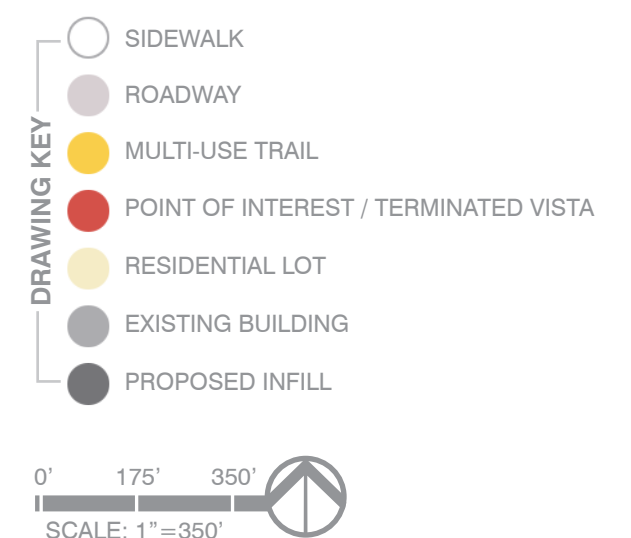


# THE MART DOCK ACTIVITY CENTER ILLUSTRATIVE: EXISTING CONDITIONS

The east side of the Western Waterfront District is anchored by the Mart Dock where existing shipping and port activities can be maintained and paired with future lakeshore investments to create a transportation hub and destination center.

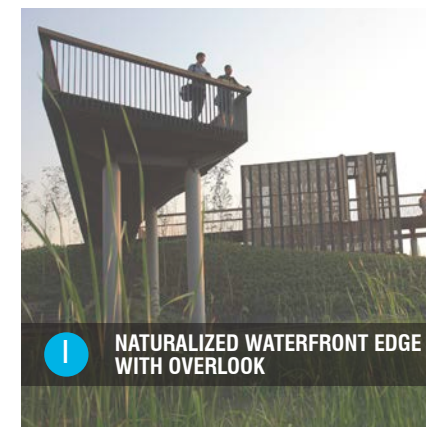
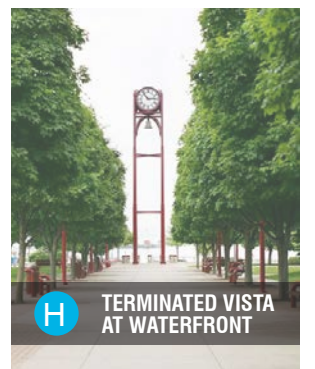
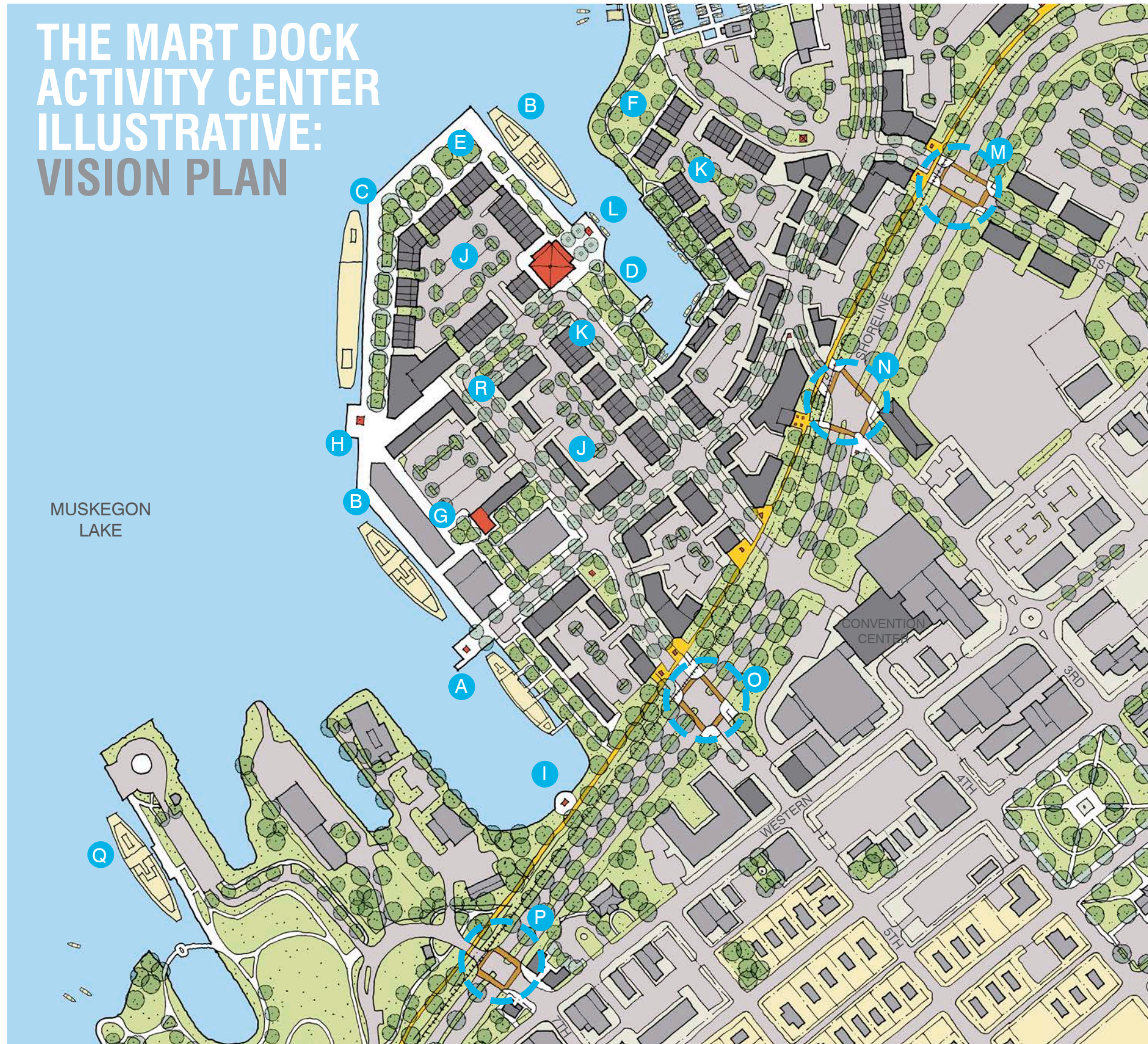
The Mart Dock area is uniquely located within close proximity to downtown Muskegon and Heritage Landing, which can provide numerous connection opportunities for new development.

Adaptive re-use of existing vintage buildings at the Mart Dock should be considered to emphasize the port history and potentially provide for a port-related market and small-scale incubator shopping district.





# THE MART DOCK ACTIVITY CENTER ILLUSTRATIVE: VISION PLAN

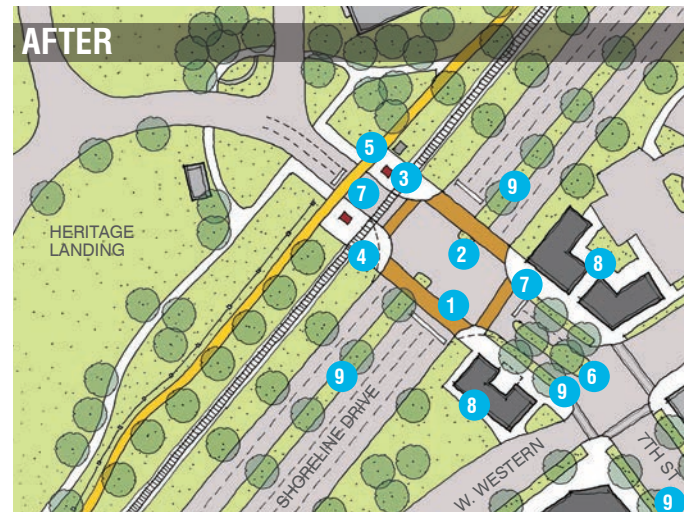
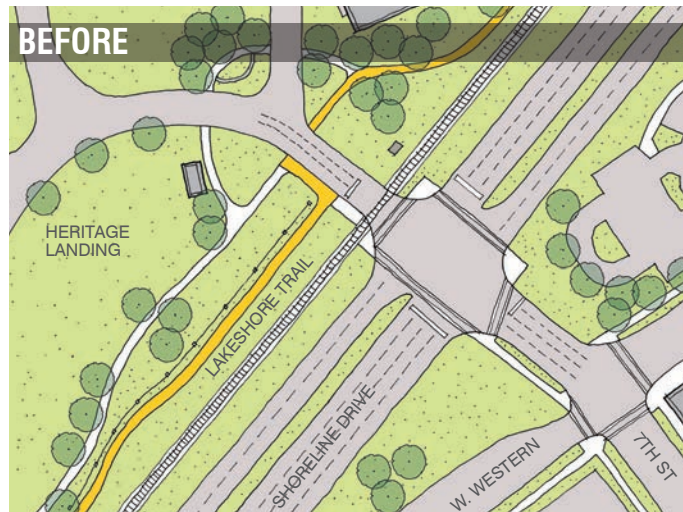


- J** SMALL BLOCK SIZES WITH PARKING INTERNAL TO THE BLOCK TO HUMANIZE STREET SPACES
- K** INFILL FOCUSED ON RESIDENTIAL HOUSING VARIETY
- L** TRANSIENT BOAT DOCKS
- M** INTERSECTION REPAIR AT 1ST STREET + SHORELINE DRIVE TO EXTEND 1ST STREET TO TERRACE POINT ROAD (REFER TO INTERSECTION REPAIRS IN CHAPTER 6 CENTRAL WATERFRONT DISTRICT)
- N** INTERSECTION REPAIR AT 3RD STREET + SHORELINE DRIVE (REFER TO INTERSECTION REPAIRS IN THIS CHAPTER)
- O** INTERSECTION REPAIR AT 5TH STREET + SHORELINE DRIVE - SIMILAR TO 1ST STREET REPAIR (REFER TO INTERSECTION REPAIRS IN CHAPTER 6 CENTRAL WATERFRONT DISTRICT)
- P** INTERSECTION REPAIR AT 7TH STREET + SHORELINE DRIVE (REFER TO INTERSECTION REPAIRS IN THIS CHAPTER)
- Q** CRUISE SHIP DOCK AT HERITAGE LANDING
- R** ENHANCED STREETSCAPE TO PROVIDE HIGH QUALITY PUBLIC REALM AND A GATEWAY FEATURE INTO WATERFRONT AREA

Illustrative Plans depict one potential redevelopment scenario in order to convey the Imagine Muskegon Lake Master Plan vision. The Plan recognizes that redevelopment may take various forms along the lakeshore and intends to provide the flexibility for future redevelopment as opportunities and market dynamics shape the development pattern.



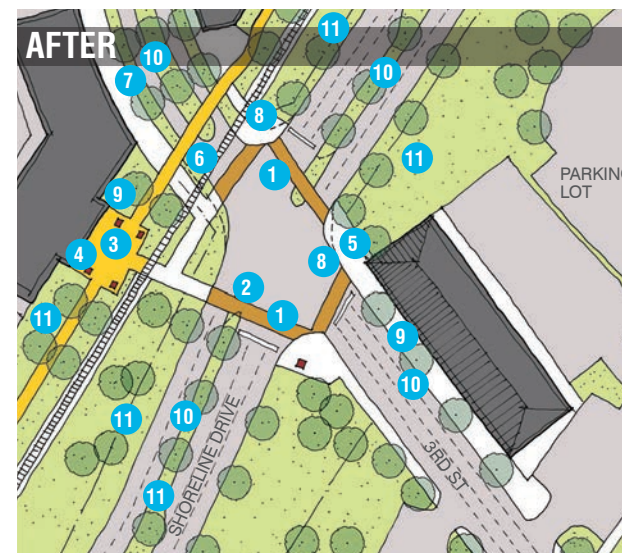
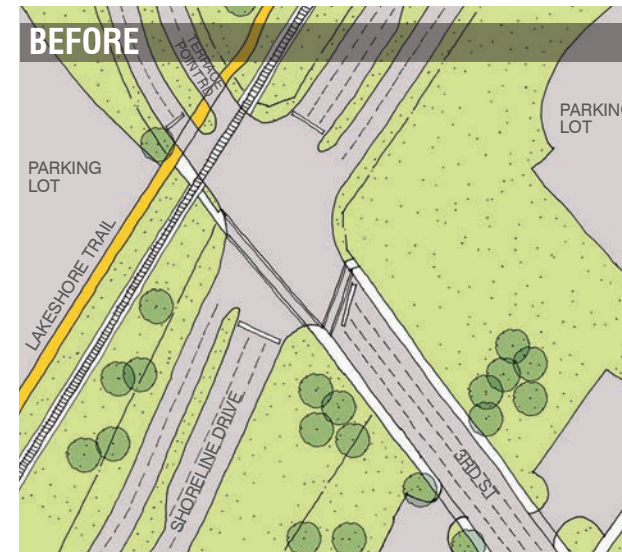
# INTERSECTION REPAIRS



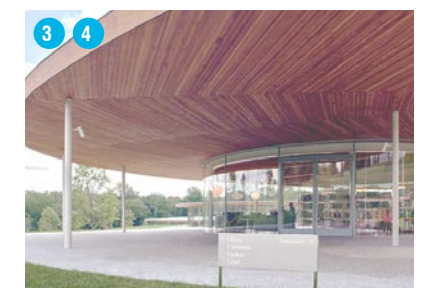
## 7TH STREET + SHORELINE DRIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Enhanced crosswalks to carve out safe space for pedestrians using artistic crosswalks or variety in pavement material
- 2 Median refuge island to provide pedestrians a safer and more secured experience
- 3 Thematic wayfinding monuments to direct users to shoreline and downtown
- 4 Reconstruct intersection curb to achieve a smaller radius to shorten the crossing distance and provide more space for people as they wait to cross - typical at all four corners
- 5 Connect non-motorized path (Lakeshore Trail) with direct link and enhanced street crossing
- 6 Create boulevard at first street intersection to narrow thoroughfare and reduce traffic speeds
- 7 Connect both sides of the street for pedestrian crossings to ensure predictability and ease of navigation
- 8 Encourage buildings that define the streetspace to provide interesting things for people to do and see on their walk
- 9 Plant street trees to provide spatial enclosure, mark an important intersection, reduce traffic speeds, and make the pedestrian experiencing more charming

## 3RD STREET + SHORELINE DRIVE RECOMMENDATIONS



- 1 Enhanced crosswalks to carve out safe space for pedestrians using artistic crosswalks or variety in pavement material
- 2 Median refuge island to provide pedestrians a safer and more secured experience
- 3 Thematic wayfinding monuments to direct users to shoreline and downtown
- 4 Plaza space and building to help orient pedestrians & bikers on their journey while providing a place for a break. This area could include restrooms and bike repair station
- 5 Reconstruct intersection curb to achieve a smaller radius to shorten the crossing distance and provide more space for people as they wait to cross - typical at all four corners
- 6 Connect non-motorized path (Lakeshore Trail) with enhanced street crossing using artistic or painted crosswalk at street
- 7 Modify street cross section at Terrace Point Road by removing one lane of traffic to narrow thoroughfare, reduce traffic speeds, widen sidewalks and provide a gateway to the shoreline with wider parkways (terrace area)
- 8 Connect both sides of the street for pedestrian crossings to ensure predictability and ease of navigation
- 9 Encourage buildings that define the streetspace to provide interesting things for people to do and see on their walk
- 10 Plant street trees to provide spatial enclosure, mark an important intersection, reduce traffic speeds, and make the pedestrian experiencing more charming
- 11 Enhance Shoreline Drive edges with native plantings and landscape to build sustainable & connected greenways while heightening gateway aspects as drivers enter Muskegon





# IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES: WESTERN WATERFRONT DISTRICT

## SUSTAIN

Utilize Beidler Creek as a greenway connection from the Nims and Nelson neighborhoods to Heritage Landing. Pursue daylighting the creek and using it as an educational resource about stormwater management.

### SUCCESS METRIC



Map and survey creek area to gather list of adjacent property owners, then meet with WMSRDC and the City Engineer to discuss and determine process for daylighting creek once the extent and impact is known to adjacent owners.

Mapping of creek, and meeting with stakeholders occurs. Concept plans for daylighting creek prepared and included in Parks and Recreation Plan.

## ADVANCE

Improve wayfinding and circulation from Western Avenue southwest to Lakeshore Drive.

### SUCCESS METRIC



Place temporary, movable planters to direct vehicular traffic to Franklin south to Michigan, and Michigan west to Lakeshore. The planters would be decorative, serve to identify the “Western Waterfront District” and provide motorists and others with clear directions to Lakeshore drive, beaches and the Lakeside district.

Temporary planters and improved signage, including pavement markings are installed.

## CONNECT

Immediately begin design development and engineering for four-way crosswalks, refuge islands, and the tightening of curb radii at 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th the Dog Park driveway, and Division streets. Priority intersections are 3rd, 7th and 9th; however, all intersections need to be redesigned and reconstructed.

### SUCCESS METRIC



Meet with MDOT and the City’s Planning and Engineering departments to finalize a design for the comprehensive intersection improvement project. The project includes the restoration of complete streets and safe intersections according to this Imagine Muskegon Lake Plan. These intersections will incorporate pedestrian-first strategies and solutions to connect the downtown business and entertainment district to the waterfront. This is an not only a safety priority, but an economic development strategy.

Downtown to waterfront intersections are reconstructed.

## CONVENE

Enhance Heritage Landing by restoring fishing areas, increase the number of transient docks at Harshorn Marina by 20% and add shoreside support facilities for kayak and boaters including lockers, convenience retail, and bike repair stations.

### SUCCESS METRIC



Amend the City’s Parks and Recreation Master Plan to include park enhancement projects and apply for Department of Natural Resource funding.

Updated Parks and Recreation Master Plan adopted and approved by the DNR. Applications for grants are submitted, which may include: DNR Trust Fund Development grants, Land and Water Conservation Fund, Recreation Passport grant, Boating Infrastructure Grant, and the Recreation Trails Program grants.



[illegible]

WHAT YOU S

WATER TAXI  
FROM DOWNTOWN  
TO  
LAKE SIDE

the

SAID

Make the  
Shoreline a  
place for ALL -  
inclusion of  
people w/  
disabilities

A

TH

SAR

Residential  
More Roundabouts  
and Bike Lanes  
that connect to  
the bike routes  
like Grand Ave  
I second  
that!!

- transient boat docks in between-the-arms

Much better  
use of lakeside  
space

for the bike  
path → much  
to see & ease  
Biker

Love this!

↓

[illegible]

Colors  
streets  
these sections  
E

Construction  
needs to happen  
FAST  
\* Don't want to  
kill the existing  
business district

Integrate Aquatic  
Habitat with New  
Development.

Teaching  
Pedestrians how  
to use cross/sidewalks.  
(sidewalk enhancement

PEP. BRIDGE

at idea

Stop and grow in love poss.

more

inviting  
↓

This area has  
a lot of potential  
One of most beautiful





## CHAPTER 6 CENTRAL WATERFRONT DISTRICT

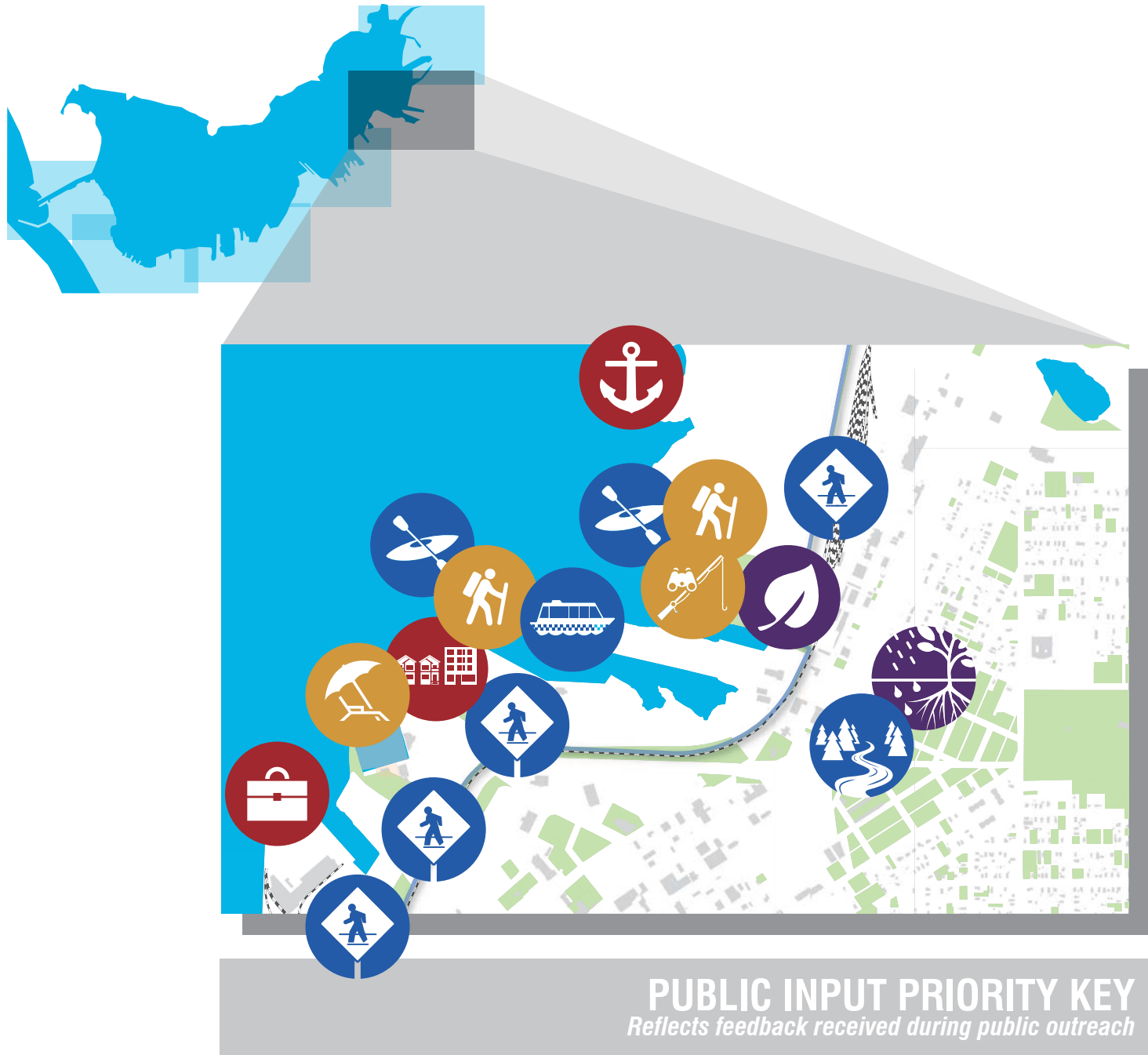
The Central Waterfront is a place of transitioning from the urban core of downtown to the tranquil shores of the Northeastern Muskegon Lake.

Proposed enhancement of Terrace Point and Viridian Drive will aid in the evolution of the existing lake front businesses, while mixed-use infill and new housing have the ability to bridge the gaps along the corridor. Through the creation of safe crossings along Shoreline Drive, proposed trails from the popular Smith Ryerson Park through the Green Acres Park will help to connect the nearby neighborhoods to the multi-use trail, Fisherman's Landing and North to Richard's Park. Through the linking of these key public greenspaces, the Central Waterfront District can provide a more accessible route for locals to experience the waterfront.

### DID YOU KNOW?

**Fisherman's Landing was founded on a reclaimed foundry sand site in 1968 as a single city launch ramp – and now boasts some of the best fishing on the Lake.**





## SUSTAIN

The Jackson Hill neighborhood has become physically separated from the shoreline due to the placement of Business Route 31, yet it is a neighborhood with an abundance of green space and natural features that once provided green corridors to the Lake. To sustain this neighborhood, brownfield reclamation at and near Smith Ryerson Park, pedestrian trails and an improved street crossing at Marquette and BR 31, will provide a link to Fisherman's Landing and Richard's Park. Sustain for this neighborhood is the ability to access recreation, nature/fishing opportunities and employment – all amenities found along Muskegon Lake.

## ADVANCE

The immediate opportunities to help this district advance to its full potential can be realized through the continued investment in connecting downtown to the lakeshore. The downtown is the core shopping, dining and entertainment district in the City and is a 10-minute walk from the lakeshore attractions.


## CONNECT

Connections are planned that include intersection repairs, adding sidewalks from Terrace Point to Shoreline Drive, and enhancing the boardwalk experience with new paved paths and wayfinding to promote the use of the publicly-accessible Harbor 31 promenade. The Marquette and BR 131 (Moses J. Jones Highway) intersection repair knits the Jackson Hill neighborhood to its shoreline.



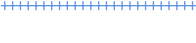




## CONVENE

Augmenting the facilities for the boating public is the focus for convening within the Central Waterfront district.

Transient docks, cruise ship docks, and even a beach barge help bring the boating public shore side with the expectation they will visit downtown and beyond.

-  CENTRAL GOAL [THEME DETERMINES COLOR]
-  MAJOR GOAL [THEME DETERMINES COLOR]
-  SECONDARY GOAL [THEME DETERMINES COLOR]

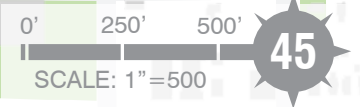
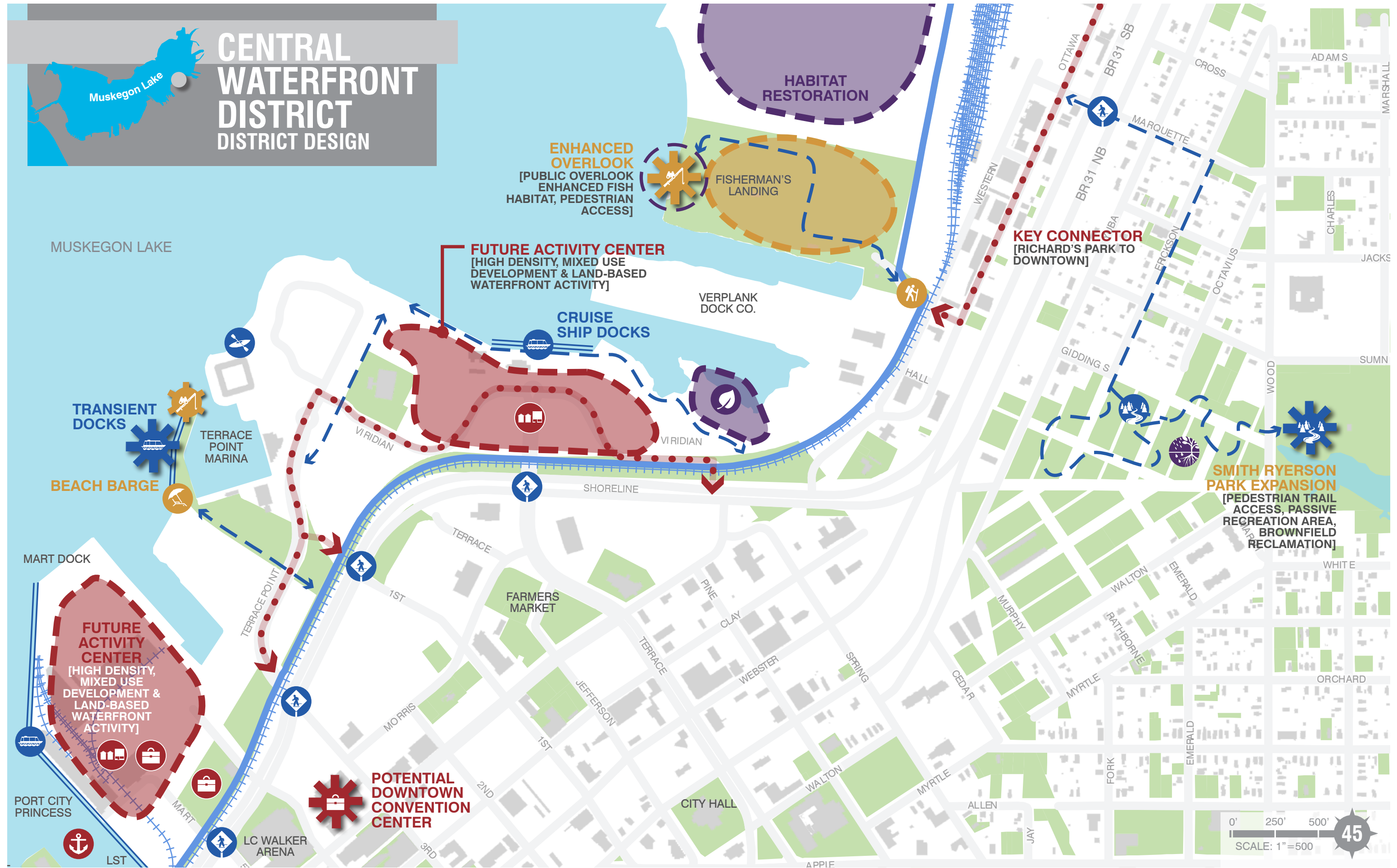
-  RESTORE HABITAT AND NATURAL FEATURES
-  USE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE
-  IMPROVE WATER QUALITY
-  NEW DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY (RESIDENTIAL AND MIXED USE)
-  MAINTAIN DEEP WATER PORT
-  EXPAND RECREATION AND FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES
-  EMPLOYMENT CENTER (NEW OR EXISTING)
-  CONNECT MULTI-USE TRAIL
-  KAYAK LAUNCH/STAND UP PADDLE BOARD (NEW OR IMPROVED)
-  BOAT TRANSPORTATION DOCK/WATER TAXI (NEW OR IMPROVED)
-  IMPROVE CROSSWALK
-  NEW OR IMPROVED TRAIL CONNECTION/ NATURAL CONNECTION
-  NEW OR IMPROVED BEACH/SHORESIDE RECREATION AND AMENITIES
-  NEW OR IMPROVED FISHING AND LOOKOUT AREAS
-  NEW OR IMPROVED TRAILHEAD

-  PUBLICLY OWNED LAND
-  DOCK IMPROVEMENTS
-  EXISTING RAIL LINE
-  EXISTING MULTI-USE TRAIL
-  PROP. MULTI-USE TRAIL
-  PROP. PEDESTRIAN TRAIL
-  PROP. STREET IMPROVEMENT





# CENTRAL WATERFRONT DISTRICT DISTRICT DESIGN





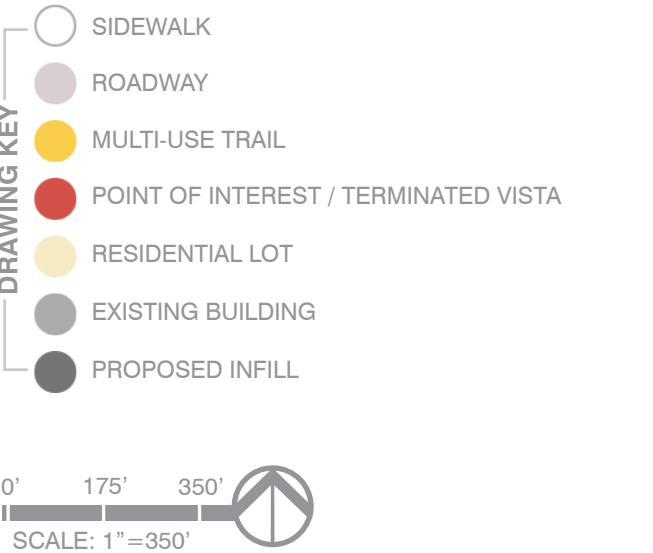


# TERRACE POINT ACTIVITY CENTER ILLUSTRATIVE: EXISTING CONDITIONS

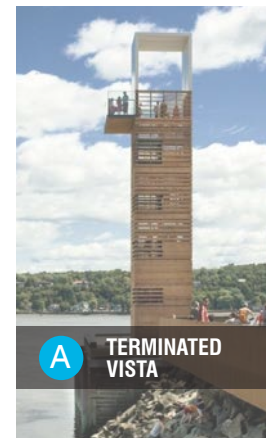
The west end of the Central Waterfront District is known as Terrace Point, and includes Terrace Point Marina, the Shoreline Inn and Conference Center and the new waterfront residential community - Terrace Point Landing. Additionally the area is home to the GVSU Muskegon Innovation Hub.

Terrace Point is adjacent to the Mart Dock and is within close proximity to downtown Muskegon.

Because of its location and existing anchor destinations, Terrace Point redevelopment may include more retail opportunities than the other Activity Centers highlighted in this plan, although retail should still be focused downtown.







**A** TERMINATED VISTA



**B** BEACH BARGE CONNECTED TO PUBLIC PROMENADE



**C** PEDESTRIAN PROMENADE



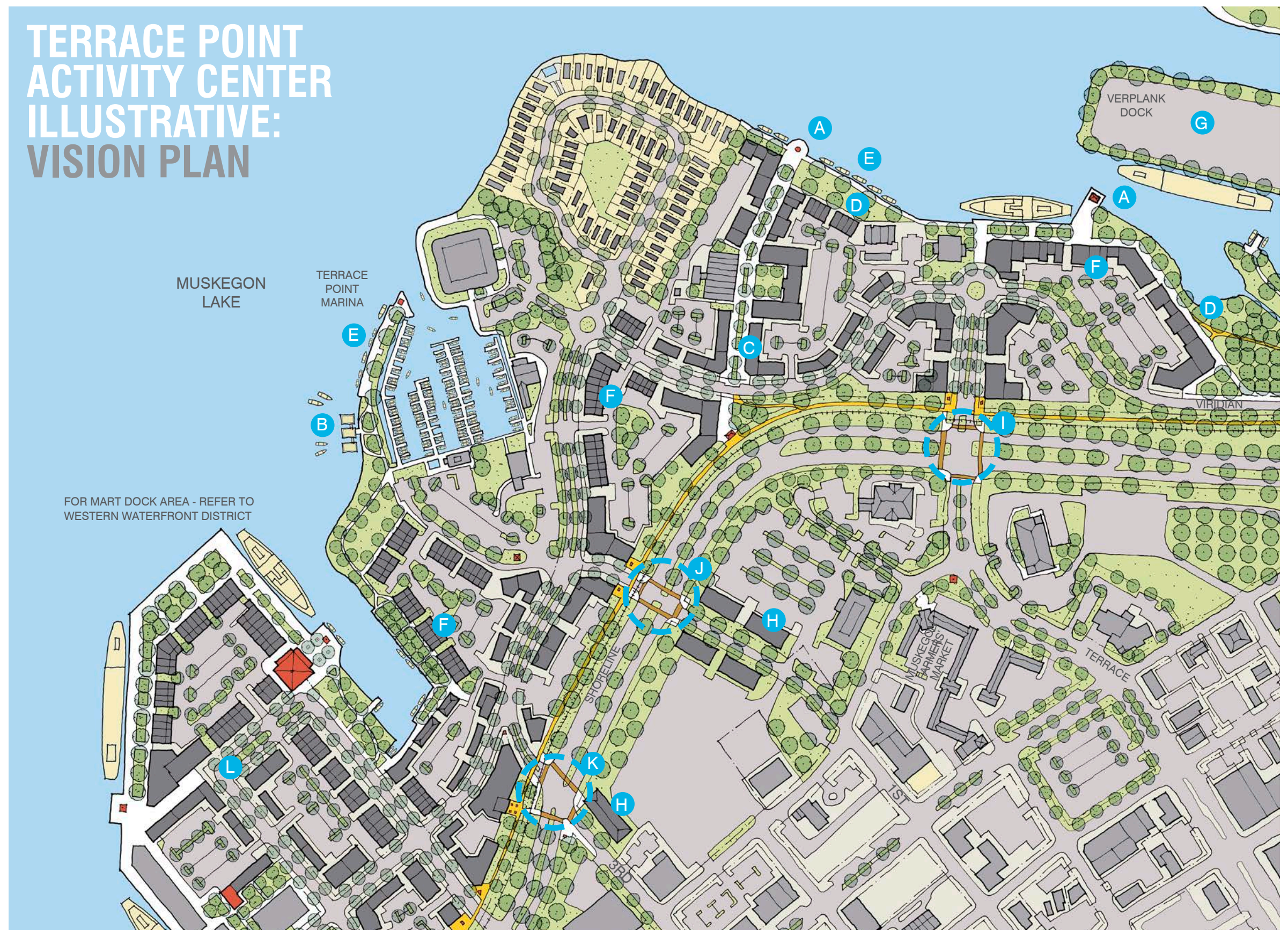
**D** RESIDENTIAL WITH NATURAL WATERFRONT



**E** TRANSIENT BOAT DOCK WITH PUBLIC WATERFRONT CONNECTED WITH A PEDESTRIAN PROMENADE

- F** INFILL FOCUSED ON RESIDENTIAL HOUSING VARIETY
- G** MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE PORT ENTERPRISES
- H** INFILL AT KEY INTERSECTIONS AND STREET CROSSINGS TO FRAME THE STREETScape & ENHANCE NEW CROSSINGS
- I** INTERSECTION REPAIR AT TERRACE STREET + SHORELINE DRIVE (REFER TO INTERSECTION REPAIRS IN THIS CHAPTER)
- J** INTERSECTION REPAIR AT 1ST STREET + SHORELINE DRIVE TO EXTEND FIRST STREET TO TERRACE POINT ROAD (REFER TO INTERSECTION REPAIRS IN THIS CHAPTER)
- K** INTERSECTION REPAIR AT 3RD STREET + SHORELINE DRIVE (REFER TO INTERSECTION REPAIRS IN CHAPTER 5 WESTERN WATERFRONT DISTRICT)
- L** ENHANCED STREETScape TO PROVIDE HIGH QUALITY PUBLIC REALM AND A GATEWAY FEATURE INTO WATERFRONT AREA

# TERRACE POINT ACTIVITY CENTER ILLUSTRATIVE: VISION PLAN





# CENTRAL WATERFRONT TRANSITION: EXISTING CONDITIONS



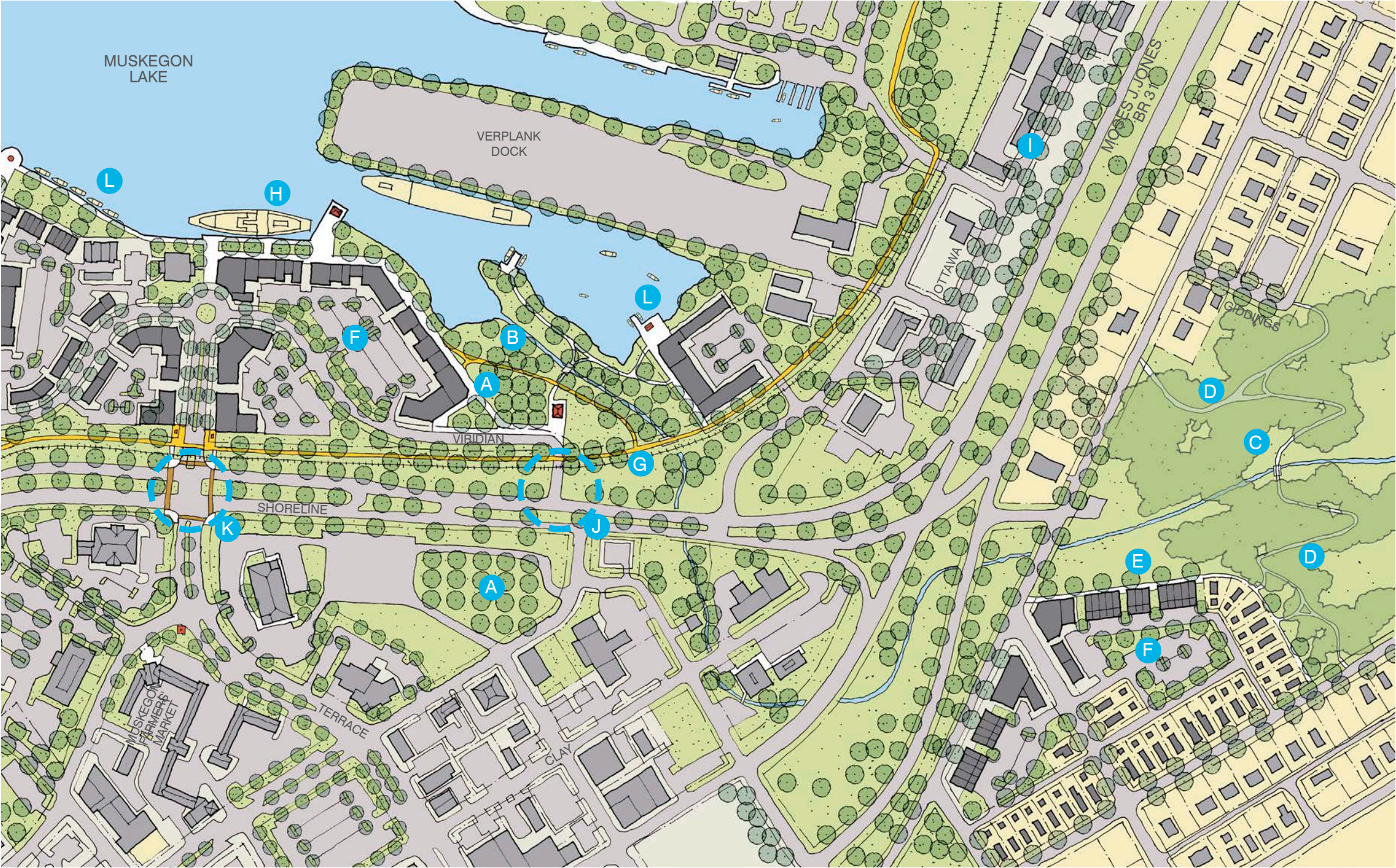
The east end of the Central Waterfront District acts as a transitional gateway into downtown. It includes the Jackson Hill neighborhood, Fisherman's Landing, Verplank Dock and Smith Ryerson Park.

Because of the Moses J. Jones (BR31) at-grade freeway, Jackson Hills is cut-off from the waterfront and downtown, so effective measures to create meaningful connections should be considered, including the use of the existing Ottawa Street as an enhanced connector.

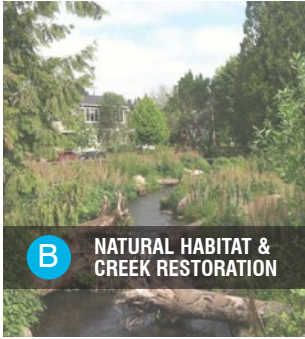
Redevelopment of shoreline sites should balance public access and further the Plan's connectivity goals.



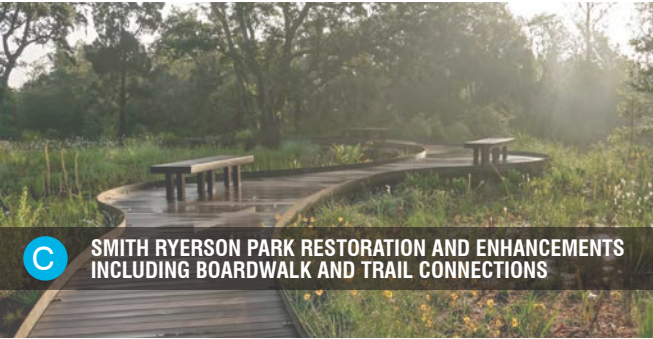
# CENTRAL WATERFRONT TRANSITION: VISION PLAN



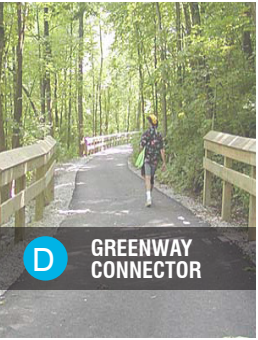
**A** URBAN GROVE



**B** NATURAL HABITAT & CREEK RESTORATION



**C** SMITH RYERSON PARK RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENTS INCLUDING BOARDWALK AND TRAIL CONNECTIONS



**D** GREENWAY CONNECTOR



**E** RESIDENTIAL FRONTING ON PARK AND GREENWAY

**F** SMALL BLOCK SIZES WITH PARKING INTERNAL TO THE BLOCK TO HUMANIZE STREET SPACES

**G** MULTI-USE TRAIL DEFLECTION TO PROVIDE ALTERNATE ROUTE ALONG LAKESHORE AS TRAIL CHANGES TO PROMENADE

**H** CRUISE SHIP DOCK WITH PEDESTRIAN CONNECTION TO DOWNTOWN AND ALONG THE SHORELINE

**I** ENHANCE & BEAUTIFY OTTAWA ST. WITH SIDEWALKS, STREET TREES, AND WAYFINDING TO INCREASE CONNECTIVITY TO DOWNTOWN

**J** VEHICULAR CONNECTION TO VIRIDIAN DRIVE ACROSS SHORELINE DRIVE

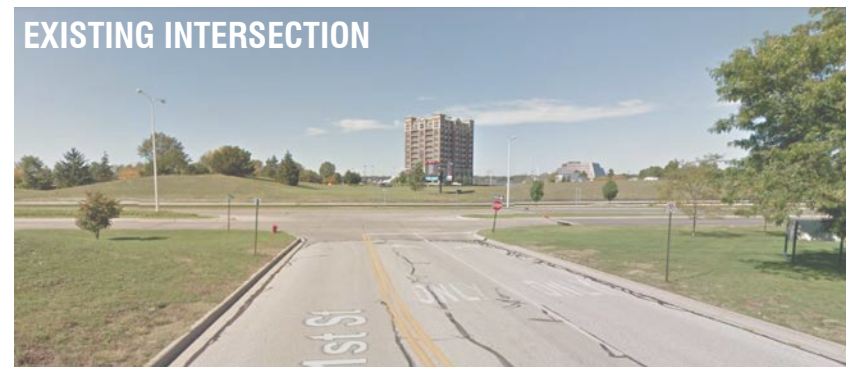
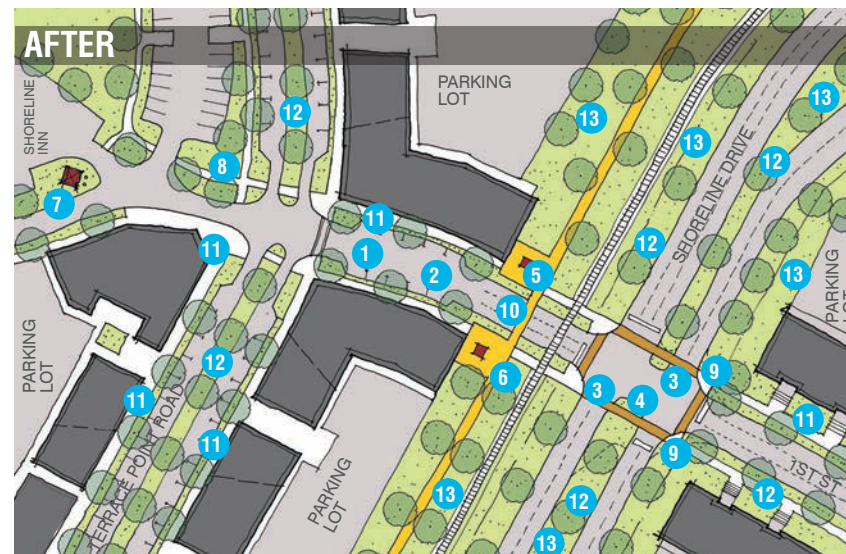
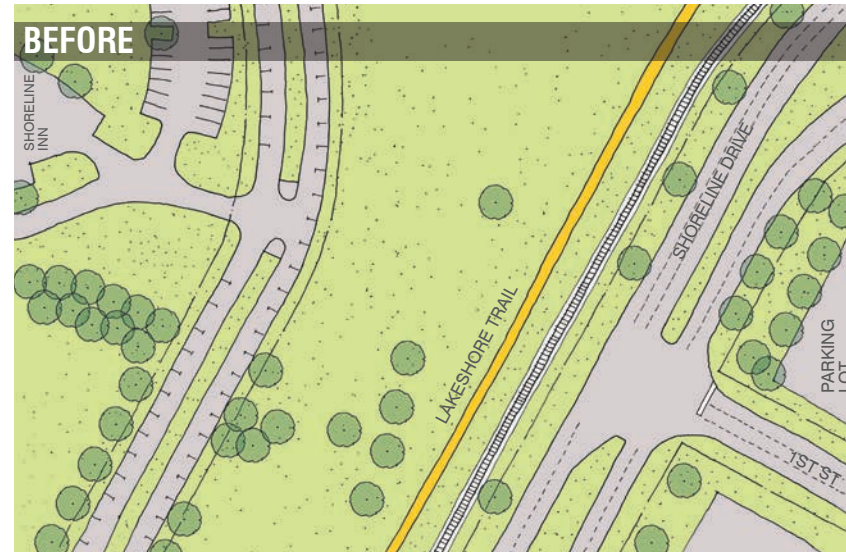
**K** INTERSECTION REPAIR AT TERRACE STREET + SHORELINE DRIVE (REFER TO INTERSECTION REPAIRS IN THIS CHAPTER)

**L** TRANSIENT BOAT DOCKS

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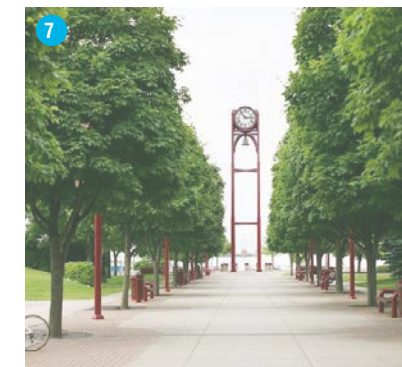


# INTERSECTION REPAIRS



## 1ST STREET + SHORELINE DRIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Extend first street to terrace point road to connect downtown to shoreline and add traffic signal
- 2 Consider streetscaping at new first street to calm traffic and create a gateway to the shoreline, creating a better pedestrian experience
- 3 Enhanced crosswalks to carve out safe space for pedestrians using artistic crosswalks or variety in pavement material
- 4 Median refuge island to provide pedestrians a safer and more secured experience
- 5 Thematic wayfinding monuments to direct users to shoreline and downtown
- 6 Plaza space and building to help orient pedestrians & bikers on their journey while providing a place for a break. This area could include restrooms and bike repair station
- 7 Consider creating a terminating vista to help orient pedestrians to shoreline
- 8 New sidewalks to better connect Shoreline Inn to downtown
- 9 Reconstruct intersection curb to achieve a smaller radius to shorten the crossing distance and provide more space for people as they wait to cross - typical at all four corners
- 10 Connect non-motorized path (Lakeshore Trail) with enhanced street crossing using artistic or painted crosswalk at street
- 11 Encourage buildings that define the streetspace to provide interesting things for people to do and see on their walk
- 12 Plant street trees to provide spatial enclosure, mark an important intersection, reduce traffic speeds, and make the pedestrian experiencing more charming
- 13 Enhance Shoreline Drive edges with native plantings and landscape to build sustainable and connected greenways while heightening gateway aspects as drivers enter Muskegon

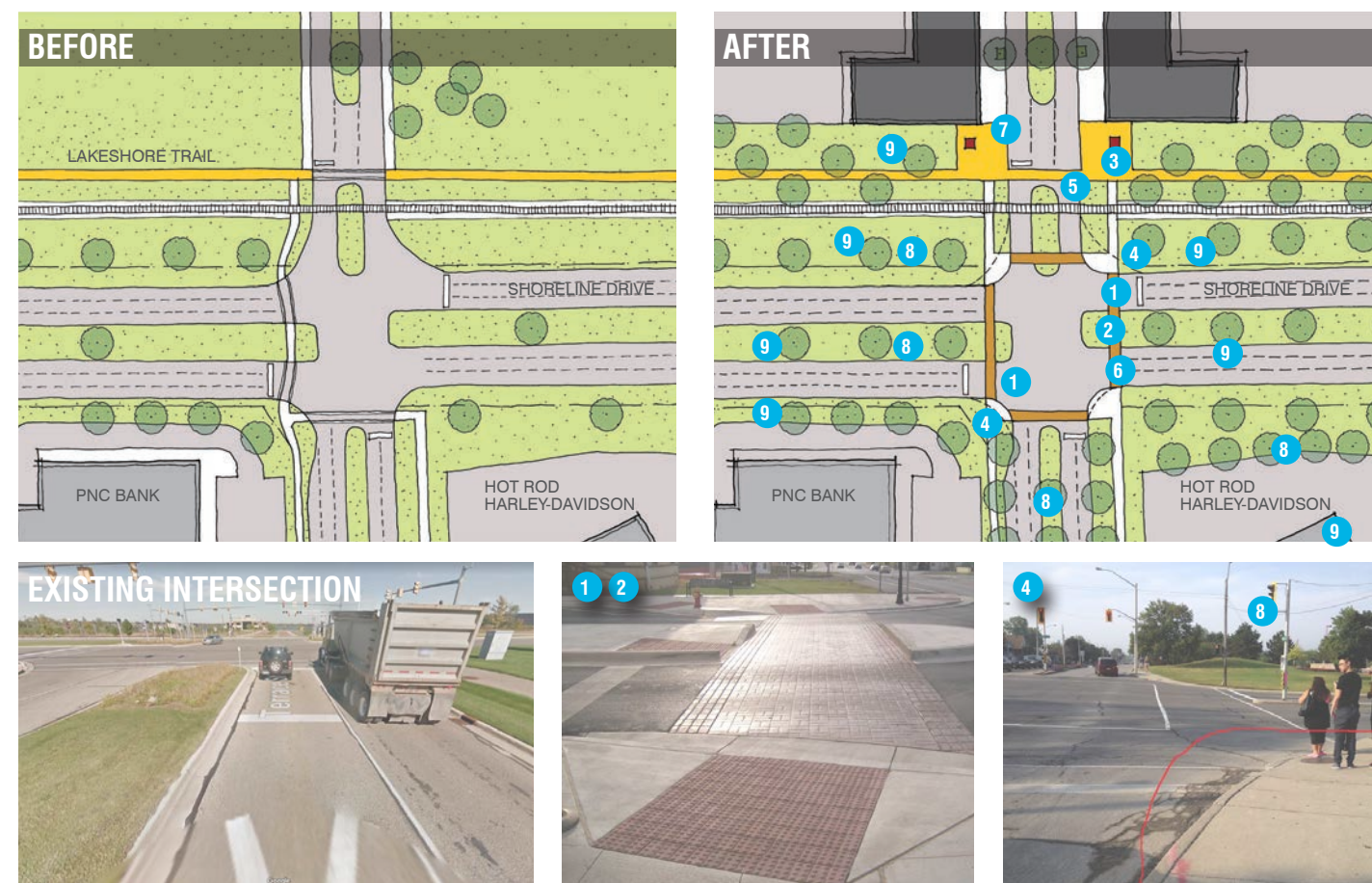




## TERRACE STREET + SHORELINE DRIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

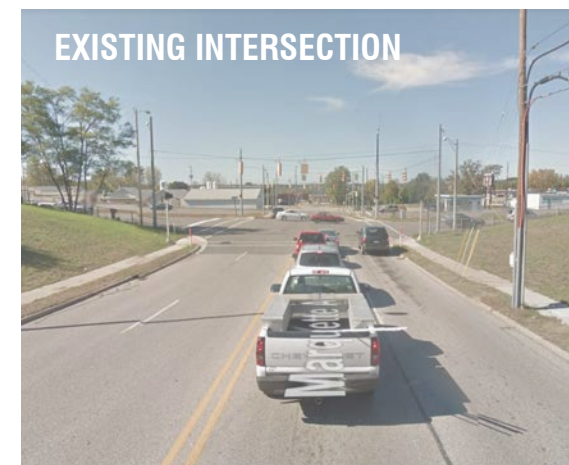
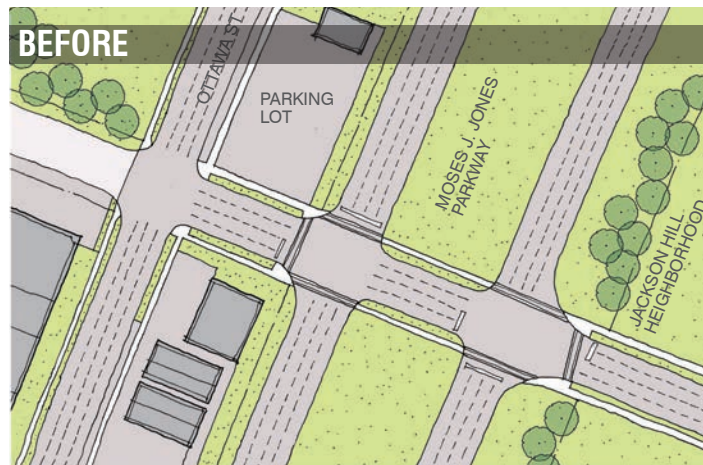
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## INTERSECTION REPAIRS





# INTERSECTION REPAIRS



## MARQUETTE AVENUE + MOSES J JONES PARKWAY RECOMMENDATIONS (THIS INTERSECTION REPAIR IS NOT DEPICTED IN THE VISION PLANS OF THE IMAGINE MUSKEGON LAKE PLAN)

- 1 Enhanced crosswalks to carve out safe space for pedestrians using artistic crosswalks or variety in pavement material
- 2 Create an enhanced refuge and overlook in large median for pedestrians crossing 8 lanes of traffic
- 3 Reconstruct intersection curb to achieve a smaller radius to shorten the crossing distance and provide more space for people as they wait to cross
- 4 Narrow Marquette St. at median to calm traffic and create a better pedestrian crossing experience
- 5 Narrow Marquette St. at Ottawa St. to calm traffic and create a better pedestrian experience
- 6 Redesign Ottawa Street to become a primary greenway connector between Richards Park, Fisherman's Landing and Shoreline
- 7 Encourage buildings that define the streetspace to provide interesting things for people to do and see on their walk
- 8 Plant street trees to provide spatial enclosure, mark an important intersection, reduce traffic speeds and make the pedestrian experiencing more charming
- 9 Enhance Moses J. Jones parkway edges with native plantings and landscape to build sustainable and connected greenways, utilizing the large median as an aesthetic stormwater system with connections to enter from the overlook



# IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES: CENTRAL WATERFRONT DISTRICT

## SUSTAIN

Utilize Ryerson Creek and Green Acres park as a greenway connection from the Jackson Hill neighborhood to Marquette crossing connecting to Ottawa Street, linking Richard's Park and Fisherman's Landing.

### SUCCESS METRIC



Meet with MDOT, WMSRDC and the City Engineer to discuss ways to restore the grid network and reconnect the Jackson Hill neighborhood to its waterfront.

Preliminary design concepts for an improved intersection at Marquette and Shoreline Drive (BR 31) are prepared. Road work is included in the Transportation Improvement Program.

## ADVANCE

Support mixed use development at Harbor 31 and Mart Dock with public access to shoreline areas.

### SUCCESS METRIC



Amend the City's zoning ordinance to include incentives for public access along the shoreline, for example increased building height, expedited review, waived submittal fees or waived utility hook-up fees.

**Ordinance amendment is adopted.**

## CONNECT

Connect the Jackson Hill neighborhood to the shoreline using Marquette as the primary east-west connection, with a major intersection repair at Marquette Avenue and Shoreline Drive. Reconstruction of Ottawa Street to include sidewalks and improved streetscape to encourage easy walking and biking connections between the local parks and green spaces.

### SUCCESS METRIC



Meet with MDOT, the City's Planning and DPW departments and the Jackson Hill neighborhood to finalize a design for Marquette Avenue and Shoreline Drive and Ottawa Street improvements. Add the projects to the City's Capital Improvements Plan.

**Marquette Avenue intersection has been reconstructed and Ottawa Street includes continuous sidewalks and clearly delineated crosswalks from Giddings north to Richard's Park.**

## CONVENE

Enhance both Richard's Park and Fisherman's Landing to include a trailhead with signage, restrooms, kayak launches, fish cleaning and a spur from the bike pathway into Richard's Park.

### SUCCESS METRIC



Amend the City's Parks and Recreation Master Plan to include a park enhancement projects and apply for Department of Natural Resource funding.

**Updated Parks and Recreation Master Plan adopted and approved by the DNR. Applications for grants are submitted, which may include: DNR Trust Fund Development grants, Land and Water Conservation Fund, Recreation Passport grant, Boating Infrastructure Grant and the Recreation Trails Program grants.**



## WHAT YOU SAID

Yes!  
Great  
Plan to  
extend 1st St.

Love  
colors on  
street at  
intersections :)

PUT UP SIGNS ON  
N/B PECK NEAR  
EXITS & ENTRANCES TO  
LAWLEY HOSPITAL EMER  
TURN LEFT ONTO  
4 STREET GOING N/E  
TO FREEWAY - 4 NEAR -  
MISS ALCOHOL

Protect current location  
of Fisherman's  
Landing. Be aware of  
all connections, there  
are several issues  
at Fisherman's Landing  
campground. Protect  
open Fisherman's  
interests

HABITATS ARE  
NOT a present  
Population base  
North of shoreline  
to justify

MAINTAIN THE  
BIKE LANES  
ON ALL OF  
THE STREET  
CONNECTING  
IN THESE  
INTERSECTIONS

Excellent!

Clean out  
fly ash ponds &  
restore musk.  
River Flood plain  
to trap sediment  
coming down the  
river / Restore  
Wetlands

CREATE  
NATURAL  
FLOOD PLAIN

Will help  
prevent need  
to ~~dredge~~  
SHIPPING CHANNEL

Integrate Aquatic  
habitat with new  
development.

This would be  
a great way  
to bring activity  
here

NO  
not  
acce

3 It is very important  
that a driver traveling  
West on Marquette  
can see traffic coming  
from the left before  
entering intersection.  
Sometimes drivers on  
the parkway blow through  
a yellow light & they  
cannot be seen before  
reaching the intersection

AT CONNECT TO  
SAFE Bike ROUTES  
IE. LIKE GRAND RIVER  
I second  
this !!

Stormwater runoff  
and green infrastructure  
in large median if  
possible

7/10

More hiking  
trails through  
the natural  
areas





## CHAPTER 7 PORT INNOVATION DISTRICT

Once a symbol of the city, the B.C. Cobb plant defined the Northeastern shore of Muskegon Lake for over half a century. Moving into a new era, the Port Innovation District has been imagined as a place where future industry can thrive employing sustainable practices and green techniques to further the restoration of Muskegon's fragile habitat.

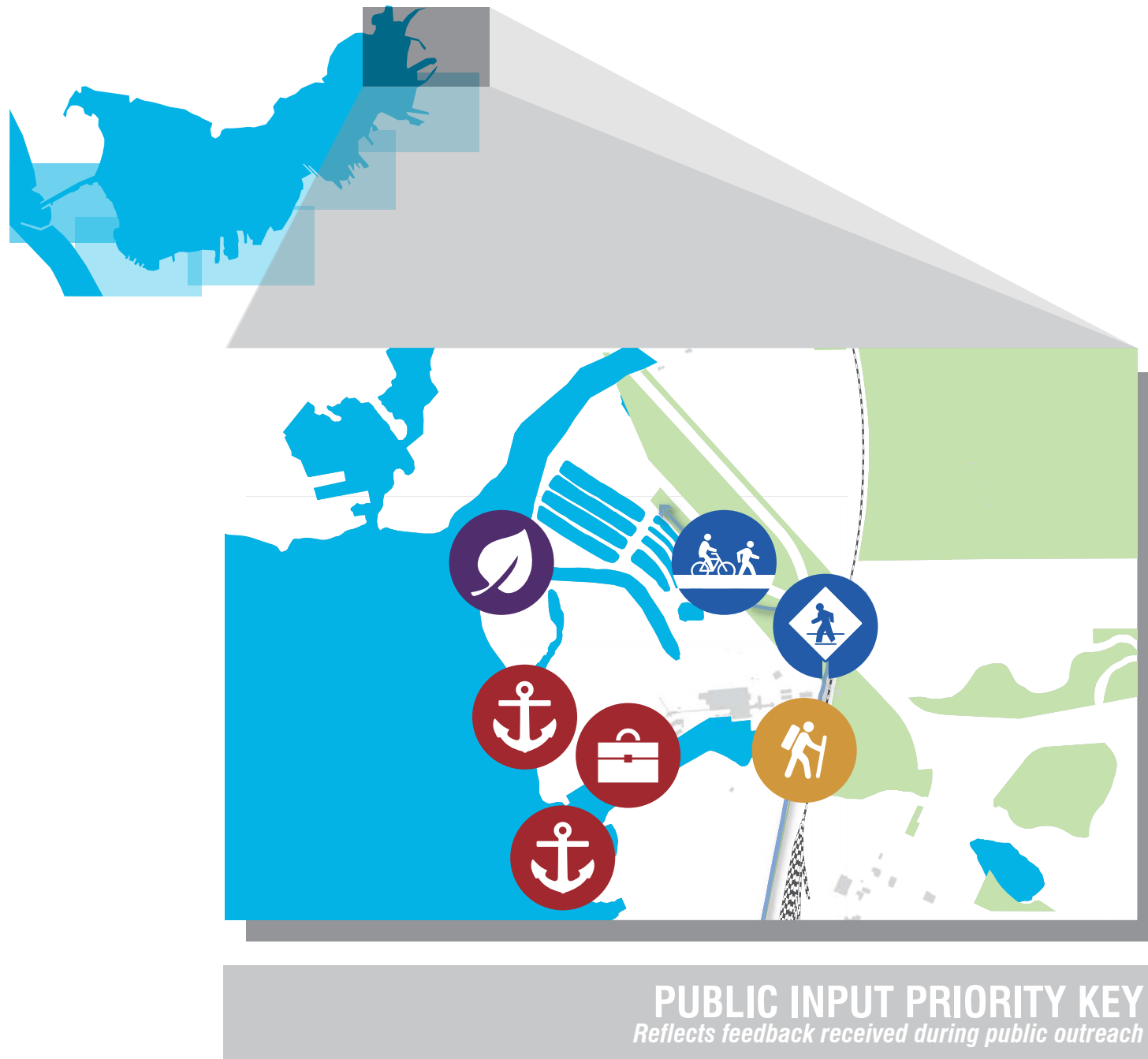
Strategically located at the mouth of the Muskegon River and a little over a mile from Lake Michigan, this district is a key point where nature and trade have the opportunity to meld. Verdant forests, winding trails and productive fishing sites can transform this once iconic industrial district into a truly transcendent harbor.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Muskegon Lake is the only deep water port along the East side of Lake Michigan. This feature has made Muskegon an ideal local for a myriad of port activity since the logging era.







## SUSTAIN

This is perhaps the district with the most potential for immediate transformation. Much of the former BC Cobb plant will be removed, and the various river channels and shoreline areas will experience habitat and shoreline restoration. This type of habitat restoration will help improve water quality and increase public health outcomes for the surrounding neighborhoods by improving air quality.

## ADVANCE

The deep water port enterprises remain and continue to provide employment opportunities. These activities are important to the economic advancement of the region and also provide a secondary benefit as a tourist attraction. Many visitors track the shipping routes and enjoy watching these large ships in Muskegon Lake.

## CONNECT

Veteran's Memorial Park is a central feature of anyone's trip along the Causeway, but it is difficult to access via bike or foot. By adding a crossing from the Lakeshore Trail across the Causeway, the bike pathway system will connect to this important memorial and green space.

## CONVENE

Investments to Richard's Park will help increase use and visibility of this often-forgotten community green. In Muskegon, Richard's Park can be a trail head for the bike pathway system with investments made in parking lot upgrades and improvements to the boat launch, restrooms, bike repair stations and seating. A spur from the bike pathway into Richard's Park is also planned and must be coordinated with the railroad.

- RESTORE HABITAT AND NATURAL FEATURES
- USE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE
- IMPROVE WATER QUALITY
- NEW DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY (RESIDENTIAL AND MIXED USE)
- MAINTAIN DEEP WATER PORT
- EXPAND RECREATION AND FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES
- EMPLOYMENT CENTER (NEW OR EXISTING)
- CONNECT MULTI-USE TRAIL
- KAYAK LAUNCH/STAND UP PADDLE BOARD (NEW OR IMPROVED)
- BOAT TRANSPORTATION DOCK/WATER TAXI (NEW OR IMPROVED)
- IMPROVE CROSSWALK
- NEW OR IMPROVED TRAIL CONNECTION/ NATURAL CONNECTION
- NEW OR IMPROVED BEACH/SHORESIDE RECREATION AND AMENITIES
- NEW OR IMPROVED FISHING AND LOOKOUT AREAS
- NEW OR IMPROVED TRAILHEAD

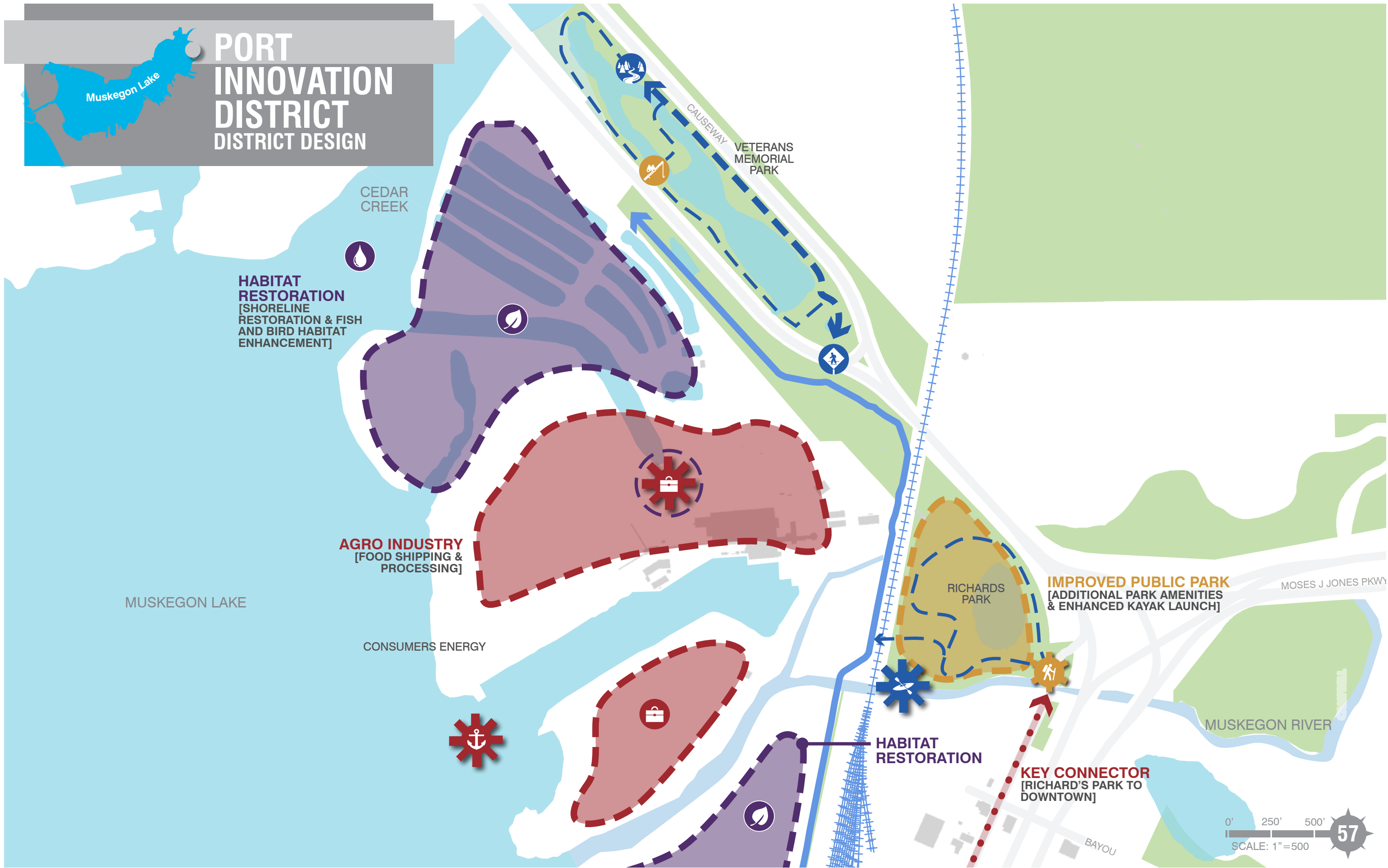
- CENTRAL GOAL [THEME DETERMINES COLOR]
- MAJOR GOAL [THEME DETERMINES COLOR]
- SECONDARY GOAL [THEME DETERMINES COLOR]

- PUBLICLY OWNED LAND
- DOCK IMPROVEMENTS
- EXISTING RAIL LINE
- EXISTING MULTI-USE TRAIL
- PROP. MULTI-USE TRAIL
- PROP. PEDESTRIAN TRAIL
- PROP. STREET IMPROVEMENT





# PORT INNOVATION DISTRICT DISTRICT DESIGN







**A** ENHANCED PUBLIC BOAT AND PADDLE LAUNCH



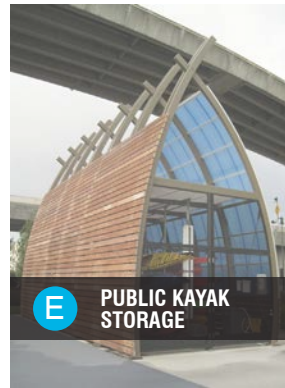
**B** SMALL BOARDWALKS AND OVERLOOKS HIGHLIGHT THE WATER



**C** AN INTERIOR TRADITIONAL PARK PROVIDES A SPACE FOR PICNIC AND PASSIVE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES



**D** ADDITIONAL VEGETATION AND PATHS CREATE A MORE CHALLENGING MINI DISC GOLF COURSE



**E** PUBLIC KAYAK STORAGE

## RICHARDS PARK

Richards park is tucked away on the Northeastern shores of Muskegon Lake. Flanked by the Muskegon River, this park provides multiple points of public access to the water. Through the reconfiguration of the pedestrian and vehicular circulation, this park begins to create complete connections and define rooms within the greater whole. Water sports enthusiasts are driven to the South, active recreationalists seek the walking paths, trails and disc golf course to the west, and the eastern edge offers refuge to passive activity. It is this unique combination of amenities that can create a draw to Richards Park and connect patrons to the water.



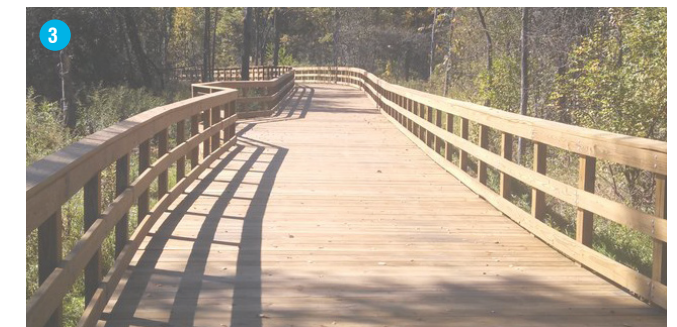
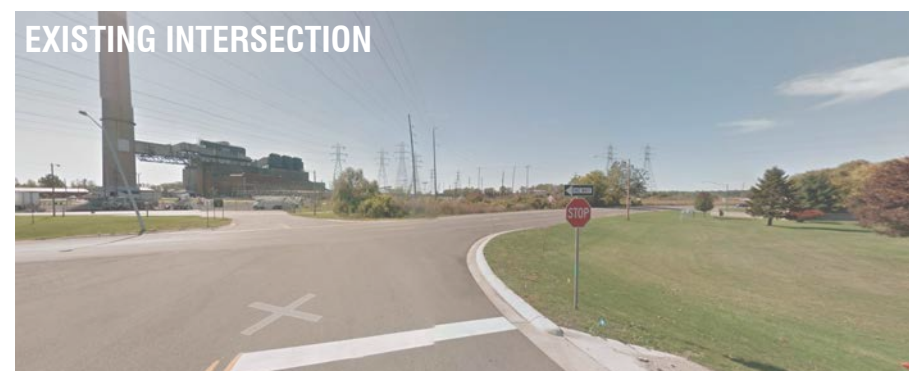
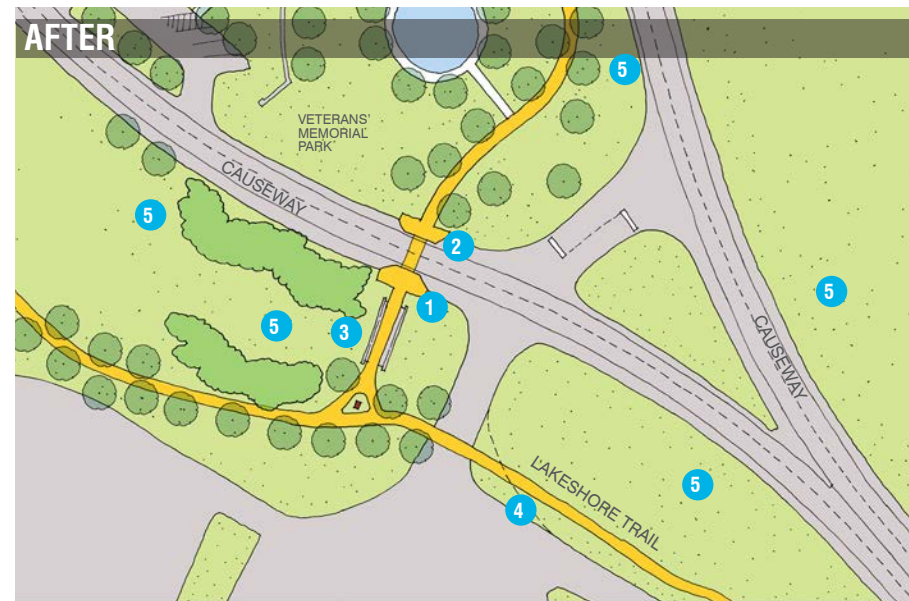


# INTERSECTION REPAIRS



## MUSKEGON CAUSEWAY + VETERANS' MEMORIAL PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Connect non-motorized path (Lakeshore Trail) with enhanced street crossing using artistic or painted crosswalk at Causeway
- 2 Take advantage of wide existing shoulders at the Causeway to construct bulb-outs for crossing of non-motorized path
- 3 Construct non-motorized path bridge as required to cross existing wetland area
- 4 Reconstruct intersection curb to achieve a smaller radius to shorten the crossing distance and provide more space for people as they wait to cross - typical at all four corners
- 5 Enhance Causeway edges with native plantings and landscape to build sustainable and connected greenways while heightening gateway aspects as drivers enter Muskegon





# IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES: PORT INNOVATION DISTRICT

## SUSTAIN

Implement habitat restoration program in conjunction with WMSRDC.

### SUCCESS METRIC



Conduct natural feature inventory to determine location and types of resources.

Completed natural feature inventory.

## CONNECT

Design and construct bike pathway spur into Veteran’s Memorial Park, which is currently inaccessible to the bicycling or walking public.

### SUCCESS METRIC



Meet with MDOT, the City’s Planning and DPW departments, and West Michigan Veteran’s, Inc. to discuss options for connecting the bike pathway across the Causeway and into the southern portion of the park. These improvements would include, at a minimum, a barrier-free crossing and signage.

Bike pathway spur is designed, and permits are secured to cross the Causeway and connect to Veteran’s Memorial Park.

## ADVANCE

Invest in infrastructure to support expanded port activity including container shipping, expanded freight activity, and attracting new manufacturing and agricultural activity to the region.

### SUCCESS METRIC



Conduct a feasibility study for the creation of a Waterfront Tax Increment Financing District, PA 94 of 2008. Eligible activities include water resource improvements, such as elimination of the causes and proliferation of aquatic nuisance species, replacement of sewer and stormwater systems, and dredging activities.

Completed feasibility study.

## CONVENE

Add signage, bike racks and a bike repair station to Veteran’s Memorial Park to support the travelling public, acknowledging that visitors may arrive via many modes. Expand recreational facilities, like frisbee golf, trails, fishing and kayak amenities at Richard’s Park in an effort to create a unique destination differing from that of existing public lands in the area.

### SUCCESS METRIC



Meet with MDOT, the City’s Planning and Engineering departments, and West Michigan Veteran’s, Inc. to discuss options for locating bike facilities in appropriate locations given the park’s historic design and purpose.

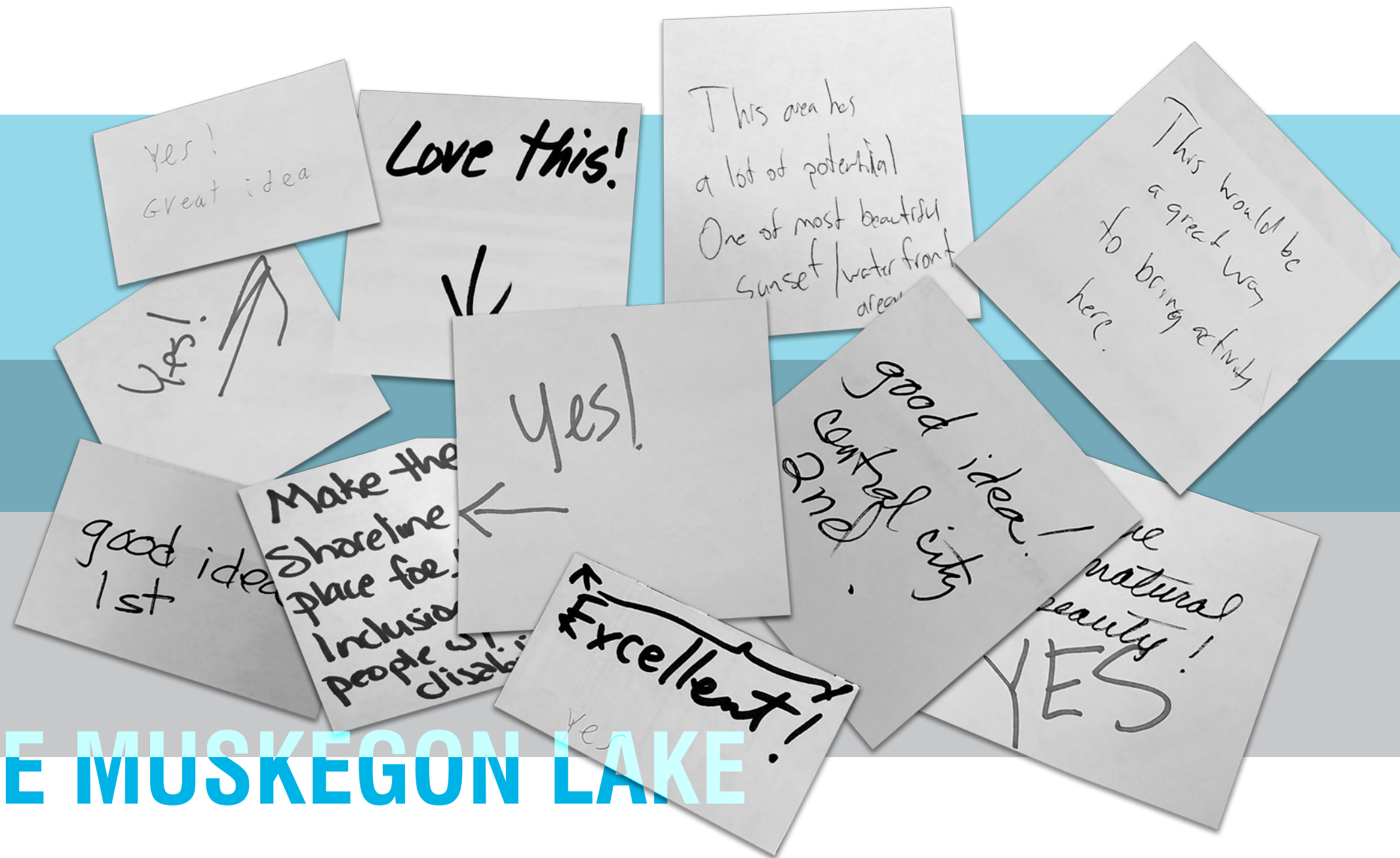
Bike facility signs, rack and repair station are in place, and all City non-motorized pathway maps are updated.



*“A lake is the landscape’s most beautiful and expressive feature. It is earth’s eye; looking into which the beholder measures the depth of his own nature.”* Henry David Thoreau







IMAGINE MUSKEGON LAKE