

Welcome to the Northeast Regional Park Master Plan Open House

Open House Goals

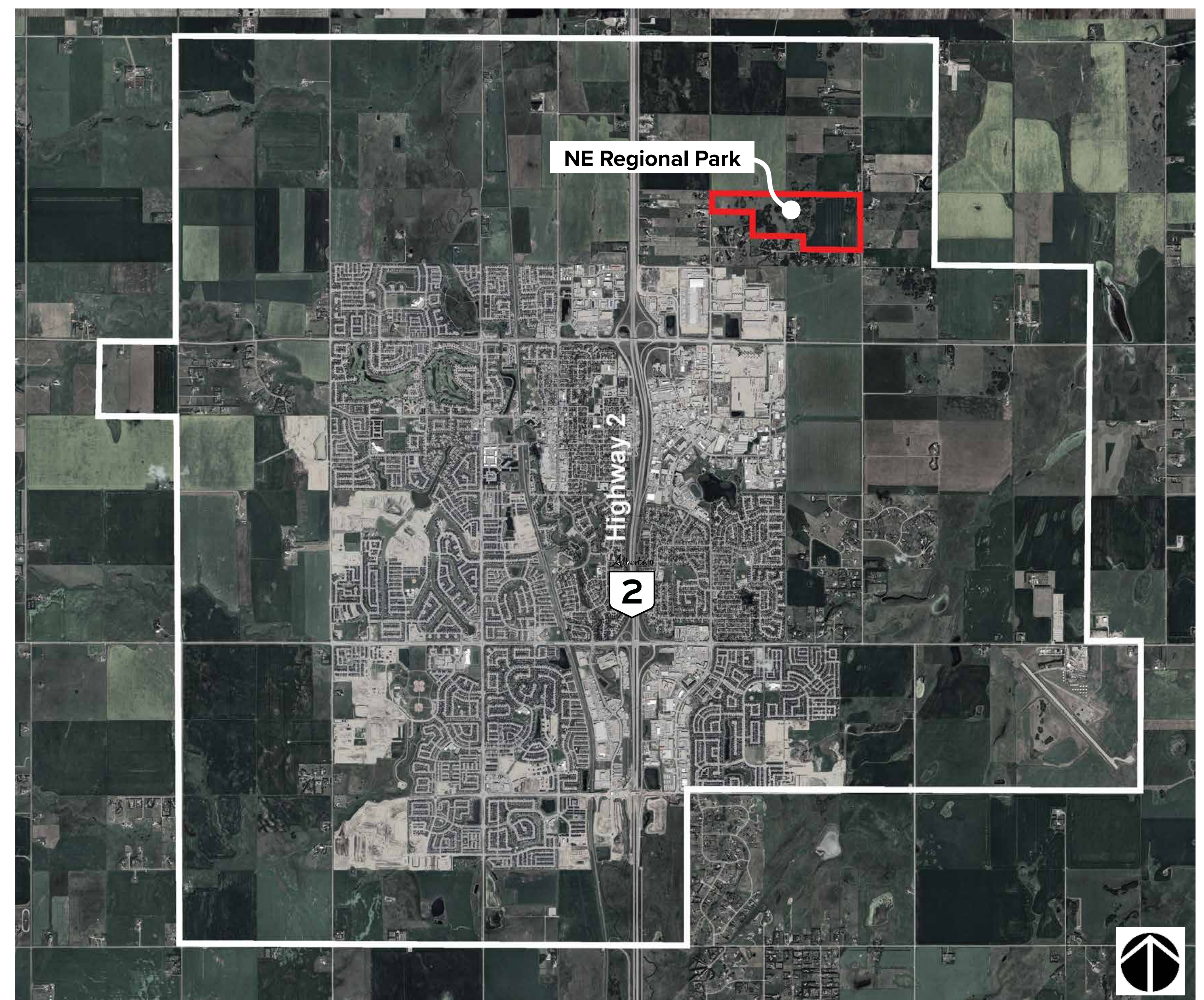
- Share information about the project
- Bring you up to date on where we are in the process
- Gather your input to help develop the Master Plan for the park



Photos will be taken at this event



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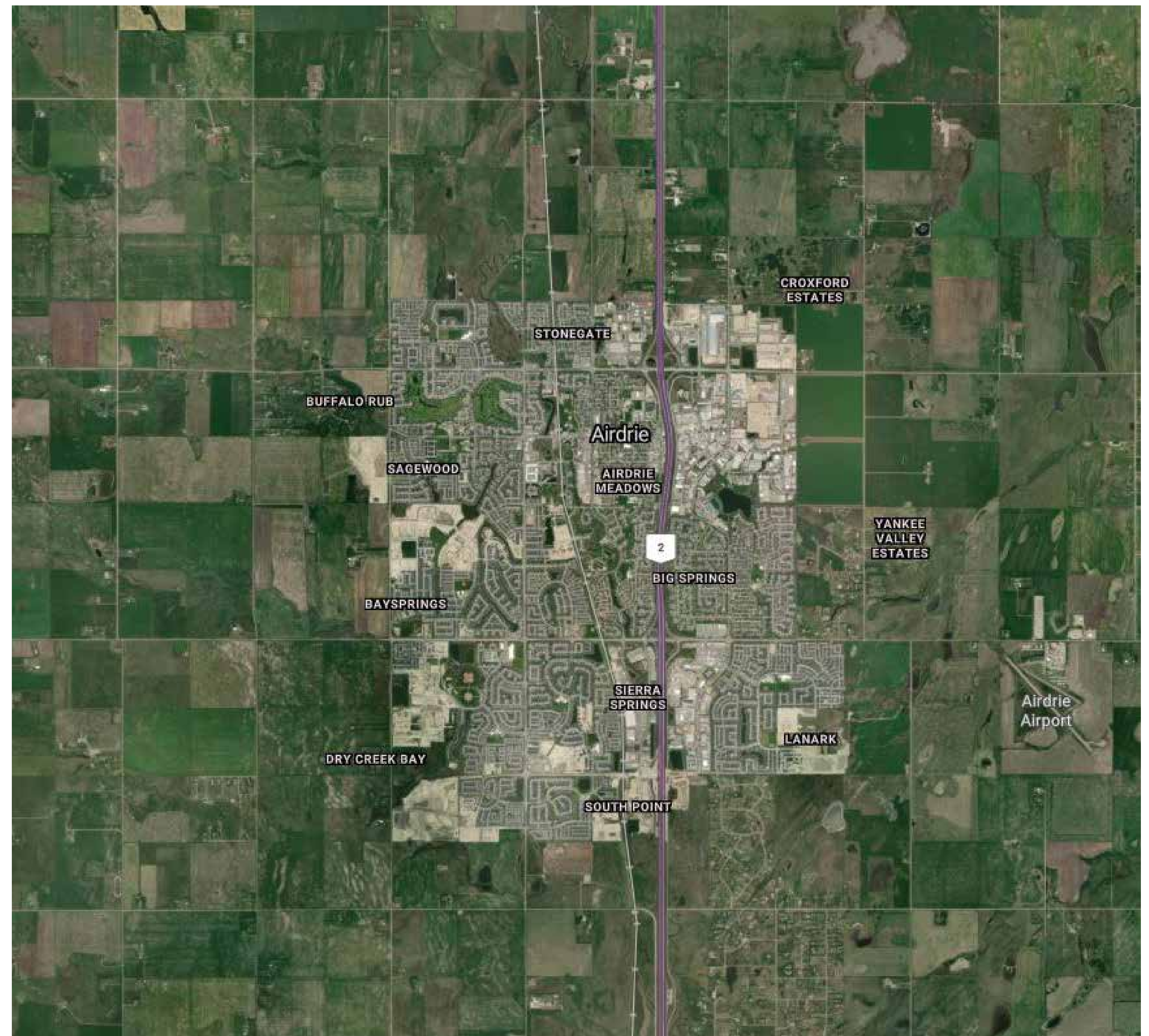
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Airdrie NE Regional Park Master Plan

The City of Airdrie is undertaking a Master Plan to guide development of a 185-acre park in NE Airdrie

The Master Plan is a comprehensive, long-term blueprint that outlines the vision, goals and actionable steps for developing the park. It will cover things like land use, trails, amenities, environmental considerations and budget constraints.

In 2022, we asked the community what you'd like to see in Airdrie's newest regional park through the Recreation Needs Assessment. Council reviewed your feedback in November 2022 and chose a theme focused on "organized sports and civic, festival, arts and culture."

Your feedback will help us to refine the schematic concept into a draft Master Plan we can take to Council for their review and approval.

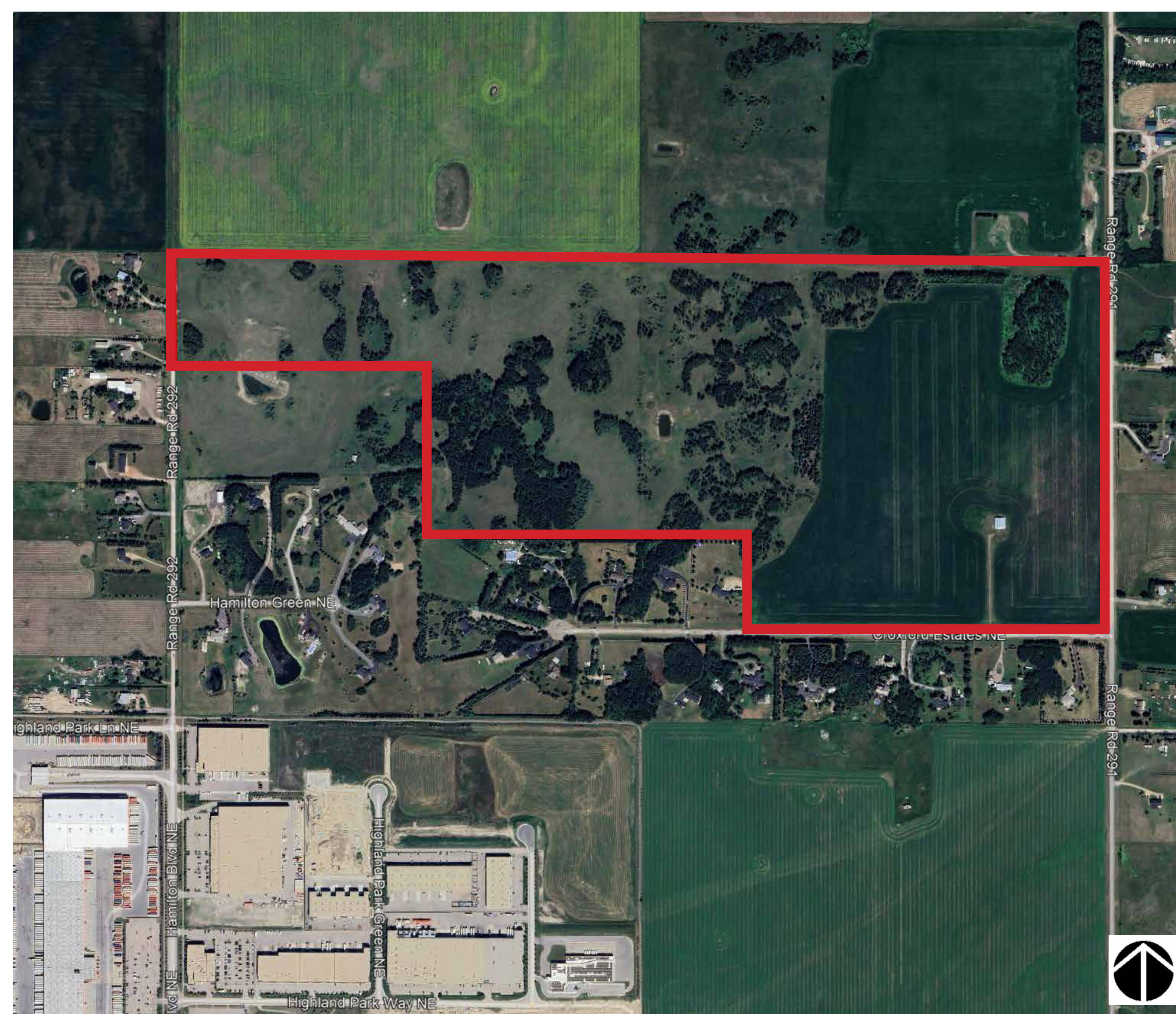
We're excited to get started and we want you to be a part of the process.

Let's build a park we can all be proud of!



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Site History

Origins

1877 **September 1877 – Treaty No. 7 is signed** by representatives of Siksika, Piikani, Kainai, Nakoda, and Tsuut'ina peoples and Crown who represented the government the day who facilitated the settlement of 130,000 square kilometers of land, including the NE Regional Park.

1901 **Billy Croxford arrives in Airdrie** and buys 320 acres of land for farming, including the 180 acres where the regional park will be.

1940

The land was farmed and hayed by Billy, Bert Carlson, Lambert Farr and Cliff Tebb.

1972 A land auction took place for the entire 320 acres owned by Billy. Part of the land was turned **into Croxford Estates**. **Hugh Hamilton bought the west quarter** (130 acres) of the land and had plans to make a golf course.

From 1972 – 2014 the land was farmed by families who have been in Airdrie for generations, including Ron David, Ted Lord, Bert Carlson, and Danny McKinnon.

2014 Hugh Hamilton's initial plans for a golf course were hindered by a lack of water on the land. In 2014, the Hamilton's leased the property to Jim Nevada for cattle grazing.

2021 **The City of Airdrie purchases the land.**

2023 Work commences on creating a **Master Plan** for the newly acquired land.

Today



Previous Engagement Take-Aways

Previous community input was collected through the Recreation Needs Assessment (2022), the Sports Field Management Plan (2019), existing Parks Planning Policy, and site analysis.

The results from the Indoor and Outdoor Recreation Needs Assessment Study (2022) revealed priorities for Neighbourhood, City, and District Level Outdoor Spaces in Airdrie. This information was used to inform and build an understanding of the needs in the City of Airdrie.

The results from the Needs Assessment were presented to Council in November of 2022. The report identified amenity priorities for the NE Regional Park as well as three potential themes for the park. Council chose the “organized sports and civic, festival, arts, and culture” theme. The thematic concept allocated a percentage of use types to the park area.



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Community Priorities from Previous Engagement

Diamonds
Sports Fields
Tennis/Pickleball Courts
Ice Rinks
Court Pads
Disc Golf
Skateparks
Outdoor Pool
Parks/Community Parks
Pathways/Trails
Spray/Splash Parks
Community Gardens
Running Track
Dog Parks
BMX Track
Playgrounds

Thematic Concept Previously Chosen by Council

Base Options

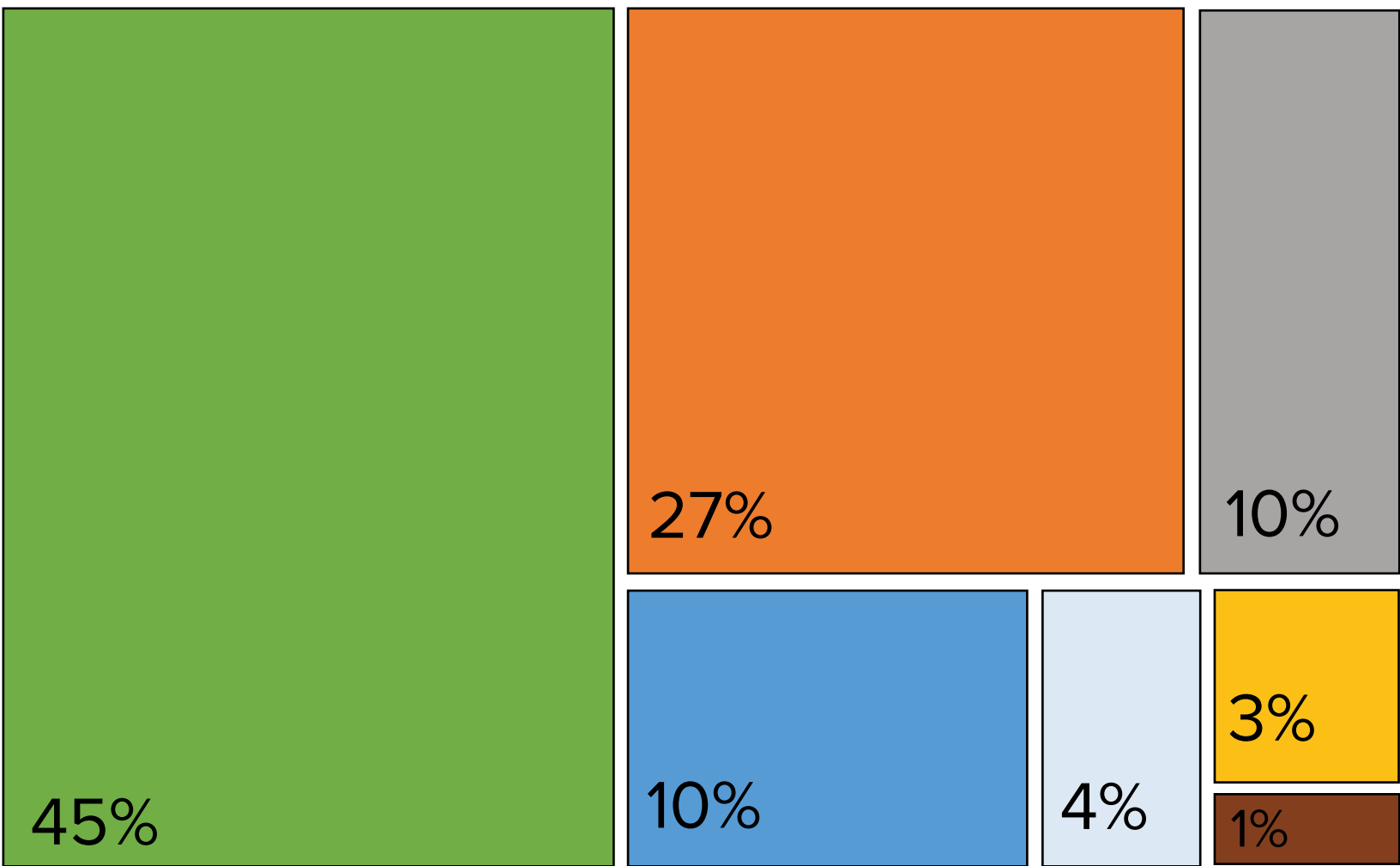
- Natural
- Passive / Social
- Operations / Maintenance

Elective Options

- Organized Sport
- Civic/Festival/Arts/Culture
- Supporting Tournament / Tourism

Supplemental Options

- Active Recreation



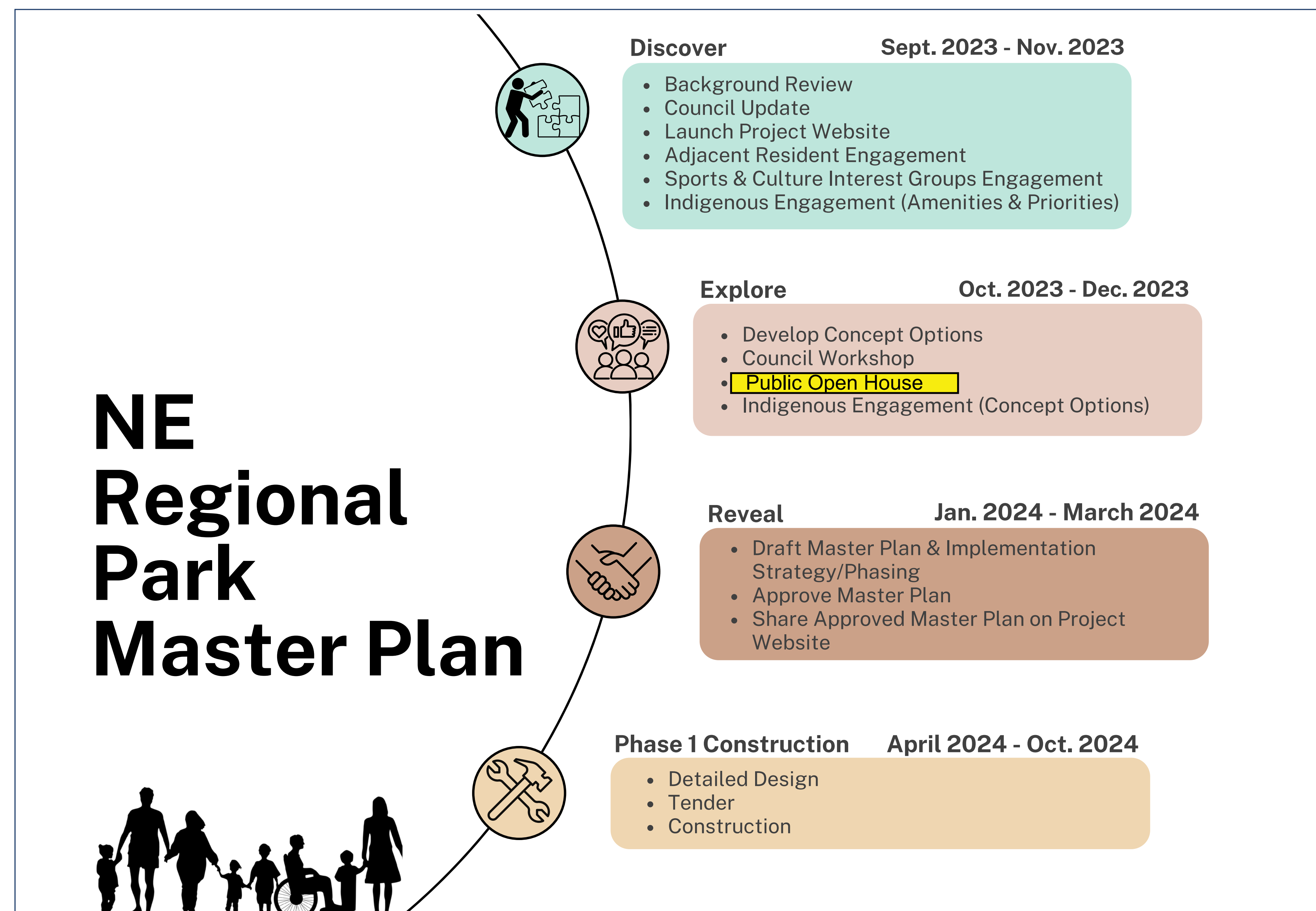
A significant portion of the Northeast Regional Park is allocated to the Natural Option to take full advantage of the natural and treed area that is available on site.

Engagement Timeline

The Northeast Regional Park Master Plan is anticipated to be complete by March 2024.

The park will be developed in stages, beginning with natural amenities, such as trails and rest areas followed by more complex features, such as sports fields and amenities that require servicing.

The groundwork for Phase One construction will begin in spring of 2024. Until then, the land will stay off-limits to the public. The land will continue to be farmed and ranched to maintain productivity as the Master Plan is developed.

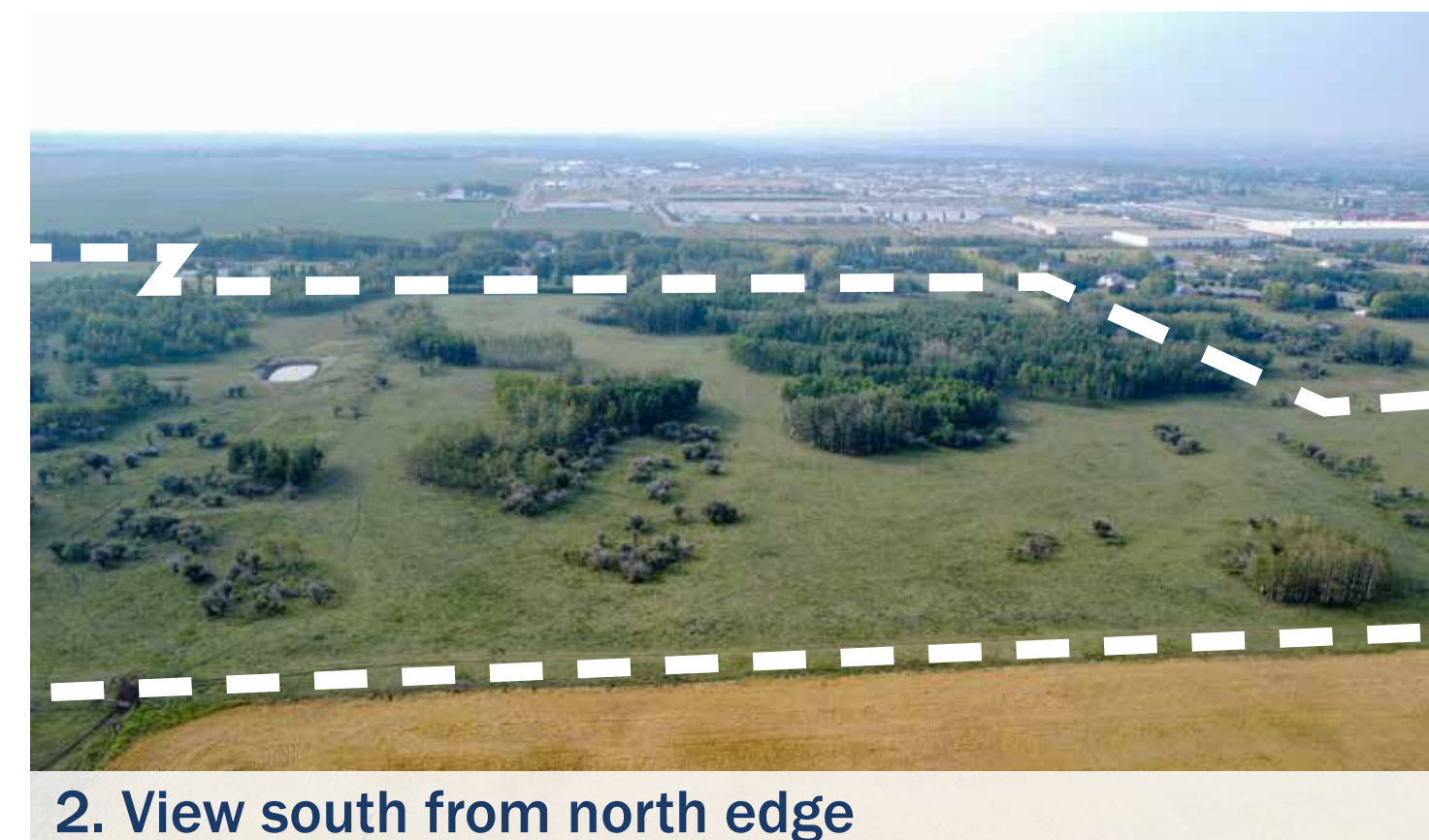


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Site Photos – Drone Footage



1. View southeast from northwest corner



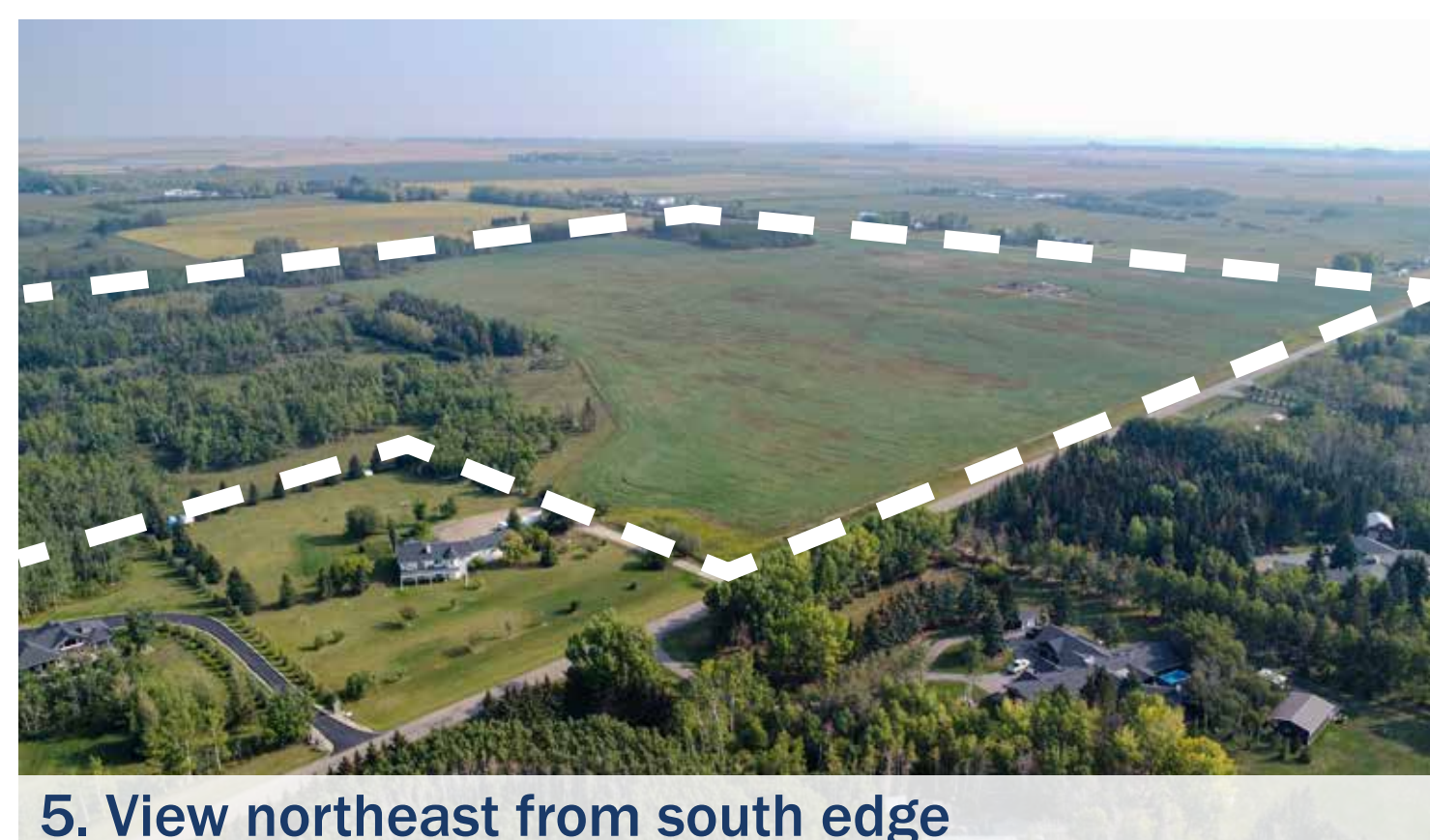
2. View south from north edge



3. View southwest from northeast corner



4. View northwest from southeast corner



5. View northeast from south edge



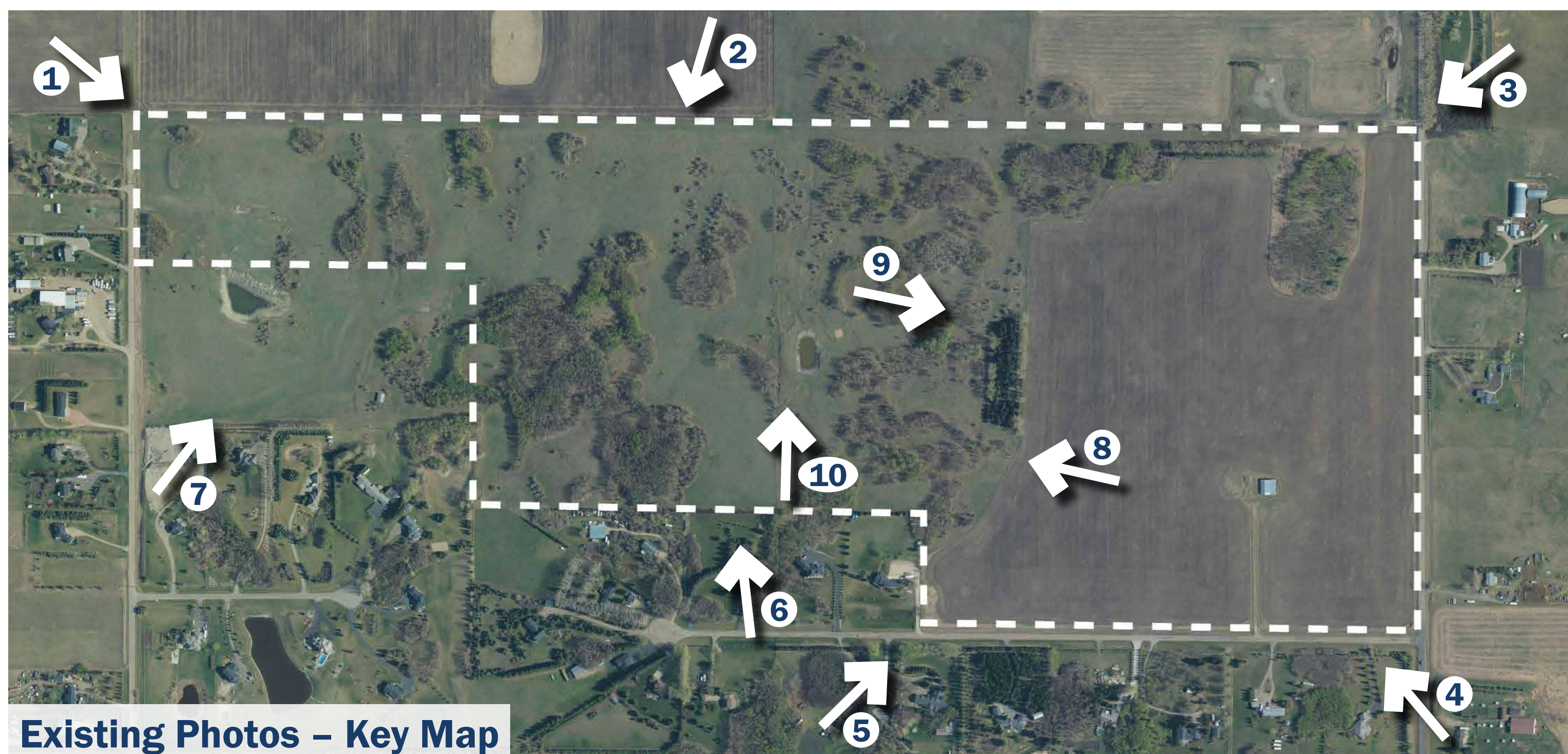
6. View north from south edge



7. View north from southwest corner



8. View west from centre of site



Existing Photos – Key Map

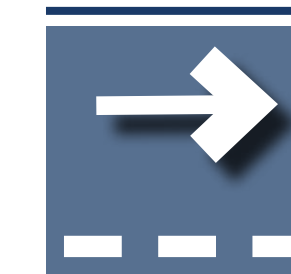


9. View east from centre of site



10. View north of existing pond / low point

Legend



Drone Photo Viewpoint

NE Regional Park Site Boundary

Site Photos – Ground Level



1. View to northwest



2. View east over open field



3. View into existing meadow



4. View along exiting path



5. View into existing meadow



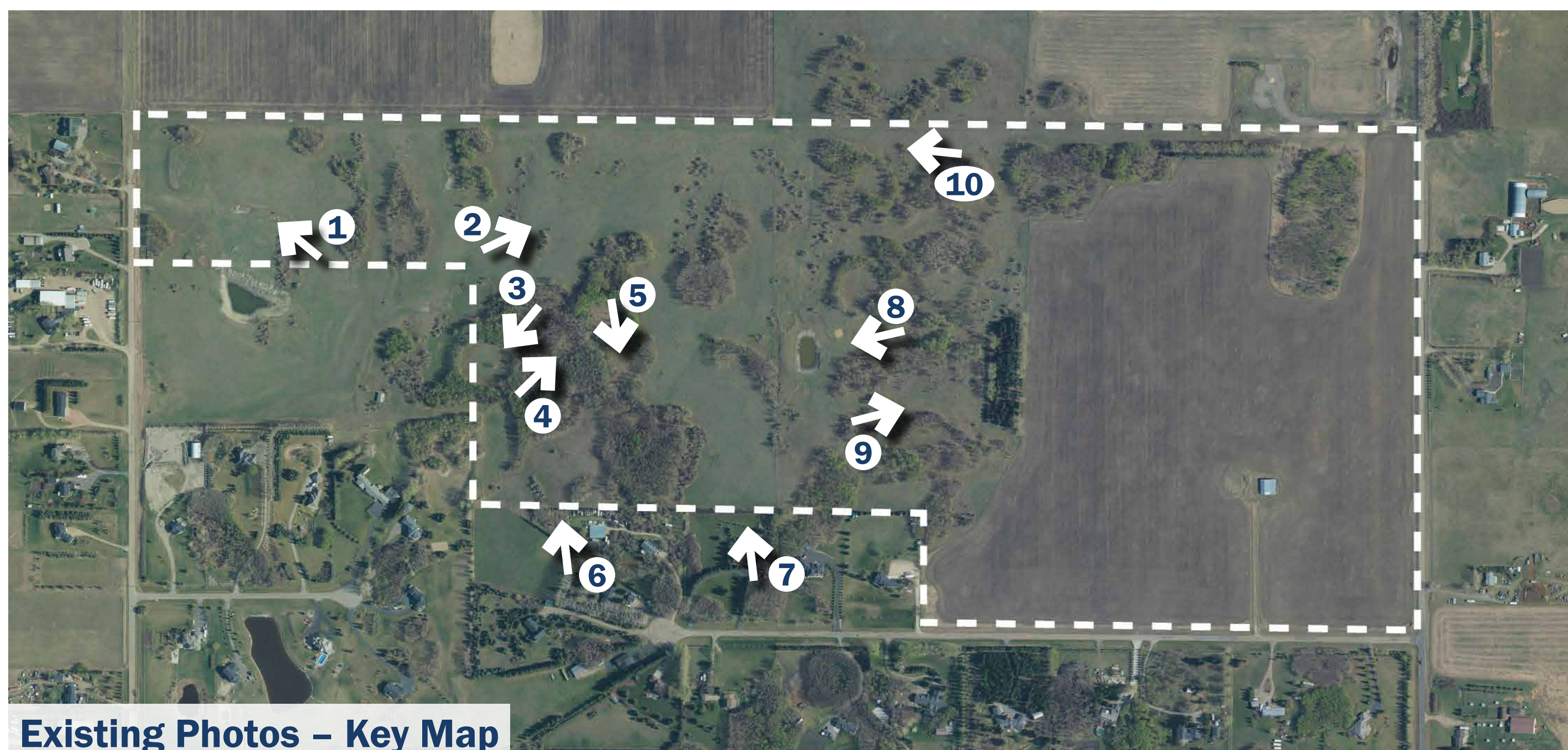
6. View into existing meadow



7. View north over open field



8. View west towards existing pond / low point



Existing Photos – Key Map



9. View east towards spruce tree grove



10. View west along north edge of site

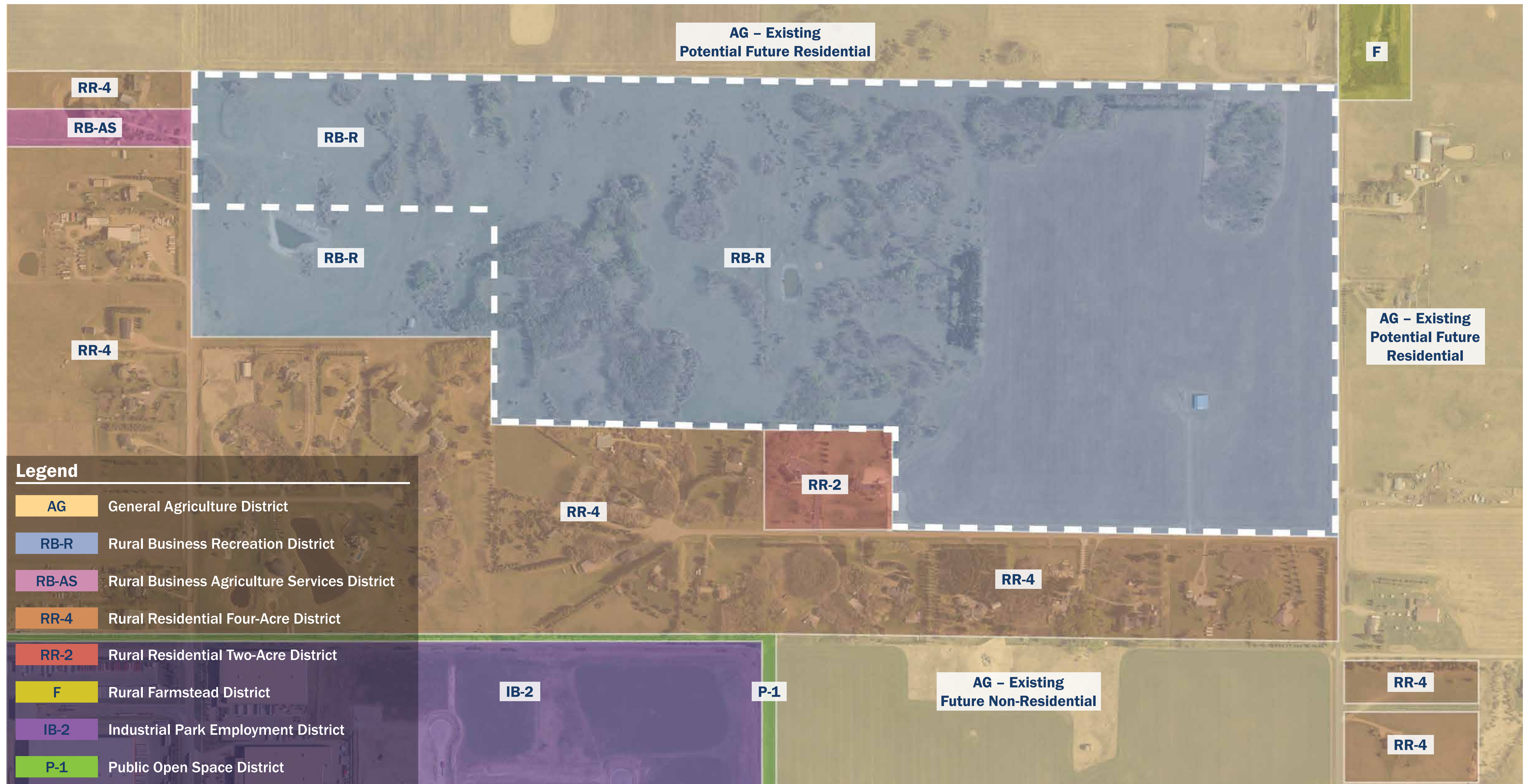
Legend



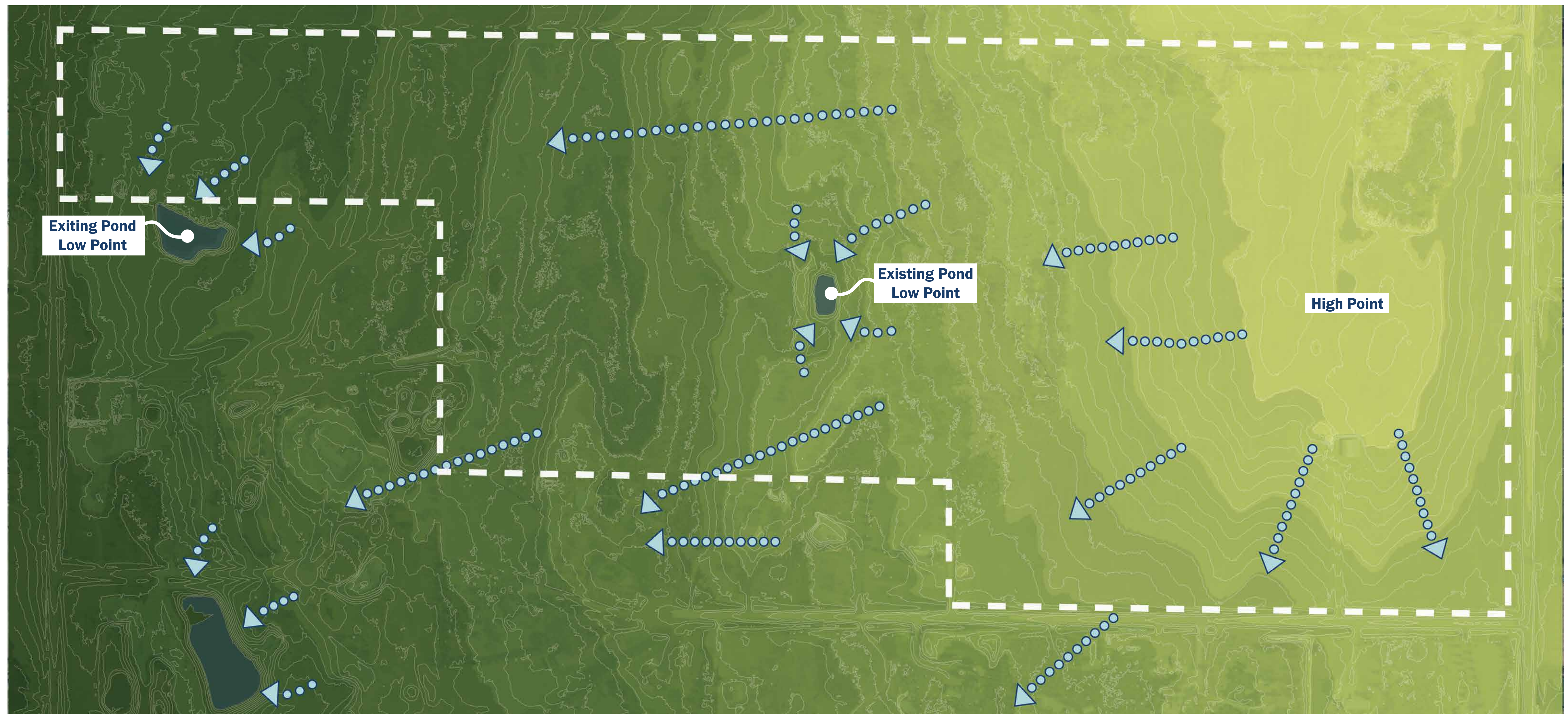
Ground Photo Viewpoint

NE Regional Park Site Boundary

Site Analysis – Existing Land Use



Site Analysis – Existing Topography



Low Elevation
1104m

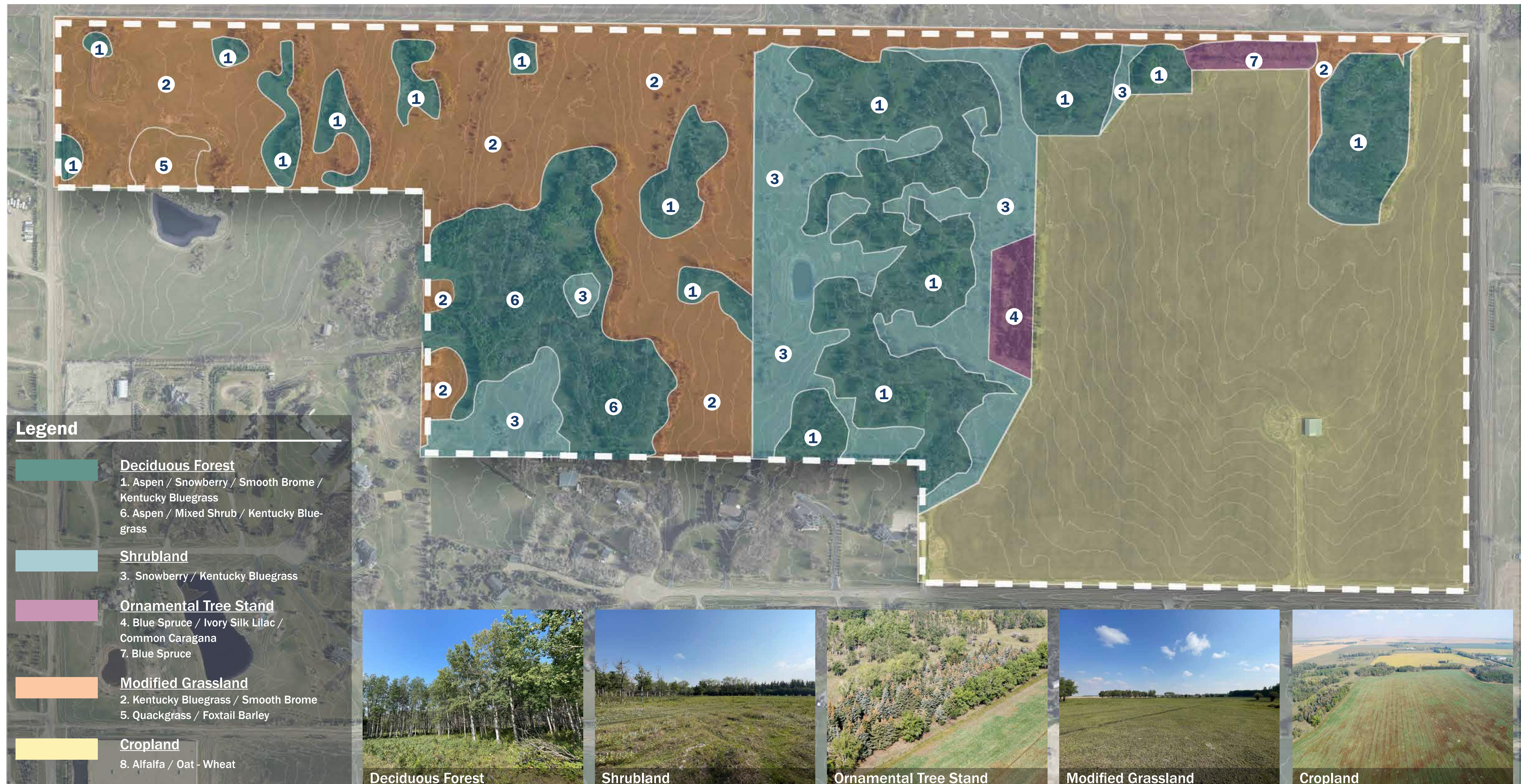
General Direction of Site Drainage

High Elevation
1144m

Site Analysis – Existing Circulation



Site Analysis – Existing Vegetation



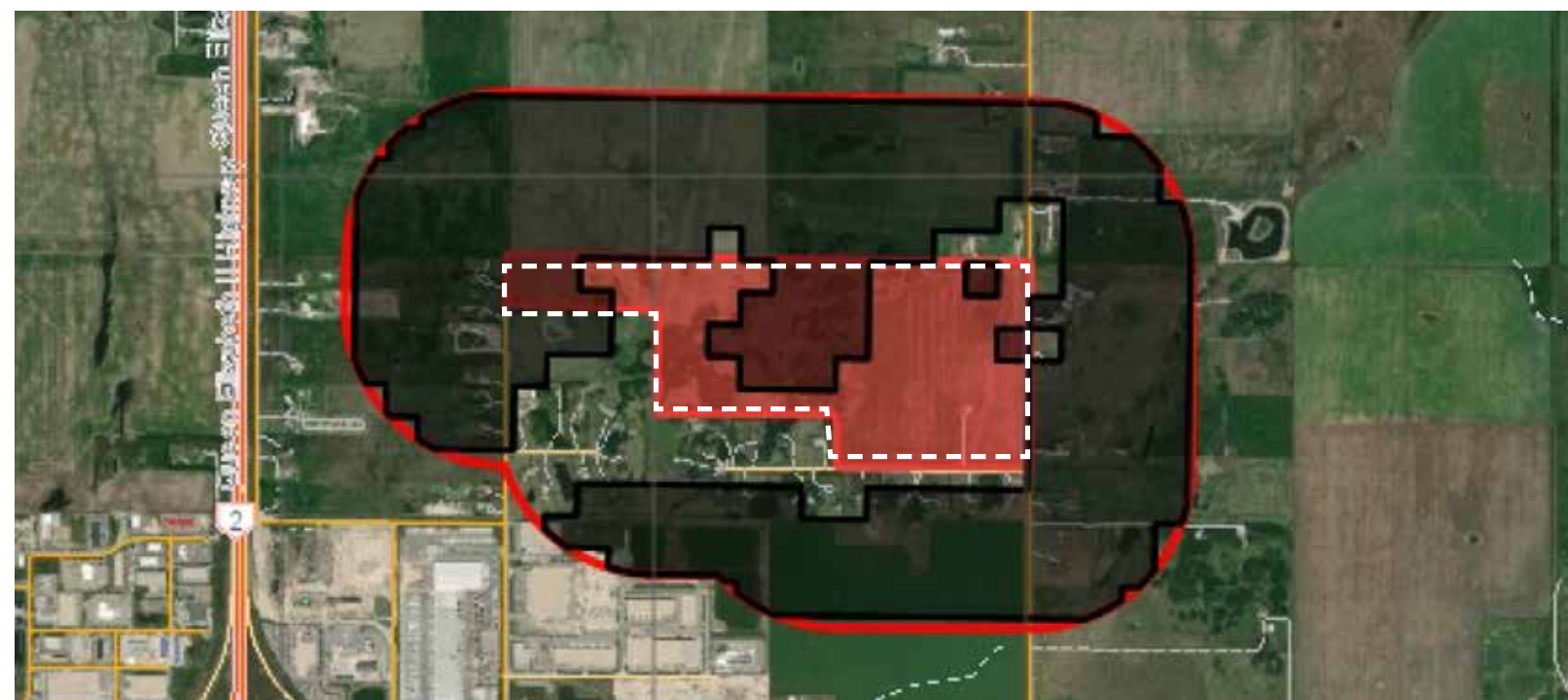
Site Analysis – Existing Wildlife & Ecology



Site Analysis – FireSmart

FireSmart Zone Assessment

FireSmart identifies a spatial scale for assessing the threat of wildfires on structures and values at risk. Using The Government of Alberta's Wildfire Hazard Identification Tool (WHIT), the site plus a 500m buffer is considered for fire hazard risks. For this location, about 73% of the area is considered to contain wildfire hazards (outlined in black).



The site is primarily composed of 3 forest fuel stand types:

Boreal Mixedwood	(12.5ha)
Boreal Spruce Stand	(0.5ha)
Standing Grass/Cropland	(61ha)

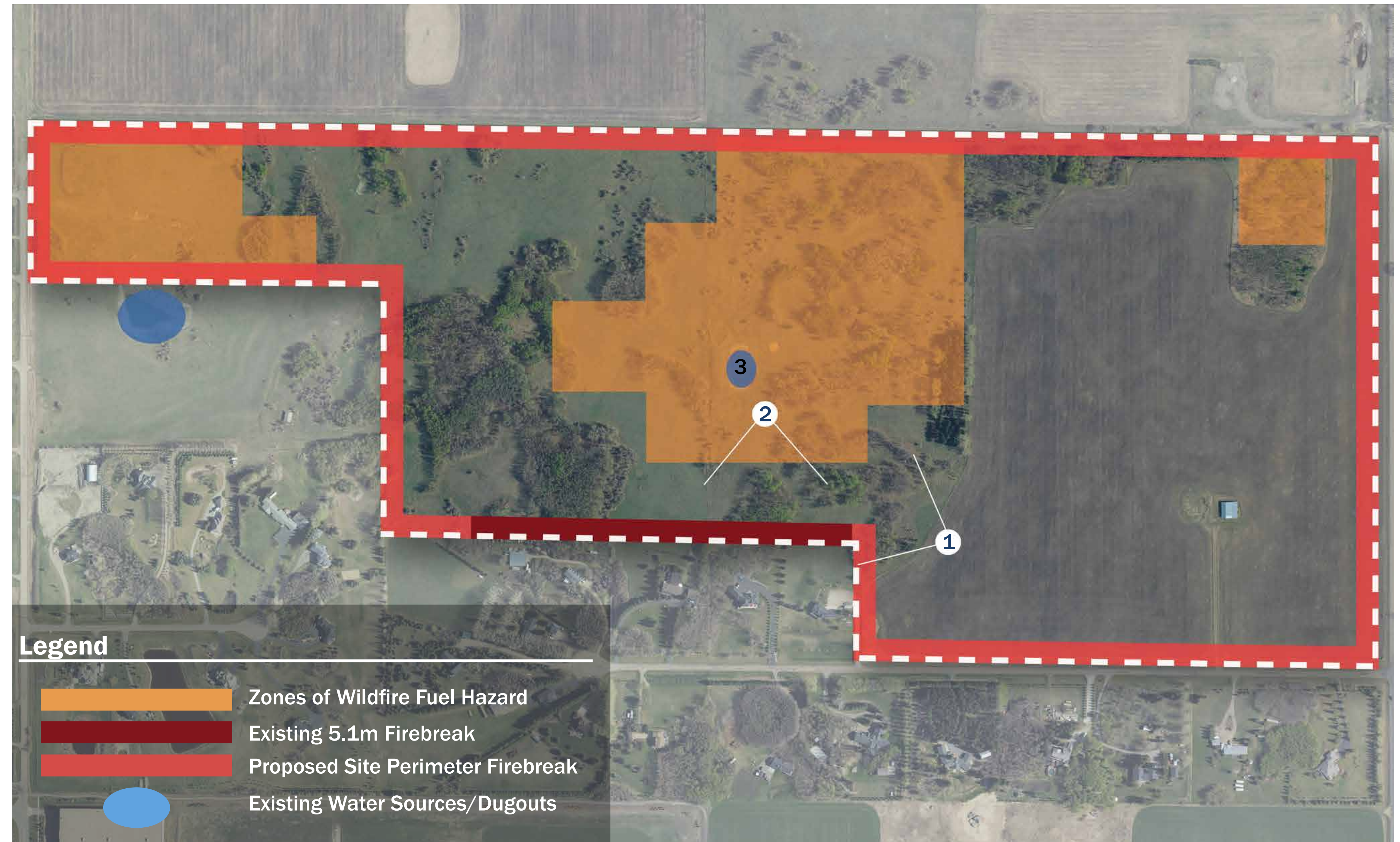
Boreal Mixedwood stands contain heavy understory, deadfall (scattered and in piles), and standing dead trees. These increase the risk of fire behaviour due to the amount of dry plant material acting as fuel. Boreal Spruce stands are high-risk for ignition and increased fire behaviour including crown fires.

Standing grass/cropland occupies the majority of the site and is the most susceptible fuel for ignition and fastest spreading type of fire. Depending on wind conditions, this type of fire can also cross roads and spread into neighbouring properties.

Other potential hazards include abandoned structures and shelters, debris left behind by random campers, as well as outbounding buildings surrounded by dense vegetation primarily along the southeast edge.

Potential Mitigation Measures

- Maintain setbacks from private property and re-establish firebreaks/buffer zones for new amenities and park development (per recommended guidelines).
- Promote public awareness and education(kiosks & signs).
- Remove deadfall and flammable debris/existing fire hazards.
- New planting should be setback from property lines/outside of allocated buffer zones.



Visioning

Indigenous Learnings

Spirituality – Continued prayers for this park and appreciation of blessings.

Healing – Use of land for spiritual healing and reconnection.

Relationships – Guidance to support Indigenous people and non-Indigenous people. This is an opportunity to “walk together.”

Knowledge of the Land – Understanding the history of the land before settlers and renewed connections to the land and reconciliation.



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Design Goals

- Distinguishes the park as the premiere outdoor event, sports, and recreation location in Airdrie
- Provides an optimal balance between developing immediate and long-term opportunities and amenities
- Enables revenue generation from various sources
- Develops opportunities that are inclusive for all visitors to the park
- Maintains a substantial portion of the existing natural landscape



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Design Elements

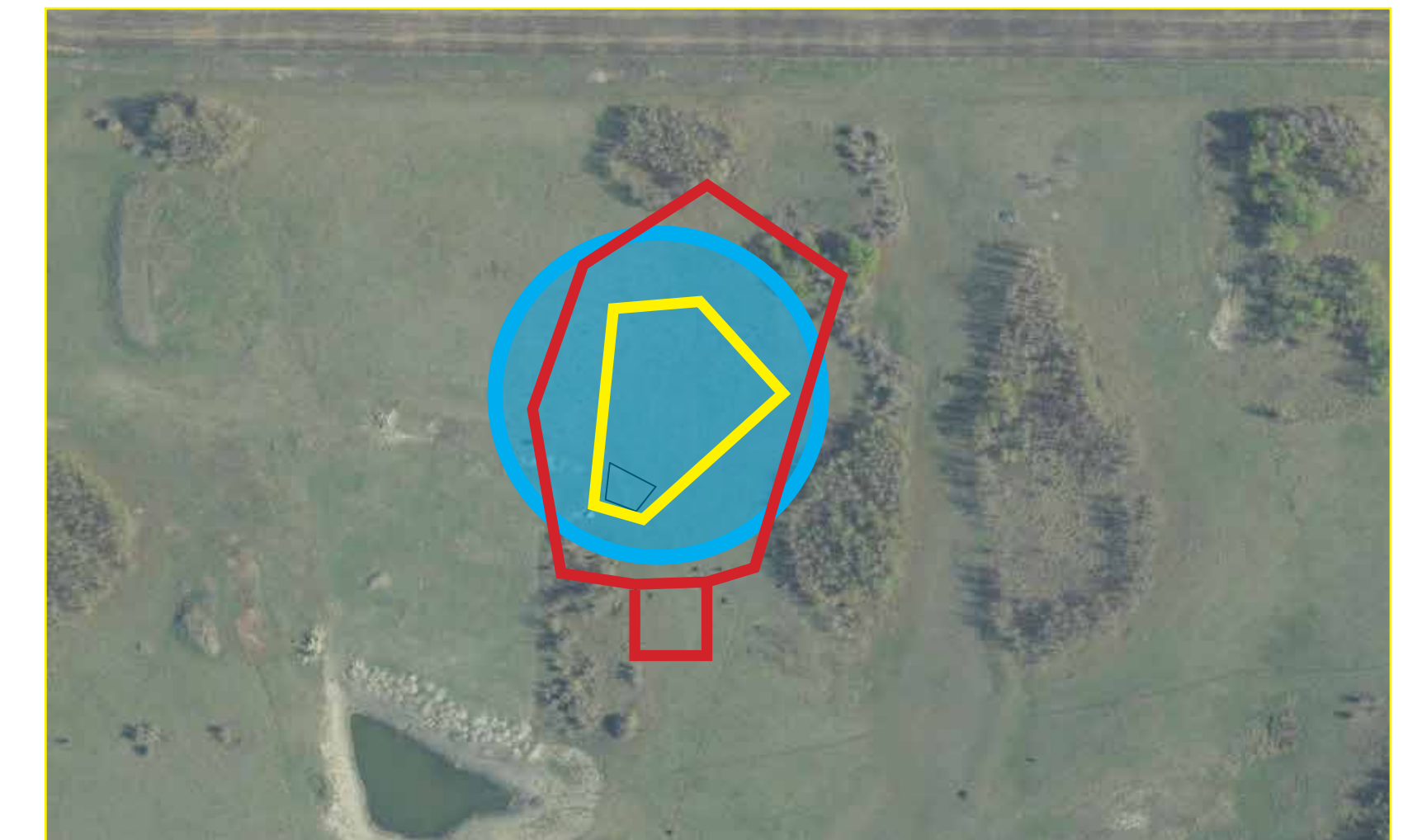
Organized Sport



Civic Events, Outdoor Art & Festivals

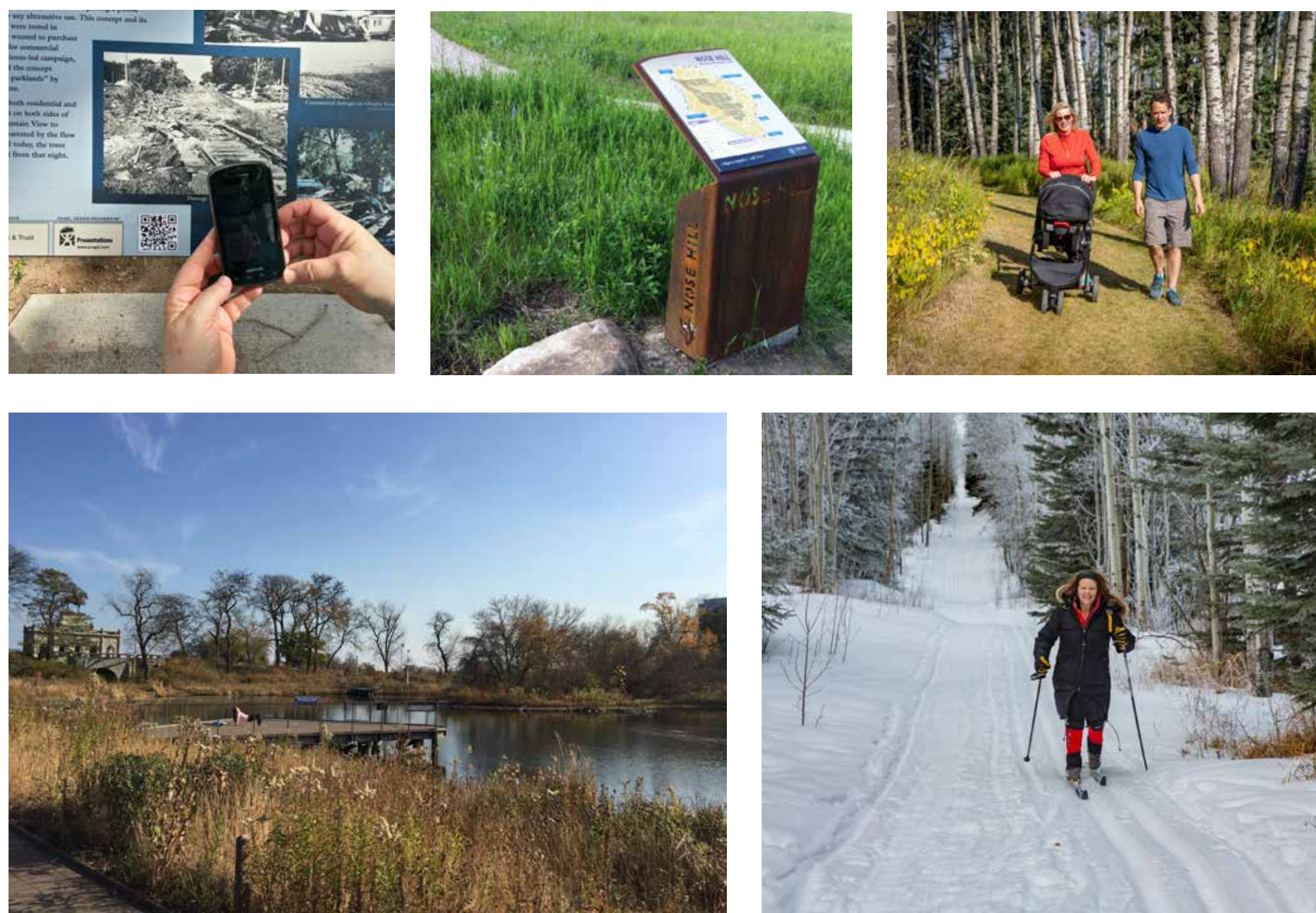


Civic Events – Scale Comparison

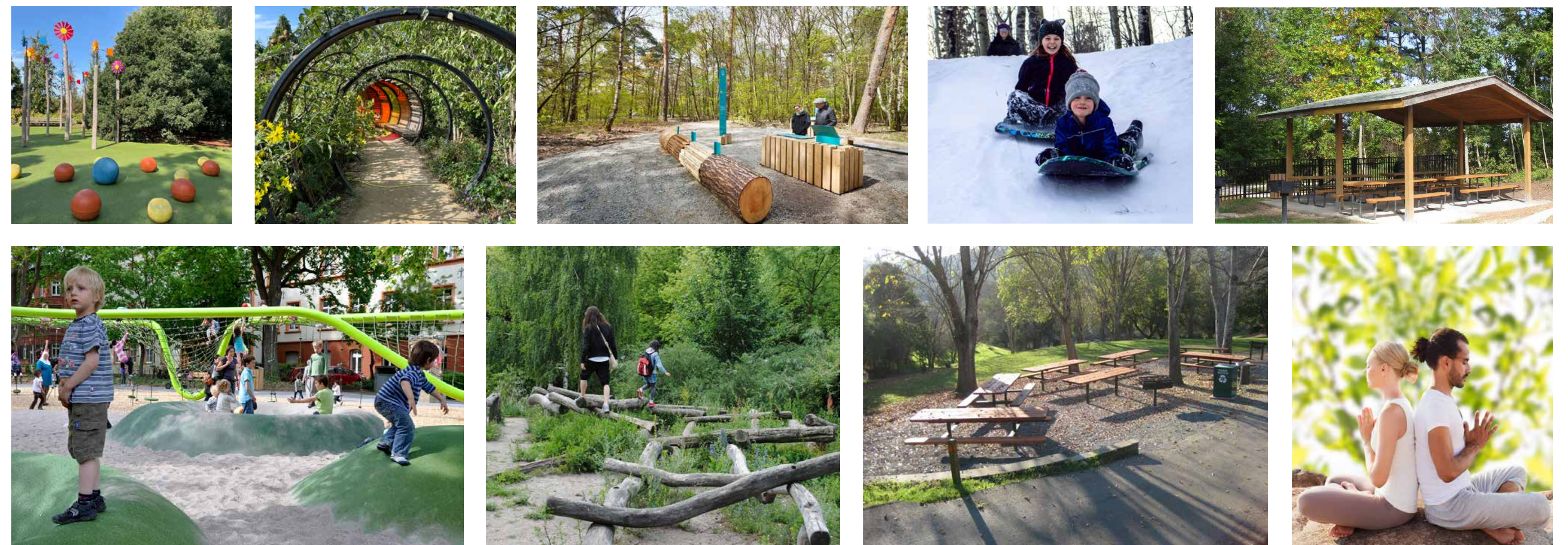


- Prince's Island Park Amphitheatre
- Nose Creek Amphitheatre
- Proposed Amphitheatre Space

Natural Areas, Interpretive & Trails

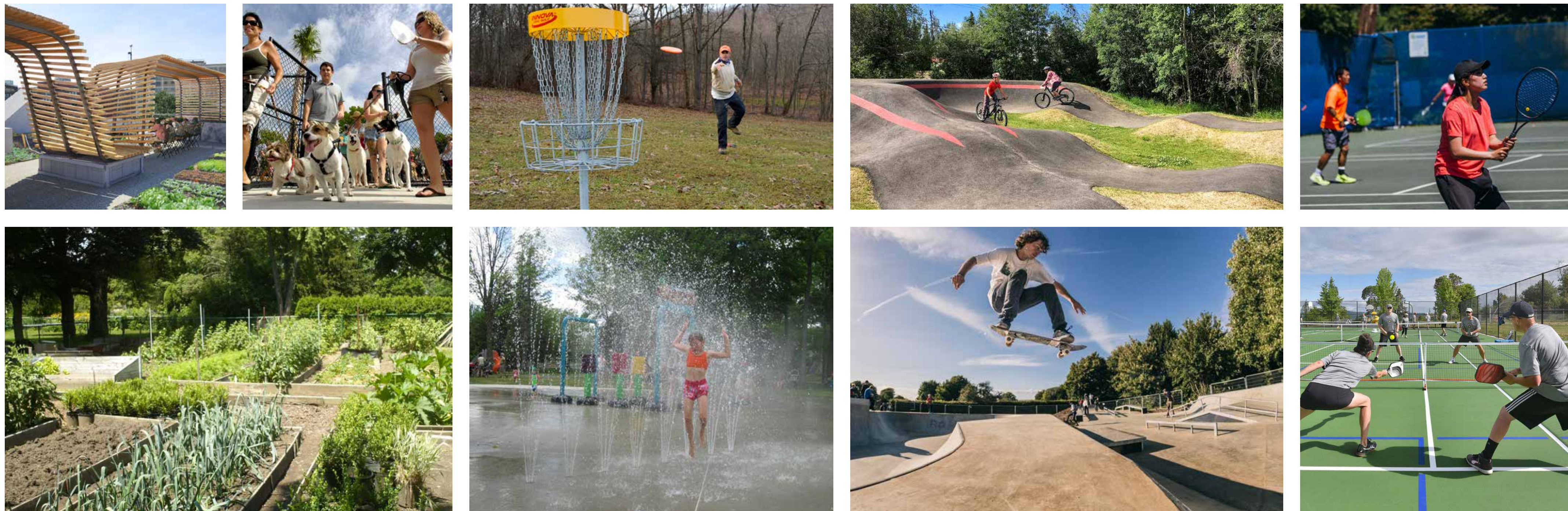


Passive and Social Spaces

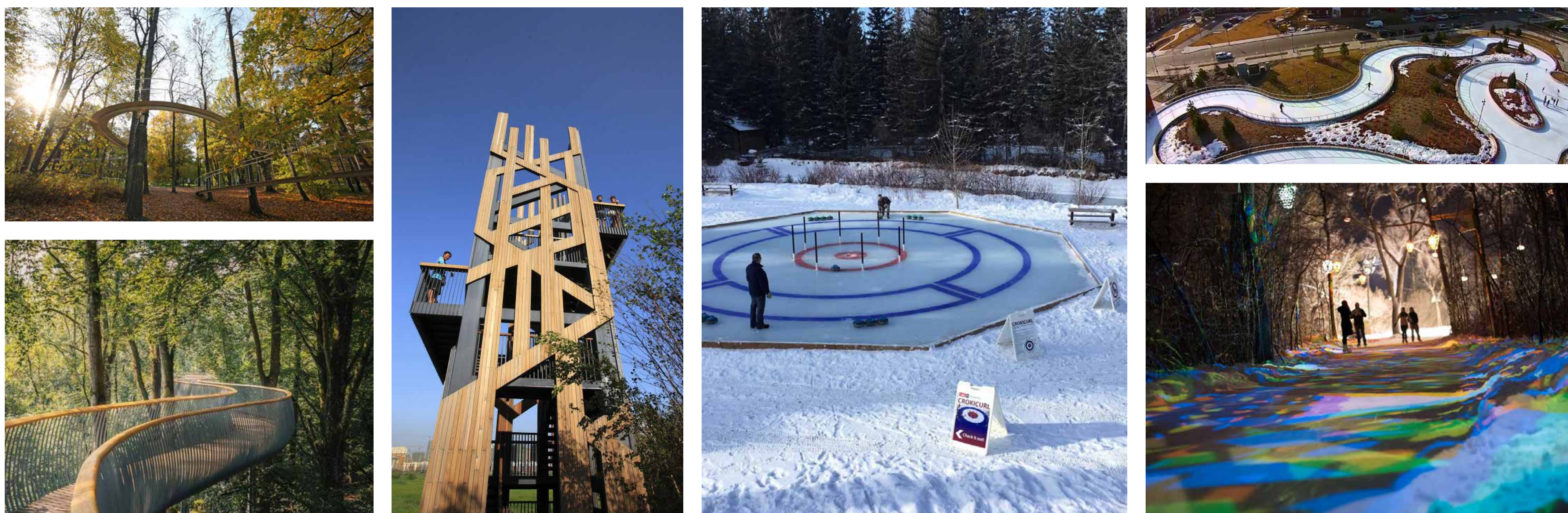


Design Elements

Active Recreation & Community Amenities



Making The Park A Destination!



Supporting Tournaments & Tourism



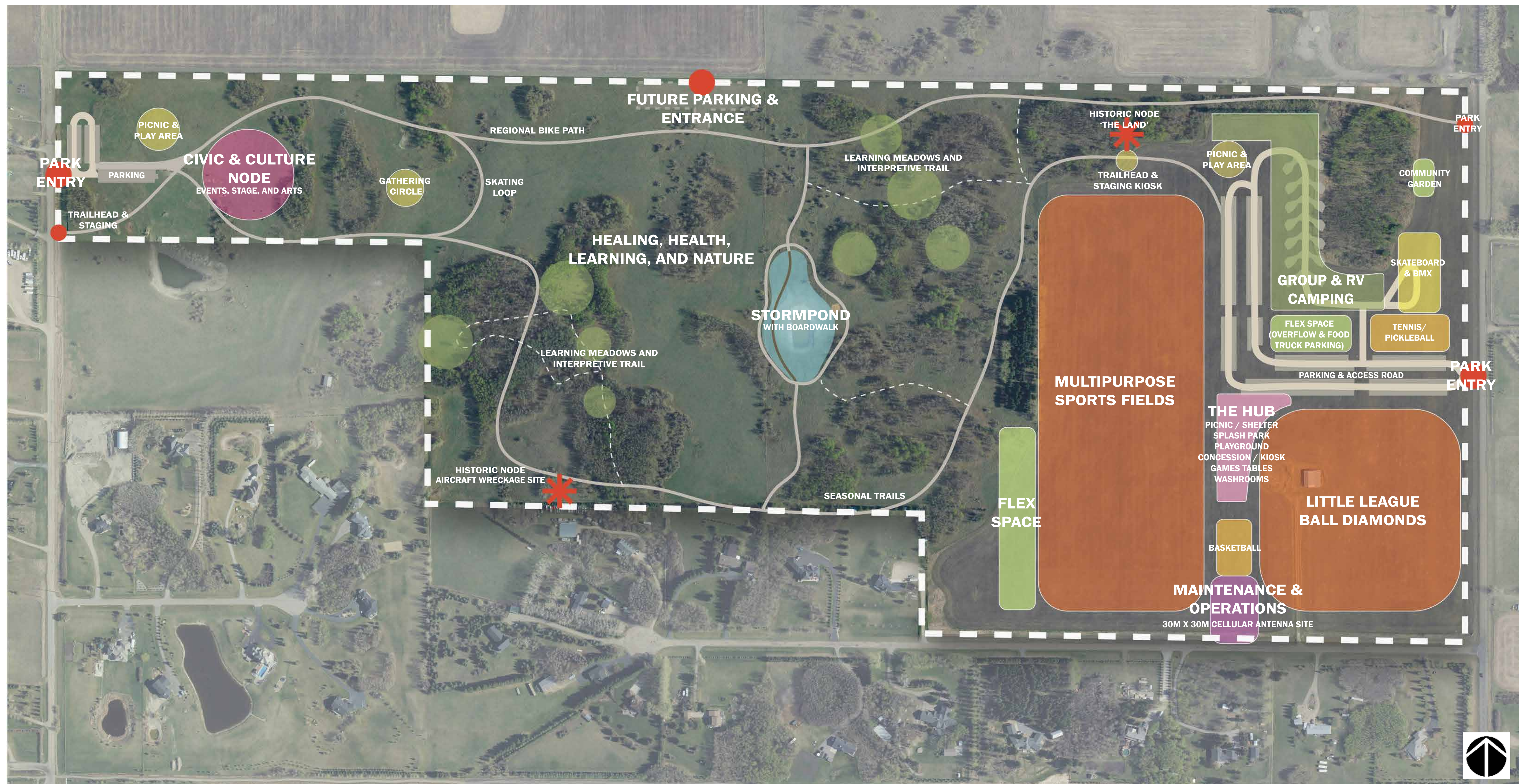
Operations & Maintenance



Park Infrastructure



Schematic Design Plan



Thank You for Attending Our Open House!

Is there anything else we should know
to develop a Master Plan for the Park?
Place your comments here:

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