

A person is jogging on a paved path that runs along the edge of a large body of water. The scene is captured during sunset or sunrise, with a warm, golden light. A metal railing separates the path from the water. In the background, a line of trees is visible across the water.

White Rock Lake Park MASTER PLAN UPDATE Parks, Trails, and the Environment Committee

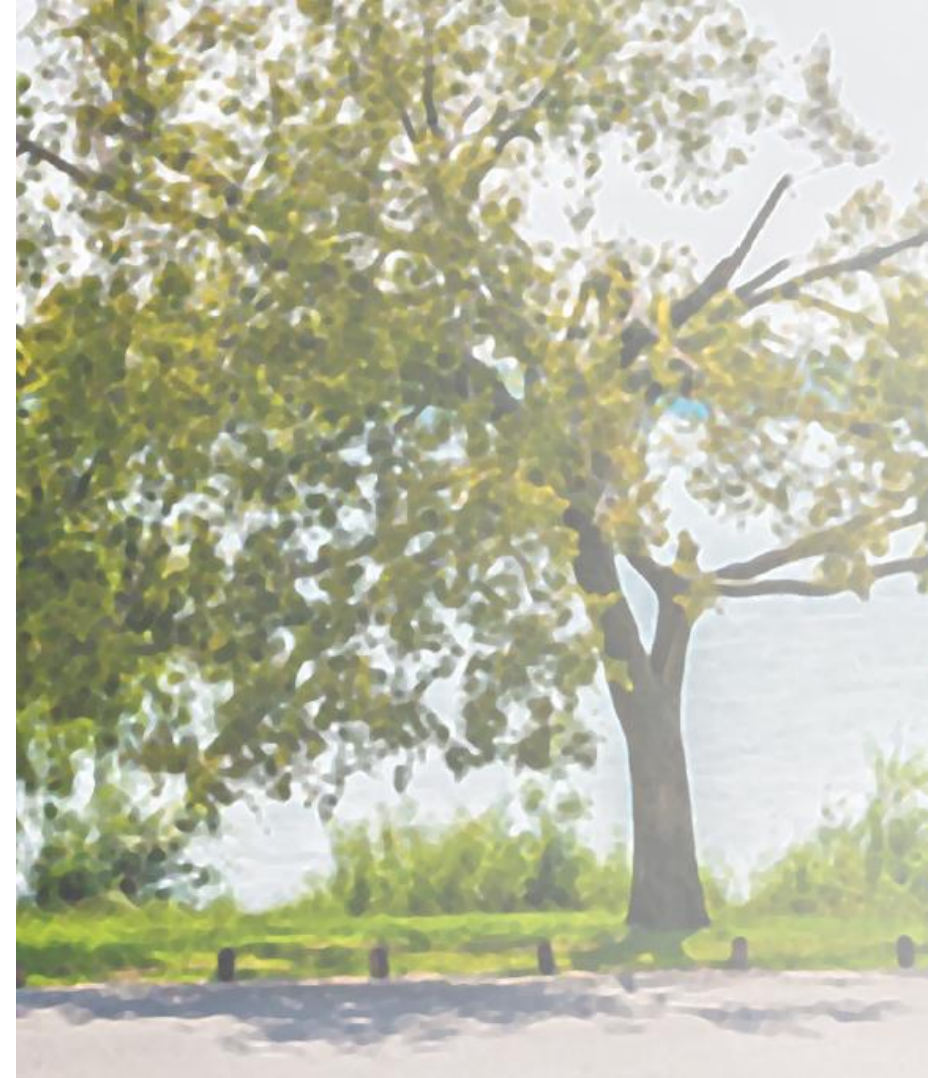
February 3rd, 2025

Purpose

PURPOSE

A Consolidated Vision. The vast number of resources dedicated to planning enhancements at White Rock Lake provide multiple different guidelines, some of which have become obsolete as new construction technologies and additional park users have expanded the functions of the park.

The goal of the 2024 White Rock Lake Master Plan Design Guidelines and are to conduct a comprehensive analysis of previous studies, consolidate the design guidelines still applicable for the park today, and provide recommendations for enhancements within a Master Plan based on community feedback, previous study recommendations, as well as stakeholder and consultant input.



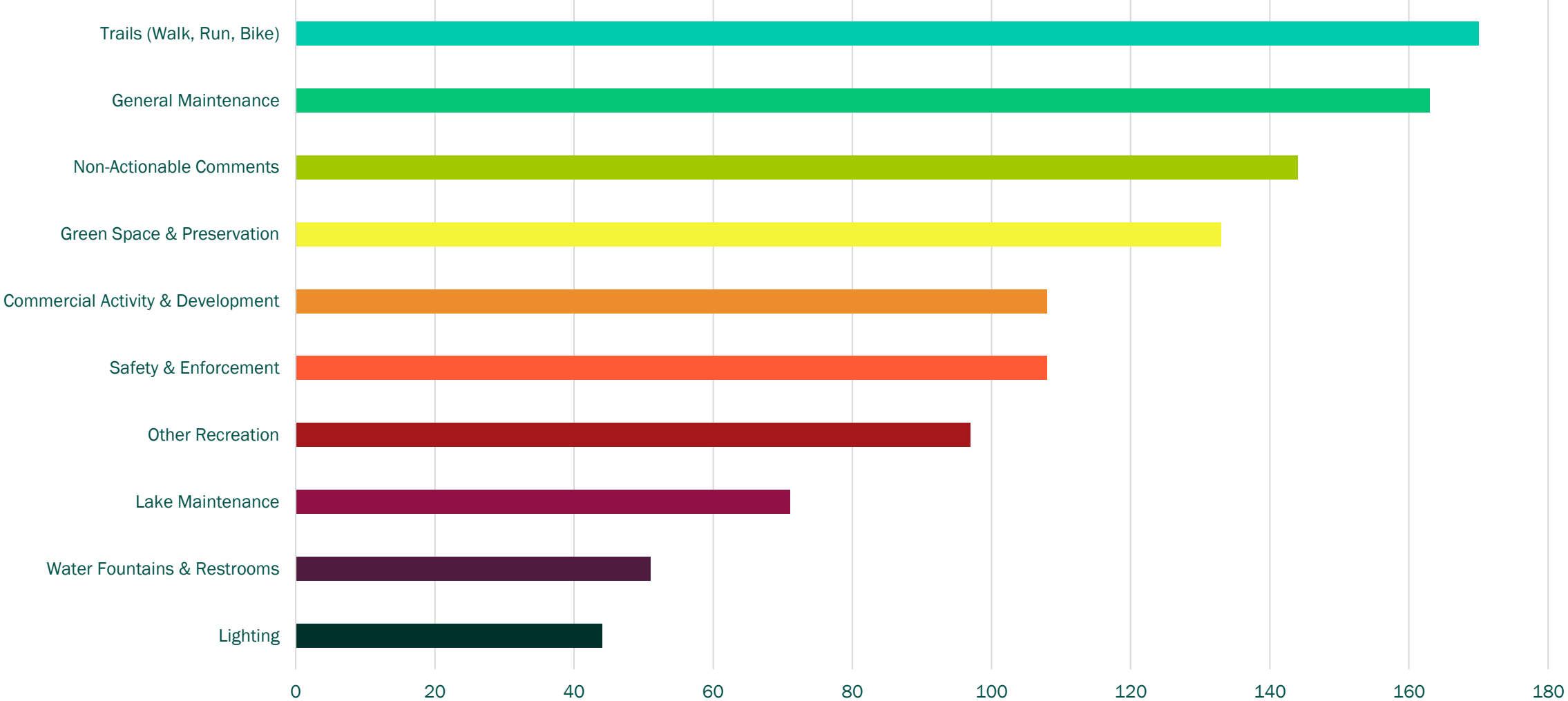
Stakeholder Feedback



- 1. Winfrey Point
July 18, 2023 | 6 PM
- 2. Bath House Cultural
November 6, 2023 | 6 PM
- 3. Winfrey Point
March 4, 2024 | 6 PM



Stakeholder Feedback Composite



Stakeholder Feedback – Common Themes



Maintenance + Lake Edge Control
Attendees were concerned with lake maintenance and the condition of the lake’s shoreline. Park Users recommended dredging feasibility studies, lake edge restoration, and pollution control measures.

Preservation + Restoration
White Rock Lake’s vistas and natural ecologies were important to multiple user groups. Preservation of the prairie and natural areas, protection of habitat for urban wildlife, and specific studies of the existing ecological functions were recommendations we heard.

Security + Safety
Access was important for trail users and park maintenance staff alike. Staff recommended controlled access points for specific parking areas, while trail users recommended additional lighting, visibility measures, and rest stops.

Previous Planning Efforts

NPS Lake White Rock Master Plan

Biologic Survey of White Rock Park

A Study for White Rock Lake

Improvement Program for White Rock Lake Park

Management Program for White Rock Lake

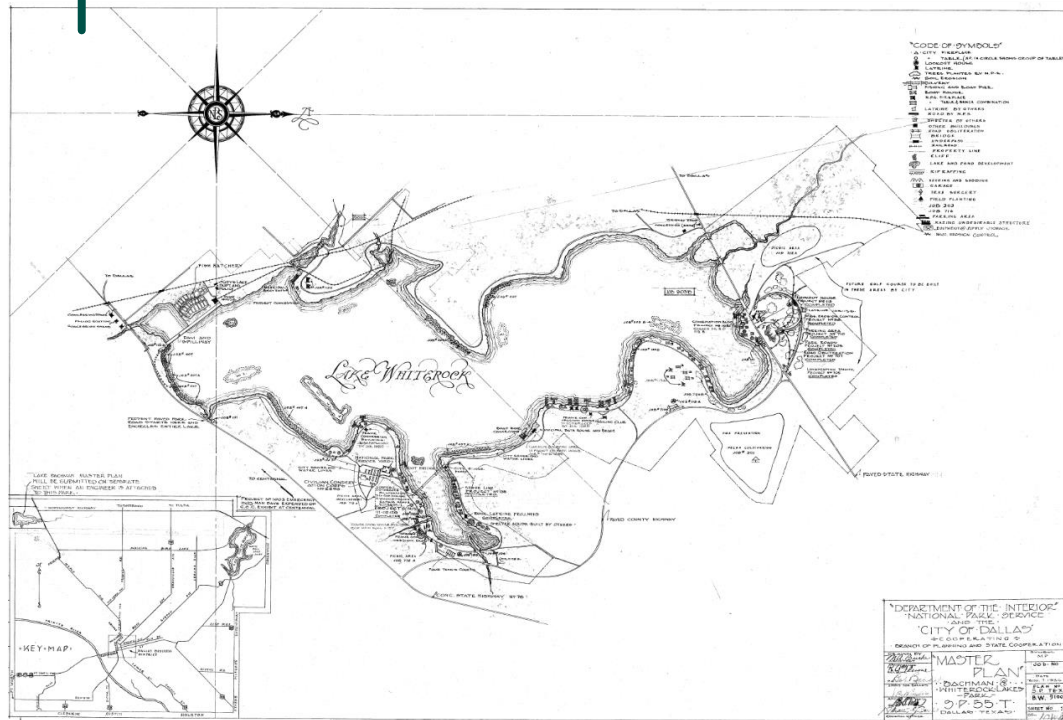
1936

1942

1959

1971

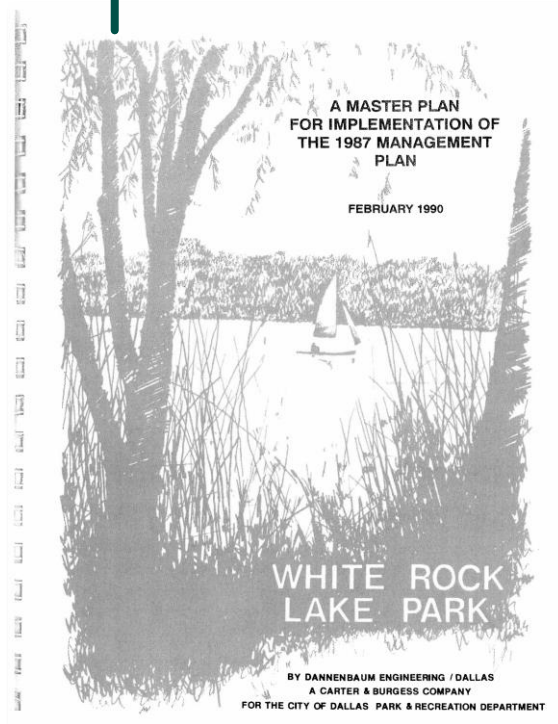
1987



Previous Planning Efforts

A Master Plan for
the Implementation
of the 1987
Management Plan

1990

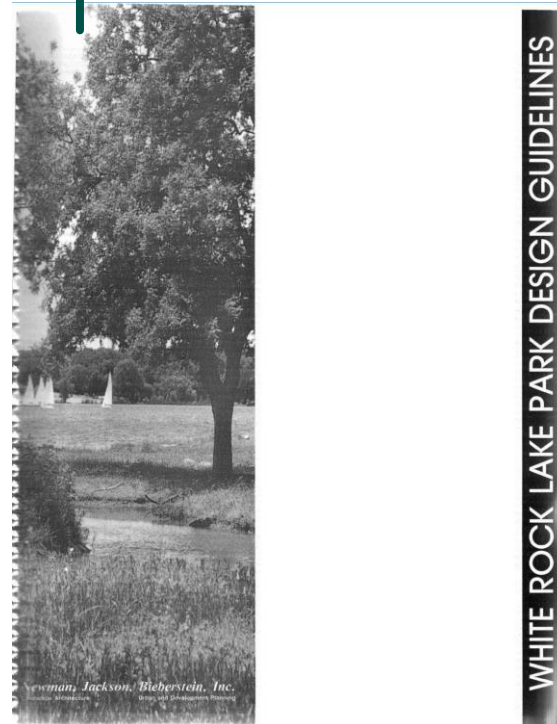


Shoreline Tree
Enhancement

1991

White Rock Lake
Park Design
Guidelines

1994



Diagnostic
Feasibility Study
(Dredging)

1996

White Rock Lake
Diagnostic Study

1996

Lake Wide
Strategies

Previous Planning Efforts

NJB White Rock Lake Master Plan

2002

Design Guidelines –
Reflection Point at
Lakewood Pedestrian
Gateway

2003

Environmental Graphic
Design Development
Package

2003

White Rock Lake Park
Lighting Master Plan and
Design Guidelines

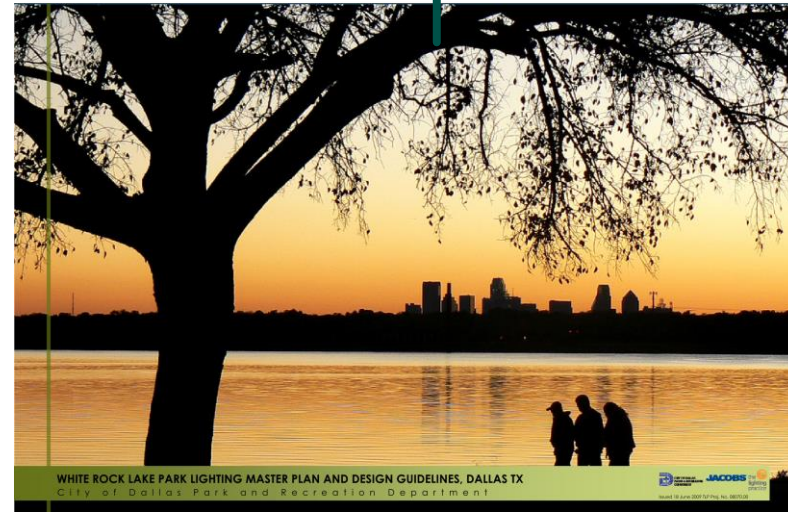
2009

White Rock Lake Park
Maintenance Plan

2022



Physical Site
Improvements and
Recommendations



Subject Matter
Specific Plans

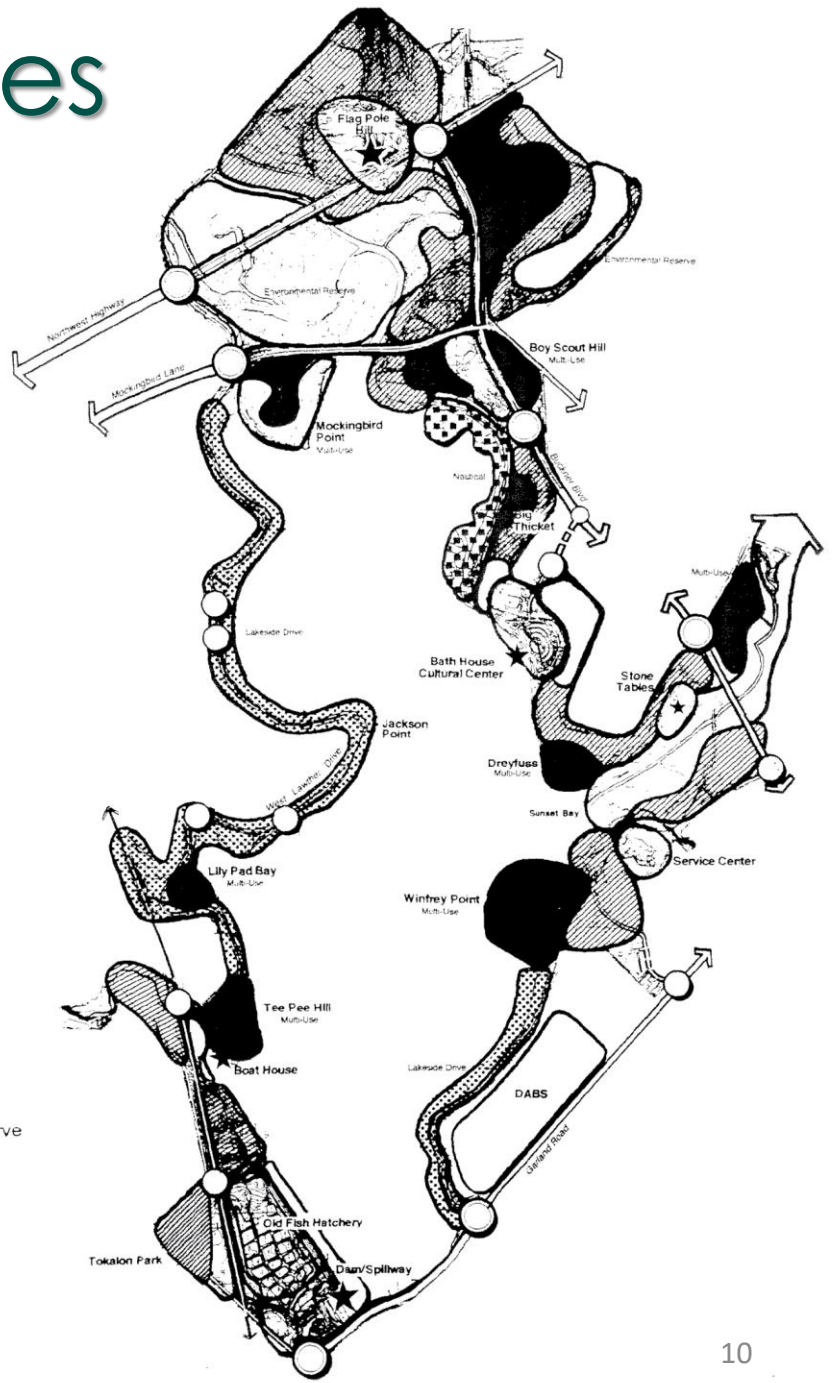
White Rock Lake Park

Existing Conditions



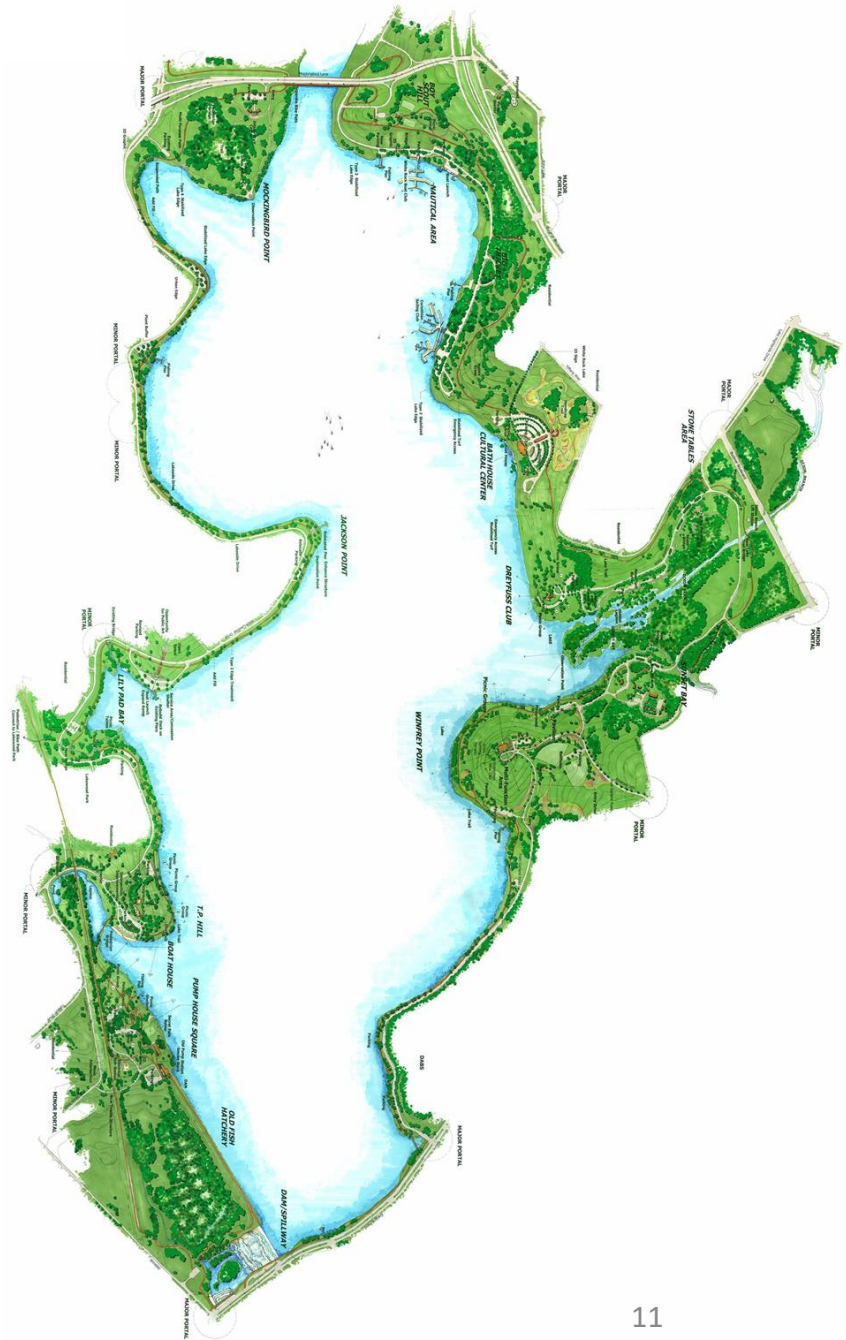
1994 WRL Park Design Guidelines

Concept Plan



zone legend	
	Environmental Preserve
	General Park
	Multi-Use
	Nautical
	Lakeside Drive
	Special

2002 White Rock Lake Master Plan



2024 WRL Park Preliminary Master Plan

Goal:

Provide a **conceptual framework** to guide future improvements within White Rock Lake Park.

Opportunities:

Recommendations based on previous planning studies, current community input, staff interviews, and site review.

Design Influences:

Unique Characteristics:

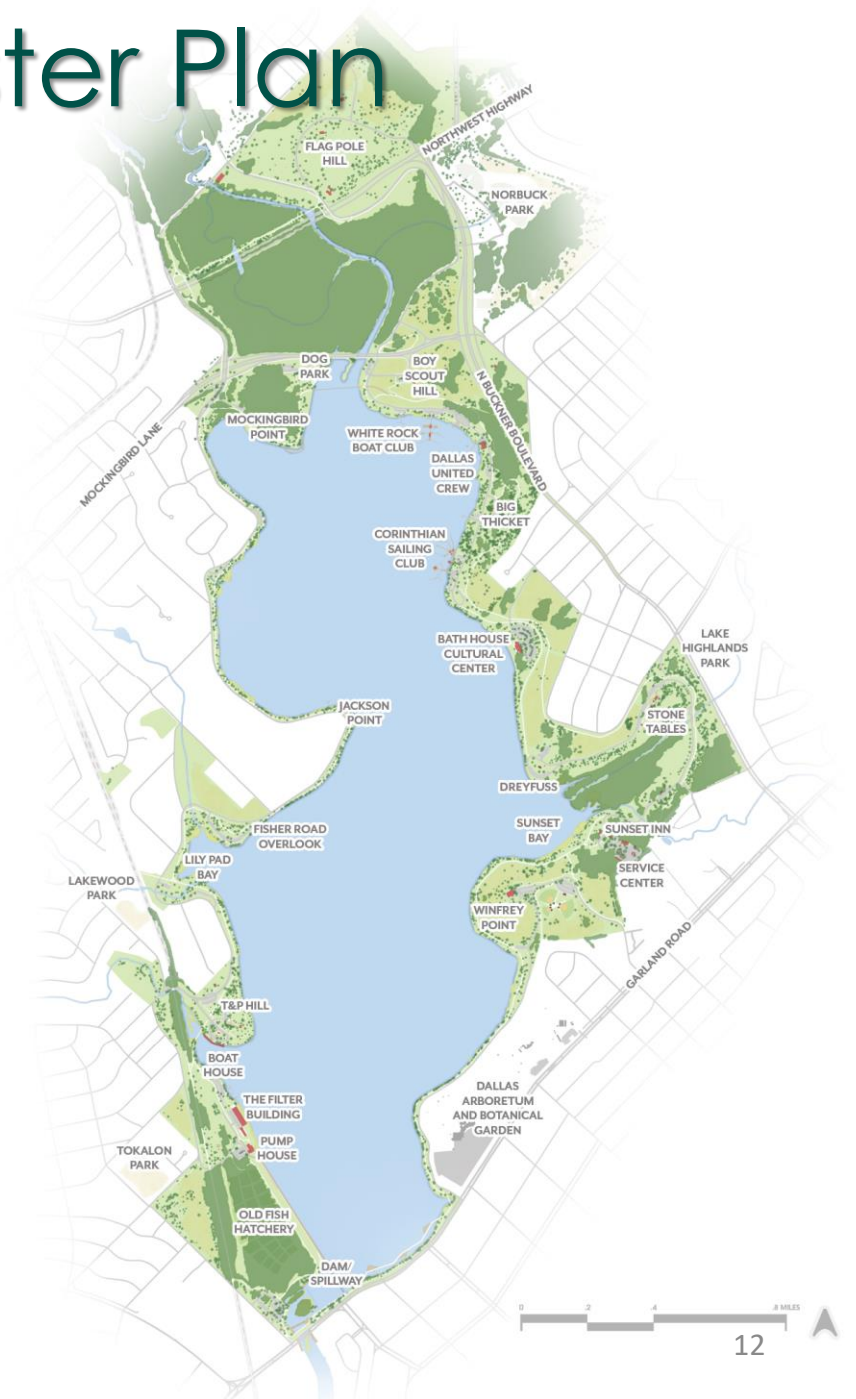
Site specific characteristics to account for when further defining detailed design responses.

Recreational Assets:

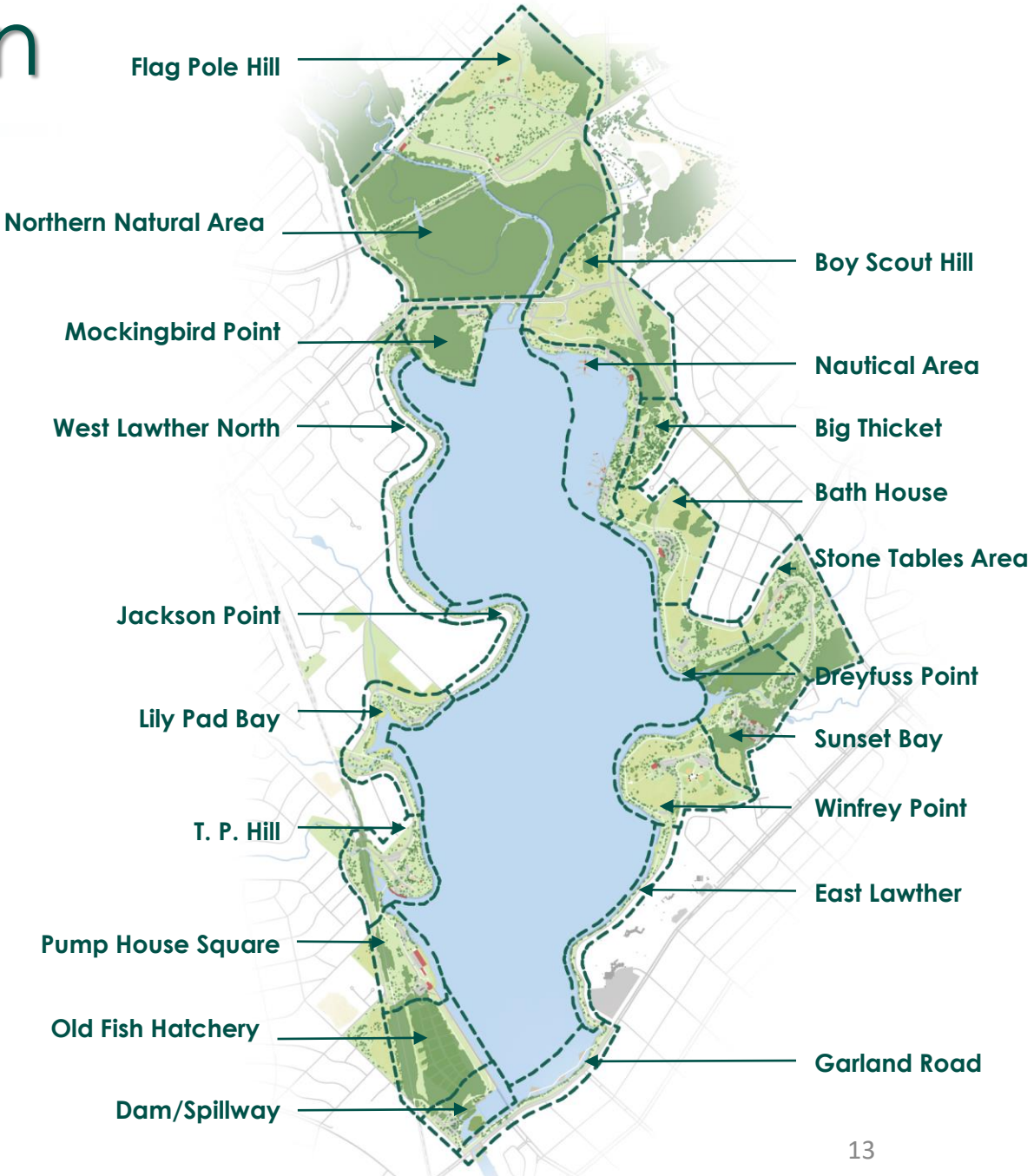
Existing Park assets supportive to the master plan vision that should be maintained and improved.

Surrounding Influences:

Adjacencies to specific areas that should be taken into consideration when improving specific park assets.



2024 WRL Park Master Plan



Mockingbird Point

Opportunities:

- Parking upgrades
- Dog Park surface upgrades
- Overlook at point
- Shoreline erosion
- Wildlife signage
- Pedestrian bridge approach

Unique Characteristics:

- Lake views
- Natural wooded areas

Recreational Assets:

- Parking areas
- Trail
- Picnic areas
- Dog park

Surrounding Influences:

- Mockingbird Lane
- West Lawther Drive
- Pedestrian bridge
- White Rock Lake



Boy Scout Hill

Opportunities:

- Organize & Enhance Parking
- Pathway connections
- Pedestrian Overpass – Over E. Lawter

Unique Characteristics:

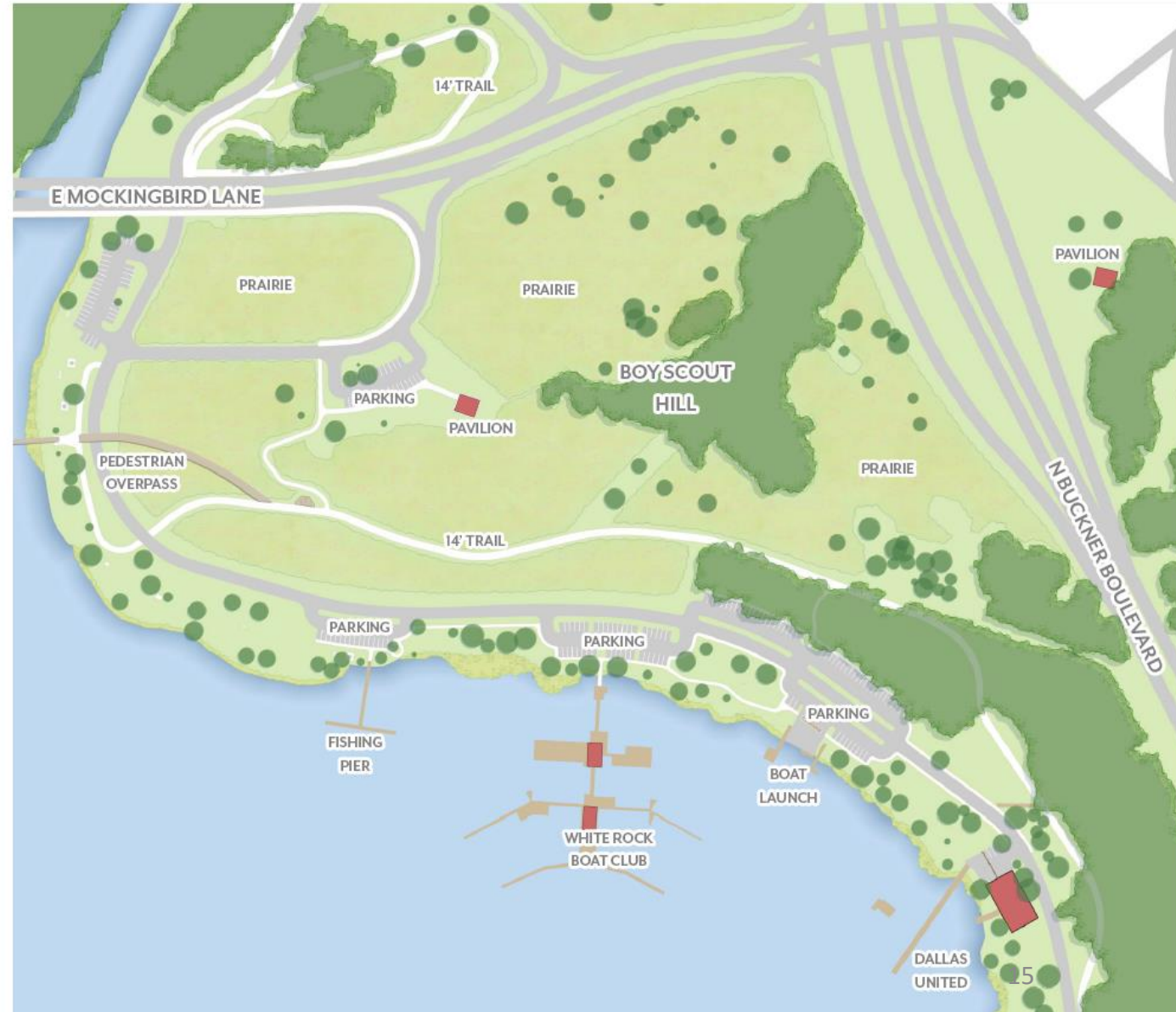
- Prairie ecosystem
- Park gateway

Recreational Assets:

- Parking
- Overlook
- Pavilion & picnic areas
- Trail connections

Surrounding Influences:

- Mockingbird Lane
- East Lawther Drive
- East Lawther Trail



Nautical Area

Opportunities:

- Organize & Enhance parking
- Roadway cross section to accommodate side paths for pedestrians
- Consistent roadway edge treatment
- Reclamation of green space from in-efficient parking
- Restore public boat ramps
- Pedestrian bridge approach/overpass

Unique Characteristics:

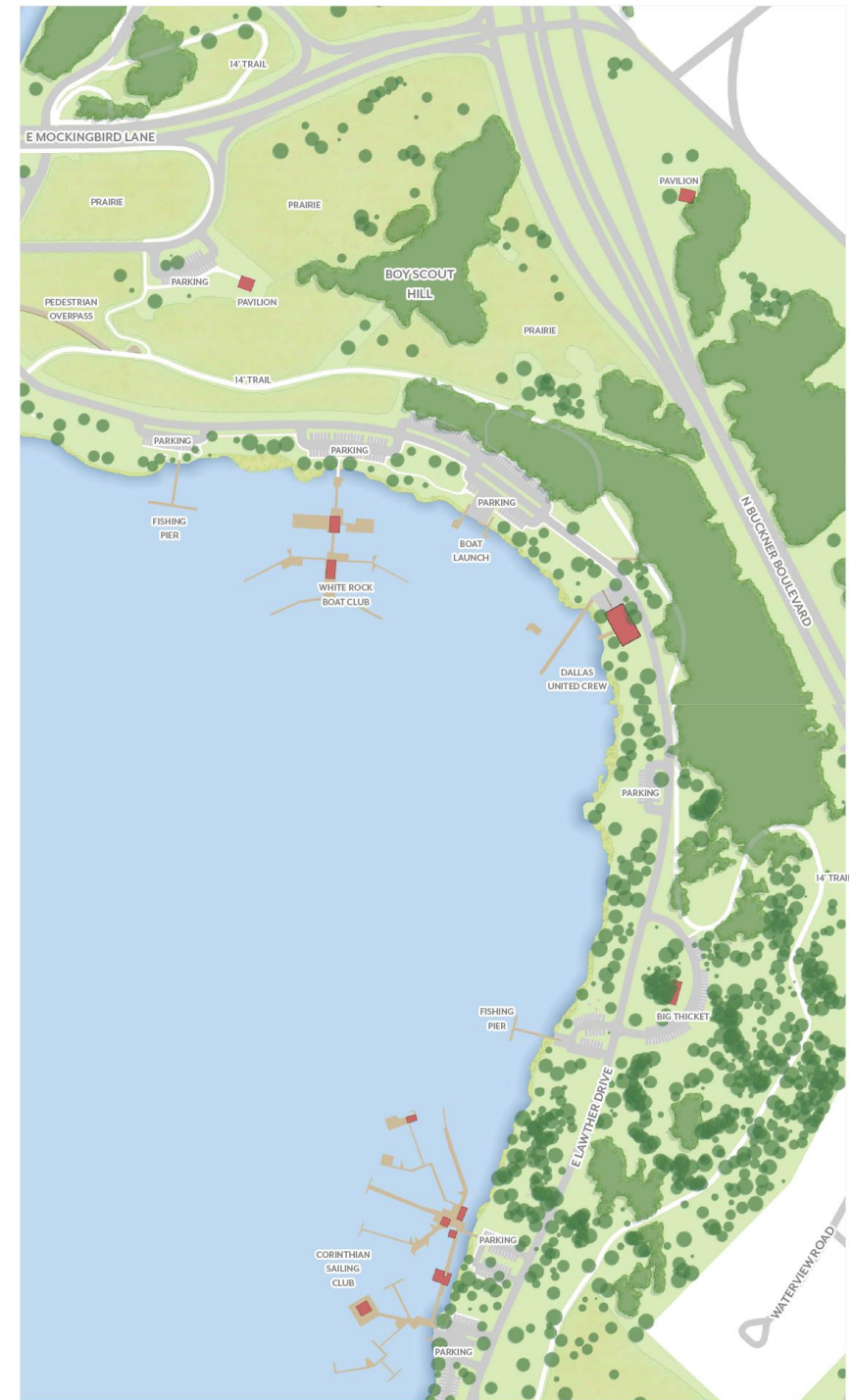
- Multiple vehicular/pedestrian conflicts
- Varied surfaces for vehicular circulation
- Roadway adjacency to shoreline

Recreational Assets:

- Waterfront access
- Boat ramps
- Fishing piers
- Parking areas
- Picnic areas
- Big Thicket

Surrounding Influences:

- East Lawther Drive
- East Lawther Trail
- Boy Scout Hill
- Shoreline
- Boat Clubs



Bath House

Opportunities:

- Re-aligned approach to parking lot
- Parking lot surface upgrades
- Continued maintenance/restoration/preservation
- Engage lake with space between Bath House and shoreline
- Reclamation of green space from inefficient parking
- Conversion of E. Lawther into trail – eliminate unnecessary gates

Unique Characteristics:

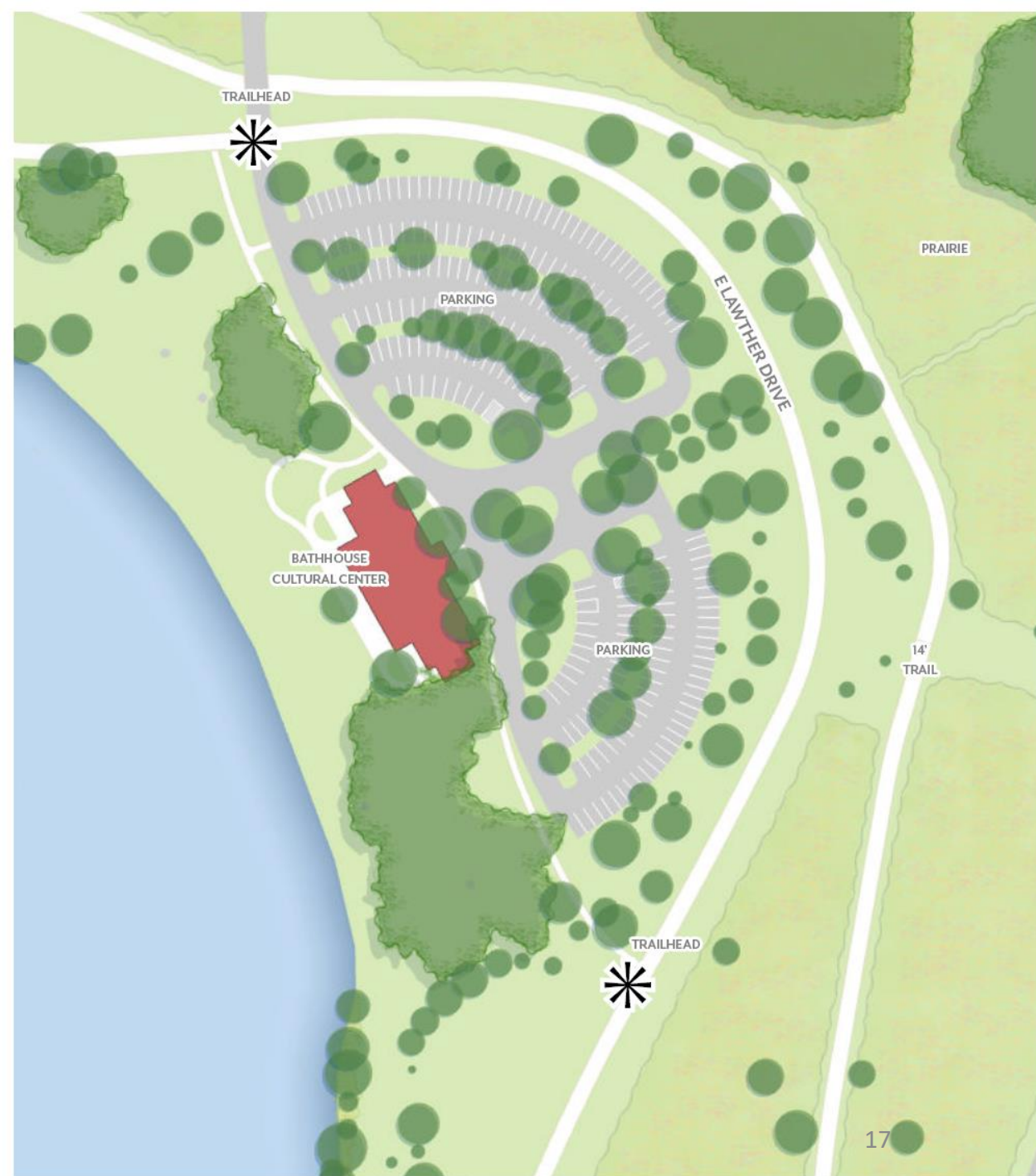
- Multi-use facility
- Historic structure
- Community gathering space
- Trail parking

Recreational Assets:

- Waterfront access & views
- Parking areas
- Picnic areas
- Trailhead parking

Surrounding Influences:

- East Lawther Drive
- East Lawther Trail
- Shoreline
- Peninsula Neighborhood



Garland Road

Opportunities

Options for safe pedestrian/trail areas adjacent to Garland Road

Board walk/ Observation Pier

Reclaimed park buffer from Garland Road

Shoreline erosion repair

Unique Characteristics

Small Land Area

Adjacency to Spillway

Recreational Assets

Overlooks

Trail Connection

Surrounding Influences

Garland Road



Flag Pole Hill

Opportunities:

- Future White Rock Lake Visitors Center
- Expanded Parking
- Reforestation
- Continuation of Existing master plan

Unique Characteristics:

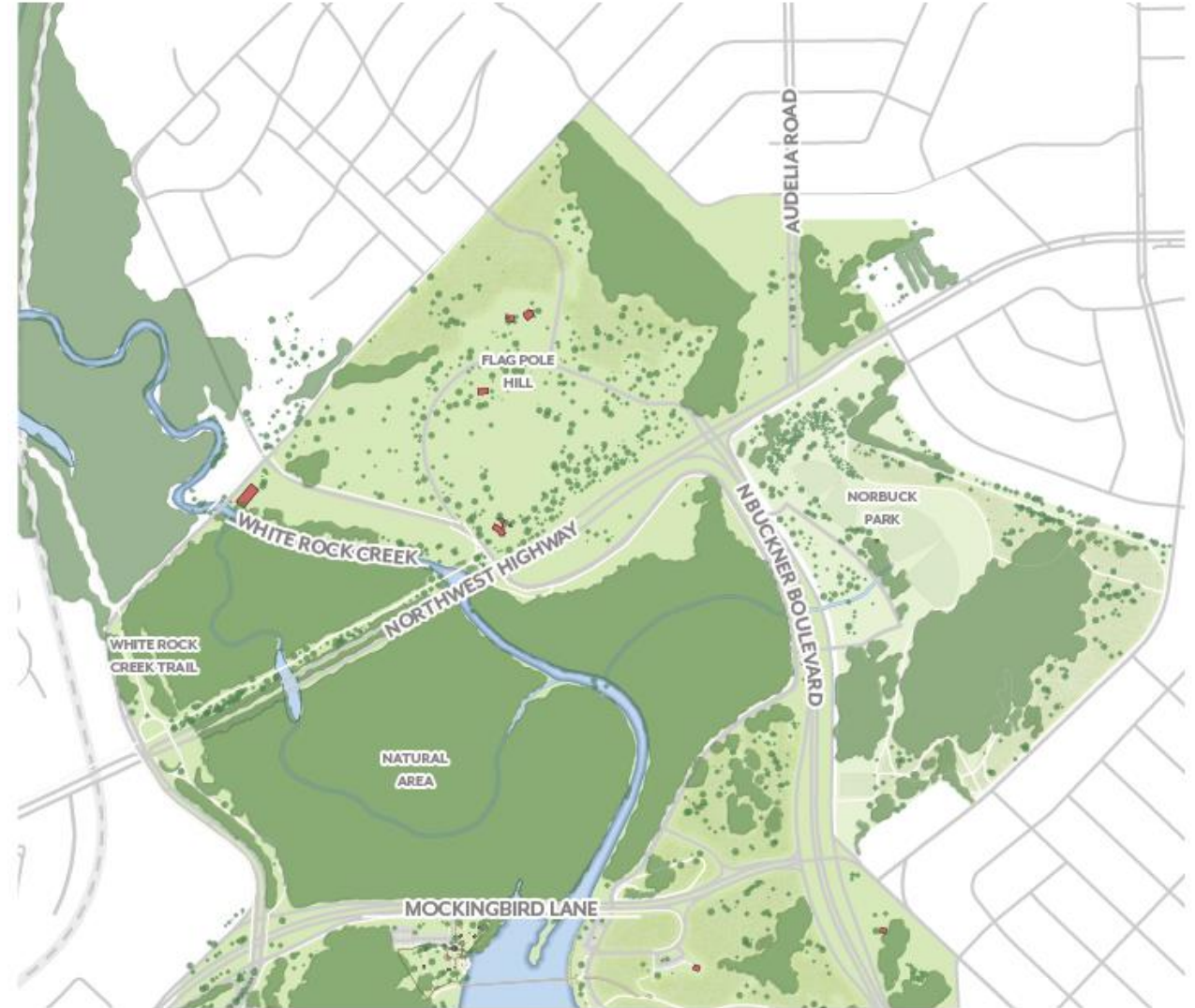
- Historic Architecture
- White Rock Lake Overlook

Recreational Assets:

- Parking areas
- Trail
- Picnic areas
- Playground
- Theming & Signage

Surrounding Influences:

- Northwest Highway
- Buckner Boulevard
- Norbuck Park
- Environmental Preserve/Natural Area
- Prairie Grass Areas



Design Guidelines - Trails

The following guidelines have been adapted from the 1994 Design Guidelines to reflect what has since become the standard for the park today. The Multi-Use Trail is the primary trail type for the park and can be found encompassing White Rock Lake. The specific dimensions are illustrated below, however width can vary between lake edge and vehicular circulation around the lake. Consideration for site specific requirements should always be prioritized when constructing new elements within the park.

Multi-Use Trail

The typical trail to be used for all primary pedestrian and cyclist circulation.

Soft Surface Trail

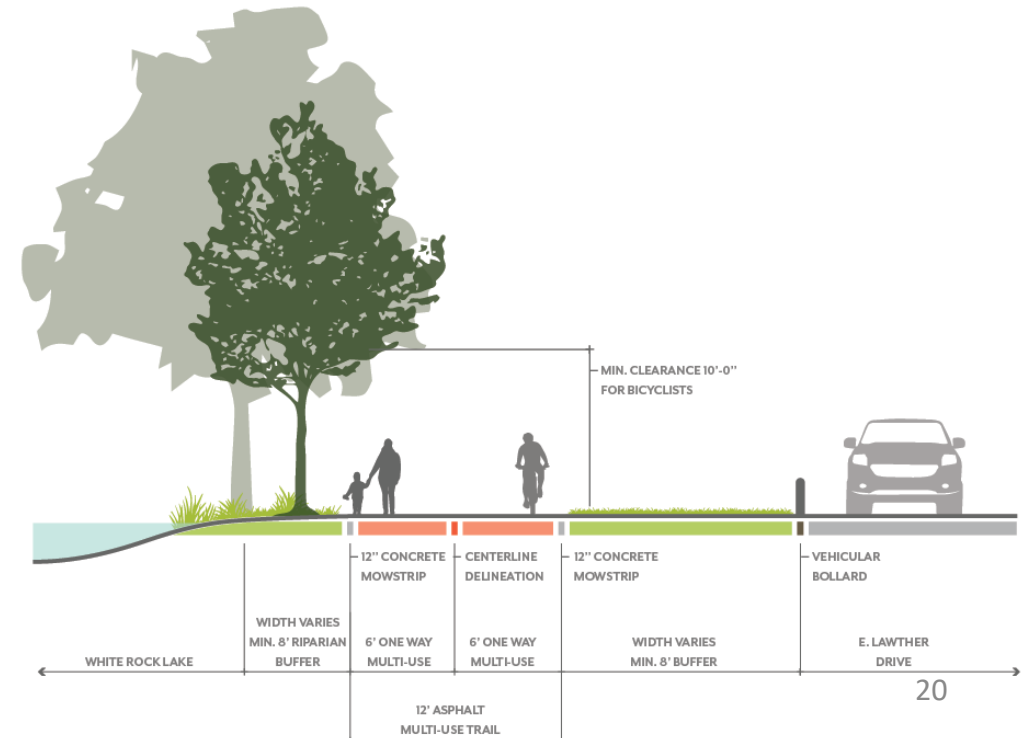
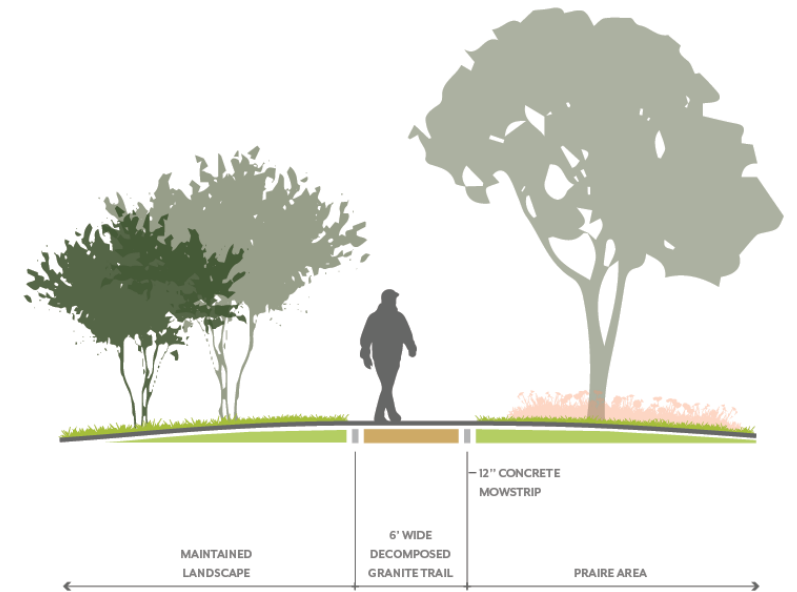
A decomposed granite trail for environmentally sensitive and lower traffic areas.

Multi-Use Boardwalk

The typical elevated boardwalk for trails that must encroach on the lake in order to connect.

Bridges & Crossings

The typical visual aesthetic for vehicular and pedestrian water crossings.



Next Steps

February 11, 2025	White Rock Lake Task Force - Sub-Committee for the White Rock Lake Master Plan Update
February 26, 2025	City Council
March 6, 2025	Park Board